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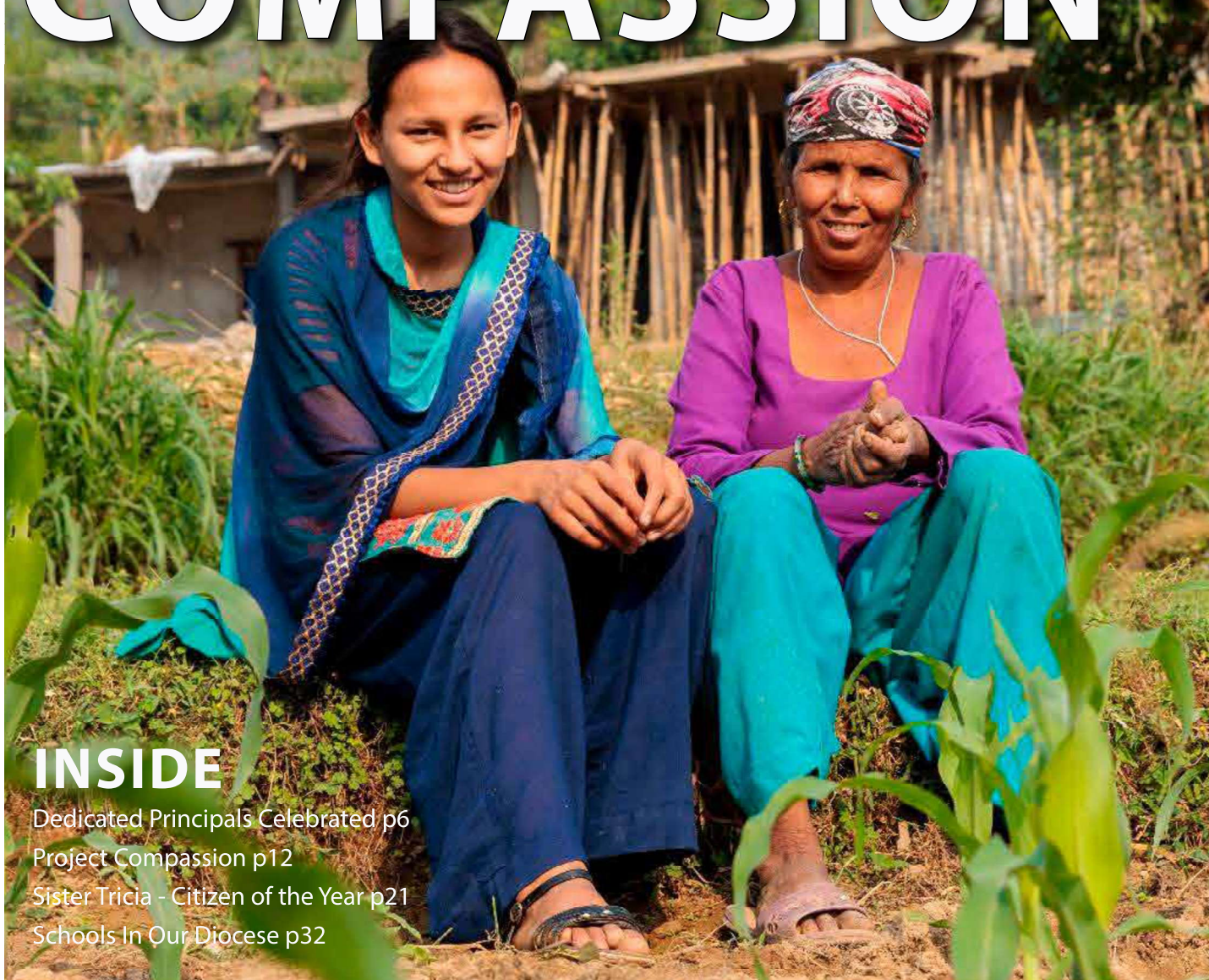
In the Diocese of *Wagga Wagga*

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FEBRUARY 2023

PROJECT COMPASSION



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BISHOP'S VOICE



Communion, Participation and Mission

Dear sisters and brothers,

Greetings from Suva, Fiji. Eighty bishops from across Australia, Oceania, PNG and NZ are meeting, as we do every fourth year. Our main item of business is the Synod on Synodality whose full title is 'Synodality: communion, participation, mission. In particular, we are working on the 'continental' document that will be forwarded to help form the 'Instrumentum Laboris' for the Synod in Rome while being utterly faithful to the documents that came from each of the bishops conferences. I will organise for a link to the final document from our 'continent' to be placed on the diocesan website.

If this doesn't immediately strike you as important, it should. The continental assemblies are the last phase of the global synodal process before the synod of bishops meets in Rome, beginning in October.

This meeting is much more exciting than the description above might lead you to think as there is rich sharing on our small tables of the realities, experiences

and feelings of the different bishops and their dioceses. Being involved in the process is changing me.

I am discovering that becoming a synodal church is about becoming. We, the Church, are growing into who we are. In a similar way to the way you now are the same person you were 5 years ago and 20 years ago but also have developed, the Church is growing into what it is. This isn't something that will be achieved at the end of the 2024 when the Synod on Synodality is concluded. It is step-by-step and we need to do each stage.

We are leaving the shore of where we are and moving to the shore of synodality. It is challenging for me, and perhaps for you, because this other shore isn't mapped yet. It is not known where we are going. This synod is at the service of the long-term growth of the Church as communion, participative and missionary.

The sub-theme, 'Communion, Participation, Mission' highlights fascinating variations across our region. For example, the people in many places in



PNG have a spirituality of communion. It seems to me that in Wagga, and in Australia more broadly, we have a strength in a spirituality of participation.

I wonder if we are being called to develop in the other two areas.

I am being prompted to ask myself, "If I take seriously the synodal method, in what different ways of living, leading, and being bishop is the diocese calling me to move?" Perhaps this, with appropriate changes, is a challenge for each of us in our families, friendship circles, parishes, places of work, play and study.

***Yours in Jesus Christ and
Mary Immaculate***

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IN THE DIOCESE OF WAGGA WAGGA

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PRAYER INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY - PRAY WITH POPE FRANCIS

For parishes.

We pray that parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

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



God used a Catholic parish to change my life. Which is strange because I wasn't Catholic. I was a Protestant university student looking for a place to pray. Protestant churches were closed, but an old parish church a few blocks from campus was open, although I didn't know why. I stepped into that church and felt a profound Presence of God that I had never experienced before.

So I started to pray in that church when it was quiet. My Protestant friends warned me that if I didn't stop praying in that strange place, I might become Catholic. I laughed. Now I laugh at myself because I did become Catholic and that parish became my new spiritual home. I quickly realized that I was not alone. As one friend observed, "You can't swing a cat around this place without hitting a convert."

Our pastor and I dreamed of parishes becoming places where people of all backgrounds could meet Jesus and

respond to His call. We studied Church teaching about the mission of the laity and the parish. Large numbers of adults entered the Church every year. I created and taught a discernment process to help Catholics discern how they had been gifted by God for the sake of others. Wonderful charisms of mercy, healing, teaching, intercessory prayer, and leadership started to emerge in the community. Our pastor started a parish group for young adults who were discerning Church vocations. Eight entered religious life and the priesthood.

We have now had the joy of seeing God do amazing things in hundreds of different parishes in fourteen countries. The icon painted for our Institute shows St. Catherine of Siena holding the old parish church that God used to change my life.

Sherry Weddell - Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network

God rest Pope Benedict XVI. If you haven't already done this, I invite you to take a minute right now to pray for Pope Benedict, and to pray in thanksgiving for both his life and the saving mystery of Jesus Christ, to which Benedict gave

himself completely. May perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Pope Benedict's own words, preached at the funeral of Pope St. John Paul II, ring true: "Our hearts are full of sadness, yet at

the same time of joyful hope and profound gratitude." I am deeply grateful for his care for us and for his love for God which can be a rock for us and I have confidence that he will share in eternal life with Christ. And yet, I am sad at his passing.

I invite you to read Pope Benedict's spiritual testament below, written in 2006 and released to us after his death as a way of becoming aware again of how important he has been to all of us.

Bishop Mark Edwards OMI

IN SPIRITUAL TESTAMENT, BENEDICT XVI OFFERED LAST LESSON ON REASON AND FAITH

Like his predecessor Pope Saint John Paul II, Pope emeritus Benedict XVI penned a final spiritual testament several years prior to his death in which he voiced gratitude for the important people in his life and urged the world not to abandon the faith.

BY ELISE ANN ALLEN
Crux Senior Correspondent

Benedict XVI, who reigned as Supreme Pontiff from his election in 2005 until his shocking resignation in 2013, making him the first pope to resign from the papacy in 600 years, died Saturday, December 31, at the age of 95.

His remains were transferred to St. Peter's Basilica on Monday, January 2 to allow faithful to pay their final respects, and his funeral was celebrated Thursday, January 5, by Pope Francis.

The Vatican released the text of Benedict's final spiritual testament upon his death, which Benedict wrote

- 26 August 2006 - My Spiritual Testament

As I look back at this late hour of my life over the decades I have walked, I first see how many reasons I have to be thankful. I give thanks before all else to God himself, the giver of every good thing, who has given me life and guided me through various moments of confusion; always getting up every time that I started to slip and always giving me the light of his face again. Retrospectively, I see and understand that even the dark and tiring sections of

deep devotion and great goodness are a legacy for which I can never be thankful enough. My sister assisted me for decades selflessly and with loving care; my brother, with his clarity of judgement, his vigorous resolution and serenity of heart, has always paved the way for me; without his continuous preceding and accompanying me, I would not have been able to find the right way.

From the heart I thank God for the many friends, men and women, whom he always placed beside me; for collaborators at all stages of my journey; for the teachers and pupils he has given me. I entrust all of them gratefully to his goodness. And I want to thank the Lord for my beautiful homeland in the Bavarian Alpine foothills, in which I have always seen the splendor of the Creator himself. I thank the people of my homeland because in them I have always been able to experience anew the beauty of faith. I pray that our land will remain a land of faith and peace, dear compatriots: do not let yourselves be distracted from the faith. And finally

sciences on one hand and historical research (in particular the exegesis of Sacred Scripture) on the other – are able to offer irrefutable results in contrast with the Catholic faith. I have lived the transformations of the natural sciences since the ancient times and I have been able to see how, on the contrary, apparent certainties against the faith have vanished, proving not to be science, but philosophical interpretations only apparently due to science; just as, moreover, it is dialogue with the natural sciences that faith too has learned to better understand the limit of the scope of its affirmations, and therefore its specificity. It is now sixty years that I have been accompanying the path of theology, especially the biblical sciences, and with the succession of different generations I have seen collapse theses which seemed unshakable, proving to be mere hypothesis: the liberal generation (Harnack, Jülicher, etc.), the existentialist generation (Bultmann, etc.), the Marxist generation. I have seen and continue to see how the

Below: Pope Francis visits Benedict XVI on August 27th, 2022 - Vatican Media. (Credit: Gregorio Borgia/AP)



in 2006. In it, he thanked God for the many people and gifts in his life and made a final argument for the relationship between faith and reason, which was the subject of John Paul II's 1998 encyclical, *Fides et Ratio*, to which then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was a primary contributor.

Following is the full text of Benedict XVI's final spiritual testament.

this path were for my salvation and that it was precisely in them that he guided me well.

I thank my parents, who gave me life in a difficult time and who, at the cost of great sacrifices, with their love prepared for me a magnificent home which, like a clear light, illuminates all my days until today. My father's lucid faith taught us children to believe, and as a signpost it has always been firm in the midst of all my scientific acquisitions; my mother's



Above: Benedict spent his final years at the Mater Ecclesiae monastery within the walls of the Vatican where he passed away

I thank God for all the beauty that I could experience in all the stages of my journey, especially in Rome and in Italy, which has become my second homeland.

To all those I have wronged in any way, I sincerely ask for forgiveness.

What I said before to my compatriots, I say now to all those who in the Church have been entrusted to my service: remain firm in the faith! Do not let yourselves be confused! Often it seems that science – the natural

reasonableness of faith has emerged and is emerging again from the tangle of hypotheses. Jesus Christ is truly the way, the truth, and the life – and the Church, with all her insufficiencies, is truly her body.

Finally, I humbly ask: pray for me, so that the Lord, despite all my sins and shortcomings, welcomes me into the eternal abodes. To all those entrusted to me, my heartfelt prayer goes day after day.

Benedictus PP XVI

WORLD YOUTH DAY LISBON 2023

We had a massive response to our request for applications from young people from across the diocese eager to participate in our pilgrimage, called *"In the Footsteps of Jesus Christ"*.

BY ANNMARIE WEBB

Catholic Education Diocese of Wagga Wagga

It took our selection panel a little while to go through all applications but all applicants, both successful and unsuccessful, should now have heard from us. Thank you once again to all those who took the time to apply.

We invite you to support the pilgrims with your prayers for a safe journey,

faith-filled, warm companionship and generous, and possibly life-changing, responses to encounters with Jesus. Our parish-based pilgrims will be organising fundraising events over the next couple of months, please be aware of these and if you are able to support their fundraising efforts in any way that would be of a

great assistance to the pilgrims.

There are fewer than 200 days until World Youth Day in Lisbon and our pilgrims will leave the diocese on 20th July. The pilgrimage will travel through

the Holy Lands and Fatima before joining the World Youth Day event in Lisbon, Portugal. We will finish with a retreat in Spain before travelling back to Australia on 11th August.



MARIAN CATHOLIC COLLEGE FAREWELLS SISTER TRICIA

We should be shining lamps, giving light to all around us.

Sister Tricia has been a part of the Marian Catholic College community for the past seven years. In that time, she has demonstrated her spirit of Mercy by guiding, supporting and being a beacon of hope to all that need it most. Sister Tricia has been asked to take the position of community leader in a central base located in the bottom half of NSW, which means that she will now relocate to Canberra.

Sister Tricia on behalf of the Marian Catholic College community, we are sad to see you go, but we wish you all the best in your future endeavours. You have definitely lived the words of the Venerable Catherine McAuley ... *"We should be shining lamps, giving light to all around us."* **Thank you for being our shining lamp and being the light that guides us.**



CHURCH IN OCEANIA PREPARES RESPONSE TO SYNOD OF BISHOPS REPORT

The rich diversity of the Catholic Church across Oceania, as well as its unity, was evident during a meeting in Melbourne in January of representatives of the region's four bishops conferences and Eastern Catholic churches.

More than 20 people from across the Pacific gathered to reflect on and respond to the Working Document for the Continental Stage released by the Synod of Bishops Secretariat, titled *Enlarge the Space of Your Tent*.

The discernment and writing group was convened to prepare a draft report from Oceania to be considered at next month's assembly of the Federation of Catholic Bishops Conferences of Oceania (FCBCO) in Fiji.

Each bishops conference produced a synthesis of local reflections on the Document for the Continental Stage in

universal Church," she said.

"There's a high level of commonality across the responses that have come from the four episcopal conferences and the Eastern churches.

"And I think Oceania reflects the broader debate within the Church about whether we are more a Church of say, the teachings of Christ in relation to love and the sense of being a wounded people and a people in need of healing."

Archbishop Peter Loy Chong of Suva, the current president of the FCBCO and the host of next month's assembly, said those in Melbourne last week were

very important to the FCBCO."

Theresa Kiely, who attending the Melbourne meeting as one of New Zealand's three representatives, noted the importance of trying to present the live experience of Catholics in the Pacific.

Dr Kiely said her hope is that the document that emerges will "really represent the people of Oceania – that we don't forget the people in the villages

synodality, of discerning and listening, it's very much Melanesian, it's very much Papua New Guinean, because that's what we always do," she said.

She said synodality is "a beautiful concept, a Spirit-filled movement which I hope and pray that it continues to dwell in the Church".

"The spirit of synodality – it's a beautiful spirit that must live long after this," Ms Wrakia said.



Below: More than 20 people from across the Pacific gathered to reflect on and respond to the Working Document for the Continental Stage.



the lead-up to the Melbourne gathering to inform the group's work.

Susan Pascoe, the chair of the FCBCO Synod of Bishops taskforce and a member of the Synod's global methodology commission, said last week's gathering was reflective of what she has seen in other meetings around the world.

"One of the interesting responses to the Document for the Continental stage is people in Oceania recognising this enormous commonality across the

attempting to read the Document for the Continental Stage "through the eyes of" the people of Oceania.

The group sought to do that while employing the spiritual conversation method of prayerful discernment.

"We wanted to affirm what's in the document and also, from the submissions from the four conferences of Oceania, to identify the gaps, the tensions and even identify the missing voices," Archbishop Chong said.

"This work, which takes five days, is

who do not have access to technology and the people who felt left out in the Church as well."

She would like the report on behalf of the people of Oceania to be "an honest and authentic representation of their voice, that we can honestly look at ourselves as a Church and decide how we want to move forward into the future".

Grace Wrakia, representing the Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, said the Church's increasing emphasis on synodality feels very comfortable.

"I think this whole concept of

Feedback from next month's Fiji assembly, again drawn out through a process of prayerful discernment, will inform the refinement of the document, which will be finalised by the FCBCO executive and members of the discernment and writing group.

The final report will be sent to the Holy See to help prepare the working document (*instrumentum laboris*) for the first assembly of the Synod of Bishops for a Synodal Church, which will be held in October this year.

Similar reports are being prepared in all 7 continents in coming weeks.



Above: Members of the Oceania discernment and writing group after the celebration of Mass on January 12.

DEDICATED PRINCIPALS CELEBRATED AT RECENT MEETING

Principals from schools across the diocese gathered along with the Catholic Education, Diocese of Wagga Wagga (CEDWW) Leadership Team for the last Principal's gathering for the year recently.

BY MATT HUMPHREY

CEDWW Communications & Engagement Officer

The meeting included Mass celebrated by Fr Paddy Sykes at Our Lady of Fatima Church, South Wagga followed by recognition, thanks and appreciation of Principals who have concluded their service as Principal during the course of 2022.

Director of Catholic Education, Dr Andrew Watson, thanked them on behalf of CEDWW and their school communities.

"I thank Jim Ross, Helene Cahill, Megan Masterson, Alan Le Brocque and Pat Boake for their service, dedication and commitment to Catholic Education over many years and recognise all our Principals for their leadership during the course

Megan Masterson

Megan has completed ten years of Principalship at three schools within the diocese, St Francis Xavier Primary School Urana, in an acting capacity, St Brendan's Primary School, Ganmain and Mater Dei Primary School in Wagga. Prior to these principal appointments, Megan had worked at St Joseph's Primary School in Wagga, having commenced in 1996.

Megan's leadership is characterised by an absolute determination to ensure a quality Catholic education and improved student growth, being informed by data and being achieved by sound and innovative pedagogical approaches backed by research

Below: Megan Masterson and Dr Andrew Watson.



of 2022 as each strived to ensure that our schools were inspired by the message and actions of Jesus Christ and they nurtured excellence as a Community of Learners, so all may flourish in the fullness of their humanity," he said.

while ensuring that Catholic identity remains a key focus. CEDWW now has the pleasure of Megan's skill, experience and passion as she takes on the important role of Manager of Early Years Learning, ensuring that we are well-placed for the introduction of universal pre-kindergarten years.



Above: Helene Cahill accepting gifts from Dr Andrew Watson.

Helene Cahill

Helene has been the principal of St Joseph's Primary School since 2021 and prior to that Principal of St Columba's Primary School in Berrigan in 2020. Helene had the difficult task of leading that school community through the process of closure. Helene commenced her

of both Berrigan and Jerildeie were provided with a Catholic education ensuring student wellbeing and learning were front and centre.

Pat Boake

Pat has served Catholic Education of the Diocese of Wagga Wagga for 40 years, having commenced



Above: Dr Andrew Watson presents Pat Boake with some farewell gifts.

career with CEDWW in 1990 and has taught at and/or held leadership positions, including Acting Principal the following schools: St Joseph's, Finely, St Francis Xavier, Berrigan and Sacred Heart Koorringal.

During her time as Principal, Helene has ensured the communities

as a teacher in 1983 at St Joseph's in Leeton. He was then appointed Principal of Sacred Heart Primary School Tocumwal in 1985 and has led that school community for the last 38 years. A truly remarkable achievement!

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Pat's steadfast leadership of Sacred Heart Primary School has ensured that the Tocumwal community has been provided with Catholic education, which has focussed on both wellbeing and learning. Pat's children and now grandchildren have attended Sacred Heart Primary, ensuring that the local community knew that Pat had great confidence in his staff to provide the best education for the children in the southwest corner of our diocese. We thank Pat most sincerely for his leadership of Sacred Heart Primary School and his contribution to Catholic Education across the diocese for the last 40 years.

Alan Le Brocq

Alan's contribution to Catholic Education in the Diocese of Wagga Wagga spans over four decades working across our secondary schools, Mt Erin College, Kildare Catholic College and then finally as Principal of Marian Catholic College for the past 15 years.

During his career, he has, first and foremost, been a faith-filled educator committed to Catholic Education. His faith has informed and inspired his leadership within our schools.

Alan leaves behind a wonderful legacy at Marian, not only from the perspective of increased enrolments, and wonderful facilities but a school culture where Catholic identity and learning are central to everything that happens. Alan has ensured that Marian Catholic College is well-placed to

provide an outstanding Catholic secondary education for the Griffith community for many years to come.

Jim Ross

Jim concluded his time as Principal of St Joseph's Primary School June. Jim was appointed Acting Principal in July 2019 and permanent Principal in January 2020. During his time as Principal, Jim led

Below: Alan Le Brocq - outgoing Principal of Marian Catholic College.



Above: Jim Ross - outgoing Principal at St Joseph's Primary School in June.

the school community during the construction of a wonderful new school. He also commenced the journey with his staff on adopting contemporary learning and teaching practices in spaces designed for flexible learning. Jim is now teaching at Sacred Heart Primary School, Koorringal, where they are benefiting from his leadership experience.

CATHOLIC HEALTH AUSTRALIA OUTLINES SOCIAL JUSTICE PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

Catholic Health Australia has outlined four key areas it will build its focus and efforts on in social justice efforts for the next year.

The work reflects an endorsed strategic plan for the next year that spans the gamut of social justice in health and aged care.

Work will focus on addressing advocacy gaps in the experience of prisoners, the development of a reconciliation action plan, a mental health project focused on youth and maintaining a close monitoring of assisted suicide schemes as they roll out across the country.

CHA Strategy & Mission Director Brigid Meney said 2023's program of activity builds on an already well-established foundation of programs.

"Between them CHA members give back to the community an estimated \$66 million in services through more than 100 different programs helping around 150,000 people a year. We can always do more, but we must identify those cohorts of the population where the need is greatest.

"Our mission tells us to look for the most marginalised and that is why we will be concentrating on efforts to help improve the health and social outcomes of those people in or transitioning from prisons including people who are nearing death in incarceration."

"Another challenge for the coming year will be to focus on what Catholic entities can do to help alleviate the mental health crisis, particularly in

our young. We are exploring ways in which we can reach at risk demographics who are increasingly susceptible to mental health deterioration."

Ms Meney said CHA will also address our own role in furthering reconciliation with our First Nations peoples by developing a reconciliation action plan that seeks to amplify and support the work of our members in this critical area.

"Many of the injustices that continue to be faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People's manifest in the health outcomes our members witness through the provision of care every day. CHA will be working to examine our role in supporting our members RAPS's, and amplifying the experiences, stories and needs of First Nation's communities through our unique position as a peak body."

Finally, assisted suicide continues to be a major focus for CHA and its members who will have to deal with the consequences of the fact that every state in Australia is or soon will offer its citizens euthanasia or assisted suicide.

"We are at a critical juncture. We have spent the past few years leading campaigns against these deeply troubling laws across the entire country. With the passing of these laws, now our mission calls us to be eternally vigilant about its implementation.

"We campaigned against the introduction of these laws on the basis that they violated the sanctity of human life, and that they posed a threat to the vulnerable among us. In that regard nothing has changed, and we still have a job to do, namely, to push back against any attempts to widen their applicability, and to protect those who might feel pressured to avail themselves of these laws."

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with the Lord.**

ASH WEDNESDAY 2023: THE START OF THE LENTEN SEASON

Lent comes providentially to
reawaken us, to shake us from
our lethargy.

Pope Francis

What is Ash Wednesday?

In 2023, like in every year, Ash Wednesday is the first day of the liturgical season of Lent. It always falls six and half weeks before Easter, beginning the Lenten season of preparation for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Origin

Ash Wednesday dates back to the 11th century. Yet, the tradition of receiving ashes has even earlier roots — to the ancient Hebrew custom of clothing oneself in sackcloth and dusting oneself with ashes as a sign of penance.

Begin Lent with Hallow

The Bible does not explicitly detail this first day of Lent, but there are many instances of this repentant act in the Old Testament, such as Job 16:15,

In the early Christian Church, public penance for people who had sinned including wearing ashes and sackcloth. As the Church grew and evolved, this practice lessened.

This long tradition — of externally recognizing ourselves as sinners seeking renewal with God — ultimately transformed into what we now know as Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent.

Is Ash Wednesday a Catholic Holy Day of Obligation in 2023?

journeys. Most Catholic parishes offer Ash Wednesday Mass, and in some places, it is possible to receive ashes without attending Mass.

Do I need to be Catholic to receive ashes?

You do not need to be Catholic to receive ashes on Ash Wednesday. Several other traditions within Christianity also share this act of repentance.

Why is Ash Wednesday important?

As the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday awakens us to Jesus' entry into the desert preceding his death. Before Easter, however, we must prepare our hearts for his Resurrection.

We begin our season of preparing our hearts for Easter by recognizing our brokenness and need for conversion, a turning of our hearts to God.

Receiving ashes on Ash Wednesday

Where do the ashes come from?

Palm Sunday is the Sunday before Easter. It symbolizes Christ's return to Jerusalem after spending 40 days in the desert. In the Catholic tradition, we receive palm leaves, which have been blessed, to hold onto during Mass and bring home. The leftover palms from Palm Sunday are then burned and saved for the next Lenten season. So, this year's ashes are from the palms of



Similar to taking communion at Mass, you usually process toward the altar to get ashes. The priest will make the Sign of the Cross and say one of two things:

"Remember that you are dust, and unto dust you shall return."

"Repent, and believe in the Gospel."

What do the ashes symbolize?

The ashes symbolize our mortality. They are a physical reminder that our bodies will decay, but our souls will live on in eternal life.

Fr. Antony Kadavil further reflects on the symbol of the cross of ashes on our foreheads,

"The cross of ashes means that we are making a commitment — that we are undertaking Lent as a season of prayer and penitence, of dying to ourselves. It also describes our human condition: it says that we are broken and need repair; that we are sinners and need redemption. Most importantly, it tells us that, as followers of Jesus Christ, we are to carry our crosses."

Fasting on Ash Wednesday

There are only two obligatory days of fasting and abstinence in the Catholic Church: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Catholics are also instructed to abstain from meat on each Friday during Lent.

Why do Catholics fast on Ash Wednesday?

Fasting is a sign of repentance and helps us embody our spiritual hunger for Christ, who himself fasted in the desert for forty days preceding his

death and Resurrection.

Age requirement

The Catholic Church requires able members from age 18 to 59 to fast on Ash Wednesday. The obligation to abstain from meat applies to those 14 and older.

Meals

Fasting allows for one full meal and two smaller meals (that combined do not equal a full meal), with an expectation to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday. Exemptions are available for those with special physical needs.

In certain situations, bishops can offer a formal dispensation, allowing Catholics to eat meat. This happened in some dioceses during the initial outbreak of Covid-19.

Ash Wednesday Prayers

Ash Wednesday, as the first day of Lent, is a great time to begin a renewed commitment to prayer.

Ash Wednesday prayers can include saying the rosary, the Lectio Divina or beginning with Lent prayers for 2023.

How else can I observe Ash Wednesday?

In addition to fasting and attending Mass (or a service where ashes are distributed), you can recognize Ash Wednesday through prayer and almsgiving—the other two pillars of Lenten observance.

In prayer, consider listening to the Daily Gospel or engaging in Spiritual Writing to discern what you'd like to focus on in your relationship with Christ this Lent.



Ash Wednesday is not a Holy Day of Obligation for Roman Catholics, yet receiving ashes is a universal practice among Christians to begin their Lenten

Palm Sunday of 2022.

Where do the ashes go?

It is typical to receive ashes on your forehead in the Sign of the Cross.

WAGGA TEENAGER HOPING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE ON REGIONAL YOUTH TASKFORCE

A Kildare Catholic College student is set to represent the Riverina Murray region on this year's Regional Youth Taskforce.

BY ANDREW MANGELSDORF
The Daily Advertiser

Hailey Cruz, 13, was very surprised when she was named one of 18 young leaders to represent people from across regional NSW this year.

Founded in 2020, the taskforce meets regularly throughout the year to discuss issues affecting regional youth and advises the minister for regional youth Ben Franklin.

"I felt very acknowledged and I'm proud to say I'm part of such a strong, diverse and dedicated team," Hailey said.

"It's sometimes mind blowing to think I get to be the voice of thousands of people that deserve to be heard."

Hailey said it was also daunting to

think she now has to "step up to such a role."

"But I still want to try my best and let my own opinions be known and heard," she said.

Hailey was motivated to apply for the taskforce because she wanted to be a voice for the region and to represent the "community of spirited people" that live in the Riverina Murray area.

"I want to get their hopes and opinions to the people that can actually help," she said.

Hailey hopes to represent the region by "being thoughtful, delivering the hardships and concerns with respect."

"I want to step up with honesty in

everything I say and do, to hope that the taskforce can come up with a solution that can accommodate all the young people and unheard youths.

"I also want to be a flexible leader, able to convey my own perspective and be heard in the process."

Already through her school years, Hailey has taken the opportunity to work on some leadership and volunteering skills.

"In primary school I was a house captain. I also got to work with Mini Vinnies," she said.

Since starting high school last year, Hailey has also been involved volunteering with friends at local environmental group Erin Earth.

While serving on the taskforce, Hailey hopes to raise a variety of key issues including mental health and road safety, particularly for young people learning to drive.

This year's taskforce has been selected from more than 140 applicants,

and includes two young people from each of the State's nine regions.

"They will meet regularly to focus on the NSW Regional Youth Framework pillars of work readiness, wellbeing, connectivity and community," Mr Franklin said.

"Throughout the year the Taskforce will join me and senior representatives from the government and its agencies to have their say about services, programs and infrastructure that is important to them.

"The state Liberal-National government knows there's no better way to be informed on the issues that matter to young people in regional and rural NSW than to hear them directly from this exceptional group of young people."

Mr Franklin said the 18 new members will also get the opportunity to hone their skills in driving policy change, advocate for real outcomes for young people, and provide a voice for regional youth within the state government.

Below: Last year's Regional Youth Taskforce meets in Wagga. Picture supplied.



Above: Hailey Cruz is a volunteer at Erin Earth and Kildare College student who has been selected to be on the Regional Youth Taskforce. Picture by Madeline Begley

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catholicmission.org.au/newsletter



NILAN'S STORY: A POWERFUL REMINDER OF THE IMPORTANCE OF SUPPORTING MISSIONARY WORK IN SRI LANKA

Catholic Mission, the Pope's own Mission agency, is sharing the story of Nilan, a young seminarian from Sri Lanka who is pursuing spiritual development to become a future Church Leader.

In a country where the economic and social crisis disproportionately affected the most vulnerable communities, Nilan is determined to become a priest to serve his community by providing them with pastoral care and tangible support. Dedicating themselves to serving the less fortunate through charitable and outreach programs, priests also help to create a sense of community and provide a sense of purpose and direction for many people.

Nilan is currently a seminarian at St. Aloysius Seminary in Colombo, the capital of Sri Lanka. Thanks to the support of Catholic Mission, he is able to continue his journey to become a priest with the objective of dedicating his life to serving others.

Nilan's story is a powerful reminder of the impact that charitable organisations like Catholic Mission can have on the lives of those in need. It is a call to stand in solidarity with seminarians supporting communities in Sri Lanka



and around the world.

"We are incredibly grateful for the support of our donors, who make it possible for us to make a real difference in supporting the spiritual development of future Church Leaders like Nilan," said Catholic Mission National Director, Fr Brian Lucas. "Their generosity allows us to provide them with an opportunity to pursue their calling, so one day they will become the cornerstone of their communities by dedicating themselves to serving those who need it most. Especially, in a context where the aftermath of the civil war and the COVID-19 pandemic have left many communities in poverty and without access to basic services."

By making a donation, you too can support Catholic Mission's work in Sri Lanka and help seminarians like Nilan.

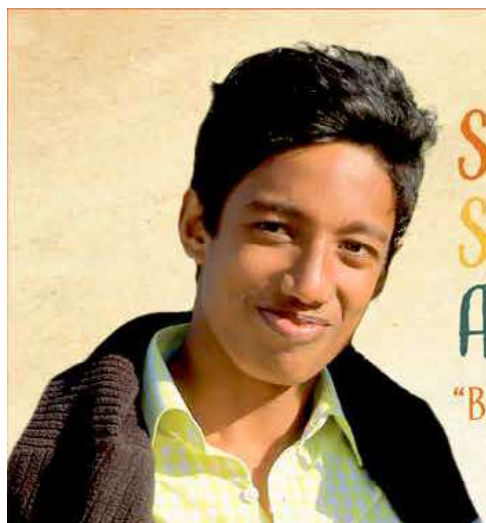
Visit the Catholic Mission website at

catholicmission.org.au/srilanka

About Catholic Mission



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





STAND WITH SEMINARIANS IN AREAS OF UNREST

"BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD"
- PSALM 46:10



BISHOP MARK EDWARDS MOURNS HIS OLD FOOTY COACH, CARDINAL GEORGE PELL

As the nation reflects on the controversial legacy of the late Cardinal George Pell, the divisive figure has been remembered as a "passionate footy coach" by the head of Wagga's Catholic Diocese.

BY MONTY JACKA
The Daily Advertiser



Pell speaks at a mass of thanksgiving for his service as Archbishop, at St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, in 2014. (Wolter Peeters)

Bishop Mark Edwards met the former archbishop of Melbourne and Sydney three times over the course of his life and remembers Cardinal Pell as a "warm and witty" man.

The pair first met in 1985, when their two seminaries in Melbourne joined up to form an Aussie rules football team.

Bishop Edwards was a student who played as a ruckman, while Cardinal Pell was the priest who coached the team.

"He was definitely a passionate footy coach. He was very keen to win and didn't want to coach us to second place," Bishop Edwards said.

They met again in Rome years later, when multiple cardinals gave presentations to the newest group of ordained bishops, which included Bishop Edwards.

Cardinal Pell, who was eventually placed in charge of finances at the

Vatican between 2014 and 2019, gave the presentation on bookkeeping.

"The Italian way seems to be that the more important you are the longer you speak for, which is super annoying for an Australian," Bishop Edwards said.

"But Cardinal Pell finished what he had to say in 45 minutes and just stopped. I felt like standing up and cheering."

The pair then met up for a coffee and reflected on their season together in the footy team.

"He looked up at me and said 'I just have to admit that you guys were a bit of a disappointment to me'," Bishop Edwards said.

"Because he played football for his seminary a generation earlier and they actually had quite a strong team."

Their paths once again crossed briefly just two years ago during a meeting of

bishops in Sydney.

Cardinal Pell was jailed in Australia for child sexual abuse in 2019, but he consistently maintained his innocence and his convictions were quashed over a year later.

Bishop Edwards said he "can understand" why the cardinal has become such a controversial figure in Australia, even if he does not necessarily agree.

"Cardinal Pell, particularly as the Archbishop of Sydney, represented the Church in Australia - and the Church in Australia has had a lot of failings and lots of flaws," Bishop Edwards said.

"So I can understand that he would be seen as not having done enough to perhaps fight those flaws. I don't know if that's particularly a fair analysis, but it certainly is an analysis."

Cardinal Pell died at the age of 81 in Rome on January 10, due to heart complications after a hip surgery.


Bishop Edwards said his first reaction to his passing was surprise, as the Cardinal appeared healthy when interviewed on the death of Pope Benedict just two weeks ago.

"He was very passionate especially about the things he loved like Aussie rules football," Bishop Edwards said.

"But he was also very passionate about the Church and about God. He was always very clear, the three times I met him, about what he thinks is right.

"I think that part of him ... has led to other people finding him cold and even heartless, but my experience was that he was always warm and witty."

A photograph of a young woman with long brown hair hugging an elderly woman with short grey hair and glasses. They are both smiling and looking down. The background is a soft-focus outdoor scene with trees and a sunset sky.

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FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS

Caritas Australia has announced the launch of Project Compassion 2023, its annual Lenten fundraising and awareness-raising appeal. For each of the six weeks of Lent, thousands of Australians come together in solidarity to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity. Caritas Australia helps over 1 million people in Australia and overseas every year - walking alongside those in crisis. This year, Project Compassion is built around the theme of 'For All Future Generations'. This theme asks us to reflect on the great yes that Mary said when the angel told her that she was to become the mother of Jesus. She freely accepted a unique place in the history of the human family. The great prayer she shared with her cousin Elizabeth says 'all generations will call me blessed.' Her yes is 'for all future generations.'

Laxmi from Nepal

Sixteen-year-old Laxmi lives in one of the most remote communities in Nepal, which experiences high levels of poverty.



Laxmi's chance at a better life was through education, supported by her parents. Sadly, her father passed away when she was only 10 years old and she stopped going to school.

Prior to her father's passing, Laxmi joined a child's club at her school, which is run with the support of Caritas Nepal, through the Nepal Livelihoods and Resilience Program. Child's clubs support students to develop their speaking, writing and leadership skills through extracurricular activities.

Thanks to the support of her child's club, Laxmi was encouraged to resume her education. She became an active member and developed the skills and confidence to become a leader, advocating for clean water taps at her school.

Laxmi is now excelling in her studies and working towards her dream of becoming a civil engineer. She

has become a mentor to other girls in her village, encouraging them to stand up for their rights and creating lasting change For All Future Generations.

Watch Laxmi's story at:

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/8871241/video/770593789>



Tereesa from Australia

A young Gamilaroi woman born and raised on Darug land, Tereesa felt disconnected from her culture.

At just 16 years old, she had to leave school after falling pregnant with her first child. As a single mother struggling with homelessness, her only concern was finding stability.

Seeking a better future for her children, Tereesa joined Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation's Young Mums and Bubs Group, supported by Caritas Australia. Baabayn helped Tereesa access psychological support and housing for her family.

The program helped Tereesa reconnect with her culture through Indigenous art. Her artistic skills flourished, and her artwork was chosen for the Vivid

festival in Sydney in 2022.

Today, Tereesa works at Baabayn, providing support to young mothers and mentoring the next generation of young people.

Her children now produce their own artwork and are eager to learn more about First Australian culture, history and symbols. With your support, the work of Baabayn can continue to work with young mothers like Tereesa and help them keep their culture strong for future generations.

During Lent, we are invited to take up the call to fast, pray and give alms. The impacts of the





COVID-19 pandemic and the many crises that have struck the world over the past 12 months mean that many communities are in great need of your support.

Supporting Project Compassion is a way for us to proclaim the faith that is in our hearts and help our sisters and brothers in need. Your gift will help uplift the most marginalised and vulnerable members of society.

Schools and parishes can join Caritas Q&As to interact online with our staff, partners and program participants, or download resources to learn about Caritas Australia's work and Mission. There are also resources for how to set up a local fundraiser for Project Compassion. This year, there are accessible audio-narrated and audio-described videos for schools for each of the stories, as well as a wealth of other resources for the classroom and parish communities.

Watch Teresa's story at:
<https://vimeo.com/showcase/8871241/video/769693134>



**PROJECT
COMPASSION**
 FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS

To learn more or donate to Project Compassion, visit Caritas Australia's website: www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion/ or call 1800 024 413.

Priscilla from Zimbabwe

Priscilla lives with her husband and two grandchildren in the Hwange region of Zimbabwe.



needs to diversify her income and support her family during the current drought.

Watch Priscilla's story at:
<https://vimeo.com/showcase/8871241/video/771865446>



Climate change continues to bring unprecedented challenges for people living in the most vulnerable and remote communities in Zimbabwe. In 2022, an intense dry spell meant that many families were unable to produce sufficient crops, with many at risk of extreme hunger. More than half of Zimbabwe's population, 7.9 million people, live in extreme poverty.

With the support of Caritas Australia's partner, Caritas Hwange, Priscilla and her community learnt conservation farming to grow drought-resistant crops.

With her new-found knowledge, Priscilla helped train and support other farmers in her community to learn techniques to produce better yields.

Her increased harvest from conservation farming allowed Priscilla to sell her crops and start poultry farming, selling eggs to grow her income stream and pay for her grandchildren's education. Caritas Hwange also helped rehabilitate the dip tank in her community so that Priscilla's cattle can be healthy and free from tick-borne diseases. Priscilla now has the skills she

FEATURING IN THE NEXT ISSUE:



Thu from Vietnam

For over half a century, generations of Australians have participated in Project Compassion. Project Compassion began in 1965—making it one of the nation's longest running charity campaigns. Over the years, people all over Australia have learned about the people who have been featured in Project Compassion and seen the impact that their generosity has had in their lives.

Last year was an incredibly difficult year for vulnerable communities around the world. From the war in Ukraine, to the food crisis in Africa to devastating floods in Asia, many of the most marginalised people have been seriously impacted by crises and disasters.

Yet, despite these challenges, we have witnessed the extraordinary courage and resilience of communities as

they confront the challenges of conflict, poverty and injustice.

The kindness of Caritas Australia's supporters has helped communities to live through emergencies such as war, food insecurity and natural disasters. Thanks to our supporters, we have been able to provide assistance where it has been needed the most, supplying essential services including shelter, water, food and medication.

Thank you for your continued support for Project Compassion – past, present and future. **Together, we can help these communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow For All Future Generations.**

PROJECT COMPASSION

TOMORROW AND TOMORROW

In his *Confessions*, St. Augustine describes how his conversion to Christianity involved two separate moments of grace, the first that convinced him intellectually that Christianity was correct, and the second that empowered him to live out what he believed.

BY RON ROLHEISER, OMI
ronrolheiser.com

There were nearly nine years between these two conversions and it was during those nine years that he said his famous prayer: *Lord make me a good and chaste Christian – but not yet.*

Interestingly, a contemporary of his, also a saint, Ephraim the Syrian (306-373 A.D.) wrote a similar prayer: *O my beloved, how daily I default and daily do repent. I build up*

the real difficulties we face in our struggle to grow in faith and human maturity, namely, the tendency to go through life saying: “Yes, I need to do better. I need to bear down and work at overcoming my bad habits, but now is not the time!”

It’s consoling to know that a number of saints struggled for years with mediocrity, laziness, and bad habits, and that they, like us, could

judgment of others. I want to stop giving in to gossip and slander. I want to be more realistically involved in justice. I want a better prayer life. I want to take time for things, spend more time with my family, smell the flowers, drive slower, be more patient, and be less hurried. I have a number of bad habits that I need to change, there are still areas of bitterness in me, I am defaulting on so many things, I really need to change, but now is not the time.

First, I need to first work through a particular relationship, grow older, change jobs, get married, get rested, get healthy, finish school, have a needed vacation, let some wounds heal, get the kids out of the house, retire, move to a new parish, and get away from this situation – then I will get serious about changing all this. *Lord, make me a more mature person and Christian, but not yet!*

In the end, that’s not a good prayer. Augustine tells us that, for years, as he said this prayer he was able to rationalize his own mediocrity. However, a cataclysm began building

a fig tree and gave way to the tears which now streamed from my eyes ... in my misery I kept crying, ‘How long shall I go on saying, tomorrow, tomorrow. Why not now?’” When he got up from the ground, his life had changed; he never again finished a prayer with that little nuance, “but not yet”.

We all have certain habits in our lives which we know are bad, but which for a variety of reasons (laziness, addiction, lack of moral strength, fatigue, anger, paranoia, jealousy, or the pressure of family or friends) we are reluctant to break. We sense our mediocrity, but take consolation in our humanity, knowing that everyone (save full-blown saints) often have this spoken or unspoken caveat in their prayers, “Yes, Lord, but not yet!”

Indeed, there is in fact a valid consolation in this prayer in that it recognizes something important inside the infinite understanding and mercy of God. God, I suspect, copes better with our faults than we cope with them and others cope with us.



for an hour and an hour overthrows what I have built. At evening I say, tomorrow I will repent, but when morning comes, joyous I waste the day. Again, at evening I say, I shall keep vigil all night and I shall entreat the Lord to have mercy on my sins. But when the night is come, I am full of sleep.

What Augustine and Ephraim describe with such clarity (and not without a touch of humor) is one of

for years give in to those things with the shrug: “Tomorrow, I will make a new start!” For a few years, one of Augustine’s expressions was, “tomorrow and tomorrow!”

“Yes, but not yet!” How often does this describe us? I want to be a good Christian and a good person. I want to live more by faith, be less lazy, less selfish, more gracious to others, more contemplative, less given over to anger, bitterness, paranoia, and

inside him. God is infinitely patient with us, but our own patience with ourselves eventually wears out and, at a point, we can no longer continue as before.

In *Book 8* of the *Confessions*, Augustine shares how one day, sitting in a garden, he was overwhelmed with his own immaturity and mediocrity and “a great storm broke within me, bringing with it a great deluge of tears. ... I flung myself down beneath

However, like Augustine, even as we say, “tomorrow and tomorrow” a storm steadily continues to build within us and, sooner or later, our own mediocrity will sicken us enough to cause us say, “Why not now?”

When the Psalmist says, “Sing to the Lord a new song”, we might ask ourselves, what is the old song? It’s the one that ends with us praying, *Yes, Lord, but not yet!*

ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE TO HOST 2024 YOUTH FESTIVAL

The Australian Catholic Youth Festival is coming back – and the countdown is on to the next event in two years' time.

After a hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the premier gathering of young Catholics in Australia will return in December 2024, and the Archdiocese of Melbourne has been named host.

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference last week supported the proposal for the 2024 Festival and expressed its gratitude for the Archdiocese of Melbourne's offer.

"We know what a great source of Christian energy the Australian Catholic Youth Festival has been over the past decade, and we

have very much been looking forward to its return," said Archbishop Christopher Prowse, chair of the Bishops Commission for Evangelisation, Laity and Ministry.

"As bishops, we are inspired by the enthusiasm we see in our young people in our local ministry. But we also recognise the great sense of solidarity and fellowship that is evident when thousands of young people gather to share their love for Jesus."

Melbourne Archbishop Peter A Comensoli said he welcomed his brother bishops' trust in

the Archdiocese of Melbourne hosting the Festival in 2024.

"The Archdiocese of Melbourne was host for the inaugural Festival 11 years ago. We are excited to have ACYF back, and to start planning how we will welcome young Catholics from around the nation," Archbishop Comensoli said.

"ACYF is a great opportunity for our young Church. It is a real invitation for pilgrims to enter more deeply into their relationship with Jesus and be empowered to be disciples in the world today.

"We will work closely with a national committee to determine a theme, but for the moment I just want to say to young people: put this time in your diaries and start planning your journey!"

More details about the 2024 Australian Catholic Youth Festival will be released soon.



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Presided over by

*The Most Reverend Mark Edwards OMI
Bishop of Wagga Wagga Diocese*

A light luncheon will follow at Savernake School of Arts Hall.

All past and present parishioners, families and friends are cordially invited to attend.

Please pass this invitation on to anyone you consider may be interested.

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BISHOP KENNEDY APPOINTED BISHOP OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

Pope Francis has appointed Bishop Michael Kennedy, who has led the Diocese of Armidale in regional New South Wales since 2012, the new Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle.

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has been without a bishop since the death of Bishop Bill Wright in November 2021, with Fr Greg Barker serving as diocesan administrator in the intervening period.

Bishop Kennedy was born and raised in Wagga Wagga, NSW. After completing tertiary study, he taught at Albury's Xavier Catholic College for three years. He entered Vianney College, the Wagga Wagga diocesan seminary, in 1992 and carried out some of his academic studies in Rome. He was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Wagga Wagga in 1999.

In 2011, he was appointed Bishop of Armidale, and was ordained bishop in February 2012.

Bishop Kennedy said he accepts his new appointment "willingly and heartily ... knowing that like all new endeavours, it will hold both joys and challenges".

"To be the chief pastor leading a diocese in worship, teaching, evangelisation and governance is an awesome privilege and responsibility," he said.

"It is one I will undertake in Maitland-

Newcastle with trust in God and with confidence in the cooperation of the clergy, religious and lay faithful of the diocese. All of us, through Baptism, share the right and duty to proclaim Jesus Christ and the Gospel of God's love and salvation to all."

Bishop Kennedy said he will hold the Diocese of Armidale "in a special place in my heart for the rest of my life".

"I assure the people of both dioceses of my prayers for them and ask your prayers in return," he said. "Please pray that I be a true shepherd in the image of Jesus Christ, and that all together we will live the joy of the Gospel united in faith and love."

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference president Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB welcomed Bishop Kennedy's appointment to lead the Church in the New South Wales Hunter region.

"Bishop Kennedy has for 11 years committed himself generously to the service of the Catholic community in the Diocese of Armidale and has been a



Bishop Michael Kennedy

significant contributor to the Bishops Conference over that time," he said.

"His pastoral care for the people he serves will, I am sure, be greatly appreciated by the faithful in Maitland-Newcastle as he takes up his new role."

Fr Barker said the people of Maitland-Newcastle are pleased to welcome Bishop Kennedy.

"It is an exciting time, this time of welcome and transition," he said. "Bishop Michael comes with a wealth of experience from his service in the Diocese of Armidale. This will certainly

help Maitland Newcastle in the next part of our journey.

"I look forward with great excitement to Bishop Michael's installation and leadership."

Archbishop Costelloe acknowledged Fr Barker "for his active participation in the work of the Bishops Conference since the death of Bishop Bill Wright".

The date for Bishop Kennedy's installation as Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle is not yet known. Fr Barker will remain diocesan administrator until that time.

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CARITAS AUSTRALIA REMEMBERS TONGA VOLCANIC ERUPTION AND TSUNAMI

Sunday 15 January marked one year since the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai undersea volcano violently erupted, releasing billowing plumes of ash, water vapour and sulphur dioxide 57km into the atmosphere – the highest ever recorded from a volcano.

The blast registered as the most violent eruption anywhere in the world since Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines in 1991 and was heard across the ocean in Alaska. The resulting tsunami flooded homes in Tonga and the waves even reached as far as Russia and Chile.

The eruption impacted an estimated 84 per cent of the population of Tonga. Many homes in coastal areas were inundated with seawater and some small islands were completely flooded. Telecommunications were completely cut off for more than one month.

"Caritas Tonga was one of the first humanitarian agencies to respond, just 48 hours after the eruption. We distributed emergency relief in coordination with the local government and our partners," said Malialosa Tapueluelu, Caritas Tonga's Project Officer.

The humanitarian response included distribution of hygiene kits, buckets and

jerry cans, kitchen supplies, blankets and water purification kits to affected communities, and ongoing work to purify water, provide psychological support with a counselling team and distribute crucial COVID-19 supplies to communities with community transmission. Now the focus is on long-term recovery and resilience.

"With our long-term recovery response, we are focussing on psychosocial empowerment of the communities in the most affected areas. We are also looking at retrofitting and renovating some of our halls and churches to function as admission and immigration centres for future disasters."

"Since May 2022 we have also been collecting food crop donations to distribute to areas where plantations were severely impacted. Since that time there has been little rain so it has been hard for communities to recover, and we

have been distributing fresh food crops to these severely impacted small island communities instead of tinned food, and we will continue this until we see that their plantations have started to recover."

Caritas Australia continues to work in partnership with Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand and Caritas Tonga to respond to the eruption and help communities recover and build their resilience to future disasters.



Above: Caritas Tonga with emergency supplies. Photo Caritas Tonga - Gregorio Borgia/AP.

Visit www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/pacific/ or call 1800 024 413 toll free to provide much needed support to Pacific countries by donating to our Pacific Emergency Appeal.



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Erin Over Eighty Reunion Event
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Celebration Lunch
Tuesday 18th April 2023
Recovery Breakfast
Wednesday 19th April, 2023

Followed by a group tour of the Mt Erin Heritage Centre. Please spread the word to your over-eighty ex-student friends.

To add a name to the invitation list
contact Colleen.Shaw@bigpond.com
or phone 0438 859 886



SACRED HEART PARISH KOORINGAL

Right: The Barclay Family Group from Sacred Heart Parish, Koorungal celebrated the Annual Christmas Party at the Wagga Country Club on 14 December 2022.

Below: Bishop Mark Edwards celebrated the final 'Simbang Gabi' at Sacred Heart Church - Koorungal on 23 December 2022. Filipinos attended the Simbang Gabi Mass and followed by sumptuous meals which everyone enjoyed.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Four children celebrated their First Holy Communion at St Mary's Church Jindera in Lavington parish.





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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:
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PROJECT OF THE MONTH:

This month help fund a new heating system for the Sisters of Our Lady.



The Eastern-rite (Greek-Catholic) Church in Romania is found principally in the region of Transylvania and serves around 480,000 Catholic faithful. It enjoys full communion with the Catholic Church in Rome, although as one of the Eastern Catholic churches it celebrates the Liturgy according to the Byzantine rite.

The Sisters of the Mother of God are the oldest sisters' congregation of the Romanian Greek Catholic Church. In 2021 they celebrated the centenary of their foundation. The congregation was originally founded to care for orphaned children. However, as the number of sisters grew, they began to increasingly devote themselves to the education of girls, teaching at all levels from preschool to grammar school and secondary vocational schools, and at the same time they ran boarding hostels for female students. Finally they also devoted themselves to the care of the

sick, and during the Second World War they even tended the wounded and dying on the battlefields.

The history of the Romanian Greek Catholic Church has long been one associated with persecution, initially prior to 1918 when the faithful of the Romanian minority were part of the predominantly German and Hungarian Transylvania, and above all from 1948 until 1989 under communist rule. During this communist era 25 sisters of the congregation were interned in prisons and labour camps. But the community continued its evangelising work in secret. The sisters maintained contact with the imprisoned priests and bishops and were thus an important link in the secret underground existence of the Greek Catholic Church in the country. Living together in twos and threes in small apartments, the sisters were able to have the Blessed Sacrament reserved. Priests were occasionally able to visit and celebrate

Holy Mass, and little by little, small faith communities were formed around these sisters. It was here, after the collapse of communism, that the first seeds of the new parish communities were able to grow.

Following the collapse of communism, the sisters in Cluj were able to open an orphanage and work in the hospitals. A few of them were sent to Rome for their studies, in order to be able to train up a new generation of religious sisters. Finally, in 2003, they were able to open their convent of the Mother of God, in Cluj.

Today the Catholic faithful are happy to visit the convent in order to meet the Lord and find an oasis of peace in the midst of the hectic city life. There are various different youth

groups and adult groups who take part with the sisters in the community prayer, Eucharistic Adoration and Divine Liturgy. And there are also many people who come seeking spiritual support and counselling, while every day the poor come seeking food and clothing.

But the sisters are facing one major problem. Their ancient heating system has finally broken down and needs to be replaced, but they cannot afford the cost. So they have turned in confident trust to ACN. We cannot disappoint them, and so we have already promised them the \$35,800 AUD they still require.

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SISTER PATRICIA JOHNSON NAMED GRIFFITH'S CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Sister Patricia Johnson has been named Griffith's Australia Day citizen of the year. She was presented with the top Australia Day honor at celebrations held at the Griffith Regional Theatre.

BY ALLAN WILSON

Area News

She received the accolade for her dedication, passion and commitment to supporting residents with her countless hours of volunteering through various projects and initiatives.

"I am so proud and shocked to be named citizen of the year, especially when I saw and heard all the wonderful things the other nominees have done," she said.

In addition, she also accepted the award of Community Project of the Year on behalf of the Griffith Women on Fire project which she helped coordinate.

Sister Patricia has recently relocated to Canberra, sadly marking

an end to her invaluable service here.

Griffith Women on Fire began in 2016 as a means to bring about inclusiveness for women from multicultural backgrounds.

The project included participants learning new activities and skills over several terms including jewelry making, sewing, water safety and swimming lessons.

Despite the women on fire project having now disbanded, sister Patricia says she has no doubts a similar group will come about if the need ever arises.

"The project ran for about six years. We disbanded as we were seeing fewer and fewer people attending and our evaluation was they were now



Above: Sister Patricia Johnson was named Griffith's Australia Day citizen of the year. Photo by Allan Wilson

part of other activities. That told us the project had served its purpose," she said.

"I'm very proud of what we managed to do and I thank the multicultural woman for their hospitality over the years. We've learnt so much from them.

"Although I'm not sure if another similar group will come along, I'm confident there are people in the community who would organise it if the need ever arose again."

She said she has thoroughly enjoyed her many years spent in Griffith and will always hold the city deep in her heart.

"Being part of this place has been such a privilege. It has always been a part of my being. I came here with my mother and sister back in 1956 and spent 10 years here, working with people through the Sacred Heart

church. I have come back numerous times and have really fallen in love with it. I'll miss it dearly.

"I'm so grateful to have been awarded the top accolade and to see the Griffith Women on Fire project honored the way it has."

Griffith Mayor, Doug Curran, congratulated Sister Patricia and her fellow worthy award recipients, and acknowledged the 64 individuals from 17 countries who became new citizens on the day.

"On behalf of the Griffith community, I congratulate Sister Patricia and all of the other worthy winners," Cr Curran said.

"The Australia Day awards are an important way we can pay tribute to the commitment and dedication of individuals and groups across Griffith that go above and beyond."

Below: Australia Day Ambassador Khushaal Vyas with Sister Patricia Johnson and Griffith mayor Doug Curran. Photo: Griffith City Council.



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LEARNING FOR LIFE - DOING LITTLE THINGS WITH LOVE

Mother Theresa offers a humble pathway to success by saying *"In this life we cannot do great things. We can only do small things with great love."*

BY HEATH NEVILLE

Director of Faith Formation and Mission Xavier High School, Albury

There is a sense of clarity that is afforded in this statement and it is shared by other saints who achieved unimaginable feats of kindness and charity such as St Francis Xavier, the patron saint of our school. On the recent feast day of St Francis, our school celebrated with the theme 'be great in little things' another quote on simplicity that highlights an attainable path that

students continue to grow in their understanding of what it means to go to Xavier, and to thrive as Courageous, Challenged, Collaborative, Compassionate and Christ-like members of our faith community. This strong start continued throughout the remainder of the year with our relationship with the Sacred Heart Parish growing with the inclusion of a Term 2 Year 7 Youth Mass, where we



Above: Hand-made skateboards donated as a part of the Christmas Appeal.

Below: Donating to St. Vincent de Paul North Albury Oct. 16, 2022.



Above: Class of 2022 Graduation evening.

allows us to give glory to God.

In reflection of 2022, our students have achieved a plethora of small things with great love, and this was our aim, some of which I would like to highlight in order to demonstrate how glorious our year has been.

In our last article we mentioned the strong start to our year with the Year 12 Retreat and Year 7 Camp - the bookends of our Faith Formation program.

It is without a doubt that these opportunities and events see our

introduced our new members of the Xavier community to the Parish. This event will now be an annual event that we will all look forward to.

Then there was the Immersion Program. Since 2010, Xavier High School has offered to Senior Students an invitation to participate in this program which provides them with an authentic opportunity to understand the spiritual, cultural and historical components that underpin contemporary Aboriginal Communities, by walking alongside the First Nations peoples they visit.

Forty Year 11 Students' applications were accepted and divided into two teams - one visiting Moree/Dubbo and the other Lake Mungo. With over nine months in the planning, the seven day experience was life changing.

"The Immersion Program not only breached my expectations on the spirituality awakening being able to have a broader understanding of the First Nations culture, but also allowed me to know on a deeper level the life stories of my peers I sit in class with everyday"

Karly Thomas - Mungo

It also provided an opportunity to collaborate with an initiative of the

Sacred Heart Parish Pastoral Council to celebrate a First Nations Peoples Mass which was used as a vehicle to commission the pilgrims (staff and students) who were participating in the Immersion Program.

Our whole School Masses and Liturgies continued throughout the year with themes of 'Voices of Change' and 'Do little things great'. This also included a beautiful Graduation Liturgy as part of the ceremony which took place in our new St Francis Xavier Stadium. Year 12 students took the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

opportunity to create and design their final liturgy which was a celebration of their faith journey here at Xavier.

Our staff also continued to be a light for others. Over a dozen staff members were directly involved in the local Sacred Heart Alpha program. We also conducted two Twilight Spirituality Sessions after school focusing on why our faith calls us to serve our community, followed by putting our faith into action by doing workshops designed to facilitate acts of service for Carevan and the St Vincent De Paul Society.

Finally, the last two weeks were action packed and saw us celebrate 'Xavier Day' with Mass and games. Our students took the time to learn about our Patron Saint and created



Above: Commissioning Immersion Program participants at the Sacred Heart First Nations Peoples Mass.

Below: Xavier Choir on stage for the Gift Giving Mass.



Above: 2022 Immersion Program smoking ceremony.

artworks and participated in activities designed to educate them on his history.

Then there was our big finish. Our Gift Giving Mass on the last day for students was the culmination and celebration of our St Vinnies Christmas Appeal. A fundraising initiative we conducted throughout Term 4 where all 32 homerooms created a hamper each of food and decorations for families in our local community. These hampers also included handmade gifts from our staff which were created on our Twilight night. These were wooden carved candle holders as table decorations and over 125 handmade Christmas cards. Furthermore, a group of staff with the support of a local skate store, Timmy G's, made nine skateboards from scratch to include with the hampers.

As St Vincent de Paul president Peter Burgess, who attended the Gift Giving Mass mentioned, there is something going on here at Xavier, a joy and energy in the students that you cannot quite put your finger on. Our North Albury St Vincent De Paul recipients of the gifts were also taken aback with the generosity shown by the Xavier Community and it was a great way to finish the year. We donated a

further \$400 worth of gift cards to local stores as gifts for kids between 12 - 16 years as well as a cash donation of \$500.

Once again it was something small that was done with love - something simple that was done well or even great. That is what we are all about here at Xavier, teaching our students to do the little things and be a part of

a Catholic faith community. These experiences are provided as part of our shared responsibility to all humanity to help foster opportunities for our students to become more open-minded and hearted global citizens. It is the little things that we did so well this year that made it glorious to be a part of the Xavier family in 2022.

From our family to yours, we hope

you had a merry Christmas and a happy holiday. You can follow us on social media to see what we are up to. Please be in contact with the school for any feedback or suggestions on how we can continue to live with mercy in our community.

Yours in Catholic Education
Heath Neville

Below: 2023 Xavier School Captains Eli and Angelina.



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ENVIRONMENTAL CHAMPIONS

Wagga Wagga's Environmental Citizen of the Year was awarded to Carmel Wallis and Kaye Bryan for their efforts in creating ErinEarth.

Environmental Citizen of the Year was awarded to local community organisation ErinEarth. Through ErinEarth, cofounders Carmel Wallis and Kaye Bryan are working towards a sustainable society. In 2023, ErinEarth celebrates a significant milestone, the Silver Jubilee of its establishment, which resulted in the transformation of an asphalt tennis court and area of waste ground into a tranquil garden and home for many species of animals and plants native to the Riverina.

Carmel and Kaye have provided inspiring leadership through their ongoing commitment and development of ErinEarth for the benefit of the entire community.

ErinEarth's goal is to demonstrate sustainable living to the local community. They acknowledge and respect the

importance of the connections between people, land, water, sky, plants and animals. These parts make up the community of life that we are a part of.

This is achieved by:

Being mindful of the powerful connection Wiradjuri culture has to this place. We seek to respect this culture and act accordingly.

Running a volunteer garden maintenance program every Thursday during school term. This program is an inclusive program, aiming to provide a welcoming and supportive place for all.

Opening the garden each Tuesday and Wednesday for the community to wander, kids to play in the play area and for quiet contemplation among the beautiful natural environment.

Supporting a local environmental education network made up of early

childhood centres, pre-school, primary and secondary schools, community education providers, and Charles Sturt University. ErinEarth staff help convene the network, visit schools and support teachers with lessons and facilitate visits to the ErinEarth garden.

Holding information sessions at various locations and offering four family fun days each year to show the garden's changing beauty through the seasons.

Using environmentally friendly approaches in our garden such as native plant selection, heavy mulching, drip irrigation, on site management of waste via compost, minimal use of pesticides and herbicides, natural fertilisers such as compost and manure, among many others. The garden is mostly made up of native plants with a few hardy introduced species, a vegetable garden, small orchard and chook run, plus areas for kids to explore and play.



Above: Carmel Wallis and Kaye Bryan accepting the Environmental Citizen of the Year Award for their efforts in creating ErinEarth.

Come and take a chance on God and on the depth of his love for you.

A Night of Reconciliation

An Invitation to Experience the Sacrament of Confession



Whoever you are, allow God to pick you up. Ask him for his grace and that gentle loving merciful healing that will eventually transform your life.

You are invited to come to Confession on the night of 24 March 2023 this Lent to experience the power, freedom and love of God and God's grace.

**Your priests will be waiting for you on
Friday 24 March 2023 - 6pm to 12 midnight
St Michael's Cathedral, Johnston Street Wagga Wagga
St Patrick's Church, Smollett Street Albury
Sacred Heart Church, Warrambool Street Griffith**

It's not until you get restored that you realise how much brighter and more vibrant you could be.
Don't give up on your dream of holiness and being close to God and those you love.

SOULSPACE SATURDAYS AT ERINEARTH

A place to nourish, connect and celebrate community.

The month of February brings an abundance of dragonflies, frogs and many species of birds to the ErinEarth garden. Located at the very heart of the city of Wagga Wagga, the garden offers peaceful and inspiring surroundings to host a monthly gathering known as SoulSpace Saturdays.

ErinEarth is looking forward to holding the first SoulSpace Saturday this year on 25 February 2023.

Monthly SoulSpace Saturdays started in 2022 in response to awareness that today's life is often fast paced. SoulSpace is an evolving initiative where there is an inclusive, shared space for quiet reflection, grounding and celebration. SoulSpace is deeply linked with nature and is an opportunity for those longing for connection, community, or a sense of peace.

ErinEarth is privileged to have Carmel Wallis and Karen Kime leading and supporting the SoulSpace Saturday gatherings.

We welcome and encourage all to participate regardless of age, religious or

cultural beliefs. Each month there will be a theme for discussion and contemplation.

The mornings are flexible with sessions usually starting with a short talk, some quiet time to wander in the garden and finishing with tea or coffee over a chat amongst new and old friends.

SoulSpace Saturdays are held on the fourth Saturday of the month from February to October from 9.30am – 11.00am.

We would love to see you there.

Enquiries about SoulSpace may be directed to admin@erinearth.org.au or 6925 7150.

ErinEarth is proud to acknowledge that it is situated on Wiradjuri country and is committed to reconciliation with all our First Nations sisters and brothers.



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UNDERSTANDING WHY WE LIGHT A CANDLE IN CHURCH

The custom and praxis of lighting candles is a significant convention in Catholic and Orthodox churches, communities and families, originating from Old Testament times where an oil lamp was lighted to 'sustain a perpetual flame.'

BY SCHOENSTATT SCOTLAND
schoenstattscotland.com

In The New Testament they emphasize the sacredness of this light in Paul's Letter to the Hebrews. 'A first tent was prepared with the lamp stand, the table and the bread of the presence; this is called the Holy Place'.

In current Catholic tradition, this light has a precisely distinct status for it symbolizes Christ who said, 'I am the Light of the world; the one who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have light and life,' chronicled in (John 8:12). Most clergy however, relate the candle as representing Jesus as the Light of the world, but also the light and fire as representing the presence and power of God (similar to the pillar of fire that led the children of Israel in the exodus).

Many individuals light a candle prior to worship to symbolize their life as an offering, being burned up in service to God. All of these beliefs, and many more, exist forming elements of this symbolism. Christian faith is filled with symbolism, all of which is effective in teaching us to appreciate our faith in a way that goes beyond the intellectual level. Anything you do, like getting on your knees in prayer as an act of humility, can be very helpful and meaningful for communicating nuances of our faith which goes way beyond our available intellect. Candles form a significant part of Catholic celebrations and rituals, and the lighting of candles play a considerable role. They are lighted during the celebration of the Mass, on liturgical and funeral processions, at prayer ceremonies and much more. One is lit before the Tabernacle to signify the Lord's presence in the Blessed Sacrament in the sanctuary, and to call for reverence and veneration on the part of the faithful.

In the Sacrament of Baptism, as a person is initiated into the Church, a candle is lit from the Paschal Candle,

the symbol of Christ's Paschal Mystery. His passion, death and resurrection. That individual receives the Light of Christ that they may live and walk the path of God's children and sustain that flame of faith burning alive in their heart. As they receive this indelible baptismal mark, they shall encounter the Lord and be one with all the saints in Heaven when the right time comes.

Candles are lighted before a statue or likeness of Christ's image demonstrating our devotion and reverence for Him who deserves our adoration and thanksgiving and who alone can absolve our sins and return us to a more profound relationship with God. Catholics do this; not to honor the image itself, but the one it truly represents. The lighted candle symbolizes a prayer offering where we present our petitions to the Lord and ask the saints to pray with us and to pray for us during our most urgent needs. This light, when kept burning, represents our longing to remain in God's companionship as we go about our daily duties at home and in the workplace. As we commemorate our sacred liturgies, sacraments and regular prayers, Christ, the Source of all Light, shall come to us and is ever present to strengthen us, instruct us, inspire us and offer us hope that His Light will under no circumstances burn out as long as we live in faith without a shadow of doubt that darkness will ever defeat us.

Judaism and other religions in the ancient world used candles in symbolic ways, they were utilised principally as a light source in ancient times. If Christians met before or after dark candles would have been used in the meeting place or home to ensure one might safely manoeuvre and to provide light.

This is probably the source of how bringing or lighting, a candle started in a most natural way, not initially

for symbolic reasons. In the Orthodox Church every member is encouraged upon entering the worship place to purchase a small votive candle, light it, and place it in a small sandbox.

Rack stands for candles are known as votives or vigil lights, utilized to retain the intention of prayers, for a specific issue or perhaps an individual. When you light them you usually say a prayer over one candle at a time. In keeping these candles burning for extended periods, the individual prayer is believed to be prolonged and amplified along with the intentions of other believers' prayers. In doing this, there is established a collective spirit of prayer for the entire church which is encouraging, enriching and empowering. Looking at a rack of burning candles in a church can be quite moving, for even when you depart, your prayers remain in the Church and then others may pray over the candles later.

Catholics use votive candles also as a remembrance of the deceased, especially of our loved ones, and of those we hold dear. We light them

Altar candles may be votives or taller and longer-lasting candles and may be in glass containers. Candles lit for special occasions may be for small groups of individuals congregated to celebrate or worship, or as part of a liturgy for the whole church. They frequently were made of beeswax to symbolize the purity of Christ, but nowadays this is less likely. The number and placement of candles to be lit at the primary altar varies greatly depending on the specific occasion and type of clergy presiding over the Mass. Traditionally, candles must be lit before Mass begins, and they are not extinguished until after the service.

In the Shrine at Schoenstatt Scotland they have the following prayer placed beside our candle stand.

CANDLE

Lord,

May this candle be a light for you to enlighten me in my difficulties and decisions.

May it be a fire for you to burn out of me all pride, selfishness and impurity.

May it be a flame for you to bring warmth into my heart towards my



specifically on All Souls' Day, usually November 2, for this purpose. But may also be lit on November 1 for All Saints' Day to honor every saint, remaining lit through All Souls' Day. Indeed we tend to light candles for the Holy Souls throughout the month of November.

Candles are frequently lit at secondary or private altars set up for the purpose of honouring a particular saint. Candles are also usually burned at altars of the Sacred Heart, Mary, St Joseph, the Little Flower and others. These candles are set in front of statues of saints, and placed with other items like flowers or artwork.

family, all those whom I meet, and whom I hold dear and to my neighbours, friends and colleagues.

Through the prayers of Mary Virgin and Mother I place in your care those I come to pray for especially....

I cannot stay long with you in this shrine: in leaving this candle I wish to give you something of myself, in so doing, I wish you, dear mother to perfect my prayers, so that by the time they reach the ear of your son, Jesus, they will be perfected.

Help me, dear Lord, to continue my prayer into everything I do to this day.

Amen.

ITALY UNVEILS AMBITIOUS SPENDING PLAN OF NEARLY \$2 BILLION FOR 2025 JUBILEE

Italian officials announced plans to spend roughly 1.8 billion Euro, or \$1.95 billion, on nearly 100 different projects to update and enhance Rome ahead of what's being billed as a "Jubilee of Hope" in 2025, expected to draw tens of millions of extra visitors to the city.

BY ELISE ANN ALLEN

Crux Senior Correspondent

In a Jan. 12 press conference, Rome mayor Roberto Gualtieri and other officials said that over the course of the next two years, a special jubilee planning committee will oversee a cluster of projects aimed at cleaning up the city and making it more functional ahead of the jubilee.

Set to open in less than two years, the 2025 jubilee will have the theme "Pilgrims of Hope," and is described as a year of "hope and trust" for a world devastated by wars, the COVID-19 pandemic, and increased threats to the climate.

A committee including both Vatican and municipal authorities is charged with planning the event, with the Vatican's efforts being led by Italian Archbishop Rino Fisichella, who serves as pro-prefect of the Vatican's Dicastery for Evangelization.

The first-ever jubilee, called a "Holy Year," was instituted by Pope Boniface VIII in 1300 and was initially celebrated every 100 years. Then, following biblical tradition, it took place every 50 years, and it was finally decided by Pope Paul II in 1490 that jubilees would be observed every 25 years, allowing each person to experience one in their lifetime.

Designed to be a time of conversion and emphasis on God's mercy and forgiveness of sins, jubilees are marked by the opening of the Holy Door in St. Peter's Basilica. Holy Doors at each of the four papal basilicas in Rome are destination points for pilgrims, who pass through seeking special graces.

The last Ordinary Jubilee was the Great Jubilee of 2000, celebrated by Pope John Paul II. The Holy Year of

2025 will be the 27th ordinary jubilee year of the Catholic Church.

A new custom of calling "extraordinary" jubilees, meaning outside of the 25-year rotation, and

in 2015.

The Jubilee of Hope, which will come exactly 10 years after the extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, will begin in December 2024 with the pontiff opening the "holy door" in St. Peter's Basilica, offering the world's 1.3 billion Catholics the possibility of obtaining a plenary indulgence and a year of special graces. The Jubilee of Hope will end on the feast of the Epiphany in 2026.

It's traditional for the city of Rome to exploit a jubilee to roll out much-needed updates and modifications to city infrastructure.

Ahead of the Great Jubilee of 2000, for example, a large new parking garage was installed on top of Rome's Janiculum Hill which has now become a staple for locals who want to avoid the hassle of finding parking on the street. A new express bus line,

investment, another \$542 million will be spent on some 335 projects already being carried out with the PNRR fund (*Piano Nazionale di Ripresa e Resilienza*), which is Italy's post-pandemic recovery fund.

The works to be carried out have been described by the government as "essential and non-deferable," and were published in an official decree published following Pope Francis's private meeting with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni on Tuesday, marking the first time the two had met since Meloni's election last September.

The most expansive part of the plan will be road maintenance, with \$216 million allocated to update and remodel several heavily trafficked streets. Several smaller municipal roads will also be redone, with each of Rome's 15 municipalities pitching in



Above: Pope Francis celebrates the canonization Mass for five new saints in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Oct. 13, 2019. (Credit: Paul Haring/CNS.)

which can last a few days to a few months, began in the 16th century. There have only been a handful of extraordinary jubilees since, the latest being the 2015-2016 Jubilee of Mercy called by Pope Francis.

Roughly 25 million pilgrims are estimated to have flooded the city of Rome during the Great Jubilee of 2000, which spanned from Christmas Eve 1999 to the feast of the Epiphany in 2001. Around 21 million came for Pope Francis's extraordinary jubilee

number 40, also was established, allowing quicker access from Rome's main train station, Termini, to the Vatican area. That line has become one of the most popular routes in the city center.

According to Gualtieri, the spending plan will be concentrated in four different areas: accessibility and mobility; environment and land; redevelopment and enhancement; and reception and participation.

\$3 million. Sidewalk reconstruction has also been factored in for an additional \$27 million.

In one of the most significant projects to be carried out near the Vatican, an underpass will be built allowing pedestrians to avoid a busy street by crossing from the area in front of Castel Sant'Angelo to Piazza Pia, a small square next to the Via

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30

A YEAR TO CELEBRATE

Fr William Matthews of the Salesians of Don Bosco presents *A Year to Celebrate*. 2023 marks the 100th year of the Salesian presence in Australia and it will be a year of celebrations for this momentous achievement.

To celebrate their will be the issue of a commemorative book by Fr Frank Moloney, recalling the 100 years of Salesian presence in Australia.

In January they celebrated with an Opening Centenary Mass and blessing of the newly minted memorial of gratitude to all benefactors at Rupertswood, Sunbury in Victoria.

On the 28th January five Salesian deacons had their priestly ordination by Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB of Perth in St Francis' Church,

Melbourne.

On April 21st to the 28th Fr Fernández Artime Ángel (Rector-Major) will be visiting the province.

Background:

On Friday 30th March 1923, a group of Salesians arrived with high hopes in Fremantle, WA later joined by Bishop Coppo. The genuine intention was to work with the indigenous in the Kimberley in the education of the young people.

Due to unforeseeable circumstances and difficulties, they encountered,



Above: The first group of Salesians pictured with then Rector Major, Fr Phillip Rinaldi and Bishop Coppo before setting out from Turin Italy.

some Salesians returned to Europe somewhat disappointment, and others moved onto Melbourne to minister to Italian immigrants. They also availed themselves in the education of the poor and abandoned young people in Victoria. These few determined Salesians moved forward in hope, trusting entirely in God's will, for their new mission in Melbourne.

With much gratitude to these dedicated first Salesians, the Australia-Pacific Province of Mary Help of Christians celebrates its centenary with pride. **From a humble and trusting beginning in the West in 1923 to a daring celebration in 2023 is what God has brought to the young of the Australia-Pacific Province.**

Below: Blessing of the newly minted memorial of gratitude.



Above: Clergy lay their hands on the newly ordained Salesians. (Salesians of Don Bosco)

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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

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

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Sam Sutton	0448 080 607
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della Conciliazione, the main street leading up to St. Peter's Basilica.

The Via del Ottaviano, a popular shopping street near the Vatican that connects to the underground metro, will also be redone, as well as the so-called *passaggiata del gelsomino*, an underground walkway leading from St. Peter's train station down to the Vatican area, which for years has been dank, grungy, and smelly.

In addition, the pedestrian underpass allowing people to cross on foot the busy Gregorio VII street, where people exiting the train station end up, to the Porta Cavalligieri on the other side, which leads to the Vatican, will be expanded.

St. Peter's train station itself and the small square in front of it, situated on a small hill within walking distance of the Vatican, will be redone and a large indoor market near the Vatican area, in the *Piazza dell'Unità*, will also be remodeled.

Two new parking garages are scheduled to be built, one of which will be located in the Piazza Risorgimento sitting along the Vatican City walls, and the other near Castel Sant'Angelo.

A nearly 2-mile bike path will also be established in the area, and green areas near Castel Sant'Angelo, the Vatican and St. Peter's, and each of the

city's three other papal basilicas will be redeveloped.

Some \$19.5 million will be spent to increase security and surveillance near the Piazza Cinquecento, where violent crime has recently increased, and at Rome's main train station, Termini, where many homeless sleep at night and which is often associated with petty crime.

Platforms on the tracks of Termini station, and the area surrounding Termini, including the large nearby Piazza della Repubblica, will also be updated and redeveloped. Some \$4.3 million will be spent redoing routes into the city from Rome's Fiumicino airport.

In terms of public transport, \$65 million will be spent on revamping the city's metro and bus systems, specifically the A-line of the underground metro, which stops near the Vatican and also passes by Termini station.

Roughly 30 new trains will be purchased and added to the rotation, with ATAC, the national transport company, overseeing the purchase as well as updating railway infrastructure throughout the city. The city of Rome will purchase an additional three trains for other metro lines.

Public transport above ground will also get a makeover, with additional millions allocated for the purchase of 110 hybrid busses and 244 12-meter methane buses, which will be added to the roughly 755 new vehicles already

budgeted in the coming years.

ATAC says it will aim to improve arrival and departure times, as well as installing electronic poles and smart shelters in waiting areas to provide updates on bus arrivals in real time. When all is said and done, there will be some 840 bus stops near Vatican City, each of the papal basilicas, and other places of interest.

Jubilee preparations also include a plan for reception centers and increased security along Rome's Tiber river, with work expected to be done on the bridges connecting one side to the other, as well as improvements to lighting and green areas.

A system of 'pilgrim paths' will be established for suburban churches and places expecting to host pilgrims, including the Santa Maria della Pietà youth hostel and a center for people with disabilities in Pietralanta, allowing visitors clearer information on places to stay and how to get around the city.

The PNRR fund also aims to promote sustainable tourism in Italy, which has been rolled into preparations for the jubilee. As part of this plan, new routes connecting historical sites will be established and monuments and churches that are often overshadowed by the more major tourist attractions will also be enhanced.



Above: Curia Reform Meeting of the Cardinals in the Vatican discussing the 2025 Jubilee of Hope. (Vatican Media)

CHURCH PUBLISHES FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT ON CHILD SAFETY

The ongoing work to ensure Catholic settings are safe for children and that organisations are responsive to safeguarding concerns has been outlined in the Church's fifth annual report to the National Office for Child Safety.

One of the recommendations of the final report of the Royal Commission into Institutional Response to Child Sexual Abuse was the publication of annual reports on progress that organisations were making. The requirement was for such reports to be submitted for at least five years.

The 2022 annual report, which focuses on progress made between October 2021 and October 2022, collates information from dioceses and religious institutes, as well as the work of some key national entities.

In the report's foreword, Australian Catholic Bishops Conference president Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB and Catholic Religious Australia president Fr Peter Jones OSA reiterated earlier statements that the Church is deeply

sorry for the abuse that occurred in Catholic settings.

"We renew our pledge for the present and the future of a Church that listens, that seeks the truth, that responds compassionately, that desires healing and that acts with justice," they wrote.

"Our shameful past informs and energises our ongoing efforts. We are mindful that for the Church to carry forward God's mission for us, we must take seriously our responsibilities to keep all people safe, and especially children."

Archbishop Costelloe and Fr Jones acknowledge that while the report outlines number examples of safeguarding work being undertaken across the Church, "many of the changes that are taking place – cultural and behavioural changes – are not easily captured in the pages of a report".



The report contains sections on progress and achievements by dioceses, religious institutes and some schools and school systems in the following areas: Governance and structures; Education and training; Cultural change; Pastoral responses; Participation of children; Community engagement; Engagement with victims and survivors.

It also captures national and

international initiatives, including plans for a global report on the Church's safeguarding efforts, the publication of the second edition of the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards and the evolution of national frameworks for responding to abuse complaints and allegations.

The report can be accessed at: <https://bit.ly/CatholicNOC2022>

VALE: *Susanne Mary Gooden*

Requiem Mass for the repose of the soul of Susanne Mary Gooden was concelebrated in St. Mary's Catholic Church Lockhart by Monsignor Doug George and Father Terence Mahedy on Wednesday 11th January, 2023.

Sue has a long history of many faith and charity works in Lockhart and further afield, including Catholic Women's League member for 40 years, President for 24 years. Diocesan Committee President 20 years, and Governing Body of CWL Victoria and Wagga Wagga member for 9 years. An active member of St. Josephs Carmelite Auxiliary in Lockhart for 33 years, President of same for 29 years in support of

the Carmelite Monastery in Wagga Wagga. Sue was a devoted teacher of Religious Education for 33 years at Lockhart Central School, also a generous volunteer at St. Josephs Primary School, Lockhart and St. Francis de Sales Secondary School, Leeton during the years her children attended school.

Sue was a working member and organiser of St. Mary's Altar Society for 40 years. Assistance with the



Above: Susanne Mary Gooden.



Photo: CWL Representatives included Carolyn Ryan, Kath Farrelly, Betty Quee, Judy Ryan, Pat Ryan, Irene Smyth, Kathy Smith and Carmel Packer.

Ecumenical services at Woodhaven Aged Care Facility, Lockhart and the local hospital for five years was greatly appreciated along with her work for the World Day of Prayer. Organising St. Mary's Church catering for 20 years as well as local volunteer organisations Sue also gave her time willingly to Meals on Wheels, Brookong Nook Craft shop, Hand and Nail Care at Woodhaven for 14 years, just to name a few.

Sue is survived by her husband Barry of 54 years and her four children

Tanya, Damien, Kathryn and Emily and six grandchildren, her extended family and friends, all of who are so much richer for having shared in her life.

Three members of Diocesan Committee and five past members of Lockhart Branch of CWL placed the League sash on Sue's casket and said prayers at the beginning of Holy Mass.

*Rest In Peace Sue,
your work here is done.*

CUTS TO HELP DEBT FOR AUSTRALIA'S MOST REMOTE TEACHERS AN IMPORTANT MOVE

Catholic education has welcomed the move by the Federal Government to cut HELP debt for teachers who stay four years in a 'very remote location'.

"It is an example of cross sectoral support to address the immediate and future challenges of the teaching workforce and will help attract recent graduates to very remote schools in our sector," National Catholic executive director Jacinta Collins said.

"It is a positive initiative for very remote schools and communities, an acknowledgement of the issues facing the education sector and the

Federal Government's commitment to address them."

Under the plan, teachers including early childhood teachers who have completed four years working in very remote Australia can apply to receive a cut to their HELP debt.

Ms Collins said Catholic schools are present throughout Australia, including some of the most remote communities.

"We are committed to improving

equitable learning outcomes for all students, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds including regional, rural and remote Australia, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, students with disability and students from low socio-economic backgrounds," Ms Collins said.

"This initiative is a step in the right direction to ensuring equitable and improved learning outcomes for all students. We look forward to hearing about further initiatives arising from the National Teacher Workforce Action Plan as the year progresses."



SCHOOLS IN OUR DIOCESE



Students and staff are very excited to be back at school learning in 2023!

Holy Spirit School,
Lavington



St Joseph's Primary, Wagga

Welcome back to school St Joseph's Primary students.



Sacred Heart Primary, Wagga



Students and staff of SHK feel privileged to be part of Superhero Day raising money for the paediatric ward of Wagga Base Hospital. As they had fun together, they remembered Nate Lawson, much loved student and superhero to many.



Holy Trinity Primary, West Wagga

Welcome to our Kinder 2023 students. Lots of smiles and eager to start their learning journey at Holy Trinity!



Catholic Education
Diocese of Wagga Wagga

All schools enrolling now

St Joseph's Primary School, Finley

What a great start to their school career. They have done such a fantastic job and were so brave on their first day of kindergarten!



St Joseph's School, Leeton



First day of school for St Joseph's School's beautiful Kinder families.



Mater Dei Primary, Wagga



What a great day everyone had at the swimming carnival on Monday. Well done to all our swimmers and congratulations to all our aged champions.



St Joseph's Primary, Jerilderie

You're off to great places. Today is your day. Your mountain is waiting. So get on your way. - Dr Seuss

Welcome to our new Joeys, Kindergarten! We are SO excited to see you grow, learn, laugh, play and move mountains!

St Michael's Primary, Coolamon

Swimming Carnival 2023. What a great day had by all! Congratulations to everyone who participated in any event. You all displayed such great sportsmanship. Green were our winning house today. Congratulations green!!



SCHOOLS IN OUR DIOCESE

MASS TIMES IN 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 - KOORINGAL

Sacred Heart
Lake Albert Road, Kooringal
Weekend Masses
Saturday Vigil - 5:30pm
Sunday - 9:00am
Weekday Masses
Monday, Wednesday, Friday - 5:30pm
Tuesday and Thursday - 7:00am
Saturday - 9:30am
Reconciliation
Saturday - 10:00am - 10:30am
Changes to times will be on the Chapel door.
Anointing Mass:
Every second Thursday of the month at 10am 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
1st Tuesday of the month - 11:00am
Wagga Community Aged Care
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
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 St, Nth 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 Sept)
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 - 5:00pm Saturday Vigil
2nd, 4th Sunday - 10:00am
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

DARLINGTON POINT
St Oliver Plunkett
Hay Road
1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday - 8.30am
2nd, 4th Sunday - 6:00pm (Saturday Vigil)
Weekday Masses
Mon-Fri - 8.30am

COLEAMBALLY
St Peter's
Cnr of Currawong Crescent & Kingfisher Avenue
1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday - 10.30am
2nd, 4th Sunday - 8.00am
Confessions 15 minutes before any Mass or anytime 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: Usually 7:30am or 5:30pm (call parish to confirm)
Saturday: 8:00am (usually in the convent except 1st Sat. in the church).
Confessions:
30 min. before all Masses.
St. Patrick's Matong
6:00pm Saturday
Confessions: 30 min. before Mass

GRIFFITH

Sacred Heart Warrambool St, Griffith
Saturday Vigil - 6.00pm
Saturday - 8.00am
Sunday - 7.30am, 9.00am, (Italian), 10.30am, 6.00pm

Weekday Masses
Monday - Friday - 7.00am, 5.30pm
Confessions
Friday - 4.30pm to 5.30pm
Saturday - 11.30am to 12.30pm
Marian Catholic College Chapel
185 Wakaden Street Griffith
Sunday - 9.00am

HOLBROOK

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

HOWLONG

St Brigid's
Hovell St, Howlong
Church of the Good Shepherd
Queen Street, Walbundrie
Weekend Mass Times
Howlong
Saturday - 6:00pm Vigil
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
Tuesday - 7:00am
Wednesday - 9:00am
Thursday - 7:00am
Friday - 9:30am
Confessions
Saturday - 10:30-11:00am;
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 - 7:45am
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 - 8:00am
Weekday Masses
Refer to parish notices
Confessions Before weekend Masses

NARRANDERA

St Mel's Church, Audley St
Saturday Vigil - 6.00pm
Sunday - 9.30am
Weekday Masses
Tuesday - 5:30pm
Wednesday & Thursday - 7:30am
Friday - 5:30pm
Saturday - 8:00am
(subject to changes announced in the Sunday bulletin)
Confessions
Saturday - 8:30 - 9.30am
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 (1962 Missal Mass)
Sunday - 10:00am
Weekday Masses
Monday - 7:00am
Tuesday - 6:00pm
Wednesday - 7:00am
Thursday - 8:30am
Friday - 6:00pm
Confessions:
Saturday 4:30-5:30pm, and before and after all Masses

TOCUMWAL

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

TUMBARUMBA

All Saints'

40 Murray Street, Tumbarumba
Saturday Vigil - 6.00pm
Sunday - 9.00am

Weekday Masses

Monday & Tuesday - 7:30am
Wednesday-Friday - 5.30pm
Saturday 9.15am

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 - 10:00am

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) - with
Anointing of the Sick

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 FEBRUARY

3 January 1933	Fr Patrick Hanrahan
10 January 1938	Fr James Hennebury
23 January 1937	Fr James Power O'Rourke
24 January 1882	Fr Cornelius Twomey
26 January 1941	Fr Martin Vaughan
27 January 1938	Fr Patrick Reidy
30 January 1946	Fr Patrick Gahan
4 February 1932	Fr John Campbell
12 February 1926	Fr Thomas L Ryan
14 February 1907	Mgr Michael Slattery
14 February 1982	Fr Thomas Aloysius Desmond
19 February 1948	Fr John Kenneth Charles Suna
24 February 1968	Bishop Francis Augustin Henschke



Junior Legion

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

All welcome!

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

Contact:

Caronne 0413 801 616



FAMILY REFLECTIONS

12th February

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A

Families have rules. Without rules, family life would be chaos. As a family, brainstorm a list of rules that you are all called to follow in your home in order for you all to get along together. Think about rules for play time, rules for eating, rules for how to speak to one another, rules for going out with friends, and so on. Emphasize that families follow rules as a way of showing love and respect for one another. Explain that in this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus talks about following the Law. Say: God's Law of love can be thought of as rules that we are to follow in order to show our love and respect for one another. Read aloud this Sunday's Gospel, Matthew 5:17-37. Talk specifically with one another about how anger is to be dealt with in your family. Conclude by praying for the grace to overcome anger and to show respect for one another as a family by following God's Law of love.

*Sirach 15:15-20 Psalm 119:1-2,4-5, 17-18,33-34
1 Corinthians 2:6-10 Matthew 5:17-37*

19th February

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A

Family life teaches us many things. It is often at home that we learn practical skills such as cooking, riding a bike, and making repairs. Talk about some of the things that the members of your family have learned to do at home. We also learn about caring at home. Talk about times when you have learned a lesson about sharing, forgiving, or loving through an experience that happened at home.

Talk about how love is the most important thing a

family can share with one another. Explain that it is the same in God's family. Read aloud this Sunday's Gospel, Matthew 5:38-48. Talk about how Jesus tried to teach his disciples how to love others beyond those who are closest to them. Jesus tells them to love even their enemies. As members of God's family, we are called to do the same thing. Talk about some concrete ways you can "love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you"

Remind your children that Jesus does not expect us to be perfect. Jesus knows that we are human and will not always do everything correctly. Explain that what Jesus wants us to do is to love others as if they were Jesus himself. If we reach out in love to others, we are doing exactly what Jesus did. That is what perfection looks like. End this time together by praying the Act of Love.

*Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18 Psalm 103: 1-4,8,10,
12-13 1 Corinthians 3:16-23 Matthew 5:38-48*

26th February

First Sunday of Lent, Cycle A

When Jesus resists the temptations presented to him by the devil, he draws on his religious upbringing and tradition. Jesus is able to quote from Scripture because he is the Son of God and because he was a human person who lived his Jewish beliefs fully. We who are responsible for raising children are also called upon to immerse them fully in our Catholic Christian tradition so that they too will be able to draw upon this tradition to resist the temptations they will face in their lives.

Use this Sunday as an opportunity to call your family's attention to the importance of Scripture in our

lives. Gather your family around the family Bible and read today's Gospel, Matthew 4:1-11. Recall that Jesus rebuked the devil's temptations by quoting Scripture. Take some time as a family to talk about the words that are found in the Bible and the importance of Scripture to our faith. Perhaps the older members of the family can share a favorite Scripture passage with everyone. Younger family members can tell their favorite story from the Bible and be shown where that story can be found. In each case, encourage a deeper sharing of faith by asking each person to tell why the Scripture passage shared is important to him or her. Conclude your time together by again reading Jesus' reply to the devil found in Matthew 4:4 ("One does not live by bread alone . . .") and praying the Lord's Prayer.

*Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7 Psalm 51:3-4,5-6,12-13,17
Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11*

5th March

Second Sunday of Lent, Cycle A

As a family, talk about some of your times of highs and lows. How have you been able to use the good times and experiences to sustain you in the difficult ones? Jesus' Transfiguration may have been an event from which Peter, James, and John drew courage when they faced the difficult events of Jesus' Passion. Read together today's Gospel, Matthew 17:1-9. Pray a prayer of thanksgiving for the good times and experiences that your family has had together. Pray that your family will use these experiences to sustain you during times of difficulty. Close by praying today's psalm, Psalm 33.

*Genesis 12:1-4a Psalm 33:4-5,18-20,22
2 Timothy 1:8b-10 Matthew 17:1-9*

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2023

RICARDO PEREIRA / FAMILIA CRISTÃ



**WORLD
YOUTH
DAY**

**SEE YOU
IN AUGUST
2023!**

1-6 AUGUST

