

NAIDOC
WEEK 2021:
HEAL COUNTRY p4



NEW LIFE FOR
ST THERESE
YENDA SITE p22



SCHOOLS
IN OUR
DIOCESE p24



TOGETHER

In the Diocese of *Wagga Wagga*

wagga.catholic.org.au

FREE

JUNE 2021

Refugee Week

20 - 26 June

Read more on page 3...

Daniel & Rachel Woods
(02) 69 218 218 - All Hours
2 Station Place - Wagga Wagga

www.funeralsofwaggawagga.com.au

- ✦ Funerals arranged to suit your family needs
- ✦ Pre-paid and pre-arranged funeral consultants
- ✦ Member of National Funeral Directors Association



DANIEL WOODS
— FUNERAL CARE —

INCORPORATING HORNIBROOK & SAMUELSON, FUNERALS OF WAGGA WAGGA

Bishop's Voice

Bishop Mark Edwards OMI - Bishop of Wagga Wagga Diocese



TOGETHER
IN THE DIOCESE OF WAGGA WAGGA

is published monthly, eleven times per year, and is available free at parish churches, schools, presbyteries and religious houses throughout the Wagga Wagga Diocese.

Publisher

The Diocese of Wagga Wagga
McAlroy House
205 Tarcutta Street
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

Editor/Designer

Karene Eggleton

Printer

Newsprinters
1 McKoy St West Wodonga Vic 3690

Submissions

TOGETHER would not be possible without the voluntary labour and cooperation of many contributors from within the diocese and beyond. Submissions for publication are welcome but not always guaranteed to be printed.

Advertisers

TOGETHER acknowledges with gratitude the generous support of advertisers. Please show your support to our advertisers where possible. Please note that products and/or services advertised in this publication are not necessarily endorsed by this publication nor by the bishop of this diocese.

Copy deadline

15th of the month prior to publication

Contact Us

All news stories, advertising enquiries, correspondence and subscriptions to:
Together
PO Box 473
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

Email

together@wagga.catholic.org.au



Facebook
www.facebook.com/
/togetherwagga



Twitter
@togetherwagga

Phone 0437 738 726

Member of the
Australasian Catholic Press Assoc.

Annual Subscriptions
\$33 Australia \$44 Overseas

New Director of Catholic Education

Dear sisters and brothers,

I am very pleased to announce the appointment of Dr Andrew Watson to the position of Director of Catholic Education for the Diocese of Wagga Wagga. Andrew has taught and led within Catholic Education for the past 26 years. His current role is as Secondary Education Consultant with Catholic Education Ballarat. His role works across the diocese in secondary schools engaging them in school improvement, governance and providing advice and support to both principals and governing authorities. Prior to joining the Ballarat Leadership Team, Andrew was a Principal in two secondary schools spanning a period of 14 years.

In addition to his current role, Andrew's experience as a director of Catholic Secondary Principals Australia and his

membership of numerous school advisory councils has developed Andrew's appreciation of the demands of leading different school communities; ranging from smaller Catholic schools in rural townships to the larger schools located in regional centres. After gaining his business degree and a Graduate Diploma in Education from ACU, Andrew obtained a Master of Education. His subsequent Doctor of Education through ACU focused on theological aspects of school leadership and their charisms. The more recent completion of an Executive Master of Business Administration extended the knowledge and skills of his initial business degree.

Andrew is committed to his Catholic Faith and is a very active member of his Parish community. His doctorate provided him with the depth of knowledge and expertise to be a faith leader, although he also credits a number of Study Tours, including "In the Footsteps of St Paul" as key to his formation.

Our position attracted a very large number of experienced applicants from across Australia. The Selection Committee which advised me was comprised of senior people who understand Catholic Education and the Wagga Wagga context. We were assisted in this process by an external consultant. I take this opportunity to congratulate and welcome Dr Andrew Watson as our new Director of Catholic Education. He will take up this appointment early in 2022.

I express our gratitude to Mrs Elizabeth O'Carrigan OAM who will have been Director for almost 18 months when she hands over to Andrew. Elizabeth has treasured our schools and helped to drive Catholic Education in my time in the diocese.

Can I draw your attention to the showing of "Last Cab to Darwin" on August 1? I would love your company at this thought provoking and well-made movie.

***Yours in Jesus
Christ and
Mary Immaculate***



Dr Andrew Watson

Save the Date:

Sunday 1st August 2021; 2:30pm

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE
TO START LIVING

MICHAEL CATON JACKI WEAVER
LAST CAB TO DARWIN

Bishop Mark Edwards presents a screening of 'Last Cab to Darwin' to raise awareness and promote discussion around the issue of voluntary assisted dying. Save the date and come and see this highly acclaimed film with a powerful and compelling storyline which touches sensitively on many of the issues at play. The movie is Rated M— there is some offensive language but it is not gratuitous. There will be an opportunity for a cuppa and conversation after the movie.

Tickets go on sale in July through the Diocese.

Presented by the Catholic Diocese of Wagga Wagga
at the Forum 6 Cinemas Wagga Wagga



Prayer Intention for June - Pray with Pope Francis

The beauty of marriage

Let us pray for young people who are preparing for marriage with the support of a Christian community: may they grow in love, with generosity, faithfulness and patience.

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

<https://thepopevideo.org/>



**Pope's Worldwide
Prayer Network**

APOSTOLSHIP OF PRAYER
<https://www.popesprayer.va/>

Marriage is a tremendously beautiful Christian vocation meant to reflect that eternal and infinite faithfulness that Christ has for His Church (Ephesians 5:32). It is also a vocation, like every vocation, made up of the concrete ups and downs, joys and struggles of every-day life. In order to reach the goal of profound Christian witness in marriage, especially in today's cultural context, young people need to prepare seriously before entering this call, so that they can live its gifts and challenges faithfully.

If we think of the wisdom of the Church's practice, we notice that all those moments that introduce us into a vocation are accompanied by formation in the Church's community. The Sacrament of Baptism is either followed (for children) or preceded (for adults) by serious catechesis; the Sacrament of Holy Orders is only received after many years of training. Those entering consecrated life only pronounce their vows

after a special time of formation called "novitiate." Why should marriage be any different?

Each vocation is a special way of living friendship with Christ. In marriage this friendship shines forth in the life-long commitment between one man and one woman, open to new life in children. Marriage is lived in the community of the new family itself and in the wider community of the Church, a kind of family of families. Every married path is unique, yet they all depend on the virtue of love to grow in that generosity, faithfulness, and patience that make every-day Christian witness possible.

Especially within a cultural context that promotes messages contrary to God's plan for marriage, let us all help young people prepare to embrace faithfully the deep beauty and adventure of this Christian calling!

Fr. Andrij Hlabse, S.J.
Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network

Refugee Week 2021: Unity

Refugee Week is from Sunday 20 June to Saturday 26 June and is focused on coming together. This years them is *Unity*.

Refugee Week is Australia's peak annual activity to inform the public about refugees and celebrate positive contributions made by refugees to Australian society. The first Refugee Week events were organised in Sydney in 1986 by Austcare. In 1987, Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA) became a co-organiser of the week, which became a national event from 1988. RCOA took on responsibility for the national coordination of Refugee Week from 2004. Major-General Paul Cullen, the foundation president of both Austcare and RCOA, actively lobbied, from the 1980s, for a global annual celebration of the contribution of refugees. His dream was achieved in 2001, when the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) coordinated the first World Refugee Day (June 20).

"Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy, in other countries, asylum from persecution."

Refugee Week provides a platform where positive images of refugees can be promoted in order to create a culture of welcome throughout the country. The ultimate aim of the celebration is to create better understanding between different communities and to encourage successful integration enabling refugees to live in safety and to continue making a valuable contribution to Australia.

Over the past 20 years, Refugee Week celebrations have developed in a number of other countries. While there are minor differences in the dates for Refugee Week, all include World Refugee Day (June 20). In Australia, Refugee Week is scheduled to ensure that it does not clash with public holidays in any Australian state or territory.

The aims of Refugee Week are:

- to educate the Australian public about who refugees are and why they have come to Australia;

- to help people understand the many challenges refugees face coming to Australia;
- to celebrate the contribution refugees make to our community;
- to focus on how the community can provide a safe and welcoming environment for refugees;
- for community groups and individuals to do something positive for refugees, asylum seekers and displaced people, within Australia but also around the world; and
- for service providers to reflect on whether they are providing the best possible services to refugees.

Refugee Week is a unique opportunity for us all to experience and celebrate the rich diversity of refugee communities through theatre, music, dance, film and other events which take place all over Australia and highlight the aims of the Week, as outlined above. Refugee Week is an umbrella participatory festival which allows a wide range of refugee community organisations, voluntary and statutory organisations, local councils, schools, student groups and faith-based organisations to host events during the week.

Past events have included football tournaments, public talks, exhibitions, music and dance festivals, theatre projects and film screenings. Everyone is welcome to participate in promoting the aims of Refugee Week – the more the merrier.

Through Refugee Week, we aim to provide an important opportunity for asylum seekers and refugees to be seen, listened to and valued.

Why does Refugee Week have a theme?

- The Refugee Week theme has a number of important functions:
- It raises awareness of the issues affecting refugees. The theme aims to highlight aspects of the refugee experience and help the broader community to understand what it is like to be a refugee.
 - It helps to make Refugee Week a national celebration. The theme provides a focal point for events across Australia, uniting separate activities into a single nationwide celebration.

Refugee Week 2021

20-26 June 2021

Get involved at www.refugeeweek.org.au

Photo credit: Michele Aboud

Refugee Week

Coordinated by

Refugee Council of Australia

Event Partners

SBS FOOD

The Wheeler Centre Books Writing Ideas

SSI settlement services international

Major Partners

CITY OF MELBOURNE

SUPPORTED BY CITY OF SYDNEY

NSW Multicultural NSW

Australian Red Cross

Partners

Baker McKenzie

OSSTT

MULTICULTURAL AUSTRALIA

COMMUNICARE

Head to Health

NSW TEACHERS FEDERATION

Supporters

St Vincent & Paul Society

VICTORIA

- It promotes harmony and togetherness. The theme unites individuals, communities and organisations from many different backgrounds behind a common cause. The common theme is a reminder that, regardless of our differences, we all share a common humanity.
- It broadens the impact of Refugee Week. The theme provides a common, cohesive message which can be promoted across the country, helping to maximise the effectiveness of awareness-raising activities.

2021 Theme – Unity
Unity – The way forward.

The volatility of life in recent times has shown us unequivocally that we need to work together often merely to survive, let alone to thrive and progress. Let's take the opportunity to start afresh and rebuild our lives together. To count our blessings and to put them to work. Existing and emerging communities. Working together.

The powerful potential of Unity. The special brew of ideas from all over the world that created our great way of life can continue evolving if we work together. Let's not stop now, let's move

forward unified.

In 2021, we are calling on you to help build a more cohesive community during Refugee Week. Whether hosting a local meal, a community event or attending an online event to hear from people all over the world, join us as we call for the spirit of unity as we recover from the isolation we have all endured in 2020.

Stronger.
Safer.
Healthier.
Happier.
Together.

NAIDOC Week 2021: Heal Country

NAIDOC Week is 4-11 July and calls for all of us to continue to seek greater protections for our lands, our waters, our sacred sites and our cultural heritage from exploitation, desecration, and destruction.

Country that is more than a place and inherent to our identity.

Country that we speak about like a person, sustaining our lives in every aspect - spiritually, physically, emotionally, socially, and culturally. NAIDOC 2021 invites the nation to embrace First Nations’ cultural knowledge and understanding of Country as part of Australia's national heritage and equally respect the culture and values of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders as they do the cultures and values of all Australians.

For generations we have been calling for stronger measures to recognise, protect, and maintain all aspects of our culture and heritage.

We are still waiting for those robust protections.

This year’s theme also seeks substantive institutional, structural, and collaborative reform – something generations of our Elders and communities have been advocating, marching and fighting for.

Healing Country means finally resolving many of the outstanding injustices which impact on the lives of our people.

It is about hearing and actioning the aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples which are the culmination of generations of consultation and discussions among our nations on a range of issues and grievances.

After 250 years, our children and our future generations deserve better.

We cannot afford to let pass the very real opportunity that now presents itself for reform based on a fundamental change in the relationship Australia has with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Heal Country, heal our nation

Country is inherent to our identity. It sustains our lives in every aspect - spiritually, physically, emotionally, socially, and culturally.

It is more than a place. When we talk about Country it is spoken of like a person.

Country is family, kin, law, lore,

ceremony, traditions, and language. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples it has been this way since the dawn of time.

Through our languages and songs, we speak to Country; through our ceremonies and traditions we sing to - and celebrate Country – and Country speak to us.

Increasingly, we worry about Country.

For generations Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have been calling for stronger measures to recognise, protect, and maintain all aspects of our culture and heritage for all Australians.

We have continued to seek greater protections for our lands, our waters, our sacred sites and our cultural heritage from exploitation, desecration, and destruction.

We are still waiting for those robust protections.

Healing Country means hearing those pleas to provide greater management, involvement, and empowerment by Indigenous peoples over country.

Healing Country means embracing First Nation’s cultural knowledge and understanding of Country as part of Australia's national heritage. That the culture and values of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders are respected equally to and the cultures and values of all Australians.

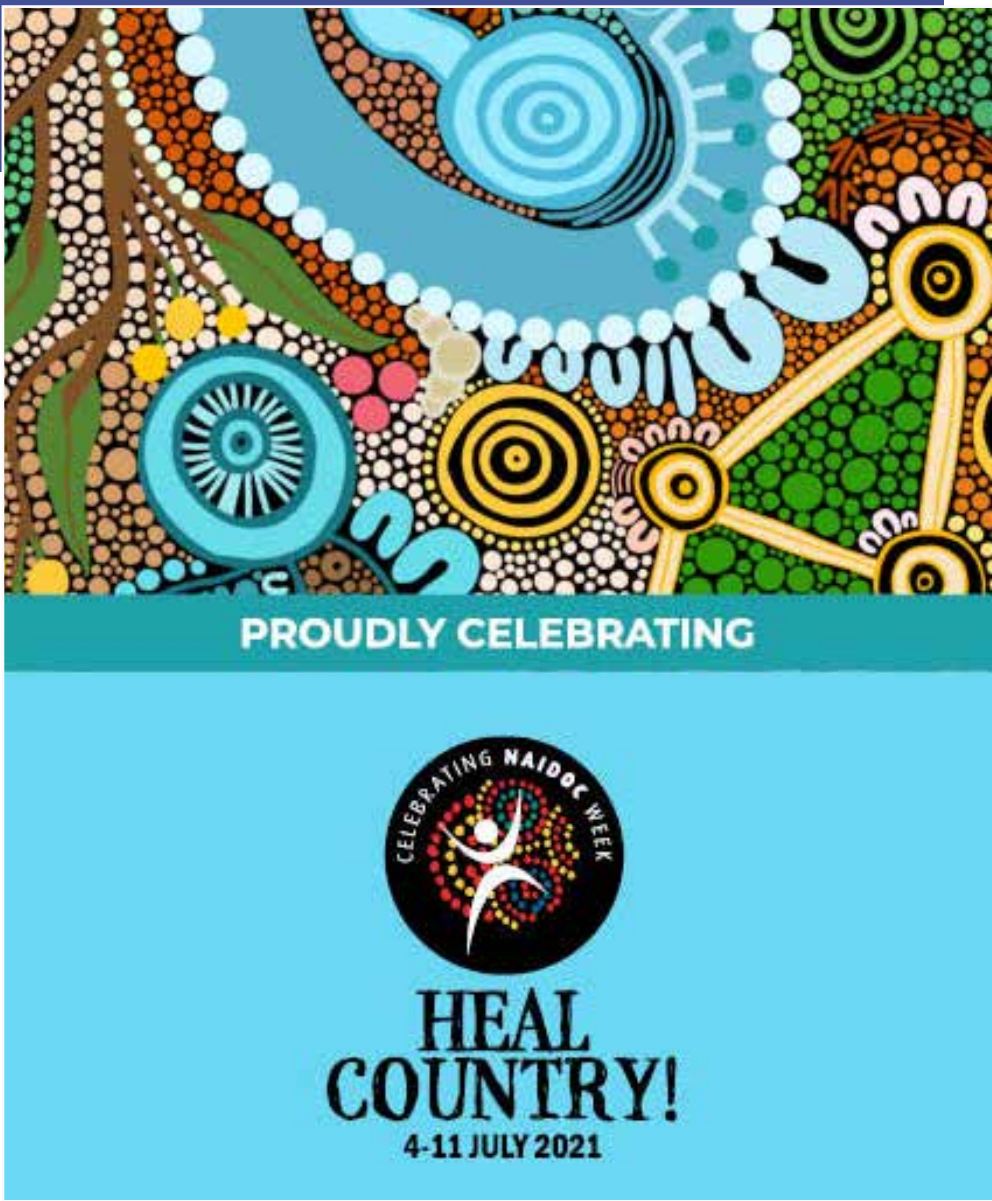
The right to protect Country and culture is fundamental.

Destruction and desecration of our sacred lands or ancient sites - some of the oldest human occupation sites on the planet – is an enormous loss for both our nation and the world.

But to truly heal Country we have more to do.

Our lands will continue to burn from bushfires, droughts will continue to destroy our livelihoods, without using traditional practices that have protected this country for centuries.

For generations, our Elders and communities have advocated, marched and fought for substantive



institutional, structural and collaborative reform.

The aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are the culmination of generations of consultation and discussions among our nations on a range of issues and grievances.

Healing Country means finally resolving many of the outstanding injustices which impact on the lives of our people.

It must be a fair and equitable resolution.

Fundamental grievances will not vanish. In the European settlement of Australia, there were no treaties, no formal settlements, no compacts. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people therefore did not cede sovereignty to our land. It was taken from us. That will remain a continuing source of dispute.

To Heal Country, we must properly work towards redressing historical injustice.

While we can’t change history, through telling the truth about our nation’s past we certainly can change the way history is viewed.

After 250 years, our children and our future generations deserve better.

For generations we have repeatedly called for just recognition of our right to participate on an equal basis in economic and social terms.

Yet such participation cannot be successful unless, first, there is formal recognition that Indigenous people have been dispossessed and, second, definite, specific steps are taken to redress the grave social and economic disadvantage that followed that dispossession.

Healing Country is more than changing a word in our national anthem – it is about the historical, political, and administrative landscapes adapting to successfully empower and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, nations, and heritage.

We are all looking for significant and lasting change.

We cannot afford to let pass the very real opportunity that now presents itself for reform based on a fundamental change in the relationship Australia has with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

NAIDOC Week 2021 will be held from Sunday 4 July to Sunday 11 July.

Each year NAIDOC week grows in stature and depth of celebrations at community, state and national level.

Is an opportunity for all Australians to come together to celebrate the rich history, diverse cultures and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the oldest continuing cultures on the planet.

Year of Saint Joseph

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

REFLECTION - JUNE 2021

Joseph as "Protector" Mt 2:13-18 Refugee Week 20-26th June 2021

"Within days, or even hours, violent oppressors will occupy your town centre." For refugees around the world, this scenario typifies an immediate threat. With no time to respond, they abandon livelihood, community and homeland to escape civil war, political unrest, religious persecution, effects of climate change and exploitation or systematic abuse of basic human rights. Their desperate attempts to find refuge are often not final solutions but new beginnings. A long journey into the unknown is marked by fear, danger and daunting obstacles.

Mid-2020 data from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees estimated that worldwide numbers of forcibly displaced people surpassed 80 million. According to their statistics, 26.3 million were refugees, an additional 4.2 million were recorded as asylum-seekers and tens of millions of others classified as internally displaced or stateless.

From Matthew's Gospel narrative of Jesus' birth and the roles of Joseph and Mary, we learn of the many challenges faced by this young family. Joseph followed the example of his ancient Biblical Fathers of Faith — Abraham, Isaac and Jacob — under the guidance of the angel's visionary message: "Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you'" (Mt 2: 13).

Joseph's protective response to Herod's imminent threat to the life of his newborn son Jesus, mirrored that of many parents among today's displaced people. At short notice, Joseph got up to protect his young family from danger,

"For Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him," and in the dark of the night, "took the child and his mother" (Mt 2: 14). He embarked on an escape into the unknown; a journey involving fear, danger and an uncertain future. At the same time, it was a venture filled with deep hope and trust in God's providence that it would lead to safety and a better place for Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

For the family, settling in a new place was just the beginning. Soon he would discover that being separated from home and immediate family meant that the fundamental means of social support was no longer available. Joseph and Mary would also have had a sense of being lowly strangers stranded in a new place under an unknown local language and unfamiliar cultures and customs. As a family still dealing with the trauma of flight and estrangement, those challenges would have impacted heavily on Joseph, Mary and Jesus. Similar conditions and circumstances continue to confront the 80 million refugees and displaced people today.

Joseph demonstrated his commitment to safeguard his family and face the new reality foretold in his dream as he followed God's call to go to Egypt, "and remained there until the death of Herod" (Mt 2:15). Like so many displaced parents who care for their families in our contemporary world, Joseph protected and supported Mary and Jesus. Joseph's example is an inspiration for us to generously embrace the encounter with our displaced brothers and sisters who are likewise seeking refuge and security for their families. The Gospel account encourages us to compassionately listen to their stories of suffering, isolation and hopelessness.

Pope Francis, in this year's message for World Day of Migrant and Refugees *Towards an Ever Wider "We"* said "The

truth however is that we are all in the same boat and called to work together so that there will be no more walls that separate us, no longer others, but only a single 'we', encompassing all of humanity." He emphasises the importance of welcoming refugees and migrants and offering them protection. A generous, hospitable spirit reflects the universality of our Church and contributes to her enrichment and growth. "In encountering the diversity of foreigners, migrants and refugees, and in the intercultural dialogue that can emerge from this encounter, we have an opportunity to grow as Church and to enrich one another."

On a personal level, I have been privileged to meet and listen to the stories of many brave and courageous parents, children and young people who have ventured with hope. They, like Joseph and many of our own forebears, took a dangerous journey, and faced enormous pressure and trauma. Many challenges and struggles were endured in order to provide a safe and secure future for their children. Listening to the recently arrived and longer-term migrants and refugees can help us to appreciate Joseph and Mary's own experience and — in the spirit of Refugee Week and September's 107th World Day of Migrants and Refugees — increase our understanding of Pope Francis' call to respond to the needs of our new neighbours so that together "we" can continue to create an ever greater "us".

Fr Khalid Marogi
is the Director of the Australian
Catholic Migrant & Refugee Office

1: Francis, "TOWARDS AN EVER WIDER "WE", Message for the 107th World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2021" (2021). https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/migration/documents/papa-francesco_20210503_worldmigrants-day-2021.html



YEAR of SAINT JOSEPH

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

DECEMBER 8, 2020 - DECEMBER 8, 2021

Nick Cave writes on the journey of grief

Nick Cave is a deeply spiritual Australian singer, songwriter, actor, novelist, and screenwriter who is best known for his haunting ballads about life, love, betrayal, and death.

Tragically, in 2015, Nick's 15 year old son, Arthur, died when he fell from a cliff in Brighton.

Arthur's death had a profound impact on Nick and his wife Susie who felt paralysed by grief and that their entire world had collapsed.

Nick has been quite open about feeling his son's presence and his journey of grief in many open letters.

"Grief is the price for love, and the two are forever intertwined".

"It seems to me, that if we love, we grieve. That's the deal. That's the pact," he said.

"Grief is the terrible reminder of the depths of our love and, like love, grief is non-negotiable."

Nick has a blog, *The Red Hand Files*, where he publishes some of his answers to questions that fans ask on a range of topics. The following is a question on grief that we thought timely to share.

I'm writing to you on behalf of my Aunt Marnie as she can't. She's consumed by grief. She lost her only child, Tristan, to a stroke, aged 49.

We're all consumed by sadness and mourn for the loss of her son, however hers is another thing altogether. She can't bring herself to see anyone. I can't reach her. Her

laugh that brought smiles to all of us is gone. What can I do? What can I say? We all love her but feel so powerless. How can we start to bring our Aunt Marnie back?

Ian - Sydney, Australia

"Grief is the terrible reminder of the depths of our love and, like love, grief is non-negotiable."

Nick Cave

Dear Ian,

In my experience, there is a special place reserved for mothers who have lost their sons. Theirs is a singular and complex order of torture, unlike any other grief, and the fundamental need to lock oneself away from the world is natural, perhaps necessary. It is a form of self-imposed entombment, adjacent to eternity, where they can better be with the one they have lost. Aunt Marnie is spending time with the retreating image of her departed son and perhaps there is no room for you at this moment. Perhaps now is not the time she needs you, but you can be sure, in time, she will.

I am reminded, yet again, of Mary



Nick Cave at his piano. Photo by Kerry Brown.

Magdalene's vigil at the mouth of Jesus' tomb. After Jesus had been laid to rest, the stone had been rolled across the entrance of the cave, and the twelve apostles had fled, Mary Magdalene remained 'standing there in front of the tomb.' This silent, helpless vigil is, for me, the single most moving moment of the New Testament. This is where you stand now, Ian, having lost not only your cousin, but your beloved Aunt Marnie too.

Eventually, your aunt will come back to you. It may be soon, or it may take some time. This feat will be achieved through astonishing courage and will most likely be tentative and gradual. She will look around to see who is there. Some may have

drifted away, the reach of their compassion unable to match the magnitude of your aunt's despair, but let me just say this — those who persisted, she will never forget, for to remain steadfast on the borders of another's grief may be the greatest, most holy act of love one can perform. Be patient with Aunt Marnie.

I read your question to Susie this morning. She sits in a stream of sunlight that pours through the window of our kitchen, her psychotic little dog, Nosferatu, on her lap.

"All in good time," she asked me to tell you.

Love, Nick

Red Hand Files can be found online at: www.theredhandfiles.com

Esencia Cafe will be closed in June

Dear Life Centre and Esencia Supporters,

Esencia cafe will be closing on the 13th June. Although we will not be able to provide this service any longer to the general public, we will still be available for group bookings in the future.

In the short term, we will be updating and rebranding the Women's Life Centre to Esencia Life Centre. Since we have moved the counselling and cafe into one space, we believe that it is now a great opportunity to unify the mission of Esencia and the Women's Life Centre. Esencia means, 'the essence or substance of' and this fits beautifully with 'Life'. We are bringing the 'heart, the crux, the soul'

to people through the hope, help healing mission of the Life centre.

The core mission of supporting women in crisis pregnancy will not change. However, addressing this mission, requires the broader vision of both prevention and healing from abortion. In the future we hope to run the following healing groups; Heart to Heart (post-abortion grief), Sexual Wholeness (sexual integrity training) and Unravelling Roots (addressing roots of damaging behaviours).

We know that many women, men and families are in crisis and are hurting and we are stepping out in courage to become more available and valuable

to our community. To do this we are going to increase our promotion and advertising, invest in further training for our volunteers, open up more support groups and create stronger connections with our community of supporters.

We cannot do this alone. So many of you have been very generous over the years, and we ask you to continue to do so, or invite friends to join our support base. We intend to continue to offer our services for free to those in need. Would you consider subsidising a client to participate in one of our healing programs? A donation of \$350 would support a client through one of these courses.

We will continue to offer our regular

services of; individual/couple crisis pregnancy counselling, pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, material and emotional support for mums.

Please go to our website to help Esencia flourish: www.womenslifecentrealbury.org.au/donate

Or support us by purchasing one of our gorgeous Mumma and Bubba baby boxes at: www.womenslifecentrealbury.org.au/shop

If you would like to speak to me further about our vision then please feel free to email or call me on 0427254809.

**God bless,
Peta Evans - Co ordinator**

Sculptures at ErinEarth

The Sculptures at ErinEarth event was held over two nights and two days during which over four hundred visitors took in the delights of art works both small and large set in a natural environment.

BY CLARE REEVES

The night events gave visitors a magical experience of moonlight filtering through branches and shadows thrown across the art works. Sipping a glass of wine and enjoying the live music of strings musicians, visitors could walk the paths of ErinEarth on the cooler nights while soaking in the sound of the night wildlife. On the Saturday and Sunday events, the gates opened to a busy, lively garden with the sounds of old friends re-united, new friendships formed, copious amounts of laughter and of course, the scent of that good old Australian barbeque wafting across the crowd. With a simple map in hand, a visitor could explore the garden

at their leisure, not quite sure of what they might find around the next corner. Would it be the large steel iron pears or lotus flowers? Perhaps the subtle spirit nets that hang from the branches above? Maybe you would stumble across the golden-brown kangaroos that stood tall in the gardens and blended in with the natural flora around them. Safe to say, the weekend was a grand success both as a fundraiser for ErinEarth and as an opportunity to bring art and garden lovers together. Did you miss this year’s Sculptures at ErinEarth? Never fear! It will return in 2023 and our gate is always open to newcomers on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 9am-3pm.



Sunflowers. Photo by Michael Osborne.



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.



The hut at night. Photo by Michael Osborne.



Pears by moonlight. Photo by Michael Osborne.

Palliative care - lost in the Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) debate

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.

In this talk I will look at {in Part 1 - June edition} the nature of Palliative Care, the myths surrounding it and the common ways it is viewed in the debate, and {in Part 2 - July edition} critically examine the principal pillars in support of the argument proposing a VAD law.

It might be good to start by defining the discipline. If I were a surgeon or cardiologist you would have a good sense of my role. For Palliative Care is often unknown until experienced.

The official WHO definition of Palliative Care is :

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

It ...intends neither to hasten nor postpone death.

To me, the best unofficial definition of Palliative Care was written not by a health professional and not even by someone who experienced Palliative Care but someone who did not. The writer is the Australian poet Bruce Dawe. The poem is:

White-Water Rafting



Photo from shutterstock.com

and Palliative Care 2

If I had understood (when down the river you and I went swirling in that boat) that there were those who knew the ways of water and how to use the oars to keep afloat.

I might have been less deafened by the worry, less stunned by thoughts of what lay up ahead (the rocks, the darkness threatening to capsize daily), if I had only realised instead that help was all around me for the asking.

I never asked, and therefore never knew that such additional comfort could have helped me in turn to be more help in comforting you. I'd have found it easier then to simply hold you Instead of bobbing to and fro so much, for it was you who seemed to be more tranquil and I whom death was reaching out to touch. If only I had had sufficient knowledge in that white-water rafting I'd have learned that there were those around us (with life jackets) to whom I might have, in that turmoil, turned.

Instead, because I had not thought of rivers, or rocks, or rapids, and gave way to fears that seeking help might make a man less manly and liable to betray himself with tears, I was less useful then, as twilight deepened, than I might well have been, had I but known: however wild the waves that roll around us no one needs to live (or die) alone...

Myths about Palliative Care

There are several myths about Palliative Care :

1. *That it only applies to the dying.* No. Palliative Care is more than terminal care. We can be involved in caring for a patient early on in a life-limiting illness. A landmark study in recent years showed that the palliative care involvement in advanced non-small cell lung cancer, well before the dying phase resulted in patients living longer. Another example

is Motor Neurone Disease (MND). At our hospital we operate a MND service and see people early on, knowing that it is an incurable illness and knowing that crises will unfold and anticipating, planning for and managing those crises in a timely fashion.

2. *Palliative Care is only involved in patient with cancer.*

It is true that the discipline rose up in response to the inadequate treatment of very ill patients, especially cancer patients but has, over decades, been applied to such diseases as end stage kidney, heart or lung disease and neurological diseases such as MND.

3. *That Palliative Care focuses purely on physical symptoms such as pain, nausea or fatigue.*

No, the brief is broad - as broad as the human experience; the physical, social, emotional and spiritual dimensions of illness.

How has Palliative Care been presented in the VAD debate ?

A common feature of the parliamentary debates in Australia, including here in NSW, has been the telling of the stories of the suffering of individuals, often relatives of the speaker or constituents. Implicitly, listening to those accounts, a choice is set up for the listener, a binary:

Either there is suffering in the period leading to the death of the person, on the one hand or the promise of VAD to end suffering on the other.

This choice usually ignores altogether or glosses over a third way - the discipline of Palliative Care. It already exists in this space. A discipline whose entire reason for being is a conscientious attempt to address the suffering of the individual with a life-limiting illness. This choice may also be oblivious to the enormous advances made over the decades in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

actively dealing with the constituent parts of suffering of human beings in illness - physical, yes, but also the emotional and the spiritual.

However, in this debate, Palliative Care is not mentioned, set aside or found wanting in several ways:

- 1. Palliative Care is not able to take away all suffering.
- 2. Palliative Care is doing VAD quietly anyway.
- 3. The opposition to VAD by Palliative Care health professionals is solely driven by religious motivations.
- 4. If Palliative Care is dedicated to promoting the dignity of the human person why does it not embrace VAD ?

Let us briefly look at each of these points:

Palliative Care is powerless to take away all suffering

Into the debate these words have crept in and set up home. It is often used to hurriedly by - pass by a discipline to move onto the merits of VAD. In a parliamentary debate it would be good to slow this process down to a halt and say “Yes Palliative Care cannot do everything but what can it do? For us to dispatch an entire discipline in a single sentence does both that discipline and the debate itself a profound disservice. And this debate is too critical to not examine everything with the highest degree of attention.”

One of the myths in this debate is that palliative care is powerless to assist patients who are intractably burdened by symptoms or anguish. Although all disciplines have their limitations, Palliative Care possesses several critical strengths. Firstly, a forensic interest in symptoms and a tireless, creative pursuit of treatment that may work in any individual patient. Secondly, a belief in and application of the principle of non-abandonment. At precisely the moment medicine may say “I’m sorry there is nothing more I can do’ palliative care engages intensely with the person who is suffering and aims to support them throughout their illness until their death. Loss, despair, loneliness, feeling one is a burden. The profound and complex communication skills of a clinician in the face of this suffering broadens medicine from the purely technical to the deeply personal.

And this is where medicine and law intersect. In the Australian VAD Acts one of the criteria of eligibility is that “the person has been experiencing severe pain, suffering or physical incapacity to an extent unacceptable to the person.” In reality, this is often the point where Palliative Care enters the scene now. And it does so to bring a powerful and meticulous approach to these issues and their management, attentive to, and understanding of, the rhythms of both the disease and the human heart. Instead, under the VAD Acts, the eligible person embarks on an altogether different

journey. Process dominates; seeing a Palliative Care physician is optional. The patient decides on the point when things are “unacceptable” but that decision may never have been informed by the actual experience of receiving Palliative Care. The bill places into the patient's hands the ability to commence a process that may lead them to a premature death where that patient has not engaged with medical experts who could deal with, assuage or comfort the reasons they sought this process in the first place.

Palliative Care is doing VAD quietly anyway

No. Here we need to be careful about what we are discussing. Allow me to tell a story. Several years ago I was asked to attend a public meeting on the North Coast of NSW organised by a local pro-euthanasia group. The room was packed to overflowing, many retirees. The organisers anticipated a robust debate on euthanasia and physician assisted suicide. Instead, the single dominant theme was not about euthanasia but a need for basic reassurance. That, with a serious life-limiting illness, their life would not be prolonged unreasonably. That doctors would listen to them. That they would be allowed to die in peace. What happens now if I were to become seriously ill ? Can I refuse treatment ? If I am ready can I take myself off machines ? What is the role of an advance care plan ? Is stopping treatment euthanasia ?

In the VAD debate, one of the difficulties in the lay mind is the conflation of VAD, requiring a legal change with withholding or withdrawing treatment that does not. Withholding or withdrawing treatment is perfectly legal and ethical now. Worried that they will be the subject of endless medical interventions and that their voices will not be heard people can leap to VAD as the solution.

When, in fact, the solution lies in plain sight - that it is entirely fine now without a change in law, to make an advance care plan, to decline treatment, to express your wishes and for doctors to withhold and withdraw treatment and allow the natural process of dying to unfold.

On the day of the meeting, people wanted reassurance that what they wanted - some control over their medical treatment did not require a change in the law. It was already present and protected.

Is this entire debate, perhaps, about personal control? I want to be listened to. If that is a point of departure, then that is where the debate should start - the education of the public about their current health rights and a concentration by doctors on a careful consideration on the limits of medicine and excellence of communication.

Let me speak about the education of doctors. Many senior doctors have had no or little exposure to palliative care in their training. In the modern era the level of exposure varies considerably across medical schools. As Kelly wrote: "To what extent is the issue of assisted

suicide or euthanasia symptomatic of the failure to equip doctors with better skills in the care of the dying...? The reactions of doctors tell us less about the appropriateness of euthanasia...than they do about how troubled and problematic the medical responses to a dying patient can be - a "symptom" of the problem modern medicine has with dying rather than the solution.” 4

A further argument lies here. Surely, the argument goes, Palliative Care is already doing VAD so is it not best to regulate it? The answer is no, Palliative Care is not doing VAD by stealth. A basic principle in Palliative care is to give medicines in proportion to the symptom. Studies by Sykes and others clearly

show that if the use of morphine and sedative medications is proportionate to the level of pain or agitation then these medications do not hasten death. 5 6 Prescribing contrary to that doctrine of proportionality does not fall within the standard of care of Palliative Care. So to say that the proportionate use of these medicines - standard Palliative Care practice - is VAD by another name, is false.

The opposition to VAD by Palliative Care health professionals is solely driven by religious motivations

No. it is altogether too easy to dismiss the opposition to VAD as purely based on religious faith. My colleagues who oppose VAD have many faiths and no faith.

What unites them is a professional opposition. The society that represents Palliative Medicine doctors opposes VAD. So too does the society representing Geriatricians. It is interesting that the two societies most associated with the dying and death of patients - Palliative Care and Geriatrics - oppose a legal change. Why is this ? The answer is complex but surely comes from the total immersion in this area, sitting at the bedside of patients, singularly focused on the comfort and dignity of the person, supportive of families, humbled by what we witness and hear, knowing what can be done and quickly doing it, counselling patients who feel they are a burden to their families, thinking long and hard about our strengths and limitations and constantly trying to do better. And, repeatedly,

witnessing, in the midst of this period of deterioration leading to death, other things that may occur for people that are unexpected, revelatory and remarkable. Reconciliation with estranged family members, collective remembering of a life together, passing on of wisdom.

And so if the question is asked : if palliative care is focused on the dignity of the human person why wouldn't it embrace VAD, there is an implication in that question that dignity can only or principally addressed through VAD when, in fact, an answer lies in the way dignity and its perceived loss is dealt with currently by Palliative Care. It is a central concern. With great sensitivity it is explored and talked through. It should never be ignored. Indeed, one of the many innovations of the modern era is Dignity Therapy. A leading Canadian psychiatrist interested in end of life care asked people who were feeling they wanted their lives to end, why. One of their key answers was "I have lost my dignity". He then developed a simple therapy to try to restore dignity. The therapy was an ancient as we are as human beings. Trained interviewers sat with the person to record a testimony of their lives. That was transcribed, bound and copies given to the patient and family. They were then asked : “Now how do you feel ?” Two thirds reported an increased sense of meaning and purpose.'

But there is another professional concern. A VAD law changes society. Equally, a VAD law changes medicine, how doctors are seen and see themselves. And, in the specialty of Palliative Medicine there is an irreconcilable impasse. The WHO definition of Palliative Care excluded hastening death. VAD does not fit that definition. And yet, patients with life limiting illnesses with shortened prognoses are precisely the same patients that fall within the legal definition of those eligible for VAD. So, while the patient falls within the definition of Palliative Care, the action of VAD does not. To those who argue that VAD should form part of Palliative Care, this delineation is not recognised, ignored or a source of irritation or conjecture as to why not.

Part 2 will be included in the July edition of Together.



Bishops name three priorities for work of Bishops Conference

Australia's Catholic bishops have used a weeks-long process of prayer and discernment to identify three priorities to guide the work of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference.

The recommendation to identify priorities for the Bishops Conference arose from a structured review of Conference operations and financing undertaken in 2019.

Earlier this year, the bishops were guided through a process of shared discernment, punctuated with prayer and conversation, by Br Ian Cribb SJ. Br Ian had earlier led the retreat the bishops made together immediately before their 2019 Ad Limina Apostolorum visit.

Following the three sessions, which involved the identification and ranking of possible priorities, the bishops approved the three priorities at their recent plenary meeting.

They are: Formation; Becoming More Missionary; and Fostering Collegiality.

"It is important to note that these are priorities for the Bishops Conference to pursue, which includes the various bishops commissions, the work of the general secretariat and the biannual plenary meetings," Bishops Conference president Archbishop Mark Coleridge said.

"These were not developed to be priorities for the Catholic Church in Australia, though many dioceses, parishes and other ministries are no doubt focusing on one or more of these priorities."

The Conference's ongoing priorities are also reflected in the work of its nine bishops commissions and two episcopal panels, which will take on new focus in light of the new priorities named.

Archbishop Coleridge said the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia will have an important role in shaping priorities for the

Church nationally.

"We've already seen during the three years of the Council journey so far how key topics and concerns are being identified, and the Council assemblies will help refine those further," he said.

"These priorities we have developed specifically for the Bishops Conference will help the work we undertake as a college of bishops, to make important decisions and to tread a path that pursues formation, collegiality and a missionary disposition."

Br Ian said he was impressed with the way the bishops engaged with the process of discernment – individually, in small groups and as a collective.

"Bishops are very busy men. It was encouraging to see them take the time during the three sessions and in between sessions to reflect and pray about their shared ministry as members of a Bishops Conference, not just leaders of their dioceses," he said.

"Following on from their 2019 retreat and in preparing for the Plenary Council, the bishops are finding opportunities to practise the skills of discernment that will be valuable for their ministry."

Priorities for the work of the Bishops Conference

Formation

The importance of formation, understood in this context as including education and training, has been emphasised by recent inquiries, research and submissions. Formation is for all the baptised and is life-long. It forms faith, shapes discipleship, deepens spirituality, enhances understanding, increases knowledge,

effects conversion, builds Church community, fosters co-responsibility for the Church's mission and equips Catholics for service.

Formation needs to be specifically tailored for particular vocations and ministries within the Church community. Formation may include initiatives, courses and programs offered by Catholic institutions and organisations, as well as secular institutions and organisations. Within the Conference, the induction of new bishops and ongoing formation of all the bishops have received renewed emphasis.

Becoming more Missionary

In Evangelii Gaudium, Pope Francis dreams of a "missionary impulse capable for transforming everything", enabling the mission of the Church, and especially its Gospel mandate to evangelise, to permeate its faith communities, its apostolic works and its structures. Too readily, the Church can become inward-looking and self-referential, whereas a missionary impulse impels the bishops to present and promote Christ's teachings in ways that are life-giving and appealing.

While certainly about renewing and building up the Church, this missionary impulse is also about offering society a new vision of what it can become – a vision centred in Jesus and the way of living he has shown us: acting humbly, seeking justice, speaking truth, offering healing and leading by service. The Conference embraces this missionary impulse and invites others to share in the work of

proclaiming and promoting Christ's vision in contemporary Australian society.

Fostering Collegiality

All Catholic bishops belong to the College of Bishops. Within a country or a territory, the College of Bishops finds local expression in the Bishops Conference. Though much of the ministry of bishops is exercised in the dioceses, they also share national responsibilities.

The Australian bishops' experience of the fruits of gathering for prayer and retreat, of engaging in shared reflection and discernment of significant issues, of journeying together towards the forthcoming Plenary Council and of supporting each other have heightened their sense of collegiality and affirmed its value, both for the bishops themselves and also for the Church in Australia. The Conference wishes to foster the collegiality of the bishops, not as an end in itself but as a means to more fruitful ministry and service in the Church's life and mission.

These priorities were approved at the May 2021 plenary meeting of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference.



Advanced

AUTOMOTIVE ELECTRICS

1866701w

For all your Auto Electrical Repairs

- Exchange Service
- Breakdown Service
- Air Conditioning
- Repairs & Servicing

Jamie Morley

6925 4242

Unit 5, 73 Dobney Ave, Wagga Wagga
Mobile: 0428 254 211

Albury Accounting Pty Ltd

- All Tax Returns
- GST & Taxation Advice
- Financial Statements
- Superannuation

www.alburyaccounting.com.au

596 Hume St, Albury

Phone Suryan Chandrasegaran on 02 6041 2010

Amcal+

Expert advice for every Australian.

- Prescriptions
- Sleep Apnoea Services
- Webster-pack Medication Management
- Be Good to Yourself Weight Management
- Health & Medication checks
- Flu Vaccination Service
- Diabetes Australia Agent (NDSS)
- Fine Fragrances

PAT ZIRILLI AMCAL CHEMIST

398 - 400 Banna Ave, Griffith

Ph: (02) 6962 3596 Fax: (02) 6962 4931

Ken & Mary Morley Pty Ltd, Trading as

Ken Morley

SMASH REPAIRS

Auto Measuring Systems

Baked Enamel

Courtesy Car Available

We are recommended repairer for:

24 hour towing

69 215 251

0431 290 725

19 Houtman St, Wagga Wagga

Lic No: MVRL47719

Dying and the question of dignity

As a palliative care nurse, I have been privileged to be with many people at the time of their death. People of different ages, nationalities, professions and family histories, in homes, hospitals and aged care facilities.

BY ANNMARIE HOSIE



Getty Images

Dying is hard work, perhaps the hardest we will do; although living through the death of a person we love might be the toughest task of all.

And yet on the faces of people close to death and those around them, I have seen not just fear, sorrow and pain, but smiles, winks, joy and flashes of pure love, too. This writing is to share just a few of the many profound moments I have witnessed in my work, which I believe speak to our human dignity in a way that euthanasia and assisted suicide never could.

One night, I was called to see a man at his home. He lived with his family, was in his fifties and had advanced cancer. His wife asked me to come because his breathing and consciousness had changed, and she was anxious for him. He lay on the bed, she and their three young adult children close by. Sitting on the side of the bed, I carefully looked over him. His breathing was irregular; his eyes were closed. He was no longer speaking, but somehow, his face and body communicated deep peace.

I looked up to his wife and children and spoke about his death being near and how peaceful he looked. That there was no need to do anything except to stay with him and that he could hear them speaking, even if he couldn't answer. His children were very quiet and I don't exactly recall what his wife said to me in return, but I do remember profound relief and thankfulness flashing across her face. The man died at home early in the next day. Later, she conveyed back to me how those few words about his peace had sustained them during their last night together, and in the hard days following.

Others stay with me — an unconscious woman, whose face suddenly and unexpectedly radiated bliss as we gently turned her in the hospital bed the day before she died. Two young parents, gathered with other family around a small boy as he lay dying on bed in a

room of their house one long summer afternoon and evening, sharing a small family joke that brought laughter and lightness to the almost overwhelming heartbreak and sorrow we had all felt in the hours before. When that lightness came into the room, the little boy quietly breathed his last breath and died, as though he had been waiting for just that moment.

Peace, laughter and lightness during dying might seem unlikely, but such experiences are common, not rare. Seeing and sharing in these sudden, strengthening consolations (and receiving them in my own griefs) have taught me about our awesome potential to transcend suffering, and confirmed why we don't need euthanasia or assisted suicide.

'A peaceful death is a good thing for us to hope for and work towards. But, as a nurse, there are reasons to believe that giving lethal doses of medication does not make dying peaceful or gentle.'

A second reason why even the thought of euthanasia or assisted suicide repels me is the indignity of such acts, for all involved. The general misunderstanding in the debate seems to lie around the myth that these acts bring about a peaceful and pain-free end, as though it were 'just like going to sleep'. A peaceful death is a good thing for us to hope for and work towards. But, as a nurse, there are reasons to believe that giving lethal doses of medication does not make dying peaceful or gentle.

During palliative care some patients require certain medications to manage symptoms such as pain, breathlessness and anxiety. The same (and other) medications form the 'cocktail' used to perform euthanasia/assisted suicide (the combinations of which vary in different parts of the world). Even a little too much of the medications for symptom relief can cause distressing side-effects such as dizziness, nausea, vomiting, irritability, hallucinations and delirium. Giving these medications in

the extreme doses that are required to bring about death is therefore bound to cause these side effects intensely. Being sedated or paralysed during euthanasia does not guarantee every person will be unaware of the side effects, just rendered powerless to communicate the experience.

Other technical problems and complications reported in euthanasia (as well as capital punishment deaths) include cardiac arrhythmias, difficulty accessing a vein, painful injections, gasping, jerking, seizures, regurgitating ingested medications, and a longer (or shorter) than anticipated duration of dying, all of which are likely to cause distress to the person dying, the family, and the health professionals performing and assisting in the act. Health professionals involved in administering lethal injections in countries where it is sanctioned by law have described it as 'unnatural' and 'a harsh and harrowing

way to end life'.

There are many other wider negative ramifications of legalising intentional killing by health professionals, as other authors have comprehensively outlined. Here, I go simply to one core aspect of the matter: euthanasia or assisted suicide cannot be the peaceful, merciful or dignified death many believe it to be, because deliberately causing death requires inflicting extreme physical harm. Following this logic, do we really want a law in South Australia — or anywhere — that allows health professionals to take the lives of terminally ill people in such an undignified, violent way?

Dr Annmarie Hosie, PhD, RN, MACN is Associate Professor, Palliative Care Nursing, The University of Notre Dame Australia and St Vincent's Health Network Sydney. Her research is focused on improving the care, function and quality of life of older people with advanced illness.

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

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’ve been a member of the Junior Legion since I can remember and I love the community, the prayers and the life experience it brings, not to mention the food afterwards while catching up with friends! My main work is singing for the St Michael’s Cathedral Cecilian choir, packing up after Mass and occasional child-minding and visits. It also adds something interesting to my Resume!

Centenary Update

We are pleased to announce 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!

I include here a beautiful Allocutio (spiritual talk) from Fr Paul Churchill from May this year for your reading pleasure:
“Mary, my only-begotten Son’s gentle mother”
One great saint whom we celebrate in April is Catherine of Siena. No doubt about the fire for God in her belly. I could say many things about her but I am going to confine myself to a few sentences in her Dialogue where she shares a communication to her from God about a man soon to be executed for some crime:
“I want you to know that I permitted this to happen to rescue him from the sentence of eternal damnation under which he stood... For I had not forgotten

the reverence and love he had for Mary, my only-begotten Son’s gentle mother. For my goodness, in deference to the Word, has decreed that anyone at all, just or sinner, who holds her in due reverence will never be snatched or devoured by an infernal demon. She is like bait set out by my goodness to catch my creatures.”
It is clear that what will save this man is a devotion he had for our Lady. It is also clearly said that anyone at all who holds Mary in due reverence will never be snatched by the demons. It is one of those texts which clearly call us to promote devotion to Mary.
Before I go on to say anything further, I wish to draw attention to one adjective which is used in the Dialogue to describe Our Lady. In several places she is described as gentle.
And I think that in the case of so many souls it is that quality which makes her attractive to those souls who might not otherwise turn around to God. Hardened souls, many who have not had good fortune, many of whom have had rough treatment; deep down crave a gentle touch, not a condemnation. And all of us who serve her, all of us who would claim to be her heralds, must carry something in us of her gentleness. So many souls who have been slapped, criticised, rejected, need a more gentle approach, not one of judgement or condemnation, but a more non-threatening, gentle tone.
We are about to enter the month of May, a month which has been for centuries a special month of Mary. Many of us will remember the May devotions in honour of Our Lady. It was a great tradition to make a May Altar in her honour, crowning her with blossoms. And perhaps where these devotions have faded a bit we might ask, “Can I do anything to bring back this great



tradition of honouring Our Lady in May?”
So even if it is yourself, in your own home, can I encourage you to do something in her honour. Pray to her, give her a little more attention, make an altar for her, stop to say the Angelus, pay a visit to her altar in the local Church, maybe at this moment invoke her help for India ... but let us deepen our devotion. And maybe someone else who sees our devotion may be drawn through us to love her and keep her close to them.
Let us not forget those words communicated to Catherine of Siena, “For my goodness ... has decreed that anyone at all, just or sinner, who holds her in

due reverence will never be snatched or devoured by an infernal demon”. Those who keep a devotion to her will see the fulfilment of those many other phrases we say: “Pray for us now and at the hour of our death”, “and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb Jesus”.
Finally, I was thinking recently how easy I find the Hail Mary to say. When did I learn it? As far back as I recall. Indeed, I would say it was my first prayer and my favourite. Parents, grandparents, teach it to your young ones. You will only know when you die the gift you have given them.

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."*

Singing hymns loudly at Sacred Heart Parish, North Albury

The Sacred Heart Parish choir is fortunate to have 12 regular cantors, 3 organists, a violinist, 2 guitarists and a number of singers who join us for various liturgical feast days.

A bright red stole with a Sacred Heart emblem is worn by participants for special occasions. The choir has a good balance of male and female choristers. The Liturgy Committee prepares the hymns appropriate to the liturgical season of the church.

As well as the hymns the cantors sing the Responsorial Psalm and parts of the mass. The Xavier High School community regularly facilitate a Youth Mass adding a fresh, youthful sound to the liturgy.

The music ministry is supported by others who type up the words and operate the projector and live streaming.



First Holy Communion

On Sunday 21st of May, St Joseph's School Lockhart Year 3 students made their First Holy Communion. A special thank you to Fr Henry for saying Mass.

SAINT JOSEPH'S
CATHOLIC MEN'S GROUP
encouraging men in their vocation as husbands and fathers

We meet monthly in Wagga Wagga for a meal and drink at a local pub, followed by a talk.

Please email stjosephscatholicmensgroup@gmail.com to be included on the mailing list and advised of events.

Come along to hear high-quality talks and enjoy fellowship.

All men welcome.

 **centacare**
southwest nsw
wellbeing for all

Does your workplace, organisation or school require a targeted, in-house program for your staff, clients or students? Did you know that Centacare staff can come to you to facilitate a number of programs or can even work with you to develop a tailored program?

Contact us on 1300 619 379 if you would like to know more.

Marian Catholic College celebrate Beanie Day in memory of their beloved classmate

For years there was one guarantee at Marian Catholic College, something you could expect every day without fail. Whether it was hot or cold, sunny or raining - Pavan Sharma would be wearing his beanie.

BY MONTY JACKA - Area News

It was this aspect of Pavan's personality which formed the basis of Beanie Day, as students across the school commemorated one year since his passing.

On June 1st, Marian staff and students of all ages donned their finest beanies, remembering their beloved classmate and raising \$2800 for Griffith Suicide Prevention and Support Group.

Year 12 pastoral leader Jonathon Morris said it was a tough day, but a touching one as well.

"It was really heartwarming to see the students come together and remember their friend" stated Jonathon Morris, Marian Catholic College Year 12 pastoral leader.

"I knew it was going to be a hard date ... but they came up with all the ideas and it was really heartwarming to see the

students come together and remember their friend," he said.

"We had a reflection liturgy prayer in the morning with all the year 12 students who were Pavan's classmates so students could let out their emotions a little bit and by lunchtime it was all about remembering the good times."

Through gold coin donations and a bake sale, the students raised over \$2300 for their chosen charity, with an additional \$500 donated by Pavan's family.

According to Mr Morris, Pavan was a quiet student with a passion for his studies.

"He was a very academic student ... he did extension maths, advanced english and physics, but he also had a passion for design and technology and he loved designing and making timber pieces," the teacher said.



Marian Catholic College students Jashan Toor, Abby Baker, Kavi Thevashangar and Martianne Javier on Beanie Day. PHOTO: Contributed

"I think the students really appreciated having the day to remember him."

Mr Morris said he was proud to see his students show initiative in organising the commemoration and that it was good to see people more open to discussing mental health.

"It's definitely talked about a lot more in schools now which is a really good thing," he said.

"But I think there is still a long way to go and students need to be educated on

the services that are out there for them.

"I think that's probably the biggest way of moving forward."

If you or someone you know needs help contact:

Lifeline on 13 11 14
Kids Helpline on 1800 551 800
Beyond Blue on 1300 224 636
Griffith Suicide Prevention and Suicide Support Group on 1300 133 911

VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED KALUMBURU MISSION North Kimberley Region

- Diocese of Broome Western Australia -

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

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



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

For further information
please contact:
Diocese of Broome Chancery
Phone: 08 9192 1060
or by email
secretary@broomedioocese.org

Lester & Son
Funeral Directors
A tradition of personal, professional care since 1907

Cherie, Tony, John

359 Wantigong St 49 Thomas Mitchell Dr
Albury Wodonga
02 6040 5066 02 6056 1700

www.lesterandson.com.au

All Hours • All Areas • Pre-planned Funerals Available

Caritas Australia welcomes latest commitment to close vaccine gap

Caritas Australia welcomes the commitment made by the Australian Government to pledge an additional \$50 million to the international vaccine effort, COVAX, which aims to provide much-needed vaccine doses to lower-income countries to combat global vaccine inequity.

This commitment is in addition to the \$80 million that Australia committed to COVAX last year, as well as the \$623 million the government has committed to vaccination support for East Timor, the Pacific and South East Asia.

The increased support from the Australian Government comes as Australia's closest neighbour, Papua New Guinea, struggles with widespread misinformation and fears about the vaccine during a deadly outbreak of COVID-19.

In mid-March Australia sent 8,000 vaccine doses to PNG, yet local uncertainties about the safety of the vaccine meant that only 2,900 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine supplied by Australia had been administered by the end of April.

"Just last week a woman was sick and refused to go into the hospital

for fear of being tested positive and isolated. She thought she would be locked up because she heard the word isolation. COVID-19 messaging is not being communicated properly in communities, and people are avoiding being tested because they are worried that they will be locked up," said Diane Unagi, Caritas Australia's Country Representative in PNG.

"The bulk of population are not on social media or watching and reading the news - they're getting their information by word of mouth. So when messages are not communicated properly it increases the public health risk."

The slow uptake of the vaccine is also impacted by challenges administering the vaccine in a country where remote communities lack the electricity and refrigeration necessary to keep the vaccine, leading to heat exposure and vaccine wastage.

"COVID-19 is hurting us today but we also need help for tomorrow. The effects of COVID will be long-lasting and widely felt," said Ms Unagi.

With over 50 years working in the Pacific through extensive local partner and Church networks, Caritas Australia is working in the most remote and marginalised communities to promote awareness about the value of COVID-19 testing and vaccinations.

Caritas Australia is accepting donations to help support vulnerable communities in the Pacific through the Pacific Regional Appeal.

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



**End poverty
Promote justice
Uphold dignity**



MOUNT ERIN HERITAGE CENTRE

Open every
Tuesday and Wednesday 10am to 2pm
and also by appointment

Parking: Please use Mt Erin Boarding School entrance.

Email: mounterinheritagecentre@gmail.com *Telephone:* 0438 711 229



www.mounterinheritagecentre.com.au

SAIGON restaurant

Specialises in **Chinese** and **Vietnamese** cuisine

- Open 6 days - lunch & dinner
- BYO
- Banquets and group bookings
- Takeaway and business lunch menu

[P] 6921 2212 89-91 Morgan St, Wagga Wagga



Encouraging handwashing although some schools don't have access to water, face masks expensive for students. Image: Caritas Aust, PNG

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.



Vinnies

Find your nearest Vinnies Shop

Albury Shop Ritz Arcade, Dean St Albury

Coolamon Shop 98 Cowabbie St Coolamon

Corowa Shop 143 Sanger St Corowa

Griffith Shop 101 Banna Ave Griffith

Jerilderie Shop 36 Jerilderie St Jerilderie

Junee Shop 85 Broadway St Junee

Lavington Shop 321 Urana Rd Lavington

Leeton Shop 42 Kurrajong Ave Leeton

Mulwala Shop 47 Melbourne St Mulwala

Narrandera Shop 181 East St Narrandera

Tumbarumba Shop 16 The Parade Tumbarumba

Turvey Park Shop Turvey Tops Shopping Centre,
Fernleigh Rd Wagga Wagga

Wagga Wagga Shop
15 Peter St Wagga Wagga

VOLUNTEER TODAY



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.

Mission 2021: One heart many voices

Following the success of the last four conferences, the fifth Mission: one heart many voices conference 2021 will directly identify and explore the challenges of living the Gospel and Leading Mission Now in Australia and globally.



Drawing on the concept of 'liminal leadership' (Bateson, 2017), 2021 needs a new type of leadership, one that recognises the interdependence, patterns and relationships that exist between contexts and institutions.

Theologian Richard Rohr recognises this liminal space as the moments where authentic transformation can take place, recognising this action as God's presence (Rohr, 2020).

This time calls the Church to lead 'into the world' recognising the places of transformation the Spirit is calling us to. "It is God's dream that our world would be healed, that it would be full of peace and joy. Anyone who promotes love, peace and joy is sharing in the mission of Jesus." (Columban Priest Trevor Trotter). Responding to this dream, Leadership for Mission Now explores approaches to engage, lead and co-create with those Pope Francis refers to as 'people of good will'.

This time of global challenge has opened up opportunities for critical collaboration that are new. International organisations and governments are recognising the importance of working together to seize the moment to re-create and re-build in ways that value all of humanity and creation. The Church and its agencies are being called to leadership in these spaces. A parallel organisation which is seeking to build a 'fullness of life' through its Sustainable

Development Goals is the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) which is responsible for implementing these quality of life indicators over the next decade.

"It is God's dream that our world would be healed, that it would be full of peace and joy. Anyone who promotes love, peace and joy is sharing in the mission of Jesus."

Columban Priest Trevor Trotter

The UNDP has commenced a collaboration and dialogue, recognising the need for massive transformation to accomplish 2030 agenda. This has led to an awareness that to achieve this transformation in our communities, societies and our world we need to become aware of our own inner lives, reflecting on our blindspots and then engaging with these uncomfortable truths (Scharmer, 2009). Our blindspots

are characterised which deliberately seeing connections between experiences such as Australia's colonial past and the current trauma experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; hearts which avoid empathy and compassion and hands that do not act.

Leadership for Mission Now will encourage participants to explore through the frame of an open mind, open heart and open will, embracing curiosity, compassion and courage. These frameworks represent new opportunities for Church leadership as secular leadership recognises the interdependence of all contexts, opens to collaboration and recognises the importance of the spiritual dimension.

The overall conference aims:

- To empower people with a vision of mission that is collaborative, scriptural and deeply theological, one that affirms, enables, encourages and inspires. We see the Conference as a critical part of professional and vocational development for the many people who work for Catholic agencies, parishes, Religious Congregations and other organisations to help build the Reign of God in Australia and beyond.
- To hear the many and varied voices within our Church. Mission is a single but complex reality, and it develops

variety of ways. [Redemptoris Missio #41]. It includes proclamation, witness, building community, prayer, dialogue, mercy, charity, working for justice, ecology, reconciliation, inculturation, equality among other ways. We share in Jesus' mission of building the Reign of God, one of "righteousness, joy and peace in the Holy Spirit" Rom 14:17. There is much we can share and learn from one another.

All those who are passionate about mission and people serving in leadership roles in dioceses, parishes, communities, organisations and agencies are invited to come together and join a conversation that may enable us all to live the joy of the Gospel and Lead Mission Now.

We have many voices but only one heart, one mission: to bring about the Reign of God.



DRESSED BY
JACKIE

Winter stock arriving daily

Great knitwear - Fur wraps

Outfits for weddings

202 Baylis Street Wagga Wagga
Ph: 0435 838 654

CEREAL, OILSEEDS, PULSES
"It all begins with seed"

- Insist on Hart Bros quality assured seed
- Growing, cleaning, sales and distribution of all broadacre seed varieties

Logos: PACIFIC SEEDS, AGT, Cargill, SOY, Seed Force, Seednet, syngenta, Heritageseeds, HUSEED, THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

- Cleaning, treating and sizing farmer's retained canola seed

HART BROS SEEDS
It all begins with Seed

office@hbseeds.com.au • www.hartbrosseeds.com.au
Phone: 02 6924 7206 • Fax: 02 6924 7271
Coffin Rock Lane, Temora Rd Junee 2663

"Remember: Hart Bros Seeds Spring Field Day is 2nd Wednesday in October"

Do something. Do right. And make a difference.

Homily for the Ascension of the Lord
 Readings: Acts 1: 1-11;
 Ephesians 1:17-23; Mark 16:15-20
 16 May 2021

BY FR FRANK BRENNAN

Today we celebrate the Ascension, the beginning of that ‘in between time’ in which we all find ourselves – that time between Jesus’ departure from the apostles after his death and that time when he comes again or when we experience his direct presence eternally.

None of us is very good at describing either of those bookends. None of us has a clue when the second bookend will be a reality. But we are all accomplished at describing that ‘in between time’. Like the apostles in the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles today, we know that it is not for us to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority. But we have the assurance that the power of the Holy Spirit has come upon us as the believing community here and now. We are called to be witnesses ‘not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth’. We are not to stand around gazing into the sky, lost and wondering what to do or say. Like the apostles we are prompted to action when we hear those two figures in white saying, ‘Why are you people from Galilee standing here looking into the sky?’

During this ‘in between time’, this time between two bookends which are probably many millennia apart, we are urged to get on with it. Do something. Do right. And make a difference. Proclaim good news to all.

This weekend, the colour magazine of The Weekend Australian carries a front page feature ‘Final Wish’ which deals with the assisted dying laws which are sweeping the country. The author Kathy Marks has sensitively interviewed a number of people who have availed themselves of these new laws. She also interviewed loved ones and well known long time advocates for euthanasia

like Dr Philip Nitschke and Rodney Syme. Unsurprisingly they think the limits put on the new laws are too restrictive and would like to see state assistance with voluntary death made available to all persons confronting existential suffering wanting to put an end to things.

Kathy Marks also interviewed me at some length. She accurately and pithily summarised my arguments thus:

‘Frank Brennan, the Jesuit priest and law professor, fears the right of conscientious objection – which also applies to healthcare institutions – will be watered down over time. He is concerned, too, that “euthanasia could become a shortcut” in remote areas with poor palliative care. “For centuries, ‘Do not harm and do not kill’ was a clear line, and people knew what it meant,” he says. “As a society we’ve now departed from that, and there’s no other line with equal clarity or depth.”’[1]

The Victorian minister Jill Hennessy admits that ‘wherever you make a law you draw a line, and people are going to fall either side of it’. As predicted some of those objecting to my arguments play the man in the clerical collar rather than the ball.

Here are a couple of comments posted on The Weekend Australian website in response to the piece: ‘It is good that politicians have stopped being bullied by religious fundamentalists.’ ‘No-one should be allowed to use religious argument on this issue other than to argue for not using VAD (Voluntary Assisted Dying) facilities themselves, until they provide credible and sufficient evidence of the basis for their belief (hint, they haven’t, they almost certainly can’t). The arguments by some that they are speaking from an “ethical” position, not from their religious beliefs is almost always a fallacy. The so-called ethical position almost always comes down to the



Image: Dominik Lange/Unsplash

proscriptions of their respective religion.’

Our world is a very different place from what it was 50 years ago. In 1970 we were a country of 12.5 million people with a life expectancy of 71.2 years. Now we are a country of 26 million people with a life expectancy of 83.5 years. If in any doubt that the nation is confronting a crisis in the provision of palliative care, just consider some of the findings from the recent Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety.

The number of Australians aged 85 years and over will increase from half a million in 2018 (2.0% of the Australian population) to more than 1.5 million by 2058 (3.7% of the population). Two years ago, there were 4.2 working age (15–64 years) people for every Australian aged 65 years or over. By 2058, this will have decreased to 3.1.

The royal commission reported ‘that residential aged care staff tend to be under-skilled and under-educated in palliative care, and there is a lack of suitably qualified staff to manage palliative care adequately.’ The commission recommended that ‘High quality dementia and palliative care should be considered core business for aged care providers.’ At the moment they are not. And in many remote and regional parts of Australia, they are non-existent.

When Victoria’s new law came into effect

Premier Dan Andrews said, ‘We anticipate in the first 12 months, based on overseas experience, around a dozen people that will access voluntary assisted dying.’[2] In fact 224 people chose voluntarily assisted dying under the new laws in their first 18 months of operation. And another 100 people had the death dealing medication delivered to them but decided not to use it.

One does not have to be a religious fundamentalist to be urging caution as these new laws are developed in other Australian states with fewer and fewer restrictions, reducing the imperative for governments and parliaments to provide adequate resources for good palliative care of an ageing population. My concern is not so much for the competent, well supported people like those interviewed in the colour story. Our eye and the law’s concern must always be not for those who are invulnerable but for the vulnerable. As Lord Sumption once put it in the UK Supreme Court:

‘There is no complete solution to the problem of protecting vulnerable people against an over-ready resort to suicide . . . The real question about all of these possibilities is how much risk to the vulnerable are we prepared to accept in this area in order to facilitate suicide

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

LMD 6808 - Channel13 UHF

Hydraulic hose manufacturers and suppliers
 Steel supplies, engineering and welding supplies
 Dealers for Robin & Delta stationary engines

SMITH’S MOTOR GARAGE

58-60 GREEN ST LOCKHART
PH 02 6920 5556
- Authorised Mitsubishi Dealers -

Albury Audio Diagnostics

Audiology and Hearing Aid Clinic

Stephen Jacobs Audiologist BSc, DipAud, DipEd, MAudSA(CCP)

Our Services

- The selection, fitting and trial of hearing aids to improve your hearing
- Adult and Child Hearing Assessments
- Employment, WorkSafe Vic and WorkCover NSW Hearing Services

6023 1300

563 Wyse St Albury NSW 2640 www.alburyhearingaids.com.au

The Pope goes green with all-electric Popemobile

After an audience with the Pope, US-based car designer and entrepreneur Henrik Fisker announced he would modify a version of his new battery-powered Fisker Ocean SUV into a Popemobile.

BY VERNON GRAHAM

The vehicle, due for delivery next year, will be fitted with the familiar glass cube-shaped cupola from which the Holy See can wave to onlookers.

Mr Fisker, who was born in Denmark, helped to design Aston Martins and BMWs for James Bond movies.

He has established a new business in California, Fisker Inc., to launch the Ocean, an all-electric vehicle which is claimed to hit 96.5 kilometres an hour (60mph) in 2.9 seconds, has a range of up to 560km and an interior made of 100 per cent vegan materials.

Mr Fisker said the vehicle would be the "first all-electric Popemobile".

However, other manufacturers have provided his Holiness with electric cars in the past including a Renault Kangoo in 2012.

The Pontiff has been driven in Japan in a hydrogen-powered Toyota Mirai

while Mercedes Benz has built hybrid Popemobiles.

While at BMW Mr Fisker designed the retro-styled Z8 used by 007 in the 1999 James Bond movie The World is Not Enough but the vehicle came to a sticky end by being cut in half lengthways.

He was director of design at Aston Martin when the DB9 and V8 Vantage models were launched.

During his visit with the Pope, Mr Fisker was accompanied by his English wife and company co-founder Geeta Gupta-Fisker.

"I got inspired reading that Pope Francis is very considerate about the environment and the impact of climate change for future generations," Mr Fisker said.

"The interior of the Fisker Ocean papal transport will contain a variety of sustainable materials including carpets made from recycled plastic bottles from



Acclaimed car designer Henrik Fisker shows Pope Francis what his new all-electric Popemobile will look like.

the ocean."

Production of the standard five-seater Fisker Ocean for mainstream customers is scheduled to begin towards the end of this year.

The company said it has received 16,000 reservations for the vehicle.

It will initially be built in Europe by specialist firm Magna.

Fisker Inc. has announced an agreement

to deliver up to 700 right-hand drive Ocean SUVs to UK-based electric car subscription service Onto.

The car is being designed for both left- and right hand markets and prices are due to start at \$US37,499.

Mr Fisker designed the world's first luxury plug-in sports sedan, the Fisker Karma, which had short-lived production in 2011-12.



Spirituality Day for Women 2021

Event:

Diocesan Spirituality Day for Women

Date: Sat 28 August 2021

Time: 9.30am-3.30pm

Venue: Narranderra High School

Sponsor: Diocese of Wagga Wagga

Theme:

Who is My Neighbour (Luke 10:29)

Let us Dream, Let us Weave a new path

Enquiries can be sent to the

Secretary, Anne Brown:

cacw.waggawagga@gmail.com

Bishop Mark visits O'Connell Village



On Saturday 29 May Bishop Mark visited the O'Connell Retirement Village as part of his visit to Holy Spirit Parish, Lavington.

Fr Brendan Lee, who took the photo, introduced Bishop Mark to the staff and residents of the village where a wonderful conversation was had.

ACN Project of the Month



This month please help ACN support the apostolate of 16 contemplative religious sisters in Peru!

Peru is the third largest country in South America. The majority of its population of 32 million belong to the indigenous peoples of the country. The topography of the country ranges from the high mountains of the Andes through to the rainforests of the Amazon region.

Peru has been severely hit by the coronavirus pandemic. Although the country responded as early as March 2020 with a range of restrictions, nevertheless, one year later there were already over 1.7 million infections and over 57,000 deaths registered. The economic crisis of the country and the social tensions have only been further exacerbated by the pandemic. There is grinding poverty in the rural areas, and many people are now migrating to the cities, where problems of drug addiction and broken families already abound and are growing still worse.

The apostolic prelate of Ayaviti lies in the south of Peru and covers an area of over 12,500 square miles

(32,000 km²) with a population of around 300,000 souls. Some parts of its territory are among the poorest and most neglected regions of the entire country.

The Catholic Church is facing many challenges here. Although theoretically around 85% of the population describe themselves as Catholics, many have become alienated from the Church, partly because there are far too few priests to minister to them. There are just 20 priests to cover the 21 parishes of this vast area and at the same time there is a lack of catechists and religious sisters. Many people know little or nothing about the Catholic faith, and the fundamentalist sects are making ever greater inroads.

Nonetheless, its former bishop, now Emeritus Bishop Kay Martin Schmalhausen, who retired only in April this year, does see some signs of hope. For one thing, the contemplative sisters of the Trinitarian order have been established in the prelate since



the year 2011. They live an enclosed life and devote themselves to prayer. Yet, although they are not directly involved in the pastoral work and life of the prelate, they support this work and life through their prayer, their presence and the testimony of their faith. As the bishop writes to us, "We see with joy that vocations to the enclosed life are on the increase and are bringing increased blessings with them." And indeed, their numbers have

grown from just 4 to 16 sisters in the meantime.

Once again this year, as he has done in the past and before his own retirement, the bishop has asked us to support these sisters in their life and apostolate. We were only too happy to promise him \$6,800 AUD to support the sisters.

Can you help support contemplative religious sisters in Peru?



Help build a church in India

How much does your parish church mean to you? What if you had no church?

In the village of Kamda, in northeast India, there are 484 Catholic families that have no church. Holy Mass is celebrated each Sunday in the open air, next to a shrine of Our Lady. **The average Sunday congregation has reached 500 people, and many of them walk anything from 5 to 15 km in order to attend Mass.**

The children of the community love to come to the Sunday school, where they learn more about their faith. The people love the Lord and travel all this way to receive him in Holy Communion.

Until now, their community has had the status of a 'mission station', supported by the Piarist Missionary Fathers, but the bishop is soon to elevate it to an independent

parish. **You can imagine then, that there is nothing the people long for more than a church of their own.** A permanent house for the Lord where they can receive the sacraments and grow in faith with their families. However, these people are far too poor to be able to fund such a project by themselves. Few of the people can read and write, most live a meagre life through basis subsistence agriculture.

The Bishop contacted Aid to the Church in Need and asked us for help. He recently travelled to Kamda to bless the foundation stone of a new church, but the project will go no further without help. We are proposing to give AUD \$40,000 so that the local Catholic faithful can finally build their very own church.

Consider what your church means to you, how it has been there in the major moments of your life, and how it contributes to your spiritual journey. Then

consider our brothers and sisters in faith in Kamda. Can you make an offering to help us build this church for them?

Please complete the form, or, scan the QR code / visit www.aidtochurch.org/kamda to make an offering online. As a sign of our gratitude, and on behalf of the people of Kamda, we will send you a small icon of Our Lady and the Christ child.



Thank you. May God bless you.



Aid to the Church in Need
ACN AUSTRALIA

Aid to the Church in Need is the only international Catholic charity dedicated to the spiritual and pastoral support of suffering Christians. Each year ACN supports some 5000 projects, helping to keep the faith alive where it is at greatest risk.



PONTIFICAL
FOUNDATION



Please accept my offering of \$ for the Church in India.

☐ Please also send me an icon.

I enclose a cheque/money order payable to *Aid to the Church in Need* OR
debit my Visa / Mastercard:

Expiry date: ____ / ____

Signature: _____

My personal details: (BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE)

Title: _____ Name: _____

Address: _____

Suburb: _____

State: _____ Postcode: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

TOG3

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

COVID-19 Diocesan Protocols

Effective
27th March 2021

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

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

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

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

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

securely for at least 28 days.
b. Any paper-based records must be entered into electronic format (spreadsheet/database) within 12 hours.

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

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

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

- Cars
- Trucks
- Buses
- Utes

6921 9977

6-10 Edward St, Wagga Wagga www.avis.com.au

plus

LIQUOR

LOCKHART • EAST ALBURY

JINDERA

SPRINGDALE HEIGHTS

Marriage Enrichment Weekend

We are offering an opportunity for you to learn to become the best version of yourselves together and live your best life in love!

A **Worldwide Marriage Enrichment Weekend** is a *Marriage Enrichment* experience for married couples – set in peaceful surroundings away from the distractions of everyday life.
During the weekend, couples have a unique opportunity to reconnect, rekindle and refresh their relationship. Take time out of your busy schedule to invest in your most precious asset ... your Marriage!

Weekend date:
August 21 - 22, 2021 at a Live-Out Marriage Encounter Weekend at St John Bosco Parish, Engadine.

Bookings online at www.wwme.org.au or contact Christine & Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419 or nswbookings@wwme.org.au



If you would like **Worldwide Marriage Encounter** brochures please see **WWME website** at www.wwme.org.au

Thank you for your support of the Worldwide Marriage Encounter Movement.
In the love of Our Lord,
our sincere thanks,
Fr Mick Court,
Tracey and Richard Kaldausan
- Unit Coordinators and Ecclesial team
Worldwide Marriage Encounter:
Australia, Eastern Unit.



TRIBUNAL OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- Diocese of Wagga Wagga -

Outreaching to all those who have experienced a marriage breakdown and would like the Church to look into the validity of their marriage.

Enquiries to the Tribunal Office at McAlroy House
PO Box 473 Wagga Wagga 2650
Phone: 6937 0017 Email: tribunal@wagga.catholic.org.au

SAINT MARY MACKILLOP COLLEGE
Albury

- K to Year 12 with small classes sizes
- Located in a rural residential setting
- Part of a thriving Catholic community
- Academic excellence and committed staff

Phone 02 6045 9422
office@smmc.nsw.edu.au
197 Urana St, Jindera NSW 2642

NOW TAKING 2021 ENROLMENTS

An independent school offering traditional education and instruction in the Catholic faith, promoting virtue and excellence of character in a personal and nurturing environment

New life for St Therese Yenda site

St Therese Primary School closed in 2016 after 79 years of Catholic Education.

Kurrajong have recently leased the site from the Diocese to open a new facility, Therapy Plus.

A committee of parishioners have been very proactive over the years and finally being able to have the old school occupied and utilised shows how the diocese and the Yenda community working collaboratively can achieve positive outcomes.

Kurrajong Therapy Plus has many locations across our diocese providing supports to children, young people and adults with disability or complex developmental delays.

Kurrajong Therapy Plus includes a unique multidisciplinary team of speech pathologists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists and educators.



Above: Some of the STAA2681 Committee: Jan Condon, Peter Cremasco and Gavin Raccanello.
Absent: Kay Pellizer, Sue Reynolds, John Strano & Kevin Calderón

Left: The upgraded facilities.

Kurrajong Therapy Plus is a one-stop shop for supporting people and their family or carer to help with learning, development, community access, specific therapeutic supports and prescription of specialised equipment.

Support services available through Kurrajong Therapy Plus include:

- early childhood intervention

- therapy with speech pathologists, occupational therapists and physiotherapists
- assistive technology prescription and assessment National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) supports are available.

To find out more visit:
www.kurrajong.com.au

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

for the invulnerable . . . There is an important element of social policy and moral value judgment involved. The relative importance of the right to commit suicide and the right of the vulnerable to be protected from overt or covert pressure to kill themselves is inevitably sensitive to a state's most fundamental collective moral and social values.'[3]

I make no apology for raising these matters though I be a priest. I have every sympathy for those persons who want to avail themselves of state authorised assistance with terminating

their lives when in situations of acute suffering. But I also have a deep concern for those who are being overlooked in these times of rapid legal change. In this time between the bookends, when the Lord commissions us to go forth into the world, I take heart from the observation of St John Henry Newman in his book on The Arians of the Fourth Century. Writing in 1833 at Oxford, Newman asserted:

'In truth, the Church was framed for the express purpose of interfering, or (as irreligious men will say) meddling in the world. It is the plain duty of its members, not only to associate internally, but also to develop that internal

union in an external warfare with the spirit of evil, whether in Kings' courts or among the mixed multitude'[4].

Paul Keating once labelled me the meddling priest. I think we people of the Ascension should be doing more meddling, not less. Our arguments, like those of others who differ from us, should be subjected to close scrutiny. We have nothing to fear from civic discourse and public deliberation. Let's always ask how any change to the law or public policy will affect the most vulnerable and not just how it will enhance the liberty of the invulnerable. Let's not just stand by idly looking up to the sky.

Listen to the Homily at:
<https://soundcloud.com/frank-brennan-6/homily-16521>

[1] See <https://www.theaustralian.com.au/weekend-australian-magazine/tide-turns-on-assisted-dying-laws/news-story/4f07c8fb592a9614f7ebbb79ec34bc>

[2] See <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-06-16/voluntary-assisted-dying-starts-in-victoria/11207712>

[3] R (on the application of Nicklinson and another) v Ministry of Justice, [2014] UKSC 38, [229]

[4] J H Newman, The Arians of the Fourth Century, Burns & Oates, London, 1833, pp. 258-9

Fr Frank Brennan SJ is the Rector of Newman College, Melbourne, the Distinguished Fellow of the P M Glynn Institute, Australian Catholic University, and the former CEO of Catholic Social Services Australia (CSSA).

Lillypilly Wines
Family Owned Boutique Winery

Monday to Saturday 10am to 5pm
visit us and have a taste

47 Lillypilly Rd, Leeton NSW 2705
Tel: 02 6953 4069
www.lillypilly.com
www.facebook.com/lillypillywines

ROB GEDDES MW
Australian Wine Vintages 2015
Lillypilly Noble Blend

JAMES HALLIDAY -5 STARS
Australian Wine Companion 2015

huon HOOKE
Lillypilly 2011 Noble Blend

GOLDEN APPLE SUPER STORE
A GOOD PLACE TO SHOP AND SAVE

OPEN DAILY FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE
ONE-STOP SUPERMARKET

Part of the
Local Community
Since 1960

SUPA IGA

YANCO ROAD, LEETON Tel:69532000

H. FRANCIS & CO.
STOCK STATION AND REAL ESTATE AGENTS
rma network Accredited Member

4/41-43 Moorong St
Wagga Wagga
Ph: 6921 6366
Fax: 6921 6493

We sell Cattle at the Wagga Livestock Marketing Centre every Monday and Sheep and Lambs every Thursday and also offer a range of services:

- Paddock sales, over the hook sales and direct to feedlot sales
- On farm Stud Sales
- Auctions Plus Sales
- Clearing Sales
- Rural property sales

For any of your livestock or property needs contact one of our friendly agents:

Tim Francis	0428 263 852
Alex Croker	0428 326 810
Matt Hawker	0418 861 320
Sam Sutton	0448 080 607
David Kosa	0432 064 188
Helen De Costa	0448 353 764

Email: livestock@hfrancisandco.com.au
www.hfrancisandco.com.au

Ten things my dog taught me about COVID

1. Barking at the gate doesn't always scare off the intruder.

2. Constant barking at the gate is more annoying than useful.

3. If the intruder is really scary sometimes it is safer to stay at home and not visit anyone, even if you like a ride in the car.

4. Stock up with food, cans will do; toilet paper not so much.

5. Make sure you continue to keep watch on other members of the pack; they might feel unsafe for a long time while the intruder is about.

6. Turn off the nightly TV news sometimes; the family can get quite upset by what they see the intruder is doing to people far away.

7. If you can't travel so much, find a fun hobby. There is always time to dig a bigger, better hole at home.
8. Enjoy home; get up on a different sofa or chair with a good book, or better still, have a snooze.

9. Not everyone wants to get a jab, but sometimes you've just gotta do what you gotta do. I'm told distemper is really awful.

10. If you cook, cook more; your dog will love you for it.

11. If you work from home, remember to be nice frequently during the day to those around you. You might be getting in their way, after all.

12. Encourage clever people to find ways to beat the intruder; even they need praise and encouragement.

13. Be calm; all will be well, all manner of things will be well.

14. Walk more often; your dog will love you for it.

15. My dog can't count.

BY GEOFF ORCHISON



This article first appeared in the Catholic Voice www.catholicvoice.org.au

Stop unnecessary loss: Demand safer level crossings

On the 23rd of February 2021, Ethan Hunter was killed at an unsafe level crossing.

Please support our fight for safer level crossings by scanning this QR code and signing our ePetition.

FOLLOW OUR "EURABBA HEROES" PAGE ON FACEBOOK PAGE FOR ONGOING UPDATES

On 23rd February 2021, our son Ethan Hunter and his work colleague Mark Fenton were killed on a passive level crossing on Eurabba Station, 756 metres from the Eurabba Lane level crossing on the Quandialla to Bribbaree section of the NSW Inland Freight Rail, 70kms from Young, NSW.

As a family we are numb with disbelief and grief over the loss of our Ethan who was only 27 years old. The community of Grenfell is still reeling from the loss of two experienced farmers and truck drivers. These deaths are a blow from which we will never recover.

In trying to understand how such an accident could happen we have discovered that the very changes we think could have prevented Ethan's accident have been tabled in Federal recommendations since 2009. Nothing has been done. The bulk of passive level crossings in NSW are on

track that will become the Inland Freight Rail. No upgrades are planned for these passive level crossings.

We have opened an e-petition to the NSW Parliament requesting changes and implementations.

We would like your diocese to join with us by encouraging your staff and parishioners to sign this e-petition. 20,000 signatures will ensure that there will be a debate on the floor of Parliament. You can scan the above QR code or sign the e-petition online at:

<https://bit.ly/3fH395R>

It is imperative that changes be made to prevent such tragedies happening again.

With your help and support positive safety change can happen.

Again, Thank you for your support and prayers.

Angela Hunter
Ethan's mum

ALAN HARRIS McDONALD

ALL YOUR FUNERAL NEEDS ARE NOW IN ONE LOCATION



76 Copland Street, Wagga Wagga

6921 4913

www.alanharrismcdonald.com.au

Crematorium



Chapel



Refreshments Room



St Peter's Primary, Coleambally

St Peter's Primary had a great time learning about the dangerous creatures of Australia at their Deadly Australians talk. Thank you for visiting Marc.



Henschke Primary, Wagga Wagga



Mission Day is back!!! Congratulations and a big thank you to year 6 students and their parents who generously provided lots of delicious treats and fun competitions as Henschke Primary raised money for the Missions.



Kildare Catholic College, Wagga Wagga

Students from Kildare took up the opportunity to give back to the community at the Sacred Heart Koorngal Parish BBQ on Sunday 6 June. Maria Federico, Sapna Rawat, Ekene Emebiri, Samara Rooke, Lily Clark, Edward Clark and Maggie Clark helped with the BBQ and mingled with parishioners. Fr John, Sr Rosemary and the Sacred Heart parishioners were very grateful for their kind and helpful attitudes.



St Patrick's Primary, Griffith



Year 6 St Patrick's students learned about Maths through creating board games.







All schools enrolling now



St Francis De Sales Regional College, Leeton

Conratulations Sammy and Sharni.

Great work Sammy Rutledge Year 10 from Weethalle and Sharni Oddy Year 9 from West Wyalong. Both girls have been in Coonabarabran with their horses representing St Francis.

It was the most amazing experience for them. Over 450 riders and 600 or more horses competed over the 5 days, covering many equestrian disciplines, catering for all young horse enthusiasts.

Both Sharni and Sammy did incredibly well. Sharni was 10th in the Combined Training, 5th in the Working Horse Challenge, 1st in the Restricted show jumping and 7th in the Team Penning.

Sammy on her two horses won her 95cm Combined Training, Champion Rider 15 years, Champion Hunter Hack, Supreme Hack of the Show, two fourths in her show jumping events and a 2nd in the pairs.

Brilliant work. Great representation!!

St Patrick's Primary School, Holbrook

Thank you to Jordan for leading National Sorry Day commemorations. The students decorated hand prints which were displayed in front of the school. National Sorry Day is held annually on 26th May and gives people a chance to come together and share the steps towards healing for the stolen generations, their families and communities.



Marian Catholic College, Griffith

Bill Turner Girls Soccer

MCC U/15 girls soccer played St Francis College in round 3 of the Bill Turner Soccer Competition on Friday 28 May. The girls were strong and played extremely well, coming home with the 8-0 win. Congratulations to Bethany Piva who scoring all 8 goals.

Well done to all players and their great team work.



St Anne's Primary, North Albury

Year 4 St Anne's Primary students designed and built a simple robot to play a soccer style game. They had to create a programme in visual block coding for their robot to execute.



St Joseph's Primary, Narrandera

On June 11 St Joseph's gathered as a school to celebrate the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Thank you to Year 3 for preparing and leading the Mass so well. We would also like to congratulate our new school captain, Zoe, who was presented with her badge at the conclusion of Mass.



Wagga students to join NSW youth parliament for 2021

Three students in Wagga have been selected for a seat at the table on the NSW youth parliament initiative.

BY EMMA HORN - Daily Advertiser

Octavia Coleman from Mater Dei Catholic College will join Layla Wilson and Chelsea Burgess Hannon from The Riverina Anglican College for the 12-week parliamentary experience.

As part of the program, each student has taken on a specific portfolio, and as a member of the committees, will draft legislation on the issue.

Since its inception in 2002, the youth parliament has managed to turn six drafts into NSW law. Octavia has been accepted into the women's affairs committee.

"These bills actually get handed on the state parliamentarians. So for women's affairs, we're looking at the 'pink tax', and trying to make menstrual products tax-free," she said.

Octavia is planning to put forward examples from schools around the

region that have implemented free product strategies.

"At The Rock, there's a school where the Rotary Club provides the products with a free vending machine or something like that," she said. "Those things really should be tax-free because it's not a choice to need them."

Meanwhile, Chelsea will serve on the health and medical research committee. This is the 16-year-old year 11 student's second year in the youth parliament initiative.

"I am especially passionate in the area of healthcare, so being able to extend this into a program such as youth parliament was definitely an opportunity to not be missed," Chelsea said.

Being able to explore the inner workings of the legislative process and the opportunity to spend time in NSW parliament will hold the students in



Octavia Coleman from Mater Dei Catholic College.

good regard for their future careers.

Octavia, at least, is planning to focus on law following her high school graduation.

"It will be good for uni and if you

want to get into politics in the future, but obviously that's a lot harder. Getting into politics is like The Hunger Games," she said.

New Majellan Media App for families

Majellan Media has launched a free App to help families with their faith and relationship issues.

The App has all Majellan media content in the one convenient place and includes the latest podcasts from Majellan's Figuring out Families series, the latest news, and articles providing sound advice and spiritual nourishment to help families thrive.

Exclusive content from The Majellan magazine which has been published quarterly in print form for more than 70 years is also featured. Articles are free to read in full and are available to share with family and friends.

Figuring out Families is a podcast series designed to provide practical advice on family and relationship issues. The series brings together experts in family relationships, including a marriage counsellor, to tackle the many and varying issues families face today.

There's also access to the Majellan weekly newsletter which has thousands of subscribers. Other features include prayers for families; request for prayers; weekly articles; books on faith and families from the Majellan Bookstore; and Scriptural

meditations and reflections.

Majellan Media CEO Tony Biviano says the new App brings together faith, spirituality and family advice in an entertaining and easy to understand way." Born from The Majellan magazine, Majellan Media strives to produce content to help families of all ages. The App is basically for anyone who cares about the wellbeing of their family.

"A sense of spiritual impoverishment is thought to be a major contributor to depression and anxiety, which is rising at alarming rates in Australia and throughout the world. Each week we publish reflections and prayers to help the many people who are suffering and feel spiritually undernourished.

"Over the years Majellan has helped thousands of families through our print and online resources and that wealth of experience can now be found on this App," says Mr Biviano. "At the end of the day we just want to help families be the best that they can be."

**Further details are available at
www.majellan.media**



St Vincent de Paul Employee of the Year

Shantelle Lidden, co-ordinator of St Vincent De Paul (SVDP) Social and Affordable Housing Centre in Albury, was awarded the Employee of the Year by SVDP in December last year.

Shantelle co-ordinates the Tailored Support Program which assists tenants to achieve goals, both short and long term.

The centre was built after Quarmby House was demolished. Quarmby House was emergency accommodation only. The new project consists of 1-3 bedroom houses which are owned and managed by Amelie Housing, a subsidiary of SVDP as affordable rental housing within Albury.

The project was jointly funded by SVDP and the NSW government under the Social, Affordable Housing Fund (SAHF).

In announcing and presenting her award, Jack De Groot said "Shantelle has provided a high level of client service and support to all the SAHF tenants in Albury. She has done a terrific job working with local organisations, the Department of Community and Justice and Vinnies Staff.

"A major challenge for Shantelle had been COVID-19 as most staff had to work from home. Shantelle often had to cope with difficult situations and each time she managed these problems with limited supervision in a professional manner. It is with pleasure we present you with this award."



Shantelle Lidden with her Employee Award.



Update:

In April this year we published an article about the plight of Stina Constantine who is facing deportation back to Norway. Stina has let us know that the petition has been mailed to the Minister for Immigration, Hon. Alex Hawke. Stina continues to await news that he might intervene. She meets with his representatives at the Federal Circuit on the 3rd August for the final hearing.



Alive in the Spirit

Being The Community Christ Calls Us To Be

ENGAGING KEYNOTES

30+ WORKSHOPS

CUSTOMISED EXPERIENCE

Reconnect, Renew, Reimagine Catholic Community and Mission at the Pastoral Ministry Virtual Conference

8th - 10th July 2021

Inspiration & Formation for everyone engaged in the life of our Church.

Registration: Individual rate \$40 | Group rate \$200 (unlimited numbers)

aliveinthespirit.com.au

Contact: Lisa Bright | 0448 652 720 | info@aliveinthespirit.com.au

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

KIDS CORNER

SAINTS FUN FACTS

Barnabas sold his land and possessions and gave the proceeds to the Apostles. He and Paul undertook missionary journeys together converting many to Christianity. He was also one of the first teachers of the Church at Antioch. They both attended the Council of Jerusalem to deal with the issue of converting Gentiles to Christianity.



Written & Illustrated by John Sheppard
www.catholic.org
(C) 2014 Distributed by Catholic Online

- Saint Barnabas -



Science...

Pepper & water science experiment

You will need:

- pepper
- small bowl of water
- toothpick
- dishwashing liquid



Learning about surface tension and other cool science-y things is more fun when you can do it hands on. Grab your supplies and get ready for some great science fun in the kitchen.

Instructions:

- Half fill a small bowl with water.
- Sprinkle pepper on the surface of the water, forming a small layer.
- With your cocktail stick, firstly dip this in the washing-up liquid.
- Then dip the tip of the stick in the middle of the water.
- As the washing-up liquid touches the water, what is happening to the pepper?
- The pepper should spread out and merge together forming patterns.

Why?

Because the washing-up liquid reduces surface tension and allows the particles of water at the surface to spread out more.



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!



JUNE SAINTS & FEAST DAYS

Word Search

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

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



St. Justin

Sacred Heart of Jesus
Immaculate Heart of Mary

St. Norbert

St. Ephrem

St. Barnabas

St. Anthony of Padua

St. Aloysius **Gonzaga**

Nativity of St. John the Baptist

St. Cyril of Alexandria

St. Peter

St. Paul

First **Martyrs** of the Church of Rome

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 - Koorinal

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

Wagga Wagga - South Wagga

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

Wagga Wagga - West Wagga

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

Albury

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

Albury - North Albury

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

Albury - Lavington

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

Albury - Thurgoona

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

Berrigan

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

Coolamon

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

Corowa

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

Culcairn

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

Darlington Point

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

Finley

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

Ganmain

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

Griffith

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

Holbrook

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

Howlong

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

Jerilderie

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

Junee

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

Khancoban

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

Leeton

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

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

Lockhart

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

Mulwala

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

Narrandera

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

Tarcutta

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

The Rock

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

Tocumwal

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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 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 June:

2 June 1934	Fr Peter McAlroy
6 June 1912	Fr Edward J Fallon
6 June 1926	Fr John Fleming
7 June 1967	Mgr Bryan William Hayden
9 June 1920	Mgr Michael Buckley
10 June 1981	Mgr John Joseph Harper
12 June 1928	Fr Patrick Hickey
18 June 1933	Fr Terence O'Shaughnessy
19 June 1966	Fr Albert Colletta OFM Cap.
27 June 1985	Fr Henry Theodore Josko

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

Now stocking your monthly copy of TOGETHER

South City Shopping Centre
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650
www.southcitynews.com.au
Call (02) 6971 3944

74 Baylis Street
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650
www.cignall.com.au
Call (02) 6931 7994

Family reflections for:

June/July

13th June - Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B
Church documents call the Christian family the “domestic church.” This is both a compliment and a call to commitment. Because the family is a community formed in love and dedicated to the physical and spiritual growth of its members, it is a miniature version of the Kingdom of God on earth. This Sunday’s Gospel Reading, Mark 4:26–34, consists of two parables that Jesus used to help us discern the mystery of the Kingdom of God. The beginning of the kingdom is compared to a tiny seed that over time matures and ripens. Many of the things we do within the family seem insignificant. They are part of our daily activity and attract little attention. Yet they show our love and concern for one another. According to the Gospel, it’s these small things that yield big results, acting as significant contributions to the growth of God’s kingdom on earth. The growth of the seed illustrates the nature and the results of a strong faith.

Read aloud together the Gospel of Mark 4:26–34. Consider how your family’s concerns reflect the Church’s concerns for those members who are poor, forgotten, hungry, ill, shunned, or lonely. Together think of a specific action that you can do to assist a person in your extended family, neighborhood, or parish. Now pray together the Lord’s Prayer, pausing briefly to consider the import of the words “thy kingdom come.” Each evening this week as you gather for supper, share with one another the simple acts of love you witnessed within the family that day.

Ezekiel 17:22–24 Psalm 92:2–3,13–16
2 Corinthians 5:6–10 Mark 4:26–34

20th June - Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B
Worries and concerns are part of human life. Jesus teaches us, however, that we ought not to let worries and concerns consume us. Jesus teaches us that our faith ought to lead us to trust in God's protection and love, no matter how strong the whirlwind going on around us. Like the disciples, we can bring our worries and concerns to Jesus in prayer. Jesus will hear our

cries for help. He knows that our faith can be fragile and he will act so that our trust in God will be strengthened. As you gather as a family, invite each family member to talk about something that might be worrying them. Talk about how important it is to share worries and concerns with other people. When we do this, we learn to see our worries from a different perspective. Read today's Gospel, Mark 4:35–41. Ask your family questions such as these: Why were the disciples worried about the storm? Why wasn't Jesus worried about the storm? When we bring our worries to Jesus in prayer, Jesus can help us see things from God's perspective. Invite family members to name again a worry or concern and pray together that Jesus will help us have faith in God's love and protection. Conclude in prayer together by praying the Lord's Prayer.

Job 38:1,8–11 Psalm 107:23–24,25–26,28–29,30–31
2 Corinthians 5:14–17 Mark 4:35–41

27th June - Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B
There are many ways in which we can compare the request for healing made by Jairus and the request of the woman with the hemorrhage. One comparison helps us think about prayer. Jairus asked Jesus for healing on his daughter’s behalf; the woman with the hemorrhage had no one to speak for her and bravely approached Jesus on her own initiative. In our prayers, we do both. We interceded for others’ needs, and we also courageously express our own needs to God. We find hope in Jesus’ response to both of these people, who sought him out in their hour of need. As you gather as a family, talk about some of the things you have prayed for this week. Notice that some of your prayers may have been for other people, and some of your prayers may have been for your own needs. In today’s Gospel we find encouragement for both kinds of prayer. Read together today’s Gospel, Mark 5:21–43. Talk about the similarities and differences between the two people who presented their needs to Jesus in this Gospel. Notice that both people received the healing they sought from Jesus. We want to pray for the needs of others and for our own needs with as much faith and hope as

Jairus and the woman with the hemorrhage did. Pray together in thanks and praise to God, who hears our needs and answers them, by praying today’s psalm, Psalm 30.

Wisdom 1:13–15; 2:23–24 Psalm 30:2,4,5–6,11,12,13
2 Corinthians 8:7,9,13–15 Mark 5:21–43

4th July - Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B
Our family plays an important role in shaping us and forming our self-identity. In family life, we find a safe place to discover who we are and who God calls us to be. But sometimes the influences from outside our family can make us unrecognizable to those who know us best. These outside influences can lead us away from God, or they can lead us toward a deeper relationship with God. In today’s Gospel, we see that the people of Nazareth could not recognize Jesus as the Son of God. They could know him only as the son of Mary. We hope that through our family life we will be encouraged to filter the many influences on our lives through the lens of faith so that we will become the person that God calls us to be. As you gather as a family, talk about the people and events that are influencing members of your family. Acknowledge that many of these people and events are positive influences, helping us be better people and leading us to a deeper relationship with God. Also acknowledge, however, that there are negative influences in our lives that risk pulling us away from God. Observe that Jesus was a person who allowed his relationship with God to be the most important thing in his life. This led many people to have faith in him as the Son of God. However, not everyone could recognize this about Jesus. Read today’s Gospel, Mark 6:1–6. Ask: Who does not recognize Jesus as God’s Son in this Gospel? (some of his kinfolk in Nazareth) Observe that because of the people’s lack of faith, Jesus could not perform many miracles in Nazareth. Conclude by praying together that our families will continue to help us follow God in our lives. Pray together the Prayer for Vocations.

Ezekiel 2:2–5 Psalm 123:1–2,3–4
2 Corinthians 12:7–10 Mark 6:1–6



Artwork: *Care For Country* by Maggie-Jean Douglas (Gubbi Gubbi)



When creating 'Care for Country' I kept in mind that this meant spiritually, physically, emotionally, socially and culturally – I chose to create a bright and vibrant artwork that included the different colours of the land but showed how they come together in our beautiful country and to make people feel hopeful for the future. I've included communities/people, animals and bush medicines spread over different landscapes of red dirt, green grass, bush land and coastal areas to tell the story of the many ways country can and has healed us throughout our lives and journeys.

[facebook.com/NAIDOC](https://www.facebook.com/NAIDOC) [@naidocweek](https://twitter.com/naidocweek) [@naidocweek](https://www.instagram.com/naidocweek)

NAIDOC Week

4-11 JULY 2021



#NAIDOC2021 #HealCountry

Acknowledging the 50th Anniversary of the Aboriginal Flag. Reproduced with kind permission and copyright of Harold Thomas. Torres Strait Islander flag reproduced by kind permission of the Torres Strait Island Regional Council. Designed by Mr Bernard Namok.