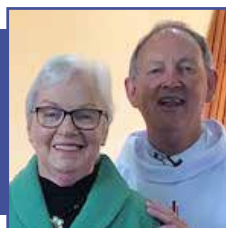


PLENARY COUNCIL
DELEGATES
MASS p3



SACRED
HEART PARISH
CELEBRATES p13



SCHOOLS
IN OUR
DIOCESE p24



TOGETHER

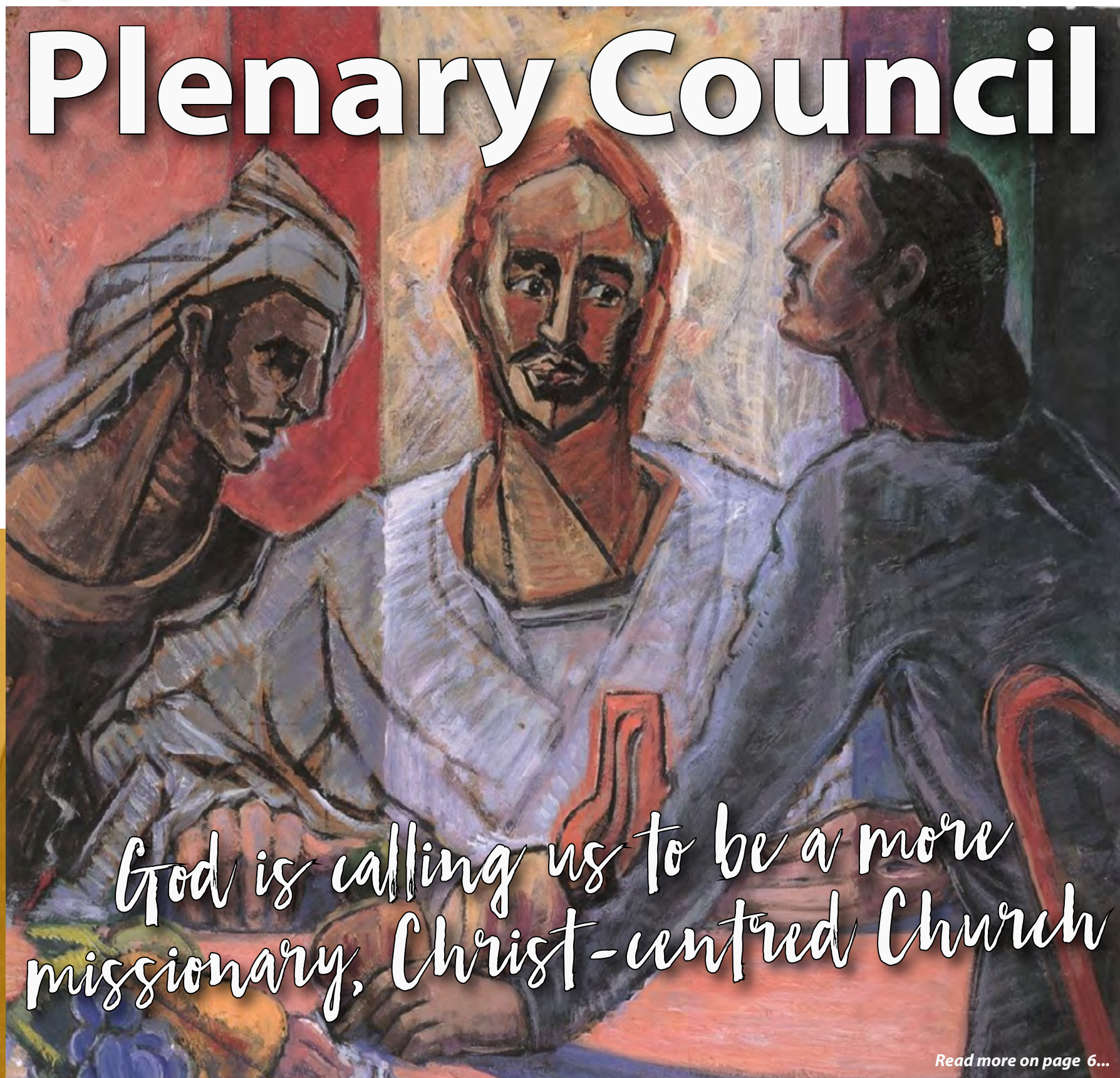
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JULY 2021

Plenary Council



*God is calling us to be a more
missionary, Christ-centred Church*

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Bishop's Voice

Bishop Mark Edwards OMI - Bishop of Wagga Wagga Diocese



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IN THE DIOCESE OF WAGGA WAGGA

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On Sunday 1 August, we celebrate Hope Sunday in the Wagga diocese. It is also the birthday of St Eugene de Mazenod (1782-1861).

Hope Sunday is an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the value of life and to choose to act to support this. As Easter people, hope is at the heart of our lives. The promise of the resurrection enables us to face our difficulties with hope. Sometimes, however, our faith in this hope is put to the test.

Many of us are influenced by forms of upbringing that encouraged the “stiff upper lip” and saw crying as a sign of weakness. Yet experiencing sadness is as much a part of a faith journey as are the joyous aspects of our lives. Our God is the God of those who are suffering as much as the God of joy. When we ignore or push aside the sadness in our lives, we miss out on a large portion of our relationship with God.

St Eugene de Mazenod openly expressed his emotions and sought Jesus in his sufferings. After the death of a dear priest, he refers to feeling “crushed beneath the weight of my sorrow...”, “feeling smothered... (and melting) in tears and sighs,” telling Jesus he has “...come to lay an immense sorrow in your bosom.” For St Eugene, going through difficult times gave him particular opportunity to “leave the presence of others...” for a while, to draw into a deeper bond with God.

Identifying with both aspects in our lives opens us up more fully to a deeper experience of God. We are better able to present our

spirit in all its humanness to God, and experience in return God’s soothing and consoling touch.

Surrounded by a society that pushes that there is nothing more than this life, and so aims to avoid suffering at all cost, it may be challenging for us to continue to live open to all that life has to offer, happy, sad and difficult. My heart goes out to those in such distress that they want to end their lives.

In September this year, a bill will be introduced to legalise Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) for those with a life-limiting medical diagnosis. I invite you to consider why the Church and much of the community remains opposed to this proposed legislation for what is really doctor-assisted suicide.

One major social concern is that the decision to request VAD is often driven by depression. In such situations, mandating specialist assessment to detect and treat depression is the appropriate path forward. Other drivers include the fear of pain, of loss of control or of autonomy and of being a burden to others. Most of these can be helped through compassionate, holistic medical care, including well-resourced palliative care. Providing this care and thus giving reason for hope should be our focus.

Viewed through the eyes of our faith, euthanasia is fundamentally flawed because it supports acts that contravene the fifth commandment - Thou shalt not kill - and promotes what Pope Francis calls a ‘throw away culture’, where we do not care deeply enough about those who face a life-limiting illness. Our

care for others is to lead us to hope, to strive and to avoid giving way to despair.

In a pluralist society, the fact that our opposition originates from the Judeo-Christian tradition does not mean that we may be dismissed as trying to impose our religious views on others. Indeed, our convictions commit us to be concerned about others and the common good for all in society.

The Australian Medical Association also opposes this legislation, stating that it does not support the medical profession being involved in the deliberate ending of a patient’s life. In their

care for their patients, they express their hope.

On Sunday 1 August, I have organised a showing of ‘*Last Cab to Darwin*’, a well-made 2015 Australian film (Michael Caton, Mark Coles Smith) that sympathetically explores the issues around euthanasia. Come and enjoy an afternoon with some family and friends, and with me, at Wagga Forum 6 at 2.30pm.

I also invite you to read the pastoral letter (available in parishes from 1st August) and to connect with your politicians to express your opposition to the proposed VAD bill.

Sunday 1st August 2021; 2:30pm
Presented by the Catholic Diocese of Wagga Wagga at the Forum 6 Cinemas Wagga Wagga

Tickets On Sale - \$8.00 each
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Under current Covid restrictions, ticket sales are limited to 150 only.

Prayer Intention for July - Pray with Pope Francis

Social Friendship

We pray that, in social, economic and political situations of conflict, we may be courageous and passionate architects of dialogue and friendship.

Visit this link to hear the Pope deliver his monthly prayer:
<https://thepopevideo.org/>



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I entrust to you, Mother of the Church, all the problems of this Church, the whole of her mission and of her service.

Help us in the great endeavor that we are carrying out to meet in a more and more mature way our brothers in faith, with whom so many things unite us, although there is still something dividing us. Through all the means of knowledge, of mutual respect, of love, of shared collaboration in various fields, may we be able to rediscover gradually the divine plan for the unity into which we should enter and bring everybody in, in order that the one fold of Christ may recognize and live its unity on earth. Mother of unity, teach us constantly the ways that lead to unity.

Allow us in the future to go out to meet all human beings and all peoples that are seeking God and wishing to serve him on the way of different religions. Help us all to proclaim

Christ and reveal “the power of God and the Wisdom of God” (1 Cor 1:24) hidden in his Cross. You were the first to reveal him at Bethlehem, not only to the simple faithful shepherds but also to the wise men from distant lands.

Mother of Good Counsel, show us always how we are to serve the individual and humanity in every nation, how we are to lead them along the ways of salvation. How we are to protect justice and peace in a world continually threatened on various sides.

How many problems, Mother, should I not present to you by name! I entrust them all to you, because you know them best and understand them.

Prayer of St. John Paul II to Our Lady of Czestochowa
(June 4, 1979)

Plenary Council Delegates Commissioned

The commissioning of the 5 Plenary Council Delegates for the Diocese of Wagga Wagga took place during Mass at St Michael's Cathedral on Saturday 3rd July.

The five delegates will represent the Diocese of Wagga Wagga during the Plenary Council journey, with Bishop Mark describing that journey as "authentic and requiring much sweating, scars and transformation in order to reach our destination".

Homily for Plenary Council Commissioning 3 July 2021

Tonight, we commission the members of the 5th Plenary Council of Australia who come from Wagga Wagga diocese: Mrs Wendy Cattell, Mr Ed Brown, Fr Peter Thompson, Fr Joel Wallace and me.

One metaphor for the Plenary Council is "pilgrimage" and Vatican 2 reminds us that we are a pilgrim church. In a pilgrimage, there is a sacred destination and there is the journey to get there. Pilgrimages start at home, then there is the travel and then one returns home. It is more an event than a thing.

Bruno Latour invites us to imagine two twins. The first voyager sets off in a deep jungle and cuts her way with a hatchet along a trail that is barely visible. Each minute she opens a few centimetres of a pathway but she ages much more than a minute. She sweats. Her body bears the traces of her efforts; each metre can be measured by the bloody scars made by thorns and ferns. A path gets cut as she goes along but she is lacerated as well. A suffering body strives among other suffering bodies: vines, grass, trees. She will remember this excruciating journey all her life.

See by comparison, the other traveller, her twin brother, who travelled to the same destination by car. He sat quietly in his airconditioned vehicle and listened to his podcast paying little attention to the places he went through. His body does not bear any trace

of the voyage except for a few wrinkles on his trousers. No negotiation along the way, no event, no memory of anything unusual. "An uneventful trip" he says to a friend as he arrives

For each move of the woman traveller, she is changed and ages more than a bit. The male traveller is transformed not at all.

Moving from where we are to another place will change us and age us if we engage in it as opposed to floating through it. In the same way the Plenary Council journey is going to change all of us.

The Plenary Council will involve wrestling with our current situation as we struggle to become more the Church of Jesus Christ and pushing through misunderstandings and slashing at inappropriate structures. It is not a meeting of the board where bishops and some wise counsellors calmly and distantly make decisions about what others should do. The members of the Plenary Council, with us, are taking steps from here to our destination (wherever that turns out to be). Sweating, scars, transformation, aging and history will be required to open the pathway.

It is an authentic journey. Modern searching pilgrims still travel to the traditional destinations but they are focused on the authenticity of the journey rather than the experience of arriving at the goal which they could do in an aeroplane if they wanted. Just as we can speak of a truck driver as being 'at home' on the highway, perhaps, in a similar way, we, as Church, will have to become 'at home' on this pilgrimage.

Hilaire Belloc, in his book a path to Rome recounts his journey from his launching place in Northern France to Rome in 1901. He pledges to himself that he will not travel by wheeled vehicle and decides to travel in a straight a line as possible. One should take



Bishop Mark delivers his homily.



The delegates: Fr Peter Thompson, Ed Brown, Wendy Cattell and Fr Joel Wallace were blessed by Bishop Mark.

care drawing straight lines from your current place to your hopes for destination without accounting for the real terrain and places in between! In one place, he fails to make a mountain pass by perhaps 100 metres as the weather closes in. In another, he has to ford a river and in another again, to find his way through seemingly impenetrable woods. Not a few grand pastoral schemes have set all their sights on achieving a particular outcome when the particulars of pastoral places are the important thing.

Another fruitful image for the Council might be "bridge". Bridges connect things together by joining opposite sides of the river, road, chasm or railway. They cross boundaries. "And, a bridge by joining and crossing enables a journey, perhaps the authentic journey that we as Church feel called to undertake". Let us remember that Jesus is a bridge. He connects human and divine and he, by making each of us his sisters and brothers, connects us.

The real meat of the Plenary Council is to encounter Jesus in the storms we will face, in the people we will meet, the truth in the discussion we will have, in the scriptures and in the breaking of the bread. He will be our companion, our destination and our bridge. It is an encounter with Jesus which leads to the most important transformations.

An encounter is an unexpected meeting.

Thus, there is always a surprise element in an encounter. Sometimes hearing the same story over and over we can miss the element of surprise and take for granted that there is nothing new in what we are hearing. Part of what it means to say that the Scriptures are inspired is that we can have the experience of a passage speaking to us. Jesus is calling the members of the Council, and all of us, to BE AWAKE to the moving of God in our hearts and minds. This is the (sometimes barely visible) trail that we follow.

Today's Gospel starts and concludes with amazement. The people of Jesus' home town don't expect great things from him. From the surprise of what he has done in other places could come faith and a recognition that God is at work in him. But the villagers choose rejection instead. Perhaps the path is too indefinite for them or they, having journeyed already far through the jungle of life, are not prepared to launch out again. 'We have done enough' they might say to themselves. And it astonishes Jesus that they are not up for it.

Today we are invited to choose an authentic journey with Jesus open to surprise through the Plenary Council. It will involve strenuous effort, leave scars, and require change and modification. But no other journey will be authentic. No other journey will bring us to encounter Christ.



Lighting of the delegates' candles.

Year of Saint Joseph

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

REFLECTION - JULY 2021

On 8 December 2020, Pope Francis published an Apostolic Letter *Patris corde* (With a Father's Heart), commemorating the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a "Year of St Joseph", running from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021.

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, to commemorate the Year of St Joseph, will be releasing a reflection on the various aspects of St Joseph's life and character each month throughout 2021.

St Joseph "A Just Man"

Generally, when the saints are presented to us as models for imitation, we are shown how they embodied some particular virtue shown in them.

In the case of St Joseph, we are told that he is "a just man" in the context of his deciding to put Mary away privately or divorce her informally. Ever since the early Church, people have wondered why this particular action makes St Joseph just.

One suggestion is that he knew Mary's chastity, and wished to conceal in silence what he did not understand. But if Mary

wasn't really at fault at all and Joseph knew this, then she would be treated unjustly by being put away, quietly or not. On the other hand, if she is indeed guilty of adultery, concealment of the sin would seem to be participation in her injustice.

The text suggests, rather, that Joseph really was ignorant of what the reality was and the guilt or innocence of Mary. And his justice in this situation is that he does not expose her to a public trial for a private sin that, in all likelihood, she might not have been guilty of. At the same time, he also does not want to prejudge the issue of guilt. So he decides to balance what the law requires of him with mercy towards her.

Joseph's example helps us as we work out how to live justice in our day-to-day lives.

Often the Christian imperative to mercy is misinterpreted, so as to suggest that in all situations, it is the only possible Christian response to any injuries that one has suffered, particularly private injuries. In particular, we do this in relation to families and often in the confessional. But mercy needs also to satisfy the demands of justice and restoring the relationship and the order damaged by the injury. And behind those abstractions of "relationship" and "order" lies human suffering in all its painful reality. To ignore this is itself a denial of mercy towards someone who has suffered injustice.

On the other hand, justice, if it is to be justice, should be marked by the mercy which recognises the humanity and dignity of both the person who committed the injury and the person who suffered. It should leave the road open to someone's innocence or their conversion, as well as account for the limitedness of our knowledge. Not to allow for this is to be unjust in the sense of not giving someone their due.

Thus, mercy and justice, far from being opposed to each other, actually undergird and enable each other.

The Scriptures call St Joseph 'just' after showing us a situation which he initially misread because of his limited understanding of what was happening. This should encourage us not to set aside the quest for justice as impossible in view of our limited knowledge or our own sinfulness or the sinfulness of the world at large. It should lead us not to set mercy in opposition to justice to the detriment of both, but trust that if we aim for it in union with God, we too can attain it through his mercy and his grace.

Fr Robert Krishna OP
is a Dominican priest and chaplain to Monash University.
With thanks to the ACBC.



YEAR of SAINT JOSEPH

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

DECEMBER 8, 2020 - DECEMBER 8, 2021

Pope Francis issues motu proprio Traditionis Custodes

The Extraordinary Form of our Mass, also called the Traditional Latin Mass, is to be phased out in the Catholic Church.

On Friday 16 July, Pope Francis issued the motu proprio Traditionis Custodes which aims to re-establish, over time, a single rite for celebrating Mass in the Latin Catholic Church.

The current situation of having two ways of celebrating Mass has served to “widen the gaps, reinforce the divergences, and encourage disagreements that injure the Church, block her path, and expose her to the peril of division” and this has forced him to take this action.

The Ordinary Form of Mass, also known as the English Mass, uses the Missal as revised by Pope St Paul VI and follows the principles set out by Vatican 2. This is now recognised as the “unique expression ... of the Roman Rite.”

I know that there are people with a deep attachment to the Extraordinary Form, as well as many who are very much at home with the Ordinary Form in our diocese, and I want to provide and care for all our people. I also acknowledge the existence of the very real problems to which our Holy Father was reacting when issuing the motu proprio.

Pope Francis asks each bishop to decide how the Missale Romanum of 1962 is to be used for celebration of Mass in the diocese for which he

has care. However, the Holy Father instructs that it must be in such a way as to lead us all to celebrate Holy Mass as revised by St Paul VI.

It will take me some time to study, take advice, consult and pray about what Wagga diocese should do. In the meantime, I have asked those priests who are celebrating the Mass in what we used to call the Extraordinary form to continue their normal practice.

For more information, I invite you to read the letter which Pope Francis wrote to accompany the motu proprio.

An excerpt from Pope Francis' explanatory letter issued with the Motu Proprio Traditionis Custodes:

Dear brothers in the Episcopate, Sacrosanctum Concilium explained that the Church, the “sacrament of unity,” is such because it is “the holy People gathered and governed under the authority of the Bishops”. Lumen gentium, while recalling that the Bishop of Rome is “the permanent and visible principle and foundation of the unity both of the bishops and of the multitude of the faithful,” states that you the Bishops are “the visible principle and foundation of the unity of your local Churches, in which and through which exists the one and only Catholic Church”.

Responding to your requests, I



Pope Francis holds the chalice as he celebrates the Eucharist during Mass as part of World Youth Day, at St. Peter's Basilica, at the Vatican, November 22, 2020.
Vincenzo Pinto/Pool via REUTERS/File Photo

take the firm decision to abrogate all the norms, instructions, permissions and customs that precede the present Motu proprio, and declare that the liturgical books promulgated by the saintly Pontiffs Paul VI and John Paul II, in conformity with the decrees of Vatican Council II, constitute the unique expression of the lex orandi of the Roman Rite. I take comfort in this decision from the fact that, after the Council of Trent, St. Pius V also abrogated all the rites that could not claim a proven antiquity, establishing for the whole Latin Church a single Missale Romanum. For four centuries this Missale Romanum, promulgated by St. Pius V was thus the principal expression of the lex orandi of the

Roman Rite, and functioned to maintain the unity of the Church. Without denying the dignity and grandeur of this Rite, the Bishops gathered in ecumenical council asked that it be reformed; their intention was that “the faithful would not assist as strangers and silent spectators in the mystery of faith, but, with a full understanding of the rites and prayers, would participate in the sacred action consciously, piously, and actively”. St. Paul VI, recalling that the work of adaptation of the Roman Missal had already been initiated by Pius XII, declared that the revision of the Roman Missal, carried out in the light of ancient liturgical sources, had the goal of permitting the Church to raise up, in the variety of languages, “a single and identical prayer,” that expressed her unity. This unity I intend to re-establish throughout the Church of the Roman Rite.

Upon you I invoke the Spirit of the risen Lord, that he may make you strong and firm in your service to the People of God entrusted to you by the Lord, so that your care and vigilance express communion even in the unity of one, single Rite, in which is preserved the great richness of the Roman liturgical tradition. I pray for you. You pray for me.

FRANCIS

The full letter can be found at the following link:

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/letters/2021/documents/20210716-lettera-vescovi-liturgia.html>



Pope Francis celebrates a Chrism Mass inside St. Peter's Basilica, at the Vatican, April 1, 2021.

Plenary Council agenda calls for missionary, christ-centred church

The agenda of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia calls those attending the Council assemblies to “develop concrete proposals to create a more missionary, Christ-centred Church in Australia”.

The Council agenda, which has emerged from three years and several layers of prayer, listening, dialogue and discernment, will shape the program of the Council’s assemblies – the first of which opens on October 3 this year.

The agenda’s preamble draws from Pope Francis’ apostolic exhortation Evangelii Gaudium, which explores the Pope’s “dream of a ‘missionary option’”.

“That is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church’s customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channelled for the evangelisation of today’s world rather than for her self-preservation,” the Pope wrote.

Plenary Council president Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB said that invitation and exhortation to be a missionary people runs through the agenda.

“Through the Plenary Council, we are being called to consider how we can be a Church that goes out to the peripheries, that welcomes all into our communities and shows the face of Christ to the world,” Archbishop Costelloe said.

The agenda has been developed in the form of posing questions, with 16 questions falling under six themes: Conversion; Prayer; Formation; Structures; Governance; and Institutions.

“So much of what we heard during the Council journey related to this concept of ‘conversion’ – personal conversion, communal conversion and institutional conversion – with an ever-deeper renewal

in Christ,” Archbishop Costelloe said.

“The agenda asks us a number of difficult questions, but without asking those difficult questions, we won’t be entering into the depth of our hearts to consider how we become that missionary, Christ-centred Church we need today.

“Each member attending the assemblies will bring their own unique gifts to the agenda on behalf of the People of God in Australia.”

Plenary Council facilitator Lana Turvey-Collins said the agenda, which has now been published on the Plenary Council website, asks questions with widespread relevance.

“These questions have been developed for a specific purpose – for prayer, conversation, discernment and decision-making during the Plenary Council – but they are questions that can challenge each of us, each parish, each Church community,” she said.

“In preparing for the Council and beyond, the agenda can be a rich source of reflection and contemplation in our own settings.”

Archbishop Costelloe asked people to continue to pray for the Council and for the members who will attend the assemblies. The more than 280 members will be participating in focused formation sessions starting this week.

You can view the agenda on the Plenary Council website at <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/>

FIFTH PLENARY COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA AGENDA

As children of God, disciples of Jesus Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit, the Members of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia are called to develop concrete proposals to create a more missionary, Christ-centred Church in Australia at this time.

‘I dream of a “missionary option”, that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church’s customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channelled for the evangelisation of today’s world rather than for her self-preservation.’

Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium 27



Conversion

- How might we better accompany one another on the journey of personal and communal conversion which mission in Australia requires?
- How might we heal the wounds of abuse, coming to see through the eyes of those who have been abused?
- How might the Church in Australia open in new ways to Indigenous ways of being Christian in spirituality, theology, liturgy, and missionary discipleship? How might we learn from the First Nations peoples?
- How might the Church in Australia meet the needs of the most vulnerable, go to the peripheries, be missionary in places that may be overlooked or left behind in contemporary Australia? How might we partner with others (Christians, people of other faiths, neighbourhood community groups, government) to do this?
- How might the Church in Australia respond to the call to ‘ecological conversion’? How can we express and promote a commitment to an ‘integral ecology of life’ in all its dimensions, with particular attention to the more vulnerable people and environments in our country and region?

Prayer

- How might we become a more contemplative people, committing more deeply to prayer as a way of life, and celebrating the liturgy of the Church as an encounter with Christ who sends us out to “make disciples of all the nations”?
- How might we better embrace the diverse liturgical traditions of the Churches which make up the Catholic Church and the cultural gifts of immigrant communities to enrich the spirituality and worship of the Church in Australia?

Formation

- How might we better form leaders for mission – adults, children and families, couples and single people?
- How might we better equip ordained ministers to be enablers of missionary discipleship: the Church becoming more a “priestly people” served by the ordained ministry?
- How might formation, both pre- and post-ordination, better foster the development of bishops, priests and deacons as enablers of the universal Christian vocation to holiness lived in missionary discipleship?

Structures

- How might parishes better become local centres for the formation and animation of missionary disciples?
- How might the Church in Australia be better structured for mission, considering the parish, the diocese, religious orders, the PJs and new communities?

Governance

- How might the People of God, lay and ordained, women and men, approach governance in the spirit of synodality and co-responsibility for more effective proclamation of the Gospel?
- How might we recast governance at every level of the Church in Australia in a more missionary key?

Institutions

- How might we better see the future of Catholic education (primary, secondary and tertiary) through a missionary lens?
- How might we better see the future of Catholic social services, agencies and health and aged care ministries as key missionary and evangelising agencies?

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New book looks at 'dark side' of euthanasia in Netherlands

In the Netherlands there seems to be a taboo on openly discussing the dark sides of euthanasia in the country.

BY FRANCESCO PALONI

Dutch ethicists Theo Boer and Stef Groenewoud think it's important to show those sides of the story as well.

"Euthanasia is not all wonderful and dignified," they said

Instead of a last resort to avoid terrible suffering, euthanasia in the Netherlands has become a way to avoid a terrible life.

"Ever since the legalization of euthanasia, a page has been turned in the Netherlands," the ethicists told the Dutch Catholic newspaper *Katholiek Nieuwsblad*.

Boer and Groenewoud collected more than forty stories from people who were involved in euthanasia in some way. This led to a recently published book in which, perhaps for the first time, the negative stories of euthanasia in the Netherlands are being told.

This is important because, according to the authors, there is clearly a taboo in the country on discussing the negative aspects of euthanasia.

"Euthanasia is often romanticized," said Boer, professor in medical ethics at the Protestant Theological University in Groningen.

"This is partly due to the fact that, when it comes to euthanasia, the Netherlands is in the international spotlight. When something

negative is said about the Dutch euthanasia laws, foreign critics are quick to say: 'It's all going wrong over there.' In our country, a certain patriotism is expected from Dutch ethicists on this point," he said.

The book is called *Leven Met Euthanasie* ("Living with Euthanasia") and was published earlier this year. It is not yet available in English.

The authors deliberately chose to only lightly edit the stories of relatives of a loved one who chose to end his or her life through euthanasia. Beautiful or nasty details have not been brushed away, nor were certain kinds of stories selected or censored. The candid stories in the book thus provide a realistic view of the practice of euthanasia in the Netherlands.

"Under the surface there are experiences that you don't usually hear about, which we bring to the fore in this book," says Groenewoud, who is a health scientist and ethicist at Radboud university medical center in Nijmegen. A number of experiences in the book make it clear that euthanasia is not always a pleasant way to end a life. "That's also a story worth telling."

The authors also discuss the Dutch euthanasia debate, which they believe has changed in recent years. According to Boer,



An unidentified man suffering from Alzheimer's disease and who refused to eat sleeps peacefully the day before passing away in a nursing home in Utrecht, Netherlands. (Credit: Michael Kooren/Reuters via CNS.)

ever since the legalization of euthanasia in the Netherlands, the paradigm has changed, from "euthanasia as a last resort" to "euthanasia as a beautiful way to die."

"Ultimately, the winning paradigm determines that the dark sides are not allowed to be discussed. We however want to make clear: Euthanasia really isn't all hallelujahs. It is not all wonderful, dignified and beautiful."

This realization also seems to be gaining acceptance among outspoken advocates of euthanasia: A cultural shift seems to have taken place in the Netherlands in recent years. In 2017, for example, more than

220 doctors spoke out collectively against euthanasia for elderly people suffering from dementia.

Boer sees this shift happening as well.

"I know a number of people who say: 'I have never been against euthanasia, but the way things have turned out in the Netherlands, for example euthanasia for people suffering from dementia, mental illness and some disabilities, and later for people who feel their life has been completed, is not at all what we intended'. From a last resort to avoid terrible suffering, euthanasia in the Netherlands has become a way to avoid a terrible life," he said.

Funding boost welcomed but 'more needs to be done'

Catholic health leaders have welcomed a promised boost to palliative care funding in next week's New South Wales budget, but say more needs to be done to ensure it is available for every person.

BY CATHOLIC WEEKLY

Treasurer Dominic Perrottet said that almost \$83 million will be added to the funding of palliative care services in NSW in the budget.

Currently around \$220 million is spent each year in NSW on palliative care for people with a life-limiting illness. But palliative care providers in the state consistently report that funding is inadequate to meet growing demand, particularly in remote and regional areas.

The often significantly underfunded levels of palliative care have been a factor in the success of euthanasia legislation in several states, palliative care advocates say.

The NSW boost comes as independent MP Alex Greenwich confirmed that in July he will release draft voluntary assisted dying legislation based on the West Australian model.

Rebecca Burdick Davies, director of



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strategy and mission at Catholic Health Australia, said: "While the \$83 million in additional funding is a good start, we'd like to see the NSW Government go further and commit to providing palliative care to every person who wants and needs

it," Ms Burdick Davies said.

"Around the country our members have been pushing for more funds for high-quality accessible palliative care as the compassionate alternative to assisted suicide."

Palliative Care - Lost in the Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) debate

PART 2 - CONTINUED
FROM JUNE EDITION

Dr Brennan is a Palliative Care Physician based at St George and Calvary Hospitals in Kogarah. He recently delivered this paper to the first NSW Parliamentary Friends of Palliative Care meeting.

BY DR FRANK BRENNAN

Almost two centuries ago the American politician, Daniel Webster, commenced one his greatest speeches on the floor of the US Senate with : *"Let us...before we float on the waves of this debate, refer to the point from which we departed, that we may at least be able to conjecture where now we are."* 1

This wise counsel may equally apply to the debate on Voluntary Assisted Dying. A common point of departure for both those in favour and opposed to VAD is the suffering of the human person. That is where we all start but our destination is completely different.

A 76 year old man comes to you. He has prostate cancer. The cancer has spread to his bones. He has pain, weakness and loss of appetite. "Look at me" he says "I could do everything once, now I can do practically nothing. My wife is struggling. The doctors have tried all their treatment. It's no use. I don't want to live any more. I want to die. What can you do?"

In this brief talk I will speak about the common point of departure and the different destinations. And through it, I will talk about Palliative Care, that discipline of medicine that is closest to

death and dying and the deeply human experience of serious illness and the leaving of this world. My argument will be that Palliative Care can be lost in the heat of the VAD debate and, where mentioned, can be set aside or misunderstood. And yet a debate on this topic that does not include a clear and careful description of Palliative Care is greatly deficient. In this talk I will look at the nature of Palliative Care, the myths surrounding it, the common ways it is viewed in the debate and critically examine the principal pillars in support of the argument proposing a VAD law. Hopefully, this will be useful to you in future debates, public and parliamentary.

Following on from my talk in Part 1 - June edition about the nature of Palliative Care, the myths surrounding it and the common ways it is viewed in the debate, I bring Part 2 - July edition where I will critically examine the principal pillars in support of the argument proposing a VAD law.

Autonomy

One of the pillars of the pro-VAD advocacy is autonomy. This argument is powerful, indeed almost irresistible.



But not quite. The response may include:

Firstly, it is untrue to state that the legalisation of VAD would suddenly introduces autonomy to this time of serious illness. Autonomy can already be exercised directly through your voice if competent or through an advance care plan to accept or refuse treatment.

But what about autonomy in VAD laws? The legalisation of VAD does something that is striking in both its intent and effect. By such statues, the law crowns autonomy king. Every VAD law starts and finishes with express wish of the eligible person. Every doctor knows we cannot give everything a

patient wants or insists upon. We know that autonomy, however revered, is one of several guiding principles, and while we listen to patients, our responsibility is always to weigh carefully the benefits and burdens of treatment. So if in this one area of medicine, autonomy trumps all else, where that supremacy is legally sanctioned over and above other principles or approaches, then there is a problem for medicine, law and ethics. By the VAD laws, the 'we' in all us is subsumed by the 'I' in some of us. The 'I' is placed pedestal- high, such that it purports to oversee death itself, and the dangers inherent in that coronation are ignored or set aside.

To exercise one's autonomy one needs to be well informed. Another aspect of autonomy is how well a person embarking on VAD understands Palliative Care.

Under the Australian Acts, neither a referral to, nor assessment by, palliative care is mandatory. The Acts require the doctor inform the person about palliative care and "the likely outcomes of that care." The law assumes that a reasonable body of knowledge about this discipline is universal in medicine. In reality, the doctor mandated to give this information may have little or no knowledge of palliative care or its outcomes. at this juncture, patient, family and clinicians may be adrift on a sea of myth. The patient, therefore may make a decision to pursue the process without being fully informed. Logically, this leads to a basic question: how can one make a decision as fatally serious as this one without being fully informed about the very discipline of medicine that is dedicated to the management



Photo from shutterstock.com

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

of life-limiting illness? Simply stating the existence of the discipline does not explain it. It is ironic that a campaign that trumpeted autonomy and the power of choice may lead to a situation where a person is insufficiently informed in their decision-making.

One of the most powerful reasons articulated in the promotion of VAD is self determination. We are used to control. We want it even, and perhaps especially, at this point in our lives. Our lives, including the most orchestrated, float on a sea of uncertainty. That uncertainty ebbs beneath us. We may imagine we are creatures who think the world into our image. But we are not gods; we are humans, frail and vulnerable. We yearn for certainty. We are met by mystery.

Process

Let us talk about process. Several years ago I was in Canada. It was months after the national VAD legalisation. We met a group of Canadian Palliative Care Physicians. One told a story. Recently, she said, a junior doctor was asked to see an elderly woman with cancer. In difficult pain, the patient said to the junior doctor "I'm not sure how long I can keep going on like this." Immediately the junior doctor said "But you don't need to. The law has changed. We can organise this. I'll go

and get the forms and we can start the process now." Soon after, the nurses rang the senior Palliative Care doctor who advised a change in the patient's regimen of analgesia. Both the senior and junior doctor reminded the patient of her statement the previous day and was flummoxed when she said "No, I don't want that. I feel so much better now." Rather than conscientiously responding to the pain of the patient, the junior

doctor reached for forms. Suddenly, in the twinkling of an eye, a shadow came over two millennia of health care and process superseded medical response.

I fear the same would occur here, because, under the Australian bills, an eligible person could decline to see a Palliative Care physician and the patient, family and doctors are all caught up in a process rather a genuine and conscientious attempt to look at precisely why the patient wishes to embark on this course in the first place.

Rights based discourse

We often hear the mantra from those supporting VAD "It is my right to die with dignity." I do not have trouble with the literal words in that statement. What is problematic is the content of the obligation. If that mantra seriously implies that the only way of dying with dignity is VAD then I would seriously disagree.

And what of this rights based

discourse? Rights exist only when there is a duty. In VAD Acts there is no duty on doctors to provide VAD. Yes, VAD creates an entitlement but not a right. Secondly, there is another right sitting here, again in plain sight but rarely described: a right to palliative care. Given the paucity of palliative care services around the world, surely as a foundational issue would it not be more productive to argue for a right to palliative care rather than a right to euthanasia? This is precisely the call from the international bodies overseeing my discipline - that the provision of palliative care should be seen as a basic human right. 8 This right is solidly built on foundations of international law. 9 This has been picked up and adopted by bodies within the United Nations. So, before arguing for a right for VAD, surely it is better to argue for better access to Palliative Care services.

Conclusion

So where have we arrived in jurisdictions where VAD has been legalise ? We have premature death occurring in people with life limiting illness where :

(a) Palliative Care is raised but may be never experienced; (b) In the parliamentary debates Palliative Care can be set aside as inadequate to the task of dealing with suffering, the very experience it is designed to deal with conscientiously;

(c) In the parliamentary debates VAD was wrapped in the cloak of "dying with dignity", implying that people have, hitherto, not been able to die with dignity. This ignores or is simply unaware of the high focus on the dignity of the human person that is a central tenet of Palliative Care and has been since its inception.

Is this complete blindness? No it is not. For the bills that passed include references to the discipline. But I would argue there is a relative blindness here. Whether the relative blindness is deliberate or unintentional Palliative Care, too often, is a missing part of the debate. So, before we float on the waves of this debate it may be better to examine what already occurs and to

seek to make that better.

No one seeks suffering or ignores it. This debate is not about our recognition of suffering. It is the response to it. It is right that we talk about these things. We are mortal creatures. Our deaths are a universal experience. But they are also unique. How we respond to these facts is the continuing challenge to any society.

Frank Brennan
Palliative Care Physician



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SAINT JOSEPH'S

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Sacred Heart unveils indigenous artwork during NAIDOC week

In 2018, the Sacred Heart Koorringal Parish Council agreed to commission an indigenous artwork to recognise Australia's first people and the land we gather on each week to celebrate Mass.

The artist, Luke Penrith is a Wiradjuri man who lives and works in Brungle.

Luke designed and created the artwork 'From My Family to Yours' for the Sacred Heart Parish Community. Luke has had numerous commissions and created work for The Australian Bureau of Statistics, Sydney University and Legal Aid to name a few.

Although it wasn't in Luke's mind as he painted, the artwork illustrates Pope Francis' document Laudato Si by showing an environment that once was and hopefully, one day, will be again. 'Healing Country' is the motto of NAIDOC Week this year. Luke's art work gives us a deep sense of what that dream and hope could be like.

The art work was unveiled on ATSI Sunday, the beginning of NAIDOC week.

Luke's explanation of the symbolism of the painting is as follows:

The Sun - Genesis 1:16 And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day. The sun is also given as the emblem of constancy (Psalms 72:5,17), of beauty (Song of Solomon 6:10), of the law of God (Psalms 19:7), of the purity of heavenly beings (Revelation 1:16; 12:1), and of the presence and person of God (Psalms 84:11).

The Eagle - The protector of

Community and looks over our children, families and land. - Isaiah 40:31 But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. **The Cross** - Family connection to The Catholic Church, our Catholic Church. **The Goanna** - The Gugaa- Totem for The Wiradjuri. **The Platypus** - Travels in fresh waterways and it's a very good sign if you see one. Water, Baptism and the gift of The Holy Spirit.

The Bogong Moths - Represent The Snowy Mountains Spring Festival that brings mobs together for ceremonies and to develop relationships. We come together to celebrate and renew our faith with God and others.

Corroboree Frog - The Snowy Mountains.

The Turtle - communicating and sharing knowledge and practicing culture. We are a community of faith who continue to practice our culture.

Four Communities, The Black Duck & The Scar Tree - Faith filled communities within communities (Parish - Dioceses - Nation - World).

NATSICC Acknowledgment Plaque

The parish also unveiled its NATSICC Acknowledgement plaque. The first plaque endorsed by the Australian

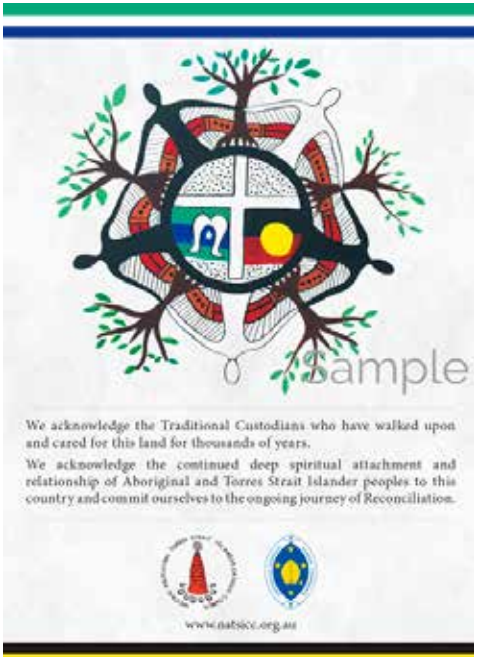


Artist Luke Penrith with his artwork 'From My Family to Yours.'

Catholic Bishops Conference for use in Catholic schools, parishes and organizations, the NATSICC Acknowledgment plaques are a bold statement of support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

By displaying the plaque proudly, we believe it is a physical sign of welcome and understanding for all Australians. It also provides the opportunity to educate the wider community of the need for continual progress on the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

We believe we are sharing the vision of The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council - that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples will be included in the prayers and thoughts of all Australian Catholics.



NATSICC Acknowledgment Plaque.



Help make Together the best newspaper it can be



Let us know what is happening in your area.

Together relies upon your stories to make it relevant and meaningful. We want to know what is happening in your local area so that we can share that news with the rest of the diocese.

We are always looking for local contributors who can write 250 to 350 words about local church projects, initiatives or school events. Include a couple of high resolution photos and you are well on your way to being published in Together.

For more information about making contributions to Together or to submit your article contact us at:
together@wagga.catholic.org.au

Reuse Recycle Repurpose

Here at the ErinEarth a lot has been made from repurposed material, that has been collected over the years and stored out the back.

BY ELTAN MESTAN

Costa named the area our resource center. It is part of the ErinEarth ethos and the first thing I think about when I am building or fixing something here or at home. Here are some examples of what has been created in the garden out of materials that otherwise might have gone to the tip.

In the nature play area, I have used old logs for climbing on, an old shade sail for shade, bamboo and wood to play with.

Garden beds and compost bays have been constructed out of tree trunks, old

sleepers, tin, old drums barrels, water tanks and house guttering.

I have built greenhouses out of PVC and ag pipe, gates, fences, and handrails.

Trellising has been constructed out of bamboo, wire mesh, and old branches.

I hope that I have inspired you all to maybe have a look around the house or get something second hand the next time you are thinking of creating something new in the garden.

Happy repurposing everyone!



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.



Albury welcomes new Franciscans

On 5th June, four members from the Albury/Wodonga parishes were formally admitted into the Secular Franciscan Order.

Francis and Elizabeth Peoples, Rita Walsh, and Manuela Suttie made their formal entry into the Order during the Rite of Admission, which took place at St Patrick's Church, Albury.

The ceremony was officiated by the Minister of the Holy Spirit Fraternity of Canberra, Michelle McGaurr OFS, and the fraternity's formator Tony Bozicevic OFS. The admission of the new members was confirmed on behalf of the Church by Fr Terence Mary Naughtin OFM Conventual.

In his homily, Fr Terence told the new members that "today you begin the task of rebuilding the Church, as was given to St Francis by our Lord. You are not called to be another Francis, but rather to discover the call that God has for you as you live the Franciscan spirit in your everyday lives."

The four new members now begin their official period of formation for twelve months, in preparation for their final



Fr Terence Mary Naughtin OFM Conv, Michelle McGaurr OFS, Manuela Suttie, Tony Bozicevic OFS, Rita Walsh, Elizabeth Peoples, Francis Peoples

Profession into the Order.

The Secular Franciscan Order continues to be the largest Order (lay or religious) in the Catholic Church world-wide, and invites the lay faithful to live the Franciscan charism within the marriage vocation, family life, the work

place, and in all of secular society. In 2021 the Order celebrates 800 years since its establishment by St Francis himself.

The Albury group meet on the First Saturday of each month at the Adoration Chapel, next to St Patrick's Church, at 11am.

For more information, please visit www.ofsaustralia.org.au or contact Tony Bozicevic OFS tonybozz.ofs@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.


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Sacred Heart Parish marks 31 years of Family Groups

Thirty one years ago, Family Groups were started in the Sacred Heart Parish of North Albury to share the joys and challenges of family life.



Jim and Kaye Deanshaw were approached by Fr Kevin Flanagan and Margaret Gawen to co-ordinate the initiative.

They decided “it would be good for us to take on the role.” We couldn’t say no to two wonderful people.

In our parish, there were initially seven Family Groups. We are now left with just our one group. Over the years, we have met amazing people. We have shared some very sad occasions and equally some very happy occasions, along the way. This is what Family Group is all about; we are there for one another through the different joys and

challenges of life.

Our activities are always interesting and varied. We have had many great weekends away, picnics, BBQs, progressive dinners, Christmas in July celebrations, soup and crusty bread lunches, theatre nights and numerous other activities.

Family Groups are for everyone, it doesn’t matter what your circumstances. It is very simple to get one started. A very big thank you to all our group and the magnificent Sacred Heart Parish of North Albury. Jim and I will continue our work for as long as we are able.

First Holy Communion

Students from St Patrick's Primary School in Griffith had their First Holy Communion on June 19 and 20.



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.

Spirituality Day for Women

The 9th Diocesan Spirituality Day for Women will be held on Saturday August 28 at Narrandera High School.



From left - Speakers: Marilyn Bellett and Michele Connolly rsj. Facilitator: Andrea Dean

It's a time to reflect, to explore ways to build a better world, to dream of what could be.

The Day will reflect on Pope Francis's encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, summarised as: fraternity - sisters and brothers all, and social friendship are the ways the Pontiff indicates to build a better, more just and peaceful world, with the contribution of all: people and institutions.

With excellent speakers and professional facilitator, the day will be a chance to mix with like-minded women in a nurturing, spiritual setting, discover interesting groups and events happening in the diocese, catch up with friends and meet new people.

Register Now at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/spirituality-day-for-women-tickets-147212467453>

au/e/spirituality-day-for-women-tickets-147212467453

The event will be coordinated by Spirit Weavers, Contemplative Active Christian Women. This is the new name for the previous Council for Australian Catholic Women (CACW), Diocese of Wagga Wagga.

Spirit Weavers is a Christ-centred group,

promoting women's spirituality, unity, journeying and connection, including inter-faith and cross-cultural exchanges. Our aims include spiritual growth, learning together, friendship, connecting, community building, challenging ourselves and others, guiding our journey, praying and celebrating.

Our Guiding Principles are to:

- empower women to take initiative and recognise possibilities to foster creative action in spirituality and growth;
- support, encourage and assist in the organisation of local initiatives;
- facilitate and organise events which fosters spiritual growth and the dignity of women;
- promote existing activities and groups in parishes and dioceses.

Our logo represents connection, support and spirituality:

A rustic cross – Christianity and a connection to our land, woven with our feminine strands - flowing, free, looking forward with Christ, our Divine golden thread, at the heart.

Weaving is an ancient practice. It can be a simple activity or complex and

involved, like life. We are all single threads in God's tapestry of life – our own life, our community and the life of our world. We are separate strands making the whole. We can be of many colours and textures, creative using regular or abstract patterns, sometimes working alone, other times with others – sharing and learning, watching the pattern emerge little by little to make a beautiful and strong fabric. Sometimes we are frayed and at loose ends; we may be hemmed in by walls of exclusion/isolation; sometimes we have to unravel doubts, bias, assumptions.

Weaving can be a metaphor for prayer, weaving our thoughts as a conversation with God. With others we can share our lives and longings, woven together in God. We can all weave our gospel-centred threads into our families, communities and our world.

Come and join us at this special event for prayer, reflection, exploring ideas, interactivity and sharing, and some fun.

Speakers:

Marilyn Bellett is currently the National President for the Australian YCW. While she works for Multicultural NSW as a Community Engagement Officer, her own personal mission is to empower people, especially young women, to use their gifts and talents to transform the world around them, and to find the deepest meaning in their lives, in the process. Marilyn is passionate about Climate Justice and Gender Equality and It is important for her to be able to put her faith into action, to be a part of building a better, more just world.

Sr Michele Connolly rsj is a Sister of St Joseph of Lochinvar in the Hunter Valley. She is an Associate Professor of Biblical Studies and Biblical Studies Discipline Coordinator at the Sydney College of Divinity and lectures in Biblical Studies at Catholic Institute of Sydney, a pontifical institute of theology. After teaching in secondary schools for about ten years, she studied theology, graduating in 2008 with the PhD from GTU, Berkeley, CA. Michele's principal area of interest is the Gospel of Mark. In 2018 her doctoral thesis was published by T&T Clark, under the title, *Disorderly Women and the Order of God: An Australian Feminist Reading of the Gospel of Mark*. Michele speaks regularly around Australia at conferences on the Scriptures.

Facilitator:

Andrea Dean has been involved in leadership, facilitation and teaching through the Catholic Education: Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn, the Australian Catholic University and the University of Canberra. In 2004, she received a Churchill Fellowship and visited the USA to investigate programs in teacher formation. After two years as Director of the Office for the Participation of Women and Office for Lay Pastoral Ministry within the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, Andrea is once again working as a consultant. She holds qualifications in education, theology, coaching, spiritual direction, and ministry. Andrea is the president of WATAC (Women and the Australian Church).



Date: Sat 28 August 2021

Time: 9.30am-3.30pm

Venue: Narrandera High School
Elizabeth St, Narrandera

Cost: Donation (morning tea and lunch provided)

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: 0499 425 970
cacw.waggawagga@gmail.com**

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP: Don't sugarcoat the truth

As the oldest and largest health and aged care provider in the world, the Catholic Church has long operated to uphold the dignity of the elderly and the dying and compassionately to relieve their suffering, never entertaining killing them or collaborating in bringing about their early death.

BY ARCHBISHOP ANTHONY FISHER OP

So our first reason for opposing these laws is a practical one: this is not what we are set up to do, not in accord with our traditions and practices, diametrically opposed to the spirit that inspires the care Catholic institutions offer.

If Australia tolerates non-government providers of health and aged care like us, we have to be given the space to be different in some ways.

Second, the sanctity of life principle and consequent prohibition on killing has been a cornerstone of our law and medical practice and this has served us very well for a long time now. We should not abandon it lightly.

We should be very wary of overturning all that and creating two classes of citizens: those whose lives are inviolable and so protected by law ... and those whose lives can be taken or whose suicides can be encouraged or enabled.

The view that human beings are special, their dignity inalienable and their lives inviolable, is no monopoly of Christians or even of religious believers: it is common to the legal systems of most nations, international human rights instruments, the pre-Christian Hippocratic Oath and the modern ethics of the World Medical Association and most local medical associations.

We should be very wary of overturning all that and creating two classes of citizens: those whose lives

are inviolable and so protected by law, suicide prevention measures and societal respect, and those whose lives can be taken or whose suicides can be encouraged or enabled.

The sanctity of life principle has been a powerful driver in our response to the coronavirus pandemic. We have accepted various restrictions on our daily lives principally so as to keep the elderly, frail and dying safe (the young and healthy, we know, are not in much danger).

It is a good instinct. We have accepted some limitations on our autonomy in order to protect the most vulnerable.

The sanctity of life principle also informed our horror at some of the revelations of the Aged Care Royal Commission. We think the frail elderly deserve better.

Whether we neglect them to death or offer them the wherewithal to 'volunteer' for an early death, we are saying their lives are not the equal of ours, that they (or we) would be better off if they were dead.

Thirdly, physician-assisted suicide laws inevitably suffer from "bracket creep".

Already in Australia's short experience of this we have found the law applied to far more people than was first expected and there has already been a concerted campaign to relax the supposed "safeguards" that were put in place to



Legalising euthanasia and assisted suicide would be a "disastrous move," Archbishop Anthony Fisher warns as state parliament prepares to consider whether to allow euthanasia to be debated.

sell those laws.

There is nothing that can be done to sugarcoat state sanctioned killing of certain citizens. It is a disastrous move. So is assisting in suicides."

Looking overseas we see voluntary assisted suicide laws in some countries, originally applicable on a voluntary basis for dying adults only, gradually extended to those whose condition is not terminal, or not even medical, and to children and the unconscious. We should not go there!

There is nothing that can be done to sugarcoat state-sanctioned killing of certain citizens: it is a disastrous move. So is assisting in suicides. But there can be better or worse versions of such a bad law.

It would obviously be better, for

example, if there were clear guarantees that no institution, no professional, no sick person and no family member would be required to participate in or refer for euthanasia, and that none would be disadvantaged for having exercised this right.

While I am pessimistic about other provisions to ensure voluntariness or to minimise the pool of those eligible – pessimistic because I don't believe such safeguards will long hold once euthanasia is permitted – I respect those politicians who try to make bad laws not-so-bad.

The above statement was issued by Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP following news that the NSW Parliament may soon be considering the legalisation of euthanasia.

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Latest Bangladesh lockdown puts refugees at risk

As Bangladesh goes into its most severe lockdown yet, Caritas Australia's partner, Caritas Bangladesh, warns that the lockdown restrictions will have severe consequences on the Rohingya refugees living in Cox's Bazar.

The country of 163 million has seen a deadly resurgence of COVID-19 prompted by the Delta variant, as their national COVID-19 testing rate shows a staggering 20 per cent of people testing positive and alarming spikes in the daily death tolls.

Under the new lockdown rules, people will be allowed to leave their homes for emergencies only, which means that people cannot leave for work or to visit others. Public transport networks will also be closed for the week to further prevent people travelling.

This new lockdown will have a serious impact on the world's largest refugee camp – Cox's Bazar – where nearly one million Rohingya live in informal housing with already limited access to clean water, sanitation and healthcare.

"This lockdown will have a serious impact on everyone, but my biggest concern is the long-term impacts of this lockdown on the Rohingya people," said James Gomes, Director at Caritas Bangladesh, Caritas Australia's partner in Bangladesh.

"COVID-19 restrictions and lockdowns mean that people living in the camps struggle to get access to clean water, sanitation, education and protection. It also makes it harder for us to continue our programs, because lockdowns mean that we have to work remotely and have limited access to the camps."

The Rohingya community in Cox's Bazar are also still rebuilding from the massive fire which swept through the camps in March this year, which

left approximately 45,000 refugees homeless.

"To make matters worse, monsoon and cyclone season approaches, and the Rohingya will be at increased risk of losing their homes yet again," said Mr Gomes.

"Our staff are also in lockdown, but we have been working in Cox's Bazar for a long time, and will continue to support the Rohingya people and other vulnerable populations. We thank our Australian neighbours for their continued generosity through donations."

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22-year-old Jamila, a Rohingya refugee, at home in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.
Photo - Inmanual Biswas, Caritas Bangladesh

The Legion of Mary Centenary 2021



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.

In keeping with the Legion of Mary confidential ‘way’ the testimonies will be published anonymously.

Here is the latest one:
Testimony:

I first joined the Legion of Mary when I left school. Another friend and myself were the young ones with some very gracious, and certainly holy, elderly ladies. We would visit the hospital each week and we would proudly announce we were from ‘The Legion of Mary’. We built a relationship with the older residents who were there long-term. Our visits were looked forward to and we were made feel very welcome. When I got married one of the residents, Mr Blundell, had the nurses purchase a wedding gift, which I still have.

I remained in the Legion until our young family arrived and then we moved.

Some 48 years later I have re-joined. I look forward to the weekly meetings especially saying the Rosary together. Under the guidance of our Spiritual Director we are allocated work reaching out to ‘shut-ins’ and the elderly in our Parish.

Once a year the Acies is held in March where all the Legionaries come together. I have been privileged to attend this as each Legionary renews his or her promise. It is an uplifting experience to attend an Acies to receive graces and blessings from Our Lady. There is then fellowship with other Legionaries as we share

afternoon tea.
I joined the Legion all those years ago because of the example of the Legion ladies. They were people to aspire to who lived their faith by action. Even today I am supported and encouraged by the ladies in our Praesidium. They are women of great faith and compassion as they reach out to others under the guidance of Our Mother Mary.

We are supported in prayer by the Auxiliary Members who pray the Legion prayer (Tessera) and Rosary each day.

Once a Legionary, always a Legionary as our departed members are prayed for so Our Lady’s chain is never broken.

The Legion challenges me to step out in faith supported by the prayers of the Praesidium and Auxiliary. It is an amazing organisation to live out your Catholic faith.

Centenary Update

A reminder that there will be a Mass held at St Michael’s Cathedral on Wednesday, 1 September 2021 at 6pm with Bishop Mark Edwards presiding to celebrate the Centenary of the establishment of the Legion of Mary. Supper will be provided afterwards in the Parish Centre. Please mark your diaries and join us for this wonderful occasion!

LEGION OF MARY CENTENARY 2021 CELEBRATION

You are warmly invited to a Mass offered by Bishop Mark Edwards to celebrate the Centenary of the Legion of Mary

Wednesday, 1st September 2021
6 pm
St Michael’s Cathedral
Wagga Wagga

Please join us for supper afterwards at the Parish Centre

Transport available

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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 |

| Name | Location | Meeting time | Spiritual Director |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| Our Lady Help of Christians | St Brendan’s, Ganmain | Wed, 2pm | Fr Justin Darlow |
| Our Lady Spouse of the Holy Spirit | Our Lady of Fatima, South Wagga | Fri, 1:30pm | TBA |
| Our Lady Star of the Sea (Juniors) | St Michael’s Cathedral, Wagga Wagga | Wed, 3:45pm | Fr Reece Beltrame |
| Our Lady Seat of Wisdom | Vianney Seminary, Wagga Wagga | Thu, 3:40pm | Fr Steven Ledinich |
| Our Lady Queen of Heaven | St Michael’s Cathedral, Wagga Wagga | Thu, 5.45pm | Fr Damien Jellett |
| Our Lady Gate of Heaven | St Joseph’s, Leeton | Tue, 5pm | Fr Anthony Dunne |
| Our Lady of Cana | St Mel’s, Narrandera | Thu, 6pm | Fr Bradley Rafter |
| Our Lady Ark of the Covenant | St Mary’s, The Rock | Mon, 7pm | Fr Gabriel Murray |

* 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."

Filipinos Celebrate 123rd Anniversary of Independence

On 12 June, 2021 Filipinos from around the Diocese of Wagga Wagga gathered at St Michael's Cathedral to celebrate the 123rd anniversary of Philippine Independence.

Most Rev. Mark Edwards, the Bishop of Wagga Wagga celebrated the Mass, assisted by Fr Jomer Calma of Sacred Heart Parish, Griffith, and Deacon Connell Perry.

The Bishop gave a moving homily about how the Filipino people had to undergo much hardship and tribulation in the hands of colonial masters, until they gained their freedom. The Philippine Declaration of Independence was proclaimed by Filipino revolutionary forces headed by General Emilio Aguinaldo on 12 June 1898 in Cavite, Philippines. It asserted the sovereignty and independence of the Philippine Islands from the colonial rule of Spain. However, the Philippines still had to go through years of being under American rule and Japanese occupation. It was not until 4 July 1946 when the Philippines became a Republic that it had full freedom as a nation.

The Bishop also noted that in the first reading "they will be called a people the Lord has blessed" which, according to him, still holds true. The blessing is in the friendship with God and the faith that the Filipino people have. At this point, it is worth mentioning the first two Filipino saints: St Lorenzo Ruiz & St Pedro Calungsod who were martyrs for the faith. They are a source of inspiration for the Filipinos to be models of faith like them, influencing other people through the way they live their faith and trust in God. After all, the Philippines can boast of 500 years of Christianity, the Catholic faith brought by the Spaniards.

Lastly, the Bishop mentioned about the Gospel and how Mary found Jesus in the temple, as we can find him in the Church.

He asked what 'pondering this in her heart' might mean. He suggested that we also do what Mary did --- that she did not live her life from event to event, but 'joined the dots' by seeing God at work in all the events her life.

The readings and Prayers of the Faithful were done by representatives from different areas of the diocese: Wagga Wagga, Griffith, Albury, Lavington, Leeton, Narrandera, and Corowa. The Eucharistic celebration was followed by a sumptuous meal which included the typical Filipino "lechon" (roast pig) and some exquisite native recipes and delicacies. A video presentation of songs and Filipino dances dedicated to the Bishop was performed by the representatives from Griffith and Leeton. The highest point of excitement was the drawing of the raffle tickets, a fund-raising organized by the MACE Sisters and lay associates in order to raise funds for the charitable projects of the Bishop. The major prizes were petrol and meat vouchers, and there were around 15 minor consolation prizes.



Bishop Edwards thanked the Sisters and organizers of the event, and acknowledged the generosity of the donors of the prizes, and the people who brought so much food and drinks which made everybody enjoy the day's celebration.



Above: Sister Angelita of the MACE Sisters delivers the Introduction before the Philippine Independence Day Mass.

Right: Bishop Mark Edwards during his homily.

Below: The people who participated at the 123rd Anniversary of Philippine Independence Mass pose in front of St Michael's Cathedral.



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Healing the wounds of Religious Extremism in Africa Campaign

In response to the unprecedented attacks on Africa carried out by Islamic extremists, the pontifical foundation ACN International has approved aid amounting to more than twelve million AUD for Christians in Africa.

During the last few years, Christians have been targeted by Islamic extremists in many countries in Africa. Bernard Toutounji, National Director of ACN Australia, highlighted that "Tragically Africa is the continent with the highest number of murdered priests, religious and catechists. Yet despite the often catastrophic situation, Africa continues to be a continent of hope for the Catholic Church. With a total of 234 million Catholics, more than one-sixth of all Catholics worldwide live there. The faithfulness of the Catholic people in Africa is well known and has been praised by the Popes as an example and a gift. That is why ACN views its task today in supporting the African Church as so necessary."

ACN Australia has therefore launched the campaign "Healing the wounds of religious extremism in Africa" which supports several concrete measures. One of the top priorities of the African Church's mission, is the promotion of interreligious dialogue to further understanding and fraternity on all sides. Trauma healing is another measure ACN is focusing on as true peace is only possible once the trauma experienced by those deeply wounded by Islamic terrorism has been healed. "The Catholic Church in Africa is itself often one of

the victims, but more than anything She is an important source of support, reconciliation and healing for all who are suffering violence. For this reason, ACN considers the aid it provides to the Church of the 'continent of martyrs' one of its most crucial missions, now more than ever," explained Dr Heine-Geldern.

To further assist in the rehabilitation of the people, ACN is sponsoring several projects focused on spiritual and psychological training. In the diocese of Maiduguri (Nigeria), the terrorist regime of Boko Haram left two thousand traumatised widows and several thousands of orphans behind in its wake. ACN has helped set up a centre for the training of trauma therapists to assist those who have been scarred by suffering.

Priests and religious sisters need assistance to live their vocations under these dangerous conditions. For this reason, ACN provides funding for spiritual retreats and training courses in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Nigeria and the Central African Republic.

Additionally, ACN helps priests earn their livelihoods through Mass stipends and helps religious by donating means of transportation and communication. This ensures that religious sisters and pastoral workers are able to provide ongoing



assistance to the victims. For example, 26 religious sisters in the diocese of Pemba in northern Mozambique are the recipients of this form of aid. They serve in a region that is one of the primary targets of Jihadist militia groups and where terrorism has already displaced more than 750,000 people from the area.

Another factor crucial to keeping the faith alive is helping parishes rebuild their churches and the religious infrastructure that has disintegrated under Islamic terrorism. In the predominantly Islamic country of Niger, for example, funds have been granted for the rebuilding of a parish church in the city of Zinder which was destroyed in 2015.

ACN President Heine-Geldern feels encouraged by Pope Francis in the work ACN is doing in Africa. "The Holy

Father called for active solidarity with Africa on Easter Sunday. In particular, he prays for the people of Africa who see their future compromised by internal violence and international terrorism and places his hopes in fraternal dialogue in a spirit of reconciliation. ACN is doing everything in its power to realise the pope's mission for Africa."

To watch video's on what ACN is doing in Africa and to donate visit www.aidtochurch.org/africa



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Fr Richard Leonard sj visits Wagga Wagga

Around 150 people attended an afternoon session given by well known Jesuit, Fr Richard Leonard at the Sacred Heart Parish Centre on Sunday May 23.

BY JOHN GOONAN

Fr Richard's topic was **"Pope Francis' Vision for the Church"**. He began by reminding the audience that Pope Francis has made clear that when the Church talks about our mission with and for Christ in the world, he refers to three core elements: witness by word and example, inculturation and thirdly, liberation.

To illustrate that the Church does do a lot of witness by word and example, he reminded us of the Church's involvement in health, education and social welfare.

To help us see the importance of inculturation, he listed some of the characteristics of the typical average Australian as someone who is 37 years old, who lived together before marriage, then got married at 31 by a civil marriage celebrant. The person most probably will not divorce, have 1.9 (increasingly unbaptised) children and live in one

of the largest houses Australians have ever built (4.2 bedrooms). The list went on and was in great contrast to many congregations that gather each Sunday in our churches. Our challenge is to reach out to them and share the great Gospel message with them in such a way as to attract them to our churches again.

He concluded his talk by listing Pope Francis' eight ways of liberating people. The first is obedience. He explained that the word obedience comes from the Greek *Obaudire* which means to *listen*. Richard explained that the listening has to be to God, the actual situation, the tradition of the church, experts and our informed conscience.

The other seven are care of the earth, joy, love, humility, gratitude, forgiveness and compassion and mercy, especially for the poor.

Right: Fr Richard Leonard sj talks about "Pope Francis' Vision for the Church".

Below: Attendees at Sacred Heart Parish in Kooringal.



Buy a rosary and support religious sisters



In celebrating our great Australian saint, Mary of the Cross MacKillop, the Catholic charity **Aid to the Church in Need** (ACN) is very proud to have worked with the **Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart** to commission a commemorative set of rosary beads in her honour.

The proceeds from the sale of these beads will **support needy religious sisters** around the world who, like Mary MacKillop, continue to serve through prayer and action. Religious women are living witnesses of God's love - **heroines of the Church** - and in many places the only tangible reminder of God's love.

In 2020 **Aid to the Church in Need** supported 18,126 sisters in their apostolate, formation and with basic subsistence help. **Will you buy a rosary and allow us to continue helping them?**

These beautiful rosary beads are designed and handmade in Italy by the Ghirelli family who have been producing rosaries for over thirty years, **including the official rosaries of the last three Popes**. This set features the image of Mary MacKillop as the central

medal, with her name and canonisation date on the reverse side. The *Our Father* medals are specially designed showing Our Lady, St Joseph, the Sacred Heart and Mary MacKillop's words **'Trust in God'**. The crucifix is intricate, emphasising the Sacred Heart of Jesus. All the medals and links are finished in vintage bronze and the actual beads are 6mm faceted copper Bohemian glass. Each rosary comes in its own keepsake pouch and features the assurance of a high-quality devotional item made by one of Italy's most renowned rosary makers.



Please visit our online store www.thatcatholicshop.com/rosary or complete the form below to purchase your rosaries. Why not give them as a gift to others and at the same time you will give a precious gift in support of religious sisters around the world.



Sisters Laura and Gianna thank the benefactors of ACN for building them a convent in Sierra Leone.



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COVID-19 Diocesan Protocols

Effective
12th July 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. Singing

Singing by congregants is not allowed. Up to 5 people may sing in a place of public worship in NSW (Regional and Rural areas). The singers must:

- Wear a face mask
- Keep a distance of at least 1.5 metres from each other
- Keep a distance of 3 metres from the congregation.

4. Maximum Attendance

- Attendance at Places of Worship is limited to one person per four square meters (excluding clergy and liturgical ministers).
- Physical distancing is to be practiced. People from different households are to remain 1.5m apart.

5. Hygiene practices

- Masks are to be worn in all indoor non-residential indoor settings. (Liturgical Ministers may remove masks while on the Sanctuary.)
- Sanitisation of hands before entering the church, hall, prayer room, etc.
- Wiping down of pews and common areas at conclusion of Mass or gathering is encouraged.
- Priests and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to purify hands with sanitiser before and after offering Holy Communion and to

wear masks while distributing Holy Communion.

- Limit the use of communal books. Ensure they are cleaned between use.

6. Register of people upon entering the church, hall, prayer room, etc.

- NSW Government Covid-Safe QR Code is the preferred record-keeping option.
- Name, phone number and entry time to be recorded and kept securely for at least 28 days.
- Any paper-based records must be entered into electronic format (spreadsheet/database) within 12 hours.

7. Eucharist

- Sacred Host to be offered only, not the Precious Blood.
- No touching at the sign of peace.
- No offertory procession.
- No collection plates are to be passed around.

8. 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.

- Anointing of the sick in hospitals, aged care and private homes if permitted to enter.
- 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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A New Habit of Mind officially launched

Acting Director of Schools, Liz O’Carrigan declared the booklet *A New Habit of Mind* launched at a meeting of Religious Education Coordinators and Leaders of Mission from all the Diocesan schools on Thursday 10 June.

The coordinators and leaders were attending their termly network meeting and the authors were invited to attend the meeting for the purpose of launching the booklet.

A New Habit of Mind, subtitled *Toward an Understanding of Doctrine, Science and Scripture* was written by Denis Nickle with support from Kaye Bryan pbvm, Carmel Wallace pbvm, John Goonan and Stephen Kemmis. Unfortunately Stephen was unable to attend.

All the authors are members of the ErinEarth community. A consequence of an inservice program conducted by Carmel and John on behalf of ErinEarth in 2014 and 2015 was the realisation that not all teachers were certain of what the church teaches in areas where science and religion meet. This was a

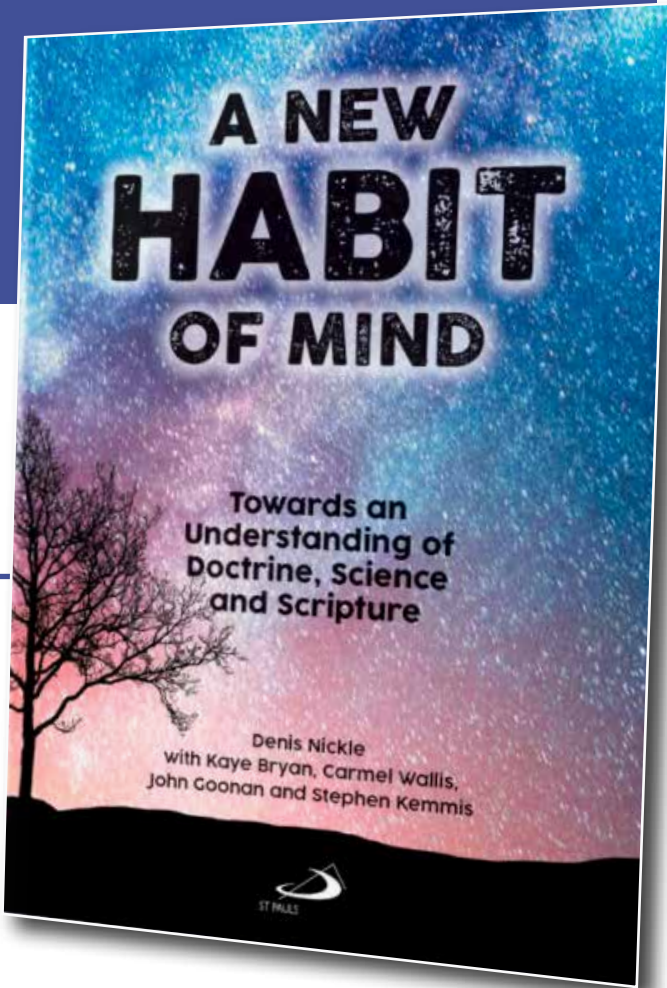
cause of angst to them because they wanted to do the right thing and couldn’t find the answers they wanted.

The title of the booklet is sourced from a statement of Pope Paul VI on the need for the laws of the Church to accommodate the ‘new habit of mind proper to the Second Vatican Council’ on November 20, 1965.

The booklet has been given a nihil obstat and imprimatur, indicating that there is nothing heretical in the contents of the booklet.

ErinEarth began as a project of the Presentation Sisters and Sr Margaret Barclay (Congregational Leader) and Sr Bernadette Pattison (member of the Leadership team) were also invited and attended.

Mrs O’Carrigan encouraged all present to study the booklet and ‘go forth confidently’ with their teaching, knowing what they can and what they can’t teach.



A New Habit of Mind is available from St Pauls Publications Australia: www.stpauls.com.au



Liz O’Carrigan, Kaye Bryan pbvm, John Goonan, Denis Nickle, Carmel Wallace pbvm, Bernadette Pattison pbvm, Margaret Barclay pbvm

ALAN HARRIS McDONALD

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6921 4913

www.alanharrismcdonald.com.au

Crematorium



Chapel



Refreshments Room



St Joseph's Primary School, Leeton

KMM and KJM have been learning about coding with Mousebots. Working in groups, they used coding cards to organise their thoughts and then took turns entering their code onto the Mousebot. Everyone was very excited when their mouse reached the cheese at the end of the maze!



St Joseph's Primary, Finley

Congratulations to St Joseph's Primary 1st Communion group! The students led the parish mass with Fr. Christian beautifully and received communion with great reverence. Thank you to the parents, teachers and families who contributed towards making this a special celebration for them.



Sacred Heart Primary, Wagga

Kinder students at Sacred Heart Primary had fun celebrating Pirate Day with their buddies.



Holy Spirit School, Lavington

HSS Lions Club Public Speaking Finals

The students did a phenomenal job preparing and delivering their speeches. The standard was overwhelmingly high. A massive congrats to all students for their efforts. Further congrats to the following students:

Year 5/6: Winner Harry and R/U Edward

Year 3/4: Winner Ruhee and R/U Zoey



Two girls are working on a project. One is writing on a piece of paper and the other is looking at it.

Catholic Education
Diocese of Wagga Wagga

All schools enrolling now

St Michael's Primary, Coolamon



St Michael's Primary celebrated their positive behaviours with an Inside Mini Olympics. Congratulations to Stage 3 leaders who did an outstanding job organising and encouraging all of the students despite the challenging weather.



Mater Dei Primary, Wagga



Mater Dei Primary students recently had a blast at their school disco. There were many happy faces indeed.



St Joseph's Primary, Wagga



NAIDOC Celebrations at St Joseph's Primary School. The students enjoyed a variety of activities such as badge making, boomerang artwork, lino printing on bags and storytelling. We would like to thank Luke Wighton, Lorelei Wrayand our Aboriginal support worker - Claudia Haines, who assisted throughout the day and made it a success.



St Joseph's Primary School, Jerilderie

Thanks to Kev, Jenna and Raeleigh from NSW Fire & Rescue for coming and talking to the students about all the things you do, and showing us how things work. The students all really loved it!!



Holy Trinity Primary, West Wagga

Police Liaison Officer, Tim Bourke spoke to Year 3- 6 about cyber safety and social media on July 13.



Hundreds gather outside hospital to greet recovering pope

Pilgrims and well-wishers gathered at Rome's Gemelli hospital to greet Pope Francis as he made his first public appearance in a week after undergoing intestinal surgery.

Appearing on the 10th floor balcony of his suite of rooms at the hospital July 11, the pope was greeted with applause and shouts of "Viva il papa" ("Long live the pope") from the crowd that stood under the scorching midday sun to see him.

"I have felt your closeness and the support of your prayers," the pope said. "Thank you very much."

Pope Francis arrived at Gemelli hospital on July 4 to undergo "a scheduled surgical intervention for a symptomatic diverticular stenosis of the colon," the Vatican said. The pope has recovered steadily from his surgery and resumed working from the hospital.

Among the well-wishers outside the hospital was Liliana Valina who, like Pope Francis, is a native of Argentina living in Rome.

Draped in the Argentine flag after the country's win against Brazil in the Copa America soccer championship on July 10, Valina told Catholic News Service that

she was there "because I care for this pope very much and not just because he's from Argentina like me."

"I think he tells Jesus' message in a clear way, even on things that are uncomfortable for some," she said.

"I came here hoping that he recovers soon, that he be healthy."

When asked what she would tell her fellow countryman if she could speak directly to him, Valina said: "Never feel alone because you have God and you have many people who love you and are with you."

Marlene Barbosa, a native of Peru living in Rome, also was outside the hospital with her husband, Maximo Lopez, as well as her mother, Susanna Morante, who traveled from Washington, D.C., to be with her family and have a chance to see the pope.

"We wanted to see him and receive his blessing because we are Catholic, we are believers and through prayer, we have been close to the pope in these days in which his



Pope Francis greets staff at the Gemelli Hospital in Rome, July 11, 2021. Vatican Media



Hundreds of pilgrims and well-wishers greet Pope Francis outside Gemelli hospital in Rome. Photo: CNS



Hospital prayers: Pope Francis leads the Angelus from a balcony of Gemeli hospital in Rome, as he recovers from colon surgery. Photo: CNS

health has been delicate," Barbosa said.

In his address, the pope reflected on the Sunday Gospel reading from St. Mark, in which Jesus sent out his disciples to anoint the sick with oil and heal them.

The oil, he said, not only represents the comfort given through the sacramental anointing of the sick, but also symbolizes "the closeness, the care, the tenderness of those who take care of the sick person."

"It is like a caress that makes you feel better, soothes your pain and cheers you up. All of us, everyone, sooner or later, we all need this 'anointing' of closeness and tenderness, and we can all give it to someone else, with a visit, a phone call, a hand outstretched to someone who needs help," he said.

Pope Francis said that his time in the hospital gave him the opportunity to experience "once again how important good health care is" and that free, universal health care, especially for the most vulnerable, is a "precious benefit (that) must not be lost."

Acknowledging that some hospitals run by the church face the threat of closure "due to poor management," the pope said the Catholic Church's vocation "is not to have money; it is to offer service and service is always freely given."

"Do not forget this: save free institutions," he said.

Before praying the Angelus prayer with the faithful, Pope Francis expressed his "appreciation and encouragement" to the doctors, nurses and staff at Gemelli hospital. He also asked for prayers for the patients, especially the children, at the hospital, several of whom stood on the balcony with him.

"Why children suffer is a question that touches the heart. Accompany them with prayer and pray for all those who are sick, especially for those in the most difficult conditions," the pope said.

"May no one be left alone, may everyone receive the anointing of listening, closeness, tenderness and care."

Chris Rigby receives Queen’s Birthday Honours

Catholic Healthcare congratulates Mr Christopher Rigby AM on his inclusion in the Queen’s Birthday Honours List.

Mr Rigby was Catholic Healthcare’s founding Managing Director (1994 – 2011) and has been appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in recognition of his significant service to health and aged care organisations.

Belinda Moyes, Interim CEO, Catholic Healthcare said she was delighted to congratulate Mr Rigby on behalf of Catholic Healthcare.

“Chris was integral to the establishment and success of Catholic Healthcare,” says Ms Moyes. “A man of many strengths, Mr Rigby instilled in Catholic Healthcare a vision, determination, commitment to

faith, and a passion for the respectful, compassionate and excellent care of those in need.”

Without Chris Rigby, Catholic Healthcare would not have happened.

When Mr Rigby was appointed Managing Director in 1994, he was the only employee. By the time he retired in 2011, Chris had built a team of 3,000 and transformed Catholic Healthcare into an award-winning aged and healthcare provider.

Catholic Healthcare thanks Mr Rigby and all other Queen’s Birthday Honours recipients for their contributions and achievements.



Federal Parliament marks the bicentenary of Catholic education

On Wednesday 23 June, Federal Members of Parliament jointly supported a private member’s motion to acknowledge 200 years of Catholic education in Australia, which marks the anniversary of the first official Catholic school opened on Hunter Street in Parramatta in October 1820.

Member for Parramatta Julie Owens MP moved the motion, which was supported by five other members.

Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta executive director Greg Whitby AM KSG, Diocese of Parramatta chief of operations and finance Geoff Officer and other members of staff attended the parliament.

“It’s with great pleasure that I rise today to acknowledge the bicentenary of Catholic education in Australia,” Ms Owens said.

“Two of the schools in my electorate, St Patricks Parramatta and Parramatta Marist High School, trace their origins back to that very first school on Hunter Street.

“I want to congratulate all the Catholic schools on what is now their third century,” Ms Owens said. “Congratulations to their teachers, staff and students on what is an incredible achievement. I know we will see many more great achievements in years to come.”

Member for Berowra Julian Leeser MP said decades before public education existed anywhere in this country, we had church schools, charity schools, which taught children from all walks of life.

“That legacy has not only been formational in Australia’s history but continues to serve the Australian community today, with the incredible service Catholic schools provide to families and communities.

“I want to express my gratitude to the Catholic Church and to the teachers, the families and the students at our Catholic schools for the important role they play in our education landscape,” Mr Lesser said.

Member for Holt Mr Anthony Byrne MP said Catholic schools have educated millions of Australians over the past 200 years.

“A faith based, values based education system that offers a comprehensive environment to develop the total person, not just educate a person,” Mr Byrne said.

“The community good that’s done by having these schools in our region, which I would completely agree with as someone who went through the Catholic education system as a student at a Christian Brothers college both in Kalgoorlie, in the far-flung regions of Western Australia, and also in Adelaide.”

Member for Bennelong Mr John



Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta executive director Greg Whitby AM KSG, Joanne Ryan MP, Julian Leeser MP, Diocese of Parramatta chief of operations and finance Geoff Officer and Julie Owens MP. Source: Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta.

Alexander OAM, MP said over the past two centuries, Catholic schools have become the largest non-government providers of schooling in Australia, with one in five school-age students attending a Catholic school.

“Catholic schools will continue to represent a vital part of the Australian educational landscape in the future,” Mr Alexander said. “This government is committed to continuing our support for Catholic schools.”

Member for Lalor Joanne Ryan MP said Catholic schools have been dedicated to ensuring equality and equity for children across the country for 200 years.

“These are faith based schools that are dedicated to social justice, and I think that’s

really worth celebrating,” Ms Ryan said.

Member for Goldstein Mr Tim Wilson MP said we respect the choice of parents to be able to make decisions to educate their children in their religious and cultural traditions that reflect their aspirations and their hopes.

“We should be immensely proud of the role that the Catholic education system has played in that story, because it’s the story of our nation and how it was built.

“It is the proud tradition and stewardship of young minds, creating opportunities and driving a sense of social justice through empowerment in the Catholic tradition that we should celebrate, because that is what so many Australians look for in their education system,” said Mr Wilson.

Kids corner

SAINTS FUN FACTS

by John Sheppard

St. Mary Magdalene de Pazzi was born in Florence in 1566. She was taught mental prayer at the request of her mother. She entered the Carmelite Order at the Monastery of St. Mary. She had a personal relationship with Jesus and had many conversations with Him. Her wisdom and love led to her appointment to many important positions, including mistress of novices.



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Craft...

Dad Rocks Paperweights

Dad rocks — literally. Collect rocks on your next walk, and re-create the members of your family for Dad to keep on his desk.

- You'll need:**
- Glue
 - Rocks
 - Tape (patterned)
 - Cardstock
 - Black marker
 - Paint markers for cheeks, hair



How to make:

- Step 1. Cut out tape in the shape of a tie or bow tie and stick them on your rocks. Or use a strip of wide tape or cardstock to cut out a fun patterned shirt.
- Step 2. Use a black permanent marker and colored paint markers to add details such as collars and faces, or add cute quotes to each rock. Rocks make such a fun canvas, why not try making some other styles of rock art as part of your gift? Dad's name in DIY alphabet rocks or a few fingerprint heart rocks would add the perfect finishing touch!

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

Together Editor
PO Box 473
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

We'd love to hear from you!



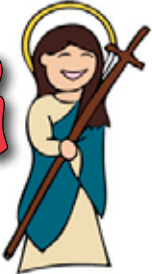
JULY SAINTS & FEAST DAYS

Word Search

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

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| E | P | E | T | E | R | X | Z | M | H | E | N | R | Y |
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| A | B | O | N | A | V | E | N | T | U | R | E | J | A |
| B | E | W | C | G | A | P | O | M | A | R | T | X | Y |
| R | N | M | J | D | E | L | I | Z | A | Z | H | H | K |
| I | E | J | O | A | C | H | I | M | B | O | N | A | A |
| D | D | A | V | L | N | X | N | O | A | H | R | L | T |
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| M | O | U | N | T | C | A | R | M | E | L | H | J | N |

- Junipero** Serra
Elizabeth of Portugal
Maria Goretti
Augustine **Zhao** Rong
Benedict
Henry
Kateri Tekakwitha
Bonaventure
Our Lady of **Mount Carmel**
Apollinaris
Lawrence of Brindisi
Mary **Magdalene**
Bridget
James
Joachim and **Anne**
Martha
Peter Chrysologus



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 - 8:00am and 10:30am
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
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 31

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.

Monthly laugh:





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

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 3 July 1991 | Fr Owen Cosgriff |
| 5 July 1963 | Mgr William John O'Neill |
| 14 July 1880 | Fr Michael McAlroy |
| 14 July 1964 | Fr Arthur Hugh Percy |
| 16 July 1900 | Fr William Bermingham |
| 17 July 1930 | Fr Francis O'Looney |
| 20 July 1979 | Mgr Brian Boru Gallagher |
| 21 July 1900 | Fr Patrick Dunne |
| 22 July 1998 | Fr Albert Morgan Stanley |
| 24 July 1932 | Fr Daniel Griffin |
| 24 July 2006 | Fr John Francis McGee |
| 31 July 2000 | Fr Peter Quinn |

These faithful servants, Lord, put their wholehearted trust in you - Grant that they may live in your love.

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Family reflections for:

18th July - Sixteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle B
Family demands can make us feel like Jesus and the twelve apostles. We wish for times of relaxation and renewal, but there are errands to do, household chores to keep up with, volunteer commitments to keep. These are all good things, but we can be left feeling drained and tired as we try to keep up. Perhaps we might take the opportunity this week to give ourselves permission to find the rest and relaxation that Jesus seeks for his disciples in today's Gospel. One of the gifts we can give to one another in our family life is assistance in finding the time and space to renew ourselves through prayer.

When you gather together as a family this week, bring your family calendar. Together review your family calendar and spend some time reflecting on your family activities. In particular, ask if your family has an appropriate amount of time for rest and relaxation. If not, discuss ways in which this time for renewal might be included in the week ahead. Read together today's Gospel, Mark 6:30-34. Notice how Jesus tried to find time and space for his disciples to rest and relax after they returned from their mission. Conclude in prayer together, asking God to help us find time to renew ourselves so that we might be better disciples of Jesus. Pray together the Lord's Prayer.

Jeremiah 23:1-6 Psalm 23:1-3,3-4,5,6
Ephesians 2:13-18 Mark 6:30-34

25th July - Seventeenth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle B
Parents may sympathize with the disciples' protests when Jesus asks Philip where food might be found for the crowd. In the responses of both Philip and Andrew, we hear feelings of inadequacy as they survey their limited resources in the face of such great need. We may sometimes share these feelings about our own material possessions or our emotional and spiritual resources in the face of our family's needs. This is a Gospel of hope for these times, which are all too frequent in parenting and family life. As Jesus made the five barley loaves and two fish sufficient to more than meet the needs of over five thousand people, Jesus will also work with what we have

to provide for our family's needs. When we offer our efforts to God, we ask him to transform them so that they will be more than adequate to the tasks and needs before us. As you gather as a family, talk together about the things that your family needs, starting with the basics—food, shelter, safety, and so on. Continue by naming other things that a family needs to be happy and healthy—time together, cooperation, patience, and so on. Observe that sometimes we can feel like we don't have enough of the things that we need or want. Read together today's Gospel, John 6:1-15. Talk about how Jesus provided plenty of food for the crowd with just five barley loaves and two fish. We have faith that Jesus will also take what we have and make it enough to satisfy and fill all our needs. We ask for this blessing when we offer to God the work of each day in prayer in the Morning Offering. Pray together the Morning Offering, asking God to bless and make fruitful the work of each of our days.

2 Kings 4:42-44 Psalm 145:10-11,15-16,17-18
Ephesians 4:1-6 John 6:1-15

1st August - Eighteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle B
In today's Gospel, the crowd asks Jesus for a sign so that they can believe that he has come from God. This is a curious request, because Jesus has just fed more than 5000 people with just five barley loaves and two fish. How quickly they seem to have forgotten the wonderful thing that Jesus has done for them. Or, maybe they never recognized the miracle in the first place. Sometimes we don't recognize the wonderful things that God has done for us. And, sometimes, we simply forget and ask for further evidence of his love and care. We pray that God will remove our blindness so that we can receive with thanks and praise all the wonderful things that God accomplishes in our lives.

Together as a family, name the wonderful gifts that God has given you and some of the remarkable deeds that God has accomplished in our world. Observe that it is important to stop to count our blessings because we can easily miss recognizing all of the wonderful things that God does for us. Read together today's Gospel, John 6:24-35.

Ask: Why are the people seeking out Jesus? (because he has fed them) What do they want from Jesus? (a sign that he has come from God) What does Jesus tell them? (He says that he will give them something greater and more important than the bread that fed their physical hungers; he will give them bread that will give them eternal life.) Recall that we have this gift from Jesus in the Eucharist. Pray together, thanking God for all that he has given to us, especially for the gift of eternal life and the Eucharist. Pray together the Magnificat.

Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15 Psalm 78:3-4, 23-24, 25, 54
Ephesians 4:17, 20-24 John 6:24-35

8th August - Nineteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle B
Today's Gospel focuses our attention on our faith in Jesus' presence in the Eucharist. Jesus is the bread of life. He gives us his Body and Blood as bread so that we may have eternal life. When we receive the Body and Blood of Jesus in the Eucharist, our lives begin to reflect the reality that our communion with Jesus prepares in us. Our Eucharist leads us to live as people of the promise, confident that we will one day share the fullness of life with God.

As you gather as a family, talk about our hope that one day we will share eternal life with God in heaven. This hope can transform the way we live our daily lives, calling us to be people of hope and expectation. In today's Gospel, Jesus promises us this gift of eternal life in the Eucharist. Read together today's Gospel, John 6:41-51. Observe that Jesus taught us that those who listen to God know that Jesus has been sent by God for the life of the world. Jesus fulfills this promise to us through his passion, death, and Resurrection. He gives us the gift of himself in the Eucharist, which is his Body and Blood, given so that we may have eternal life. Conclude in prayer together asking God to increase our faith in Jesus' presence in the Eucharist. Pray together the Act of Faith.

1 Kings 19:4-8 Psalm 34:2-3,4-5,6-7,8-9
Ephesians 4:30-5:2 John 6:41-51

Sport across our Diocese



Noah Sands from St Francis de Sales Regional College achieved a podium result in just his second round of national motorsport competition, finishing third overall in round two of the Australian Formula Ford Championship at Goulburn's Wakefield Park Raceway.



to compete in the National Championships on the Gold Coast this month.

Congratulations to Taine Moraschi from Marian Catholic College in Griffith on his selection and participation in the NAB under 19's team against Geelong. Taine is a member of the Sydney Giants Academy. He has also been selected in the NSW/ACT under 17's team



Congratulations to the SNSW Champions!
Kildare Catholic College were winners in the U15s Girls
Xavier High School took the win for the U15s Boys
It was a pleasure to see so many talented players coming through the #SNSWfootyfactory.



St Michael's Primary School, Coolamon - Runners Up
Congratulations to the Stage Three girls who played in the Wagga Schools Cup Champion division netball day. They represented St Michael's with pride and demonstrated great sportsmanship. The girls made the Grand Final and played their little hearts out. Unfortunately they went down 10-7.



A few showers didn't slow these boys down in the Riverina Country Cup Finals.
Congratulations to Kildare Catholic College who's Under 15s and Opens sides will represent the Riverina region at the Southern NSW State Semi Finals in Cootamundra on July 29.