



# TOGETHER

In the Diocese of *Wagga Wagga*

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FREE

MAY 2023

## Month of Mary

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# BISHOP'S VOICE



TOGETHER  
IN THE DIOCESE OF WAGGA WAGGA

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## Voice to Parliament

**Dear Sisters and Brothers,**

The process of preparing for the referendum on the First Nations voice to parliament later this year is underway with the text of the proposed change to the constitution submitted to parliament after being considered by a parliamentary committee. The final wording will not be decided by parliament until June 22 after which we will have the opportunity to examine the precise wording. Then there will be several months for consideration and debate. I understand that the referendum will most likely be put in early- or mid-October.

At the recent gathering of all the currently active Catholic bishops in Australia, the assembled bishops considered the referendum and some principles and steps that we would like to propose for the journey forward. I offer these for your consideration.

1) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples have lived in this land for many thousands of years. Their custodianship,

however, is not recognised in the Australian Constitution. This is an omission which needs to be rectified. A constitutionally enshrined Indigenous Voice to Parliament is proposed as a way to achieve this. The bishops acknowledge that a Voice is not the only possible way of recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in our Constitution, but it is the way requested by those who gathered at the historic meeting at Uluru.

2) This is being offered to us as having the possibility of being a significant step towards a more just and equitable Australia and as being a mechanism to improve the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. If it achieves this, it will be an important moment in the history of the nation, and it will be a step towards a deep and just reconciliation.

3) The bishops encourage all Australians to educate themselves as much as possible

concerning the proposal to establish the Voice.

4) The bishops urge all Australians to engage in the debate productively, respecting each other and accepting that people may, in good faith, have differing concerns and perspectives. We are an open democracy, and this is a moment to use our democratic institutions to produce a high-quality debate shaped by a genuine concern to do justice and bring healing to First Nations Peoples.

5) The bishops ask those drafting the changes to the Constitution to work together in a spirit of cooperation, so that the proposal presented to the Australian people will appeal to a wide range of the population.

6) To guide all Australians at this important time, the bishops encourage everyone to read and discuss the Uluru Statement from the Heart, which the bishops endorsed in 2021 and the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia endorsed in 2022.

7) The bishops recommend that Catholic parishes, schools and agencies arrange opportunities for people to come together to read and discuss the Uluru Statement which can be accessed at <https://ulurustatement.org/the-statement/view-the-statement/>

The annual Catholic social justice statement, which will be released in August this year, will be on this topic as an offering from us to the people of Australia as they prepare for this referendum.

I reiterate the appeal of all the bishops that debate and discussion be respectful and presume the good faith of people who have differing concerns and perspectives.

**Most Rev Mark Edwards OMI**  
**Bishop of Wagga Wagga**



## PRAYER INTENTION FOR MAY - PRAY WITH POPE FRANCIS

### For church movements and groups

Let us pray that ecclesial movements and groups may daily rediscover their evangelizing mission, placing their own charisms at the service of the world's needs.

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



**POPE'S WORLDWIDE PRAYER NETWORK**  
**APOSTOLICAL PRAYER NETWORK**  
<https://www.popesprayer.va/>

Church movements and groups are great to have. They beautifully create a sense of family, belonging, and identity on those who take part in them. Those who join Church movements and groups tend to appreciate family, belonging, and identity due to the natural bonding borne out of their sharing common ministry efforts. As a result, they are generally inclined towards friendly and heartfelt relationships with those whom they encounter daily. From the perspectives of history and tradition, Church movements and groups are vital to the building up of the Christian presence in a variety of charismatic communities. In the context of today's world, Church movements, and groups rightly serve as counter-balance to the overt tendency of stressing individual rights over the importance of family.

Due to societal pressure being constantly fed by individualism and secularism in this day and age, keeping Church movements and groups alive and going might be a challenge. Back in 2005 when I was preparing myself for a leadership role in the Vietnamese Eucharistic Youth Movement in the United States, I had many opportunities to learn from the experiences of youth

ministers and youth directors of different faith traditions from across the country through my participation in various workshops and youth ministry conventions. From these colleagues of mine, I learned of the difficulties often encountered in keeping young people engaged and excited about the activity of a movement or a group. Despite their wholehearted efforts, the participation of youth in many instances did not last for many years. I myself have been able to know a few groups with a ten-year-or-less existence.

The question that immediately comes to mind for those of us involved in youth ministry is this: How can we keep a group or a movement from being dissolved prematurely? The answer, first of all, points to the need to re-examine the nature, mission, charism, as well as purpose of the group or movement in question. Secondly, has that group or movement moved away or deviated from its original mission, charism or purpose? Thus, the process of self-examination or soul-searching must be conducted in a systemic way to avoid the kind of potential misdirection and eventual going out of existence for the whole group or movement.

*Fr. Binh Nguyen, STD*

# NATIONAL SORRY DAY AND NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK

May 26 marks National Sorry Day, remembering and acknowledging the hurt and trauma of the Stolen Generation, those forcibly removed from their families and communities.

BY HARRISON POCKNEE  
socialjustice.catholic.org.au

**We observe National Sorry Day on the anniversary of the 1997 Bringing Them Home report, which exposed the racist history of government policy that enabled children to be removed from their families.**

Since the inaugural National Sorry Day some progress has been made, notably then-prime minister Kevin Rudd delivering a National Apology, however Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children still remain 10.6 times more likely than non-indigenous children to be removed from their family.

Following National Sorry Day, we observe National Reconciliation Week, from 27 May – 3 June; an opportunity for Australians to take part in the process of reconciliation.

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*“In true reconciliation, through the remembering, the grieving and the healing we can come to terms with our conscience and become as one in the dreaming of this land.”*

Dr Evelyn Scott,  
Chairperson, Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation 1997

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Reconciliation Australia has shared the following ways that you can become involved in the process of reconciliation:

- Deepen your understanding of our shared histories and cultures via Reconciliation Australia’s online learning resource Share Our Pride at [www.shareourpride.org.au](http://www.shareourpride.org.au)
- Read the harrowing testimonies of



- members of the Stolen Generations via the Australian Human Rights Commission at <https://bth.humanrights.gov.au/our-stories/written-testimonies>
- Watch this animation from the Healing Foundation about intergenerational trauma at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=iQMZZ8ng7oI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iQMZZ8ng7oI)
- Celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and achievements by hosting an event for National Reconciliation Week at [nrw.reconciliation.org.au](http://nrw.reconciliation.org.au)
- Watch the short documentary The Apology to better understand why this moment was so important to

- many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_Dild-xAzJ0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Dild-xAzJ0)
- Watch *Rabbit Proof Fence* or *Radiance* which both share stories of family, connection to land, and the impacts of removal.
- Listen to Archie Roach’s iconic song *They Took the Children Away*, or the amazing reinterpretation by Gurrumul and Briggs *The Children Came Back*.
- Share Reconciliation Australia’s factsheet [www.reconciliation.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/19\\_5\\_20-lets-talk\\_sorry-day](http://www.reconciliation.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/19_5_20-lets-talk_sorry-day).

## MARONITE EPARCHY WELCOMES BISHOPS DURING JUBILEE YEAR

More than 30 bishops concelebrated Mass at Our Lady of Lebanon Co-Cathedral on Sunday, taking part in ongoing celebrations for the 50th jubilee of the Maronite Eparchy in Australia.

**Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay was the principal celebrant for the Divine Liturgy, which was celebrated according to the Maronite Rite.** He said the Maronite community was “privileged” to welcome the bishops, who are in Sydney for the biannual plenary meeting, during the jubilee year.

“What better way to celebrate a golden jubilee for our Eastern Catholic Eparchy in this great country than to come together as one in Christ to pray and to give thanks to Him who has gathered us in faith and

communion all these years,” Bishop Tarabay said in his homily.

He shared some of the history of the Maronite Church in Australia, which dates back to the 1850s in South Australia, and saw its first parish established in 1897 in the Sydney suburb of Redfern. It wasn’t until 1973 that the Eparchy was founded, though.

“Today, when we stand and look back at the last 50 years, we can only be grateful to the Lord for all His blessings,” Bishop Tarabay said.

Part of Sunday’s celebrations included the welcome of a specially designed reliquary containing relics of five saints: St Maroun, the spiritual father of the Maronite Church, as well as Sts Charbel, Rafqa and Nehmetallah, and Mary of the Cross MacKillop.

Parishioners and guests greeted the relics with joy, forming a guard of honour on the co-cathedral forecourt.

The Maronite Eparchy explained that welcoming

the bishops of Australia and the Apostolic Nuncio in Australia, Archbishop Charles Balvo, “underscores the significance of this occasion as an opportunity for spiritual renewal and hope for the wider Catholic Church”.

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference president Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB said the bishops of Australia were grateful to the Maronite community for their prayerful welcome and hospitality.

“Our visit to the vibrant parish of Our Lady of Lebanon offered a glimpse into the life of the Maronite Eparchy in Australia as it celebrates its 50-year jubilee,” he said.

“The Church in Australia has been enriched by our Eastern Rite churches, allowing us to breathe with the two lungs of East and West.

**“We pray that our connections will continue to deepen as we carry out God’s mission in this country.”**

# HE WALKS AMONG THEM: REMEMBERING FATHER BOB MAGUIRE

I am one of the thousands in Melbourne who have tales to recount about Father Bob. I got to know him in 2015 when working on *The Fighter*, a book exploring the life of ex-boxer and youth worker, Henry Nissen.

BY ARNOLD ZABLE  
[www.eurekastreet.com.au](http://www.eurekastreet.com.au)

**Henry worked with Father Bob for many years tending to the needs of street kids, the homeless, the impoverished and disempowered.**

I spent memorable hours yarning with Father Bob and I accompanied Henry on the Father Bob Maguire Foundation food van on some of its nightly forays to parts of Melbourne to provide sustenance to those in need. It allowed me to witness the work of

younger workers, among them former street kids, such as Mem, who had become head of warehouse operations.

We pull up at a vacant space in a side street off Bay Road, Port Melbourne. Dusk is giving way to night. It is mid-winter, and dark by five-thirty. The space is all but deserted, dimly lit by the Coles supermarket opposite. The benches are vacant, and the nearby streets empty.

cartons of sprite and fruit juices, set out sandwiches, salads and bread rolls on the serving tables, alongside coffee, milo and tea, slices of cake and biscuits.

All is in place, the carnival erected, and from the streets they begin emerging, one by one, in pairs and alone, making their way from rooming houses, commission flats, hostels and single-bedroom apartments. A black-clad woman on a motorised chair; a white-bearded man, ear glued to a red transistor; men and women in tracksuits; women all dressed up; youths in hoodies; a man wheeling a trolley; men and women pushing shopping jeeps.

'Father Bob speaks elliptically. He sees the world in symbols; he views life as a sequence of parables. He is beyond religion. He is of life and the earth, and of the streets and the people.'

There are long-time regulars, and tentative newcomers. Children. Entire families. They mill about, lean against the fence, and form huddles on the footpath, or hang back in the shadows.

Brooding is being transmuted into engagement. Snatches of talk drift in and out of hearing.

'She's a Jack Russell-chihuahua cross', says the owner. The dog nestles beside her on the park bench. 'Got his dad's Jack Russell head and his mum's chihuahua body.' The dog stands up, eyes the crowd, and receives pats and accolades. 'She's with me all the time. She sleeps on my bed of course.'

A Laotian woman, a single mother, and her son, join the queue. Her eyes are clear, her complexion glows. She wears a black headscarf that accentuates her fine features. 'You look so young,' says Henry. 'It must be the sticky rice,' she replies.

S has brought garlic bread, his customary offering. The bowl is wrapped in tea towels, to retain the warmth. It's the only thing he knows how to make, he claims, his proud weekly contribution. It is snapped up quickly.

'I get hurt, I come back,' says Y. 'I always come back. I speak my mind, I



Father Bob Maguire was known for his social justice work, providing food relief and educational support through his Melbourne-based charity. (AAP: Julian Smith)



the foundation first-hand. Invariably Father Bob would turn up at some point in the evening to lend his inimitable presence to the show.

On a typical night the crew would stock up at the warehouse — loading food, bollards, fold-up chairs, trestle tables, a portable barbecue and gas cylinders into a van, before heading off. Father Bob was eighty by now, and had handed over the physical stuff to

On arrival, the crew sets to work. They arrange the bollards, tighten the ropes, cordon off the cooking and serving areas, and string up LED lights along tree branches and fairy lights on a wooden fence to add a festive touch. They unfold the chairs, set up the tables, hook up the barbecue to the gas cylinders, then pile on chops and steaks, sausages, and chicken rissoles. They unload boxes of fruit and vegies,

Settling.

One by one they join the queue. They file past the tables, fill their plates, then find a seat on the plastic chairs and benches. Spirits are lifting, fueled by food and company. Hesitant eyes are making contact. The talk is accompanied by gestures that are growing ever more expansive. The listless are becoming animated, the stoic casting aside their reticence.

get hurt, and I come back. A few years ago, I was on life support. I stopped breathing. I was at death's door. I was floating away, and I saw a white fence, and I knew I had to get back. I fought hard. I was not ready to go yet. I come back. I go away, but I come back. I always come back.'

She speaks fast. Her mind is on fire.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

The accented words flow with a poetic intensity. 'There are two horrible things in the world: envy and greed,' she says. 'I used to run all the time. I was on the go, chasing life, living it up and drinking myself silly. Now I can't do without a walking frame. My wings've been clipped. But I still see things. I've seen rain. I've seen sun. I've seen bombs. I've seen hate. I've seen hope. I've seen angels and I've seen the devil, but I always come back...'

'It is in the quiet undertone of voices, in the talk and laughter, and the stillness that hums beneath it. In this hour there is trust. Familiarity. The gathering is at its zenith, a tranquil celebration. Communion.'

Another long timer keeps her belongings in a jeep — CDs of Patsy Kline, Johnny O'Keefe, Bill Haley and the Comets, Hank Williams, country and western, sixties rockers. Grantley Dee: 'Let the little girl dance' is her favourite. She wears a black coat, a black beanie and a bright red blouse. 'Mark Twain is my twenty-second cousin,' she says. 'Samuel Clemens was his real name. I've got the family tree to prove it.'

'My father lived hard,' says P. 'He drove himself, and he drove us. He hung on till ninety-three. He was a tyrant. He loved opera. He loved Verdi. I love Verdi, The chorus of the Hebrew Slaves, Va pensiero. Pure genius.' He begins to hum it.

And all the while, Henry is on the move. Circling. Pausing. Listening. Entering conversations, greeting old

timers, welcoming newcomers, handing out plastic knives and forks, paper plates and paper napkins, engaging in banter. Then the big moment comes.

'His Holiness has arrived,' says Mem. Father Bob is here to survey the troops, as he is most nights. 'He's the director. Alfred Hitchcock,' quips Mem. 'A dead set lookalike.'

'Better than staying home,' says the good father. He walks slowly, supported by a walking stick. He plants the stick on the pavement, and places both hands on the curved handle. He bends forward as he talks, moves from side to side, and works up a rhythm. The stick is an anchor. 'Henry walks among them,' he says. He lifts the stick and points it towards Henry, at work, circling the crowd. 'See what I mean?'

Father Bob speaks elliptically. He sees the world in symbols; he views life as a sequence of parables. He is beyond religion. He is of life and the earth, and of the streets and the people, and Henry is a kindred spirit. 'Henry is a people whisperer,' he says. 'He knows the dark side. He kisses and hugs the vampires. See what I mean? A prostitute once came to me and complained: "Henry comes up to us and kisses us, and greets us with his love and best wishes, and we become lazy workers."'

Father Bob retains his vantage point on the footpath. He is at ease in the semi-darkness. He does not need to move forward. He lifts the walking stick and hooks the handle over his lower arm, freeing his hands. With each remark, his forefinger and thumb touch gently. He is firmly moored, yet in constant



movement, mind ticking over. Taking it in. Observing.

'It's all about place', he says. He lifts the stick from his arm and points it upwards. 'Heaven is not another place.' He lowers the stick and waves it at the assembled company. 'It's this place, clearly seen.'

Yes, it is all here: in the huddles around the tables and benches, and the lit-up faces, in the volunteers lined up behind the serving tables, and tending the barbecue. It is in the quiet undertone of voices, in the talk and laughter, and the stillness that hums beneath it. In this hour there is trust. Familiarity. The gathering is at its zenith, a tranquil celebration. Communion.

The talk is subsiding. The carnival is winding down. Slowly they are leaving, disentangling themselves, drifting off as they had come, in singles and pairs, in

families, wheeling shopping jeeps now stocked with food, back to who knows where. Slipping away into the darkness, disappearing on side streets and around corners. 'It all helps, it all helps,' says the Laotian woman as she guides her son into the night.

They arrived, stayed a while, and now, quietly, they are gone. The lights are being unwound, the tables wiped down, and the chairs folded. The van is packed, and the crew is leaving. The square returns to quietude. Several old men remain. They lean back on the benches and succumb to their private dreaming.

**From nothing to nothing, from empty space to empty space, and in between, heaven, clearly seen. And after all these years, Father Bob — still walking among us.**



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<p><b>Footsteps of Jesus</b> With Tim Staples from Catholic Answers</p>  <p>Land only from \$5590</p> <p><b>Commences 10 November 2023.</b> 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.</p>	<p><b>Pilgrimage of Mercy</b> Budapest to Prague</p>  <p>Land only from \$5590</p> <p><b>Commences 15 August 2023.</b> 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.</p>
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# PALLIATIVE CARE AUSTRALIA SET TO SHINE LIGHT ON 'MATTERS OF LIFE AND DEATH' DURING NATIONAL PALLIATIVE CARE WEEK 2023

National Palliative Care Week is the nation's largest annual initiative to raise awareness about palliative care and its benefits.

**Hosted by Palliative Care Australia, National Palliative Care Week (NPCW) 2023 will run from 21 May to 27 May with the aim of putting 'Matters of Life and Death' front and centre in Australia's consciousness.**

Camilla Rowland, Chief Executive Officer at Palliative

everyday as they provide care and support to people and families living with life limiting illness.

"The vibrant video and social media campaign that is central to the week will also allow us all to show our appreciation for the doctors, nurses, physios, social workers, occupational therapists, dietitians,

We need to embrace death and dying as part of living. We need to be more comfortable talking about it and having those conversations so that we are more prepared when the time comes," she says.

Adding further weight to the message, and also helping smash those taboos, is the world premiere of *'Live the life you please'*, a powerful documentary produced by Moonshine Agency. The film delves into the stories of real people from across the country, sharing their personal experiences of palliative care. The film will make you smile, laugh, laugh harder and occasionally shed a tear as this diverse range of

NPCW and *'Live the life you please'* will launch on Monday, 22 May in the theatre at Parliament House, Canberra.

Film screenings and a host of other events will make for a busy NPCW around the country. A full list of events can be found on the PCA website as well as a range of tools to help grow people's awareness of palliative care.

"Getting involved and showing your support for palliative care and the people who deliver it is as easy as sharing your story on social media using #MattersOfLifeAndDeath. Whether you are receiving palliative care, looking after someone or know



Care Australia (PCA) says, "We understand that death and dying is a difficult subject to talk about and engage with, but this year we have some powerful voices joining the campaign to inspire and start important conversations."

"The 'people at the heart of quality palliative care' – our workforce and volunteers, have opened their hearts to share the life lessons they learn

volunteers and the many others who contribute to a person-centred team approach to palliative care."

Juliane Samarra, a Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner is one of those to lend her voice and experience to the NPCW campaign, "Generations ago people died at home, cared for by their family. We have now hidden death and dying behind closed doors, either in nursing homes or hospitals.

Australians share the last chapter of their life with us.

"National Palliative Care Week and the stories we will share will open the door on the full scope and impact of palliative care and the quality of life it delivers. I hope it provides a moment of reflection for all Australians to think about and plan for the last chapter of life," Ms Rowland says.

someone who is receiving care, we encourage you to share your experience and break down those taboos," Ms Rowland says.

**For more information on what you can do to support the campaign as well as a range of useful resources check Palliative Care Australia's website at [palliativecare.org.au](http://palliativecare.org.au)**



# ARCHBISHOP PROWSE: CALVARY HOSPITAL BRUCE

After serving Canberra and the region with distinction for over 44 years, Calvary Public Hospital Bruce has been blindsided by the ACT Government, who announced on May 10 that they had begun an acquisition process to take control and ownership of the hospital.

BY ARCHBISHOP CHRISTOPHER PROWSE  
Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn

### Dear Friends in Christ,

By now, you would have heard the shocking news that the ACT Government intends to compulsorily acquire our wonderful Calvary Public Hospital, Bruce.

This is despite the fact that we have been offering high-quality patient care under our Catholic ethos for the past 44 years on this site. 76 years remain on the contract negotiated and signed in 2010 with the then Chief Minister, Katy Gallagher.

No convincing reasons to date have been offered for this draconian action by the ACT Government. No systemic issues of concern regarding Calvary's health outcomes has been identified; to the contrary, the Health Minister made a point of emphasising Calvary's excellent care for patients.

I am deeply troubled about this situation and its implications.

My prayers and thoughts are

immediately directed to the 1,800 workers of the hospital and their families. They must be worried about the ramifications of this decision for their future employment.

I am also concerned that this action, based on obsessive government control, would deprive future generations in Canberra of the choice of hospital care based on the ethos of our cherished Catholic faith.

There is a rising fear, also, that this extraordinary and completely unnecessary government intervention could set the scene for future "acquisitions" of any faith-based health facility or, indeed, any faith-based enterprise, including education or social welfare.

To respond practically to this critical situation, I have established today the "Calvary Hospital Taskforce – Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn." Fr Tony Percy, has kindly accepted my invitation to lead this Taskforce. This



Archbishop Christopher Prowse, Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn

group will be contacting you to offer you practical ways of responding, including participating in an online petition at [www.savecalvary.com.au](http://www.savecalvary.com.au) before May 31st 2023, when it is intended the legislation for acquisition becomes effective.

Let us all pray for common sense to prevail and that the sick and Hospital staff are saved from anxiety and can live in health and peace.

**Enough is enough. Stand up. Sign the petition to protect Australia:**  
<https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/petition-to-save-calvary-hospital-bruce/>

*Please note this article is in regard to the Calvary Hospital in Canberra and does not impact Calvary Hospital - Wagga Wagga.*

## 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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# MOHMOV - ENGAGING TOGETHER, TAKING ACTIONS FOR MISSION

The Australian conference on Mission, Mission: one heart many voices, has concluded on May 5th, after three days of reflection, inspiration and dialogue for the future of Mission.

**It was a unique opportunity for people who have Mission at heart to gather from all around the country to share their passion by opening their hearts and minds.**

The final day of the event encompassed the momentum of the conference, by offering a space of discernment on the previous days, an opportunity for participants to discuss and reflect on the themes explored of truth-telling, reconciliation, and synodality, engaging in constructive

dialogue and fostering a sense of unity and shared purpose.

The day began with a broader discussion on “Why Mission? Why Synodality? Why Truth Telling? Why reconciliation?” which reflected on the last two days of the conference and all that emerged from it. This was followed by a moment of exchange, where participants shared their personal journeys of faith and the impact of the conference on their understanding of the Church's Mission, and sharing their



Below: Dean Parkin presenting on Truth Telling and Reconciliation.

commitment to take actions for Mission.

“I’m delighted it’s proven to be a wonderful journey together in a spirit of Mission as these leaders shared prophetically and profoundly their stories and truths working together to reimagine a better world,” says Peter Gates, Deputy National Director of Catholic Mission.

The conference concluded with a closing liturgy, incorporating elements of prayers, music, and reflection on the journey participants had undertaken over the past three days. Fr Brian Lucas, Catholic Mission National Director, addressed the attendees, expressing gratitude for their participation and encouraging them to continue living out the principles of truth-telling, reconciliation, and synodality in their daily lives.

As the conference finishes, participants are leaving inspired and motivated to continue the great work of Mission by taking actions in their personal and professional journeys.

One attendee commented, “The MOHMOV conference has been a transformative experience. I leave here with a renewed sense of hope and purpose, ready to make a difference in my own community.”

The success of the 2023 Mission: one heart many voices conference is a testament to the dedication and passion of its organisers, sponsors, presenters, and attendees. As participants return to their homes and parishes, they carry with them the knowledge, inspiration, and connections forged during this unique event.

**For more information about the Mission: one heart many voices conference, visit the conference website at [2023.mohmv.com.au](http://2023.mohmv.com.au)**



Above: Participants are sharing their commitment to take actions for Mission.

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# CARITAS AUSTRALIA WELCOMES HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR SUDAN

Caritas Australia expresses gratitude for Australia's commitment of \$6 million in urgent humanitarian assistance to address the escalating conflict in Sudan.

**The conflict has exacerbated the existing humanitarian crisis in Sudan, a country already grappling with drought and chronic instability.**

Even prior to the current turmoil, over 15 million people, one-third of Sudan's population, faced acute food insecurity. A further 3.7 million were

internally displaced and heavily reliant on humanitarian aid.

As the conflict unfolds, hundreds of thousands of people, including those previously displaced, have been forced from their homes.

"This initial commitment by the Australian Government is a solid first



Above: Dignity kits distribution by CAFOD in Sudan. Photo CAFOD

step towards addressing the humanitarian needs of this crisis in a region that is already suffering," said Melville Fernandez, Caritas Australia's Humanitarian Emergencies Associate Director.

"We trust that the allocated funding will provide vital support to the countless individuals affected by this crisis, as well as families struggling to access their basic needs amidst the ongoing turmoil. We strongly advocate for unimpeded humanitarian access to safeguard the most vulnerable during these challenging times."

Caritas Australia's partner CAFOD has been working in Sudan since the 1970s, and Caritas Australia has been supporting CAFOD with programs for refugee and

host communities in Sudan to support WASH facilities, safe fuel and energy sources for cooking, dignity kits and life skills training for women and girls.

Australia's humanitarian assistance will provide immediate relief, including medical supplies, food, water and sanitation, emergency shelter, and protection measures for the most vulnerable individuals affected by the Sudan conflict.

**Please visit our website  
[www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au)**



Above: Handwashing facilities in a refugee camp in White Nile State, Sudan, installed to prevent the spread of coronavirus. Photo CAFOD

## 50 YEARS OF FAMILY GROUPS CELEBRATED

**The Passionist Family Group Movement celebrated 50 years of family groups on Sunday 7 May at Sacred Heart Parish, Koorinal.** The networking of families has a positive effect on liturgy as more people know each other and more of them are seen to become involved in the life of the parish community.

Many pastoral needs such as people visiting one another, or helping each other in 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  
Phone: 02 6925 2363**



# NABIHA'S STORY

From when I was born till now, I can see the lord is leading me and keep me safe. I lived in the war and with many troubles in my life when I was little.

BY NABIHA KORIARTY

**My mother died when I was 3 years old. I got up in the morning everyday with no mother to be cared by. I was only mothered by younger brother Moufid.** We grew up in a town where there was no electricity and only kerosene light to cook and warm us and our toilet was under the tree in the bush. My father used to say to me 'Don't Worry. The lord is watching over you.' And I listened to him.

When I was 12 years old, I used to clean the church and I knew the church was for God. I grew up that the Maronite Catholic religion was the only way to God, because the president was Maronite Catholic.

At the age of 29 years, I came by ship to Australia on the Australis with

two little girls (Jocelyn was 5 years and Angela 2 years old. Victoria, my youngest was not born until a few years later). I only brought the bible with me given to me by a Christian Missionary in Lebanon. I never read it and put it on the shelf in my cabin on the Australis in 1968 December. On our way to Australia the sea became very rough and we thought we were going to sink. The whistle was blown by the captain and he told us to grab our life jackets. I went to the shelf and there was only one life jacket for me but not one for my children. I gave my life jacket to someone on the ship who needed it. I then picked up the bible given to me by my missionary friend and opened it. The message I saw in the



Above: Nabiha in her kitchen at Nabiha's Kitchen.

bible was when Jesus walked on the water and Peter asked 'Can I come to you?' Peter was walking well when looking to Jesus and when he doubted, he started to sink and yelled to Jesus to save him. Jesus responded 'I am with you, man of little faith.' From that time, I felt the Lord Jesus was with us and I had peace. God said to me 'You are going to a new country, and you will have a stormy life. Keep your eye on me, and I will be with you.' I have no language, no family and no friend in Australia, my new home. God sent me his people to help me in my new home to care and love me. I learnt English through the bible and learnt about Jesus my saviour. He is my saviour, Lord and is faithful to me. I remember always I have a heavenly father who never grows old and will never die, never close his ear to me or his eyes and he watches over me. I am here to serve the Lord in every way and obey him. God is love!

God has employed me for 34 years to run my non-profit business. It helps people out in the community and helps those in need of food. Before I start my work, I go to church at 7 am every day and ask God for help and thanking God for the strength he has given me

to serve him in the business. I give God all the glory all the days of my life, because he is my helping hand.

People in the shop ask me why is God is Love. I explained it to them. In the beginning God created Adam and Eve to obey him. They didn't do this. After, God came down as a baby to save his children. He was born in a lower place to teach people to be humble. When they took him at the age of 33 years old to crucify him, Pilot asked the people which one do you want to be set free? Barabbas or Jesus? The people chose Barabbas who was a troublemaker and chose the peacemaker Jesus to be nailed on the cross to death. This is a choice they made and now trouble to us will come on earth. Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, he forgave us and gave us new life with God in heaven whoever believes in Jesus our Lord.

I have written a book called 'Recipe of My Life' and sell it in my business called Nabiha's Kitchen Wagga Wagga.

**If you would like to read more of my life with God as my lord and saviour, you can get a copy of the book at the shop or by phone (02) 69217813.**



Above: Nabiha in her home garden with a copy of her book.



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**For more information about making contributions to Together or to submit your article contact us at:**  
[together@wagga.catholic.org.au](mailto:together@wagga.catholic.org.au)



# DISCERNING GOD'S CALL

One of our newer focuses at Virtue Ministry is supporting Seminary human formation. We have great love for people who are willing to be brave and take a leap of faith to follow the will of God.

BY STINA CONSTANTINE

Founder & Managing Director at Virtue Ministry

**Supporting the formation of young men in our diocese who were bold enough to leave behind the things of the world to see if God is calling them to a life of love and service through the priesthood, is a task that we take on with reverence and with joy.** We supplement the work already being done at the college by supporting the men to grow to become more whole, embracing who God called them to be – the kind of work that inspires us. Whether the men go on to become our future priests or discern out to follow a different path such as married life, it's truly our privilege and honour to walk moments of their formation with them. It's made even more special considering our very first workshop, pre-virtue ministry even existed, was to the student body of our very own seminary, close to a decade ago. What a full circle God has led us through.

This month we headed back out to Vianney College to run a small group session on Self-knowledge in relation to discerning the call to the priesthood. The young men were

invited into a discussion around what it means for a human person to be fulfilled – what is required for a priest to live a fulfilling vocation and what THEY, themselves require as individuals to be fulfilled. A smaller group than usual was no hindrance to learning as it allowed for much more personal exploration of their current thought patterns and beliefs about who they are called to be, and their vocational call. It's always inspiring to hear such raw and honest conversations from the men out there, and that is credit to the culture created by the formators and students at Vianney.

God's creation of us is so individualised, and so unique that although 15 men may be called to the seminary, and to the priesthood, each of the 15 will have individual needs that are not all hindrances to his vocation, but instead gateways to marvel at God's creativity and the ways in which He desires to love AND calls on each of them to love the world. Our role is to help unpack the honest spaces of our humanity and to bring them to light so that they



Above: Self Knowledge Workshop Seminary 2023.

can take it directly to Jesus to hear in prayer what God wants of each man in these places. We also see it as our role to help the young men to seek humility, in the sense Teresa of Avila would use 'Humility is truth' – it's the ability to see truth as it is, the truth of who we are at present, who God has called us to be and 'The Gap' in between. We complete our workshops by using practical tools to help the men to strengthen what is already working well for them and to find strategies to help overcome the weaknesses that surface in order to become more like Christ.

To that end, this month we also featured an international guest interview on the Living Fullness

podcast to discuss seminary discernment and particulars such as – whether we have confused holiness with holy orders. Bobby Angel from Ascension Presents, a former seminarian and now a married man, author, and public speaker in America (husband to Jackie-Francois Angel), shares his insights, learnings, and heart with us about discernment. You can go and watch the episode over on youtube OR listen to the Living Fullness Podcast episode wherever you listen to other podcast.

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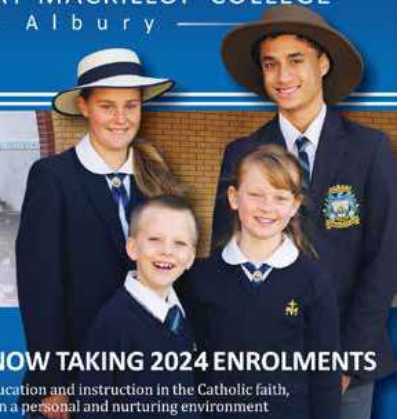
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# WHY IS MAY THE MONTH OF MARY?

The ways Mary is honored in May is as varied as the people who honor her.

BY MARGE FENELON  
National Catholic Register

**It's here. May, the month in which the earth springs into bloom (at least in the Northern Hemisphere) and we start thinking about planting gardens, family picnics and making vacation plans.**

It's also the Month of Mary.

Having gone to a Catholic grade school run by the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary, my early childhood memories include honoring Mary during May – a practice I've continued all of my life and taught my children to do as well. It's as natural and essential to me as my morning coffee (only far, far more joy-filled if you can even imagine that).

I know a number of Catholics who see May as the Month of Mary, and we all get the same question from time to time:

*Why is May Mary's month?*

Here's a brief explanation:

For centuries, the Catholic Church has set aside the entire month of May to honor Mary, Mother of God. Not just a day in May, mind you, but the entire month.

The custom spans both centuries and cultures, with roots going back as far as the Ancient Greeks. In early Greece, May was dedicated to Artemis, the goddess of fecundity.

In Ancient Rome, May was dedicated to Flora, the goddess of blooms, or blossoms. They celebrated ludi florals, or floral games, at the end of April and asked the intercession of Flora for all that blooms.

In medieval times, similar customs abounded, all centering around the practice of expelling winter, as May 1 was considered the start of new growth. During this period, the tradition of Tricesimum, or "Thirty-Day Devotion to Mary," came into being. Also called, "Lady Month," the event was held from August 15-September 14 and is still observed in some areas.

The idea of a month dedicated specifically to Mary can be traced back to baroque times. Although it wasn't always held during May, Mary Month included thirty daily spiritual exercises honoring Mary.

It was in this era that Mary's Month and May were combined, making May the Month of Mary with special devotions organized on each day throughout the month. This custom became especially widespread during the nineteenth century and remains in practice until today.

The ways Mary is honored in May is as varied as the people who honor her.

It's common for parishes have a daily recitation of the Rosary during May, and many erect a special May altar with a statue or picture of Mary as a reminder of Mary's month. Additionally, it's a long-standing tradition to crown the statue of Mary during May – a custom known as May Crowning. Often, the crown is made of beautiful blossoms representing Mary's beauty and virtue. It's also a reminder to the faithful to strive to imitate our Blessed Mother's virtue in our own lives. May Crowning, in some areas, is a huge celebration and is usually done outside of Mass, although Mass may be celebrated before or after the actual crowning.

But May altars and crownings aren't just "church" things. We can and should be doing the same in our homes. When we echo the customs and traditions of the Church in our homes – our domestic churches – we participate more fully in the life of the Church.

If you haven't already, I encourage you to erect a prayer corner in your home. No matter how fancy or simple it is. The main point is that it's a place designated for God, and more specifically, for spending time with him. Just as you need proper atmosphere to sleep, you also



need proper atmosphere to pray.

For May, give Mary a special spot in your prayer corner. It can be a statue or picture, but place there some representation of our Blessed Mother. Make it appealing and a real tribute to her beauty and virtue.

Then, crown Mary. You can give her an actual or spiritual crown and you can make it a subtle gesture or ornate ceremony of your own device. The meaning is far more important than the action. You can do it in the beginning, at the end of May or anywhere in between.

Just do it. Why?

Not because it's a long-standing tradition in the Church, although it is. Not because there are any special graces connected to it, although there is.

No, do it because Mary is Mother – your mother, my mother, everyone's mother – and because she cares for all of us day-in-and-day-out without fail, interceding for us in even the tiniest matters.

**For that, she deserves an entire month in her honor.**

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# WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY 2023: LEARNING TO SPEAK THE TRUTH IN LOVE

Each year, the Vatican, and many dioceses around the world mark World Communications Day on the Sunday before Pentecost (this year, 21 May 2023). However, in Australia, it is celebrated on the sixth Sunday of Easter to avoid a clash with the feast of the Ascension.

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BY FIONA BASILE  
freelance writer and photographer

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**On May 14, the Catholic Church in Australia marks the 57th World Communications Day. Pope Francis' message for the day reflects on the theme 'Speaking with the heart: "The truth in love" from Ephesians 4:15'.**

Pope Francis opens by reminding us that in previous World Communications Day messages, he has reflected on the verbs 'to go and see' and 'to listen', observing that these are good conditions for communication. The 2023 theme, 'Speaking with the heart', naturally flows from this. 'It is the heart that spurred us to go, to see and to listen, and it is the heart that moves us towards an open and welcoming way of communicating,' he writes.

Once we have practised listening, which demands waiting and patience, as well as foregoing the assertion of our point of view in a prejudicial way, we can enter into the dynamic of dialogue and sharing, which is precisely that of communicating in a cordial way.

He goes on to say, 'Communicating in a cordial manner means that those who read or listen to us are led to welcome our participation in the joys, fears, hopes and suffering of the women and men of our time. Those who speak in this way love the other because they care and protect their freedom without violating it.'

There is a deep emphasis on using the gift of communication as a 'bridge' and not as a wall, where kindness is not only a question of 'etiquette' but a 'genuine antidote to cruelty'. We need to foster peace and understanding. Acknowledging that we are 'living in a dark hour in which humanity fears an escalation of war,' he writes that

'Today more than ever, speaking with the heart is essential to foster a culture of peace in places where there is war; to open paths that allow for dialogue and reconciliation in places where hatred and enmity rage.

'In the dramatic context of the global conflict we are experiencing, it is urgent to maintain a form of communication that is not hostile. It is necessary to overcome the tendency to "discredit and insult opponents from the outset [rather] than to open a respectful dialogue,"' he writes.

'It is terrifying to hear how easily words calling for the destruction of people and territories are spoken. Words, unfortunately, that often turn into warlike actions of heinous violence. This is why all belligerent rhetoric must be rejected, as well as every form of propaganda that manipulates the truth, disfiguring it for ideological ends.'

Pope Francis calls us to engage in communication that 'helps create the conditions to resolve controversies between peoples', urging us to listen to the other with a pure heart and to be courageous in speaking the truth, but to do so with charity—with love.

This leads those who listen to attune themselves to the same wavelength, to the point of being able to hear within their heart also the heartbeat of the other. Then the miracle of encounter can take place, which makes us look at one another with compassion, welcoming our mutual frailties with respect rather than judging by hearsay and sowing discord and division.

The message is timely as the Church's journeys towards the Synod of Synodality, where Pope Francis has emphasised the ongoing need 'to listen to and to hear one another'. 'It is the

most precious and life-giving gift we can offer each other,' he writes.

'Listening without prejudice, attentively and openly, gives rise to speaking according to God's style, nurtured by closeness, compassion and tenderness. We have a pressing need in the Church for communication that kindles hearts, that is balm on wounds and that shines light on the journey of our brothers and sisters.'

## **Australasian Catholic press reflect upon the Pope's words**

The Pope's World Communications Day message is officially published by the Vatican on 24 January, the feast day of St Francis de Sales, a Doctor of the Church, intellectual, writer, theologian and patron saint of journalists. With this in mind, at their most recent online gathering, members of the Australasian Catholic Press Association welcomed Cardinal John Dew, Archbishop Emeritus of the Archdiocese of Wellington, to share his reflections on the pope's message among those working in media and communications.

Cardinal Dew highlighted the Pope's continued emphasis on the need for mercy and tenderness in our communications, and in creating the opportunity for an encounter.

He recalled having read words spoken by then Archbishop Jorge Bergoglio at a retreat in Argentina, some years ago—words that have stayed with him. 'At that retreat, he [Bergoglio] said, "Everything in our life today, just as in Jesus' time, begins with an encounter. An encounter with this man, the carpenter of Nazareth, a man like all others, and yet different. The first ones—John, Andrew and Simon—felt themselves to be looked

at, into their very depths, read in their innermost being, and in them sprung forth a surprise, a wonder that instantly made them feel bound to him, made them feel different."

'At that time, he wanted them to experience the wonder and the awe of the presence of God, and I believe Pope Francis is actually saying the same thing in this message for World Communications. Because in that same retreat, he said, "We cannot understand the dynamic of encounter, which brings forth wonder and adherence, if it has not been triggered by mercy."

Cardinal Dew encouraged all to listen and speak with open hearts, and to speak the truth in love, communicating with courage and 'with heart'. This, he said, is 'the only way that we encounter each other and help one another to encounter something more, someone more', and 'to be caressed by the mercy of God'.

Just imagine if personally and professionally, we intentionally started all of our communications, whether it be an email, an interview, a report, an opinion piece, a commentary on something—whatever it might be—with the goal to help others through our communications to be caressed by the mercy of God. Our world would be a better place.

Thinking of the various ways in which the Catholic media communicate, he posed the question: 'When we communicate, is it an extraordinary witness of God's merciful love?' He encouraged Catholic media and communications professionals to look to their patron saint, St Francis de Sales, whose 'meek

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attitude, humanity and willingness to dialogue patiently with everyone, especially with those who disagreed with him, made him an extraordinary witness of God’s merciful love.’

Cardinal Dew also reflected on the ‘great challenges of today’, echoing Pope Francis’ view that we must not succumb to indifference, particularly when it comes to those who suffer in our world. ‘That’s why he tells the media, those working in communications—everyone—that that we should use our hearts to seek

and to speak with charity in order to build and make a better world.’

Indeed, the message is not only for those working in media and communications, but for everyone. As the Pope observes in his message, ‘In a historical period marked by polarizations and contrasts—to which unfortunately not even the ecclesial community is immune—the commitment to communicating “with open heart and arms” does not pertain exclusively to those in the field of communications; it is everyone’s responsibility.’

According to Cardinal Dew, ‘Pope

Francis’ message invites us to reflect on how our words, which are capable of doing good for others, can touch the most hardened of hearts.’

‘When Pope Francis says “communicating in a cordial manner”, it means that those who read or listen to us are led to welcome our participation in the joys, fears, hopes and suffering of the women and men of our time. These words clearly reflect the very beginning of the document *Gaudium et Spes* of the Second Vatican Council.

So really, Pope Francis is telling us that whatever means of communication that we are using, we

are to be looking for the things that occupy people, whether they be joys or hopes or griefs or anxieties, because that’s what’s happening in people’s lives. That’s what we need to touch.

In his message, Pope Francis offers the opportunity for all of us, but particularly those working in communications, to ask, ‘What is your mission?’ ‘And clearly, if we go back to those words at the beginning of *Gaudium et Spes*,’ Cardinal Dew pointed out, ‘**the mission for any of us who try to live the Gospel is to build a more just, more fraternal and more human future.**’

Below: Cardinal John Dew addressed members of the Australasian Catholic Press Assoc.



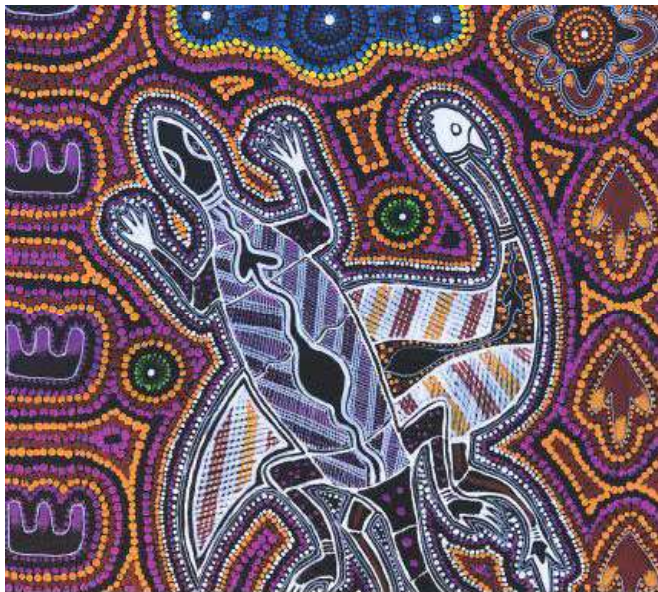
## Prayer for World Communications Day

May the Lord Jesus, the pure Word poured out from the heart of the Father, help us to make our communication clear, open and heartfelt.

May the Lord Jesus, the Word made flesh, help us listen to the beating of hearts, to rediscover ourselves as brothers and sisters, and to disarm the hostility that divides.

May the Lord Jesus, the Word of truth and love, help us speak the truth in charity, so that we may feel like protectors of one another.

Source: 2023 World Communications Day message



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# PLANS FOR NEW CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL IN BOOROOMA ANNOUNCED

Wagga's booming northern suburbs could soon experience even more growth after preliminary plans to establish a new Catholic school were announced in late April.

BY ANDREW MANGELSDORF  
The Daily Advertiser

**The Catholic Education Diocese of Wagga has embarked on a feasibility study to assess the viability of a new primary school in Boorooma.**

A block of approximately 3.5 hectares adjacent to the newly-opened Boorooma shops and the Catholic seminary Vianney College has been earmarked for the proposed school.

While plans are still in their early stages, the diocese's director of Catholic education, Andrew Watson, said the school could be up and running in as little as three to four years if it comes to fruition.

With four catholic primary schools across the river, Dr Watson said it was important to provide access to Catholic education closer to home for residents of

the city's northern suburbs.

"I commenced as director of education at the start of 2022 and something I identified early on is the growing nature of the northern suburbs and the fact we didn't have a Catholic primary school in that part of Wagga," he said.

"So this is the missing [link]."

After commencing discussions with the Catholic Education Council towards the end of last year, the diocese had a demographic report completed and is now moving onto a feasibility study.

"Part of this feasibility study is gauging the level of interest from the community about starting up a Catholic school in the northern suburbs," Dr Watson said.

One person excited at the prospect of a



Director of Catholic Education, Andrew Watson with Jess De Jong and her daughter Rose, 3, on the proposed new site for the school. Picture by Les Smith

new school was Coolamon mum Jess De Jong.

Ms De Jong, 33, commutes to Wagga where she works as the capital infrastructure manager with the Catholic Education Diocese of Wagga and has two young children yet to start their schooling journeys.

She said having a range of schools in the northern suburbs was particularly appealing to those commuting from the

city's north.

"You can drop your kids to school here and then it's also on the way home," she said.

About 20 per cent of all students in Australia attend Catholic schools.

**Community members have been encouraged to register their interest to receive updates about the proposed new K-6 Catholic school by visiting: [bit.ly/estella-school](https://bit.ly/estella-school)**





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## Erin Earth 2023 EVENTS

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

**What a remarkable garden, from barren beginnings to abundant biodiversity and a beautiful supportive community of like hearted people!**

We were blessed with a gorgeous sunny day for our reunion morning tea. Bringing together those that dreamt up, created, shared and supported the vision of ErinEarth.

What a joy to see, hear and feel the sense the achievement and wonderment amongst the ErinEarth garden!

If you missed this event, we have plenty others coming up this year. Our next event will be the 1st July from 4-8pm with lots of wintery fun, campfires, stew and a little

something for the kids.

Don't forget the ErinEarth garden is open to the public Monday - Wednesday 9am - 3pm to just drop in and look around.

Want to stay in touch? If you're not already receiving our quarterly newsletters and occasional email news, please let us know and we will add you to the mailing list. You might also find helpful information and updates on what's happening at ErinEarth, along upcoming events on our Facebook and or Instagram pages.

**Interested in volunteering? Why not give us a call or arrange a time for a chat, we'd love to hear from you.**



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# A PASSAGE OF HOPE FOR YOUNG GIRLS IN TIMOR-LESTE

The St Mary Mazzarello Vocational School of Venilale in Timor-Leste, is a great example of the resilience that everyday lay and religious missionaries demonstrate in their life-giving work and the burning passion for God and people that inspires their hearts.

**Amidst the challenges of unemployment and a lack of qualified employees in rural areas like Venilale, the school offers hope to the younger generation, particularly for younger girls.**

Established in 1994 by the Salesian Sisters, the school provides a safe learning environment and imparts vital employable skills to its students. The curriculum focuses on hospitality, teaching students how to cook and manage tasks in kitchens and restaurants. Since its creation, the school has faced challenges, including being reduced to ashes in 2001 due to violent conflict.

Through a remarkable journey of resilience and rebuilding, the school is now fully operational and supports 214 students, and provides a passage of hope for young girls like 16-year-old Madalena\*, currently in her second year, who was fortunate enough to have an opportunity to study at the school.

"We want to educate and train youth with good values, to promote their capacity and professional autonomy, therefore they are able to contribute," says Sr Carolina, a Salesian Sister in Venilale.

The school not only equips students with the necessary tools to support themselves but also empowers them to create a better future for their local community.

"If you have skills, if you can work, you don't need to depend on other people. We try to increase their skills as some of them

have good capacity. A good way for them to make a way for their own future," says Sr Alma, the Provincial of the Salesian Sisters in Timor-Leste and Indonesia.

Keeping the St Maria Mazzarello School running to a higher standard means the Salesian Sisters can continue reaching out to young girls like Madalena\*, providing them with local opportunities to secure a future and gain financial independence.

Catholic Mission invites everyone to make a difference.

**Visit [catholicmission.org.au/](http://catholicmission.org.au/) passageofhope and donate now to support the Salesian Sisters in creating a passage of hope for young girls.**

*\*Names changed to protect identity.*



# MAY FEDERAL BUDGET A SOLID STEP UP FOR VULNERABLE AUSTRALIANS

Catholic Social Services Australia (CSSA) welcomes the social security and cost of living measures in last night's Federal Budget that will make life a little easier for vulnerable Australians.

**CSSA also welcomes the additional \$4 billion over 4 years for the community services sector to help them meet the cost of inflation and enable them to increase the wages of their hard-working staff.**

CSSA, together with other key advocates, has long highlighted the urgent need to raise social security payments to at least \$76 a day, which would just meet the poverty line. We welcome the increase of \$40 a fortnight this year and hope that the payments will be increased in future budgets.

Other payments, including Youth Allowance, Parenting Payment (Partnered), Austudy, ABSTUDY, Youth Disability Support Pension, Special Benefit, Farm Household Allowance, and the Self-Employment Allowance, will also rise by \$40 a fortnight from 20 September 2023, benefiting 1.1 million Australians.

The Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA) will increase by 15% or \$31 per fortnight to support renters.

The Government is also expanding eligibility for the existing higher rate of JobSeeker to single recipients aged 55 and over who have been on income support for nine or more continuous months, which currently applies from age 60. Payments for those aged 55-59 years will rise by \$92.10 fortnightly. Many recipients who will benefit from the expanded Jobseeker eligibility are women, those who face more barriers to employment and are at risk of homelessness.

Minister for Social Services Amanda Rishworth said, "The Albanese Labor Government will always strive to do more to help Australians in need, and we will keep assessing income support budget-to-budget as we said we would."

Monique Earsman, Executive Director of CSSA said, "I recognise that solving persistent disadvantage is complex. We see hope, and this Budget signals that the Government is listening. We will continue to advocate for increased social security payments in future Budgets."

**Advanced**

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# Centacare South West NSW



## TAKING CARE OF YOUR MENTAL HEALTH

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

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

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

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

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



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

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



## OUR GENERALIST COUNSELLING SERVICES

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

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



## PARENTING & CHILDREN

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

### Parent Education & Coaching

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

### Individual Parenting Support

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

### Family Group Conferencing

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

### Children & Youth Support Services

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

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# SCHOOLS HONOUR ANZAC DAY ACROSS THE DIOCESE

*Lest We Forget*



St Patrick's School, Holbrook



Sacred Heart Primary School, Koorungal



Xavier High School, Albury



Mater Dei Catholic Primary School, Wagga



St Joseph's Primary School, Culcairn



All Saints Primary School, Tumbarumba



Mater Dei Catholic College, Wagga



Mater Dei Catholic College, Wagga



Wagga Deanery Students





St Francis De Sales Regional College, Marian Catholic College



St Joseph's Primary School, Leeton



St Mary's Primary School, Yoogali



Henschke Primary School, Wagga



St Mary's Primary School, Yoogali



St Brendan's Primary School, Ganmain



St Patrick's School, Holbrook



Kildare Catholic College, Wagga



Kildare Catholic College, Wagga



St Joseph's Primary School Wagga Wagga



St Peter's Primary School, Coleambally

# 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  
**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 MAY

<b>5 May 1935</b>	Fr Garrett Anthony Shannon
<b>5 May 1945</b>	Fr Patrick Joseph O'Reilly
<b>7 May 1944</b>	Fr Aeneas Francis Hennessy
<b>8 May 1973</b>	Fr William James Gilby
<b>9 May 2014</b>	Fr Sean Conroy
<b>16 May 1908</b>	Fr Thomas Joseph Carroll
<b>19 May 2001</b>	Fr John Anthony McGrath
<b>23 May 1895</b>	Fr Richard J Carr
<b>24 May 1959</b>	Fr Percival Edward McVeigh

*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

## 21st May - The Ascension of the Lord, Cycle A

**Just as Jesus sent his disciples to make disciples, our family, the domestic Church, is called to bear witness to the life of discipleship.** That act of witnessing can take many forms. First and foremost our family should call people to discipleship by the example of our love for one another. That example is only the beginning; our love must extend beyond the family, reaching out to others and to the world.

Together with your family, identify one or more ways in which your family lives the life of Christian discipleship. Thank God for the blessing of the opportunity to be able to show God's love. Then read together today's Gospel, Matthew 28:16-20. Discuss what Jesus sends his disciples to do. Work together to identify one or more ways in which your family would like to do a better job bearing witness to the life of discipleship. Choose one of those ways and work together to make it happen. Pray as a family for the grace to be witnesses to the world of the life of discipleship. Pray together the Lord's Prayer.

*Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11 Psalm 47:2-3,6-9  
Ephesians 1:17-23 Matthew 28:16-20*

## 28th May - Pentecost Sunday, Cycle A

**Pentecost is sometimes called the birthday of the Church.** The Gospel for Pentecost reminds us that the Church begins with the command to forgive. Within the family, the domestic Church, we learn how to forgive and how to accept forgiveness. The gift of the Holy Spirit enables us to do both. Today is a fitting time to share a family celebration of reconciliation.

As you gather together as a family, sit quietly for a few minutes, inviting everyone to reflect upon their need to forgive and to receive forgiveness. If there is a situation or an issue within the family that needs attention, spend some time reflecting on how your family might address it. Read together today's Gospel, John 20:19-23. Talk together about how Jesus gave us the gift of the Holy Spirit to help us in the work of forgiveness and to bring us peace. Pray together today's Psalm or the Prayer to the Holy Spirit, asking that the Holy Spirit help your family. Share with one another a Sign of Peace.

*Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11  
Psalm 104:1,24,29-31,34  
Psalm 104:1,24,29-31,34 John 20:19-23*

## 4th June - The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, Cycle A

**Because of God's great love for us, he sent his Son, Jesus, to save the world.** Jesus, in turn, sent the Holy Spirit so that our faith in God and his love would be strengthened. The nurturing experiences of family life also help us to understand and have faith in God's love.

Create a family poster together showing all the ways in which your family experiences God's great love. Use symbols, pictures, and words to show how you have seen God at work in your family life and in our history. Then read together today's Gospel, John 3:16-18. Pray together, thanking God for his gift of love. Conclude by praying the Glory Be to the Father or today's Psalm.

*Exodus 34:4b-6,8-9 Daniel 3:52-56  
2 Corinthians 13:11-13 John 3:16-18*

## 11th June - The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, Cycle A

**Our faith teaches us that when we gather to celebrate Mass, Jesus is present to us.** The bread and wine truly become the Body and Blood of Christ. This is what we mean by the word transubstantiation: Jesus makes himself present to all who receive the Body and Blood of Christ.

If there are children in your family who have already celebrated their First Holy Communion, invite them to share their memories of this special day. If there are family photos taken on this occasion, bring them out and share them together. Adults in the family may also share memories or photos that they have of their First Communion. Then read together today's Gospel, John 6:51-58. Reflect together on what Jesus means when he calls himself the "living bread." Recall that every time we receive the Eucharist, Jesus keeps the promise he made in today's Gospel—those who eat his flesh and drink his blood will remain forever connected to him. Perhaps family members can share what it means for them to receive Jesus in the Eucharist. Together thank God for this gift of Holy Communion. Pray together the Lord's Prayer or today's Psalm.

*Deuteronomy 8:2-3,14b-16a  
Psalm 147:12-15,19-20  
1 Corinthians 10:16-17 John 6:51-58*

# WORLD YOUTH DAY 2023



## PRAYER

### World Youth Day 2023

Our Lady of the Visitation, you who left in haste towards the mountain to meet Elizabeth, lead us also to meet all those who await us to deliver them the living Gospel: Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord!

We will go in a hurry, with no distraction or delay, but with readiness and joy. We will go peacefully, because those who take Christ take peace, and well doing is the best wellbeing.

Our Lady of the Visitation, with your inspiration, this World Youth Day will be the mutual celebration of the Christ we take, as You once did. Make it a time of testimony and sharing, fraternization, and giving thanks, each of us looking for the others who always wait.

With you, we will continue on this path of gathering, so that our world will gather as well, in fraternity, justice and peace. Help us, Our Lady of the Visitation, to bring Christ to everyone, obeying the Father, in the love of the Spirit!

**Mary arose and went  
with haste**

(Lk 1: 39)

