



Youth on mission: p11



Pilgrims cook up trip of a lifetime

It wasn't quite the weather they're used to back home, but a group of women pilgrims from Papua New Guinea braved an unlikely cool, wet Canberra day as they prepared for a once-in-a-lifetime visit to Medjugorje.

The 25 women, including three teenagers and a range of secretaries, housewives, catechists and villagers, were from Boroko parish in Port Moresby. The Harvest Pilgrimages tour party was organised by parish catechist Mrs Norah Nelson and accompanied by Passionist Fr Paul Mercieca.

They were brought to Canberra to get visas from the Embassy of Bosnia and Herzegovina for their travel to Medjugorje.

The women spent most of the past couple of years cooking and selling their goods after Mass to raise funds for the pilgrimage which, for many, is their first trip outside PNG. "I'd be saying Mass and I could smell the sausages cooking outside, Fr Mercieca said.

Mrs Nelson said it was important that the pilgrims would be able to share their experiences which would strengthen the local community when they returned home.

"I see it also as a international apostolate. We share with the people we meet and learn from them, and they learn from us."

Prayers for rain - it's up to us

Catholics throughout the Archdiocese have been urged by Archbishop Mark Coleridge to make a special effort in Advent to pray for those who are suffering through what has been described as possibly the worst drought in a thousand years.

Archbishop Coleridge has committed a large part of the Archbishop's Christmas Appeal to drought relief in the Archdiocese. (see Page 4).

Heads of Christian churches called on people to show solidarity with those hardest hit with communities across the nation taking part in a National Day of Prayer late last month.

Catholic parishioners have come together with their fellow Christians in a number of country centres in the Archdiocese for ecumenical prayer services.

In his monthly letter in Catholic Voice (see Page 6 for full text), Archbishop Coleridge asked the entire Archdiocese to undertake "in a special way through this Advent the work of intercession for those suffering from the drought.

"I would ask that in every parish and community there be special intercession made each Sunday, even each day, for the coming of rain and the strengthening of those suffering from the drought."

He invited everyone to pay special attention to prayer at the beginning and end of each day, and to build in a moment of awareness of God's presence in the middle of the day.

This could be done in schools and communities by praying the Angelus each day during Advent. He also recommended for those who could to spend at least 10 minutes each day in silent prayer.

"Whether we look to the parched land of the Archdiocese or the arid soil of our hearts, what we need above all through this Advent is a renewal of hope, which in the end is the one thing without which the human being cannot live. When hope dies, then we become like the dying eucalypts."

President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Archbishop Philip

Wilson, of Adelaide, joined other Christian churches heads in calling for prayer for rain and for those severely affected by drought.

"At a time when our political leaders and climate experts are giving close attention to the economic consequences of this drought, we should remember the many people on farms and in small businesses who are suffering often in a deeply personal way. Local churches are already providing practical and personal support, and will continue to do their utmost. Our prayer shows that Australians stand together in the face of adversity."

At a meeting of politicians last month, a head of the Murray-Darling Basin Commission is reported to have said the drought was probably the worst in 1000 rather than just 100 years.

● See Archbishop's Christmas Appeal coupon and more stories, pictures, Pages 4 and 5.

A website has been launched to keep people up to date with preparations for World Youth Day in the Archdiocese. It may be found at www.WYDinCanberra.org
The official WYD website is at



19 months to go

www.wyd2008.org

Woman to head Catholic schools

A woman will head Catholic schooling in the Archdiocese for the first time following the appointment of Mrs Moira Najdecki to the position of director of Catholic Education.

Mrs Najdecki is principal of MacKillop Catholic College in the Tuggeranong Valley.

She will succeed Mr Geoff Joy, who is retiring after holding the position for 14 years, when she takes up the role in January next year.

The appointment was announced by Archbishop Mark Coleridge.

● See full story and picture, Page 7, and School's out for our education head, Page 9.



A case of divine intervention
PAGE 5



Life-giving year for youth
PAGE 10, 11



Our kids look at Christmas
PAGE 12



Christmas Mass times
PAGE 18

quick guide

- Archbishop Coleridge on Advent P 6
- Your 2007 calendar P 13
- Films, DVDs P 17
- Fr Ron Rolheiser P 19
- Find a website P 20,21
- What's On P 22
- Houses for sale P 22

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FR FRANK JONES
What are you doing now?

I am beginning a new mission on the outskirts of the city of Guayaquil in Ecuador. It began last December. It is an area of invasion where the poorest of the poor come from all over the country to start a new life. we have no sanitation, running water or electricity. it is situated on the Equator, around 38C everyday. there are over 50,000 people including the city jail of 6000 with accommodation for 1500.

What made you realise your vocation?

I realised my vocation from the local archdiocesan priests; happy, joy-filled men. I wanted to share that same joy. Fr Greg Beath was a good influence, along with Fr Mick O'Brien and Fr Pat Power. Once I discovered the real presence in the Eucharist, I was convinced the priesthood was for me. That was at 15 years of age.

What have been the greatest challenges of your vocation?

Not to be competitive or ambitious, to keep the spiritual life, prayer as my centre, to remain in love with Christ before all else and to serve and live among his poor.

What are the best times for you?

Prayer, loving relationships in the parishes with the people I have served in Goulburn, the hospitals in Canberra, Bolivia, Chile, among the Mapuche Indians, Ecuador, Yarralumla and now in San Francisco in Guayaquil, Ecuador. To be able to make a difference in the lives of the poor is wonderful. To see them grow, getting the communal kitchen operating and seeing malnourished children change from being dangerously thin and ill to putting on weight and developing is real contentment.

Your leisure interests?

I love swimming and going out to the movies. I can swim over here, but the movies I get to only once a year. I enjoy the football over here; it is fanatical and lots of fun.

What would you say to someone considering your vocation?

my life



In the last in a monthly series on vocations of all kinds, we speak to two travellers, missionary priest Fr Frank Jones and former navy chaplain Fr Richard Thompson



For God's sake give it a go. There is so much to receive and so much opportunity to love that makes life so worthwhile. It requires faith and confidence in Jesus, but he will never let you down. He is always faithful.

Your hopes for yourself, your parish, your Church in the next year?

I am hoping to get the medical dispensary, the communal kitchen and the child care centre operating so we can provide health care, nutrition and education for our poorest. I want to get the jail ministry operating smoothly.

FR RICHARD THOMPSON
What are you doing now?

I am the parish priest of Young, in the Western Deanery. I am no stranger to this part of the Archdiocese having been born at Cootamundra, and then spending the first three years of my ordained ministry at Young. Mysteriously, I returned to Young after spending 17 years as a chaplain in The Royal Australian Navy.

What made you realise your vocation?

I am not sure that there was an absolute and exact event. It was more like an awakening that gradually occurred after I said 'yes' to entering the seminary 26 years ago, and was confirmed as I said and continually say 'yes' to ordination.

What are the greatest challenges of your vocation?

My greatest challenges lay with trying to understand why the Holy Spirit apparently speaks more clearly to church authorities than it does to those who make up the Church.

What are the best times for you?

When I share in people's laughter, or at the least, share in their reasons for smiling. I do not believe that Jesus Christ never smiled or laughed, so I like challenging people to get to know Jesus beyond the ancient, cultural and artistic stereotypes. I

have a great etching from the New York Art Gallery called 'The Laughing Christ'. This etching always reminds me to be true to Christ and true to me.

What leisure interests?

As I get older, I definitely spend more time with people enjoying their company and sharing in our journeys, usually with good music. I spend less time partaking in the interests of my youth like sailing, skiing and cycling. That is not to say that I have moved on from those interests - they just have a different priority. I enjoy reading and researching in the behavioural sciences, always keen to ask 'Why do people do the things they do?' My favourite time is a long lunch.

What would you say to someone considering your vocation?

Talk to an ordained deacon or priest whose spiritual energy inspires you to dare to take a risk with and for God. Find someone who does not take themselves too seriously, but does take the power of God seriously. In the backpack you carry through life, make sure you carry a good translation of the Bible, a photo of someone you love and who loves you, and a seed to plant in the earth at some time in a special place.

Your hopes for yourself, your family, your Church in the short term.

My hopes include a peaceful co-existence for myself, my family and the Church within an environment that is better for our presence. I would love to see the Church become a driving force for global awareness and action with regard to climate change and the exploitation of our natural resources. I think we need a greater balance between personal morality and planet morality.

Go the Mo ...

In case you've been wondering why so many men were sprouting extra facial hair last month, just think Movember. The month formally known as November is a charity event held each year in conjunction with the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia. The Mo Bros register with a clean shaven face and spend the month growing the mo and raising money and awareness about male health issues. As you can see from the picture, one of the Mo Bros was South Tuggeranong parish priest Fr John Armstrong. The picture was taken half way through the month so the final result was even more impressive. Footnote: Prostate cancer kills 2700 men in Australia



From near and far

each year - - more than the number of women who die from breast cancer.

MASS AT ST PETER'S: One bit of television that's always worth watching... the ABC will once again telecast Pope Benedict XVI celebrating Midnight Mass from St Peter's Basilica. It will air at 11am on Christmas Day.

A DOCTOR IN THE COLLEGE: Nine years of part-time research by St Edmund's College headmaster Christopher Hayes has culminated in his graduation from the Australian Catholic University as a Doctor of Education. His thesis explored Ignatian pedagogy as a strategy for

enhancing the spiritual and moral dimension to education in Jesuit schools worldwide. "The research has been of enormous help in setting a new direction for St. Edmund's," Dr Hayes said. "As a community we pride ourselves on being a Catholic school living Christ's message in our everyday encounters. The gospels are an invitation to personal

change. When these values are combined with quality teaching and learning, schools shine as beacons of excellence." LEFT: ACU Chancellor Br Julian McDonald presents Christopher Hayes with a doctorate from Australian Catholic University.



IT'S GOSPEL: Gospel music has a long and rich heritage which has grown over the centuries to the point where it now has a life of its own outside the normal church setting. The Gospel Folk, a not-for-profit community based choir, loves to bring the joy of gospel music to the people of Canberra and Southern NSW. It has performed two annual concerts for the combined churches of Batemans Bay in St Bernard's Church and will return there in March next year. Information: www.gospelfolk.com.au or Phil, telephone 0413 225 232.

Parish to get its own church at last

After more than a decade of celebrating Mass in a house then a school hall, Gungahlin parishioners next year will have their own church.

Holy Spirit parish church with seating for about 380 - and the provision to stretch into the adjoining Good Shepherd Primary School hall for big occasions - is expected to be completed at Amaroo in July.

Parish priest Fr Bernie Patterson said Gungahlin was a growing area with a real need for a church. "Most of the children in Gungahlin have never been in a church building.

"While parishioners are willing to begin in temporary conditions, there comes a time when they will want a sacred space to celebrate their relationship with Christ. This time has come."

The new church will become the Mass centre for the parish, taking the place of the joint venture hall at Holy Spirit and Gold Creek primary schools at Nicholls.

The project will cost about \$2 million with money borrowed from the Catholic Development Fund supplementing the \$1 million already saved by the parish.

Parish pastoral council chair and member of the building committee Mrs Ruth Schwensen said other parishes had also been generous donors. The former Calwell parish had given \$65,000 when it decided not to go ahead with building a church, and others had passed on interest they had gained from their investments, or had sent donations. Gungahlin parishioners



Gungahlin parish pastoral council chair Ruth Schwensen shows a model of the new church which will be built adjoining the primary school hall at Amaroo.

had been involved in many fund-raising ventures over the years and Fr Patterson had led the way in saving for the church project.

She said the church needed to cater for about 600 people at the Sunday morning Mass, with about 1000 in all attending over a weekend.

The project aimed to give people the feeling that they were entering a church not a hall when they arrived for a ceremony. An acoustic door between the church and hall could be opened when needed to cater for larger congregations.

The new church would also give easy access to a classroom for about 150 children who go out of Mass to their Sunday liturgy.

The church will be built in conjunction with stage 6 of the expanding Good Shepherd Primary School in Burdekin Street, Amaroo.

Primary fees rise kept to minimum

Fees for students at Catholic primary schools in the Archdiocese will rise about 2 per cent next year with the increase for secondary students hitting 8 per cent in the ACT and ranging up to 5 per cent in NSW.

Chairman of the Catholic Education Commission Mr Daryl Smeaton said in recognition of the change in the primary tuition fee structure it had aimed to keep fee increases to a minimum. This was balanced against the need to keep up with the increasing cost of educating students and the real decline in ACT Government financial support.

Earlier this year the commission announced that from next year the family tuition fee in ACT archdiocesan primary schools would be replaced by a per-student tuition fee with substantial sibling discounts. The current archdiocesan secondary per-student fee structure will remain unchanged except that discounts will now apply to younger siblings rather than older.

In NSW primary schools, the family tuition fee will be retained. The family fee and per-student loading in secondary schools has been replaced by a per-student tuition fee with substantial sibling discounts for the second and third child. A discount will also be applied to the primary family tuition fee where there is a sibling in an archdiocesan secondary school.

The 2007 fees are:

ACT primary (per student)

First child \$249, second child \$74.70 (70 per cent discount), third child \$49.80 (80 per cent discount).

ACT secondary (per student)

Years 7-8 \$528, Years 9-10 \$542, Years 11-12 \$660. Discounts 20 per cent for second child, 50 per cent for third child. Full fee paid on the oldest child.

There is no charge for a fourth or subsequent child attending either an archdiocesan primary, central or secondary school.

The primary tuition fee increase for a single child is 2 per cent in 2007 compared to an average increase of 8 per cent a year over the past three years. The secondary tuition fee increase is 8 per cent.

Contributions to the Canberra Catholic Schools Building Fund will remain voluntary and, therefore, retain tax deductibility. The contribution next year is \$104 per family per term, an increase of 5 per cent.

NSW primary (per student)

Family tuition fee \$219 (an increase of \$4). A 50 per cent discount applies if a sibling attends an archdiocesan secondary school.

NSW secondary (per student)

Years 7-8 \$329, Years 9-10 \$340, Years 11-12 \$379. Discounts 60 per cent for second child, 75 per cent for third child. Full fee paid on oldest child.

The primary family tuition fee increase for a single child is less than 2 per cent compared to an average increase of 5 per cent a year over the past three years. The secondary tuition fee increase ranges from 1.5 per cent to 5 per cent.

In previous years, Trinity Catholic College Goulburn had a separate approved fee structure. It will come under the same fee arrangements as other NSW archdiocesan schools from next year.

The policy remains that no child will be denied a Catholic education because of an inability to pay school fees.

The fees were approved by Archbishop Mark Coleridge after recommendations from the Catholic Education Commission of the Archdiocese.

Honour for Bishop

Bishop Pat Power's contribution to the Canberra community has been recognised with the award of a place in the ACT Honour Walk.

The citation says Bishop Power has "devoted his life to providing a voice for those in the Canberra community who have difficulty speaking for themselves. He provides comfort and spiritual guidance to those in need and has always been prepared to speak out against prejudice and inequality, both within the Catholic Church, and within the community".

The ACT Honour Walk recognises individuals or groups who have made significant and sustained contributions to the ACT. The award aims to recognise the immense contribution made by those who have helped to shape the city.

Heritage gets boost

Galong monastery's heritage collection has received a boost with the awarding of a \$6700 Federal Government grant. The Redemptorists of St Clement's have received funding for an assessment and preservation survey of the monastery's collection, and a preservation training project.

More than \$390 000 was distributed to 80 groups around Australia to assist in the identification and preservation of community owned but nationally significant heritage collections.

Rector of St Clement's Fr Pat Corbett said the grant was important in supporting efforts to preserve the monastery's diverse collection in situ.

A training project for 25 volunteers of St Clement's and surrounding local historical societies will be held at the monastery in February.

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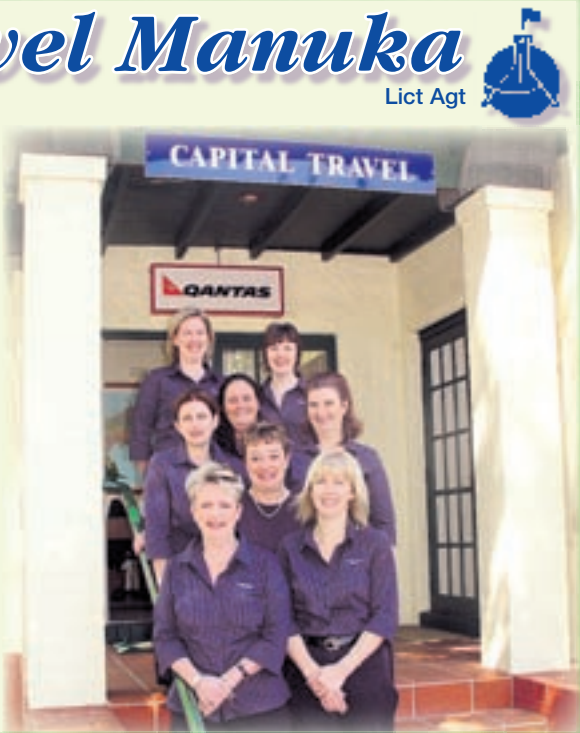
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Mr Herbie O'Flynn has been CDF Manager for the last twenty years and retained the position although appointed as Archdiocesan Financial Administrator in 2003. Separation of the functions is now required and we are seeking the services of an experienced, qualified and committed Catholic to work with our small and experienced staff.

Applicants must demonstrate:

- Experience in the financial or banking sector.
- A strong personal commitment to the Catholic Faith.
- Leadership skills at a senior level.
- A strong capacity for strategic thinking
- Appropriate financial or business tertiary qualifications

Further information on the CDF can be obtained from our Web Site at www.cdf.cg.catholic.org.au

Please respond in confidence by 22nd December 2006 to Mr Herbie O'Flynn, Archdiocesan Financial Administrator, PO Box 3089, Canberra City 2601. (Email preferred to herbie.oflynn@cg.catholic.org.au). Initial enquiries to Herbie on (02) 6201 9809.

Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn
ARCHDIOCESAN ADMINISTRATION

Applications are sought from suitably qualified and experienced persons for the following full time position in the Archdiocesan Administration Offices at Favier House, Braddon.

Office Administrator

The successful applicant will be required to administer the Archdiocesan office and to provide high-level administrative and secretarial support to the executives of the Archdiocesan Administration Office.

The role will require:

- Strong interpersonal skills and ability to work as a team member.
- Competency in the use of Microsoft Office packages, including Word, Excel and PowerPoint
- Personal qualities of professional confidentiality, enthusiasm, commitment, flexibility and initiative.

The commencing salary is \$47,500pa plus 9% Super Guarantee Levy.

Selection Criteria and Duty Statement are available by phoning Lyn O'Flynn on 6201 9800.

Applicants must address the selection criteria when applying

Applications should be marked "Confidential" and sent to Mr Herbie O'Flynn, Archdiocesan Financial Administrator, PO Box 3089, CANBERRA CITY 2601

Applications close: Friday 22 December 2006

Big dry brings country together

As the drought worsens, country communities are coming together to pray for rain.

In Young, the Young Witness newspaper reported the community showed its unity when more than 400 people attended an ecumenical prayer service at St Mary's Church.

Blue ribbons for drought awareness were handed out at the door and the church was decorated with numerous umbrellas.

"We were raising awareness about the drought with the help of the local churches," Young parish priest Fr Richard Thompson said. "There were very many and varied reflections which showed the different ways people felt about the drought."

The Muslim community also joined in and gathered at the mosque at lunchtime.

With farmers facing the prospect of no harvest, Harden-Murrumburrah parish priest Fr Simon Falk said the parish was hosting an ecumenical prayer service for rain.

In Yass, a member of the local Catholic parish saw first-hand some of the problems facing farmers and suggested the churches do something. As a result, representatives from six denominations met on Saturday mornings for prayer in a central park. Sometimes farmers have joined them and shared something of the difficulties they are experiencing.

Mr Harry Drew, who lives on 12 hectares 4km from Collector, said he believed the weather was cyclical and "we'll get a run of wet years again."

However, having lived all his 72 years in the area he had not seen anything like the current drought. Wet winters seemed to be a thing of the past, and consistent weather patterns were gone.

President of the Gundagai conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society Mr Jim Saunderson said the season had been an exceptionally bad one for farmers. An 85-year-old farmer in the high country east of the town had told him he had not seen anything like it.

The biggest worry people had was servicing their increasing debt. Those who were working hard and having a go by sticking their neck out and buying more acres were the ones he was most concerned about.

Appeal aids drought victims

ARCHBISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

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**Please send to Mission & Development Office,
The Rheinberger Centre, PO Box 7174, Yarralumla ACT 2600.**

Inquiries: Tel: 02 6163 4321

Communities both near and far are the focus of the 2006 Archbishop's Christmas Appeal which will be held at all Christmas Masses across the Archdiocese.

Drought's heavy hand is affecting many in the Archdiocese; whether on farms or in nearby towns. It is a situation that calls for solidarity and support from all to assist these communities and nourish hope within them, director of the Archdiocesan Mission and Development Office the Rev Joe Blackwell said.

A major portion of this year's Appeal will be used for the purpose of drought assistance in the Archdiocese.

Ecumenically, part of the funds raised will again form the Archdio-

cese's contribution to the National Council of Churches in Australia annual Christmas Bowl Appeal and its ongoing help to communities in developing countries and remote areas of Australia.

Internationally, help will be extended to education projects undertaken by Salesian Fr Zepherinus Baxla in a tribal community in India's north with people facing oppression and life at the margins of society.

Last year, almost \$56,000 was distributed from the appeal. In addition to Christmas Bowl projects and the work of Caritas Australia in Africa, aid went to people whose homes in a shanty town in Quezon City, Manila, were destroyed by fire.

The next Catholic Voice will be published in February; the deadline is 15 January, 2007.

Poet offers some encouraging verse

Boorowa farmer Robert Corkhill wrote this poem by way of encouragement in response to a homily by parish priest Fr Greg Beath who asked parishioners to keep an eye out for their neighbours, particularly those on isolated farms, who could be suffering depression or other health problems as a result of the drought.

Let's put aside our worries
Our anxiety and fear
As we welcome the Babe of Bethlehem
For Christmas time is near.

We know it's dry and dusty
There is drought upon our land
But rain will come - it always does
Again things will be grand.

So keep a broad smile ready
For rain clouds on the way
The dams may well be full again
Who knows - by Christmas Day.

Hard times may well remind us
It's the Lord of land and sea
Who gives to us our daily needs
And guides our destiny.

When you arrived on Earth, Lord
Two thousand years ago
A king would try to take your life
Believing you his foe.

But Joseph with the donkey
And Mary on its back
Took you off to Egypt
On a long and dusty track.

An Angel came to Joseph
With news the king had died
So it's back home to Nazareth
Where for years you would abide.

Jesus we are grateful
That you came that Christmas day
With the message for your people
That you were here to stay.



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A case of divine intervention

There's no great mystery, according to Redemptorist Brother Clement Holz, about his talent for divining water.

Quite simply, it's a gift. From God, of course. Lots of people have it. It's just that he has chosen to make use of it, and has made quite a name for himself and his saintly namesake's monastery at Galong.

Br Clement has known he could dowse, that is, find underground water using a piece of fencing wire, since he was a youngster growing up on his family's dairy farm near Singleton, NSW. Times were tough in the 1930s for Clement and his brother and three sisters. They walked 11km in total each day to the local one-teacher school and back, and helped out on the farm growing vegetables and cutting wood commercially to keep the family afloat.

In droughts and lean times, Clement's father supplemented the farm income by breeding greyhounds. But it was Clement's uncle who showed him the art of water divination, a skill that he has subsequently used to save farmers from devastation in dry times.

Br Clement entered the Redemptorists at Mayfield, near Newcastle, as a 22 year-old on New Year's Eve, 1950. After 12 months' novitiate, he was professed in August 1952 and came to Galong a week later. Apart from a brief return to Newcastle before he took his final vows in August 1958, and an 18-month stint at a monastery in Ballarat, Victoria, in the 1960s, he has lived at Galong ever since.

For most of that time, he worked as a farmer, helping out in the piggery or paddocks, dairy or even the kitchen when the occasion required a extra set of hands. These days, however, his work takes him much further afield to Wagga Wagga, Dubbo, Goulburn, Singleton and Canberra. He averages a water-divination a day, though on the days he is on the road he will usually visit two or three properties in each region so the clients can pool his travelling costs.

He charges \$50 a peg and all proceeds go to the order. He has done up to eight in a day but at the age of 78 he admits he finds that sort of schedule "a bit draining".

As mild mannered as his name, Br Clement insists there's no great skill in his gift. He simply holds a piece of fencing wire and walks across the paddock. Sometimes he gets someone to drive his ute, while he hangs out the passenger's window with his bit of wire. It allows him to cover a lot of ground faster. And even in



Br Clement with divining gear on a paddock at St Clement's Monastery, Galong (above) and in the monastery grounds (below) ... "nobody wants to know about water divining in a good season."

the divine intervention stakes, we need results quickly these days.

If the wire dips, then he knows he's on top of an underground stream. "Finding water is no problem," he explains. "But you also need to be sure of its quality and how deep it is. If the wires cross over then the water's good. If they splay out, then it's not. I use two different methods to determine depth, and if they don't tally I walk away." Coincidentally, one of these methods is called the Bishop's Rule.

Finally, Br Clement takes a look at the surrounding countryside. "If there's a good healthy tree on the spot, chances are it's sitting on good water," he says. "Pretty obvious really. It means I have a success rate of 70 per cent. The problem is there's no scientific basis to it and that's why water diviners and hydro-geographers are like cats and dogs. It might defy explanation, but all I know is it works."

'It might defy explanation, but all I know is it works.'

During the drought years of the past decade, demand for Br Clement's services has escalated. In the past few years, he's done hundreds of divinations, which have led to life-saving dams being sunk by satisfied clients.

"Nobody wants to know about water divining in a good season," he says. "But since the drought, I reckon it's saved farms and livelihoods all over the state. And a marriage or two. There's nothing quite as stressful on a relationship as having to watch your hopes and dreams go down the drain as your stock die. It gives me huge satisfaction to know I've been able to help in some small way."

Br Clement's spare spare time is filled running errands for the monastery and its residents, some of whom are more elderly than he. There are messages to



run to nearby Young, prescriptions to be filled, linen to be collected and the meeting and greeting of the Christian groups of all denominations who come to the monastery for retreat.

"They say once you drive down the avenue of pepper trees and over the grid, peace comes over you," he says. "I must admit, this is a very nice part of the world and I've been fortunate to spend so much of my time here."

Br Clement is also a regular visitor to the local nursing home. Occasionally, in between singing songs and playing cards, he does a bit of water divining to entertain the elders. He recalls with great amusement how one senior citizen confided, after the wire had done a dip in front of her, that she'd just drunk a glass of water.

"I didn't tell her that we're talking about considerably larger volumes of water," he says with a smile. "Didn't want to tarnish my reputation."

If Br Clement has an unfilled ambition, it would be to encourage landcare and environment groups to enlist the support perhaps of school children to plant trees along gullies and places not suitable for cropping.

"They could use a water diviner to choose the best spots to ensure the trees would do well," he says.

"The trees would provide shade and fodder for future generations. And hopefully increase the moisture content of the surrounding area. It's something practical that all landholders could do. I'd be very happy if I could be involved in a project like that."

- Story courtesy R M Williams Outback magazine.



SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

DOORKNOCK 2007 VOLUNTEER COLLECTORS

The DOORKNOCK annual appeal is the main vehicle for the Society to raise funds for the local parish level to enable it to give help and support to people in need in our suburbs. The appeal will be conducted in Canberra/Queanbeyan from 10-25 February 2007.

Please put these dates in your diary and – when the call for volunteer collectors is made in your parish next month – give 2 hours of your time to help Vinnies help people to help themselves.

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We need an Advent renewal of hope

**TO THE PEOPLE OF GOD
OF THE ARCHDIOCESE
OF CANBERRA AND
GOULBURN**

**At the beginning of the
Advent season**

Brothers and Sisters,
"May the Lord of peace
himself give you peace at all
times and in all ways".

(2 Thessalonians 3:16)

I am writing this at St Clement's Monastery in Galong. Through my window I see not the lush green of late spring but a parched brown landscape that already has the look of late summer. This is a seriously thirsty land. In my travels around the Archdiocese, I have seen the dryness, I have heard the cry for rain and I have met wonderfully resilient people for whom the drought is proving a disaster. I have also heard voices saying that this is not just another drought but perhaps some kind of climate change because even the eucalypts are dying.

Hearing the echo of those voices, the words that come to me as we begin the season of Advent are these: "Drop down dew from above, O heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One". They are the words of the famous Advent antiphon, "Rorate, caeli, desuper et nubes pluant Justum", set to simple but unforgettable music by the Gregorian chant.

The Antiphon is based upon the words of the prophet Isaiah, who is the great voice of this season. In chapter 45 of his book, Isaiah is speaking to and for the Chosen People who are in exile. They have been in Babylon for almost fifty

years in a seemingly hopeless situation. The deportation was a disaster in many ways. Defeated in war, they were dragged off to a foreign land which worshipped a foreign god who seemed stronger than their own God. Why else had they lost the war? The God who had made them his own seemed powerless or unfaithful or absent. The world, it seemed, was ruled by other forces in the face of which Israel and her God could do nothing.

But according to Isaiah, this is not so. All things are in the hand of God, despite appearances to the contrary. He who may seem powerless or unfaithful or absent is in control and has not forgotten. He is closer than ever to those who feel abandoned. He is about to bring them back to their homeland against all the odds and in the most unexpected way.

The prophet sees the parched earth of the Middle East as a symbol of the people in exile; and his cry, "Drop down dew from above, O heavens, and let the clouds rain down justice", implies an act of faith that the life-giving rain will certainly come, just as God will certainly set his people free and bring them home. The same faith is crucial for us at this time when so many of our people are suffering so badly the effects of drought.

But faith without works is dead (cf. James 2:17). Therefore, I would ask the entire Archdiocese to undertake in a special way through this Advent the work of intercession for those suffering from the drought. I would ask



that in every parish and community there be special intercession made each Sunday, even each day, for the coming of rain and the strengthening of those suffering from the drought. I will also commit a large part of the Archbishop's Christmas Appeal this year to drought relief in the Archdiocese.

Yet Isaiah is surely right, even in our own day, to see the dry earth as symbolic of the human heart. In each of us there is a deadly aridity, and Advent is a time to face this truth about ourselves. The voice of John the Baptist rings out in this desert place, in the wilderness of our hearts: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths!" (Luke 3:4).

But how are we to prepare the way of the Lord? Prayer is surely an essential part of the answer. I would like to ask you, therefore, to make this Advent a time of special prayer. By this I mean that we all take stock of our prayer life and commit ourselves anew to the discipline of prayer, which allows the rain of God to fall upon the dryness of our hearts.

Let me make a few concrete suggestions. First, that you pay special attention to prayer at the beginning and end of each day. Morning and

night prayers are easily forgotten under the pressure of a busy life. But even a few brief moments of prayer early and late in the day can send forth powerful ripples. You might also want to build into your day through this Advent a brief moment of awareness of God's presence in the middle of the day.

One traditional way of doing this is the praying of the Angelus. I would ask that, where possible, all schools and communities in the Archdiocese pray the Angelus each day through Advent. It is a prayer which has its roots in the Bible, which is deeply harmonious with the spirit of Advent, celebrating as it does the Incarnation, and which is easily learnt.

I would also recommend that those who are able to do so spend at least ten minutes each day of this Advent in silent prayer before God. In a world full of noise, this silence has a special power to draw the life-giving rain of God's love into the depths of our parched souls. Remember that Christian prayer listens to God before ever it speaks to him. Deep listening requires a silent heart, especially when it is the gentle and powerful voice of Christ that we seek to hear.

One special way of listening to God's Word is by reading the Bible, often in the reflective mode that is called "lectio divina". For many of you, that could be a way of opening the ears of your heart to Christ. The daily Mass readings for Advent are wonderfully well chosen and could serve as a rich field for "lectio divina".

Whether we look to the parched land of the Archdiocese or the arid soil of our hearts, what we need above all through this Advent is a renewal of hope, which in the end is the one thing without which the human being cannot live. When hope dies, then we become like the dying eucalypts.

The birth of our hope comes in the Incarnation, because when the Word takes flesh God chooses to dwell at the heart of all that seems most hopeless. To say that God dwells in some distant heaven is to say that God does not share our burdens and sorrows. But to say that God takes flesh is to say that God bears all our burdens and sorrows. The Incarnation, therefore, is the sure promise that our prayer will be heard: "Drop down dew from above, O heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One".

The rains will come to our land, and the waters of God's love will transform the arid soil of our hearts. This is the promise of the Just One, the One who is to come, who says to us at this time: "Come to me, all you labour and are heavy-burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matt 11:28). To him we reply through these days of Advent: "The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me to revive my drooping spirit" (Psalm 23:1-2). Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus!

Anthony

your voice

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. 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

Tribute to a family

I see it as my duty to respond to the goodness of the Archdiocese to name the conference centre at Yarralumla the Rheinberger Centre (CV, November, New Centre Honours ex-Vicar General).

I fully support that decision as

it pays tribute to the late Fr Joseph Rheinberger. However, I believe it also pays tribute to the Bega Rheinberger family that came to that district from Germany in 1865.

Three Rheinbergers, descendants of that family, became priests; Fr Douglas, ordained in Rome 1958, Fr Adrian Paul, ordained Bega 1959, and the late Fr Joe, ordained Bega 1960.

Further to that, it is a tribute to the Catholic community of the Bega district. Perhaps no district community has supplied more priests for the Archdiocese than Bega. At the beginning of this year in our Archdiocese we had Fr Marcus Crowe (now deceased), Fr Paul Bateman, Fr Henry Byrne, Fr Paul Rheinberger, the late Fr Joe Rheinberger and Fr Gerard Monaghan.

Fr A P Rheinberger, Kingston ACT.

Harness all resources

My letter is prompted by two reports (CV November). Both make reference to attempts to

grapple with the declining numbers of candidates for the Catholic priesthood, the increasingly heavy burden on priests in the active ministry and the consequent impacting problems in providing adequate pastoral care.

Speaking in Canberra, Prof Dean Hoge, of the Catholic University of America, addressed issues arising from decisions to import priests and seminarians from overseas. He also raises the possibility of "bringing back into active ministry under certain circumstances, priests who had resigned to get married..."

Hoge emphasises the need for the Church to look ahead: "We shouldn't be afraid of doing that. The Catholic community is not dying. We're not despairing, but there are a few things hampering us. We should ... ask what does the Gospel require of us".

Oblate Fr Ron Rolheiser faced up to the possible hazards of "breaking new ground". He says: "Small wonder hardly anyone wants to join us! We need priests and community together, to risk some new directions."

Considerations like these add

an extra dimension in our prayers to the Holy Spirit for priestly vocations. We are challenged to do far more than simply to "pray for vocations" to the priesthood. Our "prayer net" must be cast further and deeper.

We need the Holy Spirit's guidance to ensure that we harness all potential resources, excluding none: celibate men, young and the more mature; married men who, though not possessing the charism of celibacy, seem to give genuine indications God is calling them to the priesthood; dispensed priests who are now married and, with the full support and encouragement of their wives, express the wish to return to the active ministry; candidates as well as priests from abroad where there is a surplus.

That kind of prayer, "catholic" as well as "Catholic", challenges us to look forward with courage, to "open windows" Pope John XXIII style, to take risks that are human but with a trust that is divine, confident the Good News of the Gospel will win the day.

- Noel Cook, Tumut.

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Home-grown head for Catholic schools

A Canberra-born college principal who was educated in local Catholic schools is the new director of the Archdiocese's education system.

MacKillop Catholic College principal Mrs Moira Najdecki, a mother of four whose children went to Catholic schools, was named by Archbishop Mark Coleridge as the new director of Catholic Education. Next month, she succeeds Mr Geoff Joy, who retires after 14 years in the position.

"Moira is the first native of Canberra and the first woman to be appointed to the position," Archbishop Coleridge said.

"She comes to the job after a long and distinguished service to Catholic education, especially as a principal. But now she will have more complex and larger task as Director of Catholic Education at

a very challenging time for education in general and Catholic education in particular."

"Moira is admirably qualified to lead Catholic education in Canberra and Goulburn."

He said her appointment could be seen as a vote of confidence in the teachers in the Catholic system of which she was one of the most distinguished.

Mrs Najdecki said the Archdiocese was doing well in enrolments and in its buildings, but faced a challenge to maintain its government funding levels.

She was excited at the prospect of having an influence on what Catholic education will be like in the Archdiocese's 55 schools in the years ahead. She looked forward to working with Archbishop Coleridge who presented a very pro-active face for the Church and for Catholic education.

Catholic Education Commission chair Mr Daryl Smeaton said he had worked closely with Mrs Najdecki as a principal for more than 10 years and looked forward to continuing that partnership. "There are many challenges facing us, not least the level of Government funding, but the quality of our schools, our staff and our students give us great hope for the future under Moira's leadership."

Mrs Najdecki was educated at St Benedict's, Narrabundah, and at St Clare's College, Griffith ACT.

Archbishop Coleridge, Mr Smeaton and Mrs Najdecki paid tribute to retiring director Mr Geoff Joy for his leadership. "We wish Geoff and his family well in his retirement," they said. "His contribution to Catholic education, both locally and nationally, will be his lasting legacy".



New Catholic Education director Mrs Moira Najdecki with commission head Mr Daryl Smeaton and Archbishop Mark Coleridge.

Pastoral director appointed

A director of pastoral support services has been appointed in the Archdiocese. He is Mr Shawn van der Linden (pictured right with Archbishop Mark Coleridge). He will be responsible for developing the work of the Centre for Faith and Ministry and Catholic Youth Ministry, and will be based in the Rheinberger Centre at Yarralumla.

Mr Van der Linden, 36, was a senior counsellor and consultant with The WorkWise Group, and



before that head of counselling and clinical services at Marist and St Edmund's colleges. He has Bachelor of Theology and Bachelor of Social Work degrees.

● Rheinberger Centre telephone number is 6163 4300.

Vinnies appeal aims high

The target for next year's Vinnies doorknock appeal has been set at an ambitious \$750,000, triple the historical level achieved.

In another significant change, the St Vincent de Paul Society appeal will be launched at a business breakfast and charity auction by former Governor-General Sir William Deane. The launch will take place at the National Museum of Australia on Wednesday, 7 February, 2007.

Doorknock volunteers are urgently needed to cover the Canberra and Queanbeyan area for the annual doorknock on the weekends of 10 and 11, 17 and 18 and 24 and 25 February. They can register by telephoning Vinnies during working hours on 6282 2722.

While acknowledging the target was ambitious, the society's deputy chief executive officer, Mr Michael Taarnby, said it better reflected the reality of what Vinnies puts back into the local community every year.

"It will enable other society resources to be committed to its two building programs which are urgently required to meet the needs of the local community in the coming years, particularly in the Tuggeranong and Lanyon valleys, and in Gungahlin where no other equivalent community facilities exist," he said.

Vinnies spends \$1.5 million in direct support to the ACT and region each year. All cash donations collected by the society in the ACT stay in the ACT, and 100 per cent of all cash donations collected through the appeal are spent on those who need it. Administration costs are fully borne by other society business activities.

Mr Sam Webster, from Websters Advertising, will MC the launch. Mr Mario Sanfrancesco, of L J Hooker, will lead the charity auction which will feature artwork from two local and newly emerging artists Jenny Blake and Monique Gonzcarek.

Doorknockers will be asked to attend a pre-doorknock information session on the weekend of 3 and 4 February where they will be assigned their doorknock areas. These information sessions will be held throughout the Canberra region.

The ACT Land Development Authority has approved two applications for land from the society. The first was for land at the Tuggeranong Vinnies centre to allow for a 500 sq m extension. The project is expected to cost about \$1 million.

The second application was for land in O'Brien Close, Gungahlin, where the society plans to build a 1400 sq m centre to support the rapidly growing population in the northern corridors of Canberra. This project has an expected cost of \$3 million.

Archbishop moves in to Favier House

Archbishop Mark Coleridge has moved his working office to the Archdiocese's administration centre Favier House in Braddon. Archbishop Coleridge may be contacted through his personal assistant Mrs Margie Doyle, telephone 6201 9811.

The move is part of a re-organisation that sees the Archdiocese's pastoral and Catholic Mission staff moving to the newly opened Rheinberger Centre at Yarralumla. The CDF will move to the first floor of Favier House leaving their current offices available for rental. Their telephone numbers do not change (office 6201 9870).

Archdiocesan financial administrator Mr Herbie O'Flynn will relinquish his duties as CDF manager after 20 years. A new position of manager CDF and financial support has been advertised. Mr O'Flynn's duties include financial administration as well as management of the office, chancery activities and oversight of archdiocesan support services. Support services are provided by Mr Howard Lipscombe, who is responsible for employment, property, occupational health and safety, and other parish related services, and Mr Kevin Croker, who is responsible



Archbishop Mark Coleridge is welcomed to his Favier House office by Archdiocesan financial administrator Mr Herbie O'Flynn and his personal assistant Mrs Margie Doyle.

for services to active, non-active and retired clergy. New contact telephone numbers at Favier House include: Mr O'Flynn 6201 9809, Mr Lipscombe 6201 9807, Mr Croker 6201 9805. Bishop Pat Power may continue to be contacted on 6201 9800.

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Refurbishment of the hospitality areas of **MacKillop Catholic College** Isabella Plains

New classroom block & refurbishment of hospitality areas at **St Francis Xavier College**

Refurbishment of the **St Benedict's Primary** staff facilities and amenities at Narrabundah

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Can we bridge gap to the young?

Part of the challenge of World Youth Day was how successfully the Church would reach out to young people, an archdiocesan gathering was told.

Narrabundah parish priest Fr Chris Ryan, who is co-ordinator of the journey of the WYD cross around Australia, said Catholics in the Archdiocese needed to ask themselves how they were going to bridge the gap so young people found a church where they could feel at home.

It would be a place "where we will encourage them and show them that this is a church where Jesus Christ can be found," he said.

Fr Ryan was speaking at the official launch of the Archdiocese's preparations for WYD, including the announcement of a website to keep people up to date with the latest events and activities. It may be found at www.WYDinCanberra.org

Fr Ryan said reaching out to young people required work, creativity and energy.

In the days leading up to WYD in July 2008, young people from around the world would arrive in the Archdiocese to stay on the way to Sydney.

"We will be able to witness the faith of young people who are prepared to come literally to the ends of the earth. It is also a chance for young people in our country to

connect with the truth of the gospel."

WYD was a gift to the whole church, not just to young people. Many aspects of the Church would be revitalised, in parishes, youth ministries and elsewhere. "Every part of the Church's life will have a different flow-on as a result of the connection with WYD. It is about all of us, the youngest to the oldest. Everyone has a part to play; it is not just something young people do."

Fr Ryan said when young people were standing in the midst of a gathering of 800,000 people - which was not uncommon at WYD - they realised the Church was alive and well. At Sunday Mass, they could sometimes feel they were looking in vain for others to walk with them.

"After WYD, you will be in the pews; young people will arrive. Will we be able to welcome them?"

The challenge after WYD was to make sure parishes that were crying out for re-energising, were ready to take up the challenge.

Fr Ryan said one of the reasons WYD was so successful was that the previous Pope John Paul II showed that he wanted to be with them.

"Perhaps we are not always spectacularly good at doing that in the Church."

He said many young people



Archbishop Mark Coleridge speaks to the large number of people from across the Archdiocese who gathered at St Clare's College to meet him, and to attend the launch of local preparations for WYD 2008.



Fr Chris Ryan ... "young people will arrive. Will we be able to welcome them?"

wanted to be connected with the Church. "Our job is to foster that, to see that they are properly guided, that there are mentors who will walk with them. This is a great moment for people with wisdom, for pray-ers.



Anna McCarthy ... "a God who I thought was dead was alive in my life."

"It is an amazing chance for young people to grasp the essential centre of our faith."

● Catholic Youth Ministry team member Anna McCarthy said WYD would help bring young people back to Christ.

Speaking at the gathering, she said "WYD brought me back to Christ and to the life of the Church".

She attended the previous WYD in Cologne, Germany.

"We will see young people on fire with the Holy Spirit and we will see renewal of our Archdiocese," she said.

Miss McCarthy said she had not felt a deep connection with the Catholic faith before going to Cologne.

She had seen the Catholic faith at times as restrictive and a burden.

However, meeting young people her own age who were so committed to their faith "enticed me to take a second glance at my faith and my God.

"I encountered a God who is alive. A God who I had thought was dead and gone was alive in my life and in the lives of those around me. I felt it and I believed it.

"How is it that for 19 years before WYD I had not met him?"

Miss McCarthy said she joined the Archdiocese's Catholic Youth Ministry team so that she could show young people that Jesus Christ is alive.

She enjoyed the experience so much this year that she has decided to stay on with the team next year.

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No plans for priestless future

Archbishop Mark Coleridge told the gathering he was not convinced the Church had lost the battle to attract excellent male celibate candidates for the priesthood.

"I'm not planning for a priestless future," he said. "Christ calls no less now than he ever did; Christ is no less attractive than he ever was."

Archbishop Coleridge said there was a danger that "we can lose our nerve". The Church had to work hard on vocations; "the battle is not lost".

The Church needed excellent priestly leadership in order to have excellent lay leadership in the Church and beyond into the professions, politics, the media and elsewhere. "Go where the clergy can never go," he said.

A mistake had been made in recent decades to set up a kind of opposition between

clergy and lay leadership. "Excellent priests come from excellent lay leadership," he said, pointing to priests who came out of the YCW in the past and out of lay communities across the world today.

"Where we get lay leadership right we will get priests. If not, we stand to get laicisation of the clergy and clericalisation of the laity, and there has been a bit of that."

Archbishop Coleridge said people needed to accept the fact that the Church was not going to ordain women.

Talk of women's ordination was a "depressingly clericalised view of leadership in the Church."

A much bigger phenomenon had always been charismatic leadership which women had exercised in droves over the centuries.

"How can we find new ways for women to exercise charismatic leadership in the Church?" he asked. "Don't stick to the stereotypes, think outside the square. There are other forms of leadership in many ways more important than ordination."

Archbishop Coleridge said that, after his time as archbishop, he would like to leave behind a Church that was more confident, more missionary, simpler, more contemporary yet more traditional, and less politicised. "We don't need a new program; we have a program, it's called the good news of Christ."

In answer to questions from the audience, he said:

Aged care housing - "I want to use them not just house them. I want to set up an order of intercessors, formally estab-

lished and commissioned so they can pray for the rest of us." He promised to seek a briefing on the issue of accommodation for the elderly.

Religious - His program was to keep telling the stories of what the religious had done over the years in the Archdiocese, to stir up newer energies and to support groups such as the Missionaries of God's Love, and to look at inviting in new communities.

Latin Mass - Most people would not want to go back to Latin, but "for those who find Latin empowering, I have no right to strip them of it". He could imagine the Nicene Creed being sung in Latin at times in the Cathedral and elements of the chant being introduced into liturgy. "The last thing we want is ideological warfare on liturgy."

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School's out for our
education head

50 years on and things have 'never been better'

In half a century of teaching that took him to the heights of college headmaster at 28 and later head of a Catholic education system catering for 13,000 students, Geoff Joy has not lost the love of seeing children grow in knowledge and skill.

This month he retires after 14 years as director of Catholic Education in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn, and a teaching career stretching back to the 1950s.

He readily concedes that the most satisfying part of his job as director was visiting schools; his record being 28 classes at two schools in a single day.

"As a teacher you can have so much influence on kids - and school exists for the students after all."

The early classes he taught at Marcellin College, Randwick, comprised a not-unusually high 64 children. "You could see them gain knowledge, skill and, hopefully, wisdom. It's a feeling that has never left me."

If his love of the "kiddies" is obvious, his admiration for the 55 principals and 2000 staff in the Archdiocese's systemic schools is no less marked.

"If you have a good principal, you can rest easy," he comments.

Where there were seven religious sisters as principals at the beginning of his tenure as director, now there are none. In a

changing Church and world, the decision was made to develop the lay principals as religious leaders of the school community as well, a move he sees as a great success.

A former principal, asked for his memories of Mr Joy, remarked: "He has been incredibly supportive and loyal to our principals. He never really stopped being a principal himself."

Mr Joy has the view that Catholic schools generally are "better now than they have ever been in my 50 years".

"The challenge is to keep fulfilling the mission of the school, which is the mission of the Church. That is to tell the Good News."

The youngest of seven children to Irish parents, his own early experiences of school at a Good Samaritan convent school and a Marist secondary school at Innisfail in North Queensland were positive ones. Year 11 and 12 as a boarder at St Augustine's, Cairns, were "my most exciting years of school. We had great teachers, good study and lots of sport."

His experience of the Marist Brothers as teachers and his admiration for them led him to join the brothers at the age of 18. He recalls clearly the first winter in the novitiate at Mittagong living in buildings that had no heating and milking cows at 5am in winter.

From his initiation to teaching at Randwick, he went on to Marist College, Ashgrove, in Brisbane where he went on to become headmaster and superior of the Marist community. After study in Rome and Dublin in the 1970s, he became leader of the Marist education team, then headmaster of the Marist regional school at Kogarah and finally headmaster and superior of the Marist community at St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill.

He left the Marist Brothers - although he retains a strong connection with them and his former colleges - joined the Catholic Education Office in Sydney in a senior role, before taking on the Canberra role in 1993.

Marriage and parenthood - he and wife Kate have a daughter in Year 11 - has heightened his awareness of the challenges parents face in caring for today's "instant generation".

In the Archdiocese, he has 35,000 parents taking an interest in the decisions the Catholic Education Office is implementing. He names the changes in society and the Church as the biggest challenges; namely coping over the years with the loss of religious as teachers, decreasing class sizes, increasing costs and the expectations everyone places on modern education.

● Cont Page 10.



Catholic Education director for more than a decade in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn... Geoff Joy with one of his strongest supporters (above) former Archbishop Francis Carroll and (right) with a young representative of the driving force behind his career as an educationist, the children.



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CATHOLIC VOICE December 2006 -

50 years on ...

● From Page 9.

The affordability of Catholic education is an issue he accepts worries parents as well. Although, as fees make up about 15 per cent of the system's income, it is ongoing government funding and the need to lobby politicians and bureaucrats that has taken up much of his time in Canberra.

Where once Catholic schools were seen as purely doing the work of the Church, now the argument is very clearly that Catholic education is good for Australian society. Parents in increasing numbers seem to think so, too, as more Christian families seek to enrol their children and the number of children of other faiths also grows.

In the Archdiocese, Mr Joy believes the challenges have been well met with much of the credit going to former Archbishop Francis Carroll, successive chairs of the Catholic Education Commission Fr Kevin Barry-Cotter, Dr Ray Storrier and Mr Daryl Smeaton, commission members, principals, staff, priests and parents.

He singles out former Vicar for Education Fr Joe Rheinberger, who died suddenly this year, as a source of inspiration. "We all miss him incredibly, he said.

Mr Smeaton said Mr Joy had "led Catholic education in Canberra/Goulburn from the front and the success of our system today is due, in great part, to that leadership.

"His strong faith and his passion for the job has been an inspiration to all of us who have worked with him."

In retirement, the Joys will continue to live in Canberra and, if his bad back allows, Mr Joy hopes to spend more time playing golf. Not that he would let that get in the way of following the fortunes of the Brumbies and Wallabies rugby teams.

Mr Joy leaves a Catholic education system that is focused on being Catholic, "but Catholic in a different way to what it was in the 1950s". Staff are now lay people and the community the schools serve is more diverse. The challenge is to keep the Catholic ethos in our schools.

"There's no use in looking over your shoulder at some golden age; you've got to look forward," he said.

Off to Rome

The director of the Australian Catholic Bishops' offices for film and television, Fr Richard Leonard SJ, has been appointed a visiting professor at the Jesuits' prestigious Pontifical Gregorian University at Rome.

Fr Leonard is a regular film reviewer for Catholic Voice.

He is one of only three priests in the Church with a PhD in cinema studies.

2006 has been a vibrant and lifegiving year for Catholic Youth & Young Adult Ministry. The agency has continued to expand to meet the needs of the many young people throughout the archdiocese who are thirsting to know the truth and freedom of the Gospel message.

The 2006 Catholic Youth Ministry Team have been on the road since February, running retreats and reflection days with high school students across the diocese.

This year also saw the birth of a new CYM initiative, the Catholic School of Action (CSA). This school was opened to young adults across the diocese with the aim of forming young Catholics in their faith and sending them out on mission, both in their local area and also to India.

CSA has also encompassed another key initiative of CYM, the Unite rallies held each month in the Cathedral. Unite rallies are open for all young adults in the Canberra region, with the aim of encouraging the great diversity of groups and movements within the area to develop a unity built on support and friendship.

Catholic Youth Ministry Team

2006 saw the Catholic Youth Ministry Team enter its third year of full-time ministry. Standing strongly upon the foundation of the two previous years, this year's team has continued to take up the challenge to "enliven the participation of young people in the life of the Church." This is not always an easy task, yet the team members have flourished as they have attempted to bring the relevance of the Gospel message to schools and parishes throughout the Archdiocese.

"This year team has affected me in a big way. All six of them show their great leadership to look up to. All of them are so friendly it is easy to get along with them." - *Sanjeeva - Yr 12 St Francis Xavier College.*

Reflections of 2006 team member Anna McCarthy (right)

Throughout this year I have had the privilege of serving on the Catholic Youth Ministry Team for this archdiocese. When I signed up for the year I could never have imagined what the year would bring.

It has been an incredible experience to travel around the Archdiocese meeting students, teachers, parishioners, priests and encountering the large amount of diversity within the Catholic Church.

I also had the opportunity to witness the universality of the church when I travelled to Rome in April as part of the Australian delegation that received the WYD cross.

This has been one of the many factors that have influenced my decision to return to the team next year. I am continually amazed at the response that the team receives from the students we come across. They each have, in their own way, a longing to hear about the Good News of Jesus, the one who loves them unconditionally and without reservation.

The consistency of this response has led me to want to continue to serve God in my current capacity on the CYM team.

I believe that the CYM team is an invaluable gift to the young people of this archdiocese and it is a moving experience to see and be part of the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives. I have also been drawn to the radical nature of the missionary lifestyle of the team.

Living in a community of young people and working with them has its difficulties, but it is a fantastic way to grow emotionally and spiritually. I feel that my experience this year on team has been instrumental in my development as a young

Christian. I am looking forward in anticipation to serving for another year on the Catholic Youth Ministry team in this archdiocese and continuing to grow in my commitment to live a life centred on Christ."

While the 2006 team are preparing to finish off their year of ministry, another group of young adults has stepped courageously forward to take their place:

I'm really looking forward to spreading God's word and love to the youth in our Archdiocese and hope to help them to search for meaning in their own lives. - *Ana Manenica, 28, Canberra*

I want to Join the CYM team because It will give me the opportunity to share with others the love of Jesus and the opportunity to understand and grow in my own faith. - *Sarah Heffernan, 18, Candelo*



Joining

the youth ministry next year will provide me with experiences I would never be able to get if I didn't have the chance. I will be able to form new friendships that will be with me through out my life. Also I will be able to learn more about my faith. Also I will be able to work with the youth of the region. - *Emmalee Mowbray, 18, Canberra*



I look forward to offering to others what other team's have offered to me. - *Sanjeeva Wirasinha, 18, Canberra*

I am looking forward to developing and assisting in the spiritual growth of young people through varied, fun and reflective activities. In addition, I am excited about working, interacting and building relationships with a diverse group of young adults on the team and in school communities. - *Jeanette D'Souza, 27, Canberra*

Next year I am looking forward to continue in the work of the Lord, meet and grow with a new 'family' and visit/revisit students from all over the Archdiocese. - *Joshua Goldsbrough, 20, Canberra*

Catholic School of Action

Catholic School of Action seeks to form young people in a missionary, contemplative and community spirit. The program has been running for the past six months, with meetings held each week at St Peter Chanel's, Yarralumla.

Each meeting begins with a shared meal, followed by group activities, guest speakers and an opportunity to pray and reflect.


At the end of the year the participants will become lay missionaries for a month, sharing their faith in Canberra and India.

When participants return they will be encouraged to continue to live out their baptismal call in their local parishes.


Sharings from participants:

"I am a (very) new Catholic, and blessed with a very rich prayer life, but, of course, that's not enough. I need the experiences of my heart brought into my life, into action manifested into a place where I can see results. I need to see how the presence of Jesus in my heart can affect others positively." - *Nathaniel Johnstone*





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'School' goes off on mission

By Anna Haynes

Anna, 27 comes from Deniliquin and has been living in Canberra. Anna studied at ANU and is currently associate to Chief Justice Terence Higgins in ACT Supreme Court. In 2007 Anna will take part in the Women's Interfaith Fellowship at ACU.



Members of the Catholic School of Action (from left): Anna Haynes, Grace Morris, Matt Pinson, Daniel Clementine, Kristy Firkin, Peter Doherty, Sam Mullins, Tom Galvin, Jess Pollard, Kathleen O'Keefe, Steph Pollard and Adam Morris.

In June the Youth and Young Adult Ministry team initiated the Catholic School of Action. The CSA is a weekly group that brings together young Catholics from all around Canberra. The school has a three-pronged focus of building a communal spirit, a contemplative spirit and a missional spirit.

Each Thursday evening we meet at the Yarralumla parish hall for dinner and activities.

We take it in turns to cook for the group which numbers close to 20 people. The theme of each night is different and has ranged from 'What it is to be Catholic' to 'Discerning your call', and has traversed topics as diverse as Christology and youth culture.

We have heard from a number of speakers including local and visiting priests and nuns, youth workers, Catholic families and activists. We feed our contemplative spirit with prayer and worship - a welcome ritual in the busy week of work and study.

The missionary spirit has been developed around two mission trips that will take place over Christmas. A small group is travelling to India in December with Fr Francis Kolencherry. In Calcutta the group will work with Mother Teresa's Sisters, the Missionaries of Charity. They will also complete some volunteer work with communities in the south of India. A second group will undertake a mission trip in the Archdiocese, focusing on the youth of Canberra.

Both trips require dedication, courage and faith and the School has been working hard to prepare everyone for the excitement and challenges that lie ahead. I have enjoyed the opportunity to meet and build friendships with other young Catholics. I have also been challenged and enlightened by the many speakers. Perhaps the most significant outcome personally will be the trip to India.

I have always planned to undertake volunteer work and am really pleased to be going with such a wonderful group of people.

I think the enthusiasm, dedication and faith of these young people will inspire others - not only through the mission trips but also on an everyday basis.

The most obvious impact will be in the form of the mission trips where we will spend one month engaging in dialogue and activities with the local Canberra community and Indian communities.

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

Community, Marist College, Gungahlin Youth Ministry, Harden-Murrumburrah Parish, St Clare's College, Goulburn Parish, Catholic School of Action and St Peter Chanel's. One of the challenges of Unite in 2006 has been creating networks and connections between all the groups. The next UNITE will be held on 7 December at St Peter Chanel's Yarralumla, starting at 6.30pm with a BBQ. See you there! - **Jess Pollard, UNITE Project Officer**

Good way to meet people

There are still conversations rolling off the tongue about the old youth "coffee club" at Manuka.

Now the coffee clubbers are parents and their children's generation are back at it in Manuka!

On the first Thursday of the month at 7.30pm at St Christopher's Cathedral, the UNITE rallies are organised for youth and young adults by CYM. A typical rally begins with the young people coming together. The more formal part of the night begins with songs. Before you can say "UNITE rally" guest speakers are introduced. They are from different backgrounds and varying ages. People say you learn from hearing other people's stories and that is so true at UNITE.

Speakers share from their own personal experience and how that is lived out in their Christian lives. There are often times for sharing in small groups. Quiet prayer, at times with Eucharistic Adoration, is offered after the small groups.

At times this includes the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. More music is added to complete the mix. Then, it's over the road to a coffee shop where the back section is taken over by youth and young adults. You need to get a seat.

UNITE rallies are a good way to meet new people or catch up with old friends. They give you an opportunity to think about your life and faith and bounce it off the experience of others on a similar path. They allow you a chance to stop, reflect, pray, spend time with others. They allow the faith experienced in the cathedral to spill over into the cups and saucers of the Manuka coffee scene. Check out www.uniterally.org or call CYM on 0409 995 031.

- **Fr Simon Falk**. He has been chaplain for Catholic Youth & Young Adult Ministry since 2002 and is parish priest of Harden-Murrumburrah, NSW.

Exciting focus out west

Three parishes in the western deanery, Cootamundra, Young and West Wyalong, next year will pilot a major project for youth.

Many challenges yet to be faced

By co-ordinator of Catholic Youth Ministry Adam Morris
Catholic Youth and Young Adult Ministry has been busy in 2006. The Team has worked with 12 of the 17 Catholic secondary schools in the Archdiocese and six state schools as well as facilitating seven parish missions.

We have begun to prepare for World Youth Day, worked with the Catholic Schools Youth Ministry Association, piloted the Catholic School of Action as well as assisting in the development of regional youth ministry working with the Tuggeranong Valley and the Western deanery.

Also the UNITE program, running monthly at the Cathedral, has involved 22 groups and movements in the Canberra region. This year has also seen the St Robert Bellarmine theological and philosophical discussion group start addressing issues such as the relationship between theology and scripture (Archbishop Coleridge) and science and faith (Fr Simon Wayte MGL).

It has been a great blessing to be involved in all of this, seeing the Spirit of God moving among young people. Young people, as all people, are hungry for Jesus and seek him daily. We as Church are called to offer Jesus in ways as varied as the many charisms present in our Archdiocese. This is happening and with good fruit.

There are many challenges before us. What does Catholic Youth and Young Adult Ministry prioritise its cer-

tain energies into? An area that is still to be effectively implemented is the development of parish-based youth and young adult ministry.

Kathleen O'Keefe and Fr Emil Milat and team in the Tuggeranong Valley, Fr Chris Ryan at St Benedict's, Narrabundah, Kippax and Wanniasa Antioch are producing exceptional young adults able to develop these areas, but what about the other 50 parishes through out the Archdiocese?

There is much hope with initiatives such as Project West, Campus Ministry, Asia Pacific School of evangelisation, Catholic School of Action, UNITE, Australian Schools Youth Ministry Association and the Young Christian Student's network beginning in Cootamundra and St Francis Xavier College, Florey, but there is still much to do.

I believe World Youth Day is the most promising initiative before the people of God in our Archdiocese. It will engage with all ages and ways of life enabling people again to ask those important questions in life. Who am I? What is important to me? How can I live my faith daily?

It is for this reason that, as the people of God for the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn, we should surrender all that has brought us to this point of our lives at the foot of the Cross of Jesus and with humility beckon "the God of love" to fill us with his Spirit so that we will be his witnesses to the ends of the earth.

2007 DATES

UNITE rally - 1st Thursday of month beginning February

Catholic School of Action - Monday evenings beginning April.

St Robert Bellarmine Discussion Group - Wednesday evenings beginning late January

Women's conference - March.

Youth and Young Adult conference - June long weekend.

WYD 2007 - Palm Sunday.

Refresh Camp 1 - 13-15 April.

Refresh Camp 2 - 6-8 July.

Refresh Camp 3 - 28-30 September.

2007 CYM team commissioning Mass - 11 February.

Project West will involve the Catholic Youth Ministry Team working in two teams of four in the deanery. Each month the CYM team will head west with one team working in West Wyalong and the other working between Young and Cootamundra.

The aim of the project is to establish a stronger link with secondary and post-school students to find out what they would like to see happening for them in the parish. The focus will be to create an interest to form a youth group with the help of CYM, who will train leaders in the group to run their own activities with the help of parishioners.

The team working in West Wyalong will have a regular time

at the school with Year 7 to 12 students. During the weekend young people can meet with them and run programs they have established. On Sunday evenings the team will help lead Mass which will focus on younger members. Team two will work closely with Fr Richard Thompson and Josh Scott from Young and Fr Kevin Barry Cotter, of Cootamundra, to develop possibilities for their areas.

West Wyalong parish priest Fr Troy Bobbin said he saw Project West as an exciting new avenue which could inspire younger people to take on more leadership roles in parishes. It would help youth to be aware their input was vital to the growth of the parish.

Dear children,

The virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us". Children that is a most awesome piece of scripture. God is with us. Mum is with us when we are at home, our teacher is with us at school, and our friends are with us when we are playing, but God is with us ... always. At the first Christmas Jesus was born. He came to live on earth. As many of you say in your beautiful pictures - God is Love. He is love and he came to live here with you and me because he is love, and loves us soooooo very much. During this time of Advent - of preparation for Christmas - let us think about those words each day. God is with us. What does that mean for you? It means you are never alone. It means you are very, very special to God. It means you are precious, it means you are priceless to God. As we think about those words we will also begin to understand so much more about the love of God in our world and in our lives. God bless each of you this Christmas.

Sue



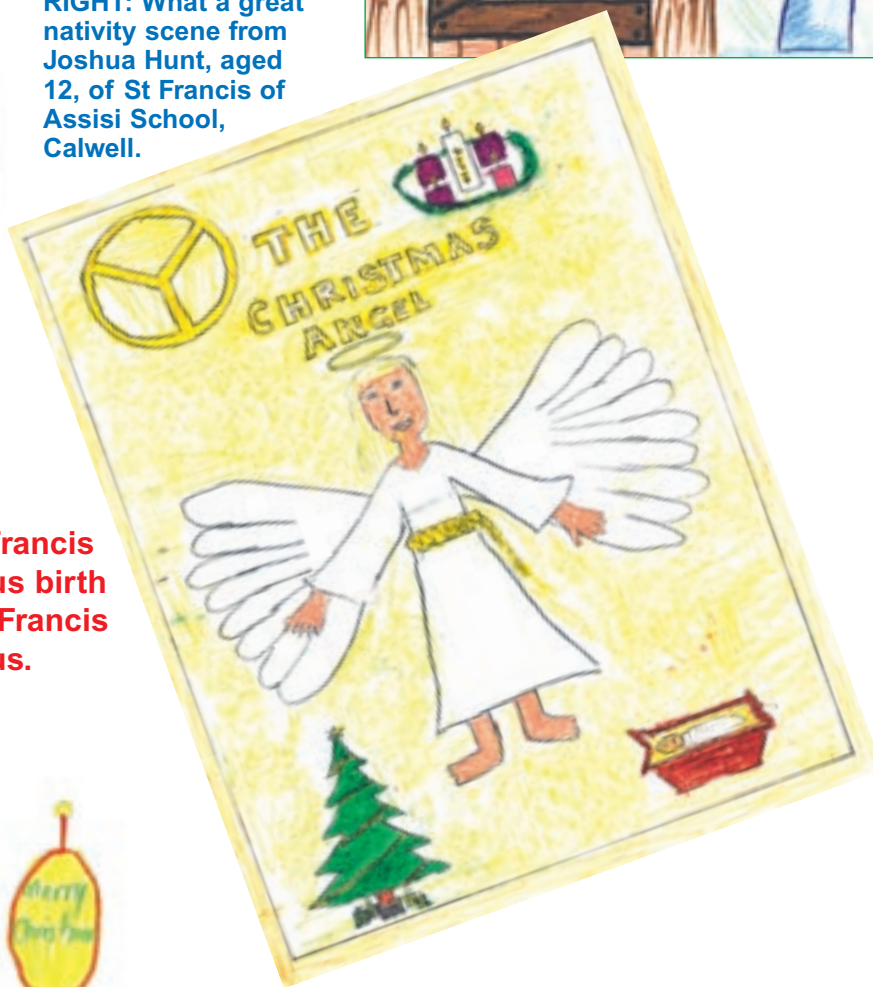
RIGHT: What a great nativity scene from Joshua Hunt, aged 12, of St Francis of Assisi School, Calwell.



ABOVE: Rachael Vella, aged 12, of St Francis of Assisi School, Calwell, looks at Jesus birth
BELOW: Georgia Short, aged 10, of St Francis of Assisi, thinks about King Wenceslaus.



Good King Wencles!!!!!!



ABOVE: Caroline Hendy, aged 10, of St Gregory's Primary, drew this beautiful Christmas angel.

ABOVE RIGHT: Ellen Miners, of Year 4, at Wollondilly State School, Goulburn, did a terrific job of neatly colouring in this picture of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.



Q. What kind of candle burns longer, a red candle or a green candle?

A. Neither. All candles burn shorter.

Q. What does Santa do in his garden?

A. Hoe, hoe, hoe.

Q. What do you get when you cross a snowman and a vampire?

A. Frost bite.

- from Georgia Smith, aged 10, Trinity Catholic Primary School, Murrumburrah.

Q. What do you call Santa Claus when he can't move?

A. Santa Pause.

Q. How can a snowman lose weight?

A. Wait until it gets warmer.

Q. What do you call Santa's dog?

A. Santa Paws.

- from Clare Smith, aged 10, Trinity Catholic Primary School, Murrumburrah.



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2007

Catholic Voice Calendar

January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
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Dates to remember in January

- 1** World Day of Peace
25 Australia Day
30 School term 1 begins NSW

February

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Dates to remember in February

- 3** Catholic Adult Faith Formation 1 Unit 1 workshop
5 School term 1 begins ACT
11 World Day of Prayer for the Sick
11 Catholic Youth Ministry team commissioning Mass
20 Project Compassion begins.
21 Ash Wednesday
28 RCIA Workshop: Lent and Mystagogy

March

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Dates to remember in March

- 3** Beginning Theology Workshop 3
7 Ministry of Music Workshops (Pt1)
11 Marymead 40th birthday lunch
14 Ministry of Music Workshops (Pt2)
19 Canberra Day

April

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Dates to remember in April

- 5** School term 1 ends NSW
6 Good Friday
8 Easter Sunday
9 Easter Monday
13 School term 1 ends ACT
24 School term 2 starts NSW
25 Anzac Day
28 Catholic Adult Faith Formation Unit 2 Workshop
30 School term 2 starts ACT

May

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Dates to remember in May

- 1-2** Ministry of Reader Workshop (Pt1)
6 World Day of Prayer for Vocations
8-9 Ministry of Reader Workshop (Pt2)
20 World Communications Day
20-27 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
24 Feast day Our Lady Help of Christians Patroness of Australia
26 National Sorry Day
27 Pentecost Sunday

June

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Dates to remember in June

- 2** Beginning Theology Workshop 4
9-11 Youth and young adult conference
11 Queen's Birthday
12 How to launch RCIA in your parish (Pt1)
19 How to launch RCIA in your parish (Pt2)
23 Beginning Theology Workshop 1
26 How to launch RCIA in your parish (Pt3)
27 NAIDOC Mass
29 School term 2 ends NSW

July

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Dates to remember in July

- 1** National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday
6 School term 2 ends ACT
17 School term 3 starts NSW
21 CAFF 1 Unit 3 Workshop
23 School term 3 starts ACT
28 Catholic Adult Faith Formation 2 Workshop 1
28-29 Propagation of the Faith Appeal

August

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Dates to remember in August

- 5** Ministry of Acolyte/Senior Server Workshop (Pt1)
5-11 National Vocations Awareness Week
8 Feast day Blessed Mary MacKillop
12 Ministry of Acolyte/Senior Server Workshop (Pt2)
15 Feast day of the Assumption
26 World Day of Migrants and Refugees

September

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Dates to remember in September

- 1** Beginning Theology Workshop 2
1-2 Father's Day Appeal
11-13 Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist Workshop (Pt1)
13 Ramadan begins
14 Jewish New Year
15 Floriade starts Canberra
18-20 Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist Workshop (Pt2)
22 Catholic Adult Faith Formation 1 Unit 4 Workshop
28 School term 3 ends ACT, NSW
30 Social Justice Sunday

October

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Dates to remember in October

- 1** Feast day St Therese of Lisieux, Labour Day
14 Floriade ends Canberra
15 Feast day St Teresa of Avila, School term 4 starts ACT
16 School term 4 starts NSW
20-21 World Mission Sunday Appeal
20 Catholic Adult Faith Formation 2 Workshop 2
23 Children's Mission Mass
23 Ministry of Music Workshop (Pt1)
30 Ministry of Music Workshop (Pt2)

November

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Dates to remember in November

- 1** All Saints Day
2 All Souls Day
3-4 Marymead reunion and fete
2-4 Retreat at Galong for Catholic Adult Faith Formation and others
6 Melbourne Cup
10 Beginning Theology Workshop 3

December

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Dates to remember in December

- 1** World AIDS Day
3 International Day for People with Disabilities
14 Last day ACT secondary and NSW Year 10 students
16 Catholic Adult Faith Formation graduation
21 School term 4 ends ACT and NSW primary staff and students
25 Christmas Day
26 Boxing Day

■ School Holidays

Traditional welcome



Members of the local Samoan community who belong to St Thomas Aquinas Parish, Charnwood, welcomed Archbishop Mark Coleridge in the traditional way of greeting an honoured guest.

They danced, sang and made the traditional drink kava which they then offered to Archbishop Coleridge and parish priest Fr Neville Drinkwater.

When Archbishop Coleridge was invited to a "meet and greet" with Charnwood parishioners, the invitation was extended to other local Belconnen parishes.

ABOVE: Archbishop Coleridge with members of the Samoan community.

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Footy star shares life's challenges

A former SAS commander and an ex-Canberra Raider football star were among the speakers at the Young Men of God movement conference held in Cooma.

About 120 young men came from Canberra, Sydney and environs for the event.

Keynote speaker, football player and former Member of the ACT Legislative Assembly Paul Osborne spoke of the challenges of living a committed Christian life in today's world.

He shared vulnerably about his early weaknesses as a husband and parent, but how, with the help of God, he had been able to grow to maturity. His witness had a profound impact on the young men who could see in him a good role model.

A seminar on leadership was given by Brig Jim Wallace, a former commander of the SAS and founding director of the Australian Christian Lobby.

He had the young men riveted with stories from his experience in the services, and provided practical insights and skills for leadership in the Church and world today.



Young men at the gathering (from left) back: Dave Morgan, Nick Seselja, Miguel Saragoza, Andrew Perkins. Front: Phil Seselja, Tom Zinkel, Steve Doyle, Ben O'heir, Daniel Seselja, Zed Seselja.

Karen and Jonathan Doyle, founding directors of Choiceez Media, an Australian company specialising in sex education for Catholic schools, gave the young men a popular seminar on developing healthy human relationships, especially with women.

One of the features of the weekend was the number of young men who were new to explicitly Christian activi-

ties.

The flow of the weekend was especially designed to be able to meet each man in his own unique needs, and to challenge all towards a personal commitment to follow Jesus as Lord.

The Saturday evening rally was particularly vibrant with music, praise and worship, testimony and a dynamic preaching and call from Fr Chris Ryan MGL.

Many young men made use of the sacrament of Reconciliation and made a public commitment to Jesus supported by prayer ministry.

The Young Men of God Movement, initiated by Fr Ken Barker MGL, has regular Tuesday night gatherings, either for sport or sharing groups. A couple of weekends and another conference are planned for next year.

The movement which started in Canberra has now been launched in the Sydney region. Organisers are hoping to establish in Melbourne next year. Inquiries: Ben O'Heir, telephone 0410 403 763.

Year 12s say goodbye

Year 12 students at Carroll College Broulee celebrated the end of their 13 years of school in a variety of ways.

The group, together with parents, teachers and friends, celebrated Mass in Nimbal Place which is in a bush setting at the college.

The next day began with a staff and Year 12 breakfast, followed by some fun as the students raised money for their two chosen charities, Ronald McDonald House and Beyond Blue.

A formal assembly completed the



celebrations with the leadership of the college handed over to the incoming Year 12 group. Students, staff and parents formed a guard of honour as the class of 2006 paraded from the assembly area.

ABOVE: Year 12 students Darcy Moore, Rishi Baldao, Julia Najjar, Daniel Palise, Patrick Tegart and Dylan Cosgrave leave the assembly.

Enriching marriage

Twelve couples attended the first Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend in Canberra for nearly five years. The event was an enriching experience for

the couples participating, as the Team couples witnessed the Holy Spirit at work in couples' lives. Canberra couple Jim and Wanda Kaucz organised the weekend and were one of the presenting couples.



3000 have a ball at Boorowa

A record of more than 3000 children in over 300 teams competed in the Boorowa Combined Touch/Netball Carnival at the Boorowa Showground.

Many of the teams came from Canberra, Goulburn, Queanbeyan, Young, Tumut, Yass, Gundagai and the small schools in the area. St Clare of Assisi, Conder, was the biggest school with 26 teams closely followed by Mt Carmel, Yass, with 21 teams.

Although the day started with clear skies and a light wind, by lunchtime the wind was gusting, and with the dust blowing, city visitors were shown what it is like to live in a drought area.



The Boorowa carnival is a community event supported by St Joseph's Parents & Friends, Boorowa Central School Parents & Citizens Association, secondary students from Boorowa Central and Hennessy Catholic College in Young, Boorowa Council and community members as well as staff from both schools.

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65 years married

Family and friends gathered in St James Church, Adelong, to celebrate 65 years of marriage of Joan and Ted Wilson (right) at the parish Liturgy of the Word with Communion.

The couple was married at St James in a Nuptial Mass at 8am on a cold, frosty Wednesday in July, 1941.

Joan's father, who was the postal clerk at the time, was able to go to the Mass, but had only half an hour off work for the wedding breakfast which was held at the family home. A few weeks after the wedding Joan's father was posted to Adaminaby as postmaster. The Wilsons have lived in Adelong all their married life and have been active parishioners. They have three children, John, Margaret and Carmel.

Shirley and Bill Lampe, who were married in June, 1956, at St Theresa's Church, Barellan, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary with their six children and grandchildren in Canberra.

The following Sunday they celebrated during Mass at Adelong where they have been active parishioners for the past 21 years. The Lampes received a blessing from Fr Bernie Hennessy.

Helping the helpers

Christian human rights organization Tears of the Oppressed is seeking host families for young people in their 20s who are volunteers in its graduate program next year. The students, both international and Australian, will arrive in January. They have made a commitment to serve the persecuted church for 12 months. Christian families who can provide a bedroom and partial board may contact Elizabeth Scott, telephone 0403 014 576, 6260 3315 (office).

Learning value of values

Students at St Vincent's Primary School, Aranda, have undertaken a number of exciting projects around the school where they experienced active citizenship at first hand.

A grant of \$1000 for values education was the springboard for projects.

Early Stage One students recognised a need for their sandpit to be rejuvenated.

They wrote letters to local businesses and raised funds. Parents shared landscape design skills and helped with construction.

All kinders had the chance to imagine and draw a plan for the sandpit, and ideas were incorporated into the final design.

Stage One students, exploring the "9 Core Values for Australian Schools" decided that, as the school is undergoing renovation, their contribution would be a mosaic depicting these significant values.

The students studied, discussed and developed symbols for each of the core values.

A mosaic enthusiast among the parents shared her time and expertise, and nine stunning panels were developed.

Students in Stage Two studied the values that "great" Australians hold and how they can be incorporated into our lives.

An in-depth study was then undertaken by each student into one particular



Faith in the forces

Two of Australia's top former Army generals, General Peter Cosgrove and Major General Peter Phillips, have thrown their support behind a unique recruitment drive - to attract vocations and support for the Australian Catholic Military Ordinariate.

Under the banner, "Help keep Faith in the Forces", Military Bishop Max Davis has launched The Armed Services Catholic Diocese Revenue Fund.

Bishop Davis hopes donations and bequests to the fund will help finance the training of priests and deacons for the Military Diocese, as well as the formation of lay leaders to take on the role of Catholic representatives for deployable units of the ADF which do not have chaplains.

The patron of the Revenue Fund Appeal is Gen Cosgrove and chairman of the Military Diocese Finance

A big welcome

Archbishop Mark Coleridge was welcomed to Canberra by a large number of the laity at a special dinner last month. All Canberra parishes and many lay organisations were represented.

Convener of the dinner Mr Paul Monagle, president of the Australian Family Association, said it was an important opportunity for the faithful to demonstrate their support and encouragement for Archbishop Coleridge as he began his new life as the chief shepherd of the flock of Canberra and Goulburn.

Martin and Neda Kesina were

Council is Maj Gen Phillips.

With the declining numbers of priests in Australia, few are available to work in the military diocese. There are now only 13 priests and deacons in full-time military service to minister to the 20,000 baptised Catholics in the ADF.

Bishop Davis said it was the only diocese in Australia where the financial resources came from the chaplains, that is, the clergy. "Essentially, we tax the clergy to run the diocese and with falling clergy numbers, there is a corresponding fall in our base of support," he said.

"There are wonderful signs of hope. I recently ordained the first priest for the Diocese, a former soldier, Fr Damian Styles, and two others are undergoing formation for the priesthood. The Episcopal Deputy for Women has begun a program of visits to servicewomen and families."



presented with the AFA Family of the Year award at the dinner. The award has been presented for more than 25 years to Canberra families who demonstrate the virtues of marriage and family life and pass these on to their children.

Catechists honoured



Bombala - Delegate parishioner Christine Walker (above) is blessed by Archbishop Mark Coleridge during his visit to the parish.

She was also presented with a certificate of appreciation for her ministry as a catechist before an accident, horse riding while herding cattle in February last year, cut short her work. Christine never fails to inquire after the "her" children.

Archbishop Coleridge asked Christine to now take up the ministry of prayer for him and all parishioners.

Archbishop Coleridge (above right) with Jan Farrell, who was presented with a papal blessing for 25 years work as a catechist.



Community.

What an insurance company should be about.



Senator Kate Lundy (second from left) and Senator Gary Humphries (second from right) with principal Mr John Vance and parish priest Fr Brian Maher admire the mosaic display.

Australian who has made a significant contribution to the nation.

The values that prompted early Australian citizens to form Federation were the focus for Stage Three.

Staff, students and parents were also surveyed about their thoughts and aspirations around the values they hold dear. These ideas are going to be included in developing a new school song.

The culminating activity was an open morning for parents and friends to explore with the students the learning that had taken place, followed by an affirmation of citizenship ceremony".

This was attended by Senator Gary Humphries and Senator Kate Lundy. The "Sandy Citizens" sandpit and the "St Vincent's Values" mosaics were unveiled.



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Our sense of wonder dulled

Mystery: The Heart of Life and the Core of Faith. Gerard Moore (editor). Dealing with Bullies. Gerald Arbuckle. Stem Cells. Norman Ford and Michael Herbert: The Environment and Christian Faith. Robert Leal. A Hunger for Reconciliation: in Society and the Church. Gerard Moore. What can the Church Say? Andrew Murray. All St Paul's Press, rrp \$19.95. Reviewer: Margaret Ryan.

Can a 21st century Western-educated, factually-oriented, empirically-inclined person be fully Christian?! Is a mystical streak necessary for Christianity? Are modern senses so over-stimulated and sophisticated that we humans can no longer experience awe and wonder?

Mystery: the Heart of Life and the Core of Faith is based on the premise that mystery, wonder is at the centre of life and religious belief. The authors present the challenging concept that the secular world, as well as some Church practices, are dulling our sense of wonder. If that is true, there are important implications for faith and religion.

The authors are Neil Brown, Margaret Press, David Ranson

and Joseph Sobb SJ from the Catholic Institute of Sydney, Louis Dupré from Yale and Gerard Moore from the Sydney College of Divinity. Topics covered include the place of mystery, the artistic imagination and poetry in the modern world, the wondrous nature of God, the scriptures, pinpointing mystery in worship and the future of religion.

Most of the essays collected here were originally papers presented at public lectures at the Catholic Institute.

This is the sixth of the "St Paul's Windows into..." series. The first was Dealing with Bullies: a gospel response to the social disease of adult bullying. Its author, Gerald Arbuckle SM, is an award-winning author, consultant and lecturer. In an engaging way, he examines the nature of bullying, bullies and their victims, the cultures of bullying and gospel responses.

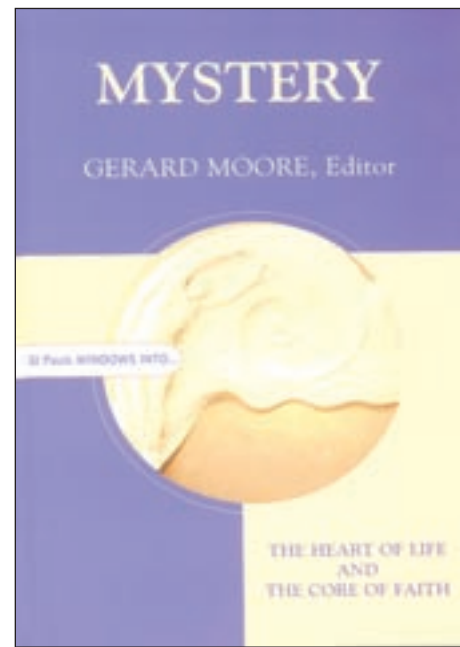


Books

The second is Stem Cells: Science, Medicine, Law and Ethics, written by Norman Ford, priest and director of the Caroline Chisholm Centre for Health Ethics in Melbourne, and Michael Herbert, who works in health ethics. The book examines the scientific, medical, legal, therapeutic and ethical aspects of stem cell research and technology needed to form considered views about this topic. It contains tables, figures and a non-technical glossary.

The Environment and Christian Faith is an introduction to ecotheology, theology of the ecology and environment, written by Barry Leal, Professor, Vice-Chancellor and Leader of Earth Ministry in two Uniting Church congregations in Sydney. He looks at what the scriptures, Christian tradition and recent writers say about ecotheology and its connection with indigenous peoples.

Gerard Moore contributed to, and edited A Hunger for Reconciliation, which examines sin, revenge, justice, hostility, redemption and the paschal mystery, reconciliation and new rela-



tionships as well as some sacramental and liturgical aspects of the sacrament of Penance.

The fifth in the series is an exploration of politics and religion in contemporary Australia, entitled What can the Church Say? by Andrew Murray SM from the Catholic Institute of Sydney. The book raises philosophical questions about the relationship of politics and religion and asks how might the Church engage in public discussion of political issues.

Keeping all in place

Acting On Conscience: How can we responsibly mix law, religion and politics? Frank Brennan. UQP, 2006, 267pp, rrp \$34.95. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.

Recently I went to a book launch in Manuka. As it turned out it was one of a number of such events to publicise Frank Brennan's latest book Acting On Conscience.

Fr Brennan, a Jesuit priest, human rights lawyer and academic has spent 20 years in the public forum.

In this latest book he calls for democratically responsible religious views on vexed moral, political and legal questions.

He believes that in contemporary Australia we need appropriate checks and balances on state power and on the rhetoric of our mass media and elected politicians.

We need a tradition of civic discourse respectful to all.

We need a commitment to mutual tolerance. We need to prize the indi-

vidual conscience and to value the dissenter.

Early on he gives a very clear exposition on the primacy of conscience. He believes that this is essential for us as citizens in a pluralist society.

"By forming and informing her conscience," he says, "the human person is deciding not only what she wants to do but also who she wants to be." We can do this without abandoning a commitment to clear thinking and past wisdom.

Fr Brennan then switches a megaphone on to current issues in this country and in the US.

With forensic research, clarity and balance he examines such controversial issues as stem-cell research, same-sex marriages, the legitimacy of the Iraq war, euthanasia, a bill of rights and the status of minorities.

He comments on the rise of the religious right in politics stating that religious leaders have as much right as any to put their views, but that these beliefs must be argued not imposed.

The law, religion and politics are held in creative tension. It is the right and duty of every citizen to be attentive to keeping them in their proper place for the good of all.

Fr Brennan is a witty and engaging speaker. He has dedicated his book to his five nieces in the hope that it be readable and appealing to them.

Certainly it will give them much to talk about. He signed my copy "Here's to the Catholic Voice". I hope so, too.

Are you serious about prayer?

Yielding To Love: learning to follow our yearning for deeper communion with God. Michael Fallon, Chevalier Press, 2004, 206pp, rrp\$24.95. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.

Fr Michael Fallon MSC is an experienced writer and speaker. For some years he has been giving public lectures in Canberra, mostly on scripture, which have been published by Chevalier Press.

Yielding To Love is of a different genre. This is a book that invites us to pursue the quest for ultimate meaning, that is, intimacy with God, and so

gives us a compass for our backpack.

This daring mysterious journey is different for everyone. Yet, Fr Fallon says, we are not meant to journey to God on our own. We can learn from those who have made the journey themselves.

He draws principally on the writings of two great Carmelite saints, St Teresa of Avila and St John of the Cross, to illumine the path.

This gentle persuasive book is simply written but rich in concepts. The journey is not easy but we are not alone. Fr Fallon's book is recommended to anyone who is serious about prayer.

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Borat: Cultural Learnings of American for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan.

Starring Sacha Baron Cohen.
Directed by Larry Charles. MA 15+: Strong sexual references and crude humour, nudity. 83 minutes.
Reviewer: Fr Peter Malone MSC*.

Yes, it's funny even if you don't approve

Any of the work of Sacha Baron Cohen is an acquired taste.

His Ali G was a hit on television, less so in the feature film, Ali G in Da House.

Baron Cohen's persona this time is a television personality from Kazakhstan where life is the equivalent of an impoverished, illiterate community in the repressive '50s.

This is a rather easy target and we can all laugh at the jokes at the expense of yokel equivalents (and, to that extent, the satire is funny while rather cruel).

It should be noted that Borat is not afraid of bringing in (and frequently), scatological jokes (literally) and sex jokes. He relishes them.

One has to remind oneself that everything human can be the subject of humour especially subjects that we are fastidious about.

Once Borat starts his tour of America, with outlandish behaviour that alarms the locals and with plenty of obtuse remarks and questions, it is really the equivalent of a candid camera program.

There are some funny episodes at the expense of anti-Semitism. This is one of those films that is funny, despite oneself wanting to be both in control and refined.

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

What happens when faith becomes certainty

In this feature length documentary, Andrew Denton takes a camera, his wit and sharp mind to the 63rd National Religious Broadcasters Convention in Dallas, Texas.

It is easy to poke fun at fundamentalist Christian believers in the US. From televangelists, Christian rappers and stand-up comics for Christ, to slick musicians belting out praise choruses, Denton finds what he goes looking for: the weird and wacky believer with seemingly unshakeable faith. The problem with this film is that it does not cover any new ground or offer any new insights.

So Denton traipses off for a weekend in Dallas to find out what we know: these believers are sincere, anti-intellectual, socially very conservative and aware of their political clout in George Bush's America. Their faith is individualistic, based on a literal reading of the Bible and reinforced by personal religious experiences.

What remains insulting is how these believers equate Christ's kingdom with their nation, and its middle-class comfort. It is not new for a group of Christians to assert that they are the specially chosen people, anointed by God to lead the rest of us to salvation. The problem is that it is irreconcilable with the more universal claims of the New Testament. And we are left wondering how God ever got along without middle class US.

Denton does a good job in highlighting the potentially circular nature of religious belief: we have experienced the Word of

God On My Side.
Documentary presented by Andrew Denton. PG. 75 minutes. Reviewer: Fr Richard Leonard SJ*.

God to be the Word of God because it is the Word of God.

The great problem for religious faith is when it ceases to be faith, and becomes certainty. God On My Side profiles the dangers of a style of faith in which doubt and cautious assertion are considered sins. For all of our problems and issues, I left this film cherishing our Catholic expression of the faith more than ever. It may do the same for you.

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

Timely story that works well

The Nativity Story is precisely that, a year in the life of Mary which culminates in the birth of Jesus, the visits of the shepherds and the magi to the stable, Herod's brutal response in massacring the innocents and Joseph and Mary escaping to Egypt.

The Nativity Story is a worthy enterprise that, by and large, comes off well. It is also a modest enterprise. It is to the credit of New Line Cinema that they were prepared to venture into this kind of religious film-making. Of course, the box-office success of The Passion of the Christ and the realisation that there was an audience for this kind of religious film was an encouragement.

Though the screenplay is well-grounded in the biblical texts, the film is imaginatively inventive concerning incidents not in the Gospels as well as presenting scenes which are. Nazareth was not an easy place to live in. When the screenplay uses direct texts from the Gospels as part of the drama, it is not so effective. They move too quickly. This is the case when Mary arrives at Elizabeth's house

The Nativity Story.

Starring Keisha Castle-Hughes, Ciaran Hinds and Shohreh Aghdashloo. Directed by Catherine Hardwicke. PG. 91 minutes.
Reviewer: Fr Peter Malone MSC.

and, barely, turning round Elizabeth utters the greeting verbatim from Luke and the acknowledgement of Mary as the mother of the Lord.

There are a lot of Magi sequences (too many) with more emphasis on the astronomy than on the Hebrew texts they also quote. Their differing characters provide touches of broad humour as well. On the other hand Ciaran Hinds is a sinister, egoistic and paranoid Herod - with a rather oily Antipas, his son, giving him sinister advice.

The Silent Night ending seems a bit much but, on the other hand, it evokes memories of Christmas for the audience. The appeal of the film is to the Christian audience which should welcome it - with the hope that it will have a wider appeal to non-Christians.



Andrew Denton talking to "MUMPS", a Puppevangelist at the 2006 National Religious Broadcasters' Convention in Texas, from a scene in the documentary "God On My Side." A Hopscotch release.

THIS MONTH'S MOVIES

God on My Side: No room for doubt. PG.

Borat: Cultural Learnings of American for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan: An acquired taste. MA15+.

Hunt Angels: More fascinating than fiction. M.

The Nativity Story: Imaginatively inventive. PG.

Open Season: Animated enjoyment. PG.

All reviews at www.catholicvoice.com.au

Films

All about the wonder of Christmas story

DVDs

The Christmas Story (The Wonder of Christmas Series, 10 min, ages 10-15).

The Nativity story is re-told via striking coloured stills and audio commentary in this Australian production.

The Story of Silent Night (80 min, ages 8-adults).

This documentary uses real life dramatization and on location footage to retell the story behind the writing of the carol Silent Night.

An extra feature on this DVD is a short film retelling the story of American and German soldiers laying down their weapons on Christmas Eve, 1944, united by the song "Silent Night".

VHS VIDEOS

Preparing For Christmas (60 min, ages 7-adults)

This Advent program for the whole family includes four 15-minute programs on the themes of waiting, hoping, preparing, giving

and receiving. Fr Anthony Scannell guides the viewer using Scripture, stories and music to understand the true meaning of Christmas.

Advent (Celebrating the season series, 12 min, notes, ages 7-13).

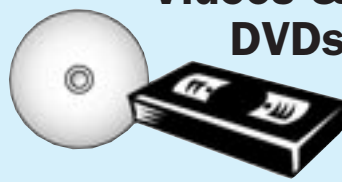
Using the four candles of the Advent wreath as the focus, this video examines how Advent is made up of waiting, kindness, joy and peace. Children tell how they find these qualities in their lives, as well as the people they remember from the Scriptures and today who exhibit Advent qualities.

Other Advent activities are also shown, including the Jesse Tree, making a crib, and Advent calendars. Format is mixture of action, still pictures, and drawings.

The Nativity (Visual Bible, 30 min, ages 10-adults).

The story of the birth of Jesus is dramatised in this excerpt from the Visual Bible series of Matthew's Gospel, the story is acted out on location with

Videos & DVDs



Matthew's word for word narration from Scripture.

The First Christmas Crib: A Story of St Francis of Assisi (VHS, 12 min, ages 4-adults).

Using simple narration and illustrated by still scenes featuring handmade figures, this video tells the story of St Francis and the first Christmas crib. After the story, there is a musical reflection that is illustrated by nativity scenes from around the world.

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

Symbols of Advent (CD-ROM, years 7-adults).

The main scriptural Advent symbols are presented here in



colourful illustrations, together with an interpretation of each, and the references for finding them in the Sunday Advent readings. There is also a description and explanation of the Advent Wreath and the Jesse Tree - traditional forms of Advent decoration.

SOUND RECORDINGS

Carey Landry & Carol Jean Kinghorn. How Beautiful is the Child: Music for Advent and Christmas (1 CD and music book, ages 8-12).

A compilation of 14 songs for children to suit the themes of Ad-

vent and Christmas for children.

Music for Advent & Christmas (CD, ages 6-adults).

This CD contains a collection of 22 traditional Advent songs and Christmas carols produced by J A Music, Victoria to support music programs in schools and parishes.

Advent/ Christmas Resources

The Catholic Education Office Resource Library holds a good collection of videos, books, and music for all ages.

Listings of resources may be found in the library's online catalogue. Click the 'Search' tab and choose 'Subject' search. Type Advent, Christmas, or Jesus Christ - Nativity. All parishioners may borrow resources from the library for a small annual membership fee. The library catalogue can be accessed at <http://vision.cg.catholic.edu.au/teaching/library/catalogue.htm> Library e-mail is: library@ceo.cg.catholic.edu.au

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John 10:10b



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ADELONG-BATLOW: Christmas vigil 6pm Batlow, 8pm Adelong. Christmas day 9am Adelong. January 10am Sunday Adelong, 6pm Batlow.

ARANDA: Christmas vigil 7pm 10pm. Christmas Day 9am. January 6pm vigil, 9am Sunday.

ARDLETHAN-BARELLAN: Christmas vigil 8pm Binya, 10pm Barellan. Christmas Day 9am Ardlethan, 6pm Aria Park. January 6pm vigil Aria Park, 1st 3rd Sunday 8am Ardlethan, 2nd 4th Sunday 8am Barellan. 1st 3rd Sunday 10am Barellan, 2nd 4th Sunday 10am Ardlethan.

BATEMANS BAY: Christmas vigil 7.30pm. Christmas Day 8am 9.30am 11am Croatian Mass. January 6.30pm vigil, 8am 9.30am Sunday.

BEGA: Christmas vigil 6pm Bega, 7pm Bemboka, 8pm Tathra. Christmas Day 8am Candelo 10am Bega. January 6pm vigil Bega, 8am Sunday Tathra, 10am Candelo 1st 3rd Sunday, 10am Bemboka 2nd 4th Sunday, 10am Wolumla 5th Sunday. Christmas Liturgy 6pm vigil Bemboka 1st 3rd 5th Sunday, 9.30am Candelo 2nd 4th Sunday, 6pm 5th Sunday.

BOMBALA-DELEGATE: Christmas vigil 7pm (children) Bombala, 9pm Delegate, midnight Corrowong. Christmas Day 9am Bombala. January 1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays 6pm vigil 5pm Sunday Bombala, 9am Delegate. 2nd, 4th Sundays 6pm vigil Delegate, 9.30am Bombala.

BOOROWA: Christmas vigil 5pm Binalong, 7pm Boorowa, 9pm Frogmore. Christmas Day 8am Boorowa. January 6pm vigil Boorowa, 8am Sunday Boorowa, 9.30am Binalong, 9am Galong monastery.

BRAIDWOOD: Christmas vigil 8.30pm. Christmas Day 9am. January vigil 6pm, Sunday 9am.

BUNGENDORE: Christmas vigil 6pm Bungendore, 6pm Gundaroo. Christmas Day 8.30am Bungendore. January 8.30am Bungendore, 10.30 am 7 Jan Hoskinstown, 10.30am 14 Jan Tarago, 10.30am 21 and 28 Jan Gundaroo.

CAMPBELL: Christmas vigil 6pm. Christmas Day 10am, Croatian Mass 8.30am. January 6pm vigil, 8.30am (Croatian) 10am Sunday.

CATHEDRAL: Christmas vigil 6pm midnight Cathedral, 9pm Yarralumla. Christmas Day 8am 9.30am 11am Cathedral, 10am Yarralumla. January 8am 9.30am 11am 5.30pm Sunday Cathedral, 6pm vigil 10am Sunday Yarralumla.

CENTRAL CANBERRA: Christmas vigil 6pm Dickson. Christmas Day 8am Braddon, 9.30am Dickson. January vigil 6pm Dickson, 8am Sunday Braddon, 9.30am Sunday Dickson.

CHARNWOOD: Christmas vigil 7pm midnight. Christmas Day 10am. January 6pm vigil, 8am 10am Sunday.

COOMA: Christmas vigil 6pm (children) 9pm Cooma, 9pm Nimmitabel. Christmas Day 8am Adaminaby, 8am 10am Cooma. January 6pm vigil 10am Sunday Cooma, 8am 1st 3rd 5th Sunday Nimmitabel, 8am 2nd 4th Sunday Adaminaby, 7pm last Sunday of month Numeralla.

COOTAMUNDRA: Christmas vigil 7pm 9pm, Cootamundra. Christmas Day 8am Stockinbingal, 9.30am Cootamundra. January 6pm vigil 1st 2nd 3rd 5th Sunday Cootamundra, Sunday 8am Stockinbingal, 9.30 am Cootamundra. 4th Sunday (Bush Mass Sunday) 6pm vigil Cootamundra, Sunday 8am Mass Wallendbeen, 9.30am Mass Muttama, Celebration of the Word and Holy Communion 8am Stockinbingal, 9.30am Cootamundra.

CROOKWELL: Christmas vigil 9pm Crookwell. Christmas Day 8am Binda, 9.30am Crookwell. January 6pm vigil Crookwell, 9am Sunday Crookwell, 10.30am Binda.

EVATT: Christmas vigil 6pm 9pm. Christmas Day 9.30am.

GOULBURN: Christmas vigil 6.30pm (Trinity Catholic College grounds) 9.30pm Sts Peter & Paul's Old Cathedral. Christmas Day 7.30am Sts Peter & Paul's Old Cathedral 9.30am Our Lady of Fatima Church.

GRENFELL: Christmas vigil 6pm Bribbaree, 8.30pm Grenfell. Christmas Day 9am Grenfell. January 6pm vigil Grenfell, 8am Sunday Grenfell, 10am 1st Sunday Caragabal, 10am 2nd Sunday Quandialla, 10am 4th Sunday Bribbaree.

GUNDAGAI: Christmas vigil (family) 7pm. Christmas Day 8am. No country Masses on Christmas Day.

GUNGAHLIN: Christmas vigil (children) 7pm 10pm both Gold Creek High School gym. Christmas Day 9am Holy Spirit School hall.

JINDABYNE: Christmas vigil 5pm Thredbo, 7pm Dalgety, 8pm Jindabyne, 9pm Berridale, midnight Jindabyne. Christmas Day 9am Jindabyne. January 5pm vigil Thredbo, 8.30am Sunday Jindabyne, 10.30am 1st 3rd Sunday Berridale, 10.30am 2nd 4th Sunday Dalgety.

KALEEN: Christmas vigil 7pm 10pm. Christmas Day 9am. January 6pm vigil, 9am 5.30pm Sunday.

KAMBAH: Christmas vigil 7pm 10pm. Christmas Day 9.30am. January 6pm vigil 8.30am 10am Sunday.

KIPPAX: Christmas vigil 6pm 9pm midnight. Christmas Day 9am. January vigil 6pm, 8.30 10am 6pm Sunday.

MICHELAGO: Christmas vigil 7pm Jerangle, 9pm Bredbo. Christmas Day 10am Michelago. January 7pm vigil Michelago, 8am Sunday Jerangle, 9.30am Bredbo.

MORUYA: Christmas vigil 6.30pm 9pm. Christmas Day 8am Tuross Head, 10am Moruya. January 6.30pm vigil, 10am Sunday, 5pm Sunday Tuross Head (not 24 December).

MURRUMBURRAH: Christmas vigil 7pm Murrumburrah. Christmas Day 8am Jugiong, 10am Murrumburrah. January 6pm vigil Harden, 8am Sunday Jugiong, 10am Murrumburrah.

NAROOMA-COBARGO: Christmas vigil 6pm Cobargo, 6pm Bermagui, 8pm Narooma. Christmas Day 7.30am Bodalla, 9am Bermagui, 9.30am Narooma. January 6.30pm vigil Cobargo, 7.30am Sunday Bodalla, 8am Bermagui, 9.30am Narooma.

NARRABUNDAH: Christmas vigil 6pm 8pm (charismatic). Christmas Day 9am. January 6pm vigil 9am Sunday 7pm Sunday (charismatic).

NORTH WODEN: Christmas vigil 5.30pm midnight Curtin, 7.30pm Garran. Christmas Day 8am Curtin 9.30am Garran. January 6pm vigil Curtin, 9.30am Sunday Garran 5.30pm Curtin.

O'CONNOR: Christmas vigil 9pm. Christmas Day 8.30am 10am. January 6pm vigil, 8.30am 10am Sunday.

PAGE: Christmas vigil 7pm 9pm midnight. Christmas Day 9.30am. January 6pm vigil, 8am 9.30am Sunday.

PAMBULA: Christmas vigil (children) 6pm Merimbula, 9pm Eden, midnight Pambula. Christmas Day 9am Merimbula. January 6pm vigil Eden 8am Sunday Pambula 10am Merimbula.

QUEANBEYAN: Christmas vigil 6.30pm(children) Macquoid St, 8pm St Raphael's, midnight St Raphael's (carols 11.30pm). Christmas Day 9am St Raphael's. January 5.30pm vigil, 8am 10am Sunday.

SOUTH TUGGERANONG: Christmas vigil (children) 6pm Sacred Heart Calwell, 8pm (young people) Gowrie, midnight Gowrie. Christmas Day 8.30am, 10am Gowrie. January 6pm vigil, 8.30am, 10am, 6pm Sunday.

SOUTH WODEN: Christmas vigil (children) 6pm 9pm. Christmas Day 8.30am 10.30am, all at Sacred Heart, Pearce. January 6.30pm vigil Pearce, 8.30am Sunday Farrer, 10.30am Pearce.

TARALGA: Christmas vigil 8pm. Christmas Day 9am. January 9am Sunday.

TEMORA: Christmas vigil (in park) 6pm, 9pm. Christmas Day 10am. January 6pm vigil, 10am Sunday, 8am Barmedman.

WANNIASSA: Christmas vigil (family) 7pm midnight. Christmas Day 8am 9.30am. January 6pm vigil, 9.30am 6pm Sunday.

WATSON: Christmas vigil (children) 6pm, 10pm Watson, 10pm Hall. Christmas Day 8am 10am Watson, 9am Hall.

WESTON CREEK: Christmas vigil 6pm (children) Waramanga and Holder, 9pm Waramanga midnight Holder. Christmas Day 8.30am Holder 10am Waramanga.

WEST WYALONG: Christmas vigil 6pm Ungarie, 8pm West Wyalong. Christmas Day 8am Burcher, 10am West Wyalong. January 6pm vigil 10am 1st 2nd 3rd Sunday and 5.30pm 4th Sunday West Wyalong. 8am 1st 3rd Sunday Ungarie, 8am 2nd Sunday Burcher, 11.15am 3rd Sunday Rankin Springs, 10.30am 4th Sunday Weethalle.

YASS: Christmas vigil 6pm Wee Jasper, 8pm Yass. Christmas Day 8.30am Yass, 9am Murrumbateman. January 6pm vigil Yass, 8.30am Sunday Yass, 10.15am 2nd, 3rd, 4th Sunday Murrumbateman, 8.15am 1st Sunday Murrumbateman (Communion Service).

YOUNG: Christmas vigil 6pm family Mass outside church, 9pm. Christmas Day 9.30am. January 6pm vigil, 9.30am Sunday.

The next issue of Catholic Voice will be published in February 2007.

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Women, your financial future is up to you

By Zilla Lyons, Regional Manager, Catholic Superannuation and Retirement Fund

Women are at the greatest risk of outliving their savings. The average woman starts retirement with decidedly less savings than the average man. This may be attributable to lower wages and part-time work, interruptions to careers while rearing families, or the consequences of the death of a partner or marriage breakdown.

Whatever the reasons, women live a much longer and usually poorer retirement. It is estimated that in less than 15 years, two million elderly women will be living alone (nearly double the current number) and the number of divorced women aged 59 or more will double.

Women are in for a rude awakening unless they take their retirement planning into their own hands.

The Citibank Retirement Index 2005 shows that of the retired and semi-retired in the community, 54 per cent of the women rely on the government pension as their main income source whereas only 38 per cent of retired men use the Centrelink pension as their main source of income.

Nearly half of all the women interviewed said they should have started saving for retirement earlier and, in the main, regret not having done any financial planning.

By the attendances at seminars and workplace appointments, I know that there is an enormous desire among women for financial knowledge, especially later in a women's life when she has a little more time to herself. The earlier women start to plan the better, but to plan late is healthier than never planning at all.

Some women may not want to educate themselves on financial issues, but may choose to outsource this task to an expert financial adviser.

A super fund like the Catholic Superannuation and Retirement Fund is a great place to start this process as many

funds offer financial planning services, free workplace visits and seminars specifically designed to educate and support members on their financial journey towards retirement.

Many women want a financial planner to provide them with practical, personal advice that is specific to them and their situation and want the road to retirement financially mapped for them. Luckily, most financial planning advice models are moving away from commission-based structures to ones where the service is value for money and related to the advice given.

So what are the tips for creating wealth for women? First and foremost you should start saving now as starting early means you earn more interest on your interest, which can help bridge gaps if your time in the paid workforce is broken.

Learn how to draft a budget and plan to save before you spend. If you are a parent you can encourage all your children, but especially your daughters, to get interested in their finances and strive for financial independence. Encourage them to read about and attend seminars on financial matters and accompany them wherever possible, as it is never too late to learn.

If you or your daughters need financial advice, speak to your super fund as much as may be provided as a free service. For specific financial advice and planning, seek the services of a professional who comes highly recommended. Your chosen financial adviser should be someone trustworthy who inspires your confidence and who is upfront with any charges applicable to the advice she/he provides.

Above all, if you are female, take control of your financial future because statistics show that if you don't there may not be anyone else around who will.

Disclaimer: This superannuation article is for general information only. It does not take into account your personal objectives, financial situation or needs. As a result, you should consider its appropriateness to your own situation and obtain independent financial advice before making any decisions about your superannuation.

Growing up, as part of our family prayer, we used to pray for a happy death.

I pictured that this way: you died cradled in the loving arms of family, friends, and church, fully at peace with God and everyone around you.

That's a good picture, the ideal, but not everyone gets to die that way.

Randomness, contingency, and accidents too often have us die in broken, compromised, and cold situations: bitter, unforgiving, unforgiven, not fully reconciled, alienated from someone, not going to church, angry, drunk, dead by drug overdose, a victim of suicide.

Death, not infrequently, catches some of us before we've had time to say the things we should have said or do the things we should have done. Too often we die with unfinished business, too much of it.

As the old confiteor says: we need forgiveness for what we've done and left undone.

To give a few examples: I was once counselling a man, a priest in his 50s, who was still unable to forgive himself because when he was a young, shy, and frightened boy of seven, and his mother lay dying, he was too afraid to give her a hug when she asked for it.

More than 40 years later, he still nursed guilt and a deep regret for this unfinished business with his long-dead mother.

In another case, I officiated at the funeral of a man who had been quite happily married for 35 years.

One afternoon he had a bitter argument with his wife over some minor thing, rushed out of the house in anger, and was killed in an accident minutes later. What terrible timing for one's death!

Many of us can empathize with these examples. Who among us doesn't have unfinished business with someone whom death has taken away?

Perhaps we had hurt that person, or he or she had hurt us, and it was never fully reconciled. Or we feel guilt because, while that person was alive, we should have given more of ourselves to him or her, but were too busy with our own lives to reach out.

Worse still, perhaps someone has died for whom we had felt hatred and we should have made some gesture of reconciliation and we never did. Now it's too late! Death has separated us and some painful bitterness now lies irrevocably unresolved and we live with the guilt, wishing we had done something before it was too late.

But it's not too late. It's never too late if we take seriously the Christian doctrine of the communion of saints.

This doctrine, so central and important that's enshrined in our creed, asks us to believe that we are still in real community of life and communication with those who have died.

To believe in the communion of saints is to believe that those who have died are still alive and are linked to us in such a way that we can continue to talk with them, that our relationship

It's never too late to reconcile

Ron Rolheiser

Oblate Fr Ron Rolheiser, theologian, teacher and award-winning author, is president of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas.



with them can continue to grow, and that the reconciliation that wasn't possible before their deaths can now occur.

Why can this happen now, when it seemed so impossible before?

Because our communication with them is now privileged. Death washes some things clean. This is not the stuff of fantasy, but of solid dogma. We know its truth because we experience it.

How often in a family, a friendship, a community, or in any human network, do we experience a tension, a misunderstanding, an anger, a frustration, an irreconcilable difference, a selfishness, or a hurt that can't be undone, and then everything changes because someone dies? The death brings a peace, a clarity, and a charity, that were not possible before.

Why? It's not simply because the death changed the chemistry and took someone out of the family, the office, or the circle of friends, or even, as may sometimes seem the case, the source of the tension is the one who died.

It happens because, as Luke's account of Jesus on the cross teaches, death washes things clean.

"Today you will be with me in paradise!" Jesus speaks those words to the good thief on the cross and they're meant for everyone of us who dies without yet fully being a saint and without having had the time and opportunity to make all the amends and speak all the apologies that we owe to others.

There is still time after death, on both sides, for reconciliation and healing to happen because inside the communion of saints we have privileged access to each other and there we can finally speak all of those words that we couldn't speak before. We can reach across death's divide.

It can be a great consolation to die a happy death, snug and reconciled in the arms of love, with no unfinished business.

But, happily, there's time still after death for this to happen for those of us who aren't so lucky and who end up dying with some bitterness, anger, wound, and frustration still gnawing away.

Website: www.ronrolheiser.com

Death washes some things clean. This is not the stuff of fantasy, but of solid dogma.

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Living with the net



Paul Jenkins

'Tis the season - to surf

Once again Christmas is upon us. Everyone is getting excited, from children, to adults to elves. Each year the World Wide Web presents us with old and new websites about Advent and Christmas. Some websites have disappeared to be replaced by even better ones.

Here is a list of general Christmas websites I found in previous years, that still exist and are very useful:

1) The Christmas Archives (www.christmasarchives.com/index.html); 2) The Jesse Tree (www.geocities.com/Heartland/7202/advent.html#jesse); 3) Advent for Catholic Religion Teachers and Catechists (www.silk.net/RelEd/reviewsadvent.htm); 4) It's Catholic: Advent (www.disciplesnow.com/catholic/html/advent.html); 5) Lift Up Your Hearts - Advent, Christmas & Epiphany Resources (www.worship.ca/christmas.html); 6) Advent to Epiphany: Celebrating the Christmas Cycle (www.americancatholic.org/Features/Christmas/default.asp); 7) Keeping Christian Christmas - A Catholic Resource for the Advent and Christmas Seasons (<http://internetpadre.com/Christmas/xmas.html>); 8) Christmas Graphics (www.geocities.com/Heartland/2132/Christmas/); and 9) Santa's Net - Christmas Traditions Around the World (www.santas.net/aroundthe-world.htm).

Try this small list of websites from and about Christmas in Australia:

1. Christmas in Australia (<http://christmas.best-australian.com/index.htm>)
 2. An Aussie Christmas (<http://raindael.tripod.com/australian/christmas/aussieuxmas.html>);
 3. Koala's Christmas (www.thekoala.com/christmas.htm);
 4. Christmas in Australia (<http://tw.w.id.au/c/index.html>).
- From around the world:
1. Christmas Carnivals (www.christmascarnivals.com/);
 2. Christmas 2005 (www.members.shaw.ca/christmas-time/merry_christmas.html);
 3. Christmas World (www.worldofchristmas.net/);
 4. Amazing Moms Christmas Ideas for Children (www.amazingmoms.com/html/christmas_page.htm);

● **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/
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



National Catholic Education Commission	www.ncec.catholic.edu.au
Ongoing Formation for Priests	www.auspriest.org
St Anthony's Primary, Wanniasa	www.stanthonys.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.svdpc.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.hop.org.au/prayer.htm
A Quiet Place	aquietplace.info
Australian Christian Coalition	www.acc.net.au
Australian Theological Forum	www.atf.org.au
Bede Griffiths	www.bedegriffiths.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.au
Emmaus Productions	www.emmausproductions.com
EWTN Global Catholic Network	www.ewtn.com/
Fish Eaters	www.fisheaters.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/~nsb
Lumen Verum Apologetics	www.lumenverum.com
Mt St Agnes Theological Centre	http://msawomen.org/
Neo-Catechumenal Way	www.camminoneocatecumenale.it/
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 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/
Silver Wattle House of Prayer	www.hop.org.au
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
Australian Christian Lobby	www.acl.org.au/home/index.stw

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

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
Central, Southern Tablelands Weather Weather	www.hop.org.au/weather.htm
Drought, floods and prayer	www.hop.org.au/drought.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
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
The Truth Decoded	www.thetruthdecoded.org.au

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.1wayfm.com.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

Corpus Christi Parish, South Tuggeranong:	www.corpuschristi.cg.catholic.org.au
Holy Spirit, Gungahlin	www.holyspiritgungahlin.catholicau.com
Mary Queen of Apostles Goulburn	http://goulburnparish.catholicau.com
Mary Help of Christians, South Woden	http://mhoc.cathparish.com.au
St Anthony’s, Wanniasa	www.users.bigpond.com/stanthonys.wanniasa/
St Christopher’s Cathedral	www.stchristophersact.catholicau.com
St John the Apostle, Kippax	www.stjohnkippx.org.au
St John Vianney’s, Waramanga	www.stjv-waramanga.catholicau.com
St Jude’s, Holder	www.stjude-holder.catholicau.com
St Mary’s, Young	www.stmarysy.cg.catholic.org.au
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.svdp-aranda.catholicau.com

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
PALMS	www.palms.org.au
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
Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart	www.olshaustralia.org
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
Pallottines	www.pallottine.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, 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/~aycw

insites

- *courtesy CathNews.*
Faith Doing Justice
www.faithdoingjustice.com.au
The aim of the site is to provide resources for social justice networks, parishes, schools as well as people curious about the Church's position on particular social issues. It is the outcome of a project by Sydney's Loyola Institute and Church Resources. The new website promises to provide in plain English "almost everything" the faithful want know about the Church's social teaching. It offers an introduction to Catholic social teaching, considered by advocates as the Church's "best kept secret".

‘Tis the season to surf

● **From Previous Page.**
5. Santa Search (www.santasearch.org/).
Here are some websites that I found for 2006:
1) Top 10 Ways to keep Christmas Holy (<http://catholicism.about.com/od/christma1/a/10waysChristhol.htm>);
2) A Holy Christmas 2006 (www.rockies.net/~spirit/sermons//christmaspage1.php);
3) Novena of Holy Christmas (www.catholic-forum.com/saintS/novena21.htm);
4) How Stuff Works - Christmas (http://christmas.howstuffworks.com/christmas.htm);
5) Catholic Encyclopedia - Christmas (www.newadvent.org/cathen/03724b.htm);
6) Christmas Around the World (www.the-north-pole.com/around/);
7) Christmas Carols (www.carols.org.uk/).
Now for two of the best websites about Christmas that I have found.

The first which is up-dated every year is called A Holy Christmas 2006 (www.rockies.net/~spirit/sermons//christmaspage1.php). It has two index pages each of which contains links to Advent, Christmas and Epiphany web pages. These index pages contain both religious and non-religious aspects of Advent and Christmas and are well worth browsing as they link to other excellent web pages from around the world.
The second web site is one that I discovered several years ago and is worth mentioning again. It is called Christmas in Cyberspace (www.njweb-works.net/christmas/). The opening statement of this site is: "Welcome to Christmas in Cyberspace No Santas Here! Just the Good News." The main purpose of this site is to provide a wide variety of links to other web pages on the topic of a religious Christmas.
I would like to wish everyone a happy and safe Christmas.

Classifieds

For Sale - Coastal

BROULEE

\$280,000. Two-bedroom townhouse situated in a quiet street in Broulee, within easy walking distance to beach and shops. Lock up single garage. It is a great investment opportunity. 350sqm (approx) block. Telephone 6281 2349 (ah) 0413 624 847 (bh).



EDEN

Location, quality and WOW factor! Sensational brand new 3-bedroom luxury townhouse in development of only two. Breath-taking ever-changing water views of fishing fleet, Twofold Bay and hinterland. Quality throughout. Walk to restaurants and shops. 3-hour drive from Canberra. Daily flights from Sydney and Melbourne. Asking \$620,000 Telephone (02) 6496 1206 (owner).



HARCOURT HILL, ACT

Enormous tri-level home, full established. A stylish water feature and polished black granite at the entry hint at elegance within ... and the 332 sq metre living area more than delivers! Flowing spaces, huge glass panels, softly hued porcelain floors ... and more gleaming black granite. The large entrance hall accesses generous formal lounge and dining rooms on one side ... and an enormous family room + kitchen + meals area on the other. A 5th bedroom (or study) and guest 'powder-room' complete the mid level.

Segregated at the top, the huge main bedroom has a stunning ensuite, walk-in robe and its own balcony. The children's wing is at the garden level comprising 3 bedrooms, a chic main bathroom, large laundry, store room and bright, sunny rumpus with huge sliding doors onto the paved entertaining area. Car enthusiasts will appreciate the 58 sq metre 3-car garage. Minor modification could transform one car space into a studio/ hobby room.

Careful siting of the home within its level, 820sq metre garden has created a real backyard with ample space for kids, pets, pool. And for the socially inclined, weekend fun is assured with golf, tennis and the country club just a stroll down the pathway! Expressions of interest around \$849,000. Call Owner Kevin 0414445164.



MORUYA

Rare find. Country home on one fully landscaped acre, easy walk to town, rural views, 3 bedrooms, main with ensuite. Verandah all round, town & tank water, gazebo, fernery, glasshouse. vegie garden, fishpond, fully fenced. \$475,000. Telephone agent 4474 4433, owner 4474 3552.

To Let - Coastal

BROULEE - Holiday home. Excellent location near beach and shops - well appointed, sleeps 8. Available year round for that winter getaway or summer vacation - weekends too. Telephone Tony 0419 257 881.

22 - CATHOLIC VOICE December 2006

To Let - Coastal

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

DALMENY - Comfortably furnished house in the gum trees. Sleeps 6-8. VCR/DVD, slow combustion fire, carport, large deck overlooking reserve for outdoor entertaining. Walk to beach. Weekends, school hols, short/long term. Telephone 6248 5236.

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

MALUA BAY - Spectacular beach/ ocean views, new 2 br apartment sleeps 6. Two minutes walk to beach. Linen, private courtyard, bbq, fully self-contained, DVD,TV, m'wave, laundry, cot. Telephone 0425 226 120 or 4471 2676.

MERIMBULA - Available now. Spend Christmas in this well appointed and fully furnished ground floor, two-bedroom unit with separate study/TV room; 2-minutes walk from CBD and the lake. Inquiries: Telephone 6242 6810 or suchislife@hotmail.com

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.

MERIMBULA - On top lake: family home, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 living areas - 2 levels. Short board walk to beach and town. Great views, quiet neighbourhood. No groups or pets. Telephone 0428 694 414 (mobile), 6494 3255.

MERIMBULA. Thinking of a sea-change/ retirement to the Coast? Why not try it out first. A lovely, fully furnished ground floor 2-bedroom unit with separate TV/study room and 2-minutes easy walk to all amenities. Will be available for 3 to 6-month lease from February, 2007 at very reasonable rates. Inquiries: Telephone 6254 8000 or bids2650@bigpond.net.au

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 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom, games room, sleeps 8-10, close to shop, beach and boat ramp, VCR, DVD, m'wave, d'washer, BBQ, great for 2 families. Book with owner and save. Telephone 6231 2026.

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.

TUROSS HEAD - "Ella May Holiday Flats". Renovated 2br, walk to beach. Heaps parking, fully equipped. Avail all year \$350-\$600 per week, weekends available. Telephone 0414 597 619 or 6161 7793.

TUROSS HEAD - 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom house, close to beach, spectacular views, large verandah, sleeps 6. Telephone 0418 627 750.

To Let - Sydney

BUDGET accommodation in student housing in Glebe near city centre. Families welcome. Book a house or a room. December 2006 to mid February 2007. E-mail: office@terraces.com.au Phone: 02 9660 6762 Website: www.terraces.com.au

CATHOLIC ADULT FAITH FORMATION - Program begins February, 2007, applications or expressions of interest by 15 December. Inquiries: Margaret Ryan, Centre for Faith and Ministry, telephone 6201 9802, e-mail adult.ed@cg.catholic.org.au

CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME - Our Lady Queen of Apostles Parish, Goulburn, each Wednesday, 7.30pm- 9pm. Inquiries: Telephone 4821 4754 after 5pm.

CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME - St Anthony's Parish, Wanniasassa, each Monday, 7.30pm-9pm. Inquiries: Parish office, telephone 6231 7310, e-mail sta.wanniasassa@cg.catholic.org.au, website www.users.bigpond.com/stanthony.wanniasassa

CHRISTMAS CAROLS - Christmas carol service led by St Caecilia's Choir, 7.30pm, Sunday, 10 December, Chapel of St John the Evangelist, ANU. Carols for choir and congregation with organ, trumpet, timpani, Gregorian chant, renaissance polyphony and instrumental solos. Inquiries: Maria Henry, telephone 6249 6278, e-mail mariamhenry@bigpond.com.

COURAGE CANBERRA - Group for those experiencing same-sex attraction and desiring to live sacramental life of the Church. Meeting 13 December. Confidentiality assured. Inquiries: Telephone 6254 2408, e-mail couragecanberra@hotmail.com

HANDEL'S MESSIAH: 7pm, Sunday, 10 December. Holy Cross Anglican Church and St Margaret's Uniting Church, Hackett. Excerpts by combined choir and soloists.

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 - Two weekends 9-11 March, 10-12 August

Sponsored by Catholic Development Fund
Ph: 6201 9870

Email: cdf@cg.catholic.org.au

To Let - Sydney

STORMANSTON HOUSE - 27 McLaren Street, North Sydney. Restful and secure accommodation operated by the Sisters of Mercy, North Sydney. Situated in the heart of North Sydney and a short distance to the City. Rooms available with ensuite facility. Continental breakfast, tea/coffee making facilities and television. Separate lounge/ dining room, kitchen and laundry. Private off-street parking. Telephone 0418 650 661, e-mail lnsstorm@tpg.com.au

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 - Natalie Parkin, telephone 07 5474 4447.

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.

Wanted

GARDEN statue of BVM. Write to "Garden Statue" P O Box 1047, Belconnen. ACT 2616.

2007. The Beginning Experience is a weekend program for those who have experienced loss of a partner through death, separation or divorce. The aim is to help participants deal with grief, then work towards a new beginning. Inquiries: Kath, telephone 6292 6195 or leave a message on 0419 210 543, e-mail be_canberra@yahoo.com.au

PILGRIMAGE WALK - Leaves 8am, 16 December, St Peter Chanel's Church, Weston St, Yarralumla.. Neil Harrigan will lead up to 20 people on a pilgrimage beginning at Mary MacKillop window in St Peter Chanel's, ending at Mary MacKillop window in the Cathedral around noon. Walk flat about 8-10km. Bookings essential, e-mail margaret.ryan@cg.catholic.org.au

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).

SOUTHERN CROSS PLAYERS - Jack & the Silver Giant pantomime, 11.30am Saturday, 2 and 9 December, 11am and 1.30pm Sunday 3 and 10 December, in conjunction with Southern Cross Club, Woden. Tickets \$10. Special school performance 11am Wednesday, 6 December. Bookings: Telephone 6283 7288.

TEAMS REUNION - Teams A Married Couples Movement (Teams of Our Lady) celebrates 40 years in ACT and NSW. Past and present members invited to Mass, 6.30pm, Monday, 4 December, St Peter Chanel's Church, Yarralumla, followed by a bring-and-share supper. Inquiries: Telephone 6231 3200.

Written entries for the February 2007 issue to: Catholic Voice, GPO Box 3089, Canberra ACT 2601, or e-mail ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au by Monday, 15 January.

Accommodation Wanted

EXPERIENCED, professional house-sitter available for house sitting, long or short term, with or without animals. References available. Please ring 0423 962 124.

RELIABLE female available for house-sitting, long term preferably but also interested in short term. Please phone 0428 290 585.

For Sale

FREE home delivery ACT area, garden manure, sheep, cow, chook, horse from \$5 a bag. Minimum order 5 bags. Telephone 6386 3694, 0427 053 988 (m).

HOUSE lot vertical blinds various sizes with fittings VGC, from \$40. Gold 3-light pendant \$35 (3 matching \$100). Rheem 250 litre electric HSW \$450. Garage roller door \$190 (two for \$350). Telephone John 6286 4454 anytime.

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.

Classified deadline for next issue of Catholic Voice is 15 January 2007.

Internet www.catholicvoice.com.au

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

What gifts will we present to Jesus?

By Margaret Ryan

One Christmas Eve in Peru, two pregnant women were experiencing complications in labour. Francesca, living in a leafy suburb of Lima, was rushed to the Catholic hospital. Maria, living in a mud brick home on the dusty hills, was refused treatment at the local medical centre as she and Josepi, her husband, lacked money for the fee.

Christmas for many people is truly awe-ful. Priests in port cities tell experiences of celebrating the sacrament of Penance until late in the evening. "I haven't been to Confession for 40 years, Father, but I was just passing and saw the light." It's a time when we can be unusually generous, as the response to the Boxing Day tsunami showed two years ago. Even Maria and Josepi gained access to a city hospital because of the kindness of a centre staff member who contacted the local priest.

Christmas is a time for recalling family gatherings and celebrations: some memories may bring



regret and increased loneliness; incidents of self-harm rise at this time. Some memories bring great joy and comfort, of times when families and friends did ordinary things in a special way.

In the Western world at least, despite the carols and tinsel being rolled out by shopping centres for

a month even before Advent, something about Christmas touches us. It's a baby. Beholding a baby can soften the features and melt the heart of the sternest of us. It's something to do with the miracle of life, the joy of safe arrival, and the hope we have for the tiny and vulnerable human being.

While Christmas recalls the extraordinary birth of Emmanuel, "God-is-with-us", Jesus' adult life, including the shadow of the cross, is never far away. Mary was told "This child is ... a sign that will be opposed - and you yourself shall be pierced with a sword."

Jesus brought, and still offers, a new vision, a new light to a weary, often self-focused, sad and hard-of-heart people. "I offer you a true way of looking at the world: a place my Abba created and provided for you and all creatures. We love you totally and forever, and ask that you pass on our love to others by your words and actions. Let the Holy Spirit guide you."

Jesus was born in Bethlehem, or Beit Lehem ("House of Wheat") and spent his life nourishing others. "I 'feed,' sustain and support you by my constant presence, providing the necessities of life, the gift of myself in the sacraments ... How do you respond to me?"

At Jesus' birth, the angels announced "peace on earth" to the faithful, and Jesus' final journey was to Jerusalem ("City of Peace"). "I came with unimaginable love for you, to restore the broken bond between my Abba and yourselves. I ask you to restore broken or fraying relationships within your families, towns, countries and peoples. Be peace-makers, bridge-builders."

At Christmas Masses we pray "God our Father, we rejoice in the birth of our Saviour. May we share his life completely by living as he has taught" (Midnight Mass, Post-Communion).

How have we experienced Emmanuel in our families, workplaces, communities this year? Have we thanked those responsible? For what do we hope (and are prepared to work) for this Christmas? Before we open any Christmas presents this year, what gifts will we thank God for? What gifts are we planning to present to Jesus this Christmas?

Showcasing 60-year career

An exhibition running at Sydney's Opera House is showcasing the 60-year career of Australia's most distinguished public sculptor Tom Bass.

Mr Bass, 90 this year, has two of his most famous works in Canberra, Ethos in Civic Square and the sculpture above the entrance to the National Library of Australia.

A bronze sculpture of St Augustine of Hippo - one of the most important figures in the ancient Western church - adorns the entrance to St Augustine's Church, Yass.

Mr Bass has three other works in the church, the sculpture of the reredos crucifix, that of St Paul the Apostle and the external crucifix.

The first major retrospective of his work will run at the Opera House until 17 December. It shows film, audio and rarely seen archival material, along with surviving working models.



It will reveal his processes of making monumental modern sculpture made possible by the then groundbreaking development of casting copper through electrolytic copper deposit. It will also include a unique walking tour of Mr Bass's civic sculptures in Sydney such as the popular P&O Wall Fountain in Hunter Street.

Latin Mass choir program

The December and January program for St Caecilia's Choir is:

Sunday, 3 December, First Sunday of Advent: Ordinary: Chant Mass for Lent and Advent, Motet: Ne Timeas Maria (Victoria), Processional: O Come, O Come Emmanuel, Recessional: Lo he Comes With Clouds Descending. Monday, 4 December, Feast of St Barbara: Sung Mass 7pm. Friday, 8 December, Immaculate Conception of the BVM. Sung Mass 7pm. Sunday, 10 December, 2nd Sunday of Advent: Propers of the Day, Ordinary: Mass 17 for Lent and Advent, (Chant Mass), Hymns Processional: O Come, O Come Emmanuel, Recessional: Hark, A herald Voice Is Sounding. Sunday, 17 December, 3rd Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday: Propers of the Day, Ordinary: Mass for Five Voices (Byrd), Motet: Canite Tuba (Guerrero) Processional: O Come, O Come Emmanuel, Recessional: On Jordan's Bank. Sunday, 24 December, Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord: Propers of the Day, Ordinary: Mass 17 for Lent and Advent (Chant Mass), Motet: Ecce Virgo Concipiet (Isaac), Processional: O Come, O Come Emmanuel, Recessional: Hills of the North.

Mon, 25 December, Nativity of the Lord: Sung Mass at Midnight (carols from 11.30pm): Propers of the Day, Ordinary: Missa Brevis

(Palestrina), Motet: Hodie Christus Natus Est (Nanino). Sung Mass at 11.30am.

Sunday, 31 December, Sunday within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord: Propers of the Day, Ordinary: Missa De Angelis, Motet O Magnum Mysterium (Victoria), Processional: Adeste Fideles, Recessional: Unto Us is Born A Son.

Monday, 1 January: Octave day of the Nativity of the Lord. Sung Mass 9am. Friday, 5 January: Epiphany of the Lord: Low Mass 6pm. Blessing of the Epiphany Water after Mass. Saturday, 6 January: Epiphany of the Lord: Sung Mass 9am. Sunday, 7 January: Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph: Propers of the Day, Ordinary: Missa De Angelis, Motet O Magnum Mysterium (Victoria), Processional: Adeste Fideles, Recessional: Unto Us is Born A Son. The choir is in recess until 2 February.

The choir's annual carol service will take place at 7.30pm on Sunday, 10 December, at the Chapel of St John the Evangelist, Daley Road, ANU.

The choir sings at the Traditional Latin Mass at Ss Peter's and Paul's Church, Garran at 11.30am on Sundays and at 7pm feast days. Inquiries: Maria Henry, telephone 6249 6278 (h).

obituary

A great scientist, educator

BERNARD VINCENT FENNESSY
1923-2006

Canberra parishioners mourn the death of Bernard Fennessy, 82, who became a much loved participant in parish and diocesan affairs, attended many meetings and contributed service in details of hospitality and welcome to visitors.

Mr Fennessy was born in Melbourne in 1923 where his father was in the hotel trade. His later schooling was at St Kevin's College, Kew.

He studied Agricultural Science and graduated in 1944. After early research work in the Western Districts of Victoria he was recruited in 1947 by Francis Ratcliffe, director of the CSIRO Wild Life Division, and was engaged in ecological research on Australian fauna, but specialised in rabbit research to control the plague of rabbits destroying the countryside.

From 1948 he conducted experiments with myxamatox virus and other agents along the Murray River. Results were so disappointing that Ratcliffe was preparing to reassign Mr Fennessy after the Christmas vacation in 1950.

On 2 January, 1951, he received in Melbourne a telegram from Ratcliffe to proceed urgently to Corowa on the Murray where an amazing kill of rabbits had occurred.

For some years, he developed successfully the spread of "myxo" virus which saved Australia from social and financial collapse. His work was not without danger at first.

Many critics feared the virus would infect humans, until Mr Fennessy suffered an accidental self inoculation and survived without health damage. He recorded the reaction of a fisherman who came upon hundred of dead rabbits near the riverbank, who told him - "they ought to hang the bas-



tard that done that!"

He received an Order of Australia in 1982 for public service.

He became renowned as an educator in the ecology of Australian flora and fauna.

On retirement in 1988, he became a guide at the National Botanic Gardens, where he trained many voluntary guides and became an invaluable member of

the organisation.

His diligence, vast knowledge and patience won the appreciation of thousands of visitors, particularly those from overseas. In his spare time at home he took up recording books on audiotape for blind and aged people. His fine voice delivery and accuracy shines out in the 170 books he taped.

Mr Fennessy lived an austere life, in small public housing, drove a small car; supported a variety of charities, rarely dined out, did not smoke or drink but was ever cheerful, and he was loved by a large circle of friends. He read widely on many topics and was a vivid conversationalist.

At a personal level he was a devoted Catholic and served the old St Patrick's parish at Braddon for years as welcomer, reader and man of wisdom.

He visited the sick and elderly, worked with St Vincent de Paul Society, and led study and prayer groups and assisted at diocesan synods and assemblies. He was an early member of the Serra Club to promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

He died age 82 after several years of restricted health, and finally succumbed to a throat cancer, which was ironic for a man whose voice had given much light and love.

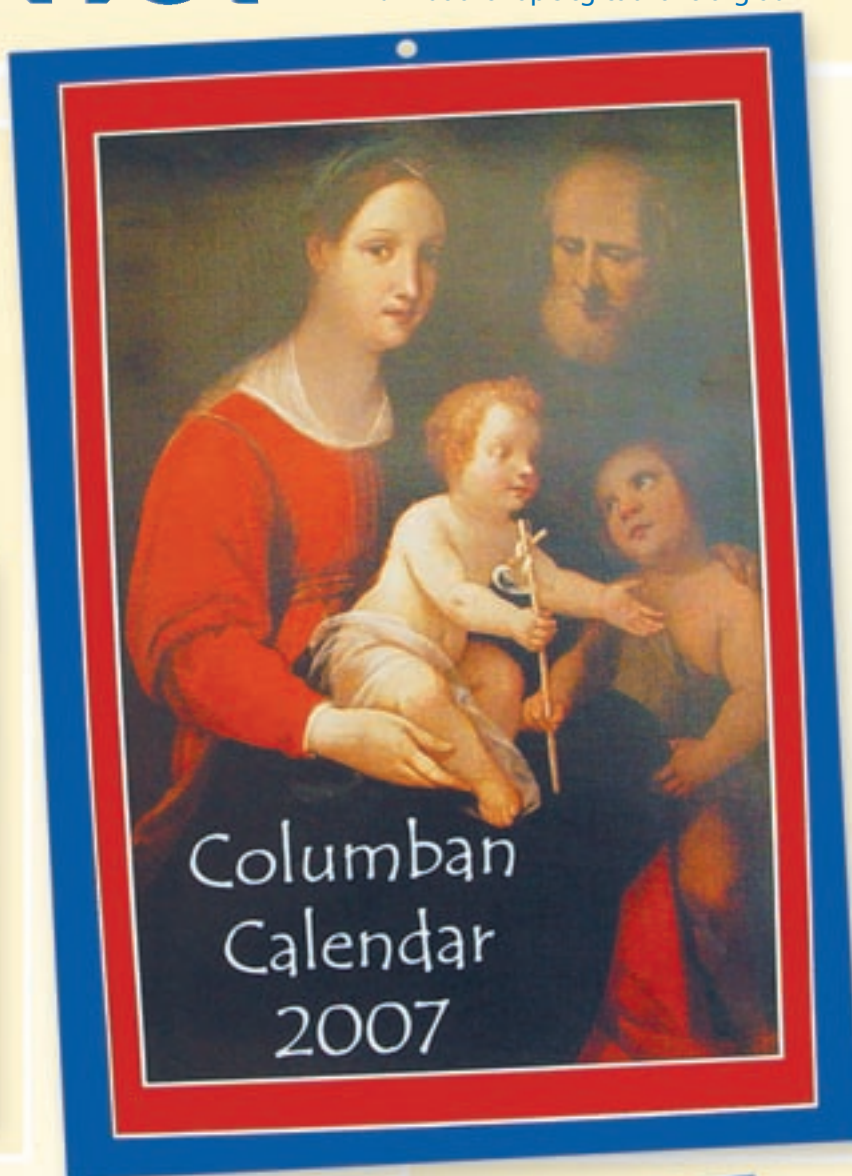
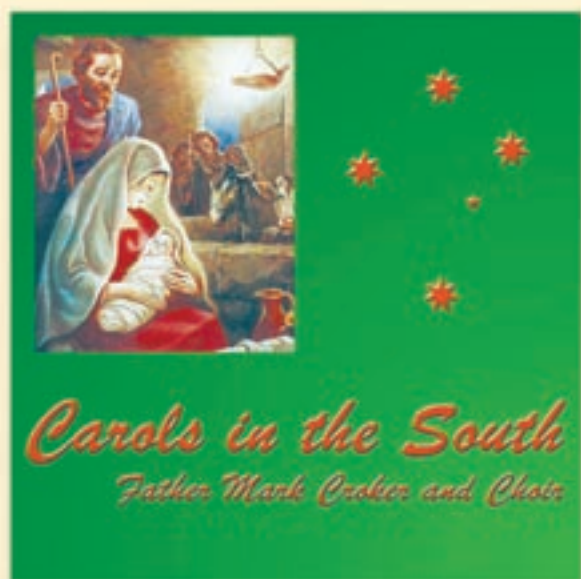
He is survived only by a brother and sister in Melbourne, but deeply missed in the community of Canberra. He was a great scientist, educator and citizen.

- Fr Brian Maher.



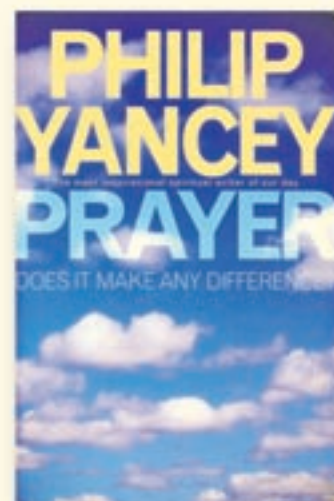
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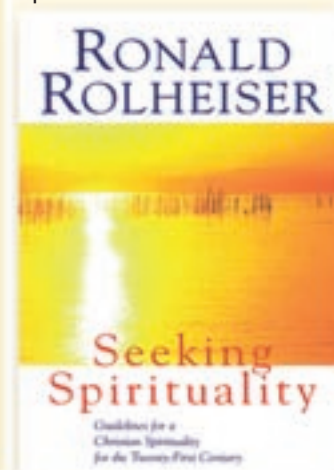
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