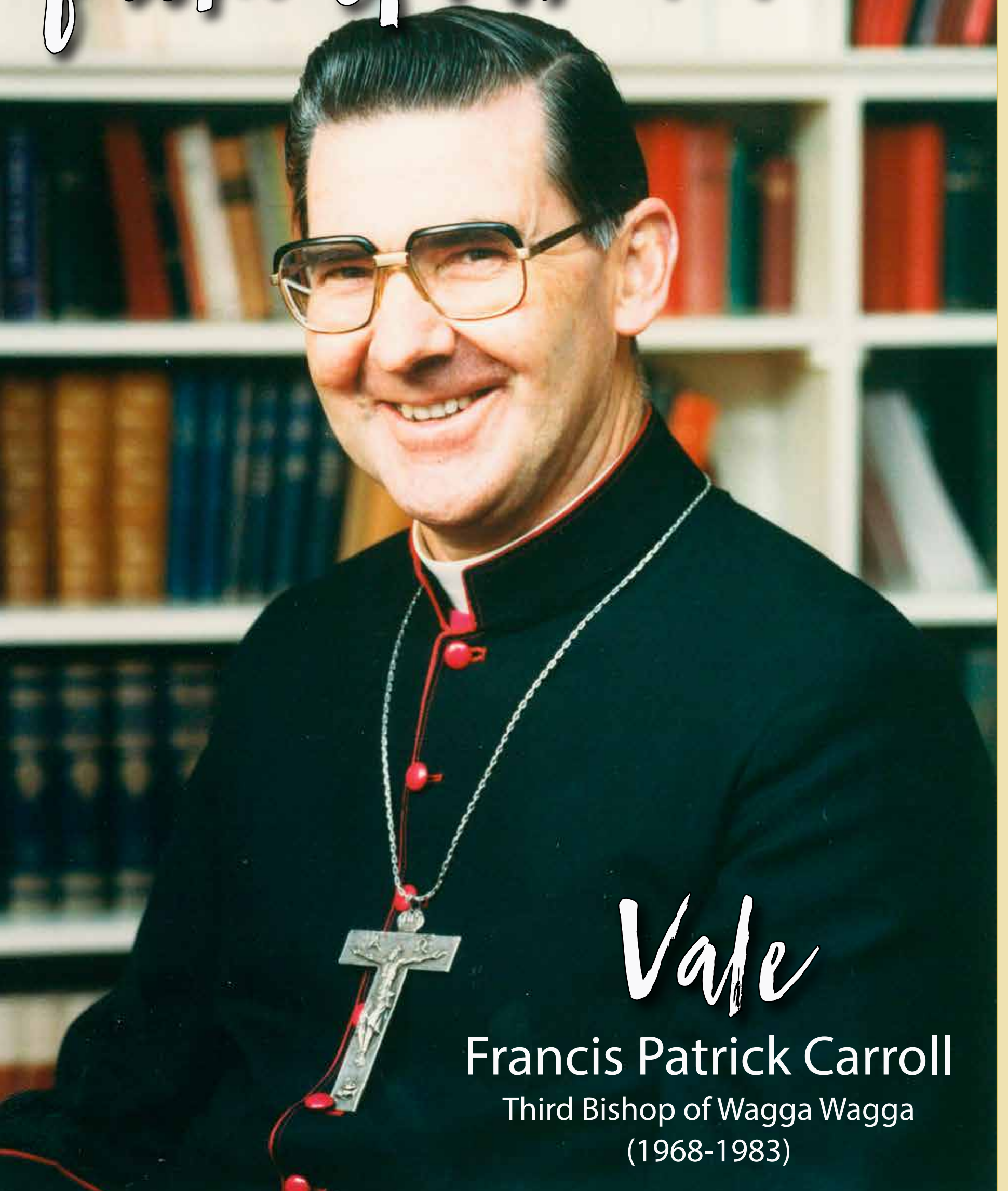


The Bishop from Grammain



Vale

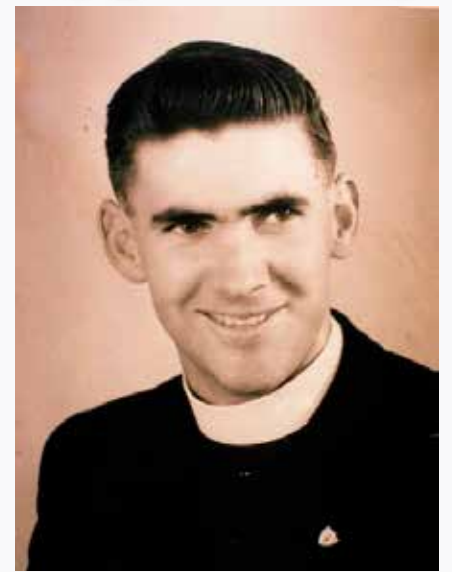
Francis Patrick Carroll

Third Bishop of Wagga Wagga

(1968-1983)

The Bishop from Ganmain

A poem in a Ganmain Carroll family history book was written at the time of the Ganmain boy's consecration:



They'll talk of it for years and years
They'll live it through again
The day they made a bishop Of the
boy from Gan main.

They knew him well, they knew his
folk
They'd watched him growing up
They'd cheered him on the football
field
When Ganmain won the Cup.

Quite useful as a ruck he was
A fair and honest fighter
A likely lad, but no one thought
To see him don a mitre.

They never thought that they would
leave St. Brendan's in the lurch
And flock to Hoyts Theatre
Resplendent as a church.

With panoply of purple
Complete with throne and altar

And clerics in great numbers
And long psalms from the psalter.

The trumpets of St. Peter's
Never blew with greater heart
And the Sistine Chapel Choir
Never played a greater part.

For pride and gratitude and love
Resounded in each strain
The day they consecrated
The Bishop of Gan main!

And the old, old priest who quietly
Stood by with pride aglow
Remembered the first anointing
Of young Francis years ago.

Now an older Francis lifts his voice
'Come Holy Ghost O Come'
And lays his hands on a dark bent
head
So gallant and so young.

Now surely his own tired hands and
heart

Weary with stress and strain
Will find new strength and comfort
In 'the boy from Gan main'.

Yes. It's over now all over
Folded in memory
But what of tomorrow? The Weeks?
The Years?
All that is yet to be.

For those who are sealed with a
special seal
They travel the lonely way
The homely joys -the carefree hours
Belong to yesterday.

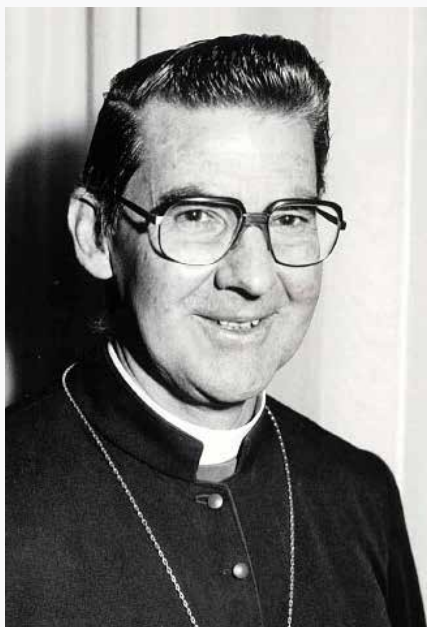
'The Youngest Bishop' please pray
for him
Prayer alone can sustain
The boy we knew
The priest we know
The Bishop from Ganmain.



A Diocesan Newspaper is Founded

The story of the formation of the diocesan newspaper is significant. Together took over from the local South Wagga Wagga publication, the Marianna, from April 1970. In the first issue of Together Bishop Carroll published a letter explaining the reason for its launch.

"The desire to build up the bond of Christian unity within our own diocesan family has led



to the launching of our new paper Together. It was difficult to find a name that would express the paper's purpose. We wanted a word that would give us the idea of building a diocesan identity, a community life, a family spirit. The diocese is made up of a number of parishes which are units each with a character of its own, but they are also living cells making up the church of the diocese. Pride in one's own parish is good and there ought to be loyalty to its development and effort in its work. A healthy parish spirit will also express itself in a readiness to cooperate, to share and to work together for the good of the whole Church—firstly the 'local church' of this diocese and then the wider 'universal

Church' throughout the world. Together will enable me, as chief pastor, to give leadership and direction; it will open up lines of information and communication on all levels: it will help us all to share the wisdom and experience, the problems and needs, the successes and failures of one another."

On the importance on the discernment of the Holy Spirit: "The approach depends on prayer, the genuine listening to others, a sensitivity to all. It encourages collaboration rather than competition. It does not exclude vigorous debate but demands Christian charity and aims as consensus rather than a majority vote. It recognises the right of each one to make a contribution from the share of wisdom, truth and gifts of the Spirit given to each one." (A quote from Archbishop Carroll from a Canberra and Goulburn Synod from 20 years ago).

"Archbishop Francis always retained the personal charm of his rural family background. So many loved him as a Catholic leader of immense stature. Simply called Father Francis by friends and parishioners over the years, he was always approachable. His humble and prayerful manner will be remembered by so many"; said Archbishop Christopher Prowse of the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn.



On the 9th September 1930, Patrick and Rose Carroll were blessed with the arrival of their second eldest (of 7 children), Francis Patrick Carroll.

Growing up, Sunday Mass was attended every week, the family had Rosary every night and they all attended devotions – Bishop Carroll said that church was an extended family and it was just as natural as breathing.

Bishop Carroll clearly recalled the beginning of his vocation and he would say that he could take you there. He was about 12 years old and he was in the far paddock. “The sun had just gone down and there was an enormous stillness over the whole country and I was filled with a sense of awe”

Bishop Carroll was first introduced to the idea of Priesthood by Sister Paula at St Brendan’s by the way of a book offering and with his parent’s support, Bishop Carroll later moved to De La Salle Brothers boy’s school in Marrickville. During Bishop Carroll’s time at De La Salle Brothers, Bishop Carroll attended a Mass delivered by Bishop Henschke who would go on to Sacramentally lay hands on Bishop Carroll three times; For confirmation, at his ordination to the Priesthood and thirdly, at his consecration as a Bishop.

In 1947, Bishop Carroll entered St Columba’s Seminary at Springwood where he would spend his first year of two, solely studying Latin before moving onto Manly where he continued his studies for a further 6 years. He remembered the companionship, strong and supportive friends and of course lots of sport, all whilst enjoying his studies which he said was a positive experience within the seminaries.

Francis Carroll received diaconal ordination in 1953 – the July of his last year of studies. On 27 July 1954, upon return to his home town

of Ganmain, Francis Patrick Carroll was ordained as a priest by Bishop Henschke at St Brendan’s Catholic Church.

His first appointment was to Griffith from 1955 to 1959 where Fr Frank Carroll was Assistant Priest, dedicating his time to visiting Catholics within the area, delivering Mass for the convent school Sisters or for Marist Brothers, marriage preparation and many hours of confessions.

In 1961, after only two years as Assistant Priest in Albury, Bishop Henschke sent Fr Carroll to Rome to study Canon Law at the Pontifical Urbaniana University where most of the lectures were in Latin. Bishop Carroll said that it was one of the greatest graces of his life to be in Rome during the Vatican Council – the atmosphere was full of excitement and hope.

After completing his doctorate and a brief trip to Chicago, Fr Carroll returned to Australia in 1965 to begin his appointment as Assistant Priest at the Cathedral Parish and to begin the role of Bishop Henschke’s Private Secretary and Chancellor of the Wagga Wagga Diocese. During this time, Fr Carroll was also appointed as the first Director of Catholic Education; a role he would hold until his appointment by Archbishop Enrici as Coadjutor Bishop of Wagga Wagga.

With a response of disbelief, Father Carroll had to keep his new appointment a secret until this was announced in Rome a week later

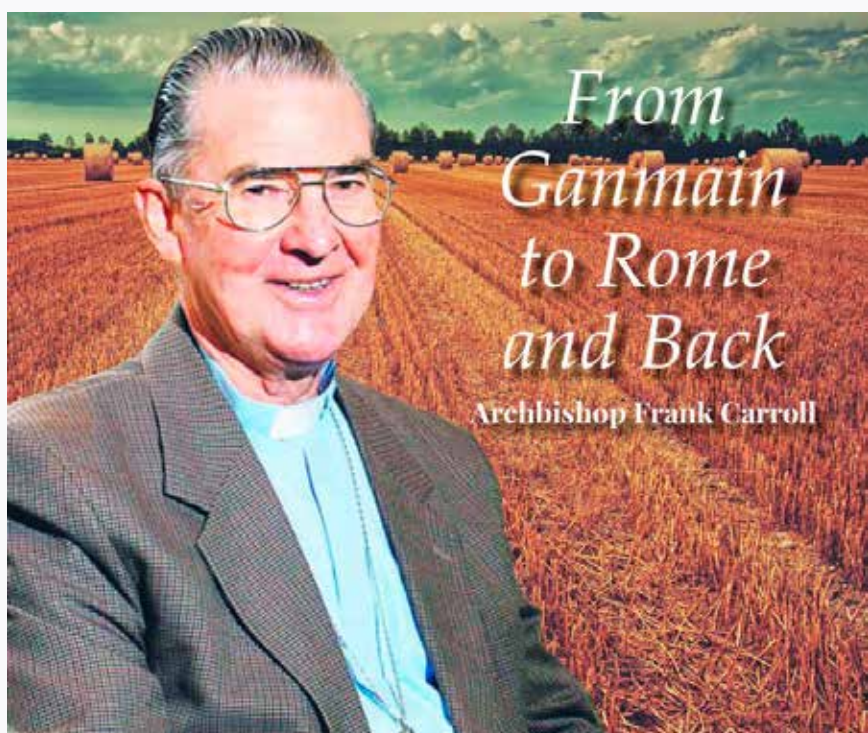
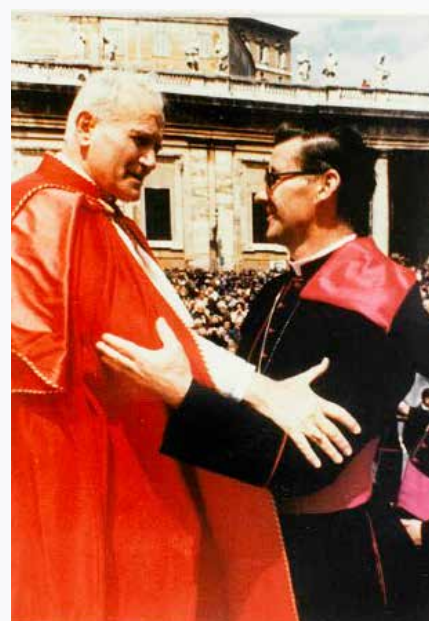
however he received permission to tell Bishop Henschke who said “that’s great, you’re the one I really wanted!” The episcopal consecration of Bishop Carroll took place on 5th September 1967, just a few days shy of Bishop Carroll’s 37th birthday. This made him the youngest Bishop in Australia.

Following from the Second Vatican Council which ended in December of 1965, Bishop Carroll spoke of ‘the sense of optimism and hope.. and the priests were very supportive of the changes. There was a sense of a new start and renewal.’ Bishop Carroll worked tirelessly to implement the reforms of the Second Vatican Council just like his predecessor, Bishop Henschke who was in support of the changes. Many of the changes that came in the post conciliar period involved structures, groups and projects such as the opening of the Catechist Centre, the Young Christian Students camps and the beginning of the Diocesan Education Commission.

On 27 June 1983, Pope John Paul II announced his appointment of the new Archbishop of Canberra (and Goulburn), Bishop Francis Carroll; a role Archbishop Carroll would hold until his retirement in 2006.

Bishop Carroll’s legacy will be everlasting on the Catholic Diocese of Wagga Wagga. His extra-diocesan responsibilities gave him only one regret of which he said he doesn’t “generally regret things, instead he felt he could have done a lot more.”

A young priest once asked an old wise priest, ‘How do I know my pastoral work in the parish has been effective?’ and he said "If, when you leave the parish, there’s more love in the parish than when you arrived, you have succeeded”.



(The information in these articles was taken and adapted from the diocesan history book, 'Consider the Crows', with the author’s permission.)

Centenary of Wagga Wagga Diocese 2017

The following is an excerpt from Archbishop Carroll's Homily for the Centenary of the Wagga Wagga Diocese in 2017.

On reading today's gospel, I found that, by an amazing coincidence, it contains the very motto I chose, when I became a bishop. *'Nova et vetera'* in Latin, 'things new and old' in English, or, as I prefer, 'treasures new and old'. Jesus spoke of the wise householder who brings out of his store-room, things both new and old. He wanted his followers to retain the old treasures of God's chosen people which can still be found recorded in the old testament. At the same time, they were to embrace the new treasures he himself was giving in his life and teaching.

At the end of the council it was clear that many changes were to be introduced into the life of the church. It was also clear that a bishop would need to be a "wise householder" to discern what should be changed and what should remain unchanged. My motto has served me well over the years and I think that it still has value as we look to the future. We live in a rapidly changing world and, because the church is in that world, many of these changes will call for flexible pastoral responses.

The gospel graphically reminds us that the real treasure we must discover hidden in the field, is the kingdom, or reign, of God. It is the finest of all pearls that may cost us everything we own. We are warned that the sea contains both good and bad fish. When caught, the good will be kept, the others will be thrown away. In the story of our church we find the good and the bad, the successes and the failures. Today we give thanks to God for the graces and wonderful successes of the past hundred years. At the same time, we cannot ignore the failures.

As we turn to face the future there is little room for complacency. By many standards of measurement, our church is a church in decline. We have only to look at our diminishing and ageing Sunday congregations with the almost complete absence of young people; to consider the burden on priests looking after several parishes; the lack of locally grown priestly and religious vocations. The recent census tells us of the Australia-wide decline of religious affiliation and Catholics are included in that. Worst of all, the findings of the Royal Commission on sexual abuse of minors have brought to light unspeakable crimes against children by clergy, religious



and church personnel. Making matters worse, these crimes have often been covered up. This must mark the lowest point in the history of the church in Australia and sadly, our diocese has not been immune from the evil. Many people have been scandalized to the point of leaving the church, and the church has lost its moral credibility in society.

Where do we look for hope in these dark days? If we recognize that innocent victims must always be our prime concern and transparently do all in our power to eliminate these crimes totally, we may find some redemption. If we as the church truly repent, we may learn a new humility. We can learn from members of AA that it is when we hit rock bottom that we can begin to recover.

Of course, there are other signs of hope. In every parish, the prayer and good works of priests and parishioners who remain steadfast in faith; many young Catholics, educated in our schools, have a stronger social conscience than their elders; St. Vincent de Paul and other volunteers continue to support growing numbers of the poor and disadvantaged. Young men from near and far come to the seminary intending to become priests. Many other signs of hope could easily be cited.

Perhaps the greatest sign of hope is the leader of our church, Pope Francis. His humility and simplicity have endeared him to many both within and beyond the church. He is listened to because "he walks the talk" and lives what he preaches. He takes the Vatican

Council seriously when others have allowed it to fall into obscurity. He wants a poor church for the poor and speaks of how Jesus preferred the company of the poor, and called them blessed. What a challenge that poses for a middle-class church and the comfortable life-style of its members. He thinks of the church as a field hospital in a war zone. Just as Jesus did, our church must humbly bring healing to the wounds of the world. We will only be accepted if we have acknowledged our need for healing, and come as wounded healers. Pope Francis prefers a church that makes mistakes and gets dirty by being out in the streets rather than an untarnished church isolated from real life.

The Pope often and severely condemns clericalism which thrives on prestige and power. He says that bishops and priests are to be shepherds who smell like the sheep.

I believe that clericalism is alive and well in our church and requires personal conversion and systemic change. Like his name sake, St Francis, he loves all created things and urges us to care for our home, the environment. His strong words on environmental issues, including climate change, have added a new chapter to the strong tradition of Catholic social justice teaching. In many ways, Pope Francis is a shining beacon of hope, but the hope he gives always contains a challenge which calls for our response.

So, at the end of one century and the beginning of another, we gratefully count our blessings, but gird ourselves for the future. **We do so with hearts full of hope, because Jesus promised to be with us always, and the Holy Spirit will never desert the church.**





TOGETHER

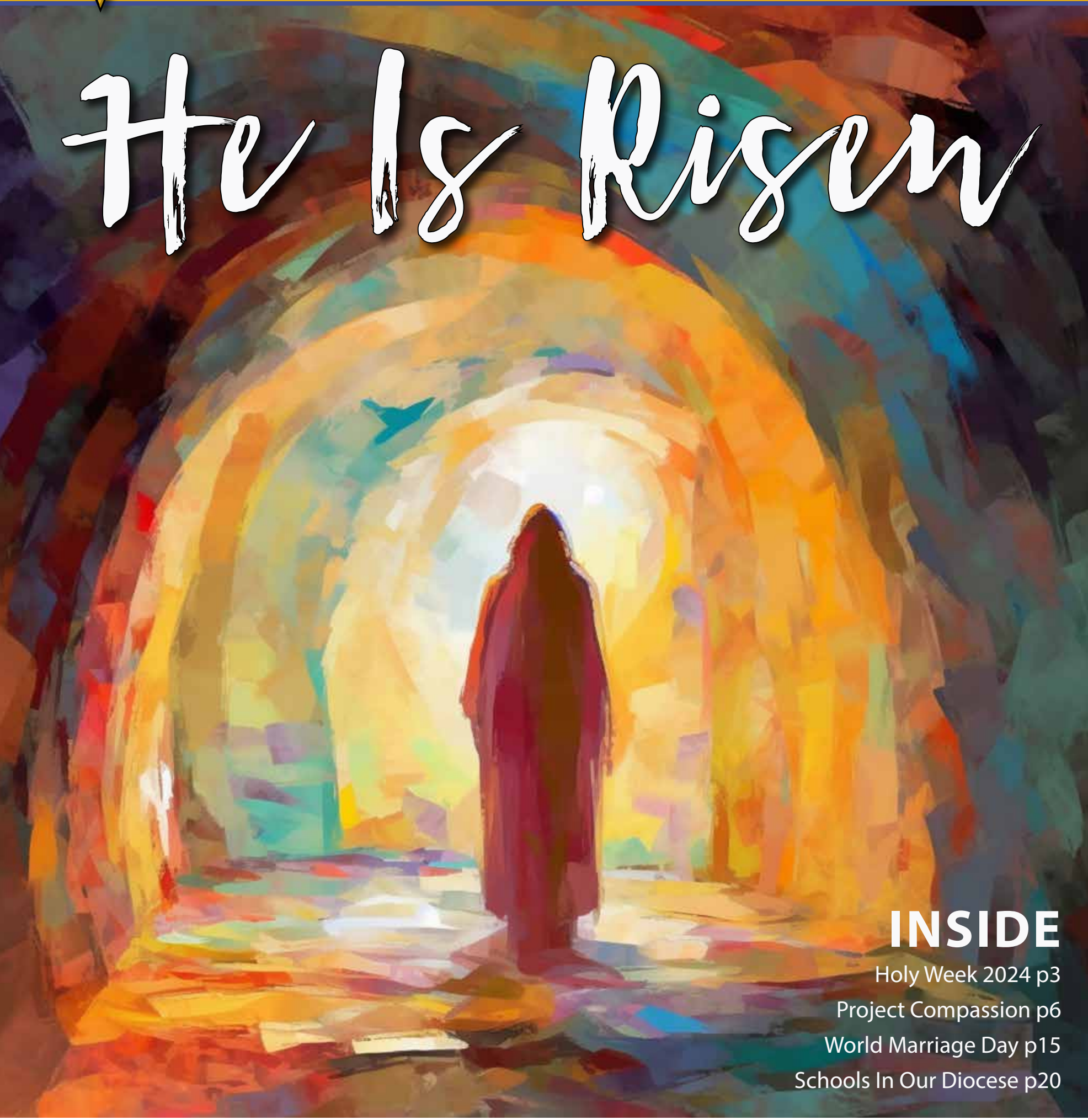
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MARCH 2024

He Is Risen



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IN THE DIOCESE OF WAGGA WAGGA

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Bishop Edwards' homily from the Solemn Mass for the Repose of the Soul of Archbishop Francis Carroll held at St Michael's Cathedral on Wednesday 20th March 2024

Dear sisters and brothers,

Many of us eat and drink the body and blood of Jesus on a regular basis: some weekly, some every day. Archbishop Frank would have attended Mass every Sunday of his life and from the time of his first Holy Communion, maybe at nine years of age, received Our Lord in this Sacrament. There is a danger with anything routine that we might become blasé about the enormity of reality we participate in.

Archbishop Carroll worked for full conscious participation for himself and for those of us that he led in prayer at Mass. This was central to his life: "For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I live in him... Whoever eats me will draw life from me... Anyone who eats this bread will live forever." Awesome in the deepest and most ancient sense of that word, this is the promise that we firmly believe applies to Archbishop Carroll and on which he based his life. The main chalice that we are using today is the Chalice that Archbishop Carroll was given by Rose and Patrick, his parents, on the occasion of his priestly ordination which connects us with him and them and our Lord in a very intimate way.

Francis Patrick Carroll was born into a faith family and community that supported him and helped him grow as a complete person. Daily rosary, Mass weekly, devotions on a Sunday evening along with education, friendship, sport, fun and work.

From them he gained a religious literacy that enabled him, even as early as the age of twelve, to recognise God's finger in an encounter in the far paddock when just after sunset in the midst of an enormous stillness he was filled with a sense of awe. He encountered God and God's eternity and infinity in this moment of quiet. There are real parallels with Abraham's experience as read so beautifully by Therese. "Abraham our father in faith" was certainly Frank's father in faith.

This experience built on what he had

learned and not only flowered in his faith life but also grew to be a foundation for his priestly and episcopal vocation. In living this call he shared with certainty God's majesty, closeness and power. This personal encounter with a personal God grew into an awareness of God's deep love for him and for all people, leading him to consecrate his life to the Lord Jesus and to share the gift of the love of God he had received. He knew and trusted joyfully in the reality that God's love is greater than any sin and give witness to that.

Living this, he brought the beauty of relationship with the Father in Jesus and through the Spirit to life making it tangible and attractive. He lived his life with a sense of purpose, meaning and hope in Jesus and, in doing this, provided inspiration.

The context in which this happened makes this even more vital and important.

From the time of his birth or shortly after and more and more rapidly, our society has been changing. As Pope Francis is helping us to understand, we are not living in an era of change but rather in a change from one era to another. Born when belief in God was much less problematic, it has become but one option among many.

In this new era when belief in God is a choice, and frequently not the easiest choice, in which being 'authentic' to yourself is a moral call and you have much more licence to express yourself, and in which there are greater suspicions about institutions, new ways of passing on relationship with God and the forever true faith are needed.

Fr (and later Bishop and Archbishop) Frank was foundationally important for our diocese and country in enabling us to understand how the teachings and directions of Vatican 2 provide paths for the new evangelisation required in our era. He helped us to find faithful, authentic, fruitful ways forward for this new age, methods that greet pilgrims, accompany and guide them, building a Church that attracts and reaches out.



Who Archbishop Carroll was is who we are. This applies to those of us who are of his stock: the Carrolls, the Smiths, the Steeles, the Muttons, the Sucklings, the Connollys, the Milnes and all the rest of the clan as well as to all of us who are members of this diocese. We are people who God wants to encounter at a deep personal level, who can and want to respond to our God with generosity, love and trust and who are called to share this with others.

Frank, thank you for your integrity and thoroughgoingness with trusting God with your heart and life. You have been a wonderful witness who has made a difference to our lives, demonstrating to us that God is good and can be trusted and that we, Carrolls and people of Ganmain and people of the diocese more widely are able to be disciples and effective missionaries in this age of secularity.

Your life invites and calls us to be people of faith and encounter.

As precious and loved sons and daughters of the Father, with Frank and for Frank, let us proclaim the Mystery of Faith:

We proclaim your death, O Lord, and profess your resurrection until you come again.

PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH - PRAY WITH POPE FRANCIS

FOR THE MARTYRS OF OUR DAY, WITNESSES TO CHRIST

We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.

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



In the Scriptures, our Lord extends a compassionate invitation, saying, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." In today's world, the "New Martyrs" encompass many of our brothers and sisters who bear heavy burdens, enduring daily humiliation, discrimination, oppression, and suffering at the hands of radical and extremist groups for the sake of Christ's name. As we reflect on their plight and stay abreast of their news, let us find solace in the promise that the gentle and humble heart of our Lord remains their constant companion, offering a peace that surpasses worldly understanding.

The "New Martyrs" include our brothers and sisters compelled to flee their homelands, leaving behind friends, families, and the familiar embrace of their cultures due to their unwavering faith in the Lord. May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be their true and everlasting home, providing strength and healing amid their trials.

Furthermore, the "New Martyrs" are those who risk their lives to spread the Good News—missionaries and newly baptized—driven by profound love for Jesus' Holy Name. Their faith, known only to the Lord, compels them to take up His yoke and learn from Him. May the companionship of our Lord console and embolden them on their journey.

In our prayers, we seek the intercession of the "New Martyrs" who have borne witness to their faith through the sacrifice of their lives. Through their intercession, may we grow in Faith, Hope, and Charity.

As we stand in solidarity with our suffering brothers and sisters, may the Lord grant them the strength to endure, the courage to persevere, and the peace that transcends all understanding. Amen.

Fr. Peter Gadalla SJ

Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (United States)

A CATHOLIC GUIDE TO HOLY WEEK 2024

Holy Week is the most significant week in Catholicism. Spanning from Palm Sunday to Holy Saturday, it marks the final stretch before Easter Sunday, the celebration of Jesus' Resurrection.

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During this sacred week Catholics pray and reflect on the profound journey of Jesus' suffering, sacrifice, and victory over death.

It starts on Palm Sunday, a day that commemorates Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Holy Thursday celebrates the Last Supper and the institution of the Eucharist while Good Friday reflects on Jesus' death by crucifixion. Throughout this week, Catholics

triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Catholics carry blessed palm branches into church, symbolizing the crowd's welcoming gesture.

The Gospel readings recount the story of Jesus' death and Passion, evoking reflection on His sacrificial love and the profound significance of Holy Week.

You can reflect on this passage by reading the Gospel of Mark Chapter 11, verses 1-11.

together to create a palm cross. Since palm branches are a blessed item they should not be thrown in the trash. If you do not want to keep your branch you can return it to the church where it will be burned for ashes the following Ash Wednesday.

It's also common to deep clean your home on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday. This tradition arises from the Jewish custom of preparing the home for Passover. Holy Week is also a great time to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation - many churches have increased opportunities for Confession during this time.

What is the Chrism Mass?

Many dioceses celebrate the Chrism Mass on Tuesday, Wednesday, or the morning of Holy Thursday. Chrism refers to one of the oils used during different Sacraments. During the Chrism Mass, the Oil of the Sick

There is also a renewal of priestly promises during the Chrism Mass. Traditionally every priest within a diocese attends this Mass. The Bishop also requests that the laity of the diocese pray for him and the priests of the diocese.

What is Holy Thursday?

Holy Thursday is the first day of the Easter Triduum, the most sacred days of the Catholic faith. It begins with the Mass of the Lord's Supper, commemorating the Last Supper celebrated by Jesus and his disciples on the Jewish holiday of Passover.

It's not a Holy Day of Obligation, but many Catholics attend Mass. During this Mass, the priest washes the feet of some members of the parish in memory of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples. It was during the Last Supper that Jesus taught his



reflect on the emotional intensity of Jesus' Passion, contemplate His boundless love and mercy, and anticipate the joyous hope of His Resurrection. An intentional Holy Week can serve as a spiritual pilgrimage that deepens our faith.

When is Holy Week 2024?

This year, Holy Week begins on Sunday, March 24, 2024.

What is Palm Sunday?

Palm Sunday, a week before Easter, commemorates Jesus'

How to Observe Palm Sunday

Sunday Mass on Palm Sunday includes two readings from the Gospels. We hear about when Jesus entered Jerusalem at the start of Mass. And we read the entire Passion account during the Liturgy of the Word. A great way to start your Holy Week is by reflecting on Jesus' passion.

After attending Mass it's common to display the palm branch you received at Mass! Some place it behind a crucifix, some take several palm branches and weave them

(used during the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick), the Oil of Catechumens (used during the Sacrament of Baptism), and the Chrism oil are consecrated by the Bishop.

Large vessels of oils are carried to the altar for the blessings and consecration of Chrism, which is a mixture of oil and balsam. After Mass the oils are distributed to representatives of each parish. The oils are taken back to the parishes and used for the Sacraments throughout the year.

disciples that the Eucharist is truly His Body and Blood. Jesus' disciples were the first Catholic priests. So during the Last Supper, he taught them the importance of the Eucharist, and why priests celebrate Jesus' sacrifice during every Mass. Because of this, the Last Supper is also significant because it was the beginning of the priesthood.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

How to Observe Holy Thursday

There are many traditions that surround Holy Thursday. Some people use it as a day to go on a local pilgrimage and visit as many churches in their area as they can. Walk around and observe the

beauty and symbolism found in each church, then take some time to pray for our priests.

Holy Thursday is a celebration of the institution of the Eucharist, so it's a great day to spend some time in Adoration. It's also highly recommended to attend the Mass of the Last Supper held in the evening.

A Prayer for Holy Thursday

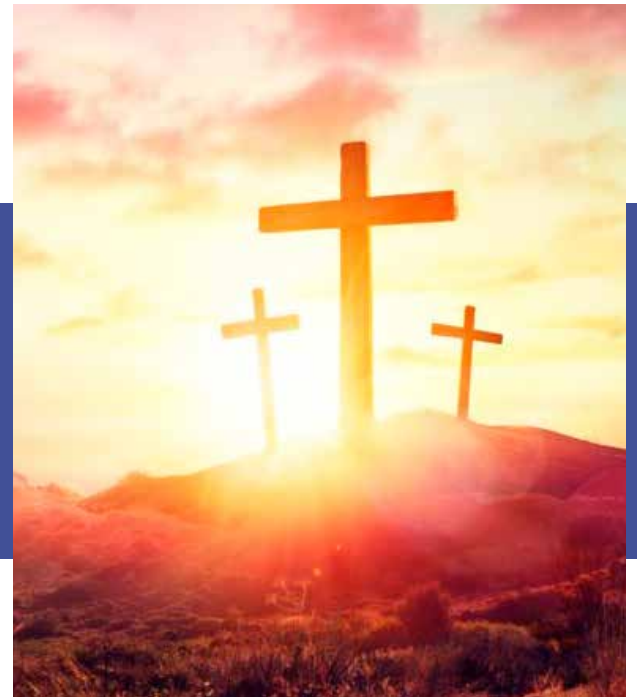
Jesus,

In these last few days leading up to Easter, as I recall your passion and death, let me remember that, above all, I am called to feed your sheep.

You have given me a model of how to live; may I strive to be all that you created me for, spreading the love of God and the truth of our Catholic faith wherever I am able.

You are the way, the truth, and the life.

Amen.



ACU CENTRE FOR LITURGY LEADS 60 NIGERIANS THROUGH ONLINE TRAINING PROGRAM

Liturgy experts from Australian Catholic University (ACU) have concluded the first online training program offered exclusively to Catholics in Nigeria.

Sixty Nigerian Catholics serving as Ministers of the Word at three separate parishes in the Archdiocese of Lagos completed a four-week online training program custom designed by the ACU Centre for Liturgy. Lagos is the most populous city in Nigeria, with a population of 20 million people and of that, two million are Catholics.

It is the first time the ACU Centre for Liturgy, which is officially endorsed by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, has provided online liturgical formation for an entirely international cohort.

One of the participating parishes from Lagos registered 27 lay ministers for the program as well as their two parish priests.

The Centre's Liturgy educator, Cathy Murrowood, led the Nigerian parishioners through a Ministers of the Word online training program modified to respect several differences in the country's liturgical practices. For example, while the Church's

guiding documents are universal, the Nigerian Lectionary features a different translation of the Bible.

Mrs Murrowood said one of the parish's lay leaders found the ACU Centre for Liturgy's course on the internet and enquired about educating their lay Ministers of the Word.

"The parish leaders we spoke to take ministry formation very seriously and regularly provide formation and renewal programs for all involved in liturgical ministry," Mrs Murrowood said.

"In Nigeria, you can't be a lay liturgical minister unless you're trained.

"Those who registered for our program are continuing ministers who wanted to renew and deepen their understanding of liturgical ministry and hone their technical skills."

Mrs Murrowood said there were limited online programs that trained liturgical ministers as comprehensively as the ACU Centre for Liturgy.

The ACU Centre for Liturgy's online liturgical formation program offers



participants weekly online modules with live Zoom classroom sessions and includes a compulsory practical training session with a local pastor. This format was replicated for parishioners from Lagos.

Mrs Murrowood said Catholics in Australia could learn from the commitment of African Christians.

"I think we can learn a lot from their commitment and their expectation that they don't just allow anyone in the parish to Proclaim the Word," Mrs Murrowood said.

ACU Centre for Liturgy director Professor Clare Johnson said it was an honour to support the liturgical education of Nigerian Catholics.

"We are both excited and delighted to connect with our fellow Catholics in Nigeria through ACU's liturgical ministries online training program," Professor Johnson said.

"The Catholic Church constantly needs to train enthusiastic members of the faithful, both new and more experienced, to undertake liturgical ministries.

"When well-trained Catholics perform liturgical ministries with knowledge, belief, and confidence, liturgical celebrations are enhanced, and our faith is strengthened. **We truly welcome the opportunity to engage with our African brothers and sisters in this special educational program.**"

CHURCH TEACHINGS APPLIED TO FURTHER WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION AND LEADERSHIP

As part of a month of action on empowering women, Caritas Internationalis has launched a new booklet "Equality, Encounter, Renewal: A Caritas commitment to women's leadership and participation", downloadable from an online hub featuring a variety of webinars and stories.

Within the booklet, Holy Scriptures and Catholic Social Teaching values are accompanied by testimonies from across the world and examples of good practice from across the Caritas Confederation.

The aim is to increase understanding of Church teachings in relation to women's leadership among Caritas staff and volunteers, the local Church and communities, and other stakeholders in the fields of advocacy, humanitarian response, and integral human development.

Kirsty Robertson CEO of Caritas Australia said, "These new resources harness Church teachings to strengthen our understanding of how we – as individuals, communities, and organisations – can support women's

leadership and participation. Launched in time for International Women's Day, it provides a great opportunity for faith-based organisations to reflect on their role in the empowerment of women."

The booklet launched via a hybrid event hosted by Stephanie MacGillivray, Officer Promoting Women's Leadership at Caritas Internationalis, with opening remarks by Secretary General, Alistair Dutton. Testimonies were given by Caritas Mauritius, Caritas South Africa, and Caritas Mexicana, alongside The Handmaids of the Divine Redeemer (HDR) Sisters in Ghana, and with regional representation from Caritas Middle East and North Africa.



Above: Caritas Australia CEO Kirsty Robertson.

As part of a month of action on women's participation and leadership, Caritas Australia CEO Kirsty Robertson also spoke on a Caritas Internationalis International Women's Day Conference "Women Leaders, Towards a Brighter Future", which is available to view via the online hub.

On the 19th of March, Caritas Internationalis will also co-host an event at the United Nations' 68th Commission on the Status of Women. The "Fragile Contexts Strong Women" event is set to demonstrate the commitment of the Catholic Church and the Caritas Confederation to the empowerment of women through addressing poverty and strengthening institutions.

"Poverty has a female face, but the face of hope and change is also that of a woman. I am proud to be part of the Caritas Confederation which values the voice, agency and presence of women at all levels" concluded Kirsty Robertson.

All resources can be accessed online at: <https://www.caritas.org/equality-encounter-renewal-2024/>



STEP BACK IN TIME

Looking down on the Wagga Wagga Railway Station around a hundred years ago. In the background is the Mt Erin Convent and high school. To the right is the road bridge over the rail lines at the end of Edmondson St. Bottom right is Wright Heaton's transport depot in Flinders St.

(Sharing a CSU Regional Archives photo)



FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS

Caritas Australia has announced the launch of Project Compassion 2024, its annual Lenten fundraising and awareness-raising appeal. For each of the six weeks of Lent, thousands of Australians come together in solidarity to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity.

Caritas Australia helps over 1 million people in Australia and overseas every year - walking alongside those in crisis. This year, Project Compassion is built around the theme of *'For All Future Generations'*. This theme asks us to reflect on the great yes that Mary said when the angel told her that she was to become the mother of Jesus. She freely accepted a unique place in the history of the human family. The great prayer she shared with her cousin Elizabeth says *'all generations will call me blessed.'* Her yes is *'for all future generations.'*



The theme of Project Compassion 2024 is *'For All Future Generations'*. It is an expression of hope and reminds us that the good that we do today will extend and impact the lives of generations to come. It invites us to make the world a better place by working together now and finding longterm solutions to global issues.

This year, *For all Future Generations* is inspired by the story of the burning bush in the book of Exodus (Exodus 3:1-20).

In this story, God tells Moses that he has heard the cry of his people. God responds to injustice and chooses Moses to speak to Pharaoh. Although Moses is afraid, God promises to be with him. Thus, God says, 'By this name I shall be invoked for all future generations.'

As God called Moses, so now God calls us to work for all future generations.

God said, "This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come."

Exodus 3:15

Project Compassion 2024 shares the stories of three resilient women from different corners of the world. Although

they face vastly different challenges in their day-to-day lives, they are all united by their dream of creating a better tomorrow for all future generations.

We encourage you to discover the power of giving and the impact that their contribution, however big or small, can have in the lives of others.

When we lend a hand to someone in need, they will go on to help others and make better opportunities for future generations. Compassion is contagious and creates a ripple effect of kindness and prosperity.

Project Compassion acts as a timely reminder during Lent that by putting our faith and compassion in action today, we have the power to create lasting change for generations to come.

Every year throughout Lent we commit to strengthening our faith through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. These are the three pillars or traditions of Lent.

Pope Francis explains, "Lent is a time of grace to the extent that we listen to him [Jesus] as he speaks to us. And how does he speak to us? First, in the word of God, which the Church offers us in the

liturgy. May that word not fall on deaf ears; if we cannot always attend Mass, let us study its daily biblical readings, even with the help of the internet. In addition to the Scriptures, the Lord speaks to us through our brothers and sisters, especially in the faces and the stories of those who are in need."

Through Project Compassion, we can think about the faces and stories of those in need and learn how, with our support, Caritas Australia is working with local partners around the world to help end poverty, uphold dignity and promote justice. Over the coming weeks, we will hear stories of hope from the Philippines, Samoa and Malawi.

Let's focus on how we can be people of hope in our family, our school community and with our global family – for all future generations.

PRAYER

During Lent, Christians pray for themselves and others. We are encouraged to pray for the people and communities we learn about through

the stories shared during Project Compassion.

FASTING

Fasting is about giving something up for a time. Many people give up something they love to eat. This can help us understand a little more about what it's like for somebody who is different from us. We can also give up something we like to do, like spending time watching television.

ALMSGIVING

Almsgiving means donating money or items to people who have less than you. It is a way to show that we care for others and that we are thankful for all God has given us. Caring for others is part of many faiths. Let's be brave enough to give generously this Lent.

What can we go without during each week of Lent? Maybe it's a snack or treat that we have each week. We can place the money saved in our Project Compassion boxes. Our support of Project Compassion is a way of saying we care about creating a fairer world.



PROJECT COMPASSION

EDUCATION BOARD GAME

How does poverty stop children getting to school?

To play in pairs:

Use a marker for each player and one dice.

Put some counters in the middle. Put your marker on any orange space to start.

Take turns throwing the dice to see how far to move

Whenever you land on a blue space, take one counter

You need six counters to finish.

Mum and Dad sell lots of vegetables at the market. They buy you a uniform
Go forward 4 spaces.

Your family has a good growing season, selling extra crops at the market. You buy new school books
Go forward 4 spaces.

You need to walk a long way to collect water. You have no time to go to school.
Go back 1 space.

You complete a year of school. Well done!
Move forward 3 spaces.

You complete a year of school. Well done!
Move forward 3 spaces.



You fall down and hurt your leg. You cannot walk to school.
Miss a turn.

You complete a year of school. Well done!
Move forward 3 spaces.

Your big sister gets married. You must stay home to care for your little sister and brother.
Miss a turn.

Aid money from overseas is given to your country. New teachers are trained.
Move forward 5 spaces.

No rain! No crops grow. No money for school books
Miss a turn.

You complete a year of school. Well done!
Move forward 3 spaces.

Still no rain! Still no crops growing. Too hungry to study.
Move back 2 spaces.



You complete a year of school. Well done!
Move forward 3 spaces.

The government cannot afford a teacher for your school.
Move back 3 spaces.

Vegetables from overseas are cheaper to buy in the market so your family's crops do not sell. No money for new uniform.
Go back 2 spaces.

Little sister is ill. You miss school to help your parents earn money for medicine.
Miss a turn.

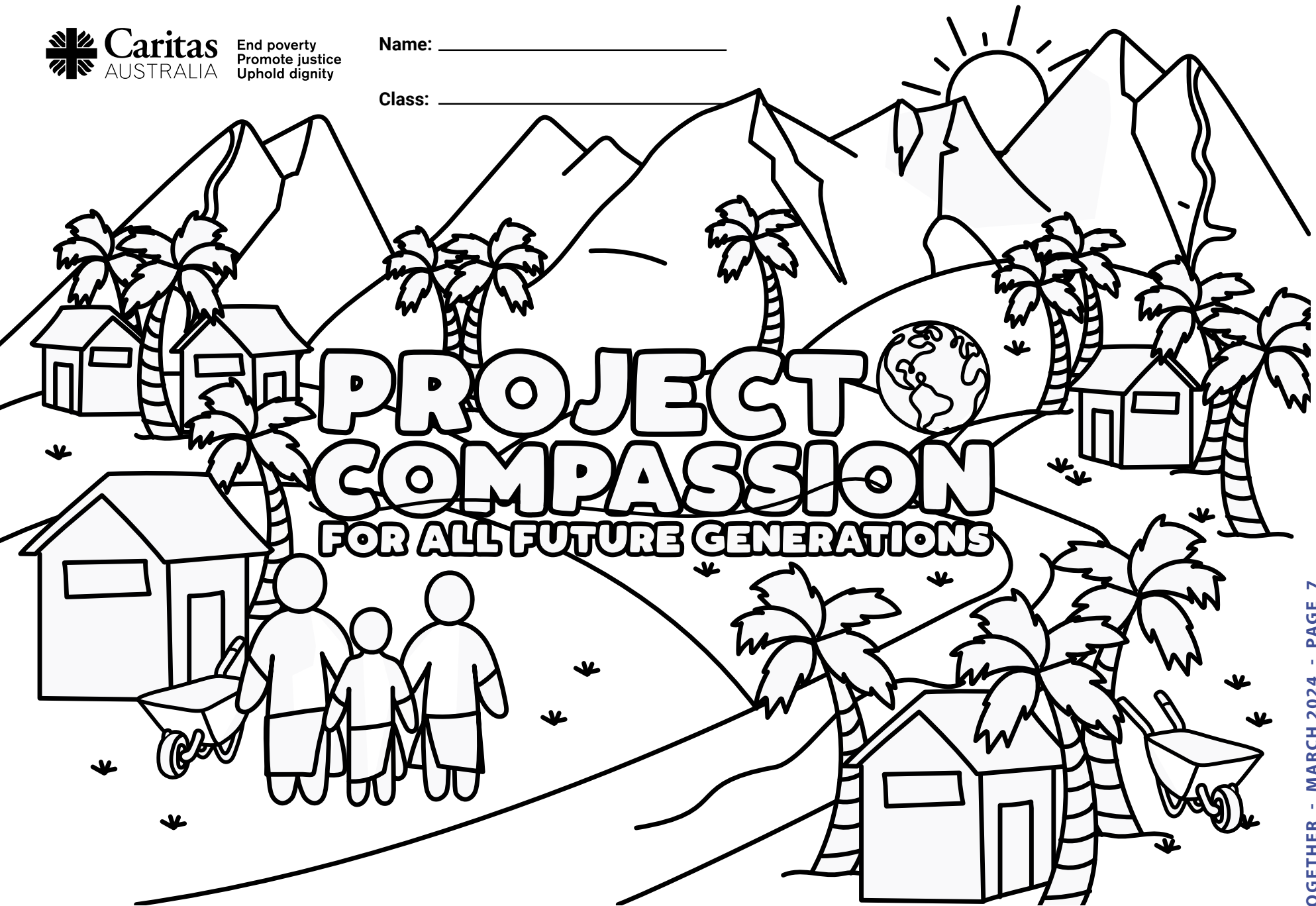
You complete a year of school. Well done!
Move forward 3 spaces.



Name: _____

Class: _____

PROJECT COMPASSION
FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS



ST FRANCIS HSC STUDENTS SETTLE IN FOR THE LONG HAUL

This year *The Irrigator* is following St Francis College year 12 students Kade Vaccari and Gabi Coghill as they make their way towards the end of their high school careers and their Higher School Certificate exams.

BY TALIA PATTISON
www.irrigator.com.au

With a new school year well underway, the pair have been busy getting back into the swing of things for what is actually their second term of year 12 after studies started for the fresh batch of HSC students back in term four.

Kade said he was able to enjoy time with family and a break during the summer holidays, but spent time over

the fortnight before school returned getting back into a study routine.

"I started to do more revision and study about two weeks before school came back, I think it's helped get me started again," Kade said. "Last time we spoke I didn't really have a real plan when it came to studying and my routine, but I do have one in place now.

"It does feel a bit more real now,



Above: St Francis College students Kade Vaccari (left) and Gabi Coghill at the end of 2023. Now the pair and their peers are knuckling down for the new school year. Picture by Talia Pattison

Below: St Francis College year 12 student Kade Vaccari gives a glance at how his HSC studies are going so far. Picture by Talia Pattison



but it's good. Our teachers are so good, they are really helpful with everything, so I'm not too stressed yet."

With a broad spectrum of interests, including a busy life outside of school, Kade is still working on what he wants to do once he has graduated from St Francis College.

He recently attended an open day at the University of Wollongong, which opened his eyes to tertiary education and what that could look like for him.

"I'm still keeping my options open ... I'm interested in so many different things," Kade said.

"At the moment I'm really liking business studies, so when we went to UoW I attended some of the lectures in the finance and marketing areas.

"It was really interesting. I'm not trying to put too much pressure on myself though, I want to do well with my ATAR and go from there. I think it's good to have options."

Meanwhile, Gabi has also found

herself settling into the year 12 way of life.

A boarding student from Urana, Gabi is still hoping to have a gap year after graduating at the end of 2024.

A year of working and hopefully some travel may be on the cards, and Gabi said she still plans to study hard to have the marks needed to be accepted into university to study physiotherapy after a year away from the books.

"It's been a pretty busy start (to the new school year), year 12 did a lot of the planning for the swimming carnival, so we're starting to settle back down now into studying," she said.

"I think everyone is getting back into routine now.

"My goal for the term is just to stay on top of my studies and not fall behind.

"That's my main goal. It's been really busy so far, but it's good."

Help make Together the best newspaper it can be



Let us know what is happening in your area.

Together relies upon your stories to make it relevant and meaningful. We want to know what is happening in your local area so that we can share that news with the rest of the diocese. We are always looking for local contributors who can write 250 to 350 words about local church projects, initiatives or school events. Include a couple of high resolution photos and you are well on your way to being published in Together.

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

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SUPPORT FOR BENEDICTINE SISTERS IN BENIN

Supporting Benedictine sisters in dangerous Benin, where they intercede, outreach and build the community.

The Benedictine convent of "Notre-Dame de l'Ecoute" was founded in 2005 in the diocese of Natingou, in the north of Benin.

Initially, all the sisters were from France, but now there are also African sisters, and more young women from Benin are interested in sharing the Benedictine life.

In 2022, however, the sisters had to leave their monastery because it was located in the border area with Burkina Faso and was at risk from the jihadists active there. The situation had become too dangerous, and so the Benedictine sisters were transferred to the Archdiocese of Parakou, further to the south, where it is safer. Shortly before the move, the sisters had accepted another young African woman into their congregation, and in February 2022, she was already helping them pack all their belongings into boxes and then unpack them in their new home. Soon after, she formally entered the novitiate.

While the original convent was situated in a remote area in the bush country, the house they are now living in since their move is right in the middle

of a big and bustling city. Sister Anne Elisabeth believes that this was the work of divine providence. "The Lord has now sent us to the heart of the city of Parakou, right in the pastoral centre of the diocese and close to the inter-diocesan minor seminary of Notre Dame de Fatima. Here in the heart of this dynamic African city, where many different social and religious realities are intermingled, we recognize the challenge to our mission of intercessory prayer. In this way, God is showing us even more clearly than before the urgent necessity of praying for the whole world, but especially and in particular for the country that has welcomed us, for our diocese and the local Church, and particularly for its priests and seminarians."

Sister Anne Elisabeth continues: "The situation in the city enables us to be more visible and makes it easier for the Catholic faithful to discover our liturgy. We know how greatly the people of today, whether Christian or not, long to pause from time to time, even in the midst of a very active day, to seek the Lord in the midst of their tribulation and confide their joys and sorrows to Him.



Just last week, for example, a young man came here with his fiancée, to a place where time seems to stand still, in order to reflect on their future life together."

Their current situation in the heart of the city of Parakou offers the Benedictine sisters the opportunity to bring the Benedictine life, in a simple way, closer to young people. For example, the sisters now hold retreat days for young women. And sometimes, there are seemingly chance encounters, "through which the Lord is showing us that He himself is at work," Sister explains. Recently, for example, a young woman happened to pass by the convent doors, pushing a wheelbarrow

full of herbs; now she wants to become a Benedictine nun.

The sisters' original convent had a fruit and vegetable garden, land on which they were able to raise livestock, a host baking machine, an apiary, and a guesthouse, all of which helped to support their life and apostolate. However, here in the new house, they have had to start over from scratch. Therefore, we are proposing to help them with basic financial support of \$33,000.

Can you help the sisters in Benedictine sister serve the community in Benin? Visit www.aidtochurch.org/monthlyproject



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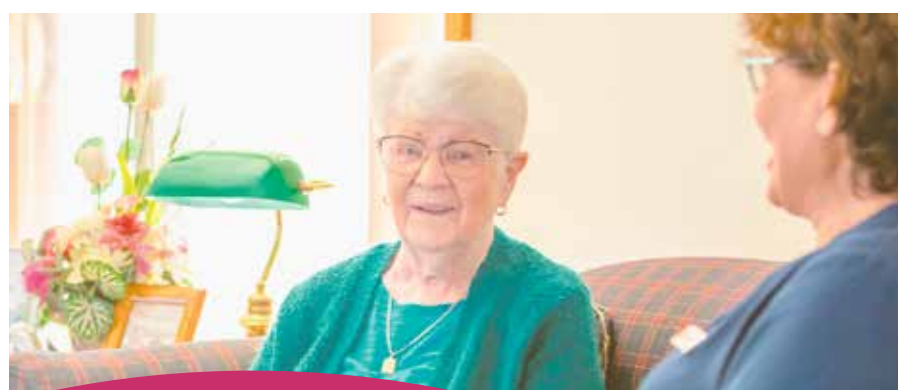
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Lean on the locals.

CREATING A SPACE FOR ENGAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP IN CENTRAL AUSTRALIA

Key to the missionary spirit is to spend time with people, to get to know them by listening with an open mind and heart, and by creating space for engagement.



This has been a particular challenge for missionary priests working with Aboriginal communities in remote parts of the Northern Territory.

The Divine Word Missionaries are accustomed to regularly driving hundreds of kilometers to visit Aboriginal communities in Central Australia, but they would often find they spend more time on the road than with the parishioners.

To turn this around, they decided to reach out to a group of donors and partners in mission, including Catholic Mission, to purchase a campervan, which would allow them to stay with outlying communities for longer periods of time. The new vehicle

will enable them to spend more time supporting communities pastorally, preparing them for sacraments, and mentoring faith leaders.

Also known as Community Catechists, the leadership program for faith leaders is developed in partnership with Catholic Mission with the aim to be implemented throughout Australia.

“Catholic Mission saw the campervan as a straightforward solution to support the Divine Word Missionaries in accessing remote communities,” highlighted Jenny Collins-White, Associate Director of Mission Formation at Catholic Mission. “The importance of building and maintaining relationships can


never be underestimated in this work, so the vehicle is a means to facilitating connection and engagement with communities at a deeper level. We’re also mindful that the work of mentoring faith leaders requires regular support, and the campervan is a perfect way to do this.”

The Community Catechist program is a partnership with the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC), local

elders, the local parish and diocese, and Catholic Mission. **The program aims to establish catechists in local communities as authorised recently by Pope Francis.**



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 people including clergy, adults, children, and families.

Want to know more? Our website: www.centacareswsw.org.au or call 1300 619 379 or email your enquiry to: info@centacareswsw.org.au



Ordinations



Mr John Baptist Nguyen is called to ordination as a deacon.

Deacon Rod Letchford is called to ordination as a priest.



This will be celebrated at
St Michael's Cathedral, Wagga Wagga
at 10am on Saturday 13 April, 2024.



FROM LITTLE THINGS BIG THINGS GROW

In early autumn 2023, I approached the Ladysmith Public School to see if I could do some work with the kids in their veggie garden.

BY **ELTAN MESTAN**
ErinEarth Garden Manager

With the help of the teachers at the school, we had a chat with the kids and talked about what they might want to grow. They formed up into groups and took charge of a couple of veggie beds each.

The first thing we did was to build some compost bays out of pallets and convert one of the bathtubs to a worm farm. I brought in some chicken manure and one of the local mums donated a load of cow manure from their farm. Working with kids we loaded up the compost bays and mixed the manure into the garden beds.

Using some winter seedlings I had growing at ErinEarth we planted the school's first crop. By late winter we were harvesting broccolis, cauliflower, and cabbages for the children to take home and for the school to sell to the parents.

By late July it was time to start thinking about our summer crops, so the school bought some summer seed and the kids went about sprouting the

seeds in pots on a small heat mat. Using a greenhouse made from a plastic tub allowed the children to watch it all unfold in the classroom and before we knew it, the kids were proud owners of some baby summer seedlings.

As the summer plants grew the winter harvest slowly came to an end and the compost was looking good. It was time to start preparing the garden beds for summer planting. We all did some weeding and mixed the beautiful black compost through the beds. The summer seedlings grew up and the kids planted, mulched, and watered (worm wee) around them. Fast forward to now the kids are eating big juicy tomatoes, and getting ready to dig up their first potato crop.

I must say driving out of the school after my visits I always have a warm and fuzzy feeling, it has been amazing to see what the garden has become. It just takes a little encouragement and willingness to make it happen.



KEY DATES

Apr 6 Festival
Food for Life

27 SoulSpace

May 5 Workshop
TBC

25 SoulSpace

Jun 1 Workshop
TBC

22 SoulSpace

July 6 Festival
Winter Lantern



HOLY LAND COLLECTION

For 800 years, the Franciscan Friars have shared the difficult lives of Christians in the countries that make up the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land: Israel and Palestine, Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Rhodes and Cyprus.

The people of these countries face their own difficulties, but particularly Christians due to their minority status. Among them, the friars have never ceased offering their pastoral care.

Two years ago it was the Pandemic that was causing havoc for the people in the Holy Land (as it was in the rest of the world) but now there is a new and more dangerous threat through the ongoing conflict which may last for quite some time. Just when pilgrims were starting to return, the Sacred Places of our Christian Faith are once again closed to pilgrims. Pilgrims are vital because they generate income that allows the Friars and the local Church to fulfil their mission of caring for the Holy Places (which also give work to the local people), as well as running parishes, schools and caring for orphans, refugees, the homeless, and more.

Brothers and sisters, as is the case in many parts of the world, the financial situation in the Holy Land continues to be extremely challenging. In late 2021, Fr Francesco Patton ofm, the Franciscan leader of the Holy Land Custody wrote the following, which I believe is still relevant for us. I have replaced the word 'pandemic' with 'war':

"We have not closed the sanctuaries but tried to enhance them by intensifying our invocations in the name of all humanity. We have made

them accessible by broadcasting the celebrations to keep alive the bond with the faithful and pilgrims. We have not stopped caring for our parishes with their faithful, whether they are Arabic, Hebrew or Greek speaking locals, migrant workers or refugees. The liturgies, Sacraments and Catechesis, albeit with many restrictions, have continued to nourish the lives of our people. The care of the sick

Our charitable commitments have continued to serve a population tried not only by the pandemic, but also by the disasters of war, the cynical and cruel 'Laws of the Market', the absence of social assistance, and by having to resort to begging to satisfy everyday needs or send their children to school. We have not closed schools but continued to take care of the education of infants, children, and young people. But all this, of course, has a cost, a large part of which is covered by the Good Friday Collection and the generosity of the faithful from all over the world. In light of the war's (pandemic's) ongoing effects, we friars of the Holy Land, even more than in past years, make ourselves beggars and appeal to the generosity of your hearts." (Patton, 2021)

Brothers and sisters, as is always the case, the Good Friday Holy Land Collection is extremely important, and a mission that we all can assist with. The hope is that our Australian



parishioners, Parish Priests and Bishops will again be as generous as they have always been. Our donation is a direct way to make a difference in the lives of people who are keeping alive the Christian presence in the land of Jesus, often in the face of great difficulty in recent years. On their behalf, I humbly and wholeheartedly thank you all.

Friar Bernie Thomas ofm
Commissary of the Holy Land
(Australia)

To donate, contact:

Commissariat of the Holy Land
47 Victoria St
Waverley NSW 2024

Email: holyland@franciscans.org.au

The Pontifical Good Friday Collection is applied to these programs:

Faith, Memory & Culture - The Holy Places

Holy Land Franciscans and staff maintain the holy places and shrines. This enables those who live in the Holy Land and those who visit to deepen their faith and their spiritual and cultural connection to salvation history.

Social & Charitable Activities

In order to assist Christians to remain in the Holy Land, including

the poor and young couples, the Custody builds thousands of residential units. Additionally, they build senior care facilities. Medical assistance is provided for the needy.

Educational & Scientific Activities

The Franciscans operate and support schools open to all, regardless of religion or nationality. They provide scholarships for young men to answer the call to become Franciscan priests and brothers. Additionally, Franciscan archaeologists pursue ongoing research at the Holy Places.

Pastoral Activities

The Franciscans provide pastoral care in 29 parishes in the Holy Land offering worship, Christian formation, and necessary youth and family programs, especially in regions affected by war.

Liturgical, Ecumenical and Communications Programs

The Christian Media Center tells the story of the Holy Land through multimedia distributed throughout the world in more than seven languages. The friars organize liturgical celebrations for local Christians and pilgrims and share with other Christian communities in the Holy Land in ongoing ecumenical cooperation.

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MOUNTAIN OF BACKPACKS TO FILL STUDENTS WITH JOY AHEAD OF SCHOOL'S RETURN

Operation Backpack volunteers have been left overwhelmed by the large number of items donated to its back-to-school drive despite people grappling with their own cost of living pressures.

BY ABHRANIL HAZRA

www.dailyadvertiser.com.au

The community initiative aimed to provide local families who are struggling financially with school supplies for their children to help them start the new year.

Wagga Marketplace partnered with St Vincent De Paul to promote the initiative and provided a collection point for people to drop off items.

Wagga Marketplace community marketing manager Chloe Sutton said more than 1900 items worth \$10,326 were donated, which would go back into the community.

"Everyone has contributed to Operation Backpack this year," Ms Sutton said.

"There was a total of 118 backpacks, so that's helping 118 different children get that great start to school and making them feel included in the school

environment."

Wagga St Vincent De Paul regional president Carole Parkinson said the cause had grown in popularity and she was humbled by the strong community support.

"We actually don't even ... have to advertise it, people know in the last week before they [students] go back to school, the backpacks will be there," Ms Parkinson said.

She said the generosity of the Wagga community never ceases to amaze her, particularly given the charity had been bombarded with donations during a trying time.

"I think it's even better in these times [the cost of living crisis] to be quite honest," she said.

"They [the community] will actually go to the cupboard and find something."



Dianne Wright (left), Wagga St Vincent De Paul regional president Carole Parkinson, Trevor Uraquhart, Ray Toshack, Graham Power, Barry Kennedy, Wendy Watson, Robyn Carmody, Geoff Ray and Barry McFarlane. Picture by Abhranil Hazra

Ms Sutton said the highlight was when a woman who lives in Canberra chose to donate items via post when she read about this year's initiative in The Daily Advertiser.

"She wouldn't be able to make it in town before the due date, so she said 'Can I just post them?'," Ms Sutton said.

"That commitment to just get down there and to pay the postage has been fantastic."

Ms Parkinson said she was grateful to the Marketplace for hosting Operation Backpack and said the support for the initiative came at a time when people were increasingly reliant on it.

She said there were more people needing assistance, as well as people who they've never seen before seeking help from their organisation.

"We're mostly noticing people with the same old story, the rental price and the homelessness," Ms Parkinson said.

"What we've noticed is how busy we are, there would be days where we sit around and have a cup of tea and now we're busy every day."

Operation Backpack runs annually and the backpacks and donated items are distributed to local families.

COST OF LIVING ASSISTANCE WELCOMED BY VINNIES NSW

The St Vincent de Paul Society NSW welcomes the Federal Government's announcement to increase funding for *Financial Wellbeing and Capability* grant programs to assist people facing cost of living hardship.

The Federal Government has announced an additional \$114.8 million in funding over the next five years to enable services such as the Society to respond to people in need of emergency relief.

The Society has supported 67,000 people already this financial year with more than \$7.4 million in financial and material assistance.

"We are thankful to the Federal Government and Minister Rishworth for responding to the cost of living crisis that has impacted people facing disadvantage

first and hardest," said Yolanda Saiz, St Vincent de Paul Society NSW CEO.

"Our members are supporting people lining up out the door for assistance with the basics, so the additional funding will enable the Society to respond to the growing demand for our services and ensure that people are able to put food on the table and remain in their homes during a time of uncertainty," said Ms Saiz.

Four in five people seeking assistance from St Vincent de Paul Society NSW members have requested support with

food, while two in five are facing housing stress.

"This is a welcome announcement for our members who are meeting and addressing the needs of people in crisis every day in communities across the state," said Paul Burton, St Vincent de Paul Society NSW State President.

"We have seen a considerable number of people reach out to the Society for the first time during the cost of living crisis, including an increasing

number of working households who are struggling to make ends meet.

"We look forward to every opportunity in continuing to work with the Federal Government and Minister Rishworth on measures that will enable the Society to support people in times of hardship," said Mr Burton.

People can access support by contacting 13 18 12 or www.vinnies.org.au/nsw/find-help





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TRIBUNAL OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- Diocese of Wagga Wagga -



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

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

Phone: 6937 0017 Email: tribunal@wagga.catholic.org.au



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Griffith Shop 101 Banna Ave Griffith

Jerilderie Shop 36 Jerilderie St Jerilderie

Junee Shop 85 Broadway St Junee

Lavington Shop 321 Urana Rd Lavington

Leeton Shop 42 Kurralong Ave Leeton

Mulwala Shop 47 Melbourne St Mulwala

Narrandera Shop 181 East St Narrandera

Tumbarumba Shop 16 The Parade Tumbarumba

Turvey Park Shop Turvey Tops Shopping Centre,
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WORLD MARRIAGE DAY

World Marriage Day propagates the ethos of Marriage and honours the sacrifices and faithfulness of husbands and wives. It is celebrated on the 2nd Sunday of February each year.

BY ROSE NARAG-GREENROD

This was first proposed by Marriage Encounter and has been approved by the Vatican. Pope St. John Paul II imparted his apostolic blessing to “World Marriage Day” in 1993 and it has been celebrated in the world’s dioceses ever since. Its purpose is to honor husbands and wives for their mutual sacrificial love and fidelity, embodied in “their own special sacrament.” The Church has always believed and taught that marriage is the “image” of the union of Christ with his Church. The late Pope noted that “marriage is an act of the will that signifies and involves a mutual gift which unites the spouses and binds them to their eventual souls with whom they make up a sole family, a ‘domestic church’.” That expression continues to be widely used and applied.

We celebrated World Marriage Day on the 11th February 2024. Father Gabriel Murray officiated the mass at Holy Trinity Church and 20 couples and families renewed their vows and blessing of wedding rings during

mass. Father Murray prayed for all the couples and asked God to shed His graces upon all married couples, keeping them united in love. Marriage is a beautiful sacrament that has so much potential to be a beacon of God’s love in the world. However, Marriage is also one of the most difficult vocations to maintain, and married couples are in need of God’s grace to keep them united in love.

After the mass, we had a candlelight lunch started at 12noon with other couples and families and Dr Ezekiel Raju gave a short talk about forgiveness and staying in love through thick and thin.

After lunch, we said the Marriage Prayer in Defence of Marriage.

We ended the occasion with Rosary and Benediction in the church led by Father Murray.

We encourage everyone to commemorate World Marriage Day each year in a variety of ways, but most importantly by incorporating prayers and blessings for marriage



into the Sunday liturgy and by hosting various marriage-building activities in the parish.

Prayer in Defence of Marriage

God our Father, we give you thanks for the gift of marriage: the bond of life and love, and the font of the family.

The love of husband and wife enriches your Church with children, fills the world with a multitude of spiritual fruitfulness and service, and is the sign of the love of your Son, Jesus Christ, for his Church.

The grace of Jesus flowed forth at Cana at the request of the Blessed Mother. May your Son, through the intercession of Mary, pour out upon us a new measure of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit as we join with all people of good will to promote and protect the unique beauty of marriage.

May your Holy Spirit enlighten our

society to treasure the heroic love of husband and wife, and guide our leaders to sustain and protect the singular place of mothers and fathers in the lives of their children.

Father, we ask that our prayers be joined to those of the Virgin Mary, that your Word may transform our service so as to safeguard the incomparable splendor of marriage.

*We ask all these things through Christ our Lord,
Amen.*

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices in the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never ends. (1 Co 13:1-13)

PROJECT COMPASSION
FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS

Your compassion can help families like Ronita's for generations.

HUMANITARIAN CONDITIONS IN UKRAINE REMAIN GRAVE TWO YEARS INTO THE CONFLICT

The 24th of February 2024 marked the two-year anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. To date 6.3 million people have been displaced overseas with a further 3.7 million displaced within Ukraine.

There have been 29,731 civilian casualties including over 10,000 deaths, and 14.6 million people now need humanitarian assistance.

Homes, schools, vital infrastructure, and hospitals have continued to be damaged throughout the past year while local farmers struggle to cultivate their lands due to the heavy contamination of explosive remnants of war and the heavy presence of landmines.

The East and South of Ukraine form the frontline of this conflict where millions are struggling with inadequate

access to water, food, health, housing, protection, and other essential services and supplies. In the Central and Western regions of Ukraine, many internally displaced people are dependent on humanitarian aid as they seek to re-establish themselves in new communities.

The Caritas Australia Ukraine Crisis Appeal has supported Caritas partners in Ukraine and Moldova as they help millions of Ukrainian people in need, both within Ukraine and overseas in countries like Moldova.

This support has included repairs to



A Caritas worker surrounded by burnt out cars in Ukraine in December 2023. Photo Credit Caritas Wien Elisabeth Sellmeier.

homes, housing, and accommodation, education services, psychosocial support, and multi-purpose cash assistance for those who have lost their livelihoods, as well as essential goods such as water, food, clothes, hygiene kits and medicine.

Sally Thomas, Humanitarian Emergencies Lead at Caritas Australia said; "In the short-term, we are expecting further deterioration of humanitarian conditions if hostilities persist and especially if attacks on energy and other infrastructure remain a feature of this war. Ukraine is also deep into its winter, where temperatures drop as low as -5 degrees Celsius, making winterisation an ongoing focus.

"In the longer-term the widespread impact of this war on civilians is also creating a legacy of mental and physical trauma that is particularly impactful on the development and wellbeing of children. Our partners on the ground are also telling us that the war has compounded pre-existing inequalities and challenges faced by women and marginalised groups, as well as increasing the risk of gender-based violence."



A Caritas worker cooks outside in Ukraine in December 2023. Photo Credit Caritas Wien Elisabeth Sellmeier.

To support Caritas Australia's Ukraine Crisis Appeal visit www.caritas.org.au/ukraine/ or call 1800 024 413 toll free.



Caritas
AUSTRALIA



People queue for Caritas food distributions in Ukraine in 2024. Photo credit Caritas Wien Elisabeth Sellmeier.



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HARMONY WEEK

Harmony Week is the celebration that recognises our diversity and brings together Australians from all different backgrounds.

It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. This year Harmony Week will be held from 15 to 21 March and includes Harmony Day, held on 21 March, which coincides with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Harmony celebrations

The Department of Home Affairs leads national celebrations for Harmony Week to recognise diversity and inclusion activities that take place during the entire week.

Since 1999, more than 80,000 Harmony Week events have been held in childcare centres, schools, community groups, churches, businesses and federal, state and local government agencies across Australia.

What is Harmony Week?

It is a time to celebrate Australian multiculturalism, and the successful integration of migrants into our community.

Australia is one of the most successful multicultural countries in the world and we should celebrate this and work to maintain it.

Harmony Week is about inclusiveness, respect and belonging for all Australians, regardless of cultural or

linguistic background, united by a set of core Australian values.

How to celebrate?

Let's come together with friends and family and through schools, workplaces and our wider communities to celebrate our diversity.

Getting involved can be as simple as hosting an event or attending a local celebration.

Why orange?

Orange is the colour chosen to represent Harmony Week. Traditionally, orange signifies social communication and meaningful conversations. It also relates to the freedom of ideas and encouragement of mutual respect. Australians can choose to wear something orange during Harmony Week to show their support for cultural diversity and an inclusive Australia.

Our cultural diversity

Australia is a vibrant and multicultural country — from the oldest continuous culture of our first Australians to the cultures of our newest arrivals from around the world.

Our cultural diversity is one of our greatest strengths and is at the heart of who we are. It makes Australia a great place to live.

An integrated multicultural Australia

HARMONY WEEK

15 to 21 March 2024



is an integral part of our national identity. All people who migrate to Australia bring with them some of their own cultural and religious traditions, as well as taking on many new traditions. Collectively, these traditions have enriched our nation.

Facts and figures

There are some fascinating statistics about Australia's diversity that can be good conversation-starters:

- nearly half (49 per cent) of Australians were born overseas or have at least one parent who was
- we identify with over 300 ancestries

- since 1945, more than 7.5 million people have migrated to Australia
- 85 per cent of Australians agree multiculturalism has been good for Australia
- apart from English, the most common languages spoken in Australia are Mandarin, Arabic, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Italian, Greek, Tagalog/Filipino, Hindi, Spanish and Punjabi
- more than 70 Indigenous languages are spoken in Australia.



HARMONY WEEK

EVERYONE BELONGS • HARMONY.GOV.AU



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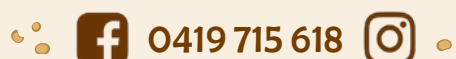
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TAKING CARE OF YOUR MENTAL HEALTH

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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HUMBLE PIE IS INFINITELY DELICIOUS

The reality of Jesus' resurrection is first revealed to a – humanly speaking – surprising choice. Mary Magdalen, yes the same Mary who earlier in the Gospel account was exorcised of not one but seven demons, she is the one to whom Our Lord reveals Himself on that fateful morning.

BY EMILY SHAW

Virtue Ministry Writer and Graphic Designer

There, in the grounds surrounding the empty tomb, the lamenting woman hears the familiar voice of her beloved Rabbi speaking her name.

Why Mary Magdalen, of all people? Wouldn't it have been more appropriate for say, Peter the anointed first pope, to be the one to whom Jesus revealed Himself? I mean, it's not like they believed Mary's account initially. Peter and John raced to the tomb to see for themselves – and yet we give the apostle Thomas the moniker of 'doubting'.

Yet, here is Mary Magdalen, the apostle to the apostles – in other words, the messenger to the messengers – who first greets Jesus Christ in His resurrected body. This woman who, in her own littleness, saw that He was EVERYTHING.

And perhaps, it is precisely this humility, this ability to recognise her own littleness, her utter dependence on Jesus that this favour was bestowed upon her.

The mirror of humility

Humility is most often defined as the quality of having a modest or low view of one's importance. It is looking at ourselves honestly, as though in a mirror, but choosing to see what is true as opposed to what we want to see.

Humility is not passive. It is not a false modesty that encourages apathy. It is not an attitude of discouragement because we couldn't ever achieve the things others do, or a criticism that we could do anything others could do if we had the opportunity or better circumstances.

Humility is, in my humble opinion (yes that is a pun and I'm not sorry) best described as "seeing ourselves as God sees us."

How does God see us? He sees us with much more clarity than we see ourselves. He is infinitely aware of our sins, our temperamental defects, our personality quirks and our more endearing qualities. He is a loving and patient Father, but His love does not cover up or deny those parts of us that we might wish to hide.

Saint Mother Teresa expressed this sentiment beautifully: "Self-knowledge puts us on our knees and it is very necessary for love. For knowledge of God produces love and knowledge of self produces humility."

Or, as Saint Vincent de Paul explains, "Humility is nothing but truth, and pride nothing but lying."

In other words, the more we know ourselves the more we recognise our littleness in comparison to the God who made us.

Perhaps, unlike Mary Magdalen, we don't have seven demons housed in our body. But we certainly have areas of false modesty, and simple diabolical



pride, that we need to root out if we want to reach our potential, and unleash our capacity on the world around us.

Humility beseeches us to recognise that our gifts, talents, intelligence, and prosperous circumstances, even our youth and bodily health, are all on loan to us. It is not us, therefore, who is responsible for our particular strengths – though we might nurture and develop them – but He who gave them to us.

It is truly appreciating that without Him we can do nothing.

I'm definitely not there yet. But thankfully, I have a whole month to challenge myself in this area. And you too! Let's change tack this month and try to zone in on areas where we are growing pride instead of humility.

Then, maybe we'll reach a point where we can say, like Saint Therese of Lisieux: "Humility consists not only in thinking or saying that you are full of faults, but rejoicing that others think and say the same about you." And, actually mean it.



MARCH VIRTUE CHALLENGE:
humility

GOALS
WRITE DOWN:
3 practical and realistic ways in which you can grow in this virtue
as well as
3 obstacles you can foresee to growing in this virtue

EVALUATE:
Check your progress every night and see how you went and where you can improve.

SHARE:
Your progress with an accountability partner or with us on our Facebook page - we're doing this challenge too!



SAVE THE DATE...

Thomas More Centre
autumn school

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St Patrick's Catholic Church, Albury
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Clergy of the Wagga Wagga Diocese,
Anna Krohn & Stina Constantine

TRUTH & THE BEAUTY OF THE HUMAN PERSON AND VOCATIONS

More details to follow



SCHOOLS IN OUR DIOCESE

Sacred Heart Primary, Wagga

Sacred Heart Primary students had fun at the recent AFL clinics.



St Joseph's Primary, Wagga



There was much excitement at St Joseph's Primary when Giant Netball players Jo Harten and Amy Sliger visited Stage 2 and Stage 3!



Holy Spirit School, Lavington



Holy Spirit School held their Yr 6 Leadership Camp. The students were able to lead by the Yr 6 teaching team exploring leadership and what they have to offer the school this year. Students were extremely lucky to have some HSS old scholars return from Xavier High School to talk about their leadership journey and Olympic rower Richard Hamilton talking about his journey as an athlete and businessman. To say it was a little warm out on the oval that night would be an understatement.



Holy Trinity Primary, West Wagga

The 8th March was Kelso Day. Kelso house is named after Mrs Kelso who was the first Principal at Holy Trinity. Kelso motto is *'Respect and Responsibility'*.



Catholic Education
Diocese of Wagga Wagga

All schools enrolling now

St Joseph's Primary, Leeton



Chess Club is back and we have hit the ground running. The first round of three knockout events is underway. Keeping our brain active with great sportsmanship shown!

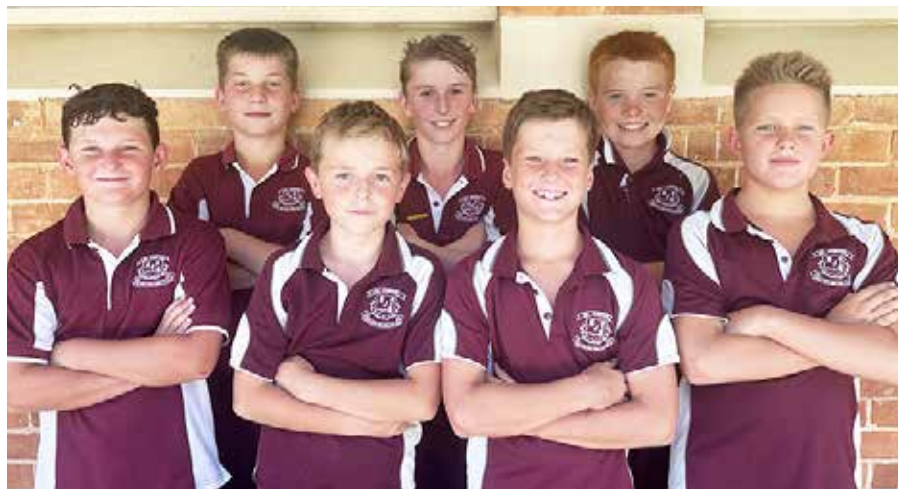


Mater Dei Primary, Wagga

We were thrilled to have a visit from the CEDWW Director, Dr Andrew Watson. Mrs Chacon took him on a tour of the school and they joined our newest students in Kindergarten. He was entertained by Kindergarten and their puppets in the drama centre and enjoyed viewing their artworks in the visual arts centre.



St Joseph's Primary, Finley



On February 26 seven of our senior boys tried out for the South West/Albury region AFL Team. Those selected will now try out for the Catholic Education, Diocese of Wagga Wagga MacKillop Team.

Well done to Orlando, Noah, Zach, Zane, Callum, Lachlan and Jed who represented our school proudly! A big congratulations and good luck to Lachlan, Noah and Jed who were selected to trial for the Wagga Wagga MacKillop team.

St Joseph's Primary, Jerilderie



St Joseph's Primary students were blessed to have the Assistant Director of Catholic Education, Diocese of Wagga Wagga, Mrs Horan visit their school! She loved looking in their classrooms, stopping to listen to the 3/4 students fabulous narratives and the year 5/6 students persuasive writing pieces. A visit wouldn't be complete without a chat to the K/1/2 students and a photo funny! Thanks for the visit Mrs Horan!

St Michael's Primary, Coolamon

Cordial for Caritas! Thanks to all who contributed to our fundraiser. We have raised \$93 to help people in Samoa access clean water.



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)
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 to Saturday - 7:00am
Sunday - 9:00am, 10:30am & 5:30pm
Our Lady of the Blessed Eucharist Church
Benedict Avenue, San Isidore
Saturday - 6:00pm
Home of Compassion
Tuesday - 10:30am

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 Saturday Vigil 6:00pm
2nd, 4th Sunday - 10:00am
Weekday Masses refer to parish notices.
Confessions before weekend Masses.

COOLAMON

St Michael's
Saturday 6.00pm
Sunday - 8.00am
Confessions
Saturday - 4.45 - 5.15pm
Weekday Masses
Wednesday - 8.00am
Thursday - 8.00am
Friday -10.15am
Marrar
Saturday Vigil - 6.00pm

Confessions 1st Saturday - 5.30pm
Allawah Village
First Thursday of each month.
Mass at 9.15am

COROWA

St Mary's Star of the Sea
Saturday Vigil - 6:00pm
Sunday - 9:00am
Weekday Masses
Refer to Parish Bulletin available in the Church or on the parish website
Confessions/ Reconciliation
Saturday - 11:00am-12:00, 5:30-6:00pm
St Pius X, Coreen.
1st, 3rd Sunday - 10:45am Mass

CULCAIRN

St Patrick's Culcairn
1st, 4th Sunday - 8:00am
2nd, 3rd Sunday - 10:00am
5th Sunday - Vigil Mass 6:30pm (Saturday)
Henty
2nd, 4th Saturday Vigil - 6:30pm
1st Sunday - 10:00am
3rd, 5th Sunday - 8:00am
Walla Walla
1st & 4th Sunday - 6:00pm (Sunday)
Weekday Masses
Vary according to needs and are announced in the Sunday bulletin.
Confessions
Before each weekend Mass.

DARLINGTON POINT

DARLINGTON POINT
St Oliver Plunkett
Hay Road
1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday - 8.30am
2nd, 4th Sunday - 6:00pm (Saturday Vigil)
Weekday Masses
Mon-Fri - 8.30am

COLEAMBALLY
St Peter's
Cnr of Currawong Crescent & Kingfisher Avenue
1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday - 10.30am
2nd, 4th Sunday - 8.00am
Confessions 15 minutes before any Mass or anytime by request.

FINLEY

St Mary's
1 Denison Street Finley
Saturday - 9:30am
Sunday - 10.15am
Weekday Masses
Tuesday - 5:30pm
Wednesday - 12:30pm
Friday - 5:30pm
Holy Rosary before every Mass.
Confessions
Friday - 4:30 - 5:30pm
Saturday - 10:00 - 10:30am

GANMAIN

St. Brendan's Ganmain
Sunday Mass 10:00am
Weekday Masses
Monday - 5.30pm
Tuesday - 5.30pm
Saturday - 8.00am & 6.00pm
Confessions:
30 min. before all Masses.
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 Tumberumba 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, Tumbarumba
Saturday Vigil - 6.00pm
Sunday - 9.00am
Weekday Masses
Monday & Tuesday - 7:30am
Wednesday-Friday - 5.30pm
Saturday 9.15am
Confessions
Friday 4.30pm - 5.15pm
Saturday - 8.00am - 9.00am
And 30 mins before weekend Holy Masses
Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Tooma
4th Sunday - 7.30am
Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday - 4.30pm & Saturday - 8.00am

URANA

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

Confessions

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

YENDA - YOOGALI - HANWOOD

Our Lady of the Rosary of Pompeii

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

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE PRIESTS WHOSE ANNIVERSARY OF DEATH OCCURS IN MARCH

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

- 1 March 1982** Fr Richard Walter O'Donovan
- 4 March 1989** Mgr John Desmond Lane
- 6 March 1996** Fr Edward (Tony) Fitzgerald
- 7 March 2001** Fr Peter O'Leary
- 17 March 1949** Mgr William Slattery



Junior Legion

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

Senior Legion

Every Thursday evening at 7:30pm at
Bishop's House.

All welcome!

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

Contact:

Caronne 0413 801 616

SoulSpace Saturdays

An opportunity for quiet awareness
and sharing in the ErinEarth Garden

Open to all, regardless of religious,
traditional or cultural beliefs

Free event | Complimentary Tea & Coffee

1 Kildare St, Turvey Park
9.30am - 11am
on the 4th Saturday of the month




FAMILY REFLECTIONS

17th March

Fifth Sunday of Lent, Cycle B

Family life is often a balancing act in which we prioritize and attend to a variety of competing needs. We learn the value of putting others' needs ahead of our own. In family life we also learn that when we make personal sacrifices to serve others, we gain so much more than we may have lost.

As you gather as a family, talk about how important it is to your family life to gladly serve one another. Ask each person to consider the last time that another family member asked for help. What was your response? Did you cheerfully try to honor the request, or did you ask "Why me?" Read today's Gospel, John 12:20-33. How do you think Jesus would want us to respond when someone in our family asks for help? Invite each family member to make a commitment for the next week to try to respond cheerfully to requests for help. Pray together, asking God's help with this commitment. Pray the Prayer of Saint Ignatius of Loyola.

*Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 51:3-4,12-13,14-15
Hebrews 5:7-9 John 12:20-33*

24th March

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion, Cycle B

Palm Sunday, also called Passion Sunday, marks the beginning of Holy Week. During this week, we prepare ourselves for Easter by prayerfully reflecting on the events of Jesus' passion and death. During this week, your family might display a crucifix in a prominent place as reminder of the salvation that Christ won for us. This can also serve as the focal point for family prayer during Holy Week.

Because of the length and complexity of the passion narrative, it is difficult for children to remain attentive when it is proclaimed in its entirety. Families can make it a tradition to read a portion of this Sunday's Gospel each day of Holy Week, providing ample opportunity for children to ask questions and respond to the events described there. In this way, the entire week can become a "way of the cross."

Each day during Holy Week, the family can gather in a prayerful space with a crucifix as its focal point. The passion as found in Mark's Gospel might be read as follows throughout the week:

Sunday: Mark 11:1-10

(Gospel at the Procession with Palms)

Monday: Mark 14:1-11

Tuesday: Mark 14:12-26

Wednesday: Mark 14:27-52

Thursday: Mark 14:53-72

Friday: Mark 15:1-41

Saturday: Mark 15:42-47

After reading from the Gospel each night, the family might reflect on the reading together. Conclude your prayer time together by praying the Lord's Prayer or by singing an appropriate hymn such as "Jesus, Jesus," "Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?" or "What Wondrous Love is This."

Mark 11:1-10 Isaiah 50:4-7

Psalm 22:8-9,17-18,19-20,23-24 Philippians 2:6-11

Mark 14:1-15:47

31st March

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

In the Easter Gospel we hear about how the disciples found the tomb empty three days after Jesus' death. We are also told that they do not yet understand the Scriptures or that Jesus had been raised from the dead. That understanding gradually unfolded for the disciples as they began to experience the risen Lord. Similarly, our understanding of Jesus' Resurrection unfolds for us throughout our lives. In the weeks ahead, we will hear how the first disciples moved from confusion, doubt, and skepticism to faith. Their experience can teach us how we too might receive this gift of faith from God.

Gather your family members and ask them to share what they know about the events that happened in the days after Jesus' crucifixion. Invite your family to imagine that they are among Jesus' first disciples. Read together today's Gospel, John 20:1-9. Reflect together on the Gospel with questions such as these:

If you had been among the first disciples who heard that the stone had been removed from Jesus' tomb and that Jesus' body was no longer there, what would you think? What did Mary of Magdala, Simon Peter, and the disciple whom Jesus loved think had happened? Recall that this experience is the first indication Jesus' disciples have that he is risen. Throughout the Easter season, we will learn more about how the disciples came to believe that Jesus had been raised from the dead.

Pray together using today's psalm, Psalm 118: "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad."

*Acts of the Apostles 10:34a,37-43 Psalm 118:1-2,16-17,22-23
Colossians 3:1-4 John 20:1-9*

7th April

**Second Sunday of Easter, Cycle B
(or Sunday of Divine Mercy)**

Within normal family life, there are many opportunities for conflict. Jesus did not promise us the absence of conflict in our lives. Instead, he gave us the gifts of peace, forgiveness, and reconciliation so that we could reduce conflict. The measure of Christian family life is not the absence of conflict, but the manner in which conflict is resolved. Filled with the gift of the Holy Spirit, we ask Jesus to help us to bring peace and forgiveness to situations of conflict in our families.

As your family gathers, take this opportunity to examine how your family resolves conflict. Recall a recent argument or disagreement and discuss how the conflict was resolved. Consider whether the conflict was resolved peacefully, in the spirit of Jesus. If not, discuss alternatives that might be tried in the future. Read together today's Gospel, John 20:19-31. Recall that we have each received Jesus' gift of the Holy Spirit and that the Holy Spirit helps us to be people who forgive others and seek peace. Pray together the Prayer to the Holy Spirit or the Peace Prayer of Saint Francis.

*Acts of the Apostles 4:32-35 Psalm 118:2-4,13-15,22-24
1 John 5:1-6 John 20:19-31*

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FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS



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PHILIPPINES**



**LEAIA,
SAMOA**



**MEMORY,
MALAWI**



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