

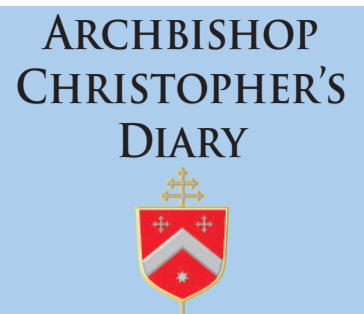
CATHOLIC **VOICE**

ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN

FREE | No. 337 | NOVEMBER 2017 | Circulation 20,000

**With virtually no rain in the winter
and a warm, dry start to spring,
Barmedman farmer
Geoff Bush and his family
are doing it tough.
See their story on page 7**





November

THURSDAY, 2 12.15pm
Mass, St Christopher's Cathedral

FRIDAY, 3 9.00am St Francis Xavier College Feast Day Mass, Florey

SATURDAY, 4 8.30am Couples for Christ Mass/Congress, St Gregory's Hall, 30 Molonglo Street, Queanbeyan

SUNDAY, 5 11.00am Catholic-Care 60th anniversary Mass, St Christopher's Cathedral

MONDAY, 6 - THURSDAY, 9
International Conference on Receptive Ecumenism, Canberra

SATURDAY, 11 9.00am
Catholic Charismatic Renewal Teaching Day/Mass - 'The Current of Grace', St Christopher's Pastoral Centre/Cathedral

MONDAY, 13 - FRIDAY, 17
Clergy Retreat, Galong

SUNDAY, 19 11.00am
Mass for Deceased Bishops & Priests in the Archdiocese, St Christopher's Cathedral

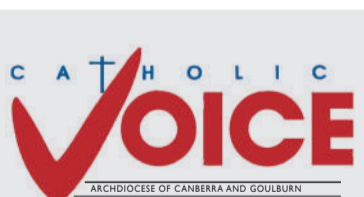
TUESDAY, 21 4.00pm Book Launch - 'Set Pools of Silence in This Thirsty Land, by Archbishop Prowse' St Christopher's Pastoral Centre Bookshop, Manuka

WEDNESDAY, 22 9.30am
Mass/Blessing Calvary Private Hospital Chapel, Bruce

2.00pm St Vincent de Paul shop Blessing/Launch, Kippax

FRIDAY, 24- SUNDAY, 26
Parish Visitation, St Christopher's Cathedral

MONDAY, 27- FRIDAY, 1 DEC
Bishop's Plenary, Sydney



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Co-responsibility – A Baptismal commitment



ARCHBISHOP'S MESSAGE ARCHBISHOP CHRISTOPHER PROWSE

THROUGH the sacrament of Baptism we enter into the life of Jesus, and "are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission." (CCC 1213)

It is fascinating to see how Catholics live out their baptism in sharing this mission of the Church. We do this together. There is a co-responsibility in this mission. We imitate Jesus in this.

St Paul's great hymn in his letter to the Philippians summarises it all: Jesus who "being in the form of God ...emptied himself, taking the form of a slave ... even to accepting death, death on a cross ... but God raised him on high ... and that every tongue should acknowledge Jesus as Lord to the glory of God the Father." (Phil 2: 6-11)

Baptism gives us the "response – ability" to enter into this saving mystery by grace and faith.

Of course, the overwhelming

majority of Christians live out their baptism in taking on missionary responsibility in their marriages, families, parishes, communities, work place, and society in general.

Daily I meet people responding in their particular ways with much missionary zeal, even if they do not express it such a way. But in taking on co-responsibility for the spread of the Gospel they experience deep inner peace and hope.

Another example is more specific. Recently, I have presided over the Funeral Masses of two remarkable parish priests who died within two weeks of each other: Fr. Mayne Murphy and Fr Philip Harding. May they rest in peace.

They are especially remembered with great affection by parishioners in the parishes in Lake Cargelligo and Temora.

Then, in the last few weeks, I have ordained to the diaconate, Adrian Chan and Namora Anderson, and to the priesthood, Joshua Scott. All three are fine men. They are so eager to surrender their lives in service of the Kingdom of God in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn. This is their expression of their baptismal calling in co-responsibility with all the Church.

A final example was my Mass and gathering with the religious

institutes serving in this Archdiocese. To hear their testimonies of the vast apostolates they take responsibility for over many years is truly inspirational.

In this month of November, we cannot forget in our prayers our loved ones who have died but whose gospel examples still live on in our hearts and minds.

And so now, the baton of faith has passed into our hands. The key word remains CO-RESPONSIBILITY. Christianity is never our little private and pious world. This is a totally misunderstanding of the sacrament of Baptism. Co-responsibility is always extroverted and never introverted. It is ready to serve where the need is greatest – especially with the poor and marginalised.

Let us all really have this understanding afresh in our hearts as we move towards the end of year activities and gatherings.

Also, it should animate us as we make our pilgrimage towards the 2020 Plenary Council of the Australian Catholic Church.

Surely a noble starting point for this historic gathering is to focus afresh on our baptismal vocation in a co-responsible manner alert to our current Australian challenges.

We continue to pray for each other with Mary and all the saints.

Vale Fr John Airey CSsR (1920-2017)



FATHER John Airey CSsR, the rector of St Clement's Retreat Centre at Galong since January 2016 passed away aged 83 years on October 24.

His passing came just a fortnight after he led 800 pilgrims in Benediction at the Archdiocesan Marian Procession on October 8.

A statement on the Redemptorist website for the Province of Oceania, described him as "energetic and generous".

"Those that knew John would no doubt have enjoyed his humour, take on life, and dedication to the Congregation," it said.

His funeral will be held in his home nation of New Zealand. A Mass for the repose of his soul will take place in the Monastery at Galong at 11am on Thursday, November 2. All are welcome.

Deep Catholic roots

THE way we celebrate Halloween today is far removed from any Christian influence, but the holiday has deeply Catholic roots.

When most people think of Halloween, the first images that come to mind are children dressed up in scary costumes going door-to-door to collect candy from as many houses as possible. At the end of the night delighted kids empty their "loot" on the floor and begin the feasting that often ends up with a stomachache and a trip to the dentist not long after.

What it evolved into in the United States, however, is now how Halloween began.

The word "Halloween" is a Scottish shortening of the phrase "Allhallow-even," literally meaning "All Holy Evening" and dates to the 18th century. The English have a similar phrase, "All Hallows' Eve," with the same meaning. Both words denote the night before All Saints Day, November 1, and refer to the celebration of the holy men and women who are recognized in the Catholic Church as residing in Heaven.

Pope Gregory III established the feast during the 8th century after consecrating a chapel named in honor of "All Saints" in Saint Peter's Basilica. The feast was then extended to the universal Church by Pope Gregory IV and made into a holy day of obligation for all Catholics.

Along with its celebration, All Saints Day was given a special vigil Mass the night before (October 31), which led to that date being regarded by Catholics as a "holy evening."

In addition to All Saints Day, the Church established November 2 as All Souls Day, dedicated to praying for the souls in purgatory. On this day Catholics pray for their deceased relatives and friends, visiting cemeteries to remember those who are no longer on this earth. It is with this celebration that many local traditions were created and became mingled with the festivities of All Hallows' Eve.

To read the article in full go to: <https://aleteia.org/2016/10/25/the-surprisingly-catholic-origins-of-halloween/>

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Networking convert ordained a priest

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you came to birth I consecrated you.” (Jeremiah 1:4-9)

A CONVERT to Catholicism is the newest priest of the Archdiocese following his ordination and subsequent ‘ontological change’ at St Christopher’s Cathedral Manuka on October 13.

Described as a strong networker of people, Fr Joshua Scott, a former agnostic from Young NSW, was ordained by Archbishop Christopher Prowse on the 100th anniversary of the sixth and final Marian apparition at Fatima.

The newly ordained priest’s trademark smile was largely on display at the end of the ceremony, with seven years of formation coming to fruition.

When speaking to the congregation, Fr Scott thanked God, Mary the Mother of God, the Saints, clergy and other members of the Archdiocese, his family and friends as well as the various communities for walking alongside of him on his journey.

A key moment at the ordination was when his mother Louise Scott and his grandfather Murray Scott brought up his stole and chasuble to the sanctuary. He was then vested by Fr Dermid McDermott and Fr Ed Travers MSC.

Fr Scott paid tribute to all those charged with his training and asked his brother priests of the Archdiocese to teach him and to be patient with him.

Following his ordination, Fr Scott gave newly ordained priest blessings. He thanked the choir led by Jaki Kane and Michael Murphy.

After the ceremony a supper put on by the Canberra Couples for Christ (CFC) community and by other members of the Filipino community was held in the Haydon Hall of St Christopher’s Pastoral Centre. They were representing just one of the many communities which the ordinand has been involved with during his formation years.

Archbishop Prowse in his homily spoke of the call of the Holy Spirit and about the newly ordained priest’s journey to priesthood which he said was “fuelled by an inner yearning”.

“This journey has not been walking in a bed of roses!” the Archbishop exclaimed.

“Quite the opposite: for Josh, there has been some very deep times of personal anguish and some marvellous times of Godly consolation.

“Joshua’s primal question in his early years has been the existential question - if you exist God, help me!”

The Archbishop highlighted example of the new priest’s sacrificial love to lay down his life for his friends in the Church (John 15:13) and asked him in a pluralistic



Ordination photos. Pictures; Loui Seselja.

society to be more of a fisherman than a shepherd.

He also asked that the ordinand allow himself to be led by the laity in his ministry exercising co-responsibility with all Baptised Catholics.

And he recalled some conver-

love,” the Archbishop said.

“He talks about a journey that has lead him from disbelief to belief, from darkness to light, from being lukewarm to a life emblazoned with the love of Christ.”

To read the full article go to <http://cgcatholic.org.au/>

For Josh, there has been some very deep times of personal anguish and some marvellous times of Godly consolation.

sations which he has had with Fr Scott over the past few years with topics ranging from

“Joshua talks about his journey to the priesthood as a journey of

catholic-voice/

To read the Archbishop’s homily in full go to <http://cgcatholic.org.au/about/our-archbishop/homilies/homily-october-2017-2/>

Fr Scott’s journey to the priesthood

2010 (February) - He enters the Seminary of The Good Shepherd at Homebush as a seminarian for the Archdiocese.

2016 (October 22) - He is ordained a deacon at St Mary’s Catholic Church

2017 (October 6) - Pending his priestly ordination, he is appointed as assistant priest of Central Canberra Parish.

2017 (October 13) - He is ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Christopher Prowse at St Christopher’s Cathedral.

2017 (October 14) - He celebrates his Mass of Thanksgiving at Holy Family Church, Gowrie ACT.

2017 (October 15) - He celebrates his first Sunday Mass at St Mary’s Church, Young NSW.

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‘No room for sitting on the fence’

“MOST of us would agree that our society is crazy right now,” Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia Sr Mary Rachel Capets said to 700 people standing in light drizzle last month at the Archdiocesan Marian Procession at Galong’s St Clement’s Retreat Centre.

“The good thing about our crazy society is that it forces us to take a stand.

“There is no room for mediocrity, for sitting on the fence [because] we are either with Jesus or against Him.”

Sr Mary Rachel’s talk focused on ‘Mary the Mother of God and youth’ - the theme for this year’s procession.

“Mary presents for us, an image and model of faith, hope and charity – the three theological virtues that secure our relationship with God,” she said.

“Mary perfectly embodies all that is best about youth: exuberance, charity and friendship, idealism as well as innocence.”

She spoke of young people’s capacity like Mary to love beyond measure.

The nun was full of encouragement saying youth need to acknowledge and use their gifts for others, while magnifying the Lord in doing so.

Sr Mary Rachel made an impassioned plea all those present on the day to be courageous in trying times. In doing so she highlighted the importance of Mary, who fittingly bears the title ‘Our Lady Star of the Sea’, as a beacon for all.

Earlier in the day, Archbishop Christopher Prowse led up to 50 young people on an inaugural pilgrimage from Galong village (via the historic cemetery) to the retreat centre.

The youth component is expected to become a permanent



700 pilgrims turned up to Galong for the 2017 Marian procession last month. Picture: Loui Seselja.

fixture at the annual procession.

Archbishop Prowse was the principal celebrant at the Mass which was celebrated outdoors and he re-consecrated the Archdiocese

into contact with other people. He too spoke of Mary’s example and the need for her intercession.

“As we all know, the Catholic Church is going through unprec-

points us in our confusion and the foggy of our insight towards her Son Jesus Christ.

“She is forever the one who is the great signpost to where Jesus

different communities for bringing their enthusiasm and vibrant cultures with them on the day. Adding to the occasion, younger members from Canberra’s Syro Malabar Community act out each of the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary.

Deacon Ransom thanked Archbishop Prowse and guest speaker Mary Rachel Capets from the Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia in Sydney for giving inspiring talks on the day.

He also paid tribute to Fr John Airey CSsR and all the crew from the Retreat Centre for their hospitality and for making sure that the old Monastery grounds were ready on the day.

“Mary perfectly embodies all that is best about youth: exuberance, charity and friendship, idealism as well as innocence.”

to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

In his homily he expressed the need to do all we can in being faithful stewards, whilst at the same time doing all we can to produce a harvest of fruit for the Kingdom of God when coming

edented turmoil at the moment, particularly here in Australia,” he said.

“There are many experiences amongst us of great change and feelings of asking ourselves; where is the Church heading?

“But it is always Mary who

is to be found. Indeed like any mother the child is to be found in the loving arms of the mother. If we find Mary then we will always find Jesus because He is with His mother!

Procession organiser Deacon Matt Ransom praised the many

Jugiong’s Jim one of life’s true gentleman

NINETY-TWO years young, Jugiong’s James ‘Jim’ Sheahan, is one of life’s true gentleman.

Catching up for lunch with he and his son Charlie at the recently re-furnished Sir George Tavern, both father and son say they are happy with the way the village is progressing as a whole.

The tavern was built by the Sheahan family and has only changed hands in the last 18 months.

“The original pub was first built in 1845 where the current hall is and washed away in the 1852 flood,” Mr Sheahan said.

“After that they rebuilt the stone one that is there now on Riverside Drive.

“And we still own the old family homestead directly across the road.”

As early settlers of the district stretching from Gundagai to Mut-tama to Jugiong, the Sheahans came out to Australia between 1838 and 1858 as part of the famous Montea-gle Emigrants.

Their story is recorded in a book called Poverty to Promise.

Spending the large majority of his life sheep farming on the Mur-rumbidgee River flats, Mr Sheahan recalls surviving numerous floods, raging bushfires and a handful of painstaking droughts - one where he lost nearly all of his stock.

“It was a terrible thing to happen but we bounced back,” he says.

“Times have changed a lot and I doubt whether any farmer these days could recover from setback like that.

“I remember as a little boy that during the Great Depression, my



Jim Sheahan enjoying a cuppa. Picture: Loui Seselja.

father JD would kill half a dozen sheep each week with the help of an old pensioner.

“He would keep some for the family and give other parcels of

meat to the pub and to desperate travellers passing by.”

A wingman for Gundagai in the days of the old Maher Cup Rugby League competition, Mr Sheahan

still loves a yarn, particularly when discussing the four most important things in his life: faith, family, friends and farming. And whilst he enjoys living in the Southern Cross Retirement Village at Cootamundra, “Jugiong is still home”.

The community is again hosting its three day art exhibition in the Jugiong Memorial Hall from November 24 to 26. It will open with a Cocktail Party on the Friday night.

Organised and catered for by the village community, the biennial event serves as the parish’s main fundraiser. RSVP is November 10. Contact person is Paula Butt on 0413 137 601. For tickets go to <http://www.jugiongartexhibition.com/>

For the full article on Mr Sheahan go to <http://cgatholic.org.au/catholic-voice/>

Concerns for the Church

THE Catholic Church in Australia is currently “facing the greatest crisis it has ever faced in its relatively brief history” according to Brisbane Archbishop Mark Coleridge.

Fresh from a visit to the Rome last month where he met with officials from the Vatican's Secretariat of State and other relevant offices of the Holy See, Archbishop Coleridge delivered a sobering account of the present situation of the Church ‘Down Under’.

He was joined at the meeting by fellow Australians, Justice Neville Owen of the Truth Justice and Healing Council and Melbourne Archbishop Denis Hart.

Archbishop Hart is also the president of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. The Archbishop of Brisbane raised several concerns at the meeting, which he dubbed “matters of urgency”.

Pressing issues discussed at the 2.5 hour meeting in the Vatican included threats to religious freedom, the fallout as well as the lack of trust which exists in the Church following The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

“The people in Rome really wanted to hear from us face-to-face what we judged to be the state

of the Church in Australia at this time,” Archbishop Coleridge said.

The topic of the seal of Confession was raised as was the relationship between the Church and society as a whole.

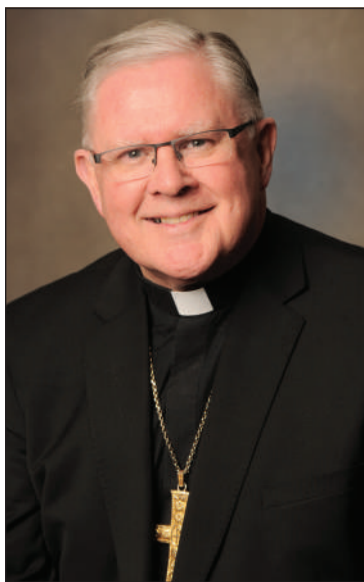
Dialogue relating to greater participation of laypersons in decision-making roles in the Church in Australia also took place.

Vatican officials to meet with the three Australian officials included Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Archbishop Paul Gallagher, Cardinal Marc Ouellet and Archbishop Giacomo Morandi.

Cardinal Parolin is secretary of state, Archbishop Paul Gallagher is the current secretary for relations with states and a former Apostolic Nuncio to Australia, while Cardinal Ouellet is the prefect of the Congregation of Bishops. Archbishop Morandi is the secretary for the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

Archbishop Coleridge said one thing to emerge from the visit was that new modes of partnership between the Church in Australia and the Vatican are needed, moreover that officials are watching the situation closely.

“Everyone [at the meeting] was aware of the gravity and the complexity of the situation we’re facing here in Australia,” he said.



“More contact [between the Vatican and the Church in Australia] is needed.

“What we need is a new kind of interaction – but the shape of that is unclear.”

Last year Archbishop Coleridge called for a plenary council to happen in 2020. It is said the historic council, the fifth in the country’s history and first since 1937, will largely shape the future of the Church in Australia.

Planning for the council is already underway with the announcement of a plenary council executive committee being formed in June.

Human sexuality focus day

BY JOHN MCCLAURIN

THE WAY human sexuality and relationships are currently being taught in Archdiocesan schools is well and truly on the agenda after more than 60 secondary staff came together at St Christopher’s Pastoral Centre in Manuka for a focus day recently.

Each of the 13 secondary schools in the Archdiocese were represented with presentations and discussions honing in on what can be done to better to support teachers in serving the young people in their care.

What resulted was an unusual but dynamic gathering of teachers of PDHPE, RE and Science as well as those involved in Pastoral Care.

Paddy McGrath, Head of RE and Curriculum at Catholic Education (CE), opened the day with a reflection on human flourishing, while Vicar General Fr Tony Percy provided a brief presentation on the foundations of Catholic Teaching on Human Sexuality.

Marriage, Family and Relationships Coordinator Lara Kirk organised, emceed and presented at the forum.

She said the day came about following repeated requests from teachers, particularly in Health and Physical Education, for more support and guidance in teaching this important area of the curriculum.

“In 2016 a working group was set up to look at the issue and in August this year the Vicar General, Fr Tony Percy and the Episcopal Vicar for Education, Fr John Woods wrote to all school principals asking them to nominate staff members from any area of school life in which issues of sexuality were addressed,” she said.

“In preparation for the day, principals were also asked to distribute an online survey to all PDHPE, RE and Science teachers as well as to Pastoral Care staff.”

Phil Corson also from the CE discussed the results of the teacher survey and guest speaker Daryl Castellino from Catholic Education Parramatta, presented resources from various dioceses. Teachers provided feedback throughout the day which, together with the survey results, will help shape a strategic and supported approach the teaching of Human Sexuality and Relationships going forward.



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Gerard Heffernan

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Vinnies get a second van

ST VINCENT de Paul in the Archdiocese have responded strongly to Anti-Poverty week (October 15 to 21) and the growing number of homelessness by launching a second Night Patrol Van. They've done so in partnership with Canberra Toyota.

"After 16 years of the Night Patrol servicing the areas of Dickson and the city centre, increased homelessness in the outer suburbs, has meant that the need for a second van has become very apparent," St Vincent de Paul Society CEO of Canberra and Goulburn Bernie van Wyk said.

"We are very grateful to long-term Vinnies partner Canberra Toyota who stepped up and donated a much-needed vehicle to be used as the new Night Patrol Van."

Night Patrol locations at Tuggeranong, Queanbeyan and Woden was announced at the launch which was attended by Canberra Toyota Dealer Principal Mirko Milic and Deputy Chief Minister Yvette Berry. They too shared Mr van Wyk's enthusiasm for the outreach which provides warm clothing items, hygiene packs, light refreshments and friendly faces.

"At Canberra Toyota we are proud to do our bit to help curb the homelessness problem in our community," Mr Milic said.

"We hope that the new van will allow outreach to go beyond the current locations and meet the needs of the wider Canberra community."

Ms Berry said "The ACT Government has long supported St Vincent de Paul Society's work in helping disadvantaged individuals and families in the ACT."

"With a second patrol vehicle,



St Vincent de Paul Society CEO of Canberra and Goulburn Bernie van Wyk (left) discussing the second Night Patrol Van with Rachel Stephen-Smith, MLA (middle) and Yvette Berry, MLA. Picture: Supplied.

the Night Patrol's growing reach adds to the value of Government funded programs run by the Society including Samaritan House, Blue Door, Family Service, Young Parents Accommodation, and Street to Home."

Other companies to partner with the St Vincent de Paul Society and Canberra Toyota include ActewAGL, Canberra Southern Cross Club, Canberra Milk and the team at AC&R for providing the fit out of the new van.

Their combined efforts come amid ever growing concerns of homelessness.

According to the 2011 ABS Census of Population and housing,

1758 Canberrans are experiencing homelessness. Of these, 16.2% are under the age of 12.

Earlier this year during Homelessness Week (August 7 to 13), Bishop Terence Brady, chairman of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Commission for Pastoral Life explained on any given night in Australia that one in 200 people are homelessness.

"The rate of homelessness in Australia has been increasing and extends beyond our major cities to rural and regional Australia," Bishop Brady said.

"Day-to-day stresses on families and individuals such as insecure and low-paid employment, high

costs of housing and general living costs, mental health and domestic violence contribute to homelessness."

He said that there are various hidden forms of homelessness, such as those sleeping in cars and couch surfing.

To read the full article go to <http://cg catholic.org.au/catholic-voice/>

St Vincent de Paul is solely reliant on corporate sponsors, donations from the community as well as the support from over 300 volunteers.

Anyone interested in volunteering for Night Patrol can go online to www.vinniesnightpatrol.org.au or call (02) 6234 7348.

New state of the art Private Hospital

POPULATION growth and project demand was the instigating factor for Calvary Health ACT adding a new \$77 million private hospital on the south east corner of its Bruce location.

The new hospital has eight state-of-the-art digitally integrated theatres, including one with a hybrid cardiac catheter lab among many other features.

Prior to the new facility being built, the private section of Calvary existed on two floors of the Calvary Public Hospital Bruce.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse blessed the new hospital which was officially opened by CEO Kim Bradshaw, ACT Minister for Health Meegan Fitzharris, and Calvary Board Chair the Hon. John Watkins AM.

"We are committed to creating a better health system in the ACT, and this new facility offers the community the latest in medical facilities while retaining close working relationships with the public hospital Calvary also operates," Minister Fitzharris said at the opening.

"Calvary's significant investment in ACT's health infrastructure reinforces the principle of 'one' health system." Hon John Watkins AM, Chair of Calvary Board, highlighted the opening also marked a 30 year milestone for the Bruce Private Hospital after it was first established the Sisters of the Little Company of Mary in 1987.

"Calvary believe that the community is best served by a singular health system where the public and private sectors play complimentary roles to serve the long term needs of our communities," he said.

The new private hospital is complemented by upgrades to the Calvary Clinic for specialists.

A recent upgrade to the Hyson Green Mental Health Facility has increased the capacity from 20 to 28 beds. Hyson Green is the only dedicated private mental health clinic in the ACT providing outpatient mental health services and support to more than 300 patients a year.

To find out more about Calvary Health visit www.calvarybruceprivate.org.au



(L-R): Sr Jennifer Barrow LCM, Bill d'Apice, Meegan Fitzharris, John Watkins AM, Kim Bradshaw, Mark Doran, Angus Bradley; and Archbishop Christopher Prowse. Picture: Supplied.

Farmers breath a ‘sigh of relief’

BARMEDMAN farmers Geoff and Michelle Bush breathed a sigh of relief last month when half an inch of rain fell on their property. It followed a very long dry spell.

“Before that bit of rain came I was pretty worried that’s for sure,” Mr Bush said.

Alarm bells started to ring for he and his family during Winter this year. It came complete with the largest frost ever recorded on August 28 and was magnified because of a drier than usual Autumn period.

“You know it’s going to be tough when you have a dry winter with frosts,” the second generation farmer said.

“The crops were starting to flower and we had the coldest day on record at minus 5.7 Degrees Celsius.”

With virtually no downpour to speak of in the early part of Spring and the warmest September recorded, the problem was only further compounded.

Barmedman’s average annual rainfall of 18 inches was just a pipe dream. Putting this into perspective, so far in the past 12 months, the Bush family have had only 10 inches of rain.

One of the things that gets them through in times like this, is working as a family unit. They diversify their income by combining crops, livestock, and driving stock transport. Keeping them busy, they also have a fertiliser, lime and gypsum spreading business.



Barmedman farmer Geoff Bush checking his wheat crop. Picture: Loui Seselja.

Making up the family is sons Stephen, Michael (and his wife Holly); and Christopher (and his wife Jenna). Geoff and Michelle’s

on the weather. They say timing is everything for crop owners.

“Not having enough moisture in the soil means farmers are

The lack of produce means a large loss of income and is a significant threat to the family’s livelihood.

two daughters Tracey and Nicole married local farmers, so they remain close. Then there is the eight grandchildren.

Like many people on the land, the Bush family are very reliant

forced to cut what they can in their paddocks for hay,” Mr Bush said.

“The hay is then bailed and stored away as sheep feed.

“We are in a mixed farming area and thank God that we do have

sheep.”

At the other end of the weather spectrum, too much rain at the wrong time can be just as detrimental. Late rain in a season might keep lawns and gardens green in addition to filling dams, but it can also destroy crops.

“Excess water causes waterlogging,” he said.

“Last year we had big floods totally wiping out crops in the district.” The lack of produce means a large loss of income and is a significant threat to the family’s livelihood.

This year, they estimate a 50%

to 75% loss of income due to frost and low rain fall.

Although the Bush family are no stranger to being at the mercy of the weather and offering resilience in tough times, it doesn’t necessarily get any easier for them. Next year they will find it very tough to finance the next crop.

Escalating the problem for them is that farm crime has hit just days before this interview. Thieves broke through locked gates taking tools and numerous other items, including two motor bikes.

One of the bikes was their grand-daughter Bella’s four-wheeler, which she got for her 10th birthday in July.

“She used to help muster sheep on that property where it was taken from and she is very upset about it,” Mrs Bush said.

The family are committed Christians and say they often lean on their Catholic faith during rocky times.

“It is a very important part of our lives,” Mr Bush an acolyte of 32 years at St Joseph’s Barmedman said.

He and his three siblings all went to St Anne’s Central School at Temora, about 45 kilometres from the farm.

The couple’s five children were also educated there.

And next year they will have five of their eight grandchildren at St Anne’s, thus making it three generations to attend the same school.

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Susan Capes, Pension Specialist



William Grame is dominating diabetes

BY FIONA VAN DER PLAAT

WILLIAM Grame smiles agreeably when his mother describes him as lazy.

Partly because he's a 13-year-old boy and sleeping, PlayStation and leaving stuff lying around often come with the territory. But also because he knows he is putting his laziness to good use.

His mother, Liz Kobold-Grame, concedes "inherent laziness" could be at the heart of William's inventiveness. "It helps him look for the most efficient way to do things."

That's how the Year 7 student at Canberra's St Edmund's College came up with the idea that won him Origin Energy's littleBIG-ideas competition in 2015 and set him on the road to starting up his own company.

Aware that the best inventions solve a problem, William, who has lived with type 1 diabetes for five years, hit on the nuisance of the continuous stream of discarded blood glucose test strips known as "diabetic confetti".

His dad Peter, for one, was sick of him leaving the strips around

the house and his mother says they were ending up everywhere, including in her handbag.

So William came up with the concept for a test strip collection and disposal unit. (He is still working on a catchy name for it after his initial idea – the Stripper – caused all sorts of problems with Google searches.)

Canberra entrepreneur Erica Hediger, from The Creative Element, helped William refine the mechanical device, which fits in a testing kit, and produce it using 3D printers.

Now he is the CEO of his own company, Diabetes Domination ("because I want to dominate diabetes and not let it dominate me"), and sells the device through Facebook.

It has mainly attracted individual customers from around Australia and countries such as the US. But a pharmaceutical company has now put in an order for 2000 units.

The invention has opened opportunities for a teenager who, like many others his age, enjoys rugby, basketball, PE and even maths, French and a bit of

science at school. It won him a trip to NASA, which he took with his parents and 15-year-old sister Isabelle and describes as "the trip of a lifetime".

He met former space shuttle Atlantis engineer Terry White, lunched with retired astronaut Bob Springer and visited launch sites at Cape Canaveral.

He was also a keynote speaker at DigiCon in Melbourne in July and has inspired others to have a go at inventing.

While his ambition to own a Lamborghini in five years' time is "on track", it has not stood in the way of giving back. His mother says he has raised funds for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and supports other young people with diabetes, notably helping a young boy who was too scared to do his blood checks by doing it with him over Skype.

In the meantime, William is working on his next invention. He's not giving anything away other than the fact it is something "everyone will be interested in".

*November 14 is World Diabetes Day, which raises awareness of and funds for the disease.



William Grame talks about his invention at one of Canberra Innovation Network's First Wednesday Connect events. PHOTO Canberra Innovation Network).

NEWS IN BRIEF

NEW VENUE FOR CCR'S ANNUAL DAY OF TEACHING

HAYDON Hall at St Christopher's Pastoral Centre is the new venue for this year's day of teaching by Archbishop Christopher Prowse on Saturday, November 11.

Now into its third year, the annual event will focus on the theme 'The Current of Grace' and includes Mass,

talks, praise and worship as well as a 'show and tell'.

Coordinated by the Archdiocese's Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR), the Archbishop's day of teaching is again expected to draw a large crowd.

Meanwhile, the CCR have continued their Mercy Vigil's in 2017 and they are looking forward to taking them

into the New Year also. November 25 (from 7pm to 1am) and December 31 (from 8pm to 6am) have been locked in as the dates for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at St Peter Chanel's Church Yarralumla.

For more information go to www.ccract.org.au or call Susanna 0419 902 293, Sandra 0405 692 999 or Neda 0415 266 019.

Preparing for Christmas



LITURGY MATTERS
BY JENNY ANDERSON

'silly season', it is an opportunity to set aside time in our busyness to prepare our hearts for the coming of the King: the coming of the Word made Flesh, God with us... Emmanuel. We prepare to remember the historical coming of Jesus as we also await His coming again and endeavour to live each day staying awake to the opportunities to be witnesses in the world today.

There are many beautiful symbols and traditions that can help us to prepare our hearts. One that will be familiar is lighting a candle on the Advent wreath each week, as part of our liturgy. We can also bring this symbol home and light a candle each week at the dinner table.

Musically speaking, during Advent the Gloria is omitted (awaiting its joyful proclamation at Christmas time and emphasising our waiting during Advent). This may also be a good opportunity to change to a different Mass Setting to emphasise that a new season is beginning. The musical tone for Advent is reflective and pensive – helping to give that sense of waiting.

With a feeling of expectancy, we prepare for Christmas. May you find times of peace and reflection amidst your preparations and know that God is near.

A SENSE of expectation surrounds us. The shops are filling with Christmas decorations, the catalogues are arriving thick and fast, creating a desire for things to come. Even the weather is providing a taste of summer – giving an air of expectation, of more to come. In our expectation, we are looking to the promise of Christmas, a celebration of God taking on flesh – for us. We are looking to the time that Christ will come again in glory. It is also a time to keep our eyes on the blessings that God has already given us and to remember the first thing that God asks of us: to love the Lord our God.

The new liturgical year begins on December 3 with the 1st Sunday of Advent Year B. Advent is a special time of preparation leading up to Christmas. This is not just a time for Christmas shopping, Christmas parties and the so-called

THANK YOU

The **Clergy Retirement Foundation** Committee, on behalf of all priests, especially those who are retired, wishes to thank everyone from across our vast Archdiocese who so generously supported the 2017 Father's Day Appeal.

The Appeal is still open to accept donations and this can be done by completing the coupon below

My donation is:

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other \$

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<https://www.bpoint.com.au/payments/ClergyRetirement>

NOVEMBERR 2017

Louise honoured

St Bernard's Parish celebrates

BY REBECCA HEWSON

LOUISE Mugridge of Young now has three further initials behind her name after she was named on the Queen's Birthday honour roll recently.

Mrs Mugridge is a dedicated and hard-working Clinical Nurse Consultant in the Oncology Unit at the Young District Hospital.

It was for her service and dedication to her profession and to the community of Young that Mrs Mugridge was awarded the Order of Australia Medal on Monday.

"I got a bit of a shock," Mrs Mugridge said.

According to Mrs Mugridge she had received a letter ten days prior notifying her of her award.

"To be honest it's very humbling, it's such a team effort," Mrs Mugridge said in regards to the Oncology Unit, "It's about the service we provide, we're a team and there's thousands of oncology nurses from around Australia.

"I'm overwhelmed by the messages of support by my family, friends and the community.

"I am so mindful and grateful of the beautiful team of nurses and doctors I have worked with over the 26 years of oncology nursing who contribute every day to helping improve outcomes for the patients in our care.

"Thank you to Joy Cameron and your secret team of supporters in gaining this award, you are very special people."

Mrs Mugridge was applauded and congratulated by her colleagues at Young District Hospital and the MLHD for the prestigious and well deserved honor.

OMG OAM: Louise Mugridge of Young was the recipient of the Order of Australia Medal for her



dedication as an Oncology Clinical Nurse.

"Under Louise's leadership, the Young Oncology Unit has increased the number of patients receiving care by more than 200 percent," Murrumbidgee Local Health District Chief Executive Jill Ludford said.

"Louise has also increased services to incorporate therapies for non-malignant patients, including antibodies treatment and administration of blood products."

According to Ms Ludford Mrs Mugridge was instrumental in establishing patient support groups within the Young area as well as ensuring the groups are self-sustaining.

Ms Ludford applauded Mrs Mugridge for her role in the development of a cancer services directory for the towns across the Southern NSW region saying the directory is a great initiative for the community.

"We are very happy to congratulate Louise on her award and we thank her for her contribution to the health of the Murrumbidgee communities," Ms Ludford said.

This story first appeared on the Young Witness website on June 15, 2017.



Caption: (L-R) Len O'Hara with Jack and Joan McNamara. Picture: Supplied.

THREE hundred people brought enthusiasm and energy as St Bernard's Catholic Parish Batehaven celebrated 30 years at its David Avenue site earlier this year.

Purposefully gathering on the Feast of St Bernard, parishioners past and present marked the occasion by celebrating Mass before indulging in a luncheon prepared by the social committee and the Filipino members of the parish.

Representatives of the various local Church communities attended the luncheon as did the the original building committee and tradesmen

who had worked on the building during its construction stage.

Younger members and those considered "young at heart" took part in a host of activities namely rock and roll golf and the bouncing castle. Parish Priest Fr Martins Aloga and assistant priest Fr Dominic Byrne concelebrated the Mass with deacons Don Nguyen and Paul Rummery assisting on the sanctuary and at the altar.

Michael and Christine Lowe read the readings just as they did during the first Mass at the site in February 1987, while the gifts

were taken up to the sanctuary by three generations of the O'Sullivan family who have been resident and active in the parish for many years.

Long-time parishioner Anne Jackson said the official opening of the 'new' church in 1987 was on May 24 – the Feast of Mary Help of Christians and was largely accomplished through the foresight of their former parish priest Fr Henry Byrne OAM (Parish Priest 1983-2003).

To read the article in full go to <http://cgatholic.org.au/catholic-voice/>

SFX

Cocktail Catch-Up

Celebrating

YEARS

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!

WHEN

Saturday 4 November 2017 from 6.30pm

WHERE

Ainslie Football and Social Club
52 Wakefield Avenue, Ainslie

COST

\$35

Tickets available through Eventbrite. Ticket price includes admission, canapés and entertainment. Buy your own drinks. Partners welcome.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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school.office@sfx.act.edu.au

www.sfx.act.edu.au

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.**

➔

Send to: Aid to the Church in Need, PO BOX 7246 Baulkham Hills BC, NSW 2153

Phone/Fax No: (02) 9679-1929

E-mail: info@aidtochurch.org

Web: www.aidtochurch.org

I/We enclose \$..... to help Iraqi Christians return to their ancient homeland

I enclose a cheque/money order payable to Aid to the Church in Need or please debit my Visa or Mastercard

Exp. Date ____/____/____

Signature

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss/Sr/Rev

BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE

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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

The Comfort Cross will be sent out to all those who can assist this cause with a donation of \$20.00 or more and tick this box

☐

Catholic Voice

Fatima Centenary year

One hundred years after the events of Fatima, Our Lady's message is being spread by many groups and individuals in the Archdiocese

Spreading the message in Goulburn

GOULBURN Catholic parish commemorated the 100th anniversary of the Fatima apparitions earlier this year by holding the 'First Saturdays of the month' devotion at its North Goulburn church beginning on May 13.

Along with the small church at Bigga, North Goulburn is one of only two churches in the Archdiocese bearing the patronage of Our Lady of Fatima.

To commemorate the centenary, the parish in conjunction with the local branch of the St Vincent de Paul Society of divided the First Saturday devotion days into four parts. Each of the days involved having a guest speaker, Holy Communion, Confession, Rosary and meditation.

The speakers included Fr Leo Coffey CSsR who spoke on the relevance of the message of Fatima and also the role of Our Lady in the Church today. Fr Laurie Bent in his talk gave a presentation on the Rosary as a meditation rather than a repetition of Aves.

Fr Hugh Thomas CSsR provided an insight into the mind and heart of Pope Francis, his devotion to the



The statue of Our Lady being crowned at St Joseph's Primary. Picture: Supplied.

Mother of God, and how he is shaping the Church, while Sr Noelene Quinane gave the final presentation discussing the role of women in the Church.

During this year a statue of Our Lady of Fatima has been displayed and prayers been offered in a different classroom each week at St Joseph's Primary School (located next to the North Goulburn church).

There was a 'crowning moment' when the school community gathered to "crown and re-dedicate the Our Lady of Fatima statue during Mass".

This is a special practice for those practicing Marian devotion. The statue was donated by Vera Thomas, her sister Irene and brother-in-law Tony Cochran donated a beautiful statue of Mary to the new church.

Plenary Indulgences for Centenary year of Fatima end on November 26
THOSE wishing to gain a plenary indulgence for the 100th anniversary of Fatima have until November 26 to do so.

To read about the conditions go to <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/three-ways-to-obtain-an-indulgence-for-the-100-year-fatima-anniversary-78258>

Fr Lim's 'spiritual gourmet'

"MICHAEL, if you are still able to walk, it is worthwhile to spend your time gainfully on pilgrimages during your annual leave," Weston Creek Parish Priest, Fr Kevin Brannelly said to Fr Lim, not long after the latter was ordained. Since then here has been no looking back for the current parish priest of Bega. He has now clocked up seven pilgrimages and described his recent centenary year visit to Fatima with 48 others as a "spiritual gourmet of a pilgrimage, complete with an appetizer, a main course and dessert."

The Appetizer: France

"Before our arrival at Fatima, we completed a preparation journey through France."

The Main Course: Fatima

"The message of Fatima calls

for our spiritual charity through Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Rosaries and penance for the conversion of hardened sinners. Many in the group went down on their knees in the Apparition Chapel in the Sanctuary at Fatima."

Dessert: Extended families

"To many it was a spiritual awakening of our faith and of the Catholic Church. One's faith is never the same again after participating in a pilgrimage. Some pilgrims came alone or with family members and all left with an extended family."

To read the full account of Fr Lim's "spiritual gourmet of a pilgrimage" go to <http://cgcatholic.org.au/catholic-voice/>



Caption 2: New author Beverley Cains (holding the book) with her granddaughter Ellen Newton. Picture: Jeanine Doyle.

Bev's play on Fatima

ACT Right to Life President Beverley Cains is best-known in Canberra for speaking out against the ills of abortion and euthanasia, rather than being an author.

That all changed recently when her new book called – 'Fatima: The Play' was launched at the Catholic Bookshop by Fr Tony Percy.

"Bev it's my great joy and pleasure to honour this book, to honour you and to launch the book," Archdiocesan Vicar General said.

Mrs Cains responded in kind, whilst also thanking God for the Great Land of the Holy Spirit, Our Lady Help of Christians, and Our Lady of Fatima "for the many blessings".

"Thank you, Fr Percy, for launching this book," she said.

Fr Percy joined with the new author at the launch in saying that he looks forward to the book being performed in schools.

"The play provides an accessible vehicle to share and understand this hundred-year-old story using a modern scene transported over

the traditional story," Holy Trinity Primary School Curtin Principal Judy Spence said.

"The structure and language of the play engages students and provides a powerful introduction for further discussion and investigation."

With Mrs Cains having a long association with education, choral, musical and drama groups in North Queensland and the ACT, it hardly comes as a surprise that the book is written in the style of a play.

The mother of five with 17 grandchildren and two great grandchildren had husband Kevin and a number of her family were present at the book launch. She wrote it very much with the intention of wanting to engage young people in the story of Fatima.

"Drama has been proven to be very successful tool for communicating with young people," Mrs Cains said.

"Plays have been used since medieval times to convey spiritual messages.

coming to a conclusion

Messages seem as relevant today as they were then. A number of Catholics have taken up the call this year:



Loretta's 'moving and beautiful experience' at Fatima

MERICI College Principal Loretta Wholley recently returned from a two week pilgrimage to Fatima whilst also taking in the sights of Lourdes, Assisi and Rome and smaller towns like Santarem, Avila, Segovia, Loyola, Avignon, Turin and Padua. She chose a pilgrimage journey for her Principal's Renewal Program as a source of spiritual strength, a time of repentance, thanksgiving, prayer and meditation. For her it was also as an opportunity to encounter the love of God, learn about the miracles and works of Our Lady and the Saints as well as to deepen her faith.

"Families and groups, tourists and pilgrims, religious and lay, young and old, many languages, one faith would be the best words I could find to describe the people I saw on my recent pilgrimage," she said.

"Fatima was a particularly special place to visit in 2017 given that the Church is celebrating 100 years from the first apparition of our Lady to the Seers.

"It has been receiving thousands of pilgrims with joy.

"I also sensed a spirit of hope there."

Upon returning to Australia, Mrs Wholley says she has an even greater admiration for Our Lady as a model for all woman of complete courageous trust and faith in God.

"I also come away with new prayers to fulfil my spiritual life, including the Divine Mercy Chaplet and a number of Novenas," she said.

"It was a moving and beautiful experience for which I will be forever grateful."

To read the full account of Loretta's pilgrimage go to <http://cgcatholic.org.au/catholic-voice/>



Left: A Vigil being held at Fatima. Above left: Petitions brought before the altar at Fatima. Above right: Merici College Principal Loretta Wholley. Below: A Marian Procession at Fatima. Pictures: Supplied.

5000 descend upon Penrose Park for Fatima devotions

Parishioners from the Archdiocese joined in as part of the 5000 pilgrims who descended upon Penrose Park's Shrine of Our Lady of Mercy on Friday, October 13 to commemorate the sixth and final Marian apparition at Fatima. Apostolic Nuncio to Australia His Excellency Adolfo Tito Yllana was the principal celebrant at the Mass.

The shrine continues to hosts 'Fatima Day' on the 13th of each month and transport from Canberra is available. For more information call Joe and Judy Mewburn on (02) 6254 6202 or go to <http://penrosepark.com.au/fatimaday/>



"Drama has the ability to engage people.

The timing of the launch purposefully coincided with the 100th anniversary of the sixth and final apparition of Our Lady in Portugal on October 13, 1917.

To read Mrs Cains' launch speech in full go to <http://cgcatholic.org.au/catholic-voice/>

Published by Modotti Press, 'Fatima – The Play' is available for purchase at Catholic Bookshop in St Christopher's Pastoral Centre, Manuka. Phone: (02) 6239 9888 or (02) 6239 8599.



Fiji Immersion

IT was no tropical holiday for Year 11 and 12 students and teachers from St Clare's College on a week-long sojourn to the islands of Fiji. They were there to support communities implement locally-driven solutions to development challenges.

The girls helped a mother and her children rebuild the foundations of her house after fire, prepared art lessons for primary school children, and served dinner to women and children living in

shelters. They worked on village sanitation projects, helped build footpaths, painted houses and made lids for septic tanks around the village.

They shared in prayers, songs and dancing, and many meals with the villagers. While the girls now know how to use a coconut to its full potential, they also learnt about Fijian culture, about themselves and how small actions can make a big difference in people's lives.



DAY ZERO STEM Challenge

MORE than 100 students and teachers from 19 schools across ACT and NSW were challenged with 31 Science Technology Engineering Mathematics activities over three jam-packed days hosted by Trinity Catholic College in Goulburn.



Miss Jordan's Garden Tribute

ST MICHAEL'S Primary has been awarded the Woolworths Inspiring Schools Award 2017 for the ACT. The cash prize will contribute to a special tribute to much loved Year 3 student Jordan Jade Taylor who passed away from a brain tumour in term 2.

The St Michael's school community was devastated and

deeply saddened by Jordan's passing and will join her family in building a greenhouse in her honour. Jordan loved science and had started to identify her causes and how she planned to make this world a better place.

The Greenhouse Project will be called Miss Jordan's Garden and aims to promote sustainability for our world and for our children's future world. Appreciation is extended to Woolworths and other local businesses for their ongoing support.

Pens Against Poverty

Schools Writing Competition Winners 2017

STUDENTS from our Archdiocesan schools have been awarded six of the 16 awards presented at the Anti-Poverty Week event, sponsored by Marymead and Anglicare.

Students from Holy Spirit Nicholls, Merici College, St John Vianney's and St Bede's Red Hill received their awards from ACT Minister for Higher Education, Meegan Fitzharris, and author, Simon Mitchell at the Canberra College Performing Arts Centre.

Callum Webb from Holy Spirit, Nicholls won a special one-off award, 'Promising Young Novelist' from the judge, Jackie French. Congratulations also to Merici College and their teacher, Mrs Louise Martingale for winning the honour of "Standout Class".

- Callum Webb- Holy Spirit, Nicholls. Special Award: 'Promising Young Novelist' award and equal first winner in his category, 5/6 story.
- Mrs Louise Martingale/ Year 10, Merici. Standout Class.
- Nick Curtis- St Bede's Primary School, Red Hill. 3/4 Winner (Story)
- Jess Kowalski- St Bede's Primary School, Red Hill. 3/4 Highly Commended (Story)
- Sea Cela- St Thomas Aquinas, West Belconnen. 3/4 Winner (Poem)
- Tamara Brammall- St John Vianney's, Waramanga. 5/6 Highly Commended (Poem)
- Shabnam Mohamad Shafiq, Merici College Year 10



Mini Vinnies

ST PATRICK'S Primary in Bega has formed a Mini Vinnies Team joining Eden, Narooma, Moruya and Bateman's Bay to help support St Vincent de Paul on the Far South Coast. The members of Bega's St Vincent de Paul were overwhelmed by the generosity expressed by everyone who contributed to the very successful Souper-heroes day that collected hundreds of cans of soup for the Winter Appeal.

ANZAC Day Schools' Award

THE ACT Secondary Schools' Anzac Day Award was presented to Merici College, the judges impressed by the high degree of learning demonstrated through a great range of activities, and excellent school wide and community engagement.

With guidance from Mrs Alison Marks and Mrs Philippa Brotchie, the students in Year 4 from Rosary Primary School were commended with ACT Runner-up ANZAC Day Schools' Award for 2017 in the primary school category.



Learning through play and socialising

LITTLE people, with their parents and grandparents, filled St Thomas More's new playgroup with joy and love when they joined principal Mrs Julie Wiley for fun learning, dress ups, story time, and games galore. Playgroup comes together Wednesday's at St Thomas More's.



Top Ranking for Sustainability

MERICI College has ranked in Australia's top 40 schools for innovation – in recognition of the integration of sustainability throughout their curriculum and daily practice. From their kitchen garden, to their healthy canteen programs, Merici girls are learning to walk the talk when it comes to sustainable living. It's not unusual to see the girls lined up to the bicycle recharge stations – where the girls pedal away madly to recharge their mobile phones.



Socktober

ST PAT'S kids support Catholic Mission's aim to 'sock it to poverty' by wearing colourful socks.



St Bede's brought their school community together in a school Walkathon to raise money for ICT resourcing. The Walkathon was combined with Socktober Silly Sock Day to raise awareness of the important work of the Missions.



Congratulations to ...



Jessica Lauc, Merici College Year 12 student, for winning the National CPA Business Plan Competition in Melbourne for her "LEADZ" dog band enterprise.



Clare Molony, Merici College Year 11, on her wonderful achievement in winning the 2017 National History Challenge State Award for the category of Women's History.



Kate Connolly, Merici Year 11 student, for being accepted into the Young Women Speak Out project.

Fred Hollows Humanity Award

STUDENTS Maggie Hotston from St Michael's Primary, and Grace Brady from Rosary Primary School have been presented with the 2017 Fred Hollows Schools Award in recognition for their compelling leadership in caring for others. Gabi Hollows, pictured with the girls, explained that the Awards recognise people who go out of their way for others, show compassion, respect and kindness toward their fellow human.



Hennessy Student Leaders



HENNESSY Catholic College's new Student Leadership Team is ready to take on the challenge of new responsibilities in 2018.

The 2017 Year 12 class celebrated Mass with the staff, students and parents on their last day of formal lessons. Academic and special awards were presented to the leaving class.



Grand People

ST PAT'S kids paid tribute to the very special role our Grandparents and Grand Friends play in their lives.



Broulee Family Cultural Day

SPORT Coaching students from Carroll College, working with Indigenous mentors, organized games for Indigenous students from St Bernard's Bateman's Bay and St Mary's Primary School Moruya.



Top far Left: Marian Procession 2017 Syro Malabar community
Left: Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia
Below: African Catholic Community in Canberra
Mid right: The Tongan Choir
Bottom right: Queanbeyan Parish on a Fatima devotion procession down Lowe Street. Bottom left has Wagga Wagga Diocese seminarian Rosan Vettikombil at Floriade 2017. Directly above him are his friends Abin Karackal and Ninny Abin. Pictures: Supplied.



Maintaining cultural diversity



The Vietnamese Catholic Community of Canberra have a busy few months ahead. Picture: Supplied.

FOR the past few years, the Vietnamese Catholic Community in Canberra (VCCC) has been supported by the local authorities in promoting, contributing and maintaining their cultural diversity and social harmony in the ACT.

Based at St Thomas the Apostle Parish Kambah, the community was first established by Fr Joseph Tran in 1988.

They currently have Fr Peter My as their chaplain and display a keen interest in the wider Church of the Archdiocese. This is evidenced by their participation each year at Galong for the Our Lady of the Rosary procession at Galong on or around the October 7 feast day.

Group spokesperson Thach Van says members of the community continue to express themselves in many ways, whilst also integrating themselves into the society at large.

"We are very proud to be associated with many things in the

Archdiocese and the city of Canberra," he said.

The weather warming up spells a busy period for the community who annually commemorate the November 24 feast of St Andrew Dung Lac and companions at Penrose Park. This year they will make

community is participating in National Multicultural Festival held annually in Civic.

"It provides a joyful and unique opportunity for all members to contribute and enjoy the beauty and colourful cultures of various ethnic groups in Canberra," Mr

This is a time for us to share – with happiness and pride – the colours and uniqueness of our tradition

the journey on Sunday November 26, the Solemnity of Christ the King.

In 1998, under the leadership of Fr Peter Ha Ngoc Doai, the community built a shrine at Penrose Park to honour the 117 Vietnamese Catholic martyrs who died for the faith between 1745 and 1862.

They say one of the most exciting yearly events for the

Van said.

"We are proud to be part of the active promotion of multicultural diversity and harmony in our local community.

"The festival benefits all members of our community, regardless of their age, gender or status.

"It not only helps everyone be aware of and appreciate the beauty of other cultures, but also builds a bonding spirit of togetherness in

Canberra." Closely following the multicultural festival in terms of popularity is the celebration of the Vietnamese New Year, or Tet as it is more commonly known. It normally falls in late January or early February and consistently draws large gatherings year after year.

"This is a time for us to share – with happiness and pride – the colours and uniqueness of our tradition with friends from other communities," Mr Van said.

"The event provides an opportunity for us to preserve and introduce our traditions and customs to our children and to help them appreciate and share them with their friends, be it from school, work or social circles. Everyone is welcome."

Taking great responsibility to pass on the Vietnamese culture, the Canberra based community also embrace Mid-Autumn Festival which is celebrated in late August or early September. It is specially

designed for the young children and teenagers. Featuring colourful costumes, traditional food, dancing and singing, it presents as a unique time for the Vietnamese youngsters to share their cultural values with friends from other communities.

The Mid-Autumn Festival complements the community's ongoing integration of their youths into Australian society.

"It has always been our determination to help develop our young Catholics into responsible members of our wider community and valued citizens of Australia, a society that treasures multiculturalism and social harmony," Mr Van said.

"Their active and enthusiastic participation in community activities encourages us all, promising an optimistic picture for our future."

To learn more about the community contact Mr Van on 0450 961 978 or by email: thachvan.van@gmail.com



JUSTICE MATTERS
CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

(PART TWO)

BY MIKE CASSIDY

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

Let's look at a real-life example. The means test was removed from Australia's age pension for people over 70 years in the mid-1970s. Some people supported the initiative, but it was opposed by others because it extended the pension to people with ample resources with which look after their needs. The means test was gradually reimposed from 1978 onwards.

The majority of other countries,

Charity and Social Justice

"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"

however, pay pensions without a means test. They tend to regard means-testing as an attack on the dignity of poor people in that they – the poor – have to prove their poverty. They also see means-testing as divisive and as weakening social cohesion.

Means tests have the advantage of concentrating available resources on those in need. On the other hand, they risk the creation of social divisions.

Both views are compatible with Catholic social teaching. In the end each country has to make a practical judgement about what

will produce the better outcome.

In the Australian context, we tend to think of social justice in terms of a "fair go". Most of us would agree, for example, that in a perfectly just society everyone would have access to at least a minimally adequate income, to a roof over their head and to decent health care.

We would also expect people to work unless they have good reason not to. We would not wish to see people lose most or all of their income from work because of excessive taxes and benefit withdrawal.

Whatever else can be said about



it, social justice is about structures. Charity is more personal.

In the Christian tradition charity is expressed in the community as good works (including prayer). It tends to surface in those parts of the community where social justice is marginally or wholly inoperative.

Christian charity and social justice are complementary and need each other. At its very core social justice receives its spiritual energy

and practical drive from charity.

If charity is lacking, even the most elaborate framework of social justice will collapse for want of people willing to make it work in practice. To the extent that social justice is lacking, the calls on charity will exceed the capacity to meet them.

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

Victorian Catholics being called on

THE CATHOLIC bishops of Victoria have issued a pastoral letter to Catholics outlining their opposition to the Victorian Government's Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill.

Copies of the letter have been sent to all Victorian parishes.

The fate of the historic Bill now rests with 40 MPs in the upper house.

It was passed through the lower house at 47 votes to 37, following a 25 hour sitting on October 19 and 20. Victoria will be the first state in Australia to offer assisted dying if the legislation is passed by the upper house.

The bishops say that, if passed,

the Bill will change the criminal code to allow doctors and other health professionals to become actively and deliberately involved in the premature death of patients.

The proposed safeguards do not guarantee that all deaths will be voluntary and that people will not also die because of carelessness, error, fraud, coercion or self-perceived pressure.

They point out that endorsing suicide as a solution to pain of suffering sent the wrong message to the young.

"It would be plain wrong to legally endorse any form of suicide when governments and community groups are working

so hard to persuade others that there are better options available than taking their own life."

The bishops are calling on Catholics of Victoria to make their voices heard by sharing their concerns about the Bill.

The contentious Bill to legalise assisted dying for terminally ill Victorians was introduced to Parliament in September.

If passed without amendment, people suffering from an advanced and incurable disease, illness or medical condition would get the right to choose a doctor-assisted death from 2019.

The Andrews Government's legislation is modelled on the

recommendations of an expert panel chaired by former Australian Medical Association president Professor Brian Owler and claimed to be the most conservative in the world.

Under the proposal, terminally ill Victorians could access lethal medication within 10 days of asking to die, following a three-step request process involving two independent medical assessments.

They must be over the age of 18, of sound mind, expected to die within 12 months and suffering in a way that "cannot be relieved in a manner the person deems tolerable".

The patient must administer

the drug themselves, but a doctor could deliver the lethal dose in rare cases where someone was physically unable to end their own life.

To read a copy of the October 9 pastoral letter which is signed by Archbishop Denis Hart, Bishop Paul Bird, Bishop Pat O'Regan and Bishop Les Tomlinson go to <http://cathnews.com/pastoral-letters/1053-171010-vic-bishops-voluntary-assisted-dying-bill-2017/> file

This story was first published in the October 2017 issue of Catholic Life – the diocesan newspaper of the Sale Diocese.

Poland's Rosary chain



THOUSANDS of Polish Catholics gathered 'in a chain' along their country's border last month on the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary (October 7) where they prayed for peace, as well as for the future and salvation of Poland and the world.

The event titled "Rosary at the Borders," fell a week before the 100th anniversary of the final apparition of Our Lady of Fatima, who encouraged the world to pray the Rosary for peace.

It was organized by a lay

movement called the Solo Dios Basta Foundation (God Alone Suffices) and supported by the Polish Bishop's Conference. Several state-owned companies sponsored by the event. Approximately 90 percent of the country identifies as Catholic.

Participants gathered for prayer at 320 churches near the border of Poland as well as in 4,000 designated prayer zones.

The feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, which also commemorates the anniversary of the Battle of

Lepanto. Mary the Mother of God, through the prayer of the rosary, is credited for a key victory against the Ottoman Empire.

The Rosary is "a powerful weapon in the fight against evil," states the official website for the event. Some participants also voiced concerns about the spread of Islam and the loss of Christianity and European culture.

To read the article in full go to <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/blog/thousands-gather-to-pray-rosary-at-polands-borders>

Sr Anne Gardner honoured by ACU



(L-R): Ms Magdalen Kelantumama, Father Patrick Mara, Sister Anne Gardiner, Ms Fiona Kerinaia.

AUSTRALIAN Catholic University has bestowed their highest honour on Sister Anne Gardiner fdnsc AM, recently awarding her an honorary doctorate at a ceremony in Sydney.

Apart from six years of teaching in Nauru and four in Darwin, Sister Anne has wholeheartedly devoted her life to teaching at the Tiwi Catholic mission on Bathurst Island for more than five decades. Now 86 years old, she continues to live on Bathurst Island, where she has supported Tiwi culture and heritage, enriched the community and contributed to the education of multiple generations.

ACU Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Greg Craven said she characterised the values of the Church and of ACU's Mission.

"At the core of the Catholic faith is love, compassion, charity, and empathy. It would be difficult to go past Sister Anne for a greater example of these qualities.

"Sister Anne has driven the pursuit of the Catholic Intellectual tradition by advocating the importance of education as a right for the Tiwi people, always in the spirit of openness and dialogue and always searching for the Truth in Love in advancement of the common good."

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November 4: Couples For Christ is hosting a national gathering followed by a national CFC Leader Summit. For more information contact Danny Ambida on 0448243508.

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 or via email stalphonescommunity@gmail.com

November 10 to 12: True Devotion to Mary retreat at St Clement's Retreat Centre Galong. Organised by Canberra Legion of Mary and directed by Fr Hugh Thomas CsSr. For more information or to book contact Jacqueline on (02) 6251 3950 or Maria on 0413 617 390.

November 11 (9am to 4pm): Archbishop Christopher Prowse Day of Teaching at St Christopher's Pastoral Centre, 55 Franklin St, Manuka ACT. Holy Mass, talks, praise and worship, prayer. Morning tea provided. BYO lunch. Organised by Catholic Charismatic Renewal. For more information, contact

Neda 0415 266 019, Sandra 0405 692 999.

November 11 (7pm to 9.30pm): St Augustine's Youth Group Yass are hosting a trivia night at Mt Carmel Primary School Yass. For more information contact Jazz on 0401 792 141. Or email staugustine@gmail.com

November 24 to 26: Jugiong Catholic Parish Biennial Art Exhibition. For more information contact Paul Butt on 0413 137 601.

November 25 (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. For more info, call Susanna 0419 902 293.

November 26: Canberra Regional AMICUS (meaning friend) Group will meet for lunch at Yarralumla Gallery and Oaks Brasserie Café Cottage (1 Western Park Rd, Yarralumla Nursery). Contact Paul on 0419 411 691.

November 28: Queanbeyan Catholic Parish Gala Dinner featuring Geraldine Doogue as keynote speaker. Tickets available from www.stgregory-parishqueanbeyan.com For more information call (02) 6299 4611.

December 7 to December 9: Australian Catholic Youth Festival in Sydney. To learn more go to <http://youthfestival.catholic.org.au/>

December 9: Canberra Regional AMICUS (meaning friend) Group will meet for their annual Christmas Party. Contact Tricia on (02) 6288 4070.

December 16 and 17: Save the date for Kaleidoscope's next performance called 'A Concerted Effort' – a short play with various musical items. Details to follow.

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.

COUPLES FOR CHRIST (CFC) CANBERRA CHAPTER: For more information contact Chris Carlile 0414 938 831.

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

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

MARIAN MOVEMENT OF PRIESTS: Meets to pray a Cenacle at St Joseph's Church O'Connor following the 9.15am Mass. Contact Maria on (02) 6247 4026.

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

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



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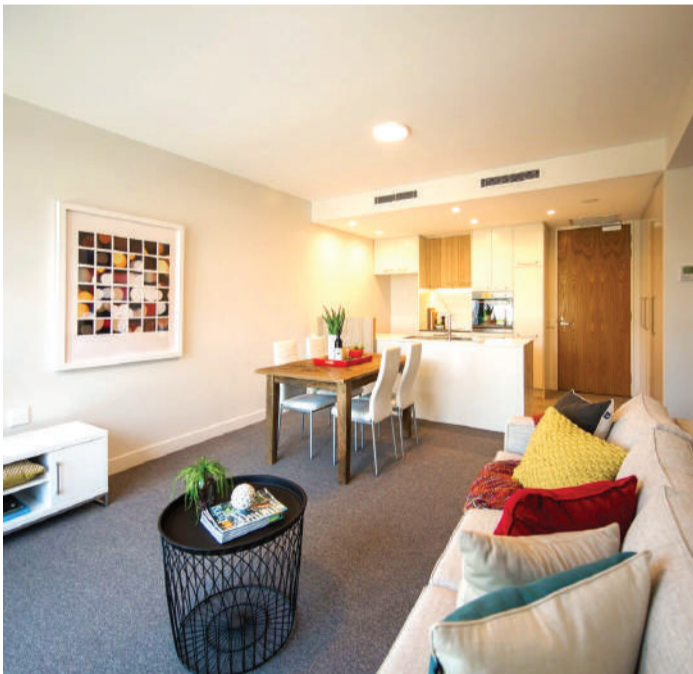
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Uganda Mission 2017

“THE EAST African Conference has definitely been a place where I have seen the love and joy of God, especially through the people, Youth Minister, Hannah McMahon, said after returning from a mission to launch a new model of faith formation overseas.

The mission, headed by Archdiocesan Youth Ministers coordinator Huw Warmenhoven, Fr Ken Barker MGL, Peter Woods and a team of four Youth Ministers from the Lismore Diocese travelled to Uganda to conduct an

East African Teacher Formation Conference involving over 5000 young people in schools.

Mr Warmenhoven said the purpose of the overseas mission was to inspire and equip leaders in schools and Church communities from across Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania and South Sudan.

“The East African Conference was an incredible experience, with a profound response to the invitation for spiritual renewal including from priests and religious,” he said.

“Being over in Uganda, seeing the teachers from all over East Africa being renewed in their own faith and showing enthusiasm to get Catholic Schools Youth Ministry Uganda up and running has been incredible.”

His was a sentiment shared by other members of the team, including Youth Minister Ellie Hewitt.

“It was the ‘joy and the love that they have for God and each other that struck me the most,” she said.



Youth Minister Ellie Hewitt (pictured) said she was struck by the joy and love that people in East Africa have for God and each other. Picture: Supplied.

Feeding body and soul

YOUTH from Marist College were joined by students from Merici, St Clare's and St Mary Mackillop Colleges at Holy Family Church recently for the fourth and final CONNECT Mass of 2017.

Nathan Ahearne, a teacher from Marist College said it was pleasing to see young people actively participating in the Mass, meal and ministry. “Rossen de Ramos (Youth Ministry worker) and his team delivered an excellent program following the meal, feeding both the body and the soul,” Mr Ahearne said.

“The Connect Mass has become a simple but effective way of drawing our young people into the parish faith communities and we look forward to seeing an increase in commitment and energy in 2018.”



Youth acting out a drama after the final CONNECT Mass of 2017. Picture: Supplied.

ACYF rego's still open

GROUP bookings have closed, but individual Australian Catholic Youth Festival registrations are still open says Huw Warmenhoven.

“This year's ACYF promises to be an incredible initiative for the Australian Church,” the Archdiocesan Youth Ministry Coordinator said.

“The Archdiocesan group currently has 161 young people going and we will be accompanied by Archbishop Christopher Prowse as well as a number of Clergy including Youth Chaplains Fathers Paul Nulley, Trenton van Reesch, Luke Verrell, Thomas Jin and Joshua Scott.

“I strongly encourage any other young people (between the ages of 18 and 30) who are wondering whether or not they should go to make sure they register and get along.”

Archdiocesan Youth Ministers and Deacons Namora Anderson and Adrian Chan will also join the Archdiocesan group at the festival.

This year's line-up includes musician Matt Maher, Emily Wilson, Emma Fradd, Natasha Pinto, One Plate's Therese Nichols as well as Lucas Patchett and Nicholas Marchesi, the founders of Orange Sky Laundry.

Mr Warmenhoven says due to the Panama World Youth Day being so close in February 2019, this will be the key national Catholic youth event for the next few years.

“All the more reason to get along this year,” he said.

“From my experience going to these events where you can gather with thousands of other young people living out their faith, is incredibly uplifting.”

To register go to <http://youthfestival.catholic.org.au/register>

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Raiders legend in Boorowa for annual carnival

CANBERRA Raiders legend Ricky Stuart was in Boorowa last month for the annual touch football and netball carnival which was again held at the town's showgrounds.

Recognised as a centrally located sporting hub in the South West Slopes, the Boorowa Showgrounds will soon undergo construction on a two storeyed sports and function centre.

Joining the current Raiders coach for the official sod turning on October 20, was Member for Goulburn Pru Goward, Hilltops Mayor Brian Ingram and Michael McCormack, the Federal Member for Riverina.

Brendan Maynard, the principal of St Joseph's Primary Boorowa highlighted that this year's carnival featured 444 teams from 52 schools (30 from the Archdiocese), making it the biggest one yet.

"The aim of the carnival is for the children to participate and enjoy the day, playing netball or touch football with their peers and friends," he said.

"The carnival committee was overwhelmed by the response from schools.

"It continues to be the largest primary school carnival held in NSW."

Participating schools came from Young, Murrumburrah, Temora, Crookwell, Goulburn, Queanbeyan, Yass, Braidwood, Cootamundra and Bombala with several others coming from Canberra.

Showing his gratitude, Mr Maynard (one of the organiser's) publicly thanked senior students from schools such as Hennessy College Young, Trinity College Goulburn, Sacred Heart Cootamundra, and St. Anne's Temora for refereeing and coaching.

"The carnival would not be possible without the support and assistance from many community members who assist with bus parking, car parking, canteens, line marking and first aid, he said.

Support for the carnival came from NSW Touch Association and NSW Netball, the Hilltops Council and the Boorowa Community Bank in addition to the St Joseph's and Boorowa Central School communities.

Next year's carnival will be held on October 26.



The St. Joseph's Years 1 and 2 Netball Team have a break between games with Sophie, their coach, from Hennessy College Young.

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Community spirit on display at Calwell

THIRTEEN hundred students from Archdiocesan schools playing 400 games of netball on a single day whilst also feeding 3500 people sounds like a lot of coordinating.

But the Florey's St John the Apostle School had it all under control according to teacher Melanie Monaghan.

"The success of the netball day played at Calwell was due to the diverse organising committee," she said.

"Each member with their particular strengths worked furiously behind the scenes to make the day smooth and fun for participating children and their families.

"The St John's community banded together to coordinate an amazing service."

"There was an incredible amount of community spirit on display, including from each participating school."

Students from St Francis Xavier College Florey and John Paul II College Nicholls also volunteered their time to support throughout the day.

Mrs Monaghan praised the sportsmanship, fun and school pride displayed throughout the carnival. She thanked everyone who was involved from moving barbecues and goalposts to packing participant bags, namely Roger and Romina Fonhof, Anthony Ganley, Rebecca Brown and the St John's Netball Carnival Committee. "Thanks also to our many sponsors, particularly Soundworkshop for their support," she said.

"The satisfaction of hosting this amazing event is something that will stay with the St John the Apostle community for a very long time to come."



St John the Apostle Florey student Isabella Scobie. Picture: Supplied.

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