



# TOGETHER

In the Diocese of *Wagga Wagga*

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FREE

AUGUST 2022

On August 10, at St Michael's Cathedral Wagga Wagga, Bishop Mark celebrated the final Mass of Thanksgiving for the work of the religious institutes that founded and operated our Catholic schools across the Diocese.



*Read more on page 5...*

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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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Together  
PO Box 473  
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#### Email

together@wagga.catholic.org.au



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## Pilgrims in Hope

### Dear sisters and brothers,

We celebrate an 'ordinary' Year of Jubilee in 2025 and Pope Francis has given us the theme 'Pilgrims in Hope' to think about and consider as we journey towards this special year. This Jubilee, and the journey towards it, is a privileged and blessed moment in history. Here God is at work.

This time and journey is a moment of grace granted by the Lord. It is up to us to welcome it in hope, to dream together and to dream big. We are called to spurn the cynical 'What is the use?' response in the joy of being consecrated to Christ and those he has put us with.

Like Abraham, we are a pilgrim disciples journeying together to God, that is, Church journeying through trials towards God and his Kingdom. The decision to trust in God, and in God's care and power, gives us hope. In committing to this, we bear witness to the presence of God in this journey to full communion with him. Christ is our hope. He does not leave us where we are but calls us to renew ourselves, our parish and our Diocese. Cultivating intimacy with Christ, our good Shepherd, and clinging to him is essential on this journey.

The Plenary Council has, and the Synod on Synodality will, offer suggestions about concrete actions that will fulfil our mission. I fully expect that welcoming others, listening to the deep concerns in their hearts and forming community will be a part of the

mix. Reflecting on this as priests and people of the Wagga diocese, we will make courageous, loving, hope filled and faithful decisions.

We celebrate the feast day of St Monica on August 27th. Supported by hope, St Monica worked and prayed tirelessly to bring her family to Christ. St Augustine's conversion and sainthood is celebrated on the very next day. This mother and son hold out a message of hope for all who have watched a loved one drift from the Lord and, wanting the very best for them, desire their return.

I know many of you have adopted the 'Monica Option' and I encourage you to persevere in loving, witnessing to and praying for your special ones.

Our world yearns for a presence that reassures people in their life choices. A witness of hope that helps to drive away doubts around commitment and holy action. Walking with our sisters and brothers who are not currently church, we accept to offer ourselves as the presence of Christ and of hope.

**By living and sharing hope, we are missionaries.**



## Prayer Intention for August - Pray with Pope Francis

### For small businesses.

We pray for small and medium sized businesses; in the midst of economic and social crisis, may they find ways to continue operating, and serving their communities.

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



When I think of small businesses I think of dreams. The creation and execution of a successful small business almost always reflects a dream that someone worked hard to make a reality. The Covid-19 pandemic threatened to wake us with a cold bucket of water and end that dream for good when we faced the shock of potentially seeing everything we had worked for coming to an end. Of course, we understood that for the health and safety of our communities, and to protect the lives of those who were the most vulnerable, shutting down for a period was a necessary sacrifice. A sacrifice that caused lot of small businesses to greatly suffer. As we emerge from the hard lessons of the past year, many of us are beginning to rebuild. Small businesses are finding the courage, strength, and tenacity to survive this

disaster and come out on the other side stronger and more resilient than ever. But there is also a clear calling to renew our dreams and reshape our mission in a gesture of sincere gratitude to God.

Small businesses are the heart of the community. We have the power to bring people together in joy, create job opportunities and serve the common good. Let us pray that our small businesses will remain mindful of the proper use of natural resources to sustain and honor God's beautiful earth, the ethical application of technology and the necessary responsibility to creating for our workers an environment of fairness, equality, and dignity. As Pope Francis said, "Business is a noble vocation that can improve the world." God, give us the grace to accept this responsibility and continue to make our beautiful dreams a reality!



# Bishops lament family, domestic violence in annual justice statement

Australia's bishops have used their annual social justice statement to condemn the scourge of domestic and family violence, saying relationships must be "marked by respect and freedom rather than coercion and control".

**The Church in Australia has published social justice statements each year since the 1940s on a wide range of topics. This year's statement is titled *Respect: Confronting Violence and Abuse*.**

The document draws on data around family and domestic violence, and gathers the insights of people – especially women – on that data. It also reflects on the words and example of Jesus.

"The teaching of Christ urges us to promote relationships marked by respect and freedom rather than coercion and control," Australian Catholic Bishops Conference president Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB writes in the foreword.

"The message of the Gospel is not a message of domination of one person over another but a message of mutual esteem and kindness."

The statement, citing the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, explains that family and domestic violence "affects people of all ages and from all backgrounds", but notes it "predominantly affects women and children".

Younger women, women with disabilities, people in regional areas, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and members of the LGBTIQ+ community were

highlighted as particularly vulnerable to violence, various studies have found.

The statement also points out that "family and domestic violence is a painful and complex reality for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities".

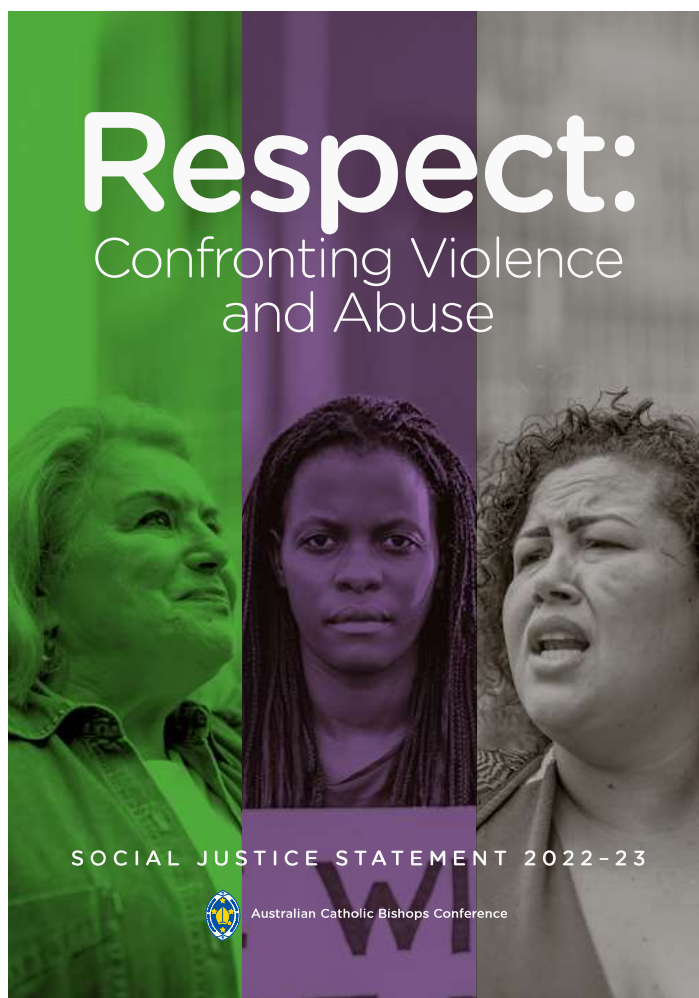
The document's sections cover the importance of listening to women and children, the drivers and enablers of violence, supporting respectful relationships and the importance of respect, dignity and justice, as well as transformation and hope.

The statement concedes that in some contexts, Scripture has been used to explain or even justify instances of violence against women or children. It rejects such distortions.

Passages used to imply the inferiority of women or children "do not reflect a context in which the equal dignity of every human being created in the image and likeness of God is acknowledged, or in which marriage is based on a relationship of love, mutuality and partnership".

"The respect due to each member of a family, household or community should reflect the respect and care shown for others by Christ," the statement says.

The statement promotes programs and agencies that support those who suffer various forms of violence, but also highlights the importance of



support for those who perpetrate such violence.

The Catholic Church is a major provider of services for all people affected by domestic and family violence through its dioceses, agencies, religious institutes and other organisations.

*Respect: Confronting Violence and Abuse* has been published ahead of the Catholic Church's celebration of Social Justice Sunday on the last Sunday of August – August 28 this year.

**The statement and associated resources can be found at:**  
[www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au)

**"My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me" - A retreat with the Good Shepherd.**

**Saturday 1 October**

Half-day retreat for men and women at the St Michael's Cathedral Parish Centre Atrium room with a focus on *John Ch10*.

We invite you to come and spend the morning in prayer and reflection with Christ, the Good Shepherd

*Begins 9am, concludes with Mass at the Cathedral which commences at 12:15pm.*

**Free of charge. Morning tea provided.**

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# Why pilgrimage?

## Bishop Mark reflects in conversation with Loretta Brinkman.

**Why have three Holy Fathers encouraged young Catholic to tread the pilgrim path, to make the choices and sacrifices necessary to commit to the intense experience of pilgrimage and why have they said yes?**

Since 1984 young people have been summoned by Popes John Paul II, Benedict and Francis to become pilgrims. Millions from around the globe have journeyed to World Youth Day host cities, open to whatever the experience had to offer.

Reflecting on his own experience of pilgrimage, Bishop Mark recalls that while he sought connection with God and found it in unexpected ways. Through his fellow pilgrims he encountered “so many people who were faith filled, praying, enthusiastic and, in one case, so many people who were quiet and devout, and in those moments I found I was closer to God as well.”

Bishop Mark is hoping that young

people from around the diocese will join him in pilgrimage to next year's World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal. He invites anyone interested to consider that being a pilgrim, to being a seeker, is significantly different to being a tourist. He reflects that “a tourist is somebody who goes somewhere to have a fun experience, then they come back again. A pilgrim is a seeker, they're not going just to have a happy time. They actually want to have some sort of spiritual experience. So, while it's got to do with travel and it's got to do with going somewhere, it's not just physically going somewhere, it's actually the inside of you going somewhere as well.”

Although the COVID-19 pandemic has made travel a dim memory for many of us, no doubt we remember that before any journey we need to prepare, we plan our itineraries, arrange our transport, organise things at home and pack our bags. Preparing for pilgrimage invites



Wagga Wagga Diocesan delegation to the Australian Catholic Youth Festival in 2017.  
Photo: Matt Humphrey.

us to go a little deeper, to consider what it is that we seek and prepare ourselves spiritually for the journey. Bishop Mark recommends that we “leave some stuff behind and to be prepared to rough it a bit. Not everything is going to go your way all the time. There's always surprises, always some dislocation and somehow God works through that by making us let go of our wants and our comfort. I think before we go we also have to put stuff down, sometimes it will just be putting down our work, so just put it down, put it aside, leave it for three weeks, it'll still be there when you get back.”

Bishop Mark also suggests that as pilgrims we need “to put down our sinfulness, to go to reconciliation beforehand realising we can't carry all of this messiness as well. We've got to put that into God's hands, seek some sort of reconciliation so that we can reduce the level of troubles we have as we travel.

Being a pilgrim is not for the fainthearted, but when you make a pilgrimage to World Youth Day you're not doing it alone, you're taking up the

challenge within a community of fellow pilgrims. “You actually need other people to travel with. By journeying with other people, by having others affirm your experiences, and hearing their experiences, and realising ‘oh, so that's the sort of thing that God does’, sometimes the experience that somebody else has can help you in your journey as well”, says Bishop Mark.

Bishop Mark is inviting all young people (aged 18-35) in the diocese to consider applying to join the Wagga Wagga Diocesan Pilgrimage to World Youth Day 2023, to be a part of this unique faith community of seekers. Whilst your decision to become a pilgrim is a personal one, the journey of being a pilgrim is a communal one and Bishop Mark encourages you to take courage in knowing that “Jesus meets each one of us individually, each person is really important and really special and Jesus is travelling with each one of them, but if you want to travel fast you travel alone, if you want to travel far you travel as a group.” **Are you up for the challenge?**



On Australia Day 2019 the Diocese of Parramatta pilgrims made their way to the Papal Vigil and Mass. Image: Diocese of Parramatta.



# Commissioning Mass

On Wednesday, August 10 (the Feast Day of Saint Laurence) at St Michael's Cathedral Wagga Wagga, Bishop Mark celebrated the final Mass of Thanksgiving for the work of the religious institutes that founded and operated our Catholic schools across the Diocese.

BY MATT HUMPHREY

**On this occasion, thanks were given for the dedication, commitment and contribution to Catholic Education of the Sisters of St Joseph (the Josephites) and the Marist, Christian and Patrician Brothers.**

This celebration also coincided with the Josephite celebration of 150 years in NSW and the sesquicentenary celebrations for the Marist Brothers' work in Australia.

In his welcoming address, Director of Catholic Education, Dr Andrew Watson, acknowledged the vital contribution of the many representatives of the religious orders present.

"We remember the many remarkable women and men, both living and those who are no longer with us, who worked tirelessly, and selflessly to make a positive difference in the lives of others, and their contribution to the Diocese of Wagga Wagga, particularly in the education."

"We also give thanks for the gifts of St Mary of the Cross, MacKillop, St. Marcellin Champagnat, Blessed Edmund Rice and Bishop Daniel Delaney and the faithful witness of our pioneering Sisters and Brothers who inspired so many to follow in the footsteps of Mary, Marcellin, Edmund and Daniel, to serve the people of the Wagga Wagga Diocese," he said.

In his Homily, Bishop Mark Edwards OMI spoke of the dedication of the religious orders to establish Catholic education under difficult circumstances.

"I look at the Christian Brothers, the Sisters of St Joseph, the Marist Brothers,

and the Patrician Brothers from those very early days. These men and women who said God is more important to me than having my own family, God is more important than the building up of financial security. I choose the way of poverty, chastity, and obedience in this religious congregation."

"They were then sent to what I imagine in the 1890s would have felt like the end of the Earth. These were some very remote places. There was no Hume Highway to get from Sydney to Albury. There was a track. We were a very isolated, very rural, very remote place."

"These people came with very little money available. They made it work. They gave their lives so that there could be Catholic education."

"It was a very challenging physical existence, and then they had to not only run the school, they were the cleaners, they were the administrators, they were the teachers and they provided pastoral care to the families."

"Extraordinary contributions were made by the Brothers and Sisters who worked in this Diocese. How did they do it? They did it because they had experienced the awesome goodness of Jesus Christ. They'd heard it, they'd encountered Him, and then they trusted it, and they put their lives into his hands. They put their lives in His hands in faith, and it's still the challenge that faces us today."

"So we come today celebrating Saint Lawrence as the church, celebrating his trust in God and his faithfulness. We



Bishop Mark welcomes new members of CEDWW staff during their formal commissioning. Photo: Matt Humphrey.



Presentation Sisters Sr Colleen Maloney, Sr Sr Audrey Pigram and Congregational Leader Sr Margaret Barclay with Wagga resident Anne Friedlieb. Photo: Matt Humphrey.

come celebrating the Brothers and Sisters who worked for our predecessors; our Grandparents and Great Grandparents in this diocese, and it's an opportunity for us, looking at their lives, to say - Jesus, I understand that you are awesomely good and, surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, I too want to trust in your goodness. I choose to put my life into your hands."

"Brothers and sisters today with great joy. We celebrate those who established Catholic education in this diocese," said Bishop Mark.

The staff of the Catholic Education Office who started this year were also formally commissioned during the Mass which was followed by a morning tea at McAlroy House.



Director of Catholic education, Dr Andrew Watson, during his welcoming address. Photo: Matt Humphrey.



Bishop Mark with Marist Brothers, Br Justin Guthrie and Br John Curry. Photo: Matt Humphrey.



# A childhood dream

*To teach and to pardon, console and bless always. My God, what a life; and it is yours, O priest of Jesus Christ. - Lacordaire*

*Originally published in Vianney Bulletin.*

**Of the few men called by God to the priesthood, few of them are ordained on the feast day of the saint they were named after.** Fewer still are those who are ordained on their birthday. And few indeed are the occasions when one's feast day, birthday, and ordination all fall on the same day. But that is what occurred on June 29, the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, when Deacon Peterpaul Ikenna Chikezie was ordained a priest by Bishop Michael Kennedy in Saints Mary & Joseph Cathedral, Armidale.



Bishop Michael Kennedy prays the Prayer of Ordination over Rev. Peterpaul

At the beginning of the Mass, Bishop Kennedy emphasised the great need for priests with missionary hearts in the diocese of Armidale, and in the rest of Australia. The Rev. Peterpaul Chikezie, who was born and raised in Nigeria, had come almost halfway around the world in order to fulfil his vocation and lifelong dream of becoming a priest. Unfortunately Fr. Peterpaul's parents Justin Primus and Roseline were unable to travel from Nigeria for the ordination, but were represented by Azu and Ngozi Azubuike, who are close friends of Fr Peterpaul.

Present among the concelebrating clergy was bishop emeritus Gerard Hanna of Wagga Wagga, who retired to Armidale in 2016. Fr Peter Thompson and Fr Sean Byrnes, the former rector and former vice rector respectively of Vianney College, also concelebrated, as well as priests Wagga Wagga, and beyond.

In his homily, Bishop Kennedy urged Peterpaul to "teach what you believe, and practice what you teach," and to imitate the excellent example of Saints Peter and Paul as priests who totally gave themselves to Christ and to the mission of the Church of spreading the Gospel. In his thanksgiving speech, Fr. Peterpaul thanked especially his parents and siblings, who were watching via livestream, for all their prayers and sacrifices, as well as



Fr. Peterpaul pictured with Wagga seminarians Gerard Letchford (left) and Saxon Onions (right).

Bishop Kennedy for accepting him into the diocese of Armidale and for his ongoing support. He also went on to thank the Serra Club of Wagga Wagga for their support during his formation at Vianney College, the Missionaries of Charity in Wagga Wagga, and the Immaculata Sisters in Armidale.

The ordination was followed by a luncheon, which included much Nigerian cuisine and traditional dancing, as well as a special ordination cake. The following day the newly ordained Fr. Peterpaul celebrated his thanksgiving Mass at Saints Mary

& Joseph Cathedral, after which he remained at the cathedral steps for people to receive his first blessing. Fr. Peterpaul will continue to serve the people of God in the parish of Inverell as assistant priest.

**All through my life it has been a childhood dream. I had always thought my vocation is to the Catholic Priesthood.**

**- Fr Peterpaul Ikenna Chikezie**



## Vianney College welcomes their newest librarian

**St Ann's Library at Vianney College has welcomed a new librarian, Mrs Manuela Tetley.** This is her first appointment as a librarian after completing a Cert IV at TAFE during the covid lockdown.

Manueala grew up to Young and moved to Wagga Wagga in her childhood and has been living with her husband and two children at Kyeamba as caretakers of the Divine Mercy Shrine for the past 14 years.

The primary responsibility of the library is to serve the needs of the staff and students of Vianney College. It also serves Catholic organisations and individuals, academics and

other researchers in the Riverina as a source of theological material. Manueala is hoping to get the wider public more involved in the library so they can deepen their Catholic faith

Membership to join the library is only \$10 per year with a loan period of 3 weeks. There are more than 17,000 items in the libraries collection as well as 65 serial titles.

**The library open hours are:  
Monday, Wednesday and Friday  
1:30pm to 5:30pm**

*Friday times may vary from time to time.*  
If you'd like to know more, you can call the library on 6923 1241.



# Synodality is not for the faint hearted

Throughout the Second Assembly of the Fifth Plenary Council of the Australian Catholic Church, we learnt from experience that synodality is not for the faint hearted, writes Patty Fawkner SGS.



Sister Patty Fawkner SGS. Image: Sisters of the Good Samaritan.

**During the Assembly, which was held in Sydney from July 3-9, the response by Members to the cry of our Indigenous sisters and brothers was uncompromised and magnanimous.** The response to the cry of those abused by the Church was heartfelt and generous. The response to the cry of the earth was a forward-looking commitment.

The response to the cry for women to be treated with equal dignity in the Church? This was confused and lukewarm.

What is it about women and the Church?

In previous editions of *The Good Oil*, I have spoken about women and the Church, and expressed hope that the Fifth Plenary Council would endorse the equal dignity of women and men, and so enhance the role of women in Church leadership and governance.

On the third day of the Assembly, the vote on Part 4 of the *Motions and Amendments* document, *Witnessing to the Equal Dignity of Women and Men*, failed to reach the required two-thirds majority. This evoked in many women and men, lay and clergy, feelings of shock, disbelief, anger and frustration. These weren't my feelings.

I felt a profound visceral sadness.

I was deeply saddened by the fact that it was mostly women who spoke against suggestions for a more inclusive role for women. Any talk of greater engagement of women in leadership and governance roles was interpreted as a push for 'power', a push for ordination. The use of the 'o' word, in any context, spooked some Members.

Over the days of the Assembly, no-one, I repeat no-one, lobbied for women's ordination to the priesthood. A proposed amendment that it merely be recorded that Members had heard the frustration and disappointment about women's exclusion from ordination was too much for some. A simple acknowledgement of women's experience was expunged.

I was also saddened by the realisation

of the untold damage that the failure to endorse the introductory statement in the motion on *Witnessing to the Equal Dignity of Women and Men* would cause to many people, and to the reputation of our Australian Church.

To leave the Plenary Council without any statement on women would have been a monumental mistake.

Bad news travels fast. Within a few hours of the failed vote, I received numerous messages of disbelief from international friends.

Even though an eventual positive Decree on women was enthusiastically endorsed on the last full day of the Plenary Council, this hasn't cut through in some quarters. As is often the way, the subsequent good news has been, and may continue to be, drowned out by the initial outrage.

Much has been written about the 'protest' following the Bishops' deliberative vote on Part 4 and the morning tea break. Various media reported that some Members walked out, had colluded in initiating a protest and had done so with disrespect. Not true. It was more of a spontaneous reaction of 'we've got to do something' that took off as Members began returning to the hall. More than 60 of us stood in respectful silence at the back of the hall and took our seats once invited to do so.

Like the bewildered Emmaus disciples, "we had hoped" (Lk 24:21) but ...

This protest was the moment, the precarious and pivotal moment, of the Assembly.

Those leading the process that day did exactly that – they pivoted. They knew we couldn't proceed with business as usual. With agility and flexibility, they suspended the agenda – a brave move in an already packed schedule.

The process was changed to adopt (dare I use the buzzword?) a more 'synodal' process, a more collegial and intentional walking together process. Various meetings occurred over lunch, the results of which were reported back to the Assembly, a writing group was

commissioned to rework a motion on women, and, significantly, more time was spent on consensus building before proceeding to a vote.

From a depressive and despondent mood in the morning you could feel the communal spirit lift as the afternoon wore on.

The resulting Decree on the equal dignity of women and men, though not vastly different in intent from the original motion, had in many ways been strengthened. The Church committed itself unequivocally "to enhancing the role of women in the Church, and to overcoming assumptions, culture, practices and language that lead to inequality".

The inclusion of the words "culture" and "language" was balm to my wounded spirit.

Women's "frustration and disappointment" that there were barriers to them offering "their gifts in service of the Gospel" was finally acknowledged. The contentious motion of admitting women to the diaconate was bolstered to say that the Australian Church would not merely consider this, but would "examine how best to implement it", should 'Rome' so authorise.

Members agreed that women be "appropriately represented in decision-making structures" at all levels of Church life. "Appropriately" allows some concerning 'wiggle room' as I'm pretty sure that it won't be women who will be the arbiters of appropriateness! However, my overall assessment is that the final Decree on women is neither

confused nor lukewarm.

That notwithstanding, some will view the Decree as giving women a few crumbs from the ecclesiastical table, or the Church playing catch-up with the norms of society. However, I believe that the Decree *Witnessing to the Equal Dignity of Women and Men* is truly significant for both the Australian and Universal Church. Obviously, as was often repeated, there is more to be done, but the Plenary Council has developed a positive agenda upon which to build.

It occurs to me that if the issue of women had not been satisfactorily resolved during the Second Assembly, a polarised Australian Church was on the cards.

In his wonderful book, *Let us Dream* (p77-78), Francis says that "our main task ... is not to disengage from polarisation but to engage with conflict and disagreement in ways that prevent us from descending into polarisation. This means resolving division by allowing for new thinking that can transcend that division."

Thus, the 'winner' from the Australian Catholic Church's Plenary Council is Pope Francis and his commitment to synodality. Members of the Plenary Council learnt from experience that synodality is not for the faint hearted and that real tensions are inherent in a true synodal journey. They also experienced the traits of synodality: collaboration, inclusion, listening to all the voices, and consensus building. **Above all, the Members dared to dream!**

# Reach out and give life through Workplace Giving

Did you know that workplace giving is a powerful and efficient way to support the causes you care most about, and make a lasting difference in the lives of those they serve?

BY ADRIENNE WILLIAMS

**Children like Kaleb\* are just one example of those being supported through Catholic Mission's Workplace Giving program.** Growing up in one of the poorest nations in the world, children like Kaleb are often unable to attend school or advance beyond primary education because their parents are unable to afford school fees and supplies. Kaleb's mother is the sole provider for the family, and struggles to provide food and a home for her family of seven on her small income as a street vendor. COVID-19 further impacted Ayana's income, making covering school fees for her children impossible.

In Ethiopia, approximately 95% of children do not have access to basic goods and services, and only 52.4% of children from urban areas complete secondary school.

Sister Carmen Sammut SJA created the scholarship program at the Lideta Catholic Cathedral School (LCCS) in Addis Abba, which offers children from families facing hardship a placement at school so they can continue their education.

She says, "my dream and vision for the community is that our projects continue growing and reaches other hundreds of families and kids. For the students, this is a golden opportunity to access a scholarship to one of the best schools in the country. The ethical formation of the school impacts students positively and helps them to become good citizens, educated and give back to the community."

Catholic Mission supports Sister Carmen and her work with students and

families at LCCS, and many projects like it in Australia and around the world.

Workplace giving provides a wonderful opportunity for employees and employers, no matter the field, to contribute to their favourite mission programs with pre-tax donations. Contributions go a long way in helping Catholic Mission support children, communities, and Church leaders around the world.

To date, over 600 students who graduated from LCCS have gone on to become doctors, but there is more to be done. A scholarship for one student for a year costs approximately \$425, which is a gift of \$16.35 per fortnight as a workplace gift.

**To learn more about workplace giving visit [catholicmission.org.au/workplace-giving](https://catholicmission.org.au/workplace-giving) or use the QR code.**

*Adrienne is currently the Fundraising Manager at Catholic Mission in Sydney, Australia. In her role at Catholic Mission, Adrienne leads strategy development and implementation for all aspects of fundraising and sits on the Executive Management Team. Adrienne previously held a senior fundraising role at Baptist World Aid Australia and an executive leadership role at Watoto Australia. Prior to this, Adrienne worked as a Financial Analyst at Goldman Sachs in the UK and Wells Fargo Securities in the US. Adrienne earned her Bachelor of Science in Finance from Florida State University, and separately, holds a second Bachelor of Science in Political Science and Psychology.*



Adrienne Williams, Fundraising Manager at Catholic Mission

**Jane Plum**  
Diocesan Director  
Wagga Wagga  
02 6937 0013  
[jplum@catholicmission.org.au](mailto:jplum@catholicmission.org.au)





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**we can reach out and give life through Workplace Giving**

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# Catholic sector urges parliament to pass Aged Care Reform Bills quickly

Catholic Health Australia has welcomed the introduction of aged care reform legislation today (Wednesday) and praised the Albanese Government for its commitment to improving quality and standards for the elderly and vulnerable.

**Catholic not-for-profit aged care providers are urging the Parliament to pass the Bills quickly so that they can implement reforms and lift standards.**

CHA Director of Aged Care Jason Kara said the two tranches of legislation - one responding to the Royal Commission and the other delivering election commitments such as new standards of care and pricing - show the new Government is serious about aged care reform.

"Legislation introduced today really fires the starting gun on reform. This is long overdue and our members welcome the fact that the Albanese Government is serious about improving care for the elderly and the vulnerable in our society."

"It is really encouraging that one of this Government's

first acts is to introduce a Bill responding to the Royal Commission which handed down its final report almost 18 months ago. The Catholic sector is greatly encouraged by Aged Care Minister Anika Wells' passion and commitment to lift care standards. We urge the Parliament to support a speedy passage to law."

Mr Kara said the second piece of legislation - the establishment of new care standards and how to pay for them - would give transparency and certainty to providers.

"The establishment of an independent pricing authority will give providers greater clarity over the level of funding they can expect for the people in their care. This can only be a good thing for providers and for the people who are in their care."

"We look forward to working with the Government



and the Parliament as the important Bills are debated in coming weeks."

*Catholic Health Australia (CHA) is Australia's largest non-government grouping of health and aged care services accounting for approximately 10 percent of hospital-based healthcare in Australia. Our members also provide around 25 percent of private hospital care, 5 percent of public hospital care, 12 percent of aged care facilities, and 20 percent of home care and support for the elderly.*

## NEAA Student Conference

Mater Dei Catholic College hosted the Nagle Education Alliance of Australia (NEAA) - Presentation Sisters Student Leadership Conference where Bishop Mark attended the Conference Closing Liturgy on 19 August.

It was a beautiful opportunity for Bishop Mark to hear about the highlights MDCC enjoyed during the week of hosting the conference.



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# Australian Ambassador to the Holy See joins call to support women living in poverty

To commence its annual Women for the World campaign, Caritas Australia yesterday held an event to celebrate and honour women as leaders across the world.

**Addressing the event as special guest was Her Excellency Chiara Porro, the Australian Ambassador to the Holy See, who spoke on women's leadership, the Church and the role of women in development.**

"Women's empowerment and gender equality make countries more stable, less vulnerable to conflict, and, in general, better governed. If our aim is to contribute to global stability and prosperity, it therefore makes sense that gender equality and the removal of barriers to women's economic and social inclusion should be central pillars of our foreign policy in Australia," said Her Excellency, Ambassador Porro.

"Since arriving at the Holy See, women in leadership has been a key focus of my work. We've showcased trailblazing women who have shaped the history of the Catholic Church and its contribution in society and developed platforms to support emerging female leaders and promote gender equality at the highest levels."

"To truly achieve gender equality, we need leadership to role model inclusive, constructive and supportive leadership and make sure everyone's

on board. Without this, real change won't come about."

Attended by new and long-term Caritas Australia supporters, the event also heard from Caritas Australia CEO Kirsty Robertson who talked about her recent experience in Ethiopia, a country currently in the grips of a food crisis, where she visited last month.

"Often, we heard stories of women in Africa getting water and looking at the water knowing it was going to make them sick, yet they drink it anyway out of necessity. A number of the women that we spoke to in IDP (Internally Displaced People) camps were also really worried about stopping and walking because if you stop, you're much more at risk of the army and the consequences of that for women, girls, and children is obviously devastating as well," said Ms Robertson.

"It's those conversations, which in some ways are tragic, but in other ways are a real reminder that the world is not fair, and that is what really motivates me and compels Caritas Australia forward."

This year alone, there are estimated to be 388 million women and girls worldwide living in extreme



Caritas Australia CEO Kirsty Robertson with Her Excellency Chiara Porro and Caritas Australia Chair Robert Fitzgerald attending the Women for the World event in Sydney.

poverty. These women and girls face many challenges including lack of education and training, food insecurity, inadequate access to health care, gender-based violence and discrimination.

"Now, more than ever, it is important for us to band together for women and girls across the world, as they face increasing challenges from conflict, COVID-19, climate change and now the increase in food and fuel prices from the war in Ukraine," said Ms Robertson.

"There are more than 130 million girls out of school. But if all girls can finish their secondary education or equivalent, our global GDP can increase by 10 per cent over the next decade. This just shows that when we empower women and girls, really, we

empower everybody."

Since 2013, Caritas Australia's dedicated Women for the World community has helped provide education, develop livelihoods and improve healthcare and protection for some of the most vulnerable women and girls in marginalised communities.

**To learn more go to:**  
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# Project of the Month: August

This month help build a Marian Shrine for the faithful in Angola.

**Almost every diocese in Angola has its own Marian shrine. The Catholic faithful of the country have a deep love of the Blessed Virgin Mary and profound devotion towards her.**

However, to the sadness of the faithful, the diocese of Mbanza Congo, situated in a very impoverished region in the northwest of the country, still has no such shrine. And yet this was the very place in sub-Saharan Africa that witnessed the first ever Christian baptisms and where the first cathedral was built, right back in 1595.

It was in 2019, in the village of Bungo, part of the parish of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Kikudo, when Bishop Vicente Carlos Kiaziku laid the foundation stone for a diocesan Marian shrine destined to become the shrine of Our Lady of Victories. Sadly, however, the coronavirus pandemic, added to the already existing desperate economic situation, tore up their careful financial planning, and the building work had to be suspended indefinitely. As for the Catholic faithful, already living in poverty before, they

were now quite simply unable to help the Church anymore.

Nonetheless, this project is very dear to Bishop Kiaziku's heart, for he is hoping it will lead to a deepening of faith and a strengthening of the people's Catholic identity in the midst of intensive activity by the many sects, who are seeking to win away followers. The shrine is intended not only as a place of pilgrimage but also as a center for retreats and faith formation activities. In short, a sort of spiritual center for the diocese and a place that will exert a powerful influence on the faith life of the people, by helping them to mature and grow in their faith. At the same time, as the bishop explains, "It is intended as a symbol of the way in which the faithful can journey with Mary towards Christ and go to meet him together."

We are proposing a contribution of \$31,000 AUD to support this project, which we believe will inspire renewed faith, hope, and love in many people. With you help us?

**Can you help fund a Marian Shrine for the faithful in Angola?**



To help ACN fund projects like this visit:  
[aidtochurch.org/monthlyproject](http://aidtochurch.org/monthlyproject)



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## SUPPORT Religious Sisters



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**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



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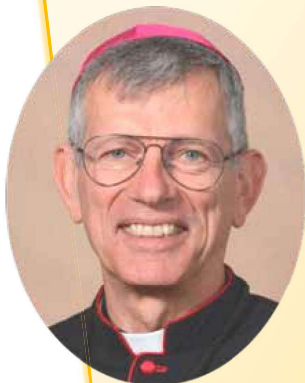
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# Wagga City Council replaces traditional meeting prayer with 'inclusive', non-religious reflection

Wagga City Council has replaced the traditional prayer recited at the start of each ordinary meeting with a "reflection" that does not mention God or religion.

BY MONTY JACKA - The Daily Advertiser

**The city's councillors voted 5-3 in favour of adopting a new code of meeting practice which included replacing the prayer with a more "inclusive" reflection.**

Instead of calling on Almighty God to protect the councillors and help them govern with justice, the new reflection will instead call on the councillors to reflect upon their responsibilities and duties to the community.

While debating the issue on Monday, councillors argued the reflection was more inclusive than the traditional prayer and would ensure even non-religious residents

feel welcomed during ordinary meetings.

"The prayer that is spoken is non-denominational but that doesn't mean it is for all religions," Labor councillor Dan Hayes said.

"There is a growing population of atheists and non-practising believers - council should reflect that and this is one way to do that."

Cr Hayes also suggested the reflection could serve as a moment of personal prayer for any religious residents, councillors or staff members.

This sentiment was shared by councillor Rod Kendall, who stressed that the change was not about being "anti-Christian" but instead about opening up the council meeting procedures

"I want to include the whole community in the proceedings of council because every one of those people are valuable," he said.

Cr Richard Foley put forward a detailed submission which questioned the legality of including prayer in official local government proceedings.

His research suggested local councils could not legally engage in any religious rituals and this was the basis behind his decision to support the change.

Multiple councillors said they received waves of emails and phone calls over the weekend from members of the city's



Mark Edwards, the Bishop of the Wagga Catholic Diocese, said that he would be disappointed to see Wagga City Council remove the prayer. Picture: Madeline Begley

religious community urging them to keep the current prayer in place.

Data from the ABS census released earlier this year revealed the number of Wagga residents who affiliate with a religion is in a notable decline. More than 31 per cent of residents said they are not religious in the 2021 census, up from just 22 per cent in 2016.

These statistics were highlighted by Labor councillor Amelia Parkins, who said the reflection was a "really positive" way to celebrate the city's multiculturalism.

An amendment to include both the prayer

and the reflection in meeting procedure was supported by Wagga mayor Dallas Tout and councillors Tim Koschel and Mick Henderson, but was ultimately rejected by the other councillors.

The vote to adopt the new code of meeting practice, including replacing the prayer with a reflection, was supported by councillors Georgie Davies, Richard Foley, Dan Hayes, Rod Kendall and Amelia Parkins.

Councillors Mick Henderson, Tim Koschel and Dallas Tout voted against the new code of meeting practice.



Wagga mayor Dallas Tout suggested including both the prayer and the reflection in meeting procedure - but his amendment was ultimately rejected by his fellow councillors. Picture: Ash Smith

## Help make Together the best newspaper it can be



**Let us know what is happening in your area.**

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

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

**For more information about making contributions to Together or to submit your article contact us at: [together@wagga.catholic.org.au](mailto:together@wagga.catholic.org.au)**

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# Introducing ErinEarth's new Manager, Melanie Bradley

Hello everyone. I'm Melanie Bradley and I've recently joined the committed team of ErinEarth volunteers and staff as Manager. To the wider ErinEarth community, thank you for the warm welcome!



Melanie with two of her children.



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

**I'm married to an ecologist, and we have three young children aged 6, 3 and 1.** Learning about and caring for the environment is a big part of our day-to-day living. One of the most delightful things about exploring the

world alongside our young children is observing their attention, thoughtfulness and joy as they discover worms and creepy-crawlies in the soil; or spy a Mopoke perched in our Ginkgo tree; or build a 'winter residence' for our backyard Bluetongue; or observe spiders flying through the air with courage, on their miraculous silken threads.

ErinEarth is a place of extraordinary threads, which interconnect and weave us all into the organisation's story. Each of us holds a special, unique thread, that connects us to the bigger ErinEarth picture.

I first picked up an ErinEarth thread back in 2006. I had returned from Queensland to my hometown of Wagga, to finalise my PhD thesis. During a much-needed writing break I decided to visit ErinEarth (or as it was then-known, the Ecological Justice Resource Centre). I recall having a wide-ranging, deeply philosophical, and spiritually uplifting conversation with Sister Carmel. The bold vision, heartfelt mission, and strong community spirit of ErinEarth's founders, Sisters Carmel and Kaye, left a deep impression on me. Perhaps you could say they left me with a thought-thread, an idea of one day supporting their work.

Fast-forward 15-odd years and I find myself back at ErinEarth, reconnecting with the thread that I held many years ago. To ErinEarth I bring experience in sustainability research and education, and in environmental policy, planning and management. I've worked on issues within the agricultural, tourism, mining, and urban development sectors; within government, non-government, and research agencies; and in domestic (Queensland and Northern Territory) and international settings (Pacific Island countries, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Venezuela).

As I look around the ErinEarth site I

find myself in awe of what ErinEarth has become, since my first introduction back in 2006. I give heartfelt thanks for Carmel and Kaye's vision and mission; for the contributions of current and former ErinEarth staff members, including our recent Manager, Kaz Leary; and I give thanks for the longstanding and ongoing contributions made by ErinEarth's incredible group of volunteers.

Recently, while sitting on a big warm rock in the back corner of the ErinEarth garden, I looked up and sighted an intricately patterned cocoon. It was about a quarter the size of my little finger's thumbnail and was dangling boldly at the end of a delicate silken thread. This beautiful cocoon, swinging in the breeze on a silken thread, seemed to symbolise trust, conviction and hope; and in a very tangible way, it connected me to one of ErinEarth's many threads. As I step into the role of Manager I do so with trust, conviction and hope. **I look forward to connecting with the ErinEarth community, and to learning more about the beautiful, varied and extraordinary threads that unite us all.**





# Mount Erin Heritage Centre: A place of Catholic community and history

The Mount Erin Heritage Centre held an open day on Saturday 30 July. Presentation Sisters, former students as well as many members of the community of all ages attended the event.

BY KARENE EGGLETON

**Confession: I had never been to visit the Mt Erin Heritage Centre.** I was pleasantly surprised at how extensive it is and the attention to heritage with a passion for history. I am looking forward to going back to spend some more time exploring through all the incredible history on display.

The Mount Erin Heritage Centre holds many memories and displays the history of the Presentation Sisters in the Riverina and contains an interesting collection of photographs, artefacts and unique memorabilia telling the story of the Catholic community in Wagga Wagga and its surrounds.

The Mount Erin Heritage Centre is located in Wagga Wagga at the original Mount Erin Convent which was built in 1876. The centre has been open to the public since its official opening on 9 March, 2018 and has been managed by the Presentation Sisters since. The historic site is where five Presentation Sisters from Ireland established a convent and school and since then several schools have existed there including St Brigid's, St Mary's, St Eugene's, Mount Erin High School, Trinity Senior High School and presently Kildare Catholic College.

A harp and monstrance that were brought from Ireland by the pioneers, and priceless lace are among the exhibits. The Mount Erin Boarding School, which still operates today, is represented by an original bed and chair alongside countless photos of boarders going back to when it originally opened in 1890.

The story of education is told through a timeline of the history of the many schools. A collection of uniforms, artefacts, books, and over 2,000 photographs represent many decades of school life. There are numerous pictures of music and sport and other cultural activities over the decades that spark great interest.

Chris Roe from Region Riverina caught up with Sue Bradley, the Centre's Manager and Sister Barbara Webber, a Presentation Sister.

"So many people, Catholics and non-Catholics wouldn't have any idea of the significance of these buildings and would never have been inside them," she said.

"It just gives people an opportunity to come and have a look, particularly if you're a history buff like me."

"It links all the way back to the first school and the many women who joined the Presentation Sisters convent here in Wagga and then moved on to other areas and established convents elsewhere," Sue said.

"I think it's important as a resident of Wagga that we care for this history and that we maintain this history and we look after it so that in another 150 years this is still here for people to enjoy."

Sister Barbara Webber was instrumental in establishing the Mount Erin Heritage Centre to preserve the history and to celebrate the contribution that the order has made to education and the Wagga Wagga community since the founding Sisters arrived in 1874.

"We are aware that as a congregation we are dying out, and we didn't want this wonderful story to be lost."

"I felt it was important that we somehow record that story for future generations because it's an extraordinary story that has since 1874 been part of the city of Wagga, and so many wonderful women and men have been educated on this site."

What stood out to me was the display of rare footage from 1942 of two girls' experience of coming to Wagga from Sydney, escaping from the war and invasion of the Japanese.

Just when I thought I'd had my fill of history, Susan Bradley showed me through the chapel which had major heritage renovations late last year. The much-needed chapel renovations included new paint, electrical, carpets and a careful renovation of the century-old parquet floor. I was in complete awe of the stunning stained-glass windows and their history. Look out for an article on these fantastic pieces of art and their history in next month's issue.

The entire display is a credit to the group who established the Mt Erin Heritage Centre and is such a treasure for our community to have access to. **I encourage everyone to visit the centre which is open every Tuesday and Wednesday from 10am to 2pm and by appointment.**



Mount Erin Heritage Centre Manager, Susan Bradley and Presentation Sister, Sister Barbara Webber.



Rare footage is on display. Photo: Karene Eggleton.



Helen Wheeler, Robyn Gooden and Sr Alexis enjoying the day.



This Monstrance was presented to the founding Sisters for the convent chapel on their departure from Ireland in 1847. Photo: Karene Eggleton



The stunning stained glass windows in the Chapel. Photo: Karene Eggleton



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# National Child Protection Week

The National Child Protection Week is from 4 - 10 September and continues to embrace the theme *'Every child in every community needs a fair go'*.

**To treat all of Australia's children fairly, we need to make sure every family and community has what kids need to thrive and be healthy.**

The 2022 theme for National Child Protection Week is all about the importance of the 'bigger picture' in addressing child abuse and neglect.

The environment in which a child lives can be the source of significant stress or support for children. For instance, living in a community with not enough jobs, with poverty, or with high rates of abuse and violence creates stress that can stop children from getting a strong foundation for life.

When we address these root causes of stress, we create healthier communities for everyone, particularly children. Research tells us there is a powerful source of protection against the long-term negative effects of adversity on children. What is it? Stable, supportive relationships with caring adults. These relationships actually buffer them from toxic stress, softening and moderating the biological stress response.

Providing every family and community with the robust system of supports they need, has tremendous power to build these critical relationships between children and caring adults.

Child Protection Week 2022 will be an opportunity to translate this knowledge into action. All skillsets, all people, and all communities are assets in this important endeavour.

Let's make sure our communities have strong foundations for families and children – jobs, safe places, libraries, parks, playgrounds, schools, child care, affordable housing, health services, social activities, clubs, friendly neighbours, businesses and more.

Many of you are already playing your part every day – as individuals, as community members, as volunteers and as workers – to help create these great communities for children. When we do this together we can give 'every child, in every neighbourhood, a fair go'.

This year's theme is based on the framing research for the Core Story for Early Childhood Development and Learning.

## Why environment matters ... toxic stress

Minor, everyday stresses are a healthy part of child development, but major stressors can have a long-term effect on children's brain development and even on their physical health. Severe adversity that lasts over long periods of time can send the body's stress systems into permanent high alert, flooding the body's vital organs and the brain with stress hormones. This 'toxic stress' response can derail healthy development and has even been linked to adult health problems like heart disease and diabetes.

The environment in which a child lives can be the source of significant stress or support for children. For instance, living

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3. seek to keep children connected to family, community, language and culture
4. never knowingly harm a child or allow them to be harmed
5. speak up and seek advice about the safety and wellbeing of children (including talking to caregivers, other professionals, an appropriate supervisor, or legal authority)
6. provide an environment for children where they feel safe, thrive and can develop positive relationships with adults and peers
7. be a good role model for children; be polite and respectful around children
8. listen to, and value, what children and young people have to say, and include their voices in decision making
9. be a leader who stands up for the rights of children, advocates for their best interests, and constructively challenges practices
10. support families and encourage them to ask for help, rather than judging

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# The Henschke Council of Nicaea



The mellifluous sound of entrance fanfare filled the hall as the 'Bishops' of each ancient community paraded inside, all gathering from near and far to hold a religious council.

BY KIRSTEN BATION

**Robes billowed around ankles, admittance letters in hand and mitres on heads.** It was very lavish, and for a moment it was as if we travelled back to the year 325 A.D. Soon enough, the noises of papers shuffling and the hive of chatter overflowed the area, discussing about common beliefs and placing them into a combined creed. Afterwards, reports were read, debates and reasoning could be heard, and finally, votes were cast. Though it was basically a reenactment of what took place centuries ago, it helped us learn about the creed, and prepare us for our Confirmation and the future.





# The Red Hand Files

The latest issue of Nick Cave's Red Hand Files talks about Love Island and having good people in your life when grieving.

BY NICK CAVE

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

**Who do you want to win Love Island?**

*Maisie, London*

**What would you say is the major difference between you and Susie?**

*Sharon, London*

**Dear Maisie and Sharon,**

At the moment, the defining difference between Susie and me is that she watches Love Island, and I don't. Susie watches Love Island because we know one of the contestants, Luca. Luca was a school friend of our twins, Arthur and Earl. As a consequence, Susie and I became friends with Luca's parents, Maria and Michael. Maria is an antique dealer. Michael is a fishmonger. Luca is a fishmonger too.

After Arthur died, in the early days of

that terrible, chaotic first week, Maria turned up on our doorstep with a tray of lasagne and basically looked after us. She barely said anything to us. She made us cups of tea. She cooked for us. She was just there. She was the one constant through a time of horror and confusion, when scores of despairing and commiserating people came and went. We will never forget her kindness. Even in the first week, when the world seemed suddenly and shockingly defined by an unspeakable and distorting cruelty, Maria reminded us that there was good in the world. She also served as a lesson in how to deal with grieving people – you don't need to say anything, just do something; make them a cup of tea, cook



Luca on set at Love Island.

them dinner. To this day Michael brings fresh fish around to our house, drops it off and leaves without a word. He pretends to charge us for it, but we know that he doesn't. These people, Luca's parents, are as good as people get, and they love

their son, Luca. So, Susie watches Love Island and cheers him on, and hopes that he will win. I also hope that Luca wins, and wins soon, because then I can get the TV back.

**Love, Nick**

## St Mary's Parish, The Rock

Some of the 11 First Holy Communion children of St Mary's Parish, The Rock, completed their catechism classes on July 23, ahead of their First Holy Communion in early August.



**According to some older parishioners, it is the first time in almost two decades that The Rock has had more than a couple of children celebrating their First Holy Communion together.**

Almost all of the St Mary's children have siblings or parents who contribute to the parish through cleaning the church, serving Mass, or singing in the

three choirs. Several of the children are formerly or currently from the Latin Mass Chaplaincy in Wagga Wagga, their families availing of the 8am Sunday Mass at The Rock celebrated using the 1962 Missal. The Rock is one parish grateful for the post-COVID exodus from the cities, leading to significant rural parish population growth!

# Conference president reflects on his new role, responsibility

As he commences his tenure as president of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB sees one of his key tasks as ensuring the bishops “remain united in our service of God’s people”.



*President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB*

**In an interview with the Bishops Conference’s Media Blog, Archbishop Costelloe admitted he was “surprised and somewhat daunted” when he was elected president of the Conference in May.**

“At the same time, I was and am conscious of the trust the bishops of Australia have placed in me. I will certainly do my best to repay that trust,” he said.

Archbishop Costelloe also reflected on a pair of firsts – becoming the first bishop of a West Australian diocese elected president and the first member of a religious order.

“I think it is a good thing that the presidency of the Conference has in recent years been held by bishops from Adelaide, Melbourne and Brisbane – and now Perth,” he said.

“The Catholic Church is present and active right across Australia and each diocese has its own characteristics and history, and its own unique challenges and opportunities, all underpinned by our common faith.

“There really is unity in diversity among the bishops and the choice of the Archbishop of Perth as the new president demonstrates this.”

On his membership of a religious institute – the Salesians of Don Bosco –

Archbishop Costelloe said the increasing number of bishops who are members of religious orders recognises “the role religious life plays in the Church as a living sign of the fundamental values which should underpin the lives of every disciple”, namely poverty, chastity and obedience.

About one quarter of Australia’s bishops are members of religious orders.

In his interview with Media Blog, Archbishop Costelloe reflects on the Plenary Council, for which he served as president, the place of the Church in a society increasingly rejecting faith and on the role of bishops in the 21st century.

**Archbishop Costelloe, you’ve had a couple of months to get used to the idea of being the incoming president of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. What are your overriding emotions as you take on the role?**

I was surprised and somewhat daunted at my election as the new president of the Bishops Conference. It is an important role and not one that I had ever imagined I might be asked to take on.

At the same time, I was and am conscious of the trust the bishops of Australia have placed in me. I will certainly do my best to repay that trust

and to work collaboratively with the bishops to ensure that we remain united in our service of God’s people here in Australia. During my time as a bishop the Bishops Conference has been faithfully led by Archbishop Wilson, Archbishop Hart and Archbishop Coleridge. I hope to build on their good work.

**You are the first bishop of a West Australian diocese to be elected president. What do you think that says about the Church in Australia at the moment?**

I think it is a good thing that the presidency of the Conference has in recent years been held by bishops from Adelaide, Melbourne and Brisbane – and now Perth. The Catholic Church is present and active right across Australia and each diocese has its own characteristics and history, and its own unique challenges and opportunities, all underpinned by our common faith. There really is unity in diversity among the bishops and the choice of the Archbishop of Perth as the new president demonstrates this.

One of the most important aspects of the Bishops Conference is our readiness to listen to and learn from each other’s experience. Every part of the Church in Australia has something to offer the wider Church.

**In another first, no other president of the Conference has been a member of a religious order. What do you make of your election and the presence of many bishops from religious institutes – about a quarter – within the Conference?**

The real significance of this lies not so much in the election of a member of a religious congregation as the president as in the fact that now about

one quarter of the bishops come from religious orders. This is a recognition of the importance of religious life in the Church, not so much because of the work religious have done, and continue to do, in the Church, but because of the role religious life plays in the Church as a living sign of the fundamental values which should underpin the lives of every disciple: poverty and detachment from material things as the “be all and end all” of life; chastity as a way of living our relationships with others with respect and reverence for each person as someone created in the image of God; and obedience as radical openness to all that God is asking of us.

Every Christian is called to live this way. Religious, by the quality and radical nature of their lives, remind all of us of this. And the presence of a number of bishops who come from religious life means that this reminder is “front and centre” for the bishops as well.

**You served four years as president of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia. It has only just finished, but what is your sense of what the Council’s legacy could be?**

Beyond the important decisions made by the Council I think the real legacy lies in our experience, over the four-plus years of the Plenary Council journey, of “lived synodality”. Pope Francis often insists that this must be the way for the Church as we move into an uncertain future. All of us, sisters and brothers in Christ, are being called to walk together, listening deeply to each other. For many of us, the long journey of the Plenary Council has been an introduction to this way of living our faith.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 19



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

Now we will need to deepen our understanding of this reality by participating in it. My sense is that as a community of faith we are only at the beginning of this journey. We all have much to learn about what synodality is and how it should be lived within the richness of our Catholic tradition. The Plenary Council has been a good start. Our listening is ultimately a listening to God, in all the many ways God speaks to us. I think we now need to attend carefully to all the ways in which God speaks to us.

**Having had that significant leadership role in the Church in Australia over those years, what have been the biggest lessons you have learned?**

I have seen, more clearly than ever, the deep desire in so many people for the Church to be authentic and faithful. The horrors of the sexual abuse crisis, and the extent of the suffering inflicted on the young and the vulnerable, has not destroyed the Church, although it has, to our shame, destroyed the faith of many in the Church. What it has done, however, is to reawaken in so many people a desire for the Church to be what it is called to be: a living and effective sign and instrument of the Lord's presence and action in our world.

So much of the Plenary Council was, in one way or another, an expression of this desire and a pledge of commitment to doing what we can do to realise this dream – which in the end, of course, will be the work of the Holy Spirit, with whom we are called to cooperate.

I have also learnt how difficult it has been for so many of us in the Church to really enter into true discernment. I say this because I detected in others, and in myself, the powerful temptation to believe that what I thought was best for the Church must inevitably also be what God desires for the Church. The challenge, of course, is that other equally committed and sincere Catholics saw, and see, things very differently.

We have a long way to go in trying to understand how to discern the work, and the promptings, of the Spirit when good and faithful people see things very differently. The temptation of arrogance or spiritual pride needs the antidote of Christian humility.

Another thing I came to realise through the years of the Plenary Council journey has been the need to keep going back to the basics. The letters of St Paul, for example, with their very practical advice about how to treat each other in our communities of faith with respect, with kindness, with gentleness and with compassion need to be taken seriously. The way in which Jesus interacts with various people in his encounters with them needs to be seen as the model for our own interactions

with people. In other words, we need to be people whose lives are grounded in the Scriptures. In the end we are disciples of Jesus and everything in our life in the Church needs to reflect this.

**You have spoken about your desire to work collaboratively with your brother bishops, but with the People of God more broadly to "carry forward Christ's mission". How would you describe the role of bishops as shepherds in the 21st century?**

Our Catholic faith is a deeply sacramental faith – we believe that in the concrete, tangible, human realities of life we do, through the grace and power of God, encounter God and are drawn into a deeper communion with God.

I see the role of bishops (with priests as their collaborators) in this way. Bishops are called and empowered to make real and visible and concrete the presence of Christ among his people as their Good Shepherd. They don't take his place; they don't "stand in" for him in his absence; they "sacramentalise" his presence, specifically as the Shepherd. In doing this they seek to foster and maintain the unity of Christ's flock, the unity of the Church, so that the Church can be what it is called to be: the sacrament of Christ's presence to the world as the Light of the world and as our Way, our Truth and our Life.

Bishops, together with their priests, are called to be enablers of the vocation of the whole Church to be a priestly people who give their lives for the sake of others, as Jesus gives his life for the sake of all. The ordained ministry of bishops (and priests) is therefore one of humble, self-effacing service so that, as St John Baptist put it, "he (Jesus) must grow greater and I (the Baptist, the bishop, the priest) must grow smaller". Our "job" is to enable the whole community of faith to do its "job".

**In a country where "no religion" appears set to overtake Christianity as the largest religious group, how can the Church continue to shape or influence Australian society?**

It is almost a cliché to say that the values of the Church and the values of the society in which we live are growing further and further apart. Clearly the Church does not hold the privileged position in our society that it once had.


In such a situation, my firm conviction is that we should follow the advice given by Pope Benedict (and, I think, by John Paul II before him) and reiterated by Pope Francis. We should endlessly propose but never impose our beliefs on others. I often speak of the "Catholic worldview" by which I mean the way in which, in our Catholic tradition, we understand what it means to be a human person, created in the image and likeness of God and called by God, in and through God's self-revelation in Christ, to live in relationship with God, with others and with ourselves.

There is a coherent Catholic vision, based on key presuppositions (God exists, God is made known fully and finally in Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ establishes the Church and animates it through his Spirit to be the living sacrament of his presence) which means that the Church has a wisdom to offer our world as a precious gift. But gifts can only be offered, never forced on people, and people are free to receive or reject the gifts. We are called to reveal the beauty of the gift both by what we say and what we do, and to be sure that we offer the gift in its fullness as given

to us by God.

It is one of the roles of the bishop to ensure that the gift is maintained in its integrity; to do otherwise would be to fail and dishonour God who is the designer and giver of the gift, and to fail God's people who have a right to receive the gift in its fullness. **But, of course, it is the faith of the Church, and not necessarily the bishop's particular and personal interpretation of it, which bishops are called to safeguard for the sake of God's people.**






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# Australian synthesis for global Synod of Bishops published

Catholics in Australia have expressed a strong need for a Church that is missionary and a Eucharistic community that is inclusive, the national synthesis for the global Synod on Synodality reveals.

**The Australian synthesis, which emerged from a nine-month process that began in October 2021, draws from the diocesan consultation phase for the Synod of Bishops.**

Earlier this year, Australian dioceses published a report on the findings of their local consultation – a process that every diocese around the world undertook. The National Centre for Pastoral Research prepared the national synthesis based on those diocesan reports.

Trudy Dantis, the Centre's director, said there was much to draw upon from the diocesan reports, which themselves were the result of hundreds of submissions from groups and individuals.

"We also recognised that the Church in Australia captured very rich information through the Plenary Council, much of which was relevant to the experience of synodality," she said.

"Through the Synod of Bishops and the Plenary Council, we have been able to capture and listen more deeply to the voices of people within and beyond the Catholic population."

The Australian Catholic Bishops

Conference recently approved the national synthesis.

Bishops Conference president Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB commended Dr Dantis and her team on developing the synthesis.

"As we have learned through the Plenary Council process, Catholics have very different experiences, different hopes and different aspirations of and for the Church," he said.

"It is a major undertaking to honour all those voices and help present a cohesive picture of the presence – or the absence – of synodality, that process of 'walking together', in our Church. The National Centre for Pastoral Research is to be congratulated for what it has produced."

Adelaide Archbishop Patrick O'Regan, who along with Bishop Shane Mackinlay will represent the Bishops Conference at the October 2023 gathering in Rome, said the publication of the national synthesis is the next step in a long and important journey.

"This pilgrimage towards the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops will take three-and-a-half years and will help the global

**The National Synthesis report is now available for download.**

[www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch](http://www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch)

Church to better understand how we can all walk together in seeking to fulfil our mission," he said.

"While this is, in many ways, a new adventure, we in Australia have been blessed to walk this path for the past four years of the Plenary Council. We invite the People of God to keep walking, through the Synod's three themes of communion, participation and mission."

**Access the national synthesis at:**

[www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch](http://www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch)

National syntheses have been prepared around the world. The Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops will use those documents to prepare an instrumentum laboris, or working document, for the Synod. Continental gatherings of bishops conferences will also be used to prepare for the Synod of Bishops.

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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
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- School refusal
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- 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



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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.



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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.

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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.

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# KIDS corner

## SAINTS FUN FACTS

by John Sheppard

St John Baptist Vianney was born in France in 1786. After being drafted into the Army, he deserted and returned home and entered the seminary in 1813.

He was assigned to Ecully and in 1818 he became Cure, as pastor of Ars. He worked 16 to 18 hours a day working in the confessional, administering the Sacrament of Penance, or Reconciliation.



John died at Ars and was canonized in 1925 and was made patron saint of parish priests.

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

Saint John Vianney



## Craft...

### Father's Day: Ice block stick keys and coins box

This simple ice block stick craft is a great idea for Father's Day. Little kids will get a big sense of achievement from making Dad this box to keep his coins and keys in.



#### You'll need:

- approximately 50 coloured ice block sticks
- glue and paint



#### How to make:

- Paint the sticks and allow to dry or you can buy them already coloured.
- Start by laying 11 sticks, side by side.
- Put a row of glue across the top edge and stick another single ice block stick along the top edge of these to form a cross frame. Do this along the bottom as well.
- Now layer up the sides of the box the same way: placing a stick along each edge alternately to make a pattern.
- Keep going until you have about six or seven layers up.
- Perfect for keys and coins!

Send your coloured picture, word search or joke ideas with your name, age and school to:

Together Editor  
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We'd love to hear from you!



### AUGUST SAINTS AND FEAST DAYS

## Word Search



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

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

St. John Vianney  
Transfiguration  
St. Dominic  
St. Teresa **Benedicta** of the Cross  
St. Lawrence  
St. Clare  
St. Maximilian **Kolbe**  
**Assumption** of Mary  
St. **Stephen** of Hungary  
St. **Bernard**  
St. **Pius X**  
St. **Rose** of Lima  
St. **Louis** of France  
St. **Monica**  
St. **Augustine**  
Passion of St. John the Baptist



# Living Fullness podcast hits 100 episodes

We serve our mission of seeing people become who they were truly created to be, by helping those we encounter to live a life of fullness in Jesus.

To this end we primarily run a series of talks and interactive workshops for all ages, from senior primary, high school, to university, seminary students and parishes. We serve anyone who can see the need for further formation, especially in cultivating the virtues in our relationships with one another, so that together we can become more like Christ. We also publish regular blogs from the team and from guests.

This mission and work is not limited to the Riverina or even to NSW. That's why we began our own podcast: Living Fullness, where our founder, Stina Constantine, sits down with her long-standing friend, a catholic priest from the Wagga Wagga Diocese, Fr. Sean Byrnes, to talk all things faith, relationships, virtue and living the Christian life to the full. We are so grateful to Fr Byrnes, who has been a dear friend of Virtue Ministry, for so graciously sharing his faith, knowledge, and humour with our Podcast Community.

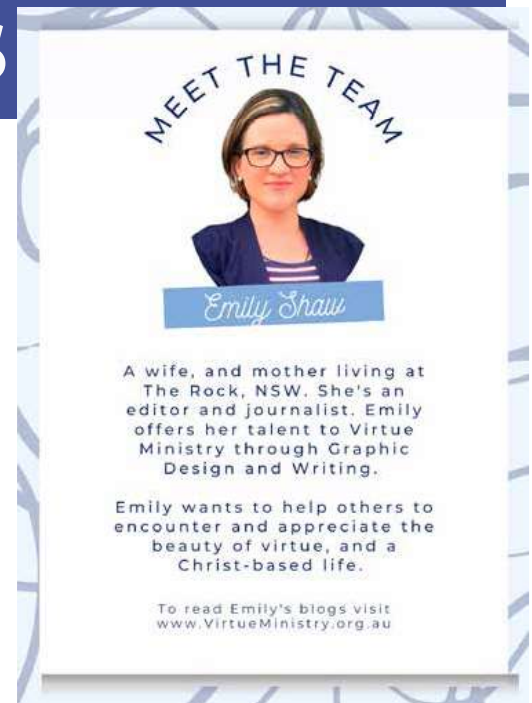
The podcast is now in its second season, and we have reached a milestone of 100 Episodes. The podcast has grown to have a reach not only in Australia, but also as far as the US, Canada, Germany and the UK. Some of our top episodes include:

- How to know when to end a relationship
- The 4 temperaments and Jesus
- The natural progression of a relationship (NPR)
- Series - The beatitudes

- Online dating
- Book study 'Interior Freedom' by Jacque Phillippe.

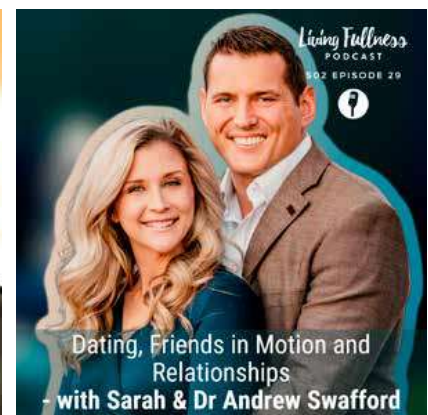
The episodes most people talk to us about when they meet us in person are our monthly guest interviews. From familiar faces such as Bishop Mark Edwards OMI, and our most recently ordained priest for the Wagga Wagga Diocese, Fr Connell Perry (an interview whilst he was still a deacon), to members of the Virtue Ministry team, through to international guests. Our guests bring their strength and convictions in their faith to our space to share their relationship with God and inspire us all to continue to fight the good fight.

Most recently, we had the pleasure of sitting down with Dr Andrew and his wife Sarah Swafford from America to discuss all things relationships. Dr Swafford is a theologian and a professor at Benedictine College in Kansas, and has several written academic works, as well as having contributed to resources for Ascension Presents. His wife, Sarah, has been widely recognised in the youth and young adult ministry space across the globe for her ability to provide clarity in discussions around relationships, which have been made murky by the many unhelpful cultural tendencies. Sarah has been a big supporter of our ministry from the start, and we are so grateful for her ongoing love, prayers, and work for the church. You can find our monthly guest interviews on all the



usual podcast streaming platforms (Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Google podcasts, etc...), AND you can watch the episodes on our YouTube Channel – Virtue Ministry.

This podcast is only made possible by the generous donations of people who support our ministry, especially through our Patreon Page. If you're able to spare even as little as \$3 a month, you'll be helping our mission by assisting us in covering the costs associated with running a podcast including but not limited to: annual platform fees, recording platform, equipment costs, as well as ongoing audio and video editors. In return, we offer Exclusive Behind the Scenes clips with our guests, Living Fullness merch, and more. **Please consider joining us on [www.Patreon.com/LivingFullness](https://www.patreon.com/LivingFullness)**





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## Holy Spirit School, Lavington

Holy Spirit School were fortunate to have a group of training doctors visit their Kinders on August 9 for the Teddy Bear Hospital. The students participated in a range of activities to develop their knowledge about healthy eating, what happens in surgery, doctors equipment, how to call an ambulance and how to bandage. It was a wonderful and enjoyable experience for all!



## Holy Trinity Primary, West Wagga

Holy Trinity students were busy on July 29 planting trees and shrubs around their school for National Tree Day. We can't wait to see all the beautiful plants grow.



## Sacred Heart Primary, Wagga



Sacred Heart Primary celebrated NAIDOC Week on July 26.



## St Joseph's School, Leeton

On August 18 the St Joseph's Debating Team had great success. These boys should be very proud of themselves, winning their debate and winning the award for best debate. Naite also received the award for best debater. Their hard work definitely paid off and I think we might have some future debaters and politicians in our midst. Congratulations boys!



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## St Joseph's Primary School, Jerilderie

On August 17 St Joseph's celebrated NAIDOC week with their friends from Tocumwal, Finley and Coleambally. They enjoyed a smoking ceremony and the students were able to ask questions at the end of the ceremony. We would like to thank Lorelei, Claudia, Tracey and Aunty Colleen for the fabulous activities that they put on for the students. The students cooked, drew, painted stones and canvas's, weaved, painted pillowcases and were shown and told about the possum skin coat.

Such a great day that we could all come together to celebrate culture and enjoying each other's company.



## Mater Dei Primary, Wagga



Congratulations to Mater Dei Primary Year 4 students who received their first Holy Communion on July 31 in their parish masses.



## St Joseph's Primary, Wagga



St Joseph's Primary Stage 2 tennis team braved the cold on AUGUST 11 at the Todd Woodbridge Tennis Tournament playing some fantastic matches and continued to improve throughout the day.



## St Michael's Primary, Coolamon

A huge thank you to St Michael's amazing P&F for allowing the school to purchase a whole range of new books for Stage One. They can't wait for the rest to arrive!



## St Joseph's Primary, Finley

On August 7 St Joseph's celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation with Bishop Mark Edwards. Thank you to Father Paul, to the school and wider community for praying for the students as they prepared for Confirmation. Thank you to Bishop Mark for his explanations to the children so that they understood what they were undertaking. Thank you to Lynne Monteath and Chelsea Tanner and also to the families and friends who attended to make it extra special for the children.





# 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 - 9:00am  
**Mt Erin Chapel**  
Kildare Catholic College  
Edmondson Street, Wagga Wagga  
Sunday - 11:30am (Extraordinary Form)  
Confessions before and after Mass.

## Wagga Wagga - Koorlingal

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

## Wagga Wagga - South Wagga

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

## Wagga Wagga - West Wagga

**Holy Trinity Church**  
Bardia Street  
Ashmont  
Monday - Friday - 7:00am  
Monday, Wednesday & Thursday - 6:00pm  
Friday - 10:15am  
Sunday - 9:00am, 10:30am and 5:30pm  
**Our Lady of the Blessed**  
**Eucharist Church**  
Benedict Avenue  
San Isidore  
Saturday - 6:00pm

## Albury

**St Patrick's** 515 Smollett St, Albury  
**Weekend Mass Times**  
Saturday - 9:30am  
Vigil (Saturday) - 5:00pm  
Sunday - 8:00am, 10:00am, and 5:30pm  
Latin Mass - Sunday 12 noon  
**Weekday Mass Times**  
Monday to Friday - 7:00am  
Tuesday & Thursday - 9:30am  
Latin Mass Mondays - 7pm in the Adoration Chapel  
First Friday - 5:30pm  
**Rosary before Mass**  
Saturday - 9:10am and 4:30pm  
Sunday - 7:40am and 9:40am

## Albury - North Albury

**Sacred Heart** Mate Street, North Albury  
Saturday Vigil - 6:00 pm  
Sunday - 9:30 am  
**Weekday Masses**  
Tuesday to Friday 9.30am or as printed in weekly newsletter  
First Tuesday of month - Mercy Place 11.00am - Includes sacrament of anointing  
**Confessions**  
Saturday - 5.15 - 5.45 pm

## Albury - Lavington

**Holy Spirit**  
Saturday Vigil - 6:00pm  
Sunday - 8:00am, 10:00am  
St Mary's Jindera - 9:00am  
**Weekday Masses**  
Monday - Friday - 7:00am  
Saturday - 9:15am  
**Confessions**  
Saturday - 8.15am, 5.00pm  
St Mary's Jindera - Sunday 8.30am

## Albury - Thurgoona

**Immaculate Heart of Mary**  
**Weekend Masses**  
Saturday Vigil - 6:00pm  
Sunday - 9:30am, 5:30pm  
**Weekday Masses**  
Monday - 8:00am  
Tuesday - 10:00am  
Wednesday - 8:00am  
Thursday - 7:00pm (Mass Novena and Benediction)  
Friday - 10:00am  
**Confessions**  
Prior to Masses  
Saturday - 5:30pm-5:55pm  
Sunday - 9:00am-9:25am & 5:00pm-5:25pm  
Thursday - 7:00pm following Novena  
Mass of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

## Berrigan

**St Columba's** 4 Corcoran Street, Berrigan  
1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday - 6:00pm Saturday  
Vigil  
2nd, 4th Sunday - 10:30am  
**Savernake**  
1st Sunday - 5:00pm  
**Weekday Masses** are announced in the Sunday bulletin  
**Confessions** before Saturday Vigil Masses

## Coolamon

**St Michael's**  
Sunday - 9:00am  
**Confessions**  
Saturday - 4.45 - 5.15pm  
**Masses**  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday - 7:30am  
Thursday - 10:15am  
Saturday - 9:00am  
**Marrar**  
Saturday Vigil - 6:00pm  
**Confessions**  
1st Saturday - 5:30pm  
**Allawah Village**  
First Thursday of each month.  
Mass at 9.15am

## Corowa

**St Mary's Star of the Sea**  
Saturday Vigil - 6:00pm  
Sunday - 9:00am  
**Weekday Masses**  
Refer to Parish Bulletin available in the Church or on the parish website  
**Confessions/ Reconciliation**  
Saturday - 11:00am-12:00, 5:30-6:00pm  
**St Pius X. Coreen.**  
1st, 3rd Sunday - 10:45am Mass

## Culcairn

**St Patrick's Culcairn**  
1st, 4th Sunday - 8:00am  
2nd, 3rd Sunday - 10:00am  
5th Sunday - Vigil Mass 6:30pm (Saturday)  
**Henty**  
2nd, 4th Saturday Vigil - 6:30pm  
1st Sunday - 10:00am  
3rd, 5th Sunday - 8:00am  
**Walla Walla**  
1st & 4th Sunday - 6:00pm (Sunday)  
**Weekday Masses**  
Vary according to needs and are announced in the Sunday bulletin  
**Confessions**  
Before each weekend Mass

## Darlington Point

**Oliver Plunkett**  
Hay Rd, Darlington Point  
1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday - 8:30am  
2nd, 4th Sunday - 6:00pm (Saturday Vigil)  
**Weekday Masses**  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday - 8:30am - Darlington Point  
**St Peter's** Cnr of Currawong Crescent and Kingfisher Avenue, Coleambally  
1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday - 10:30am  
2nd, 4th Sunday - 8:00am  
**Weekday Masses**  
Holy Hour - Friday 5.00pm - 6.00pm at Darlington Point  
**Confessions**  
15 minutes before 10.00 am Mass on Sunday or by request

## Finley

**St Mary's** 1 Denison Street Finley  
Sunday - 10.15am  
**Weekday Masses**  
Are announced in the Sunday bulletin  
**Confessions**  
Saturday - 10.30 - 11.00am

## Ganmain

**St. Brendan's Ganmain**  
**Sunday Mass**  
9:00am  
**Weekday Masses**  
Monday to Friday:  
December-February 7:30am (Tues., Thurs.) & 5:30pm (Mon., Wed., Fri.)  
March-November 5:30pm  
Saturday: 8:00am (usually in the convent except 1st Sat. in the church).  
**Confessions**  
8.00-8.55am Sunday and 30 minutes before all Masses.  
**St. Patrick's Matong**  
6:00pm Saturday  
**Confessions** 30 min before Mass

## Griffith

**Sacred Heart** Warrambool St, Griffith  
Saturday Vigil - 6:00pm  
Saturday - 8:00am  
Sunday - 7:30am, 9:00am, (Italian), 10:30am, 6:00pm  
**Weekday Masses**  
Monday - Friday - 7:00am, 5:30pm  
**Confessions**  
Friday - 4:30pm to 5:30pm  
Saturday - 11:30am to 12:30pm  
**Marian Catholic College Chapel**  
185 Wakaden Street Griffith  
Sunday - 9:00am

## Holbrook

**Our Lady of Sorrows**  
125 Albury Street  
Holbrook  
1st & 3rd Sunday - Saturday Vigil 6.30pm  
2nd Sunday - 8.00 am  
4th & 5th Sunday - 10.00am  
**Weekday Masses**  
Phone parish for details  
**Confessions**  
Before Mass on weekends  
**St Francis De Sales Church of the Pioneers**  
Hume Highway  
Bowna  
2nd Sunday - 11:30am

## Howlong

**St Brigid's**  
Hovell St, Howlong  
**Church of the Good Shepherd**  
Queen Street, Walbundrie  
**Weekend Mass Times**  
**Howlong**  
Saturday Vigil - 6:00pm  
**Walbundrie**  
Sunday - 9:00am  
**Masses**  
**Howlong**  
Saturday 9.00 am - Howlong  
For other Masses during the week, see the parish website.  
**Reconciliation**  
**Howlong**  
Saturdays 9:30am (after 9:00am Mass)  
5:30pm - 5:55pm  
**Walbundrie**  
Sundays 8:30am - 8:55am

## Jerilderie

**St Joseph's**  
Coreen Street, Jerilderie  
1st, 3rd, 5th Saturday Vigil - 6:00pm  
2nd, 4th Sunday - 10:30am  
**Weekday Masses**  
Are announced in the Sunday bulletin

## June

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

## Khancoban

**Church of St Joseph the Worker**  
Sunday - 9:00 am  
**Weekday Masses**  
9:00 am  
**Confessions**  
Prior to Sunday Mass  
**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

## Leeton

**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**  
Thursday - 9:30am  
**Confessions**  
Half an hour before weekend Masses

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## Tumbarumba

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

## Urana

**St Fiacre's Church** 5 End St, Urana  
**Weekend Masses**  
1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday - 8.00am  
2nd & 4th Saturday (Vigil) - 6.00pm  
**Weekday Masses**  
Thursday - 12.30pm  
**Confessions** Up to 5 mins before Mass.  
**Oaklands**  
1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday - 10.00am

## Yenda - Yoogali - Hanwood

**Our Lady of the Rosary of Pompeii**  
17 Edon Street, Yoogali  
Sunday - 9.30am  
**St Anthony's - Hanwood**  
Saturday Vigil - 5.00pm  
Sunday - 8.00am  
**St Therese's - Yenda**  
Saturday Vigil - 6.30pm  
**Weekday Masses**  
Tuesday - 8.00am - Hanwood  
Wednesday - 8.00am - Hanwood  
Thursday - 5.00pm - Yenda  
Saturday - 9.30am - Yoogali (first Saturday of the month only)  
**Confessions**  
Yenda - Thursday, before Mass  
Yoogali - Sunday, before Mass  
Hanwood - Saturday - 4.30pm  
Or by arrangement with the priest.

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



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

<b>1 August 1995</b>	Mgr Michael Francis Lane
<b>2 August 1975</b>	Fr Norman Duck
<b>4 August 2012</b>	Fr Patrick O'Connell
<b>7 August 2001</b>	Mgr George M Crennan
<b>10 August 1972</b>	Fr Thomas Francis Shanley
<b>21 August 1909</b>	Fr Daniel Leahy
<b>22 August 1970</b>	Mgr Owen Clarke
<b>22 August 2014</b>	Mgr William Fulton
<b>27 August 1935</b>	Fr John J Curley CSsR
<b>29 August 2012</b>	Fr Francis Clune
<b>30 August 1982</b>	Fr Allen Douglas Patrick Whitty
<b>31 August 2013</b>	Most Rev William Brennan

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



## Junior Legion

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

**All welcome!**

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

Contact:  
Caronne 0413 801 616



# Family reflections for:

# Aug/Sept

### 21st August - Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C

**Families take advantage of certain days throughout the year to celebrate individuals in the family and to make sure that they know that they are not taken for granted.** As a family, recall all of the days that someone in the family was celebrated in the past year—birthdays, Mother's Day, Father's Day, anniversaries, graduations, and so on. Next, challenge each individual to recall what gifts were received on the day(s) on which he or she was celebrated.

Emphasize that these days are intended to express appreciation in a special way but are not meant to replace the appreciation that we should always show. Point out how, at times, families can take one another for granted. Explain that in this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells a story about some people who took something for granted and paid a price. Read aloud Luke 13:22-30. Explain that, in this story, some people took it for granted that they could enter the house whenever they wanted, but the master locked the gate and would not let them in after hours. Point out that Jesus was warning his listeners not to assume that they will have eternal life in heaven and not to take this invitation for granted.

As a family, commit to showing appreciation for one another in the days ahead, striving to not take for granted any of the many things that family members do in their roles as parents and children.

Isaiah 66:18-21 Psalm 117:1-2  
Hebrews 12:5-7,11-13 Luke 13:22-30

### 28th August - Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C

**Parents and children often enter into "negotiations" over how much allowance is to be earned at certain ages.** Typically, when a child seeks an increase in allowance, parents will attach an increase in chores and responsibilities for them to better earn the increase. Talk about what kind of allowance you received as a child and what kind of responsibilities your

parents expected of you to earn your allowance.

Explain that in this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus talks about doing good deeds for others and expecting nothing in return. Read aloud Luke 14:1,7-14. Ask your children how they would feel if you told them to take on more chores without ever expecting another raise in allowance. Emphasize that Jesus teaches us that it is our duty as his followers to take care of the needs of others and to do so without expecting repayment. Discuss what other types of rewards we can find when doing good things for others.

Point out that we sometimes fall into the trap of wanting too many things and that, in the Our Father, we pray for "our daily bread," meaning that we pray for only that which we really need in life. Conclude this time together by praying aloud the Our Father.

Sirach 3:17-18,20,28-29 Psalm 68:4-7,10-11  
Hebrews 12:18-19,22-24 Luke 14:1,7-14

### 4th September - Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C

**Provide your children with a list of things that they are responsible for interspersed with things that they like to do -** for example, make their beds, take out the garbage, go to the park, do homework, watch television, have a snack, feed the cat. The list should reflect their responsibilities and favorite recreations. Tell them to pretend that company is coming and ask which of the things listed should be done first. Explain that this is called setting priorities.

Paraphrase the Gospel story for the children. Ask them what Jesus says is the most important thing for them to do. Jesus tells us that the number-one priority is to follow him. But just as it is not always easy to do the things we are supposed to do before doing the fun things, it is not always easy to be a follower of Jesus. Yet when we put Jesus first, we will be truly happy.

Wisdom 9:13-18b Psalm 90:3-4,5-6,12-13,14-17  
Philemon 9-10, 12-17 Luke 14:25-33

### 11th September - Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C

**Read or retell in your own words, the three stories from the Gospel.** Ask your children to recall games they play that involve losing or hiding something and then finding it. (Hide and Go Seek, Ghost in the Graveyard, Button, Button, Who's Got the Button?) Talk about how exciting it is to find the person or thing being looked for.

Ask your children if they have any memories of losing something special or being lost themselves. Share the stories as well as the fears or feelings. Then tell them that just as you would go to any length to find and bring them home if they were lost, so too would God. That is what Jesus is telling us in the three stories. No matter what we do, no matter how wrong we are, God, our loving father, is always anxious to forgive us and welcome us back home.

Exodus 32:7-11,13-14 Psalm 51:3-4,12-13,17,19  
1 Timothy 1:12-17 Luke 15:1-32

### 18th September - Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C

**Talk with your children about some things that they have done to show that they can be trusted.** Talk a bit about what it means to be responsible. Responsibility often means that we put aside something of passing value for something of greater value.

Read together the short form of today's Gospel, Luke 16:10-13. Talk about the importance of responsible use of money and our material possessions. As a family, commit to one action that you will take this week to show that your family serves God and not money.

Amos 8:4-7 Psalm 113: 1-2,4-6,7-8  
1 Timothy 2:1-8 Luke 16:1-13

RICARDO PEREIRA / FAMILIA CRISTÃ

**WORLD  
YOUTH  
DAY****SEE YOU  
IN AUGUST  
2023!****1-6 AUGUST**