

App-solutely easy to give

A TECHNOLOGY app which will change the way future money collection is done at Mass is being trialled at two parishes.

In what is a world first, the Archdiocese has moved to cater to an increasingly cashless society by trialling the app known as QKR! for parishes.

Designed by MasterCard Labs Sydney, QKR! for parishes gives members of the congregation the option to make their weekend Mass collection contribution electronically.

QKR! is already being used in a number of schools in the Archdiocese and can be downloaded from iPhone, iPad, smartphone or android device.

The Archdiocesan Catholic Development Fund is the catalyst of the app in partnership with MasterCard and Commonwealth Bank Australia.

QKR! is being trialled in Mary Help of Christians Woden South and St Gregory's Mission Queanbeyan, with more parishes expected to follow.

Woden South Parish Priest Fr Richard Thompson and parish secretary Megan Loughlin hosted the official launch of QKR!

They were joined by Vice-President of MasterCard Labs Sydney Martin Collings, CDF Manager Michele Murdock, Archdiocesan Chancellor Victor Dunn and Financial Administrator Helen Delahunty.

They and others downloaded the app in a matter of minutes and were impressed with how quick and easy it was to set up.

"I am very excited about this and it is good that it is up and going. It's been a good initiative," Mr Dunn said.

"I am very impressed at how the app allows you to contribute not just to parish collections, but also to the various appeals," Ms Delahunty said.

Continued on page 2



Parishioners at Mary Help of Christians Parish South Woden have their heads down into their devices installing QKRI Picture: Jeanine Doyle.

ARCHBISHOP CHRISTOPHER'S DIARY



November

Saturday 5: Catholic Charismatic Renewal Teaching Day at Rheinberger Centre (9am)

Sunday 6: Mass at St Mary's Crookwell (9am)

Sunday 6: Mass at Canberra's Alexander Maconochie Centre (afternoon)

Wednesday 9: Wagga Wagga Diocese Friday II: Blessing and opening of the Mother Teresa Early Learning Centre at Amaroo (12 noon)

Saturday 12: Mass at St Benedict's Parish, Narrabundah (6pm)

Sunday 13: Mass at St Christopher's Cathedral (IIam)

Monday 14 to Friday 18: Clergy retreat at St Clement's, Galong

Saturday 19: Peace Symposium, Ahmadiyya Muslim Association Canberra - talk/dinner at Albert Hall (5pm)

Sunday 20: WYD pilgrim debrief breakfast at Catholic Education offices (9am)

Sunday 20: Mass for Deceased St Christopher's Cathedral (11am)

Monday 21 to Friday 25: ACBC Plenary in Sydney

Friday 25: Farewell for Moira Najdecki at Catholic Education offices (4pm)

Saturday 26: Mass at St Brigid's Church, Central Canberra (6pm)

Sunday 27 - 30th: Anniversary of John Paul II's visit to Alice Springs NATSICC Mass at St Christopher's Cathedral

Tuesday 29: Catechist Mass at St Vincent de Paul Parish, Aranda ACT (6.30pm)



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ARCHBISHOP'S MESSAGE ARCHBISHOP **CHRISTOPHER PROWSE**

Dear Friends in Christ,

The Year of Mercy will conclude on the Solemnity of Christ the King of the Universe (November 20).

I thank everyone in the Archdiocese who has made an effort to focus on this foundation of our Catholic Faith.

Particularly, I thank parishes who have featured mercy in so many wonderful pastoral ways. The recent Marian Mercy Procession at Galong was a real highlight for the Archdiocese.

I have been encouraged by priests who have commented to me on the upsurge of those who have participated in the Sacrament of Penance over this Year of Mercy period. May it long continue!

In regard to priests, I wish to reflect on those who have retired.

Recently I hosted a social occasion for retired priests. Some had been retired for many years, and some more recently. One was just about ready to move into

In praise of merciful priests who are retired

retirement.

Towards the end of the meal, I felt moved to open up a little "table sharing" by these remarkable priests. I asked: "How has it been for you in moving into retirement?"

One priest, retired for many years, stated that it has been a highlight of his entire priesthood.

There was a real spirit of gratitude in his sharing. He now lives in a care facility conducted by the Catholic Church. He mentioned several things. One made a real impression on me.

There is a small chapel in the nursing home. He delights in been able to pray in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament for as long as he wishes during the day.

There is wisdom in his observation. A priest is a man of prayer. He brings down God to people and people up to God in Jesus, the High Priest. This is especially so in the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. This fundamental aspect of the priesthood does not conclude when a priest retires but it does change in mode.

No more is there the daily timetable of Masses (daily, funeral, and special occasions). But the Mass continues daily in a more contemplative dimension. There is time for more reflective silences of thanksgiving and intercession for the needs of the world.

Another priest spoke of the ways the Holy Spirit had used him in his years as a parish priest. It was a very moving sharing. I am sure every one of the priests around the dinner table would have resonated with his testimony of faith.

He referred to the Gospel passage of Emmaus (John 24:13-35). We recall here how the two disciples moving away in disappointment from the Calvary Cross were spiritually blinded. It was the Risen Lord, walking with them, who opened their hearts to deeper realities.

The priest recalled some pastoral experiences that were similar. For example, he accompanied a family in their difficulties. Some members of the family were spiritually blind. The priest spoke of their spiritual awakening over times of suffering and dying. I admired his patience with the familv members. He humbly walked alongside them and evangelised

them by simply being there for them.

Surely this is one of the great aspects about the priesthood priests are "the other Christ". They are servants of Divine Mysteries – Christ among us!

All baptised are called to a similar vocation but, for a priest, this is expressed on a different level. It is seen most of all during the celebration of the Mass and Sacraments. Here the priest is Jesus sacramentally feeding his people, baptising his people, forgiving them and teaching them.

Once a priest retires, this does not cease. However, in this situation the priest has more opportunities to reflect deeply and in profound Marian silence that "the Almighty has done great things for me" (Luke 1:49).

Clearly, for the priests at my dinner, this was a most profound and humbling religious experience.

Perhaps it is better to say priests who are retired rather than retired priests. In a sense, priests never retire! They are a great grace for the Catholic Church, especially in Australia. May Jesus, the High Priest, bless them always!

makes it easier to go cashless New app

From page 1

QKR! for parishes was rolled out in Woden South and Queanbeyan parishes for Masses on the weekend of October 22 and 23.

Fr Thompson said it drew some "very positive responses from among parishioners".

A strong advocate for the app, Fr Thompson said "proper implementation and ongoing support" was the key and is critical to QKRI's success.

"It is very important that we use the right language and that we support people in the right manner when we are introducing a new product like this. "I will speak to many of my brother priests as to how we should best go about informing our parishioners in setting up and using the app.

"I include those with 'technophobia'.

"We also want to make it very clear that QKR! is not replacing the collection bags.

"The collection bags and QKR! as I see it will co-exist for quite some time yet, so people have nothing to worry about whatsoever."



Fr Richard Thompson, Martin Collings and Michele Murdock discuss the advantages of having QKR! in the parishes. Picture: Loui Seselja.

In his own parish, Fr Thompson will help educate parishioners by-step guide for parishioners on by putting QKR! download and set-up instructions on the overhead projector screen during collection time.

And he hasn't put any time limits on its implementation.

"As long as it takes," he said.

The Archdiocese has produced

an easy-to-follow, illustrated stephow to use OKR!

In addition to this, a new 'Giving' brochure will be sent to parishes, to complement the trial.

Fr Thompson says that he will run "15 to 20 minute workshops after Mass if needed, maybe even a quick video".

Mr Collings from MasterCard Labs confirmed that the Archdiocese was the first church body to trial QKR! in its parishes.

He and his team designed it after being approached by Mrs Murdock, who was commissioned by Vicar General Fr Tony Percy to investigate ways to renew parish income through collections.

Mrs Murdock looked at QKR's success in schools and knew she had a "tried and proven" product to work with.

"QKR! for schools commenced in the Archdiocese over two years ago, allowing parents to make payments to their school for everything from canteen and uniform shop orders to excursion, sporting and school fees," she said.

"It has grown to cover 28 schools with more than 60 accounts connected to the facility, much to the delight of many school finance secretaries and parents.

"The Archdiocesan committee identified the QKR! app as a vehicle to access the generosity of parishioners who operate in a card paying economy without cash."



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New head for our Catholic schools

By John McLaurin

CATHOLIC Education in the Archdiocese enters a new era with the appointment of director Ross Fox.

Mr Fox comes to Canberra after being employed for the past three years as director of the National Catholic Education Commission based in Sydney.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse said Mr Fox would be "a worthy successor to the great contribution in this vital area given by Ms Moira Najdecki.

"I take this opportunity to congratulate Ross on being appointed to such a significant role in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn; and for Catholic education in the ACT and NSW."

Archbishop Prowse expressed his confidence in the selection of Mr Fox from a strong field of applicants.

"I am confident that Ross will bring to the role a deep faith, understanding and commitment to the mission of the Archdiocese, and will assist me in my pastoral responsibilities," Archbishop Prowse said.

"Ross is profoundly committed

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to Catholic education, as evidenced by his work as executive director with the National Catholic Education Commission, having been appointed to the role in July 2013."

Mr Fox says what attracted him to the role was Canberra itself and the community aspect that it exhibits.

"Canberra and surrounds is recognised across Australia as a great place to live," he said.

"The Archdiocese across both ACT and NSW is known for its great communities with distinctive identities and it has a great education system with dedicated leaders and teachers."

A Victorian for much of his life, Mr Fox held senior positions in Melbourne's Catholic Education Office and with the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria.

He also read philosophy, politics and economics at Oxford University and spent time studying there alongside the Dominicans who were significant in his personal faith development.

Stepping into the director's role, Mr Fox brings with him experience at national level and plenty of enthusiasm.

"I have worked at a national

level in Catholic education with particular strengths in development of school education policy and particularly funding policy," he said.

"I am passionate about the potential for education to provide opportunities for young people to realise their dreams."

Mr Fox said he was looking forward to working closely with school communities in bringing about the best possible outcomes.

"I look forward to listening to everyone involved in Catholic education in the Archdiocese to build on the great strengths of our Catholic schools and the communities that support them," he said.

When discussing the challenges which currently face those in Catholic education, Mr Fox said contexts of schools and the needs of children could vary significantly.

"What should not change is the focus of all that we do in Catholic education must be to nurture the needs of the whole child, with great teaching and learning for every student in the school and within the community," he said.

An active participant in parish life, Mr Fox is married to Joanne. He will take up duties as director next month.



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POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION



Above: The Marian procession at Galong was a day in which several communities came and embraced the diversity and unity in the Archdiocese. Top right: Celebrating the diverse cultures at St Clement's Galong. Here an African choir sing in harmony. Middle: Patrick Hartwell from Marist College Canberra was given the with crowning the statue of Our Lady. Below right: Archbishop Prowse extends his hand to a young pilgrim during Mass at the Galong Marian Procession. Bottom right: Patrick Hartwell from Marist College Canberra leads the procession as the cross-bearer. Pictures: Loui Seselja.

Marian procession celebrates cultural diversity in style

THE Archdiocese celebrated its plethora of diverse cultures in style at the annual Marian Mass and procession.

More than 500 people from many backgrounds flocked to St Clement's Retreat Centre at Galong for the annual event, which saw people come from long distances to take part in the day.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse celebrated Mass, assisted by Fr Stephen Hackett MSC, Fr John Airey CSsR, Fr Luke Verell and Fr Paul Nulley.

Archbishop Prowse's homily picked up on the theme for the Marian Procession, which followed Mass and lunch.

He highlighted the Christian example given by Mary the Mother of God, as the first true believer.

"In all these insights of Scripture, Mary, the Mother of God, is the one that is first amongst the faithful. The one that is the first to believe fully, that her son Jesus must be on his way to Jerusalem," Archbishop Prowse said.

"She leads us on the way to be Magnificat people. In being Magnificat people, we become magnificent people in the eyes of God. Let that be the case, especially today, as we join Mary as she points out Jesus to us.".

Fr Hackett and Patrick Hartwell, a student of Marist College Canberra, were called on for the ceremony, where a crown was set on the head of the statue of Our Lady in accordance with tradition.

The ceremony, took place to the singing of *Gentle Woman*, a well-known hymn devoted to the Mother of God.

The procession started with the Rosary being led in five languages.

Decades of the Rosary were said in Filipino, Croatian, Italian, Vietnamese and Indian highlighting the Church's universality.

It also showed the Church's diverse presence in Australia and the Archdiocese.

Fr Hackett gave an address which emphasised the role of Mary as the Ark of the Covenant.

"Mary is the Ark of the Covenant, bearing testimony to the mercy of God that was revealed down through the generations from Abraham; bearing in her womb the Son of God, Jesus, in whom the mercy of God put on our human flesh and dwelt among us," he said.

After Fr Hackett's talk, St Clement's rector Fr Airey then presided at Benediction, giving a final sacramental blessing.

Archbishop Prowse said he was "delighted with this prayerful initiative for the Year of Mercy in the Archdiocese.

"It indicated to me, once again, the thirst for prayer and the interest in pilgrimage in the diocese. "I was particularly pleased with the active participation of so many migrant groups.

"Let us pray that our Marian prayers of mercy will translate now into many little practical acts of mercy in families, communities and society, especially the poor, homeless and abandoned."

The annual archdiocesan retreat led into the procession.

One of about 40 retreatants commented:

"What a wonderful experience it was for me at St Clement's monastery and retreat last weekend. Sr Lynette Young was a truly inspirational presenter of the Spirituality of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. Accommodation, plentiful food, weather, fellow retreatants and opportunities for prayer and reflection blended together to produce a most memorable blessed weekend at Galong."

Organiser Deacon Matt Ransom said it was a blessed weekend as the group gathered to pray, reflect, eat and rest.

"Josephite Sister Lynette Young, led us with great humour, insight and depth and we journeyed together through the life of St Mary MacKillop of the Cross," he said.

"Lynette shared with us many interesting insights into the life of Sr Mary, whilst encouraging us to grow closer to the Jesus who inspired Mary. Participants were blessed to have Mgr Kevin Barry-Cotter as retreat chaplain."









LOCAL 5

Friendships mature on ecumenical road to unity

THE mood on the pilgrimage to unity has changed but friendships have continued to mature in the midst of complex issues, Archbishop Christopher Prowse and Wangaratta Anglican Bishop John Parkes said in a joint letter.

The men represented the Roman Catholic and Anglican communities of Australia in an ecumenical pilgrimage to Canterbury and Rome.

They attended to mark 50 years since Anglican Archbishop Michael Ramsay and Pope Paul VI met to begin formally the world-wide Anglican/Roman Catholic ecumenical dialogue.

"Together with 38 Anglican and Catholic Bishops from 19 countries, we reviewed the progress on the pilgrimage to unity so far," Archbishop Prowse and Bishop Parkes said.

"The mood has changed from optimism that organic unity was imminent, to a more realistic assessment.

"Serious obstacles have arisen on matters pertaining to the ordination of women, and human sexuality. Friendships between our communities have continued to mature in the midst of these complex issues."

The letter also provided a platform for how Catholic and Anglican communities can move forward together despite their differences. "A high point of our time together was the commissioning by Pope Francis and Archbishop Justin Welby of 19 pairs of Anglican/Roman Catholic Bishops from around the world," they said.

"We have both been commissioned to return to Australia and encourage and re-energise the friendships we have developed in Australia within our communities.

"We rely on our continued ecumenical friendships, common witness and mission, dialogue and study, and common prayer, to deepen our shared pilgrimage on this ecumenical journey to unity."

Common concerns pertinent to both the Roman and Catholic communities were raised in the letter, including responding to secularism, refugees, homelessness and corruption.

"Wonderful pastoral initiatives were showcased," they said.

The names of revered Australians were mentioned for their past contributions on the world stage to this ecumenical friendship, including Charles Sherlock, Bishop Michael Putney, Cardinal Edward Idris Cassidy, Bishop Peter Carnley and Fr Peter Cross.

Other items discussed in the letter include continued ecumenical friendships, theological education, practical support especially in rural communities, common witness and mission, dialogue and study, and common prayer to deepen the



Above: All the Anglican and Roman Catholic Bishops in the Canterbury and Rome delegation. Below: Bishops delegates for Australia, Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn Christopher Prowse with Anglican Bishop of Wangaratta John Parkes. Pictures: Supplied.

shared pilgrimage on the ecumenical journey to unity.

The letter ended by encouraging the faithful to read the ecumenical documents between the two Christian denominations available at www.iarccum.org and www. catholic.org.au

It also asked those who have read the statement to pass it on in their networks.

"Please share this good news with the very many groups within Australia committed to Anglican and Roman Catholic ecumenical dialogue," the letter said.

Archbishop Prowse and Bishop Parkes thanked both Roman Catholic and Anglican parishioners for their efforts with regard to fostering ecumenical friendships between the two communities.

To read the letter in full go to http://cgcatholic.org. au/2016/10/ecumenism-anglican-roman-catholic-dialoguerecent-canterbury-rome-octoberpilgrimage/



There's no snags in the way of Lino's generosity



THERE is nothing quite like a freshly cooked sausage to warm the heart on a cold winter's day.

Those who attended the Central Deanery Assembly at St Clare's College in chilly mid August, are likely to remember the overriding waft of barbequed sausages at lunchtime.

These weren't just any old snags, however; they were home-made ones by Lino Rovere from Mawson, ACT.

Mr Rovere has been feeding the masses for a long time starting off as a butcher in 1957.

Born and bred in Italy, he migrated to Australia from e Switzerland in 1962, followMario and his parents who made the move.

The son of a struggling textile merchant, Mr Rovere grew up in the picturesque Alpine town of Tarcento. His lifetime hobby is

cycling, which he competed regularly in at amateur level. "Growing up in Italy in the

years following World War II, times were tough and my parents found it very difficult to make ends meet despite working hard," he said.

As the youngest son, he moved to Switzerland for work. In Switzerland between 1957 and 1962 he learned the butcher trade before joining his family in the ACT.

Mr Rovere went on to own and operate a butcher

shop in Queanbeyan which specialised in small-goods.

He retired fulltime as a butcher when he sold up in 1988, but worked part-time at a meat wholesaler until 1997.

He kept his tools along with the industrial equipment which are now set up in his shed. To this day he continues to make the smallgoods at his home, but they are not for sale.

The retired butcher is happy to make the snags for friends, while sometimes he supplies for a few small-scale functions, especially if they are for a good cause.

He refuses to take any financial incentives other than to pay for his costs and the contents of any "golden handshakes will find their way to a charity", he said.

He volunteered in 1969 with the St Vincent De Paul mission team serving in Papua New Guinea.

The community of Goroke benefited as he taught them the art of cutting up meat among other things.

He nearly didn't make it back home and says he is "lucky to be still alive" after he fell nearly 50m when the road he was driving on crumbled in a landslide.

Mr Rovere is now content as a member of the Canberra Swiss Club, the South Woden Catholic Parish and the St Augustine conference of the St Vincent De Paul Society in Canberra.

Born in Italy, Lino Rovere made a career as a butcher and he Switzerland in 1962, followcontinues to make sausages to this day. Picture: John McLaurin. ing the lead of his brother

Coota's 100 reasons to celebrate

A CENTENARY book was launched at Cootamundra's Sacred Heart Parish to mark 100 years since the beginning of the cathedral-sized red-brick church in Morris Street.

People gathered from distances near and far to celebrate the grand old church, which was built by Fr Terrence O'Shaunnessy, the parish priest from 1910 to 1933.

Earlier this year on June 24, parish priest Fr Joshy Kurien received an apostolic blessing from Pope Francis on behalf of the parish and himself to mark the occasion. Sacred Heart Central School principal Janet Cartwright was commissioned by Fr Kurien to be

the driving force behind the book. She worked all the text and layout and got help compiling photos from Fr James Anthony CMI, Fr Kurien and a number of parishioners.

"It's been a mammoth task but I have enjoyed it, collecting all the stories," she said.

"Thanks to everyone who has contributed; it's certainly a team effort."

She singled out parish secretary



Cootamundra's Sacred Heart school captains Joshua Deep and Kate Alderman receive the centenary book from Mick Howse, much to the delight of Fr Joshy Kurien. Picture: John McLaurin.

Leah Sutherland for scanning many of the photos for the book.

Fr Kurien paid tribute to Mrs Cartwright for her dedication in making sure the book was completed in time for the centenary.

The book *Heart Speaks to Heart'*, is largely a pictorial glimpse of the parish over the past century.

Long-time parishioner Mick Howse presented a copy of the book to Sacred Heart School Captains Joshua Deep and Kate Alderman.

Mr Howse re-lived a story about being an altar-boy when the Mercy Hospital was opened and how he was disappointed not to be picked as the cross-bearer. "Without any further hesitation I declare the book launched," he said.

Earlier in the weekend, 23 students made their First Holy Communion with Vicar General Fr Tony Percy main celebrant at Mass.

On Saturday morning, parishioners met at the cemetery to pay their respects to the pioneer Catholics of the town.

Celebrations continued on Saturday evening with Archbishop Christopher Prowse present to Confirm 26 children at the Vigil Mass.

Archbishop Prowse congratulated the parish on its milestone and offered hope and encouragement.

Archbishop Prowse has a foreword in the new book, which comes in the form of a letter, sent to Fr Kurien and members of the parish. It reads:

"I commend Fr Joshy Kurien and the parishioners who have made this a moment: of thanksgiving to God for all His many blessings over the past 100 years."

He encouraged the parish to become a "permanent mission - a platform whereby fresh and new missionary zeal can take us into a new century of hope in the Lord Jesus".

Sacred Heart Parish has a number of copies of the centenary book available at \$20 each. To purchase a copy call the parish on (02) 6942 2514.

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Hartwells named family of the year



The Hartwells, Anne, Joseph (holding the shield), Brett, Luke, Patrick and Daniel. Picture: Loui Seselja.

BRETT and Anne Hartwell gave credit to the fine example of "endurance and perseverance in marriage" set by their parents when they and their four boys were named ACT Family of the Year.

"Brett and I are blessed to have both sets of our parents to support us," Anne said.

"We have dinner together each week with both sets of extended family, and the boys thoroughly enjoy spending time with their grandparents.

"It is a time for creating precious and lasting memories as well as showing each other how to live a good and full life."

In making the announcement at the Australian Family Association annual meeting, president Paul Monagle said the family was "an inspiration and worthy winner of the award".

"Anne and Brett Hartwell have

not only worked hard at rearing their own four boys in line with Christian principles, but they also make a significant contribution to many groups."

Brett and Anne acknowledged the foundations and values with which their family operates.

"Compromise is important in a strong marriage; it's not about being selfish, but being for the other," Brett said.

Anne agreed, saying that the "daily decision to love is vital" and that both she and Brett are "totally committed to the vows they made to each other almost 20 years ago.

"Marriage is a challenge but it is the foundation which our society is built on and we need to show our children how important lasting commitment is."

The family is well known for the efforts in their parish and with Marist College.

Deacon comes home for ordination

NEWLY ordained deacon Joshua Scott has described his ordination to the diaconate as "a wow moment".

Deacon Scott was ordained at St Mary's Church in his home town of Young by Archbishop Prowse on the feast of St John Paul II.

In delivering a thanksgiving speech, Deacon Scott gave thanks to God.

"Thank you Lord for bringing me here," he said.

He then encouraged his fellow seminarians with the words: "Keep going brothers, keep going, it's worth it, fight through."

He thanked Archbishop Prowse for ordaining him and also for his fatherly support.

He especially acknowledged former rector of the Good Shepherd Seminary in Sydney Fr Tony Percy and current rector Fr Danny Meagher.

Archbishop Prowse praised Deacon Scott's "kerygmatic dimension" describing him as "people centred" and "a great social networker".

Recently ordained Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney Richard Umbers concelebrated at the ordination Mass.

In his homily, Archbishop Prowse said Deacon Scott, a convert to the faith, had received four of the seven Sacraments from Fr Richard Thompson, former parish priest of Young.

"The first thing to be said about the diaconate is the word service," he said.

"In the document of the Second Vatican Council, *Lumen Gentium*, the word service comes up when they talk about the diaconate.

"Indeed, when you look in the Acts of the Apostles in the New Testament, the diaconate grew out of a service need."

Archbishop Prowse spoke about deacons "attending to those on the periphery" of life.



Archbishop Christopher Prowse ordains Joshua Scott to the diaconate at St Mary's Young. Picture: Cyron Sobrevinas.

"The diaconate is a triplex function, like the Trinity," he said.

"There is the diaconate of the word, of preaching the word of God, the deacon of the altar and the diaconate of charity."

Archbishop Prowse said the "engine room of being a deacon" is to be a man of prayer.

"The diaconate of service always brings people together, it never separates." He paid tribute to the town of Young for nurturing priestly vocations.

"Thank you Young, I hope you remain forever Young in your heart, and not just in your name, so that there will be others nurtured here and that you will be able to be a good example to others," Archbishop Prowse said.

In particular, he singled out

parish priest Fr Tom Thornton and newly appointed vocations director Fr Paul Nulley for their efforts. Fellow seminarian Eden Langlands also spent time in Young before going to the seminary.Deacon Scott will now return to the seminary for the remainder of the year. He is expected to be ordained a priest towards the end of next year.

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"THEY must've built it well because it's still standing," Parish Pastoral Associate Br Brian Berg told parishioners and guests at St Bede's Braidwood sesquicentenary Mass.

Originally part of the Archdiocese of Sydney, the parish of Braidwood came together to celebrate 150 years since their gothic stone church was completed in 1866.

Parishioners organised the celebrations and before Mass Br Berg delivered a concise history of the parish.

The church is thought to be named after pioneer Bishop John Bede Polding and is a product of the hard-working miners in the district from the mid 1800s.

Fr Peter Day celebrated Mass on the day, assisted by Fr Laurie Bent, who has served the parish from Goulburn.

In his homily, Fr Day pondered what the future held for the Church. "So what of the next 150 years?" he asked the congregation.

Fr Day spoke of tradition as a "living thing" and recommended that as a church we "go back to the poor and marginalised," by "walking alongside people in their vulnerability".

Staff and students from St

Bede's Primary were involved in the celebration, while a display with all the church's paraphernalia was on show, including a vast array of priest's vestments and procession banners. The parish history book 'The House of Prayer' written by Robert Parkinson was on sale.

Long-time parishioners James and Mandy O'Brien and Barry and Germaine Hannaford attended the festivities

James is a descendant of the family of Fr Edward O'Brien, Braidwood's first resident priest, while Barry is a descendant of Richard Hannaford, the builder of the church. James brought in Fr O'Brien's 150-year-old Mass kit for display.

The kit consisted of a wooden box and all the vessels were intact, so much so, that the specially engraved chalice was used at the Mass. In the wooden box was a pyx with unconsecrated wafers from the earliest days of Catholicism in Braidwood.

Local legend also has it that the Mass kit box had a bullet go through it from an encounter with bushrangers during the gold rush.

For those who want to learn more about the parish history, copies of the parish book are available from Br Berg on (02) 4842 2444.





Top: Norma Flack and Dawn Jonas had the honour of cutting the cake. Above: Long-time parishioners James and Mandy O'Brien and Barry and Germaine Hannaford. Pictures: John McLaurin.

St Christopher's ladies have special bond

By FIONA VAN DER PLAAT

THE small group of women clustered around a coffee table at the Canberra Yacht Club reminisce as old school friends do - recounting their own versions of shared experiences and challenging each other's memories.

Any disagreements are good-natured, but one thing they categorically agree on is the special nature of their bond.

The five women at the table, plus one who usually joins them for their occasional gettogethers but could not make it this time, are the six girls who graduated from St Christopher's School in Manuka in 1956.

They were the sum of the final fifth year, with most of their 30-plus female classmates having left school earlier and the boys having moved to St Edmund's College when it opened in 1954.

The fact the six of them are still around Canberra and still friends 60 years later is something for them all to treasure. As one of the friends, Mary Gellatly says, "We're very lucky."

Four of the group - Mary, Elizabeth Coburn (nee Henry), and sisters Trish Hackwill and Maree Robertson (both nee Rogers) - have known each other since they started at St Christopher's in kindergarten.

The other two – Helen Webber (nee Jordan) and Maureen Spicer - came from St Patrick's to join them in high school. The women, who all have children and grandchildren, moved into the public service, teaching and other pursuits after finishing school.

The demands of work and growing families



60 years and the friendship is still strong for (L-R) Helen Webber, Trish Hackwill, Mary Gellatly, Maree Robertson and Elizabeth Coburn. Picture: John McLaurin.

group hooked up again in the 1980s. In more riding back from lunch. recent years, the women have made a point of getting together a couple of times a year.

Apart from memories of "serge tunics, long stockings and suspender belts", as Helen puts it, the 60th anniversary gathering featured animated discussions about, among things, marching from Kingston shops to Manuka Oval on St Patrick's Day, playing hockey under Commonwealth Avenue Bridge and memories of the "Good Sam" sisters who taught them.

Helen says they were friends from the start. "Everybody got on. There was none of that bullying." Trish and Maree walked to school from their home in Forrest, while Elizabeth

took over their time for many years before the rode her bike, often reading Shakespeare while

Maree fondly remembers the singing they were always doing and enjoyed being in the same year as her sister, who stayed back after illness interrupted a year of her primary schooling.

"We had a good time together, didn't we?" she says, looking at Trish.

Trish doesn't seem so sure, mainly because school just wasn't her thing. "My happiest day was when I left," she says.

Meanwhile, Helen's declaration that the girls were "so pleased when the boys went to St Eddie's" also meets with a mixed response. The differences of opinion and memory only seem to strengthen the bond between the women.

Fr Bochanski brings EnCourage-ment

THE Archdiocese has taken steps to be more courageous in its pastoral care of people, by inviting Fr Philip Bochanski, the international associate director from Courage International, to talk with archdiocesan staff.

Courage International is a world-wide Roman Catholic apostolate formed in 1980 to provide pastoral care and support for people with same-sex attraction who want to live chaste lives.

EnCourage, the sister group of Courage, began in 1992 to assist parents and friends to maintain their faith in the Church's teachings, while supporting their loved ones.

Based in Norwalk, Connecticut (about an hour's drive north of New York City), Fr Bochanski was in Australia for a national tour, including visits to Courage and En-Courage chapters in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane. It also including discussions on starting chapters in the Archdioceses of Canberra and Goulburn and Hobart.

Vicar General Fr Tony Percy, who welcomed Fr Bochanski to the Archdiocese, said his visit was a "very timely one".

Deacon Don Nguyen, who was recently asked by Archbishop Christopher Prowse to work as a chaplain for Courage and En-Courage in the Archdiocese, also attended the gathering.

Fr Bochanski showed members of the Archdiocesan media and communications team Desire of the Everlasting Hills, a documentary film in which three Courage members tell their stories. It can be viewed online at www.everlastinghills.org

He was philosophical about steps which need to be taken in order to address the issue.

"First of all we must be careful



about the language we use," Fr Bochanski said.

"The Church urges us not to reduce our understanding of the human person to just their experience of sexual attraction.

"We should not label people as gay or lesbian as if their labels define their identity or make them a different kind of category of person. "Instead, we speak of people who experience same-sex attractions.

"We must begin by welcoming each person in the name of Jesus Christ, making it clear that there is a place for them in the Church.

"This is what Pope Francis means when he said we should accompany people starting from their situation. "Once that initial welcome has been extended, the Church should share with each person the good news that living chastely sets one free to love authentically, and to enjoy real friendship, affection and charity.

"This can be difficult to accept for some, because we live in a world that thinks a life without sex, is a life without love."

Fr Bochanski highlighted the witness of clergy and religious celibacy in their vocations, which can encourage others to experience the joy of chaste living.

He said local chapters of Courage and Encourage would be a blessing for people in the Archdiocese and he was committed to helping new groups get established.

For information on starting a chapter of Courage or EnCourage, contact Deacon Don Nguyen at Courage4lives@gmail.com

100 years of Mass for Delegate church

TWELVE months after marking the centenary their church's foundation stone being laid, parishioners of St Joseph's Delegate were back in celebration mode last month 100 years after the first Mass in their redbrick church.

The current building in Church Street the second Catholic church in Delegate - was completed in 1916.

The first church was replaced to cater for the growing numbers of parishioners.

Festivities began with the parish holding an ecumenical trivia night with members of other Christian churches in the town taking part.

The next day parishioners initially gathered at the town cemetery where they honoured Catholic pioneers of the town.

Fr Mick MacAndrew blessed a number of the graves and paid respect to deceased members who played a pivotal role in the establishment of the Catholic faith in Delegate.

"We gather here to remember those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith," he said.

"Let their example be a shining light for us as we walk side by side in Christian example."

After the blessing ceremony, parishioners returned to the church for Mass, a lively affair with the angelus bell rung loud and proud.

The choir was in full voice and the children under instruction from Sr Teresa Keane RSJ added colour to the offertory procession.

Fr MacAndrew delivered a homily on Christian virtue and repeated the same address on *Why Catholics build churches*' given by former Sydney Archbishop Michael Kelly 100 years ago.

At lunch after Mass, long-time parishioner Clive Cottrell recalled the days of going to school in what is now the parish hall.

A main organiser of the celebrations,

Greg Crotty, was pleased with the turn-out. He hopes the mid-October gathering can become an annual fixture on the parish's calendar.

"It is really important for our parish that we celebrate our lives together at least once a year," he said."We are wanting to hold a return-to-Delegate weekend in October or November every year.

During the speeches, Mr Crotty put a vote to those present that the parish hall be re-named St Joseph's School Centre, due to most people remembering it as the old St Joseph's Primary School.

The idea was unanimously approved on the spot.

St Joseph's School Centre displays a century worth of parish memorabilia along with vast family history from Catholic people in the town.

The centre also features a well-equipped modernised kitchen, donated by the Crotty family, in memory of Madge Crotty.

The Walker family have also donated new bathroom facilities.

Mr Crotty said the Delegate parish was a "small, but proud and dedicated one".

He flagged a couple of new developments which he says "are on the horizon.

"A local family has already offered to install a new ramp at the centre and are just waiting on us to give the go ahead," he said.

Mr Crotty said the parish was keen to repaint the building, but before doing that they need to install a wider entrance to allow better access for mobility impaired and replace some old louvred windows.

He called on the wider community to help offset some of the cost.

"Someone may have some suitable doors or windows they don't need for which we would be most grateful," he said. For more information email joeysdelegate@gmail.com or contact Greg Crotty on 0427 229 553.



Delegate parishioners pose at the front of their church after Mass. Picture: John McLaurin.



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Marriage milestones galore out west

"WE not me, ours not mine," Young's David Patterson responded when Archbishop Christopher Prowse asked him to share the secret to a long and happy marriage.

Speaking at the recent Western Deanery Assembly on mercy in marriage and family life, Mr Patterson spoke fondly about the 50 years he had been married to Valerie.

The couple celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on the day of the assembly and had their vows renewed and blessed by Archbishop Prowse.

They weren't the only couple celebrating a milestone.

Michael and Bernadette Mullany, from Young, were celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary a few days after the assembly.

Not to be outdone, Jack and Meg Grant were honouring 67 years of commitment to each other through marriage.

In his keynote address, Archbishop Prowse spoke on the topic of vulnerability, a key theme in the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

He shared personal accounts of his family's struggles and



Members of the Western Deanery assembled in Young recently. Picture: John McLaurin.

encouraged the faithful to do the same. "We need to be vulnerable in

our lives," he said. "That is where the wounds are

and that is where we are healed. By your wounds you are healed." Each parish gave a presentation

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reflecting pressing issues they faced.

Representatives from the parishes and parish missions of Cootamundra, Tumut, Temora, West Wyalong and Young each spoke for about 20 minutes, delivering the key findings from their communities.

Some of the main concerns to emerge were youth, being made to feel welcome, lack of Mass attendances, communication, the ageing population in parishes, connection to parish schools, faith formation and sacramental programs.

After listening to the findings from each of the parishes, Archbishop Prowse concluded the assembly by offering words of encouragement and hope.

Speaking after the gathering, Dean of the Western Deanery Fr Tom Thornton said there was plenty of good to come from what transpired at the meeting.

"The assembly proved to be a very fascinating day due mainly to the contributions of the people from the deanery," he said.

"From the conversations that I had with participants, it was a very worthwhile experience and some follow-up at a parish and mission level will occur in the coming year."

Parish Pastoral Support Coordinator for the Archdiocese, Sharon Brewer outlined the process in making available the assembly findings for deaneries and parishes.

"A short report will be prepared that will give an overview of the five assemblies and a summary of the key findings," she said.

"Each dean has been provided with a comprehensive report so that local matters can be addressed at the grass-roots level."



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Pilgrimage seen as a 'miniature of life'



Dominican Sister Mary Rachel Capets. Picture: John McLaurin.

PILGRIMAGE can be seen as a miniature of life and symbolic of our faith journey, Guinness and God devotees were told.

Dominican Sister Mary Rachel Capets drew on her personal experience of pilgrimage, which began at Jubilee 2000.

"There is often a peace about the place of pilgrimage. We know this to be grace. The grace of a life lived and spent for God," she said.

There were many reasons for undertaking pilgrimage. For Christians, it involved finding a "place of refuge", getting out of "comfort zones" to leave themselves "vulnerable enough to have a dependence upon God".

For her, the main reason for pilgrimage was to "escape the busy-ness of life" and to "find some time for reflecting".

Sr Capets identified a three-fold structure for undertaking pilgrimage. The first was "leaving home and all that is familiar to us," while the second was the destination.

The third phase was where the pilgrim returned to everyday life, with a "new resolve and a new perspective".

Pilgrimage had a long-standing tradition with each major world religion.

She named the three most popular Christian pilgrimage sites as Jerusalem, Rome and Santiago de Compostela on the Way of St Iames

"For Christians the idea of walking (in Jerusalem) where the Son of God walked on this earth and to stand at the place where He died and then rose is mindboggling," Sr Capets said.

"Jesus Christ Himself is the pilgrim whom we model."

For those who could not get away for an extensive pilgrimage, she suggested they visit St Mary of the Cross MacKillop's tomb at North Sydney and do the Stations of the Cross at any local church.

Youth get to see an explosion of beauty

EXPLOSION Youth Conference has come and gone for another year, but not before capturing the hearts and minds of nearly 100 young people.

Now in its 10th year, the event this year focussed on beauty with the theme "Can you see it?" It was hosted by Canberra's Disciples of Jesus community in collaboration with the Archdiocesan Office of Evangelisation Youth team.

Held in the first week of the mid semester holidays, at Florey's St Francis Xavier College, Explosion 2016 featured praise and worship, catechesis sessions, dramas as well as a number of talks.

Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation were a big part of the conference.

Attendees heard from Naomi Walton who spoke on the topic of God's love, while Rosie Drum MGL put the emphasis on salvation.

Fr Dave Callaghan MGL gave a

talk titled "Finding Beauty in Ugliness" and Fr Chris Eaton MGL delivered a session on the "Call to Live Big and not just exist".

Shannon McCabe gave a presentation on the real meaning of marriage and Trish McCarthy discussed the Holy Spirit.

Kate Freeman gave tips on mission and evangelisation.

Other speakers included Katherine Kingsley MGL (the beauty of prayer), Joshua Goldsbrough (why the Bible is not boring), Phil Belcher (commitment to Christ) and Paul Fam (Reconciliation).

St Vincent de Paul Society's Jaime Lee Walker spoke about noticing the poor in our midst before St Francis Xavier Year 12 student Aodhan Kirk closed the last session posing the question "where to from here?"

In Aodhan's talk he offered three key areas to build on from the positive experience of Explosion.

The National Evangelisation Team and the Youth Mission Team provided guidance and support. Attending Explosion for the

first time were twins Clare and Maria Corson from St Clare's College. "You could really feel God's presence especially in prayer, but also through the whole conference. Evening adoration at the cross was really powerful," Maria said.

"It was easy to make new friends through the many different activities like soccer, bubble soccer and capture the flag," Clare said.

"There was a great spirit of excitement as a youth community, like people really wanted to be there."

Bubble soccer proved to be a real winner at the 2016 Explosion Youth Conference. Picture: Loui Seselja.

They were that joy is a decision, which came in addition to "establishing a regular prayer life" and "finding a support network".

New Korean chaplain finds joy in acceptance

IN TAKING up the role of Canberra's new Korean community chaplain, Fr Thomas Jin, 35, hopes to build on the foundation of his predecessor Fr Paul Yo.

Fr Jin has been appointed assistant priest of St Vincent de Paul Parish Aranda, in addition to his chaplaincy role - something which he is very much looking forward to.

"The Canberra Korean Catholic Community is a young, vibrant community where many varieties of Korean migrants come together," he said.

"They (Koreans) come to Canberra for all sorts of reasons such as marriage, migration, studies, new employment and travelling and the Aranda church is a valuable nest for all of them to unite in the Catholic faith.'

Less than a month into his time in Australia, Fr Jin likes what he sees in Australia.

"Australia is a multicultural nation that is based on various cultural backgrounds," he said.

"It is fascinating to see the Australian Catholic Church welcoming

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Korean Catholic Community Chaplain Fr Thomas Jin spending some time with Archbishop Christopher Prowse before starting in the Aranda parish. Picture: Supplied.

the Korean community for sharing the same faith, and I find joy in sharing that acceptance with everyone who is living in this country." And there is no time limit on his stay in the ACT.

"It is all dependent on

South Korea) and the Lord who organises everything," he said.

Primarily he wanted to be a priest and a missionary priest at that.

His family came to the Catholic faith when he was a boy and he credits his time spent as an altar boy as well as the example of the assistant priest at his local parish, for giving him a great love for the

"Our assistant priest was a very young, humourous man who loved and who got along with everyone regardless of their age, gender and race," Fr Jin said. "I wanted to be like him."

A chance meeting with Pope Francis in 2014 confirmed Fr Jin's conviction that he was open to serving the wider Church.

Fr Jin is the youngest of four children. His three sisters are married with one child each. His father runs a small judicial office and his mother is a housewife.

Like many Korean Catholic families, he has a strong devotion to St Andrew Kim Taegon, the first Korean priest, and the other 102 martyrs. He was ordained in 2009 and later spent two years serving as a missionary to the Korean community in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Fr Jin is a keen badminton player and will "have a go at anything which raises a sweat".

The Korean Catholic community celebrates Mass at noon on Sundays in St Vincent de Paul Church Aranda.



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Catholics will help to 'bring them here'

BY ARCHBISHOP DENIS HART President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

ONE OF the greatest crises of our day is the plight of people forced from their own countries by war, persecution or poverty and forced to live without a home, without safety and often separated from their families.

Pope Francis has called on Catholics to welcome such vulnerable people as our brothers and sisters.

In Australia, we do not have to directly meet the responsibilities that many other nations bear. But we do bear the shame of the expulsion and harsh treatment of the people who sought our protection only to be detained on Nauru and Manus Island.

International agencies have been appalled by the conditions under which they live and the effects on their health, spirits and self-respect. Pope Francis, to whom people detained on Manus Island have written, has also expressed his deep concern. The human costs on the detainees are mounting by the day.

The Australian Catholic Bishops also deplore the detention of our brothers and sisters on Nauru and Manus Island.

While recognising the effort of

the Government to find a solution, we say that enough is enough.

We call on the Government to bring offshore detainees to Australia while awaiting furthe decisions on their future.

We endorse the campaign to 'Bring Them Here' to Australia.

We pledge the help of our Catholic communities and institutions to welcome and support these refugees when they arrive, including Catholic health, education and social services.

As the Jubilee of Mercy comes to a close, it is time to cultivate the works of mercy and to harvest its fruits as a Church.

The Australian Catholic Bishops

are working with the Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum (CAPSA) advisory group, which brings together Catholic peak bodies across education, health, welfare, and the broader church along with key national Catholic organisations.

CAPSA is ready and willing to lead a coordinated approach to support the men, women and children currently on Nauru and Manus Island as they arrive in Australia. Many parishes and local communities are ready to assist.

Members of the Catholic community who wish to assist may contact CAPSA at www.capsa.org. au or info@capsa.org.au



Historic plenary planned 'Fearless advocate' to for Australian Church

BRISBANE Archbishop Mark Coleridge has unveiled plans to hold an historic plenary council of the entire Catholic Church in Australia.

It is to be held in 2020, only the fifth time in Australia's history, and 79 years after the previous plenary council meeting.

Archbishop Coleridge said bishops had agreed a plenary council or synod was needed because "we are at a time of profound cultural change. Not only in the wider community, but in the Church.

"I think we have to accept the fact that Christendom is over – by which I mean mass, civic Christianity. It's over. Now, how do we deal with that fact?" Archbishop Coleridge said.

"We are not the power in the land which we once were."

The last plenary council of the Church in Australia was held in 1937.

That event, and earlier ones in 1885, 1895 and 1905, were exclusively male gatherings, with only bishops, theologians and superiors of male religious orders attending. Women, religious or lay people took no part. Archbishop

Coleridge said women in the Church would play a role in 2020. A plenary council can discuss

and legislate on a wide range of issues, including matters of faith morals and discipline. It can also address the critical is-

sues of the times. "This is no time for the Church to be putting up signs that say 'business as usual'," Archbishop Coleridge said.

"If we needed any proof, then the Royal Commission has shown that. We need to face the facts, and in the light of the facts, which aren't always friendly, we have to make big decisions about the future."

Beyond a Church response to



the Royal Commission into sexual abuse of children, Archbishop Coleridge said he expected there would be consideration of other issues in the public gaze such as homosexual marriage.

"I would be very surprised if those issues were not an important part of the plenary council's work," he said.

"Everything is potentially on the radar screen, anything that does not infringe on the Church's faith, teachings or morals."

The plenary council could also spect to engage with contemporary issues of justice, peace, development and the environment.

Archbishop Coleridge said the idea of a Plenary Council or synod, which means "on the road together", had been discussed by Australian bishops for the past 10 years. Agreement to proceed in 2020 gained momentum in the past 12 months.

"When I went to the synod last October, listening to the very important speech the Pope gave on the morning of October 17 where he spoke about the 'synodality' of the Church - that it's not just some of the bishops some of the time, but all of the Church all of the time," he said.

"Now it was listening to that speech by the Pope that led me to think very clearly and powerfully that the moment had come for a plenary council."

Back in Australia, Archbishop Coleridge put the idea to a plenary meeting of bishops. He was made chair of a steering committee and put together a motion on moving towards a plenary council in 2020.

The motion received a majority vote of support by bishops meeting in May this year.

Archbishop Coleridge said he expected the Pope would soon give approval for the plenary council to go ahead, consisting of three phases - preparation, celebration and implementation.

"I hope the agenda will be generated by genuine consultation of the whole Church between now and 2020," he said.

Archbishop Coleridge has outlined what he considers the key issues that the whole Church should consider in 2020 to stop the drift, revive hope and set a vision.

"I think we have to ask questions about how we become a more missionary Church, and not a Church that is just retiring behind defensive walls," he said.

"I think we have to ask questions about ordained ministry.

"The Church's response to the diminishment of our apostolic orders, the relationship between the newer communities and our older communities, by which I mean our parishes, the whole future of the parish is a major question. Do we need a new paradigm?"

(This story was first published by the Catholic Leader on August 17, 2016.)

head social services

ONE of Australia's leading advocates for justice and equity Fr Frank Brennan SJ is the new chief executive officer of Catholic Social Services Australia.

Chair Dr Maria Harries said Fr Brennan's record on "speaking out on behalf of people who have been ignored and disregarded in our community is unparalleled".

She said under his leadership "people experiencing disadvantage and exclusion will have an effective, compassionate, and fearless advocate".

From his earliest involvement in civil rights movements in Queensland, Fr Brennan had held Australia to a consistent standard of upholding the rights, dignity and respect of all people, especially those most marginalised.

Fr Brennan has held significant roles in academia, public policy and advocacy including:

• Professor of Law at Australian Catholic University

· Adjunct Professor at the ANU College of Law and National Centre for Indigenous Studies

• Founding director of Uniya, the Australian Jesuit Social Justice Centre

• Rapporteur at the Australian Reconciliation Convention

· Ambassador for Reconciliation for the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation

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Bishops synod to focus on teaching faith

VATICAN CITY (CNA/EWTN News): The theme for the 2018 Synod of Bishops will focus on how to best teach the faith to young people and help them to discern God's will for their lives.

Set to take place in October 2018, the 50th General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops will discuss "Young People, the Faith and the Discernment of Vocation," a Vatican communique said.

The theme is in continuity with topics that emerged from the 2014-2015 Synod on the Family, as well as with the contents of Pope Francis' Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation "Amoris Laetitia," which was written largely on the basis of the synod's concluding document.

According to the communique, the theme "aims to accompany young people on their way of life towards maturity so that, through a process of discernment, they can discover their life's plan and realize it with joy".

By doing so, youth will not only be able to open themselves to an encounter with God and with others, but they will be able to actively participate "in the building up of the Church and society".

The last Synod of Bishops was dedicated to the family and took place in two parts, the first an Extraordinary Synod in 2014, which was followed by the Ordinary Synod in 2015 that drew 279 cardinals, bishops and representatives from all over the world to discuss the challenges and blessings of family life.

The Council for the General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops is charged with preparing for the Ordinary Synod, which takes place every three years to discuss a specific theme of importance in the Church.

Greg Burke, Director of the Holy See Press Office, told journalists that the topic of the upcoming synod was not about celibacy or the priesthood in particular, but was "wider than vocations."

Vocations "certainly will be part of that but it's wider, much wider". In addition to vocational

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to do anything else.



A group performs for Pope Francis during his general audience in St Peter's Square. Picture: CNS photo/Paul Haring.

discernment, it's about "the formation and transmission of faith," he said. Asked to explain "discernment," Burke described it as "spiritual decision making," not only about whether or not to become a priest, but about "what you do in life."

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now. You just held her, let her cry and said nothing. That's what she really needed. Thank you Father."

Missionaries of

the Sacred Heart

LET HER CRY AND

SAID NOTHING.

called to the hospital, anointed the man and prayed with his gathered family

He shook my hand and walked away, leaving me stunned.

- Fr Patrick Sharpe msc

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I remember it well. A man collapsed and died at the front gate of his home after work. I was

His wife wrapped her arms around me and began to weep. I held her, feeling quite helpless

The following Sunday after mass a young man approached me, saying, "I want to thank you

Father for what you did for my Aunt. We were all telling her not to worry, Uncle is in heaven

16 OPINION

Let's focus on humanity not winnings



BELOW THE SURFACE BY BRIANNA THOMAS

WITH the racing season in full swing and Melbourne Cup in the hot seat of our minds, we unknowingly welcome the normalisation of Race Day gambling.

Mother-of-six and former gambling addict Kate Seselja met with me recently to talk about some truths when it comes to Race Day.

Last year, the Melbourne Cup race collected \$1.5 billion from bets between August and Race Day, and betting systems were processing up to 3000 transactions a second during peak time.

Gambling is a cultural part of the Cup experience, where between two and three million Australians are said to tune in on the first Tuesday of November.

Kate tells of her introduction to gambling as a child while attending school fetes.

Where other kids could have just one go at the lucky envelope game and move on, she was hooked, handing over all her dollars for a stab at a small prize.

What started as a childhood

game ended up as a 12-year gambling addiction.

It's essential to understand the neuropathways behind gambling addiction, which uses a similar mechanism to heavy drug addiction.

The reward system is a group of brain connections linking areas of memory, movement, pleasure and motivation.

When we undertake a number of activities (like eating good food, taking particular drugs or gambling), a shot of dopamine is released in the reward system that feels good and reinforces the behaviour.

The brain changes as addiction develops and we get less reward as time goes on.

This intensifies the hunt for the feeling, despite repercussions.

"It was this vicious cycle training my brain to need that reward, I wasn't even consciously aware of it," Kate said.

Kate's gambling story has led her to found the HOPE project, promoting a sustainably mentally healthy life.

After spending 12 years playing pokies, Kate now says "the biggest issue with gambling is that it's so widely accepted but such a taboo thing to talk about".

Kate and the HOPE project work against the taboo and stigma of promoting recovery from addiction.

It may seem unfair to point the finger at such a well-loved cultural



tradition but, for some, the races can be a dangerous time and we as a community need to be aware. Sweeps are undertaken in school classrooms and while there's no harm in the game, it can be the start of something for susceptible kids.

Kate's advice was that children need to be noticed, and helped to understand what they're experiencing in the rush of adrenaline and strong pull to the competition.

This advice is applicable anywhere. Kate needed someone to notice her behaviour and reaction to these things as a child.

It can make all the difference sitting down with someone (a child or adult) who seems to get sucked in and just check in with them.

Something to remember about Cup Day especially, says HOPE founder, is that the odds for winning are hugely inflated compared to real life.

"The odds are 1.20 rather than 12.00 on race day. This can instil the thought, 'oh my gosh, I'm good at this'.

"The races are the gambling industry's opportunity to produce new gamblers."

When I asked Kate how to tackle the races (not wanting to give up the fun completely), she gave excellent advice.

"I loved last year with the female jockey that won... I want to hear the stories of success, the personal triumphs."

Michelle Payne, first female jockey to win the Cup, was indeed an incredible success. Her story was motivating on many levels, including the character of her strapper brother Stevie who has Down Syndrome.

Let's let the stories be our focus - celebrating humanity rather than winnings, and keeping the hype but shifting the focus.

If you or someone close is experiencing the hold of gambling, contact the gambling hotline (1800 858 858) or talk to a counsellor.

Asylum seekers: does end justify the means?



JUSTICE MATTERS CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

IT MAY be going too far to say that offshore detention can never be justified, but it is surely beyond question that Australia's current approach is indefensibly cruel.

The debate about Australia's treatment of asylum seekers has been long and angry.

Many people who argue against the policy of 'stopping the boats' and all that goes with it have relied partly on the precept that the end - even if it is one as honourable as preventing deaths at sea – can never justify intrinsically immoral means.

Those who support stopping

the boats have relied on basically the same precept. As they see it, not stopping the boats leaves asylum seekers at the mercy of people smugglers who have no regard for the safety and wellbeing of their passengers. It is, therefore, a sin of omission that puts lives at risk.

Are we, therefore, faced with a stark choice between intrinsically evil courses of action? How do we find an answer that is both ethical and practical?

It doesn't work to say that asylum seekers have a moral right to our compassion, and that's that. Encouraging people to risk their lives in unsafe boats on the high seas isn't very compassionate.

By the same token, it is hard to accept that stopping the boats is unambiguously good just because it saves lives. It also does terrible harm.

What should we do? Tens of millions of displaced people across many regions of the world have moral claims to support from us,

but we cannot meet every need. We must, therefore, decide how many we can assist and the criteria for choosing them. By implication this means excluding others. There is no way of avoiding this unless we take everyone.

How do we treat those who fall outside the entry criteria? Australia's response has depended in part on how they reach Australia in the first place. Those who come by boat are placed in offshore detention, and that has been the focal point for much of the public controversy.

It is hard to describe conditions in Australia's offshore places of detention as anything but cruel and unusual punishment. Is that moral? If it's not, can it be justified as the lesser evil?

It would surely be better if the posturing stopped and constructive, practical solutions were found. This is not saying that expediency should be our only guide - the solutions must have a moral base – but it is saying that no one can claim exclusive ownership of morality.

Where might we start? Perhaps we can agree that no solution is practical that does not include measures to protect Australia's borders - even if the underlying morality of this proposition is not beyond debate.

At the same time, we can surely see now that the way we treat people in detention cannot be credibly defended. It is damaging hundreds, perhaps thousands, of already traumatised people. It is creating conditions in which abuses of detainees - not only by staff but also by other detainees are an ever-present risk.

We can also acknowledge that stopping the boats is defensible insofar as it prevents deaths at sea. It does not, however, need the whole apparatus of secrecy and deterrence that is in place now, with all the suffering it brings in its wake.

We can take steps now towards

a more humane approach. For the time being Australia is not likely to discontinue the policy of turning back the boats, but we must ensure that the claims of asylum seekers to refugee status are properly tested before anyone is returned to their country of origin. We should also press for closure of the detention centre on Nauru as well as that on Manus Island, with resettlement in Australia being offered to those who are refugees - this will not reopen the floodgates if turning back the boats continues.

There are other measures Australia can take. We can increase Australia's humanitarian intake (see the August 2012 Houston Report expert panel on asylum seekers, 3.8 et al). We can restart the conversation with other countries on a regional solution.

We may not be able to implement an ideal set of changes immediately, but we can move forward. We are not tied forever to the way things are.

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Prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary (never known to fail): O most beautiful flower of Mt Carmel, fruitful vine, Splendour of heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necesssity. O star of the Sea, help me and show me here thou art my Mother. O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech thee from the bottom of my hear to succour me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand thy power. O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (three times). Holy Mary, I place this prayer in thy hands (three times). This prayer must be said for three days and the prayer published.

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ACROSS

2

6

8

17

- John, Paul, and John Paul
- Holy ____
- "In the ____ of the Father..."
- 9 Church singers
- 10 Type of candle
- II Bishop of a dioceseI3 Describes the soul
- 15 Partner of Damian
 - "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's ____" (Jn 15:13)
- Geographical area of the Church
 Jeremiah was put in these (Jer 20:1–
 - 2)
- 24 Creed
 27 One of the Minor Orders of the church
- 29 Joseph interpreted these
- 31 Paul's companion during his
- missionary travels 32 "...a man sows, that he will also
- ____." (Gal 6:7)
- 33 Gold, frankincense or myrrh34 Food of the Exodus (Ex 16:15–31)
 - FOOD OF THE EXOLUS (EX 16:13-31)

DOWN I Angel's hat?

3

- 2 Scripture readings at Mass that are sections of books of the Bible
 - Aaron was anointed to be this (Ex 30:30)
- 4 Dead Sea find
- 5 Haman plotted to kill him (Esth 5:9–14)

7 Mary, ___-Virgin
10 Number of sacraments, in Roman

We are to bear these patiently

- numerals 12 "For all the promises of God find their ____ in him." (2 Cor 1:20)
- 14 Treasury of ____
- 16 Road to the altar?
- 18 Follower

6

- 20 Ex ____ (official statement)
- 21 First sacrament received
- 22 Jurisdiction of a bishop23 From the Greek word meaning "the
- anointed one" 25 Perform the sacrament of Holy Orders
- 26 Holy ones (abbr.)
- 28 Number for the last Leo
- 30 What we abstain from

October crossword solutions



www.wordgamesforcatholics.com

18 COMING EVENTS



Written entries are invited for the July edition to: Catholic Voice, PO Box 7174, Yarralumla, ACT 2600, or email catholic.voice@cg.org.au by December 15. Entries which are accepted are free, courtesy of sponsorship by the Catholic Development Fund.

Archdiocesan & National Coming Events

Saturday, November 5: Archbishop's Day of Teaching - "Rich in Mercy". From 9am to 4pm at the Rheinberger Centre, Weston Street, Yarralumla ACT. Archbishop Christopher Prowse invites all Charismatic prayer groups and communities, and everyone who wants to deepen on their spiritual journey, to this special day of talks, praise and sharing. Confessions will be available, and Mass at 3pm. Free entry, bring your own lunch or buy from the BBQ for charity. A collection for CCR will be taken. To register, email: contact@ccract.org. au, or SMS/phone: Neda 0415 266 019. Susanna 0419 902 293, or Sandra 0405 692 999.

Saturday, November 12: The Archdiocesan Commission for Women, Annual Open Morning: Helen Delahunty, Archdiocesan Financial Manager will speak about her thoughts on "Where are Women in the Church?". It's a 9 for 9.30am start at The Rheinberger Centre, Cnr Weston & Loch Sts, Yarralumla. A donation of \$5 would be appreciated and will be directed to refugee support. Morning Tea will be provided. Enquiries to Margaret Ryan on 0417 418 838 or by email commissionforwomencg@ gmail.com.



Saturday, November

12: The Australian Christian Mediation Community ACT invite friends in Canberra and nearby rural areas of NSW are invited to an afternoon with Benedictine priest Fr Laurence Freeman OSB. The theme is: 'Putting on the Mind of Christ, How we can develop contemplative consciousness to address the problems of our day. Venue is the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, Blackall Street, Barton ACT. The day starts at 2pm with doors open from 1pm.

Cost is \$20 (at the door). For more information call 0401 731 918 or email act@ christianmeditationaustralia. org

Discuss with other like-minded men the challenges and privileges of being a man of God

Saturday, November 19 and Sunday, November

20: Mercy Vigil All Night Adoration from 7.30pm on the Saturday to 6am on the Sunday. Confessions from 8pm to 9pm and followed by a reflection on mercy by Msgr John Kallarackal, Counsellor – Apostolic Nuncio. Organised by the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Canberra Goulburn.



Held at St Peter Chanel's Church, cnr Weston and Loch Streets. For more information contact Susanna on 0419 902 293.

Friday, November 25 (5pm) to Sunday, November 27 (2pm): Live-in retreat conducted by Redemptorist Missionary priest Fr Hugh Thomas. The theme is 'The Eucharist Our Treasure. There will be daily Mass, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Benediction, Rosary, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Confession, spiritual direction, periods of reflection and time for walks in a beautiful country setting. To book your place at the retreat, contact Jacqueline Donohue on (02) 6251 3950 or Maria Noronha on 0413 617 390.

Sunday, November 27: AMICUS group will meet at The Scented Rose Garden (1725 Bungendore Road, Bywong NSW) for lunch from I2pm.A walk will follow around the garden / nursery. For more information. contact Patricia on 0412 351 548.



Sunday, December 4: St Caecilia's Choir will hold its annual Carol Service on at 7.30 PM at St John the Evangelist Chapel, ANU. Acton, ACT. The Carol Service features Renaissance polyphony, Gregorian chant and carolsfor choir and congregation. Enguiries: Maria Henry on (02) 6249 6278 or emailmrhnry@ gmail.com.

Saturday, December

IO: Kaleidoscope Christmas concert in support of HOME in Queanbeyan. A music hall style concert in Queanbeyan Uniting Church, Rutledge Street at 2pm.Tickets at the door. HOME in Queanbeyan provides a supportive, loving home for 19 women and men with mental illness who cannot live independently. A community project initiated by Fr Peter Day. Further information contact Viv Arnold (02) 6166 0187 or Reg Halliburton on (02) 6297 1859.

Saturday, December 10:

AMICUS group are having their Christmas Party at Tricia's from 7pm. Contact Tricia on (02) 6288 4070.

Sunday, December 11:

Sacred Heart Church, Mary Help of Christians Parish, South Woden (Pearce ACT) is celebrating it's 40th anniversary of consecration with 1000 Mass.Archbishop Christopher Prowse will be the main celebrant and the Mass will be followed by a catered luncheon (no cost) in the Sacred Heart Primary School hall.All foundation, past and current parish members are invited to attend and share in our celebrations. Registration for the luncheon is essential at the Parish Office (wodensouth@ cg.org.au or 6286 1908) by 2 December 2016. Historic pictures may also be loaned through the Parish Office.

Saturday, December 31 and Sunday, January I:

All Night Adoration Vigil from 7.30pm on the Saturday to 6am on the Sunday. Confessions from 8pm to 9pm and followed by a reflection on mercy by Msgr John Kallarackal, Organised by the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. Held at St Peter Chanel's Church, cnr Weston and Loch Streets. Contact Susanna on 0419 902 293.

Young rugby players get their ACT together

SEVERAL archdiocesan Catholic school players have represented the ACT Brumbies under-18 women's rugby union team this vear.

It has been an "enjoyable ride" for the team coached by Josh Vaughn and David Boyle and managed by St Clare's College teacher Kym Darmody.

St Clare's College boast four players in the squad, Sophie Williams, Riley Proudfoot, Erin Chant and Violeta Tupuola, who is a member of the national Wallaroos squad.

St Mary MacKillop College's Amy Daniel and Laura Miller from Sacred Heart Central School, Cootamundra, are also members of the group.

It has been a roller-coaster ride for the ACT players who have come up against some powerful units, particularly the formidable New South Wales line-up.

But the team has had more than its fair share of moments to be proud of, none more so than their encounter with a powerful New Zealand outfit.

In a fast paced match, the travelling Kiwis were far too strong for the ACT played on the lush surface at Duntroon Military College field, winning 44-10. The ACT conceded

size, strength and experience to a slick and well-drilled Kiwi party.

Despite a willing affair out in the middle of the park, the two teams gelled well after the siren, sharing many laughs.

The New Zealanders provided the home team and spectators with a rendition of the haka.

The experience of playing against an international team was not lost on Amy Daniel who treasured her place in the squad.

"I never thought that I'd be apart of the U18 schoolgirls Brumbies team for 2016.

"It meant a lot to me to get into this amazing team and I have learnt a lot of new skills from being a part of the schoolgirls this year," she said.

"My favourite memory would be meeting new people from New Zealand. They were very nice girls and you could see that they were very passionate about their rugby."

Erin Chant was equally thrilled about being a part of the Brumbies junior set-up. "It means a lot to be chosen for the ACT under-18 rugby team and the experiences I have gained from playing at such a high standard will always be invaluable," the Year 11 student said.

Chant's classmate Violetta Tupuola showed enough form in



Archdiocesan schoolgirls in the Brumbies team (L-R) Amy Daniel, Erin Chant, Riley Proudfoot, Sophie Williams and Laura Miller. Picture: John McLaurin.

season 2016 to be selected to train with the Australian Wallaroos women's team. She puts this down to her time spent in the Brumbies under-18 camp. "With the schoolgirls I have ex-

panded my skills and confidence," she said.

"Being selected in the ACT

team has given me the opportunity to train with the 2016 Wallaroos squad."

Manager Kym Darmody has seen the team and its members develop as players and she continues to enjoy the experience of being involved.

coaching and managing role for the past six years with ACT school girls," she said.

"It has been such a great experience gaining further knowledge of the game, working closely with other coaches and getting to know a wide range of girls and their parents."

"I have been involved in a



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20 SPORT



Monsignor Woods presents the jersey to Cardinal Rasavi, head of the Pontifical Council for Culture. Picture: Supplied.

Now even Vatican is seeing green

BY BEN POLLACK

CANBERRA Raiders chaplain Mgr John Woods took a piece of the Green Machine to the Vatican while attending the inaugural Sport for Humanity conference.

The conference was the first global conference on faith and sport, hosting representatives from across the world to further affirm the power of sport for human good.

Mgr Woods was determined to make a special presentation to Pope Francis, but unfortunately the Pope's busy schedule didn't allow the presentation to occur directly. He did manage to present the special Raiders jersey to Cardinal Rasavi, head of the Pontifical Council for Culture who, with Pope Francis, was responsible for the conference.

The jersey was custom printed with the word "Bergoglio", Pope Francis' surname, on the back. Mgr Woods said Cardinal Rasavi appreciated the presentation and said he would pass on the jersey to Pope Francis.

"Cardinal Rasavi had a big smile on his face when he saw the name Bergoglio' on the back of the jersey and it was wonderful to be able to show my support for the Raiders at this huge sporting conference," Mgr Woods said.

"The conference had some sporting stars from across the globe including rugby union legends Sean Fitzpatrick and Hugo Porta, former All Blacks and Argentine Pumas captains, and in fact Sean Fitzpatrick was telling me that Mal Meninga was a hero of his.

"I was also able to spend time with Australian Ambassador to the Holy See, Melissa Hitchman. She asked me to speak after the conference at a gathering of ambassadors."

Sourced with permission from http://www.raiders.com.au/ news/2016/10/10/raiders_make_ it_all_.html

These Fisher-men are chasing footy contracts

By John McLaurin

THEY share the same name and they are both chasing AFL contracts.

As St Kilda veteran Sam Fisher, 34, sweats on being offered a final year contract at the Saints, his Canberra-born namesake is equally sweating on being offered an AFL contract and entering the league for the first time.

Fisher, 18, is one of a number of AFL hopefuls this year desperate for a chance to play in the nation's elite competition.

As a midfielder and half forward, Fisher is responsible for initially winning the ball and then providing the forwards with plenty of supply.

He lists his decision making and skills as his greatest attributes and comes from good stock: paternal grandfather Ken Duff was a Geelong Cats footballer.

The former Ainslie Tri-Colours youngster and Marist College student hasn't stopped training since playing his last game in September at a time when most players rest weary muscles and limbs.

This year has been a gap year so he can concentrate on his football and it's a decision he hopes pays dividends come the AFL draft on November 25.

This season he has played "just about all over the place" while representing a host of teams. Behind the scenes he has been working as a barista at a café in Garran.

As a NSW/ACT product he has taken to the intensity of state league in 2016 playing against much bigger-bodied men.

He has lined-up for both the University of Western Sydney Giants and the Canberra Demons strutting his stuff in the North Eastern Australian Football League (NEAFL).

The pinnacle of his season was being selected to play in division one and two of the National Under-18 Championships.

His performances during the championships for the NSW/ACT Rams in division two warranted selection in the Allies team which competed in division one.

With potential football careers up for grabs, the championships are really telling when it comes to the reputations of AFL aspirants.

Fortunately for Fisher he had a good carnival and was noticed by a number of the clubs, something which puts him right up there with a fighting chance. He was invited to the AFL Draft Combine which took place at Etihad Stadium in the first week of October.

To attend the AFL Draft Combine a potential draftee has to have been nominated by a minimum of five clubs. The combine tests a player's fitness level, character and mental strength Each player is put through their paces and also grilled by the recruiters, who are looking to identify potential strengths and weaknesses in the overall make-up of the player.

"Overall I was happy with the way I performed at the championships, and to play well against some really elite players means that I've put my best foot forward," the left-footer said.

Whether he is drafted or not, Fisher will seek to study in the sports science field from next year. This will be in addition to playing state league football, in whichever part of the country that may take him to.

It means that he can't afford to get too far ahead of himself when it comes to making plans for next year. "We will just have to wait and see what plays out at the draft before making too many plans," he said. "The clubs are very tight-lipped when it comes to giving anything away. It really is a lottery."

Should Fisher not get drafted to a senior list on November 25, then he does have a second chance to make the big time with the pre-season and rookie draft.

The pre-season and rookie draft is being held on November 29, the difference being that there is less career security for a player drafted as a rookie.

Being drafted to the senior list ensures an initial two-year contract, whereas a rookie is



Former Marist College student Sam Fisher is hoping to get drafted to the AFL. Picture: Loui Seselja.

offered a one-year contract.

For Fisher it's now a waiting game and
an act of faith.- NAB AFL DraftKey Dates:Monday, NAFL Pre-season and

Friday evening, November 25 AB AFL Draft Monday, November 29 – (4pm)

AFL Pre-season and Rookie Draft



Building the Church