

CATHOLIC VOICE

ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN



NAHA: CatholicCare & SVDP Society battle with funding, Pages 1 & 2



NEW BUILDING: MGL new formation building Page 2

CSYMA: LEAD Youth Mass & Rally Page 7



FREE

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ST CLARE'S College Griffith ACT was chosen as the official launching place for the 2017 Lenten Season in the Archdiocese. Students and staff from several Canberra Catholic schools joined Archbishop Prose and Canberra-based Caritas Australia's Project Compassion Director Lulu Mitshabu to mark the occasion on Ash Wednesday. Among those was 2017 Project Compassion Ambassador Matt Napier who shared his story and vision with those at the gathering (see page 3). Photographer Loui Seselja was there to capture much of it, including getting this shot of St Clare's captain Lily Sarah distributing the ashes to the forehead of a fellow student, Halle Parker.

Cuts will put 'hundreds at risk'

CATHOLICCARE and the St Vincent de Paul Society in the Archdiocese have joined forces in calling on the Federal Government to reconsider its intention to axe \$1.3 billion from the National Affordable Housing Agreement.

Both organisations provide emergency and short-term accommodation services to homeless men, and work closely to ensure their housing services are filled as soon as a bed becomes available.

They provide meals, emergency relief,

housing and tenancy support, drop-in centres and outreach services to youth at risk, offering a range of services to help those in need break the cycle of homelessness.

The Federal Government has argued that the national agreement has failed to deliver any meaningful outcomes.

Archdiocesan CatholicCare CEO Anne Kirwan and St Vincent de Paul Society CEO Bernie van Wyk strongly disagree.

"These monies are used in Canberra to fund nearly 50 homelessness and domestic

family violence services as well as provide maintenance and repairs to 11,000 public housing properties," Ms Kirwan said.

"Three of CatholicCare's homelessness services are funded by the National Affordable Housing Agreement, as are five of the St Vincent de Paul Society programs.

"Both organisations are concerned that possible cuts will leave hundreds of Canberra residents at risk."

Mr van Wyk and Ms Kirwan believe they have statistics that prove their organisations

are making good use of the funding.

"In 2015-16 the society provided support to 810 individuals and families, 33,973 bed nights and 44,145 meals for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness," Mr van Wyk said.

"Many people we support have gone through significant trauma, such as domestic and family violence, abuse, loss and addiction, and for many of these people Vinnies is the last option.

Continued page 2

ARCHBISHOP
CHRISTOPHER'S
DIARY



April

SATURDAY, 1
Vigil Mass, St Peter Chanel's, Yarralumla

TUESDAY 4: 7.30am
Liturgy of Lament - St Christopher's Cathedral

FRIDAY 7: 5pm
Man Overboard

SATURDAY 8
Vigil Mass, St Anthony's Parish, Wanniasa

SUNDAY 9: 11am
Palm Sunday Mass - Knights & Dames of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, St Christopher's Cathedral

MONDAY 10: 7.30pm
Chrism Mass at St Christopher's Cathedral

TUESDAY 11
ALL DAY Wagga Diocese

THURSDAY 13: 7.30pm
Mass of the Lord's Supper, St Christopher's Cathedral

FRIDAY 14: 11.00am
Stations of the Cross, Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, Barton
3.00pm Commemoration of the Lord's Passion, St Christopher's Cathedral

SATURDAY 15: 7.30pm
Easter Vigil Mass, St Christopher's Cathedral

SUNDAY 16: 11am
Easter Sunday Mass, St Christopher's Cathedral

THURSDAY 20: 11am
Jesus Youth Teens Retreat - "Instagrace" - Greenhills Conference Centre

SATURDAY 22
Vigil Mass, St Thomas Aquinas, Charnwood

TUESDAY 25: 8am
Anzac Day Mass, St Christopher's Cathedral

FRIDAY 28: 9.30am
ACU Graduation Mass, St Christopher's Cathedral

SATURDAY 29
Vigil Mass, Holy Rosary Parish, Watson

CATHOLIC
VOICE

ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN

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From Lenten lament to Easter hope



ARCHBISHOP'S MESSAGE
ARCHBISHOP
CHRISTOPHER PROWSE

TO my dear people in the Archdiocese,

Within the Book of the Psalms are found psalms of communal lament (psalms 44, 60, 74, 79, 80, 85, 90). They are brutally honest prayers to God. They contain deep emotions.

They express to God in prayer communal feelings of despair, protest, doubt, shame, frustration, and so on. Despite thoughts to the contrary, they are deep prayers that attempt to make room in hearts for the presence of our God of love in times of calamity.

During Holy Week especially, the Gospels make allusions to these psalms of lament. They become pathways for God's people in dark places to move towards asking God to carry our burdens.

Ultimately prayers of lament are to move towards prayers of trust in God who is love and mercy.

For Christians, Lament moves towards Easter hope. Our Lenten

journey of prayer, fasting and almsgiving finds its home on the Calvary Cross from which Easter hope blooms in the Resurrection of the Redeemer.

On the days of Lent, I conducted Listening Sessions throughout the Archdiocese. In a sincere gesture of pastoral care, I listened to the lament we have experienced over the last four years of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. It has had an enormous impact on the lives of so many at various different levels.

Like the psalms of lament, there are expressed various deep emotions of sorrow, rage, humiliation, and protest for all that has taken place in Australia over many years of this scourge of sex abuse.

Many times over these sessions, the Emmaus scene (Luke 24:13-35) came to mind.

As we continued to walk and talk together, the Emmaus lament of "we had hoped" (v. 21) was often heard in various ways. But our Easter hope made us realise that the Risen Lord was also with us in unexpected ways.

We believe that Jesus will continue to talk "to us on the road" (v. 32) and lead us in our Easter Masses until our eyes are opened and we recognise Jesus fully in the

Eucharist.

Ultimately our lament becomes a petition of trust for the Risen Lord to always "stay with us" (v. 29).

On another note, I wish to welcome into the Catholic Church many adults who will become Catholics over the Easter Liturgical Season.

At the start of Lent I had the privilege of meeting many of the Catechumens and Candidates who attended the Rite of Election at the Cathedral.

They have all participated in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) in their respective parishes.

It was a moment of grace for me to listen to their answers to my question:

"Why do you want to become a Catholic?" So many felt a "coming home" by becoming Catholics. It was the end of a long journey of faith enquiry for others. There was joy and hope in our gathering.

It was a "Little Easter" for us all in advance to the liturgical season of Easter we now open ourselves up to with renewed faith.

Many thanks to all parish RCIA teams. May you continue to grow in this vital ministry among us.

Please be assured of my prayers for you all.

Cutbacks would hurt 'hundreds'

From page 1

"We work with the most vulnerable and challenging members of our community and we do it because nobody else is there for them, and they deserve the love and support many of us take for granted."

Ms Kirwan said through National Affordable Housing Agreement funding, in 2015-16 CatholicCare provided 1998 bed nights and support to 480 individuals and families at risk in the ACT.

"It's unbelievable, at a time when housing is so difficult to access, and we see more and more vulnerable people sleeping rough in our town, that the Federal Government is considering this as a possible option," she said.

"Clearly there is a lack of understanding of what we do on a daily basis with this funding."

Mr van Wyk urged the Federal Government to provide leadership by setting a clear plan, backing it with funding needed to support people experiencing homelessness and those at risk of it.

"If the National Affordable Housing Agreement was scrapped it would have significant consequences to the funding of our programs that support those in need - possibly leaving hundreds of people without anywhere to turn to or anyone to help them," he said. "Each day our services are at full capacity - this is a time to increase funding and make long-lasting change rather than cut funding."

New energy of the elect



Members of the RCIA Elect gathered with Archbishop Christopher Prowse for enrolment at St Christopher's Cathedral. Picture: John McLaurin.

EMULATING the Catechumenates in the early life of the Church, about 50 people gathered in the crypt of St Christopher's Cathedral with Archbishop Christopher Prowse.

They were beginning the journey to Easter by participating in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Rite of Election and Enrolment.

Catechesis coordinator Deacon Matt Ransom called forward each candidate.

Archbishop Prowse met each candidate

individually, learning of their stories and praying with them.

Deacon Ransom said it was an uplifting gathering where the fresh energy of the elect was evident.

Included in the elect were those who have been baptised in the Catholic Church or in other denominations, but are seeking to come to a more full participation in the life of the Church by receiving the other sacraments of initiation including Holy Communion and Confirmation.

MGLs see 'many signs of hope'

THE Missionaries of God's Love have strengthened their foundations in Canberra by opening a new formation house in Garran.

The formation house has nine rooms on two levels to accommodate the community's novices.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse celebrated Mass in the chapel before blessing the new building.

He spoke about his long association with MGL Moderator Fr Ken Barker and wished the community well in bringing through more religious vocations.

"While these are difficult times in the Church there are many signs of hope," Fr Barker said.

"It (the generosity of the people) has shown me that the Catholic people highly value the formation of good and holy priests. Our goal has been \$800,000, and so far grants and donations amount to about \$650,000." Anyone who would like to make a contribution to the MGL seminary appeal may contact the community on (02) 6281 0132.



Matt gets kick out of African trek

ONE imagines that 2300km across Africa is difficult enough without trying to do it while kicking a soccer ball at the same time and budgeting on \$1.50 a day.

That's what Caritas Australia's 2017 Project Compassion Ambassador Matt Napier did midway through last year in a bid to raise awareness of global poverty.

The Canberran lost 8kg over 11 days and 15kg over a couple of months but says "it was well worth it".

Embracing this year's theme of 'Love your neighbour', he shared his experiences from his walk in Africa.

Speaking at St Clare's College Griffith to more than 1000 students from archdiocesan schools at the 2017 launch of Project Compassion, Mr Napier said he was struck by the conditions in which some people live.

"Last year when I was in Mozambique, I witnessed a single mother and three of her four kids living in a two metre by two metre shanty on \$7 a month," he said.

"One of her sons would sleep under a tarpaulin attached to the shanty and when it rains his area would get flooded giving him



Caritas Australia Project Compassion Ambassador Matt Napier (with soccer ball) with St Clare's College captains Lily Sarah (left) and Theresa Corson alongside Canberra Caritas director Lulu Mitshabu (right). Picture: Loui Seselja.

nowhere to go.

"While these people are living in these conditions, none of us can truly rest and as Catholics we need to be setting an example."

Mr Napier also spoke about his passion to end poverty, promote justice and uphold the dignity of poor people.

He said the World Bank estimates 90 million people live in extreme poverty in Australia's

neighbouring region and that another 300 million are vulnerable to falling back into poverty due to natural disasters, climate change, disease and economic shocks.

By supporting Caritas, the international humanitarian relief and development agency of the Catholic Church, much needed aid is provided in more than 29 countries.

"I think as human beings, it

we've never felt better."

Running throughout the six weeks of Lent leading up to Easter Sunday (April 16), Project Compassion is again Caritas Australia's major fundraiser for the year.

Canberra-based director for Caritas Lulu Mitshabu says over the years Project Compassion has transformed millions of lives globally.

"In the last year alone, thanks to our generous supporters, we reached over two million people directly through our emergency and development programs," she said.

"Mary MacKillop College Canberra has pledged to try and raise \$20,000 in the six weeks before Easter Sunday."

Mrs Mitshabu said during Lent students, parishes and community groups across the Archdiocese are invited to support Project Compassion by making a donation, or by hosting fundraising events, while supporters can also share their stories on social media at #ProjectCompassion for awareness-raising.

To find out more about Project Compassion call 1800 024413 and for more information go to the Caritas website at www.caritas.org.au

shouldn't matter where we're born or what colour our skin is or what religion we follow, we should all be given the basics in life, which include food, water, shelter, health-care and education," he said.

"For my wife and me, giving back makes you feel much better on the inside.

"We donate 50 per cent of our income from our business and since we've decided to do that

THE CORE

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They are about participation – we all have the right to take part in decisions that affect our lives.

They are about the vulnerable – caring for the underprivileged is everyone's concern. And they are about stewardship of the earth – it's our collective responsibility to care for the world and its resources.

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acu.edu.au/thecore



God always stands behind me

On February 1, Mark Ha, Foliga Etuale and Lourdbu Raju joined Deacon Joshua Scott, Namora Anderson, Alexander Osborne, Eden Langlands and Adrian Chan in training for the Archdiocesan priesthood. This month, Catholic Voice shares Mark's story.

MARK HA: I am 22 years old and from Vietnam. I have been in Australia for more than three years with my two brothers enjoying a fulfilling life in Canberra, and recently completing a Commerce degree at the University of Canberra. I was born in the DakMil township of the Dak Nong province in Vietnam.

My family consists of my parents, two brothers and myself.

The first school I studied at was Tuoi Hong Childcare, which was operated by the Sisters of Mary Queen of Peace.

I started to study the Bible and prayer-books during my time in childcare.

When I was six, my aunt who is a nun spent her holiday with my family along with one of her friends who is also a nun.

After dinner, her friend asked me, "Do you want to become a priest, because I think you are a charitable person? You love people and you also love God."

As I was just a young child at this time, I was a bit confused.

When I thought of a priest, I saw him as someone who can have a great influence in the community.

After that, Fr John came to visit my family and at that time, I became his godson.

I felt a peace and charity from him which attracted me to discover more about God and I wanted to be like Fr John.

My mother said: "God provides us with many blessings and it depends upon us to discover how we can use these blessings sharing them with other people, especially for those who haven't known God or who lack faith in God."

When I was in high school, I used to go with my mother to help the priest clean the church.

I joined in the Divine Mercy group and we prayed together at 3pm every day.

Day by day, I loved that job because I had more time to talk with God.

I was able to freely pray with Him, tell Him about stories which I heard in my class and in my family, and I would ask Him to help me.



Although I haven't heard directly from God, I see the face of Jesus in my neighbours.

I think they are representing the Lord when they talk with me.

Sometimes I encounter difficult problems that I don't think I can deal with. In God however, I always have someone who stands behind me encouraging me, showing me the way and giving me the confidence to achieve what often

seems impossible.

I realise that He has a perfect plan for me and that I just have to respond by being open to His ways and trusting in His providence.

The first time I believed I had a calling to the priesthood was when I completed my exams at the end of year 12.

My dream was to apply to the University of Sciences to major in biology and mathematics.

The entrance exams were quite difficult, however, and the results did not turn out as I had hoped for and I was not able to enter the university.

It seemed as though my dream had faded away. I was so sad when I came back to my home town.

My mother encouraged me to undertake a course in the parish reflecting on the Bible.

The nun in the parish helped me

to understand more about Catholic life and asked me to place my trust in God.

I asked her to pray for me about the exam and she said: "Jesus has the best thing for you in mind and you have to wait until it happens. Do not worry, and trust in the guidance of Jesus in which you can play your part."

After hearing this, I felt happy again and did not worry about the results. My spirit was uplifted when talking with Him and telling Him about the weaknesses and difficulties in my life.

I am sure that He always hears me and helps me to cooperate with his life and love.

I have discovered a love for reading the Bible and listening to Catholic music in my free time. I enjoy singing and often sang at Mass in Vietnam.

Before becoming a seminarian, I visited the Good Shepherd Seminary in Sydney a few times.

There I had the chance to meet many seminarians and felt at home talking with other people who were enthusiastic about their faith.

I discovered that there was a sense of reverence and deep beauty when we gathered to pray.

This time helped me to discover other young men who encouraged me to understand more about my own vocation. I could feel that it would be a good place to learn more about God and my faith, all the while continuing to develop my communication skills with others.



Wednesday 26 April Try a Day at St Clare's

Become a St Clare's girl for the day! All prospective Year 7, 2018 students are invited to experience the exciting and enriching opportunities that St Clare's has to offer. Please register online at www.stcc.act.edu.au

Thursday 27 April Open Evening (4.30 pm to 7.30 pm)

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all prospective students and their families to visit the College during our Open Evening. The Principal's address will commence at 6 pm in the College Hall and school tours will be conducted throughout the evening.

Monday 15 May Year 11, 2018 Information Evening (6 pm to 7 pm)

Discover the many courses and leadership opportunities available for senior students at St Clare's. New and continuing students are invited to attend.

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HOME BASE



Gerard Heffernan

6 simple steps to improve the value of your home

For most people their family home will be the most expensive asset they will ever own. There are a variety of ways you can improve its viability to your lifestyle and in doing so improve the property value. A fresh coat of weather proofing and tinting gives a **deck** a whole new look. Maintain your **yard** by keeping hedges trimmed, lawns mowed, planting flowers and set up garden ornaments. A fresh coat of **paint** can infuse a new look into your home.

Since the **roof** of your house represents a third of its aesthetic appeal, make sure the tiles are not loose, broken or missing.

Not only do well maintained **doors and windows** add a chic feel to your home it also reflects on your efforts to reduce energy costs by eliminating drafts.

A great way to extend the life of the **carpet** is to have it regularly dry cleaned. Keep it simple and not too expensive!

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'Big moments' the key for Ben

BY FIONA VAN DER PLAAT

BEN Chesworth doesn't mind admitting he enjoys the performance spotlight. That's part of the reason he chose to take up the organ as a year 8 student at Canberra Grammar School five years ago.

"I was a young teenager and this is a loud, fun instrument. You can be the centre of attention – entertain your mates," he says.

And "ripping out the old Toccata and Fugue in D Minor", with Bach's famously spooky intro, is a particularly fun party trick.

But, regardless of the tune, it doesn't get much better for this young musician than making St Christopher's Cathedral ring with the sound of its 1100-pipe organ.

Ben is the regular organist at the cathedral, having completed the first St Christopher's Cathedral Organ Scholarship last year.

St Christopher's Music Director Jaki Kane says the scholarship was established in response to a need in the Archdiocese for more trained organists, particularly young people.

"Learning to play for the liturgy is the primary purpose of the

scholarship," she says.

"There is no formal way to learn that and it is mostly done through mentorship. In this case, the scholar learns 'on the job', with the guidance of the Music Director."

The head teacher at the ACT Organ School, Philip Swanton, recommended Ben for the scholarship, having seen him develop his skills since year 8, when Ben saw the organ as a good fit with his involvement in motet and chamber choir singing.

Ben says it took him about 18 months to get the hang of the multiple keyboards (or "manuals") and pedals, and to adapt to reading up to three lines of music at a time. Anyone who's heard him play at the cathedral will know he has mastered it.

He doesn't have any clear favourites in the hymn stakes, saying "I just like playing along with the congregation". But Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven and Jerusalem never fail to stir him.

"I like building up to a big finish and belting it out, especially at Christmas when it's really loud and the timpanists and trumpeters get going. I love those big moments,"



Organist Ben Chesworth rehearsing at St Christopher's Cathedral. Picture: John McLaurin.

he says. Ben is in his first year of studying political science and arts, as well as environmental studies, at ANU and says music is likely to play a major role in his life, regardless of the career he chooses.

He might even do a bit more singing. "If I can make a contribution to the choir (at the cathedral), I would love to get more involved in that," he says.

The St Christopher's Cathedral Organ Scholarship provides financial assistance for tuition and the chance to play at Mass and other events with the choir at the cathedral. Interested applicants for the scholarship are invited to email the cathedral via Cathedral@cg.org.au for further information.

Pioneer deacon's 25-year ministry

AFTER a long career as a radio officer in the Royal Australian Navy and in criminal intelligence in the Australian Federal Police, Mick O'Donnell first thought about a calling to the diaconate in the mid-1980s.

The celebration of his silver jubilee in the diaconate late last year gave him reason to reflect on his varied ministry.

A 20-year Royal Australian Navy Vietnam and Borneo Confrontation Veteran, he became the second married deacon in the Archdiocese, following Brigadier Vince Dowdy who was ordained at St Christopher's Cathedral on August 10, 1972, by then Archbishop Thomas Cahill.

"I was inspired by Fathers Ken Barker MGL, Greg Beath and Bernie Patterson in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the late 1980s," Deacon O'Donnell said.

"Every Sunday evening Mass at the Cathedral would be packed."

Deacon O'Donnell studied at the Marist seminary in Hunters Hill, Sydney, from 1988 to 1991, was awarded a Bachelor of Theology, and was ordained by Emeritus Archbishop Francis Carroll at St Christopher's Cathedral on November 22, 1991.

He was also awarded a MA in Theology from Australian Catholic University in 1997.

"I couldn't have done anything without my wife, Cora," he said.

"We minister together as a family."



Deacon Mick O'Donnell (front middle left), Archbishop Emeritus Francis Carroll (front middle right) gathered at St Matthew's Page for his Silver Jubilee Mass with other deacons from the Archdiocese and their partners. Picture: Supplied.

Over 52 years of marriage, they have raised three children, and are now blessed with 11 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

He has fond memories of his archdiocesan appointments since 1991, including seven months in Cootamundra and 18 months as administrator of the Adelong-Batlow parish.

Time spent as a deacon has also included eight years as archdiocesan director of missions travelling to India, Sri Lanka and the Holy Land, and to Aboriginal missions around Australia.

This was followed by five years as chaplain to the AFP under commissioner Mick Keely. "Returning to the AFP as their chaplain was like returning home: where the vocational calling all began," he said.

The Archdiocese's nine permanent deacons gathered to mark the occasion at the end of last year with Emeritus Archbishop Carroll celebrating Mass at Page parish.

Deacon Joe Blackwell, a close friend of Deacon O'Donnell, described it as "a terrific occasion to come together to celebrate his 25 years in the ministry."

"Mick pioneered ministries within the Archdiocese that have proved suitable for other deacons, as well as being active in encouraging others in their diaconate vocational discernment and training."

Now based at St Christopher's Cathedral, Deacon O'Donnell is chaplain to the RSL and Vietnam Veterans Association.

He ministers at many funerals, veteran's ceremonies and military reunions. An author in his spare time, he has written three crime-fiction novels published by NovelSuite.

Youth rally with a buzz of energy

AN exciting new buzz and energy was most evident in St Christopher's Cathedral as young Catholics took part in the Archdiocesan Youth Mass and Rally before the CSYMA LEAD conference.

They came from all parts of the Archdiocese as well as from neighbouring dioceses and also internationally.

About 300 young people attended the Youth Mass before moving across the road to the Catholic Education car park for the youth rally.

The rally, which was animated by youth ministers from across Australia, New Zealand and England, brought a bare carpark to life on the night with music from Canberra musicians, sharing from St Edmund's and St Clare's senior students, and an opportunity for a prayer response.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse was main celebrant at the Youth Mass and later mingled with young people at the rally.

He thanked the youth for making the effort to be there and acknowledged clergy for concelebrating at Mass and taking part in the rally.

Among the clergy who attended were Cathedral Administrator



Archbishop Christopher Prowse is at the front of the pack of youth during the CSYMA Youth Rally group "selfie". Picture: Loui Seselja.

and Vicar for Education Mgr John Woods, Youth Chaplain and O'Connor Parish Priest Fr Paul Nulley, Batemans Bay Parish Priest Fr John Armstrong, Fr James Onoja, Fr Martins Ologa, Fr Ken Barker MGL, Fr Chris Eaton MGL and Fr Greg Bellamy from Bathurst Diocese.

Archbishop Prowse implored

everyone to pray for the success of the new youth ministry model in the Archdiocese.

He reminded everyone of their Christian responsibility to be evangelisers.

He invited the young people to "go on pilgrimage" with him as together they look forward to an added focus on youth in the

Archdiocese over the next three years.

In December, Sydney Archdiocese will host the Australian Catholic Youth Festival which will mark the beginning of the 2018 Year for Youth set by the Australian Catholic bishops. Next year will mark the 10th anniversary of World Youth Day in Sydney.

Archbishop Prowse then turned his focus to World Youth Day in Panama 2019.

"I have been to five World Youth Days; I am what you call a World Youth Day junkie," he said.

"I want to take to Panama the biggest World Youth Day group we've ever taken from the Archdiocese, so start saving your money now."

In his homily, Archbishop Prowse reflected on a story which appeared in a recent edition of Australian Catholic about Fr Robert Galea, "the singing priest" from the Sandhurst Diocese.

He talked about Fr Galea's journey of faith and how at the age of 17 he desperately reached out to God in prayer.

It was at this point that the young priest's relationship with God and others really began to develop. Coming from Daly River in Northern Territory, three young indigenous members gave the welcome to country in the Cathedral and Stephen Kirk led the congregation in music at Mass.

At the end of Mass, all of the Youth Ministry, the leaders who attended the Equipping School, were commissioned by Archbishop Prowse and given a blessing.

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Marian Place 'the answer'

JUDITH O'Heir has swapped the rural surrounds of the Bega Valley for the city environment of Manuka, and she couldn't be happier.

Ms O'Heir is the first resident to buy at Marian Place, the Archdiocese's new development of independent living units next to St Christopher's Cathedral in Canberra.

She is most looking forward to the location and the amenities in the unit and in the Manuka precinct when she moves in in early June.

"I am at a stage in life where I wanted to be in the city close to everything, and Marian Place in Manuka answers all those things," she said.

"There are a number of excellent shops, restaurants and eateries as well as a medical centre and a swimming pool nearby.

"And, of course, Manuka Oval is across the road, so I am expecting to get a few visitors who are keen to come for a visit and to watch some sport.

Ms O'Heir was impressed by the different unit options available.

She decided on one which has the living area separate to the bedrooms, laundry and bathrooms, and with a view in the north west towards Black Mountain and in the south east over the Cathedral and Manuka.

The former Bemboka resident signed the contract on March 8, International Women's Day.



Judith O'Heir (middle) created history by being the first person to buy a Marian Place unit. Here she is flanked by Archdiocesan Financial Administrator Helen Delahunty (left) and Marian Place Senior Portfolio Manager Dennis Godfrey. Picture: Loui Seselja.

After consulting family and close friends about a potential move to Canberra, she decided to contact the Archdiocese to see what options were available.

Her expression of interest was timely with the building works in full swing and display units available for inspection.

Archdiocesan Financial Administrator Helen Delahunty and Marian Place Senior Portfolio Manager Dennis Godfrey were present at the signing and excited

about signing up the first resident.

"We are now marketing the independent living units to the public as a whole, so we shall soon see the Marian Place name in other areas of mainstream media," Mr Godfrey said.

"There has been considerable interest in Marian Place and we expect to see some additional signings over the next couple of weeks.

"We are also looking forward to taking possession of the building from Hindmarsh Construction

come April.

Mr Godfrey said it was a delight to show Ms O'Heir through the property over a number of visits as she worked out which unit best suited her needs.

"I encourage anyone else who may be interested in having a look through the three available display units to book an appointment," he said.

Ms Delahunty described the first sale of a unit as "a wonderful acknowledgment of all our

work in getting to this stage of the development, after many years of planning".

Ms O'Heir said both Ms Delahunty and Mr Godfrey were "a pleasure to deal with" and that they made the enquiry and application process easy.

Having recently sold in Bemboka, she says that she will miss the Bega Valley community, but knows that they are only a few hours down the road.

Ms O'Heir will have the Archdiocesan Office for Evangelisation team as neighbours in the St Christopher's Pastoral Centre, the other new building in the Catholic Manuka precinct. Archdiocesan staff expect to move into their new offices in early June, with September being flagged as the time for the official opening by Archbishop Christopher Prowse.

Mr Godfrey says that a recent feature in the Canberra Times and a back page advertisement in the March edition of the Catholic Voice have yielded a significant number of enquiries. Movie-goers will soon see Marian Place ads appearing on the big screen.

For more information including an array of photographs of the units go to www.marianplace-manuka.com.au

To organise a viewing of the Marian Place, Manuka units, contact Mr Godfrey, email dennis.godfrey@cg.org.au or telephone (02) 6201 9800 and 0404 758 419.

Share your faith 'like incense'

"SHARE your faith like incense, not like a sledgehammer!"

With these words, Archbishop Christopher Prowse reminded those attending the National Day of Prayer and Fasting to share the good news of the Gospel with sensitivity.

He encouraged Catholics to be trustworthy witnesses of the faith.

"Jesus is the truth, the way and the life, and our faith in Him is what brings us joy and peace," he said.

The day was commemorated across Australia by more than 170 Christian churches and combined church gatherings.

"Christians praying in unity for our nation is powerful," Neda Kesina, chairperson of the archdiocesan Catholic Charismatic Renewal, said.

"As Catholics, we bring our needs to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, and we know he hears our prayers."

Archbishop Prowse gave a talk, reflecting on the three phases of Australia's spiritual history.

"Our Catholic forebears often had no priests and no Mass," he said.

"Their faith was sustained by the Rosary and Eucharistic Adoration."

About 100 people attended the gathering, praying in the presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

A group of young people from the Community of the Risen Lord led praise and



worship. Br Jagath CRL and Brian Welsh led prayers of intercession for youth, the poor and marginalised, the Church and her leaders, and for the transformation of the nation.

To conclude prayer and fasting, Fr Ken Barker MGL celebrated Mass.

The National Day of Prayer and Fasting is a yearly event that coincides with the start of Lent. It is celebrated Australia-wide by a growing number of Christian denominations.

"We also invite all people who feel called to pray to join us at our monthly Mercy

Vigils," Mrs Kesina said.

They are held one Saturday a month between April to November, from 7pm to 1am, at St Peter Chanel's in Yarralumla.

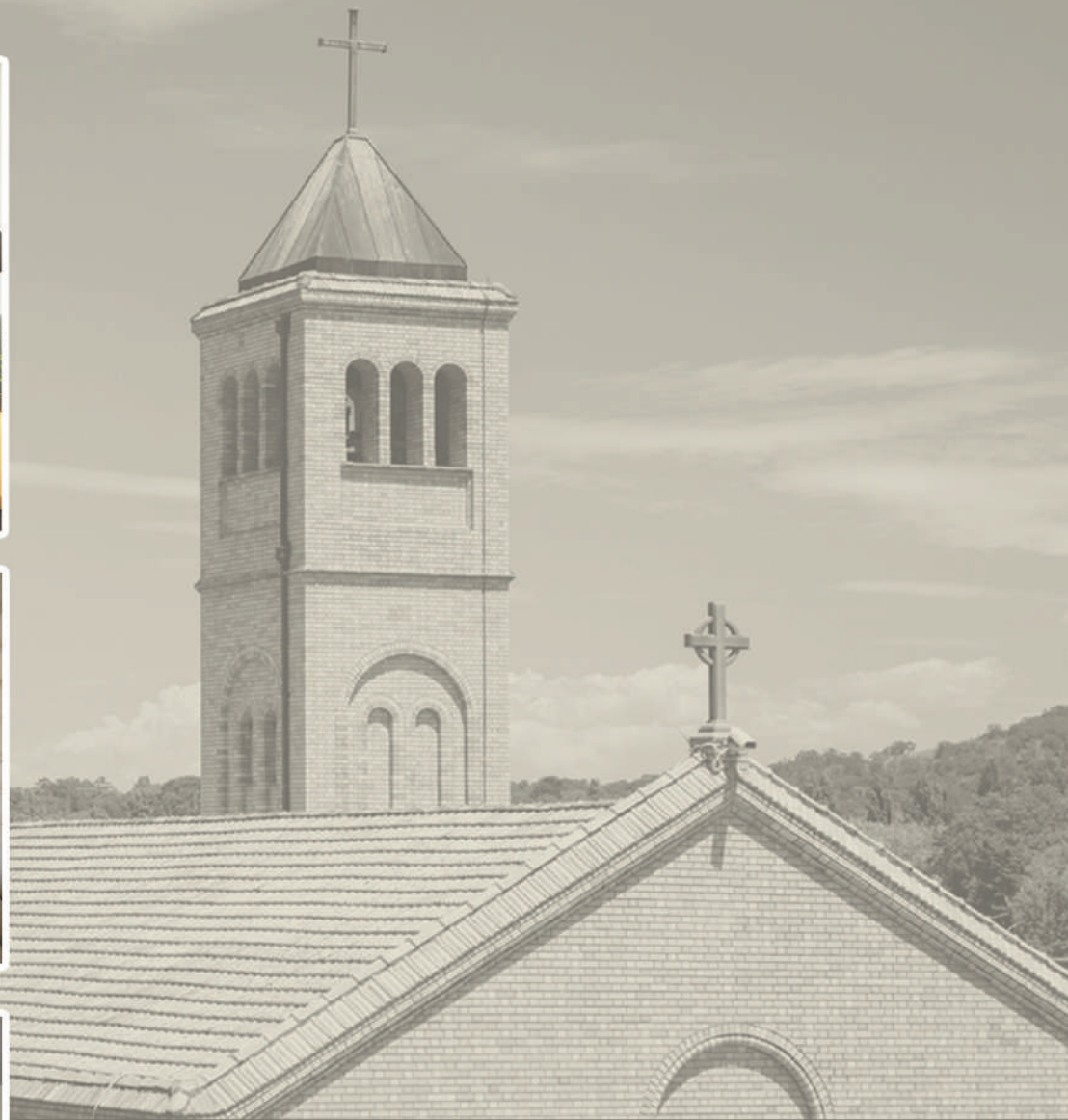
For more details, see the Coming Events section of Catholic Voice and the Archdiocesan Encounter e-news.



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Youth leaders off to Rome to plan for Panama 2019

AUSTRALIAN Catholic youth leaders will go to Rome this month to help plan two major events.

Ashleigh Green, from the Broken Bay Diocese, and Malcolm Hart, Director of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Office for Youth, will head to Rome in the first week of April for an international meeting about World Youth Day and the upcoming Synod on young people.

The five-day gathering will focus on the theme, From Krakow to Panama – The Synod Journeying with Young People.

It will include an evaluation of WYD in Krakow in 2016 and will look ahead to WYD in Panama in 2019.

Time will be spent on pastoral and logistical preparations. Members of both the Polish and Panamanian organising committees will be present.

Ms Green was part of the Diocese of Broken Bay's WYD pilgrimage to Krakow.

"Since receiving the news of my selection, I have been overwhelmed, excited and proud to be representing not only Australia, but also the Diocese of Broken Bay," she said. "I feel incredibly blessed to be part of a strong community of believers and world changers."

Reflecting on WYD Krakow, Mr Hart said from an Australian perspective it was a great success with more than 3000 young people from Australia attending. "A particular highlight of WYD Panama are the themes

chosen by the Holy Father, which highlight the story and role of Mary," he said. "She is a wonderful example for young people."

During the meeting, the leaders will have an opportunity to contribute to the next Synod of Bishops in October 2018.

A day will be spent reviewing the theme Pope Francis has chosen for the Synod; Young people, faith and vocational discernment.

"The Synod is a unique opportunity for young people to have their voices heard across the global Church," Mr Hart said.



Ashleigh Green

'I am not ready to go'

BY JULIE MORGAN

THE doctors have told me that I have a few months to live; the cancer that began in my breast four years ago has now spread to my spine, ribs, hips and, more significantly, to my lungs. The surgeries, extensive chemotherapy, and radiation that I went through back then plus the on-going hormone therapy didn't do the trick. And so now, in my mid 50's, I'm terminally ill. It often doesn't seem real, yet it is. But there's so much more that I want to do – I am not ready to go!

My own story of facing an untimely death has been interwoven with that of my best-friend and housemate who, within these same four years, was diagnosed and subsequently died of lung cancer. And no, she wasn't a smoker. As my first illness was coming to an end, her illness began and so I went from being the person who was cared-for to being the one who was the primary carer. There was a week's difference. So the last four years have given me a unique window into the complexity of death and dying, of living and loving, and of holding on and letting go.

The NSW community is about to debate physician assisted death or voluntary euthanasia. No doubt one of the key ideas will be the notion that we ought to have a 'free choice' when it comes to the manner of our death. This is coupled with the different understandings that people have about what it means to die with dignity. These are vitally important conversations to have. However, it often feels to me that the voices who want physician assisted dying are given extra



Julie Morgan is a lecturer in ethical leadership at Australian Catholic University

amplification by celebrities, and that, because they talk about dying with dignity, they somehow must be right. But the last four years of experience have confirmed for me everything that my two ethics degrees have taught me: that human dignity is so inherent that it is expressed even in extreme vulnerability and not just in good times.

The debate worries and scares me on several levels. Fortunately we just don't go around killing each other anymore so the notion that it's a person's 'free choice' to die just doesn't make sense. Recognising the full scope of human dignity, we stopped capital punishment a long time ago. Now bringing in legislation that allows a group of experts to determine who can 'legally' die, seems a retrograde move. Intellectually, that worries me. And once the legislation has been approved, experience tells us that it is likely to

grow exponentially. I can imagine a time when particularly frail and vulnerable people will succumb to the thought that it might be best for their families and for society in general for them to let go and die – they will agree to something because they think they ought to. That scares me.

I have always been an extremely private person and so the thought that my increasingly frail body will need intimate help does not thrill me. But just as I cared for and loved my friend in all her messiness and fragility, I will have to let others care for and love me in the same way. There is nothing undignified about that. So as the doctors relieve my physical pain, I trust that my family and friends will abide with me so that just as I have lived, so will I die, with integrity and grace.

Story first published in Sydney Morning Herald January 18, 2017.



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Make confession parish priority: Pope

VATICAN CITY (CNA/EWTN News): Pope Francis has told priests to make confession a priority in their parishes.

If they want to be good confessors, they need to have a strong prayer life focused on growing in humility and closeness to the Holy Spirit in order to evangelise.

The confessor is called daily to go to the peripheries of evil and sin," the Pope said.

"This is an ugly periphery," but the priest is called to go "and his work represents an authentic pastoral priority.

"To confess is a pastoral priority," he said.

"Please, may there not be those signs (that say): 'confessions only Monday and Wednesday, from this time to this time.'

"Confess each time they ask you," he said, telling priests that if they are sitting in the confessional praying, "you are there with the confessional open, which is the open heart of God."

Pope Francis spoke to participants in the Apostolic Penitentiary's annual course on the internal forum.

The Internal Forum branch of

the Apostolic Penitentiary is one of the three tribunals of the Roman Curia and is responsible for issues relating to the forgiveness of sins in the Catholic Church, particularly sins involving some types of grave matter which require a special form of absolution that only certain priests can administer.

In his speech, the Pope said that to be a good confessor, a priest must be a man of prayer, who is attentive to the Holy Spirit and knows how to discern well, and who also is a good evangeliser.

They must be "a true friend of Jesus the Good Shepherd," he said, adding that without this friendship, "it will be very hard to mature that paternity which is so necessary in the ministry of Reconciliation."

This friendship is cultivated primarily through prayer, he said, whether it's a personal prayer "constantly asking for the gift of pastoral charity," or a special prayer for "the exercise of the duty of confessors toward the faithful ... who come to us looking for God's mercy."

A ministry of confession that is "wrapped in prayer" will be



Pope Francis at the Church of St. Anselm on Ash Wednesday on March 1, 2017. Picture: Lucia Ballester/CNA

a "credible reflection of God's mercy" and will help to avoid the "bitterness and misunderstandings" that can at times happen in the confessional.

Confessors must also pray for

themselves, the Pope said, specifically to understand well that they themselves are sinners who have been forgiven.

"One cannot forgive in the Sacrament without the knowledge

of having been forgiven first," he said.

Prayer is "the first guarantee of avoiding every attitude of harshness, which uselessly judges the sinner and not the sin."

Be 'more than mannequins'

VATICAN CITY (CNA/EWTN News): Pope Francis has focused on the poor and refugees in his latest prayer video, saying we shouldn't be like immobile mannequins when faced with their needs.

"We live in cities that throw up skyscrapers and shopping centres and strike big real estate deals, but they abandon part of themselves to marginal settlements on the periphery," the Pope said.

Francis speaks as the video opens to a scene of people doing a "Mannequin Challenge" - a viral internet trend where people freeze in their positions

as music plays in the background - on a crowded city street.

"The result of this situation is that great sections of the population are excluded and marginalised: without a job, without options, without a way out.

"Don't abandon them," he said, as the frozen figures jump into action and help a homeless man hunched by the side of a building. He asked viewers to join him in praying "that all those who are afflicted, especially the poor, refugees, and marginalised may find welcome and comfort in our communities."

NEWS IN BRIEF

One year after Ecuador earthquake

QUITO: One year has passed since Ecuador's world collapsed. According to official reports, 661 people died. The earthquake destroyed the lives of thousands - they lost their homes and their work. Many of them continue to live on the streets, in bamboo shelters or prefabricated containers in which, theoretically, they were only supposed to stay for a few weeks. "About 1,500 to 2,000 people are suffering from these circumstances," said Fr Walter Coronel, who oversees the rebuilding projects for the Archdiocese of Portoviejo, which was hard hit.

No house in Syria unaffected by war

DAMASCUS: Speaking at a recent Aid to the Church in Need conference, Sr Annie Demerjian of the Sisters of Jesus and Mary said: "No house in Syria has been unaffected by war".

"In Aleppo there is a major shortage of electricity, sometimes we only have it on for one - two hours per day, sometimes not even that and we have to use candles for light.

"There is a problem with fuel, the government are not able to distribute fuel." She went on to say: "In Aleppo there is also a water crisis, it is the city without water, sometimes there can be one and a half months without water."

Nation's prayers must be sincere

JUBA, South Sudan (CNA/EWTN News).- Amid war, displacement and hunger, South Sudan's day of prayer must lead to true repentance, a leading Catholic bishop has said.

"Our call to prayer must be sincere and honest!" Bishop Barani Eduardo Hiiiboro of Tombura-Yambio said.. "For this prayer to become historical and meaningful for us today we must repent and sin no more!" The country has been embroiled in civil war since December 2013.

Slain priest honoured by town

PARIS (CNA/EWTN News): Fr Jacques Hamel - the French priest who was killed by ISIS terrorists last year - has been honoured with a town square named after him.

Ermont Mayor Hugues Portelli said the unnamed square is in front of the John Paul II parish centre, which is used to host Catholic and ecumenical gatherings.

Mr Portelli said the decision to name the square in honour of Fru. Hamel was put to a vote two months ago and received unanimous approval.

Fr Hamel was killed in July last year while celebrating Mass when two armed gunmen stormed a church in Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray in Normandy.

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How green is and what are

John Giacon is a Christian Brother who has been involved in promoting green living and teaching the Gamilaraay language.

Pope Francis begins Laudato Si with:

“Laudato Si’, mi’ Signore” – “Praise be to you, my Lord”. In the words of this beautiful canticle, Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us. ... This sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her.

We have come to see ourselves as her lords and masters, entitled to plunder her at will. The violence present in our hearts, wounded by sin, is also reflected in the symptoms of sickness evident in the soil, in the water, in the air and in all forms of life.

The need to care for our sister and mother is clear and urgent, at least to some. Individuals and organisations such as parishes can do a lot themselves, and can influence parishioners, corporations and governments to act.

If the Church does not respond to the needs of people and the earth, does not match the message of Jesus with current realities, people will see it as irrelevant, and it will be so. Vatican II’s *Gaudium et Spes* begins:

The joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the men [sic] of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ. Indeed, nothing genuinely human fails to raise an echo in their hearts.

The ones who suffer most from climate change are the poor, and I have no doubt that if *Gaudium et Spes* were written today it would include a reference to the earth similar to Pope Francis’s statement above.

This article looks at some examples of individual and parish action which may provide models or guidelines for others.

Going green

The main focus here is on CO2 reduction, reducing climate change.

Some other areas for earth-friendly action are water use, recycling and promoting biodiversity.

How much does it cost to go green?

At the Christian Brothers’ house in Canberra, when our hot water system failed we installed solar, with gas boost. It has paid for itself in around three years.

Installing insulation and closing gaps in walls and around doors and windows have also been very effective in keeping the house warmer in winter and in reducing costs.

I have installed two sets of solar panels. In Canberra solar electricity was installed six years ago at a cost of \$20,000.

Earnings to date are over \$16,000, and will continue at \$2500/year for a further 14 years. And 32 tons less CO2 has been put into the atmosphere.

At my mother’s house in Wollongong the 4.5 kW system recently paid back all the \$20,000 cost. It will continue to provide free electricity for many years.

At the Australian National University, LED lights and sensors have been installed in areas where previously lights were on 24/7. The payback time is under two years - a return of over 50% on investment.

In all instances there have been investments, but very good returns - much better than money in the bank or the stock exchange.

These days the returns on solar panels are less – you save money by producing your own electricity, and earn very little from the feed-in tariff. But the cost of solar power is dramatically less – around one third of the cost of the two systems discussed above.

Where to start?

An organisation needs a person or group which does the work. Then there are many options for action.

Solar panels have the advantage of making a clear public statement, but they may not be the most effective way of reducing CO2 production and are often not the best investment. Using reverse cycle



St Clement’s Retreat Centre in Galong, in collaboration with Catholic Earthcare Australia, is hosting *Spirit Dreaming, Earth Responding, Living Laudato Si’* – a symposium and retreat for anyone seeking to integrate Laudato Si’ into their way of being on Earth.

Taking place between September 17 and 22, the symposium and retreat will explore the deep spiritual connection between place, people and culture through dialogue and collective action.

Presenters from diverse backgrounds will share their insights into the global and spiritual challenges we face. They include Aboriginal Australians, theologians Prof Denis Edwards and Dr Tony Kelly, and economists Dr Ross Garnaut and Dr Bruce Duncan.

Biblical scholars, Dr Elizabeth Dowling, cultural and environmental historian Dr George Main, health professional Dr Katrina Anderson, as well as local agriculturalists David Marsh and Chris Main will also give presentations.

To register interest or find out more about the program, contact St Clement’s Sue Rolfe directly on (02) 6380 5222 or via her email on manager@stclement.com.au

heating rather than other electric heaters can reduce running costs by up to 75%.

The return on investment will depend on how much heating occurs but can be as low as two years. Replacing lights with LEDs is often a very good procedure, particularly for lights that are on much or all of the time, such as Exit signs and security lights.

Other ways of reducing consumption include insulation, closing gaps around doors and windows, holding meeting in smaller rooms, and so on.

Some websites with further information are listed at the end of the article.

Behaviours and structures

Behaviour and structures can both have a huge impact on consumption. When both are present you have hit the jackpot.

Behaviours such as: turning lights off, closing windows, setting the heaters to a lower temperature, having meetings in smaller rooms, wearing jumpers.

Structural changes such as: lights or heaters that use less, sensors that

switch things on or off, insulation, closing air-gaps.

What moves organisations and individuals to act?

I have found it relatively easy to act where I live, but many organisations – universities, schools and churches are some I have looked at – find it very difficult to move in this area. Perhaps it is the uncertainty, perhaps a false impression that greenness must involve extra cost, or just organisational inertia. In parishes, priests have a wide range of duties, and they and the parish

your church... the savings?

*green action in his house and at ANU where he is an honorary lecturer,
Here he explains how and why.*



Top right: Mugga Lane Solar Panel Farm, Canberra. Left: St Augustine's Catholic Church, Farrer ACT. Above: Christian Brothers House, Griffith ACT

What the parish does may have a flow-on effect. Some parishioners may act in their own homes. Schools tend to be much bigger than churches, and they are ideal locations for the use of solar panels - they have near-constant daytime use of electricity.

An ideal arrangement would be for a school and church to share solar panels, but that may not be administratively possible.

List of resources

The list below contains mainly faith-based resources. There are many others - for instance a number of churches in the ACT are taking advantage of a government program that offers assessment and financial assistance: actsmart.act.gov.au/what-can-i-do/business/business-energy-and-water-program.

The Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (arrcc.org.au) has a range of materials, including climate action kits. arrcc.org.au/steps2sustainability gives practical steps for faith communities to turn concern into action. The Caloundra Parish used one of their kits as part of its action: arrcc.org.au/caloundra_catholic_parish_uses_climate_action_kit. St Peter and Paul, Kiama, and St Denis, Joondanna, have won awards for their actions: fiveleafecoawards.org/churches-involved/.

Catholic Earthcare (catholicearthcare.org.au/ and catholicearthcare.org.au/community/parishes/) can offer advice.

Its website has many educational and action resources. catholicearthcare.org.au/community/parishes/ has a series of articles, including Messages from Pope Francis and information about their National Energy Efficiency Network (NEEN).

The Uniting Church has been a leader in this area: unitingearthweb.org.au. fiveleafecoawards.org/awards/basic-certificate/ is a relatively straightforward and helpful introduction.

Church Resources, cg.org.au, has green plans which may be more relevant to larger organisations.

council need to collect good information before they can act.

So what can a parish do?

The articles listed below suggest that having a group to guide action

is a very good starting point for changes in parish belief, structure and behaviour.

Resulting changes need not be limited to equipment.

They can also include homilies

on the earth, and publicising relevant material, such as *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis's other statements on climate change, and articles such as one recently in Eureka Street, on coordinated church action in the

UK, where 2000 Catholic parishes are switching to renewable energy: <https://www.eurekastreet.com.au/article.aspx?acid=49838#.V-BaU7XOfHk> and bigchurch-switch.org.uk

The Genius of womanhood

BY KAREN DOYLE

HAVE you ever considered womanhood to be a vocation or a calling?

Someone who offered women an understanding of their femininity as truly vocational was St John Paul II.

Elected as Pope shortly after the peak of the sexual revolution and feminist liberation movement, John Paul II was deeply aware of the challenges facing women in the modern world.

While recognising these challenges, he also saw the need to communicate the age-old truths of the Church in new and engaging ways.

One of the ways he chose to engage women more fully was to extend to them an invitation. It is an invitation to reflect with him on what it means to be created as a woman in light of God's original plan.

More than 20 years ago, John Paul II extended this invitation

in his apostolic letter *Mulieris Dignitatem*, on the vocation and dignity of women. He begins *Mulieris Dignitatem* with the closing statement from the Council Fathers at the end of the Second Vatican Council.

"The hour is coming, in fact has come, when the vocation of women is being acknowledged in its fullness, the hour in which women acquire in the world an influence, an effect and a power never hitherto achieved. That is why, at this moment when the human race is undergoing so deep a transformation, women imbued with a spirit of the Gospel can do so much to aid humanity in not falling".

This forms the essence of what John Paul II wished to communicate; a desire that women would play a central and irreplaceable role in the world. He called on all women to embrace their giftedness, or genius, and offer that as a gift to the world.

Sadly, many women do not

• *Receptivity: This lies at the heart of the feminine genius. Rather than being a passive state the receptivity of womanhood is an active receiving of the gifts of life and love.*

• *Sensitivity: The sensitivity that is so integral to the feminine personality is an ability to see and understand the deeper needs and longings of the human heart, and to respond in love.*

• *Generosity: The qualities of receptivity and sensitivity in turn give rise to a spirit of generosity which places value on the human person in a unique way.*

• *Maternity: One of the great joys of and mysteries of the feminine genius is the capacity for motherhood, both physical and spiritual.*

These qualities, John Paul II explains, emerge from a woman's physical capacity to nurture, sustain and bring forth new life.

believe that their womanhood is, in fact, a gift. Rather than seeing their femininity as an answer, many women live their lives with the underlying belief that their

womanhood is a problem. That they are either too much, or they are not enough, that they attract too much attention or not enough.

In so much of John Paul II's work, he offered men and women a paradigm shift; rather than being a problem he encouraged all women to embrace the fact that they are an answer to so many of the problems that face the world.

But, in order to be that answer, women need to know what it is they have to offer. Instead of women trying to be like men, he encouraged them to embrace the unique spiritual qualities of womanhood, qualities which he called the feminine genius.

Some of the qualities that mark the feminine genius include receptivity, sensitivity, generosity and maternity. While certainly not limited to these, it is these qualities which really mark a woman's unique nature.

To read more about *Mulieris Dignitatem* visit http://w2.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/apost_letters/1988/documents/hf_jp-ii_apl_19880815_mulieris-dignitatem.html

Easter is high point of the year



LITURGY MATTERS
BY JENNY ANDERSON

THERE is so much to say about preparing for Easter, we will only skim the surface here. In a sense, we are always preparing for Easter. We start the journey anew each Lent and move towards Easter.

Everything flows from it and leads back to it. The focus of the liturgy is always the life, death and resurrection of Christ. During the Easter season this is even more evident. Examining the key symbols helps us bring them to life, drawing us to full, conscious, active participation. Let's take a closer look:

Palm Sunday we commemorate Jesus' entry to Jerusalem. We hold our palm leaves and process as we remember how Jesus' journey to the Cross began.

The Chrism Mass, celebrated at the Cathedral, draws together the clergy of the diocese to celebrate with the bishop (a great symbol of unity), the oils for the year ahead are blessed and consecrated. The priests renew their ordination promises.

The Easter Triduum is celebrated across three days: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the

Easter Vigil. "Though chronologically three days, they are liturgically one day unfolding for us the unity of Christ's Paschal Mystery" (USCCB).

It is interesting looking at the flow of this liturgy. For instance, we begin on Holy Thursday with an opening hymn, but the recessional isn't sung until the Easter Vigil closes: Good Friday and the Easter Vigil begin in silence emphasising the connectedness of these liturgies.

Holy Thursday remembers the Last Supper, with the Washing of the Feet. We remember Jesus' instruction to "do this as a memorial of me" 1 Cor: 11:24. The Missal points out that there may be a procession of gifts for the poor presented with the bread and wine: this could be an opportune time to bring Project Compassion boxes to the altar, perhaps using the same flow as the Communion procession. This liturgy concludes with the Transfer of the Blessed Sacrament to the Altar of Repose and a time of adoration. We finish in silence.

Good Friday is all about the Crucifixion. It is a day of fasting and abstinence. The liturgy is bare, simple and raw. The tabernacle is empty and the sanctuary lamp is out. We receive Holy Communion consecrated on Holy Thursday. We venerate the Cross, the symbol of our salvation: regarding it with great respect.

The Easter Vigil is the celebration of the Resurrection. There are four parts, beginning with the service of light: lighting the new

Paschal Candle. The liturgy of the Word shares the story of salvation history, highlighting key moments from the beginning of Genesis to the resurrection. Then we move into the Liturgy of Baptism, baptising RCIA candidates and renewing our baptismal promises. We conclude by sharing in the Eucharist, to be sent forth to live as people of the resurrection.

The Easter Season continues for 50 days until Pentecost. We continue lighting the Paschal Candle during this time. Old Testament readings are replaced with readings from the Acts of the Apostles encouraging us to live out the paschal mystery.

Immediately following Easter, we celebrate ANZAC Day. ANZAC Day is an important Australian commemoration, remembering those who have lost their lives in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations. It is a time to pray for peace.

ANZAC Day is best acknowledged through the choice of hymns, the decoration of the Church, the homily and the prayers of intercession. There were some prayers and intercessions released by the ACBC for the ANZAC Centenary that offer a useful model. These are available on the ACBC website.

Music groups may like to consider Mass for the Fallen by Christopher Wilcock or his song We Will Remember Them. These are available from <https://www.catholic.org.au/mass-for-the-fallen/anzac-centenary>

The journey continues.



Dara's science whizkids



Daramalan College science teacher Colin Price. Photo: Rohan Thomson

IN the past three years, Daramalan College has produced eight of the finalists in the most prestigious student science competition in the country.

Teenagers from across Australia enter the BHP Billiton Science and Engineering Awards, with three winners chosen from 26 finalists this year.

The awards are a notch on the belt of gifted students at Daramalan. While working on the high-level projects for the awards, the main aim for the students is to reach the silver or gold level in CSIRO's Crest program, a non-competitive awards system supporting students to design and carry out their own open-ended investigations or technology project.

The science students at the college are being afforded a rare opportunity to collaborate with university mentors in high-level, open-ended investigations, an initiative instigated by their teacher, Colin Price.

Rose Weller, science teacher

Colin Price, Emma Johnson and Gabby Jarvis, all of Daramalan College, were finalists in the BHP Billiton Science and Engineering Awards.

Mr Price said if gifted students were restricted to the normal curriculum, they were usually not fully engaged.

"It is vital for students who are inclined towards the STEM subjects to be extended as possible, and with as much control over what sort of projects they do in terms of their picking their own topics, designing their own projects, and just seeing where it takes them," Mr Price said.

Mr Price was also a finalist in the teachers category of the awards. It's the second year he's been nominated to represent the ACT. His students - Rose Weller, Emma Johnson and Gabrielle Jarvis - each worked on their projects in class and at home, with most of the work happening outside of school hours, Mr Price said.

He said the completed projects

were impressive, and getting to the end product was "really, really hard work".

The students were partnered with a university mentor in an initiative introduced in 2014.

"It started off with me being introduced with Professor John Evans," Mr Price said.

"We now have a network of about 15 ANU scientists more than willing to mentor year 9 and year 10 science investigations."

This year, the three nominees had a mentor each, two from ANU and one from UC.

Year 11 student Rose Weller found a way to detect previously undetectable steroids in athletes. Gabrielle Jarvis, also in year 11, investigated whether mine waste pollution had an impact on macroinvertebrate fauna in the Molonglo River. Year 10 student Emma Johnson found out how much carbon was sequestered by five-year-old red ironbark trees at the National Arboretum.

All three of the students

nominated as finalists and hailing from Daramalan were female. Out of the overall winners announced on Tuesday, two of three were female. In the same week, the UN recognised International Day of Women and Girls in Science. The UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the international day, held on Saturday, was to encourage an end to the bias of women in STEM subjects.

Mr Price said over the years, the number of female students and male students nominated as finalists in the awards have evened out.

Daramalan College principal Rita Daniels lauded Mr Price and his students, saying gold Crest investigations in particular were a rare achievement.

Mr Price said he was chuffed to receive the nomination as a finalist.

"You've got to show your passion to help develop their passion and their interest," he said.

This story was first published on the Canberra Times website on February 12, 2017.

Josephites class of '67 celebrates jubilee

TWENTY-THREE Sisters of St Joseph from the class of 1967 met at Mary MacKillop Place North Sydney to celebrate their golden jubilee of profession.

In 1967 the sisters were part of a group of 66 young women professed at Baulkham Hills. Most qualified as teachers and taught in Catholic schools across Australia and New Zealand.

Sr Colleen Howe, from St Thomas Aquinas Parish, Charnwood, was one of the sisters who attended the celebration from as far away as Ireland, Peru and New Zealand.

The most recent celebration is the fourth time the sisters have met as a group.

They reunited for the first time when they made their life commitment in 1973.

The next meet-up was for their 25th jubilee by which time their number had reduced with some of the women realising that religious life was not their calling.

Most of those who left have remained in contact with the sisters and have gone on to make significant contributions in the life of the Church, especially in Catholic education.

The third catch-up was 10 years ago when the sisters celebrated their ruby jubilee - the 40th anniversary of their profession.

Although they no longer teach in schools, some of the sisters continue to assist in classrooms, while others work in a variety of ministries including prison and hospital chaplaincy.

Some are involved with pastoral care and liturgy preparation, while a number volunteer in parish activities and projects.

Others offer counselling and two sisters serve as vicar for religious in their dioceses.

One sister works in a diocese in the jungle of Peru and two in the Kimberley, Western Australia.

Another edits an independent Catholic monthly magazine in New Zealand.

"Celebrating our golden jubilee is more than an individual milestone for us - we know with certainty it's a community milestone," Sr Ann Gilroy said.

"The support and encouragement of our sisters, families, friends, colleagues and strangers - in all its different forms over these 50 years has kept us alert, inspired and focussed on our calling.

"Although we've scraped the bottom of the jar at times, today we celebrate God's generous providence, still welling with love, encouragement, with purpose and promise at the heart of our lives and trembling with invitation for whatever evolves in our future."

ACU campus set for big expansion

CONSTRUCTION of the newest building at Australian Catholic University's Canberra Campus will soon be under way.

ACU Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Greg Craven joined Canberra Campus Dean Associate Professor Patrick McArdle, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Students, Learning and Teaching Professor Anne Cummins, Chief Operating Officer Dr Stephen Weller and Archbishop Christopher Prowse at an official sod-turning event.

"This small but significant ceremony was an opportunity for the Vice-Chancellor and President to signal the commencement of the Veritas building," Associate Professor Patrick McArdle said.

The Veritas building will be between the two existing Canberra Campus buildings, Signadou and Blackfriars. It will house the library, café and the student information centre AskACU. The building will also feature a multifunction space that can house a 300-seat lecture theatre, which can be split into two smaller lecture theatres, along with a function space for both sit-down and cocktail events.



Professor Greg Craven turning over the new sod at Canberra's Australian Catholic University. Picture: Supplied.

Euthanasia:



FEATURE
BY DEBRA VERMEER

THE practice of euthanasia and assisted suicide overseas has been a disaster, with so-called safeguards failing and doctor-assisted killing on the rise, and not just for the terminally ill, says world-renowned ethicist Professor Margaret Somerville.

"It's a mess, and a growing mess," she says.

Professor Somerville, who spent 40 years living and working in Canada, and most recently held two professorships at McGill University, in the faculties of Law and Medicine, has recently returned home to Australia to take up the position of Professor of Bioethics in the School of Medicine at The University of Notre Dame Australia, Sydney.

Her return coincides with the Victorian government flagging its intention to introduce legislation for assisted suicide later this year and reports that the NSW Parliament will also debate a euthanasia bill before year's end.

This follows the narrow defeat of similar legislation in the South Australian Parliament last November.

Professor Somerville was a prominent anti-euthanasia voice in the Canadian debate leading up to the introduction of 'assisted dying' (physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia) laws there last year, following a Supreme Court of Canada decision which found it was unconstitutional not to allow euthanasia.

She says claims by Australian pro-euthanasia advocates, including media personality Andrew Denton, that euthanasia and assisted suicide is working safely overseas don't stand up to basic scrutiny.

"Wherever it has been legislated there are very serious problems," she says.

In Quebec, Canada, where doctor assisted suicide has been legal since December 2015, a recent report on the first seven months of the law's operation found that 262 people died by 'Medical Aid in Dying' – almost three times the number of deaths previously



Professor Margaret Somerville says that safeguarding and doctor-assisted killing is on the rise. Picture: Supplied.

predicted by the Province's Health Minister.

In 21 of those 262 deaths, or eight per cent of cases, the doctors had not complied with the law.

Eighteen of the cases did not have the opinion of a second, independent doctor; in two cases it was found that the person might not have been terminally ill; and in one case it was not clear that the person even had a serious illness.

"Now when the law is brand new and you still can't get doctors to comply with it, what hope have you got once complacency sets in?" Professor Somerville says.

"And one of the things that pro-euthanasia people argue is that euthanasia or assisted suicide will be rare.

"Well, 262 cases in just seven months is not rare.

"Officially, around four per cent of all deaths in Belgium and

the Netherlands are euthanasia or assisted suicide.

"Now if we translated that rate to the population of Australia, we'd have about 6000 deaths by euthanasia or assisted suicide a year. I don't call that rare."

Professor Theo Boer has also expressed concerns about the explosion in numbers of people accessing euthanasia in Belgium and the Netherlands, and the growing variety of reasons other than terminal illness for which people are seeking euthanasia.

Professor Boer is a Dutch professor of ethics, who supported the legalisation of doctor-assisted dying, and was appointed to one of the five regional review committees set up by the Dutch government as a watchdog over the euthanasia laws when they were enacted in 2002.

He says that from 2005 to 2014 he reviewed close to 4,000 cases

of assisted dying on behalf of the Netherlands Ministries of Health and Justice and believed it was working well.

"But that conclusion has become harder and harder for me to support," he wrote in the *Christian Century* journal recently.

"For no apparent reason, beginning in 2007, the numbers of assisted dying cases started going up by 15 per cent each year. In 2014, the number of cases stood at 5,306 - nearly three times the 2002 figure."

Today, one in 25 deaths in the Netherlands is the consequence of 'assisted dying'.

On top of those voluntary deaths there are about 300 non-voluntary deaths annually, where the patient is not judged competent.

"Furthermore, contrary to claims made by many, the Dutch law did not bring down the number

of suicides; instead suicides went up by 35 per cent over the last six years," he wrote.

Professor Boer also noted a shift in the type of patients who were seeking euthanasia.

Both in the Netherlands and Belgium, patients need only be experiencing unbearable suffering with no prospect of improvement to access euthanasia. There is no requirement that the condition be terminal.

In the first years of the Dutch laws being enacted, about 95 per cent of patients accessing euthanasia or assisted suicide were in the last days or weeks of a terminal illness, but an increasing number of patients now seek assisted dying because of dementia, psychiatric illnesses, and accumulated age-related complaints, with terminal cancer now accounting for fewer than 75 per cent of cases.

"In some reported cases, the suffering largely consists of being old, lonely or bereaved," he said.

Professor Boer believes that raising awareness about advances in palliative care is crucial to combatting the drive towards euthanasia, especially for people who have been scarred by poor palliative care of loved ones in the past.

"For a considerable number of Dutch citizens, euthanasia is fast becoming the preferred, if not the only acceptable mode of dying for cancer patients," he said via email.

"Although the law treats assisted dying as an exception, public opinion is beginning to interpret it as a right, with a corresponding duty for doctors to become involved in these deaths."

If doctors refuse a patient euthanasia or don't wish to be involved, there are now mobile euthanasia units in the Netherlands who will visit patients in their homes or nursing homes to administer the lethal drugs.

The situation in Belgium is similar, where the figures for 2015, show a 41 per cent increase in euthanasia/assisted suicide deaths over the last four years.

In 2014-2015, nearly 4000 people underwent euthanasia in Belgium, of which 124 cases were justified on the basis of behavioural, mental or psychological disorders, rather than a terminal illness.

Among the reasons given for euthanasia is that elderly patients were 'tired of life'.

Last year, the first child was euthanised in Belgium after the

Experts warn against following overseas experience



Professor Theo Boer expressed concerns about the explosion in numbers of people accessing euthanasia in Belgium and the Netherlands. Picture: Supplied.

law was amended to allow for this. In the Netherlands, some babies born with Spina Bifida had been euthanised.

Leading Australian anti-euthanasia advocate, Paul Russell, says that the soaring numbers of euthanasia and assisted suicide cases in the Netherlands and Belgium and the expansion of the type of patient requesting euthanasia shows that those societies have grown used to the laws and no safe-guards will be effective in controlling it.

“What I think this tells us is that the notion of a ‘slippery slope’ or ‘incremental extension’ is not just about later amendment of the original statute; even though that is also likely and the possibility of that is inherent in the enabling act.

“But it is also about interpretation and the reality that black-letter law is never going to be able to keep any legislation so tightly interpreted as to always reflect the original intentions,” he says.

One of the jurisdictions most often cited by pro-euthanasia advocates is Oregon in the United States.

Oregon’s Death with Dignity Act (DWDA), enacted in late 1997, allows terminally ill adult Oregonians to obtain and use prescriptions from their physicians

for self-administered, lethal doses of medications.

The Oregon Public Health Division is required by the Act to collect information on compliance and to issue an annual report.

But Professor Aaron Kheriaty, associate professor of psychiatry and director of the Medical Ethics Program at UC Irvine School of Medicine, says that there are serious problems with the laws in Oregon and many documented cases of abuse.

“I have evaluated and treated thousands of patients who wanted to end their life,” he wrote in an opinion piece which appeared in California’s The Mercury News.

“A request to die is nearly always a cry for help. Among terminally ill individuals, it is associated with depression in 59 per cent of cases.

“Yet, alarmingly, in Oregon, less than five per cent of individuals who have died by assisted suicide were ever referred for psychiatric consultation to rule out the most common causes of suicidal thinking.”

Professor Kheriaty also identified the problem of ‘doctor shopping’, where if patients are refused access to assisted suicide by their doctor, they are in some cases directed by their managed



Leading Australian anti-euthanasia advocate, Paul Russell. Picture: Supplied.

care insurance company to another doctor who will prescribe the lethal drug.

“In Oregon, a small number of physicians write a disproportionately large number of the prescriptions,” he wrote.

“Despite the inadequate system of monitoring and reporting in Oregon, the data we have paints

a distressing picture.

After suicide rates had declined in the 1990s, they rose dramatically in Oregon between 2000 and 2010, in the years following the legalisation of assisted suicide in 1997. By 2010, suicide rates were 35 per cent higher in Oregon than the national average.”

Returning to Canada recently to

give a public address in the wake of the legalisation of ‘assisted dying’ there, Professor Somerville warned that a fundamental line had been crossed.

“The case for euthanasia has been made by making it seem harmless, that it’s just a very small step along an end-of-life-care path we’ve already taken and accept as ethical,” she said.

“The intentional infliction of death has been trivialised in order to persuade Canadians to accept euthanasia, and many of them seem to have sleep-walked into doing so, that is, without understanding the full consequences of legalisation, for instance, the harm to important societal values and risks to vulnerable people.

“Legalising euthanasia is not just an approval of another medical intervention, it’s a radical and seismic shift in foundational societal values, in particular, what is required if, as both individuals and a society, we are to continue to respect human life.”

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Along with the contemplative orders ACN helps those sisters active in the charitable apostolate, relieving them of the daily burden of supporting themselves while they also care for the poorest of the poor, whether in the slum quarters of the great cities, in the vast expanses of the African continent, or in the besieged cities of Iraq and Syria.

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Mother Teresa, now St Teresa of Calcutta, was canonised on September 4th 2016. The rosary carries the following inscriptions on the reverse side of the crucifix and central medal: “A little pencil in the hand of God” and “It is not how much we do, but how much love we put into what we do”.

The colours of the rosary beads represent the simple white sari worn by Mother Teresa and the blue, her devotion to the Virgin Mary.



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JUSTICE MATTERS
CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

Personal income tax: A fair go for all

THIS article looks at how Australia's system of personal income tax matches Catholic principles of social justice.

Very few of us enjoy paying tax. Yes, we know that governments need revenue to meet the cost of their services – but many of us feel instinctively that we pay too much and that others should contribute more.

Much of this complaining is, of course, little more than good-natured banter.

Just the same, it is worth asking whether there are some issues of genuine substance underneath it all.

Catholic social teaching includes two principles that are relevant here. The first is that of a 'preferential option for the poor'. The second is the fundamental importance of families to society.

In the context of taxation, they have two implications. First, people with least resources should carry the lightest tax burden.

Second, tax liabilities should

allow for the impact of dependants on a person's ability to pay.

The majority of Australians would endorse these principles. The Church certainly has no monopoly on them.

How well does Australia's system of personal income tax meet these criteria? At first sight, it looks good.

The rate scales are 'progressive' – the proportion of income taken in tax rises as income increases. The presence of children attracts assistance in the form of Family Tax Benefit (FTB).

When the system is examined more closely, weaknesses start to appear. In particular the rate scales apply to taxable income, which is sometimes a poor measure of a person's actual income.

Taxable income is often much lower than a true measure of income because of concessions such as deductions for superannuation contributions, exemptions of most superannuation income, accelerated depreciation allowances, the

partial exemption of most capital gains, and the practice of negatively gearing investment property.

There may have been good reasons for introducing these concessions and, there may be a case for retaining them. They do, however, make the overall tax structure less 'progressive'.

The design of FTB also has debatable features. It can be argued, for example, that it is unfair to withhold FTB from parents on higher incomes because it forces them to pay the same tax as others with comparable income but no children.

Governments, however, do not have unlimited resources and perfect equality in the distribution of those resources is simply not attainable.

Higher-income parents are not, of course, the only ones affected.

Their exclusion from FTB is achieved by means-testing that substantially reduces the net returns from extra work for families in much lower ranges of income.

This highlights the need to look at personal income tax in a broad context.

Social security, for example, provides support to people with limited or no personal income; indeed it can be viewed as a negative income tax.

Other forms of taxation, including those imposed by other levels of government, also need to be considered – the Goods and Services Tax, property rates and stamp duties come to mind. Many concessions (such as those for farmers) assist people on lower as well as higher incomes.

Finally, the impact of tax changes on poor people and families cannot be measured solely by what happens at the time they come into effect.

The fact is that tax measures can change people's economic behaviour and that their ultimate impact can be very different from that intended.

To take a simple scenario, what might happen if the highest rate of

personal income tax were doubled with a view to funding a pension increase?

It is entirely plausible that the measures would prove to be the very opposite of a 'preferential option for the poor' or a contributor to family wellbeing: incentives to work and save might diminish, tax avoidance might increase, unemployment might rise, revenue might fall, and pension and allowance rates might have to be reduced.

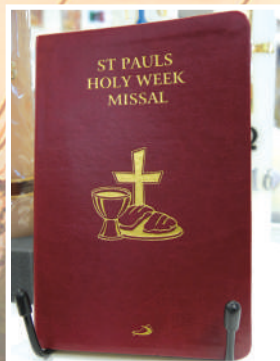
No responsible government can ignore these possibilities.

Next month's column will look at possible options for tax changes intended to help families.

Please send comments on the article, or requests for further information about the Commission, to Social. Justice@cg.org.au.

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The procession culminated with a Mass at St Raphael's church where parishioners began a thirty-three day novena for Total Consecration To Jesus through Mary.



Every goodbye is different

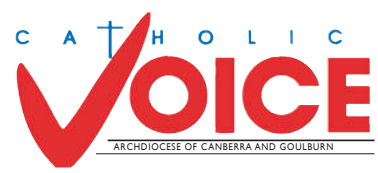
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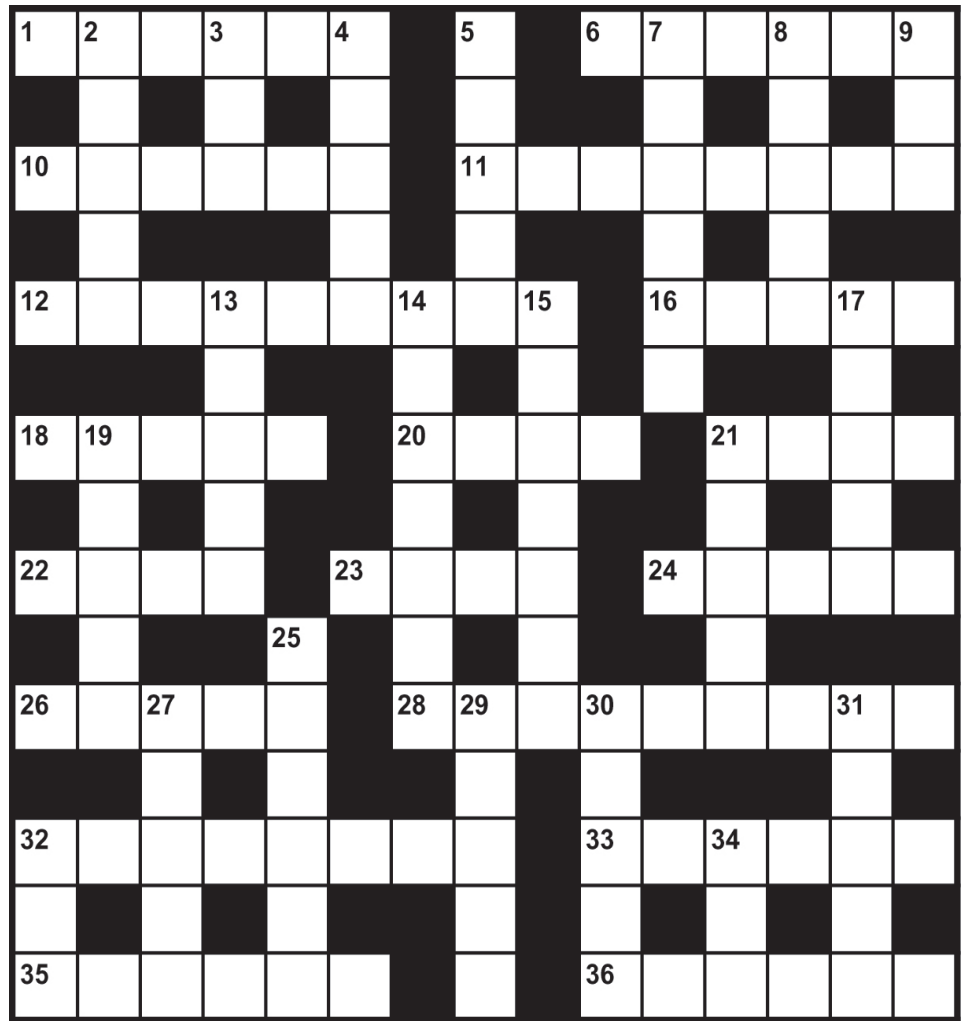


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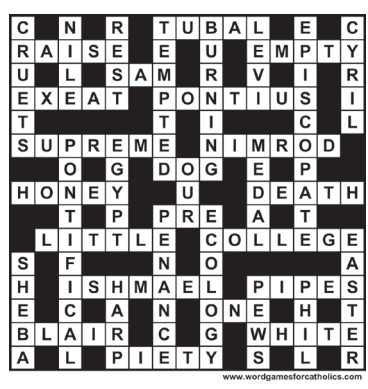
- 1 Jesus healed his daughter (Mk 5:22-42)
- 6 "Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had ____" (Jn 12:1)
- 10 Diocese in the Province of Perth
- 11 Member of an order of St. Angela Merici
- 12 Describes the Word
- 16 Rite in the Church in the West
- 18 This was rolled in front of Jesus' tomb
- 20 Prayer ender
- 21 Influential Catholic Hollywood costume designer
- 22 Judas betrayed Jesus with one
- 23 Gift bearers
- 24 Possible Easter month
- 26 Entice one to sin
- 28 Heavenly
- 32 Certain vow
- 33 Catholic author, Graham ____
- 35 He was in the lion's den
- 36 Founder of the Discalced Carmelites

DOWN

- 2 He could speak well (Ex 4:14)
- 3 Second Greek letter in a title for Jesus
- 4 Catholic actor who played Peter Maurin in "Entertaining Angels"
- 5 ____ Carmel
- 7 Husband of Priscilla
- 8 Model of virtue
- 9 A parish position (abbr.)
- 13 "____ Dei"

- 14 Native language of Jesus
- 15 One of the prophets
- 17 Husband of Rebekah
- 19 Reuben or Gad, for example
- 21 The Sacred ____ of Jesus
- 25 Where Joseph and Mary had to stay
- 27 Italian archdiocese with the Ambrosian rite
- 29 Monasticism began here
- 30 Number of popes named Alexander
- 31 Given name of Mother Teresa
- 32 Religious instruction, formerly (abbr.)
- 34 Peter cut this off the soldier of the high priest

Solutions in the next Catholic Voice





Written entries are invited for the May edition to: Catholic Voice, GPO Box 3089, Canberra, ACT 2600, or email catholic.voice@cg.org.au by April 15. Entries which are accepted are free, courtesy of sponsorship by the Catholic Development Fund.

Archdiocesan & National Coming Events

April 1: Mercy vigil at St Peter Chanel's Church, Weston St, Yarralumla ACT. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 7pm until 1am. For more information, call/text Neda 0415 266 019, Sandra 0405 692 999 or Susanna 0419 902 293.

April 2 (5pm to 8pm): RISE Youth Mass and Rally (East) at St Raphael's Church, 47 Lowe Street Queanbeyan.

April 4: Healing Mass in the wake of the Royal Commission report into Child Sexual Abuse at St Christopher's Cathedral.

April 8 (9am to 1pm): Marymead Garage and Plant Sale at 255 Goyder Street Narrabundah.

April 8 (7pm): Canberra Regional AMICUS (Latin for friend) Group formed in 1992 by Msgr John Woods and Fr Mick MacAndrew for separated, divorced and widowed Catholics, will meet for dinner at the Thai House Weston at a table booked under AMICUS. Contact Paul on (02) 6231 3121.

April 13 (3pm) to April 16 (1pm): Hosted by the Disciples of Jesus community and held in the beautiful bushland setting of Chevalier College Bowral, all are invited to Light to the Nations (LTTN) 2017. Finding Jesus through prayer, worship, drama, music and personal sharing, LTTN is for young people (16+), families and for the young at heart. Camping as well as other accommodation options are available. For more information go to <http://ltn.dojcommunity.com/>

April 23 (12noon): Canberra Regional AMICUS (Latin for friend) Group formed in 1992 by Msgr John Woods and Fr Mick MacAndrew for separated, divorced and widowed Catholics, will meet for lunch at the Southern Cross Canberra Stromlo Cafe at a table booked under AMICUS. If desired a walk will follow. Contact Rosemary on 0428 599 342.

April 23 (2pm): The Church of St Paul, Talbingo is celebrating its 50th anniversary with an ecumenical service at 2pm, followed by afternoon tea. Everyone is invited to attend. For all enquiries contact Theresa Caffery on 0410 143 731.

April 23 (2pm): The Feast of Divine Mercy at St Clement's Monastery Galong. 2pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, 2.15pm Confessions –during recitation of the Rosary, 2.40pm Divine Mercy Chaplet, 2.55pm Veneration of the Divine Mercy Image and Blessing of personal Divine Mercy Icons and 3pm Holy Mass. Afternoon tea and coffee will be available after Mass. Ladies are invited to please bring a plate. A range of Divine Mercy devotional items will be available during afternoon tea. Enquiries to: Gus and Ellen Staunton on (02) 6385 5225.

April 27 to 30: Canberra Women's Cursillo is to be held at Greenhills Conference Centre from Thursday evening April 27 to Sunday afternoon April 30 with Fr Bernie Patterson as the Spiritual Director. For further information and application contact Irma Jambor (02 6242 7332) or irma.jambor25@gmail.com.

May 2 (9am to 5pm): Marymead's 50th Anniversary Lawn Bowls Day at Weston Creek Labor Club, Stirling ACT.

May 4 to 7: Canberra Men's Cursillo is to be held at Hartzer Park, 25 Eridge Park Rd, Buradoo (near Bowral) NSW. The weekend commences on Thursday evening and concludes Sunday afternoon. A Cursillo provides a wonderful opportunity to renew and recharge your spirituality. For further information and application contact either Joe Jambor (02 6242 7332) or irmandjoe@gmail.com or Rod Gardner (0439 845 655) or rodney.gardiner@bigpond.com.

May 13: Fatima 100th Anniversary – Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Mercy, Penrose Park (near Berrima). 7am - coach departs from platform 18 at Woden Bus Interchange, 7.10am - coach departs Holy Trinity Catholic Church Curtin, 7.30am - coach departs from St Joseph's Catholic Church O'Connor, 9.15am – arrive at the Shrine. Confessions available until all heard. 10am - Exposition and Rosary, 11am - Solemn Mass, 12.30pm to 1.30pm - lunch (food and drink available from the kiosks, 1.30pm - Eucharistic procession to the grotto with the Rosary, 2pm - grotto devotions with Benediction and blessing of pilgrims, 3.30pm – coach departs Shrine for Canberra return to coaches and cars. Bookings for Canberra and Goulburn can be made by contacting Judy and Joe Mewburn on (02) 6254 6202.

May 13: Mercy vigil at St Peter Chanel's Church, Weston St, Yarralumla ACT. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 7pm until 1am. For more information, call/text Neda 0415 266 019, Sandra 0405 692 999 or Susanna 0419 902 293.

May 15 to 17: 2017 Mission Conference at the SMC Conference and Function Centre, 66 Goulburn St Sydney. Register today at mohmv.com.au

May 21 (6pm): CONNECT Mass at Corpus Christi Parish, Gowrie.

May 27 (9am to 1pm): Marymead Garage and Plant Sale at 255 Goyder Street.

June 4 (12pm to 8.30pm): Youth Academy SPIRIT Retreat at St Benedict's Narrabundah.

June 21 (11am): Marymead 50th Anniversary Mass at Holy Trinity Church Curtin and luncheon (12.30pm) at Canberra Southern Cross Club.

July 14 (9am to 6pm): Youth Ministers Formation Day. Venue to be announced.

July 20 (10am): Marymead's 50th Anniversary Card Day at Federal Golf Club, Red Hill ACT.

August 5 (6pm): CONNECT Mass at Mary Help of Christians Parish, Pearce.

August 13 (5.30pm to 9pm): SHINE Archdiocesan Youth Mass and Rally at St Christopher's Cathedral.

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October 6 (9am to 6pm): Youth Ministers Formation Day at a venue to be announced.

October 23: CONNECT Mass at Corpus Christi Parish, Gowrie.

December 7 to December 9: Australian Catholic Youth Festival in Sydney. More details to follow. To learn more go to <http://youth-festival.catholic.org.au/>

Regular Events & Groups

CATENIANS in CANBERRA: Held at the Southern Cross Club Canberra, the Catenians meet on the third Thursday of the month at 6.45pm for the 7.15pm meeting which is followed by dinner at 8pm.

COMMUNITY OF THE RISEN LORD CANBERRA: Meets at 7.30pm each Friday evening in St Brigid's Church parish hall (2 Bancroft St Dickson) for charismatic praise and worship with an anointed sharing of the word. Contact Shan on 0412 310 364 or Sean 0448 510 237.

GOOD SHEPHERD PRAYER GROUP: Meets each Wednesday from 7pm to 9pm in the parish room at St Peter Chanel's Church Yarralumla. Rosary, charismatic praise and worship, teachings, testimonies, prayer ministry, intercession and fellowship. Contacts Susanna on 0419 902 293, Neda on 0415 266 019 and Gabriel on 0432 082 642.

HOLY SPIRIT SECULAR FRANCISCAN FRATERNITY: Trying to follow in the footsteps of St Francis of Assisi the community meets at 7.30pm on the third

Friday of each month for Mass at St Augustine's Church - 262 Beasley St, Farrer ACT.

MAN OVERBOARD: Man Overboard is a monthly gathering of young men discerning priesthood. It is a time to gather, reflect, and commune in order to feel supported during a time of such importance. Each gathering will be held on the first Friday of every month (public holidays excepted). RSVP to Rachel (Rachel.Romney-Brown@cg.org.au) for catering purposes or follow the prompts at <http://www.manoverboard.org.au/>

menALIVE: Encouraging authentic Christian manhood, the Canberra chapter of 'Men Alive' meet on the first Monday of each month at St Christopher's Cathedral for Mass at 5pm. Mass is then followed by drinks at 'Public Bar' in Manuka.

MINISTRY TO THE NEWLY MARRIED: A mentoring program for newly married couples or engaged couples soon-to-be married. Contact Debbie and Brian on (02) 6231 3389 or 0414 878 167. Email: mnmm@grapevine.com.au

SERRA CLUB OF CANBERRA: Supporting and praying for religious vocations in the Archdiocese, the Canberra Serra Club meet on the second Thursday of each month. Rosary (6.10pm) and Mass (6.30pm) is at Holy Trinity Curtin, followed by dinner at the Southern Cross Club Canberra. All welcome. Contact John Malycha on (02) 6251 2912.

DISCLAIMER: To Catholic Voice's knowledge, the times and locations of these events are true and correct at the time of printing.

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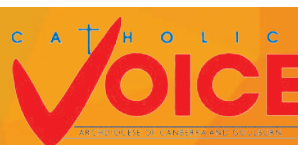
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ARCHDIOCESAN EASTER TRIDUUM / HOLY WEEK TIMES 2017

ARCHDIOCESAN CELEBRATION Monday, April 10, 7.30pm Mass of the Oils, St Christopher's Cathedral

ADAMINABY: Good Friday: Service 9am. Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil Mass 5pm.

ADELONG: Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil Mass at 6pm.

AMAROO: Tuesday April 11: 2nd Rite of Reconciliation 7pm. Holy Thursday: Mass 7pm. Good Friday: Stations of the Cross 11am (Please bring a flower to lay at the foot of the Cross) & Liturgy of the Passion 3pm. Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil Mass 7pm. Easter Sunday: Mass 8am, 9:30am & 5:30pm.

ARANDA: Holy Thursday: Mass 7pm. Good Friday: Stations of the Cross 11am & Passion of the Lord Commemoration 3pm. Easter Vigil: Mass at 7pm. Easter Sunday: Mass 10am & Korean Mass 12noon.

ARDLETHAN: Good Friday: Passion of the Lord Commemoration 3pm. Easter Sunday: Mass 8am.

ARIAH PARK: Holy Thursday: Mass 6pm followed by Adoration. Easter Sunday: Mass 10am.

BARELLAN: Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil Mass 6pm.

BARMEDMAN: Easter Sunday: Mass 8am.

BARTON (Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture): Good Friday: Ecumenical Stations of the Cross 11am.

BATEMANS BAY: Holy Thursday 7.30pm Mass. Good Friday: Stations of the Cross 10am & Passion of the Lord Commemoration 3pm. Easter Saturday: Easter Vigil Mass 7.30pm. Easter Sunday: Service 9am.

BATLOW: Easter Sunday Mass at 10am.

BEGA: Fridays during Lent: Stations of the Cross 5.30pm. Tuesday April 4: Easter

Penitential Rite 7pm. Holy Thursday: Mass 7pm with Adoration until 10pm. Good Friday: Passion of the Lord Commemoration 3pm. Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil Mass 7pm.

BEMBOKA: Saturday April 1: Easter Penitential Rite 5.30pm. Good Friday: Passion of the Lord Commemoration 11am. Easter Sunday: Mass 9am.

BERMAGUI: Thursday April 6: Second Rite of Confession 6pm. Good Friday: Passion of the Lord Commemoration 3pm. Easter Sunday: Service 7.30am.

BINALONG: Good Friday: Stations of the Cross 10am. Easter Sunday: Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion 10am.

BINDA: Easter Sunday: Service 10.30am.

BOLO FARM SHRINE CHAPEL: Good Friday: Stations of the Cross 10am.

BOMBALA: Holy Thursday: Service 6pm. Good Friday: Passion of the Lord Commemoration 3pm. Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil Mass 6.30pm.

BOOROWA: Holy Thursday: Mass 6.30pm. Good Friday: Passion of the Lord Commemoration 3pm. Easter Saturday: Easter Vigil Mass 7pm.

BRADDON: Good Friday: Stations of the Cross 11am. Easter Sunday: Service 8am.

BRAIDWOOD: Holy Thursday: Service 7pm. Good Friday: Stations of the Cross at 10.00am & Liturgy at 3pm. Easter Saturday: Easter Vigil Mass 6pm.

BREDBO: Easter Sunday: Service 9.30am.

BRIBAREE: Easter Sunday: Mass 8am.

BUNGENDORE: Holy Thursday: Service 6pm. Good

Friday: Stations of the Cross 10am & Passion of the Lord Commemoration 3pm. Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil Mass 6pm. Easter Sunday: Service 8.30am.

CAMPBELL: Palm Sunday: 9.30am Mass. Holy Thursday: 7pm Mass followed by adoration. Good Friday: 10am Stations of the Cross & 3pm Passion of the Lord Commemoration. Holy Saturday: 6.30pm Easter Vigil. Easter Sunday: 9.30am Mass.

CANDELO: Tuesdays during Lent: Stations of the Cross 7pm. Saturday April 1: Easter Penitential Rite after 6pm Mass. Good Friday: Passion of the Lord Commemoration 11am. Easter Sunday: Mass 9.30am.

CATHEDRAL: Monday April 10: Chrism Mass of the Oils 7.30pm. Tuesday April 11: Second Rite of Reconciliation 7.30pm (*Thereafter there will be no scheduled times for Confessions for the remainder of the week*). Holy Thursday: Mass 7.30pm, Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament will follow in the Crypt until 11pm (*Neither the usual 7.30am and 12.15pm Masses, nor the 6pm Confessions will be celebrated that day*). Good Friday: Passion of the Lord Commemoration 3pm. Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil Mass 7.30pm. Easter Sunday: Mass 8am, 11am and 5.30pm.

CHARNWOOD: Palm Sunday: Vigil Mass 6pm, Sunday Service 9am. Holy Thursday: Service 7.30pm followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 10pm. Good Friday: Passion of the Lord Commemoration 3pm & Stations of the Cross 7.30pm. Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil Mass 7.30pm. Easter Sunday: Service 9am.

COBARGO: Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil Mass 5pm.

COOMA: Holy Thursday: Service 6pm. Good Friday: Stations of the Cross 10am & Passion of the Lord

Commemoration 3pm. Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil Mass 6.30pm. Easter Sunday: Service 10am.

COOTAMUNDRA: 2nd Rite Of Reconciliation: Thursday 6 April 7pm. Palm Sunday: Saturday Vigil Mass 6pm. Holy Thursday: Service 8pm. Good Friday: Stations of the Cross 12noon, Passion of the Lord Commemoration 3pm & Reconciliation 5-5.30pm. Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil Mass 7.30pm. Easter Sunday: Service 9am.

CROOKWELL: Thursday April 6: Reconciliation 7pm. Holy Thursday: Mass 7pm. Good Friday: Stations of the Cross 10am & Passion of the Lord Commemoration 3pm. Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil Mass 7pm. Easter Sunday: Service 9am.

CURTIN: Tuesday 11 April: 2nd Rite Of Reconciliation 7pm. Holy Thursday: Mass 6pm. Good Friday: Passion of the Lord Commemoration 3pm. Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil Mass 6pm. Easter Sunday: Service 9.30am & 5.30pm Mass.

DELEGATE: Good Friday: Service 12 noon. Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil Mass 5pm.

DICKSON: Tuesday 11 April: 2nd Rite Of Reconciliation 7pm. Holy Thursday: Service with Adoration following 6.30pm until 10pm. Good Friday: Passion of the Lord Commemoration 3pm. Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil Mass 6pm. Easter Sunday: Service 9.30am.

EDEN: Good Friday: Stations of the Cross 11am. Easter Saturday: Easter Vigil Mass at Star of the Sea Church Eden 6pm.

EVATT: Good Friday: Adoration of the Cross 3pm. Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil Mass 7pm. Easter Sunday: Mass 10am.

GALONG (St Clement's Retreat Centre): Holy Thursday: Mass of the Lord's Supper 7pm. Good Friday:

Passion of the Lord Commemoration 3pm. Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil Mass 7pm. Easter Sunday: Mass 9am.

GARRAN: Good Friday: Stations of the Cross 10am. Easter Sunday: Service 8.30am.

GOULBURN (St Peter & Paul Old Cathedral): Tuesday April 4: Reconciliation 7pm. Holy Thursday: Mass 7pm. Good Friday: Stations of the Cross 10.30am & Passion of the Lord Commemoration 3pm. Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil Mass 7pm. Easter Sunday: Service 10am.

GOULBURN NORTH (Our Lady of Fatima): Holy Saturday: Morning Prayer 9am. Easter Sunday: Service 7am.

GOWRIE: Holy Thursday: Service 7.30pm with Adoration following until 10pm. Good Friday: Stations of the Cross 11am & Passion of the Lord Commemoration 3pm. Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil Mass 7pm. Easter Sunday: Service 8am & 10am. (No Mass on Easter Monday).

GRENFELL: Good Friday: Passion of the Lord Commemoration 3pm. Easter Sunday: Mass 9.30am.

GUNNING: Good Friday: Stations of the Cross 10.30am. Easter Sunday: Service 8.30am.

GUNDAGAI: Holy Thursday: Mass 6pm. Good Friday: Stations of the Cross 10am & Passion of the Lord Commemoration with Holy Communion 3pm. Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil Mass 6pm. Easter Sunday: Mass 8am.

GUNDAROO: Easter Sunday: Service 9am.

HALL: Palm Sunday: Mass 8.30am. Good Friday: Stations of the Cross 11am (Please bring a flower to lay at the foot of the Cross). Easter Sunday: Mass 8.30am.

ARCHDIOCESAN EASTER TRIDUUM / HOLY WEEK TIMES 2017

ARCHDIOCESAN CELEBRATION Monday, April 10, 7.30pm Mass of the Oils, St Christopher's Cathedral

HARDEN-MURRUMBURRAH: 2nd Rite Of Reconciliation: Wednesday 5 April 7pm. Palm Sunday: 9am Mass. Holy Thursday: 6pm Service. Good Friday: Passion of the Lord Commemoration 3pm. Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil Mass 7.30pm. 2nd Rite Of Reconciliation: Wednesday 5 April 7pm.

HOLDER: Saturday April 8: Confessions 11am to 12pm. Palm Sunday April 9: Mass 9am begins with blessing of the palms, followed by the procession into the church. Tuesday April 11: Mass 5.30pm. Second Rite of the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the Parishes of Woden and Weston Creek at Holy Trinity Curtin 7pm. Holy Thursday: (No Mass 9.30am) Mass 7.30pm followed by the procession to the Chapel of Repose & Adoration to 10pm. Good Friday: 11am Stations of the Cross & 12pm to 1pm Confessions. Holy Saturday: (No 11am to 12noon Confessions). Easter Sunday: Mass 9am.

JERANGLE: Easter Sunday: Service 8am.

JINDABYNE and HIGH COUNTRY: Holy Thursday: 7pm Service at Jindabyne. Good Friday: 11am Service at Berridale & 3pm Passion of the Lord Commemoration at Jindabyne. Easter Saturday: 5pm Vigil Mass at Thredbo & 8pm Vigil Mass at Jindabyne. Easter Sunday: 8.30am Service at Perisher, 8.30am & 10.30am Service at Jindabyne & 10.30am Service at Berridale.

JUGIONG: Easter Sunday: Mass 10am.

KALEEN: Holy Thursday: 7.30pm Mass. Good Friday: 10am Stations of the Cross. Easter Sunday: 8am Mass. (No 5.30pm Mass)

KAMBAH: Holy Thursday: 5pm to 6pm Reconciliation & 7.30pm Mass with Adoration.

Good Friday: 11am Stations of the Cross, 3pm Passion of the Lord Commemoration with Reconciliation available afterwards & 7.30pm Vietnamese Service. Easter Saturday: 11am to 12pm Reconciliation, 7.30pm Easter Vigil (with blessing of the fire & Easter water). Easter Sunday: 8.30am Mass, 10am Mass & 5.30pm Easter Vietnamese Service. Easter Monday: 9.30am Mass.

KIPPAX: Holy Thursday: Mass 7pm. Prayers at the Altar of Repose concluding with night prayer 10pm. Good Friday: Stations of the Cross 10am & Passion of the Lord Commemoration 3pm. Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil Mass 7pm. Easter Sunday: Mass 8.30am & 10am. (No 6pm Mass Sunday night).

LAKE CARGELLIGO: Holy Thursday: Service 7pm. Good Friday: Passion of the Lord Commemoration 3pm Mass. Easter Sunday: Service 9.30am.

MICHELAGO: No Easter Services.

MERIMBULA: Tuesday April 4: Second Rite of Reconciliation 7pm. Good Friday: Stations of the Cross 11am & Passion of the Lord Commemoration 3pm. Easter Sunday: Mass 10am.

MORUYA: Holy Thursday: Mass 7.30pm. Good Friday: Stations of the Cross 9am & Liturgy 3pm. Easter Saturday: Vigil Mass 7pm. Easter Sunday: The Pines Tuross, Mass 8am & Sacred Heart Moruya, Mass 10am.

NAROOMA: Tuesday April 4: Second Rite of Confession 6pm. Easter Thursday: Service 5.30pm. Good Friday: Passion of the Lord Commemoration 3pm. Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil Mass 7pm. Easter Sunday: Service 9.30am.

NARRABUNDAH: Holy Thursday: Service 7.30pm. Good Friday: Stations of the Cross 10.30am & Liturgy 3pm.

Easter Saturday: Easter Vigil Mass 7pm. Easter Sunday: Mass 9am & Charismatic Mass 7pm.

NUMERALLA: Easter Sunday: Service 8am.

NIMMITABEL: Good Friday: Service 11am. Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil Mass 8pm.

O'CONNOR: Holy Thursday: Mass 7.30pm. Good Friday: Stations of the Cross 10am & Service 2.30pm. Easter Saturday: Easter Vigil Mass 7pm. Easter Sunday: Service 9am.

PAGE: Holy Thursday: Mass 7pm. Good Friday: Stations of the Cross 11am & Passion of the Lord Commemoration 3pm. Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil 7pm. Easter Sunday: Mass 8.30am.

PAMBULA: Holy Thursday: Mass 7pm followed by Eucharistic Adoration and Exposition until 10pm. Good Friday: Stations of the Cross 11am. Easter Sunday: Mass 8am.

PEARCE: Holy Thursday: Mass 7pm. Good Friday: Passion of the Lord Commemoration 3pm. Easter Saturday: Reconciliation 11am to 12pm & Easter Vigil Mass 7.30pm. Easter Sunday: Service 8.30am & 10am.

QUEANBEYAN (St Raphael's Church): Holy Thursday: Mass 7.30pm with Adoration following until 10pm. Good Friday: Stations of the Cross at 10am & Passion of the Lord Commemoration 3pm. Easter Saturday: Easter Vigil Mass 7.30pm. Easter Sunday: Service 8am & 10am.

SYRO-MALABAR MASS (Malayalam language): April 9 Palm Sunday: Mass 10.15am & 5.30pm. April 13 Maundy Thursday: 5.30pm. April 14 Good Friday: 4.15pm. April 15 Great Saturday: 9.30am. Easter Saturday: 10pm.. Easter Sunday: 10.15am.

TALBINGO: Easter Sunday: Mass 8am.

TARAGO: Easter Sunday: Service 8am.

TARALGA: Wednesday April 5: Reconciliation 7pm. Holy Thursday: Mass 7pm. Good Friday: Passion of the Lord Commemoration 3pm. Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil Mass 7pm.

TATHRA: Wednesday April 5: Easter Penitential Rite after 9am Mass. Good Friday: Passion of the Lord Commemoration 5pm. Easter Sunday: Mass 7.45am.

TEMORA: Holy Thursday: Mass 6pm followed by Adoration. Good Friday: Stations of the Cross 10am & Passion of the Lord Commemoration 3pm. Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil Mass 6pm. Easter Sunday: Mass 10am.

TUMUT: Holy Thursday: Mass 7pm. Good Friday: Passion of the Lord 3pm. Easter Saturday: Easter Vigil Mass 7.30pm. Easter Sunday: Mass 10am.

UNGARIE: Easter Sunday: Service 8am.

WANNIASSA: Holy Thursday: Mass 7pm followed by Adoration until 10pm. Good Friday: Stations of the Cross 10am & Solemn Liturgy 3pm. Easter Saturday: Vigil Mass 7pm. Easter Sunday: Mass 9am. (There is No Evening Mass on Easter Sunday)

WARAMANGA: Saturday April 8: Mass 8am, Confessions 5pm to 5.45pm, Vigil Mass 6pm begins with blessing of palms followed by procession into the church. Monday April 10: No 5.30pm Mass or Communion Service. Tuesday April 11: Second Rite of the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the Parishes of Woden and Weston Creek at Holy Trinity Curtin 7pm. Wednesday April 12: Mass 9.30am. Good Friday: Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion 3pm. Holy Saturday: Mass 7.30pm begins with the blessing of fire and the Paschal Candle followed by the procession into the Church (No 8am Mass or

5pm - 5.45pm Confessions). Easter Monday Public Holiday: Mass 8am (No 5.30pm Mass).

WATSON: Tuesday April 11: Service 6.45am & Second Rite of Reconciliation 7pm at St Brigid's Dickson. Wednesday April 12: Mass 5.30pm. Holy Thursday: Mass 7.30pm & Vigil in Parish Centre following Mass until 10pm. Good Friday: Stations of the Cross 10am & Passion of the Lord Commemoration 3pm. Holy Saturday: Confessions 11.30am to 12.30pm & 5pm to 6pm, Easter Vigil Mass 7.30pm. Easter Sunday: Mass 8am & 10am. (No 6pm Sunday Evening Mass). Easter Monday: (No Mass).

WEST WYALONG: Wednesday April 12: Second Rite of Reconciliation 7pm. Holy Thursday: Service 7pm. Good Friday: Passion of the Lord Commemoration 3pm. Easter Saturday: Vigil Mass 7pm. Easter Sunday: Service 9.30am.

YARRALUMLA: Holy Thursday: Mass 6.30pm. Good Friday: Stations of the Cross 10am & Passion of the Lord Commemoration 3pm. Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil Mass 6pm. Easter Sunday: Mass 9.30am.

YASS: Holy Thursday: Mass 7pm. Good Friday: Ecumenical Stations of the Cross Uniting Church Grounds Murrumbateman 10.30 am & Passion of the Lord Commemoration 3pm. Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil Mass 6.30pm. Easter Sunday: Service 10.15am.

YOUNG: Holy Thursday: Mass 6.30pm. Good Friday: Passion of the Lord Commemoration 3pm. Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil Mass 7pm. Easter Sunday: Mass 9.30am.

**DISCLAIMER: Easter Mass times were true and correct at the time of printing. For further clarification, please check parish bulletins and noticeboards closer to Easter.*

Lumen lights up with Dragons NRL visit

ST GEORGE-ILLAWARRA Rugby League players Matt Duffy, Paul Vaughan and Euan Aitken left a big impression on Lumen Christi students at a recent Pambula visit to promote the club and the NRL.

The three players spent time with the school's primary students, speaking to them about being part of a team, working together, acknowledging differences and taking care of each other.

There were quizzes, questions, videos and every student was presented with a poster to take home.

Right: Dragons NRL player Euan Aitken is swamped by lots of keen NRL supporters from Lumen Christi School Pambula. Picture: Peter Staubli.



Marist keep that winning feeling



Above: Marist College Canberra's Pranesh De Silva and Quinten Moffatt running between the wickets in the recent one-day grand final of the ASC Competition against Canberra Grammar School.

Left: The winning First XI team and support staff. Pictures: Supplied.

MARIST College Canberra's First XI have covered themselves in glory by again winning the one-day Associated Southern Colleges (ASC) grand final defeating Canberra Grammar by 161 runs.

Pranesh De Silva was in sublime touch scoring 107, his second ton of the summer after he belted 120 against Daramalan College.

Led by co-coaches Gary Goodman and Brett Feebody as well as captain Nikesh Joseph, the Blue Caps went through the season undefeated in the ASC Twenty20, one-day and two-day competitions claiming 15 straight wins on the way to the overall premiership for the seventh consecutive time.

The team also put up a valiant effort in the 44th annual Marist Cricket Carnival at Lismore

winning three out of five matches and coming fourth. They were unable to emulate their 2014-15 success when they won the carnival in Brisbane.

Marist College Canberra won their first three games of the tournament, the highlight coming in the third match against traditional heavyweights St Joseph's College Hunters Hill. In that match, the Canberra Marist connection ripped through the Joeys batting line-up skittling them for 40 with Tom Iles and Nikesh Joseph doing most of the damage, taking three wickets apiece.

The top order made light work of the chase and at this point the team from Canberra was expected to seriously challenge for the title.

Although they put up a good

fight in the final two games, the ACT boys were not able to get the job done against tough opposition in Trinity College Lismore and St Joseph's Hunters Hill who turned the tables in the final game.

Jordie Mistic and Lewis Evans were selected in the Australian Marist Combined team, Mistic for his dogged batting performances and Evans for backing up with some outstanding bowling.

The strength of Marist College Canberra's team was highlighted when Joseph, De Silva, Mistic, Quinten Moffatt, Josh Myburgh and Tom Iles (reserve) were selected in the ASC representative team to play Sydney Independent Colleges on Bradman Oval at Bowral. "In the past seven seasons, the Marist First XI has lost only

12 games from some 140 matches played at ASC and Marists carnivals," co-coach Mr Goodman said.

"The last five ASC seasons, Marist First XI has been undefeated in all matches – Twenty20, one-day and two-day matches."

He puts the success down to the culture. "This outstanding success over many years is based on a strong Marist ethos towards excellence in training standards, professional attitude to match play and respect for the game, opposition and especially team mates."

The First XI team for the 2016-17 season was Nikesh Joseph (c), Pranesh De Silva (vc), Ben Fely (vc), Jordie Mistic, Blake Ivery, Josh Myburgh, Michael Claremont, Billy Clark, Tom Iles, Lewis Evans, Isaac Lillie and Quinten Moffatt.

Koby McKellar and Angus Kent also contributed to the team in one or two matches. Support staff were Brett Freebody (coach), Gary Goodman (coach), Nick Myburgh (manager) and Head Sport Paul Mead (assistant manager and stretching specialist at the Marist Carnival).

Myburgh was named Senior Cricketer of the Year, his standout game coming against St Edmund's College when he made a well-compiled 140. Other performances of note came from Evans (5 for 6 against Beenleigh), Moffatt (100 against Daramalan) and Mistic (6/49 and 102 against Canberra Grammar). De Silva claimed 5 for 6 against St Edmunds to go with his two centuries.