

**MISSION MONTH**

Team Effort makes  
Mission Month a success

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*We wish all our  
readers a blessed  
Christmas*

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES Page 17

**CELEBRATIONS**

Parish celebrates its  
many gifts

PAGE 9

FREE

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# Colourful parish is on the move to new home

CANBERRA'S ever-growing St Alphonsa Parish Syro Malabar community now calls St Joseph's, O'Connor, home.

The community's move to O'Connor in mid-October coincided with the 10-year anniversary of their presence at St Peter Chanel's, Yarralumla.

Syro Malabar chaplain Fr Mathew Kunnappillil said St Peter Chanel's church had played a vital role in the establishment of the community in the ACT.

"It has been a privilege for the Syro Malabar people to serve and worship the Lord at St Peter Chanel's church for a decade," he said.

"We remember it as the place where the community first took shape and became a parish, hence the final thanksgiving Holy Qurbana (Holy Sacrifice of the Mass) was conducted at Yarralumla on October 15."

Continued on Page 6

Archdiocesan Vicar General Fr Tony Percy leads the procession into St Peter Chanel's Church, Yarralumla. Picture: Loui Seselja.



# New vision for our youth

EMPOWERING young people to encounter Christ, giving them the tools to live a life in the spirit and participate in the mission of the Church forms the basis of the Archdiocese's new vision for Youth Ministry.

Entering 2017 with a re-structured model, the Archdiocese will provide a stronger emphasis in implementing Catholic Schools

Youth Mission Australia (CSYMA) into its secondary schools.

Forming the backbone of the re-structure will be four key components which include a Marriage Family Youth Commission, Youth Chaplaincy, CSYMA Youth Ministers and Regional Youth Ministry Bases.

The Archdiocese's new vision

comes in the lead-up to the Year of Youth in 2018, which was recently announced by the Australian Catholic Bishops.

The Archdiocese has a three year plan from 2017 to 2019, which will incorporate each of the 12 month calendar years before and after the Year of Youth.

CSYMA which has Australian

Catholic University (ACU)'s Peter Woods as its founding director, is a four-phase secondary school-led program.

It aims to develop a better connection between schools and the parishes with the goal of having a "flow-on effect".

CSYMA is a teacher centred student formation model that is integrated into the heart of the

curriculum. In addition, it focuses on the development of a Youth Ministry Team being promoted from within each school with assistance from area based employed Youth Ministers.

The Archdiocese has four schools signed up to CSYMA and more will follow suit next year.

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ARCHBISHOP  
CHRISTOPHER'S  
DIARY



December

FRIDAY 2nd  
5.00pm Man Overboard:Archbishop's House

SATURDAY 3rd  
6.00pm Mass: St Joseph's O'Connor

TUESDAY 6th  
8.00am Mass: St Joseph's O'Connor

THURSDAY 8th  
8.00am Mass: St Joseph's O'Connor

FRIDAY 9th  
8.00am Mass: St Joseph's O'Connor  
12.30pm Advent Mass: Goulburn Correctional Centre

SATURDAY 10th  
6.00pm Mass: St Joseph's O'Connor

SUNDAY 11th  
10.00pm Mass 40th Anniversary of the Opening of the Church – Pearce Parish, Mary Help of Christians Parish, Sth Woden

WEDNESDAY 14th  
8.00am Mass – St Joseph's O'Connor  
Time tbc Secondary RE Teachers Symposium – St Francis Xavier College, Florey

THURSDAY, 15th  
8.00pm Simbang Gabi (first Novena Mass) – St Monica's Parish, Evatt

FRIDAY, 16th  
8.00am Mass – St Joseph's O'Connor

SATURDAY, 17th  
6.00pm Mass – St Joseph's O'Connor

TUESDAY 20th  
8.00am Mass – St Joseph's O'Connor  
7.30pm 2nd Rite of Reconciliation

WEDNESDAY 21  
8.00am Mass – St Joseph's O'Connor

THURSDAY 22nd  
8.00am Mass – St Joseph's O'Connor

FRIDAY 23th  
8.00am Mass St Joseph's O'Connor

SATURDAY 24th  
Midnight Mass with carols - St Christopher's Cathedral

SUNDAY 25nd  
11.00am Mass - St Christopher's Cathedral Clergy 12.30pm Clergy Christmas Lunch – Archbishop's House

# Christmas: Small baby with the biggest embrace



ARCHBISHOP'S MESSAGE  
ARCHBISHOP  
CHRISTOPHER PROWSE

DEAR Friends in Christ Jesus, Every Christmas we thank our all loving and merciful Father for sending us His Son, Jesus, into our world.

Even as a small child of Bethlehem there are subtle signs in the Gospels that the life of Jesus will be accompanied by suffering, death and resurrection. There is the presence of the humility of the stable (rejection), the swaddling clothes (resurrection cloths), the manger (the Eucharistic Lord whose life is poured out to feed his people), and so on.

This new born babe, so small and dependant on Mary and Joseph, is also the Mighty Saviour who inaugurates the Kingdom of God. Until the Lord comes again, the Kingdom of God continues to unfold in our midst. As missionary disciples of Jesus, we actively accompany this universal unfolding as the Body of Christ, His Church. It is like the Holy Spirit progressively enfolding and embracing the entire universe with God's Kingdom of love, joy and peace (Romans 14:17).

I remember a sympathetic but agnostic marketing manager once advising me that Christianity ought focus solely on the birth of Jesus rather than his later life of



suffering, crucifixion and death! He advised that the Christmas manger evokes pleasant feelings and giving, whereas Calvary and death is a "hard sell"!

What nonsense!

Yet incredibly, in so many ways, especially in the world of popular thinking and the political/legislative world, we seem to be moving in this direction.

When popular thinking seems to be overly focussed on subjective and isolated feelings and the bigger panorama of human values that we can all embrace is sidelined, then blinkered and unethical political legislation follows.

There are many such examples in Australia at present.

- For example, we cherish human life but before birth the most dangerous place for an Australian tragically remains in the womb of his/her mother due to abortion.

- Also we revere grandparents but when human life approaches its end and may involve suffering we are talking of euthanasia

despite the incredible advances in palliative care.

- Then we rightfully acknowledge that Australia is built on its wonderful migrant communities, yet if a refugee approaches our shores in a boat, then an incredibly harsh and immoral regime awaits them.

- Another example would be the understanding of marriage and family life that we all cherish, especially at Christmas time. Over these past years our subjective feelings over those who wish to change the Marriage Act of 1961 to allow for other possibilities are so strong that more objective considerations over the nature and purpose of marriage over millennia are seemingly side-lined.

All of these examples and more are indicators of social conversations that stress sincere and valid considerations but taken in a narrow and largely subjective vision. The bigger embrace of a panoramic vision that incorporates our shared humanity's complete

journey with all its joys and sorrows is marginalised. We need a consistent broad ethic of life.

It is true that due to the gift of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, the Christian moral voice has been damaged to speak on ethical issues. Even so, in this strange Ecumenism of Humiliation and standing alongside victims, our voices must still be raised on these significant moral issues in Australia and beyond. We are like wounded healers.

As we stand alongside the vulnerable Christ-child of Bethlehem during this Christmas/New Year/holiday period, may we collectively reflect on our common humanity shared in Jesus. May we not simply remain focussed on the stable of Bethlehem with all its positive feelings, but journey with Jesus afresh into the continual unfolding of the biggest embrace of God's merciful and sacrificial love: the kingdom of God among us!

May Jesus bless you and your loved ones in this Christmas time. Our prayers are especially directed to those who find this time lonely and painful for whatever reason.

Happy Christmas and Happy New Year. Enjoy whatever holiday you may have.

Pray for me as I daily do for you all.

Thank you for your encouragement and good example of faith during 2016.

CATHOLIC  
VOICE

ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN

EDITOR:  
John McLaurin  
catholic.voice@cg.org.au  
Ph. (02) 6163 4312

ADDRESS: PO Box 7174  
Yarralumla, ACT, 2600  
Rheinberger Centre, cnr Weston and Loch Streets, Yarralumla

www.cgcatholic.org.au

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## It's time to share the gift of love

JESUS' birth is a gift of love seeking to embrace all people in their need. It is a gift we celebrate and are called to share. We are again being called to support the needs of our neighbours through the Archbishop's Christmas Appeal during Christmas Masses across the Archdiocese.

Funds raised will again support the National Council of Churches in Australia's Christmas Bowl Appeal, as well as projects locally within Wilcannia Forbes Diocese, and globally, within the Diocese of Otukpo, Nigeria and the Diocese of Tagbilaran, Cebu in the Philippines. Funds will also support the provision of safe and accessible water to the rural communities of Hera and Kasait in Timor Leste.

Last year, the Archbishop's Christmas Appeal raised \$69,870. \$10,000 went toward supporting typhoon recovery at the Tagbilaran Diocesan Seminary in Cebu, \$14,500 supported pastoral initiatives in our neighbouring Wilcannia Forbes Diocese, \$10,000 went towards activities assisting people living in informal settlements in Fiji; \$14,500 to the Diocese of Otukpo, Nigeria; \$5,000 assisted an accommodation project for young single mothers within the Diocese of Ban Me Thuot, Vietnam; and \$5,870 supported a food and medical care project to assist an indigenous community in the Diocese of Cubao, Philippines; whilst \$10,000 was given to the National Council of Churches in Australia's (NCCA's) Christmas Bowl Appeal, to assist their Act for Peace projects.

ARCHBISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

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GPO Box 3089, Canberra, ACT, 2601

Inquiries: Deacon Joe Blackwell: 0407 909 295



# A lover of learning moves on

BY FIONA VAN DER PLAAT

MOIRA Najdecki isn't sure how to describe her decision to finish up as director of Catholic Education in the Archdiocese by the end of this year.

"I don't know what the appropriate word is because if you just say you're resigning then it sounds like you're going somewhere else," she says.

It's not exactly retirement, either. "Moving on?" she suggests.

And she does feel it is time to move on. As much as she has enjoyed her busy and demanding role, she always thought 10 years would be enough.

"I think it needs new eyes and a freshness in the way you do things," she says.

"It's very cyclical. The same things come around year after year and you've always got to be pushing the envelope a bit as to what needs to happen."

Mrs Najdecki didn't know what she was getting herself into a decade ago when she transitioned from heading up secondary schools (as principal at St Francis Xavier College, where she oversaw the inclusion of Years 11 and 12, and then St Mary MacKillop College) to heading up the administration of

what has grown to be 56 Catholic schools in the Archdiocese.

That was probably a good thing, she says, but it turned out to be the right move.

"I've always liked the staffing stuff, the relationships with people, the planning, all the strategic stuff," she says.

She has also enjoyed working across the ACT-NSW border, which has given her two very different education systems to wrangle.

While stressing that she can't take individual credit for any of the administration's achievements during her reign, Mrs Najdecki has a list of things she can be proud of, many of them achieved after long battles and with much grit and persistence.

The facilities all the schools gained out of the Building the Education Revolution, the establishment of St John Paul II College in Gungahlin and the growth of the soon to be eight Catholic early learning centres are high on her list.

Her "labour of love" was a history of the Canberra's Catholic schools, called Ringing in the Years, which she enticed her sister-in-law Jenny Jeffery to compile for the 2013 centenary under the misapprehension it would be a straightforward job.



Of course it wasn't. But Mrs Najdecki felt it was important to record this history and would like to do the same for the Archdiocese's NSW schools.

She is now finalising a pictorial dedication to the Good Sams' school history, along with a display dedicated to the Josephite and Mercy sisters, on the walls of what were the Good Sams' convent and school on the Catholic Education site in Manuka.

"You can't lose your story," Mrs Najdecki says. "You really need to know whose shoulders you walk on."

She says the challenge ahead, meanwhile, is government funding of schools. Her fear is the flawed view of Canberra as a wealthy society will lead to funding decisions

that will threaten the Archdiocese's ability to keep many its schools out of the "elite" category.

The issue of getting Catholic schools into the new development areas will also be ongoing.

Mrs Najdecki, who was brought up with her six brothers and sisters, parents and grandmother in an "11-square" government house in Narrabundah and was educated at St Benedict's primary and St Clare's College, won't lose touch with the Catholic education scene.

She is a member of the Australian Catholic University senate and ACT chapter, and one of her four children, Lisa Harris, is an assistant principal at St Vincent's primary.

She will also have husband Steve, a garden in Deakin and five grandchildren to keep her busy.

Mrs Najdecki leaves the school system, after 30 years of teaching and a decade in administration, with senior figures singing her praises.

Among them is Archbishop Christopher Prowse, who, in a letter to the Archdiocese, described her as a great role model.

"Her colleagues throughout Australia speak of her as a commensurate professional and woman of great wisdom and integrity. But there is a deeper appreciation required, even beyond this. She is a wonderfully committed Catholic woman who has expressed her love of God and the Church in her teaching profession," he said.

Angus Tulley, who succeeded Mrs Najdecki as principal of St Francis Xavier College, has known and worked with her for 20 years.

"Moira has always impressed me as a woman of deep faith who loves learning and the opportunity to bring others on an educational journey," he said.

"Moira is a leader among leaders and she is passionate about schools and, in particular, Catholic schools. Moira remembers fine details and she remembers people."

Just as people will no doubt remember her.



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# Marist's remorse on abuse

MARIST College Canberra has taken a step to recognise the child sexual abuse which occurred at the college over three decades by holding a *Liturgy of Lament*, making a public apology and taking the pledge "Never Again".

A gathering of more than 200 people attended a candlelit evening liturgy and ceremony in the school quadrangle for a liturgy of lament and the unveiling of a remembrance monument for those who have been affected.

The plaque on the monument quotes psalm 119:105, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."

Fr Peter Day led the liturgy, which was reflective and rich in symbolism.

It was held on sunset with bells ringing, as current students wearing school blazers held lanterns.

Like many others at the liturgy, Fr Day was moved by what took place.

"I had the humbling and distressing privilege of leading the liturgy of lament," he said.

"It was a beautiful, moving

and healing ceremony, while also deeply saddening – it had a funeral feel to it."

Bishop Pat Power and South Woden Parish Priest Fr Richard Thompson were also present, while school principal Richard Sidorko offered an apology on behalf of the college.

The college's initiative drew much publicity through media outlets.

Speaking on ABC Radio, Mr Sidorko reiterated the school's remorse.

He said the issue had not been dealt with properly in the past and that he was taking responsibility as the "face of Marist".

"There is a massive sense of despair and anger that these things took place in a school," he said.

"We are determined not to go back there." He said enrolments at the school remained strong.

"We are providing a good education," he said.

"People in Canberra are smart. They are discerning about the type of education they choose for their boys.



Marist College Principal Richard Sidorko offered a public apology to those who have been affected by abuse at the school. Picture: Supplied.

"Everything we stand for today is different to what it was then. The types of actions we took last night were the first steps with good intentions in the right direction."

**Anyone in the ACT or NSW who has experienced sexual abuse by members of the Church should report their concern to the police in person, or call 131 444. Alternatively abuse can be reported by contacting the Church's National Committee for Professional Standards by email [consultant@ncps.org.au](mailto:consultant@ncps.org.au) or by calling: (02) 9669 6218.**

## Survivors' redress scheme welcomed

THE Catholic Church's Truth Justice and Healing Council has welcomed an announcement by the Commonwealth Government that it will establish and run a national redress scheme for the survivors of institutional child sexual abuse.

CEO Francis Sullivan said this was a great announcement for the survivors of child sexual abuse in the Catholic Church and other churches as well as state and federal government and private institutions.

"The Commonwealth and Prime Minister Turnbull should be applauded for taking a principled decision," Mr Sullivan said.

"For more than three years the Catholic Church, survivors and others have been calling for an independent, Commonwealth-run redress scheme that has the potential to respond to the claims of survivors consistently.

"Today's announcement, which is consistent with the Royal Commission recommendations and submissions by the Catholic Church, is the first step in delivery.

"Importantly, it is now up to all institutions in which abuse occurred, as well as the State and Territory governments, to get on board and become part of the scheme.

"This is by far the best chance we, as a community, and particularly the institutions responsible for the abuse, will have to do the right thing.

"This scheme will deliver a fair, simple, consistent and generous process for redress for survivors regardless of where abuse occurred, be it a church, a charity, a school, an orphanage or anywhere else.

"It will mean the scheme will determine redress payments and that payment will be met by the institution responsible for the abuse. It means that institutions such as the Catholic Church will now no longer be in the business of investigating and determining claims against themselves."

# Taralga farewells Sister Bernadette Mary

BY MARY MOONEY

A CAPACITY crowd attended the farewell afternoon tea of Sr Bernadette Mary Walsh, such was the popularity of the Josephite Sister in and around Taralga.

In the seven years since she came to Taralga, Sr Bernadette Mary has involved herself in anything from the town's art show to kids club, garden club, the schools and judging the Christmas lights competition.

She was also a guest speaker at Anzac Day and gave her support to the football team.

David Croke spoke on the influence Sr Bernadette Mary had in the community, describing her as "a woman of strong opinions" and someone they would keep in their minds and prayers.

Goulburn Mission Parish Priest Fr Dermid McDermott said it was both a "sad and happy day" and that she had made "a big difference to the community".

Anglican Minister Rev Sally-Ann Hart said she had heard about Sr Bernadette Mary before meeting her and that they would go on to become "firm friends".

Carla Calleja thanked her for being such a good friend to the school, while Tom Hand acknowledged the support she gave the local football team.

Brian Moloney wished Sr Bernadette Mary well for the future, and Prue Burfitt spoke on how she will be missed.

The Josephite Sister thanked Fr McDermott and Taralga's Christ the King Parish, saying "it was a great honour to see all those



Sr Bernadette Mary with Goulburn Mission Parish Priest Fr Dermid McDermott

present at her farewell".

In the days following her departure from Taralga, Sr Bernadette Mary moved into her new home at

the St Joseph Convent apartments in Goulburn.

Original story published by the Goulburn Post on October 24.



## HE IS HER HERO. CAN YOU BE HIS?

Please support people in need this Christmas by completing the donation envelope in this issue of the Catholic Voice.

The impact of your gift will be felt well beyond December 25th.

**Vinnies Christmas Appeal**

St Vincent de Paul Society  
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# Cursillo marks its golden years

THE CURSILLO Movement marked its golden anniversary in the Archdiocese with two special events.

An anniversary Mass held in St Christopher's Cathedral and social afternoon was well supported with more than 50 people attending, while a spirituality weekend was full of life and activity.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse was principal celebrant at Mass along with Bishop Pat Power and Cursillo spiritual advisor Fr John Armstrong concelebrating. In his homily, Archbishop Prowse shared about his own Cursillo experience.

Representatives from the Wollongong Diocese and many long-time members of the Cursillo movement attended along with former spiritual directors Fr Bernie Patterson and Fr Allen Crowe.

Also present at the Mass was current national president Rhonda Porteous and former world president Yvonne Carrigan.

After Mass, cursillistas made their way to St Benedict's Parish, Narrabundah, for a social afternoon which featured an address by Fr Armstrong and a number of inspiring talks from Fr Patterson, Joy Harmer, Jeanne Montgomery, Brian Coates and John Duck.

In his presentation, Fr Armstrong reflected on Proclamation of the Gospel and the Charism of the Cursillo Movement.

He gave a timely reminder that as God's people, we, the Church, have a message that the world longs to hear - a message of love and hope.

For Pope Francis, this Gospel message is simply: "Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life to save you; and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen



Members of the Cursillo Movement assemble for the spirituality weekend in late October. Picture: Supplied.

and free you."

Mr Coates shared about his great love for Cursillo, ecumenism and how Cursillo had changed his life.

Mrs Harmer spoke about the importance of friendship and support that Cursillo provided during a difficult period in her life.

Recently elected as president of the Cursillo Movement in the Archdiocese, Mrs Montgomery from Grenfell spoke about her enthusiasm for Cursillo, having already served on team in the western deanery three times.

In October, the Archdiocesan Cursillo movement hosted a live-in spirituality weekend at the Warrambui Retreat and Conference Centre, Murrumbateman.

The retreat centred in on the theme 'In the Heart of Pope Francis' and explored some of the key statements and teachings of the Pope.

It drew on the documents; Evangelii Gaudium (the Joy of the Gospel), Laudato Si (Care for our Common Home), Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love), Lumen Fidei (The Light of Faith) and Misericordiae

Vultus (The Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy).

One of the many highlights was the recognition given to Fr Crowe, a long-time spiritual advisor who announced his retirement after 20 years in the movement.

Bishop Power, the keynote speaker, reflected on his life of service in the Archdiocese. National coordinator for the Cursillo movement Joe Jambor said the weekend was a most blessed time.

For more information about the Cursillo Movement go to [www.cursillo.asn.au/](http://www.cursillo.asn.au/)



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PRE-RETIREMENT SEMINAR

## GUIDE TO THE ROAD AHEAD

MITTAGONG: WEDNESDAY 18 JAN 2017

KINGSTON: TUESDAY 24 JAN 2017

The Government has recently shifted the incentive for saving via super – so it's important to understand which tax-advantages super offers over other investment options.

- What have you heard in the media?
- Do your friends or relatives offer opinions?
- Can you trust the information to be correct?



Our experts will review the facts and how it impacts those who are considering their retirement options.

- Which Budget changes affect you from 1 July 2017?
- Are you saving enough super to retire on?
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# The 'me' society and the drive for real happiness

AUSTRALIANS want to instil Christian values of compassion, love and kindness from school into their children, social researcher and author Hugh Mackay told the St Thomas More Forum.

Despite some not believing in God, Australians were sending their children to religious schools in increasing numbers, he said.

In a talk on how beliefs can get in the way of faith, Mr Mackay spoke about the constant desire for happiness and the "me" society.

Australians think they are entitled to become more prosperous and that it is all about "me". If they are not happy then invariably the response is to go out buy some material item.

"This is not real happiness and increasing numbers of particularly younger Australians understand this," he said.

Young people were asking more questions on spirituality than ever,

but they were still searching for the values of "love thy neighbour" taught by the different religions.

Mr Mackay said there were many different paths for young people interested in spirituality. Although they may not be drawn to churches, many still believed there was a spiritual dimension and that all were connected as one.

They believed they could aspire to something bigger than themselves.

Mr. Mackay spoke about a society where 61 per cent of the population identified as Christian, 67 per cent claimed to believe in a God or higher being, yet only eight per cent attended church weekly.

He also spoke about the rise of non-religious spirituality in the context of our persistent desire for a sense of meaning.

Like most Western societies, Australia is experiencing a sharp decline in religious faith and

practice - at least as measured by regular church attendance.

Yet the desire for a sense of meaning and purpose was undiminished, as shown by the surging "spiritual but not religious" movement and the growing interest in Eastern mysticism.

One reason people had deserted the institutional church was their resistance to dogmatic, prescriptive beliefs that often seemed to inhibit, rather than encourage, spiritual growth.

Mr Mackay is the author of 17 books. His latest book, *Beyond Belief*, explores the changing role of religion in Australia.

Campbell parish priest Fr Julian Wellspring said Mr Mackay had told stories about ourselves and that he was, indeed, a national treasure.

Mr Mackay and his wife Sheila will move to Canberra to live permanently in the New Year.



Hugh Mackay delivered a talk at the last St Thomas More Forum for 2016. Picture: Andrew Phelan.

## Parish is on the move

Continued from Page 1

Archdiocesan Vicar General Fr Tony Percy welcomed Fr Kunnappillil and the community for its first Mass in St Joseph's.

The day included catechism classes for 300 children and other cultural festivities.

The following week, Archbishop Christopher Prowse officially installed the community into the parish.

The recent move to O'Connor spelt a busy time for Syro Malabar parishioners who solemnly celebrated their community day, novena and parish feast all within the space of a couple of weeks.

They also attended the Marian procession at St Clement's, Galong.

September 30 marked the community's feast day and Fr Varghese Vavolil, who guided the community for the past 10 years and is now the priest of St Thomas Syro Malabar parish, Brisbane, was present for the official flag hoist-

ing of the celebration and Holy Qurbana.

The community day on October 1 was well supported and October 2 witnessed the Solemn Pontifical Qurbana celebrated by Mar Remigiose Inchananiyil, the Eparch of Thamarassery Diocese in Kerala, together with six co-celebrants.

Bishop Inchananiyil's talk inspired parishioners with the vision of being merciful and kind just like the Heavenly Father.

After Mass, proclaiming their faith and convictions, about 800 people lined up around St. Peter Chanel's Church. In the procession, they carried statues of Mother Mary, St Thomas the Apostle of India and St Alphonsa, the first saint from India and the parish patroness.

Fr Percy carried the relics of St Alphonsa during the procession, and gave the final blessings after a short message and prayer. After the procession, the community celebrated with a banquet.



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# Saint's hand guides a growing school

NEXT year Mother Teresa Primary School at Harrison ACT will officially lay claim to being the largest Catholic primary school in the Archdiocese, with more than 700 enrolments.

Right now they can boast to having one of the best facilities, after the completion of their new \$380,000 Early Learning Centre (ELC) administration building.

In a key partnership between Catholic Education, the ACT Government and the school's Parents and Citizens (P&C), the result was achieved in a most positive outcome for Catholic education in the area.

School principal Peter Hughes welcomed guests to the blessing and official opening and paid tribute to architect Bob Sly.

He emphasised the importance of offering Catholic education options for families in a growth corridor of Canberra – this being the outer north western suburb.

The Catholic Early Learning Centre community donated \$170,000 to the project from their building and maintenance contributions in their fees. The school P&C school Community Council who were represented at the opening by Chairman of the Board, Mr Brett Russell, raised \$170,000 of the total amount required.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse



blessed the school's ELC in a ceremony which contained the acknowledgment of country, the national anthem, a liturgy and the unveiling of a plaque.

In his address, Archbishop Prowse recalled meeting the school's patroness St Mother Teresa of Calcutta, when he was a seminarian in Melbourne and he drew attention to the witness of her life.

"Mother Teresa was canonised just a few months ago," he said.

"She used to work with the poorest of the poor, but was a great woman of prayer also. It was the engine room of her faith and we must never forget this."

He encouraged students to give their lives to Jesus and to concern themselves with things that make

them whole on the inside, as opposed to focusing on outside appearance only.

"Mother Teresa was beautiful on the inside and this radiated on the outside," he said.

Being Remembrance Day, Archbishop Prowse also paid respect to the memory of all soldiers and to the end of World War I.

Member for Yerabbi Suzanne Orr and Catholic Education Head of Resource Management and Strategy John Barker and Gungahlin assistant priest Fr Praveen Paul were present for the occasion.

The opening of the Mother Teresa Early Learning Centre comes after Holy Spirit Primary School, Nicholls, opened a similar facility a couple of months ago.

## A day of grace and mercy

"COME and join me once a year for a day of teaching" was the call Archbishop Christopher Prowse sent out to Catholic Charismatic Renewal members in the Archdiocese.

Following the inaugural teaching day last year, about 150 people gathered to celebrate the 2016 theme of "Rich in Mercy".

Archbishop Prowse's teaching centred on the grace of the Renewal and the richness it has brought to the church over the years.

He strongly encouraged people to reach out in mercy to those on the peripheries, to meet them where they are at, and to minister to them in love as Jesus would.

Many expressions of the Renewal were represented on the day, including Couples for Christ, Community of the Risen Lord, Disciples of Jesus covenant community, Missionaries of God's Love and Jesus Youth.

Members of charismatic prayer groups and others keen to learn more about charismatic spirituality gathered from Cootamundra, Crookwell, Goulburn, Moruya and Canberra.

Organised by the CCR Service Committee for the Archdiocese, the day featured praise and worship, two teachings from the Archbishop, a video and intercessory prayer to help families deal with the impact of the Safe Schools program.

The day finished with a charismatic Mass concelebrated by Archbishop Prowse, Fr Ken Barker MGL and Fr Chris Eaton MGL. Fr Bernie Patterson administered the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Several attendees shared their testimonies in the afternoon. "Now I understand that the Charismatic Renewal is an integral part of the Catholic Church," one remarked.

"The Archbishop has helped me to understand it is simply a fuller expression of our Catholic faith."

Archbishop Prowse also recognised Br Matt McKeon for his many years of faithful service to the Renewal.

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## Prepare and Give within your means

As we count down to this Christmas which is almost upon us, we slow down and reflect.

As quickly as it approaches, for a lot of us it will disappear behind us in a cloud of wrapping paper, full garbage bins, over extended credit cards and 'lighter' wallets.

Whilst Christmas is a time for giving, it is not a time for giving 'at any expense'. We should be mindful of those around us but hope they too are mindful of us and our circumstances.

Whether we are the giver or the recipient, may we give and receive in good spirit, never forgetting the real meaning of why we give at Christmas. The modern day "Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh" should be reflective of our surroundings, capacity and standards. (I can't write that without being reminded of a line from one of my favourite movies which states: "next time if you could bring more Gold and Frankincense and a little less Myrrh OK....")

Please think of you and your loved one's ability to give and not to expect too much.

Have a safe, responsible and blessed Christmas.

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# Team effort makes World Mission Month a success

CATHOLIC Mission Director Cathy Ransom believes this year's World Mission Month was a great sign of the Archdiocese's passionate commitment to the work of mission around the world.

Speaking after the World Mission Month of October and in her capacity for Catholic Mission, Mrs Ransom praised parishioners of the Archdiocese for what she believes was a "team effort".

"In the midst of so many priorities, the faith community of Canberra and Goulburn, really got behind the Pope's World Mission Appeal this year," she said.

Both parishes and schools took time to hear about the missionary work that Catholic Mission is supporting in Cambodia; to pray and to raise much needed funds for the people of this country who are rebuilding after a time of war and destruction.

Schools began their fund raising activities in September, which culminated in the annual Schools Mission Mass, held at St Christopher's Cathedral.

Mrs Ransom praised the efforts of a number of schools who travelled long distances to take part in the Mass.

"It was very encouraging to have almost every school in the Canberra region, and many from our country regions, represented at the mass. Its hoped that next year, we will have regional masses so that more of our schools can attend a Mission Mass." Mrs Ransom said.

Vicar General Fr Tony Percy and Catholic Mission Chaplain Fr John Armstrong concelebrated at the schools World Mission Mass.

In his homily, Fr Percy spoke about the humility and generosity of Pope Francis, linking it in with



Musicians at the Catholic Mission World Mission schools Mass were paid a compliment by Fr Tony Percy. Picture: John McLaurin.

the Year of Mercy.

He also talked about the importance of stable families and lamented in some instances where technology has become a distraction at the dinner table, often to the detriment of proper relationships.

"This is a very important time in history for the Church to understand its mission again," he said.

Fr Percy also highlighted the need for each person "to receive the mercy and forgiveness of Christ Crucified and Risen".

"Basically the idea is once we experience receiving the mercy and forgiveness of Christ then we can give it to others.

"Remember, the greatest thing we can do as Christians is forgive," he said.

Fr Percy recalled a line from theologian and doctor of the Church St Thomas Aquinas who wrote that the reconciliation of one person is much greater than the entire creation of the whole world.

"The bringing back of a person to God is the supreme act of God in history," Fr Percy said.

"And mercy is this great ability that God has of taking something that's evil and transforming it into something that's good."

At the end of Mass, the Vicar General paid tribute to Sacred Heart Primary School Pearce, Marist College, St Edmund's College and St Clare's College for providing the music at the Mass.

He gave the congregation a

brief prelude into the life of the great German composer and abbess St Hildegard of Bingen OSB (1098-1179) to offer all musicians some encouragement. "Hildegard used to have this saying where she said that music was necessary for salvation," he said.

"So whatever you can do to enhance the quality of music in our churches, I encourage you as best you can so I want to thank you once again for way you led us in prayer, it was very beautiful."

To learn more about Catholic Mission in the Archdiocese contact Cathy Ransom on (02) 6201 9834 or go to <http://catholicmission.org.au/about-us/australian-network/australian-offices/530-canberra-and-goulburn>

# Merici College alumni get connected

MORE than 100 ex-Merici College students from years ranging between 1964 and 2015 reminisced about their classrooms, teachers and friends as they attended an alumni soiree held at the college.

The graduating classes of 1976, 1986 and 1996 held reunions on the occasion.

For some, many years had passed since their last contact with the school, while for others their visit to the college was the first since graduation.

A joint prayer was offered by 1976 school captain Louise McMullen, Helen Beasley, Corinne Preston and current Year 12 student Madeleine Carden.

This symbolised the coming together of the college's life, past, present and future.

Principal Mrs Loretta Wholley said the alumni "provide a link to the college for you, our past students, and also provides a sense of community. "We are pleased to have so many of our ex-students here today," she said.

"Over the last 57 years we have welcomed many faces through the college doors and we would like to renew our connection with you."

The college restaurant was buzzing with excitement and several school tours were conducted.

"It is very pleasing to hear that many year groups have remained in touch," Mrs Wholley said.

Merici College welcomes updates on ex-students and encourages past students to get in contact with the school by emailing [alumni@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:alumni@merici.act.edu.au)



The class of 1986 returned to Merici College for a reunion and tour of the school. Picture: Supplied.



# Parish celebrates its many gifts

“THERE are many great things happening in our parish mission,” Fr Troy Bobbin told parishioners as St Gregory’s Parish, Queanbeyan held a successful Parish Expo over two days in St Gregory’s Primary School hall.

The idea behind the event was to formally endorse the 2016-2018 Parish Pastoral Plan.

Recently elected pastoral council members were commissioned at Sunday morning Mass.

Fresh from their Krakow World Youth Day pilgrimage, Laura Ferguson and Ryan Matchett spoke about the experience of gathering with other young people from around the world to

celebrate the faith.

Stalls lined the wall of the hall as parish members came together to celebrate as community.

Fr Bobbin said the parish achieved its main goal in building up the community, which came in addition to raising awareness of existing programs and groups at St Gregory’s.

“By raising awareness of what is going on in the parish, we are in effect inviting parishioners who are interested to participate more fully in parish life,” he said.

“It is important to celebrate the many gifts of the community and the contributions already being made.”



The Missionaries of Charity Sisters and some parishioners check out the stalls at the Queanbeyan Parish Expo. Picture: Loui Seselja.

# Be pastors new priests told

UNITED by their adversity and a love of football among other things, there’s not a lot separating newly ordained Missionaries of God’s Love priests Daniel Serratore and Adam Crouch.

It was fitting they were ordained together by Bishop Pat Power at St Christopher’s Cathedral on October 7, the Feast of the Holy Rosary.

Originally from Adelaide, Fr Crouch, 36, reached ordination having survived a persistent brain tumour, while Fr Serratore 35, grew up in a largely single parent household in Sydney.

In his homily, Bishop Power reminded the pair about his own admonition and frame of mind

each time he prepared to celebrate Mass.

“Celebrate Mass as if it is your first Mass, your last Mass, your only Mass,” he said.

He also encouraged them to follow the lead of Pope Francis.

“If I were asked to give one piece of advice to Daniel and Adam, it would be to be pastors in the mould of Pope Francis,” Bishop Power said.

“His simplicity of life in the manner of his patron, Francis of Assisi, his leading us all to the person of Jesus, his refusal to hang on to a privileged life, as far as he can, leaving aside the trappings of office; all these are not mere gestures, but authentic expressions

of Christian discipleship.

“Pope Francis tells us to not to shy away from the smell of sheep, to be prepared to have our feet muddied, to have a genuine love for the poor and the least fortunate in our world.”

Fr Crouch’s brother and former Sydney Swans AFL player Jared, read the first reading.

Capping off a year in which they have had six men ordained to the priesthood, MGL moderator Fr Ken Barker was delighted to see the fruits of the community’s labour once again.

“I am very proud of Adam,” he said. “He is a fair dinkum Aussie bloke who was a carpenter in Port Lincoln, and a popular Aussie



Frs Adam Crouch and Daniel Serratore with Fr Ken Barker.

rules football player, when he encountered Jesus in a new way at a Disciples of Jesus Summer School.

“When he was diagnosed with an aggressive brain tumour he was shaken but did not lose his trust in God. Through prayer he was miraculously healed.”

Fr Barker expressed his gratitude for Fr Serratore, who he met as a “young up-and-coming highly talented businessman with the world at his feet. Unlike the rich young man in the Gospel, Daniel heeded the call of Jesus and gave up all to follow him.”

# Innovation grows on kids

A DISCONNECT between students and their local environment and turning this into a positive was the impetus behind St Bernard’s Primary School Batemans Bay claiming a win at the 2016 Criterion Conference innovation awards held in Melbourne.

Teacher Sallyann Burtenshaw was pronounced winner following her Science Technology Engineering Mathematics (STEM) discipline, which she taught and implemented at St Bernard’s.

Engaging several bodies of the community including the council, Green Army, State Forestry and local business, Ms Burtenshaw and her students designed an automated hydroponic garden which is growing fresh produce.

The innovation came about after it was acknowledged that the project would encourage students to use less plastic in their lunches.

This, in turn, would mean less rubbish finding its way into Short Creek which runs past the school and into Casey’s Beach.

Ms Burtenshaw said the school, which received a \$3000 grant from the Independent Education Union and Teachers Mutual Bank, was keen to expand on its garden.

“Initially the hydroponic garden will



Sallyann Burtenshaw receiving her STEM discipline award in Melbourne recently. Picture: Supplied.

supply the canteen but we hope to duplicate the system so that we can provide fresh lunches for the whole school.

“Then our big goal is to team up with a Caritas Mission School and then assist them in setting up a hydroponic garden which will help less fortunate children around the world.”

Archdiocesan Director of Catholic Education Moira Najdecki congratulated the staff and students who were among the national finalists to be selected.

“There are many innovative champions in our Catholic schools who foster great ideas to implement in schools,” she said.

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# Cathedral precinct on the home stretch

THE ARCHDIOCESE'S much-anticipated Manuka precinct, which will be known as The Thomas Cahill Centre and Marian Place, is on the home stretch and well on track for its June 2017 opening.

Archdiocesan Financial Administrator Helen Delahunty is pleased with the project's progress despite above average rainfall throughout spring.

"The building works are well and truly on target, so much so that construction progress is likely to get to Christmas ahead of schedule," she said.

Builders will down tools over the Christmas break with work to

recommence on January 4.

The post-Christmas period will be about putting the finishing touches to the project which began with an official sod-turning in June 2015. Ms Delahunty said she was excited by how well the building phase has gone.

"In racing terms we are on the home straight now I guess," she said.

"Although there is still a lot of work to be done, it is nice to see what we started a couple of years ago really start to come to fruition.

"There will be pathways and access points for people to walk around the Cathedral and through

it, so it will feel like a part of the landscape again."

Aside from the Thomas Cahill Centre, which will become the home for the Archdiocesan administrative headquarters, as well as the Cathedral Parish, the Manuka precinct will feature 44 independent living units known as Marian Place.

The Marian Place units will be selling in December, and Ms Delahunty said anyone thinking of living there should contact the Archdiocese on (02) 6201 9800.

Photographer Loui Seselja was with Ms Delahunty at the most recent inspection of the building and he captured the latest developments.









# All busy on the priestly vocation front

THREE young men have been accepted as seminarians for the Archdiocese next year.

Foliga Etuale, from Samoa, Lourdu Raju Upputholla, from India, and Mark Ha, from Vietnam, will join current seminarians Deacon Joshua Scott, Namora Anderson, Alexander Osborne and Eden Langlands next year at the Seminary of the Good Shepherd in Sydney.

Deacon Scott is likely to be ordained to the priesthood next year.

Adrian Chan, a former Carmelite religious brother from Singapore, is in training for the priesthood, and has completed theological studies.

After spending the first half of the year with Fr Michael Lim at St Patrick's, Bega, he has spent the past six months in pastoral placement in the Gungahlin parish with Fr Mark Croker.

It was a nearly full house at Archbishop's House dinner table for the November Man Overboard gathering.

Man Overboard is an initiative in which Archbishop Christopher Prowse or Vicar General Fr Tony Percy and other members of clergy spend time with prospective seminarians in formation and prayer.

Fr Paul Nulley who has spent the past three years as an assistant priest at Young, has been appointed vocations director for the Archdiocese.

He will take over the role on January 27 from Fr Emil Milat, the parish priest of West Wyalong mission.

This role comes in addition to his chaplaincy work at Australian National University and his appointment as parish priest of St Joseph's, O'Connor.

As the new vocations director, Fr Nulley will continue to promote and foster vocations



Some of the men throughout the Archdiocese gather with Archbishop Christopher Prowse and Fr Tony Percy for the November Man Overboard. Picture: John McLaurin.

throughout the Archdiocese and will have a hands-on role with Man Overboard.

Each of this year's seminarians has provided readers with an overview of their year at the seminary.

**DEACON JOSHUA SCOTT:** Naturally for me being ordained to the diaconate was a beautiful part of the year including the lead-up as well as the aftermath. Living it out, proclaiming the Gospel and being a servant of charity among the people of God has been a blessing. I have also had the consolation of doing pastoral work at Westmead Hospital. There is something special about helping preparing for death and I get great joy in seeing others who have been in care for a long time, get discharged from their wards.

**NAMORA ANDERSON:** The year, although not differing that much practically from other years, has been one of much joy

and surprise. Firstly, there has been much joy in the subjects that I have had the pleasure of studying such as political philosophy with John Haldane, Patristics, and bioethics. The time in the seminary is particularly fruitful for the intellect, which helps inform others, and for our own growth of love for truth, most particularly God.

The stand-out moments at the seminary are those that we all look forward to: ordinations. For me, two of my year group who went to study in Rome had their priestly ordinations in Sydney and although it feels strange being at a different stage to them, it is so encouraging to see the end that we all seek. Especially, when you hear all the good that these new priests have achieved already, it makes the work we do all the more encouraging. Then to have the experience of being in the diocese speaking

to the people and priests and seeing the strong joyful desire they have for you to partake in God's mission is what inspires me to continue with zealous determination. This year, I have had the honour of spending time in the parish with Fr Tom Thornton and Fr Paul Nulley on placement out at Young and that increased the realisation of the beauty and great effect the priest has and can do for a world that needs Christ. Furthermore, being able to spend time in Temora and Moruya and seeing great priests in action with people that support and encourage them relaxes me for the duties that await me.

This year has also brought the privilege of taking part in great pastoral works of mercy like when Deacon Josh and I were sent to St John of God Hospital, where we talked and assisted with the Church's mission to assist those with mental ailments. That enabled us to perceive humanity in a whole new light and be able to be more sympathetic and compassionate to others. After that I was placed in the L'Arche community that has been a great opportunity for me to both assist people with disabilities but more importantly to journey and dialogue with them. It is a beautiful mission and an illuminating experience.

So for me this year has been one of learning and joy in my vocation and looking forward to next year to finish my studies and return to work in the Archdiocese. I will be in Temora over December experiencing the far west of the Archdiocese and the joy of the farmers.

**ALEXANDER OSBORNE:**

Perhaps the most noteworthy thing about this year is that it has been a significant milestone for me: I have now spent half of my life in Australia, and a quarter of it studying to become a priest. As you can imagine, I'm excited that this year looks to be my second last in

formation.

In many ways the first half of this year felt like it was more of the same, I was back in Homebush studying – I now only have eight units left out of about 50, before hopefully attaining my STB – Bachelor of Sacred Theology (both a degree and a description). I have enjoyed my studies but I will be glad to finish them. Academia is only one part of seminary formation, I spent my Fridays working at St Canice's soup kitchen in Kings Cross, serving the hungry and poor, which was a great experience.

The second half of the year has been exciting. I've spent it in the parishes of Batemans Bay and Moruya on parish placement. I like to think of my time here as something of a taste of the future. And, what a busy future it will be.

I've been preaching, visiting schools, hospitals, and retirement villages, as well the homes of many parishioners; which has come on top of attending funerals, baptisms and weddings.

The experience of this all, has so far felt very confirming. In particular, I have enjoyed preaching at weekday Masses, especially if classes from either of the primary schools are attending. I'd like to share more with you about my time here, but I know parishioners read this paper and will tease me about it if I do.

Two highlights of my year: one was the recent ordination of Deacon Joshua Scott. After spending six years together with someone preparing for Holy Orders, it is a wonderful thing to see them ordained; the second highlight of my year will be my twin sister Louise's wedding. Please keep me in your prayers as I continue on my way towards Holy Orders.

**EDEN LANGLANDS:**

I have just completed my first year of seminary formation. I am very grateful to God for this year. The first year of seminary is what they call the spiritual year, dedicated to deep prayer and reflection on the vocation of priesthood that God could be calling me to, as well as a time to learn more about ourselves and grow in self knowledge. I have met many great people on the same journey and had some great experiences.

The year culminates with the 30-day Ignatian Spiritual Exercises retreat which I am looking forward to. It will help to further discern where the Lord is calling me to serve Him.

**SERRA CLUB:** The Serra Club continues to pray for vocations. Those interested in joining the Canberra-based Serra Club should email enquiries@serracanberra.org

**MAN OVERBOARD:**

Takes place on the first Friday evening of every month at Archbishop's House.

To learn more about it go to [www.manoverboard.org](http://www.manoverboard.org)



Joshua Scott was ordained to the diaconate at St Mary's Church Young in October. Picture: Cyron Sobrevinas.



# New vision for our youth

*From Page 1*

Speaking at a recent CSYMA launch in Canberra, newly appointed project officer of the New Evangelisation for Catholic Schools (Youth Ministry), Mr Nathan Galea said “the new model demonstrates a real anointing of the New Evangelisation in our schools and parishes.

“It is an exciting opportunity to officially bring the ministry into the schools on a much larger scale than what has been.”

Having been involved with the implementation and development of CSYMA for the last 11 years and assisting schools around Australia resourcing of the program, Mr Galea has witnessed first-hand the benefits of bringing the resource to the schools, something which he has already done in his time as a teacher at St Edmund’s College.

CSYMA started in the Archdiocese in 2007 and has expanded nationally, with approximately 90 schools and 33 youth ministers on board.

“The strength of CSYMA is that it seeks to empower staff and students through a supportive and formative approach,” Mr Galea said.

“It’s a model that is flexible and has the ability to enhance the charism of each school.

“I look forward to having the opportunity to work with other teachers and students in a

collaborative new dynamic and focused approach within Catholic education and the Archdiocese.

“A launch like this is something which unites the schools in the Archdiocese and it is a great platform to go into next year with a new energy and a new current.”

Vicar General Fr Percy was equally enthusiastic about what CSYMA will bring to the Archdiocese, describing it as an “attractive model” and “something which has enormous potential”.

He said the rationale for the re-structure is a belief that “the process of incorporation into the Church is Belong – Believe – Behave.

“Establishing a community that welcomes and embraces young people and provides them with opportunities to encounter Christ, is crucial to the vision.”

There are a number of partnerships which will come into effect next year, including a key partnership with ACU’s La Salle Academy.

The ACU La Salle Academy partnership includes the running of a Graduate Certificate in Education: Leading the New Evangelisation (LNE) for teachers in Catholic schools.

As the ACU Director of Teacher Faith Formation Programmes, Mr Woods is proud of the affiliation and role that the university has in shaping Youth Ministry within the Archdiocese.

“This (LNE) will be the core



CSYMA is the new vision for youth in the Archdiocese. Picture: Supplied.

to forming our teachers and leaders to equip and empower our Catholic schools and Church communities to be centres of the New Evangelisation,” he said.

“The Archdiocese will be the first to implement the LNE course starting in 2017.”

Huw Warmenhoven is currently the National Youth Coordinator for CSYMA and he also holds a Youth Ministers Coordinator’s role within the Archdiocese. He will also be a familiar contact as CSYMA comes more into effect next year.

“I think the vision is extremely exciting, a new chapter in youth ministry,” he said.

“The core focus will be on forming young people in the schools, drawing them together in broader Archdiocesan events,

establishing discipleship pathways into the Church through the youth ministers and supporting and resourcing the Church communities to provide further formation opportunities beyond the school context.

“This vision should be one of great excitement! Combining a comprehensive and integrated structure along with an Archdiocesan focus on student, teacher and leader formation, we are looking forward to seeing our Archdiocese become a leader in school to Church ministry in Australia.”

Archbishop Christopher Prowse said he was confident that the new movement for youth within the Archdiocese was a step in the right direction.

“I am truly delighted that a new and exciting model of our outreach

to our youth will be launched in our Archdiocese from 2017,” he said.

“The CYSMA model is based on a ‘youth speaks to youth’ Catholic evangelization impulse.

“It proposes a personal encounter with Jesus alive in our Church and leads youth to a deeper immersion into the sacramental and outreach dimensions of our faith.

“Let us all pray for this pastoral initiative and support it enthusiastically.”

A key date for the New Evangelisation will be the National Youth Equipping School (February 23-26) and CSYMA iWitness Student Conference (February 26-27) both held in Canberra at the John Paul II Polish Centre.

For more information on CSYMA go to [www.csyma.com.au](http://www.csyma.com.au)

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# Asylum-seeker ban is 'deeply disappointing'

A FEDERAL Government proposal to ban those who have arrived in Australia by boat from ever being able to apply for a visa has been described by a representative of Australia's bishops as deeply disappointing.

"Seeking asylum even by boat is not illegal," Australian Catholic bishops delegate for migrants and refugees, Bishop Vincent Long said.

"It is a basic human right. Yet not content with demeaning them, the Australian government now want to introduce laws that will ban them from ever coming here.

"The motives for these measures, in light of the current situation on Manus Island and Nauru, and in light of the bigger challenges facing Australia, are questionable at best and sinister at worst.

"Domestic advocates and international agencies have been appalled by the conditions under



which asylum-seekers live and the effects on their health, spirits and self-respect.

"To single out and punish further a small number of people who came by boat, even if they are found to meet the refugee

definition is deliberately cruel and un-Australian.

"It betrays the tradition, status and character of the country that we are proud of – a richly resourced country with a big heart for migrants and refugees.

"I urge all Australians to reject these cruel and unnecessary measures.

"We must find a more just, humane and effective way in dealing with the complex issues of seeking asylum and refugee protection.

"Inflicting more pain and harm to a small group of people who have caused us no harm is not worthy of all fair dinkum Australians.

"I appeal to all political leaders to resist this latest mean-spirited move against asylum seekers and to reclaim the reputation of a decent, humane and generous country; it is the kind of country that refugees like myself are indebted to and proud to call home."

## French monks bound for Tassie

THE BENEDICTINE monks from the St Joseph de Clairval Abbey in Flavigny, France, will establish a community of traditional monastic observance in the Hobart Archdiocese.

Fr Pius Mary Noonan OSB, who will leave the abbey of Flavigny to lead the establishment of the new foundation.

Fr Noonan said the decision came after a long period of discernment and lengthy negotiations with the abbey authorities in Flavigny and Church authorities in Australia.

From the seventh century, Flavigny was the seat of a Benedictine abbey, until the French Revolution. The St Joseph de Clairval Abbey was founded in

Switzerland in 1976, and there are about 50 monks in the community.

The monks are known for organising and hosting numerous retreats, following the spiritual exercises of St Ignatius Loyola. While most of these take place in France, the monks regularly host retreats in English-speaking countries, including Ireland, Wales and Australia.

Donations for the new foundation in Tasmania can be made to the following bank account: Account Name: Notre Dame Priory; Account Number: 10242562; BSB: 062654. Cheques, made payable to 'Notre Dame Priory' can be sent to: Notre Dame Priory, C/- PO Box 450, Picton, NSW, 2571.

## Priests, religious on new checklist

ABOUT 500 priests and male religious are registered on a new national Catholic database which lets bishops and leaders of religious congregations check the background of clerics and brothers visiting or moving to their region.

The Australian Catholic Ministry Register (ACMR) will, for the first time, provide-up-to-date online information on whether a priest or male religious has a

working with children check and has been "licensed" to work in a diocese or congregations.

Fr Tim Brennan MSC, an Executive Officer of the National Professional Standards Office, said the new data base was a huge leap forward in ensuring the many priests and religious who move around the country don't have a black mark against their name.

"This new register is an internal tool church leaders can use to

better understand the history of clerics and religious entering their diocese," he said.

"The objective of the ACMR is to implement a secure and auditable web-based system that records the clearance status of priests and male religious.

"It will allow Church authorities to check the references of priests and male religious who are visiting or transferring interstate or from another diocese."

## Archbishop's liturgical role honoured

MELBOURNE Archbishop Denis Hart has been appointed by Pope Francis to be a member of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments.

The appointment acknowledged Archbishop Hart's contribution to the liturgical life of the Catholic Church in Australia

and internationally, the Australian Catholic Bishops said in a statement. The Holy See announced the nomination by Pope Francis of ten cardinals, seven archbishops and 10 bishops as members of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments.

Vatican Congregations are the

senior bodies of the Roman Curia, each entrusted by the Holy Father with a particular area of responsibility. Through almost 50 years of ministry that has included parish, marriage tribunal, diocesan governance, bishops conference and Vatican appointments, Archbishop Hart has given distinguished service to the liturgy.



# Vatican forbids scattering ashes

VATICAN CITY (CNA/EWTN News).- The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has reiterated the Church's teaching that cremation, while strongly discouraged, is permitted but scattering the ashes is forbidden.

Ad resurgendum cum Christo, or "To rise with Christ", states that while cremation "is not prohibited" the Church "continues to prefer the practice of burying the bodies of the deceased, because this shows a greater esteem towards the deceased".

The document explains that after "legitimate motives" for cremation have been ascertained, the "ashes of the faithful must be laid to rest in a sacred place," such as in a cemetery or church.

It says that is not permitted to keep the ashes in a home or to scatter them "in the air, on land, at sea or in some other way, nor may they be preserved in mementos, pieces of jewellery or other objects".

Prefect of the congregation Cardinal Gerhard Muller said burial was "an expression of our hope for the resurrection, therefore the Church continues to teach that the normal burial of the body is the normal form".

The document explains, "by burying the bodies of the faithful, the Church confirms her faith in the resurrection of the body, and intends to show the great dignity of the human body as an integral part of the human person whose body forms part of their identity."

"She cannot, therefore, condone attitudes or permit rites that involve erroneous ideas about death, such as considering death as the definitive annihilation of the person, or the moment of fusion with Mother Nature or the universe."

Rather, burial in a cemetery or another sacred place "adequately corresponds to the piety and respect owed to the bodies of the faithful departed who through Baptism have become temples of the Holy Spirit and in which 'as instruments and vessels the Spirit has carried out so many good works.'"

The Vatican originally answered the question of whether or not cremation was allowed in 1963, but with the increase in both its popularity and in practices such as scattering the ashes or keeping them in the home, it found it necessary to provide a new set of norms as guidance for bishops.

# 101-year wait for First Communion

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, (CNA/EWTN News). At 101 years old, Dona Penha has seen quite a bit of life. But the centenarian experienced something new as she received her First Communion during Mass at Our Lady of Mount Carmel nursing home in Rio de Janeiro.

"It was a very beautiful moment that showed us that it is never too late to receive the Eucharist, which for someone seeking God, neither time nor shame can prevent," administrative assistant of the nursing home Josiane Ribeiro said.

Ms Ribeiro said Dona Penha

arrived about a year ago at the nursing home, which is run by the Sisters of the Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima Association. Dona Penha began to attend Mass with the other women. One day, she asked to go to Confession. Fr Domingos Sávio Silva Ferreira realised she had not yet received Holy Communion and asked the sisters to prepare her to receive the sacrament.

When Dona Penha received Communion for the first time, nursing home officials said they could see that "that was what she really wanted".

# The door closes on Year of Mercy

VATICAN CITY, Nov 13, 2016 (CNA/EWTN News).- As Holy Doors close in churches and basilicas around the world, including in Rome, it is estimated that over 20 million people participated in the Church's Jubilee Year of Mercy at the Vatican – and a billion people may have participated in churches worldwide.

According to Msgr. Rino Fisichella, President of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization, it is estimated that 20.4 million people attended Year of Mercy events at the Vatican over the course of this year.

As the year comes to a close, the Holy Doors at three basilicas in Rome – St. Paul Outside the Walls, St. John Lateran and St. Mary Major – were closed during special Masses held on November 13.

# All Souls Day sign of hope



Picture: Daniel Ibanez/CNA

THIS year for All Souls Day Pope Francis celebrated the Mass at the Prima Porta Cemetery on the northern outskirts of Rome.

Cemeteries are often sad places because they remind us of our loved ones who are gone, the Pope noted: "But in this sadness

we bring flowers as a sign of hope, and also, I dare to say, of celebration – not now, but in the future."

He explained that the reason for this hope is the Resurrection, that "Jesus is the one who made this journey first.

"We are walking the path that he walked, and he brings us through the door that he himself opened.

"With his cross, he opened the door of hope. He opened the door so that we can enter into where we will contemplate God."



## Missionaries of the Sacred Heart

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

## EVERYONE HAS A STORY.

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

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

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

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

– Fr Patrick Sharpe msc

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# End of an era: Oh the places you'll go



**BELOW THE SURFACE**  
BY NAOMI WALTON

OH SWEET freedom for school leavers! The first time you are free. Yet also the first time you have no structure, no assumed community to see every day, the first time you are in control of what consumes your time. The sense of freedom can be exhilarating, the pressure can be daunting.

The season of year 12 symbolises the change we continuously experience in our lives. It's a juggle. Life will be a juggle. Learning to balance multiple commitments and show up even when we don't feel like it is all part of 'adult-ing'.

The experiences of three local year 12 students' illustrate the mixed bag of adventures this special time brings for the end and beginning of an era. I asked Edith Meli, Aodhan Kirk and Brigit Cooney to share their adventures.

What was the most challenging part of this year?

Edith: Making decisions and planning for my post-year 12. This includes scholarship and university



applications, Australian Defence Force interviews and Officer Selection Boards.

Aodhan: Balancing everything but not burning out; study, exercise, being healthy, sleep, friends, family, church, youth ministry, and other activities.

Brigit: Living up to the expectations of my teachers and myself. My teachers were amazing and pushed me to do my best, but that meant that when I struggled I didn't want to ask for help and let them down.

What was the most rewarding part of this year?

Edith: Travelling to China with my school. As well as culture

overloading in Beijing, we stayed with families and attended school in Anshan, building connections with and learning from the students.

Aodhan: Seeing my hard work pay off. Not just assignments or tests but youth ministry and other areas.

Brigit: At the start of the year I did at testimony at our Easter Liturgy, and a few months later at Year 12 Retreat one of the girls in my year came up and thanked me for what I said. It was really nice to know that I'd made an impact on someone's life, when I never thought I could.

How are you planning to

celebrate finishing?

Edith: I plan on holidaying up in a little coast house in Callala bay with some close friends; warm beach, good music and zero stress.

Aodhan: Not studying! Finishing lines up with some other activities but mostly just not studying for a while and enjoying my time.

Brigit: Mostly with sleep-ins and chocolate! And some friends and I are going to the beach after graduation.

What is the best and worst question you have been asked because you are in year 12?

Edith: 'When was this due?' is probably the worst question. I actually love being asked the generic

'What's the life plan?' because I have a very enthusiastic but different answer every time.

Aodhan: 'What are you doing next year?' is pretty repetitive. People sharing their experiences is pretty good.

Brigit: The worst would probably have to be 'what are you doing next year?' and 'how do you feel about finishing school?' the best are helpful questions like 'do you need anything to help you through exams?'

What are you looking forward to next?

Edith: I can't wait to have a bit more independence and time on my hands to be more spontaneous and inspiring. I'm definitely looking forward to having the freedom to travel the world, still working on the money.

Aodhan: Working with my dad and a full time work lifestyle. A break from study will be nice.

Brigit: I'm looking forward to having fewer commitments, and taking all the opportunities I can because of my education.

If anything, the challenges in year 12 help develop resilience and character strength. In the words of Dr Seuss from Oh, The Places You'll Go! 'Kid, you'll move mountains! Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting. So get on your way!'

Good luck year 12 leavers. It's a big but doable season of change. You've got this.

# Grounded in the justice of Jesus



**JUSTICE MATTERS**

CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

RICK first came to the attention of one of the members of this Catholic Social Justice Commission some seven years ago when the latter was a voluntary worker at Samaritan House, a men's crisis accommodation centre run by the St Vincent de Paul Society in Canberra.

Rick was in his early 40s and had been suffering from schizophrenia since his early 20s.

Rick was not able to work and a lot of the time he would live at home with his ageing mother

whose health was affected, in part because of her long-term care of her son.

Arrangements were made to give her some respite from time to time by accommodating Rick at Samaritan House for a few weeks, where he would receive support and spiritual companionship.

Support was wide-ranging and included collecting him from his home or Samaritan House to get to and from the Sunday Mass at the Blue Door, a drop-in centre at Ainslie Village for the disadvantaged run by the St Vincent de Paul Society.

With his intelligence and his precociously cutting sense of humour, Rick became a very popular addition to the community environments both at Samaritan House and at the Blue Door. Both Rick and his mother led prayer-filled Christian lives.

Over time it became apparent that Rick's situation was taking a



toll both on him and his immediate family.

Rick was well known to the management at HOME, a Christian run accommodation centre in Queanbeyan for people with a mental illness.

About five years ago he was accepted as a resident there. He is very happy and popular there – even managing to get out and do some fishing from time to time.

And, of course, he still spends a day or so at a time with his mother.

But the story doesn't finish there. Rick began a tertiary education program earlier this year.

The program, called Clemente, is sponsored by the St Vincent de Paul Society. He loves the program with its social engagement and intellectual challenges.

The program is helping Rick increase his skills with both writing

and literacy. A noticeable change in Rick is the way his self-confidence has improved.

The writer has been a witness to Rick's growth over recent years, not only in personal development and maturity but also in his spiritual life and search for happiness.

Much of this growth stems from a model of care that is underpinned by the pursuit of Christian justice – a justice that is always awake to the plight of the vulnerable and marginalised.

Thus, Rick's pastoral workers and volunteers, in their ministry as part of the family of the church at Samaritan House, the Blue Door, HOME, and within the Clemente program, have been able to afford him that continuing companionship and love so essential for us all to thrive.

Indeed, during a recent chat with the writer Rick acknowledged with deep appreciation all the help he has received over the years.

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ARANDA: Christmas Vigil 6pm. Christmas Day 10am and 12pm (Korean)	EVATT: Christmas Vigil 6pm. Christ- mas Day 10am.	MICHELAGO: Christmas Vigil 6pm.	SYRO-MALABAR MASS (Malayalam language): Christmas Vigil 10.30pm O'Connor.
BATEMANS BAY: Christmas Vigil 6pm and 9pm. Christmas Day 9am.	GALONG (St Clement's Retreat Centre): Christmas Vigil 6.30pm, Christmas Day 9am.	MORUYA: Christmas Vigil 6pm (outdoor), midnight. Christmas Day 8am Tuross Head, 10am Moruya.	TEMORA MISSION: Christmas Vigil 6pm (outdoor) Temora, 7pm Barellan. Christmas Day 8am Ardlethan, 9am Temora, 10am Arian Park.
BEGA: Christmas Vigil 6pm Bega, 7pm Bemboka, 8pm Tathra, midnight Candelo. Christmas Day 8.30am Bega.	GOULBURN MISSION: Christmas Vigil 6pm (children) Old Cathedral, 8pm Old Cathedral, 6pm Marulan, 6pm Taralga, 6pm Crookwell. Christ- mas Day 9am Our Lady of Fatima, 9am Tarago, 9am Crookwell, 10.30am Binda.	NAROOMA-COBARGO: Christmas Vigil 5pm Cobargo, 7pm Narooma. Christmas Day 7.30am Bermagui, 9.30am Narooma.	TUMUT: Christmas Vigil 6pm Batlow, 7pm Tumut, 8pm (7.15pm Carols) Jugiong. Christmas Day 8am Talbingo, 9am Adelong, 10am Tumut.
BOMBALA: Christmas Vigil 5pm Delegate, 6.30pm Bombala.	GUNDAGAI: Christmas Vigil 6pm. Christmas Day 8am.	NARRABUNDAH: Christmas Vigil 6pm, 8pm (charismatic). Christmas Day 9am.	WANNIASSA: Christmas Vigil 6pm (children), 9pm (carols beforehand). Christmas Day 9am.
BRAIDWOOD: Christmas Vigil 6pm.	GUNGAHLIN: Christmas Vigil 7pm (children) 10pm (carols 9.30pm). Christmas Day 9am. No 5.30pm Mass.	NORTH WODEN: Christmas Vigil 5.30pm Curtin (children), 7pm Garran, midnight (starting at 10pm) Curtin. Christmas Day 8.30am Garran, 9.30am Curtin.	WATSON: Christmas Vigil 6pm (children), 10pm (9.30pm carols). Christmas Day 8am, 10am (no 6pm).
BUNGENDORE: Christmas Vigil 6pm. Christmas Day 8.30am.	HALL: Christmas Vigil 7.30pm (carols 7pm).	O'CONNOR: Christmas Vigil 6pm. Christmas Day 9am.	WEST WYALONG MISSION: Christ- mas Vigil 6pm West Wyalong. Christ- mas Day 8am West Wyalong, 9.30am Ungarie, 10am West Wyalong.
CAMPBELL: Christmas Vigil 6pm (children). Christmas Day 9.30am	HARDEN-MURRUMBURRAH: Christmas Vigil 6.30pm (carols from 6pm).	PAGE: Christmas Vigil 6pm (children), 9pm. Christmas Day 8.30am.	WESTON CREEK: Christmas Vigil 6pm Holder (family), 6pm Waramanga (family), 9pm (carols 8.30pm) Holder, Christmas Day 9am (carols 8.30am) Waramanga.
CATHEDRAL: Christmas Vigil 6pm Cathedral, 6pm and 9pm St Peter Chanel's Yarralumla, midnight Ca- thedral (carols 11.15pm). Christmas Day 8am Cathedral, 9.30am St Peter Chanel's, 11am Cathedral, 5.30pm Cathedral.	JINDABYNE: Christmas Vigil 5pm Thredbo, 7pm Berridale, 8pm Jindabyne, Christmas Day 9am Jindabyne.	PAMBULA: Christmas Vigil 4.30pm Merimbula (children), 7.00pm Eden, midnight Pambula. Christmas Day 10am Merimbula.	YASS-GUNNING: Christmas Vigil 5.30pm Gunning, 7pm Yass, 9pm Murrumbateman recreation hall. Christmas Day 8am Yass and 10am Wee Jasper.
CENTRAL CANBERRA: Christmas Vigil 6pm Dickson (carols 5.30pm). Christmas Day 8am Braddon, 9.30am Dickson.	KALEEN: Christmas Vigil 8pm. Christ- mas Day 8am.	POLISH: (John Paul II Centre) Christ- mas Vigil midnight, Christmas Day 11am.	YOUNG MISSION: Christmas Vigil 6pm Young, 6pm Boorowa, 8.30pm Young. Christmas Day 8am Brib- baree, 8.30am Young, 9am Binalong and 9.30am Grenfell. No Mass at Frogmore.
CHARNWOOD: Christmas Vigil 6pm. Christmas Day 9am.	KAMBAH: Christmas Vigil 7pm (out- door family Mass), 9pm Vietnamese Mass, midnight. Christmas Day 9am.	QUEANBEYAN: Christmas Vigil 6pm (children, school hall in Molonglo St), midnight St Raphael's (carols 11.15pm). Christmas Day 8am and 10am St Raphael's.	
COOMA: Christmas Vigil 5pm Adam- inaby, 5pm Delegate, 8pm Nimmitabel. Christmas Day 8am Jerangle, 8am Numerella, 9.30am Cooma and 9.30am Bredbo.	KIPPAX: Christmas Vigil 6pm, 9pm, midnight (carols 11.30pm). Christmas Day 9am. No evening Mass.	SOUTH TUGGERANONG: Christmas Vigil 6pm (children's outdoor) Calwell, 9pm (carols 8.30pm) Gowrie, midnight (11.30pm Carols) Gowrie. Christmas Day 9am Gowrie. No 6pm Mass.	
COOTAMUNDRA: Christmas Vigil 8.30pm Cootamundra (with carols from 8pm). Christmas Day 9.30am Cootamundra.	LAKE CARGELLIGO: Christmas Vigil 9pm Lake Cargelligo. Christmas Day 9.30am.	SOUTH WODEN: Christmas Vigil (youth) 6pm, 9pm. Christmas Day 8.30am 10.00am, all Sacred Heart, Pearce.	
CROATIAN: Christmas Vigil midnight. Christmas Day 10.30am.	LATIN MASS COMMUNITY: Midnight Mass Garran. Christmas Day 7.45am Campbell, 10am Garran.		

\*DISCLAIMER: Christmas Mass times were true and correct at the time of printing. For further clarification, please check parish bulletins and noticeboards closer to December 25.





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## PRAYERS

Prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary (never known to fail): O most beautiful flower of Mt Carmel, fruitful vine, Splendour of heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. O star of the Sea, help me and show me here thou art my Mother.

O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech thee from the bottom of my heart to succour me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand thy power.

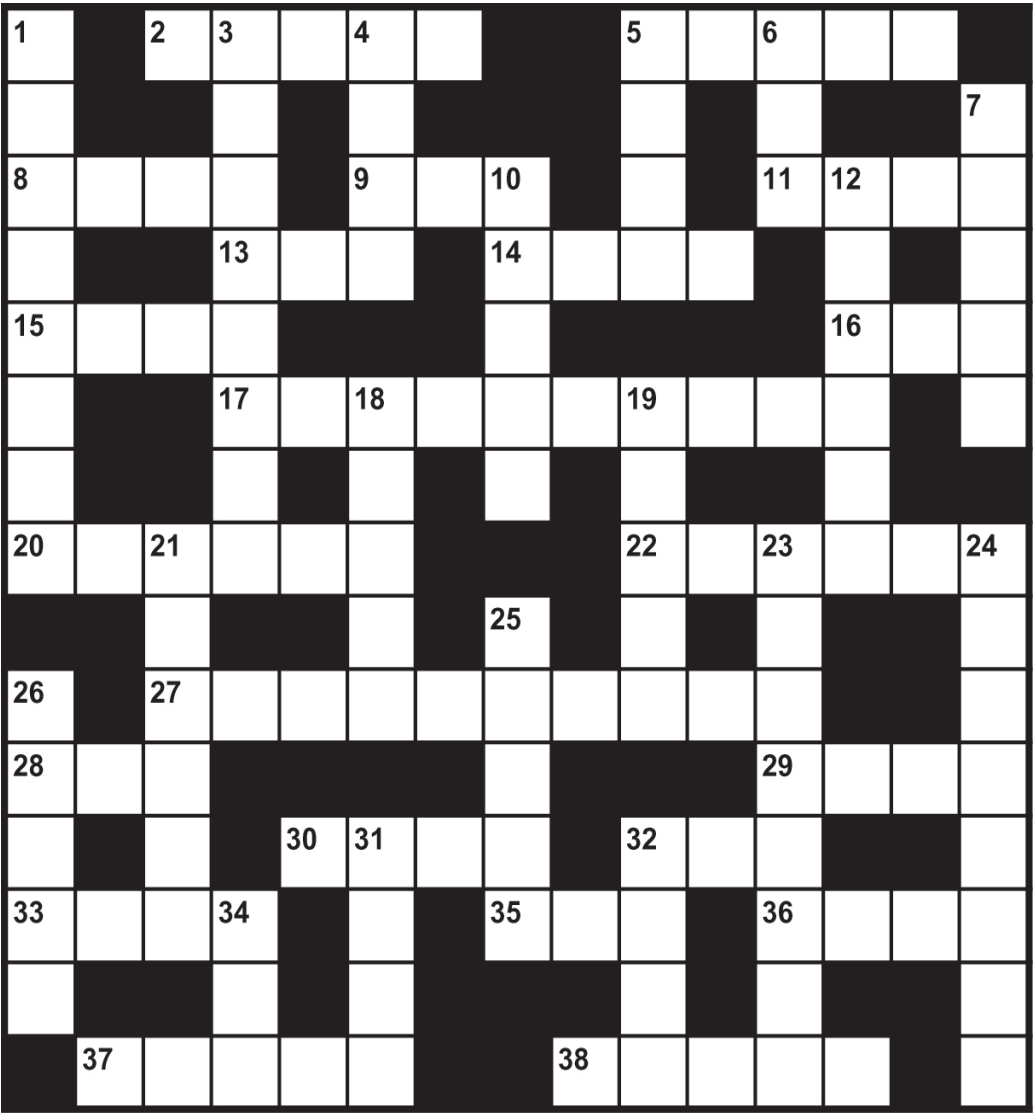
O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (three times). Holy Mary, I place this prayer in thy hands (three times).

This prayer must be said for three days and the prayer published.

## TENDERS

Tenders are called for the building of an office complex attached to the present parish hall. The project will also include a 12 space car park. Contact Fr Richard Thompson PP for full details wodenouth@cg.org.au or 6286 1908.

## CROSSWORD



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### ACROSS

- 2 "...many \_\_\_\_ and wonders were being done by the apostles" (Acts 2:43)  
5 One of 12 brothers in the Old Testament  
8 The righteous are as bold as this animal, according to Prov 28:1  
9 Two by two vessel  
11 Marian color  
13 \_\_\_\_ Wednesday  
14 Moses was floated down this river in a basket  
15 Jesus slept in one  
16 Chi follower  
17 The \_\_\_\_ Heart of Mary  
20 Hometown of St. Paul  
22 Sign from Jonathan that David's life was in danger (1 Sam 20:20-23)  
27 Catholic author of The Father Brown Mysteries  
28 \_\_\_\_ of Faith  
29 Catholic family conference  
30 Holy \_\_\_\_  
32 The \_\_\_\_ Dolorosa  
33 "\_\_\_\_ have mercy"  
35 Jonah was thrown into this  
36 Members of this tribe of Israel carried the Ark (Deut 10:8)  
37 The \_\_\_\_ of saints  
38 St. Edith's surname

### DOWN

- 1 Document stating that a person is a priest in good standing  
3 Founder of the Jesuits

- 4 Builder of 9A  
5 First murder victim  
6 Nahum follower (abbr.)  
7 Evil king of the New Testament  
10 Mary appeared here in Ireland  
12 Marian litany  
18 Exodus leader  
19 "...as you did it to one of the \_\_\_\_ of these my brethren, you did it to me." (Mt 25:40)  
21 Priest  
23 John XXIII's surname  
24 Group of laity established for a religious purpose  
25 Purloined fruit in Augustine's Confessions  
26 "Give us this day our \_\_\_\_..."  
31 Paul and Silas' prison doors after the earthquake (Acts 16:25-27)  
32 Arizona-Vatican connection  
34 Son of Jacob

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# Marist basketball champs go back-to-back

MARIST College's proud basketball reputation was further enhanced when they took out the ACT Under-19 Division One Grand Final, defeating the Ginninderra Rats 82-70.

It was back-to-back championships for the college after they won the 2015 title.

The college, which played a part in the development of NBA and Australian Boomers star Patty Mills, led at every change, holding off the opposition in a high intensity game.

The team comprised Jack Bartholomeusz, James Toohey, Patrick Cross, Tyrone Mohomad, Rohnan Busing, Abraham Rodriguez Junior., Nick Wagland, Joshua Brennan, Aidan Herstik, Nick Cubit and Angus Williams.

With 28 points apiece, Toohey and Bartholomeusz were considered the team's best players in the win, which saw Marist College land 17 three-pointers.

Cross and Herstik were monumental in getting the rebounds.

An elated senior coach, Grant Barclay, said there were plenty of highlights as a team.

He included "playing in front

of a large crowd" and "shooting exceptionally well" as the better parts of the day.

But ultimately his greatest moment came at the end of the game.

"Nothing beats the feeling of seeing the clock run down to zero knowing you have achieved a season-long goal," he said.

The mentor also paid tribute to the team's support structure.

"Everyone involved has represented the college with distinction," he said.

"This includes players, parents, supporters, our coaching staff and our parent manager Rebecca Bartholomeusz, who has been with the boys every season for the last six years."

He was proud of the way his team performed not only on grand final day, but throughout the season.

"It was fitting end for this group of players and this team," he said.

"The boys have worked hard to achieve their goals and while the win is great recognition, the most pleasing aspect is how they have responded to the challenges."

The team ended the season with 12 wins and four losses in a year



MCC Senior Team Back to Back U19 Division 1 ACT Championship Season. Picture: Supplied.

which threatened to be thrown off course due to injury and illness.

With six of the team members being in Year 12, the side will look vastly different next season. Barclay will go around again as coach and he is optimistic about

the new-look team.

"With different strengths to the past season, it will provide a fresh look for the opponents," he said.

"We will have a younger group and it will require people to step up and lead the team in the absence of

the six year 12s, but they have great potential across the board to go back to back again." Marist College aren't taking any short-cuts in their effort to defend the division one title. Pre-season training started with a 7am session on October 12.



Written entries are invited for the July edition to: Catholic Voice, PO Box 7174, Yarralumla, ACT 2600, or email catholic.voice@cg.org.au by February 15. Entries which are accepted are free, courtesy of sponsorship by the Catholic Development Fund.

## Archdiocesan & National Coming Events

**Sunday, December 4:** St Caecilia's Choir will hold its annual Carol Service on at 7.30 PM at St John the Evangelist Chapel, ANU. Acton, ACT. The Carol Service features Renaissance polyphony, Gregorian chant and carols for choir and congregation. Enquiries: Maria Henry on (02) 6249 6278 or emailmrhny@gmail.com.

**Saturday, December 10:** Kaleidoscope Christmas concert in support of HOME in Queanbeyan. A music hall style concert in Queanbeyan Uniting Church, Rutledge Street at 2pm. Tickets at the door. HOME in Queanbeyan provides a supportive, loving home for 19 women and men with mental illness who cannot live independently. A community project initiated by Fr Peter Day. Further information contact Viv Arnold (02) 6166 0187 or Reg Halliburton on (02) 6297 1859.

**Saturday, December 10:** AMICUS group are having their Christmas Party at

Tricia's from 7pm. Contact Tricia on (02) 6288 4070.

**Sunday, December 11:** Sacred Heart Church, Mary Help of Christians Parish, South Woden (Pearce ACT) is celebrating its 40th anniversary of consecration with 1000 Mass. Archbishop Christopher Prowse will be the main celebrant and the Mass will be followed by a catered luncheon (no cost) in the Sacred Heart Primary School hall. All foundation, past and current

parish members are invited to attend and share in our celebrations. Registration for the luncheon is essential at the Parish Office

(wodensouth@cg.org.au or 6286 1908) by December 2 2016. Historic pictures may also be loaned through the Parish Office.

**Saturday, December 31 & Sunday, January 1:** All Night Adoration Vigil from 7.30pm on the Saturday. Contact Susanna 0419 902 293.

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# NBL legend Cal helps kids take giant strides

ST FRANCIS Xavier College in conjunction with Marymead are helping migrants, refugees, indigenous and at risk students make better transitions into the mainstream Australian youth culture.

About 40 students from SFX and other neighbouring schools have taken part in a nine-week program run by former National Basketball League star Cal Bruton.

It comes in addition to the school's homework club on Monday afternoons and encourages students to "develop a passion for sport" and to "be their natural selves outside of the classroom environment".

According to the college's refugee liaison officer, Leilah Ayton, the results are speaking for themselves.

"It's amazing to see the development of many of the participants in this program which is being run in our school gymnasium each Tuesday afternoon," she said.

"Already we are seeing a number of them come out of their shells and they are growing in confidence and leadership with each session.

"For a couple of the kids it's the first time that they are really enthusiastic to be involved in a school activity; they all get a uniform and they're just so happy to be here.

"They are learning new skills,

making new friends and learning the concept of team work."

It is anticipated that the energy spent on the basketball court will also lead to improved concentration levels in the classroom.

Mrs Ayton said Cal Bruton did a "fantastic job providing opportunities to disadvantaged and vulnerable here in the ACT and in the other states and territory.

"He and Marymead heard about what we have been doing at SFX and jumped on board, which is really good for us."

A former legend with the Perth Wildcats and the Canberra Cannons in the 1990s, Mr Bruton brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to working with young people.

In sessions on the court, he places great emphasis on young people having fun.

"My motto is run, stun and have some fun," Mr Bruton said. "We like to keep it fun and real for the kids because they need a platform where they can express themselves and the sporting arena is a great way that they can do that."

Having previously been involved in professional sport, he is a big believer in expecting respect and discipline.

On the back of the academy shirts is the acronym of BRUTON



Cal Bruton gives the crew some on court instructions. Picture: John McLaurin.

which stands for B= Be Kind to others, R= Respect your elders, U= Use your manners, T= Trust in God, O= Own your mistakes and N= Never give up.

As a respected scout for up-and-comers in the game, Mr Bruton sees plenty of potential among attendees at his academy.

He notes the success stories

of AFL footballers Aliir Aliir and Majak Daw as men who have come from refugee backgrounds to become professional athletes.

The program at SFX will have run its course by mid December, but Mrs Ayton and the team are encouraging other schools to take up the initiative.

"Not all families have the means

for providing their kids with the sporting opportunities that other kids have on the weekends," she said.

For more information about the program at SFX, contact Mrs Ayton on (02) 6258 1055. To learn more about Bruton's Basketball Fundamentals Clinic go to <http://blackpearlbasketball.com.au/>

# Boorowa goes big for annual carnival

ABOUT 4000 students from 49 schools have taken part in the annual Boorowa Sports Carnival, said to be the largest primary school carnival in NSW.

Schools came from as far away as Braidwood and Goulburn for the largely social competition which was an opportunity for students to mingle in a fun filled environment with scores not recorded.

Representing the Catholic contingent, 25 Archdiocesan schools did themselves proud among 228 teams playing touch football and 157 squads playing netball.

The aim of the day is for students to enjoy participating in the games along with their friends and peers with no winners or losers.

Hosted by both St Joseph's Primary

as well as Boorowa Central School, the event went well despite some threatening weather.

St Joseph's Primary School principal Brendan Maynard said the day was a success for both organising schools.

"On behalf of the schools I would like to thank the carnival co-coordinators at each participating school for their efforts and hard work in organising their teams, their coaches, their referees and travel," he said.

He gave special mention to Boorowa Central High School, Hennessy Catholic College Young, Trinity Goulburn, John Paul College Nicholls and Merici College Braddon for taking on many extra responsibilities throughout the carnival.



Students from St Benedict's Primary Narrabundah had an enjoyable day. Picture: Paula Butt.