



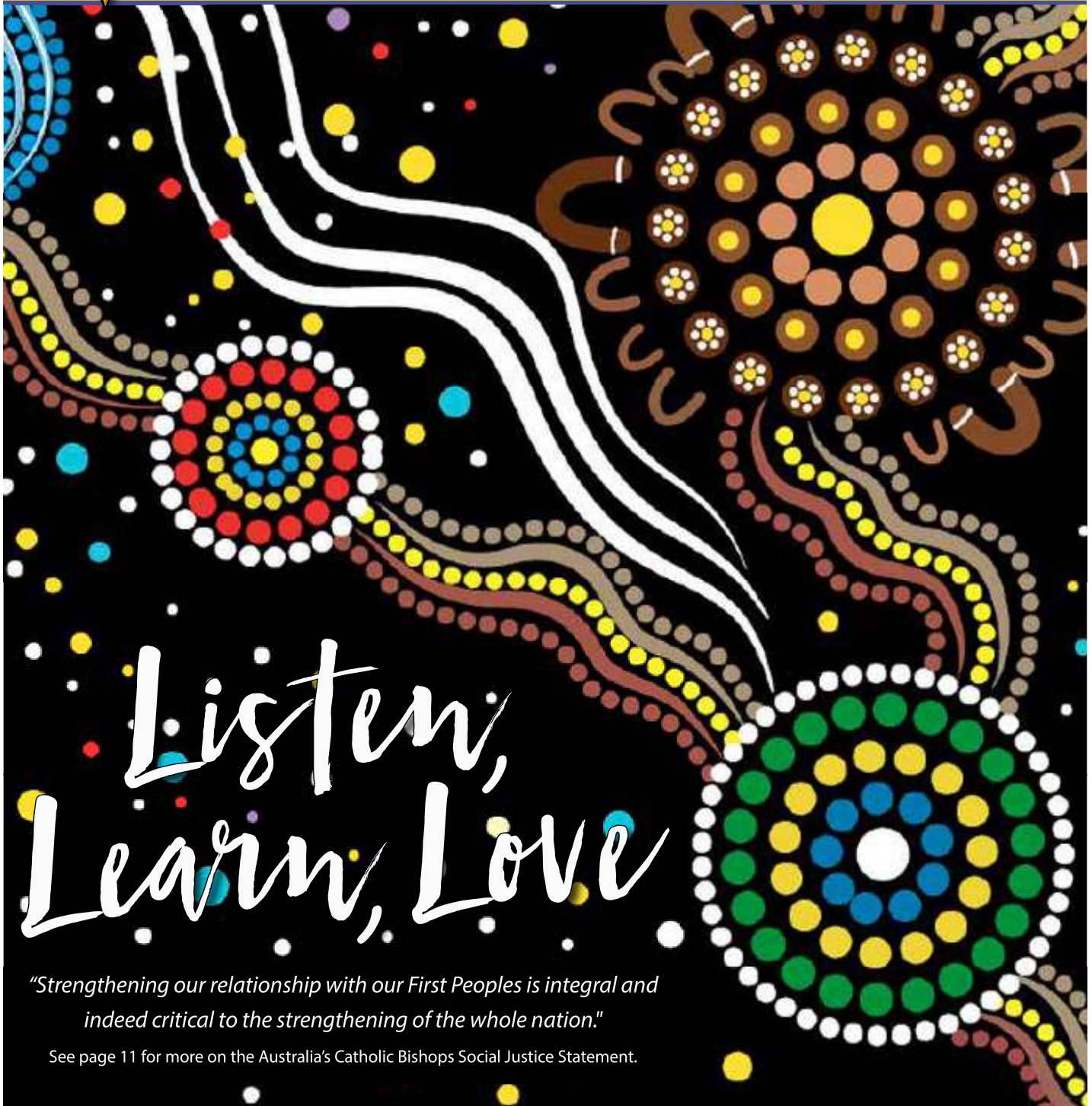
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In the Diocese of *Wagga Wagga*

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SEPTEMBER 2023



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See page 11 for more on the Australia's Catholic Bishops Social Justice Statement.

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TOGETHER
IN THE DIOCESE OF WAGGA WAGGA

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Evangelisation by me?



Arousing faith is a wonderful experience.

A friend told me of a time she was with a group of Year 8 students in a secular context. The talk got around to God and, almost as a thought experiment, my friend asked the students what difference it would make to them if God was real. "I wouldn't have to worry" replied one. "I would have peace" said another. Then the penny dropped and they looked at her and asked: "You don't believe that God is real, do you?" Not only had these young people not met God, they had not met anyone that they knew believed in God. And this gave my friend a chance to share with them what her life with God is like.

This is one example of what evangelisation. Evangelisation is no more than making Jesus known and loved. It is not a word or action we need to be uncomfortable with.

All the Easter texts culminate in the Risen One's sending of the disciples. Matthew says: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations." "Go into the world and proclaim the good news to the whole of creation," says Mark. "Repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things," reads Luke. In John we find: "As the Father has sent me, so am I sending you."

Paul understands that Jesus appeared to him that "so that I might proclaim him among the Gentiles." (Gal 1: 15-16) I believe that God has made Himself known to us so that you and I can love him and can

share him with others. Your and my personal mission is inseparable from the building of the Kingdom.

St Paul VI says: "Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses." (Evangeli Nuntiandi 41) This is not an invitation to say less but to be authentic, to live what we do say.

have become unsure of ourselves and thus speak less and less powerfully making it harder to distinguish us from the wider culture. "Beige Catholicism" won't attract the world to Christ, however.

Can I invite you to prepare a 3-minute version and a 15-minute version of your conversion story/personal encounter? In this way, you can be ready to explain why

"I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unflinching each day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, since 'no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord'"

Pope Francis (*Evangeli Gaudium* #3)

The Year 8 students wanted to know if my friend really believed what she said. Did she stake her life on it? Did it make a positive difference?

A fundamental of evangelisation is an extraordinarily deep and profound personal experience of God through, with and in Jesus Christ. Being Christian is not the result of an ethical or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction. (Deus Caritas Est, 1, Benedict XVI) Jesus takes the initiative and invites people to this personal encounter.

Some of us have lost confidence in what to say and in whether it should be said. We

are you a Catholic and what Jesus means to you. In it, you might like to include your experience of where "Jesus Christ loves you; [where] he gave his life to save you; and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free you" (*Evangeli Gaudium* 164).

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:19-20 (NRSV)

Most Rev Mark Edwards OMI
Bishop of Wagga Wagga

PRAYER INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER - PRAY WITH POPE FRANCIS

For people living on the margins

We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.

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

<https://thepopevideo.org/>



Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network
APOS-LESHP OF PRAYER
<https://www.popesprayer.va/>

Each of our names are known to the Lord. He sees us in our inmost being, smiles upon us with pure delight, and says, "I have come that they may have life and have it to the full." (Jn 10:10)

Yet, often, we live on the margins, enjoying not the fullness of life, but subsisting on the crumbs of the banquet.

Who are we, living on the margins? We are the young, adrift in a world which has forgotten the truth of what it is to be human. We have forgotten what it is to be uniquely created by God out of love and for love. We have forgotten the God Who pours out all that He is in an eternal gift of self to us, promising that we are infinitely loved and capable of loving without limits.

Who are we, living on the margins? We are women who find ourselves pregnant and alone, our dreams shattered, who wait to hear someone ask, "How are you?" We are those who yearn to have someone help us discover that

indeed we are called to do something great with our love, and that the problem of pregnancy can become the beautiful gift of motherhood.

Who are we living on the margins? We are those suffering after abortion, who feel perhaps numb, angry, betrayed, ashamed... We are those who wait to experience the mercy of the God Who descends into our pain to find us, redeem us, wash us from our sins, shed light into our darkness, and lead us from death into life.

When we find ourselves living on the margins, let us hear again the Lord's promise: "I have come that they may have life and have it more abundantly." (Jn. 10:10). Let us give Him permission to enter our desperate need and darkness. Let us open our ears to hear Him call, "You are Mine. I love you! Come, enter into life!"

Sr. Talitha Guadalupe

Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (United States)

30 YEARS OF WAGGA WAGGA PRESENTATION ASSOCIATES

A celebration was held at Nagle Terrace on Saturday September 2 on a beautiful sunny spring day.

Thirty Sisters and Associates were present and enjoyed the opportunity to reflect on their involvement over the years. And yes, some of the Sisters - and one Associate - present were in the original group.

Special guests who travelled from Sydney were Sisters Margaret Barclay, Presentation Congregational Leader, and Susan Miller, Congregational Associates Coordinator, and Associate Lesley Maker representing the Sydney and Campbelltown Associates.

Two special Wagga people gave wonderful reflections on their journeys since the inception of the group 39 years ago. Sister Noela Fox, Presentation historian extraordinaire, and Jill Brindley, an original Associate, reflected on her very moving story.

Sister Kaye Bryan, who has been with the Wagga Associates group from day one, guided the day's activities - this included wonderful reflections and discussion from all present. The liturgy and prayers, set around the Nano Nagle charism, were prepared by our dedicated mentor, Sister Margaret Walsh, with assistance from a small planning team.

Sister Kaye Bryan reflected on her journey and inspirations along the way. The idea came out of a national assembly of Presentation Sisters held in 1984.

Susan Miller expanded on the history of the development of the first formation program. The growth of membership from the original nine men and women in two groups to 81 in six groups was a sign that the idea that Nano's story and charism belonged



Above: Sisters Noela Fox and Margaret Barclay.

to all. Associates groups in Wagga, Sydney, Lockhart, Hay, Young and Campbelltown provided enrichment for everyone involved.

The Wagga group has 38 members and meets monthly to reflect on our stories and growth around the Nano Nagle charism.

Wagga group contact details:
Email:
Presentation Associates
 waggapresentationassociates@gmail.com
Phone:
President Alison Wiese
0427 206 211

Below: Group photo of Presentation Associates.



Above: Cutting of the cake, Jill Brindley (one of the original Associates) and Associate Danitsa Moses who made the magnificent cake!


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CENTACARE SOUTH WEST NSW - GOLDEN CROW AWARDS FINALISTS

The Wagga Wagga Business Chamber's 2023 Golden Crow Awards were held on 11th August 2023, with Centacare South West NSW named as Finalists in three categories:

- Outstanding Employee - Janine Harrington;**
- Outstanding Business Leader - Annemaree Binger; and**
- Employer of Choice - Centacare South West NSW**

The Golden Crow Awards recognise growth, entrepreneurship and celebrate business success in the business community of Wagga Wagga, and being named as finalists is a great achievement for Annemaree, Janine and the entire Centacare South West NSW team, and is indication of their dedication and commitment to the important work of Centacare. Congratulations go to them.

Outstanding Employee

The Outstanding Employee Award recognises an inspirational employee who has demonstrated a passion for their role and a commitment to their workplace and the community.

Finalists

- Amanda Hooper - Charles Sturt Campus Services
- Annette Davies - WDF Accounting + Advisory (Winner)

- Bradley Hart - EmuTel
- Janine Harrington - Centacare South West NSW
- Outstanding Business Leader**

The Outstanding Business Leader Award recognises an inspirational business leader aged 36 years or over who has demonstrated a commitment to their workplace, industry, and the community through leadership, whilst providing mentorship to others.

Finalists

- Annemaree Binger - Centacare South West NSW
- Dannii Pullen - Wagga Par 3 & Driving Range
- Mark Macarthur - Macarthur Real Estate Agency
- Steven Watson - National Audits Group (Winner)

Employer of Choice

The Employer of Choice Award – in both Under 20 Employees & Over 20 Employees categories, recognise a business that has implemented strategies and initiatives to create a stimulating and supportive workplace environment.



Above: Annemaree Binger and Janine Harrington at the Golden Crow Awards.

Finalists

- Centacare South West NSW
- Macarthur Real Estate Agency
- National Audits Group
- WDF Accounting + Advisory (Winner)

MOUNT ERIN VISITORS

The Mount Erin Heritage Centre receives visitors from all over Australia. Many with connections to Mount Erin and others wanting to learn the rich history of the area.

Right: Welcome to Lyn Connolly (Murphy) and Therese Case (Baker) who spent time here with us. Lyn was even able to find her Mum in a couple of photos from the 1940s.



Left: Welcome to Patricia, Tim and Nora with Sister Alexis and Sister Barbara. Thank you for taking the time to travel through Wagga Wagga to visit and learn about the Presentation Sisters.



Open every
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BISHOPS CONFERENCE AND CRA PUBLISH ROYAL COMMISSION UPDATE

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and Catholic Religious Australia have published a report updating the Church's progress in implementing the relevant recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

On the 5 year anniversary of the initial response, the report is part of the Church's ongoing efforts to be publicly accountable for how it is working to create, maintain and enhance safe environments for children and all people who are at risk.

Following the format of the initial response, the new report lists each relevant Royal Commission recommendation, the response that was given in 2018 and a high-level summary of work undertaken in the five years since.

The presidents of CRA and the Bishops Conference, in the report's preamble, draw on the words of Pope Francis, who said each member of the Church "is called to assume responsibility for preventing cases of abuse and to work for justice and for healing".

"It is to this responsibility that we commit the ACBC and CRA anew, and to which we call all Catholics in Australia, as we give this account of actions taken to implement the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse," write Archbishop Timothy

Costelloe SDB and Fr Peter Jones OSA in the report.

"It remains our hope and prayer that all that we have done, are doing and will do, may help to bring healing to those so gravely harmed when in the Church's care."

In each of the past five years, the Bishops Conference and CRA have submitted annual reports on the Church's initiatives, prepared with guidance from the National Office for Child Safety.

Fr Jones and Archbishop Costelloe note that the past five years have been a period of ongoing listening and learning, and a time for the development of additional practices, policies and procedures.

"We understand more fully that our institutions become 'child-serving' when they live up to the values and beliefs that enshrine the inherent right of all children to safety, nurture and care," they write.

"We know too all aspects of our Catholic organisations need to be attuned and responsive to the vulnerability of children and adults at risk."

The five-year update outlines some key milestones since the 2018 report, including:



- implementation of the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards, now in a second edition;
- establishment of Australian Catholic Safeguarding Limited;
- development of the National Response Framework and related National Response Protocol;
- preparation of new programs for priestly and religious formation; and
- progress on a new national code of conduct.

The report can be downloaded at:
<https://bit.ly/ACBCRAFiveYears>



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<p>Visitations & Saints <i>Fatima to Lourdes</i></p> <p>Land only from \$5490</p> <p>Departs May, September & October 2024. 13 Days. You are invited to participate in the world's most requested Marian journey as we explore the villages of some of the Church's most renowned graces and saints. Graces of France optional extension</p>	<p>Journey with the Italian Saints <i>With Joelle Maryn and Fr Ben Saliba</i></p> <p>Land only from \$6290</p> <p>Commences 08 March 2024. 12 Days. With Chaplain Fr Ben Saliba. Join Catholic Actress Joelle Maryn on a healing pilgrimage on the trail of Italy's greatest saints, visiting Rome, Montecassino, San Giovanni Rotondo, Assisi, Florence and Venice. Experience the rich tapestry of culture, faith, and history that Italy has to offer.</p>



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SYNOD ON SYNODALITY 'TRULY IMPORTANT' DESPITE BEING 'OF LITTLE INTEREST TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC'

Pope Francis acknowledged that the upcoming Synod on Synodality may be “of little interest to the general public” but underlined that the synod is “truly important” for the Catholic Church.

BY COURTNEY MARES
Catholic News Agency

“I am well aware that speaking of a ‘Synod on Synodality’ may seem something abstruse, self-referential, excessively technical, and of little interest to the general public,” Pope Francis said on Aug. 26.

“But what has happened over the past year, which will continue with the assembly next October and then with the second stage of Synod 2024, is something truly important for the Church.”

The pope spoke about the significance of the synod nearly one month ahead of the first global Synod on Synodality assembly taking place at the Vatican Oct. 4–28.

suggestions. We want to contribute together to build the Church where everyone feels at home, where no one is excluded,” Pope Francis said.

“That word of the Gospel that is so important: everyone. Everyone, everyone: There are no first-, second- or third-class Catholics, no. All together. Everyone. It is the Lord’s invitation.”

The pope underlined that the Church needs to “get used to listening to each other, to talking, not cutting our heads off for a word” and “to listen and discuss in a mature way.”

“This is a grace we all need in order to move forward. And it is something the Church today offers the world, a



Above: Pope Francis speaks at the general audience on Aug. 23, 2023. | Vatican Media

that St. Paul VI began at the end of the [Vatican II] Council when he created the Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops because he had realized that in the Western Church synodality had disappeared, whereas in the Eastern Church they have this dimension.”

“And this yearslong journey — 60 years — is bearing great fruit,” he added.

Pope Francis spoke about the upcoming synod while accepting an award from Italian journalists at the Vatican’s Apostolic Palace, noting that he usually declines awards and honors.

“You must know that, even before becoming bishop of Rome, I used to decline the offer of awards. I never received any, I did not want to. And I have continued to do so even as pope. There is, however, one reason that prompted me to accept yours, and that is the urgency of constructive communication, which fosters the culture of encounter and not of confrontation; the culture of peace and not of war; the culture of openness to the other and not of prejudice,” he said.

“Disinformation is one of the sins of journalism,” he added while enumerating other “journalistic sins,” including slander, defamation, and a “love of scandal.”

“We need to spread a culture of encounter, a culture of dialogue, a culture of listening to the other and his or her reasons,” he said. “Digital culture has brought us so many new possibilities for exchange, but it also risks turning communication into slogans.”

Pope Francis also met with a delegation of Catholic legislators on Saturday who are taking part in a meeting on the topic of “Great Power

Struggle, Corporate Capture, and Technocracy: A Christian Answer to Dehumanizing Trends.”

The International Catholic Legislators Network is a group of Catholic parliamentarians from around the world that holds an annual private meeting in Rome.

The group, founded in 2010 by the Austrian Cardinal Christoph Schönborn and David Alton, a member of Britain’s House of Lords, is dedicated to religious liberty, Church-state relations, the protection of life, and communicating Catholic thought in secular politics.

Pope Francis spoke to the lawmakers about how “today’s dominant technocratic paradigm raises profound questions about the place of human beings and of human action in the world.”

“Surely one of the most concerning aspects of this paradigm, with its negative impact upon both human and natural ecology alike, is its subtle seduction of the human spirit, lulling people — and especially the young — into misusing their freedom,” the pope said.

He encouraged the lawmakers to continue to promote Catholic social teaching, “especially the centrality of the God-given value and dignity of every human person.”

“I pray that the Holy Spirit will inspire and guide your efforts to form a new generation of well-educated and faithful Catholic leaders committed to promoting the Church’s social and ethical teachings in the public sphere. In this way, you will surely contribute to the building up of God’s kingdom,” he said.



Above: Pope Francis meets with the International Catholic Legislators Network at the Vatican on Aug. 26, 2023. Vatican Media

It is the first of two assemblies that culminate the Church’s multiyear, worldwide undertaking during which Catholics were asked to submit feedback at diocesan, national, and continental levels.

“We have opened our doors, we have offered everyone the opportunity to participate, we have taken into account everyone’s needs and

world so often so incapable of making decisions, even when our very survival is at stake,” he said.

“We are trying to learn a new way of living relationships, listening to one another to hear and follow the voice of the Spirit.”

To explain the significance of the Synod on Synodality, Pope Francis described the synod as “a journey

TRAINEE TEACHER SCHOLARSHIPS ANNOUNCED

Hard work, resilience and dedication have paid off for five Catholic school students who have been awarded scholarships in the 2023-24 Scholarships for Teacher Education Program by Catholic Education, Diocese of Wagga Wagga (CEDWW).

Scholarships of up to \$20,000 per person are offered to current high-achieving Year 12 Catholic students who intend to commence an undergraduate course in teacher training in 2024. In addition, each recipient will be provided with a high level of support and targeted placements during their studies and guaranteed employment in a diocesan school on completion of their studies.

Director of Catholic Education, Diocese of Wagga Wagga, Dr Andrew Watson, extended his congratulations to all the recipients, saying, "All students are very worthy recipients of these scholarships. They displayed through the application and interview process a real desire to study education and look forward to joining the teaching profession and working within our Catholic schools."

The Scholarships for Teacher Education Program recipients for 2023-2024 are:

- Molly Laurent - Marian Catholic College, Griffith
- Bridget Stephens - Kildare Catholic College, Wagga Wagga
- Will Field - Kildare Catholic College, Wagga Wagga
- Karly Thomas - Xavier High School, Albury
- Annie Corbett - Mater Dei Catholic College, Wagga Wagga

CEDWW's Manager Professional Learning and Development, Angie Cooper, encouraged early career teachers to look into the wide variety of exciting career opportunities available within the diocesan 29 schools.

"We are always looking for passionate teachers to join us in our system of 29 Catholic schools. We have a great mentor program that helps Teachers reach their full potential and navigate the early years of their career."

Catholic Education, Diocese of Wagga Wagga supports a system of 29 Catholic schools, educating over 8600 students and employing over 1600 staff across the Riverina and MIA in New South Wales.



Molly Laurent
Marian Catholic College, Griffith

Molly is currently completing a Certificate III in Education Support as a school-based traineeship and was able to draw on her experiences in other school and classroom settings to demonstrate a well-developed understanding of quality teaching and learning. Molly expressed a deep interest in becoming a teacher within our diocese to give back to her rural community.

Molly has received an early entry offer from CSU to study a Bachelor of Education (K-12).



Bridget Stephens
Kildare Catholic College
Wagga Wagga

Bridget described her experience of Catholic Education to be a 'welcoming community of faith. She draws inspiration from the character and values of her teachers, which has encouraged her in her decision to pursue a teaching

career in Catholic schools. She has a particular interest in supporting student wellbeing.

Bridget is seeking to study a Bachelor of Secondary Education at ACU Strathfield and would like to specialise in either English or Inclusive Education.



Will Field
Kildare Catholic College
Wagga Wagga

Will provided candid reflections on his personal journey of growth as a Catholic school student and made strong connections with his desire to make a positive impact on the learning and wellbeing of his future students.

Will is seeking to study a Bachelor of Ancient History/Master of Teaching through the University of New England or a Bachelor of Education (Secondary) through CSU.



Karly Thomas
Xavier High School, Albury

Karly expressed clear intentions to pursue teaching as her chosen career path and demonstrated a deep understanding of the qualities and characteristics of effective teachers. She builds positive relationships with both staff and students, and she has enjoyed supporting younger students to build their leadership capacity.

Karly has received an early entry offer from both LaTrobe University and CSU to study a Bachelor of Education (Secondary) and would like to major in either Mathematics or PDHPE teaching. She has also expressed a desire to teach Studies of Religion.



Annie Corbett
Mater Dei Catholic College
Wagga Wagga

Annie impressed with her self-awareness, authenticity and her commitment to joining the teaching profession to support students. Annie expressed her passion for teaching dance to people with disabilities and her own love of learning.

Annie has received an early entry offer from CSU to study a Bachelor of Education (Primary).

GIVING UP ON FEAR

A friend of mine shares this story. He was an only child. When he was in his late twenties, still single, building a successful career and living in the same city as his mother and father, his father died, leaving his mother widowed.

BY RON ROLHEISER
www.ronrolheiser.com

His mother, who had centered her life on her family and on her son, was understandably devastated. Much of her world collapsed, she'd lost her husband, but she still had her son.

The next years were not always easy for her son. His mother had lost much of her world, save him, and he felt a heavy responsibility toward her. She lived for his visits. His days off and his vacation times had to be spent with her. Much as he loved his mother, it was a burden that prevented him from having the social life and relational freedom he yearned for, and it prevented him from making some career decisions that he would otherwise have made. He had to take care of his mother, to be there for her. As one can guess, their times together were sometimes a test of loyalty and duty for the son. But he did it faithfully, year after year. There was no one else his mother could lean on.

When his mother's health began to decline, she sold her house and moved into a Seniors' complex. Most times on his day off he would pick up his mother, take her for a drive in the country, and then take her to dinner before dropping her back at her mini apartment. One day on such an outing, driving along a country road in silence, his mother broke the quiet with words that both surprised him

and, for the first time in a long time, had his full attention.

She shared words to this effect: Something huge has happened in my life. I've given up on fear. All my life I have been afraid of everything – of not measuring up, of not being good enough, of being boring, of being excluded, of being alone, of ending up alone, of ending up without any money or a place to live, of people talking about me behind my back. I've been afraid of my own shadow. Well, I've given up on fear. And why not? I've lost everything – my husband, my place in society, my home, my physical looks, my health, my teeth, and my dignity. I've nothing left to lose anymore, and do you know something? It's good! I'm not afraid of anything anymore. I feel free in a way I have never felt before. I've given up on fear.

For the first time in a long time, he began to listen closely to what his mother was saying. He also sensed something new in her, a new strength and a deeper wisdom from which he wished to drink. The next time he took her for a drive, he said to her: Mom, teach me that. Teach me how not to be afraid.

She lived for two more years and during those years he took her for drives in the country and for lunches and dinners together, and he drew



something from her, from that new strength in her, that he had not been able to draw from before. When she eventually died and he lost her earthly presence, he could only describe what she had given him in those final years by using biblical terms: "My mother gave me birth twice, once from below and once from above."

It's not easy to give up on fear, nor to teach others how to do so. Fear has such a grip on us because for most of our lives we in fact have much to lose. So, it's hard, understandably so, not to live with a lot of fear for most of our lives. Moreover, this is not a question of being mature or immature, spiritual or earthly. Indeed, sometimes the more mature and spiritual we are, the more we appreciate the preciousness of life, of health, of family, of friendship, of community – all of which have their own fragility and all of which we can

lose. There are good reasons to be afraid.

It is no accident that this man's mother was able to move beyond fear only after she had lost most everything in life. God and nature recognize that and have written it into the aging process. The aging process is calibrated to take us to a place where we can give up on fear because as we age and lose more and more of our health, our importance in the world, our physical attractiveness, our loved ones to death, and our dignity, we have less and less to lose - and less and less to be afraid of.

This is one of nature's last gifts to us, and living in a way that others see this new freedom in us can also be one of the last great gifts we leave behind with those we love.



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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

A NEW TOOL TO EMPOWER AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS TO LIVE *LAUDATO SI'*

To commemorate the Season of Creation, Caritas Australia is launching a practical guide to support Catholic parishes, organisations, schools, individuals and households across Australia in developing their own *Laudato Si'* Action Plan.

The Australian Guide to *Laudato Si'* Action Planning was officially introduced at Caritas Australia's online launch of Season of Creation on September 4.

The guide is a new offering as part of Caritas Australia's Catholic Earthcare program and outlines a 4-step cycle of self-assessment, reflection, planning and action that complements the global *Laudato Si'* Action Platform. Catholic Earthcare offers this guide along with the ongoing support of Caritas Australia's Earthcare Specialists and Australia wide Earthcare Communities, fostering networks of support.

"The Australian Bishops are pleased to endorse Caritas Australia's leadership of our collective action towards ecological justice. Its long-

running Catholic Earthcare program provides specialist support and hosts dedicated communities for Catholic individuals, households, schools, parishes and organisations throughout Australia. This means that Catholic Earthcare is well-placed to accompany us as we each join the worldwide *Laudato Si'* Action Platform and develop and implement our various *Laudato Si'* Action Plans." – Bishop Vincent Long, Chair, Bishops Commission for Social Justice, Mission and Service.

The launch coincides with the Season of Creation, a worldwide, ecumenical movement that celebrates God's gift of our common home. This year, the theme is 'Let Justice and Peace Flow'. Drawing on the river imagery described in Amos 5:24, it



challenges us to act for ecological justice, creating change and speaking out with communities most impacted by rising sea levels, biodiversity losses and other consequences of climate injustice.

"At Caritas Australia, we believe that collective action is key to addressing today's environmental challenges. Through our Australian Guide to *Laudato Si'* Action Planning and with the support of the Catholic Earthcare Community, we invite everyone to embrace Pope Francis's call for ecological conversion and

forging networks of mutual support. Together, as one global community, we can sow the seeds of hope and cultivate a more sustainable, harmonious world for all." – Kirsty Robertson, CEO, Caritas Australia.

To join the Catholic Earthcare Community and receive your free Australian Guide to *Laudato Si'* Action Planning visit: www.caritas.org.au/LSAP-Guide

To learn more about Catholic Earthcare visit: www.caritas.org.au/catholic-earthcare

Father's Day Prayer

God our Father, you govern and protect your people and shepherd them with a father's love. You place a father in a family as a sign of your love, care and constant protection.

May father's everywhere be faithful to the examples shown in the Scriptures: steadfast in love, forgiving transgressions, sustaining the family, caring for those in need.

Give your wisdom to fathers that they may encourage and guide their children. Keep them healthy so they may support a family.

Guide every father with the Spirit of your love that they may grow in holiness and draw their family ever closer to you.

Amen.



'HOUSE OF MERCY': POPE FRANCIS HIGHLIGHTS MISSIONARY EFFORTS IN MONGOLIA

September 4 was the final day of Pope Francis' Papal visit to Mongolia, which concluded with the blessing of the 'House of Mercy', a welcoming place dedicated to supporting people most in need.

A significant last stop for Pope Francis, that through this blessing, acknowledged the missionary effort on the ground as being more than evangelical, but people orientated for the greater good. As the House of Mercy is a tangible expression of the Church's care for others.

"These [charitable work] internally developed into long-term projects are carried out mostly by the various missionary institutes present here and much appreciated by the population and civil authorities. Indeed, government has sought help from Catholic missionaries in confronting the numerous social emergencies," highlighted Pope Francis in his speech.

Supported by Catholic Mission, the House of Mercy is a social centre that will provide support for women and minors who are victims of domestic violence, a safe place for people suffering from homelessness, and a welcoming place for migrants.

The international charitable effort and the dedication of missionaries on the ground are an enormous source of support for the House of Mercy.

"Those projects continue to draw upon the dedication of missionaries from many countries who put their knowledge, experience, resources and especially their love at the service of Mongolian Society. To them, and to all those who support these many good works, I express my appreciation and offer my heartfelt thanks," continued Pope Francis.

However, key to the project is the involvement of the local Church as the main leader of the project, supported by missionaries and charitable organisations, a unique collaboration at the heart of the Pontifical Mission Societies (known as Catholic Mission in Australia). It enables the communities to develop themselves with adequate support, a work process that was highlighted as being an example of community collaboration by Pope Francis:



"The House of Mercy is meant to be the point of reference for a variety of charitable works, hands outstretched towards our brothers and sisters, struggling to navigate life's problems. A safe haven, in other words, where people can find a listening ear and an understanding heart. While, not unlike many other initiatives supported by there's Catholic institutions, this new undertaking is also special, since here it is the particular Church that carries out the work. Coordinating the efforts of all the missionary groups, while preserving a clearly local identity as an authentic expression of the Apostolic Prefecture as a whole."

The House of Mercy is a project pursued by Catholic Mission, which works relentlessly to give a voice and empower communities worldwide by giving them adequate support to succeed in addressing grassroots

issues.

"It is an immense honor to have welcomed the Holy Father within the House of Mercy, and to have blessed the place. This place is a witness of the missionary work here in Mongolia, but also from around the world, as highlighted by Pope Francis in his speech earlier today," said Lawrence Gigliotti, Catholic Mission Program Manager, responsible for the collaboration between Catholic Mission and the local Church for the House of Mercy.

To learn more about the work of Catholic Mission, visit www.catholicmission.org.au



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BISHOPS' STATEMENT CALLS FOR 'NEW ENGAGEMENT' WITH FIRST PEOPLES

Australia's Catholic Bishops have called on the nation to seek "a new engagement" with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in their annual Social Justice Statement launched on August 17.

Since the 1940s, the bishops have published annual statements that urge the Catholic community to reflect and act on social, economic and ecological issues. The statements are published as a focal point for Social Justice Sunday, which will be marked on August 27 this year.

This year's statement, *Listen, Learn, Love: A New Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples*, was launched in Western Sydney by Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv, chair of the Bishops Commission for Social Justice, Mission and Service.

"One of the objectives of this statement is that we want Catholics to understand that Catholic social teaching and Catholic social action are not simply theoretical and academic exercises," he said.

"We hear what God is saying to us about justice by being with our sisters and brothers on the peripheries of society."

While the Social Justice Statement is a teaching document of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, a large part of this year's statement was written by members of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council. It is part of

the message's exhortation to "listen".

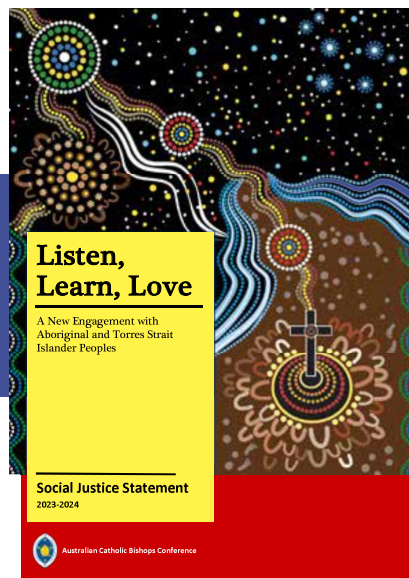
"Listening is hard. Hearing about young people taking their lives, about so many people ending up in jail, of children still being taken away from their parents and grandparents and about the ongoing racism is tough," Bishop Long said.

"It must be so much more difficult for these people to tell us about their painful experiences. We are deeply grateful to those who shared their stories of pain with us."

The theme for this year's statement was chosen in May 2022, well before the Voice to Parliament referendum was mooted and before the timing of a vote was proposed. While the bishops don't suggest how people should vote, Bishop Long said "whatever the outcome of this year's referendum, we ask the Church in Australia to make efforts to lead the way for our fellow Australians" in pursuing reconciliation.

"Our attitudes and actions towards First Nations Peoples need to be grounded in justice, love and humility," he said.

"We need to listen with deep respect and learn from them about what needs to be done to improve



their situations. We need to walk with them, day by day, and work with them to bring about change for the better – for their people and for all of us.

"Strengthening our relationship with our First Peoples is integral and indeed critical to the strengthening of the whole nation."

Access the statement at:
<https://bit.ly/SJS2023-24>

HOLY COMMUNION



Holy Trinity Primary School's, First Holy Communicants received the Blessed Eucharist at San Isadore on Saturday 26 August. Congratulations to all students involved.



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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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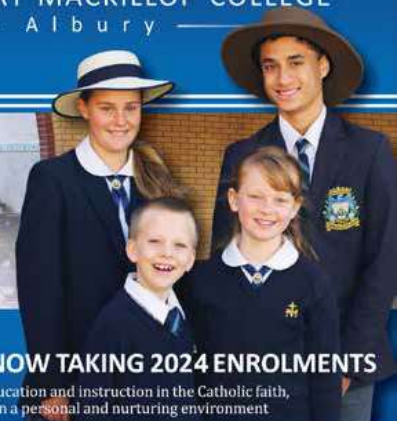
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SHINING A LIGHT ON THE NEEDS OF THE TIME

ErinEarth celebrated its inaugural Winter Lantern Festival on 1st July 2023. ErinEarth's founders, Sisters Kaye Bryan and Carmel Wallis, officially welcomed everyone to the Festival and reflected on the creation of ErinEarth 25 years ago.

Sister Kaye shared words about the symbolism of the lantern for ErinEarth, with Sister Carmel lighting the lantern to officially begin the evening. Dr Joe McGirr MP also spoke about ErinEarth's importance for the community of Wagga Wagga.

"The significance of the lantern for ErinEarth is a story 250 years old when an Irish woman, named Nano Nagle, foundress of the Presentation Sisters, made her way through the dark streets of Cork, bringing light and life to people in desperate circumstances. She became known as the Lady of the Lantern. Presentation Sisters since then have been inspired by Nano and her lantern, to shine light on situations of need all over the world and to take action.

One hundred and fifty years ago the Sisters came from Kildare in Ireland to Wagga Wagga, to a site they named Mt Erin, where they shone a light on the need for education and took action. Then 25 years ago, recognising the seriousness of our planet's situation, the Sisters shone the lantern on a corner of the Mt Erin site. With community support they transformed

two bitumen tennis courts and a dumping ground for unwanted goods into a native water-wise garden and energy-efficient house, demonstrating how to live sustainably and tread lightly on this Earth.

As we light this lantern, let's celebrate the contribution of so many to bring ErinEarth about, and let's celebrate that we can all be lanterns bringing light and life wherever we find ourselves."



Above: Sister Carmel Wallis and Sister Kaye Bryan.



2023 EVENTS

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

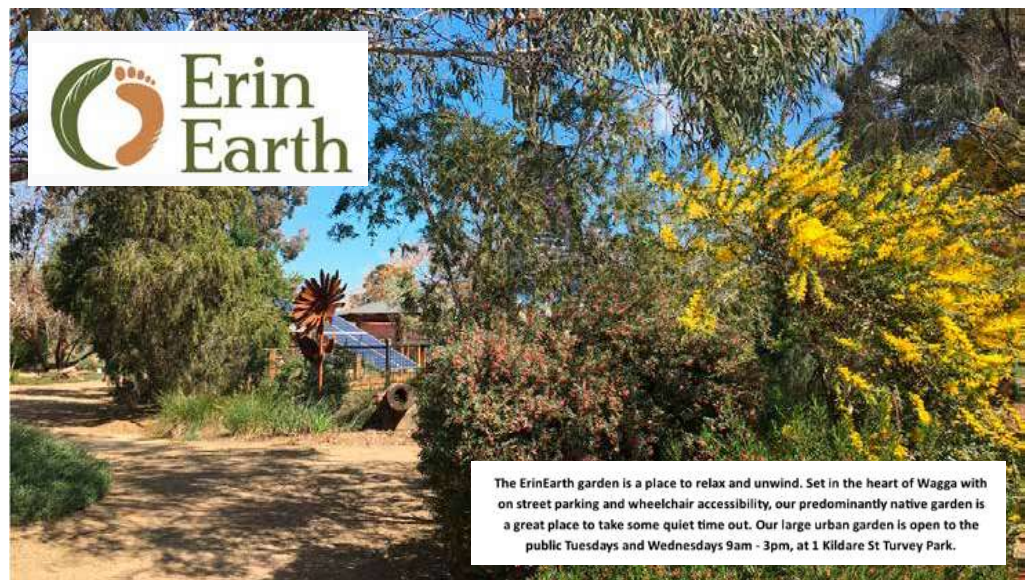
Presentation Day

25

Open Day 'Cosmic Walk'
Cosmic Walk in the ErinEarth garden



Above: Dr Joe McGirr MP.



The ErinEarth garden is a place to relax and unwind. Set in the heart of Wagga with on street parking and wheelchair accessibility, our predominantly native garden is a great place to take some quiet time out. Our large urban garden is open to the public Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9am - 3pm, at 1 Kildare St Turvey Park.

CELIBACY A GIFT THAT 'FULFILS' PRIESTS

It might "go against the grain" outside the church but Renee Kohler-Ryan insists there is a strong case for Catholic priests to stay celibate.

BY JAMIE WALKER
The Australian

As national head of the School of Philosophy and Theology at Notre Dame University Australia, she teaches young men who aspire to a life in the priesthood with all the worldly sacrifices that entails.

Yet there's another side rarely brought out: what they gain in the process.

"Spiritually speaking, they're really married to the church," Professor Kohler-Ryan said.

"They're giving their whole lives to this vocation and I think we're not good enough, generous enough, as a society in realising what a special relationship it is.

"To be a priest is to be serving and giving one's whole life like Christ gave his whole life. So that's what I see in these young men ... there isn't a sense of loss for what they are forgoing, it's more a sense of fulfilment."

This discussion is replete with nuance and counter-intuitive turns. If the five million Australians who identify as being Catholic, without necessarily attending mass, are part of a universal church, there are striking

differences in the recruitment rate of new priests across the country.

Take Sydney, where Professor Kohler-Ryan lives and works: the Seminary of the Good Shepherd at Homebush inducted 17 trainees this year in one of the biggest intakes for years, attesting to the strength of the local archdiocese.

In Brisbane, however, the graduating class of 2023 from the Holy Spirit Seminary profiled in the current edition of The Weekend Australian Magazine numbered three.

As Professor Kohler-Ryan noted: "I think the numbers in Sydney give cause for hope. I saw analysis in the last few days of census data showing that in Sydney ... we have pretty high rates of young people who are highly engaged with their faith ... but I know in other areas of the country the situation is quite dire.

"Overall, it really does look like we're not replacing priests at the levels we would need to sustain the parish levels we have right now."

A practising Catholic, she is a member of the nine-strong Australian contingent to attend a potentially watershed summit on the future of



Above: Professor Renee Kohler-Ryan, National Head of the School of Philosophy and Theology at Notre Dame University Australia. Picture by John Feder

the church in Rome this October. This Synod on Synodality will examine priestly celibacy alongside other hot-button issues for Catholics such as women in the clergy and outreach to the LGBTQ+ community.

While the number of seminarians undertaking the testing seven years of training has stabilised nationally at 304 as of 2021, the cohort of priests in Australia is 2900, down from a peak of 3895 in 1971.

Catholic Archbishop of Brisbane Mark Coleridge has said the existing model of a "priest in every parish" was unsustainable and has flagged an eventual phasing out of compulsory celibacy as "very likely" and there was a "glimmer of a possibility" that women could be ordained as deacons at entry-level in the clergy.

Professor Kohler-Ryan had reservations on both options. Opening the Catholic diaconate to women could prove "confusing" given it would raise the question of why they couldn't become priests.

"I know this is something that not everyone – and certainly not every woman – would agree on but I think it's theologically significant that Christ became human and became male," she said.

"It's not something we can brush over."

Professor Kohler-Ryan acknowledged that priestly celibacy was a "church discipline matter" rather than doctrine, given there was no mention of it in the Bible.

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MACE SISTERS COMPLETE FIRST GENERAL CHAPTER

The MACE Sisters who work in the Wagga Wagga Diocese have recently finished their first General Chapter which was held in a city a few hours north of Manila.

A General Chapter, usually held every six years, is a key moment for a religious group in the Church.

During the Chapter they renewed themselves in their charism and made decisions about how it could be applied even more faithfully.

They also held elections for Superior General and her Council. The new General is Sr Lydia Paola Marave who, until this time, had been working in the Philippines. Sr Angelita G. Marave, who was the previous Superior General was appointed her Vicar. Two of the Sisters, stationed in Australia, were also elected to the Council: Sr Asuncion Lorenzo and Sr Leticia Bontigao.



Archbishop Lavarias of San Fernando, Pampanga visited with Fr San Diego (seen in brown) and two seminarians with him. The Sisters are considering having another assembly in 3-4 years that focuses more on vocation discernment and recruitment.



Towards Hope

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SUDAN CRISIS CONTINUES LEAVING MILLIONS OF PEOPLE VULNERABLE

After months of protracted fighting, violence in Sudan continues to spread across the country causing millions to flee their homes.

The ongoing conflict has put pressure on already scarce resources, with many people facing a lack of water, sanitation, food, shelter and safety, resulting in an urgent need for humanitarian assistance for people displaced within Sudan and in neighbouring countries.

Armed clashes began in April 2023 and as violence spread, more than three million people have been forced from their homes including over 350,000 children, with 24.7 million people now in dire need of humanitarian assistance.

More than 1,000 people have been killed, and over 12,000 injured

in the fighting with the impact felt by the most vulnerable. A staggering 75 percent of people affected by the conflict are women and children.

“With so many people forced from their homes and the rainy season approaching, immediate needs are growing fast. For a long time, Sudan has been a host for refugees from neighbouring countries, these refugees are now forced to uproot and flee once more.”

“Important aid work has been happening in refugee camps for many years with limited resources. This new wave of conflict is pushing the country beyond breaking point”, said Sally Thomas, Caritas Australia’s



Above: The Sudan crisis. Caritas Australia.

Humanitarian Lead.

Caritas Australia is working with our partner, CAFOD, and local partners SOS Sahel and ERRADA to respond to the Sudan crisis.

Your donation will help provide urgent aid and assistance to those forced from their homes by this crisis.

Visit caritas.org.au or call 1800 024 413 toll free to provide much needed support to vulnerable communities in Sudan.



SACRED HEART CELEBRATES COMMUNITY SPIRIT AT SCHOOL FETE

On the 25th of August Sacred Heart Primary School held its School Fete.

The event was an enormous success, bringing over 200 members of the local community together for an evening of joy, games, food and fun. Featuring a range of exciting activities, stalls and raffles, the fete aimed to strengthen ties among families and friends and enabled the students at Sacred Heart to show off their wonderful school to the Tocumwal community.

There was no shortage of food to tempt the taste buds, from freshly popped popcorn and slushies to fairy floss, toffee apples and a sausage sizzle. In addition to this, Odesi collective served hot drinks all night which kept the visitors warm and cosy.

Younger attendees had a blast with face painting and nail polish

stalls, as well as trying their luck at a variety of games and activities to win prizes. Visitors were also treated to free giveaways from Tocumwal Fire and Rescue and were delighted at the opportunity to go inside the fire truck. The fete showcased live music performances thanks to the talents of former student Molly McLeod and her friends. The night concluded with an outdoor screening of “Back to the Outback”

The community of Tocumwal’s generosity shone through with numerous donations from local businesses. Sacred Heart wishes to thank the following businesses for their support: Tocumwal Aviation Museum, McDermid’s Bakery, the Tocumwal Post Office, Tocumwal Myotherapy,



Homewood Bound, Terminus Hotel, Tocumwal Ice Creamery, Woolworths Cobram, Legacy Packing, Katunga Fresh, Odesi Collective, Club Tocumwal and many others for their contributions for various activities and raffles.

The Sacred Heart School extends its heartfelt thanks to all the generous

donors, hardworking staff and volunteers, and everyone who attended to make this fete a memorable event. **It truly underscored the unity within the Sacred Heart School family and demonstrated the high level of support that Sacred Heart enjoys from the community of Tocumwal.**

SUPPORTING SISTERS IN PARAGUAY

The "Daughters of Mary, Help of Christians" belong to the religious family of the Salesians of Don Bosco and are devoted in particular to the education of young people.

12 sisters of this community currently live and work in the apostolic vicariate of Chaco in the far north of Paraguay. In fact, they not only care for the young people here but also support the families, visiting the sick and the elderly, bringing them Communion, giving catechetical instruction and supporting the poor and disadvantaged with practical help and advice.

This is a vast region, covering around 37,000 square miles (96,000 km²), similar in size to South Korea or a little larger than Hungary, yet at the same time only sparsely populated, with just 30,000 inhabitants. The roads are very poor, and many places can only be reached by water. These include the two remote and isolated communities under the care of Sister Blanca. The people in them belong to 2 different indigenous tribes, and in order to reach them Sister Blanca has to make a journey of 2 ½

hours along the Paraguay River.

The other sisters also work in the town of Puerto Casado, where they care in particular for the members of the indigenous Maskoy people. "The grace of God has always accompanied the sisters of our community since they are instruments of the Gospel of Jesus Christ among the marginalised peoples of Puerto Casado and the Maskoy Indians – an impoverished ethnic group which is continuing to develop, thanks to the support of the Salesian brothers and sisters," explains Sister Marciana Toledo Vergara, the Superior of the community.

Sister Emilia works in five different indigenous communities, preparing the children for their First Holy Communion, caring for the sick and supporting the local teachers. She also supports the students of the Maskoy people and generally helps the indigenous peoples in their daily struggle for survival.



Meanwhile, Sister Justa works together with some of the committed laywomen of the parish, visiting the various suburbs of Puerto Casado. Sister Irene organises catechetical sessions and leisure activities for the children and young people and also guides a young people's group in the parish, helping to organise the liturgy and working to help the most needy.

In Nu Apu'a the sisters have established a boarding school for 110 children whose families live too far from the nearest school. In this way,

these children also have a chance to gain a proper school education.

These are just a few examples of the outstanding work the sisters are doing. They offer their service selflessly and for no reward, and so we in turn would like to support them for the current year with basic subsistence aid of 8000 AUD.

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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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VIRTUE MINISTRY AND THE APOSTOLIC SOUL

This September Virtue Ministry celebrates its 7th birthday. Were VM a person and not a ministry we would say that it has reached the 'age of reason.'

BY EMILY SHAW

Virtue Ministry Writer and Graphic Designer

The age of reason is the term used to describe the period of human life where one is considered capable of discerning the difference between right and wrong, or good and evil. This transition into being considered morally responsible generally occurs around the age of seven.

But just because we're deemed capable of reasoning doesn't mean that we're actually reasonable. Without going into details from the human formation part of my life – my role as mother of 8 – I can readily attest to this. And it's not just the kids – *mea culpa, mea culpa, mea maxima culpa!*

Any process of growth – whether through age and experience or in the spiritual life – involves transition and it has been the same with VM. You might recall that earlier this year our founder and managing director announced a change to VM's direction. Maybe this announcement surprised you at the time. I mean, why change the direction to a focus on adult human formation after 6 years of active youth ministry?

The answer is as clear as mud: the soul of the apostolate dictated the change.

The Apostolate's Soul is Prayer

The practical works of the Virtue Ministry team are the tip of the proverbial iceberg. The courses and workshops – including the recent Seminary Formation Workshop, and the Wounds, Healing and Personal Mission Course currently underway in the Cathedral Parish – are but a small part of the overall apostolate of VM.

The real soul of the mission and ministry of this initiative – and all other apostolates – is prayer.

Without the firm foundation, the strong bedrock of prayer, there can be no success in any apostolate. For each hour spent actively speaking to, and with, course and workshop attendees, or recording podcast episodes, there have been more than a considerable number spent in prayer and contemplation by all members of the Virtue Ministry community and, in particular, the team itself.

Dom Jean-Baptiste Chautard's wonderful book *Soul of the Apostolate* explains succinctly why the focus of a ministry may change due to discernment in prayer, rather than the results of active outreach: "The life of action ought to flow

from the contemplative life, to interpret and extend it, outside oneself, though at the same time being detached from it as little as possible."

Soul Sisters

The tension – and link – between the contemplative and active life is portrayed in the Gospel account of Mary and Martha. Mary representing the contemplative life and Martha, the active life.

In this simple account of two sisters in Jesus' presence, and the parts they choose, contains a nugget of truth that continues to resonate: "No matter how intense it may be, the active life has its limit here below. Preaching, teaching, works of every sort all come to an end at the threshold of eternity. But the interior life will never cease: "Which shall not be taken away from her." (cf. Luke 10: 38-42)

Working harder in the active, or practical, aspects of any ministry, does not guarantee success. In fact, it may well result in the opposite. In order to work smarter in apostolate of any kind, we actually need to pray more.

"But above all, you will have to pay the price yourself, not so much by wearing yourself out rehearsing plays or getting up for football games, as by storing up in yourself the life of prayer. For you can be sure that the extent to which you yourself are able to live on the love of Our Lord will be the exact measure of your ability to stir it up in other people."

Your Soul Needs Unity too

Contemplation and action are not



just necessary for apostolates like Virtue Ministry. They are necessary for all of us individually.

"The union of the two lives, contemplative and active, constitutes the true apostolate, the chief work of Christianity" and this is a work that we are all called to by way of our Baptism.

If I want to improve myself it might appear best to go out and apply practical strategies that appear to be a sensible approach. And then I could toil on, indefinitely, without making any headway. But if I'm truly invested in increasing in virtue and becoming who I was created to be, then I can't just approach life in a haphazard way.

I need to start with prayer. I need to pray. Pray again. And again after that. I need to increase my time in contemplation with Jesus – in His Real Presence where possible and practical – and prayerfully

discern where I need to apply my activity in an intentional way.

Then too, my sound reasoning in moral judgments will increase. Then too, I might advance upon the narrow way. "And so, in the soul of a saint, action and contemplation merge together in perfect harmony to give perfect unity to his life."

So, ask yourself: how can I make better use of contemplation to propel my action? How can I increase my own opportunities for prayer and discernment, and prioritise them over the need to feel productive?

Start simply. Start with meditating on the story of Martha and Mary in Saint Luke's Gospel and reconcile those soul sisters in your own life.

Extracts taken from Chautard, Dom Jean-Baptiste. Soul of the Apostolate. TAN Books.

Listen to the Podcast

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SCHOOLS IN OUR DIOCESE

Kildare Catholic College, Wagga



Well done to our Boys and Girls CWWHSSA Hockey Teams on their performances in the Grand Final on 5 September. The boys lost in penalties to TRAC after being tied 1-1 at the end of normal time and the girls went down 1-0 to WWHS. Both teams played very well, especially with many students who had never played hockey before. Thanks also to our coaches, Miss Harris, Mrs Ryan, Ms Lloyd, and Mrs Kendall.



St Peter's Primary School, Coleambally



St Peter's Primary School Book Week Fun 2023!



St Patrick's Primary School, Griffith



St Patricks Primary School Father's Day Celebrations 2023



Marian Catholic College, Griffith



MCC Football represented at the NSWCCC Football Championships at Valentine Park, Sydney. With a depleted Opens team the Juniors stepped up and had a great tournament. Unfortunately, beaten 1-0 in the Semi Final game versus Wollongong.



All schools enrolling now

St Francis DeSales Regional College, Leeton

I put it out there to the year 10 students if they would like to enter a choral group in the Leeton Eisteddfod. 23 students came together including their conductor, Grace. They gave up their lunchtimes to practice and sang their hearts out. This resulted in a second place (only by 2 marks) amongst a very strong section.

We had soloists, Daniel on the piano and beautiful harmonies that the adjudicator said were "very effective with strong unison."

I am truly so proud of them but most of all they should be proud of themselves.

Regards,
Todd Smith



Henschke Primary School, Wagga

Well done to all our Year 2 students - and especially our staff - for pushing through the unfavourable weather conditions on 8 September at the Wagga Softball T-Ball Gala Day.



St Patrick's Primary, Holbrook



Kinder students enjoyed the sunshine during Mathematics on 4 September giving directions to a partner and then capturing an image on their ChromeBooks.



St Anne's Primary, North Albury

It was fabulous to have our Director of Schools, Andrew Watson and Assistant Director, Prue Horan along with Jacqui Galvin from CEDWW and Father Martin at the performance of Matilda Jr The Musical!



St Joseph's Primary, Narrandera



Year 5 students on the first day of their excursion at Borambola.

SCHOOLS IN OUR DIOCESE

MASS TIMES IN OUR DIOCESE

WAGGA WAGGA - CATHEDRAL

St Michael's Cathedral
Church Street, Wagga Wagga
Monday - Friday 7:00am, 12:45pm
Weekend Masses
Saturday - 12:15pm
Saturday Vigil - 5:00pm
Sunday - 8:00am, 10:00am and 5:30pm
Confessions
Monday - Thursday 12:30pm - 12:40pm
Friday 12:00-12:40pm & 6:30pm-6:45pm
Saturday 11:00am-12:00noon & 4:30pm-5:30pm
Rosary times
Monday to Thursday 12:25pm and Saturday 11:55am (before Mass)
St Mary's Chapel
Vianney College, 17 Durack Circuit
Sunday - 9:00am
Mt Erin Chapel
Kildare Catholic College
Edmondson Street, Wagga Wagga
Sunday - 11:30am (1962 Missal Mass)
Confessions before and after Mass.

WAGGA WAGGA - KOORINGAL

Sacred Heart
Lake Albert Road, Kooringal
Weekend Masses
Saturday Vigil - 5:30pm
Sunday - 9:00am
Weekday Masses
Monday, Wednesday, Friday - 5:30pm
Tuesday and Thursday - 7:00am
Saturday - 9:30am
Reconciliation
Saturday - 10:00am - 10:30am
Changes to times will be on the Chapel door.
Anointing Mass:
Every second Thursday of the month at 10am in the Parish Church/Chapel
Mass at Caloola Court:
Every first Thursday of the month at 11:00am

WAGGA WAGGA - SOUTH WAGGA

Our Lady of Fatima
Bourke Street, Wagga Wagga
Weekend Masses
Saturday Vigil - 5:00pm
Sunday - 8:30am, 10:30am & 5:30pm (Syro-Malabar Rite)
St Patrick's Uranquinty
Sunday - 8:30am
Weekday Masses - Our Lady of Fatima
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, Correen.
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 SEPTEMBER

- 6 September 1930** Fr John Joseph Condon
- 9 September 1883** Fr Patrick Bermingham
- 11 September 1898** Fr Thomas Long
- 25 September 1911** Fr James P O'Reilly
- 28 September 1936** Mgr Timothy O'Connell

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



Junior Legion

Every Wednesday afternoon at 3:30pm
at St Mary MacKillop Colleges.

Senior Legion

Every Thursday evening at 6:00pm at
Bishop's House.

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

17th September

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A

Children learn to trust God's mercy and forgiveness when they experience forgiveness from those closest to them. We hope that we model God's love and forgiveness within our family life. Today's Gospel reminds us that forgiveness is measured by its quality more than its quantity.

Invite your family to consider some recent times when family members sought the forgiveness of another. Ask if there were any statements made that put conditions on our forgiveness such as "I will play this game with you if you apologize for knocking over my blocks" or "I will accept your apology after you clean up your room." Do we sometimes "keep count" or put conditions on our forgiveness of one another? This is something we may be doing without realizing it.

Read together today's Gospel, Matthew 18:21-35. Ask if we sometimes find ourselves sounding like Peter, concerning ourselves with quantity of forgiveness rather than offering forgiveness abundantly and unconditionally. Reflect upon the parable that Jesus tells. What does the servant do that makes the king so angry? He refuses to forgive his fellow servant the debt that he owes. Because we have all received God's forgiveness, God expects that we will also be forgiving toward others. Jesus' answer to Peter's question is found at the end of the parable. The number of times that we forgive one another is less important than the depth of our forgiveness. We must forgive one another from the heart.

Conclude in prayer together that God's love and forgiveness is evident in your family life. Pray together today's psalm, Psalm 103, or the Lord's Prayer.

*Isaiah 55:6-9 Psalm 103:1-4,9-12
Romans 14:7-9 Matthew 18:21-35*

24th September

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A

The workers in this parable sound very much like squabbling children, comparing what they have each

been given and making complaints to the parent.

Among children there is a tendency to equate love with gifts and material things. This tendency can devolve into a spirit of entitlement, which runs counter to the spirit of gratitude. Any effort we make to overcome this tendency, to keep love from being entwined with gifts and possessions, will enable our children to accept completely the love that God gives freely and generously.

Observe together any tendency within your family to make comparisons. Are children sometimes heard saying that another child received a greater portion of a favorite food at dinner or dessert? Does one person complain that a parent spends more time with one child over another? Ask if such comparisons are helpful. Discuss together why such comparisons are made. Then read together today's Gospel, Matthew 20:1-16. Consider these questions: Why do the workers grumble? Is the landowner's assessment accurate? Unfortunately, we are sometimes like these workers when we make the comparisons we discussed earlier.

Conclude in prayer together remembering that love cannot and ought not to be measured. Sit quietly together acknowledging God's great love for each person as individuals and for your family. Pray together today's psalm, Psalm 145, or the Lord's Prayer.

*Isaiah 55:6-9 Psalm 145:2-3,8-9,17-18
Philippians 1:20c-24,27a Matthew 20:1-16*

1st October

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A

The example Jesus poses in today's Gospel could have been taken directly from family experience. Each of us can recall instances in which family members spoke one thing but then did another. The point of Jesus' story is to show that our actions speak louder than words, even with God.

As you gather as a family, talk about times when a family member said one thing and then did another. Acknowledge that sometimes the action taken displays a true change of

heart. Then read today's Gospel, Matthew 21:28-32. Observe that Jesus faulted the religious leaders for not allowing John the Baptist's message of repentance to change their hearts and actions. The word we sometimes use for this change of heart is conversion. Jesus wants us to do more than pay lip service to the Gospel; he wants us to be transformed by his word.

Pray together that your family will experience a conversion to God and show evidence of this in both actions and words. Pray together today's second reading, Philippians 2:1-5.

*Ezekiel 18:25-28 Psalm 25:4-9
Philippians 2:1-11 Matthew 21:28-32*

8th October

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A

In an ideal household, family members know the rules and follow them consistently. Even the most conscientious among us, however, sometimes needs to be reminded of the rules and their importance. How we respond to such correction reveals our true character. In today's Gospel Jesus exposes the religious leaders for their failure to heed God's messengers. It is an opportunity for us to consider how we respond to those who are God's messengers today, calling us to correct our ways and return to the way of the Lord.

As you gather as a family, talk about some of the most important rules of your household. Consider how consistently family members follow these rules. How are family members reminded when rules are not being followed? How do they respond? In today's Gospel Jesus corrects the religious leaders through a parable telling them that they have not heeded God's messengers. Read Matthew 21:33-43. What are some of God's rules that we must follow? How do we respond to God's messengers today? Pray together as a family that you will heed God's messengers and follow God's ways. Pray together the Act of Contrition for the times when your family has not heeded God's word.

*Isaiah 5:1-7 Psalm 80:9,12-16,19-20
Philippians 4:6-9 Matthew 21:33-43*

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2027



We now know the location for the next World Youth Day: **Seoul, South Korea**

The announcement was made on 6 August at the end of the Missioning Mass, presided over by Pope Francis and concelebrated by thousands of priests.

Archbishop Peter Chung Soon-taick of Seoul revealed in an interview that the Asian country is facing a major challenge in relation to the dwindling number of young people in 2022. According to official statistics, the nation has the lowest birth rate in the world, with only 0.8 children per couple. Because of this, the number of young people in churches has also decreased.

So WYD "could become an excellent opportunity to bring young people together around a project that makes them protagonists. It would start a process and, once it is completed, it would be good to share with everyone what we have experienced. It would be a missionary opportunity to share the values of the Gospel in our society," he concluded.

Even so, the number of Catholics in South Korea has increased by 50 per cent in the last twenty years. In that time, the percentage of Catholics in the country has gone from 8.3 per cent to 11.1 per cent, reaching more than 6 million Catholics.

A fact to be noted is the peculiarity of the beginning of the Catholic faith: its establishment and dissemination were developed in Korea on the initiative of the people, simple people, and not by priests or missionaries. The scholars, coming into contact with religious books from the West, understood and accepted Catholicism as a religion, not as a study or literature, realising that the sacraments could only be administered by priests. Thus, the Catholic community began to cross the borders with China to bring priests to Korea, even at the risk of death.

May World Youth Day in Korea be an event of grace and hope for young people in Asia and around the world.

Before announcing the location of the next WYD, Francis also invited young people from all over the world to participate in the Jubilee of Youth, which will take place in Rome in 2025: **"I count on your presence in 2025 to celebrate together the Jubilee of Young people".**

See you in Seoul in 2027!

