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TOGETHER

In the Diocese of *Wagga Wagga*

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OCTOBER 2022

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TOGETHER
IN THE DIOCESE OF WAGGA WAGGA

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If you want to go far, go together

Dear sisters and brothers,

Removing the exemption

I am lifting the exemption from the obligation to worship God at Mass on Sundays from All Saints Day, November 1, 2022. The diocese did not require us to attend Church during the pandemic as an extraordinary measure and for our safety and wellbeing. This exemption will no longer apply.

As was always the case before COVID, the obligation does not bind if we have serious health concerns or are physically or morally prevented from attending Church. Also, I ask you to continue to remain at home if you are feeling unwell, have cold or 'Flu symptoms and believe you might pose a risk to the health of others.

At the deepest level of our hearts we don't go to Mass because there is an obligation, though this rule can support us, teach us and even carry us when we are struggling.

I thank the many of you who are coming to Mass at the moment and love and admire you

for the authenticity of your love for God and your desire to worship the most holy Trinity with the faith community in the Church.

I wish to share with you some of the reasons that make sense to me of this serious obligation and at the end of this letter I invite you to share with me reasons that help you to understand it and keep it. I am also interested in your experience of the closure of churches and in your experience of coming back to Mass.

Do this in memory of me

Fr Ronald Knox, the British theologian, notes that we don't always love our enemies, turn the other cheek, bless those who curse us, forgive those who kill our loved ones, reach out enough to the poor, or be equally compassionate with the bad as with the good. Rather, we cherry-pick the teachings of Jesus. But, says Knox, we have been faithful in one great way, through the ritual of the Eucharist. Jesus asked us to keep celebrating that ritual until he returns and, 2000 years later, we are

still celebrating it. The ritual of the Eucharist is our one great act of fidelity. And it is an important fidelity; it keeps us connected with the Father in Jesus. And this connection is foundational and vital. Fr Ron Rolheiser even goes so far as to suggest that ultimately this faithfulness might be enough.

We are worshipping God in, with and through Christ

This connection is wondrous in its depth. With the eyes of faith, we know that at Mass we are really with all the angels and all the saints at the Last Supper, truly with John and Mary at the foot of the Cross, actually present with Mary Magdalene at the empty tomb as Jesus says our name, and in the presence of the risen Jesus breathing the Spirit upon us without reserve. It is as though time has collapsed. It is so much more than a calling to mind or memorial – it is an actual being present at each of these events. Mass is an awesome event.

We encounter Jesus; He leads us in our prayer and we give ourselves in worship to the blessed Trinity and as Jesus gives himself completely to us in love.

Being the witnessing church

We don't go to Church only, or even primarily, for ourselves. To explain one dimension of this, let me start with our martyrs for the Eucharist.

We take our religious truths on faith and, I believe, our faith needs reassurance. What's more reassuring than noticing that some other people, people whom you admire, are so faith-filled that they're willing to go the ultimate mile? There are martyrs for the Mass in every age but from among all of these I want to hold

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



Prayer Intention for October - Pray with Pope Francis

For a Church open to everyone.

We pray for the Church; ever faithful to, and courageous in preaching the Gospel, may the Church be a community of solidarity, fraternity and welcome, always living in an atmosphere of synodality.

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

<https://thepopevideo.org/>



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<https://www.popesprayer.val>

I served at the Jesuit parish for Mayans in southern Belize. While there, I traveled to rural villages and celebrated Mass in chapels the size of a two-car garage. The chapels were often brightly painted and decorated with religious images and artwork. Sometimes the roof was made of palm branches, and sometimes of corrugated metal [which makes a terrific sound when it rains!]. In some villages, I celebrated Mass in English. Sometimes in Spanish. And sometimes I said the 'priestly prayers' in English, and the people sang the responses in Mayan.

I did not know what they were singing. And yet, I did know. "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts!" They did not understand what I was saying, and yet they did: "Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to them." I was welcomed by the villages as a visiting priest, and I did my best to welcome them.

Pope Francis says, "To hold a 'synod' means to walk together. I think this is truly the most wonderful experience we can have: to belong to a people walking, journeying through history together with their Lord who walks among us! We are not alone; we do not walk alone. We are part of the one flock of Christ that walks together." (Pope Francis, Francis of Assisi, 4 October 2013).

After Sunday morning Mass, several people would walk with me to the next village where I would celebrate another Mass. They wanted me to get there safely [and not get lost!]. They wanted to accompany me, to have a few minutes in friendly conversation. I could speak a few words of Spanish, and they often spoke a bit of English. It was a chance to get to know each other, to say thank you, to smile, and to share ourselves.

This is our Catholic faith. We are many nations, many languages, many cultures, and yet one Body of Christ, journeying to the Father. Perhaps you've visited beautiful churches in Rome or Montreal. Maybe you did not understand every word at Mass, and yet you understood because the form of the Mass is the same in any language. "Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us." We see this among the followers of Jesus in the Gospels. Some are Greeks and some are Jews, women and men, rich and poor, from many cultures and backgrounds.

And, let us admit that sometimes this is hard! We have a wealth of cultures and experiences in the Church. We must listen to receive these gifts, to get to know one another. We must "walk together" with those who are different in the Church – and they must walk with me, too! And know that we walk with Jesus, the Good Shepherd, who calls us to Himself.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

up Margaret Clitherow who was crushed to death between two doors for enabling a secret Mass in her house and hiding the priest. Please look at her story online.

Margaret's conviction and courage strengthen my faith and experience of the Mass. And so, also, does the faith of everyone of you who worships with me. And, I am sure, you also encourage those who worship every week with you and are reinforced by them in turn. Jesus gives us each other and we need each other. If we stay away from worshipping with the community on Sundays, we weaken the body of Christ.

I am reminded of the proverb: 'if you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together.'

And it goes beyond this to the whole world, for, by our loving, faithful, joyful, persevering, patient and worshipping

attendance at Mass, we propose Jesus and a life of trusting in him to our loved ones and to society at large. Going to Mass on Sunday may be the most evangelising and missionary thing we ever do.

The need to get together

One of the things I learned from COVID was that I need to physically be with others. No amount of Zooming with my family could replace being with them: laughing; crying; hugging; eating; and being in their presence. Similarly, while livestreaming was the best we could do and was important in our lockdowns, community and common personal participation are irreplaceable. It is not enough to be electronically present. We are incarnate beings.

Our thirst for God brings us to the altar

Pope Francis has many powerful and beautiful reflections on the importance of the Eucharist. In one, he ruminates about

Jesus sending his disciples to prepare the place where they will celebrate the Passover meal. They had asked: "Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" (Mk 14:12).

The sign that he gives them is the sign of a man carrying a pitcher of water (Mk 14:13). This nameless man became the guide who brings the disciples to the place later known as the Upper Room. All of us walk through life with pitcher in hand: all of us thirst for love, for joy, for a fulfilling life in a more humane world. To sate this thirst, the water of worldly things is of no avail, for ours is a deeper thirst, a thirst that God alone can satisfy.

Jesus tells his disciples that the Passover meal can be eaten wherever a man carrying a pitcher of water leads them. We go to Mass on Sundays in part because we recognize our thirst for God, sense our need for God, long for the presence and

love of each person of the Trinity, realise that we cannot go it alone, but need the Food and Drink of eternal life to sustain us on our journey.

Conclusion

The lifting of the exemption from attending Mass on Sunday recognises that we have come through the emergency phase of our COVID response and that we need to come to the brave place where we are fed well with God's love, holiness, strength, welcome and hospitality, to the summit and source of our relationship with God.

I invite you to share with me the experiences or reasons that have been integral to your ongoing faithfulness to the Eucharist. Please send your responses at secretary@wagga.catholic.org.au I also welcome your account of the experience of the closure of the churches and of the return to Mass.

New Chaplain for St Mary's Syro-Malabar Mission

Fr Siby Sebastian Thanickal MCBS has been appointed by Bishop Bosco Puthur as Chaplain to St Mary's Syro-Malabar Mission in Wagga.

Fr Siby will be based at Our Lady of Fatima Parish South Wagga. The Syro-Malabar community farewelled Fr Anto Francis in April last year and were very pleased to welcome Fr Siby when he arrived in the Mission on the 9th October. Fr Siby came to us from the Diocese of Townsville where he has ministered for the past four years.

Fr Francis Kolencherry, Vicar General of the Syro-Malabar Eparchy, has been caring for the pastoral needs of St Mary's Syro-Malabar Mission in Wagga Wagga, travelling from Melbourne on a regular basis since Fr Anto's departure, assisted at various times by Fr Jiss from Young and Fr Sijo from Temora.

The Mission community welcomed Fr Siby in the presence of Bishop Mark

Edwards, Fr Francis and Fr Tijo who just arrived from India on 9th October with a Mission feast of Blessed Mary celebration at Our Lady of Fatima.

The celebration began on Friday 7th October with a solemn Qurbana and confessions. First Holy Communion was organised for the morning of Saturday 8th October. In the evening on the same day, we had flag hosting and blessing of the Statues in preparation for the main celebration in the presence of Fr Paddy and other priests. Followed by a special devotional procession to most of the families by the parishioners in memory of St Sebastian and Blessed Mary.

On Sunday 9th October, Most Solemn Qurbana (Rasa) was celebrated with four priests in the presence of Bishop Mark



Fr Siby Sebastian - third from left, Principal Celebrant Fr Francis Kolencherry - Vicar General SyroMalabar Eparchy, with Bishop Mark Edwards OMI (rear) presiding.

Edwards. It was followed by a solemn procession, people carrying statues of Blessed Mary, St Thomas, St Alphonsa, St Anthony and St Sebastian around the Church and presbytery singing the litany. The liturgical celebration thus ended with the final solemn blessing from Bishop

Mark. Dinner was served to everyone after the celebrations.

We are grateful to Bishop Mark for his support to our community especially for his presence all through the three-hour celebration and dinner.



Prayers for Fr Reece Beltrame

The people of the diocese were invited to join in a novena to St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, our diocesan patron, for Fr Reece Beltrame who is seriously unwell.

Fr Reece is in Sydney for surgery to remove a suspected tumour in his brain. The novena concluded on 13th October, and the prayer is included below if you would like to continue to pray for Fr Reece. You are also asked to remember Fr Reece in your daily rosary during this month of October, which is especially dedicated to praying the holy rosary.

Novena Prayer to St Mary of the Cross MacKillop for Fr Reece Beltrame

Ever-generous God,

You inspired St Mary MacKillop to live her life faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and constant in bringing hope and encouragement to those who were disheartened, lonely, or needy.

With confidence in your generous providence and joining with St Mary MacKillop, we ask that you grant recovery and good health to Fr Reece Beltrame.

We ask that our faith and hope be fired afresh by the Holy Spirit so that we too, like Mary MacKillop, may live with courage, trust, and openness.

Ever-generous God, hear our prayer.

We ask this through Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Glory Be...



Bishops support Catholic schools with guide on gender, identity

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has released a guide on gender and identity to support Catholic schools in responding to the individual social and pastoral needs of students.

Created and Loved: A guide for Catholic schools on identity and gender outlines a pastoral approach shaped by the theological, medical and legislative context in which Catholic schools operate.

The bishops consulted widely with specialists in education, including principals and teachers, sought advice from parents with children facing various gender questions, heard from bioethicists and other experts in the field, and from the international Church community.

Increasing rates of gender incongruence in Australian society are seen as an invitation to reflect deeply on the biblical and Christian witness to human dignity. The guide offers principles that can be used by Catholic education authorities for their own local contexts.

"The Catholic Church and our schools begin from the foundational principle that each person is created in the image and likeness of God, and is loved by God," said Archbishop Peter A Comensoli, chair of the Bishops Commission for Life, Family and Public Engagement.

"That principle guides this document, which we offer to our schools to support

them in walking compassionately alongside each student we are invited to educate."

Archbishop Comensoli said *Created and Loved* is grounded in Christian anthropology, which values the worth and dignity of every person, and also sees each person holistically, rather than defining that person by any single characteristic.

National Catholic Education Commission executive director Jacinta Collins said the guide will be the focus of a session with hundreds of Catholic educators during the National Catholic Education Conference underway in Melbourne.

"This will be the first of many opportunities for Catholic education authorities and schools in the formation of leaders and teachers to reflect on how they can respond to gender and identity with care and sensitivity," she said.

Ms Collins said Catholic school communities already capably manage students' needs in this area, but the guide will offer further advice that draws on theological, psychological, medical and legislative knowledge.

"Recent comments by eminent psychologist Professor Ian Hickie highlight the increasing number of medical



professionals who are challenging the gender-affirmative approach and are supporting the biopsychosocial approach, which is less invasive, holistic and more closely aligned with a

Catholic worldview," she said.

"It remains critical that our Catholic schools can speak about the Church's teachings on these matters in an informed way, underpinned by the principles of respect and human dignity.

"Catholic schools are uniquely pastoral communities, but it is vital that the Catholic vision of the whole person informs our understanding. *Created and Loved* outlines a sound basis for that approach."

Archbishop Comensoli said Catholic school leaders are well placed to respond to pastoral needs in informed and sensible ways, free of politics and the division

sometimes seen in the wider community.

The Catholic position is to support the needs of each individual based on their circumstances, respectful of the person and the wider school community of students and families.

"Catholic schools are beautiful communities of encounter with the risen Jesus, who loves us unconditionally and challenges us to grow in our wisdom and understanding," Archbishop Comensoli said.

He said the guide will build on the engagement and formation that education authorities are undertaking as they develop practical local guidelines.

"It will be reviewed in time, and the guide will evolve," Archbishop Comensoli said.

***Created and Loved*
can be accessed at
<https://bit.ly/CreatedandLoved>**

Deacon Michael Perry: Herald of the Gospel of Jesus Christ

"Brethren, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint." – Acts 6:3

BY GERARD LETCHFORD

On the 14th of September 2022, in a beautiful ceremony presided over by Bishop Mark Edwards OMI, Michael Perry was ordained to the diaconal order.

In the path of becoming a priest, ordination to the diaconate is one of the final steps. It involves making a promise of celibacy and to pray daily the Divine Office of the Church.

A deacon is ordained to serve the people of God. Sometime after the inception of the Church at Pentecost, we read in Acts 6 that the Apostles found themselves caught up in all sorts of duties which were detracting from their main calling; the ministry of the Word and prayer. And so, the Twelve Apostles decided to institute deacons, in order that they may assist the Twelve with those tasks which they themselves were

left with, but which they deemed more appropriate to be performed by others.

When Michael Perry was elevated to this order of the diaconate, he was specially charged with one of the most important and essential jobs that can ever be given to a Christian.

This job is preaching the Gospel; the Good News that Jesus Christ has come, that He has redeemed us from our sins through His sacrifice on the Cross, and that He is calling us to turn away from our sins and follow Him. This is the story of our salvation; that God became man and told us how to live, how to pray, how to love one another, calling us to a life both of peace and of one that is pleasing to Him.

This special responsibility of not only communicating, but 'heralding' this



Deacon-elect Michael Perry is called forward for Ordination.



Bishop Mark Edwards OMI laying his hands upon Michael Perry.



Michael Perry making his solemn promise of obedience to Bishop Mark.

reality to which all Christians are called to; a life in accordance with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, is given to deacons. In the ordination liturgy, when Bishop Mark handed over the precious Book of the Gospels to the newly ordained Deacon Michael Perry, he said: "Receive the Gospel of Christ, whose herald you have become. Believe what you read, teach

what you believe, and practise what you teach."

Let us pray for Deacon Michael Perry as he begins his diaconate ministry, continues in his studies, and prepares for ordination to the priesthood.

May this occasion inspire in all of us a renewed commitment to Jesus Christ through the living out of his Gospel.



Michael Perry prostrating whilst the Litany of the Saints is sung; calling upon their intercession for his life and ministry.

We see **U** in our paid **OUTREACH** team

If 'U' are someone with a big heart and flexible time, join us to tell the stories of our faith heroes.

Heroes like Fr Guido Molina and his assistant priest from the diocese of Huancavelica-Peru in the Andes mountains. They visit the scattered communities in their parish, hitching a ride or sometimes on foot at an altitude of around 4000m. Even during the rainy season where deep gullies, ruts, and stones make the journey difficult and dangerous.



To support Fr Guido with a vehicle to help him in his pastoral ministry, Aid to the Church in Need would like 'U' to share his stories and create an awareness.

We are looking for new members to join our team to deliver a minimum of 10 presentations per year during weekend Masses in parishes across

Wagga Wagga. 'U' will be paid for every completed weekend of presentations.

For more information and to view the full job ad go to www.aidtochurch.org/work



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For more information contact: **Aid to the Church in Need** • 1800 101 201 • www.aidtochurch.org

Kick goals for kids in need this World Mission Month

Catholic Mission has launched its school program, *Socktober for World Mission Month*, this October.

Socktober is a nationwide schools engagement program, using the game of soccer to educate and encourage support for critical mission projects around the world supporting vulnerable children in developing countries.

Socktober aims to engage Catholic school students' heads, hearts, and hands in key issues of mission and social justice through powerful metaphors found in sport, especially the world game of soccer.

The learning in schools during Socktober is underpinned by the principles of Sport at the Service of Humanity an initiative of Pope Francis.

The principles are listed here:

Compassion

- Use the power of sport to help others.
- Share the benefits of sport to empower those who are poor and disadvantaged.

Respect

- Use sport to build trust and understanding.
- Respect your opponents.
- Through sport understand them and their culture

more deeply.

- Condemn violence in Sport – on and off the field of play.

Love

- Sport is for all.
- Do all you can to help everyone take part in sport.
- Do all you can to enable everyone to compete on equal terms.

Enlightenment

- Sport has the power to transform lives and build character.
- Learn graciousness in victory and perspective in defeat.
- Apply the values you learn in sport to help you excel in life.

Balance

- Sport has the power to help us make the most of ourselves.
- So play it in the knowledge that it can revitalise you

physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. At every stage of life, play for fun, for health, for friendship.

Joy

- Sport, above all, is about enjoyment.
- So enjoy it! And remember, there is more to sport than winning, but when you compete, be and do the best you can, always.

Socktober uses soccer to show students the similarities as well as the differences between them and their brothers and sisters overseas.

The focus of the learning and fundraising efforts that



the students will carry out throughout the month of October in 2022, known as World Mission Month, is to support families in Ethiopia facing malnutrition and food insecurity.

Our projects on the ground will help sustain and enrich the lives of vulnerable children who are in need of our support.

As Bishop Mark Edwards says: "Socktober is a fantastic way to engage your head, heart, and hands in the important work of mission, using the world game of soccer. Many children around the world play with a ball just like this sockball as they cannot afford the balls we are used to in Australia. I hope you'll get to make one and get a feel for their reality. So, I encourage you to register today and give it your all in 2022!"

Primary and secondary schools are invited to register for Socktober by heading to socktober.org.au where they can find all the resources and activities to fully engage with World Mission Month in 2022.

Visit online at:
www.socktober.org.au



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:

Jane Plum

Diocesan Director for Wagga Wagga

Phone 02 6937 0013 - Mobile 0400 445 605

Email jplum@catholicmission.org.au



socktober.org.au



ErinEarth is a place of many rhythms

Native plant rhythms, vegetable garden rhythms, tadpole and frog rhythms, chicken and egg rhythms; and as we experienced during our *"Acknowledging Wiradyuri Country"* open day, café and musical rhythms.

BY NICOLA TURNER

It is a place where slow and fast rhythms tumble into and follow each other, creating an energy that makes this place feel alive.

Some of you may have experienced ErinEarth as a place to slow down, to take a breath, and to reflect. ErinEarth is the SoulSpace, as Sr Carmel and Karen Kime call it, for those who seek a spot for quiet reflection and contemplation, or for connecting with and appreciating nature.

ErinEarth is also a place of high activity, energy and enthusiasm for sustainable living and environmental education. The garden palpably buzzes during our Thursday volunteering mornings, open days, school visits and garden tours. Importantly, children can run, jump, climb, explore and be free at ErinEarth, in the way that their bodies and minds need to be free, to fully experience and understand the delights

of nature.

ErinEarth's juxtaposition of tranquility and peace with high activity and energy is a wonderful thing; it allows us to cater for diverse needs and interests within our community.

Rhythms will continue to change and evolve at ErinEarth in coming months as we establish a new reading room that will showcase our vast collection of ecological, gardening, sustainable living and spiritual literature; as we restore our wetland, thanks to a grant from Wagga Wagga City Council; as we look forward to our September open day that will include multicultural cooking demonstrations and live music; as we host SoulSpace and regular open garden events on Saturday mornings throughout Spring; as an increasing number of school groups visit the ErinEarth site; and as we welcome new volunteers to our Thursday morning



volunteering program.

A reminder that outside of our scheduled events we are open to the public 9am-3pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Come and experience our garden and its rhythms,

gain inspiration for sustainable living, or take a relaxing wander along our pathways. **Our team looks forward to welcoming new and returning visitors to ErinEarth in the months ahead.**



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.



How to pray when we don't feel like it

If we only prayed when we felt like it, we wouldn't pray a lot.

BY RON ROLHEISER

Enthusiasm, good feelings, and fervor will not sustain anyone's prayer life for long, good will and firm intention notwithstanding.

Our hearts and minds are complex and promiscuous, wild horses frolicking to their own tunes, with prayer frequently not on their agenda. The renowned mystic, John of the Cross teaches that, after an initial period of fervor in prayer, we will spend the bulk of our years struggling to pray discursively, dealing with boredom and distraction. So, the question becomes, how do we pray at those times when we are tired, distracted, bored, disinterested, and nursing a thousand other things in our heads and in our hearts? How do we pray when little inside us wants to pray? Especially, how do we pray at those moments when we have a positive distaste for prayer?

Monks have secrets worth knowing. The first secret we need to learn from them is the central place of ritual is sustaining a prayer-life. Monks pray a lot and regularly, but they never try to sustain their prayer on the basis of feelings. They sustain it through ritual. Monks pray together seven or eight times a day ritually. They gather in chapel and pray the ritual offices of the church (Matins, Lauds, Prime, Terce, Sext, Vespers, Compline) or they celebrate the Eucharist together. They don't always go there because they feel like it, they come because they are called to prayer, and

then, with their hearts and minds perhaps less than enthusiastic about praying, they pray through the deepest part of themselves, their intention and their will.

In the rule that St. Benedict wrote for monastic life there's an oft-quoted phrase. A monk's life, he writes, is to be ruled by the monastic bell. When the monastic bell rings, the monk is immediately to drop whatever he is doing and go to whatever that summons is calling him to, not because he wants to, but because it is time, and time is not our time, it's God's time. That's a valuable secret, particularly as it applies to prayer. We need to go pray regularly, not because we want to, but because it's time, and when we can't pray with our hearts and minds, we can still pray through our wills and through our bodies.

Yes, our bodies! We tend to forget that we are not disincarnate angels, pure heart and mind. We are also a body. Thus, when heart and mind struggle to engage in prayer, we can always still pray with our bodies. Classically, we have tried to do this through certain physical gestures and postures (making the sign of the cross, kneeling, raising our hands, joining hands, genuflection, prostration) and we should never underestimate or denigrate the importance of these bodily gestures. Simply put, when we can't pray in any other way, we can still pray through our bodies. (And, who is to say that a sincere bodily gesture is inferior as a prayer to a



gesture of the heart or mind?) Personally, I much admire a particular bodily gesture, bowing down with one's head to the floor which Muslims do in their prayer. To do that is to have your body say to God, "Irrespective of whatever's on my mind and in my heart right now, I submit to your omnipotence, your holiness, your love." Whenever I do meditative prayer alone, normally I end it with this gesture.

Sometimes spiritual writers, catechists, and liturgists have failed us by not making it clear that prayer has different stages – and that affectivity, enthusiasm, fervor are only one stage, and the neophyte stage at that. As the great doctors and mystics of spirituality have universally taught, prayer, like love, goes through three phases. First comes fervor and enthusiasm; next comes the waning of fervor along with dryness and boredom, and finally comes proficiency, an ease, a certain sense of being at home in prayer that does not depend on affectivity and

fervor but on a commitment to be present, irrespective of affective feeling.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer used to say this to a couple when officiating at their marriage. Today you are very much in love and believe that your love will sustain your marriage. It won't. Let your marriage [which is a ritual container] sustain your love. The same can be said about prayer. Fervor and enthusiasm will not sustain your prayer, but ritual can. When we struggle to pray with our minds and our hearts, we can still always pray through our wills and our bodies. Showing up can be prayer enough.

In a recent book, *Dearest Sister Wendy*, Robert Ellsberg quotes a comment by Michael Leach, who said this in relation to what he was experiencing in having to care long-term for his wife suffering from Alzheimer's. **Falling in love is the easy part; learning to love is the hard part; and living in love is the best part. True too for prayer.**

Rosary in the Park

On Saturday, 8th October 2022, the Legion of Mary hosted their annual 'Rosary in the Park' at the Victory Memorial Gardens.

Four Rosaries were prayed, two before lunch and two after lunch.

The intentions for the Rosary were: 1. Defence of marriage between a man and a woman and for the safeguarding of families; 2. End of abortion and euthanasia; 3. World leaders to rule with wisdom and justice and for peace. For an end to persecution and for an end to the wars in Ukraine, Africa and the Middle East; and 4. Conversion of sinners and reparation for sin.

Fr Steven Ledinich gave an address to begin and then a children's choir led

the hymns between each Rosary. The Seminarists from Vianney College cooked up a tasty BBQ lunch, provided to the public courtesy of the Legion of Mary. Each Rosary was led by a family from the Wagga Diocese with strong support from The Rock community, as well as one Rosary led by some religious in our diocese: Conventual Sisters of St Dominic, Missionaries of Charity and Confraternity of Christ the Priest Brothers.

Our Junior Legion members provided delicious treats for afternoon tea as well

as decorating the marquees with lovely blue balloons in honour of Our Lady.

God blessed us with some warm sunshine before the afternoon clouded over. Thankfully the rain held off. The Seminarists took a rain check on the traditional game of soccer as the ground was very waterlogged and we didn't want to cut up the grass.

Thank you to everyone who made the effort to come and support this event and for wearing blue! We look forward to seeing you all again next year!



Athletica Vaticana at the UCI Road World Championship

For the first time, there was a rider from Athletica Vaticana-Vatican Cycling, at the starting line of the élite road race of the World Cycling Championships in Wollongong on 25 September.

Rien Johan Schuurhuis, 40, cycled to testify to bear witness to the values of fraternity and inclusion that are intrinsic to cycling and that convinced the official Vatican Sport Association to take part in the competition.

The participation of Rien Schuurhuis was a “first time” of historic relevance for the official Vatican Team, for cycling, for the entire sporting movement and for Australia itself, which will host some of the most significant events in the coming years, culminating with the Brisbane Olympic Games in 2032.

Rien is married to Chiara Porro, Australia's ambassador to the Holy See. They have two children.

In the style of Vatican Athletica, the small representative team that will be in Wollongong for the World Championships will live a concrete experience of fraternity and solidarity together with Caritas Australia, sharing the programme with the First Australians (Kinchela boys home) and a sports initiative with children. Welcoming the Vatican delegation will be, among others, the apostolic nuncio in Australia, monsignor Charles Daniel Balvo, the archbishop of Sydney, monsignor Anthony Colin Fisher, and the bishop of Wollongong, monsignor

Brian Mascord.

The Championships of the Small States of Europe and the Mediterranean Games - Athletica Vaticana-Vatican Cycling will take part in the World Cycling Championships in the light of the experiences of sporting fraternity lived, in June and July, in Malta for the Athletics Championships of the 18 Small States of Europe and in Oran in Algeria for the Mediterranean Games. On this occasion, Pope Francis, in a message, “appointed” Athletica Vaticana “ambassador of the Pope” among sportsmen and women, precisely because it “bears concrete witness, on the streets and in the midst of the people, to the solidarity face of sport”.

From 21 September 2021 official UCI member number 200 - Athletica Vaticana-Vatican Cycling has become an official member (number 200) of the International Cycling Union (UCI), which recognises it as a reference for the organisation of Vatican cycling activities. The recognition of Vatican Cycling (a section of Athletica Vaticana) took place on 24 September 2021 in Leuven, Belgium, during the 190th Congress of the UCI, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary.

Athletics, padel and taekwondo - Athletica Vaticana began its service



The Vatican Cycling Team.

among sportsmen and women four years ago with track and field. Vatican citizens and employees and their first-degree family members can participate. In addition to the UCI, Athletica Vaticana is an official member of the International Padel Federation and World Taekwondo, and is in the process of becoming an official member of World Athletics as well.

A sporting community - Considering the particularity and also the smallness of the Vatican reality, the recognition of UCI has above all the objective of encouraging the practice of cycling as a community sport experience, with a strong focus on the dimensions of service, gratuity, amateurism, inclusion and solidarity. Among the most significant experiences of Vatican cyclists is, for example, welcoming the pilgrims - many with disabilities - who arrive in Rome by bicycle to meet the Pope. And to give them their first welcome, with a ride together, is precisely the Vatican cycling community.

The Pope's word - The choice of Athletica Vaticana to promote cycling stems from the observation of the popularity of this sport in the Vatican world, and beyond. And also from the awareness that cycling, as Pope Francis has stated, “highlights certain virtues such as enduring of fatigue - in the long and difficult climbs -, courage - in attempting a breakaway or in facing a sprint -, integrity in respecting the rules,

altruism and a sense of team”.

These are precisely the words addressed by Pope Francis (9 March 2019) to the participants of the Congress of the European Cycling Union and the African Cycling Confederation. And the Pope proposed a reflection that for Athletica Vaticana is the icon of its service: “During the races the whole team works together (...) and when a companion goes through a moment of difficulty, it is his teammates who support and accompany him. So in life, too, it is necessary to cultivate a spirit of altruism, generosity and community to help those who have fallen behind and need help to achieve a certain goal”.

This style is part of the very essence of Athletica Vaticana in the fraternal dialogue already established in friendship with the entire sporting community, both amateur and professional.

Gino Bartali “captain” - The world of cycling has always had a very strong link with the experience of faith and care for the person. From the profound testimonies of great champions - the name of Gino Bartali, whose cause for canonization, is a bit like the “captain” of the Vatican team - to the shrines in the hearth of so many cycling enthusiasts. The memory of several meetings with the Pops, from Pius XII to Pope Francis, is still alive: the Giro d'Italia itself has started from the Vatican.

The partnerships - Vatican Cycling



Rien Schuurhuis and Tomas.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

The number of homeless women over 55 expected to double in less than a decade

A major new report by progressive think tank, Per Capita, has found that homeless women over 55 are expected to double in less than a decade.

The report, using data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, forecasts that without significant new policies, more than 15,000 older women will become homeless by 2031.

It also found the most recent census data might not truly reflect the extent of homelessness among older women given they are more likely to be in emergency shelter, couch surfing or sleeping in cars.

Executive Director of Catholic Social Services Australia, Ms Monique Earsman, said older women are the fastest growing group among the homeless, making up the majority of social housing tenants, and are the most significant users of specialist homelessness services.

"Older women are a very vulnerable group who, in the event of a relationship breakdown or being widowed late life, can find themselves with little or no superannuation or other financial resources," Ms Earsman said.

"Women and children escaping family violence, single mothers, and older single women are most at risk of falling into homelessness due to a crisis in affordable housing that has been years in the making.

"It is a thin line between having a home or not, between being safe

or being in real danger because of homelessness.

"The facts are providing affordable social and emergency housing which prevents domestic and family violence will require a long-term commitment from governments and the community," Ms Earsman said.

The 'A Home of One's Own' report, commissioned by Australians Investing in Women, a not-for-profit organisation that advocates for philanthropists to invest in women, considers a gender view of the housing crisis.

Social housing stocks have declined markedly over the past three decades, and make up just 3 per cent of all residences, down from 6 per cent in the early 1990s.

While state and federal governments have recently committed more funding to increase the social housing stocks, this alone won't solve the crisis.

Older women make up 19% of public housing and 16% of community housing tenants in Australia, and 45% of older women who rent in the private market spend more than 30% of their income on rental costs.

The report recommended the following to mitigate risks to vulnerable women being homeless:

- More social housing investment



- by state and federal governments.
- Reforms to the rental market to increase the number of genuinely secure and affordable options for those who will never own their own home.
- Invest in shared-equity and build-

to-rent models.

- Establish innovative financial models to lend to women.
- Increase funding for homes and services for women and children fleeing family violence.



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Synodality top of agenda for Pope, Archbishop Costelloe

The Fifth Plenary Council of Australia and the global Synod on Synodality were key discussion points for ACBC president Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB and Pope Francis.

Archbishop Costelloe, whom Pope Francis appointed president of the Plenary Council in 2018, was in Rome to take part in the drafting of the working document for the next phase of the journey towards the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops.

The document will form the basis for the discernment to be undertaken at the continental level in the coming months.

This discernment, in turn, will help shape the drafting of the *instrumentum laboris* – the preparatory document that will contribute to the discussions during the formal sessions of the Synod next October.

In a private audience with Pope Francis, Archbishop Costelloe explained that the formal “acts” of the Plenary Council, the outcome of four years of nationwide prayer, listening, dialogue, discernment

and eventually decision-making, will be received by the Bishops Conference at its November plenary meeting.

They will then be forwarded to the Holy See for consideration.

“The Holy Father expressed great interest in the work of the Plenary Council,” Archbishop Costelloe said.

“I was able to explain to him that the Council had moments of challenge and tension, which we navigated with prayer and dialogue, but it now holds great hope for the renewal of the Church in Australia.

“I told Pope Francis that the Church in Australia, notwithstanding the many challenges it faces, is alive and vibrant. Pope Francis was particularly pleased to hear of this vitality.”

Reflecting on his time in Rome, which included meetings with key officials from Vatican offices, Archbishop Costelloe



Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB and Pope Francis.

expressed his gratitude that the experience of synodality, “which emerged as such a strong feature of the Plenary Council in Australia”, had been recognised and received as a valuable contribution to the journey that the Church throughout the world is undertaking.

“It is clear to me,” Archbishop Costelloe said, “that Pope Francis is absolutely

committed to this path towards the more truly synodal Church to which the Lord is calling us, which is the Lord’s particular gift to the Church at this time.

“It was an honour to be able to share our experience with him.”

Archbishop Costelloe also met with Australia’s Ambassador to the Holy See, Chiara Porro, during his time in Rome.

A Venetian Girl in Wagga Wagga

A Venetian Girl in Wagga Wagga is a memoir of local Wagga woman Pasquina Boetto. It is a woman’s story of migration, faith and love for her family.

Pasquina is a storyteller and the kitchen table becomes the place she passes on the stories of her childhood in war torn Italy.

Faith is a thread that weaves its way through her life. She teaches catechism as a teenager and her pilgrimage to Lourdes in the 1950’s is something she never forgets. Her migration to Australia with husband Gino is the start of a new adventure.

Bishop Henschke is instrumental in setting up the community of San Isidore and it is here that they make their home. Together they raise a family and become active members of the West Wagga Parish and larger Wagga Community. They open their arms to the refugees who live in their street and support the Carmelites and the Mother Teresa nuns.

She has a special devotion to Mary McKillop and travels to Sydney to see Pope John Paul II in 1995 when he visits Australia for her beatification.

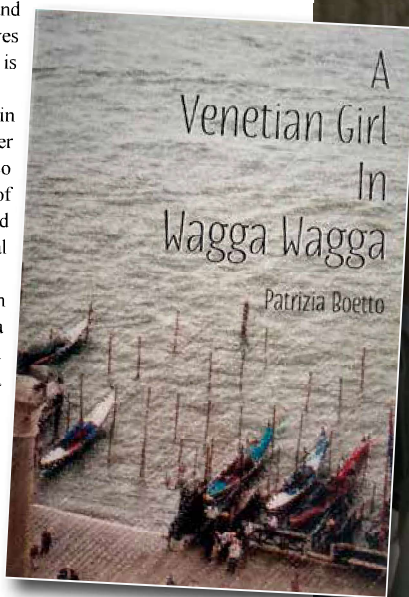
Her faith is constant and steadfast. It is what gives her strength when life is challenging.

She had no family in Australia except for her husband and children so storytelling was a way of connecting to her homeland and sharing her cultural heritage with us.

This memoir is written by her daughter Patrizia (Trisha) Boetto, edited by local historian Zita Denholm and designed by artist Maris Herr. It is published locally by Triple D Books.

Copies are available at Collins Booksellers in Baylis St for \$40 or from the author at

pboettobooks@gmail.com



Pasquina Boetto in Venice.

Vinnies Wagga volunteer James Carn retires after donating his time for 37 years

When Wagga resident James Carn signed up for work experience at Vinnies Wagga when he was 18, no one thought he would volunteer his time there for 37 years.

BY GEORGIA ROSSITER - The Daily Advertiser

Now 54, he finally decided to call it a day and gathered with both current and former staff he worked with over almost four decades to celebrate.

"I started on Baylis Street," he said.

"It gave me something to do, I helped the sorters."

Former Vinnies store manager and friend Don Jones said Mr Carn was "very much loved" by everyone.

"He was one of the most loved people in St Vincent de Paul," he said.

"He'd always put his hand up and he'd be there and do it."

Mr Carn was the one placing the clothes in the shopfront on hangars, stacking bales of clothes destined for recycling for the trucks to pick up, and helping the organisation's truck drivers pick up furniture and other donated goods.

Sometimes, Mr Jones said he was the only one that turned up to volunteer.

"The driver was paid, but everyone that

worked on the truck was voluntary," he said.

"James would come to work in the morning, and only the truck driver would have turned up because he was paid, so James would fill in."

He also helped out at the Christmas food appeals and toy drives with Vinnies and the Salvation Army, and volunteered at barbecues and other fundraising events.

Eventually, Mr Carn was awarded the Gold Duke of Edinburgh award for his volunteer contributions, one of the first people with a disability to do so in Australia.

As part of his achievement, Mr Carn completed a 250km horse ride through the Snowy Mountains with Riding for the Disabled, and took photos along the way.

Mother Margaret Carn said his dedication to his role at Vinnies was



Vinnies Wagga volunteer James Carn says he was proud to have helped for so many years. Picture by Madeline Begley

remarkable.

"I am very proud of him," she said.

"There's so many people who wouldn't bother [to volunteer for so long]."

Mr Carn was born with a brain tumor and the treatment to save his life left him with a speech disability.

Mr Jones said Mr Carn's slow turn of phrase kept the shop calm.

"No matter how busy you are, you've still got to stop and listen to James, and

that's a beautiful thing," he said.

"The two or three that had worked with him all the time, they said exactly the same."

Mr Carn said his favourite memories from volunteering was the time he spent with other staff, often playing practical jokes.

He finished at Vinnies on Friday, September 23, and celebrated with old friends and colleagues.

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- Leeton Shop** 42 Kurrajong Ave Leeton
- Mulwala Shop** 47 Melbourne St Mulwala
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Resumption of Calvary Riverina Remembrance Memorials

Calvary Riverina Hospital will recommence holding its 'Neonatal Memorial Loss' and 'Memorial Loss' services at the Maternal Heart of Mary Chapel at Calvary Hospital



There are multiple biblical examples of Jesus entering into the normal human activity of celebrating, mourning and remembering. The Blessed Virgin Mary asked her son Jesus to assist wedding celebrations by turning water into wine. We read multiple accounts of Jesus intervening whilst people publicly mourned loved ones 'including Lazarus and children of widows'. Importantly we have Jesus commissioning us "to do this in memory of me".

Celebrating, mourning, and remembering continues to be essential parts of our being human. Initial

COVID precautions, restricted the way many celebrated, mourned and gathered to remember. Some marriage celebrations were rescheduled and numbers of attendance at funerals were severely restricted. Whilst not all of us may have experienced attendance limitations on loved ones' funerals, most of us are aware of people who felt deprived through these necessary limitations.

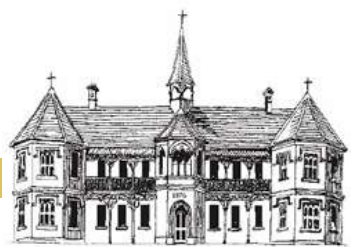
Knowing that it is a 'good and healthy activity' to prayerfully gather, remembering and consoling others, Calvary Riverina Hospital recommences holding its 'Neonatal Memorial Loss'

and 'Memorial Loss' services at the Maternal Heart of Mary Chapel at Calvary Hospital 6pm on Monday the 7th and 14th of November respectively.

Services are open to people who have experienced loss of loved ones over the years at Calvary Riverina. If you would like to join either of these memorials of remembrance, please email RIV-

OngoingCare@calvarycare.org.au detailing the service you'd like to attend and numbers.

For those unable to attend, please hold these gatherings in your prayer. **If you would like your prayer recognised, please email advice to the same email address above.**



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Sisters celebrate 50 years and 60 years of religious life

Over 30 Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart recently gathered at Mary MacKillop Place in North Sydney to celebrate their Golden and Diamond Jubilees marking 50 years and 60 years since their first profession.



Golden Jubilarians celebrating 50 years at Mary MacKillop Chapel in North Sydney.

From the opening events and processions at both Jubilee gatherings, the talk, hymns and prayers were of friendship, joyful worship and thanksgiving – for years lived, for commitment given, for Josephite life and ministry.

Sixteen Golden

Jubilarians travelled from Timor Leste, Peru, Halls Creek in the Kimberley, Perth, Adelaide, Penola,

Melbourne, Launceston, Brisbane and Sydney to acknowledge this milestone and renew their vows with Sisters, friends and family. The Sisters had made their first profession 50 years ago at Baulkham Hills, Sydney, Goulburn and Hobart.

Congregational Leader, Sister Monica Cavanagh, reflected that as young Sisters the Golden Jubilarians had in the words of Pope Francis, “bought a

pair of walking shoes and set out on uncharted paths”. Their mission had called them to take risks and to move into unfamiliar territory. Their ministry totals 800 years and those years include education at all levels, social justice, parish pastoral involvement, chaplaincy and pastoral care in various settings, music and liturgy as well roles of congregational leadership.

Fifteen Diamond

Jubilarians also gathered in September to celebrate their commitment of 60 years as Sisters of Saint Joseph and a total 900 years ministry. Time together was spent reminiscing, in catching up with lives lived in different areas of Australia, Aotearoa New Zealand, Scotland and Peru. Those Sisters who were not able to attend were remembered and shared the experience via the live streamed Mass.

Sr Monica Cavanagh spoke of the

journey that these Sisters had set out on 60 years ago which had taken them into situations that they possibly never dreamed of on that first Profession Day.

Bishop Vincent Long of Parramatta as chief celebrant, assisted by Fr Peter Hudson, congratulated the Jubilarians on their vowed commitment. The Jubilarians were invited to renew their vows by Sr Monica, and their renewed commitment was met with applause from the Congregation.

In concluding Sister Monica thanked all the Jubilarians “for the women you have become and for sharing your gifts and lives with us”.

Encouraged and supported by God’s unconditional love the Jubilarians continue in the footsteps of the Co-founders of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, St Mary MacKillop and Father Julian Tenison Woods.



Diamond Jubilarians celebrating 60 years at Mary MacKillop Chapel in North Sydney.

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For more information about making contributions to Together or to submit your article contact us at:
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Project of the Month: *October*

This month help seminarians in Lebanon.

For the past three years, Lebanon has been going through an unparalleled economic collapse that has not only plunged vast swathes of the population into poverty but also imposed an enormous burden on the Church in the formation of her priests. Above all the soaring energy and food costs are making it difficult for the seminaries to cover the cost of maintaining their seminarians.

As a result, it has been decided to merge the formation of the young seminarians of the missionary Society of Saint Paul together with the seminarians of the patriarchal seminary of the Melkite Catholic Church, one of the Eastern-rite Catholic churches in the region. Currently, 11 young men are following their formation in Harissa.

Not only do these seminarians have to be able to grow, humanly, spiritually and intellectually in order to prepare for their priestly vocation, but they must at the same time be able to accumulate practical pastoral

experience. Consequently, they usually travel to some of the poorer Lebanese villages, helping to organise 3 to 4 day vocational seminars – above all for young people. And in the summer holidays, they additionally organise week-long youth events in Lebanon, and in Syria as well. For example, this last summer they organised a number of youth meetings in the villages of the Hauran Region, in southwest Syria, in which a total of 700 young people took part.

We want to support the seminary for the coming academic year so that these young men can continue their training successfully. So we are proposing a contribution of \$36,000 AUD to help make ends meet. Part of this help will also be invested in the installation of a solar generation system that should help to significantly reduce their energy costs and at the same time safeguard the electricity supply. For given the political problems in the country, the national energy grid is only able to



supply a maximum of two hours of electricity a day, with the result that when it gets dark, the seminarians either have to resort to an expensive generator or else study by candlelight.

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



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SUPPORT Religious Sisters



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

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

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

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

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

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Effective 14th October 2022

Return to normal protocols Diocese of Wagga Wagga

1. Normal pre-Covid practices resume.
2. **Hygiene** - Over the past two years we have learned much about hygiene precautions, and I encourage you to stay safe.
3. **If you are experiencing symptoms of Covid, flu, or any other contagious illness, stay home.**

M. Edwards

Most Rev Mark Edwards OMI
Bishop of Wagga Wagga

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Wagga's Catholic and Anglican churches unite for Queen Elizabeth service

Local Christian church leaders joined on 22 September in a show of ecumenical solidarity to remember Queen Elizabeth II.

BY TIM PICCIONE - The Daily Advertiser

Members of local Anglican and Catholic churches gathered at St John's Anglican Church for the national day of mourning public holiday.

Wagga Catholic Diocese Bishop Mark Edwards said the afternoon was both "respectful" and "affectionate".

"It was wonderful," Bishop Edwards said.

"I think it's rare that we do things together but it made sense to me because she was the Queen of Australia."

The local bishop said he hoped the service helped provide a sense of reality

around the monarch's passing to those in attendance.

"For the people who were there it was really important to honour Queen Elizabeth - and we did that," he said.

"And now we can get on with our lives."

Bishop Edwards noted that the Anglican and Catholic churches were just across the road from each other.

"Sometimes the fact that it's not your church is a bit of a barrier," he said.

"So, I'm very grateful to the people who were able to step over that barrier, come along and be a part of it."



Catholic priest Connell Perry, the Catholic Bishop of Wagga Mark Edwards, Anglican Bishop for the Riverina Donald Kirk and Archdeacon of Canberra-Goulburn Grant Bell joined for the service.

Saints have joyful hearts, not long faces

The holiness of saints is reflected not only in how they overcame struggles but by their ability to transmit the joy that comes from being loved by God, Pope Francis said

The gift of sharing the love and mercy Christians receive from God "enables us to experience an immense joy that is not a fleeting emotion or mere human optimism, but the certainty that we can face every challenge with the grace and the assurance that come from God," the Pope told participants at

a Vatican conference on holiness.

"Without this joy, faith shrinks into an oppressive and dreary thing; the saints are not 'sourpusses,' but men and women with joyful hearts, open to hope," he said.

The "Holiness Today" conference, which concluded yesterday, was sponsored by the Dicastery for the

Causes of Saints.

During the conference, dicastery prefect Cardinal Marcello Semeraro announced the creation of a commission that will recognise Christians who, although not canonised and perhaps not Catholic, were exemplary and even heroic witnesses to the faith.

In an interview with Vatican News, Cardinal Semeraro said a "Commission for the Witnesses of the Faith" was set up on a temporary basis by St John Paul II for the Jubilee Year 2000 and recognised Christians martyred for the faith in the 20th century, mainly under the Nazi or communist regimes.

Now, the cardinal said, Pope Francis has asked the dicastery to re-establish the commission not just for the upcoming Holy Year 2025, but on a permanent basis.

An example of a Christian witness of faith, he said, is Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German Lutheran theologian who was killed in 1945 for his opposition to Nazism.

"Like Bonhoeffer, there are many others. Holiness is not always immediately evident in the eyes of the faithful. Our service is to highlight it," Cardinal Semeraro said.



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The Power of the Holy Rosary

The holy rosary is a very powerful prayer. It is not only a great tool against evil, but it is also an incentive for good actions and virtues to be practised.

BY SISTER ANGELITA G. MARAVE, MACE

Praying the holy rosary helps human beings to renounce the things of the world and to focus on the heavenly things that we should aspire for as children of God and heirs of heaven.

When we pray the rosary, we meditate on the different mysteries surrounding our faith, from the moment it was announced to Mary that she would be the mother of God, to the point when Mary was crowned queen of heaven and earth, plus all the other mysteries in the life of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Meditating on the rosary makes us realize how much Jesus has done for us. He became man to redeem us and underwent tremendous suffering, including death on the cross,

to save us. As we penetrate the depth of his love for us, we cannot be moved but respond with a similar love for him.

It is not clear how the rosary as a prayer started. Catholic tradition says that the rosary was instituted by the Blessed Virgin Mary herself, when she appeared to St Dominic of Prussia (founder of the Dominican Order). It is held, however, that the use of prayer-knotted ropes started as early as the 3rd century with the Desert Fathers. In the 15th century, Blessed Alanus De Rupe said he received a vision from Jesus about the urgency of restoring the rosary as a form of prayer. He also received the 15 promises of the Blessed Virgin to those who faithfully pray the rosary.



The Missionaries of Charity joined the family rosary held at the home of Roland and Annabel Borja (5th standing) on 18 September, 2022. The smiles of the rosary-participants say it all!

In 1569, the papal bull "Consueverunt Romani Pontifices" by the Dominican Pope Pius V officially established the devotion to the rosary in the Catholic Church. It started the title of Mary as Our Lady of the Rosary.

The Christian victory at the Battle of Lepanto in 1571 was attributed to the praying of the Rosary by a large number of people. In 1917, Mary appeared to the 3 children at Fatima, Portugal and urged them to pray the rosary to stop wars. In 2002 Pope John Paul II introduced the Luminous Mysteries - based on a compilation by St George Preca, the first Maltese Saint, - as an option in an Apostolic Letter on the Rosary.

These fourth set of mysteries, or mysteries of light celebrate the events in Jesus' ministry, including his baptism; his miracle at Cana, where he turned water into wine; his proclamation of the kingdom of God; the Transfiguration, in which he revealed his divinity to three of his Apostles; and his establishment of the Eucharist at the Last Supper.

October is the month that has been held as the month of the holy rosary. Let us renew our faith in praying the holy

rosary as a powerful weapon against the evils in our present society. We can stop wars and be moved to practise charity and kindness towards others, overcome hatred and racism, and promote the universal brotherhood of all people. It will also bring peace and serenity in our hearts, knowing that God is with us in our battle against all maladies and ills around us. Let us show the world we believe that the good will always triumph over evil, through the power of prayer, like the holy rosary!

Family Rosary around Wagga Wagga Diocese

One of the apostolates that the MACE Sisters earnestly promote among the families in Wagga Wagga is the praying of the holy rosary. In the Albury-Wodonga areas, the family rosary is held every week in different families. In Wagga Wagga and Leeton, it is held once or twice a month. Below are photos of recent family rosaries held in Lavington and Wagga Wagga.

As Father Patrick Peyton says: "The family that prays together, stays (happily) together!"



Des and Aida Dick (couple at the centre) were the hosts at the family rosary held in Lavington on 1st October 2022. Friends and family members joined the happy celebration which coincided with the lady-host's birthday.



Let's kick goals for good!

Sign up to organise a Socktober Event Day to help raise funds to support children facing malnutrition and food insecurity in Ethiopia.

Jane Plum

Diocesan Director for Wagga Wagga

Phone 02 6937 0013 - Mobile 0400 445 605

Email jplum@catholicmission.org.au



socktober.org.au



St Patrick's Primary Confirmation

St Patrick's Primary in Griffith celebrated their Confirmation recently on 17 and 18 September with Bishop Mark Edwards. Well done to all participants.





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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

cyclists wear Santini sports equipment and the Casco helmet in the race, significantly donated by the UCI upon recognition as an official member. The sports material not specifically for the race is provided by Erreà Sport, a company linked to Atletica Vaticana by a fraternal friendship. The team has the valuable support of the Ministry of Tourism of Malta ("Visit Malta"): a particularly significant collaboration in the wake of Pope Francis' apostolic journey to the Mediterranean island on 3 and 4 April.

The team - With Rien Schuurhuis, there are currently 10 members of Vatican Cycling. "We are slowly building up our cycling community," explains director Emiliano Morbidelli. The deputy director is Massimiliano Coluccio; the general secretary is Simone Ciocchetti and the team manager is Rino Alberto Bellapadrona. Particularly significant are the contributions of monsignor Attilio Nostro, bishop of Mileto-Nicotera-Tropea, as spiritual assistant for cycling, and Valerio Agnoli - unforgettable teammate of Ivan Basso and Vincenzo Nibali - as external relationship manager.

Rien Johan Schuurhuis - declaration

Since arriving in Rome, in 2020, I was immediately drawn to the values and community spirit of Atletica Vaticana. Pope Francis' focus on sport as a vehicle for encounter resonates deeply with my own life experience. The language of sports is truly universal.

Representing Atletica Vaticana in the UCI Road World Championships in Australia is an incredible honour for me. It has been a huge team effort to get to this point, and I look forward to bringing this team spirit into the race. Sport has the power of pushing each of us to give the best of ourselves, espousing generosity, sacrifice, and humility. We at Atletica Vaticana look forward to bringing these values to the UCI World

Championships, and encouraging all athletes to be Ambassadors for sport as a vehicle for inclusion and fraternity.

I was born in Groningen in the Netherlands in 1982, and for as long as I can remember, cycling has always been part of my life. Having grown up in the Netherlands, cycling was part of daily life. We road our bicycles to work, to school, to the shop and to church. My first pocket money was spent on a bicycle. I'm not sure exactly when the love for cycling as a sport developed, but I believe it was always there in my heart.

Over the years cycling has been the foundation of many of my friendships, with people from diverse backgrounds, upbringings, and cultures. The sport transcends age - the oldest of my cycling friends could be the grandfather of my youngest cyclist friend - language and beliefs. These cycling friendships have helped me to immerse myself in the places I have lived and visited. They have helped me to understand different cultures and grow as a person. Cycling has taught me to be the best I can be.

Cycling, and sport more broadly, has been a great pathway for me to be integrated into communities all over the world. In 2009, I moved to Australia with my wife and since then we have lived in India, the French Pacific and now Italy. In each of these places, I have found friends and shared experiences through sport.

Australia, now my second home, taught me how sport can unite. Half of Australia's population was born or has a parent born overseas, with an incredible mix of cultures and languages. Sport creates connections that transcend these differences.

In India, I will never forget running a half marathon in New Delhi next to a woman who was running barefoot and with her head covered in the scorching heat. We exchanged a smile and some words of support.

In New Caledonia, despite not being able to speak French, I bonded with



IVAN SOMMONTE
PHOTOGRAPHY

several of the young cyclists, some of whom were Indigenous Kanaks. As they had little support or money available, it was a real privilege to be able to coach some of them and help them secure bikes and other materials.

I have raced throughout Asia and the Pacific, in Malaysia, Indonesia, New Zealand and French Polynesia. One of the most incredible experiences was a cycling race on the island of Flores

in Indonesia. We were welcomed into several of the monasteries that dot the island as we completed the stages; a spiritual experience that I will never forget. The roads were packed with spectators; it seemed like the whole island had come out to cheer for us. The people were cheering for everyone, no matter what race, skin colour or religion.

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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
- Family issues
- School refusal
- Grief and loss
- Trauma
- Social, emotional or behavioural difficulties.



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

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



OUR GENERALIST COUNSELLING SERVICES

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

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



PARENTING & CHILDREN

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

Parent Education & Coaching

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

Individual Parenting Support

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

Family Group Conferencing

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

Children & Youth Support Services

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

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KIDS corner

SAINTS FUN FACTS

by John Sheppard



St. Ignatius of Loyola was born in Spain. He was a soldier in the Spanish Army in wars against the French.

After the military he studied the saints and decided to be a soldier of the Catholic faith. He finished his degree at age 43. Along with St. Francis Xavier and seven other students, started The Society of Jesus, or Jesuits in 1534.

He died at the age of 65

SHEPPARD

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



Craft...

Saints and Objects Matching Game



This is a fun All Saints' Day game for all ages to enjoy! It is also so easy to assemble.

We used:

- black foam board
- string for hanging the objects
- "s" hooks
- colour pictures of the saints-we specifically chose images of the saints that did not show their objects, to make the game a little more challenging
- objects associated with each of the saints
- pictures of these objects

How to make:

- We attached the pictures with narrow strips of cardstock folded in half, gluing one half to the picture and the other to the board, creating a "hinge." Be sure to glue your cardstock to the very top of the back of your pictures so that the pictures can be flipped up to reveal the image on the back of each saint picture. This image on the back will match the object for that saint.
- Below each picture, we poked small holes and slipped an s-hook in each hole for hanging objects.
- Use a little string or ribbon and hot glue to create loops on your objects for hanging.

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!



OCTOBER 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. **Theresa** of the Child Jesus

Guardian **Angels**

St. **Francis** of Assisi

St. **Bruno**

Our Lady of the **Rosary**

St. **John** XXIII

St. **Callistus** I

St. **Teresa** of **Avila**

St. **Ignatius** of Loyola

St. **Luke**

St. **Paul** of the Cross

St. **John** Paul II

St. John of **Capistrano**

St. Anthony **Claret**

St. **Simon**

St. **Jude**

New Building Resilience workshop and talk

One of the highlights of this last month was running two workshops and one talk for a mother's and daughter's camp in Victoria on our newest content: *8 Ways to Build Resilience*.

BY STINA CONSTANTINE

The day began with an interactive workshop for the teen female students. The young women asked such beautiful questions including 'When we face unhelpful messages on social media, and we know that's not good for us, how can we think about who we are?' and about how challenging it is to live in a world that has strayed so far from our values, which we see so evidently in simple things like not being able to find fun, beautiful AND reverent clothing options in stores. Talk about some serious thinkers in that group.

This was followed by another workshop for primary school students, and there was so much talk about so VERY many of the hardship's young girls face, including death, moving towns and houses many times, to bullying, and when friends hurt us. Their eagerness to learn, participate and grow was entirely palpable and beautiful.

After the two workshops, there was a quick opportunity to reset the room, and ready to talk to the mothers about child development, and 8 ways they can support their daughter's growth in resilience. Upon meeting the mothers, it was easy to see where the eagerness, openness and sweetness of the daughters were coming from. The mother's, knowing they were listening to a speaker talking from a therapeutic and ministry background, were only too eager to learn what they could.

For Stina there was only 1 perspective she wanted to impress to the attendees at the camp, '*We are all daughters of God*, and in the face of a challenge to always begin perspective setting by asking these 3 questions:

Who am I?

Answer: a daughter of God

What does that mean?

Answer: My father is the Almighty, King of the Universe, no problem is too big for him.

What difference does that make?

Answer: I have hope and I know where to place it... in Him. He's got this.

It's from this perspective that we can truly begin to tackle all of life's challenges. It was important to Stina for the mums to remember their fundamental relationship with God. Although they became wives and mothers, they never stopped being a daughter. As Stina said in her talk 'God invited you to become a wife because he first saw you as his daughter. He invites you to be a mother to your daughters, because he first sees you as HIS daughter. Live from a place of dependence on your heavenly father always, and model that dependence to your children. Christian resilience comes from depending on God'.

Stina has already been asked to run the adult women's resilience talk for another diocese next month. If you'd be interested in hearing the talk

MEET THE TEAM



Theresa McKendry

A daughter and a sister from the Northern Rivers, NSW. She qualified in Business administration and information technology and gifts Virtue Ministry with her skillset as admin support.

Theresa desires to encourage and remind others of their indispensable value, to both God and others, and the beauty of virtuous living.

To see Theresa's work visit www.VirtueMinistry.org.au

for your audience simply make an enquiry on our website. We present to students and parents, in schools, parishes and at conferences both online and in person, please visit our website or send us an email to make an enquiry.

The last of our Meet the Team:

This month we would like to introduce our Admin Support, Theresa McKendry. This is the person who does all the behind the scenes tweaking including our website, blogs, newsletter, and podcast. It's an exceptionally big and time consuming AND essential role for the team. We are SO grateful to have had Theresa join us earlier in the year. She's taken to the role so gracefully; it's been such a blessing. Check out our website to learn more about Theresa.




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St Joseph's Primary, Narrandera



Congratulations to the Year 5 girls who represented St Joseph's school at the Jackie Murphy Netball Carnival in Wagga on 2 September. They played 5 games and came home undefeated!



Some talented St Joseph's athletes recently competed at Homebush.

Henschke Primary, Wagga Wagga

Go Henschke!!! The athletes had an awesome day at Sydney Olympic Park representing the Wagga Diocese at MacKillop Athletics. The boys relay team and Emma in year 6 came away with gold, Tom P and the girls relay got silver and Tom P bronze. Well done to everyone who competed (and their parents for cheering them on).



St Francis De Sales Regional College, Leeton



St Francis De Sales Regional College Under 15's boys and girls recently competed at the Australian Rules State Finals starting tomorrow.



Kildare College, Wagga Wagga



Day 2 of Kildare's Leadership Camp started with a beach walk and a deep listening exercise focusing on strengths, fears and hopes. Look at that amazing view.



All schools enrolling now



Term 4 finished with plenty of cheers as St Anne's Primary celebrated Mercy Day with busking around the school! Not only did they get to enjoy the immensely talented students performing, they also raised money for Mercy Health.

St Anne's Primary, North Albury



St Patrick's Primary School, Holbrook

The Year 4/5/6 classes had an open morning to showcase their learning in Term 3. Their families enjoyed watching the students stop animation movies and listened to their podcasts created for English and technologies. The students also demonstrated their science projects. Well done to Miss Maroney, Mr Carey and the students and thank you to all the families who attended.



St Peter's Primary, Coleambally



Well done to Eva, Charlize, Coco and Georgia on a fantastic win in the PP5 Relay at the McKillop Athletics. Congratulations also to Georgia and Charlize for an amazing effort in their individual events. Go St Peter's!



Marian Catholic College, Griffith

YouthLinks would like to express their sincere gratitude to Gabriel, Sanita and all the wonderful and dedicated members of the Community Action Team at Marian Catholic College for their very generous donation of I-Care Bags. The young people they work with will benefit so much from their hard work.



St Patrick's Primary, Griffith

Congratulations to Isaiah (1st place in Discus) and Hollie (1st Place in 8 Year Girls 100 metres) at the MacKillop Trials. They will now both compete in the State PSSA Carnival on the 19th and 20th October.



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 - Koorungal

Sacred Heart
Lake Albert Road, Koorungal
Weekend Masses
Saturday Vigil - 5:30pm
Sunday - 9:00am
Filipino Mass (every first Sunday of the month - 2:30pm)
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.
Anointing Mass:
Every second Thursday of the month at 10:00am in the Parish Church/Chapel
Mass at Caloola Court:
Every first Thursday of the month at 11:00am

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
20 Hartigan Street Thurgoona
Weekend Masses
Saturday Vigil - 5:00pm during Standard Time (approx. April til September)
Saturday Vigil - 6:00pm during Daylight Saving (approx. October til March)
Sunday - 9:30am all year round
Weekday Masses
Monday - 8:00am
Tuesday - 10:00am
Wednesday - 8:00am
Thursday - 5:30pm (with Holy Hour at 4:30pm including Exposition and Benediction)
Friday and Saturday - 8:00am
Confessions
Saturday 4:30-4:55pm (or 5:30-5:55pm during Daylight Saving)
Sunday 9:00-9:25am
Thursday - 4:45-5:15pm (during Holy Hour) Or anytime - just ask the priest.
Baptisms and Marriages by appointment

Berrigan

St Columba's 4 Corcoran Street, Berrigan
1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday - 6:00pm Saturday Vigil
2nd, 4th Sunday - 10:30am
Savername
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
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 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 October:

1 October 1952	Mgr Thomas Ignatius Barry
3 October 1962	Fr J Bede McDonnell
5 October 1905	Fr Joseph Michael Ryan
9 October 1892	Fr Michael O'Leary
11 October 1939	Bishop Joseph Wilfrid Dwyer
18 October 1982	Mgr John Harold Larkins
24 October 1924	Fr Francis William Hartigan
31 October 1896	Fr Patrick McCabe
31 October 1996	Fr Patrick Peter Ford

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: Oct/Nov

23rd October - Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C

In the family, one sometimes observes a level of competition between children for parent attention, for acknowledgement of their abilities. Somehow, children seem to internalize that the attention given to one member of the family diminishes the attention given to another. In this way, children can often sound like the Pharisee in Jesus' parable. Parents who provide continual reminders to their children that they are loved for who they are, not for what they do, help children develop a healthy spirituality.

As a family, talk about what it means to compare oneself to another. Discuss whether it is helpful to compare oneself to another. In what ways might this be positive? (when it motivates one to use one's talents) In what circumstances might this be unhelpful? (when it proves discouraging, when it prevents one from valuing the abilities of another)

As a family, read today's Gospel, Luke 18:9-14. Discuss: What was wrong about the prayer of the Pharisee? How can we emulate the prayer of the tax collector?

Pray together as a family in thanksgiving for the blessing that is each member of your family. Pray that your family will be free from unhealthy competition. Pray in thanksgiving that God's love for us is unconditional.

Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18 Psalm 34:2-3, 17-18, 19, 23 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 Luke 18:9-14

30th October - Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C

In today's Gospel, we see Jesus as a guest in the house

of Zacchaeus. Talk about the various ways in which your family prepares when guests are expected in your home. Then read today's Gospel, Luke 19:1-10. Observe that Zacchaeus had not prepared to be Jesus' host that day. And yet, he welcomed Jesus better than anyone else because of his change of heart.

Discuss how your family might receive Jesus in your home and how you receive Jesus in the guests that you make welcome in your home. Pray together that your family will welcome guests into your home as you would welcome Jesus.

Wisdom 11:22-12:2 Psalm 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13, 14
2 Thessalonians 1:11-2:2 Luke 19:1-10

6th November - Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C

Children in our culture often know very little about death, dying, and eternal life. Take this opportunity to talk with your children about their thoughts, beliefs, maybe even their fears, about death and dying.

In the Gospel this week, Jesus tells us that after we die, we will not need the same things we did when we were alive, but we will continue to have a relationship with God. You could use the example of a tree to help your children understand what Jesus tells us. When a tree is alive it needs water, soil, and sunlight. When the tree is used to make a table, a toy, or something else it has a new purpose. The tree no longer needs water, soil, or sunlight.

Read together the short form of the Gospel, Luke 20:27, 34-38. Tell your children about your hope and faith in

the resurrection of the body and eternal life with God. Pray together for those in your family who have died and conclude by praying today's Psalm.

2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14 Psalm 17:1, 5-6, 8, 15
2 Thessalonians 2:16-3:5 Luke 20:27-38

13th November - Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C

Children, while innocently naïve about most world events, are also profoundly sensitive to the concerns felt by adults. We can help children interpret adult concerns by sharing information about current events in appropriate ways. We can also put these concerns in the light of God's kingdom and the assurance of God's care for us.

Discuss with your children one or more current events or a situation in your family which shows difficulties that may challenge our trust in a God who cares for us. Then read together today's Gospel, Luke 21:5-19. Notice how Jesus said that even when his disciples are persecuted, God would be with them.

Together with your children, talk about ways in which God might bring good out of the difficult events you discussed. Talk together about some actions you might take as a family to make better the situations you discussed. Conclude by praying for the needs of the people involved in the events you named. In prayer, place each of these difficult situations into God's hands.

Malachi 3:19-20 Psalm 98:5-6, 7-8, 9
2 Thessalonians 3:7-12 Luke 21:5-19

RICARDO PEREIRA / FAMILIA CRISTÃ

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