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Bishop's Voice

Bishop Mark Edwards OMI - Bishop of Wagga Wagga Diocese



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IN THE DIOCESE OF WAGGA WAGGA

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Homily for the Mass of the Oils in which the priests renewed their vows and four seminarians were admitted as Candidates for Ordination.

Dear sisters and brothers,

The first reading celebrates the life-giving effects of receiving of the Spirit through anointing: Liberty for captives, sight for the blind, Good News for the poor.

Our Gospel passage comes immediately after Jesus' baptism and time in the desert. He goes through Galilee preaching and casting out demons and in the process comes to Nazareth where he had been brought up. Fresh from the experience of the anointing with the Spirit in the Jordan, Jesus takes up the Isaiah passage in our first reading.

This is a message for each of us and for all the world. The freedom, the grace, the

joy, that we have experienced in being disciples of Jesus and in his Spirit, we want for all. May their hearts be gently and powerfully anointed by the Spirit in a way that brings them to be daughters and sons of God.

Today, in this Mass, we consecrate the oils which will be used to minister the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit's strength and love, peace and joy and our clergy will renew their own total gift, their oblation, to this mission of Jesus. Also, we will admit to candidacy for priesthood four young men who want to be a part of this mission.

One of the great sadnesses of many here and of many who attend Mass each

Sunday is that our and their children and grandchildren are not at Mass with us. Our relationship with God is important and we want this for those we love.

Those who aren't with us at Church are good people and they have absorbed many of the lessons of Christ. I have heard them referred to as Cultural Catholics. In a way, they are God's grandchildren.

But God doesn't have grandchildren. God has daughters and sons and I am certain that He wants them to be in a loving relationship with him even more than we do.

The clergy of the diocese is discerning their top priorities for mission and also we are in the middle of the Plenary Council process and the Synod on Synodality is also being celebrated. In each case, it seems that evangelisation, bringing people into encounter with the living God, will be a high priority or even the highest priority.

Evangelisation a newish word for us Catholics. It need not be anything extraordinary. At its simplest level, it is having a conversation about Jesus with someone.

And being a disciple can also be easily understood. Sheree Waddell suggests that the story of Peter's call illustrates such a moment. He dropped the nets he was cleaning when the Lord called and followed him. At the moment he dropped his nets, he became a disciple. It is not possible to be an unintentional disciple; it is a deliberate choice for Jesus.

The people in our Church on any



Bishop Mark delivering his Homily.

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Prayer Intention for April - Pray with Pope Francis

For health care workers.

We pray for health care workers who serve the sick and the elderly, especially in the poorest countries; may they be adequately supported by governments and local communities.

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



More than two years have gone by since the global COVID-19 pandemic was officially declared. If there is anything most of us have learned during that time it is to appreciate healthcare workers. While those of us who were able left our jobs or worked from home and tried to avoid contagion, they persevered. Day after day they have literally risked their lives to help others. They have worked around the clock and into burnout, often without enough supplies or equipment.

And it's not only doctors and nurses who have performed their duties heroically, but so many others—orderlies, medical technicians, certified nursing assistants, the folks working in cafeterias and maintenance, and many more—all who have lived the Gospel call to love their neighbors as themselves.

"Greater love has no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). According to the World Health Organization, over 115,000 health care workers have died of Covid-19. During the worst of the pandemic in New York City, health care workers exited the hospitals to nightly cheers of appreciation. But time marches on, and enthusiasm fades. As the rest of us go back to business as usual, let us not forget the vital importance of health care workers, not just during pandemics but all the time.

Let us ask God to bless them, and also that He may help us be mindful of ways we and our communities can appreciate and support them and the work that they do.

Chrism Mass and Candidates for Ordination

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

single occasion will be somewhere on the spectrum from trust through openness, curiosity, active seeking to discipleship. In its wisdom, the Church has asked that the first two years of seminary training be focused on discipleship as not all who come to the seminary are disciples yet.

How do we bring people to the point where they joyfully want to make this gift of themselves to Jesus?

And I invite you read *Forming Intentional Disciples* by Sheree Waddell and perhaps to re-read it with an evangelisation team in your parish so that we understand well how to bring the experience of peace, love and joy of being anointed by the Spirit to those God is calling.

These oils we bless today and use during this next year help our people accept the challenge of Christian living and are a sure sign of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Please allow me to speak directly to the priests and candidates for a moment.

Brothers, it is worth our lives for others to meet Jesus. We are anointed for this. I thank you for your gift of yourselves to God in this diocese and for the wonderful ministry and faithfulness you live. You are a wonderful body of men and I am delighted, humbled and privileged to be with you.

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



Above: Four students were accepted into Candidacy.



Below: Reverencing the cross.



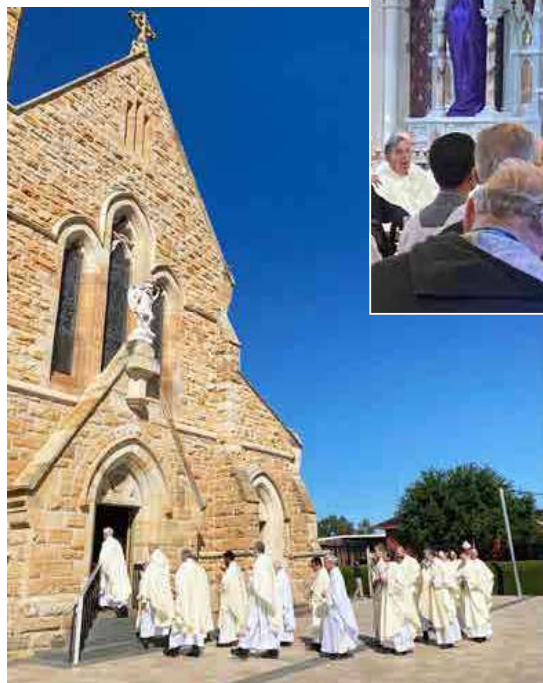
Above: Two of the four students for Candidacy.
Below that: Presenting the Oil of the Sick to be blessed.



Above: Reading by Sr Milada.

Left: The priests process into the Cathedral.

Right: Frs Peter Murphy, Andrew Grace, Connell Perry, Rick Micallef, Reece Beltrame and Deacon Rod Letchford with Bishop Edwards.



ANZAC Day through eyes of faith

ANZAC Day is a poignant and meaningful commemoration for so many Australians.

BY AIR COMMODORE MONS PETER O'KEEFE - Director-General of the Chaplaincy Service - Air Force, Catholic Diocese of the Australian Defence Force

The reality of war with its loss of young lives and destruction, the pitch between life and death, good and evil, the consequences of moral injury for those caught up in it together with the resultant legacy of war on our nation provokes deep and often difficult questions about human existence and its purpose.

John Francis Collins of the Catholic Enquiry Centre in his article: 'ANZAC Day: A Lost Battle, self-sacrifice and the Cross' states that the primary carriers of the meaning of Anzac are rituals and symbols. Dawn services, flames burning unceasingly, periods of silence and remembering, medals and banners, parades, flags and bugles. He states so well that Australians are open to realities that can only be adequately communicated through ritual and symbol. Somehow these are an outlet for deep human feelings which assists in better understanding the significance of an event such as Anzac. People know what self sacrifice means in their bones!

A HAUNTING PHOTO

In the Autumn edition of the magazine 'Spirit' distributed by Qantaslink there is a brief article entitled '100 years of Anzacs'. There is a most haunting photo, an image (AO2781) from the Australian War Memorial. It depicts soldiers from the Australian 1st Divisional Signal Company being towed towards their landing on Gallipoli shores at 6.00am on 25 April 1915. The faces of the

soldiers reveal a mix of emotions, everything from excitement, expectation, anxiety, apprehension to fear as they prepared for their imminent landing. For many it would be the last photo of these young men as within hours many would be dead. For many the harrowing experience of war would be transformational even within an adverse, horrifying and evil reality. We are told that this event was the anvil giving rise to a rich human reality expressed through mateship, duty, humour, raw courage and valour. God's grace was certain active in this most distressing situation! Many soldiers grew in human stature, in basic human qualities through the immensity of their situation.

DRAWING MEANING FROM ANZAC

How do we interpret this reality over 100 years later? What does the so called 'spirit' of ANZAC mean? Over the years we have heard many expressions of this 'spirit' summed up in sometimes extravagant statements in regards to nation building and the Australian identity. Anzac certainly exemplifies for many those positive Australian traits, such as self giving, resilience, courage, generosity, resourcefulness and determination in the face of overwhelming odds that have being demonstrated time and time again since the Anzac event through other wars, in dealing with natural disasters and in tragedies such as the massacre of Port Arthur and Bali among others.



The faces of the soldiers reveal a mix of emotions, ranging from excitement, to fear as they prepared for their imminent landing.

As Catholics how do we individually and as a Church community draw meaning and find hope in catastrophic events that seem to destroy hope? How do we situate the many tragic, destructive and evil events that plague us together with the life-giving, loving and positive situations that constantly make up our world? Even the destructive events, like ANZAC can be transformative and life giving! How does our Christian faith support us in our search for meaning and purpose in all the human realities we face?

In daily embracing the Easter event that we have just celebrated, we are challenged to interpret the realities of our everyday lives holistically through the prism of faith and respond to these challenges with hope in Christ. This coupled with the rich human experiences of our nation such as the Anzac event, through its many forms of expression, symbol and ritual

can assist us enormously in personal growth and understanding. Why is it that the suffering and death of young men in a lost battle can be seen as an event that is life giving? Why is it that their lives and war service can be seen as examples of faithfulness and virtue? Why is it that the death of an unnamed soldier can be viewed as a valuable element in the strong foundation of a new nation? Just asking the questions authentically, in the searching and questioning within our own personal situation, God is certainly present, his Grace abounds and new life is the result.

THE SACREDNESS OF ANZAC

ANZAC can be broadly described as sacred, even though it is a human event, as are all human events sacred. Why? Because God walks in and is a present to us through every human event within our imperfect world.

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The birth of Christ, His taking flesh and living amongst us is enduring and transformational. Christ lives with us and is immersed within our human condition, both good and evil.

Secondly ANZAC is sacred because human life is sacred. Each human being is precious in God's sight. The life and fate of each soldier who died at Gallipoli matters to God. The nobility, the courage, heroism, the selfless acts and mateship of each matters to God and indeed are graced by Him. The immense grief of loved ones for the dead matters, God grieves with them as does the communal mourning of a nation stripped of so many young lives, this matters to God. This Anzac Day citizens will march with both pride and honour. This will be seen on their faces, both young and old, gathered in unity of purpose. This matters and is sacred to God. The sacredness of each human life compelled God to

send his Son so that through his Death all may have life.

Each generation will find new meaning in the celebration of Anzac day. Many in our secular world focus entirely on human values which is very good in itself. The prism of faith will hopefully allow us a far deeper and richer understanding of the human condition in the person of Jesus as we ponder the significance of this Anzac event and deal resiliently with world events. In Christ's Death and Resurrection we have a source of hope that not only support us in those catastrophic events but can aide us greatly in the challenges of every day human existence. Ritual is sacred, for we Catholics the sacraments are the ultimate sacred ritual, the salvific events in which we find Christ.

The Holy Eucharist is our daily Bread, the seedbed for regular nourishment for life's journey, the source of life.

In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

John McCrae 1915



Holy Land Collection 2022

Every year on Good Friday, a collection is taken up in every Catholic church to support the people and places of the Holy Land.

The Franciscans of the Custody of the Holy Land have the unique responsibility of caring for the Holy Places as well as caring for the Christians living in the Holy Land – the 'ancient stones' of our Christian heritage and the 'living stones' of our present and future Christians.

The friars minister across several nations in conjunction with the Latin Patriarchate and other jurisdictions including the Greco-Melkite, Coptic, Maronite, Syrian, Chaldean and Armenian churches.

It is vital that we all care for the Christians living in the Holy Land in order to maintain a Christian presence in a land that is filled with a majority Islamic and Jewish population.

The annual Pontifical Good Friday Collection is applied to these projects, programs and more:

Faith, Memory and Culture – The Holy Places

Holy Land Franciscans staff and maintain the Holy Places and shrines. This enables those who live in the Holy Land and those who visit to deepen their faith and their

spiritual and cultural connection to Salvation history. Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, there has been a dramatic loss of income due to the closure of the shrines and the lack of pilgrims. However, the maintenance and care of the shrines has had to continue as well as supporting the local people whom they employ.

Social and Charitable Activities

In order to assist Christians to remain in the Holy Land, including the poor and young couples, the Custody builds hundreds of residential units. Additionally, they build senior care facilities. Medical assistance is provided for the needy. Due to the Pandemic, there has had a significantly greater demand for assistance while at the same time, a dramatic loss of income.

Educational and Scientific Activities

The Franciscans operate and support schools open to all, regardless of religion or nationality. They provide scholarships for students to prepare them to get jobs and remain in the Holy Land to be part of living Catholic communities. Funds are distributed



to young people studying to become priests or religious. Finally, Franciscan archaeologists pursue ongoing research at the Holy Places discovering historical artifacts.

Pastoral Activities

The Franciscans provide pastoral care in 29 parishes in the Holy Land offering Worship, Christian Formation, youth and family programs, as well as guided tours for pilgrims attending the shrines and holy places. With the closure of churches and shrines and the loss of pilgrims due to the Pandemic, pastoral care has needed to continue but with fewer resources.

Liturgical, Ecumenical and Communications Programs

The Franciscan Media Center tells the story of the Holy Land through multimedia distributed throughout the world in more than seven languages. The friars organize Liturgical Celebrations for the local Christians and Pilgrims and share with other Christian communities in the Holy Land in ongoing Ecumenical co-operation.

The Pontifical Good Friday Collection 2022 will continue to support the works of the Holy Land Custody through the generosity of the Australian Church.

To donate visit:

<http://holylandfranciscansaustralia.org/>

Archbishop Balvo takes up appointment as Apostolic Nuncio to Australia

Archbishop Charles Balvo has arrived as Pope Francis' ambassador to Australia in what the 70-year-old believes will be his final assignment after having already served 35 years in the Vatican's diplomatic service.

A native of Brooklyn, New York, Archbishop Balvo presented his credentials to the Governor-General of Australia on April 1 – the 17th anniversary of his first appointment as an Apostolic Nuncio, to New Zealand and the islands of the Pacific.

He has also served as papal ambassador to Kenya and South Sudan and, most recently, to the Czech Republic. He had held earlier diplomatic postings to Latin America, the Baltic States, Africa and the Middle East.

Archbishop Balvo said a visit to Rome last November to meet with Pope Francis had an unexpected outcome: He was to take up the Australian post vacated last year when Archbishop Adolfo Tito Yllana was named Apostolic Nuncio to Israel and to Cyprus as well as Apostolic Delegate to Jerusalem and Palestine.

Archbishop Balvo said the task of any Apostolic Nuncio is to be "the eyes, ears, hands, if you will, of the Holy Father, an extension of the Holy Father's Ministry, because the Holy Father has his concern for the Church, all aspects of its life".

Having served in New Zealand, Archbishop Balvo said he had visited Australia on a few occasions, including for a meeting of the bishops of Oceania and for World Youth Day 2008.

With his new appointment, he knows visiting the local Churches and meeting with the People of God will be the best way to get to know the bishops and the faithful.

"It's a question of being in personal contact and to understand in some way the life of the Church in the country to which you are sent," he said.

"That's how you see what are the conditions of the Church. You talk to people and let people talk to you."

Given that Australia is almost 100 times the size of the Czech Republic, Archbishop Balvo knows that getting to all 28 geographical dioceses won't be easy, but he's committed to doing that.

One of his first visits will be to the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, where he will spend time during Holy Week with Catholics who are still mourning the death of Bishop Bill Wright last November.

Archbishop Balvo spoke with Gavin

Abraham from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference soon after his arrival in Australia. Here is part of their conversation.

You've spent the last 17 years as an Apostolic Nuncio. Can you tell us a little bit about what the roles and the tasks of a papal nuncio are?

Essentially what a nuncio is, you are the eyes, ears, hands, if you will, of the Holy Father, an extension of the Holy Father's Ministry, because the Holy Father has his concern for the Church, for all aspects of its life.

It is that kind of a personal representation of what the Holy Father wants to be for the whole church. He can't be everywhere. Certainly, in the past, Pope John Paul and Pope Benedict and now Pope Francis travelled a great deal.

So many people have been able physically to see the Holy Father. Those are one-time events and, you know, New Zealand for example, the only visit was in 1986. That really almost is ancient history for many.

In some places, people really have a living sense or an active sense that "You are the Holy Father for us, you're his presence".

So that's the essence of our work to do that, to be able to communicate through what we say, in homilies and other things, some of the concerns of the Holy Father and then to keep him informed about how life is, both the life of the society and the Church in the places where we live.

We have certainly a lot of formal things as being an ambassador. You have functions in which you participate, Anzac Day for example, other things where you have these kinds of formal roles. But that really doesn't take a lot of our time. Most of our time is with the Church. So, in order to know it, you have to travel.

Depending on where I was, I am invited to celebrate Masses, to lead pilgrimages, to give talks, interviews. That's part of the work – to be able to communicate with people.

Probably the most important work that [Nuncios] do is we are the ones responsible for the process of gathering information and submitting it to the Holy Father for the appointment of bishops.

The bishops are the shepherds of



Archbishop Charles Balvo.

the local Church and it's certainly a challenging task. And it's one that has a certain level of confidentiality and a certain level of interest. You know, "who is going to be our next bishop?"

But that's an important work and it takes a lot of discernment and a lot of physical hard work. Certainly, it's much more a challenge just to try to identify, to discern the person who most likely would be the best or suitable for being the shepherd of the particular diocese. Here in Australia, there are some processes that are ongoing and there will be in the future as bishops reach 75 and offer their resignation to the Holy Father.

So that's an important – and one of the most important – duties that we have.

During your years serving in New Zealand and in the Pacific, you had some connection with Australia. Can you talk a little bit about the interaction you had with the Church in Australia during that time?

My first encounter with Australia was simply transiting through Sydney on my way to Wellington.

But there are two things. One is that there is, in the region, a federation [of bishops' conferences]. Here you have the FCBCO – the Federation of Catholic Bishops Conferences of Oceania: Australia, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, New Zealand and CEPAC (the Episcopal Conference of the Pacific).

And because there are just a few conferences, the practice has been to invite all the bishops. I found it very, very useful and I made some friendships. There were some bishops with whom I struck up conversations.

In 2010, the FCBCO was in Sydney. It was an opportunity to get to know and to meet and to see some experience of, at least the bishops, in Australia. So,

I certainly had some sense of the many challenges that they face in their ministry – some of them having very, very large territories in Western Australia or other places. So, it was a taste, if you will, of what the Church was like and some of the concerns that the bishops had.

The other was in 2008, when the World Youth Day took place. As a Nuncio, I don't have any direct responsibility – the bishop of the diocese will go with his group. When the [World Youth Day] was here in Sydney, being not so far away, only three hours or so of flight time, I went with a group on one of the flights from Wellington. There were about 4000 pilgrims that came over from New Zealand.

I was a bit of a free agent in that sense and so I registered to give the catechesis. The English language group being so large, we went to different places. So that was a real encounter being almost a week in Sydney and participating in the catechesis. That was a good opportunity for me to meet many more of the bishops.

Pope Francis told you of your impending appointment late last year. You had important work to complete in the Czech Republic, but what were you expecting you might find within the Church in Australia?

My preparation was more generic, because we had quite a few things to finish, including a bishop's appointment.

But I did know, although I didn't know a lot about it, that there had been the [first assembly of the] Plenary Council that took place in October, which I discovered afterwards.

To be frank, I knew that the Church here was really hard hit by the sex abuse crisis. Coming originally from the United

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States, it was also a big problem. And it was felt at the beginning, it was just very localised. But in fact, it's a problem that the Church has faced everywhere.

So, I knew that here you had had the royal commission. I don't know a lot of the details still, and there's now a lot of building confidence. How do you apologise for such a thing in an adequate way that people are able to trust you once again?

Personally speaking, I was going around for a lot of Masses in the Czech Republic, and you have a lot of altar servers – adolescents and teenagers – and you wonder: do they trust us?

So, I know that just generally speaking, that it would be an issue here. How does the Church rebuild itself? How do you regain people's confidence? It's not something that I alone have to deal with, but it's something that the Church as a whole does.

How will you spend the next few months to try and better understand the life of the Church in Australia?

There will be two institutional events, which will be the meeting of the Bishops Conference in May and then the meeting of the Plenary Council in July. So, there you have concentrated moments, but then certainly to travel, to go around.

Next week, I volunteered for the Holy Week Triduum to go where I am useful. Of course, I could always celebrate in a small group in the chapel at the Nunciature, but having had the experience of celebrating in parishes, and I know the importance of the Triduum to the life of the Church and particularly, for me personally, the Easter Vigil I feel is the most beautiful liturgy in the whole year.

I thought, well, where can I go? So, I made contact, since in Maitland-Newcastle there is no bishop, they said "You would be welcome." So that's a start.

Bishop Foley from Cairns has invited

me; I said yes, I'd like to go. So little by little. Now it's possible to travel throughout the country to do that. That's how you see, what are the conditions of the Church. You talk to people and let people talk to you.

I know that when the nuncio arrives, they think "This big man is coming", and in all these places they prepare the best. Anyone, if you have a guest, you want to show the best. If you bring somebody home, you don't want to bring to the worst room in your house; you want to give them the best. I'm aware of the fact that sometimes you can think that this is the whole situation at this particular one big Mass that you're invited to celebrate.

This is an opportunity to see the conditions in which people are living and to listen to people. So, my plan is to do that as much as I can do to visit different parts of the country. I've only touched a minimal part of Australia on these past occasions I've had to come.

Even when I was in the Czech Republic and Prague, some people would say "Would you really come to our little parish?" and I did. It doesn't matter how many people are there. It's a question of being the personal contact and to understand in some way the life of the Church in the country to which you are sent.

So, it is my intention to do that and to travel as much as possible, not to be on the road all the time. We actually have work to do, office work. But to do that, that's important. Generically speaking, it's my intention to travel and go to see all the dioceses, if that's possible – not to see every corner of every diocese, that isn't even possible in a small country.

I will be 71 in June. So, the number of years that I will be here will be not as many as others perhaps. But God willing, and if God continues to give me good health, I really look forward to it.

You're an American yourself. You served in New Zealand and the Pacific. You served in Africa.

You served in Europe and now in Australia. What has that shown you about the universality of the Church?

In my life I've been very privileged in that sense. Even before I was in West Africa, I was in Latin America. I was in Jordan, in the Middle East. I was there in the Czech Republic once. I spent time in the Baltic States. And when I was in Chile, I had a unique experience, which was to travel on a Chilean icebreaker to Antarctica and to celebrate Mass even there in a chapel at one of the bases.

I thought I would spend my whole life just working in the tiny little Archdiocese of New York. But then I've managed to see a great deal of the world.

It's one of the things that you see, all the different ways that the Church lives. The most uniting aspect, of course, is the Mass, the Eucharist, which we are all celebrating and in different ways – a European Western tradition, the African traditions, the Pacific Islands – there are different ways in which the liturgy is celebrated.

You've heard the use of the term inculturation, which in some ways, can be just a window dressing. But other places it really is very much a reflection of and involvement in the way in which people live their lives and understand the faith.

I have found it really to be a blessing for my life to see the fact that all over the world, you are united in our faith together. It's something that is very important.

Czechoslovakia was one of the worst situations for the Catholic Church in Eastern Europe as far as persecution was concerned. When I was a student in primary and secondary school, Catholic schools, in New York, we were always praying for the Church in these countries, in Poland and Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

So, when I was [in the Czech Republic], I could say "when I was a child, we prayed for you".

There is this union of the Church

that those who have more freedom will pray for those who do not. We have that sense of unity which will overcome so many, many difficulties. There are other countries in the world right now where practice of religious faith is very difficult or impeded in some way.

I think [universality] is a very, very strong value because sometimes churches can become very national in the sense that they're very much identified with their country, which in a way is certainly natural. You know, we are Australian, American or Czech, and we relate to where the Church is, whatever history of the place in which we live. But we are also free from that. We have the ability to step back and see how the life of where we are living can be better.

The Church can be prophetic and speak to issues, which I think is one thing of having a universal Church and not one tied just to one place.

But as I said, the most uniting thing is that we are together praying in the liturgy, listening to the Word of God and sharing the Eucharist.

How can the Church respond to the needs of the faithful and the wider society?

One of the things that people have always appreciated about the Church in different places is a life of service – how much they do. In some of the places where I've lived, like in Africa, in Kenya or even more in South Sudan, that education, health care, so much of this is through the Catholic Church, through the sacrifice especially of religious men and women.

So, I think that's one of the ways in which we can help overcome some of the difficulties that we have faced, especially with trying to regain people's credibility, is through service, how we can serve those who are most in need, the marginalised and really dedicate ourselves to that.

And, of course, the life of prayer, the life of worship. That's important.

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Celebrating 200 years of Catholic Mission

Catholic Mission began with the vision of one woman. 2022 is special year for us as it marks significant anniversaries in our history.

Two-hundred years ago, a young Frenchwoman, Pauline Jaricot, had the vision of an international network of prayer and support for the work of mission. From the commitment of this one woman, the global mission of the Church found sustenance and support. In May 2022 Pauline Jaricot's beatification will take place, a key milestone on the journey towards being recognised as a saint.

What is it about young women who have a fire lit deep within them? Young women who want to respond to the needs of the world and the people around them? And because they embody the inspiration that drives them, they don't give up, and they really do change the world.

This young woman could be Greta Thunberg, who has challenged world leaders to act on climate change or it could be Pauline Jaricot, who in the turmoil of 19th century France began a worldwide movement to free people from harsh circumstances and lead them to a spirituality that gave them hope.

In the language of today, Pauline became an enlightened businesswoman and property owner; agent of change and transformation; social entrepreneur;

fundraising genius; spiritual writer; a spiritual mother who broke new ground; philanthropist; recruitment agent; a woman of great faith and action, love, and devotion.

Pauline Jaricot (1799–1862) was born into a family engaged in the fashion industry. Her father owned a silk factory. She was set for a comfortable life but gave all that up to connect with those whose lives were marked by struggle, founding organisations that have survived to this day. Her vocation took shape in France at a time when workers were subjected to unjust practices, and the society she lived in was experiencing a turning away from the spiritual.

Historian John H. Armstrong describes a moment of enlightenment that Pauline is reported to have experienced during a time of reflection and contemplation which helped her understand the direction she needed to take: "One lamp was empty, the other overflowing. The empty lamp represented France as a dying culture in the wake of the French Revolution. It revealed, to Pauline's understanding, the nominal Catholicism of her age. She understood the second lamp to represent the faith of newer



Pauline Jaricot.

Christians in faraway mission places. She prayed that their piety and faith would spill back over her homeland, thus enriching the lives of believers in France."

The symbol of the two lamps became a seminal moment of her understanding of mission. That by reaching out to others with the Gospel message the initiator would in turn be renewed by the life and energy

generated but also by seeing the Gospel with new eyes. The work of mission over the centuries has, in addition, taught us the richness of receiving the Gospel through the cultural lens of the faraway mission places.

Realising God's vision for our world

Today, Pauline Jaricot is known as the founder of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith as well as of the Association of the Living Rosary and other great works of charity.

A century after the founding of the Propagation of the Faith, Pope Pius XI elevated its status to a pontifical society in 1922, and thus a universal mission under the direction of the Holy Father.

Pauline founded the Association of the Living Rosary in 1826 because she wanted to reach out to others through prayer, connecting with all classes in society and spreading the Gospel through meditation on the mysteries of the rosary. Pauline saw the groups of the Living Rosary as a large spiritual family.

Pauline demonstrated incredible tenacity in her work to overcome resistance from within the system.

In 1826, when Pauline's missionary work flourished, some of her collaborators whom she trusted tried to suppress the Living Rosary out of fear that its success



CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

would decrease their financial collections. Through dialogue and interaction, Pauline eventually won their wholehearted support.

When her creative fundraising strategy produced the first fruits for the Society of the Propagation of the Faith, it triggered resistance at parish level. She was accused by the parish priest of beginning non-authorised work in Lyon, and this attitude against her was also adopted by other parishes.

Pauline, being a savvy, innovative and assertive young missionary at the time, ensured that common sense prevailed. Instead of disbanding her organisation, as demanded, she expanded it.

The spiritual journey of Pauline Jaricot challenges our concepts of evangelisation, parish ministry, and our notions, wherever we are, to respond to the call of becoming disciples. It is also about the issue of women's spirituality, in particular the spirituality and zeal of young, creative, visionary women like Pauline.

Celebrating women of great faith and action

In 2022, Catholic Mission will celebrate Pauline Jaricot's beatification, a key

milestone on the journey towards being recognised as a saint.

As a young, faith-filled lay woman her desire was to support missionaries around the world, leading to the founding of the first Pontifical Mission Society, and the cornerstone for the work of Catholic Mission.

To celebrate this momentous occasion, Catholic Mission has launched its first appeal for 2022, focusing on supporting the education and formational training of novice missionaries, sharing the story of another faith-filled woman, novice Saren Teresa, who is following her calling to become a Salesian Sister to serve those in need.

"Originally from a Buddhist family, Teresa was introduced to Catholicism and the Salesian Sisters at high school," says Catholic Mission's National Director, Fr Brian Lucas.

"Seeing how they cared for her and the local community, Teresa desired to know more about their work, and felt that she was being called to join the sisters in their mission."

As part of her time as a novice, Teresa has been working to support those in most need through teaching reading and writing to children from disadvantaged backgrounds and collecting and distributing food packs

to families in need through the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Just like Pauline Jaricot, Teresa is a woman of great faith and action, and we are asking supporters to help Teresa and novices like her in this appeal," says Fr Brian.

As a young woman committing her life to God and serving others in need, Teresa is following in the footsteps of many women around the world.

In dedicating their lives to serving those in need, novices like Teresa must undergo several years of education, spiritual formation, and practical service to prepare them for their profession.

Sister Gertrudes Ditching FMA, Provincial for the Salesian Sisters in Cambodia and Myanmar, shares the challenges that sisters and novices like Teresa face, more so under ongoing pandemic restrictions.

"The COVID-19 pandemic prevented the sisters from doing house visitation of the families of the children they teach," says Sr Gertrudes.

"Classes have to be done online, catechesis in the parish is suspended for the time being but little by little online catechesis is being done. Encounters with various members of the education community had to be restricted to a small



Saren Teresa.

number."

"Even the formative journey of the novices has been greatly affected by this pandemic."

Teresa remains determined to follow her call to become a religious leader, committing her life to God and serving others in need.

"You must not be afraid in answering the call of Jesus to share your life with the people who need your help," she says.

Teresa is one of many women around the world who will make an impact for those in most need as religious sisters or missionaries.

Mission partners respond to Ukraine crisis

Catholic Mission is responding to an urgent call for help from its mission partners in Poland and Romania, who are desperately trying to comfort and support refugees fleeing across the border from Ukraine.

As the Australian agency of the worldwide network of the Pontifical Mission Societies, Catholic Mission will gratefully receive any contributions and will work with counterparts in Ukraine, Poland, and other European countries to provide support where needed, says Catholic Mission National Director, Fr Brian Lucas.

"The ongoing prayer and material support for those affected by these tragic circumstances is an expression of the solidarity of the universal church as we reach out to bring hope and give life to those so much in need," says Fr Brian.

In Romania, local parishioners are providing emergency relief and pastoral support, amid an unfolding humanitarian crisis, says Fr Eugen Blaj, National Director of the PMS in Romania.

"The majority are women with children,

trying to save their life from the war," he says.

The refugee centres are crowded, and the services basic, and local parishioners are doing what they can to provide mattresses, bedsheets, pillows, and food, as well as nappies and basic sanitary items, says Fr Eugen.

In an email he sent to Fr Lucas last Friday he said, "If you can help a bit, maybe with a donation, it will be very helpful."

Fr Eugen says families are torn apart, speaking of a mother who arrived with her small children and grandmother, seeking a place to sleep.

"I asked about her husband," Fr Eugen says.

"With tears in her eyes, she told me that the men from 18 years above are taken in the war, and maybe their house is destroyed."



In Romania, Catholic Mission partners provide emergency relief and pastoral support, amid the unfolding humanitarian crisis.

"It is a lot of pain (for the refugees), if you ask them something, they start to cry," he says.

In Poland, they are receiving refugees in their local parishes and at the PMS chapel they pray for world peace. Grateful, also for the generous support from Australia.

"This shows that the PMS are one big family, a missionary family," says Fr Maciej Bedzinski, National Director PMS in Poland.

For more information and to support visit:
www.catholicmission.org.au/ukraine



Centacare South West NSW: 31 years young - Est 1991

Centacare South West NSW is a social service agency for the Catholic Church within the Diocese of Wagga Wagga.

We have offices in Wagga, Mulwala, Albury and Griffith, and we were established with a strong foundation which ensured the building blocks for a strong future. AT CENTACARE, WE BELIEVE IN WELLBEING FOR ALL.

We exist to make a positive difference in people's lives. Through our services and programs we strive for all those we serve to better connect and support them in the community so they feel more empowered in their life.

Our History: Although other Diocese's in more metropolitan areas had an already functioning social service agency, Regional NSW, in particular the Diocese of Wagga Wagga did not, and there was a need. A small committee gathered to look at beginning a Centacare in the diocese which was made up of Father John Shanahan, Mrs. Judy Dempsey, Mrs. Kerry Brettell, some parishioners, as well as Sister Margaret Hart who was one of the first 'employees/stipend positions' to provide counselling within our primary schools.

Kerry Brettell, now a Senior Lecturer at Australian Catholic University remembers, "there was this growing recognition amongst us that as a Diocese, the focus was increasingly being placed on the prayer/sin/salvation aspects of our faith tradition and the pastoral element of our responsibility to each other and engagement with the world, active caring (the healing mission of Jesus

in action) and especially for those who were disadvantaged in the community, was being neglected".

The committee was dedicated and had a vision of the Church reaching out to those in need with quality, relevant and professional services to those living in regional/rural NSW.

CEO, Annemaree Binger reflects, "I'm so fortunate to have known some of the founders of this great organisation. The work we do was built on their vision and now that of Bishop Mark Edwards. Along with a supportive Chairperson, Jennifer Hand and Board, Centacare now operates across the South West Region with offices located in Griffith, Mulwala, Albury and Wagga Wagga. We provide NDIS support, Counselling, Parental and Relationship education and psychology services for children through to adults".

Centacare's philosophy is that everyone deserves a better sense of wellbeing whatever their religion, culture, relationship status, skin colour, age and abilities.

We do this by supporting vulnerable members of the community through counselling & support groups, educational courses and services covering a wide-range of needs within our community. We are there for you when you need us most.

Our Board: Bishop Mark Edwards (Member), Jennifer Hand (Chairperson), Dennis Purcell (Treasurer), Sophie



Moloney, Sarah Ansell, Annemaree Binger (CEO).

Our Vision: As a Centre of Excellence serving vulnerable members of the community.

Our Purpose: We advocate for, support, and service vulnerable members of our community. We do this by: * Providing services that are flexible and responsive to the needs of our communities. * Building strong connections and partnerships. * Empowering individuals to create change for the better. * Creating resilient communities by giving all people a voice.

What We Offer: At Centacare we aim to make a positive difference in people's lives. Our NDIS, psychology and counselling services, and our educational programs are there to connect and support people who live in our communities, empowering individuals and families to create change for the better.

If you or someone you know requires

some counselling or any other service we offer please contact us today on 1300 619 379 or go to our website for facts sheets and more information about our services and courses.



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Forward to the Second Plenary Council Assembly

The 280 Plenary Council (PC) Members have just taken another major step towards the Second Assembly in Sydney on 3-9 July.

BY JOHN WARHURST

On 28 February, the PC authorities published ***Towards the Second Assembly: A Working Document for Members***. They also advised Members on how to approach their task of discernment, asking us to respond by 4 April. Feedback and input from Members, said Bishop Shane Mackinlay, Vice-President of the Council, was critical, but that, in revising the document, 'important contributions' would also be made by 'various committees and advisors'.

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference will consider the revised document at its May meeting, after responses by Members are considered by the Drafting Committee. The final resolutions for the Second Assembly will then be released publicly at the beginning of June for public discussion.

Towards the Second Assembly comes a long way under the guidance of the four writing groups, whose membership has not been made public. Though it is a mixed bag, it is probably the best document emerging from the Plenary Council, making it frustrating that it is not in the public domain yet.

The document is addressed to the Members alone and they have been discouraged from making it more widely available. For this six months the discernment and discussion will be private.

Towards the Second Assembly has four sections: Communion, Diversity and Participation; Ecclesial Leadership and Governance; Missionary Disciples in the World; and Reconciliation, Compassion for the Wounded and Care for our Common Home.

Each section includes general context and theological background, concrete proposals, and recommendations for further deliberation. The whole document is just thirty well-spaced pages. The prime resource was the *Fruits* document, which attempted to capture the movement of the first assembly. The writing teams have done quite well though there is unnecessary overlap between the sections.

Strengths include proposals for those aspects on which the views of the First Assembly were quite clear. These include (Section A.1) supporting and acting upon the recommendations by the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Commission (NATSICC). But the same writing group (Section A.3) has produced a much weaker section on inclusiveness.

Section B on church leadership and governance contains the same mixture of strengths and weaknesses. The section on 'The Practice of Synodality' (B.2) makes strong suggestions about diocesan synods, diocesan pastoral councils, parish pastoral councils and on implementing *The Light from the*

Southern Cross report. It also proposes an innovative National Catholic Synodal Leadership Council.

However, the very next section (B.3) on 'Women and the Church' is overly cautious, despite partially taking up the cause of women deacons. It repeats without apology that it is 20 years with little action since the Church's Women and Man report.

Section C includes some wise analysis on formation and culture. But C.2 makes the mistake, while recognising positive values in Australian culture, that the Church must learn from these values 'in order to restore lost credibility'. *The Light from the Southern Cross* report made clear that acceptance of the best secular values is not just about restoring lost credibility but is the right thing to do!

C.2 also rightly emphasises the value of listening, but lumps together of a range of people who 'feel' marginalised by the Church. The Church must recognise that it does marginalise many groups and it is not just a case of the feelings of such groups.



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Crisis in Ukraine escalates with more than 10 million displaced

The humanitarian crisis in Ukraine continues to escalate, with more than 10 million people – nearly a quarter of Ukraine's population – now displaced.

Donetska and Luhanska Oblasts are the current epicentres of the unfolding humanitarian emergency, with reports of food warehouses being attacked. Fuel shortages and the scarcity of available drivers and trucks has made transporting food around the country increasingly difficult, and major ports, railways and airports have also been impacted by fighting.

The humanitarian situation in the city of Chernihiv is rapidly deteriorating, with relentless shelling leaving as many as 130,000 people without electricity, heating and gas. Drinking water is running low across the encircled city, prompting local authorities to impose restrictions on the distribution of drinking water to prevent shortages.

A number of hospitals, health facilities and residential areas in Ukraine have also been targeted, and this will have devastating impacts on some of the most vulnerable communities. It is already having dire consequences for the elderly and those living with disabilities, many of whom are trapped in their homes, with limited access to essential health care.

Caritas Ukraine and other Caritas agencies in neighbouring countries are continuing to provide urgent support to displaced people on the ground. With your support, Caritas Ukraine has assisted more than 318,252 people since the conflict began.

Ilyyena's story

According to the UN, more than 4 million Ukrainians have now fled to neighbouring



Ilyyena and her baby. Photo by Caritas Ukraine.

countries, including Poland, Moldova and Romania.

When the first bombs fell on the city of Kharkiv in north-east Ukraine, 23-year-old Ilyyena, her husband Andrei and their 9-month-old son Bagdan fled to a crowded metro station. They were hoping to take a train to Lviv in western Ukraine, but it was impossible to get a seat.

Desperate to leave the city, they decided to drive to the border, but they had left their car in front of their house - six metro stations away. It was dark, public transport was not running and there was a curfew imposed across the city. So, they had to walk along the tracks of the underground metro tunnel for hours until they reached their home.

It took them six days to drive to the Polish border and they had to find a new place to sleep every night. After they crossed the border, volunteers from Caritas Poland helped Ilyyena access a sheltered room for mothers and children, where she can access the necessities she needs to care for Bagdan.

Ilyyena and her baby are now safe, but they had to say goodbye to Andrej, who had to stay behind as most Ukrainian men aged 18 to 60 cannot leave the country.

Caritas Ukraine and Caritas agencies in neighbouring countries are on the ground supporting displaced people with emergency food, water, shelter and hygiene support. Donate now to help the people of Ukraine during this humanitarian emergency.

**Donations can be made at:
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Project of the Month: April

This month please help with media support in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

For almost 30 years now the Assumptionist Fathers in the diocese of Butembo-Beni, in the East of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, have been exercising a fruitful media apostolate.

In particular, the Catholic radio station they have set up, "Radio Moto Oicha," is proving a vital instrument of evangelization, information and communication in a region that has been plagued for many years by bloody internal conflicts. According to human rights organisations, the current crisis in the eastern DR Congo is the longest-running humanitarian crisis in all of Africa. It is estimated to have resulted in 3 million internal refugees, thousands of deaths and at least 7500 abductions. There are repeated massacres and other atrocities. Many schools and health centres have been destroyed and churches burned down. And many villages are now cut off from the outside world.

The radio station, whose name means "Radio Rising Sun" (or "Light of the Rising Sun") can reach around 1 million listeners, including those in areas that are otherwise inaccessible, yet where people also need spiritual nourishment, enlightenment and support. Thanks to its broadcasts they are now able to take part in Holy Mass and other liturgies, keep informed, find comfort in the Word of God and be guided towards love, peace and reconciliation.

For so many of its listeners, "Radio Moto Oicha" is now an indispensable part of daily life. However, there are technical problems with the transmitter, with the result that often it cannot broadcast for days on end. Besides, additional equipment is also needed, such as laptops and microphones, and a few recording devices for recording programmes outside of the studio.

We are proposing to make a



contribution of 10,600 AUD so that Radio Moto Oicha can continue to bring consolation and the news that is truly Good News to all the people in this region of conflict.

Can you help provide technical equipment for a Catholic radio station in the Democratic Republic of the Congo?

To help ACN fund projects like this visit:
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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**.

Photos © Irmel Martínez Sánchez / ACN



"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.

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Xavier High School – Term 1, 2022

It has been a fantastic start to the year for our school in 2022. In my second year here at Xavier High School it has been a privilege to continue on the great work of Ed Brown as Leader of Faith Formation and Mission.

BY HEATH NEVILLE - Director of Faith Formation and Mission - Xavier High School, Albury

Xavier is a proud school that is growing in numbers and accomplishments. We welcomed over 187 new Year 7 students this year. This combined with approximately 100 new students across the year levels, contributes to an amazing 858 students currently attending Xavier.

It is exciting times as we move back towards a normal school environment with the ease of restrictions and a break from online learning. Xavier High School, endeavoured to take every opportunity to return to this normal state of faith formation for our students and we did this by running the Yr 12 Retreat, Yr 7 Camp/retreat, Project Compassion launch, Catholic Schools Week, Opening Mass in our new St Francis Xavier Centre and hosting St Anne's in a collaborative Stations of the Cross performance to finalise the term.

The Year 12 Retreat took part in week 2 of Term 1 at Greenhills Centre, Canberra. The theme was 'RISE' and the year

group took part in a variety of activities that allowed them to reflect on their past, present and future faith journey as part of the Xavier Community. A highlight was the Mass they ran at sunset in the hills of the retreat centre that many students proclaimed was the pinnacle of the retreat.

The Year 7 camp involved over 230 students, which included Yr 10 leaders who were exceptional in mentoring and facilitating activities for the Yr 7's. The theme for this camp was 'belong' with a focus on the 5 C's of Xavier. The camp was a huge success and a highlight once again was the presence of Fr Martin with the Mass and the inclusion of Aboriginal spirituality through music and welcoming leadership of Darren Wighton.

Catholic Schools Week was then celebrated in style at Xavier with a huge week of events. It began with Shrove Tuesday, Twilight Tours led by students, Ash Wednesday Liturgies across 8 houses, launch of Project Compassion



Gavin Dykes, Principal of Xavier High School with Dr Andrew Watson, Director of Catholic Education for the Diocese of Wagga outside the St Francis Xavier Centre.



Year 7 Camp.



Shrove Tuesday.



Above: Opening Mass Below: Year 12 Retreat.



and lunchtime Music in the Quad to celebrate the skills and gifts of our students! It is all about celebrating who we are as a Catholic School and the proud nature in which we conduct ourselves as a learning community of faith.

It is these opportunities and events that see our students continue to grow in their understanding of what it means to go to Xavier, and to thrive as

Courageous, Challenged, Collaborative, Compassionate and Christ-like members of our faith community.

We look forward to keeping you up to date with our future experiences. You can always follow us on social media to see what we are up to. Please be in contact with the school for any feedback or suggestions on how we can continue to live mercy in our community.

The Red Hand Files

Nick responds to the following question:

Following the last few years I'm feeling empty and more cynical than ever. I'm losing faith in other people, and I'm scared to pass these feelings to my little son. Do you still believe in Us (human beings)?

Valerio, Stockholm (and Rome), Sweden (and Italy), Jerusalem Israel

BY NICK CAVE

Originally published online at theredhandfiles.com

Dear Valerio,

You are right to be worried about your growing feelings of cynicism and you need to take action to protect yourself and those around you, especially your child. Cynicism is not a neutral position — and although it asks almost nothing of us, it is highly infectious and unbelievably destructive. In my view, it is the most common and easy of evils.

I know this because much of my early life was spent holding the world and the people in it in contempt. It was a position both seductive and indulgent. The truth is, I was young and had no idea what was coming down the line. I lacked the knowledge, the foresight, the self-

awareness. I just didn't know. It took a devastation to teach me the preciousness of life and the essential goodness of people. It took a devastation to reveal the precariousness of the world, of its very soul, to understand that it was crying out for help. It took a devastation to understand the idea of mortal value, and it took a devastation to find hope.

Unlike cynicism, hopefulness is hard-earned, makes demands upon us, and can often feel like the most indefensible and lonely place on Earth. Hopefulness is not a neutral position either. It is adversarial. It is the warrior emotion that can lay waste to cynicism. Each redemptive or loving act, as small as you like,



Image by Philip Guston

Valerio, such as reading to your little boy, or showing him a thing you love, or singing him a song, or putting on his shoes, keeps the devil down in the hole. It says the world and its inhabitants have value and are worth defending. It says the world is worth believing in. In time, we come to find that it is so.

Love, Nick

On a path of the Resurrection

Fr Mark Whybrow caught up with Nabiha Koriarty to talk about the ongoing hardship of people in Lebanon after a massive explosion killed and injured many.

BY FR MARK WHYBROW

Dear Brothers and Sister in Christ,

I write this article as the Glory of Christ's Resurrection rapidly draws closer, as we look forward to celebrating this mystery at Easter. First, however: the Cross of Christ - an apparent disaster. This is the lens in which we are called to see all the disasters that are happening in the world and the Church today: through the Cross and the glorious Resurrection of Christ. This is what makes us rise above wallowing in sadness and despair or stooping to exploit others in their misfortunes or frantically seeking the next passing pleasure as our "comfort food." This is what elevates our minds from worldly things to heavenly glory; from being merely citizens of this world to being Citizens of Heaven (c.f. Philipians 3:18-21).

A friend of mine, Nabiha Koriarty, puts it this way: "We are human people and we care about our earthly citizenship, but that's only the temporary one. We need to remember our heavenly citizenship, because that's the permanent one." What responsibilities do we, as the

Citizens of Heaven, share towards those suffering disaster? Prayer, fasting and alms-giving are always the main ways and remembering the "least" of our brothers and sisters (c.f. Matthew 25). Pope Francis has organised a day of prayer and fasting for a lot of tragedies. He has also reminded us that our good will needs to translate into "concrete gestures, not just words." He spoke in this way for the people of Lebanon on 4 August 2021, the first anniversary of the massive explosion in Beirut, and he continued to say: that donors should help Lebanon "on a path of resurrection." So the Holy Father has helped us to respond to the disasters of our time with prayer, fasting and alms-giving.

None of us should forget, how 274 tonnes of ammonium nitrate exploded in a warehouse at Beirut's port, how it destroyed the port and half the city, including half the medical facilities and 163 schools, killed 219 people, injured 7,000, permanently disabled hundreds of people and displaced 300,000 people. Then their Government collapsed and



The latest edition of Nabiha Koriarty's book promises a delicious serving of Lebanese food and life advice straight from the proud author's heart. Picture: Les Smith

there was a void for 13 months. Now, there is still only one or two hours of electricity provided per day. Businesses, from bakeries to banks, find it almost impossible to function like this. Food, clean water, fuel and medical supplies are all in demand. The Lebanese Pound has lost 90% of its value, so what is available is enormously expensive. How can we help in "concrete gestures?"

I have been asked to write this article for a Lebanese friend and for her family. She is also a friend to many of the people of Wagga Wagga: Nabiha Koriarty, from Nabiha's Kitchen. She would like people to know that all of

the proceeds from the sale of her book, *Lebanese Recipe - Recipe of My Life*, are going directly back to Lebanon to help her many family members. It is \$40 a copy and can be purchased at Nabiha's Kitchen, the shop in the arcade, 115 Baylis Street, Wagga Wagga: 02) 69217813. I testify that it makes an uplifting gift for family and friends. By purchasing a copy of her book, we not only remember Nabiha's family with this "concrete gesture," we also remember that we belong to a much greater family: that we are Citizens of Heaven. **Our Lady of Lebanon and Queen of Heaven, pray for us!**

Spirituality Day for Women

14 May 2022 - REGISTER NOW



The 9th Diocesan Spirituality Day for Women is fast approaching.

When

Saturday, 14th May, 9.00am – 3.30pm

Where

Kildare Catholic College Hall,
Coleman St, Wagga Wagga

What

Who Is My Neighbour?
Let Us Dream, Let Us Weave A New Path

Cost

Donation (morning tea and lunch supplied)

Register

At Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/spirituality-day-for-women-tickets-275424812027>

The day is a time to reflect, reconnect, to explore ways to build a better world, to dream of what could be. The Day will reflect on Pope Francis' encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, encouraging sisters and brothers, and all creation, to work together in solidarity and friendship to build a better, more just and peaceful world. Pope Francis speaks of *inspiring solidarity, creating harmony and uniting to share the liberating love of God*. Let's be re-awakened to this Love.

We have two outstanding speakers, Dr Michele Connolly and Dr Cristina Lledo Gomez. Michele is a sister of St Joseph of Lochinvar in the Hunter Valley.

She is an Associate Professor of Biblical Studies, and Biblical Studies and Discipline Coordinator at the Sydney College of Divinity and lectures in Biblical Studies at the Catholic Institute of Sydney. After teaching in secondary schools, Michele studied theology, graduating with a PhD from GTU, Berkeley, CA. Michele speaks regularly around Australia at conferences on the Scriptures. Michele's principal area of interest is the Gospel of Mark.

Cristina is a Catholic Systematic Theologian and the Presentation Sisters Lecturer at BBI-The Australian Institute of Theological Education (TAITE.) She is also a Religion and Society Research Fellow at Charles Sturt University's Public and Contextual Theology Research Centre. Her role at BBI-TAITE is directed toward promoting women's spiritualities, feminist theologies, and eco-theologies. Cristina is mother to Julian and Sophia, and wife to Adrian, a high school teacher, permanent deacon, and chaplain of the Australian Navy.

Register at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/spirituality-day-for-women-tickets-275424812027>

or by contacting:

Anne Brown

spiritweaverswagga@gmail.com

or phone 0499 425 970

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

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

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

Holy Spirit Parish Annual Bush Dance

With the GMO Bush Band

Date: Saturday 30 April, from 7 pm.

Where: Holy Spirit Parish Hall, Mutsch Street, Lavington

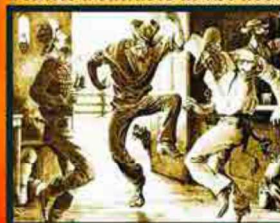
What: Bush-dancing, games, prizes, etc.

BYO: Supper, drinks; coffee/tea provided.

Entry: \$10 per person, or \$25 per family.

More info: Phone (02) 6025 1784

Tickets available at the door.



All proceeds go to
Esencia Life Centre
(Lavington)



Opening Mass 2022

The Opening Mass of the academic year of 2022 for Saint John Vianney College Seminary was held on Thursday the 17th of February and was celebrated by Bishop Mark, our new Rector and Vice-Rector Fr. Rick Micallef and Fr. Bradley Rafter, as well as our newly appointed Spiritual Director Fr. John Baptist Pham Van Vuong.

The Mass was attended by the seminarians of Vianney College, the Serra Club and various other parishioners who came to participate in the Opening Mass.

Bishop Mark preached on the importance of the seminary as the foundation of both the priests and the diocese. Without the seminary, Bishop Mark said, the education of new priests and those seeking to discern their vocation would be much harder. Bishop Mark also reminded both the Rector and Vice-Rector of the importance of their

positions both as mentors and formators of the young men at the seminary.

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L-R: Fr Bradley Rafter, Fr John Baptist, Bishop Mark and Fr Rick Micallef after the Opening Mass.

Lieutenant-Colonel Father Damian: A man serving two armies

As part of our new program of formation here at Vianney College, we now have a day set apart from our usual studies specifically for formation, which is dedicated to the practical component of priestly life.

On the 17th of February we were lucky to have Father Damian Styles from the Australian Military Ordinariate, a special military branch of the Catholic Church in Australia, come and share his story.

The students at the seminary were looking forward to hearing his perspective. Father Damian was a country boy who hailed from the town of Ararat, with interests in AFL and rugby league. He was a young lad who didn't always agree with the teachers at school (something some of us can relate to!). Anyway, he was a man with a strong faith and had an interest in the army. At the age of seventeen he enlisted. He was trained, but he felt he had another calling and that was to become a Catholic Priest.

As he progressed through his studies, he felt God was calling him to serve in the Australian army, as an army Chaplain. Subsequently, he was ordained into the



Fr. Damian Styles pictured with the Rector, Vice-Rector and Seminarians.

Australian Military Ordinariate.

A man serving two armies! This appointment from God has led to many adventures and there is one which stuck in my mind that Father Damian shared with us. Father was deployed in Afghanistan, and on this occasion, Father was saying Mass, when rocket fire began, striking the front of the Church.

Now, what do you think he does next? Well, he keeps saying Mass of course! This example showed Father's

great faith and trust in God. We can learn from him to stay focused on God amid our own difficulties. We learn to turn to Him in prayer, since we sometimes face situations in life, where it seems too much for us, but it is not so for God. Thus, if we learn to trust God more, through the example given to us by Father Damian, then we truly learn His power.

God bless you Father Damian and from everyone here at the seminary, we wish you well.

A Treacherous Journey: The Wagga seminarians' trip to Mount Buffalo

Desperate for some bonding time, our Wagga seminarians had been attempting for 2 years to conquer an absolute beast of a structure located a few hours from Melbourne in the Australian Alps, Mount Buffalo.

Previously, they had been prevented by all sorts of obstacles such as assignments, general busyness and an entire global pandemic.

However, on the 2nd of April 2022, it all came together. Clearance was obtained and sponsorship for supplied KFC and Dominos was found. They took off that Saturday morning, excited yet unaware of the adventures they were about to have.

Equipped with unicorn rice bubble cereal bars, mountain blast Powerade and an entire survival kit in case they got lost, they drove all the way up the mountain through many winding roads, attempting to avoid the crowd of cyclists and Melbourne hipsters who had schlepped on over to the Buffalo that day

for a special 100km marathon.

Once the stomach-churning drive was over, the trek up the mountain to a place called 'the Horn' began. It was 20 minutes of solid slogging. Upon reaching the summit, the seminarians, not getting out too much, learned what wind, cold and ice felt like all at once. Faces froze, jaws began to tighten and one seminarian, upon opening his jacket practically took flight as another had his unicorn cereal bar wrapper torn out of his hand and taken up above by the raging gale-force winds.

Before too long, it began to pour rain and the seminarians decided it was enough time spent outside for the day. They needed food and shelter. They enjoyed a scenic drive back to home-base through Albury and a stop-off for pizza.



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Jubilee celebration

Sunday 27th of February, brought a very joyous and colourful celebration to the parish of Griffith.

Sister Hosanna Semedar Andeghiorgis is a daughter of St Anne who ministers at the Scalabrini Village in Griffith.

Hosanna is from Eritrea, which is situated in North East Africa. She has been a missionary for over fifteen years in Australia. She has previously worked in Scalabrini aged care as part of the pastoral care team, in Sydney at Chipping Norton and currently she is working in Griffith. She was to celebrate her Silver Jubilee last July, but because of COVID the celebration was rescheduled to February. Along the way Sister Theresa Foley, Sister of Mercy passed her Diamond Jubilee date in January. Theresa being, born in Griffith, ministered in Mercy hospitals in Young, Cootamundra and Albury. After community nursing and pastoral care in other places including more recently in South Africa returned to Griffith to begin retirement.

The celebration brought a great joy to the two Sisters, and the people of Griffith, as well as for people who joined them from other part of Riverina district,

and inter states.

Bishop Mark was pleased to be the main celebrant at the afternoon Eucharist celebration with six priests, who came from Griffith and other parishes. Fr Grace the parish priest of Sacred Heart, Fr Tony Schip, Fr Sean, Fr Paul Fr Jomer and Fr Cyprian. There were also four representative priests from the Anglican church; Fr Thomas, Fr Frederik, Rev Luise and Rev Gemma. As well one from the Presbyterian Church, Rev Jesse.

The Sisters renewed their respective orders vows during the Mass. They processed in and out holding lamps, which was a symbol of the light of Christ and their commitment. This was explained very well by Bishop Mark during his homily that their first commitment was to God at Baptism. Then they responded to God's call to give their life to God and to God's people in the mission of The Church in Religious Profession. The call to Consecrated Life is one way to respond to our Baptismal commitment and is a witness to fidelity that is very good to



be celebrated with the people of God. Representatives of Eritrea and Tigray community, in their national dress had brought up the offertory procession and later at the afternoon tea danced with their national music. Representatives from The Daughters of St Anne and from Reparation Sisters travelled from Sydney for this happy occasion.

After the Mass people proceeded to parish hall, which was well prepared, to share a very welcome afternoon tea. It was enjoyed by all the people, who came for the celebration.



Bishop Mark visits St Patrick's Primary School

Bishop Mark visited students at St Patrick's Primary School, Albury on 4 April. The students learned of the significance of the monstrance that is used in special ceremonies.



Sacred Heart Parish Griffith celebrates it's Centenary

In 2021 Sacred Heart Parish Griffith marked it's Centenary.

Our centenary book, *The Sacred Heart of Griffith*, chronicles the beginnings of the Catholic Church in this area and tells of the first Parish Priest, Reverend Father Robert O'Dea, all the wonderful priests, the Sisters of Mercy, the Marist Brothers and the faith-filled parishioners who helped shape the Parish over its first 100 years.

The book, *The Sacred Heart of Griffith*, was launched on the 11th of July, 2021

The team of Father Grace, Lucy Edwards, Louise Lowman, Cath and Joe Catanzariti worked diligently for many years, gathering information, interviewing parishioners, photocopying and filing. Father Ted Tyler's historical work in the 1970s laid the platform on which the book could be built. Their efforts were complimented by Anna Rossetto's research.

Photographer and parishioner, Ginette Guidolin provided a number of stunning photos.

Wagga Wagga designer, Maris Herr was responsible for the layout of the book and all of the efforts were brought together

by our editor/publisher Zita Denholm of Wagga Wagga.

The book has proved to be such a success that the original printing sold out and orders are being taken for a second printing.

Please call Sacred Heart Parish office on 02 6962 1533, if you would like to purchase a book.

On the 19th of December 2021, Bishop Mark Edwards celebrated the centenary Mass with a Eucharistic procession and blessing of the Sacred Heart statue and centenary garden. This was followed by a festive lunch in the Father O'Dea hall.

The atmosphere throughout the day was one of many blessings and thanksgiving for our parish and community. Many past-parishioners travelling long distances to join in the celebrations of note were the Mercy Sisters.

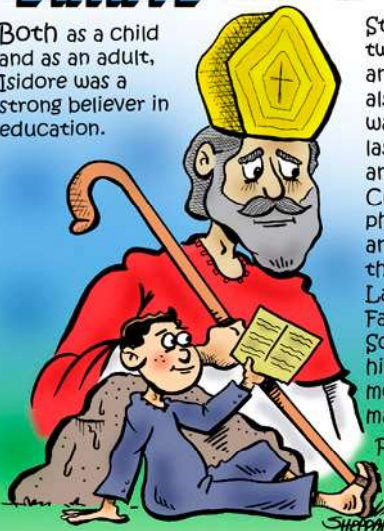
Many thanks to our Parish Priest, Father Andrew Grace and the many parishioners that helped to organise the memorable day. **Thank you, Lord Jesus, for the wonderful 100 years of Sacred Heart Parish, Griffith.**



KiDs corner

SAINTS FUN FACTS

Both as a child and as an adult, Isidore was a strong believer in education.



St. Isidore's two brothers and sister are also saints. He was one of the last of the ancient Christian philosophers and the last of the great Latin Church Fathers. Some consider him to be the most learned man of his age. Patron Saint of the Internet

SHEPPARD



LEST WE FORGET

Recipe...



Anzac Biscuits

Crunchy and delicious, Anzac biscuits made with oats are a lower GI alternative to many packet biscuits and are cheap to make. Containing coconut, golden syrup and butter, these biscuits do not use egg as a binding agent.

Ingredients:

2 cups rolled oats
2 cups flour
2 cups coconut
1 1/2 cups sugar
250g butter
4 tbsp golden syrup
1 tsp baking soda
2 tblsp boiling water

Method:

- Turn oven to 160°C. Lightly grease oven trays.
- Place oats, flour, coconut, sugar in big mixing bowl.
- Melt butter and golden syrup in saucepan. Take off heat.
- Mix baking soda and boiling water in a cup. Add to melted butter mixture in the pan. Quickly add to big mixing bowl. Mix well.
- Roll tablespoonfuls of the mixture into balls. Place on trays 5cm apart. Press lightly with fork.
- Bake for 20 minutes.

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!



Word Search

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

Anzac
Soldier
Courage

Strength
Australia
New Zealand

Remember
Poppies
Brave

Helping one another live life to the full

By now you most likely know me as the girl who was getting deported. BUT when I'm not fighting the government for justice, I'm the Founder and Managing Director of Virtue Ministry.

We're a Christian Initiative with a passion for seeing people become who God intended them to be and helping one another live life to the full. For us, that means not only a book knowledge and understanding of virtue, but also practically applying that into our spiritual lives, our character formation and our relationship with others. To that end, we run talks/workshops for young and old, at schools, conferences, retreats, and parish events. We host a weekly podcast, Living Fullness, and a fortnightly blog on our website.

We've been a little absent from the Together in recent times, but so much good has happened in that time, and we are back, bigger, and more enthused than ever to serve in the Wagga area and beyond.

In the coming months, I would like to introduce you to various members of our team, our mission and our work, and share some of our learnings with you, in the hopes that some of the things that we have learned along the way may also encourage you on your journey.

The work that we do, is not without support from the people around us. The young, lay ministry space in Australia is very barren in comparison to some other parts of the globe. We have seen friends in the vineyard having to step aside from Ministry in more recent years, and we are not immune to the challenges of continuing our work amidst both the financial and social climate. We rely on prayer for our ministry.

Our attitude for ministry is that of overflow. We cannot pour from an empty cup. Each member of the team prioritises their personal relationship with Jesus, and it's from this relationship that we go out and bear witness and gift our skills and talents through Virtue Ministry. What sets us apart from many other ministries is that we live in the world. We're just like you. We have a family, some

with a spouse and children. We study and go to work. We fight our bad habits and vices, and we carry our own personal crosses every day, just like you. We draw from those everyday experiences within our ministry in all the services that we provide. We pray that what you get from us, is overflow, because it's when our cup is overflowing with grace and love, that we can share truth, beauty and goodness with others.

For that reason, we also have a prayer tribe. Volunteers who have committed to receiving an SMS from us anytime we're about to embark on our work, to be able to specifically pray for a particular intention at the time. You can join that prayer tribe too by signing up on the contact page of our website www.VirtueMinistry.org.au OR you're welcome to cut out or take a picture of this prayer image, and keep it in your phone or wallet, and pray for us whenever you think of us.

We also cannot to do this work without financial support. Because we each live in the world, and have families and responsibilities, the graces may be overflowing but our funds do not. To do the work that we do, we need people to financially support us. This could be by becoming a monthly Patreon contributor of our podcast, getting in touch for sponsorship of our work, booking us for a talk/workshop or offering a one-time gift/donation. If you have the capacity to back our mission in some way, we would be very grateful for your support.

We always love to hear from those who encounter our work. You can get in touch with us via our email or using our social media.

We're looking forward to journeying the remainder of 2022 with you.

We hope you and your loved ones have a Happy and Holy Easter, filled with the joy and peace of our Risen Lord.



VIRTUE MINISTRY PRAYER

Heavenly Father,
in the grace of your Holy Spirit, fill the Virtue Ministry team to overflowing. So that, they may inspire the hearts of our brothers and sisters, your cherished children. May they inspire in those they encounter an understanding of their capacity, their dignity and worth, their beauty and goodness, and the joy of a virtuous life, in becoming who you made them to be.
We ask this through Christ our Lord, AMEN

Our Lady, Help of Christians. Pray for us
St. Joseph, Terror of demons. Pray for us
St. John Paul II. Pray for us
St. Agnes. Pray for us
Br. Anthony Freeman. Pray for us



OUR MISSION:

Helping people become who they were truly created to be and live life to the full

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St Joseph's Primary, Narrandera

All students participated in the Easter Hat Parade. So many great hats.



Henschke Primary, Wagga Wagga

Year 6 welcomed John, Nicolle and Shyanne who are members of the local Rural Fire Service. They demonstrated the capabilities of two service vehicles and talked about their experiences in the bushfires, which was of great interest to year 6 within their Geography unit.



St Francis De Sales Regional College, Leeton

Another great night of footy for the conclusion of the Dave Sheldrick Shield and Cup!

OPEN GIRLS

LEAGUE TAG:

SFC 8 d YAHS 4

Huge congratulations to our girls on winning the Dave Sheldrick Cup for 2022! They really had to fight hard and grind out the win against a gallant Yanco Ag team.

OPEN BOYS RUGBY LEAGUE:

YAHS 26 d SFC 22

Our boys were courageous in defeat



in what was a close encounter that could have gone either way. Congratulations goes to YAHS on winning the Shield. Thank you to all involved, particularly to the NRL Game Development Team, Group 20 referees and Dave Sheldrick who attended both games tonight and was on hand to present the Cup and Shield.



Kildare College, Wagga Wagga



Year 12 legal studies had the privilege to visit Wagga Police Station as part of their studies of crime. They were taken on an interesting tour through the station, and heard intricate details of a recent investigation from Detective Sergeant Brent Fletcher. This was a great opportunity for them to ask questions and extend their knowledge of the criminal justice system.





St Anne's Primary, North Albury

Year 5 and 6 students from St Anne's North Albury led Stations of the Cross in Xavier High School's St. Francis Xavier Centre. They were sensational!



St Patrick's Primary School, Holbrook

The Easter Egg hunt went down a treat. It was the perfect way to finish a successful term. Have a safe and holy Easter!



Marian Catholic College, Griffith

The Rotary Club of Griffith had the great pleasure to hear from three young students, Khush, Ashmeen and Adam whom they sponsored to attend the Engineering Summer School 2021! These three were amongst only 50 students in NSW/ACT who were selected to attend the summer school. They described their week in Sydney and how it revealed opportunities

and created valuable connections for the future. Also they have since created an engineering club at Marian Catholic College, working with and inspiring younger students through practical activities such as robotics and 3D modelling. Their enthusiasm and passion was evident in their presentation. We look forward to following their future careers, whatever they choose.



St Peter's Primary, Coleambally

2022 Easter Liturgy. On 7 April students recounted the events of Holy Week beautifully. With outstanding reverence, each group presented part of the Easter story. Well done children.



St Patrick's Primary, Griffith

Matt Kean from Holy Spirit Lavington and his team rode into St Patrick's Primary for a visit whilst riding for the MIA Amie St Clair Melanoma Fundraiser.



Mass Times across our Diocese

Wagga Wagga - Cathedral

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

Wagga Wagga - Koorinal

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

Wagga Wagga - South Wagga

Our Lady of Fatima
Bourke Street, Wagga Wagga
Weekend Masses
Saturday Vigil - 5:00pm
Sunday - 8:30am, 10:30am & 5:30pm (Syro-Malabar Rite)
St Patrick's Uranquinty
Sunday - 8:30am
Weekday Masses - Our Lady of Fatima
Wednesday - 10:00am
Thursday - 11:00am (Ethel Forrest Centre)
Friday - 5:30pm
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 - 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

June

St Joseph's
21 Kitchener Street, June
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 June 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

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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 Fiace'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 April:

8 April 1920	Fr Michael O'Dowd
11 April 1974	Mgr Augustus Ambrose Lacey
13 April 1995	Fr Phillip Mel Roach
25 April 1930	Fr Maurice Hoyne (On Loan)
25 April 1976	Mgr Jeremiah Galvin
25 April 1977	Fr Joseph Dudley Dyson-Smith
30 April 1941	Fr Jerome Hennessy



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



Junior Legion

Every Wednesday afternoon at 3:45pm at St Michael's Cathedral Parish Centre.

All welcome!

Come and join Our Lady's Army and help your Priest serve his parish!

Contact:
Caronne 0413 801 616



Family reflections for: April/May

17th April

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

In the Easter Gospel we hear about how the disciples found the tomb empty three days after Jesus' death. We are also told that they do not yet understand the Scriptures or that Jesus had been raised from the dead. That understanding gradually unfolded for the disciples as they began to experience the risen Lord. Similarly, our understanding of Jesus' Resurrection unfolds for us throughout our lives. In the weeks ahead, we will hear how the first disciples moved from confusion, doubt, and skepticism to faith. Their experience can teach us how we too might receive this gift of faith from God.

Gather your family members and ask them to share what they know about the events that happened in the days after Jesus' crucifixion. Invite your family to imagine that they are among Jesus' first disciples. Read together today's Gospel, John 20:1-9. Reflect together on the Gospel with questions such as these: If you had been among the first disciples who heard that the stone had been removed from Jesus' tomb and that Jesus' body was no longer there, what would you think? What did Mary of Magdala, Simon Peter, and the disciple whom Jesus loved think had happened? Recall that this experience is the first indication Jesus' disciples have that he is risen. Throughout the Easter season, we will learn more about how the disciples came to believe that Jesus had been raised from the dead.

Pray together using today's psalm, Psalm 118: "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad."

Acts of the Apostles 10:34a,37-43

Psalm 118:1-2,16-17,22-23 Colossians 3:1-4 John 20:1-9

24th April - Second Sunday of Easter, Cycle C (or Sunday of Divine Mercy)

Our family life would no doubt be enhanced if we were able to transform Jesus' greeting into a central feature in our family's interactions. After his Resurrection, "Peace be with you" is the first thing that Jesus says to his disciples.

This could be our daily family prayer for one another. In today's Gospel, we also hear that Jesus next breathed on his disciples and gave them the gift of the Holy Spirit. In Baptism, each of us has received the gift of the Holy Spirit as well as the forgiveness of sins. Peace is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. Our Baptism, then, invites us to share in the peace that Christ gave to his disciples and commissions us to share that peace of Christ by generously forgiving others as Jesus taught.

As you gather as a family, think about gifts that you might receive together such as a coloring book and crayons, a book and bookmark, or an electronic item and batteries. Observe that Jesus also paired two gifts together in today's Gospel. Read aloud this Sunday's Gospel, John 20:19-31. Discuss the two gifts Jesus gave to his disciples: peace and the Holy Spirit. Ask: What were the disciples to do with these gifts? (They were sent as Jesus was sent by the Father to forgive sins.) Recall that we have each received Jesus' gift of the Holy Spirit at our Baptism and that peace is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. Observe that since we also have received these gifts from Christ, we are also sent to be people who forgive others as Jesus taught. Determine an action that your family can do to share peace and forgiveness with one another. Pray together the Prayer to the Holy Spirit or the Peace Prayer of St. Francis.

Acts of the Apostles 5:12-16 Psalm 118:2-4,13-15,22-24 Revelation 1:9-11a,12-13,17-19 John 20:19-31

1st May - Third Sunday of Easter, Cycle C

Today's Gospel describes what we can easily imagine as a picnic on the beach. Just as Jesus' miracle at the wedding feast at Cana blesses the love between man and woman celebrated in the sacrament of marriage, Jesus' attentiveness to food and mealtimes raises the possibility that our meal gatherings can be sacred times. In families, the domestic church, our meals together are everyday opportunities to gather and recall Jesus' presence with us. As in the Eucharist, we bring the gifts that God has given us, which have been prepared especially for our Mass,

and at our family meals we share gifts that God has given to us and that we have worked together to prepare. This includes the food on the table and also the people who gather around the table. We ask God to bless these gifts and to be present among us in all of our interactions.

Consider a recent family meal: What food was served? Where did the food come from? Who prepared the food? Who served the food? Was mealtime a happy time? Why or why not? Observe that today's Gospel tells about a meal that Jesus shared with his disciples after his Resurrection. Read aloud today's Gospel, John 21:1-14. Reflect on the Gospel reading using the questions above. Talk about ways in which this meal that Jesus shared with his disciples might remind us of the meal we share at the Eucharist. You might choose to plan a special meal together as a family, encouraging each person to participate in the meal preparation. Pray together that Jesus will make his loving presence known in your family life. Pray together the Lord's Prayer.

Acts of the Apostles 5:27-32,40b-41

Psalm 30:2,4,5-6,11-12,13 Revelation 5:11-14 John 21:1-19

8th May - Fourth Sunday of Easter, Cycle C

Not only can we recognize family members' voices, we can also read the tone of their voices and know something about how they are feeling. In our relationship with Jesus, we know Jesus' voice and are called to follow. Jesus doesn't just bring us closer to the Father, Jesus puts us directly into contact with God the Father, removing all distance between us. In the Gospel of John, Jesus identifies so closely with the Father that he tells us that they are one—not just close, but actually one. Knowing Jesus means knowing the Father.

Read with your family today's Gospel, John 10:27-30. Ask your family members to talk about some ways that Jesus brings them closer to God and closer to one another. Pray together the Acts of Faith, Hope, and Love.

Acts of the Apostles 13:14,43-52 Psalm 100:1-2,3,5 Revelation 7:9,14b-17 Revelation 7:9,14b-17

Who is Centacare?

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

HAVE YOU RECENTLY SETTLED IN AUSTRALIA?

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

PARENTING ORDERS PROGRAM (POP)

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

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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

LET US ASSIST YOU WITH YOUR NDIS PLAN

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

SUPPORT FOR YOUR MENTAL HEALTH?

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

FAMILY AND PARENTING EDUCATION PROGRAMS

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

SCHOOL COUNSELLING

Our School Wellbeing Practitioners work within Pre-schools, Primary and High Schools with students, families and staff to help guide student academic, behavioral and social – emotional growth.

Call if you would like to discuss this further

COUNSELLING

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

Individual working one on one in a safe and confidential environment

Couples helps two people resolve conflict and improve relationship satisfaction

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

MEDIATION

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

Call and find out how our mediator can assist you

And more...

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