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100 YEARS

St Michael's Cathedral

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HERITAGE

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Bishop's Voice

Bishop Mark Edwards OMI - Bishop of Wagga Wagga Diocese



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Dear sisters and brothers,

At priestly ordination, I quiz the seminary rector about the candidate being presented asking him: 'Do you find [this man] to be worthy?' And he has to be able to answer sincerely, 'After inquiry among the people of Christ and upon the recommendation of those concerned with his training, I testify that he has been found worthy.'

Our diocese has a good vocations culture and the seminary is serving us well. I am impressed with the quality of the students at Vianney College; they are generous, warm, relational, faith-filled and stable men. Over the last 6 weeks, I have instituted two men as Acolytes, three as Lectors and accepted four men as Candidates for being priests. It is very hopeful and encouraging.

On Saturday 14 May, the feast of St Matthias, we had the institution as Acolytes. The Gospel was the story of the selection of St Matthias as the replacement for Judas Iscariot as a member of the twelve (Acts 1: 15-26). Matthias and Joseph a.k.a. Barsabbas met the selection criteria – they had been with the apostles and Jesus right from the time John was baptising and they were also witnesses to the resurrection. Uncertain of who should be chosen, they let the Lord decide by drawing lots. It wasn't about Matthias's desires but about the imperative of people to know that God loves them, Jesus saves them and that relationship with Jesus is possible.

It is different with our students. They have a dream of being a priest, a dream that God has put in their hearts, so they present themselves to the bishop and diocese. I then entrust them to Fr Rick Micallef, Fr Bradley Rafter, Fr John Baptist Pham and the other formation staff.

We all know through experience that

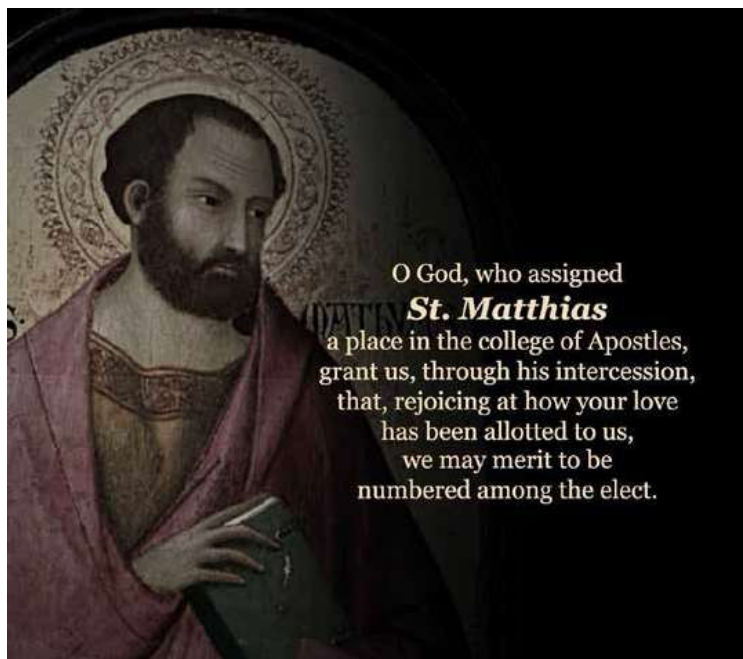
sometimes the dream we have isn't a dream for us – it is a dream for someone else – and the formation staff are entrusted with supporting this discernment as well as helping the men grow humanly, spiritually, intellectually and pastorally.

Like the early Church, we look for signs from the Lord to tell with certainty that this dream of being a priest is what Jesus, our Lord, is calling these men to do. And he does give sure signs. Chief among these is that the individual candidate is growing as a human being in all the dimensions: maturity, love for Jesus and the Church, skill in caring for people's spiritual needs and in knowledge. The formators look to see if the men are disciples, if they do increasingly well in pastoral placements, how they live and relate with others and for academic growth.

Of central importance in this is that the men at the seminary are open with their formators. Hiding who they really are will hinder Jesus' work. They are challenged to show themselves to the formators and to listen, really to listen to what the formators say. In this, they are listening for what Jesus is saying in them. All of this involves trust in the staff, the diocese and, most of all, in our Lord.

I invite you to pray for the men in the seminary and all young people in our diocese that they will discern the dreams that God has placed in their hearts and take steps to make it a reality. Please pray for them every day.

Yours in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate



Prayer Intention for May - Pray with Pope Francis

For faith-filled young people.

We pray for all young people, called to live life to the fullest; may they see in Mary's life the way to listen, the depth of discernment, the courage that faith generates, and the dedication to service.

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

<https://thepopevideo.org/>



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We pray for all young people, called to live life to the fullest; may they see in Mary's life the way to listen, the depth of discernment, the courage that faith generates, and the dedication to service.

Our Church has been blessed with many young saints. And even more so today, young people have contemporary men and women from whom they can take inspiration like the tennis player Bl. Chiara Lucio Badano or the internet savvy Bl. Carlo Acutis. Young saints of old also inspire like St. Dominic Savio or St. Maria Goretti. In this month's intention, our Holy Father invites us to consider the youthful witness of Mary, who as a teenage girl, accepted God's plan and mission for her life as Mother of God. When she received the visit from the Archangel Gabriel, she did not hesitate to say "fiat" or "let it be done to me."

Mary lived her life to the fullest because she lived her life in conformity to the will of God. She only wanted what God wanted for her life. The fullness of Mary's life resulted from making her home with God himself who became incarnate in the person of Jesus Christ. Mary's life is one worthy of imitation for all Christian believers and

especially for young people. There is a lot of noise in the world today which demands the attention of young people often distracting them from listening to God. Mary listened to the angel, and she listened to the words and teachings of Jesus. She listened deep within her heart which compelled her to visit her cousin Elizabeth. Mary teaches us to listen for the quiet whisper of God in our hearts. Attentive listening to God will enable a deeper discernment as young people hear the call to priesthood, consecrated life, or to marriage.

The courageous Mary of Nazareth asked her son at Cana to aid a couple as they celebrated their marriage. Mary's courage ushered in the Lord's hour and His ministry but also generated faith among the disciples as St. John tells us "his disciples began to believe in him" (John 2:11). As the mother of God and the mother of all believers, Mary dedicates her life in service of humanity by her prayers of intercession and mediation of grace.

By Mary's prayers, may all young people live their life to the fullest in conformity to God's will, listening and discerning, believing and serving.

St Michael's Cathedral has celebrated a 100 year milestone

Wagga's iconic St Michael's Cathedral celebrated an impressive milestone marking 100 years since major renovations commenced, which saw it effectively double in size.

BY ANDREW MANGELSDORF
The Daily Advertiser



Assistant Priest Father Connell Perry reflects on a centenary since St Michael's Cathedral underwent a major expansion. Picture: Madeline Begley

Assistant Priest Father Connell Perry was just seven years old when his family migrated thousands of kilometres to attend Saint Michael's Cathedral in Wagga.

22 years on, Father Connell reflects on his experience as the church marks the historic anniversary.

Originally from Alice Springs, Father Connell travelled down to Wagga with his family on holiday back in the year 2000.

"We were staying at the caravan park just across the road from the Cathedral," he said.

"My dad was so impressed by the church, the priests, the families and the area that we moved here about three months later.

"It's beautiful that this place could inspire such faith and devotion in my dad, because it is quite a big deal moving all the way from Alice Springs down to Wagga."

Although construction on the original

cathedral began in 1885, the second foundation stone was blessed and laid on 7 May 1922, beginning the final phase of the Cathedral's construction.

The stone was unveiled in a major ceremony attended by then Melbourne Archbishop Mannix and a crowd of up to 10,000 people.

Archbishop Mannix served in that role from 1917 until his death in 1963 and was an outspoken opponent of conscription during both the First and Second World Wars.

Father Connell said his high profile may have played a part in attracting such a large crowd.

"He was invited to come and be a part of the ceremony here by the Bishop of Wagga at the time, Bishop Dwyer. So his presence might have also been part of the reason why so many people came along," he said.

"It was also a sign of the faithfulness of

the Catholics in the Wagga diocese at the time."

Originally written in Latin, a translation of the inscription on the foundation stone reads:

"To God the best and greatest. Under the invocation of Blessed Michael the Archangel, Most Reverend Joseph W. Dwyer STD, first bishop of Wagga Wagga, with Most Reverend D. Mannix, Archbishop of Melbourne assisting,

blessed and placed this auspicious stone of the cathedral church, in the first year of the pontificate of Pope Pius XI on the Nones of May (7 May) in the year of our Lord 1922."

Following its completion, the Cathedral was officially opened and blessed on March 22, 1925, forty years after the laying of the original foundation stone.

St Joseph's Catholic Men's Group meet with Bishop Mark to discuss Lent

The St Joseph's Catholic Men's group met at the Astor Hotel, Wagga Wagga in March to hear Bishop Mark Edwards OMI speak about Lent.

This was the second time Bishop Edwards had spoken to the group, following a talk last year on the group's patron St Joseph.

Bishop Edwards highlighted the importance of undertaking Lenten practices with the right motivations, particularly with gratitude to God as a starting point. He spoke of the younger son from the parable of the prodigal son who has experienced the Father's mercy and who can approach his relationship from a perspective of gratitude. He contrasted this with the older brother from the parable, who acts out of discontentment.

Bishop Edwards also highlighted the parables of the hidden treasure and the

precious pearl, and how the one seeking the treasure/pearl is so fuelled by the joy of what they have discovered that they lose sight of what they gave up.

In early April, the group was fortunate to have Fr Bradley Rafter, the Vice-Rector of the Vianney College seminary speak on how we can best enter Holy Week and gain fruit from this most important week.

Fr Rafter spoke of the experience of Our Lord in his passion and death. Highlighting the depth of Jesus' sacrifice, Fr Rafter reflected on the scripture from Isaiah "As the crowds were appalled on seeing him – so disfigured did he look that he seemed no longer human" (Isaiah 52:14). Fr Rafter also outlined a number of fruitful practices to undertake in the approach to Easter.

The St Joseph's Men's group meets monthly at the Astor Hotel in Wagga

for a meal at 6:30pm and a talk from a speaker at 7:30pm.

All men are welcome to come along to hear high-quality talks and enjoy a drink and fellowship. Please email

stjosephscatholicmensgroup@gmail.com to be included on the mailing list and advised of events. For those unable to attend in person the talks are streamed via Zoom where possible.



Members of the St Joseph's Catholic Men's group gathered at the Astor Hotel for a meal and talk with Bishop Edwards.

"Do unto others..."

Our Lord Jesus Christ taught us to "do unto other as you would have them do unto you..." [Luke 6:31].

BY FR BRANCIK - Tumbarumba Parish Priest

This moral truth inspired our parish of All Saints Tumbarumba to reach out to those affected by the floods in Lismore.

Tumbarumba began the year 2020 amid smoke and fire, and whilst most people in the diocese were welcoming the new year quietly at home, here people were preparing to evacuate the town. In the ensuing days, properties were burnt, livestock lost and houses reduced to cinders. Hectares of lush green pine forests were reduced to barren fields of burnt stubble: a thick carpet of ash hushed nature into silence.

Whilst the fire may have left most of the dwellings intact, no one remained untouched by what happened. To some the mere smell of a smouldering fire was enough to spark memories of confusion and panic. In the midst of all this, people rose to the challenge and works of mercy began to abound. The community rallied to support its citizens and in the eloquent words of one council member 'we entered

into this as a community, and came out as a family.'

Our school community felt the generosity not only of our town but of people living hundreds of kilometres away. Donations of school books, school bags, stationery and resources came from places as far as Canberra. Grateful for this support, we felt certain that the people of Lismore could benefit from similar generosity in this their time of need.

Having refurbished our school only recently, we thought that a flood affected school in Lismore might have use of our former desks and chairs which we had stored in a weather-proof shipping container. Once we agreed upon the idea, then it became a matter of 'making it happen.' Again, generous hearts rose to the challenge.

Our school children carried the desks and chairs to the parish hall under the guidance of Mr. Daniel Francis the school principal, whilst the parish organised



From left: Mr Bill Burns, Fr Brancik, Mr Carlo Bora, Dominic Bora and Ang Bora.

how to transport all this to Lismore. It was through the generosity of Mr. Rod O'Kane of Yarrawonga, Mr. Greg Young of Griffith and Royans Wagga Wagga that we were able to source a prime mover and semi-trailer for this task. It was certainly a team effort. Parishioners helped to load the school desks and chairs onto the semi-trailer as well as a donated sofa-bed,

mattresses and linens. All that remained was to drive the truck up to Lismore; a task that was carried out by the parish priest.

On arrival at Lismore on Tuesday 26th of April, the truck was met by Mr. Michael Piccoli, the principal of the parish school of Our Lady Help of Christians, and some children and volunteers waiting to unload the desks and chairs and take them straight into classrooms. Within a short time, the task was accomplished.

The legacy of the Sisters of St. Joseph who began the parish school of All Saints in Tumbarumba was visible in the charity of this good work. **Our children were able to experience the words of St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop who said 'never see a need without doing something about it'; an echo of the Gospel message of Our Risen Lord "Love one another as I have loved you" expressed in our school motto 'Heart speaks to heart.'**



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Statement from Australian faith leaders on Temporary Protection Visas

The statement below was published by a national group of faith leaders on Friday 29 April 2022 at St Paul's Cathedral in Melbourne regarding Temporary Protection Visas (TPVs) and other temporary forms of humanitarian protection for refugees in Australia.

We urge our political leaders to reconsider the needs and futures of people who are still on Temporary Protection Visas. It is time to offer people on TPVs permanent protection.

We raise this matter cautiously, mindful of how fraught discussion of such matters has been in previous Federal Elections.

But we must speak because compassion and care for others are universal values shared by all major faith traditions. As people of faith, we bring this perspective to our consideration of all things, including public policy around protecting refugees and people seeking asylum.

Hence, we advocated for and welcomed recent steps to release most Medevac refugees from hotel detention; to move forward with the New Zealand resettlement plan; and to increase the number of Afghan refugees being offered protection.

We speak now, relatedly, out of deep concern about the current division between the two major parties on the issue of temporary protection visas.

These TPVs serve no public policy purpose and have lost community support since their introduction two decades ago.

Our pastoral knowledge is of people who have been living with stressful insecurity on TPV's in communities around Australia. We hear their prayers and know their fears. Having sought refuge, they just want to belong and contribute. With their families and friends, they are part of community groups and neighborhoods. Many have found jobs, work hard, pay their taxes, and have embraced Australia as their home.

COVID-19 has required many rethinks and reminded us all of what is truly important in life. There is a wonderful opportunity for our political leaders to now embrace a group of people who want to put down roots, build lives and work hard for Australia's best future. Like generations of migrants and refugees before them, this group will become an integral part of the Australian story.

It is as a voice for the relatively voiceless that we are moved to write to Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Opposition Leader Anthony Albanese in support of a more unifying and compassionate national policy on this important matter.

"We are here today in St Paul's Cathedral, the home church for Anglicans in the Diocese of Melbourne, to call on our political leaders across the spectrum to deliver a better future for temporary protection visa holders. As we head into a general election, we want to invite our leaders to show the generosity that has made this nation a successful multicultural society by enabling temporary protection visa holders to have a future." - *Dean Andreas Loewe*

"I would like to pray for all those people who are stuck in a Temporary Protection Visa situation here in Australia. Many of those people are working hard to make their home here, yet they are not fully recognised as residents of our country. I would like to pray that

our leaders will change the narrative they have often used so all human beings are recognised as equal, as precious – no one more precious than another in the sight of God." – *Sister Brigid Arthur*

"My prayer is for healing of trauma. I have been blessed to meet many refugees and asylum seekers over forty years. Their courage, their vulnerability and their willingness to begin again. People who come here seeking refuge and asylum bring with them trauma of having to flee from their own homes. It takes a long time to heal from trauma. It takes a lot of care and a supportive community. Yet, over many years now our election campaigns have been traumatic to people who have come here seeking asylum and refuge. It is our yearning deep in our hearts that our leaders will set the tenor for a country that chooses to heal and never to harm." – *Bishop Philip Huggins*

"Faith communities are not alone in dealing with refugees and their trauma, but they do a lot of the significant lifting. Seeing the trauma in people's eyes and being there for them has prompted us to speak here today. The faith leaders here believe Australia's current policy on refugees is immoral and re-traumatising." – *Rev Tim Costello*

"I want to say how grateful I am to the many refugees who have given so much to our community. For the ways they have enriched us and welcomed us into their lives. It is truly something to lament that there are so many lives disrupted and stalled because of the Temporary Protection Visa policy. It's a merciless process and so many people are suffering with it and it needs to end. It needs to end to give people the simple dignity that all lives deserve." – *Rev Sandy Boyce, Victorian Council of Churches*

"The policies of the Federal Government in general, and Temporary Protection Visas as part of that, are encouraging us to be inhospitable, to be selfish, to be unwelcoming, to be cold. We don't want an Australia like that. Our national anthem speaks against that. So we all need to speak up and not let our political leaders push us into the dark spaces of selfishness, of coldness and of inhospitality." – *Bishop Paul Barker*



Watch Seham's story at:

<https://vimeo.com/705057749/84e80a5915>



A group of Interfaith Leaders, including Sr Brigid Arthur, Rev Tim Costello and Dean Andreas gathered at Melbourne's St Paul's Anglican Cathedral to launch a statement calling for a fair and compassionate way for our country to welcome refugees.

World Communications Day highlights importance of listening

'Thanks to the journey of the Plenary Council, the People of God in Australia are well placed to respond to Pope Francis' exhortation to be people who listen', Australian Catholic Media Council chair Debra Vermeer says.

Pope Francis' message for World Communications Day, which is celebrated in Australia on May 22 this year, has the theme "Listening with the ear of your heart".

In his message, the Pope speaks of the temptation to speak without listening, as well as the tendency to hear people speaking but not actually listen to them.

"What specifically makes communication good and fully human is listening to the person in front of us, face to face, listening to the other person whom we approach with fair, confident and honest openness," he wrote.

"The lack of listening, which we experience so often in daily life, is unfortunately also evident in public life, where, instead of listening to each other, we often 'talk past one another'."

Mrs Vermeer said the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia, and its stages of listening and dialogue and listening and discernment in particular, has sought to bring Catholics into a space of deeper and prayerful listening.

"That has been accomplished through

listening to that which stirs within us, listening to each other and listening to the promptings of the Holy Spirit," she said.

"Now in its 56th year, the papal message for World Communications Day has always been challenging and in an age when everyone can act as a broadcaster, this call to be people who listen is timely and necessary."

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference president Archbishop Mark Coleridge, in his homily at the start of this month's bishops' plenary meeting, reflected on the importance of listening.

"In recent times we have heard a good deal about the need to listen, and rightly so," he said.

"At the heart of Scripture we hear the call *Shema* Israel, 'Listen Israel' (Deut 6:4); the first word of the West's most influential text, the Rule of St Benedict, is *Ausculta*, 'Listen'; and 'listening' is the word Pope Francis set at the head of his seminal speech on synodality in 2015."

The call to listen, Archbishop

WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY 2022

"We all have ears, but many times even those with perfect hearing are unable to hear another person. In fact, there is an interior deafness worse than the physical one...The true seat of listening is the heart."

Pope Francis
"Listening with the ear of the heart"



Coleridge said, "has also echoed through the years of our own Plenary Council journey as we have sought to 'listen to what the Spirit is saying' (Rev 2:7)".

"A Church that has often been more used to speaking than listening has to give the tongue a rest and open the ear in new ways," he said.

Mrs Vermeer encouraged Catholics to reflect on and pray with Pope Francis' message and to consider the ways in which Jesus offered a model of listening

in various Gospel passages.

The Australian Catholic Media Council has prepared a series of social media tiles to highlight Pope Francis' message. It has also provided homily notes for the Sixth Sunday of Easter prepared by Fr Andrew Hamilton SJ, a long-time contributor to Catholic media in Australia.

These can be accessed at:
<https://catholic.org.au/wcd>

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Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for the 56th World Day of Social Communications

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Last year we reflected on the need to “Come and See” in order to discover reality and be able to recount it beginning with experiencing events and meeting people. Continuing in this vein, I would now like to draw attention to another word, “listen”, which is decisive in the grammar of communication and a condition for genuine dialogue.

In fact, we are losing the ability to listen to those in front of us, both in the normal course of everyday relationships and when debating the most important issues of civil life. At the same time, listening is undergoing an important new development in the field of communication and information through the various podcasts and audio messages available that serve to confirm that listening is still essential in human communication.

A respected doctor, accustomed to treating the wounds of the soul, was once asked what the greatest need of human beings is. He replied: “The boundless desire to be heard”. A desire that often remains hidden, but that challenges anyone who is called upon to be an educator or formator, or who otherwise performs a communicative role: parents and teachers, pastors and pastoral workers, communication professionals and others who carry out social or political service.

Listening with the ear of the heart

From the pages of Scripture we learn that listening means not only the perception of sound, but is essentially linked to the dialogical relationship between God and humanity. “*Shema' Israel* - Hear, O Israel” (*Dt* 6:4), the opening words of the first commandment of the Torah, is continually reiterated in the Bible, to the point that Saint Paul would affirm that “faith comes through listening” (cf. *Rom* 10:17). The initiative, in fact, is God’s, who speaks to us, and to whom we respond by listening to him. In the end, even this listening comes from his grace, as is the case with the newborn child who responds to the gaze and the voice of his or her mother and father. Among the five senses, the one favoured by God seems to be hearing, perhaps because it is less invasive, more discreet than sight, and therefore leaves the human being more free.

Listening corresponds to the humble style of God. It is the action that allows God to reveal himself as the One who, by speaking, creates man and woman in his image, and by listening recognizes them as his partners in dialogue. God loves humanity: that is why he addresses his word to them, and why he “inclines his ear” to listen to them.

On the contrary, human beings tend to flee the relationship, to turn their back and “close their ears” so they do not have to listen. The refusal to listen often ends up turning into aggression towards the other, as happened to those listening to the deacon Stephen who, covering their ears, all turned on him at once (cf. *Acts* 7:57).

On the one hand, then, God always reveals himself by communicating freely; and on the other hand, man and woman are asked to tune

in, to be willing to listen. The Lord explicitly calls the human person to a covenant of love, so that they can fully become what they are: the image and likeness of God in his capacity to listen, to welcome, to give space to others. Fundamentally, listening is a dimension of love.

This is why Jesus calls his disciples to evaluate the quality of their listening. “Take heed then how you hear” (*Lk* 8:18): this is what he exhorts them to do after recounting the parable of the sower, making it understood that it is not enough simply to listen, but that it is necessary to listen well. Only those who receive the word with an “honest and good” heart and keep it faithfully bear the fruit of life and salvation (cf. *Lk* 8:15). It is only by paying attention to whom we listen, to what we listen, and to how we listen that we can grow in the art of communicating, the heart of which is not a theory or a technique, but the “openness of heart that makes closeness possible” (cf. Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, 171).

We all have ears, but many times even those with perfect hearing are unable to hear another person. In fact, there is an interior deafness worse than the physical one. Indeed, listening concerns the whole person, not just the sense of hearing. The true seat of listening is the heart. Though he was very young, King Solomon proved himself wise because he asked the Lord to grant him a “listening heart” (cf. *1 Kings* 3:9). Saint Augustine used to encourage listening with the heart (corde audire), to receive words not outwardly through the ears, but spiritually in our hearts: “Do not have your heart in your ears, but your ears in your heart”. Saint Francis of Assisi exhorted his brothers to “incline the ear of the heart”.

Therefore, when seeking true communication, the first type of listening to be rediscovered is listening to oneself, to one’s truest needs, those inscribed in each person’s inmost being. And we can only start by listening to what makes us unique in creation: the desire to be in relationship with others and with the Other. We are not made to live like atoms, but together.

Listening as a condition of good communication

There is a kind of hearing that is not really listening, but its opposite: eavesdropping. In fact, eavesdropping and spying, exploiting others for our own interests, is an ever-present temptation that nowadays seems to have become more acute in the age of social networks. Rather, what specifically makes communication good and fully human is listening to the person in front of us, face to face, listening to the other person whom we approach with fair, confident, and honest openness.

The lack of listening, which we experience so often in daily life, is unfortunately also evident in public life, where, instead of listening to each other, we often “talk past one another”. This is a symptom of the fact that, rather than seeking the true and

the good, consensus is sought; rather than listening, one pays attention to the audience. Good communication, instead, does not try to impress the public with a soundbite, with the aim of ridiculing the other person, but pays attention to the reasons of the other person and tries to grasp the complexity of reality. It is sad when, even in the Church, ideological alignments are formed and listening disappears, leaving sterile opposition in its wake.

In reality, in many dialogues we do not communicate at all. We are simply waiting for the other person to finish speaking in order to impose our point of view. In these situations, as philosopher Abraham Kaplan notes, dialogue is a duologue: a monologue in two voices. In true communication, however, the “I” and the “you” are both “moving out”, reaching out to each other.

Listening is therefore the first indispensable ingredient of dialogue and good communication. Communication does not take place if listening has not taken place, and there is no good journalism without the ability to listen. In order to provide solid, balanced, and complete information, it is necessary to listen for a long time. To recount an event or describe an experience in news reporting, it is essential to know how to listen, to be ready to change one’s mind, to modify one’s initial assumptions.

It is only by putting aside monologues that the harmony of voices that is the guarantee of true communication can be achieved. Listening to several sources, “not stopping at the first tavern” — as the experts in the field teach us — ensures the reliability and seriousness of the information we transmit. Listening to several voices, listening to each other, even in the Church, among brothers and sisters, allows us to exercise the art of discernment, which always appears as the ability to orient ourselves in a symphony of voices.

But why face the exertion of listening? A great diplomat of the Holy See, Cardinal Agostino Casaroli, used to speak of the “martyrdom of patience” needed to listen and be heard in negotiations with the most difficult parties, in order to obtain the greatest possible good in conditions of limited freedom. But even in less difficult situations, listening always requires the virtue of patience, together with the ability to allow oneself to be surprised by the truth, even if only a fragment of truth, in the person we are listening to. Only amazement enables knowledge. I think of the infinite curiosity of the child who looks at the world around them with wide-open eyes. Listening with this frame of mind — the wonder of the child in the awareness of an adult — is always enriching because there will always be something, however small, that I can learn from the other person and allow to bear fruit in my own life.

The ability to listen to society is more valuable than ever in this time wounded by the long pandemic. So much previously accumulated mistrust towards “official

information” has also caused an “infodemic”, within which the world of information is increasingly struggling to be credible and transparent. We need to lend an ear and listen profoundly, especially to the social unease heightened by the downturn or cessation of many economic activities.

The reality of forced migration is also a complex issue, and no one has a ready-made prescription for solving it. I repeat that, in order to overcome prejudices about migrants and to melt the hardness of our hearts, we should try to listen to their stories. Give each of them a name and a story. Many good journalists already do this. And many others would like to do it, if only they could. Let us encourage them! Let us listen to these stories! Everyone would then be free to support the migration policies they deem most appropriate for their own country. But in any case, we would have before our eyes not numbers, not dangerous invaders, but the faces and stories, gazes, expectations and sufferings of real men and women to listen to.

Listening to one another in the Church

In the Church, too, there is a great need to listen to and to hear one another. It is the most precious and life-giving gift we can offer each other. “Christians have forgotten that the ministry of listening has been committed to them by him who is himself the great listener and whose work they should share. We should listen with the ears of God that we may speak the word of God”. Thus, the Protestant theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer reminds us that the first service we owe to others in communion consists in listening to them. Whoever does not know how to listen to his brother or sister will soon no longer be able to listen to God either.

The most important task in pastoral activity is the “apostolate of the ear” — to listen before speaking, as the Apostle James exhorts: “Let every man be quick to hear, slow to speak” (1:19). Freely giving some of our own time to listen to people is the first act of charity.

A synodal process has just been launched. Let us pray that it will be a great opportunity to listen to one another. Communion, in fact, is not the result of strategies and programmes, but is built in mutual listening between brothers and sisters. As in a choir, unity does not require uniformity, monotony, but the plurality and variety of voices, polyphony. At the same time, each voice in the choir sings while listening to the other voices and in relation to the harmony of the whole. This harmony is conceived by the composer, but its realization depends on the symphony of each and every voice.

With the awareness that we participate in a communion that precedes and includes us, we can rediscover a symphonic Church, in which each person is able to sing with his or her own voice, welcoming the voices of others as a gift to manifest the harmony of the whole that the Holy Spirit composes.

**Rome, Saint John Lateran,
24 January 2022,
Memorial of Saint Francis de Sales.**

Catholic Mission appeal a life changing impact for families in Ethiopia

Catholic Mission has launched its major appeal for the year, a community farm project in central Ethiopia.

This project is working towards a solution to bring hope to families and children suffering from malnutrition.

Subsistence farming is a way of life for millions of people in Ethiopia. However, persistent drought and increasing food prices result in many experiencing health problems due to a lack of nutritious food.

"Distressingly, 70 percent of families in the town of Emdibir are unable to put food on the table," says Fr Brian.

"The church and community in Emdibir know the situation will not get any better without any intervention, and in response have collaborated to design a goat rearing centre, to reach out to

families in desperate need. It's a life-changing project"

The goat rearing centre will be an extension of the Deberety Farm in Emdibir, which was first opened by the local parish priest, Fr Habtesilassie Antuan, in 2018.

Known as Fr Habte, he grew up in Emdibir himself, experiencing the challenges of substance farming living, firsthand.

The farm grows produce such as enset, a hardy banana-like fruit, avocado and coffee. But the current produce at the farm is simply not enough to sustain the village.

To reach more families, Fr Habte and



the community want to expand the farm to include a goat rearing centre and produce goat's milk.

"This is a multidimensional benefit when we think of a goat breeding program," says Fr Habte.

"Many farmers do not know that goat's milk is available. Second, there are many children with malnutrition. Most of the food is enset here. Enset is a carbohydrate. It is not baby food."

More nourishing and affordable than cow's milk, goat's milk can help provide a healthy source of food, which can also be made into staple food, like cheese and butter.

In addition to supplying families in Emdibir, the milk will be provided to local health clinics for nutrition programs. Any extra milk produced will be sold to other regions.

"Responding to the need of our neighbour is the heart of mission, and by building the goat centre it can bring hope for many families in need," says Fr Brian.

"But it can only be made possible because of the generosity of our supporters."

Your partnership with the Church in Ethiopia can help bring hope for families in Emdibir.

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



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Bishops Conference elects Archbishop Costelloe president

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has elected Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB president of the Conference and re-elected Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP vice-president on the opening day of its plenary meeting.



Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB

The Conference agreed that the president and vice-president's two-year terms will commence on July 13, 2022, after the Second General Assembly of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia.

Archbishop Costelloe was appointed an Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne in 2007 and Archbishop of Perth in 2012.

He is the first president of the Bishops Conference from Western Australia and, as a priest of the Salesians of Don Bosco, the first member of a religious order to be elected president.

Archbishop Costelloe will replace Archbishop Mark Coleridge, who served as president for four years. Archbishop Coleridge was ineligible to run for a third term because he will turn 75 in September 2023.

Archbishop Costelloe paid tribute to Archbishop Coleridge, saying he had

guided the Bishops Conference through important and sometimes challenging times.

"It was Archbishop Coleridge who guided our response beyond the Royal Commission, represented the Church in Australia at the global summit on sexual abuse and steered the bishops through a pandemic and a host of other challenges," he said.

"Archbishop Coleridge has been a calm and considered leader locally and in the global Church and will be a trusted adviser for me in this new role."

Archbishop Costelloe said despite those difficulties, the Church's ministries remain critical to Australian society.

"The Church in this country is an immense contributor to our society, through our parishes, our schools, our hospital and aged care, our social services and countless other ministries," he said.

"As we continue to contemplate how we live out the Gospel in this age, including through the Plenary Council, I look forward to working with my brother bishops and the People of God to carry forward Christ's mission."

Archbishop Fisher, the Archbishop of Sydney, has served as vice-president of

the Conference for the past four years.

"I look forward to continuing to serve the Conference in this way and working closely with Archbishop Costelloe on key issues for the Church's mission in Australia," Archbishop Fisher said.

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Caritas Australia's CEO rides 900km in 9 days to help end global poverty

On Sunday, April 23, Kirsty Robertson, Caritas Australia's CEO will take off on an epic 900km bicycle ride from Sydney to Melbourne in a quest to help break the cycle of poverty.

Ms Robertson will be joined by Richard Landels, Caritas Australia's Advancement Director, and will start the journey from Mary Immaculate Church in Quakers Hill, Sydney, with a blessing from Bishop Vincent Long.

The duo will make pit stops in Mittagong, Goulburn, Boorowa, Wagga Wagga, Holbrook, Wangaratta, Euroa and Craigieburn along the way where they will meet with local schools and parishes.

The journey will end at St Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne where they will be greeted by Archbishop Peter Comensoli.

"We were inspired by many of the stories of resilience in our programs,

but there was one that really touched me. It was about a man called Biru, who lives with disability in a remote part of India, and how he started a successful bicycle and motorbike repair business, despite not only the challenges of living with his disability, but also the discrimination he experiences," said Kirsty Robertson, Caritas Australia's CEO.

"What was most inspiring about his story was how Biru taught himself to repair bicycles by watching others, and then after participating in an entrepreneurship and livelihoods training program run by our partner, Caritas India, he was able to use these skills to build his own thriving business."



Kirsty Robertson and Richard Landels on their bikes ready for the Cycle to end poverty challenge. Photo Caritas Australia

"I know that many people can get overwhelmed by the magnitude of need in the world, and it can be hard to see the benefits in doing anything at all – especially when there are devastating global tragedies unfolding like the war in Ukraine or the crisis in Afghanistan. But I genuinely believe that each of us has our own part to play, and that when enough of us do our own little bit, then we can create real change in the world."

"This bike ride gives me the opportunity to challenge myself, get out into the community and talk about the great work of Caritas Australia, as well as to raise money and awareness. We aim to raise AUD \$50,000 which will make a significant difference for communities experiencing poverty, and I'm hoping that by doing something like this I'll be able to inspire others to create their own change through small actions."

Kirsty has lived, worked and

travelled in over 50 countries, including in Adidas Ababa, Ethiopia, working with the development arm of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, and at Machermo, a health post in the Gokyo Valley in Nepal, looking into the protection of the rights of porters for the International Porters Protection Agency. She returned to Caritas Australia in September 2019 to become the first female CEO of the organisation.

To donate visit:
www.caritas.org.au/cycle-to-end-poverty/



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Project of the Month: May

This month please provide transport to support the faithful in Tanzania

The diocese of Kigoma lies in western Tanzania on the border with Burundi. In 2020 the new parish of Kumsenga was established here.

It covers a very large area, with seven outstations ranging from 12 to 35 km in distance from the parish centre. And sometimes the parish priest, Father Michael Daniel also has to travel to meetings in the diocesan Centre in Kigoma – a distance of over 220 km from his parish.

However, there is a major problem in that he has no car. For some of his journeys, he can hire a moped, but the roads are extremely poor and in the rainy season virtually impassable. In which case Father Michael can find himself wading on foot through roads that have become little more than mudslides. Moreover, on longer cross-country journeys there is a real risk of being attacked and ambushed by criminal gangs who make a special point of attacking vulnerable riders on mopeds.

Consequently, a car would be more than merely useful, not to say essential. Not only so that he can more quickly and safely reach the various outstations where the faithful are waiting for him, but also because in any case there are few other means of transport in this region when emergencies arise and there is a need to ferry sick people or expectant mothers to the nearest hospital, which is some distance away. In such cases, the priest's car can double as an improvised ambulance and actually save lives. But above all, such a vehicle would greatly facilitate the pastoral care of the Catholic faithful in the parish. And Father Michael could then also visit the schools in the parish and give religious instruction as well as visiting the sick and elderly and bringing them the sacraments, intensifying the instruction of those preparing for baptism and above all celebrating Holy Mass more frequently in the various different outstations.



His bishop is very keen for Father Michael to be able to reach out pastorally to the Catholic faithful. He has asked for our help and is praying fervently that we will be able to help his priest with a pastoral vehicle. We certainly won't let him down and have already promised him 38,000 AUD for a robust all-terrain vehicle.

To help ACN fund projects like this visit:
aidtochurch.org/monthlyproject



EMERGENCY APPEAL for Ukraine

Aid to the Church in Need Australia has launched an **emergency appeal to support the Catholic Church in Ukraine**. ACN is committed to strengthening and supporting the Catholic Church in Ukraine, as we have done for the past 70 years. The appeal has been given the support of Bishop Mykola Bychok CSsR, Eparch of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Australia, New Zealand and Oceania.

ACN began its support to exiled Ukrainian Christians in 1953. ACN was crucial in helping rebuild Church life and still has many projects in

Ukraine. These include the formation of some 900 seminarians – of both Latin and Eastern Catholic Churches – and the upkeep and restoration of seminaries, churches and monasteries.



Please make a generous offering to help ease the burden that the people of Ukraine are shouldering at this time. Please pray for peace and protection for this country and its inhabitants who have already endured so much suffering and pain. **Despite difficulties and hardship, the Church promises not to abandon its faithful, whatever might happen.**



GIVE NOW



To make an offering
scan the QR code
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Founded in 1947, ACN is the only international Catholic Charity dedicated to the pastoral support of suffering and persecuted Christians.



FATHERS AND DAUGHTERS

MONDAY
20TH JUNE 2022
ASTOR INN



6 pm - Part 1
7 pm - Finger food
7:30 pm - Part 2
8:30 pm - Questions & Conclusion

Cost: \$10/head
RSVP: 15th June

A talk on the importance of fathers in their daughters' lives by Fr Peter Fitzsimons

stjosephscatholicmensgroup@gmail.com

St. Brendan's Annual Bush Dance

Featuring the GMO Bush Band



Date: Saturday 28th May 2022

Venue: Ganmain Hall

Tickets at the door. Doors open at 6.30pm

Games, prizes and food

**This is an alcohol-free event.
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All funds raised will go towards Ganmain Catholic Parish refurbishments.

Contact: Father Justin Darlow 6927 6438 or 0407 734 747

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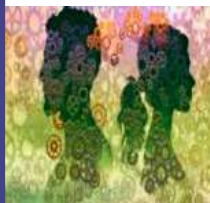
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Blessing of 'seed for the sowing'

On 24 April, Divine Mercy Sunday, at St Michael's Church in Coolamon the 'seed for the sowing' were blessed.



Above: Sr Narelle Skeers Franciscan missionary of Mary from the head house in Rome receives the "seed for the sowing" to take back to Rome.



Left: Patrick and Tina O'Brien hold the grain whilst it is blessed by Fr George assisted by Dannielle Steele.

Fr Steven Ledinich installed as Parish Priest

On March 20 Fr Ledinich was installed as Parish Priest for The Rock by Bishop Mark.



Bishop Mark Edwards and Fr Steven Ledinich.

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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

Sacred Heart North Albury looking forward

Members of the Sacred Heart Parish Pastoral Council met on Thursday 12 May to continue their planning of key initiatives in our Parish this year.

They will focus on the three key headings identified at the recent Reflection/Retreat session:

Inclusion – which proposed plans to invite and welcome young people, First Nations People and people from a variety of cultural backgrounds to be more actively involved in our Parish community including celebrating Eucharist and social events.

Communication – which highlighted the need to improve and enhance our use of digital media and various platforms to communicate more effectively to our community and beyond.

Faith Formation – with an emphasis on providing opportunities for high quality faith formation experiences including the highly recommended Alpha Program (which begins 24 May) as well as opportunities to access formal and informal courses on topics including theology, pastoral care, religious

education, prayer and much more, provided by external agencies including the Broken Bay Institute.



Fr Martin with Carey Menz-Dowling who facilitated the Pastoral Council Retreat / Strategic Planning Workshop

Marian Catholic College

IT Session for Seniors – Launched 12th May 2022

Year 10 students from our Community Action Team Dhalia Abbas, Savannah Vecchio, Alexandra Yardley and Rianna Scarfone kindly volunteered their time to help support and run the IT Program for Seniors, which was held at the Griffith City Library.



The day was a success with Seniors turning up and having their needs met and having a social conversation with the students.

Some seniors had brought new mobile devices, where the students were able to have one on one with the lovely seniors to show them how to make phone calls, add new contacts, send messages and photos, turn mobile device on and off, editing contacts, updating their phones, using the clock app (setting time and date) and using youtube and google.

It was a very productive hour, and these were just some of the mobile applications that the seniors wanted to learn about. Sharmaine from the Griffith City Library

and her staff were very appreciative of the student's time and efforts spent with our lovely seniors, whom the seniors, mention they would love to continue to come to the IT Sessions throughout the year.

The program runs every Thursday once a month until November 2022. This is an opportunity for students to not only provide their knowledge of using mobile devices but also to provide community service within our local community. Any interested Seniors who would like to attend the IT Session do not need to register, and it's a free service held at the Griffith City Library.



Volunteering for Carevan

Carevan is a mobile food van, which is the result from a need in our community to assist local individuals and families who are struggling or facing hardship.

In the fight against poverty, hunger and homelessness, the Griffith Carevan work with groups representing all children, women, men, youth, people with disabilities, Indigenous and multicultural groups.

On Wednesday, 4th of May, we started our community services with Carevan, cooking fried rice. The Hospitality room was filled with so much joy, laughter and positive energy with our staff and students from the Community Action Team and some year 9 students who volunteered their spare time at lunch

and recess. It was great to see the ongoing support from our lovely staff and students shown in the images.



Dalbinya dance group perform at complex opening

On 8 April, West Wagga Wagga's Holy Trinity School's Dalbinya dance group performed for the opening of Wagga Wagga's multisport cycling complex at Pomingalarna Reserve.



Guests included Minister of Sport Stuart Ayers, Mayor of Wagga Wagga Dallas Tout, MLC Wes Fang, Member for Wagga Wagga Joe McGirr, Wagga Wagga City Council executives, members of local cycling groups and members of the Wiradjuri Women's working group.



Above: Members of the Dalbinya dance group.



WAGGA DIOCESE

Family Gathering

SATURDAY 25 JUNE
ST MICHAEL'S CATHEDRAL
10AM - 4PM



All families in the Diocese of Wagga Wagga are welcome to join together at St Michael's Cathedral for a day of prayer, fun, formation, reflection, sharing and building up of faith and friendship, while also celebrating the coinciding World Meeting of Families in Rome.

GUEST SPEAKERS



DR ANDY MULLINS
Author of *Parenting for Character* and newly released *Parenting for Faith*. Dr Mullins was formerly the Headmaster of Redfield and Wollaton Colleges in Sydney and now currently works with parents and university students in Melbourne while also teaching the Formation of Character course at University of Notre Dame in Sydney.



FR SEAN BYRNES
Administrator of St. Mel's Narrandera and previously Vice-Rector and First Year Formator at Varsity College. Fr. Byrnes also has a podcast with Stina Constantine called *Living Fullness* which covers a range of topics relating to relationships and virtue.



TREVOR & CATHERINE DAL BROI
Catechist Coordinator for the Diocese of Wagga Wagga. Trevor and his wife, Catherine, are parents of 10 children and will provide testimony about their own experience of living the Catholic faith and raising a young Catholic family.

PROGRAMME

10 am Solemn Mass with Bishop Mark Edwards
11:30 am *Parenting in a Digital Age* by Dr Andy Mullins
12:30 pm BYO Lunch
1:30 pm *Family Communion - A Style of Ecclesial Communion* by Fr. Sean Byrnes
Raising a Catholic Family by Trevor & Catherine Dal Broi
3 pm Holy Hour and Consecration of Families
4 pm Conclusion

YOUTH & CHILDREN

VIRTUE MINISTRY AND CHOSEN YOUTH
Activities and a workshop on Virtuous Friendship will be provided for youth aged 13-18 to help them harness their own potential and discover how to become all they were made to be.

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD AND THE MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY
Games and activities will be organised throughout the day for children aged 8-12 to have fun and explore their relationship with God.



Register now using the QR code or visit wagga.catholic.org.au

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CTC Conference

'How do we know Christ now?'

Celebrating 50 years of CTC

Free online conference (via zoom)
on Friday June 17 2022, 9.30am - 12.30pm

This conference will focus on the critical question: 'How do we know Christ now?' and explores how we know the same Christ more authentically and powerfully today.

It will be led by the staff of CTC from across the disciplines and use a dialogical approach with opportunities for discussion and experiential engagement.

Keynote Presentations (9.30am - 11.15am)

- *Knowing Christ Now: In Context* presented by Dr Rosemary Canavan, Department of Biblical Studies
- *Knowing Christ Through Science? On the one hand...but on the other...* presented by Rev. Dr Chris Mulhern, Department of Philosophy
- *The Spirit Reveals the Christ* presented by Rev. Assoc. Prof. John Dupuche, Department of Pastoral and Spiritual Studies

Workshops (11.30am - 12.30pm)

1. *'Deep Incarnation' and Hope for the Transformation of the World* led by Very Rev. Dr Kevin Lenehan
2. *Profound Experiences as Encounter: Christian Spirituality for Today* led by Dr Rina Madden
3. *Exploring Mindfulness and Christian Contemplative Practices* led by Dr Cullan Joyce
4. *God the Artist Communicates to Us First, Before God the Lecturer: A Workshop Uncovering the Presence of God in Art* led by Rev. Dr Elio Capra SDB

Registration:

1. Register for the Keynote Presentations via the presentation zoom link above
2. Register for ONE Workshop of your choice via one of the workshop zoom links above

Contact Dr Christopher Morris for more information.
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Honouring our elderly

Pope Francis's public message on April 20 urging us to honour, serve and show love for the elderly was a moving address and one that is pertinent to Australian culture and practice.

BY BRIGID MENEY

Director of Mission & Strategy - Catholic Health Australia



Although an examination of our role in honouring and caring for our own fathers and mothers in their older years as the Commandments insist, it also calls us to honour those who have gone before us. We must return the love that we were gifted by the generations before us, back to the elderly who need the dignity of that love during a time of sometimes great mental and physical challenge.

When considered, it urges a deeper reflection of our own attitudes towards the fragility of old age, as well as that of our society. How are we preserving the dignity of not just our own parents, but contributing to the wellbeing of all those aging? How are we building a society that supports humans through the spiritual and physical battles that can manifest during these times?

Asking these questions goes right to the heart of answering how Australians collectively value human life.

With a looming federal election, it is a

fitting time to contemplate these matters. When deciding how to cast our vote as Catholics we should consider, among other issues, aged care and palliative care.

Aged care, as part of the healing ministry of Jesus, is about more than just putting a roof over someone's head and ensuring three meals a day are provided. It's about walking this journey with them, in care and compassion.

Just as palliative care is about so much more than how you die, it's also about how you live during that time; fulfilled, supported, and safe.

Despite the incredible work done by Catholic health and aged care providers, particularly during a difficult two years of the pandemic, the Royal Commission into aged care found so much work is still to be done. We can only achieve so much with the existing resources, policies and practices and that is why significant reform is overdue. This includes building a valued, qualified, and properly remunerated workforce, which is recognised as essential

to quality care for the elderly.

With the introduction of assisted dying laws across the country, it is also an important time to be building what Pope Francis calls a "civilisation of love". Despite the comparatively affluent position of many Australians, there remains in many areas of our society a deep emptiness, fear, and loneliness as we age, that financial stability alone cannot remedy.

All this means both the pressures and the purpose of our mission in administering care as Catholics is so essential.

As we draw closer to the federal election, Catholic Health Australia is leading a campaign to urge concrete, realistic commitments by the major parties to properly support aged care in Australia.

As Catholics, it's important that we remind political candidates of their responsibilities to the aged and palliative care sector and clarify how they intend to lead their communities and colleagues to better serve the ageing as a society.

And while we await confirmation of which government, we may continue these conversations with, Pope Francis has some practical advice; we must ensure our children know the elderly. Let them see the ageing process and know that they are on this earth, as a now ageing body made their life possible.

Because how we serve them, reflects on how we value life. As Pope Francis says in his message, what dishonours the elderly, dishonours all of us.

It's your right



Palliative care can help people living with a life-limiting illness to live as well as possible, for as long as possible — supporting physical, emotional, spiritual and social needs.

Find out more by visiting:



palliativecare.org.au
#NPCW2022



PalliativeCare
AUSTRALIA

National Palliative Care Week is an initiative of Palliative Care Australia and funded by the Australian Government Department of Health.

Sacred Heart Griffith SVdP Day Conference

Recently, the Sacred Heart Griffith SVdP Day Conference held a morning tea to celebrate the 90th birthday of Helen Davoren.

Helen is a founding member of the St Vincent de Paul Ladies Conference in Griffith, which was founded by Mons Brian Gallagher in 1977.

Sacred Heart Parish Priest and Spiritual

Advisor to the Griffith Conference Father Grace said "What an inspiration Helen is to our parish, her longevity in serving the St Vincent de Paul Conference, and we pray more young people are inspired to answer God's call to care for the poor and needy in our St Vincent de Paul Conference."

Helen is a dedicated member of the Conference and was Treasurer for 15 years.



Dawn Myers, Marie-Claude Rangott, Catherine Dal Broi, Jeanette Johnstone, Gloria Tappi, Kerrie Davis, Helen Davoren, Ursula Wood, Pat Corner, Sr. Tricia, Joan Forlino, (absent - photographer Yvonne Couper - President)

Wagga and Hay heritage to be recognised in first run of NSW Blue Plaques

Parts of the Riverina's religious and healthcare history will be recognised in the first round of the new Blue Plaques initiative designed to celebrate historical sites across NSW.

BY REX MARTINICH - The Daily Advertiser



The Little Company of Mary's founding sisters, pictured in the 1930s at Calvary Riverina Hospital. Picture: Contributed

Minister for Heritage James Griffin said the NSW Blue Plaques program was similar to the famous one in the United Kingdom, and would provided an opportunity to celebrate the noteworthy people and stories that helped to shape the state.

One site at Wagga and another at Hay will be among the first 17 Blue Plaque recipients from the initial round of public nominations. Hay's Blue Plaque will recognise the Bishop's Lodge in Roset Street and its architect John Sulman. The Wagga plaque will recognise the Sisters of the Little Company of Mary, who founded the Calvary Hospital in 1926.

The Sisters were founded in 1877 by an Englishwoman, 30-year-old Mary Potter, to care for the sick and dying.

In 1884, the Sisters were introduced to Sydney's Archbishop Patrick Moran, who invited them to send a group to Sydney and the young women travelled to Australia to bring healthcare to rich and poor alike.

The Sisters were invited to establish the Calvary Hospital by Bishop Joseph Dwyer, who had received nursing care at their hospital in Lewisham, Sydney. Sister Kathleen Cotterill, regional leader for the Little Company of Mary, said the plaque was "wonderful news".

"It recognises the Little Company of Mary heritage, our early founding sisters in Wagga and the sisters who have worked there since 1926, the staff and particularly all those who have been cared for in Calvary Hospital over all those years," she said.

For 95 years the Sisters of the Little Company of Mary helped provide compassionate health care to the people of the Riverina and beyond.

Wagga's Calvary Riverina Hospital had the last remaining Little Company of Mary sister still working at any Calvary hospital in Australia, Sister Lois Woodcock, who was the pastoral care manager for 22 years until her retirement in December.

The Blue Plaques will be added to sites during the second half of this year.

Help save our unique church

The distinctive Our Lady of Pompeii Church in Yoogali has been the heart of life for the Italian-Australian people of our regional community for more than 80 years.



This historically significant and much-loved church needs repair – to save the unique architecture and to protect its story for future generations.

Known to many as *St Mary's*, this functioning Catholic Church is located in Yoogali, near Griffith, NSW. The church building is listed on the State Heritage Register.

The Church dates back to 1939-1940 and is aesthetically distinctive as an example of the vernacular church design of the Veneto region, transplanted in memory to the Australian setting. Both the design and construction reflect these Italian origins and are strikingly different to traditional Australian Catholic Church architecture.

The unusual construction techniques,

which reflect both Italian practices and the amateur skills of the local volunteer construction force, are also of technical significance. It is thought to be the oldest church constructed for the sole use of an Italian migrant community still in use in Australia.

Action is needed now to save the building and its historical significance. Problems with the roof and rising damp are just two issues on a long list that need to be addressed. An extensive scope of works has been completed and a major fundraising effort is underway to pay for the restoration.

We ask you to consider making a donation, out of respect for the many hardworking and generous people of the past, and for future generations of church

goers and visitors to enjoy.

All money raised will be applied directly to preserving this unique piece of Italian-Australian history.

You will ensure that the church continues to be a safe venue, open and welcoming to the community and visitors, and that this unique Italian/Australian migrant story is preserved.

Thank you, from The Friends of Fatima, Yoogali



To make a donation, please scan or visit: gofundme.com/save-our-unique-italian-australian-church

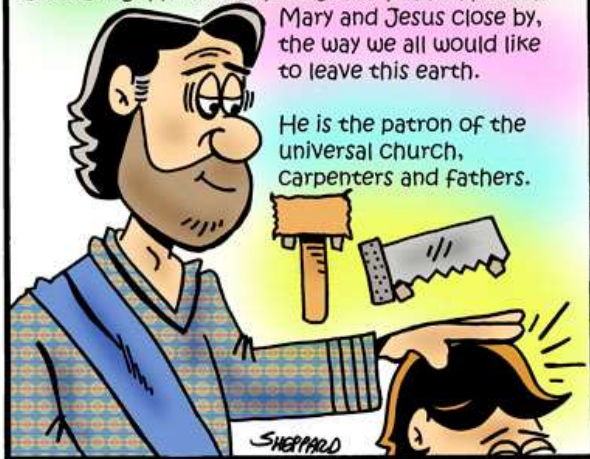
KiDs corner

SAINTS FUN FACTS

by John Sheppard

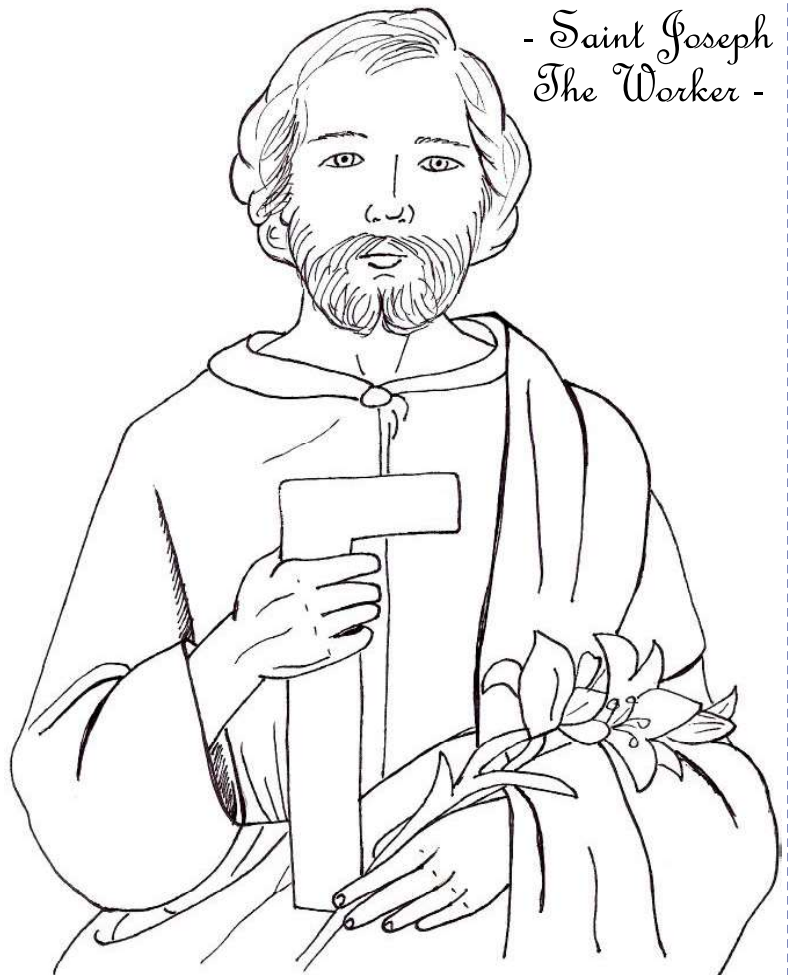
A Carpenter, a humble man, loving husband and a father. Without question, he heeded God in his dreams to save his family. He respected God and followed his commands. He was also compassionate and caring. He died before Jesus' public life with Mary and Jesus close by, the way we all would like to leave this earth.

He is the patron of the universal church, Carpenters and fathers.



(c) 2007 John Sheppard - Distributed by Catholic Online - www.catholic.org

- Saint Joseph
The Worker -



Craft...



I love my Mum flower

This Mother's Day craft encourages children to think about what makes their mother special. It is sure to become a treasured possession!

You'll need:

Coloured card
Pens
Scissors

Instructions:

- Either draw a circle and six petals on the card, writing in the middle of the circle: I love my Mum because..
- Cut out your flower parts.
- On each of the six petals, draw or write a reason why you love your Mother.
- Glue the petals to the back of the circle and leave to dry.
- You can now glue your flower to a card for a lovely Mother's day card, or tape a drinking straw to the back and make a homemade vase to pop it in!



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!



MAY SAINTS & FEAST DAYS

Word Search

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



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

St. **Joseph** the Worker
St. **Philip**
St. **James**
Our Lady of **Fatima**
St. **Matthias**
St. **Isidore** the Farmer
St. **John I**
St. **Bernardine** of Sienna
St. **Rita** the Cascia
St. **Gregory VII**
St. **Bede**
St. **Philip Neri**
St. **Augustine** of Canterbury
St. **Joan** of Arc
Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary



Are they just virtue-signalling?

Most people have heard the word 'Virtue' but few can define it.

The most common place you would likely have heard the word 'virtue' in most recent years is all throughout the media when someone was marked as wanting to proclaim their own moral goodness or character as being above or greater than someone else – virtue signalling. It's unfortunate, that this in a way, has tarnished the true meaning of virtue.

If this isn't Virtue, perhaps your thoughts on Virtue are more related to ideas of extreme and unrelatable marks of faith that appear stoic and prudish, and unattainable in our world or that it is somehow convoluted and only for philosophers and theologians. This is also an unfortunate view.

So, if that's not Virtue, what is it? In our ministry we share that Virtue is quite simply 'habitual goodness, that comes with ease, and satisfies – freeing you to be who you were made to be'.

Ok, I'm hearing you 'Stina... that' sounds nice, but what does that even mean?"

Habitual Goodness – Practicing virtue is the art of perfecting our ability to choose the good at every turn in our lives, to the point where it becomes a habit. This comes with practice. It's the difference between choosing to hit the snooze button every morning, or to get out of bed when the alarm goes off. It's the choice between watching another show or turning the screen off and doing our work or assignments. It's choosing what we know is good for us, and for others to the point where it becomes second nature – a habit. That doesn't mean virtue is impossible without being 'perfect' humans, it's about striving for perfect like our heavenly father is perfect (Mat 5:48), knowing we will fall short, because we're not God.

Comes with ease – Virtue also comes more easily over time. As with anything that is practiced, it becomes easier the more you practice, AND the smarter you practice. It's not just about repeating the same thing in the same way, we must find different angles to strengthen the same virtue. A moment ago, I called it an art form, and it is. In

a sense we must learn multiple brush strokes if we want to create a painted image of Virtue on the canvas of our lives. In that same breath, remember that the painting is not complete until we reach heaven, so whilst on earth we can continue to grow in the virtues.

Satisfies – Virtue leaves us satisfied with the choices, decisions and life that we choose to live. Virtue is not just about the grind, it also brings about joy and fulfilment when we repeatedly choose goodness. 'Is that even possible?' I hear you say. Yes!! Look at every Saint that went before us, by the grace of God they made virtuous choices and they were not left unsatisfied in their lives by these choices. Did they have challenges and hardships yes, but it's a lie to think a satisfying life is only possible when we don't have challenges and hardships. We're earth side right now, this life is filled with difficulties, only in heaven we will be without them.

Virtue frees us to be who we were made to be – This is the part that's REALLY exciting! Virtue doesn't just make us feel good for making right decisions like a habit, it actually frees us to fully be who we truly are – a child of God, created and redeemed. It's so powerful. Every decision we make that feels frustrating or frightening to us in some ways has a hold on us, in a way binds us. Stressing about which university to apply for next year or what apprenticeship to try out in a sense holds us down from being able to live life to the full, moment by moment. If that's the case for a stressful situation, imagine a vice. Something we know isn't just a choice between A or B, but a choice that has a moral consequence. This hold, chains people down, enslaves us which doesn't allow us to spread our wings, and to soar. Through Jesus, Virtue is the antidote that allows us to experience a life of true freedom, and share that freedom with others.

If any or all of these elements excite you, then we're thrilled you're here in our space. We're passionate about educating, encouraging and support people to become who God made them to be. Our focus however, is not



isolated to character development. Character growth on its own has no satisfying end, and no meaningful purpose. As a Christian ministry, we understand love must be the beginning, the form and the end of every part of our work. Human virtue can only go so far. Virtue only really becomes true virtue in relation to Love of God and Love of neighbour (in that order). We understand Jesus is our model, and way. He's the one who perfected the Virtues and shows us how they express love of God and neighbour. We firmly believe Growth in true Virtue can ONLY occur in relationship with our God, and in relationship with one another. That's why we never separate our work from love and relationship (in all the various forms).

Has any of this resonated with you today? Let us know. Read more on growth in virtue, relationships, and spirituality on our blog over on our website and make contact with us to a speaking engagement for your next event.



Above Left: Purpose and Mission talk at Wagga Wagga High School Above Right: Andrew Flores - Keynote address at University Graduation Dinner





OUR MISSION:

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

SUPPORT OUR MISSION

Sponsor/Gift our Work:
Your financial support sustains and allows our mission to reach further

Become a Prayer Partner:
Spiritually support our work by praying for us at every turn.

OUR WORK:

- Book a talk or Workshop
- Listen to Our Podcast, Living Fullness
- Read our Blogs

Visit www.virtueministry.org.au

FOLLOW OUR SOCIAL MEDIA:

 [Virtue.Ministry](https://www.instagram.com/Virtue.Ministry)
 [Virtue.Ministry](https://www.facebook.com/Virtue.Ministry)
 [LivingFullness_](https://www.instagram.com/LivingFullness_)

Schools commemorate ANZAC Day across the diocese

Many schools across the diocese participated in ANZAC Day commemorations on Monday April 25.

"Lest We Forget"



St Patrick's School, Holbrook



Sacred Heart Primary School, Koorngal



All Saints Primary School, Tumbarumba



Mater Dei Catholic Primary School, Wagga



Xavier High School, Albury



St Joseph's Primary School, Culcairn



Mater Dei Catholic College, Wagga



Mater Dei Catholic College, Wagga



All Saints Primary School, Tumbarumba



St Francis De Sales Regional College, Marian Catholic College



St Joseph's Primary School, Leeton



St Mary's Primary School, Yoogali



Henschke Primary School, Wagga



St Mary's Primary School, Yoogali



St Patrick's School, Holbrook



St Brendan's Primary School, Ganmain



Wagga Deanery Primary School students



Kildare Catholic College, Wagga



St Joseph's Primary School Wagga Wagga



St Peter's Primary School, Coleambally

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 - 11:30am (Extraordinary Form)
Confessions before and after Mass.

Wagga Wagga - Koorlingal

Sacred Heart
Lake Albert Road, Koorlingal
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 - Friday - 7:00am
Monday, Wednesday & Thursday - 6:00pm
Friday - 10:15am
Sunday - 9:00am, 10:30am and 5:30pm
Our Lady of the Blessed Eucharist Church
Benedict Avenue
San Isidore
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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

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 May:

5 May 1935	Fr Garrett Anthony Shannon
5 May 1945	Fr Patrick Joseph O'Reilly
7 May 1944	Fr Aeneas Francis Hennessy
8 May 1973	Fr William James Gilby
9 May 2014	Fr Sean Conroy
16 May 1908	Fr Thomas Joseph Carroll
19 May 2001	Fr John Anthony McGrath
23 May 1895	Fr Richard J Carr
24 May 1959	Fr Percival Edward McVeigh

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: May/June

22nd May - Sixth Sunday of Easter, Cycle C

Parents are always helping their children prepare for something, whether that consists of getting ready for school, preparing for an exam, or making preparations to go on vacation. In today's Gospel, Jesus prepares his disciples for his Passion, death, and Resurrection. He promises his Holy Spirit, gives them the gift of his peace, and tells them not to be troubled.

As a family, talk about the kinds of events that you have prepared for together; surgeries, funerals, vacations, and first days of school are some examples. Talk about why it is important to prepare for important events in our lives. Then read aloud this Sunday's Gospel: John 14:23-29. Talk about how Jesus prepared his disciples for his Death and Resurrection and how he wanted them to be prepared for what would happen so that they would be able to believe.

Talk about how, as a family, you can prepare for Pentecost (only 2 weeks away), when we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit, our Advocate.

*Acts of the Apostles 15:1-2,22-29 Psalm 67:2-3,5,6,8
Revelation 21:10-14,22-23 John 14:23-29*

29th May - The Ascension of the Lord, Cycle C

Any family that has tried to sit down to a family dinner or packed the car for a trip has heard children argue at least once about who should sit where. To sit next to someone, especially if that person is important, is to have a place of honor. Jesus has this place of honor, seated now at the right hand of the Father (as we say in the Nicene Creed and the Apostles' Creed), but there's more to this metaphor than where Jesus sits in relation to God. To be in the place of honor is also to be in a place of power.

Knowing people in powerful places can be very helpful. Children remind us of this each time we are called upon to referee a conflict. Jesus, honored now at God's right hand, is a powerful ally for us.

As you gather as a family, recall a time when there was a discussion, or perhaps even an argument, about where people were going to sit. Talk about why it might be important to a person to sit in a particular place. Mention that in this Sunday's Gospel we learn about Jesus' place in heaven. Read together Luke 24:46-53. Talk about how in the Creed we describe Jesus' place in heaven as "seated at the right hand of the Father." Discuss what we might learn about the relationship between God and Jesus from today's Gospel and from the Creed and what we can learn about Jesus' relationship to us. Observe that one of the things we learn is that Jesus continues to help us from this place of honor in heaven. Pray together the Apostles' Creed.

*Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11 Psalm 47:2-3,6-9
Ephesians 1:17-23 Luke 24:46-53*

5th June - Pentecost Sunday, Cycle C

Pentecost is sometimes called the birthday of the Church. The Gospel for Pentecost reminds us that the Church begins with the command to forgive. Within the family, the domestic Church, we learn how to forgive and we learn to accept forgiveness. It is the gift of the Holy Spirit that enables us to do both. Today is a fitting time to share a family celebration of reconciliation.

As you gather together as a family, sit quietly for a few minutes, inviting all to reflect upon their need to forgive and to receive forgiveness. If there is a situation or issue within the family that needs attention, spend some time

reflecting upon the concern and how your family might address it. Read together today's Gospel, John 20:19-23. Talk together about how Jesus gave us the gift of the Holy Spirit to help us in the work of forgiveness and to bring us peace. Pray together today's psalm, or the Prayer to the Holy Spirit, asking that the Holy Spirit help your family. Share with one another the sign of peace.

*Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11 Psalm 104:1,24,29-31,34
1 Corinthians 12:3b-7,12-13 John 20:19-23*

12th June - The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, Cycle C

Think of the last time you witnessed an act of selfless love in your family. Parents and caregivers of all kinds are called upon to act selflessly every day. Family life calls us to share selfless love with one another.

God is the model for us of selfless love. There was no need for God to create our planet or the creatures that inhabit it; it was an act of selfless love. There was also no need for God to send his only Son to save us. That too was an act of selfless love.

As we draw closer to God and the mystery of the Trinity, we learn about God's love. God has lavished us with love in the persons of the Son and the Spirit, who in turn nurture in us the desire to do the same. When we open ourselves to be filled with an awareness of the divine life within us, we participate in the endless spiral of love that leads to eternal life. Whenever we share selfless love in the family, we are sharing in the life of the Trinity.

*Proverbs 8:22-31 Psalm 8:4-9
Romans 5:1-5 John 16:12-15*

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

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

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

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