

CATHOLIC Voice

ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN

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*The blessing and opening of St Christopher's Pastoral Centre and the Marian Place Manuka residential units.
More coverage on pages 2, 10, 11 and 20.*

St Christopher's Pastoral Centre blessing and opening



Picture: Ben Wrigley.

THIS project is the culmination of many hours of work by a large number of people," Archdiocesan Financial Administrator Helen Delahunty told more than 200 people at the blessing and opening of the newly completed St Christopher's Pastoral Centre and Marian Place residential complex on September 20.

"We are privileged to be standing on the shoulders of the wonderful staff and committee members who proceeded us," she said.

In her speech Ms Delahunty spoke about the satisfaction of having the project completed after it had been in construction stage since May 2015.

She discussed the enormity of bringing such a monumental effort to fruition and described all the benefits which have accompanied the Archdiocese's move to Manuka.

"These buildings are not just housing staff and residents, these buildings are who we are, full of light, transparent and warm," she said.

"We are now in the middle of the Catholic precinct of Manuka where

we welcome all to our cathedral.

"Staff here have come from three separate buildings to be together under one magnificent atrium roof."

In her speech, Ms Delahunty provided a detailed account of the planning and construction stages of the new centre and gave multiple thank-yous to those who played a part in its completion. A full copy of her speech is available on the Archdiocesan website at www.cg.org.au

As the main coordinator of the St Christopher's Pastoral Centre's new building, Ms Delahunty was presented with a bouquet of flowers for her work and leadership in overseeing the completion of the project from start to finish.

"You've been remarkable Helen, you're very much loved and the way you go about your strong leadership as a woman in the Church is remarkable," Archbishop Christopher Prowse said when handing over the bouquet.

During the official opening, the Archdiocese was the recipient of an olive tree grown for them by Hindmarsh Constructions. The

tree had been struck from an olive tree cutting taken from the garden of the old St Christopher's Cathedral Presbytery. Unbeknown to most, Brett Bremer from Hindmarsh had taken cuttings from the tree before it was removed as part of demolition and had propagated ten cuttings. Only one of the cuttings survived and it was given to Ms Delahunty on behalf of the Archdiocese – a wonderful link between the old and the new.

Archbishop Prowse emceed the blessing and opening liturgy ceremony. It began with a 'Welcome to Country' by Indigenous woman Samantha Faulkner, incorporated prayers of intercession and featured the unveiling of a plaque to mark the historic occasion.

"It's a very important moment in the history of this Archdiocese and we ask God's blessing upon this place, which will be and is now, a great gathering place and focus for evangelisation, both in the pastoral centre but also the residential apartments," the Archbishop said.

Archbishop Prowse and Brisbane Archbishop Mark Coleridge

joined the Apostolic Nuncio to Australia, His Excellency Archbishop Adolfo Tito Yllana who presided over the official blessing party. The archbishops were assisted by South Tuggeranong Parish Priest Fr Warrick Tonkin in sprinkling and incensing the buildings and grounds at the St Christopher's precinct. A new 2.5 metre statue of Mary Help of Christians located on the lawn area of the Marian @ Manuka Independent Living Units was included in the blessing.

Students from Canberra's Darumalan College provided music during the liturgy, while students from Florey's St Francis Xavier College assisted with hospitality throughout the day.

Archbishop Prowse thanked Archbishop Yllana and others for their attendance. He made reference to all those who were responsible in organising the blessing and opening.

He gave particular attention to his predecessor Archbishop Coleridge for having the vision for the project dating back to when a project committee was formed in

2008. The Brisbane Archbishop also delivered a talk at the opening.

"It [the project] wasn't my idea and I pay tribute immediately to Archbishop Frank Carroll who this year extraordinarily celebrates 50 years as a bishop," Archbishop Coleridge said.

"But I also signal the unique contribution by Mr Herbie O'Flynn who is with us today.

"Really Herbie was the driving force, [Archbishop] Frank Carroll would say himself that he left the project to Herbie.

"When I began to take an interest in this project, Herbie was already up to his neck in it, so he was an absolutely crucial player in those early stages."

Archbishop Coleridge believes St Christopher's Pastoral Centre and residential complex is a vote of confidence in the future of the Church in the Archdiocese. He explained that the new building enhances the cathedral.

For a timeline of the St Christopher's Pastoral Centre project as well as photos of the project from start to finish go to pages 10 and 11.

Archbishop Carroll 50 years a bishop

FIFTY years to the day of his ordination as bishop, Emeritus Archbishop Francis Carroll celebrated in Canberra reflecting with gratitude on his episcopal life.

To mark the anniversary on September 5, he was joined for a gathering at Archbishop's House by Archbishop Christopher Prowse and a number of religious. Several priests, deacons and lay people of the Archdiocese attended also. A thanksgiving Mass and dinner took place later in the evening with Bishop Pat Power and close friends.

Archbishop Carroll said he was initially surprised to be made a bishop, "way back in 1967", and showed his appreciation to those who have been with him to this point.

"I think the main sentiment would be one of gratitude, first of all to God who called me and has sustained me over these years, and then gratitude to the many, many people," he said.

"My family, of course, have always been very supportive."

He nominated being the first bishop to welcome Pope St John Paul II to Australia in 1986 as well as Archdiocesan synods in 1989 and 2003 as highlights of his ministry. He paid tribute to the numerous "wonderful lay people" that he has encountered and said he has always received good support from

clergy wherever he went, noting "many happy relationships".

He said the scourge of institutional child sex abuse by members of the Church had been most disappointing and had overshadowed much of the good work done by the Church over many years.

Regarding the 2020 Plenary Council, he said that with "good preparation of prayer and work", it could be a decisive event in the life of the Catholic Church in Australia. Archbishop Carroll was Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn from 1983 to 2006.

He grew up on a farm at Ganmain, was educated at the local convent school, before moving to Sydney and finishing his secondary studies with the De La Salle Brothers in Marrickville.

In 1946, he entered the seminary at St Columba's Seminary Springwood at the age of 16 and two years later went on to St Patrick's Seminary Manly. He was ordained a priest by Bishop Henschke in St Brendan's Church, Ganmain, on July 27, 1954.

From 1967, he was the coadjutor bishop of the Diocese of Wagga Wagga, ministering alongside Bishop Henschke, who was ill at the time and died six months later.

"Bishop Henschke was a mentor to me, he confirmed me, ordained me a priest and ordained



Archbishop Carroll flanked by Bishop Pat Power (left) and Archbishop Prowse. Picture: John McLaurin.

me a bishop," Archbishop Carroll said.

Thirty-six at the time of his episcopal ordination, Archbishop Carroll is the youngest bishop to be ordained in Australia since Vatican II (1962-65). He said the episcopal ordination took place at the now removed Plaza Theatre in Baylis Street, Wagga Wagga, to allow 1800 people to attend. These days he is happily retired in Wagga Wagga and says he is in

good health, having just turned 87.

He maintains a keen interest in both the Archdiocese and the Diocese of Wagga Wagga, regularly doing priest supply work when required. He nominates Catholic education, Kairos Prison Ministry and the implementation of Vatican II, as three of the more important parts to his legacy.

"For me one of the great graces in my life was studying Canon Law in Rome during the Second

Vatican Council," he said.

"That became my ideal for the rest of my time as bishop."

Giving advice to Christians in tough times, amid an ever-secular society, Archbishop Carroll said Catholics needed to stay strong, while taking on a more contemplative dimension in their faith. Borrowing a phrase from St Mother Teresa of Kolkata, he said "God has not called us to be successful, but he has called us to be faithful".



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ARCHBISHOP CHRISTOPHER'S DIARY



October

SUNDAY, 1 5.30pm
St Alphonso Syro Malabar Parish Feast, St Joseph's Parish, O'Connor

TUESDAY, 3 12.15pm
Mass,
St Christopher's Cathedral

WEDNESDAY, 4 12.15pm
Mass, St Christopher's Cathedral

FRIDAY, 6 12.15pm
Mass, St Christopher's Cathedral

SUNDAY, 8 8.30am
Marian Procession, Galong

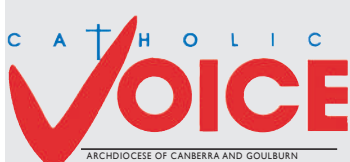
FRIDAY, 13 6.00pm
Ordination to the Priesthood - Deacon Josh Scott, St Christopher's, Cathedral

SATURDAY, 14 12.15pm
St Vincent de Paul Festival Mass, St Christopher's Cathedral

6.00pm Mass, St Thomas Aquinas Charnwood

SUNDAY, 15 11.00am
Respect Life Sunday Mass Cathedral

SUNDAY, 29 11.00am
Mass Cathedral



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Courage and hope in a 'liquid society'



ARCHBISHOP'S MESSAGE

ARCHBISHOP
CHRISTOPHER PROWSE

SOME commentators describe today's Western World as a "Liquid Society."

This means that the established values and ethical benchmarks of centuries are being questioned or are in the process of being demolished.

What seems to take their place is a formless ideological arrangement where nothing seems permanent, nothing enduring.

In the context of the current public debates on same-sex marriage, euthanasia, refugees and funding in education, such a description seems worthy of consideration.

Living out our missionary discipleship in such a societal context is not easy. It never has been over Christian history. It requires from all of us great courage. Courage

is a gift of the Holy Spirit. Let us pray for this gift fervently for our times.

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

The current issue of same-sex marriage and the proposal to change the basic definition of marriage in Australia raises issues that are central to a society seeking maturity.

We all know and love same-sex attracted people in our families, parishes and communities. They do feel particularly vulnerable in the current national discussions. Our respect and care reaches out to them as always.

That been said, traditional Marriage must be considered one of the great treasures of humanity. Clearly, Christianity has given it a particular sacramental understanding. Yet, the exclusive love sharing of a man and a woman that is open to the possibility of giving life to children has been a central benchmark of healthy societies over millennia.

St John Paul II often wrote that society comes through the family. Strengthening society means strengthening marriage

and families. How can changing the basic and enduring definition of marriage assist a strong society?

Several recent popes have also made the parallel with environmental ecology and human ecology. They rightly see their inter-connection.

For example, why be strong on protecting the natural beauties of Australia but less so on protecting proven human beauties, like traditional Marriage?

Indeed, we seem to be strong on protecting the environment but seemingly more ready to endanger the delicate ecology of human relationships in re-defining marriage.

Subjective considerations are significant but must be balanced carefully with objective truths about the value of traditional Marriage and its links with the flourishing of society.

Clearly, too, if overseas examples are a guide, many countries that have permitted same-sex marriage are now encountering all sorts of challenges regarding abuses to the fundamental rights of religious freedom and speech.

Various ideologies can be asserted in a subtle manner as the

new "right". Pope Francis warns us about the advance of an "ideological colonisation" in our world.

Let us be on our guard! Let us do all we can to protect traditional Marriage from any legal re-definition. Make sure you vote!

HOPE

Placing such matters aside, I have witnessed many great signs of hope in the Archdiocese in recent times. Four come to mind immediately.

- The launch of our pilgrimage centre in Eden in honour of St Mary of the Cross Mackillop and her mother, Flora.
- The 50th anniversary of the Episcopal Ordination of Archbishop Francis Carroll.
- The Marian Procession and Youth Pilgrimage at the Galong monastery.
- The blessing and opening of our pastoral centre and residential apartments alongside St Christopher's Cathedral.

We thank the Lord Jesus and Mary for making us people of hope in challenging times.

Be aware of my prayers for you and your families and friends

Cathy and co. cycling hard for a Cambodian cause

FOUR intrepid cyclists from the Archdiocese have been training hard over the past few months as they prepare for the trip of a lifetime in November.

The Women on Wheels – WOW team of Catholic Mission director Cathy Ransom, and friends Bernadette Bryant, Anne-Louise Dawes and Fran Egan-Richards will set out on Catholic Mission's Ride to Reach Out, a 250-km cycle around Cambodia to raise crucial funds for the organisations projects in the country and around

the world. They will join Bishop of Wilcannia-Forbes Columba Macbeth-Green in the group of 17 committed riders from November 15 to 26.

"We are aiming to raise \$10,500 for projects such as an innovative agricultural training program for local farmers to increase productivity and hence a sustainable income," said Mrs Ransom. "Another is an education and employment program for 1,190 people with physical disabilities - many as a

result of landmine explosions, and a program to train and support disadvantaged women."

She says the project will help empower 473 marginalised people through the construction of six new buildings where training in silk handicrafts, production of soya milk and cookies, cotton weaving, tailoring and production of wooden toys will take place.

"Every little bit helps," Mrs Ransom says. To donate to the cause go to www.mycause.com.au/page/152675



Early morning training ride around Lake Burley Griffin (L-R) Cathy Ransom, Anne-Louise Dawes, Bernadette Bryant and Fran Egan-Richards. Picture: Supplied.

Changes for Belconnen Parishes

ST Monica's Evatt and St Michael's Kaleen parishes will combine to form a new Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish on January 1.

Several changes will come into effect at the start of next year, following the Archdiocese's decision to amalgamate parishes in Belconnen.

Page and Aranda parishes will come together on the same day and will be known as St Matthew and St Vincent de Paul Parish.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse has also advised a number of clergy changes in the Archdiocese.

North Woden Parish Priest Fr Tony Frey will retire on December 31 and Weston Creek Parish Priest Fr Kevin Brannelly on January 31.

South Tuggeranong Parish Priest Fr Warrick Tonkin has been appointed administrator of St Christopher's Cathedral Parish, from January 1. Current administrator Mgr John Woods will take up an appointment as parish priest of North Woden.

Deacon Chris van Gessel took up an appointment at Queanbeyan Parish on September 1.

And from January 1, St Christopher's Cathedral Presbytery will be located at the Archbishop's House, Commonwealth Ave, Parkes.

Namora and Adrian ordained deacons

TWO “very fine men” were ordained deacons by Archbishop Christopher Prowse at St Christopher’s Cathedral on the evening of September 22.

Receiving the Sacrament of Holy Orders was Namora Anderson and Adrian Chan.

Prior to his formation and studies, Reverend Mr. Anderson was an apprentice mechanic from Queanbeyan, while Reverend Mr. Chan is a former Carmelite novice from Singapore.

Both men had family and friends present, which some travelled far and wide to be there on the night. Deacon Chris Van Gessel vested Deacon Anderson with the stole and dalmatic on the night.

Deacon Chan was vested by Deacon Mick O’Donnell.

During the ceremony, the newly ordained officially received the book of the Gospels - a tradition which has been handing on since the days of the first Apostles.

“Receive the Gospel of Christ, whose herald you have become. Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach,” Archbishop Prowse instructed both men during the rite of ordination.

The pair promised their obedience to Archbishop Prowse and his successors, whilst also pledging to lead a celibate life for the sake of the Kingdom.

Rev. Anderson recently returned to the Archdiocese following seven

and a half years of formation at the Seminary of the Good Shepherd at Homebush in Sydney. During this time he also took on periods of pastoral work in Cootamundra, Goulburn, Moruya, Young, and Temora.

Since leaving Homebush he has spent the past three months serving at Holy Spirit Parish Gungahlin.

Deacon Chan on the other hand, has been ministering at St Thomas the Apostle, Kambah for the past four months. Prior to Kambah he spent time in both the Bega and Gungahlin parishes.

In a thanksgiving speech given on the night, Rev Anderson testified that faith begins in the home. And he encouraged each member of the congregation to find God’s will in their lives.

Deacon Chan said something powerful happened for him at the moment at the laying on of hands by the Archbishop as a successor of the Apostles.

“It is a privilege to be ordained a deacon,” the ordinand said.

“I have already had the pleasure of meeting and working with so many good people and I look forward to continuing my journey towards the priesthood and to help keep building the Kingdom of God in this Archdiocese,” he said.

At the ordination Archbishop Prowse gave a homily instructing the newly ordained deacons to be servants of the Word, servants of the altar, and servants of charity.



Namora Anderson (middle left) and Adrian Chan (middle right) were ordained deacons at St Christopher’s Cathedral last month. Picture: Loui Seselja.

“We need to note well, the Pauline requirement of deacons expressed in the second reading from St Paul’s Letter to Timothy,” the Archbishop said.

“He [St Paul] says they (deacons) must be conscientious believers in the mystery of faith.

“Deacons are to lead in public prayer, to baptise, marry [and] bury

in His [God’s] name.

Archbishop Prowse encouraged deacons Anderson and Chan to embrace silence, to be men of prayer, and to be humble servants in their new ministry as ordained ministers. And he instructed them to avoid being in a comfort zone.

“We don’t deacons who are presbytery deacons,” he said.

“These are deacons who prefer the company of their own room in front of a screen of some sort.

“And we don’t want sacristy deacons. These prefer the smell of incense rather than the smell of the poor.” Rev Anderson and Rev Chan are expected to be ordained priests for the Archdiocese in the coming year.

Fatima significance not lost on Joshua



Deacon Joshua Scott. Picture: Cyron Sobrevinas from Capture Frames.

JOSHUA Scott has a strong devotion to Our Lady, so being ordained a priest this month a century after the apparitions at Fatima makes it an even more a special occasion.

His ordination in St Christopher’s Cathedral at 6pm on October 13 is exactly 100 years after the sixth and final apparition in Portugal.

“As soon as I learned that I would be ordained on the centenary of Fatima, I was deeply moved that once more Our Lady will be with me on another significant step of my vocational journey,” he said.

“Having received baptised, confirmed and receiving my first Holy Communion and first Reconciliation in my hometown Parish of St Mary’s Young, I have always had a special place for Our Lady.” Last year Deacon Scott was ordained a deacon on the Feast of St Pope John Paul II.

The priest-in-waiting is well acquainted with many Archdiocesan communities after pastoral stints at Page, Queanbeyan, Temora and Young, as well as Caringbah (Sydney). He is now serving in the Goulburn Mission and is looking forward to seeing many familiar faces at his upcoming ordination.

Seminary soccer comp

ONE-HUNDRED and eighty seminarians from all over Australia converged on Wagga Wagga for the 20th annual Australian inter-seminary soccer competition.

The event was hosted by Vianney College seminary in the Diocese of Wagga Wagga.

The diocese is celebrating its centenary year, while the seminary is celebrating its 25th anniversary.

On the field, the Good Shepherd Seminary team from Sydney, featuring Archdiocesan seminarians Mark Ha and Foliga Etuale, came runners-up to the

perennially strong Redemptorist Mater Seminary team from Perth.

Redemptorist Mater, which trains priests for the Neo-Catechumenal Way community, has won the past 10 tournaments.

The Good Shepherd boys went down to the ‘NeoCats’ in the final in a penalty shoot-out after having beaten them earlier in the day.

Following the day’s play, seminarians and seminary staff gathered for Mass, dinner and drinks.

Archdiocesan seminary Alexander Osborne said although

it was always hotly-contested, the inter-seminary soccer competition was mainly an exercise in fraternal bonding among Australia’s future clergy.

“I have waited seven years to see Good Shepherd beat Redemptorist Mater, our first game was one I’ll never forget,” he said.

“I hope that one day I will encourage my parish as much as I supported our team in the final game.”

Next year’s tournament will be played in Sydney.



Two priests of the west laid to rest

Fr Mayne Lacey Murphy

FORMER parish priest of Lake Cargelligo Fr Mayne Lacey Murphy, was eternally farewelled by the community at the town's Our Lady of Lourdes Church on September 15.

His passing on September 6, came just 12 months after he retired on August 15 last year - the 34th anniversary of his priestly ordination.

He spent the final 12 months of his life being cared for in a Leeton nursing home.

A late vocation to the priesthood, Fr Murphy studied at St Paul's Seminary in Kensington between 1978 and 1982. He was ordained a priest by Archbishop Edward Clancy at St Mary's Church in Young on August 13, 1982.

He was parish priest of Lake Cargelligo and Tulibigeal parishes for 25 years between 1991 and 2016. During this time he was also responsible for ministering to the surrounding Church communities of Ranks Springs, Euabalong, Weethalle and Murrin Bridge.

He was one of the first ever students at St Francis Xavier Primary in Lake Cargelligo when it opened in 1935 and many years later he would return there to have an impact as parish priest, celebrating Mass for the school each Friday.

"St Francis Xavier School community, parents, students and staff, have been cared for



and guided spiritually by Fr Mayne for many years," school principal Jacinta Elwin said.

"The students love him and know he is a special part of our school family, our parish family and the family of God."

Prior to his arrival as parish priest of Lake Cargelligo, Fr Murphy served as an assistant priest at Goulburn (1983 to 1986) and as parish priest of Adaminaby (1986 to 1991).

Archbishop Prowse was the principal celebrant at the funeral. He was assisted by Vicar General, Fr Tony Percy and several other priests and deacons, including Fr Tom Thornton, Parish Priest of Young.

Fr Thornton delivered the

homily and Peter Smyth the eulogy, while Fr Paul Kumasaka, the Anglican priest at Lake Cargelligo spoke about Fr Murphy's efforts and keen attitude towards ecumenism in the town.

A man who appreciated the bush, Fr Murphy spent much of his working life as a rural surveyor for the government of New South Wales.

He had the old steel measuring chains with him up until the day he died. Following the funeral, mourners were able to comfort each other and share stories at an afternoon tea, held in his honour at the Lake Cargelligo Bowling Club. Fr Murphy is buried at the Lake Cargelligo Cemetery.

Fr Phillip John Harding

IN scenes reminiscent of yesteryear, Fr Phillip John Harding was given a standing ovation by the people of Temora following his funeral at Sacred Heart Church on September 26.

As the hearse and cortege made its way down Hoskins St en-route to the memorial cemetery, shopkeepers joined the town's business men and women on the footpath to pay their last respects.

Fr Harding was parish priest of Temora for 28 years from February 1984 to February 2012. Born and raised in Boorowa, he passed away in Young on September 16.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse was the principal celebrant at the funeral, which was attended by approximately 250 people. He was joined by a large contingent of priests and deacons from across the Archdiocese.

Former St Anne's School Principal Dennis Sleight delivered the eulogy and Bishop Pat Power the homily.

Mr Sleight spoke highly of Fr Harding's influence in the parish saying "he left behind a treasure-trove of personal and group memories". Many of these memories were shared at a luncheon in the town's Ex-Services Club which took place after the burial.

Mr Sleight discussed the deceased's enthusiasm, wisdom and compassion, as well as his devotion to Mary, the mother of God.

Other areas discussed of Fr Harding's life included his "legendary care for the aged an infirm", the Divine Mercy and his love of the Parramatta Eels in the NRL.

"This wonderful man had one dream: to serve God through his people. In return, of course, people responded in love for him," Mr Sleight said.



"He was someone who wanted to serve his God in the most appropriate way he could, and for him that meant becoming a priest."

In June this year Fr Harding returned to the parish to celebrate his 80th birthday with parish priest Fr Simon Falk and parishioners.

On that day, Archbishop Emeritus Francis Carroll also attended and celebrated at Mass before a birthday lunch took place.

Fr Harding was ordained a priest at St Patrick's Boorowa by Archbishop Eris O'Brien on July 24, 1962.

In addition to his time at Temora, he also ministered as a priest at Young, Bradon ACT, Queanbeyan and Adaminaby. He spent his last few years in Mercy Care at Young and is buried alongside the other former priests of Temora.

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Papal award a 'complete surprise'

GOULBURN acolyte Chris O'Brien was not expecting recognition for his years of work with the city's Our Lady of Fatima Church.

He did it willingly and with love, much to the appreciation of Mary Queen of Apostles Parish Priest Father Dermid McDermott and parishioners.

It came as a "complete surprise" when Vicar General Fr Tony Percy announced during Sunday Mass at Our Lady of Fatima, that Mr O'Brien had received the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice (for Church and Pope) Medal.

The award from Pope Francis recognises his services to Our Lady of Fatima, North Goulburn, and for organising parish visitation to the sick and the housebound over many years.

The gold medal was instituted by Pope Leo XIII in 1888 for distinguished service to the Church by lay people and clergy.

Sts Peter and Paul's Restoration project manager Brian Watchirs received the medal several years ago.

Mr O'Brien didn't believe it until he saw his wife Anne sitting in the congregation with daughter Joanne from Brisbane, and Goulburn-based son Dominic and wife Melinda.

In reply, the papal medal recipient acknowledged those who helped him in his ministry.

"It's a great honour and is actually quite humbling really, as it's just something I do in my daily parish routine, but I'm very grateful all the same," he said.

"To me the parish is very important and I want to keep it alive for the homebound and the sick."



Chris O'Brien receives his award from Fr Tony Percy VG. Picture: Supplied.

Fr McDermott nominated Mr O'Brien through Apostolic Nuncio to Australia Archbishop Adolfo Tito Yllana.

Letters of support were written by Fr Kevin Brannelly and Fr Henry Byrne.

Mr O'Brien was a former chair of the parish's finance committee for 10 years, before it amalgamated.

"He's a very quiet man who just gets on with the job," Fr McDermott said.

Concerned Catholics Meeting

THE 2020 Plenary Council has been described as a once-in-a-generation opportunity for Catholics to have a say on the direction of the Church in Australia.

Emeritus Professor of Political Science at Australian National University, John Warhurst was speaking at the second public meeting of the group Concerned Catholics of Canberra and Goulburn.

Sr Ruth Durick OSU, Fr Peter Day and Dr John Falzon covered topics including clericalism and changes to Church governance and structures, while also exploring the possibility of greater participation of women in the Church.

The meeting was a follow-up to the first gathering in April.

Sr Durick, president of Catholic Religious Australia and a member of Catholic Professional Standards, spoke on the topic 'Where to from here? A response to the Royal Commission, to what and who are we responding?'

Fr Day, an associate priest of Queanbeyan Mission talked of the need for a poor Church, rich in servant leadership, while Dr Falzon, CEO of St Vincent de Paul Society National Council of Australia, also promoted the need for the Church to identify with the poor.

500 pilgrims enhance legacy in Eden



Archbishop Christopher Prowse with Fr James Antony and the Sisters of St Joseph at the recent pilgrimage. Picture: Supplied.

THE love and esteem held for St Mary of the Cross MacKillop in the Archdiocese, was largely evident when more than 500 people flocked to Eden joining Archbishop Christopher Prowse for a historic pilgrimage.

Arriving in cars and buses, pilgrims came together for a walk, Mass and lunch to officially inaugurate the site as the St Mary of the Cross Pilgrimage Centre.

The walk went from the Eden Cricket Ground, through the historic cemetery, up the steep hill and along the cliff-top walking trail overlooking Twofold Bay.

It concluded when the pilgrims

came to the town's Our Lady Star of the Sea Church.

Pilgrims took the time to admire historical artefacts in the MacKillop Heritage Centre (the former church) and the new Marian Grotto, which are both situated on the church grounds.

Canberra's ever-growing Syro Malabar community was well-represented on the pilgrimage, while a number of students from Australian National University and MacKillop College Canberra also took part, as did many from Lumen Christi College, Pambula.

Archbishop Prowse was the principal celebrant at Mass and

he described the event as one of the highlights of the year. He was joined by 10 concelebrating priests including parish priest, Fr James T Antony CMI, who helped organise the pilgrimage and inauguration gathering. Fr Antony said the day was a most significant one.

"This day, this event is a historic one in the history of Pambula parishes and we are truly humbled by the responses we received," he said.

"The ever-present spirit in Eden of St Mary of the Cross and Flora had been enhanced and will continue to grow, thanks to those events on Saturday, August

Sisters of St Joseph first presence in the South Coast and Monaro

- 1888 – Bombala
- 1891 – Eden
- 1900 – Candelo
- 1902 – Nimmitabel
- 1918 – Cobargo
- 1921 – Delegate
- 1927 – Bega
- 1951 – Bemboka

12, 2017."

It was a special day also for the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, whose presence was largely felt at the gathering.

Many others, including Sr Clare Ryan, Fr Michael Mullan, Jack and Doreen Fogarty, Mary Beswick, Bernadette Wood, Sue Heffernan, Sr Evelyn Pickering and Sr Bernedetta were thanked for their contributions to making Eden a place of pilgrimage.

To read Archbishop's homily on the day of the pilgrimage go to <http://cgcatholic.org.au/about/our-archbishop/homilies/homily-august/>

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HOME BASE



Gerard Heffernan

Brokers Motivated by Love, Not Money

Australian brokers are among the lowest paid in the world, according to a new global research report by the (FBAA).

The study looked at remuneration structures in Australia, Canada, Holland, New Zealand, South Africa, the UK and the USA. It found that lenders in Australia pay brokers an average remuneration of 0.65% upfront for a home loan settlement, compared to the global average (excluding Australia) of 1.26%.

Most mortgage brokers don't charge a fee to their customers because they are paid commission by the lender. This means we often provide our services without any guarantee of payment.

Does this generate a conflict of interest? Would we recommend a loan because we are paid to do so by a lender?

No, is the short answer! The long answer is that we want to keep ourselves in business, which means we operate ethically and legally. After all, mortgage brokers are holders of an Australian Credit Licence and must adhere to the protections set out in the National Credit Act 2010. These state that a broker must never recommend a product that is 'unsuitable' based on 'reasonable enquiries' of your financial situation.

We take pride in a job well done. Our intimate knowledge of our lenders' products is one way we achieve success in matching home loans to individual client needs.

Promoting foreign mission in an 'age of diminishment'

BY FIONA VAN DER PLAAT

IN what he calls an "age of diminishment" for the Church, promoting foreign mission to congregations is not getting easier for Columban priest Fr George Hogarty.

While the numbers he is preaching to are shrinking, the pleas for their charity are ballooning and he wouldn't blame parishioners for feeling "somewhat beleaguered".

As he has travelled throughout the Archdiocese this year, talking about the work of the Missionary Society of St Columban, Fr Hogarty has faced the challenge of cutting through the "noise" of an increasingly secular society to create an awareness of communities far less privileged than our own.

Having worked with the poor and disconnected in Chile and Peru, Fr Hogarty says Australians don't realise how privileged they are.

"I always say to people, 'Just be thankful for the life you have here. Live in peace and don't be pressured by all those other forces [challenging their faith].'"

At the same time he asks parishioners to "participate" in the lives of poor and exploited people around the world by reading about them in the Columbans' monthly publication, *The Far East*, and "helping as you can".

"It's not just about money," he says of his work. "It's about making people aware there is such a



Fr George Hogarty. Picture: Loui Seselja.

thing as foreign mission – that, apart from their own parishes, there is another reality they are called to take an interest in."

The Columbans work as missionaries in more than 16 countries, but Fr Hogarty says they are just part of a wider "world church ... working together to cross language and cultural barriers".

Fr Hogarty spent more than 20 years in Chile and Peru, helping poor and isolated populations to build parishes and communities on the foundations of their "natural religiosity".

"There is already a strong

cultural Catholicism and we work with that to give them a fuller picture of their faith. It's not just about religion, but about helping them create a better world for themselves," he says.

Fr Hogarty, who grew up in Victoria, returned from Peru in late 2014 to take up a four-year role promoting mission around Australian dioceses.

He admits it's a rewarding but "unsettling" gig, which requires him to live off the goodwill of parish priests willing to share lodgings for a few days or, if they need help (as with a recent stint in Yass

and an upcoming one in Batemans Bay), a few weeks or months.

The upside of his rolling-stone life is he meets "many marvellous people doing a lot for the Church and the world".

The downside is he barely has time to get to know those people before moving on. Despite the inherent challenges of his role, Fr Hogarty says the Archdiocese "should hold its head high".

"We might be in the age of diminishment but the people of this diocese are still showing faith and life, and a lot of good things are being done," he says.

SFX Florey 40 years in the making

FLOREY'S St Francis Xavier College is looking forward to marking four decades of Catholic Education next month.

Founded in 1976, SFX is a co-educational Catholic school in Canberra's North West.

From its humble beginnings as a drab warehouse in the middle of a sheep paddock, it has evolved into a vibrant and innovative community.

The college will hold a 40th anniversary celebration called SFX FEST on Saturday November 4, from 11am to 4pm on the high school's grounds in Florey, ACT.

Principal Angus Tulley says the celebrations are an opportunity to remember, to articulate and to give thanks.

"I look forward to those who have been associated with St Francis Xavier College having the opportunity to celebrate the achievements of a wonderful community," he said.

"In the responses we have had from those who are presently a



The college's 2017 Year 12 cohort are looking forward to the upcoming 40th anniversary celebrations. Picture: Supplied.

part of SFX and for those for whom it is a part of their story, what comes through is a sense of connection and belonging."

College captains for 2017, Emma Montgomery and Eoin Garton say that SFX FEST will be like a high school reunion

that engages with the wider community.

"That's like 40 years' worth of high school reunions together on the same day," they said.

They say the family-friendly festival will present a chance to catch up with old friends and teachers and enjoy a range of entertainment.

In the evening of November 4, the college will also host a Cocktail Catch-up at Ainslie Football and Social Club from 6.30 pm.

Former students and staff are invited to go along for drinks, canapés, entertainment, in addition to meeting and mingling with old friends. Tickets for both events are available from the Eventbrite website at <https://www.eventbrite.com.au>

For more information, phone the college on (02) 6258 1055 or email school.office@sfx.act.edu.au. SFX can be followed on social media: StFrancisXavierCollege on Facebook and @SFXFlorey on Instagram and Twitter.

Gerard Heffernan
0402 026 246

gerard@hhs.com.au
www.hhs.com.au

Catholic Education unveil next priorities

MISSION, performance and service were unveiled as the main strategic priorities at Catholic Education’s annual clergy, principals and religious education leaders’ day.

Held in the Bradman Room at Manuka Oval, school principals and religious education coordinators joined Archdiocesan clergy and Catholic Education auxiliary staff to launch and outline the three-year plan, which runs until 2020.

In launching the plan, Catholic Education Director Ross Fox discussed the findings of strategic plan consultation and also the structure of Catholic Education into the future.

“The strategic plan was developed on a bedrock of evidence including contributions from more than a 1000 parents, staff and clergy from NSW and ACT school communities,” he said.

“Parents very clearly expressed that they highly value the character and identity of Catholic schools as a number one reason for enrolment.

“It is incredibly encouraging that an increasing number of non-Catholic families also value what we have to offer.

“Our strategic plan provides great clarity and focus for our Early Learning Centres and schools and colleges to re-energise faith



Archbishop Christopher Prowse gives a talk at Catholic Education’s annual clergy, principal’s and religious education leader’s day. Picture: Supplied.

formation and accelerate learning growth and academic outcomes for our children.”

Celebrating and promoting Catholic education, professional growth and accountability were listed as key enablers of the plan and direction. Head of RE and Curriculum Maree Williams facilitated the day in which the large group was guided through a series

of workshops led by Patrick McGrath, which examined Catholic identity, religious education and faith formation.

Mr McGrath said an important element of the day was examining faith forming opportunities at school level and evaluating them using the principles of formation.

“The new framework is a valuable tool that will help us deliver

formation opportunities that are of the highest quality,” he said.

A number of discussions and workshops were held throughout the course of the gathering and new document, A Framework for Formation for Mission in Catholic Education, was implemented.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse gave an address on the vision of the Archdiocese titled

‘Our role in the Mission’. Mgr John Woods also provided thoughts in his role as Vicar for Education.

Mr Fox and Archbishop Prowse took questions and comments from the floor, while Catholic Education’s purpose and vision statements were also launched. To see the new purpose and vision statements go to <https://cg.catholic.edu.au/>

New school chapel a feast for the senses



School captains (front L-R) Matilda Deng and Charlie Booth with Back (L-R): Mgr John Woods, Kathy Neely, Fr Dermid McDermott and Mrs Louise Seaman. Picture: Supplied.

SCHOOL principal Kathy Neely says the chapel opening and blessing at Goulburn’s Sts Peter and Paul Primary, which also featured a dedication of the altar and blessing of the ambo, was a feast for the senses.

“It was a lovely celebration which saw the chapel blessed by water, the altar consecrated by chrism and incensed,” she said.

Archdiocesan Vicar for Education Mgr John Woods was principal celebrant on the day.

He was assisted by Goulburn Mission Parish Priest Fr Dermid McDermott and Deacon Joshua Scott, while staff, many students and guests were present.

Mrs Neely expressed her gratitude to the parish priest for his assistance.

“We are very grateful to Father Dermid in helping to outfit our chapel, and look forward to many celebrations being held there.”

Iraq: It’s now or never - please help Iraqi Christians return home

FOR displaced Iraqi Christians forced from their homes and living in displacement camps, the moment they have been longing for has finally come.

After three years of occupation, the terrorist group Islamic State (IS) has been driven out of the area. Now, thousands upon thousands of people have the chance to go back to their villages in the Nineveh Plains – their families’ homeland since before the time of Christ.

But the task of repair and renovation is huge and the Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) – the largest contributor of emergency help since their escape from the Nineveh Plains – is determined to continue to stand with them.

It is now or never. Their future is in your hands.

With your help, we can fulfil two key objectives. The first is to assist the work of the Christian Churches to roll out plans to restore thousands of homes devastated by IS, a vital step to enable the families to go back. The other is to continue providing emergency and pastoral aid for Christian families awaiting resettlement.

Displaced communities in Erbil and elsewhere in Kurdish northern Iraq have been totally dependent on their fellow brothers and sisters in Christ to survive. Bishops and faithful alike are encouraged by the recent successes against IS in Mosul.

Thanking Aid to the Church in Need, Syriac Catholic Archbishop Petros Mouche of Mosul, whose flock make up 60 percent of the displaced community, said: “I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all those who can assist this work. **With your help, we will be able to rebuild our houses. It is a great mercy to know that we can count on your support.**”

A beautiful olive wood Comfort Cross made in Bethlehem, will be sent to all those who assist this cause with a donation of \$20.00 or more and tick the box in the response coupon below.



Archbishop Mouche of Mosul, holding a broken statue of Our Lady desecrated by IS, outside the ransacked church of Saint George Syriac-Catholic Church in Bartella on the Nineveh Plains in Iraq



The Comfort Crosses are handcrafted in Bethlehem from olive wood pruned from olive trees in the Holy Land. Comfort Crosses are designed to fit comfortably into the palm of one’s hand as an aid to prayer or meditation. It is ideal as a spiritual companion for easing children’s fears, comforting the worries and stresses of adults and focusing the prayer of the sick and elderly. The Comfort Cross would also be a lovely gift idea for someone you love or care for. The Comfort Crosses (also known as the Hand Cross, Palm Cross or Healing Cross) are lovingly hand carved by poverty stricken families in Bethlehem and your donation helps them survive. (Size: 9 cm x 4.5 cm) If you would like to receive the Comfort Cross **please tick the box below.**

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Aid to the Church in Need ... a Catholic charity dependent on the Holy See, providing pastoral relief to needy and oppressed Churches

Catholic Voice

St Christopher's Pastoral and Residential Centre

13 years in the making

2015 (May)

Demolition works began on the site. The ground control group was born. The group included Joe Mammoliti (building project manager), Colbartardo and Dominic Stalder, G. Constructions, Rodney Moss, G. Eamon O'Donoghue from Cox Architecture, Pratt from WT Partnership, Cath. Mgr John Woods and Archdiocesan Administrator Helen Delahunty.



2004

Herbie O'Flynn asked Emeritus Archbishop Francis Carroll to start thinking about what to do at the site of the former Haydon Hall and St Christopher's Cathedral Presbytery in Manuka, ACT.

2008

The Cathedral Precinct Development Committee began under Archbishop Mark Coleridge and operated until 2014. Members of the committee included Brian Lucas, Bernie Cusack, Chris Doogan, Dennis Morris, Pamela Slocum, John Malouf, Mgr John Woods, Fr Francis Kolocherry along with Rodney Moss and Gerard O'Connell from Cox Architecture.

2013 (November)

Archbishop Christopher Prowse arrived to a project that was all ready but needed the approvals to start. Archbishop Prowse then consulted the priests of the Archdiocese, with the majority giving it their blessing.

2015 (June)

The turning of the sod ceremony with Archbishop Christopher Prowse.

the site and the Project
group consists of
ct manager), David
ari from Hindmarsh
Gerard O'Connell and
Architecture, Malcolm
edra Administrator
cesan Financial
/.

2017 (September 18)

A 2.5 metre statue of Mary Help of Christians sculpted by Sydney artist Alan Somerville is erected on the lawn area of the 44 Marian @ Manuka Independent Living Units. The sculpture is the first of what will eventually be three statues at the precinct. Statues of St Christopher and St Mother Mary of the Cross MacKillop are expected to arrive in the next 12 months.

2017 (September 20)

Archbishop Christopher Prowse and Archbishop Mark Coleridge joins Apostolic Nuncio to Australia Archbishop Adolfo Tito Camacho Yllana to open and bless the newly completed St Christopher's Pastoral Centre incorporating the 44 Marian @ Manuka Independent Living Units. More than 200 people attend the opening and blessing.



2017 (July 8)

Building works at St Christopher's Pastoral Centre are virtually complete. Archdiocesan staff move into the centre from Favier House and the Rheinberger Centre respectively.

2017 (September 20)

Archbishop Christopher Prowse, Archdiocesan Financial Administrator and Apostolic Nuncio to Australia, His Excellency Archbishop Adolfo Tito Yllana unveil the plaque at St Christopher's Pastoral Centre.

Marriage debate steeped in ideology

THE “same-sex marriage” plebiscite is steeped in transgender ideology, according to National Civic Council Vice-President Patrick Byrne.

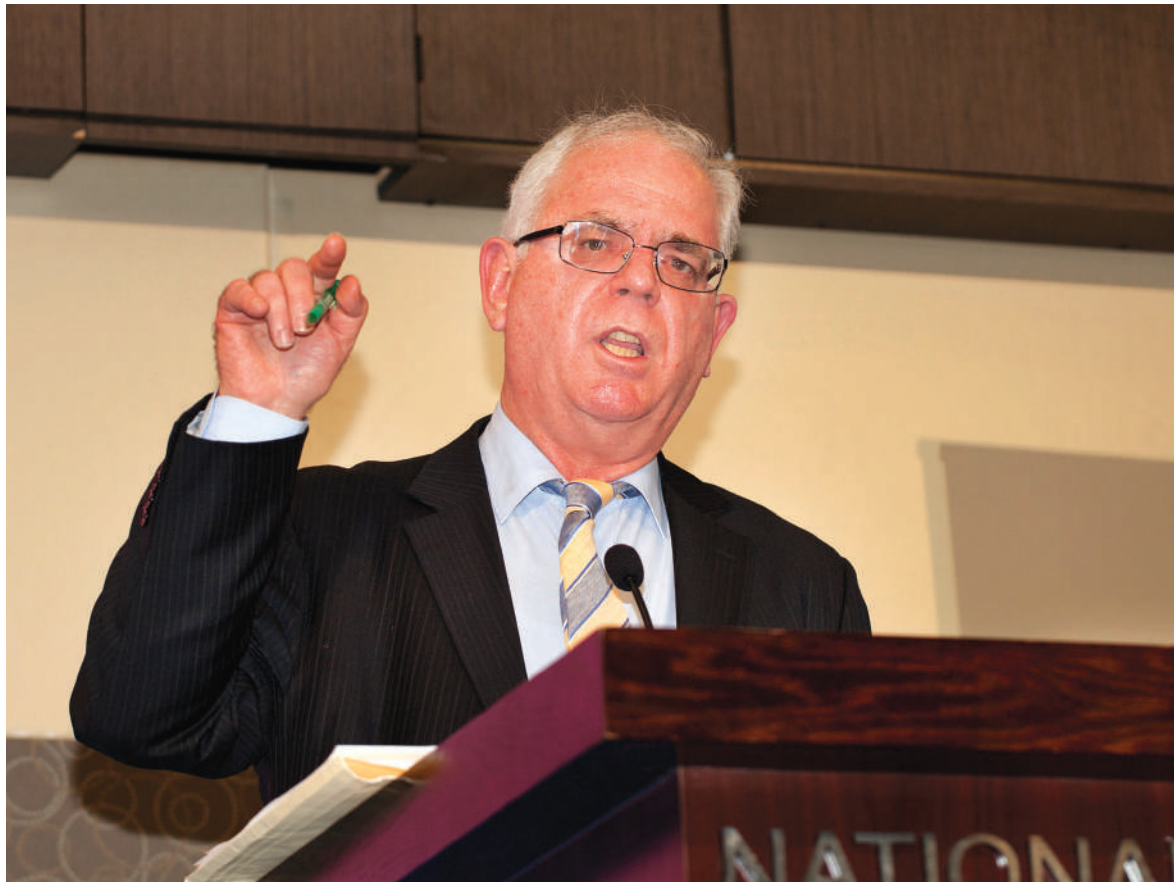
Speaking at the Australian Family Association national conference in Canberra, Mr Byrne believes the amended Marriage Act, if passed, will have far-reaching consequences for education, freedom of religion, speech and the ability to conduct business according to one’s conscience.

“The Sex Discrimination Act was amended in 2013 to remove the definitions of male and female which are no longer tied to biology but to how a person feels, presents and is recognised,” he said.

“It is a radical shift from the natural law that holds that humans are binary (male and female) in nature to gender being a social construct that is fluid and, according to the Tumblr list, there are now 112 genders.

“This is difficult for people to get their heads around, but this is ideology behind the ‘Yes’ vote.”

Mr Byrne said that if transgender marriage became law, it would be discrimination to differ with anyone in favour of it, meaning there was a loss of freedom of speech and loss of freedom of



National Civic Council's Patrick Byrne making his point with Mary-Louise Fowler in the background. Picture: Loui Seselja.

religion.

He pointed to the Jewish Vishnitz School for girls in London, which is under threat of losing its accreditation, because it refuses to teach transgender issues

to children.

“It is vitally important that we fight for marriage to stay between a man and a woman,” he said.

“Because of the Sex Discrimination Act, it would be an offence

not to teach homosexual/transgender sex education in schools - over 50% of Catholic children attend Government schools in the ACT.”

The potential law would have

grave ramifications for teachers of religious education who hold dear the beliefs of the Catholic Church - that gender is God-given and marriage is a sacrament reserved for a man and woman only.

Already in the ACT, licences and birth certificates have several options other than male or female.

Mr Byrne asked parents to consider carefully their vote.

Paul Monagle and Mary-Louise Fowler, both parishioners in the Archdiocese, convened the conference.

ACT Member for Murrumbidgee Guilia Jones spoke on igniting the aspirations for successful families in adolescents.

The Australian Catholic Bishops have released a statement on the plebiscite encouraging Australians to vote No. It can be accessed at <https://www.catholic.org.au/plebiscite>

Ballot papers were sent out on September 12 and all votes must be received back by November 7.

For more information relating to the Marriage debate go to <http://www.coalitionformarriage.com.au/>

For more information on the AFA go to www.family.org.au or call (03) 9816 0800.

Marriage and family matters

Lara Kirk discusses how the media narrative suggests Catholics have only two options

THE media narrative around same-sex marriage gives the impression that Catholics have only two options: stick doggedly to Church teaching while heartlessly ignoring the justice claims of same-sex couples or massage the claims of our faith into a new expression which will allow us to be more compassionate.

This, of course, is misleading oversimplification. Marriage, as many have pointed out, is a civil issue. And Catholics, as members of a civil society, must engage in contentious social issues, not just in the interests of guarding their own religious practices, but in the interests of creating the best possible society for all. This is what we have traditionally called our commitment to the ‘common good’.

What ‘the common good’ looks like is not always obvious. But living as we do in a robust democracy, Australians are blessed with the opportunity to nut it out respectfully in conversation with fellow citizens of diverse cultures and beliefs.

We will never achieve perfection, but we should try to get the balance of rights as close to perfect as is democratically possible.

Many people who care deeply about justice, also believe that redefining marriage will push the balance of rights too far in one direction with devastating consequences for the rights of many to freedom of conscience, freedom of speech and freedom of religion.

They believe it will not create the more open and tolerant society we are all hoping for. It may, in fact, produce the opposite.

That’s because once we say with our laws that same-sex and opposite unions are ‘the same’ it

in school regarding sexuality, employees have been forced to sign up to ideologies they don’t agree with, schools have been threatened with deregistration for not teaching gender theory and charitable organisations have been told they could lose their DGR status if they exclusively promote traditional marriage.

These are significant concerns for everyone. A society in which people are not free to manifest their own beliefs in teaching and practice is not a society in which all people can flourish.

A society in which people are not free to manifest their own beliefs in teaching and practice is not a society in which all people can flourish.

logically becomes discriminatory to do or say anything which indicates you think there is something unique and precious about the male, female, child bond which is worthy of special protections.

In countries where marriage has been legally de-gendered, parents have lost their rights to decide what their children are taught

But shouldn’t we be concerned about the rights of same-sex couples? Yes, we should. And we should be heartened by the substantial progress made in Australia.

A standout achievement by international standards was the removal, in 2008, of all laws which discriminated against same-sex couples in areas such as

superannuation, taxation, social security, inheritance and end-of-life decisions. For 10 years, same-sex couples in Australia have enjoyed the same rights as de facto heterosexual couples and this state of affairs was achieved through democratic processes of consultation which included all mainline Australian Churches.

So is life perfect now for same-sex couples? No. But it isn’t abominable.

Data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics indicates Australia is a place in which same-sex couples are flourishing in terms of education levels, employment status and annual income.

Is it unreasonable, on top of these practical benefits, that some same-sex couples still deeply desire the social recognition they believe will be afforded them and their families through a redefinition of marriage? No.

It is perfectly understandable and it is this issue which is vexing every Australian of good conscience.

What we need to decide as a nation is not “are hetero-sexual relationships better than same sex relationships”, but “will Australia become a better, more free and



inclusive society if marriage is refined?

My answer to that question is “No”.

Right now the balance of rights is pretty good in Australia. Same-sex couples are free to live and love and believe as they choose. And the diverse range of people who believe that the male, female, child bond is something of unique value to society are still (mostly) free to say so, without fear of legal sanctions.

It is OK for a compassionate person to say No to same-sex marriage. But it isn’t OK to leave it at that.

We must continue working together to create the best possible balance of rights which maximises the freedoms of all without unreasonably harming the rights of some.

Lara is the Marriage, Family and Relationships coordinator at the Archdiocese.

She can be contacted by email: lara.kirk@cg.org.au



October 13 (5.30pm): St Benedict's Mission Centre at Narrabundah is hosting a Mass for the stillborn, miscarried and aborted babies. Everyone is welcome.

October 14 (12pm to 4pm): Gregorian Chant sacred music workshop at St Joseph's Parish, O'Connor. Learn Mass propers as well Compline (night prayer). Afternoon tea will be included. If interested, please email: occonnor@cg.org.au. Entry is by donation.

October 21 (10am to 6pm): Canberra Taize Group 'God is Near' retreat at Weston Creek Uniting Church. BYO lunch, morning and afternoon tea provided. Cost is \$15 per person. Register at <https://god-is-near-retreat-2017.eventbrite.com> Contact Kathrin on email CBRTaizeFriends@internode.on.net or by phone on 0435 122 610.

October 21 (7pm): Canberra Regional AMICUS (meaning friend) Group will meet for dinner at Queanbeyan RSL Club followed by listening / dancing to band. Contact Patricia on 0412 351 548.

October 23: CONNECT Mass at Corpus Christi Parish, Gowrie ACT. Contact Huw via email at Huw.Warmenhoven@cg.org.au

October 26 (7.30pm to 8.30pm): Old Testament Bible Study at St. Benedict's Mission Centre Narrabundah (Collins Wing). For more information contact the parish on (02) 6295 7879.

October 27 and 28: National Fertility Conference at ACU in Melbourne. For more information contact Anna Johnstone on 0431 474 445. To register go to www.nationalfertilityawareconference.com

October 28: St Clare's Class of 1987 Reunion (including those from that group who finished before Year 12). See Facebook: St Clare's Class of 1987, or contact Kerri Cargill Mob: 0412 296 661, E: kezzac26@gmail.com or Sonja Mingay (Chipman), Mob: 0438 085 850 (A/H), E: sonja.mingay@bigpond.com

October 28 (7pm to 1am): CCR Mercy Vigil - Come and adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Rosary, praise and worship, intercession and

quiet reflection. At St Peter Chanel's Church, Yarralumla ACT. Contact Susanna 0419 902 293.

October 28 and 29: menAlive weekend at Yass. Contact Steve on 0456 441 888.

November 2 (7.30pm – 8.30pm): Old Testament Bible Study at St. Benedict's Mission Centre Narrabundah (Collins Wing).

November 10 (6pm to 9pm): REXBAND are playing at the Queanbeyan Bicentennial Hall. The production is a musical outreach of the Jesus Youth Movement. Sponsorship opportunities are available by contacting 0469 658 968. For online booking go to www.trybooking.com/RLGA or www.stalphonsa.com.au More information can be found at www.rexband.org

REGULAR GROUPS

CANBERRA TAIZE GROUP: Meets for prayer every second Sunday of the month at Weston Creek Uniting church at 5.30pm.

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: 0419 902 293, Neda: 0415 266 019 and Gabriel: 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

IGNATIUS GROUP OF CANBERRA: Meets fortnightly for discussion and reflection. Based on the international movement Christian Life Community. Contact Steve on 0407 147 540.

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 at St Joseph's Parish O'Connor on the third Friday of every month (public holidays excepted). Please RSVP to Fr Paul Nulley paul.nulley@cg.org.au for catering purposes or follow the prompts at <http://www.manoverboard.org.au/>

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

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Clockwork from top right: i) Namora Anderson being ordained a deacon by Archbishop Prowse, ii) another photo from the ordination, iii) Archbishop Christopher Prowse joins the Missionaries of Charity Sisters and parishioners in Queanbeyan for the recent St Mother Teresa of Kolkata Novena, iv) Clergy of the Archdiocese gathered for a retreat at Galong, v) The R U OK? Day Convo Convoy team rolled into Canberra and were hosted by Sir General Peter Cosgrove at Government House, vi) St Joseph's Grenfell 2017 debutantes and vii) Archbishop Prowse meets with Pope Tawadross II, the Patriarch of the Coptic Orthodox Church. Pictures: Supplied.



Walking for the church when the going gets tough

BY CATHERINE SHEAHAN
(THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY)

ROB Azar is a man who has learnt to keep walking even when the going gets tough. On October 1 he began a 300km trek from Sydney to Canberra, to help raise funds to build a new church for the struggling St Elias Melkite Catholic Community, despite losing a close friend just a week earlier.

His week-long pilgrimage started at St Raphael's Church in Merrylands, Sydney, and was due to end on October 7 at St George Mission Melkite Church in Calwell, Canberra. Walking the entire distance by himself, Mr Azar was to be joined by his nieces and nephews for the last hour of the walk.

He was first inspired with the idea after listening to Bishop Robert Rabbat speaking at Mass on Christmas day last year about the need to raise funds for the community's new church.

"For some unknown reason I just got drawn into his beautiful speech on that day," Mr Azar told The Catholic Weekly a few days



Rob Azar (2nd row, 4th from the left) is walking from Sydney to Canberra. Picture: Giovanni Portelli (The Catholic Weekly).

before he began his walk.

"I thought what could I possibly do to help the Church?"

Mr Azar was already a keen walker and every Sunday for the

past five years he has walked from his home in Granville to Rookwood Cemetery to visit his dad's grave. "I thought well if I did a big walk, maybe I could raise money

for the church."

His friend, Majed Aoun, who passed away from a sudden heart-attack just a week before the walk had planned to meet Mr Azar an

hour from the finish line and walk the rest of the way with him.

"He was a dear friend to me and he wanted to walk the last hour to the church and now his daughters are going to walk that last hour in honour of their dad. It's very sad for us and it's very hard at the moment."

Mr Azar said he has soldiered on through many trials in life, overcoming obstacles—including a gambling addiction—through his faith in God.

"I've had a bit of struggle in my life like every human being does and I turned to my faith and started praying to God, looking for a way out. He helped me and I found my way.

My life's been turned around and I thought maybe this is the way to repay him, by doing this walk."

To date, Mr Azar has raised over \$120,000 for the building of the new St Elias church at Guildford.

The St Elias Melkite Catholic Community is hoping to raise a total of \$300,000 for the project.

To make a donation go to www.buildstelias.org.au

Decommissioning of the Dalmeny church

FORTY parishioners came together recently for the decommissioning of the Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church at Dalmeny.

Archdiocesan Vicar General, Fr Tony Percy officiated at the decommissioning of the 106 years old heritage-listed south coast church. He was assisted by Narooma Parish Priest, Fr Joseph Tran.

The heritage listed timber church was built in 1911 west of Bodalla on the far South Coast.

It was transported to Dalmeny (10km north of Narooma) and reopened in 1956, but has been closed for the last seven years.

Parishioners and well-wishes alike recounted memories of the church and its history.

The building, together with a vacant adjoining block located on prime land, both with ocean views, has been placed on the market.



Parishioners joined Fr Tony Percy VG and Fr Joe Tran for the decommissioning of the Dameny Church. Picture: Supplied.

Charity and Social Justice



JUSTICE MATTERS
CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

(PART ONE)

BY MIKE CASSIDY

BRAZIL and Australia are very different nations, but these words of Archbishop Camara still resonate in both places. Charity is usually celebrated (as it should be). Understanding and acting on the causes of suffering – in other words, working for social justice – often attracts hostility because it can threaten the existing order of things. These days we are more likely in Australia to label advocates for social justice as “troublemakers” than as “Communists”, but

“When I give bread to the poor, they call me a saint; when I ask why the poor need bread, they call me a Communist” (the late Dom Helder Camara, Archbishop of Recife, Brazil from 1964 to 1985)

the sense is much the same.

Charity at times gets a bad rap too – the phrase “cold as charity” comes to mind here. At the same time we may think of very generous people as rash.

True charity is, of course, demanding. In his first letter to the Corinthians (13:4-10), St Paul describes love – that is, charity – as patient, kind and rejoicing in the truth. He also says that love is not pompous, inflated, rude, quick-tempered or selfish and that it does not brood over injury or keep a record of wrongs. It reads like a very tall order! It certainly doesn't sound cold.

The Church does not claim to have all the answers as to what constitutes social justice for a

particular culture. It recognises that each community will have its own ideas on how abstract concepts of social justice can be translated into practical action. Even within a community, what characterises social justice can be the subject of fierce debate. Cultural, economic and political factors may mean that steps taken in the pursuit of social justice in one community will produce entirely different reactions in another.

{Next month we'll conclude this brief look at the relationship between charity and social justice.}

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

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St Francis Xavier College, Florey celebrates its 40th Anniversary this year and we want you to be part of the fun. If you are a former student or staff member of SFX this is a fabulous opportunity to catch up with old school friends over drinks and canapés. Hope to see you there!

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Marist Brothers celebrate bicentenary of the foundation

THE Marist Brothers Province of Australia recently held celebrations across Australia marking the Bicentenary of the Foundation of the Marist Brothers by St Marcellin Champagnat.

A celebratory Mass was held to mark the 200th anniversary where Brother Peter Carroll FMS, Provincial of Marist Brothers Province of Australia, spoke about the community formed by the Marist founder and the virtues underpinning the Marist tradition.

Celebratory Masses were held in Brisbane, Bulleen and Parramatta on August 12, at which the provincial's address was delivered.

"In his bicentenary message, Br Emili Turú, Superior General of the Marist Brothers, suggested that three words, or three realities, should shape our celebrations: gratitude, forgiveness and commitment," Br Carroll said.

"It is said that St Marcellin had a dream – and that's true. But he had much more than that.

"What motivated, fired and empowered him? It was those three cardinal virtues – faith, hope and



Br Ralph Arnell, Br John Thompson, Archbishop Mark Coleridge, Br Neville Solomon and Mr Peter Erbacher. Picture: Supplied.

love: a vibrant and courageous faith in God, enduring hope that good will emerge from difficult situations, and robust, practical love for the young and the communities

in which he was involved. "Like Marcellin, these are what we need today and to which we must commit ourselves."

Marcellin Champagnat founded

the Marist mission and life in 1817 in La Valla, France. The full address can be read here <http://www.maristbrothers.org.au/address-from-the-provincial/>

Consecrated to the Immaculate Heart

Edinburgh, Scotland (CNA/EWTN News) - Constant, pouring rain did not deter the Catholic bishops of Scotland from consecrating Scotland to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on September 3 in the centennial anniversary year of

the appearance of Our Lady of Fatima.

An estimated 5000 faithful joined the bishops for the historic Mass and consecration, which took place at the national Marian shrine at Carfin, near Edinburgh.

"Today, we consecrate Scotland to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. We express together sorrow for our personal and communal sinfulness, and we implore Mary's guidance and strength that we live as a Christian nation should," Bishop Brian McGee of the Diocese of Argyll and the Isles in Scotland said in his homily.

Several other countries have consecrated or renewed their consecrations to the Immaculate Heart of Mary during this anniversary year.

At the beginning of his pontificate in 2013, Pope Francis consecrated the world and his papacy to the Immaculate Heart of Mary as well. There was also a motion in Scotland's Parliament to recognise the consecration.

"That the Parliament recognises that Scotland's Catholic bishops will consecrate the nation to the

Immaculate Heart of Mary on September 3 2017; understands that the bishops will pray for Scotland at the Marian Shrine at the Carfin Grotto, near Motherwell, asking that Scotland be energised with a renewed desire to seek the truth, and understands that at the same time they will pray for all parliamentarians and government, so that they will play their part in building a true civilisation of love and strive to create a place where all people are valued, a place where poor, lonely and marginalised people are not forgotten, and a place where people are free to practice their faith," read the text of the motion, which was supported by six representatives.

To read the full article go to <http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/amid-downpour-bishops-consecrate-scotland-to-immaculate-heart-of-mary-88868/>

Prayer and fasting for marriage and families

BISHOP of Armidale Diocese Michael Kennedy has called on Catholics across the country to participate in prayer and fasting for marriage and families throughout the month of October.

Speaking in his capacity as the delegate for the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC), Bishop Kennedy said the Month of Prayer and Fasting, which is an annual event, is very much a prayer initiative and not a political one.

"It does take on an extra significance this year as it falls in the middle of the plebiscite campaign," he said.

"I encourage you to redouble your efforts during this time to pray and preach about the beauty and importance of maintaining the current definition of Marriage for the good of the Church and the nation."

Resources have been made available through the Australian Catholic Marriage and Family Council. Included is an item which seeks prayer support for people who are same-sex attracted or gender questioning, and their families.

A short video (approx. 2 minutes) designed for use in parishes and schools has also been prepared to promote this initiative. The direct link to the video is: <https://youtu.be/wKCRoXd3i6k>

Bishop Kennedy offered a reminder of the importance of prayer and support.

"Over the coming weeks and months the future of Marriage will receive a lot of attention.

"We will be called on in many different ways to help promote marriage as between one man and one woman, but perhaps the most important thing we can do is to pray.

"I encourage you to support your parishes to celebrate Mass, pray the Rosary and undertake Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during this time with the special intention of Marriages and families in mind.

"Thank you for supporting Marriages and families in our society and Church.

I have COME so that they may have life and have it to the FULL
John 10:10

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Youth in the top end 'made for more'

SPENDING a week being culturally immersed in a Top End of Australia experience is a world apart for many of us.

However, it didn't stop a diverse contingent of Youth Ministry workers and teachers from the Archdiocese and the Diocese of Lismore giving it a go in the Northern Territory when they accompanied students from St Edmund's College taking part in a 'made for more' retreat.

The group of 16, which included Elle Boller from St John Paul II College Nicholls and Erica Drewsen from Broulee's Carroll College, left familiar surrounds with the intention of celebrating and sharing the faith.

Starting in Darwin and taking in the remote Daly River and Tiwi Islands regions also, not only did the "southerners" bring their faith along with them, but, according to Nathan Galea from Catholic Education, they also came back with a new appreciation for our indigenous culture.

Mr Galea is Youth Ministry Project Officer of New Evangelisation in Catholic Schools Religious Education and Curriculum.



Youth sharing joy with each other in the Northern Territory. Picture: Jaz Chalouhi.

He was an organiser and leader of the trip which placed emphasis on the dignity of each person. He established a Catholic Schools Youth Ministry Australia Top End connection six years ago when he was a teacher at St Edmund's College Canberra.

He has maintained a relationship and was thrilled when Lindsay

Luck, Principal of St John's College Darwin, referred to the group as family giving them a sense of belonging in a foreign place.

"Our time spent with students over the week was very special and affirmed the powerful witness of young people sharing the Gospel with other young people," Mr Galea said. "We sat in yarning

circles, were welcomed to country down at the Daly River, and spent quality time with each other breaking bread and eating bush tucker, which included turtle and fish."

"The trip was a culturally rich experience that highlighted the importance of spending time, being in community, sharing faith and building relationships with our

indigenous brothers and sisters of this Great Southland of the Holy Spirit." He said the richness of indigenous culture and spirituality, in particular the Dadirri Prayer, taught of the importance of being still and listening. He was grateful to learn in particular from elder Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr.

"The opportunity to work with Miriam-Rose and to spend time with elders and families in the community was a particular highlight," he said.

"Miriam's words resonated deeply with me as her wisdom and ability to articulate the beautiful relationship between indigenous spirituality and Catholicism was something very inspiring."

Archdiocesan Youth Ministry workers Jazz Chalouhi (Gungahlin and Yass) and Jordan Hodge (Queanbeyan) were leaders on the trip. They had the privilege of learning from the indigenous elder whom they held in high regard. "Miriam spoke about the word reconciliation and how it is a white man's word," Miss Chalouhi said.

"She said that the true meaning of reconciliation is sitting, listening and spending time with each other."

Leading the New Evangelisation in 2017

SIXTY-FIVE Catholic teachers and faith leaders from across Australia and New Zealand came together recently for a course on key teachings of how to best lead The New Evangelisation.

Those attending the course are undertaking a graduate certificate called 'Leading the New Evangelisation' (LNE). It is an expression of the Catholic Church's deepest identity and mission.

As part of the intensive course, participants were encouraged to deepen the personal experience and knowledge of their faith.

Upon returning to their classrooms and or ecclesial youth ministries, the newly formed leaders are encouraged to go out and create dynamic centres of evangelisation in their own environment, living out their vocation as teachers and leaders.

A new initiative in 2017, the course and retreat was conducted by Australian Catholic University's new La Salle Academy run in partnership with Catholic Schools Youth Ministry Australia, and hosted by the Archdiocese at St Christopher's Pastoral Centre in Manuka.

Archdiocesan Youth Coordinator Huw Warmenhoven said presenters including

Archbishop Christopher Prowse inspired all participants to lead a new evangelisation in their schools and ministries.

"The LNE course will prove to be instrumental in supporting and forming our leaders and educators across the Archdiocese and beyond as we seek to form our young people," Mr Warmenhoven said.

"It was most encouraging to hear the number of positive comments at end of the course."

Comments at the end of the most recent part of the course described it as deep and meaningful, genuine, unique and

vital in that it gave optimism to those associated with the Church.

"Potentially this could be a game changer," one participant said.

Another participant throughout the retreat component of the course took the opportunity to go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and described the encounter as "confronting but renewing".

It was the first time they had been in 30 years. The next intensive unit for these students will be on 'Creating Centres of the New Evangelisation, which will be implemented early next year.



Archbishop Prowse (middle front) take time out for a photo with those at the Leading the New Evangelisation course. Picture: Supplied

Signum Fidei 2017

ARCHDIOCESAN Youth Director Huw Warmenhoven says it is important for pre-service teachers to realise the aspirations of The New Evangelisation before entering their profession in Catholic schools.

Speaking after a retreat where Canberra's ACU teaching students gathered for the Signum Fidei Catholic Life and Mission program, Mr Warmenhoven said the robust program would stand the pre-service teachers in good stead.

"The first component of Signum Fidei was experienced through an intensive retreat," he said.

"It was an invitation to step out in faith and focused on the signs of faith in our life by breaking open the Emmaus story."

Run nationally by the ACU La Salle Academy, the program forms students to lead Archdiocesan schools in becoming centres of The New Evangelisation.

Students at the retreat reflected and shared about their faith journeys, while opportunities for prayer and worship were plentiful.

Mr Warmenhoven said a discussion was also held about teaching the Catholic faith in a community-based context.

He was pleased with the feedback from the retreatants.

"It has given me more appreciation and respect for faith and the importance of developing and supporting our students in their own faith journey," Nicola Di Bartolo said.

"I want to nurture the faith of my students and their belief in God by way of me being inspired to further my own faith in Him," Rachel Pearson said.

Mr Warmenhoven said the next step for the pre-service teachers was to engage in the life and mission of the Church outside of ACU.

ST CHRISTOPHER'S CATHEDRAL

Statues Gift PROGRAM



Statues of the Saints

THREE bronze sculptures of Our Lady Help of Christians, St Christopher and St Mary of the Cross MacKillop have been commissioned for the St Christopher's Cathedral Precinct, to honour the graciousness of God at St Christopher's Pastoral Centre. It is the desire of the Archdiocese to share the blessing and protection of these beloved saints with all who pass through. They will be places for quiet contemplation or personal devotions. Through these permanent art installations, the love of God will be shared with the greater community.

The artist: Alan Somerville

ALAN Somerville is a critically acclaimed master sculptor. His figurative drawings and sculptures are defined by movement, energy and emotion. His understanding of the dynamics of physical structure captures a dignity which emanates from within the subject and is never static.

Mr Somerville's relocation to Australia from New Zealand led him to the Fine Art Bronze Foundry in Sydney. His works have been commissioned for private works and public collections. Public works include the two iconic Bronze Diggers on Sydney's Anzac Bridge, the Bull at World Square, Sir Henry Parkes in Centennial Park, Blessed Pope John XXIII and three bronze sculptures at the Australian War Memorial.

It has been said of his art:

"It's not just a simple representation, not just a single dimensional concept. It is more about the soul and the spirit that dwells within."

Our Lady Help of Christians statue

THE sculpture of Our Lady Help of Christians is the first of the three statues to be installed in the precinct. The next two will arrive over the coming 12 to 24 months. Our Lady Help of Christians was installed on September 18, just two days prior to the official blessing and opening of St Christopher's Pastoral Centre and Marian Place residential units. It stands 2.5 metres tall and is a sense of joy and pride to the artist. "I've looked at a lot of the renaissance works from Italy and Europe," he said. "I build on different aspects there that probably appeal. That's where the two dimensional drawing comes in, I can play around a bit before I commit to doing anything in sculpting style."

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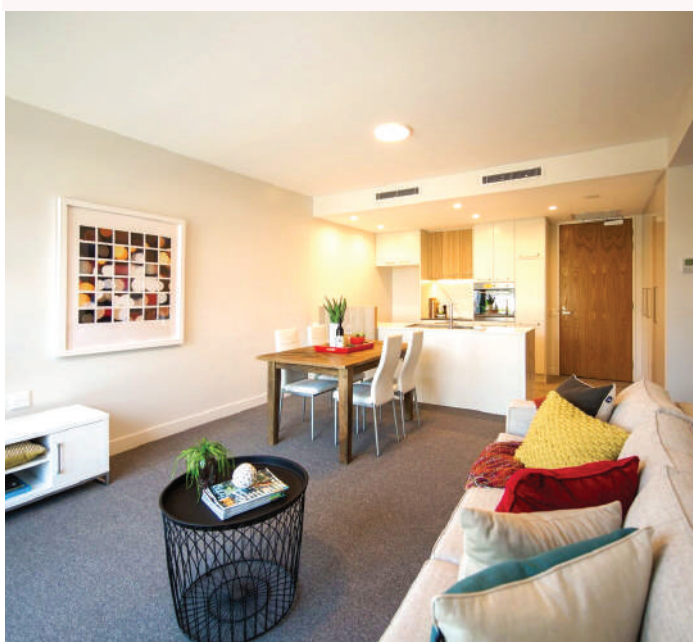
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