



# TOGETHER

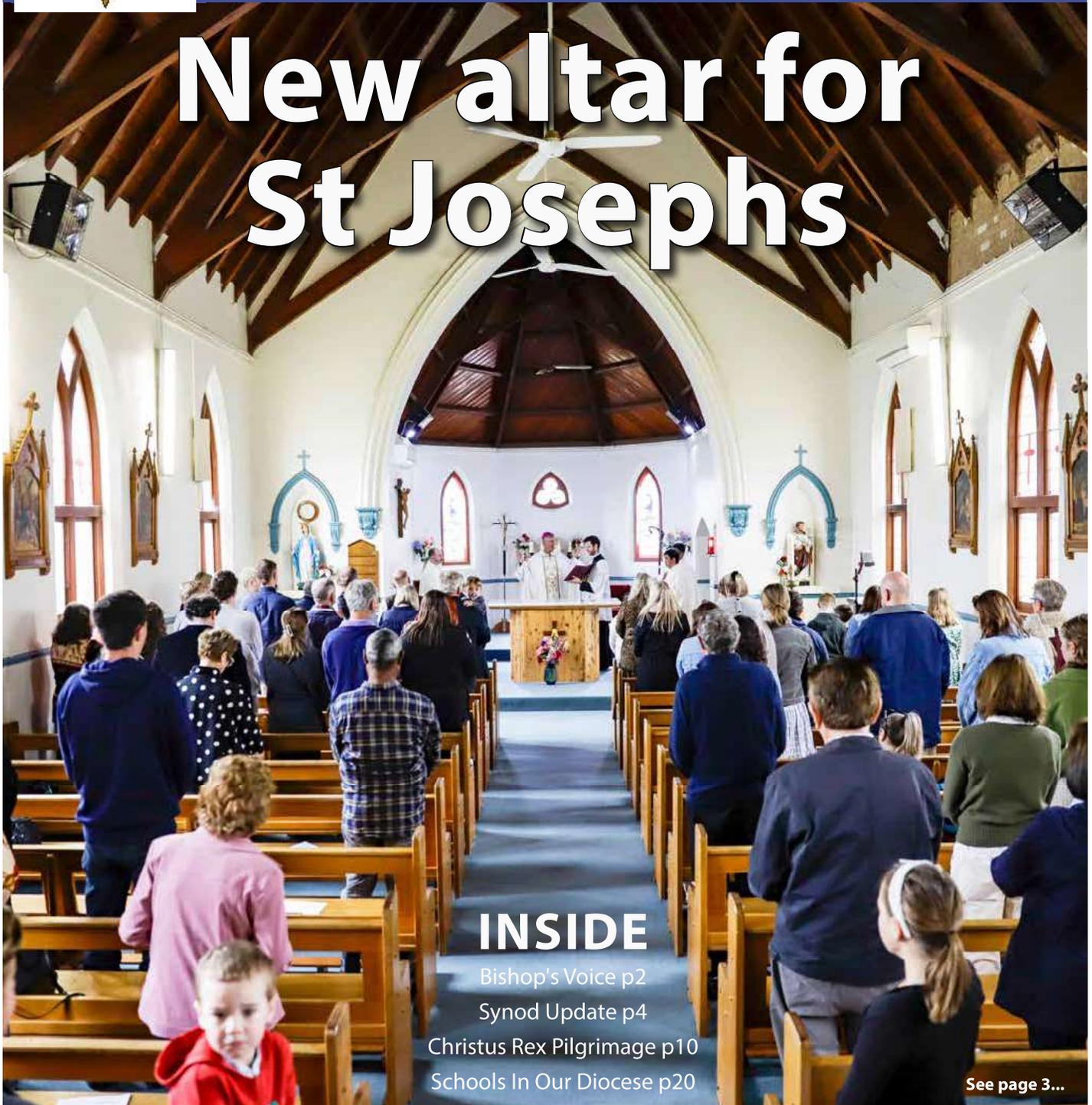
In the Diocese of

Wagga Wagga

wagga.catholic.org.au

NOVEMBER 2023

## New altar for St Josephs



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# BISHOP'S VOICE



TOGETHER  
IN THE DIOCESE OF WAGGA WAGGA

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## Moving towards reconciliation



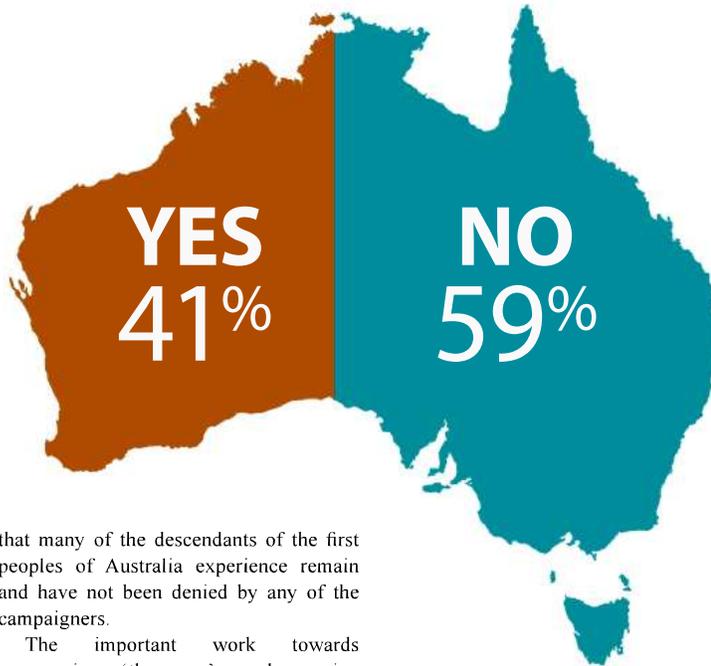
**Dear sisters and brothers,**

One of the dangers with the recent referendum result is that our Aboriginal and Torres Strait sisters and brothers might (wrongly) experience this as a rejection or a denial of their place in our society. There has also been confusion, disagreement, sensitivity and division within the wider community. You may have encountered some of this hurt yourself or seen it in your workplace and in the community.

The week of mourning asked for by some of our Indigenous Elders has given many of us time to process both sides of this debate and for healing to start. Mental health is something we need to be aware of during this period. Please take care of others and of yourself.

Throughout my time as Bishop, Principal, priest and teacher, my experience of our people is that we want all, including the descendants of our first nations peoples, to be safe and have good access to health, education, and opportunity. I urge us all to come together around this healthy and helpful aspiration and to work together to make it happen.

In our region, approximately 7 out of 10 people voted no to this change, doubting the effectiveness of or worrying about the long-term consequences of a permanent change. We also acknowledge the 3 in 10 people who believed we should try this because the status quo is not tenable. While in its prudence the Australian people have decided that a constitutionally enshrined Voice to Parliament is not the way forward, the significant disadvantages



that many of the descendants of the first peoples of Australia experience remain and have not been denied by any of the campaigners.

The important work towards overcoming 'the gap', and moving towards reconciliation can and must continue. The Church through the first decree of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/FINAL-Decree-1-Reconciliation-Healing-Wounds-Receiving-Gifts.pdf> as well as of the teaching of the Bishops of Australia in this year's Social Justice Statement <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZPLKEOg8DeGt2MBdRinUIdDIz3HqoLVA/view?usp=drivesdk> commits us to this.

For more information, please visit the statement from The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council <https://cathnews.com/~documents/media-releases/media-releases-2023/231016-natsicc-the-national-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-catholic-council-statement-after-t/?layout=default>

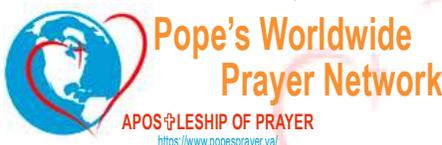
**Yours in Jesus Christ and  
Mary Immaculate  
Mark Edwards omi**

## PRAYER INTENTION FOR NOVEMBER - PRAY WITH POPE FRANCIS

**For the Pope.**

We pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfills his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

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



We pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfills his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

I'm grateful that I've had a personal connection with our last three popes: Pope St John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI, and Pope Francis.

I was born in 1977, the year 'JP2' was elected as pope. When I was a teenager, I remember seeing him preaching on TV; I read his writings when I was in college. I saw him and prayed with him in Paris in 1997 when he presided at World Youth Day. He sang with young people from around the world, while speaking with them in a dozen languages!

When I was in theology studies preparing for priesthood, Benedict XVI was pope. In my classes, I studied his writings on the Eucharist and the life of Jesus. I recognized the depth of his intellect and his deep love for Christ and the Church. I saw him in 2011, shortly after my ordination. It was at World Youth Day in Spain. I prayed with him at Mass—this time I was a fellow priest.

Now, as national director of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, I'm honored to serve Pope Francis. I am a Jesuit and so

is he—our first Jesuit pope! My heart is stirred by his passion and love for the 'least' among us.

Francis uses the simple phrase, "for others," a total of 14 times in his encyclical, Fratelli Tutti. It is a rallying cry; Jesus is here 'for' us, and we must likewise live 'for others.' He writes, "Our love for others, for who they are, moves us to seek the best for their lives." Later, he continues, "education and upbringing, concern for others, a well-integrated view of life and spiritual growth: all these are essential" [94, 167].

"Men for others" is the motto of many all-boys Jesuit high schools; I attended one and taught at two others. When he uses the simple phrase, "for others," he reminds of my call as a Jesuit and as a follower of Jesus.

The pope is the chief shepherd of the Church on earth, walking in the shoes of St Peter. He is a living symbol of the unity of our global Church. Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI relied on our prayers. This month, let's pray for Pope Francis and with him. ¡Viva El Papa! [long live the pope!]

**Fr. Joseph Laramie, SJ**  
Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (United States)

# NEW ALTAR FOR ST JOSEPH'S JERILDERIE

On 22 October, Bishop Mark concelebrated the consecration of the new altar at St Joseph's in Jerilderie.

The new altar was donated by a long-time parishioner and arrived after a long pause between concept and creation due to various factors, including COVID. The altar has been fashioned from 150 year old timbers taken from the floor of the church when renovations were undertaken some years ago. The lectern in the church has also been upgraded.

Local craftsman, Craig Matheson of Finley, used some of the timbers to build the base of the altar, which has been enhanced with a marble top from Italy, sourced by a firm in Shepparton.

The new linen used to dress the has been specifically sourced from Poland.

All photos are by James Billing Photography.



## 2024 MANDORLA ART AWARD ENTRIES NOW OPEN

With a prize pool of over \$50,000, Mandorla is Australia's most significant thematic Christian art prize. The Mandorla Art Award actively fosters a relationship between contemporary fine artists and the writings of the Hebrew and Christian scriptures. Open to all artists across Australia, working in any medium, Mandorla invites artists to think laterally and with sensitivity, by interpreting a new theme for each iteration of the award.

The 2024 theme: *Refocus 'Let all that you do be done in love' (1 Cor. 16:14)*

### PRIZES

2024 promises to be Mandorla's most exciting award yet, with the inclusion of a major new prize category, the **New Norcia Artist Residency Prize**. This is a unique opportunity for an artist to live and create artwork in Australia's only monastic town. In partnership with the New Norcia Benedictine Monastery, this one-month residency provides a studio, accommodation, meals and a \$10,000 artist fee.

In 2024, Mandorla will award five prize categories:

- **Mandorla Art Award Prize** – Acquisitive: **\$30,000**
- **Highly Commended Catholic Archdiocese Prize** – **\$5,000**
- **Highly Commended Anglican Diocese Prize** – **\$5,000**
- **People's Choice Prize** – provided by Benedictine Community: **\$2,000**
- **New Norcia Artist Residency Prize** 1-month residency and **\$10,000**

### JUDGES

Finalist works are selected by an eminent panel of judges and shown in an exhibition in May 2024 at Holmes a Court Gallery in Cooyaman West Perth. The artwork awarded the Mandorla Art Prize is acquired into the Mandorla Collection, held at the New Norcia Museum and Art Gallery. The selection panel and judges for the 2024 Mandorla Art Award are:

**Hannah Mathews** - Director of Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts, WA  
**Richard Lewer** - Artist, Vic.  
**Dr. Raewynne Whiteley** - Theologian, WA

### ENTRIES

Entries are open from now until **Friday 13 March 2024**. Artists can enter via the [online entry form](#). The artwork can be in any medium and must have been produced in the last year and not previously exhibited.

### CONTACT

Web: [www.mandorlaart.com](http://www.mandorlaart.com)  
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Above: Claire Bessen, 2023 Winner, *Charis*, silverware spoons on cotton rag paper.

Below: Hilda Casabene, 2018 Winner, *God is in the House*, Crochet cotton, glass and ceramic found objects

# SYNOD REPORT PROPOSES WAYS TO FOSTER SYNODAL CHURCH

Participants in the synod on synodality endorsed a report proposing potentially far-reaching changes to foster a synodal Church.

BY LUKE COPPEN  
The Pillar

**The 42-page “synthesis report” - “A synodal Church in mission” - summarized discussions at the first session of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, as the synod on synodality is formally known.** The second and conclusive session will be held at the Vatican in October 2024.

According to a voting schema issued Oct. 28, all sections of the report gained the two-thirds majority of votes necessary for inclusion in the document. The more than 400 participants — who sat at round tables in the Vatican’s Paul VI Hall, rather than in the customary new synodal hall, during the largely closed-door event — included over 300 voting members, a significant proportion of whom were

The synthesis report consisted of an introduction, a conclusion, and three sections, entitled respectively “The face of the synodal Church,” “All disciples, all missionaries,” and “Weaving bonds, generating communities.”

Each section contained subtopics split into three headings: “Convergences,” which highlighted areas of agreement, “Matters for consideration,” pointing to subjects for further discussion, and “Proposals,” suggesting specific actions.

#### Defining synodality

The report acknowledged that the term “synodality” was “unfamiliar to many members of the People of God” and caused “confusion and concern” in some quarters. It called for an “in-depth terminological and conceptual study of



Above: Pope Francis at a session of the Synod of Synodality in the Vatican's Paul VI Hall on October 28, 2023.

of charisms and ministries, ‘we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body’ (1 Cor 12:13). Therefore, among all the baptized, there is a genuine equality of dignity and a common responsibility for mission... By the anointing of the Spirit, who ‘teaches all things’ (1 Jn 2:27), all believers possess an instinct for the truth of the gospel, the *sensus fidei*. It consists in a certain *connaturalitas* with divine realities and the aptitude to grasp what conforms to the truth of faith intuitively.”

#### Eucharistic hospitality

In a section on ecumenism, the report called for the further examination of “Eucharistic hospitality,” known in Latin as *‘communicatio in sacris’*.

#### Role of the laity

The text noted that many assembly members had highlighted the danger of “clericalizing” the laity, creating a kind of lay elite that perpetuates inequalities and divisions among the People of God.” But it said that participants also called for “more

Below: Sydney Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP, shown here meeting Pope Francis in 2022, is a member of the Council of the Synod of Bishops. Photo: Thierry Bonaventura/Vatican Media.



Above: Rev Fr Ormond Rush was chosen as an expert advisor. Photo: Thierry Bonaventura/Vatican Media.

“non-bishops.”

The nearly 21,000-word report, released initially only in Italian, made detailed proposals to promote what it called “the style of synodality” throughout the Church.

#### Not a final document

The text emphasized that it was not a “final document” — the name given to texts issued at the end of a synodal assembly containing recommendations for the pope — but rather “a tool at the service of ongoing discernment.”

the notion and practice of synodality” before the synod on synodality’s second session, and called for a “special intercontinental commission of theologians and canonists” to examine synodality’s canonical implications.

#### The ‘sensus fidei’

The report made several references to the *sensus fidei*, or “sense of the faith,” a theological term whose meaning and application are sometimes contested within the Church.

The text said: “Before any distinction

#### Liturgical language

The text said there was a “widely reported need to make liturgical language more accessible to the faithful and more embodied in the diversity of cultures.” “Without questioning continuity with tradition and the need for liturgical formation, reflection on this issue and the attribution of greater responsibility to the episcopal conferences in this area is urged, along the lines of the *motu proprio* *Magnum Principium*,” it said.

creativity in establishing [lay] ministries according to the needs of local Churches, with a particular involvement of young people.”

The text floated the idea of a new ministry “assigned to married couples committed to supporting family life and accompanying people preparing for the sacrament of marriage.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

**Women in the Church**

In a significant passage, the report said: "There is an urgent need to ensure that women can participate in decision-making processes and take on roles of responsibility in pastoral care and ministry." "The Holy Father has significantly increased the number of women in positions of responsibility in the Roman Curia," it added. "The same should happen at other levels of the life of the Church. Canon law must be adapted accordingly."

The report also called for women to "be integrated into seminary teaching and training programs," as is already the case in many Western countries.

It said that liturgical texts and Church documents should "be more attentive not only to the use of language that takes

men and women into equal account, but also to the inclusion of a range of words, images, and narratives that draw with greater vitality on women's experience."

**Women deacons**

While acknowledging differences of opinion on the topic at the assembly, the text noted that "theological and pastoral research on women's access to the diaconate" would continue, drawing on the work of commissions established by Pope Francis, as well as previous academic studies. It said that "if possible, the results should be presented at the next session of the assembly" in October 2024.

Summarizing the range of views on the subject, it said: "For some, this step would be unacceptable because they consider it a discontinuity with Tradition. For others, however, granting women access to the diaconate would restore the practice of the Early Church."

**Bishops in a synodal Church**

Addressing the topic of the role of bishops in a synodal Church, the text proposed a process "for regular review of the bishop's work, with reference to the style of his authority, the economic administration of the diocese's assets, and the functioning of participatory bodies, and protection against any type of abuse." It also noted calls for episcopal councils and diocesan pastoral councils to be made mandatory. Elsewhere, it urged that the "obligatory nature" of pastoral councils be "codified."

**Open questions**

In a section entitled "Ecclesial discernment and open questions," the document suggested that, "Certain issues, such as those relating to gender identity and sexual orientation, the end of life, difficult marital situations, and ethical issues related to artificial

intelligence, are controversial not only in society, but also in the Church, because they raise new questions."

Synod delegates expressed hopes that "the months leading to the second session in October 2024 will allow everyone to concretely participate in the dynamism of missionary communion indicated by the word 'synod.'"

Speaking at an evening Vatican press conference, the synod on synodality's general rapporteur Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich, S.J, the Archbishop of Luxembourg said "Everybody was happy. Everybody felt that he or she was part of something big.

**"And I think people leave with a heart full of hope, with a lot of ideas, and I am looking forward to seeing them back next year."**

Below: Adjunct Prof Susan Pascoe (left) and Dr Sandie Cornishwere (right) were chosen as expert advisors. Photo: Supplied.



Above: A session of the Synod of Synodality in the Vatican's Paul VI Hall on October 28, 2023. Screenshot from Vatican News YouTube channel.



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# NEW CARITAS REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE WAGGA WAGGA DIOCESE

**Clare Mitchell has been appointed as the Caritas Australia Diocesan Director for the Diocese of Wagga Wagga.**

Inspired by the Gospel, Caritas Australia is committed to the Christian vision of dignity and the potential of each human person. Diocesan Directors play an important role in sharing the message of Jesus and fostering faith and action to address social justice issues.

Clare will be responsible for promoting the work of Caritas Australia within the diocese through fundraising, advocacy and relationships with parishes and schools, inspiring supporters to work together towards the creation of a more just and fairer world.

Clare takes up the role from 3rd November. She will work from her base in Griffith and will make contact with all parishes and schools in the Wagga Wagga

Diocese in due course. Clare has my confidence and I ask priests and school staff to welcome her, to work with her and to support this important mission.

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



## PARISH APPOINTMENTS FOR 2024

**I announce the following appointments, to take effect from Wednesday 17 January 2024.**

**Fr Andrew Grace**

Parish Priest of Sacred Heart, Koorungal

**Fr Henry Ibe**

Parish Priest of Sacred Heart, Griffith

**Fr Steven Ledinich**

Parish Priest of St Patrick's, Albury

**Fr Justin Darlow**

Parish Priest of St Mary's, The Rock

**Fr Blaise Kurek**

Parish Priest of St Brendan's, Ganmain, and Administrator of St Michael's Coolamon

**Fr Cyprian Onuorah**

Administrator of St Oliver Plunkett's, Darlington Point and St Joseph's, Jerilderie

**Fr Jomer Calma**

Administrator of St Patrick's,

Culcairn, and Our Lady of Sorrows, Holbrook, continuing on from his already announced appointment which commenced in October.

**Fr Connell Perry**

Assistant Priest, Sacred Heart Griffith

**Fr Michael Perry**

Assistant Priest, St Patrick's Albury - continuing appointment.

**Fr Bradley Rafter**

Returns to Vianney College to resume the role of Vice-Rector and 1st Year Formator.

I thank the priests involved for their work at their previous appointments and for their generosity and trust in God in accepting this new assignment.

**Yours in Jesus Christ and  
Mary Immaculate**

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

## OBLATES OF ST JOSEPH VISIT OUR DIOCESE

**In October, Bishop Edwards invited two priests from the Oblates of St Joseph in the Philippines to visit the Diocese of Wagga Wagga.** The two men, Fr Rodrigo Banzuela (known as Fr Norman) and Fr Rafael Hernandez (known as Fr Neil) are preparing to come to the Wagga Wagga Diocese to live and work in our parishes. This visit was an opportunity for us to meet them, and for them to meet us.

The program for their three-week visit saw them based at Vianney College Seminary. They spent the majority of the first week with Bishop Edwards, learning about our Diocese, meeting clergy and parishioners, and participating in Cathedral Parish activities including the

Ordination of Fr Michael Perry.

The second week was an introduction to parish life, with Fr Neil being hosted by Fr Justin Darlow at Ganmain Parish and Fr Norman being hosted by Fr Henry Ibe and Fr Jomer Calma at Albury Parish.

In their third and final week, Fr Norman and Fr Neil attended the Clergy Retreat with all the priests of the Diocese of Wagga at the Galong Retreat Centre.

**Fr Norman and Fr Neil have returned to the Philippines to prepare for their move to Australia and we look forward to welcoming them back in 2024.**

*Below: Fr Neil (left) and Fr Norman (right) visit St Patrick's Church Boorowa during the Clergy Retreat.*



## FR CYPRIAN'S PARENTS VISIT FROM NIGERIA

**Bishop Mark Edwards welcomed the parents of Fr Cyprian Onuorah - Mrs Mary and Mr Cyprian Onuorah - on their first visit to Australian.**

Fr Cyprian was ordained to the priesthood on 11th December 2020 during the Covid lockdowns. The ban on international travel prevented Fr Cyprian's parents from travelling to Australia to attend the Ordination in person, instead they watched via livestream from their home in Nigeria.

When international borders re-opened in 2022, Fr Cyprian was able to travel to Nigeria and visit his family but this is the

first time he has been able to show his parents his home in the Diocese of Wagga Wagga.

Mr and Mrs Onuorah will spend Christmas and New Year in Australia, with plans to travel to Sydney and the Gold Coast, as well as spending time with their son in Griffith where Fr Cyprian is the Assistant Priest at Sacred Heart Parish. **They will also have an opportunity to visit the parishes of Darlington Point and Jerilderie where Fr Cyprian has been appointed Parish Administrator for 2024.**

*Below: Mrs Mary Onuorah, Bishop Mark Edwards, Mr Cyprian Onuorah, Fr Cyprian Onuorah.*



# HOW TO GET A TEACHING DEGREE WITHOUT LEAVING GRIFFITH

Twenty years ago, the idea that you could become a qualified school teacher without leaving Griffith – a town with no university – might have seemed far-fetched.

BY OLIVER JACQUES  
Region Riverina

**But it's set to become a reality for Giorgia Ceccato, who started a primary education degree with the University of New England this year and will graduate by 2026.**

So, how can you become qualified for such a hands-on profession while studying remotely? And how is Giorgia getting through her degree so quickly?

Region caught up with the 20-year-old Marian Catholic College graduate to find out.

**Why have you decided to get a teaching degree remotely from Griffith?**

I initially did go away to study business at the University of Wollongong. I did it for two months and I didn't love it. I was missing my family in Griffith.

When I returned home, I did some volunteering out at Yenda Public School. Then I started doing it on a paid basis as a casual, which I found really rewarding. I decided I wanted to become a teacher, so I enrolled in a degree at the University of New England.

All my cousins are also studying or have studied teaching remotely and love it. There are five girls in our family and four of them are doing or have done teaching.

**Teaching seems like such an interactive profession. How can you get qualified to be a teacher studying remotely?**

I'm getting a lot of practical experience as I'm working as a teacher's aide at Binya Public School, which only has 20 students. I take the kids for reading and do one-on-one lessons; sometimes I take classes for Kindergarten to Year 2 so I get direct teaching experience.



Above: Giorgia Ceccato could be teaching as early as 2025. Photo: Oliver Jacques.

For university, everything is recorded – lectures and tutorials. It's targeted towards parents who have children and work; you have scheduled zooms you can join, but if you are working, it's recorded and you can watch it later. There's all the content online and you do it at your own pace.

My mum also did it remotely; she always said that she liked it because she had kids, but I don't have any kids and it also works for me.

**But don't you miss all the fun of campus life in Wollongong?**

Not really, I can still socialise with my friends here, even though it's a bit different. I don't feel like I'm missing out, but I do miss the beach sometimes.

Doing this degree, I can still move away from Griffith if I want to, all I need is a laptop.

**Where do you study when you're in Griffith?**

I come to the Country Universities Centre [remote learning facility] every morning; it makes it much easier. Everyone who comes here is also studying, so it motivates me. If I stayed at home, I'd get distracted by the things around me.

**You said you started studying this year but will graduate by 2026. How is that possible? Isn't**

**teaching a four-year degree?**

At the University of New England, I can do three semesters annually, which means I can do an extra four subjects a year.

The third semester is over the summer. I only get from Christmas Day to New Year's Day off, then I'm straight back on it. I get to do a whole semester while everyone else is on holiday.

You can start teaching three-quarters of your way into your degree, so I can be teaching by 2025. My cousins study full-time and already have their own classes as well.

**Any advice for students finishing Year 12 this year and undecided about what to do in 2024?**

Try different things and think about all the different options. I didn't mind doing all sorts of things to discover what was best for me. I also did a gap year working as an electorate officer and for Griffith Leagues Club.

Also, make sure you do what you really like, rather than what others want you to do.

**Anyone interested in studying a degree remotely from Griffith or Leeton can get in touch with the Country Universities Centre Western Riverina.**

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# STRENGTHENING LIFE-GIVING WORK GLOBALLY: WORLD MISSION MONTH CELEBRATION

World Mission Month in October witnessed an exceptional flow of generosity, enabling missionaries to provide life-changing opportunities to many communities, families, and children around the world.

**At the heart of this World Mission Month appeal was the story of Sr Carolina and the Venilale community in rural Timor-Leste, as they face many health challenges such as tuberculosis and malnutrition.**

Sr Carolina, who recently visited Australia to meet with Catholic Mission friends and supporters, shared her reality of being a missionary at Maria Auxiliadora Clinic. Her story has resonated in many hearts, as her burning passion for Mission was shining as the driver that set her into action.

“Mission is where many people need you,” described Sr Carolina when she talked about Mission.

The funds raised will help the Clinic keep running and provide vital medication to the people most in need. It will also help Sr Carolina to expand a recently established nutritional program, as many students lack knowledge in health education, leading to health issues.

“The support of Catholic Mission will continue to change the lives of many people in Timor-Leste for generations, especially in the area of education and health,” Sr Carolina said. “And to everyone who supports Catholic Mission I want to say thank you very much for everything.”

As we conclude World Mission Month on a high note, the flame burning in our hearts keeps shining, leading us to take action further to create a more just world, as many missionaries need our

support to provide local communities with life-changing opportunities.

To continue offering ways to support missionaries, Catholic Mission is launching Christmas Life-Giving Gifts, as it offers a tangible way to provide support to critical mission projects around the world and make a lasting impact for children, families, and communities in most need.

Through Catholic Mission’s Life-Giving Gift, you can purchase gift cards from many options to give and



including special gifts to support Sr Carolina and her work in Venilale.

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## SR ALMA CASTAGNA VISITS WAGGA WAGGA



Above: Jane Plum, Catholic Missions Director Diocese of Wagga Wagga, Sr Alma Castagna and Bishop Mark Edwards OMI.

So grateful for Sr Alma Castagna's visit to Wagga Wagga on Wednesday 25th October. It was wonderful to share in a walk around Calvary Riverina Hospital and meet some of the staff. In the evening a group of interested people, including Bishop Mark Edwards, (pictured here) shared a meal with Sr Alma and listened to the story of her work with the community in Timor Leste. <https://www.catholicmission.org.au/sr-alma>

Many thanks to Loretta Brinkman Director of Mission Integration at Calvary Riverina Hospital who arranged the visit and to all the staff who welcomed Sr Alma. Thank you also to the Little Company of Mary Sisters who graciously opened their home to Sr Alma.

**Jane Plum, Catholic Missions Director Diocese of Wagga Wagga**

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# WALKING TOGETHER

## Archbishop Timothy Costelloe shares his thoughts for reflection from the Synod.

BY ARCHBISHOP TIMOTHY COSTELLOE SDB  
Archbishop of Perth

### *Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,*

As I begin writing this letter, I am sitting in Saint Peter's Basilica waiting for the Mass for the Feast of St Luke to begin. I will have you all, and those who are dear to you, in my prayers during this Mass. But I will not finish the letter this morning - it will grow over the coming days.

The feast of St Luke holds special significance for the members of the Synod. Those who have been part of the Synodal journey so far will know that Pope Francis, much like Pope Saint John XXIII before him, calls us to "throw open the windows" and "throw open the doors" and make the Church a welcoming home for all. According to one of our Australian biblical scholars, Fr Brendan Byrne SJ, this idea of welcome and open-hearted generosity lies at the centre of St Luke's Gospel. He titles his commentary on this gospel "The Hospitality of God".

It is Jesus who embodies this divine hospitality for all, especially the poorest and most needy. As His disciples, who are called to be Instruments of His peace, we are the ones through whom God wishes to extend the hand of friendship, of welcome, of compassion and of love.

The image of the Church as a home and as a place where everyone is welcome has often been on the lips of Pope Francis during the Synod. He keeps insisting that all are welcome in the Church - tutti, tutti, tutti (everyone, everyone, everyone) he says over and over again. No one is excluded because he or she is a sinner, because in reality we are all sinners. Similarly, no one is excluded from the invitation to "repent and believe in the Good News" because we all have need of conversion.

The theme of conversion is emerging very strongly in the discussions during the Synod meetings. There is a growing realisation that any proposed changes to Church structures, and to the exercise of authority, will be fruitless unless these changes are accompanied by a conversion of heart. As a community of faith, we are recognising more and more that any exercise of authority in the Church, whether it be by clergy, religious or laity, needs to be based on the example of Jesus, who described Himself as "meek and humble of heart". The gospels tell us that the people who encountered Jesus were amazed because He taught with authority - but what this means is that His words were matched by His actions. If some are wondering if the Synod will make any real difference in the Church, part of the answer will lie in the willingness of our leaders, both clerical and lay, to be challenged by the example of Jesus. There is nothing new in this challenge, of course, for it has always been the challenge of the gospel. What is new is the emergence of this theme as a central dimension of the Church's renewal at this time in our history.

The daily timetable for the Synod is certainly demanding. On most days we begin at 8.45am and work until around 7.30 pm. There is a long break for lunch and the famous Italian "siesta" but, given that many participants are being accommodated in religious houses and hotels which are some distance from the Vatican, much of the break during the day is taken up with travel, either on foot or in buses and cars. During the Synod meetings themselves we are working in a number of languages with English, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese predominating. The task of listening deeply and



with open hearts requires concentration and generosity, and this is made even more demanding when having to listen to simultaneous translation. In spite of the difficulties, however, and the variety of views being expressed, there is a remarkable atmosphere of communion, patience and simple human friendliness which seems to grow deeper as each day passes.

The presence of Pope Francis is felt deeply by everyone, even when he is not physically with us. This is particularly true of some of the concerns which are closest to his heart: the horror of war and the urgent need for peace; the need to encounter the poor and the marginalised with compassion and closeness; and the tragic plight of so many refugees and migrants, many of whom are seeking relief from war or from economic and social hardships.

I am concluding this letter on Friday morning. On Thursday evening, the Holy Father invited all the members of the Synod to join him in St Peter's Square for a time of prayer for migrants and refugees. We gathered with him around a striking new addition to the Square: a sculpture representing men, women and children all huddled together on a boat as they journey in search of a place of refuge. Above them are the wings of an unseen angel, suggesting that we should "not neglect to show hospitality to strangers for thereby some have entertained angels unaware" (Hebrews 13:2). The care of those who are marginalised or abandoned in any way is emerging as a key concern of the Synod. Certainly, for us in Australia, after the results of the recent referendum, we might recognise in some of our indigenous sisters and brothers "angels in our midst" who both need and deserve hospitality, both in our own local Christian communities

and in our wider Australian society. But, of course, our indigenous people are not the only "hidden angels in our midst". We might ask the Lord to give us eyes that are open to recognise all these hidden angels - and give us hearts that are ready to respond.

The third week of the Synod Assembly is coming to an end. Towards the middle of next week, the work of gathering the fruits of our assembly will begin in earnest, and decisions will be made about how we carry forward the work of the Synod over the next twelve months. In October of 2024, all the members of the Synod will gather together once again here in Rome to bring the work of the long Synodal journey to a close. We will offer our conclusions to Pope Francis and, together with all of you, await with eager anticipation what he might then offer the Church spread throughout the world. The work of synodality, and the accompanying work of the bishops' collegiality, will reach its culmination in the exercise of the pope's primacy. What will follow will be the implementation phase of the Synod. The People of God in our own part of the world will together listen to the Pope, listen to each other as we discern what God is asking of us through the Pope, and begin the journey of synodality again: listening to each other, listening to the bishops as our leaders in the faith, and listening to the ongoing voice of the pope calling us forward into mission. We are becoming a listening Church, a discerning Church and a faithful, trusting, mission-oriented Church: we are becoming a synodal Church.

May God bless you all, and all who are dear to you.

*Yours sincerely in the Lord Jesus,*  
+Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB  
Archbishop of Perth



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# ANNUAL CHRISTUS REX PILGRIMAGE

Commencing on the Friday immediately preceding the Feast of Christ the King, from 27 to 29 October over 500 pilgrims set out on the annual 90km pilgrimage from Ballarat to Bendigo.

**Commencing in 1991, pilgrims have gathered from around the world to make a spiritual journey through the Australian countryside from St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat to Sacred Heart Cathedral, Bendigo. The Christus Rex Pilgrimage remains the only pilgrimage of its kind in Australia.**

The Christus Rex Pilgrimage honours Christ the King and commemorates His feast on the day observed under the General Roman Calendar of 1960.

While walking along the route, the Pilgrims engage in communal prayer and song, as well as personal reflection and meditation. Masses and Confession are available to Pilgrims along the way. The Pilgrims eat and sleep in community halls and campgrounds. The Christus Rex Pilgrimage concludes with Mass celebrated at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Bendigo on Sunday afternoon.

A uniquely Australian feature of the Christus Rex Pilgrimage is the great spirit and fellowship of the Pilgrims. The Pilgrimage is attended by hundreds of Pilgrims from around Australia and the world and attracts people of all ages and walks of life. The Christus Rex Pilgrimage provides a perfect opportunity for Catholics to make new friendships and renew old ones.

Today, the Christus Rex

Pilgrimage is conducted by the Christus Rex Society Inc. The Society is made up of a volunteer group of pilgrims, successors to the original pilgrims, and who are united by their great love of Christ the King.

To understand the story of the Christ the King Pilgrimage, it is necessary first of all to know of the great French Paris-to-Chartres Pilgrimage, which is held annually over the Pentecost Sunday weekend. The Chartres Pilgrimage revived a French tradition in the early 1980s. It had begun with a handful of Catholics that were devoted to their traditional faith, and who saw the institution of the pilgrimage as a powerful weapon of repentance, conversion and weapon against the evils of our present age. Within a couple of decades, there were about ten thousand pilgrims, many from other countries, walking and praying the route from Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris to Notre Dame de Chartres.

Inspired by the Chartres Pilgrimage story, a small group of Australians dedicated to the traditional liturgy decided to create a Pilgrimage tradition in Australia. They were faced with the task of finding two Cathedrals in Australia about a 3-day walk apart that were aesthetically appropriate for the worthy celebration of the traditional liturgy. This was a little harder in vast, modern Australia than it was



Above: The final leg of the pilgrimage heading towards Sacred Heart Cathedral.

in densely populated France which had been Christian for over one and a half millennia.

In the end, though, the choice was a simple one: the road from St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat through the Victorian country side to Sacred Heart Cathedral Bendigo turned out to be the sole candidate which

fitted the bill on both counts. The Feast of Christ the King (always the last Sunday in October in the traditional calendar) was chosen, not just because the theme was very appropriate for a Pilgrimage aiming to convert Australia to the Catholic Faith, but because it was a mild time of the year weather-

Below: Day 2 of the pilgrimage.



Below: Pilgrims at St Georges Lake.



Above: Pilgrims blessing at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat.

wise, and a relatively quiet time of the year liturgically, in which priests might be available. A great deal of preparatory work was put in by the founding Chairman, Bill Rimmer, in surveying the route, and negotiating with churches, shires and farmers for permission to use facilities.

In 1991, the first Pilgrimage set off – a band of about a dozen from several different states, with Canberra priest Fr John Parsons as its chaplain.

Rosaries were prayed, hymns sung, feriverinos preached and masses celebrated as they are today. But things were a little different in those early days. There were

no marshals, or portaloos, and the Saturday overnight stop was Maldon, at which the Sunday Festal Mass was also celebrated early in the morning. 2nd Vespers for the Feast of Christ the King was celebrated at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Bendigo on the Sunday afternoon. The choir and the ministers and servers made up most of the turnout at each mass. And perhaps most importantly, the Saturday evening dinner was a superb roast with vegetables and gravy, supplied by our cooks, Marie and Michael Houlihan, who went on to cater generously for many subsequent Pilgrimages.



Above: Mass in the pine grove at Campbelltown.



Above: Preparing a delicious paella lunch in the pine grove at Campbelltown.

Below: Fr Ashley Caldwell.



COUNSELLING SERVICES



Faith based Counselling Services

**Centacare South West NSW** is a Catholic Social Service Agency who exists to make a positive difference in people's lives. Our psychology, counselling, NDIS, school wellbeing, and education programs support children, individuals, and families.

Are you looking for a therapist who will incorporate your Christian faith? Our faith-based counsellor can support clients across the Wagga Wagga Catholic Diocese. We currently offer individual, and couples (including pre-marriage) counselling to adults. Together, we'll explore strategies and skills for managing stressors or challenges in your life and foster personal and relationship growth. Sessions can be in-person, by phone, or video conferencing.

**What is Faith Based Counselling:** Counselling is a supportive process where individuals and couples can confide in trained professionals who have a deep understanding of emotions, thoughts, behaviours, and relationships. It provides a safe space to navigate challenges, foster personal development, and enhance mental and emotional wellbeing.

Counselling takes a holistic approach to your mental health, and faith based counselling intentionally incorporates faith into the therapeutic journey. Faith based counselling incorporates an additional pillar into generalist counselling, including a special interest in your Christian faith that informs your sense of self, relationships with others and integration into the world.

**About our counsellor:** Stina Constantine is an AASW accredited Social Worker with qualifications in Psychology and Social work. She has close to 10 years' experience working with families of high conflict and family break downs and is trained in couple's therapy. Her passion points in practice are working with couples and trauma counselling.

Stina is a practicing Christian who has been actively involved in her church community. Her extensive experience in Church ministry has allowed her to meet and work with a variety of people including clergy, adults, children, and families.

**Want to know more?** Our website: [www.centacareswsw.org.au](http://www.centacareswsw.org.au) or call 1300 619 379 or email your enquiry to: [info@centacareswsw.org.au](mailto:info@centacareswsw.org.au)

COUNSELLING SERVICES



Pre-Marriage Counselling Program

**Centacare South West NSW** is a Catholic Social Service Agency who exists to make a positive difference in people's lives. Our psychology, counselling, NDIS, school wellbeing, and education programs support children, individuals, and families.

Are you getting married? Congratulations! It's an exciting time that comes with making a legal, emotional, and spiritual commitment. Pre-marriage counselling provides you and your partner an encouraging, unbiased space for genuine connection and open dialogue on the many aspects of your growing relationship.

Centacare South West NSW's pre-marriage counselling will encourage you as a couple to harness the strengths in your relationship as well support growth areas, giving you tools to manage many of the challenges that naturally comes with sharing a life with another person. Using the PREPARE & ENRICH inventory, our faith-based couples counsellor hopes to help provide you with some useful skills and tools that are tailored to YOUR specific relationship.

**This program focuses on:**

- Determining your shared goals & values.
- Learning to manage conflict with respect and compassion
- Increasing emotional connection and intimacy.
- Negotiating commitments, responsibilities, and boundaries.
- Strengthening communication and listening skills.
- Working on trust, communication, and other areas of concern.

The sessions can cover a variety of themes including partner style and habits, financial management, leisure activities, affection and sex, family and friends, relationship expectations and children & parenting.

The sessions can be provided face to face (in Wagga), or via video conference across the South West Region of NSW.

**Cost:** \$450 (this includes access to your individual PREPARE & ENRICH Questionnaires, as well as 3 Sessions with our counsellor – further sessions available upon request).



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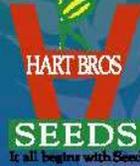
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For further information please phone the  
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# SILVER BANKSIA: FLORAL EMBLEM OF WAGGA WAGGA

It's not just Erin Earth that's been celebrating its 25-year journey! In the same year (1997), Wagga Wagga replaced the Yellow Rose with the Silver Banksia as its floral emblem. Most residents are unaware of this since, from the period when the change took place, it has not been promoted in, or taken up by, our community.

BY DICK GREEN

**Silver Banksia, (Banksia marginata), is a small evergreen native tree with a sweetly smelling yellow spike flower growing throughout much of southeastern Australia.** In traditional times, the nectar from the flowers was sucked by First Peoples or soaked in water to make a sweet drink. Silver Banksia once grew here including along the sand hill between the old post office and Gurwood Street school and on Malebo Range (10 km west of Wagga Wagga running north from the river towards Coolamon) as noted by early regional explorers Charles Sturt and Thomas Mitchell who referred to it as "Honeysuckle." However, it has become locally extinct from early European settlement times through use as firewood and habitat destruction by urban development, over clearing and grazing.

**Why and how was Silver Banksia chosen to replace the Yellow Rose as our floral emblem?** The City of Wagga Wagga had adopted the Yellow Rose as its floral emblem in 1965, at the same time choosing green, gold and black as the City's colours. Australia and all its states and territories have native plants as their floral emblems. So, some reasoned why not Wagga Wagga? Following a proposal to Council in 1997 by the Society for Growing Australian Plants, intense debate and support for the Silver Banksia

ensued. In a survey by The Leader newspaper, 302 respondents supported the change whilst 95 wanted the Yellow Rose retained. Council debate was heated, especially between fully Australianised councillors and those with more recent British heritage who had the rose close at heart! Council finally resolved to adopt the change from 23rd November 1999, the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of Wagga Wagga as a town, perhaps concluding that maybe the "Yellow Rose of Texas is the only girl for me", (to quote the 1850s song), but it would not be the flower for Wagga Wagga!

**Where to see Silver Banksia and how to grow it?**

You can see examples of established Silver Banksia that were planted in two public places following its adoption as our floral emblem.

- Wollundry Lagoon bridge, south bank near the Council chambers – planted 1998.
- At CSU Yindymarra Reconciliation site off Darnell Smith Drive just inside the wooden post and rail fence, southern end - planted circa 2005.

The seed for these plantings was sourced from the closest known surviving population growing in the Brungle (Tumut) area. Propagation is relatively easy from fresh seed and cuttings. Avoid buying commercially available

Silver Banksia plants because they are not authentically local and may not be suited to local conditions. Best to seek advice from people like Keith and Jan Roberts, ErinEarth associates, as they have successfully grown them.

**Why has Silver Banksia not taken root, with limited plantings being undertaken?**

On a physical level, Silver Banksia naturally grows best in sandy well drained locations but is less suited to the river floodplain or other clayey soils around Wagga Wagga, and this can be a limitation to its widespread planting. Those doing so are advised to provide good drainage including adding sand to individual planting sites.

More deeply, throughout history, different cultures have used symbols and stories, often originating in nature, to assist the human spirit in its intercommunication with the natural and spiritual world. Current society seems to have a diminishing appreciation, capacity or resolve to embed such symbols and stories in our culture – maybe it's not seen as important or relevant. Perhaps, in our community, assisted by such places as ErinEarth, Silver Banksia can be



taken on as a symbol acknowledging and caring for Wiradjuri Country – "Caring for our place and everything in our place".

A further step in this direction was taken on 24 May 2023 at the ErinEarth 25th anniversary morning tea, with the planting of a Silver Banksia by ErinEarth's founders, Sister Carmel Wallis and Sister Kaye Bryan.

**Long live the reintroduction of this, until recently, locally extinct native plant!**



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



Erin Earth 2023 EVENTS

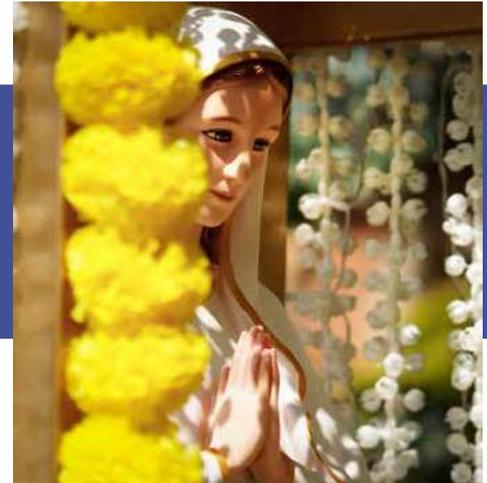
Nov 21 Presentation Day

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

# HOLY ROSARY

October was the month of the Holy Rosary, the prayer which Pope Francis says "brings peace to hearts, to families, the Church and the World."

Several parishes, communities, and cultures in and around Wagga Wagga collaborated to have a Marian Procession in honour of Our Lady of the Rosary. Thank you especially to the Syro Malabar community, and the parishes of Our Lady of Fatima, Holy Trinity, and St Michael's for their generous support.



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# CRA DEVELOPS RESOURCE TO GUIDE FORMATION OF RELIGIOUS FOR MINISTRY

*Restoring and Nurturing Right Relationships* is a publication which has been launched by Catholic Religious Australia (CRA) as a national resource to support Religious Institutes in their continual development of initial and ongoing formation practices and processes.

**Building on the first edition published in 2016, this second edition recognises that the Australian Church has entered a new stage in the formation for religious life, following the realities made transparent by the Royal Commission, but also encouraged by new emphases of Pope Francis.**

“Francis has urged us to ensure that the formative process be communitarian in its essence, not a solo journey but one undertaken in dynamic relationship with the People of God,” said CRA President Peter Jones OSA.

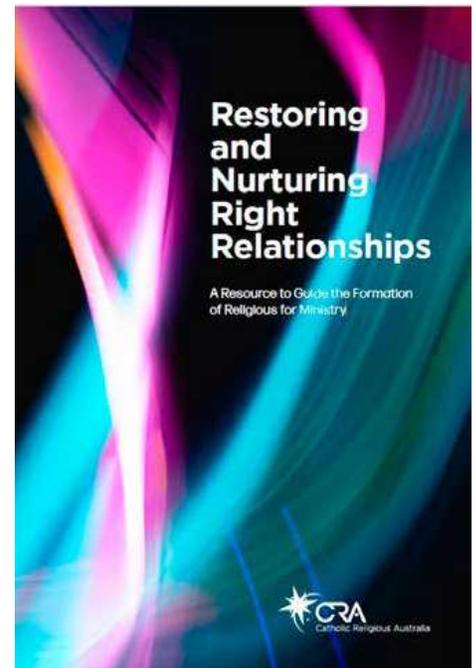
The Principal Author of *Restoring and Nurturing Right Relationships*, David Leary OFM said, “The Final Report of the Royal Commission made clear the brokenness of our humanity and of the ecclesial community. *Restoring and Nurturing Right Relationships* seeks to create a renewed understanding of formation of Religious for life and ministry, grounded in our Catholic tradition, and set on repairing and nurturing our relationality.” Br David is also Provincial Delegate for Professional Standards and Safeguarding for the Franciscan Friars.

Importantly, with a substantial number of people currently in the initial stage of formation in Religious

Institutes in Australia, and many Religious Institutes open to receiving new Candidates, *Restoring and Nurturing Right Relationships* is a publication which recognises that formation in religious life is ongoing and it seeks to identify key concepts for healthy and lifelong formation.

“Our Religious Institutes are continually developing, regularly evaluating, and looking for ways to improve their formation processes and implement regulatory and procedural practices. Our hope is that *Restoring and Nurturing Right Relationships* will provide a standard for best practice, particularly with respect to the recruitment, screening, and continuous formation of Institute aspirants and members,” said Anne Walker, CRA National Executive Director.

“Religious Institutes are taking an increasingly multi-faceted approach to formation to honour, form and stretch the whole person entering religious life and living as a Religious. To assist this, this publication includes guidance on the consultation of lay people in screening and assessing candidates for religious life, development of relationships with lay associations within the order, the promotion of a healthy understanding of celibacy as well as regular



professional development,” she added.

This resource can be freely accessed online at Catholic Religious Australia.

**There will be a book launch in person and online on 21 November 2023, see the CRA website for details.**

## CATHOLIC CHURCH SAYS REFERENDUM RESULT SHOULD USHER IN NEW ERA

**Despite the referendum to establish an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice in the Constitution not succeeding, Australia needs to find a way to address the inequalities many First Nations people face, Bishop Charles Gauci has said.**

Bishop Gauci, chair of the Bishops Commission for Relations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, has issued a statement following yesterday’s poll. He said although the idea of the Indigenous Voice to Parliament was not supported by a majority of Australians, “that doesn’t mean we shouldn’t do something”.

The Bishop of Darwin said: “As I travel through the Northern Territory and beyond, I meet people from all walks of life who recognise that Aboriginal and Torres

Strait Islander peoples – the traditional custodians of our lands and waters for tens of thousands of years – struggle with poor outcomes in health, education, employment and a range of other areas.

“Australians know those poor outcomes are not good enough in the nation of the alleged ‘Fair go’.”

Bishop Gauci said while the debate leading up to the referendum was “intense and, at times, challenging”, there was an “overwhelming consensus that more should be done to address the injustice experienced by so many First Nations people”.

He said that the Church, while not always living up to its own ideals, has been a driver of positive change for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through its parishes, schools, social services, and health and

aged care services.

“At this moment in our history, it is time for the Church and its ministries to redouble our efforts to close the gap – not as a slogan, but as a commitment,” Bishop Gauci said.

“That can only be done by, in the words of our recent Social Justice Statement, listening to, learning from and loving our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander brothers and sisters.”

As the country processes the referendum outcome, Bishop Gauci said, “may we recognise and take up the challenge to create opportunities but also seek outcomes that will see inequalities in our country narrowed, a path to reconciliation pursued and a more prosperous nation emerge”.

# \$15M IN FUNDING MUST REACH MILLIONS OF CIVILIANS FACING MULTIPLE THREATS TO LIFE

Caritas Australia welcomes the Australian Government's announcement of an additional \$15 million in funding to support those impacted by the ongoing conflict in Gaza.

**We also strongly support comments from Hon Penny Wong regarding the essential nature of humanitarian pauses, as to date nowhere near enough aid has entered Gaza.**

Women and children represent 68 per cent of the fatalities in Gaza since October 7th.

Children make up around half the population in the region and are particularly vulnerable to dehydration, starvation, disease, and exposure to the elements. This is a major concern given 42 per cent of homes have been destroyed, and with food, water, and vital medicines in disastrously low supply.

So far, the volume of humanitarian aid let in amounts to about 3 per cent of what entered Gaza prior to the conflict. That is not, and could never be, enough to keep Gaza's civilian population alive in the face of such overwhelming challenges.

Particularly vulnerable too are around 20,000 pregnant women. There are reports of caesareans being performed on severely injured mothers, but without painkillers, clean water, and power for hospitals, these surgeries will become impossible. This would have devastating consequences for these women and their children.

As clean water runs out people are also beginning to drink unsafe supplies. As this continues, we fear disease will run through large communities of displaced people creating a public health disaster.



*A Palestinian woman washes her children at her destroyed house in Gaza city. Majdi Fathi/Nur photo via Getty Images.*

To avert this, governments must continue to place pressure on humanitarian access supported by a ceasefire. Caritas Australia has signed the #CeasefireNow petition alongside hundreds of organisations worldwide and would urge politicians to take note of the overwhelming support for this call from the humanitarian sector.

Humanitarian aid properly administered could profoundly impact the lives of innocent civilians enduring unspeakable suffering in Gaza.

The Caritas network has been working in the region for over 50 years, with offices in Jerusalem, Gaza, and the West Bank. Hundreds of staff in Caritas partner agencies have been providing humanitarian services, including health and psychosocial support, for decades. Many, including 32 international staff, were on the ground when conflict broke out and are waiting for safe access to resume their work. Vital supplies of medicine, food, water, and shelter also wait at the border, but more will be required to provide ongoing support. To date, Caritas partners

have been able to provide cash support for over 7,000 families and are supporting four churches sheltering 1,200 people.

The global church community also continues to mourn the loss of 18 lives, including a Caritas Jerusalem staff member and her family, during the bombing of The Church of Saint Porphyrius.

We echo the sentiments of Pope Francis, who said that "war always is a defeat, it is a destruction of human fraternity," and call strongly for humanitarian needs to take precedence over conflict.

Without intervention, hunger, dehydration, and disease could take an unimaginable toll on Gaza's most vulnerable within days, or even hours. The need is urgent and humanitarian assistance must be prioritised.

**Visit [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au) to donate to the Gaza Crisis Appeal.**



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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



# WITNESSES OF FAITH 2023 TOUR

*You are invited to ACN's...*  
**WITNESSES OF FAITH 2023 TOUR**

Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) proudly presents the 2023 Witnesses of Faith Tour, a remarkable journey set to unfold across Australia and New Zealand.

**This transformative event will bring together distinguished international guests who will share their profound insights on faith, resilience, and the challenges faced by persecuted Christians.**

The tour's esteemed guests are:

His Beatitude, Patriarch Joseph Absi - A prominent figure in the Melkite Greek Catholic Church, serving as the Patriarch of Antioch, Alexandria, Jerusalem, and the East.

Mr. Xavier Stephen Bisits - ACN's Head of Projects for Lebanon, Syria, and Egypt, who has been at the forefront of supporting Christians in tumultuous regions.

Sister Majella Dogonyaro OP - A Dominican Sister from Northern Nigeria, offering unique perspectives on the challenges and triumphs of faith in a region where it is regularly tested.

**The tour's schedule is as follows:**

**Melbourne:** The "Night of the Witnesses" event at St Patrick's Cathedral on Wednesday 22 November, presided over by Archbishop Peter Comensoli.

**Brisbane:** Friday 24 November at ACU, Banyo Campus

**Perth:** Saturday 25 November at Aquinas College, Salter Point

**Auckland, New Zealand:** Thursday 30 November at Cathedral of St Patrick & St Joseph, Auckland

**Sydney:** Saturday 2 December at Australian Catholic University, North Sydney

These events provide a rare opportunity for attendees to engage with faith leaders and individuals actively involved in the support of persecuted Christians. Their stories and experiences will inspire and deepen understanding of the global challenges faced by Christian communities.

The "Night of the Witnesses" event in Melbourne is a powerful introduction to the tour. For more details, visit [www.aidtochurch.org/notw](http://www.aidtochurch.org/notw).

All those interested in exploring the pressing issues surrounding faith, resilience, and religious freedom are invited to attend. This tour promises to be an enlightening and transformative experience.



Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) is honoured to be bringing to Australia in November and December 2023 three very special guests from the Middle East and Nigeria as part of our 'Witnesses of Faith Tour'.

The first guest is the Melkite Catholic Patriarch, His Beatitude Joseph Absi; Second, Sister Majella Dogonyaro, a Dominican Sister from Nigeria; third, Mr Xavier Stephen Bisits, ACN's head of projects for Syria, Lebanon and Egypt.

Each of them comes to share their own stories of Christian suffering and persecution and we know of course that the situations in both the Middle East and Nigeria are very difficult ones.

Entry to the events is free but we will be seeking donations for specific projects of Aid to the Church in Need in the Middle East and Nigeria.

*All are welcome!*



**SPECIAL NOTE:** This visit of the Patriarch is the first major trip His Beatitude will make at the start of a one-year commemoration of the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the restoration of the full Communion with the Church of Rome, in 1724.

<b>MELBOURNE</b>	Wednesday 22 November 7.00-9.00pm St Patrick's Cathedral Melbourne.
<b>BRISBANE</b>	Friday 24 November 6.30-8.30pm Australian Catholic University, Banyo Campus.
<b>PERTH</b>	Saturday 25 November 4.00-6.00pm Aquinas College, Salter Point.
<b>AUCKLAND</b>	Thursday 30 November 7.00-9.00pm Cathedral of St Patrick & St Joseph, Auckland, New Zealand
<b>SYDNEY</b>	Saturday 2 December 2.00-4.00pm Australian Catholic University, North Sydney Campus.



For more information and to register, please visit [www.aidtochurch.org/witnesses](http://www.aidtochurch.org/witnesses) or phone 1800 101 201.

**To learn more about the upcoming tour around Australia and New Zealand, and to express interest in attending, visit [www.aidtochurch.org/2023tour](http://www.aidtochurch.org/2023tour) or call 1800 101 201**



Aid to the Church in Need

# CONFIRMATION

On Sunday October 15th, 28 children from St Joseph's School and Parish in Junee were Confirmed by Bishop Mark Edwards and Fr Paddy Sykes.



# 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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# JOY, SUFFERING AND 'LITTLE JAMES'?

Saint Teresa of Avila is often remembered for her humour. To her lively wit is attributed: *"From silly devotions and sour-faced saints, good Lord, deliver us!"*

BY EMILY SHAW

Virtue Ministry Writer and Graphic Designer



**And whilst she may have a point – sour-faced saints are not exactly the most enticing of role models – it's not always easy to maintain a joyful persona.** Harder still, to remain joyful in the face of trials. Just ask 'Little James.'

In the series 'The Chosen' Saint James the Lesser is depicted with a disability. Whilst this may, or may not, be historically accurate, this narrative arc has produced a scene that references the relationship between joy and suffering. Jesus prepares his apostles for mission and, in doing so, explains that they should:

"Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for laborers deserve their food. Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. (Matthew 10:5 - 11:1)

As challenging as these instructions are, it is apparent that something further is troubling Little James. Later, he asks Jesus directly why he has given him authority to go on mission and heal in His name, when Jesus has not healed him of his own infirmity.

"But think of the story you will have, especially in the journey to come, if I don't heal you. To know how to proclaim that you still praise God in spite of this. To know how to focus on all that matters so much more than the body: to show that you can be patient with your suffering here on earth, because you know you'll spend eternity with no suffering. Not many people can understand that."

And so the character of Little James is initiated into the reality of Christian joy: a joy that is not incompatible with our sufferings. A joy that transcends the ordinary, to the extraordinary – the supernatural.

Saint Josemaria Escriva explains: "Cheerfulness is a necessary consequence of our divine filiation, of knowing that our Father God loves us with a love of predilection, that he welcomes us, helps us and forgives us" (The Forge 332). In other words, joy comes from the knowledge that we are children

of God. Of course, it is also a gift of the Holy Spirit and needs to be cultivated in our hearts.

Saint John Paul II took this idea one step further: "God made us for joy. God is joy, and the joy of living reflects the original joy that God felt in creating us."

Joy is not the absence of sin, or suffering. True joy is found in our relationship with God. That same relationship is the source of love and concern for others. Because we are made in His image and likeness, the closer we draw to Him, the more we become like Him. The more He is able to orient us to a loving service for others.

True joy then, is recognizing our dependence on our loving Creator, prioritising that relationship so that we might love others as He has loved us. Father Sean Byrnes explains: "Every moment that God gives to us is an opportunity to love Him, to serve others." (Living Fullness Podcast S02 Episode 48)

Joy will not, however, eliminate your suffering. Like Little James, we will still encounter trials in this life. Some will be heavier and more painful than others. When we are in the midst of these storms in life, it is too easy to lose our peace and with it, our joy.

Overwhelmed by our challenges we dwell more on what we're struggling with and start feeling sorry for ourselves. Saint Josemaria Escriva once counselled: "When you feel oppressed by your weaknesses don't let yourself become sad. Glory in

your infirmities, like Saint Paul" (The Way, 879).

Easier said than done, I know. Escriva was an eternal optimist and once described Confession as the 'sacrament of joy'. But he has a point. One that is supported by others in the Communion of Saints, including Saint Thomas More. He wrote the following to his daughter Margaret, whilst he awaited execution in the Tower of London: "My beloved Daughter, let not your soul be disturbed by anything that may happen to me in this world. Nothing can happen except what God wills. I am very sure of that, no matter what may happen, no matter how evil it may seem, it will truly be the best thing."

Accepting God's will in our lives means, at times, accepting our crosses. And being thankful for them. Each cross is an opportunity to draw nearer to Jesus, to offer our sufferings in union with His, and to become recognisably His. Strengthening our relationship with, and love for, Him will increase our joy.

Perhaps Pope Francis expressed it best when he said: "Christian joy is peace, peace that is deeply rooted, peace in the heart, the peace that only God can give. This is Christian joy."

**Don't give into sadness in your suffering. Instead, try and recognise it for the invitation it is: an invitation to deeper Communion with God and a true joy that is much more enduring than fleeting worldly happiness.**

# SCHOOLS IN OUR DIOCESE

## Sacred Heart Primary, Wagga

It was fantastic to see the 2024 Kinders at their first orientation day on 20 October.



## Holy Trinity Primary, West Wagga



Holy Trinity Primary students participating in Mission Week Crazy Sock Day.



## Holy Spirit School, Lavington



A little treat for the wonderful staff at Holy Spirit, Lavington to celebrate World Teacher's Day. Thank you for everything you do for our school!



## St Joseph's Primary, Wagga

Congratulations to the Year 2 students who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



Catholic Education  
Diocese of Wagga Wagga

All schools enrolling now

## St Joseph's Primary, Leeton



Some amazing games of chess were played in the chess semi-finals on 6 November. Who will win the final?



## St Michael's Primary, Coolamon

Students enjoyed heaps of delicious strawberries when they went on an excursion to Bidgee Strawberries and Cream.



## St Joseph's Primary, Jerilderie



**Sock it to Poverty.** Year 5/6 student's have done a wonderful job leading our schools Socktober Campaign. This year, Catholic Mission is raising much needed funds for Timor Leste. Our Year 5/6's baked cupcakes and cooked sausages for a very special lunch. We also tie dyed two pairs of socks each to raise further funds for this very worthy campaign.



## St Joseph's Primary School, Finley



Congratulations to the students who participated and received the Sacrament of Communion on October 22. It was a beautiful celebration of our faith and the children demonstrated great reverence as they led the Mass.

## Mater Dei Primary, Wagga

Congratulations to Mater Dei Primary's 2024 School Captains:  
Ruby, Lucy, Finn & Theo.



# SCHOOLS IN OUR DIOCESE

# MASS TIMES IN OUR DIOCESE

## WAGGA WAGGA - CATHEDRAL

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

## WAGGA WAGGA - KOORINGAL

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

## WAGGA WAGGA - SOUTH WAGGA

**Our Lady of Fatima**  
Bourke Street, Wagga Wagga  
**Weekend Masses**  
Saturday Vigil - 5:00pm  
Sunday - 8:30am, 10:30am & 5:30pm (Syro-Malabar Rite)  
**St Patrick's Uranquinty**  
Sunday - 8:30am  
**Weekday Masses - Our Lady of Fatima**  
Monday to Friday 6:00pm (Weds & Thurs Syro-Malabar)  
Wednesday - 10:00am

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

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

## WAGGA WAGGA - WEST WAGGA

**Holy Trinity Church**  
Bardia Street, Ashmont  
Monday - Friday - 7:00am  
Sunday - 9:00am, 10:30am and 5:30pm  
**Our Lady of the Blessed Eucharist Church**  
Benedict Avenue, San Isidore  
Saturday - 6:00pm

## ALBURY

**St Patrick's** 515 Smollett St, Albury  
**Weekend Mass Times**  
Saturday - 9:30am  
Vigil (Saturday) - 5:00pm  
Sunday - 8:00am, 10:00am, and 5:30pm  
1962 Missal Mass - Sunday 12 noon  
**Weekday Mass Times**  
Monday to Friday - 7:00am  
Tuesday & Thursday - 9:30am  
Latin Mass Mondays - 7pm in the Adoration Chapel  
First Friday - 5:30pm  
**Rosary before Mass**  
Saturday - 9:10am and 4:30pm  
Sunday - 7:40am and 9:40am

## ALBURY - NORTH ALBURY

**Sacred Heart**  
Mate St, Nth Albury  
Saturday Vigil - 6:00 pm  
Sunday - 9:30 am  
**Weekday Masses**  
Wednesday & Fridays 9.30am or as printed in the weekly newsletter.  
**Confessions**  
Saturday - 5.15 - 5.45 pm

## ALBURY - LAVINGTON

**Holy Spirit**  
Saturday Vigil - 6:00pm  
Sunday - 8:00am, 10:00am  
St Mary's Jindera - 9:00am  
**Weekday Masses**  
Monday - Friday - 7:00am  
Saturday - 9:15am  
**Confessions**  
Saturday - 8.15am, 5.00pm  
St Mary's Jindera - Sunday 8.30am

## ALBURY - THURGOONA

**Immaculate Heart of Mary**  
20 Hartigan Street Thurgoona  
**Weekend Masses**  
Saturday Vigil - 5:00pm during Standard Time (approx. April til Sept)  
Saturday Vigil - 6:00pm during Daylight Saving (approx. October til March)  
Sunday - 9:30am all year round  
**Weekday Masses**  
Monday - 8:00am  
Tuesday - 10:00am  
Wednesday - 8:00am  
Thursday - 5:30pm (with Holy Hour at 4:30pm including Exposition and Benediction)  
Friday and Saturday - 8:00am  
**Confessions**  
Saturday 4:30-4:55pm (or 5:30-5:55pm during Daylight Saving)  
Sunday 9:00-9:25am  
Thursday - 4:45-5:15pm (during Holy Hour) Or anytime - just ask the priest.  
**Baptisms and Marriages** by appointment

## BERRIGAN

**St Columba's**  
4 Corcoran Street, Berrigan  
1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday - 5:00pm  
Saturday Vigil 6:00pm  
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

## TARCUTTA

**St Francis Xavier**  
Sydney St, Tarcutta  
Saturday Vigil - 5:00pm  
**Confessions**  
Before all Masses.

## THE ROCK

**St Mary's**  
102 Urana Street  
The Rock  
**Weekend Masses**  
Sunday - 8:00am (1962 Missal Mass)  
Sunday - 10:00am  
**Weekday Masses**  
Monday - 7:00am  
Tuesday - 6:00pm  
Wednesday - 7:00am  
Thursday - 8:30am  
Friday - 6:00pm  
**Confessions:**  
Saturday 4:30-5:30pm, and before and after all Masses

## TOCUMWAL

**St Peter's**  
Charlotte Street,  
Tocumwal  
Saturday Vigil - 5.30pm  
Sunday - 8.30am  
**Weekday Masses**  
Thursday - 9.30am  
**Confessions**  
Half an hour before weekend Masses

## TUMBARUMBA

**All Saints'**  
40 Murray Street, Tumburumba  
Saturday Vigil - 6.00pm  
Sunday - 9.00am  
**Weekday Masses**  
Monday & Tuesday - 7:30am  
Wednesday-Friday - 5.30pm  
Saturday 9.15am  
**Confessions**  
Friday 4.30pm - 5.15pm  
Saturday - 8.00am - 9.00am  
And 30 mins before weekend Holy Masses  
**Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Tooma**  
4th Sunday - 7.30am  
**Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament**  
Friday - 4.30pm & Saturday - 8.00am

## URANA

**St Fiacre's Church** 5 End St, Urana  
**Weekend Masses**  
1st, 3rd & 5th weekends - 8:00am  
2nd & 4th weekends - 6:00pm Vigil  
**Weekday Masses**  
Posted on church notice board each week.  
**Oaklands - St Columba's Church**  
Each Sunday - 10:15am

### Confessions

Urana - Saturday 5:00-5:30pm  
and 20 minutes prior to each weekend  
Mass (Urana & Oaklands)

## YENDA - YOOGALI - HANWOOD

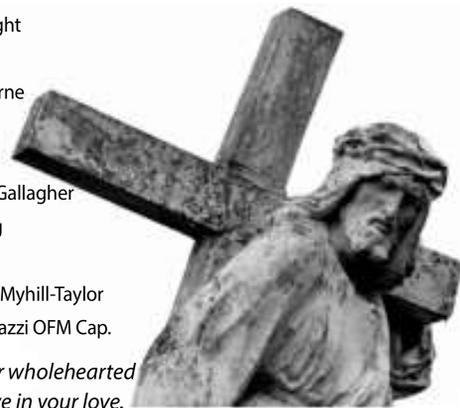
**Our Lady of the Rosary of Pompeii**  
17 Edon Street, Yoogali  
Sunday - 10:00am  
**St Anthony's - Hanwood**  
Saturday Vigil - 5.00pm  
Sunday - 8.00am  
**St Therese's - Yenda**  
Saturday Vigil - 6:30pm  
**Weekday Masses**  
Tuesday - 8.00am - Hanwood  
Wednesday - 8.00am - Hanwood  
Thursday - 5.00pm - Yenda  
Saturday - 9:30am - Yoogali (first  
Saturday of the month only) - with  
Anointing of the Sick  
**Confessions**  
Yenda - Thursday, before Mass  
Yoogali - Sunday, before Mass  
Hanwood - Saturday - 4:30pm  
Or by arrangement with the priest.

Please note that Mass times were true and correct at the time of printing. For further clarification, please check parish bulletins and noticeboards closer to the date.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE PRIESTS WHOSE ANNIVERSARY OF DEATH OCCURS IN NOVEMBER

- 1 November 1914** Fr John J Gaffey
- 2 November 1960** Fr Cyril Joseph Cochrane
- 9 November 1977** Fr Ronald Corbett
- 10 November 1998** Fr Leo Francis Wright
- 13 November 1891** Fr Andrew Walsh
- 19 November 1965** Fr John Joseph Byrne
- 19 November 2002** Fr Dennis Allen
- 23 November 1957** Fr Francis Hubert Gallagher
- 26 November 1910** Fr Joseph Dowling
- 26 November 1923** Fr John Gallagher
- 27 November 1997** Fr Frederick Harry Myhill-Taylor
- 30 November 1990** Fr Nicholas Simonazzi OFM Cap.

*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  
10am to 2pm  
and also by appointment

**Parking:**  
Please use Mt Erin Boarding School entrance.

Email: [mounterinheritagecentre@gmail.com](mailto:mounterinheritagecentre@gmail.com)  
Telephone: 0438 711 229

[www.mounterinheritagecentre.com.au](http://www.mounterinheritagecentre.com.au)



# FAMILY REFLECTIONS

12th November

### Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A

**In the daily activities of family life, we can easily find excuses for not attending to our spiritual lives.**

If not given top priority, prayer and reading Scripture risk becoming occasional activities rather than daily practices. In today's Gospel, Jesus reminds us that if we fail to give our spiritual life priority, we will find ourselves unprepared to receive Jesus. Daily prayer and spiritual practice keeps us ready to receive Jesus.

Gather together as a family and talk about some of the things our faith calls us to do every day and every week to keep God first in our lives. Talk about what might happen if we don't do these things regularly. Explain to your family that Jesus taught us that it is important to keep ourselves ready to receive him when he comes again. Tell them to listen as you read the parable that Jesus tells in today's Gospel. Read aloud Matthew 25:1-13. Talk with your family about why Jesus says that it is so important to remain ready to receive the Kingdom of Heaven. Pray together that your family will always keep God first in your lives so that you will all be prepared to receive Jesus when he comes. Pray together the Act of Hope.

*Wisdom 6:12-16 Psalm 63:2,3,4,5-6,7-8  
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Matthew 25:1-13*

19th November

### Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A

**In today's Gospel, Jesus talks about the correlation between faithfulness and responsibilities.** Family life provides many opportunities to illustrate this connection for children. As children prove themselves trustworthy, they can be trusted to take on greater responsibilities. Jesus teaches us in this parable that when we show ourselves to be trustworthy in small matters, we can be trusted to participate in greater matters of responsibility.

As you gather as a family, take some time to recall how

each child in the family has matured and can now be trusted with greater responsibilities.

Say: In today's Gospel, Jesus talked about how our trustworthiness in small matters shows that we can also be trusted to share in the work of serving the Kingdom of Heaven. Read Matthew 15:14-30. Say: We share in the work of serving the Kingdom of Heaven when we use our talents to help and serve others.

As a family, choose one thing to do this week to serve others. Conclude in prayer together, asking God's help so that your family may serve others more faithfully. Pray together the Prayer to the Holy Spirit.

*Proverbs 31:10-13,19-20,30-31 Psalm 128:1-2,3,4-5  
1 Thessalonians 5:1-6 Matthew 25:14-30*

26th November

### The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King (Thirty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Cycle A

**In today's Gospel, Jesus teaches us that we will be judged on only one thing: the acts of mercy we have shown to the least among us.** Jesus identifies with the least ones; thus we serve Jesus whenever we serve one of the least ones. The Church calls the actions that Jesus described in today's Gospel the Corporal Works of Mercy. These works are to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to bury the dead, to shelter the homeless, to visit the sick and imprisoned, and to give alms to the poor. In these actions we show God's compassion and mercy to those in need.

As you gather as a family, recall the list of the Corporal Works of Mercy. Talk about some concrete examples of how your family might do these actions in your community and then discuss why it is important that we do these things. Read Matthew 25:31-46. Ask: Why does Jesus say we ought to do these works of mercy? (Because whenever we show mercy to another person, we show mercy to Jesus himself.) Choose one Corporal Work of Mercy that your family will act upon this week. Pray together that your family will see and serve

Jesus in the least ones among us. Pray the Lord's Prayer or an Act of Love.

*Ezekiel 34:11-12,15-17 Psalm 23:1-2,2-3,5-6  
Corinthians 15:20-26,28 Matthew 25:31-46*

3rd December

### First Sunday of Advent, Cycle B

**In family life, we try to prepare ourselves for many future things: our next vacation, our children's education, our retirement.** We are careful not to allow ourselves to be caught by surprise so that we can handle any challenges our family may face. Today's Gospel reminds us that we are called to be just as attentive and alert to the coming of the Son of Man so that it will not catch us unprepared. This means attending to our family's spiritual life as carefully as we attend to other important family matters.

As you gather as a family, talk about a time when you received surprise visitors at your house, perhaps a neighbor who stopped by or a relative who arrived unannounced. Was your household prepared to receive this unannounced guest? What might your family have done differently if you knew ahead of time that this visitor was going to arrive? Jesus told his disciples that no one knows when the Son of Man will return, except the Father. Read with your family what Jesus told his disciples in today's Gospel, Mark 13:33-37.

During Advent, we not only prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of Jesus, we also check to see if we are doing all the things that will keep us ready to receive Jesus when he comes again. Talk about how your family can recommit to daily prayer, reading Scripture, and staying faithful to God's commandments. Pray together that through this Advent season your family will be more prepared to receive Jesus when he comes again. Read as a concluding prayer Paul's words to the Corinthians found in today's second reading, 1 Corinthians 1:3-9, or pray the Lord's Prayer.

*Isaiah 63:16b-17,19b;64:2-7 Psalm 80:2-3,15-16,18-19  
1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:33-37*



Vinnies Christmas Appeal



St Vincent de Paul Society  
good works

[donate.vinnies.org.au/christmas-appeal](https://donate.vinnies.org.au/christmas-appeal)



**You can help a family  
put food on the table  
this Christmas.**

This year, Christmas is something Anna can't even think about. Not when she can't even afford to put food on the table each day.

**Your support this Christmas will help provide food, clothing, living expenses and crisis support for vulnerable people like Anna who have been struggling with the cost-of-living crisis for over a year.**



### Food for hungry children

Your donation can help provide food so a parent like Anna can feed her children this Christmas. It doesn't have to be a big Christmas meal. Anna just wants to put food on the table.



### Help with the essentials

Your donation can help give vulnerable people like Anna and her family the essentials they need to survive – from clothes and school uniforms to help keeping on top of fuel and utility bills.



### Support with the home

Your donation can help cover a vulnerable family's rent so they can keep a roof over their heads. With rents skyrocketing, your gift is needed to help protect vulnerable people from homelessness.