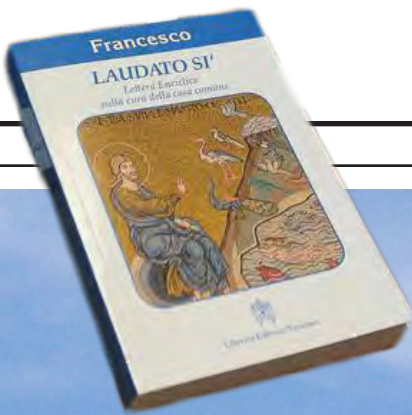


# CATHOLIC VOICE

ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN

## LAUDATO SI

Everything you need to know about Pope Francis' landmark encyclical on the environment - **Page 10-11**



FREE

No. 311 July 2015

Circulation 20,000



Marist Brothers from around Australia with Marist College's junior school captains Luuk Bannister and Harry Miller holding the new 'Brothers Way' plaque.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

*After almost half a century serving the Church in Canberra...*

# Marist Brothers say goodbye

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

CANBERRA'S Marist Brothers were given a rousing farewell on June 4 as they prepare to relocate to other communities later this month.

Br Lawrie, Br Anthony, Br Tony and Br Kevin have been posted to various locations, including Bendigo, Brisbane, North Sydney and Mount Druitt, as the community

undergoes a national reshuffle.

In farewelling the Brothers, Marist College students and staff paid tribute to the Brothers' work at the school over the past 48 years, and vowed to continue the legacy of the Marists for many years to come.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse told those gathered that the Brothers' departure is a "moment of hope".

"To have the Marist Brothers here for so long has been not only a great enrichment for education on this site but also for us in the entire Archdiocese," he said.

"They are leaving this place in good hands, because the Marist charism goes onto wonderful, dedicated lay people."

Fr Paul Nulley, who graduated from Marist in 2005, celebrated Mass for the school

community for the occasion, in honour of the feast of St Marcellin Champagnat, the founder of the Marists.

"Today is a day of mixed emotions," Fr Paul said during his homily.

"It's a day of thanksgiving to God for what the Marist Brothers have contributed over the last 48 years, but also sadness as they leave and uncertainty about what's ahead."


More than 100 Brothers have worked at Marist College since 1968, many of whom returned for the special Mass and farewell.

After the Mass, the Marist Provincial Br Jeff Crowe told the crowd the Brothers' departure would enable a new community to be established in Western Sydney.

He cited a decreasing number  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



## ARCHBISHOP CHRISTOPHER'S DIARY



- July 1st**  
10am Samaritan House (St Vincent de Paul Society) 20th anniversary celebration - Hackett
- July 2nd-5th**  
National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSIACC) National Assembly - Darwin, NT
- July 12th**  
11am Multicultural Mass - St Christopher's Cathedral
- July 13th-17th**  
International Federation of Catholic Universities 25th General Assembly - Melbourne
- July 19th**  
10am Confirmation Mass - St Mary's Parish West Wyalong
- July 22nd**  
7.30pm Women's Commission talk: 'Women and family in the Middle East' - Rheinberger Centre, Yarralumla
- July 26th-31st**  
International Youth Conference: 'Power 2015' - India

### July Feast Days

- 3 July St Thomas
- 4 July St Elizabeth of Portugal
- 6 July St Maria Goretti
- 7 July Bl Peter To Rot
- 9 July St Augustine Zhao Rong and companions
- 11 July St Benedict
- 13 July St Henry
- 14 July St Camillus de Lellis
- 15 July St Bonaventure
- 16 July Our Lady of Mount Carmel
- 20 July St Apollinaris
- 21 July St Lawrence of Brindisi
- 22 July St Mary Magdalene
- 23 July St Bridget
- 24 July St Sharbel Makhluf
- 25 July St James
- 27 May St Augustine of Canterbury
- 29 July St Martha
- 30 July St Peter Chrysologus
- 31 July St Ignatius of Loyola

# The trouble with the expression 'everyone is the same'



**ARCHBISHOP'S MESSAGE**  
ARCHBISHOP CHRISTOPHER PROWSE

DEAR People of God in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn.

Sometimes a person's greatest gift can be their greatest weakness as well. For example, generous persons can be so generous with their time and talents that they become really tired and empty inside.

This happens with societies too.

For example, Australians like to think of themselves as a very egalitarian society.

Australians generally consider all people as fundamentally equal and the same. This is a great national characteristic. This is expressed politically, for example, in the way we organise universal health benefits, pensions, unemployment benefits and so on. The dignity of each person is to be respected and protected, especially the weakest. The nation's commitment to the common good is preserved.

But there is a weakness here too.


When certain communities within a nation insist on a point of view to be adopted by all by using the expression "everyone is the same" we need to be careful. If accepted without proper scrutiny this mantra can sap the nation's diversity and its deep appreciation of difference as something positive. Ultimately, a nation can become very individualistic and factional. Unity becomes hard to preserve. The truth is: not everyone is the same.

Respect for difference breeds unity. To do otherwise breeds uniformity.

One present day controversial example comes to mind.

In the current 'same-sex marriage' debate the slogan word is "equality". The message is: all relationships are "the same". To think otherwise is deemed to be discrimination. Difference is seen as a threat. The call is to change the Marriage Act of 1961 to accommodate this "sameness".

But as the Australian Bishops document, *Don't Mess with Marriage*, proposes to all Australians: "We must treat like



**Don't Mess With Marriage**

**A Pastoral Letter from the Catholic Bishops of Australia to all Australians on the 'Same-sex Marriage' Debate**

The Australian Catholic Bishops' pastoral letter on marriage explains the Church's teaching on marriage and the consequences of redefining it. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

cases alike and different cases differently. Only women are admitted to women's hospitals and only children to primary schools... Thus privileging or assisting particular people in relevant ways is not arbitrary but an entirely fair response. And if the union of a man and a woman is different from other unions – not the same as other unions – then justice demands that we treat the union accordingly."

The traditional view of marriage is defined as between a man and a woman in a commitment of love and open to

## Greater respect and renewed awareness of marriage between a man and woman is needed today.

the possibility of children. And indeed, "what allows for this special kind of union between a man and a woman in marriage is precisely their difference and complementarity".

It is gravely unjust, therefore, "to legitimise the false assertion that there is nothing distinctive about a man and a woman, a father or a mother".

Perhaps a simple image may help our reflections.

I recall years ago reading an article on multicultural societies, like Australia.

The author stressed the importance of viewing a society not as a minestrone soup but as a salad!

In a minestrone soup different vegetables and other ingredients are placed in a big hot pot and stirred around until all seems to be the same with no differences apparent. However, in a salad all the vegetables are placed on a common dish but each piece is different from the next. The lettuce is not the tomato and the carrot is not the beetroot! Yet they all form a marvellous and healthy dish.

So in regard to primal rela-

tionships in a society: we are all together sharing in the common wealth of our one nation, but there is respect and awareness of diversity.

Greater respect and renewed awareness of marriage between a man and woman is needed today. Complementarity and generation are key terms.

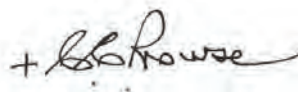
One of the greatest gifts that humanity has produced over the millennia has been what we now call traditional marriage. It is not simply an emotional bond. Rather "it involves a substantial

bodily and spiritual union of a man and a woman". It is open to children as the fruit of this union (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1601).

At our March Assembly I quoted the thoughts on this matter by the former Chief Rabbi of the United Kingdom, Lord Jonathan Sacks. I do so again:

"But our compassion for those who choose to live differently should not inhibit us from being advocates for the single most humanising institution in history. The family, man, woman and child, is not one lifestyle choice among many. It is the best means we have yet discovered for nurturing future generations and enabling children to grow in a matrix of stability and love... for the sake of our children's future, we must be its defenders."

May I recommend we all carefully read the Bishops' statement ([www.catholic.org.au](http://www.catholic.org.au)). You may wish to consider writing to your local Federal politician expressing your views. May the Holy Family of Nazareth bless us always.



Archbishop Christopher Prowse  
Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn



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ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN

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DEADLINE: Editorial and advertising 15th of the month before publication.

Catholic Voice is published by the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn and printed by Capital Fine Print, Fyshwick. It is a member of the Australasian Catholic Press Association and the Australasian Religious Press Association.

Every month 20,000 copies are distributed.

Print Post Publication No. I00008082.



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# Demolition over, building begins

**BUILDING** on the site of the Manuka precinct has commenced, with a 'sod turning' ceremony on June 26 marking the milestone in the project.

During the previous six weeks, the Haydon Centre, the former CatholicCare building and the old presbytery were demolished, clearing the site for construction.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse said the ceremony was a chance to pray for God's blessing upon the project.

"We pray that all the workers on the site in the times ahead are protected from all harm," he said. "I pray too that they would see working on a project so close to our Cathedral as a blessing for them and their families."

"At the same time, I pray that the whole Archdiocese might reflect more on the significance of these buildings that will be so important to the mature governance and planning for evangelisation of the Archdiocese for many years to come."

The project is expected to be completed by April 2017.



Archbishop Christopher Prowse is joined by Rodney Moss from Cox Architecture, David Colbertaldo from Hindmarsh, Archdiocesan financial administrator Helen Delahunty and Mgr John Woods to turn the sod at the Manuka precinct site. PHOTO: LOUI SESELJA

# Archdiocese welcomes three new priests

**CLERGY** numbers in the Archdiocese have been strengthened with the arrival of four new priests in the past month.

Fr Praveen Paul and Fr Varghese Assin from India, Fr Lolesio Gisa from Samoa arrived in May and Fr Luis Viovicente CS from Adelaide arrived in June.

In a further boost, three more priests from Africa will arrive in Canberra in the coming weeks to serve the Archdiocese.

Fr Praveen and Fr Assin, who have never been to Australia before, told Catholic Voice they were excited to begin ministering in the Archdiocese.

"It's totally different here from the Indian system and culture," Fr Assin said. "It's new, and it's foreign for us. But I feel good here."

"For me, the challenge is to cross the language barrier, but we feel that the people here are very receptive and hospitable, and we don't feel like strangers, we feel at home in a certain way because everyone is so welcoming."

To help the new priests settle into Australian culture, they will take part in a multi-faceted inculturation program, after which they will be appointed to parishes.

In addition to parish duties, Fr Praveen and Fr Assin will



also assist with the pastoral activities of the Syro-Malabar community in Canberra.

Fr Praveen, a cricket enthusiast, admitted his knowledge of Australia was limited to representatives of the national cricket team.

"I am familiar with the Australian players," he said. "That team is very strong and they always defeat the Indian team."

He added that from what he has observed of Australian society, it has some similarities to society in India.

"In India, there is a unity in diversity, and likewise in Australia there is also many

multicultural people," he said. "So there is a lot of diversity, but this diversity creates the unity."

Fr Gisa will take up the role of chaplain to the Archdiocese's Samoan community, replacing Fr Pale Leafu Leota.

The former rugby union player said it was a "privilege" to take up a posting in Australia, although he admitted Canberra's cold weather was quite a change from Samoa's warm climate.

"My first week here I didn't want to get out of bed it was so cold. But it's been four weeks now and I'm getting used to it," he said.



Left, new priests Fr Varghese Assin, left, and Fr Praveen Paul, right. Above, new Samoan chaplain Fr Lolesio Gisa. PHOTOS: MATTHEW BIDDLE

Archbishop Christopher Prowse said the new priests will help address the "serious need" for more clergy in the Archdiocese.

"They will bring a real international presence among our priest numbers, witnessing to the increasingly multicultural profile of the Archdiocese," he said. "In the past we had many priests, for example, from Ireland. In the future priests will come from many countries."

The new priests are on a contractual arrangement with their own Bishops or Provincials and the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn for several years.

# College vows to remain true to the Marist spirit

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 of active Brothers, the viability of the community, and the desire to begin something new as reasons for the change.

"The Brothers community will soon withdraw, but the Marist community here will continue, of that I am sure," Br Jeff said.

"My hope is that you will have a sense of how your lives in the community here will always remain connected to Marists throughout Australia and throughout the world."

As a symbol of this connection, Br Jeff presented the school with a relic of the bones of St Marcellin.

"On behalf of all the Marist Brothers of Australia past and present, I want to thank our colleagues on the staff and the people who have shared our mission here in Canberra," Br Jeff said.

"Our thanks also to the people of the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn... and all the clergy, religious and parishioners across the city."

Canberra's Marist community leader Br Lawrie Cane said it was tough to leave the pleasant city of Canberra and the familiar, caring community at Marist.

"I know that Marist is a better college today than it has ever been, and that is due in no small part to inspired leadership and strong support from the Marist lay people," he said.

"Leaving all this is tough... it's a poignant moment. It's the end of an era for all of us. But it's time."

"Not that it is easy, but it is made easier knowing that Marist College remains in strong, lay Marist hands."

The occasion concluded with Marist principal Richard Sidorko and leaders from each student house paying tribute to the Brothers and committing themselves to keeping the Marist spirit alive in the future.

"We know we are now charged with making sure the Marist ethos continues to be our soul and heartbeat," Mr Sidorko said.

"We who have benefitted from the work and example of the Brothers now take on the responsibility of living out St Marcellin's vision here in Canberra into the future."

"I am certain the good work begun in 1968 which continues today will continue into the future and Marist will flourish by staying Marist."



# An exhibition of Eucharistic love

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

A NEW initiative aimed at promoting Eucharistic devotion through an exhibition of artworks is making its way around parishes in Canberra.

Organised by Jesus Youth Canberra, the 'Agape Fiesta' was held at St Benedict's Church in Narrabundah earlier this year, and the group's organisers are hoping to take the exhibition to as many parishes as possible.

"We have a great dream to take this exhibition to the various parishes, schools and colleges in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn," Jesus Youth leader Roby Joshua said.

"The whole exhibition will be in matters and messages related to the Holy Eucharist. The exhibits and the related messages will be reflecting the meaning of the Holy Eucharist, the love of God, a sacrifice of thanksgiving, a means of worship, and an act of reuniting with God."

The exhibition was developed by Jesus Youth in Sydney, and consists of six stalls that visitors can pass through – the Last Supper, the Passion, Reconciliation, the Holy Eucharist, Eucharistic miracles and a self-evaluation stall. Each stall is made up of various artworks, symbols and objects.

Mr Joshua said he was encouraged by the positive feedback to the exhibition at St Benedict's, which attracted about 150 visitors.

"We had a wonderful response from it," he said.

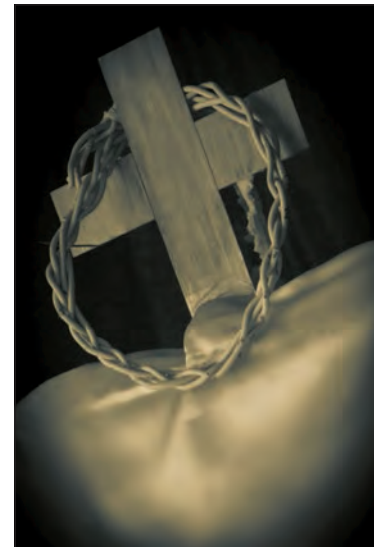
"We are looking forward to doing it in other parishes around Woden and Gungahlin in the coming months."

While the exhibition is open to all, Mr Joshua said it is aimed particularly at young people.

"When we take this exhibition to these places we would love to reach out to the young-



Above and below, some of the artworks and exhibits that form part of the 'Agape Fiesta' exhibition. Organisers hope to take the exhibition to as many parishes in the Archdiocese as possible. PHOTOS: SUPPLIED



sters there and tell them how much Jesus loves them," he said.

"Our second aim is to pro-

**"We have a great dream to take this exhibition to the various parishes, schools and colleges in the Archdiocese."**

vide a platform of evangelisation for youngsters."

Jesus Youth is a Catholic youth movement with a charis-

matic spirituality. It was formed in Kerala, India, in 1985 and has since spread to numerous countries.

The first Jesus Youth meeting in Australia was held in 2004 in Dandenong, Victoria. The following years witnessed

the establishment of Jesus Youth groups in Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth, Darwin and Canberra, and eventually a national movement.

*Jesus Youth Canberra hosts prayer meetings every Tuesday at St Benedict's, Narrabundah and every Thursday at St Peter and Paul's, Garran. They also host a regular teens gathering at St Peter Chanel's, Yarralumla every first Friday of the month.*

## LOCAL NEWS

### Archbishop to lead Galong retreat

PLACES at this year's Archdiocesan retreat are fast running out as registrations for the event reach their limit. With Archbishop Christopher Prowse leading the September 11-13 retreat at St Clement's Monastery in Galong, organisers say the level of interest has been overwhelming. "It is quiet exciting watching the emails and phone calls roll in," Deacon Matt Ransom said. "There's more interest this year because last year's retreat was so good, and because the Archbishop is leading it, and he is greatly loved across the Archdiocese. It's a great chance to get away from a busy life, in a beautiful, quiet environment where they can hear Jesus speaking to them, be inspired by our wise Archbishop and be led by gifted spiritual directors." The retreat, titled 'Encountering Jesus in our busy lives' includes several talks and an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Archdiocesan faith formation and spirituality coordinator Shane Dwyer and L'Arche International vice-leader Eileen Glass will provide spiritual direction during the retreat. For more details about the retreat or to register, contact Sandy Cassidy on (02) 6163 4300 or [info@catholiclife.org.au](mailto:info@catholiclife.org.au).

### Narooma prays for priests, the world

FOR 27 years the prayer meeting of Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish in Narooma has been held every Friday at the parish meeting room. The meetings begin with prayers for the Pope, the Archbishop, all Bishops and priests, the newly ordained and all deacons and seminarians. The group also prays for the youth, for the Church persecuted, for families, and for the souls in Purgatory. Members of the prayer group regularly host special celebrations that contribute to the spiritual and community life of the parish. Several religious communities throughout the world pray for the intentions in the intentions book daily. Masses are also offered regularly for the intentions, and prayers are said for the intentions at a number of shrines throughout the world and at the tombs of several saints. If people wish to request prayers for special needs we are always happy to include them in the book. The meeting begins on Friday at 1.30pm. Visitors and parishioners are most welcome. Contact: (02) 4476 7674.

# Corpus Christi celebrates 10 years



Corpus Christi parishioners walk from Calwell to Gowrie.

PHOTO: TOM BREWER

CORPUS Christi Parish celebrated its 10th anniversary on June 7 with a pilgrimage from Sacred Heart Church in Calwell to Holy Family Church in Gowrie – the two parishes that were combined in 2005.

About 50 people braved the -4 temperature for the 4.5km walk, which was followed by a special 9.30am Mass to celebrate the occasion.

To mark the milestone, the parish has published a 28-page

glossy magazine chronicling the parish's history.

Collated, edited and designed by parishioners, the magazine details some of the major events in the parish since 2005, and examines the various groups and activities that have developed in the parish community.

Corpus Christi Parish was established on July 1, 2005, and is the largest in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn.



# Leaders brave the cold for a good cause

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

ALMOST 100 Canberra business leaders braved 2 degree temperatures during the annual Vinnies CEO Sleepout on June 18, held at the Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA) grounds.

Among the participants were four Catholic leaders from the Archdiocese – financial administrator Helen Delahunty, CatholicCare CEO Anne Kirwan, Catholic Social Services Australia CEO Marcelle Mogg and John Paul II College principal Catherine Rey.

Between them, the quartet raised more than \$23,000 to directly assist people experiencing homelessness. More than \$325,000 has been raised in the ACT, and almost \$6 million nationwide from this year's Sleepout.

Ms Delahunty said the event was a "humbling" experience.

"I know how lucky I am. I can just get up and go home and have a nice shower and a cup of coffee," she said.

"To do one night is OK, but to continuously sleep out must be unbelievably tough and horrendous.

"I'll never walk past a homeless person again, I don't think. I'll take them a coffee, I'll do something, because I actually know now this is terrible. Doing this has almost been a revelation really."

For Ms Mogg, the Sleepout provided a small glimpse into the lives of those who are homeless.



From left to right, Helen Delahunty, Catherine Rey, Marcelle Mogg and Anne Kirwan braved the elements for the Vinnies CEO Sleepout on June 18.

PHOTO: LOUI SESELJA

"Life for people who are actually homeless can only be imagined," she said. "I just can't grasp the feeling of what it must be like to live with such uncertainty about your own safety, future, let alone what it must be like for families surviving homelessness."

She said she would "definitely" be returning for next year's Sleepout.

"And I look forward to

Helen and Anne doing it again with me," Ms Mogg said.

Ms Kirwan, whose work involves accommodating homeless youth and adults, said homelessness was an issue of great concern in Canberra.

"We are well aware of the difficulty homeless people face in finding safe, secure accommodation," she said. "There just aren't enough places in the ACT for people to go.

"We are seeing more and more people sleeping rough and we are seeing them sleeping outside offices and shopping complexes across Canberra."

Students at John Paul II College took part in their own sleepout on the same night, with about 120 students - more than one third of the school - participating.

The school raised more than

\$6,500, and Ms Rey said the students' enthusiasm was inspiring.

"Last year we took part in the sleepout for the first time, with 50 students stepping up to the challenge," she said. "This year we have more than double the participants, and are on target to triple the funds raised."

To donate or to pre-register for next year's CEO Sleepout, visit [www.ceosleepout.org.au](http://www.ceosleepout.org.au).

# After falling away, Gerald's faith returns

WHEN his faith in God was put to the test several years ago, Gerald Scerri says it failed miserably.

Despite coming from a devout Catholic family who attended Mass everyday, Gerald's belief in God was shaken to the core when his grandmother passed away when he was 10 years old.

"She was a very warm, generous and loving woman," he recalls. "We went to collect her body from the morgue, and on entering this cold room full of corpses and a foul smell, I was shaken to the foundations to see my dear grandmother in this awful environment. This led me to a serious crisis of identity, questioning the existence of an afterlife and of God."

Struggling to comprehend the loss, Gerald says he gradually moved away and out of the Church, and began to alienate



Gerald Scerri, centre, beside his son Samuel and daughter-in-law Maria.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

himself with worldly pleasures.

"It was at these lowest moments of mine that the

Neocatechumenal Way found me," Gerald says. "Instead of avoiding my uncomfortable sit-

uation, I was actually helped to enter even deeper into my story, enlightening it with the

word of God and deriving strength to handle it through the Sacraments. The same stone that was crushing me actually became the cornerstone of my life and my hope."

Now married for 30 years and with 10 children, Gerald believes he has found his unique place in the Church.

"Today, for me, faith is a journey that starts anew from scratch everyday," he says. "My humanity continually tends to be weak and the grace of God tends to grow stronger as I grow weaker. It is a continuous creation of God of which I am an active spectator of his wonders."

The Neocatechumenal Way will meet every Monday and Thursday commencing on July 6 at 7.30pm at St Jude and St John Vianney Parish, Weston Creek. For more information contact Paul on 0415 037 142 or Tania on (02) 6288 9868.





Archbishop Christopher Prowse and Polish Ambassador Pawel Milewski share a laugh at the launch of the Archdiocesan World Youth Day Pilgrimage.

PHOTO: LOUI SESELJA

## Youth forum provides a map for the years ahead

THE Archdiocese's 'Young Faith, Our Future' youth forum on June 12 and 13 provided organisers with a vast array of information that will be used to determine the direction of youth ministry over the next three years.

About 80 people took part in the forum from all over the Archdiocese, including a number of priests and religious.

During the forum, Archdiocesan youth and young adults coordinator Stuart West said there were several main reasons for holding the event, including building community and identifying the needs of youth ministry.

"A significant number [of youth] are falling away from the Church, and this is what we want to look at, why is this happening?" he said.

Mr West also revealed that the survey completed by youth leaders, clergy and laity in the Archdiocese identified several important goals for youth ministry.

These included for young people to belong, to participate and to serve; for better faith formation; for youth support in the parish, and that the youth are welcomed, integrated and involved in parishes.

The data showed that almost 80 per cent of priests in the Archdiocese have experience participating in or leading youth or young adult ministry, and that for most priests, youth ministry is a high priority.

"There's a wealth of experience there from our priests. We need to take the initiative to involve them and invite them into our youth groups," Mr West said.

"We asked the priests what is their vision, their ideal future for our young people in the way that they exist in our parishes and our Church.

"It was that the youth are not a separate segment of the whole parish, but we need to help them to recognise that they belong."

Five workshops were held as part of the forum, with discussions around the goals of youth ministry, family, education, the parish, and how to bring it all together.

The Archdiocesan youth team will now examine the information gathered from the workshops, using it to determine the way it conducts youth ministry in the coming years.

## Join me at WYD, Archbishop urges

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

"I WANT you to join me."

That was the message Archbishop Christopher Prowse had for youth at the official launch of the Archdiocese's World Youth Day (WYD) 2016 pilgrimage on June 13.

Speaking in front of about 100 potential pilgrims, the Archbishop encouraged individuals to do everything they could to enable them to attend WYD in Krakow, Poland.

"Start fundraising now. You'll be surprised how many people will be happy to help you out," he said. "Say, 'Lord Jesus if you want me to go to World Youth Day in Krakow, provide the means'. Just give that to God and see what happens. I want you to be with us."

The cost of the 21-day pilgrimage will be about \$7,000, although that figure could change depending on the numbers who take part.

"Jesus is great at moving money around, and he might want to move money in your direction," the Archbishop said, encouraging those interested not to be put off by the cost involved.

He added that being a Catholic in the world today

required one to "go against the tide", and attending WYD was a great chance to do that.

"If you just want to be like everybody else, stay home and watch the television," he said.

"But if you want to come on a different journey, against the current, then join me next year.

Nulley spoke to the crowd about his experience travelling to two WYDs as a pilgrim, Sydney in 2008 and Madrid in 2011.

"What really stands out for me is how the Church came together as a family. It was something I wasn't quite

stays with you throughout your life."

Polish Ambassador Pawel Milewski said he felt "very jealous" of the pilgrims going to Poland next year.

"You will visit a beautiful, Christian country," he said. "I'm quite sure that you will experience it in a very positive way, to discover Poland, to experience the history and culture, but also the spiritual life of the Poles."

Archdiocesan youth and young adults coordinator Stuart West outlined the pilgrimage itinerary, which includes visits to Warsaw, Neipokalanow, Czestochowa, Auschwitz and Wadowice.

"Our pilgrimage is in the footsteps of St John Paul II, so we'll journey through Poland visiting some of the holy sites from his life," he said.

There will also be a post-WYD retreat in Vienna for three days.

"That's really an opportunity for us to consolidate what we've experienced, to sit down and to take that time to process it and make sure that what we've experienced doesn't just become some journey we went on, but is actually a life-changing experience for us," Mr West said.



About 100 people attended the June 13 event.

PHOTO: LOUI SESELJA

And not only next year, join me now.

"I can assure you it will be a great change, and it will really help you personally. It will help you understand what God wants you to do with the rest of your life."

Assistant parish priest at St Mary's in Young Fr Paul

expecting," he said.

"There's a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit, plenty of joy and peace, and wonderful gifts and graces given.

"So if you do have any opportunity of going, I would certainly encourage you to, because it will be transforming and it will be something that



# Prime Minister: Australia indebted to faith

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

AUSTRALIAN civilisation and culture would not be what it is without the influence of faith, Prime Minister Tony Abbott told religious and political leaders gathered at the inaugural Interfaith Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast on June 17.

"There is that marvelous phrase in the Gospels to love your neighbour as you love yourself," the Prime Minister said.

"This phrase, this concept, because it exists in one way or another in all faiths, is the engine of all moral progress."

Organised by the Australian Catholic University (ACU) and held at Old Parliament House, the event attracted leaders from 31 different faith groups and numerous Federal Senators and Members of the House of Representatives.

Mr Abbott thanked the faith leaders for the work they do for the common good, and commended ACU for organising the event.

He recalled the well-known prayer, 'Footprints', which describes how God accompanies individuals on their journey through life, even during the most difficult times.

"Faith matters, and these days it is more important than ever that we have faith," Mr Abbott said.

"Faith doesn't make us good but, by God, it makes us better. [It] reminds us that there is something more than the here and now to which we must aspire, that there is a judge



Above, Prime Minister Tony Abbott addresses those at the ACU Interfaith Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast on June 17. Below, the Prime Minister speaks to Fr Tony Percy and Fr John Armstrong.

PHOTOS: LOUI SESELJA

over us who is greater than those who are sitting in judgment of us today."

Leader of the Opposition Bill Shorten also addressed the crowd, describing the occasion as a "celebration of the unity of multicultural Australia".

"Like many of us in public life, like indeed most Australians, I'm a bit shy about talking about my own faith," he said. "It is though, a large part of who I am. It always will be... for me faith will always be a personal guide, a keeper of my conscience."

"In a free society we may choose to define ourselves by our faith, but we must never seek to define or exclude oth-



ers because of their faith. Let this be the great shared goal that we choose today."

Seven of the faith leaders

present read prayers based upon their religious traditions, including Archbishop Christopher Prowse, who used

a prayer written by Pope St Clement of Rome from the first century.

He also prayed that Australia's political leaders would be given "all the wisdom, prudence and peace that they need in the present challenges in our national and global situations," and that "the transcendent values of religion might always be respected by our politicians".

Dr Stepan Kerkyasharian, the president of the Anti-Discrimination Board of NSW, delivered the main address, urging members of various faiths to work together.

"My plea to you here today, representing many faiths, is to seek to know, understand and accept our differences, because those differences are the essential elements of our religious traditions," he said.

"They will not change, so let us accept that and let us get on with it."

ACU Vice-Chancellor Greg Craven said he was delighted with the number of parliamentary representatives and faith leaders in attendance at the breakfast.

"The role of faith in the public square is often brought into question, but it's enormously important and brings great richness into public discussion and life in Australia," he said.

"We hope that this interfaith parliamentary breakfast is going to be a continuing part of the scene for Australia, of bringing people of different faiths together in amity and love."

## Cathedral parishioner, Vinnies CEO recognised

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

SAINT Christopher's Cathedral parishioner Stephen Brown and St Vincent de Paul Society CEO John Falzon have been awarded the medal of the Order of Australia.

The two Canberrans were among 519 Australians recognised in the 2015 Queen's Birthday Honours List, announced on June 8.

Mr Brown has been part of the Cathedral parish since 1945, and has been a member of the parish's St Vincent de Paul Society conference for almost 50 years.

He told *Catholic Voice* he was humbled to receive the medal. "I've always felt that the work is very much its own reward, but it is very pleasant to be recognised in this way," he said.

The Cathedral parish is like an extended family to him, Mr Brown added.

"I was two years old when we came to Canberra in 1945 and apart from three years in America in the 1950s, I've always lived in the parish, so it is part of the fabric of my life,"

**"I've always felt that the work is very much its own reward."**

he explained.

In a similar way, the St Vincent de Paul Society has grown to be an important, and rewarding, part of his life.

"You get breakthroughs from time to time," he said. "Somebody who has been settled on Centrelink benefits for

a long time suddenly gets a job or starts a training course and life is changed for the better for them. It's very satisfying and rewarding when you see that sort of thing happen."

For Mr Brown, volunteering his time and service to the Society is a way for him to live out his faith, and to continue the legacy of his parents, who were both strongly committed to community service.

Those who have worked alongside him over the years have also been a source of great encouragement.

"The highlight during my years with the St Vincent de Paul Society has been the fellowship of the other conference members and the great inspiration that they provided," he said.

While he has no plans of ceasing his work with the



Stephen Brown and Dr John Falzon will be invested with the Order of Australia medals later this year.

PHOTO: ONLINE

Society in the near future, Mr Brown says he would like to see more young people getting involved.

"We need new members," he said. "The Society is ageing

and young people are not getting involved in the way that they once did."

The recipients of the medal of the Order of Australia will be invested later in the year.



# One of Merici's finest teachers

BY LORETTA WHOLLEY

IT WAS with great sadness that our Merici College community farewelled a dear friend and teacher, Mark Wagland, who lost his battle with prostate cancer on June 4. A prayerful reflection was offered the following day where the current school community came together with ex-students and ex-staff to celebrate the life of our beloved teacher. Mr Wagland's funeral was held at St Raphael's Church in Queanbeyan on June 10 where more than 1,000 people paid their respects to such a dedicated teacher. We would like to thank the students, well over 300, current and past, who symbolically displayed their admiration for Mr Wagland by forming a guard of honour at the conclusion of the Mass.

Mr Wagland began teaching at Merici in 1998. Prior to this he gained a world of knowledge working at the National Archives. Initially teaching English, he quickly gravitated to his main areas of passion, history and religious education. Mr Wagland showed such care and compassion for every student, he went above and beyond to ensure they all had a



Mark Wagland was a teacher at Merici College for 17 years.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

chance to experience success. Learning was his great passion and he will be remembered as a man of great charm. Mr

Wagland was an exceptional pastoral care teacher and was exemplary in providing sincere care and guidance to all.

While at Merici, Mr Wagland was, for a time, the assistant coordinator of global studies. He helped to establish the writers' group, coach the College hockey team, the chess club and the quidditch team! He embraced the school spirit on every occasion and impressed all with his theatrics at events.

Outside of school he was active in St Gregory's Parish where he gave generously of his time and talents. He passionately organised the Merici contingent at the Queanbeyan ANZAC Day march each year. Mr Wagland was an author and had works published in anthologies and magazines. He had a passion for sport, particularly cricket and AFL (Collingwood). He leaves behind his wife Christine and three outstanding sons, David, James and Nicholas.

Merici will indeed miss Mr Wagland as part of our community.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

\* Loretta Wholley is principal of Merici College.

# Respected, admired, loved by all

BY MICHAEL LEE

ST MARY MacKillop College teacher Jodie Higgins entered into eternal life on June 17.

Jodie had been a member of the teaching staff at the school for about 13 years, most recently as head of physical education on the Isabella Plains campus.

Earlier in June Jodie sustained a thrombosis on the lung and became unconscious. She was placed on life support and died in the company of her loving husband, children and family.

Jodie Higgins was a respected and admired teacher who brought to her colleagues and students professionalism, dedication, a deep concern for high achievement and for the well-being and progress of all in her

care. She exhibited the best that the teaching profession can be.

Our sense of loss and grief will not impede our desire and capacity to stand with her husband Michael and her children, Curtis, 5, and Zoe, 2. The College will support her family and friends in prayerfulness and practical ways in the hope that their grief might be a little lessened knowing that it is widely shared.

This is a sad and difficult time for this community. Everything will be done to ensure that our grief is dignified and that our support for Michael, Curtis and Zoe, and Jodie's circle of family and friends is unconditional and complete.

\* Michael Lee is principal of St Mary MacKillop College.



Jodie Higgins passed away on June 17, aged 35.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

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# Thousands rally in Rome in support of marriage

BY EDWARD PENTIN

ROME - A far greater crowd than expected descended on the piazza outside the “Mother of All Churches” in Rome on June 20 to take part in a protest against same-sex rights legislation currently passing through the Italian Parliament and the indoctrination of gender ideology in schools.

“We are a million,” organisers said from the stage, according to the Italian daily newspaper *Corriere della Sera*. The throng, many of them families, came to the piazza of St John Lateran to take part in ‘Family Day’. Its aim was to support a child’s right to a mother and father and to assert that they should not be taught sex education from infancy nor “gender ideology”. The piazza has a capacity of 300,000, but it easily exceeded that, according to organisers.

Gender ideology enforces the secular idea that sexual orientation is the main criterion of human identity, critics contend. Its opponents, such as German Catholic author Gabriele Kuby, characterise it as a totalitarian attack on human dignity, devel-



A couple hold-up a T-shirt with different family styles, during a rally in Rome's St John Square on June 20, during a demonstration against gay unions and the teaching of gender theories in schools. PHOTO:AFP / TIZIANA FABI

oping under the cloak of sexual freedom, that will destroy the family.

The high turnout was seen as a major achievement, given

that the event was organised in under three weeks and had only tacit support from the Italian Bishops’ Conference.

“It’s fantastic,” Giovanni

Zenone, a father of six from northern Italy, told the Register. “Finally, people have gathered to fight this terrible ideology.”

The aim of the demonstration, organised by a coalition of pro-life and pro-family groups, was to “reaffirm the right of a mum and dad to educate their children and stop the ideological colonisation of gender theory in schools and in parliament.”

After the recent referendum to allow same-sex ‘marriage’ in Ireland, Italy is feeling the pressure to legislate on these issues.

Orthodox, Muslim and Sikh leaders addressed the gathering, while Rabbi Riccardo Di Segni, the Chief Rabbi of Rome, and Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, president of the Pontifical Council for the Family, both sent messages of support.

“A big resistance is gathering,” said Alessandra Graziano, who was attending the protest along with her husband and son. “In parishes, we have many families who are very worried about this, because in schools nowadays teachers are obliged to teach this, but the Catechism is abolished.”

\* Reprinted with permission from the *National Catholic Register* ([www.ncregister.com](http://www.ncregister.com)).

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# An encyclical like no other

Laudato Si *explains how human dignity and respect for creation and intimately linked, writes Elise Harris...*

## Laudato Si in 60 seconds

Ten important snippets from the encyclical

“Humanity is called to recognise the need for changes of lifestyle, production and consumption, in order to combat this warming or at least the human causes which produce or aggravate it,” (p. 23).

“Because of us, thousands of species will no longer give glory to God by their very existence, nor convey their message to us. We have no such right,” (p. 33).

“We were not meant to be inundated by cement, asphalt, glass and metal, and deprived of physical contact with nature,” (p. 44).



“The pace of consumption, waste and environmental change has so stretched the planet’s capacity that our contemporary lifestyle, unsustainable as it is, can only precipitate catastrophes, such as those which even now periodically occur in different areas of the world. The effects of the present imbalance can only be reduced by our decisive action, here and now,” (p. 161).

“The universe unfolds in God, who fills it completely. Hence, there is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop, in a poor person’s face,” (p. 233).

bat environmental degradation unless we attend to causes related to human and social degradation,” (p. 48).

“We have to realise that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor,” (p. 49).

“The entire material universe speaks of God’s love, his boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God,” (p. 84).

“Nobody is suggesting a return to the Stone Age, but we do need to slow down and look at reality in a different way, to appropriate the positive and sustainable progress which has been made, but also to recover the values and the great goals swept away by our unrestrained delusions of grandeur,” (p. 114).

“The pace of consumption, waste and environmental change has so stretched the planet’s capacity that our contemporary lifestyle, unsustainable as it is, can only precipitate catastrophes, such as those which even now periodically occur in different areas of the world. The effects of the present imbalance can only be reduced by our decisive action, here and now,” (p. 161).

“The universe unfolds in God, who fills it completely. Hence, there is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop, in a poor person’s face,” (p. 233).

IN HIS new encyclical on the environment, Pope Francis slams attacks against human life such as abortion, embryonic experimentation and population control – saying that respect for creation and human dignity go hand in hand.

The Pope explained that “a sense of deep communion with the rest of nature cannot be real if our hearts lack tenderness, compassion and concern for our fellow human beings”.

“At times we see an obsession with denying any pre-eminence to the human person; more zeal is shown in protecting other species than in defending the dignity which all human beings share in equal measure,” he said.

The Pope’s encyclical *Laudato Si*, meaning “Praise be to You,” was published on June 18. Its name is taken from St Francis of Assisi’s medieval Italian prayer “Canticle of the Sun”, which praises God through elements of creation like Brother Sun, Sister Moon, and “our sister Mother Earth”.

In early 2014, the Vatican announced the Pope’s plans to write on the theme of “human ecology” – a phrase that was previously used by retired Pontiff Benedict XVI.

While the 184-page encyclical wades into controversial topics such as climate change, it also aggressively argues that it is not possible to effectively care for the environment without first working to defend human life.

It is “clearly inconsistent” to combat the trafficking of endangered species while remaining indifferent toward the trafficking



The beauty of the natural world reflects God’s love for us, Pope Francis says in his encyclical, *Laudato Si*. As such, it’s important that we respect and care for our environment, while not forgetting to defend the dignity of our fellow human beings.

PHOTO: LOUI SESELJA

of persons, to the poor and to the decision of many “to destroy another human being deemed unwanted”, the Pope stated.

To have this attitude, he said, “compromises the very meaning of our struggle for the sake of the environment”.

Pope Francis also highlighted that concern for the protection of nature is “incompatible with the justification of abortion”.

“How can we genuinely teach the importance of concern for other vulnerable beings, however troublesome or inconvenient

they may be, if we fail to protect a human embryo, even when its presence is uncomfortable and creates difficulties?” he asked.

Once the ability to welcome a new life is lost on the part of individuals and society, other forms of acceptance also

“wither away”, he said, warning against a “culture of relativism” that sees an absence of any objective truth outside of our own immediate wants and needs.

The Pope also addressed the highly-debated topic of population control, a proposed

solution to problems stemming from poverty and maintaining a sustainable consumption of the earth’s resources.

“Instead of resolving the problems of the poor and thinking of how the world can be different, some can only propose a reduction in the birth rate,” Pope Francis lamented.

He denounced the fact that developing countries often receive pressure from international organisations who make economic assistance “contingent on certain policies of ‘reproductive health’”.

Even though an unequal distribution of population and available resources presents obstacles to development and environmental sustainability, “it must nonetheless be recognised that demographic growth is fully compatible with an integral and shared development”, he stressed.

To blame a growing population for these problems rather than the “extreme and selective consumerism on the part of some, is one way of refusing to face the issues”.

Such scapegoating “is an attempt to legitimise the present model of distribution, where a minority believes that it has the right to consume in a way which can never be universalised, since the planet could not even contain the waste products of such consumption”, the Pope said, calling for an end to food waste.

He also rejected some ecological movements’ discontinuity in calling for limitations to be placed on environmental scientific research, while at the same time failing to apply the same principles to human life.

As an example, he noted that within science, there is “a tendency to justify transgressing all boundaries when experimentation is carried out on living human embryos”.

“We forget that the inalienable worth of a human being transcends his or her degree of development,” he said, adding that once technology disregards ethical principles, “it ends up considering any practice whatsoever as licit”.

“When we fail to acknowledge as part of reality the worth of a poor person, a human embryo, a

**“Instead of resolving the problems of the poor and thinking how the world can be different, some can only propose a reduction in the birth rate.”**

person with disabilities – to offer just a few examples – it becomes difficult to hear the cry of nature itself; everything is connected.”

Once the human being seeks absolute dominion, the foundations of our life “begin to crumble”, the Pope said, so that instead of cooperating with God, man puts himself in God’s place “and thus ends up provoking a rebellion on the part of nature”.

In the encyclical, Pope Francis also spoke of the importance of accepting and caring for one’s body, since it is through the body that man relates to the environment and to other living things.

He cautioned against seeking to exercise “absolute power” over our bodies as if they were something that we own, saying that “man too has a nature that he must respect and that he cannot manipulate at will”.

Accepting and caring for our bodies in their truest nature is essential for human ecology, he said, and stressed that this acceptance includes “valuing one’s own body in its femininity or masculinity”.

In acknowledging differences, “we can joyfully accept the specific gifts of another man or woman, the work of God the Creator, and find mutual enrichment”, the Pope observed.

An attitude which seeks “to cancel out sexual difference because it no longer knows how to confront it” is unhealthy, he said.

The Pontiff also pointed to the important role families play in educating on a true integral human and environmental ecology since they are the place where life is welcomed and protected, and where human growth is developed.

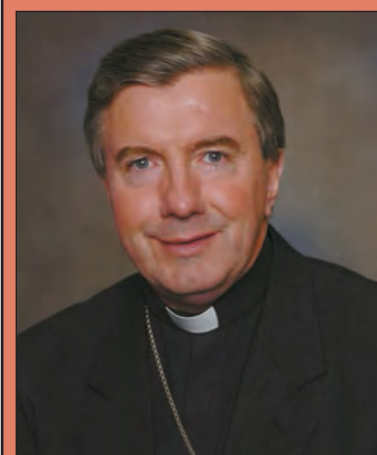
“In the face of the so-called culture of death, the family is the heart of the culture of life,” he said.

Family life is where children first learn how “to show love and respect for life; we are taught the proper use of things, order and cleanliness, respect for the local ecosystem and care for all creatures”, he explained.

“These simple gestures of heartfelt courtesy help to create a culture of shared life and respect for our surroundings.”

—CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY

## Encyclical should be the basis for reflection, discussion, action



DEAR Friends in Christ,

The long awaited encyclical of Pope Francis, *Laudato Si* (*Praise Be to You*): *On Care For Our Common Home* is now available.

Copies of the full document, a summary of the document, and other attachments that may be of assistance to you and your people in the times ahead, are available at [www.cg.catholic.org.au](http://www.cg.catholic.org.au).

I will leave it to your pastoral prudence on just how we can

disseminate this important and large papal teaching document to our parishes, schools and communities. Perhaps you may wish to consider forming small groups to discuss the document, or reading small sections of it when you meet in your various groups, and so on.

May I simply state some of the principal points made in this encyclical. It is addressed to all people in the world.

A key idea is found in the term

‘integral ecology’. It means we ought to take care of the natural world from the perspective of justice to the poorest and most

**We ought to take care of the natural world from the perspective of justice to the poorest and most vulnerable.**

vulnerable. The demand is to reshape our primal relationships with God, our neighbours and the natural world. Only in this way will we be able to tackle the

threats facing our planet today.

The Pope discusses many challenges facing our “common home”. These include pollution

and the throwaway mentality, climate change, water access, biodiversity, breakdown of society and global inequality.

Solutions to these big issues

would include the Gospel of Creation, integral ecology, dialogue, education, ecological conversion and in our spirituality.

I believe the Pope’s teaching on these controversial topics of the environment offers us all theological, moral and ethical dimensions to these global con-

cerns. They place the whole topic in a broad panorama based on the dignity of the human person, our common responsibilities to care for the planet, and placing the perspective of the poor at the centre of the discussions.

Let us begin now a period of reception of this important teaching through quietly reading the text and then engage with discussion that leads to appropriate action.

*Archbishop Christopher Prowse*



**JOIN THE CONVERSATION AT A SPECIAL GUINNESS AND GOD ON JULY 7 - SEE PAGE 19 FOR FULL DETAILS**



# Helping in the process of discernment

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

WHAT exactly does it mean to be consecrated to God?

That was the question Canberra's Missionaries of God's Love (MGL) Sisters sought to answer during a discernment weekend for women last month.

The Sisters have held the annual weekend since they were founded, and this year's event attracted several participants from around Canberra.

Formator Sr Katherine Stone MGL said the weekend included discussions about the life of a consecrated religious and advice on discernment.

"You get everything from girls who are just open to where God might be leading them to girls who are more seriously on the journey, thinking this could be it, and they want to find out more about us," she said.

Nevertheless, vocations to the religious life are not as common as they once were, Sr Katherine said.

"I think every young person is searching for God, whether they know it or not," she said.

"But it's hard to break people open to consecrated life, they really need to have a strong relationship with God and a conviction that he loves them before it's safe to even think about the fact that he might ask them something as radical as embracing religious life.

"But it's exciting to watch young people be interested, be open, and even come along to try out their vocation, that's hopeful."

There are seven MGL Sisters based in Canberra,



Missionaries of God's Love Sisters Judy Bowe, Amy McCabe, Katherine Stone (back row, left to right), Ayanthi Perera, Therese Mills, Kathryn Kingsley and Julie Ann Adlawan (front row, left to right) at their home in Kambah. The Sisters held a discernment weekend for young women last month.

PHOTO: LOUI SESELJA

including three novices and one pre-novice.

There are four other Sisters in Parramatta and another four in Melbourne.

The Sisters are slowly getting closer to reaching canonical status. The community needs to have 40 Sisters who have taken their full vows before it is recognised as a religious institute.

But that doesn't stop those in the community from finding great joy and peace in their vocation.

"I think the deepest joy is

knowing I'm in the right place, a deep contentment in knowing this is what God's made me for," Sr Katherine said.

"That pervades all the other joys, the deep joy of living a life of prayer and connection with God and the joy of watching other people grow into relationship with God and being able to be a part of their journey.

"At the same time, it can be a hard life. Probably the hardest thing is letting go of family, and the frequent moving around can be difficult."

Sr Katherine, who has been with the MGLs for more than 10 years, said she believes religious life still has something to offer the youth of the world.

"I think young people are looking for a sense of belonging, reassurance, and something they can hold onto in the confusion of the world today," she said.

"The world is very chaotic around us and I think a lot of young people are looking for something solid in the Church.

"There's also something about the radical nature of the

vows that we take, and of the way that we live in the face of society that can be attractive."

The MGLs are a consecrated group within a Catholic charismatic covenant community, the Disciples of Jesus.

The Sisters are contemplative in their spirituality, and their mission is one of evangelisation. They have a particularly strong love for the young and for those on the margins of society.

The first house for the Sisters was opened in Canberra in 1988.

## 'What's your secret?' Fr Ken asks Pope Francis

FR KEN Barker MGL met and addressed Pope Francis at the Catholic Charismatic Renewal priests retreat in Rome last month.

About 1,000 priests attended the retreat, but only five from different continents were chosen to ask the Holy Father a question during the two-hour audience at the Papal Basilica of St John Lateran.

Fr Ken asked the Pope what his secret was for evangelising a world that views the Church as "out of date".

The Pope said never to

resort to proselytism, which is "a caricature of evangelisation".

He said Pope Benedict XVI "was very clear" in saying the Church grows by "attraction", that people are drawn to Christ's love manifest in the spiritual and charitable works of his followers.

The question then becomes, "how do I attract with my witness?" Pope Francis asked, explaining it has to come through in one's words, gestures and concrete service to the poorest and unwanted in

the world.

"Let the Holy Spirit provoke curiosity" in onlookers who see Christians serving the poor, the elderly, the sick, the helpless, he said. Let the onlookers wonder: "Why are they doing this? Are they crazy?" Let them wonder why Christians spend their lives on the very people others have thrown away, he said.

The five-day retreat was organised by International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services and the Catholic Fraternity.



Fr Ken Barker MGL embraces Pope Francis.

PHOTO: ONLINE



# Archdiocese thanks its Religious

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

RELIGIOUS priests, brothers and sisters in the Archdiocese gathered at St Christopher's Cathedral on June 7 for a special Mass in honour of the Year of Consecrated Life.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse was joined by several religious priests who concelebrated the Mass for the feast of Corpus Christi.

The occasion was made more memorable with sixth year seminarian Joshua Scott being admitted to candidacy.

Rector of the Seminary of the Good Shepherd in Homebush, NSW, Fr Danny Meagher, spiritual director Fr Ed Travers, and about 20 seminarians were also present at the Mass.

During his homily, Archbishop Christopher thanked the religious for their service to the Archdiocese over many years.

"It is impossible for us to imagine the service that they have given us in the name of



Members of religious communities took part in a special Mass in honour of the Year of Consecrated Life on June 7.  
 PHOTO: MATTHEW BIDDLE

the Gospel as religious," he said.

"We pray for them today. We pray for an increase of religious vocations. We ask God's blessing upon them in the years ahead.

"We love you for what you have done, for who you are, and who you will be for us in

the future."

The Archbishop said there were three aspects of the religious' call to holiness that come to mind immediately.

"Firstly, the religious of the Archdiocese offer us a prophetic and joyful witness that Jesus is 'my enough'," he said.

"Secondly, religious orders

of the Church and in particular in the Archdiocese express joyful missionary discipleship in radical self-renunciation.

"By taking on and renewing daily their religious vows, they witness to a radical self-renunciation in missionary service in the Church.

"Religious orders are also joyful witnesses of the contemplative dimension of the Church.

"There is a contemplative foundation to all religious orders. It's not simply just being active. It is to be active contemplatively. This is an area that we must reclaim afresh in Australia."

The Archbishop also thanked the Seminary of the Good Shepherd for guiding the seminarians of the Canberra and Goulburn Archdiocese.

He encouraged those present to continue to pray for the seminarians, and particularly Joshua, as he begins his final journey to ordination to the priesthood.

## Religious life explained

*\*The following questions and answers about religious life were compiled by members of the Association for the Promotion of Religious Life (APREL) in Australia.*

### 1. What are the various forms of religious life?

*The Active Life:* Active Religious use their resources and energies for the Church in apostolic service – teaching, ministering to the poor, nursing, working with youth, evangelising through the media and so on. Their life of consecration, prayer and sacrifice strengthens them for God's work, but their lifestyle is arranged chiefly around the demands of their apostolate.

*The Contemplative Life:* Contemplative Religious carry out a 'hidden apostolate'. They do not go out from their monastery or convent but live a life of seclusion, penance and prayer for the salvation of the world.

*The Mixed Life:* This is a combination of active and contemplative life. It usually involves a monastic lifestyle typical of the contemplative Orders and is focused on study and prayer. It includes some active apostolic service, but on a more limited scale than that found in the active religious life.

### 2. What role do penance and asceticism have in religious life?

While penance and asceticism are part and parcel of the Christian life in general, Religious freely bind themselves to living out ways of penance that reflect a closer following of Christ in his redemptive suffering. The Vows of Religion are the central source of asceticism because they call for the renunciation of the chief goods of this world and are the proof of the highest form of love. Other avenues of penance for Religious are to be found in living by the demands of a Rule which usually involves silence, early rising, fasting, extended hours of prayer, and various imposed duties and responsibilities. These forms of penance and asceticism are purifying and fulfilling rather than burdensome for the Religious who really desires to give him/herself to God, who relies on God's grace and who knows the redemptive value of the Cross.

## Eddies boys give Br Matt a birthday to remember



On June 12 about 1,000 St Edmund's College boys sang 'Happy Birthday' to Br Matt McKeon, who turned 90. The boys then formed a guard of honour for Br Matt and his sister Mary and brother Robert who travelled from interstate to be present for the occasion. Br Matt has been a Christian Brother for 73 years, and has been at St Edmund's for almost 20 years. He said he was delighted to see all the students sing him 'Happy Birthday' and was thankful for their support and friendship.  
 PHOTO: LOUI SESELJA



# Defending marriage with compassion



**FOLLOWING FRANCIS**  
BY DEACON MATT RANSOM

"THE family is also threatened by growing efforts on the part of some to redefine the very institution of marriage," (Pope Francis).

There has been tremendous interest in the whole 'gay marriage' issue in recent weeks and for good reason. We see

particular politicians, some media outlets and others who are misinformed, making big claims regarding what marriage should be. However, rather than following a current emotional trend, which may change again in years to come, as trends do, Pope Francis is asking us to look at the bigger picture.

Pope Francis takes this argument further by stating that the male/female nature of marriage is "an anthropological fact... that cannot be qualified based on ideological notions or concepts important only at one time in history". In layman's terms, he is saying that in the marriage commitment between one man and one woman, there is a profound

human connection that goes beyond a particular moment in time and beyond religion. If this is changed, then what next? How many people can

**We should protect the very institution of marriage and fight for it, whilst being concerned for those who seek to change it.**

one person marry? And to whom? To what? What about a stable place to raise children? We know from research that

the best place to raise children is in a stable, happy family with one mother and one father.

And in the midst of this conversation, the Holy Father is also reminding us to be compassionate toward those who experience same-sex attraction. I suspect this is difficult for us. We tend, as humans, to swing from one extreme to the other. And yet Pope Francis, like Jesus, is reminding us not to judge. To love, to be compassionate. Yes, marriage is between one woman and one man, and this relationship is where the sexual act is to be expressed. However, we are also called to love, to be compassionate, and not to judge.

Hence, holding this compassionate view should allow the

Catholic Christian to protect the very institution of marriage, to fight for this, whilst being concerned for those who seek to change it.

As we do this, we are reminded by Pope Francis that our understanding of marriage transcends current 'popular' trends.

*"Haven't you read," Jesus replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female', and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh?' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate," (Matthew 19:4-6).*

## Sexual passion? The Church answers 'Yes!'



**THE FAMILY VOCATION**  
BY SHAWN VAN DER LINDEN

POPE Francis, as usual, got to the heart of the issue, when he addressed a group of parents in Rome last month, saying: "Parents, let your children see you kissing!" His words shine a light on the importance of the sexual passion of spouses in the Sacrament of marriage, and the importance to the health and wellbeing of families that children witness this authentic affection and love between parents.

There is great excitement and expectation in the Church as the topic of marriage and family is given prominence at two Synods being held in Rome. The first was held in October last year, and was convened to examine the pastoral challenges of the family in the context of evangelisation. The Synod involved a robust discussion among bishops and delegates about current issues facing families in the Church today.

A second Synod is to be held in October this year in Rome. It will debate "the vocation and mission of the family in the Church and in the contemporary world". Proposals from this Synod will be forwarded to Pope Francis to assist him in finalising guidelines for the pastoral care of the family, which will be contained in an Apostolic Exhortation expected to be published in 2016.



*It's important for children to witness authentic love and affection between their parents.*

PHOTO: ONLINE

The build up to the October Synod also includes the World Meeting of Families (WMOF), due to take place in Philadelphia, USA in September. WMOF was conceived by St Pope John Paul II in 1992 and is the world's largest family gathering, bringing together families from all over the world in faith and celebration every three years.

Our own Assembly, held here in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn in March, focused on the topic of "Embrace: The Joy of the Gospel in Marriage and Family Life". This engaging topic was definitely one of the factors that ensured this was our largest Assembly in history, with 730 participants.

In Australia, the Church's

focus on marriage and family has taken place against the backdrop of an intense national debate about changing the definition of marriage. While the nature of the debate has been a negative one, with a focus on what marriage is not, as Catholics it's critical at this time that we focus on the affirmative. Surely the great challenge to Catholic married couples is to radically shift to the offensive, and to boldly affirm the treasure that is the Catholic vision for marriage, sexual passion and family.

Pope Francis has started the conversation well by focusing on the sexual love of a husband and wife for one another, and relating that to the wellbeing of the entire family. Catholic

teaching has much to offer in the way of its focus on the sacramentality of sex and the centrality of a passionate, life giving sexuality between married couples as being a healthy vision for marriage. Far from saying 'No', the Church has a very loud and proud 'Yes' to say when it comes to sexual passion. This is a treasure that needs to be discovered, unpacked and put on display both within and outside the Church.

It is in sexual passion that we are most profoundly confronted with both our transcendence and, at the same time, our vulnerability and frailty. In this unique human touch, we are reminded of our original identity and of our urgent need for redemption. Sexual union

intrinsically has this twofold revelatory character. Furthermore, by virtue of baptism, sexual passion is transfigured into a sacrament. Sexual passion becomes that raw material, changed through the Christ event, which tips us over into the reality of the God who is love. Here we encounter the redemptive and healing power of sexual passion.

Theologians have through the ages (with some notable exceptions), struggled to help married Christians integrate sexuality into their relationship with God. This concept however is deeply anchored in our biblical and theological tradition.

Perhaps in our own Archdiocese, as we reflect on this topic, one of the more practical questions that arises is, could we do something more for couples undergoing marriage preparation? How many couples, preparing for marriage, are given the opportunity to learn and be formed in this vision for sexual passion in marriage? Is this something that our children learn about in the later years of Catholic high school?

While the upcoming Synod on the family will be dealing with a range of complex and controversial pastoral questions, it also represents a great opportunity to further delineate the stunning beauty of the sexual encounter and married intimacy as witnessed in Sacred Scripture and Tradition.

*\* Shawn van der Linden is the Archdiocesan director of pastoral support. His column will examine aspects of the Church's teaching on marriage and family life, in the lead-up to the October Synod in Rome.*



# Euthanasia - the final great deception



**GOING DEEPER**  
BY SHANE DWYER

THE issues we face as a Church are big: the fallout from the Royal Commission into child sexual abuse, the marriage debate, and the euthanasia debate, among others. Where to begin?

Today we focus on our approach to life and death as the context for the euthanasia debate. After all, Easter was only a few weeks back and too quickly we can pass over the significant implications of those extraordinary events. The God of life is at work.

First, an observation: modern secular society has an interesting relationship with death. So much energy is put into prolonging life and perpetuating youth on the one hand, then on bringing about death prematurely on the other. We



*At the end of life, we can no longer avoid the truth that God is in ultimate control in this world.*

PHOTO: ONLINE

laud youth at every turn and will spend enormous amounts of money to perpetuate youthful beauty, and then we will sit down with our computer games and spend our time killing and causing mayhem in the name of entertainment. We will lament the death of drug smugglers in Indonesia at one moment and then preside over the death of the unborn at the next.

The consequence of freely available abortion is that the place of nurture and security - the womb - has become a place of danger and intense vulnerability. Increasingly the clouds are gathering around what has been another traditional place of safety: the bed where a person takes his or her journey to the end of life. Presented as an act of compassion, those who

advocate for euthanasia push for a society where the sick and the vulnerable are presented with a dilemma precisely at the time when what they most deserve is to feel valued and honoured.

We are told that this choice is the right of the individual, as if the decisions that one of us makes have no implications for the rest of us. At the very

least, these individual decisions change our society and make it harder for other vulnerable people to feel free to choose to let their own journey of death take its natural course. In a weakened state, who could resist the impatient requirement to take matters into their own hands so as to free up a bed for the next vulnerable person in line?

The Catholic perspective on the interplay between life and death is at odds with the contemporary debate. As Catholics, we neither seek to excessively prolong life nor bring an end to it prematurely. Instead, our perspective is that death is a natural event that will happen in its own time.

End of life is the moment when the human being can no longer avoid a truth that we can spend a lifetime avoiding: that we are not in ultimate control in this world, that God is. This sense of powerlessness can be frightening, but it is a fear that we must all navigate our way through when the moment comes.

Imagining that we are entitled to take control of that moment may be the final great deception.

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# The future looks bright for Holy Spirit Primary

PREPARATIONS for the Archdiocese's next Early Learning Centre (ELC) at Holy Spirit Primary in Nicholls are on track, with construction due to be completed in December.

The ELC will accommodate about 70 students, and school principal Tim Elliott said there has been strong demand for places.

"We have more enrolments for the Early Learning Centre than we can take, which is a positive," he said.

Although located on the Holy Spirit Primary site, the school will be a feeder to both Holy Spirit and Good Shepherd Primary in Amaroo.

The development of the

ELC is just one of several exciting things taking place at Holy Spirit, according to Mr Elliott.

"The Year 5 and 6 students have gone onto a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program, which is mostly iPads," he explained.

"They're using the iPads for their teaching and learning... and they're also doing Student Oriented Universal Unlimited Learning (SOUUL) or problem-based learning."

The former principal of St Anthony's Primary in Wanniasa, Mr Elliott said enrolments have increased by more than 100 students since his arrival in 2013.

One of the unique attrac-

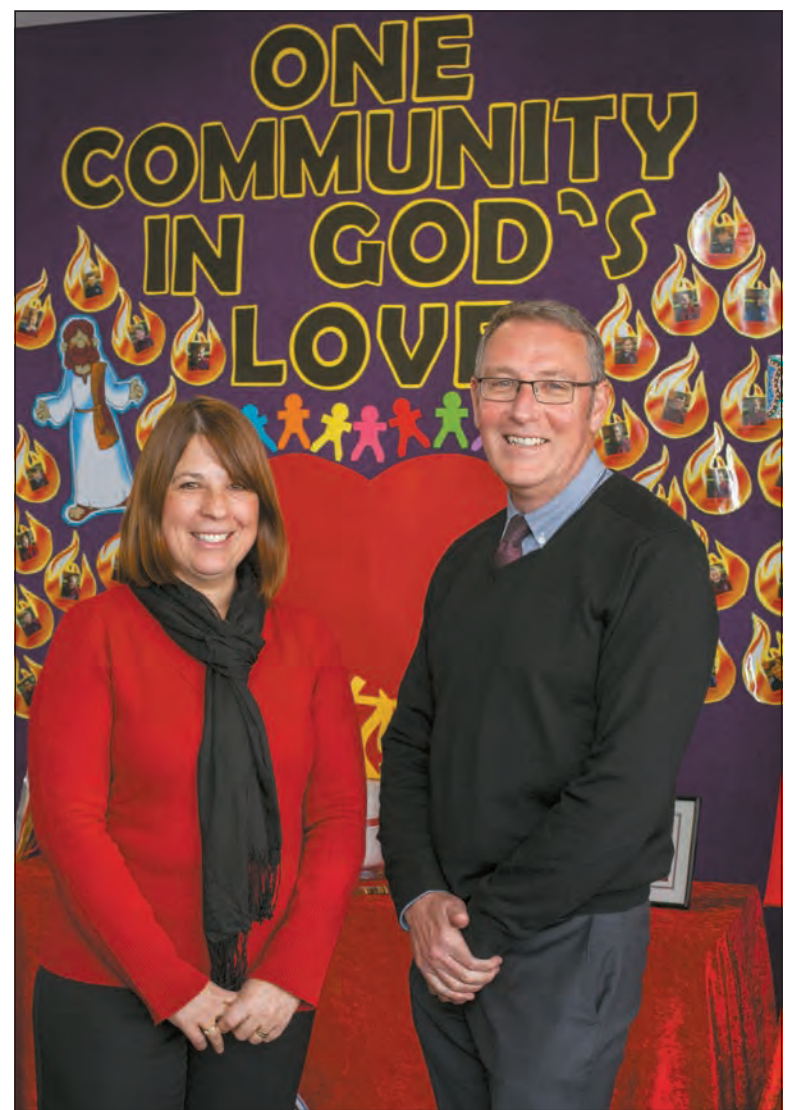
tions of the school is that it shares facilities with the neighbouring government school, Gold Creek Primary.

"It's unique in Australia in that the library, the hall and the playground are joint facilities," Mr Elliott said.

"Both schools fund them and operate them with staff. We both have librarians and support staff in the library.

"There's a few extra meetings and some negotiations... but 99 per cent of the time it works very well."

Occasionally the two schools gather together for special celebrations, and teachers from both schools often complete professional development together.



Clockwise from top, Holy Spirit Primary Year 5 students Maddison Fry and Sophie Bryant using their iPads; principal Tim Elliott and assistant principal Anna D'Amico; Year 5 students Eva Kolak and Amy Goedecke; Year 1 students Evan Raghupati and Cooper Kilby during a library class; teacher Debbie Hogan with Year 5 students Giselle Jones, Eva Kolak and Jessica Semple.

PHOTOS: LOUI SESELJA





# Dinner raises funds for military chaplaincy

THE Knights of the Southern Cross hosted a fundraising dinner on May 23 at Holy Trinity Parish in Curtin to help pay for the training and support of Catholic chaplains for the Australian Defence Force.

Guest speaker Fr Richard Thompson, parish priest of South Woden, entertained guests with anecdotes and reminiscences of 17 years as a Royal Australian Navy chaplain.

The Military Ordinariate has been allotted 45 full-time positions for Catholic chaplains across Army, Navy and Air Force. At present the Diocese has 16 full-time chaplains (priests, permanent deacons and lay chaplains) across the three services. Often, the Military Diocese is unable to deploy Catholic chaplains overseas with personnel, resulting

in Catholic members not having access to the Mass and the Sacraments whilst on operations.

In order to best effect the ministry of these few, the Diocese has gathered them sparsely across major bases

**The event raised \$2,520, which will help provide much needed support for Defence chaplaincy in Australia.**

located in Darwin, South East Queensland, Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne. Unfortunately many Defence establishments do not have a Catholic chaplain.

If the Military Diocese can-

not attract full-time priests, it relies very much on part-time chaplains who do important work in their regions. These numbers are falling as well.

The funds raised by the Knights of the Southern Cross go to the Armed Services Catholic Diocesan Revenue Fund to support Defence chaplaincy. The Supreme Knight, Colin Walsh, presented the Military Ordinariate's administrator Mgr Peter O'Keefe with donations of \$2,520 raised at the event. He also took the opportunity to present a cheque for \$2,500 to the Fund from the Knights' Southern Cross Charitable Trust.

*For more information on the Military Ordinariate, visit: [www.military.catholic.org.au](http://www.military.catholic.org.au). For more information about the Knights of the Southern Cross, visit: [www.ksca.org.au](http://www.ksca.org.au).*



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THOU, O Mary Help of Christians, who once experienced the hardship and difficulties of acquiring the temporal necessities of life, look with compassion upon him now faced with the same difficulties and help him to find a suitable employment. He is anxious dear Mother, to be gainfully engaged in work that will relieve his temporal needs without in anyway endangering the spiritual wellbeing of his soul. Direct him to employment that will enable him fittingly to provide for himself and his family. O Immaculate Mother, grant my request. I will publish thy goodness that others may know the favour thou enjoyest with

Almighty God unto His greater honour and glory. J.B.

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The Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) has always supported these religious men and women - for the formation of their new vocations and ongoing work; by providing vital support for their life and ministry and ensuring that in their freely given service they at least have the barest minimum to live on. It is vital that the indispensable work of consecrated men and women in Christ's Holy Catholic Church and throughout the missions worldwide continues. ACN is therefore proud to help them in their efforts to make the world a better place.

The average grant ACN gives to support consecrated religious is between \$200 - \$500 but **whatever you can afford** will be enormously appreciated. ACN forwards the donations directly to the religious superiors in charge of the religious communities and congregations.

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Written entries are invited for the August issue to: Catholic Voice, PO Box 7174, Yarralumla, ACT 2600, or email [ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au](mailto:ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au) by July 15. Entries which are accepted are free, courtesy of sponsorship by the Catholic Development Fund.

# Archdiocesan Coming Events

## MENTAL HEALTH

**MASS:** St Benedict's Nar-rabundah warmly invites all, but particularly those who wish to join in prayer with, and for, all people who suffer from mental health issues and for their families and friends at a special Mass on Friday, July 3 at 5.30pm.

## MAN OVERBOARD:

The next gathering for any young men in the Archdiocese discerning priesthood will be on Friday, July 3. It is a time to gather, reflect, and commune in order to feel supported during a time of such importance. Each gathering is held on the first Friday of every month at the Archbishop's residence from 5pm-7pm. RSVP at [www.manoverboard.org.au](http://www.manoverboard.org.au).

## MEDITATION

**PRAYER:** Fr Gilbert Carlo SVD will be in Canberra for 3 weeks in July. He will lead a one hour Jesus Meditation prayer at 7.30pm on Monday July 6 at Holy Family Church Gowrie, and on Mondays July 13 and 20 at 7.30pm at St Thomas the Apostle Church Kambah. Come and experience how deep breathing and stretches, chanting and silent meditation can deepen your faith and prayer life, and improve your health! Inquiries to Trish on 6231 8468.

## BLESSED PETER TO

**ROT:** The Papua New Guinean community of Canberra invites you to a special Mass to mark the feast day

of Blessed Peter To Rot, a martyr from World War II. Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, July 11 at St John the Apostle Church in Kippax at 11am in honour of Blessed Peter. Fr Isaac Koi MSC, a Papua New Guinean based in Sydney, will be the main celebrant. He will be joined by Fr Paul Koupa and Fr Gerard McCormack and Fr Paul Brown from St John the Apostle Parish. Mass will be in English and Tapesian and will include hymns in various Papua New Guinean languages. Contact Francesca: 0437 405 052 or Terry and Mary: (02) 6242 0108.

**AMICUS:** Saturday, July 11, at the Queanbeyan RSL Bowling Club, Yass Road, Queanbeyan. Meet at 6.30pm for dinner in the Chinese Bistro, followed



## BISHOP PAT POWER'S GOLDEN JUBILEE

**CELEBRATIONS:** Fr Pat Power was ordained to the priesthood on July 17, 1965 in St Raphael's Church in his home parish of Queanbeyan. He went on to serve as Auxiliary Bishop of Canberra and Goulburn from 1986 to 2012. To celebrate this joyous milestone, he will celebrate the parish Masses at St Raphael's Church, Lowe St, Queanbeyan on Friday, July 17 at 12pm, Saturday, July 18 at 5.30pm and Sunday July 19 at 9am. There will be light refreshments in the church grounds after the Saturday and Sunday Masses. All welcome.

by listening to music and dancing if you wish. Contact Doug: 0402 006 590. Saturday, July 25, share in Christmas in July at 'Pheast on Phelan' (Enid's). Meet at 6pm. Contact Enid: (02) 6296 5592. AMICUS is a support and friendship/social group for widowed, separated or divorced Catholics; regular activities on second and fourth weekends. New members welcome.

**BATEHAVEN AND BEYOND:** Retreat in Daily Life, July 19 to August 9 with Fr John Armstrong and Sr Carmel Drew RSJ at St Joseph's House of Spirituality and Hospitality, 12 David Ave, Batehaven, NSW. Inquiries: Sr Mary Murphy: [mary.murphy@sosj.org.au](mailto:mary.murphy@sosj.org.au).

**CALLED AND GIFTED WORKSHOP:** Friday, July 31 (evening) and Saturday,

August 1. More than 80 people attended this workshop last year. It is a great opportunity to take some time to see where God might be calling you, not only in your parish community but also in your family, your workplace or wherever you live your life. For more information contact Sharon Brewer, [sharon.brewer@catholiclife.org.au](mailto:sharon.brewer@catholiclife.org.au) or 0421 846 276.

## REGULAR EVENTS

### HOLY SPIRIT SECULAR FRANCISCAN FRATERNITY:

Third Friday of the month, 7.30pm, St John Vianney's, Waramanga. Secular Franciscans try to follow Christ in the footsteps of St Francis. Inquiries: Tony, phone 0407 072 139, Frank 0400 793 260, email [sfo@fastmail.fm](mailto:sfo@fastmail.fm).

### GOOD SHEPHERD PRAYER GROUP:

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# Pope: Restore the social dignity of sport

POPE Francis met with Italy's top Special Olympics athletes on June 19, encouraging them and all athletes to make sport a place for loyalty, human dignity and joy.

"It is my hope that you all might live the upcoming games in a joyful, passionate, serene manner: have fun," he said.

The Pope held an audience for Italy's 150 delegates to the Special Olympics 2015 World Games. The event will be held in Los Angeles from July 25 to August 2.

During his remarks, Pope Francis reflected on the promise of sport.

"It is beautiful and meaningful that young people and adults find in sport and participation in competitions, including at an international level, an incentive to live their life fully," he said. "It is a challenge, and you have accepted it and 'taken the field'."

"I encourage you to continue in your efforts to help each other to discover your potential and to love life, to appreciate it in all its limits and above all, its beautiful sides."

The Pope also encouraged the Special Olympians to make friends from around the world.

The Special Olympics were founded in the USA in 1968 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver to provide sports and athletic opportunities for the mentally disabled.

More than 4.4 million athletes in 177 countries take part in more than 81,000 games and competitions each year, according to the website of the Special Olympics' 2015 World Games.

Pope Francis said the athletes had chosen sport as "an experience of development



Pope Francis meets with members of Italy's Special Olympics team on June 19 in Vatican City. The Holy Father encouraged the team to help make sport a place for loyalty, human dignity and joy. The 2015 Special Olympics begin on July 25. PHOTO: L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO / CNA

and growth, in the presence of a condition of fragility and limitation."

He told them sport is a way to

and growth, in the presence of

He encouraged the athletes to be faithful to this ideal of sport.

"We must protect and defend sport as an experience of human values: competition yes, but in loyalty and solidarity-

cational, playful and recreational" aspects and to restore its cultural and social dignity.

The 2015 Games will fea-

**"Do not let yourself be contaminated by a false sporting culture, that of economic success, victory at any cost, and individualism... We must protect and defend sport as an experience of human values: competition yes, but in loyalty and solidarity."**

learn "to participate, to outdo oneself, to strive together".

"All this helps you to become active members of society and also of the Church; and it helps society itself and the Church to overcome all forms of discrimination and exclu-

"Do not let yourself be contaminated by a false sporting culture, that of economic success, victory at any cost, and individualism," he continued. He praised amateur sports' culture of "gratuity" and of "sport for sport's sake".

ty. Dignity for every person, always. No one must feel excluded from sport," the Pope said.

He added the world of sport and the Church can work together to restore the "true meaning" of sport in its "edu-

ture competitions in aquatics, gymnastics, track and field, basketball, soccer and many other summer sports, involving 7,000 athletes with intellectual disabilities from around the world.

-CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY

# Old rivals prepare for another battle

ST EDMUND'S College and Marist College will renew their traditional rivalry on July 25 when the two schools face off in another highly-anticipated First XV rugby match.

The two teams last met in May, when St Edmund's dominated on the scoreboard, winning 34-0. The team has remained undefeated so far in the Under 18 competition, but head coach Pat Langtry said previous results count for little.

"The thing about any game against Marist in rugby is that if you are not prepared, they will always beat you," he said. "They're a quality side and we need to prepare as well as we

can to be competitive."

Mr Langtry told *Catholic Voice* the two schools have been playing each other in First XV rugby fixtures since 1974, generally twice a year.

**"Friendships are put aside and it's about both teams trying to get a result."**

"I think this fixture is one that both schools, in a healthy way, look forward to," he said. "The boys are actually really good mates, but those friendships are put aside and it's

about both teams trying to get a result on the day."

There will be a special dedication to Col Maxwell, who was involved with coaching the St Edmund's rugby team for almost 20 years during the 1970s and 1980s.

"Col has had a massive input into rugby at all levels in and around the Canberra and Queanbeyan community," Mr Langtry said. "In terms of St Edmund's rugby, he and Br Bob Wallace are iconic figures who introduced the game to St Edmund's as another part of the education for boys."

The match begins at 3pm on July 25 at St Edmund's College.



St Edmund's and Marist last faced each other in May. PHOTO: BRETT FREEBODY