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In the Diocese of *Wagga Wagga*

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JULY 2022




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Bishop's Voice

Bishop Mark Edwards OMI - Bishop of Wagga Wagga Diocese



TOGETHER
IN THE DIOCESE OF WAGGA WAGGA

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World Youth Day - Lisbon 2023

Pope Francis has invited the young people of the world to meet him in Lisbon in early August, 2023. "I want young people, many young people, from our Diocese to come with me to meet the Pope in Lisbon in August next year."

Pope Francis announced that Lisbon would host the global Catholic gathering of young people at the closing Mass of the last international World Youth Day in Panama City in January 2019. Lisbon, a city of 505,000 people is around 75 miles from Fatima, which we will visit as part of our pilgrimage itinerary.

We will travel to Lisbon via the Holy Land as a group, as a supportive, friendly community journeying both in a geographical sense and in a spiritual sense. Our hope is that the Gospels will come alive when we are in locations where Jesus taught, healed, lived, died and rose. May it be a preparation for WYD and a place of encounters with Jesus.

WYD is a week-long gathering and was established by Pope Saint John Paul II in 1985 and gathers millions of young people and their bishops from all across the world with the Pope. It is at the same time a pilgrimage, a celebration of youth, an expression of the universal church and an intense moment of evangelisation for our world. Everyone is invited, no matter how distant from or close to the Church they are.

The theme of this WYD is "Mary arose and went with haste." (Luke 1:39) Let us arise with haste and go to encounter our fellow young people, the Pope and Jesus Christ.

"Arise!", Pope Francis reminds us is also an invitation to "dream", to "take a risk", to be "committed to changing the world, to rekindle your hopes and aspirations, and to contemplate the heavens, the stars and the world around you." He invites us to "give our passions and dreams free rein, "and, through

them, offer the world, the Church and other young people something beautiful, whether in the realm of the spirit, the arts or society... Make your voices heard."

On previous WYDs, I have seen people grow deeply in all dimensions including friendship, humanity and faith. With Pope Francis, I want this WYD also to be a powerfully positive event and encounter for as many young people as possible.

To the young, I offer the invitation: Come and experience the power, joy and encounters of WYD.

To those who are no longer young: Please invite young people you know and facilitate this opportunity for them.

To all: Please pray for the Lord's Spirit to work deeply and authoritatively in the lives of young people in our diocese and in the World.

"Young woman and man, I say to you, arise!"



Prayer Intention for July - Pray with Pope Francis

For the elderly.

We pray for the elderly, who represent the roots and memory of a people; may their experience and wisdom help young people to look towards the future with hope and responsibility.

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

<https://thepopevideo.org/>



**Pope's Worldwide
Prayer Network**

APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER
<https://www.popesprayer.va/>

We pray for the elderly, who represent the roots and memory of a people; may their experience and wisdom help young people to look towards the future with hope and responsibility.

What a rich gift we have in the experiences and wisdom of our elderly brothers and sisters. These people are our parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends, teachers, coaches, and more. They are those who have witnessed shifts in culture and the endurance of the human spirit. They have experienced hardships, and they have welcomed joy. They have made mistakes. They have found better ways. Their perspective and insights are a gift that cannot be duplicated, and these must not be lost.

And yet so often we younger people do not care for the elderly as we should. We focus on the moment and neglect the reality that what has come before plays a role in what

is to come. We strive to stay youthful ourselves, rather than appreciate the gray hair that Proverbs calls "a crown of glory . . . gained by a life that is just" (Proverbs 16:31).

What's more, the older people in our communities remain sons and daughters of the living God. Proverbs tells us, "The glory of the young is their strength, and the dignity of the old is gray hair." The dignity of the elderly is our responsibility. We pray for a shift in our individual and communal priorities. May we make time to sit with the elderly, to pray with and for them, to listen to their stories, and to help heal what remains broken in them.

Through the Sacraments of the Church, may we tend to the spaces in our elderly brothers and sisters that yearn for mercy. May we together experience hope and deepen our faith. In doing so, may we teach our children to respect and honor the senior members of our families and communities.

Dr Andrew Watson commissioned as Director of Catholic Education

On Thursday, 28 April 2022, Dr Andrew Watson was formally commissioned as Director of Catholic Education for the Diocese of Wagga Wagga at St Michael's Cathedral.

The commissioning Mass was concelebrated by the Most Reverend Mark Edwards OMI, Sixth Bishop of Wagga Wagga, Fr Neville Stanislaus (Ballarat), Fr Peter O'Neill SSC (Columban Leader) and Fr Paddy Sykes Parish Priest of Our Lady of Fatima Parish, South Wagga.

Special guests in attendance included the Federal Member for the Riverina, Michael McCormack MP, the State Member for Wagga Wagga, Dr Joe McGirr, Mayor of Wagga Wagga, Councillor Dallas Tout, former senator and Executive Director of the National Catholic Education Commission, Mrs Jacinta Collins, distinguished public servant Steve Sedgwick AO, CEO of Catholic Schools NSW, Mr Dallas McNerney, Congregation Leader - Presentation Sisters, Sr Margaret Barclay and representatives of various religious communities, principals from the 29 diocesan Catholic schools and Dr Watson's colleagues, family and friends.

During the commissioning, Bishop Mark presented Dr Watson with a gift and a lit candle, saying, "Andrew, please accept this candle as a symbol of The Light of Christ, who is the divine energy, power and influence that proceeds from God and gives life and light to all things. Jesus said, "Let your light shine before others" (Matthew 5:16). He explained that no one lights a lamp just to hide it under a basket. A lamp is meant to be placed on a stand to give light to everything around it. Concluding,

"Andrew, you too are called to be a light to the people around you".

In his Homily, Bishop Mark spoke about the adventure of God's calling for us.

"I came late to the understanding that the language you use is very important. My sister-in-law was my educator, teaching me that my Grandma would so much have preferred 'going on an adventure' to 'going out for a cup of coffee'."

"Today, I want to think a little bit about the adventure that God's calling you on, Andrew and perhaps, in that, I could challenge all of us to think about the adventure that God is walking with us."

"How do we discover that calling? How do we discover the purpose that God made us for? I want to suggest two things. First is through our dreams, and particularly, Andrew, the children we have in our schools, have dreams about what they'd like to do. In many cases, that dream will be their calling."

"The second way that we find our vocation is through God. Andrew, I suggest that those two have come together here today. For your leadership in education and the needs of this diocese are both ways that God has called you. He hasn't just called you to be a Director of Catholic Education, he has called you to be the Director of Catholic Education in the Diocese of Wagga Wagga."

"This is the journey that He shares with you, the 'adventure'!"



Michael McCormack, Dr Andrew Watson and Bishop Mark Edwards.



Mr Tom Sexton Director, Catholic Education Ballarat, Ms Jacinta Collins, Executive Director NCEC, Dr Andrew Watson, Ms Kristina Trimble Director, Catholic Education Bathurst, Mr Peter Hill Director, Catholic Education Wollongong.



Bishop Mark Edwards concelebrates the Mass.



Dr Andrew Watson And Sr Margaret Barclay, Congregational Leader of the Presentation Sisters.

Reflections on the Second Assembly of the Plenary Council

The second assembly of the 5th Plenary Council of Australia was held in a soggy Sydney.

BY BISHOP MARK EDWARDS OMI

We met at Cathedral College in the presence of the Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Charles Balvo, Cardinal Bo and Cardinal Dew. Each day was framed with, and sprinkled with, prayer, beginning with a morning prayer, consideration of the motions in the context of prayer and concluding with Mass in St Mary's Cathedral.

Fr Peter Murphy, Fr Rick Micallef, Wendy Cattell, Ed Brown and I attended from the Wagga Diocese and we experienced people from a great diversity of backgrounds: bush/city; Eastern Rite/Latin; aboriginal/Australian born/overseas born; and from across all spectrums. What we all had in common was a zealous love for the Lord, His Church and its mission.

Much of the work of the Assembly was done at a 'stable table'. We were on the same tables for the duration of the week and I was with eight very different and wonderful, faith filled, zealous and joyful companions. It was a joy.

Archbishop Tim Costelloe, president of the Plenary Council, opened with an address in which, among other things, he emphasised that we are not combatants each wanting our way to prevail over others but sisters and brothers who want the Lord's will to be done. He encouraged us not to fear

that the Spirit has abandoned us or that this journey has been a purely human experience (rather than one guided by the Lord).

This was particularly tested by the proposed text on the equality of men and women. You may have seen in the media that the original text was only just passed at the required level by the consultative vote and only just failed at the deliberative vote. This was experienced as dismissive and hurtful by some of the women and men and led to a tense moment.

The gracious continued engagement and re-engagement at this testing time was testament to the commitment of all to the Church and to this process. The subsequent listening to the hurt and the reasons why the vote was not passed provided agreement and unity at a deeper level. We were able to find a pathway forward because we heard, recognised and responded to the wisdom in other people's concerns. The (much improved) final document was nearly unanimously approved.

The Plenary Council produced 10 decrees. These decrees will be sent to the Holy Father for his confirmation and will oblige us six months later.

It is permissible already to begin to make these a part of our lives and mission.



The Plenary Council Members from Wagga Wagga Diocese. Fr Peter Murphy, Fr Rick Micallef, Mr Ed Brown, Bishop Edwards and Mrs Wendy Cattell.



Bishop Edwards OMI and Fr Christian Fini OMI, Provincial of the Oblates in Australia.



Table 7.



Celebrating Mass at the end of the day.

Plenary Council Report

It was a privilege to be part of our Diocesan group who participated in the Plenary Council.

BY ED BROWN

I confess to not really appreciating the ramifications of my 'expression of interest' over 2.5 years ago, but I maintained an enthusiastic and hopeful spirit of anticipation that the Plenary Council would signal a new beginning for the Catholic Church in Australia. I was constantly aware of the extensive process of preparation and consultation which preceded the Second Assembly and I was attentive to listening to what the Spirit was saying in the voices of many hundreds of members of our Church who engaged in the process of prayer, listening, dialogue and discernment in the journey of the Plenary Council.

I also must admit to not fully understanding the concept of 'synodality' which has recently been discussed extensively. I am however certain that it was evident in the Second Assembly which concluded on Saturday, 9th July, 2022, after an intensive and, at times, challenging week of reflection, discussion and voting on the motions on the key themes identified during the extensive process of preparation and consultation. Some excellent and life-giving recommendations, commitments and initiatives were approved including:

- practical ways to acknowledge and celebrate the important place of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander



Travelling to the Plenary Council.

people in the life and ministry of the Church;

- responding with justice and compassion to the victims of abuse, and to ensure Church environments are safe and respectful;
- how the Church can be more inclusive, welcoming and missionary;
- strategies and practical measures to show greater care for the environment;
- affirmation that the sacramental and prayer life of the Church should transform our lives;
- (eventually) highlighting the equal dignity of women and men in the Church and supporting new opportunities for women to actively participate in ministries that engage with the most important aspects of Diocesan and Parish life;
- that governance in the Church should be exercised in a synodal manner; and

- a renewed emphasis on formation for ministry.

A more comprehensive and extensive summary of the outcomes of the Second Assembly may be found at <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au>

I fully appreciate that the Plenary Council is a first step in a new era for our Church in Australia, and there is much work to be done. It is crucial that we move into the 'implementation phase' of the Plenary Council with the same energy and enthusiasm evident at the Second Assembly, and that we resolve to continue our journey as a more missionary and Christ-centred Church in Australia.

My thanks for the prayerful support of the Plenary Council and we look forward to a hopeful and synodal experience of Church in our Diocese, and beyond, in the years ahead.



Jacinta Collins (one of the presidents of the Council) and Fr David Ranson (the secretary of the Council).



Fr Murphy making an intervention.



The stable tables where much of the work was done.

5th Plenary Council, Assembly 2

'Listen to what the Spirit is saying'

On Monday the 4th of July, I was immensely humbled to be part of the 5th Plenary Council of Australia.

BY WENDY CATTELL - Diocese of Wagga Wagga Plenary Council Representative

I prayed that I would be open to the Holy Spirit and be God's voice for His Church and the Wagga Diocese and know when to speak and when to be silent.

The Plenary Council opened with Mass on Sunday evening 3rd July at Mary MacKillop Place. This was followed by the assembly dinner and the official commencement the next morning. Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP generously hosted the event at the St Mary's Cathedral precinct.

47 bishops attended with many clergy, religious and laity from across Australia. Many of us came with much anticipation and a unifying sense that we were there to "Listen to the Holy Spirit 'and to discern what God was asking of us and for His Church in Australia.

There were eight sections that were the focus of the Plenary Council: reconciliation, seeking healing, missionary discipleship, formation and leadership, equal dignity of men and women, sacraments, governance and ecology. These were discussed and some amendments were made, followed by the consultative voting and finally the deliberative voting by the Bishops of Australia.

Holy Mass was celebrated each day

with beautiful and uplifting liturgy. Each of the choirs were amazing and helped raise our hearts, minds and souls to God.

Aboriginal culture was incorporated at the beginning of the daily conferences with unique rituals that many of the assembly had never seen before. Morning prayer would then lead us into 'spiritual conversations' regarding the various motions that were set for the day. Some interventions that individual members had submitted prior, were read or given from the floor. Amendments to the sections were often made following these interventions. Finally, we would have the consultative voting and then the deliberative voting.

On three of the evenings, we had assembly dinners which provided some very welcome relief, support and comradeship. The Plenary Closing Mass was held on Saturday 9th July and we began our journey home.

Upon reflection of the motions that were passed and now await review from Rome, I had to ask myself how much do these decisions help the Catholic Church in Australia?

In the current climate where respect for life is under attack, the call for the defence of human life from conception to natural death, especially those



Fr Peter Murphy, Fr Rick Micaleff, Mr Edmund Brown, Bishop Edwards OMI, Mrs Wendy Cattell.

most vulnerable, was reaffirmed and unanimously voted in by the bishops.

The most well-known and publicised motion was for women to have more senior roles in the Church at local, diocesan and national level and to be more greatly 'valued publicly and properly remunerated', was listened to and acted upon by the Bishops of Australia. Additionally, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders were to be actively included on committees and decision-making bodies.

Furthermore, options were to be developed for the 'liturgically and culturally appropriate use of symbols and rituals in the Catholic liturgical context, with respect for the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.'

Whilst many of the motions approved were by themselves of value to particular groups and would add diversity to some of the Church structures, I believe that there were some obvious omissions of many truths of our faith that both identify and define the Catholic Church. The most important mission

of the Church that Christ established is for the salvation of souls. All our deliberations are pointless if they do not lead the person closer to Christ and eternal salvation.

The crisis in the Church has seen a severe decline in both faith and morals that were once the backbone of Western society. We have witnessed the most abhorrent laws against the human dignity of the most vulnerable and defenceless in our society. I firmly believe that the Church needs to be unashamedly Catholic, publicly and concretely committed to upholding

all the teachings of Christ, as handed down through scripture, Tradition and Apostolic succession. This will involve listening, dialogue and accompaniment of others but, more importantly, if it is to be true evangelisation, we need faithful and strong bishops, clergy, religious and laity that will bring others to repentance, sacramental healing and in full communion with the Catholic Church.

Before any bodily healing, Our Lord would often say, 'Yoursins are forgiven.' Only after the forgiveness of sins did the bodily healing occur. Hence, our Lord has shown us that the priority for the Catholic Church is to save souls. The life changing event of turning back to God brings joy, peace, unity, love and a desire to bring others to Christ.

At the assembly I was blessed to meet and renew friendships with many faithful brave clergy, religious and laity who remain loyal to Christ and His Church. I listened to some profound interventions that encouraged and confirmed my faith and I witnessed the palpable joy of those who love God and strive to do His Will. **This for me evoked sincere gratitude, affirmation and the profound confidence that indeed God is in control and the "gates of hell will not prevail."**



A view of the floor of the Plenary Council.

Desiderio Desideravi - Liturgical Formation and the People of God

The liturgy and especially the Mass, is something we Catholics feel very strongly about and rightly because it is so central to our life of faith.

BY FR CONNELL PERRY

Lex orandi, lex credendi best translates as ‘the law of prayer is the law of belief’ and this simply means that the way we worship is meant to fundamentally express what we believe. Therefore we should care deeply about what our worship looks like and how it expresses the doctrinal and spiritual elements of our relationship with God.

Following the recent promulgation of the motu proprio *Traditiones Custodes* by Pope Francis there has been some tension around the direction that the magisterium is shepherding the Church towards in her expression of her public worship. Into this milieu, the Holy Father recently released the apostolic letter *Desiderio Desideravi* to all the faithful on the liturgical formation of the people of God. His desire is to aid our contemplation of the truth and beauty of the sacred liturgy by offering some prompts and cues for reflection. He certainly does a brilliant job of inviting us to rediscover, to safeguard and to live the truth of the paschal mystery in a deeper way.

The Holy Father suggests the celebration of the liturgy must not be marred by “...a superficial and foreshortened understanding of its value or, worse yet, by its being exploited in service of some ideological vision, no matter the hue.” This means that it doesn't matter whether

one falls out to the right or the left of the boat of St Peter. In either case, one has fallen out of the boat. We are called to remain within the balanced security of being simply Catholic without buying into the political divisions of liberalism or conservatism. This ties in with the Pope's understanding of the danger of neo-Gnostic and neo-Pelagian views within the church today.

Pope Francis acknowledges the loss of modern society's ability to respond with wonder and amazement to the beauty of the Mass and to engage in the symbolic actions. He goes on to spend a great deal of time discussing why liturgical formation is essential and what it means for all members of the Church. It is with this background that Pope Francis highlights that all of us are called to be custodians of what we all have received from Vatican II and to reflect deeply on how we accept and understand the liturgical reform that was born out of *Sacrosanctum Concilium*. In a nutshell, this means receiving formation for the liturgy and to be formed by the liturgy with a docile and humble demeanour.

Some particular points that the Holy Father presents that are helpful in understanding this better include that we should not renounce sacred language and symbols because of modern mentalities but we should seek to recover a capacity to use and



Pope Francis at the Vatican.

understand what has been passed down to us. Priests also need to continually grow in their liturgical formation so that they can faithfully fulfil their obligation to properly lead worship conformed to Christ. Seminarians as part of their formation are to be taught how to celebrate the liturgy not only through programs of study but also through authentic and living experience of exemplary ritual in the seminary. Parents and other educators have a special role in educating young people from an early age to practice and learn the power of gestures in the liturgy (such as the sign of cross, kneeling and the prayers).

The Holy Father's letter also focuses on the *ars celebrandi* or the ‘art of celebrating’. He clearly states that it “...cannot be reduced to only a rubrical mechanism, much less should it be thought of as imaginative - sometimes wild - creativity without rules.” This obviously means that ritual and norms are not ends in themselves but are at the service and protection of a higher reality. If this understanding is lost, we risk being preoccupied with externals or rubrics which descend towards both ends of the theological spectrum.

Some basic principles the Holy Father talks further about concerning the *ars celebrandi* include that there is no room for improvisation but rather that there is a need for consistent application and discipline. The Holy Father specifically laments the fact that parishes have suffered abuse at times through the inadequate extremes of poor models of presiding at Mass by some priests. He calls on all priests to develop the art of celebrating Mass with humility, obedience and love that puts Christ and not the priest himself at the centre.

Lay faithful are also invited to try their

best to develop the ‘art of celebrating’ within the liturgy as well. Pope Francis suggests that cultivating liturgical silence is absolutely important to allowing the Holy Spirit to animate the celebration. Gestures within the liturgy also need to be carried out with the utmost attention and interior devotion. All of this serves as a means of deepening our love of Christ within the context of our liturgical worship.

Desiderio Desideravi provides some challenging and thought provoking food for thought for all of us. The Holy Father's intention to establish unity in the Roman Rite without going back to the ritual form before the Council is quite obvious. He acknowledges that even though the implementation since the 1970s has at times left a lot to be desired, the reforms themselves are the legitimate result of the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Perhaps a path forward in the midst of all this is to open our hearts to the guidance of the Holy Spirit through the Vicar of Christ on earth who is calling us to be astonished by the beauty of the liturgy and to be a faithful, loving and positive part of the solution. It is natural to ask questions and to have understandable difficulties but we should never allow ourselves to give into disunity and dissent. This is a moment to abandon the polemics and work toward safeguarding our communion with Christ and his Church, a oneness that he so desired on the night that he celebrated the Last Supper. **Most importantly, let us turn to the intercession of our Blessed Mother Mary and pray for one another within the Diocese of Wagga Wagga that we can emulate her and love Jesus in the Eucharist the way that she did.**



Canonization Mass on May 15, 2022. Photo: Daniel Ibanez/CNA / EWTN.

50 year anniversary of priesthood

Father John Baptist Pham Van Vuong

Rev John Baptist Pham Van Vuong finished his placement after seven years as Parish Priest of Koorungal with his last Eucharist celebrated on Sunday 16th January, 2022.

He has also served the communities of Griffith, Narrandera, Mulwala and Howlong.

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

Although Fr John finished up as a priest in a parish, he certainly didn't retire. Bishop Mark Edwards appointed him as Spiritual Director at the Diocesan Seminary, St John Vianney College. His gentle spirituality and love of Pope Francis is a great gift to the men at Vianney.

Fr John was born in Vinh Ninh, Vietnam

and educated at St Joseph's Seminary in Saigon and the Collegium Urbanianum de Propaganda Fide in Rome

He was ordained a priest on 18th March 1972 in Rome by Cardinal Agnello Rossi and arrived in the Diocese of Wagga Wagga on 20 January 1988.

Fr John took leave from the Diocese of Wagga Wagga from 1992 to 2000 to work with the Focolare Movement in the Philippines, then again from 2010 to 2016 to work in Rome with the Focolare Movement. He also served on the Council of Priests in 2001 and 2003.

During his farewell morning tea at Koorungal Parish, Mr Manuel Donebus (Chair of the Parish Pastoral Council) summed up the feelings of all who were there when he said "You are a very gentle person Father, and we will miss you very much".

Father Anthony (Tony) Schipp

Rev Anthony (Tony) James Schipp was appointed Parish Priest of Lockhart and Urana in 2014 and retired in 2017.

Born and raised in Leeton, Fr Tony was the first St Francis' College ex-student to be ordained a priest and was "dux" of the college in his final year. He worked at the Leeton Cannery, the Lands Department in Narrandera and the Commonwealth Bank before applying to be a candidate for the priesthood.

After studying at St Columba's Seminary, Springwood and St Patrick's Seminary at Manly, Fr Tony was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Francis Carroll at St Joseph's, Leeton on 2 September, 1972. He was also the first priest to be ordained in St Joseph's Church.

He served in parishes including Griffith, Wagga Wagga, Junee, Darlington Point-Coleambally, St Patrick's Albury, Howlong, Leeton and Narrandera.

Fr Schipp has served as a Diocesan Consultor, and also worked in the Perth

Archdiocese for a period of time.

On his retirement in 2017 Fr Schipp said the three things he believes are needed to achieve success in life and help provide a framework for moving forward through difficult times:

'To succeed in life, you need three things: a wishbone, a backbone and a funny bone.'

While he retired from parish ministry Fr Schipp took on a 'mobile' ministry as the first Catholic chaplain to the grey nomad community.

Fr Schipp hit the road in his mobile home and aimed to minister to Catholic grey nomads or supply in parishes - wherever he is needed.

The back roads of Australia are not unfamiliar to Fr Tony. In 1995 he took time off to ride his BMW motorbike around Australia. His seven-month sojourn finished in Western Australia where he served at the Bullsbrook parish near Perth, for four and a half years.



Father Bernie Thomas

Fresh out of Aquinas College (now Xavier High School) in Albury, Culcairn boy Bernie Thomas joined the Commonwealth Bank in Albury not really sure what he wanted to do.

He left the bank after a time for a job at the Blacklocks car dealership but it was only when he joined the Young Catholic Workers youth group and became involved with young people that his true calling became clear.

"I found that sort of work much more rewarding than the other work I was doing," he said.

"One of the priests who was there said to me: 'Ever thought of becoming a priest?' and it went from there.

"I went to the seminary at Springwood and then the seminary at Manly and was ordained in 1972."

In 2015, after 43 years in the priesthood, 71-year-old Reverend Father Bernie Thomas, parish priest of Sacred Heart at Koorringal, retired.

At the time Fr Bernie said he didn't really have any plans but hoped to be able to do supply work.

Fr Bernie was ordained in St Patrick's Catholic Church at Culcairn in August, 1972, by the then Bishop of Wagga, the Most Reverend Francis Carroll.

His first appointment was Leeton before going to Junee in 1975. At the start of 1978, Fr Bernie went to Our Lady of Fatima, South Wagga, before his vocation took a new turn.

"In 1979 I went to the Film and Television School in Sydney," he said.

Fr Bernie had an interest in the media - both his brothers were into photography.

In 1980-81 he worked in media for the Church in

Sydney before working with Bishop Carroll and then Bishop William Brennan at St Michael's Cathedral in Wagga between 1981 and 1986.

Among his roles were chaplain to the Riverina College of Advanced Education, assistant education officer and media director for the diocese, including being editor of the diocesan newspaper, Together.

Outside of the Church, he helped found community radio station, 2AAA-FM.

"I trained a lot of early presenters because of my experience in radio and television," he said.

In May, 1986, Fr Bernie's vocation again took a right-hand turn when he was sent to Kununurra in Western Australia for just over two years.

He rates that experience in the Kimberleys as one of highlights of his priesthood.

"I learnt a lot about Aboriginal culture and spirituality, and that reinforced a lot of the things I was thinking about spiritually," Fr Bernie said.

"I came back a lot more confident in that spirituality field."

Soon after his return to the Diocese of Wagga, Fr Bernie served as chaplain at his old high school, Xavier.

And in 2008, Fr Bernie's life journey took him to Sacred Heart at Koorringal, replacing Fr Wilf Plunkett who had been parish priest there for 31 years.

Fr Bernie said ill health had forced his retirement with two major operations and 'a bit of a heart attack'.

"I found I could not keep up the pace I thought was necessary for the parish."

Fr Bernie was officially farewelled by his parishioners at a barbecue on December 20, 2015.

"There were some very nice things said about me,



but I said all I did was what I was ordained to do," he said.

"I was just trying to be a priest in the parish.

"I am no saint, I don't pretend to be saint."

Sacred Heart parish council chairman, John Goonan, said parishioners had huge respect for Fr Bernie.

He said everyone agreed Fr Bernie's greatest gift to the parish was his homilies.

"We don't get rules and regulations and dogma, it (the homilies) is a place where we are encouraged to act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with our God."

Originally published in the Daily Advertiser by Ken Grimson.

Father Ronald Corbett (RIP)

then only had five years of service in the diocese. He worked in the parish of Griffith for a short time with people he loved so much and who took him to themselves and continued to keep him in their hearts.

Most of this time he was unwell. Bishop Carroll would visit him in hospital where he was greeted with cheerfulness and an acceptance of faith. He was often confined to home or hospital but continued his vital priestly contact.

Bishop Carroll wrote: "I know all of us have met people who accepted suffering in a very positive way. It somehow has drawn them close to God and developed love of God and love of neighbour in them. But I don't think I've met anyone, any priest, in whom which suffering became so really his very priesthood. For Fr Ron that was his way of living his priesthood, in an acceptance and living out of suffering in union with Christ.

"This he would express and

consecrate in the Mass which he loved so much and which he concelebrated even the day before his death. He loved his priesthood and he loved his fellow priests."

At the time, so many students in Griffith remembered him wandering around the school with a quiet word and smiling face. He delighted in his nieces and nephews and giving his first Holy Communion in his hospital room. All of these things remind us of that very simple yet strong faith of Fr Ron. He uplifted everyone by example and helped many by his prayers. For this he remains very close to many.

"Fr Ron is there at the very heart of the mystery of love. Suffering is not sought for its own sake, God doesn't want people to suffer, but somehow, when there is real love, we want to be with the one who is loved. Jesus dies and suffered for those who love him, are ready and happy and joyful to share that suffering. That is what Ron did in his suffering and in his death.



Ron Corbett, Bernard Thomas, Bishop Carroll, Fr Tony Schipp

At Fr Corbett's funeral in 1977, Bishop Carroll expressed, "I think the over-riding impression of Ron was that of simplicity and the strength of simplicity."

"This simplicity shone through his very personality, his faith, his "down to earthness", if I could say it, his doing and wanting to do things in an ordinary way, and yet, with what is the very touch stone or holiness, doing them extraordinarily well."

Fr Corbett was born in 1938 into a farming family. Son of Thomas and

Elizabeth Corbett and had 8 siblings. Bishop Carroll spoke of Fr Corbett's wonderful family who supported and loved him, especially in his final years. Fr Corbett had a love of the land and its people and would often talk like a 'good old farmer'.

Years after leaving school he decided that the priesthood was his calling. He went back to school and studied with boys much younger than himself and took it all as a matter of course. He found it difficult but persevered and was ordained to the priesthood and

World Meeting of Families

As the tenth World Meeting of Families took place in Rome, a Diocesan family gathering was held in Wagga Wagga on Saturday, 25 June to mark the occasion.

It was an opportunity for families throughout the local area to come together for a day of prayer, fun, formation, reflection, sharing and building up of faith and friendship.

It was a wonderful day! The event began with Solemn Mass at St Michael's Cathedral. Bishop Mark Edwards during the homily spoke about the foundational importance of family in the life of the Church and the need to support each other as one united family. He also thanked the 20 families and others in attendance, along with the Diocese at large, for their witness to faith.

A series of activities for different age groups took place throughout the day which were enjoyed by all. Andy Mullins presented a brilliant talk for the adults on parenting for faith and how to navigate modern challenges such as technology with a focus on nurturing

virtues in the family home. Fr Sean Byrnes spoke on ecclesiology and the family. Trevor and Catherine Dal Broi also discussed their experience of raising a large Catholic family and the stories of parenting young kids were highly entertaining and relatable.

Meanwhile the teens engaged in a series of games which were run by Chosen Youth Wagga before they went to a good workshop with Stina Constantine from Virtue Ministry. The primary aged children also spent time playing games with the Chosen Youth leaders and they were blessed to be able to receive catechesis from the Missionaries of Charity. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd provided sessions for the 3-6 year olds and a generous group of child care workers provided babysitting so the adults could enjoy the formation activities in relative peace and quiet.



Andy Mullins talks about parenting for faith.

The day concluded with a Holy Hour and time for Confession. A real highlight was the Benediction which was followed by a consecration of the families to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Perhaps one of the most beneficial parts of the whole event was that it brought together families and gave them the opportunity to support each other in their beautiful vocation.

A big thank you to Bishop Mark

Edwards and Fr Connell Perry and the planning team who put such an incredible effort into organising the family gathering to celebrate the World Meeting of Families. **There are already plans to hold this event annually in the Diocese of Wagga Wagga and the hope is that many more families will come along next time with their parish priests.**



Doughnut competition with Chosen Youth Wagga.



Lunchtime.



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Family Gathering

On Saturday 25 June families came together for a day of prayer, fun, formation, sharing and friendship to celebrate the coinciding of World Meeting of Families in Rome.

Guest speakers included Fr Sean Byrnes, Trevor and Catherine Dal Broi and Dr Andy Mullins. Following is an extract from Trevor and Catherine Dal Broi's presentation. We hope to bring you more from the other speakers in the next issue of Together.

RAISING A CATHOLIC FAMILY

Our journey as a family began on 21st October 2000 at Our Lady of Pompeii Church in Yoogali, where a 19-year-old Catherine Sergi married a 24-year-old Trevor Dal Broi.

Early married life was a period of growth in our relationship. However, faith was not part of our journey at this stage.

In March 2003, our first child, Elijah was born and 16 months later, in July 2004 Aryellah was born. That year we bought a pharmacy and during that stage of our marriage we thought everything was rosy, we had two beautiful children and we kept ourselves busy with the pharmacy. When Aryellah was six weeks old we actually talked to each other for the first time about our family size and we agreed, "that was it". I had a referral for sterilisation and thank God, our GP talked me out of it, which was the first and actually the last time someone sincerely asked "Are you sure you don't want to have any more children?"

In April 2006 Jeriah was born and the business was booming. However, with all the worldly trappings we weren't settled. Faith in God was lacking, but we hadn't realised it yet. At that time, we had a customer who, as a Catholic Clergy, persistently tried to get us into the pews.

Around 2006, our eldest child was diagnosed with autism and an intellectual disability. This challenge threw everything we knew about parenting out the window and we found ourselves vulnerable. At the stage of our journey we were being stirred by God, prayer was becoming part of our day and through the encouragement this clergy customer we became planned givers, even though we weren't going to Church.

In 2007, we started to go to Mass, albeit irregularly, as we thought this

would be good for our young family. After one of the Masses I was invited to join the WYD08 committee. It was a lot of fun and we were blessed to attend WYD08 in Sydney, when Catherine was 7 months pregnant with Isaiah.

In 2009 we were asked by a young seminarian on pastoral placement to attend a young couple's dinner. The young couple's dinner was held at a club and the guest speaker was a Billings Ovulation Method teacher. That night I sat there and judged this speaker.

As the night progressed we were explained something that I "knew" about but I didn't really know about with the subject of conception. I scientifically knew that once the sperm met an egg in the fallopian tube that an embryo was formed. I knew that the "pill" contained synthetic estrogen and progestogen and did three things to prevent a pregnancy, I will quote the Australian Medicines Handbook 2008 page 661; *"They inhibit ovulation, reduce receptivity of endometrium to implantation and thicken cervical mucus to form a barrier to sperm."* I also knew that the Progestogen only pill, or "mini-pill" has two actions to prevent a pregnancy, and I quote from the AMH, page 666; *"progestogens thicken cervical mucus to impede the passage of sperm and change endometrium reducing the potential for implantation."*

So, I scientifically knew how the pill worked according to the information I learnt at uni. But on that night, for the first time in our life we were explained something dramatic and profound.

The newly created embryo, when it travels down the fallopian tube, instead of being implanted into its mother's womb, which would normally be 6-8mm thick, is now left abandoned and is bled out, as it is given only 1-2mm of endometrium, insufficient for sustaining this new life. Instead of being a nursery, the womb becomes a hostile environment.

At the point of the talk the guest speaker asked us an important question, "What does God give at the beginning of conception, what animates this new life?" We all were blank. She then further explained, "It starts with s and



Trevor and Catherine Dal Broi in Italy with their family.

rhymes with lol" SOUL.

To non-believers who do not accept that we have a soul they might say that it is not a baby, but a zygote, an embryo or a foetus. However, from the moment of conception Christians believe there is a soul present and when these new lives are not given the opportunity to live and are bled out to die instead, we know that commandment Number 5 is broken.

That night was an epiphany in our journey and we personally decided to no longer use any form of contraception. We went to Confession as quickly as we could. In mid-2009 we went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and while on trip I asked Trevor when he was going to stop selling contraception at the pharmacy. After much prayer, Trevor plucked up the courage and asked for 6 weeks to do it after the holiday. It wasn't a popular decision, we received a lot of media attention, but we felt free and at peace with our decision. On 7th October 2009, at the height of the media circus, we received three times a very important message from God; first in the morning from our Parish Priest, secondly in the afternoon from a doorknocking proselytiser, and thirdly at night I read it in a letter to the editor in our local newspaper;

"No one can be the slave of two masters: he will either hate the first and love the second, or be attached to the first and despise the second. You cannot be the slave both of God and of money." Matthew 6:24

This affirmed to us to put God first in raising our Catholic family.

In 2010, Mary was born and we made a choice to sell the pharmacy. That year we also developed a devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe, and we were blessed to take our family to Mexico

to make a pilgrimage. We came home from that holiday with a stronger trust in God and a new-found ability to be docile to God's plan.

In 2010 we started SRE teaching, we studied BOM and were more active in parish life. Our children started school at St Patricks Primary School and at this time of our marriage we decided to be open to more children. In 2012 John Paul was born, followed by Therese in 2014, and Joseph in 2017.

In 2018 we were blessed to take our family to a family reunion in Italy. We had been to Italy before but this was the first time as pilgrims. Taking our children to the tombs of many great Saints they had read about was awesome. We have many great memories and the highlight was visiting St Peter's Basilica and being in a papal audience

In 2019 Thomas was born, and in 2021 our tenth child, Nicholas was born.

Earlier this year we were thrown another challenge when Thomas was diagnosed with cerebral palsy. This has tested our family, as he requires multiple therapies and a lot of attention. But with God's help, we take one day at a time and so far, we have been blessed with his progress.

Statistic: 100% of my "dad jokes" are not laughed at by our children. E.g. "What did one wall say to the other wall?..... I'll meet you at the corner."

We have been asked by many people a number of questions about our family life and what it is like. Are they all yours? Same dad? Any twins? Did you give birth to all of them? Don't you have a tv? Aren't you a chemist

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

Refugee Week 2022

Many people who have fled war and persecution and have made Wagga Wagga their home came together over the week end of the 25th and 26th June to acknowledge Refugee Week.

BY JOAN SABOISKY

Others came with compassionate concerns for the suffering caused by the terrible upheavals in the lives of our brothers and sisters.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees announced recently that 100 million people are displaced because of war, persecution, climate change and unrest. The need for Peace in our world is paramount.

FAMILY FUN DAY

On Saturday 25th at Henschke oval and Hall a gathering of over 1,500 people enjoyed a day of celebration and happiness. There were foods, games, songs and dancing from various cultural groups. Children enjoyed rides, face painting, jumping castles. They checked out the fire truck and police car and bikes. It was a festive, special atmosphere. It was organised by the Multicultural Council and supported by other services and community groups and made for a memorable occasion.

MULTIFAITH PRAYER SERVICE FOR PEACE

The week end concluded on Sunday 26th at San Isidore with the annual Multifaith Prayer Service for Peace. This gathering included a special welcome to recent new arrivals. The service was hosted by the West Wagga-San Isidore Refugee Committee. The Church was

filled with friends from many faiths, Churches and cultural groups that now call Wagga Wagga home. It was a coming together in solidarity for Peace.

We were welcomed to country by Wiradjuri Elder, Aunty Mary Atkinson. Aunty Mary acknowledged her special connection to San Isidore, a place her mother once lived.

The service was led by Fr Paddy Sykes.

CANDLE CEREMONY

A candle was lit as we prayed and remember the 100 million displaced people now in the world. (Mayor Dallas Tout)

Candles were lit for nations embroiled in war. (John Moi African Community, David Gunning, Burmese Community).

A candle was lit for refugees who have come to Wagga Wagga as refugees or to work. (Shahab Mahmood, Red Cross)

Support services were remembered and candles lit by representatives of Multicultural Council. (Belinda Crain, Ray Goodlass).

A minute's silence was held for those who have died and candles lit by representative of Amnesty International and Ukraine. (Gabrielle Robinson, Peter Saboisky)

MESSAGES OF PEACE FROM WAGGA WAGGA

This year's service included the



Fr Paddy Sykes, Tulisa Pelelina Liku, Aniva Mahe, Siosifa Mahe, Tokaukamea Liku, Sr Mata Mahina Malani, Eseta and Christopher Veamatahau (from the Tongan Community).



Rosa Suliman, Constance Okot, Joan Saboisky, Apual Tong and Rebecca Adut.

distribution of a Peace Booklet. Many faith, church and cultural groups contributed prayers, readings or thoughts about Peace for reflection compiled for publication. It's content represents a small taste of thoughts about Peace from the rich and varied communities that make up Wagga Wagga's multicultural region.

The booklet has words contributed from local Aboriginal, Buddhist, Persian, African, Catholic, Baha'i, Jewish, Islamic, Quaker, Burmese, Yazidi, El Salvadorian, Hindu, Afghani, Sikh, Salvation Army, non-faith representative and Anglican communities.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



Gabrielle Robertson and Peter Saboisky light Ukrainian candles for those who have died in wars and violence.



Mary Crimmins, Deirdre Moulden, Margaret Walsh, Sr Judith Baz present each person with a Welcome to Wagga Wagga card made by children at Henschke, Sacred Heart and Holy Trinity schools and a small ceramics bird made at San Isidore.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

WELCOME TO NEW ARRIVALS

A special highlight of the service was seeing all the people who have recently arrived gathered at the front of the church. Each new person was given a welcome to Wagga Wagga card made by children at local schools and a gift of a little ceramic bird made at San Isidore. The new arrivals included humanitarian arrivals from Myanmar (Chin and Kachin groups), Tibet, Yazidi from North Iraq and Tongan workers. The Mayor Dallas Tout expressed warm words of welcome to our new residents. He alerted us to the significant words in Australia’s national Anthem “for those who’ve come across the seas we’ve endless plains to share”.

AFTERNOON TEA

In the church grounds blue marquees housed tea, coffee and generous platters of sandwiches, wraps, fruit, cheeses, dips, slices, biscuits, cakes. This provided a fitting setting for those who attended to mingle and enjoy the friendly atmosphere, make new friends and take photos.

The refugee committee expressed gratitude to the PALM scheme (Pacific Islander facility) and Multicultural Council for the donations for the delicious afternoon tea and support received.

From the Catholic Community:

POPE FRANCIS
A Moment for Grace
A Prayer for Refugees
God of our Wandering Ancestors,
Long have we known
That your heart is with the refugee:
That you were born into time
In a family of refugees
Fleeing violence in their homeland,
Who then gathered up their hungry child
And fled into alien country.

Their cry, your cry, resounds through the ages:
“Will you let me in?”
Give us hearts that break open
When our brothers and sisters turn to us with that same cry. Then surely all these things will follow:
Ears will no longer turn deaf to their voices.
Eyes will see a moment for grace instead of a threat.
Tongues will not be silenced but will instead advocate.
And hands will reach out—
working for peace in their homeland, working for justice in the lands where they seek safe haven.
Lord, protect all refugees in their travels.
May they find a friend in me
And so make me worthy
Of the refuge I have found in you.
AMEN

Contributed by Most Rev Mark Edwards OMI, Bishop, Catholic Diocese of Wagga Wagga

Peace message from El Salvador:

Words from Oscar Romero about Peace contributed by Maria Vanegas. Maria a former refugee living in Wagga Wagga from El Salvador.
Peace is not the product of terror or fear.
Peace is not the silence of cemeteries.
Peace is not the silent result of violent repression.
Peace is the generous,
Tranquil contribution of all
To the good of all.
Peace is dynamism.
Peace is generosity.
It is right and it is duty.
(Archbishop Oscar Romero. Catholic Saint. Spoke out against human rights violation and plight of the poor in El Salvador. Assassinated in 1980)



Right: Alvina and Dr Ata Ur Rehman from the Muslim community join in the prayer.



Maria Vanegas former refugee from El Salvador reads reflection about Peace from St Oscar Romero, Archbishop of El Salvadore assassinated in 1980.



Bishop Mark Edwards OMI read during the service a Prayer written by Pope Francis.



Holy Spirit School's personalised paver project for 50th anniversary

Holy Spirit School, Lavington as part of their 50th Anniversary celebrations, are offering past and present families, students and staff to purchase a personal engraved paver which will be laid on their school grounds.

If you like the idea of your family's names to be permanently laid near the oval basketball court, and remembered as being a current or past member of the school community, please complete a form available from the front office at Holy Spirit School and the Holy Spirit church foyer.



OFFER 1: \$40
INDIVIDUAL PAVER
Your donation of \$40 or more entitles you to have your name engraved into a paver as a lasting record of your valued support. The paver will be permanently installed in **the school grounds** proudly showing your donation.
Size: 230 x 115 x 50mm



OFFER 2: \$75
DOUBLE PAVER
Your donation of \$75 or more entitles you to have your names engraved into two pavers as a lasting record of your valued support. The pavers will be permanently installed in **the school grounds** proudly showing your donation.
Size: 230 x 230x 50mm



OFFER 3: \$110
TRIPLE PAVER
Your donation of \$110 or more entitles you to have your names engraved into three pavers as a lasting record of your valued support. The pavers will be permanently installed in **the school grounds** proudly showing your donation.
Size: 230 x 345 x 50mm



OFFER 4: \$130
FOUR PAVER
Your donation of \$130 or more entitles you to have your names engraved into four pavers as a lasting record of your valued support. The pavers will be permanently installed in **the school grounds** proudly showing your donation.
Size: 230 x 460 x 50mm

Tim Fischer Oration

Several years ago, I was invited to make a presentation in Rome to a conference organised by the Pontifical Council for the Family of which I was a consulter.

BY KEVIN ANDREWS

As I was speaking a familiar figure in an Akubra hat appeared at the back of the room. It was Tim Fischer, who made his way to a desk in the front row where he placed his trademark headwear.

I had arranged to catch-up with Tim who was then Australia's Ambassador to the Holy See. As I watched Tim mixing with the participants at the end of the conference session, I reflected that he was as relaxed in a cathedral of cardinals as he was with the farmers at Boree Creek. Over a meal that evening in his favourite cucina, we discussed world affairs. Tim was more than our ambassador to the Vatican; he was regularly used as a special envoy by the prime minister in a range of international missions. Behind the country image was a very astute observer of human nature.

It is fitting that an oration has been established to honour Tim Fischer who spent a life time serving his nation, as a soldier, parliamentarian, both state and commonwealth, minister and diplomat. It is also fitting that the oration 'calls forth young people to protect and promote the common good through ethical attitudes and action in public and political life', as Tim demonstrated ethical leadership throughout his long service.

If the central political question is 'how can we live together', it is inescapably a moral and ethical issue. The notion of virtue in public and political life is not

discussed much these days, but it has been critical for most of our civilisational history.

In Plato's *Laws*, a discussion about the purpose of law occurs between the Athenian stranger and two elderly travellers. It is education which comes to the fore. As the Harvard professor and former US Ambassador to the Holy see, Mary Ann Glendon writes: 'The ultimate concern here . . . is not so much with the right laws for the state, but the right education for citizenship. The Athenian Stranger continually brings the discussion around to the classical idea that the aim of law is to lead citizens towards virtue, to make them noble and wise.'

'A man who defines good with no connection to virtue cannot cultivate either friendship or justice or liberality,' observed the great Roman statesman of the pre-Christian world, Cicero. For the ancients, there were four cardinal virtues, wisdom, courage, temperance and justice. Hence leadership involved the pursuit of truth, justice and the common good.

In an age so wedded to rights, there is a need to return to duty and responsibility. At the heart of our Christian duty, as Tim's life revealed, is a transcendental call to the service of others. As the former Czech president, Václav Havel wrote, 'The main task of the present generation of politicians . . . is to assume




Fr Tony Percy, Tim Fischer and Archbishop Prowse.

their responsibility for the long-range prospects of the world and thus to set an example for the public in whose sight they work. Their responsibility is to think ahead boldly, not to fear the disfavour of the crowd, to imbue their actions with a spiritual dimension, to explain again and again. . . that politics must do far more than reflect the interest of particular groups or lobbies. After all, politics is a matter of serving the community, which

means that it is morality in practice. . .'

Tim Fischer's life is a reminder that duties and responsibilities are foundational to a free, sustaining society in which individuals can live with dignity and in liberty. **The Tim Fischer Oration is an opportunity not only to reflect on his life, but to consider how we are all called, including the generation of future leaders, to protect and promote the common good.**

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Morna Knight, of Narrandera, (left) and Barbara Parnell, of Wagga, at Collins Booksellers with Tim Fischer to get a signed copy of his book on Sir John Monash in 2015. Picture: Kieren L Tilly

Mary MacKillop Feast Day Celebrations 2022

Mary MacKillop Place and the Sisters of Saint Joseph extend a warm invitation to celebrate the Feast Day of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop on Monday, 8 August 2022.

“After two years of disruption due to COVID, we look forward to welcoming pilgrims and supporters to Mary MacKillop Place in North Sydney,” says Sr Monica Cavanagh, Congregational Leader of the Sisters of Saint Joseph.

“Mary MacKillop Place is a site unlike any other because Mary lived, died and is buried here.”

Visitors will have the opportunity to visit the Mary MacKillop Memorial Chapel, attend Mass, pray at St Mary’s tomb, and visit the Mary MacKillop Museum. Mary MacKillop memorabilia, ethica Peruvian products, and light refreshments will be on sale.

Feast Day details are:

When: Monday, 8 August 2022

Where:

Mary MacKillop Place

Pedestrian and

Wheelchair access:

80 William Street, North Sydney

Wheelchair access:

Via the Museum Gates, 7 Mount Street, North Sydney

Mass times:

8:00am, 10:00am and 1:00pm

Chapel opening time:

9:00am to 3:30pm

(The Chapel will be open for private prayer and visits to Mary MacKillop’s tomb)



Sr Monica Cavanagh rsj, Sisters of Saint Joseph Congregational Leader, beside the St Mary MacKillop statue at North Sydney.

Museum opening time:

9:00am to 3:30pm

(On Feast Day, Mary MacKillop Place offers free admission to the Museum so that pilgrims may explore the story of Mary MacKillop and the foundation of the Sisters of Saint Joseph)

Gift Shop & Café opening time:

9:00am to 3:30pm

After much planning and preparation on site, and hard work by Sisters, staff and volunteers, we look forward to welcoming you.



Mary MacKillop Memorial Chapel.



External shot of the Mary MacKillop Memorial Chapel and Mary MacKillop Place.

\$750 pandemic isolation payment to be restored

One of Australia’s leading social services groups has welcomed the decision by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese to restore the \$750 pandemic isolation payment, acknowledging the urgent need to address Australia’s ballooning number of COVID cases and hospitalisations.

It is understood that the Premiers will also push to have the federal government

continue funding free rapid antigen tests for concession-card holders at tomorrow’s (Saturday) National cabinet which has been brought forward by two days.

Francis Sullivan, Chair of Catholic Social Services Australia, said the move to reverse the Government’s previous decision to stop the isolation payment is the right one that will go some way to ensuring the vulnerable are protected.

“Shutting off the payment was always going to be a difficult decision to maintain throughout the dangerous winter months.

“The Prime Minister must be congratulated for reversing a decision that was never going to be in the best interests of the nation and those most at risk.

“Closing the payment scheme sends the wrong message and puts low income

and disadvantaged groups at risk as we face warnings of millions of new infections before winter is finished,” Mr Sullivan said.

The \$750 payment is available for casuals and others with no access to sick pay.

As at July 15, Australia has recorded 43,488 new Covid cases over the past 24 hours and another 90 hospitalisations, taking that current total to 4,602 people.

Catholic Mission urges local churches to reach out to those seeking refuge

According to the UN refugee agency, 82.4 million people were forcibly displaced from their homes in 2020, due to conflicts, disasters, or persecution.

20.7 million of those have fled their country and become refugees. This number has been increasing in the last two years. The stream of refugees is an increasing concern worldwide, which if not addressed, will lead to further unnecessary loss of life and an increasing number of children growing up without a home or life opportunities. The Ukrainian war has sadly highlighted the fate of refugees, fleeing from their home country, as they face violence and destruction. This moment has brought to focus the fragility of our world and reminded us not to take anything for granted.

Through this dark period, Catholic Mission has seen people rise up and reach out a hand to people in need through our Ukrainian Emergency Appeal. This emergency appeal provides material support and pastoral care to people seeking refuge in Poland and Romania. “We are so grateful for the prayers and support we receive. For the last few months, we have been relying on the help we get from our overseas network” says Fr Eugen Blaj, National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies, the Catholic Mission equivalent in Romania. But while the situation feels miles away, Australia has recently welcomed

its first Ukrainian refugees. In Cairns, for instance, the refugees have been welcomed by the local Church and community. But the uncertainty of their situation remains, as their visas are restricted, leaving them without the possibility of working and providing for themselves. Bishop Mykola Bychok, bishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy in Australia, urges Australians to do everything they can to assist the newly arrived Ukrainians. ‘They need a lot from us, not only help with the visas, but also spiritual help and support. Some of them have a connection, friends, or relatives here, but in general, they need help.’ Bishop Bychok says. By responding to this call for help, parishes are also responding to Pope Francis’ plea. Recently he called on every parish to adopt a family seeking refuge, and Catholic Mission is responding by promoting the Community Refugee Sponsorship Australia (CRSA) program. This advocacy program aims to engage Australians in the integration of refugees by focusing on creating local networks around families who have been accepted as refugees. This enables them to settle more smoothly into life in their new communities.



Ukrainian refugees.

Parishes are already engaged in this work, and you can find out more by contacting Catholic Mission at adultformation@catholicmission.org.au



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Sesquicentenary of the NSW Sisters of Saint Joseph 2022

This July, the Sisters of Saint Joseph celebrated 150 years of the Congregation's presence in NSW since their arrival in Perthville in 1872.

The Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Joseph was founded by Mary MacKillop and Father Julian Tenison Woods in 1866 in Penola, South Australia.

The first ministry of the Congregation was the opening of a school for all the children of that small distant town. The education being offered was an important step in breaking the cycle of poverty that had trapped so many of the children's parents, struggling to make a go of it in the pioneering times of colonial Australia. By the end of that first year there were four sisters.

By 1867, there were 10 sisters and a school in Port Adelaide was opened. The following year in 1868, there were 50 sisters ministering in 13 different towns in South Australia and responding as the various needs arose. In 1869, the rapid increase continued

and the sisters expanded their ministry to Brisbane, Queensland.

There were 127 sisters by 1872, and three of them arrived in Bathurst, New South Wales (NSW) in response to Bishop Matthew Quinn's invitation to again open schools for poor children who were deprived of an education. Bishop Quinn decided that a small village was the place for them to begin. Sisters Teresa MacDonald, Joseph Dwyer and Hyacinth Quinlan, along with an enquirer, Ada Braham, arrived in Queen Charlotte Vale, now Perthville, on 16 July 1872.

The ministry of the Sisters grew and expanded into all 11 Dioceses in NSW. Throughout the journey of these past 150 years, with all its twists and turns, ups and downs, the grace of God has continued to meet the needs of the times through the ministry of the Sisters.



Founders of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, Mary MacKillop and Father Julian Tenison Woods.

The launch of the celebration of 150 years of the presence of the Sisters of Saint Joseph in NSW, begins with a Mass on 16 July 2022 at the Cathedral of St Michael and St John in Bathurst at 10:30am.

Following the Mass, the launch of the Audio Guide for the St Joseph's Heritage and Conference Centre, Perthville took place. This

modern technology will enhance the experience of visiting the museum and the significance of the site.



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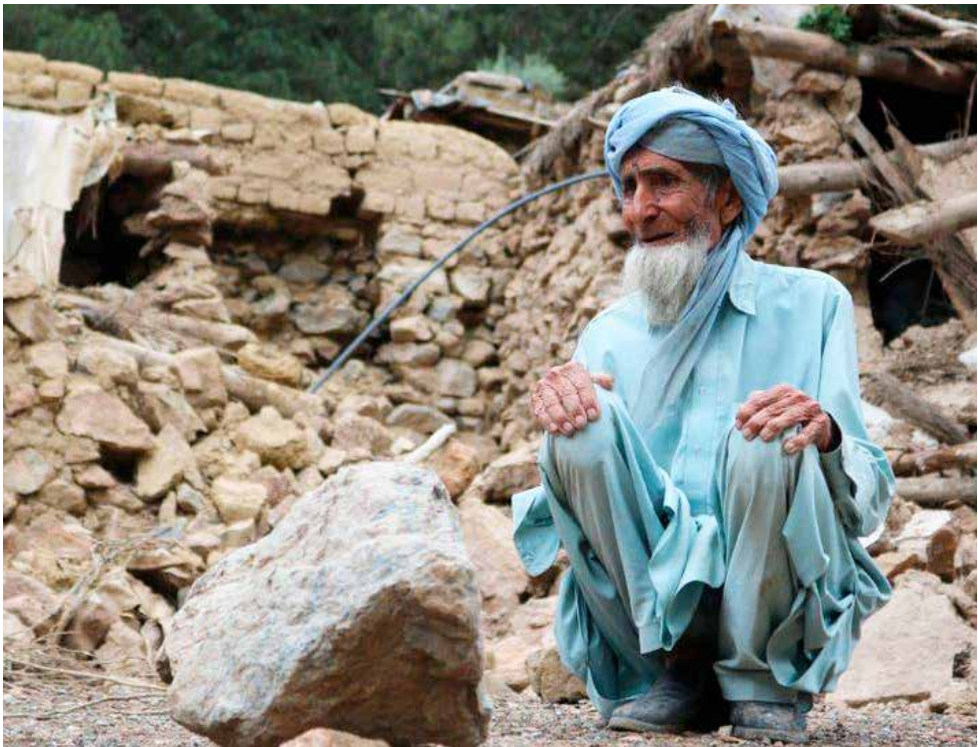
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Over 1000 lives lost as disaster again strikes Afghanistan

A magnitude 6.1 earthquake has devastated Afghanistan and Pakistan, causing over 1,000 deaths and a further 1,600 injuries.

This earthquake has proved to be the deadliest in two decades, further devastating a population already struggling with a devastating food crisis from the combined impacts of long-term drought and hunger, COVID-19 and decades of political instability. “This latest tragedy is truly heartbreaking for a populace that has already gone through so much,” says Aloysius Canete, Caritas Australia’s Humanitarian Emergencies Lead. Late last year the United Nations anticipated that 97 per cent of the population in Afghanistan would be pushed into extreme poverty by June

2022. This happened even faster than anticipated, as food and fuel prices skyrocketed globally due to the war in Ukraine. “Our partners on the ground report that crops are wilting, and that millions of families are now running out of options if they can no longer afford to buy basic goods since prices have increased exponentially. With this earthquake, we know that at least 1,800 households have been destroyed and many more damaged, which leaves many vulnerable families reliant on humanitarian aid to survive.” Humanitarian organisations including Cordaid, a member of



An elderly man reacts to the destruction inflicted after a 6.1 magnitude earthquake ripped through Paktika province in Afghanistan - Getty Images.

the international Caritas network, are responding to the earthquake in the affected province of Paktika, conducting needs assessments on the ground and providing emergency including medicine, temporary shelter and emergency food distributions. “For a country that is already facing such extreme levels of poverty and hunger, rebuilding and recovery from this latest crisis are going to present unusual challenges – it will be exceptionally hard to house and feed families impacted by this earthquake in a country where millions are already displaced and suffering from hunger.” Caritas Australia continues to work with partner on the ground, CRS, to provide long-term emergency support including emergency cash assistance, food security support and education to the most drought-affected rural communities.

Caritas Australia is currently raising funds to support communities in Afghanistan.

Visit www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/afghanistan or call 1800 024 413 toll free to provide much needed support to vulnerable communities in Afghanistan.



A young girl in Afghanistan studies in a remote village supported by CRS for educational programs. Photo Stefanie Glinski for CRS.



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Project of the Month: *july*

This month please provide a vehicle for a parish in the Andes, Peru.

Lebanon, known for centuries The diocese of Huancavelica is one of the poorest in Peru and is situated at an altitude of around 13,000 feet (4000 m) in the Andes mountains. It has 28 parishes, ministered to by 49 priests.

The parish of Acombamba includes over 90 villages. Roughly half of the population of a little over 10,000 people are Catholics. They live in widely scattered communities, and it is difficult for the two priests to reach them in order to minister to them. Practically all the access is via rough, unmade tracks which, in poor weather conditions and at this altitude, makes it difficult to gain access. During the rainy season, many of the tracks are almost impassable. Deep gullies, ruts, and stones make many of the journeys difficult and dangerous, and there is no form of public transport either. Father Guido Molina Letona and his assistant priest do have a vehicle, but it is already over 12 years old and so worn out by the difficult conditions

that it is no longer usable. As a result, the two priests have to hitch a ride on local goods vehicles or sometimes even travel on foot in order to visit the communities.

Up till now, among many people, the understanding and practice of their faith has left something to be desired. But the two priests are somehow managing to visit every village once a month, celebrating Holy Mass, administering the Sacrament of the sick, and preparing people for the reception of the sacraments. This close pastoral care is now bearing fruit, and more and more Catholics are returning to the practice of their faith and to the sacraments. So now in the town itself, an average of 200 faithful attend Sunday Mass, while an average of around 150 people attend the religious instruction in preparation for Baptism, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation.

With a suitably robust all-terrain vehicle it would be so much easier to minister more intensively to the Catholic faithful. And since the priests



would not have to waste so much time and energy on the road, they would therefore have more time for their pastoral ministry. We were happy to be able to promise \$34,600 AUD for a suitable four-wheel-drive vehicle.

Can you provide transport so priests can reach the faithful in Peru?

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



SUPPORT Religious Sisters



Sister Rita Kurochkina was born in Kazakhstan and joined the **order of the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**, which was founded in Poland in the 1850s to support both the spiritual and the intellectual formation of women and girls.

To this day, the congregation is primarily active in Poland, but can also be found in

a number of Eastern European countries, such as Kazakhstan. **The religious sisters run schools, kindergartens, and children's homes, teach catechesis in parishes and give religious instruction at public schools, take care of poor children and support impoverished families.** They provide pastoral care to prisoners and also organise retreats.



Three sisters, all of them born in Kazakhstan, work in the house of St. Clara. They currently take care of 18 children with difficult family situations. Sister Rita says, "Spiritually, the communist system devastated the people in this country. Many stopped believing in God, which led to addiction problems and dysfunctional families. And the children suffer the consequences. The children who come to us have experienced trauma and tragedy."


ACN helps one in every 34 of the 630,099 religious Sisters in the world today! Can you help provide subsistence aid to religious sisters in countries throughout the world so they can continue to live their vocation and help keep the faith alive through their physical and spiritual aid?

To watch a video on Sr Rita and the Sisters and to **make a donation** visit **www.aidtochurch.org/helpsisters** or scan the QR Code.



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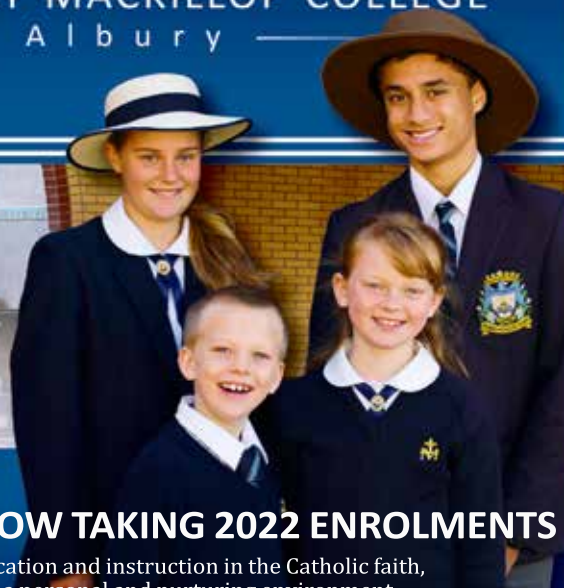
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Hope to retain local teaching students with scholarship

Wagga's catholic schools are hoping to entice its brightest and most passionate students to take up teaching locally with newly announced scholarships.

BY TIM PICCIONE - The Daily Advertiser

Five year 12 students from Catholic Education, Diocese of Wagga Wagga (CEDWW) schools will receive \$20,000 scholarships to study undergraduate teaching degrees, before returning back to the region to guaranteed employment.

The newly introduced scholarships, which the CEDWW has confirmed for the next four years, also include paid placement programs and targeted support during studies and employment.

Kildare student Ava Mallise, 17, said the prospect of getting one of the five scholarships on offer this year is an "incredible opportunity".

"I've been interested in [teaching] for as long as I can remember," she said.

"I was that five year old kid who

wanted to play teaching instead of mums and dads at home.

"I understand the influence that people can have in your life and I want to be one of those people for the next generation."

Ms Mallise, who has received early entry into CSU, has several barriers to cross before being selected, such as an interview process and obtaining high academic results in her final schooling year.

"I feel quite confident and supported in the fact that I know what I can do I and know what I have to do," she said.

Kildare careers advisor Karen Murray said Ms Mallise is the perfect example of a student the scholarships hope to attract.

"They're making an effort to not just attract really academically talented kids,



Interested in teaching since a young age, Ava Mallise, 17, now has the chance to follow her passion locally. Picture: Tim Piccione

but kids that have a passion for teaching."

CEDWW professional learning and development leader Emily McKinney said the purpose of the scholarships is to help boost the number of qualified, home-grown teachers in the region.

"We want to tap into the talent that we

have locally and make sure that we can retain them in our schools in the future," she said.

To ensure that, scholarship recipients are expected to work in one of 29 CEDWW schools for at least three years after completing their studies.

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Catholic Schools NSW welcomes once in a generation reform

Catholic Schools NSW welcomes the NSW Government's commitment to a full-year of universal pre kindergarten in NSW by 2030.

Catholic Schools NSW CEO, Dallas McInerney said that this is potentially the biggest reform to the education sector in a generation.
"This is an investment in the children of New South Wales by helping them better transition to school and establish important foundations for their learning," Mr McInerney said.
"The government has prioritised education in this budget and that is good news for the students of NSW."
Mr McInerney said that Catholic Schools NSW looks forward to working with the government on these reforms.

"We are ready to engage with the government to bring our existing expertise and experience in early childhood education."

"We look forward to partnering with the government for the implementation of this once in a generation reform."

Catholic Schools NSW currently has approximately 19,000 kindergarten students in 443 schools across NSW, making the sector the second biggest educator of this cohort.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Trev? We have developed a broad sense of humour over the years and worked out that self-deprecating humour is an important tool.

That would be usual comments, but occasionally people show great kindness. We once attended Mass at St Patricks Cathedral in Parramatta and an elderly lady, who was a complete stranger came over to me. She was weeping, she put her hand in her bag and handed me a sum of money, and asked me to use it on my children. Then she gave me a hug and walked off. It was a beautiful experience.

What is dinner like at your house?

Dinner time to be honest is not that difficult. Everyone eats the same thing and to give you an example Penne Bolognese is a favourite. 2.5kg of pasta, 2kg passata, 1kg mince. Catherine makes a yummy Bolognese.

How do you manage?

A lot of prayer, patience, and take one day at a time. Thankfully we have developed an efficient calendar and diary system, but essentially God gives us the grace to manage the business of a large active family.

How do you get your kids to pray and keep going to Church?

Our children have grown up with prayer before meals, praying in the car before travelling and prayer before any school or sporting event. We have never given them the option not to go to Mass. It is always a condition if they are away for sports or a school excursion that they find a Mass to attend. Every morning as they leave home we bless them

with the sign of the cross on their foreheads and instruct them to “Work hard, use your manners and say your prayers”. We have our regular teenage challenges but regular confession has been essential in smoothing them out.

Funny story about confession. We like to go together as a family, 9 of us normally line up. Its funny to see the reaction of people who often walk in after us, some turn around and leave worried about the wait but most jump the cue! All etiquette is thrown out the window when the Dal Broi’s are lining up for Confession.

Statistic: 100% of children suffer from severe dehydration as soon as it is bedtime.

How do you find time to do all the house chores?

All our kids are active in doing the dishes, washing, vacuuming and making their own school lunches. They all pitch in, from the eldest to the youngest and this is caught not taught as, often we see the 2-year old wanting to help out.

Do your kids participate in any out of school activities?

All our kids are unique and whatever interest they have we support to the best of our abilities. However, we don’t let these activities become top priority. We have 5 F’s in our family and Faith is always on top!

Conclusion:

In our journey of raising a family in the Catholic faith we have come to realise that we are up to version 10 of parenting. We realise that we can’t do this alone but with God’s help all things seem manageable. We always strive for our family members to be the best version of themselves and



Trevor and Catherine Dal Broi on their wedding day.

we still make time for Trev and I to go for a walk together. Our “walkie talkie” often happens late at night and gives us a wonderful opportunity to catch up and stay connected. Couple communication is vital in raising our family and we are very grateful to God for the privilege to be parents.

Take home messages:

- Trust in God
- Docility in planning
- Prayer
- Persistence
- Couple Communication
- Humour
- Servitude

Thank you for the privilege to share our journey with you and we pray that our talk is able to help you in some way.

Take care and God Bless
Trevor and Catherine Dal Broi

Franciscan Professions in Albury

Pentecost Sunday this year at St Patrick's Church Albury, was a very special event for three members of the parish community.

During the High Solemn Mass, Rita Walsh, Elizabeth Peoples and Francis Peoples, completed their final step in the journey to becoming fully professed members of the Secular Franciscan Order.

For the past three years, members of the Albury Catholic community have been meeting each month, together with visiting members from the Canberra Secular Franciscan fraternity, as well as Albury's own resident Franciscan friar, Fr Terence Mary Naughtin OFM Conv, for formation in Franciscan spirituality.

The three years of formation culminated on Pentecost Sunday with the first three professions for the emerging fraternity, and marked the first major step in the establishment of a permanent Franciscan fraternity in the Albury area, to become only the second fraternity throughout the Diocese of Wagga Wagga.

Secular Franciscans, traditionally

known as Third Order Franciscans, profess to live Christ-centred lives according to the Rule and spirit of St Francis of Assisi, and seek to live the gospel life and Franciscan charisms of simplicity, peace, humility, charity, joy, respect for life, love of God's creation, and fraternity. It is an official Order of the Catholic Church for the laity, and calls people from all walks of life to unite more closely to the life of the Church, and to strive for the highest virtues of Christian perfection.

For Rita, Elizabeth and Francis, this journey marks the beginning of walking in the footsteps of St Francis and following Christ in the poor man of Assisi. As St Francis' mission was to "rebuild the Church", our new Franciscans will now continue this mission which began 801 years ago, and continues today at a time when the Church is in need of many holy 'builders'.



Front row L-R: Charlie Peoples, Michelle McGaurr, Elizabeth Peoples, Rita Walsh and Tony Dunncliff-Hagan.

Back row L-R: Tony Bozicevic, Fr Terence Mary Naughtin and Francis Peoples.

The Secular Franciscan group in Albury meet on the first Saturday of the month at 11am, next door to the Adoration Chapel, Olive St. New members are most welcome.

For more information, please contact Tony
tonybozz ofs@gmail.com or

phone 0416 704 085 or visit the national website at
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Why the whole Church should embrace *Desiderio Desideravi*

It's no coincidence that days before the commencement of the closing session of Australia's Plenary Council, Pope Francis has released a pointed 65-paragraph letter calling on the church to "listen together to what the Spirit is saying" regarding what is possibly the biggest ecclesiological elephant in the room.

BY PROFESSOR CLARE JOHNSON

In his apostolic letter *Desiderio Desideravi*, released on June 29, the Feast of Sts Peter and Paul, Pope Francis looks at the most fundamental dimension of Christian life: the liturgy, "the primary and indispensable source from which the faithful are to derive the true Christian spirit (SC 14)."

As the director of a centre for liturgy endorsed by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, which focuses specifically on formative education for every corner of the Church – from lay parishioners through to doctoral students – I am overjoyed that Pope Francis has reflected seriously on the importance of liturgical formation for all.

Following on from the Pope's *Motu Proprio Traditionis custodes*, this new apostolic letter prioritises the liturgical formation of the entire gathered assembly, emphasising the liturgy as the guaranteed place of real encounter with Christ, a privileged theological source, and the summit toward which the activity of the church is directed.

There is substantial food for thought in *Desiderio Desideravi*, but don't be tempted to leave it just for liturgists and clergy to digest – this is a letter for the entire Church.

Here are a few initial responses to this important letter.

Explicit call to liturgical formation for all – including clergy

Pope Francis wants to highlight the importance of formation both for and by the liturgy. This new letter navigates a careful path between the need for formation in knowledge of the liturgy (its rubrics, theological riches, and beauty), and the need to allow its celebration to form us, so that through our encounter with Christ available in a privileged way in the liturgy, we are conformed to Him.

Pope Francis focuses on the *ars celebrandi* (the art of celebrating the liturgy well), because the way in which we celebrate the liturgy directly impacts our experience of it and our capacity

to participate fully, consciously, and actively in it. Such participation is not superficial ritual enactment but rather is deep participation in the work of the body of Christ of whom we each are members by virtue of our baptism.

While the Holy Father acknowledges the individual nuances of liturgical celebration led by different presiders and enacted by different assemblies, he is also clear that there is no place for unrestricted liturgical creativity, especially under the guise of so-called liturgical inculturation (DD49), and that the art of celebrating liturgy well requires appropriate formation. Pope Francis identifies the root cause of a range of dysfunctional presiding practices, as "a heightened personalism of the celebrating style which at times expresses a poorly concealed mania to be the centre of attention" which results in assemblies suffering "from being thus abused." (DD54)

The logic-chain Pope Francis advances in *Desiderio Desideravi* is that we cannot be formed properly by the liturgy if it is not celebrated well, and we cannot celebrate it well unless those presiding at it and participating in it understand what they are doing, why they are doing it, and what it means, which requires significant meaningful formation.

Seminaries and theologates need to keep the liturgy at the centre of formation

Key to formation for liturgy is teaching liturgy well in seminaries and theologates and ensuring that all other theological subjects are taught with their intimate connection to the liturgy in mind, (as *Sacrosanctum Concilium* 16 instructed) (DD37). Almost 60 years after the promulgation of *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, this aim has not yet been achieved and the shrinking pool of liturgical specialists in theological faculties globally testifies that the central importance of the liturgy as the place where all other aspects of theology converge in praxis, is not yet



Professor Clare Johnson.

universally recognised even among theologians. If the study of liturgy is not explicitly prioritised in seminaries and theologates through the provision of specialist personnel, programs, and promotion, the sort of formation called for by Pope Francis to effect the proper celebration and understanding of the liturgy will not eventuate, the quality of liturgical celebrations will not improve, and liturgy's experiential formative capacity will not be realised.

Liturgical catechesis is also essential

The advancement of formative programs in liturgical catechesis for the broader Catholic community is also needed. People celebrate better if they understand more fully what they are doing and why they are doing it.

While Pope Francis recognises that critics of the liturgy of Vatican II are not wrong to decry the loss of a 'sense of mystery' in how all too many presently celebrate it, he does not blame the Church's current liturgy for this, rather he blames the lack of appropriate formation of both clergy and the faithful, which has resulted in a broad loss of capacity to engage meaningfully with symbolic actions, and a loss of appreciation for the beauty of God accessible through beautiful liturgical celebration. His explicit intention is that liturgical unity be re-established in the whole Church of the Roman Rite (DD61) and he calls on all the faithful to abandon polemics

and safeguard our communion through liturgical unity.

Advancing a bold vision for liturgical formation

If Pope Francis' vision of the liturgy articulated in *Desiderio Desideravi* is to be advanced, bold diocesan and institutional leadership from bishops, seminary rectors, and deans of theology is needed to reposition formation for and by the liturgy at the centre of theological education and ongoing clergy development.

Widespread diocesan support and promotion of formative, accessible, and engaging educational programs for the faithful, focusing on the beauty, wonder and true purpose of the liturgy, will further enable our very real experience of Christ present in the liturgy and our conformation to Him through its proper celebration.

Professor Clare Johnson is director of the ACU Centre for Liturgy, which provides specialist expertise, teaching, research and formation in liturgical studies, sacramental theology, and the sacred arts. She is also Professor of Liturgical Studies and Sacramental Theology at ACU and is a consultant to the ACBC's National Liturgical Council. Professor Johnson has previously taught liturgical studies, sacramental theology, preaching, liturgical music and introductory theology at the University of Notre Dame (USA), Michigan State University (USA), the University of Notre Dame Australia (Fremantle).

‘No religion’ part of ongoing trend, but not whole story

Newly released results from the 2021 national Census, which show an increase in Australians ticking the ‘no religion’ box come as no surprise to a leading national commentator on religion.

“When you choose a religious affiliation in the national Census, it is a statement of belonging or identity,” according to the NCLS Research Director Dr Ruth Powell. “When Australians choose ‘no religion’ it tells us about a group for whom it is not an important part of their personal, social or cultural identity”.

The question about religion has been asked in every Census since 1901. It is a voluntary question and in the past few decades around 10% to 12% of Australians have not answered it. In 2021 only 7% did not provide a response.

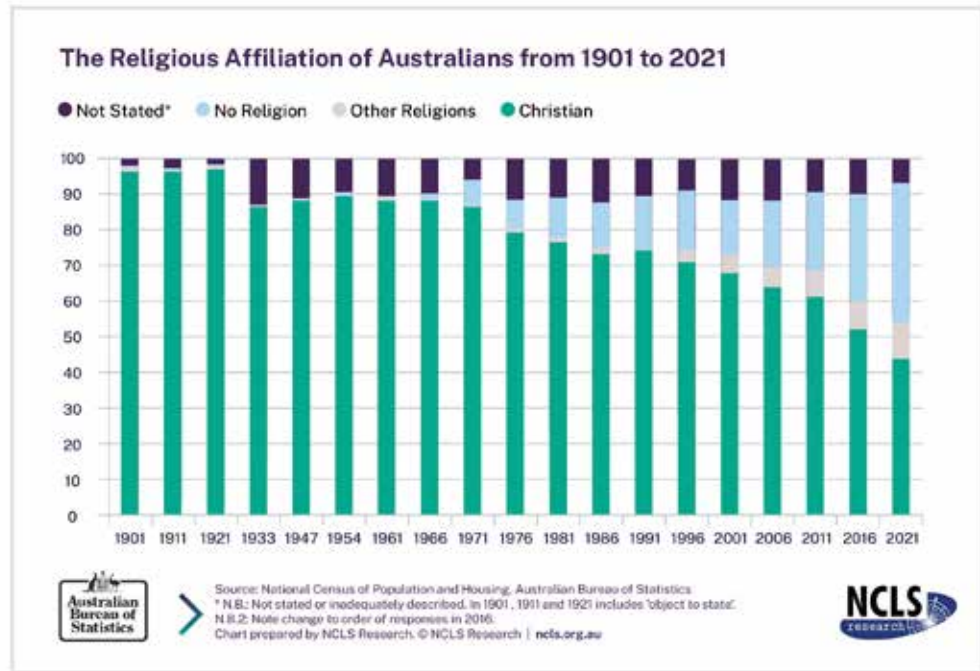
Christian affiliation declined from 52% in 2016 to 44% in 2021. This drop is largely made up of declines in Catholic (3%) and Anglican (3%) affiliation.

However, to form a view about how

‘religious’ or ‘spiritual’ Australians are, there is more to it. Religious affiliation is only one aspect of the religious profile of Australians. “We know that people who don’t identify as belonging to a particular religious group can still have spiritual or religious lives,” Dr Powell said.

Results from the 2021 Australian Community Survey, run by NCLS Research a few months after the 2021 national Census found that more than half of Australians believed in God or a higher power (55%), six in ten prayed or meditated, and two in ten (21%) attended religious services at least monthly.

The trend showing an increase in ‘no religion’ has continued since the option was first introduced to the 1971 Census. “Many young Australians do not claim to affiliate with a particular religion as



it is not part of their social or cultural identity,” Dr Powell said. “But it does not mean that they are hostile or closed to spiritual life. The evidence from our detailed research shows an openness to spirituality, including the Christian faith - perhaps more than people would expect.”

One in ten Australians affiliate to other religions, such as Hinduism and Islam. Dr Powell noted that this was indicative of Australia’s multicultural migrant population. “In our multicultural country, our new migrant communities tend to be more religious,” she said.

St Mary's Lockhart Debutante Ball

A huge crowd was in attendance to view the presentation of Debutantes at St Mary's Ball, on Friday May 27th 2022.

Eight Debutantes and their partners, Paige Collins partnered by Jacob Baumer, Rose Kennedy partnered by Johnny Ryan, Grace Kennedy partnered by Joshua McDonnell,

Hannah Patey partnered by Zak Gooden, Louise Madden partnered by Joseph Clancy, Mary Morton partnered by Reginald Burton, Grace Ryan partnered by Andrew Smith, Ada Richards partnered by Cameron Ferguson. Accompanying the Debutantes were flower girl Evie Matthews and page boy Jack Schirmer.

All Debs and their partners were presented to the official party, Father Brad Rafter, Board member John and Brenda Sullivan and their wonderful dance instructors Kerry Baumer and Barry Vallance.

We had a really great group of young adults; they have to be commended on their

commitment and outstanding co-operation and the great effort they all put in leading up to this event. They always came and left with a smile.

A fantastic and hard working committee worked together to present an outstanding and successful ball.



First Communion candidates



St Patrick's School in Griffith held their First Communion on 18 and 19 June.

Marist Brothers' Sesquicentenary and a new Marist history

In April 1872, four Marist Brothers began the first Marist school in Australia in St Patrick's Parish, Church Hill, Sydney.

Irish Catholics of The Rocks called them the 'French Brothers' because their headquarters was in France and their leader was an outgoing Frenchman, Br Ludovic Laboureyras.

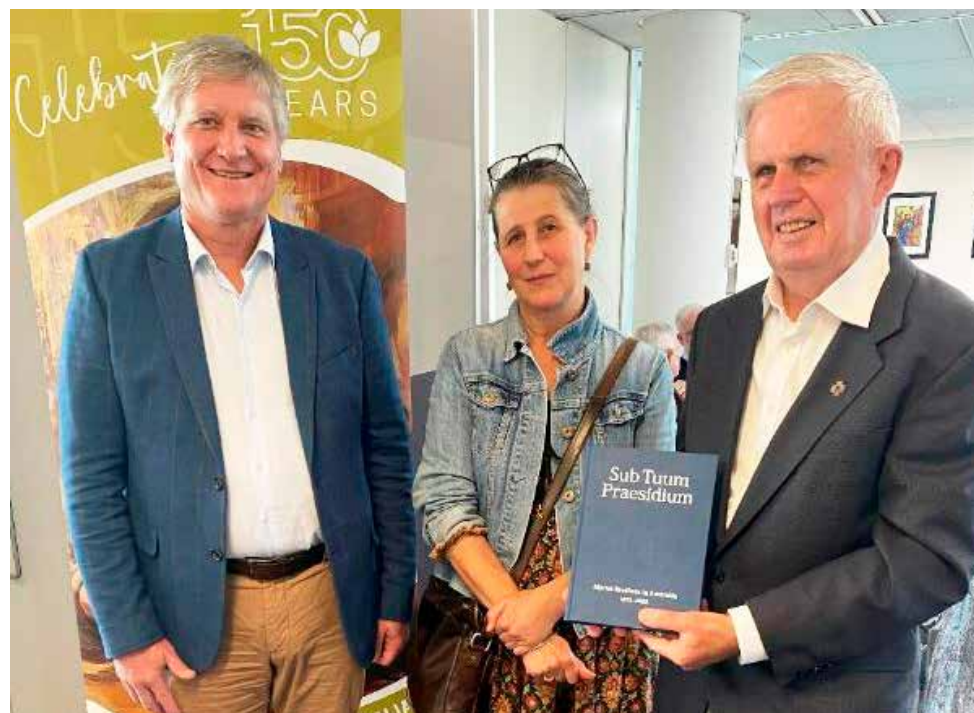
Australian recruits quickly joined them and by the 1960s there were over 600 Marist Brothers in five states of Australia. As with other teaching congregations they were in great demand when there was minimal government funding for schools.

From 1970 this momentum of growth and achievement of the first century weakened sharply. Recruitment to the congregation dwindled and communities aged. One recent leader wrote that 'brothers were now living out their vows and consecration in a totally different sub-culture, mostly engaged in some form of ministry, but with few directly participating in schools'. Add to this the revelations and deep impact of the recent Royal Commission.

A bleak outcome after 150 years? The congregation has declined in numbers, but the Marist mission continues in new forms. The spirituality of St Marcellin Champagnat has been embraced by lay colleagues, friends and students. The Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat has grown quickly to 900 members, mostly lay Marists. The original charism continues in the 56 schools of Marist Schools Australia, in youth services provided by Marist180, and in the international outreach of Australian Marist Solidarity.

So, in this sesquicentenary, Marists Brothers and lay Marists are reflecting on a complex history in Australia. St Patrick's Parish Church Hill commissioned a bust of the first Director, Br Ludovic. It was unveiled in the parish courtyard on April 8, to commemorate the opening of the first Marist school on 8 April 1872.

A new history of the congregation was launched in early June, under the title



Stan Lamond (designer), Fiona Sim (editor) and Br John Luttrell (author) at the Sydney launch of *Sub Tuum Praesidium* on 7 June 2022.

Sub Tuum Praesidium: Marist Brothers in Australia 1872 – 2022. The authors, Brothers Julian Casey, John Luttrell, Neville Solomon and Peter Rodney, share a broad experience of the Marist story.

Provincial Peter Carroll sees this new history as significant for the Marist sesquicentenary in Australia – an

opportunity 'to celebrate achievements, apologise for our failures and give thanks to God and all those who have supported us in our life and mission'.

**It is available from
The Hermitage, Mittagong,
[https://www.thehermitage.org.au/
product-category/marist-resources/](https://www.thehermitage.org.au/product-category/marist-resources/)**

Special Religious Education (SRE)

Special Religious Education (SRE), better known as Scripture, is taught to thousands of State School Primary Students in the Wagga Wagga Diocese every year.

BY TREVOR DAL BROI

Special Religious Education (SRE), better known as Scripture, is taught to thousands of State School Primary Students in the Wagga Wagga Diocese every year. It is taught by a wonderful group of volunteer Catechists, who each week of school term, generously give up an hour or two of their time to teach the Good News.

So far 2022 has been equally a challenging and rewarding year for SRE.

The main challenge was the loss of 25% of our volunteers late last year due to the mandatory vaccination requirements. Due to the loss of volunteers, we were unable to teach or had to combine classes in a number of schools. At the beginning of the year, I was able to promote the wonderful ministry of SRE at weekend Masses of the Parishes that lost a number of Catechists. The response was fantastic, but due to the mandatory vaccination requirements only a small number of new recruits were gained.

In light of this challenge it was rewarding to experience the wonderful support of Parish Priests, Coordinators and from St John Vianney College. Many a seed has

been planted in Parishes and the Seminary and I am hopeful the fruits will be shared in the forthcoming years, with many new volunteers teaching SRE and future Priests continuing to support this ministry to the 50% of Catholic children who attend State Schools.

I would like to share an SRE experience with you. At a small school near Griffith, each week I'm greeted by a brood of hens (picture below). One day the rooster got loose and was running amok with the hens and the non-scripture kids was to find the rooster. The hunt for the pesky rooster finally made its way outside the demountable I was teaching, easily distracting the boys and girls in my class. The lesson was on Holy Week and I was explaining to the students at the time about the Last Supper. One of the boys in the class exclaimed with joy "Mr. Dal Broi, we can call the rooster Judas!"

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the wonderful SRE Teachers across the diocese, who often at short notice, had to adapt to the new arrangements this year. Many of our volunteers have taken



on extra classes or combined classes so that SRE would continue in schools. I pray that their time, generosity and dedication in sharing the Good News is rewarded in their eternal superannuation fund.

Take care & God Bless
Trevor Dal Broi
Catechist (SRE) Coordinator

Prayer for Catechists

Loving Father, we pray today for our Catechists.

We thank you for their ministry in your Church.

Grant them your wisdom that they may grow in the understanding and teaching of your Word.

Grant them also your love that they may be fruitful heralds of your Word and lead others to love you.

Pour forth your Holy Spirit upon them to grant them wisdom about what is important, knowledge of the truths of faith, understanding of their meaning, right judgement about how to apply them in life, courage to persevere even in the face of adversity, reverence before all that is sacred and holy, and that loving zeal which leads others to transforming encounter with your son.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord Amen

Taken from the presentation by Sr Marie Josie CCD SRE
Sydney Faith Formation Series 2021

In the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop - bookings for national pilgrimage open

Mary MacKillop Place and The Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart are delighted to welcome back pilgrims to its popular Australian National Pilgrimage: In the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop.

The next pilgrimage will be running from 18 - 29 October 2022 and will visit many places associated with Mary MacKillop's life and ministry in Victoria, South Australia and NSW.

The Pilgrimage will be led by Sr Anne Bond rsj, Assistant Director of Mary MacKillop Place and Mr Garry McLean, the inaugural Director of the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre, East Melbourne.

"The notion of going on a pilgrimage and being a pilgrim is a very ancient one that belongs to the spiritual tradition of all great faiths," says Sr Anne.

"A pilgrimage is a very personal experience, but it is usually a journey with others: together seeking, listening, reflecting and seeing the hand of God at work in their lives.

"The National Pilgrimage is a unique opportunity for Pilgrims to enter more deeply into the life and spirituality

of Mary MacKillop and Fr Julian Tenison Woods and to appreciate Mary's role as our first canonised Australian Saint."

The Australian National Pilgrimage will begin in East Melbourne on 18 October and conclude at Mary MacKillop Place in North Sydney on 29 October. Along the way pilgrims will visit historic sites and towns including Portland, Penola, Robe and the Mary MacKillop Chapel in North Sydney.

Get in early! The current prices are fixed until 30 June 2022. After this date prices may need to be negotiated dependent on oil and fuel costs. More details on the Pilgrimage and prices can be found by clicking on the link below.

Website: <https://www.marymackillopplace.org.au/retreats-spirituality/australian-national-pilgrimage>
Email: national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au



The St Mary MacKillop statue located at St Mary of the Cross Square, opposite Mary's birth site in Brunswick Street, Fitzroy, Melbourne – one of the sites visited on the Australian National Pilgrimage. Image: Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart/Supplied.

Parish Alpha Program

As part of the focus of the Sacred Heart Parish Pastoral Council this year, we have looked for ways to build connection and community through faith opportunities.

How grateful we are, then, for the blessing that has brought approximately forty of our parishioners together to take part in the Alpha program. We began almost a month ago on a cold Tuesday night where we were met with a wonderful and open hearted group who came to find out what Alpha is all about. Our weekly sessions have continued with groups engaging with a video each week that poses questions about our faith and our relationship with Jesus and the Holy Spirit. We are taken on a journey in each video through not only the story of others and the connection to the Scriptures, but to our own story too and to our connection

with our own formation. Together we have explored themes around ‘Who is Jesus?’ and ‘Why did Jesus die?’ as we seek to deepen our understanding of our relationship with God. Our sessions revolve around thoughtful and insightful discussion of the story of Jesus that lies at the heart of our faith and offers a chance for the evangelisation of the message of Christ to be shared. We are led to consider how and why we are brought to communion with others and how we have a responsibility to recognise the love of God in our lives, our relationships and our work with others. Each session has been an opportunity to ground our faith in reference to Scripture,



refocusing us in the words that reveal the story of Christ to us as well as seeing the place of Christ at work in our world today.

Despite the cold and wet evenings, we have met each week with our group of forty plus people with warm heartedness, welcome to others and renewed faith.

We have been very grateful for the wonderful support of our Sacred Heart Parish - and beyond. With the guidance and support of Father Martin Cruickshank, the Alpha leaders, table hosts and organising committee, we have been able to come together with confidence in our shared community. We have shared fellowship each week - made possible only through an exceptional group of volunteers who give of their time to support this work of our Parish who selflessly serve the group at mealtime. From the setting up of the space, to the donation of time and food goods and beyond, this program brings

together many from across all facets of our Parish and local community and we look forward to continuing to grow this opportunity for faith development.



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TAKING CARE OF YOUR MENTAL HEALTH

We place a high value on mental health and recovery at Centacare. We offer a range of psychological services to people across the southern and western parts of region.

Centacare South West NSW is registered with Medicare Australia to provide services under the Medicare Benefits Scheme. Our professional team of psychologists provide assessment and treatment for people with mental health problems.

Referral by a general practitioner under a Mental Health Plan is required.

Psychological Services are available in Wagga Wagga, Griffith, Albury and Mulwala. We specialise in areas including:

- Learning difficulties
- Autism spectrum disorders (ASD)
- Anxiety / Depression
- Family issues
- School refusal
- Grief and loss
- Trauma
- Social, emotional or behavioural difficulties.



THERAPEUTIC Depending on the individual's needs and preferences, our team use a variety of evidence-based approaches including:

- Cognitive behavioral therapy
- Mindfulness
- Acceptance and commitment therapy
- Narrative therapy
- Motivational interviewing
- Positive psychology
- Strengths based approaches



OUR GENERALIST COUNSELLING SERVICES

Throughout our lives we are all faced with stressful situations and difficult events, such as relationship problems (including family breakdown and separation), parenting stressors, the death of a loved one, school or work issues, mental health concerns and so on. We know that it can be helpful to talk to someone, such as a counsellor, who can support you through these challenging times.

At Centacare South West NSW we have professional and qualified counsellors at our sites in Wagga Wagga, Griffith, Albury and Mulwala. They work across the lifespan with individuals, couples and families with the overall aim of empowering people to achieve their goals and to improve their functioning and wellbeing.



PARENTING & CHILDREN

We offer a wide range of parenting and education programs and services that focus on building skills, strategies and knowledge so you can enjoy positive relationships.

Parent Education & Coaching

Helping parents understand their child's developmental, social and emotional needs by learning to navigate pivotal transitional phases throughout their child's life.

Individual Parenting Support

Our Individual Parent Support Services helps parents understand their child's developmental, social and emotional needs by learning to navigate pivotal transitional phases throughout their child's life.

Family Group Conferencing

Family group conferencing aids in the family-led decision making process to develop a plan of support for a child or young person.

Children & Youth Support Services

Children and Youth Counselling and Support for children to better manage emotions and difficulties with interpersonal relationships with families and peers.

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www.hfrancisandco.com.au

Kids corner

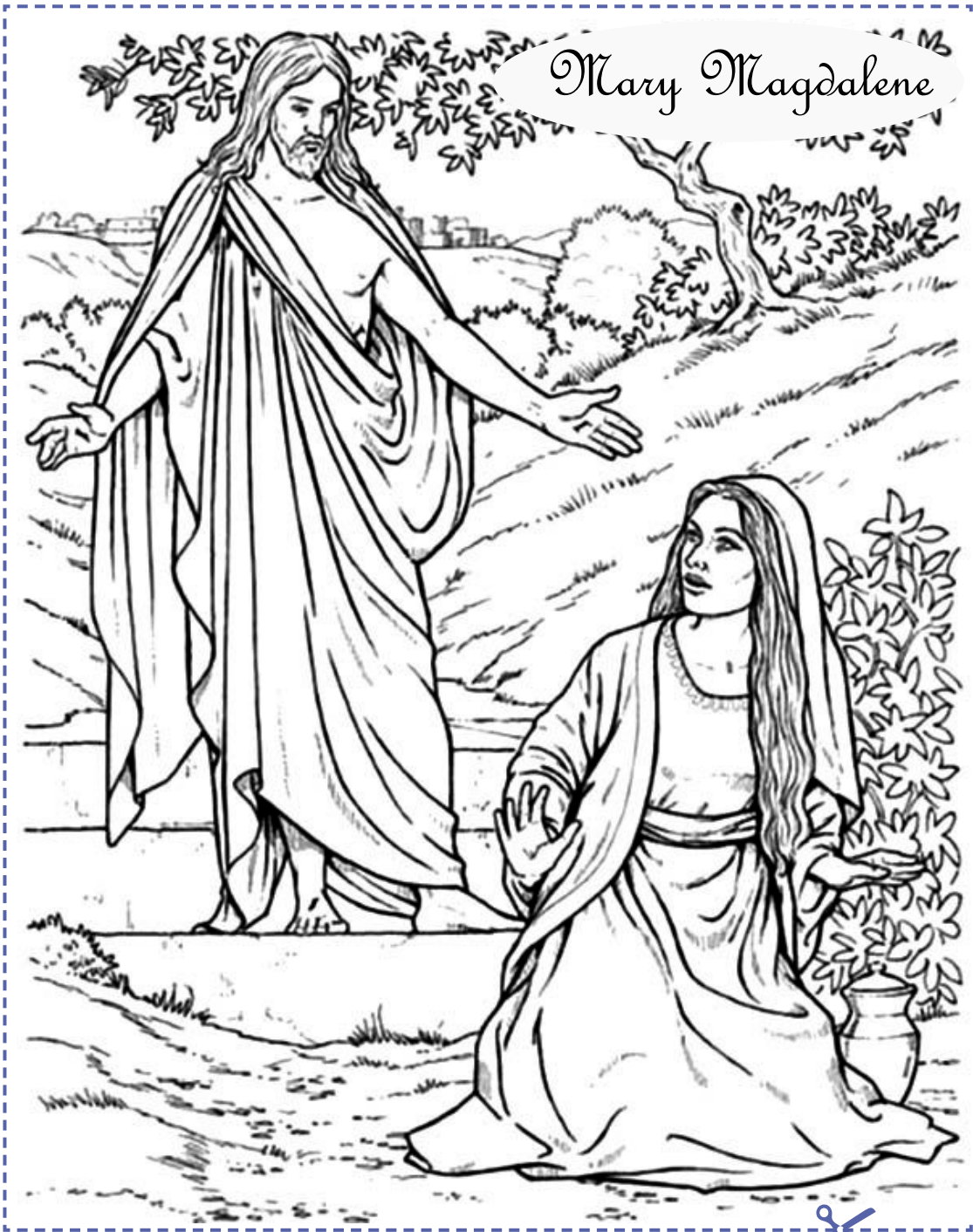
SAINTS FUN FACTS

by John Sheppard

St. Mary Magdalene de Pazzi was born in Florence in 1566. She was taught mental prayer at the request of her mother. She entered the Carmelite Order at the Monastery of St. Mary. She had a personal relationship with Jesus and had many conversations with Him. Her wisdom and love led to her appointment to many important positions, including mistress of novices.



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



Mary Magdalene

Craft...

Dad Rocks Paperweights

Dad rocks — literally. Collect rocks on your next walk, and re-create the members of your family for Dad to keep on his desk.

- You'll need:**
- Glue
 - Rocks
 - Tape (patterned)
 - Cardstock
 - Black marker
 - Paint markers for cheeks, hair



How to make:

- Step 1. Cut out tape in the shape of a tie or bow tie and stick them on your rocks. Or use a strip of wide tape or cardstock to cut out a fun patterned shirt.
- Step 2. Use a black permanent marker and colored paint markers to add details such as collars and faces, or add cute quotes to each rock. Rocks make such a fun canvas, why not try making some other styles of rock art as part of your gift? Dad's name in DIY alphabet rocks or a few fingerprint heart rocks would add the perfect finishing touch!

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!



JULY SAINTS & FEAST DAYS

Word Search

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



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

- Junipero Serra
- Elizabeth of Portugal
- Maria** Goretti
- Augustine **Zhao** Rong
- Benedict**
- Henry**
- Kateri** Tekakwitha
- Bonaventure**
- Our Lady of **Mount Carmel**
- Apollinaris**
- Lawrence** of Brindisi
- Mary **Magdalene**
- Bridget**
- James**
- Joachim** and **Anne**
- Martha**
- Peter** Chrysologus



Taxing... time for a mini-retreat

Blink. And the year is half done. How did we get here so quickly?

A moment ago, we were celebrating being able to have a Christmas together with our loved ones that live nearby, followed by an Easter that was in full swing at the Church. Now, somehow, we've already hit tax time.

This is the ideal time of year to look over our finances, on what we can and can't afford, and on where we need to spend less and where we need to invest more. It's also an opportunity check our progress on goals, and credits and debits on our energy levels, and spiritual lives.

A year of service is filled with many moments of joy, beauty, and inspiration. But it is also taxing on the mind, body and spirit. We're very good as a society to present messages of caring for our body when we're fatigued, with stopping, sleeping and putting in nutrition into our bodies. We're also getting better at taking care of our minds, our mental health and wellbeing. Yet, as a society, we often forget our spirit can become weary too, especially if we're focused on giving of ourselves most of the time. We can quickly forget that we first need to receive to give. For that reason, in the middle of the year, the Virtue Ministry team is encouraged to take some time out, even for just a day to reset, recharge and refocus. For our community that support us, we also make a simple retreat guide available on our website.

Our mini-retreat guide gives you some guidelines to follow, which you can make work for you in as little as 3 hours. Of course, you can always extend it for longer if you'd like something more like 6 or 9 hours. We offer you a selection of scripture passages to choose from along with a particular focus throughout the day, as well as a guide to turning an activity of your choice into prayer. It's an ideal opportunity to refocus and prioritise our number one relationship, the one we have with God, and let that fill our cup, recharge, and refuel us. Only then can we go back out and love those around us the way they deserve to be loved: by receiving the best of us.

You can find our downloadable midyear retreat guide on the blog section of our website www.VirtueMinistry.org.au/Blog/

Prayer Tribe: To remain spiritually nourished and give our best in ministry we're conscious that we

need each other. The power of prayer by our prayer tribe is tangibly felt over and over in our ministry. Join our Prayer Tribe to receive text messages with prayer requests from our Prayer Coordinator anytime we have an event, or a particular work/project we're undertaking. Our prayer tribe will also receive reflections from our Prayer Coordinator, Grace Morey, several times throughout the year, including an exclusive Retreat Guide at the end of the year.

Join Grace, by signing up on our website www.VirtueMinistry.org.au/Contact/

Recent Event Highlight: Families Conference
Recently, our founder, Stina, ran a friendship workshop for the teens at the Diocesan Families Conference in Wagga Wagga. The small group of young people explored where friendships fit into our lives, what impact they have upon us, and why we need solid friends to live out the Christian life. Stina spoke to them about the 3 types of friendships and helped them identify who these friends are in each of their lives, and how they can be a better friend, by modelling the most virtuous friend, Jesus.



The young people walked away with clarity about their friendships, deeper reflection of what they're called into, and resolutions for their continued walk towards becoming Saints.

If you would like us to come to your school or parish to run a workshop (for all ages), contact us via email Contact@VirtueMinistry.org.au



Stina presenting a friendship workshop for the teens at the Diocesan Families Conference in Wagga Wagga.

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

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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.

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- Listen to Our Podcast, Living Fullness
- Read our Blogs
Visit www.virtueministry.org.au
FOLLOW OUR SOCIAL MEDIA:
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 LivingFullness_

St Joseph’s Primary, Narrandera

Congratulations to our Year 6 students who received the Sacrament of Confirmation and those who received a blessing on 16 June. We are so proud of you.



Henschke Primary, Wagga Wagga

Students at Henschke celebrated NAIDOC Day participating in a range of activities The day began with a whole school Mass and then students moved off to cultural dancing, badge making, play dough art, stories, 'spear' throwing and enjoyed eating freshly made Johnny Cakes! Everyone had a great day and thank you to Aunty Colleen and her team of helpers who made the day so enjoyable.



St Francis De Sales Regional College, Leeton

Congratulations to Charlotte Rudd of Year 12, who has won back to back Allen Family medals as the Rugby Leeton Schools Competition player of the series. The SFC girls received their winners medals on 29 June.

The boys played with wonderful courage and skill but eventually went down tonight to their mates from LHS 17-7. Congratulations to LHS on taking out the competition. Great games in the true spirit of Rugby. Well done to all involved.

Huge thanks to the Leeton Phantoms and all the sponsors and referees.



Kildare College, Wagga Wagga



Well done to the Open Girls Soccer team who competed in the inter diocesan gala day. The girls started the day well with a 4-0 win against Trinity Goulburn before losing 0-1 to a strong McKillop Bathurst team. Well done girls!





Who doesn't love some 'last day of term' fun? We celebrated with a Pyjama Day to raise money for the Vinnies Winter Appeal and enjoyed a special 'Burger Day' menu by our wonderful Canteen Team! Many thanks to Cathie and her dedicated volunteers for serving our delicious burgers!

St Anne's Primary, North Albury



St Patrick's Primary School, Holbrook

What an absolutely awesome way to end Semester One! We were treated to our first ever Ukulele Recital thanks to the tutelage of the very dedicated Mr Carey. The children wowed the audience with their talents! Thanks to all who attended.



Marian Catholic College, Griffith



Congratulations to the MCC Bill Turner girls soccer team. The girls defeated St Francis 6-1 on May 30.
And congratulations to the MCC Bill Turner boys soccer team. The boys defeated Wagga Wagga High 3-2 in a highly competitive match.



St Peter's Primary, Coleambally

On June 29 Religion K/1/2 explored the food of Jesus and the disciples.



St Patrick's Primary, Griffith

Year Two had fun in Science, designing, making and playing arcade games using a push or pull force.



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 - Koorungal

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

Wagga Wagga - South Wagga

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

Wagga Wagga - West Wagga

Holy Trinity Church
Bardia Street
Ashmont
Monday - 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

Junee

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

Khancoban

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

Leeton

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

Sacrament of Penance
Friday - 4:45-5:15pm
Saturday - 4:20pm-4:45pm
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
Thursdays - 9.30am
Confessions
Half an hour before weekend Masses

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Tumbarumba

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

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.

Urana

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

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

3 July 1991	Fr Owen Cosgriff
5 July 1963	Mgr William John O'Neill
14 July 1880	Fr Michael McAlroy
14 July 1964	Fr Arthur Hugh Percy
16 July 1900	Fr William Bermingham
17 July 1930	Fr Francis O'Looney
20 July 1979	Mgr Brian Boru Gallagher
21 July 1900	Fr Patrick Dunne
22 July 1998	Fr Albert Morgan Stanley
24 July 1932	Fr Daniel Griffin
24 July 2006	Fr John Francis McGee
31 July 2000	Fr Peter Quinn

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

Erin Earth
1 Kildare St, Turvey Park
9.30am - 11am
4th Saturday each month
Runs Mar - Oct

SoulSpace Saturdays

An opportunity for quiet
awareness & sharing in the
ErinEarth Garden

Open to people of all religious traditions & beliefs

Free event | Complimentary Tea/Coffee

Family reflections for:

July/Aug

17th July - Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C
In our families and homes, we have boundaries. Some are geographical; we may have our own room or part of a room that we want others to stay out of. Parents may have home offices that are off-limits to children. Some boundaries are behavioral; children may speak one way to their friends, but they are not allowed to speak the same way to their parents or other adults. A Curfew is another type of boundary, whose purpose is to protect children's safety.

Talk about examples of boundaries in your family. For the most part, these boundaries are good. Talk about how sometimes we set up boundaries for the wrong reasons. For example, if we are angry with a sibling, we may draw a line and tell him or her to stay on his or her side. Explain that when we use boundaries to exclude others, we are being hurtful. Point out how in Jesus' time, some boundaries were used to unfairly exclude people. One example was from last week's Gospel: Samaritans. This Sunday's Gospel has another example: women. Talk about how the role of women has changed in your lifetime. Explain that in this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus breaks down a barrier that kept women from being disciples.

Read aloud Luke 10:38-42. Talk about how Martha is conditioned by the existing boundaries of her society, but how her sister, Mary, breaks through that boundary and becomes a disciple of Jesus. Talk about how you can work as a family to break down boundaries that separate people. Point out that when we pray the Lord's Prayer, we call God "Our Father," meaning that we are all his children; no boundaries should separate us. Conclude this time together by praying the Lord's Prayer.

Genesis 18:1-10a Psalm 15:2-5
Colossians 1:24-28 Luke 10:38-42

24th July - Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C
When someone in our family is going through a hard time, we can't just sit by and watch. We try to do everything we can to let him or her know that he or she is not alone. Sometimes we even try to find a special gift for him or her—something that will

help that person to understand how important he or she is to us. Talk about times in your family when this has happened.

Like a good father, God saw that his children needed help. He decided to offer his beloved children a special gift to reveal his love. What did God give us? Not a thing, but a person—the Father's beloved Son, Jesus. Jesus, in turn, taught us to approach God as we would approach a loving father. He gave us the words of a prayer that we call the Our Father, or the Lord's Prayer.

Read aloud Luke 11:1-13. Talk about how Jesus teaches us to be persistent in prayer. Think of times when family members were persistent about something until they were able to achieve a goal or receive what they sought. Talk about what it means to be persistent in prayer. Help your children understand that prayer is not like sitting on Santa Claus's lap, asking for what we want until we get it. Emphasize that prayer is a way of striving to recognize how God is reaching out to us in love and responding by presenting him with our needs.

Conclude this time together by joining hands and praying the Lord's Prayer.

Genesis 18:20-32 Psalm 138:1-3,6-8
Colossians 2:12-14 Luke 11:1-13

31st July - Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C
Family life helps us learn about the values of solidarity and the common good. As a family, we strive to respect the rights of each family member and make decisions that promote the common good of the family. Talk about what it would be like if the family ordered a pizza and then divided it unevenly, with some members getting as many pieces as they wanted while others got only a half slice. Talk about how you work to make sure that everyone in the family has his or her fair share.

Talk about how your family is also a member of the human family, called to share the goods of creation fairly and justly. Explain that in this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus challenges us to remember that the goods of the world are intended to be shared by all. Read aloud Luke 12:13-21. Talk about the parable of the rich fool and ask family members to describe what they think he

did wrong. Emphasize that although the man in the story doesn't seem bad, Jesus points out that this man's flaw was that he was thinking only about himself and his own comfort and security. Emphasize that when we fail to think about the needs of others, we call that a sin of omission.

Remind your children that each time we go to Mass, we ask forgiveness for what we have done and for what we have failed to do. We call this prayer the Confiteor. End this time together by praying the Confiteor ("I confess to almighty God...").

Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23 Psalm 95:1-2,6-9
Colossians 3:1-5,9-11 Luke 12:13-21

6th August - The Transfiguration of the Lord, Cycle C
Every family has special moments that they remember and share. In sharing these stories, the meaning and importance of these events develop and deepen over time. This is how it was with the disciples' remembrance of Jesus' Transfiguration. The full significance of what they had seen and experienced could only be understood after Jesus' death and Resurrection. As they told other believers about this event and recorded the story for us in the Bible, our understanding of what it means to call Jesus God's own Son has also deepened.

Gather as a family and think about some special family memories that your family tells over and over again. Talk about why these memories are important to you. Recall that in the Bible we find many important memories about Jesus that have been recorded for us so that we can believe that Jesus is God's Son. Read today's Gospel, Luke 9:28–36. What do we learn about Jesus from this Gospel? (He fulfills the promises God made to Israel through the Law and the Prophets; God glorified Jesus in his Resurrection; Jesus is God's Son.) Conclude in prayer together that as we continue to read the Bible we will deepen our understanding and love for Jesus. Pray together the Lord's Prayer.

Daniel 7:9–10,13–14 Psalm 97:1–2,5–6,9
2 Peter 1:16–19 Luke 9:28–36

LEAH'S STORY

Across Australia many parents and children are staying in dangerous situations, or finding themselves homeless, simply because they cannot afford to start again.

Trigger warning: This content deals with accounts of domestic and family violence and may be triggering for some readers.

Leah's story is shocking, as is the growing number of families who are experiencing violence at home.

Raised in a violent home, Leah thought she'd escaped when she moved in with her boyfriend as a teenager. Soon, Leah found herself pregnant and living with a violent partner.

Like many new mothers who experience domestic violence, Leah knew her baby girl needed a home, food to eat, and nappies. What she didn't know was how she could possibly support Charlotte on her own. It's why she kept putting up with the abuse. But when Charlotte's father started to become aggressive with their baby, Leah knew she had to leave.

Eventually, Leah met someone new and thought they could start a life together.

"When we first met it was amazing," she remembers.

It didn't last. Like others before him, Leah's new partner also took advantage of her vulnerability, and she soon found herself in an even more dangerous situation. Leah recalls, "The violence started slowly, but it got worse and worse. There

was one time he locked me in his shed and wouldn't let me out. I was hurt badly. I worried that I wouldn't survive."

To protect herself and her baby, Leah summoned the courage to leave, but she and Charlotte had nowhere to go.

For the next two years, Leah and Charlotte would live in their car, never sleeping in the same street twice to avoid being discovered.

Leah was afraid that her ex-partner would find them, or that she would have her little girl removed from her care.

"We'd spend our days in the park, to pass the time. When I could afford food, I'd get us cheap hamburgers. It's pretty much all we ate. It was awful."

Leah tried everything to keep her daughter safe. When she could afford it, they'd sleep in a motel, but without the support of her family, it was hard.

Despite her own fear, Leah did what she could to comfort young Charlotte. "Each night I'd cuddle Charlotte until she fell asleep on the back seat. It was a really small car, so there wasn't a lot of room."

Leah worried about the impact it was having on Charlotte, but she didn't



I was so scared that Charlotte would be taken away.

have a choice. "The only time we'd shower is when I could scrape enough money to stay in a motel. That wasn't often."

Leah did not know that compassionate help was available. She worried that if she reached out to the authorities, somebody would take her daughter away because she did not have a stable home.

One day after meeting with her ex-partner, Leah ended up in hospital. It was here that Leah was connected with a social worker and Vinnies, and that's when her life started to turn around.

Through the encouraging support of Vinnies volunteers Frank and Narelle, Leah was offered a range of support services including access to emergency accommodation.

When more permanent housing was found, the Vinnies volunteers helped her with the application and ensured the major expenses, including white goods and furniture were taken care of.

Leah was also given food hampers and vouchers to help out when she was looking for a job. Leah even had

the chance to learn some important life skills like cooking and budgeting, helping to set her up for a better future she can sustain.

Leah found her desire to study, and Vinnies volunteers were right there giving her the encouragement to apply to a university bridging program and support with her application.

Our volunteers and team members are on the frontlines every day, working with families in need of emergency assistance and support. It is only through support of generous people that we can help families escape violence and give them a chance to start again:

- Intervening early to prevent homelessness.
- Providing accommodation as quickly as possible.
- Supporting people to maintain stable housing.

**To donate visit:
www.vinnies.
org.au/donate
or call 13 18 12
or visit any local
Vinnies Shop.**



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