



# TOGETHER

In the Diocese of *Wagga Wagga*

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FEBRUARY 2022

## New Greek Orthodox bishop visits Wagga



Our long and strong links to the Greek Orthodox community continue with a visit from His Grace Bishop Bartholomew.

**Bishop Mark was invited to the Greek Orthodox Church on Sunday 12 December for the welcoming of their new bishop from Canberra, His Grace Bishop Bartholomew of Charioupolis.**

It was a very special day with His Grace Bishop Bartholomew visiting to preside over the Divine Liturgy and meet and share a meal with the community.

His Grace also welcomed and was joined by two distinguished guests, the Most Reverend Bishop Mark Edwards OMI of the Wagga Wagga Catholic Diocese and the State Member for Wagga Wagga, Dr Joe McGirr MP.


Thank you to Father Stavropoulos and all community members and friends who attended to welcome the new Bishop and guests and for making the visit such a memorable occasion.

His Grace Bishop Bartholomew (in the world Peter Anastasiadis) was born in 1980 in Sydney Australia. He completed his secondary studies at Kingsgrove North High School in 1997. He then studied at St Andrews Theological College receiving a Bachelor of Theology Degree at the same time being a member of the Central Youth Committee of the first

*Read more on page 7...*

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# Bishop's Voice

**Bishop Mark Edwards OMI** - Bishop of Wagga Wagga Diocese



**TOGETHER**  
IN THE DIOCESE OF WAGGA WAGGA

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#### Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

As many of you would be aware that currently before the NSW Parliament is the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill. As we consider the implication of such legislation I invite you to reflect upon the words of Pope Francis:

“After having done everything that is humanly possible to cure the sick, it is immoral to engage in futile treatment,” Pope Francis said. He praised efforts of palliative care to help the dying be more comfortable, but also cautioned that “we must be careful not to confuse this help with unacceptable drifts towards killing.” (World Day of the Sick, 11 February, 2022)

We have an opportunity to oppose such an unacceptable drift by signing an ePetition against the passage of the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021 through the Legislative Council. It reads:

“To the President and Members of the Legislative Council, the petitioners of New South Wales state that that they are completely opposed to the passage of the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021, in any form, which provides for state sanctioned/funded assisted suicide/euthanasia. A cornerstone of our legal system is that ALL human life has inherent value and must be treated with dignity and respect. The petitioners request that the House unanimously oppose the bill, in any form, and reject it.”

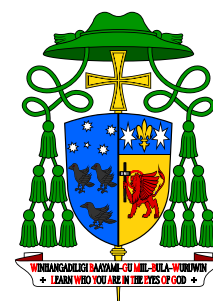
The link <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lc/pages/epetitions-list.aspx> takes you to the Legislative Council's ePetitions webpage where you can directly access the ePetition. It only takes two or three minutes to sign. The ePetition closes on 25th April 2022 and will then be presented to the Legislative Council.

I invite you to reflect upon the words of Pope Francis and consider the implications of this legislation and consider signing this important ePetition which closes on 25th April.

If you are after further information to help inform your participation in the e-Petition please find additional information and link to the e-petition on the diocesan website:

<https://wagga.catholic.org.au/news/epetition-opposing-voluntary-assisted-dying/>

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



## Prayer Intention for February - Pray with Pope Francis

### For religious sisters and consecrated women

We pray for religious sisters and consecrated women; thanking them for their mission and their courage; may they continue to find new responses to the challenges of our times.

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

<https://thepopevideo.org/>



**Pope's Worldwide  
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<https://www.popesprayer.va/>

### Fragrance Prayer by St. John Henry Newman

Dear Jesus, help me to spread your fragrance everywhere I go.  
Flood my soul with your spirit and life.  
Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly, that my life may only be a radiance of yours.  
Shine through me, and be so in me that every soul I come in contact with may feel your presence in my soul.  
Let them look up and see no longer me, but only Jesus!  
Stay with me and then I shall begin to shine as you shine,

so to shine as to be a light to others;  
The light, O Jesus will be all from you; none of it will be mine;  
it will be you, shining on others through me.  
Let me thus praise you the way you love best, by shining on those around me.  
Let me preach you without preaching, not by words but by my example,  
by the catching force of the sympathetic influence of what I do,  
the evident fullness of the love my heart bears to you.



# Pope Francis appoints new ambassador to Australia

Pope Francis has announced that American Archbishop Charles Balvo, a veteran of the Vatican's diplomatic service for more than 30 years, will serve as the next Apostolic Nuncio to Australia.



**Archbishop Balvo, currently the Vatican's ambassador to the Czech Republic, was born in New York City and was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of New York in 1976.**

After serving in apostolic nunciatures in South America, Africa, Europe and the Middle East, Archbishop Balvo was appointed Apostolic Nuncio to New Zealand and several Pacific Island nations in 2005. He was also Apostolic Delegate to the Pacific Ocean.

In 2013, he was named Apostolic Nuncio to Kenya and took on responsibility for South Sudan after the country was established. While posted in Kenya, Archbishop Balvo also served as Permanent Observer to the United Nations Environment Program and Human Settlements Program.

He has been in the Czech Republic since 2018.

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference president Archbishop Mark Coleridge welcomed Archbishop Balvo's appointment on behalf of the Australian bishops.

"Archbishop Balvo is no stranger to the Antipodes, having served as Nuncio in New Zealand and the Pacific – and I myself came to know him at that time," Archbishop Coleridge said.

"But he returns to this part of the world enriched by his service as Nuncio in Africa and Europe."

Archbishop Coleridge said Archbishop Balvo "comes to us at a complex and challenging time in the Church and in Australia".

"But his combination of gifts and experience will equip him well for all that lies ahead," he said.

"The bishops look forward to working with him closely as together we face decisions about the future of the Church in this country and beyond."

Archbishop Balvo succeeds Archbishop Adolfo Yllana, who last year completed six-and-a-half years in Australia when Pope Francis appointed him Apostolic Nuncio to Israel and Cyprus, and Apostolic Delegate to Jerusalem and Palestine.

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# Introducing the new CEDWW Leadership team

2022 brings a new leadership team for Catholic Education in our Diocese. All members bring a wealth of knowledge and experience which is a wonderful asset for our childrens' education.

We'd like to extend a warm welcome to Dr Andrew Watson who has relocated to Wagga Wagga from Ballarat to take up his position as Director of Catholic Education.



Leadership Team from left: Prue Horan, Dr Andrew Watson, Dr Sandra Harvey and Fiona Piltz

## Dr Andrew Watson

Andrew commenced this year as the Director of Catholic Education for the Diocese of Wagga Wagga. Prior to this appointment he was Education Consultant for the Secondary College in the Diocese of Ballarat. Prior to this appointment Andrew was the 3rd Principal of Thomas Carr College, a Catholic Co-educational Secondary College located in Tarneit, an outer western suburb of Melbourne. As Principal Andrew’s vision for Thomas Carr College was to seek improved learning and teaching, developing the use of technology across all areas of the College and the implementation of a \$22 million capital development plan for the College.

Prior to this appointment Andrew was Principal of Mercy Regional College in Camperdown, located in the south western Victoria for six years. During this time, he restructured the College focusing on teaching and learning along with completing significant capital redevelopment. Before commencing as Principal held numerous

positions of leadership at St Patrick’s College, Ballarat during his 9 years. In 2003 he was appointed the inaugural Head of Senior School. Andrew commenced his teaching career in Cairns at Trinity Anglican School after completing a Bachelor of Business and a Graduate Diploma of Education. He has since gone on to complete a Master of Education and in 2007 obtained a Doctorate of Education from the Australian Catholic University. His thesis focussed on leadership within Catholic Schools. In 2015 Andrew completed an Executive MBA through Australian Catholic University. He is a member of the Australian College of Education and has served on the Executive of the Principal’s Association of Victoria of Catholic Secondary Schools and was President and National Chair of Catholic Secondary Principals Australia. Born in Ballarat and educated initially by the Mercy Sisters at St Francis Xavier College (Villa Maria) and then by the Christian Brothers at St Patrick’s College. He is enjoying living in Wagga Wagga in the beautiful Riverina.



Dr Andrew Watson - Director of Catholic Education for the Diocese of Wagga Wagga.

## Prue Horan

Prue Horan is currently the Assistant Director - Education Services. Prue works with team leaders in the areas of Teaching and Learning, School and System Improvement and Diverse Learning and Student Wellbeing to support school leaders in the provision of a high quality Catholic education. During her time in this role Prue has worked closely with school and system leaders to focus on improving outcomes for students.

Prue was educated in the Diocese of Wagga Wagga, commencing school at St Peter’s School Coleambally and finishing Primary school at St Joseph’s Narrandera before attending St Francis De Sales Regional College in Leeton for years 7-10 and Marian College Goulburn for Years 11 and 12. A 35 year career in Catholic education spanning two rural dioceses, Prue commenced at St Michael’s Deniliquin where she was a classroom teacher and Religious Education Coordinator. Prue moved to St Joseph’s Leeton as Assistant Principal, and continued her work in the Diocese of Wagga Wagga for two and a half

years before moving back to the Diocese of Wilcannia Forbes. Prue worked in the Catholic Education Office in the area of Primary Curriculum and worked across the diocese in a diverserange of areas including First Steps Reading and Writing Facilitator and Primary Connections Science Master Facilitator. During this time Prue accepted a twelve month position as Acting Principal at St Laurence's Forbes. After returning to the office for another 2 years as a Teaching Educator, Prue was appointed the Principal of St Laurence’s Forbes where she enjoyed the next three and a half years before moving back to Wagga to take on the role of Education Officer prior to moving into her current role. Prue has engaged in significant professional learning during her career including the formal qualifications of a Diploma of Teaching, Bachelor of Education, Master of Education and Master of Religious Education. Prue resides in Wagga and enjoys living in a regional centre with excellent facilities and services. She is married to Phil and is the mother of two daughters, Bre and Kate, and loves being grandmother to Max and Oliver. 2022 is an exciting year for Prue for a number of reasons, including the arrival of grandchild number 3 later this year.



Prue Horan - Assistant Director of Education Services for the Diocese of Wagga Wagga.

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## Fiona Piltz

**Fiona is currently employed as CEDWW's Head of People & Culture.** Having worked in the field of Human Resources (HR) across a diverse range of industries over the past 18 years including; Local Government, manufacturing, tertiary education and private business she has acquired a broad skills set and vast range of experience in developing and maintaining strategic and operational HR requirements.

Fiona was born and bred in Goulburn, with family connections to Wagga. After school, she came to Wagga to study a Bachelor of Business in Human Resources at CSU. From there Fiona went on to study a Masters in Dispute Resolution, a Graduate Diploma in Vocational Education and Training, Certificate IV in Workplace Assessor and Trainer and have trained in Mediation.

Fiona is passionate about HR and believe it is a must have in any organisation, but more than that, she loves working with people. She says "I have had the

absolute privilege of working in great organisations, with fantastic mentors and amazing teams. No matter the workplace, she has been lucky to find people who are not only colleagues, but continue to be lifelong friends.

As a HR practitioner having the opportunity to be not only a key influence but driver in the organisational culture that the organisation wants to create, is exciting. Involving people and showing them that they are valued all whilst helping the organisation aspire to their vision is so rewarding. There are parts of HR that are tough, but I truly believe that no matter the circumstances everybody has the right to be treated with humility, respect and dignity."

Beyond the 9-5 Fiona is a mother to three beautiful children and a wife to a fabulously supportive husband. She is the secretary for Wagga Women in Business, an amazing community where local women from a diverse range of businesses and backgrounds can connect and I enjoy spending time with family and friends.



Fiona Piltz - Head of People and Culture.

## Dr Sandra Harvey

**Dr Sandra Harvey has been appointed to the position of Head of Evangelisation and Religious Education in the Diocese of Wagga Wagga.**

Sandra's passion for Catholic Education is evident in her commitment over many years as both a student and educator, across four Australian States including Victoria, Northern Territory, Tasmania and now New South Wales. In Sandra's words, "Catholic schools have a pivotal role to play in the Mission of the Church. They provide a unique environment, where students have the opportunity to experience the

support and encouragement of a faith community in which a Christ-centred approach is central to the curriculum". Sandra's roles in Catholic Education have included: System Leadership, School Leadership as Principal, Deputy Principal and Religious Education Coordinator and teacher at grade levels from Prep to Year 10. Her most recent appointment was in the Diocese of Ballarat as Assistant Director, Systems Improvement. Sandra believes that education is a personal, lifelong journey that supports all facets of human development. She has always

been interested in continuing her own education and qualifications include various Diplomas and Degrees in Leadership and Religious Education. Her Doctoral studies included a thesis titled: "Developing a professional learning community of Religious Educators through professional learning opportunities". Born in Germany, Sandra emigrated to Australia with her parents. The family settled in Ballarat and Sandra was educated at St. Alipius and later at Sacred Heart and St. Martin's in the Pines, under the Governance of the Sisters of mercy. Sandra is married to Peter and they have one daughter, Kate, a physiotherapist in Geelong, Victoria.



Dr Sandra Harvey - Head of Evangelisation and Religious Education.

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# Missionaries killed in 2021

Vatican City – According to information gathered by Agenzia Fides, in 2021 22 missionaries were killed in the world: 13 priests, 1 religious man, 2 religious women, 6 lay persons.



**This year the highest number of missionaries killed was registered in Africa, where 11 missionaries (7 priests, 2 religious women, 2 lay persons) were killed, followed by America, where 7 missionaries (4 priests, 1 religious man, 2 lay persons) were killed.**

In Asia, 3 missionaries (1 priest, 2 lay persons) were killed, and Europe, where 1 priest was killed. From 2020 to 2020, according to data in our possession, 536 missionaries have been killed in the world.

As it has been for some time, the annual list of Fides does not look only to Missionaries ad gentes in the strict sense, but tries to record all the baptized engaged in the life of the Church who died in a violent way, not only “in hatred of the faith”. For this reason, we prefer not to use the term “martyrs”, if not in its etymological meaning of “witness”, in order not to enter into the question of the judgment that the Church might eventually deliver upon some of them, after careful consideration. At the same time we use the term “missionary” for all the baptized, aware that “in virtue of their Baptism, all the members of the People of God have become missionary disciples.

All the baptized, whatever their position in the Church or their level of instruction in the faith, are agents of evangelization” (EG 120).

**“They could not help but testify”**

As highlighted by the very little information that could be gathered on their biographies and on the circumstances of death, none of them carried out striking feats or actions, but were “simply” giving witness of their faith in contexts of impoverished, degraded social contexts, where violence is the rule of life, the authority of the state was lacking or weakened by corruption and compromises and in the total lack of respect for life and for every human right. Once again these priests, men and women religious and lay persons, were aware of all this, they were often born in the same land where they died, so they were not naïve, but “when everything counselled silence, taking cover, not professing the faith, they could not – could not – help but testify” (Pope Francis, Budapest, 14 September, 2021). From Africa to America, from Asia to Europe, they shared daily life with their brothers and sisters, with its risks and fears, its violence and its deprivations, bringing in

the small daily gestures Christian witness as a seed of hope.

Parish priests killed in their communities, in Africa and America, tortured, kidnapped by criminals in search of non-existent treasures or attracted by the mirage of easy redemptions or to silence uncomfortable voices, that urged not to passively submit to the regime of crime; priests engaged in social works, as in Haiti, killed to rob them of what was needed to run such activities, or even killed by those they were helping, as in France, or in Venezuela, where a religious was killed by thieves in the same school where he taught young people to build a future; nuns chased and killed cold-bloodedly by bandits in South Sudan.

And still many lay persons, whose number is growing: catechists killed by armed clashes together with the communities who animated South Sudan; youths killed by snipers while trying to bring aid to displaced people fleeing clashes between the army and guerrillas in Myanmar; a lay missionary brutally murdered for stealing a cellphone in Peru; a young man killed because of a mine which exploded in the Central African Republic while traveling in a mission car; an indigenous catechist, activist for the respect of human rights in a non-violent way, killed in Mexico. All of them “could not, could not help but testify” with the strength of their life given out of love, fighting every day peacefully against arrogance, violence, war.

## State MP launches petition against NSW euthanasia laws

Labor MLC Greg Donnelly, a well-known pro-life campaigner, has established the petition as a way for people to make their voices heard to all members of the NSW Legislative Council.

**It states: “To the President and Members of the Legislative Council, the petitioners of New South Wales state that they are completely opposed to the passage of the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021, in any form, which provides for state sanctioned/funded assisted suicide/euthanasia.**

“A cornerstone of our legal system is that ALL human life has inherent value and must be treated with dignity and respect. The petitioners request that the House unanimously oppose the bill, in any form, and reject it.”

Mr Donnelly said it was vital as many people as possible sign the ePetition and help protect the vulnerable in our society.

“There are some very profound and existential matters playing out which go to the very heart and question of what our

humanity is, what it means to be a human being and what does it mean to respect human life,” he said.

Sydney Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP has urged all to sign the petition and write to MPs opposing the introduction of the dangerous laws.

In his Feb. 9 general audience, which was dedicated to the Christian approach to death, Pope Francis warned against both the futile prolongation of life and the artificial acceleration of death through so-called assisted dying.

“After having done everything that is humanly possible to cure the sick, it is immoral to engage in futile treatment,” the pope said during his speech.

He praised efforts of palliative care to help the dying be more comfortable, but

also cautioned that “we must be careful not to confuse this help with unacceptable drifts towards killing.”

“We must accompany people towards death, but not provoke death or facilitate any form of suicide,” the pope said, saying “the right to care and treatment for all must always be prioritized, so that the weakest, particularly the elderly and the sick, are never discarded.”

“Life is a right, not death, which must be welcomed, not administered. And this ethical principle applies to concerns everyone, not just Christians or believers,” he said. The practice of “accelerating the death of the elderly” has become a common, he said, and lamented that in some cases, “we see in a certain social class that the elderly, since they do not have means, are given fewer medicines



Greg Donnelly (ABC North Coast/Leah White)

than they need.”

“This is inhuman,” he said, and rather than helping the elderly who are sick, “it is driving them towards death earlier. This is neither human nor Christian.”

The elderly, he said, ought to be cared for “as a treasure of humanity: they are our wisdom.” Even if they can’t speak or no longer make sense when they do, “they are still the symbol of human wisdom,” he said, and begged society, “Please, do not isolate the elderly, do not accelerate the death of the elderly.”



## CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Archdiocesan District of Sydney.

He then worked for over a decade in Senior Management in the Retail and Finance sectors.

He was ordained Deacon at the Church of St Euphemia at Bankstown on the 11 March 1982 by the then assistant Bishop His Grace of Apollonia and present Metropolitan of Sevestia His Eminence Seraphim receiving the name Prochoros. As a Deacon he served in the Archiepiscopal Court.

On the 1 March 1984 he was ordained Presbyter at the church of Sts Raphael Nicholas Irene Liverpool where he was appointed the Assistant Priest of the Parish. In 1985 he was bestowed the title of Archimandrite by the late Archbishop Stylianos of blessed memory.

In March 1987 he was transferred to the large Parish Community of The Resurrection of Christ Kogarah

appointed as an Assistant Parish Priest. In 1989, he returned to the church of Sts Raphael Nicholas and Irene Liverpool, appointed as Parish Priest and Confessor.

In December 2020 he was appointed by His Eminence Archbishop of Australia as the Archiepiscopal Vicar of Canberra. In 2021 he was appointed as the representative of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia in the Australian Council of Churches.

On August 30 of the same year following the proposal of His Eminence Archbishop Makarios, he was elected by the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate as Bishop of Charioupolis. On November 21, 2021 he was ordained to the Episcopacy by the hands of Archbishop Makarios of Australia at the Church of St Nicholas Sydney receiving the name Bartholomew, In honour of our present Ecumenical Patriarch.

## Catholic and Orthodox leaders discuss unity



Roman Catholic and Greek Orthodox church leaders in Wagga yesterday discussed proposals to unify the two churches.

The discussions took place at the Greek Orthodox manse between the Greek Orthodox Archbishop of Australia and New Guinea, Archbishop Ezeziel of Sydney, and the Bishop of Wagga, Dr. F. P. Carroll.

Archbishop Ezeziel was on his way from Melbourne to Sydney. mean the rebirth of Christ. Churches, taking part in a symbolic breaking of eggs. Father B. Connell, Father Nicholas Scordilis, and His Eminence, Archbishop Ezeziel.

Picture: Dignitaries of the Roman Catholic and the Greek Orthodox Churches, taking part in a symbolic breaking of eggs. From left are: the Bishop of Wagga, Dr. F. P. Carroll, Archbishop Ezeziel.

## Festival will mark fifth anniversary of museum

By "BIDGEE WHALER"

Daily Advertiser article - Catholic & Orthodox Leaders Discuss Unity - April 14th 1972



Above: His Grace Bishop Bartholomew presides over the Divine Liturgy.

Below: His Grace is welcomed by the congregation.



Above: The Most Reverend Bishop Mark Edwards OMI of the Wagga Wagga Catholic Diocese, His Grace Bishop Bartholomew of Charioupolis, and the State Member for Wagga Wagga, Dr Joe McGirr MP.

Left: Bishop Mark partakes in the Liturgy.

Below: Father Stavropoulos, Bishop Mark and Bishop Bartholomew share a meal.





# PROJECT COMPASSION FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS

Project Compassion is Caritas Australia's annual Lenten fundraising and awareness-raising appeal. Millions of Australians come together in solidarity with the world's poor to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity. There is a different story for each week of Lent for you to see how Project Compassion is making a difference.

## Anatercia from Mozambique

Anatercia, a 12-year-old girl living in southern Mozambique, was struggling to cope with adult responsibilities after her father passed away. With your support, she participated in training and gained access to psychosocial supports. Now, her quality of life has improved and she can focus on doing well at school.

**Tragedy struck early for Anatercia. Her father passed away when she was just four and her mother has struggled with chronic health issues ever since.**

Anatercia, her brother, and her sick mother moved in with their elderly grandparents into a small hut in southern Mozambique, where there is no electricity, hospital, secondary school or supermarket.

As her grandparents aged, Anatercia's grandfather developed blindness and her grandmother could no longer walk to their farm; their only source of income.

Their crops withered from a mixture of neglect, irregular rainfall, droughts and floods. They were unable to maintain their livelihood and the family often went hungry.

In Mozambique, nearly two million people currently face severe food insecurity, due to the combined effects of frequent natural disasters, the conflict in northern Mozambique and COVID-19.

As Anatercia took on more and more responsibilities around the home to try to support her struggling grandparents, her

education began to suffer, as she travelled up to five hours to collect water every day.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, Anatercia and her family were able to join the Integrated Rural Development Program, supported by Caritas Australia's partner, Caritas Regional Chokwe, which provided them with food, seeds, school supplies and a school uniform for Anatercia.

They also helped the family to install an irrigation system on their farm, as well as a system of taps in the village so community members so no longer needed to walk hours to collect water. Anatercia's grandmother learnt about sustainable farming techniques to help the family produce enough food to eat and sell.

Caritas Regional Chokwe also successfully lobbied the government to extend the school to 6th grade, so that children like Anatercia can continue to study close to home, rather than walking hours to a neighbouring school.

Finally, with Caritas' support, her community was able to form health committees to raise awareness about COVID-19, HIV and AIDS, as well as providing psychosocial support for vulnerable people, including Anatercia.

Now, Anatercia can easily access clean drinking water, community members are able to grow healthy crops all year round, and there is enough nutritious food to eat. Anatercia feels better supported by her community, has more time to study and do her homework, and hopes to fulfil her dream of becoming a nurse.

"I have enough time to take care of my mother because I have water close to the house, I am studying here in the



community, and the farm gives us food all year round," Anatercia says. "Thank you, Caritas Australia."

**Watch Anatercia's story at:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1UWEKHP5YI>

"We have run out of food several times. I help my family with the farm, cooking, fetching water and firewood, and caring for my mother. I also assist my grandfather in feeding, as he has difficulty in picking up utensils due to blindness."

**Anatercia**

## Biru from India

As a person with a disability living in remote India, Biru faced the prospect of a life of poverty and discrimination. With your support, he participated in entrepreneurship training and gained the skills to become financially independent.

**Biru lives in a rural village in India. He lost mobility in one of his legs, after contracting polio as a child, which makes it difficult for him to walk.** He managed to complete his education until grade six but was always dependent on his parents to get him to school because he was unable to walk so far on his own.

A member of India's Ho ethnic minority population, Biru started to work as a shepherd from a young age, looking after other people's cattle. He continued this work, after he married his wife, Budhni, and had four daughters, even though keeping up with the cattle was a challenge.

Over 26 million people who have a disability in India also live in poverty. A further 69 percent of the population living

with a disability reside in rural areas, which makes access to support services, education and employment an even greater challenge.

Biru taught himself how to repair bicycles by watching other people, but he never dreamed of using those skills to start his own business. With your generous support, Biru was able to access an entrepreneurship and livelihoods training program, run by Caritas Australia's partner, Caritas India.

He gained the support and skills he needed to establish his own bicycle repair business. Participating in the program also helped Biru to apply for government disability and housing schemes.





Now, Biru is financially independent and can forge a path out of poverty for his four young daughters. He is a respected and essential member of his community, working as a bicycle and motorcycle mechanic to keep his neighbours, friends and families safe on the road. His resilience and determination to overcome the odds has inspired others in his community who are living with a disability to become independent and self-reliant.

Watch Biru's story at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DrjcZt1ecHI>

"Looking at others who did not have a disability, I wondered what it was like to be them. I was wondering how to look after my family."

Biru



PRAYER

Loving God,  
We thank you for the gift of our lives and  
for the life of every person, both near to us  
and far away.  
We thank you for the wonder of all your creation.  
Through fasting, almsgiving and prayer  
may this Lent draw us deeper  
into the warmth and light of God's love.  
May we see the world more clearly,  
Especially those who are often overlooked.  
May we come closer to your heart,  
Which you showed through the cross of Jesus.  
May we be full of hope for all future generations.  
We ask this in Jesus' name  
Amen.

Janice from Australia

A Wagilak woman, Janice is a traditional dancer who tells stories through movements handed down over generations. With your support, Janice and the Djilpin Arts Aboriginal Corporation support the community to generate income and employment, while keeping culture alive.

Janice lives on Jawoyn country in Arnhem Land. Like many remote communities in the Northern Territory, Janice's faces a range of challenges – low employment and education, financial hardship, poorer health and lower life expectancy. With your help, Caritas Australia supports Djilpin Arts Aboriginal Corporation, which operates a centre for traditional and contemporary Aboriginal arts and culture, providing employment and generating income for local communities.

Elders run workshops and share their knowledge with the younger generation, and with visitors. Local guides run bush cultural tours and architect-designed tourist accommodation is available for visitors.

Djilpin Arts provides employment and training for young people, a place for elders to pass on traditional knowledge, an art museum and authentic cultural experiences for tourists.

Janice has been a Djilpin Artsworker since 2015, performing traditional dances, as a host for performances and as a tour guide in the art museum.

With your support, Caritas Australia was also able to fund the launch of a Djilpin Arts shed in 2021, to display and store artworks for shipping to online customers. COVID times have been particularly tough on remote communities, however, Djilpin Arts has been able to build up the online element of its business during the pandemic, helping communities to continue to make an income.

Your generosity today can help First Australian communities to share intergenerational knowledge between elders and the younger generation - to promote healing, and to keep culture alive.

Watch Janice's story at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gsn1bJOysjw>



"With many elders gone, we must transfer knowledge, to keep a connection to culture and nurture future leaders. Me and my family, we keep the culture going, we need to keep our culture strong."

Janice



# Australia Day 2022

## Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.... Do.

The peak body representing First Nations Catholics has invited fellow Catholics to make 2022 a year of action to “strengthen Australia’s foundations by supporting Australia’s First Peoples”.

**The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council has issued a statement for Australia Day, reflecting on this year’s theme: Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.**

The statement unpacks those three verbs and encourages people to consider a response as individuals and as Catholics.

“By reflecting upon the theme on a personal level, we are assuming the responsibility for action and not leaving it to others to create change,” it reads.

“Combined with our innate desire, as Catholics, to become more like Christ, we are individually called to action to make Australia a country that more closely reflects our Christian beliefs of equality, respect and care for our poor and vulnerable.

“A nation built upon these beliefs is a

strong and inclusive nation – something we all desire. However, a strong nation is built upon a strong foundation, and currently Australia’s foundations are undermined by its relationship with its First Peoples.”

To strengthen those foundations, NATSICC recommends the addition of a fourth verb to the Australia Day theme: Do.

“Words are easy and limitless, but actions require time, effort and commitment,” the statement says.

“We ask that you make 2022 the year of ‘Do’.”

NATSICC offers some practical suggestions for how parishes, schools, organisations and individuals can take up that challenge.

They include attending Mass at



an Aboriginal and Islander Catholic Ministry, displaying acknowledgement plaques prominently in public places and supporting the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

Bishop Columba Macbeth-Green OSPPE, chair of the Bishops Commission for Relations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, welcomed NATSICC’s Australia Day statement and its call to action.

“The Church is always seeking concrete ways to walk with our First

Nations sisters and brothers, and we see in this document advice on how we can do that in tangible ways, recognising their unique place in our country’s history,” he said.

Bishop Macbeth-Green, whose Diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes is home to a significant Indigenous population, singled out a new cross-cultural competency training program NATSICC has developed as a key tool in helping increase awareness about Australia’s First Peoples.

## NATSICC Statement for Australia Day 2022

Australia Day is complicated for many First Australians, and we have a long way to go before all Australians feel comfortable celebrating Australia Day on January 26, or indeed at all.

**Many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples feel that moving the date would be a starting point for creating a new dialogue and platform for Reconciliation.** The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council is in agreement and advocates that Australia Day should be celebrated on May 27 – the day in 1967 that Australians voted overwhelmingly to amend the Constitution to allow the Commonwealth to make laws for Aboriginal people and include them in the Census. In any case, our national day provides an opportunity to come together (COVID permitting) and acknowledge the gifts that our Creator has bestowed upon us in this Great Southern Land.

The theme for this year’s January 26 Australia Day celebrations – Reflect.

Respect. Celebrate. – is short in length, but large on ideology. A natural response might be to approach the theme from a collective point of view and Reflect about the ways in which we, as a community, responded to the COVID pandemic; how we as a society Respect all Australians, including our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history and Peoples; and how we, as a nation, might best Celebrate Australia Day. After all, hasn’t the unofficial catchcry of the pandemic been that “we are all in this together”?

What if, for this year, you were to reframe your responses to the theme as an individual and as a Catholic?

### Reflect

How did I respond to the COVID pandemic? Was I empathetic and thoughtful towards others? Did I see a need



and act upon it? Have I tried to include and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in my personal, parish or professional life?

As First Nations Catholics, it is important to reflect upon the past – even though much was taken from us, we can reflect on our determination, our resilience, and our connection to our land. You might reflect upon how important it is to come together to be one again – our strength, our love and our connections to each other and to our

forebears, our learning of who we were meant to be and who we are today.

### Respect

Do I show my respect for First Nations Peoples? Have I encouraged my parish and school to conduct acknowledgements or install an acknowledgement plaque? Do I seek knowledge from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in caring for our land?

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics show respect through honouring our ancestors and by keeping our Culture, the world's oldest continuing Culture, alive. We respect and appreciate the non-indigenous people that are working to support our communities.

### Celebrate

How do I celebrate the survival of the world's oldest continuing Culture? Will I celebrate Australia Day with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples? Will I seek out Australia's First Peoples and listen and learn from them? Where will I attend the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday celebrations?

NATSICC will celebrate the amazing achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in spirituality, music, art, literature, dance, song, science etc. by continuing to introduce these gifts to the wider Australian Catholic Church.

By reflecting upon the theme on a personal level, we are assuming the responsibility for action and not leaving it to others to create change. Combined with our innate desire, as Catholics, to become more like Christ, we are individually called to action to make Australia a country that more closely reflects our Christian beliefs of equality, respect and care for our poor and vulnerable.

A nation built upon these beliefs is a strong and inclusive nation – something we all desire. However, a strong nation is built upon a strong foundation, and currently Australia's foundations are

undermined by its relationship with its First Peoples.

Therefore, we propose an addition to the theme – Reflect. Respect. Celebrate. Do. – bringing us closer to the 2022 NAIDOC theme of Getup! Stand up! Show up! Words are easy and limitless, but actions require time, effort and commitment. We ask that you make 2022 the year of "Do".

Some things anyone can do in 2022 to strengthen Australia's foundations by supporting Australia's First Peoples include:

- Support and sign up to support the Uluru Statement of the Heart (<https://ulurustatement.org/the-statement>), which endorses truth-telling and enshrining a Voice to Parliament in the Constitution;
- Seek out your local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community to share their stories at your organisation, school or parish;
- Attend Mass at an Aboriginal and Islander Catholic Ministry. A list of these ministries can be found at <https://www.natsicc.org.au/your-state--territory.html>
- Install an acknowledgement plaque in a prominent place in your organisation, school or parish
- Acknowledge First Australians before Masses in your parish
- Deepen your understanding of January 26 and what it means to be Australian through the upcoming NITV and SBS programming slate, *Always Was, Always Will Be*. <https://www.sbs.com.au/>



[nitv/article/2022/01/12/nitv-and-sbs-invite-australia-join-them-deepening-their-understanding-january-26](https://www.nitv.com.au/article/2022/01/12/nitv-and-sbs-invite-australia-join-them-deepening-their-understanding-january-26)

- Undertake Cross Cultural Competency training to learn more about Australia's First Peoples.
- Watch the 'Australia Day Views by First Nation Catholics' interview produced by Evangelisation Brisbane and featuring NATSICC's Sabrina Stevens alongside Cynthia Rowan, Dean Parkin and Archbishop Mark Coleridge.

### WATCH:

#### The Painful Truth

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Urs06mLXd-w>

#### Australian Identity

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UHkEZBNPswc>

#### An Opportunity to Listen: Exploring 26th January (full interview)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gtcGkj31egl>



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# Sad and exciting times at Sacred Heart, Koorringal

Sunday 16th January was a sad day for the parishioners of Sacred Heart Parish, Koorringal. It was the day of the last Eucharist celebrated by its beloved Parish Priest of the last seven years, Fr John Baptiste.

**Fr John has begun a well-earned retirement from parish work after many years in the Diocese. He has served the communities of Griffith, Narrandera and Howlong.**

He also spent a few years in Rome as chaplain to the Focolare movement before coming to the Koorringal parish to replace Fr Bernie Thomas.

A morning tea was held outdoors after the 9am celebration and was attended by



Fr John cutting his farewell cake.

many parishioners. During the morning tea, Mr Manuel Donebus (Chair of the Parish Pastoral Council) summed up the feelings of all who were there when he said “You are a very gentle person Father, and we will miss you very much”. Manuel then presented Father John with a substantial cheque to help toward the cost of a new car for him.

Although Fr John is finishing up as a priest in a parish, he is not really retiring. Bishop Mark Edwards has appointed him as Spiritual Director at the local seminary, Vianney College. His gentle spirituality and love of Pope Francis will be a great gift to the men at Vianney.

The day was also an exciting one. A special guest at the morning tea was Fr Paddy Sykes. Fr Paddy has been appointed administrator of Sacred Heart parish for twelve months, a mission which is in addition to his Parish Priest role at Our Lady of Fatima. This is a new experience for the parish, and one which parishioners are embracing. Fr Paddy will be assisted by his assistant priest, Fr Jomer Calma who has been at Griffith since his ordination three years ago.

Frs Paddy and Jomer concelebrated Masses at Koorringal the following weekend (22/23 January) to introduce themselves. During the masses, Fr Paddy emphasised that it was not a takeover by Our Lady of Fatima parish, that Koorringal



Fr John reads the gospel.

parish would remain an entity in its own right.

Koorringal parishioners are aware that Fr Paddy and Fr Jomer now have three primary schools, two secondary schools, Calvary hospital and three aged care facilities to minister to, as well as the Uranquinty Church. Fr Paddy has been assured that the Koorringal parishioners are keen to make the arrangement work and to help and support him and Fr Jomer as best they can with as many matters as possible so that they can concentrate on their ministry responsibilities.

Fr Jomer is living at Koorringal, ensuring a priestly presence continues in the parish.



Manuel Donebus and Fr John.

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# Chair of Catholic Schools NSW Board of Directors visits Wagga

On 3 February Mater Dei Catholic College had the privilege of meeting two new faces and showing them around their school.

The new Catholic Education, Diocese of Wagga Wagga Director Dr Andrew Watson, CEDWW and Chair of the CSNSW Board of Directors Steve Sedgwick visited along with Bishop Mark and members of the Diocese Leadership team.



Val Thomas (Mater Dei Catholic College Principal) with College Dux, Oscar King.

The day prior the College welcomed their 2021 High Achievers and family members to celebrate their achievements.

The top four ATAR achievers were:

- Oscar King - College Dux
- ATAR rank of 97.45
- Georgina Jenkins
- ATAR rank of 90.50
- Charlie Conway
- ATAR rank of 90.20
- Mitchell Davoren
- ATAR rank of 90.10

**Congratulations to all of you.**



Left to Right - Val Thomas (Mater Dei Catholic College Principal), Bishop Mark Edwards OMI, Dr Sandra Harvey, Dr Andrew Watson, Penny Ludicke, Mr Steve Sedgwick AO (Chairman, Catholic Schools NSW Board of Directors).

## Afghanistan commitment needs to be more generous

Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv, chair of the Bishops Commission for Social Justice, Mission and Service, says at least 20,000 more humanitarian places are needed for people fleeing Afghanistan.

**Catholic bishops were among those to advocate for a generous response from the Australian Government, supported by faith-based and community groups, to welcome Afghans looking to escape after the Taliban seized power last year.**

The Federal Government recently announced at least 15,000 places over four years for people fleeing the crisis in Afghanistan.

Bishop Long conceded such a commitment “sounds good, but the problem is that these are places within the existing humanitarian and

family visa programs”.

“The scale of the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan requires the urgent creation of additional places in Australia’s humanitarian intake,” he said.

“We need to scale up our practical compassion, not simply adjust priorities within existing plans.

“That is why the bishops, together with other members of the Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum (CAPSA) and many other community groups, call once more for the allocation of at least 20,000 additional places.”



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# Tonga blanketed in ash after volcanic eruption

Tonga is coated in a thick blanket of ash after the eruption of undersea volcano Hunga-Tonga-Hunga-Ha’apai on January 15, which triggered tsunamis across the region, destroyed telecommunications and contaminated water supplies in the small Pacific Island nation.

**Coastal communities in Fiji, Samoa and Vanuatu have been impacted by tsunami waves, along with communities as far afield as Australia, Japan and the Americas.** The Tongan government has said that "immediate assistance" is needed to deal with the fallout of the massive volcanic eruption.

Despite early videos of islanders rushing to higher ground as the first tsunami waves hit, telecommunications are now down as the undersea internet cables were damaged by the eruption.

“This volcanic eruption was up there with the likes of Krakatoa in terms of scale, so we are extremely concerned about the impacts of the eruption and tsunami in Tonga,” said Damaris Pfendt, Caritas Australia’s Pacific Humanitarian Coordinator.

“Volcanic ash and saltwater inundation from the tsunami waves have contaminated water supplies, so many communities will be left without clean water. Tonga already struggles with clean water supplies because it relies on groundwater and rainwater, so this will put communities in a really difficult position.”

“From the few updates that have come through, we know that the devastation is significant, especially for the outer lying islands. There is an urgent need for fresh water and shelter, especially for the communities on the coastline whose homes were damaged by the tsunami waves. Roads and bridges have also been damaged.”



Tsunami damage in Fiji after Tongan eruption. Credit Caritas Fiji2

“Thankfully Caritas Tonga already has emergency supplies pre-positioned in the capital and Ha’apai, so they will be able to respond quickly to immediate needs with these supplies. However, it’s crucial that we step up and support our neighbours in Tonga, as they recover from this devastating volcanic eruption.”

Caritas Australia is currently working to restore communications with our local partner, Caritas Tonga, to assess the situation on the ground and determine the most urgent needs.

Caritas Australia is currently raising funds to support communities impacted by the eruption and tsunami in Tonga.

**Visit <https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/pacific/> or call 1800 024 413 toll free to provide much needed support by donating to our Pacific Emergency Appeal.**



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Pre-positioned emergency supplies in Tonga. Credit Catherine Harris, Caritas Australia

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# Sacrament of Confirmation



The Sacrament of Confirmation was conferred on twenty seven children by Bishop Mark Edwards on Saturday evening, 4 December 2021 at Leeton Parish. The children were given instruction in the Sacrament by

Fr. Anthony Dunne, Parish Priest with assistance provided by Mrs Fran Porter, Mrs Maria Nardi and Mrs Suzanne Driscoll. The Church was specially decorated by Maria, Suzanne and Montana Nardi early in the afternoon.

Music was provided by Mrs Marie Mitchell and members of the choir. Photograph provided by Mrs Maria Nardi. Many thanks and God bless Suzanne Driscoll SRE Coordinator.

## St Vincent de Paul Life Membership

Maurice O'Donoghue was awarded a Lifetime Membership award from St Vincent de Paul following 60 years of dedicated service.

**Local Wahgunyah farmer, Maurice O'Donoghue has been honoured with a St Vincent De Paul "Life Membership" and distinctive service badges for his amazing dedication over sixty years from 11th December 1961, to serving those in need within our community and supporting his fellow Corowa members.**

Father John McGrath presented the Society awards at St Mary's Church on the 11th of December anniversary, while outlining some of the many activities Maurice has participated in during these sixty years: local & rural home visitation programs to the needy; cutting and delivery of firewood; hospital and Aged Care

visitations; the annual local Christmas hamper project; weekend clearing of Centre donation bins; various working bee's and fund-raising activities.

In 1994 Maurice became the acting Secretary at meetings when required, then Conference Secretary in 1996, and has excelled in this role ever since. Maurice developed a unique ability to succinctly reproduce the handwritten, then typed minutes of meetings held twice per month, seldom missing a meeting even when shearing in the district and Tasmania. Maurice's ongoing work in the Society's activities over so many years is exemplary to all and worthy of this special recognition.

A celebration dinner at the Australia



*From left to right: Past Presidents Arthur Campbell, Kevin Freeman & Peter Bates, Secretary Maurice O'Donoghue, and President Paul Lemmon.*

Hotel followed the Life Membership presentation, with current Conference members and past presidents in attendance.





# St Francis Xavier School, Urana closure and celebration

On 11 December St Francis Xavier held a closing ceremony for their school and celebrated it's rich history.

## The following is parts of the speech Mitch Bailey gave on the day.

Welcome to our celebration as we acknowledge and celebrate the heritage and history of St. Francis Xavier's School, Urana.

A special hello and thank you to those who have travelled large distances to be with us today. And more broadly to everyone, your efforts to be here and support the school today is a fine example of what this community is all about.

Today is an important day in the lives of all of us as people who are connected to St. Francis Xavier's School, Urana. This afternoon we had the opportunity to pray together, while this evening will allow us to hear from representatives of the important stakeholders with strong connections to our school.

We acknowledge those of our community who are no longer with us or could not be present with us today.

Jesus, put it this way - Peter upon you I will build the Church. For us here in Urana, Bishop Henschke effectively said to the Presentation Sisters at the Mount Erin Convent - Sisters, with the help of the parish, upon you I place the needs of the faithful in Urana. Build a convent, boarding school and school.... And what a sensational job they did. We would not be the school we are today without the influence of the Presentation Sisters. I would like to take the opportunity to address you all as the final Principal of St. Francis Xavier's School Urana.

Tonight is a chance to reflect together as a combined wider learning, parish and Urana district community to acknowledge and celebrate all of the wonderful achievements of those who have brought us all together over the years, the students of St. Francis Xavier's.

I must offer my sincerest thanks to the current and past staff of St. Francis Xavier's for their steadfast, unwavering and determined commitment to ensure this evening could take place.

A further thanks to our families for their support and effort along the way, Todd for his work on our memorial area, Donna and her team here at this wonderful function venue, Michelle for our catering and Molly for our entertainment.

I love my work in education and it has been an absolute privilege and honour to be the principal at St. Francis Xavier's Urana for the last five years.

Walking into the school I simply felt a presence in this place. I know because current and past staff and families alike have commented about this over the years. What is even more highlighting of this presence, is the sheer number of visitors and guests to our school who comment on the feeling and nature of our school.

This special foundation is due to the vision, determination and faith our founders displayed right from the inception of the school. The local parishioners who had the vision to have a Catholic School in Urana, the Presentation Sisters who had the determination to make it work and the



Above: St Xavier's School, Urana.

Right: Mitch Bailey speaks as the final Principal of St Xavier's School, Urana.

faith of these people and the people who followed on from them to keep it going.

Those who came after the Presentation Sisters include two extremely important figures in the life of the school. Veronica Sandral and Therese McFarlane dedicated their professional lives for the benefit of the children of the district who came to our school for Catholic Education. Veronica is the longest serving staff member of the school while Therese would work for basically half of the school's existence herself - and almost all of this time as the principal. Their job was not work, but a vocation. They took on the responsibility of continuing the vision, determination and faith that our initial forefathers and mothers displayed. They took encouragement from Nano Nagle - the foundress of the Presentation Sisters - and led this school with lanterns ablaze for Christ.

By the time I began here in 2017, the presence in the place was well aflame with love for one another in God.

Often it is said that it is the little things that count, and I can certainly vouch for those who have been a part of this school over many years, that they always roll their sleeves up and go above and beyond for this school.

This does not happen by accident, it is a powerful example of the wonderful people that call - or have called - the wider Urana district their home. The people from this place are salt of the Earth people. This is why we have had the school we have had.

I have counted my blessings every day for those who came before me at St. Francis Xavier's School for the phenomenal place that it is and the valued legacy it will leave into the future.

There is no denying it, the news that our school would close was devastating for the families, students and staff who were



currently at St. Francis Xavier's. However, it was equally as distressing to converse with wider community members and friends of the school who instantly recalled the fondest of memories they had of the school.

Once news of the school closing broke. Talking with these people lit a fire within me to ensure we not only provided organised information for those who are interested in our school in the future via our archives,

but to also ensure we displayed dignity, recognition and reverence to those who came before us. To that end, there is the history book many of you purchased, the decommissioning celebration we have been a part of today and some podcast audio recordings of the memories people have of the school. These podcasts are something I am particularly proud of.

To all of the families, students, parish priests and staff who have been at the school during my time here, thank you for welcoming me and showing me how you follow the school's motto of 'Think, Speak & Act Like Christ' here in Urana. Honestly, does our faith get any simpler than that? Think, Speak & Act Like Christ.....



Attendees at the celebration.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

To anyone who, at any stage, has been a parent at St. Francis Xavier's - without your commitment, desire and will to support your children's education and school, the school wouldn't have been able to operate as well as it has done. Thank you for everything from reading readers, transporting students, cleaning toilets and keeping the grounds tidy to managing the variety of fundraising efforts the school has pursued.

To anyone over the years who took up special office on School Council's or Parent and Friends groups, thank you for your dedication and drive to support the work of the school the best you could.

Thank you to our extended alumni of families and friends. Those of you who had no direct links to the school anymore as years went by. Despite this, the way you have continued to support the school is a testament to you all and a glowing endorsement for our school. I don't take your support for granted and I am very humbled by your contribution. The fact so many of you are here today further highlights this and as a long standing principal here, I am sure Therese would be in agreement regarding how critical

this support has been.

Thank you to Fr Tony Schipp and Fr Henry Ibe as the Parish Priests during my time in Urana. I am particularly grateful for these priests in working collaboratively with me to bring our faith to life in the best way possible for the students of the school. The contribution of a supportive Parish Priest can never be understated.

Thank you to all of our students over the years. - That's just about all of you standing out there this evening at some point in your life - Thank you for your huge efforts both in the classroom and during extra-curricular activities you have been able to participate in over our 80 years. I am sure events like the Savernake Athletics Carnival, Marching, various end of year plays and Paddy's Markets - among others - bring memories flooding back.

Every year I said to the students gathered at our presentation night, no other year will be just like this one, and I am sure you will remember this year, for example 2019, long into your future.

We thought 2020 was a different year with COVID coming into the world....

Well, with the announcement our school would close at the end of this year, 2021 has been a year like no other that is for St.

Francis Xavier's Urana that is for sure.

Being the leader of a school that is closing is not easy. This year has been extremely difficult in many ways. Just making it to this evening was a battle, but the energy and effervescence buzzing around our school today and here this evening has made it all worthwhile.

As the year has progressed, I have been in quite a reflective mode, and I have been able to identify that it was God's will that I would be here to see this wonderful school through to the end.

While our staff will return to the school site, next week, to finalise the closure of the school, effectively the soul of the school left the buildings when we all walked out after mass this afternoon.

I must note, I certainly wouldn't have had the opportunity to be at St. Francis Xavier's School, Urana without the unwavering support of my wife Denise. People often comment on the driving I have done to fulfil my vocation here, but it is Denise who has truly sacrificed for our family to enable me to follow my dreams.

This school has left an indelible mark on me as a person, let alone an educator. Just as I am sure it has been such a special part of your lives too.

We should all take a moment to reflect

on how fortunate we have been to have called St. Francis Xavier's School home at some stage throughout our lives.

In the words of Psalm 46:10, "Be still and know that I am with you." and that my friends, is all we need.

Presentation Sister Raphael Consedine puts it this way: Take down your lantern from its niche and go out! You may not build yourselves confining walls and say: "thus far shall I walk, and these things shall I do and nothing more."

Go out!

For need calls loudly in the winding lanes and you must seek Christ there. Your pilgrim heart shall urge you one pace beyond, and love shall be your lantern flame.

It is now our turn to leave this place with our lanterns lit, we are Presentation People and Nano is calling us all to continue to do great things.

Again, thank you all for your contribution towards making St. Francis Xavier's School Urana so wonderful over the last 80 years. I wish you all the very best for your futures and bid you safe travels on your return home.

**Thank you and God bless!**

# What is Ash Wednesday?

Ash Wednesday marks the start of Lent and takes place 46 days before Easter. As the date of Easter is calculated on the cycles of the moon, the date of Ash Wednesday will vary from year to year. This year Ash Wednesday is on March 2.

**The name of the day comes from the custom that churchgoers are marked on the forehead with a cross of ash to symbolise death and regret for past sins.** The priest will accompany the marking with a recital of Genesis 3:19 - "Remember that you are dust, and to dust, you shall return". The tradition of marking with ashes began in the early church as a way for persistent sinners to outwardly show their desire for repentance. By the end of the 10th century, the custom had spread to all the faithful.

Traditionally the ashes are created from burning the palms used in the church on Palm Sunday the previous

year. Palm Sunday marked the arrival of Jesus into Jerusalem after his 40 days and nights in the desert.

During the 40 days before Easter, Roman Catholics are supposed to abstain from all bodily pleasures, including the consumption of meat. This is intended to remember the fasting of Jesus, who spent 40 days in the desert before beginning his ministry. In the Catholic Church, Lent gets off to an appropriate start with Ash Wednesday as it is a day of fasting, abstinence from meat and repentance.

**Why is Ash Wednesday 46 days before Easter Sunday, when Lent is said to last 40 days?**



Lent is longer than the 40 days as Sunday was seen as a special feast day to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday, so it is excluded from the calculation of Lent. Lent is the Monday to Saturday in the six weeks before Easter Sunday (6 days x 6 weeks = 36 days) and adding the Wednesday to Saturday in the week before brings us to the 40 days.

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# HSC a huge success for Marian Catholic College's two captains

Marian Catholic College swept up at the recent HSC's, with 34 per cent of all exams sat resulting in a Band 5 or 6.

BY CAI HOLROYD Originally published in Area News

**Imreet Singh, Marian's 2021 Dux, came away with five Band 6's, closely followed by Isabella Salmon who scored an impressive 4. Mr Singh was also the school captain for the year.**

He said the years had been a bit of a challenge, but that his support network had gone a long way to helping secure the success.

"It was a bit of a rollercoaster, we got lucky with our trials being earlier in the year. It was tumultuous though."

"I really learnt to juggle my time. What underpins it all is the support," he said.

Brooke Aloisi, the other school captain of the year, said that the challenges would prove to be learning experiences.

"It was such a personal and collective navigation. I think it really taught us a

lot though ... We can adapt that into our careers and lives," she explained.

"Getting the results, it was really good to see physically that those challenges paid off."

Both cited their parents and Marian's mentorship program as crucial in helping them achieve, and had a few specific teachers to thank. Miss Aloisi said that Mr Damien Herb and Miss Lara Calabria had helped her a lot, while Mr Singh thanked Mrs Betsy Farrugia and Mrs Giulia Calabro.

Alan Le Brocque, the principal at Marian Catholic College, said he was very proud of all the students.

"The resilience of the students over 2 years has been outstanding ... All are looking to improve their learning and



Imreet Singh, Alan Le Brocque and Brooke Aloisi from Marian Catholic College.  
Photo by: Cai Holroyd

performance."

Looking forward, Mr Singh said he was looking at studying medicine, but hadn't settled on a university just yet. He was hoping to complete his studies and return to Griffith in an attempt to "give back to the community that gave so

much to me."

Miss Aloisi had similar plans on returning, but was looking to take a gap year first. She's currently in two minds, weighing up whether to pursue performance or commerce.

# Banksia Award finalists

ErinEarth has just become a finalist in the inaugural Banksia Foundation NSW Sustainability Awards.

BY JENNY HILL Erin Earth Board Executive

**The Banksia Foundation awards are known as the most prestigious awards in Australia and the longest running sustainability awards in the world!**

The NSW Sustainability Awards seek out and recognise innovation and leadership through the lens of the United Nations Sustainable Development (UNSD) Goals. These are the global goals which aim to unite people to end poverty, fight inequality and protect the planet.

To become part of the award, ErinEarth executives wrote a submission and then had to be interviewed by a panel organised by the Banksia Foundation. By achieving finalist status, ErinEarth has been recognised for innovation and leadership in sustainability and it's commitment to the UNSD goals. It speaks volumes to the vision of Sr. Kaye Bryan and Sr. Carmel Wallis and to the commitment of everyone who has been involved in ErinEarth over the past 23 years.

The awards were presented on the 9th December at a ceremony in Sydney. Sr.

Kaye, Sr. Carmel and the Presentation Sister Congregation leader, Sr. Marg Barclay, attended the ceremony. **Although we were unsuccessful in winning the award in our category, Sr. Kaye says it was a most uplifting and inspiring evening.**



Sister Carmel and Sister Kaye, founders of ErinEarth, with the Banksia Award Finalist Certificate



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.





# Project of the Month: February

This month please help build a village chapel in the apostolic vicariate of Soddo in Ethiopia.

The apostolic vicariate of Soddo lies in southern Ethiopia around 385 km south of the capital Addis Ababa.

The territory of the vicariate is approximately 47,000 km² in area and has almost 192,000 Catholics today. The number of parishes is growing and there are now 34 of them, together with numerous outstations, which are increasing more and more in number. But most of these parishes are still in their infancy and many of them lack practically all the usual parish structures. The faithful are willing and enthusiastic and often build their own small wooden grass-roofed chapels – after the manner of the typical local 'Tukuls' – with their own hands. Needless to say, these do not last long and rapidly become too small for the growing communities.

A typical example is the parish of Saint Francis in Kanafa. It has a total of 21 outstations, organised in five different pastoral zones. Only one of these has a permanent chapel, built of durable materials such as concrete blocks. Now we have

received a request from the parish priest, Capuchin Father (Abba) Abraham Waza, for help to build a durable chapel in another of these outstations, Dakaya. The village is around 15 km from the central parish and can only be reached via rough, hilly tracks. Consequently, it is impossible for the 500 Catholic faithful in Dakaya to get to the central parish for Sunday Mass, and their own chapel of the Archangel Gabriel is by now increasingly dilapidated and in any case far too small. Most of the Catholic faithful have to stand outside during Holy Mass, in the full glare of the tropical sun. "My fear is that more and more of my parishioners may desert us for the sects," says Abba Abraham sadly.

Once the new church has been built, it is intended that Dakaya will become an independent parish in its own right. However "on account of the poverty, the backward agricultural methods and the slow progress of civilisation, and the resulting constant poverty and hunger in the region, the people of the parish are in no position to fully fund



the project themselves – though they are ready and willing to provide wood, straw, water and their own manual labour to see the construction of the new chapel through to completion," Abba Abraham assures us.

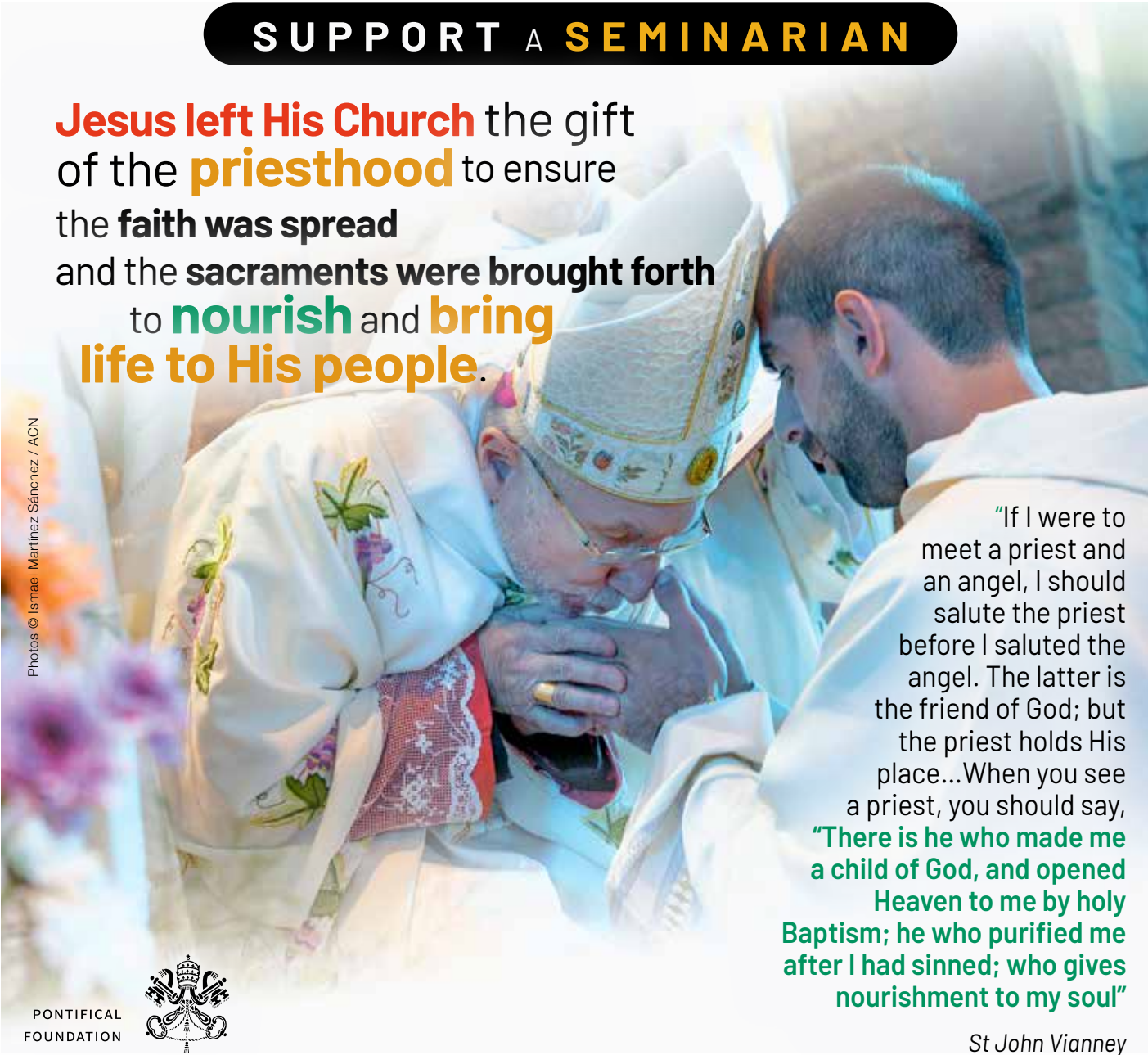
We would be only too happy to help with the \$23,500 AUD needed to ensure that the new chapel can indeed be completed.

Can you help ACN fund projects like this? Visit: <https://aidtochurch.org/monthlyproject>



## SUPPORT A SEMINARIAN

Jesus left His Church the gift of the priesthood to ensure the faith was spread and the sacraments were brought forth to nourish and bring life to His people.



"If I were to meet a priest and an angel, I should salute the priest before I saluted the angel. The latter is the friend of God; but the priest holds His place...When you see a priest, you should say, "There is he who made me a child of God, and opened Heaven to me by holy Baptism; he who purified me after I had sinned; who gives nourishment to my soul"

St John Vianney

While we currently experience less priestly vocations, it is **not the same everywhere**. In many countries the faith is flourishing, and an abundance of young men have discerned a call to **leave everything and follow Christ**.

However, the road is not always easy. Their families may be **poor**. Their bishops may **lack resources**. They may live in areas experiencing **persecution towards Christians**.

We are all part of the **one Church**; therefore, **it is up to us**, as members of the body of Christ, to **help the seminarians of today become the priests of tomorrow**.

For 75 years, the Catholic charity **Aid to the Church in Need** has worked to **keep the faith alive**, relying solely on the prayers and financial resources of people **just like you**. Each year, as part of our mission, we support some **15,000 seminarians** on the path to priesthood.

In 2022, **support a seminarian** with your prayers and resources. Help us form the priests of tomorrow.

Scan the QR code, or, visit [www.aidtochurch.org/seminarians](https://www.aidtochurch.org/seminarians) to make an offering. Thank you and God bless you!



As a sign of thanks, you can choose to receive as a gift a rose perfume rosary made by the Christians in the Holy Land.



 Aid to the Church in Need  
ACN AUSTRALIA

Photos © Ismael Martínez Sánchez / ACN





# The Red Hand Files

Nick responds to the following questions:  
If you could live forever (and remain healthy in body and mind) would you do it? *Elise, Pittsburgh USA*  
Where do we find meaning in life? *Assaf, Jerusalem Israel*

BY NICK CAVE  
Originally published online at [theredhandfiles.com](http://theredhandfiles.com)

**Dear Elise and Assaf,**  
Susie has hung a cuckoo clock in the garden of our house in London. Behind the house there is a primary school, obscured by a high, ivy-covered wall, and each day we hear the sounds of children playing. To the side of the house, across the lane, is a church. The church is forever tolling its bell. Right now everything seems to be happening at once. The crazy cuckoo clock marks out time — cuckoo! cuckoo! cuckoo!, the children scream in the schoolyard, and the bells from the church ring forth, promising us everlasting life. I sit here with my wife, two people placed within this cosmic drama, drinking coffee, absorbed in our separate temporary worlds — right now hers is Instagram and mine is answering your questions.  
Elise, you asked if I would live forever if I could, well, the answer must be no. I wouldn't because, as far as I can see, the meaning of life is nested within the set terms of our own mortality. 'Forever' is both incomprehensible and utterly meaningless. I don't

believe we live just for the sake of it; rather we live our lives within the poetry of our own demise, within our own time, and our own limitations, and for that very reason alone we do so meaningfully. We work, we love, we care for each other, and we suffer together, knowing that one day we will die. The children in the schoolyard run headlong toward adulthood and their own disappearance, and we adults are the living breathing reminders of that. The man who waves at me as he walks his dog up the lane will die, as will the people filing into the church at the ringing of the bell, and the shop assistant hurrying to work, and the parking inspector, and the street sweeper, all will die in time — oh, and the squirrel (ah, there he is), he too will die (ouch), and the flowers, the swaying trees, and the earth itself. It is toward this temporal inconvenience — our finitude — that we move, with only a few precious moments to add value to this world. What can we do in this time that we are given, that is running through our fingers, even now? How can we lighten our mutual



Portrait of Jean Renoir by Pierre-Auguste Renoir

predicament that is drawing ever closer? Assaf, there lies the meaning in life — it is in the expansion of ourselves, in our benevolence, to fully occupy our allotted time.  
And so the cuckoo stops cuckooing, and the little wooden bird retreats to await the next hour, the children have gone back to class, and the church bells fall silent as those inside kneel and pray, and the startled sunlight catches the side of my wife's face with sudden purpose. Unaware, she scrolls and scrolls.  
**Love, Nick**



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# Pope Francis: Let us place the new year under the protection of Mary

On New Year's Day, Pope Francis encouraged people to place their lives under the protection of Mary, the Mother of God.

*Originally published in Catholic News Agency*

**“The new year begins under the sign of the Holy Mother of God, under the sign of the Mother. A mother’s gaze is the path to rebirth and growth. We need mothers, women who look at the world not to exploit it, but so that it can have life,”** Pope Francis said in St. Peter’s Basilica on January 1.

“At the beginning of the New Year, then, let us place ourselves under the protection of this woman, the Mother of God, who is also our mother. May she help us to keep and ponder all things, unafraid of trials and with the joyful certainty that the Lord is faithful and can transform every cross into a resurrection,” the pope said.

Pope Francis’ first public act of 2022 was to offer Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God.

In his homily, the pope said that the Virgin Mary teaches us how to “keep and to ponder,” to reflect upon and accept life as it comes, in times of both joy and suffering.

“Mary’s pensiveness ... is the expression of a mature, adult faith, not a faith of beginners. Not a newborn faith, it is rather a faith that now gives birth,” he said.

“For spiritual fruitfulness is born of trials and testing. From the quiet of Nazareth and from the triumphant promises received by the Angel – the beginnings – Mary now finds herself in the dark stable of Bethlehem. Yet that is where she gives God to the world.”

The pope asked people to reflect on how Mary had to endure “the scandal of the manger.”

“How can she hold together the throne of a king and the lowly manger? How can

she reconcile the glory of the Most High and the bitter poverty of a stable? Let us think of the distress of the Mother of God. What can be more painful for a mother than to see her child suffering poverty? It is troubling indeed,” he said.

“We would not blame Mary, were she to complain of those unexpected troubles. Yet she does not lose heart. She does not complain, but keeps silent. Rather than complain, she chooses a different part: For her part, the Gospel tells us, Mary ‘kept all these things, pondering them in her heart.’”

Pope Francis encouraged people to have the same attitude of Mary when faced with unexpected problems or troubling situations.

“She shows us that it is necessary: it is the narrow path to achieve the goal, the cross, without which there can be no resurrection. Like the pangs of childbirth, it begets a more mature faith,” he said.

After offering Mass, Pope Francis prayed the Angelus at noon from the window of the Apostolic Palace with a crowd gathered below in St. Peter’s Square.

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*Mass for the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, 1 January 2022*

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“Happy New Year! Let us begin the new year by entrusting it to Mary, the Mother of God,” he said.

“The new year begins with God who, in the arms of his mother and lying in a manger, gives us courage with tenderness. We need this encouragement. We are still living in uncertain and difficult times due to the pandemic,” the pope said.

“Many are frightened about the future and burdened by social problems, personal problems, dangers stemming from the ecological crisis, injustices and by global economic imbalances. Looking at Mary with her Son in her arms, I think of young mothers and their children fleeing wars and famine, or waiting in refugee camps. There are so many of them.”

Pope Francis said that the thought of Mary holding Jesus in the stable is a reminder that “the world can change and everyone’s life can improve only if we make ourselves available to others.”

He recalled that January 1 marks the World Day of Peace, instituted by St. Paul VI in 1968.

“We can truly build peace only if we have peace in our hearts, only if we receive it from the Prince of peace. But peace is also our commitment: it asks us to take the first step, it demands concrete actions. It is built by being attentive to the least, by promoting justice, with the courage to forgive thus extinguishing the fire of hatred,” he said.

**“At the beginning of this year, may the Mother of God, the Queen of Peace, obtain harmony in our hearts and in the entire world,” Pope Francis said.**



*Mass for the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, 1 January 2022*



# Achievements recognised

**We are pleased to offer our congratulations on a couple of outstanding achievements across this diocese.**

Firstly, Xavier High School student, Ian Burton topped the state in HSC Science Extension and was recognised as an 'All Rounder' which celebrates a Band 6 result in 10 or more units of study. Ian is commencing study in Medicine with UNSW this year.

Secondly, to Suzanna Zatang from

Henschke Catholic Primary School who received an award as a part of last year's NAIDOC Week Schools Initiative.

The aim of these initiatives is to provide our kids with a greater understanding of the importance of friendship and cultural diversity. The competitions reflect Aboriginal ancestry and promote the growth of positive attitudes in all students towards Aboriginal people.

**Congratulations to both Ian and Suzanna.**



*Dr Andrew Watson, HSC First in Course recipient Ian Burton and Xavier High School Principal, Mr Gavin Dykes.*

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# World Day of the Sick 2022

**This years World Day of the Sick was a tribute to health care workers.**

**As the pandemic enters its third year, the World Day of the Sick on February 11 paid tribute to the valuable work that Catholic health institutions undertake not just in Australia, but around the world.**

In his message to mark the 30th World Day of the Sick, Pope Francis spoke directly to health care workers, recognising the importance of their work as infection rates and deaths from COVID-19 continue to rise.

This year's theme is "Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful", taken from Luke's Gospel. Pope Francis says: "Dear healthcare workers, your service alongside the sick, carried out with love and competence, transcends the bounds of your profession and becomes a mission.

"Your hands, which touch the suffering flesh of Christ, can be a sign of the merciful hands of the Father. Be mindful of the great dignity of your profession, as well as the responsibility that it entails."

The Catholic Church's World Day of the Sick, established by St John Paul II, is held on February 11, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. It is an opportunity to devote special attention to the sick and to those who provide them with assistance and care both in health care institutions and within families and communities.

Bishop Karol Kulczycki SDS, the Bishop Delegate for Health for the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, said its health care services are a source of great pride for the Church.

"Fulfilling Jesus' call to the ministry of healing, the Catholic Church was at the forefront of the development of hospitals around the world and remains at the forefront of providing care, including through the pandemic," said Bishop Kulczycki.

"We honour those who are carrying out the healing ministry in the name of Christ, the Divine Healer and the inspiration of our service for all through our hospitals, aged care and other services."

Catholic Health Australia CEO Pat Garcia said Pope Francis' message urges the community to remember both the sick and the people who are

caring for them.

"For the past two years, health care workers have been working incredibly hard to protect those who are in their care, often at great personal sacrifice to themselves," Mr Garcia said.

"In a world dominated by numbers of cases and death, our carers have never lost sight of the individual at the heart of the suffering and treated them with compassion and mercy."

To that end, Catholic Health Australia and Australian Catholic University are convening a panel of speakers on the World Day of the Sick to participate in a webinar to discuss some of the emerging impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the health care workforce: burn-out, fatigue and withdrawal.

Mr Garcia said: "The pandemic has shown there are great inequalities in health care around the world, and that even here in Australia there are some who have been harder hit. World Day of the Sick should remind us all that we should place great value in caring for the frail and the needy."

To invite others to also mark the day, Catholic Health Australia distributed hundreds of specially commissioned lapel ribbons to Catholic leaders, politicians and members.

**To read a message from His Holiness Pope Francis about World Day of the Sick 2022 visit:**  
[https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/sick/documents/20211210\\_30-giornata-malato.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/sick/documents/20211210_30-giornata-malato.html)



*Pat Garcia with his lapel ribbon.*



# KIDS corner

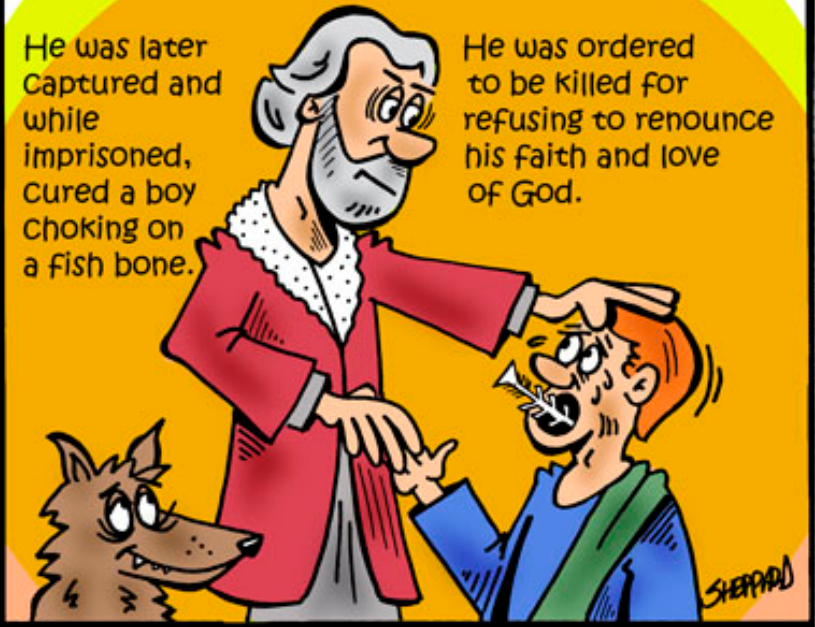
## SAINTS FUN FACTS

by John Sheppard

Raised as a Christian in a rich family, he became a bishop. In a vision, God appeared to him and told him to flee. To avoid persecution, he lived in the hills with sick animals and cared for them.

He was later captured and while imprisoned, cured a boy choking on a fish bone.

He was ordered to be killed for refusing to renounce his faith and love of God.



# Science

## Escaping Water

Water can certainly move in mysterious ways. Get the water from one cup to make its way up hill and back down into a second empty cup with the help of paper towels and an interesting scientific process.

### What you'll need:

- A glass of water
- An empty glass
- Food colouring
- Patience
- Some paper towels

### Instructions:

- Twist a couple of pieces of paper towel together until it forms something that looks a little like a piece of rope, this will be the 'wick' that will absorb and transfer the water (a bit like the wick on a candle transferring the wax to the flame).
- Place one end of the paper towels into the glass filled with water and the other into the empty glass.
- Place a few drops of food colouring into the water.
- Watch what happens (this experiment takes a little bit of patience).

### Whats happening:

Your paper towel rope (or wick) starts getting wet, after a few minutes you will

notice that the empty glass is starting to fill with water, it keeps filling until there is an even amount of water in each glass, how does this happen?

This process is called '**capillary action**', the water uses this process to move along the tiny gaps in the fibre of the paper towels. It occurs due to the adhesive force between the water and the paper towel being stronger than the cohesive forces inside the water itself. This process can also be seen in plants where moisture travels from the roots to the rest of the plant.



- Saint Blaise -



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!



## FEBRUARY SAINTS & FEAST DAYS

# Word Search

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

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

St. Blaise

St. Ansgar

St. Agatha

St. Paul Miki and  
Companions

St. Jerome Emiliani

St. Josephine Bakhita

St. Scholastica

Our Lady of Lourdes

St. Cyril

St. Methodius

St. Peter Damian

St. Polycarp

Presentation of the Lord





# Holy Spirit School, Lavington

Students made Prayer Mats in Year 3. Children discussed the symbolism of a tree and what the prayer mat represents for them as a class this year. Some thoughts were....

- growing together
- peace and calm
- God's creation
- new life/new beginnings
- beauty
- strength
- connection
- family
- natural world

They loved the idea that we learn, pray and grow together.



# Holy Trinity Primary, West Wagga

Congratulations to Holy Trinity Primary First Holy Communion participants! The students led the parish mass beautifully. Thank you to the parents, teachers and families who contributed towards making this a special celebration for them.



# Sacred Heart Primary, Wagga

On 16 February Bishop Mark visited. He was able to speak to all the students about his role within the church and he show them some things that Bishops use and wear.



# St Joseph's School, Leeton



3HA have been studying the colour wheel in Creative Arts and today completed their own sunset cityscape silhouettes with reflections!



Catholic Education  
Diocese of Wagga Wagga

All schools enrolling now



# 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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27



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


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

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.

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



**Please pray for those priests whose anniversary of death occurs in January and February:**


<b>3 January 1933</b>	Fr Patrick Hanrahan
<b>10 January 1938</b>	Fr James Hennebry
<b>23 January 1937</b>	Fr James Power O'Rourke
<b>24 January 1882</b>	Fr Cornelius Twomey
<b>26 January 1941</b>	Fr Martin Vaughan
<b>27 January 1938</b>	Fr Patrick Reidy
<b>30 January 1946</b>	Fr Patrick Gahan
<b>4 February 1932</b>	Fr John Campbell
<b>12 February 1926</b>	Fr Thomas L Ryan
<b>14 February 1907</b>	Mgr Michael Slattery
<b>14 February 1982</b>	Fr Thomas Aloysius Desmond
<b>19 February 1948</b>	Fr John Kenneth Charles Suna
<b>24 February 1968</b>	Bishop Francis Augustin Henschke

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



**Junior Legion**  
recommences on  
Wednesday,  
2 February 2022 at  
3:45pm at St Michael's  
Cathedral Parish Centre.  
**New and old families  
most welcome!**  
  
Contact:  
Caronne 0413 801 616

# Synod of Bishops:



Hundreds of groups and individuals across the country have shared their stories about how all members of the Catholic Church can walk together to carry out our mission as Christians. Have you? The local consultation process for the global Synod on Synodality is open until March 13. Join with family, friends, parishioners or participate yourself.

**Find out more at:**  
<https://catholic.org.au/synodalchurch>

# Family reflections for: feb/mar

**27th February**  
**Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle C**  
**Jesus' parables in this week's Gospel are a reminder of the importance of continued learning, prayer and reflection, and humility in our discipleship.** We shine God's light in the world when we are "lit from within" with God's grace, willing to examine our own conscience and recognize our own need for transformation through Jesus. As busy parents responsible for our children's physical, emotional, and spiritual growth, we may sometimes be challenged to find time and energy to care for ourselves and attend to our own spiritual growth. Yet doing so can improve our family relationships and help us guide our children in their faith. We can be reminded of the simple safety instruction we hear when flying: to put on our own "spiritual" oxygen mask before helping others.  
Gather as a family and spend some time discussing ideas about what it means to be a good disciple. What do we need to learn? How are we to act? How do we treat others? Read aloud today's Gospel, Luke 6:39-45. Discuss what Jesus means when he asks, "Why do you notice the splinter in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own?" Talk about how we might be tempted to focus on one another's shortcomings without noticing our own and how this might lead to conflict. Point out that part of being a good disciple is focusing on our own behavior. As a family, share ideas for responding as a disciple when you are upset with another family member's words or actions. (For example, taking a cooling off break before talking to the person or praying for help to see if our actions contributed to the conflict and we need to apologize.) Pray that you will grow together in your discipleship and then pray the Lord's Prayer.  
*Sirach 27:4-7 Psalm 92: 2-3,13-16*  
*1 Corinthians 15: 54-58 Luke 6:39-45*

**6th March - First Sunday of Lent, Cycle C**  
**In Luke's Gospel, the story of Jesus' temptation in the desert appears just after Jesus' baptism and before Jesus begins his public ministry.** We can imagine this as a time of transition, a turning point in Jesus' life. Perhaps we can liken it to one of the important turning points in our own lives: the decision to marry, the birth of a child, the acceptance of a new job, or the decision to move to a new home. After the moment of decision, having reached the point of no return, we sometimes begin to wonder if we are prepared and ready for the task before us. Turning points can be times of doubt and insecurity. Jesus' response to the temptations of the devil offers an example for responding in faith when our doubts and insecurities tempt us to distrust God's sufficiency. Jesus rebukes the devil by quoting Scripture. Each citation is an affirmation of trust in God. We learn to trust in big things by practicing trust in little things. Our Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving invite us to trust God in these small ways. They remind us that God will suffice for us. They prepare us to trust in God in all things, especially in moments of doubt and uncertainty.  
Talk about ways in which trust has been built among members of the family. Observe how being trustworthy in small matters enables us to trust one another in more important matters. Offer specific examples if possible (e.g., children who establish their responsibility in household tasks can be granted greater independence and freedom to choose how they perform these tasks). Today's Gospel shows us how Jesus trusted God in all things. Read aloud today's Gospel, Luke 4:1-13. Discuss how Jesus showed his trust in God when he resisted the devil's temptations. Invite family members to name times when they have trusted God in matters small or large. Write a family prayer together. You might write the prayer so that each line begins with a letter in the word "trust." Pray this prayer together.  
*Deuteronomy 26:4-10 Psalm 91:1-2,10-11,12-13,14-15*  
*Romans 10:8-13 Luke 4:1-13*

**13th March**  
**Second Sunday of Lent, Cycle C**  
**In today's Gospel, the voice from heaven speaks to the disciples saying, "Listen to him."** The Transfiguration was a focused moment for the disciples when they heard God speaking to them and experienced Jesus in glory. They most certainly left this focused moment with a new appreciation for the importance of Jesus' words even if they did not yet understand everything that he had taught them. During Lent, we are invited to consider our attentiveness to Jesus and to one another. In the pace and noise that often characterizes family life, how well do we listen to one another? What opportunities do we have for quiet prayer?  
As you gather as a family, count the number of pieces of equipment in your home that produce sound: televisions, radios, CD players, computers, video games, etc. Observe if sometimes more than one piece of equipment is playing simultaneously and how this might affect communication. Discuss the question: What is it like to try to talk with one another when this equipment is on?  
Read aloud today's Gospel, Luke 9:28-36. Consider whether the noise and pace of your family life allows family members opportunities for quiet prayer. During Lent, it may be appropriate for your family to choose a time for quiet in the household by turning off televisions, radios, and CD players. Consider whether your family would like to establish such a time during this Season of Lent and suggest that it might allow you the opportunity to listen more attentively to one another and to find time for quiet prayer. Spend a few such moments as a family, asking God to help you listen well to one another and to Jesus.  
*Genesis 15:5-12,17-18 Psalm 27:1,7-8,8-9,13-14*  
*Philippians 3:17-4:1 Luke 9:28b-36*





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