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JULY 2023

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TOGETHER
IN THE DIOCESE OF WAGGA WAGGA

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He who seeks finds (cf Matt 7:8)



Dear sisters and brothers,

On Thursday 20th, I left for World Youth Day with 31 other people from the diocese. Joining with 15 young pilgrims from the Oblates, and going via the Holy Land, we could well be by the shore of Lake Galilee or in Jerusalem when you read this. Our final goal is prayer, adoration and Mass with the Pope and perhaps 1.5 million other pilgrims in Lisbon.

There is a long history of Christians going to a holy place FOR A REASON. Penitents walked the Camino for forgiveness or to Rome for a particular grace – which bishops still do on their ad limina visits. Travel to the Holy Land was important from the earliest days.

While each of our pilgrims will be going for her or his own reason, for most of us the reason will be a variation of wanting to have a

deeper, more real, more authentic relationship with Jesus.

If we are still at the stage where we were years ago in our relationship with God, that would be wrong, wouldn't it? Because God wants to take us to a different place in our relationship with him and in our prayer. Where does God want each one of us to be?

The basic mode of spiritual life for many in our age is the quest. Authenticity drives us and this makes us seekers. We have to find out who God made us to be and to be true to that. Each of us has to discover our own route to Jesus; it is not enough that our parents and grandparents were Catholics or that we went to a Catholic school.

Jesus is always calling us to be his intimate and personal friends in the Church, inviting us to experience wholeness and spiritual depth. As much as those on our pilgrimage want to encounter and love Jesus, he wants this even more. And Jesus promises us that *He who seeks finds* (cf Matt 7:8)

We don't do this alone. The Church offers to accompany the pilgrims on this journey – we have companions and a guide – just as it accompanies us in Wagga. It is a part of our daily Catholic Christian life.

What a pilgrimage adds is a physical journey to this spiritual quest. The pilgrimage is not just "a journey to a place of religious interest." Alone or with others, it is a physical component of the path of one's heart toward God.

Our pilgrimage isn't tourism, a holiday or a business trip, therefore. We go with faith expectancy and searching for wholeness. Silence will be used to create an internal sacred space and ritual will externalise the change within.

The Wise Men of the East ... represent the setting out of humanity towards Christ, they inaugurate a procession through the whole history. They are not only the people who have found the way to Christ. They represent the interior desire of the human spirit, the encountering of religions and human reason with Christ.

(Pope Benedict in Jesus of Nazareth volume 3)

I have three goals for the Wagga pilgrimage:

1. That everyone returns safely.
2. That each person has multiple opportunities to encounter the risen Christ (and takes some of them up).
3. That each of us come to know or, for those who do know become clearer and more confirmed in, the personal vocational call Jesus has for us.

We are going on this pilgrimage to ask God for the help needed to live more generously our own Christian vocation once back in our homes.

I ask your prayers for the pilgrims and promise you our prayers.

If you'd like to follow our journey please visit our newly created Facebook page: Catholic Diocese of Wagga Wagga.

Most Rev Mark Edwards OMI
Bishop of Wagga Wagga

To go on pilgrimage is not simply to visit a place to admire its treasures of nature, art or history. To go on pilgrimage really means to step out of ourselves in order to encounter God where he has revealed himself, where his grace has shone with particular splendour and produced rich fruits of conversion and holiness among those who believe. Above all, Christians go on pilgrimage to the Holy Land, to the places associated with the Lord's passion, death and resurrection.

(Benedict XIV)

PRAYER INTENTION FOR JULY - PRAY WITH POPE FRANCIS

For a Eucharistic life.

We pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way and opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters.

Visit this link to hear the Pope deliver his monthly prayer:

<https://thepopevideo.org/>



Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network
APOSTOLIC PRAYER NETWORK
<https://www.popesprayer.va/>

We pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way and opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters.

I'm a husband, a dad, a son and a professor. At times, it's hard to integrate all these various gifts and responsibilities into a coherent whole, especially because I'm an American Irish Catholic. Therefore, I'm always a little bit guilty, wary that I'm failing in each of these roles. Perhaps, I'm an average husband, a mediocre dad, a rather terrible son, and an absentee professor.

It is in the Eucharist that I receive an answer to my (sometimes self-absorbed) worries. My life, in the end, is not about me. It's not about how excellent of a husband, a dad, a son, or a professor I am. Rather, my life is about gift. If I live according to the gift of the Eucharist, the self-giving love of the Word made flesh, I will become the integrated person I hope to be.

All of this is rather good news. The presence of our Lord is gift beyond gift. The Lord's sacrifice is available in my parish,

where the sacrifice of the Mass is offered. There, he gives Himself to me in bread-once-bread and wine-once-wine. But further, he invites me to make a return gift of myself. My whole self, Tim, the husband; Tim, the dad; Tim, the son; Tim, the professor.

Lift up your heart, Tim, to the Lord. Leave nothing behind, because I, Jesus Christ, gave it all.

That's the integrating center. It's not a magical solution found in a self-help manual. It's becoming the gift that you receive in Jesus.

This is the Eucharistic life. It's making every moment of every day an offering back to the Father through the Son in the unity of the Spirit. It's not my own work, which is why I go again and again to Mass. I receive that I might give to others. And every gift I give is completed in the mystery of the Eucharist.

I'm a husband, a dad, a son and a professor, but most of all, I am to become the gift that I receive at every Mass.

Timothy P. O'Malley

Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (United States)

WAGGA WAGGA PILGRIMS PREPARING FOR WORLD YOUTH DAY IN LISBON

World Youth Day is an international event that brings together young Catholics from around the world to celebrate their faith, connect with one another, and deepen their spiritual journey.

BY DR SANDRA HARVEY

In 2023, the city of Lisbon in Portugal was chosen as the host for this significant gathering, and preparations have been underway since 2022 for the Wagga Wagga Pilgrims, a group of enthusiastic and devoted young Catholics to embark on this life-changing journey.

On Saturday 10th July Bishop Mark presided over a commissioning mass for the pilgrims that was held at St. Michael's Cathedral. This was a deeply significant event, uniting the individuals on their spiritual journey. The mass enveloped the participants in prayers, hymns, and blessings, kindling their spirits and fostering a sense of divine guidance. This sacred ritual nurtures the pilgrims' faith, strengthens their resolve, and imparts a profound sense of unity as they embark on their pilgrimage, carrying with them the blessings and support of the Wagga Wagga community.

The pilgrim group consisting of Gabriel Abdala, Patrick Drum, Margaret Enever, Rohan Fahey, Grace Frede, Rebekah Griffin, Amy Hickey, David Kennedy, Nicholas Kennedy, Luke Kennedy, Melissa Kobold, Rodney Larose, Gerard Letchford, Zoe Manuel, Sarah McIntyre, Kade Moore, Saxon Onions, Rachel Perry, Domenica Polimeni, Joachim Shaw, Gellian Tadeje, Talilotu Uoifalelahi, James Uoifalelahi, Rosemary Vella, Jacqueline Walker, Emily-Jane Woodhead, Emma Thomson and accompanied by Fr. Connell (Chaplain) Emma Boulding (nurse) and led by Bishop Mark, Andrew Watson and assisted by Sandra Harvey will be leaving on July 20th. The Wagga Wagga group will be meeting up with the Oblate Youth Australia and the pilgrimage will begin in the Holy Lands visiting Amman, Mt Nebo, Bethlehem, Ein Karem, Caesarea Maritima, Haifa, Sea of Galilee, Nazareth, Jericho, Dead Sea, and Jerusalem before journeying to Lisbon to attend

the World Youth Day events and concluding with a retreat in Avila, Spain. Pilgrims are certainly filled with anticipation, excitement, and a desire to grow in their faith.

Preparations for the pilgrimage began several months ago. Formation days included team-building activities, spiritual preparations, familiarisation of venues, discussion of the significance of the event, its theme, and how it would impact their lives, in addition to the organisation of logistical arrangements. Pilgrims were encouraged to reflect on their personal faith journeys and to set intentions for their experience. The days provided an opportunity to strengthen their bond as a group, in addition to reminding them that they were not only representing themselves but also their local community and their faith.

Pilgrims have also worked together to fundraise, seeking support from their community, friends, and family members to help cover the costs associated with the pilgrimage. Parish communities have rallied behind the young pilgrims, organising various events and initiatives to assist them in their journey. They are certainly very thankful for the support that has been given.

The theme of World Youth Day 2023, *"Mary arose and went with haste,"* resonated deeply with the Wagga Wagga Pilgrims. Inspired by the story of Mary's visitation to Elizabeth, they embrace the call to respond to God's invitation with urgency and enthusiasm. They understand that their pilgrimage is an opportunity to grow closer to God, to encounter His love through the people they meet, and to bring that love back to their own community.

Please continue to pray for the Pilgrims as they begin their journey.

You can follow their pilgrimage via the newly created Catholic Diocese of Wagga Wagga Facebook page.



"To go on pilgrimage really means to step out of ourselves in order to encounter God where He has revealed Himself".

Pope Benedict XVI

Expression of Interest Membership of the Catholic Education Council and Permanent Committees

The Catholic Education Council (CEC) of the Diocese of Wagga Wagga is established by the Bishop to provide advice relating to Catholic Education in the Diocese according to the Constitution.

The membership of the CEC is a representative group of Diocesan and Professional Bodies both internal and external, linked to Catholic Education.

The membership of the CEC represents a broad spectrum of expertise and experience in a range of fields relevant to the effective oversight of the diocesan education system.

The CEC seeks expression of interest from people across the diocese, particularly parents within CEDWW schools that will enhance the Council's and its Permanent Committees' skill mix and diversity.

In particular we seek skills and experience in the following areas:

- Education (external to CEDWW)
- Legal and compliance
- Finance
- Information technology, particularly cyber security
- Business
- Marketing

The Catholic Education Council meets four times a year across the diocese and members of the CEC may also be a member of a Permanent Committee. These

Committees also meet four times a year.

The CEC has established four Permanent Committees. Each Committee acts as an advisory body to the CEC in relation to the following areas:

- Evangelisation & Religious Education
- Education & Pastoral Wellbeing
- Finance, Audit, Risk & Compliance
- People and Culture

If you are interested in joining either the Catholic Education Council or one of its Permanent Committees please complete the Expression of Interest Form by visiting - bit.ly/cec-eoi-2023 or scanning the QR code.

If you require further information please contact Carolyn Matto or Jenny Wales at cec@ww.catholic.edu.au or on 02 6937 0029.

**Expressions of Interest close
Friday September 1 2023.**



SCAN ME



INSTRUMENTUM LABORIS PUBLISHED

The General Secretariat of the Synod has published the “*Instrumentum Laboris*”, the document that will guide the work of the two-part General Assembly that will meet in Rome in October 2023 and October 2024.

BY CHRISTOPHER WELLS

It can be found at: https://www.synod.va/content/dam/synod/common/phases/universal-stage/il/ENG_INSTRUMENTUM-LABORIS.pdf

This document incorporates the experiences of dioceses from every region of the world. It will be the basis for the work of the participants in the General Assembly of the Synod on Synodality, which begins in the Vatican in October 2023 and concludes with a second Assembly one year later.

Speaking with Vatican News’s Christopher Wells the Relator General of the Synod, Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich SJ, says the *Instrumentum Laboris* is part of the ongoing dialogue within the Universal Church. An extract from L’Osservatore Romano on 23 June 2023 follows.

Christopher Wells: Where does the ‘Instrumentum Laboris’ fit into the journey that we’ve undertaken so far and that we’re continuing on?

Cardinal Hollerich: It is the result of the journey. We have had the journey on many different levels, the local communities, the parishes, the dioceses, bishops’ conference, the continental assemblies, and always there was a kind of dialogue because the text was given

back to people. And the result of all this is this *Instrumentum Laboris*. So it is part of the synodal journey we have done together.

And can you give us a brief overview of what the document is, what people should expect when they pick it up and begin to read it?

So first we have this introduction, this explanation, that there was a journey and that this document is part of that journey and that the other documents should not be forgotten, which have been written on different levels.

And the document is very short. Normally in synods before, the document was like a booklet. Now in English, the main document is 24 pages. That is very short. And then we have the working sheets afterwards, and the whole together would be 60-something pages. So this is a very short document and it’s a working document.

Can you give an example of some of the, maybe, common ideas, proposals, or even challenges that have emerged in the lived experiences of the different Local Churches?

Oh, yes. We see that we have to walk together with all the people. It’s very important. Now who these people



For a synodal Church
communion | participation | mission

are, that’s different from continent to continent. So in Europe, people speak about different identities, which are now part of the sociological discourse in our societies. In other continents, it’s not so important.

We have, however, in all the continents the importance of women in the Church, which gets expressed in a very different way in Africa and in the United States, for instance. But we have to reflect on how women can fully participate in the Church’s life. And this is not a question of ordination of women. It’s much deeper and much more important. It goes to the dignity of baptism. The dignity of baptism is not lesser for women than for men.

But how is this acted in our normal church life? Have women their say, or do they just have to make tea for the men?

How is the ‘Instrumentum laboris’ meant to be used in the coming months leading up to the General Assembly and then at the General Assembly?

First, it is a document for the participants of the Bishops’ Synod. So in this working sheet, there are questions, there are hints for prayer, for prayerful reflection. And the participants have to consider these questions in their own personal prayer. And it would be good if it were not just personal.

But if they can meet with other people, the bishops, with the people of their diocese, the laymen with their colleagues, with priests and so on, that is a communitarian preparation also for the Synod. The Synod wants to be transparent. So it’s not just now a synod for an elite. We have nothing to hide. And therefore it’s good that people know about all of these questions.

The bishops are the pastors of the church. They are in apostolic succession.

And as such they have to complete the discernment.

Some people might be concerned that the Holy Father, Pope Francis, has the final say and the only say. These people might ask if the Pope is going to have the final say, what difference does all of this make?

It makes a huge difference. Of course the Pope has the final say, because we are Catholic and we have to find a Catholic synodality.

So if we compare Catholic synodality with Orthodox or Protestant synodality, there is a difference. For the Orthodox, it’s, first of all, bishops’ collegiality. And for Protestants, it’s very often like a parliament. We are Catholic, so we believe in the primacy of Peter. We believe that there is a collegiality of the bishops. It’s part of the Church’s teaching. And the Church’s teaching will not be changed. But how will this be balanced in a synodal church? That’s one of the points we have to see.

But the Holy Father has accompanied all the different steps of the Synod. We have never taken any decision without submitting it to the Holy Father, and his reaction was always full of confidence. And when I say full of confidence, it’s not confidence, the kind I find in myself, but confidence that the Holy Spirit is guiding the Church. Confidence in all these women and men who express themselves. Confidence that listening is important. Confidence that we all have to work together. How often the Holy Father [has said]: “Everyone, everyone, everyone”. We’re putting the stress on that.

And the Pope, I think, our Pope Francis is a man of Synodality. And I think he deeply inspires us. He deeply wishes a synodal church to be. But a synodal church cannot be imposed.



Above: Cardinal Hollerich.

CHURCH LEADERS IN AUSTRALIA WELCOME SYNOD WORKING DOCUMENT

As the Church approaches the first session of the forthcoming Synod of Bishops, Australian Catholics are being encouraged to continue their engagement with the global synodal journey through prayer, ongoing discernment and local conversations.

On June 20, the Secretariat of the Synod published the *Instrumentum Laboris*, or working document, for the first session of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops – commonly referred to as the Synod on Synodality.

The first session will take place this October; the second and final session is scheduled for October 2024.

Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB, president of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and a member of the Synod's preparatory commission, said it had been an extraordinary process to get to this point, with Catholics across the world helping shape the working document.

"Countless people have invested their hopes, their prayer, their time and their energy in helping the entire people of God consider how we can share in the mission entrusted by God to the Church," he said.

"This is the latest, and an enormously significant, milestone in a journey which

has spanned several years. It represents both an invitation and an opportunity to remain engaged in prayer, reflection and ongoing discernment with all that has emerged so far in what has been an unprecedented worldwide consultation."

Archbishop Costelloe stressed that it will be important, as the Church in Australia is currently doing with the fruits of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia, to consider deeply how the wisdom gathered through this synodal process can be applied in a local setting.

"The unfolding of the synodal journey will offer our dioceses, parishes, schools and other ministries a precious opportunity to consider how they might better carry out in contemporary Australia the mission entrusted to them by the Lord," he said.

"The three central themes for this Synod of Bishops – communion, mission and participation – remain at the heart of this document. We are being invited to

adopt them as a fundamental lens through which we can evaluate all we are doing."

National Synod of Bishops coordinator Trudy Dantis said additional resources will be produced in the coming weeks to help the faithful support the ongoing journey.

"In Australia, we have had the benefit of the Plenary Council in coming to better understand these paths of prayer, discernment and, eventually, decision-making," said Dr Dantis, who is director of the National Centre for Pastoral Research.

"We will be encouraging people to take part in a prayer pilgrimage in the weeks leading up to the first general assembly in October, at which we will have several Australian bishops, as well as lay people, present.

"Our national Synod committee will provide material to help groups that have already been formed around the country continue their efforts to see how a synodal Church can be lived out in their context."

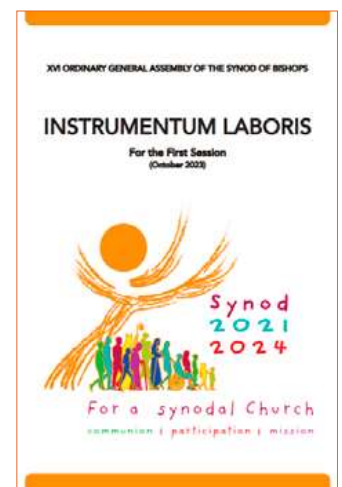
The 15 worksheets that are part of the *Instrumentum Laboris*, and which will guide the work of the Synod assembly in October, will also be useful for local Catholic conversations, Dr Dantis said.

Archbishop Patrick O'Regan and Bishop Shane Mackinlay will attend the Synod of Bishops as the two delegates

of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP will also participate as a member of the Ordinary Council of the Secretariat of the Synod.

Ten other representatives from the Oceania region will also attend the Synod, with those participants expected to be announced in the coming weeks.

Visit the Bishops Conference's Synod of Bishops website for more information:
<https://www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch>




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GRAND OPENING OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION BUILDING

On Friday 26 May Marian Catholic College students and staff invited plenty of dignitaries and guests to come celebrate the grand opening of their long-awaited vocational education building.

BY CAI HOLROYD
The Area News

For the last two years, those driving down Wakaden Street will have seen the construction going on as the college worked on its newest addition - and with the curtains now drawn, students are keen to take full advantage of a woodworking shop, a cafe and an industrial-size kitchen while staff will benefit from a new administration centre. The official title for the vocational education building is The McAuley Technical and Applied Studies Centre.

A long list of guests from branches of government, the Wagga Wagga diocese and Catholic Schools NSW came out to tour the school including Bishop Mark Edwards, Senator O'Brien, Deputy Mayor, Mr Glen Andrezza, Dr Andrew Watson, Mr Mark Glendinning, Mr Steve Wilcox, Mr Paul Boyd and architectural and building partners, representative from CSNSW, Mr Kevin Morrison, to our parish priests Frs Grace and Cyprian, our past principals, including Mr Alan Le Brocque and Mrs Kate Le Brocque, Sr Frances and Angela,

building with Bishop Mark Edwards.

Bishop Edwards said that schools 'just keep getting better' and that he looked forward to returning and seeing students putting the new facilities to use.

"It isn't just a building, it's got 'wow factor' as well ... it's not just the building itself that I get excited about. We want to have the very best that we could possibly have," he said.

School captains Elizabeth Romeo and Lachlan Chant, along with vice captains Jess Moraschi and Charlie O'Sullivan were especially excited to use the woodworking room, but the cafe stood out as the highlight.

"It's ran primarily by students, any student can be a part of it. It's pretty amazing," one said.

"It's good for when you need caffeine in the morning, especially when studying," another joked.

Principal Dr Penny Ludicke said that it was strange to be unveiling the building, having begun the job just this year but that she felt lucky to be able to put it to use.



Above: Bishop Mark Edwards, and school captains Elizabeth Romeo, Lachlan Chant, Jess Moraschi and Charlie O'Sullivan.

They are as good as anywhere in Australia."

Dr Penny Ludicke acknowledged that the opening was on National Day of Healing-Sorry Day and spoke about the project.

"A major project like this begins as something that is grounded in hope-an aspiration for the future and it ends as a reality, a tangible promise for our students and community. Our gospel talks about hope as being something provided by God's benevolence. As Catholic school educators, we believe that God will provide a way forward and in our belief, faith and hope, a dream becomes possible and new pathways are opening up for our students and the community they belong to."

Dr Ludicke acknowledged all those

"The McAuley Centre physically connects to the Marcellin Hall and both together signal to the values of Excellence, Welcome, Inclusion, Service, Stewardship and Community. While we conduct this ceremony in the McAuley Centre, we also acknowledge and celebrate the opening likewise of our Marian Administration Centre, a place that welcomes all, offering belonging, hospitality, spaces to meet, share, plan and support - places for community and places for learning to flourish.

"So in achieving this grand vision, we need to acknowledge and celebrate all of the people and groups who have contributed to this and who have played a part. You together - in time and space and vision, with faith, hope and love have

Below: Dr Penny Ludicke presents her speech.



Above: Fr Andrew Grace and Dr Andrew Watson, Director of Catholic Education Diocese of Wagga Wagga

Griffith Catholic primary principals, Representatives of our Mercy and Marist founders and community leaders, Aunty Mary Atkinson, Catholic Education-Wagga Wagga Senior Leaders, College council members, staff and students.

While Senator Deb O'Neill, who was set to unveil the plaque on the new building had to cancel at the last moment, school captains stepped in and inaugurated the

"We walk on the shoulders of giants."

One of those giants is former principal Alan Le Brocque, who came to see the culmination of the work done under his tenure.

"I'm just excited to see the facilities that the town and the college have got. It gives great joy to come back and see it completed," he said.

"It sets the school up for the future.

who contributed to the centre.

"In opening the McAuley Centre, we also connect back to Marian's early beginnings, its heritage and founding orders - to Venerable Catherine McAuley and the Mercy Sisters-and the connection to St Marcellin Champagnat and the Marist Schools. It is perhaps also fitting that this opening is held on what is traditionally our Founders Day - May 26th.

created this. From the earliest beginnings of this College, to the promises now given to our students through these facilities, you have truly given something wonderful and blessed.

"Now it is our work to use it to continue to grow opportunities, pathways and futures for our students, growth for the College and engagement with our communities."

APPLICATIONS INVITED FOR WOMEN'S STUDY AND MENTORING PROGRAM

Since their foundation and throughout their 166-year history, the Sisters of the Good Samaritan have been committed to the flourishing of women. They have educated girls and women from pre-school to tertiary levels and have been engaged in adult education and adult faith formation. The Sisters are now inviting applications for the fourth year of their Study and Mentoring (SAM) Program.

"The SAM Program has helped me financially, mentally, and spiritually. It has formed me to be a better person, mature in faith, thanks to the mentoring component and the spiritual direction."

Jaren Malales

The program offers financial assistance to a maximum of \$A8000 per year for women undertaking tertiary studies at a recognised theological institution. The grant can be spent on tuition or other expenses associated with the completion of the qualification.

"What attracted me was the spiritual direction. Having mentorship to be able to sound out ideas and talk through success and frustrations is invaluable. There's no

other opportunity to gain something so valuable within the Catholic Church community."

Mandy Hayward

Core components of the program include opportunities for spiritual direction and mentoring. Invitations are also offered for participants to gather to share their experiences and to explore questions arising from their study in conversation with experienced women leaders in the Church.

"I hope that through this program, I will be able to learn from the other participants, learn from their stories and experiences, to share knowledge and resources, and to share in a wider faith community."

Kathryn Pettersen



Above: This year's scholars were warmly welcomed into the Good Samaritan community. Image: Sisters of the Good Samaritan.

Criteria

- Catholic woman aged 30 years and over who are resident in Australia, Kiribati, the Philippines and Japan – countries where the Sisters of the Good Samaritan live and minister;
- An interest in the academic, spiritual and mentoring components of the program;
- Identification of current study being undertaken or a proposed course at a recognised theological institution;
- Evidence of leadership exercised in any context. Leadership experience in a not-for-profit organisation or a faith-based institution will be highly regarded; and
- Special consideration will be given

to women who are experiencing financial hardship or who live in isolated communities.

For further information or to request an application pack, send an email to samleadership@goodsams.org.au

Applications close on 6 September 2023.



VIRTUAL ESENCIA LIFE CENTRE LAUNCHES IN WAGGA WAGGA

On 16 June Fr Sean Byrnes prayed for the Virtual Esencia Life Centre during the Holy Hour on the feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.



Clare Enever, Escencia's Wagga Coordinator, pictured left, was blessed by Fr Sean Byrnes with around 30 people in attendance.

The Virtual Centre provides 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.esencialifecentre.org which is shared with Albury's Esencia Life Centre.



Above: Father Sean Byrnes blesses Clare Enever.

YOUR LIVELIHOOD HELPING SOMEONE FIND THEIRS: CATHOLIC MISSION LAUNCHES WORKPLACE GIVING CAMPAIGN

Secure employment for vulnerable women in Ethiopia is at the heart of Catholic Mission's 2023 Workplace Giving campaign, which launched Wednesday 12 July.

The campaign, which encourages Australian employees to make a pre-tax contribution to vital missionary works overseas, will support vocational training programs in rural parts of the country.

The programs aim to provide young women with the skills to secure stable employment, instead of heading abroad to find work in dangerous and exploitative locations.

"With the launch of our Workplace Giving campaign today, we are sending the message that through our own employment, we can support others in circumstances of great need to secure theirs," says Michelle Ok,

Workplace Giving Coordinator at Catholic Mission.

"With 83% of women in Ethiopia illiterate and economically reliant on men, the ability to gain skills is critical to securing employment and fullness of life," says Michelle.

Tesfaye* is one example of the life-changing opportunities sustained by the 2023 campaign. At age 20, when she should have been entering the workforce, Tesfaye held no formal qualifications or in-demand skills to find secure employment or start a business.

She joined the Kidist Mariam Pastoral Centre in Meki, Ethiopia, where

she is now learning to sew, with hopes of becoming a tailor.

"For young people like me, a profession is something we can change tomorrow. If a woman or an individual has the desire, they can work professionally and be employed. I think it would be a great opportunity for more women to come here and learn," says Tesfaye.

"I think I will probably be in a better position 10 years from now. I will have something better in my life than today."

The Centre was established by lay missionary Maria Jose Morales to provide young women with the opportunity to learn new skills and a trade, leading to their financial independence. It aims to bridge the gap for the women who dropped out of school at an early age and may have found what is called 'vulnerable employment'.

It is one of many projects around the world supported by employees who choose to make a gift to Catholic Mission through Workplace Giving.

"A pre-tax donation to Catholic Mission through Workplace Giving enables us to profoundly change the course of women's lives where they might otherwise be vulnerable," says Michelle.

"We encourage every Australian employee to consider joining this



Above: Lay missionary Maria providing life-changing opportunities to women in Meki, Ethiopia.

program, not only to benefit women like Tesfaye, but also for their own benefit at tax time."

To learn more about Catholic Mission Workplace Giving program and how it can benefit you and vulnerable people overseas, visit catholicmission.org.au/workplace-giving.

**Name changed to protect identity.*

About Catholic Mission

Catholic Mission is the Australian agency of the Pontifical Mission Societies – the Catholic Church's global organisation dedicated to continuing Jesus Christ's mission in the world: that all may have life to the full.

Catholic Mission contributes funding and project support to critical church-run initiatives in Africa, Asia, Oceania, and South America. These include spiritual formation, pastoral care, education, health, sanitation, and agricultural programs. Here in Australia, we form people to go out and be missionary in their professional and personal lives; to pray, advocate and act for those on the margins. Catholic Mission has offices in 27 Australian dioceses.



Together
we can reach out and give life through Workplace Giving

No matter how big or small, your contribution has an impact.

Contact us to learn more
catholicmission.org.au/workplace-giving

BAABAYN ABORIGINAL CORPORATION CELEBRATES THEIR ELDERS FOR NAIDOC WEEK

In celebration of NAIDOC Week 2023, and to commemorate this year's NAIDOC theme 'For Our Elders', Caritas Australia's First Australian partner, Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation, held a cultural event in Mount DrUITT in Western Sydney.

With activities including a smoking ceremony, performances from Garabara Dance Group, Yangkay Cultural Connect and Muggera Dance Group that ultimate focus of the day was to celebrate the elders of Baabayn.

Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation was founded by five Aboriginal Elders from Western Sydney – home to Australia's largest urban First Australian population. The work of Baabayn (which means 'Ancestral Woman' in Gumbaynggirr language) involves initiatives such as Family Group gatherings, a Homework Club, a Mums and Bubs group and a youth group for young First Australians to connect with their Culture.

Janaya Hickey, Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation's Program Manager and Event Coordinator, said:

"NAIDOC week is a significant Event for all Aboriginal people. This week happens annually, it's a week of dance, storytelling and connecting.

Recognising those who did it before us and who will do it after us, keeping culture alive through connections and knowledge. Connected to land, elders and song lines."

"We collaborate with other local services and educate them on cultural protocols by sharing and showing traditions we carry within our heritage. They become our allies and walk beside us to better work with our people and to have better understanding of cultural respect and diversity."

"This year's theme 'For our Elders' is perfect. We learn from the elders, they show us the way, how to maintain our culture and care for land. The land and culture continue to be passed down generations for many years. We come from the soil and will go back."

Caritas Australia works in close partnership with First Australian-led organisations like Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation, to support programs that focus on intergenerational healing,



Above: Garabara Dance Group perform at NAIDOC week celebration at Mt DrUITT themed For Our Elders. Image: Serena Frost

strengthening cultural identity and spirituality, livelihood opportunities, and advocacy.

"NAIDOC Week is a special time for Indigenous Australians. It is a time to rejoice and celebrate our culture, our history and our achievements and this year it is about celebrating our elders and the path they have forged for the generations that follow them," said Christine Rhazi, Caritas Australia's First Australians Associate Director.

"This year with the Voice referendum, we honour their legacy, their suffering, their survival, their

strength and most importantly their hopes."

"What the elders at Baabayn Corporation have done, and continue to do, for their community is irreplaceable. They fill an important gap for young Indigenous women, connecting them to their culture and history. Today, this week and always, we celebrate and give thanks to them," said Ms Rhazi.



The Voice Referendum

'Kitchen Table Conversation'
first & last Friday of the month at
Griffith Community Centre
No booking required
1.30 pm

"We want to provide an opportunity for safe, respectful discussion on the issues underpinning the referendum; and to be able to come to a considered position which cuts through the noise and confusion"

There are two sessions:

- 1. Why Reconciliation Matters**
- 2. Enshrining a Voice in the Constitution**

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 (togetheryes.com.au)

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LEGION OF MARY NEWS



A HOMILY BY OUR SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR, FR STEVEN LEDINICH, ON THE ANNUNCIATION

Today we celebrate the great feast of the Annunciation. We recall how the Archangel St Gabriel appeared to the Blessed Virgin Mary and announced that she was to be the mother of the Saviour.

We recall how St Gabriel greeted her: 'Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee'. This is the first part of the Hail Mary.

The Blessed Virgin Mary was full of grace because she was without sin. This is why God the Father chose her above all women to be the mother of His Son.

Purity of soul is what makes us attractive to God. The Blessed Virgin Mary was immaculately conceived and had no original or personal sin.

'The Lord is with thee.' Someone in a state of grace is close to God. The Blessed Virgin Mary was closer to God than any other human person.

If we want to be with the Lord, in close union with Him, we also should strive to avoid sin.

St Gabriel announced that she will conceive a son, and He will be called Jesus, which means Saviour. His name indicates His mission of saving souls from their sins.

The Blessed Virgin Mary asks how this conception can come about, for she is not married. Further, according to tradition, as St Thomas Aquinas notes, she vowed her virginity to God.

The Archangel explains that it will be by the action of the Holy Spirit: "Therefore, the child that will be born, will be Holy, the Son of God".

The Blessed Virgin Mary responds: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord..." In her humility, she sees herself as a handmaid of God. But she also submits herself to God's Will, whatever it may be. "Let it be done to me according to thy word". She did not fully understand the

plan of God, but she submitted to it.

At her fiat, the second person becomes incarnate in her womb. We therefore on this day especially contemplate the mystery of the Incarnation. St Bernard, in one of his sermons, asks the Blessed Virgin – hurry up Mary, do not delay, give your yes, that the Saviour may enter the world. The whole world waits on your answer.

We wish to imitate the Blessed Virgin Mary in our submission to God's Will for us. Especially in our difficulties and trials, we can say: "Let it be done to me according to Thy word." We shouldn't wish to do our own will, but the Will of Almighty God, especially in keeping His Commandments, faithfully fulfilling the duties for our state in life, following His promptings and inspirations and submitting to His All-Wise Providence in all the circumstances of our life, especially in our trials and difficulties. We ask the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary to help us do this and as Legionaries, to be humble servants of God and Our Lady in the work of saving souls.

ACIES 25th March 2023

The Acies is the main annual function of the Legion. Today we are able to have it on the Feast of the Annunciation itself, the great feast in which we recall the mystery of the Incarnation. Acies means an army ranged in battle. We as Legionaries are the army of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who assist her in the great work of salvation of souls.

The Handbook states that on this day each Legionary renews his/her fealty (a sworn loyalty) to Mary Queen of the Legion. We especially renew our consecration to her as her servants, both in the individual acts of consecration: "I am all yours my Queen and my Mother, and all that I have is yours," and in the collective consecration. We renew the

total giving of ourselves to her so that she may use us in her work of saving souls.

The Handbook gives as the object/purpose of the Legion "the glory of God, through holiness of its members developed by prayer and active co-operation under ecclesiastical guidance, in Mary's and the Church's work of crushing the head of the serpent and advancing the reign of Jesus Christ".

We are Legionaries firstly to give glory to God, and this is through our own personal holiness. Unless we strive for holiness, we cannot be effective instruments of our Lord and our Lady. This is achieved through our personal prayer and in the active works of the apostolate, which the active Legionaries engage in. By this means, we will attain the end of crushing the serpent's head, the ancient enemy of mankind, the devil, and we will advance the reign of Our Lord Jesus Christ. We are living in difficult times in the Church and the world. Evil is in the ascendancy. But we are always hopeful as Legionaries because Our Lord Jesus Christ is the Victor over sin. The Legion, under the Blessed Virgin Mary, is one means He has given to the Church to spread His reign in the world.

The Handbook states that the conversion of souls and their salvation requires us to promote devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Our Lord Is not loved because devotion to the Blessed Virgin is weak.

"Devotion to her is low and thin and poor. It has no faith in itself. Hence it is that Jesus is not loved, that heretics are not converted, that the Church is not exalted; that souls which might be saints wither and dwindle; that the sacraments

are not rightly frequented, or souls enthusiastically evangelised."

Therefore, our task, as Legionaries, must in a special way involve bringing Mary to the world, to promote devotion to her among the people we meet and visit. Especially we should encourage the praying of the Holy Rosary, the favourite prayer of the Blessed Virgin Mary, through which so many graces are given to souls.

The Blessed Virgin Mary is Mediatrix of All Graces. All graces flow from Our Lord through her hands to souls. But she wants to use us as her instruments to bring her to souls and thereby be a great source of grace to others. As the Handbook states: true devotion to Mary must comprise the service of souls. It obliges us to engage in the works of the apostolate.

The Blessed Virgin Mary is a loving mother of souls. We who love and honour her want to assist her in her role of mothering souls, to bring them to her Son and thereby attain eternal life in Heaven. **Let us today renew our devotion to our Heavenly Mother and our desire to co-operate with her in the great work of saving souls.**



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

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

THE END OF A SEASON

This month has been a bit on the quieter side for speaking engagements, but not without some heavy lifting on the podcasting front and on new content for some upcoming speaking engagements.

BY STINA CONSTANTINE

Founder & Managing Director at Virtue Ministry

I had the privilege of sitting down with the bishop and the under 5yrs ordained clergy of our diocese to facilitate a discussion around navigating and getting the most out of mentoring, pastoral supervision, counselling and coaching. It was such a beautiful time sitting with some of our diocesan priests to chat about how we can differentiate between these different resources, maximise their use for growth and development, and find a balance focused on what is needed based on self-knowledge and on the boundaries set in these professional relationships. Thanks to Bishop Mark Edwards, OMI, for inviting me, and trusting me, to run this session for some of his clergy.

The month ended with finishing off Season 3 of the *Living Fullness Podcast* which included a very important conversation on *Teaching our Children 'Consent'* – and how as Christians, this is not a domain we can gloss over as unnecessary. I sat down with *Real Talk's* co-founder, Paul Nannes, to pull apart what Consent in relationships means, and the challenges for Christian parents teaching respectful relationships today. You can find the video episode on YouTube, and the audio episode on all

your usual streaming platforms. Now that the season has come to an end, we are taking a well-earned break for a few weeks before returning in August. It has been a full on few months of recording, new guest interviews and brand-new content. A decent break will allow us to rest, recharge, play and pray about the next season, so that we continue to bring content that is both relevant and beneficial to our Podcast community. The timing has ended up rather perfect with one of our own, Grace Feltoe (currently overseas) who is also volunteering at WYD in Lisbon. You'll be seeing her if you're following our social media.

Season 4 of the *Living Fullness Podcast* will begin in August – Stay tuned to our social media handles to find out launch dates. We are still in need of donors for our Podcast to make these weekly episodes financially viable. If you would consider committing to donating even \$5 per week via our Patreon, it would make a significant difference to our work being able to continue in the new year www.patreon.com/LivingFullness Our higher tier donors also have access to extra content. This month, that includes a behind the scenes conversation with Paul Nannes on Family Tech Agreements.



Stina Constantine and Fr Sean Byrnes taking some time out for a game of Uno.

There's also been some heavy lifting in the background with a lot of prayer and discernment going into curating one of our new series, a Brand-New Course on wounds, personal healing and mission. This course is based on the work of Dr Bob Schucht's (*a Catholic Therapist and founder of John Paul II Healing Center, USA*). The 4-part series will become available to parish communities from September 2023. We will share more next month, but if you're interested in hosting this series for your community or at your parish, please get in touch with us at Contact@VirtueMinistry.org.au

The first course will be run for the parish community at St Michael's Cathedral, Wagga this August.

The following are the details for those interested:

Title:

Be healed in the name of Christ!

Dates:

Tuesdays 15th August,
22nd August, 29th August,
5th September

Time: 7pm

Contact the Cathedral to register.





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- Diocese of Wagga Wagga -



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

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

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HIGHEST HONOUR GRANTED TO SISTERS KAYE AND CARMEL

Sisters Kaye Byran and Carmel Wallis were invited as guest speakers to the Wollundry Rotary regular meeting on the 2nd May 2023, only to be incredibly surprised by being recognised as Paul Harris Fellows.

BY MICHELLE BURTON

Wollundry Rotary President, Phil Burgess, said that “a Paul Harris Fellow award is the highest honour that can be granted by the International Rotary Foundation. It is an honour reserved for those who have met the ideals of Rotary: service to others; promotion of integrity and advancement of world understanding, goodwill and peace.” He went on to say that “The ideals of ErinEarth are entirely consistent with Rotary ideals and the work of ErinEarth, and the Sisters, is an outstanding example of these ideals in practice. An honour

truly well deserved.” Before receiving her Award, Sister Carmel Wallace reflected on the early days of ErinEarth and the influences that shaped her environmental awareness, including the sinking of the Greenpeace boat, The Rainbow Warrior, in Auckland Harbour; attending a climate change conference and learning about an issue she had been largely unaware of; participating in a sustainable living workshop series in Drummoyne; completing a Permaculture Design Certificate; and hearing about Pope John Paul



II inviting religious leaders of all faiths to Assisi, to discuss and pray about the world’s environmental crises.

Sister Kaye Bryan reflected on some of Rotary’s own words, “The magic of Rotary is that it allows ordinary people to achieve the most extraordinary things”, and she explained “that’s what I feel like when I look at ErinEarth today. I feel as though I’ve helped bring something to birth that is vibrant, flourishing, bringing life and addressing important issues of our times.” Kaye went on to describe the beauty of the

ErinEarth garden which “... surprises many as they step in from Kildare Street. People find it can engender a sense of peace. As you wander around you can learn everything from a 13.7-billion-year story of the Universe to how you can grow vegies and waterwise native plants in your own backyard.”

What a wonderful acknowledgement for Sisters Kaye and Carmel to be bestowed this Rotary honour, reflecting 25 years of their vision, passion, commitment and enthusiasm for ErinEarth!

Erin Earth		2023 EVENTS
Jul	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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FIRST COMMUNION

On the weekend of 17 and 18 June, 51 students from St Patrick's Primary School Griffith, made their First Holy Communion. Congratulations to all of the students.



Congratulations to the nearly 70 students from Henschke Primary School who received Jesus for the first time on the feast of Corpus Christi.



THE THERAPY OF A PUBLIC LIFE

More than fifty years ago Philip Rieff wrote a book entitled *The Triumph of the Therapeutic*. In it, he argued that widespread reliance upon private therapy today arose in the secularized world largely because community has broken down.

BY RON ROLHEISER
www.ronrolheiser.com

In societies where there are strong families and strong communities, he contends, there is less need for private therapy. People can more easily work out their problems through and within the community.

If Rieff is right, and I suggest he is, then it follows that the solution to many of the things that drive us to the therapeutic couch today lie as much, and perhaps more, in a fuller and healthier participation within public life, including ecclesial life, than in private therapy. We need, as Parker Palmer suggests, the therapy of a public life.

helplessness.

To participate healthily in other people's lives links our lives to something bigger than ourselves and this is its own therapy because most public life has a certain rhythm and regularity to it that helps calm the chaotic whirl of our private lives which are often racked with disorientation, depression, psychological fragility, paranoia, and a variety of obsessions.

Participation in public life gives us clearly defined things to do: regular stopping places, regular events of structure, a steadiness, a rhythm. These are commodities the psychiatric couch does not provide. Public life links us to

of both psychology and the soul. I asked him one day how one should handle emotional obsessions, both within oneself and when trying to help others. His answer surprised me. He said something to this effect:

"The temptation you might have as a priest is to simplistically follow the religious edict: 'Take your troubles to the chapel! Pray it all through. God will help you.' It's not that this is wrong. God and prayer can and do help. But most paralyzing obsessional problems are ultimately problems of over-concentration . . . and over-concentration is broken mainly by getting outside of yourself, outside of your own mind and heart, life, and room. Have the emotionally paralyzed person get involved in public things—social gatherings, entertainment, politics, work, church. Get the person outside of his or her closed world and into public life!"

He went on, of course, to qualify this so that it differs considerably from any simplistic temptation to simply bury oneself in distractions and work. His advice here is not that one should run away from doing painful inner work, but rather that doing one's inner work is sometimes very dependent upon outside relationships. Sometimes only a community can stabilize your sanity.

chapel, and social areas, and slowly gets steadier and stronger emotionally. And that strength and steadiness come not so much from the theology courses, but from the rhythm and health of the community life. These students get better not so much by what they learn in the classrooms as they do by participating in the life outside of them. The therapy of a public life helps heal them.

Further, for us as Christians, the therapy of public life also means the therapy of an ecclesial life. We become emotionally healthier, steadier, less obsessed, less a slave of our own restlessness, and more able to become who and what we want to be by participating healthily within the public life of the church.

Monks, with their monastic rhythm, have long understood this and have secrets worth knowing: Program, rhythm, public participation, the demand to show up, and the discipline of the monastic bell have kept many a man or woman sane - and relatively happy besides.

Regular Eucharist, regular prayer with others, regular meetings with others to share faith, and regular duties and responsibilities within ministry not only deeply nurture our spiritual lives, they also help keep us sane and steady.



What is meant by this? How can public life help heal us?

In caption: public life (life within community, beyond our private intimacies) becomes therapeutic by immersing our fragility into a social network which can help carry our sanity, give us a certain rhythm within which to walk, and link us to resources beyond the poverty of our private

resources that can empower us beyond our own helplessness. What we dream alone, remains a dream. What we dream with others can become a reality.

But all this is rather abstract. Let me try to illustrate with an example. While doing doctoral studies in Belgium, I was privileged to attend the lectures of Antoine Vergote, a renowned doctor



As a corollary to this, I offer this example: I have been teaching theology in a number of colleges for over 40 years. Many is the emotionally unstable student, fraught with every kind of inner pain and unsteadiness, who shows up at these colleges, hangs around its classrooms, cafeteria,

Robert Lax, who greatly influenced Thomas Merton, suggests that our task in life is not so much finding a path in the woods as of finding a rhythm to walk in. Public life can help us find that rhythm.

REFUGEE WEEK 2023: FINDING FREEDOM

It was a cold Sunday afternoon on 25 June, but people filled Our Lady of the Blessed Eucharist Church at San Isidore for the *Multi Faith Prayer Service For Peace*.

BY JOAN SABOISKY

Hosted by the West Wagga - San Isidore Refugee Committee, Mayor Dallas Tout welcomed everyone to the service.

Following an acknowledgement of Wiradjuri Country, Dallas lit a candle praying, that the just aspirations and hopes for First Nation's People come to fruition.

Dallas then read apologies and a message of welcome to everyone from Bishop Mark Edwards. This included a particularly warm welcome to new arrivals to the city. The gathering moved into the service singing, *Peace is Flowing Like a River*, led by the lovely voices of Gabrielle Robertson, Deirdre Moulden, Sister Audrey, Michael Jones and music by Sister Colleen Maloney.

by representatives of organisations and nations.

Belinda Crain lit a candle for the millions of refugees and forcibly displaced people on the planet.

Neil Barber lit a candle for the newly arrived families to Wagga Wagga including Yazidis from Iraq, Burmese from Myanmar, people from Afghanistan and Tibet.

A number of people lit candles for Nations embroiled in wars, conflicts and unrest:

Rahmatullah Mahseni for Afghanistan, John Moi for Sudan, Maqboola Abraham for Iraq, Ziram Mabu for Myanmar, Tamding Gonpo for Tibet, Peter Saboisky for Ukraine.

Laura Johnston lit a candle for the many support services and workers for



Augusta Bailey former refugee from Sierra Leone, Joan Tilden and Kay Humphrey's from refugee committee enjoy afternoon tea.

in solidarity for peace. Those gathered in the church took a special moment and were powerfully united in silence to reflect and pray for peace.

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

During a prayerful minute's silence we held in mind those who had died in wars, conflicts, terrorist attacks, gang wars, gun shootings and domestic violence. Also remembered were those

and across the world" by promising to respect everyone, reject all violence, resolve conflict, reconcile differences and to rejoice in our diversity so that Peace may prevail on Earth. Amazing Grace was sung.

THE HIGHLIGHT OF WELCOME TO NEW ARRIVALS

Dr Joe McGirr MP gave a thought filled welcome to the new arrivals. He shared a story about a colleague, a



Above: Phillip Tome from Wagga Rotary and Sisters of Charity at the service.

REFUGEE STATISTICS

Peggy Adamson shared the statistics announced by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on 20th June, World Refugee Day.

Last year the highest number ever of displaced people were on the planet. A staggering 108 million people. The largest number were from Ukraine, Syria and Ukraine.

CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY

Joan Saboisky read prayers for various intentions and candles were lit

refugees, asylum seekers and displaced people.

Dr Joe McGirr lit a candle for our nation of Australia.

IN SOLIDARITY FOR PEACE

Wagga has a rich diversity of cultures and faiths. We aspire to live in peace and harmony. Perhaps this is why a very poignant part of the Prayer Service was witnessing the wide diversity of faiths and churches, each with their own histories and traditions, coming and humbly standing together

Below: Candles lit for peace for nations embroiled in wars, conflicts and unrest; Tamding Gonpo lights a candle for his nation of Tibet.



who have died from natural disasters, famine and preventable diseases.

The Prayer of St Francis was sung. Special guest, Deirdre Moulden from the Rotary District Peace Communities was invited to speak.

She shared about the 30 years anniversary since Wagga Wagga became the World's first Peace city. She explained about the Message Stick (Peace Pole) which had been placed on the Sanctuary. It carries the words that promotes the Rotary Peace ideal: "peace begins with me plus you making a difference to ourselves, with others

former refugee from Vietnam, now a MP in State parliament.

Mary Crimmins, Deirdre Moulden, Val Graetz and Rosel Najem, representing the wider Wagga Wagga community, presented each new arrival with a Welcome to Wagga Card made by local primary school children and a small gift of a ceramic bird made at San Isidore.

The service concluded with our National Anthem and an afternoon tea in the grounds of the Church.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

A DISCOVERY!

The sisters of the Missionaries of Charity present at the *Multifaith Prayer Service for Peace* were touched by an aspect of the concept of Peace Cities they didn't know about. Local Rotary businessman, Tony Quinlivan, pioneered the concept. He wrote to many world political and church civic leaders, including Mother Teresa, seeking endorsement and feedback. She wrote back her support and requested the Prayer of St Francis be said at Rotary Peace Awards. This was endorsed and continues to be included at Rotary events.



Above: Peggy Adamson from West Wagga-San Isidore Refugee Committee delivers the latest statistics announced by the United Nation High Commission for Refugee on World Refugee Day. Last year a staggering 108 million people were displaced on the planet because of war, persecution, unrest and climate change. The largest numbers are from Ukraine, Syria and Ukraine.

OTHER SPECIAL EVENTS TO HIGHLIGHT REFUGEE WEEK IN WAGGA WAGGA INCLUDED:

- A moving description in a talk by Tariq, a former refugee from Afghanistan at a gathering at Wagga Wagga City Council to mark World Refugee Day on the 20th June. His presentation reflected this year's theme *Finding Freedom*. Like so many other refugees his amazing story spoke of strength, courage and determination.
- Vinnies Youth Conference held at PCYC a Multicultural Dinner Party on Friday 23rd.
- The annual Family Fun Day hosted by the Multicultural Council on Saturday 24th brought hundreds of people to Henschke Primary. Smiling faces reflected the friendly atmosphere and celebration of our diversity. Families enjoyed a free BBQ lunch, sporting activities, rides, jumping castle and wonderful cultural performances of music, dance and songs.
- The West Wagga – San Isidore Refugee Committee wishes to record a special Thank You and *Mandaang Ginwi* (Wiradjuri) to all who attended and participated. Special gratitude to Dallas Tout and Dr Joe McGirr, Fr Gabriel Murray, Belinda Crain, Thom Paton, (WWMCC), Neil Barber, (Red Cross) and Karen Williams (Catholic Diocese of Wagga Wagga).



Above: A moving time of silent prayer in the service: representatives of Faith and Church communities stand together for solidarity and peace. Each person and the congregation silently prayed in their own tradition for peace in hearts, homes, churches, communities, Wagga Wagga, our nation of Australia and the world. L-R Dr Miriam Gaba, Coptic Orthodox Church. Fr Agathangelos Mateas Greek Orthodox Church. Peir Woon Potowa Buddhist Group. Uttamarao Kawadkan, Hindu Community. Rosel Najem, Marwa, Muslim association for Wagga Wagga. Fareed Delshad, Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'i. Shahab Mahmood, Yazidi Community. Jens Hurley Quaker Community. Ruth Kerr, Uniting Church. Ben Hoitink Generosity Church. Sangi Lal, Seventh-Day Adventist. Rev Scott Goode, Rector Anglican Church South Wagga Parish. Rev Fr Kevin O'Reilly, Catholic Church Community, Deidre Tome, District Peace Communities.



Above and below: New refugees being welcomed. Recent refugee families are Yazidis from Iraq, people from Myanmar (Burma), Afghanistan and Tibet.



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CALVARY'S ICONIC BLUE CROSS REMOVED

As the sun rose over Calvary Public Hospital for the last time, ACT Regional CEO Ross Hawkins said despite the difficult time, Calvary's commitment to the community would never falter.

BY VERONIKA COX
The Catholic Voice

"Today is very sad," he said.

"Calvary has acted with integrity, and while we completely disagree with what the ACT government has done, we will continue to act with integrity to ensure this transition is as smooth as possible for our people."

Mr Hawkins said the iconic blue cross, which was taken down early Sunday morning, had been a source of solace and support for those who entered the hospital.

"It represents our strength and our journey – who we are," he said.

"Staff and patients are dealing

with all kinds of suffering, vulnerability, and loss here, and the cross is important. I see what it means to people."

The large cross, along with the statue at the hospital entrance and the staff memorial stones in the front garden, will be placed into careful storage by Calvary, before the government takes control of the hospital on Monday.

As the cross was being taken down, Mr Hawkins reassured Canberrans that Calvary remained dedicated to the people of the region.



Above: Calvary ACT Regional CEO Ross Hawkins said the cross had been a source of solace and support for those who entered the hospital.

"We are not abandoning the ACT – we are absolutely still here," he said.

"We are committed to this community, and while it is a real shame we have lost this wonderful facility, we are not going anywhere.

Mother of six, Jodie Jayatilaka, watched on as the construction crew slowly removed the cross from the building.

"All my children were born here, and I am sad to see the cross coming down, along with the hope it represents," she said.

"People need help to journey through this because it does feel like a hostile takeover."

The iconic blue Calvary Cross was removed from the hospital early Sunday morning.

Mrs Jayatilaka said it was reassuring to know that Calvary was taking the crosses and memorabilia that meant so much to the Christian community.

"Removing the cross makes me fearful for the future, for the change of culture and philosophy of care at the hospital," she said.

"It was Calvary's care that made us choose to have our babies here. Their services are underpinned by a value of preserving and protecting life."

Calvary National Director of Mission, Mark Green, said the cross was a symbol of love.

"I'm feeling sad. It is the end of a very long journey," he said.

"The cross is a message that everyone on this earth is welcome, and everyone on this earth is cared for, and to see that come down from this hospital, which has been living that out for 44 years, is pretty poignant.

"I hope that the imprint that is still there may remind people of what this hospital was built for and who built it. While Calvary ran it, our message was that you matter, and we care about you."



Above: The iconic blue Calvary Cross was removed from the hospital.

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

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

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

- Learning difficulties
- 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 IN OUR DIOCESE

Sacred Heart Primary, Wagga

Year One have read three mentor texts this term to expose them to different settings Snow, Bush and Beach. This has linked in well with their Geography unit about People and Places. Students were required to pick a setting and use descriptive language to persuade the audience to visit their favourite setting. Their Dioramas and writing reflected their personal experiences in these settings.



Holy Trinity Primary, West Wagga



Holy Trinity Primary students participating in Naidoc Day 2023 - 'For our Elders'.



Holy Spirit School, Lavington



On June 22 the Kinder class were incredibly lucky to have their new Aboriginal Community support teacher Margaret introduce the book Tom Tom in Wiradjuri language.



St Joseph's Primary, Wagga

On June 29 St Joseph's Primary students had a Positive Behaviour Lunch celebrating their raffle ticket winners. Thank you for being positive role models around our school!



Catholic Education
Diocese of Wagga Wagga

All schools enrolling now

St Joseph's Primary School, Finley



The Year 3/4 students had a fantastic time creating a variety of 3D shapes using Connetix tiles. The students then had to record how many faces, edges and vertices/corners each shape had.

The class also split into two teams and had a mini shape making competition. Mrs Phelan called out a 3D shape to build and a student from each team had to try to build the shape as quickly as possible using the Connetix tiles on the floor. Team pyramids were the winners by one point!



St Michael's Primary, Coolamon

Congratulations to St Michael's Primary Stage 3 Mini Vinnie's group on the organisation of the Hot Dog Lunch! It was a very successful day! We are still looking for donations of warm winter coats and blankets and will gladly accept any donations.



St Joseph's Primary, Jerilderie

St Joseph's Primary's fabulous music teacher George retired on June 29. George has taught an uncountable number of Joey students how to play their chosen instrument. His current students celebrated him with a farewell morning tea and a few good laughs! We will miss you George! Congratulations on your retirement! **FAREWELL GEORGE.**



St Joseph's Primary, Leeton



The rain held off for long enough that Year One were able to go and play at Mountford Park as a reward for a wonderful term of learning. We hope you all had a restful and safe break!

Mater Dei Primary, Wagga

Congratulations to Mater Dei Primary Year 4 students making their First Holy Communion. Thank you to their families and the school community for supporting them throughout their preparation.



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 Uranquinity
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
Wednesday & Fridays 9.30am or as printed in the weekly newsletter.
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

TARCUITA

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 JULY

3 July 1991	Fr Owen Cosgriff
5 July 1963	Mgr William John O'Neill
14 July 1880	Fr Michael McAlroy
14 July 1964	Fr Arthur Hugh Percy
16 July 1900	Fr William Bermingham
17 July 1930	Fr Francis O'Looney
20 July 1979	Mgr Brian Boru Gallagher
21 July 1900	Fr Patrick Dunne
22 July 1998	Fr Albert Morgan Stanley
24 July 1932	Fr Daniel Griffin
24 July 2006	Fr John Francis McGee
31 July 2000	Fr Peter Quinn

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



Junior Legion

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

All welcome!

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

Contact:
Caronne 0413 801 616

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

FAMILY REFLECTIONS

23rd July - Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A

Taken together, the parables found in today's Gospel offer both a sobering reminder about the Kingdom of God and words of encouragement. As the wheat and the weeds must grow together until the harvest, so we may not know whether our actions contribute to God's Kingdom until God's final judgment. With this word of caution in mind, we act always in prayer that our actions will be consistent with God's plans. In the parables of the mustard seed and the yeast, we hear words of encouragement. God can bring the Kingdom of Heaven from even the smallest of beginnings. Thus, we ask God to work through us for the sake of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Set aside some time this week to make bread with your family. Show the amount of yeast that is required to raise an entire batch of bread. Observe that little things can go a long way. After the bread has been baked, gather together as a family. Read together today's Gospel, Matthew 13:24-43. Reflect together on what Jesus means when he teaches that the Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed and like yeast. In these parables, Jesus is teaching us that God can work wonders from even the smallest beginnings of the Kingdom of God. This means that even the little things that we do can make a big difference in the lives of others. What are some of the little things that we can do in our family that help to make things better for others? Decide on one action to take together. Pray that God will use your action to make a difference in the world. Pray together the Lord's Prayer.

*Wisdom 12:13,16-19 Psalm 86:5-6,9,10,15-16
Romans 8:26-27 Matthew 13:24-43*

30th July - Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A

Like the person who found the buried treasure and the merchant who acquired the pearl of great price,

we seek to find the signs of the kingdom of heaven in our lives. In fact, we even work to bring about God's kingdom in our actions and in our words. We pray that our family values reflect our pursuit of the kingdom of heaven. As Jesus' disciples, we place everything we value in the service of the pursuit of the Kingdom of God.

As you gather as a family, talk about what your family values. Make a list together of those things that your family considers most important, such as family, friends, faith, trust, and love. Place this list before you as you read today's Gospel in its shorter form, Matthew 13:44-46. In these parables, Jesus teaches us that it is worth giving up even valuable things in order to possess the kingdom of heaven. Look at the list your family made and talk about how these things are important to the kingdom of heaven. What has your family given up to make these values important in your life? As Jesus' disciples, we place everything we value in the service of the pursuit of the Kingdom of God. Pray together for God's kingdom by praying the Lord's Prayer.

*1 Kings 3:5,7-12 Psalm 119:57,72,76-77,127-130
Romans 8:28-30 Matthew 13:44-52*

6th August - The Transfiguration of the Lord, Cycle A

Every family has special moments that they remember and share. In sharing these stories, the meaning and importance of the events develops and deepens over time. This is how it was with the disciples' remembrance of Jesus' Transfiguration. The full significance of what they had seen and experienced could only be understood after Jesus' Death and Resurrection. As Peter, James, and John reflected on the event and told other believers about the Transfiguration, their own faith deepened. Because Matthew, Mark, and Luke recorded the account of the Transfiguration in their writings, we too can deepen our faith in Jesus, the Son of God and our Savior.

Gather as a family and think about some special memories that your family recalls over and over again. Talk about why these moments are important to you. Remember that in the Bible we find many important stories about Jesus. They have been recorded so that we too can learn about him and his teachings, so that we too can come to know and love Jesus, God's beloved Son. Read today's Gospel, Matthew 17:1-9. Discuss as a family how Jesus fulfills the promises that God made to Israel and how God glorified Jesus after the Resurrection. Talk about your family and the promises you have made to one another. Conclude by praying together the Lord's Prayer so that as a family you continue to grow in faithfulness to one another and to your heavenly Father.

*Daniel 7:9-10,13-14 Psalm 97:1-2,5-6,9
2 Peter 1:16-19 Matthew 17:1-9*

13th August - Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A

The mission of the Church is to continue the work of Jesus. The family, the domestic church, participates in this mission too.

Talk about how your family participates in the mission of the Church. Discuss ways in which you seek to reach out to your neighbors and people in need through acts of kindness, mercy, and justice. Then read together today's Gospel, Matthew 14:22-33. Talk about how Peter wanted to be like Jesus, to walk on water like Jesus did. Note that Peter was successful for a time, but then he doubted Jesus, and he began to sink into the water. Talk about how your family's acts of mercy and justice are rooted in your faith in Jesus. Pray together that Jesus will continue to work through your family to prepare the kingdom of heaven. Pray together the Morning Offering or the Lord's Prayer.

*1 Kings 19:9a,11-13a Psalm 85:9-14
Romans 9:1-5 Matthew 14:22-33*

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)

