

VALE SISTER
CARMEL ANN
CLANCY pvb m p3



SCHOOLS
COMMEMORATE
ANZAC DAY p24



CATHOLIC
EDUCATION WEEK
IN OUR DIOCESE p29



TOGETHER

In the Diocese of *Wagga Wagga*

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MAY 2021

Palliative Care

*It's more than
you think*

**National
Palliative
Care Week**
23-29 May 2021

**Palliative
Care** *It's more
than you think.*

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Bishop Mark Edwards OMI - Bishop of Wagga Wagga Diocese



TOGETHER
IN THE DIOCESE OF WAGGA WAGGA

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Palliative Care Week

Palliative Care Week is 23-29 May and Palliative Care Sunday is celebrated on Sunday 23 May (Pentecost this year).

I have prepared a Pastoral Letter on this topic (see page 10) and it will be distributed through your local parish and will be available online. I urge you to take a copy of this letter home with you and to share it with your families.

There is currently a campaign to legalise Voluntary Assisted Dying (euthanasia and doctor assisted suicide) in NSW. This has prompted me to make Palliative Care Week a focus for our Diocese, and to use this opportunity to help us to be better informed on Palliative Care which is a genuine alternative to euthanasia and assisted suicide.

We respect life from the very beginning as a precious gift. Each of our lives is precious and God values each of us to death and beyond. We are made by love and for love, and we celebrate this by defending life from conception to death, and with the respect we show towards those who have died.

We know at an intellectual level that we will die. Yet it can be confronting when this becomes personal and we have to face it happening to us or our loved ones. Even talking about it is difficult and does not come easily; it is something we have to learn.

Palliative care *"opposes what makes death most terrifying and unwelcome -- pain and loneliness."* (Pope Francis, November 16, 2020)

Palliative care does not set out to make our life longer or shorter but rather helps us live as well as possible until we die. It is not euthanasia. If there is treatment for our medical condition, we will still get it if we so choose.

Later we will dedicate Sunday August 1 to understanding why the Catholic Church rejects Voluntary Assisted Dying with the hope that it will prompt many to contact our politicians and ask them to vote against it.

We are called to do what we can to ensure that compassionate, life-affirming care is provided to everyone who needs it, so that no-one ever feels, or is, in pain or abandoned.



Prayer Intention for May - Pray with Pope Francis

The world of finance

Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.

Visit this link to hear the Pope deliver his monthly prayer:

<https://thepopevideo.org/>



Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network

APOSTOLSHIP OF PRAYER

<https://www.popesprayer.va/>

The story of Lazarus and the Rich Man in Luke chapter 16 may appear distant to us due to its graphic description of dogs licking the sores of Lazarus. Today, we live in a world in which we do not encounter abject poverty or if we do, we have become desensitized to it. We may recognize the problem, but we feel that the problem is too big for us to solve.

Global prosperity in terms of material wealth is the highest it has ever been in the history of humanity. Technological advances and global trade have created the wealthiest society in terms of cumulative wealth of nations. We have wealth in the stock market, we have comfortable homes, we have a wide choice of food in our kitchens, we have sleek gadgets that entertain us, and we have nice cars to take us around town. Life in the 21st century is a blessing from God.

However, inequality between the rich and the poor has been rising rapidly for the past several decades. More recently, the working-

class and middle-class have been squeezed by the economic uncertainties brought by COVID-19, while the upper-class has largely been unaffected. Over the long-term future, technology is forecast to eliminate numerous jobs for the working-class which will further preclude them from participating in the economy. The environment is suffering from our over consumption of resources and lax attitude toward keeping our land, air, and water clean.

At this critical time, we reflect on our role as stewards of God's creation and as messengers of the kingdom of God. How is God inviting us to live the Gospel message that exhorts us to care for the least among us? How can we model our lives on the lives of the early Christians, who distributed goods fairly among all? How can we be prophetic voices that inspire positive changes in our political and financial systems?

Daniel Mascarenhas, SJ

Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network

Vale

Sister Carmel Ann Clancy pbvm

Sr Carmel Clancy, a much loved member of the Presentation Sisters, entered eternal life on 19 March 2021 at age 78.

Sr Carmel Clancy was a much loved member of the Presentation Sisters, Wagga Wagga for 62 years.

Dearly loved by her parents Alice (nee Spillane) and John (both dec'd). Much loved sister and sister-in-law to Margaret & Jim McDonnell (dec'd), Mary pbvm (dec'd), Brian (dec'd) & Brenda, John (dec'd), Terence & Annette, Nano, Frances & Richard Fifield. Fond aunt to her nieces and nephews and their extended families.

Carmel's Ministry with the Presentation Sisters enriched the lives of many people—students, staff and families. She was a very skilled and much loved secondary school teacher and began this ministry at Domremy College in Five Dock, Sydney in 1963. After three years at Domremy Carmel was transferred to Mt Erin High School, Wagga Wagga. In 1972 Carmel pursued further study at Macquarie University in Sydney. Fresh

from her study in 1974 she had more teaching opportunities at Sutherland, Mt Erin, Domremy College until 1985 when she had a sea change.

In 1986 she moved into the area of catechetics in State Schools and continued for several years in this apostolate in the Drummoyne area in Sydney. From 1993 to 1999 she also became involved in the administration of the CCD office.

Finally, in 2012 when Carmel's health deteriorated, she moved to Wagga Wagga and continued to reach out to people in need through her contacts with exstudents, the Bridge Club, Erin Earth, helping with children's homework and making a response to current justice issues.

For the last two years she was a very significant person in the Forrest Centre where, though seriously ill herself, she brought life and energy to the other residents and staff.

**Carmel lived life to its fullest.
May she now rest in peace.**



“Hope frees us to live in the present, with deep trust that God will never leave us.” – Henri Nouwen

A Prayer for Mothers

All-loving God, we give you thanks and praise for mothers young and old.

We pray for young mothers, who give life and count toes and tend to our every need; May they be blessed with patience and tenderness to care for their families and themselves with great joy.

We pray for our own mothers who have nurtured and cared for us; May they continue to guide in strong and gentle ways.

We remember mothers who are separated from their children because of war, poverty, or conflict; May they feel the loving embrace of our God who wipes every tear away.

We pray for women who are not mothers but still love and shape us with motherly care and compassion.

We remember mothers, grandmothers, and great-grandmothers who are no longer with us but who live forever in our memory and nourish us with their love.

Amen.

World Communications Day

Being the Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 9 marked World Communications Day. The theme for this year is *"Come and See"* which is taken from the Gospels.

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE 2021 WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY "Come and See" (Jn 1:46).

Communicating by Encountering People Where and as They Are *Dear Brothers and Sisters,*

The invitation to "come and see", which was part of those first moving encounters of Jesus with the disciples, is also the method for all authentic human communication. In order to tell the truth of life that becomes history (cf. *Message for the 54th World Communications Day*, 24 January 2020), it is necessary to move beyond the complacent attitude that we "already know" certain things. Instead, we need to go and see them for ourselves, to spend time with people, to listen to their stories and to confront reality, which always in some way surprises us. "Open your eyes with wonder to what you see, let your hands touch the freshness and vitality of things, so that when others read what you write, they too can touch first-hand the vibrant miracle of life". This was the advice that Blessed Manuel Lozano Garrido[1] offered to his fellow journalists. This year, then, I would like to devote this Message to the invitation to "come and see", which can serve as an inspiration for all communication that strives to be clear and honest, in the press, on the internet, in the Church's daily preaching and in political or social communication. "Come and see!" This has always been the way that the Christian faith has been communicated, from the time of those first encounters on the banks of the River Jordan and on the Sea of Galilee.

"Hitting the streets"

Let us look first at the great issue of news reporting. Insightful voices have long expressed concern about the risk that original investigative reporting in newspapers and television, radio and web newscasts is being replaced by a reportage that adheres to a standard, often tendentious narrative. This approach is less and less capable of grasping the truth of things and the concrete lives of people, much less the more serious social phenomena or positive movements at the grass roots level. The crisis of the publishing industry risks leading to a reportage created in newsrooms, in front of personal or company computers and on social networks, without ever "hitting

the streets", meeting people face to face to research stories or to verify certain situations first hand. Unless we open ourselves to this kind of encounter, we remain mere spectators, for all the technical innovations that enable us to feel immersed in a larger and more immediate reality. Any instrument proves useful and valuable only to the extent that it motivates us to go out and see things that otherwise we would not know about, to post on the internet news that would not be available elsewhere, to allow for encounters that otherwise would never happen.

The Gospels as news stories

"Come and see" were the first words that Jesus spoke to the disciples who were curious about him following his baptism in the Jordan river (Jn 1:39). He invited them to enter into a relationship with him. More than half a century later, when John, now an old man, wrote his Gospel, he recalled several "newsworthy" details that reveal that he was personally present at the events he reports and demonstrate the impact that the experience had on his life. "It was about the tenth hour", he noted, that is, about four in the afternoon (cf. v. 39). The next day – John also tells us – Philip told Nathaniel about his encounter with the Messiah. His friend is sceptical and asks: "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip does not try to win him over with good reasons, but simply tells him: "Come and see" (cf. vv. 45-46). Nathaniel did go and see, and from that moment his life was changed. That is how Christian faith begins, and how it is communicated: as direct knowledge, born of experience, and not of hearsay. "It is no longer because of your words that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves". So the townspeople told the Samaritan woman, after Jesus stayed in their village (cf. Jn 4:39-42). "Come and see" is the simplest method to get to know a situation. It is the most honest test of every message, because, in order to know, we need to encounter, to let the person in front of me speak, to let his or her testimony reach me.

Thanks to the courage of many journalists

Journalism too, as an account of reality, calls for an ability to go where no one else thinks of going: a readiness to set out and a desire to see. Curiosity, openness, passion. We owe a word of gratitude for the courage and



commitment of all those professionals – journalists, camera operators, editors, directors – who often risk their lives in carrying out their work. Thanks to their efforts, we now know, for example, about the hardships endured by persecuted minorities in various parts of the world, numerous cases of oppression and injustice inflicted on the poor and on the environment, and many wars that otherwise would be overlooked. It would be a loss not only for news reporting, but for society and for democracy as a whole, were those voices to fade away. Our entire human family would be impoverished.

Many situations in our world, even more so in this time of pandemic, are inviting the communications media to "come and see". We can risk reporting the pandemic, and indeed every crisis, only through the lens of the richer nations, of "keeping two sets of books". For example, there is the question of vaccines, and medical care in general, which risks excluding the poorer peoples. Who would keep us informed about the long wait for treatment in the poverty-stricken villages of Asia, Latin America and Africa? Social and economic differences on the global level risk dictating the order of distribution of anti-Covid vaccines, with the poor always at the end of the line and the right to universal health care affirmed in principle, but stripped of real effect. Yet even in the world of the more fortunate, the social tragedy of families rapidly slipping into poverty remains largely hidden; people who are no longer ashamed to wait in line before

charitable organizations in order to receive a package of provisions do not tend to make news.

Opportunities and hidden dangers on the web

The internet, with its countless social media expressions, can increase the capacity for reporting and sharing, with many more eyes on the world and a constant flood of images and testimonies. Digital technology gives us the possibility of timely first-hand information that is often quite useful. We can think of certain emergency situations where the internet was the first to report the news and communicate official notices. It is a powerful tool, which demands that all of us be responsible as users and consumers. Potentially we can all become witnesses to events that otherwise would be overlooked by the traditional media, offer a contribution to society and highlight more stories, including positive ones. Thanks to the internet we have the opportunity to report what we see, what is taking place before our eyes, and to share it with others.

At the same time, the risk of misinformation being spread on social media has become evident to everyone. We have known for some time that news and even images can be easily manipulated, for any number of reasons, at times simply for sheer narcissism. Being critical in this regard is not about demonizing the internet, but is rather an incentive to greater discernment and responsibility for contents both sent and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

Year of Saint Joseph

"Show yourself a father, and guide us in the path of life"

REFLECTION - MAY 2021

St Joseph the Migrant Worker

Luke's Gospel speaks of a single visit of the angel Gabriel to Mary, setting her path for the rest of her life.

Have you ever imagined St Joseph as a migrant worker? Would he have taken with him as many tools of trade as he could carry when he fled with Mary and the child Jesus into Egypt? What would it have been like for him trying to find work in a foreign land to support his family? Would anyone help them, or would these 'outsiders' be exploited or left to fend for themselves?

During the COVID-19 pandemic temporary seasonal workers have had a very difficult time. Many came to Australia for jobs that disappeared because of the pandemic. None the less, these workers found themselves ineligible for the Jobseeker allowance. Many could not go home. They became stranded in Australia because of closed

borders. Without work or access to government support, they were forced to rely on charities.

Those who did find work were often exposed to risk of infection with the virus – for example in the coronavirus outbreak that centred on the meatworks in Colac in mid-2020, or in food delivery or cleaning.

Sadly, the exploitation of migrant workers is not something that only happens in other countries.

Before the pandemic, over a million overseas workers on temporary visas came to Australia each year. Even in the best of times, temporary seasonal workers are more vulnerable to exploitative working conditions than workers who have Australian citizenship. FairWork Australia says that "employees under the [Pacific Labour] Scheme have the same workplace rights as other employees in Australia". But temporary seasonal workers might not know that. They are less likely to know what their

rights are, and to be able to effectively assert them. It is not uncommon to hear stories of unreasonable accommodation charges and other levies being imposed. There have even been reports of passports being held by employers.

Migrant workers often lack friends and allies who can help them.

Can we see in the faces of temporary seasonal workers the face of St Joseph, seeking work in a foreign land, trying to support his family? Can we see migrant workers as our sisters and brothers in need of our care? Can we welcome them into our homes, communities and churches and defend their dignity and rights?

Let us entrust temporary seasonal workers in Australia to the protection of St Joseph the Worker.

**Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen
OFM Conv is Bishop of Parramatta
and chair of the Bishops Commission
for Social Justice, Mission and Service**



Bishop Mark's nephew wins Ryder Medal

On Friday 30 April, Bishop Mark's nephew, Scott Edwards won the Jack Ryder Medal (the Brownlow medal equivalent for first grade district cricket in Melbourne).

24 year old Scott scored almost 650 runs at an average of 46 for Richmond Cricket Club including two centuries and six half centuries in a golden second half of the season.

In winning the count, Scott became the first Richmond player since England international Paul Collingwood MBE won the Ryder Medal in a tie with Ringwood's Darren Dempsey in 2001. Scott is only the second Tiger to win the medal since the Ryder Medal's introduction in 1973.

Scott is attempting to make his way as a professional cricket player and plays TopKlasse in the Netherlands in the northern summer. As Bishop Mark's mother is Dutch, that citizenship is available to him. He has played 4 ODIs and 24 T20s as the Dutch wicketkeeper/batsman and is now vice captain.

Bishop Mark is a very proud uncle and looks forward to watching his nephew's cricketing career as it progresses.



Photo: Herald Sun

Fr Peter Thompson set to complete his term in December

At the end of this year Fr Peter Thompson will complete his term as Rector of Vianney College after an impressive 18 years in the position.

On 16th March this year Bishop Mark visited the seminary community and announced that Father Rick Micallef will take over the position of Rector from 1st January 2022. I asked Fr Peter to reflect on his 18 years as Rector of Vianney College.

I was indeed surprised as I opened my mail over breakfast at Mittagong one July morning in 2003 to find an invitation from Bishop Hanna asking me to consider taking on the position of Rector of his seminary. When I was ordained in 1967 there was some talk of sending me to Rome to prepare for seminary work – a task which my Vincentian community was heavily involved in at the time. However, as things turned out I was to spend the next 37 years in the ministries of teaching in colleges and in parish work. I enjoyed both ministries but by the year 2000 my community had almost completely withdrawn from seminary work and I was content to remain in the relatively quiet parish of Mittagong on the Southern Highlands.

However I accepted Bishop Hanna’s invitation. I was appointed Rector for 6 years with a proviso that a review be made after 2 years. Bishop Hanna pointed out to me at the time that there were currently four

seminarians at Vianney and that it was quite possible that the seminary would become unviable before my six years were up.

So here I am after 18 years finally finishing my term as Rector. I will leave to others the task of assessing those 18 years. I will first say they have been the most rewarding years of my priestly ministry. I have missed the hands-on priestly ministry of parish life and I hope to return to it in 2022 for as long as my health allows, but it is impossible to describe the sense of wonder and thanksgiving to God as I see his grace operate on the young men who move through the seminary, and for me to be aware that God is using me as his instrument in this work. I have tried to be a father to the men entrusted to my care in the seminary. Like all fathers, I have sometimes failed. But it has given me great encouragement to see these “sons” take up their priestly roles in the Wagga diocese as well as in other places.

A few statistics may be of interest. Vianney College this year (its 30th) welcomed its 156th student for the priesthood. Over 90 of those have been admitted by me. Of those 90 (together with the 4 who were already in the seminary when I began) 30 have been ordained priests, and another 30 are still in formation, either at



Fr Peter Thompson

Vianney or in other seminaries.

There will be other opportunities to thank all those people who have assisted me and worked with me, including the students themselves. However, I can’t let any opportunity pass without thanking God, whose Holy Spirit, as I have often said, is the *Chief Formator*.
- Fr Peter Thompson

Seminary Formation, My Project of Life!!

Over the years I have been in the Seminary, I have tried to know and understand more fully what path in life God wants me to follow. This is called discernment.

It involves listening to God in prayer; but also involves doing my homework.

Just as the Apostles spent three years close to Jesus, preparing for the time when they would be sent out in his name, so the purpose of the years in the Seminary is to relive, in a way, the experience of the twelve apostles. Hence, seminary formation is a process of conversion and growth, of attuning seminarians ever more perfectly to the mind and heart of Jesus, so that they are captivated by his person and mission and want to be like him and serve him as priest.

The work of the seminary formators involves a painstaking effort to help each seminarian know, accept and then work through his area of weakness and become the person and priest that God wants him to be. In the seminary, a seminarian is either growing in virtue or declining; and no one can see this better than the seminary formators, fellow seminarians, and of course the seminarian himself.

As my remaining seminary formation days are numbered, two questions that are of paramount importance keep surfacing in my mind. Have I come to a realistic sense of my strengths and

weaknesses? Have I really listened to God and to my formators?

Honestly, these are very challenging questions that will take a lifetime to answer; and this is exactly why I have seen my seminary formation as my project of life. The good news remains that, priestly formation is a life-long ongoing journey, which begins again after the seminary formation, and which never ends until we behold the Lord of the harvest face to face. “God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the Courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference” (Reinhold Niebuhr).



O Lord grant us priests! O Lord grant us holy priests! O Lord grant us many holy priests! O Lord grant us many holy religious vocations! St. John Mary Vianney! Pray for us.

- Peterpaul Ikenna Chikezie
Seventh Year
Armidale Diocese

Sydney lay theologian Matt Tan to teach at Wagga Seminary

Appointment of a layman as Dean of Studies in a diocesan seminary is a rare occurrence but theologian Dr Matthew Tan took up the role when he moved to the Diocese of Wagga Wagga in February.

BY DAVID RYAN

A well-known figure in Sydney and Australian theological circles, he has served as theology lecturer in a number of universities – most recently at Notre Dame Australia and Campion College in Sydney – as well as serving the Archdiocese of Sydney as a Research and Formation Officer.

Dr Tan also worked as private secretary to Bishop Anthony Randazzo during his time as Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney.

“Doctor Tan comes to Vianney College Seminary and to Wagga eminently qualified to manage the academic life of the seminary,” said Vianney College Rector Fr Peter Thompson C.M.

“His wide experience, many talents and youthful enthusiasm will help him, we are sure, to play a key role in the ongoing development and improvement of the seminary and hopefully make a

positive contribution to the spiritual and academic life of the Wagga Diocese.”

Dr Tan’s academic qualifications include a Licentiate in Sacred Theology from the Angelicum in Rome and a Doctorate in Theology from ACU.

The Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Sydney Chris Meney wished Dr Tan well in his new endeavour.

“We certainly wish him well and thank him for all of his fine contributions here in Sydney.”

“Dr Tan brings a range of experiences within academia and the Church more broadly to his new role and I am sure this will be of great benefit to the seminary in Wagga Wagga,” he told The Catholic Weekly. “We certainly wish him well and thank him for all of his fine contributions here in Sydney.”

“I would like to thank the Church in



Dr Matthew Tan is the new Dean of Studies at Vianney College, the Wagga Wagga diocesan seminary. The appointment of a layman to such a role is a rare occurrence.

Sydney for being my home for the past nine years and for the friendships I have developed there which I will find difficult to depart from,” he said.

“[But] I am looking forward to working with my colleagues in Vianney College and assisting in the formation of seminarians for the countryside.”

Now in its 30th year, Vianney College is the only seminary in Australia situated

in a rural diocese.

Vianney College is also academically affiliated to Rome’s prestigious Urban University and is able to grant Pontifical Bachelor of Theology degrees in the institution’s name.

While looking forward to his new role, Dr Tan nonetheless said he would miss the friends he made in Sydney and thanked the Archdiocese for its support.

Vianney College review begins

On 12 March work began on the review of Vianney College, announced by Bishop Mark last year.

It was carried out by Bishop Anthony Randazzo of Broken Bay Diocese and Sister Isabell Naumann ISSM, President of Catholic Institute of Sydney. Bishop Anthony and Sister Isabell were guests of Vianney College for four days, where they carried out extensive interviews with the Bishop of Wagga Wagga, staff, seminarians, some priests of the diocese and some of the lay faithful. The two guest reviewers were great company over the four days and we were left with good memories of their visit.



Bishop Anthony Randazzo and Sr. Isabell Naumann with the Seminary community at the conclusion of their visit.

National Palliative Care Week

National Palliative Care Week 2021 will be held from Sunday 23 May – Saturday 29 May, with the theme *“Palliative Care It’s more than you think.”*, which seeks to raise awareness about the many benefits of quality palliative care. **BY PALLIATIVE CARE AUSTRALIA**

One of the great myths about palliative care is that it is only a synonym for end-of-life care. It is so much more than that. National Palliative Care Week (NPCW) provides an opportunity to discuss the benefits of palliative care and celebrate the amazing dedication of all those working and volunteering in palliative care across Australia.

What is palliative care?

Palliative care is person and family-centred care provided for a person with an active, progressive, advanced disease, who has little or no prospect of cure and who is expected to die, and for whom the primary goal is to optimise the quality of life.

End-of-life care is the last few weeks of life in which a patient with a life-limiting illness is rapidly approaching death. The needs of patients and their carers is higher at this time. This phase of palliative care is recognised as one in which increased services and support are essential to ensure quality, coordinated care from the health care team is being delivered. This takes into account the terminal phase or when the patient is recognised as imminently dying, death and extends to bereavement care.

Palliative care is care that helps people live their life as fully and as comfortably as possible when living with a life-limiting or terminal illness.

Palliative care identifies and treats symptoms which may be physical, emotional, spiritual or social. Because palliative care is based on individual needs, the services offered will differ but may include:

- Relief of pain and other symptoms e.g. vomiting, shortness of breath
- Resources such as equipment needed to aid care at home
- Assistance for families to come together to talk about sensitive issues
- Links to other services such as home help and financial support
- Support for people to meet cultural obligations
- Support for emotional, social and spiritual concerns
- Counselling and grief support
- Referrals to respite care services

Palliative care is a family-centred model of care, meaning that family and carers can receive practical and

emotional support.

Who is palliative care for?

Palliative care is for people of any age who have been told that they have a serious illness that cannot be cured. Palliative care assists people with illnesses such as cancer, motor neurone disease and end-stage kidney or lung disease to manage symptoms and improve quality of life.

For some people, palliative care may be beneficial from the time of diagnosis with a serious life-limiting illness. Palliative care can be given alongside treatments given by other doctors.

Who is in the palliative care team?

Palliative care may be provided by a wide range of people, this may include your GP, aged care worker, cardiologist and any other health care provider, as do family and other carers. They are supported by specialist palliative care services if symptoms become difficult to manage.

Where is palliative care provided?

Palliative care is provided where the person and their family wants, where possible. This may include:

- At home
- In hospital
- In a hospice
- In a residential aged care facility

Many people indicate a preference to die at home and making this possible often depends on several factors, including:

- the nature of the illness and amount of care the person needs
- how much support is available from the person’s family and community
- whether the person has someone at home who can provide physical care and support for them.

How do I get palliative care?

For help and information ask your:

Doctor
Aboriginal Health Worker
Hospital Liaison Officer
Nurse

Where can I find more information?

For more information contact the palliative care peak body in your state.

There are a lot of common misconceptions about palliative care. Answers to some of the more frequently asked questions can be found at:

<https://palliativecare.org.au/frequently-asked-questions>

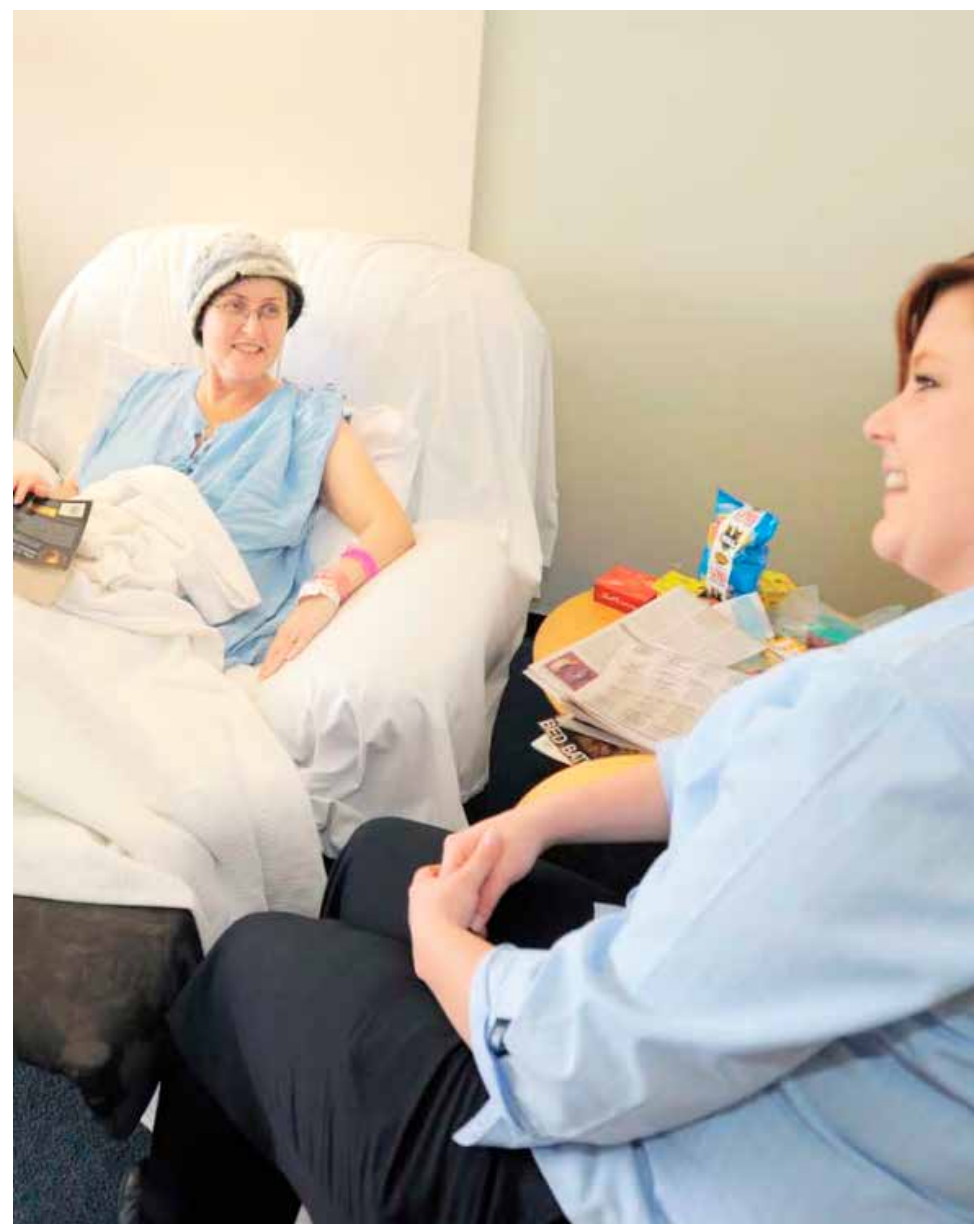


Photo from Catholic Health Australia.

Catholic Health Australia published the *Provision of Palliative Care in Catholic Health and Aged Care Services* in 2009. Two of the personal stories in that booklet are shared below. **BY CATHOLIC HEALTH AUSTRALIA**

- Suzanne's Story -

Today, many of us fear dying and death. We don’t want to think about it, and we certainly don’t want to talk about it. This means when we have to face it, most of us don’t even know where to start.

Sometimes we might have questions but we don’t know where to get the answers. If we think about death at all, we might think we want a “good death”; we don’t want to experience pain or to suffer. But we don’t think about the systems and resources necessary to make this happen, or about what we need to do ourselves to make our choices a reality.

One resource is palliative care. But most of us don’t really know what palliative care is and fear it even more than death itself. We also fear losing control.

Suzanne Reber, a teacher, spoke to Palliative Care Australia about her experience living with a terminal condition

and being referred to palliative care.

Maintaining control

I had a lot of hesitation. I was diagnosed with the cancer five years ago when I was 46. So, it’s been a fairly long battle with several operations and the usual up hill and down dale in between. When it came to the realisation that outside intervention just wasn’t helping anymore, my oncologist wanted to introduce me to the palliative care team and I basically brought out the garlic and the cross, and I said no thank you very much, not for me.

My idea was that my life was going to be taken over by these hoards of people rushing into my house, basically taking control of my life.

For people in my situation, control is the only thing you’ve got left. You don’t have control of the disease, but you do have

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

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control over how you intend to live your life until the end.

It's my life and I didn't want my home invaded and turned into a hospital – to me that was just abhorrent. But it isn't like that. If I say don't come, there's no argument. If I say I don't want something, that's okay. It's not foisted upon you. It's not this heavy thing – this is what you have to do. You're not being bullied, you're not being controlled. They're there, they quietly let you know they're there, and then it's up to you as to how much or how little you want to use them.

Aside from fears of losing control, people also fear dying in pain. Palliative care professionals have expertise in pain management. However, despite the expertise available, some people do miss out. Knowing where to go for information and help is a big part in receiving care that meets needs and expectations.

Pain

Once I hit the pain, I knew I needed help – pain management help. I had three weeks of bad pain management. I was in this vicious cycle of being very ill, very nauseous, in a very downhill spiral. Terrible side effects because I was on all the wrong medication. I ended up in hospital because I was in such a state. Mentally, it affected me greatly being in pain, you're not normal, you can't enjoy the company of family and friends. That's when I met my palliative care doctor, he gave me medications nobody else seemed to be able to put their finger on.

Within 48 hours, I was a human being again, a completely different person. It was amazing. He knew his business. Pain management gives you an extension of quality of life, of your normal life. It's not a fix, no-one sells it to you as a permanent cure. All they're trying to do is control things to make your quality of life as best as possible for as long as it is quality. It's not we're going to keep you alive for as long as possible, against the odds, just for the sake of watching you breathe. There are very good pain control medicines out there. With time and research it'll get even better.

Planning for the future to ensure we receive the care we want and need when we need it is important. As consumers of the health system, we have choices but we need to make these known. Having controlled Suzanne's pain, her doctor started talking about advance care planning.

Planning

He gave me options and asked me what I would like to do. Nothing was foisted upon me, like 'this is what you have to do'. The choices were still left in my hands.

I told him my lines in the sand, what I wanted, I wanted to live but live while I was still me. I had my resuscitation orders and artificial feeding orders and he just looked at me and said 'I totally agree with you'. I have his assurances that my wishes

will be carried out.

But I have been one of the lucky ones who has actually seen that people can die on their own terms, it puts my mind at rest. When I saw how my Dad passed away, I knew I could wish that on my best friend. There were plans and these were followed – it was the most humane, unstressful way, not just for my Dad but for the family. Peacefully, no drama, no fuss, no histrionics. It wasn't scary. I've had five years to think about a plan, so I had a plan. But there would be people who wouldn't understand what a plan is. I'm the type of person who'll ask questions, but there are a lot of people who don't like to do this, who don't have access to information.

Sometimes people need someone to open up a conversation that may go over a period of two or three sessions where you first build a rapport and then gently lead them towards information so they can make their choices.

Having someone to talk to for emotional and spiritual support can also be important. Because we don't like to talk about dying, death and loss, we often have misconceptions about what help is available and don't know where to find information.

Emotional support

I've thought a lot about dying because my Dad was living with us when he passed. We had a lot in common because we were both facing our mortality. I could talk to him about my fears and he could put things into perspective. I once said to him I was afraid of being in a dark box in the ground, and I think that's obviously a very common thing. He said to me, you've got two alternatives. You either believe that there's a spirit or a consciousness, and that consciousness leaves you when you take your last breath and it goes into a bigger something or other – so it's not going into the ground. If that's not what you believe, the other alternative is you're not alive, there's no consciousness and you won't know where you are. So don't worry either way. I laughed. It really made sense to me. Between my Dad's explanation, and my doctor's reassurance that my wishes will be carried out, and actually seeing how someone dies, it's put my mind at rest.

There might be other people out there like me who have the wrong opinion about palliative care, and might now give it a second thought, that's why I want to tell my story.

I have no regrets. I'm glad I took the path I took, and now I've had enough. I'm tired. I'll stay home for a little longer while I'm still sort of semi-functional, because what I'm doing at home is the same I would be doing in hospital at this stage – so I might as well do it in my home.

Palliative Care Australia thanks Suzanne Reber and her husband Brook Reber for their extraordinary generosity in sharing their experiences.

Suzanne passed away on 23 May 2009, shortly after telling her story.



Photo from Getty Images.

- Maria's story -

Maria came into our hospital in a desperate way. Accompanied by her husband Jeremy, she had just returned from Dubai the previous day. She had come home to die, and to be with her two sons. When we first saw Maria she was wheeled through our front door by her husband and was quite jaundiced and looked very sick. She had presented herself at the doctor's clinic next door and they immediately referred her to our care.

Our aim was to settle her into our care and attend to her presenting needs. Her husband of four years was very anxious and her two adult sons looked griefstricken and helpless. I noticed that Maria was Catholic; I was aware that she was deteriorating quickly so I needed to assess her religious needs, and I was wondering if she would want to be anointed. I approached her bedside, welcomed her and asked if she would like to receive communion. She appeared exhausted and unwell,

I doubted if she could understand my question let alone have the energy to answer me. So I excused myself and said I would return to speak with her the next day. I had to place my trust in God that tomorrow would come for Maria.

The next day Maria was slipping in and out of consciousness, and her son was at her bedside. I asked him if he knew if his Mum would like me to call the priest, but he was anxious not to frighten her. I was wondering if he was the one who was frightened, I assured him that we would trust in the unfolding of the day and see what happened, he told me to ask her husband when he came in. I spoke to the nurse in charge and explained that I wanted to support Maria with the Sacraments if she wanted them, but also realised that she was in no state to make those decisions. The same nurse rang me later to tell me that she had noticed a picture of the Sacred Heart near her bed and a brown scapular next to it. We both knew that someone must have placed them there and that this was telling us something.

When Jeremy came in I asked him the question and he assured me that Maria would want to be anointed. It was at that time that I heard a familiar voice in the next room, and I realised that our Catholic Chaplain was anointing another patient, so I waited for him to come out and told him

the story about Maria. He went straight into the room and anointed her with the family present.

One of Maria's sons asked me to assist him in making plans for her funeral, he did not know where to start and wanted to be prepared. We talked about the possibilities and he talked about his grief and sadness and the suddenness of his mother's deterioration. Time was running out and he did not have enough time to be with her; both he and his brother were in shock and disbelief.

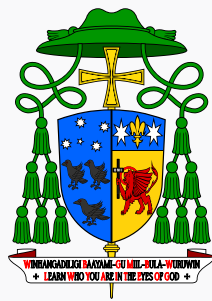
Mid-morning the next day Maria died. Her husband was with her and her sons were coming in. This was also the Mass day at Prahran so the priest was expected at any minute. I went into the room to comfort Jeremy who was in total shock; he asked me to meet Maria's sons as they did not know that she had died. I stood near the front door and waited, and as each son came in I told them what had happened. Within the next few minutes the priest came to pray with them.

During the next few hours my colleague and I helped the family in their grief and assisted them in making some decisions. It was decided that the funeral would be held at the church across the road and celebrated by our chaplain who was most supportive to the family.

As we reflected on Maria's short stay with us, we marvelled at the wonderful work of God. Here was a young woman who died within two days of coming into our care, and the priest who anointed her was also at her deathbed and then celebrated her funeral service. All of this happened without us really getting to know Maria, yet there was a deeper knowing that was infinitely more important. The Cabrini sisters have a special devotion to the Sacred Heart, and obviously Maria had the same devotion, and it was the Sacred Heart that helped us in an uncertain time.



Pentecost Sunday
23rd May 2021



Pastoral Letter on the occasion of Palliative Care Week 2021

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I am writing to you today about a matter of utmost importance to our community: palliative care. I invite you to make a cup of tea and sit down and take some time with this letter.

This letter's purpose is:

- to develop an understanding of the role of palliative care service for our community;
- to equip us to engage when this situation arrives in our lives or those of our loved ones; and
- for us to be open to, and to desire, palliative care if circumstances make it necessary.

I write in the context of the re-introduction into the NSW parliament of Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) or euthanasia legislation.



Palliative Care: A pro-life and pro-human and Catholic stance

We are made by love and for love. Each of our lives is precious and God values each of us to death and beyond. We witness to, and celebrate this by defending life from conception to death and with the respect we show towards those who have died.

The goal of Palliative Care is to help patients experience dignity and comfort, and to help maximise their quality of life, including attending to a patient's psychosocial and spiritual needs. We journey with the suffering and dying in a way which manages their physical condition, while recognising and reverencing the dignity of who they are. Death is a normal part of life, and palliative care ensures that people have a say in where they will die and in the care they will receive as they approach death.

Palliative care is an important way of showing respect and building a culture of life. It accepts our death as part of the overall mystery of our lives and does not seek to unnecessarily lengthen life nor to hurry death. It is pro-life and a part of our Catholic tradition of health and aged care.

Palliative Care facilities in the Riverina

We are fortunate in the Riverina to have excellent inpatient palliative care units in Griffith (St Vincent's Private), at Albury (through Mercy Care) and in Wagga Wagga (through Calvary Riverina and the Forrest Centre). It's not just in the big hospitals in the big towns and cities. Admission can also be facilitated to some of the smaller district hospitals. Most palliative service provision is, in fact, delivered in the community, mainly by expert community palliative care nurses, based in Wagga, Griffith, Tumut, Junee, Lockhart and Corowa, visiting many patients in their homes in small towns. *Palliative care is a genuine and widely accessible option.*

Where these wonderful and generous outreach services are overstretched with the 'tyranny of distance' in the bush, they need to be expanded to ensure everyone has access when and where they need it.

So what is Palliative Care?

Many of us don't really know what palliative care is and some may fear it even more than death itself. Our fears might include: Are we going to be controlled or told what we have to do? Will our treatment be onerous and forced on us? Will we have to live longer or shorter than we should? Or to live with pain and little dignity? Or die alone in a hospital?

Palliative care does not set out to make our life longer or shorter but rather helps us live as well as possible until we die. It is not euthanasia. If



there is treatment for our medical condition, we will still get it if we so choose.

One of the great myths about palliative care is that it is only a synonym for end-of-life care. It is so much more than that. Palliative Care is not where we go to die. It is how we live as well as we can while we face our issues. It is holistic and comprehensive and is different for every person because it is personalised.



The World Health Organization (WHO) defines palliative care as:

'an approach that improves the quality of life of patients and their families facing the problems associated with life-threatening illness, through the prevention and relief of suffering by means of early identification and impeccable assessment and treatment of pain and other problems, physical, psychosocial, and spiritual.'

Patients requiring palliative care services can make their own choices and decisions about their medical care and how much treatment is wanted. Ideally, we do this supported by people we trust. Palliative care is provided by expert clinicians, largely in the community and home setting, but also in an inpatient setting such as the Specialist Palliative Care Unit at Calvary Riverina Hospital and at the Forrest Centre, for public and private patients. It can support us in our preference to die at home, in a hospital or other managed care setting, and ensure that our Advanced Care Directives, which set out things like our resuscitation orders and artificial feeding orders, will be followed.

A cornerstone of palliative care is to reduce pain and to address other severe or debilitating symptoms (such as constipation, insomnia, nausea, depression). This is provided by a

nurturing, supportive network of highly-trained healthcare professionals, particularly in the context of either an end-of-life situation or when an individual is suffering from a progressive condition that cannot be cured. Many patients admitted to a palliative care inpatient unit, such as the Specialist Palliative Care unit at Calvary Riverina Hospital, are discharged home after symptom stabilisation with palliative care follow-up in the community, in combination with their own doctor's involvement. Of course, the inpatient units also provide a critical hospice role for patients who are close to death and unable to manage at home.

We don't need to die in pain. There are some very effective treatments for pain available now; the palliative care health professionals are the experts. We are able to be comfortable in our last days and to die naturally. The palliative care team also works to help us find meaning as we face our death or that of a loved one.



Palliative care “opposes what makes death most terrifying and unwelcome - pain and loneliness.”
(Pope Francis, November 16, 2020)

Facing death

When our doctor tells us that there is no medicine or treatment that will cure us or a loved one and that we or they are going to die, we will need a lot of support. It will be a difficult time for us and for our family and friends. People in this situation report feeling different things at different times including sadness, confusion, fear, anger and peace and also that it helps to talk with someone you trust.

We know at an intellectual level that we will die. Yet it can be confronting when this becomes personal and we have to face it happening to us or our loved ones. Even talking about it is difficult and does not come easily; it is something we have to learn. It is likely that when we have to deal with it, we won't even know where to start. This can be a good time to begin engaging with palliative care experts.

A happy death

I think that, in general, we want a “happy death” by which we mean that we don't want ourselves or those we love to experience pain or to suffer, and we want to be close to our loved ones and to God. We want to experience care, belonging and love until the end. We want dignity and some measure of control over how our life is lived. Palliative care provides special support that helps make this a reality.

Conclusion

Jesus says to his gathered disciples “Peace be with you.” (John 20:19, 23). Palliative care offers a process that assists people to experience this peace. I invite you to be open to palliative



care for your loved ones and for yourself and to engage with it soon after a life-limiting diagnosis. Also, I urge you all to do whatever you can to ensure that compassionate, life-affirming care is afforded to everyone who needs it, so that no-one ever feels, or is, in pain or abandoned.

Positive stories of palliative care can be found at Palliative Care Australia: <https://palliativecare.org.au/tag/patient-story/> and Catholic Health Australia (CHA) have a number of publications for further reading and deeper investigation for those who want it.

St Joseph is the patron of a happy death. St Joseph, pray for us.



**Mark Edwards OMI
Bishop of Wagga Wagga**

Palliative Care #morethanyouthink



Bishop Mark visits Sacred Heart Parish

Bishop Mark visited Sacred Heart Parish Koorringal on the weekend of April 24/25 and celebrated each of the masses.



It was the Bishops first visit back to the parish since his welcome last year. A cup of tea and light refreshments were provided after each mass so that parishioners could mingle (in a COVID safe way of course) and have a few words with him.

At the conclusion of each mass, Bishop thanked Fr John Baptiste for his service to the parish on behalf of the diocese. Bishop Mark went on to announce that he is about to begin the process of finding a replacement for him as parish priest, as he is now past retiring age.

Government urged to respond to seafarers' needs in pandemic

Stella Maris Australia, a Catholic agency that provides spiritual and practical support to those working at sea, has joined an international coalition calling for better treatment of seafarers during the pandemic.

Stella Maris is one of hundreds of organisations that have signed up to the Neptune Declaration on Seafarer Wellbeing and Crew Change.

The Neptune Declaration calls for seafarers to be considered essential workers, and therefore have earlier access to COVID-19 vaccines, as well as for better practices to facilitate changes of crew.

It also seeks greater collaboration between maritime and aviation industries, in partnership with governments, to manage the transportation and deployment of seafarers to ports where they are needed.

Stella Maris has, on several occasions, raised concerns about the welfare of seafarers during the pandemic. They have included the expiration of contracts for some workers, the inability for

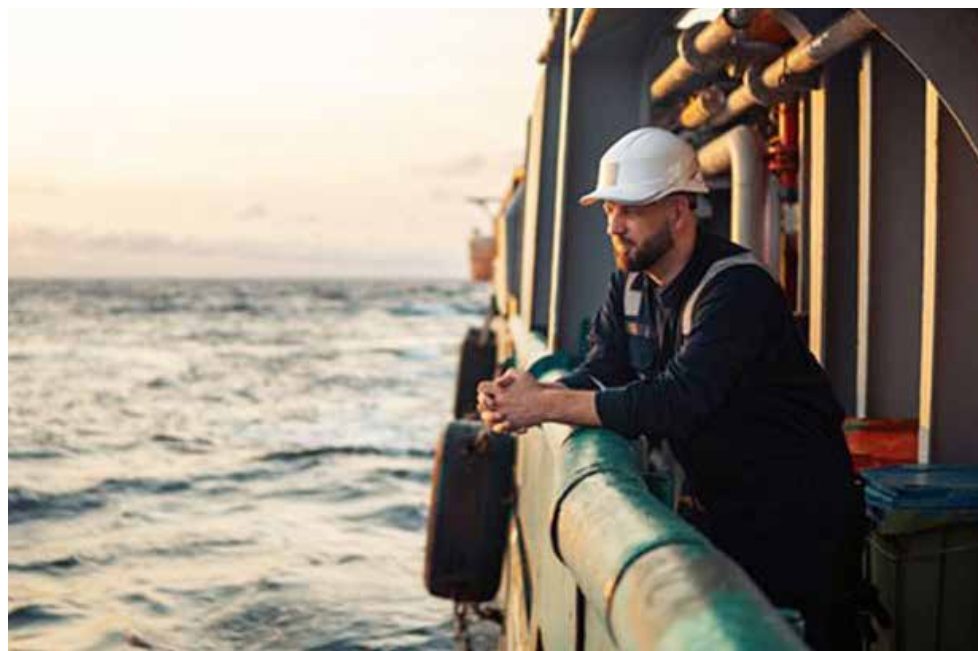
seafarers to disembark at ports and the mental and physical health challenges seafarers face.

Those issues are among the ones the Neptune Declaration raises. Despite efforts from unions, governments, industry groups, employers and non-governmental organisations and a resolution of the United Nations General Assembly, key issues remain unresolved.

“This is not an acceptable way to treat seafarers, who are the frontline workers of the maritime industry carrying 90 per cent of global trade,” the Neptune Declaration states.

“Fatigue after extended periods at sea has significant consequences on the physical and mental wellbeing of seafarers.”

Stella Maris Australia national director Roslyn Rajasingam said in addition to



international advocacy, the organisation is also supporting local efforts to approach the Australian Government. In particular, the Government will be asked to help solve the global crisis by designating seafarers as key workers.

“Almost 70 countries have taken that step, recognising what critical work seafarers are already undertaking and the important role they will play during and beyond the pandemic,” Mrs Rajasingam said.

“Australia’s location makes our reliance on the delivery of goods by sea greater than many countries, which underlines the need for this long overdue step to be taken by the Commonwealth Government.”

The declaration can be found at: <https://www.globalmaritimeforum.org/content/2020/12/The-Neptune-Declaration-on-Seafarer-Wellbeing-and-Crew-Change.pdf>

ErinEarth receives a visit from Costa Georgiadis

Some may know him as the cheerful television host of Gardening Australia, others as the landscape architect that shapes the minds of Australian gardeners across the country. *BY CLARE REEVES*

You might also recognise him as the lead singer for the psychic rock band 'More Please Orchestra' or from the beaches of Bondi with his surfboard in hand. Costa Georgiadis is a man of many hats.

ErinEarth, normally so tranquil on a Saturday, was bustling with activity as volunteers and staff prepared for the visit of Costa, a well-known character to many of us. With damper on the fire and chairs scattered across the paths, the visit felt like a gathering of friends with a common interest in sustainable living and native gardening.

It was no surprise that Costa connected with each one of those that attended,

sharing life experiences and knowledge on a range of topics. Laughter mingled with the choir of baritone frogs in the dam and the chirping of the brown wrens. Costa expressed his admiration for the gardens and the work that ErinEarth does in the local community, encouraging us all to continue in our mission to demonstrate sustainability. But as the sun began to disappear behind Willans Hill, the fire was put out, farewells were said, and the garden was enveloped in silence once more.

It is safe to say that Costa Georgiadis will be welcome to visit the garden anytime in the future and made a lasting impression on all of us.



Costa and Garden Manager, Eltan Mestan.



The ErinEarth garden is a place to relax and unwind. Set in the heart of Wagga with on street parking and wheelchair accessibility, our predominantly native garden is a great place to take some quiet time out. Our large urban garden is open to the public Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9am - 3pm, at 1 Kildare St Turvey Park.



Costa speaking with Sister Carmel Wallis, one of the founding sisters of ErinEarth.



ErinEarth's Manager, Kaz Leary with Costa.

Victoria McLeod and Paige Goudie are making a difference

Member for Murray Helen Dalton has selected Marian Catholic College Griffith Year 11 student Victoria McLeod as her nomination for the NSW Youth Parliament 2021.

BY AREA NEWS

The NSW Youth Parliament is an annual program for students in years 10 to 12, where selected applicants spend a week in NSW Parliament debating law changes. Each (senior) Member of Parliament gets to nominate one student from their electorate to be the Youth MP.

Six laws developed by the Youth Parliament have actually been enacted into NSW law, including the recent Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme.

"I invited all students across my electorate to apply via social media, asking them to answer a question on how they'd improve their school or the education system," Mrs Dalton said

"Interestingly, all applicants were young women. So we might see a changing of the guard in Parliament in the years ahead,"

"I received some fabulous, high quality response,"

"Mental health was a dominant theme, with students calling out for counselling and support services in schools and presenting some great ideas to address the issues."

Mrs Dalton selected Griffith's Victoria McLeod as her nominee, who wrote an impassioned plea on tackling rural disadvantage.

"A close runner up was Leeton's Paige Goudie, St Francis De Sales College Leeton, who advocated peer monitoring schemes as a mean of tackling mental health problems in schools," Mrs Dalton said

"I also got a wonderful response from Moama Grammar's Ruby Hehir, who wrote an hilarious critique of the rigid uniform and appearance rules at private schools."

Ms McLeod will attend the Youth Parliament program in Sydney in July.

Mrs Dalton says she welcomes the opportunity to help students with career, work experience and development opportunities, encouraging them to contact her office for details via email at murray@parliament.nsw.gov.au.

Three recent school leavers have worked for her as Electorate Officers - Griffith's Zarah Sully and Alice Ryan, as well as Moama's Mia Oberin.

IMPROVING EDUCATION FOR YOUTH PARLIAMENT - Victoria McLeod: Marian Catholic College Griffith

"I am extremely enthusiastic to be considered for the Youth Parliament placement! Improvement of my school and the education system is a subject which

I am highly interested in and passionate about, particularly as a rural student, and as such, would love to share my suggestions," Ms McLeod said.

"Rural education is at a significant disadvantage in comparison to that of metropolitan schools and I believe the education system should be focusing on implementing programs and considering ways in which more equitable results can be achieved.

"Living in a rural or remote area most definitely should not result in limiting the potential of students due to their geographical location. Initiatives and funding are to be focused on and made the primary focus so as to reduce the unjust divide and allow for reasonable equality.

"Most importantly, the lack of resources available to rural schools in comparison with those in metropolitan areas is an issue that must be addressed urgently.

"There should not be any excuses that rural students are disadvantaged to the degree they are currently, which is evidently reflected in their history and reputation of lower ATARs.

"It is pivotal that action is promptly embraced to halt the adverse effects in relation to the lack of resources. My suggestion to aid in overcoming this barrier is to introduce a 'sibling initiative', whereby regional schools would pair up with a school from a metropolitan area to share the resources available to them. Such an initiative would be immensely beneficial as a significantly wider range of resources would become available to rural students.

"The term 'resources' is extremely broad, however, was purposely left open-ended due to the extensive range of disadvantages that remains apparent. Primary areas of focus in relation to the sharing of resources should be that of subject-specific work, mental health and tutoring services.

"From experience and my personal struggles and fight for resources, I am able to relate to each of the aforementioned categories.

"Tutoring, in particular, is one area that is proving to be an exceptional challenge as there are limited availability and knowledge of experienced tutors local to Griffith.

"I am currently studying mathematics extension and am finding it overly difficult to find a tutor who can help me to excel and reach my goals and aspired ATAR.

"Providing warranted resources will



Member for Murray Helen Dalton with Marian student Victoria McLeod.

drive rural students to set achievable goals and subsequently lead to a greater focus on studies, boosting ATAR results.

"Currently, only 17 per cent of tertiary students are from rural and remote Australia, compared to it being 36 per cent of the total population.

"This statistic speaks for itself and demonstrates the urgent need for change in the education system to ensure rural residents do not miss out on the opportunities we deserve.

"A 'sibling initiative' would serve as an appreciable option to help those within the Griffith community, such as myself, to access online resources and to act on the supposed aim for an equitable approach to the education system.

"In addition, it would be exceptionally beneficial for the state government to earnestly scrutinise and revisit the current funding being allocated towards rural schools such as Marian Catholic College and Murrumbidgee Regional High School (MRHS). In relation to limited rural resources, there is an unacceptable staff shortage which is dramatically impacting students education to an unforgivable degree.

"The educational divide that has been made evident will not see any improvements until this chronic predicament is addressed, the adverse effects of which are felt on rural students on a daily basis.

"It is fundamentally unjust for students from MRHS to be missing the number of periods they are currently, it is extremely disadvantageous and discouraging, yet a fixable problem.

"Turnover-rates at local schools also reflects the unacceptable state of staffing at present. A revised funding model would address the lack of teachers by providing incentives and rent subsidies and would need to consider the infrastructure needed to achieve this.

"An abundantly apparent implication of

the staff shortage involves the limitations of subjects being offered, a highly relatable aspect for the majority of secondary students, including myself.

"As a year eleven student who is extremely interested in pursuing a career in legal, it was important for me to select legal studies as a subject.

"Unfortunately, 6 of my fellow peers and I have had to study the subject by distance education due to our school not being able to run it with what would have been approximately 10 students.

"The monetary disadvantage and lack of staff to run the subject has unfairly created a significant obstacle in our learning, one which needn't be there.

"Similar instances are occurring for a substantial number of students as a direct result of the limited teachers available. To restate, a revisitation of the current funding towards local schools must occur in order to reduce the educational divide between metropolitan and rural schools.

"In summary, I feel extremely passionate about the obstacles faced by rural students in relation to the education system amidst all else.

"I hope to have my voice heard and that I am able to aid in problem-solving and advocating rural matters."



St Francis de Sales student Paige Goudie.

Seminarians retreat at Galong

Bishop Edwards led the Seminarian's Retreat at St Clements Retreat Centre, Galong, in April. Over five days, they addressed topics such as honesty, self-knowledge, the missionary call of the priest, contemplation, and more.



Spirituality Day for Women 2021

Event:

Diocesan Spirituality Day for Women

Date: Sat 28 August 2021

Time: 9.30am-3.30pm

Venue: Narranderra High School

Sponsor: Diocese of Wagga Wagga

Theme:

*Who is My Neighbour (Luke 10:29)
Let us Dream, Let us Weave a new path*

**Enquiries can be sent to the
Secretary, Anne Brown:
cacw.waggawagga@gmail.com**

VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED KALUMBURU MISSION

North Kimberley Region

- Diocese of Broome Western Australia -

We need volunteers for a life experience at the remote community of Kalumburu located in the northern region of the Kimberley in Western Australia. This region is home to some of Australia's oldest indigenous communities and picturesque landscapes. Volunteers play an important role in helping our Parishes continue an active presence amongst the local people, both in Broome and remote indigenous communities like Kalumburu.

Your role as a volunteer will include running the General Store with some assistance from local community members, handy-man maintenance and gardening as required and associated light machinery use and truck and fork-lift driving if you have the required licence.



This is an opportunity to contribute and apply your range of acquired skills to the Kalumburu Mission and we would love to hear from you whether as couples or singles.

For further information please contact:

**Diocese of Broome Chancery
Phone: 08 9192 1060
or by email
secretary@broomedioocese.org**

Continuing the Journey

Facilitator Focus: Continuing the Journey -- in more ways than one

BY LANA TURVEY-COLLINS



Dear Friends,

I am delighted to be writing to you all again now that I have returned from maternity leave. I want to wholeheartedly thank Peter, Marion and Olivia who, together with a cast of hundreds, have continued the work of the Plenary Council journey in my absence.

One of the great accomplishments is that the working document for the Plenary Council (*instrumentum laboris*) has been written and is now published! It is a significant step from my perspective, because I feel that it indicates an increasing "readiness" looking towards the Council assemblies.

It is important to read the working document, entitled *Continuing the Journey*, in light of the previously published listening and dialogue and thematic discernment papers, which have led us to this point. We understand that we are on a journey and each time people work

together to write something for the Plenary Council it moves the journey forward, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

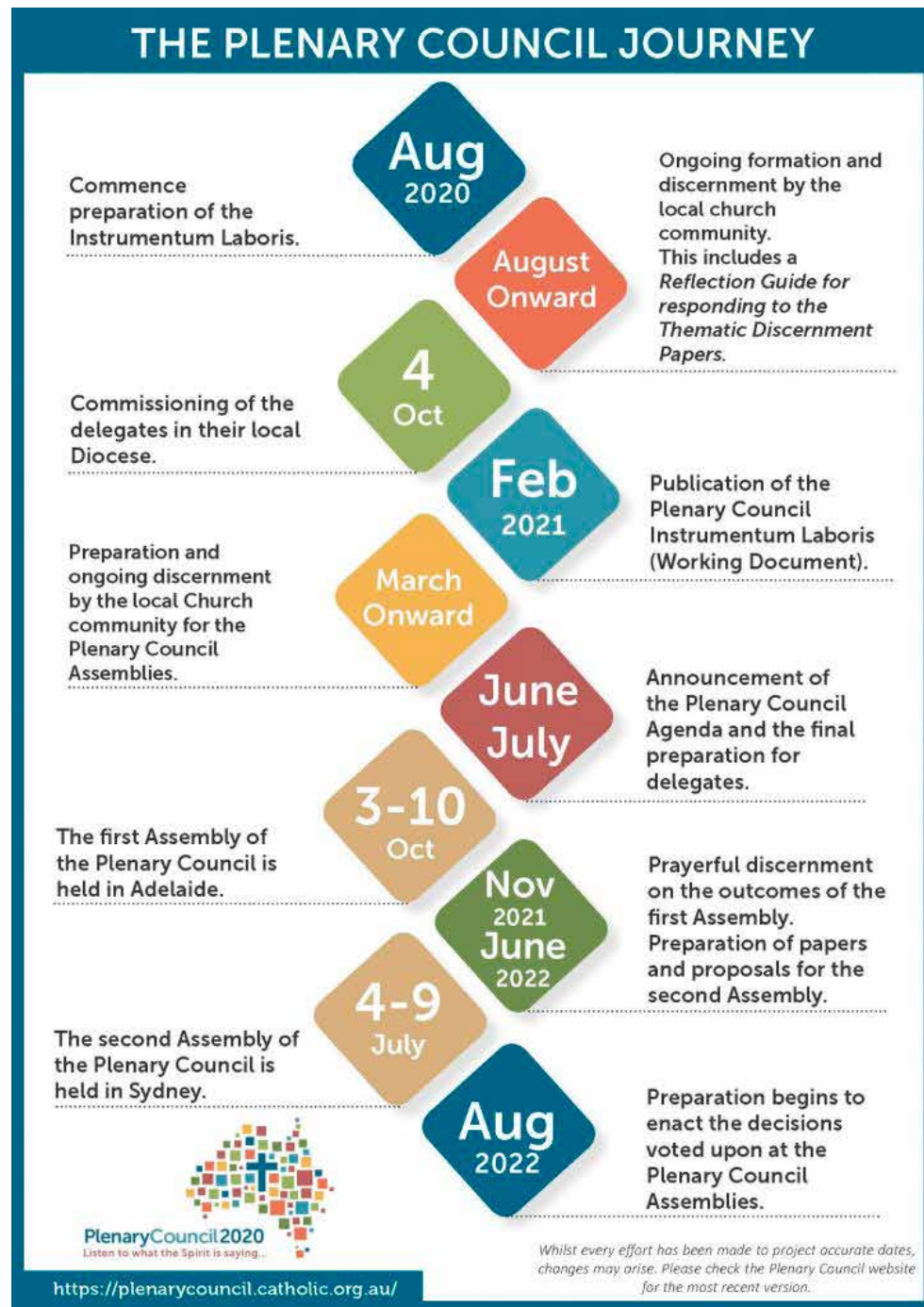
While I was on leave, an important report on governance – *Light from the Southern Cross* – and the bishops' response were published, as was Pope Francis' new encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*. They provide important context and nourishment for the Church in Australia too.

It is also essential to reflect on the new and emerging reality of post-COVID life. I find myself asking: how am I *now* called to live the Gospel? What is the one thing I can do today as a follower of Christ that will help to build God's Kingdom? Some days the answer is as simple as cuddling my daughter or calling someone who I know might be lonely in the COVID society in which we now are living.

In seeking the Holy Spirit's guidance for the missionary journey of the Church in Australia toward the Plenary Council, we continue to focus on living the joy of the Gospel and are challenged in doing this within the highly changed circumstances so many thousands are now facing in this COVID era.

Another major area of the Facilitation Team's work is creating a plan for a "multi-modal" assembly in October 2021, which will combine both online and in-person elements in a COVID-safe manner. The content for the agenda will be drawn from the working document and is something we will communicate about in coming PlenaryPost editions.

The process will be guided by the requirements of the Council's statutes and regulatory norms, though fundamentally it will be a process of prayerful discernment



facilitated by a team of people with expertise in spiritual conversations, contemplative dialogue and communal discernment. This team is working together on this (somewhat) complex task.

I look forward to reconnecting with you all over the coming weeks and

months. As always, please reach out to us here at the Facilitation Team if we can be of any assistance in your dialogue and discernment with your local faith community.

Yours in mission,
Lana

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

received. All of us are responsible for the communications we make, for the information we share, for the control that we can exert over fake news by exposing it. All of us are to be witnesses of the truth: to go, to see and to share.

Nothing replaces seeing things at first hand

In communications, nothing can ever completely replace seeing things in person. Some things can only be learned through first-hand experience. We do not communicate merely with words, but with our eyes, the tone of our voice and our gestures. Jesus' attractiveness to those who met him depended on the truth of his preaching; yet the effectiveness of what he said was inseparable from how he looked at others, from how he acted towards them, and even from his silence. The disciples not only listened to his words; they watched him speak. Indeed in him – the incarnate Logos – the Word took on a face; the invisible God let himself be seen, heard and touched, as John himself tells us (cf. 1 Jn 1:1-3).

The word is effective only if it is "seen", only if it engages us in experience, in dialogue. For this reason, the invitation to "come and see" was, and continues to be, essential.

We think of how much empty rhetoric abounds, even in our time, in all areas of public life, in business as well as politics. This or that one "speaks an infinite deal of nothing... His reasons are as two grains of wheat hid in two bushels of chaff: you shall seek all day ere you find them, and when you have them, they are not worth the search. [2] The blistering words of the English playwright also apply to us as Christian communicators. The Good News of the Gospel spread throughout the world as a result of person-to-person, heart-to-heart encounters with men and women who accepted the invitation to "come and see", and were struck by the "surplus" of humanity that shone through the gaze, the speech and the gestures of those who bore witness to Jesus Christ. Every tool has its value, and that great communicator who was Paul of Tarsus would certainly



have made use of email and social messaging. Yet it was his faith, hope and charity that impressed those of his contemporaries who heard him preach or had the good fortune to spend time with him, to see him during an assembly or in individual conversation. Watching him in action wherever he was, they saw for themselves how true and fruitful for their lives was the message of salvation that, by God's grace, he had come to preach. Even where this servant of God could not be encountered personally, the disciples whom he sent bore witness to his way of life in Christ (cf. 1 Cor 4:17).

"We have books in our hands, but the facts before our eyes", said Saint Augustine[3] in speaking of fulfilment of the prophecies found in sacred Scripture. So too, the Gospel comes alive in our own day, whenever we accept the compelling witness of people whose lives have been changed by their encounter with Jesus. For two millennia, a chain of such encounters has communicated the attractiveness of the Christian adventure. The challenge

that awaits us, then, is to communicate by encountering people, where they are and as they are.

*Lord, teach us to move beyond ourselves,
and to set out in search of truth.
Teach us to go out and see,
teach us to listen,
not to entertain prejudices
or draw hasty conclusions.
Teach us to go where no one else will go,
to take the time needed to understand,
to pay attention to the essentials,
not to be distracted by the
superfluous,
to distinguish deceptive appearances
from the truth.
Grant us the grace to recognize your
dwelling places in our world
and the honesty needed to tell others
what we have seen.*

**Rome, Saint John Lateran,
23 January 2021,
Vigil of the Memorial of Saint
Francis de Sales**



Come and See ... WHERE JESUS PRAYS

More than 600,000 Australians regularly attend Mass in one of more than 1,300 parishes, served by almost 3,000 priests and tens of thousands of other ministers and volunteers. In marking **World Communications Day 2021**, we thank those who are carrying out Jesus' mission of prayer.

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The Legion of Mary Centenary 2021



In keeping with the Legion of Mary confidential 'way' the testimonies will be published anonymously. Here are the latest ones:

Testimony 1:
Being a member of the Legion of Mary has been great. The graces I've received have help me be where I am today. I've enjoyed meeting and working with the other legionary members.

Testimony 2:
I was invited to join the Legion of Mary by a friend and by legionaries who visited me at home. I joined as an auxiliary member, and ten years later became an active member. I have found the Legion of Mary to be a place and system of balance, which has facilitated a deepening of my faith and relationship with God. I have made good friends through the Legion of Mary and would recommend anyone trying it out. It is possible to attend meetings without making a commitment to see if it is a good fit for you at this time in your life. There are different levels of membership within the Legion of Mary, reflective of St. Paul's words of one body with different parts, 1 Corinthians 12:12-27.

THE MYSTICAL HOME OF NAZARETH

A particular application of the Doctrine of the Mystical Body of Christ may be made to the Legion meetings, especially to the praesidium meeting, which forms the heart of the Legion system.

"Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." (Mt 18:20)

These words of our Lord assure us that his influential presence in the members of his Mystical Body is intensified according to the number in which they unite to serve him. He specifies number as a condition for the complete displaying of his power.

Below is a list of Praesidia (Legion of Mary groups) for your information. If you would like to join Our Lady's 'SAS'* please contact your Parish.

Name	Location	Meeting Time	Spiritual Director
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Thurgoona	Tues, 9.00am	Fr John Fowles
Mystical Rose	Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Thurgoona	Mon, 9.30am	Fr John Fowles
Rosa Mystica	Holy Spirit Parish, Lavington	Tues, 1.00pm	Fr Peter Murphy
Mother of Christ	Holy Spirit Parish, Lavington	Wed, 3.30pm	Fr Brendan Lee
Immaculate Heart of Mary	St Patrick's Parish, Albury	Sun, 4.00pm	Fr Marco Killingsworth
Mary Help of Christians	Mary McKillop College, Jindera	Tues, 3.30pm	Fr Brendan Lee
Queen of Confessors	Mary McKillop College, Jindera	Tues, 3.30pm	Fr Chris Heffernan

* The British Special Air Service, known as the SAS, is the infantry counterpart to the Special Boat Service. Their insignia bears the phrase "Who dares wins." Asked about the importance of the SAS's role in the fighting that followed the Iraq War, US Gen. Stanley McChrystal said: "Essential. Could not have done it without them."

The Legion of Mary is celebrating its Centenary in September this year and we would like to share a series of 'What the Legion of Mary means to me' testimonies from different members over the next few months as well as our plans for ways in which we will mark this significant milestone.

Possibly, this is a consequence of our individual defectiveness, the virtues of each being so limited as to permit Christ to show himself only partially through that one.

A simple natural image may illustrate how this may be. A coloured glass will transmit only its own shade of light, obstructing all the other shades. But when glasses of all the different colours jointly project their shades, these unite to make the fullness of light. Similarly, when Christians in some number combine for the purposes of the Lord, their qualities supplementing each other, he is enabled through them to manifest his perfection and his power more fully.

So, when legionaries gather together in the praesidium in his name and for his work, he is present in that potent way; it has been made evident that power goes out from him there. (Mk 5:30)

Also with Jesus in that little Legion family are his Mother and St. Joseph, who have towards the praesidium the same relation that they had to him; which permits us to look on the praesidium as a projection of the Home of Nazareth, and this not as a mere devotional exercise but as something based on reality. "We are obliged," says Bérulle, "to treat the things and mysteries of Jesus not as things past and dead, but as things living and present and even eternal." Likewise we may piously identify the premises and equipment of the praesidium with the fabric and the furniture of the Holy House, and we may regard the behaviour of the legionaries towards those adjuncts of the praesidium as a test of their appreciation of the truth that Christ lives in us and works through us, necessarily availing of the things that we are utilising.

This thought provides a sweet and compelling motive for a bestowing of

a careful attention upon the things that surround the praesidium and form its home.

Legionaries may have limited control over the room in which they meet, but other accessories of the meeting are more fully in their charge, such as the table, chairs, altar, books. How are the legionaries enabling the mother of the praesidium Home of Nazareth to reproduce in it the devoted housekeeping which she started long ago in Galilee? Their aid is necessary to her. They can deny it to her or they can give it negligently — thus perverting her work for the Mystical Christ. Faced with this idea, let legionaries try to imagine how Mary kept her home.

Poor it was, and its furniture far from elaborate. Yet it must have been most beautiful. For among the wives and mothers of all time, this one was unique, gifted with exquisite taste and refinement which could not but show themselves in every item of her home. Each simple detail must somehow have possessed a loveliness, each common thing a charm. For she loved — as only she could love — all those things because of him who made them and who now made human use of them. She cared them and cleaned them and polished them and tried to make them nice, for they had to be quite perfect in their way. We may be certain that there was not one jarring note in all that domicile. There could not possibly be. For that little house was like no other. It was the cradle for the redemption, the frame for the Lord of the world. Everything in it served strangely to mould him who had made all things. Therefore, everything had to be fit to serve that sublime purpose and fit it was by the order, cleanliness, brightness and indefinable quality which Mary contrived to impart to it.

In its own fashion, everything about the praesidium plays its part in moulding the member and therefore should reflect those characteristics of the Holy Home, just as the legionaries themselves should reflect Jesus and Mary.

A French author has written a book entitled "A Journey Around My Room." Make such a thoughtful journey around your praesidium and analyse most critically everything that strikes the eye and ear; the floor and walls and windows; the furniture; the components of the altar, in particular the statue which represents the pivot of the home, its mother. Above all, observe the demeanour of the members and the method of conducting the meeting.

If the sum total of what is seen and heard is unattuned to the Home of Nazareth, then it is not likely that the spirit of Nazareth abides in that praesidium. But without that spirit the praesidium is worse



than dead.

Sometimes officers, like worthless parents, pervert those entrusted to their care. Nearly always the shortcomings of praesidia can be traced back to the officers. If members are unpunctual and irregular in their attendance, doing insufficient work and doing it irregularly, failing in their attitude at the meeting, it is because that defective behaviour is being accepted from them, because they are not being taught any better. They are being warped by the training they are receiving from their officers.

Contrast all that inadequacy with the Home of Nazareth. Imagine Our Lady being thus neglectful about details and order, giving that disfiguring sort of training to her child! Try — it is difficult, but try — to think of her as slatternly, weak, unreliable, indifferent; letting the Holy House go to wrack and ruin, so that it is the contemptuous talk of the neighbours! Of course the very idea is fantastic. Yet more than a few Legion officers let things drift thus shamefully in the praesidium Home of Nazareth which they profess to be administering as the very embodiments of Our Lady.

But if, on the other hand, all those things by their perfection prove the praesidium's devotion, then we may know that our Lord is there in that fullness indicated by his words. The spirit of the Holy Family was not confined by the Holy House, nor by Nazareth, nor by Judea, nor by any boundary. Neither, therefore, can the spirit of the praesidium be confined.

"Catholic love for the Mother of God shows a praiseworthy sense of the artistic by its reluctance to ask for elaborate details of the life at Nazareth. We know that at Nazareth there dwells a life that is not of man's experience, hardly of man's comprehension. Is there anyone here on earth who could draw a picture of those two lives of superhuman intensity which find in their very intensity a most complete blending of all their movements, affections, aspirations? Let me watch from the hilltop over Nazareth a woman going down to the well with the pitcher poised on her head, a boy of fifteen at her side. I know that between the two there is a love such as is not found among the spirits that dwell before the throne of God. But I know, too, that I am not entitled to see more lest I die of wonderment." (Vonier: The Divine Maternity)

Pope Francis’ vision for our church

This is the title of a reflection which Fr Richard Leonard will be sharing at the Sacred Heart Parish Centre in Koorringal on Sunday 23 May at 2.00pm.

“It is not very often we have an opportunity to hear someone with Fr Richard’s well known and respected background, knowledge and reputation speaking live in the Riverina,” John Goonan who is one of the organising committee members said.

“A group of us were lamenting the fact that very little is made available outside the capital cities. Cost of getting to the city, accommodation costs once one gets there and an entrance or booking fee all add up to a cost few of us can afford,” John continued.

“So rather than just grizzle, we decided to take a gamble and bring someone to Wagga. The gamble is that people will appreciate our efforts and donate whatever they can afford on the day and hopefully cover the costs of Richard’s air fares and speaking fees.”

“We chose Fr Richard because some of us have heard him before and found him to be entertaining speaker with great anecdotes and, most importantly, a great positive message of faith and hope.”

“We chose Wagga because it is reasonably accessible

from all over the Diocese and Sunday afternoon so that people from around the Diocese can come and get home again before it gets too late. The session, which will include a Q&A will have to finish by 3.30pm so that Fr Richard can catch a plane back to Sydney.”

“There is no need to book and admission is free. All are welcome,” John concluded. “We are a very inclusive and welcoming group.”

Fr Richard is a Jesuit priest with degrees in arts and education, as well as a Master’s degree in theology. He undertook graduate studies at the London Film School and has a PhD from the University of Melbourne. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Australian Catholic University; has been a visiting scholar within the School of Theatre, Film & Television at UCLA and was a Visiting Professor at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome.

Director of the Australian Catholic Office for Film & Broadcasting for the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference for 22 years, Richard has lectured on faith



Fr Richard Leonard

and culture all over the world. He has been published in America Magazine, Eureka Street, US Catholics, is a regular columnist with The London Tablet and is a frequent guest on ABC Radio.

He is the author of ten books including: “What does it all mean?”, “What are we doing on earth for Christ’s sake?”, “Where the Hell is God?”, “What does it all mean? A guide to being more faithful, hopeful and loving” and “Hatch, Match & Dispatch: A Catholic Guide to Sacraments”.

Richard’s next book “The Law of Love: Modern words for ancient wisdom” has just been released.

Marian Catholic College student wins prize at the National Youth Science Forum

Students from around Australia gathered for the National Youth Science Forum earlier this year, learning from some of the world's best scientists.

BY AREA NEWS

The forum was held over ten days, and included lectures from Professor Barry Marshall, Doctor Karl Kruszelnicki and a livestreamed tour of CERN's Large Hadron Collider among other events.

From Marian Catholic College, one of those students was Amanda Harrison who just recently found out that her submission for Professor Barry Marshall's 2021 challenge has won the prize from Professor Marshall himself.

The challenge this year was to 'design aspects of a medical facility that could be operated remotely and without a permanent doctor.' Miss Harrison partnered with Anousheh Moonen to create the 'Robobacter solution' and they've been rewarded for their efforts.

The competition was open to all attendees, approximately 600 students in total. While Miss Harrison was thrilled to have won the award from Professor Marshall, she considers it a side note to the other benefits the forum offered.

"The opportunity is so huge ... the best part was definitely the friendships and contacts I made there. I'm still in contact with people I met there, they're just so lovely and we all have common interests," Miss Harrison said.

Miss Harrison was sponsored by the Rotary Avanti club to attend the conference; the club regularly sponsors the young people from the area to attend. Dianne Robinson, the youth director of the club spoke highly of the program.

"It's such a worthwhile program for



Amanda Harrison attended the NYSF with the help of science teacher Lisa Davis (left) and Rotary Avanti Club youth director Dianne Robinson (right.) PHOTO: Cai Holroyd

students who are interested in science, so we're proud to help send them," Ms Robinson said.

Lisa Davis is a science teacher at Marian Catholic College, and said that Miss Harrison had been committed to the sciences since a very young age.

"There's a number of students that are really passionate that I recommend for the conference, Amanda reached out to me. I've known Amanda since kindergarten and she's always wanted to do science."

Miss Harrison was thrilled with the

forum and is already looking ahead to where the experience could lead her.

"During the program, ADFA did a lecture which was really inspiring so I'm looking at going to university through them and becoming a submariner doing electronics engineering."

Miss Harrison strongly encouraged anyone interested to apply for upcoming forums and to learn as much as possible from them.

"If you have the motivation, it's so worth it."



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Holy Spirit welcomes new parishioners

Barbara McMahon, Trevor Dole and Jessica McKeon were welcomed into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil in the Holy Spirit Parish, Lavington on the 3rd April.



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India surpasses 200,000 COVID-19 deaths

India's COVID-19 death toll has passed 200,000, with official data showing more than 3,000 fatalities in a 24-hour period for the first time.

India has also reported an increase of 360,000 cases in 24 hours, a new world record, bringing the total number of cases to 18 million.

The country continues to struggle with inadequate supplies of oxygen, hospital beds and the antiretroviral drug remdesivir, further challenging the already overwhelmed healthcare system.

In addition to the tragic loss of life, the second wave of COVID-19 has had devastating impacts on some of the most vulnerable and marginalised communities in India. A large percentage of India's population works in informal labour, relying on cash in hand jobs to survive. The lockdowns put these communities at risk of food insecurity and poverty.

Caritas India, Caritas Australia's partner in India, is following government requirements to stay at home to reduce the spread of the virus, and finding ways to work with local authorities and partners across India to respond to the crisis.

Caritas India seeks to provide

livelihoods, food, hygiene materials and psychosocial support to the most vulnerable and continue their COVID-19 awareness raising activities.

Earlier this year, Caritas India won the prestigious Mahatma Gandhi Award 2020 for their COVID-19 Humanitarian Efforts as a recognition of their tireless efforts in reaching out to the most marginalised communities during the pandemic, and the organization will continue to focus on supporting these communities.

Caritas Australia works with our partner, Caritas India, to provide support to the most marginalised and vulnerable. Caritas Australia is accepting donations to help support vulnerable communities in Asia through the Asia Emergency Appeal.

Visit caritas.org.au or call 1800 024 413 toll free to provide much needed support.



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India's death toll from COVID-19 has surpassed 200,000.
[File: Channi Anand/AP Photo]

Vinnies launches 2021 Winter Appeal to support homelessness

As Vinnies responds to a growing demand for services following the end of JobKeeper and cuts to Job Seeker, the National Council of St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia is calling for donations to help support the rising number of people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, including children.

Launching the Vinnies Winter Appeal on 4th May, National President Claire Victory said that historically low wages and cuts to income support, coupled with rising house prices and the decline in affordable rental accommodation, are pushing more families into homelessness.

‘This has been exacerbated by the economic impact from the COVID-19 pandemic,’ Ms Victory said.
 ‘The government’s coronavirus supplement helped keep many struggling families afloat over the past year. When that safety net disappeared at the end of March, it left the most vulnerable members of our community with nowhere to turn. In the second year of the pandemic, families are fighting to stay in their own homes, and right around the country it is children who are bearing the greatest burden.
 ‘As temperatures drop, more people are

living in cars, couch surfing or sleeping in situations that put them at risk.
 ‘The first cut to JobSeeker from \$550 to \$250 in September 2020 pushed 370,000 people back into poverty, including 80,000 children. The second cut from \$250 to \$150 in January 2021 pushed a further 190,000 people into poverty, including 50,000 children.
 ‘It has also placed 124,000 more families at increased risk of homelessness, with low wage earners, casual workers and single parents experiencing greater rates of job insecurity and lost income than other groups. That means more than 25,000 children under the age of 18 face homelessness each night.
 ‘As children move from one temporary accommodation to another, routines are lost, friendships are broken and education suffers. The critical years of childhood become filled with trauma, with long-term impacts for the future.
 ‘The Society is providing vital services



and support for individuals and families facing financial hardship.
 ‘Our members and volunteers are on the front lines every day, working with families, intervening early to help people find accommodation as quickly as possible and supporting people to maintain stable housing.
 ‘With generous support from the public, we can help maintain the dignity of those on the edge and restore hope to people who have fallen on hard times,’ Ms Victory said.
Donate to the 2021 Vinnies Winter Appeal via www.vinnies.org.au/winterappeal or by calling 13 18 12.



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We are urgently in need of volunteers to work in our Vinnies shops across the Riverina.

If you have some spare time in your week we would love to hear from you.

Please phone **13 18 12** to find out more.

For we cannot keep from speaking about what we have seen and heard

Sister Chalaad and the Good Shepherd Sisters in Thailand work tirelessly to ensure vulnerable mothers and their precious babies are given love and care when they need it most.

BY JANE PLUM - Diocesan Director for Catholic Mission

It's only through the faithful support of people like you that they can continue this essential mission work, helping those in most in need.

One of the women impacted by the work of the Good Shepherd Sisters, and currently residing at the Mother and Babies Home is Churai. Abandoned by her partner when she learned she was pregnant, Churai was unsure as to how she would care for her baby as she had little money and nowhere to turn, until a friend connected her with the Good Shepherd Sisters.

Now seven months pregnant, Churai is living at the Mother and Babies Home run by Sr Chalaad, and is receiving nutritious food, medical care and parental skills training. The Home is designed to lend a helping hand to mothers like Churai, to help them build a brighter future for themselves and their babies.

"This place has helped and given women in need an opportunity to grow. Women who feel discouraged, who don't know what to do, and who have nowhere to go. This place gave us an opportunity, comfort and happiness." - Churai

In his World Mission Day message for 2021, Pope Francis has invited us to respond to what we have seen and heard – to carry those stories, like Churai's, in our hearts – calling us to each be missionary disciples by sharing and supporting vital work like this.

The Mother and Babies Home at the Good Shepherd Sisters Centre in the heart of Bangkok offers mothers like

Churai the opportunity to prepare for their new babies in a safe environment. The women that come through the Home are welcomed with love and support not only from the Sisters, but from the community of mothers also living at the home. The Home gives these mothers a sense of belonging, practical support through parental skills training, pre- and post-natal medical care, and provides them with nutritious food and supplies.

You can help support the essential work of the Good Shepherd Sisters in Thailand as they reach out to vulnerable mothers and their babies in their time of greatest need.

"It's about giving a chance to the mothers and children. And when they get that chance, they will be able to look forward and they will be able to stand for themselves in the society for their future. Even if they have no one, we can stand by them." – Sr Chalaad



Visit catholicmission.org.au

Or contact Jane Plum:

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For we CANNOT KEEP FROM SPEAKING about what we have SEEN & HEARD
ACTS 4:20

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Schools commemorate ANZAC Day across the diocese

Many schools across the diocese participated in ANZAC Day commemorations on Sunday April 25.

"Lest We Forget"



St Joseph's Primary School, Culcairn



Sacred Heart Primary School, Koorinal



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St Brendan's Primary School, Ganmain



Mater Dei Catholic College, Wagga



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ACN International calls on the community of states to facilitate humanitarian aid

ACN President Heine-Geldern sees an urgent need for action, particularly in the area of money transfers for emergency aid.

Ten years after the conflict in Syria began, the international Catholic pastoral charity ACN International has called on the United States and the European Union to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid to the sanctioned country. “It is our duty to provide help to the suffering civil population of Syria - and especially to the rapidly dwindling Christian minority. In their name I beg you to implement the existing international legal framework, which allows humanitarian exceptions to the embargo,” declared ACN President, Dr Thomas Heine-Geldern.

The legal exemptions included within the sanctions regime currently imposed upon Syria cannot be utilised fully, Heine-Geldern explained. In particular, obstacles hindering money transfers and the import of humanitarian goods render any form of assistance impossible. “Although the sanctions foresee exceptions for money transfers related to humanitarian help, it does not work.”

According to Heine-Geldern, the

European IBAN and American SWIFT banking codes block transfers bearing any reference to Syria and any city within the country. “Consequently, it becomes almost impossible for charitable organisations to transfer funds for humanitarian purposes to meet the needs of the suffering population.”

For Heine-Geldern, money transfers are of vital importance because church institutions and NGOs do not have themselves the capacity to ship the goods needed for the survival of almost 14 million Syrians in need of humanitarian assistance. “So we normally send money for our counterparts to buy the food, medical help and clothing locally,” Heine-Geldern said.

For this reason, the president of ACN calls on the community of states to instruct banks to accept money transfers for humanitarian aid, as already provided for in the exceptions to the existing sanctions.

Besides the obstacles preventing the transfer of money, Heine-Geldern discussed the problems inherent in importing humanitarian goods into

Syria. “To apply for permits, our partners often have to overcome insurmountable multilingual procedures put in place by the sanction authorities.” Permits are necessary even for small amounts of goods and involve high fees, Heine-Geldern explained.

It is particularly difficult to import goods that can be used for purposes other than humanitarian ones (dual-use goods), Heine-Geldern said. As the interpretation of these provisions is very broad, the president continued, even the powdered milk urgently needed for undernourished babies and children falls into this category.

Therefore, Heine-Geldern calls on the community of states to implement procedures that clearly define what is permitted and what is prohibited and then make it possible to carry out all measures that have been allowed. He suggested that “an interim solution could be providing a general license for designated NGOs.”

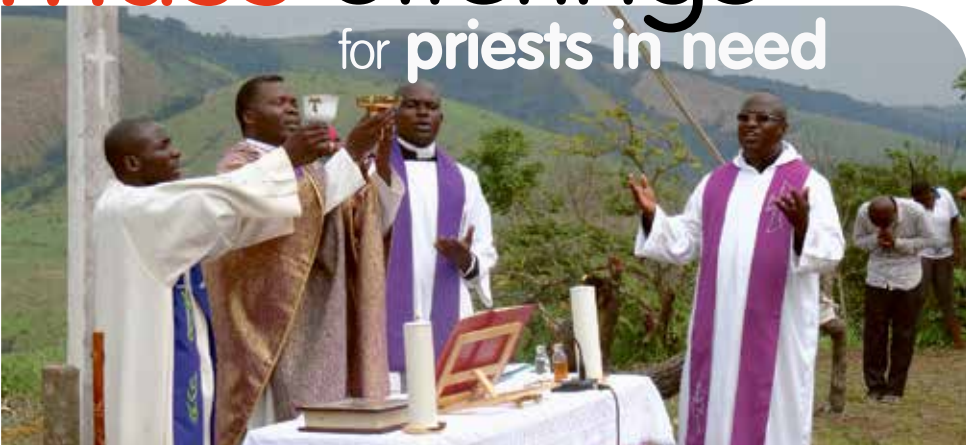
Thanks to its benefactors, ACN has been able to support the suffering civil population of Syria, among them especially the



Dr Thomas Heine-Geldern.
Photographer: Irmira Nockiewicz.

Christians of various denominations. Since the outbreak of the conflict in mid-March 2011, they have been living in catastrophic conditions. Due to forced migration, the Christian presence in Syria is threatened with extinction. Despite the mentioned difficulties, almost 64 million AUD have been donated to support more than 900 humanitarian and pastoral projects of the local Church since the beginning of the war.

Mass offerings for priests in need



“The earth could exist more easily without the sun than without the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass”

Saint Pio of Pietrelcina

In many regions of the world the priests have little or no material support. **For over fifty years Aid to the Church in Need has passed on the Mass offerings of our benefactors to help poor priests survive.** In return these priests offer a Mass for the intentions of the donor.

This custom of Mass offerings - dating back to the second century - is a tangible sign of the spiritual and material dependence we Christians have on one another. There is no more beautiful gift than the gift of the Mass. **Every year, over 40,000 priests – ten percent of the world’s priests – are supported by 1.5 million Mass offerings.**

Masses can be offered for the living or the dead, they can be offered for family, friends, or for those who have no one to pray for them. Mass offerings are a spiritual gift that can be given in times of joy or trial.



Scan the QR code to arrange your Mass offerings online.

Founded in 1947, **Aid to the Church in Need (ACN)** is the only international Catholic charity dedicated to the pastoral and spiritual support of suffering and persecuted Christians. ACN supports the Catholic faith where it is at greatest risk.

PONTIFICAL FOUNDATION



ARRANGING YOUR MASS OFFERINGS

One hundred percent of every Mass offering is sent directly to the priest in need, no administration costs are taken.



Aid to the Church in Need
ACN AUSTRALIA

1	Indicate number of Masses and offering	Number	Total \$
	Single Mass/es (\$13 offering for each Mass)		
	Triduum of Masses (\$43 for three consecutive Masses)		
	Novena of Masses (\$127 for nine consecutive Masses)		
	Gregorian series of Masses (\$470 for thirty consecutive Masses)		
	Mass cards (\$2.50 each. Card and envelope will be sent to you to be completed and given to recipient)		
	Add a general offering to support the suffering Church		
		Total offering \$	

2 List your intentions (optional). God knows the intentions and the priest offers each Mass for the intentions of the donor.

3 Enclose a cheque/money order payable to Aid to the Church in Need or provide your Visa/Mastercard:

<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
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Expiry date: ____ / ____ Signature: _____

4 Personal details: (BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE)

Title: _____ Name: _____

Address: _____

Suburb: _____

State: _____ Postcode: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

TOG2

Send the completed form to **Aid to the Church in Need** PO Box 335 PENRITH NSW 2751, call **1800 101 201**, or arrange your offering online at **www.aidtochurch.org**

COVID-19 Diocesan Protocols

Effective
27th March 2021

- 1. If you are unwell, stay home.**

2. Covid-Safe Business
All Parishes must comply with the NSW Government requirement to complete a Covid-Safe Plan and register as a Covid-Safe Business.

3. Maximum Attendance
a. Attendance at Places of Worship is limited to one person per two square metres (excluding clergy and liturgical ministers).
b. Physical distancing is to be practiced. People from different households are to remain 1.5m apart.

4. Hygiene practices
a. Sanitisation of hands before entering the church, hall, prayer room, etc.
b. Wiping down of pews and common areas at conclusion of Mass or gathering is encouraged.
c. Priests and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to purify hands with sanitiser before and after offering Holy Communion.
d. Limit the use of communal books. Ensure they are cleaned between use.

5. Register of people upon entering the church, hall, prayer room, etc.
a. Name, phone number and entry time to be recorded and kept

securely for at least 28 days.

b. Any paper-based records must be entered into electronic format (spreadsheet/database) within 12 hours.

6. Eucharist
a. Holy Communion may be received in the hand or on the tongue. Those wishing to receive Holy Communion on the tongue are to approach only after Holy Communion has been distributed to all those receiving on the hand.
b. Sacred Host to be offered only, not the Precious Blood.
c. No touching at the sign of peace.
d. No offertory procession.
e. No collection plates are to be passed around.

7. Communion to Sick and Elderly Persons
Normal pastoral practice continues including Communion to sick persons in hospitals, aged care homes and private homes.

8. Anointing of the Sick
Normal Pastoral Practice continues.
a. Anointing of the sick in hospitals, aged care and private homes if permitted to enter.
b. If the person has COVID-19, please consult the Bishop's Office.
- Most Rev Mark Edwards OMI**
Bishop of Wagga Wagga





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Fr Sean Byrnes on 69231222 or frseanbyrnes@gmail.com
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- Diocese of Wagga Wagga -

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Phone: 6937 0017 Email: tribunal@wagga.catholic.org.au



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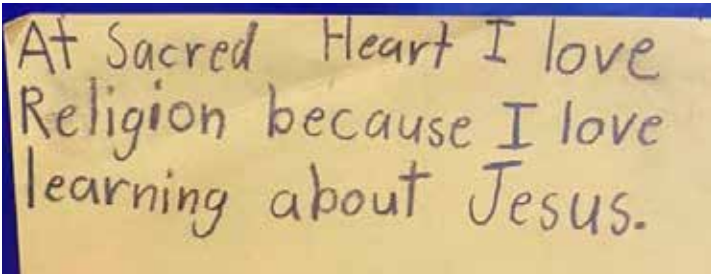
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Catholic Education Week

Catholic Education Week was celebrated in our schools across the diocese from 3 to 7 May.



Sacred Heart Primary School, Koorinal



St Patrick's Parish School, Albury



Above: St Peter's Primary School, Coleambally



St Joseph's Primary School, Culcairn



Left: New playground for St Brendan's Primary School, Ganmain

Below: St Michael's Primary School, Coolamon



St Joseph's Primary School, Narrandera



All Saints Primary School, Tumbarumba



Henschke Primary School, Wagga Wagga

Always go forward, never go backward

Serra has as its patron Saint Junipero Serra, a Franciscan who founded a string of Californian Mission Stations, which was responsible for the evangelisation of the West Coast of the United States of America and Mexico.

BY ANDREW KENNEDY

Like Father Serra, the Serrans of today put faith into action, whether through vocational programs in schools and parishes or other diocesan activities. We also assist members to recognise and respond in their own lives to God's call to Holiness in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit.

We have a monthly meeting at the Vianney Seminary with Mass in St Mary's Chapel followed by a light meal where we have the privilege of contact and interaction with the seminarians, young men from many places with interesting backgrounds that has led them to a vocation in the priesthood.

On the occasion of an ordination, members can be found in the parish centre opposite the Cathedral preparing the celebrations where many of the clergy of the diocese and seminarians

gather with the newest priest or deacon and their families for a light meal and the opportunity to offer congratulation.

Serra is recognised by the Holy See as the Global Lay Apostolate for Vocations, the only lay organisation aggregated to a primary pontifical work for Priestly Vocations. In 1953, the Holy See affirmed Serra's role as a worldwide lay organisation committed to the vocation ministry.

Being part of Serra can assist us all to fulfil our personal responsibilities. Membership is open to all Catholic lay men, lay women and permanent Deacons.

Serra is all about doing more to foster vocations. The Wagga Serra Club has been doing this for 40 years now. In conjunction with our 40 year anniversary we will be holding a



Saint Junipero Serra

dinner evening with Bishop Mark being our special guest speaker. He will be talking to us on his personal vocational journey. Save the date for Saturday evening on October 16th. Please book early to secure your seat.

So today, we invite you to come and see! Join us in our monthly meeting, Mass and a light meal at Vianney Seminary at 6.15pm on the second Tuesday of each month (with a break over December and January). The Mass at 7.00pm will be celebrated by the Rector, Father Thompson.

"THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL BUT THE LABOURERS FEW"
Thank you.



Budget is a missed opportunity to address regional need

Caritas Australia has expressed concern that tonight's Federal Budget has delivered limited new aid commitments at a time when the need in our region is at its greatest.

"Over the past year we have welcomed vital injections of cash and support to fight COVID-19, particularly in the Pacific and Asia where cases and deaths are rising alarmingly," said Kirsty Robertson, CEO of Caritas Australia.

"This rapid response was crucial, and in many cases lifesaving, but we can't afford to decrease the overall assistance now. At a time of increasing hunger, unemployment

and poverty globally, we need to step up and prevent further loss of life, and not just from COVID-19. If not now, when?"

"We recognise the valuable support provided by the Australian Government to the region since the beginning of the pandemic, which has helped countries like India, Fiji and Papua New Guinea fight the health, economic and social impacts of COVID-19 over the past year."

"Without the significant contribution of PPE and medical supplies to India during the biggest global spike in COVID-19 so far, it's likely that many more lives would have been lost. We welcome its continuation with the two-year package outlined in the budget for India."

"And I am certain that the 10,000 doses of vaccines a week that the government has committed to send to the Pacific and Timor-Leste will make a serious difference to these countries, which have overwhelmed and fragile healthcare systems."

Caritas Australia is disappointed that the Australian Government has not increased funding to Africa and

the Middle East where communities are facing similar challenges.

"Over the last year, we have seen devastating impact on people's lives and livelihoods on communities that we work with. We should stand by our neighbours and provide adequate support to vulnerable populations," said Ms. Robertson.

As the crisis continues to evolve worldwide, Australia's investments and support to the global community are crucial to avoid new, more virulent and deadly strains of COVID-19.

"We must look ahead as long-term assistance will be necessary for the slow road back to recovery for the region," said Ms. Robertson.

National virtual conference to enliven catholic communities

Our faith communities are hungering for inspiration and support as we emerge from the pandemic and approach the first national plenary session.

“Alive in the Spirit”, an innovative online conference, from 8 to 10 July 2021, offers a next-level experience to participants through a variety of keynotes, home-grown workshops and enriching prayer and worship experiences. The mixture of live and on-demand opportunities are fully adaptable to strengthen the mission and aims of local Catholic communities.

The conference site, [aliveinthespirit.com.au](https://www.aliveinthespirit.com.au), launched on Friday 30 April, drew pastoral leaders from around the region who expressed enthusiastic support and excitement centred around the call to be Alive in the Spirit and people of new hope, as expressed through the keynotes: Lana Turvey-Collins (Plenary Facilitator), Fr Richard Lennan (Professor of Systematic Theology, Boston College) and Leisa Anslinger (Associate Director, Pastoral Vitality, Cincinnati Archdiocese).

Watch a replay of the launch here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TEIC1cEZzRo>

One of the key attractions are over thirty on-demand workshops exploring areas such as best practice for RCIA, how we engage beyond the margins of our faith communities, planning for mission and renewal, supporting pastoral care, social justice initiatives and much more. Presenters are drawn from experienced

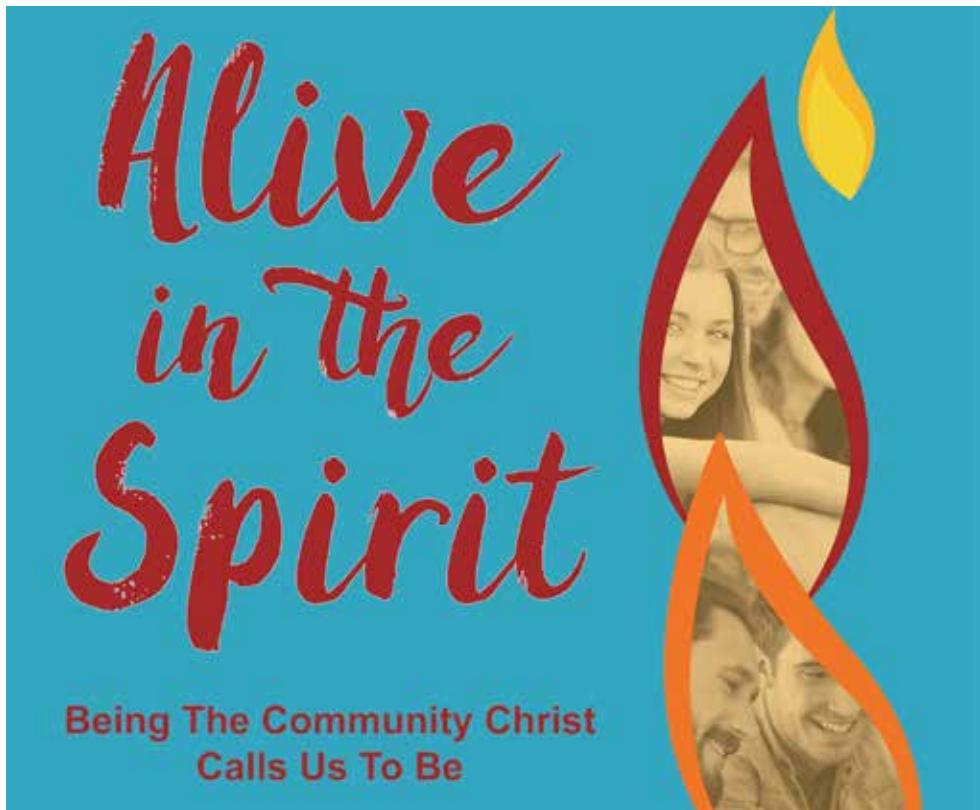
pastoral ministers in Australia and New Zealand who offer practical, down-to-earth wisdom, resources and avenues of new life.

A variety of prayer spaces during the conference provide their own source of inspiration, while there are opportunities to connect with both exhibitors and one-to-one sessions with presenters. The conference also ensures a number of scheduled networking sessions to enable all participants a chance to share their wisdom and learn from others in the mission field.

The conference offers inspiration and support to lay and clergy, staff, leadership teams, finance teams, pastoral councils, pastoral ministers and volunteers, those in education, counselling, pastoral care, youth ministry, family ministry, aged care and chaplaincies and anyone who wants to be Alive in the Spirit.

Lana Turvey-Collins, Plenary Facilitator and keynote speaker, expressed her excitement, believing the conference offers a wonderful space to share “how we’re living, how we’re working together, and what that means for how the Spirit is moving in all of us, and what that means as church.”

Fr Michael Alcock, Parish Administrator of Sawtell expressed his hopes for his parish community: “People are really in



the mood for learning and reinvigorating their lay ministry... We need to connect, and if anything our Christianity is about relationship, and drawing our parishes together, and this conference will do that.”

Sr Elizabeth Young rsm, Wilcannia-Forbes Diocesan Pastoral Worker, emphasised the value for rural and remote regions, saying, “now is such an important time to be building relationships, faith and hope as we look forward to the Plenary Council and also to a more compassionate world after Covid.”

Interest is widespread, as noted by Amy Armstrong, Pastoral Ministry Coordinator, Dunedin NZ who said the conference offers “a real great time for us

to be refreshed and renewed... Our world and our church are going through some difficult times so it will be a great time to get together and just connect.”

Three long-standing and wide-reaching Catholic networks have combined forces to host this event: the Pastoral Ministry Network, Christian Initiation Australia Network, and the Mission Planners Network Oceania. Platinum Sponsors, Grief Care and the Diocesan Development Fund Parramatta are both passionate about the goals of the conference.

Contact Lisa Bright Conference Convener on 0448 652 720 or info@aliveinthespirit.com.au
[aliveinthespirit.com.au](https://www.aliveinthespirit.com.au)

Alive in the Spirit

Being The Community Christ Calls Us To Be

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8th - 10th July 2021

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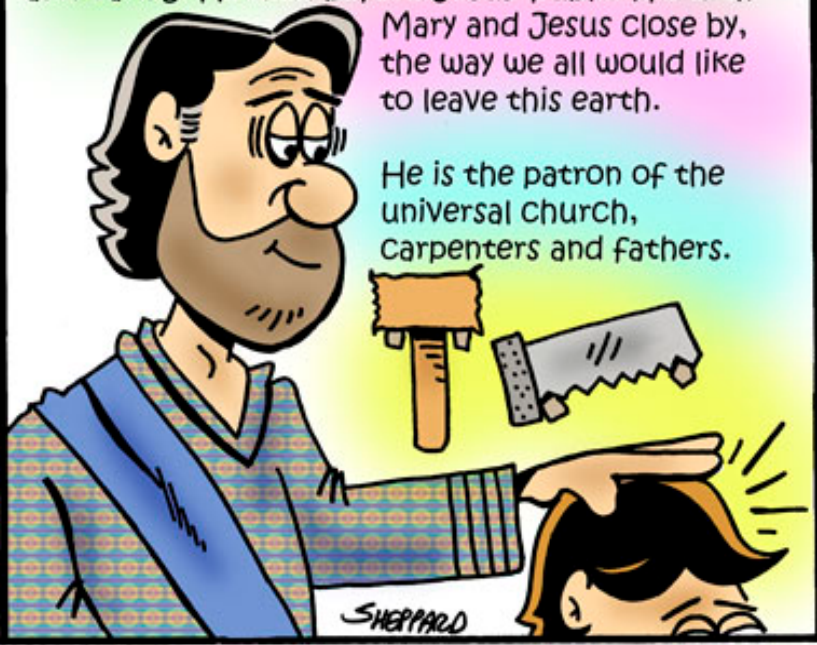
Hosted by the Pastoral Ministry Network in collaboration with Christian Initiation Australia Network and the Mission Planners Network of Oceania.

KIDS corner

SAINTS FUN FACTS

by John Sheppard

A carpenter, a humble man, loving husband and a father. Without question, he heeded God in his dreams to save his family. He respected God and followed his commands. He was also compassionate and caring. He died before Jesus' public life with Mary and Jesus close by, the way we all would like to leave this earth.



He is the patron of the universal church, carpenters and fathers.

(C) 2009 John Sheppard - Distributed by Catholic Online - www.catholic.org

- Saint Joseph
The Worker -



Creative Kids...

Thank you to Michelle,
Matilda and Annuncia for your
beautiful colouring in.

Keep an eye on your letterbox
for your prize pack.



Michelle from Yoogali



Matilda from Mater Dei

Send your coloured picture, word search or
joke ideas with your name,
age and school to:

Together Editor
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We'd love to hear from you!



MAY SAINTS & FEAST DAYS

Word Search

Find all of the words or phrases in
the puzzle that are in **BOLD** in the
word bank below:

V	I	S	I	T	A	T	I	O	N	E	M
Q	B	F	F	B	R	Y	H	B	M	N	A
T	B	E	M	F	F	F	K	E	H	I	T
F	M	B	D	F	W	P	I	R	J	T	T
V	A	X	A	E	I	S	Q	N	H	S	H
K	N	T	N	L	I	P	K	A	P	U	I
N	I	A	I	D	Q	N	K	R	E	G	A
R	O	H	O	M	E	H	Q	D	S	S	S
J	P	R	C	R	A	O	L	I	O	A	X
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- St. **Joseph** the Worker
- St. **Philip**
- St. **James**
- Our Lady of **Fatima**
- St. **Matthias**
- St. **Isidore** the Farmer
- St. **John** I
- St. **Bernardine** of Sienna
- St. **Rita** the Cascia
- St. **Gregory** VII
- St. **Bede**
- St. Philip **Neri**
- St. **Augustine** of Canterbury
- St. **Joan** of Arc
- Visitation** of the Blessed Virgin Mary



Who is Centacare?

At **Centacare** we are passionate about supporting all people in our community. We belong to the **Wagga Wagga Albury, Griffith, Mulwala and surrounding communities** We believe in the wellbeing for all.

HAVE YOU RECENTLY SETTLED IN AUSTRALIA?

Our Settlement, Engagement and Transition Support (SETS) team can help you to feel better connected and supported in your community

PARENTING ORDERS PROGRAM (POP)

Our Parenting Orders Program (POP) is child-focused and helps parents to manage disputes and increase cooperation and communication for separated families

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

We can offer your workplace our Employment Assistance Program (EAP) which offers short term counselling support and debriefing for staff.
For tailored business packages contact our office

LET US ASSIST YOU WITH YOUR NDIS PLAN

Your NDIS coordinator will work with you to provide supports and link you to other providers, build your capacity to self-manage, and give encouragement. Your NDIS core support worker can assist you to engage with your community, build your self-reliance and support with your daily living skills

SUPPORT FOR YOUR MENTAL HEALTH?

Speak confidentially with one of our counsellors who can help you improve your wellbeing and discover your potential

FAMILY AND PARENTING EDUCATION PROGRAMS

We offer a wide range of parenting and education groups that focus on building skills, strategies and knowledge so you can enjoy positive relationships. These programs can be run individually or in a group

SCHOOL COUNSELLING

Our School Wellbeing Practitioners work within Pre-schools, Primary and High Schools with students, families and staff to help guide student academic, behavioral and social – emotional growth.
Call if you would like to discuss this further

COUNSELLING

We offer individual, couples, or family counselling to help support you to strengthen and improve your relationships.

Individual working one on one in a safe and confidential environment
Couples helps two people resolve conflict and improve relationship satisfaction

Families learn new ways of relating to each other, resolve conflicts, and open lines of communication between all family members

MEDIATION

We offer mediation services to assist in resolving disputes related to separation and divorce, children and parenting plans.

Call and find out how our mediator can assist you

And more...

Email info@centacareswnsw.org.au | **Web** centacareswnsw.org.au

Mass Times across our Diocese

Wagga Wagga - Cathedral

St Michael’s Cathedral
Church Street, Wagga Wagga
Monday - Friday 7:00am, 12:45pm
Weekend Masses
Saturday - 12:15pm
Saturday Vigil - 5:00pm
Sunday - 8:00am, 10:00am and 5:30pm
Confessions
Monday - Thursday 12:30pm - 12:40pm
Friday 12:00-12:40pm & 6:30pm-6:45pm
Saturday 11:00am-12:00noon & 4:30pm-5:30pm
Rosary times
Monday to Thursday 12:25pm and Saturday 11:55am (before Mass)
St Mary’s Chapel
Vianney College, 17 Durack Circuit
Sunday - 9:00am
Mt Erin Chapel
Kildare Catholic College
Edmondson Street, Wagga Wagga
Sunday - 10:00am (Extraordinary Form)

Wagga Wagga - Koorungal

Sacred Heart
Lake Albert Road, Koorungal
Weekend Masses
Saturday Vigil - 5:30pm
Sunday - 8:00am and 10:00am
Weekday Masses
Monday, Wednesday, Friday - 5:45pm
Tuesday and Thursday - 7:00am
Saturday - 9:30am
Reconciliation
Saturday - 10:00am - 10:30am
Changes to Mass times will be on Chapel door.

Wagga Wagga - South Wagga

Our Lady of Fatima
Bourke Street, Wagga Wagga
Weekend Masses
Saturday Vigil - 5:00pm
Sunday - 8:30am, 10:30am & 5:30pm (Syro-Malabar Rite)
St Patrick’s Uranquinty
Sunday - 8:30am
Weekday Masses - Our Lady of Fatima
Wednesday - 10:00am
Thursday - 11:00am (Ethel Forrest Centre)
Friday - 5:45pm
Anointing Mass
Marian Foyer, Henschke Hall
4th Tuesday of the month - 10:30am
Weekday Masses - Calvary Hospital
Monday-Friday - 8:00am (except public holidays)
Aged Care Facility Masses
Forrest Centre
Every Thursday - 11:00am
Nan Roberts Nursing Home
- The Haven
3rd Tuesday of the month - 10:30am
RSL Remembrance Village
2nd Tuesday of the month - 10:30am
Confessions
Saturday - 10:30-11:30am

Wagga Wagga - West Wagga

Holy Trinity Church
Bardia Street
Ashmont
Monday - Saturday - 7:00am
Friday - 10:15am
Sunday - 9:00am, 10:30am and 5:30pm
Our Lady of the Blessed Eucharist Church
Benedict Avenue
San Isidore
Monday to Saturday - 6:00pm

Albury

St Patrick’s 515 Smollett St, Albury
Weekend Mass Times
Saturday - 9:30am
Vigil (Saturday) - 5:00pm
Sunday - 8.00am, 10.00am, and 5:30pm
Latin Mass - Sunday 12 noon
Weekday Mass Times
Monday to Friday - 7:00am
Tuesday & Thursday - 9:30am
Latin Mass Mondays - 7pm in the Adoration Chapel
First Friday - 5:30pm
Rosary before Mass
Saturday - 9.10am and 4.30pm
Sunday - 7.40am and 9.40am

Albury - North Albury

Sacred Heart Mate Street, North Albury
Saturday Vigil - 6.00 pm
Sunday - 9.30 am
Weekday Masses
Tuesday to Friday 9.30am or as printed in weekly newsletter
First Tuesday of month – Mercy Place 11.00am – Includes sacrament of anointing
Confessions
Saturday - 5.15 - 5.45 pm

Albury - Lavington

Holy Spirit
Saturday Vigil - 6.00pm
Sunday - 8.00am, 10.00am
St Mary’s Jindera - 9.00am
Weekday Masses
Monday - Friday - 7.00am
Saturday - 9.15am
Confessions
Saturday - 8.15am, 5.00pm
St Mary’s Jindera - Sunday 8.30am

Albury - Thurgoona

Immaculate Heart of Mary
Weekend Masses
Saturday Vigil - 6.00pm
Sunday - 9.30am, 5.30pm
Weekday Masses
Monday - 8.00am
Tuesday - 10.00am
Wednesday - 8.00am
Thursday - 7.00pm (Mass Novena and Benediction)
Friday - 10.00am
Confessions
Prior to Masses
Saturday - 5.30pm-5.55pm
Sunday - 9.00am-9:25am & 5.00pm-5.25pm
Thursday - 7.00pm following Novena
Mass of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Berrigan

St Columba’s 4 Corcoran Street, Berrigan
1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday - 6:00pm
Saturday Vigil
2nd, 4th Sunday - 10:30am
Savernake
1st Sunday - 5:00pm
Weekday Masses are announced in the Sunday bulletin
Confessions before Saturday Vigil Masses

Coolamon

St Michael’s
Sunday - 7.30am and 9.00am
Confessions
Saturday - 4.45 - 5.15pm
Masses
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday - 7.30am
Thursday - 10.15am
Saturday - 9.00am
Marrar
Saturday Vigil - 6.00pm
Confessions
1st Saturday - 5.30pm
Allawah Village
First Thursday of each month.
Mass at 9.15am

Corowa

St Mary’s Star of the Sea
Saturday Vigil - 6:00pm
Sunday - 9:00am
Weekday Masses
Refer to Parish Bulletin available in the Church or on the parish website
Confessions/ Reconciliation
Saturday - 11:00am-12:00, 5:30-6:00pm
St Pius X, Coreen,
1st, 3rd Sunday - 10:45am Mass

Culcairn

St Patrick’s Culcairn
1st, 4th Sunday - 8:00am
2nd, 3rd Sunday - 10:00am
5th Sunday - Vigil Mass 6:30pm (Saturday)
Henty
2nd, 4th Saturday Vigil - 6:30pm
1st Sunday - 10:00am
3rd, 5th Sunday - 8:00am
Walla Walla
1st & 4th Sunday - 6:00pm (Sunday)
Weekday Masses
Vary according to needs and are announced in the Sunday bulletin
Confessions
Before each weekend Mass

Darlington Point

Oliver Plunkett Hay Rd, Darlington Point
1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday - 8.30am
2nd, 4th Sunday - 6:00pm (Saturday Vigil)
Weekday Masses
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday - 8.30am - Darlington Point
St Peter’s Cnr of Currawong Crescent and Kingfisher Avenue, Coleambally
1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday - 10.30am
2nd, 4th Sunday - 8.00am
Weekday Masses
Thursday - 8.00am Coleambally
Holy Hour - Friday 5.00pm - 6.00pm at Darlington Point
Confessions
15 minutes before 10.00 am Mass on Sunday or by request

Finley

St Mary’s 1 Denison Street Finley
Sunday - 10.15am
Weekday Masses
Are announced in the Sunday bulletin
Confessions
Saturday - 10.30 - 11.00am

Ganmain

St. Brendan’s Ganmain
Sunday Mass
9:00am
Weekday Masses
Monday to Friday:
December-February 7:30am (Tues., Thurs.) & 5:30pm (Mon., Wed., Fri.)
March-November 5:30pm
Saturday: 8:00am (usually in the convent except 1st Sat. in the church).
Confessions
8.00-8.55am Sunday and 30 minutes before all Masses.
St. Patrick’s Matong
6:00pm Saturday
Confessions 30 min before Mass

Griffith

Sacred Heart Warrambool St, Griffith
Saturday Vigil - 6.00pm
Saturday - 8.00am
Sunday - 7.30am, 9.00am, (Italian), 10.30am, 6.00pm
Weekday Masses
Monday - Friday - 7.00am, 5.30pm
Confessions
Friday - 4.30pm to 5.30pm
Saturday - 11.30am to 12.30pm
Marian Catholic College Chapel
185 Wakaden Street Griffith
Sunday - 9.00am

Holbrook

Our Lady of Sorrows
125 Albury Street
Holbrook
1st & 3rd Sunday - Saturday Vigil 6.30pm
2nd Sunday - 8.00 am
4th & 5th Sunday - 10.00am
Weekday Masses
Phone parish for details
Confessions
Before Mass on weekends
St Francis De Sales Church of the Pioneers
Hume Highway
Bowna
2nd Sunday - 11:30am

Howlong

St Brigid’s
Hovell St, Howlong
Church of the Good Shepherd
Queen Street, Walbundrie
Weekend Mass Times
Howlong
Saturday Vigil - 6:00pm
Walbundrie
Sunday - 9:00am
Masses
Howlong
Saturday 9.00 am - Howlong
For other Masses during the week, see the parish website.
Reconciliation
Howlong
Saturdays 9:30am (after 9:00am Mass)
5:30pm - 5:55pm
Walbundrie
Sundays 8:30am - 8:55am

Jerilderie

St Joseph’s
Coreen Street, Jerilderie
1st, 3rd, 5th Saturday Vigil - 6:00pm
2nd, 4th Sunday - 10:30am
Weekday Masses
Are announced in the Sunday bulletin

Junee

St Joseph’s
21 Kitchener Street, Junee
Saturday Vigil - 6:00pm
Sunday - 9:30am
Weekday Masses
Monday - 9:00am
Tuesday - 7:00am
Wednesday - 9:00am
Thursday - 7:00am
Friday - 9:00am
Confessions
Saturday - 10:30-11:00am;
6:00-6:15pm or by appointment
Illabo and Junee Reefs
Alternate Sundays - 8:00am

Khancoban

Church of St Joseph the Worker
Sunday - 9.00 am
Weekday Masses
9.00 am
Confessions
Prior to Sunday Mass

Leeton

St Joseph’s Leeton
Wade Avenue, Leeton
Saturday Vigil - 6:00pm
Sunday - 10:00am (First Sunday of the month is Italian)
St Patrick’s Yanco
Sunday - 8:00am
Tuesday - 9:00am
Weekday Masses in Leeton
Monday - 9:00am
Tuesday (Yanco) - 9:00am
Wednesday - 9:00am
Thursday - 9:30am (Assumption Villa)
Friday - 9:15am and 5:30pm

Sacrament of Penance
Friday - 4:45-5:15pm
Saturday - 5:30-5:50pm
Eucharistic Adoration
St Joseph’s Church Leeton
Friday - 4:30pm

Lockhart

St Mary’s Church
55 Ferrier St, Lockhart
Weekend Masses
1st, 3rd & 5th Saturday (Vigil) - 6:00pm
2nd & 4th Sunday - 8:00am
Weekday Masses
Tuesday - 9:00am & Friday - 10:00am
Confessions Up to 5 mins before Mass.
Urangeline St Terence’s Church
Currently no Masses.

Mulwala

St Brigid’s Havelock Street, Mulwala
Weekend Masses
1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday - 8:00am
2nd, 4th Sunday - 6:00pm
Saturday Vigil
Weekday Masses
Refer to parish notices
St Joseph’s
Barooga
Weekend Masses
1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday - 10:00am
2nd, 4th Sunday - 8:30am
Weekday Masses Refer to parish notices
Confessions Before weekend Masses

Narrandera

Narrandera St Mel’s Church, Audley St
Saturday Vigil - 6.00pm
Sunday - 9:30am
Weekday Masses
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday - 7:30am
Friday - 5:30pm
(subject to changes announced in the Sunday bulletin)
Confessions
Friday - 4:30-5:20pm;
Saturday - 9.30-10:00am
and 5:00-5:45 pm
Grong Grong
1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday - 8.00am
Galore
St Kevin’s Church
2nd & 4th Sunday - 8:00am

Tarcutta

St Francis Xavier Sydney St, Tarcutta
Sunday - 8:30am
Ladysmith
Saturday Vigil - 6:00pm
Confessions
Before all Masses

The Rock

St Mary’s
102 Urana Street The Rock
Weekend Masses
Sunday - 8:00am (Extraordinary Form)
Sunday - 10:00am
Weekday Masses
Monday - 7:00am
Tuesday - 6:00pm
Wednesday - 7:00am (Extraordinary Form)
Thursday - 7:00am
Confessions
Up to 5 minutes before Mass.

Tocumwal

St Peter’s
Charlotte Street, Tocumwal
Saturday Vigil - 5.30pm
Sunday - 8.30am
Weekday Masses
Thursday - 9.30am
Confessions
Half an hour before weekend Masses

CONTINUED ON PAGE 35

Tumbarumba

All Saints'
40 Murray Street, Tumbarumba
Saturday 9.15am
Saturday Vigil - 6.00pm
Sunday - 9.00am
Weekday Masses
Monday - Friday - 5.30pm
Confessions
Friday 4.30pm - 5.15pm
Saturday - 8.00am - 9.00am
And 30 mins before weekend Holy Masses
Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Tooma
4th Sunday - 7.30am
Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday - 4.30pm & Saturday - 8.00am

Yenda - Yoogali - Hanwood

Our Lady of the Rosary of Pompeii
17 Edon Street, Yoogali
Sunday - 9:30am
St Anthony's - Hanwood
Saturday Vigil - 5.00pm
Sunday - 8.00am
St Therese's - Yenda
Saturday Vigil - 6:30pm
Weekday Masses
Tuesday - 8.00am - Hanwood
Wednesday - 8.00am - Hanwood
Thursday - 5.00pm - Yenda
Saturday - 9:30am - Yoogali (first Saturday of the month only)
Confessions
Yenda - Thursday, before Mass
Yoogali - Sunday, before Mass
Hanwood - Saturday - 4:30pm
Or by arrangement with the priest.


Urana

St Fiacre's Church 5 End St, Urana
Weekend Masses
1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday - 8:00am
2nd & 4th Saturday (Vigil) - 6:00pm
Weekday Masses
Thursday - 12:30pm
Confessions Up to 5 mins before Mass.
Oaklands
1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday - 10:00am

Please note that Mass times were true and correct at the time of printing. For further clarification, please check parish bulletins and noticeboards closer to the date.


Please pray for those priests whose anniversary of death occurs in May:

5 May 1935	Fr Garrett Anthony Shannon
5 May 1945	Fr Patrick Joseph O'Reilly
7 May 1944	Fr Aeneas Francis Hennessy
8 May 1973	Fr William James Gilby
9 May 2014	Fr Sean Conroy
16 May 1908	Fr Thomas Joseph Carroll
19 May 2001	Fr John Anthony McGrath
23 May 1895	Fr Richard J Carr
24 May 1959	Fr Percival Edward McVeigh



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Family reflections for: May/June

16th May - Seventh Sunday of Easter, Cycle B
One of the greatest gifts that we are given in our family life is protection from harm. Families work together to keep one another safe from physical harm. Think of the effort a family makes to childproof its home for infants and toddlers. Families also work together to protect each other from emotional harm. For example, we attend to the ways in which family members talk to one another so that we do not hurt one another's feelings by our words. Most importantly, families work together to protect each other from those things that might harm them spiritually. We shield our children from those things in our culture that might tempt them. When families work together to strengthen their sense of God and community, they build the spiritual strength to turn from those things that would lead them away from God and the Church. Jesus' prayer for his disciples can also be a prayer for family life.

Gather as a family and talk about the things that you want most for each other. Talk about the fact that as we work toward these things, we also work to protect one another from harmful things. What do you want to protect each other from? Observe that in today's Gospel, Jesus shows these same two tendencies as he prays for something he wants for his disciples and prays for their protection as well. Read together today's Gospel, John 17:11b-19. Consider what Jesus wants for his disciples and what Jesus wants to protect his disciples from. We know that when Jesus prayed for his disciples, he was praying for us as well. We pray for these things as well, for example, when we pray the Lord's Prayer. Conclude by praying together the Lord's Prayer.

Acts of the Apostles 1:15-17,20a,20c-26
Psalms 103:1-2,11-12,19-20 *1 John 4:11-16*
John 17:11b-19

23rd May - Pentecost Sunday, Cycle B
Pentecost is sometimes called the birthday of the Church. The Gospel for Pentecost reminds us that the Church begins with the command to forgive. Within the family, the

domestic church, we learn how to forgive and how to accept forgiveness. The gift of the Holy Spirit enables us to do both. Today is a fitting time to share a family celebration of reconciliation. As you gather together as a family, sit quietly for a few minutes, inviting everyone to reflect upon their need to forgive and to receive forgiveness. If there is a situation or issue within the family that needs attention, spend some time reflecting on how your family might address it. Read together today's Gospel, John 20:19-23. Talk together about how Jesus gave us the gift of the Holy Spirit to help us in the work of forgiveness and to bring us peace. Pray together today's psalm or the Prayer to the Holy Spirit, asking that the Holy Spirit help your family. Share with one another the Sign of Peace.

Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11 *Psalms 104:1,24,29-31,34*
1 Corinthians 12:3b-7,12-13 *John 20:19-23*

30th May - The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, Cycle B
The Solemnity of the Holy Trinity invites us to remember that God has revealed himself to us as one God in three Persons. As Jesus departed from his disciples, he shared with them the power to make disciples of all nations. He taught his disciples to invite others to share in the life of the blessed Trinity by sharing with others the gift of Baptism. This continues to be the mission of the Church. Each of us who has been baptized shares in the life of the blessed Trinity and also shares in the Church's mission of inviting others to share in God's love.

As you gather as a family, bring out pictures and other mementos of family celebrations of the Sacrament of Baptism. Talk about the significance of Baptism with your family. Read together today's Gospel, Matthew 28:16-20. Notice that Jesus taught his disciples to baptize all nations in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. What else does this remind you of? (the Sign of the Cross) Recall that whenever we pray the Sign of the Cross, we are reminding ourselves that we are united with God through our Baptism and

share in the life of the blessed Trinity. Conclude by thanking God for sharing his life with us. Pray together the Glory Be to the Father.

Deuteronomy 4:32-34,39-40 *Psalms 33:4-5,6,9,18-19,20,22*
Romans 8:14-17 *Matthew 28:16-20*

6th June - The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, Cycle B
In the beginning of today's Gospel, Jesus instructs his disciples to make preparations for the Passover meal. Like most meals, the Passover meal required planning and preparation. Our celebration of the Sunday Eucharist also requires planning and preparation. Certainly the ministers at the Eucharist prepare for their roles: the person presiding prays and prepares the homily; the prayers of petition are written; the music ministers prayerfully select music and practice it before Mass; Eucharistic ministers, lectors and altar servers prepare carefully for their roles. As the worshiping assembly, we can also prepare for the Mass through our prayer during the week, by reading the Scripture before Mass, and by making ourselves present to the Eucharistic celebration.

As you gather as a family, talk about some of the things that are required to prepare for your family meals. Plan together a special Sunday meal by choosing the menu, preparing the shopping list, and assigning duties for cooking, setting the table, preparing decorations, leading the prayers, and cleaning. Read together today's Gospel, Mark 14:12-16,22-26. Notice how Jesus instructed his disciples to prepare for their Passover meal. All meals require some kind of planning and preparation; so, too, our Sunday Eucharist requires planning. What might we do as a family to better prepare for our celebration of the Eucharist? Choose one or more ideas to begin to implement together as a family. Pray together that God will help your family make your celebration of the Eucharist the highlight of your week. Pray together the Lord's Prayer.

Exodus 24:3-8 *Psalms 116:12-13,15-16,17-18*
Hebrews 9:11-15 *Mark 14:12-16,22-26*

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