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In the Diocese of *Wagga Wagga*

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SEPTEMBER 2022



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Bishop's Voice



Homily for the Diaconate Ordination of Michael Perry On the Feast of the Triumph of the Cross

Dear Michael, Michael's friends and family, my brother priests, seminarians and people of God,

Today I want to reflect with you on the diaconate in the light of the Triumph of the Cross and using the theme for the approaching year of Jubilee, Pilgrims of hope, and using an image.

First the image: The dome on St Peter's was inspired by dome on Pantheon. The technology to build a concrete dome without a central support during construction had been forgotten – to this day we don't know how the Roman's built the Pantheon dome – but this didn't deter the architects of St Peters. They started to build St Peters and looked for solutions.

Filippo Brunelleschi solved this problem at 'Il duomo' in Florence. His brilliant solution involved two domes, one internal and one external, an inner skin and an outer skin if you will, which mutually supported each other and this inspiration was used at St Peters.

This also provides the possibility of narrow spiral stairs between the domes to go up to the top. 320 steps take you from the terrace, which is the roof of St Peters and the bottom of the dome, to the top. I invite you to picture yourself ascending on a brutally hot summer's day with the sun beating down on the outer shell and in great humidity. It is dark, your legs are burning, your heart pounding. The sides of the dome slope in you as you approach the end of the journey and the steps get narrower and you have to lean at an angle making the climb even more uncomfortable. You almost expect to find, perhaps just around the next corner, the skeleton of a tourist who had died in an

earlier attempt at ascent.

Why might people put themselves through this?

They remember the goal. There is a circular walkway around the top of the dome that gives a stunning 360-degree panoramic view of Rome and out to the Alban Hills and beyond on a clear day. The reward is more than worth the claustrophobic effort.

I suggest that this image provides insight into today's feast. When we commit to our Christian journey, the goal attracts us. There can be stretches in our lives, however, when there are difficulties, even great difficulties, and the reality of our goal might disappear from our experience. In this trial, we can't go around the cross, or over it or under it but must go through it. We hang on to our God and his love for us and his Church by an act of faith and continue on our way.

At this moment, and by this act, we become pilgrims of hope.

We are not the first to travel this road, of course. This is Christ's journey. He has gone before us and so we hang on to him and even, in our better moments, are glad to possess the cross with him.

The Gospel today assures us that this way of the Cross of Christ is not primarily about the pain of the way. It is about love. Christ was grateful that he was able to do this for us: On the night he was betrayed, he took bread in his sacred hands and gave thanks.

Michael, the diaconate, that vocation within your baptismal vocation, is a call to leadership of the Christian community and this will include supporting God's people to be pilgrims of hope. Like Moses in the desert, hold up before them, in your preaching and in your life, the reality of Christ on the Cross

which will save them.

Enable them to see the love and tenderness of our God towards them in Christ. Attract them to journey God with sure hope in the "God who sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved." Such a journey always requires conversions at some levels and this step in faith requires hope.

And I am sure that in your life, too, there will be moments when you are caught on the stairs in the humid, hot dark between the shells. Look up to Christ on the Cross who loves you and cling to him in those moments. It is our privilege also to choose to be pilgrims in hope.

One of the ways you can better gaze on him at that time is to remember this day and God's grace which touches you at the start of this stage of your journey. Let that light a gentle and good joy in you, a joy which distress and sorrow can't dismay.

And to my brother priests: I think of a day when you said "yes", a "yes" that was a step in trust with our Lord and I thank you for that. Remember that you were anointed to anoint others and that this anointing never disappoints. Let us not brood over our troubles for in this we lose our perspective and our courage. Rather, recall the destination. Choose to hope in the Lord's presence in your life and in his merciful gaze.

And to all: I invite you to elect to be grateful for your own personal journey, a journey of faith and conversion, a pilgrimage on which that God is inviting you. In this way, we welcome the glorious Cross into our lives.

Michael, it is in service of this pilgrimage of hope and this pilgrim people that your life is now to be ordered.

TOGETHER
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Prayer Intention for September - Pray with Pope Francis

Abolition of the death penalty.

We pray that the death penalty, which attacks the dignity of the human person, may be legally abolished in every country.

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



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In my college years I was agnostic and had little time for things of the church. But even then, some of my core convictions lined up closely with church teachings. I felt in the marrow of my bones, for instance, that every human being is capable of redemption. No matter what they might have said or done, so long as life beats within them, there is a possibility of remorse and conversion of heart. I didn't have many strong political beliefs at the time, but I knew deep down that for the state to execute someone, no matter how guilty, was to violate something sacred.

Around that time, I was deeply moved by the film *Dead Man Walking*. I appreciated that it did not address the morally easy case of a wrongfully convicted man, but instead stared squarely at the reality of someone

who had committed an unspeakable atrocity. The film dared to say that even his life has value. Years later, as a Jesuit novice, I read Sister Helen Prejean's book, on which the film is based. Sister Helen's witness touched me deeply, especially her decision to work with both the convicted and the families of the victims, loving, like Jesus, all without distinction.

It saddens and angers me that the death penalty continues to be legal in so many US states. Our prisons are secure and those within them pose no threat to our safety. While I understand the desire that someone pay a price for a crime they have committed, I believe that we as a society are called to something more. Let us join the Pope in his prayer that the death penalty be abolished throughout our own country and around the world.

Pope Francis mourns death of Queen Elizabeth II

Pope Francis sends his condolences to King Charles III and the people of the United Kingdom for the death of Queen Elizabeth II, and praises her "life of unstinting service to the good of the Nation and the Commonwealth".

BY DEVIN WATKINS

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland died on 8 September at Balmoral Castle, her residence in Scotland.

Her family had gathered with the late Queen as concerns grew about her health earlier in the day.

Queen Elizabeth II reigned for over 70 years, celebrating her Platinum Jubilee on 2 June 2022.

The late Queen's eldest son Charles,

the former Prince of Wales, now becomes King and head of state for 14 Commonwealth realms.

Service, devotion, witness

Shortly after her death, Pope Francis sent a telegramme to offer his condolences to King Charles III for the death of his mother, the UK's longest-serving monarch.

"Deeply saddened to learn of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, I offer heartfelt condolences to Your Majesty,



Pope Francis greets Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip on 3 April 2014

the Members of the Royal Family, the People of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth."

The Pope said he joins everyone who mourns her loss "in praying for the late Queen's eternal rest, and in paying tribute to her life of unstinting service to the good of the Nation and the Commonwealth, her example of devotion to duty, her steadfast witness of faith in Jesus Christ and her firm hope in his promises."

Pope Francis also commended "her noble soul" to the mercy of God the Father.

"I assure Your Majesty of my prayers that Almighty God will sustain you with his unfailing grace as you now take up your high responsibilities as King. Upon you and all who cherish the memory of your late mother, I invoke an abundance of divine blessings as a pledge of comfort and strength in the Lord."

Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord. May perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in your peace.



Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh accepting gift of boomerangs from Joe Timbery and family when they visited Wagga Wagga in 1954.



Mayor of Wagga Alderman WF Dunne escorting Queen Elizabeth II towards Wagga's Memorial Gardens. Picture: Tom Lennon Collection, CSU Regional Archives.

History of the stained glasses windows adorning the Mt Erin Chapel

In the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception, located at Mt Erin in Wagga Wagga, twenty-one exquisite stained glass windows adorn the walls.

BY KARENE EGGLETON

The sisters' first chapel was located in the eastern bay of the original convent building completed in 1876 which is today classrooms for Kildare Catholic College. The most recent chapel was inaugurated on 12 September 1915.

Each window represents a different saint, with many of them installed by families, commemorating loved ones who had passed and had a connection to Mt Erin.

Sr Rosarie O'Connell, the first official archivist for the Congregation, undertook extensive research into the people behind the inscriptions. Patrick Donohue, the current congregational archivist, continued with the research and we share just a small part of that here.

Initially, the windows were leaded glass with a featured central medallion. As they were replaced, some removed were relocated to the stairwell of the Mt Erin building with the fate of the others unknown. The Presentation Sisters commissioned windows 11, 14, and 15 with the rest being donated by families. Many of the windows are around 100 years old with many, sadly, being in desperate need of restoration.

Most of the artists are unknown except for two. 21: *'The Holy Family of Nazareth'* was created by John Radecki in 1935. John migrated with his parents and four siblings from Poland in 1882. In 1885 he was employed by Frederick Ashwin who taught him to work with glass. When Ashwin died in 1909 Radecki became Chief Designer. The company was the largest glassmaking establishment in Sydney.

6: *'Jesus Walks on Water'* and 17: *'The Finding in the Temple'* were created by Alfred Handel. Alfred was born in 1886 and worked for Lyon Cottier & Co, a Glaswegian firm created by John Lyon in Glasgow, with a branch being established in Australia after he migrated here in 1873. Alfred's son, Phillip Handel, undertook a

pilgrimage with his wife to visit all of the windows his father had created and visited the chapel meeting with Sr Alexis Horsley, the congregational archivist at that time.

The following are the descriptions of Alfred Handel and John Radecki's windows as well as one window commissioned by the Presentation Sisters.

21. The Holy Family at Nazareth

Left: St Joseph and the Child Jesus

Right: Mary in the home in Nazareth

St Joseph, the foster father of Jesus, is shown with the tools of a carpenter, a trade that he taught to Jesus. The Gospel of Luke simply states: "They went to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile, the Child grew to maturity and he was filled with wisdom and God's favour was with him"

Inscription: *Erected in loving memory of Mrs Rosa Dargan by her daughter Mary.*

Laurence Joseph Dargan from Tipperary, arrived in NSW about 1860. At first, he was a shopkeeper in Binalong, later a grazier. His first wife was a niece of Ned Ryan of Galong. Mary Dargan was a child of his second wife Rosa Last. She was an early boarder at Mt. Erin, where she received her education along with her cousins the Brownes, the Garrys, and the Ryans. All of them remained loyal ex-students and the most generous benefactors of the Sisters.

11. The Sacred Heart of Jesus

The visible heart symbolises God's love for all people.

Inscription: *Erected by the Sisters in thanksgiving for favours received.*

1914, the year this chapel was begun, marked forty years of apostolic work by the Presentation Sisters in Wagga Wagga. During that time community numbers flourished, and Mt. Erin was responsible for eleven daughter foundations extending beyond NSW to



The chapel this year after extensive restorations.



5. St. Angela Merici

Victoria, Queensland, and WA. In Wagga Wagga the Sisters taught in four schools concurrently: St Michael's & St Joseph's in Church Street and the Select School at Mt. Erin. The Sisters during this time were pioneers in introducing the Kindergarten System, a novel step in the education of the very young.

5. St. Angela Merici

Born in northern Italy (1474-1540). Involved in the Christian education of girls from an early age, and inspired by a vision of the holy virgins, as depicted in this window, she founded an entirely new form of religious life for women—the Ursuline Sisters. Nano Nagle introduced the Ursulines into Cork, Ireland, from France, before founding her own Order: the Presentation Sisters.

Inscription: *Presented by Mr W. J. & Misses Monks in memory of their mother.*

Mrs Ellen Monks, (d. 1903), was survived by four children, the eldest of whom was William J., the architect of this chapel, and of the early Boarding School



21. The Holy Family at Nazareth



11. The Sacred Heart of Jesus

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sections of Mt Erin. He was among the earliest pupils of the Presentation Sisters in Wagga Wagga. His sisters Ellenor and Elizabeth (Bessie) were educated at Mt Erin, and were much involved in church activities. This chapel stands as a lasting memorial to Mr Monks and his associate Mr Jeffs. The name, Sr. Angela, was taken by Miss Mary Tracey of Wagga Wagga, the first Novice, and Australian, at Mt. Erin.

6. Jesus Walks on Water

The wind was strong and the sea was getting rough. Peter took fright. Jesus put out His hand and held him. "Man of little faith" said Jesus "Why do you doubt?"

Inscription: *Erected by J. S. Robinson in memory of his wife Margaret who died 17th Dec. 1935.*

Mr J. Robinson of Lewisham, Sydney, classical scholar



6. Jesus Walks on Water, & with Him Peter (Matt. Ch 14)

turned accountant, was educated at Archbishop Polding's school, "Lyndhurst", Glebe. Mr & Mrs Robinson had two sons and four daughters, two of whom, Sr. Therese and Sr. Joan, were members of the Mt. Erin Community. They possessed the outgoing, generous personality of their mother, and from their father, they inherited business acumen, which they used to advantage in training many young women for business careers.

17. The Finding in the Temple

The Gospel of Luke, Ch. 2, relates that Mary and Joseph searched Jerusalem for three days for the boy Jesus, aged twelve, and were overjoyed to find him among the doctors in the Temple.

Inscription: *Erected in memory of her parents by Miss Nellie Purcell. Pray for her and them.*

Miss Nellie Purcell (1879-1950), ex-student of Mt. Erin, and daughter of Mr & Mrs Jeffrey Purcell of Jackson St Wagga Wagga, was from a family well known for its benevolence, especially towards the Church and Mt. Erin. The Purcell Bakery in Fitzmaurice Street was a thriving business. Among the earliest supporters of this community, the name Purcell is enshrined on the marble scroll in Mt. Erin front entrance. Fr Laurence Purcell (Tom) led prayers at Nellie's Requiem. It is fitting that the family name be honoured in this memorial window.

I encourage everyone to visit the centre to take in the rich history. The Mt Erin Heritage Centre is open every Tuesday and Wednesday from 10am to 2pm and by appointment.

The booklet about the stained glass windows, *Chapel of the Immaculate Conception* is available for purchase from the Mt Erin Heritage Centre.

Reference: *Chapel of the Immaculate Conception - Presentation Convent - Mt Erin Wagga Wagga Photography Darryl Allen. Script Sr Rosarie Connell and Patrick Donohue.*



The original leaded glass windows.



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Woolworths Junior Landcare Grant has helped St Joseph's students construct new gardening facilities

Spring has truly sprung for the students of St Joseph's Primary School who have broken ground and started planting as part of the school's new Garden Club.

BY VINCENT DWYER

Students and parents convened at the school in late August to begin constructing the new garden beds, compost bins and garden sheds.

The once-empty plot on the school's grounds will now allow students to learn about waste management practices, sustainable food production and protecting native habitats.

The initiative was made possible thanks to funding by the 2022 Woolworths Junior Landcare Grant project 'Let's Make a Garden!', from which the school received \$1000 to build its gardens.

St Joseph's teacher Liz Quarisa-Tynana, who organised the Garden Club, said the initiative will help teach students about responsible waste practices.

"It's so important in these times for kids to learn how they can turn their waste products into compost," she said.

While the adults have done their bit setting up the garden beds and shed, Mrs Quarisa-Tynan said it was now up to the students to take care of the gardens as part of the Garden Club's weekly meetings.



St Joseph's Primary School students, parents and teachers gathered to build new gardening facilities thanks to funding by Woolworths. Photo: Contributed

Credit on offer for *Studies In Catholic Thought* students

Students who complete *Studies in Catholic Thought* as part of their Higher School Certificate will now be eligible to receive credit towards Bachelor or Diploma studies at Campion College thanks to a new Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) agreement.

The agreement, signed with Sydney Catholic Schools, applies to all NSW-based students completing *Studies in Catholic Thought*, a NESA endorsed course developed by the Catholic dioceses of NSW.

Upon enrolling in Campion's undergraduate liberal arts program, such students will now receive credit towards two level-100 theology units, effectively reducing their first-year workload by 25 per cent.

Campion president Dr Paul Morrissey said he was delighted to endorse this agreement, which recognises the academic rigor of *Studies in Catholic Thought* and its alignment with Campion's academic program.

"*Studies in Catholic Thought* challenges students to develop their critical thinking and analytical skills as they engage with the theological, philosophical, ethical

and aesthetic traditions of the Catholic Church and how this has shaped and continues to shape wider society."

"I commend the students who are grappling with these ideas in their secondary studies and wholeheartedly encourage them to continue with this endeavour at tertiary level."

Campion's Bachelor of Arts in the Liberal Arts and Diploma of Liberal Arts provide students with an integrated understanding of the events, ideas, personalities and works which have shaped Western culture. Students undertake systematic study in history, literature, philosophy, theology and science, developing knowledge and skills to thrive in all spheres of life and achieve professional success in a range of fields.

Further information is available at www.campion.edu.au/courses



Rent freeze must be part of the national cost-of-living debate

One of Australia's leading social services organisations, Catholic Social Services Australia (CSSA), has backed the federal Green's two-year rent freeze proposal saying it is an important initiative that should be given serious consideration.

Francis Sullivan, CSSA Chair, said the rent freeze proposal is a serious idea that must be part of the national debate around the cost-of-living crisis.

"For too long, governments of all shades have taken their hands off the levers that control the economy, it is now time for a rethink, and for the Federal Government to accept that the free market does not have all the answers," Mr. Sullivan said.

"This isn't about socialising the rental market. It is about returning some balance and giving wages a chance to catch up to rental increases.

"Across Australia, we are hearing stories of tenants being given little or no notice of rent increases that are unsustainable and force them out of the homes they have lived in for years.

"This is unfair and cruel. It is forcing

Australians into homelessness and is a recipe for social disorder," Mr. Sullivan said.

The Green's proposal includes a two-year freeze on rents and then a capped rate increase of 2 percent every two years after the freeze ends.

It also includes expanding tenant rights and national minimum standards for rental properties.

"Given that wages are increasing by around 2 percent while at the same time renters face annual increases of 17.9 percent across the capital cities, it is not unreasonable to expect the government to step in," Mr. Sullivan said.

"Over the past 12 months rents have gone up seven times faster than wages in capital cities, this is unsustainable and out of control.

"It's a crisis that is fast becoming a national tragedy," Mr. Sullivan said.






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HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS ANNUAL WHITE MASS

With Bishop Mark Edwards OMI

In recognition of the compassionate and dedicated work of all Healthcare Professionals, Calvary Riverina Hospital invites all physicians, nurses, allied health, chaplains, administrators, and healthcare workers in all capacities to the 2022 White Mass at St Michael's Cathedral.

The Healthcare Professionals Mass, also known as the 'White Mass' has been a tradition since the late 1800s, originally named for the white lab coats worn by many working in the healthcare profession.

Healthcare workers bring God's love and care to every person they meet seeking to heal the body and spirit. This Eucharistic celebration is an opportunity to thank and bless all those who work to heal and celebrate health among us.

October 18, 2022 | 7:00PM

St Michael's Cathedral
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RSVP | 12 October 2022

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Natural Fertility Awareness Week

This year, the theme for Natural Fertility Awareness Week on 22 – 28 August, 2022 was *Fertility Literacy – get the know how.*

Natural Fertility Awareness Week is dedicated to helping women understand their fertility and manage it without the need for drugs, devices or invasive techniques. Once learned, fertility awareness can be used throughout a woman's reproductive life, even when her cycles are not regular. Monitoring your fertility health is easy when you know how to do it accurately.

To kick off the week, BillingsLIFE ran a Public Webinar titled "*Fertility Literacy in the Digital World - the Best Use of Fertility Tracking Apps*" to showcase the three WOOMB (World Organisation Ovulation Method Billings) approved charting applications - Fertility Pinpoint, NFP Charting, and BillingsApp.

If you missed the webinar and would like to see the recording, go to the Billings LIFE YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q7CPafgO9t4>

So what is 'Fertility Literacy'? Basically, it is the knowledge and understanding of the ovulatory cycle, and the ability to

identify patterns of fertility and infertility. Women can then use this information as a diagnostic tool, to help identify abnormalities, which may be early signals of underlying health issues. And of course, use the knowledge of fertile and infertile patterns to understand when intercourse is likely or unlikely to result in conception.

What a lot of people don't know, or at least forget, is that ovulation is actually a sign of health. If ovulation is not occurring regularly, and there aren't any straight forward explanations (i.e. stage of life, breastfeeding, post-partum non-lactating, stress, approaching menopause), then there is a valid reason to see a doctor for further investigations. Understanding your fertility is not just for sexually active people who are wanting to conceive, or to delay conception. Understanding your fertility is about understanding your body; how it works, how to look after it, and knowing when to get medical help.

So how do you tell when you are ovulating, and if you have healthy



cycles? It's actually relatively simple. The Billings Ovulation Method® and other Fertility Awareness Based Methods (FABMs), teach you how to pay attention to your body's own individual signs and symptoms, and then how to tell the difference between fertile and infertile patterns. The beauty of FABMs is that they are not at all based on a calendar or algorithm-based app that will count days and tell you when you should be fertile or ovulating. These apps are not at all reliable. FABMs are based on YOUR

observations of YOUR body's signals, and there is the added bonus of being taught by an accredited teacher who will assist you with interpreting your chart and guiding you through how to chart for beginners.

Are you fertility literate? If not, get the know how, and gain a better understanding of your body and overall health.

**For further information,
head to the BillingsLIFE website
www.billings.life/en**

Help build brighter futures for communities in Ethiopia this World Mission Month

This October, Catholic Mission is celebrating World Mission Month, a month dedicated to the life-giving work of missionaries around the world.

This year, Catholic Mission walks hand-in-hand with the Church of Ethiopia and the local communities towards providing life-changing opportunities to those most in need.

Pope Francis, in his 2022 World Mission Sunday message, invites everyone to answer the call to be missionary, sharing that "Mission is carried out together, not individually..."

Through the Pontifical Mission Societies' international network, Catholic Mission, with our supporters, are answering the call of Christ to be missionaries and together build brighter futures. Working at a grass-roots level and closely collaborating with the local communities, we aim to find sustainable solutions which will bring hope to those in most need.

Catholic Mission is currently supporting a range of mission development programs in Ethiopia addressing malnutrition, the lack of access to education for young children, and the vulnerable position of women in society.

In the rural region of Emdibir, where 70 percent of the families struggle to put food on their tables, Catholic Mission is working towards providing them with life-changing opportunities by building a goat rearing centre. The resources produced through the Centre will help fight malnutrition, a phenomenon

that contributes to 50 percent of child deaths. This project is led by Fr Habte, a local priest who dedicates his work to raising the local community out of poverty by creating employment, providing sustainable food resources, and bringing hope.

In the capital Addis Ababa, the life-giving work carried out by our local partners is helping children access education. Sister Carmen Sammut SJA created a scholarship program to offer children from families facing financial hardship a placement at school, so that they can continue their education and create brighter futures for themselves.

We are also supporting women in the town of Meki to learn skills and gain financial independence by providing access to vocational training, which can help them secure employment or start their own businesses. This critical mission work is carried out by Maria, a lay missionary who dedicates her life to creating brighter futures for women in vulnerable situations.

To encourage missionary action among youth and schools in Australia, Catholic Mission continues this year with its flagship program, Socktober. It cultivates the passion of students to rise up, engage their local community and take action against poverty through the world game of soccer. It provides young people in Australia with the opportunity



to lead in Mission, encouraging them to think not only of what they will do to help, but why they will do it.

"Each year, the second last Sunday of October is dedicated to World Mission Sunday. Happening on the 23rd of October, it also offers us the opportunity to commemorate 200 years of Mission," says Fr Brian Lucas, Catholic Mission National Director.

Guided by the verse, "You shall be my witnesses..." (Acts 1:8), World Mission Month is not only a celebration of incredible missionaries around the world but a celebration of the missionary vocation that lives in all of us.

There are many ways to get involved this World Mission Month.

About Catholic Mission

Catholic Mission is the Australian agency of the Pontifical Mission Societies – the Catholic Church's global organisation dedicated to continuing Jesus Christ's mission in the world: that all may have life to the full. Catholic Mission contributes funding and project support to critical church-run initiatives in Africa, Asia, Oceania, and South America. These include spiritual formation, pastoral care, education, health, sanitation, and agricultural programs. Here in Australia, we form people to go out and be missionary in their professional and personal lives; to pray, advocate and act for those on the margins. Catholic Mission has offices in 27 Australian dioceses.



Join us... catholicmission.org.au/worldmissionmonth



Let's kick goals for good!

If Parishes would like support with the World Mission Month Parish Appeal or schools would like support with Socktober please contact:

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socktober.org.au



Keep on with your mission, former PM John Howard tells catholic sector

Faith-based health, aged and community care providers, including the Catholic sector, should continue with their mission-based work in the face of a growing secularisation and attacks on the Church, former Prime Minister John Howard told the sector.

Speaking at the Catholic Health Australia conference in Brisbane Mr Howard told the audience of more than 270 delegates that they should not resile from their mission but rather double down on it.

"Just continue the work that you are doing. The work of religious organisations is inspired by conscientious commitment to the values of Christianity," Mr Howard said when asked about the drift away from established religion, as evidenced in the latest census results.

Asked by his interviewer St Vincent's Health Australia Chair Paul McClintock AO what advice he would give to the leaders who have gathered at the conference.

"The fact that there may be declines in nominal commitments to different denominations in the Christian religion does not alter the fact that the work

that your organisations do is driven by your Christian values. The more you do that - the more impressive the contribution."

The Howard government was notable in opening up the provision of government welfare and social services programs to be delivered by the not-for-profit sector, including faith-based organisations.

Mr Howard, one of about 20 speakers over the two-day event, went onto say: "Why would you stop? Why wouldn't you increase your efforts rather than be daunted by the latest rendition from the statisticians."

Admitting that he is an optimist he added: "People will always respond to compassion and decency and always respond to someone who cares."

And in a reference to politicians who have lost their seats to the prevailing swing, despite being liked and



Former Prime Minister John Howard.

admired for being a good local member, he added: "There is always a place for the decent opponent and I think it is a terrible shame we have lost sight of that. We are told repeatedly that we have but I am not so sure about that."



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or email at nswbookings@wwme.org.au

Caritas Australia responds to devastating floods in Pakistan

Caritas Australia's partners are responding to the devastating floods in Pakistan that have left a trail of destruction across the country, claiming the lives of more than 1,100 people.

The Pakistan government has declared a state of emergency and the United Nations estimates that around 33 million Pakistanis - one in seven people - have been affected by the flooding.

Caritas Australia's partners are on the ground assessing communities impacted by the floods. The team are reporting that bridges have collapsed, and community infrastructure destroyed, hampering relief efforts. Thousands have lost their homes and are currently sleeping without shelter.

The most urgent needs of the communities are food, tents/ temporary shelter material, safe drinking water, mosquito nets and repellent, health services, hygiene supplies

According to Melville Fernandez, Caritas Australia's Humanitarian Emergencies Associate Director,

"Almost all of Balochistan and Sindh, the two worst-hit provinces, are facing an unprecedented humanitarian disaster. Thousands of families are still stranded in Balochistan amid heavy rains and flash floods that swept away houses and inundated entire settlements. The province remained disconnected from the rest of the country with road and rail links cut off", he said.

There are fears that the death toll will rise in coming days as monsoonal rains continue across the country. Over 495,000 houses have been damaged and more than 1,300 people injured while 72% of districts in Pakistan are affected



Assessment visits by Caritas Pakistan team - Photo Caritas Pakistan

by the floods.

Your support today can provide urgent assistance to communities affected by the floods through Caritas Australia's Asia Regional Appeal.

To donate please visit - <https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/pakistan-floods>



Caritas
AUSTRALIA

CRA supports action against domestic and family abuse

CRA calls on all leaders of faith-based communities to raise their voices against domestic and family abuse. Legislative action from the NSW Government and the call from the Australian Catholic Bishops for Church communities to confront this serious social injustice is welcomed and supported by CRA.

As Social Justice Sunday in the Australian Catholic Church is held on 28 August, CRA President, Peter Carroll FMS says, "The Church can play an important role in listening to and validating the experience of victims of domestic and family abuse. Forgiveness does not mean staying in an abusive relationship. Church leaders need to speak about this challenging topic in appropriate ways, recognising that abuse is occurring in families within their communities."

This call is timely as the national conversation regarding coercive control

in domestic abuse gains momentum. Recently, Federal and State Attorneys-General agreed to create a national plan to respond effectively to coercive control, across all States and Territories.

The NSW and QLD state governments have committed to introducing legislation to criminalise behaviour that amounts to coercive control. CRA has made a submission to support the proposed NSW Crimes Legislation Amendment (Coercive Control) Bill 2022 to close gaps that currently exist in NSW criminal law. This includes a clear and accessible legal definition of domestic abuse and a stand alone criminal offence of coercive control.

"It's deeply concerning that under current NSW criminal law, non-physical forms of violence by an intimate partner are not identified as domestic violence and therefore police cannot appropriately respond to this suffering," said Br Peter.

The incidence of domestic and family abuse is at a similar or higher rate in



Christian households as in wider society, according to a recent National Anglican Family Violence Research report. Faith-based communities can both help and hinder people in abusive relationships, according to a recent report from the Royal Commission into Family Violence. "Leaders of Church communities have

a responsibility to educate communities on what constitutes abusive behaviour and assist those who are suffering to find a way to safety," said Anne Walker, CRA's National Executive Director.

"Safeguarding, in all its forms, must be the continual work of the Church," she added.

Project of the Month: *September*

This month help religious in Ukraine.

In various different places in Ukraine, the Capuchin Fathers run thriving parishes and, in addition to Holy Mass, offer many other spiritual opportunities for believers and seekers alike. They are available to all who may wish to talk with someone about faith, their personal lives, and their questions and concerns. In the current time of war and crisis, this need for spiritual counselling has grown greatly. For although Lviv is currently scarcely touched by the actual fighting, there are countless numbers of refugees who have flooded here from other parts of the country, needing not only a roof over their heads but also spiritual support, counsel and consolation.

In September 2021, at the invitation of Archbishop Mokrzycki, three Capuchin Fathers came here to Lviv. They are planning to offer catechetical sessions for adults, encounters with Third Order Franciscans and prayer groups in the spirit of Saint (Padre) Pio. But their most important apostolate is the confessional. In the cathedral, there are opportunities for confession at any time of day, and the Capuchin Fathers are among the priests who are regularly available there to offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

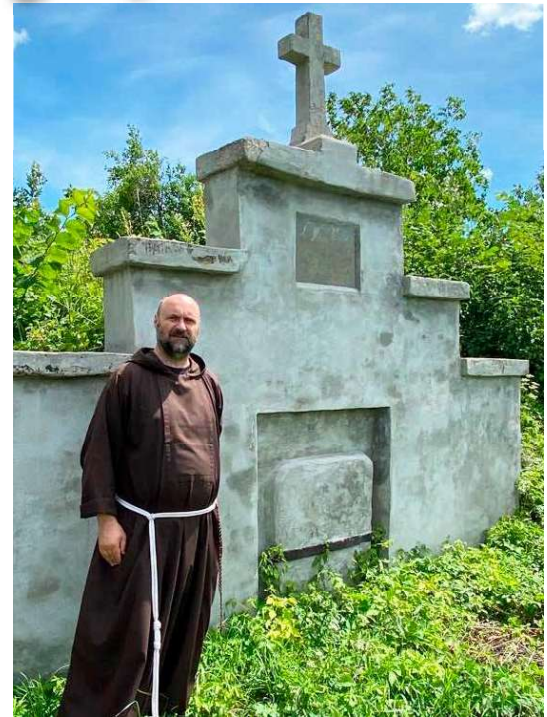
In the past, there used to be two Capuchin monasteries in Lviv. However, these buildings were confiscated by the communists and are still

being used for other purposes today, so it seems almost impossible that they will be returned.

Up till now, the three Capuchin Fathers have been living in a cramped two-roomed apartment. In a storeroom, they have set up a tiny "chapel", and the kitchen also doubles as the living room. Clearly, there is absolutely nowhere for them to gather together with the faithful, with the result that the prayer meetings, talks and Eucharistic adoration mostly take place in private homes or apartments, or even in inns or public houses. In summertime the friars can often be found in the parks or on the streets, making music, talking to people about God and offering them comfort. But they clearly need a suitable space for their pastoral activities, and so they have turned to us for help.

Now an opportunity has arisen to purchase and renovate a house in the Male Golosko quarter of town, which is also the place where the cemetery with the graves of the Capuchins who died in the past is situated. We are proposing to help them with a contribution of \$73,300 AUD, so that they can soon have a house that is suited to their pastoral needs.

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



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ACN AUSTRALIA

SUPPORT Religious Sisters

 Aid to the
Church in Need
ACN AUSTRALIA



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

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

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

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

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

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

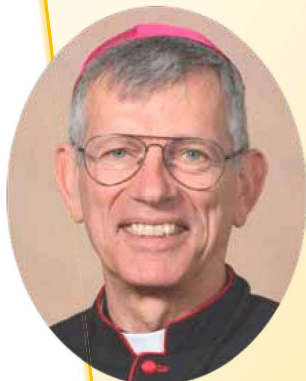


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Diocese of Wagga Wagga

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Marriage breakdown is a traumatic experience for all those concerned. The Church reaches out in support of those who are divorced, while upholding the permanence of a true Christian marriage. The Wagga Wagga Office of the Tribunal extends an invitation to any divorced person who would like to talk about the annulment process. You can be assured that your privacy will be respected. Should you choose to apply for an annulment, you will be guided and supported through the process.

For further information please phone the
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Marian Catholic College farewells their much loved Principal

On Friday 26 August Marian Catholic College farewelled Principal Alan Le Brocque after 14 years of service.

Mr Le Brocque commenced his career in 1978 working for four years in the government system. In 1982 he moved to the Catholic Education diocese of Wagga Wagga working at Mt Erin from 1982-2003, serving their community as Assistant Principal for six years of that time. He then commenced the role of Foundation Assistant Principal at Kildare in 2004, leaving there to commence his tenure as Principal of Marian Catholic College in 2008.

This means that Alan has dedicated 45 years of his life to educating young people and leading, developing and mentoring staff. 41 years of his life has been spent in Catholic Education.

We thank Mr Le Brocque for his dedication and everything he has done for students, staff and families.



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Weekends at ErinEarth

For the last few months, we've been opening our garden on a Saturday morning for anyone interested in coming and trialing being a volunteer.

BY NICOLA TURNER

Two of these mornings have coincided with other events we've hosted. In June, we welcomed Dr Joe McGirr to plant a tree on our grounds for World Environment Day.

In July, we opened our garden to new volunteers as a part of the Wagga Wagga City Council's Festival of Winter event. Damper was cooked on the campfire, and the Black Shillings filled the space with acoustic folk music.

In August, despite wet weather, we had several people join us to get involved in some seedling potting, pruning, and general garden maintenance.

Many of our regular Thursday volunteers have also been attending, and it's great to have our veteran volunteers engage with new people.

It's a great opportunity for young



families to explore the garden. The volunteering jobs range from serious to playful, depending on abilities, interest, and skills. We will also be offering workshop opportunities for people to learn new skills.

We have more weekends planned for the

rest of the year. We're looking forward to sharing the garden with more people.

UPCOMING DATES:

15th October 2022

29th October 2022

Please invite anyone you think may be interested!



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.



Catholic sector welcomes news of national boost to skills and training

Catholic Health Australia says an Albanese Government agreement with the states and territories to pour funding into the skills and training sector is a welcome initiative to alleviate the health and aged-care sector's critical staff shortage.

The deal was announced at the Jobs and Skills summit by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, with a \$1.1 billion package to boost trades, and a wider push to reform skills through TAFE.

National cabinet has also agreed to fund a further 180,000 fee-free TAFE positions across the country.

CHA is taking part in the summit as a voice for the not-for-profit health and aged-care sector, and more broadly the Catholic sector. CHA has prioritised the introduction of a nationwide scheme to waive fees for students who commit to working in the health and aged care sectors as a key plank to addressing the workforce crisis in the care sector.

CHA chief executive Pat Garcia said

providing fee-free TAFE positions would help addressing a critical shortage in health and aged-care staff.

"As part of its mission the Catholic sector's 3000 organisations care for and teach hundreds of thousands of Australians every year, but also employ more than 220,000 Australians," Mr Garcia said.

"Workforce issues in health and aged care needed to be addressed urgently, given that a CHA study by the University of Notre Dame found there were more than 80,000 vacancies across the sector including 45,561 qualified age-care worker vacancies.

"A fully funded wage increase is probably the most important piece of



the workforce-shortage puzzle. But with almost 50,000 jobs unfilled in the aged-care sector we need to move fast on other initiatives, such as better training and career prospects.

"This agreement will help open the doors to skills and training and is most welcome news."

Catholic Health Australia (CHA) is Australia's largest non-government

grouping of health and aged care services accounting for approximately 10 per cent of hospital-based healthcare in Australia. Our members also provide around 25 per cent of private hospital care, 5 per cent of public hospital care, 12 per cent of aged care facilities, and 20 per cent of home care and support for the elderly.



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MCC Teacher Aide Appreciation Week

When? August 29th - 2nd September.

Why? It's an opportunity for schools across the country to celebrate the hard work, dedication and commitment of Teacher Aides and Education Support Staff.

Over the past two years in particular, they have worked tirelessly both remotely and in person, to continue to provide support for all children in their care.

As well as literacy and numeracy interventions, they also offer well-being support to a wide range of the Marian Catholic



College (MCC) students and the MCC Community. There's no denying that Teacher Aides and Education Support Staff are true superheroes.

We at MCC thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

These men have gone from high-viz to holy vestments

Sydney Archdiocese has ordained five new priests with wide and varied backgrounds. They tell what spurred them to devote their life to the Church.

BY JESSICA MCSWEENEY - The Daily Telegraph

They are the new face of the Catholic Church - a fresh generation of priests who are going from high-viz to holy vestments.

And it comes as Sydney Archdiocese looks to tackle modern issues like cyber-bullying to stay relevant to young people. The new priests include 32-year-old Bijoy Joseph, who was working in Sydney as an environmental engineer when he felt a "deeper calling" pulling him to the priesthood.

Now he is hoping to bring a new perspective to the church.

"We see the benefits of technology

because we've lived with technology ... we are tech-savvy, but at the same time we can see the burdens it can bring," Deacon Joseph said.

"Having gone through our own struggles with technology, like doom scrolling and the normal addictions you face with social media and the search for affirmation through likes - yeah, we've experienced that, so I hope we can preach to young people that through the Church the message of Jesus Christ still resounds in a modern society."

Also joining up are former music teacher Ben Gandy, former sales worker Ben Saliba, former risk management officer at David Jones Adrian Simmons and former mining tradie Mark Anderson.

All have been concerned about technology and how it is impacting their congregations.

"Whilst advances in technology have helped us throughout the pandemic, I see a continuing trend of abuse of social media among young people," Deacon Saliba told The Catholic Weekly.

"We need to help them think critically and ask more questions."

Deacon Anderson, 41, said he felt a calling to the priesthood after returning to Sydney from the mines.

He said while the Catholic Church



Mark Anderson, Bijoy Joseph, Adrian Simmons, Ben Saliba and Ben Gandy at their ordination.

had taken a hit following the Royal Commission into sexual abuse, he hoped that by pursuing the calling he felt from God, he could become a force for good in the wake of so much hurt.

"It was such a huge event in the Church, the Royal Commission, and it really hurt a lot of the faithful - and I would number myself among them," he said.

"I guess there was this strong sense in me that we had been let down so horribly by some people but that the Church is not characterised by its sinners, it's characterised by its saints."

"I was thinking unless you have good people say yes, nothing's ever going to improve."

He also told The Catholic Weekly that society moving away from religion is an ongoing issue.

"I think a significant challenge that the Church in Australia faces is engaging with entrenched secular attitudes like: 'It doesn't matter what one believes, as long

as one is a good person,' he said.

"Attitudes like this ... have the effect of watering down the Gospel and killing the motivation to grow in virtue.

"What we believe matters, and it matters for eternity.

"Another significant challenge to ministry is the secular assumption that the world in which we live is all that there is.

"A challenge that the Australian Church faces, its clergy and laity, is being able to reach the average Australian and offer them something that is true, good, and beautiful, which can be readily received."

The new priests were ordained in a ceremony at St Marys Cathedral after more than seven years of intense study and prayer.

The "training" included silent retreats of as long as 30 days at a time of quiet reflection and prayer.

The men will now be sent as assistant priests to parishes across the Sydney Archdiocese.



Mark Anderson left a life in the mines to become a priest.

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- 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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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

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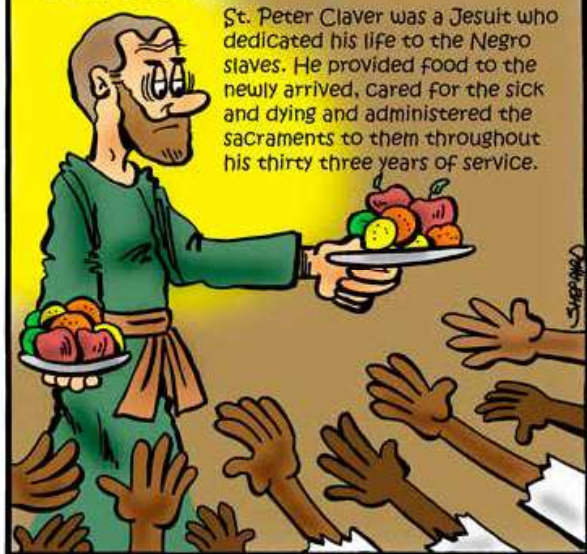
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KIDS corner

SAINTS FUN FACTS

by John Sheppard



Science

Lava Lamp

Did you know that oil and water are not the same density?

That is why oil and water don't mix. However, they will add up to something that's even more fun. It's a lava lamp!

All you need are a few simple household items and a tall clear glass. Density is the amount of matter in a given space. It is a measure of how tightly packed together the particles that make up a substance are. Water is a bit more dense than oil.

This means that if we set up a system to float because of the difference in densities, the water will sink in the oil and the oil will float above the water.



We used:

- water
- oil (we used baby oil and vegetable oil)
- food coloring
- Alka-seltzer effervescent antacid tablets
- tall glass or bottle
- adult supervision

How to make:

- Fill the glass with 1 to 2 inches of water.
- Add your favorite food coloring.
- Fill the rest of the glass with oil but stop at about 1 inch from the top so that it won't bubble over.
- Drop an antacid tablet into the mixture and watch.
- Try using different sizes of alka-seltzer tablet.
- Try using different types of oil.
- Try mixing the different types of oil to get your favorite "lava" flow.

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

Together Editor
PO Box 473

Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

We'd love to hear from you!



SEPTEMBER SAINTS & FEAST DAYS

Word Search

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



St. **Gregory** the Great
St. **Peter Claver**
Most Holy Name of **Mary**
Exaltation of the **Holy Cross**
Our Lady of **Sorrows**
St. **Cornelius**
St. **Cyprian**
St. Andrew Kim **Taegon**
St. Paul Chong **Hasang**
St. **Pio** of Pietrelcina
St. **Cosmas**
St. **Damian**
St. **Vincent** de Paul
St. **Michael**
St. **Gabriel**
St. **Raphael**
St. **Jerome**

6 years on... Happy Birthday!

On Thursday the 8th of September 2016, after spending some time in a chapel praying, I launched Virtue Ministry into the world.

BY STINA CONSTANTINE

This little idea that began with a personal conviction was formed into something much greater than I could ever have imagined. You can read the Genesis of VM article over on the blogs section of our website.

Every year, as this time approaches, some different aspect of ministry will capture my attention. Some years it's about our mission and work, other years it's about its inception, and other years again, the people we have encountered. This year it was the team.

June of 2016, I flew back to Norway to visit my family. I have memories of sitting on my parent's balcony swing, drawing, drafting and talking to God about what he wanted to see. I still have scribbles of the original logo and website designs in my notebook. Towards the end of the trip, my parents invited me on a pilgrimage to Fatima, Portugal. They had been once before and wanted to show me the place, and I gratefully accepted, thinking this would be a wonderful spiritual opportunity for extra prayers before launching this ministry. It seemed fitting. Little did I realise just how powerful and meaningful that experience would end up becoming, but that's a story for another day.

On 24th June 2016, the feast of John the Baptist, we visited many of the holy sites at Fatima, including the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fatima, Basilica of the Holy Trinity, and the chapel of the apparitions, where my parents invited me to light a candle and make a prayer request. I vividly remember mum saying to me 'pray for anything you like Stina. Anything your heart desires. Dad and I will pray too'. I was so touched by their openness to my heart's desire regardless of what it was, and their willingness to intercede for me too. I remember walking over the grounds between the Basilica and the Sanctuary on a cool day. The place was quite empty, mostly because it was a quieter season for pilgrims. My parents wanted to pick out the longest candle they could find for me, and meanwhile I was having an internal battle. What is the one thing my heart desires most right now? The very first thing that came to mind was Virtue Ministry. But I told myself 'Take your time to think, you don't have to ask for the first thing that comes to mind. Take a moment to pray for clarity on what your heart truly wants'. I narrowed it

down to one thing. The only thing that made sense, I just wanted His will be done. That was the only prayer that made my heart sing for joy and equally rest peacefully.

Having made up my mind, I entered the candle lighting area carrying an exceptionally long candle my parents had picked out for me, and a heart with nothing more than 'Lord, anything that you like'. I spotted a lit candle, bent over and burning between two, tall pillar looking candles, and something about that resonated with me. So, I went to light my candle. What happened next was nothing short of surprising to me. Here I was, at ease when suddenly, a surge of urgency came forth, with my mind, body and soul all in unison screaming 'Virtue Ministry'. It took conscious effort to keep my lips tightly closed so it wouldn't come out as an audible sound. My heart was screaming 'For Virtue Ministry! - the team, the people we encounter, its mission'. Every part of me was united in that one prayer which startled me for a couple of moments. Then when my mind followed up with 'if it pleases you', the urgency departed, and peace regained once more. What was that about?

Back in 2016, there was no team for Virtue Ministry, it was just me. Now in 2022, as I sat meditating on all the gifts this ministry has received, I was moved to find our newest member of the team was visiting Fatima ahead of Virtue Ministry's Birthday. 6 years later, our Social Media and Marketing whizz, Grace Feltoe, sent me a picture lighting a candle with a prayer for Virtue Ministry in the very place I had once been allowed to pray for her, before I even knew we would one day have her on the team. That's God and His goodness. The master creator, author, and designer. The loving father who delights in making personal, touching moments to encounter the hearts of His children. He's not the father of all work and no play. He's the father of all loving encounters, past, present and future both within work, rest and play. To say I fought back tears is an understatement.

Check out all of Grace Feltoe's amazing work over on our social media handles, and like, subscribe and follow them to stay connected with what's happening as there are some new and exciting adventures beginning to unfold.



Stina Constantine (June 24th 2016)



Grace Feltoe (July 2022)



Mater Dei Primary, Wagga Wagga



It was a beautiful book week celebration on 25 August with students and families attending our open classrooms and book week parade. Thank you to all students, parents and staff for the effort that went into the costumes and activities around the school.

St Joseph's Primary, Culcairn

St Joseph's Primary students, and staff, absolutely loved their Book Week Activities on 24 August!



St Mary's Primary, Yoogali

St Mary's Primary celebrated St Mary's birthday on 8 September with mass, rosary bead making and a shared lunch!



St Peter's Primary, Coleambally

The new chess set at St Peter's Primary has been a big hit amongst the students!



St Joseph's School, Junee



Can you guess what was on the menu at Canteen? Thank you to the Stage 3 mothers for cooking the Spaghetti Bolognese and to Stage 3 students for helping serve. There were plenty of spaghetti face smiles at lunchtime.



St Patrick's School, Albury



'Green Thumbs' were at it again on 31 August - look at our garden grow!



All Saints Primary, Tumbarumba



Father's Day Breakfast was a hit at All Saints' School. Dads enjoyed a great coffee and an egg and bacon roll. The year six girls did a wonderful job serving the coffees and rolls to everyone. Thank you to Snowy Valleys Council and MPH for sponsoring this event.



Mater Dei Catholic College, Wagga Wagga



Congratulations to Hunter and Angus Behnke who competed at the 2022 Shimano National All Schools Cycling Challenge on the Gold Coast from the 2-4 September.

Hunter came away with The Overall winner of all age groups, to be named Australian School Boy Champion. Out of 71 schools competing Mater Dei 5th. Great job boys!



Catholic
Education
Diocese of Wagga Wagga

All schools enrolling now

Mass Times across our Diocese

Wagga Wagga - Cathedral

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

Jerilderie

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

June

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

Khancoban

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

Leeton

St Joseph's Leeton
Wade Avenue, Leeton
Saturday Vigil - 5:00pm Standard time
6:00pm Daylight Saving time
Sunday - 10:00am (First Sunday of the month is Italian)
St Patrick's Yanco
Sunday - 8:00am
Tuesday - 9:00am
Weekday Masses in Leeton
Tuesday (Yanco) - 9:00am
Wednesday - 9:00am
Thursday - 9:00am
Friday - 9:15am and 5:30pm
Sacrament of Penance
Friday - 4:45-5:15pm
Saturday - 4:20pm-4:45pm
Eucharistic Adoration
St Joseph's Church Leeton
Friday - 4:30pm

Lockhart

St Mary's Church
55 Ferrier St, Lockhart
Weekend Masses
1st, 3rd & 5th Saturday (Vigil) - 6:00pm
2nd & 4th Sunday - 8:00am
Weekday Masses
Tuesday - 9:00am & Friday - 10:00am
Confessions Up to 5 mins before Mass.

Mulwala

St Brigid's Havelock Street, Mulwala
Weekend Masses
1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday - 8:00am
2nd, 4th Sunday - 6:00pm Saturday Vigil
Weekday Masses
Refer to parish notices
St Joseph's
Barrooga
Weekend Masses
1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday - 10:00am
2nd, 4th Sunday - 8:30am
Weekday Masses Refer to parish notices
Confessions Before weekend Masses

Narrandera

Narrandera St Mel's Church, Audley St
Saturday Vigil - 6:00pm
Sunday - 9:30am
Weekday Masses
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday - 7:30am
Friday - 5:30pm
(subject to changes announced in the Sunday bulletin)
Confessions
Friday - 4:30-5:20pm;
Saturday - 9:30-10:00am
and 5:00-5:45 pm
Grong Grong
1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday - 8:00am
Galore
St Kevin's Church
2nd & 4th Sunday - 8:00am

Tarcutta

St Francis Xavier Sydney St, Tarcutta
Sunday - 8:30am
Ladysmith
Saturday Vigil - 6:00pm
Confessions
Before all Masses

The Rock

St Mary's
102 Urana Street The Rock
Weekend Masses
Sunday - 8:00am (Extraordinary Form)
Sunday - 10:00am
Weekday Masses
Monday - 7:00am
Tuesday - 6:00pm
Wednesday - 7:00am (Extraordinary Form)
Thursday - 7:00am
Confessions
Up to 5 minutes before Mass.

Tocumwal

St Peter's
Charlotte Street, Tocumwal
Saturday Vigil - 5:30pm
Sunday - 8:30am
Weekday Masses
Thursday - 9:30am
Confessions
Half an hour before weekend Masses

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

Tumbarumba

All Saints'

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

Urana

St Fiacre's Church 5 End St, Urana
Weekend Masses
 1st, 3rd & 5th weekends - 8.00am
 2nd & 4th weekends - 6.00pm Vigil
Weekday Masses
 Posted on church notice board each week.
Oaklands - St Columba's Church
 Each Sunday - 10.00am

Confessions

Urana - Saturday 5.00-5.30pm
 and 20 minutes prior to each weekend
 Mass (Urana & Oaklands)

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 September:

6 September 1930 Fr John Joseph Condon

9 September 1883 Fr Patrick Bermingham

11 September 1898 Fr Thomas Long

25 September 1911 Fr James P O'Reilly

28 September 1936 Mgr Timothy O'Connell

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:

Sept/Oct

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*

25th September - Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C

Talk with your children about some of the things that they have that can be shared with others. Ask your children to describe a time when they had to share something that they had. Ask if this was easy or difficult and why. Talk about some of ways in which your family shares your possessions. Read together today's Gospel, Luke 16:19-31. Consider together some reasons why the rich man may not have shared his riches with the poor man, Lazarus. Identify some reasons why we might share our possessions with others. Make a commitment as a family to do something this week in which you will choose to share your possessions with someone in need.

*Amos 6:1,4-7 Psalm 146:7-10
 1 Timothy 6:11-16 Luke 16:19-31*

2nd October - Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C

There is much in today's Gospel that resonates in family life. In our daily attempts as parents to live up to the confidence and trust that our children place in us, we come to know the wonders that God can do with just a little faith. In family life we also learn about obligations that are their own rewards. The daily tasks that family members do for one another and for the household are simply the manifestations of our responsibilities to one another.

Take a turn with each member of the family and identify some of the little things that each family member does that make a big difference in your family life.

Read today's Gospel, Luke 17:5-10. Talk about how each person is called upon by God to believe that God can work miracles in our lives, that God can use us to make a difference in our world.

Together as a family, pray Saint Ignatius of Loyola's Prayer of Generosity. Ask that God will work through your family to make a difference in the lives of those around you.

*Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4 Psalm 95:1-2,6-7,8-9
 2 Timothy 1:6-8,13-14 Luke 17:5-10*

9th October - Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C

Children fluctuate between moments of deep, heartfelt gratitude and an attitude of entitlement. These fluctuations are normal. Among our tasks as

parents is to help foster the gift of gratitude, particularly gratitude to God for all God's goodness to us.

Read today's Gospel, Luke 17:11-19. Make a poster showing some of the gifts from God to your family. Display this poster in a prominent place and, as a family, write a prayer of thanksgiving for all of God's goodness to you.

*2 Kings 5:14-17 Psalm 98:1,2-3,3-4
 2 Timothy 2:8-13 Luke 17:11-19*

16th October - Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C

Children nag because it works. Parents, like the judge in the parable, often get worn down by the persistence of their children asking for things large and small. Nagging is not a positive trait, to be sure. The confidence and the persistence behind this behavior, however, confidence in the goodness of the giver and the tenacity to stay in the relationship, are traits worth emulating in our relationship with God.

Read together Luke 18:1-8. Talk about appropriate ways to make needs and desires known to one another and to God in prayer. Recall that God wants to answer our prayers. As a family, offer your needs as prayers of petition to God.

*Exodus 17:8-13 Psalm 121:1-2,3-4,5-6,7-8
 2 Timothy 3:14-4:2 Luke 18:1-8*

RICARDO PEREIRA / FAMILIA CRISTÃ

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