

# CATHOLIC **VOICE**

ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN

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## **Women in Leadership**

*Catholic Voice talks to Helen Delahunty, Anne Kirwan and  
Camilla Rowland, three women who are at the forefront of decision-making  
in the Archdiocese. Pages 10-11*

# ARCHBISHOP CHRISTOPHER'S DIARY



## July

### SUNDAY, 2 9.00am

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Sunday Mass, St Benedict's Parish

Narrabundah  
11.00am Multicultural Mass, St Christopher's Cathedral

### FRIDAY, 7

Man Overboard, Archbishop's House

### SATURDAY, 8 6.00pm

Mass, Corpus Christi Parish, Sth Tuggeranong

### SUNDAY, 9

11.00am Mass, St Christopher's Cathedral

### SUNDAY, 16

11.00am Mass, St Christopher's Cathedral

### SATURDAY, 22

6.00pm Mass, St Bede's Parish, Braidwood (to be confirmed)

### SUNDAY, 23 9.30am

Confirmation Mass, St Patrick's Parish, Bega

### TUESDAY, 25 10.00am

Blessing and Opening classrooms, Holy Family Primary School, Gowrie

### WEDNESDAY, 26 6.00pm

Confirmation Mass, St Monica's Parish, Evatt

### SATURDAY, 29 5.00pm

Mass, St John the Apostle Parish, Kippax

### SUNDAY, 30 10.00am

Centenary Mass, St Michael's Cathedral Wagga Wagga Diocese



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Picture: Amber Maher Photography.



## ARCHBISHOP'S MESSAGE

ARCHBISHOP  
CHRISTOPHER PROWSE

DEAR Friends in Christ Jesus,  
In our ancient Christian Tradition, the Holy Spirit is sometimes described as a current of grace. Like a mighty river, the current of God's grace flows from the originating source (God the Father) along the river bed (God the Son). It is the sheer and utter gift (Grace) of our Trinitarian God who is loving kindness itself.

Christians are initiated into this saving flow through repentance and Baptism. Over these months, many Catholics in our Archdiocese are being "sealed" in this divine flow through the Sacrament of Confirmation and continually nourished in the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

As Catholics, we live out these initiation Sacraments in our daily mission to be the presence of Jesus in our world.

Over this past month I have seen this mission being lived out in three particular ways:

### The work of Ecumenism on local and international levels

This year marks the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. It has been shameful how Christians have split and treated each other since the time of Martin Luther. Yet, in recent decades, great work in reconciling the scattered Christians of the world has taken place through ecumenism.

Locally in Canberra, a recent joint liturgy between Lutherans and Catholics took place at the Reid Lutheran Church. It was a most significant evening of prayer and reconciliation.

It echoed many such ecumenical initiatives around the world on this 500th anniversary. Some have included the presence of Pope Francis.

### 50th Anniversary of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal

More than 450 Australians, and quite a few from this Archdiocese,

joined Pope Francis in thanking the Lord for the "Current of Grace" that is the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

More than 70,000 people from all over the world gathered with the Pope in the ancient Circus Maximus in Rome on the Vigil of Pentecost.

They thanked the Lord for the "Baptism of the Holy Spirit" that has helped so many to live out their Catholic lives more energetically in joy and missionary zeal.

### Worldwide Inter-religious Dialogue

I attended a special gathering of Catholic leaders throughout the world recently in Rome. We discussed the present state of the Catholic Church in its outreach in friendship to the religions of the world. All this is done in response to the Vatican II Magna Carta document: *Nostra Aetate* (1965).

I was seated between the

Archbishop of Khartoum and the Archbishop of Baghdad. Their pastoral situation could not be more different in contrast to our own situation in Australia.

They, and so many bishops present, were courageous men in situations largely hostile to the Christian Mission. Let us pray for the persecuted Church!

Wherever we are and in whatever situation we find ourselves, let us continue to live out our Catholic-Christian vocations with courage and patience. Love must always be our sole motive and inspiration.

As always, we totally rely on the flow of the Holy Spirit to make us, as the Body of Christ in our world today, the People of God ready to do whatever the Lord asks of us. We rely on the protection of Mary, the Mother of God, to lead us to Jesus.

Let us pray for each other – pray for me!

# Extra funding eases fee pressure

NO child who enrolls in a Catholic school in 2018 will face pressure on fees or funding cuts during their time in a Catholic school.

Archdiocesan Director of Catholic Education Ross Fox made this pledge in a statement after the Parliament voted to make the Gonski 2.0 funding model law.

"On behalf of Catholic Education, I acknowledge the hard work of Liberal Senator Zed Seselja to negotiate additional funding that

recognises the needs of non-government schools in the ACT," he said.

Senator Seselja negotiated an extra \$57.9 million for the ACT. He said this would give local Catholic and independent schools "funding certainty" and would assist "with the transition to the new model while key reviews are undertaken".

Mr Fox said while the additional funding was welcome, "the legislation that has passed does

not fix the long-term problems in the funding model for Catholic schools". He thanked the Labor Party for its support of the cause of Catholic education. He said Catholic education in the ACT had strengthened its resolve to seek "a genuinely fair funding model for all schools, students and systems".

"Parents of Catholic education have spoken loudly over the last two months in their bid to uphold equity, quality and choice in education in Canberra and throughout

NSW. "The uncertainty created by the Government's approach has caused significant distress for many parents and school leaders."

The commitment of Catholic schools to provide for the needs of every child whatever their background, would not change

Catholic schools remained committed to "the core mission of low-fee, high-quality schooling".

See Ross Fox's column, page 4.

## Every goodbye is different

Some things are more important than others, like finding a local funeral director you can trust. We bring a depth of experience and understanding that could only come from being an integral part of the community.

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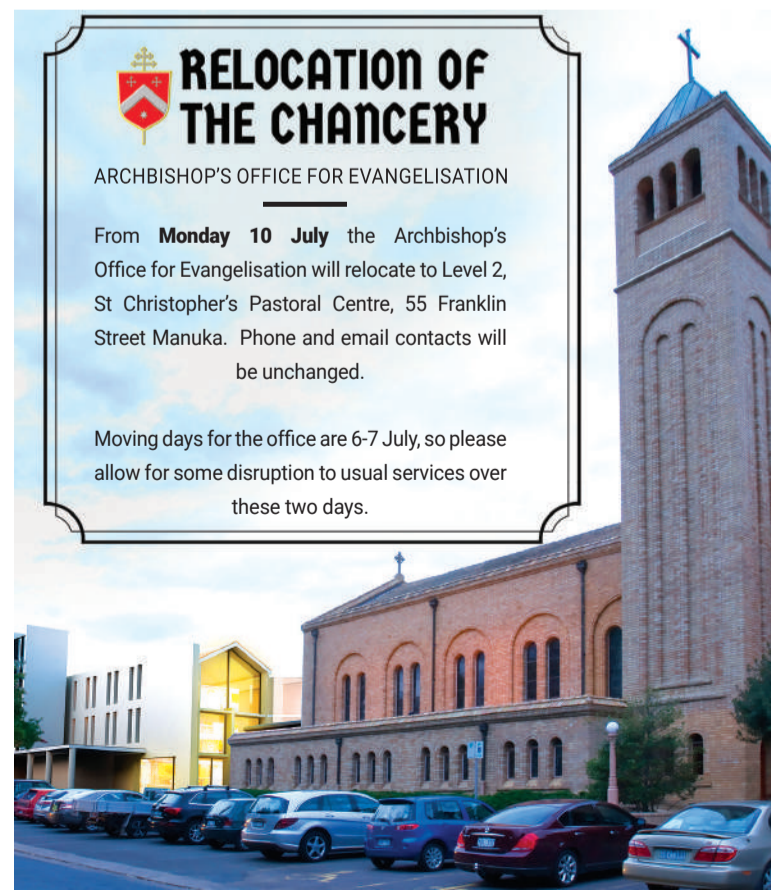
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## RELOCATION OF THE CHANCERY

ARCHBISHOP'S OFFICE FOR EVANGELISATION

From **Monday 10 July** the Archbishop's Office for Evangelisation will relocate to Level 2, St Christopher's Pastoral Centre, 55 Franklin Street Manuka. Phone and email contacts will be unchanged.

Moving days for the office are 6-7 July, so please allow for some disruption to usual services over these two days.



# Homeless helped to a clean start

OFTEN when we think about charities, we imagine organisations that feed, house, educate and clothe the poor.

But what about one that washes and dries the clothes of the homeless?

Introducing, Orange Sky Laundry, the world's first free mobile laundry service for homeless people. The service, which began in 2014, has joined forces with a national education partner, Australian Catholic University.

Three years ago two men had the crazy, not-crazy, idea to put two washing machines and two dryers in a van to wash and dry clothes for the homeless at no cost.

Starting in the streets of Brisbane, Orange Sky has now grown to 12 services across Australia in Brisbane, Canberra, Gold Coast, Melbourne, Sydney, Sunshine Coast, Perth, Adelaide, SE Melbourne, Wollongong, Gosford and Hobart.

The deal with ACU was signed at Deakin offices of the St Vincent De Paul Society, involving another large national charity provider.

The partnership between Orange Sky and ACU is designed for both to deepen their ties with the community and to extend their interaction with them.

Orange Sky CEO Jo Westh said



the organisation's mission was to positively connect communities.

Securing backing from like-minded partners such as the ACU would allow Orange Sky to grow sustainably.

"Homelessness can happen to anyone at any time," she said. "It does not define who a person is [and] the journey back to reconnection for many is long and tough.

"We seek to help create a tangible path out of homelessness through opportunities founded on

non-judgmental conversation, and positive and genuine connections."

ACU Vice-Chancellor and President Prof Greg Craven said the university would help build on educational capacity for Orange Sky to improve their services to people who are doing it tough, and create development opportunities for volunteers.

"ACU and Orange Sky share a passion and commitment to positive change in society," he said.

"By joining forces, we are not only making a difference, but

helping communities to see themselves differently. "Everyone in our community deserves to be treated with dignity and respect and that's what our common mission is about." Orange Sky Canberra Service Manager Noreen Vu said the partnership with ACU had come at "a very opportune time for us".

The partnership announcement comes in the wake of Miss Vu and her Canberra-Queanbeyan team taking out the innovation section of the 2017 Volunteering Awards for the Canberra region.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### PNG martyr's feast

EACH year on July 7, Christians with Papua New Guinean heritage, join with the Universal Church in celebrating the Feast of Blessed Martyr Peter To Rot (1917-1945). In Canberra this year on July 8, the local To Rot Family Group invites Christians in the Archdiocese and beyond to gather with them for an ecumenical Eucharist Mass at St John the Apostle Church, Holt ACT. Mass is at 11am and is followed by a lunch feast of PNG / Islands foods. For more information, contact Francesca Devlin on 0437 415 052 or email Nick Palm at nppalm@hotmail.com

### New PP for coast

FR MARTINS Aloga, former assistant priest at St Christopher's Cathedral, has been appointed parish priest of Batemans Bay and Administrator of Sacred Heart Parish Moruya. A farewell morning tea was held in the Hayden Hall in the new St Christopher's Centre at Manuka. He replaces Fr John Armstrong who was appointed spiritual director of the Seminary of the Good Shepherd in Sydney.

# Who could you be?

# ACU Open Day.

## Canberra Sat 26 August

[openday.acu.edu.au](http://openday.acu.edu.au)



# Thanks for your support

BY ROSS FOX  
DIRECTOR, CATHOLIC  
EDUCATION  
CANBERRA & GOULBURN



I AM writing this column literally days after presenting to the Senate Inquiry on the Government's proposed amendments to school funding arrangements.

At the hearing I appeared alongside representatives of Catholic Education in NSW, Victoria and Queensland, and the National Catholic Education Commission. Three ACT Catholic school principals also appeared later in the day to advocate for fair funding.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Archdiocesan community for your support during this testing time. Many of you have written to Members of Parliament expressing your views of how this will affect you or your school community.

Many have also written directly to me or via school principals to express support. However you may have helped I offer the thanks of Catholic education. I know that your efforts are having an impact.

It is important to know that this is a very principled objection to the government's proposed

education policy. Catholic school parents are simply seeking to maintain the choice of a Catholic education that accords with their values and gives their children a nurturing Catholic environment, and for that choice to be affordable.

The funding cuts for Catholic schools in part arise from a flawed measure of school and student advantage derived from data extracted from the Australian Bureau of Statistics census. The proposed funding model expects Catholic school parents to increase their contribution to make up for cuts in government funding. Parents have expressed that if fees rise it will be harder to access the holistic education they want in a Catholic school. This is

not fair.

Minister Birmingham has conceded that the model does not work for ACT schools. The government made changes to the funding model to lessen the immediate funding impact however the funding cuts over time remain. Funding must keep a Catholic education a real and affordable option for parents.

During the Senate Inquiry, the Catholic school principals who appeared told me that Senator Hanson-Young commended them for articulating the great work done by Catholic schools in supporting their student and parent communities.

As this goes to print, it is close to the end of term two school holidays. I hope this break will be a time of rest and rejuvenation for all involved in Catholic schools in the Archdiocese. Thank you to all who have been involved in any way with Catholic schools this term.

I look forward to term three and all of the blessings and opportunities that come with it.

I hope that my next column can devote more space to the vibrant faith alive in our schools and the great stories of learning and teaching for the children entrusted to our care.



## Anguish that lies behind the smile of this refugee

BEING on a boat at sea for five days without food and very little water, Afghan-born refugee, Zaki Haidari thought he was going to die.

"The boat I was on was broken and we were about to sink, but luckily we were rescued by the Australian Navy," he said.

Mr Haidari never thought he would ever see his family again when he first got on the boat.

Each day, he remains gravely concerned for the safety of the remaining members of his family, which includes his mother and six siblings.

This month, he is visiting his family in Karachi, Pakistan, because it is "not safe" for him to meet them in Afghanistan.

"My eventual goal is to bring my family out to Australia in the near future," he said.

"In my home country, the Taliban are everywhere and they know everyone in the village, so it is almost impossible to escape and everyone lives in constant fear for their life.

"I am one of the fortunate ones."

Refugee week (June 18 to 24) has come and gone for this year, but Mr Haidari, 23, insists that the conversations about refugees must continue.

Before coming to Australia, Mr Haidari lost his father (a medical doctor) and brother to the Taliban regime.

His father is missing, while his brother was killed.

He is part of the Hazara people, an ethnic minority of people (Shia Muslims), who are brutally targeted by the Taliban because of their religion and ethnicity.

Hazara people are easily identifiable and Mr Haidari says the Taliban would never allow he and his people to join them, such is the divide.

Growing up in a hostile environment means the "new Australian", will most likely have to battle post traumatic stress for the rest of his life.

Currently he is getting psychiatric help, but the anxiety is deep-rooted.

Since arriving 'down under' five years ago, he has already called both Sydney and Canberra 'home'.

Living in a unit owned by Holy Trinity Parish, Curtin, he has felt the love and warm hospitality, which Fr Tony Frey and his ministry team are providing.

Making a "fresh start", Mr Haidari has resilience many of us will never have and is making a go of life in the ACT - often whilst battling immigration policy visa restrictions.

"It's not good when you are continually wondering whether or not you will be sent back," he said.

His father had always taught him about the value of education and he is relishing the opportunity to study in Australia, so much so that in 2015 he was awarded NSW International Student of the Year.

After learning English for three months upon arriving to Australia, he now has a Certificate IV in Business, Certificate IV in Design, Diploma of Graphic Design and a Diploma in Information Technology to his name.

"Currently I am completing a Bachelor of Business and Marketing at Martin College," he said.

"I am also grateful to have full time employment at Australian National University as an admissions officer."

Mr Haidari has to stay upbeat at work, because it is the nature of the role.

Behind the front desk smile, however, is a man struggling to make sense of what has happened to him and his family.

### 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 and blessed by Pope Francis 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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Catholic Voice

# 'A new springtime' blooms 500 years on

CATHOLICS and Protestants in the ACT have come together to commemorate the 500th anniversary since Church reformer Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the door of All Saints Church, Wittenberg, Germany.

A joint liturgy principally conducted by Pastor Gabor Szabo and Archbishop Christopher Prowse at St Peter's Lutheran Church, Reid, was the main focus of the commemoration.

Pastor Szabo welcomed the congregation, which included local Christian leaders, saying: "Lutherans and Catholics have been on a journey from conflict to communion."

"With joy, we have come to recognize that what unites us is far greater than what divides us."

Archbishop Prowse, who is Chairman of the Australian Bishops Commission for Ecumenism and Inter-religious Relations, responded:

"So it is possible for us to gather. We come with different thoughts and feelings of thanksgiving and lament, joy and repentance, joy in the Gospel and sorrow for division."

"We gather to commemorate in remembrance, in thanksgiving and confession, and in common



Left: Archbishop Prowse with Pastor Szabo. Right: Christian leaders take part in the ecumenical liturgy. Pictures: Jazz Chalouhi.



witness and commitment."

In their addresses, both Pastor Szabo and Archbishop Prowse acknowledged mistakes as well as the pain and suffering of the past; and vowed to continue walking side-by-side in the future.

In his talk, Pastor Szabo said Luther, a former Augustinian monk, had no intention to start a new Church and that the reformer wanted to restore the medieval Church.

He also talked about the Great

Schism of the Eastern and Western Churches in 1054.

"These two great schisms were not just coming out of the blue," he said.

"They were preceded by centuries of theological wrangling and power struggles which resulted in mutual condemnations and excommunications [and] this was not what Jesus prayed for at the Last Supper."

"Luther's protest was theological in nature; he couldn't care less

about politics."

He reminded Christians to turn to Scripture, to celebrate the Good News, to pray and to bring God and His word to the world, which he said "greatly needs his tender love and mercy".

He thanked those who had contributed to the commemoration and made special mention of the combined churches music ministry.

Archbishop Prowse touched on the theme of God's love in

addition to giving a Catholic perspective on Justification, Scripture and Tradition.

He lamented that the Lord's commission "that they may be one" (John 17:21) has not been obeyed.

"The many attacks we have made on each other over the centuries are shameful," he said.

"Yet, in more recent times remarkable movements and initiatives of reconciliation have been made between us."

Archbishop Prowse highlighted "a veritable springtime of Lutheran-Catholic relations" since the 1999 Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification.

He called for on-going renewal of all members of the Catholic and Lutherans churches.

"Let this 500th anniversary better enable us to all journey together in unity and mission in our fragile world," he said.

He spoke about the recent Martin Luther Conference in Rome, which Pope Francis took part in, which commemorated the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

The five imperatives found in the document From Conflict to Communion were read during the liturgy as a candle was lit simultaneously.

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# Anything BUT Ordinary Time



**LITURGY MATTERS**  
BY JENNY ANDERSON

AS June ends, we leave behind the string of feasts and move into Ordinary Time.

At this point, we need to note that Ordinary Time is anything BUT ordinary in the usual sense.

When we hear ordinary, we think plain, uninteresting, no special features. In the cycle of readings, though, we are given a period of time that is counted or ordered.

We don't celebrate any particular aspect of the mystery of Christ, rather we journey with Christ celebrating the mystery of Christ in its fullness.

We are presented with an ordered reading of a specific Gospel text. This year, it is the Gospel of Matthew.

As we journey through this season we focus on the mission of Christ and the life of discipleship. A mission that calls us to be extraordinary, following in the footsteps of love.

All of time is sacred. We can help draw this out through our liturgy when we prepare well for every celebration.

Look at the flow of readings from

Sunday to Sunday during this time – there are connection points that carry through that can lead us to a deeper understanding of the mystery that we are celebrating.

Music ministers can help to emphasise the changing liturgical seasons by changing the Mass setting.

Using a different Mass setting for each liturgical season draws the season together, unifying it, while distinguishing it from the seasons around it.

Since Ordinary Time is a long season, it is a great time to introduce a new Mass setting and use it for long enough for people to learn it and make it a part of their prayer.

The role of the musical setting is to support the sung prayer of the people, so it needs to be accessible to the congregation. It should also be a setting that people can join in enthusiastically and robust enough to withstand constant use.

There are many beautiful settings that meet these criteria.

One notable feast day during Ordinary Time is the Feast of St Mary of the Cross (August 8).

Since 2011, it has been celebrated as a solemnity in Australia, recognising the prominent place Mary MacKillop has in the lives and hearts of the Australian Catholic community.

You may like to consider the hymn, Daughter of Australia, written by Archbishop Mark Coleridge for this feast. It is available from the Liturgy Brisbane website at <http://liturgybrisbane.net.au/doctypes/daughter-of-australia-lyrics/>

# RCIA offers the most rewarding experience



Sacha Jeeawody with Fr Troy Bobbin at Easter. Picture: Supplied.

HIS mother was raised a Hindu, his father has a background in Islam.

This Easter, Sacha Jeeawody became a Catholic after completing the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

Mr Jeeawody knew deep down that God was with him in good times and bad.

He says he encountered God most prominently on the basketball court, at his wedding, during his mother's sickness and death, and through the birth of his son.

So, completing the RCIA journey and becoming a Catholic at the Easter Vigil was an "easy decision".

"Honestly, if I had known how rewarding and pleasant the RCIA experience would be, I would have completed it earlier," he said.

He married wife Kara in 2015 at St Francis Xavier Church, Berrima.

"My plan was to complete the RCIA prior to getting married, but it didn't eventuate," he said.

"My wife, who was raised Catholic, was incredibly supportive.

Mr Jeeawody attended an Anglican school in Perth.

"My mother was raised Hindu in Singapore and converted to Catholicism when she moved to Australia," he said.

"My father comes from an Islamic background and so I've been blessed to visit Hindu and Buddhist temples and mosques and observe different ways of prayer.

"But through it all, I always found myself thinking about God and giving thanks.

"I visited churches occasionally and

would sit and contemplate.

Mr Jeeawody, who works as an account manager at a consultancy firm, paid tribute to the RCIA and parish team at St Raphael's, Queanbeyan, for allowing the candidates to take it at their own pace.

"Fr Troy (Bobbin), Fr Trenton (van Resch), Sr Chloe and Rita Pelle were incredibly supportive, approachable and understanding throughout the journey," he said.

"There was never any pressure to complete the course and be baptised."

The program enabled him to "connect the dots" with psalms, disciples, biblical figures, chapters and verses of the Bible that he remembered from school.

"I'm pretty certain all the silly questions were being asked by me," he said.

"If we had unresolved questions at the conclusion of the course, we were not obligated to continue.

"Other RCIA participants and I were very appreciative of this transparency."

Mr Jeeawody is still on a "high" from being baptised and confirmed into the faith as an adult, where he took the name Gabriel.

He believes his decision to commit to Christianity has made him a more balanced person.

It has renewed him with a greater appreciation and sense of purpose, while also strengthening his bond with God.

The good news doesn't stop there. His son Noah was baptised on May 21.

"I look forward to helping him on his spiritual journey," he said.

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# Youth urged to be in online conversation

YOUNG people are being called on to share their views on faith, life and Church through an online conversation, released by the Australian bishops in preparation for the Synod on Youth.

Those aged between 16 and 29 years can share on a range of topics including: their experience of being listened to, the impact of new media, friendships and influences of the modern world and how they can engage with the Church.

Recently in Rome, Ashleigh Green, a young Catholic from Sydney, told a gathering of young people that one of her hopes for the Church in Australia was that “we can better engage our most disadvantaged and marginalised young Australians”.

“I hope that we can use the common yearning for social justice as an avenue to engage youth and I hope that we can create new spaces for community within the Church,” she said.

The survey provides a great opportunity for young people

to have their voice heard, recognising the importance of young people as the future of the Church.

Pope Francis has also called young people from around the world to join this inclusive, international conversation. He said the Church “wishes to listen to your voice, your sensitivities and your faith; even your doubts and your criticism. Make your voice heard, let it resonate in communities”.

“Every young person has something to say to others. All of us need to listen to you,” he said.

“Even young people who consider themselves agnostics, even young people whose faith is lukewarm; even young people who no longer go to church; even young people who consider themselves atheists”.

The Archdiocese encourages all young people to participate in the survey and joining this conversation by visiting [www.catholic.org.au/youthsurvey](http://www.catholic.org.au/youthsurvey)



## Door of faith opens for new teachers

KEY faith formation opportunities were presented to about 50 new teachers from across the Archdiocese.

The Porta Fidei (Latin for Door of Faith) Teacher Renewal Experience included sessions on faith as an experience of God's love, the Kerygma, the renewal of faith and teaching as a vocation.

Presentations from fellow teachers provided a context for peer-to-peer formation as well as input from priests including Vicar General Fr

Tony Percy and Fr Chris Eaton MGL, who formed the connection between school and the broader Church. Stephen Kirk provided the musical backdrop for leading the group in prayer and worship.

One teacher who attended described the retreat as “a liberating walk amongst the chaos that allowed me to let God in our mess and heal us from the inside”. Another said “the retreat helped me find my focus again”. Archdiocesan Youth Ministry

Director Huw Warmenhoven said the retreat renewed the teachers in their vocation, while empowering them to turn to the classroom as a context of formation for their students.

“The faith formation of teachers has been expressed as of critical importance at a national level by the National Catholic Education Commission,” he said. “The Porta Fidei retreat was an opportunity to open themselves to the Door of Faith in their lives.”

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## HOME BASE



Gerard Heffernan

## Buy Your First Home or Invest?

As a first-time property buyer, it can be hard to know which is the best way to enter the property market. Buy a property as an investment to rent out, or wait until you can afford to buy your own home to live in? A Google search on the topic is more likely to confuse rather than clarify, with hundreds of blogs, podcasts and articles. You might be so keen to own your own home that you don't mind compromising your location or lifestyle by buying in a cheaper area. However, if you care where you live, but can't afford that suburb's price tag, it makes sense to continue to rent where you love and invest in a property in an area you can afford. If you buy an investment property first, you may risk losing out on government grants and stamp duty exemptions for first home buyers. The conditions vary from state to state, so it's important to check what benefits you are eligible for. As your mortgage broker, we can give you an indication of your borrowing power and we're happy to chat further about the pros and cons of buy vs. invest.

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## I find so much faith in youth

*Adrian Chan thought from the age of 15 that he would be a diocesan priest. This was especially after he encountered the human condition of suffering when his bed-ridden grandma awoke him to the important questions of human life. He believes that a vocation is a permanent commitment. God-willing he is ready for life in the Archdiocesan priesthood.*

I COME from a family of four in Singapore. I have a younger brother who is married and living there, while my father is a retired school teacher and my mother is working in a Japanese home appliances manufacturer in Singapore.

Born in 1975, I attended Christian Brothers schools for primary and secondary education.

Following this, I enrolled at the National University of Singapore, where I studied political sciences.

I was also employed for a number of years in the computer industry.

Seven years ago, I joined the Discalced Carmelites, learning philosophy at St Francis Xavier's Seminary, Singapore, followed by theology at the Teresianum in Rome.

Having completed studies, I decided to discern for a diocesan vocation.

I have been in Australia for more than a year now.

I am studying some units at Australian Catholic University and am attached to the parish of St Thomas the Apostle, Kambah.

Last year, I spent time at Holy Spirit Parish Gungahlin and at St Patrick's Bega. I've thoroughly enjoyed my time in all the parishes where I have served and particularly in the schools.

Having a background in the contemplative life with the Carmelites, I have introduced the children to Christian meditation and have found that they are mostly enthralled by it.

It is renewing to find so much faith among the young, mainly their eagerness to encounter God.

My favourite saint in the Carmel is St Teresa of Ávila, as she was brimming with practicality.

From her humour, to her governance, to her ministry, she was very much in touch with people despite the spiritual gifts she had, and I love reading the book of her life.

Once she fell into a stream while travelling to build new convents. She lamented that she now understood why the Lord has so few friends due to all the suffering he sends them.



Since coming to Canberra I have developed a keen interest in the fortunes of the Canberra Raiders and the ACT Brumbies. Outside of this, I also consider swimming, sailing and rowing as leisure activities.

I ask that you all keep me in your prayers as I continue my journey to priesthood.

## Youngest pilot

WHILE most teens are nervously thinking about getting their learner and provisional driver licences, Merici College's Jade Esler spent her 16th birthday getting her recreational pilot's licence, saying flying is in her blood. Describing the experience of flying solo as the youngest pilot in Australia recently, Miss Esler said she had never been so nervous.

"At 8.30am that morning I jumped in the plane with my instructor for a final check.

"We did three circuits with the eyes of four Sunrise (Channel 7) television cameras watching me before I taxied in to let the people on the cameras jump out.

"As soon as I applied full power for take-off, all of my nerves disappeared and I settled into the natural routine of circuit flying and had a feeling of wonder an accomplishment."

The next morning she appeared on Channel 7's Sunrise Morning Show with her father Benjamin.

The thrilling experience of her only whetted the appetite for

the Merici student who aims to continue her aviation training in the next few years.

"My plan now is to obtain my private pilot's licence on my 17th birthday and my commercial pilot's licence on my 18th birthday," she said.

"I am also planning to fund my university studies by teaching people to fly."

Flying has appealed to her from a very early age.

By the time she was seven, she practically knew what everything in the cockpit did.

"When I was five, my dad let me sit in the front of the plane and hold the controls, I loved it," she said.

In addition to her father's love for flying, both of Miss Esler's grandfathers are also aviation enthusiasts, so it comes as no surprise to learn as to where the interest comes from.

Over the past few years she has used her other hobby and now small time business of cooking to help pay for her flying lessons.

"In August 2014, my mum



Merici College's Jade Esler is Australia's youngest pilot. Picture: Supplied.

(Belinda) saw a lady selling cupcakes at a market stall," the Year 10 student said.

"I love cooking and baking, so she thought it might be a fun thing for me to try."

She took up the initiative of baking immediately and after an initial setback, set up her cupcake business, 'The Sugar Bite'.

"In December that year, my dad pointed out that I had enough money to do a few flying lessons and that he would be happy to take me to his old instructor in Cowra.

"I excitedly obliged and we went down to Fly Oz for my first lesson."

She has now sold over 20,000 cupcakes, which has helped her to afford 30 hours of flying lessons.

"I still manage to keep myself organised and on top of my school work, maintaining my grades, while wrestling all of this madness," she said.

Recently Miss Esler was one of four pilots to receive an Air Service sponsored Australian Women Pilots Association flight training scholarship valued at \$8000.

## Everyone should be sign of mercy



JUSTICE MATTERS

BY MIKE CASSIDY

CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

health of the family units that comprise it.

Recent times have seen family life subject to profound new pressures, leading Pope Francis to call a Synod of bishops to discuss family issues across the world. The Synod met in 2014 and 2015.

At its conclusion Pope Francis issued an Apostolic Exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia* (The Joy of Love) drawing on the findings of the Synod.

In the Exhortation, Pope Francis observes that the weakening of the family poses a threat to (among other things) the cultivation of community values. *Amoris Laetitia* is, therefore, an important social

document for the times.

Some of its main features are briefly discussed in this and our next column.

In the space available no more than highlights of the Exhortation can be touched upon here, but it is hoped that these highlights will encourage a full reading of the document.

Two main themes run through the Exhortation: the spirituality of marriage and the family, and the realities and challenges for families today.

"The joy of love experienced by families is also the joy of the Church".

With these encouraging words

to families Pope Francis begins his Apostolic Exhortation.

He explains that the Exhortation aims to aid reflection, dialogue and pastoral practice and as an encouragement to families in their daily lives.

He sees the Exhortation as especially timely in the Year of Mercy as it seeks to encourage everyone to be a sign of mercy and closeness wherever family life is imperfect or lacks peace and joy.

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

The discussion on *Amoris Laetitia* will continue next month.

# Top 10 lessons of a young Catholic

*Brendan Lindsay is a former youth ministry director who had three years studying for the priesthood. He is studying a Masters of Teaching at Australian Catholic University. At 34, he is coming towards the end of his young Catholic years. In the second part of this reflection, he looks back on the main lessons he learned as a young Catholic.*

## Don't sit back

Firstly, don't sit back! Some people can get caught thinking that God will do all the work, He will take care of it, leave it to Him it's all in His hands. In many ways this is true, but I have come to realise that God needs our hands to do His work. Whether that is work for ourselves, or work for others.

If I don't feel that I know enough about the faith then it is up to me to start some reading or undertake a course. If I am looking for that special someone, then it is up to me to get out and about and meet people. If I pass a homeless person on the street then it is up to me to offer assistance if I can.

The power of us working together with God will definitely move mountains. The power of us sitting at home watching Netflix won't even move the dirt on our floor mats. So the next time there is a call at your parish for volunteers, put your hand up. The next time you hear of a sad situation, work out how you can help. The next time you feel there is a part of your life that you are not happy with, make a change.

As Catholics we need to stand up and do the work that God needs done. In return he will reward us.

## Step Up

Once we have begun to do God's work then we shouldn't be afraid to step up and jump into leadership positions. While these roles can be challenging, there will be nothing you won't be able to handle with God providing the support.

There are many people who stay in leadership in our Church for too long because there is nobody to take their position. There were many amazing ministries that no longer exist because there was nobody to step up and take on the leadership. Maybe there is a need in your parish or school or community for someone to start the ball rolling on an initiative. I have witnessed the growth of many ministries that remain strong due to people being willing to step up. It might be your turn.

## Discern a vocation

As young people it is our responsibility to discern our vocation. In taking the time to discern our vocation we are finding that place where God wants us to be.

It is viewed in our Church that a vocation is finding our place within the states of single life, married life, consecrated life or



ordained ministry. For some this will be a simple process. For others it will require much prayer and discernment, swaying back and forth.

Discernment will involve heartache and doubt, excitement and happiness, fear and disappointment, contentment and peace. All of this is the rollercoaster that is discernment.

At times our choice of vocation will not be God's choice. Our hopes and dreams for a life well lived will not be where God wants or needs us most. It will possibly never be totally clear the vocation you are called to, but we rest assured that God will never abandon us in our choices.

If we remain close to God during our time of discernment, then the vocation that we eventually embrace will lead us to true joy. If, after much prayer and discernment, the standout vocation for you is a scary one, then trust in God. If God is calling you, then there is nothing to fear. Go for it!

## Prayer is the foundation to faith

A key aspect of the life of Jesus was that he was a man of prayer. In explaining this aspect of Jesus, I urged parents to encourage their children to pray and for the parents to pray with them because prayer is the foundation to faith.

I reminded them that there is no wrong way to pray and that prayer is an option at any time of day or night. To pray is to open ourselves up to God and to make room for God to move within us.

In today's world there is too much noise. This noise usually comes from our digital devices. We are never encouraged to just sit and be.

For us as Catholics, that points where we just sit and be, are our moments of prayer. Prayer comes in different forms and for a vibrant prayer life we need to encounter them all. From the prayers of the Church to community prayer, from silent prayer to liturgical

celebrations, we are able to find ourselves in moments of prayer. It could be through music, artwork, nature or volunteer work that we find ourselves at prayer.

Our life of prayer is a journey where we are always discovering more about ourselves. This makes sense because as we pray we discover, and as we discover we learn more about who we are and feel

the urge to be the people we are called to be.

## Christ is paramount

The last lesson is the most important of all. Christ is paramount! All these lessons I have learnt point to one person, Jesus Christ.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI in his first encyclical Deus Caritas Est on Christian love summarised

being a Christian perfectly in the opening paragraph: "Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction."

That person is Jesus Christ. As Catholics we come to know God through His Son, who was born to us as a baby and grew up as a man to provide us with a true example of how best to live our lives.

In any argument I have had with people about the Church being obsolete, I quickly refer them to the person of Jesus and ask if what He teaches is bad or incorrect. Very few can hold a strong argument that what Jesus taught about love and forgiveness and how we should act towards our fellow human beings should be ignored.

In being involved in our local Church, taking on positions of leadership, discerning a vocation and bringing everything back to prayer, we are following in the footsteps of Christ.

All of the 10 lessons I have suggested find their base in the person of Jesus Christ; without Him they make no real sense at all.

(This article was first published in Melbourne Catholic June 2017)



## Missionaries of the Sacred Heart

# YOU JUST HELD HER, LET HER CRY AND SAID NOTHING.

## EVERYONE HAS A STORY.

**I remember it well. A man collapsed and died at the front gate of his home after work. I was called to the hospital, anointed the man and prayed with his gathered family.**

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

**The following Sunday after mass a young man approached me, saying, "I want to thank you Father for what you did for my Aunt. We were all telling her not to worry, Uncle is in heaven now. You just held her, let her cry and said nothing. That's what she really needed. Thank you Father."**

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

— Fr Patrick Sharpe msc

**To discover more MSC stories please visit [whatsalifeor.com/stories](http://whatsalifeor.com/stories), attend a discernment weekend retreat, volunteer as a short term lay missionary or just call Fr Peter 0408 299 170**

# MEET OUR CHURCH'S V

*Fiona van der Plaat talks to Helen Delahunty, Anne Kirwan and Camilla Rowland, three women who are at the forefront of decision-making in the Archdiocese. And she finds that there's a lot more to life than work for each of them.*



## Anne Kirwan CatholicCare, CEO

AS far as role models go, Anne Kirwan would like to think she is a good one for her 10-year-old daughter. But Wonder Woman isn't a bad support act.

"We've just seen Wonder Woman at the movies," the CEO of CatholicCare in the Archdiocese says.

"I like to see female action-hero role models and it's good for my daughter to see them too."

Escaping to the movies is also one of the ways – along with cheering on her daughter's netball team and "yelling and screaming" from the stands at the Canberra Raiders' NRL games – Ms Kirwan gives herself a break from what is "not just a job, but a vocation".

When she took over the leadership of CatholicCare nearly three years ago, having worked for the agency for 20 years, she felt the weight of responsibility.

On one hand, taking over at a time of great change, particularly in the new world of the National Disability Insurance Scheme, was an exciting chance to do things differently and leave her stamp.

On the other hand, it was daunting. "It can be quite scary when you realise the buck stops with you," she says.

"In the end, we are representing the Church and the Archdiocese, and I am mindful of the legacy of 60 years.

"You want to leave any position in a better condition than what you inherited, and I think I've given it a red-hot go. It's been a challenging time, but a rewarding one."

Ms Kirwan is thankful for her "amazing" staff, about 80 per cent of whom are women, and that she can rely on them to look after the details while she has learned to step back and look at the bigger picture.

While she has had to relinquish much of her clinical caseload, she has found her psychology training and experience useful in running an agency that needs to be financially and politically savvy while maintaining its community focus.

"In a leadership role, I need to remain calm and steer the ship," she says.

"I strive to be a role model for my staff – I think that's quite a compliment if people can say that you're a role model.

"At the same time, I see myself as quite a work in progress."

## Helen Delahunty, Archdiocesan Financial Administrator

HELEN Delahunty freely admits if she had known what lay ahead when she accepted the job as Archdiocesan Financial Administrator in April 2011, things might have been different.

As it was, she was hesitant to even apply for it. She was "crook as a chook" in hospital at the time, had four busy sons to wrangle and enjoyed her work as chief financial officer with Greening Australia.

But her friend Francis Sullivan, later to become CEO of



the Church's Truth, Justice and Healing Council, encouraged her to go for it.

"I thought it was going to be a doddle," she says. "Go to a few meetings, prepare a budget – I could do that in my sleep."

She soon realised that "looking after the temporal goods of the Archdiocese" encompassed "just about everything", from managing priests, property and staff to liaising with the parishes and overseeing the Manuka Precinct development.

And all this in the shadow of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and other Church scandals. On top of that, her husband, leading trauma doctor Damian McMahon, died suddenly a year after she started.

But it's turned out to be "the best job I've ever had". "I love

# WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP



and has finally managed to trim her committee commitments outside work down to one position.

As for her current role, Ms Delahunty feels she still has a lot to give and plans to stick around as long as she is wanted and needed.

## Camilla Rowland, Marymead CEO

Camilla Rowland always thought she would become a social worker or psychologist.

The youngest of three sisters has a family member with a disability and was inspired by her parents' dedication to creating better care options.

She eventually moved into social work, and into her role as head of Marymead in Canberra, but not before detouring through a human resources degree, which gave her an understanding of business and marketing that would serve her well in future roles.

After studying social work, she moved from Sydney's northern suburbs to rural NSW and Queensland for 16 years, working in palliative and aged care, family services, and drug and alcohol programs.

Her work with the Sisters of Mercy during these years exposed Mrs Rowland, who is Anglican, to the "uniqueness of the Catholic voice".

"That approach of community service underpinned by pastoral care, where you are looking at the person as a whole, really resonated with me," she says.

It was fitting, then, that she wound up as head of a Catholic agency two years ago.

"I came with a lot of respect for what has been achieved by the Catholic Church, especially the investment it has made in the community," Mrs Rowland says.

Being a non-Catholic has had its benefits. "I am not hampered by any preconceived ideas about what positions people hold. I just treat everyone the same."

She took over at a time of change for Marymead, which marks 50 years in Canberra this year.

The organisation has moved into autism care and has developed its mental health services for young people.

It has also set up co-location arrangements with Catholic-Care and the St Vincent de Paul Society in some rural areas.

At the same time, though, it has lost its foster care work, in which it has "a long, solid history".

It is also adjusting to the National Disability Insurance Scheme and the government move away from block grants to individual funding, which Mrs Rowland says poses issues for community services.

The challenges don't faze her, however. "I am known as a bit of a change agent. I've always been passionate about ensuring services meet community need."

Mrs Rowland's interest in building communities also dominates her limited spare time. "Some people cook as a hobby – I join committees. Social policy and good strategy are passions of mine," she says.

She has the support of her family in this. Husband Duncan, who works in animal health, is community orientated – "he's always the first person to help move things and dig things".

And her two young-adult daughters, Rebecca and Alexandra, who went through Catholic schools in Canberra, "have a really good sense of social justice".

Mrs Rowland likes to walk and do an occasional gym workout to keep fit, and loves to read, especially investigative books and whodunnits.

Staying busy is what makes her happiest, though. "When I retire, I see myself contributing to the community, on committees or volunteering," she says. "Actually, I don't think I will ever retire as such."

*Photos (Far Left): Anne Kirwan. (Middle): Helen Delahunty, Camilla Rowland and Anne Kirwan. (Top): Helen Delahunty. (Above): Camilla Rowland. Pictures: Amber Maher Photography.*

the people, I love the work, I love the Archdiocese," she says.

The Manuka development has demanded more from her than she expected, but it's been a fulfilling project.

"That building is my rock," Ms Delahunty says, as she signs off on the construction and prepares to "get a community going there".

The Manuka project exemplifies the beauty of her job. "I think what we do as an organisation makes a difference and I make a difference, and I couldn't be prouder," she says.

She has always felt supported in her role and being a woman has never been an issue.

Being a Catholic, while not necessary, has given her a deeper understanding of the people and the environment she works

with, and Masses are the starting point of many meetings and gatherings.

Life might have "thrown stuff" at her in recent years, but Ms Delahunty says her pragmatism has helped her set priorities and cope with the demands of her job.

"I like to work hard but family always comes first," she says.

She visits her grown boys in Melbourne as often as she can and loves to watch them play Australian football. She is a keen Collingwood supporter and a foundation member of the GWS Giants, whose games she attends regularly.

She has great friends, four of whom she solves the problems of the world with as they walk up Red Hill most mornings.

She is also a member of a book club, loves to ski and travel,

# Old Cathedral restoration needs more help

THERE was a time when St Peter and Paul's (Old) Cathedral was the focal point for Catholics in Southern New South Wales.

And whilst the Old Cathedral still has a strong presence being the main church in the Lilac City's Mary Queen of Apostles Parish, it is in much need of repairs and thus funds.

"Despite the Cathedral restoration project being some part under the National Trust of Australia (New South Wales), the money has dried up and our maintenance has stopped," said restoration project manager Brian Watchirs.

"Our aim is to raise at least \$5 million which is needed to stabilise the building, overcome the serious damp problem, repair and clean the windows among many other maintenance tasks."

St Peter and Paul's was initially built as a smaller brick church on the current site of Bourke and Verner Streets where Archbishop John Bede Polding first laid out the site in 1840.

Initial construction work began in 1844 and the brick church was completed in 1848, at which point works began on building of the presbytery next door in Verner Street.

And while the original church shell is not recognisable to most, a visit underneath the Sanctuary shows some of the old foundations which can be seen upon an inspection under the Cathedral floor.

"Rising damp was an issue as the site seemed to attract heaps of water, whether we were close to a spring or something I don't know," Mr Watchirs said.

"Our contractors dug out



Sts Peter and Paul's Restoration Project Manager Brian Watchirs checking the foundations underneath the Old Cathedral. Picture: John McLaurin.

several feet underneath the original level and re-did most of the footings, so it is much better now and we don't have the damp problem anymore."

Mr Watchirs says he and others are doing the most with the means at their disposal in trying to restore the Old Cathedral to its former glory.

It worries him however where significant financial help might come from.

He says the Old Cathedral is an important part of the history, not just in the Archdiocese, but also in Australia considering Goulburn is the nation's first inland city.

And as the Cathedral celebrated its patronal feast day recently

on June 29, Mr Watchirs thinks it is timely to seek more help from the community.

"Where there are a number of blue stone churches in Australia, Goulburn's Old Cathedral's claim to fame is that it is the only green stone (diorite porphyrite) church in Australia and possibly the world," he said.

"It's important that we keep and preserve our heritage, so if anyone is in a position to help in any way then we would greatly appreciate it."

To learn more about the Old Cathedral and or to make a donation, call (02) 4821 1022 or go online to <http://www.stspeterandpaulsoldcathedral.org/>



## Nine tips to enjoy the snow

*Gliding down the mountain through fresh fluffy powder with the sun glistening on surrounding snow-covered peaks, all topped with a clear blue sky, has got to be one of the most incredible feelings. St Patrick's Cooma student Anna Braysshaw shares nine tips for skiers of all levels to make their days on the slopes enjoyable:*

1. Only wear one pair of socks - more will make your feet colder, but you can pack an extra pair of socks if your first pair gets wet.
2. Dress like an onion - wear lots of layers.
3. Don't wear jeans or other cotton materials because you will get colder.
4. Look out for the clearly marked signs that rank the slopes' difficulty. Green circles are for beginners, blue squares for intermediate skiers, black and double black diamonds for the most advanced runs.
5. If you have never been to the ski resort, take a map from the information desk to use in case you get lost or don't know where to go. Always adventure with a friend.
6. Apply sunscreen to any uncovered areas of your body as the sun reflects off the snow.
7. Pack a full lunch box as the colder you get the hungrier you get, and try to bring neck-warmers or scarves to block out the cold.
8. Don't eat the snow! Man-made snow makes you more dehydrated, so drink water throughout the day and avoid drinks such as hot chocolate as they can also make you dehydrated!
9. Carry chains in the boot and only use them when needed. Most ski fields have people on the side of the road to tell you if you need chains, as unnecessary use of chains can potentially damage the car.



**June 27 to July 22:** Home Sweet Home Art Exhibition at The Q in Queanbeyan. For more information contact

**July 6 and 27(7.30pm to 8.30pm):** Old Testament Bible Study at St. Benedict's Mission Centre Narrabundah (Collins Wing).

**July 8 (11am):** Papua New Guinean Christians and friends Blessed Peter To Rot Feast Day Ecumenical Eucharistic Mass at St John the Apostle Catholic Church, Holt ACT. For more information contact Francesca Deklin on 0437 405 052 or Nick Palm via email npppalm@hotmail.com

**July 8 (12pm):** Canberra Regional AMICUS will meet for lunch, a walk and a tour in the at the Australian War Memorial in Campbell. Meet at café at a table booked under AMICUS. Lunch will be followed by a walk / tour. Contact Paul on (02) 6231 3121.

**July 15 (7pm to 1am):** Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at St Peter Chanel's Church, Yarralumla ACT. For more information, contact Susanna on 0419 902 293, Sandra on 0405 692 999, or Neda on 0415 266 019.

**July 23 (12pm):** Canberra Regional AMICUS (Latin for friend) will meet for a 'Christmas in July' lunch at Len's. For more information contact Pat on 0412 351 548 or Len on (02) 6299 6606.

**July 21 (5.30pm):** Healing Mass at St Benedict's Parish Narrabundah to pray for people suffering from mental health issues and for their families and friends.

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

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

**August 3 and 17 (7.30pm to 8.30pm):** Old Testament Bible Study at St. Benedict's Mission Centre Narrabundah (Collins Wing).

**August 14 to 21:** The Inner Journey (6 Day Retreat) at St Clement's Retreat and Conference Centre, Galong NSW. For inquiries and bookings call (02) 6380 5222, or email info@stclement.com.au

**August 19 (7pm to 1pm):** Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at St Peter Chanel's Church, Yarralumla ACT. For more information, contact Susanna on 0419 902 293, Sandra on 0405 692 999, or Neda on 0415 266 019.

**August 31 (10am):** Marymead's 50th Anniversary Card Day at Federal Golf Club, Red Hill ACT. For more information call (02) 6162 5800.

**September 14 and 28 (7.30pm to 8.30pm):** Old Testament Bible

Study at St. Benedict's Mission Centre Narrabundah (Collins Wing).

**September 17 to 19:** Catholic Earthcare Australia Symposium Retreat at St Clement's Galong. For inquiries and bookings call (02) 6380 5222, or email info@stclement.com.au

**Regular Events and 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

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

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OF THE BLESSED EUCHARIST  
AND IN CONTEMPLATION

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# Snow and sleep outs



*As neighbours, the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn (and the Diocese of Goulburn before it) have shared a close connection with the Diocese of Wagga Wagga. This month the Diocese of Wagga Wagga will celebrate its centenary with Mass, a historical display and some 'John O'Brien' poetry recitals.*

## 1917 was a year of big changes

BY DENIS CONNOR  
Archdiocesan Archivist

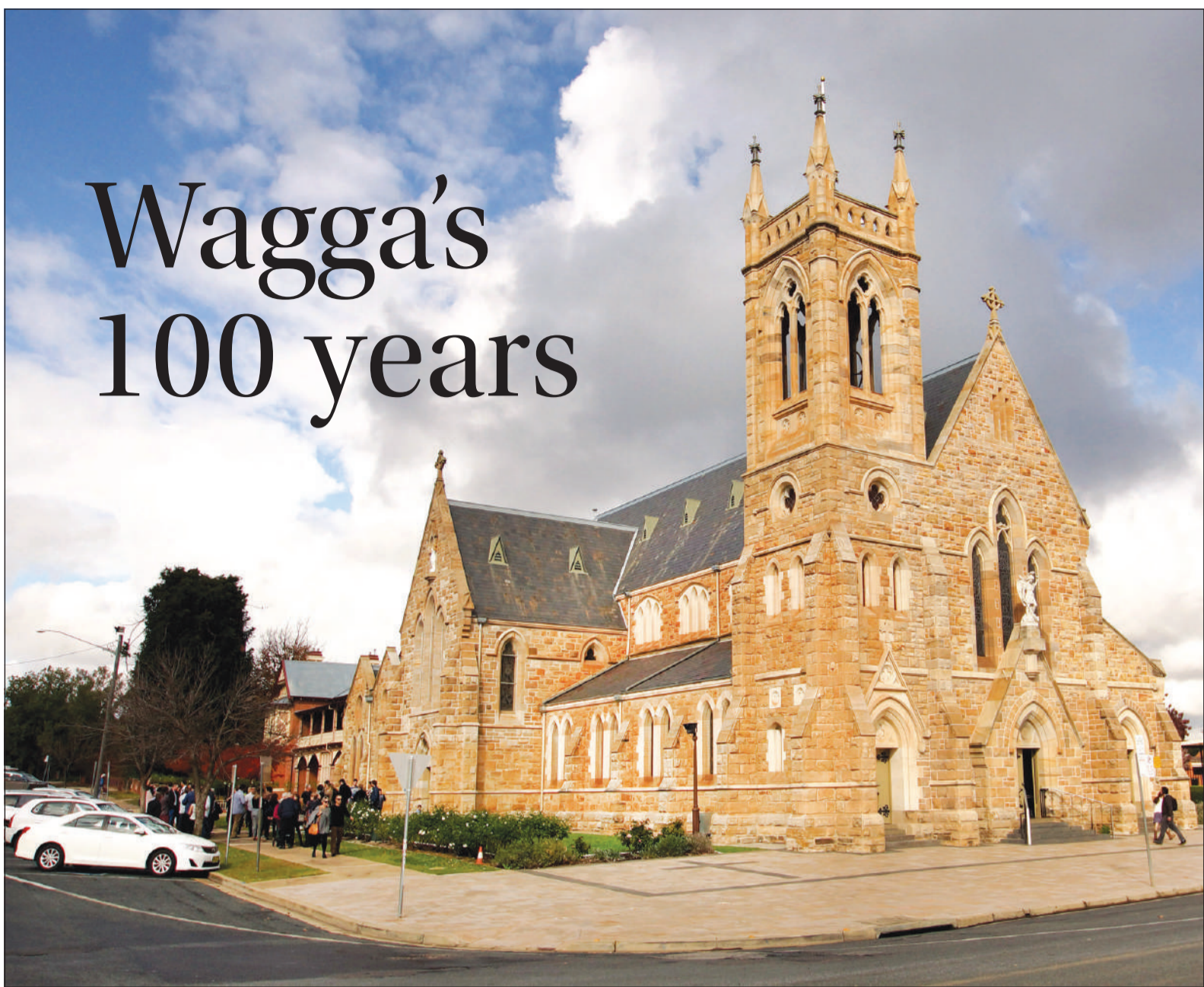
THE year 1917 was one of significant change for the then Diocese of Goulburn.

A brief issued from the Vatican on July 28, 1917 announced the erection of the Diocese of Wagga Wagga, which was to be created entirely from territory that until that time had been the southern and western regions of the Goulburn Diocese.

As we pass on our congratulations we can take time to reflect on how the creation of this new diocese changed the Goulburn Diocese significantly and permanently.

Father Brian Maher in his history of our Archdiocese Planting the Celtic Cross records that the changes resulted in the removal of 15 pastoral districts (parishes) from the Goulburn Diocese – Wagga Wagga, Albury, Balldale, Berrigan, Coolamon, Corowa, Ganmain, Henty, Holbrook, Jerilderie, Junee, Leeton, Lockhart, Narrandera and Urana – to the new diocese.

Along with the parishes, the



existing clergy assigned to them were also transferred. These included the new Bishop, Rev Joseph Wilfrid Dwyer, formerly the parish priest of Temora, who was consecrated the first bishop of Wagga Wagga on October 13 1918, and Rev Michael Buckley, the parish priest of Junee, who became the new diocese's Vicar-General.

In total 23 priests of the Goulburn diocese were transferred to the new diocese on its foundation.

A further NSW diocesan boundary change, announced the next year, added further to the changed appearance of the Diocese of Goulburn.

The South Coast region (from Milton to the Victorian border),

and the Monaro, which had previously both been part of the Archdiocese of Sydney, were transferred to Goulburn.

Bishop John Gallagher (Bishop of Goulburn 1900–1923) was able to note the addition of 12 parochial districts – Araluen, Bega, Bombala, Braidwood, Bungendore, Cobargo, Cooma, Michelago,

Milton, Moruya, Pambula and Queanbeyan – to replace the 15 that were lost to Wagga Wagga.

Importantly, too, he could note that the already proclaimed territory for the new National Capital was now wholly within his diocese. We can note a continuing close relationship between our two dioceses.

## Astounding legacy of a priest-poet

PERHAPS one of the more celebrated connections between the Archdiocese and the Diocese of Wagga Wagga is that of Fr Patrick Hartigan - aka John O'Brien.

Born at O'Connell Town Yass in 1862, Fr Hartigan is best known for his poetry where he took the pseudonym John O'Brien.. Two of his better known poems are Around the Boree Log and Said Hanrahan.

He also had a great love for cars and was the first priest in Albury to own a car. In 1910 he put it to good use when he drove from Albury up to the Kosciusko High Country east of Corryong in north-east Victoria.

He gave the last rites and took viaticum to Jack Riley, said to be the Man From Snowy River.

Fr Frank Bell, a retired priest of the Diocese of Wagga Wagga was an altar boy to Fr Hartigan during his time at Narrandera. Fr Bell currently resides in Narrandera. Queensland poet Noel Stallad will be reciting John O'Brien poetry in Wagga Wagga on July 28 this year as the diocese celebrates its centenary.

The Thurgoona Catholic Church at Albury is located in Hartigan Street, a further contribution honouring the poet priest.



## The Bishop's Tree

BY DOMINIC BYRNE (Former Editor of Together)

BISHOP Dwyer, was, from his schooldays, a keen student of Australian flora. He was well-respected not only as a pastor, but also, in the scientific community, as an amateur botanist.

The red gum, eucalyptus dwyeri which he identified, was named for him.

During his time as Parish Priest of Temora (1912-1916) he collected plants in an area between 10

and 15 miles wide on either side of the railway line between Wyalong and Stockinbingal.

To mark the centenary celebration, Fr James McGee, a retired priest of Wagga Wagga, collected seeds from the small grove of Eucalyptus dwyeri which was planted some years ago at Vianney College Seminary, supervised their germination, and is now growing them on as tube stock.



## Emeritus Archbishop Francis Carroll

ANOTHER man which both the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn and the Diocese of Wagga Wagga claim as their own is Emeritus Archbishop Francis Carroll.

Born into a large Catholic family at Ganmain, he was the bishop of Wagga Wagga between 1968 and

1983 and the Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn between 1983 and 2006. He now lives in Wagga Wagga and supplies in both dioceses. Carroll College at Broulee is named after him. He intends to be present for the centenary celebrations.

## Fr Brian Maher

Retired priest of the Archdiocese

of Canberra and Goulburn, Fr Brian Maher was born at Balldale, near Corowa, but moved to Cootamundra, then Galong and Binalong when he was young.

His father was employed on the railway. A keen historian, Fr Maher wrote much about the Catholic history of the Archdiocese and the Diocese of Wagga Wagga in his book Planting the Celtic Cross.

# CATHOLIC DEVELOPMENT FUND



## CDF Board

Our Board provides consistently high quality guidance and advice to the manager for the effective operation of our Catholic Development Fund.

Each Board member brings a wealth of career expertise coupled with individual skills, energy and commitment.

2016/2017 board:

Fr Tony Percy  
Mr Jeff Smart (Chair)  
Mr Ross Power  
Mr James Barrett  
(01/01/14 – 31/01/17)  
Mr Rory Markham

(01/06/14 – 30/05/17)  
Mr Mark Valencic  
Ms Deborah Poulton

(01/02/17 – 28/02/20)  
Ms Helen Delahunty  
Ms Michele Murdock  
(Manager)

## Legal Structure

The CDF was established on 1 January 1987 as an amalgamation of the separate Provident Funds of Canberra & Goulburn. It was formed to assist in the implementation of the mission of the Church in the Archdiocese by seeking deposits, making loans, providing advice, assisting income generation and prudent financial management.

The CDF is not separately incorporated. It is the treasury for the archdiocese managing funds and loans that are vested in the Trustees. The Archbishop exercises ultimate control of the CDF in accordance with Canon Law and with the assistance of the CDF Board and the Archdiocesan Finance Council.

## Business Model

The monies deposited with the CDF from parishes, schools, archdiocesan agencies and entities are used for the express purpose of furthering the Church's mission and the pastoral and charitable works of the Church. To this end the CDF lends these monies to parishes, schools and agencies within the archdiocese for their respective capital works programs.

After meeting the needs of the archdiocese funds are made available to outside Catholic entities. In the region of \$60m is currently on loan to Catholic aged and health care providers throughout NSW, Queensland, Victoria and South Australia.

Loans are not available to individuals.

From the operating surplus a distribution of around \$2.4m is made to the archdiocese each year. An additional \$1.64m is distributed to the Archdiocesan Future Fund for investment in a managed fund and a further \$203k is distributed to the Diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes. Approximately \$700k per annum is added to CDF reserves.

## Archdiocesan Future Fund

The Archdiocesan Future Fund (AFF) was established in 2011 as a way of diversifying the Archdiocese's sources of income whilst growing the Archdiocese's asset base. Currently the CDF is the major source of income for the Archdiocese contributing around 80% of the operating costs.

Due to increasing financial demands, minimal financial, property and other income generating assets and declining parish revenues the

CDF Board resolved that another source of long term income for the Archdiocese should be established. To this end the CDF Board recommended to the Archbishop the establishment of a separate growth fund that would be in a position to generate an additional income stream in a minimum of twenty years.

The 'Archdiocese 2020 Fund' was ultimately established. Initially \$20k per month was deposited from the CDF operating surplus. This amount increased to \$50k in 2013 and then 75% of the monthly operating surplus from 2013. In 2013 the fund was rebadged as the Archdiocesan Future Fund (AFF) and is now managed by the Archdiocesan Investment Council (AIC).

## Manuka Precinct

Like the Archdiocesan Future Fund, development of the Manuka Precinct will provide the Archdiocese with additional opportunities to reduce its reliance on the CDF as its major source of income. CDF funding will be used to effectively develop a project that will allow:

- a) the centralisation of the Archbishop's Office for Evangelisation;
- b) the release of existing property (Favier House & The Rheinberger Centre) for rental income;
- c) the development of archdiocesan owned independent living units that will produce income;
- d) the enhancement of the Catholic precinct located on the Cathedral;
- e) greater financial security into the future.

## Exemption

Since its formation in 1987 the CDF has been exempted from the relevant requirements of the Banking Act. It was granted a specific exemption by APRA in 2006. The exemption was renewed on four subsequent occasions however effective 01 Jan 2018 the CDF may only accept funds from church entities such as parishes, schools, congregations, agencies and priests. All lay and non-Church related funds will be returned to account holders during 2017.

## Financial Statements

The CDF is not a reporting entity. Financial statements are a special purpose financial statement prepared to meet the needs of the Archbishop and to fulfil the reporting requirements under Canon Law. The CDF is independently audited each year.

## Archbishop's Message

*As the treasury of the archdiocese, the CDF furthers the mission of the church. It does so in our archdiocese and across Australia through loans made in its own right or in syndication with other CDFs. The wise stewardship of the CDF funds ensures sufficient*

*income to cover operational costs and to provide funding for the archdiocesan curia. The CDF manager and her staff in collaboration with the Archdiocesan Financial Administrator ensure a professional yet pastoral approach to their policies and practices.*

*I acknowledge and thank the primary depositors, namely, the parishes, the Catholic Education Office, Congregational Schools, CatholicCare and Marymead. In supporting the CDF they further the mission of the Church in terms of their particular apostolate and in*

*support of the wider Body of Christ.*

*Indeed, the CDF is a practical expression of John Paul II's often repeated call for 'solidarity'. In our diversity we together affirm the dignity of all in Christ.*

*Archbishop Christopher Prowse.*

Annual Financial Statement

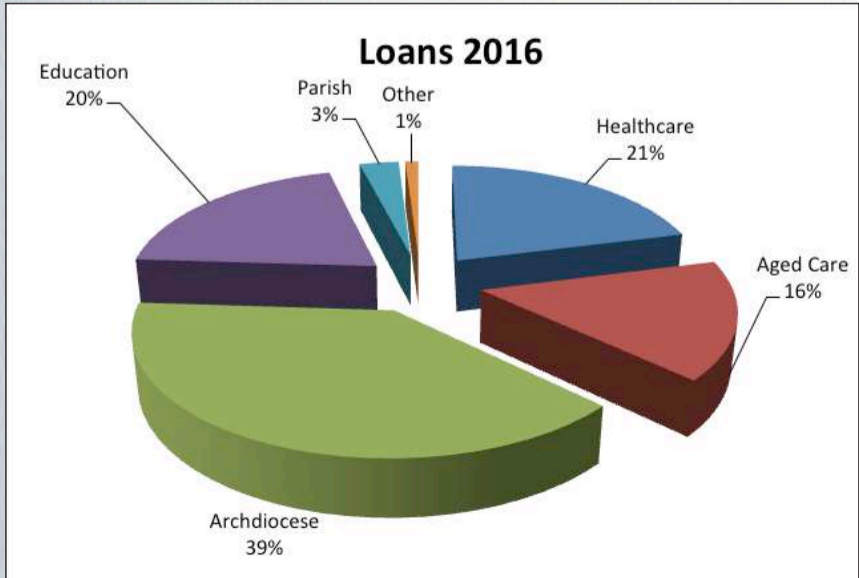
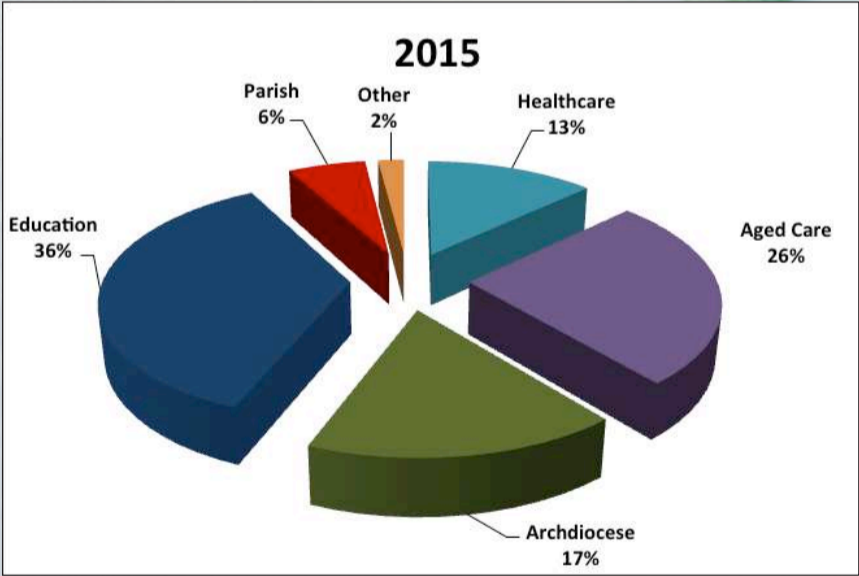
	2015	2016
TOTAL REVENUE	\$10,093,614	\$10,025,992
OPERATING SURPLUS	\$4,036,422	\$4,955,918
TOTAL ASSETS	\$251,732,865	\$269,037,015
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$237,997,245	\$254,600,474
NET ASSETS	\$13,735,620	\$14,436,541
Distributions		
Archdiocese	\$2,388,096	\$2,412,000
Future Fund	\$1,160,000	\$1,640,000
Wilcannia-Forbes	\$250,000	\$203,000

Loan Book

As at 31 December 2016 the CDF had \$103.2 out on loan.

System schools	\$15m	15%	Congregational schools	\$5.0m	5%
Parishes	\$3.0m	3%	Equipment schools	\$150k	0.1%
Archdiocese	\$39.1m	38%	Aged Care	\$16.8m	16%
Healthcare	\$22.15m	21%	Other dioceses	\$700k	0.6%
Other	\$280k	0.3%	Carpool	\$1.0m	1%

Loan Comparison 2015 -2016



Financial Product Support

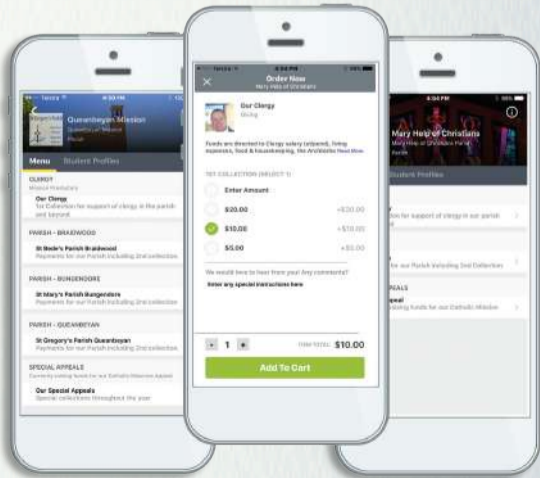
The CDF – CBA banking relationship allows CDF Canberra access to a CBA national Catholic fee structure providing discounted pricing for our account holders in a range of products including merchant and corporate card facilities. This relationship has also introduced the CDF and clients to new technology such as the Albert EFTPOS machine, Inlogik Promaster corporate card reconciliation system and the ‘Qkr! by Mastercard’ mobile phone merchant payment facility.

The CDF continues to work with CBA to trial and implement changes allowing clients secure and efficient methods of account operation.



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Contact the CDF: Email: [cdf@cg.catholic.org.au](mailto:cdf@cg.catholic.org.au) or Telephone: 6201 9870 or Website: [www.cdf.cg.catholic.org.au](http://www.cdf.cg.catholic.org.au)



# Classifieds

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## OBITUARIES

**BEATH, Doreen:** Passed away on June 17 at the age of 91. Mother of Frs Greg (retired) and Laurie (Cowra Parish Priest) Beath. A requiem Mass was held at St Malachy's Catholic Church, Gooloogong on Thursday June 22. May she rest in peace.

**RYAN CSsR, Fr Peter Morgan:** Redemptorist Priest of Kogarah, formerly of St Clement's Galong passed away at St Vincent's Care Services, Bronte on May 12. Mass of Christian Burial was offered in the Redemptorist Chapel, Kogarah on May 17. Internment took place at Rookwood Catholic Cemetery.

## SELF-HELP GROUP

FREE – massage, hair-cut, nails, food, odd jobs etc as exchange or barter. Need new members so we can assist pensioners, low income, less fortunate etc. Join a parish friendship group – weekly activities, bus trips etc. Confidential 0403 050 960 anytime John.

## PRAYERS

**Prayer to the Blessed Virgin** Oh most beautiful flower of Mt Carmel, fruitful vine, splendour of Heaven, Blessed mother of the Son of God, immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh Star of the Sea, help me and show me you are my mother. Oh, Holy Mary, Mother of God, queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech thee from the bottom of my heart to help me in my necessity (make your request). There are none that can withstand thy power. "Oh Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee" (x 3). "Holy Mary, I place this prayer in thy hands" (x 3). Say this prayer for three consecutive days.



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# Robbie bags a swag of medals

AS a rule, Robbie Costmeyer, finance officer of Corpus Christi Parish South Tuggeranong isn't someone who seeks the limelight.

But it's hard not to draw attention to yourself when you travel to New Zealand for the World Masters Games and come home with a swag of medals.

Competing as one of 28,000 athletes from 106 countries across some 30 sports in Auckland, Mr Costmeyer won gold in three track and field events, 5000 metres, 10,000 metres and 2000-metre steeplechase.

He also claimed a silver medal in the 1500-metre race and, on the last day of competition, won a bronze medal in the 6km cross-country.

Mr Costmeyer said he went to NZ with the goal of breaking some ACT records for his men's

70+ age group, which he graduated into last December. He considered winning a medal would be a bonus.

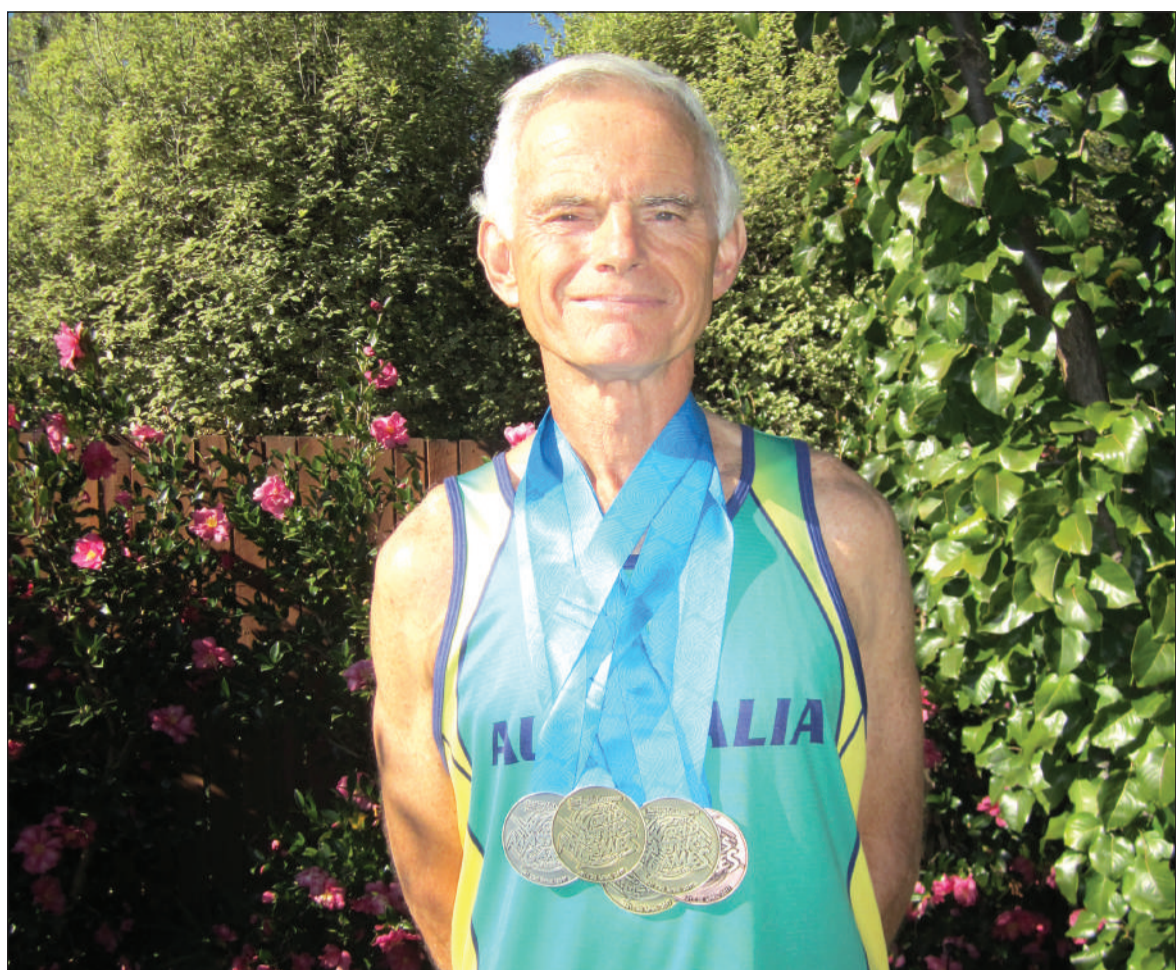
"There was a good deal of competition and incentive to do well in my five events," he said.

"I managed to break three ACT records, but a fourth, in the 10,000 metres, eluded me by a mere two seconds, my only disappointment.

"However, to my surprise the two best athletes in the world in my age group, one Frenchman and one Australian, did not come to Auckland and I consequently featured in the medals.

"One can only compete against those that front up for each event."

Mr Costmeyer enjoys running each week and has no plans to retire as he hopes to compete in the next World Masters Athletics Games in Spain in September 2018.



Robbie Costmeyer in Auckland with his swag of medals from the World Masters Games. Picture: Supplied.

# Merici under-16s have a ball

MERICI College's Year 9 and 10 Volleyball team dug deep to take out the final of the ACT under-16 Schools Women's Championship at the Lyneham Indoor Centre.

After going down to Alfred Deakin High School in an earlier round robin encounter, Merici came up trumps in the last match winning 15-4, 15-4, 15-6.

Success for the girls came primarily from a slight adjustment to their approach in addition to some solid teamwork.

"As a team we were able to re-strategise our game play so that we could win the next game," Year 9 student Jessica Kalthofen said.

"I really enjoyed meeting all the other teams and sharing our passion for volleyball."

After a great start to the day, the Merici lost their final two matches to end up in third place going into the semi-finals.

Against St Clare's College in the semi, the girls won three sets to nil.

"It was such a great experience coming together as a team, achieving such a fantastic result," Year 10 student Caitlin Treble said.

"We have worked really hard to achieve our best as a team, as well as honing our individual skills."

The successful players were Caitlin Treble, Jessica Kalthofen, Grace Aboud, Lauren Kemp, Jessica Brewer, Olivia Horvat, Finlay McClelland and Casey Pratt.



Above: Winners are grinners for Merici's Year 9 and 10 Volleyball team pictured here with coach Gerard Ryan. Picture: Supplied.

## IN BRIEF

### Sports Briefs July 2017

Horizon Coatings take out first place  
LED well by Max Hillier, Horizon Coatings took out first place at the annual Marist College Canberra Foundation Golf Day earlier this year. Collins Caddaye Architects (Derek Pottenger and co.) came second, while RSM Australia (Frank Lo Pilato and co.) finished in third position. Proceeds from the day go towards the Br Mark May Bursary Fund, which provides students from financially disadvantaged families the opportunity to receive a Marist education.

### Sacred Heart Pearce Walkathon

SACRED Heart Primary Pearce ACT celebrated their patronal feast day with a school Mass and Walkathon on June 23. The Walkathon is the school's major fundraiser of the year. Money raised from the day will go towards new reading books, display stands in each classroom and resources to support identified learning initiatives.