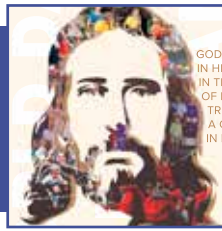


SACRED HEART
GRIFFITH
CENTENARY p12



MIGRANT AND
REFUGEE
SUNDAY p17



SCHOOLS
IN OUR
DIOCESE p26



TOGETHER

In the Diocese of *Wagga Wagga*

wagga.catholic.org.au

FREE

AUGUST 2021

Social Justice



Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor

Read more on page 7...

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



As we are moved by the suffering in Afghanistan, the Catholic bishops of Australia released the social justice statement *The Cry of the Earth, the Cry of the Poor*, urging action to care for the earth, and for the poor.

It brings home the connections between social justice, ecological justice and bringing about peace in the world. The safety, health, and livelihoods of those who are the poorest and most vulnerable in our communities are usually the most severely impacted. That is why Pope Francis often speaks of responding to the cry of the earth *and* the cry of the poor.

The more we recognise God's presence sustaining creation, the more we uncover the sacramentality of creation. God reaches out to us in love in and through created things. The universe is infused with the love of God, and we are immersed in a world that continues to reveal the presence of the divine Word.

We are being challenged to move away from attempting to dominate the world with technology towards understanding that we do not stand outside of creation but are part of it, "joined in a splendid universal communion" (Laudato Si' 220) with other creatures. This is what Pope Francis calls an ecological conversion and it has a personal and social dimension.

Many things, including we human beings, need to change. In the spiritual dimension of that change will be our understanding of our relationship with the world

under God. A second dimension will be economic and will involve our consumption and our choices.

September 1 is world creation day and we are invited to make a special period of personal effort from this day until the feast of St Francis of Assisi on October 4. We can't do everything at once but we can take a step. This is a journey.

How do you see yourself and your family starting this journey? Or this diocese?

I invite you to join me in intentionally and joyfully walking on earth and grass and being in relationship with creation, with those we meet on the way and with God. Enjoy the seasons as they turn.

In this period, you might like to join me in driving at lower speeds between towns when traffic is light so as to consume less petrol. On behalf of the diocese, I commit to moving to renewable energy as far as is practicable.

This is an opportunity to visit the *Laudato Si' Action Platform* website and to read the social justice statement *Cry of the earth, cry of the poor*.

Let us also say the *Wonder and Awe prayer* in this time.

Creator God,

We stand in awe of all that you have made.

Fill our hearts with gratitude for every good gift, great and small,

that feeds and forms us, inviting and enabling us to become people who are fully alive in your amazing grace. Amen

I thank the many people who have let me know that they have contacted our politicians expressing their desire that

the politician vote against Voluntary Assisted Dying and to ask for even more support for palliative care. It is not too late to join us in this action of compassion for our sick.

I have recently received my second COVID-19 vaccination and invite you to be vaccinated as well.

A Letter on Voluntary Assisted Dying

To:

Ms Stephanie Anne Cooke, MP
Member for Cootamundra

Mr Justin Clancy MP
Member for Albury

The Hon. Wes Fang
Member of the Legislative Council

Mrs Helen Dalton MP
Member for Murray

Dr Joe McGirr MP
Member for Wagga Wagga

We, religious leaders in the Riverina, share common goals and are in agreement in our approach to end-of-life situations. We affirm that:

- Voluntary assisted dying and physician-assisted suicide are morally wrong and should not be allowed under legislation.
- No health care provider should be coerced or pressured to break the Hippocratic Oath and either directly or indirectly assist in the deliberate and intentional death of a patient through assisted suicide or any form of euthanasia, especially when it is against the religious beliefs of the provider and, as such, conscientious objection should be respected.
- We encourage and support validated and professional palliative care everywhere and for everyone. When efforts to continue staving off death are unreasonably burdensome, we are then morally duty-bound to provide comfort, effective pain and symptoms relief, companionship, care and spiritual assistance to the dying patient and to their family.
- We commend laws and policies that protect the rights and the dignity of the dying patient, in order to avoid euthanasia and promote palliative care.
- We urge our communities to help patients so that any fear of being a burden does not lead to their believing their life has no value or dignity, but rather they see they do deserve care and support until their life's natural end.

We express our objection to the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill currently before the NSW Parliament. We urge you, our parliamentary representatives, to VOTE NO.

Co-Signed by:

Dr Waseem Afzal
MAYMIA Leader
(Muslim Association of the Riverina and Wagga Australia)

Most Rev Mark Edwards OMI
Bishop, Diocese of Wagga Wagga
Catholic Church

Rev Janice McWhinney
Wesley United Church,
Wagga Wagga

Fr Robert MacPherson
Rector, Holy Cross Seminary
Society of St Pius X

Pastor Robert Bartholomaeus
Bishop, Lutheran Church of Australia NSW and ACT District

The Right Reverend Donald Kirk
Bishop of Riverina
Anglican Church of Australia

Rev Dr Matthew Purnell
Minister, St Andrew's Presbyterian Church,
Wagga Wagga

David Strong (pastor)
Baptist Church,
Wagga Wagga

The Venerable Dr Grant M Bell
Rector Wagga Wagga Anglican
Archdiocese of the South West
Diocese of Canberra & Goulburn

Most Rev Columba Macbeth-Green
Bishop, Diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes
Catholic Church

Most Rev Bosco Puthur
Eparch, St Thomas the Apostle
Syro-Malabar Eparchy

Rev. Jonathon Blyth
Pastor, St Aidan's
Presbyterian Church
Wagga Wagga

Pr Darryl Mattner
Riverina Region Pastor
NSW Lutheran Church

Fr Yostos Wasif
Parish Priest: St Mary & St. John
The Beloved Optic Orthodox Church
Wagga Wagga

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

Prayer Intention for August - Pray with Pope Francis

The Church

Let us pray for the Church, that She may receive from the Holy Spirit the grace and strength to reform herself in the light of the Gospel.

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

<https://thepopevideo.org/>



**Pope's Worldwide
Prayer Network**

APOSTOLSHIP OF PRAYER

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

The Church is always in need of renewal, as it is comprised of fallen human beings who strive to follow the example of Jesus Christ.

This is not only a personal renewal, but also an "ecclesial" renewal, guided by the Holy Spirit.

Pope Francis wrote about this in his Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*.

"Pope Paul VI invited us to deepen the call to renewal and to make it clear that renewal does not only concern individuals but the entire Church...The Second Vatican Council presented ecclesial conversion as openness to a constant self-renewal born of fidelity to Jesus Christ: 'Every renewal of the Church essentially consists in an increase of fidelity to her own calling... Christ summons the Church as she goes her pilgrim way... to that

continual reformation of which she always has need, in so far as she is a human institution here on earth.'" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 26)

This renewal does not mean the Church needs to abandon its past or moral teachings, but to dig deeper into it and soak herself in the rich soil of the Gospel.

Pope Francis sees this renewal as being more "mission-oriented," making "ordinary pastoral activity on every level more inclusive and open" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 27)

This type of renewal seeks to encompass the whole world with the Gospel, fulfilling Jesus' command to preach the Gospel to all nations.

May we do our part by seeking personal renewal in our hearts, always seeking to live by what is true, good and beautiful, united to God's holy commandments.

Clergy Jubilarians

This year brings special anniversaries to the priesthood for Rev Thomas Casanova, Rev John Fowles and Rev James McGee. Bishop Mark Edwards spoke of their journeys.

25 years Rev Thomas Casanova

Rev Thomas Casanova grew up in country Victoria, in the Diocese of Ballarat, and joined the Confraternity of Christ the Priest Seminary in Scoresby, Victoria. Fr Casanova was ordained to the priesthood on 15th June 1996 at St Michael's Cathedral Wagga Wagga by Most Rev William Brennan.

Fr Casanova served the diocese in the parishes of Thurgoona and West Wagga. During his priesthood, he has served on the Council of Priests, and as School Chaplain, and Superior of the Christ the Priest Mission House.

Fr Thomas has initiative inspired by priestly zeal. For example, he has innovative creations for Covid-Safe processes – including homemade Perspex screen for communion distribution and hands-free holy water dispenser. He cycled 1500km in one month to raise funds for a young parishioner with cancer – once cycling from Wagga to Canberra. With Fr Fowles and Fr Wallace he supported the highly successful Highway to Heaven Truck raffles to raise funds to build the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church and associated facilities.

Fr Casanova once hiked to the top of a volcano in the Philippines which erupted 3 months later. A personal highlight was attending the Canonisation of Mary MacKillop in Rome in 2010.

Fr Casanova exhibits a strong dedication to the charism of the Confraternity and has been central in holding the Confraternity together and explaining the charism and living it.

25 years Rev John Fowles

Rev John Fowles was born country Victoria and was educated by the Marist Brothers. He joined the Christ the Priest Seminary in Scoresby Victoria and was ordained on 15th June 1996 at St Michael's Cathedral Wagga Wagga by Most Rev William Brennan.

He served the Diocese briefly in the parish of Lavington before moving to Thurgoona. Fr Fowles is celebrating 25 years as priest and 25 years in Thurgoona this year. He has spent almost his entire priesthood at Thurgoona Parish being involved in the establishment of the parish and the building of the church. His ability to work hard and his ability to make things is outstanding and probably both come from his farming background. He can attract people to work with him – working men are very much at home

in his presence - and he organises them well. This is a central part of the way he cares for his parish. Fr John perseveres and has great courage. He is a man of hope as expressed in his driving of the highly successful Highway to Heaven Truck Raffles with Fr Casanova and Fr Wallace to raise funds to build the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church and associated facilities.

Building and piloting his own small plane, Fr John has offered a succession of bishops flights. He shares honestly about the excitements of this travelling which probably explains their reticence to taking him up on this offer.

60 years Rev James McGee

Rev James McGee was born in Scone, NSW and was educated by the Sisters of Mercy Scone and the Christian Bros. He studied for the priesthood at Springwood and Manly. He was ordained a priest on 17 July 1961 at St Patrick's Church Albury by Most Rev F A Henschke.

During his 60 years of priesthood, Fr McGee served the Diocese in the parishes of Wagga, Junee, North Albury, Leeton, Yanco, Tocumwal, Lavington, The Rock and Yenda-Yoogali-Hanwood.

Fr McGee was, for a time, the editor of Together Magazine and also the Diocesan Director for the Pontifical Mission Society. He retired from official duties in 2007.

Fr McGee is one of the stalwarts of the diocese, almost a pioneer, and has served in many parishes. A renowned gardener, he propagated Eucalyptus Dwyeri (named for Bishop Dwyer who was the first to identify it) for the occasion of the Diocesan Centenary in 2017. Despite illnesses and disabilities, Fr Jim remains cheerful and positive, never complaining.

In my mind, Fr McGee is a model for continual learning and ongoing formation which has been given expression by his taking up of painting in recent years.

All three are men of faith and have given their lives to make Christ the head of the body present in leadership in their works and in sacraments and in pastoral care. We are grateful to them for giving the gift of their lives and of their faith to communities around the Diocese. Ad multos annos.



Rev Thomas Casanova - 25 years



Rev John Fowles - 25 years



Rev James McGee - 60 years

Hope Sunday
1st August 2021



Pastoral Letter for HOPE Sunday - 1st August 2021

Dear sisters and brothers,

Hold fast to the hope that lies before us. This we have as an anchor of the soul, sure and firm, which reaches into the interior behind the veil. [Heb 6:18b-19] As an Easter people, hope is at the heart of the good news we are called to proclaim with our lives. Indeed, it is the promise of the resurrection that enables us to face our mortality with hope. Sometimes, when we are faced with a life-limiting illness, faith can be put to the test and our hearts go out to those in such distress that they want to end their lives.

Voluntary Assisted Dying, often shortened to VAD, is another term for euthanasia or assisted suicide. Alex Greenwich, an independent MP in the Legislative Assembly, will move to legalise Voluntary Assisted Dying for those with a life-limiting medical diagnosis. He has released a draft VAD bill which will be introduced into the NSW State parliament in September.

I invite you to consider why the Church and much of the community remains opposed to this proposed legislation.

In a pluralist society such as ours, those of us with deeply held religious convictions have the same right as everybody else to argue for what we believe is best for our society. The fact that this conviction has its origin in the Judeo-Christian tradition does



not mean that we who defend it may be dismissed as trying to impose our religious views on others. Rather, because of our convictions, what we are concerned about is the common good for all in society.

Believing as we do that all people are created in the image and likeness of God, we have no doubt that all people have a right to be loved from the beginning to the end of their lives. The moral imperative of equality of all, even if frail and infirm, should translate to directing our efforts to treating the sick and dying, rather than developing a legal framework to eliminate them.

The personal decision to request VAD is often driven by depression, yet in some states, VAD legislation does not mandate specialist assessment to detect and treat depression. Other drivers for a sick patient to seek assisted suicide include fear of pain, loss of control or loss of autonomy. Also,

those who suffer from illness or advanced age may be made to feel as though they are a burden to their family or to society, and as such may feel a strange sense of duty to undergo euthanasia. Most who are suffering in any of these ways can be helped through compassionate, holistic medical and nursing care, especially with access to well-resourced palliative care. This should be the focus of legislators – to provide sufficient funding and resources for equity of access to palliative care services – rather than a legalised VAD framework.

If there is a danger that a person will act on thoughts of self-harm, that person can be involuntarily admitted to a hospital with appropriate mental health facilities. We believe that they are suffering from mental illness and we try to prevent their death by suicide. We don't say 'That person wants to die and so it is OK' but rather work strenuously to protect them. We should not



“We are experiencing a strong universal trend toward the legalization of euthanasia. Even in these harsh circumstances, if the person feels loved, respected, and accepted, the negative shadow of euthanasia disappears or becomes almost non-existent. This is because the value of their being is measured by the ability to give and receive love, and not by their productivity.”

(Pope Francis, October 1, 2018)





see the desired voluntary death of a person with a life-limiting diagnosis any differently.

I note that the Australian Medical Association opposes this legislation, stating that it does not support the medical profession being involved in interventions where the primary intention is the ending of a patient's life. The medical profession and nursing fraternity are trained to support and protect human life - it is anathema to this culture to support a tolerance of legislated killing. By expressing our concern about this bill, we are also supporting our medical health providers who want to provide the people of NSW with excellent medical care throughout their lives, including a good death.

One of the foundational principles of our society is that no-one has the right to deliberately take the life of another innocent person, or to actively cooperate in doing so. This is the right to life. It originates from our Judeo-Christian tradition and expressed most clearly in the fifth commandment: You shall not kill.

Viewed through the eyes of our faith, euthanasia is fundamentally flawed because of its tolerance of the support of a physical act to produce the death of a person. It contravenes the fifth commandment and undermines the very essence of respecting the dignity of the human person, promoting a 'throw away culture' where we don't care deeply enough about those who face a life-limiting illness to care for them properly. I worry about the effect that VAD will have on our doctors; they did not become medical professionals in order to hasten the deaths of their patients.

Often the pro-VAD arguments are passionately articulated by people who have been deeply affected by witnessing great suffering during the terminal illness of a loved one, and want to see 'things change' in such a way that this is not repeated. It is

lamentable that supporters of VAD are often unaware that the end of life experience of their loved one could have been so much better, with appropriate access to quality palliative care services. It is imperative that we ensure that expert and compassionate palliative and psychiatric care are available to all so that mental health and pain management are prioritised, leading to an increased sense of purpose and awareness of personal value and dignity for all.

The VAD lobby has adopted the concept that assisted suicide promotes 'dying with dignity'. This is incorrect. The dignity of the human person requires an inexhaustible respect for the preciousness of EVERY human life, from conception till death. This respect for each individual does not prevent the removal of treatments no longer deemed to be beneficial, nor the activation of advanced care directives, such as a direction made by a patient that they do not wish to be resuscitated in the case of deterioration.

Our opposition to VAD, comes from deep compassion for those who are suffering. The members of the medical profession who have raised concerns about VAD care deeply for those with whom they work. Many of us carry precious memories of having been with a loved one at the moment of their death and have experienced it

as painful and yet profoundly human, to share that journey with them until the very end. Our love of neighbour embodies our respect for the sanctity of human life, from its beginning right until the end - this is how each one of us, made in the image and likeness of God, deserve to be treated. We want to accompany and surround the life of the weakest with the cloak of love and, in this case, through the very best of palliative care.

Many people, including doctors and many politicians, are convinced that this legislation is a dangerous move towards a society which no longer believes in the essential value of human life in all its stages and conditions.

If, like me, you are opposed to VAD legislation, or if you are concerned about it, I invite you to write, email, call and meet with our local members to oppose the euthanasia bill. Please do not let this opportunity pass you by.

Yours in Christ,

Mark Edwards OMI
Bishop of Wagga Wagga

HOPE: Preventing Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide.

HOPE is a coalition of groups and individuals who oppose the legalisation of euthanasia and assisted suicide and support measures that will make euthanasia and assisted suicide unthinkable.

Visit the HOPE website:

<https://www.no euthanasia.org.au/>
and sign the online petition against euthanasia: https://www.no euthanasia.org.au/protect_life_nsw

I invite you to contact your State Representatives in both the Upper and Lower Houses:

Lower House Contacts:

Justin Clancy MP

Member for Albury
612 Dean Street
ALBURY NSW 2640
albury@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dr Joe McGirr MP

Member for Wagga Wagga
64 Baylis Street
WAGGA WAGGA NSW 2650
waggawagga@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Helen Dalton MP

Member for Murray
104-110 Banna Avenue
GRIFFITH NSW 2680
murray@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Steph Cook MP

Member for Cootamundra
PO Box 350
YOUNG NSW 2594
cootamundra@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Upper House Contact:

The Hon. Wes Fang MLC

Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000
wes.fang@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Year of Saint Joseph

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

REFLECTION - AUGUST 2021

The Holy Family

I can't relate to the Holy Family. Mary was completely without sin, Jesus was God and Joseph was a saint. That doesn't sound a whole lot like my family!

Thoughts or comments like these can easily arise when trying to engage with the subject of the Holy Family. Yet, in this Year of St Joseph (which has dovetailed nicely into the Year Amoris Laetitia Family), the Church is encouraging us anew to draw grace and strength from the fully human, grace-filled family life of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

If we desire to draw closer to this little family of Nazareth, then, we may need to explore some of the unconscious assumptions that can create resistance in our minds and hearts.

We may assume, for instance, that being able to resist sin perfectly (or with growing perfection in the case of Joseph) makes Jesus, Mary and Joseph "unrelatable". But is it our sins that "make us human" or that help us feel close to and connected with others?

A little reflection, assisted by Church teaching, will reveal that in fact the opposite is true. Sin makes us "less than human". It robs us of our true humanity and of our capacity to connect with others. It demeans and demoralises us and turns us in on ourselves.

To the extent that the members of the Holy Family were able to resist sin and selfishness, they were able to be fully human. The Holy Family can inspire us by their example of being richly and warmly present to each other, to their extended family, to their community and to the world they found themselves in.

The fact that Jesus, a holy man and preacher, was so comfortable in the company of outcasts and sinners bears testimony to the hospitality and compassion expressed in the family home at Nazareth. Their neighbours would have known them as "good people", people you could go to in a crisis, people who wouldn't judge you or look down on you or air your dirty laundry. Jesus learnt in the family home to be compassionate, accepting and merciful.

The fact that Jesus loved to share meals, to tell stories and to attend celebrations shows that his home

life was rich and celebratory. The fact that his stories are full of images from domestic life – cooking and cleaning; from agriculture – sowing and reaping; from business – debt collectors and employers; and from nature – the lilies of the field; indicates that his parents encouraged a grounded, well-rounded appreciation of all aspects of human existence.

The fact that Jesus, while gentle and humble of heart, was also free in speaking his mind, calling out hypocrisy and expressing his grief, anger, joy or affection, bears testimony to a home environment which "held space" for robust conversations and the healthy expression of emotion.

We can also make the assumption that there would have been something other-worldly or superhuman about the Holy Family. But there is simply no evidence for this.

The fact that we know next to nothing about the details of Jesus' first 30 years of life denotes that those around them noticed nothing "novel" or "exotic" about the Holy Family of Nazareth. In fact, the Gospel of Thomas, in which the child Jesus was depicted performing supernatural feats, was rejected by the early Church as inauthentic.

The Holy Family were not superhuman; they were fully human and extra-ordinary. They didn't have a crystal ball that told them how their life would turn out. They had to live and grow through space and time like the rest of us, trusting that God is good and that ultimately he has everything in hand. They had to exercise faith. They had to choose hope and they had to learn how to accept and appreciate the gift of each other's unique personhood just like we do.

Nor did resisting sin mean they were free from temptation, discouragement, doubt, fear, misunderstandings, hurt, anxiety, stress or grief.

They had many trials to endure: an importunate pregnancy, social disgrace, homelessness, fleeing an oppressive regime, on the run for their lives, precarious employment. Did they need to rely on the kindness of others, on charity, to make it through? Jesus was later to declare that "the Son of Man has no place to lay his head". Was this another lesson learnt from his parents' stories of their early

married life?

The story of Jesus being lost for days during the extended family pilgrimage home from Jerusalem shows that, like us, the Holy Family could not read each other's minds. Despite the purity of their love for each other, Mary and Joseph still could not fully understand each other during their life on earth and nor could they fully understand their son.

The human reality of their essential separateness as individuals as they strove to build communion as a family would have produced all the same frustrations and anxieties that all human beings experience in relationships. And God has willed it this way.

The Vatican II document *Gaudium et Spes* beautifully articulates the complexity of what it means to be human and it is good to reflect that every member of the Holy Family, being fully human, would have experienced these complexities.

In every human person "many elements wrestle with one another... on the one hand, as a creature he experiences his limitations in a multitude of ways; on the other he feels himself to be boundless in his desires and summoned to a higher life" (GS 10). Every person "remains to himself an unsolved puzzle" to which "only God fully and most certainly provides an answer as He summons each person to higher knowledge and humbler probing" (GS 21).

Every person has "a secret core and sanctuary" where he "is alone with God, whose voice echoes in the depths" (GS 16). By his innermost nature, man is a social being, and unless he relates himself to others he can neither live nor develop his potential (GS 12). Man cannot fully find himself except through a sincere gift of himself (GS 24).

Thus Jesus, Mary and Joseph had to undertake the same fundamental human task we all do of growing in self-knowledge and self-possession and of learning how to freely give themselves to each other and enter into communion with one another and with God (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 357). This all took time, patience, forgiveness, understanding, humility, growth in maturity, life experience, openness and learning skills of trust and communication.



The Holy Family are much more like us than they are different from us and they have much to teach us about what it means to be fully human. Let's draw close to these good people, who learnt through trials and sufferings and joys how to walk humbly with God and to trust in his provident goodness.

Let the Holy Family encourage us, that as we open the ordinariness of our lives and relationships to his grace, God can bring about his saving plan.

Lara Kirk has over 20 years experience speaking with young people about marriage and sexuality. She currently works for the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn as Marriage, Family and Relationships Co-ordinator.

Lara is married to Tim and together they have five children.

Catholic Church urges action to care for the earth, the poor

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has made an historic commitment to work towards a more sustainable Church in its annual statement promoting social justice.

In the Social Justice Statement 2021-22 launched on 5 August, *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor*, the bishops commit to a seven-year journey towards seven Laudato Si’ Goals.

“We are facing an ecological crisis and Pope Francis wants the whole Church globally to act with a greater sense of urgency,” said Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv, chair of the Bishops Commission for Social Justice, Mission and Service.

“In Australia, passionate individuals, religious institutes, schools and organisations have been working on ecological issues for a long time. I want to affirm and thank them all, and to urge the whole Catholic community to join them.”

Bishop Long pointed out that “Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have been caring for country from time immemorial. The rest of us need to listen, and to learn how we can walk together to care for the whole of creation – including one another.”

The statement explains that the Laudato Si’ Goals “aim to put Pope Francis’ [2015] encyclical into practice, making communities around the world sustainable in the spirit of the integral ecology of *Laudato Si’*”.

The bishops invite Catholics to “uncover the

sacramentality of creation” in recognising the divine presence in the world, and to respond with wonder and awe. They call for a “profound conversion expressed in a new way of living, both personally and collectively”.

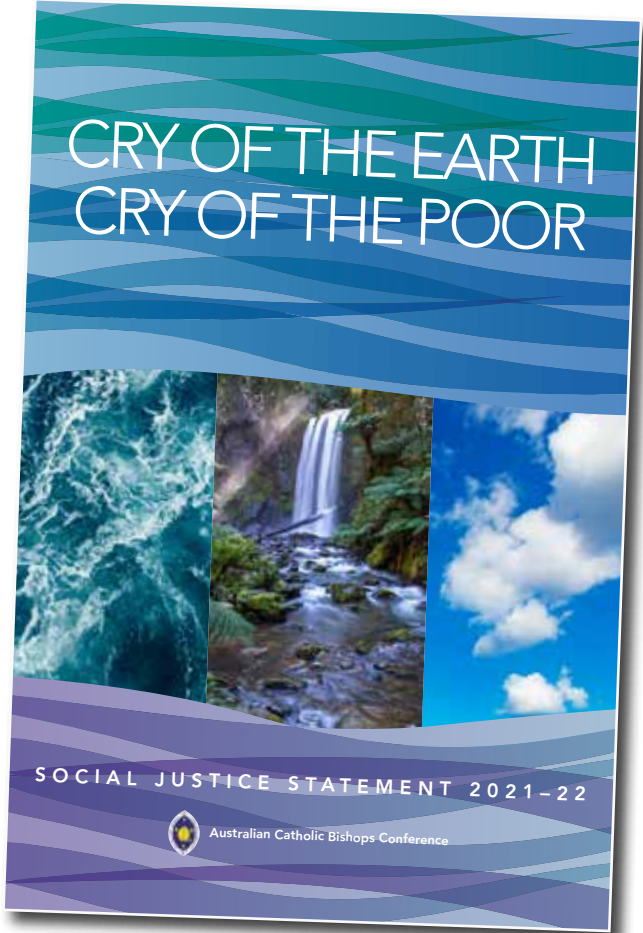
“We are being called to a new way of thinking, feeling, understanding and living,” the statement says.

Speaking during the online launch of the statement, Bishop Long said: “My hope is that *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor* will encourage ever deeper and more effective Christian responses to the urgent cries of the earth and of the poor.”

The statement urges families, schools, parishes, dioceses and organisations to join the bishops in signing up to the Laudato Si’ Action Platform.

The platform, an initiative of the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, will gather ideas for action from around the globe to help participants in their journeys. The Bishops Conference’s Office for Social Justice has been involved in developing the platform.

At the statement’s launch, Bishop Long also announced a new name for that agency – now known as the Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace – affirming “social justice, ecology and peace are inseparable”.



***Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor* and associated resources can be downloaded at www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au**

Lord, when we listen with your ears we hear:
the bush grown more silent,
the birdsong less vibrant,
the stream's sluggish ripple.
Have mercy and open our ears.

Lord, when we look with your eyes we see:
the soil depleted,
the sky smudged,
the oceans rubbished and the great currents slowed.
Have mercy and help us to see.

Lord, when we look with your eyes we see:
the workers who struggle to get by,
the women subjected to violence,
the people who are excluded.
Have mercy and help us to see.

Lord, when we listen with your ears we hear:
the sound of hungry children,
the distress of the mentally ill,
the silent pain of homeless women and men.
Have mercy and open our ears.

Send your Spirit upon us Lord to renew our sight,
to restore our hearing,
and to reclaim your reign of justice for all people
and peace for creation.

AMEN

CRY OF THE EARTH,
CRY OF THE POOR

By listening with an open heart
to those who are most affected,
we can begin, with the help of the Holy Spirit,
to discern the signs of the times.

Creator God,
Creative Word,
Creating Spirit,
instill in us the humility of creatures
and the wisdom of co-creators.

May we act and speak and breathe
as if within your dance of divine love.

Open us to marvel at the wonder
of your handiwork.
Enable us to see your spirit within all things.
Teach us to respect all that is created.
Humble us to hear the cry of the earth
and the cry of the poor.
Empower us to respond with all our heart and
mind and spirit.

In Christ and through the Spirit
we seek to be the carers within your creation,
Creator God.

AMEN

GOD IS A TRINITY
OF LOVE

The three-person God is a Trinity of love.
Every creative act and every part of creation
emerges from this divine interplay of love.

God of wonders,
you show us your beauty in all created things.

Help us to pay attention:
to the taste of the ocean on our lips,
the warmth of the sun on our hands,
the song of birds in the morning and evening,
the fragrance of the earth after rain,
and to the star that guides us.

Creator God,
we stand in awe of all that you have made.

Fill our hearts with gratitude
for every good gift, great and small,
that feeds and forms us,
inviting and enabling us
to become people who are fully alive
in your amazing grace.

AMEN.

WONDER AND
AWE

Every moment and encounter
is an opportunity to be amazed by beauty,
enraptured by amazement,
and consoled by the traces of divine presence.

Ever present God,
giver and sustainer of everything that has life,
maker and fulfilment of all that exists,
although we fail to respect your creation,
listen to the prayers of our heart:

We too are creatures.
Turn our hearts to your love and care for all creation.
With you we gave names to all living things.
Turn our minds to your vision of the heavens
and the earth.
We live off the bounty of earth, sea and sky.
Turn our hands to your stewardship.

Through Christ, in whom all things are made
and held in being,
we pray for the power of your Spirit:
to transform our words and actions,
to care more deeply for all creatures,
to save what is threatened,
to mourn what is lost,
to seek Christ in the cry of the earth
and the cry of the poor,
and
to give glory to your name through all creation.

AMEN

A PRAYER FOR
CONVERSION

...we are invited into ongoing conversion
to transform our outlook and actions to be in accord
with the loving presence of God
at the heart of all reality,
to be attentive to the beauty in all things,
to recognise Christ in the stranger,
and to hear and respond to the cry of the earth.

The major challenges of conversion, renewal and reform

Catholics in Australia have expressed an urgent sense that something needs to change in the Church and how it exists in society.

However, the suggestions for change were numerous, diverse and often conflicting.

This is perhaps the greatest challenge for the Plenary Council in relation to our theme: to respond pastorally to issues that tend to polarise Australian Catholics who want to be open to conversion, renewal and reform. In particular, these issues involve: women in the Church, eligibility for marriage and ordination, and the Rites of Reconciliation.

Our mandate was faithfully to discern, using the responses to the nationwide-consultation. One of our most significant challenges was the lack of a shared consensus among Catholics, even in matters of faith and morals. The Church faces the challenge of learning the practices of dialogue and appreciating diverse ideas and expressions of discipleship on the journey towards the fullness of truth. It is an ongoing challenge to humbly focus on the Good News of God's saving love in Christ and discern where there may be an unbalanced concern for non-essential traditions (CCC 83).

A major challenge confronting the Catholic Church in Australia is the loss of credibility in the wake of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. It is urgent that the Church reforms its procedures of governance and leadership to reflect the values and practices of the Gospel and at least meets civic standards of governance.

A further challenge is not only for leaders but for all members of the Catholic Church.

The consultation highlights the importance of a personal encounter with Christ as the basis of the life of faith, and the need for a supportive and faith-enriching Church community in which to deepen and live out our Catholic identity. Catholics sense a call for greater integration of faith and life, for discerning ways of discipleship — at home and at work, online and in local communities.

A related challenge is the need for greater access to resources for faith formation and spiritual growth, so that Catholics at all stages of life's journey are nourished and equipped for their call. Particular needs were identified for those living the hardships and joys of marriage and family life.

Another challenge faced by most Catholics is the decline of participation in parish life. Parish schools remain strong,

active evangelising communities, yet many struggle to remain embedded in their local Catholic communities. Based on current trends, almost all Australian parishes, and many dioceses, will face increasing challenges in terms of financial sustainability; demography; availability of ordained and other ministerial personnel; adequate administrative support; and strategic planning for mission. There is cause for hope, given that consultation shows a strong appreciation of the importance of parish life and a desire that parishes be vibrant, inclusive, outward-looking communities. Other religious communities and ecclesial movements also enrich the life and witness of the Church through their distinctive charisms and ministries.

At the time of writing, the global COVID-19 pandemic threatens to affect industries and economies, increase unemployment and poverty, increase inequalities in education and increase loneliness and social isolation. The pandemic is also an opportunity to breathe life into our struggling parishes by increasing the methods and number of people providing pastoral support, prayer, faith development and outreach to the poor.

A significant challenge relating to the mission of the Church is the need to broaden, form and support the range of those who minister in parishes, dioceses and other Church activities. The consultation expressed widespread respect and warm appreciation for the ordained men working in parishes and dioceses, often under increasingly challenging circumstances. In the consultation, many called for an expansion of the discipline of ordination to include some who are not currently permitted — suitable married men and also women — to be appropriately trained for diaconate and/or the priesthood. This calls for a pastoral response. Most Catholics also welcome the ministry of laywomen and laymen, in pastoral ministry and leadership. It is imperative that the formation provided for ordinands and other recognised ministers motivates and prepares them to create safe, collaborative, respectful and professional working relations and environments.

Another challenge that Catholic communities face is the retention and support of young people in the life of the Church. Some adults are saddened and concerned by a breakdown in transmission of the faith to the next generations.



Appreciative that some young people respond to the World Youth Day events locally and internationally, the consultation showed that Catholics also strongly desire to reach out to the many more who do not participate actively in Church life. Young Catholics have called for Church leaders and ministers to accompany and assist them in various ways, to face the challenges of discipleship. Our Youth face global changes, secularisation, a plurality of faith traditions, as well as the changing nature of work and employment conditions, and the opportunities and risks of emerging technologies and a digital culture. At the same time, as Pope Francis reminds us, young people must forge new paths of discipleship and lead the Church into the future. "The Church needs your momentum, your intuitions, your faith. We need them! And when you arrive where we have not yet reached, have patience to wait for us" (CV 299).

Finally, the consultation shows an increasing awareness among Catholics of the urgent challenge of working for an "integral ecology" connecting all aspects of our "common home", the earth (LS 11). This must begin from stronger connections with First People Catholics with their spiritual sense of country and of custodial relationship for the earth. Aboriginal Catholics have called on the Plenary Council to increase cultural awareness for Church communities and ministers working with Indigenous Australians, faith formation opportunities designed for Aboriginal Catholics, and welcoming Aboriginal culture in the

Church's liturgy and life (NATSICC Recommendations to the Plenary Council). Australian Catholics need to hear again the clear voice of Pope John Paul II in Alice Springs: "You are part of Australia and Australia is part of you. And the Church herself in Australia will not be fully the Church that Jesus wants her to be until you have made your contribution to her life and until that contribution has been joyfully received by others" (Address in Blatherskite Park, 1986).

In seeking to foster an integral ecology of life, the Church also promotes relationships of non-violent cooperation and mutual service between women and men. The Church needs to continue to foster respectful openness to people of diverse sexual orientation and gender consciousness. It requires deepening commitment to human life at all its stages and conditions of life, and to our relations with the non-human world. It calls for responsibility in the current climate crisis and for the personal and public conversions needed to care for the environment of Australia and globally. **Conversion to an integral ecology of life calls for a spirituality of gratitude and wonder, giving praise to the Creator and Giver of all that exists.**



Plenary Council
Listen to what the Spirit is saying...

Last Cab to Darwin screening

On Sunday 1 August around 150 parishioners attended the screening of Last Cab to Darwin to open up discussion around the issues around voluntary assisted dying (VAD).

The afternoon was opened by Bishop Mark who reflected on the importance of love when supporting those facing their end of life.

Michael Caton and Mark Coles Smith were brilliant in their roles. Michael Caton played Rex, the terminally ill cab driver who, on his way to Darwin, picks up indigenous drifter Tilly, played by Mark Coles Smith.

Rex found out he only had months to live and, not telling anyone, left behind the love of his life and all his friends to access the new euthanasia laws being proposed in Darwin. Rex didn't want to die in hospital and wanted to die with dignity.

Rex's long journey to Darwin with Tilly by his side brings many adventures and many laughs but interweaved throughout that was a spiritual journey for both of them.

Rex was a proud older male who felt

reaching out was a sign of weakness. As he started to open up he had the beautiful realisation that he needed his friends and the love of his life so turned around and returned home to die with dignity amongst his loved ones.

After the movie, Loretta Brinkman, Director of Mission Integration at Calvary Hospital spoke and invited the audience to reflect, discuss and share on three important questions:

1. Was it a film about life or death?
2. What made you sad, angry, hopeful, scared as you watched last cab?
3. How has this story illuminated the current conversations around VAD for you?

I was struck by Dr Farmer, played by Jacki Weaver, who was an advocate for VAD and doing everything she could to get the bill passed. Whilst she was concerned for the welfare of Rex, she definitely had a political agenda and I



Bishop Mark Edwards and Loretta Brinkman speak to attendees.

was shocked that she didn't take the time to get to know Rex before making such a massive decision to approve his desire to take his own life. Death, although a major part, is such a small part of a person. We are so much more than our final moments and that is to be respected.

Facing death is scary, its the fear of the unknown but if we open up the dialogue, we can discuss dying and how to have a good death and have our wishes honoured about how we want our final moments to be. There is support available, the palliative care sector is brilliant and we have our faith. Let's empower and support one another to have a good death.

If you haven't seen the movie, I highly recommend it but make sure you have tissues as there wasn't a dry eye in the cinema once the final credits rolled.

The movie should have come with a language warning. It wasn't out of place to the aussie outback though and the importance of the movie was the messages it sent and the many moments that allowed us to reflect.

The many medical concerns raised in this movie tie in nicely to the article below 'Our fear of dying does not justify medical homicide' from Kemal Atlay below.

'Our fear of dying does not justify medical homicide'

Does it corrupt the role of doctors to help terminally ill patients access voluntary assisted dying?

BY KEMAL ATLAY

Queensland GP Dr David van Gend says the intervention is akin to "medical homicide".

Last month, he appeared before a Queensland parliamentary inquiry to urge lawmakers to reject a bill to legalise assisted dying in the state. Some of his statement is below.

I am a GP and, for 15 years, a senior lecturer in palliative medicine. I was also a member of the Queensland Health working group on palliative care in children.

Over the 26 years of my involvement in this debate, it has always been marked by goodwill.¹

Those who support euthanasia have often seen a loved one die badly. Those who oppose euthanasia have equal empathy for suffering, but they are deeply concerned by the wider implications.

I can give examples of what they

fear. It is that euthanasia will shatter the cornerstone of law, which is the prohibition against intentional killing; that it corrupts the role of doctors by making us bringers of death; and that it will demoralise palliative care, as we have seen overseas.

And worst of all, they fear it will usher in a new insidious oppression of the most vulnerable, who will see this not as a 'right to die' but more as a 'duty to die'. The UK House of Lords inquiry warned that "vulnerable people — the elderly, lonely, sick or distressed — would feel pressure, whether real or imagined, to request early death".²

Even former Prime Minister Paul Keating said, "It is fatuous to assert that patients will not feel pressure to nominate themselves for termination."³

I know these vulnerable people in nursing homes. They are often lonely



Dr David van Gend. Photo: Newspix.

and demoralised and feel a burden to others. They will hear what society is telling them. They will know when their welcome has expired.

That is the injustice for which this bill to legalise euthanasia should be rejected.

Failing to protect patients from themselves

This bill must be amended to protect our patients from their own depression,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

CONTINUED FROM PAGE9

their own lack of information at such a critical time.

When you are in an advanced disease state, your brain chemistry can be altered.

It is difficult to tell between a brain depression, which we have a duty to treat because it is disturbing the person’s perception and the reaction of grief and existential distress in a terminal patient.

Yet this bill does not require assessment by a psychiatrist, who would be able to exclude depression or anxiety or the effects of powerful medications on the patient's mood and thinking, and safely confirm legal capacity.

Further, this bill does not require the input of a palliative medicine specialist to ensure truly informed consent (ensuring that the fearful patient is aware of the vast capacity of palliative medicine to ease their symptoms).

Instead, this reckless bill allows a junior doctor, just five years out of university, such as one of the GP trainees we have in our practice, with no training in palliative medicine or psychiatry, to tick the boxes about legal capacity and informed consent.

That is legally unsafe and medically negligent.

Failing to protect patients from doctors

Two psychiatrists in Brisbane, Adjunct Professor Frank Varghese and Professor Brian Kelly, warned years ago that euthanasia laws cannot protect patients from “the doctor’s unconscious and indeed sometimes conscious wishes for the patient to die”.⁵

We see this abuse of power in Holland, where confidential government surveys show, year after year, that doctors euthanise hundreds of patients without their consent — even when those patients were able to give or withhold consent.⁶

Doctor knows best, doctor has all the power and nobody in Holland can stop it.

So this bill does not protect patients from themselves, or from intimidation by malicious relatives or even from the power of unscrupulous doctors.

And neighbouring Belgium puts the lie to the idea that legislation can set lasting limits on who qualifies for euthanasia. Belgium’s law in 2002, similar to Queensland’s, was for those experiencing “intractable and unbearable pain”. Over the years, the criteria have expanded so that Belgians have been lawfully euthanised for chronic fatigue, manic depression, anorexia and autism. In 2013, 44-year-old transgender man Nathan Verhelst asked for and received a lethal injection because he was so distressed by three failed gender reassignment surgeries.⁷

To again quote Paul Keating, who understands political reality: “Once termination of life is authorised, the threshold is crossed. From that point, it is much easier to liberalise the conditions governing the law. And liberalised they

will be.”⁸

The slander of 'slow euthanasia'

You ask about terminal sedation, which some ignorant people slur as 'slow euthanasia'. It is not. It is a last resort to control the symptoms, not to kill the patient.

I have used it once for a patient with horrendous breast cancer pain.

At one point, I said to her: “We’ve reached the end of what we can do with our usual medications. Do you need to just rest for a day or so with twilight sedation? You may still be able to rouse.”

She said yes. We did that. For a day, she was at complete peace. When she roused, she surprised us by asking for some ice-cream, and we gave her some ice-cream.

We were not trying to end her life. She died peacefully a day or two later.

People should not misrepresent terminal sedation as 'slow euthanasia', as trying to end a person’s life. They are dying of their underlying disease. We are just doing what we must do to stop the symptoms. That is our only mindset.

The limits of palliative care

You put the question: if palliative care cannot always relieve a person’s suffering, shouldn’t there be the choice of voluntary assisted dying?

I always tell my medical students that we cannot get rid of all suffering in dying any more than we can get rid of all suffering in childbirth — or in any life event in between: major illness, major accident.

Suffering is part of living.

The question is: why should this committee and this Parliament be approving suicide as a treatment for suffering at one phase of life but not for equal suffering or greater suffering at other phases of life?

Why is it that this generation is the

first in history that can look forward to a tolerable dying, and yet it is this same generation that is now demanding not to ‘die’, not to read those last profound pages of our story but to tear them out and simply be ‘made dead’?

Should this fear of dying justify the introduction of state-sanctioned suicide and medical homicide?

Sometimes we fail our patients. We are not always skillful enough to look after them as well as we should. Our duty as doctors is to continually improve palliative care, and the government’s duty is to expand its availability.

But in answer to your question: no. Rejection of euthanasia does not depend upon perfecting palliative care. Its rejection is not a religious issue. Its rejection stands on the rock-solid ground of injustice to the vulnerable who will be intimidated by this culture-changing law.

Forcing doctors to be complicit

If the VAD legislation prevails, it must at least be amended so it does not coerce the conscience of your fellow citizens who cannot and will not collaborate with intentional killing.

Those of us who share the position of the AMA that doctors should not be involved in interventions that have as their primary intention the ending of a person’s life will be compelled by this bill to oil the cogs of the state machinery of mercy-killing.⁴

How?

Under section 84(2)(b), we will be required to effectively refer — giving name and contact details — for something we consider a corruption of the doctor–patient relationship and a gravely evil act.

Church hospitals and nursing homes will also be coerced to let a patient or resident be euthanised on their property

despite the clear tenets of the institution’s founding faith, which opposes intentional killing. That is an assault by state ideology against religious liberty.

The same coercion of conscience will apply to my local hospice, where I have been on the medical advisory committee for 18 years. This hospice is not a religious foundation, but intentional killing is the antithesis of its ethos of care; the legislation will compel it to allow euthanasia and assisted suicide within its walls and will gut the spirit of the place in the process.

You guys [the elected politicians] have all the power. You can trample on these institutions if you want, or you can show that goodwill. You will get this draft bill into law, despite opposition, but at least you could show the civility, the goodwill, of not crushing the conscience of individuals or church-based institutions.

That would be a lesser evil than the present proposal. We ask for that.

References:

1. van Gend, D., 'Painful arguments in favour of euthanasia', Australian Doctor (print only), 23 June 1995.
2. UK House of Lords, Report of the Select Committee on Medical Ethics, 1994 HMSO.
3. 'Paul Keating: Voluntary euthanasia is a threshold moment for Australia and one we should not cross', Sydney Morning Herald, 19 October 2017.
4. AMA position statement: Euthanasia and Physician Assisted Suicide, 24 November 2016.
5. Psychiatr Serv 1999; 1 Apr.
6. Lancet 2003; 2 Aug.
7. 'The Death Treatment', The New Yorker, 15 June 2015.
8. Keating, ibid.

EVERY CHILD IN EVERY COMMUNITY NEEDS A FAIR GO



ARTWORK BY: School Plus Worongary, QLD (OSHC, ages 5-12yrs)

NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK

5 - 11 September 2021

SUPPORTED BY: DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

NAPCAN

PREVENT CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT

Find out more

www.napcan.org.au

© Copyright NAPCAN 05/2021

Sacred Heart Primary School opens administration building

On 26 July Sacred Heart Primary School, Koorungal officially opened their administration building.

It was a wonderful day for the school community to have the blessing and opening of the administration building.

The Year Six students led the service with great competence and a sense of pride. Bishop Mark Edwards and Fr John the Baptiste blessed the building and Mrs Elizabeth O’Carrigan cut the ribbon to officially open the new building.

Construction of the administration building began in 2019 and was completed by March 2020.

The school community is grateful to CEDWW and the Commonwealth Government for the financial support which made the new facilities possible.



Carolyn Matthews, Principal of Sacred Heart Koorungal speaking to the assembly.



Bishop Mark Edwards cuts the ribbon to formally open the administration building at Sacred Heart Koorungal. Molly, a year 6 student looks on.



L-R Madison, a year 6 student, Elizabeth O’Carrigan, Director of Schools CEDWW, Bishop Mark Edwards, Carolyn Matthews, Principal of Sacred Heart Koorungal, Austin, a year 6 student and Father John Baptiste, Sacred Heart Koorungal, Parish Priest.



Bishop Mark blessing the building accompanied by Ashton, a year 6 student and Father John Baptiste.



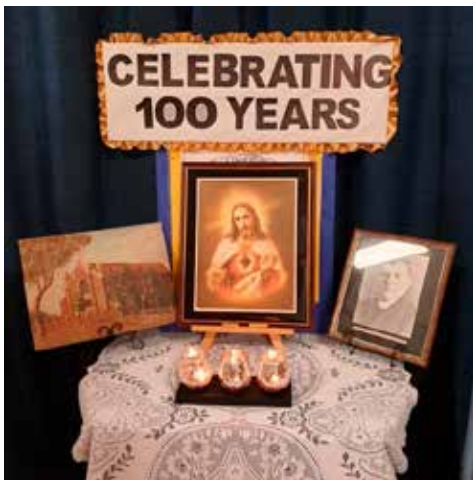
The assembly gathered at Sacred Heart Koorungal for the official opening of the administration building.



Carolyn Matthews, Principal of Sacred Heart Koorungal and Bishop Mark Edwards with Mrs Elizabeth O’Carrigan as she cuts the ribbon.

The Sacred Heart of Griffith - Celebrating Our Centenary

This year Griffith’s Catholic Church, Sacred Heart, celebrates its centenary. There were plans that Sunday 11th July was to be a day of celebration but COVID had other plans.



A Mass, Eucharistic Procession, Benediction (with Bishop Mark Edwards); Blessing of new works, special luncheon with entertainment and book launch of *The Sacred Heart of Griffith - Celebrating Our Centenary* (an amazing chronicle of the beginnings of the catholic church in this area and how the faith-filled parishioners have shaped the parish over its first 100 years).

As with many events around Australia, COVID restrictions did not allow for the occasion to be celebrated in a way that would be truly fitting for such an auspicious event, so a new

date has been scheduled for Sunday 19th September.

However, as the printing of *The Sacred Heart of Griffith - Celebrating Our Centenary* marking this important milestone was already on the press for the event, it was decided to go ahead with a small gathering for the book launch on Sunday 11th July. It was attended by the current priests, religious, a few of the parishioners who had contributed to the book , the ‘book team’ and some of the centenary committee members.

Fr Grace (current Parish Priest), welcomed everyone and used the introduction to the book as his opening to the book launch.

'This book, *The Sacred Heart of Griffith*, will inspire many.

A centenary ago, the parish was established by Bishop Dwyer with the appointment of the founding Parish Priest, Fr O’Dea (1921-1952). For two years prior, he would ride his horse from Leeton to a farm in Griffith to celebrate Mass.

When he first took up residence in Griffith he lived in a tent. In 1921 the parish hall and a presbytery were built. The hall served as church and school

under the care of the Sisters of Mercy. The presbytery became the temporary convent of the Sisters, and Fr O’Dea moved into a room at the back of the hall and lived there until 1938 when St Brigid’s convent was finally built and opened (now the administration building of St Patrick’s Primary School).

The foundations of the church were laid in 1928. We welcomed the Marist Brothers into our parish in 1950 and they ministered here until 1991. Their faith, together with that of the Mercy Sisters, saw the establishment of our Catholic secondary education which later moved to its current location: Marian Catholic College.

The parish has flourished under seven Parish Priests, 61 assistant priest (two who have become bishops), religious and dedicated parishioners.'

He continued, 'I am indebted to the team who have worked on our centenary history for nine years: Joe and Cath Catanzariti, Lucy Edwards and Louise Lowman. Fr Ted Tyler’s work in the

1970s laid the platform on which the work could be built. Their efforts have been complemented by Anna Rossetto’s research. Photographer (and parishioner) Ginette Guidolin provided a number of stunning images including those used for the cover. Wagga Wagga designer Maris Herr responsible for the layout of the book and all of the efforts were brought together by our editor/publisher, Zita Denholm.'

Fr Grace went on to acknowledge the many contributors, those who were interviewed and those who submitted historical articles and photos. He finished by saying, 'that this is by no means a complete account of all that has happened in our vibrant faith community. However, we have tried to capture the main highlights of our past 100 years. We will happily collect any information and photos that have been missed for our Sesquicentenary (150th) book in 2071.'

The editor / publisher who was in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



The Book Team from left: Louise Lowman; Lucy Edwards; Zita Denholm; Fr Grace; Cath Catanzariti; Anna Rossetto & Joe Catanzariti



The photo display which included many of the photos submitted for the book. Not all were able to be included in the book.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

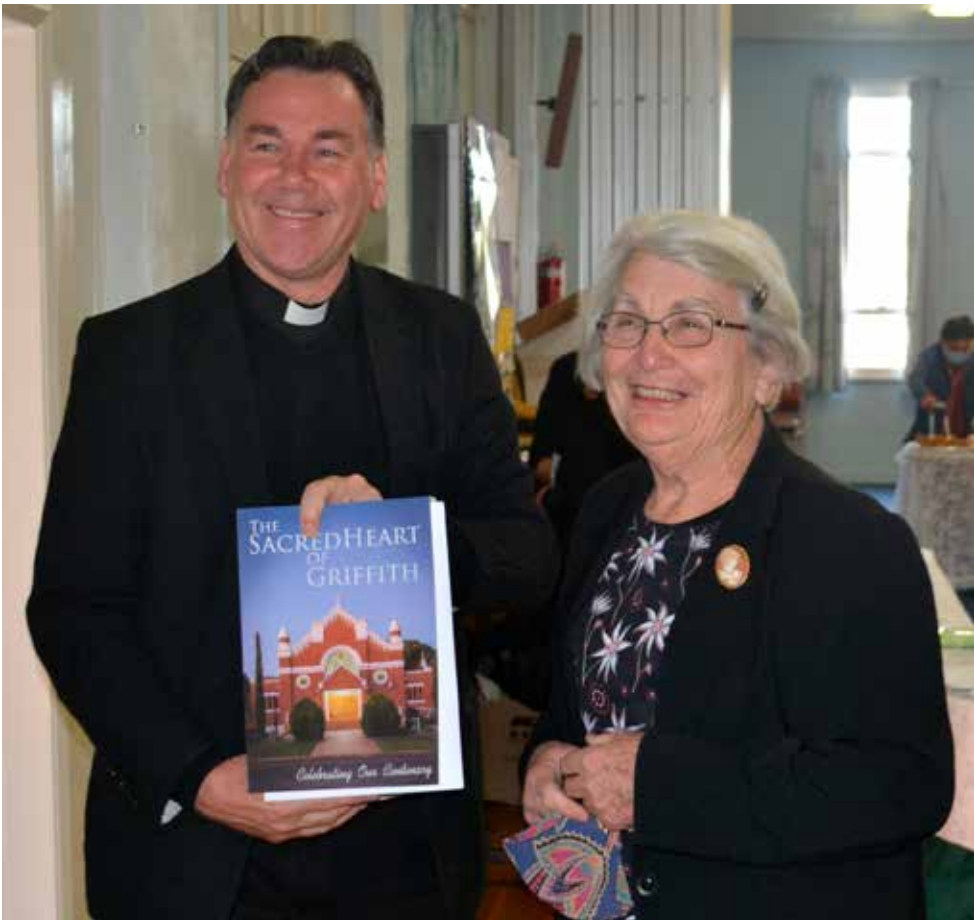
attendance at the launch supported Fr Graces' sentiments saying, 'there are shortcomings in the book - only a diarist can write down day by day everything that happens - and he or she will always select what he or she thinks is interesting or important. A diary of 100 years would run at least 100 volumes, a history must be more selective and an historian must try to capture the strands which have shaped the situation as it is today.'

In saying this, Fr Grace and those who worked on the collation of material for this book, invite and welcome anyone who has photos or stories they would like to contribute for future publications or for the parish archives to do so by dropping them into the Parish Office. As the publisher stated not everything can be put into a book but certainly can be part of the history on file.

The publisher also shared her

observation, 'that in 1921 Griffith was an Irish parish. The parishioners, Irish by birth or by descent from recent immigrants from Ireland were led by a migrant Irishman, Fr O'Dea. Then coincidentally almost at the end of his 30 years as Parish Priest, between 1946 and 1950 migration policies changed and Europeans came to Australia (including Griffith), and so began the development of what is truly one of Australia's multicultural success stories- a vibrant living parish which (while recognising its past) is facing its second century with Faith, Hope and Love.'

The book, 'raffle tickets' - The 100 Club (\$4000 1st prize) and other centenary memorabilia are available for purchase from the Sacred Heart Parish Office - Presbytery Building (11 Warrambool St) Tuesday to Friday 9am to 2pm.



Fr Grace with Zita Denholm (editor/publisher).



Memorabilia is available to purchase.



Fr Grace speaking to the book launch attendees.

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
Albury
02 6040 5066

49 Thomas Mitchell Dr
Wodonga
02 6056 1700

www.lesterandson.com.au

All Hours • All Areas • Pre-planned Funerals Available

AUGUST 2021 - TOGETHER

'Man of courage' Tim Fischer to be honoured with Oration

The late Tim Fischer AC will be honoured with an inaugural oration in his name at Parliament House on 26 August.

Tim Fischer's successor as deputy prime minister and Nationals' leader, John Anderson, will deliver the address.

"Tim was a very humane man who cared a lot about others," John said.

"He was intent upon encouraging them and supporting them to give their best and to have a go.

"He was also courageous. In many ways he was quite shy and courage has to do with overcoming self-doubt and the fear of not being afraid.

"Tim could put his shyness and natural reticence aside in pursuit of what would he have seen as higher objectives."

Tim's wife, Judy Brewer, said it takes great courage and self-belief to make a positive contribution in public life and for her husband this came from his years in the army during the Vietnam War.

"But it also drew deep on the values of the family he was born into and those who taught and nurtured him along the way," she said.

"He returned that support by becoming a mentor to so many others.

"He tried to be honest, courteous and respectful with people, acknowledging they would often have a different view or

position to his.

"So many times I would see him making the tough phone calls or meeting people who were hurting and just trying to do his best to listen to them and provide representation or advice.

"This often took a personal toll on him as it does for anyone in a position of authority or decision making.

"Hopefully, the annual oration would help inspire others, particularly young people, to follow Tim's lead."

The Inaugural Tim Fischer Oration on Ethics in Public and Political Life will be held in the Great Hall, Parliament House, Canberra on 26 August 2021.

Event starts at 6.30pm.

Tickets \$30: www.tfo.org.au

A 'reasonable and happy man'

Vicar-General Fr Tony Percy shares some reflections about his friend, Tim Fischer who was one of Australia's most admired politicians.

Tim Fischer was a wonderful human being. I first met him as a young priest in Young, NSW. Those were the days of



Fr Tony Percy, Archbishop Prowse, Tim Fischer

John Hewson's Fightback package, which Paul Keating successfully savaged! At a civic gathering, I asked whether a GST was going to apply to school fees. Tim was clear in his rebuttal. Thus began a friendship.

He became Deputy Prime Minister in 1996. Nothing changed. He was busy, but always had time to chat. Later he married Judy Brewer, an intelligent and beautiful woman, who became a great soul-mate and they forged a wonderful, fruitful life together.

Tim had a great sense of humour and prodigious memory. He occasionally visited me when I was assistant priest at Queanbeyan parish in the late '90s. The parish priest at the time, Father Michael Burke, held a Labor ticket. He informed Tim that he liked him, but that "he would have to fumigate the presbytery when he left!" When Tim visited later on, he enquired whether the purifying action had been carried out.

I was privileged to baptise their first son Harrison, whose faith in Christ has blossomed. When I travelled to the family home to say Mass and anoint Tim due to cancer, I was deeply moved by Harrison's tangible faith. He had arranged and planned the Liturgy to the last detail.

In 2008, Sydney hosted World Youth Day. Then Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, appointed Tim as Australia's first ambassador to the Holy See. Tim called me, unsure if he was fit for such a position. Imagine!

Michael Tate, who was a minister in Keating's government, told me that Tim also called him, asking if he thought such an ambassadorship was a full-time job. Michael said absolutely not! Tim didn't 'bat an eyelid.' He went on to ask, 'What

should I not do when in Rome?' Tate told me, 'The perfect question.'

I was privileged to speak with Tim two days before he died in August 2019. He told me the cancer treatment was no longer working, that he would last until Christmas and that funeral arrangements were in place. Judy subsequently informed me that Tim had just emerged from a period of unconsciousness to phone me and that no one – yes, no one – had any clue that he was close to death. Such was Tim's selflessness.

Not to my surprise, he wanted to talk about the Gospel of John, which fascinated him. He would sometimes call me on Christmas day complaining that the priests never proclaimed the prologue of John's Gospel at Christmas Masses, instead focusing on the Christmas story.

He had the last word, of course, having the prologue proclaimed by John Anderson at his State funeral. The day after Tim's funeral, I was interviewed by ABC radio, who asked, 'What is the legacy of Tim Fischer AC?' 'Young people can be assured that you can reach the height of your profession without compromising themselves,' I answered.

Blaise Pascal (1623-1662) claimed there are three types of people:

Those who have sought God and found him. They are both reasonable and happy. Those who have sought God and have not found him. They are reasonable but unhappy. Those who have neither sought God nor found him. They are unreasonable and unhappy.

Tim was a reasonable and happy man. A terrific person – faithful husband, tender father, treasured friend, public figure. Truly a great Australian.

INAUGURAL



Tim Fischer

ORATION ON ETHICS IN PUBLIC & POLITICAL LIFE

WHEN

26 AUGUST 2021

Starting 6.30pm until 8.30pm


WHERE

CANBERRA ACT


Great Hall, Parliament House

JOIN US FOR THE
INAUGURAL
TIM FISCHER ORATION
ON
**ETHICS IN PUBLIC
& POLITICAL LIFE**

SPEAKER
JOHN ANDERSON AO



[To purchase tickets go to www.tfo.org.au](http://www.tfo.org.au)
CONTACT: jeanie.alberto@cg.org.au



Form new partnerships, be bold for evangelisation

Now is not a time for settling for the status quo in Church life – it's a time for priests and parishioners to partner in a new evangelisation, the Diocese of Wagga Wagga priests were told as they gathered on 20 July.

BY PETER ROSENGREN



Daniel Ang, the Director of the Archdiocese of Sydney's Centre for Evangelisation, is the individual charged by Archbishop Fisher with making Go Make Disciples a reality.
Photo: Alphonsus Fok

Daniel Ang, Director of the Archdiocese of Sydney's Centre for Evangelisation, led the Wagga diocesan clergy conference at the invitation of Bishop Mark Edwards OMI.

Approximately 38 clergy from around the vast Riverina diocese – one of Australia's largest – attended the gathering.

Mr Ang, the lead author of the Archdiocese's Go Make Disciples plan for evangelisation, unpacked principles from the document that has been adopted by Sydney as its blueprint for the new evangelisation, the clarion call of popes and Church leaders in recent decades.

Throughout the day, he discussed the potential for parish renewal in this era of mission, the increasingly secular Australian landscape, and the strategies that might bridge these two realities to bear the fruit of lifelong discipleship.

There was plenty of time for taking questions from priests and for opening up discussion about what this 'conversion for mission' does and can look like.

The latest Covid-19 restrictions and lockdown in Sydney saw Mr Ang forced to deliver his message via Zoom.

Still, said Wagga seminary Vice Rector Fr Sean Byrnes, the message got through. "Despite the difficulty of the Covid-19 lockdown, Daniel was able to provide an engaging conference which challenged the priests and seminarians of the Wagga Wagga Diocese to think about what changes in parish ministry might be necessary in order to effectively evangelise both the parish and the broader community," he said.

"Something he said which deeply resonated with a number of the clergy was that both priests and lay faithful are not called to merely maintain the status quo in parishes which is normally represented by an ageing congregation and low attendance numbers. Rather we are called to be bold and invitational, reaching out to the unchurched to facilitate an encounter with Christ."

Fr Byrnes said he agreed with Mr Ang that the 'proto-evangelising' moment for the unchurched is most often not the sacraments but the invitation to attend the home of a Christian, a church event, like a parish meal or

men's or women's breakfasts and gatherings.

With encouragement, Mr Ang noted that 59% of people surveyed said that they would or probably would go to church if invited by a close friend or family member, the principle reason being, "I would attend because it is important to the person who invited me, otherwise they wouldn't have invited me" (McCrindle Research 2019).

"These invitations and introductory events enable people to encounter Christ through human relationships and engages them in a manner which acknowledges and respects their present journey, but also provides the opportunity for growth towards a relationship with Jesus and his Church," Fr Byrnes said.

Bishop Edwards welcomed Mr Ang's contribution. "Daniel explained that Catholic parishes are to bear as fruit a growth in the discipleship of our people," he said.

"This requires that the very concept of discipleship be explained and that the direction of this growth is demonstrated and explained."

Speaking from Sydney, Mr Ang told clergy that the overall challenges and situation the church faces in its mission of evangelisation are very different to those of the past.

"For pre-moderns, the world and the self were considered porous and open to the transcendent. Life was vulnerable to the incursions of the sacred, and these forces were to be navigated by various rites and means," he said.

"However, today we experience the challenge of following Jesus and sharing His life in a post-Christian culture. This culture is not a 'religious year zero' nor do I think we live in a pre-Christian era.

"In the West, we are still shaped by fundamental Christian ideas in our sense of law, justice, mercy and our preference for the poor. However, now we want this 'Kingdom' without the King.

Like the crowds in France who watched teary eyed as Notre Dame Cathedral burned, we remain resistant to religion but are still haunted by our Christian origins."

However, he said, the Church still serves the presence of God in a disenchanted world by offering the

encounter with the person of Jesus in word, sacrament and outreach – "Jesus who is at the heart of Christian life, the source of our cultural renewal as a Church, and the deepest presence without which human progress loses its way.

The challenge for parishes is to recognise that it is not a 'zero sum game' between the call to discipleship and evangelisation, as if it were a choice between the flock they have and those to whom they are sent," he said.

"What the Christian tradition tells us time and time again – from the parable of the Prodigal Son to the radical self-surrender of Jesus to the Father's love – is that we become more ourselves by choosing others and this choice makes us more deeply who we are, rather than diluting our identity."



Possibilities for evangelisation: Wagga priests gather for their clergy conference on 20 July. PhotoS: Bishop Mark Edwards OMI

Increase Afghan intake, Archbishop Coleridge urges PM

The Australian Government should provide at least 20,000 humanitarian places for Afghans in the wake of the Taliban takeover, Australian Catholic Bishop Conference president Archbishop Mark Coleridge has said.

In a letter to Prime Minister Scott Morrison last night, Archbishop Coleridge noted there has been “an outpouring of concern for the people of Afghanistan” as that country’s government has collapsed and the Taliban seized control.

He said the 3000 places offered above and beyond 8000 places over the past decade “is a substantial commitment, but more is needed”.

Based on estimates from key humanitarian organisations and pledges from other countries, Archbishop Coleridge proposed that at least another 17,000 places be made available.

“Australia has stepped up before in response to significant humanitarian

crises, and I urge your government to be generous,” he wrote, adding that Catholic agencies “stand ready to assist your government with resettlement of refugees as an expression of our great concern for the people of Afghanistan”.

Archbishop Coleridge said many Afghans would find themselves vulnerable under Taliban rule, but he made particular mention of those who supported Australia’s defence personnel who served in Afghanistan, some of whom lost their lives, as well as religious minorities and women.

“It would seem our moral duty to stand with those who supported Australian military forces as interpreters or in other capacities, who it seems likely will suffer



Photo by AFP

reprisals and even death for their work,” he wrote.

“We should also offer refuge to other Afghans who are likely to suffer persecution or risk being killed because of their opposition to the Taliban, or because of their beliefs, values and

way of life, including members of the Christian community.

“There is a particular risk to women, and Australia’s humanitarian response should recognise and support their dignity and human rights.”

Catholic hospitals call on other states to follow NSW on mandatory vaccination of health workers

Catholic not-for-profit hospitals are calling on Victoria, Queensland and the ACT to make vaccinations compulsory for all hospital staff as a matter of urgency.

New South Wales will be the first State or Territory to make coronavirus vaccinations mandatory for all health workers proposing to require first doses by September 30. It follows a successful lobbying campaign by CHA.

However, it is currently not mandatory for hospital staff in Victoria, Queensland

and ACT to get vaccinated against COVID-19.

Catholic not-for-profit hospitals, represented by Catholic Health Australia, are doing everything possible to vaccinate staff, while redeploying unvaccinated staff to areas with low risk of COVID contact.

But CHA Health Policy Director James Kemp says a uniform rule, like that now in place in NSW, was urgently required.

“If canned fruit companies and airlines think vaccinations should be mandatory,

surely state governments should make them mandatory in hospitals,” Mr Kemp said.

“We know vaccinating health care workers protects patients and each other against infection by COVID-19. That is why it is right to require any person working within a hospital or aged care setting to be vaccinated against COVID-19.”

“This should have been done much sooner, but here we are. Every day we delay is another day where patients are

exposed to unnecessary risk. There is no reason why we shouldn’t be targeting double doses for all hospital workers by Christmas or sooner.

“Of course, most hospital workers are already getting vaccinated. But for the minority who are hesitating for whatever reason, that hard push from government will draw a line in the sand. You can’t expect individual hospitals to introduce such a mandate, it creates inconsistency and exposes them to a level of legal uncertainty they shouldn’t need to bear.”

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 -



worldwide marriage encounter australia



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

Come and join us on September 10 - 12, 2021 for a **Virtual Marriage Encounter Weekend via Zoom.**
Open to married couples, priests & religious.

Book online at www.wwme.org.au

or contact Christine & Terry Mahony 0490 774 419
email: nswbookings@wwme.org.au



Migrant and Refugee Sunday

On Sunday 26 September the West Wagga Parish will celebrate Migrant and Refugee Sunday.

This is the second time in the year that we are invited to reflect, and pray for the many millions who have moved away from their home countries. The first occasion was Refugee Week, in June.

Migrants leave their homelands for many reasons, seeking work, better opportunities for their families, contributing their skills and expertise to others. Our deepest concern must be for the many people forced to leave their homes by war and persecution. In our world today 82 million people are forcibly displaced, more than three times the population of Australia. 48 million of these people are internally displaced, still in their own country but unable to return to their homes. The remainder have fled their homeland, seeking refuge in another country. All around the world, in Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, South Asia, the poorest countries offer what hospitality they can to people who cross their borders fleeing from violence.

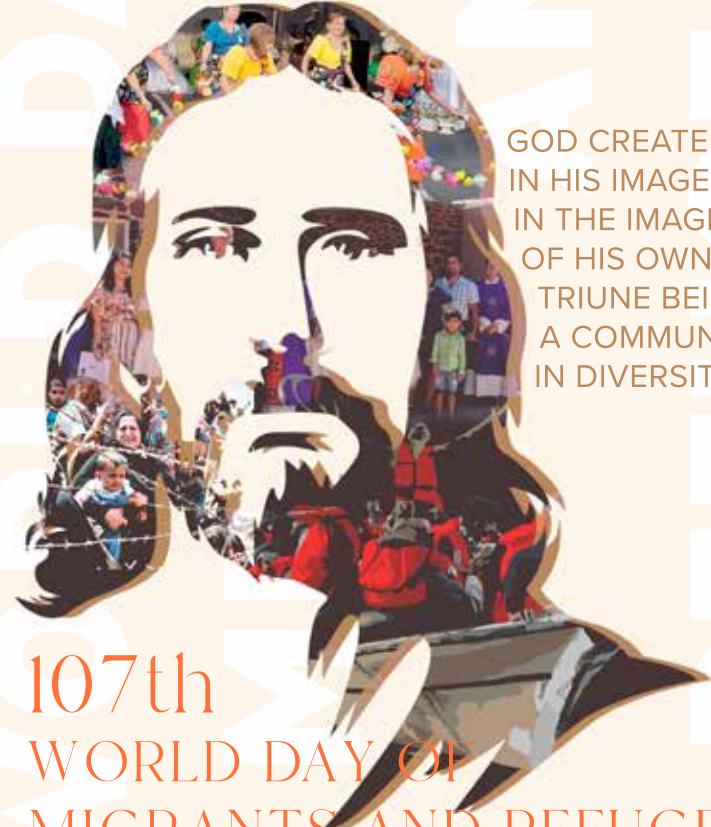
Pope Francis offers us a message for the Word Day of Migrants and Refugees entitled 'Towards an Ever Wider "We".'

God's path of reconciliation is offered to us not as individuals, but as a people, "we", embracing the whole human family. This family is broken and fragmented, wounded and disfigured, and the highest price is paid by those most easily viewed as others, foreigners, migrants, the marginalised.

We are all called to work together, so there will be only a single "we", to be a truly catholic, universal church, able to embrace everyone, to unify differences. In encountering the diversity of foreigners, migrants and refugees we grow as a church and enrich one another.

This appeal to journey towards an ever wider "we" extends to all men and women, for the sake of building together a future of justice and peace. Our societies are enriched by diversity and cultural exchange. We long for peace and harmony, to achieve this

TOWARDS AN EVER WIDER WE



GOD CREATED US
IN HIS IMAGE,
IN THE IMAGE
OF HIS OWN
TRIUNE BEING,
A COMMUNION
IN DIVERSITY.

107th WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

SUNDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER 2021



A publication of the Australian Catholic Migrant
and Refugee Office



Multicultural Council Refugee Week Family Day in June 2021.

we must break down the walls that separate us, build bridges that foster a culture of encounter. Today's migration movements offer an opportunity to be enriched by the diversity of each person's gifts.

In our diocese we are fortunate to enjoy a rich diversity of cultures. People from more than a hundred different

countries have made their homes in our region. Many refugees have found safety here, many professionals have brought us their skills and talents. **We live on Wiradjuri land, cared for over tens of thousands of years by the first Australians. We have much to be thankful for.**

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

SPIRITUALITY DAY FOR WOMEN POSTPONED



The Spirit Weavers Committee have decided to postpone the Spirituality Day for Women due to the restrictions and uncertainty around the Covid lock-down in NSW and the border bubble.

We are very disappointed but feel that we need to ensure the health and enjoyment of all.

We are consulting with the presenters to arrange a new date in 2022 and hoping March is a possibility. The new date will be advertised as soon as possible.

As we were intending to launch our new website on August 28th, this will still go ahead and you are invited to the virtual launch by Zoom at 11am.

The link will be sent prior to the event.

Please contact Anne on cacw.waggawagga@gmail.com if you have any queries.

The face of homelessness in Australia is changing

As house prices soar and wages stagnate, the housing affordability crisis is creeping towards middle Australia. Governments have left housing to the market and the market has failed.

Deb Madden was devastated after her husband died and with few people to call upon, Deb faced the added burden of being unable to afford the rent on her apartment. She became one of a fast-growing number of older women experiencing homelessness. Vinnies was able to help first by providing a room in a local hostel and then helping Deb to relocate to a permanent home in one of Vinnies' brand new social housing sites in Penrith. There are thousands of people like Deb across Australia, facing homelessness. But not all manage to find a long-term, secure home.

As house prices soar across Australia and wages stagnate, the housing affordability crisis is creeping towards middle Australia.

At least 650,000 social and affordable homes are needed right now, with over 116,000 people experiencing homelessness on any given night.

Homelessness is no longer that stereotypical person sleeping rough. It's people like you and me, just one life event away from a devastating change in circumstances – illness including mental ill health, relationship breakdown, loss of a spouse, domestic violence, or the loss of a job. Older women are now the fastest growing group of people facing

homelessness.

This emerging picture of homelessness must not become the new normal. Of 74,000 rental listings in Anglicare's 2021 annual survey, only three were affordable for a person on Jobseeker and none for a person on Youth Allowance.

And two thirds of 170,000 vulnerable private renters are currently in rental stress with less than \$250 a week to live on after paying rent.

Governments have left housing to the market and the market has failed. Investing in affordable housing is an effective way of boosting our economic recovery. According to KPMG, every dollar invested in affordable housing boosts the GDP by \$1.30.

Supported housing saves \$13,100 per person annually in reduced use of overall government services, even while factoring in the cost of supports. Yet there are at least 31,000 people living with mental illhealth who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and have long-term unmet housing needs.

Without a significant investment, supply will remain limited while negative gearing and low interest rates attract investors, boosting house prices.

We have a National Housing and Homelessness Agreement between the Commonwealth and states but we don't have a national strategy. Only the Commonwealth can drive the implementation of a national strategy over at least a 30-year period. If we're



serious about addressing Australia's spiralling housing crisis, our politicians have to accept that any strategy needs to be significantly longer than one cycle of government.

Every day, charities like St Vincent de Paul provide support to people who have nowhere to call home. The Society has repeatedly called for the Federal Government to establish a social housing fund of \$10 billion to augment the efforts of the states and territories to address the chronic housing shortage. In its response to the Federal Budget, Labor committed to this investment. The Society welcomes the commitment of a number of the states, such as Victoria and Queensland, to their own significant investments. But in the face of escalating need a bipartisan, cross-jurisdictional effort is essential if we are to address this crisis.

It's easy to blame people who haven't got anywhere to live. But if we continue to put off addressing the deteriorating supply of affordable housing, we will continue to see a rising tide of homeless families forced to seek help from our charities just to survive.

According to one ANU study, 57 per cent of people feel they cannot afford to buy a place of their own right now, and 32 per cent don't think they will ever be able to afford to buy a home.

The Great Australian Dream is fast moving beyond the reach of minimum income earners, placing pressure on a limited, overheated rental market.

More than one million low-income households rent in the private market. This figure has more than doubled over the past two decades. Young people are increasingly vulnerable.

And at the other end of the scale, the most disadvantaged older people are those living on the aged pension who do not own their own home.

We also know that family and domestic violence is the leading cause of

homelessness and the majority of those affected are women and their children.

As affordable housing moves beyond the reach of middle Australia, public policy must consider the economic cost of failing to ensure everyone has a place to call home.

The solution is there but ideology perpetuates. The Commonwealth is side-stepping its responsibility. It makes no social or economic sense for any government to dig its heels in.

In the face of the economic facts, it's difficult to understand the lack of political will to invest urgently. Australian economists and other experts agree that Australian governments have not fully considered the impact the housing system has on productivity, growth and wealth distribution.

High housing costs suppress demand for other goods and services. High mortgage debts and burdens raise the risk of economic instability. High rental costs for low-income renters impair productivity.

Stable, secure, affordable housing is vital for better outcomes in health, including mental health, education and employment, and economic and social participation.

Housing insecurity perpetuates high use of other government services such as health and hospital care, emergency services and interactions with the justice system.

The Commonwealth Rental Scheme is now out of reach for many who are swamped with inaccessible red tape. It needs a complete overhaul. Governments must step up.

It's impossible to get your life in order if you have to work out where you will be sleeping each night. Housing security is the first step to building better lives. **From there, people can focus on their health, supporting their families, accessing training and education and finding a job.**

Vinnies

F

- 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

Major earthquake hits Haiti, killing over 1,200

A 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck the south of Haiti on Saturday August 14, causing widespread destruction, reducing buildings to rubble and causing at least 1,200 deaths, and thousands more injured.

The Haitian government has declared a state of emergency, and is anticipating casualties and injuries to rise.

The earthquake struck approximately 130 kilometers west of the capital Port-au-Prince. Caritas Haiti has reported that the dioceses Jeremy, Anse-à-Veau and Miragoâne and Les Cayes are the worst affected and that people have left their homes to wait in the streets or open spaces in fear of aftershocks and further damage to buildings.

There has been damage to church buildings and injuries to clergy, with one priest killed.

"This disaster compounds problems facing the nation, which is already reeling from a political crisis following the assassination of its president last month," said Melville Fernandez, Caritas Australia's Humanitarian Emergencies Manager.

"There is immediate and urgent need for food, water, shelter, hygiene kits and first aid on the ground, especially as the country continues to grapple with COVID-19 with limited resources."

"This latest disaster has come on top of decades of chronic instability, dictatorships, and natural disasters, which have left Haiti as the poorest nation in the Americas. This latest earthquake was actually stronger than the 2010 quake which killed more than 220,000 people – even though the death toll this time is lower because it didn't hit a major city, the impacts are still going to be felt for a long time."

"It's especially concerning that now Tropical Depression Grace is projected to pass over Haiti late Monday or early Tuesday, which may lead to flooding and potential mudslides. This is going to make crisis response much more challenging."

Infrastructure is damaged and high demand is overwhelming communications systems capacity. The Caritas network has staff and local partners on the ground assessing and responding to immediate needs.

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



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

Above and top right: Earthquake damage in Haiti. Photo Catholic Relief Services.

National Child Protection Week

The National Child Protection Week is from 5 - 11 September with this years theme being *'Every child in every community needs a fair go'.*

To treat all of Australia's children fairly, we need to make sure every family and community has what kids need to thrive and be healthy.

The 2021 theme for National Child Protection Week is all about the importance of the 'bigger picture' in addressing child abuse and neglect.

The environment in which a child lives can be the source of significant stress or support for children. For instance, living in a community with not enough jobs, with poverty, or with high rates of abuse and violence creates stress that can stop children from getting a strong foundation for life.

When we address these root causes of stress, we create healthier communities for everyone, particularly children. Research tells us there is a powerful source of protection against the long-term negative effects of adversity on children. What is it? Stable, supportive relationships with caring adults. These relationships actually buffer them from toxic stress, softening and moderating the biological stress response.

Providing every family and community with the robust system of supports they need, has tremendous power to build these critical relationships between children and caring adults.

Child Protection Week 2021 will be an opportunity to translate this knowledge into action. All skillsets, all people, and all communities are assets in this important endeavour.

Let's make sure our communities

have strong foundations for families and children – jobs, safe places, libraries, parks, playgrounds, schools, child care, affordable housing, health services, social activities, clubs, friendly neighbours, businesses and more.

Many of you are already playing your part every day – as individuals, as community members, as volunteers and as workers – to help create these great communities for children. When we do this together we can give 'every child, in every neighbourhood, a fair go'.

This year's theme is based on the framing research for the Core Story for Early Childhood Development and Learning.

Why environment matters ... toxic stress

Minor, everyday stresses are a healthy part of child development, but major stressors can have a long-term effect on children's brain development and even on their physical health. Severe adversity that lasts over long periods of time can send the body's stress systems into permanent high alert, flooding the body's vital organs and the brain with stress hormones. This 'toxic stress' response can derail healthy development and has even been linked to adult health problems like heart disease and diabetes.

The environment in which a child lives can be the source of significant stress or support for children. For instance, living in a community with not enough jobs, with poverty, or with high rates of abuse and

MY COMMITMENT TO PLAY MY PART

PROTECTING CHILDREN IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EVERY ADULT

THERE ARE MANY THINGS THAT ALL ADULTS CAN DO TO PLAY OUR PART IN VALUING AND CARING FOR CHILDREN TO HELP THEM REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.

COMMITTING TO THE FOLLOWING IS A GREAT WAY TO START PLAYING YOUR PART.

I believe that caring for children is a universal responsibility and privilege.

I will...

1. care for children in my community according to their needs. I will not discriminate due to culture, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, religion or disability
2. respect that there are many different positive ways to raise children
3. seek to keep children connected to family, community, language and culture
4. never knowingly harm a child or allow them to be harmed
5. speak up and seek advice about the safety and wellbeing of children (including talking to caregivers, other professionals, an appropriate supervisor, or legal authority)
6. provide an environment for children where they feel safe, thrive and can develop positive relationships with adults and peers
7. be a good role model for children; be polite and respectful around children
8. listen to, and value, what children and young people have to say, and include their voices in decision making
9. be a leader who stands up for the rights of children, advocates for their best interests, and constructively challenges practices
10. support families and encourage them to ask for help, rather than judging

SIGNATURE:

DATE:



The little things you do today...
...matter to a child's tomorrow

For more information about how to play your part, visit www.napcan.org.au



NAPCAN PREVENT CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT
www.napcan.org.au

NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK
5 - 11 September 2021

EVERY CHILD
IN EVERY COMMUNITY
NEEDS A FAIR GO

Advanced

AUTOMOTIVE ELECTRICS

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:

Elders **SUNCORP Insurance** **GIO** **AAMI**

24 hour towing
69 215 251
0431 290 725
19 Houtman St, Wagga Wagga
Lic No: MVRL47719

Bruised and Wounded – Understanding Suicide

Some things need to be said and said and said again until they don't need to be said anymore. Margaret Atwood wrote that.

I quote it here because each year I write a column on suicide and mostly say the same thing each time because certain things need to be said repeatedly about suicide until we have a better understanding of it.

What needs to be said again and again?

1. First, that suicide is a disease, something that in most cases takes a person out of life against his or her will, the emotional equivalent of cancer, a stroke, or a heart attack.
2. Second, that we, the loved ones who remain, should not spend undue time and energy second-guessing as to how we might have failed that person, what we should have noticed, and what we might still have done to prevent the suicide. Suicide is an illness and, as with a purely physical disease, we can love someone and still not be able to save him or her from death. God also loved this person and shared our helplessness in trying to help him or her.
3. We need a better understanding of mental health. The fact is that not everyone has the internal circuits to allow them the sustained capacity for steadiness and buoyancy. One's mental health is parallel to one's physical health, fragile, and not fully within one's control. Moreover, just as diabetes, arthritis, cancer, stroke, heart attacks, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and multiple sclerosis, can cause debilitation and death; so too can mental diseases wreak havoc, also causing every kind of debilitation and

sometimes death by suicide.

4. The potential role that biochemistry plays in suicide needs more exploration. If some suicidal depressions are treatable by drugs, clearly then some suicides are caused by biochemical deficiencies, as are many other diseases that kill us.
5. Almost invariably, the person who dies by suicide is a very sensitive human being. Suicide is rarely done in arrogance, as an act of contempt. Generally, our experience with the loved ones that we have lost to suicide was they were too bruised to touch and were wounded in some deep way that we could not comprehend or help heal. Indeed, often times when sufficient time has passed after their deaths, in retrospect, we get some sense of their wound and their suicide then no longer seems as surprising.
6. Suicide is often the desperate plea of a soul in pain. The soul can make claims that go against the body and suicide is often that.
7. We need to forgive ourselves if we feel angry with our loved ones who end their lives in this way. Don't feel guilty about feeling angry; that's a natural, understandable response when a loved one dies by suicide.
8. We need to work at redeeming the memory of our loved ones who die by suicide. The manner of their death may not become a prism through which we now see their lives, as if this manner of death colours everything about them. It's hard to lose loved ones to



suicide, but we should not also lose the truth and warmth of their mystery and their memory.

9. Finally, we shouldn't worry about how God meets our loved one on the other side. God's love, unlike ours, can go through locked doors, descend into hell, and breathe out peace where we cannot. God's understanding and compassion infinitely surpass our own. Our lost loved ones are in safer hands than ours. If we, limited as we are, can already reach through this tragedy with some understanding and love, we can rest secure that, given the width and depth of God's love, the one

who dies through suicide meets, on the other side, a compassion that's deeper than our own and an understanding that surpasses ours.

Julian of Norwich says, *in the end all will be well, and all will be well, and every manner of being will be well.* I shall be, even after suicide. God can, and does, go through locked doors and, once there, breathes out peace inside a tortured, huddled heart.

Ron Rolheiser

Houston, Texas

July 14, 2021

Website: www.ronrolheiser.com

DRESSED BY
JACKIE

Winter stock on sale now

New arrivals for summer

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



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

The first anniversary of the explosion in the port of Beirut

On the first anniversary of the explosion in the port of Beirut, the city still struggles to cope with its wounds.

On the first anniversary of the explosion in the port of Beirut, which at precisely 18:07 on August 4, 2020 devastated the port and the Christian quarters of the Lebanese capital – especially Gemmayzé, Mar Mikhaël, la Quarantine, Achrafieh, Bourj Hammoud – leaving over 200 people dead and 6500 wounded, the Lebanese people are hovering between rebellion and fatalism.

August 4 has been decreed by the Lebanese Council of Ministers as a day of national mourning, with all work suspended in government administrations and public institutions, and large crowds will gather in the port of Beirut for a ceremony presided over by the Maronite Patriarch Béchara Raï.

However, for the ordinary people, already overwhelmed by the profound crisis afflicting the country ever since October 2019 – by the endemic corruption, decaying public infrastructure, hospitals on the edge of collapse in the face of a continuing Covid-19 pandemic – there is still no light at the end of the tunnel. In the

hospitals, many of the nurses have already left to work abroad, and the same is true of many doctors, who have either left or are seeking to leave. Catholic school teachers, faced with a salary that is no longer enough even to feed their families, are likewise resigning, hoping to emigrate. By the end of last year over 380,000 requests for emigration papers had been submitted to the embassies of the EU countries, Canada and United States... The future of the country looks bleak indeed!

Sister's of the Rosary Hospital after 4th of August port blast, Gemmayzé - Beirut. Copyright: Aid to the Church in Need.

Well over 50% of the population now live below the poverty threshold, and today one can even say destitution. At the Holy Family School in Jounieh, a good 20 km from Beirut, Sister Eva Abou Nassar, the school's administrative director, confided to us that she has already lost around 20 teachers in June and July. "Most of them want to emigrate, since they can simply no longer make ends meet. Their purchasing power has fallen drastically. Whereas before the crisis a starting salary of 1,525 million Lebanese pounds (LL) were roughly equivalent to 1000 US dollars,

with the collapse of the Lebanese pound it is now worth no more than 75 or 80 US dollars. An experienced teacher earns twice that much, but that is still far too little. Whereas before the crisis one dollar was worth 1500 Lebanese pounds, it is now being exchanged on the parallel market for 18,500 LL."

Since Lebanon has to import almost everything, it all has to be paid for in dollar terms. "A tin of baby milk – and you need two a week – costs 250,000 Lebanese pounds. And to hire a generator (since the public electricity supply only operates for between two and four hours a day) costs 600,000 LL a month – while the minimum wage is just 675,000. Getting a spare part for your car can cost you between two and four months average salary... Some of the families here in Jounieh, a town not generally regarded as being poor, actually go out early in the morning, in order not to be seen, scavenging food from the dustbins!"

"Pope Francis has given us hope that we can confront this crisis, with his appeal to the universal Church not to let us go under. The Pope is not going to abandon the Church in Lebanon! We are regaining some degree

of confidence, despite all the difficulties. Why should we fear others when we have our faith in Jesus Christ? The yeast may be little in quantity, but it can leaven the whole loaf!" This is the conclusion of Father Père Raymond Abdo, Provincial of the Order of Discalced Carmelites in Lebanon, who welcomes ACN to the monastery of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Hazmieh, one of the suburbs of Beirut.

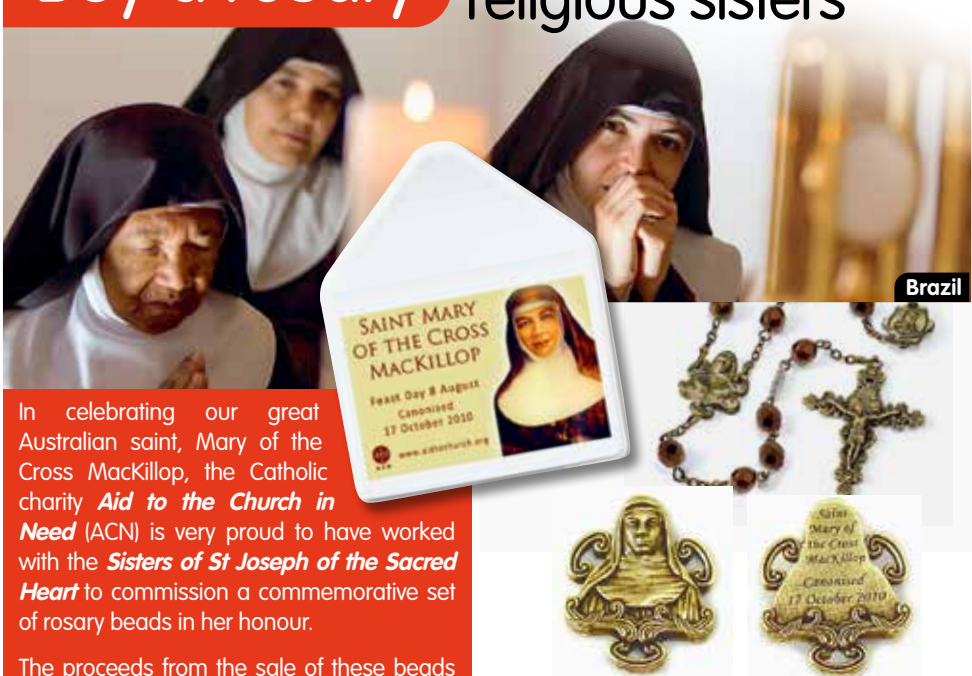
The international Catholic pastoral charity and pontifical foundation Aid to the Church in Need (ACN International) is heavily committed to supporting the Lebanese people struck by this crisis, which has lasted since the autumn of 2019, and by the consequences of the explosion on August 4, 2020 in the port of Beirut.

Already, in its projects for the year 2020, ACN has invested some 4,414,000 AUD in the reconstruction of pastoral infrastructure destroyed by the explosion, and an additional 3,628,900 AUD in emergency relief aid, along with other aid for pastoral support, transport, basic subsistence and so forth – all in all a total of over 8 million AUD.

To help the people in Lebanon visit www.aidtochurch.org/lebanon

Buy a rosary

and support religious sisters



Brazil

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

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

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

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

Ukraine

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



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



DR Congo



PONTIFICAL FOUNDATION

I would like to purchase rosaries at \$40 each and support religious sisters.	Qty	
Total cost		
Flat Rate Postage		\$9.00
Add an extra donation for the sisters?		
Total offering		

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: _____

Send the completed form to **Aid to the Church in Need** PO Box 335 PENRITH NSW 2751, call **1800 101 201**, or visit www.thatcatholicshop.com/rosary

Mission One Heart Many Voices: an Opportunity for Conversation

In June this year my colleague Luke Tobin, Mission Formation Educator, visited the Wagga Diocese to offer opportunities for people to be part of a session.

BY JANE PLUM - Diocesan Director for Catholic Mission, Wagga Wagga Diocese

The session allowed time for personal reflection, small group dialogue, deep listening, input, and creative ways to continue God's Mission in this world. We appreciated the opportunity and the feedback was encouraging.

One woman came up to Luke at the end of a session and said, "You know that's the first time I've felt comfortable to ask a question in a Catholic setting. Thank you for allowing me to have my voice".

Mission One Heart Many Voices, is another opportunity to have your voice. Catholic Mission is partnering with Catholic Religious Australia to present a diverse range of international and local speakers at the **Mission One Heart Many Voices**, conference. This year's conference will be held online from 1-3 September 2021, with an additional day of creativity shaped by young people on 4 September.

On the first day of MOHMOV in each of the deaneries of the Wagga Diocese, there are plans in place for people to come together to hear the voices of people who are active in mission. This is an opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of mission and spirituality as it influences the individual juggling any number of

commitments while still aiming to give life to the parish and/or serve the local community.

The first keynote speaker is Senior Australian of the Year, Aboriginal elder from Nauiyu, renowned artist, activist, writer, and public speaker Dr Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr Baumann AM. Miriam-Rose will help with the conference welcome and opening prayer followed by her address focusing on Dadirri, an inner deep listening and quiet still awareness. Cardinal Luis Antonio Gokim Tagle, Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelisation of Peoples will also present.

Individuals may choose to register separately to continue to participate in days 2 and 3 of MOHMOV independently via their own online technology. Go to <https://2021.mohmv.com.au/>

If you are interested in finding out more about the MOHMOV Hubs please contact Jane Plum on 0400 445 605 or jplum@catholicmission.org.au

About Catholic Mission

Catholic Mission is the Australian agency of the Pontifical Mission Societies – the Catholic Church's global organisation dedicated to continuing Jesus Christ's mission in the world: that all may have life to the full. Founded in Sydney in 1847, Catholic Mission contributes funding and project support to critical church-run initiatives in Africa, Asia, Oceania, and South America. These include spiritual formation, pastoral care, education, health, sanitation and agricultural programs. Here in Australia, we form people to go out and be missionary in their professional and personal lives; to pray, advocate and take action for those on the margins. Catholic Mission has offices in 27 Australian dioceses.



2021
Mission
one heart many voices

Leadership Now

"Come, let us talk this over. Let us dare to Dream."
(Let us Dream Prologue 7)



A virtual conference
1-3 September 2021

In addition, a day of creativity and formation
4 September 2021



Tocumwal Catholic Mission meeting.



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







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

COVID-19 Lockdown Update

In line with the requirements of NSW Health, Bishop Edwards issued a directive to close all churches and chapels in the Diocese of Wagga Wagga during the statewide lockdown announced by the NSW Government on 14th August. The Feast of the Assumption was celebrated the following day in closed churches across the Diocese.



Rev Deacon Connell Perry and Most Rev Mark Edwards OMI celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption at St Michael's Cathedral.



We try harder.



- Cars
- Trucks
- Buses
- Utes

6921 9977

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



plus

LIQUOR

LOCKHART • EAST ALBURY

JINDERA

SPRINGDALE HEIGHTS

Full house for AGM at Sacred Heart Parish, North Albury

On Thursday, 5th August, the Annual General Meeting of Sacred Heart Parish North Albury was attended by over 50 people.

It was an innovative and energetic meeting with the highlight of the evening being an inspirational address by guest speaker, David Clancy, Director of Emergency and Intensive Care Services at Albury Wodonga Health. David shared stories of how his faith guides his personal, family and working life. An Annual Report was published and distributed, that provided information on all the active groups in the parish and summarised their activities over the last two years.



David Clancy, Director Emergency and Intensive Care Services, Albury Wodonga Health with Fr Martin Cruickshank, Parish Priest, Sacred Heart, North Albury

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 2022 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



History of Father's Day

Father's Day in Australia falls on September 5th this year, and while we've been thinking about food to serve, dad jokes to tell, the perfect gift to buy, and our favourite movie and tv dads, we also became curious as to how Father's Day got started.

It wasn't always a day dedicated to brightly coloured socks and quirky ties; in Catholic Europe, Father's Day has reportedly been observed since at least the Middle Ages.

Some countries, such as Spain, still celebrate on March 19, which is linked to honouring Saint Joseph.

Although Father's Day has been recognised in one form or another for thousands of years, the Father's Day we know today started not that long ago.

The history of the secular version of Father's Day suggests that it originated in West Virginia in 1908. Grace Golden Clayton proposed to the pastor of her local church that they hold a service to commemorate 361 men (250 of them fathers) killed in a mine explosion.

However, Father's Day was more formally established in Washington in 1910. A woman by the name of Sonora Smart Dodd was listening to a Mother's Day sermon at church when she decided that there should also be a day to honour fathers. She organised this with her local church and attempted to promote the day in the wider community.

Although many smaller communities held ceremonies to celebrate the work of fathers, the recognition of Father's day as an official day wasn't smooth sailing.

It wasn't until 1966 that Lyndon B. Johnson designated the third Sunday in June as the official day to celebrate

Father's Day. In 1972, Father's Day was officially made a national holiday by President Richard Nixon.

Other countries began to celebrate Father's Day around the world with many following the U.S. by honouring dads on the third Sunday in June, whilst a few others decided on different official days to fit in with their existing holidays and customs.

So why do Australians celebrate in September?

One of the first mentions of Father's Day in Australia was seen in the Newcastle Sun on September 4, 1936.

The article promoted a Father's Day meeting at the Baptist Tabernacle, with reference to hopes the day would become as popular as Mother's Day.

The idea had also surfaced a week earlier on August 29, 1936 in The Daily News Perth, with an advertorial suggesting gifts to be given on the day.

But an article in the Western Herald in 1964 said the day was first celebrated in 1935.

The same article explained the day was officially designated as the first Sunday in September through the Commonwealth in 1964.

No reason was officially given for the choice of date, but it is a widely held belief that the month was chosen for commercial benefit.

September spaces Father's Day almost



perfectly between Mother's Day and Christmas in a calendar year, giving shoppers ample time to save for all.

In China, Father's Day used to be celebrated on the 8th of August, as eight in Mandarin Chinese is "ba" and a colloquial word for father is "ba-ba" – so the eighth day of the eighth month sounds similar to "daddy". The day has since been moved to the third Sunday of June.

In Thailand, Father's Day was set on December 5, the birthday of the late King Rama IX. Traditionally, Thai people

would celebrate by giving their father or grandfather a canna flower, considered to be a masculine flower.

In Germany, it is called Vatertag (Father's Day) but is also sometimes known as Männertag (or men's day).

In certain regions of Germany it is traditional for groups of men to hike into the woods with a wagon of beer, wine, and meats.

Whatever way you choose to celebrate Father's Day this year, we hope you enjoy it.

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 Mary's School, Corowa



Wow what a day for the St Mary's Olympics!!! The students and staff had a great day and a big congratulations goes to Miss Browne and the Year 4 students (Australia) for their organisation and creativity with the events they put on for everyone.

Mater Dei Primary, Wagga Wagga

On August 11 Mater Dei Primary Year 3 students enjoyed their visit to the Mount Erin heritage centre.



All Saints Primary, Tumbarumba



Mr Larose and his 2/3/4 class are learning about foods and making a balanced meal. Students enjoyed trying all the different veggies that they could grow. Some students tasting things for the first time.



St Peter's Primary, Coleambally

Students from Year 3/4 had fun at the Trent Barret Shield on 3 August.



St Mary's Primary, Yoogali

Lunchtime Lego club! Lots of creative play, designing, thinking, sharing, chatting, laughing and fun!



Mater Dei Catholic College, Wagga Wagga



Recently homegroups took part in the 'Arts Challenge'. Using the Arts as inspiration, homegroups were set the challenge to design a homegroup sculpture. They could recreate a famous artwork, mimic an international dance troop or copy a famous photograph.



St Patrick's School, Albury

Congratulations to the Year 5 students who won the grand final in netball at the Rand carnival on 8 August.



St Joseph's Primary, Culcairn



GYM Groups 2021 - on August 13 St Joseph's started their Grow Your Mind Journey. Groups are led by their school leaders and are aimed at improving their mental fitness.

This weeks focus was... Bravery!



St Joseph's School, Junee



Congratulations to Stage 3 students for yet another very successful Tuckshop Treats Day. Students and staff were spoiled with scones, spiders and a jelly bean guessing competition plus much much more. The very lucky winner was Mackenzie Hart. Well done Mackenzie and well done Stage 3!



Catholic
Education
Diocese of Wagga Wagga

All schools enrolling now

KIDS corner

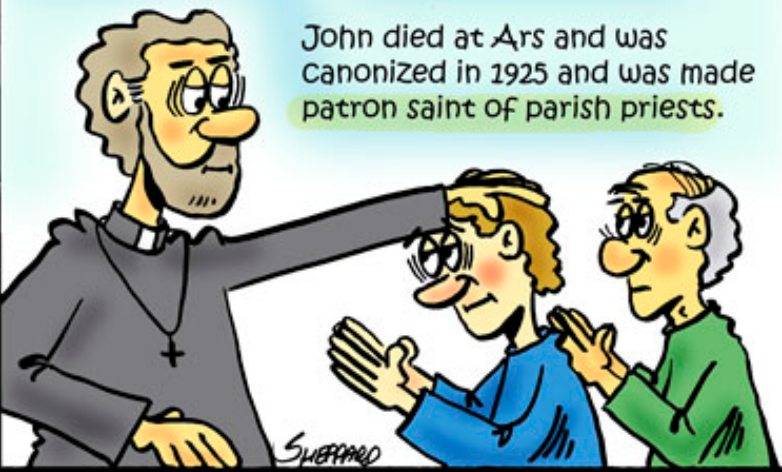
SAINTS FUN FACTS

by John Sheppard

St John Baptist Vianney was born in France in 1786. After being drafted into the Army, he deserted and returned home and entered the seminary in 1813.

He was assigned to Ecully and in 1818 he became Cure, as pastor of Ars. He worked 16 to 18 hours a day working in the confessional, administering the Sacrament of Penance, or Reconciliation.

John died at Ars and was canonized in 1925 and was made patron saint of parish priests.



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

Saint John Vianney



Craft...

Father's Day: Ice block stick keys and coins box

This simple ice block stick craft is a great idea for Father's Day. Little kids will get a big sense of achievement from making Dad this box to keep his coins and keys in.



You'll need:

- approximately 50 coloured ice block sticks
- glue and paint



How to make:

- Paint the sticks and allow to dry or you can buy them already coloured.
- Start by laying 11 sticks, side by side.
- Put a row of glue across the top edge and stick another single ice block stick along the top edge of these to form a cross frame. Do this along the bottom as well.
- Now layer up the sides of the box the same way: placing a stick along each edge alternately to make a pattern.
- Keep going until you have about six or seven layers up.
- Perfect for keys and coins!

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!



AUGUST SAINTS AND FEAST DAYS

Word Search



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

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

- St. John **Vianney**
- Transfiguration**
- St. **Dominic**
- St. Teresa **Benedicta** of the Cross
- St. **Lawrence**
- St. **Clare**
- St. Maximilian **Kolbe**
- Assumption** of Mary
- St. **Stephen** of Hungary
- St. **Bernard**
- St. **Pius X**
- St. **Rose** of Lima
- St. **Louis** of France
- St. **Monica**
- St. **Augustine**
- Passion of St. John the **Baptist**

Who is Centacare?

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

HAVE YOU RECENTLY SETTLED IN AUSTRALIA?

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

PARENTING ORDERS PROGRAM (POP)

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

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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

LET US ASSIST YOU WITH YOUR NDIS PLAN

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

SUPPORT FOR YOUR MENTAL HEALTH?

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

FAMILY AND PARENTING EDUCATION PROGRAMS

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

SCHOOL COUNSELLING

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

COUNSELLING

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

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

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

MEDIATION

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

Call and find out how our mediator can assist you

And more...

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

Mass Times across our Diocese

Wagga Wagga - Cathedral

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

Wagga Wagga - Koorungal

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

Wagga Wagga - South Wagga

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

Wagga Wagga - West Wagga

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

Albury

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

Albury - North Albury

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

Albury - Lavington

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

Albury - Thurgoona

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

Berrigan

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

Coolamon

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

Corowa

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

Culcairn

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

Darlington Point

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

Finley

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

Ganmain

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

Griffith

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

Holbrook

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

Howlong

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

Jerilderie

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

Junee

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

Khancoban

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

Leeton

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

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

Lockhart

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

Mulwala

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

Narrandera

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

Tarcutta

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

The Rock

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

Tocumwal

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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31

Tumbarumba

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

Yenda - Yoogali - Hanwood

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

Urana

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

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

Monthly laugh:

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

1 August 1995	Mgr Michael Francis Lane
2 August 1975	Fr Norman Duck
4 August 2012	Fr Patrick O'Connell
7 August 2001	Mgr George M Crennan
10 August 1972	Fr Thomas Francis Shanley
21 August 1909	Fr Daniel Leahy
22 August 1970	Mgr Owen Clarke
22 August 2014	Mgr William Fulton
27 August 1935	Fr John J Curley CSsR
29 August 2012	Fr Francis Clune
30 August 1982	Fr Allen Douglas Patrick Whitty
31 August 2013	Most Rev William Brennan

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: Aug/Sept

15th August - The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

In today's Gospel, Elizabeth and Mary recognize the work that God is doing through them. With eyes of faith they see the power and salvation of God breaking through into their lives and into the world.

Gather as a family and talk about what you know about Mary and her being a model of faith. Recall that we are celebrating a holy day, the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. On this day we remember that God took Mary to heaven, body and soul. Read together today's Gospel, Luke 1:39-56. In this reading we hear Mary's song of praise to God, the Magnificat. Invite each person in the family to write or draw one or more ways in which they see God working in your family life and in our world today. Use these prayers of thanksgiving to create your family's song of praise to God. Conclude by praying together this song of praise.

Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a,10ab Psalm 45:10-12,16
1 Corinthians 15:20-27 Luke 1:39-56

22nd August - Twenty-First Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle B

When a child is baptized, the parents speak on behalf of the child in professing the faith in which the child is to be baptized. The parents promise to teach their child this faith so that they may one day accept this faith as his or her own. In the example of Simon Peter, we learn that each person must also make his or her own profession of faith in Jesus as the one sent by God to save us. We pray for our children as they mature in the faith that they may learn that Jesus alone has the words of eternal life and that they may choose to follow the way of Christian discipleship.

As you gather as a family, talk about promise that parents make at their child's baptism to teach their child about Jesus

and the faith of the Church. Talk about the importance of this promise to your family and about some of the things that you are doing to try to honor this commitment. In today's Gospel we hear Simon Peter speak about what he has come to believe about Jesus. Together read today's Gospel, John 6:60-69. Pray together that each person in our family will grow in his or her faith that Jesus is the one sent by God who alone has the words of eternal life. Pray together the Apostles' Creed or the Nicene Creed.

Joshua 24:1-2a,15-17,18b Psalm 34:2-3,16-17,18-19,20-21 Ephesians 5:21-32 John 6:60-69

29th August - Twenty-Second Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle B

Children have learned the importance of following rules. Like the Pharisees in today's Gospel, they often bring to our attention the infractions of others. Even parents sometimes get caught off guard by their children's observations: "Why don't you have to go to bed at 8:00?" or "But I saw you eat a cupcake before breakfast once." Our rules for our children are not arbitrary. We establish and enforce family rules with the intention of helping our children grow to be healthy and mature adults. We foster this maturity when we also initiate conversations with our children about the purposes behind family rules and teach them the essential values that rules help us observe.

As you gather as a family, list some of your most important family rules. Together, try to write a single, positive statement that captures the essential value behind your family rules. In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus criticize the Pharisees for making their rules about ritual purity equal to the commandments of God's Law. Read today's Gospel, Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23. When we remember the essential element behind our rules, we see that our rules help us be the good

people that Jesus wants us to be. Conclude in prayer together that we may always honor God's Law in our words and deeds. Pray together today's psalm, Psalm 15.

Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-8 Psalm 15:2-3,3-4,4-5
James 1:17-18,21b-22,27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23

5th September - Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B

Today's Gospel invites us to consider how we witness the healing presence of Christ in our care for and ministry to those who are sick. We notice that the deaf man is brought to Jesus for healing by his friends. These people beg Jesus to lay his hands on this deaf man so that he might be healed. Jesus' healing power is shown in his opening of the man's ears and the restoring of his speech. When family members care for one another when they are sick, they bring Christ's healing presence. When we pray for those who are ill, we ask God to show his healing power. When health is restored, we share that good news with others.

As you gather as a family, recall a time when a family member was ill. What steps were taken to help restore this family member to health? Talk about what it feels like to care for a person who is ill, and about how it feels to be the sick person being cared for. In today's Gospel, we hear about a time when Jesus healed a man who was deaf. Read today's Gospel, Mark 7:31-37. Notice how the man who was cured and his friends could not honor Jesus' request to keep quiet about Jesus' power to heal. We continue to celebrate Jesus' healing presence in our lives by giving thanks to God for the gift of healing and health. Conclude in prayer, thanking Jesus for the gifts of health and healing. Pray together for those who are sick. After each person is named, pray, "Jesus, heal us."

Isaiah 35:4-7a Psalm 146:7,8-9,9-10
James 2:1-5 Mark 7:31-37



Vianney College Seminary, Wagga Wagga

Please pray for our future priests

Propaedeutic (Preparatory) Stage



Denis
Hickey
Wagga Wagga



Gerard
Letchford
Wagga Wagga



Christopher
Gillespie
Wagga Wagga

Discipleship Stage



Bro. John
Hiep Van Nguyen
*Confraternity of
Christ the Priest*



Bro. Anthony
Phu Van Dang
*Confraternity of
Christ the Priest*



Saxon
Onions
Wagga Wagga



Jose Valentine
Lim
Wagga Wagga



Dominic
Franssen
Wagga Wagga



Nicholas
Kennedy
Wagga Wagga



Patrick
Drum
Wagga Wagga

Configuration Stage



Peterpaul
Chikezie
Armidale



Bro. John Baptist
Thuy Van Nguyen
*Association of
Saint Anthony*



Michael
Perry
Wagga Wagga



Bro. Joseph
Duc Thai Hoang
*Association of
Saint Anthony*



Bro. Michael
Anh Van Pham
*Association of
Saint Anthony*



Bro. Xavier
Sy Van Nguyen
*Confraternity of
Christ the Priest*



Mark
Vettikombil
Wagga Wagga

Configuration Stage



Bro. Joseph
Hoat Van Nguyen
*Confraternity of
Christ the Priest*



Bro. Valentine
Nicholas
*Confraternity of
Christ the Priest*



Bro. Marvin
Coonghe
*Confraternity of
Christ the Priest*



Doan Van
Nguyen
Wagga Wagga

Pastoral Stage



Rev. Deacon
Connell Perry
Wagga Wagga