



# TOGETHER

In the Diocese of

Wagga Wagga

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FREE

JUNE 2023



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# BISHOP'S VOICE



TOGETHER  
IN THE DIOCESE OF WAGGA WAGGA

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

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## Yanco Centenary Homily



**It is wonderful for us to be here on what has become sacred ground for us.**

I acknowledge the Wiradjuri people who worshipped and lived on this land long before we came.

I am grateful for the opportunity to celebrate this moment with you and thank you for the invitation and for all the work that has been done to make today's celebrations special.

What an extraordinary adventure it must have been. The early Europeans who settled in Yanco were coming to a remote, desert place.

I think of those who dug the canals and of the early farmers who established the farms in this area. I think also of Frs Reidy (PP of Leeton/Yanco), and Tom Shanley (first PP of Yanco properly speaking), and other early priests who came here and, with the people, had the vision and combined efforts to bring the dream of St Patricks Church, Convent and presbytery to actualisation. And I remember, too, the Sisters of St Joseph who consecrated their lives to the service of God and the teaching of the children of Yanco and district, so that they could come to know and love God as well as their other academic subjects.

Fr Reidy came to Leeton/Yanco as the first PP in 1914. *'His big heart and warm-hand clasp, encouraged many a disappointed settler and townsman to battle on when things looked black and the prospected did not come up to anticipations.'* (Irrigator Feb 1, 1938)

Bishop Dwyer, our first bishop, encouraged them to build a school/Church and to celebrate Mass in it, and then a convent and then a presbytery. He appealed to them to keep on doing something every year.

Looking back, it can seem fairly straight forward. You work a bit, build a bit, pray a bit

and, eventually, there it is, you have a parish with a school, convent, Church and presbytery. But for those early pioneers in this area it must have been frightening. They started with nothing and at the same time they were trying to make their way on the farm, they had to help build and pay for the Church and school and pay school fees when the irrigation area itself was not really established. And all of this immediately after WWI when so many of the young men had been killed, injured or psychologically damaged and so much money expended on the war.

To give an idea of the challenges, Fr Reidy occupied a weatherboard building as a presbytery. He gave this up in order to bring in the Josephite sisters to teach at the school. Father then slept in the sacristy. It was during this time that he got a chill which set up a 10-year illness which eventually led to his death.

What an adventure! What a step in faith! How did they manage this?

The first reading today provides an insight. The first parishioners and their Sisters and priests were forced to rely on God. They knew by experience that God provided what they needed day by day, like the Israelites in the desert, and that the Lord God guided them through the challenges they faced. God underpinned and built this Church and its parish, the God who was here long before the aboriginals and who will be here long after the world ceases.

It is easy to think of this as the work of our hands. It is easy to think that we did this. But God did this.

Those who came before us wanted a sacred place to celebrate the Eucharist and to mark the special moments in their lives. And in this

place they were connected with God's care and love, especially through the death and resurrection of Jesus and the sending of the Spirit.

Each Mass here, including our Mass today, connects us with Jesus passing over from death to life. The very first Mass, the Last Supper, was a Passover meal. Jesus and the disciples understood that it made them present at the passing over in Egypt, the passing through the Red Sea and the desert into the promised land. It also made them, and makes us, present to the crucifixion of Jesus on Calvary and his rising from the dead. With all the generations who have worshipped here, we today will be present at the sacrifice at Calvary and the Resurrection. Time collapses and each of these events is present to us.

Today, when we take communion, we will be in present to Jesus in his death and resurrection. Earth and heaven will touch. God and human beings will connect. We eat the Bread of Life.

And this has happened here year in, year out, week in, week out for 100 years. What a special, sacred place we stand on.

And, by drawing us together here, it has become a place of community and where we are known.

Let us pray for those who have come before us, many of whom have died, those who are still a vital part of this community of faith and also all those in the town who we sanctify in some measure. We also gather in gratitude to our God who sustained them and who sustains us on our journey. As well as, we pray those who will come after us.

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

## PRAYER INTENTION FOR JUNE - PRAY WITH POPE FRANCIS

### For the abolition of torture

We pray that the international community may commit in a concrete way to ensuring the abolition of torture and guarantee support to victims and their families.

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



We pray that the international community may commit in a concrete way to ensuring the abolition of torture and guarantee support to victims and their families.

Pope Francis invites us this month to focus our attention on the abolition of torture, imploring God to soften the hearts and minds of those who are responsible for inflicting unnecessary pain upon men and women.

When St. John Paul II gazed at the miraculous Shroud of Turin in 1998, he not only saw the great suffering endured by the Man of the Shroud but also the effects of extreme torture.

*"The imprint left by the tortured body of the Crucified One, which attests to the tremendous human capacity for causing pain and death to one's fellow man, stands as an icon of the suffering of the innocent in every age: of the countless tragedies that have marked past history and the dramas that continue to unfold in the world..."*

*How can we not recall with dismay and pity those who do not enjoy basic civil rights, the victims of torture and terrorism, the slaves of criminal organizations? By calling to mind these tragic situations, the Shroud not only spurs us to abandon our selfishness but leads*

*us to discover the mystery of suffering, which, sanctified by Christ's sacrifice, achieves salvation for all humanity."*

We too can look upon the Shroud and see the painful marks left by torture, reminding ourselves that this type of torture still occurs throughout the world today, though typically it is done in the dark, secret corners that are shielded from the light of faith.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church clearly teaches that such torture is against the moral law and does not respect the dignity of the human person.

"Torture which uses physical or moral violence to extract confessions, punish the guilty, frighten opponents, or satisfy hatred is contrary to respect for the person and for human dignity." (CCC 2297)

While we may not possess the political power to enact legislation to end torture in our part of the world, we can do what we can to spread the seeds of love in our community and treat our own family and friends with greater respect.

God has made us all in our image and even when we have strayed from him, we still deserve the respect of a child of God.

# NEW GUIDE SUPPORTS LOCAL REFLECTION ON PLENARY COUNCIL OUTCOMES

Catholic communities across the country are being invited to consider how the outcomes of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia can be integrated into local contexts with the help of a new study guide.

**Dozens of decisions were made during the second assembly of the Plenary Council last year, contained in 10 decrees.** While those decrees are awaiting recognition from the Dicastery for Bishops before they can be promulgated, some initial reflection and planning can be carried out for their implementation.

“We are mindful of the enthusiasm that existed around the Plenary Council and the desire to start building on the decisions that were made in that historic moment for the Church in Australia,” said Bishop Shane Mackinlay, who was the Council’s vice-president.

“By preparing *Carrying Forward the Plenary Council*, we are encouraging Catholic parishes, schools and other communities to pray about, reflect upon and review what your community is already doing, or could

be doing, in relation to acting on the commitments the Council members made.

“This can help us continue with the synodal journey, walking together and encountering the face of Christ in each person.”

Bishop Mackinlay said the guide will be particularly relevant for those who participated in the Plenary Council process and those who have been involved with preparing for the Synod of Bishops for a Synodal Church, but also for people who are new to the path of synodality.

The document was released at Pentecost, a key moment in each of the past six years for the Plenary Council journey. Bishop Mackinlay said that decision was intentional.

“For many years, we have been inviting the Holy Spirit to guide the People of God in Australia as we seek

**Plenary Council**  
Listen to what the Spirit is saying...



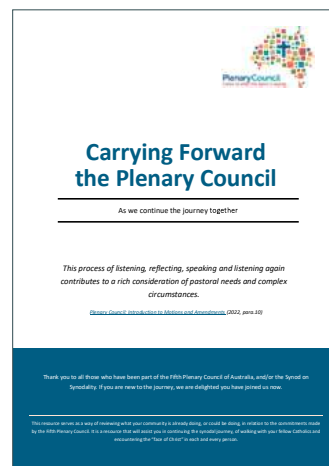
to understand what God is asking of us,” he said.

“On this great feast of the Holy Spirit, we again invoke that Spirit to enlighten our minds and enliven our hearts to integrate the vision of the Plenary Council in each of our individual contexts.”

Bishop Mackinlay thanked staff of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference’s National Centre for Evangelisation, who prepared the guide.

**Carrying Forward the Plenary Council can be accessed on the Plenary Council website:**

[www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au](http://www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au)



# POPE RECEIVES VOICE TO PARLIAMENT MESSAGE

Pope Francis has received a book advocating for a Voice to Parliament from long-time Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander advocate Fr Frank Brennan SJ.

**Fr Brennan dedicated the book to the Pope “hoping and praying for an Indigenous Voice to Parliament” when he met Francis at The Vatican earlier this week.**

The dedication also thanks Francis for his declaration in *Laudato Si'*, in which the Pope said:

“It is essential to show special care for indigenous communities and their cultural traditions. They are not merely one minority among others, but should be the principal dialogue partners.”

Fr Brennan was accompanying respected aboriginal elder and artist Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr-Baumann, 73, from Daly River, who was thrilled to

speak with the Pope about the connections of God and nature.

Dr Ungunmerr-Baumann has been in Rome for a series of events with the Australian Embassy to the Holy See marking National Reconciliation week, the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Australia and the Holy See and the 50th anniversary of the first Aboriginal Liturgy.

Dr Ungunmerr-Baumann had earlier called for more information about the Voice to Parliament to be provided to remote indigenous communities noting that she was still “trying to get my head around it”.

**Fr Brennan, a law professor, has advocated**



Above: Pope Francis with the Australian delegation that included Fr Frank Brennan, Chiara Porro and Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr-Baumann (Facebook/Fr Frank Brennan)

**changing the wording of the Voice from “executive government” to “ministers of state” so that support for the upcoming referendum could be broadened.**

# 2023 NATIONAL NAIDOC WEEK

National NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia in the first week of July each year (Sunday to Sunday), to celebrate and recognise the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

**NAIDOC Week is an opportunity for all Australians to learn about First Nations cultures and histories and participate in celebrations of the oldest, continuous living cultures on earth.** You can support and get to know your local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities through activities and events held across the country.

We're proud to announce that the 2023 National NAIDOC Week theme is For Our Elders.

Across every generation, our Elders have played, and continue to play, an important role and hold a prominent place in our communities and families.

pave the way for us to take the paths we can take today. Guidance, not only through generations of advocacy and activism, but in everyday life and how to place ourselves in the world.

We draw strength from their knowledge and experience, in everything from land management, cultural knowledge to justice and human rights. Across multiple sectors like health, education, the arts, politics and everything in between, they have set the many courses we follow.

The struggles of our Elders help to move us forward today. The equality we continue to fight for is found in their fight. Their tenacity and strength has carried the survival of our people.

## National NAIDOC Week Poster Competition

The National NAIDOC Week Poster Competition has become an iconic feature of National NAIDOC Week and has a rich and significant history beginning in 1967 when the National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) first began producing posters. NAIDOC posters have been exhibited by various Australian cultural institutions such as the National Museum of Australia and reflect not only the many significant social changes that have occurred since 1967 but also evolution of art over the last 54 years.

Each year the National NAIDOC Week Poster Competition encourages Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists aged 13 years and over to submit their artwork which reflects that year's National NAIDOC Week Theme.

In recent years, the National NAIDOC Week Poster competition winning artists have been afforded numerous opportunities to work with

organisations such as the Australian Open, Microsoft, The Project television show and various state travel authorities that have wrapped public transport vehicles in the winning artwork.

Bobbi Lockyer, a proud Ngarluma, Kariyarra, Nyulnyul and Yawuru artist, born and based on Kariyarra Country in Port Hedland, is the winner of the prestigious National NAIDOC Week Poster Competition for 2023 with her entry, *For Our Elders*.

"Where there is knowledge there are our Elders. Our Elders paved the pathways for us, taught us our knowledge, our history, they passed down their art, stories and wisdom. Our Elders are the foundation of our communities and role models for our children. With this poster I wanted to showcase how important our Elders are in passing down traditions and culture to our children and future." said Bobbi.

**Watch the video below to learn more about the incredible Bobbi Lockyer and her artwork:**  
<https://player.vimeo.com/>



Above: Bobbi Lockyer, Winner of the 2023 National NAIDOC Week Poster Competition.

They are cultural knowledge holders, trailblazers, nurturers, advocates, teachers, survivors, leaders, hard workers and our loved ones.

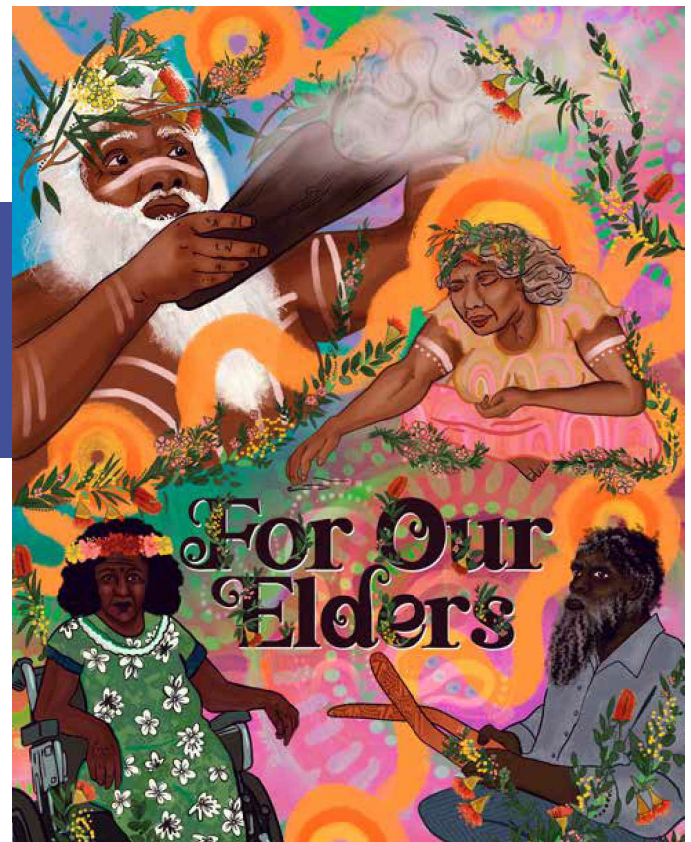
Our loved ones who pick us up in our low moments and celebrate us in our high ones. Who cook us a feed to comfort us and pull us into line, when we need them too.

They guide our generations and

It is their influence and through their learnings that we must ensure that when it comes to future decision making for our people, there is nothing about us - without us.

We pay our respects to the Elders we've lost and to those who continue fighting for us across all our Nations and we pay homage to them.

**In 2023, how will you celebrate For Our Elders?**



**NAIDOC Week**

2-9 JULY 2023

#NAIDOC2023 #ForOurElders

@naidocweek @naidocweek facebook.com/NAIDOC

For Our Elders, Bobbi Lockyer

Where there is knowledge there are our Elders. Our Elders paved the pathways for us, taught us our knowledge, our history, they passed down their art, stories and wisdom. Our Elders are the foundation of our communities and role models for our children. With this poster I wanted to showcase how important our Elders are in passing down traditions and culture to our children and future.

Artwork designed by Bobbi Lockyer. Photo: David Lockyer. All rights reserved. All rights reserved. All rights reserved. All rights reserved. All rights reserved.



naidoc.org.au

# GANMAIN PARISH BUSHWALK

On the 19th of March 2023, some Ganmain parishioners and visitors set out on the second parish Bush Walk.

BY MATTHEW OBEID AND THERESE OBEID

**We walked from St. Michael's Coolamon to St. Brendan's Ganmain, a distance of approximately 16 km.**

About 25 people participated, with various ages, the youngest being 10 months old and in a pram. It was quite a pleasant walk, and the path was not too steep, in excellent

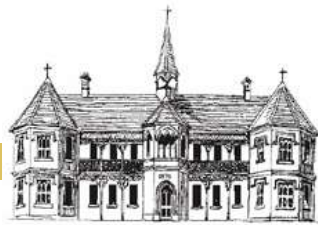
country terrain. The weather was fantastic, a bit cloudy so it wasn't too hot, perfect weather for walking.

The walkers mingled and had great conversations. Good company and friends made the time pass quickly. At one point along the hike, we prayed the Divine Mercy Chaplet. We had a stop halfway, where one



parishioner met us with plenty of refreshing drinks. Some people chose to finish here, and others joined to walk the second half. We were honoured to have Bishop Mark Edwards join us at the halfway point.

We arrived at St Brendan's Church in Ganmain for Eucharistic Adoration including a Rosary and Vespers. We then had a shared dinner and enjoyed each other's company to conclude a fun day.



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## Queen of Peace

Medjugorje Pilgrimage with optional 4 night extension to Rome



Land only from \$2990

Commences 14 October 2023. 8 Days. With Fr Andrew Grace. 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 September 2023

## Red Centre Pilgrimage

Journey to the Heart. Alice Springs to Uluru



Land only from \$5190

Departs 31 August 2023. 9 Days. With Fr Dominic Murphy OP. Something deep and mystical calls all Australians as we set out 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 October 2023

## Journey of St Paul

Greece & Turkey



Land only from \$5690

Commences 11 September 2023. 12 Days. With Fr Michael Goonan. The Acts of the Apostles will come alive as we go out with St Paul and his companions to rediscover the faith and struggles of the early Christian communities. Also departs April 2024

## Footsteps of Jesus

A Holy Land Pilgrimage with Rev Prof Gerard Kelly



Land only from \$5890

Commences 12 January 2024. 12 Days. With Rev Prof Gerard Kelly. 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. Optional Post-Tour Extension to Petra



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# REFUGEE WEEK 2023

Refugee Week is Australia's peak annual activity to inform the public about refugees and celebrate positive contributions made by refugees to Australian society.

## The first Refugee Week events were organised in Sydney in 1986 by Austcare.

In 1987, Refugee Council of Australia (ROCA) became a co-organiser of the week, which became a national event from 1988. ROCA took on responsibility for the national coordination of Refugee Week from 2004. Major-General Paul Cullen, the foundation president of both Austcare and ROCA, actively lobbied, from the 1980s, for a global annual celebration of the contribution of refugees. His dream was achieved in 2001, when the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) coordinated the first World Refugee Day (June 20).

Refugee Week provides a platform where positive images of refugees can be promoted in order to create a culture of welcome throughout the country. The ultimate aim of the celebration is to create better understanding between different communities and to encourage successful integration enabling refugees to live in safety and to continue making a valuable contribution to Australia.

Over the past 20 years, Refugee Week celebrations have developed in a number of other countries. While there are minor differences in the dates for Refugee Week, all include World Refugee Day (June 20). In Australia, Refugee Week is scheduled to ensure that it does not clash with public holidays in any Australian state or territory.

The aims of Refugee Week are:

- to educate the Australian public about who refugees are and why they have come to Australia;
- to help people understand the many

challenges refugees face coming to Australia;

- to celebrate the contribution refugees make to our community;
- to focus on how the community can provide a safe and welcoming environment for refugees;
- for community groups and individuals to do something positive for refugees, asylum seekers and displaced people, within Australia but also around the world; and
- for service providers to reflect on whether they are providing the best possible services to refugees.

Refugee Week is a unique opportunity for us all to experience and celebrate the rich diversity of refugee communities through theatre, music, dance, film and other events which take place all over Australia and highlight the aims of the Week, as outlined above. Refugee Week is an umbrella participatory festival which allows a wide range of refugee community organisations, voluntary and statutory organisations, local councils, schools, student groups and faith-based organisations to host events during the week.

Past events have included football tournaments, public talks, exhibitions, music and dance festivals, theatre projects and film screenings. Everyone is welcome to participate in promoting the aims of Refugee Week – the more the merrier.

**Through Refugee Week, we aim to provide an important opportunity for asylum seekers and refugees to be seen, listened to and valued.**



## Elizabeth

each other in times of need.

I am proud to say that we now have a growing and collaborative South American community where we celebrate and support each other together. I have no family here, but my community members are my family.

I had little support when I came here, so now I support new arrivals to settle in Adelaide. I can speak English, and that enables me to help newly arrived refugees from Latin America.

I'm passionate about dancing, hairdressing, and make-up. I am free to fulfil my passions here as I have equal rights in Australia.

**For me, my freedom is to be able to help others.**

**Elizabeth is a former refugee from Venezuela. This is what freedom means to her:**

I was just 14 when I had to flee from my country, Venezuela, in 2014. I had no freedom there. I came to Australia in 2019, but I was alone because the rest of my family is still in Venezuela.

I strongly believe in functional communities, but my community was small when I arrived in Adelaide. I would volunteer to strengthen my relationships with South American communities here so we could support



To all those who've come from far and wide,  
We're happy you're safe  
We're happy you're free  
We're happy you're here

**Happy Refugee Week  
18-24 June 2023**

refugeeweek.org.au | #RefugeeWeekAU | f t i

COORDINATED BY: Refugee Council of Australia

EVENT PARTNERS: Canva, SSI for equality of life.

PRINCIPAL PARTNERS: CITY OF SYDNEY, NSW GOVERNMENT Multicultural NSW, SBS FOOD

MAJOR PARTNERS: AMRC, CMRC, UNHCR

PARTNERS: Jesuit Social Services, AUSTRALIAN REFUGEE ASSOCIATION, VICTORIA GOVERNMENT



## Fida

**Fida is from Afghanistan. This is what freedom means to him.**

I have lived my life always searching for freedom. It is a concept that has been cherished by humanity for centuries which in its core refers to the ability to act, speak and think without being restrained by external forces. It is a fundamental human right that is essential for individuals to live a fulfilling life and to pursue their goals and dreams.

This fundamental human right only prevailed for me when I met a group of amazing people upon my arrival in Australia. They encouraged and

supported me to start a new life here. I completed a double degree in Bachelor of Social Work and Internal Relations. I currently work for the Australia Refugee Association in supporting and empowering young emerging refugee leaders.

I realised that many people drown every year in the sea. Many of them are migrants with minimum swimming skills. I am a proud volunteer for Surf Life Saving SA. I patrol on Adelaide beaches and save lives in the water.

**For me, freedom is my agency and sense of giving. Even though I currently hold a temporary visa, my education enables me to support other refugees, especially those suffering from discriminatory policies.**



## Andrea

**Andrea Rico is from Colombia. This is what freedom means to her:**

I came to Australia three years ago. I like having financial freedom in Australia. I could not believe that

I could have my own bank account here. When I was a refugee, I was not allowed to have a bank account and my salary was transferred to someone else's account. Now my salary goes into my own account, so I do not take my legal status and full rights for granted.

**I am free in Australia to pursue my dream to become a teacher because I love teaching children.**

# HARVEST BLESSINGS

On 21 May at St Patrick's Church in Marrar, Bishop Mark blessed the grain asking God for a good harvest for local farmers.



Above: Bishop Mark OMI with Bernard Hart, the giver of the grain to be blessed.



Above: Bishop Mark at dinner with parishioners at Marrar Cafe.



## ESCENCIA CENTRE TO LAUNCH VIRTUAL PREGNANCY CENTRE

The Escencia Centre are excited to announce that they are officially launching their Virtual Pregnancy Centre to support women, men and babies in Wagga Wagga and surrounding areas.

**The launch date is the 16th June, on the feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.**

The Virtual Centre will provide crisis pregnancy options coaching and material support via phone, zoom and home visits. With the long term plan to open a face to face Centre in Wagga.

They can be contacted via phone on 0491 727 795 or via their website at [www.escencialifecentre.org](http://www.escencialifecentre.org) which is shared with

Albury's Escencia Life Centre.

They are being supported by the Escencia Life Centre Albury, Bishop Mark Edwards OMI and Pregnancy Help Australia as they embark on this new mission.

**There will be prayers and blessings for the Wagga Centre at St Michael's Cathedral Wagga Wagga on Friday 16th June at 6pm Holy Hour.**

Together will bring you more of this event in the July issue.



# YANCO CHURCH CENTENARY

St Patrick's church Yanco was packed at its full capacity on Sunday 11th June 2023, when parishioners, families, visitors and friends, all joined in the celebration of their church's centenary.

**It was a beautiful day. Clearly, the heavens were smiling down on us as we had the most beautiful weather you could ever ask for.**

The centenary celebration started with a Eucharistic celebration of the Mass led by Bishop Mark, who in his homily highlighted the theme of the day's readings "One Bread, one Body", stressing the gift of faith which has brought the faithful together as one body as they work together in building God's kingdom and in supporting one another.

Fr Christian Obiekwe, the parish priest, warmly welcomed everyone and thanked all the parishioners, visitors, the families and friends for a huge turn-out. Fr Christian expressed his heartfelt gratitude for the outpouring of love and generosity shown by not only parishioners of Yanco, but also from many from Leeton who helped in so many ways to make the occasion such a memorable and joyous one.

The ceremony as anticipated was a huge re-union for families, friends and school mates. We had

visitors who travelled from all over Australia. After the Mass, the guests and families had the pleasure of walking through the church grounds to glance through all the memorabilia.

Later on, we enjoyed a beautiful lunch at the Yanco All-Servicemen's Club. Many memories were shared there. Everyone who attended commented how lovely and beautiful the ceremony was. It was well done. This is credit to the leadership of our hardworking priest Fr Christian and the great team working with him.

**We are so grateful that we are blessed in so many ways at our centenary celebration, and we give thanks to God for all the blessings and graces that we received through it.**





# INAUGURAL PARISH SECRETARIES DAY

On Tuesday 30 May, Parish Secretaries from across the Diocese came together for a day of connection, collegiality and information sharing.

**Our Parish Secretaries play a vital role within our network. They ensure our parishes are organised and running smoothly as they support our priests in their work as our spiritual shepherds.**

Thirteen Secretaries met with Bishop Mark Edwards and Monsignor Doug George from Coolamon Parish, and were joined by Jeanette Watts, Jana Gulino and Karen Williams from the Diocesan Chancery.

Bishop Mark gave a presentation on the Plenary Council process and how the Plenary Council Decrees will be implemented through our parishes.

Annemaree Binger - CEO Centacare South West NSW, explained the services offered by Centacare and the ways in which they support the people within our parishes.

Virginia Pattison - Diocesan Safeguarding Manager, explained the NSW Child Safe Standards and her role in supporting our parishes

to maintain our excellent standard of safeguarding practices.

Jane Plum - Diocesan Director Catholic Missions, spoke about the One Heart Many Voices program and showed us how to access Catholic Mission resources for our parishes.

Karen Williams guided the group through some administrative processes and applications available to the parishes.

The group attended Midday Mass at St Michael's Cathedral, celebrated by Bishop Mark Edwards, and finished the day with lunch at Romano's Hotel.

The most valuable part of the day was meeting in person with people we usually only connect with online or over the phone. **Sharing experiences, helping each other and strengthening our connections are the long-lasting benefits that have come from this gathering, and we look forward to making this an annual event.**



Above: Bishop Mark with Secretaries outside St Michael's Cathedral.



Above: Gemma Whitehead and Fran Kernaghan from North Albury.



Above: Maria Mallamace Leeton, Jana Gulino Diocese and Maria Nardi Leeton.



Below: Alison Walton West Wagga, Anna Rossetto Griffith and Susan Voskullen Lavington.

DRESSED BY  
**JACKIE**

**New arrivals for winter**

After 5 wear,  
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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)

# COME MEET OUR HEROES IN HEAVEN

This month at Virtue Ministry we'd like to introduce 5 of our favourite people - our Heroes in Heaven.

BY STINA CONSTANTINE

Founder & Managing Director at Virtue Ministry

**These heroes have left a mark on this earth, our ministry, and our hearts.** We look up to these people, learn from them and continue to be supported by them. You can find out about each one in greater detail over on the blog section of our website by scanning the barcode provided.

The first, and youngest of our Heroes is Br Anthony Freeman. If you've been following our articles in the Together for some time, or attended one of our friendship workshops, you'll be no stranger to Br Anthony. He was a dear friend and a kindred spirit on the mission of living life to the full through embracing and striving to live out the virtues.

Br Anthony was a friend who prayed for our ministry regularly and spurred us on as we exchanged ideas of how we could better serve the church. We even struck a deal that someday he'd be a tour guide for us in Rome or call us out to serve with him at his parish. He was a seminarian preparing for priestly ordination, when on Easter Monday morning, at the age of 30, he was found to have quietly and peacefully died in his

sleep. He published his first book *'One step closer'* earlier that Lent and that same Easter God called him home. He was a friend who prayed for us and those we minister to whilst he was on earth, and we have every faith that as a virtuous friend, he continues to intercede for our ministry today.

Next, we have Agnes, or as I like to refer to her, Little-Giant Agnes. When you read the words of St Ambrose from his treatise *'I will be his, who first chose me for himself... Executioner, why do you delay?'* you get a real sense of the enormity of love in her heart and you can't help but think of her as being such a big soul, even at such a young age of 12. In this blog, I walk you through a reflective piece and invite you into an imaginative exercise of what may have happened had you and I been friends with Little-Giant Agnes and been present at her execution. Agnes' purity of heart, total commitment to the divine bridegroom, and clarity and charity at such a young age, inspires us profoundly.

Pope St John Paul II. He's a pope that will be spoken about for generations to come, not because he was intelligent, or influential (although he was both) but because he loved so beautifully and so deeply, especially young people. His were the words that helped us see just how far we stray in relationships when



Above: Br Anthony Freeman.

we don't have an adequate understanding of love and allow our world to define what only the author of love, God, can define. He inspires us to really examine what is happening in our world. In a culture that thinks using one another, and allowing ourselves to be used physically, emotionally, psychologically, and socially is part and parcel of falling in love, is yet to truly understand what *'Love'* is. His never-ending hope, anchored in the goodness of people being made in the image and likeness of God, resounds in our minds of what all of us Christians who are on a mission to share the gospel are called to - *'The gospel lives in conversation with the culture, and if the Church holds back from the culture, the Gospel falls silent. Therefore, we must be fearless in crossing the threshold of hope...'* - Crossing the threshold of hope - John Paul II.

Next is Joseph, Terror of Demons - Joseph is a curious man - admirable and

attractive, but we know so little about him that we can let our imagination wonder as we meditate. That's exactly what this article is about. I share with you some of my thoughts on Joseph, particularly related to this title given we have no references to Joseph fighting off demons in scripture. What we do see is Joseph taking a moment to consider what he should do when he finds out his beloved Mary is with child. There are plenty of authors over many years who have written on this, and I'm not that learned so these are just my own personal meditations. But I noticed that whether you tend to be someone who thinks Joseph doubted Mary OR you're someone who thinks he didn't see himself worthy to be with Mary, what we do know is that Joseph decided to step aside.

That is a classic Satan move right there. Demons don't care what

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18



Above: Joseph and Mary.

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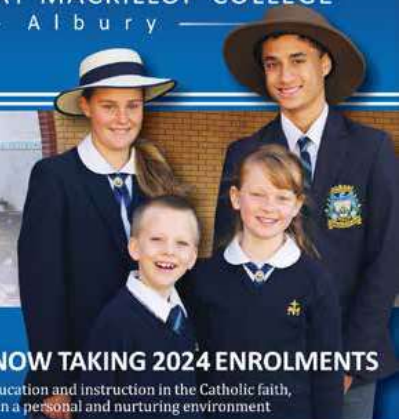
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# SEMINARY LIFE IN FOCUS

The seminarians at Vianney College have been very busy of late. Here a few photos capturing their last couple of months.



Above: Olive picking in the winter sun.



Above: Seminarians adoring Our Lord in the Eucharist.

Below: Cooking up a pizza storm in the Vianney kitchen.



Above: Palm chopping.



Above: Patrick Drum enjoys a quiet moment of prayer.



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# MCC CLUB CABARET

Marian Catholic College held their *Club Cabaret: 'A Night at the Theatre'* on 12 and 13 of May. The students performed well known hits from various musicals over the years.



# RENOVATIONS OF OUR LADY OF POMPEII CHURCH

Our Lady of Pompeii Church in Yoogali is a NSW State heritage-listed building, but more importantly it is a living part of the history of our Catholic Diocese. It is currently getting 'a new lease on life' with major roof renovations underway.

---

BY FR PETER STOJANOVIC

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**The church in Yoogali was built with rocks in a traditional way, modelled on a church dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary in the northern Italian region of Treviso: Chiesa della Visitazione di Maria (Cavaso del Tomba).** Despite its solid start, over the years storms have taken a toll on the church and maintenance has been an ongoing challenge. Bartolo and Rosena Negro put down the first 20 pounds towards the church

although he was accused of taking Crown resources.

Inspired by faith filled desire and a lot of ingenuity, local Italian immigrants joined forces to donate a lot of help and heart to construct the church within only a year. The church's foundations were blessed in the month of the Holy Rosary, October 1939, by Bishop Henschke, and the first public Mass was celebrated in April 1940 with a full attendance of young and old.



Above: Scaffolding is placed around the steeple.

in the Yoogali village, dropping the water table and negating the problem. But considerable damage had already been done to the floor behind the altar and needed repair.

It took five years for the first bell to be set in place, donated by the famous Archbishop Mannix of Melbourne. It was rung for the first time on August 15, 1945, and for the following two hours by young

in 2020. Still, after eighty years of service to the community, in the spirit of Saint Francis our parish Patron, a mission to repair the church in our times is ongoing and hopefully the church will be even stronger for its centenary in 2039.

It has been patched up many times over the years but Our Lady of the Rosary of Pompeii Church remains rock-solid as the first Italian community



Above: Restoring the roof.

Below: A crane was needed to get to the steeple.



fundraising. The whole Italian community then chipped in. The Ceccato family were local practicing Catholics and also builders. They were awarded the contract to build the church in Yoogali. Work began to the glory of God. Antonio Bugno with his A-Ford truck brought rocks down from the Griffith Scenic Hill,

On completion, the church walls appeared to bow (bulge) outwards. Very quickly two Confessionals were built on either side of the church to buttress it. Then there were salinity seeping problems and rising damp with a high water table, threatening to crumble the church. The local council put in place town sewage

and old as the message of "PEACE" was shared with the world. Peace has continued to resonate in the prayerful atmosphere of Our Lady of the Rosary of Pompeii Church in Yoogali.

In recent times the church has sustained damage from major flooding in 2012, and a roof collapse

built church of 'the Catholic faith' in Australia, and is listed on the Griffith Italian heritage trail. **If you are in town why not make a visit in the spirit of the Madonna, whose statue over the entrance gently holds out Rosary beads, and pray for peace.**

# HUNDREDS FEARED DEAD AFTER CYCLONE MOCHA IN MYANMAR AND BANGLADESH

The intense Cyclone Mocha crashed through Myanmar and southeastern Bangladesh, making landfall between Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh and Myanmar's Sittwe with winds of up to 210 kilometres per hour.

**It is the biggest storm to hit the Bay of Bengal in over a decade.**

There are 40 confirmed deaths so far, but fears that hundreds more may have died in Myanmar. More than 400,000 people were evacuated in Myanmar and Bangladesh.

The powerful storm surges brought flooding to the port town of Sittwe in Myanmar, where streets were turned into rivers. Before the cyclone, at least 6 million people were in need of humanitarian support and about 1.2 million were displaced across Rakhine state and the northwest of Myanmar (OCHA).

In Bangladesh, many of the Rohingya refugees live in sprawling camps prone to flooding and landslides, with approximately one million Rohingya living in Cox's Bazar, the world's largest refugee camp. Bangladesh's government does not allow Rohingya refugees to leave the camps or build permanent

structures, so the flimsy bamboo and tarpaulin structures are vulnerable to extreme weather.

So far, more than 1,300 shelters in Cox's Bazar have been reported as destroyed or damaged, as well as 16 mosques and learning centres, however there are no immediate reports of casualties. There are also concerns for hundreds of Rohingya refugees housed on island facility in the Bay of Bengal, called Bhasan Char, which is highly flood prone. Communications remain limited and reports continue to flow in.

"For such a powerful cyclone to hit not just one, but two areas where millions of people are already highly reliant on humanitarian aid is a serious challenge," said Melville Fernandez, Caritas Australia's Humanitarian Associate Director.

"Many communities in Myanmar and Bangladesh have already faced displacement, flooding, cyclones,



*Cyclone Mocha crashed through Myanmar and southeastern Bangladesh.*

COVID-19 and a cost-of-living crisis, and their coping capacity is eroded by the succession of challenges that they've faced in just a few short years."

Caritas Australia's partners on the ground are coordinating with government and other aid organisations to assess the damage, and will focus on providing food, shelter, clean water and cash assistance to the most impacted communities. Caritas Bangladesh has capacity to shelter more than 150,000 people in cyclone shelters and has an extensive staff and volunteer

network ready to respond across the affected areas.

**Visit [caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/myanmar-cyclone/](https://caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/myanmar-cyclone/) or call 1800 024 413 toll free to provide much needed support to Asia by donating to our Asia Emergency Appeal.**







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# CELEBRATING THE ERINEARTH COMMUNITY

## Winner of the 2023 NSW Environmental Citizen of the Year Award

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

On World Environment Day, the ErinEarth community has been recognised for its efforts to restore and care for the environment, and to promote sustainable living,

as the winner of the 2023 NSW Environmental Citizen of the Year Award.

Reflecting on the Award, ErinEarth Administration and Communications Officer, Michelle Burton, said

“Twenty-five years ago, the ErinEarth site was two crumbling asphalt tennis courts and a rubbish dump. However, Presentation Sisters Carmel Wallis and Kaye Bryan saw the potential for something more and took action. With support from



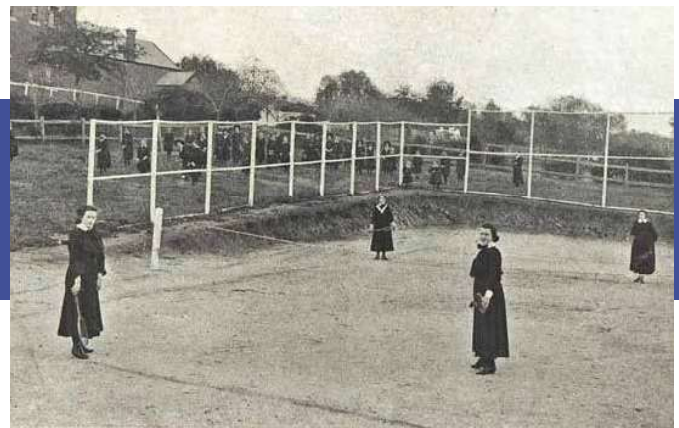
the Wagga Wagga community, Carmel and Kaye turned a local wasteland into a beautiful half-hectare garden, which is now home to many plants and animals native to the Riverina, while also being a place of wellbeing and healing.”

The Award recognises ErinEarth’s efforts in delivering nature- and sustainability-based education sessions for schools and the community; engaging volunteers in weekly gardening programs; welcoming visitors to open garden

and workshop events; and supporting community wellbeing across a range of age groups and ability levels, especially through partnerships with other local not-for-profit organisations.

**See the full list of finalists for the 2023 NSW Environmental Citizen of the Year Award at [www.australiaday.com.au](http://www.australiaday.com.au) reflecting the many individuals and organisations working to make a positive change and to create hope and optimism for our planet.**

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




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motivations or intentions any of us have, so long as we leave God's side, and do not follow the will of God. Joseph was convinced the right thing to do was to walk away from Mary, and consequently Jesus who was in her womb - walking away from God. But God, ever the faithful shepherd pursued Joseph's heart at a place of rest and peace, in his dream, sending his angel with a clear message 'take Mary your wife' (Mat 1:20) and he, in obedience, did just that - doing the will of God. I cannot imagine the internal battles Joseph would have fought, and to have been able to stand by Mary and Jesus regardless of that at every turn for the rest of his life, Yes!, that rightly makes him Joseph, Terror of Demons. This is a man we want by our side, to help us fight the spiritual battle for our soul and those we are responsible for ministering to.

Our final Hero in heaven is none other than Mary, Help of Christians - our dearest and most beloved mother. She accompanied her son on his mission, and like the disciples, we too at Virtue Ministry want her by our side, to accompany us on the mission God has called us to, especially as we're in the work of human formation.

As a Christian Ministry, we were drawn to this title of 'Mary, Help of Christians' because she cares for all of us, regardless of the denomination we may be part of. She's invested in our well-being from heaven precisely because her Son is totally invested in us. She makes it her business to pray for us, intercede for us and draw us ever



Above: St Agnes.

closer to Jesus.

She's also the ideal model of a Christian life. One which is open to the grace of God operating in our lives, firstly by allowing God to enter our hearts and then to transform us, our lives, and then others. What we hope to learn from Mary is best summarised in the words of Fulton Sheen 'Let God do to your soul, what Mary let him do to her body, namely - Let Christ be formed in you.'

Scan the code on the right to access the blog series.



Scan Code

Below: Pope John Paul II.



# 'END THIS PAYROLL TAX GRAB'

National Catholic Education's executive director Jacinta Collins said the Victorian Government needs to end the payroll tax grab from non-government schools, which could impact on around 20,000 Catholic school students and their families.

**"The notion that government schools pay payroll tax is a nonsense asserted by senior members of the Andrews Government, and now repeated by some education and tax commentators," Ms Collins said.**

"This is evidenced by the long-standing exemption provided to State School Council employees\*, and any suggestion of payroll tax for other government employees is a circular argument - the government sector just pays the tax to itself."

Ms Collins said, we now discover universities have been given a fresh payroll tax exemption to offset the impacts of COVID-19, while schools, who have also been impacted by the pandemic, are picking up the tab.

"Suggestions of a 'sweetheart deal' are disrespectful and imply an impropriety by schools who are highly-regarded, not-for-profit entities.

"There is no well-established delineation between high fee and low fee schools," she said. "Catholic schools appreciated the support some of them received for small group tutoring, and many continued to provide for families during COVID-19 with fee relief and other supports without the government's support, while also alleviating the burden on the taxpayer.

"Nor did Victorian Catholic schools complain when they did not benefit from JobKeeper because their private income was considered too low. It's an absurdity that they are now classified as high fee schools," Ms Collins said. "In some cases, schools might pay more in payroll tax than they receive in state government funding."

Ms Collins said there are serious implications for the federal funding model which carefully delineates the capacity to contribute of families who choose to send their children to a non-government school on a scale between 10 and 80 per cent.

"The model is an agreed long-term funding arrangement between federal and state governments established in 2013.

"The \$8,000 threshold is at the midpoint of minimum fee expectations, impacting on schools who are only charging moderate fees.

"Most of our Catholic schools set fees moderately above the minimum fee expectation so they can provide fee relief and other support for families in need.

**"The Victorian Government needs to seriously rethink this impact on non-government schools and their families."**

\* School Level Payroll Requirements, p 10

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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.



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# SCHOOLS IN OUR DIOCESE

## St Joseph's School, Junee

Stage 2 at St. Joseph's Primary School, Junee STEAM challenge was to make an animal shelter out of newspaper



## St Peter's Primary, Coleambally



Congratulations Stage 2 on a beautiful Sacrament of First Holy Communion! We are so proud of you. A massive thank you to all our parents, grandparents and teachers who helped the children prepare for the day; especially Mrs Fraser and Mrs Pound.



## Mater Dei Primary, Wagga



We really enjoyed our Plunkett House day celebrations! Thank you to our Year 3 students for leading a beautiful Pentecost mass and the Year 10 MDCC students for facilitating our tabloid afternoon!



## St Patrick's School, Albury

Peer Support was another great success! The students had so much fun and it's absolutely wonderful witnessing new friendships and relationships form amongst the students in K-6. The games ensured plenty of giggles and participation! Well done to our Yr 5 & 6 leaders for the fantastic job that they do!



Catholic  
Education  
Diocese of Wagga Wagga

All schools enrolling now

# All Saints Primary, Tumbarumba



Who doesn't love Autumn?

# St Joseph's Primary, Culcairn

We had a beautiful ceremony on June 8 for our young people's First Reconciliation.

A big thank you to Fr Martin for joining us!



# St Mary's Primary, Yoogali



Stage 1 are loving their literacy lessons; consistency, support, encouragement and enjoyment are key!



# Mater Dei Catholic College, Wagga Wagga

Well done to all students who represented the College in recent AFL Competitions. You played in the Mater Dei Spirit and even though some teams didn't come away with the win you should all be proud of your efforts!



# 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**  
Monday to Friday 6:00pm (Weds & Thurs Syro-Malabar)  
Wednesday - 10:00am

**Weekday Masses - Calvary Hospital**  
Monday-Friday - 8:00am (except public holidays)  
**Aged Care Facility Masses Forrest Centre**  
Every Thursday - 11:00am

**Monthly Masses**  
1st Tuesday 11:00am Signature  
Wagga Community Aged Care  
2nd Tuesday 10:30am RSL Village  
3rd Tuesday 11:00am Nan Roberts - The Haven  
4th Tuesday 10:30am Anointing Mass  
Henschke Hall  
**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 Tumarumba 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

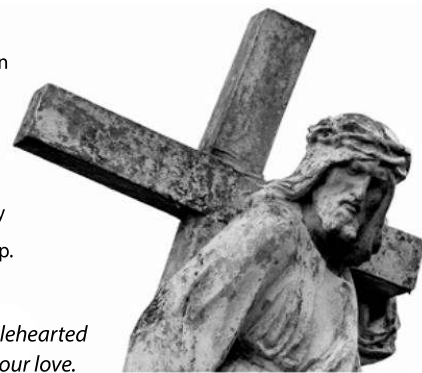
**Our Lady of the Rosary of Pompeii**  
17 Edon Street, Yoogali  
Sunday - 10:00am  
**St Anthony's - Hanwood**  
Saturday Vigil - 5.00pm  
Sunday - 8.00am  
**St Therese's - Yenda**  
Saturday Vigil - 6:30pm  
**Weekday Masses**  
Tuesday - 8.00am - Hanwood  
Wednesday - 8.00am - Hanwood  
Thursday - 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 JUNE

- 2 June 1934** Fr Peter McAlroy
- 6 June 1912** Fr Edward J Fallon
- 6 June 1926** Fr John Fleming
- 7 June 1967** Mgr Bryan William Hayden
- 9 June 1920** Mgr Michael Buckley
- 10 June 1981** Mgr John Joseph Harper
- 12 June 1928** Fr Patrick Hickey
- 18 June 1933** Fr Terence O'Shaughnessy
- 19 June 1966** Fr Albert Colletta OFM Cap.
- 27 June 1985** Fr Henry Theodore Josko

*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

### 18th June - Eleventh Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle A

**Every person in the Church is sent by Christ to do the work that he did.** This task can seem daunting. Yet when we have learned to work together with others to achieve a common goal, we have learned something of what it means to do the work of Christ. The family is one such place in which we work with others, sharing a common task and a common goal.

As family members gather, invite each person to reflect upon their contributions to family life. Invite each one to share one or two things that they do to help keep your family life flowing smoothly. Take time to thank one another for the contributions each person makes to your family life.

Invite a family member to read aloud today's Gospel, Matthew 9:36-10:8. In this Gospel, Jesus sends the disciples to proclaim the kingdom of heaven. Point out that the disciples are called to work together just as family members must work together. Pray together that your family will always work together as a family to help one another. Pray that your family can be a model for other families. Pray together the Lord's Prayer.

*Exodus 19:2-6a Psalm 100:1-3,5  
Romans 5:6-11 Matthew 9:36-10:8*

### 25th June - Twelfth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle A

**It is not only individuals who need reassurance about God's love and protection. Communities need this reassurance as well, including the community of the family.** Children rely on the confidence of their parents for this assurance. Parents can help the entire family's growth in trust and confidence in God by witnessing ways in which daily family needs are entrusted to God's care.

As the family gathers, distribute pieces of paper to each person. Tell them to write or draw ways in which they believe that God's help is needed for each person and for the family as a whole. Each slip of paper can then be collected in a basket.

Invite one member of the family to read aloud today's Gospel, Matthew 10:26-33. Recall together how well God knows your family and thank God for this wonderful grace. Conclude by praying together for each of the needs identified on the slips of paper. After each need is read, pray together, "God, we trust you because you know us so well." Conclude by praying the Glory Be to the Father.

This practice might become a regular part of your family's prayer. Set the basket in a place of prayer and encourage family members to add other needs throughout the week. Perhaps your family can pray for these things together during a family meal.

*Jeremiah 20:10-13 Psalm 69:8-10,14,17,33-35  
Romans 5:12-15 Matthew 10:26-33*

### 2nd July - Thirteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle A

**One can tell a lot about a family by the way they welcome others into their home.** Despite parental efforts to elicit the best behavior from their children, family efforts to entertain guests are sometimes difficult. Practicing a spirit of Christian hospitality within the family can be an occasion to reflect upon the importance of this virtue. A family spirit of hospitality is a sign of faith.

When your family gathers, ask each person to consider the following questions about manners: What does it mean to be a good host? What does it mean to be a good guest? Invite each person to share their thoughts and experiences about being a guest or a host. When

they have finished, read aloud today's Gospel, Matthew 10:37-42.

Ask family members to describe what Jesus says about hospitality extended to his disciples. (Those who receive Jesus' disciples also receive Jesus himself; hospitality to Jesus' disciples will be rewarded.) Then encourage family members to talk about what it means to be a good guest or a good host. You might also talk about ways in which your family's hospitality might be improved upon. Conclude in prayer together that your family grows to be one in which Christian hospitality is experienced by all. Pray together the Lord's Prayer or today's Psalm.

*2 Kings 4:8-11,14-16a Psalm 89:2-3,16-19  
Romans 6:3-4,8-11 Matthew 10:37-42*

### 9th July - Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A

**In today's Gospel, Jesus teaches an important lesson for families: from the youngest and simplest among us we can learn the most profound insights about God.** Parents who are attentive to this reality can learn much from their children even as their children are learning from them. Families who create time and space for encounters with God will enrich the faith of all who share in family life.

Gather as a family and read together today's Gospel, Matthew 11:25-30. Allow time for each person to reflect on what Jesus reveals to us about God. Invite each person to show these things in a creative way, perhaps through a picture, poem, or some other means. Share these with one another. Conclude in prayer together, thanking Jesus for making God known to us. Pray together the Lord's Prayer or today's Psalm, Psalm 145.

*Zechariah 9:9-10 Psalm 145:1-2,8-11,13-14  
Romans 8:9,11-13 Matthew 11:25-30*

# 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)

