



RIGHT: Amy Banson back at her old school, Merici College, with college captain Bridie Foran and other students at the first assembly of the year. No matter how impossible the task may seem, set goals, plan well, have faith in your ability, take one step at a time and never lose sight of your objective, Amy told the students. Her talk fitted in well with the college's theme for the year, "Be Stronger".



Amy's walk of hope

Former Merici College student Amy Banson planned to spend eight weeks during the mid-year uni break walking from Canberra to Brisbane just to see if she could do it.

Now, she has dedicated the walk to the memory of Clea Rose, who was struck by a car in the Civic interchange and later died.

Ms Banson's life changed, along with the Rose family's, that night in July last year when she comforted the stricken Clea, whom she did not know, as she lay in the street.

Ms Banson, 22, hopes the 1300km walk will raise funds for the National Brain Injury Foundation and raise awareness of the plight of people with an acquired brain injury who are placed in nursing homes. These

homes are designed for aged people, but those with brain injury can be of any age and their needs may differ in many ways from those of older people.

"Seeing the strength in both the Rose family and the community through such a challenging and emotional occasion has made me a stronger person," she told about 1000 students gathered for the opening of the school year at her old college. "The accident and unfortunate death of Clea Rose had a huge impact on me and affected me in many ways."

She began to ask questions about how people with acquired brain injury are cared for and where they are looked after and rehabilitated. "From what I have learnt since the accident, the most amazing and

confusing realisation was about the lack of funding in the area." The placement of young people in aged care was a social injustice that needed urgent attention, she said.

She decided to turn the walk to Brisbane starting on 1 June into a charity event, which is now known as the "Walk with a Rose", and is being undertaken under the auspices of the National Brain Injury Foundation.

The walk will raise money towards upgrading facilities at homes that care for people with a brain injury. She will also speak at schools to raise awareness of the need to upgrade rehabilitation, equipment and support services for these people.

"Along with the financial benefits this walk may bring, it is also a time for healing. I expect the

walk will play a role in my own healing following my involvement with Clea Rose.

"But in no way do I want this walk to be for myself any more. I know that such an event has the capacity to heal many people who were lucky enough to know Clea or were touched by her story."

Through the National Brain Injury Foundation she had met many families with loved ones who have an acquired brain injury. "These families consist of the most fantastic people I have ever met," she said. "Many parents of a child with acquired brain injury will rarely leave their side. They help with the daily rehabilitation process and exercises until they are physically no longer able to. Their strength and love is inspirational

and every one of them is a hero."

Ms Banson is now a student at the Canberra campus of Australian Catholic University undertaking a Bachelor of Theology and Social Work degree. At the beginning of last year she began work in a youth refuge and she finds her studies particularly relevant to her work with young people in crisis.

Amy plans to walk 30km each "walking day" and expects to complete her trek in eight weeks, allowing for rest days, bad weather, detours and fundraising.

Anyone wanting to donate to "Walk With A Rose", may send cheque or money order to: National Brain Injury Foundation, Walk with a Rose, P O Box 5542, Hughes, ACT 2605. Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.



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my life

The second in a
monthly series
on vocations of
all kinds. Here we
speak to Canberra
mum Cushla
Morris.



for over four years before becoming pregnant with Ella. Adam and I sought ways of overcoming infertility in natural, ethical ways, through diet, through lifestyle and lots of prayer. One priest we know said Mass once a week for us. It worked.

What are the best times for you?

Watching the milestones pass in Ella's life, knowing she is growing and seeing her vital personality emerging. It's so satisfying. Every parent says so, but it's so true. The best times are being together as a family. It's also so life-giving being with other families and friends.

What leisure interests do you enjoy?

Taking Ella in the jogger pram down to the lake for a walk or run,

doing sudoku number puzzles, spending time with friends and their kids, reading anything from crime thrillers to my current autobiography on St Edith Stein.

What would you say to someone considering marriage and motherhood?

I'd say motherhood is an incredibly satisfying vocation; don't stop at one if you can have more children! Our marriage would be wonderful even without children, but Ella is the realisation of our dreams for parenthood. Marriage is terrific because it's us saying we will be committed through the bad times, too. We've made a huge investment of time, effort and emotion and we want to reap the benefits.

Your hopes for yourself, your Church in 2006?

For myself, to continue growing in love with Adam, adjust to combining some work into our home life, and make my personal prayer life more of a priority. For our Church, it's an exciting time for the Archdiocese far-reaching a wonderful Archbishop and welcoming someone new.

Peace with
an Aussie
bush
flavour

Joan Jackson has been doing needlework since she was four years old. Her long experience came in handy when Queanbeyan parish priest Fr Dermid McDermott asked her to do a wall-hanging Australian-style of Our Lady of Peace.

The beautiful and intricate patchwork and applique masterpiece (pictured right with Joan) with its unmistakable Australian flowers can be seen in St Raphael's Church.

Joan, who has been a parishioner at Queanbeyan for 40 years, took six months to complete the work.



NEW ARRIVAL: The second Indian priest recruited for the Archdiocese has arrived and has been allocated a parish. Fr Francis Kolencherry is the latest arrival; he has gone to Goulburn as assistant priest. The first Indian priest, Fr Varghese Vavolil, has settled into Corpus Christi parish, South Tuggeranong. In addition to his Goulburn duties, Fr Kolencherry has pastoral responsibility for the Syro-Malabar Catholics of the Archdiocese, of which about 10 families have been identified so far.

HERE AND THERE: On the priestly front, there have been a few comings and goings... Fr Peter Cronin is back in his parish at Pambula with Fr Simon Falk continuing as assistant priest

there until at least Easter. Fr Tom Thornton is away on six month's leave and Fr Ken Heffernan is holding the fort down the coast at Moruya and Batemans Bay.

NOT QUITE DARTH VADER: Authoritative Vatican writer John Allen Jr (pictured right), in Australia for the launch of the Australian bishops' pastoral letter on the Church and the media, provided fascinating insights into Vatican life and the early months of the new papacy. On the latter subject, he remarked that many commentators had fallen back on familiar adjectives - tough, authoritarian, archconservative - to describe the newly elected Pope.

Probably the best expression of this came in an editorial cartoon in L'Unità, the

newspaper of the old Communist Party in Italy. Many Italians would remember the revered John XXIII speaking to the crowd in St Peter's Square one evening in 1962. He finished with a line burned into the consciousness of most Italians, repeated endlessly on television and radio. "When you go home, you'll find your children. Give them a kiss, and tell them that this kiss comes from the pope," he said.

It summed up the legendary love of the man. Thus the L'Unità cartoon showed Benedict XVI at the same window saying, "Tonight, when you go home, I want you to give your children a spanking, and tell them that this spanking comes from the pope." It perfectly crystallised the expectations many had of this allegedly draconian, Darth Vader figure, Allen said.

Not quite the image of Joseph Ratzinger which led more than two-thirds of cardinals to elect him pope, and

not quite what the first year of his pontificate has offered.

WELL DONE TO GENEROUS DINERS: The Canberra Southern Cross Club's "Meals for Marymead" weekend raised a whopping \$21,270. This means 4254 Canberrans and their friends dropped by one of the club's four locations for a meal - and in doing so helped a Canberra child. The club donated \$5 to Marymead for every meal sold at the clubs all weekend. Marymead chief executive Dawson Ruhl says the money will go towards the new Child and Family Counselling Service.

BIN LADEN - WITH CASH: Vinnies' volunteers sometimes come across items left in donated clothing, but staff at a suburban Vinnies shop in Melbourne got a shock when they came across what police described as a substantial stash of cash while sorting through clothing bins. Police believe the money was unwittingly handed in with clothes from a deceased estate. Or, as police joked, "Husband and wife getting divorced. Husband being a bit awful. He finds cash she has among her clothes. Donated." Vinnies gets to keep the money if the owner is not found in three months.



The Coming
Events diary is
found on Page 18



RIGHT: Archbishop Francis Carroll gives the Aranda villas project a practical helping hand. ABOVE: Mr Bob Smeaton explains the history of the project watched by long-time aged care advocates Ian and Betty Hay, Archbishop Carroll and Centacare director Mr Neil Harrigan.



New project boost for aged care

The use of church land in Canberra to provide care for the aged took another step forward with the turning of the sod to mark the beginning of St Vincent's Retirement Villas at Aranda.

The 11 two-bedroom and four three-bedroom self-care villas being built on land behind the parish church are expected to be completed about September.

The Archdiocese's community service agency Centacare, which provides support for many people in the local community, will manage the villa project.

The project is part of an Archdiocesan commitment to develop accessible and adaptable aged care housing and provide support for aged people on unused parish land in the ACT.

Project manager Mr Bob Smeaton said he hoped the concept would not stop at Aranda and that there would be more provision of suitable accommodation for people as they aged.

Archbishop Francis Carroll, who blessed the land, said it had been "a

long story to get to this point". Over more than 20 years, some people had been urging that more should be done for the aged. Great things were now happening. With the Aranda project, there was a sense of an enterprise of faith, not just an exercise of meeting the needs of people. It was a work of building up God's kingdom and developing a sense of a church community and a Christian community.

Centacare director Mr Neil Harrigan said in recent years the agency had responded in a variety of ways to the increasing needs of the aged. Centacare had the capacity to support aged people for a long period as their capacity for independence diminished. This year, services in aged care, such as domestic assistance, social support, transport assistance and information sessions to provide information on remaining independent, were being expanded as a result of government funding.

Mr Harrigan paid tribute to the co-operation and support of St Vincent's parish and parish priest Fr Brian Maher in the project.

It's 'carny' time again at Charny

More than 5000 people are expected to flock to this year's "Charny Carny", a joint effort by three local schools.

The Charnwood Community Carnival will be held from 2pm to 8pm on Saturday, 25 March, at the Old Charnwood High School oval in Lhostky Street.

St Thomas Aquinas Primary School, Charnwood Primary School and Charnwood Pre-school are working together to present the third carnival, a local event organised by the community for all Canberrans.

This year attractions include rides and amuse-

ments, entertainment including a "Charny Idol" singing competition, ethnic and other food stalls, skate boarding and hip hop displays, as well as workshops and demonstrations for adults.

Although most key community groups involved are Charnwood based, groups from all over Canberra, especially the Belconnen area, help in various aspects of the day.

Key organiser, local resident Mr Michael Pilbrow, said the carnival was impressive if only for the number of community groups and residents involved.

Try Catholic Voice Classifieds - they're cheap and they're effective. See Page 18.

Children, who do you admire most?

Children in primary schools in the Archdiocese have a chance to win prizes for their writing or art skill, as well as help the Catholic Women's League celebrate a major milestone in its history.

They are invited to write a story or compose a colourful drawing on the theme "The Catholic Woman I Admire Most".

Catholic Voice is sponsoring the prizes in the form of book vouchers. There are two winner's prizes; \$50 will go to the best entry from the ACT and also from country NSW. The schools of the winners will receive \$100 prizes each. One second prize of a \$40 voucher and a third prize of a \$25 voucher will be awarded as well.

This year marks the centenary of the foundation in England of the Catholic Women's League by Margaret Fletcher. It is also the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the league in the Archdiocese; the first branch was St Christopher's.

Written entries should be no more than 200 words. Art entries should be in colour on an A4 sheet of paper. Effort, imagination and age of the entrant will be taken into account when the entries are judged.

Any child at a Catholic primary school in the Archdiocese as well as those who attend schools of religion may enter.

Entries should be sent to CWL Centenary Competition, CWL, P O Box, 4779, Higgins, ACT 2615. The closing date is Wednesday, 19 April. Early entries are welcome.

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Appeal attracts support

Donations have begun to flow in to support a scholarship for rural students launched in honour of retiring Archbishop Francis Carroll.

ACU National initiated the appeal to raise funds to establish the Francis Carroll Scholarship which will provide financial support to students from rural communities coming to Canberra to attend ACU.

Archdiocesan financial administrator Mr Herbie O'Flynn said the scholarship was a practical way to help country youth, especially in their first year of transition to Canberra, and an appropriate tribute to Archbishop Carroll who was well known for his interest in both education and youth.

The Archdiocese was happy to support the appeal and encouraged

the Catholic community to get behind the project.

ACU's national manager fundraising Ms Bea Brickhill said schools and parishes were invited to support the appeal.

Canberra campus rector Prof Peter Camilleri said the scholarship honoured Archbishop Carroll's tireless work "in a long-lasting and practical way".

Donations to the scholarship appeal are tax deductible.

Yes! I would like to contribute to the Francis Carroll Scholarship Fund

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From mountains to sea



Carroll College Broulee has a new principal Mrs Ann Lovell, who succeeds Sr Noelene Quinane, who was elected leader of the Goulburn congregation of the Sisters of St Joseph. Mrs Lovell is former principal of St Patrick's, Cooma, where she spent four years. She has also held leadership positions in Canberra. Mrs Lovell says she hopes to spend many years on the coast.

Country church closes

St Brendan's Church, Milvale, will close for the last time next month after a history spanning more than 80 years. The decommissioning Mass will be celebrated at 6pm on Saturday, 22 April.

Current and past parishioners have been invited to attend and to bring a plate for supper.

The timber church was opened in 1922 at Milvale which is about half way between Young and Temora.

Although it was full for weekend Mass at one time, numbers dwindled. Finally, Bribbaree parish and local residents decided it was too expensive to keep open and it was not fair for the priest to have to travel a long distance from Grenfell.

A long-time resident said the ground the church is on is owned by the Catholic Church but the building was erected by the community to be used as a church and hall. It was paid for by holding balls which were well supported with a belle of the ball chosen and a sit-down supper provided in the outside shed.

The shed has since been renovated by the CWA and is used for meetings.

Marist spirit impresses head

While most Canberrans have felt the sting of a hot and humid summer, one newcomer could be forgiven for wondering what the fuss is about.

This time last year Marist College's new headmaster Mr Richard Sidorko was deputy principal of the International Academy in Kuwait, which boasts summer temperatures in the 50s Celsius.

Mr Sidorko, whose wife Berenice was in charge of the academy's junior school, has succeeded Mr Ross Tarlinton as head of Marist College Pearce after leaving Kuwait in June last year.

He speaks with pride and enthusiasm about the college he has joined.

"There's a strong culture here at Marist which promotes involvement, not just standing back and waiting for others to do things.

"We set high standards and we tell the boys 'you can achieve them, all of you.'"

Mr Sidorko said two experiences he had had in his first few days at the college had particu-



New headmaster Mr Richard Sidorko in the grounds of Marist College.

larly impressed him.

One was the unself-conscious way a group of Year 9 boys, dressed in ceremonial gowns, had performed a liturgical movement at a school assembly with full appreciation from the audience.

The other was the way in which Year 12 leaders on the first day of school had stood out from the front of the school and welcomed new stu-

dents in a way that was warm, genuine and sincere.

"This expressed to me everything that the family spirit of Marist is about," he said.

Mr Sidorko paid tribute to the way in which the Marist Brothers had "embraced the involvement of lay people" in the college.

"The brothers put a lot of effort into collaboration - it's not us and

them." Three Marist Brothers continue to teach full-time at the college.

Mr Sidorko comes to Canberra after a career of leadership positions in schools, including holding the position of principal at two northern NSW colleges, as well as a nearly three-year stint in Kuwait and a period in the Solomon Islands.

Bioethics topic for lecture

Jesuit Fr Frank Brennan will deliver this year's annual lecture for the St Thomas More's Forum.

He will speak on the theme "Public Ethics in Bioethics" at St Thomas More's School hall, Campbell, on 22 June.

The monthly program of lectures gets under way on Friday, 3 March, with leading Canberra region winemaker Mr Tim Kirk speaking on "Balancing Business, Family and a Catholic Life".

This will be followed by a presentation of wines and cheeses.

On Wednesday, 5 April, Australian Family Association national vice-president Mr Bill Muehlenberg and ACT president Mr Paul Monagle will be guest speakers.

\$21,270 donated to Marymead Child & Family Centre

Thank you to all Canberra Southern Cross Club members and their guests who helped make the meals for Marymead weekend held on February 18 & 19 such a huge success.

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The spirit of compassion in action

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Last month I travelled to Rome to represent the Australian Catholic Bishops at an international conference on charity. The conference was held to mark the publication of the First Encyclical Letter of Pope Benedict XVI, entitled "God is Love".

During the visit, I enjoyed a brief meeting and a few words with Pope Benedict and I had the impression of a man at peace with himself and happy in his job.

I hope many will read the Holy Father's letter and prayerfully reflect on it. Its title and content came as a

surprise to many commentators but warmed the hearts of many more, including myself. Pope Benedict says that he wants his first encyclical to "speak of the love that God lavishes on us and which we in turn must share with others".

He hopes that this message of love will be seen as a keystone of his papacy. Surely it is also the keystone of our Catholic faith and at the heart of all Christian living. Indeed, it is the central truth of our human existence. The letter shows the link between the love which God offers to humanity and the reality of human love.

Archbishop Francis Carroll's Lenten Pastoral Letter was read at all Masses in the Archdiocese on the weekend of 25-26 February.

Because God has first loved us, we are called to respond in love. Our love for God however can never be separated from our love for each other. St John sternly reminds us, "If anyone says I love God and hates his brother is a liar for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God

whom he has never seen".

True it is that we have never seen God but we have seen Jesus. In speaking of love, the Christian distinctiveness is to be found in who Jesus is. If God is love then Jesus Christ is love incarnate, Love enfleshed and made visible in human shape and form.

Pope Benedict has also given us a message for Lent which carries much of the same message as his encyclical. He takes as his text, "Jesus, at the sight of the crowds was moved to pity" and begins his message, "Lent is a privileged time of interior pilgrimage towards

him who is the fount of mercy. It is a pilgrimage in which he himself accompanies us through the desert of our poverty, sustaining us on our way towards the intense joy of Easter".

We begin our Lenten pilgrimage marked with the Cross of sacrifice and the ashes of humility and penance.

The Prophet Hosea speaks of the passionate love of God for his people, "I am going to lure her out into the wilderness and speak to her heart ... I will betroth you to myself for ever. Betroth you with integrity and justice, with tenderness and love".

your voice

Is this model the most suitable?

Your correspondents (CV, December 2005) Theresa Largo, Tom Bellgard and Frank and Rosemary Brassil represent the wide spectrum of opinions in the Church regarding priesthood and celibacy.

Theresa Largo is right when she urges people to pray for single celibate men who are called to the priesthood. The World Youth Day to be held in Australia in 2008 gives the Australian bishops as a body an opportunity to prepare for that occasion by offering to all our parishes and schools a practical program of prayer and encouragement in the subject of priestly vocations. Such a united voice does not exist at present.

But is this the whole answer to the drought of vocations and the coming Eucharistic famine which paralyses the Catholic world at present?

Many theologians, historians, pastoral workers and ordinary Catholics would see the existing medieval, monastic, monolithic model of priestly ministry as not necessarily the most suitable in the 21st century.

Of course, it is not quite monolithic. In England and elsewhere there are many married priests, converts from Anglicanism, who lead Catholic parishes very capably and faithfully.

If our theology of priesthood and Eucharist begins with the needs of the people, as was the case with Jesus in Matthew 9:36, the point of view of Frank and Rosemary Brassil and many others (Eucharist is essential - celibacy is not) brings us to new insights in our dilemma.

The claim of the French bishop who said that Catholics are being denied the Eucharist in order to protect celibacy may be seen by history as a valid diagnosis of our current crisis.

As the question of priestly celibacy is a matter of discipline not doctrine, it could be that an assembly of the whole Church as in Acts 15:22 is needed to discern the future.

Ordinary Catholics could well borrow the sentiments of the English people in G K Chesterton's lament:

*"Smile at us, pass us by,
but do not quite forget,
we are the people in the pews
and we have not spoken yet."*

Mgr Robert Egar, Seacombe Gardens parish, South Australia.

Global warming greater problem

I suspect that, like in my parish, all Australian Catholics are being urged to write to our MPs about the abortion drug RU486.

I have decided not to; not because I agree or disagree but because the Catholic Church in Australia has made this a major political issue while ignoring the greatest problem on earth, that of global warming.

RU486 might end up being responsible for terminating a few thousand lives.

On the other hand, global warming will terminate millions of lives and perhaps a few billion, as well as the extinction of over a million species of plants and animals if we continue as we are.

Where are the sermons from the pulpits, the handouts, the mass advertising urging us to object to the criminal behaviour of our governments, state and federal, about the inaction regarding global warming?

Apart from the odd bishop and priest making the occasional statement, where is the Catholic Global Warming Campaign?

Global warming will terminate a hundred thousand times as many lives as RU486 but hardly a peep from the Catholic Church.

Tony Doherty, Cundletown NSW.

Mothers' lives at threat

Women in Australia have a right to know the truth about the effects of all drugs on their health. We are fed up with lies from politicians, doctors and drug companies seeking power and wealth at our expense from our exploitation.

The abortion pill RU486, the latest killing device threatening our babies, also threatens their mothers' lives in another subtly deceitful way.

These are the facts that we are not given today in our newspapers:

1) RU486 has been responsible for five women's deaths in the United States and authorities have called for a review of the drug. Women have also died as a result of this drug in Sweden, Britain and Canada.

2) RU486 does not give a 100 per cent effective abortion and if foetal body parts of an unborn child are retained in a woman's body there is a high risk of infection and injury possible causing her death if immediate abortive surgery is not performed.

3) RU486 is self administered by a woman in her own home and increased psychological trauma can be experienced by her when she sees foetal body parts of her unborn baby passed in her miscarriage.

I urge all women and men to write letters to all newspapers and politicians stating their anger at the truth being denied to readers about the real dangers of this abortion drug. I also urge everyone to pray and talk

Letters to the editor are welcome. Those of 300 words or less on topical issues will be given preference. Letters may be edited without reference to the writer due to pressure of space and legal reasons in particular. Letters published do not necessarily represent the views of the Archdiocese. Names and addresses must be provided. All letters will carry the name of the writer and the suburb or town in which they live. Send your letters to: Catholic Voice, GPO Box 3089, Canberra ACT 2601, or e-mail ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au

openly everywhere against the legalisation of this terrible death drug.

How wonderful it would be if our great bishops and priests could also speak out against it in their Sunday homilies at Mass.

Maria Harrison, Mawson.

Advert dilemma

I refer to your comment appended to the letter Discrimination Goes On, from John McCarthy, of Pearce (CV, February).

From my reading of Mr McCarthy's letter, he is pointing to the paid political advertising which was included in the Catholic Voice during the last ACT election. I know of no other Catholic newspaper which has accepted paid advertisements from a political party, and would be very upset if it became common practice. Would we accept, for instance, advertising from a racist party such as the Nazi Party or even a pro-abortion group?

I believe that your editorial comment on his letter misses the point entirely.

Kevin T Condon, Oxley.

(Other Catholic diocesan newspapers do accept paid political advertising, such as The Southern Cross is doing in Adelaide, where there is an election forthcoming, and The Catholic Leader in Brisbane.

Generous readers

The response from the article "Water water everywhere, but ..." (CV, September 2005) has been very generous indeed. I'm off to PNG and will be away for about seven weeks during which time I hope to install two more water pumps in villages where there is no readily available water for the people.

I was able to purchase two water ram pumps with spare parts and tools. When in Hagen I think I will have sufficient funds to buy the necessary drive pipe, delivery pipe, water tank and fittings.

(Marist) Br Kevin Murray.

E-mail ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au

Imagine ...

Imagine your good friend delivered \$168 to you every Monday. You are to return \$1 each weekend and communicate for an hour. Sounds like a good deal. A very high percentage of people would go for it.

Each week we all have 168 hours. Do we give our very best friend at least one hour and communicate appropriately?

Do we recognise our very best friend when we see the poor, disabled, lonely, sick, worried, abused, elderly, mentally troubled? Do not wait until we have a major trauma and then try to communicate. Practise a few minutes each day and the one hour each weekend is the very least we can do.

Our very best friend is Jesus and he is ready to communicate 168 hours every week.

John Wilson, Isaacs.

More letters Page 8.

Internet www.catholicvoice.com.au

should colour all our relations

Resolve today to go into the wilderness, the desert of your own poverty during the weeks of Lent to learn again of the love God has for us and ask the gift of whole-hearted love in return.

Walk with Jesus who reveals God's love and respond to his message "Repent, turn away from sin and believe the Gospel". Be prepared to walk his way of prayer and self-sacrifice. Ask for the generosity to accept his Cross in your life. Be humble enough to seek pardon for sin in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Project Compassion has become an integral part of

our Lenten journey. This year it follows the theme "Compassion in action". The parable of the Good Samaritan is the great lesson of compassion in action.

needs me and whom I can help is my neighbour", whether in my own family or in a refugee camp on the other side of the world.

This spirit of compas-

Allow God to 'speak to our hearts' this Lent

After telling the parable Jesus says, "Go and do likewise".

As Pope Benedict points out in his encyclical, the Good Samaritan's story abolishes all limits as to who is my neighbour. It extends to all human kind. "Anyone who

sion in action should colour all our relations with others. Project Compassion allows us to extend it to our sisters and brothers far and wide in a very practical way of meeting real and often desperate need.

Let us all go deeply into the Spirit of Lent to allow God to speak to our hearts and at the same time to hear the cry of the poor in our neighbour's need. We give the final word to Pope Benedict. "To Mary, the living fount of hope, we entrust our Lenten journey so that she may lead us to her Son. I commend to her in particular the multitudes who suffer poverty and cry out for help, support and understanding".

With every best wish and blessing.

Yours sincerely in Christ,
+Francis P Carroll
Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn



news

Doorknock \$250,000, but short of target

Vinnies was on target to reach \$250,000 from its annual doorknock as money continued to come in late last month.

However, indications were the target of \$300,000 set for this year would not be reached.

Executive officer Mr Bob Wilson said money that was likely to come in to complete the doorknock over the next couple of months would take it to \$250,000.

The appeal was run over three weekends last month, but donations may still be sent to Vinnies.

In launching the appeal, Federal Member for Canberra Ms Annette Ellis said every dollar collected from the Vinnies' doorknock appeal would go to the society's program of home visits. She urged as many people as possible to volunteer as collectors.

Ms Ellis said she had had first-hand experience of the society's work when she went out on its night patrol van. "The work of Vinnies is immeas-



urable," she said. "I am very impressed with the work of all the volunteers."

Vinnies was an integral part of the Canberra-Queanbeyan community and provided domestic support to more than 30,000 people through the home visitation program. This assistance equated to more than \$1.3 million in the last financial year. With subsidies received from Federal and ACT governments of \$230,000 for emergency relief, there was a shortfall in funds. "That is why it is important for us all to get behind this appeal."

Archdiocesan president Mr Tony Thornton said demands on the society's resources were increasing every year.

"While the numbers assisted remain fairly constant, there has been a dramatic change in the mix of people seeking assistance. The biggest increase in requests has been associated with housing and accommodation issues as people seek affordable housing in a very tight market."

"Apart from helping people in their homes, the society is active with youth programs, night patrol, migrant and refugee settlement and providing a safety net for those people struggling to meet the basic needs the majority of us take for granted."

"We need to raise at least \$300,000 to keep our home visitation program afloat."

Prayer for unborn

Catholics have been invited to join in prayer outside a Canberra abortion facility to mark the Day of the Unborn Child.

As the day, 25 March, the Feast of the Annunciation, falls on a Saturday this year, the prayer group that prays outside the ACT Health Building on the corner of Moore and Alinga streets, Canberra, will mark the event from 8am to 9am on Friday, 24 March.

Any Catholic who can spare even a few minutes is welcome to attend to pray the Rosary and the Litany of Our Lady.

Inquiries should be directed to Philip, telephone 6254 3969, or Rose 6285 2914.

ABOVE: Federal Member for Canberra Ms Annette Ellis praises the work of Vinnies volunteers at the opening of the annual doorknock appeal. President Mr Tony Thornton is in the background.

New leader for first CWL branch

A new president of the St Christopher's (Canberra) branch of the Catholic Women's League has been elected at its 60th annual meeting. Angela M Devlin was elected to succeed retiring president Vonnie Sullivan, who celebrated her 83rd birthday.

Other office-bearers elected were: Vice-presidents Mary Barraclough and Evonne Sullivan, secretary Jacqueline Hipwell, treasurer Minneke Peerboom and executive committee Ceciley Matthews, Stephanie McCue and Joyce Purcell.

The branch will celebrate its jubilee with Mass, celebrated by Archbishop Francis Carroll, followed by lunch at St Peter Chanel's Church, Yarralumla, at 11am on Tuesday, 14 March. Among those invited are former and current chaplains, and CWL members from throughout the Archdiocese, including family of many women who served St Christopher's branch over its history.

Joyce Purcell, the longest serving member, joined in 1952 and is an active member of the branch, which also continues to have the interest of Bridget (Mollie) Driver. Both women are now in their 90s.

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Adoration is the answer

The practice of Eucharistic adoration has been almost completely abandoned or neglected in some Catholic churches. This neglect has undermined the power of Eucharistic adoration and its importance in the life of the Catholic Church.

In April 2003, Pope John Paul II in his *Ecclesia de Eucharistia* focused on the Eucharist in its relationship to the Church. He explained that the Church draws her life from the Eucharist as it contains the Church's entire spiritual wealth: Christ himself!

He reminded us that the primary dimension of the Eucharist is vertical or God-centered: The Eucharist makes present to us Christ's sacrifice in which He gave up his life for our sake.

In that respect, we were somehow led to believe that "celebrating the Eucharist" in Mass is enough for our faith journey and any traditional form of Eucharistic devotion outside the Mass is not of importance.

In many places, Eucharistic adoration has been neglected and discouraged, whether in the form of praying before the tabernacle or before the host in the Eucharistic exposition.

John Paul II reminded us that the worship of the Eucharist outside of Mass is of inestimable value for the life of the Church. An example of that is the ordination of 15 priests on 28 May,

2005, in the Archdiocese of St Paul and Minneapolis in the United States.

Archbishop Harry Flynn attributes the ordination of the 15 priests to the perpetual Eucharistic adoration in his diocese. He points out that "where Jesus abiding presence in the Eucharist is appreciated and adored by his people, the gift of priesthood from which it comes is understood and appreciated, and vocations flow from that".

John Paul II underscored that this practice is supported by the example of many saints and states that priests must encourage it, including by their own example.

It is my hope that every Catholic church, if not already doing so, will start effectively implementing Eucharistic adoration and that priest and laity will take seriously the advice given by Pope John Paul II.

Georgette Najjar, Batemans Bay.

Moral pollution real scourge

While respecting the persons and sacred ministry of the bishops involved in the Catholic Earthcare Australia conference held in Canberra, may I point out the glaring anomaly of political correctness (CV December 2005).

Why were there no speakers from the ranks of scientists who say that global warming is a myth and that much of the science supporting it is unconvincing or deliberately alarmist?

The green lobby is an anti-Christian pressure group with a political agenda and the power to influence ruling governments. Their influence is shown in the passing of law by the NSW Government concerning smoke emissions from the chimneys of private dwellings.

Paid personnel drive around town and country on the Southern Highlands to pass judgement on smoke emissions. Already a farmer has been served the arbitrary fine of \$3300.

The dead wood from fallen trees, if burnt in the family fireplace, produces less carbon dioxide than it would if left to rot in the paddock.

A cold climate and prolonged drought, with consequent financial hardship for farmers, makes this farcical law a serious injustice.

Consider also that the green smoke law legalises private policing, informing and arbitrary judgements. Such policy operates in Communist countries!

Pope Benedict XVI has stated that Christianity is dying in Western countries and named Australia as the worst example. This confirms that moral pollution is the real scourge and that there is danger that "the salt will lose its savour" (Matt.5:13)

Bishops Bathersby, Power, Hurley, Toohey and Doyle who digress into earthcare at such a time and make it a paramount issue appear to be missing the point of their episcopal calling.

Mrs Marie Kennedy, Goulburn.

Innovation was missing

Ms Mardel (CV, February) states that I was critical of Archdiocesan Commission for Women's lack of progress and that I have implied that its establishment will impact negatively on vocations for the priesthood. This is not true.

My comment centred on the lack of innovation reported in the November 2005 article, which stated that the commission seeks to make language more inclusive, promote greater participation by women, establish mentoring programs, further develop parish contact networks and link in with the established bureaucracy.

I understand there were 80 applicants and I must assume the best were selected. I was critical of the absence of innovation from this elite group, not (the lack of) progress.

We have heard women claim that they feel excluded by the Church. This has not prevented their participation in a broad range of parish activities, or within the bureaucracy. There are generally greater numbers of women attending Mass and participating as extraordinary ministers. I am also aware that women have assisted the priest in holding up the bread and wine at the Offertory in the Cathedral. I have observed some extraordinary ministers receiving Holy Communion before the priest. What else does the commission hope to achieve as far as participation is concerned?

I made no reference to the dwindling numbers of clergy. I referred to a dwindling number of parishes that the developing contact network will have to service (with inclusive language). If the commission expends as much effort praying for priestly vocations as they have on their reported activities, then we will be richly rewarded.

If they are serious about inclusive language, then I suggest they start with the Book of Genesis and correct the exclusivity of the "Sin of Adam". In the meantime, promise to be patient and limit my expectation to receiving reports on a woman's perspective of the teachings of the Holy Father.

Theresa Largo, Reid.

Puzzled

As one who works to spread Our Lady's Medjugorje messages, I am puzzled by the reluctance of many priests to allow the message to be displayed in churches. The message asks nothing for Our Lady. The core of the messages is to let the Mother of God lead us back to her Son.

Are they reluctant to display a message that constantly asks us to pray because they do not trust the visionaries or the Franciscan priests in Medjugorje, who send out the message, or because they find something wrong with the messages? Would priests who are willing to put their name to their opinions please tell us why these important messages should not be displayed prominently in every church and in every place where devout Catholics gather.

- Larry Phillips, Narooma.

FACTS ON FUNERALS

Experiences of grief.

Grief is a simple word used to describe the natural responses we have when facing a loss.

Loss of a job, declining health, marital breakdown, even leaving home or school can be accompanied by feelings of loss and grief, and are only some of the losses we may face during our life.

As we learn to cope with our loss and adjust to a changed situation we may go through many changes of feelings, thoughts and behaviours. We may even question our spiritual beliefs. This is grief in action.

There are no right or wrong ways to grieve, and feelings of loss do not stick to a rigid timetable.

However, there are some reactions to loss that are common to many people. These reactions may include sadness, depression, anger, guilt, regret, thoughts of 'why me?', resentment, poor concentration, and/or withdrawal from social activities.

As you make your way through the grief process you need understanding, information and assistance. Be patient with yourself. Don't be afraid to ask for help. A friend who will listen without judgement, or a private journal where you can write your thoughts, can be a great comfort.

For further information please call 6297 1052.



M. H. O' ROURKE
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Called but not recruited

The letters that have been written in recent months arguing for a married priesthood show a lack of understanding of being human.

Christ made it quite clear that virginity for the sake of the Kingdom is the superior vocation, but only some are called.

I think that John Paul II best summed up the issue in his book *Love and Responsibility* written in 1960.

The need for betrothed love goes deeper than the sexual instinct and is connected with the spiritual existence of the person.

It is not finally and completely satisfied by union with another human being.

Spiritual virginity is a movement towards final union through love with a personal God.

The superiority of virginity to marriage is to be found in the excep-

tionally important part that virginity plays in realising the kingdom of God on earth.

There is a proper course for every person's development to follow. Every individual must plot this course correctly, by understanding on the one hand what he has within him and what he can offer to others, and on the other hand what is expected of him.

A person who has a vocation must not only love someone, but be prepared to give himself for love.

Both virginity and marriage understood in an uncompromisingly personalistic way, are vocations.

Individuals are called to a vocation; they are not recruited by having attractive options.

I think that to propose a married priesthood alongside a celibate priesthood belittles both the priesthood and marriage.

J L Smith, Farrer.

Plight must not be ignored

In his statement for World Day of Migrants and Refugees (15 January), Pope Benedict XVI said: "Given the vast number of people who ask for asylum or seek a better future abroad, the Church must see them through the eyes of Jesus."

"Speaking of asylum seekers and refugees, I wish to underline how the tendency is to stop at the question of their arrival while disregarding

the reasons for which they left their native land. The Church sees this entire world of suffering and violence through the eyes of Jesus."

The Pontiff's words are especially relevant given the arrival and treatment on Australian soil of 45 asylum refugees from West Papua. The plight of those people should not be ignored.

H.J.Grant, Campbell.

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New Arrival Humanitarian Service Program at Centacare urgently needs volunteers to assist families arriving in the country to settle in the communities of Canberra and Goulburn. Volunteer training and induction will be provided. Please contact Mitra Naraqi on 6162 6138 or 0439 485 999, or e-mail mitra.naraqi@centacare-canberra.org

Meditations for Lent 2006

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Be fearless in using media - bishops urge

Australia's bishops have called on Catholics to be critical users of the media in all its forms.

They need to actively discern what messages are true and good, rather than be passive consumers of all that comes their way.

The bishops were speaking in a pastoral letter on the Church and the media, entitled "Go Tell Everyone", launched by Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Ambrose De Paoli in Sydney last month.

Speaking in a panel discussion after the launch, visiting Vatican correspondent Mr John Allen Jr said the document made some very valuable points and questioned how our own sense of ourselves was shaped by the media.

Melbourne newspaper religion editor Mr Barney Zwartz described the document as "admirable" and called for a stronger relationship of trust between Church and media.

The bishops say in their letter that Catholics must engage with the media, whether as communicator or consumer.

"The Church itself must lead the way in being committed to communicating the fullness of truth in a way which is credible and understandable not only to the faithful but to the world at large.

"To address the ... bombardment of information and

opinion is not an easy task for those who desire to respond to the call of Christ.

"It requires a determination to be informed, to be discerning and, not least of all in the modern world, to be principled and courageous in their response.

"Since the Second Vatican Council, the Church has taught us that while we are called to be critical consumers of the media we are also called to be fearless users of the media, as it is boldness in communicating our Christian beliefs and principles that can change the world.

"Inherent in the mission of the Church is the desire to influence the values of the society around us. Many need to hear the voice of God."

The bishops say that it is often not until we are faced with a major natural disaster or tragedy that we realise the power of the media to do good.

"The media is often used at the service of the Church. We see this in coverage of Papal visits, the death of a Pope and election of a new one, big events such as World Youth Day and coverage of small, parish events which help make up the fabric of communities."

They acknowledge that "there is no doubt that the Church has also suffered at the hands of the media.

"This has sometimes been fair criticism, brought about by the scandal of some Church



ABOVE LEFT: Vatican correspondent John Allen Jr. ABOVE RIGHT: Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Ambrose De Paoli launches the bishops' pastoral letter. TOP: A panel discussion on the Church and the media with (from left) Geraldine Doogue, Fr Frank Brennan SJ, Melbourne journalist Barney Zwartz, Sydney Anglican media chief executive Margaret Rodgers, and John Allen Jr.

members. But often the Church is singled out for criticism because its message is profoundly and radically counter-cultural in this secular age."

In their reference to schools, the bishops say educators have a special responsibility to ensure that children are given sufficient opportunities to develop those skills which will enable them to live in an audio-visual world.

In their advice to parishes, they say much of the Church's Good News occurs in parishes, "and it might be easier than you think to spread your Good News via the local media".

The bishops say: "We pray that this pastoral letter will serve to encourage a faith-filled examination of the role of the media in our individual lives, our family lives and in the life of the Church.

"Each of us is called to step forward in faith and with courage to play our part by using the media wisely and well in proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth."

● The full document may be downloaded from www.acbc.catholic.org.au, or copies can be ordered by e-mailing media@catholic.org.au



Lenten visitors Joao Domingos M Corbafo, from Oe-cusse, and Fernando Da Silva, from Dili.

Tsunami aid pair are Lenten visitors

Two men who have helped ease the trauma of survivors of the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami that hit Aceh will visit the Archdiocese this month as Caritas' lenten visitors.

They are Joao Domingos M Corbafo, from Oe-cusse, and Fernando Da Silva, from Dili.

Mr Corbafo was first employed by Caritas Australia in 2002 as part of a team in Oe-cussi that provided emergency relief and shelter to refugees in Timor Leste. He later became finance and administration officer in charge of the Caritas Australia's office in Oe-cussi. After the tsunami he worked on the emergency shelter program for victims in Aceh.

Mr Da Silva became a volunteer with Caritas Australia in 2002. At the end of his studies, Caritas Australia employed him and in July 2003 he was hired as assistant administrator for the human rights program. He was chosen to serve in Aceh as part of Caritas' shelter construction team last January.

The visitors will speak at Mt Carmel School, Yass, at 7.30pm on Wednesday 8 March and at Holy Rosary Church hall, Watson, at 6.15pm on Friday, 10 March.

● See The World Hungers for Action, Back Page.

New aged care partners



Residents at Maranatha Lodge.

Catholic Health Care Services will become the approved provider of aged care services at Maranatha Lodge in Batehaven on 1 April.

The Archdiocese in consultation with the Maranatha Lodge board of management had for some time been reviewing ways in which it could ensure the growth and sustainability of its aged care ministries, Archbishop Francis Carroll said.

"With demand for aged care services increasing and the care needs of older people becoming more complex, it became clear that we needed to consider partnership opportunities.

"It was very important to the Archdiocese and the board that the stewardship of Maranatha Lodge was transferred to another highly regarded Catholic organisation. As a well-known and experienced aged care provider, we are confident that Catholic Health Care Services will provide the leadership and expertise needed for our ministry's growth and development."

Established by the Archdiocese, local churches and community groups in 1989, the original facility opened in November 1991. Maranatha Lodge has grown from a 35-bed low-care facility to a 95-place residential aged care community that offers low, high and specialist dementia care. Catholic Health Care Services operates 16 residential aged care communities and three hospitals in NSW. The Archdiocese has become a member organisation of Catholic Health Care Services which will ensure it plays an ongoing role in the development of care services to older people on the South Coast.

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Sr Mary Murphy (far right) shares the joy of the moment with her sisters (from left): Enid Schiller (Young), Teresa Armitage (Bribbaree) and Ruth Cooke (Wagga Wagga).

Shire honours bay parish Sister

Josephite Sr Mary Murphy, of St Bernard's Parish, Batehaven, was honoured by Eurobodalla Shire Council with an Australia Day achievement award.

The award citation detailed her many works in the parish and the wider community.

In the parish she has developed a program to care for the environment, encouraging the use of calico bags and waste recycling. She has developed and enhanced the parish's pastoral ministries in palliative care, adult education, and nurtured the youth programs and men's support groups. She works with lay parishioners, training them in skills required to minister to the sick, dying and disadvantaged.

In the wider community, Sr Murphy developed the pastoral care team at Batemans Bay Hospital; was a foundation member of Rural Australians for Refugees in Batemans Bay and was involved with a suicide response team and the suicide prevention committee.

She has been available for many families, in the parish and in the wider community, in their time of need as well as sharing in their good times.

St Joseph's has fun as it notches up 50

Children, parents and teachers of St Joseph's School, O'Connor, celebrated with a birthday cake as they opened the school's 50th anniversary year with a "meet and greet".

Events will be held throughout the year to mark the arrival of a dedicated little band of Sisters of St Joseph and the first intake of students in 1956.

The "meet and greet" coincided with the date classes began at St Joseph's on 12 February, 1956, with 175 pupils, 55 in kindergarten. Then Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn Eris O'Brien opened and blessed the school on 20 May. To celebrate this an open day, including a dis-

play of memorabilia, will be held on 19 and 20 May.

In September the children will mark the laying of the foundation stone with a mini-fete and disco. The gala jubilee celebrations will run from Friday, 27 October, to Sunday, 29 October. These will include a dinner on Saturday, open days and a Jubilee Mass and picnic.

Past and present pupils, teachers, parents and others associated with St Joseph's are welcome. Organisers are looking for photographs and other memorabilia.

Inquiries: Dilys Ketley, telephone 6247 9609, or e-mail school.secretary@sjc.cg.catholic.edu.au



Current and past students and teachers celebrate St Joseph's 50th birthday at the "meet and greet". From left (back): Sr Christina, Chris Taylor, Linda Meech, Maria Whiting, Stipan Vjdur, principal Jeanette Waterworth, Evie Forward, Laura Blunt, Grace Cockerill, Fipe-Leigh Everett, Sarah Kurthi, Connor Falusi, Martina Vjdur.



Some of the cursillistas who gathered at St Matthew's, Page, from around the Archdiocese for a Cursillo workshop. From left (back): Donna Bush, Gary Potts, Elaine Gruber, Carol Kennedy, Donna Evans, Sharron Coleman, Manel Samarasinghe, Alma Corkhill, Hilda Fitzgerald, Ted Kildea, Joseph Lai, Peter McCue, Barry Johns, Joe Jambor, Brian Hanvin, Kate Lategui, Ljiljana Argy. Front: Ted Streatfeild (president), Patricia Ester, Karen Schofield, Sandra Franceschini, Shirley Topp, Mariana Rollgeyser, Di Bruce, John Lim, Maria Gaffney, Anne Lim.

Women explore life in multi-faith society

Top female academics, theologians and commentators will discuss the implications of living in a multi-faith society at a series of public lectures organised by Australian Catholic University and the Commission for Australian Catholic Women.

The series, People in dialogue: living in a multi-faith society, will run until May at ACU's Canberra campus in conjunction with the Young Catholic Women's Interfaith Fellowship Program. Sessions include: 6 March, I am Woman, Muslim, Australian -

Shakira Hussein, PhD student at ANU. 27 March, Living Judaism in Australia - Dr Anita Shroot, National Council of Jewish Women. 3 April, How to be an adult: stopping the blame game - Sr Patty Fawkne, member of the governing council of the Good Samaritan Sisters.

Cursillo plans Mass to mark its 40th

The Cursillo movement plans a big year of celebration to mark 40 years of service in the Archdiocese.

Celebrations began last month with a workshop which focused on studying the original charism of the movement and the vision of the young men who founded Cursillo in Spain. The workshop will be taken to regional areas during the year.

The main celebration will be held on Sunday, 26 March, when Archbishop Francis Carroll will concelebrate Mass at St Francis Xavier's Church, Hall. This will be followed by a BYO shared lunch in the Hall pavilion at the Showground. A special feature of the afternoon will be a family bush dance.

There will be guest speakers from the early days and a display of memorabilia. All cursillistas and their families (children and grandchildren welcome) have been invited to attend.

Five Cursillo weekends will be held this year with lay directors Margie Doyle (Canberra in May), Peter Hofman (South Coast in June), Elaine Gruber (Western deanery in June), Joseph Lai (Canberra in August) and Donna Bush (Canberra in September/October).

For further information about these events, contact Cursillo president Ted Streatfeild, of Yass, telephone 6266 3396.



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Team gets ready for year of ministry

For the past five weeks the CYM team has been training to prepare for their work this year in schools and parishes in the Archdiocese.

Anna McCarthy has found the lifestyle challenging and different. Living with five other people has involved trying to understand their points of view, especially with cooking (much too much steak consumption), and in accepting other peoples' upbringing and experiences. Through the team training, Anna has found that learning more about faith and the reasons behind Catholic teachings makes it easier to live them out.

Jenny Drum enjoys having her faith nourished by the community lifestyle and living in the Goulburn Parish. She is excited about coming to know a new group of housemates in a deeper way. She hopes to see the youth of the diocese grow in faith and love for the Church. Through this, she hopes they will become excited about the God who made them and loves them. She feels this year she is there more for the team than for what she will get out of the experience.

Bernard Drum has found the relationship building with the team has allowed him to reflect and learn more about himself. He feels drama training allowed him to become more comfortable with himself, and that team life is making him more aware and sensitive to others. The prayer life of the team has strengthened his own personal prayer life.

Bernard, 21, originally from Bribbaree, has been studying engineering in Sydney for the past three years. He likes playing guitar, watching sunsets, eating steak, playing Australian rules and hanging out on the beach. "I had been discerning joining team for some time, especially over the last few months, but initially declined because I just had too much going on at the time. It was constantly on my mind, however, and as time went on things worked out in favour of team, and a week into training I realised nothing stood in my way any more. I then joined team after much prayer and discussion with Adam Morris, and have been having a ball ever since."

Matt Heffernan says team life is different to what he expected, particularly in regard to the sacrifices that are necessary. Team training has shown him both the

More than 170 families, single people, married and unmarried people, couples, older and young people were invited to "Think Again" when they gathered at Corpus Christi parish, Gowrie, for SummerFEST 2006.

Participants came from Canberra, Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and NSW country areas.

The broad theme of SummerFEST meant organising groups could be creative in how they communicated the Christian message.

The challenge to participants was to think again about relationships, identity, purpose, belonging, direction, future, meaning and how to live life to the full.

They were challenged to do so particularly in the light of the Gospel and the challenges and opportunities that face Catholics in the modern world.

Organising groups Emmanuel Community, Catholic Youth Ministry and Focolare Movement worked in conjunction with groups and movements in the Archdiocese including the Serra Club of Canberra, Catholic Bookshop, Society of St Vincent de Paul, School of Evangelisation, Missionaries of God's Love, L'Arche Genesaret, Missionaries of Charity and Ministry to the Newly Married.

Morning sessions featured Goulburn parish priest Fr Tony Percy who spoke candidly about the vision of the human person from Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body in a way that could be understood by most age groups.

His recently published book "Theology of the Body Made Simple" was enthusiastically received.

The youth and young adult program took on the theme of thinking again about Catholic expression, focusing on the call as Catholics to prayer, community and mission.

These three aspects were presented in sessions at which lay people and religious

practical skills required for team as well as ways to grow personally so he is able to give everything he can to the ministry of the team. His ultimate goal for the year is to develop himself to the extent that people can find the person of Jesus through him and his actions.

Annaliese Ebejer has really enjoyed spending time with her new family of the team. The hardest part has probably been making the shopping list and the lack of coastal air. She would like to grow in her faith in God and spread the love of Jesus through her ministry to young people.

Joshua Goldsbrough has enjoyed the ups and downs of community living. He hopes to continue to grow in his relationship with the team and the person of Jesus. Through this he hopes that every person that he comes in contact with will see Jesus within him and will be touched, even in the slightest.

Lead up to World Youth Day

In the lead up to World Youth Day 2008 the team will be cutting its load significantly from 2007 working only with years 9, 10, 11 and 12. This will free the team to focus on greater follow up of students they have met in schools.

In preparation for World Youth Day, there will need to be a special focus on connecting young adults in the Archdiocese to each other and the church.

A call to think again about life

shared their experiences.

"It was a good relaxing time to reflect on the year to come," a young adult who helped organise the youth program said.

Another person said that "the vision was realised in terms of a number of different groups and movements combining to form a summer camp".

The youth and young adult programs combined for the final session on developing a "missional spirit".

They put what they had learned into action, and visited nursing homes, several L'Arche communities, went out with the Missionaries of Charity, as well as tried their hands (and singing voices) at street evangelisation.

For some of the young people who participated in these activities it was a catalyst for them to find out more of how and where they can, in the words of St Francis of Assisi, "preach the gospel always and sometimes use words."

SummerFEST is a Catholic renewal opportunity facilitated by the Emmanuel Community and inspired by international summer forums that are held around Europe and in the US.

Further information may be obtained by contacting Adam, telephone 0409 995 031, or Ralph, 0401 994 081, or on the website www.summerfest.auscath.info

For this reason Hannah Walcott has been employed as development officer for Young Adult Ministry. This building of networks will take the form of:

- assisting in forming relationships between young people leaving school and their local parish community
- building community among young adults in parishes so that they can become aware of the opportunities available to them in living their faith deeply and actively
- developing a sense of unity and identity among Catholic university students in Canberra
- providing support and encouragement for young adults to be able to live their faith in the world, through the strengthening of community and encouraging a thoughtful and reflective attitude to the dominant culture surrounding them

Hannah, 23, has lived in Canberra since she was eight. She attended Sts Peter and Paul Primary, Garran, Telopea Park High, Narrabundah College and the Australian National University where she has almost completed an arts degree majoring in law and history.

Hannah was introduced by a university friend to Fr David Tremble who invited her to attend the local RCIA program at St Benedict's, Narrabundah, which led to her becoming a Catholic.

She will start the job by trying to get a good sense of where young adults are at in



TOP: Fr Tony Percy speaks on The Theology of the Body. MIDDLE: Peter Doherty, Adam Henry, Grace Morris and Kathleen O'Keefe have fun. ABOVE: Tony Sealey with helpers Serra Club Treg Huthnance and John Malycha at work on one of the most important jobs of SummerFEST, food preparation.

the Archdiocese, what they want and need, and the ways in which they are interested in deepening and enriching their faith.

Hannah is excited about exploring the Catholic faith with young adults, and inspired about facilitating the action of young adults and creating opportunities for them to channel their enthusiasm into greater compassion for their fellow human beings.

She is also sobered about the challenges ahead, how much there is to learn about the Archdiocese, and the personal and spiritual growth that will happen through the job.

Hannah may be contacted by telephone at 0433 064 587 (m), 6201 9818 (w), e-mail hannah.walcott@cg.cath



New CYM team member Bernard Drum (left) and Hannah Walcott, development officer for Young Adult Ministry in the Archdiocese.

books for children

Learning about Norsemen

They Came on Viking Ships by Jackie French Angus and Robinson, Sydney 2005, 279pp, rrp\$15.95. Reviewer: Moira McAlister *.

Jackie French gives young readers a great insight into Norse life around 900AD. In this story 12-year-old Hekja witnesses the destruction of her village and the death of her mother and experiences the terror of being captured by Vikings and kept as a slave. She is accompanied by her faithful dog Snarf, an Irish wolfhound who is not only her friend but her protector in a life to which she surprisingly adapts.

Jackie French tells the story wonderfully, with great feeling and understanding. She paints a vivid picture of the landscape, the culture and the lifestyle of her characters. Forty-five footnotes explain the less obvious aspects of Norse culture. This is an historical novel in the true sense. Young readers will enjoy the story and they will learn far more about Norse culture than they expect. Great reading for independent readers 10-14 years.

Don't look back...

Mao's Last Dancer. Young Readers' Edition by Li Cunxin. Penguin Australia, 2003, 331pp, rrp\$17.95.

This autobiography recounts the life of Li Cunxin from the depths of poverty in rural China during the Cultural Revolution to international stardom with the Houston Ballet Company during the 1980s. This Young Readers' Edition leaves out much of the detail of the original publication, but still is full of precise description of characters and events.

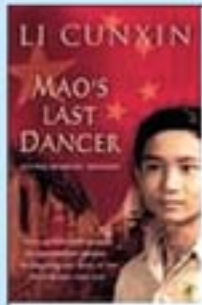
Li Cunxin's account of his early life - the lack of food, hygiene, privacy along with the cramped living conditions with his parents and six brothers - paints a picture of extreme poverty that young readers could not imagine.

Life changes for Li Cunxin just after his 11th birthday when he is one of 15 students randomly selected from over 70 million people in Shandong Province to study at Madam Mao's Beijing Dance Academy.

The whole village is euphoric at his selection and Li Cunxin describes his excitement but also the months of worry and guilt about leaving his family. The extreme physical pain of the ballet training, his homesickness and loneliness are overcome by his determination and persistence and his memory of his mother's words "don't look back". He completes his training, wins a scholarship to the US, where he eventually defects from China and finally ends up living and working in Melbourne.

Beautifully written with intense sensitivity and emotion, this book is great reading for adults and mature young readers.

* Moira McAlister is teacher-librarian at St Vincent's Primary School, Aranda.



Frank answers for everybody

The Theology of the Body Made Simple By Anthony Percy, Connorcourt Publishing, 71pp, rrp \$18.95. Reviewer: Cushla Morris.

Within a year of his election to papacy John Paul II began a series of teachings at his Wednesday audiences in St Peter's Square, called the Theology of the Body.

These teachings were given over five years, which signify something of the depth and complexities of this subject.

In The Theology of the Body Made Simple, Goulburn parish priest Fr Tony Percy successfully attempts to simplify the enormous bulk of teaching, into a readable short book, making these rich teachings more accessible.

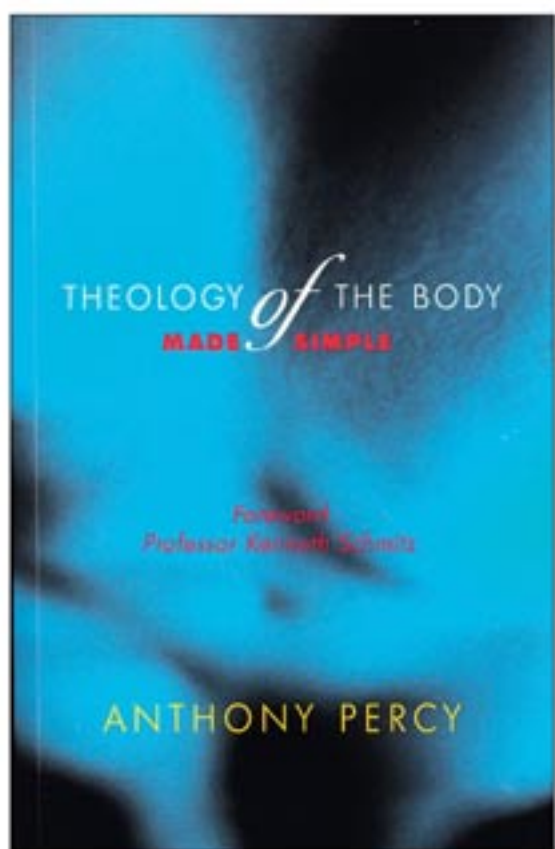
The Theology of the Body teaches about the human body, human sexuality, human relationships, marriage and single life.

The first chapters of the book focus on the theology of the "originals": Original Solitude, Original Unity, Original Nakedness and Original Sin. Solitude, unity, nakedness in "the beginning" were positive experiences where God and humanity were on intimate, trusting terms.

Furthermore we knew ourselves as whole persons without brokenness. God intended for us to be happy and free. But enter original sin and, as a result, it became hard for us to make the right



Books



choices evil becomes more than a touch attractive. So humanity and our world are basically good, but we have the inclination to make bad decisions...

The book then takes this foundation of the four originals, applying it to the reality of modern society - responses to issues such as sexual attraction, contraception, pornography, masturbation, homosexuality and more.

It offers frank answers and encouragement to see our body is more than something one dimensional.

In my experience in youth ministry over recent years it is young adults who are particularly drawn to this teaching - possible seeking real answers to questionable social expectations, and asking "why?" to traditional Church teaching. Great credit to Fr Percy who has provided an excellent tool to unpacking the Theology of the Body.

Timeless lady has still got it

Melbourne Then and Now. Heather Chapman and Judith Stillman, Thunder Bay Press, 2005, 144pp, rrp \$24.95. Reviewer: Geoff Orchison.

In 1835, John Batman, the son of a convict, sailed up the Yarra and declared in his diary that "this will be the place for a village". Melbourne has turned out to be quite a village, comprising now more than 3 million people and 160 nationalities.

This book reflects in old black and white photographs on one page and a colourful glimpse of the same site on the facing page the boom-bust roller-coaster ride of the one-time capital of the Federation of Australia. Only the most one-eyed Sydneysider could deny the charm of arguably the most cultured city in the nation.

Unfortunately, but not unexpectedly, the photographic slideshow depicts only too clearly that progress is not necessarily all it is cracked up to be. Glass and the concrete towers provide a Jekyll and Hyde character to parts of the city centre wracked by the demolish-and-rebuild craze of the 1960s and 1970s.

Still, there is more than enough left to put forward a convincing case that Melbourne is a wonderfully livable city and one that is easy on the eye and on the nerves.

Some favourite then and now shots from the book include the grand Flinders Street Station, which has even managed to hold on to its original analogue clocks, the Manchester Unity Building built at the height of the Depression, the Rialto and Oldfleet buildings, the latter erected on the site of the first meeting of Melbourne's Catholics, the Royal Arcade, the much loved MCG, and Station Pier, where so many European immigrants of the 1950s and 1960s took their first steps into a new life.

The historic picture in mid-construction of bluestone St Patrick's, started in 1858 and perhaps the largest cathedral in Australia, is not a familiar one and is an interesting contrast to the majestic building of today.

Perhaps the most appropriate place to leave this history of Melbourne is at the Dendy Street bathing boxes in Brighton. The first was built in 1862 and licensees of the tiny gable-roofed, timber huts have fought successfully for their survival over many years.

They're still there, colourful, quaint, turning up their noses at the ravages of time; so Melbourne, really.

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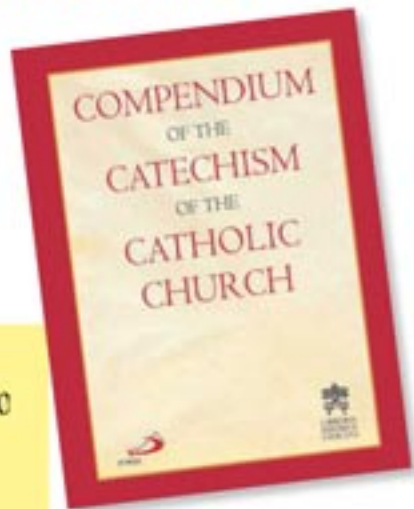
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THIS MONTHS MOIES

Capote: A study on deadly sin of greed. MA 15+

Casanova: All about a sexual predator. M

Transamerica: Go, watch, and weep. M.

Derailed: Thriller with twists and moral dilemmas. MA 15+

Lord of War: Dismaying reminder of the reality of the illegal arms trade. MA 15+

All reviews at www.catholicvoice.com.au

RIGHT: Toby (Kevin Zegers) and his mother/father Bree (Felicity Huffman), travel across the country, in a scene from Duncan Tucker's "Transamerica". A Hopscotch film release in cinemas this month.



Transamerica. Starring Felicity Huffman, Kevin Zegers and Fionnula Flanagan. Written and directed by Duncan Tucker. M. 104 minutes. Reviewer: Fr Richard Leonard*.

Go watch and weep

Transamerica is the story of Bree (Huffman) who lives as a woman but was born a man. He is one week short of his gender reassignment surgery.

As Bree's psychiatrist is preparing to sign the form giving permission for the operation to proceed, Bree gets a call telling him that his son has been arrested in New York City for street-hustling and "shoplifting a frog."

Bree thinks this call is, either, a terrible joke or a mistake. Then he does the maths.

He had an affair while at college 16 years before. This boy could be his. The psychiatrist insists that unless Bree resolves the issue of paternity, she will not sign the form for his surgery. Bree flies to New York City and meets Toby (Zegers).

He bails him out. Toby understands that Bree is being kind because she is a Christian missionary.

At Toby's flea-infested flat Bree hears how Toby's mother had died a couple of years before.

Then Toby produces a photograph of his father and mother.

It's Bree as a man with his college girlfriend. Toby has no idea that the woman in front of him is

his dad. Toby says he wants to go to Los Angeles to be reunited with his father, "he's rich and smart and kind".

Bree and Toby transit America on the road back to Los Angeles.

On the journey Bree has to decide if, or when, he will tell Toby that he is his father, and that he is on the eve of a gender reassignment operation.

As you could imagine, the audience for this low budget film would have been very small before Huffman, the harried mother of four boys in Desperate Housewives, started winning awards for her role.

At last count she has picked up 18 of them, and she hasn't finished yet. Huffman is the odds-on favourite to win the Oscar.

Huffman gives a grippingly self-conscious performance.

And the melancholy she brings to Bree is perfect, because the whole film is so sad. It is tragic watching the story of a man who feels so un-at-home in his skin that he feels compelled to mutilate his body.

If you want to go, watch and weep.

* Fr Richard Leonard SJ is director of the Australian Catholic Film Office.

Films

On the journey to Easter

LENT RESOURCES

Videos, DVDs, music CDs and books suitable for reflection during Lent are available for loan from the Catholic Education Office Library.

VIDEOS/DVDs

Gospels for Lent Cycle B. (VHS, 10-15 min, ages 10 - adult).

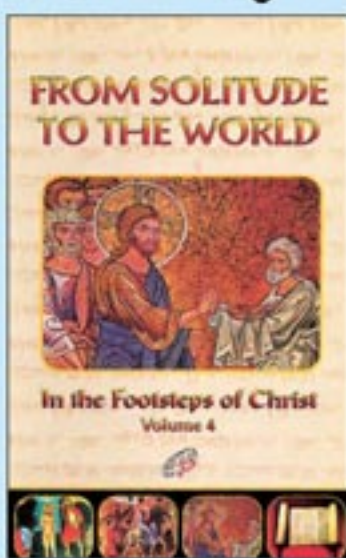
A series of six videos that present the Gospel stories used during Lent. Titles: (1) The Temptation; (2) The Transfiguration; (3) The anointing at Bethany; (4) The Cleansing of the Temple; (5) God so Loved the World; (6) The Grain of Wheat.

This is the Night: A Parish Welcomes New Catholics. (VHS, 30 min, adults).

Follows the faith journey of a group of catechumens from celebration of the third scrutiny during Lent to their reception as members of the Catholic Church at the Easter vigil. Candidates and members of the parish community describe their experiences of Christian initiation and the spirit of celebration and welcome that is present in the parish.

Journey To Easter: A Lenten Program For The Family. (VHS, 90 min, ages 8 - adults).

Introduced by Fr Anthony Scannell, this video is intended as a total Lenten journey for the family. The journey is cov-



Videos



Dennis Granlund

ered in examples of scripture, drama, story and music. The program is divided into seven parts or themes.

From Solitude to the World. (VHS, 30 min, ages 14 - adults).

Emphasises the beginning of the public life of Jesus, the temptation in the desert and his miracles.

Modern scenes from the Holy Land are accompanied by narration of the story of Jesus and religious paintings that

emphasise the physical environment and historical context in which Jesus lived.

The sections of the video on the desert and the temptation of Jesus provide possibilities for reflection during Lent.

Lenny Learns about Lent. (VHS, 20 min, ages 8-11).

An introduction for children to the rich Lenten tradition of the Catholic Church.

Lent: A Time Of Renewal. (VHS, 105 min, ages 12 - adults).

This seven-part program focuses on the Sunday gospels of Lent, and aims to show what baptismal commitment really means.

MUSIC

Transforming Love, Hope for the World: Lent to Pentecost Program Year B. (CD). Archdiocese of Brisbane Catholic Adult Education.

This kit provides written material for a group of adults to reflect on the Sunday gospels from Lent to Pentecost.

The accompanying CD contains music and reflections to accompany the text.

The Courage to Say No. (CD, ages 10 - adults).

A collection of 16 songs from the Iona Community that focus on Lent and Easter.

Parishioners may borrow resources from the CEO Resource Library for a small annual membership fee.

Chicago thriller with twists

For about 20 minutes, one can't help thinking that we have seen this all before: her Friends type - and quite credibly in view of plot developments.

French star Vincent Cassell is frighteningly persuasive as a thug on the loose in Chicago, mostly brutal and repellent but able to turn on charm when it suits him.

The screenplay, from a novel by James Siegel, has been written by Australia Stuart Beattie who impressed in 2004 with his writing of Collateral.

If you are looking for a thriller with twists and with moral dilemmas about a man who makes a terrible mistake with consequences for his family and friends that make him desperate, try this.

What would we do?

* Fr Peter Malone MSC is director of the film desk of SIGNIS: the World Association of Catholic Communicators, and an associate of the Australian Catholic Film Office.

Derailed. Starring Clive Owen and Jennifer Aniston. Directed by Mikael Hafstrom. MA 15+. 107 mins. Reviewer: Fr Peter Malone*.

From that moment on, the screenplay twists and turns in an entertainingly tantalising way.

That means it is not fair to say too much more about the plot - a multiplex thriller that achieves what it sets out to do.

The film has interesting credentials. While the setting is Chicago, much of the film was made in a London studio. Clive Owen has a role that suits him.

He is often taciturn and unsmiling in his films and while, on the whole he is like that here, he has many good reasons for not smiling.

The object of his wayward affection and behaviour is Jennifer Aniston acting against

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Benedict's challenging guide to the path

By Dennis Sleigh*

Papal encyclicals rarely make easy reading. Long sentences and complex arguments mean we don't rush out to buy the latest word from the Vatican. Pope Benedict's first encyclical may change that image.

Titled *God is Love*, this letter is delightfully different. Refreshingly written, it addresses a topic of interest: love. Further, the Pope writes about love in a way that, quite frankly, many of us will find surprising.

It is claimed the second part of this two-part letter was prepared by John Paul II. If so, the style is undeniably Benedict's. Precise sentences, clearly expressed ideas, the occasional appearance of humour, and a limited number of footnotes characterise this document.

Containing almost 16,000

words, it is shorter than the inaugural letters of Paul VI or John Paul II, but much longer than those of the other 20th century popes. If, as Vatican commentators suggest, the first encyclical sets the tone for the papacy, we are in for interesting times.

The first part of the document examines the notion of love - which the Pope admits is an overused word capable of many interpretations. We are reminded that there are two principal meanings, represented by the Greek words *eros* and *agape*.

What is surprising about this letter is the very sympathetic treatment accorded to the first of these, *eros*. Indeed, Pope Benedict explains that it is erroneous to distinguish between the two as though they were distinct. He notes: "Fundamentally, love is a single reality, but with different

dimensions; at different times, one or the other dimension may emerge more clearly." (Para. 8).

Even more surprisingly, for those of us who thought *eros* was a debased form of love, the Pope tells us (para 9) that God's love for us may certainly be called erotic love. His unpacking of this claim merits serious discussion to appreciate its depth.

Benedict stated his goal in this letter was to "clarify some essential facts" about God's love for us. He ends up, I suggest, helping us to raise new questions and to look more positively at love than we might have done previously.

One commentator remarked that it was good to see a modern Pope talk about love without mentioning procreation or contraception.

Actually, the tone of this letter is much more positive than that

comment suggests - it asks us to rethink our ideas on love "with renewed energy and commitment".

The document is not just a thoughtful statement on love. It is also, notably in the second part, a challenge to apply this love in a fresh and dynamic way. The Pope knows we live in a world "where the name of God is sometimes associated with vengeance or even a duty of hatred and violence" (para. 1) and he wants us to apply the principles of love in a way that will overcome this.

What he writes in this second part will excite and challenge many of us - and will help us work towards bringing about the kingdom on earth. The encyclical will be a useful guidebook as we follow that path.

* Dennis Sleigh is a Canberra educator and Kippax parishioner.

Christianity elevates love, doesn't repress it: Pope

VATICAN CITY (Zenit): Pope Benedict XVI published his first encyclical to show how Christianity does not repress love, but elevates it.

"*Deus Caritas Est*" (God Is Love) responds to one of the most common objections: "Doesn't the Church, with all her commandments and prohibitions, turn to bitterness the most precious thing in life?" asks the Pope.

The encyclical answers the question in two parts. The first reflects on love in its origin and different manifestations; the second, addresses the way in which the Church, as institution, must live the commandment of love.

The Pope clarifies a generalised confusion, according to which the Church condemns "*eros*" -- love of attraction -- to accept only "*agape*" -- unconditional love. "Nowadays Christianity of the past is often criticised as having been opposed to the body; and it is quite true that tendencies of this sort have always existed. Yet the contemporary way of exalting the body is deceptive," he says.

"*Eros*, reduced to pure 'sex,' has become a commodity, a mere 'thing' to be bought and sold, or rather, man himself becomes a commodity."

This conception of love implies "a debasement of the human body: no longer is it integrated into our overall existential freedom; no longer is it a vital expression of our whole being, but it is more or less relegated to the purely biological sphere.

"Christian faith, on the other hand, has always considered man a unity in duality, a reality in which spirit and matter compenetrates, and in which each is brought to a new nobility. True, *eros* tends to rise

'in ecstasy' towards the Divine, to lead us beyond ourselves; yet for this very reason it calls for a path of ascent, renunciation, purification and healing.

"It is part of love's growth towards higher levels and inward purification that it now seeks to become definitive, and it does so in a twofold sense: both in the sense of exclusivity (this particular person alone) and in the sense of being 'for ever.'"

Thus, "*eros* directs man towards marriage, to a bond which is unique and definitive; thus, and only thus, does it fulfill its deepest purpose."

The text acknowledges: "Love is indeed 'ecstasy,' not in the sense of a moment of intoxication, but rather as a journey, an ongoing exodus out of the closed inward-looking self towards its liberation through self-giving, and thus towards authentic self-discovery and indeed the discovery of God."

According to the Pope, the example of "love in its most radical form" is Christ on the cross, "the culmination of that turning of God against himself in which he gives himself in order to raise man up and save him. It is there that this truth can be contemplated. It is from there that our definition of love must begin."

The second part of the encyclical is entitled "The Practice of Love by the Church as a 'Community of Love.'" The text says that love "will always prove necessary, even in the most just society. There is no ordering of the State so just that it can eliminate the need for a service of love.

"There will always be suffering which cries out for consolation and help. There will always be loneliness. There will always be situations of mate-



rial need where help in the form of concrete love of neighbour is indispensable."

The Pope says: "The Church ... is alive with the love enkindled by the Spirit of Christ. This love does not simply offer people material help, but refreshment and care for their souls, something which often is even more necessary than material support."

He points out that "Christian charitable activity, apart from its professional competence, must be based on the experience of a personal encounter with Christ ..." Christian charitable activity must be independent of parties and ideologies. "It is not a means of changing the world ideologically, but it is a way of making present here and now the love which man always needs. Charity cannot be used as a means of engaging in what is nowadays considered proselytism. Love is free."

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Choir's program

The March program for St Caecilia's Choir is:
Wednesday, 1 March: Ash Wednesday: Sung Mass 7pm. Sunday, 5 March, 1st Sunday of Lent: Propers of the Day, Ordinary: Mass 17 for Lent and Advent, (Chant Mass), Hymns Processional: Attende Domine, Recessional: Forty Days and Forty Nights. Sunday, 12 March, 2nd Sunday of Lent, Ordinary: Mass 17 for Lent and Advent, (Chant Mass), Hymns Processional: Attende Domine, Recessional: Man of Sorrows. Sunday, 19 March, 3rd Sunday of Lent, Ordinary: Mass 17 for Lent and Advent, (Chant Mass), Hymns Processional: Attende Domine, Recessional: Man of Sorrows.

Saturday, 25 March: Annunciation of the BVM: Sung Mass 9am. Sunday, 26 March, Laetare Sunday: Propers of the Day, Ordinary: Missa Brevis (Palestrina), Motet: Civitas Sancti (Byrd) Processional: Sing All Creation, Recessional: Dear Lord and Father of Mankind.

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Our God wants to help us out of the quagmire

Dear Liturgy Commission,
Lent reminds me about sin, and sometimes I wonder whether or not I should go to Communion without going to Reconciliation first? P.J.

In the beginning, God created the universe, including human beings, and found them "very good" (Gen 1:31). Much of the time we mortals try to live by our beliefs, and so attempt to make the world a better place: by our truthfulness, generosity, forgiveness and compassion.

Word and Sacrament



From the
Archdiocesan
Liturgical
Commission

There are times, too, when we fail.

For example, we might misperceive a situation and pass on a story about another, thus giving rise to grief, resentment and alienation when all the time we can never know the situation or the heart of another - of public figures, of colleagues, even of one's parents or children.

Basically good people, when they reflect on their behaviour and attitudes, can feel discouraged, guilty and depressed. Thankfully, our loving God wants to help us out of such a quagmire.

Jesus spent most of his life forgiving, healing and reconciling, setting a pattern for us.

We are called to follow him by listening carefully to others, admitting responsibility for our wrong doing, helping to resolve conflict, being bridge-builders. We are strengthened in these aims and actions by the gift of sacraments.

In the Mass, there are six occasions when we acknowledge our non-deadly, "everyday," sins, and seek the assurance of God's pardon and grace, before joining other members of the Body of Christ to receive the Body and Blood of Christ at Communion.

In the Penitential Rite, we acknowledge responsibility for sin ("I confess") and confidently petition God's forgiveness ("Lord have mercy"). After the reading of the gospel, the priest prays, "May the words of the gospel wipe away our sins." Towards the end of the Eucharistic Prayer, the priest aloud, and we silently, pray, "Have mercy on us all. Make us worthy to share eternal life..." (or similar words).

When praying the Lord's Prayer, we beseech God to "forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us," and offer a sign of reconciliation and God's peace to those nearby.

In the "Lamb of God" prayer, we again ask for mercy and peace: "You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us." As part of our communion preparation, both priest and people, echoing the words of the centurion, say, "Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed." (Lk 7:6-7).

• Other sacraments also forgive sin: next time ...

D H Lawrence once wrote a poem on love he called, History. It reads like this:

*The listless beauty of the hour
When snow first fell on the apple trees
And the wood-ash gathered in the fire
And we faced our first miseries.*

*Then the sweeping sunshine of noon
When the mountains like chariot
cars*

*Were ranked to blue battle-and you,
and I
Counted our scars.*

*And then in a strange, grey-hour
We lay mouth to mouth, with your face
Under mine like a star on the lake
And I covered the earth, and all
space*

*The silent, drifting hours
Of morn after morn
And night drifting up to night
Yet no pathway worn*

*Your life, and mine, my love
Passing on and on, the hate
Fusing closer and closer with love
Til at length they mate.*

At the beginning of every love, romantic or not, the dream for that love is connected to an ideal of purity, mutuality, and respect.

Every real love begins with the idea that this time we'll get it right, this time we won't make the mistakes we've made all those other times, this time love will work its magic.

And in the early stages of love, that ideal is spontaneously respected.

In the stage of attraction, flirtation, infatuation, and the rooting of love in the poetic imagination, love generally enrobes itself, figuratively, in whiteness, in purity, in all that's best inside us.

It's put on a baptismal robe because it senses that here, finally, it will be initiated into life.

There is nothing as potentially life-giving and redeeming as falling in love. It re-colours the world completely.

As the great novelist, Iris Murdoch once said: "The world can change in fifteen seconds, when you fall in love."

But the world, as we know, can also turn indifferent, dark, and angry in 15 seconds, or 15 years.

We don't all die like Romeo and Juliet, still in the grip of that bliss-producing, soul-searing, divine fever we call "falling in love", where death for love seems not too high a price to pay.

120 years of LCM

The Little Company of Mary will celebrate 120 years of service in Australia with Mass this month in Sydney. The Mass will be held at 10.30am on Sunday, 26 March, in St Mary's Cathedral.

Founded by Mary Potter in England in 1877, it is an international Marian Congregation of sisters whose mission is to pray and care for the suffering and dying. Among their many places of ministry is Calvary Hospital in Canberra.

Love's baptismal robe

Ron Rolheiser

Author Ron Rolheiser is a member of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate and is based in Texas.



Time, familiarity, differences, congenital restlessness, old immaturities, wounded pride, a wandering eye, and simple human selfishness soon enough begin to dispel the magic.

Where we once couldn't get enough of each other, swallowed our own hurts and pride for the other, and would willingly, like Romeo and

'In our heart of hearts we want what's right, what's best; we don't want to stain what we love'

Juliet, have died for each other, we now begin to count our scars, let the days drift, and no longer search for the path towards the other's door. Hate begins to fuse with love, resentment with delight, and we reclaim our singleness.

What D H Lawrence so brilliantly describes in this poem is how gradually and imperceptibly love can lose its purity, its divine fever, and its divine intent, even in its most intimate expressions.

And what he is referring to is not that inevitable, and ultimately healthy,

transformation where love, simply by its own innate structure, pressures towards maturity and pushes us beyond romantic infatuation and illusion.

All love eventually programs its own dark night of the soul and this is healthy. Nor is he referring to the valuable insight that hate is not the opposite of love.

What he is referring to is the disease

that creeps into a relationship when, for whatever reason, familiarity begins to breed contempt and disrespect, and the ideal that was part of the dream that originally triggered that love is violated.

Milan Kundera once said that when the idea that a love was founded on dies, then the love dies too. He's right.

Real love is always founded on the ideal of purity (of intention), mutuality, and respect. In our heart of hearts we do want what's right, what's best; we don't want to stain what we love.

And this implies things far beyond sex.

When we first say the words, "I love you," and mean them, our hearts are connecting us to an ideal, a dream, a divine form, and a purity that draws energy from all that's best inside us.

But once we begin to compromise that ideal with any kind of disrespect whatsoever, then we begin the slide down that slippery slope that Lawrence describes here.

No expression of intimacy, the sexual bed included, will redeem the initial dream for that love. Our love will then begin imperceptibly to sleep with hate, until we can no longer tell the difference.

Our relationship will contain as much resentment as it does delight and we will soon find ourselves strangers to each other.

When we are baptised a white dress is put on us to symbolise purity and words are spoken over us to remind us that this white garment is the outward sign of our inner dignity and that we are meant to bring that dignity unstained into eternal life.

What's symbolised by our baptismal robes must be the poetic dream for every love. The challenge is always to bring the dignity of that love home, unstained.

PREGNANT ... need help?
Pregnancy Support Service can help you!

6247 5050 Florina Building, Garema Place, Canberra City

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Living with the 'net



Paul Jenkins

Good value reading

When you go into the local newsagent or even the local supermarket, you will find a good selection of Australian computer magazines for sale ranging in price from \$4.95 upwards.

These magazines usually come with a CD or DVD on the cover filled with useful programs, articles and game demos. The information in these magazines is up-to-date and usually easy to read. They are a valuable source of information about current and future trends in computing as well as providing information about technology such as mobile phones, PDAs and computing hardware.

These magazines are produced monthly by their publishers and usually come out a week ahead of the new month. Don't wait until the end of the month or you could miss out.

An advantage of the Internet is that these magazines also have a web presence that lasts the whole month. The following computer magazines are a selection of those available.

1. On the front page of the APC Magazine (<http://apcmag.com/>) website you will find a list of articles from APC in shortened format which you can click on the link to read the full article. You will also find a picture of the current month's APC Magazine. By clicking on the picture you will get an overview of the articles and contents of the magazine as well as the software you can find on the CD.

2. PC User (www.pcuser.com.au/) opens with the PC User Help Station with the 15 most recent solutions to problems that readers have asked about. On the left side of the page is a link called categories where the viewer can find other solutions to problems involving hardware, entertainment, software, purchasing, etc. Using the AskWizard, you can submit your own questions. The bottom link on the left called PC User gives an overview of the contents of the magazine.

3. When you examine the PC Authority website (www.pcauthority.com.au/), you will find the centre part of the page is called Focus, which highlights articles from previous magazine issues.

● **Cont Next Page.**

Links to the sites on these pages may be found on the Catholic Voice website: www.catholicvoice.com.au

Let us know your favourite websites so we can improve this comprehensive guide even further.

CARE AND WELFARE

Aid to the Church in Need	www.aidtochurch.org
Aust Cath Migrant and Refugee Office	www.acmro.catholic.org.au
Aust Faith Community Nurses Assoc	www.afcna.org.au
Amnesty International	www.amnesty.org.au
Catholic Health Australia	www.cha.org.au
Catholic Mission	www.CatholicMission.org.au
Catholic Social Teaching	www.coc.org/cst/
Catholic Welfare Australia	www.catholicwelfare.com.au
Centacare Australia	www.centacare.com.au
Karinya House	www.karinyahouse.asn.au
L'Arche	www.larche.org.au
Mary Philippa Brazill Foundation	www.mercy.org.au/brazill/index.html
Meeting Catholics	www.openplanet.com.au/meetingcatholics/
PALMS	www.palms.org.au
Sovereign Military Order of Malta	www.smom.org.au
St Vincent de Paul Society	www.vinnies.org.au/national/
St Vincent de Paul, Canb-Goulburn	www.stvincanb.com.au
Young Carers	www.marymead.org.au

CHURCH

Adelaide Archdiocese	www.adelaide.catholic.org.au
Anglican Diocese Canberra-Goulburn	http://members.tripod.com/~angchcbr/index.htm/
Anglican Province of NSW	www.anglicanmediasydney.asn.au/nsw/
Aust Catholic Bishops Conference	www.acbc.catholic.org.au
Aust Catholic Defence Force Diocese	www.military.catholic.org.au
Aust Conf of Leaders of Relig Institutes	www.aclri.catholic.org.au
Brisbane Archdiocese	www.bne.catholic.net.au
Canberra-Goulburn Archdiocese	www.cg.catholic.org.au
Cath Bishops Conf of England, Wales	www.catholic-ew.org.uk
Catholic Church in Australia	www.catholic.org.au
Catholic Hierarchy	www.catholic-hierarchy.org
Catholic Women's League Aust	www.cwla.org.au
Commission for Aust Catholic Women	www.cacw.catholic.org.au/
Darwin Diocese	www.darwin.catholic.org.au
Eparchy for Ukrainian Catholics	www.catholicukes.org.au
Geraldton Diocese	www.geraldtondiocese.org
Hobart Archdiocese	www.hobart.catholic.org.au
Maitland-Newcastle Diocese	www.mn.catholic.org.au
Maronite Diocese of Aust	www.maronite.org.au
Melbourne Archdiocese	www.melbourne.catholic.org.au
National Council of Churches in Aust	www.ncca.org.au
New Norcia	www.newnorcia.wa.edu.au/
Parramatta Diocese	www.parra.catholic.org.au
Perth Archdiocese	www.perth.catholic.org.au
Pope John Paul I	www.johnpaul1.com
Sale Diocese	www.sale.catholic.org.au
Sydney Archdiocese	www.sydney.catholic.org.au
Townsville Diocese	www.tsv.catholic.org.au/
United States Catholic Bishops	www.nccbuscc.org
Wagga Wagga Diocese	www.wagga.catholic.org.au
Who are the Cardinals?	www.insidethevatican.com/Cardinals.index.php
Wilcannia-Forbes Diocese	www.wil-frbs.catholic.org.au
World Day of the Sick	www.worlddayofthesick.org.au
Vatican	www.vatican.va
Voting Cardinals	www.catholic-hierarchy.org/bishop/scardc2.html

EDUCATION

ACUweb	http://acuweb.com.au
Australian Catholic University	www.acu.edu.au/
Bullying: No Way	www.bullyingnoway.com.au
Catholic Education, Canberra-Goulburn	www.ceo.cg.catholic.edu.au
Daramalan College	www.daramalanc.act.edu.au
Daramalan Online Alumni Directory	www.daramalanc.act.edu.au/ourcollege/alumni.htm
MacKillop Catholic College	www.mackillop.act.edu.au
Holy Family Parish School, Gowrie	www.hfpps.act.edu.au
Marist Australia	www.maristoz.edu.au
Marist College Canberra	www.maristc.act.edu.au
Merici College	www.merici.act.edu.au



ONLINE

National Catholic Education Commission	www.ncec.catholic.edu.au
Ongoing Formation for Priests	www.auspriest.org
St Anthony's Primary, Wanniasa	www.stanthons.act.edu.au
St Bede's Primary, Red Hill	www.stbedes.cg.catholic.edu.au
St Clare's College Canberra	www.stclaresc.act.edu.au
St.Edmund's College Canberra	www.stedmunds.act.edu.au
St Francis Xavier College	www.sfx.act.edu.au
St Gregory's, Queanbeyan	www.stgregorys.cg.catholic.edu.au
St John the Apostle Primary, Florey	www.sjaps.act.edu.au
St John Vianney's School	www.stjohnvianney.act.edu.au
St Joseph's Primary, O'Connor	www.sjo.act.edu.au
St Michael's Primary, Kaleen	www.stmichaelsps.act.edu.au
St Mary's Primary School, Young	www.stmarysprimary.com
St Matthew's Primary School, Page	www.stmattps.act.edu.au
St Vincent's Primary School, Aranda	www.svdps.act.edu.au
School Aid Trust	www.schoolaid.org.au
Virtual Interdependent Schooling through an Interactive Online Network	http://vision.cangoul.catholic.edu.au

FAITH AND SPIRITUALITY

A Prayer Experience	www.ozemail.com.au/~sjhop/pe-intro.htm
A Quiet Place	aquietplace.info
Australian Christian Coalition	www.acc.net.au
Australian Theological Forum	www.atf.org.au
Bede Griffiths	www.bede.griffiths.com
Bible Gateway	http://bible.gospelcom.net/bible
Catalyst for Renewal	www.catalyst-for-renewal.com.au
CathLINK Australia	http://cathlink.acu.edu.au/
Catholic Charismatic Renewal Melb	www.ccr.org.au
CDF Canberra and Goulburn	www.cdf.cg.catholic.org.au
Catholic Enquiry Centre	www.catholicenquiry.com
Catholic Information Centre on Internet	www.catholic.net/
Catholic Institute of Sydney	www.cis.catholic.edu.au
Catholic Online	www.catholic.org
Catholic Prayers	www.yenra.com/catholic/prayers/
Catholic Truth Society	http://cts.pamphlets.org.au
Cursillo	www.cursillo.catholic.org.au
Easter Dating Method	www.assa.org.au/edm.html
Edmund Rice Family	www.edmundrice.org
Emmaus Productions	www.emmausproductions.com
EWTN Global Catholic Network	www.ewtn.com/
Flame Ministries International	www.flameministries.org
Focolare Movement	www.focolare.org.au
Lay Spirituality	www.lay-spirituality.com
Legion of Mary	www.legionofmary.org
Little Company of Mary retreat info	http://www.womenreligious.org/~retreats/
Lochinvar Resource Centre	http://users.hunterlink.net.au/~dnsb
Lumen Verum Apologetics	www.lumenverum.com
Mt St Agnes Theological Centre	http://msawomen.org/
Neo-Catechumenal Way	http://members.aol.com/fatherpius/neo.html
New Advent	www.newadvent.org
OnceCatholic.org	www.oncecatholic.org
Online Christian Network	www.onlinechristian.com
Our Lady of Mercy Penrose Park	www.paulinefathers.org
Padre Pio	www.abol.it/padrepio/inglese
Passionist Family Group Movement	www.pfgm.org/
PetersNet	www.petersnet.net
St Clement's, Galong	www.stclement.com.au
St Joseph's House of Prayer	http://members.ozemail.com.au/~sjhop/index.html
St Mary's Towers Retreat Centre	www.ozemail.com.au/~towersretreat
Shrine of Mary MacKillop, Scotland	www.gaeldom.com/mmk
Shroud of Turin	www.shroud.com/
Society of the Little Flower	www.littleflower.org/
The Internet Padre	www.internetpadre.com
The Lectio Divina Page	www.club1.ie/shalom/lectio
Virtual Rosary	www.virtualrosary.org

GENERAL

Anthony J Kelly CSsR Homepage	dlibrary.acu.edu.au/staffhome/ankelly
Australian Catholic Discussion Board	http://vox.sparks.to

Catholic Voice welcomes your suggestions of favourite web sites. Please e-mail us your top sites and we will try to include some of them on this page. These sites are also accessible through the Catholic Voice website www.catholicvoice.com.au

Australian Christian Lobby	www.acl.org.au/home/index.stw
Ave Maria Singles	www.avemariascol.com
Australian Political Ministry Network	www.polmin.com.au
Business Ethics Research Centre	www.berc.com.au
Calvary Hospital ACT	www.calvary-act.com.au
Catholic Music Network	www.catholicmusicnetwork.com
Drought, floods and prayer	www.ozemail.com.au/~sjhop/prayer.htm
Fr Andrew Greeley	www.agreeley.com
Fr Mac's Heavenly Puddings	www.frmac.org.au
John Michael Talbot	www.johnmichaeltalbot.com
Kevin Bates SM	www.kevinfbates.com
Knights of Southern Cross Aust	www.ksca.org.au
Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney	www.marymackillopplace.org.au
Military Christian Fellowship	http://mcf-australia.com
National Church Life Survey	www.ncls.org.au
National Gospel Happening	www.nationalgospelhappening.org/
Russian community in Canberra	http://members.xoom.com/Ruscan/
World Prayers	www.worldprayers.org

LIFE

ACT Right to Life Association	www.actrtla.org.au
A Decade a Day	www.adecadeaday.cjb.net
Billings Life	www.woomb.org
Family Group movement	www.pfgm.org/main.htm
Focus on the Family	www.family.org
Getting Married	www.gettingmarried.ie
Jesus in Australian Art	www.mcauley.acu.edu.au/~yuri/jesus/jesus.htm
National Drugs Campaign	www.drugs.health.gov.au
Queensland Bioethics Centre	www.bne.catholic.net.au/qbc
Southern Cross Bioethics Institute	www.bio-ethics.com
Teams: A Married Couples Movement	www.tol-oceania.catholic.org.au
The Humanita Foundation	www.humanitafoundation.org

MARIAN

Centre for the Queen of Peace	http://home.earthlink.net/~marianland/index.html
Family Rosary Movement	www.familyrosary.org
Fatima Network	www.fatima.org
Garabandal	www.garabandal.com
Medjugorje messages	www.medugorje.org/weiblep.htm
Our Lady of Good Health Shrine	www.annivailankanni.org
The Mary Page	www.udayton.edu/mary

MEDIA

Annals Australia	www.annals.com.au
Catholic Leader	www.catholicleader.com.au
Catholic Voice	www.catholicvoice.com.au
Catholic Weekly	www.catholicweekly.com.au
Christian Media Association	www.ChristianMedia.asn.au
Ignatius Press	www.ignatius.com
Independent Catholic News	www.indcatholicnews.com
Jesuit Publications	www.openplanet.com.au/home/
Kairos	www.kairos.com.au
Majellan Publications	www.majellan.org.au
Marist Messenger	www.maristmessenger.co.nz
National Catholic Reporter	http://ncronline.org
NZ Catholic	www.nzcatholic.org.nz
One Way FM Canberra	www.rhemafrn.asn.au
Pacific Islands Religious	www.relpac.org.fj/
Pakistan Christian Voice inet magazine	www.pakistanchristianvoice.net
Radio Notre Dame	www.radionotredame.com
The Far East	www.columban.org.au/TFE/TrevorTrotter/FarEast.htm
The Pastoral Review	www.thepastoralreview.co.uk
The Tablet	www.thetablet.co.uk
The Universe	www.totalcatholic.com
The Word Among Us	www.wau.org
Wel-com(NZ)	www.wel-com.org.nz
Zenit	www.zenit.org/English/

PARISHES

Mary Queen of Apostles Goulburn	http://goulburnparish.catholicau.com
Holy Family Parish, Gowrie	www.webone.com.au/~hfcg
Holy Spirit, Gungahlin	www.holyspiritgungahlin.catholicau.com
Notes for Active Church Participants	www.giant.net.au/users/murphy
St Anthony's, Wanniasa	www.users.bigpond.com/stanthonys.wanniasa/
St Christopher's Cathedral	www.stchristophersact.catholicau.com
St Francis of Assisi, Calwell	http://act.antioch.org.au/calwell/stfranc.htm
St John the Apostle, Kippax	www.stjohnkippax.org.au
St John Vianney's, Waramanga	www.stjv-waramanga.catholicau.com
St Jude's, Holder	www.stjude-holder.catholicau.com
St Matthew's, Page	www.stmatthewspage.catholicau.com
St Thomas Aquinas, Charnwood	http://site-manager.homemail.com.au/

St Thomas the Apostle, Kambah	www.kambahparish.catholicau.com
St Vincent's, Aranda	www.svdg-aranda.catholicau.com
We Believe	www.webelieve.cc

SEXUAL ABUSE

Time of Crisis, Time of Faith	www.daughtersofstpaul.com/church/index.html
Voice of the Faithful	www.voiceofthefaithful.org

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Amnesty International	www.amnesty.org
Aust Cath Social Justice Council	www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au
Aust Council for Overseas Aid	www.acfoa.asn.au/
Aust Fair Trade and Investment Network	www.aftinet.org.au/
Caritas Australia	www.caritas.org.au
Catholic Commission for Justice, Development and Peace	www.melbourne.catholic.org.au/ccjdp
Edmund Rice Centre	www.erc.org.au
Jesuit Social Justice Centre	www.vicnet.net.au/~cardoner/uniya.html
Refugee Council of Australia	www.refugeecouncil.org.au
Sr Helen Prejean	www.prejean.org
Timor Today	www.easttimor.com/
UNIYA Jesuit Social JusticeCentre	http://uniya.org/

VOCATIONS

Assoc of Religious Vocations Personnel	www.godknowswhere.org.uk
Augustinians	www.augustinians.org.au
Aust-NZ Federation of Srs of St Joseph	www.josephitefederation.catholic.org.au
Australian Catholic Deacons Assoc	www.deacons.asn.au
Benedictine Abbey, Jamberoo	www.jamberooabbey.org.au
Blessed Sacrament Congregation	www.blessedsacrament.com.au
Catholic Vocations Ministry Australia	www.ozvocations.catholic.org.au
Catholic Vocations	www.catholicvocation.org.au
Columbans	www.columban.org.au
Discalced Carmelite Friars	www.carmelite.com
Disciples of Jesus Community	www.disciplesofjesus.org
Dominican Sisters of Eastern Aust	www.opeast.org.au
Dominicans in Aust, NZ, Solomon Is	www.op.org/australis/welcome.htm
Jesuits in Australia	www.jesuits.org.au
Little Company of Mary	www.lcm.org.au
Loreto Sisters	www.loreto.org.au
Marriage Encounter	http://home.vicnet.net.au/~marriage/
Missionaries of God's Love	www.mglvocation.org
Missionaries of the Sacred Heart	www.misacor.org.au
Passionists	www.passionists.com
Poor Clare Nuns	www.poorclare.org
Redemptorists	www.rc.net/redempt.au/vocations.htm
Serra Club of Canberra	www.serracanberra.org
Serra International	www.serrainternational.org
Sisters of the Good Samaritan	www.goodsams.org.au
Sisters of Mercy	www.mercy.org.au
Sisters of St Joseph of Sacred Heart	www.sosj.org.au
Vincentians	www.vincentians.org.au

YOUTH

Antioch Youth, Calwell	http://act.antioch.org.au/calwell
Antioch Youth, Canberra	http://act.antioch.org.au/
Antioch Youth Wanniasa	www.users.bigpond.com/stanthonys.wanniasa/antioch home page.htm
Here For Life	www.hereforlife.org.au
International Movement of Catholic Students Aust	www.imcsa.org.au
Kids Helpline	www.kidshelp.com.au
LifeTeen	www.lifeteen.com
Reach Out	www.reachout.asn.au
The Cardijn Site	www.cardijn.net
YCW of Australia	www.adelaide.net.au/~aycwg

insites

courtesy Church Resources Sydney
Catholic Music Network.com
catholicmusicnetwork.com
This Catholic music website from the US launched its digital music download service late last year, allowing purchase and download of individual tracks in MP3, for listening on iPods and similar devices. Unlike most music download services, the songs are available for purchase by Australian users. Its catalogue includes artists such as John Michael Talbot.

Daramalan College Alumni Directory
www.daramalananc.act.edu.au/ourcollege/alumni.htm
This is a feature of the website of Daramalan College run by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. It is an example of a growing number of school web initiatives that encourage former students to stay connected.

Good reading

● **From Previous Page.**
On the left you will find latest news articles dealing with information technology. At the top of the site are tabs labelled news, labs, features, magazine and shopping. Here you will find hardware and software information as well as tests that the magazine has performed on various pieces of equipment to see how they performed before buying. You will also find a picture of the current month's PC Authority Magazine. Similar to APC, by clicking on the picture you will also get an overview of the articles and contents of this month's magazine as well as some of the software you can find on the CD.

4. Net Guide (www.net-guide.com.au/) is a relatively small computer magazine, but it comes packed with features and a great CD each month. On the Net Guide website you will find on the left side, links to the following sections: Knowhow, quick links, site guide, magazine, subscribe and contact us. The Knowhow section of this site is very useful and user friendly.

The website also contains IT news from around Australia and the world. The Net Guide CD comes with useful software programs for Macs and PCs as well as wallpapers and screensavers for current movies at the box office. The information in this magazine is practical for experienced and novice users.

I have bought these magazines in the past for the articles as well as the software on the CDs. All have useful sections and accurate information. The benefit of their websites is that you can find out what's in a particular magazine before you buy it.

Classifieds

For Sale - Coastal



NSW SOUTH COAST BROULEE BEACH
Opposite beach, superb views, 3-bedroom duplex, bathroom + En-suite, fully furnished and equipped, large entertainment deck, SLUG. Expressions of interest - \$470,000. Telephone 6242 7880.

To Let - Coastal

BROULEE - Spectacular views near beach, 6 bedroom 3 bathroom house, newly renovated. Telephone 6257 1222.

BROULEE - Three-bedroom townhouse, opp beach, superb views, fully equipped. Telephone 6242 7880.

MALONEYS BEACH Batemans Bay - Modern two-storey home, absolute waterfront, uninterrupted views. Sleeps 10. Telephone 0408 697 108, or view www.montalbano.worldstays.com

MERIMBULA - Excellent family unit, 3-bedroom fully self-contained with ensuite, separate bath, laundry, TV, DVD, video, electric BBQ, dble carport, short level walk to almost everything. Telephone 6495 1000, ask for 14 Merimbula Court.

MERIMBULA - Fabulous Fishpen Merimbula NSW, 2-bedroom fully self-contained, ground-floor unit with off-street parking. Flat, easy 5-minute walk to shops, lake, beach, park and town. Quiet and peaceful. Excellent value. Telephone 6495 7635 or 0427 069 662.

MOLLYMOOK - Birchgrove Apartments. 200m to beach, water view, lovely quiet location opposite reserve. Fully self contained 2 BR, lock up garage and plenty of extra parking and easy walk to Golf Club and Ulladulla shops. Please phone Craig or Kathy 0428 318 156 or 6230 3034.

SURF BEACH - Clean, modern, spacious 3 bdrm, 2 bathrm, fully s/c t'house. Sleeps 6, TV, VCR, DVD, m'wave, dishwasher, washing mach, BBQ. Available year round, no groups or pets. Telephone Trish 6291 8342 ah.

TOMAKIN - Spacious 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom, holiday house for rental. Magnificent ocean views. Short walk to beach, club and shop. Fully equipped. Sleeps 8-10. Great for families. Telephone 6285 2817.

To Let - Qld

NOOSA - Spacious 3 bdrm, 3 bath townhouse. Sleeps 6. River boat fish, 3 pools. Spa, BBQ, gym, sauna. Mod kitch, balconies, linen, u/c parking, cable TV, DVD, CD. Cafes. 3 min beach. Nat park, lge shopping complex. Owner, telephone 6258 5962 - Maree Rodgers, telephone 07 5447 3577.

NOOSA - Stylish 2bdrm fsc townhouse by river and cafes. R/c aircon, tennis court, BBQ, heated pools/spas, VCR/video library, stereo, linen, modern facilities. Book with owners and save. For brochure, telephone (07) 3289 7178.

For Sale

AUCTION of surplus pews, 11.30am Sunday, 12 March, at St Mary's, Church Street, West Wyalong. For auction, 9 pews at 7ft (240cm), 9 at 15ft (472cm), 2 at 11.8ft (357cm, 1 at 8.2ft (249cm). All pews in good to very good condition.

For Sale

KENWOOD Chef mixer from \$100. Wanted faulty units, bowls, attachments etc. TV, microwave, electrical appliances/parts - low prices with warranty. FREE repair quote. Trade-in or free removal. Telephone John 6286 4454 any time.

Services

EYECARE in the City. I have recently opened an optometry practice in the city near two well-known landmarks, Sammy's Kitchen and Gus' Cafe. With over 17 years of experience and hi-tech equipment, including a digital retinal camera, I offer a complete service that includes eye tests, glasses, sunglasses and contact lenses. If it's time you had an eye test or change of eyewear, please call James Simpson on 6162 0121 or visit Simpson Optometry, Garema Centre, 70 Bunda Street, Canberra City.

Position Vacant

PART-TIME position available for technician to repair TV, VCR, DVD, microwaves etc. Telephone John 6286 4454. Anytime.

Prayers

PRAYER to the Blessed Virgin. O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendour of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. O Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my mother. O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to help me in my necessity. (make your request). There are none that can withstand your power. O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you (3 times). Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (3 times). Say this prayer for 3 days. E M B.

PRAYER to the Blessed Virgin. O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendour of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. O Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my mother. O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to help me in my necessity. (make your request). There are none that can withstand your power. O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you (3 times). Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (3 times). Say this prayer for 3 days.

Prayers

THOU O Mary, Help of Christians, who once experienced the hardship and difficulties of acquiring the temporal necessities of life, look with compassion upon them now faced with the same difficulties and help them to find suitable employment. They are anxious, dear Mother, to be gainfully engaged in work that will relieve their temporal needs, without in any way endangering the spiritual wellbeing of their souls. Direct them to employment that will enable them fittingly to provide for themselves and their families. They are confident that thou wilt heed my prayer. O Immaculate Mother grant my request. In return I shall publish thy goodness that others may know the favour thou enjoyest with Almighty God unto His greatest honour and glory. J G.

Coming Events



COURAGE CANBERRA - Group for those experiencing same-sex attraction and desiring to live sacramental life of the Church. Meeting 9 and 23 March. Confidentiality assured. Inquiries: Telephone 6254 2408, e-mail couragecanberra@hotmail.com

CURSILLO ANNIVERSARY - 40th anniversary celebration, Sunday, 26 March. Mass 11am, St Francis Xavier's Church, Hall, followed by family bush dance at Hall Showground. All welcome especially cursillistas from early days.

CURSILLO CANBERRA WOMEN - 25-28 May, Greenhills Conference Centre, Cotter Road, ACT. Inquiries: Margie Doyle, telephone 6288 0309 for information or applications.

CURSILLO NORTHSIDE - 8pm, 23 March, Marian Hall, St Matthew's Church, 12 Chewings Street, Page.

HEALING LITURGY - Our Lady of Fatima Church, North Goulburn, first Friday of each month 7.30pm-9pm, including scripture readings, homily, prayer, blessing, Sacrament of Penance, adoration, ending with benediction.

LEGION OF MARY ACIES - 10.30am, Saturday, 25 March, at St Joseph's, O'Connor. Auxiliaries and friends of the Legion welcome at ceremonies and Mass celebrated by Archbishop Francis Carroll. Inquiries: Telephone 6251 3950.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND - For married couples, 17-19 March, Bowral. Bookings: Maureen & Jim Willson, telephone 9345 5402, www.wmme.org.au

MEDITATION ON JESUS - In style of Fr Gilbert Carlo, meets Thursdays 7.30pm, St Thomas the Apostle, Kambah. Inquiries: Trish Jarzynski, telephone 6231 8468.

NEW BEGINNING WEEKEND - Program for those who have experienced the loss

of a partner through death separation or divorce. Aims to help participants deal with grief, and work towards a new beginning in their lives. Canberra Beginning Experience Team will run weekends on 10-12 March, 11-13 August. Inquiries: Kath, telephone 6292 6195, or leave message on 0419 210 543. E-mail be_canberra@yahoo.com.au, or website www.geocities.com/be_canberra/index.htm

PRAYER IN THE SPIRIT OF TAIZE - Group meets 8pm 1st Friday of month, St Alban's Anglican Church, Lyons. Ecumenical gathering. Inquiries: Annemarie Nicol, telephone 6232 7173(bh).

RAPHAELS - Canberra-based singles social group for Catholics and Christian-minded people, aged 24-40. Meet people for social activities, including dinners, dancing, movies, social sports, coffees and monthly Mass. Inquiries: E-mail raphs-group@yahoo.com.au

STUDY OF CATHOLIC CATECHISM - With Fr Michael Fallon MSC. Tuesdays 10am-noon, Spirituality Centre, Weston Street, Yarralumla, repeated 7.30pm-9.30pm Parish Centre, St John's Kippax, Blackham Street, Holt. Part One: The Creed, to 18 July. Details: www.cangoul.catholic.org.au Go to Our Newsroom, then What's On.

THE PATRICIANS - Discussion group, a work of Legion of Mary, meets 3pm third Sunday of month, St Joseph's parish hall, O'Connor. Afternoon tea served. Inquiries: Daniel, telephone 6249 8321.

Written entries are invited for the April 2006 issue to: Catholic Voice, GPO Box 3089, Canberra ACT 2601, or e-mail ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au by Wednesday, 15 March. Please do not send your Coming Events notice to the Catholic Development Fund. It should be directed to Catholic Voice.

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THE closing date is the 15th of each month.

PLEASE note: Advertisements may be altered by the publisher. References in Prayer advertisements to promised publication and guarantees that prayers will be answered are not acceptable.

PAYMENT should be sent by cheque with the advertisement if it is posted. Credit card details are also acceptable.

CLASSIFIEDS may be posted to Catholic Voice, GPO Box 3089, Canberra 2601, or e-mailed to:

ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au



Dear Children,
As the season of autumn has arrived so has the season of Lent, leading into the celebration of Easter.

Archbishop Francis' Lenten Letter on pages 6 and 7, speaks of Pope Benedict's call to us to reflect on "the love that God lavishes on us and which we in turn must share with others".

Allecia's drawing on this page shows God looking at the world that He has made and loves. Rachel's drawing shows how much God loved us by

dying on the Cross for us.

We can all use this Lenten journey to come closer to Jesus who is the fount of mercy.

Let us stop for a moment on each of the 40 days of Lent and think of how we can be a good neighbour and friend to those who need us.

God bless and help us as we seek Jesus in each person we meet.

Love, Sue.



LEFT: The Crucifixion, by Rachel McKerrow, aged 10, of Nicholls.



TOP LEFT: This beautiful picture comes from Monica Tran, of Rosary Primary School, Watson.

ABOVE: What a fast cat! From Daniel Mongta-Kelly, age 8, of St Joseph's, Eden.

BELOW LEFT: Vietnam and Chinese New Year 2006, by Theresa Tran, Year 4, at Rosary Primary School, Watson,

BELOW: Allecia Gardiner tells how God so loves the world. Allecia is aged 6 and attends St Bede's Primary School, Red Hill.

Hello God It's me
Go ahead and see
You're all around me
Stay with me tonight.

Oh Hello God it's me
Everyone needs you
By their sides
Or when
They're in trouble
or safe.

So Hello God it's me
We all love you.

- From Ashleigh Roy,
age 8, St Benedict's
Primary School,
Narrabundah.



