



TOGETHER

In the Diocese of *Wagga Wagga*

wagga.catholic.org.au

FREE

MARCH 2023

INSIDE

Bishop's Charter p2

Pastoral Letter p6

Project Compassion p12

Schools In Our Diocese p32



PROJECT COMPASSION

Daniel & Rachel Woods

(02) 69 218 218 - All Hours

2 Station Place - Wagga Wagga

www.funeralsofwaggawagga.com.au

- ✦ *Funerals arranged to suit your family needs*
- ✦ *Pre-paid and pre-arranged funeral consultants*
- ✦ *Member of National Funeral Directors Association*



DANIEL WOODS
— FUNERAL CARE —

INCORPORATING HORNIBROOK & SAMUELSON, FUNERALS OF WAGGA WAGGA

BISHOP'S VOICE



is published monthly, eleven times per year, and is available free at parish churches, schools, presbyteries and religious houses throughout the Wagga Wagga Diocese.

Publisher

The Diocese of Wagga Wagga
McAlroy House
205 Tarcutta Street
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

Editor/Designer

Karene Eggleton

Printer

Newsprinters
1 McKoy St
West Wodonga Vic 3690

Submissions

TOGETHER would not be possible without the voluntary labour and cooperation of many contributors from within the diocese and beyond. Submissions for publication are welcome but not always guaranteed to be printed.

Advertisers

TOGETHER acknowledges with gratitude the generous support of advertisers. Please show your support to our advertisers where possible. Please note that products and/or services advertised in this publication are not necessarily endorsed by this publication nor by the bishop of this diocese.

Copy deadline

15th of the month prior to publication

Contact Us

All news stories, advertising enquiries, correspondence and subscriptions to:
Together
PO Box 473
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

Email

together@wagga.catholic.org.au



Facebook
www.facebook.com
/togetherwagga



Twitter
@togetherwagga

Phone 0437 738 726

Member of the

Australasian Catholic Press Assoc.

Annual Subscriptions

\$33 Australia
\$44 Overseas

Bishop Mark launched the Catholic Education Charter with CEDWW staff across the diocese. The text of his introduction follows:



Introduction

This charter seeks to support a common understanding of the Catholic school. Its goals are to create unity of purpose, coherence and direction across the system. In a fragmented and constantly changing context, it is indispensable, even urgent, to have well-defined objectives as a guiding compass to make educational practice effective at every level, both formal and informal.

Holistic and Integral Education

In my time in the diocese, we have talked about our dual moral purpose in education, namely sharing the faith and excellent academic education. Both of these are needed but I haven't been totally happy with this language as it presents faith as being separate from education. This way of speaking presents reality as being distinct from transcendence. It almost invites people who are uncomfortable with faith and the

transcendent to cut off evangelisation and reduce education to the secular.

Can I suggest that greatest crisis in education in general, and especially from the Christian perspective, is the closure to transcendence. As human beings, we are not limited to the temporal horizon alone. We are citizens of heaven as well as Australian citizens. For this reason true, holistic education consists in introducing children and young people to the whole of reality both the horizontal and the vertical. A fundamental dimension of the real world is the transcendent, openness to which makes it possible to be open to hope. Therefore, we need to do 'citizenship education' for both kingdoms.

I am convinced of what Pope Benedict said in this area: "There is not one way of knowing. If we rely only on the scientific method, there is no heart. If we have only faith, it risks becoming detached from life."

The key to combining these two fields is the children we teach. The person of each individual human being, in her or his material and spiritual needs, is at the heart of our teaching because it is at the heart of Christ's teaching. The promotion of the whole human person is the goal of the Catholic school and of your and my teaching and formation.

What is required is education that involves the head, the heart, the hands and the knees. (An idea learned from Scotland's Catholic Education)

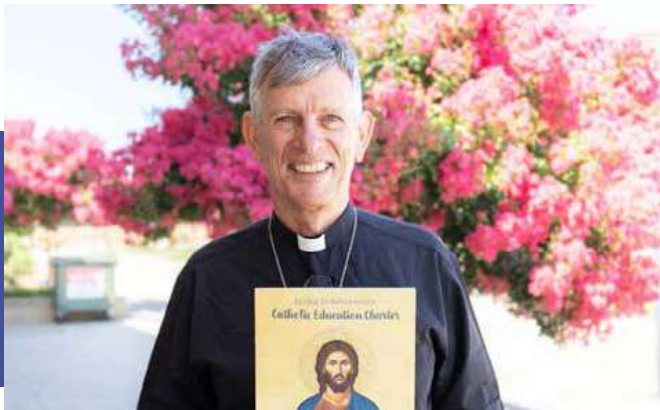
Focusing on the student is how we heal the division between the horizontal and vertical dimensions. We educate the whole person and so we need academic excellence and to propose Jesus as a friend and saviour, the two moral purposes from our previous language.

Excellence

Jesus would not allow his followers to settle for mediocrity or minimalism and neither should we. We must be outstanding in both the horizontal and the vertical dimensions.

When we launch the TRANSformative learning later this morning, we will concentrate on this academic excellence at more length. This will be about how we can help our students to do more learning due to our better teaching. We need to be the very best teachers we can be for the sake of our students. It is not good enough to be satisfied with our current levels of achievement. Academic excellence is our goal.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH - PRAY WITH POPE FRANCIS

For victims of abuse.

We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

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



Abuse comes in many forms and the impact is often silent and unseen. Those who are subjected to abuse experience a level of trauma that is difficult for others to comprehend, in part because each victim and survivor experience it differently. The harmful events touch their soul and spirit in unique and undefinable ways.

Pope Francis often references the dignity of the human person. For victims of abuse, this dignity has been violated. It can tear at the very soul of a person. The emotional and spiritual toll lingers long after the physical wounds have healed. With attentive support and care these unseen wounds can be tended and renewed strength restored. As with so many traumas, it is difficult for well-intended friends and family to find words of comfort. But we can always provide support through prayer. Each day this month let us lift up those who have been harmed with the following from the USCCB:

God of endless love, ever caring, ever strong, always present, always just: You gave your only Son to save us by his blood on the cross. Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace, join to your own suffering the pain of all who have been hurt in body, mind, and spirit by those who betrayed the trust placed in them. Hear the cries of our brothers and sisters who have been gravely harmed, and the cries of those who love them. Soothe their restless hearts with hope, steady their shaken spirits with faith. Grant them justice for their cause, enlightened by your truth. Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts, heal your people's wounds and transform brokenness into wholeness. Grant us the courage and wisdom, humility, and grace, to act with justice. Breathe wisdom into our prayers and labors. Grant that all harmed by abuse may find peace in justice. We ask this through Christ, our Lord, Amen.

Molly Fara - Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network

And we are to do this in a holistic and integrated way. To educate the whole person, the diocese will provide outstanding academic excellence in the context of the transcendent. What does this look like? I am a maths teacher so allow me to come from my field: I invite you to picture me finishing a mathematical proof and, with genuine excitement, gushing: "Isn't that elegant? Isn't that beautiful? How good is our God who made the world like this?" And, in pastoral care, in addition to our other actions, we might ask our students at an appropriate moment, "Would you like me to pray with you about that?" Perhaps English teachers might think about the texts they use. For example, Graham Greene's 'The power and the glory' or Shakespeare's 'Macbeth' might give you a way to explore the transcendent and the truly human.

Evangelisation

Let me think with you about the evangelising nature and imperative of our schools.

To educate the whole person, we need to have a faith education that endeavours to put our children (and us, their teachers and priests) in a place where we can encounter God in Jesus. As we are in a new era, we need to adapt our methods to those we teach who are of this new epoch.

In this context, I want to remind you of what might be Pope Francis' most burning desire: "I dream of a "missionary option", that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's customs, ways

doesn't carry the faith any more. In the 21st Century, cultural Catholicism is dead as a missionary, or even a retention, strategy. It doesn't pass the faith on or keep people engaged with the Church. And the reason for this is fairly clear: God doesn't have grandchildren. He only has daughters and sons. Our challenge is to foster intentional Catholicism rather than Cultural Catholicism. And I am convinced that this requires that we, that our parents and that our students have encounters with Christ and opportunities to give him our hearts. To facilitate this we need to talk about God and Jesus and the Kerygma. I will briefly describe the Kerygma later in the talk.

Talking about God

The definition of evangelisation that I like the most is that "Evangelisation is a conversation about Jesus." (Cardinal Tagle, Dicastery for Evangelisation).

Pope St Paul VI teaches us that "No mention of Jesus means it is not Evangelisation." He says: *There is no true Evangelisation if the name, the life, the teaching, the promises, the kingdom and the mystery of Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God, are not proclaimed.*

Can I ask you please never again to say: "Preach always and, if necessary, use words". And even to push back on it. This saying is often attributed to St Francis but he never said this. He wanted to introduce people to Jesus and accepted to be ordained a deacon so that he could preach Jesus. And, taking the Great Commission literally, he preached to the whole world. And so we have pictures of him even going beyond preaching to people and preaching to the birds and other creatures and so he has become

of classic Catholic teaching. The idea is to emphasize the Catholic "yes," rather than what has come to be seen as the church's traditional catalogue of "no's." "Christianity, Catholicism, isn't a collection of prohibitions. It's a positive option,"

The Kerygma

What do we say? How do we provide the opportunity for our students to encounter Jesus? There is a fundamental role for the first announcement of Catholic faith (what theologians call the Kerygma): "Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life to save you; and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free you." This needs to be the centre of all evangelising activity and all efforts at Church renewal. Our students need it to be said by us with authenticity, conviction, faith and creativity. And spaced learning is important here too. It can't just be said once and for all but needs to be renewed appropriately into multiple new situations.

Each of us is an evangelist

I am the chief evangelist of the diocese. My sisters and brothers who are principals, you are the chief evangelist of your school. And just as the priests of the diocese assist me by accepting to be the chief evangelist of their parish, teachers are called to be the main evangelist in their classrooms. Your dignity and challenge is to, for Jesus and with me, be the chief evangelist of your school if you are a principal and of your class if you are a teacher.

And with appropriate modifications,

to encounter Jesus yourself as they come your way. I thank those who have taken up the opportunity to come to World Youth Day with me. This is one such opportunity. But there will also be retreat days, prayer, in-services and other pilgrimages. I invite you to take up these opportunities when and as they are appropriate for your life.

You have no need to be afraid of opening your hearts to the Redeemer. He is gentle and only wants your good.

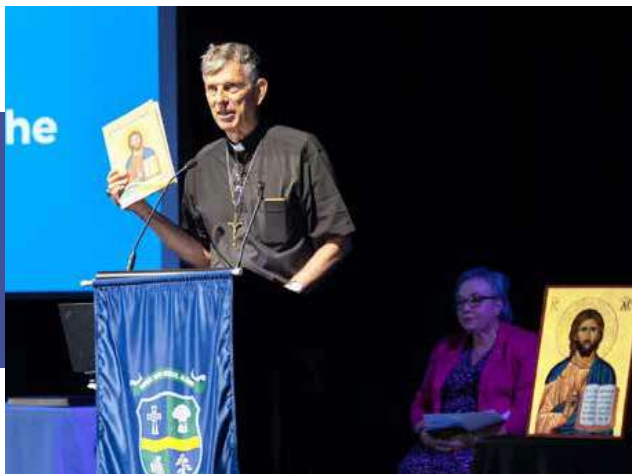
"Many people mistake our work for our vocation. Our vocation is the love of Jesus." (Saint Mother Teresa)

Conclusion

This charter replaces the mandate from Bishop Hanna. It comes out of our history and out of dialogue, listening and discussion with a huge range of people. This might be a good place for me to thank Sandra Harvey and her team for their help with this project and all those who have engaged with it. Other sources for this document include Canon Law, Congregation for Catholic Education, *The Catholic School on the threshold of the third millennium*, the most recent document on Catholic Education in NSW, *Catholic Education at a crossroads*, the most recent document on Education from the Catholic bishops of Australia, *200 years young*, as well as discernment with parents, teachers, educational leaders and priests. Ultimately, however, this is my document.

While this charter is not perfect - what in this world ever is? - it is, I think, very good. And it is what I want for education in this diocese.

Below: Bishop Mark launches the Charter at Xavier High School in Albury.



Above: CEDWW staff at Finley discuss the newly launched charter.

of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channelled for the evangelization of today's world." It is not about self-preservation or safety for you or me or the school or the Church. It is about providing opportunities for people to come to know and love Jesus.

There are many in our Catholic community who are cultural Catholics. However, while the culture used to carry the faith and help us pass it on, it

the patron saint of animals. While this much-loved quote does emphasise the need for a life which is coherent with the Gospels, such a life is not, on its own, sufficient.

We have the opportunity to present Jesus and his Church as being our home and this being a beautiful possibility for each of the girls and boys we teach.

Let us join both Pope Francis and Pope Benedict in providing the most upbeat and positive presentation possible

everyone in Catholic education including groundsman, office staff, Teacher's Assistants and receptionists is called to be an evangelist in ways appropriate to their ministry.

I am very conscious that not everyone who teaches in our schools is an engaged Catholic or even a Catholic. I ask of you, I need of you, that you work with me to help our pupils and their families to encounter Jesus. And a key part of that for you might be to take up opportunities



Click on the QR code above to access a copy of the charter.

WHAT IS THE SYNOD ON SYNODALITY?

In September 2021, the Catholic Church convened what has been termed “the largest consultative process in human history”: the Synod on Synodality.

BY MAREE SOBOLEWSKI

Pope Francis has called the way of synodality “what God expects of the church in the third millennium,” stressing that “the synodal process should be not an occasional experience, but one of structural change, ‘where all can feel at home and participate.’”

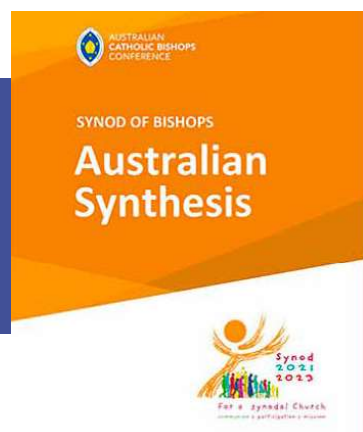
The etymological root of the word synod comes from the Greek for ‘with’ and ‘path,’ suggesting a “journeying

ecumenical and social justice groups, and other organizations around the world coordinated a series of “listening sessions” to solicit stories, experiences, opinions, and perspectives guided by the following prompt and framing questions: “A synodal church, in announcing the Gospel, ‘journeys together.’ How is this ‘journeying together’ happening today in your local



national synthesis from the hundreds of submissions received. Australians expressed a strong need for a church that is missionary and a Eucharistic community that is inclusive.

In Australia, the National Catholic Pastoral Research Council coordinated this stage under the auspices of the Australian Catholic Bishops’ Conference (ACBC). Groups from all



together.” Technically a synod is a kind of ecclesial assembly, a gathering of church officials centred on a particular topic. What is unique about the Synod on Synodality, is that it explicitly asks for the input of all the church’s members, not just its bishops and clergy. Furthermore, the Synod seeks to incorporate the voices of those who may have felt marginalised in the past.

Pope Francis desires the Synod to be “a grace-filled event, a process of healing guided by the Spirit.” The theme of the Synod on Synodality, “Communion, Participation, and Mission” was laid out at the start of the synodal journey.

First Phase (“local”/“diocesan”): From the spring of 2021 through to August 2022, individual parishes, dioceses, lay movements,

church? What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our ‘journeying together’?”

Facilitators of the listening sessions were instructed to allow participants to speak with courage and parrhesia—in freedom, truth, and charity. No topic was deemed off limits.

At the conclusion of the listening sessions, facilitators “gathered the fruits” of their discussions into written summaries which were passed on to their coordinating bodies with some being sent directly to the General Secretariat of the Synod at the Vatican. The coordinating bodies further synthesised these summaries into cohesive reports which were then received by the Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops.

In Australia the National Catholic Pastoral Research Council, led by Dr. Trudy Dantis, coordinated the

In September 2022, fifty participants, men and women, religious and lay, from all over the world met in Frascati outside of Rome to review this international collection of synodal syntheses and present the hopes and dreams of God’s people as a single document. The finished document, titled “*Enlarge the Space of Your Tent*” (Isiah 54:2), became the working document for the second stage of the synod. The “Continental” phase.

Continental Phase: The document was returned to each of the particular churches across seven geographical regions: Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Madagascar, Asia, Oceania, North America (US and Canada) and the Middle East. The continental phase encouraged local groups to deepen the synodal process by reflecting on the continental document.

demographics, religious congregations and other organisations responded to the call. Participants were to organise their responses under three questions:

- Experiences of Church,
- Challenges to Address, and
- Priorities & Calls to Action.

The submissions were synthesised into the one Draft Continental Report, which, after approval, was passed on to the Oceania. Consistent themes that emerged, among many others, were for a church that “reach[es] out to the margins,” “inclusion and equality,” and “hopes for more collaborative leadership, greater formation, communities of belonging and engagement and a church that evangelises.”

In mid-January representatives of the Oceania region met in Melbourne

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

to create an Oceania Draft Continental Report, using the reports from Papua New Guinea/Solomon Islands, the Pacific, New Zealand, and Australia. Leaders from the Eastern Church also contributed. Susan Pascoe, the chair of the Oceania Bishops' Synod taskforce and a member of the Synod's global methodology commission, said, "I think Oceania reflects the broader debate within the Church about whether we are 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."

The Draft Oceanic document was

reviewed at the February meeting of the Federation of Catholic Bishops' Conferences of Oceania (FCBCO) Assembly. An online process involving both the FCBCO Executive and the members of the Discernment and Writing Group, will finalise the Oceanic Report ahead of the 31 March 2023 deadline, when the report is due to be submitted to the General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops.

Universal Phase: The third phase of the Synod will begin in October 2023 with a general assembly of bishops in Rome. Seven final documents produced by the seven geographical regions during the continental phase, of which Oceania is one, will form the basis for this third

stage of reflection. The Australian delegates to the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops will be Archbishop O'Regan and Bishop Mackinlay.

The universal phase has been extended one year with a second general assembly of the bishops in October 2024, providing time for "more mature reflection for the greater good of the Church."

The synod has provided a vision for a more decentralized, collaborative institution, one that fully incorporates the doctrine of the *sensus fidei fidelium*, or the "sense of the faith on the part of the faithful." Further, it has sought to infuse the very life of the church with a culture

of synodality, to allow, in the words of the *vademecum*, "an opportunity for the entire People of God to discern together how to move forward on the path towards being a more synodal church in the long-term."

Recommended Resources:

Catholic Weekly Article: <https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/spreading-the-synodal-tent/>

The Continental Phase Document and the Australian Continental Response Draft Reports may be accessed at the official website.

XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops (catholic.au)



Above: Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich of Luxembourg, relator general of the Synod of Bishops, speaks at a news conference at the Vatican via video chat on 27 October to present the document for the continental phase of the synod on synodality. The document will guide discussions at the regional or continental level in preparation for the synod. Photo: CNS, Junno Arocho Esteves



Aged Care. Local care.

Considering aged care is a big step. Lean on the locals.

The Forrest Centre has compassionately cared for the people of Wagga Wagga and the Riverina for more than 35 years. We understand this community and the aged care sector inside and out and provide tailored and loving support.

- Mary Potter Nursing Home
- Loreto Home of Compassion
- Specialist dementia support
- The Forrest Centre Hospice
- Forrest Community Services
- Aged Care Solutions



The Forrest Centre
02 6932 3011
forrestcentre.com.au

Local makes the world of difference.

Footsteps of Jesus Holy Land Pilgrimage

Land only from **\$5590**

Commences 19 May 2023.
11 Days. With Fr Martin Maunsell
Watch the Gospels come alive as we set out on this true pilgrimage of faith and retrace the progressive stages of the life of Jesus from his Nativity in Bethlehem to his Passion on Calvary. Also departs June, September, October and November 2023.

Footsteps of St Mary MacKillop

Land only from **\$4290**

Departs 16 May 2023.
11 Days. With Fr Paul Newton
Set out together on a true Australian Pilgrimage through the life and times of Mary MacKillop, as we rekindle the story, landscapes and spirit of our nations' first Saint. Also departs August and October 2023.

Sacred Coast & Country NSW

Land only from **\$4390**

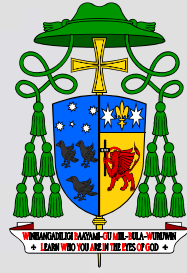
Departs 24 April 2023.
10 Days. With Fr Mick Court SDB
From stunning coastlines to lush valleys and spectacular mountain heights, this Southern adventure will not disappoint. Encounter faith communities, captivating stories and moments of sublime prayer. Also departs 24 October 2023

Journey of St Paul Greece & Turkey

Land only from **\$5690**

Departs 29 May 2023.
12 Days. With Fr Paul Monkerud
The Acts of the Apostles will come alive as we go out with St Paul and his companions to rediscover the faith and struggles of the early Christian communities. Also departs September 2023 with Fr Michael Goonan SSP

TOLL FREE: 1800 819 156
www.harvestjourneys.com



Lenten Pastoral Letter

An invitation to experience the Sacrament of Confession

The Taking of Christ (1602) by the leading painter Caravaggio at the height of his powers is now displayed in the National Gallery of Ireland in Dublin. In this masterpiece Caravaggio focuses on Jesus (second from the left) and Judas (third from the left) who has just identified him to the temple guards (the next three figures on the right) with a kiss so as to betray him to them so that they can arrest him. A disciple (far left) is fleeing, leaving Christ. The scene is lit (by the moon?) from the upper left and the man (far right) holding the ineffectual lantern is Caravaggio – he painted himself into the scene – passively observing what is going on.



I invite you to join Caravaggio for some minutes in examining the betrayal and arrest of Jesus. What do you notice?

Dear sisters and brothers,

This Lent, I invite you to experience the mercy and tenderness of God through the beautiful Sacrament of Penance, which is also called the Sacrament of Confession or the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

It might be that you have fallen away from going to Confession or that you go once or twice a year. Lent is a time for new beginnings, for turning again to God and experiencing, as Pope Francis reminds us, that “the style of God is closeness, mercy and tenderness.” This Lent is an opportunity to return to or go even deeper into the gentle, caring, warm embrace of God.



As a part of this invitation, I have asked our priests to preach on different aspects of this most beautiful sacrament for three consecutive weeks and a highlight will be the special six-hour session for Confessions in major centres around the diocese on the vigil of the Annunciation, (Friday, 24th March), similar to a night that was held in the Year of Mercy.

The painting on the front page, *The Taking of Christ* was donated to a Jesuit who had been looking after the spiritual needs of a rich family in the south of Ireland many, many years before. It was hung over the fireplace in a Jesuit presbytery and it had become so darkened by the smoke from the fireplace that they believed it to be only a copy. They couldn't see the beauty behind the deposit of smoke.

When, in 1990, they were renovating the dining room where it hung, the Superior contacted the National Gallery of Ireland and, thinking that even a copy might be of value, asked them to send someone around to have a look at it. Within a week the Jesuits got a call to say that this might in fact be the original of *The Taking of Christ*. As the dirt and discoloured varnish were removed, a glorious painting was revealed.

In a similar way, our sinfulness can be like a layer of grime covering us that slowly builds up over time. Our dignity and worth and our own confidence and joy are slowly diminished in such a way that we don't even notice it happening. The progress can be very subtle. Of course, it might also be the case that our sin is a source of deep shame for us. Either way, sinning obscures our beauty and damages the way we look at ourselves, the way we experience the world and our relationships with each other.

Watching a person, perhaps online, who restores artwork can be very instructive because of the care that is taken. It's very gentle. Every movement must be done delicately. A restorer can't just go in there and rip things off, or tear things apart; they must be subtle. The renewed vibrancy of the image that comes out can take your breath away.



Think of the delicate image of taking a cotton wool ball and gently rubbing the surface of the painting to remove the grime and varnish, and the calm, gentle, compassionate manner of the restorer as they uncover the original images. That provides an insight into the loving way that God restores our image to incredible dignity by just, gentle, merciful love in Confession.

God will never do any damage to us - hang on to that thought. God heals in the most precious, gentle and loving way and slowly but surely reveals our worth in a really profound way. That's why coming to the Sacrament of Penance regularly for the 'daily grime' as well as with sin that is particularly invasive or addictive is so meaningful. God will never force us to do anything, yet over time, God is powerfully, quietly and mildly leading us so the damage is gently overcome.

I plead with you, both to take a chance on and never to give up on this grace-filled sacrament. Come to God openly as you are and let God wash you completely clean. Let God remove your burdens and chains. God's love is stronger than any and all of our sins.



Never, after I have left Confession, have I said to myself "I wish I hadn't gone." I want all of us, through the ministry of the Church, to know the freedom and peace and joy that can only come from experiencing that God has forgiven our sins.

In *The Taking of Christ*, Judas seems not to be able to look at our Lord who is deeply sad in an expression meant for Judas and, perhaps even more so, for us. In this moment, in this look, we realise the terrible sin Judas has committed and perhaps remember times we have betrayed Jesus directly or in others. Perhaps we think of a time that we have failed Jesus in someone he loves by running away out of fear, being a bystander without intervening, or maybe we have been part of a group displaying anger or violence.

The grace in the Sacrament of Confession is a prime way we move from a place of being ashamed, broken and fearful, violent and angry, overly invested in money, betrayal or being a bystander, to a place of being totally forgiven, completely reconciled, knowing we are loved and restored to community.

Some of us might be thinking "I'm the worst person in the world." Others might be disheartened after falling into temptation shortly after going to Confession. Still others might think they're not doing too badly (they haven't committed any mortal sins) and so don't have much to gain from this Sacrament.

Whoever you are, allow God to pick you up. Go back to God and ask for God's grace and gentle, loving, merciful healing in your life that will eventually become transformative. It's not until you get restored that you realise how much brighter and more vibrant you can be. Do not give up on your dream of holiness and being close to God and those you love. There is nothing in our lives that our good God can't address.

Remember, God does not do any violence but gently and lovingly restores our dignity back to its uniqueness. When we leave the sacrament having made an honest confession and desiring to be different, we are completely, absolutely, totally, one hundred percent forgiven by God.

During this coming Lent, I invite you to come to Confession on the vigil of the Annunciation (24 March), to experience the power, freedom and love of God's grace. Your priests will be waiting for you from 6pm to 12 midnight on Friday 24 March in advertised major centres around the diocese.

Yours in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,



Mark Edwards OMI
Bishop of Wagga Wagga

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

LAW REFORM PROPOSALS SERIOUSLY ENCROACH ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

In the past few weeks, the issue of religious freedom has been debated strongly in the media, with the focus on whether faith-based schools should be allowed to continue to employ people of their faith; to teach their faith; and to receive government funding.

Despite a mandate to ensure religious schools can continue to build a community of faith, the Australian Law Reform Commission's (ALRC) proposals seriously encroach on the ability of faith-based schools to do so in an authentic way.

The exemptions in anti-discrimination law currently say that it is not unlawful for faith-based schools to preference the employment of staff of their faith, or those willing to support the ethos of the school.

The ALRC's proposals, if adopted, so severely limit the ability of schools to operate and teach according to their religious beliefs, that it makes a mockery of the authentic nature of a religious school.

To be very clear, Catholic schools do not, and are not seeking to discriminate, against individuals based on their personal attributes such as sexuality and gender identity. However, we do want to ensure that those who work and learn in our schools are

supportive of a Catholic education.

There have been calls in the public arena to say if religious schools want to teach their faith they shouldn't receive public funding.

International law upholds the right of every child to receive a free, compulsory education. Catholic school parents, who are taxpayers, make a substantial contribution to their 'free' education, so they can choose a faith-based school for their children.

International law protects religious belief and the ability to manifest this through parent's right to educate children in a school that aligns with their values and belief and by enabling the establishment of faith-based educational institutions.

International law also protects the rights of the individual to be free of discrimination based on their personal attributes. The two aren't mutually-exclusive and can co-exist with an appropriate balancing of all protected rights.



Jacinta Collins, National Catholic Education Executive Director

We have, and will continue, to make our views known on this important issue for Catholic school communities and await the ALRC's report to government and the government's response.

Jacinta Collins
National Catholic Education Executive Director

WHAT IS JOY?

What is joy? Where is it? Where is love in this world that is such an evil mess. MAJA, LONDON, UK

Are you an optimist? GIL, RIO, BRAZIL

Who is your favourite cartoonist? ALAN, OXFORD, UK

Do you like Leonard Cohen? LEON, MONTREAL, CANADA

BY NICK CAVE
redhandfiles.com

What is joy? Where is it? Where Dear Maja, Gil, Alan, and Leon,

If we do not attend to the work of projecting delight upon the world, what are we actually doing? If we do not look for joy, search for it, reach deep for it, what are we saying about the world? Are we saying that malevolence is the routine stuff of life, that oppression and corruption and degradation is the very matter of the world? That we greet each day with suspicion, bitterness and contempt? It seems to me that to make suffering the focus of our attention, to pay witness only to the malevolence of the world, is to be in service to the devil himself.

Is the world heading for disaster? I

suppose so. We are constantly, relentlessly, told as much. Am I hopeful for its future? Well, yes, I am. I choose to be an optimist through a kind of necessity, because from my experience pessimism is a corrosive and damaging position to take – one that casts its shadow over all things, causing a kind of societal sickness, a contaminant that ultimately amplifies and glorifies the problems it professes to abhor.

For me, to strive toward joy has become a calling and a practise. It is carried out with the full understanding of the terms of this hallowed and harrowed world. I pursue it with an awareness that joy exists both in the worst of the world and within the best, and that joy, flighty, jumpy, startling thing



"Gee Dad, you're fantastic!" - Artwork by Michael Leunig.

that it is, often finds its true voice within its opposite. Joy sings small, bright songs in the dark - these moments, so easily disregarded, so quickly dismissed, are the radiant points of light that pierce the gloom to give validation to the world. That's how the light gets in, Leonard Cohen tells us, whilst casting his genius and delight forever among the cosmos.

But no one understands joy like the Australian cartoonist, Michael Leunig.

In his classic cartoon, 'Gee Dad, you're fantastic!', a father plays his ukulele to the delight of his family, picnicking in a beam of light that cuts through an utterly devastated landscape. I can't think of a work of art that more poignantly articulates the utter and urgent need for the pursuit of joy. Maja, joy exists as a bright, insistent spasm of defiance within the darkness of the world. Seek it. It is there.

Love, Nick

CEDWW DEANERY DAY

On 21 February CEDWW had their Deanery Day at Finley where the charter was launched and two staff were recognised for 30 years of dedication and service to the diocese.

Below: Helene Cahill receives a gift from Bishop Mark for 30 years of service.



HELENE CAHILL

Helene began her career in Catholic Education at St Joseph's Finley in 1990 and taught there until 1995. In 1996 Helene taught with the Melbourne Archdiocese at

Corpus Christi, Glenroy and then St Augustine's Primary School the following year. Helene returned to the Wagga Diocese in 1998 where she took up a post at Sacred Heart Koorringal. In 1999 Helene returned

Below: CEDWW staff discuss the newly launched charter.



Above: Lyndall McLeod receives her gifts from Bishop Mark and Prue Horan.

to St Joseph's Finley where, until 2016, she held numerous positions including that of REC, Assistant Principal and Acting Principal. From 2017 to 2019 Helene worked at both St Joseph's Finley and St Columba's Berrigan as the Targeted Maths Teacher. Helene then held the position of Principal at St Columba's Berrigan in 2020 and at St Joseph's Jerilderie in 2021 and 2022.

LYNDALL MCLEOD

Lyndall has worked in Catholic education across many dioceses during her teaching career. In 1993 Lyndall began working at Mt Carmel College, Sandy Bay for the Archdiocese of Hobart. The next year saw her teaching at St Francis

Xavier College in the Ballarat Diocese where she remained until 1999. From 2000 She was at St Mary's Primary School in Swan Hill. 2003 saw Lyndall take up a role with the Archdiocese of Adelaide at St Anthony's Primary School in Millicent, just west of Mount Gambier. In 2004 Lyndall began working with the Sandhurst Diocese at Sacred Heart Primary School in Yarrowonga before moving on to St Joseph's Cobram in 2005 where she remained until 2011. The following year Lyndall came to the Wagga Diocese where she took up a job at Sacred Heart Tocumwal where she has remained ever since.



World Wide Marriage Encounter

a weekend of discovery... a lifetime of love

A **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend** is a marriage enrichment experience for married couples set in peaceful, picturesque surroundings, away from the distractions of everyday life at the Carmelite Retreat Centre, Varroville near Campbelltown.

During the weekend, couples have a unique opportunity to reconnect, rekindle and refresh their relationship and to take time out of your busy schedule to invest in your most precious asset ... **your Marriage!**

Weekend date:

14-16 April 2023 at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre Varroville - NSW

Book online at www.wwme.org.au or contact Christine & Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419 or email at nswbookings@wwme.org.au



MONICA ELIAS

CATHOLIC LIFE COACH



SCAN HERE to explore how Catholic Life Coaching can help you

MORE TIME. MORE ENERGY. MORE JOY. MORE REST. MORE PEACE. MORE PRESENCE.

It's all possible. It's simpler than you think. And we'll do it all with the Lord.

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.'*



Thu from Vietnam

Thu lost his leg after stepping on a land mine in Vietnam. With your generosity, Thu can now earn extra income and support his wife as she recovers from a stroke.

Thu was just 12 years old when he lost his leg.

One day, he was looking after his cows when he stepped on an unexploded land mine.

"War is most terrible with great loss. At the end of the war, there are still consequences such as unexploded ordnance, causing many losses, casualties and death," Thu says.

Thu lives in the Quảng Trị province, located on the Northern Central Coast of Vietnam. Situated along the demilitarised zone that divided Vietnam, the province was one of the most heavily bombed areas during the Vietnam War and is considered one of the most polluted provinces in terms of unexploded ordnance (UXOs) in Vietnam.

In addition to being the breadwinner for his family, Thu had to take on the role of caring for his wife, Linh, after she suffered a stroke.

"She almost lost herself after the stroke and had to lean on me. I could understand how she felt because I had experienced the same at the age of 12 after a landmine

accident took one of my legs," Thu said.

Determined to turn their lives around, Thu and Linh joined the Empowerment of People with Disabilities program, run by Caritas Australia's local partner in Vietnam, the Centre for Sustainable Rural Development (SRD).

The Empowerment of People with Disabilities program supports people living with disabilities to establish Village Saving and Loans Associations (VSLA) so that they can access affordable loans. Through the VSLA he was able to obtain a low-interest loan, which he used to open his own barber shop on a new road that was constructed near his home.

For Thu, the greatest impact that the program has had is seeing the change in Linh's physical and mental wellbeing. With the support of a physiotherapist, Linh can now walk short distances with the aid of a walking stick.

"I am grateful to Caritas Australia for the help they

give to people living with disability like me and my wife," Thu says. "Thank you to Caritas Australia and the Australian people."

Along with your generous support, this program is also supported by the Australian Government, through Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

Watch Thu's story at:

<https://youtu.be/q4p-SwrOmL8>



**PROJECT
COMPASSION**
FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS



Name: _____

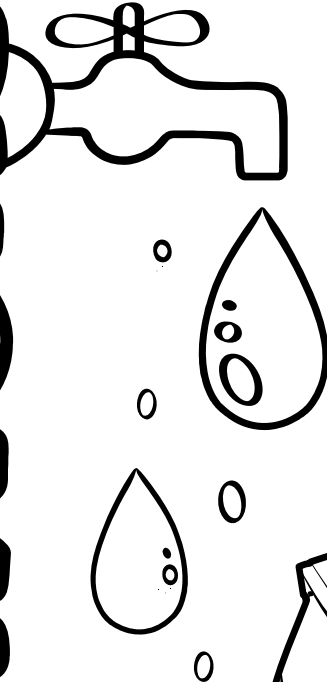
School: _____

Class: _____ Age: _____



**PROJECT
COMPASSION**
FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS

FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS



Caritas
AUSTRALIA

End poverty
Promote justice
Uphold dignity

PROJECT COMPASSION

LOST INNOCENCE

The biblical story of Saul is one of the great tragedies in all of literature. Saul's story makes Hamlet look like a Disney character. Hamlet, at least, had good reasons for the bitterness that beset him. Saul, given what he started with, should have fared better, much better.

BY RON ROLHEISER, OMI
ronrolheiser.com

His story begins with the announcement that, in all of Israel, none measured up to him in height, strength, goodness, or acclaim. A natural leader, a prince among peers; his extraordinary character was recognized and proclaimed by the people. They made him their king. The beginning of his story is the stuff of fairy tales, and it goes on in this way for a while.

has fallen far from the innocence and goodness of his youth.

What happened here? How does someone who has so much going for him – goodness, talent, acclaim, power, blessing – grow into a bitter, petty man who ends up taking his own life? How does it happen? The late Margaret Laurence, in a brilliant, dark novel, *The Stone Angel*, offers a good description of how this happens and how it

and without energy or ambition. What's as remarkable as sad is that she doesn't see any of this herself. In her mind, she remains the young, innocent, gracious, popular, attractive young girl she once was in high school. She doesn't notice how small her world has become, how few real friends she has, how little she admires anything or anyone, or even how physically unkempt she has become.

Her awakening is sudden and cruel. One winter day, shabbily dressed in an old parka, she rings the doorbell of a house where she is delivering some eggs. A bright young child answers the door and Hagar overhears the child tell her mother: That horrible, old egg-woman is at the door! The penny drops.

Stunned, she leaves the house and finds her way to a public bathroom where she turns on all the lights and studies her face in a mirror. What looks back is a face she doesn't recognize, someone pathetically at odds with whom she imagines herself to be. She sees in

acclaim that once were ours. Like Saul, we can fill with a jealousy that we don't recognize, and like Hagar, we can grow bitter and ugly without knowing it. Others, of course, do notice.

It's not that we don't gain something as this happens. Usually we grow smarter, wiser in the ways of the world, and remain goodhearted, generous people. However, we tend to be nastier than we once were, whine too much, feel too sorry for ourselves, and give ourselves over more to curse rather than bless those who have replaced us, the young, the popular, the acclaimed.

And so, the penultimate spiritual and human task of the second half of life is to give up this jealousy and ugliness and come back again to the love, innocence, and goodness of our youth, to revirginize, move towards a second naiveté, and begin again to admire something.

At the beginning of the *Book of Revelations*, John, purporting to speak for God, has some advice for us, at least for those of us beyond the bloom of youth: "I've seen how

Below: Ellen Burstyn plays an elderly woman who looks back on her life with regret in *The Stone Angel*.



Above: Mad with jealousy, King Saul endeavors to pierce David with his javelin. Painting by James Tissot (1836-1902). Culture Club / Contributor / Getty Images

However, at a point, things begin to sour. That point was the arrival of David on the scene – a man younger, more handsome, more-gifted, and more-acclaimed than he was. Jealousy sets in and envy begins to poison Saul's soul. Looking at David, he sees only a popularity that eclipses his own, not another man's goodness, nor indeed what that goodness offers to others. Instead, he grows bitter, petty, hostile, tries to kill David, and eventually dies by his own hand, an angry man who

happens in ways that are hidden to the one undergoing the transition.

Her main character, Hagar Shipley, is a "Saul" of sorts. Hagar's story begins like his: She is young, innocent, and full of potential. What's to become of such a beautiful, bright, talented, young woman? Sadly, not much at all. She drifts into everything: adulthood, an unhappy marriage, and into a deep unrecognized and unspoken disappointment that eventually leaves her slovenly, frigid, bitter,

fact the horrible, old egg-woman that the child saw at the door rather than the young, gracious, attractive, big-hearted woman that she imagines herself still to be. "How can this have happened?" she asks herself. How can we, imperceptible to ourselves, grow into someone we don't know or like?

In some way, it happens to all of us. It's not easy to age, to accept the fall from what we dreamed for ourselves, to watch the young take over and receive the popularity and

hard you work. I recognize your generosity and all the good work you do, but I have this against you – you have less love in you now than when you were young! Go back and look from where you have fallen!"

We might want to hear this from scripture before we overhear it from some young girl telling her mother that some dour, bitter, old person is at the door.

ST MARY'S LOCKHART FAREWELLS FR RAFTER

After the 8.00am Mass in Lockhart on Sunday, 15 January 2023, parishioners gathered in the church hall to farewell their local shepherd for the past year, Fr Brad Rafter, whilst enjoying a very impressive spread of baked goods and plenty of cups of hot tea and coffee!

Parish Council President, Larry Smith, delivered a vote of thanks and presented Fr with a small token of thanks on behalf of the Parish Council and the gathered congregation. Graham "Hookey" Gooden read out a message from his son, David, daughter-in-law, Heidi and grandson, Isaac, who weren't able to be at the event. The message

even included a memory from Heidi who was school captain of June High School at the time both her and Fr Rafter were at the same high school.

Fr Rafter responded with a heartfelt speech, reminiscing about his time serving the Lockhart (and for a time, Urana) parish, thanking all parishioners for their support and



friendship during his tenure.

Special mention must go to those in the Parish who so generously catered the event. The parish community thanks Fr Rafter for his service, his good humour and for sharing his thoughts, knowledge

and intellect over recent years.

The Parish has recently welcomed Fr Luke Joseph as the new parish priest and looks forward to forging a long and happy pastoral relationship with him.



CEDWW WELCOMES NEW STAFF

St Michael's Cathedral was buzzing on 9 March as the newest staff members of CEDWW were welcomed during the Wagga Wagga Deanery Commissioning Mass. It was a full house, including several special guests who joined us for the Catholic Education Awards dinner that evening. More in the April issue of Together.



CATHOLIC MISSION IS STANDING IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE CHURCH TO PROVIDE PASTORAL AND PRACTICAL SUPPORT TO THE PEOPLE OF TÜRKIYE AND SYRIA

As the death toll rises to more than 41,000, Pope Francis renews his appeal for concrete help and prayers for all those affected by the devastating earthquakes that struck Türkiye and Syria.

"We continue to be close, with prayer and concrete support, to the earthquake victims in Syria and Türkiye."

On the ground, religious and lay missionaries are coordinating efforts to provide pastoral and practical support to survivors who have lost everything,

a situation worsened by the freezing temperatures.

"I try to be close, there is so much pain and fear in everyone's heart. What this earthquake has done is unbelievable. People's fear is stronger than when there was war," says Father Jacques Mourad, a Syrian monk.

Facing the distressing situation, Catholic Mission, as the Pope's Mission agency, is taking action to support missionaries in Türkiye and Syria who are providing vital emergency support and pastoral care in this time of suffering.

"My message would be a call to

prayer and generosity in the following times. After the first moments will have passed the second and third stage will start. Mourning and rebuilding.

We will have to rebuild and repair many buildings and churches for the service of people. As well as help people to move forward," says Fr. Adrian, National Director of Pontifical Mission Societies - Türkiye.

Jane Plum, the Director of Catholic Mission in the Wagga Wagga Diocese, is calling for the generosity of the people of the Wagga Wagga diocese to help Catholic Mission in providing pastoral support to the people of Türkiye and Syria. Jane Plum expresses her deep gratitude in advance for any support that can be given to alleviate the suffering of the people affected by the ongoing crisis.

Visit our website to make a donation: catholicmission.org.au/earthquake-appeal



Above: A man walks past a collapsed building in the town of Jbaleh



Subscribe to Catholic Mission newsletter, **Mission Today Digital**, to keep up to date with the life-giving work of missionaries.



catholicmission.org.au/newsletter



CARITAS AUSTRALIA RAISES OVER \$1 MILLION FOR TÜRKIYE-SYRIA EARTHQUAKE

Since the devastating Türkiye-Syria earthquake on February 6, Caritas Australia has raised more than \$1 million for the Türkiye-Syria earthquake appeal.

“We are deeply humbled by the generosity of our supporters, both the supporters who have been with us for a long time, and those who have recently joined us after seeing the news about the earthquake. Their extraordinary compassion in the face of the unthinkable trauma experienced in Türkiye and Syria has been incredible,” said Kirsty Robertson, Caritas Australia’s CEO.

“Our supporters bring a light in the darkness to people when it is needed most. In times of catastrophe, our supporters stand by some of the most vulnerable communities in the world, and they send a message of love and compassion through their ongoing support. I am proud of the ongoing generosity of our supporters in these challenging times.”

The fundraising milestone was reached only days after an additional 6.4 magnitude earthquake struck Türkiye. So far, the combined death toll from the series of catastrophic earthquakes surpassed 50,000 people.

“Every single person, especially in southern Türkiye, in northwest Syria, they’ve all been personally touched by

this crisis,” said Sally Thomas, Caritas Australia’s Humanitarian Lead for the Middle East.

“Our priority right now is to ensure that people stay warm and have access to hot meals and clean water. People are still grieving or looking for their loved ones, and we are trying to offer the kind of immediate support that will provide a tiny bit of comfort, but also keep people alive and well in the freezing winter conditions.”

Survivors of the earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria urgently need humanitarian support for shelter, food, blankets and clean water.

Caritas Australia is working with Caritas Syria and other Caritas agencies on the ground to distribute urgently needed humanitarian aid including food baskets, blankets, mattresses, drinking water and hygiene kits to impacted families.

Your generous donation will help deliver immediate help and resources to those in need.

Donations can be made at:
www.caritas.org.au/syria-turkey
 or call 1800 024 413



Above and below: Caritas Syria staff responding to earthquake damage in Lattakia Tarkous. Photo Caritas Syria.



SAVE THE DATE

Were you a student at Mount Erin High School in the 1940's or even the 1930's? Well, if you were then this event is for you. Put it on your calendar for a wonderful weekend of reminiscing and renewing old friendships.

Erin Over Eighty Reunion Event
 at the Rules Club, Wagga Wagga
 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



Open every
 Tuesday and Wednesday 10am to 2pm
 and also by appointment

Parking: Please use Mt Erin Boarding School entrance.

Email: mounterinheritagecentre@gmail.com Telephone: 0438 711 229



www.mounterinheritagecentre.com.au



WORLD MARRIAGE DAY

“Love One Another” has been adopted as the theme of World Marriage Day 2023. This phrase is the commandment given by Jesus in John 15:12. It speaks to us in a simple but challenging way of how our Father wishes us to live.

BY ROSE NARAG-GREENROD

For married couples to honour the gift of marriage:

World Marriage Day, the second Sunday of February, and Marriage week. This is an opportunity to focus on building a culture of life and love that begins with supporting and promoting marriage and the family. It also indicates the personal self-gift of each spouse, one to the other. These concepts point to Christ who gives Himself under the appearance of bread and wine—as real flesh and blood.

We encourage everyone to commemorate World Marriage

Day and National Marriage Week each year in a variety of ways, but most importantly by incorporating prayers and blessings for marriage into the Sunday liturgy and by hosting various marriage-building activities in the parish.

We celebrated the World Marriage Day and Marriage week in the Holy Trinity Parish Church, Ashmont on 12th February 2023.

The lunch started at 12.45pm and was led by Father Connell Perry.

13 Couples and their families gathered the event, Father Gabriel



Murray together with Father Justin Darlow prayed over the couples and said the Prayer in Defence of Marriage. It was a lovely event. We hope that there are more couples and families will join us next year.

"We need spouses alongside the pastors, to walk with their

families, to help those who are weaker, to announce that, even in difficulties, Christ is present in the Sacrament of Marriage to give tenderness, patience and hope to all, in every situation of life," the Pope said.



Marriage Course

Inviting married couples to attend the Marriage Enrichment Course

Pls send an email to ezekiel.jraju@gmail.com for details and course materials.





Saint Mary MacKillop College

WAGGA WAGGA

www.stmarymackillop.nsw.edu.au

- Small class sizes – Kindergarten to Year 12
- High standard of pastoral care
- Classical education in the fullness of Catholic faith and western civilisation
- Pursue academic excellence and Christian virtue



ENROL NOW FOR 2023

Help make Together the best newspaper it can be



Let us know what is happening in your area.

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

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

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

CATHOLIC EASTER TRADITIONS

For Catholics and most other Christians all over the world, Easter is a solemn holiday that is held on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the vernal equinox; which is in late March to mid-April.

WWW.SCRIPTURECATHOLIC.COM

Easter Sunday, the Pascha, or Resurrection Sunday as it is also known, marks the third day after the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, and the day of his miraculous resurrection, fulfilling the Messiah prophecy foretold in the Old Testament, (Isaiah 53). This year Easter Sunday is observed on April 9.

How Do Catholics Celebrate Easter

Talking among ourselves, we found that much like our Catholic Christmas Traditions article; where we live or where we grew up can have an impact on the way we celebrate Easter.

For this reason we will be covering the core traditions here, before taking a look at the different Easter traditions that some of us have experienced.

Ash Wednesday and Lent

Marking the beginning of Lent, Ash Wednesday takes place 46 days before Easter Sunday. During Mass, the priest will apply ashes to the heads of willing participants.

A cross drawn in ash is applied upon the forehead, and symbolizes the dust that God made us from. It also represents our willingness to repent for sinning, and the grief we feel for having caused a division from God.

Lent

For 46 days, participants will fast on the Mondays to Saturdays over the next 6 weeks. Sundays are excluded from the fasting, which safely allows Christians to fast for 40 days during their Lent.

Those between the ages of 18 and 59, fast by limiting their daily meals to only one full meal, and two small snacks a day. The snacks are small enough that they don't add up to a full meal when put together.

You need not fast by abstaining from all foods if you are unable to do so. Many Christians and children give up specific things, such as no chocolate, no eating out, or no playing games or watching movies.

For more information on Lent, please have a read of our Explanation of the Lent Tradition article.

Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday is both the final Sunday

or the end of Lent, and the beginning of the Holy Week. The Holy Week commemorates Jesus Christ's arrival in Jerusalem, and the last week of his life on earth.

During the Palm Sunday Mass, parishioners may be handed a palm leaf that they carry into the church. These palms have been blessed, and can be made into a cross or other personal devotion, and kept for a year. Otherwise the palms are returned to the church and turned into ash for the following year's Ash Wednesday processions.

Holy Thursday

Holy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus Christ, and his institution of the priesthood. Celebrating this meal as a Passover feast, Jesus shared his final meal with his Disciples in Jerusalem.

This was the night that he was betrayed by Judas, and during the meal he rightly predicted this betrayal. His willingness to face his fate, shows that he was willing to sacrifice himself for the benefit of all mankind.

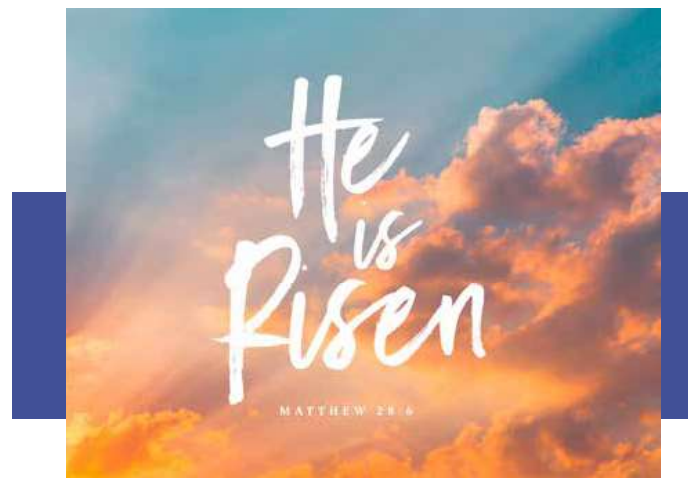
Known as the Mass of the Lord's Supper, Holy Thursday mass is held in commemoration of Jesus Christ's last supper. The Eucharist is particularly important in this Mass, for it was during this meal that Christ broke bread with his disciples and utters the words "This is my body, this is my blood" (Mark 14:22-25).

During the feast, Jesus also washed the feet of his 12 apostles, anointing them as his first priests. This humbling gesture is reenacted during mass. Some parishes may select 12 members to represent the apostles, other parishes may invite all parishioners to take part and have their feet washed.

Good Friday

Good Friday commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. It is a day of solemn reflection that is shared by most Christians around the world.

During Mass on Good Friday, Christians reflect on the pain and suffering that Jesus had to endure for us. He was flogged, given a crown of thorns, berated and ridiculed, and made to burden the weight of his cross as he was forced to



carry it to the site of his execution.

While not all Christians may abstain from eating meat on Fridays, Good Friday is a day where all practicing Catholics abstain from red meat. Catholics that are 14 years and older, will either eat no meat at all, or limit themselves to only white meat such as fish or chicken.

Holy Saturday Night – Easter Vigil

Those who have been baptized as children, can take their Sacrament of Confirmation during an Easter Vigil that is held on Saturday evening. The vigil can also be held during the hours of darkness, between sunset Saturday, and sunrise Easter Morning. Depending on the region you live, these Confirmations may only be conducted at the stroke of Midnight, as the last rays of sun fade into the night sky, or at the early morning sunrise.

Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday begins for most Catholics by attending the Easter Vigil Midnight Mass. Others begin their Easter Sunday with a morning mass. Following the morning mass, the parish may hold an Easter breakfast for their members. Or they may provide food to the less fortunate.

The average Catholic family, will either attend local community events, or spend the remainder of the day with loved ones. They may take part in parades, feasts, festivals, or watch live performances. Some of these events can be heavily inspired by the 14 Stations of the Cross, retelling the events of Jesus Christ's Crucifixion.

Most events however are not traditionally inspired by the Bible directly. Whether its a secular tradition, uniquely cultural, or based on regional superstitions surrounding good luck; there are many non-biblical traditions that are enjoyed on Easter Sunday.

Non-Biblical Traditions

As we mentioned earlier in the article the geographical, and cultural

environment you live or grew up in, can have an affect on the way you celebrate Easter outside of Church events.

In the northern hemisphere Easter is associated with spring, but in the southern hemisphere it is autumn. This small difference is enough to determine where and how people gather to celebrate Easter together.

Easter Eggs

Easter eggs are given out to loved ones, or used in games all over the world. Depending on where you live, you may have a regional tradition where eggs are hidden and people (namely children) need to find them. You could play egg roll in which an egg is either chased after as it rolls down a hill, or pushed along with a spoon. Or you may play egg toss games, where the winners are the last team to break their egg, or even take part in egg and spoon races where an egg is balanced on a spoon as you run around an obstacle course.

In America, Easter Eggs are more often than not, hard boiled eggs that have been dyed or painted bright colors. There are also some chocolate eggs, sugar "candy" eggs, and solid and hollow plastic eggs that are available for purchase as well.

In countries like England and Australia, chocolate eggs tend to be the norm, followed by chocolate Easter Bunnies. The sugar "candy" eggs are available for the lactose intolerant, but the plastic eggs both solid or hollow are almost unheard of.

Final Thoughts

Even though Catholics and Christians all over the world celebrate the Easter season in their way, it doesn't change the true meaning of Easter for any of us. It is this common link in our beliefs that binds our faiths, and makes us who we are.



Lester & Son

Funeral Directors

A tradition of personal, professional care since 1907



Cherie, Tony, John

359 Wantigong St 49 Thomas Mitchell Dr
Albury Wodonga
02 6040 5066 02 6056 1700

www.lesterandson.com.au

All Hours • All Areas • Pre-planned Funerals Available

St Joseph's Mens Group

- Wagga Wagga -

Recollections - Spiritual Talks - Retreats and more!

Come and see at: stjosephsmensgroup.com



CEREAL, OILSEEDS, PULSES

"It all begins with seed"

- Insist on Hart Bros quality assured seed
- Growing, cleaning, sales and distribution of all broadacre seed varieties



- Cleaning, treating and sizing farmer's retained canola seed



office@hbseeds.com.au • www.hartbrosseeds.com.au
Phone: 02 6924 7206 • Fax: 02 6924 7271
Coffin Rock Lane, Temora Rd Junee 2663

"Remember: Hart Bros Seeds Spring Field Day is 2nd Wednesday in October"

AVIS

We try harder!



- Cars
- Trucks
- Buses
- Utes

6921 9977

6-10 Edward St, Wagga Wagga www.avis.com.au

TRIBUNAL OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- Diocese of Wagga Wagga -



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

For further information please phone the
Wagga Wagga Office of the Tribunal

Phone: 6937 0017 Email: tribunal@wagga.catholic.org.au



plus

LIQUOR

LOCKHART • EAST ALBURY

JINDERA

SPRINGDALE HEIGHTS



SAINT MARY MACKILLOP COLLEGE
Albury



- K to Year 12 with small classes sizes
- Located in a rural residential setting
- Part of a thriving Catholic community
- Academic excellence and committed staff

Phone 02 6045 9422
office@smmc.nsw.edu.au
197 Urana St, Jindera NSW 2642

NOW TAKING 2023 ENROLMENTS

An independent school offering traditional education and instruction in the Catholic faith, promoting virtue and excellence of character in a personal and nurturing environment

NEWS FROM SACRED HEART, NORTH ALBURY

The Sacred Heart Parish in North Albury have decided to continue their *Telephone Tree* outreach service, post COVID restrictions, due to a need still in the community. They have also started up a Beta group, a follow up to their Alpha group that finished last year.

Telephone Tree

During the isolation period which was part of our COVID journey, the Sacred Heart Parish Council, North Albury, initiated a Telephone Tree. This provided a vehicle for members of the council to contact parishioners – both young and old – who were unable to attend Eucharist and provided spiritual and social support. It involved an initial outreach phone call to a list of parishioners by volunteers. The parishioner then had the option for this contact to continue. A key purpose of the tree was to reassure those isolated, that they had not been forgotten, and that are a key part of the Sacred Heart Parish.

'Outreach' has ALWAYS been one of the key core values of Sacred Heart Parish.



Despite Covid lockdown restrictions now largely lifted, Parish Council members have been concerned of late, at remaining restrictions to visitation at aged care facilities; as well as a lingering 'fear' of some parishioners about returning to a group/congregational setting. Not all parishioners have access to the live streaming of Sacred Heart Sunday services via YouTube.

The parish council has decided

to continue outreach through an informal Telephone Tree. Those wanting a member of the parish council to contact them by phone, or who know of someone who would like to be contacted (after checking with them first) are invited to contact the parish office ph 02 6025 1516 or sacredheartna@gmail.com

Parish Bible and Beta Groups

Following our Parish Alpha program last year there was an interest in joining a Bible group, as well as a follow up group to Alpha called Beta.

The bible group consists of a collection of short bible studies designed to lead our group through a meaningful engagement of God's word while sharing each other's journey in their own interpretation. These studies collectively explore the subject of Christian fellowship – a continuation of the theme throughout Alpha - to be a 'Christ-

centred' community.

The Beta group consists of a 20 minute video from the 'Wild Goose ministries', featuring Fr Dave Pivonka a Franciscan, and a wide range of people sharing personal testimony on the Love of God for us through the Holy Spirit. With a couple of discussion group questions after each video we share through our own experiences of the video theme.

Bible group is every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 7.00pm in the parish hall.

Contact Fran 0408 268 518.

In addition Joseph Kipper hosts a daytime Bible group every Tuesday from 10.30am - 12md at 568 Hague Street, Lavington. Contact Joseph 0417 669 717.

Beta is every 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7.00pm in the hall. Contact Michael 0419 982 574.

Everyone is welcome.

Below: Members of the Sacred Heart Parish at a recent bible group.



DRESSED BY
JACKIE

New arrivals for winter

After 5 wear,
pants, jeans, coats,
accessories
and more

202 Baylis Street Wagga Wagga
Ph: 0435 838 654

SAIGON restaurant

Specialises in **Chinese** and **Vietnamese** cuisine

- Open 6 days - lunch & dinner
- BYO
- Banquets and group bookings
- Takeaway and business lunch menu

[P] 6921 2212 89-91 Morgan St, Wagga Wagga

NEW SYRO-MALABAR EPARCHY NAMED FOR AUSTRALIA

Pope Francis has appointed Fr John Panamthottathil CMI as the second bishop of the Syro-Malabar Eparchy of St Thomas the Apostle, Melbourne, to succeed Bishop Bosco Puthur.



Fr John Panamthottathil CMI

The announcement was published in Rome and Mount St Thomas, Kakkanaad, Kerala.

Fr Panamthottathil was born in Kerala on May 31, 1966. After completing his schooling, he joined the St Thomas Kozhikode Province of the Congregation of Carmelites of Mary Immaculate (CMI).

He made his first profession in 1986 and solemn profession in 1994, and was ordained priest on December 26, 1997. He was elected twice as the Provincial Superior of the CMI Kozhikode Province.

"I take up this appointment with a deep desire to serve the People of God in Australia and Oceania, entrusted to the task with the support of the Syro-Malabar community," Fr Panamthottathil said.

Fr Panamthottathil will be returning to ministry in Australia, where he served for a number of years in the Archdiocese of Brisbane. He was assistant parish priest at St Stephen's Cathedral, Brisbane, and St Bernadine Church, Regents Park. He also served as parish priest at Our Lady and St

Dympna's Church, Aspley.

While ministering in the Latin Rite Church, he supported the pastoral needs of the local Syro-Malabar Catholic.

"I remember fondly my time serving in Australia and I very much look forward to returning to minister to the vibrant Syro-Malabar communities across the country and beyond," Fr Panamthottathil said.

Fr Panamthottathil's international priestly ministry also included a short period in the Latin Rite Diocese of Nashville, Tennessee.

In 2020, he returned to India and is currently serving as the prior of St Elias Ashram Niravilpuzha, Kerala and parish priest of St Elias Niravilpuzha in the eparchy of Mananthavady Kerala. Fr Panamthottathil also teaches the English language at the Benedictine Ashram Makkiad, Kerala.

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference president Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB said he looks forward to welcoming Fr Panamthottathil as a fellow

member of the Bishops Conference.

"Fr Panamthottathil will return to the Catholic Church in Australia which, especially thanks to the Plenary Council, is growing in its appreciation of the place of the Eastern Catholic Churches, including the Syro-Malabar Church, in Australia and the role they play," Archbishop Costelloe said.

"On behalf of my brother bishops, I also pay tribute to Bishop Puthur for his significant contributions to the Conference, including through his long-time role of leadership of our ministry to

seafarers. May he continue to be blessed in his retirement."

The Syro-Malabar Eparchy of St Thomas the Apostle, Melbourne was established in December 2013 – the second such eparchy outside India.

The Melbourne Eparchy's jurisdiction includes all of Oceania and currently has 13 parishes and 37 missions across Australia and 16 missions in New Zealand.

It is not yet known when Fr Panamthottathil will arrive in Australia.

Vinnies
Find your nearest Vinnies Shop

- Albury Shop** Ritz Arcade, Dean St Albury
- Corowa Shop** 143 Sanger St Corowa
- Griffith Shop** 101 Banna Ave Griffith
- Jerilderie Shop** 36 Jerilderie St Jerilderie
- June Shop** 85 Broadway St June
- Lavington Shop** 321 Urana Rd Lavington
- Leeton Shop** 42 Kurrajong Ave Leeton
- Mulwala Shop** 47 Melbourne St Mulwala
- Narrandera Shop** 181 East St Narrandera
- Tumbarumba Shop** 16 The Parade Tumbarumba
- Turvey Park Shop** Turvey Tops Shopping Centre, Fernleigh Rd Wagga Wagga
- Wagga Wagga Shop** 15 Peter St Wagga Wagga

ALL PRESENT AND FORMER FAMILY GROUP MEMBERS IN WAGGA WAGGA DIOCESES are cordially invited

TO CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF THE SACRED HEART PARISH KOORUNGAL

PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUP MOVEMENT
A FAMILY FOR ALL

Sunday
MAY 7 2023
MASS at 9.00 am
Followed by Morning Tea 10.00 am

RSVP: Marg & Ron McAuliffe
PH: 0427 579 307
Email: mimcauliffe@hotmail.com

AND WE'RE BACK!

The Virtue Ministry team took an extended break from Christmas until the end of January to rejoice, rest, pray and discern what God wants to call us into for 2023.

BY STINA CONSTANTINE

Founder & Managing Director at Virtue Ministry

I can confirm, God delivered in epic proportions! You'll hear more about that next month.

The first of our exciting news begins with the Launch of Season 3 of the Living Fullness Podcast. Once again, we're joined by a friend of our ministry, and recently appointed administrator of St Michael's Cathedral, Fr Sean Byrnes - to chat all things, virtue, relationships, and faith in the context of an ever-changing culture. We have a range of guests from near and far joining us on the podcast this year as well as some of the team stepping up and into the co-host role. We're breaking open topics that we've stayed clear of in the past and encouraging each other and our community to dive deeper into God's ocean of love and mercy.

The podcasting journey has been one of many challenges including unexplained technological failures as well as pushing out hearts to step out in faith and into vulnerability. It has been a journey of much honesty, lots

of laughter, a few holding back tears and an outpouring of God's blessings. An enormous thank you to our local and international Guests from 2022 for sharing their gifts, knowledge, and talents with us and our community. To the team for their incredible vulnerability to step up and out when called upon to share what God is doing in their lives, and to my co-host Fr Byrnes for the many accumulated hours of his free time that he's gifted to our ministry and much patience that he's afforded me, personally, throughout this journey. Your priesthood is a beautiful witness, and you are such a gift Padre! Last but not least, to our podcast community who come back week after week, especially our Patreon donors. This podcast doesn't happen because of 1 person's effort - it happens because everyone gives what they can, and when these offerings are combined, it brings the podcast to life: So much gratitude to you all!

In order to make way for some



new projects on the horizon, we're now looking for 5 generous donors to commit to \$50 per month on Patreon, to allow us to step away from the countless hours of video and audio editing and give that role to someone much more efficient and capable. It will mean all our efforts and energy can be focused on these new projects and resources in the pipeline, for our community and those we encounter. Our small group of existing donors are taking care of our annual fees including website hosting and podcast platform, our new donors will be helping us to propel forward. We're also committing to more behind-the-scenes content both from our guests and from us, exclusively for our Higher tier Patreon Donors. The higher tiers also allow our donors to choose the topics we cover.

If you feel called to be able to financially support our ministry and help us to move forward, please go to

patreon.com.au/livingfullness and sign up to a tier.

You can find the podcast on all the usual podcast streaming platforms including spotify, apple podcasts, google podcasts and iheart radio. Our guest interviews are also available as a video episode on Virtue Ministry's youtube channel.

Thank you to those of you who message us on a regular basis to encourage us to continue the podcast. We are often stopped in our day by people who want to share that they've been listening to the podcast, and either what particularly struck them OR a suggestion of a topic they would be interested in hearing more about.

We love hearing from you so reach out to us either via email contact@virtueministry.org.au or say hi when you see us around and about.

ST PATRICK'S PARISH, HENTY

St Patrick's in Henty recently hung a crucifix that had been donated by the Mahedy family from Urangeline to St Terence's Church in Urangeline on it's opening in 1938.

St Terence's church was sold at auction on the 7th May 2022 and the Lockhart Parish were kind enough to donate the crucifix to St Patrick's at Henty, where Father Terence Mahedy is the parish priest. The cross was originally made by Father Terence Mahedy's father.



Right: Father Terence Mahedy stands proudly next to the donated crucifix made by his father.

HARMONY WEEK

Harmony Week is the celebration that recognises our diversity and brings together Australians from all different backgrounds.



Let's come together to celebrate our cultural diversity.

It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. This year Harmony Week will be held from 20 to 26 March and includes Harmony Day, held on 21 March, which coincides with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Harmony celebrations

The Department of Home Affairs leads national celebrations for Harmony Week to recognise diversity and inclusion activities that take place during the entire week.

Since 1999, more than 80,000 Harmony Week events have been held in childcare centres, schools, community groups, churches, businesses and federal, state and local government agencies across Australia.

What is Harmony Week?

It is a time to celebrate Australian multiculturalism, and the successful integration of migrants into our community.

Australia is one of the most successful

multicultural countries in the world and we should celebrate this and work to maintain it.

Harmony Week is about inclusiveness, respect and belonging for all Australians, regardless of cultural or linguistic background, united by a set of core Australian values.

How to celebrate?

Let's come together with friends and family and through schools, workplaces and our wider communities to celebrate our diversity.

Getting involved can be as simple as hosting an event or attending a local celebration.

Why orange?

Orange is the colour chosen to represent Harmony Week. Traditionally, orange signifies social communication and meaningful conversations. It also relates to the freedom of ideas and encouragement of mutual respect. Australians can choose to wear something orange during Harmony Week to show their support for cultural

diversity and an inclusive Australia.

Our cultural diversity

Australia is a vibrant and multicultural country — from the oldest continuous culture of our first Australians to the cultures of our newest arrivals from around the world.

Our cultural diversity is one of our greatest strengths and is at the heart of who we are. It makes Australia a great place to live.

An integrated multicultural Australia is an integral part of our national identity. All people who migrate to Australia bring with them some of their own cultural and religious traditions, as well as taking on many new traditions. Collectively, these traditions have enriched our nation.

Facts and figures

There are some fascinating statistics

about Australia's diversity that can be good conversation-starters:

- nearly half (49 per cent) of Australians were born overseas or have at least one parent who was
- we identify with over 300 ancestries
- since 1945, more than 7.5 million people have migrated to Australia
- 85 per cent of Australians agree multiculturalism has been good for Australia
- apart from English, the most common languages spoken in Australia are Mandarin, Arabic, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Italian, Greek, Tagalog/Filipino, Hindi, Spanish and Punjabi
- more than 70 Indigenous languages are spoken in Australia.

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



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

Friday 24 March 2023 - 6pm to 12 midnight at:

- St Michael's Cathedral, Johnston St, Wagga Wagga
- St Patrick's Church, Smollett St, Albury
- Sacred Heart Church, Warrambool St, Griffith

Don't give up on your dream of holiness and being close to God and those you love.

ERINEARTH IS CELEBRATING 25 YEARS



ErinEarth is celebrating 25 years of demonstrating and inspiring sustainable living, and creating space and opportunity for nature connection and contemplation.

ErinEarth is a sustainable living education centre and volunteering community, on Wiradjuri Country, Wagga Wagga. We showcase a waterwise, native plant garden and organic vegetable growing, and we inspire nature connection, play and exploration.

It's unbelievable that a quarter of a century ago, the ErinEarth site was an asphalt tennis court and rubbish dump. ErinEarth has been brought to life by the drive, courage and vision of two amazing women, Presentation Sisters Carmel Wallis and Kaye Bryan, along with the efforts of dedicated volunteers and staff.

Situated right in the heart of Wagga Wagga, ErinEarth is an extraordinary native plant and permaculture garden,

bursting with biodiversity. The abundant return of many different species of wildlife to ErinEarth is a living testament and educational resource, making a difference to our local environment. This amazing demonstration garden and energy efficient house showcases what is possible using native and primarily local plants, along with sustainable lifestyle choices.

Do you follow ErinEarth on our socials? To keep up to date with all that is planned for the 25th year celebrations plus regular highlights; inspiring sustainable gardening and living; and promoting activities, events and achievements. **We invite you to like or follow ErinEarth via our social media accounts on Facebook and Instagram.**



ErinEarth		2023 EVENTS
Mar	25	SoulSpace
Apr	1	Open Day - 'Permaculture' Permaculture principles in the garden
May	4	25 Years Reunion ErinEarth garden tour and morning tea
	27	Soul Space Labyrinth launch with meditation workshop
Jun	24	SoulSpace
Jul	1	Open Day 'Winter Lantern Festival'
	22	SoulSpace
Aug	26	SoulSpace
Sep	16	Open Day - 'Students for Sustainability' Student-led sustainability projects
	23	SoulSpace
Oct	28	SoulSpace
	28	25 Year's Celebration Dinner With key note speaker
Nov	21	Presentation Day
	25	Open Day 'Cosmic Walk' Cosmic Walk in the ErinEarth garden



Adolescent Counselling,
Anger Management, Anxiety, Depression,
Grief, Relationships, EMDR/EMIT for
Trauma, Workplace Stress,
EAP Counselling, General Counselling for
Mental Health Wellness

Phone 0423 385 761
Suite 10, Level 1,
53 Tompson St
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650
www.hopeandresilience.com.au

Hope and Resilience Counselling

John Dodwell


LMD 6808 - Channel 13 UHF

Hydraulic hose manufacturers and suppliers
Steel supplies, engineering and welding supplies
Dealers for Robin & Delta stationary engines

SMITH'S MOTOR GARAGE

58-60 GREEN ST LOCKHART
PH 02 6920 5556

- Authorised Mitsubishi Dealers -



MARRIAGE

On Saturday, 4th February, 2023, at St Mary's Church, Jindera, parish priest Fr Peter Murphy celebrated the Wedding Mass for Hannah Moriarty and Joseph Hempel.

Hannah, the youngest daughter of Mark and Cathy Moriarty, attended Holy Spirit Primary School in Lavington and completed her secondary education at St Mary MacKillop College in Jindera.

Hannah met Joseph at Campion College Toongabbie, while studying for her Bachelor of Liberal Arts in 2021.

Joseph is the eldest son of Gannon and Tess Hempel from Worongary Queensland, not far from the Gold Coast. He is working as an apprentice carpenter after gaining his Diploma of Liberal Arts from Campion College.

The reception was held at the popular La Maison Restaurant on the Causeway between Albury and Wodonga. Family and friends had travelled from four states to attend the wedding. All had a

lovely time and the speeches were full of funny and touching reminiscences.

Hannah and Joseph have settled in Hebersham one of the western suburbs of Sydney.



Photos courtesy of Bethany Clare Photography.

NEARLY 20,000 REFUGEES SET TO APPLY FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCY

Catholic Social Services Australia has welcomed the recent announcement that the Albanese Government will provide a permanent visa pathway for existing Temporary Protection Visa (TPV) and Safe Haven Enterprise Visa (SHEV) holders.

This is in line with the Government's 2022 election commitment and will give some 19,000 refugees the right to apply for Australian citizenship after having been "in limbo" for many years.

The change will give them the same rights as all other permanent residents, including social security payments, higher education loans, access to the NDIS, and the ability to sponsor family members to come to Australia.

The Chair of CSSA, Francis Sullivan, said the changes are long overdue and a victory for compassion and common sense.

"For too long, the politics around refugees has driven a wedge into our communities. Today's announcement will go a long way to bringing communities together and restoring the long-held Australian ethos of giving everyone a fair go.

"This will be life changing for thousands of people who have fled wars, famines and conflicts to build a better life in Australia as so many of our fellow citizens have over centuries."

Home Affairs Minister, Clare

O'Neil, said only those who entered Australia before Operation Sovereign Borders started in 2013 and who hold or have applied for a protection visa are eligible.

"Anyone trying to enter Australia without a valid visa would be turned back or returned to their port of origin," she said.

Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs, the Hon Andrew Giles MP said all people on TPVs and SHEVs have been found to be refugees and are owed Australia's protection.

"TPV and SHEV holders work, pay taxes, start businesses, employ Australians and build lives in our communities- often in rural and regional areas.

"Without permanent visas, however, they've been unable to get a loan to buy a house, build their businesses or pursue further education. It makes no sense - economically or socially - to keep them in limbo."

The Government has committed \$9.4 million over two years to assist TPV and SHEV holders with the visa application process through specialist legal service providers across Australia.

Advanced

AUTOMOTIVE ELECTRICS

1866701w

For all your Auto Electrical Repairs

- Exchange Service
- Breakdown Service
- Air Conditioning
- Repairs & Servicing

Jamie Morley
6925 4242

ARC

Unit 5, 73 Dobney Ave, Wagga Wagga
Mobile: 0428 254 211

Albury Accounting
Pty Ltd

- All Tax Returns
- GST & Taxation Advice
- Financial Statements
- Superannuation

www.alburyaccounting.com.au
596 Hume St, Albury
Phone Suryan Chandrasegaran on 02 6041 2010

Amcal+
Expert advice for every Australian.

- Prescriptions
- Health & Medication checks
- Sleep Apnoea Services
- Flu Vaccination Service
- Webster-pack Medication Management
- Diabetes Australia Agent (NDSS)
- Be Good to Yourself Weight Management
- Fine Fragrances

PAT ZIRILLI AMCAL CHEMIST
398 - 400 Banna Ave, Griffith
Ph: (02) 6962 3596 Fax: (02) 6962 4931

Ken & Mary Morley Pty Ltd, Trading as
Ken Morley

SMASH REPAIRS

Auto Measuring Systems
Baked Enamel
Courtesy Car Available

We are recommended reparer for:

24 hour towing
69 215 251
0431 290 725
19 Houtman St, Wagga Wagga
Lic No: MVRL47719

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.

LILLYPILLY
Lillypilly Wines
Family Owned Boutique Winery

Monday to Saturday 10am to 5pm
visit us and have a taste

47 Lillypilly Rd, Leeton NSW 2705
Tel: 02 6953 4069
www.lillypilly.com
www.facebook.com/lillypillywines

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
ROB GEDDES MW
Australian Wine Vintages 2015
Lillypilly Noble Blend

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
JAMES HALLIDAY -5 STARS
Australian Wine Companion 2015

huon HOOKE .com 95
Lillypilly 2011 Noble Blend

go LEETON
GOLDEN APPLE SUPER STORE
A GOOD PLACE TO SHOP AND SAVE

OPEN DAILY FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE
ONE-STOP SUPERMARKET

Part of the Local Community Since 1960

THE GOLDEN APPLE SUPER STORE

SUPA IGA bp

YANCO ROAD, LEETON Tel:69532000

H. FRANCIS & CO.
STOCK STATION AND REAL ESTATE AGENTS
rmanetwork Accredited Member

4/41-43 Moorong St
Wagga Wagga
Ph: 6921 6366
Fax: 6921 6493

We sell Cattle at the Wagga Livestock Marketing Centre every Monday and Sheep and Lambs every Thursday and also offer a range of services:

- Paddock sales, over the hook sales and direct to feedlot sales
- On farm Stud Sales
- Auctions Plus Sales
- Clearing Sales
- Rural property sales

For any of your livestock or property needs contact one of our friendly agents:

Tim Francis	0428 263 852
Alex Croker	0428 326 810
Matt Hawker	0418 861 320
Sam Sutton	0448 080 607
David Kosa	0432 064 188
Helen De Costa	0448 353 764

Email: livestock@hfrancisandco.com.au
www.hfrancisandco.com.au

SCHOOLS IN OUR DIOCESE

St Patrick's Primary School, Holbrook

What a fabulous Pancake Lunch St Patrick's shared on 21 February for Shrove Tuesday. The Year 4/5/6 class led this as their first fundraiser for Project Compassion for Caritas raising nearly \$100! Thank you to all families for supporting this worthy cause!



St Anne's Primary, North Albury



St Anne's Primary Year 1 students have been busy learning to log in to their new Chromebooks!



St Peter's Primary, Coleambally



After reading the 'Snail and Turtle are Friends' kindergarten had fun painting their thoughts about the story.



Marian Catholic College, Griffith

Marian's College Captains welcomed many families to the Year 7 2024 evening on 9 March, they cant wait to welcome even more at their College open evening in Term 2, for all families that are keen to see their amazing new facilities!



Catholic Education
Diocese of Wagga Wagga

All schools enrolling now

Henschke Primary, Wagga Wagga



On Friday 3rd March Henschke Catholic Primary School remembered and celebrated the life and legacy of Bishop Henschke. At the beginning of Mass, the school visionaries came "alive" as their story was told. 'Bishop Henschke' also visited our school for the day!

St Francis De Sales Regional College, Leeton

It was a sensational return to the twilight format of our Annual Swimming Carnival! The hot weather was just the ticket for the all-time high participation rates!

Congratulations to TENISON on being crowned the overall champions of the carnival and CHAMPAGNAT for winning the coveted '3 minutes of fame'.



Kildare College, Wagga Wagga



Rohan Cummins and Hamish McRae were outstanding representatives for KCC at the Rotary Peace Ceremony on 26 February. Rohan and Hamish shared a summary of student led initiatives promoting peace and diversity at Kildare.



St Joseph's Primary, Narrandera



Congratulations to Alice on progressing through to the Diocesan Netball trials on March 1 in Griffith. Well done Alice and to all students who participated in the netball trials.



St Patrick's Primary, Griffith

Year 2 engaged in some collaborative brainstorming to practise coming up with story ideas.



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 (1962 Missal Mass)
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 Forrester 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
1962 Missal 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
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, Tumburumba
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 MARCH

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

- 1 March 1982** Fr Richard Walter O'Donovan
- 4 March 1989** Mgr John Desmond Lane
- 6 March 1996** Fr Edward (Tony) Fitzgerald
- 7 March 2001** Fr Peter O'Leary
- 17 March 1949** Mgr William Slattery



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

SoulSpace Saturdays
An opportunity for quiet awareness
and sharing in the ErinEarth Garden
Open to all, regardless of religious,
traditional or cultural beliefs
Free event | Complimentary Tea & Coffee
1 Kildare St, Turvey Park
9.30am - 11am
on the 4th Saturday of the month

FAMILY REFLECTIONS

12th March - Third Sunday of Lent, Cycle A

Lent is a season for repentance. It is a season during which we are called to reflect upon and to live deeply the promises of Baptism. The well and the conversation about water immediately recall for us the Sacrament of Baptism. As the Samaritan woman was converted and sent on a mission because of the conversation about water, we too are converted and sent by our Baptism to preach the good news of Jesus to others.

Take this opportunity to reflect upon the importance of Baptism with your family. If you have photos or other mementos of your family's Baptisms, bring them out and take some time to recall the day of Baptism and its importance to you and your family. Create a prayer table that includes these mementos and a bowl of holy water. After you have spent some time talking about Baptism, invite everyone to listen carefully and prayerfully to today's Gospel. Read John 4:5-42 together. Ask how Jesus' meeting with the woman at the well is like Baptism. (Jesus knows the woman's sin and forgives her. The woman comes to know Jesus as the Messiah. The woman invites others to meet Jesus.) Pray a prayer of blessing for each member of the family that God will help each one live the promises of his or her Baptism. Pray together the Lord's Prayer.

*Exodus 17:3-7 Psalm 95:1-2,6-9
Romans 5:1-2,5-8 John 4:5-42*

19th March - Fourth Sunday of Lent, Cycle A

When infants are baptized, parents, with the help of the godparents, assume responsibility for raising the child as a follower of Jesus. The process of maturation in the faith is much like the example found in the story of the man born blind. The man is cured of his blindness, a symbol of his sin. Each time he meets someone after the healing, the man comes to a deeper awareness of who Jesus is. In a similar way, we who are baptized continue to mature in faith as our relationship with and knowledge about Jesus grows.

Invite each member of your family to draw a timeline of his or her life. On the timelines, ask family members to identify significant moments in their lives, especially their life of faith. Invite each person to reflect upon who Jesus was to him or her at each significant moment. How has each person's relationship with Jesus changed or matured? Then read together today's Gospel, John 9:1-41. Note how the relationship between Jesus and the man born blind changes and grows throughout the Gospel. Pray together that your relationship with Jesus will continue to grow and develop, becoming ever deeper. Conclude by praying together the Lord's Prayer.

*1 Samuel 16:1b,6-7,10-13a Psalm 23:1-6
Ephesians 5:8-14 John 9:1-41*

26th March - Fifth Sunday of Lent, Cycle A

Jesus' promise of eternal life is a central element of our Catholic faith. Even though Easter is still two weeks away, our Gospel today invites us to acknowledge Jesus' power over death, evidenced in the raising of Lazarus, and to anticipate Jesus' conquering of death once and for all in his death and Resurrection. We sometimes use examples from nature to help describe this mystery of our faith. Jesus himself talked about the seed that dies when planted in the ground in order to produce new life (John 12:24). Using that image and others, we find hope and confidence in Jesus, the Resurrection and the life.

Gather your family today and read today's Gospel in its shorter form, John 11:3-7,17,20-27,33b-45. Write Jesus' promise from today's Gospel ("I am the resurrection and the life.") on a large sheet of white paper. As your family talks about what Jesus means by this promise, decorate Jesus' words with symbols that will remind you of his promise of eternal life. Display this reminder of Jesus' promise in a prominent place in your home and keep it there until Easter. Pray that you will always remain confident in Jesus' promise of eternal life. Conclude by praying together the Apostles' Creed or the Nicene Creed.

*Ezekiel 37:12-14 Psalm 130:1-8
Romans 8:8-11 John 11:1-45*

2nd April - Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion, Cycle A

Palm, or Passion, Sunday begins the most sacred week of the Church year - Holy Week. During these days, we prepare ourselves for Easter by prayerful reflection upon the events of Jesus' Passion and death. You might display a crucifix in a prominent place this week, as reminder of the salvation Christ won for us. The crucifix can also be the focal point for family prayer during Holy Week.

Because of the length and complexity of the Passion narrative, young children have difficulty remaining attentive when it is proclaimed in its entirety. Families can choose to read a portion of this Sunday's Gospel each day of Holy Week, providing ample opportunity for children to ask questions and respond to the events described there. In this way, the entire week can become a "way of the cross."

Each day during Holy Week, the family can gather in a prayerful space with a crucifix as the focal point. The Passion as found in Matthew's Gospel might be read as follows throughout the week:

- Sunday: Matthew 21:1-11
- Monday: Matthew 26:14-25
- Tuesday: Matthew 26:26-35
- Wednesday: Matthew 26:36-56
- Thursday: Matthew 26:57—27:14
- Friday: Matthew 27:15-54

After reading from the Gospel each night, the family might reflect on the reading together. Conclude your prayer time together by praying the Lord's Prayer and/or singing an appropriate hymn, such as "Jesus, Jesus," "Were You There?" or "What Wondrous Love Is This."

*Matthew 21:1-11 Isaiah 50:4-7
Psalm 22:8-9,17-20,23-24 Philippians 2:6-11
Matthew 26:14—27:66*

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2023

FRANCISCO PEDRA / FAMILIA CRISTÁ



**WORLD
YOUTH
DAY**

**SEE YOU
IN AUGUST
2023!**

1-6 AUGUST