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to us a son is given...*

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IN THE DIOCESE OF WAGGA WAGGA

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No room at the inn

Dear sisters and brothers,

The arrival of Christmas will find many of us tired, running, distracted. Advent is to be a time of preparation for Christmas, however, for many of us it is more a time of making ready to celebrate with our families, friends, and colleagues than preparing for Christ to be born in our lives.

It is understandable that the weeks before Christmas are often harried and hurried with putting up decorations, shopping for gifts, sending out cards, preparing food, and attending Christmas socials. In the days leading up to Christmas, many of us struggle to do all the things we need to do to be ready for all that needs to happen in our houses, churches, and places of work. This, added on to the normal pressures within our lives, might well have us feeling: *"I'm not going to make it. I won't be ready. I won't be ready for Christmas."*

This pressure means that the time of preparation is generally more of a time to prepare our houses than a time to prepare our hearts and possibly more of a time of shopping than of prayer.

Arriving at Christmas with a life too busy and too distracted to make more room for Christ is not a sign that we are bad, faithless or pagan. It is a sign that we have limited time and energy. We are distracted, busy pressured and tired. This makes it difficult to make a deep conscious consistent effort to make this season and feast a time of real spiritual renewal in our lives. This is a part of what it means to be a limited physical human being in concrete circumstances with many competing, worthy priorities. Indeed, everyone struggles with this in some fashion. No one is perfect; no one

gives a full place in his or her life to Christ, even at Christmas time.

But it also leaves us with a pressing challenge: There is too little room for Christ in our busy, distracted lives if in our preparations for Christmas, we make very little space for the spiritual, for Christ to be born more deeply in our lives.

And the end result is that, like the biblical innkeepers who had no room for Mary and Joseph at the first Christmas, we generally arrive at Christmas with "no room at the inn", no space in our lives for a spiritual rebirth.

The spirit of Christmas is still in us and real. We want to be spiritually renewed at this time. Perhaps we might picture this desire for Christ to be born at a deeper level in our lives as being a neglected baby in the straw waiting to be picked up. And we do intend to pick up

the baby, but simply never get around to it.

I invite you to raise again the spiritual preparation for Christmas higher on your list of priorities. Perhaps you might sit on your own, quietly with a cuppa for five minutes a day looking at the front picture of one of the beautiful Christmas cards you have received and become aware again of how much Jesus loves you.

Even if everything on our to-do list is not completed (gifts; cards; decorations; food; the requisite number of social obligations). Even if that list is only half done, if you find yourself in church at Christmas, if you find yourself at table with your family on Christmas day, and if you find yourself greeting your neighbours and colleagues with a little more warmth, you've made it.



Prayer Intention for December - Pray with Pope Francis

For volunteer not-for-profit organizations.

We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

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



**Pope's Worldwide
Prayer Network**

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

The world needs more volunteers, as communities continue to struggle to serve the most vulnerable. The past few years has clearly shown that isolation from each other is detrimental to society and can lead to even greater problems.

Pope Francis lamented this trend of withdrawing from society that has come from the pandemic in his Christmas Message for 2021, "Our capacity for social relationships is sorely tried; there is a growing tendency to withdraw, to do it all by ourselves, to stop making an effort to encounter others and do things together."

As the world tries to return to "normal," a renewed volunteerism needs to be a central focus. When addressing volunteers from Sardegna Solidale in 2018, Pope Francis explained the importance of volunteerism to society, "The culture of solidarity and gratuitousness qualifies volunteerism and contributes in a

concrete way to the construction of a fraternal society, at the center of which is the human person."

St. John Paul II also reflected on the importance of being a volunteer in a speech for the Year of Volunteer Work in 2001.

He said, "What makes a volunteer dedicate his/her life to others? First of all, the innate movement of the heart that inspires every human being to help his fellow man. It is a law of existence. A volunteer experiences a joy that goes far beyond what he has done when he succeeds in giving himself freely to others."

Our culture needs to recover a greater concern for those around us, not spending our existence in isolation, but helping each other without any pay or reward in mind.

Philip Kosloski

Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (United States)

First Sunday of Advent



Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice!

BY FR REECE BELTRAME

Philippians 4:4

cancerous tumour, and the doctors have advised me to receive treatment for which I have already started.

This diagnosis is on the more serious end of the spectrum, and it can come with a wide range of emotions and questions. Despite this difficult news, we should not be overwhelmed because, as Pope Francis has told us, “*faith is a light which illumines the entirety of our lives*”. In addition, Pope Benedict taught us that “hope is a substance in that it gives us something tangible and that those who have hope live differently”.

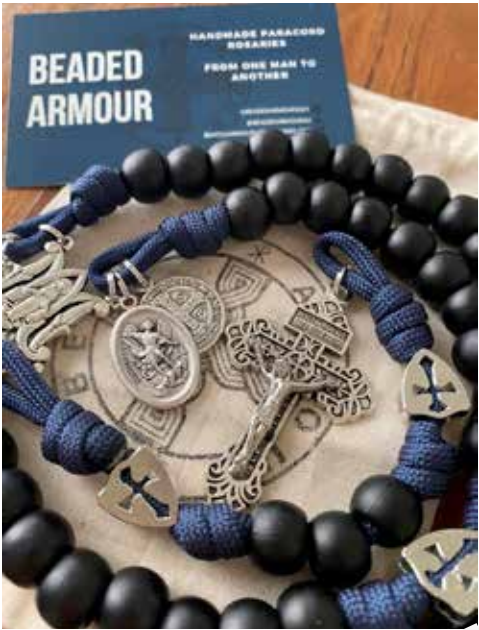
Encouraged by the light that comes from our faith in Christ and the hope which the Gospel offers us, let us pray for all those who ask for God’s healing. Let us also entrust ourselves to the will of God, realising that, as the great Italian poet Dante Alighieri exclaimed, “*In His will is our peace*”.

October is known as the month of the Holy Rosary and, although I was in hospital for a large part of October, I was still blessed in many ways. One of these blessings was a providential encounter with a great man of God, who came upon an apostolate called *Beaded Armour*,

which makes handmade paracord rosaries for men. I warmly encourage you all to pray the rosary daily for all your needs. I especially invite men to become spiritual fathers by creating a place of devotion in their households and leading others in praying the rosary daily. You might also like to see some of the great rosary beads made by *Beaded Armour*; you can find them on facebook!

As the psalmist tells us: *Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord!* (Ps 122). Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord, not only on the Lord’s day and on feast days, but whenever and wherever we may be by lifting up our hearts in gratitude to God who knew us before he formed us in our mother’s wombs. Let us go rejoicing to house of the Lord, who sustains our lives at every moment and whom we can seek in confidence, knowing that the foundation of our whole life is that God has loved us first (1 Jn 4:19).

Once again, thank you for your prayerful support since the beginning of my illness and please be assured of my own prayers for you.



To find Beaded Armour on facebook simply scan the QR code on the left with the camera function on your phone.



Red Wednesday awareness

Millions of Christians and people of other faiths are being persecuted simply because they peacefully profess a religious belief.



Between Wednesday 20 to Wednesday 27 November, we joined the rest of the world to stand up for our persecuted brothers and sisters by lighting St Michael's Cathedral red.

Celebrating 150 years of gathering and praying together at St Patrick's Church Albury

On a glorious sunny Sunday, 27th November 2022, and 150 years since its first blessing and opening, St Patrick's Church Albury was filled with four hundred joyful parishioners and visitors to celebrate its sesquicentenary.

BY DR ROSEMARY FARRELL

St Patrick's Church building was consecrated on 24 November 1872 by Dr Michael McAlroy, Parish Priest (PP). It took two years to build from locally made bricks and quarried granite for the facade.

Bishop Mark Edwards from Wagga Wagga celebrated Mass with Fr Henry Ibe (PP) and Fr Marco Killingsworth. The family of four

Lee brothers and their father Sean formed a choir, conducted by Ben Wilson, that led the congregation. James Flores was the organist who, the night before, had performed with Anthony Lee in an organ and vocal solos commemorative concert in the Church.

This Mass was a celebration of the physical beauty of St Patrick's Church and all the people who have prayed



Cutting the cake: Fr Marco Killingsworth, Bishop Mark Edwards, Fr Henry Ibe (PP).



St Patrick's Church, 551 Smollett St, Albury.



Inside St Patrick's Church Albury.

and received the sacraments there. It was also an acknowledgement of the many donations given and the care parishioners have taken in maintaining, restoring and renovating the structure for future generations.

A commemorative plaque at the Church was unveiled and blessed

by Bishop Mark before lunch for one hundred and sixty people was served in the parish hall. Wassim Saliba, from La Maison Restaurant, donated his time and expertise to organise the catering and cook the

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

hot food for the event. Bernadette Owen organised the many volunteers who made salads and slices, served food and packed up. The special commemorative chocolate cake came from Thurgoona Bakery. John Garrett was the MC and he created a slide show of the history of the Church and parish. John Paul Sweeney played traditional Irish music on his fiddle. Dr Rosemary Farrell gave a short history talk of the Church building based on Howard Jones' 1997 book that was commissioned for the 125th anniversary of St Patrick's Church and updated to the present day.

Some important features of St Patrick's Church are: The burial site, headstone and commemorative plaque of Dr Michael McAlroy, (PP)1868-1880, who conceived and oversaw the building of St Patrick's Church. The forty-two stained-glass and painted windows, created by John Falconer, Australia's first stained-glass artist. They are listed on the Registry of the National Trust as the largest cycle of his work. In 1979 an Aboriginal design stained glass window was installed on the western wall. The Italian Carrara marble high altar that contains the relics of two



Sam, Grace and baby Evangeline Morey with Bishop Mark.

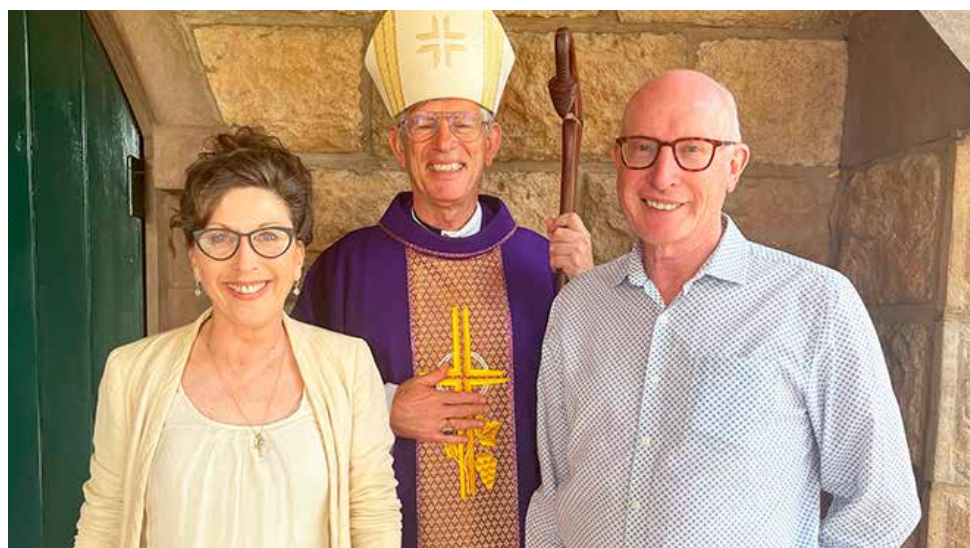
martyred saints, St Fidelis (1577-1622) and St Restitute. The ornate original pipes from the 1892 Fincham and Hobday organ preserved in the choir gallery with its decorative wrought iron balcony. The restored baptistery at the back of the Church.

St Patrick's Church replaced St Brigid's Church and the schoolroom that opened in 1858. At the website, stpatricksalbury.org.au you can take a virtual tour of the church and read a more detailed history.

Thank you to everyone for coming.



Margaret Foyle, Stephanie Anyanwu, Bishop Mark, Trish Dean, Chloe and Ashley Anyanwu.



Rosemary and Patrick Farrell with Bishop Mark Edwards.

Fundraiser for women raises \$100,000 in one day

Caritas Australia's "Women for the World" event brought Australians together to stand in solidarity with their sisters across the globe, raising \$106,000 in just one day for programs supporting women and girls.

BY CATHNEWS

Described by co-founder of the event Michelle Fernon as a "global sisterhood that crosses borders, connects communities and creates change". Women for the World highlights the need for continued focus on women's empowerment and rights, particularly in vulnerable communities.

The Sydney event on November 10 was attended by over 150 people including corporates, long-term supporters of Caritas Australia, board members and staff.

As a keynote speaker, Caritas

Australia chief executive Kirsty Robertson said: "Women for the World is truly an amazing initiative, together we get to cross borders, together we get to create lasting change in the lives of women throughout the world."

"Poverty definitely has a woman's face, in no country do women and men share exactly the same rights and women are still far more likely to live in poverty than men. We help women get an education, we help women access healthcare, and we help women have a voice. A voice



Women for the World event founders Michelle and Vincent Fernon at this year's function. (Caritas Australia/Aurora Sice)

is a powerful opportunity, one that we certainly take for granted here in Australia."

Acting country director for Caritas Australia in Papua New Guinea, Roslyn Kuniata, spoke about Caritas Australia's programs, including the Centre of Hope, a protection program

that provides safe shelter for women and children impacted by sexual and gender-based violence.

Donate to Caritas Australia's Women for the World at:

<https://www.womenfortheworld.org.au/donate/>

A reflection from Jane Plum, Diocesan Director of Wagga

Earlier this year I had the opportunity to work with students in Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Wagga Wagga.

BY JANE PLUM

I challenged them to consider our responsibility in looking after the world we live in, this amazing world with enough resources for everyone and yet, many miss out.

As each person is made in God's image, we each have a God-given dignity. We must commit ourselves wholeheartedly to the good of all and stand in solidarity with our one human family both within our community and in the wider world. I was impressed by the cohesive nature of the classroom communities I visited and the mature way in which they responded to this challenge. Some students responded by speaking for Catholic Mission and the people in great need that we support, in their school or local parish. In a conversation I captured reflections of students from

Holy Spirit Primary School, Lavington.

Zed McPhee, reflecting on what students had shared when I visited the class earlier in the year to explore the concept of advocacy, said "It makes me think back to the Aboriginal referendum and how they weren't counted within the population. Their voice was not heard."

Emily Bullivant spoke of her experience of advocacy for families in Emdibir in Ethiopia saying, "It's hard for them to speak for themselves so they need others to speak for them. I wanted to do a good job because you're speaking for others, and you want to make it count because those in need are often not acknowledged. It feels good to know that you're being Christ-like and you're spreading the Word about



Jack Webb, Toby Harris, Zed McPhee, Mackenzie Anstis, Jamieson Comte and Emily Bullivant.

people a lot less fortunate than us.

Toby Harris took on the responsibility of spreading awareness of people who are a lot less fortunate than us. When asked what had stayed with him after speaking to students and staff at school he reflected on trying to get the point across that people are starving, they don't have access to a good education and they don't have the technology that we have available to us.

Jamieson Comte added to this saying, "It made me understand that some people are less fortunate than others and when they try to stand up for their country they aren't heard by the rest of the world. Which means I can listen to others who need help and put the message out there."

Mackenzie Anstis was grateful for the sense of empowerment she felt when she spoke about the hard times people of Emdibir in Ethiopia are going through. She explained how she can help them to be heard by telling their story to parents, grandparents, friends and family.

Jack Webb spoke of being "really nervous" about speaking at Holy Spirit

Church. "I practised a lot to prepare myself. The teachers told me I'd done a great job." He reflected, "When I spoke at Mass I felt good because I got to share the message of the people in Emdibir in Ethiopia, and I told the people at Mass how they could help support their goat farm." As an aside he added, "I also brought a friend along who goes to a public school, because he's going to a Xavier High School next year and he wanted to know what Mass was about." This left me wondering at the natural way in which students are drawn into God's Mission.

As we continued our conversation around the challenges they faced as they advocated for the people of Emdibir I was struck by the wisdom of these young people. I heard one speak with humility as he acknowledged, "You wouldn't actually know what they'd say because you aren't who they are. It's hard to understand how they would be feeling because you're not one on one with them." Another student added, "It's hard in a completely different country thousands of miles away, speaking a different language, to really understand what they're going through."

These students are an example of the many students across the system of Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Wagga Wagga who, Inspired by the message and actions of Jesus Christ, reflect His' understanding when He said "I have come that they may have life and have it to the full." (Jn 10:10)

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Vinnies youth is growing

We are thrilled to see that more young people are looking for different ways to help in our community.

BY ANA SUAREZ

Not only did we welcome Henschke Primary School Mini Vinnies group last month, but Vinnies Youth participated for the first time at the Wagga Wagga Show having a stall hosted by our young members.

After nearly 3 years of Covid and many events and initiatives canceled, we are proud and very excited to see an increase in youth participation within Vinnies. Mini Vinnies, Secondary Schools and Youth Conferences are a very important part of St Vincent De Paul Society. These young people have the opportunity to make a big change and work to make a more just and compassionate world.

Henschke Primary School has joined Vinnies Youth recently. The school has been supporting our Winter and Christmas appeals for

years. It's students are compassionate, caring and very committed to help the people in need and become advocates within their school and local community. They decided to start a Mini Vinnies Conference at their school with the support of their wonderful R.E Co ordinator Ms Lesley Quinlivan. Henschke Mini Vinnies are passionate about social justice, fundraising activities to help those in need and developing strong leadership skills.

Meanwhile, St Sebs Youth Conference has been working hard to get more young people involved. Vinnies Youth was for the first time at the Wagga Wagga show. It was great to engage with our local community, see what is needed, how we could help and show that Vinnies is much more than our shops.



There is so much more to come next year. Vinnies is really committed with having more youth presence not only in Wagga Wagga but in the region. We cannot wait to have more schools and young adults on board. Great things will happen!

If you want to be part of Vinnies Youth please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Email Ana Suarez at ana.mariasm86@vinnies.org.au or phone 0417 245 531



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The restoration of the world's only Greenstone Church

St's Peter & Paul Church in Goulburn recently celebrated their 150 year anniversary as well as the completion of a \$12 million restoration that began in 1982.

BY FR TONY PERCY

We've done it. We've restored the 'only greenstone Church in the world.' We've done it.

It was Tim Fischer, God love him, former deputy Prime Minister of Australia – and one of the most decent human beings you'd ever want to meet – who said to me, in the presence of Ursula Stephens:

Keep repeating it over and over again; it's the 'only greenstone Church in the world.'

So, I repeat, 'it's the only greenstone church in the world.'

When I saw the finished restoration of Sts. Peter & Paul, I started to weep.

I began to think of all the people who have been part of this journey of restoration – and I was simply overwhelmed with joy and thanksgiving.

We are part of something much bigger than ourselves.

The glorious greenstone was quarried just outside of the city on Bungonia Road and is estimated to be 440 million years old!

We can feel the creative act of God, our Father, whose Son enters our world to love, save and heal us.

Furthermore, he breathes on us the Holy Spirit, beautifully depicted in the subtle stain glass windows, and now a

bronze dove hovering over the baptismal font where faith is first aroused.

We are witnesses to four phases of Sts. Peter & Paul. The building of it, the structural restoration of it, the beautification of it, its development as a pre-eminent place of pilgrimage.

The Building of Sts. Peter & Paul

The first public Mass was celebrated in Australia in 1803.

The Archdiocese of Sydney established in 1834, followed by Melbourne in 1847 and Goulburn Diocese in 1862 – a year before Goulburn was declared a city in 1863.

The first Bishop appointed never made it due to throat cancer – it seems.

Bishop Lanigan made it here in 1867, and it was he who commissioned the 'only greenstone church in the world.'

The foundation stone was laid in February 1871, the nave of the Church finished in 1872, then followed the transepts, sanctuary and tower in 1887-1890.

Andrea Stombuco was appointed architect. Born in Florence around 1820, the Victorian goldrush attracted him to the Great South Land of the Holy Spirit.

He was described as 'stylishly extravagant – a lavish entertainer, a gambler, fond of music and the good life.'



(From Left) Chris Uhlmann, Fr Brian Lucas and Fr Tony Percy.

Not so Bishop Lanigan.

Patrick Hartigan – known as John O'Brien – wrote of him:

William Lanigan was a man who had no jollity in his makeup, and could not appreciate it in others.

He was an exemplary priest, a great missionary, and proved a successful Bishop, but all the same, he was the dourest and sourest ecclesiastic in the Australian Church.

Lanigan was followed by Bishop John Gallagher, a highly intelligent man, deeply loved by his people. It was he who developed the orphanages and St. John of God Hospital. It is said that when he entered the city on horseback to take up commission as third Bishop in 1900, 10,000 people lined the streets.

The Structural Restoration

Father Laurie Blake began the structural restoration in 1982. I call them the 'dark days.' So much was being done to save the building, but no one could

see the fruit of this most important work.

Father Laurie was a native of Goulburn and we should seek his intercession in the Communion of Saints for the flourishing of faith and most especially the paying down of the debt.

The Beautification

The Year 2022 has seen the total restoration of the building, both inside and out.

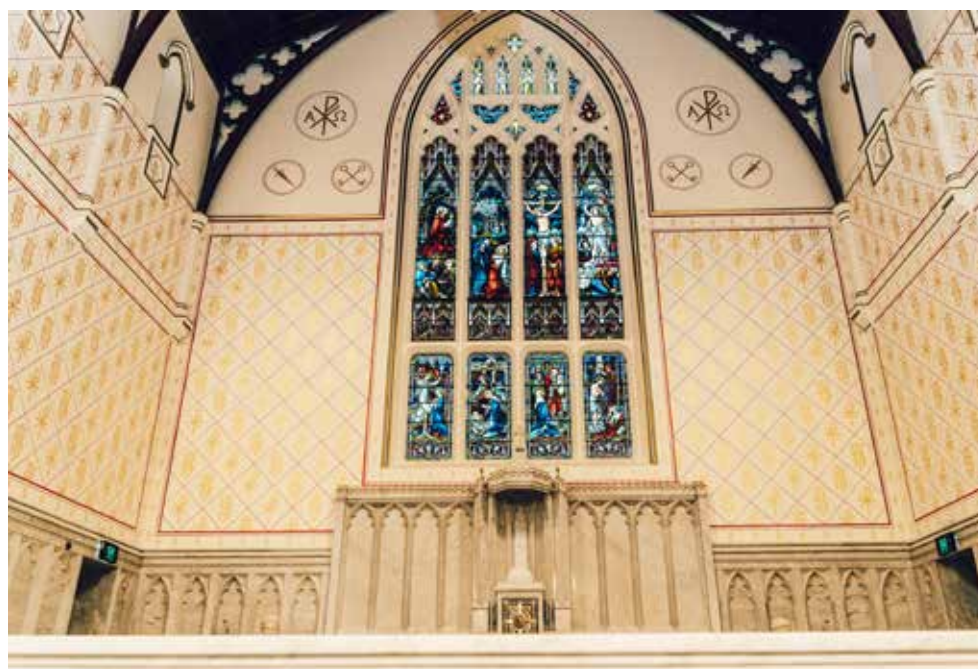
It is a triumph of creativity, hard work, professionalism, co-operation, perseverance, and, not surprisingly, \$9million!

What we have here is something truly splendid for the city, the Archdiocese, the country, the world.

They say that renewal in communities is achieved with:

- Good Community
- Good Teaching and Preaching
- Good Music

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In other words, an experience of love, an experience of truth, an experience of beauty.

Sts. Peter & Paul now offers a unique opportunity for people to have an abiding and transforming experience of beauty.

The building itself is very handsome, especially now that the surrounds have been attended to.

The stain glass windows are delightful. The floor is spectacular. The Ambo, the Altar, the Tabernacle are world class.

The restored French Stations of the Cross take your breath away.

Surely the Baptismal arrangement is going to heighten the dignity and call of

the laity, called as you are 'to be light to the world, salt of the earth' (Matthew 5).

Place of Pilgrimage

The word 'pilgrim' comes from the Latin word peregrinus, and it means foreigner or stranger.

Whether we like it or not, our lives, as beautiful as they are, will end.

Our faith sensibly encourages us not to get too comfortable here, but rather to see our life as a pilgrimage – as foreigners or strangers – to the eternal Father.

Pilgrims to Sts. Peter & Paul will have their desires satisfied and deepened.

We are living at an opportune time. Pope Francis says that it is not so much an 'era of change, as a change of era.'

History is our witness that profound

spiritual renewal accompanies such moments.

Secularism – i.e., a world without God – is tangible and aggressive. We know this. It's been like this since Adam was a boy.

But the 'secular bubble' is burst by people of faith – and might I add, reason.

The classic definition of faith comes from Hebrews 11:

Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the conviction of things unseen.

People will come on pilgrimage to Sts. Peter & Paul and find Christ in the Eucharist, in the Sacrament of Penance, in being silent and still, in praying the rosary or parts of it, by moving around the stations of the cross, entering into the

heart of Christ, who is not dead, but alive – well and truly alive.

It may be that when they light a candle in front of the Sacred Heart, or Mary Protector of Families, or St. Joseph or St. Patrick they encounter the love of Christ, receive a special grace for their suffering and sorrow, be given new impetus to 'put one foot in front of the other' amidst the trials and tribulations of life.

This is our fourth phase, and the most important one, as we journey deeper into the 21st Century.

To repeat, I am deeply joyful and grateful to every single one of you, who had anything to do with this profoundly divine, and deeply human, work of restoration.

Allocutio

"Just have faith" (Mk 5:36)

BY FR. PAUL CHURCHILL

These are challenging words both in the order of nature and of grace.

For example, Covid-19 has shown how nature can throw a spanner in our works and upset our path. In the order of grace we seem to be in a world that has, in many places, become immune to God's reality and the value of knowing Christ Jesus.

Practice has collapsed and, in many regions, older Christians don't know how to respond to the new reality of non-faith and non-practice.

In the midst of it all we could end up getting despondent, panicking, fretting, being led a merry dance by anxiety.

How often, though, have we heard Our Lord say do not be afraid, trust! And how often did he call us just to have faith, with himself showing the deepest faith through his ultimate trial, accompanied in a similar faith by his mother, a faith we have indirectly celebrated in recent

days through the feast of her sorrows.

What seems clear to me is that we listen again to those words of Our Lord: just have faith. Even a little faith can change things hugely. Just to give one example a youngish lady asked me in public would I hear her confession which I agreed to. That led to an older person who had overheard her request, ask me to hear his confession, his first in years! What Our Lord is saying to us at this moment is simply to trust. Why? Because the hand of God is bigger than the worst that we humans can sink to and in the end he will always win out as the journey of God's people has shown at both a collective level but also in the lives of many inspiring individuals who lived through many dark moments.

Part of the world has opted for another way: we can save ourselves, we don't need God. Except that time and time

again we are being told that some other power is so much more powerful than we are. How many people die untimely and suddenly? How many natural destructive events remind us that nothing is stable? So many examples are showing us that we always need God's help And with people so fickle and any leader capable of making a serious mistake can we rely on the world we live in?

I can hear so many phrases from the psalms that speak to me. Let me take one:

"Put no trust in horses, in mortal men in whom there is no help. Why so?

Because "Take their breadth, they return to clay and their plans that day come to nothing!" And for how many people has this turned out the way? You win the lotto and think you can now relax. But as Our Lord pointed out in his parable of the farmer with the big harvest who thinks he is safe: God will call your soul to himself this night. None of us knows what tomorrow will bring. All we can do is go forward leaving everything to trust in God's hands.

What our world needs now is a simple but total witness of faith. God is the final boss and our small world with its petty self-interests at work cannot overcome the greater powers of God. So even though we be surrounded by a host of challenges at so many levels, let us stay calm, trusting God and witnessing by our calm dignity based on faith, standing as an alternative to a world that is ruled by panic and anxiety and over-reaction to the latest developments.

And here let me say a word about how valuable prayer is. Just to stop and take time out for prayer is a major statement

in itself. By it we are saying that God is the real boss, that we depend on him, that all the drama of life and its strategies are not the only things that exist. But more, once we step out of the frenetic race of human driven activities, we begin to open doors for God to do his work.

To make space for God to come in allows for new possibilities which often always achieve better results.

In the final prayer of the Tessera we pray that we have a faith "firm and immovable as a rock, through which we shall rest tranquil and steadfast amid the crosses, toils and disappointments of life". A simple trust in God that he is the boss and will win, that because he loves us all will be well, such faith can also help our blood pressure and our health. And here let me ask a question: do you really believe that God loves you. You are here because he chose you and delights in you and supports you the whole way.

People need to see credible witnesses to faith today. They need the witness of people who opt to trust God and who do indeed rest tranquil and steadfast in the midst of life's trials and so do not resort to ways of survival that do harm to others or themselves.

So let us go bravely forward with faith as Our Lady did at the Annunciation even though she knew she could not foresee the future. But blessed indeed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled even in her darkest hour on Calvary. **May she who knows what true faith is about and has triumphed by it, win us all God's Spirit to help us become people of outstanding faith. Amen.**



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

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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.

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Class of '91 reunion

Trinity Senior Highschool recently had their 30 year reunion and visited the Mt Erin Heritage Centre with Sister Alexis.

In attendance were Gemma Wilson, Susan Kimber, Anna Cooney, Suzi Boyton, Colleen English, Alex Reardon and Ros Cowell.



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Archbishop Mark Coleridge appointed to Caritas Australia Board

Most Reverend Archbishop Mark Coleridge of Brisbane has been formally appointed to the Board of Caritas Australia and began his tenure on 22 November.

Most Reverend Archbishop Mark Coleridge of Brisbane has been formally appointed to the Board of Caritas Australia. On November 22 he led the Caritas Australia staff and volunteers in a Blessing of the organisation's new Sydney office in Mascot.

The event included a Welcome to Country by Auntie Maxine Ryan, before Archbishop Coleridge led the organisation in prayer, before

Blessing the office space.

"Caritas Australia welcomes Archbishop Coleridge with a sense of gratitude that someone with his depth of experience will grace us with his guidance and wisdom. I personally look forward to being able to work closely with him as we journey towards our vision of a world where all may thrive," said Kirsty Robertson, Caritas Australia's CEO.

"Archbishop Coleridge will be

instrumental in building on the successes of our past and supporting us as we continue to implement our ten-year strategic vision."

During his time as President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, Archbishop Coleridge oversaw the Fifth Plenary Council discussions in July 2022 which brought First Australians' recognition and identity to the forefront of discussions.

Archbishop Coleridge will begin his tenure on the Board on November 22, 2022, when he will lead the Caritas Australia staff and volunteers in a Blessing of the organisation's new Sydney office in Mascot.

"I am delighted to be welcomed onto the Caritas Australia Board," said Archbishop Coleridge.

"Project Compassion has always been close to my heart, and I've always appreciated the way that Caritas Australia helps to unite our Church community through our shared faith, and to strengthen our connection with dioceses, parishes and schools across the country."

"This year has proved to be very challenging for communities



Most Reverend Archbishop Mark Coleridge.

worldwide, with war, political upheaval, famine and an increasing number of natural disasters. Through these times of darkness, we make our own the words of the Psalm: 'my God in whom I trust' (Psalm 91).

"Caritas Australia provides the Catholic community in Australia the opportunity to put the Gospel into action through compassion and generosity. Over the past few years, the great compassion of Catholic people in Australia has been humbling and heart-warming. That's why, I look forward to being part of Caritas Australia's future."



Archbishop Mark Coleridge leads Blessing of Caritas Australia's new office on his first day.

All Saints' Day in Tumbarumba

An American version of Halloween keeps creeping into Australian homes year by year: an evening during which children are encouraged to dress up in scary and ghoulish costumes threatening to trick unless they are treated by those they visit.

BY FR. BRANCIK

How did the eve of All Saints Day [All Hallows' Eve] come to this?

Surely children would be better served if encouraged to imitate their favourite saint? Dressing themselves in saintly modest clothing in order to inspire virtue in those they meet? Teaching them to treat others as they would like to be treated, instead of threatening trickery unless treated well?

The solemn feast of All Saints is only one such occasion in the Church's calendar when we can imbibe children with the desire to emulate the holiness of countless men and women who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith.

These difficult times are not rendered any less

difficult by teaching our children customs which focus on death and fear. We should rather be enlightening our children with the radiant examples of the saints who were and still are the "light of the world and the salt of the earth." [Mt 5:13-16]

We are indeed blessed in the Parish of All Saints to be able to enlighten our children with the lives of the saints on this particular feast as well as sanctify them with the administration of the Sacrament of Confirmation and First Holy Communion as happened recently. Bishop EDWARDS ensured that the children understood the significance of being anointed with hallowed oil [Sacred Chrism] with the consequent outpouring of the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit: the best way to achieve holiness! This last Sunday before All Saints' Day was a holy day indeed.

May the solemn feast of All Saints be encouraged throughout the diocese. **May it be seen as an excellent opportunity to present the best role models for our children: a presentation of saints to those whom we wish to be saints!**



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Urgent need to address the abuse of Australian women

St Vincents De Paul Society showed their support by strongly endorsing the *International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women* on Friday 25 November.

With a history of assisting many people experiencing or at risk of domestic and family violence the St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia strongly endorses the *International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women*.

‘One in six women aged 18 or over has experienced physical or sexual abuse before the age of 15, however, the true prevalence of physical and sexual violence against women is likely to be higher as we know that many incidents go unreported,’ National President Ms Claire Victory said.

‘The home should be a safe place but one in four Australian women has experienced intimate partner violence since the age of 15 and the most common location where these incidents occur is in the home.

‘Indigenous women are up to 33 times more likely to be hospitalised as a result of family violence than non-Indigenous

women.

‘This is deeply distressing for the women affected and harmful long-term for the children who witness these acts.

‘Indeed, of women who had children in their care when they experienced violence from an ex-partner, 68 per cent reported that the children had seen or heard the violence.

‘Around Australia our members assist women experiencing or at risk of domestic and family violence. They do this by providing emergency relief, crisis accommodation and help with the basics such as clothing, finance and furniture.

‘Attempting to leave a relationship is a time of heightened risk of violence and often of financial hardship.

‘The Society is dedicated to assisting women in these situations as well as advocating for policies that can help reduce unacceptable levels of violence.

‘The Society welcomes the release



of the National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032 and the development of a stand-alone National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women and their Children.

‘In her statement to the House this week The Hon Amanda Rishworth MP, Minister for Social Services called the National Plan a blueprint for a whole-of-society approach to end violence

against women and children within a generation.

‘We commend the Government’s commitment to end violence against women and the Minister’s acknowledgement that it is everyone’s responsibility to address the gendered dimensions that drive family, domestic and sexual violence,’ Ms Victory said.



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Over 50,000 displaced in the wake of Indonesian earthquake

Caritas agencies are responding after over 50,000 people were displaced in the wake of the magnitude 5.6 earthquake that struck Indonesia.

The earthquake killed over 260 people, many of them school children, and injured over 1,000.

It is the deadliest earthquake in Indonesia since the 2018 Sulawesi earthquake and tsunami and has left extensive damage to buildings including schools, a mosque, boarding school, government office and thousands of homes.

The earthquake was so strong that it was felt in Jakarta, more than 75km away. Warnings have been issued to residents in the affected areas for potential hazards such as landslides and flash floods.

Caritas Australia's partners are responding to support communities who require immediate assistance and assessing the most urgent needs of people impacted by the earthquake including medical services, emergency shelters, sleeping supplies, clean water and food.

While a 5.6 magnitude earthquake would typically be expected to cause only light damage to buildings and other structures, this earthquake caused significant damage and loss of life in Indonesia.

"Inadequate infrastructure can mean that buildings that are not earthquake-proof are at risk of collapsing. At least 80 schools suffered damage during the

earthquake and many of the casualties were children attending school," said Damaris Pfendt, Caritas Australia's Humanitarian Emergencies Lead.

"The damage is extensive. The pictures our partners in Indonesia are showing us are of great concern. We need to respond to the immediate need right away, but there will also be a long recovery process."

Indonesia is located on the Ring of Fire, an arc of volcanoes and fault lines in the Pacific Ocean, where many volcanic eruptions and earthquakes occur. Indonesia records thousands of earthquakes every year, but most are minor and do not lead to casualties.

However, in recent years there have been several deadly earthquakes that have struck Indonesia. In February this year, a magnitude 6.2 earthquake killed at least 25 people and injured more than 460.

Caritas Australia's partners are collaborating with local governments, trusted partners, and Churches to assess the needs on the ground and deliver emergency relief in the hardest-hit regions. One of the local Caritas offices, in the Diocese of Bogor, has been providing emergency food for affected families and humanitarian workers at the Parish of St. Peter, Cianjur.



Laz Harfa, one of Caritas Australia's partners in Indonesia, responding to the earthquake.

**Visit caritas.org.au
or call 1800 024 413
toll free to provide much
needed support
to Indonesia by donating
to our Asia Emergency
Appeal.**



Where does my donation go?

The funds raised through this appeal will be used to provide immediate and longer-term humanitarian assistance to communities affected by crises in Indonesia. If any funds remain after a crisis, or if there are changes in circumstances beyond our control which limit our ability to use the funds, they are kept in the Asia Regional Appeal so that we can respond to ongoing development needs and future crises in the region.



Laz Harfa, one of Caritas Australia's partners in Indonesia, responding to the earthquake.



Earthquake destruction.

Wagga's first blue plaque honours Sisters of the Little Company of Mary for establishing Calvary Hospital

The blue plaque just outside the entrance of the Calvary Hospital may be small, but the story it represents is one of huge compassion - driven by an incredible faith.

BY MONTY JACKA - The Daily Advertiser

The Sisters of the Little Company of Mary have been officially recognised through the NSW government's blue plaque program for their work establishing a hospital inside Wagga's Foxborough Hall in 1926.

Originally starting as a makeshift operation inside the two-storey home, the hospital upgraded over the years before eventually moving to its current site and being renamed the Calvary Hospital.

Sister Carmel Byrne said she was delighted to see the plaque put in place to recognise the work of her predecessors.

"We live in such a changing world and I think the past can be easily forgotten," Sister Byrne said.

"They had almost nothing but faith and the importance of keeping this story alive in this rapidly changing secular age is vital."

Following its installation the new plaque was blessed by Mark Edwards, the Bishop of the Wagga Catholic Diocese.

Calvary Hospital general manager Greg Brylski said the original Sisters who formed the hospital left behind a legacy of healing, stewardship, respect



Calvary Hospital general manager Greg Brylski, Bishop Mark Edwards with Sisters Carmel Byrne, Lois Woodcock and Monica Whelan. Picture by Madeline Begley

and hospitality.

He said the hospital looks to embed those values into the culture of the organisation and the community to this day.

The plaque is one of the first 17 to be installed as part of the NSW government program, which recognises extraordinary people and events from the state's history.



The Little Company of Mary's founding sisters at the Calvary Riverina Hospital in the 1930s. File picture.



Foxborough Hall, the site of the original hospital and the residence of the Sisters. Image courtesy of Calvary Riverina Hospital archive.



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

For more information about making contributions to Together or to submit your article contact us at:
together@wagga.catholic.org.au

Project of the Month: December

This month help support Sisters in Bulgaria.

The contemplative religious sisters are devoted entirely to a life of prayer as they bring the needs of the whole world before God. But despite their modest lifestyle, it is not easy for them to support themselves, given their contemplative life in the seclusion of the cloister. ACN is therefore supporting contemplative religious sisters all over the world, including the discalced Carmelite sisters in the Bulgarian capital Sofia.

During the communist era the Church was oppressed, her properties confiscated, her priests, religious and ordinary faithful subject to a bitter persecution. Only the churches themselves, plus a 2 metre wide strip around them, were allowed to be retained by the Church. For these Carmelite nuns, there was no other option than to live, for the next 40 years, squeezed together with the Holy Eucharist Sisters, in the choir loft of their convent church. Some of the sisters were even arrested and interrogated. But the communists were unable to break their vocation or their deep faith. Following the collapse of communism, the old Carmelite convent in Sofia was able to be restored and rebuilt, thanks to the support of ACN and our generous benefactors. Today the convent has become a spiritual centre where many of the Catholic faithful come for Holy Mass and the

Divine Office. And there is also a great demand for retreat days and spiritual exercises.

Today there are eight nuns living in the Sophia Carmel – from Bulgaria, Slovakia, and Croatia – following the traditional contemplative lifestyle of Saint Teresa of Avila and Saint John of the Cross. Much of their day is devoted to prayer – including the Divine Office and silent contemplation. At the same time, in order to at least partly support themselves, the sisters produce handcrafted items and paint religious icons – an activity that accords well with their contemplative lifestyle. In the future they are planning to add other activities, such as host baking and bookbinding, to help cover the extremely high running costs of the convent. There are also guest rooms for those attending the retreats, which help bring in a little additional revenue. But, above all in these harsh economic times, such things are nowhere near enough to cover even the modest needs of the community. In particular, the heating costs and the price of medical treatment represent a heavy financial burden. So this year we are once again helping the Carmelite sisters – with a promised contribution of \$6000 AUD.

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



Little Drops of Water began in the mind of a little girl named Anna in 2014. Naturally inquisitive, she asked her parents many questions about the Catholic faith and wanted to understand each saint and their story. Anna's parents wanted a way to help make the faith educational and engaging. With her father's help the first saint drawings were brought to life and the Little Drops of Water figurines were born.

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Wetland Renovation

Hello ErinEarth family! With this article, I'd like to extend a warm welcome to you all into the garden to see our newly renovated wetland.

BY ELTAN MESTAN

If you've been to the garden in the past, you may have seen the old wetland. Unfortunately, it was no longer holding water. Thanks to a generous Natural Environment grant from the Wagga Wagga City Council, we have been able to redesign our wetland. What was originally one medium sized pond is now a dynamic design of three smaller ponds that flow into each other as they fill. To begin the renovation of the area, the base of the old pond was dug out and removed by Wagga Excavations. New clay was then brought in to re-shape and re-seal the ponds. Water plants and river stone pebbles were

donated by some of our volunteers to establish the wetland as a diverse habitat for native flora and fauna. Recent rains have filled up the wetland and the whole system is looking great. We noticed frog spawn in the ponds after only two rains. On close inspection, the ponds are already teeming with life. School groups visiting ErinEarth have enjoyed hunting for tadpoles, water bugs and dragonfly larvae. We would love to share the space with you and our new froggy residents.

Happy gardening everyone.



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.



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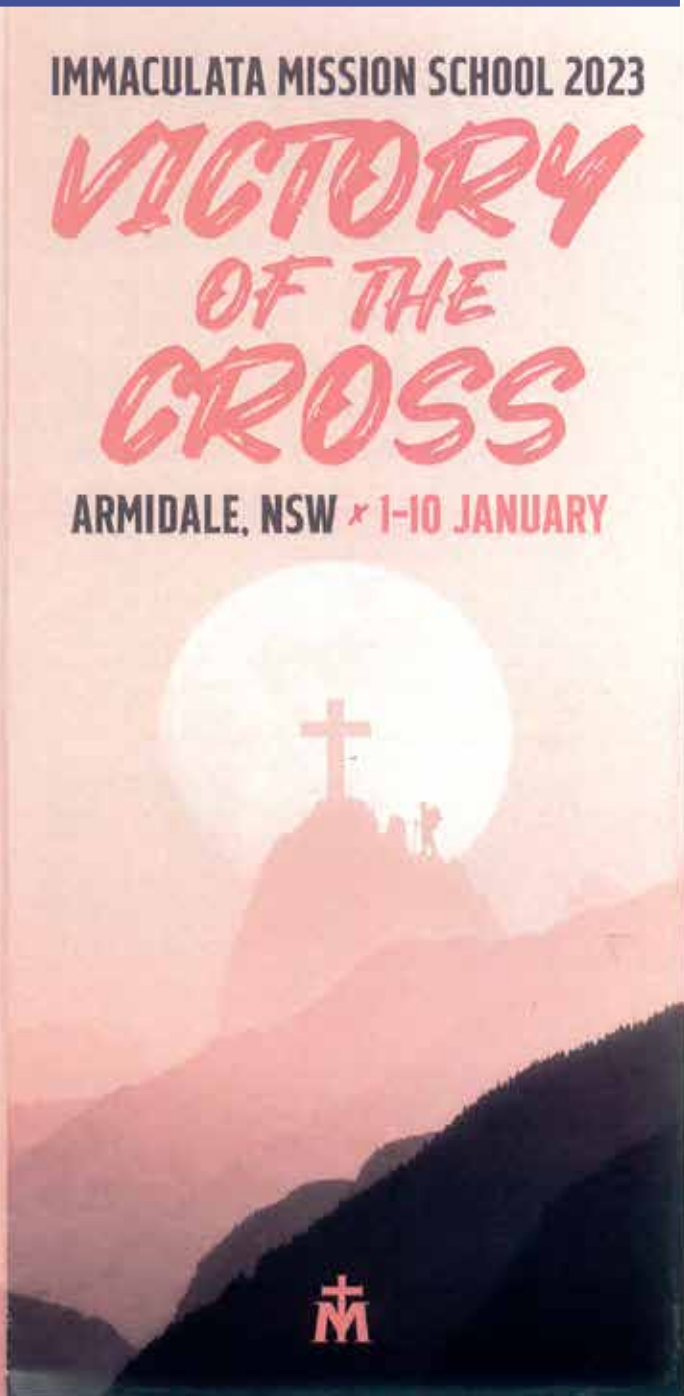
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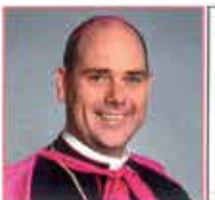
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FR. DRAKE MCCALISTER
DIOCESE OF STEUBENVILLE, OHIO

Fr. Drake McCalister is the Coordinator of the Catechetical Practicum for the Office of Catechetics at Franciscan University and Parochial Vicar at Holy Family Church in Steubenville, Ohio. In addition to his work at Franciscan, Drake has worked for years with RCIA, youth ministry, catechist formation, along with writing and speaking. Previously, Drake was a Pentecostal pastor in the Foursquare Church for 13 years (1991-2004), but after five years of study, prayer, and reluctance, he resigned his pastorate and brought his wife and three daughters home to the Catholic Church on December 12, 2004 (Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe). Drake and his wife Crystal now have five daughters. Drake was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Steubenville on December 19, 2019.

To read more about how this is possible, visit thattheymaybeone.org.



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IMS has been the most impactful part of my faith journey. It was the light-bulb moment in my faith and the place where I first felt God's presence and I felt that I am a daughter of God.

First Holy Communion



Harriet Moloney, Harvey McFarlane and Annabelle Sandral recently completed their First Holy Communion at St Columba's Catholic Church in Oaklands with Fr Peter Thompson.



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Roof repairs

St Michael's Cathedral had some repairs done to it's roof on 24 November. Thank you Matt Humphrey for capturing the crane in action.



Paul Vitz: Psychological Mythbuster

Paul Vitz was a visionary for his time in confronting and mythbusting humanistic psychology amidst 'a tsunami of humanistic adulation.

American psychologist, Paul Vitz, was a pioneer critic of the ‘me, me, me’ generation and humanistic psychology which flourished alongside it. He stands out because of the cultural, psychological and spiritual depth of his critique. Mythbusters are rare and Vitz is a mythbuster par excellence, tearing apart several generations of selfism with insight, wisdom and wit. Other critiques came much later. He saw it all at the time.

This book takes the reader on a journey into the life and thought of a rare thinker, a questioner of ideological sacred cows, and one of the most original and gifted psychologists of the past century.

Paul Vitz was a visionary for his time in confronting and mythbusting humanistic psychology amidst ‘a tsunami of humanistic adulation.’ This book gives perceptive insights into Vitz's thought and times. Well worth reading!

– Catherine MacLaurin, Psychologist, Senior Wellbeing Advisor (SWA), Health and Safety Directorate, NSW Department of Education and Training, Australia

The American psychologist, Paul Vitz, has been a remarkably prescient and courageous critic of the humanist psychology movement, headlined by Carl Rogers. In this book, Wanda Skowronska has provided a thorough and convincing account of Vitz's work. Her book deserves a wide readership.

– Colin Patterson STD, Dean and Permanent Fellow of the former John Paul II Institute, Melbourne, Australia.

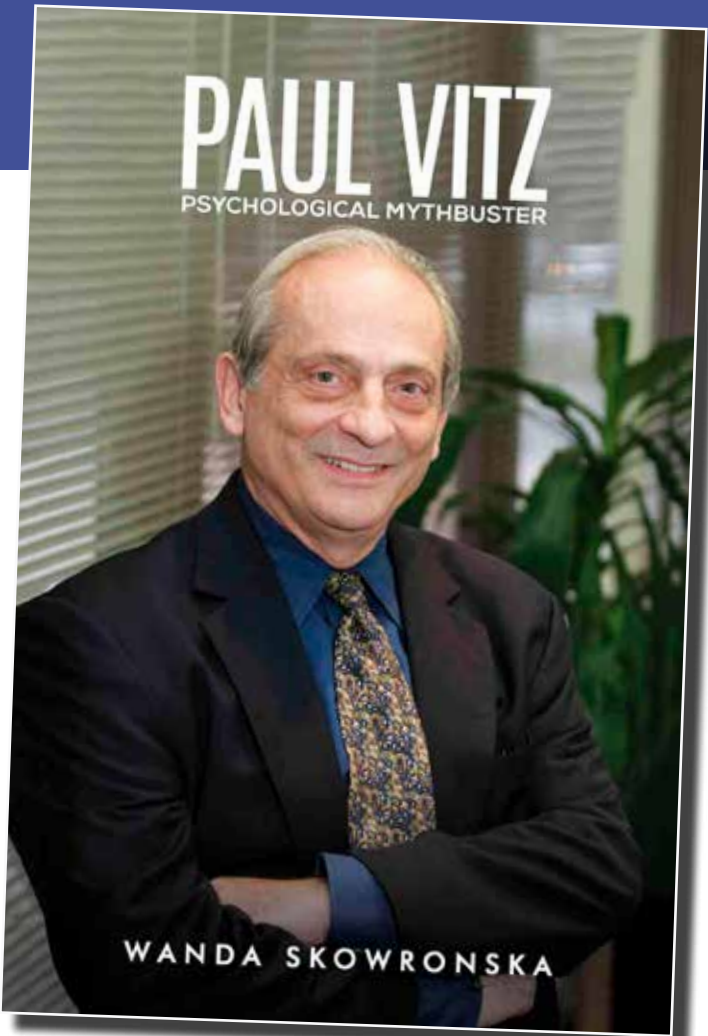
In her book, Wanda Skowronska masterfully

narrates the philosophical, theological, and historical context of the development of humanistic psychology, especially that of Carl Rogers, through the lens of Paul C. Vitz's life and publications. This work critiques the influences of contemporary psychology's humanistic origins of self-fulfilment theories and cultural Marxism and honours the lifelong work of Paul Vitz, who is undoubtedly one of the most significant Catholic psychologists of our times.

– Professor Craig Steven Titus, S.Th.D./ Ph.D. Divine Word University, USA.

A few words from Wanda about her latest book:

Psychologist Paul Vitz is a remarkable figure in the history of Christian psychology generally. He saw through the humanistic hype which had lured so many last century, at a time when others were entranced by it. In taking on Carl Rogers, the founder of humanistic psychology Vitz confronted the most influential counseling psychologist in the latter half of the twentieth century. Vitz's critique was the first sustained one issuing from a Christian psychologist. He exposed its unclear assumptions, unjustified conclusions, and reductive vision of the human person. As such he integrated psychology with an understanding that the human person is a spiritual seeker. He rehabilitated the word 'soul'. Such psychological - and cultural - mythbusters are rare.'



About Dr. Wanda Skowronska, PhD:

Wanda Skowronska is a Catholic psychologist and author living and working mainly in Sydney. She writes for several periodicals, being a regular contributor to the Australian Catholic journal Annals Australasia. She completed a PhD in 2011 at the John Paul II Institute in Melbourne, where she has done sessional lecturing. She published the first compilation of Australian conversion stories, Catholics from Down Under and All Over (2015) and is about to publish, through Connor Court publishers, a book on 1960s Catholic schooldays entitled Incense, Angels and Revolution.



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TOGETHER DECEMBER 2022

Centacare South West NSW



TAKING CARE OF YOUR MENTAL HEALTH

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

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

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

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

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



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

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



OUR GENERALIST COUNSELLING SERVICES

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

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



PARENTING & CHILDREN

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

Parent Education & Coaching

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

Individual Parenting Support

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

Family Group Conferencing

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

Children & Youth Support Services

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KIDS corner

SAINTS FUN FACTS

by John Sheppard

St. John Joseph of the Cross was born near Naples. He was a Franciscan and founded several convents and monasteries. He is known for his humility and religious discipline. He also possessed numerous gifts of the supernatural order, among them prophesy and miracles.



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Saint John of the Cross



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!



DECEMBER SAINTS & FEAST DAYS

Word Search

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

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

St. Francis **Xavier**

St. **Nicholas**

St. **Ambrose**

Feast of the **Immaculate**
Conception

St. **Juan Diego**

Our Lady of **Guadalupe**

St. **Lucy**

St. John of the **Cross**

Nativity of the Lord

St. **Stephen**

St. **John**

Holy Innocents

St. **Thomas** Becket

Holy Family

St. **Sylvester** I



Family Advent Poster



Christmas Blessing from all of us at Virtue Ministry

What a year this has been – from beginning to turn the wheel once more after all the cancellations of the pandemic, to a second season of the podcast with overseas guests, through to a team expansion and opportunities to serve outside the diocese.

BY STINA CONSTANTINE

2022 has been nothing short of a blessing, and we can't wait to see what God has in store for us next year.

With only a few weeks to go, we are wrapping up our work for the year including the release of our final Interview for the year – Iconographer: Elizabeth Zelasko, who also shares a special gift with our donors on Patreon. With our final blog on the wisdom taken from 3 Japanese apes, and our speaking engagements, all completed for the year; It's time for us to take up the advent retreat (see our website for the retreat guide) in order to prepare

our hearts and minds for receive Jesus anew.

This month saw the last of our speaking engagements for the calendar year, a Leadership Day with all the School captains, and some of the boarding school, and colour house captains across the Secondary Schools in the Wagga Wagga Diocese. Catholic Education Office for the Diocese of Wagga Wagga, put on a day to help our new leaders to step into their new roles and make the most of the next 12 months. With a focus on Virtue, we were excited to be able to contribute to a short talk and questions on 'Virtues in Action:



Fortitude & Perseverance'. What an incredible group of young people, with so much enthusiasm and love for their School Community. It was wonderful to spend some time talking to the students at lunch where there surfaced both deep and vulnerable questions.

Congratulations to our new school leaders! We wish you all the best for the next 12 months – praying that as you practice fortitude you lean into discovering the hope that lets you grow through the challenges you

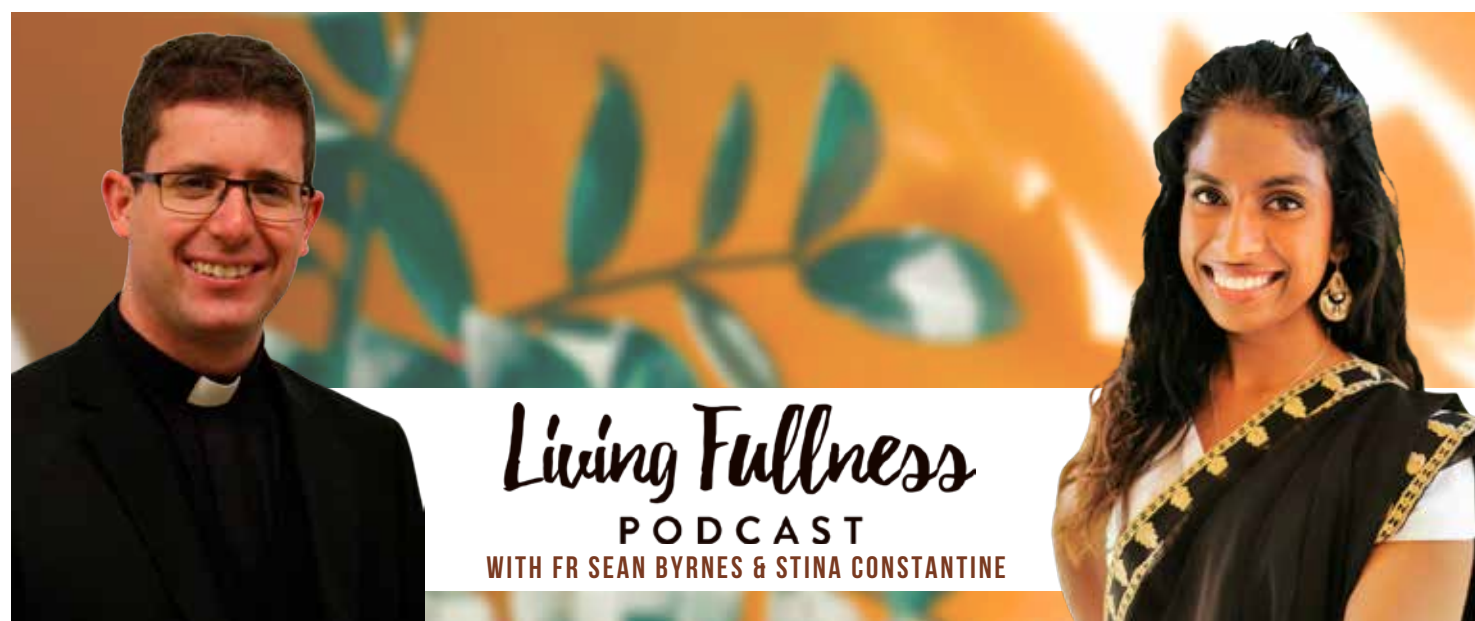
come to face.

Here at Virtue Ministry, we will now be taking a well-earned break up until February 2023 to both celebrate the achievements of this year, and also to rest and rejuvenate for another year of ministry to come. We have some fun announcements coming in the new year, so to stay updated on what they are and when we will return, make sure you're following our Social Media handles.

If we can serve at your next event – whether that is at a parish, conference or school – make contact with us to discuss the possibilities for 2023. Thank you for journeying the year with us, and we look forward to another chapter in the new year.

On behalf of all of us here at Virtue Ministry - We wish you and your loved ones a safe and Holy Christmas, and a very Happy New Year!

May the peace, joy, hope and love of this season remain with you always, especially as we begin a new year with new gifts to be received from above.



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Mater Dei Catholic College, Wagga Wagga



Year 10 Religious Education students recently made sausage rolls and quiches for Carevan Wagga as part of our Service to the Community focus. Other students have been making cards and decorations for Vinnies Riverina and The Loretto Home of Compassion.



St Joseph's Primary, Culcairn

St Joseph's Primary K/1/2 students enjoyed their World Festival of Magic Excursion. A big thank you to Ashleigh Park.



St Mary's Primary, Yoogali

Kinder and their Year 6 buddies worked together this afternoon to design, build, create AND code the path for Santa to travel on from the North Pole to Yoogali! We all had lots of fun and learnt many new tricks to code our Beebots.



All Saints Primary, Tumbarumba

K/1 Bike Safety Excursion. Whoops looks like someone got a ticket. The students love talking to guys from the highway patrol.



St Joseph's School, Junee



This morning we got to school to meet the newest additions to our chook pen: Marshmallow, choc chip, vanilla, snowflake and Oreo!



St Patrick's School, Albury



A big thank you to Tennis Australia! Every Kinder student in our school received a free Hot Shot Tennis Racquet and ball. Very excited children.



St Peter's Primary, Coleambally



Our Primary students working hard in the vegetable garden today during kitchen garden.



Mater Dei Primary, Wagga Wagga



Congratulations to Mater Dei Primary's 2023 Sports Captains. Bowyer: Liam & Olivia, Trinity: Stella & Isla, Plunkett: Rosie & Isabelle, Mackillop: Fletcher & Lucy.



All schools enrolling now

Mass Times across our Diocese

Wagga Wagga - Cathedral

St Michael’s Cathedral
Church Street, Wagga Wagga
Monday - Friday 7:00am, 12:45pm
Weekend Masses
Saturday - 12:15pm
Saturday Vigil - 5:00pm
Sunday - 8:00am, 10:00am and 5:30pm
Confessions
Monday - Thursday 12:30pm - 12:40pm
Friday 12:00-12:40pm & 6:30pm-6:45pm
Saturday 11:00am-12:00noon & 4:30pm-5:30pm
Rosary times
Monday to Thursday 12:25pm and Saturday 11:55am (before Mass)
St Mary’s Chapel
Vianney College, 17 Durack Circuit
Sunday - 9:00am
Mt Erin Chapel
Kildare Catholic College
Edmondson Street, Wagga Wagga
Sunday - 11:30am (Extraordinary Form)
Confessions before and after Mass.

Wagga Wagga - 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
Savernake
1st Sunday - 5:00pm
Weekday Masses are announced in the Sunday bulletin
Confessions before Saturday Vigil Masses

Coolamon

St Michael’s
Sunday - 9.00am
Confessions
Saturday - 4.45 - 5.15pm
Masses
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday - 7.30am
Thursday - 10.15am
Saturday - 9.00am
Marrar
Saturday Vigil - 6.00pm
Confessions 1st Saturday - 5.30pm

Allawah Village
First Thursday of each month.
Mass at 9.15am

Corowa

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

Culcairn

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

Darlington Point

Oliver Plunkett
Hay Rd, Darlington Point
1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday - 8.30am
2nd, 4th Sunday - 6:00pm (Saturday Vigil)
Weekday Masses
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday - 8.30am - Darlington Point
St Peter’s Cnr of Currawong Crescent and Kingfisher Avenue, Coleambally
1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday - 10.30am
2nd, 4th Sunday - 8.00am
Weekday Masses
Holy Hour - Friday 5.00pm - 6.00pm at Darlington Point
Confessions 15 minutes before 10.00 am Mass on Sunday or by request

Finley

St Mary’s 1 Denison Street Finley
Saturday - 9:30am
Sunday - 10.15am
Weekday Masses
Tuesday - 5:30pm
Wednesday - 12:30pm
Friday - 5:30pm
Holy Rosary before every Mass.
Confessions
Friday - 4:30 - 5:30pm
Saturday - 10:00 - 10:30am

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

Junee

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

Khancoban

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

Leeton

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

Lockhart

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

Mulwala

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

Narrandera

Narrandera
St Mel’s Church, Audley St
Saturday Vigil - 6.00pm
Sunday - 9:30am
Weekday Masses
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday - 7:30am
Friday - 5:30pm
(subject to changes announced in the Sunday bulletin)
Confessions
Friday - 4:30-5:20pm;
Saturday - 9.30-10:00am
and 5:00-5:45 pm
Grong Grong
1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday - 8.00am
Galore
St Kevin’s Church
2nd & 4th Sunday - 8:00am

Tarcutta

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

The Rock

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

Tocumwal

St Peter’s
Charlotte Street,
Tocumwal
Saturday Vigil - 5.30pm
Sunday - 8.30am
Weekday Masses
Thursday - 9.30am
Confessions
Half an hour before weekend Masses

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

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 December:

4 December 1991	Mgr Leo Cecil Hatswell
10 December 2016	Fr Jan Stankiewicz
11 December 1952	Fr Robert O'Dea
17 December 1993	Fr Thomas Michael Buckdale
19 December 2015	Fr Rafe Beltrame
20 December 2009	Fr Robert Leaver
21 December 1975	Fr John Leighton Edwell
21 December 2017	Fr Kevin Flanagan
22 December 1930	Fr John Bonnar
23 December 1960	Fr Edmund Bernard Ryan
24 December 2002	Fr Maurice James Carse
27 December 1952	Mgr Patrick Joseph Hartigan
28 December 2015	Fr Warren Thomas Mossfield
31 December 1948	Fr John Corbett Glover

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



*Please remember that there will be no issue of Together in January 2023.
The next issue will be available in February 2023.*

Family reflections for: *Dear Jan*

11th December
Third Sunday of Advent, Cycle A

It is easy to look at our world and become discouraged by the apparent absence of God and signs of God's salvation. Advent, however, is a season of hope, in which we acknowledge that salvation is both mysteriously present, even in our world, and yet to be fulfilled.

Read together today's Gospel. Think about John's question to Jesus: Are you the One? Jesus does not answer directly, but points to the signs of the kingdom present in his midst.

Together as a family, look through the newspaper for signs of hope that God is at work in our world. Pray that the world will know God's salvation by praying together the Lord's Prayer.

*Isaiah 35:1-6,10 Psalm 146:6-7,8-9,10
James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11*

**18th December
Fourth Sunday of Advent, Cycle A**

Joseph and Mary are our models for family life and for service of God. Even when the circumstances seemed unclear, Joseph trusted God. Healthy family life is built upon trust, trust in God and trust of one another.

Spend some time talking as a family about the importance of trust in your family life, including the ways in which the children trust the adults in the family as well as the ways in which the adults trust the children. Then read today's Gospel. Talk about

Joseph's trust of God and reflect together on how your family trusts in God.

Pray together that your family life will be built on trust, as was the family life of Joseph and Mary. Pray and sing together an Advent song, such as "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."

*Isaiah 7:10-14 Psalm 24:1-2,3-4,5-6
Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-24*

**25th December
The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Mass at Dawn**

In our families, we are able to share good news and bad news. All too often, because of our busy-ness, we find ourselves only dealing with the bad news. Start a family tradition of inviting each family member to share something good that happened to him or her that day as you gather for dinner. Explain that, in the Gospel for the Christmas Mass at dawn, the shepherds were told the good news of Jesus' birth by the angels, and then they in turn went forth to share with others the good news. Have family members read aloud Luke 2:15-20. Point out how the people who heard the good news of the shepherds were amazed. Talk about how Mary treasured all this in her heart, meaning that she pondered the significance of these events and sought to recognize God's presence in the midst of them. Talk about how you can each ponder one another's good news and see how God is present in your family's everyday lives. Conclude by praying

together a Hail Mary, telling your family that at Christmas we celebrate the fruit of Mary's womb, Jesus.

*Isaiah 62:11-12 Psalm 97:1-6, 11-12
Titus 3:4-7 Luke 2:15-20*

**1st January
The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord
Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

In today's Gospel, we learn that Mary honored her commitment to God by naming her child Jesus, the name given to him by the angel Gabriel. In Matthew's Gospel, Joseph is told to name the child Jesus because he will save the people. The name Jesus means "God saves." Even in his name, Jesus announces the mission he came to accomplish.

Your family might use today's feast as an opportunity to talk about names. Reflect together on the name of each member of the family. What does each name mean? Why was each person so named?

Read together today's Gospel, Luke 2:16-21. Recall that the name Jesus means "God saves." Think about how Jesus fulfilled the mission that his name suggests. Pray as a family that each family member will fulfill their mission to be faithful followers of Jesus, in whom we find our salvation. Pray for Mary's help by praying together the Hail Mary or singing together, "Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly."

*Numbers 6:22-27 Psalm 67:2-3,5,6,8
Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:16-21*

In an age of unbelief

It was a joyous occasion, with priests from the diocese and our Bishop Mark joining the celebrations.

Originally published in Vianney Bulletin

The festivities were enjoyed by all with some eating two potatoes instead of one!

Now in all seriousness, the feast of St John Mary Vianney is much more than a festive celebration. For in the life of the great Saint we can learn much about the tremendous value of our vocation and the responsibility God has entrusted to us as men training for the priesthood. The bishop in his homily spoke about the present age of authenticity; how the youth of today seek what is real and true. They are seeking something much deeper than the sugar-coated ‘sex, drugs and rock ’n’ roll’ glamour of the seventies.

There is a yearning amongst the youth for trueness of life, a life which encapsulates the authenticity of their very being. This life was so beautifully lived by St John Mary Vianney.

Now this is not to say that all should become priests!! No, quite the contrary,

but this is to say that there is a very real desire to grab hold of something secure, something certain, something of true value. If we look towards the great saint, we try to understand what it was that he knew, and it is something which everyone, from all walks of life, are searching for today. For the saint lived a very humble life, consisting of much prayer, fasting, and many hours in the confessional.

But what would we ask, drove him to such lengths? It was his love for the divine.

It was his authentic search for God that drove him. It was his genuine desire to serve and to sacrifice for God. People who were entrusted to his care were able to see the beauty and power that is God.

Pope Francis said during his trip to Canada, that “we need to return to the simplicity and enthusiasm of the Acts of the Apostles, to the beauty of realising that we are instruments of the Spirit’s fruitfulness



Bishop Mark, pictured with students, Rector and Vice-Rector of Vianney College.

today.” What a prime and spectacular example of the apostolic life God has given to us in the life of St. John Mary Vianney. So, in the spirit of our Holy Father, we can say that as men training for the priesthood: Bishop Mark, pictured with students, Rector and Vice-Rector of Vianney College

We need to return to the simplicity and enthusiasm of St John Mary Vianney, to the beauty of realising that we are instruments of the Spirit’s fruitfulness today.

For he is the patron saint of priests. And what a wonderful patron he is.

Our bishop reminded us of the need for practices amongst priests and religious that would lead to a spiritual renewal. We can look no further than this great saint, whose passion for evangelization was centred on his love for Christ and the Eucharist. St. John Vianney would spend hours in front of the Blessed Sacrament, in Eucharistic Adoration and it was this tremendous love for God that spiritually transformed his parish of Ars.

St. John Vianney, patron of priests and of our seminary, pray for us!

Lord, teach us to pray

For seminarians who are training to become priests, the Liturgy of the Hours or the ‘The Divine Office’ is one of great importance in their spiritual lives.

A priest's prayer life cannot be without the Liturgy of the Hours, and seminarians also use it as a "school of prayer." In the Divine Office, the seminarians gradually get used to the Church's prayer and learn to sense its beauty and depth.

The Divine Office is the unceasing prayer of the entire Church for the sanctification of the day and the whole of human activity. In the Divine Office, The Church complies with the Lord's command to pray continuously while simultaneously praising God the Father and interceding for the world's redemption.

Prayer is the primary duty of Christians. The Church has faithfully with Christ's command that: "pray always and not to give up" (*Lk 18:1*). Therefore, from the very beginning the baptized remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles by gathering

in community and praying together (*Acts 1:24; 4:24*). The individual faithful also committed themselves to prayer at specific times, such as the final hour of the day at twilight when the lamps were lit, or the first hour of the day when the rising sun drove away the final traces of night.

In the course of time other hours were also sanctified by communal prayer. In the Acts of Apostles, we found that the disciples are presented as coming together at various hours to pray: “Peter and John were going up to the Temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour” (*Acts 3:1*)

Today, the Liturgy of the Hours is divided into five different hours of the day; namely the Office of Readings, Lauds or Morning Prayer, the Prayer during the day, Vespers or Evening prayer and Compline or Night prayer.

The goal of the Office of Readings is



Seminarians in Adoration, which follows Sunday's Solemn Vespers.

to provide a more thorough meditation on sacred scripture and the best writings of spiritual authors to the people of God. Morning Prayer is designed to sanctify the morning moment at the beginning of a new day to offer God the first acts of our hearts and minds. The Terce, Sext and None are the small hours between Morning and Evening Prayer, including the following hours: the third hour (9am), the sixth hour (midnight) and the ninth hour (3pm). Evening Prayer is celebrated in the evening at dusk to give thanks for what God has given us during the day. Compline or Night prayer is the last

prayer of the day, read before going to bed, even after midnight, to express feelings of contrition and surrender. Darkness is the image of evil and death, and the Night Prayer is a prayer of faith and supplication, asking God to bless a peaceful sleep.

The recurrent theme in praying the Divine Office is praying the psalms; in doing this we follow also in the footsteps of our Hebrew Patriarchs, who daily would recite the psalms, and those of Jesus himself. **Our order of day here at Vianney College is built around praying daily this beautiful prayer of the Church.**

RICARDO PIRES | FAMÍLIA CRISTÁ



**SEE YOU
IN AUGUST
2023!**

1-6 AUGUST

**WORLD
YOUTH
DAY**



Christmas Mass Times 2022

Cathedral Parish

St Michael's Cathedral
24 December - 6pm and 9pm Christmas Eve
25 December - Midnight 12am, 8am, 10am and 5.30pm
Mt Erin Chapel
25 December - 11.30am Christmas Day (Fr Joseph)
St Mary's Chapel - Vianney College
25 December - 9am Christmas Day

Koorinal Parish

Sacred Heart Church
24 December: 8.30pm Christmas Eve
24 December: 10.30pm Filipino Mass
25 December: 9am Christmas Day
Mater Dei Primary Hall
24 December: 6.30pm Christmas Eve

South Wagga Parish

Henschke School Oval
24 December: 7pm Outdoor Mass
Our Lady of Fatima Church
24 December: 9pm Christmas Eve
24 December: 10.30pm Syro-Malabar Mass
25 December: 10.30am Christmas Day
St Patrick's Church Uranquinty
25 December: 08.30am Christmas Day

West Wagga Parish

Holy Trinity Church
Confessions: 19, 21, 22 December-6.30pm
Christmas Eve Mass: 8pm at Holy Trinity School, enter via car park.
Christmas Day: 9am, 10.30am, 5.30pm
San Isidore
25 December - 8am
Home of Compassion Residents
25 December - 10.30am

Albury Parish

St Patrick's Church
24 December: 6pm, 8pm Christmas Eve
25 December: 12am, 8am, 10am, 5pm
25 December: 12noon Latin Mass

Berrigan Parish

St Columba's Church
24 December: 7.30pm Christmas Eve

Coolamon Parish

Marrar - St Patrick's Church
Contact the Parish on 02 6041 2588

Coolamon - St Michael's Church
24 December: 6pm Christmas Eve
25 December: 9am Christmas Day

Corowa Parish

24 December: 6pm Christmas Eve
25 December: 9am Christmas Day

Culcairn Parish

Culcairn
24 December - 8:00pm Christmas Eve
Henty
25 December - 10am Christmas Day
Walla Walla
25 December - 8am Christmas Day

Darlington Point Parish

Coleambally
24 December - 8:00pm Christmas Eve
Darlington Point
24 December - 6:00pm Christmas Eve
(See also Jerilderie Parish)

Finley Parish

24 December: Christmas Carols 6.30pm
24 December: 7pm Christmas Eve
25 December: 10.15am Christmas Day

Ganmain Parish

Ganmain
24 December: 6pm Christmas Vigil
25 December: 12am Midnight Mass
Christmas Day
25 December: 9am Christmas Day

Griffith Parish

Sacred Heart Church Griffith
21 December: Reconciliation 7pm (2nd Rite)
24 December: 6pm & 10pm Christmas Eve
25 December: 7.30am, 9am (Italian), 10.30am & 6pm Christmas Day
Marian Catholic College Chapel
24 December: 6pm Christmas Eve
25 December: 9am Christmas Day

Holbrook Parish

Bowna
24 December - 6:00pm Christmas Eve
Holbrook
24 December - 8:00pm Christmas Eve

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.

Howlong Parish

St Brigid's Howlong
24 December - 6:00pm Christmas Eve
Walbundrie
25 December - 9:00am Christmas Day

Jerilderie Parish

25 December: 9am Christmas Day
(See also Darlington Point Parish)

Junee Parish

St Joseph's Church Junee
24 December - 6:00pm Christmas Eve Mass
25 December - 9:30am Christmas Day Mass

Khancoban

Church of St Joseph the Worker
25 December - 5:30pm Christmas Day Mass

Lavington Parish

Holy Spirit Church Lavington
24 December: 6pm and 9pm Christmas Eve
25 December: 8am and 10am Christmas Day
St Mary's Church Jindera
24 December: 6pm Christmas Eve
25 December: 9am Christmas Day

Leeton Parish

St Joseph's Church Leeton
24 December: 6pm Christmas Vigil
25 December: 10am Christmas Day
St Patrick's Church Yanco
25 December: 8am Christmas Day

Lockhart Parish

St Mary's Church Lockhart
24 December: 6pm Christmas Eve
25 December: 8am Christmas Day

Mulwala Parish

St Joseph's Church Barooga
24 December: 5pm Christmas Eve
St Brigid's Church Mulwala
25 December: 9am Christmas Day

Narrandera Parish

Narrandera
24 December - 6pm Vigil Christmas Eve
25 December - 12am and 9.30am Christmas Day
Grong Grong
24 December - 7.30pm Vigil Christmas Eve
Galore
25 December - 8am Christmas Day

North Albury Parish

St Francis Xavier Hall, Xavier High School
24 December: 6pm Christmas Eve
Sacred Heart Church
24 December: 9pm Christmas Eve
25 December: 9.30am (Will be live-streamed) Christmas Day

Tarcutta Parish

Ladysmith
24 December - 6:00pm
Tarcutta
25 December - 8:30am

The Rock Parish

The Rock - St Mary's Church
24 December: Carols 6pm Christmas Eve
24 December: Mass 6.30pm Christmas Eve
24 December: Carols 11.30pm Christmas Eve
25 December: Mass 12am, 8am and 10am

Thurgoona Parish

24 December: 7pm Christmas Eve
25 December: 12am and 9.30am Christmas Day

Tocumwal Parish

24 December: Carols 5pm Christmas Eve
24 December: Mass 5.30pm Christmas Eve
25 December: 8.30am Christmas Day

Tumbarumba Parish

24 December: 6pm Vigil Christmas Eve
25 December: 12am and 9am Christmas Day

Urana Parish

Oaklands
24 December: 6pm Christmas Eve
St Fiacre's Church Urana
24 December: 8pm Christmas Eve
25 December: 8am Christmas Day

Yenda Yoogali Hanwood Parish

Yoogali
20 December: 6pm Communal Penitential Service with Reconciliation
24 December: 7pm Mass Christmas Eve
25 December: 10am Christmas Day
Hanwood
24 December: 5pm Christmas Eve
25 December: 8am Christmas Day
Yenda
24 December: 6.30pm Christmas Eve

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