

NEW CHAPTER  
FOR FR PETER  
THOMPSON p5



200 YEARS  
OF CATHOLIC  
EDUCATION p12



SCHOOLS  
IN OUR  
DIOCESE p22

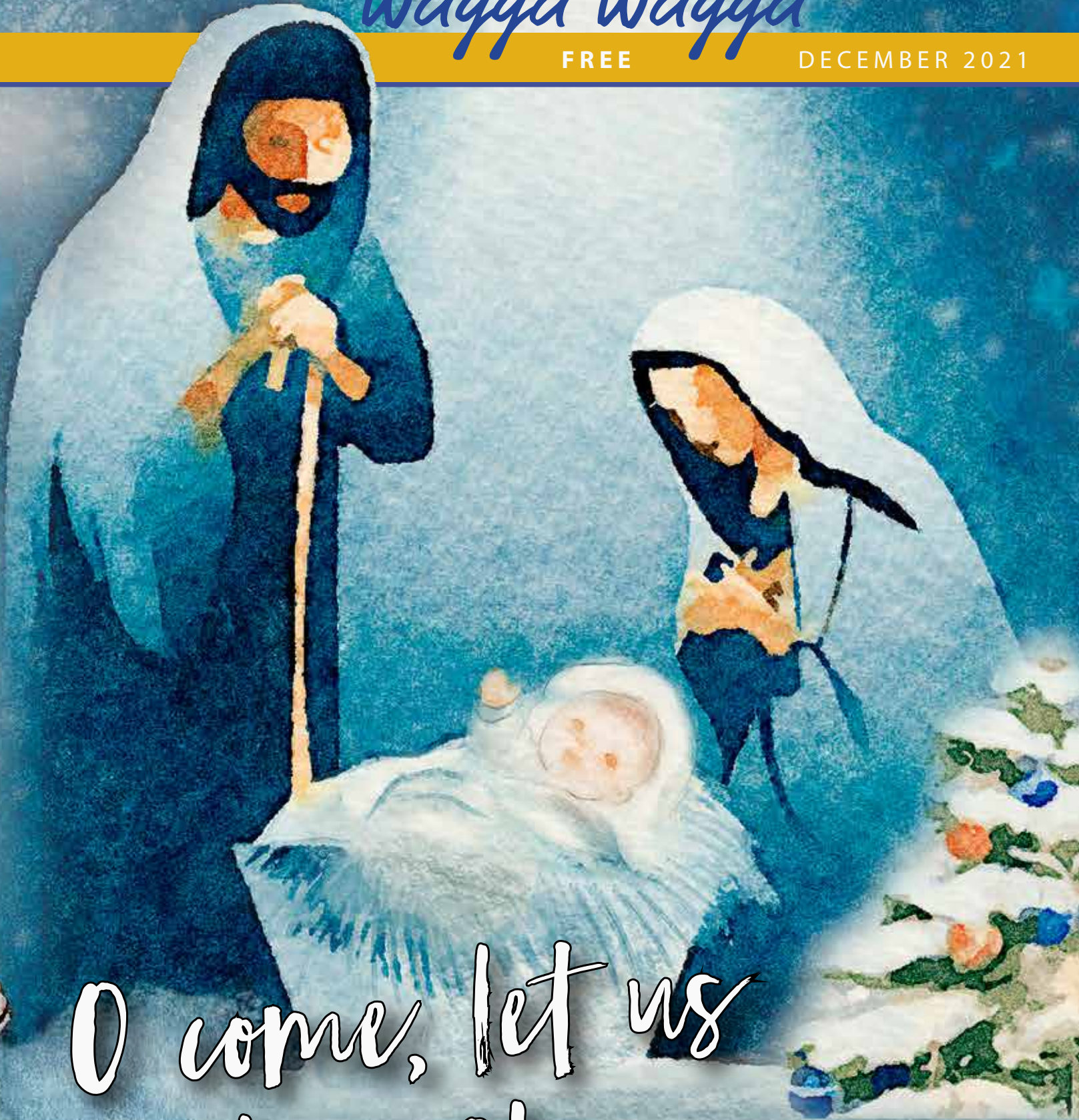


# TOGETHER

In the Diocese of *Wagga Wagga*

FREE

DECEMBER 2021



*O come, let us  
adore Him*

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

[www.funeralsofwaggawagga.com.au](http://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*



## Bishop Mark Edwards OMI - 24th November 2021 Legion of Mary Centenary Mass St Michael's Cathedral

### Above the door of Myra house in Dublin it says:

*"In this house the Legion of Mary began life on 7th September 1921.*

*Thanks be given to Jesus and Mary for all that has followed."*

In an upper room of Myra house Frank Duff, Fr Michael Toher, along with 15 women, established the Association of Our Lady of Mercy. That day is the Vigil of our Lady's Birthday.

Many of the ladies wanted to assist the wider community but were unable to join St Vincent de Paul which was a male only organisation at that time. The first work they undertook was visiting the sick in the South Dublin Union Infirmary which cared for 4,000 people!

Now the Legion of Mary numbers just over 4 million Active Members and a little bit more than 5 million Auxiliary Members.

We give thanks to Jesus Christ for all these generous souls and their faithful service and today this celebration which in some ways is very humble is also very well recognised by the Church with 5 Missionaries of Charity here, 5 priests and a bishop, beautiful choir, the gallery is certainly full because we want to recognise and rejoice in what the Legion of Mary has achieved.

It helps us, those who are enrolled, to fulfil our Baptismal promises through prayer and active co-operation in the Church's work.

We live out our dedication to God in the Church in an organised way, supported by the prayer and fellowship of our Auxiliary members.

Those early members recognised people's physical hunger – St Vincent de Paul provided loving care for those on the margins of society. There was also spiritual hunger

– Frank Duff developed his own spiritual life and commitment to the faith and that meant he was able to be a guide for others. Likewise we develop our spiritual life and introduce others to the Catholic Faith.

COVID-19 has affected all our activities and has meant we have not been able to visit our Auxiliary Members or anyone else and this celebration will not include our usual supper and social get-together. It has also affected all the deliberate work we do.

The Visitation was our Gospel tonight and we hear there of the first Christian mission of Mary. She took Jesus to Elizabeth. She went, overshadowed by the power of the Almighty and open to the Spirit, Jesus was there – in a hidden way.

Elizabeth was able to recognise Him. She rejoiced in what God was doing in Jesus. Mary continues to be a model in our lives as we visit. She remembers us as we go on our worldly searches. She tells us, "Do whatever He tells you." Being Jesus' disciple is even greater than being his relative.

I join the Legionaries in thanking God for the Centenary of this Marian way of being Church. It involves prayer, friendship, and trusting in the power of the Holy Spirit under the patronage of Mary.

Frank Duff is now a Servant of God. That means he is at the stage where there are interviews with those who knew him. They will write his life story. Then they will send it to the Pope and it will be 'Positio' or placed on the altar and we will ask for God's confirmation that he is a saint.

And we can all be saints. It is the goal of our Baptism. The saint today is a witness and evangeliser. In that Legionaries are needed more than ever.

I pray that we can be overshadowed by the

Holy Spirit and have Courage, Wisdom, and the Spirit of Fear of the Lord.

**Sept 7th is a red letter day. Thanks be to God for the beginning of the Legion and for what has followed.**



**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 December - Pray with Pope Francis

### Catechists

Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

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/>

Pope Francis is asking Catholics to pray in December that catechists will witness to the Gospel with courage and creativity.

The pope made the appeal in his December prayer intention, shared with an accompanying video on Nov. 30.

"Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit," reads the prayer intention, promoted by the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network.

A catechist is a Catholic who instructs others in Christian doctrine and the Gospel. Earlier this year, Pope Francis instituted a new ministry of catechist for lay people who have a particular call to serve the Catholic Church as a teacher of the faith.

In the video explaining his prayer intention, Pope Francis

said that there is a need for "good catechists who are both companions and teachers."

"The lay ministry of catechists is a vocation; it's a mission. Being a catechist means that you 'are a catechist,' not that you 'work as a catechist.' It's an entire way of being," the pope said.

"We need creative people who proclaim the Gospel, but who proclaim it neither with a mute nor with a loudspeaker, but rather with their life, with gentleness, with a new language, and opening new ways," he said.

Pope Francis noted that in many dioceses around the world, "evangelization is fundamentally in the hands of a catechist."

The pope also expressed gratitude for catechists' dedication to this mission in the service of the Church.

"Catechists have an invaluable mission for the transmission and growth of the faith," Pope Francis said.



# Catholic bishops welcome Religious Discrimination Bill

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has welcomed the introduction of the Religious Discrimination Bill, which will provide basic human rights protections for Australians of all faiths and none to express their beliefs.

**Archbishop Peter A Comensoli, chair of the Bishops Commission for Life, Family and Public Engagement, has commended the bill, saying it offers “a positive expression of religious freedom” that will be “an important progression towards parity with other anti-discrimination laws in Australia”.**

“Federal and state anti-discrimination legislation protects Australians from discrimination on the basis of a wide array of attributes,” he said.

“However, discrimination on the basis of religious belief or activity is only inconsistently acknowledged and protected against.

“All Australian citizens, regardless of their religious belief or activity, should be able to participate fully in our society. They must be entitled to the equal and effective protection of the law and should not be discriminated against on the basis of their religious belief or activities in public life.”

Archbishop Comensoli said the draft

bill is a significant improvement on the second exposure draft.

“It had been our hope that the bill would go further in protecting religious freedom,” he said. “However, we think that this more limited bill will still be an important recognition of the rights of people with a religious faith to express religious beliefs and engage in religious activities.”

Archbishop Comensoli also backed the provisions in the bill that protect the ability of religious organisations to hire people who share their faith and values.

“We want the freedom to hire people for the sake of our mission, just like other non-faith-based organisations,” he said

“The value of religious organisations to people of faith and wider society is in their religious mission and their ability to embody and pursue that religious mission. Operating religious organisations, such as religious schools, according to their mission includes recognising their ability to hire staff



who want to teach and model the vision of the school.”

Archbishop Comensoli said the bill must attract bipartisan support to ensure an enduring legacy for laws that help prevent discrimination against people because of their religious faith.

“Because what is being tabled is a modest and positive proposal for protection from religious discrimination, I hope both houses of Parliament will offer it safe passage without reduction in the Senate,” he said.

**“There is no reason to delay a bill**

**that will protect the freedoms of all Australians to adopt and express a religious belief or unbelief.”**



**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](http://www.lillypilly.com)  
[www.facebook.com/lillypillywines](https://www.facebook.com/lillypillywines)

**ROB GEDDES MW**  
Australian Wine Vintages 2015  
Lillypilly Noble Blend

**JAMES HALLIDAY -5 STARS**  
Australian Wine Companion 2015

**95**  
Hoon 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  
rmanetwork 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](mailto:livestock@hfrancisandco.com.au)  
[www.hfrancisandco.com.au](http://www.hfrancisandco.com.au)



# In facing end-of-life dilemmas, the Lord will never abandon us

The year is moving along, and the call for believers to remember and pray for their beloved dead continues.

BY FATHER JEFFREY F. KIRBY  
CRUX Senior Contributor

**It is not an easy task. Such a remembrance brings both sorrow and sobriety.** It reminds us of those who have gone before us, while also reminding us that we will one day face death ourselves. As we reflect upon our own deaths, we should prepare well for that day and discern the spiritual and moral realities that will accompany the end of our lives.

As Christian believers, we declare that our lives are not our own, as Saint Paul declares: “For to me to live is Christ.” And so we are called – again quoting Saint Paul – to give the “obedience of faith” throughout our lives, which includes the dying process.

With the above in mind, we can approach some principles from which we can ground our end-of-life discernment.

Our first principle of discernment is the recognition of our Creator and, more immediately, the objective order of moral truth beyond us. It is “objective” in that it is beyond the subject, which is our own person. It’s beyond us because we didn’t create it, we can’t change it (without moral peril), and if we want a good decision, one that brings peace, we must discern and decide according to it.

One example of this objective truth is our dignity. In making end-of-life decisions, some will say, “But I just want to die with dignity.” And they will. We all do. Our dignity is not given by our health, autonomy, laws or government, or even by ourselves. Our dignity is given to us by our Creator.

It is inalienable. No one, nothing, can take it away. Therefore, this inalienable dignity demands respect. It is the foundation of our human vocation, our call to live as full human beings, cherishing, respecting, and flourishing within our own dignity and that of others.

This means that in terms of end-of-life planning, while we must discern many things in the realm of treatment, we have boundaries. Our personal will, or the desire for autonomy, are not sovereign. These must be placed within our human dignity and the objective order of moral goodness, which is binding on all people of good will (and is seen as a manifestation of God’s will by believers). This shows us that we

cannot take our own lives or cause willful harm to our well-being.

Our second principle of discernment is the consideration of the specific areas of our particular vocation, such as the state of our souls (i.e., are we in grave sin or in an irregular marriage), our duties and responsibilities toward others, our talents and skills, our financial arrangements, our opportunities and authority, and our capabilities and roles in society and in the care of others. Our discernment is never just about us. It always involves our relationship with God, but also with our neighbors.

Relying on the two principles above, our third principle is the distinction between ordinary and extraordinary care. These are the two expressions that are used to clarify what we are called to do.

- *Ordinary* care is that care which is morally *obligatory*.
- *Extraordinary* care is that care which is morally *optional*.

The distinction between the two is essential for our discernment since ordinary care is the summons of the Lord. It would be severely regrettable if a person were to have lived their entire life as a faithful Christian but then abandoned the cross and the demands of discipleship at the end of life. In order to prevent this scandal, each of us is obliged to enter into serious discernment, seek counsel, and to do whatever the Lord asks of us.

The distinction between ordinary and extraordinary care involves some practical elements, such as the possibility of survival or benefit to one’s person, the degree of possible side effects, the extent of the proposed treatment, our capacity for pain, our responsibilities to other people or society, and our financial means. Within the boundaries set by objective truth, we have to add these other factors into the arena as we decide whether we are obliged to accept treatment or not.

Since our discernment follows our particular vocation, it is possible that a medical procedure or treatment is obligatory for one person, while optional for another. Following the state of affairs within the boundaries set by our human



A woman sits at the bedside of her mother in 2016 at de Greeff Hospice House in St. Louis. St. John Paul II said in “Evangelium Vitae,” “Everyone has an obligation to be at the service of life.” (Credit: Lisa Johnston/St. Louis Review via CNS.)

vocation, we cannot solely identify a specific medical procedure or treatment as ordinary or extraordinary. While the medical community may do so and use the same terms, the Church uses these terms far more holistically and calls for us to consider many areas of our life and not simply the medical invention that is being proposed.

As Christians, we seek to know what the Lord is asking of us and then, like the apostles, to generously respond with trust and confidence in the ways of God. The Lord will never overwhelm us or abandon us. He will only give us what we can carry. But in order to carry what he gives us, we must discern well and make decisions that reflect moral truth and goodness.



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



# Tributes to Fr Peter Thompson CM

Fr. Peter Thompson has been the Rector of Vianney College for 18 years with this being his last month before commencing work in Urana.

*Originally published in Vianney Bulletin*

**Fr. Peter Thompson was recruited by Bishop Hanna in 2004 from a parish near Mittagong and replaced Fr. Con Croese.** When Fr. Peter arrived, there were only four students as well as rumours around the closing of Vianney College.

Fr. Thompson built up the seminary both in structure and numbers and turned it around. He started energetically reaching out for vocations, including to men overseas. He also invited other rural dioceses to send students to

Vianney College. He is conscious of the all-round formation of the students.

Organised, diligent and reliable, Fr. Peter consolidated various aspects of the seminary and established other facets. It was well scheduled and things ran like clockwork, year in year out. He contributed openly and helpfully to the recent review of Vianney College so that it will become even better.

Those who studied under Fr. Thompson are very positive about him, almost universally noting that he is a fatherly figure. Warm, encouraging and dependable, he was committed to the students. His discipline was quiet and measured, giving people the benefit of the doubt when issues were contested and until they proved otherwise. His door was usually open indicating that he was ready to receive anyone who wanted a chat. Fr. Peter has been incredibly constant in his presence at the seminary and with his demeanour.

A good example of a priest, Fr. Peter

is reverent, prayerful and regular. The Vincentians have seminary formation as a part of their charism, and Fr Peter has lived this aspect consistently and wonderfully for many years. It has been his way of loving and serving the Church for almost two decades now.

Fr. Thompson is recognised as being a wise man of learning and is a go to person in the diocese for balanced opinions on liturgy, theology and Church politics. Many people ring him when they face a dilemma, including, in his time, Bishop Hanna.

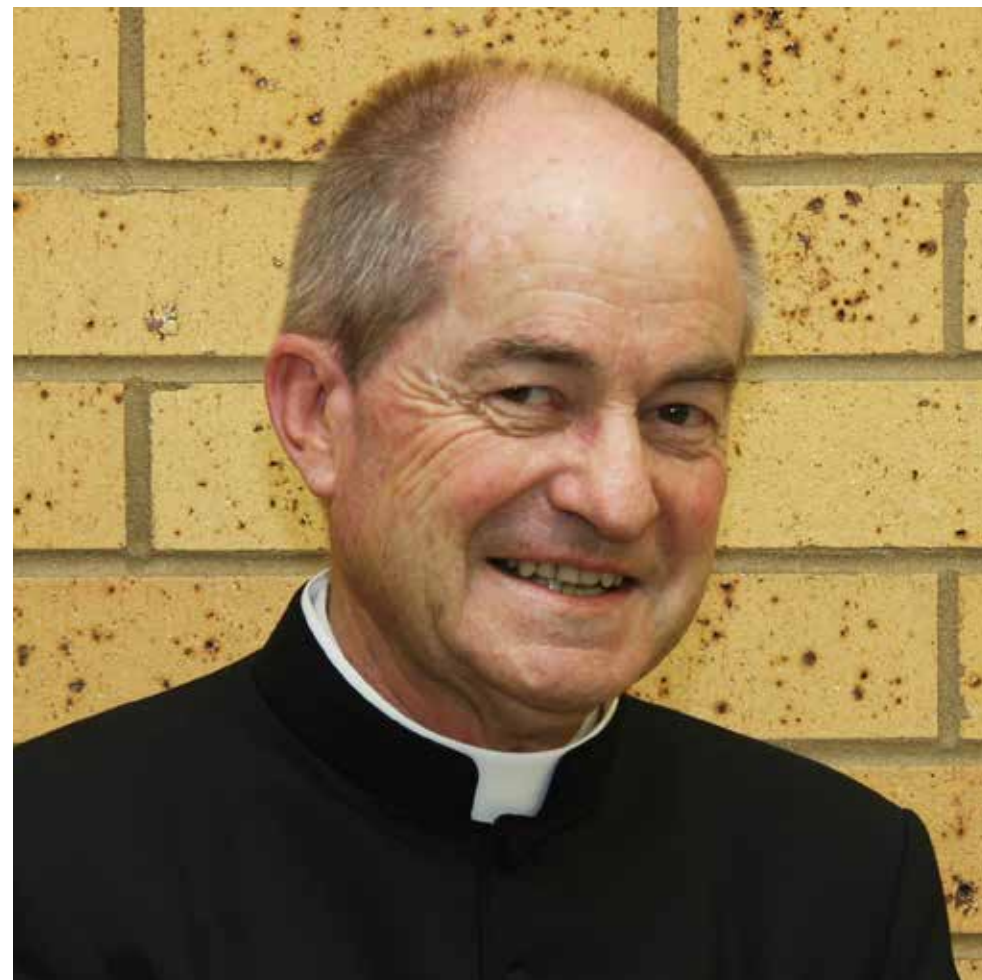
Fr. Peter has created a wonderful legacy in the seminary and in the priests in the diocese and we are grateful to him for who he is and what he has done.

**BY BISHOP MARK EDWARDS OMI**

*Sixth Bishop of Wagga Wagga*

**For the last 18 years, an army of men have had the privilege of having you as their rector.** You've given these men fatherly guidance and care which has helped to shape them into the men they are today, whether they have gone on to become priests or husbands and fathers.

When I was asked to write this piece it was supposed to be a reflection on your last five years here, and so I tried to think of some moments which encapsulated your ministry. However in five years there have been so many moments of kindness and fatherly care that I have found it difficult to narrow it down. You and I have worked together



through the soccer competitions, ordinations, anniversaries, crises of various sorts, disagreements, and a multitude of other joys and sorrows.

Throughout it all, there is one word which summarises your approach to being rector: fatherliness. You've been a father to each seminarian to come through these doors, as well as to many of the teaching staff, including 2 of your vice-rectors. As a father you've given many words of advice which have found their way into our hearts: 'Never make a decision when you're angry' 'Don't change the doormat till you've been there a year' and 'Don't let your prayers fall by the wayside' are three of the bits of advice which stick in my heart, and I know that others

– both staff and students, have their own pieces of fatherly wisdom which they've received from you.

But more importantly than advice, are the moments where seminarians or even seminary staff have struggled or endured the difficulties of ministry. Your response was to listen and guide with a fatherly heart, challenging us to place our trust in the Lord.

Thank you for your guidance, care, friendship, and fatherly example. You have left a legacy of faith and hope in this diocese which will not be forgotten.

Be assured of our prayers as you commence your work in Urana!

**BY FR. SEAN BYRNES**

*Vianney College Vice Rector*

Advanced

**AUTOMOTIVE ELECTRICS**

1866701w

For all your Auto Electrical Repairs

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



**Jamie Morley**  
**6925 4242**



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

**Albury Accounting Pty Ltd**

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

[www.alburyaccounting.com.au](http://www.alburyaccounting.com.au)

596 Hume St, Albury

Phone Suryan Chandrasegaran on 02 6041 2010

**Amcal+**  
Expert advice for every Australian.

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

**PAT ZIRILLI AMCAL CHEMIST**

398 - 400 Banna Ave, Griffith

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

Ken & Mary Morley Pty Ltd, Trading as

**Ken Morley**

**SMASH REPAIRS**

Auto Measuring Systems

Baked Enamel

Courtesy Car Available

We are recommended repairer for:



**24 hour towing**

**69 215 251**

**0431 290 725**

19 Houtman St, Wagga Wagga

Lic No: MVRL47719



# Year of Saint Joseph



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

## REFLECTION - DECEMBER 2021

### St Joseph – a Man of Law

St Joseph is described in Matthew's Gospel as "a just man" (Matthew 1:9). We learn about a man's attitude to law both from what he says in certain circumstances, from how he interprets the law and from his actions in applying law. St Joseph has no word of his recorded in the Gospels. Therefore, we learn about his being a Man of Law from how he interpreted the law and how he applied it when it was necessary — both the civil law and his inherited Abrahamic and Davidic law. Joseph listened faithfully to the whisperings of God in his heart. He lived the words of Jeremiah, "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people" (Jeremiah 31:33). As a just man he knew and understood the law and was guided by it as is evidenced in his life.

Law is necessary in any society for the wellbeing of the society and its individuals. It enshrines the purposes of the society and the structures needed to attain those purposes. It establishes the rights of the members and their corresponding obligations.

We learn that law needs to be interpreted according to the understanding of its time and then applied to the situation that arises. The longstanding rule of law allows for a strict application or a more lenient application when circumstances demand. Law needs to be applied with compassion according to the seriousness of actions in order to avoid marginalisation of persons, but it needs to be strictly applied when there is serious damage to others or society.

St Joseph, a son of David, belonged to the Messianic line. He was born in Nazareth and espoused to Mary, a virgin, who, during the time of betrothal, was found to be with child. At that time the penalty for a woman found to be pregnant out of wedlock was to be removed from society. Usually, the removal from society was accomplished by stoning the woman to death. Joseph knew the law, but as Matthew writes,

Joseph "being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally": (Matthew 1:19-20). He truly applied the law with generosity, leniency and love. He then had a dream in which he heard the injunction, "Do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 1:20). Joseph was now the foster father of the Messiah, the One who had been foretold for generations and awaited as a descendant of King David.

Joseph frequently exemplifies obeying civil law as well as divine law. St Luke tells us that Caesar Augustus, a Roman despot, "issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken... Everyone went to his own town to be registered". Joseph set out with Mary to go to Bethlehem since that was the town of his lineage, "David's House and line" – the line from which the Messiah was to come. As we well know, Mary gave birth to her son in Bethlehem, "her first born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn" (Luke 2:7-8).

Joseph knew well the Abrahamic covenant where the Lord decreed that all males be circumcised (Genesis 17). He honoured that law so that "when the eighth day came and the child was to be circumcised, they gave him the name Jesus" (Luke 2:21). On the 40th day after Jesus' birth, Joseph took him and Mary to the Temple in Jerusalem "to be purified as laid down by the law of Moses ... observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord - every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord" (Luke 23). It was a double requirement: Jesus was to be presented in the Temple and Mary was to be purified after childbirth. Luke tells us they offered the required sacrifice of "two turtle doves or two young pigeons" (Luke 2:24-25). The family then returned to Nazareth.

Historically, it is believed that when Jesus was almost two years

old, the Magi visited Herod in Jerusalem asking, "where is the infant king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage" (Matthew 2:2-3). Herod did not want another king in his jurisdiction, so ordered that all males under the age of two years were to be killed (Matthew 2:16-17). Once more, Joseph heeded the voice of God in a dream: "Get up, take the child and his mother with you, and escape into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, because Herod intends to search for the child and do away with him" (Matthew 2:13-14). Joseph obediently took Mary and Joseph and lived in Egypt until Herod died some years later.

Again, Joseph had a dream in which he was told to return to Israel. When the family returned, they lived in Judaea now governed by another despot, Archelaus (Matthew 2:21-23). Here in Galilee, Joseph watched the child grow to maturity and filled with wisdom (Luke 2:39-40).

Joseph continued, as head of the family, to observe the law. Luke tells us: "Every year his parents used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover." We learn that when Jesus was 12 years old he stayed behind in Jerusalem listening to the doctors and asking them questions. For three days, his parents searched for him but, on finding him it is Mary who is recorded as speaking and chiding Jesus (Matthew 2:46-50). That is the last occasion that Joseph is mentioned.

In those 12 or so years, Joseph has definitively proved that he is truly a Man of Law. He not only wisely interpreted law, but applied it with care. He related to his God with a constantly listening ear.

**Sr Maria Casey is a Sister of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart and a former president of the Canon Law Society of Australia and New Zealand. She was the postulator for the cause for St Mary of the Cross MacKillop's canonisation.**





# Aid workers concerned about impacts of riots in Honiara

Protests have broken out in Honiara, the capital of the Solomon Islands, prompting aid workers to raise concerns about the impacts of the unrest on access to food and livelihoods.

The Solomon Islands is one of the least developed nations in the Pacific, already facing a combination of challenging factors: a lack of basic infrastructure, vulnerability to natural disasters, civil unrest and widespread poverty. The country also faces considerable inequality, with much of the country's wealth and infrastructure centered in Honiara, leaving a stark difference between the capital and regions.

"Seeing the protests unfold in front of us has been alarming, but what really worries me are the impacts on the communities we've been working with for so long," says Rose Everlyn Clough, Caritas Australia's Program Quality Coordinator for Solomon Islands, based in Honiara.

"I've been working with some very remote communities, and I know that they will face even more challenges the longer that this continues. For communities that are already struggling without access to clean water, or with limited livelihoods options, these kinds of events just create more uncertainty and more disruption."

"We hope that the protests ease down soon so that we can continue our work, and we ask for support from Australians to make sure that those who are already struggling to access food and clean water don't go without during this period."

"The longer the protests go on, the more the supply chain is disrupted," says Emma Dawson, Caritas Australia's Pacific Manager.

"This means that communities might not be able to



Protestors rushing to Parliament House in Honiara. Photo by Rose Everlyn Clough, Caritas Australia.

buy or trade goods, including food and vital supplies for hygiene and sanitation, which are already a problem in the country. For families already living close to the poverty line this could push them under, and remote communities will become even more isolated."

Caritas Australia has been working in the Solomon Islands since 1999, and continues to work with local communities to increase access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene facilities, as well as spreading life-saving information about the importance of COVID-19 treatment and vaccination.

**Visit [caritas.org.au](https://caritas.org.au)  
or call 1800 024 413  
toll free to provide much needed  
support to vulnerable communities in  
the Pacific by donating to our  
Pacific Regional Appeal.**



**Caritas**  
AUSTRALIA

**End poverty  
Promote justice  
Uphold dignity**



Fires at Parliament House in Honiara. Photo by Rose Everlyn Clough, Caritas Australia.

**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



# In gratitude for the blessings for Catholic Mission 2021

*For we cannot keep from speaking about what we have seen and heard.*  
Acts 4:20

BY JANE PLUM

**There is so much to be grateful for as I approach the final Catholic Mission Parish Appeal for 2021.** Parish communities, which also encompass our Catholic schools, have supported the essential work of the Good Shepherd Sisters' Mother and Babies Home and Kindergarten in Bangkok, through prayer and financial support, and practiced solidarity through making sockballs to play the world game of Soccer. There are also many individuals and companies who respond generously to the cry of the poor. I begin by expressing my heartfelt gratitude for your generosity.

For the purposes of this article I share with you the focus on advocacy. I have drawn on the work of the Catholic Mission team in the Brisbane Archdiocese in their Mission Ambassador initiative. As a Christian community we are all called to Mission. Not all of us, however, will go overseas on mission. Through Mission Advocacy adults and young people put their faith into action, making Christ's presence real to those around us and making His love felt by those who need it most.

**Mission advocacy is a ministry that engages the head, heart and hands:**

- It's a way to deepen awareness of being on mission and an understanding of service learning in action. (Head)
- It creates opportunities to follow the

model of Jesus as a servant leader and advocate in their interactions and engagement with others. (Heart)

- And it enables engagement in real authentic action that can make a real difference. (Hands)

To advocate is to add a voice which has not been uncommon in our adult faith community. I am grateful to all who have given their voice for those that Catholic Mission supports. Your continued advocacy makes it possible for the voices of our neighbours in the Majority world to be heard.

Catholic Mission provides schools with a comprehensive journey in mission that gives them a window into the story of our Mission partners, this year, in Thailand. Students can then share the story with friends and family. And some students chose to be a voice and a presence for Catholic Mission in local parishes when these communities prayerfully and financially support the missionary work of our universal church. I also offered resources to teachers and leaders in schools, and in a few cases I had the graced opportunity to work with groups of students. Even in the face of this unpredictable Covid climate students and staff from at least a third of our Diocesan Catholic Schools were able to engage in Mission Advocacy beyond the school gate.

**What follows are reflections from some of the students who**



Above: Rebecca Gill and students showing one of the many sockballs created a students practiced solidarity with children in Thailand.

**engaged in the work of advocacy:**

Three schools from within Sacred Heart Parish Koorlingal came together in a Parish School Mass where students shared their reflections. The communities of Mater Dei Primary, Sacred Heart Primary and Mater Dei College participated in Socktober for Mission Month.

**At Mater Dei Primary** our school motto is "One in Spirit." As a community we strive to work together in a way that is guided by our faith and trust in Jesus. In Week 3 of this term we had a schoolwide focus on mission. Our year 6 class planned and led a mission liturgy in each of the other classrooms and designed a mission activity focussed on the people of Thailand. Maisy MacLean

**At Sacred Heart Primary** our school motto is 'To Love is to Serve'. The Sacred Heart of Jesus calls each of us to 'Love and Serve' others, just as Jesus did. This was particularly evident during Mission Month. This year, our students learnt about the missionary

work of the Good Shepherd Sisters in Thailand. We held a fundraising event and students and staff wore crazy socks to help 'sock it to poverty'. We also held a meaningful and reverent whole-school liturgy that was led by our Year 6 students via Zoom. Tilly Mattingly

**At Mater Dei Catholic College** our motto is to "Live God's Message". Through living God's message, students were invited to connect with young people experiencing challenges in the developing world. Students made their own soccer balls with recycled materials. Our 2022 College Captains helped to teach students about Socktober and the children of Thailand. They then facilitated the sockball shootout in houses. Socktober for Mission Month has encouraged our three schools to engage with mission for children by using our heads to enquire about the reality of the world around us, using our hearts to feel empathy for those



St Francis de Sales students.

Back Row: Eddie Mills, Charlotte Rudd, Isabel Fiumara, Sarah Milne  
Front Row: Ashley Morris, Grace Nardi, Anabelle Cross, Emma Fiumara

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

in situations of great need, and using our hands to take action for them in whatever way we were able. Our efforts towards supporting the Kindergarten run by the Good Shepherd Sisters in Bangkok, has created much joy in our communities. Sophie Edmunds

**Students from St Patrick's Primary Holbrook,** Charlie C, Charlie M & Dominic V, spoke at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish to raise money for World Mission Day.

*They shared a slide presentation about mission for kids in Thailand. The parishioners were asked to pray for Sr Chalaad and the Kindergarten staff and children, and were very interested and thankful. The money donated will go to the kindergarten centre and the families of the children. It is important to support World Mission Day because we are in a privileged country. We spread the word of Jesus through mission.*

Charlie C, Charlie M & Dominic V  
**Sophie Church a Year 6 student from Holy Spirit School, Lavington** was asked by her teachers if she would like to give a talk on behalf of Catholic Mission at her local parish, Holy Spirit Church in Lavington, on 23rd October. Sophie writes,

*"Of course, I said yes as I was proud to have been asked. I spoke about the Kindergarten Centre and Mother and Babies Home in Thailand. I was nervous about speaking in front of everybody but I spoke well. The parishioners put money into collection bags at the end of Mass and our school raised money as well for them by creating a money line and making sockballs. I enjoyed my chance to help others by being an advocate for Catholic Mission."*

**Eddie Mills, a Year 12 student from St Francis de Sales Regional College** writes candidly,

*The experience with Jane and the introduction to Catholic Mission's work in Thailand gave me a lot more respect for the Church's work in charity. The work with single mothers and impoverished children is very noble, and the acceptance of a group of women outcast from society, especially by a traditionally anti-single mother*

*establishment I had great respect for. For this reason, I was very proud and grateful to be given the opportunity to talk about Catholic Mission at Church on Sunday.*

Eddie spoke about Catholic Mission's work on the on the Feast of Christ the King, when St Francis De Sales students supported the celebration of a World Youth Day Mass.

**In the Message of his Holiness Pope Francis for World Mission Day** he asserts, "To be on mission is to be willing to think as Christ does, to believe with him that those around us are also my brothers and sisters. May His compassionate love touch our hearts and make us all true missionary disciples."

**Jane Plum**

Diocesan Director – Wagga Wagga  
Email [jplum@catholicmission.org.au](mailto:jplum@catholicmission.org.au)



*We pray for change: in ourselves and in the circumstances of those in need, particularly in Thailand.*

*For missionaries, that they will accompany, with compassion, those whose lives are affected by crushing poverty.*

*For all refugee families, that they will find safe haven and welcome in places that show kindness to strangers.*

*For the Church in Thailand, that it will continue to work in harmony with its culture and people.*

*For all those who are affected by the coronavirus pandemic, that they may find relief and recovery.*

*For Pope Francis, that he will continue to lead the world towards mercy, tenderness, and healing.*

*God of all people, fill our hearts with your Holy Spirit that we will act justly to rid our world of all that harms our brothers and sisters.*

*We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



Above and below: Holy Spirit Lavington making sockballs.



Above: Holbrook Primary School students.

DRESSED BY  
**JACKIE**

**New arrivals for summer**

**Outfits for weddings**

**Mother-of-the-bride**

202 Baylis Street Wagga Wagga  
**Ph: 0435 838 654**

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

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

Logos: PACIFIC SEEDS, AGT, Cargill, SOY, Seed Force, Seednet, Dore, New AgriScience, WARRATAH, syngenta, Heritageseeds, EUBO, NUSEED, THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

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

**HART BROS SEEDS**  
It all begins with Seed

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

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



# NSW students lead the way for ecological justice at Catholic Earthcare Youth Summit

Over 300 students, from 36 schools across the state, attended the NSW Catholic Earthcare Youth Summit on November 10.

**The event was hosted by Mount St Benedict College in Pennant Hills, Sydney, and attended by Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv, Bishop of Parramatta.** Catholic Earthcare Australia, a program of Caritas Australia, collaborated with students at Mount Saint Benedict College, Saint Scholastica's College, Saint Mary Star of the Sea College and Stella Maris College to design and lead the one-day event, which covered environmental advocacy on the personal, community and international level.

"Our focus is always to empower students to advocate for and take action on ecological justice and sustainability," said Sabrina Stevens, Caritas Australia's Youth Coordinator.

"This year, the theme is: 'from little things, big things grow', which reflects

how the youth summit is created by students, for students, with a view to develop their capacity to advocate for the future they want to see."

"I'm excited to see so many young people who are invested in the future of our planet, and through these events Catholic Earthcare supports young people to take leadership and take action to care for creation. It's really thrilling to see students respond to the call to care for our common home and put in the time and effort to build an event like this."

"One of the highlights of the day for me was that the students had the opportunity to hear from COP26 representative, Ann Marie Brennan, because this means that they're beginning to participate in the global conversation around the environment. This is a big step in starting to develop their skills as advocates for



Sabrina Stevens Caritas Australia Youth Coordinator. Credit Caritas Australia.

creation."

The students also heard from Alicja Boruciuch from Young Christian Workers and Taabeia Ibouri and Katarina Kabiriera from the Sisters of Kiribati.

"Catholic Earthcare Australia will

continue to hold more youth summits in other states, and in the meantime, we launched a new program called Earthcare Families, which is a great way to get involved in caring for creation."

## Catholic Earthcare Australia launches Earthcare Parishes

With the Laudato Si Action Platform moving into the commitment phase, Catholic Earthcare has launched Earthcare Parishes to assist parishes on their journey towards the Laudato Si Goals.

**"I'm really excited by the Earthcare Parish Audit with each question aligning with one or more of the Laudato Si goals. And as part of the Earthcare Network, you receive news and opportunities to exchange ideas," says Christine Sebire, Pastoral Associate, St Mary's Echuca, one of the first parishes to register.**

To escalate the implementation of Laudato Si', Pope Francis' established the Laudato Si' Action Platform with its 7 Goals. The Australian Catholic Bishops followed with their Statement 'Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor', reinforcing the call to care for creation. The bishops have enrolled in the Laudato Si Action Platform, and invite us to join them in committing to the Laudato Si Goals.

Catholic Earthcare Australia has made it easy for parishes to take up the Bishops' invitation, Register at <https://catholicearthcare.org.au/earthcare-parishes> to

receive your Earthcare Parish Audit. Once done, you plan your actions using the Earthcare Action Planner with suggestions under all 7 Laudato Si Goals to inspire you. The Earthcare network will support and encourage you as you implement your plan.

Kerry Stone, St John's Parish Numurkah, another early signatory, says "I like the way it's so simply laid out to address the goals and ideas are localized, 'Australianised', with references to our Australian situation/agencies/campaigns e.g. First Nations people, Project Compassion, Landcare, Clean Up Australia Day making them very relatable and user-friendly".

In Sandhurst Diocese, Bishop Shane Mackinlay sees the Earthcare Program supporting the diocesan journey, "Our Diocese is committed to enrolling in the Laudato Si Action Platform. As part of the Diocese' working towards the goals we are encouraging all parishes to become Earthcare parishes".



Fr Pompeyo & Parishioners at St Mary's Echuca look over the Audit.

"Earthcare sees great value in building a local network. You can do an audit independently and have great intentions but if you're part of something bigger, it's more likely to result in ongoing action and be more impactful," says Sue Martin, Catholic Earthcare Coordinator.

**To find out more visit  
[www.catholicearthcare.org.au](http://www.catholicearthcare.org.au)**



# The vaccination division

It seems to me that recently, as a church, we have allowed the issue of vaccinations to divide us.

BY FR SEAN BYRNES

**Sadly, I'm sure we've all heard things like: "They're not vaccinated because they don't care about the common good" or "The vaccinated are morally complicit in abortion".**

Therefore, in a spirit of fostering unity, I'd like to outline in this article what the church teaches about vaccines to help those who are pro vaccination and those who are anti-vaccination to understand each other's reasoning, beyond the extremes mentioned above.

Last year in December the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith (CDF) released a document titled: *Note on the morality of using some anti-Covid19 vaccines*. The document makes 2 important points:

1. Where there are pharmaceutical manufacturers who have used cell lines from aborted fetuses in the development of vaccines (as is the case for AstraZeneca and Pfizer) there exists differing degrees of responsibility between those who actively (formally and immediately) cooperate in the abortion, such as vaccine manufacturers, and those who receive the vaccine in order to limit damage done by an extremely contagious viral agent. In the latter case the cooperation is passive, material and remote. In other words, it is not an active and purposeful cooperation with evil, but passive and distant from the actual abortion. This passive cooperation is licit, in the circumstances where it is necessary

to stem the potential damage of a pandemic in order to protect the most vulnerable, and where there is no ethical alternative. *However*, the document also makes it clear that as Catholics we have the responsibility to lobby the government for vaccines which are manufactured in an ethical manner.

2. While the common good is certainly promoted by the reception of vaccinations, one must not conflate an action which promotes the common good with a moral obligation. The fulfillment of moral obligations contributes to the common good, but not every decision which promotes the common good is a moral obligation. Vaccination, according to the CDF document is not a moral obligation and the document states that those who feel it necessary to object to the vaccine on grounds of conscience are free to do so. Such an objection has its own contribution to the common good. *However*, it also states that those who conscientiously object must look not only to exercise their right to object, but also to fulfil their responsibility to keep the most vulnerable safe by exercising good hygiene, wearing masks when appropriate, practicing social distancing, and where possible, avoiding large crowds and events which carry a danger of a large-scale spread.



Now how does outlining the above teaching help to foster unity? it doesn't. No article can 'foster' unity among people. That's up to us. But perhaps we can look at the above teaching and clarify our own thoughts. 'Have I thought ill of another, because they have made a decision which is different from mine?' 'Have I judged someone to be in sin because they are vaccinated/unvaccinated?'

These kinds of thoughts are allowed to grow and mutate when we allow our relationships to be governed by fear. And don't get me wrong, I get it. We're in the middle of a pandemic: high infection rates, strains on the health system, governments exercising powers we've never seen before, and the economic consequences of lockdowns are of great concern. All in all, I'd say those are good reasons to be afraid. However, we cannot allow that fear to determine who and how we love. The command to love both God and neighbour remains, and the words of Jesus must echo in our

hearts "Do not be afraid." (Mt 14:27)

Our Lords command to not be afraid does not mean ignoring the natural emotion of fear which God gave us to help in responding adequately to dangerous situations. It means moderating that emotion through love, reason and courage. John the apostle tells us that "Perfect love casts out fear" (1 Jn 4:18). With that Scripture on our hearts, instead of allowing fear to lead us to a place of presumption and judgement, we can with the church's teaching in mind, and with the help of God's grace through the Eucharist, have the courage to think the best of one another, desire the best for each other, and love one another as brothers and sisters in Christ.

It is easy to say. It's not easy to do. Yet the challenge remains: **Love thy neighbour as thyself – not as a vaccinated or unvaccinated person, but as a child of God, made in His image and likeness.**

## Fighting euthanasia in Albury

Parishioners met outside Member for Albury, Justin Clancy's office to protest the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill put forth in NSW Parliament.





# Tocumwal celebrates 200 Years of Catholic Education

Year 6 students from Sacred Heart Primary School in Tocumwal joined the live stream to celebrate 200 Years of Catholic Education in Australia.

They took part in a Mass and listened to notable people share their experiences and thoughts about Catholic Education in the Wagga Wagga Diocese. Year 6 students then shared their reflections which they've shared here.



**CHARLIE HAYNES**

I feel privileged to go to a Catholic school because my Dad and all his siblings went to Sacred Heart too. I feel a connection to our school because the school is important to my Dad, his siblings and my Nan and Pop, so it is important to me too.



**GEORGE WILES**

Going to Sacred Heart has helped me become the best person I can be because I have extremely good people around me to help me make the right choices and try new things.



**WILL NOONAN**

Two hundred years is a long time and the schools have changed. Our school has more electronics and less writing than they did when Sacred Heart opened.



**ELLA HOLLISTER**

We have lots of opportunities going to a Catholic school in the Wagga Wagga Diocese. I have had the opportunity to learn more about swimming. I have represented our school in the Deanery and Diocese Carnivals. I want to continue swimming in the future.



**MILLER SIMPSON**

I am around such positive people at Sacred Heart. It has made me more positive and has helped me to be more confident and proud of who I am. Being in a Catholic school has taught me to be happy and live every day to the best.



# Carrying forward the fruits of the Council's first assembly

We are about to begin Advent - a season of preparing for the birth of Jesus.

BY LANA TURVEY-COLLINS

**It is a wonderful time to reflect on how we can best live as "Jesus' people".**

Last month marked four years of being in this role of facilitator and I must say it has been an incredible journey of learning, challenge, courage and creativity. Being a member of the Facilitation Team for this historic process has been (and continues to be) a great privilege and one that I do not take for granted. The stories each person has shared, the prayer and discussion, time and focus which the whole People of God have given to trying to answer "What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?" have helped all of us reach this point.

The Members of the Plenary Council are charged with the responsibility of taking those stories into their ongoing discernment and returning to the Church in Australia "concrete proposals for a more missionary, Christ-centred Church".

The first general assembly began their communal discernment in earnest, and now that it has wrapped up and some weeks have passed, we move into the next stages. The Members' communal discernment is only partially complete. They are mid-process. Much more prayer, conversation and reflection is required to reach the second assembly in July 2022.

The raw fruits of their work-in-progress will soon be available for the whole Church to read. It will give us all insight into the directions of their discernment.

During the days and nights of the first assembly, every Member poured their heart and soul and faith into the work of the Council, into the communal discernment process and the small group outputs reflect their commitment, faith and engagement.

The next steps include the Drafting Committee (a mix of Members and others), working together with the

Steering Committee (a mix of Members and others) to continue the communal discernment that the Members began during the first assembly.

Over the December/January period, they will work to draft a few thematic documents, which collate and capture the proposals and propositions from the first assembly and return these drafts to the Members for further individual or small group discernment.

After Easter 2022, the drafted, discerned, re-drafted, yet still-not-complete versions of the documents will be made available for the whole People of God to read, reflect on and pray with. Of course, Members will continue to do this also.

This will bring us into Pentecost season, and to the final stages of preparation towards the second assembly -- during which the four-and-a-half-year process of the Church in Australia discerning together will be brought to a completion point. Then, of course, comes implementation -- the third stage of the Plenary Council.

July 2022 may be just a few months away, yet much is yet to be revealed. The entire process and the whole work of the Plenary Council has been led by the Holy Spirit. I do believe it is a work of the Holy Spirit for our Church and for all people. With faith in God's Holy Spirit, I look forward to the final weeks of 2021 and the fruits of this journey that will come in 2022.

On behalf of Marion, Peter and Olivia, my colleagues in the Facilitation Team, I wish you a happy and holy Christmas season and a wondrous and blessed beginning to 2022.

*Thanks and peace,  
Lana*



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



**Vinnies**

## Find your nearest Vinnies Shop

- Albury Shop** Ritz Arcade, Dean St Albury
- Coolamon Shop** 98 Cowabbie St Coolamon
- Corowa Shop** 143 Sanger St Corowa
- Griffith Shop** 101 Banna Ave Griffith
- Jerilderie Shop** 36 Jerilderie St Jerilderie
- Junee Shop** 85 Broadway St Junee
- Lavington Shop** 321 Urana Rd Lavington
- Leeton Shop** 42 Kurrajong Ave Leeton
- Mulwala Shop** 47 Melbourne St Mulwala
- Narrandera Shop** 181 East St Narrandera
- Tumbarumba Shop** 16 The Parade Tumbarumba
- Turvey Park Shop** Turvey Tops Shopping Centre, Fernleigh Rd Wagga Wagga
- Wagga Wagga Shop** 15 Peter St Wagga Wagga

## VOLUNTEER TODAY

We are urgently in need of volunteers to work in our Vinnies shops across the Riverina. If you have some spare time in your week we would love to hear from you. Please phone 13 18 12 to find out more.



**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](http://www.lesterandson.com.au)

*All Hours • All Areas • Pre-planned Funerals Available*



# Catholic bishops endorse Uluru Statement from the Heart

Australia's Catholic bishops, on the recommendation of their key Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander advisers, have endorsed the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

**The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference made the decision as it gathered online for its biannual meeting earlier last month.**

The bishops' consideration of the matter was informed by the words of St John Paul II, who in a visit to Alice Springs in 1986 said to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples: "Your culture, which shows the lasting genius and dignity of your race, must not be allowed to disappear... Your songs, your stories, your paintings, your dances, your languages, must never be lost."

Bishop Columba Macbeth-Green OSPPE, chair of the Bishops Commission for Relations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, said the Bishops Conference had been awaiting guidance on the Statement from the Heart.

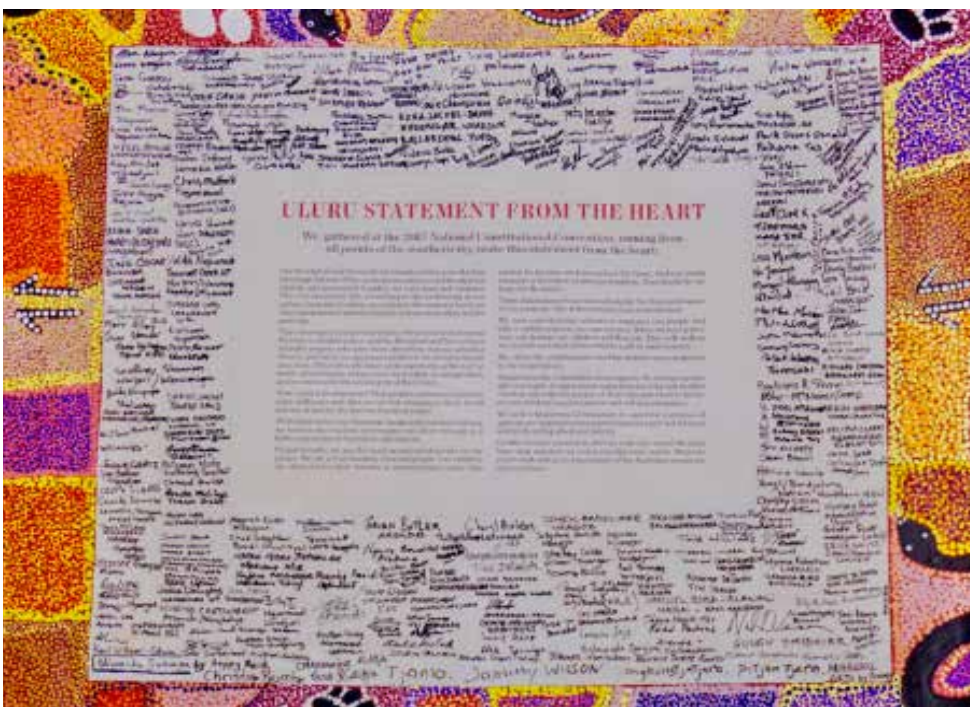
"We are very grateful for the reflections of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council in helping shape our thinking on this important subject," Bishop Macbeth-

Green said. "That Council recently endorsed the Statement from the Heart, and we have listened carefully to their reasons for doing so.

"We also heard from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members of the Plenary Council at our recent assembly of their desire for the Church in Australia to follow NATSICC's lead."

The Plenary Council's agenda called for the Church to "honour and acknowledge the continuing deep spiritual relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation".

Among the key recommendations of the Uluru Statement are the establishment of a First Nations "Voice" to the Australian Parliament and a commission to supervise a process of "truth-telling" between governments and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



Bishop Macbeth-Green said the bishops acknowledged there remain diverse views within Indigenous communities on the Uluru Statement, but the principles of reconciliation and walking together with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders fit well in the Catholic understanding.

"Sadly, we within the Church have not always lived up to our Gospel calling in our engagement with our Indigenous brother and sisters," he said.

"The endorsement of the Uluru

Statement is another step in our journey of addressing those shortcomings, but it will be an ongoing journey with First Peoples.

"Part of that will see us listening to the stories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, rather than a tendency to talk about them. That is the model we seek to emulate with the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council, and that has brought us to this point."

# A call to serve - an immediate need for volunteer workers

The Diocese of Broome provides essential services to a number of Aboriginal Communities, but due to COVID-19 border restrictions, is unable to bring helpers into Western Australia to work voluntarily in the Kimberley Mission.

**The Church is in desperate need at this time to ensure it continues its Mission in the beautiful Kimberley region of Australia for the sake of those people it has always served generously.**

People of faith who are prepared to donate their time NOW are invited to contact the Church Diocesan Office; call Tony on 0488 032 656.

Ideally volunteers are required to serve for a three-month period in return

for travel, food and accommodation. Applicants must be double vaccinated in order to qualify to serve in the Kimberley Mission.

This is an awesome opportunity to serve in a meaningful and fulfilling way to support the Mission of Church within the Diocese of Broome.

**Please apply today, you will be welcomed and supported throughout your time in the Kimberley.**





# 70 years of fund raising for the Home of Compassion comes to an end

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the age of the present committee, the lack of volunteers and the cashless society, the fund-raising auxiliary for the Home of Compassion has had to disband.

BY MARGARET MCAULIFFE

**This is very sad as the fund-raising committees have been in existence since the Sisters of Compassion established the first aged care residence in Fox Street in 1952.**

The Sisters from a congregation, founded in New Zealand, and co-workers are committed to work together in a spirit of compassion, openness, and integrity to meet the needs of the aged, the sick, the oppressed and powerless in our community.

Government funding was non-existent in those days, finances were very tight. However, the Sisters managed with support from a very generous Wagga Wagga community. If the Home was short of eggs, an egg cup would be placed in front of the statue of St Joseph and low and behold a generous benefactor would promptly donate eggs.

In the early days, Sr Stephen came to town, she was a wonderful organizer and a great people's person, someone you could not say "no" to, she is credited with establishing the strong network of workers and supporters who exist to the present day.

A very good Fund raiser was the Annual Fete. Fox St would be closed off to traffic. The Fete was hugely popular and lots of fun. The popular games of the time like Hoop-la and Pin the Tail on the Donkey were organised for the kids, whilst Lucky envelopes and the Chocolate Wheel, manned from the back of a truck, were popular with the adults. Jim Corbett and the Magistrate apparently ran the Two-up and Under and Overs for cash prizes - this was probably illegal at the time, however,

the police fortunately kept a low profile.

The woman folk organised the famous stalls – the cake stall being the most popular. Mary Denis' jam rolls were to die for, whilst Alma Nugent's Apple cakes and Betty Cattell's caramel pies were sold before they hit the table. Turkish Delights, Coconut slice sold well whilst Toffees covered in hundreds and thousands, and Toffee apples were very popular with the kids.

The Toohey sisters and lots of other ladies made beads, teddy bears from old coats, knitted baby clothes and children's wear to sell. Others croqued items, embroidered doilies, and sewed kitchen items such as potholders, and hand towels to donate to the various stalls.

As well as the fete these amazing folk organised card parties. The Fitzgerald family would seat 40 card players in their home. Luncheons were organised in private residences and gardens. The Antique fair was held in Kyeamba Smith Hall over two full days serving morning and afternoon teas plus lunch. A band of Coolamon ladies, while not active members of the auxiliary, always manned a stall at the fete generating a wider interest and support for the Home and the Sisters.

A long-time secretary of the Auxiliary, Helen Brown followed in the footsteps of her father, Tony Suckling who organised the annual bowls days. In the 1950's and 1960's an Annual Race meeting proved to be a huge fund raiser. Jim Corbett walked Baylis St seeking donations from the many generous businesses for prizes for the various events.



*Last Executive Auxiliary members. Front Row: Sr Rae Berry, Margaret McAuliffe. Back row: Kay Sutton, Kitty Howe, Kate Mitchell, Maree Miller. Absent: Judy Buchanan, Sr Barbara King, Margaret Molloy.*

Mary Kennedy was another who walked the street selling raffle tickets and procuring donations from the business houses to use as prizes at the various functions

Men were very generous supporters as well; they organised very successful Race meetings, whilst tradesmen freely put their skills to work when the Sisters required help. Don Black made and donated the big Home of Compassion sign that dominated the entrance for many years until the new extensions in 2002.

Horrie Rex Wing and the Lennon Wing are named after men who gave very generously of their time and financially.

Names of some of the original Committee members included Cattell, Baxter, Fitzgerald, Nugent, Denis, Corbett, Crowle and Say Families.

In later years, the major fund raiser was the Christmas raffle. A very generous lady donated the major prize each year and raffle tickets were mailed out as well as sold on street stalls. Faithful supporters generously purchased the tickets for many years.

Joan Powell made and decorated a Christmas cake to be raffled whilst Helen Nurtery faithfully supplied the prizes for many Raffles.

Coffee mornings included a guest speaker and card parties with a trading table were also great fund raisers.

Executive Auxiliary members from later years included Margaret Heffernan, Pam Harris, Lainey Nixon.

Over the years, Government funding began to trickle in until the Government finally took over the running of Aged Care Homes in the 1980's. The Auxiliary's fund raising in recent years, was then directed towards purchasing extra items for the comfort of residents and support of the staff. eg air-mattresses, crash mats, portable oxygen cylinders, bariatric beds and chairs, and a bed lifting machine, which was manned by one staff member instead of four were purchased.

As it folded, the Auxiliary supported a vote of thanks to all the wonderful and very generous residents of Wagga Wagga for their support to the Sisters of Compassion and the Home of Compassion for over 70 years and to all the Auxiliary members who have worked so very hard to raise funds to help with the comfort and support of the residents and staff of the Home of Compassion.

**Would you like to receive your copy of Together via email?**

Simply email us at:  
together@wagga.catholic.org.au  
and we will add you to the mailing list.

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

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

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

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

**All men welcome.**



# Giving ourselves a better story

In a recent book, *Living Between Worlds*, James Hollis offers a piece of wit that carries more depth than is first evident.

BY RON ROLHEISER

**A therapist says to a client, I cannot solve your problem, but I can give you a more compelling story for your misery.** That’s more than a wisecrack. Whether we feel good or bad about ourselves is often predicated on what kind of story we understand ourselves as living within.

I remember a seminar some years ago where one of the keynote speakers was a young French Canadian priest, Pierre Olivier Tremblay. Tremblay began his talk with words to this effect: I am a chaplain at a university, working with young college students. They are full of life, dreams, and energy; sadly, however they are mostly devoid of hope because they have no meta-narrative. They suffer a lot because they do not have a bigger story within which to understand themselves and make more sense of their own story. Their own stories, precious though they are, are too small and individualistic to give them much to draw on when pain and heartache beset them. They need a bigger story within which to situate themselves, a meta-narrative. While this wouldn’t necessarily take away their pain and heartaches, it would give them something bigger within which to understand their suffering.

Hearing this, I think of my parents and the spirituality that helped sustain them and their generation. They had a meta-narrative, namely, the Christian story of salvation history and of how, in that story, at the very beginning of history, Adam and Eve committed an ‘original sin’ that has ever since skewed reality so as to leave us with the impossibility of ever attaining the full symphony in this life. When their lives got hard, as is the case with all of us, they had a religious perspective as to why they were frustrated and in pain. They understood themselves to be born into a flawed world and a flawed nature. Hence, their prayer included the words, for now we live, mourning and weeping in a valley of tears.

Today we might frown on this and see it as unhealthy and morbid, but that narrative of Adam and Eve helped give some explanation and meaning to all the shortcomings in their lives. While it didn’t take away their pain, it helped

give dignity to their miseries. Today I see many sincere parents trying in new ways to give a bigger narrative to their young children through stories like *The Lion King*. That might indeed be helpful for young children; but as Pierre Olivier Tremblay points out, eventually a much bigger and more compelling narrative is needed.

The story within which we frame our pain makes all the difference in the world vis-a-vis how we cope with that pain. For example, James Hillman tells us that perhaps the biggest pain we experience with aging is our idea of aging. This is true too for many of our struggles. They need the dignity of being seen under a larger canopy. I like what Robertson Davies says when he laments that he doesn’t want to struggle with a ‘growing edge’, but wants rather to be ‘tempted by demon’. He wants to accord a higher dignity to his temptations!

A bigger story brings us this dignity because it helps us differentiate meaning from happiness. We invariably confuse the two. What we need to seek in life is meaning, not happiness. Indeed, happiness (as we generally understand it) can never be pursued because it is always a byproduct of something else. Moreover, happiness is ephemeral and episodic; it comes and goes. Meaning is abiding and can co-exist with pain and suffering. I doubt that Jesus was particularly happy as he hung dying on the cross, but I suspect that inside of all the pain, he was experiencing deep meaning, perhaps the deepest meaning of all. Not incidentally, he found this deepest of all meaning because he understood himself as being inside the deepest of all stories.

At the end of the day, faith, religion, community, friendship, and therapy, cannot take away our problems. Most times, there isn’t any solution; a problem must be lived through. As Gabriel Marcel famously put it, life is a mystery to be lived, not a problem to be solved. The story within which we frame our pain is the key to turning problem into mystery.

Art Schopenhauer once wrote that all pain can be borne if it can be shared. The sharing he was referring to doesn’t just to do with friendship,



community, and intimacy. It also has to do with story. Pain can be to borne more generatively when it finds itself inside a larger story than our own, when it shares a meta-narrative, a horizon wide enough to dwarf idiosyncratic loneliness.

Hollis is right. No therapist can solve

our problem, but he or she can help us find a bigger story that can give more meaning and dignity to our misery.

**To read more articles from Ron Rolheiser OMI visit [www.ronrolheiser.com](http://www.ronrolheiser.com)**



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





# First Holy Communion



Students from St Joseph's Parish in Leeton received their First Holy Communion.

Thirty five children received lessons under the guidance of Fr Anthony Dunne, Parish Priest. Assistance was provided by Mrs Fran Porter, Mrs Maria Nardi and Mrs Suzanne Driscoll. Photograph provided by Mrs Maria Puntoriero.

# Confirmation

Students from St Patrick's Primary School in Griffith celebrated their confirmation on 27 November.



Thank you to Bishop Mark, Father Grace, Father Paul, Year 6 Teachers, Musicians and Staff of St. Patrick's for making Confirmation 2021 so special. Special thanks to Loretta Zanotto, our AMAZING Religious Education Coordinator, who goes above and beyond to prepare our students and ensure they enjoy a special celebration. We are very lucky to have her.



# Boys hike to The Rock

On a muddy dirt track, somewhere in the Australian wilderness there was a young group of courageous crusaders with one task; to scale a treacherous mountain (The Rock) or die trying.

BY JOHN CURTIS

**Fueled with bodily and spiritual nourishment from the Holy Mass, they began their quest.**

Arriving at the foot of the immense mountain, Fr Connell Perry lighted the way through the gloomy mist and up the harsh terrain with the Chosen Youth. Through sheer strength of will, the group scaled the mountain to arrive weary, but undefeated at the breathtaking summit. Surrounded by the sheer beauty and magnificence of God’s Creation, an inspiring and enlightening talk was given by Fr Perry, who laid down a plan of life to keep us all on the straight and narrow. Posing for a few photos, the now merry band flew down the mountain to catch a bus back to St Michael’s Cathedral. While on the return journey, a Q and

A session allowed each of the boys to really grasp and understand answers to some of life’s greatest questions such as ‘How do I know my vocation in



life’, to ‘How do I love others in my life’.

Thank you Father for the wonderful day, and more importantly, for the advice on how to experience God’s love deeper every day and how to share that love with others.

**It was truly an unforgettable experience that we will treasure in our hearts.**

# A day well spent

For the past few days it had never stopped raining but on the morning of Saturday the 27th of November the weather had calmed down.

BY ADRIANA DE CASTRO

**After the 8am Mass, the Chosen Youth girls with Father Connell Perry, Mrs. Emilie Raju, Elise Drum, and Jacinta Cooper set off on a walk around the Wollundry Lagoon.**

The path was treacherous and muddy but we all made it back safely. On our way, we saw many dogs and Australian wildlife; while discussing topics such as novels, the Bible, and musicals. Unfortunately, the road to the shelter we were headed to was flooded and we had to turn back. Everyone had a small break at a nearby picnic table and enjoyed snacks provided by Fr Connell and the ladies. While we were eating, Fr Connell gave a talk on the plan of life, which consisted of how to incorporate prayer in our daily life and how to do it well. Then after a few photos, everyone headed back with some girls singing songs from their favourite musicals.

We returned to the Parish Center and settled down to watch a video on the Venerable Montserrat Grases. This heroic girl encouraged many others

to live their ordinary lives extraordinarily through her actions and attitude toward prayer. We were then joined by another group of girls who had come from a Confirmation class and we then had a talk from Mrs Raju and discussed our Divine filiation, how we may live a Christ-centered life and how to carry it out in all aspects of our lives. This was then followed by the rosary and afterwards we played charades while waiting for lunch to arrive. Pizza, Krispy Kremes and drinks arrived shortly after, which were provided by Fr Connell and Mr Curtis. We then cleaned up the area and finished off with a short prayer. It was indeed a very enjoyable and fruitful day. **I would encourage more people to join Chosen Youth as it can bring them closer to Christ.**





# Red Wednesday: Shining a light on Christian persecution and violations against religious freedom

On November 24 red light bathed hundreds of cathedrals, churches, monuments and public buildings around the world as part of an international campaign to raise awareness of the persecution of Christians and the need for religious freedom.

The international Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) launched the Red Wednesday campaign in 2015, and it has now spread to many countries all over the world.

According to this year's Religious Freedom in the World Report, two-thirds of the world's population live in countries where there are serious violations of religious freedom. The numbers are increasing, for example, 42% of all African countries experience religious persecution: Burkina Faso and Mozambique are just two striking cases.

This year, the Red Wednesday campaign put the spotlight on how girls and women from Christian and other faith minority backgrounds suffer abduction, forced marriage, forced conversion and sexual violence.

Persecuted people are often unable to speak for themselves, and this year a report drawn up by the charity's UK office will give a voice to young women subjected

to sexual violence and forced conversion. The UK report is called 'Hear Her Cries – The kidnapping, forced conversion and sexual victimisation of Christian women and girls'. The report will be presented in the UK Parliament at Westminster on Red Wednesday 24th November, and we have been informed that the Foreign and Commonwealth government building will be lit red.

Thomas Heine-Geldern, Executive President of ACN, says that the campaign is "sending a clear message of solidarity to persecuted Christians throughout the world." It is "a way to give a voice to our project partners – those who have been tragically marked by the consequences of persecution."

"For us," he goes on, "the free exercise of religion is one of the pillars of liberal democracy. Every form of discrimination based upon religious affiliation must be decisively rejected."

Whilst Red Wednesday is officially

commemorated on 24 November, events took place throughout November, starting in Austria with an event in St Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna, followed by other countries. A long list of buildings will be illuminated in red, among them the Cathedrals of Montreal and Toronto in Canada, the Basilica of Montmartre in Paris, and major buildings in Slovakia and in Belgium people will light candles for persecuted Christians.

Here in Australia, St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney was lit in red on Wednesday 24th November, as well as St Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne, St Mary's Cathedral in Hobart and Chatswood Church in the diocese of Broken Bay. A number of schools will also participate in Red Wednesday this year in Australia.

One activity that is capturing schools' attention this year is an innovative initiative called: "Go to Mass for someone who can't." It invites students to make a pledge to go to an additional Mass

sometime in November, to pray for the needs of a person or community who cannot attend Mass because of religious persecution. Students take a prayer card bearing the name of the person(s) they are offering their Mass for. Experience so far has shown an enthusiastic uptake of this activity by students – even by those who are not normally churchgoers.

"It seems students are drawn to this different and deeply spiritual way of showing solidarity with people suffering persecution around the world," said Ms Cathy Ransom, National Schools Engagement Manager for ACN Australia. "Whilst material support will always be essential for providing for the material needs of those we help around the world, the #go2mass initiative reminds us that whilst we might 'work as if it all depends on us,' we must always remember to 'pray as if it all depends on God.'"

For more information visit [www.aidtochurch.org/redwednesday](http://www.aidtochurch.org/redwednesday)

Sharing the hope of Christmas with Christian Refugees



In the face of suffering and persecution, particularly in the Middle East and Africa, the numbers of refugees, especially Christian refugees, has spiked.

For close to 75 years the support of Christian refugees has been a major pillar of the work of Aid to the Church in Need (ACN). These are our brothers and sisters in faith, born in the same baptism, but unable to live their faith and life freely. **ACN is supporting displaced Catholic families by attending to basic needs such as food and medicine, but these families also hunger for the healing power of the sacraments and the pastoral support of the Church.**

As such, the help we provide is not only material. Our support of priests, sisters, catechists, and **all those working to build up the faith offers true consolation and hope to those in desperate need.** From vehicles for priests and religious to offer pastoral care, to the provision of faith resources, to faith via radio to gifts for children this Christmas. These projects and many like them aim to reach Christian refugees, so

that in this season of waiting for the Christ Child, they too may receive the gift of hope and consolation.

Can you give a Christmas gift to Christian refugees?





Aid to the Church in Need  
ACN AUSTRALIA

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



To donate scan the QR code, visit [www.aidtochurch.org/advent21](http://www.aidtochurch.org/advent21) or return the coupon

Yes, I want to give a Christmas gift to Christian refugees.

Please accept my offering of \$

☐ Make my gift monthly (Deducted the 15th of every month. Can be adjusted anytime)

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:

TOG9

Send the completed form to Aid to the Church in Need PO Box 335 PENRITH NSW 2751.



# Simply Energy partner with Vinnies for saving initiative

Vinnies family services are one of our many community programs that are hoping to benefit from a new partnership with Simply Energy.

**Simply Energy have created an electricity and gas product specifically for Vinnies which offers a special supporters low energy rate, supplies 100% carbon neutral energy and for every person who joins the plan, Simply will give Vinnies an ongoing payment every month to help fund our good works.**

So you can get a great rate on energy while supporting vital services in our community at no cost to yourself. One of the easiest way to compare rates across different suppliers is to look at the percentage discount from the official reference price, at the time of publication Simply Vinnies offers 20% less than the electricity reference price in NSW.

Vinnies hope the project will generate much needed additional funding which

can go towards their many services around NSW such as Vincentian House that offer crisis accommodation and specialist services for families facing hardship and homelessness.

“We are hoping a lot of people will be able to save money by switching to this product and, at the same time, enable us to do more for people in need.” said Mitchell Sadler, Director of Commercial Enterprise at Vinnies, “Simply will be giving us \$3 a month for every live account or \$6 if people take both electricity and gas, that can quickly add up and will be put to great use”

Simply Vinnies, energy that’s good for you, the community and the environment.

**To see if you can save while also supporting us go to [www.simplyenergy.com.au/simply-vinnies](http://www.simplyenergy.com.au/simply-vinnies)**





- Cars
- Trucks
- Buses
- Utes

**6921 9977**

6-10 Edward St, Wagga Wagga [www.avis.com.au](http://www.avis.com.au)

## Would you like to receive your copy of Together via email?

Email: [together@wagga.catholic.org.au](mailto:together@wagga.catholic.org.au) and we will add you to the mailing list.

## 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](mailto:tribunal@wagga.catholic.org.au)



**plus  
LIQUOR**

**LOCKHART • EAST ALBURY  
JINDERA  
SPRINGDALE HEIGHTS**



**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](mailto: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





## 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](mailto:info@centacareswnsw.org.au) | **Web** [centacareswnsw.org.au](http://centacareswnsw.org.au)



# St Joseph's Primary, Narrandera

Year 6 students had fun at their recent trip to Borambola.



# St Peter's Primary, Coleambally

St Peter's Primary students had a fantastic time working with Sam on developing our compost and vegie garden. Thanks for your expertise Sam!



# Kildare Catholic College, Wagga Wagga

Wagga Presentation Sisters, Erin Earth Volunteers and Kildare Catholic College Captains gathered on Thursday 18 November to celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the life of Nano Nagle and one of the good works of Presentation people today, Erin Earth. John Goonan and Sr Kaye Bryan lead the ceremony



which included Kaz Leary planting a tree, as she moves to a new position in Canberra after five years as the manager of Erin Earth. The guests enjoyed a morning tea together in the peaceful, sustainable gardens.



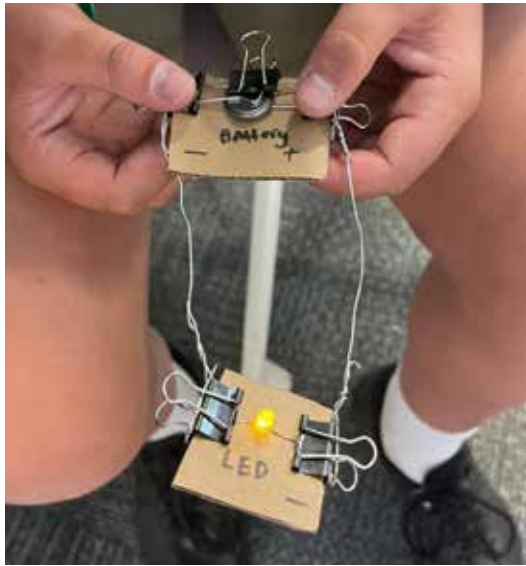
# St Patrick's Primary, Griffith



Bishop Mark visited the classrooms on 26 November to speak with all of our students. It was lovely to see him!







# St Anne's Primary, Nth Albury

Science has been sizzling at St Anne's today! Year 6 students were learning to make electrical circuits and use universal symbols to draw diagrams of them. Whilst in Year 2 we were learning about the Lunar Cycle and the names of the phases of the moon.



# St Patrick's Primary School, Holbrook

28 November marked the first day of Advent. Students lit the first candle of the Advent Wreath. This candle is the symbol for Hope. They also celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation. Congratulations to the candidates!



# Marian Catholic College, Griffith

## Spirituality Day 2021 Staff Gifts

In Term 2, our College staff members participated in the annual Spirituality Day. The aim of our Spirituality Day was to explore how all Christians are called to grow together in unity and mission. The hope was for staff to draw inspiration from the Holy Spirit and bring to life within our community the Lord's commandment for us to "live a life of love" (Ephesians 5:2).

Mark O'Farrell from Marist Schools Australia, explained to staff that when staff and students from schools in Timor-Leste and Solomon Islands were asked what they would want most for their

schools, the response was Rosary beads. As part of the Spirituality Day activities, staff were asked to make Rosary beads and write a prayer on the prayer cards provided.

The Rosary beads and prayer cards were to be given as gifts to staff and students from schools in Timor-Leste and Solomon Islands. On Wednesday this week, I received an email from Marist Schools Australia expressing their heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for the work that we have done. The feedback received from the recipients was extremely positive and appreciative.



# Henschke Primary, Wagga Wagga

Students had fun participating in Socktober.



# St Francis De Sales Regional College, Leeton

Congratulations to St Francis College student Timeeka Coleman for excelling on the Aussie Rules field. Photo by Talia Pattison





# KIDS corner

## SAINTS FUN FACTS

by John Sheppard

St. John Joseph of the Cross was born near Naples. He was a Franciscan and founded several convents and monasteries. He is known for his humility and religious discipline. He also possessed numerous gifts of the supernatural order, among them prophesy and miracles.



(C) 2012 John Sheppard - Distributed by Catholic Online - www.catholic.org

Saint John of the Cross



## Family Advent Poster



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!



## DECEMBER SAINTS & FEAST DAYS

### Word Search

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

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

- St. Francis **Xavier**
- St. **Nicholas**
- St. **Ambrose**
- Feast of the **Immaculate** Conception
- St. **Juan Diego**
- Our Lady of **Guadalupe**
- St. **Lucy**
- St. John of the **Cross**
- Nativity** of the Lord
- St. **Stephen**
- St. **John**
- Holy** Innocents
- St. **Thomas** Becket
- Holy** Family
- St. **Sylvester** I





# Christmas

Way of the Star

A Collaboration



**We invite you on a journey of encounter this Christmas.**

The **Way of the Star** is a series of 12 guided reflections and moments of prayer that explore Christmas through the scriptures.

Suitable for all ages. Families, individuals or groups can follow along with the **FREE** session outlines and video resources. Suitable for all ages.



"When the three wise men arrived they were led to worship... Are the things in our lives leading us to see Christ and are they leading us to worship?" (**Session 10**)



Scan the **QR Code** or visit [cgyouth.org.au/christmas](https://cgyouth.org.au/christmas)

@youth.cg  
@belong.circles

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** -



## 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](mailto:together@wagga.catholic.org.au)



## Celebrating 80 Years

1941- 2021

St Francis Xavier's School together with St Fiacre's Parish  
would like to invite you to celebrate  
SFXU's 80th and Final Year

**Saturday 11th December 2021**

Please join us at St Francis Xavier's School between 1.30pm - 4.00pm  
to take a tour of the school, enjoy a light afternoon tea and view memorabilia  
This will be followed by Mass in St Fiacre's Church at 4.00 pm

Our evening celebration will include a Canapè-style meal and entertainment  
at the Urana Aquatic Function Centre from 6.30 pm until late  
**To ensure Covid safe practices, tickets must be purchased prior for BOTH events  
and will not be available 'at the door'**

**Day Celebrations Tickets - free**

**Evening Celebrations Tickets - \$50.00**

**Children 12 & under \$25.00**

**All proceeds will go to St Fiacre's Parish**

To purchase tickets, click on the link or scan the QR code  
Ticket Sales will close on 22nd November 2021

<https://compasstix.com/e/aa1utd3kqp>





# 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 - 5:30pm  
**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 - 11:00am  
**RSL Remembrance Village**  
2nd Tuesday of the month - 11:00am  
**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.

## 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



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.*

The team at

TOGETHER

would like to wish you a very

Merry Christmas

and to thank you for your support throughout the year.

*Please remember that there will be no issue of Together in January 2022. The next issue will be available in February 2022.*

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

4 December 1991	Mgr Leo Cecil Hatswell
10 December 2016	Fr Jan Stankiewicz
11 December 1952	Fr Robert O'Dea
17 December 1993	Fr Thomas Michael Buckdale
19 December 2015	Fr Rafe Beltrame
20 December 2009	Fr Robert Leaver
21 December 1975	Fr John Leighton Edwell
21 December 2017	Fr Kevin Flanagan
22 December 1930	Fr John Bonnar
23 December 1960	Fr Edmund Bernard Ryan
24 December 2002	Fr Maurice James Carse
27 December 1952	Mgr Patrick Joseph Hartigan
28 December 2015	Fr Warren Thomas Mossfield
31 December 1948	Fr John Corbett Glover

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: December

12th December  
Third Sunday of Advent, Cycle C

The theme of the season of Advent is sometimes described as a period of waiting for the birth of Jesus. However, today's Gospel reading suggests something different. John the Baptist did not tell the crowds to wait for the Messiah. He told them to prepare for the Messiah through acts of repentance. If Advent is a time of waiting, it is not the sitting in the doctor's office kind of waiting. It is a busy time of preparation, more like the waiting we might do when preparing for dinner guests. Our challenge is to not make this season a frenzied time, but rather a time of joyful anticipation and making ready for God who comes to dwell among us and changes our lives with the gift of salvation.

As you gather as a family, talk about the preparations your family is making during the season of Advent. Reflect together on these activities, not only on what you are doing but why you are choosing to do these things. Read together today's Gospel, Luke 3:10-18. Consider how Advent is a time for making ourselves ready to receive Jesus in our lives. Could your family make some changes in your Advent activities so that each person is well prepared to celebrate the gift of salvation at Christmas? Conclude in prayer together that your family will be able to live the spirit of Advent. Sing together an Advent song, such as "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" or pray together today's second reading, Philippians 4:4-7, as you light the third candle on your Advent wreath.

Zephaniah 3:14-18a Isaiah 12:2-3,4,5-6  
Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 3:10-18

19th December  
Fourth Sunday of Advent, Cycle C

In the encounter between Mary and Elizabeth described in today's Gospel, we learn that other people can help us recognize God's presence and action in our lives. Mary traveled to see Elizabeth because Elizabeth's pregnancy was a sign that everything the angel told Mary would truly happen. Elizabeth recognized Mary as the mother of her Lord because her unborn child, John the Baptist, leapt at the sound of Mary's

greeting. Elizabeth and Mary rejoiced together at the wonderful things God was doing in their lives. We too are blessed when we have people who help us recognize God's action in our lives. We pray that our family can be this for one another.

As you gather as a family, work together on a word search or hidden-picture puzzle. Help one another until everyone has found each of the words or pictures in the puzzle. Talk about this experience, noticing how some people found words or pictures more easily than others and how easy it was to see the word or picture once someone else pointed it out. Observe that sometimes we need the help of others to recognize God's presence and action in our lives. Read together today's Gospel, Luke 1:39-45. Ask: What did Elizabeth recognize about Mary? (that she was to be the mother of Jesus, the Lord) How did Elizabeth know this? (Her baby, John the Baptist, leapt with joy at Mary's greeting) Pray together that as we share our faith together as a family, we may help one another recognize God's presence and action in our lives. Pray together the Hail Mary.

Micah 5:1-4 Psalm 80:2-3,15-16,18-19  
Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-45

25th December  
The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Mass at Dawn

In our families, we are able to share good news and bad news. All too often, because of our busy-ness, we find ourselves only dealing with the bad news. Start a family tradition of inviting each family member to share something good that happened to him or her that day as you gather for dinner. Explain that, in the Gospel for the Christmas Mass at dawn, the shepherds were told the good news of Jesus' birth by the angels, and then they in turn went forth to share with others the good news. Have family members read aloud Luke 2:15-20. Point out how the people who heard the good news of the shepherds were amazed. Talk about how Mary treasured all this in her heart, meaning that she pondered the significance of these events and sought to recognize God's presence in the midst of them. Talk about how you can each ponder one another's good news and see how God is present in

your family's everyday lives. Conclude by praying together a Hail Mary, telling your family that at Christmas we celebrate the fruit of Mary's womb, Jesus.

Isaiah 62:11-12 Psalm 97:1-6, 11-12  
Titus 3:4-7 Luke 2:15-20

25th December  
The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Mass During the Day

At Christmas we celebrate the great mystery that God became flesh and dwelt among us. We call this mystery the Incarnation (the word means "to take on flesh"), and it changes everything. Today's Gospel reminds us that we can also look upon the Nativity from God's perspective to better appreciate the significance of the Incarnation. The mystery we proclaim at Christmas is that God, the very God who created all things from nothing and who is light itself, took on our humanity in order to transform us. Through his birth among us, we have seen the face of God and have become nothing less than God's own children. At this awesome mystery, we adore.

Gather as a family around your Nativity set. Keep this image before you and talk about how familiar we are with this scene. Invite members of the family to recall the details of Jesus' birth that we hear in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Observe that the Gospel of John invites us to consider Jesus' birth from a different perspective. Read together today's Gospel, John 1:1-14.

John's Gospel reminds us that the image we see in our Nativity set is a most remarkable sight: God made himself at home with us by taking on flesh and becoming a human person. We call this mystery the Incarnation. What are some of the things that John's Gospel says happened for us because Jesus came to dwell among us? (Light overcame darkness; we see God's glory in Jesus; we became children of God.) Together thank God for this mystery of the Incarnation and the salvation that we received because Jesus was born among us. Sing together a Christmas hymn, such as "O Come, All Ye Faithful" or "Silent Night."

Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 98:1-6  
Hebrews 1:1-6 John 1:1-18



# Christmas Mass Times 2021

## Cathedral Parish

St Michael's Cathedral  
24 December - Vigil 6:00pm, 8:00pm and  
Midnight - Carols commencing at 11:30pm  
25 December - 8:00am, 10:00am & 5:30pm  
Mt Erin Chapel  
24 December - Midnight Mass in the  
Extraordinary Form  
25 December - 10:00am Mass in the  
Extraordinary Form  
St Mary's Chapel - Vianney College  
25 December - 8:00am, 10:30am

## Koorungal Parish

Sacred Heart Church  
Contact the Parish on 02 69226057

## South Wagga Parish

Our Lady of Fatima Church  
Contact the Parish on 02 69252111  
St Patrick's Church Uranquinty  
Contact the Parish on 02 69252111

## West Wagga Parish

Holy Trinity Church  
Confessions: 21 December - 7:00pm  
Christmas Eve Mass 6pm at Holy Trinity  
School Cola, enter via car park.  
Midnight Mass 12:00am  
25 December - 9:00am; and 10:30am  
San Isidore  
25 December - 6:00pm

## Albury Parish

St Patrick's Church  
Contact the Parish on 02 60412588  
Latin Adoration Chapel  
Contact the Parish on 02 60412588

## Berrigan Parish

St Columba's Church  
24 December - 5:00pm Vigil

## Coolamon Parish

Marrar - St Patrick's Church  
24 December - 7:30pm  
Coolamon - St Michael's Church  
24 December - 6:00pm  
25 December - 7:30am, and 9:00am

## Corowa Parish

24 December - 6:00pm Vigil  
25 December - 9:00am

## Culcairn Parish

Culcairn  
24 December - 8:00pm  
Henty  
25 December - 9:30am  
Walla Walla  
25 December - 8:00am

## Darlington Point Parish

Coleambally  
24 December - 8:00pm Christmas Vigil  
Darlington Point  
24 December - 6:00pm Christmas Vigil  
(See also Jerilderie Parish)

## Finley Parish

24 December - 6:00pm Family Mass  
25 December - 10:15am

## Ganmain Parish

Ganmain  
24 December - 6:00pm Christmas Vigil  
25 December - 12:00am Midnight Mass  
25 December - 10:00am Christmas Mass

## Griffith Parish

Sacred Heart Church Griffith  
22 December - 7:00pm 2nd Rite of  
Reconciliation  
24 December - 4:00pm, 6:00pm & 10:00pm  
25 December - 7:30am, 9:00am (Italian),  
10:30am & 6:00pm  
Marian Catholic College Chapel  
24 December - 4:00pm & 6:00pm  
25 December - 9:00am

## Holbrook Parish

Bowna  
24 December - 6:00pm  
Holbrook  
24 December - 8:00pm

## Howlong Parish

St Brigid's Howlong  
24 December - 6:00pm Vigil  
Walbundrie  
25 December - 9:00am

## Jerilderie Parish

22 December - 9:00am  
(See also Darlington Point Parish)

## Junee Parish

St Joseph's Church Junee  
24 December - 6:00pm Christmas Eve Mass  
25 December - 9:30am and 6:00pm  
Christmas Day Mass

## Lavington Parish

Holy Spirit Church Lavington  
24 December - 6:00pm and 9:00pm  
25 December - 9:00am  
St Mary's Church Jindera  
24 December - 6:00pm  
25 December - 9:00am

## Leeton Parish

St Joseph's Church Leeton  
24 December - 6:00pm - Christmas Vigil  
25 December - 10:00am  
St Patrick's Church Yanco  
24 December - 8:00pm Christmas Vigil

## Lockhart Parish

St Mary's Church Lockhart  
24 December - 8:00pm Vigil  
25 December - 8:00am Christmas Mass

## Mulwala Parish

St Joseph's Church Barooga  
24 December - 7:30pm Vigil  
St Brigid's Church Mulwala  
25 December - 9:00am

## Narrandera Parish

Narrandera  
24 December - 6:00pm Vigil and 12:00am  
Midnight Mass  
25 December - 9:30am  
Grong Grong  
24 December - 7:30pm Vigil  
Galore  
25 December - 8:00am Christmas Mass

## North Albury Parish

Sacred Heart Church  
Contact the Parish on 02 60251516

## Tarcutta Parish

Ladysmith  
24 December - 6:00pm  
Tarcutta  
25 December - 8:30am

## The Rock Parish

The Rock - St Mary's Church  
24 December - 6:00pm Carols; 6:30pm Vigil  
Mass  
25 December - 8:00am and 10:00am Christmas  
Mass

## Thurgoona Parish

Contact the Parish on 02 60432222

## Tocumwal Parish

24 December - 8:00pm Vigil Mass  
25 December - 8:30am

## Tumbarumba Parish

Contact the Parish Priest - 02 69482002

## Urana Parish

St Fiacre's Church Urana  
24 December - 6:00pm Vigil

## Yenda Yoogali Hanwood Parish

Yoogali  
22 December - 7:00pm 2nd Rite of  
Reconciliation (several priests available)  
24 December - 7:00pm  
25 December - 10:00am  
Hanwood  
24 December - 5:00pm  
25 December - 8:00am  
Yenda  
24 December - 6:00pm

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

# ALAN HARRIS McDONALD

ALL YOUR FUNERAL NEEDS ARE NOW IN **ONE LOCATION**



76 Copland Street, Wagga Wagga

## 6921 4913

[www.alanharrismcdonald.com.au](http://www.alanharrismcdonald.com.au)

Crematorium



Chapel



Refreshments Room

