

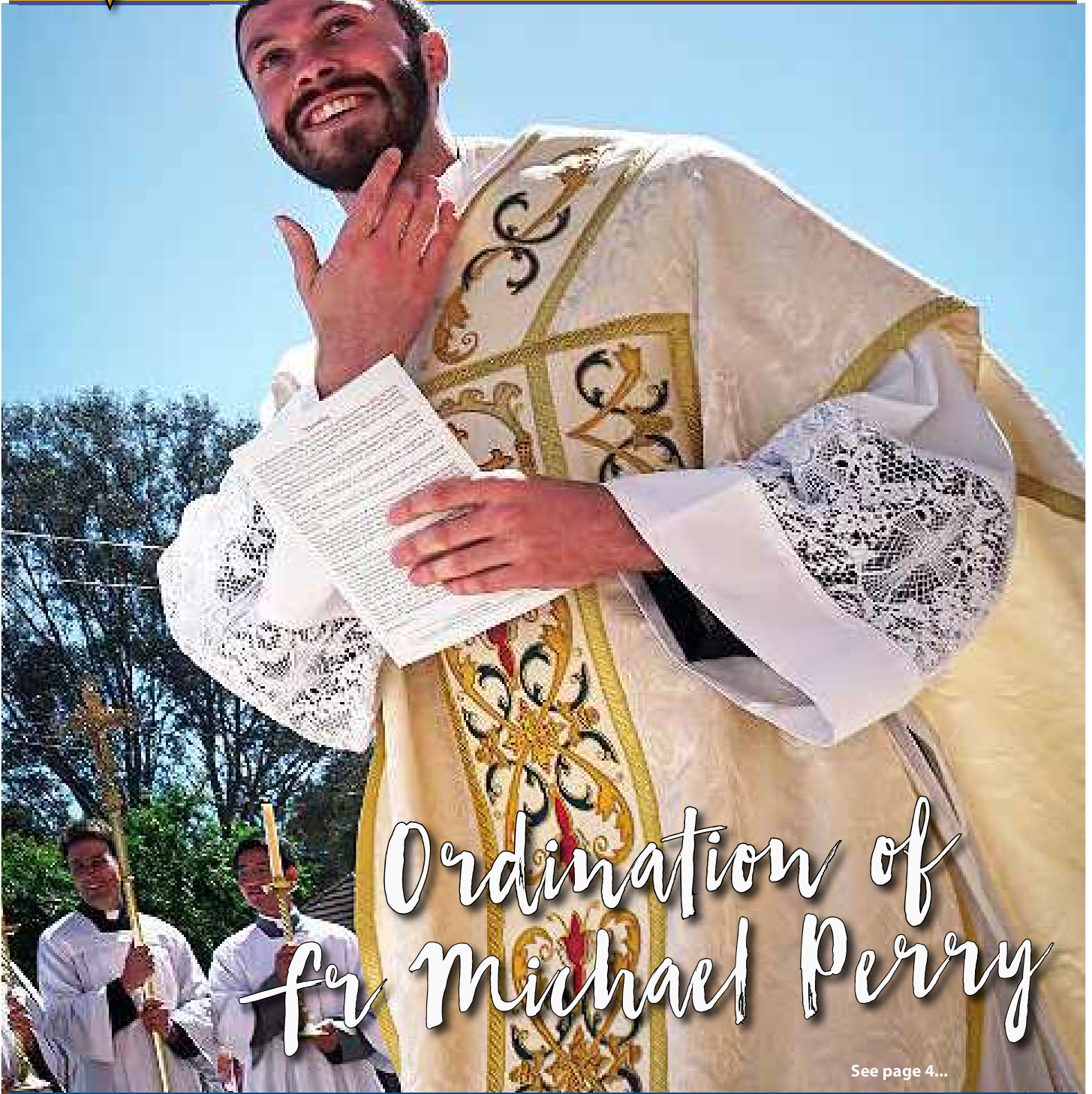


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In the Diocese of *Wagga Wagga*

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OCTOBER 2023



Ordination of Fr Michael Perry

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IN THE DIOCESE OF WAGGA WAGGA

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Homily for Ordination of Michael Perry

Deacon Michael,

The opening line of the second reading today, a reading which you chose, has not only caught my attention but it has been a focus of my prayer and a locus for God's grace working in my life for almost a month now. "The love of Christ overwhelms us..."

Wow... Isn't that what our Catholic faith and Christian life is all about? It is what is true for each of us or at least it is what we want for ourselves and those who we love and live with. It changes lives. Knowing the depth to which we are loved by God and that we are forgiven and precious children of God determines and colours everything.

Today, as you commence this new stage in your life, I invite you to dedicate your life to being overwhelmed by the love of Christ and to helping others to be overwhelmed by it.

In the Gospel, we have a description of this powerful change for ten of the eleven apostles. Thomas, the eleventh, gives us some insight into the extent of this change. He wasn't with them at this appearance of the Lord and the last he saw of them was them, they were cowering in a locked room out of fear. And now the ten are filled with joy and freedom and conviction. What must it have been like for him to see his companions and friends so changed? Did he long for what they had? Did he distrust them? Was he scared to launch himself into an experience through which he must pass to have the same himself? We know that the ten couldn't convince him of the Lord's resurrection and love but their witness opened him up to the experience of a personal encounter that Jesus so wanted to give him.

The aim of Your and my ministry is to change lives in this same way. It is about

transformation, not information, that is, taking people to Jesus. Paul understood his overpowering experience of God's love as making him an ambassador for God so that others could have this experience.

If we want to bring people to the destination, we have to begin at the starting point. The starting point is where they are with their felt experiences. Jesus didn't make them come to where he was; he came to where they were, cowering in a locked room.

As people hear you and contemplate surrendering to this journey, they will ask themselves: "What about him? Does he really believe this? Does he struggle like I do? Is he for real?" If your people trust you, they are more likely to listen to you. Your congregation has to buy into you the messenger before they buy into your message which is God's message.

Michael, have a rich spiritual life including spiritual reading so that you have something to share and to witness to. And then share with the people entrusted to you that you are overwhelmed by the Jesus' love and how this changes your life. Let them know you are for real. Don't just tell them that they should/can be overwhelmed by the love of Jesus.

I wonder if anyone here has hesitated to share how God's love overwhelmed her or him. It demands showing our vulnerability and is scary. Perhaps we want to be competent and to have people think well of us. "What will people think of me?" we might worry. Or "Will I be rejected?"

There might also be a fear also about letting Jesus overwhelm us with his love. Will I lose control? If I give all my heart to God, what will be left for me?

We are not the first ones to have had this problem. The disciples knew what this felt like. They had Jesus as their teacher for three years and yet the doors of the room they were in were locked. Jesus came in and showed them his wounds. It was important that they saw his wounds. And they were filled with joy. In the second reading, St Paul is very aware of his sinfulness and how much he rejected Jesus and that makes his awareness of Jesus' mercy more powerful - overwhelming, in fact.

Jesus anointed their hearts with the Holy Spirit and forgiveness. Jesus wants to anoint your heart through this vocation and the hearts of your people through your ministry. This is how to change your life and the lives that you are ordained for. And it is worth it. This is what being an ambassador for Christ looks like. Let us be overwhelmed by the love of Jesus.

Following the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and under the Lordship of Jesus, pierce hearts, inspire personal conversion to Jesus, unleash missionary disciples, assist the entire diocese in inviting the world through the power of the Gospel. Help your people and all the world to experience Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit

Jesus says to you as he said to the apostles: "As the father sent me, so am I sending you: Receive the Holy Spirit." Be an ambassador for Jesus, died and risen. Make a total gift of your life to support the bishop in this mission and let it be your total mission.

We celebrate today God's work through the extraordinary intercession of Our Lady in the 1571 battle of Lepanto. **I entrust you and your ministry to that powerful intercession.**

PRAYER INTENTION FOR OCTOBER - PRAY WITH POPE FRANCIS

For the Synod.

We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level, and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world.

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



Listening is a vital part of any relationship, whether it is in a marriage, or in any type of friendship. If all we do is talk, without any listening, we will likely lose any friends we had. True and authentic love requires dialogue, a profound giving and receiving of the gift of ourselves.

This same principle can also be applied to the Church and our relationship with God. The Bible constantly reminds us to remain attentive to the Lord, "Speak, for your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:10). A synod presents us with a unique opportunity to listen to the Holy Spirit and discern how God is leading his people.

Pope Francis has reminded us of this principle throughout his pontificate, explaining in his apostolic exhortation *Gaudete et Exsultate* how discernment requires listening.

"We must remember that prayerful discernment must be born of a readiness to listen: to the Lord and to others, and to reality itself, which always challenges us in new ways. Only if we are prepared to listen, do we have the freedom

to set aside our own partial or insufficient ideas, our usual habits and ways of seeing things. In this way, we become truly open to accepting a call that can shatter our security, but lead us to a better life."

God can speak to us in a number of ways, but it is important to point out that listening must not be isolated from the Gospel, as Pope Francis explains.

"[T]his attitude of listening entails obedience to the Gospel as the ultimate standard, but also to the Magisterium that guards it, as we seek to find in the treasury of the Church whatever is most fruitful for the 'today' of salvation."

As the Synod on Synodality convenes, may we join in prayer and seek to hear the voice of God, deepening our love of God and neighbor, while remaining faithful to the Gospel and the truth that has been handed on to us from the apostles.

Philip Kosloski

Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (United States)

“LAUDATE DEUM”: THE POPE’S CRY FOR A RESPONSE TO THE CLIMATE CRISIS



Pope Francis has published an Apostolic Exhortation building on his 2015 encyclical. We’re not reacting enough, he says, we’re close to breaking point. He criticises climate change deniers, saying that the human origin of global warming is now beyond doubt. And he describes how care for our common home flows from the Christian faith.

BY VATICAN NEWS

‘Praise God’ is the title of this letter. For when human beings claim to take God’s place, they become their own worst enemies.’

That’s how Pope Francis ends his new Apostolic Exhortation, published on the 4th October, the Feast of St Francis of Assisi.

It’s a text in continuity with his 2015 encyclical *Laudato si’*, which is broader in scope. In six chapters and 73 paragraphs, the Successor of Peter tries to clarify and bring to completion that previous text on integral ecology, while at the same time sounding an alarm, and a call for co-responsibility, in the face of the climate emergency.

In particular, the Exhortation looks ahead to COP28, which will be held in Dubai between the end of November and beginning of December.

The Holy Father writes: “With the passage of time, I have realized that our responses have not been adequate, while the world in which we live is collapsing and may be nearing the breaking point. In addition to this possibility, it is indubitable that the impact of climate change will increasingly prejudice the lives and families of many persons”.

It’s “one of the principal challenges facing society and the global community” and “the effects of climate change are borne by the most vulnerable people, whether at home or around the world”.

Signs of climate change increasingly evident

The first chapter is dedicated to the global climate crisis.

“Despite all attempts to deny, conceal, gloss over or relativize the issue, the signs of climate change are here and increasingly evident,” says the Pope.

He goes on to observe that “in recent years we have witnessed extreme weather phenomena, frequent periods of unusual heat, drought and other cries of protest on the part of the earth”, a “silent disease that affects everyone.”

Moreover, Pope Francis says, “it is verifiable that specific climate changes provoked by humanity are notably heightening the probability of extreme phenomena that are increasingly frequent and intense.”

Now, the Holy Father explains, if global

temperature increases by more than two degrees, “the icecaps of Greenland and a large part of Antarctica will melt completely, with immensely grave consequences for everyone”.

Speaking of those who play down climate change, he responds: “what we are presently experiencing is an unusual acceleration of warming, at such a speed that it will take only one generation – not centuries or millennia – in order to verify it.”

“Probably in a few years many populations will have to move their homes because of these facts”.

Extreme colds, too, are “alternative expressions of the same cause”.

Not the fault of the poor

“In an attempt to simplify reality,” Pope Francis writes, “there are those who would place responsibility on the poor, since they have many children, and even attempt to resolve the problem by mutilating women in less developed countries.”

“As usual, it would seem that everything is the fault of the poor. Yet the reality is that a low, richer percentage of the planet contaminates more than the poorest 50% of the total world population, and that per capita emissions of the richer countries are much greater than those of the poorer ones.”

“How can we forget that Africa, home to more than half of the world’s poorest people, is responsible for a minimal portion of historic emissions?”.

The Pope also challenges of those who say efforts to mitigate climate change by reducing the use of fossil fuels “will lead to a reduction in the number of jobs.”

What is happening, in fact, is that “millions of people are losing their jobs due to different effects of climate change: rising sea levels, droughts and other phenomena affecting the planet have left many people adrift.”

At the same time, “the transition to renewable forms of energy, properly managed” is capable of “generating countless jobs in different sectors. This demands that politicians and business leaders should even now be concerning themselves with it”.

Indubitable human origins

“It is no longer possible to doubt the human – ‘anthropic’ – origin of climate change,” the Pope says.

“The concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere ... was stable until the

nineteenth century ... In the past fifty years, this increase has accelerated significantly”.

At the same time, global temperature “has risen at an unprecedented speed, greater than any time over the past two thousand years. In this period, the trend was a warming of 0.15° C per decade, double that of the last 150 years ... At this rate, it is possible that in just ten years we will reach the recommended maximum global ceiling of 1.5° C”.

This has resulted in acidification of the seas and the melting of glaciers.

“It is not possible to conceal” the correlation between these events and the growth of greenhouse gas emissions. Unfortunately, the Holy Father bitterly observes, “the climate crisis is not exactly a matter that interests the great economic powers, whose concern is with the greatest profit possible at minimal cost and in the shortest amount of time”.

Barely in time to avoid more terrible damage

“I feel obliged,” continues Pope Francis, “to make these clarifications, which may appear obvious, because of certain dismissive and scarcely reasonable opinions that I encounter, even within the Catholic Church.”

Yet, “we can no longer doubt that the reason for the unusual rapidity of these dangerous changes is a fact that cannot be concealed: the enormous novelties that have to do with unchecked human intervention on nature in the past two centuries”.

Unfortunately, some effects of this climate crisis are already irreversible, for at least several hundred years, and “the melting of the poles will not be able to be reversed for hundreds of years”.

We are, then, barely in time to avoid even more terrible damage. The Pope writes that “certain apocalyptic diagnoses may well appear scarcely reasonable or insufficiently grounded”, but “we cannot state with certainty” what is going to happen.

Therefore, “a broader perspective is urgently needed ... What is being asked of us is nothing other than a certain responsibility for the legacy we will leave behind, once we pass from this world”.

Recalling the experience of the Covid-19 pandemic, Pope Francis repeats that “Everything is connected and no one is saved alone”.

The technocratic paradigm: the idea of a

human being without limits

In the second chapter, the Pope speaks of the technocratic paradigm which consists in thinking that “reality, goodness and truth automatically flow from technological and economic power as such” and “monstrously feeds upon itself”, taking its inspiration from the idea of a human being without limitations.

“Never has humanity had such power over itself,” the Holy Father continues, “yet nothing ensures that it will be used wisely, particularly when we consider how it is currently being used ... It is extremely risky for a small part of humanity to have it”.

Unfortunately – as demonstrated, too, by the atomic bomb – “our immense technological development has not been accompanied by a development in human responsibility, values and conscience”.

The Pope reaffirms that “the world that surrounds us is not an object of exploitation, unbridled use and unlimited ambition”. He reminds us that we, too, are part of nature, and that this “excludes the idea that the human being is extraneous, a foreign element capable only of harming the environment. Human beings must be recognized as a part of nature”; “human groupings have often ‘created’ an environment”.

The ethical decadence of power: marketing and fake news

We have made “impressive and awesome technological advances, and we have not realized that at the same time we have turned into highly dangerous beings, capable of threatening the lives of many beings and our own survival”.

“The ethical decadence of real power is disguised thanks to marketing and false information, useful tools in the hands of those with greater resources to employ them to shape public opinion.”

Through these mechanisms, people in areas where polluting projects are to be implemented are deceived, convinced that economic and employment opportunities will be generated, but “they are not clearly told that the project will result in ... a desolate and less habitable landscape” and a clear decline in quality of life.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

THE ORDINATION OF FR MICHAEL JOHN PERRY

On a clear and sunny Saturday morning on the 7 October, the feast day of Our Lady of the Rosary, Bishop Mark Edwards through the laying on of hands ordained Fr Michael John Perry to be a priest forever in the line of Melchizedek.

BY FR CONNELL PERRY

The ordination of a new priest is not just an exciting and monumental occasion for the ordinand himself and his family.

It is also an immensely historic day in the life of the diocese as a young man is consecrated to be another Christ in the service of the people of God for the rest of his life.

A large crowd of more than 700 people filled the pews and overflowed outside the doors of St Michael's Cathedral as family, friends, locals and travellers joined the beautiful ceremony. The music and singing was outstanding as the litany of the saints and other majestic hymns echoed in adoration, petition and thanksgiving. It was inspiring

others. Fr Michael Perry is the second of nine children and it was incredibly touching to witness the tears of joy and the love that his parents Con and Jenette and his brothers and sisters shared during the Holy Mass. Within their family home it was where the first seeds of his vocation had been nurtured through daily Rosary, Mass and putting the Catholic Faith first, above all else.

It was the sacrificial decision to move to the Diocese of Wagga Wagga from their original home in Alice Springs NT that had perhaps facilitated Fr Michael Perry's entry into Vianney College. The hard work both in the seminary and



Above: The Promises of the Elect. Photo by Tom Denahy.



Above: The Litany of the Saints. Photo by Tom Denahy.

to see so many of the clergy in attendance as they welcomed Fr Michael Perry into the presbyterate.

It goes without saying that the event was a highly emotional day for the Perry family and many

the humble pastoral endeavours in parishes throughout his formation laid the foundations of his ministry, which will begin with his first appointment as assistant priest at St Patrick's Albury.



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This was the church where he celebrated his Thanksgiving Mass the next day. Once again it was packed full of people and the reverent celebration of the liturgy made it feel like heaven had touched earth for a moment. There were a multitude of memories that were shared in speeches and conversations as people enjoyed the food and the community at both gatherings.

The ordination of Fr Michael

Perry is undoubtedly going to be remembered as an inspirational and happy event for many years to come. The Church is grateful for his fiat to the will of God in his life. One thing he asked for constantly was prayers for the work ahead and he will certainly be in the prayers of lots of people.

May his future be filled with bountiful blessings as he blesses the lives of countless people through the sacraments and his apostolic mission. Ad multos annos!



Above: The Litany of the Saints. Photo by Tom Denahy.



Above: Fr Michael Perry with his brother Fr Connell Perry.



Above: The Prayer of Ordination. Photo by Tom Denahy.



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Hearts on Fire

FEET ON THE MOVE



Catholic Mission launches World Mission Month 2023 appeal highlighting the work of Salesian Sisters in Timor-Leste.

Catholic Mission is launching the celebration of World Mission Month 2023, focusing on Pope Francis' World Mission Sunday message, 'Hearts on fire, feet on the move'.

The October appeal highlights the burning passion that drives missionaries around the world to take action for a more just world.

Sr Carolina, who is the face of the awareness and fundraising campaign, is a great example of the devotion of missionaries, dedicating herself to providing critical healthcare services to the rural community of Venilale in Timor-Leste.

After decades of journeying with the Venilale community, Sr Carolina can summarise her understanding of Mission in a sentence: "Mission is where many people need you."

It is a simple philosophy honed

through her years of service via the Maria Auxiliadora Clinic, which the Salesian Sisters opened in 1995 to provide urgent healthcare services to a community still bearing the scars of decades of unrest.

Most of the treatment at the centre focuses on tuberculosis and malnutrition, two life-threatening illnesses well known to the local community.

Throughout World Mission Month, Catholic Mission is sharing the success stories of beneficiaries of the clinic, like Vitoria. Diagnosed with tuberculosis at the age of 12, Vitoria travelled every day with her mother to the clinic to receive life-saving care and medication thanks to the Sisters.

The biggest celebration on Catholic Mission's calendar is about more than just the practical benefits



of the projects it supports around the world. The Maria Auxiliadora Clinic, Sister Carolina and her superior, Sister Alma, have created not only a place of healing but a safe and welcoming environment where people are listened to.

"The people are welcome. The people feel at home. They can stay, they can talk about their own problems, not just sickness, and enter a deeper conversation. We spend time with them to explain things. In this

way, the people feel important," says Sr Alma.

Through Catholic Mission, you are invited to journey with Sr Carolina, and walk alongside the Salesian Sisters and the resilient community of Venilale. **Parishes, schools, and supporters across Australia will be encouraged to provide resources for the Clinic to continue to provide life-giving services to the local community.**



Situated 150 km from the east of Dili, Venilale is a town of 16,000 inhabitants. Following decades of unrest, Venilale has limited access to resources and infrastructure, and faces a range of challenges, including the lack of access to healthcare professionals.

The Salesian Sisters, who first came to Venilale to support the education of young children, discovered a great need for medical assistance. In 1995, driven by their commitment to God's Mission and hand-in-hand with the local community, they created the Maria Auxiliadora Clinic, a place dedicated to healing and health

education.

Through decades of service, the Sisters have established a strong bond with the community, with each new generation trusting the Sisters to care for them.

In providing people with physical and psychological care, the Clinic takes a holistic approach by sharing healthy lifestyle skills and habits. Through health promotion, the community is empowered to have autonomy over their well-being.

"The people are welcome. The people feel at home. They can stay, they can talk about their own problems, not just sickness, and enter a deeper

MISSIONARIES IN ACTION: PROVIDING HEALTHCARE TO THE VENILALE COMMUNITY

conversation.

We spend time with them to explain things. In this way, the people feel important," says Sr Alma.

One key work of the Sisters focuses on promoting nutrition. Targeting schools, this program ensures that children are developing healthy nutrition habits for themselves and their families.

This year, the Sisters are looking to implement this program in 24 schools in Venilale and in the surrounding communities.

Currently, 51 children in 1000 under the age of five are dying prematurely, with malnutrition as one of the main

contributing factors. Teaching healthy habits enables this new generation to make informed choices about their health and to pass on vital knowledge to their families and future children.

While there is important progress, many challenges remain in keeping the Venilale Clinic running. Doctors are difficult to find and retain, and the cost of maintaining the Clinic continues to rise.

The support of Catholic Mission's friends and supporters remain an important factor in carrying this life-giving work.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

VOCATIONAL SCHOOL IN VENILALE: HOPE FOR THE YOUNGER GENERATION COMMUNITY



Unemployment and lack of qualified employees are prominent challenges in rural areas of Timor-Leste, especially for younger girls. In communities like Venilale, there is a lack of opportunity for the younger generation to grow the specific skills that will be key to their employability.

To empower younger generations, in 1994 the Salesian Sisters set themselves in action and created the St Mary Mazzarello Vocational School in Venilale. The School provides a safe learning environment

for young girls and boys. It gives them the opportunity to learn vital employable skills. Focusing on hospitality, students learn how to cook and to manage tasks in kitchens and restaurants.

Sadly, the School was reduced to ashes in 2001 due to the violence during Indonesia's rule. Ninety per cent of the School was destroyed, which led to a journey to rebuild. Happily, the School is now fully operational and supports 214 students.

As well as giving them basic tools to support themselves, the Sisters are

working with the younger generation of Venilale to help them create a better future for the local community.

Upon graduation, students have access to a range of employment opportunities in the cities.

This gives them hope for the future and a sense of empowerment, knowing that they have the skills to financially support themselves and their families.

Sr Carolina says, "We want to educate and train youth with good values, to promote their capacity and professional autonomy, therefore they

are able to contribute."

However, running the School and updating the facilities to match the current health standards represents a significant cost. This cannot be covered by the low fees paid by the students, as most of them come from disadvantaged backgrounds. **Thanks to the devotion of the missionaries and the support of Catholic Mission's friends and supporters, the School is looking forward to make the necessary updates and keep welcoming students.**

SISTER CAROLINA: A MISSIONARY INSPIRED BY HER BURNING PASSION FOR OTHERS

Sr Carolina Maria Correia is a Salesian Sister. Originally from a small village an hour away from Venilale, she knew her calling at the age of seventeen when she discovered the life and Mission of the Salesian Sisters.

A year later Sr Carolina moved to the convent, where she dedicated herself to the great work of Mission. She discovered a new depth to her calling when she moved to the Philippines to study.

During this time, she met Sr Alma, who worked as a doctor in the Philippines. This encounter was life-changing for Sr Carolina. Inspired by Sr Alma's devotion to others and by the work of the other doctors

and nurses, Sr Carolina decided to become a missionary.

Guided by her love for people, she set out to become a nurse, something she had never previously considered. She then traveled back to Timor-Leste where she worked as a health professional.

After years spent dividing her time between her formation in Rome and her missionary work in her home country, Sr Carolina is now working at the Maria Auxiliadora Clinic in Venilale, under the guidance of Doctor Sr Alma.

Together they care for the local communities, providing them with medical assistance and pastoral care.

SISTER ALMA: A MISSIONARY JOURNEY FROM ITALY TO TIMOR-LESTE

Sr Alma Castagna is the Provincial of the Salesian Sisters in Timor-Leste and Indonesia. Growing up in Italy, Sr Alma studied medicine to become a doctor. Guided by her faith, she decided to join the Mission and dedicate her life to serving others, as an act of selflessness.

After working across Asia and Oceania, she arrived in Timor-Leste, 30 years ago, where she began to work as a doctor among local communities struggling to access health services and medical personnel. Her skills and training were vital, and she was soon sent to work on different projects around the country to help the people most in need.

In 1992, she was asked to go to the small town of Venilale to assist Sr Paola to run the local clinic established in 1989, the Maria Auxiliadora Clinic. Alongside the clinic and thanks to the resourcefulness of

Sr Paola, St Mary Mazzarello Vocational School was being built to offer vocational training to young girls and boys, creating pathways to employment. In 1995, Sr Alma took on the role of Director for the school's community.

Her journey as a missionary has been driven by her burning passion for people and her faith. She is reminded of the presence of Christ through every encounter and as she sees people walk toward a better future in their own capacity. In her own words, Sr Alma describes the importance of taking action, "Everywhere we can make something, small things, but we can do what God wants from us."

Sr Alma's devotion to helping others continues to be an inspiration for many missionaries.



ALL SAINTS' DAY: CELEBRATING OUR HEAVENLY FRIENDS

The Feast of All Saints, or All Saints' Day, commemorates all those who have died and are now in Heaven. Generally, November 1, The Solemnity of All Saints, is a Holy Day in the Catholic Church.

BY MONIQUE SAMMUT
My Catholic Kids

All Saints Day

The word "Saint" often refers to those men and women whom the Catholic Church has canonized. When a person's cause for canonization is first opened they are known as a Servant of God. The title of Venerable is bestowed once evidence of heroic virtue is shown. After one church-approved miracle attributed to the intercession of a venerable, that person is then beatified and becomes a Blessed. The blessed is canonized after another miracle, and becomes a Saint. Not all holy people are canonized and there are many saints in Heaven who are not officially recognized by the Church.

A Brief History

On May 13, 609, Pope Boniface IV consecrated the Pantheon in Rome to Our Lady and the martyrs. This was the formal start of the Feast of All Saints. May 13 was the pagan Feast of the Lemures, during which rites would be performed to cleanse houses from wicked and restless spirits. Tradition has it that the Catholic Church originally chose May 13 because of the connection with the souls of the dead and in order to replace a pagan holiday with a church-approved one.

In the mid-eighth century, Pope Gregory III officially established All Saints' Day on November 1, as a day dedicated to the saints. During

the reign of King Louis the Pious, Charlemagne's son, Pope Gregory IV declared the Feast of All Saints a Holy Day of Obligation.

All Hallows' Eve

The day before All Saints' Day is Halloween. Is there a connection between these two celebrations? Actually, there is but the religious origins of Halloween have largely been forgotten. Halloween is derived from Hallows' Eve or Hallowmas, which means The Eve of All Saints. Vigils begin the night before Sundays and major feasts. The modern term of Halloween was derived from a way of saying All Saints Eve – just as we say Christmas Eve. In the later half of the nineteenth century, Halloween became known as a more secular holiday and began to develop into what it is today.

Making a Joyful Noise

There are several songs usually associated with All Saints' Day. For All the Saints was written by William Walsham How, an Anglican Bishop. Oh When the Saints is a popular Christian children's song that originated in the nineteenth century. Singing these songs may be a fun and engaging way to involve and excite children and to remind them of the significance of this holy day.

Over the years, my siblings and I have memorized the U.S. Presidents, the 50 states, and the books of the



Bible by placing lists of names to the tunes of different songs (e.g. singing the books of the Bible to the Ode to Joy). After we heard it, one song we wanted to learn was The Saint Song created by The Saint Cast. The names of many different saints are set to the popular tune of Gilbert and Sullivan's Modern Major General. The list is obviously minimal, but one children may find fascinating and want to learn!

It's All Saints' Day All Over the World

There are many different traditions world-wide for the celebration of All Saint's Day. Many of the traditions combine All Saints' and All Souls' Day blurring the distinction between the two. All Saints' Day commemorates those who have died and are now in Heaven. All Souls' Day remembers the souls of all who have died and those who may not yet be in Heaven.

Mexico

In Mexico, All Saints' Day falls on the same day as the Day of the Innocents, a day remembering children who have died. All of the dead are remembered during the Day of the Dead holy days extending from October 31 until November 2. Calaveras are edible skulls made out of sugar or chocolate commonly given as gifts or used as decoration pieces

during these days. Funny Bones: Posada and His Day of the Dead Calaveras is a multicultural children's book that delves into the origins of the calaveras in a simple and colorful way.

Europe and the Philippines

In Europe, people place flowers or candles on graves to serve as memorials. In countries such as the Philippines, families repair and paint graves and then decorate them with flowers and/or candles.

United States

A popular All Saints' Day tradition among Catholic families is having an All Saints Party. A party such as this gives children the opportunity to dress up as their favorite saints. Families come together for games, food, and fellowship.

November 1 is an excellent time for us all to remember the universal call to holiness. We were all made to become saints! The Saints were human too, ordinary men and women who loved God more than they loved themselves.

Throughout their daily lives they placed themselves at the service of God and others. **They passed through many trials, remained faithful, and as a result they now see God face-to-face.**



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POPE PROMOTES “SAFE SPACE” FOR SYNOD PARTICIPANTS

I will be one of 15 Australians and hundreds of people from around the world gathering in Rome for the first assembly of what has become known as the “Synod on Synodality”.

BY BISHOP SHANE MACKINLAY

Next month’s assembly, and another to follow in October 2024, are the continuation of what has been dubbed “the world’s largest ever consultation”. When you consider that almost 120 bishops conferences from every part of the world gathered the thoughts of the People of God in their dioceses, that claim makes sense.

This consultation has also been marked by an openness and transparency that hasn’t always been characteristic of Vatican processes. It is part of a wider awareness across the Church internationally of how much we can learn from good practices in other parts of society.

Much like the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia, the Synod’s process reflects a conviction that by sharing the fruits of the community’s prayer, conversation and discernment, we can build a shared spiritual and emotional investment in what is being discussed, as well as having new opportunities to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit.

As the Synod on Synodality prepares to open on October 4, there has been some discussion about how the openness and transparency that has been evident over the past three years might continue over the next few weeks.

This is similar to issues that we grappled with during the Plenary Council journey.

After more than 220,000 people had shared their joys and their hopes, their griefs and their anxieties, we wanted to invite those people to continue their journey with the 275 members who would participate and vote in the Council’s two assemblies.

At the same time, we wanted to

create a protected space for Council members to engage in prayerful and deeply personal conversations, while still sharing the fruits of that discernment with the Australian people.

It wasn’t an easy balance to find, but daily updates through stories, photos and videos sought to capture the essence of the discussions and the spirit – and indeed the Spirit – that was present in those conversations.

Council members were able to share their own experiences and their own views on the important topics that were on the agenda as they chose, but with an understanding that the views of others were theirs alone to share (or not).

At this stage, it appears that during next month’s assembly of the Synod on Synodality, the priority will be on ensuring that the confidentiality of the “conversations in the Spirit” is protected, so that there can be a free exchange of people’s thoughts across the questions we will be praying with and reflecting upon.

Pope Francis, when asked recently about the upcoming assembly, said “There is one thing that we must safeguard, the synodal atmosphere. This is not a television show where you talk about everything. No. There is a religious moment; there is a moment of religious exchange.”

We know that our faith is one of the most deeply personal parts of our being. Sharing our innermost thoughts on such matters can be hard, and it is certainly important that any vulnerability in those moments is respected.

It is in this context that Pope Francis and his collaborators are seeking to create a “safe space” for Synod participants during the



Above: Bishop Shane Mackinlay.

assembly.

Paolo Ruffini, the prefect of the Vatican’s Dicastery for Communications, explained it this way: “Maintaining the confidentiality, the privacy, and, I would say, the sacredness of certain places for conversation in the Spirit, is part and parcel of the desire to make these moments a true opportunity for listening, discernment and prayer rooted in communion.”

To that end, some aspects of the Synod will be livestreamed and it’s expected there will be regular updates on the discussions that are taking place.

As the Holy Father has reminded us, “the Synod is not a parliament”, and so the proceedings of the Synod will not be captured like the debate in Parliament. However, it is expected that a synthesis report on the first assembly will be published to guide ongoing discernment by the whole People of God in preparation for the

second assembly next October.

With that in mind, we see the rationale for Pope Francis’ desire to safeguard the prayerful exchange of ideas during the assembly, while still promoting the participation of the whole People of God in the broader synod process. As we Australian participants travel to Rome, we ask you to accompany us in prayer and to stay connected to this ongoing journey of renewal in Jesus Christ.

For our part, we will do what we can to share our reflections on our experiences as part of this global exercise in synodality, both during the assembly and after we return to Australia later in the year.

Bishop Shane Mackinlay was elected as one of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference’s representatives at the Synod on Synodality. He was also vice-president of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia.

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Responding to the growing gap in palliative care in Wagga Wagga and surrounding areas, The Forrest Centre Hospice opened its doors on-site at Mary Potter Nursing home on 15 September 2018. Its creation was in large part thanks to the support and generosity of local donors who shared the same desire to do better for our community when it comes to Palliative Care.

Since that day, the Palliative Care team at the Hospice has assisted more than 120 residents and their families through their palliative care and end-of-life journey.

“The needs of our residents and their families are higher within the Hospice setting, with increased services and support essential to ensuring an individualised experience and quality coordinated care from our team of health professionals,” Facility Manager Wendy Spokes explains.

“Initially, the resident’s care team may only consist of their GP, family members, aged care nurses, pastoral care and support staff within the Hospice providing medical, social, emotional and practical support. Over time, this team can grow depending on changing needs and can include palliative care specialists, doctors, nurses, social workers and nutritionists. It’s about meeting the needs of each resident.”

Along with a tailored support team, the Hospice also provides the physical space for residents and families to live as comfortably as possible – from large and secure single rooms with private ensuite, to indoor and outdoor spaces

for families to gather, a library room for quiet reading, church services, and social activities such as movies, gardening and concerts.

“We encourage our Hospice residents to enjoy life by going on outings with their family and friends, celebrating special events, and sharing their life stories and memories.”

Hospice residents Lorraine Black and Fred Ovington both say The Forrest Centre Hospice feels like a home.

“Coming in here has removed all the stress from me,” Lorraine said. “The care is excellent and now there is no burden on my family, I can relax. I love it here. It is nicely maintained, and nothing is too much trouble. I feel it’s very important for Wagga Wagga to



have facilities like these.”

“I would definitely recommend The Forrest Centre Hospice,” Fred said. “It has a very homely feel, and the staff add the personal touch by doing things like acknowledging birthdays. They really provide holistic care.”

For more information on The Forrest Centre Hospice, visit <https://forrestcentre.com.au/the-forrest-centre-hospice> or call (02) 6932 3011

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OPINION: IT'S GOOD TO HAVE AN INFORMED OPINION AND THEN BACK IT UP WITH ACTIONS.

BY MATTHEW GREENROD

The other day my son came up to me and asked me what I thought of the local lawn bowls club and the colour on their name out the front.

I told him I have never thought about that before and therefore have no opinion on it. Whether it should be this or that colour has no bearing on me whatsoever.

Then he came up to me and said, dad what is your opinion on how to grow the church in Australia? I said

son sit down and let's talk. After half an hour of sharing my views and listening to further questions from him (I suggest he probably won't be asking that question again anytime soon). Still, he was following what I was sharing.

We have opinions on things that matter to us. We value and are interested in issues that we have and care for. We should value other people's opinion and either agree or disagree with them, which makes for healthy discussion where all of us can learn.

Our opinions are personal, but they also need to align with God and with facts. If our opinions oppose God,

then we'll find ourselves in a sticky situation. Presently I'm dialoguing with the Jehovah's Witnesses. Sadly I don't think they care about my opinion or facts. But if I don't value their opinion then how are we to grow together?

So, my question to you is, do you have an opinion on the Catholic church in Australia, on your parish, on how we can grow the church in Australia? Too many of us don't have an opinion and/or don't care about growing the church. Surely, we should care and care enough to do something about it.

Many people like to say the Holy Spirit has got it sorted and handball

the problem to Him and true enough He will see it happen, but the Holy Spirit can only work through your hands, your feet and your heart.

So, then I encourage you to pray to the Spirit and see where He can use you to build our church in the local parish. Perhaps it's in the parish choir, altar serving or joining the Legion of Mary. When was the last time you attended a catholic event apart from Sunday Mass? **Don't settle with just going to church on Sunday, go that extra mile and embrace a new ministry resting assured God will not be outdone in generosity.**

CONFIRMATION

On the 16th and 17th September, Confirmation was held at the Sacred Heart Parish, Griffith with 34 candidates from St Patrick's Griffith being confirmed by Bishop Mark Edwards.



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RADICAL VISION AND ACTION

Twenty-five years ago, ErinEarth began as a response to the 'Cry of the Earth'. Interestingly, our organisation shares its silver jubilee year with a nationally significant response to the 'Cry of the Earth', which was also a nationally significant response to advancing the rights of Traditional Owners; this response being the Jabiluka Blockade.

BY MELANIE BRADLEY

Some quick history for those who are not familiar with the Jabiluka story. The Jabiluka uranium deposit is surrounded by Kakadu National Park and is situated on the lands of the Mirarr People. In 1998, led by Mirarr Senior Traditional Owner, Yvonne Margarula, an unprecedented coalition of groups and activists came together, from across Australia, to stop the proposed Jabiluka uranium mine. More than 5000 people took part in non-violent direct action at the eight-month long Jabiluka blockade, with more than 500 arrested, including Yvonne Margarula, who was arrested for trespassing on land her family had occupied, and cared for, for at least 65,000 years.

The Blockade, which was supported by legal actions, alliance building, corporate campaigning, and social leverage, opened eyes, ears and hearts around Australia and the world. Eventually, this campaign forced the

mining company, ERA, to enter into an agreement with the Mirarr in 2005, which stated that Jabiluka could not be developed without written consent of the Mirarr Traditional Owners. This was a watershed moment for First Nations land rights and the environment movement in Australia, and it has meant that Jabiluka's uranium remains in the ground today.

Campaigner Dave Sweeney, in reflecting on the Blockade's 25-year anniversary, has said: "On one hand you had a transactional view of the world, that saw that extraction and short term private profit was the priority. On the other hand, you had a perspective that was based on long-term care, on responsibility and respect, for both people and place..."

Jabiluka is an important story of hope. Amid technological, political and economic forces that often foster unconstrained individualism at the cost of collective responsibility and

value; hope, humour and humanity are revolutionary tools...

It's been said that if you fight you might not always win, and it's true. But if you don't fight, and by that I mean peacefully, I mean tenaciously, I mean creatively; if you don't fight for what really matters, you will never win. Jabiluka was a win. It was a win for Kakadu, it was a win for the Territory, it was a win for our nation, and it was a win for the world. It reduced radioactive risk and it grew rights, recognition and respect. That's a pretty good win."

These reflections from Dave Sweeney ring true for ErinEarth in many ways. They mirror our core values, they speak to our purpose, and they resonate with ErinEarth's heart. Perhaps they resonate so strongly because ErinEarth, from the start, has been a project of radical vision and radical

action. Maybe not in the Jabiluka sense of radical action, but certainly in the sense of wanting to open eyes, ears and hearts to the 'Cry of the Earth'.

Nano Nagle, the foundress of the Presentation Sisters was a woman of radical vision and radical action. At ErinEarth, as we follow in Nano's footsteps, it is timely to ask ourselves during our 25th year: is there something radical that we are being called to do?

This is an important question to ponder in our increasingly uncertain and volatile world. Radical vision and radical actions, whatever form they take, are about bringing about meaningful and transformative change. So, what are the changes that our planet and our society are calling for? And how can we, as the ErinEarth community, help to bring positive changes about?



2023 EVENTS

Oct

28

SoulSpace

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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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“The mentality of maximum gain at minimal cost, disguised in terms of reasonableness, progress and illusory promises, makes impossible any sincere concern for our common home and any real preoccupation about assisting the poor and the needy discarded by our society ... astounded and excited by the promises of any number of false prophets, the poor themselves at times fall prey to the illusion of a world that is not being built for them”.

There exists, then, “rule by those born with greater possibilities and advantages”. Pope Francis invites these individuals to ask themselves, “with an eye to the children who will pay for the harm done by their actions”, what the meaning of their life is.

Weak international politics

In the next chapter of the Exhortation, the pope addresses the weakness of international politics, insisting on the need to foster “multilateral agreements between States”.

He explains that “when we talk about the possibility of some form of world authority regulated by law, we need not necessarily think of a personal authority” but of “more effective world organizations, equipped with the power to provide for the global common good, the elimination of hunger and poverty and the sure defence of fundamental human rights”.

These, he says, “must be endowed with real authority, in such a way as to provide for the attainment of certain essential goals”.

Pope Francis deplores that “global crises are being squandered when they could be the occasions to bring about beneficial changes. This is what happened in the 2007-2008 financial crisis and again in the Covid-19 crisis”, which led to “greater individualism, less integration and increased freedom for the truly powerful, who always find a way to escape unscathed”.

“More than saving the old multilateralism, it appears that the current challenge is to reconfigure and recreate it, taking into account the new world situation”, recognising that many civil society aggregations and organizations help compensate for the weaknesses of the international community. The Pope cites the Ottawa process on landmines, which, he says, shows how civil society creates efficient dynamics that the UN does not achieve.

Useless institutions that preserve the strongest

What Pope Francis is proposing is a “multilateralism ‘from below’ and not simply one determined by the elites of power ... It is to be hoped that this will happen with respect to the climate crisis. For this reason, I reiterate that “unless citizens control political power – national, regional and municipal – it will not be possible to control damage to the environment”.

After reaffirming the primacy of the human person, Pope Francis explains – speaking of the defense of human dignity in all circumstances – that “It is not a matter of replacing politics, but of recognizing that the

emerging forces are becoming increasingly relevant”.

“The very fact,” he says, “that answers to problems can come from any country, however little, ends up presenting multilateralism as an inevitable process”.

Therefore, “a different framework for effective cooperation is required. It is not enough to think only of balances of power but also of the need to provide a response to new problems and to react with global mechanisms”; it is a matter of “establishing global and effective rules”.

“All this presupposes the development of a new procedure for decision-making”; what is required are “spaces for conversation, consultation, arbitration, conflict resolution and supervision, and, in the end, a sort of increased “democratization” in the global context, so that the various situations can be expressed and included. It is no longer helpful for us to support institutions in order to preserve the rights of the more powerful without caring for those of all”.

Climate conferences

In the following chapter, Francis describes the various climate conferences held to date.

He recalls the one in Paris, the agreement resulting from which came into effect in November 2016. Although “a binding agreement, not all its dispositions are obligations in the strict sense, and some of them leave ample room for discretion”. Moreover, there are no sanctions for failure to meet obligations, and there is a lack of effective tools to enforce the agreement, as well as no real sanctions, and no effective tools to ensure compliance.

Additionally, “work is still under way to consolidate concrete procedures for monitoring and to facilitate general criteria for comparing the objectives of the different countries”.

The Pope mentions his disappointment with the Madrid COP and recalls that the Glasgow COP revived the Paris goals, with many “recommendations”, but “proposals tending to ensure a rapid and effective transition to alternative and less polluting forms of energy made no progress”.

COP27, held in Egypt in 2022, was “one more example of the difficulty of negotiations”, and even though it “marked a step forward in consolidating a system for financing ‘loss and damage’ in countries most affected by climate disasters”, this remained “imprecise” on many points.

International negotiations, the Pope concludes, “cannot make significant progress due to positions taken by countries which place their national interests above the global common good. Those who will have to suffer the consequences of what we are trying to hide will not forget this failure of conscience and responsibility”.

What to expect from the Dubai COP?

Looking ahead to COP, Pope Francis writes that “to say that there is nothing to hope for would be suicidal, for it would mean exposing all humanity, especially the poorest, to the worst impacts of climate change”.

We must, says the Pope, “keep hoping that COP28 will allow for a decisive acceleration of energy transition, with effective commitments subject to ongoing monitoring. This Conference can represent a change of direction”.

The Holy Father observes that “the necessary transition towards clean energy sources such as wind and solar energy, and the abandonment of fossil fuels, is not progressing at the necessary speed. Consequently, whatever is being done risks being seen only as a ploy to distract attention”.

We cannot search merely for a technological solution to our problems: “we risk remaining trapped in the mindset of pasting and papering over cracks, while beneath the surface there is a continuing deterioration to which we continue to contribute”.

No more ridiculing of environmental questions

Pope Francis asks us to put an end to “the irresponsible derision that would present this issue as something purely ecological, “green”, romantic, frequently subject to ridicule by economic interests.”

“Let us finally admit that it is a human and social problem on any number of levels. For this reason, it calls for involvement on the part of all.”

On the subject of protests by groups “negatively portrayed as radicalized”, Pope Francis affirms that “in reality they are filling a space left empty by society as a whole, which ought to exercise a healthy “pressure”, since every family ought to realize that the future of their children is at stake”.

“May those taking part in the Conference be strategists capable of considering the common good and the future of their

children, more than the short-term interests of certain countries or businesses. In this way, may they demonstrate the nobility of politics and not its shame. To the powerful, I can only repeat this question: “What would induce anyone, at this stage, to hold on to power, only to be remembered for their inability to take action when it was urgent and necessary to do so?”.

A commitment that flows from the Christian faith

Finally, the Pope reminds his readers that the motivations for this commitment flow from the Christian faith, encouraging “my brothers and sisters of other religions to do the same”.

“The Judaic-Christian vision of the cosmos defends the unique and central value of the human being amid the marvellous concert of all God’s creatures,” but “as part of the universe, all of us are linked by unseen bonds and together form a kind of universal family, a sublime communion which fills us with a sacred, affectionate and humble respect”.

“This is not a product of our own will; its origin lies elsewhere, in the depths of our being, since God has joined us so closely to the world around us”.

What is important, Pope Francis writes, is to remember that “there are no lasting changes without cultural changes, without a maturing of lifestyles and convictions within societies, and there are no cultural changes without personal changes”.

“Efforts by households to reduce pollution and waste, and to consume with prudence, are creating a new culture. The mere fact that personal, family and community habits are changing is ... helping to bring about large processes of transformation rising from deep within society”.

The Holy Father ends his Exhortation with a reminder that “emissions per individual in the United States are about two times greater than those of individuals living in China, and about seven times greater than the average of the poorest countries.”

He goes on to affirm that “a broad change in the irresponsible lifestyle connected with the Western model would have a significant long-term impact. As a result, along with indispensable political decisions, we would be making progress along the way to genuine care for one another”.

APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION
LAUDATE DEUM
Of the Holy Father Francis
To all people of good will on the climate crisis
October 4, 2023

SINCE THE PUBLICATION OF LAUDATO SI IN 2015...

- We have not reacted strongly enough to the climate crisis (cf. LD 2).
- The world that welcomes us is crumbling (cf. LD 2).
- We see how the impact of climate change will harm the lives and families of many people (cf. LD 2).

THE SIGNS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ARE:

- Extreme phenomena, unusual heat, droughts (cf. LD 5).
- Heavy rainfall, floods (cf. LD 5).
- Unusual acceleration of warming (cf. LD 6).
- Acceleration of the increase of greenhouse gases (cf. LD 11).

HOW DID WE GET TO THIS POINT?

Neither the human causes of climate change (cf. LD 11) nor its position in the technocratic paradigm can be doubted.

The human being believes himself to be limitless, whose capacities and possibilities could be expanded to infinity thanks to technology (cf. LD 21).

We believe that the world around us is an object of exploitation, of unbridled use, of unlimited ambition (cf. LD 25).

LACK OF EFFICIENCY, OPPORTUNITIES, AND LASTING PROGRESS IN MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS BETWEEN STATES (cf. LD 34).

- There are no organizations with real authority to ensure non-renounceable objectives (cf. LD 35).
- Previous effective decision-making procedures were not sufficient (cf. LD 43).
- Prior Climate Conferences have had a low level of implementation (personal interests are privileged over the common good) (cf. LD 52).

What is the point of preserving a power that will be remembered for its inability to intervene (cf. LD 60)?

GIVING TO VIANNEY COLLEGE

The cost of running the seminary has always been a great expense to the diocese. In light of this, just like prayer, financial giving is a way to directly and cosmically support the seminarians in their vocation.

Dear friends in Christ,

Vianney College Seminary here in Wagga Wagga, was established in 1992 by the late Bishop William Brennan, to form and educate Australian priests in a rural setting with sound Catholic faith. The fruits of prayer have been very beneficial as we have seen a large number of men who have entered the seminary, many of whom have been ordained for the priesthood who are ministering in our diocese and beyond. As the sixth rector of Vianney College, I am blessed to be able to carry on this mission in the training of men for the ministerial priesthood, with a limitless source of joy and fulfilment.

In light of this, just like prayer, financial giving is a way to directly and cosmically support the seminarians in their vocation. The seminary also needs your material support, as the cost of running the seminary has always been a great expense to the diocese. Funds in

donations help to relieve the financial strain in the general works of operation. i.e. board, meals, tuition, administration, staff wages, insurance etc. as well as contributions to the Vianney College Building Fund, which is tax deductible.

I would sincerely like to thank all our past and present donors for your generosity and loyalty over the years in support of Vianney College. Your contributions are very much admired and appreciated.

So, if you feel a call or a stir to materially support these men in training, please visit our diocesan website showing methods of payments at:

wagga.catholic.org.au/giving/

You can also remember us in your Will by leaving us a bequest.

May God bless you all.

Fr Rick Micallef
Rector of Vianney College Seminary



ROSARY IN THE PARK

On Saturday 21st October the Legion of Mary will host their annual 'Rosary in the Park' at the Victory Memorial Gardens from 11:00 am.

The intentions for the Rosary are:

1. Defence of marriage between a man and a woman in the safeguard of families;
2. End of abortion and euthanasia;
3. World leaders to rule with wisdom and justice for peace in the world especially an end to the persecution of Christians and for an end to the wars in Ukraine, Northern Africa and the Middle East; and
4. Conversion of sinners and reparation for sin.

Fr Steven Ledinich will give an address to begin and then the Choristers from St Michael's Cathedral will lead the hymns between each Mystery. The Seminarians from Vianney College will cook up a delicious BBQ lunch, which will be provided to the public for free, by the Legion of Mary. The Seminarians will also organise a fun game of soccer over lunchtime before

the final Mysteries are prayed. Each Mystery will be led by a family from the Wagga Diocese – please let your Parish Priest know if you would like to volunteer.

Thank you to everyone who makes the effort to come and support this event and we look forward to seeing you all!



Saturday
21 October, 2023
11am-3pm

Legion of Mary *Rosary in the Park*
Victory Memorial Gardens, corner Baylis and Morrow Street, Wagga Wagga

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Towards Hope

Saturday 25th November 2023
8am - 4pm

Pre-Advent retreat day for adults 18+ with Mass, prayer, talks, testimonies, discussions and Benediction.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish
20 Hartigan St, Thurgoona, NSW
Cost: \$20 includes lunch

Bookings:
<https://www.trybooking.com/CLMPM>
(Optional social dance 7 - 10:30pm - \$8 at door)

Further information contact:
Christeena Slee 0448 497 952



SAINT TERESA OF CALCUTTA CELEBRATIONS

The Missionaries of Charity have been doing visitation and outreach in the Parish of All Saints, Tumbarumba for about five years.

Some parishioners have even sought to become lay Missionaries of Charity and others to become auxiliary members in an effort to spread the spirituality of Mother Teresa of whole hearted service to the poorest of the poor.

On the weekend closest to the feast day of St. Teresa of Calcutta on the 5th of September, the Parish organised a luncheon with a presentation of the work of the Missionaries of Charity led by their Regional Superior, Sister Joseph Mary. We were indeed privileged to have her amongst us to help people understand the charism of the institute.

The Missionaries of Charity continue to be a beacon of light in today's world of simple non-for-profit service to God's people. We hope that

their apostolate spreads throughout the Diocese of Wagga Wagga according to the intention of Bishop Brennan who welcomed them into the diocese more than 25 years ago.



CRA PROMOTES CONVERSATION IN CHURCH ON MATTERS CONCERNING LGBTQIA+

At the invitation of Catholic Religious Australia (CRA), Dr James Alison, a prominent Catholic theologian, will be speaking at events around the country from 18 September to 18 October 2023, to promote conversation and outreach in the Church on matters concerning LGBTQIA+ people.

The National Council of CRA decided to bring James Alison, a British theologian, author and speaker, to nurture truthful dialogue in the Church regarding matters LGBTQIA+, in the hope that better understanding may lead towards improved pastoral practice.

CRA has been encouraged by two recent historic events affecting the future, the role and relevance of the Catholic Church in Australia: Pope Francis' invitation to enter into a synodal journey and the Plenary Council of Australia. Both call for a more inclusive, participatory and synodal Church which dialogues.

Since the beginning of his papacy, Pope Francis has been promoting a more pastoral approach to the position of LGBTQIA+ people in the church.

At the recent World Youth Day in Portugal, he reiterated that the church is for everyone ("Todos! Todos! Todos!"). The issue has also found its way into the *Instrumentum Laboris* (working document) for the forthcoming synod meeting in Rome, which speaks of "walking with people instead of talking about them or solely at them."

In the Final Report of the Plenary Council, ending discrimination and having greater inclusion for members of the LGBTQIA+ community was a significant topic discussed during the Plenary Council.

James Alison will be sharing a vision of an inclusive, psychologically healthy Christian life that is scripturally based, theologically orthodox, and ecclesially grounded. He will be focusing on how to facilitate transparency and psychological



well-being as part of coping with change in self-understanding in this area.

Through CRA's collaborative efforts with other organisations, and the support of Catalyst for Renewal, James Alison has over 20 speaking engagements in Melbourne, Sydney, Canberra, Brisbane and Perth.

A PASTORAL PROGRAMME IN IRAQ

Grounding the young firmly in their faith, giving children a Christian education and strengthening families – these are the great priorities for Chaldean Catholic Archbishop Najib Michael Moussa of Mossul and Agra.

Accordingly, he has intensified the catechetical instruction of children and young people and the care and accompaniment of families.

At the heart of these activities is the Jesus the King catechetical centre in Malabarwan, near Akre. It lies in the Autonomous Region of Kurdistan, the place where many Christian families fled in 2014 when the rebels of the so-called Islamic State overwhelmed the city of Mosul. To this day many of the families living within the catchment area of the centre are originally from Mosul, having arrived as refugees here in the region of Akre.

Once a week around 60 children aged between four and 12 gather here for religious instruction. During the summer months, there is a two-month intensive course,

three days a week. Archbishop Moussa explains: "These meetings are important in progressively introducing Jesus into the lives of these children, according to age and ability." The parents themselves are often simply too overwhelmed with their day-to-day cares to be able to provide their children with a solid Christian education, he adds. It is also very important to the archbishop that the children should be brought up in a social environment, rather than being isolated the whole time, absorbed in the modern media. In this way, the children also have an opportunity during these gatherings to play together and experience a sense of community.

The programme is not only limited to children. The parents also need to be accompanied and



made aware of the religious needs of their children. So there are also women's meetings, with around 65 participants, as well as gatherings for families, with around 45 families attending.

The archbishop has asked for our help, and we are planning to support the valuable work of this catechetical centre with a contribution of \$17,300 AUD. In this way, we are also helping to encourage these Christians not to leave the Middle East but to remain faithful to the cradle of their Christian faith, which was established here some 2000 years

ago. The more strongly they are grounded in the life of the Church here, the less likely they are to emigrate to other parts of the world. Let us help strengthen and encourage them!

To help visit:
aidtochurch.org/monthlyproject



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Weekend date:

**27-29 October 2023 at Mt Carmel
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the locals.**

Centacare South West NSW



TAKING CARE OF YOUR MENTAL HEALTH

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

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

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

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

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



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

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



OUR GENERALIST COUNSELLING SERVICES

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

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



PARENTING & CHILDREN

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

Parent Education & Coaching

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

Individual Parenting Support

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

Family Group Conferencing

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

Children & Youth Support Services

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

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HELP! WHAT'S A VOCATION? AND, DO I HAVE ONE?

Saint Therese of Lisieux famously said *"My vocation is love."* In these words are contained the reality of our own vocation too.

BY EMILY SHAW

Virtue Ministry Writer and Graphic Designer

We are all called to love as Christ loved - and still loves - us. This is not only the vocation of priests or religious, but each and every one of us.

We are called universally by our Baptism. We are marked indelibly as children of God, co-heirs with Christ. We respond by coming to know, love and serve God.

For most of, this is not new.

We're familiar with the oft quoted words of Saint Augustine: "Our hearts are restless Lord, until we rest in you." And part of us knows, deep within our soul, that in God lies our happiness. In God lies our salvation, our sanctity and our cross.

Call within a call

Ok you say. We are one with Saint Therese in realising that our vocation is love. But how do we apply that practically speaking? Aside from this general idea of vocation as loving as Christ loved, do I personally have a vocation?

The short answer is yes. You have a vocation. We all do.

A religious brother, and former professional mentor of mine, described vocation as our path to God. The end is the same for all of us, union with God. But our paths are individual.

Many will be called to the married vocation, but others will be called to the priesthood or religious life and, technically both if you're a priest in a religious order I guess. Single life, though a valid state of life and fruitful in it's own way, is not technically termed a vocation as such.

To recap then, our vocation is love but the way in which we live out the practise of that vocation differs depending on our state of life.

Discerning the call

Late teens and early adulthood is a time of questioning and discernment. We field questions regarding

what we'd like to do once we've finished high school, what degree or apprenticeship we're considering and so on.

It is normal to feel confused, or unsure of what the future holds for you. It is also equally understandable to begin one journey and feel disillusioned or unfulfilled.

For most of us, discerning our call in life is not a lightning flash moment or spark of inspiration that changes our direction instantaneously.

Helpful hints

Rephrase the question of "What do I want to do" to "What does God want me to do". Reorientating our life to focus on His will for us will help guide our discernment process and find true fulfillment.

Trust the process. It's simple one, pray, discern and be open to God's will. But it could be lengthy and confusing. Be patient, trust in God and accept that you may not get the answer straightaway.

Do something practical. Prayer and discernment is an integral part of this but we don't want to get stuck in a pattern of perpetual discernment.

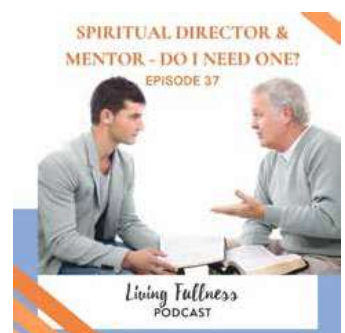


The idea of practical reasoning is to do something practical. Be bold enough to take a step outside of our comfort zone.

Seek direction. We are blessed to have a Church brimming with spiritual wealth. Seek out a priest, vocations director, or lay person to help offer guidance and perhaps even wisdom from their own experiences.

Listen to the vocational discernment experiences of others. The Living Fullness Podcast has some amazing episodes with guests including international powerhouses Bobby Angel, Sarah and Andrew Swafford and more local faces including Father Connell Perry, Paul Jensen and many more.

Finally, a thought for all of us to ponder, no matter what state of vocational discernment we might be in: **The ability of God's will to be done on earth begins with its ability to be done in me.**



Listen to the Podcast

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SCHOOLS IN OUR DIOCESE

Holy Trinity School, West Wagga



Kelso House Day was celebrated on Wednesday 20 September. Staff and students wore yellow (Kelso house colour) and students participated in a talent show. Kelso House is named after Mrs Bev Kelso, Holy Trinity first Lay Principal. Kelso motto is respect and responsibility.



Sacred Heart Primary, Wagga



Plenty of smiling faces at the Sacred Heart Primary School disco on September 15.



St Joseph's Primary, Finley



St Joseph's Primary recently held a Footy Colours Day.



St Michael's Primary, Coolamon

A huge thank you to Stage 3 for organising the disco night, especially Mrs Dyce! It was an awesome night of dancing, singing and fun!



Catholic Education
Diocese of Wagga Wagga

All schools enrolling now

St Joseph's Primary, Wagga Wagga



The St Joseph's Primary Mini Vinnies crew have been busy gardening around their school.

St Joseph's Primary, Leeton

Book Week at St Joseph's was a wonderful way to end the term!



St Joseph's Primary, Jerilderie

And she is gone! Farewell Hall. St Joseph's Primary marked the last day of term by inscribing their names on her walls.



There have been so many great memories created over the years.



Holy Spirit School, Lavington



Students in Year 6 at Holy Spirit School have been learning about sustainability. They created projects around aquaponics, hydroponics and crop rotation.



Mater Dei Primary, Wagga

Congratulations to all students, past and present, who participated in this year's Speech and Drama Wagga Eisteddfod. We had a very successful year, with age champions in the 10yrs, 11yrs and 12yrs. Well done everyone.



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, Tumbarumba
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 OCTOBER

- 1 October 1952** Mgr Thomas Ignatius Barry
- 3 October 1962** Fr J Bede McDonell
- 5 October 1905** Fr Joseph Michael Ryan
- 9 October 1892** Fr Michael O'Leary
- 11 October 1939** Bishop Joseph Wilfrid Dwyer
- 18 October 1982** Mgr John Harold Larkins
- 24 October 1924** Fr Francis William Hartigan
- 31 October 1896** Fr Patrick McCabe
- 31 October 1996** Fr Patrick Peter Ford

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



MOUNT ERIN HERITAGE CENTRE

Open every
Tuesday and Wednesday
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and also by appointment

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FAMILY REFLECTIONS

15th October

Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A

Today's Gospel reminds us that God invites all of us to his kingdom. How do we respond to this invitation? In theological terms, God has granted us free will to accept or reject salvation. The parable of the wedding feast reminds us that God desires our wholehearted acceptance of his invitation to salvation.

As you gather as a family, discuss what you consider appropriate attire for various occasions. For example, if your family were invited to a neighbor's barbecue, what would you wear? If you were planning to attend the symphony, what might you wear? If invited to an evening wedding, what might you wear? Discuss how our preparations for an event and our choice of attire indicates the importance and value we place on the occasion. In today's Gospel Jesus uses this metaphor to talk about the kingdom of heaven. Read Matthew 22:1-14. Discuss why the guest was thrown out of the wedding feast. What does Jesus expect of those who accept his invitation of salvation? What would be the evidence of our conversion to God's salvation? Pray together as a family that you will respond wholeheartedly to God's invitation to salvation. Pray together today's psalm, Psalm 23.

*Isaiah 25:6-10a Psalm 23:1-6
Philippians 4:12-14,19-20 Matthew 22:1-14*

22nd October

Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A

Payment of taxes is unlikely to be a disputed issue in your family. Yet families can still learn something from this Gospel reading. Jesus' answer to the Herodians and Pharisees redirects their question to focus on the issue of greatest importance: loving and honoring God. Taking this perspective can help us make good judgments about the

competing issues of importance in our lives.

As your family gathers, make a list of the activities that your family spends time doing together, such as household tasks, jobs, academics, and recreational activities. Talk about the importance of each of these activities. Ask what would happen if there were an imbalance in our attention to these activities and we spent too much time on one activity at the expense of another.

In today's Gospel Jesus reminds us of the necessity of giving things their proper importance. Read Matthew 22:15-21. The Herodians and Pharisees were giving too much importance to the issue of the payment of taxes. Jesus reminds them that loving and honoring God is of greater importance. In family life we do many important things, but we remember that God is of the greatest importance in our lives. Pray together that your family will learn to keep things in proper perspective, remembering to keep God first in your lives. Pray together today's psalm, Psalm 96.

*Isaiah 45:1,4-6 Psalm 96:1,3-10
1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b Matthew 22:15-21*

29th October

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A

Children learn about love from real, concrete examples witnessed in family life. We can help children to love God and love their neighbors by showing everyday acts of love, generosity, and kindness—our own expressions of our love for God. These acts, small and large, are the expression of what Jesus identified as the two greatest commandments: love God and love neighbor.

Make a poster together as a family. Write the words Love God in the center of the poster and write the words Love Neighbor near each of the four sides of the poster. Read together today's Gospel, Matthew 22:34-40. Talk about how Jesus taught us that our love for God is revealed in

the love that we show to other people. On the poster, use pictures and words to show some of the ways that your family shows their love for other people. Pray together that your family will continue to express your love for God by loving others. Pray the Act of Love.

*Exodus 22:20-26 Psalm 18:2-4,47,51
1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10 Matthew 22:34-40*

5th November

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A

"Do as I say, not as I do." How many of us have been tempted to say this to our children? In today's Gospel we hear a resounding reply from Jesus, "Practice what you preach." Those who know us best, our family and especially our children, can identify the inconsistencies between what we want to teach and the example that we give. The challenge for all of us, especially for those of us who are parents, is to model with consistency the faith and the Christian way of life we wish to teach our children.

As you gather as a family, talk about what it means to practice what you preach. Identify some examples of people you know who practice what they preach. What do you observe about these people? What do you admire about them?

In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus talk about the importance of acting in ways that are consistent with our faith. Read together today's Gospel, Matthew 23:1-12. Talk together about ways in which your family might better practice the faith that you profess. Choose one action to take that will show your faith in action. Pray together that your family's faith will be shown consistently in your actions. Pray the Prayer for Vocations. All Saints Day and All Souls Day are this week.

*Malachi 1:14b-2:2b,8-10 Psalm 131:1-3
1 Thessalonians 2:7b-9,13 Matthew 23:1-12*

WORLD MISSION MONTH



Hearts on Fire
FEET ON THE MOVE

World Mission
Month



Reach out. Give life.



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**“MISSION IS WHERE MANY
PEOPLE NEED YOU”**

Sr Carolina Correia

