



TOGETHER

In the Diocese of *Wagga Wagga*

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FREE

APRIL 2023

Lest We Forget



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BISHOP'S VOICE



TOGETHER
IN THE DIOCESE OF WAGGA WAGGA

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St Brendan's Church Savernake - Final Mass -



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

On 12 March, Fr Marco Killingsworth, Fr John McGrath (the longest serving Parish Priest of Berrigan and Savernake), the local Anglican priest, Rev Jenni, about 90 parishioners, past parishioners, relatives, locals and I gathered at St Brendan's Savernake, a church of the Berrigan Parish, for the final Mass at St Brendan's and to formally close the Church. After the Mass, we moved to Savernake School of Arts Hall for a generous and tasty luncheon.

The closure of this Church was marked well; this is an indication of how important this Church and community have been to multiple generations of parishioners, their families and us. I am grateful to Fr Marco Killingsworth and Cecile Nixon and her team for their work with the organisation of this event.

In the first reading for Mass for that day, we heard of the Israelites in the desert

complaining of not having water. Moses strikes the rock with his staff and water comes from it to refresh and give life to all the people.

This Church has been a rock from which water and life has flowed, a place of great spiritual significance for the whole district. Across much of its history, the weekly gathering of 60-80 people here had Mass every week alternately at 8am and 10am. As well, there were baptisms, weddings, funerals and catechism classes by the Presentations Sisters, the Motor Mission and, later, mums on a roster. This small church was well patronised and had a lot of pulling power.

The sense of Community was and is strong here and, a little like in 'Said Hanrahan', people would talk after Mass on a Sunday morning. And so before Mass, we rang the bells, as was done in another era, to ask people to come into the Church.

The community of Savernake supported St Columba's, Berrigan, when the new

Church was built there in 1967 by providing significant funds for furnishings.

Savernake was a flourishing area. There had been a state primary school with 45 students, a post office, Hotel, and an Anglican Church. It is extraordinary how many people have moved out of the district in the last 25 years. Typically, those leaving were given a picture of the Church as a farewell present. There must be lots of photos of St Brendan's around the country.

The Church went to Mass once a fortnight and then once a month as the number of people declined and as priests got wider responsibilities. The last Mass was in Fr Rick Micallef's time so Mass hasn't been said at St Brendan's for a number of years.

As Mass hadn't been celebrated for a number of years, it was a huge job to tidy the Church, prepare the Mass and organise the day. There must have been a lot of tension and stress but Cecile Nixon and her small team and Fr Marco pulled it together brilliantly.

This was our third attempt to have the closing Mass at St Brendan's – the previous two having been stymied by COVID restrictions.

What happens next? A local committee will help to decide where precious items such as the Stations of the Cross, the Chalice and cruets go – they will continue to be used to worship of God.

And for the people? For those still in the district, you were Berrigan Parish and you remain Berrigan Parish. You will get to use the furnishings your (grand)parents and forebears provided to St Columba's. For



CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

PRAYER INTENTION FOR APRIL - PRAY WITH POPE FRANCIS

For a culture of peace and non violence.

We pray for the spread of peace and non violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by States and citizens.

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



Years ago, I traveled with Catholic Relief Services on a solidarity visit to South Sudan, where I met young people affected by decades of violent conflict in their country.

Willy, a young father, described the pain of separation from his family, who had fled across the border due to violence.

Hannah shared her sorrow at the loss of a family member. Priscilla reflected on the developmental and educational opportunities she had lost during her childhood in a refugee camp.

Taban spoke words that likely echo those of many others in war-torn locations, such as Yemen, Syria, Somalia—and most recently, Ukraine:

"If you ask me what peace is, I cannot answer. I do not know what peace is like. But I long to know it."

What can we do to address the violence that affects so many of our brothers and sisters around the world?

We can pray. Many wonderful tools are available, including the Holy Hour for Peace. Pope Benedict XVI reminded us in *Sacramentum Caritatis* that through the celebration of the Eucharist, our universal communion is strengthened. As a result, "all who partake of the Eucharist must commit themselves to peacemaking in our world

scarred by violence and war."

We can support the work of Catholic Relief Services to build peace in conflict-affected countries.

We can welcome refugee families into our homes or invite others to discern this opportunity.

We can work to address gun violence in our own country. Pope Francis made this appeal last June: "My heart is broken over the massacre at the primary school in Texas... It is time to say 'no more' to the indiscriminate trafficking of weapons." Catholics can join with the U.S. Catholic bishops in their call for reasonable gun measures to protect children.

Finally, we can seek to address violence in our own hearts by prayerfully examining how, through our attitudes, words, and actions, we can sometimes contribute to division and polarization instead of building a culture of encounter. This examination of conscience can help us as we reflect on Pope Francis' invitation to build peace in our hearts.

May we together respond this month to Pope Francis' invitation to build a culture of peace and nonviolence!

Jill Rauh - Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (United States)

those who have moved out, this place has made you who you are and the worship in your new locations is enriched by the faith which was nourished and supported here.

One last time we gather around this altar knowing that Christ is really present. It is like time has collapsed and we are at the Last Supper, standing at the foot of the Cross with Mary and greeting the Risen Lord at the Resurrection. Renewed and refreshed by the life and water from this rock, we continue on our pilgrimage through life.

Celebrant: Blessed are you, loving God. In this place many have known your love and entrusted their future into your care.

As we leave this place of worship, we give thanks to you, Lord, for all the blessings received here. We thank you for all the Sacraments received here - the Baptisms, the Confessions, Holy Communion received, Confirmations made, and Weddings celebrated. We remember those who have been buried from here or worshipped here and since died. We pray again for the repose of those souls in Heaven.

God our refuge, our home is in you. You are greater than any temple, church or cathedral that can be built by human hands, yet, in this place, we and our predecessors have met your Divine Majesty. This church has been a place of blessing. May all who have worshipped here continue to worship you, God, in their new faith community. We ask this through Christ our Lord. All: Amen



Above: Fr John McGrath and Bishop Mark.

Below: Christine Gorman and Neil Gorman at the pulpit.



Below: Back row - Brian Demio and Denis Bush. Front row - Tish Gorman, Clare Harvey, Cathy Bush, Marg Mc Gee, Fr Mc Grath and Mary Curtin.



Above: Paul Dowling closes the gate for the final time.

VISIT TO SAVERNAKE CEMETERY TO PRAY FOR THE PIONEERS

After his Closing Mass at Savernake, Bishop Mark visited the Savernake Cemetery to pray for the pioneers and was given a history lesson by Beth Rendell and other Berrigan locals.

The Savernake cemetery is situated one mile north east of the township and was notified on 2nd November, 1889. It remained unfenced until the Farmers' and Settlers' Association was granted £80 to clear and fence it in 1900.

The Jackie (John) Devine in the cemetery is Beth Rendell's great grandfather's brother. John was born in Ireland and came to Australia as a boy with his parents, two brother and two sisters. Beth's great grandfather was born here as well as four sisters, the last two were twins. Their

mother died 9 weeks after having them. Things would have been rather tough in those days.

The cemetery has been sadly neglected since the last burial, and the graves of only four people are able to be positively identified. The memorial plaque shows a list of those known to be buried in the cemetery and honours those buried in the cemetery that are known only to God.

Right: Bishop Mark, Kath Harris, Bruce Rendell, Nan Dart and Mark Ryan standing next to the memorial plaque at Savernake cemetery.



CHRISM MASS

The Chrism Mass that was held on Tuesday 4 April at St Michael's Cathedral which was well attended by parishioners and priests.

Almost all the priests of the diocese were in attendance. And afterwards the congregation were invited to join the priests for a light lunch at St Michael's Parish Centre with many attending.

Dear brothers,

You and I were called by Christ to be priests. For many of us, this might have started with a dream that he put into our hearts. For all of us, it is confirmed by the Church's choosing of us through the bishop on the advice of our formators. In them and through them, Christ chose us.

His choice of us in baptism is even more fundamental and awesome but being chosen to enable people to have access to the paschal reality through us is also mind blowing. More than that, God chooses to make us necessary. We are to help him provide a place for

imagination, to experience those blessed hands on your head again this day.

With those hands also, he massaged chrism into your hands, consecrating them to his service. I invite you, as a way of praying your vocation, this evening to rub some of the newly consecrated chrism onto your hands and experience again Christ's continual anointing of your hands and to be aware of his hands imposed on your head.

The laying on of hands and the anointing with chrism remind us that this is also an imparting of the Spirit in a special way, in a way that associates us with Christ in his role as head and shepherd.

Our Lord's hands on us are pierced by nails, with the wounds still fresh – for everything with Christ is fresh – but transformed by the resurrection. This tells us something about the Holy Spirit



Above and Below: Chrism Mass Entrance Procession.



his people to bring themselves and their grief.

I picture it being for us as it was for the apostles. Jesus went up the mountain and called them to be with him and to be sent out to teach, to cast out devils and to heal. In the same primal intimacy with the Father, he chose you and me to be his ministers, to be his sacramental priestly presence. And he never revokes his choice.

He chose us through the bishop laying hands on our head. In faith, we know it was Christ's hands on our head. I invite you, in your

whom he imparts to us. These are hands that have descended into hell, into the worst of human cruelty trusting in God. They can go through every locked door, every blocked entrance, every impenetrable cell, every circle of hatred, every suicidal depression, every paralysing anger, every kind of darkness of the soul, and even through sin itself, and bring joy and peace. In our ministry with our people, we are called to reach out and follow our people to all these places. That is part of what we mean when we say: "You made the cross the tree of life"

How can we respond appropriately to God choosing to make us necessary for this? I have two suggestions: (1) Gratitude. Stir up your thankfulness for your vocation and for the opportunities to minister that you have (2) We first made our priestly promises with innocence and fervour. Today we can remake these vows with perhaps more understanding but let it be with just as much fervour. Don't be mediocre.

I invite you now to stand and make renew your priestly promises.

- Bishop Mark Edwards OMI

Mass of Chrism - a brief history

On a day during Holy Week, the Bishop and the Priests of the diocese gather at the Cathedral to celebrate the Chrism Mass. This Mass manifests the unity of the Priests with their Bishop.

Here the Bishop blesses three oils:

- the Oil of Catechumens (oleum catechumenorum or oleum sanctorum), used in the Sacrament of Baptism,
- the Oil of the Infirm (oleum infirmorum), used for sick and dying;
- Holy Chrism (sacrum chrisma), used in the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation.

These oils will be used in the administration of the sacraments throughout the diocese for the year. This tradition is rooted in the early Church and was later absorbed into the Holy Thursday Evening Mass; Pope Pius XII issued a new Ordinal for Holy Week, which reinstated a special Mass of the Chrism distinct from the Holy Thursday Evening Mass.

LAUDATO SI' WEEK

In Australia, we will celebrate Laudato Si' Week between May 16 and May 24.

BY PETER ARNDT

These dates are different from the dates promoted internationally to enable us to fully celebrate National Sorry Day (May 26) and National Reconciliation Week (May 27 – June 3) fully.

The theme for 2023 is Hope for the Earth, Hope for Humanity. The Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace is currently preparing resources to assist you to celebrate the week. These will be available by the end of April.

The resources will take the form of a novena of prayer, contemplation and action. To ground your prayer, contemplation and action, key themes in the most recent Australian State of the Environment Report will be focussed on in each of the nine days of the novena.

Laudato Si' Week is a celebration to commemorate the anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical "Laudato Si'" on the care of our common home. It is organised by the Laudato Si' Movement and sponsored by the Vatican's Dicastery for Integral Human Development. Many partner institutions, such as the JPIC Office of the OFM General Curia, collaborate in its organisation. Throughout Laudato Si' Week, Catholics come



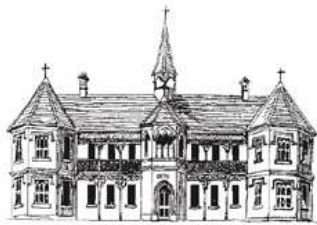
together to offer living witness to the changes brought about by the encyclical. The week's events include lectures by world-renowned leaders who show how they have changed their communities and, in doing so, encourage other Catholics to take similar action in their cities and regions. Discussions emphasise advocacy efforts to amplify the Catholic voice in the run-up to the Climate Change Conferences.

During a week of celebration, the faithful will be able to recognize the significant progress the global Church has made on its path of ecological conversion in recent years. We also hope to see a clear roadmap for the decade ahead. **We understand that more work needs to be done, but we are pleased and grateful for the efforts made thus far as we**

continue to work with the whole Church toward a more hopeful and ecological future.



You may wish to look at information and resources on the official Laudato Si' Week website at <https://www.laudatosiweek.org/>



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Footsteps of Jesus

With Tim Staples
from Catholic Answers



Land only from \$5590

Commences 10 November 2023. 11 Days. With Tim Staples and Fr Don Kettle
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 May, September and October 2023.

Pilgrimage of Mercy

Budapest to Prague



Land only from \$5590

Commences 15 August 2023. 11 Days. Bishop Karol Kulczycki SDS
A rare combination of Eastern Europe's most intriguing cities of Budapest, Krakow and Prague. Be blessed by the powerful graces of the great Shrines of Divine Mercy and the Black Madonna of Czestochowa.

Queen of Peace

Medjugorje Pilgrimage with optional 4 night extension to Rome



Land only from \$2990

Commences 07 September 2023. 8 Days. With Fr Chris Eaton
Healings, miracles and conversions have been occurring in Medjugorje for so long. Endless streams of pilgrims over the years have come to receive these graces and to return home renewed. Also departs October 2023.

Red Centre Pilgrimage

Journey to the Heart



Land only from \$5190

Departs 03 August 2023. 9 Days.
Something deep and mystical calls all Australians to journey to the heart of our nation to honour its symbols, stories and beauty in a prayerful spirit of awe and thanksgiving. Featuring the Cross on Memory Mountain. Also departs September and October 2023.



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CATHOLIC EDUCATION AWARDS DINNER

On March 9 members of our Catholic Education community were recognised and awarded for their dedication and hard work.

The awards celebrate individuals whose contribution to Catholic education has been truly significant. They recognise the hard work and dedication of those who have devoted their lives to the betterment and support of Catholic education and encourage the next generation of Catholic educators to follow in their footsteps.

Congratulations to all awardees, significant years of service recipients and scholarship winners celebrated at the Catholic Education Awards Dinner.

CONGRATULATIONS

Exemplary Contribution to Catholic Education



Sr. Barbara Webber P.B.V.M



CONGRATULATIONS

50 Years of Service and Outstanding Service as an Employee within Catholic Education



Sr. Anne Hagan RSM

Education Officer, Evangelisation and Religious Education



CONGRATULATIONS

Outstanding Service as an Employee within Catholic Education



Julie Guthrie



CONGRATULATIONS

Outstanding Contribution as a Supporter to Catholic Education



Elaine Bernadette (Bernice) Rourke



CONGRATULATIONS

Outstanding Service as an Employee within Catholic Education



Caterina (Cath) Catanzariti



CONGRATULATIONS

40 YEARS OF SERVICE 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

Julie Guthrie - St Brendan's Primary School, Ganmain
 Donald Huckel - Casual Teacher, Henschke Primary School
 Tricia Marin - Casual Teacher
 Carolyn Matthews - Principal, Sacred Heart Primary School, Koorlingal
 Mary Millthorpe - St Mary's Primary School, Corowa
 Pauline Murray - Casual School Support
 Dennis Naseby - Casual Teacher
 Catherine Paumier - St Francis de Sales Regional College, Leeton
 Jane Plum - Catholic Education Office
 Carmel Poynton - Henschke Primary School, Wagga Wagga
 Lesley Quinlivan - Henschke Primary School, Wagga Wagga
 Anne-Maree Rixon - St Anne's Primary School, North Albury
 David Ryan - Xavier High School, Albury
 Helen Ryan - St Patrick's Parish School, Albury
 John Sandra - Casual Teacher
 Phillip Shanahan - St Patrick's Parish School, Albury
 Mary-Jane Simms - Principal, St Joseph's Primary School, Leeton
 Val Thomas - Principal, Mater Dei Catholic College, Wagga Wagga



CONGRATULATIONS

Margaret Beecher - Xavier High School, Albury
 Joanne Boake - Sacred Heart Primary School, Tocumwal
 Margaret Brooks - St Patrick's Parish School, Albury
 Christine Calabria - Casual Teacher
 Michael Cambey - Casual Teacher
 Monica Cameron - Catholic Education Office
 Nicole Carroll - Catholic Education Office
 Rosemary Clarke - Catholic Education Office
 Sandra Cox - Kildare Catholic College, Wagga Wagga
 Fiona Cresser - Casual Teacher
 Bernadette Cromarty - Casual Teacher
 Janice Drew - St Francis de Sales Regional College, Leeton
 Jane Fawcett - St Patrick's Parish School, Albury
 Ann Friedlieb - Casual Teacher
 Bernadette Gibson - Catholic Education Office
 Tonina Griffiths - Marian Catholic College, Griffith



CONGRATULATIONS

SCHOLARSHIP FOR TEACHER EDUCATION RECIPIENTS

Ava Mallise | Kildare Catholic College
 CSU Wagga Bachelor of Education (k-12) majoring in HSIE and Business Studies

Aryellah Dal Broi | Marian Catholic College
 University of Notre Dame (Sydney) Bachelor of Secondary Education majoring in Religion and Business

Lexi Salvestro | Marian Catholic College
 ACU Canberra Bachelor of Education (Primary and Special Education)

Christopher Iannelli | St Francis de Sales Regional College
 CSU Albury / Wodonga Bachelor of Education (k-12) majoring in PDHPE

Angelina Barker | Xavier High School
 CSU Albury / Wodonga Bachelor of Education (k-12) majoring in HSIE / Geography



The following day over 400 staff and clergy attended our final development day for the year at Mater Dei Catholic College - Wagga Wagga, where staff from the Wagga Wagga Deanery had the opportunity to discuss and explore the newly launched Bishop's Charter for Education, transFORMATIVE learning statement, and the wellbeing for learning framework. It was also a pleasure to recognise the dedication of over 20 staff who celebrated 25 and 30 years of service (pictured right).



DIRECTOR OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION VISITS SCHOOLS

Dr Andrew Watson, Director of Catholic Education has been busy visiting schools across our Diocese.

Below: On 16 March Dr Andrew Watson had the pleasure of meeting the Kinder students at St Joseph's Lockhart and St. Joseph's Primary Finley. The children shared all of the exciting things that they had learned since the beginning of the year.



Above: On 28 February Dr Watson caught up with the Year 7 students at St Francis De Sales Regional College, Leeton.



Above: On 16 March Dr Andrew Watson met the kinder students at St Peter's Primary School, Coleambally and St Joseph's Jerilderie. All the Kinder students have settled in well and are enjoying school!

Below: On 20 March Dr Watson called in to visit the Kinder class at Sacred Heart Koorringal and he was just in time to read another instalment of "Pig the Pug"!



YANCO CHURCH CENTENARY



Yanco Church is celebrating their centenary this year.

Date:
Sunday, 11th June 2023

Time:
Begins at 10.30am

Venue:
St Patrick's Church, Yanco

Everyone is warmly welcome to celebrate with us!

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EASTER ILLUMINATES ANZAC DAY RHETORIC

The transition from Easter to Anzac Day in Australia can be a strange one, particularly when the two celebrations come in the space of two weeks as they do this year.

BY MICHAEL MCVEIGH

At Easter, we move from the terrible desolation of Good Friday to the joy of Easter Sunday. It's the foundation story for the Christian faith, and speaks of the arrival of new life and hope for the world.

Anzac Day forces Christians to confront a different reality — that this new hope has yet to be fully realised. Looking back to the major wars of the 20th century that Australia was involved in, knowing they were waged by Christians against each other, as well as those of other faiths and no faith, we can see that the world is still far from that which Christ envisaged.

Dawn services across Australia mark Anzac Day, helping us remember the terrible cost of war and renew our determination to be peacemakers. The commemorations will help us remember those who have lost their lives in war, whose efforts helped shape our country's history. But in our reflections on Anzac Day, it's worth also looking at what the day might say in the light of the Easter

story.

A great deal of the rhetoric on Anzac Day is about sacrifice. But often those sacrifices are described in political or social terms — of soldiers giving their lives for the freedom and security of their families back home. At their heart, they're stories of sacrifice in order to bring peace to others — which have echoes in the Easter story.

But the Easter story has other ways to look at sacrifice, too, ones that cause us to look at Anzac Day differently.

Christians, including early Christian writers like Paul, often talk about the death and resurrection of Christ in terms of the death of the old self, and the birth of a new self that is much closer to God. One of the lessons of Easter then is that to fully live, we must be willing to sacrifice all that we are to God; and if we are unwilling to make that sacrifice, we can never be born into a new life.

We don't often think of war as this type of struggle — the sacrifice of ones self, in order to give birth to new life.



But it's a helpful way to explore the issues that are faced in a time of war.

"The stories we share on Anzac Day look back at how our forebears confronted their brokenness, their own inner darkness, some succumbing to it, others transcending it."

"This great evil, where's it come from?" the narrator asks during Terence Malick's 1998 war epic *The Thin Red Line*. 'How'd it steal into the world? What seed, what root did it grow from? Who's doing this? Who's killing us, robbing us of life and light, mocking us with the sight of what we might've known? Does our ruin benefit the earth? Does it help the grass to grow, the sun to shine? Is this darkness in you, too? Have you passed through this night?'

Anzac Day can show us how war forces people to confront the darkness in themselves, and in those around them who have succumbed to it. The

stories we share on Anzac Day look back at how our forebears confronted their brokenness, their own inner darkness, some succumbing to it, others transcending it.

Most of us will hopefully never know what it's like to confront the terrible realities of war, and the choices that are forced on people in those times. But Anzac Day takes us into those places, bringing us stories of those who were there, and giving us an insight into the realities that they faced.

When we reflect on Anzac Day, we might ask ourselves what we do to confront the darkness in ourselves and in our world. How do we respond where there seems so little evidence of goodness? How do we make sacrifices as Christ did at Easter, in the hope of bringing new life and new hope to ourselves and our world?

God of love and liberty, we bring our thanks this day for the peace and security we enjoy, which was won for us through the courage and devotion of those who gave their lives in time of war.

We pray that their labour and sacrifice may not be in vain, but that their spirit may live on in us and in generations to come. That the liberty, truth and justice which they sought to preserve may be seen and known in all the nations upon earth.

This we pray in the name of the one who gave his life for the sake of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

- Lest We Forget -



NIGERIANS HARD HIT BY ATTACKS

If it wasn't for the faith, many victims would have turned to revenge, says priest. "We ask our leaders: Why do you allow your citizens to be killed?"

BY PATIENCE IBILE

Father Remigius Ihyula, a project partner of Aid to the Church in Need (ACN), heads the Foundation for Justice, Development, and Peace, an arm of the Diocese of Makurdi in Benue State, Nigeria. The state is among the hardest hit by attacks from Fulani herdsmen, and the Foundation implements the Church's care for Internally Displaced Persons, who are mostly individuals and families uprooted by Fulani violence.

ACN supports the local Church as it provides aid to IDPs in 14 camps and in 13 hosting communities. Besides pastoral care, the local Church provides trauma counseling and scholarships so that children can continue their education, as well as food and other forms of humanitarian aid.

In an interview with Aid to the Church in Need (ACN), Father Ihyula comments on the situation, noting the government's failure to stem the violence.

Fueled by sophisticated weapons, the murder and mass displacement of Nigerians began in 2009 and grew worse in 2014. Millions have been forced to flee, and thousands are living in camps, though some are living with family members. Why is there so much Fulani violence in Benue State?

What is called Fulani violence should be called Fulani terrorist attacks on innocent villages. Some say their motive is religion; others say that they've come into the Benue valley because of climate change. But it's not because of climate change, because that is a factor all over, and people are not killing each other everywhere. Our interpretation is that there are terrorists who use these herdsmen to displace the local population.

Benue state is considered the "food basket of Nigeria." It is the region with the highest agricultural productivity and caters to the food needs of people in Nigeria and beyond. Crops feed farmers' families, and the sale of produce pays for medical fees, tuition and other vital things. But terrorist activities have denied Nigerians these opportunities.

People have been reduced to begging, and our people have never begged before. The Benue farmer is very proud. Our farmers have always been able to farm and feed themselves. But now they beg and rely on non-governmental organizations and, in some cases, private individuals who give them food where they are encamped or hiding. They cannot go back to their villages for farm work, because when they do attempt to go back, they are killed by terrorists.

And they are not only destroying crops and killing people, especially male children, but also occupying the land so that people cannot return to their farming communities, which has caused hunger and hardship.

How is the Diocese of Makurdi caring for IDPs in the camps?

Spiritual sustenance is important, but we try to address their other needs first. People are in desperate need. They need hygiene, food, education, and psychological care. Many people have stopped sending their children to school because of the violence, so we try to provide education for students in the camps. The Church has made it possible for them to safely attend schools in townships. We also teach them entrepreneurial skills so that when they are out of school, they have something to fall back on.

Some camp residents have suffered multiple displacements. Others have seen their loved ones slaughtered, shot at and butchered like animals. We have staff who give psycho-social counselling to address their trauma, and we also provide spiritual help because the Christian faith sometimes helps people heal better and faster. If not for the Christian faith, I am sure that many people would have taken up arms to go back and fight.

Which is most important for the people in the camps?

They need their faith, which is the most important support we can give them. Therefore, the bishop tells me to visit the camps every day. When they see me, it gives them hope and strengthens their faith in God. Our Lord's prayer



Above: Situation of internally displaced persons in Guma, Nigeria. Copyright: Aid to the Church in Need.

teaches us to love and pray for those who hate and persecute us. Our people are willing to forgive and try to heal. Despite all that has happened to them, they must be willing to forgive – that is the message of our preaching to them, so that they can rebuild their lives. When we talk to our people who have suffered, we urge them not to take revenge, because then they may never heal from what they have gone through.

What is the Government doing to solve the problem?

We only pray that God gives us leaders who will not be biased and help those driven from their villages to go back and continue their lives. Our present leadership, it seems, neglects their plight, because these people don't speak their language or worship like they do. It's as if they are lesser human beings and so whatever happens to them is none of their concern.

Show me any place on Earth where people are displaced in their thousands and their government or president doesn't visit. Our people are butchered and slaughtered daily, and our president does not come to see them. And when our governor wants to speak about this, the president shuts him up. He says it's an age-old thing. We ask him: why do you allow your citizens to be killed?

These are some of the issues we are battling with. If, by chance, our leaders read this interview, I will become a target. For them, I am the problem – not the president who has failed to do his duties, who has failed to protect his citizens, but me, for speaking the truth. In Nigeria, when people say injustice should be addressed, they become a target. I am a Catholic priest. If you kill me, you are killing one person. If you target me, you target one person. But I'm not going

to live forever, anyway, and the truth should be told. The president has heard and seen a lot of news about Benue state, can he come here for once and see what is happening? Do our people deserve to be punished like this?

What are the Diocese's biggest needs when it comes to caring for the IDPs?

First, we hope to get funding for a trauma center to serve IDPs and other people who have suffered major crises. Similarly, we need health care for these people, proper facilities to take care of them. Beyond this, we want to educate the IDP children. The bishop has already begun this work.

What is your message to ACN benefactors?

Aid to the Church in Need is a godsend for the Diocese of Makurdi. The organization has taken our message to the world. This is only the first of their interventions in Makurdi, and we have achieved so much already. I want to use this medium to thank all of you for the work you do. We pray for you and for your intentions, and that you continue to advocate for us. We pray that this collaboration will be fruitful and better the situations of our brothers and sisters.

Aid to the Church in Need supports the work of the Diocese of Makurdi in Nigeria, providing aid to Internally Displaced People of Guma and Daudu Camp, two of 14 camps and 13 hosting communities.

Besides pastoral care, the local Church provides trauma counseling, scholarships, food and other forms of humanitarian aid. In 2022, Fulani herdsmen attacked 93 villages and killed 325 farmers.

GRIFFITH'S LENTEN REFLECTION DAY:

MOTHER MARY AS POWERFUL INTERCESSOR AND LECTIO DIVINA

It was a day of prayer and learning as 35 participants embarked on a spiritual day of prayer, and recollection.

Father Grace, Parish Priest, welcomed our guest speakers, Mother Angelita Marave and Sr Asuncion Lorenzo of the MACE Sisters, to speak on Mother Mary and Lectio Divina on Sunday, 26th February 2023. The event culminated with Holy Mass that evening.

The first talk spoke about our

the saints and some holy persons who just recently died, or are still alive, like Pope Francis."

"If you want to grow quickly in holiness, and deepen your love for Christ, learn how to do it through Mary. She is the one creature who has loved Jesus greatly more than anyone else. Imitate her virtues and you will

her in her life's journey.

Some quotes on Mother Mary from the Saints and holy persons:

"As mariners are guided into port by the shining of a star, so Christians are guided to heaven by Mary." (St Thomas Aquinas)

"Mary, mother of Jesus, please be a mother to me now." (St Teresa of Calcutta)

"From Mary, we learn to trust even when all hope seems gone." (Saint John Paul II)

A Cenacle Hour was led by Fr Grace in Church from 3-4 pm with the Divine Mercy Chaplet, the Holy Rosary and the reading from the Marian Movement of Priests' blue book and silence.

The second talk on Lectio Divina began after refreshments. Lectio Divina literally means "Divine Reading". Here I highlight some aspects of Mother Angelita's talk:

Lectio Divina means reading the Bible with reverence and openness to what the Spirit wants to say to us in the present moment. When we approach

choose a passage according to your liking. It is important to set the stage for deep reflection by preparing your heart to relish the Word of God. Relax. Perhaps focus on your breathing. Breathe in God's love. Breathe out any distractions that will prevent you from fully participating in this sacred practice.

Step 2

Read the passage — preferably out loud — two or three times. The first time, just get a feel for the passage. When you read the passage a second time, note the word or phrase to which your attention is being drawn. It is God drawing your attention to this word or phrase. The divine has a special message just for you in this moment. If nothing stood out to you, read the passage a third time. Sometimes a word stands out as clear as a bell while at other times the experience may be more subtle.

Step 3

Meditate on the word or phrase that stood out to you. How is God

Below: Enjoying light refreshments.



Above: Mother Angel with some of the participants.

Blessed Mother Mary. Here I highlight some aspects of Mother Angelita's talk:

"Mary is our Best Intercessor in heaven! We normally say we pray to Mary, but what we mean is that we ask her to intercede to God on our behalf".

"Mary is the surest, safest, and quickest way to Christ. That is why, most of the saints, if not all, are very close or devoted to Mary. If you examine the lives of saints, they all have some important episodes in their lives connected with Mary. Towards the latter part of this talk, I put some of the beautiful quotes on Mary given by

quickly climb the ladder of perfection. In like manner, Jesus loves his Mother so much that he took her immediately to heaven when her earthly life ended (Assumption). As St Maximilian Kolbe said: "Never be afraid of loving the Blessed Virgin too much. You can never love her more than Jesus did."

Mother Angelita highlighted the role of organizations such as the Marian Movement of Priests and the Legion of Mary in cultivating the spiritual and corporal works of mercy amongst its members. Sr Asuncion Lorenzo then gave her personal testimony on how our Blessed Mother Mary has guided

the Word of God, we expect that we will experience God's presence and that he will make his will known to us. The regular practice of "Lectio Divina" presents occasions when we meet God personally, and in that moment something surprising can happen. To read the Bible in this way means therefore to read his word reverently, attentively, and with the deep faith that God has a message for me in the situation that I currently find myself in.

Steps on Lectio Divina:

Step 1

Select a Scripture passage upon which to reflect. It could be the reading for the day, or you might want

speaking to you through this word or phrase? Is there an invitation? Is there a call? Does a memory surface? What image comes to mind? What feelings are evoked? Take your time and allow God to speak to you in the depths of your soul. Notice that God is speaking to you personally about your life right now.

Step 4

Respond to God who has been speaking to you. What is your response? What is your prayer? Allow your words to come from a place deep within where the Spirit dwells.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Step 5

Still yourself and rest in the loving embrace of your Maker. Words are never sufficient to express all that stirs within. Simply be present to the Sacred One. Relish the silence. Connect with His Presence deep in your soul.

N.B. It is good to keep a journal or record of what the Lord has made you known or felt from Step 3 and your response in Step 4. Then go over this thought or feeling as you enjoy God's loving embrace.

Suggested biblical verses you can try to practise "Lectio Divina" on

When you are about to decide on something important:

Proverbs 3: 5 - "Trust in the LORD with all your heart; and lean not to your own understanding."

When you are in doubt whether God is listening to you:

Isaiah 26:3 - "You keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you."

When not sure how much you should

love your neighbour:

John 15:12 - "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you."

When finding it hard to forgive someone:

Ephesians 4:32 - "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God has forgiven you."

When wanting to seek revenge:

Romans 12:19 - "Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, leave that to God's wrath, for it is written: Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."

When feeling proud and domineering:

Matthew 18:3-4 - "I assure you, unless you change and become like little children, you will not enter the kingdom of God. Whoever makes himself lowly, becoming like this child. Is of greatest importance in the heavenly reign."

When filled with anger to those who try to destroy you:

Luke 6: 27-28 - "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you, and pray for those



Above: The first talk was Mother Mary, Powerful Intercessor.

who maltreat you."

When deciding on how much to share with the needy:

Mark 4: 24: - "Listen carefully... In the measure you give, you shall receive, and more besides."

When worried about many things:

Psalm 34:4 - "I sought the LORD,

and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears."

When feeling envious and ambitious:

James 3:16 -- "For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there."

CCSP ADVOCATING FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

You may have read in the media about the Australian Law Reform Commission inquiry into Religious Educational Institutions and Anti-Discrimination Laws.

The consultation paper for the inquiry, released at the end of January 2023, proposed such dramatic changes to employment and teaching that it would have made religious schools almost indistinguishable from state schools.

The proposed changes would remove or severely restrict the ability of Catholic schools to prioritise the employment of staff and enrolment of students from our faith background, or to operate and teach in accordance

with our Catholic ethos.

A recent survey on school perceptions showed 63% of the

general population, 82% of Catholics and 79% of Catholic school parents believe religious schools should be 'entitled to require employees to act in their roles that uphold the ethos and values of that faith' and the school should be free to favour hiring employees who share these values. (Utting, 2021)

Over 400 submissions were

made to the inquiry, CCSP made a submission on behalf of NSW and ACT families whose children attend Catholic Schools. Catholic School Parents Australia (CSPA) made a submission on behalf of all families in Australia whose children attend Catholic schools.

We will keep you informed with updates from the inquiry.



HOLY WEEK PARALITURGY

St Joseph's Primary School, Junee held their Holy Week Paraliturgy on Holy Thursday in their school grounds.

Each class took on retelling a part of the Holy Week story through action, song and dance.

It was an absolutely beautiful service and a lovely way to end their term as they journeyed with Jesus through the events of Holy Week.



VISIT PROVIDES EARLY SOCKTOBER OPPORTUNITY

Students and staff across the Wagga Wagga Diocese got a sneak preview of what Catholic Mission's Socktober program – launching in August – will look like this year after a whirlwind tour in March.

Catholic Mission's Wagga Wagga Diocesan Director Jane Plum and National Community Engagement Officer Matt Poynting teamed up to visit four schools across three days in Wagga and Albury, while squeezing in a presentation to a Term 1 REC gathering at the

Catholic Schools Office.

The purpose of the visit was to share some of the context of the upcoming Socktober campaign, which is celebrated in the lead-up to and during World Mission Month in October. It invites students and their families to kick goals for good and support communities around the world.

"It was a privilege to join Jane in her diocese, at the invitation of the schools office, to present about the main objectives, developments, and storylines relating to Socktober in 2023," said Matt. "We're looking forward to seeing lots of engagement in support of children in Timor-Leste later in the year."

The Socktober roadshow took in Holy Trinity and St Joseph's Primary Schools in Wagga Wagga either side of the REC gathering, before heading south to Albury where Jane and Matt met with students and staff at Xavier High School and St Anne's Primary School.

During each engagement, they spoke to staff about how the program can serve the formation needs of the students while offering a team-based approach to acting for people in need. The students were given a message of the role they play in building a better world.

"It was an opportunity to remind our students that, sadly, in an unjust world the call of the poor will always come, but our privileged position allows us to make a response through prayer, advocacy and action," says Jane.

To learn more about Socktober, or to register your interest in participating, head to socktober.org.au



Above: Matt Poynting and Jane Plum toured four schools in the diocese sharing about Catholic Mission's Socktober initiative.

Below: Year 8 students at Xavier High School in Albury shared their understanding of living mission.



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CARITAS AUSTRALIA THANKS SCHOOLS AND PARISHES FOR INCREDIBLE PROJECT COMPASSION FUNDRAISING OVER LENT

Caritas Australia's annual Lenten fundraiser Project Compassion has been a success this year thanks to the dedication and support of over 1,700 schools and 1,200 parishes across the country.

"It has been inspiring to see our supporters pull out all the stops this year. We've seen everything from classic fundraisers like Caritas K's to dance battles between teachers to raise funds. The energy and passion to raise funds for Caritas Australia has been incredible this year!" said Kirsty Robertson, Caritas Australia's CEO.

"I want to thank everybody who has been a part of this year's Project Compassion – whether you've put spare change in a donation box at church, or you've set up a fundraiser at your parish or school, you have done your part to make the world a better place. Your kindness and generosity will help us to reach some of the most marginalized and vulnerable communities to face the challenges of poverty. I can't think of a better way to live out the spirit of Lent than that."

There have been over 200 masses throughout the country with a Caritas

Australia Representative speaking about Project Compassion.

In Adelaide, the Project Compassion launch at Mercedes College was attended by Archbishop O'Regan, SA Premier Peter Malinauskas and Caritas Australia Chair Robert Fitzgerald. A 'travelling candle' was presented to Nativity School, which will host the 2024 launch.

The Brisbane launch had 76 schools attending the event at St Stephens Cathedral with pancake races, chalk art and a formation session. In Toowoomba, 15 schools and hundreds of parishioners attended the launch to learn about the story of Laxmi from Nepal.

Catholic students from 21 schools across Western Sydney attended a Project Compassion launch with Bishop Vincent Long van Nguyen, where they heard about Caritas Australia's partner Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation. In Pennant Hills, Mount St Benedict College



Above: Laxmi from Nepal.

held a fantastic Caritas Ks trek. The school held their first Caritas K's trek twenty years ago. Throughout Lent, Bishop Umbers of Sydney visited schools to talk about his recent trip to Timor-Leste with Caritas Australia.

The Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne Martin Ashe joined students and teachers to launch Project Compassion at Caroline Chisholm Catholic College, Braybrook. Eighty students also attended a Justice Workshop to learn about Catholic Social Teaching and Caritas Australia's work. Emmaus College in Melbourne held an

80's inspired Caritas Ks fundraiser, that saw different leadership team members dancing, breakdancing and moonwalking around the school oval in 80's outfits.

At Hargreaves Mall in Bendigo, Bishop Shane Mackinlay of Sandhurst welcomed the City Mayor at an event with over 1000 free pancakes and school performances from seven schools, including a slam poetry performance.

In Perth, over 2,000 students heard from Caritas Australia's CEO, Kristy Robertson, who shared her first-hand experiences working with Project Compassion at an event co-hosted by Servite College and St Kieran Catholic Primary School. Kolbe Catholic College held a fundraiser on World Water Day, which saw over 100 staff, students and parents complete a 3km walk carrying a bucket of water.

The Hobart launch was hosted by Fr Leonard and Fr Paschal at St Mary's Cathedral, with school leaders and students from across primary and secondary schools.

"It is the passion and spirit of our supporters across Australia whose generosity of heart enables us to have our hands and feet in vulnerable communities across the world. When I was at school, I remember that when I put my money in a Project Comparison box, I was doing this because I thought Caritas Australia could change the world. Now I know this to be true. I am so proud to watch the next generation helping us to build a better tomorrow."

Caritas Australia is running a matched giving campaign, where every dollar you donate will be matched by a group of generous Caritas Australia supporters.

Go online to caritas.org.au/matchedgiving or call 1800 024 413



Caritas AUSTRALIA



Above: St Francis De Sales, Leeton Year 12 students set a challenge to raise \$200, which is the price of a cow in Zimbabwe. Each PAC Group had a cow poster in their room with 20 spots to colour for each \$10 raised. At the time of publishing they had raised almost \$3,000.

OCEANIA BISHOPS FINALISE RESPONSE TO SYNOD'S WORKING DOCUMENT

Representative of the four bishops conferences in Oceania have approved the region's final response to the working document published last October for the Synod of Bishops for a Synodal Church.



Above: The Federation of Catholic Bishops Conferences of Oceania in Melbourne.

The new executive council of the Federation of Catholic Bishops Conferences of Oceania recently met via videoconference, along with members of the discernment and writing group tasked with drafting the Oceania response.

That group, which met for five days in January, synthesised reports from the four bishops conferences and the Eastern Catholic Churches in Oceania responding to the Working Document for the Continental Stage, titled *Enlarge the Space of Your Tent*.

The draft report was considered in an atmosphere of prayer and reflection during the FCBCO's February assembly in Fiji, before final amendments were made ahead of last week's online meeting.

Broken Bay Bishop Anthony Randazzo, who took over as FCBCO president last month, said the completion of the report is an important milestone for the Church in the region.

"We are, in many ways, still a young Church here in the Pacific, but we are an integral part of the Body of Christ around the world,"

he said.

"Alongside our brothers and sisters in Christ from the other regions of the world, we offer our shared prayers and reflections for the international conversation on communion, participation and mission in the life of the Church."

Bishop Randazzo said the bishops of Oceania worked together at the recent FCBCO assembly to prepare their own reflection for inclusion in the final document.

"As pastors of our people, we felt it was important to provide some guidance and support as we continue this years-long Synod of Bishops journey," he said.

Last week's videoconference opened with prayer, drawing from Scripture, prayers of intercession and passages from the Oceania document. The document was then formally accepted by the FCBCO executive.

Archbishop Peter Loy Chong of Suva, who served as president of the FCBCO from 2018 to 2023, paid tribute to the significant work that took place in preparing, reviewing

and finalising the document.

"As someone who was involved in the discernment and writing group's work, I was able to see how committed people were to honouring the voices of the People of God in our region," he said.

"From the large cities of Australia to the highlands of Papua New Guinea to the low-lying islands of the Pacific, we are a diverse region but we are a faith-filled people unified by our belief in and love for Christ and his Church.

"This document captures that unity and that diversity."

Susan Pascoe, who served as chair of the Oceania Taskforce for the Synod of Bishops preparations, said the evolution of the process to conclusion has been quite profound.

"When we think back to the initial invitation for people to participate in local consultation and fast-forward to this report, so much prayer has been offered, so much passion expressed and so much energy poured out," Ms Pascoe said.

"There is still some way to go in the journey of this Synod of Bishops, but the Church in Oceania can be proud of what it has achieved in producing this document."

Bishop Randazzo will submit the Oceania document to the Synod Secretariat before this week's deadline. The FCBCO executive council agreed on its recent videoconference to publish the response in the week after Easter.

The Oceania response and the other continental documents will inform the preparation of the working document, or *instrumentum laboris*, for the first of two sessions of the XVI General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in October. The second session is scheduled for October 2024.

The Federation of Catholic Bishops Conferences of Oceania comprises the episcopal conferences of Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific and Papua New Guinea/Solomon Islands.



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For more information about making contributions to Together or to submit your article contact us at:
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NEW DIRECTION IN MINISTRY

If you're one of our community members either as a podcast listener or one of our Patreon supporters, we already let the cat out of the bag. We have some news... we're moving in a new direction.

BY STINA CONSTANTINE

Founder & Managing Director at Virtue Ministry

After much prayer and discernment, we have decided to move Virtue Ministry into focusing solely on Adult Human Formation – tailored to our Adult Church Communities and to those in Seminary Formation. This means that we'll be phasing out our Youth Ministry programs in 2023 and are in the throes of creating new workshops for adults. We will continue to bring forward our strengths in the formation of the virtues, building up healthy relationships and encouraging one another to live a life of fullness in Christ.

After spending several workshops with Vianney Seminary, and conducting workshops for parents, it's become evident to us that God is calling us to move into and minister solely within this space of the church. Is it new and terrifying? A little bit. But it's mostly exciting to have such a clear direction of our next steps and to be able to see the ways God has been preparing Virtue Ministry for this move.

Our work with adults has already begun. In March, I was asked to address a small, ecumenical group

for World Day of Prayer, giving some reflections on Ephesians 1:15-19 and tie the reflection to persecuted Christians. It was a talk that came my way with very little preparation time, and it was the most unexpected address I've even given. Yet, it was by far the most touching. With every word that I uttered from the Gospels, I could tangibly feel Jesus standing so close by my side whilst presenting, in a way I've not experienced before. As I listened back to the address, I was certain there were moments where I paused for a long period of time, because my heart was so taken by those moments with Jesus that I had to pause. They felt like an eternity. Yet, to my surprise, there were no extended pauses. I am beyond grateful to have been invited to give that address, and the conversations after the Prayer Service made it clear that the Spirit was working in ways in the participants I could not have anticipated. God is good!

The month also involved giving a virtual presentation of our '8 ways to build resilience' talk to the Catholic Women's League and Anima Women's Network. The group



Above: Stina addresses a ecumenical group for World Day of Prayer.

consisted mainly of women - mothers, and grandmothers from across the nation as well a well-loved priest, who supports the community. The talk presented some timely reminders of what was familiar to most, but also posed challenges that were uncomfortable but necessary to hear. This talk has become popular particularly among mothers. We were delighted to have a chat about some of the ways the community would be addressing building resilience in their own lives, and what the challenging parts taught them about themselves and how they relate to one another.

We also said a bitter-sweet farewell to our Admin Support, Theresa McKendry as she takes a new step forward in a more creative

direction. Theresa departs the team with our most sincere gratitude, love and prayers for her future and vocational discernment. She has been instrumental in keeping things flowing smoothly behind the scenes. This does mean, we will be looking for someone to step into the role in the coming months. The position will be advertised soon, get in contact if you're interested or know of someone who would be a good fit. Just keep an eye out on our social media handles to know when we're ready.

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Above: Theresa McKendry, Admin Support.



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CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF FAMILY GROUPS

The Passionist Family Group Movement will celebrate 50 years of family groups on Sunday 7 May at Sacred Heart Parish, Koorringal.

Where did Passionist Family Groups come from?

The first Family Group formed in Terrey Hills Parish, Sydney, in 1973. Under the leadership of Passionist Fr Peter McGrath, this very small Parish gradually grew, and with it so did the Family Groups. Marg and Paul Casey together with Maree and John McCausland having heard about the inclusive and supportive aims from various relatives approached Fr Plunkett in 1985 to commence the Family Group Movement in Wagga Wagga. Fr Wilf Plunkett showed great foresight. He supported them all to attend a Workshop at Terry Hills.

Originally, there were eight Family Groups formed within the Parish. Now only Four groups (with about 140 members) remain to contribute to the Life and Liturgy of the Parish. Frs Bernie, John and Jomer were enthusiastic and supported the Aims and Motto of Family Groups.

The Movement has spread to over 400 parishes in 20 Australian dioceses (including parishes in 3 Anglican dioceses). The Passionist Family Group Movement has also spread to U.S.A., U.K., NZ, Ireland, Scotland, Wales.

Is it Social or Religious?

Jesus would have found this a strange distinction, but some people ask the question. When we learn to accept others who are different from us, and when we offer welcome, love and care and enjoy doing it, then God is right there in the middle of it. Many people believe that faith is 'caught' rather than 'taught' and there is a lot of 'faith-catching' in Family Groups.

What is their Appeal?

The major attraction is simplicity and lack of organisational structure. Single people, especially divorced and widowed people, find it welcoming and

non-threatening. Partners or non-church goers feel welcome. People feel they are actually living their faith, so church-going comes to mean something entirely different, and it is an involvement for a couple or a family to share together.

Can anyone join?

The simple answer is YES. Anyone and Everyone! The Family Group motto is "A Family For All".

What is a Passionist Family Group?

Each group has somewhere around 12 families plus single people. In forming the groups, we try to match children of a similar age and a cross section of adults and children so that it resembles an extended family. Each group is encouraged to develop its own flavour while remaining a part of the Parish extension of the Family Group Movement.

What do Groups do?

The emphasis is on building relationships, so the groups are about "being", rather than "doing". Each group is encouraged to get together once a month, sometimes with the children and at other times only with the adults.

These gatherings allow people to get to know one another, and then in natural ways, group members begin to create bonds with others. With the building of

bonds comes the opportunity to form friendships, have fun, extend acceptance and support, and quite simply and joyfully, experience Christian life with others. The emphasis is on low-cost enjoyment and allowing everyone to feel a part of the "family".

How can Passionist Family Groups help Sacred Heart Koorringal Parish?

The networking of families has a positive effect on liturgy because more people know each other and more of them are keen to become involved in the life of the parish community.

Many pastoral needs such as serving morning tea after Mass, people visiting one another, or helping each other in practical ways during special times of

need, build community life and help people understand what belonging to a church really means.

Family Groups do a great deal to support and encourage the life of the family as well as provide an important sense of family belonging for the many who have lost it through death or marriage breakdown.

For more information:

Contact Parish Priest
Phone: 02 6922 6057 or
Margaret and Ron McAuliffe –
Coordinators
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SECOND-IN-STATE ENGLISH STUDENT STAYS IN REGIONAL NSW TO CHASE HIGHER EDUCATION DREAMS

A former Kildare Catholic College student that came second in the state in English in her HSC has chosen to stay close to home to pursue her higher education dreams of becoming a teacher.

The sky is the limit for the high-achieving student who has chosen to remain close to home to complete her higher education studies.

Miss Ava Mallise grew up in Wagga Wagga and completed her education at Kildare Catholic College. She was named DUX of her high school in 2022 and came second in the state in English in the Higher School Certificate.

Ava said she shocked a few people when they learned she decided to stay local and study a Bachelor of Education (K-12) at Charles Sturt in Wagga Wagga.

“Those who have heard of my decision to stay local ... have been somewhat shocked or taken aback,

which really shows that there is a large expectation for not only myself but other students who graduate in our community to move to the city to pursue tertiary education,” she said.

“Charles Sturt was an obvious choice for me, not many students can study at a world-class facility right in their hometown.

“Being a Wagga Wagga local, I have seen glimpses of both the sense of community and success of Charles Sturt, which are two key factors that drew me in to further my education right here.”

Ava tried not to set goals or expectations for her HSC results but said she was shocked when her marks came through.



Above: Former Kildare Catholic College student, Ava Mallise.

She sees a career in teaching as rewarding and the best way to extend on her existing passion for learning. She attributes her success in the HSC to the dedication shown by her teachers.

“Studying a Bachelor of Education (K-12) will allow me to help others learn but also allow myself to continue learning every single day. I see teaching as a way to make a difference in the lives of the next generation,” she said.

“I am eternally grateful for my teachers, who were definitely an inspiration for me to help other students also achieve well above what

they thought was possible.”

Ava hopes to obtain a teaching job and remain in Wagga Wagga or the wider Riverina after graduation.

“I believe the community in Wagga Wagga deserves the same quality of educators as in the cities, and I hope that with the help of Charles Sturt University, I can be an influential educator right here in my local community,” she said.

Ava said she is a mixture of excitement and nerves as she embarks on her first week of classes.

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Holy Spirit Parish Annual Bush Dance
With the GMO Bush Band

Date: Saturday 13 May, from 7 pm.
Where: Holy Spirit Parish Hall, Mutsch Street, Lavington
What: Bush-dancing, games, prizes, etc.
BYO: Supper, drinks; coffee/tea provided.
Entry: \$10 per person, or \$25 per family.
More info: Phone (02) 6025 1784

Tickets available at the door.

All proceeds go to Esencia Life Centre

WHY SHINE A LIGHT ON AGEING?

Here at The Forrest Centre, we think acknowledging our older people is long overdue.

BY HELEN SUPPLE
Executive Assistant - The Forrest Centre

In fact, we think most people avoid thinking about getting older altogether and it's time we put a stop to that. It's time to shine a light on ageing.

The Forrest Centre's CEO, Evan Robertson said "As an aged care provider, we have the privilege of working with older people every day and know that ageing not only brings meaning to life, but that older people are an incredibly important part of our community. Older people work. They volunteer. They have interests and hobbies. They laugh, they love... just like any other age group."

We also know that older people are far from a single, homogenous group, with perspectives and experiences as diverse as the individuals themselves. If you think about older people as those older than 65

years of age (a typical reference point), older people make up about 16% of our population. That's one in six people.

So, why don't we see more older people and more diversity represented in popular culture?

All too often, older people feel invisible, overlooked and underestimated, especially in a world dominated by social media and face value and we think it's high time we remove this cultural blind spot. And what better way to put older people front and centre than with a photography competition?

Our *Shine a Light* photography competition invited people to turn the lens on the older people in their life and share what they saw by taking and submitting photographs that celebrate older people and what it means to age well.

"Knowing the benefits of the relationships formed between people of different generations, we encouraged photographers of all ages to get involved. We love to see younger people interacting with the older people in their lives."

Thanks to everyone who took part, and a big congratulations to our People's Choice winner, Jypsie Cronan with her photo "Hands of Time". We would also like to thank our judging panel which included, Greg Conkey, Christina Reid, Cristy Houghton and Peita Vincent.

Along with the People's Choice winner, the following category winners are:



Left: "Selfie with Grandpa" by Albert West which won the under 18's category.



Above: "Pure Delight" by Michelle Lamotte which won the Open category.



Above: "Hands of time" by Jypsie Cronan which won the People's Choice award.

Open - Michelle Lamotte for "Pure Delight"
Under 18's - Albert West for "Selfie with Grandpa"
Over 70's - Kathleen Bowmer for "Birthday Boy"

Professional Photographer - Jypsie Cronan for "Hands of Time"
Staff - Helen Supple for "Aus Open"
Stay tuned for our Shine a Light photography competition to run again later in 2023.



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- Specialist support - dementia and continence care
- Palliative care - The Forrest Centre Hospice
- At-home help and support - Forrest Community Services



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Lean on the locals.

OLYMPIAN'S RECORD BROKEN AFTER 26 YEARS AT BISSA CARNIVAL

A record belonging to Sydney Olympian Clementine Stoney was broken after 26 years.

BY COURTNEY REES
The Daily Advertiser



Above: Alicia Spiers.

Xavier High, Albury student Alicia Spiers set a new 16 years girl 50-metre backstroke at the BISSA carnival at Oasis on 9 March.

She took 0.04 seconds off the mark set by Stoney in 1997. It was one of 10 records set at the carnival. However with its longevity it was a real highlight of the carnival.

"It was a great carnival with over 360 competitors," Wagga Diocesan sports coordinator Anthony Hood said.

"There were 10 records broken, which is a big effort, and one of them was set back in 1997."

Spiers also set a new 50-metre breaststroke record, which had stood since 2009, on her way to winning the age championship.

Kildare Catholic College student Andre



Above: Abbie Donelan from Mater Dei in the 14 years 50m butterfly.

Labara set two new records in the 13 years boys. He bettered Jamie Mooney's record in the 50-metre butterfly as well as in the 100-metre freestyle.

Trinity Albury student Oscar Kreutzberger also broke two records across the day but did lose his 15 years 50-metre butterfly record from last year to brother Archie.

Mater Dei Catholic College's Abbie Donelan also set a new record in the 14 years girls 50-metre butterfly.

Xavier edged out Mater Dei in the school's competition with Xavier also taking out the girls competition but finished second

to Trinity in the boys.

Age champions:

12 years - Dorothy Pasko (Trinity) and Josh Hinograni (Trinity)



13 years - Eva Vaccaro (Xavier) and Andre Labara (Kildare)

14 years - Abbie Donelan (Mater Dei) and Ryan Sinclair (Border)


15 years - Aida Wiseman (Marian) and Archie Kreutzberger (Trinity)

16 years - Alicia Spiers (Xavier) and Oscar Kreutzberger (Trinity)

17-19 years - Zara Hiscock (Scots) and Isaac Mooney (Kildare)

Engaging Your Faith Online Series



Choose from 18 online sessions in May 2023

Engaging Your Faith is a series of short, online presentations that invite participants to reflect on what it means to be people of faith in the contemporary world.

Experienced lecturers from Catholic Theological College present on a variety of topics including Philosophy, Lumen Gentium, Spirituality, Biblical Studies, Christian Meditation, Theology, Interfaith Relations, Future Technology, and Science and Religion.

See the next page for the list of topics and presenters.

Cost

- \$25 per session
- \$40 per session for teachers seeking accreditation

These sessions are eligible for maintaining accreditation for teaching in Catholic schools in all Victorian and Queensland dioceses. In other dioceses, teachers should check with their education office.

[Visit our website for more information and to register.](#)

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May 2023 Sessions		
Visit our website for more information and to register.		
Day	Title	Bookings close
Monday 1 May 7pm - 8.30pm	"Fancy Letting the Laity Study Theology?" The Legacy of Vatican II <i>Presented by Rev. Dr Max Vodala</i>	Thursday 27 April at 5pm
Tuesday 2 May 7pm - 8.30pm	Thriving Through Virtue <i>Presented by Dr Callan Ledsham</i>	Friday 28 April at 5pm
Wednesday 3 May 7pm - 8.30pm	Can a Scientist Believe in God? <i>Presented by Rev. Dr Christopher Mulherin</i>	Monday 1 May at 5pm
Thursday 4 May 7pm - 8pm	How Can Poetry Enrich Our Faith Life? <i>Presented by Rev. Prof. Austin Cooper OMI AM</i>	Tuesday 2 May at 5pm
Monday 8 May 7.30pm - 8.30pm	Imagining the Church Today: A Synodal Church as a Pilgrim Church <i>Presented by Rev. Dr Jake Mudge</i>	Thursday 4 May at 5pm
Tuesday 9 May 7.30pm - 9pm	The Resurrection and the Life <i>Presented by Dr Catherine Playoust</i>	Friday 5 May at 5pm
Wednesday 10 May 7.30pm - 9pm	Walking the Tightrope Between Faith and Reason <i>Presented by Br. Paul Creevey</i>	Monday 8 May at 5pm
Thursday 11 May 7.30pm - 9pm	Why Be a Catholic? An Exercise in Apologetics <i>Presented by Rev. Assoc. Prof. John Dupuche</i>	Tuesday 9 May at 5pm
Monday 15 May 7.30pm - 9pm	Preparing for Pentecost <i>Presented by Dr Catherine Playoust</i>	Thursday 11 May at 5pm
Tuesday 16 May 7pm - 8.30pm	Jesus Christ for Me Today <i>Presented by Rev. Dr Phillip Gleeson SDB</i>	Friday 12 May at 5pm
Wednesday 17 May 7pm - 8pm	The Breath in Prayer and Meditation <i>Presented by Dr Christopher Morris</i>	Monday 15 May at 5pm
Thursday 18 May 7pm - 8.30pm	Bringing the "Hidden Exiles" Home: Disability in Catholic Theology and Social Teaching <i>Presented by Rev. Dr Justin Glyn SJ</i>	Tuesday 16 May at 5pm
Monday 22 May 7.30pm - 9pm	Mystic Wisdom for a World on the Brink <i>Presented by Dr Christopher Knaut</i>	Thursday 18 May at 5pm
Tuesday 23 May 7pm - 8.30pm	An Introduction to AI and Transhumanism ... for Christians <i>Presented by Rev. Dr Christopher Mulherin</i>	Friday 19 May at 5pm
Wednesday 24 May 7pm - 9pm	Developing a "Gift for Searching" <i>Presented by Dr Rina Madden</i>	Monday 22 May at 5pm
Thursday 25 May 7.30pm - 9pm	Interfaith Relations: Enhancing Connections With Other Faiths <i>Presented by Rev. Assoc. Prof. John Dupuche</i>	Tuesday 23 May at 5pm
Friday 26 May 7.30pm - 9pm	Mary, Mother of God and Mother of the Church <i>Presented by Rev. Dr Simon Wayte MGL</i>	Wednesday 24 May at 5pm
Monday 29 May 7pm - 8.30pm	The Women in the Gospel of Matthew <i>Presented by Dr Rosemary Canavan</i>	Thursday 25 May at 5pm

AUTUMN HAPPENINGS AT ERINEARTH



Autumn brings cooler weather and hopefully rain to fill the dam and replenish the wetland ponds at ErinEarth.

Goldilocks might say the weather at this time of the year is "just right". The rosellas and their bell-like call and happy chattering have returned to the garden. This time of the year is an extremely productive time for gardeners, perfect for propagating, planting and pruning. Planting in autumn allows plants to readily establish without the stress of the hot summer weather, putting their energy into developing a great root system over the winter. It's also the perfect time for collecting cuttings to propagate, along with planting cool season vegetable crops.

Here at ErinEarth our wonderful team of volunteers and Garden Manager, Eltan, are busy planting new ErinEarth babies so they are ready to burst with growth in spring. They have been busy tending to a long list of seedlings and cuttings. According to Eltan, seeds or seedlings that are perfect to plant now are winter greens such as spinach, kale, broccoli, bok choy, lettuce and cauliflower. Other wonderful vegetables to plant now are beetroot, carrot, spring onion, broad beans and garlic.

This autumn also brings some wonderful events to ErinEarth. On Saturday, 1st April

ErinEarth partnered with Permaculture Riverina to host their first major event for the year, a Permaculture Festival. There were loads of activities on offer from information sessions on how to live sustainably, along with music from The Black Shillings, plant sales, bike maintenance with The Bike Canteen, children's activities, and of course a homemade morning tea and BBQ lunch. We hope all who attended picked up a sustainable living tip or two, or found the perfect plant that is "just right" for your garden.

On the fourth Saturday of each month ErinEarth holds a regular gathering called SoulSpace. Our autumn gatherings will be on Saturday, 25th March, 22nd April and 27th May from 9.30am – 11.00am. SoulSpace is deeply linked with nature and is an opportunity for those longing for connection, community, or a sense of peace. Also, don't forget ErinEarth is open Monday to Wednesday 9.00am – 3.00pm and our volunteering working bees are held on Thursday mornings.

Come on down to tranquil ErinEarth, right in the heart of Wagga Wagga. We would love to welcome you here.



ErinEarth		2023 EVENTS
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



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VOICE TO PARLIAMENT – AN IMPORTANT STEPPING STONE

Catholic Religious Australia (CRA) has long been a vocal supporter of the Uluru Statement from the Heart and an advocate for a constitutionally protected voice, truth-telling and treaty.

In March 2021, CRA made a submission to the Indigenous Voice Co-Design Process calling for enshrinement of the Voice in the Australian Constitution through a referendum.

The Catholic Social Teaching principle of subsidiarity holds that all people have a right to participate in decisions made about their lives and that decisions should be made by those closest to, and most affected by, the outcome.

Many of CRA's Members have lived and worked alongside First Nations people for years, sometimes decades. Asaeli Rass SVD, Provincial Leader of the Divine Word Missionaries and member of CRA Council says, "Like the Uluru Statement from the Heart, the Voice to Parliament is an important stepping stone on the path towards respectful engagement, treaty-making and truth telling."

"The failure of previous governments to close the gap is a strong reminder that the cries of some of the most vulnerable peoples on earth have not been heard," he added.

One Member also informed CRA that while supporting the establishment of a Voice to Parliament, the government needs to provide better education and increase community engagement on the issue, especially with the people who will be most affected by the changes.

"I am concerned that not enough

education has been provided around the changes proposed," said Philippa Murphy FDNSC, Provincial Leader of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and Executive member of CRA Council.

"Some of our Religious Sisters working in remote Indigenous communities have expressed concern that the people don't know enough about how the Voice will bring meaningful change to their lives."

"The Voice is a complex issue but many CRA Members, such as our congregation, believe it is the most effective way to enable voices of First Nations people to inform and shape the policies that affect their lives."



Philippa Murphy FDNSC

ANTI-SLAVERY COMMISSIONER TO ADDRESS CATHOLIC HEALTH AUSTRALIA CONFERENCE

NSW Anti-slavery Commissioner James Cockayne and modern slavery survivor Sarah will address Catholic Health Australia's annual conference.

Dr Cockayne began his five-year term as NSW's inaugural Anti-slavery Commissioner in August 2022 after spending two decades promoting human rights and responsible business practices around the world.

He was a member of the World Economic Forum Global Futures Council for Equity and Social Justice and chaired the US Council on Foreign Relations Study Group on Human Trafficking, having also founded Finance Against Slavery and Trafficking.

Dr Cockayne will be speaking on a panel alongside representatives from two Catholic anti-slavery groups, Australian Catholic Anti-Slavery Network (ACAN) and Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH).

He will also be joined by Sarah, a nurse who has rebuilt her life after experiencing modern slavery. Sarah is now the Lived Experience Adviser in the Commissioner's team, and at the cutting edge of efforts to give people with lived experience voice and influence in anti-slavery efforts.

The CHA conference on the final weekend of August is themed Encounter 2023 and will host up to 300 Board directors, CEOs, and senior executives from CHA's hospital, aged and community care providers.

Attendees will also hear from leading social commentator and corporate communicator Bernard Salt AM whose expertise in demographics is especially relevant to the aged care and health sectors, which are facing an ageing population with complex health challenges.

Mr Salt has written six best-selling books and hosts a business chat show called The Next Five Years broadcast on SkyNews Business.

CHA CEO Pat Garcia said the speakers will provide fascinating insights at the conference in Perth.

"I am pleased to announce NSW Anti-slavery Commissioner James Cockayne will be one of the keynote speakers at our annual conference," he said.

"As part of our Catholic mission, the CHA members are dedicated to eradicating modern slavery and our members regularly engage with anti-slavery groups.

"We look forward to learning from Dr Cockayne's deep understanding of the issue and also listening to Sarah.

"I am also pleased to welcome Bernard Salt AM who has an excellent reputation as a columnist, speaker, business advisor and media commentator. His insights into the changing demographic landscape of Australia will prove invaluable"

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

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

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

- Learning difficulties
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- Acceptance and commitment therapy
- Narrative therapy
- Motivational interviewing
- Positive psychology
- Strengths based approaches



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

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



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.

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SCHOOLS IN OUR DIOCESE

Sacred Heart Primary, Wagga

Year 1 and Year 2 enjoyed visiting ErinEarth to explore ways to reduce, reuse and recycle different materials as part of their science unit.



Holy Trinity Primary, West Wagga



Term 1 ended with a colourful Easter hat parade. Wishing all of our families a blessed Easter and a safe and relaxing holiday!



Holy Spirit School, Lavington



The Year 5 students had an awesome excursion at Wonga Wetlands. Lots of learning and fun was had by all!



St Joseph's Primary, Wagga

Congratulations to all the Easter Raffle prize winners! We hope everyone had a Happy Easter.



Catholic
Education
Diocese of Wagga Wagga

All schools enrolling now

St Joseph's Primary School, Finley



On April 3 St Joseph's had a visit from Mr Ward, Jodi and Mrs Bird from Finley High School. They came to talk to the year 5/6 students about what they can expect if they attend Finley High School. The students had the opportunity to ask their own questions and Year 6 were given a tote bag with some goodies inside. The students were then entertained by Mrs Bird's pygmy goats. It was a highlight of the day and the goats loved to run with the students.



St Michael's Primary, Coolamon

What a great day it was for a cross country. An extra special mention to the lovely parent helpers who stood on check points. Without your help we couldn't have carnivals like this. Thank you so much.



Mater Dei Primary, Wagga



What a beautiful day for our outdoor Holy Week Liturgy. We finished our term tomorrow with our Athletics Carnival, please come to school in your house colours or sports uniform. All students will travel to Jubilee Oval by bus. We wish all our families an enjoyable Easter break and look forward to seeing you in Term 2.



St Joseph's Primary, Jerilderie



On March 20 St Joseph's Primary celebrated St Joseph's Feast Day.

They celebrated with a liturgy, fun rotational activities, a collections exhibit and a shared lunch with their families! It was such a great day!

Henschke Primary School, Wagga Wagga

On Holy Thursday Henschke Primary students presented the Stations of the Cross for the whole school, parents and friends.



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 Forrest Centre
Every Thursday - 11:00am
Nan Roberts Nursing Home - The Haven
1st Tuesday of the month - 11:00am
Wagga Community Aged Care
2nd Tuesday of the month - 11:00am
Confessions
Saturday - 10:30-11:30am

WAGGA WAGGA - WEST WAGGA

Holy Trinity Church
Bardia Street, Ashmont
Monday - Friday - 7:00am
Sunday - 9:00am, 10:30am and 5:30pm
Our Lady of the Blessed Eucharist Church
Benedict Avenue, San Isidore
Saturday - 6:00pm

ALBURY

St Patrick's 515 Smollett St, Albury
Weekend Mass Times
Saturday - 9:30am
Vigil (Saturday) - 5:00pm
Sunday - 8:00am, 10:00am, and 5:30pm
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
Weekend Masses
Saturday - 8.00am
Sunday - 7.30am, 9.00am, (Italian), 10.30am, 6.00pm

Weekday Masses
Monday - Friday - 7.00am, 5.30pm
Saturday Vigil - 6.00pm
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
Saturday - 6:00pm Vigil Howlong
Sunday - 9:00am Walbundrie

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
Contact Tumberumba Parish for Mass times.

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 Sundays - 6:00pm
Saturday Vigil
2nd & 4th Sundays - 7:45am Sunday
Weekday Masses
Tuesday - 9:00am
Friday - 10:00am
Confessions
Before Mass and any time upon request.

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
Saturday Vigil - 5:00pm
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 - 10:15am

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

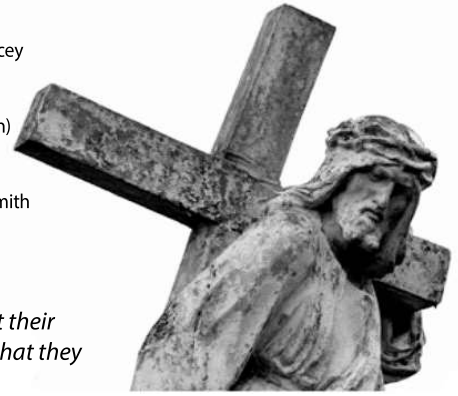
17 Edon Street, Yoogali
Sunday - 10:00am
St Anthony's - Hanwood
Saturday Vigil - 5.00pm
Sunday - 8.00am
St Therese's - Yenda
Saturday Vigil - 6:30pm
Weekday Masses
Tuesday - 8.00am - Hanwood
Wednesday - 8.00am - Hanwood
Thursday - 5.00pm - Yenda
Saturday - 9:30am - Yoogali (first
Saturday of the month 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 APRIL

- 8 April 1920** Fr Michael O'Dowd
- 11 April 1974** Mgr Augustus Ambrose Lacey
- 13 April 1995** Fr Phillip Mel Roach
- 25 April 1930** Fr Maurice Hoynes (On Loan)
- 25 April 1976** Mgr Jeremiah Galvin
- 25 April 1977** Fr Joseph Dudley Dyson-Smith
- 30 April 1941** Fr Jerome Hennessy

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



Junior Legion

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

All welcome!

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

Contact:
Caronne 0413 801 616

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

23rd April - Third Sunday of Easter, Cycle A

Families, as the domestic church, have the opportunity to make the family meal a time of prayerful encounter with one another and with Jesus. At a family meal we share our experiences of the day and connect them with the experiences of others in the family. We can also enjoy the meal as an opportunity to reflect upon our family life in light of Scripture. At their best our family meals can connect us to Jesus too.

Choose a family meal this week to share one another's experiences of the week in a special way. Perhaps invite family members to plan and prepare the meal together. Begin the meal by reading today's Gospel, Luke 24:13-35. As you eat, talk together about how the disciples discussed their experiences in Jerusalem and how they came to understand them differently when Jesus interpreted those events in the light of Scripture. Then invite each family member to share the things that are going on in his or her life. Consider what Jesus might say to each person if he were sitting at your dinner table. Conclude with a special prayer after your dinner. Pray a prayer of blessing for each family member, asking that Jesus continue to be present in each person's life, helping each one to be a better follower of Jesus. Conclude with a Sign of Peace.

*Acts 2:14,22-33 Psalm 16:1-2,5,7-11
1 Peter 1:17-21 Luke 24:13-35*

30th April - Fourth Sunday of Easter, Cycle A

Even though we have less experience with sheep and shepherds today in our society, we can still identify strongly with the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd and as the gate for the sheep. Psalm 23 remains a popular and favorite psalm for prayer. In the image of the Good Shepherd, we know ourselves to be protected and cared for by a loving God.

As your family gathers, ask what each person knows about sheep and shepherds. Recall that shepherds and sheep have a close relationship. Sheep will only follow their own shepherd; they recognize his voice and will not follow a stranger. The shepherd's job is to protect his sheep. In some ways, the relationship between the shepherd and his sheep is like that of a parent and child. Read together this Sunday's Gospel, John 10:1-10. Talk about how Jesus tells us that he is the gate for the sheep. The sheep enter the protection of the sheepfold through the gate. In Jesus we find protection and abundant life. Conclude by thanking Jesus for being our Good Shepherd and by praying today's psalm, Psalm 23.

*Acts of the Apostles 2:14a,36-41 Psalm 23:1-6
1 Peter 2:20b-25 John 10:1-10*

7th May - Fifth Sunday of Easter, Cycle A

Members of the same family often bear close resemblances to one another. Sometimes physical resemblances are shared within a family, but often the similarities are behavioral characteristics and mannerisms. We hear this observation affirmed through a number of common phrases: "He's a chip off the old block" or "She's her mother's daughter." Today's Gospel points to a mystery of faith that might be examined in light of these familial relationships. In Jesus we see and know the Father. Likewise, the Father is known through the life and work of the Son, Jesus.

Talk together as a family about whether people outside of your family recognize common traits of your family. Are there physical resemblances that people recognize and so know each individual as a member of your family? Are there mannerisms that are shared by members of your family? What are some common interests and work that people might associate with your family? As you read today's Gospel, John 14:1-12, keep in mind that

members of the same family share many characteristics, even though each person in the family is an individual. What does Jesus tell his disciples about his relationship with the Father? The relationship between the Father and Jesus is so close that Jesus says that those who have seen and known Jesus have also seen and known the Father. Jesus promises his disciples that because of their faith in him and in the Father, they too will be able to do the work of the Father as Jesus did. End your discussion by praying together that others will recognize in your family the work of the Father. Pray together the Lord's Prayer.

*Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7 Psalm 33:1-2,4-5,18-19
1 Peter 2:4-9 John 14:1-12*

14th May - Sixth Sunday of Easter, Cycle A

The mystery of the Trinity can be difficult for us to grasp. Today's Gospel invites us to consider how the three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—work together so that God's salvation is made known to us. Jesus' mission is continued through the activity of the Holy Spirit in the lives of his disciples. We have received this same Spirit through our Baptisms. The Spirit, living and working within us, reveals the mystery of God's love for us. Just as the first disciples were not left orphaned, we are not orphaned; we remain in God's embrace through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Gather your family and invite each family member to say what he or she knows about the Holy Spirit. Read aloud today's Gospel, John 14:15-21. What does Jesus say the Holy Spirit will do for the disciples? Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, we come to share in the love of God made known to us in Jesus. Pray together, thanking God for this gift of the Holy Spirit by praying the Prayer to the Holy Spirit.

*Acts of the Apostles 8:5-8,14-17 Psalm 66:1-7,16,20
1 Peter 3:15-18 John 14:15-21*

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2023

FRANCISCO PEDRA / FAMILIA CRISTÁ



**WORLD
YOUTH
DAY**

**SEE YOU
IN AUGUST
2023!**

1-6 AUGUST