

# CATHOLIC Voice

ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN

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at Light to the Nations  
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& YOUTH PILGRIMAGE  
OCTOBER 7-8



## ARCHBISHOP CHRISTOPHER'S DIARY



### May

**TUESDAY 2: 12 noon**  
Launch CatholicCare/  
Marymead shared office  
32 Verner Street, Goulburn

**THURSDAY 4 - THURSDAY 11**  
Australian Catholic Bishops  
Conference Plenary meetings

**SATURDAY 13: 5pm**  
Mass/curry night  
St Francis Xavier Church, Hall

**SUNDAY 14 : 11am**  
Mass, St Christopher's  
Cathedral

**MONDAY 15 - THURSDAY, 18**  
Archdiocesan Clergy Assembly

**SUNDAY 21: 11am**  
Mass, St Christopher's  
Cathedral

**SATURDAY 27: 6pm**  
Mass, Holy Spirit Parish,  
Gungahlin

**SUNDAY 28: 11am**  
Mass, Centennial Celebration  
for  
Our Lady of Fatima  
St Christopher's Cathedral

**SUNDAY 28: 5pm**  
500th Anniversary of the  
Reformation between Lutheran  
and Roman  
Catholic Church, St Peter's  
Memorial Lutheran Church,  
Reid



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ARCHBISHOP'S MESSAGE  
ARCHBISHOP  
CHRISTOPHER PROWSE

DEAR Friends in this Easter Season,

So many aspects can be cited when considering what is essential to Christianity. For example, we say that Christianity consists of many different doctrines and approaches to particularly ethical questions of our day.

Having said this, there is a fundamental commonality that all Christians share. It is the Paschal pattern of our lives.

St. Paul summarises this beautifully and succinctly. He writes, "Here is a saying that you can rely on: If we have died with him, then we shall live with him." (2 Tim.2/11).

The Death and Resurrection of Jesus is called the Paschal Mystery of Christianity. Its centrality to our faith is what we celebrate every Easter season.

It is the whole Christ. It is certainly anchored in history but it is far more than this. Through

# Easter – the Paschal pattern of our lives

our Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist we are initiated into this Saving Mystery. By dying with Him, we rise in the Easter Jesus. By our participation in this paschal mystery we can truly say at every Mass, "Through Him, with Him and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory is yours for ever and ever." Alleluia!

We do not simply have an academic understanding of the Paschal Mystery. We live it out. It is the way we express our personal and communal relationship with Jesus, alive in His Church. Our lives are a daily expression of this Paschal pattern.

This Paschal pattern needs to balance the twin dimensions of "our Calvary" in our daily lives and the hope of the Saviour moving us by grace and faith into the experience of Easter.

For example, the observation has sometimes been made that younger people are strongly

attracted to the more charismatic Christian denominations in Australia.

There is an observation that it engenders an enthusiastic mood in the liturgy with lively songs and a more personal message in the homilies. There is no doubt that Catholics can learn much from these lively expressions of faith in various churches.

However, it has often been observed that the "death" aspects of our faith cannot be eclipsed by expressions that simply stress the feelings of joy and hope of Easter.

What do you do when suffering and hardship arrives when your theology does not seem to embrace the Cross that is in the life of every Christian?

If success is stressed in living out Christianity, what do you do when failure knocks on the door of our hearts?

Conversely, our Christian faith warns us against simply remaining

at the Calvary Cross without any real desire for the Easter Lord to draw us into the hope of His Resurrection.

Some commentators over the years have summarised nicely the balance required. They have warned us against embracing Christ without the Cross, and the Cross without Christ.

The Paschal pattern of our entire Christian lives assists us to see these two fundamental dimensions are placed together in Jesus.

It is the Pauline insistence: by dying in Jesus, we will rise in Jesus.

Our lives are lived out IN Christ FOR others. By living out this Paschal pattern in our daily lives, we become for others the presence of Christ today.

This is the work of evangelisation. We are servants of this saving Paschal Mystery. Let us truly be what we are in this Easter season and into the future.

Happy Easter to all. Alleluia!

## Thousand youth pilgrims

MORE than 1000 young people came from all parts of Australia with tents, sleeping bags and open hearts to celebrate the 30th Light to the Nations Easter Youth pilgrimage on the picturesque grounds of Bowral's Chevalier College.

The record number of pilgrims were called to a lively encounter with the Holy Spirit through adoration, praise and worship, talks, personal sharing and drama in addition to celebrating the Easter Triduum liturgies.

Fr Ken Barker and the Missionaries of God's Love religious community led the congregation in public worship.

The biennial event is organised by the Disciples of Jesus Covenant Community.

Saturday night's Easter Vigil was the highlight with a number of people from Bowral and the surrounding Southern Highlands area joining in.

Wollongong Bishop Peter Ingham was warmly welcomed on Friday evening. He addressed pilgrims before the Tenebrae and reconciliation session where extra priests were called in to cope with the high demand for the sacrament of Confession.

The Rosary was a constant theme over the four days as those at the gathering channelled their prayer intentions for Pope Francis and for the needs of Australia.

Small reflection groups contemplated the Sorrows of Blessed Mother Mary during the day on Saturday.



Re-enactment scenes of the Passion on Good Friday at Light to the Nations. Pictures: Jazz Chalouhi.



Chiara Catanzariti described the energy, hope and joy of being a part of "something special".

"Each day participants were immersed in the liturgies, living through the death and resurrection of our Saviour and His redeeming love," she said.

"The congregation was full of joy, triumph and praise for the resurrection of the Lord.

"Communion was an extraordinary time where the Holy Spirit was immensely present,

uniting all to the heart of the Father, experiencing the trinity in full."

As they left, pilgrims were commissioned to go back into the world and to be "light to the Nations".

Photographer Jazz Chalouhi was on the scene at this year's Light to the Nations. To view the photos online go to: <http://cgatholic.org.au/2017/04/light-nations-2017/>

For more information about Light to the Nations go to <http://ltn.dojcommunity.com/>



# Parents hit out at ‘safe schools’

CATHOLIC parents and grandparents have been told that children as young as 11 are being encouraged at school to question their gender and sexuality preference.

A meeting organised by the ACT branch of the Australian Family Association heard concerned guardians express their fears about the controversial Safe Schools Program.

The meeting held at Holy Trinity Parish Hall Curtin was called to inform members of the community about the program and to inspire action against it.

University students protested outside the entrance of the hall.

Australian Family Association ACT president Paul Monagle opened by reading a quote from an article by Miranda Devine in the Daily Telegraph.

Mr Monagle read out that “Safe Schools is a sexual indoctrination program disguised as an anti-bullying program which teaches children, often without parental consent, that gender and sexuality are fluid concepts”.

Joe Carolan, Kat Klayton and Arthur Connor delivered addresses throughout the evening.

Joe Carolan, a mathematics teacher in a NSW high school, gave an account of how the program had been implemented in his school.



University students protesting in favour of the Safe Schools Program. Picture: Loui Seselja.

He said that the program was not taught as a single subject in the curriculum; and that the school was “immersed in it” by way of posters and handouts including links to adult websites.

Advertising of “queer camps” was commonplace and there had been a focus on fundraising for transgender romance literature for the school library.

He said students were given a list of 13 different “genders” to consider and that they could use any toilet or change room they wished. Teachers were told they could help students to transition without parental consent.

Kat Klayton removed her 13-year-old daughter from the

government school she was attending due to concern about the program.

She believes her daughter along with her peers were being deliberately targeted by a radical social change method of “the gender fluid spectrum”.

She said there was a lack of transparency from the school and she had received “no answers” to questions until she wrote to the ACT Education Directorate.

She now home-schools her daughter.

Arthur Connor, a retired ACT government school teacher, spoke about the people and organisation behind the Safe Schools ACT program. The provider, Sexual Health

## Some facts about the Safe Schools Program

Nationwide the program has been introduced in 540 primary and secondary schools, including 25 in the ACT. Fifty per cent of Catholic children attend government Schools.

Currently the ACT government is in talks with the Victorian government about the Safe Schools program. The Victorian Government has mandated its use from 2018. The program is not compulsory in ACT Government schools.

The National Catholic Education Commission in conjunction with the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has condemned the program and prevented it being used in Catholic schools, while Pope Francis has also strongly condemned teaching children they can choose their gender.

Medical experts including Dr Paul McHugh, Professor of Psychiatry at John Hopkins Centre in the US, has studied transgenderism for 40 years, and the American College of Pediatricians have warned that most children who think they have the wrong body grow out of this concern (see <https://www.acped.org/the-college-speaks/position-statements/gender-ideology-harmschildren> ).

and Family Planning, was an affiliate of International Planned Parenthood and was not appropriate for school students.

“The program is not just about supporting LGBTI students,” he said.

“It promotes atypical sexualities and genders, is silent about the risks involved in transitioning gender, is highly subjective, and indoctrinates and misinforms instead of educating; it confuses students and marginalises parents.”

Mr Connor said people could combat the program by joining the school P&C, lobbying ACT Legislative Assembly members, talking to other parents to raise awareness of the program, signing the petition against the program and joining the Facebook page STOPSAFESchools.

If you are concerned and wish to know more about the Safe Schools Program email the Australian Family Association at [act@family.org.au](mailto:act@family.org.au)



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## HOME BASE



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## Interest Rates Still on Hold

Michael Witts, treasurer of ING Direct, recently spoke to radio 2UE to share his thoughts on interest rates and where he thinks they are headed.

His view is that "the RBA will have interest rates on hold for the best part of this year running into the early part of next year".

He believes some of what will govern this includes the US interest rates remaining low, the exchange rate at its current levels and more recently the devastation of Cyclone Debbie and subsequent floods and the impact on the local economy. The RBA cut the cash rate twice last year in May and August to its current historic low, and the last interest rate rise was November 2010.

Michael believes, "It's difficult to see a scenario in which the RBA will look to cut rates again – there is a lot of stimulus that the RBA has provided and there is a lot of indication that the economy has responded accordingly". Working out what impact this has on you can be laborious and time consuming.

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# A great lay Catholic and distinguished Australian

BY PROFESSOR GREG CRAVEN

WHEN today's Australians rejoice in their multicultural society, and when they rest assured that they are being protected from the threat of terrorism, they have Peter Lawler to thank.

Sir Peter Lawler, who died last month, was one of the foremost public servants of his generation. He served governments headed by every prime minister from Sir Robert Menzies to Bob Hawke. He was responsible for drafting the Cabinet paper that led to the abolition of the White Australia policy and for heading the taskforce that established the Australian Federal Police following the 1978 Hilton bombing in Sydney.

He was a trusted servant of governments of all political

persuasions even though he was well known as a longtime supporter of the Australian Labor Party. He served as Secretary or Deputy Secretary of several departments of state including those of the Prime Minister, Cabinet, Special Minister of State, and Administrative Affairs.

When Gough Whitlam appointed him Secretary of the Department of the Special Minister of State in 1973, Sir Peter was proud to be one of the first Catholics appointed to head a Commonwealth government department in the post-war decades.

Upon his retirement from the public service, he served as Australia's Ambassador to Ireland and the Holy See from 1983 until 1986, and was involved with arrangements for Pope John Paul II's visit to

Australia in December 1986.

He was a key advocate for a full-time ambassadorship at the Holy See, which Kevin Rudd established in 2008 at the conclusion of Pope Benedict XVI's visit to Australia for World Youth Day.

His political and religious leanings were similar to those of B A Santamaria, and, for the last decade, he served as a patron of the Australian Family Association, which was established by Santamaria in 1980.

His concern for his ordinary fellow Australians never left him and deeply influenced the advice he gave as a senior civil servant.

For his services to the state, he was honoured by the Queen, who appointed him an Officer of the Order of the British Empire in 1965, and subsequently knighted

him in 1981; and for his services to the Church, he was honoured by the Pope, who appointed him as a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of Pius IX in 1986.

In recognition of his commitment to labor politics and the Catholic Church, ACU hopes to establish the Sir Peter Lawler Visiting Fellowship at the PM Glynn Institute.

This will enable a visiting scholar to undertake research and write a short book about the history and future of the relationship between the labour movement and Catholic social teaching in Australia.

Sir Peter was a great Australian and a great Catholic lay man who made a distinguished contribution to our country by working quietly in the background of public life for many years.

## Replace 'cruelty' with 'politics of love'



"WE should resist the politics of cruelty and replace it with the politics of love," National Chief Executive of the St Vincent de Paul Society John Falzon told the "Welcome Refugees and Close the Camps" rally at Civic on Palm Sunday.

Mr Falzon joined other members of Canberra's Catholic community including Bishop Pat Power, Fr Frank Brennan SJ and Christian Brother John Giacon in making their pro-refugee voices heard at the 2500-strong rally.

Organised by the Canberra Refugee Action Committee, the crowd marched through the city to chants of "free, free, the refugees" and "here, here, bring them here".

Bishop Power was given the task of co-leading the march.

Not happy with the plight of refugees and asylum-seekers, particularly those in offshore detention, members of the St Vincent de Paul Society and parishioners of Mary Help of Christians Parish South Woden displayed banners alongside those of other Church denominations.

A number of talks and testimonies were shared, and there was a strong student presence from universities in the ACT.

Refugee advocate Tim McKenna – a member of both the St Vincent de Paul Society in the ACT and the Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum (CAPSA), was happy with the response from those who took part despite the weather.

"Protestors continue to seek to bring refugees into the country and to relocate

asylum-seekers from offshore detention centres on Manus Island and Nauru," he said.

"We had parishioners here from Yass, South Woden, North Woden, Narrabundah and Waramanga, and it was great to see a united response to the urgent need to free the vulnerable people who've been incarcerated for nearly four years."

Mr McKenna said it was encouraging that St Christopher's Cathedral and other parishes in Canberra displayed banners advertising the protest in the weeks leading up to the rally.

CAPSA is organising its 2017 National Week of Prayer and Action in schools from June 9 to 23. For details on how to get involved go to <https://capsa.org.au/nwpa-2017/>

## Funding will stay: Senator

LIBERAL Senator for the ACT Zed Seselja says there are a number of incorrect and misleading statements in a front-page report in last month's Catholic Voice with the headline Cuts will put 'hundreds at risk'.

In a statement, Senator Seselja took issue with the opening sentence, "CatholicCare and St Vincent de Paul... [are] calling on the Federal Government to reconsider its intention to axe \$1.3 billion from the National Affordable Housing Agreement"

He said this seriously mischaracterised the Government's position and intentions on the issues.

He said the Commonwealth Government spent more than \$6 billion annually on housing and homelessness, including the \$1.3 billion National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA), \$117 million on the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (NPAH) and \$4.5 billion on Commonwealth Rent Assistance.

"The Government has no plans to discontinue this funding," he said.

Senator Seselja said the statement that "The Federal Government has argued that the national agreement has failed to deliver any meaningful outcomes", was not an accurate reflection on its arguments regarding the NAHA.

"The Government understands many organisations are doing good work with funding through NAHA and NPAH, and some of these organisations have achieved good outcomes," he said.

"But it is unarguable that against its own criteria, the NAHA has not met its goals.

"The 2016 COAG Report on Performance confirmed that through 8 years and \$9 billion the NAHA has failed against its own performance criteria."

To read Senator Seselja's full statement, go to <http://cgatholic.org.au/catholic-voice/blog/statement-act-liberal-senator-zed-seselja/>





# South Woden grows to serve its parishioners

MARY Help of Christians Parish South Woden has entered its next growth phase with work beginning on a new parish office and expansion of its car park and parish hall.

The parish celebrated the 40th anniversary of the consecration of Sacred Heart Church last December.

Parish priest Fr Richard Thompson says by the feast of Mary Help of Christians, May 24, this year, the extensions should be about a quarter completed.

“The new car park will make a huge difference for elderly and mobility impaired parishioners entering the church,” he said.

“It will also lead to a parish of-fice entry and a levelled entry to the parish hall.

“The parish office is currently in the presbytery and I look forward to having a more appropriate work space for all the parish administration.”

The kitchen in the parish hall is being doubled in size and the hall will have overflow space to cater for outside functions. The parish



Fr Richard Thompson reviews the new car park and parish office plans. Picture: Supplied.

hopes the hall will generate income to help meet project costs.

“The parish has never had a debt because of generous parish-ioners, but this project will incur a debt that the parish will need to manage,” Fr Thompson said.

“I am very confident that with

some creative efforts we can meet all our financial obligations while building a stronger parish and celebrating our more diverse com-munity.” Fr Thompson, who has taken bookings for the hall, hoped the project would be finished within 20 weeks.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Jugiong art dates set

The Jugiong Catholic Parish Biennial Art Exhibition has locked in November 24, 25 and 26 as dates for the exhibition. Proceedings kick off with a Cock-tail party on Friday night, before the exhibition continues on the Saturday and the Sunday. For more information contact Paul Butt on 0413 137 601..

### Divine Mercy celebrated at Galong

Receiving God’s mercy was high on the agenda for more than 70 people who gathered at Galong’s St Clement’s Retreat Centre for Di-vine Mercy Sunday. Organised annually by Gus and Ellen Staunton of Boorowa, the Galong celebration of the feast is into its 14th year. Devotees travelled from Harden, Canberra, Cootamundra, Crookwell, Boorowa, Gundagai and Orange among other places.

### Bay PP off to seminary

Batemans Bay and Moruya Parish Priest Fr John Armstrong has been appointed spiritual director of the Seminary of the Good Shepherd in Homebush. His appointment will take effect on Oc-tober 4 and he will end his official ministry at the Bay on June 22 due to in-service and annual leave. Archbishop Christopher Prowse has wished Fr Armstrong well on behalf of the Archdiocese.

### Schools top uni challenge

Lumen Christi Catholic College Pambula, in partnership with St Patrick’s Parish School in Cooma, topped the regional University of Newcastle’s Science and Engineering Challenge. The University of Newcastle pro-gram attracted students from seven secondary and primary schools to take part in hands-on activities involving principles of science, engineer-ing and technology. The challenge is a cooperative venture between the university and Rotary clubs, local communities, businesses, governments, professional groups and other universities. The challenges included con-structing an earthquake-proof tower, wiring an ‘ElectraCITY’, moving a Mars rover across bumpy terrain and building a bionic hand with straws.

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# It's more than just a bookshop

BY FIONA VAN DER PLAAT

THE assortment of stock to be packed into boxes for the Catholic Bookshop's move from Braddon to Manuka tells the story of a place that is more than its name suggests.

While hundreds of publications line the shelves, it is not just a bookshop. Music, DVDs, gifts, candles, icons and sacramental goods are also on display or available to order from around the world.

It's not a shop only for Catholics, either. While business might boom during the Catholic sacramental "seasons" (and, of course,

Christmas and Easter), the clientele throughout the year is ecumenical.

Manager Anne Woods says the shop, which has been in operation for about 25 years, will continue to provide its unique brand of service for all in the Archdiocese – Catholics and otherwise – after it moves.

"A lot of people come in at critical junctures in their lives and those of their loved ones," she says.

"It could be baptism, marriage, death or any of the important milestones in life. We need to be sensitive to that."

Providing guidance on the products is important but knowing when to listen is equally important,

she says of the job Archbishop Christopher Prowse calls her "apostolate".

Anne and her colleagues, David Sellars, Anne Hartwell and Joseph Doyle, are "looking forward to serving everybody at the beautiful new location in the St Christopher's Pastoral Centre, Manuka".

"The peaceful ambience of the shop is an attraction for many customers and we will endeavour to maintain that," she says.

"People coming in from a busy day seem to have a contemplative moment. You can see their stress dissipating while they browse."

The variety of customers makes the shop a fascinating place to work. For instance, on the same day recently the Apostolic Nuncio dropped in. "Then a lady who was brought up by the nuns in an orphanage came in and spoke about her 74-year-old husband, who was a Chinese Buddhist and came into the Catholic Church only last year.

"We get all sorts of people in here." But business is not limited to the drop-in browsers or to the people of the Archdiocese who



often cross paths in the shop.

"We send things all over the nation and beyond. We have customers in every state and territory," she says. Among the bestselling products are the children's Beginner's Bible and Michael Leunig's illustrated prayer book *When I Talk to You*.

A variety of crosses – notably olive-wood versions from Jerusalem, and hand-painted Australian indigenous and the El Salvadorian crosses – are also popular, as are

the long-"burning" flicker candles for churches, schools and prayer groups.

"Developing the giftware range is a focus for us right now, and we want the bookshop to continue to be a peaceful environment where people can come in, bump into someone they haven't seen for a while, buy a beautiful product and go away encouraged," she says.

Anne co-organises the 'Call to Connect' women's ministry in Canberra with Bronnie Schlager.



Top right :Bookshop staff (L-R) David Sellars, Anne Hartwell and Anne Woods. Picture: John McLaurin. / Anne Hartwell with a book on mothering ahead of Mothers Day. Picture: John McLaurin

## Marymead 'overwhelmed' by gift

MARYMEAD has begun its 50th year by receiving almost an entire shop-full of baby items donated by the Canberra Outlet Centre for distribution to families in need.

Thousands of items donated include cots, linen, Manchester items, prams, car seats and strollers, new items that disadvantaged families may find difficult to afford.

The donation is just one example of the support the centre has provided to Marymead.

Marymead serves the ACT and southern and western regions of NSW with offices in Canberra, Goulburn, Moruya, Wagga Wagga and Young. It provides support to more than 5000 children, young people and their families each year.



Canberra Outlet Centre Marketing Manager Claire Read with Marymead Marketing Manager Jeff Griffiths. Picture: Supplied.

"To say I am overwhelmed by the magnitude of this donation would indeed be an understatement", Marymead CEO Camilla Rowland said. "Literally hundreds, if not thousands of families will be impacted by this donation, one of

the largest Marymead has received in its 50-year history."

The high point of Marymead's 50th anniversary celebrations is on June 21 when Archbishop Christopher Prowse will celebrate Mass at 11am at Holy Trinity Curtin.

## 2017 pilgrimages

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### St Benedict's Mission Centre

Invites all

## To a Mass for Mothers

St Benedict's Mission Centre Narrabundah invites all to a healing Mass on Friday 8th May at 5.30pm with the special focus on the mother relationship. Come along and pray for mothers both living and dead to give thanks for their mothering, to pray for God's blessing for the role mothers play and to pray for all those whose relationships with their mothers need God's healing touch.

**5.30 pm, Friday 12th May  
HEALING MASS  
St Benedict's Church, Narrabundah**

## Marymead is **urgently** seeking forever homes for two 10 year old boys

### Can you help?

We are in urgent need of two separate homes for 10 year old boys, Brendan\* and Daniel\*. Brendan enjoys reading and going to the beach. Daniel loves to play soccer and cricket and enjoys watching games of football and hockey. Due to complex behaviours both boys need to be the only child or the youngest child in the home.

We are looking for carers who are loving, supportive and able to provide warmth and understanding with guidance. Carers receive training, casework support and an allowance for reimbursement of day-to-day expenses. Interested parties will need to participate in an assessment and background checks before being approved as carers.

**If you, or someone you know, can help please call Marymead on 6162 5800 or email fcinfo@marymead.org.au today.**

MARYMEAD IS A CATHOLIC AGENCY OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN, ABN 90 677 510 841

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\*For privacy reasons, models and alias names have been used.



# Youth Ministry alive in our Archdiocese



of discipleship pathways from Catholic schools into Church communities (parishes and ecclesial movements).

The exciting aspect of this vision is that young people are those who are leading this model of evangelization.

At the core of this model is the conviction that Catholic schools can be centers of the new evangelisation, providing a context for students to encounter Christ and enter into a lifelong path of participation in the life and mission of the Church.

One element of the new evangelisation that is fundamental to the success of this vision being realised is the integral and dynamic process of evangelisation.

Explored by Pope Paul VI in *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, this process has clearly identifiable steps beginning with the witness of faith.

The role of young people (or peer-to-peer ministry) in this witness of faith makes the Gospel

credible and attractive to other young people.

From this witness comes the second step, the proclamation of the Gospel or the announcement of the kerygma: the fundamental story of Christianity.

The way that the Gospel can be proclaimed must include new and contemporary expressions and methods that engage directly with young people.

Upon hearing this kerygmatic message, a response of faith is invited through the personal encounter with Christ.

Whilst this response of faith may occur over a lifetime, it may be experience in a concentrated moment, also known as a conversion point.

This encounter leads into a journey of discipleship and incorporation into the life of the Church. This process is not complete until 'evangelised' becomes the 'evangeliser' by living out the mission of the Church.

BY HUW WARMENHOVEN

THE Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn seeks to invite young people to encounter Christ, live a life in the Spirit and participate in the mission of the Church.

The model of youth ministry is centred around the development

## Youth Ministry in our Schools



BY NATHAN GALEA

TRUE to form, the beginning of the school year has seen a busy yet productive three months.

Following on from the success of the LEAD student Mass, Rally and Conference, schools have begun moving things to the next level by looking at curriculum

implementation and developing Individual School Plans (ISPs) around the development of the CSYMA four phase model.

Early in May groups of senior youth ministry students from schools around the Archdiocese will assist in running a Year 10 retreat at Talbingo for Sacred Heart Cootamundra.

It's an exciting development to see older students engaged in their faith in our Catholic schools, sharing the joy of the Gospel with other younger students.

This new model also provides a great opportunity for our regional schools to connect with students from other senior Catholic colleges around topics of faith.

## Youth ministry vision building in Belconnen

BY KATIE GOLDING & ZOE SWAN

A NEW youth ministry is growing in the Belconnen region, seen with the new youth group at St John the Apostle Parish in Kippax called 'Agape'.

Youth Ministers Katie Golding and Zoe Swan were excited to bring students from St Francis Xavier College and members of the Parish together for a night of building relationships, reflection and growing closer to God.

In their first sessions, they challenged the youth to write down any questions they have about their faith, which will lay the foundation for the rest of the year.

The first Agape Youth Group was obviously a fun, uniting and faith filled experience. It will be exciting to see it continue to grow throughout the rest of the year and into the future.



### 1. SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY

What: CSYMA teacher-led, four-phase model of student formation across Catholic secondary schools including:

1. Retreat Experience
2. Youth Ministry Curriculum
3. School based Youth Ministry Teams
4. Connection with Broader Church beyond school

### WITNESS OF FAITH & PROCLAMATION OF THE KERYGMA

### 2. YOUTH EVENTS

What: Regional events for students in Catholic secondary schools including:

1. Shine Gathering
  2. LEAD Conference
- Broader Church events including:
3. Youth Ministry Equipping School
  4. Archdiocesan Youth Masses, Youth Rallies and Youth Retreats
  5. Australian Catholic Youth Festival

### CONVERSION

### 3. YOUTH MINISTERS

What: Parish and school based youth ministers that are situated throughout the Archdiocese with identified schools and parishes. Youth Minister placements are post-school and on a part-time or gap-year.

### DISCIPLESHIP

### 4. CHURCH COMMUNITY YOUTH MINISTRY

What: Establish Regional Youth Ministry Bases as a connecting point between Catholic schools and Church communities (Parish and ecclesial movements). Youth ministry initiatives conducted out of the Youth Ministry Base could include:

1. Youth Mass
2. Youth Academy
3. Youth Rallies and
4. Youth Groups/Young Adults Ministry

### INCORPORATING INTO THE CHURCH

### 5. MISSION

What: Cross-cultural mission opportunities to students and Youth Ministers including:

1. Northern Territory
2. Uganda

### SERVING THE MISSION

Pathways from school to church

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Social: @cgyouth



# New seminarian Foliga Etuale

I AM 26 and come from a family of eight, which includes my parents, four sisters, a brother and myself.

I was born and raised a Catholic in Samoa.

When I was born in 1990, my father Etuale Luamanu and mother Saifuiono Luamanu were on their last year of theological studies as acolytes in the Archdiocese of Samoa.

They have been involved in active ministry ever since. In 2009, my father was ordained a permanent deacon.

My father is a musician and taught my family well. We are all singers and my younger brother and I play the piano.

My school years were varied because every five years in Samoa, the Church ministries shift around parishes according to the archbishop.

In 2009, I was started studying for my Bachelor of Commerce degree in Samoa.

At the same time, the Archbishop of Montego Bay Diocese from Jamaica visited Samoa and was overwhelmed by the faith development of the Samoans.

He admired the way we worshipped and requested that some musicians come to work in his archdiocese in Jamaica.

At this point my family was



After a process of discernment Foliga Etuale is training to be a priest for the Archdiocese. Picture: Supplied.

assigned by our Samoan archbishop to move to Montego Bay as missionaries.

This three-year experience in Jamaica had a profound influence on me.

I began to spend more quality time with Jesus in private prayers

and by the time I returned to Samoa in 2012, I was a changed person.

I went back to university resuming my studies for the next two years and completing my degree.

At this stage I felt like I was going through the motions. I

attended my course and sat the exams just for sake of doing them.

For the two years that I was back in Samoa, I was still thinking of Jamaica and my parishioners, schoolmates, youth groups and all the people that my family and I had being working with in the Church.

In 2014, I got my first job in a bank working in international trade and finance, however, the truth was this did not interest me anymore and I applied to join the seminary of Samoa.

After two weeks, the vicar general called me and told me that I had been recommended to the archbishop to pursue my studies in the seminary the following year.

One evening after dinner I told my parents my BIG news. I could tell by their emotional reactions that they were not surprised at all.

My mother mentioned that God has answered my maternal grandfather's last wish that I would become a priest.

My grandfather is one of the many reasons that I am here today discerning God's call.

In our village in Samoa, there is no Catholic Church. My grandfather married a Mormon from the village. She converted and each week they travelled to the closest Catholic parish to attend Mass.

They had six children of which my mother is the eldest.

Until a few years ago, my whole extended family on my grandfather's side every week would pack two or three vehicles and drive to the edge of the island for Mass. I believe he is the reason there is a such strong Catholic faith in the village.

I believe the faith of my grandfather in the Catholic Church is also the inspiration for my uncle's conversion from being a Mormon to becoming a Catholic priest for the Archdiocese of Samoa.

A few weeks after the vicar general's phone call, the Samoan archbishop visited our parish and asked my parents if he could talk to me in person.

He suggested that I finish my business studies and graduate before joining the seminary.

I did not tell him I wasn't interested in doing any further academic studies in the business sector and that I just wanted to become a priest, moreover that I wanted to join the seminary as soon as possible.

I then decided to move to Australia where I have an uncle who is a priest. I was keen to seek his advice because at this point I was still searching for my calling.

I did some well-paid labouring work, while experiencing Canberra for a year. I became involved with a parish, joined the music ministry and found myself being able to attend vocation programs such as Man Overboard.

This final year of discernment in Canberra led me to join the seminary. And here I am here to day studying for the Archdiocese at the Good Shepherd Seminary in Sydney.

I believe that God is guiding me and leading me to become a priest, and I feel that every plan Jesus has been setting for me is falling into place. As I start this journey to priesthood, I pray he will help me to open my heart and listen to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

## Help Religious Sisters - the unsung heroines in the Church!

**They smile, they heal, they teach, they comfort.** Around the globe Catholic religious sisters quietly perform their dedicated and heroic service without remuneration and barely even noticed by the wider world. But in order to assist others, they themselves also need to be helped, for although they minister to so many, they themselves still need their daily bread and a roof over their heads.

Each year the Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) supports over 9,000 religious sisters in every corner of the earth. Many religious congregations turn to the charity for help, not least for the formation of their precious new vocations. While many congregations in the Western world have few or no new vocations and even seem to be dying out, in other parts of the world the religious communities are filled with young and smiling faces.

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.

It is vital that the indispensable work of religious sisters in Christ's Holy Catholic Church continues. Religious sisters are the unsung heroines in the Church. ACN is proud to assist the inspirational work carried out by religious sisters in some of the poorest, most dangerous places in the world.

The average grant ACN gives to support a religious sister or novice is \$300 - but whatever you can afford will be enormously appreciated. ACN forwards the donations directly to the religious superiors in charge of the religious communities and congregations.

**A complimentary Mother Teresa rosary designed by the Vatican rosary makers will be sent to all those who can assist with a donation of \$20.00 or more to support this cause and tick the box below.**



Sr Annie Demerjian works with those in need in war torn Syria.

"It is painful to see people without food and water. In them, Jesus is hungry and thirsty. What gives me joy is when I can help them and see the relief and happiness on their faces." Sr Annie

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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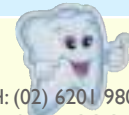
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A collage of four photographs of young men, likely seminarians, with a diagonal banner across them that reads "ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA &amp; GOULBURN". The photos show them in various settings: one in clerical attire holding a chalice, one smiling in a green shirt, and two others in casual or semi-formal wear.

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# The Church listens

FORGIVENESS, compassion, betrayal, airing of grievances and differing opinions were all part of the mix at Archbishop Christopher Prowse's listening sessions in the wake of the Royal Commission into Child Sexual Abuse.

Some victims as well as family members of those abused by clergy attended the sessions, as did a number of Archdiocesan priests, parishioners and members of the public.

Facilitated by Archdiocesan Director of the Institute for Professional Standards and Safeguarding Matt Casey, the five listening sessions took place at Yarralumla, Temora, Goulburn, Narooma and Bega.

Mr Casey regarded the sessions to be "respectful gatherings with important messages" as a wide range of topics and firmly held beliefs were brought forward.

Mistakes made by the Church and some of its members, the age of novices, seminary formation, compulsory celibacy for clergy, homosexuality among some clergy, fractured families, suicide and attempted suicide by victims were all points of interest raised.

One opinion was that abuse is endemic in society and is not

just a recent thing of the past 50 years, and statistically one in five children suffer at the hands of abusers.

Another attendee suggested "for a long time priests have been put on pedestals", that this was unhealthy and part of the problem leading up to child sexual abuse by clergy.

In the same vein, it was highlighted by some people that a lack of women in management positions in the Church was a contributing factor to the abuses.

Someone who said they had left the Church said it was important that the Archdiocese seeks guidance from those outside the Church to assist with external perceptions.

Archbishop Prowse said he "was particularly heartened by the courage shown at the sessions and the willingness of some victims and their families to forgive".

He asked for prayers and again thanked priests who had remained steadfast in their ministry.

"Pray for them at this time, they are going through a lot more than we realise," he said.

Deep, powerful testimonies and tremendous stories of faith in God among extreme adversity

were shared.

They came in addition to robust discussions suggesting the Church can still take a more humble approach in light of recent events.

After the listening sessions had taken place, Archbishop Prowse and Cathedral Administrator Mgr John Woods led hundreds of people in a twilight Liturgy of Lament at St Christopher's Cathedral.

Mgr Woods said the Archdiocese had followed the lead of Marist College Canberra in holding the liturgy.

He said it was an active display of remorse and an important step of recognition of the hurt to the abused and their families.

Following the sessions, Mr Casey said holding the listening sessions and the Liturgy of Lament was a most important step.

"This is the beginning of an ongoing conversation for everyone in the local Church," he said.

Anyone who has been affected by sexual abuse at the hands of Catholic clergy, or by any employee or volunteer for of the Church can contact Mr Casey on 0411 096 173 or the IPSS directly on (02) 6201 9872. Alternatively they may wish to send an email to [ipss@cg.org.au](mailto:ipss@cg.org.au)

## Archdiocesan Liturgy of Lament and Hope

We have come here tonight from pain and disillusionment, from anger and confusion, from sadness, looking for hope. We come together for one thing only: to raise our hearts and voices and very bodies to God, in the hope that the very act of raising them in lament yet in faith, they may be touched in their brokenness, and know the transforming and surpassing power of God's love.

With this invocation, the Archdiocese conducted its Liturgy of Lament and Hope at St Christopher's Cathedral, attended by about 200 people including priests,

deacons and religious.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse led the liturgy which was held in response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, some of which happened at the hands of Catholic clergy and lay people.

In a gesture of humility, Archbishop Prowse, dressed in a black cassock, processed to the sanctuary of the cathedral and for a few minutes lay prostrate before a large Calvary Cross positioned before the altar.

He gave a reflection of his time

spent at the listening sessions held at Yarralumla, Temora, Goulburn, Narooma and Bega.

A family member of a survivor gave a reflection on the impact that sexual abuse has had on the family.

The sign of peace, Litany of Healing, periods of silence, praying of the Our Father, lighting of candles and a blessing from Archbishop Prowse were rich in symbolism.

Attende Domine, Be Still My Soul, Prayer of St Francis and Christ Be Our Light were sung during the evening led by the Cathedral Choir.



### *Archbishop Prowse's reflection at the Liturgy of Lament and Hope delivered at St Christopher's Cathedral*

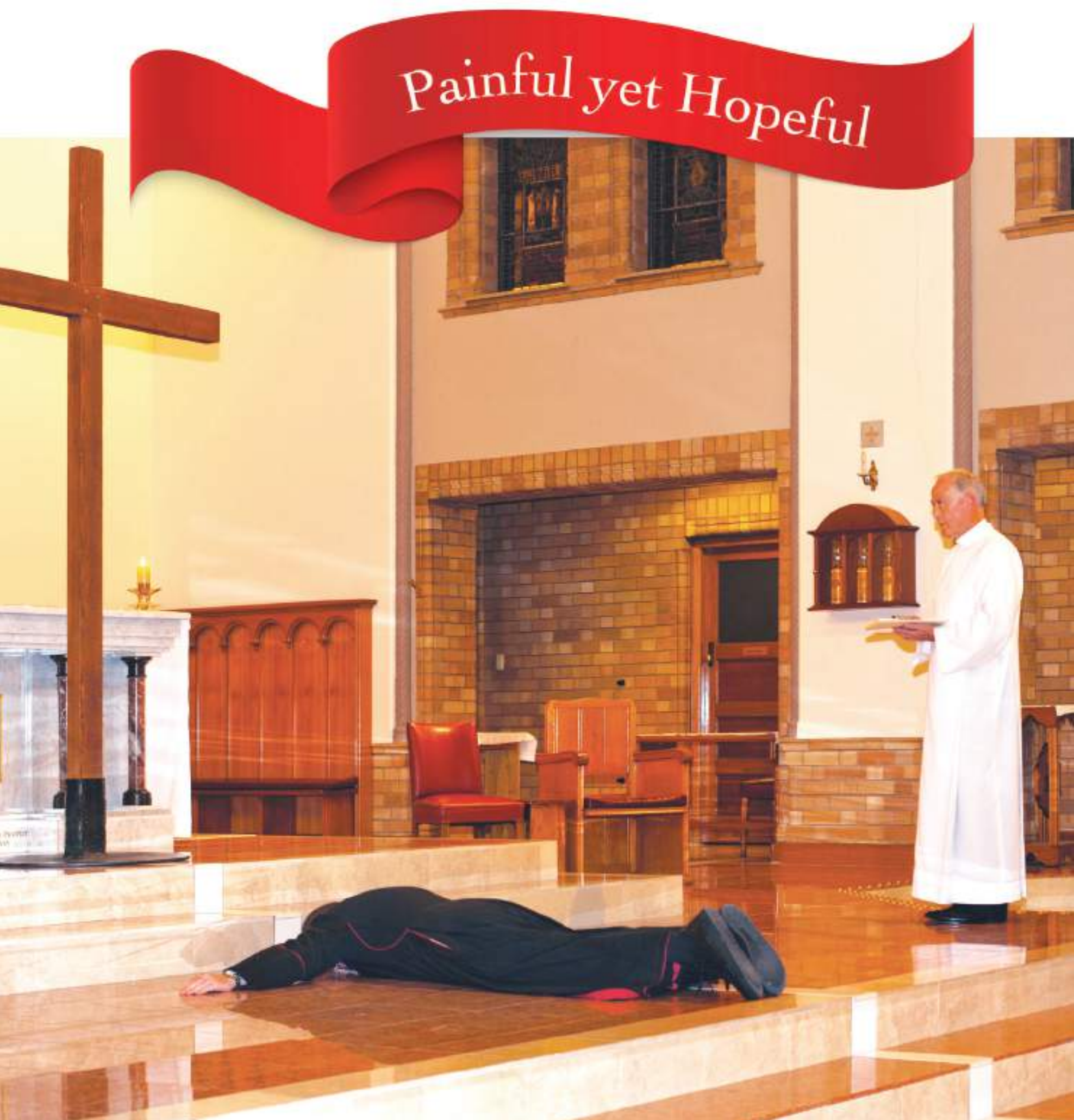
A common response to the recent Listening Sessions I have conducted throughout the Archdiocese was that they were painful yet hopeful.

As part of our Lenten pilgrimage to the Easter Mysteries of our Faith, the invitation was offered to parishioners to share with me their experiences arising from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

Certainly, the sessions were painful experiences for the participants.

Courageous testimonies were shared by victims, families and friends. Horrendous incidents of





Archbishop Christopher Prowse lies prostrate before the Cross at the foot of the sanctuary as an act of humility at the Liturgy of Lament and Hope. Picture: Loui Seselja.

the trauma of suicides, depression, rage, divorce and shame were shared in response to appalling stories of criminal abuse towards the innocent by Church personnel. I personally found these testimonies sickening to hear. Heartrending comments such as “The Church has taken my faith away”, “I said nothing to protect Mum and Dad”, “If I said something, no one would have believed me”, and “I still feel guilty that so many years ago this happened in my school but I did not realise it at the time.”

Probing questions arise from all this suffering and pain: Can Church institutions be trusted?

Are they truly safe places? Do you really believe my story? Can you help me practically?

What is happening now that assures me that this will not happen again?

What is the Church doing to ensure that systemic problems are being addressed?

In the midst of all this pain, we come before the Lord at the foot of the Calvary Cross in lament. Biblical lament has a two fold approach.

This is seen particularly in the psalms of lament. On the one hand, there is the voicing of all our strong and various emotions to God who hears us.

On the other hand, there is the hope that God will intervene and carry our burdens as we walk together in the times ahead. There is a saving journey from Calvary to Easter praise made under God’s initiative.

There were glimmers of this Easter hope in the Listening Sessions.

There was almost universal acknowledgement of the caring and pastoral role that so many of our priests in the Archdiocese play in the community.

They are truly loved by our people. I know they are suffering very deeply and at various levels from the social reverberations of

the abuse scandals. They would be consoled by this feedback from our people.

The hope of healing and spiritual reconnection was frequently mentioned.

Such comments arose not so much from victims or their carers but mainly from the general parishioners present.

Though not directly involved with sex abuse incidents, they were keen to be present and offer support.

I can only imagine that the scourge of sex abuse is a little like a terrible bushfire raging in the lives of the victims.

For this, all of us are truly

sorry and humiliated. Yet there is always the Christian hope that Easter will surely come in unexpected ways. In time, even after a major bushfire, small green shoots appear out of the ash heap.

We pray to the Risen Lord to lead us in this redeeming movement from Calvary to Resurrection. Jesus never leaves us alone in times of pain.

May this be our fervent prayer as we enter Holy Week and Easter Time humbly and purified by penance and conversion. “God bring us back, let your face shine on us and we shall be safe”. (Psalm 80:3)



# Come and visit a Catholic school

BY ROSS FOX

DIRECTOR, CATHOLIC EDUCATION  
CANBERRA & GOULBURN

I AM coming up to my five-month anniversary as Director of Catholic education in the Archdiocese. It is very much early days for me in my leadership in the Archdiocese. I look forward to the opportunity to share my journey in Catholic education in Canberra and Goulburn in this column every few months.

A source of great joy and learning in my first term in the Archdiocese were my visits to many of our Catholic schools.

The progress of our students and the dedicated work of our teachers was evident in all the schools I visited.

From my visits I know that learning is well under way! In particular, I was impressed to see the progress our kindergarten students have already made in their lifelong learning journey demonstrating great progress on reading, writing and numeracy in just their first 10 weeks of the school year.

I hope that Easter and the term break were restful and a chance to reconnect with the amazing Easter story and the foundation of the Christian message. As well as catch up with family and friends, possibly with a few Easter eggs.

Pope Francis' Lenten Message drew on the parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus. It was a reminder to us that everyone is a gift, no matter their backgrounds and circumstances.

This message particularly resonates for Catholic schools. Catholic schools strive to be communities of hope centred on the understanding that every human being has an innate dignity.

Every person, whether a student, a family member, a staff member or the wider school community are all gifts



to be cherished.

As May arrives, Catholic Schools in the ACT begin Catholic Schools Week – running from May 1 to 7. NSW Catholic schools week has already passed.

Catholic Schools Week is an opportunity to celebrate

and showcase the innovative learning and faith development that occurs in Catholic schools every day. The theme of Catholic Schools Week in 2017 is *Great Learning Great Communities*.

The Catholic Education feature in this issue of Catholic Voice includes an invitation to visit a Catholic school in the Archdiocese during Catholic Schools Week. This is a chance for everyone, not just current parents and families, to witness the vibrant faith and learning environments available today in Catholic Schools and Early Learning Centres.

Research on how parents choose schools across Australia tells us that word of mouth remains the most important source of information for parents considering which school best meets the needs of their child.

Choosing a school is an important decision. Fortunately, the ACT is endowed with many great schools whether Catholic, government or independent.

If you have not visited a Catholic school in a while I encourage you to do so and see what a contemporary Catholic education has to offer.

I would also ask you to share your story of Catholic education with prospective Catholic school parents and invite them to visit a Catholic school during ACT Catholic Schools Week. Many things have changed in education in recent years and decades but many things remain the same.

We have dedicated teachers and staff, children filled with curiosity and brimming with potential and Catholic schools that are great, supportive and inclusive community with a focus on learning. Please let me know what you think. I can be contacted by email on [ross.fox@cg.catholic.edu.au](mailto:ross.fox@cg.catholic.edu.au)

I hope to see you in Catholic Schools Week and look forward to sharing my story through this column in the years ahead.

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Register at [mackillop.act.edu.au](http://mackillop.act.edu.au)

**The Year 11 2018**  
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**Wednesday 10 May, 2017**  
**6pm, Isabella Campus**  
*Includes Careers Expo*



# PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE FUTURE

STEM subjects are often being discussed as an important means by which we can prepare students well for the jobs of the future. Daramalan College has been planning over recent years to ensure that all its students have great opportunities to develop their skills in Science, Technology and a wide range of other subjects over Years 7-12 by investing in new facilities that provide exciting learning spaces for students. Early in 2017 the College opened its new Science building which has outstanding facilities to inspire students to further their studies in Science. This new building complements the recently built Technology facilities which have been highly acclaimed.

While it is great to have wonderful facilities, we know that it is the dedication of staff that has the greatest impact on inspiring and encouraging our students. Our staff work hard to provide opportunities inside and beyond the classroom so that students can develop their knowledge, interests and skills. The strong participation of our students in programs such as the CREST Awards is evidence of students having opportunities to go beyond the formal curriculum and to engage in learning with experts outside of the classroom, including staff from local universities. We have had outstanding success in recent years in the BHP Billiton Science and Engineering Awards and our students regularly achieve success in various Science Olympiads

While STEM is an exciting part of contemporary education, Daramalan College also offers students whose interests lie in areas such as the performing and visual arts, in languages and the humanities as well as in sport, excellent opportunities for success. In addition, a wide variety of vocational courses are available for students to pursue.

As a Catholic school owned by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, we aim to encourage our students to be “on Earth the heart of God” and to live out the MSC charism by showing forgiveness, justice, hospitality, respect, compassion and, above all, love in all their interactions.

We invite you to have a look at our website [www.daramalan.act.edu.au](http://www.daramalan.act.edu.au) when considering how best to prepare your son or daughter for their future schooling. Year 7, 2018 enrolments close on 19 May 2017 and applications for Year 11, 2018 close on 23 June 2017.

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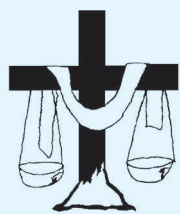


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# Personal income tax: Fair go for families



## JUSTICE MATTERS

BY MIKE CASSIDY

CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

Last month's column looked broadly at the Australian system of personal income tax in the light of Catholic principles of social justice. This month we look at possible reforms intended to give families a fairer deal.

One concern that many people feel about the present system is its impact on single-income families. In a nutshell, dual-income families pay less tax.

The difference can be substantial. For example, tax on a family income of \$70,000 is something like \$8000 more if one spouse receives all the income than if each spouse has an equal share of that (\$35,000 each).

Removing this discrepancy could be achieved by income splitting – simply taxing each spouse's income at the rate applying to

one-half of the family's income (in this instance, \$35,000 each). What stops governments from doing this?

One deterrent is, of course, the large loss of revenue involved; realistically, governments do not have the financial capacity to adopt this approach in full. Another is that the reductions in tax would be much greater at higher levels of income.

Many people would oppose the measure because it would discourage women's participation in the labour force; it would do this by taxing the income of most "second earners" from the very first dollar. Some other people would, of course, see this as a plus in that it would encourage more mothers to stay at home.

Those opposed to the measure would also make the point that dual-income families usually incur greater costs precisely because they have two incomes. Travel costs and child care are particularly important here.

It is notable that under the present system the capacity to split income for tax purposes is greater when it is derived from sources other than work – for example, from interest and

dividends. Income from a family business is also easily split.

Governments have used more direct ways of achieving tax fairness for families. In Australia, for example, governments once provided tax concessions by way of deductions from taxable income and rebates of tax for a dependent spouse and children. More recently they have preferred

income, with the critical exception of those with very low incomes.

Family allowances – direct payments through social security – replaced rebates for children in 1976. They were essentially the same as rebates, with the added advantage of reaching those low-income families who received little or nothing from the rebates.

Much has changed since 1976,

FTB rates are substantial. Their structure recognises the special needs of low-income families and the case for recognising costs borne by parents generally.

It is worth observing that the FTB income test is based on the aggregated taxable income of the parents.

Means-tested social security payments (other than FTB) are generally assessed on the basis of an income-splitting method – each spouse is assessed as if his or her income is half of the total.

Both of these approaches tend to discourage mothers from taking paid work. Put another way, they encourage mothers to stay at home with their children.

It is striking that they seem to have broad acceptance whereas any moves towards adopting similar approaches to the general assessment of income tax would almost certainly be very contentious. Perhaps this is another illustration of how difficult it is to achieve consistently, principled outcomes in large and complex systems such as tax and social security.

Comments or requests for information about the Commission, to [SocialJustice@cg.org.au](mailto:SocialJustice@cg.org.au)

**Families deserve a fair tax deal, but specific proposals for achieving this can have unwelcome and unintended consequences**

to offer parents a choice between direct payments through the social security system or equivalent reductions in tax.

Deductions for children were part of the tax system until 1974. They had the disadvantage of giving greater assistance to people on higher incomes.

Rebates replaced deductions but only for one year. They gave the same assistance at all levels of

but assistance for children has continued to be paid directly in most instances. The tax reforms of the year 2000 replaced what had become a complex system of family payments with Family Tax Benefit (FTB) and allowed parents to choose between being paid directly and receiving an equivalent reduction in tax – an overwhelming majority of parents chose direct payments.



## LITURGY MATTERS

BY JENNY ANDERSON

# We need to meet the needs of today's worshippers

AS we continue our Easter journey, we pause for a moment to consider where we have come from and where we are going.

I attended the National Biennial Liturgy Meeting in Melbourne in March on behalf of the Archdiocese.

The meeting included keynote addresses and workshops led by some of Australia's leading scholars and practitioners in the field of liturgy.

We were taken on a high-speed journey through the history of our liturgy and were invited to look to the future and consider our succession plan.

Who are we training to take our place? This is the question that has stuck with me since the meeting; a question that everyone in the Church needs to consider. Are you passing on the faith and skills you have been entrusted with?

Our tradition is deep and vast. There is no way we can be across everything. We need specialists in all aspects of the liturgy. We can't rely on someone else to pass on what we know and love.

There are so many things that each of us do as part of our worshipping community that go unseen and unrecognised – and that is as it should be – but when we are no longer there to do them, who will take our place?



Are we training someone now who will take our place in the future, or are we holding roles tightly to ourselves? Do we have an apprentice? Are we passing on our knowledge?

The future of our Church depends on every one of us sharing what we know and love so others can take up the mantle in the future, and know the joy and privilege of serving that has brought life to us.

One crucial element of this is how welcoming we are as a community. Do we invite the stranger or the visitor in? Do we

make them feel at home? Or do they go unseen and unacknowledged? Our deepest human longing is to belong – to be part of something bigger than ourselves.

How does our community meet this need? If we don't welcome people and really see them, then how can we share with them what we know? How do we pass on our traditions and our faith if we don't welcome people and walk alongside them?

Will they care about where to stand or how to celebrate if they don't feel that they have a part to play in our parishes?

If they remain a spectator on the outside, why then, would they offer their time, treasure and talents, for the benefit of the community?

To meet the needs of the future Church, we need to meet the needs of those in our worshipping community today.

In today's world, we don't expect to be faceless, nameless citizens. We are hyper-connected to a world that is moving and changing rapidly, where we are creating the stories and setting the agenda.

We need to find ways to connect and intersect with a society that is always on the move. How do we become a place of peace and hope, a sanctuary for those who are drifting on the tides of life?

We don't need to invent something new or novel, as we have beautiful rituals and symbols.

We just need prepare to celebrate them well, to allow them to be seen more clearly.

To allow these windows to the sacred to lead us into the mystery of the dying and rising of Christ that will provide us with the resilience and hope we need to face the trials we encounter each day.

We need to let people know that we care about them; their concerns, their needs and their lives, so that the liturgy we celebrate as the Body of Christ can draw us all to new life.



# Using Mary to understand Jesus

*The Fatima devotion holds a special place in the heart of West Wyalong Parish Priest Fr Emil Milat. Leaving this year on May 9, he will embark on a month-long pilgrimage, the high-point being the 100th anniversary celebrations at the site of the apparitions, where Pope Francis will celebrate Mass on May 13. Joining Fr Milat on the pilgrimage is Br Dominic Levak OFM (Hermit at the Bolo Farm Shrine) and Moruya parishioners, Helen and Ian Brown, Norma O'Connor and Barry Hoban.*

BY FR EMIL MILAT

THE Immaculate Heart of Mary has been a special gift on my priestly journey. In the first years of the seminary I was in a lot of turmoil; I knew I wanted to become a priest, but I did not know how to make all the sacrifices necessary.

This definitively changed for me when, through grace, I came across books such as Louis de Montfort's True Devotion to Mary and Fr Stefan Gobbi's Marian Movement of Priests and met people who explained the graces that flow from consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

As I grew in my understanding of the role the Blessed Virgin Mary played in the life of her Son Jesus, I saw her importance in my life too. I came to understand that if I wanted to become a child of God like Jesus, and with him as an older brother (Romans 8:29-30) I

needed Mary as my mother too - just like she was to Jesus.

So I chose the date of February 2, 1997 (The Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, which is the fourth Joyful mystery of the Rosary) for my formal consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. After the Mass I made my consecration and ever since then great peace has filled my heart.

Moreover, I saw more clearly the deeper calling of Baptism to become a child of God. I could see time and again Mary actively bringing all the right people and graces into my life. With her help and guidance, I could continue to grow spiritually.

In April 1997, I made an eight day retreat over Easter at the Benedictine Abbey in Jamberoo. On entering the chapel I looked at the plaque on the threshold of the door and noticed it was called 'Abbey of the Presentation' - the

Feast Day of my consecration! As you go through the door of the chapel, there is a lovely stained glass window of the Presentation; it has been a source of deep contemplation for me. The Abbey has been a very special and graced place during my journey; I have organised about 20 parish retreats there and completed many personal retreats.

My devotion to Mary continued to grow all through my seminary formation. It was like a reference point for all insights that came from the retreats, conferences and lectures I was blessed to participate in.

Like the early Church councils, I used Mary to understand Jesus more fully. I could sense the pure and perfect light of God that came through the devotion to Mary's Immaculate Heart. Writings like those of St John Paul II (with his motto Totus Tuus- indicating a profound surrender to

Mary as a Spiritual Mother), those of Archbishop Fulton Sheen and many others helped me to understand the Church's dogmas on Mary such as The Immaculate Conception and Mary Mother of God.

Devotion to Mary provided me with a Marian "heart" where all the teachings and talks I came across could be put into a complete understanding of the Christian faith. Even more, it provided spiritual warmth where I could accept these truths.

When I went to see Archbishop Emeritus Francis Carroll regarding a date for my ordination, I was delighted when he suggested June 30, 2000 (The Feast of the Sacred Heart). The next day I celebrated my Mass of Thanksgiving on the Memorial of the Immaculate

Heart of Mary!

Over the next 17 years of my priestly journey, I grew in understanding of the revelations of Fatima. I could identify with what Archbishop Fulton Sheen said that the Apostle John had a personal "Pentecost" experience at the foot of the cross when Jesus said, "Behold your mother" (John 19:27). I could also identify how, from that moment, John saw Mary as his mother and took her not just into his home but into his interior life.

A current book called Fatima for Today: The Urgent Marian Message of Hope by Andrew Apostoli has helped to deepen my inspiration. Reading it prayerfully, I could see the importance of Fatima in my life more than ever and was deeply drawn to ponder anew the words Our Lady said in Fatima, "In the end my Immaculate Heart will triumph". I pondered on how all Popes since Fatima in 1917 have had a deep devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

So many details could be



Receiving a blessing from Archbishop Christopher Prowse for their pilgrimage to Fatima was (L-R) Ian Browne, Norma O'Connor, (Archbishop Prowse), Fr Emil Milat, Br Dominic Levak OFM, Barry Hoban and Helen Browne. Picture: Loui Seselja.







Fr Emil Milat with Br Dominic Levak OFM Picture: Loui Seselja.

shared, like the profound influence Fatima had on John Paul II when he realised the significance of being shot on 13 May 1981 - how he saw Mary saved his life. The revealing of the third secret of Fatima in 2000 and the Beatification of the two Fatima children Jacinta and Francesco was accompanied by a deep and balanced reflection by the then Cardinal Ratzinger that gave considerable contextual clarity for the many years of speculation on the secrets.

I noted well when Pope Benedict the XVI while in Fatima at the anniversary in 2010 reminded everyone that the message of Our Lady to the little shepherds are more than ever relevant today.

The pontiff said: "We would be mistaken to think that Fatima's prophetic mission is complete. [...] At a time when the human family was ready to sacrifice all that was most sacred on the altar of the petty and selfish interests of nations, races, ideologies, groups and individuals, our Blessed Mother came from heaven, offering to implant in the hearts of all those who trust in

her the Love of God burning in her own heart."

I saw this lived out by his successor Pope Francis when one of the first things he did was to contact the Archbishop responsible for Fatima asking him to consecrate his Papacy (simultaneously with him in Rome) to Our Lady of Fatima on 13 May 2013.

It was wonderful when it was confirmed Pope Francis would be there with us, with over a million pilgrims on May 13 to offer Mass and celebrate the anniversary of the apparitions.

I will very much be taking the Archdiocese with me in prayer. It was a spiritual joy for me to be at Galong in October last year for the Archdiocesan Annual Marian Mass and Procession when Archbishop Christopher Prowse formally consecrated the Archdiocese to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Such formal consecrations evolved after Our Lady's request in Fatima in 1917 that the Pope Consecrate Russia to her Immaculate Heart together with all the Bishops of the world.

In 1942 Pope Pius XII made a

consecration of the Church and of mankind to Mary, the Mother of God. Interestingly the Second World War decisively turned for the Allies at that point.

On May 13, 1967 Pope Paul VI delivered an Apostolic Exhortation entitled 'signum magnum' (the great sign) in which he called for national, diocesan, and individual consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

In particular exhorting all bishops of the world (since October 1967 would be the 25th anniversary of Pope Pius XII's 1942 consecration) and the sons of the Church to "Renew personally their consecration to the Immaculate Heart of the Mother of the Church and to bring alive this most noble act of veneration through a life ever more consonant with the divine will and in a spirit of filial service and of devout imitation of their heavenly queen."

These consecrations culminated in 1984 when John Paul II consecrated the world and Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary with Bishops from around the world. Interestingly, reform

started in the Soviet Union after that, leading to the fall of Communism.

Also since then, people in Russia have built 1000 churches each year amounting to 29,000 churches- this is probably unprecedented in world history.

I have been praying this past year, as a means of preparing myself for the pilgrimage, the prayer the Archangel of Portugal gave the three Fatima children a year before Mary appeared to them: "My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love You! I ask pardon of You, for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love You."

This was to prepare them for the visitation.

I suppose this Marian influence in my life comes very easily to me given Australia and our Archdiocese are consecrated to Our Lady Help of Christians and this feast day is also my birthday - May 24.

Through Fatima, Mary herself is showing us Jesus and is helping us in these challenging times. Above all, she is guiding us through a consecration to her Immaculate Heart.

## Celebrating the Fatima centenary in the Archdiocese

- Read Jeff Dutton's experience of Fatima on the Archdiocesan website at <http://cgatholic.org.au/catholic-voice/blog/jeffrey-dutton-experience-fatima/>
- Read Noel Braun's experience of Fatima on the Archdiocesan website at <http://cgatholic.org.au/catholic-voice/blog/noel-braun-guess-ill-just-keep-walking/>
- May 13: Goulburn's St Vincent De Paul Society is beginning its Five First Saturdays devotion in Our Lady of Fatima Parish North Goulburn. Read the article at [www.cg.org.au](http://www.cg.org.au)
- May 13: The Marian Movement of Priests apostolate in the Archdiocese are taking a bus from Canberra to Penrose Park's Our Lady of Mercy Shrine (near Berrima) for a 100th Anniversary Mass and Rosary of the Fatima apparitions. See 'Coming Events' for more details.
- May 13: There is a Mercy Vigil at St Peter Chanel's Church Yarralumla. See 'Coming Events' section for more details.
- May 28: Archbishop Christopher Prowse will celebrate a 100th anniversary commemoration Mass at St Christopher's Cathedral at 11am on Sunday, May 28.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

**Tour operator named for WYD**

COSMOS will be the official tour operator to coordinate the Australian pilgrimage to World Youth Day 2019 in Panama. After facilitating a rigorous process of informing, identifying and selecting a company to support the Australian pilgrimage, the Australian bishops selected Cosmos as the company that will manage up to 30 groups and more than 1000 pilgrims. Cosmos managed the Australian pilgrimages to WYD 2016 in Krakow, as the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference tour operator.

**Exploring the needs of migrants**

Registration is open for the national conference of the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office, which will be held in June at the Melbourne campus of Australian Catholic University. This year's theme is Cast into the Deep. The conference will explore the pastoral needs of Australia's migrant communities and how best to provide pastoral care to them. To register go to <http://www.acmro.catholic.org.au/>

**Supporting faith formation in schools**

Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB launched the National Catholic Education Commission's document on the formation of staff in Catholic schools and school systems. A Framework for Formation for Mission in Catholic Education was produced to support the work undertaken by schools and systems in faith formation and to help evaluate and develop existing programs and practices. Archbishop Costelloe reminded Catholic education leaders of the pivotal importance of having staff in Catholic schools and systems who are eager to help students grow in their understanding of the presence of God in their lives.

**Bishop thanked for years of service**

Pope Francis has accepted the resignation of Bishop Joseph Oudeman, OFM Cap as Auxiliary Bishop of Brisbane. Archbishop Mark Coleridge thanked him "for his years of episcopal service in the Archdiocese. We pray that his years of retirement will be fruitful and peaceful. May the Lord grant him good health and the reward of a faithful servant".

**Promoting Outback spirituality**

'Lessons from the Long Paddock' eConference will be launched by the Diocese of Wilcannia Forbes on June 6. The purpose of the eConference is to promote 'outback spirituality' and to generate financial support for the diocese to keep bringing the faith to its more remote regions. Bishop Columba MacBeth Green OSPPE and Fr Frank Brennan will be the keynote speakers. To register go to <http://www.wfcatholic.org.au>

**Metaphysics is the 'first philosophy'**

"If you really want to evangelise, learn metaphysics", Sydney Auxiliary Bishop Richard Umbers encouraged young people at a talk given at Theology of the Pub in Melbourne. "Metaphysics is the 'first philosophy'", he said in a later interview with the Catholic Weekly. "It deals with the question of God, the question of the world and of the soul, of the state of 'being in as much as it is being' or [in Latin] ens qua ens. It is looking at the technical aspect of reality."

# Pioneer of MacKillop cause for canonisation dies



Fr Paul Gardiner passed away in Penola recently. Picture: Supplied.

JESUIT Fr Paul Gardiner, who pioneered work in support of the canonisation of Australia's first saint, Mary MacKillop, has died at Penola. He was 93.

Fr Gardiner entered the Jesuits in 1940, and was ordained in 1955.

He went to Rome in 1983, after being appointed as postulator for the cause of Mary MacKillop's canonisation.

He spent six years researching and compiling the documents about her life, before putting together the case for her canonisation. The case was later published as an authorised biography.

The case was approved by the

Vatican in 1993, and led to the beatification of Mary in Sydney in 1995.

Following that, he worked with Sr Maria Casey on the case for the second miracle. This led finally to Mary's canonisation in Rome in 2009.

"In Rome, it became more and more clear to me that she was a holy person," Fr Gardiner said in an interview in 2012.

"I got more and more closely acquainted with real holiness on earth.

"She gave me a living example of what the gospels are all about."

From 1999, Fr Gardiner lived

and worked at Penola, as chaplain to the Mary MacKillop Centre.

In 2012, he received a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for his contribution to the canonisation cause.

Bishop Greg O'Kelly SJ described him as "a most erudite and scholarly man, who studied the daily scriptures for Mass in Greek and Latin.

"He never lost the sparkle of his humour, and was in possession of his faculties until the very end.

"His admiration of the example of Mary MacKillop was unbounded. Mary will be having a great party now with him in heaven."

## New bishop named to serve Brisbane

FR KENNETH Michael Howell, 59, has been appointed by Pope Francis as an Auxiliary Bishop of Brisbane. He will serve alongside Archbishop Mark Coleridge.

Speaking on behalf of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, Archbishop Denis Hart said Fr Howell had shown "gifted service as liturgist, cathedral administrator and pastor, having recently overseen the construction and completion of the new Mary, Mother of Mercy Church in the Parish of Burleigh Heads".

Fr Howell said Brisbane was his "home place and the Church that has nurtured my faith.

"It has been the great blessing of my life to serve this Church as a priest for the past 34 years."

Fr Howell joined Queensland



Bishop-Elect Ken Howell. Picture: Emilie Ng - Catholic Leader.

Rail after his school years working as a clerk before entering the seminary.

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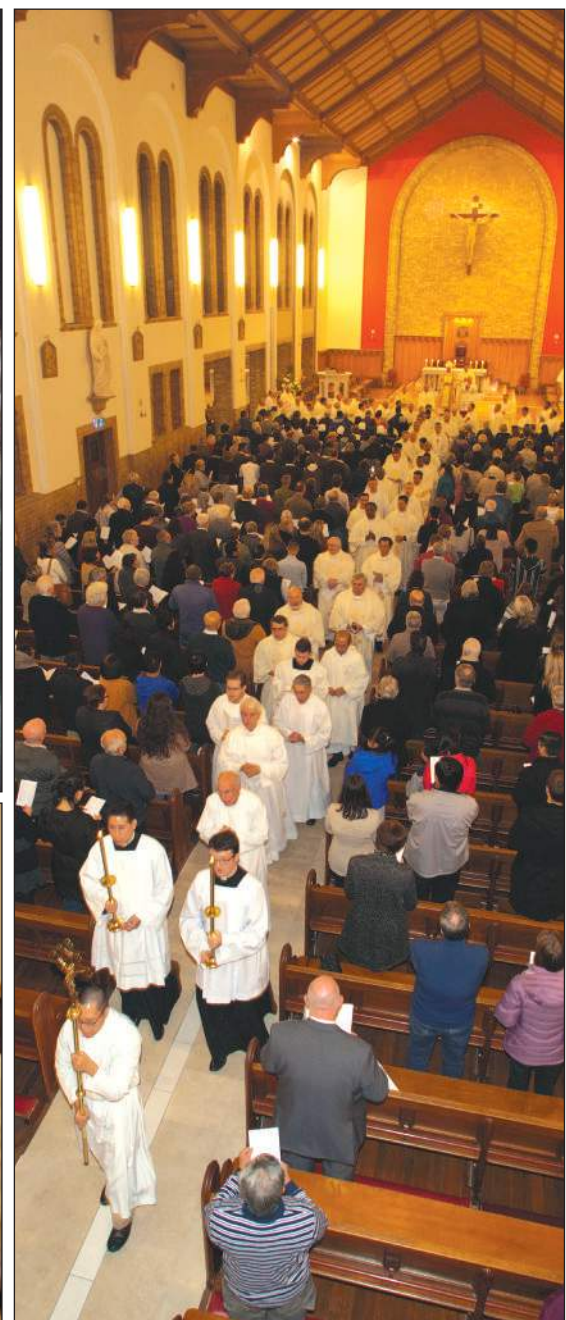
## NEWS IN BRIEF

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# Easter Triduum in our Archdiocese







Deacon O'Donnell surrounded by students from Marist College Canberra at the ANZAC Peace Ceremony.  
Picture: Supplied.

# ANZAC and Peace 2017

ABOUT 700 primary school children attended the 28th annual ANZAC and Peace Ceremony sponsored by the RSL in historic Eddison Park, Woden.

RSL chaplain Deacon Mick O'Donnell presented a prayer of love and peace. He gave a blessing to those gathered including the Patron, NZ High Commissioner Chris Seed, Director General ACT Education Directorate Natalie

Howson, and members of the Eddison family.

Three Eddison brothers were killed during World War 2. The family grew up on a farm which is now the Woden Town Centre.

The ACT Senior Concert band provided music at the gathering and Deacon O'Donnell took his restored 1945 military Jeep named Betty which is always a curiosity for children.

## ANZAC Day Mass 2017







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## BIRTHS DEATHS MARRIAGES

WILSON - Robert and Patricia of St Thomas the Apostle Kambah celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on April 8 this year with a surprise vow renewal and celebration organised by their daughter Veronica, son Matthew (my husband) and daughter-in-law Elizabeth.

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## PRAYERS

Holy St Jude, apostle and martyr, great in virtue, rich in miracles near kinsman of Jesus Christ. Faithful intercessor for all who invoke you, special patron in the time of need. To you I have recourse from the depths of my heart and humbly beg you to whom God has given such great powers to come to my assistance and help me now in my present need and grant my urgent petition. In return I promise to make your name known, and cause to be invoked. Pray 3 x Our Father, 3 x Hail Mary and 3 x Glory Be. St Jude Pray for Us and all who invoke your aid. Amen.

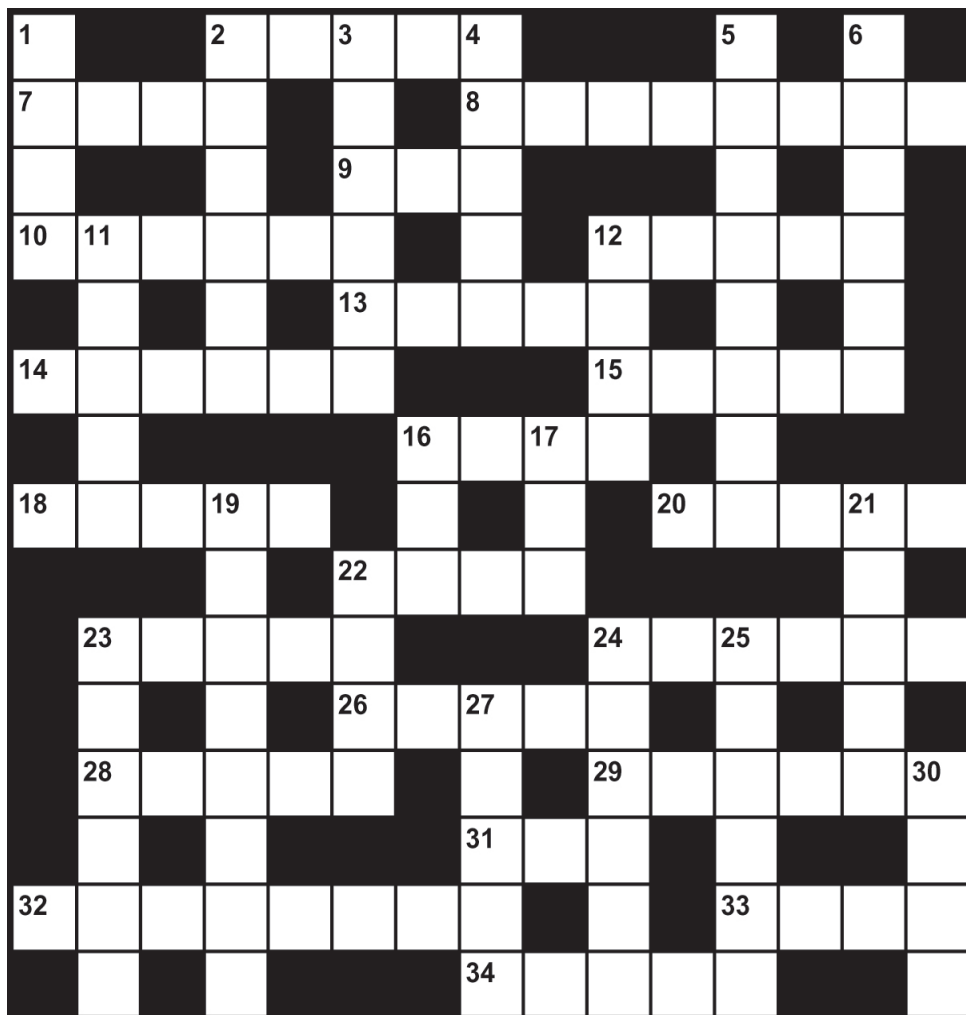
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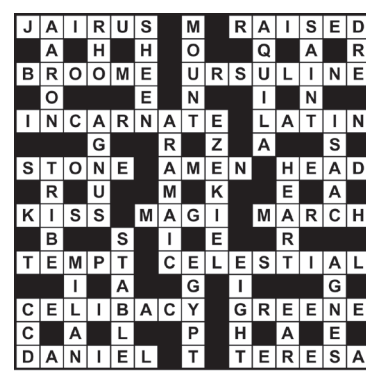
- "Heavenly \_\_\_ sing alleluia..."
- Wife of St. Joachim
- First Catholic university to be built in the United States in about 40 years
- "Eye has not seen, \_\_\_ has not heard..."
- Eight days of a holy season
- "\_\_\_ My Way" Classic Catholic movie
- Seventh century pope
- Votive light
- Genesis event
- Direction from the Jordan to Bethlehem
- King David sent him into battle to be killed (2 Sam 11:14-15)
- \_\_\_ magna
- "...thy will be \_\_\_"
- Jesus referred to Himself as this, rejected by the builders
- August 1, Feast of St. Peter in \_\_\_
- Celestial being
- Saucer for the Eucharist
- "I will raise you up on \_\_\_ wings..."
- "I do not box as one beating the \_\_\_" (1 Cor 9:26)
- The Council of Trent met in three
- The Garden
- Nickname for a Catholic university

## DOWN

- Topper for 26A
- Messenger
- Former Catholic Republican

- National Committee Chairman
- Pope St. Pius X's surname
- The Diocese of Winnipeg is here
- Luke's symbol is this kind of ox
- From the \_\_\_ of Peter
- One of seven of the Holy Spirit
- Catechism question: \_\_\_ made me?
- Bishopric
- Denial of faith
- Peter's \_\_\_
- Catholic novelist Koontz
- The Last \_\_\_
- Those with Orders
- Gregory I sent missionaries to convert these barbarians
- Biblical tooth action?
- Ishmael and Isaac, to Abraham

Solutions in the next Catholic Voice







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

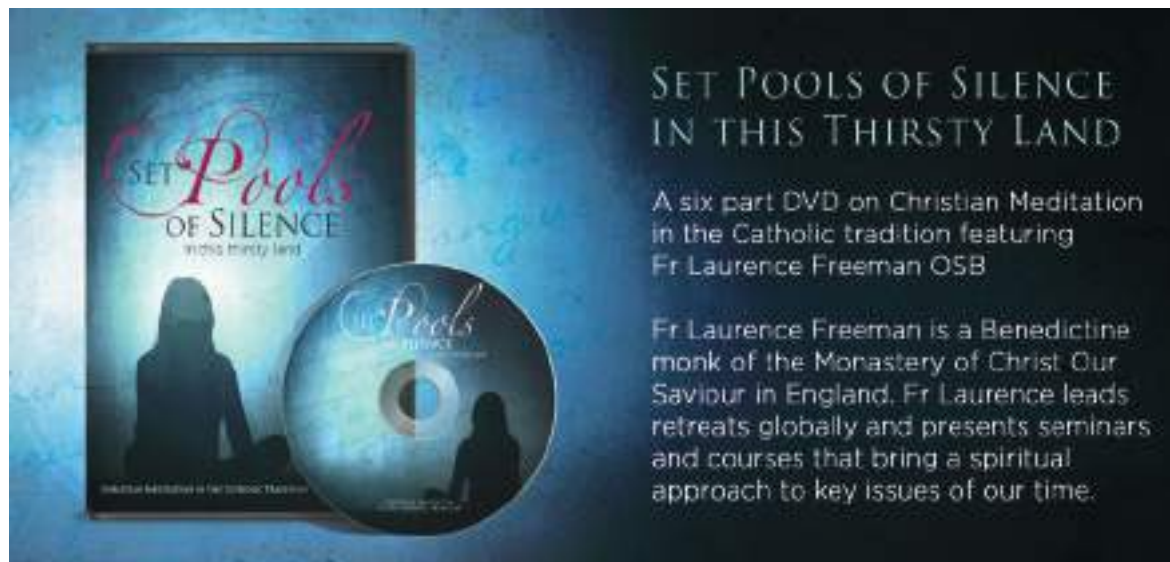
# Archdiocesan & National Coming Events

**May 13:** Fatima 100th Anniversary pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Mercy, Penrose Park (near Berrima). Bookings for Canberra and Goulburn can be made by contacting Judy and Joe Mewburn on (02) 6254 6202.

**May 13:** First Five Saturdays devotion (Holy Communion, Confession, Rosary and meditation) at Our Lady of Fatima, North Goulburn. Guest speaker is Fr Leo Coffey CSsR who will speak on the relevance of the message of Fatima today. For more information contact Wendy Wise on (02) 4821 7492.

**May 13 (6pm):** 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 in the Woden Hellenic Club's Ginseng Restaurant (upstairs) at a table booked in the name of AMICUS. Lunch will be followed by a walk / tour. Contact Paul on (02) 6231 3121.

**May 13:** Mercy Vigil at St Peter Chanel's Church, Weston St, Yarralumla ACT. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 7pm until 1am. Confessions from 8pm-9pm, talk from Fr David Lemewu MGL at 9pm. Celebrating Fatima 100 year anniversary. For more information call/text Susanna 0419 902 293 or Sandra 0405 692 999.



## SET POOLS OF SILENCE IN THIS THIRSTY LAND

A six part DVD on Christian Meditation in the Catholic tradition featuring Fr Laurence Freeman OSB

Fr Laurence Freeman is a Benedictine monk of the Monastery of Christ Our Saviour in England. Fr Laurence leads retreats globally and presents seminars and courses that bring a spiritual approach to key issues of our time.

**May 20 (9am to 1pm):** Marymead Garage and Plant Sale at 255 Goyder Street.

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

**May 21 (2pm):** "Musical Matinee" Beautiful songs from many places, presented by Kaleidoscope and Good Faith choirs at St Margaret's / Holy Cross Church, Antill St Hackett, ACT in aid of HOME in Qbn an ongoing community project. Tickets at door. Afternoon tea included.

**May 27 (2pm):** "Musical Matinee" Beautiful songs from many places, presented by Kaleidoscope and Good Faith choirs at Queanbeyan Uniting Church (Rutledge St) in aid of HOME in Queanbeyan an ongoing community project.

Tickets at door. Afternoon tea included.

**May 28 (12 noon):** 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 in the Café at the National Museum Acton Peninsula at a table booked under AMICUS. Lunch will be followed by a walk / tour. Contact Rosemary on 0428 599 342.

**June 2 to 4:** Come Holy Spirit fully catered Pentecost retreat at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville NSW. A retreat inspired by songs and prayers of Taizé. Cost: \$230.00 Fully catered Friday evening to Sunday lunch. To book call (02) 8795 3400 or visit <http://carmeliteretreats.com.au/>

## Regular Events & Groups

**CANBERRA TAIZE GROUP:** Meets for prayer every second Sunday of the month at Weston Creek Uniting church at 6.30pm.

**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:** Meet on the third Friday of the month at 7:45, St Augustine Church, 262 Beasley St Farrer. Secular Franciscans try to follow Christ in the footsteps of St Francis of Assisi. Call Tony on 0407 072 139 or Hélène on 0420 533 264. Email: [sfo@fastmail.fm](mailto:sfo@fastmail.fm)

**LEGION OF MARY:** Meets on the third Sunday of each month at St Joseph Church, O'Connor at 2pm.

**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). Please RSVP to Rachel (Rachel.Romney-Brown@cg.org.au) for catering purposes or follow the prompts at <http://www.manoverboard.org.au/>

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# Favourite son took on

*Hailing from East Maitland in the Hunter Valley of New South Wales, Les Darcy is an internationally recognised boxing legend. As we approach the centenary of his death on May 24, we remember one of the nation's greatest Catholic folk heroes. John McLaurin explains.*

LES Darcy was an outstanding boxer and a pin-up boy of his time.

Times were tough in the early part of the 20th century and survival was for the fittest. A non-drinker and non-smoker Darcy was "fighting fit".

Coming from humble beginnings, he worked from the age of 12 as a labourer and carter and then as an apprentice blacksmith. He was a man the people could easily relate to. He was one of them.

With his father in and out of employment, Darcy always took it upon himself to make sure his family was looked after materially.

Of Irish Catholic descent, he was fiercely loyal to his family and his faith.

A daily Mass goer, he was friends with local priest Fr J J Coady, who had mentored him.

And the man could box a bit. His seven-inch (18cm) reach belied that of a short (170cm) muscular man with compact build.

He first made money boxing at the age of 14 in Newcastle and Maitland.

It was evident from early on that a champion was beginning to emerge.

He virtually became an overnight sensation; and a humble one at that.

With a huge following, he would often have several train loads of fans come from Maitland to see him in action whenever he fought in Sydney and surrounding places.

Despite having a most enviable boxing record, the enigma that is Les Darcy can largely be traced back to a decision which he illegally made to leave the country during World War I.

On October 27, 1916, Darcy secretly sailed from Newcastle with manager E T O'Sullivan.

They were bound for New York where a fight was scheduled.

His decision to leave Australia a day before the conscription referendum took effect added further intrigue to the man with the gloves.

It also painted him as a rebel and a coward at a time when the country needed defending and men to enlist for national service.

Australian Prime Minister William (Billy) Hughes had banned passports for men of conscription age.

Darcy's breach of the War Precautions Act would have made an impression on many military-aged men across Australia.

These were the very same men that nationalists were encouraging to enlist for war service.

Darcy's failure to make himself available for duty was not the kind of example authorities were hoping for from a national icon.

Those opposed to war might applaud Darcy's stance to leave the country.

Perhaps the man himself didn't believe in war.

It was only a decade and a half earlier that Australia had sent about 16,000 men to South Africa to fight in the Boer War (1899-1902) and so it is feasible that this aided his choice.

Being of Irish descent, the idea of rebelling against authority would not have been foreign to him.

He might have recalled the 1798 Irish Rebellion, the 1804



Castle Hill Rebellion or the Eureka Stockade Rebellion of 1851, all of which involved Catholics of Irish descent.

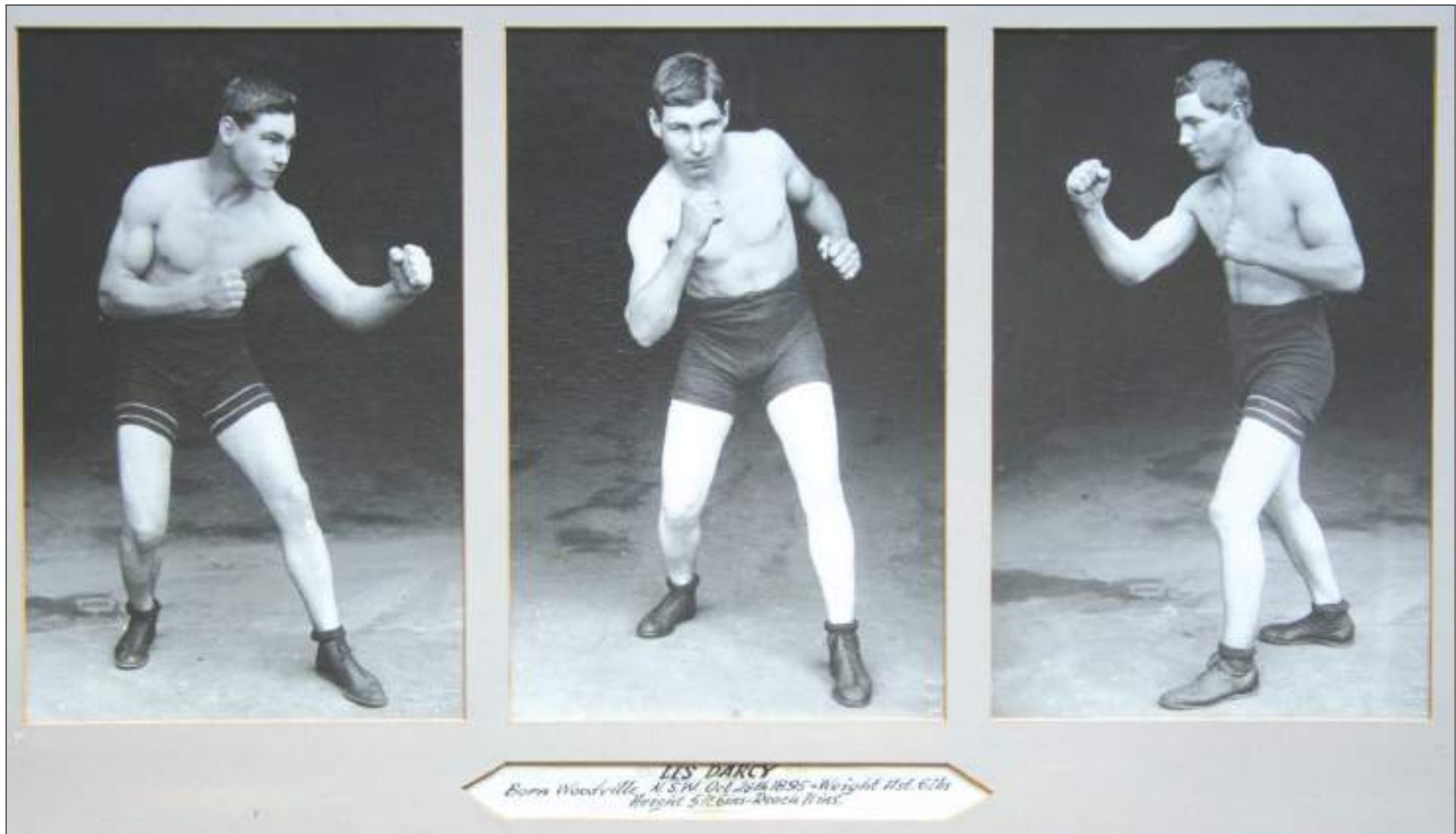
He most certainly would have been aware of the Easter Uprising in Dublin of 1916 which happened months earlier.

The influence of O'Sullivan as Darcy's manager in the decision

cannot be underestimated.

When asked why he illegally left the country ahead of the conscription referendum, Darcy said he wanted to have five or six fights in the US primarily to provide some financial security for his family back home.

It had been a little less than a year earlier, when he had knocked





# the world of boxing

back the opportunity to fight in the US.

In his defence, he claimed that it was always his intention following the prospective US fights to enlist with either the Canadian or British armies.

The fight in New York never eventuated due to the illegal and distasteful manner in which Darcy left Australian shores.

It was a pattern of things to come as his popularity began to plummet. Evidently another bout was cancelled soon after in Louisiana.

He gained United States citizenship on April 5, 1917, and volunteered for the army there.

His call-up was deferred, however, so that he could train for a fight which was billed for Memphis, Tennessee. Weeks later on April 27, he collapsed and was taken to hospital with septicaemia and endocarditis. It is thought these health issues after his teeth were knocked out in the boxing ring. His tonsils were removed but he developed pneumonia from the procedure and never recovered.

Les Darcy died in the prime of his life, aged 21. Considering his willingness to protect and provide for his family some would say it is fitting that he passed away on the Feast of Mary Help of Christians - Patroness of Australia (May 24).

Researcher Roger Ley has been researching his life for the past six years. Towards the end of May he is giving a lecture in Canberra and Maitland entitled Who Shafted Les Darcy? (details below).

It will focus not so much on his boxing feats, but more on the way in which he was treated in relation to avoiding conscription. Giving a local historical perspective ahead of the 100th anniversary of Darcy's death and of the upcoming lectures, Maitland Historical Society secretary Kevin Short said the boxer was arguably Australia's greatest sporting icon behind cricketer Sir Donald Bradman.

"That Les slunk away from Newcastle in the night as a stow-away, a departure seemingly designed to avoid conscription, ought to have labelled him a deserter and coward, yet ironically, in a few short months, thousands lined the streets to pay homage to a returning fallen hero," he said.

"While Maitland has provided the nation with countless men and women of renown in every field of endeavour, Les Darcy remains its favourite son.

"He was by all accounts a decent and highly principled young man, although it's sometimes hard to know if his persona was created and embellished as a eulogy to a life that promised so much but was cruelly extinguished in the most bizarre circumstances."



Left: A confident looking Les Darcy. Picture: Maitland Regional Art Gallery collection.

Above: The house at 15 Emerald St East Maitland, which Darcy had built for his mother. Picture: Maitland Historical Society.

Right: The Les Darcy statue which stands in East Maitland's King Edward Park. Picture: Maitland Historical Society.

Below left: Les Darcy's boxing pose from different angles. Picture: Maitland Regional Art Gallery collection.

## ROGER LEY'S LECTURE: Who Shafted Les Darcy?

**May 24** – National Library of Australia in Canberra 6pm to 7pm. To book go online to <https://www.nla.gov.au/event/who-shafted-les-darcy>

**May 26** – East Maitland Bowling Club at 7pm for 7.30pm. RSVP May 12. To register contact Maitland and District Historical Society on 0438 623 299 or email [maitlandhistorical@gmail.com](mailto:maitlandhistorical@gmail.com)



## Timeline and other facts on Les Darcy

- 1895 - October 31:** He was born James Leslie Darcy at Stradbroke, near Maitland, the second son of 10 children to Edward and Margaret Darcy (nee O'Rourke). His grandparents came from Tipperary Ireland. His father was in and out of work and his elder brother was partly crippled so he was relied upon to help provide for the family. He attended Oakhampton Public School and left at age 12.
- 1909** - He made his first money in boxing at age 14.
- 1912 to 1913** - He won several fights in Newcastle and only lost four fights in his seven-year career.
- 1913** - He went down in a fight with Australian welter-weight champion Bob Whitelaw, but had caught the attention of promoters including R L (Snowy) Baker.
- 1914** - July and August: He controversially lost a couple of bouts against American Fritz Holland after first losing on points and then secondly by being fouled.
- 1915** - January: He came up against American welter-weight champion Jeff Smith, but lost owing to a foul blow from Smith which went unseen by the referee, but this would be his last defeat in the boxing ring.
- 1915** (Jan) to 1916 (Sept) - He astonishingly won 22 consecutive fights, including rematches with Holland and Smith as well as fights against Eddie McGoorty, Billy Murray, Jimmy Clabby, George Chip. George 'KO' Brown and Buck Crouse. Each of the 22 fights netted him 300 pounds. He was also paid for exhibitions and for acting in a film.
- Late 1915** - He announced his intention to accept fighting challenges in the US.
- 1916** - He knocked Harold Hardwick out to capture the Australian heavyweight title.
- 1916 - October 27:** Darcy and O'Sullivan left Newcastle, bound for a major fight New York. The bout was banned by Governor Whitman, because of the manner in which the Australian fled the country.
- 1916 - April 5:** He took out United States citizenship, another fight was cancelled and he volunteered with the US Army.
- 1916 - April 27:** He collapsed and was taken to hospital with septicaemia and endocarditis.
- 1917 - May 24:** He passed away with his fiancée Winnie O'Sullivan at his side.
- 1917** - Despite extensive funeral processions taking place in San Francisco and Sydney, Les Darcy is buried in the Catholic section of the East Maitland cemetery. It is thought that half a million people paid their respects when his body returned to Australia from the United States.
- 1967** - A memorial at his birthplace was unveiled by former Governor-General Sir William McKell.
- 1993** - He was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame.
- 1998** - He was inducted into the World Boxing Hall of Fame.
- 2003** - He was inducted into the Australian National Boxing Hall of Fame
- 2016** - The boxing gloves he used to train in were sold at auction in Sydney and bought by the Maitland Regional Art Gallery where they are on display, while the East Maitland Bowling Club also has a memorabilia collection.
- 2017** - May: An exhibition to mark 100 years of Darcy's passing is being planned for Maitland Regional Art Gallery.

Information sources for article: Trove, Australian Dictionary of Biography (W G McGinn) and the Maitland Historical Society Inc.

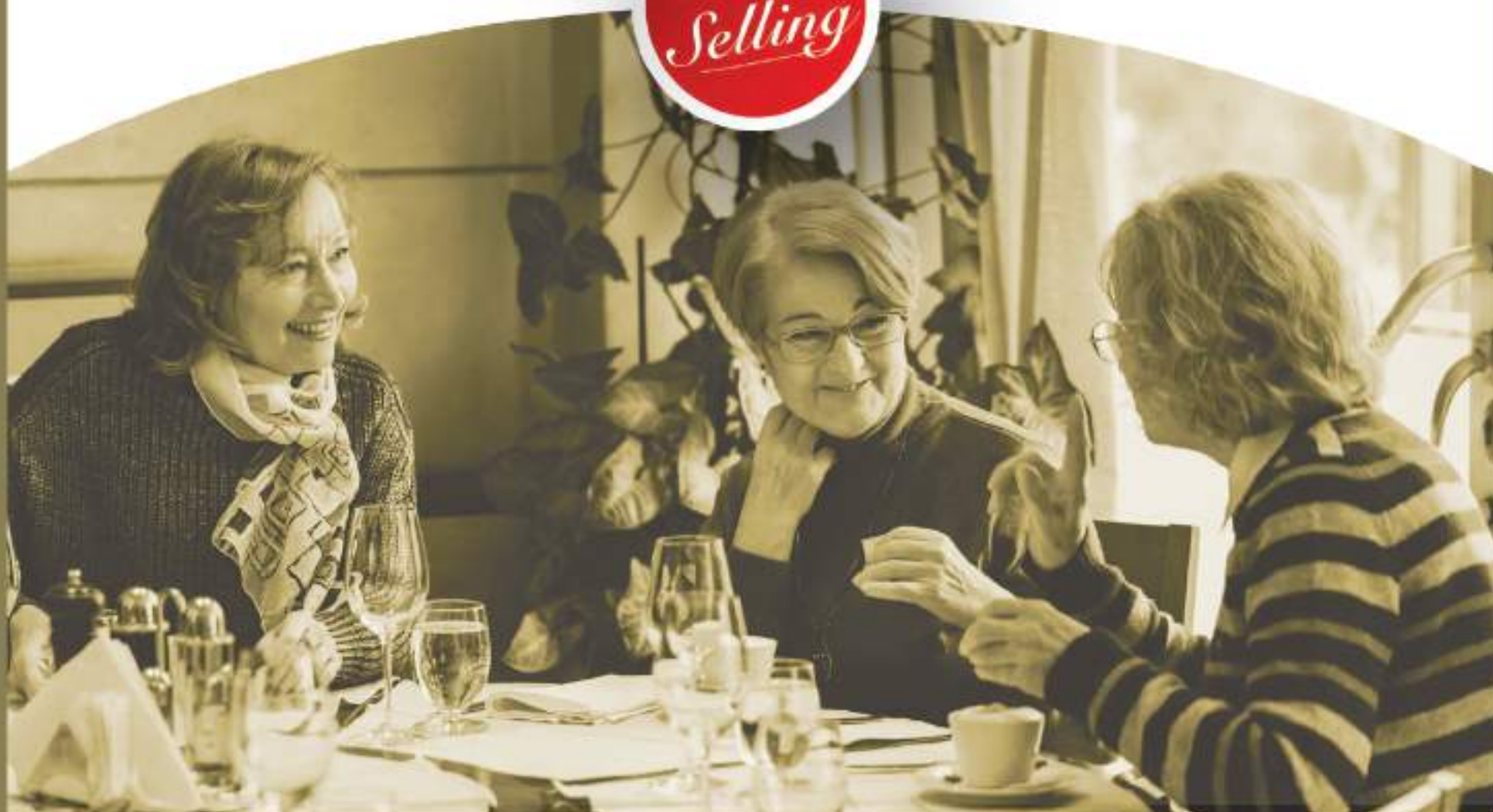




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