



The smiles remain
– see Back Page

Mum's the word at SFX...

There must be something in the water at St Francis Xavier College; staff numbers are decreasing and it is not due to poor working conditions. Twelve staff members are on maternity leave.

Six mothers and their new babies returned to school this month to share morning tea. "It's nice for all of the families but it's also hard because we have to replace them all," principal Mr Angus Tulley said.

Teacher Mrs Charmaine Givens and the other staff mums have started a mothers' group, going for walks together and meeting weekly. A lot of us are new mothers so it's good for support and advice," she said. "If you're having a down day it's good to have someone to talk to." First-time mother Mrs Meg Taylor said: "It took us half an hour to put Xavier in the car seat for the first time,"

A fountain of knowledge after her sixth baby, Mrs Michaela Vergano is the mother the others in the group look to for answers. "After having six I've got all the tricks up my sleeve," she said. Due back at school next year, Mrs Vergano does not want to think about it yet. "I'm enjoying motherhood too much."

RIGHT: Back (from left) Mardi and Mathew Huckstadt, Meg and Xavier Taylor, Elize and Ava Nowlan, and Meg and Ethan Talip. Front: Charmaine and Mia Givens, Michaela and Llandon Vergano.



Catholic schools are at a crossroads, say the bishops of NSW and the ACT, who have invited educational leaders, staff, parents and the broader Catholic community to reflect on where Catholic schools are headed.

In a pastoral letter released on the eve of the feast day of Blessed Mary MacKillop, the bishops describe the Catholic school system as "one of the jewels in the crown" of the Catholic community of the region.

The letter is signed by 17 bishops, including Archbishop Mark Coleridge, Auxiliary Bishop Pat Power and Sydney's Cardinal George Pell.

Speaking at the public launch of the document at the Mary MacKillop Memorial Chapel at North Sydney, Broken Bay Bishop David Walker said the world of the 21st century was very different from that of the past and that the time had come to reassess the future of Catholic schools.

Catholic schools had provided high-quality education to generations of young Australians and had been the major arm of the Church's engagement with youth, he said.

"I wish to publicly acknowledge the achievements of the religious and lay staff who have built and

Schools 'at crossroads'

served in our system, along with parents and parish communities. The Church is very grateful for their efforts. The crossroads we have reached today has been brought about by cultural and demographic changes."

The dilemma outlined in the bishops' pastoral letter is whether to resist the high demand for Catholic schooling and downsize to accommodate only those who are committed to the faith; or embrace the changing enrolment patterns as signs of the times and a new mission for Catholic schools.

All agree that the second option is the better way forward.

The bishops challenge everyone involved with Catholic schools to dedicate themselves to ensuring that schools are truly Catholic in their identity and life; are centres of new evangelization; enable students to achieve high levels of Catholic religious literacy and practice; and are led and staffed by people who will contribute to these goals.

The document goes on to list a number of critical indicators of progress by which changes can be

measured in future. These include progress towards an increase in the proportion of students and school staff who are practicing Catholics, a higher proportion of enrolments from poorer families and significantly greater Mass attendance by students and ex-students.

The bishops say they recognize that financial stress and other factors press many Catholic families to look elsewhere for schooling. Demographic and economic change have meant that the poor are no longer over-represented in Catholic schools, although recent

migrants and refugees often are.

"Many of our young people now have little or no connection with the Church outside their school," they say. "Furthermore, many other-than-Catholic families now entrust their children to Catholic schools. Thus, while our schools continue to embrace their traditional responsibility for religious and other education, they now have a different mix of students and less support for their specifically religious mission from outside the school than they had in the past. ● Cont Page 2.



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Students cook up great fundraiser

Another success story for the hospitality students of Carroll College and Batemans Bay High School who have helped raise \$11,000 for Fiona Lodge, a local charity that supports people affected by cancer.

Students catered for a three-course formal meal for 130 guests. They selected the menus, prepared the meals, decorated the hall and made the guests feel welcome. Carroll College Year 11 business studies students handled the finances, organised menu designs, arranged ticket sales and were responsible for the logistical side of things on the night, such as parking and cloak rooms.

The students gained valuable experience from mentors who work in local hospitality establishments.

This is the second combined charity fundraiser that the students have done; the first in 2006 was to sponsor two students in a hospitality school in Vietnam.

ABOVE: Ready to roll... students Kim Moore, Sam Read, Josh McRae, Matthew Sethia, James Kellie, Diana Meares, Jason Suman, Casey Pierpoint, Kristi Gill.

PULLING TOGETHER: Parishioners of St Mary's, Adaminaby, have reason to be grateful to their Anglican counterparts. During the construction of the Eucumbene Dam in the 1950s the township of Old Adaminaby was flooded and the new town built 10km away. Last year St Mary's was destroyed by fire, and the

From near and far

Anglican parishioners of St John's immediately offered their building as a place of worship.

Recently, the Young District Anglican Ministry deconsecrated five country out-centres and have offered surplus furnishings to St Mary's to help in refurbishing the church when it is rebuilt.

BRINGING LIFE: Marist Brother Kevin McMurray has been helping villagers in the highlands of Papua New Guinea for some time to access clean drinking water. He will be going back next month to install a water supply at a remote place called Ambullau in the Jimmy Valley. Financial assistance would be gratefully accepted. Generous donors from the Archdiocese have already helped Br Kevin finance a water pump project for the people of Polga.

He writes: "Although the River Lel runs nearby, the water there is not suitable for human consumption. Children, the elderly and others who drank it often became sick and sometimes died. The newly built health centre situated near the market place in the village was in desperate need of water. Only recently, with the prospect of the arrival of readily available water, were its doors opened to the sick. Also a registered nurse has been promised."

With the help of local young men, boys and the elderly clean water was found up stream, a dam built and the poly pipes laid 2000m to the health centre.

"For me it was very rewarding to see the joy and happiness expressed on the faces of the men, women and children of Polga village when water began to flow in the market place, health centre and nurse's quarters."

Anyone wanting to donate may contact Catholic Voice and we will provide contact details.

CHALLENGE TO YOUNG: Young Catholic women and men of Canberra have been challenged to witness to their Faith by joining in the prayer vigil for life held from 8am to 9am every Friday outside the abortion facility operating in the ACT Health Building in Civic.

Although the prayer vigil is non-confrontational, initially it takes quite some courage to profess one's Faith in the CBD, supporter Philip Robinson said.

"The spectacle of a group of people publicly praying in the 'market square' does

have a positive effect on some people, and certainly on those who participate week by week. At present, with one or two exceptions, it is the older generation who is keeping this vigil alive. A couple of generations ago this would have been 'Catholic Action'. So how about it you young Catholic men and women of Canberra?"

BRIGHT IDEA-A-THON: When Rosary Primary's walkathon was rained out, they didn't let the welcome downpour ruin their fundraising plans, but instead held an "A-thon" with a difference.

The Parents, Teachers and Friends Association had planned the walkathon to raise money for new play equipment. In place of the intended walk around Lake Ginninderra; the school participated in a variety of activities, among them a drama-a-thon, drawing-a-thon, dance-a-thon, pottery-a-thon, aerobic-a-thon, chess-a-thon and a puzzle-a-thon.

BELOW: Looking puzzled are (from left, clockwise): Theresa Tran, Chloe Boyle, Nicola Priest, Koben Moore and Alfie Gore.

BLOOMING GOOD THOUGHT: Spring is nearly here, and there is no better time for a drive in the country. An attractive destination is the annual art show hosted by Gunning parish. The art show will open with a gala supper at 7.30pm on Friday, 7 September. The show will be open from 10am to 4pm on Saturday, 8 September, and from 10am to 4pm on Sunday. Devonshire teas and lunch are available.

Inquiries and entry forms for artists, telephone Maureen Hewitt 4845 1308. There will be a raffle and people's choice award. The show will be held in the old Catholic school in Gunning, opposite the Catholic Church. Just follow the signs.

FOOTNOTE: An elderly reader offered this thought.

To my dentures I'm accustomed
To deafness I'm resigned
I can put up with bad arthritis
But, Lord, how I miss my mind.



Schools at the crossroads: bishops

● **From Front Page.**

The surrounding culture and its powerful agents such as the media and new technologies are also commonly less supportive."

The bishops say that while Catholics are proud of their educational achievements, they must not be complacent.

"Not all of our students have been as well served catechetically or pastorally as they might have been. Nor have our schools always been as well supported by families and parishes as they would have wished. As a result, the tremendous potential of Catholic education has not always been fully realized.

"In order to make the most of our opportunities, it will be important for the whole Catholic community, especially those most intimately involved in Catholic education, to re-examine our situation, central goals and means to those goals."

The bishops point out that, in the past two decades, the proportion of children in NSW-ACT schools from non-practising Catholic families has risen considerably. Meanwhile, other-than-Catholic enrolments have more than doubled to 20 per cent and may continue to rise.

There has been a fall in the number of Catholic students attending Catholic schools. Half the students of Catholic families are enrolled in

State schools, and a growing proportion go to non-Catholic independent schools.

"Another enrolment trend of particular concern has been the decline in representation in our schools of students from both poorer and wealthier families," they say.

"Put plainly, poorer Catholic children are increasingly attending State schools, while wealthier Catholic children go to non-Catholic non-government schools. Children from what has come to be known as 'middle Australia' now predominate in our schools."

The bishops have commissioned the Catholic Education Commission in NSW to investigate the feasibility of establishing Catholic pre-schools.

In the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn, copies of the pastoral letter will be distributed to school staff and school boards, parishes and Church agencies. The Catholic community is being encouraged to reflect and discuss the issues raised and to provide feedback to the bishops.

The full pastoral letter may be found on the archdiocesan website at www.cg.catholic.org.au/_uploads/rsfil/00394.pdf

Parish picks up pieces

O'Connor parishioners have found themselves back where it all began attending Mass in St Joseph's Primary School hall after fire devastated their church.

Parish priest Fr Bill Kennedy was forced to move Mass into the school hall after an early morning fire badly damaged the church



and destroyed the adjoining parish centre causing up to \$3 million.

It is not known when the church and parish centre will be back in use and Fr Kennedy has put off all weddings until the end of the year.

"We've had to put off so many weddings," he said. "That's the hardest part; they've been booked in here for months."

Everything in the sacristy was lost to the fire although the tabernacle, a treasured picture of Mary MacKillop and stained glassed windows from Ireland were saved.

Several groups have had to find elsewhere to meet due to the destruction of the parish centre. Despite the setback, the parish had banded together, Fr Kennedy said.

"We had a great roll up at the weekend Masses," he said. "I've got such a wonderful support from the parish that it makes everything so easy for me."

After O'Connor Parish was established in 1959, Fr Kennedy



said Mass was held in the school hall for about 14 years until St Joseph's Church was opened.

"A lot of people remember having been at Mass in the school hall before '73 and now they're back there again."

Mass will be celebrated in the school hall at 6pm on Saturday and 9am on Sunday, and in the convent chapel at 9am Monday to Saturday.



ABOVE: The ruined sanctuary area.
FAR LEFT: The destroyed parish centre.
LEFT: Mopping up the morning after.

WYD and liturgy focus

Registrations are being received for the Archdiocesan Assembly which will take place on 7 and 8 September at St Clare's College, Griffith. On Friday evening, delegates will look at World Youth Day as an instrument of renewal for the whole church. On Saturday, the focus will turn to liturgical renewal, grounding it at the parish level. Secretary of the National Liturgical Commission Fr Peter Williams will be principal speaker. This part of the program will be especially useful for members of parish liturgy committees.

New PA for Archbishop

A new personal assistant to Archbishop Mark Coleridge has been appointed to provide high-level secretarial and administrative support. Ms Cathy Moffitt for the past 12 months has provided executive support and assistance to the chief executive officer of Catholic Health Australia. She has worked in its national office in Deakin for the past four years. Her background is in education and administration, where she has more than 15 years experience. Before joining Catholic Health Australia she worked as enrolment secretary and assistant to the bursar at MacKillop Catholic College. She will begin work in her new role on 3 September.



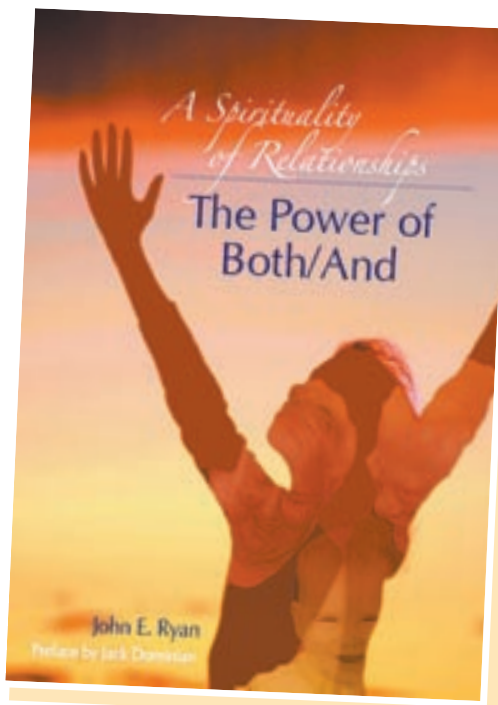
10,000 challenges



Canberra bus company Transborder Express faces the challenge of moving about 10,000 World Youth Day pilgrims to Sydney next year. Archbishop Mark Coleridge met with Transborder Express general manager Mr Richard Matto at St Christopher's Cathedral to present him with a WYD pin and thank him for accepting the task.

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

INVITATION:



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The price of the book launch tickets include a tax deductible donation for the Home in Queanbeyan project, plus a two course meal and a copy of The Power of Both/And.

"...the provision of long-term, supported accommodation for the chronically mentally ill who are presently unable to live with the basic dignity to which every human being is entitled is not simply a "good idea". It is an absolute must..."

The Honourable Sir William Deane, 2007

God will provide ...



Ben O'Heir and Phil Seselja (Canberra) and Ben Galea (Sydney) at a formation weekend.

Movement aims to serve young men

A new national movement will hold its second annual conference in Cooma next month with the aim of offering something new and fresh to young men.

The Young Men of God movement had its beginning among a group of young men in Canberra who were looking to connect and to be supported and who had identified a need to find a place to introduce friends to the Church in an innovative and non-threatening way.

Groups are now developing in Melbourne and Sydney and beyond. Fr Ken Barker MGL shared the vision to begin the movement and offers spiritual support and guidance in its development.

Archbishop Coleridge will be the key note speaker at the conference. Three seminar series will be run by Mr Jonathan Doyle aimed at looking for the meaning and purpose that makes life worth living, Maj Bruce Harmer from the Salvation Army Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service in Townsville, and Fr Barker on the challenge to be a faithful man in the 21st century.

The movement is not attached to any other group the Church and aims to serve the Church. More than 100 young men attended the first conference last year.

Anyone wanting to know more about establishing a group in a parish, or joining in Tuesday night fellowship evenings, should telephone Ben on 0410 403 763.

I've just completed one year in Canberra as Archbishop, and in recent days I've been taking stock of the first 12 months. It's been a tumultuous time: I seemed to hit the ground running and haven't stopped in the meantime. Certainly I've never been so busy in my whole life, but I guess bishops are meant to be busy.

People ask me often enough whether I've settled into Canberra, and my standard reply is that I can't remember life before Canberra. I usually add that one year feels like about 10, so much does the job bring from day to day.

The year has been unusually hectic because of my international commitments. All bishops are involved on three levels - local, national and international. Most people see only the local involvement. But the national involvement can be demanding enough, especially with the Bishops' Conference in which each bishop serves on two commissions.

Then there is the international involvement which comes simply from being a member of the College of Bishops.

This varies from bishop to bishop, but for me it means membership of the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Culture and chairmanship of the Roman Missal Editorial Committee and the International Commission for the Preparation of an English-language Lectionary.

I'm not too sure how I copped the job on the Council for Culture, but the other two were because of my training in Scripture, my knowledge of languages and my experience as a translator.

Then other things pop out of the blue - things like the Synod of Bishops next year, which will be held in Rome through most of the month of October. The theme is "The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church", and I guess I was elected as one of the two Australian bishops because of my training in biblical studies and my years of teaching Scripture. Certainly I'm happy to be going.

I've worked behind the scenes with synods in the days when I was working in the Vatican, but I've never actually been one of the bishop members of a synod. That should be fascinating, even if only to meet the other bishops from around the world.

But still my core business is the care of this Archdiocese. When I left the Vatican to return to Australia as a bishop, the then Secretary of State, Cardinal Sodano, asked to see me to say thanks and to wish me well in my new ministry.

One thing he said has stayed with me: that these days bishops can be away from their diocese a great deal, doing excellent work nationally and internationally, but away nonetheless. What suffers, he said, was the hands-on pastoral care of the diocese, which is really a bishop's prime work.

I was a bit surprised to hear such wise and practical words from a man who might have seemed the quintessential Vatican bureaucrat.

The Cardinal was absolutely right, of course; and it has been a challenge for me, especially through this year, to get the balance right between local, national and international.

I like to think that the challenge will be less daunting as time goes by and I finish some of these international jobs. But that may be wishful thinking.

Perhaps there will be other jobs in the future that will take me away from Canberra. I guess all I can do is what I've done through 33 years as a priest - simply say yes if I'm asked.

At least my energy levels are high as I move through my 50s. How long that will last, I don't know. It might last a bit longer if I can get more exercise in between the many other things that fill my life.

Just recently I received a delegation of Chinese religious leaders and government officials. They asked me what I did as a bishop. The question was simple, but it was hard to answer quickly and clearly. One of the problems is that a bishop does so many different things, many of which are largely hidden from public view and would have been incomprehensible to the Chinese delegation.

I'm also asked from time to time what is an average day in my life, and I usually reply that there's no such thing as an average day. I have to be ready for anything. Life as a bishop is full of surprises, with the occasional shock for good measure.

As the retired Bishop of Townsville once remarked, "Disaster is only a phone-call away". That's true, and it means that the job can be stressful.

So with all the stress and hard work, it sounds as if life as Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn is miserable. Yet nothing could be further from the truth. This has been the most memorable and even enjoyable year of my life, certainly the richest in terms of the human and spiritual experiences that matter.

The welcome from priests, religious and laity has been extraordinary. The young people especially have been just great and are a unique encouragement to me when my spirits flag.

Not everything has gone as I would have wished, and I have made mistakes. Yet there's not too much that I would do differently if I were to have this first year all over again.

So with one year behind me and the future, however long or short, stretching before me, I make my own the well known words of the Swedish diplomat, Dag Hammarskjöld, "For all that has been, thanks; for all that will be, yes".

Even more, I make my own the words of Abraham when his son Isaac asks him where is the victim for the sacrifice: "God will provide", the patriarch replies.

They are words that have echoed in my mind and heart and soul time and again through this year, especially when I have faced my own frailty and the meagreness of our resources: "God will provide".

+Bishop Mark



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Daniel's the pride of St Joseph's

Year 5 student, Daniel Mitchell, from St Joseph's School, Eden, won the inaugural NAIDOC indigenous primary student of the year award for the Archdiocese.

Jessica Fortune, of St Clare's College, won the secondary award, and St Patrick's Primary School, Bega, took out the community award.

About 500 teachers and students from across the Archdiocese attended the annual NAIDOC Mass celebrated by Archbishop Mark Coleridge in St Christopher's Cathedral. The theme this year was 50 Years: Looking forward looking back.

The award winners were announ-



ced at the end of Mass. Daniel was unable to attend because snow closed the Brown Mountain road.

ABOVE: Daniel Mitchell, who received the award in recognition of his educational development and indigenous self-identity, with St Joseph's School indigenous coordinator Kerrie Dean, Catholic Education Office indigenous education officer Kerrie Hogan, school principal Kris Ayres and school indigenous education assistant Corey Stewart.

Honoured for work in state RE



Two women from the Archdiocese have been honoured for their services to Catholic special religious education in NSW state schools.

Sr Barbara Hallam and Ms Sabina Van Rooy were among 16 recipients of the inaugural award named after Archbishop Francis Carroll. They were presented at the 20th anniversary dinner of the Catholic Conference of Religious Educators in State Schools held in Sydney.

Sr Barbara was assistant CCD coordinator in the Archdiocese from 1996 to 2001. Before this she worked in the Sydney Archdiocese as a motor missionary and later as a curriculum consultant in the CCD office. She co-wrote in the complete rewrite of Joy for Living religious education curriculum for Catholic students in state primary schools in NSW.

Ms Van Rooy has been Archdiocesan CCD coordinator since 1997 after experience in the Catholic systems as a primary REC and missionary work with the MSCs in Papua New Guinea. She has played an active role in the leadership of the conference having held the position of secretary-treasurer for six years.

Historic font to be restored

The Pugin baptismal font in Sts Peter and Paul's Old Cathedral, Goulburn, has been sent to Melbourne for restoration as part of restoration of the historic church.

The font, which has been the introduction point to the Church for generations of Catholics in Goulburn, is one of only three in Australia and is of major historical significance.

During the past month, the confessionals on the northern wall at the Verner Street entrance have begun to be used. They were built during the 1927 renovations at the same time as the choir loft and when the organ loft was reconstructed.

Australian cedar was used extensively throughout the Old Cathedral during this period. The narthex to Verner Street and Bourke Street are built of the same beautiful timber and provide protection from gusty winds in August and September.

The move to reinstate the old confessionals has occurred due to restoration in the north western corner. In recent years this area of the Old Cathedral has been used as a confessional in keeping with post-Vatican II design.

Before use of this area as a confessional parishioners would recall the baptismal font being located in this corner surrounded by an ornate fence and two beautiful stained glass windows.

New chief exec for ACU

Australian Catholic University has a new Vice-Chancellor. He is Prof Greg Craven, deputy Vice-Chancellor (Strategy & Planning) at Curtin University of Technology, Western Australia, will assume the role of Vice-Chancellor in February 2008.

He will succeed Prof Peter Sheehan, who is stepping down after 10 years as the university's chief executive.

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

Dara rocks to the top



Daramalan College have performed their way into the NSW Rock Eisteddfod open finals to be held on 5 September with a production based on the traditional story of Puccini's "Madame Butterfly".

The lead roles are danced (above) by Year 8 student Alyssa Londres as Butterfly and Year 11 drama and theatre student Brandon Girvan as Pinkerton. In all, there is a cast of 76 dancers, 19 stage-crew and a host of parents, teachers and volunteers.

Daramalan's highly colourful sets and costumes, made by a large team of teachers, parents and ex-students, was voted by the judges at the Canberra heats as "spectacular" and the production took the awards for best set and staging, best costumes and for drug awareness initiatives in the school. In the next round in Sydney, Daramalan won their section from 25 other schools and received eight out of nine awards for excellence. The winners of the final will feature in a TV show.



Trinity shows it cares for all

After 130 years of education, one proposed enrolment was all it took to encourage Trinity Catholic College to renovate the former St Patrick's College buildings and make the school more accessible for disabled students. More than \$520,000 in government grants and about \$220,000 in school funds enabled Trinity to install an elevator, ramps for disabled access and new carpet for some areas.

The question of refurbishing the school was raised when a family whose child has a physical disability expressed interest in enrolment. The lack of suitable access for their child would have prohibited the child from attending Trinity. At the opening ceremony, college principal Mr Joe Steyns said the facilities "are a manifestation of what our school should stand for. It should manifest our concern for others, especially those who need our help."

ABOVE: Student leader Megan Bell reads at the ceremony watched by Archbishop Mark Coleridge and Jordon Huntley.

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Christians try to make their next votes count

Kevin Rudd's areas of difference from the PM, as well as general issues of concern to the church such as industrial relations, included a much greater emphasis on lifting Australia's foreign aid budget and a program to assist refugees, many of them Christian, from war-torn Iraq. Notably, the PM did not mention the war at all.



Archbishop Philip Wilson, chairman of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, played a prominent role as he was invited to ask the first question, about the connection between personal ethics and values and political leadership, to each of the speakers.

He was joined in the audience by Archbishop Mark Coleridge, bishops conference staff and several other Catholic leaders.

But Catholics were a small minority among the wider viewing audience, despite attempts to get the church involved. This is probably because Catholics are not part of the core membership of ACL, an evangelical lobby group based largely on newer evangelical, Pentecostal, Assemblies of God, Baptist and evangelical Anglican churches. Attempts were made to recruit Catholic churches, but only St Benedict's, Narrabundah, signed up as one of the 27 ACT locations. There were some other Catholic sites across Australia,

including one organized by PolMin, the Catholic social justice advocacy group.

The event was significant in several ways. It was the first time that technology had been used in this way in an Australian election campaign. ACL are to be congratulated on their initiative, which could well be emulated by others.

Having both Howard and Rudd speak was an important coup. It reinforced the role of the churches as a significant force in Australian politics, though not nearly as prominent as in the US. It foreshadows more religion and politics in the election campaign.

What does this signify for the Catholic Church? The church may gain from being part of a larger group, but has to be wary of submerging its distinctive interests within that larger group.

The church shares traditional values with ACL on some issues of sexual morality, but contains a much larger social justice strand than do the evangelical churches. It also makes important contributions in education, health and social welfare delivery. Catholic voters can be found right across the political spectrum, it is true, but still lean towards Labor.

On the other hand the evangelical churches appear to be on the conservative side of politics and ACL's main endeavours so far have stressed a social conservative agenda. This will appeal to some Catholics but probably not the majority.

PM's

Prime Minister Mr Howard draws inspiration from the parables of the Good Samaritan and of the Talents.

Opposition Leader Mr Rudd acknowledges "quiet prayerful moments" in Canberra as he reflects on what his leadership can achieve to make Australia a better country.

These were among the rare insights afforded by the two men in their presentations to the Australian Christian Lobby's "Make it Count" forum at the National Press Club.

Their addresses were webcast live to an estimated 100,000 Christians around Australia, in an unprecedented event for Australian politics.

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference president Archbishop Philip Wilson, of Adelaide, sought a personal, rather than a political, insight when he had the chance to pose a public question to the two leaders.

Archbishop Wilson, who had met with each leader personally, was called on to ask the first question to both Mr Howard and Mr Rudd following their presentations.

Archbishop Wilson asked them, "What are the personal qualities, as opposed to the political qualities, that you believe are necessary for authentic leadership? What role, if any, has religious faith had in forming your personal leadership qualities?"

ACT politicians face crucial life vote

Members of the ACT Legislative Assembly soon will face some vital choices. Kath Woolf, president of the ACT Right to Life Association, looks at a life-and-death issue.

In a disgraceful attack on innocent human life last December, Federal Parliament passed the Prohibition of Human Cloning for Reproduction and the Regulation of Human Embryo Research Amendment Act 2006.

Licences may now be issued allowing scientists to create cloned human beings which they will destroy in attempts to obtain stem cells.

Eggs for the cloning process can be donated by women, and even harvested from the ovaries of miscarried or aborted baby girls.

Regrettably many Federal politicians, including all ACT members except Senator Gary Humphries, were persuaded to allow generation and sacrifice of human lives for the "greater good".

They were misled by researchers claiming that experiments involving embryonic stem cells will provide cures for all types of diseases.

Such claims are not supported by evidence; all promising stem cell applications have come from "adult" stem cells taken from umbilical cord blood or from the patient.

Federal legislators supporting this legislation completely ignored international statements governing ethical practices in medical research.

The Helsinki Declaration

of the World Medical Assembly declares that a physician carrying out research on a human being "must remain the protector of the life and health of that person"; the interest of science and society should never take precedence over the wellbeing of the person.

Australia is a signatory to United Nations Convention on Civil and Political Rights; Article 6 upholds the right to life of all persons and condemns the arbitrary taking of life.

Also the Declaration on the Rights of the Child asserts that children need protection before as well as after birth. In March 2005, the UN General Assembly resolved that human cloning is incompatible with human dignity and the protection of human life. Australia supported the resolution.

In March 2006, Pope Benedict XVI said that protection of human life is a non-negotiable principle for the Church and for Christians in public life.

The Australian bishops opposed cloning in their submission to the Lockhart Review Committee in 2005, as did over a thousand other pro-life bodies and individuals.

Unfortunately, the Victorian and NSW Parliaments have now approved legislation copying the Commonwealth Act.

When Cardinal Pell (Sydney) and Archbishop Hickey (Perth) reminded Catholic politicians that their vote should accord with Church teaching they were accused of unjustified interference.

Such self-serving protests deny the Church's right to remind Catholic politicians that their consciences should be properly informed.

It is difficult to imagine legislation that demands closer consideration of basic moral principles than that which permits the deliberate creation of human embryos for destruction as research material.

Politicians who contemptuously reject moral comment from any source can be suspected of deflecting attention from their vote.

Action by informed community members can prevail. Similar legislation allowing the creation of human clones to be used in experiments was defeated in the US House of Representatives on 6 June.

The ACT Legislative Assembly will soon be facing the same vital choices. Individuals and church groups can object to the cloning of human beings for destructive experiments by contacting Legislative Assembly Members (2007 ACT White Pages, page 43).

Professor of Political Science at the Australian National University John Warhurst (right) joined 200 invited church leaders at the National Press Club in Canberra to hear Prime Minister Howard and Opposition Leader Rudd make their pre-election pitch to Christians. "Make it Count 2007" was organized by the Australian Christian Lobby. The proceedings were webcast live to more than 600 locations and up to 100,000 viewers in every state and territory.

The political leaders each gave wide-ranging speeches, targeted specifically to the Christian audience. Each spoke of their own faith and gave lavish praise to the record of Christianity in building Australia and to the role of Christian values in contemporary society, within the context of a secular state and the separation of the church from that state.

John Howard attempted to sum up different aspects of Christian thought with reference to two well-known parables: the story of the compassionate Good Samaritan and the story about not wasting our Talents, which he described enthusiastically as the free enterprise parable. These parables sum up the social justice gospel on the one hand and the prosperity gospel on the other. The Labor Party and the left of politics stresses the first, while the Coalition and the right of politics stresses the second, together with a particular emphasis on social conservatism and traditional values.

John Howard's major announcement about a new program to assist parents to protect children from Internet pornography and stalking was directed especially to the traditional values constituency, and his firm rejection of same sex marriage also drew some spontaneous applause.

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parables and Rudd's prayers

In reply, Mr Howard said that the first requirement for authentic leadership was "a very strong belief in what you want to achieve for your country."

"The second requirement is extreme physical stamina because public life is very physically demanding. And my Christian beliefs have formed me."

Mr Howard said he drew particular inspiration from two parables - the Good Samaritan and the Parable of the Talents.

"The Parable of the Good Samaritan shows that everybody is deserving of respect and dignity, there is a great moral obligation to serve. And I've always seen the Parable of the Talents has being the free enterprise parable," he said.

In his answer, Mr Rudd said that for him, "the key thing in leadership is to know what you believe in and why, and not to oppose for opposition's sake."

"Leadership is also about admitting that there are things you don't know and about being fair dinkum about what you can fix and what you can't."

"For me, it is also about, in those quiet prayerful moments in

Canberra, reflecting on what I can do constructively to make this a better and more humane country and recognising that those who sit opposite are not sons of the anti-Christ."

In their addresses, the two leaders acknowledged the Christian heritage of the Australian nation and outlined their support for maintaining Christian prayer in Parliament and for insisting that marriage remains between a man and a woman.

Both leaders spoke of the need to strengthen families and address the work-family balance. Mr Howard said the Coalition would do this primarily by "continuing to run a strong economy", and keeping employment high.

Mr Rudd said Labor in government would soften industrial relations laws to provide more certainty and security for workers and families.

Mr Howard announced his government would spend \$189 million on "cleaning up the internet" for Australian families, blocking pornography, upgrading the search for chat-room sex predators and cutting off terror sites.



Australian bishops' president Philip Wilson, of Adelaide, sought a personal rather than a political insight from both leaders.

Mr Rudd announced that a Labor government would prepare a family impact statement on every submission that went to Cabinet.

Mr Howard said he acknowledged that "God is neither Liberal nor Labor."

"I do, however, state it to be the fact that my party and the National Party has within its ranks a very significant number of people who are extremely active members of various

Christian denominations."

Mr Rudd talked of his "garden variety" of personal faith, which helped shape the values he held and the views he brought to the public space.

Mr Howard rejected criticism that the Government did not care about the marginalized, saying that contrary to predictions by some the Government had not "destroyed the social security safety net" nor Medicare in its time in office.

He said he did not deny that the rich had got richer, which was inevitable in a prosperous country, but it was not "at the expense of the poor getting poorer".

He said the Christian churches had been a source for profound good of Australia. He thanked the "silent, toiling members of the Christian church" for living out their Christianity in a practical fashion.

When re-assuring a questioner that Christian prayer would remain in Parliament, he remarked that it was "odd you have to demonstrate your tolerance by denying your own heritage" in issues such as banning nativity scenes from department stores.

Mr Rudd labeled climate change as "the greatest moral challenge of our generation".

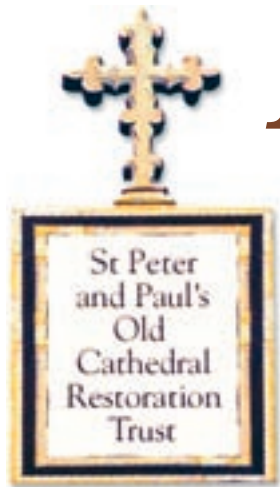
He criticized the Government because for the past decade it had denied climate change was occurring. One of the first steps of a Rudd Government would be to have Australia ratify the Kyoto protocol.

He posed the question, "How can we be a country that is hard headed but soft hearted?"

This summed up what the nation wanted to be like, he said. Australia needed to be mindful of giving a voice to the voiceless and to have a view that compassion was not a weakness.

He spoke of the need to increase foreign aid, to offer long-term assistance to Australia's neighbours, show more heart in dealing with displaced people and look at how to deal with refugees from Iraq.

He criticized the Government workplace laws for going too far, and said a core challenge for families was finding time to spend together and making ends meet as costs went through the roof.



Help to restore our heritage

St Peter & Paul's Old Cathedral

Goulburn Restoration Appeal



Recently I was delighted to visit for the first time the old Cathedral of Sts Peter and Paul in Goulburn, which stands as a monument to a great story of missionary energy and deep faith.

As the green of the stone flashes in the sun, the Cathedral speaks of the Irish in the Antipodes who built it.

May the planned restoration give new life not only to a grand old church but also to the community of faith that gathers there still to celebrate the mysteries of Christ.

May the restoration work be a way of saying thanks for the past and saying yes to the future.

Archbishop Mark Coleridge,
Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn.

Yes, I would like to help restore Sts Peter and Paul's Old Cathedral

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My name is Heidi Jay and I go to St Mary's Primary School in Moruya. I am 12 years old and am in Year 6.

I am vision impaired so it is really hard for me to do most of my school work without the help of a CCTV and a computer which enlarges everything for me. I am very involved in my local church. I love school and going to church heaps.

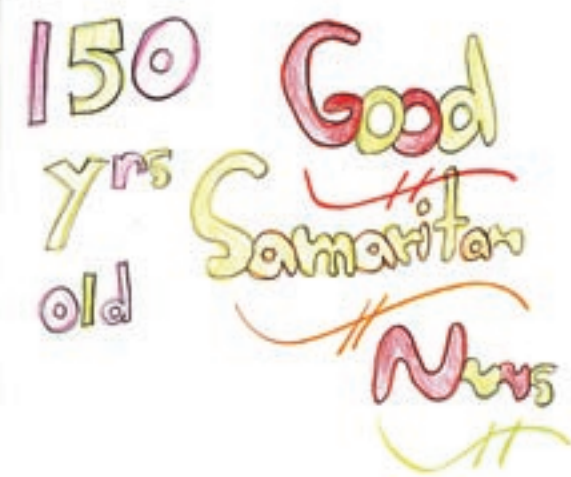
Recently I did my Confirmation at our local parish church with my class. Bishop Pat Power was also there for us to be presented to. He was a very nice man; we had a good talk about being vision impaired and about

school. My mum took some photos and I thought you would like to publish one in Catholic Voice.

At the end of this year I will have made it through primary school with lots of help and support of the teachers and my classmates.



ABOVE: Catherine Rankin, of 2C at Good Shepherd School, Amaroo, remembers the principal Mr McGrath, whom the school farewelled recently.



ABOVE: Tiahn Lawrence, of 4BN, at St Francis of Assisi School, Calwell, remembers the work of the Good Samaritan Sisters.

ABOVE RIGHT: Love burning bright, from Emily Xar, 9, of St Joseph's, Eden. RIGHT: Rillee Beath, aged 9, of St

Francis of Assisi, pays tribute to all dads on their special day this month.

BELOW RIGHT: Jenessa, 10, of St Francis of Assisi, Calwell, has this important question to ask us all.

Dear Children,
Spring is here – waahoo. I love spring; it means summer is coming – the warmer months will soon be here. Some people love the cold – like my sister – but I love the warmer months. In spring the plants come alive bringing forth new growth, the bulbs are producing beautiful tulips and daffodils, the trees are in blossom, the vegetables are starting to produce wonderful crops. The earth begins to transform into a creation. Reconciliation is like spring; Jesus brings us to new life. He says, “I know you, I do not condemn you, go and sin no more”. He finds all the missing pieces of ourselves that we have scattered when we sinned and gives them back to us. We are restored to the whole and spotless creations that we become when we were baptised. Jesus says, “I have come that you may have life to its fullest.... that you may know joy and your joy be complete.”

St John Vianney says, “As a good gardener works from morning till night to destroy the weeds in his garden and fill it with flowers, so let us work every day to destroy the blemishes of our soul and adorn it with virtues.”

So let us take lessons from nature, children. Winter is over – spring is here and it is time to renew our lives in Christ. To start again bearing wonderful fruit, fruit that will last – love of God and each other, kindness, trust and patience. There are many other wonderful fruits of the Spirit we can bear. Can you also name some of them?

God bless you all.
Sue

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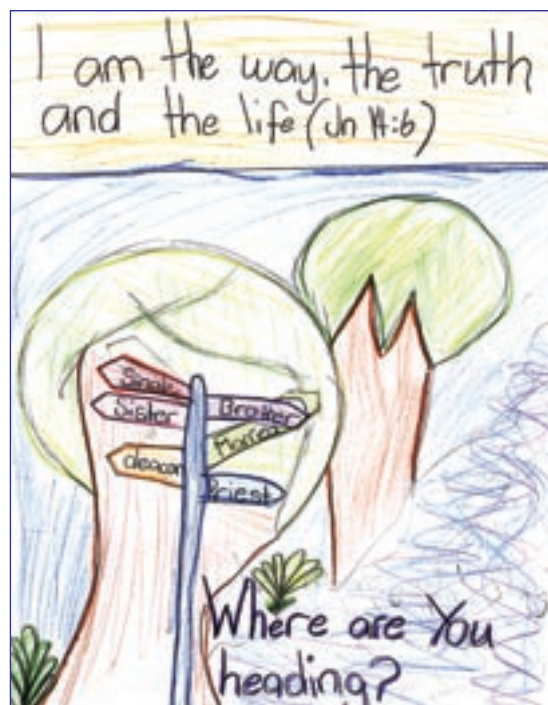
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- by Amber Keft, of St Joseph's School, Eden.

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Josephites take their place in our history

Hundreds of people who gathered to celebrate 125 years in Goulburn for the Sisters of St Joseph heard a 91-year-old Sister talk of the importance of preserving history.

The celebrations began with a ceremony held in Goulburn's old cemetery to commemorate the lives of 147 sisters buried in Goulburn and elsewhere.

About 70 Josephites braved the cold to take part in the liturgy. "We are standing on the shoulders of the ones who went before us," they prayed.

Goulburn congregational leader Sr Noelene Quinane said the Josephites were not only celebrating, but remembering the past 125 years and what their predecessors went through.

"We think of our earlier sisters and we think of courage, resilience and great fortitude," she said. "We're here today because of these people; they've lived the Josephite spirit for us. It seems only right after 125 years that we pause to honour them."

Two days later about 500 people attended Mass for the Goulburn Josephites celebrated at Our Lady of Fatima Church by Archbishop Mark

Coleridge with former Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn Francis Carroll, Wagga Wagga Bishop Gerard Hanna and 22 priests.

Archbishop Coleridge paid tribute to the Sisters offering his gratitude for the contribution they had made to the community and to rural areas in particular.

"Again and again and again they have risen up above all to tend to the lowly and feed the hungry," he said. "Yes, they are an aging community. Why cannot the aging community give birth again?"

After a luncheon, new history rooms and an assembly area at St Joseph's convent were opened by 91 year old Sr M. Celsus O' Grady, who was given the honour in her 70th year of religious profession.

"At least that's what they told me," she said, extracting laughs from the crowd.

"I heard once that when an elderly person dies, a library is lost," said Sr Celsus and because of this history must be well preserved.

"We were so busy making history we didn't have time to write about it," she said. "We're all guilty of cleaning up and throwing things out, and then we have the remorse of why didn't we save those things."

Sr Celsus said the history rooms were a place where the Sisters of St Joseph would always be remembered.

"They are the foundation stones on which our convent here in Goulburn is built. We are just the stepping stones," she said.

Sr M Fabian Mills, who celebrated her 105th birthday last month, officially named the gathering place The Julian Tenison Woods Centre, in honour of the Josephites' co-founder.

LEFT: Sr Mary Murphy, Mr John Yeadon, 80, the oldest living St Joseph's School student and Sr Lorraine Crowe cut the cake.

BELOW: Sr Doris Corbett from Leeton looks through the headstones.



ABOVE: Sr Colleen Clear watches as Archbishop Mark Coleridge blesses the mural which was specially commissioned for the history centre.

LEFT: Sr M. Celsus O'Grady shakes hands with Archbishop Coleridge after unveiling the Julian Tenison Woods Centre plaque.



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background

on We Care

Major capital works under way

Just 18 months after accepting the transfer of the Archdiocese's facilities, Southern Cross Care is well advanced in its re-building program which will provide each resident with a large, private bed sitter apartment with ensuite, tea making facilities with patio/balcony.

At Bombala, work has begun on re-building 40 residential care apartments. Up to 15 independent living villas including accommodation for pensioners/renters will also be built.

At Cootamundra, it is anticipated that the development application will be lodged early in September for 44 apartments.

Planning then will take place with a view to establishing an independent living village including pensioner/renter accommodation.

At Young, Southern Cross Care has finalised the plans for the new 80 apartment care facility and another 43 independent living units which also will include pensioner/renter accommodation.

Finally, the St Lawrence Home, Galong, is to close and a new 44 apartment care facility will be built in Harden.

Having completed the new village at Garran comprising 70 care apartments and 14 units, a new 40 apartment care facility at Campbell is being built.

Overall Southern Cross Care has committed almost \$37 million to build the new facilities across the Archdiocese.

Parishioners are always welcome to visit the facilities and inspect plans and proposals. More importantly, parishioners



are invited and encouraged to offer support as volunteers both in Southern Cross Care's gener-

al programs and more particularly in the pastoral care initiatives at each centre.

Contact should be made with the Care Team Manager at each facility should there be an interest.

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*Do you want to secure your future including care
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Well...

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**Why not call John Ireland or
Godwin D'Amato on (02) 9632 3144.**

With villages/facilities at Bombala, Cootamundra, Temora, Galong, Young and in 4 locations in Canberra we surely will be able to help you.



Compassionate care

Catholic Healthcare was founded in 1994 as a not-for-profit organisation to continue the Catholic Church's ministries in health and aged care.

Deeply committed to creating communities of hope, it provides compassionate care and support to people in residential aged care and independent living services, hospitals and in homes through community care services.

Catholic Healthcare operates 37 residential aged care communities, 10 seniors living commu-

nities, three hospitals and provide community care services to more than 3500 people in their homes throughout metropolitan, regional and rural NSW.

In late 2005 and early 2006, Catholic Healthcare accepted responsibility for the continuation of two of the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn's aged care ministries - Maranatha Lodge, Batehaven, and Blakeney Lodge, Tumut.

At the time of the announcements, Archbishop Francis Carroll said, "It was very important to the Archdiocese that the stewardship of Maranatha Lodge and Blakeney Lodge were transferred to another highly regarded Catholic organisation. As a well-known and experienced aged care provider, we are confident that Catholic Healthcare will provide leadership and expertise needed for our ministry's growth and development."

Chris Rigby, Managing Director of Catholic Healthcare, said the organisation was honoured to accept responsibility for continuing, supporting and growing the Archdiocese's aged care ministries in Tumut and Batehaven.

A 30-place residential aged care service, Blakeley Lodge is a home-like low care community with a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Maranatha Lodge is home to 95 residents.

A low care community, it offers ageing in place. This means that should a resident's care needs increase, in most cases they will not need to move to a high care service but will remain living at Maranatha Lodge.

Staff at both communities are committed to meeting the individual needs of each resident and strive to provide holistic care - addressing mental, physical, social and spiritual aspects of each person. ● Cont Page 12.

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Venerable Mary Potter

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Clergy Retirement Foundation

Father's Day Appeal

Archdiocesan Target \$75,000

This annual collection in support of our Archdiocesan sick and retired priests will be conducted in all parishes of the Archdiocese over the weekend of 1 and 2 September.

Father's Day Appeal

Sunday, September
2

Please give as generously as you can to this collection.

Special envelopes will be available at all weekend Masses

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Fr Fred moves to the big smoke!

After retiring as parish priest of Gunning in July 1999, Fr Fred Edwards took up residency in the former presbytery at Garran. A popular identity in the area, Father was known to many people especially for his many long walks and as a regular visitor to the Hughes and Garran coffee shops.

In July, after considering a move to Sydney to be nearer family, an opportunity arose for him to take up accommodation in the Catholic Healthcare operated Holy Spirit Croydon which offers hostel, nursing home and specialist dementia care. The village is still very new having opened in December 2004.

Secretary to the Clergy Retirement Foundation Kevin Croker and housekeeper of the Garran presbytery Angela Fleming recently caught up with Fr Fred who has settled in well and enjoying all the modern facilities on offer. "We

are fairly spoilt," Father said. "The living rooms are spacious, we have lovely community rooms; a movie theatre and even an outdoor café." Kevin and Angela can vouch for all that as Fr Fred invited them to join him for a three-course midday meal complete with a glass of red, or two!

While Fr Fred will reside outside of the Archdiocese, overall responsibility for his accommodation and care continues to rest with the Foundation. "Currently there are 24 retired priests who live in different locations within the Australian Capital Territory and New South Wales," Mr Croker said.

Fr Fred in the chapel at Holy Spirit Croydon.



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All donations over \$2 are tax deductible

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Donations may be sent to:

The Clergy Retirement Foundation, GPO Box 3089, Canberra ACT 2601 or fax Donations to: 02 6257 7410 email enquiries to kevin.croker@cg.catholic.org.au

☐ I would like to become a regular donor. Please charge my credit card. Monthly: \$.....

☐ Please send me information on remembering The Clergy Retirement Foundation in my will.

☐ Cheque (payable to Clergy Retirement Foundation) or

Charge my Credit Card

☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa

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Expiry Date:/...../.....

Signature:

Thank you for your help in providing for the care of our sick and retired priests of the Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn

Oz flavour to art show

The first Annual Vinnies Charity Artshow will be held in the Great Hall at Parliament House on Thursday, 20 September.

The Artshow will feature exclusively the iconic works of Australian artists The Blood Brothers, Paul Blahuta and Howard William Steer. It will include refreshments and canapés, light entertainment and

major purchasers prizes. General merchandise for all budgets will also be on sale including book markers, gift cards, prints, and the My Australia Series 1 book collection by author Lisa McMahon.

Artshow registration details are available from svdp@stvincanb.com.au or at www.stvincanb.com.au/artshow

Care is our foundation



"I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full"
— John 10:10

Inspired by Jesus' healing mission, Catholic Healthcare strives to create vibrant ministries of care for sick, frail, elderly and marginalised people in metropolitan, regional and rural areas.

Our residential aged care ministries in the Archdiocese of Canberra-Goulburn are Maranatha Lodge, Batehaven and Blakeney Lodge, Tumut.

To find out more go to:

www.catholichealthcare.com.au



● From Page 11.

They offer a wide variety of activities and encourage residents to remain as independent as possible and maintain their contacts in the local community.

"The residents get a lot of local visitors that they know and are always coming across new people or bumping into old friends," says the daughter of a Blakeney Lodge resident.

"The community spirit here is wonderful. It's the first thing you notice when you come here."

"When you come to Maranatha you can feel the happiness," says a Maranatha Lodge resident. For more information on Catholic Healthcare call (02) 8876 2100 or go to: www.catholichealthcare.com.au

ABOVE: Community spirit at Catholic Healthcare's Blakeney Lodge, Tumut.

St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

2007 Annual Charity Art Exhibition & Sale

Featuring the iconic Australian artwork of The Blood Brothers:
Howard William Steer and Paul Blahuta

Date: Thursday 20th Sept 07
Location: Great Hall, Parliament House, Canberra
Costs: \$89.00 including drinks and canapés: 7-10pm
\$125.00 including drinks, canapés and media preview: 4-5pm
RSVP: 14th Sept

Register at: www.stvincanb.com.au/artshow.html or Call: 62822722



Patron: The Hon. Sir William Deane
www.homeinqueanbeyan.org

In recognition of World Mental Health Day, the Board of HOME will be hosting it's

Inaugural Fundraising Dinner At the Bicentennial Hall, Queanbeyan

Date: October 10
Time: 6.30pm for 7pm

Welcome Address:
Sir William Deane – HOME'S Patron

Key Note Address:
Dr Geoff Gallop – Former Premier of W.A.
Tickets \$100, \$50 goes to Home in Queanbeyan

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dj_homes@bigpond.com
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Centacare is a welfare agency of the Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn. Centacare Canberra and Goulburn is

in its 50th Year of operation. Services are managed through three main program delivery areas:

- >> Youth, Mental Health, Employment and Accommodation Services.
- >> Counselling, Employment Assistance Programs and Support Services.
- >> Disability and Aged Care Services

Centacare is committed to providing high quality services with respect to confidentiality, accessibility and equity to persons in the community and has attained Quality Management System accreditation to ISO 9001/2000.

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- Homelinx
- Youth and Wellbeing
- Job Placement
- Employment & Training (JPET)
- Strength Advocacy Independent Life Skills (SAILS)
- Supported Accommodation for Men (The Lodge)
- Personal Support Programme (PSP)
- ASSIST
- MINOSA House
- Sobering Up Shelter
- Reconnect ACT
- Reconnect Central West
- Disability Open Employment Service

Contact Details: 02 6163 7600

Counselling, EAP and Support Services

- Canberra Family Support
- Counselling
- New Arrival Humanitarian Services
- EAP (ACCESS)
- Student & Family Counselling
- Protective Behaviours
- Primary Dispute Resolution (PDR)
- Drought Counselling
- Sexuality Education
- Natural Family Planning

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Contact Details: 02 6163 7600

Calvary...

creating the future of retirement living

Calvary Haydon Village welcomed its first residents to Bruce in December 2006. The 48 luxury villas were occupied quickly with the 'no vacancy' sign put out in June 2007. In May 2007, the first residents moved into the Lewisham apartment complex and its occupation by excited residents continues.

The village population continues to grow and almost 100 residents now call Calvary Haydon Village home. The club house and the 100-place low and high-care residential facility are set to open in spring.

The ongoing commitment to care makes Calvary Retirement Community a popular choice for retirees of Canberra and the surrounding regions.

Nestled in the tranquil bushland setting of South Bruce, the village is a

natural haven to reside in. The interior design and layout of the club house is exceptional, making it feel as if you are enjoying the facilities of a tourist resort.

Contained in the club house is a large library, a business centre with internet, a meeting/craft room, a billiard table, a multi-faith chapel and a large auditorium. The auditorium will be a great venue for aerobics, dancing and indoor bowls or to watch the latest movie in the theatrette.

A café will service the village and local residents, providing indoor and outdoor dining which is bound to become a popular meeting place.

The 25-seat air-conditioned bus runs twice weekly to the local shopping centres, the markets and the Canberra International Sports and Aquatic Centre.

The residents of the village enjoy regular entertainment and social activities including trips to Bateman's Bay and lunch at the Canberra Yacht Club, with upcoming trips to cruise on the Clyde River and visit the Tulip Farm. There is never any time to be bored, although you may just choose the quiet life knowing that you no longer have the worry of maintaining a big house with gardens.

Calvary Retirement Community Canberra is now offering for sale the last remaining apartments. These are luxuriously appointed and have two bedrooms plus a study or third bedroom. All apartments have ensuite bathrooms, large light-filled kitchens and north-facing lounge and entertaining area with large balconies to make outdoor entertaining easy.

The Lewisham apartments are in a security building with common lounge

areas on each level where you can meet with friends or just enjoy reading the paper.

Secure basement car parking is available and two cars per apartment can be accommodated if necessary. Easy lift access ensures you never have to worry about stairs and all apartments have emergency call monitoring.

Applications are also being accepted for the Residential Care Facility which will offer low and high-care places and a purpose built extra service wing offering five-star accommodation to high-care residents.

For more information call 6201 6201.

They are also keen to hear from anyone interested in joining the Calvary Retirement Community team.



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"This is the best thing we ever did, the staff are wonderful and it is exciting to see the community grow and to watch as each building is completed."

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► The Calvary Retirement Community is now accepting applications for our Brand New 100 bed Residential Care Facility. If you are searching for a Residential Care Facility that sets a new standard in inclusions and design, please contact Libby on 02 6201 6201 for further information.

Secure your future NOW. Call (02) 6201 6201

www.calvary-retirement.com.au

Personal vision for life

Moderator of the Missionaries of God's Love Fr Ken Barker has published a new book, written from his personal experience and presenting a vision for consecrated life.

"A Radical Way of Love" would profit anyone interested in following Jesus in a fully committed way. It will be especially useful to anyone attracted towards consecrated life or priesthood, and will provide those already in these states of life, valuable food for reflection.

Archbishop Mark Coleridge said the story Fr Barker tells is deeply personal "yet it also has a universality about it. It is about the community which he founded, yet it is also about the Church as a whole."

Copies of the book are available from the Catholic Bookshop Braddon and the MGL.

Building bridges

How to Make Homilies Better, Briefer and Bolder. Alfred McBride. Huntingdon, IN: Our Sunday Visitor Publishing, 2007. 160pp paperback. rrp \$27.95.

Preaching to the Converted. Richard Leonard. New York/Mahwah NJ: Paulist Press, 2006. 390pp paperback. rrp\$45. Reviewer: Margaret Ryan.

"Homilia" means a "bridge," a "re-union," an "informal talk." It is designed to nurture faith and help parishioners live their daily lives. Vatican Council II mandated a homily (normally based on the scripture readings) at every Sunday Mass, as opposed to the old "sermon" (often connected with doctrine and moral teachings). Preaching or giving homilies is the primary task of the ordained priesthood.

Richard Leonard, an Australian Jesuit, film critic and director of the Australian Catholic Film Office, believes preaching is getting progressively harder. Most Australians are used to a more interactive, visual and musical situation, with ad breaks! He says people no longer listen to homilies that are too long, too elitist and not in touch with their lives.

The author was commissioned to provide a weekly homily for an international liturgy

website, suitable for a number of English-speaking countries, each from 550-750 words, that is a homily taking from 5-7 minutes to deliver. Leonard maintains an hour's preparation should go into each homily minute. Someone else provided the scriptural commentary for the website, so Leonard's contribution was to be short story-based reflections linked with the gospel.

The book is a collection of over 200 homilies for Sundays in Years A to C, and includes some feasts and solemnities. The book could not be used as a stand-alone text, because it does not engage with the set readings, but it communicates well at the story and informality levels. It could be a helpful starting point or offer additional ideas to homilists, and could be useful for those communities who hold Sunday Liturgy of the Word, for teachers, for those proclaiming the Word or for parishioners who wish to prepare for Sunday Mass.

Since the 1950s the sermon/homily has borne the weight of a series of changing emphases, with resulting confusion for many. Archbishop Dolan, in the preface to McBride's book, concludes that every period of genuine renewal in the Church has been characterised by a revival of sound preaching.

Alfred McBride has been preaching for 53years: in parish-

es, on retreats, at conferences and has taught homiletics in seminaries. He is passionate about good homilies, believing that "people need to be called to faith in order to believe, and they need nourishment to grow in the faith they profess." If prepared thoughtfully and prayerfully, what homilists offer their parishioners in faith can be transformed by the Holy Spirit to meet their many needs - if they listen with their hearts.

McBride centred each of his 24 chapters on lessons to be learned from Church history's greatest preachers, older and more recent (Isaiah, Sts Paul and Ambrose, Fulton Sheen, John Paul II), men and women (Sts Teresa of Avila, Catherine of Siena, Elizabeth Seton, Thérèse of Lisieux and Sr Thea Bowman). The topics cover method, various liturgical rites and liturgical seasons.

The chapters present a little Church history and background to the particular preacher, his/her strengths, some homiletic principles, reminders and suggestions, and short pertinent quotes for reflection. An appendix lists some homily resources.

McBride's style is readable. He makes his points clearly, simply and briefly. Should homilies begin with/ use stories? How important is understanding of the scriptures? Is humour encouraged?

Just case of bad behaviour?

God is Not Great: how religion poisons everything. Christopher Hitchens. Allen and Unwin 2007, 307 pages, rrp \$ 29.95. Reviewer: Janet Moyle

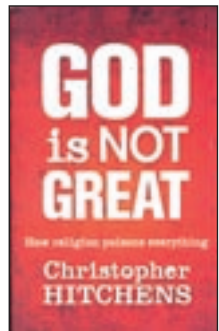
It seems that it is now fashionable for secular writers to question traditional beliefs and religious practices.

The latest book of the UK journalist Christopher

Hitchens has the arresting title God is Not Great. In it he claims to make the ultimate case against organised religion. Hitchens is widely regarded as a top professional writer. He uses these skills to enlarge on his premise that religion is a man-made myth. A true child of the Enlightenment he argues for a secular society based on science and reason.

He highlights the extremes of the devout across all faiths - the killings of the past and present, the sexual abuse, the imperfect interpretations by semi-literate peoples about the origins of the cosmos. He is particularly tough on this point as he believes all sacred scriptures wholly misrepresent our beginnings. Hence everything subsequent is fatally flawed.

Hitchens is an entertaining and engaging writer who has friends from many religious faiths. He has developed a comprehensive overview of varied religious beliefs and is unmoved by any of them. He denies that he is a searcher and at times he descends into a rant. Occasionally I laughed out loud as, for example, he applied his laser beam to the arguments in the intelligent design debate. At other times his observations hit uncomfortably home. In the end I don't believe he proves his major premise that God is not great. He certainly demonstrates that people's behaviour is not great, but maybe we knew that anyway.



FACTS ON FUNERALS

Steps taken by the Coroner to process "Reportable Deaths"

The first step is identification. The Coroner usually asks a family member or close friend to identify the deceased.

The Coroner then attempts to determine the cause of death. A pathologist carries out a thorough medical examination (post mortem) at the direction of the Coroner.

Sometimes further tests are required (e.g. analysis of blood or body tissue) and this may cause a delay in deciding the cause of death.

When a cause of death has been established, the Coroner will issue a permit for burial or cremation.

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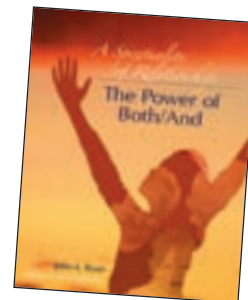
Challenges to sharing Catholic faith

International author and psychiatrist Dr Jack Dominian has provided the preface to a book written by Canberra priest and counsellor Fr John Ryan. "A Spirituality of Relationships. The Power of Both/And" will be launched by executive director of the Australia Institute Dr Clive Hamilton at a dinner at 7pm on Wednesday, 26 September.

Fr Ryan said the venue, the dining room at Ainslie Village, and linking the event with Fr Peter Day's vision of "Home in Queanbeyan", which will provide care for people with chronic mental illness, was "deliberate in the context of my book; the God who seeks out the wounded ... all of us."

Fr Ryan said he wrote the book to highlight and advance crucial contemporary challenges for the sharing and nourishment of the Catholic Faith. "In particular I want it to be a call to dialogue for fellow priests,

teachers, parents and leaders in general." In the preface Dr Dominian said he and Fr Ryan were kindred spirits in the sense that they both knew the Church needs new ways of expressing its extreme truths. Inquiries: Catholic Bookshop Braddon, telephone 6201 9888, e-mail bookshop@cg.catholic.org.au



CATHOLIC BOOKSHOP

"Human existence is a journey of faith and, as such, goes forward more in darkness than in full light, with moments of obscurity and even of profound darkness. While we are here, our relationship with God develops more with listening than with seeing."
Angelus Talk, Pope Benedict XVI, March 2006.

The Power of Both/And. Fr John Ryan \$19.95

Fr Ryan has spent many years listening both to God and humanity. This book sheds light to on some of the darkness besetting human existence, illuminating the complexity of human relationships. Part autobiography, part spiritual reflection the book captures the readers' attention in a remarkable way.

A Radical Way of Love. Fr Ken Barker MGL \$20.00

Like Fr Ryan, Fr Ken's book is semi-autobiographical but also a wonderful look at the movement of the Spirit in these days of the "New Pentecost."

Fr Ken Barker founder of the Missionaries of God's Love has experienced God's power in a real way as the modern Church re-discovers a new way of living consecrated life.



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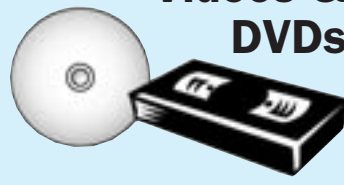
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An extraordinary life

DVDs
Nurse Maggie (2006)
Australian Film Commission 52 mins, ages 15 - adult)

This documentary features the extraordinary life of Australian nurse and Order of Australia medal recipient, Maggie Sister. The film delves into Maggie's unconventional past and what motivates her to do such confronting work in an Indian leper colony. The documentary also follows Maggie's physical journey through the most inaccessible and marginalized regions of India. The film shows how by helping others in desperate need, Maggie has been able to transform her life and develop a sense of self-worth.

Kanyini (53 mins, ages 12 - adult).



Videos & DVDs

Kanyini is the Pitjantjatara word meaning interconnectedness through the support, care and protection of one another. This visually stimulating film is presented by former Indigenous Person of the Year Bob Randall, who lives near Uluru in central Australia. Bob uses his own experiences and ancient wisdom to tell the story of the Aboriginal people's struggle of living in contemporary Australia.

Love One Another (35 mins, ages 13 - adult).

Jesus' commandment to love one another is visually played out in three short dramatizations. The first program, In Time of Need, illustrates how selfless service creates a cycle of giving with unexpected consequences. The timeless parable of The Good Samaritan gives new insights into who is our neighbour, and our Christian call to show love and compassion to all. In the final story, The Last Good War, an American and German soldier forced to take refuge together, find peace and brotherhood in the midst of the ugliness of war.

Nooma: Store. (Nooma series, 114 mins, ages 14 - adult).

Nooma is a series of short films about God and our lives.



This program focuses on the sources and use of anger. We all get angry about things from time to time - some of us more often than others. This program helps the viewer to gain a better understanding of anger, where it comes from, and how we could learn how to channel it toward something constructive - something that's bigger than ourselves.

The Global Nomad: Israel

2001 (Maxwells Collection 26 mins, ages 15 - adult).

Israel has survived much of the chaos in the Middle East. This program provides an overview of the land and people of Israel. Israelis have made the land fertile through hard work and irrigation. Israel has immense national pride that suggests an accommodation with their Arab neighbours will be difficult to achieve.

The Light Within (2002 Candlelight Media Group 45 mins, ages 14 - adult)

This dramatisation focuses on a young woman who moves to a new city and is horrified by the negative attitude of the people that she encounters. Despite the many challenges she faces, the young woman desperately tries to discover positive characteristics in the people she meets to help create a more loving and caring community.

Drama for anyone who's ridden a bike

The Flying Scotsman is a welcome Scots film. They will know the story of Graeme Obree, the 1990s cycling champion and be pleased that it has now been brought to the screen. Members of the other countries of the U K will welcome him as British. But, it probably helps to know a little of his career and his hard-fought victories and some of his personal struggles.

This is a film that one could recommend for a general audience but, sadly, Graeme Obree has suffered from depression that made him feel suicidal. In fact, the film opens (powerfully but discreetly) with his main depressive episode and returns to it later. However, back we go to his childhood and then his career from 1993-1995.

Graeme was bullied when he was at school which undermined his self-confidence and his self-esteem. However, his policeman father gave him a bike for Christmas and it made all the difference. He could outpace his tormentors by riding fast. But it also gave him a sense of exhilaration and he discovered a talent.

The film moves quickly to 1993 when his heyday of winning was

The Flying Scotsman.

Starring Jonny Lee Miller, Laura Fraser, Billy Boyd and Brian Cox. Directed by Douglas Mackinnon. 98 minutes. M (moderate themes, moderate coarse language).

Sicko

Documentary film written and directed by Michael Moore. PG (mild themes, mild coarse language). 113 minutes.

Reviewer: Fr Peter Malone MSC*.

over. He is lovingly married to Anne and has a small child. He works as a bike courier in Glasgow. However, his mind keeps ticking over about how to improve his riding technique with the laws of thermodynamics. His mind also keeps ticking over about how to improve the structure of his bikes by the laws of physics.

He was fortunate to find supportive friends. Those in the film are composites of several real characters in his life. One is his friend and manager, Malkey. Another is a supportive older man, Baxter, who he discovers is a minister of the Church of Scotland.



Films

History records that Obree tried to break the hour cycle ride, failed and tried again the next morning and succeeded. His bike was built from scratch - and included many scrap parts, along with the ball bearings from the home washing-machine. When his record was soon broken, he tried again and succeeded as well as breaking some shorter race records.

The World Cycling Federation took a dim view of his winning and altered rules constantly to try to mean-mindedly exclude him.

One of the strengths of the film is that Graeme and Anne Obree were on the set, Graeme doing some of the riding and the couple coaching the actors who portray them.

Jonny Lee Miller trained powerfully to be able to ride and act the part of Obree. Often a sullen-seeming and taciturn performer, he fits

this role particularly well and communicates the torment of his depression. Laura Fraser is sensible and vigorous as Anne. The role of Malkey is played by an actor who engaged world audiences as a hobbit friend of Frodo, Billy Boyd. Another pleasant surprise is Brian Cox as the sympathetic minister who has experienced sadness in his life but who is able to make an emotional breakthrough that enables Graeme to enter counselling and gain more control of his life.

This is a modest film. Every one of us has ridden a bike so we can identify with the cycling even if it is in categories way above our competence. But it is a human drama with strong positive values.

US needs Moore

Michael Moore may not be a White House favourite, but he certainly is at Cannes.

To criticise him as partisan is not really relevant. Being partisan is the point. Moore has the talent to be both serious and funny in his polemic. He offers anecdotal evidence in moving stories, interviews and telling television footage of targeted politicians and

business leaders.

He is on surer ground in Sicko. Any visitor to the US knows that they must not get sick there without insurance as ill-health and hospital cost the earth. Moore wants to show that the US health insurance system can be detrimental to sick Americans with its policy of scrutinising contracts to avoid payouts - sometimes with dire results.

Moore visits Canada, the UK and France (very flattering to France!) to examine how the national health schemes work well (despite local complaints).

He also takes a group of "victims" of the US policy to Cuba because of propaganda about the good health conditions of Guantanamo Bay prisoners. They are well received and helped by the friendly Cubans.

He may be annoying or intrusive, but America needs Michael Moore and his films.

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

Assistant Manager for Greenhills

Greenhills Centre is a Uniting Church facility located at the Cotter just outside Canberra. The Centre is now moving ahead since rebuilding after the bushfires and now requires a committed Christian to fill a new full-time position of Assistant Manager, commencing January 2008 or earlier if appropriate. Must be prepared to live on site following an introductory period. Job sharing with a spouse would be considered. A wonderful opportunity for a 'tree change'. Further information and expressions of interest to Executive Officer Harold Small 0429 880 415.



Confraternity of Christian Doctrine Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn



CCD JUBILEE MASSES

CCD Ministry Team extends an invitation to all past and present CCD volunteers and those who have been involved with CCD over the past fifty years to the deanery Masses across the archdiocese.

St Monica's Church Evatt	Friday 19 October 2007	7.30pm
St Joseph's Church Pambula	Friday 26 October 2007	11am
St Patrick's Church Cooma	Friday 9 November 2007	11am
St Mary's Church Crookwell	Friday 16 November 2007	11am
Sacred Heart Church Cootamundra	Friday 23 November 2007	11am

For more information contact
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CATHOLIC VOICE September 2007 - 15



Seminarian soccer stars have a ball

Four archdiocesan seminarians were back in town as Canberra took its turn to host the ninth annual inter-seminary soccer tournament.

About 135 seminarians were divided into the five teams representing Melbourne, Sydney, Redemptoris Mater, Missionaries of God's Love and Wagga/ Brisbane. Redemptoris Mater defeated Missionaries of God's Love 1-0 in the final, claiming the trophy for the second year in a row.

Archdiocesan seminarians Bernie Drum, Paul Nulley, Constantine Osuchukwu and Luke Verrell attend the Seminary of the Good Shepherd and played for the Sydney team.

"It's good to see all of the Seminarians come together, it seems a bit small and alienated sometimes when you are only with your group," Bernie Drum said.

Sydney Auxiliary Bishop Julian Porteous was there to encourage and have a laugh with his team, reinforcing the tournament was all about fun. Tournament coordinator Br Dominic Thorsen said the games began as a way for seminarians to develop relationships with one another.

"A lot of parishioners came to watch and commented it was such a sign of hope seeing all the seminarians come and play together," he said.

ST CLARE'S BRAVE WINNERS: Despite having only 10 players, St Clare's College junior soccer team triumphed over Girls Grammar to win the Bill Turner Trophy.

The year seven-to-10 girls came up against



ABOVE: Looking tough... archdiocesan seminarian soccer stars Constantine Osuchukwu, Luke Verrell, Paul Nulley and Bernie Drum. ABOVE RIGHT: Jacques Clementine, from the Disciples of Jesus Community, Bombala parish priest Fr Mick Mac Andrew and Duc Mac of Corpus Christi Parish, all of whom refereed and did linesman duties.

teams from all over Australia with a win over St Francis Xavier College guaranteeing them a place in the final. Health and PE co-ordinator Mr David Garrity, who coached the team, said the girls played very well, undeterred by Girls Grammar scoring first. "Against formidable opposition the win was made more meritorious by the fact that the team was cut to only 10 fit players as several of the regulars were sick or injured."



The winning St Clare's team (from left): Back Erica Lenarduzzi, Ebony Ellison, Catherine Brown, Taylor Galjaardt, Rebecca Beath, Miranda Bailes, Liana Potter, Emily Barlow. Middle: Steph Coates, Adrianna Polato, Aleisha Tupper, Kara Richardson Front: Olivia Rollings. Absent: Sinead Rutledge.

Webcams change face of communicating

Last month, I wrote about computer accessories. Pieces of computer equipment that may not come with the standard computer package such as: a printer, webcam, external hard-drive, external speakers, a multi-card reader, microphone, headphones and a scanner. These items or pieces of computer hardware are commonly called computer peripherals, as they are not essential for making your computer operate at a basic level.

They are, however, necessary for the extra things you want to do on your computer such as printing, scanning, storing back-up files, listening to music really loud, talking to and watching people from around the world, and viewing photos from a digital camera.

This month I will look at webcams. Webcams, short for web cameras, are a piece of technology small enough to fit in your hand and useful for a great number of purposes.

Webcams are digital cameras that are connected to a personal computer and can take digital still images and video images. Webcams normally include a lens, an image sensor, supporting circuitry and software to

Living with the net



Paul Jenkins

make it operate. The images taken with webcams can be taken in real-time and transmitted anywhere via the Internet.

Webcams enable users to see each other as they are speaking from one town to another or one country to another.

Webcams have a wide variety of different applications. Webcams can be used for:

i) Video conferencing - for one-to-one communication using video images. People from other states and countries can now be involved in conferences and see and listen to the other speakers as they are speaking.

This makes it easier for people to view presentations and to put a name to a face. In the past, such conferences were conducted via the telephone. Programs such as Skype (www.skype.com) enable people to keep in touch with friends and family all over the world through the use of chat services (typing messages) and also face-to-face (visually and orally) using a webcam.

Depending on the speed of your Internet connection, this can be done in real-time or with a second or two delay in the video and audio feed.

ii) Pictures - Webcams can be simply for taking still or video pictures. Most webcam software allows the user to take still pictures of varying degrees of resolution depending on the quality of the camera. Internet pictures are usually 72 dpi (dots per inch) and the majority of webcams can do this.

More expensive webcams have much better resolution ratios which allow them to take much clearer and sharper images and video. You can also use webcams to take home movies as long as the subjects of the movies don't move too far away from the camera.

Friends of mine use webcams to record visual letters which they burn to a CDROM and send to friends overseas.

iii) Security - webcams attached to computers to capture and record images and video of locations such as banks, businesses, etc.

Webcams can also be installed in your home in addition to alarm sensors and locking devices, as an extra layer of security while you are away. These webcams use software that detects movement and sound.

Images and video can be stored on the computer or sent directly to another computer. These images can also be e-mailed and uploaded to the Internet.

These websites contain information about webcams: How Stuff Works (<http://computer.howstuffworks.com/webcam.htm>), Explain that Stuff (www.explainthatstuff.com/webcams.html), and Microsoft Home Magazine (www.microsoft.com/canada/home/styleandhome/2.3.35_webcambasics/showdoesonework.aspx).

Webcams vary in price and quality, so it is worth shopping around to find the one that best suits your budget and needs.

insites

WYD08 Journey of the Cross Icon
jci-wyd2008.blogspot.com

This blog allows you to follow the movement of the indigenous message stick, the World Youth Day Cross and Icon as they make their way through every diocese in Australia.

Sacred Design

www.digital.udk-berlin.de/en/projects/summer06/hauptstudium/sacredesign.html

Students of the University of the Arts in Berlin participated in a project last year in which they were asked to "translate" sacred and liturgical objects and items "with an up-to-date conceptual take".

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One of my favorite writers, Christopher de Vinck, once wrote a series of essays entitled, Songs of Innocence and Experience.

Those two words, innocence and experience, don't easily go together. No matter who we are and not matter how pure our intentions, experience always threatens our innocence, even when we don't want it to. Each of us has his or her own story on this.

When I was 17 years old and a novice in our Oblate novitiate, while horsing around in a lake with my fellow novices one afternoon, I almost drowned.

I had already gone down twice and was unable to call for help. Only luck and the perceptiveness of a fellow novice prevented my death.

I was pretty shook up. When we returned to the novitiate that evening, there was letter waiting from my mother who wrote every week. It was her usual note, full of motherly concern and of the various details of our family's life.

I was more touched than usual because, as I was reading that letter, I kept thinking how close I had come to never reading it and how my mother and my family would be feeling right now had I drowned.

Re-reading that letter recently triggered a flood of thoughts and emotions. Nearly 40 years have passed since that near fatal day, my mother has been dead for more than 30 years, and the years too have changed me. And so my thought was: "Had I died that day, so many years back, what would died?"

Looking back now at myself at 17, I see a boy of uncommon naivete, of much innocence, considerable purity, high intention, deep faith, and, happily, lacking much of the complexity and many of the neuroses that I carry today.

Much as I hate to admit it, the boy of 17 was somewhat more hospitable and surely more innocent than the man of today

But that comparison itself can be a false romanticism, the catcher-in-the-rye nostalgia of J D Salinger's famous novel.

Nobody grows into adulthood with his or her childhood innocence intact. Real virtue and purity of heart are post, not pre, critical, and the task of living is to achieve adulthood, not to remain the puer or puella. That requires a certain death.

A child dies when an adult is born and an adult no longer looks nor feels like a child. As adults, all kinds of wrinkles, blemishes, and stretchmarks begin to leave scars, and not just in terms of a sagging body and greying hair.

More deeply, complexity, hurt, and moral failure begin more and more to sully our baptismal robes and chill our hearts. Had I died at 17, I would have died less blemished, physically and morally, but I would have died a boy, not man.

And still there is more than simple romantic sentimentalism in longing for the simplicity and purity of one's youth, despite its naivete. As we grow more adult and experienced, we progressively lose, in more areas than in just our sexuality, our virginity.

I remember a remark I once read by Faye Dunaway, the Hollywood actress. Commenting on

We've come a long way from little boy or girl we were

Ron Rolheiser

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



her ups and downs in Hollywood, she said: "I went through the star machine and became urban, sophisticated, neurotic, cold, and all that. I'd gotten very far from my own heart and soul and who I really was: a little girl called Dorothy Faye from the South."

Then there's the tragic, biblical story of Saul who, when he first became the king, was the handsomest, best, most gracious and humble man in Israel, and who slowly and in a way that was imperceptible to himself, filled with a jealousy and bitterness that led him to take his own life.

And there is too a soul-searing admonition in the Book of Revelations where God tells us that he likes most everything about us, except that now, as adults, we "have less love in us than when we were young!" (Revelations 2,4)

For good and for bad, we've all come a long way from the little girl or little boy we once were.

Salinger once wrote a short story entitled, Uncle Wiggly in Connecticut. It's the story of two women who had been childhood friends and who meet after many years.

They spend an afternoon drinking, reminiscing, and crying to each other about broken relationships, frustrations, and wounded lives.

Their dialogue is full of bitterness, gossip, and harsh judgment of others, betraying the type of street-smarts that must have characterized Adam and Eve after they ate the apple and had "their eyes opened."

At the end of the afternoon, very drunk and tired, one says to the other: Remember when we first came to New York, and I had that dress that I used to wear in high school, and I wore it and everyone laughed at me and said nobody wore a dress like that in New York, and I went home and cried all night I was a nice girl then, wasn't I?

Kirrily's 'yes' is real blessing for orphans

Self-confessed pushover, 17 year old Kirrily Howarth found she was again unable to say "no" when she discovered a struggling Mexican orphanage in need of funding and volunteers.

The St Francis Xavier College student raised more than \$10,000 to donate to the orphanage by organising a music concert and trivia night.

After months of balancing her own Year 12 studies with Spanish classes and fund raisers, Kirrily left for Mision Mexico where she volunteered for a month and presented her donation in person.

Speaking before the trip, she said she was not concerned about it affecting her studies. "I'm a big believer in life learning," she said.

At first parents Rob and Gina Howarth said "no", but they changed their minds after Kirrily demonstrated her passion. "Even if she doesn't make a difference over there, by bringing the knowledge back here, she's really helping," Mrs Howarth said.

Kirrily said she enjoyed her trip, learnt a lot and is already looking forward to returning to

Mision Mexico.

"You gain a lot of respect for your parents when you're trying to get 12, four to 13 year old girls to sleep," she said. "I will be going back as soon as I can; I really miss the kids already."

Now back at school studying drama, media, English and a double major in religious education, Kirrily is unsure of what next year will bring. "I do know I want to keep learning. There are so many things out there I'd like to do."

Co-founder of Mision Mexico Mrs Pam Skuse said the orphanage was sorry to see Kirrily go and will welcome her back any time.

"Her maturity and sense of responsibility, as well as fun, made her an instant hit with the children and myself," she said. "We have a definite need for volunteers all year round as we have 35 children in our care requiring love, assistance and attention."

Kirrily hopes her volunteering at the orphanage will encourage others. For more information on Mision Mexico and how to volunteer, go to www.lovelifehope.com

RIGHT: Kirrily (at back) and friends at the Mision Mexico.



Latin Mass choir program

The September program for St Caecilia's Choir is:

Sunday, 2 September, 14th Sunday after Pentecost: Propers of the day, Ordinary: Cum Jubilo (Chant Mass), Motet: Ave Maria (Victoria), Hymns: Processional: O Praise My Soul the Lord, Recessional; Hail Queen of Heaven. Sunday, 9 September, 15th Sunday after Pentecost: Propers of the Day, Ordinary: Cum Jubilo (Chant Mass), Motet: Ave Verum (Wilton), Hymn Processional: O Praise My Soul the Lord, Recessional: Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise. Friday, 14 September: Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Sung mass 7pm.

Sunday, 16 September, 16th Sunday after Pentecost: Propers of the Day, Ordinary: Mass for Five Voices (Byrd) Motet: Cibavit Eos

(Byrd), Processional: Sing All Creation, Recessional: Guide Me O Thou Great Redeemer. Sunday, 23 September, 17th Sunday after Pentecost: Propers of the Day, Ordinary: Cum Jubilo (Chant Mass) Motet: Verbum Caro (Walter), Hymn: Processional: Praise to the Lord, Recessional Praise the Lord, Ye Heavens Adore Him. Saturday, 29 September, Dedication of Saint Michael, Archangel. Sung Mass 9am. Sunday, 30 September, 18th Sunday after Pentecost: Propers of the day, Ordinary: Mass For Three Voices (Byrd), Motet: Ave Maria (Arcadelt), Processional: Sing All Creation, Recessional: Hail Queen of Heaven. The choir sings at the 11.30 am Traditional Roman Rite Mass on Sundays at Sts Peter's and Paul's Church, Garran.

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

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ALTERNATIVES TO VIOLENCE PROJECT - Training sessions practising non-violent problem-solving. Initiative of Society of Friends or Quakers. Basic training: 6pm-9pm, Friday, 21 September, 9am-6pm, 22 Sept, 9am-4pm 23 Sept. Advanced: 6pm-9pm, Friday, 19 October, 9am-6pm, 20 October, 9am-3pm, 21 October. Training for facilitating: 16-18 November, times as above. Cost \$30/\$25. Inquiries: Charlotte telephone 6251 2942, Katherine 6251 5086, e-mail Katepnl@alphalink.com.au

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER retreat 1-2 September and 22-23 September 10.15am to 4.30pm at St Benedict's, Narrabundah. Conducted by Carmelite Fr Greg Burke, organised in response to Archbishop's call to foster a contemplative stance in our lives. Entry by donation. Suitable for all ages and levels of experience. Register: St Benedict's parish office, telephone 6295 7879, Tuesday to Friday, 9am-1pm, e-mail: stbenedict@iimetro.com.au

COURAGE CANBERRA - Group for those experiencing same-sex attraction and desiring to live sacramental life of the Church. Meetings 12 and 26 September. Confidentiality assured. Inquiries: Telephone 6254 9540, e-mail couragecanberra@hotmail.com

FRIENDS OF ST MARK'S ANNUAL DINNER - Artistic director of Bell Shakespeare Company John Bell will discuss religious themes in Shakespeare's plays at fundraising dinner, Wednesday, 12 September, Top of the Cross Restaurant, Southern Cross Club, Phillip. Proceeds to support Library at St Mark's. Tickets \$55, \$40 for students, by 6 September from St Mark's, 15 Blackall St, Barton. Telephone 6273 1572, e-mail stmarksadmin@csu.edu.au

GALONG RETREAT - Weekend 7-9 September, at St Clement's Monastery, Galong, conducted by Fr Peter Ryan CSsR on theme "The Holy Spirit - Rediscovering the Forgotten God". Bookings: Sr Frances McAleer, telephone 6380 5222, Jacqueline Donohue 6251 3950.

GOOD SAMARITAN CELEBRATIONS - Sesquicentenary Committee of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan Queanbeyan invite ex-students and friends to celebratory dinner and Eucharistic celebration by Bishop Pat Power, weekend 15-16 September. Dinner \$50, concession \$40. RSVP Shirley Bailey, 12 Malcolm Street, Queanbeyan, NSW 2620. Inquiries: Telephone 6297 4014. Cheque for dinner or donations payable to Good Samaritan Sesquicentenary Celebrations.

GOULBURN HOMES REUNION - Saturday, 6 October, for former St. John's Boys Home, Goulburn and St Joseph's Girls Home, Kenmore. BYO picnic in the park, Belmore Park, Goulburn, from 11am. Inquiries: Lindsay and Maria Chesworth, telephone 6297 7815.

MARIAN MOVEMENT OF PRIESTS - First Saturday devotions, Saturday, 1 September, St

John the Apostle Church, Kippax. Devotions begin with Mass 12.15pm, then a cenacle with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confession. Devotions end with Benediction. Afternoon tea in parish centre. Inquiries: Fr Emil Milat, telephone 6291 6688.

MARYMEAD REUNION - Marymead Child and Family Centre reunion for former clients, staff, residents and foster parents, early November. If your life has been affected by Marymead over the last 40 years, register your interest at programs@marymead.org.au telephone 6162 5800 or www.marymead.org.au Reunion by invitation only due to confidentiality.

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

PADUA STAFF REUNION - Padua Catholic High School staff reunion, 7pm, 13 October, Canberra Deakin Football Club, 2 Grose St, Deakin. Partners welcome. \$40 head (buffet). Drinks available. RSVP and payment by 21 September to Jan Yannopoulos, 88 Jackie Howe Crescent, Macarthur ACT 2904, telephone 6292 6929 (ah), e-mail jany@cggs.act.edu.au

PRAYER IN THE CRYPT - Lectio Divina, a contemplative praying of Scriptures, 2.30pm-3.30pm each Thursday, in crypt of St Christopher's Cathedral. Inquiries: Parish Office, telephone 6295 9555 or e-mail stchris@velocitynet.com.au

RAPHAELS - Singles social group for Catholics and Christian-minded people, aged 24-40. Meet people for social activities, including dinner, movie, social sport, coffee and Mass every two months. Inquiries: Telephone 0401 918 717, www.catholicssocialgroup.com, e-mail raphsgroup@yahoo.com.au

SERRA CLUB OF CANBERRA - Thursday, 13 September, 6.15pm Rosary and Mass at Holy Trinity Church, Curtin; dinner afterwards at Canberra Southern Cross Club, Phillip.

VINNIES ART SHOW - St Vincent de Paul Society's first charity cocktail party and art show, Thursday, 20 September, with renowned Australian artists The Blood Brothers, Howard Steer and Paul Blahuta. Main event 7pm-10pm. Ticket information svdp@stvincanb.com.au.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER - 26-28 October. Weekend for married couples, Mt Schoenstatt, Mulgoa. Bookings: telephone 9820 7107 or 4283 3435. Inquiries: www.wwwme.org.au

Written entries are invited for the October issue to: Catholic Voice, GPO Box 3089, Canberra ACT 2601, or e-mail ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au by Friday, 14 September. Entries which are accepted for this section are free, courtesy of sponsorship by the Catholic Development Fund.

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Senior priest is farewelled

MONSIGNOR JOHN PATRICK KELLY
28 November 1917 - 5 August 2007

At the time of his death in Calvary Hospital, Canberra, Mgr John Kelly was the senior priest of the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn, having been ordained 67 years earlier at the age of 22.

John Kelly grew up in a family of eight children born to Benjamin George Kelly and Mary Anne Kelly (nee Cusack). Born in Goulburn, he spent his early life in Nimmitabel and Canberra. His primary schooling took place at Nimmitabel, Molonglo, Causeway and Telopea Park state schools and St Gregory's, Queanbeyan, before he became a foundation student of St Christopher's, Manuka. He was the first of 10 ex-pupils of St Christopher's to have been ordained to the priesthood, the last being the present Vicar-General, Mgr John Woods.

He was a brilliant student and excelled in sport, representing Canberra at a schoolboys' Australian Rules competition in Tasmania. As a young lad, he and his brother, Terry witnessed the opening of the first Parliament House in 1927 by standing on a haystack at their uncle Eddie's farm.

Growing up in a devout Catholic family and entertaining thoughts of the priesthood from an early age, John Kelly was advised by Bishop Barry to work for a year before entering the seminary. After a year with the CSIRO, he began his studies for the priesthood at St Columba's College, Springwood, before proceeding to St Patrick's College, Manly. As a priest he would take an active part in the Manly Union.

He was ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop (later Cardinal) Gilroy in St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney on 25 July, 1940. Given his outstanding academic record in the seminary, it is not surprising that Bishop McGuire would send him to Sydney University on the completion of his seminary studies. He was to graduate as a Bachelor of Arts with a Diploma of Education.

This began a life-long commitment to Catholic education with Fr Kelly becoming the Inspector of Schools in 1947. Many of the older generation remember him with awe in that role. In 1949, he began a further stint of studies in the United States, this time in the field of Catholic Action. In this arena, he was a great admirer of the late Bob Santamaria, many of whose views in politics and Church life he shared.

In 1958, he was appointed Parish Priest of Bombala and in 1966 Parish Priest of Braidwood. In that same year, he was appointed to the Diocesan Pastoral Council, set up by Archbishop O'Brien to begin the implementation of the Second Vatican Council in the Archdiocese. It should be said that many of the changes which emanated from Vatican

II were disconcerting to Fr Kelly. He was not the only priest to find such a change of direction difficult.

In 1968, he was invited by Archbishop Cahill to be the founding pastor of Sts Peter and Paul's Parish, Garran, where he remained until his retirement at the age of 75 in 1992.

His major achievement as pastor was the construction of the parish church and the building up of a vibrant parish community. He took an interest in the students of the nearby Malkara School for handicapped children as well as the pupils of the parish primary school.

In 1971, John Kelly was appointed by Pope Paul VI a Prelate of Honour with the title of Monsignor. Over the years, he served as director of the Propagation of the Faith, a diocesan consultor and trustee, chairman of the Sick and Retired Priests Fund and dean of the Central Deanery. To the end of his life, he remained in every way committed to the priesthood.

In the eulogy at his funeral Mass which was celebrated at Sts Peter and Paul's Church, Garran, Fr Kelly's niece, Maree, recounted with affection the way that a young widow, Ida Feld, had become Fr Kelly's housekeeper in Bombala in 1958 and with her baby daughter, Agnes, had become a significant part of Fr Kelly's life right to the time of his death. The violin piece played by Agnes at the Requiem Mass was truly moving.

Archbishop Coleridge was the principal celebrant of the Requiem Mass (wearing black vestments as requested by Mgr Kelly). Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Francis Carroll, Bishop Pat Power and 40 priests including Fr Frank Martin, of Sydney, one of Mgr Kelly's two surviving seminary classmates. Rev Joe Blackwell was deacon of the Mass and MC was Fr Philip Buckley who served as Fr Kelly's altar boy at Nimmitabel, assistant priest at Garran and executor of his will.

Mgr Kelly is survived by Ida and Agnes, his brother, Terry, and a number of nephews and nieces, many of whom were present at his Requiem Mass. He was interred in the Woden Cemetery.

- Bishop Patrick Power



'One of happiest people'

Their principal's great sense of humour and love for her family were remembered by St Bede's Primary School students, staff, parents and friends during a ceremony to celebrate Mrs Carol Thompson's life.

Mrs Thompson was diagnosed with leukaemia in March last year and despite receiving a bone marrow transplant; she lost her battle with cancer in July this year, aged 58.

Students placed a red cloth on the altar to symbolise her painted finger nails and big smile, a paper doll cut out demonstrated the love she had for her family and a bottle of wine represented the times she spent with friends over a glass of chardonnay.

During the ceremony, parent Mrs Helen McCredie spoke of her friendship with Mrs Thompson. A student said, "I think she was one of the happiest people I ever met".

After working with Mrs Thompson at St Vincent's and St Thomas Aquinas primary schools, acting principal Mr Doug Hodgson



Students at St Bede's Primary School release balloons during a ceremony to celebrate the life of their former principal.

told the students it was she, his friend of 20 years, who had enticed him to work at St Bede's.

Mgr John Woods and Fr Warwick Tonkin celebrated the Mass. Mgr Woods reminded those gathered of her positivism, her bravery and her dedication to education.

Mrs Thompson is survived by her husband Ian and daughters Michelle and Paula.



The smiles will remain with me

ABOVE: Three happy local boys whose educational future is now more secure.

RIGHT: Bega parish priest Fr Mick Burke (second from right) seated at the school opening with East Timor president Jose Ramos-Horta.



The people of Natarbora - a seven-hour journey by four-wheel-drive from East Timor's capital Dili - have a new school, thanks to the generosity of the people of Bega and Pambula parishes.

In July, Bega parish priest Fr Mick Burke attended the opening of St Francis of Assisi Primary School run by the Franciscan Sisters.

Next year, the parishes will sponsor six young people and a priest from Natarbora to attend World Youth Day in Sydney.

Their next project will be to build a novitiate for the Franciscan Sisters, a German foundation with many vocations in East Timor.

"For this project, which will cost about \$100,000, we will need support beyond the Bega Valley and the parishes of Bega and Pambula," Fr Burke said.

"The suffering of the people of Timor Leste and the dire poverty that the majority endure today, should be a cause of shame for Australians.

"We know as Christians that the lived Gospel demands a compassion for the poorest of the poor, but the Timorese people also lost at least 40,000 men, women and children at the hands of the Japanese as retribution for their care of Australian soldiers in World War 2. Added to that, we abandoned them in the 1970s when they suffered yet again, this time at the hands of the Indonesians."

The story of friendship began three years ago when Fr Burke received a telephone call from Jim Collins, who was disturbed by a radio program, featuring Sr Susan Connolly of the MacKillop Institute in Sydney, about the plight of the people of East Timor. She was invited to speak to people in the area, which led to the launch of what is now called The Bega Valley Advocates for Timor Leste, described by Fr Burke as "people of all faiths and none, with a common passion to build a better world".

At the suggestion of East Timor consul-general in Sydney Mr Abel Gutteress, they set out to resurrect the agricultural college at Natarbora, which had been almost destroyed after the Timorese gained independence.

"The first team made the dangerous trek to Natarbora and returned with stories of the extraordinary religious sisters, working in appalling conditions, surrounded by people malnourished and in desperate need.

"Children were walking miles for schooling. Since this time, many teams from the Bega Valley have been

to Natarbora and with the support of Rotary, an enormous amount has been achieved."

Nine primary schools have been equipped with readers in the native language, Tetum, the work of the Mary MacKillop Institute, scholarships for students have been funded, at least 100 bicycles have been handed over, an infant feeding program has been introduced and the agricultural college is going ahead in leaps and bounds.

"We have our own vehicle in Dili, a four wheel drive which always leaves with a full load. We have sent to Timor four containers and have one permanently in Dili and two more at the agricultural college. All schools and hundreds of people in the Bega Valley are involved."

St Patrick's Parish, Bega, sponsored a young Timorese woman, Manuela, for three months two years ago to learn English and see how local government works in Australia. She became the secretary to the Minister of Health and a significant person in East Timor. Manuela was the first of many who have stayed in the Bega Valley to enjoy hospitality and learn information that would be helpful in the rebuilding.

"A member of one of the teams who returned from Natarbora spoke of the schools and what could only be described as a 'chook house' where the Franciscan Sisters were teaching children," Fr Burke said.

"Even though the conditions were appalling, they were getting the best results in the district. Bega and Pambula parishes had been heavily involved in raising money for the agricultural college and at this time had raised about \$50,000 for various projects related to Timor Leste.

"At a regional council meeting we decided to build a school for the Franciscan Sisters. This was an enormous leap in faith. After 18 months, the school is completed, built by Indonesian contractors and known as St. Francis of Assisi Primary School, Natarbora, paid for by the extraordinary generosity of the parishioners.

"The smiles of the people of Timor Leste will remain with me and I firmly believe anyone can have that smile, if we have a genuine solidarity with the poorest of the poor."

● If you want to help, contact Fr Mick Burke, St. Patrick's Parish, P O Box 6, Bega, NSW 2550.

RIGHT: The new school built at Natarbora for the Franciscan Sisters, thanks to the generosity of parishioners of Bega and Pambula.



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