

WYD Cross and Icon arrive this month

We join the journey

Two symbols of peace, love and reconciliation recognised by millions of people worldwide will travel throughout the Archdiocese this month.

The World Youth Day Cross and Icon will be received from Bathurst Diocese on Friday, 15 February, and will be taken to practically every corner of the Archdiocese before being handed on to Wagga Wagga Diocese at the top of Mt Kosciusko on Wednesday, 27 February.

The cross and icon, which are on their way to the World Youth Day celebrations in Sydney in July, have already travelled extensively in Australia visiting venues as diverse as cities, remote areas of the outback, the Great Barrier Reef and the Gold Coast for Schoolies week.

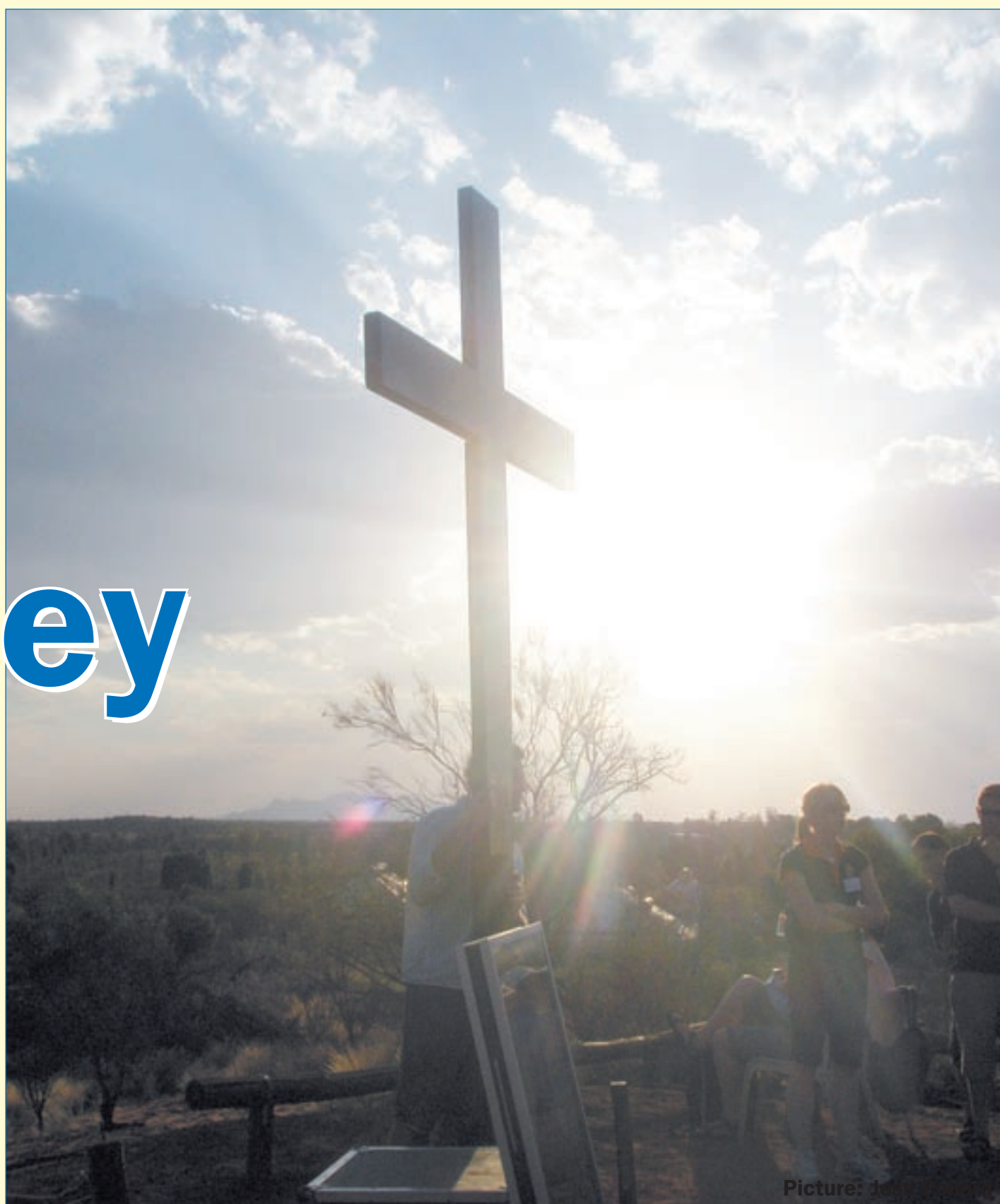
Archdiocesan WYD coordinator Mr Nathan Kensey says the journey is something not to be missed.

"I am pretty confident in saying the journey of the cross and icon in this Archdiocese will be one of the most unique parts of the journey in Australia," he said.

"Nowhere else would you get to see the cross on the highest peak in Australia, in the country, on the beaches and at some of the most culturally historical and important places in Australia."

Mr Kensey said it was an opportunity for communities to demonstrate their diversity and to bring people together.

● Cont Back Page



Picture: J...

Special editions of the Archdiocese's E-news Bulletin will be published during the fortnight of the visit of the World Youth Day Cross and Icon mapping the journey of the two holy symbols and the people who greet it. The Archdiocese's website at www.cg.catholic.org.au will also be

updated regularly with pictures and stories of the journey.

The March issue of Catholic Voice will be published on the second weekend of the month - a week later than usual - to allow for full coverage of the historic event.

Where to see these holy symbols – 4 page wrap-around guide

inside



St Anne's: what it means to Temora

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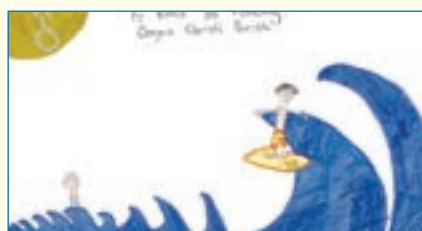
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DEADLINE
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On the road

This itinerary of the journey of the World Youth Day Cross and Icon in the Archdiocese was supplied to Catholic Voice and was correct at the time of going to press. People are advised to check details with their local parish.

Friday 15 February

Cowra - Diocese of Bathurst
5.30pm - Stations of the Cross
6.30pm - Picnic
7.30pm - Handover to the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn on the Lachlan River Bridge

West Wyalong - St Mary's Parish (47 Church Street)
11pm - Vigil

Saturday 16 February

9am - Mass and veneration
11am - Procession to Eastern side of town
11.30am - Close

Temora - Sacred Heart Parish (Cnr Loftus Street & DeBoos Street)
3.30pm - Welcome of Cross and Icon at Lake Centenary (Barmedman Rd)
4.30pm - Procession to town
5pm - Procession up Main Street with fly over by aircraft from Temora Aviation Museum (Loftus Street)
5.30pm - Veneration of Cross at Sacred Heart Church
6.45pm - Open air Mass at Callaghan Park
8pm - Close



Sunday 17 February

Cootamundra - Sacred Heart Parish (Morris Street)
7am - JCI Vehicle meets procession of utes at Stockinbingal - St Joseph's Milvale Road.
7.30am - Prayer service at Cootamundra Cemetery
8.25am - Reconciliation ceremony at Bimbadeen
9.30am - Veneration of Cross at Sacred Heart Church Cootamundra
10am - Mass and anointing of sick
11.30am - Depart

Galong - St Clement's Redemptorist Monastery
2pm - Mass
3pm - Procession to Marian Shine
4pm - Close
This is a joint event with St Patrick's Parish Boorowa and Our Lady of Mercy Parish Murrumburrah/St Joseph's Parish Harden

Young - St Mary's Parish (Rippon Street)
6pm - Mass
7pm - Veneration
8pm - Rally in Church grounds
9pm - Vigil
10pm - Close

Monday 18 February

9am - Depart Young

Parliament House
1.30pm - Ecumenical Prayer Service begins on Federation Mall
2.30pm - Procession to **Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture** via Federation Mall (West side of OPH), King George Tce, Walpole Cres, Kings Ave, Blackall Street
3.30pm - Prayer Service at Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture
4pm - Close and BBQ
This is an ecumenical event with the cooperation of the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture.

Yass - St Augustine's Parish (Meehan Street)
6pm - Procession, liturgy, rally and prayer
8pm - Close

Tuesday 19 February

7.30am - Mass and farewell from Yass
8.30am - Depart

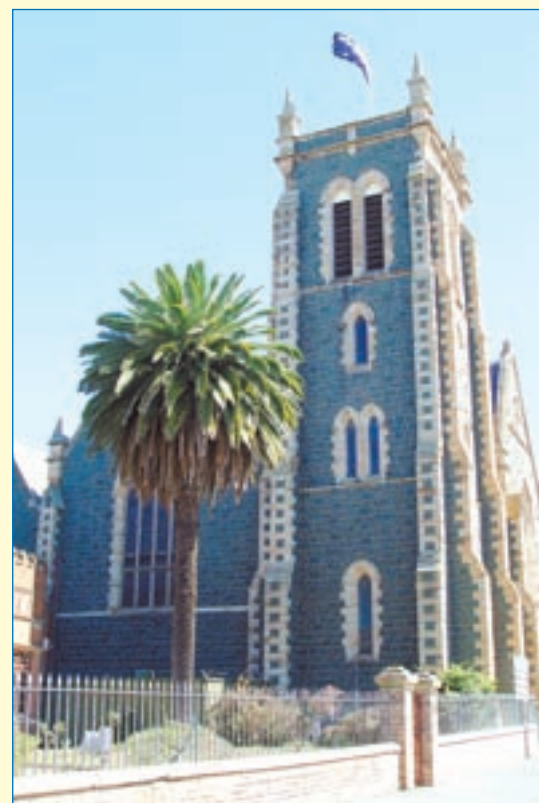
Goulburn - Mary Queen of Apostles (36 Verner Street)
9am - Arrival at Sts Peter & Paul's Old Cathedral, Goulburn
9.30am - Procession with the Cross and Icon with senior students of Trinity to Belmore Park
10am - Ecumenical Liturgy of the Cross and Icon at Belmore Park.

12.30pm - Leave for **Crookwell**
1.30pm - Schools and parish event, St Mary's Parish, Crookwell.
4pm - Close, then return to Goulburn
7pm - Mass in Sts Peter & Paul's Old Cathedral followed by all night vigil & veneration

Wednesday 20 February

6.30am - Mass in Goulburn
7.30am - Depart Goulburn.

Bungendore - St Mary's Parish (Turallo Terrace)
9am - Procession around town with Anglican parish
9.45am - Ecumenical Liturgy and dedication of Mary MacKillop Relic
11am - Close



Batemans Bay - Carroll College (George Bass Drive)
1.30pm - Schools and Parish Liturgy
2pm - Surfing of the Cross and Veneration for Students
3pm - Time for veneration by parishioners
4.30pm - Close

Narooma - Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish (9 Canty Street)
6pm - Procession through town (starting at Town Wharf, Bluewater Drive)
6.30pm - Prayer service at Church
7.30pm - All night vigil.

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Parish gets own church at last

By Naomi Fallon

After years of attending Mass in a school hall, Gungahlin parishioners now celebrate in their own church, Holy Spirit, Amaroo.

Until late last year Gungahlin parish priest Fr Bernie Patterson had celebrated Mass in the school hall at Nicholls.

"Out here in Gungahlin we've never had a sacred centre," he said. "We wanted something people would be able to belong to. Those who travelled to churches in other areas should hopefully come here now."

Positioned next to Good Shepherd Primary School, the church shares a wall with the school hall.

Acting Principal Mr Graham Pollard said the mutual wall has created a closer relationship between school and parish. "The wall has brought us together, literally and figuratively," he said. "It would be good for the children to attend Mass in a church rather than a hall."

"I am hoping parents will see it as a renewal of their faith. It is also an opportunity to see children actually attending Mass in a sacred space. Most of the kids have never even been in a church and this will get them used to the rituals."

Inside the church 320 people can be seated and there is the option of using the school hall for additional



The stained glass window above the main entrance.

space when necessary.

"At Christmas and Easter time we can fit 1300 in the church with the doors open," Fr Patterson said.

During the first weekend of Masses, the new church attracted a total of 1100 people to services.

"Whatever the cost would be, we needed something. We never had a sacristy, we always just used the after-school care at Holy Spirit School," Fr Patterson said. "We've never even had a confessional."

Built in European cathedral style, the modern church is designed to draw people forward to the altar.

Parish team member Sr Jenny Ryan designed a 7.1 metre by 5 metre large stained glass window which is situated above the church entrance. "Sr Jenny contributed a lot to the church with her artistic ability," Fr Patterson said.

Rather than the traditional Stations of the Cross, the church displays the story of the cross designed by Sr Jenny and reflecting on the words commitment, judged, accepted, supported, cradled and recognised. "It's an aid to prayer not to be taken lightly," Fr Patterson said.

On the outside wall beside the entrance to the church is a memorial wall for Gungahlin parishioners. Jack and Peg Hayes will be the first names to go on the memorial wall. "They were two of the first parishioners. At the first planning meeting for the church back in 1992, only two couples attended and they were one of them," Fr Patterson said. Bill and Tess Monaghan were the other couple present at the first meeting.

The musicians' area was designed to "provide quality sound" and two projectors and two screens have been installed in the church.

● Cont Page 5.



ABOVE: Parish priest Fr Bernie Patterson and acting principal of Good Shepherd Primary School Mr Graham Pollard inside the new church.



LEFT: A view of the front entrance of Holy Spirit Church, Amaroo.

Karinyahouse
for mothers & babies

Client Support Worker (casual)

Karinya House is a community based organisation, providing residential and outreach services to pregnant or parenting women and their families.

At Karinya, staff work as part of a dynamic team, who assist women and their families in the ACT and surrounding regions. The service is focused on early intervention and flexible service delivery. An ability to work compassionately with families, often with complex needs is an essential attribute to promote their empowerment and independence.

Client Support Workers are required to provide support for live-in and outreach clients, on a shift and after hours basis including weekend and overnight shifts.

Applicants require experience working with women who are pregnant and/or with children or work within a similar field, and preferably with relevant qualifications.

Staff are paid under SACS (ACT) Award.

For further enquiries and selection criteria contact Marie-Louise Corkhill on 6259 8998 or email info@karinyahouse.asn.au

Applications should be addressed to:

The Coordinator
Box 6 Evatt Newsagency
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Applications close Friday 22 February 2008.



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Visit to great culture offers hope for all

I write this from Mumbai where I'm yet again holed up in a hotel at a meeting trying to complete the work of translating the Missal.

Before coming here, I had a very memorable week down in Kerala with Fr Francis Kolencherry and Fr Varghese Vavolil, who were superb in both their planning and their hospitality. Fr Francis also proved an incredibly skilled and tenacious driver as he negotiated some of the most fearsome traffic I've ever seen. I think all you need to drive in India is a brake and a horn, and he was great on both.

Kerala is in the deep south-west of India, and the Syro-Malabar Church there is one of the oldest and most interesting in the world, tracing its origins to the ministry of the Apostle Thomas. Whatever about its age, the Church there is extraordinarily vibrant. Unlike Australia, religion is everywhere in India; it's like the air you breathe. But Christianity in Kerala has a vitality all its own.

Wherever I went, the huge churches were full - even on weekdays; and bigger churches were being built all over the place, it seemed. The people's singing and praying at Mass was a deeply inspiring thing to see and hear. I said Mass one morning at the seminary in Kochin for a congregation of about 250 seminarians; and I was told that the Syro-Malabar Church has about 42,000 nuns. No wonder the Church there can offer to the entire community so many excellent educational and health-care institutions.

At times in Australia, where Christianity has been present for not much more than 200 years, a young Church has grown old quickly. But in Kerala my impression was that a very old Church had about it a striking youthfulness.

The vitality of the Syro-Malabar Church reaches far beyond the shores of India, as missionaries go forth to every corner of the globe.

That's why Fr Francis and Fr Varghese are with us in the Archdiocese; and it's why they will be joined by a third priest, Fr Sunil, some time later this year. He has very generously been offered to us by Bishop Thomas of the Diocese of Kalyan, and it was good to meet with Bishop Thomas and Fr Sunil in Kochin.

It was even better to have the chance to meet with the Bishops and families of Fr Francis and Fr Varghese.

Fr Francis comes from the Archdiocese of Ernakulam and Angamaly where the Bishop is Cardinal Varkey, who is in charge of the whole Syro-Malabar Church. I had dinner with the Cardinal and stayed overnight at his house (with many mosquitoes, I might add).

I met Fr Francis' family at the wedding of one of his nephews (where I blessed the marriage) and at the pre-wedding party of another nephew, a brother of the first groom. Two weddings in a week meant it was quite a time for the family, because weddings in Kerala are huge.

I also had the chance to visit some of the many projects launched by Fr Francis in his years working in Kochin and I saw what I've seen in Canberra - that he is a seriously capable and energetic man who has many credits to his name.

I travelled about three hours to the city of Palakkad to visit Fr Varghese's Diocese and family. There I was welcomed by Bishop Jacob, who had asked to give a talk to the priests, which I gladly did. I then travelled to a parish where Fr Varghese had been the Parish Priest and later to his home parish outside the city. In both parishes, the welcome was extraordinary, with banners and drums and flowers and groups of children, etc. I felt like the Pope. I also had the chance to visit Fr Varghese's family in their home in the countryside and to thank his mother for the gift of her son in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn.



When I returned to Kochin, I met with a young man from the south of Kerala who wants to offer himself as a candidate for the priesthood in the Archdiocese. His name is Thomas Abraham and he will be among us later this year for a "come and see" experience which will give him the chance to look at us and us a chance to look at him.

Though only 33, he already has a solid professional background, and he could bring much to the life of the Church in our part of the world. He comes from another ancient Church of south India, the Syro-Malankara Church and that could be an enrichment too.

From Kerala in the south-west, I have come to Mumbai in the middle; and from here I go for a few days to Shillong in the far north-east, near the Burmese border above Bangladesh. The Archbishop there is a friend of mine, and there is Salesian priest there who is a friend from student days in Rome and who has been doing great work with marginalised tribal people.

We offered him some funds from the Archbishop's Christmas Appeal in 2006, and he's keen for me to meet some of the people our offering helped. I look forward to that.

I have long wanted to visit India, and my first visit here has been everything I expected and more. It's been a brief and brilliant immersion in one of great cultures of the world, where Christianity flourishes, often against the odds and always in ways that offer hope not only to us in Canberra and Goulburn but to the Church throughout the world.

Mark

+Bishop Mark

Our loving God removes our 'weeds'

By Margaret Ryan

In Lent, we Christians walk whether we believe we're "out" or not! In our deepest selves we probably sense we are "out" a lot of the time: eccentric, self-centred, greedy, gossipy, angry, impatient, busy, unjust, fearful, not in tune with our true spiritual selves. We have hard hearts.

In a sense, we have betrayed our calling as the baptised, those united to God, committed to living Christ's mission. We have allowed our baptismal promises to become tarnished or cluttered by competing demands on our time and energy. "Baptism" means two things: "overwhelmed by water" (by God's grace and goodness) and "absorption of dye into a cloth" (this occurs over a period of time: baptism is something we receive and grow into).

Where do we, the baptised, walk to? "Come back to me" intones our loving God on Ash Wednesday. In our frailty, sinfulness, self-absorption, ignoring of others' poverty and pain, we have strayed from the path, from God's ways. And yet God beckons us back, promises help, gives living water for our parched souls (Lent Week 3), provides rest and a banquet and is light in the darkness (Week 4), brings us back from the grave into new life (Week 5). On Ash Wednesday, we are reminded to "turn away from sin and be faithful to the gospel."

In the Church, we do not walk alone. In Lent, we walk on pilgrimage with the other baptised and our brothers and sisters in the adult catechumenate (the RCIA), those seeking baptism and fullness of communion with the Catholic Church. Christians are natural walkers - a people on the move, on pilgrimage, journeying with the Shepherd One towards a perfect destination, listening to each other and guided by God's Word, open to and thankful for gifts of each day.

Christian walkers encounter varied topography - hills, valleys, plateaux, culs-de-sac - and traffic signs - "Stop!" "U-turns permitted", "Go back - you are going the wrong way". The six weeks of Lent offer many opportunities for U-turns. It usually requires time to become alert to, and begin to, change via grace old and unhelpful habits: at least 40 days.

The time of year conspires to help us. "February" means "purification" and "March" comes from "Mars - the spirit of war." Many of our bad, careless, thoughtless and sinful habits might require a degree of cleansing and stern discipline! In earlier times, soap was made from ashes, so ashes are an appropriate symbol to begin this joyful season of limbering up and becoming spiritually fit.

Lent is a time of simplicity, uncluttering and clearing the decks. As walkers tend to prune their backpacks for the journey, Christians try to make space in Lent.

When we pray, we make space in our crowded lives, in our time. When we fast, we make space in our desires, wills and bodies; fasting can help us discover our spiritual hungers, needs and gaps. When we give alms, we make space in our purses/wallets and possessions to restore right relationships and rebalance unfair wealth distribution.

We recall that God can transform us and our efforts. Our loving God, as Gardener, with our permission, removes our "weeds", to purify the flower beds, putting them into a compost bin. Later, the Gardener restores them to the garden, as they have become life-giving (Mary Douglas' parable). Happy walking and weeding!

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You can follow the journey of the WYD Cross and Icon in the Archdiocese by subscribing to our e-news bulletin or checking out our website by going to www.cg.catholic.org.au A special souvenir supplement will also be printed in next month's issue of Catholic Voice.

Pope's new envoy due soon

Lent's here: time to join the journey

An Italian archbishop who has served as Apostolic Nuncio to Ireland for the past seven years is the Pope's new ambassador to Australia.

Archbishop Giuseppe Lazzarotto, who speaks Italian, English, French and Spanish, will probably arrive in Canberra next month.

Archbishop Lazzarotto was born in Carpane, Vicenza, in 1942 and was ordained a priest on 1 April, 1967.

He has a Doctorate in Canon Law and completed post-graduate studies in International Diplomacy at the Pontifical Ecclesiastical Academy, Rome. Archbishop Lazzarotto entered the Diplomatic Service of the Holy See in 1971.

He served the Holy See in its diplomatic missions in Zambia and Malawi; in Belgium, European Community, Luxembourg; Cuba; the Apostolic Delegation of the Holy See in Jerusalem, in Palestine and Cyprus; and in the Secretariat of State, Vatican City, at the Section for Relations with States.

In 1994, Archbishop Lazzarotto was appointed Titular Archbishop of Numana and Apostolic Nuncio to Iraq and to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Since November 2000, he has served as Apostolic Nuncio to Ireland.

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference President Archbishop Philip Wilson warmly welcomed the appointment.

"On behalf of the bishops and clergy and people of Australia, I welcome Archbishop Lazzarotto's appointment," he said. "I look forward to greeting him personally upon his arrival and pray that his time in Australia will be happy and fruitful."

An apostolic nuncio serves as both the ambassador of the Holy See in the host nation and as representative of the Holy Father to the Church in that same nation.

The post of Apostolic Nuncio to Australia has been vacant since the death of Archbishop Ambrose De Paoli in October last year.

Parish gets its first church

● From Page 3.

The \$2 million investment is not all brand new. "Some of the furniture and the crosses in the church came from the old Ursuline convent in Lyneham.

"The sisters were glad to put them to good use and we tried to incorporate as many as we could into the new church."

Fr Patterson's work is not over yet and he has many plans for the future of the church, including a history wall in the foyer, which would feature early Gungahlin church memories.

Gungahlin's presbytery will remain at Nicholls and Fr Patterson will continue to celebrate Friday morning Mass in the Nicholls school hall.

The official opening of Holy Spirit Church, Amaroo will take place at 7.30pm on 14 February.



New Apostolic Nuncio to Australia Archbishop Giuseppe Lazzarotto.

With Lent about to start, the Archdiocese's Lenten study program - the only one in Australia written by an ecumenical group - is available to parishioners.

With seven sessions in this year's program, it is recommended that groups begin during Ash Wednesday week if possible. Ash Wednesday falls on 6 February. Parishioners are encouraged to study it with people of other denominations.

There are several changes to this year's program. Two scripture readings are provided each week: John's gospel and a part of Matthew's passion story.

The text of Matthew is from the Dramatised Bible. The John and Matthew sections throw light on each other, and the themes that emerge are highlighted by poetry written by people in the Archdiocese.

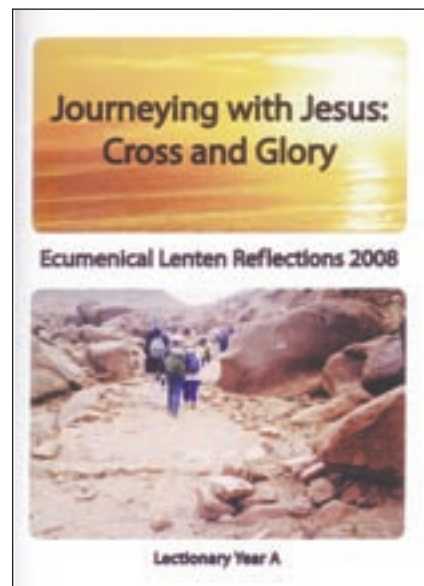
Each session contains a World Youth Day bulletin, to help prepare for World Youth Day

in July, and the journey of the Cross, Icon and Message Stick through the Archdiocese. The title of this year's program, "Journeying with Jesus: Cross and Glory", picks up the theme of pilgrimage, Jesus' and ours.

Archbishop Mark Coleridge writes in the foreword: "The ancient Lenten path provides rich opportunities to journey with Jesus as he meets some familiar faces from the Gospels of John and Matthew, and to ponder anew the call to be pilgrims who follow the Lord through darkness to light."

Copies of the program cost \$6 each, or \$5 each for multiples of five. Orders may be placed with Chris Haines chris.haines@catholiclife.org.au, telephone 6163 4300, or the Catholic Bookshop Braddon, telephone 6201 9887.

● Our Loving God Removes Our 'Weeds' - Page 4.



in brief

BISHOP RETIRES: Bishop Jeremiah Coffey, Bishop of Sale, Victoria, resigned last month having reached retiring age. Pope Benedict XVI has accepted the resignation. No successor has yet been named.

NEW LEADER: The Dominicans in Australia, New Zealand, the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea have a new leader. The provincial chapter meeting in Melbourne elected Fr Kevin Saunders OP to succeed Fr Thomas

Cassidy OP, who was first elected prior provincial in 2000. He was born in Melbourne and at the time of his election was assistant to the Prior Provincial and Prior of St Laurence's Dominican community in North Adelaide.

Please Help Poor and Oppressed Youth attend World Youth Day 2008



The Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) will be assisting up to 100 youth from Sudan, Myanmar (formerly Burma) and other poor and oppressed countries, attend World Youth Day (WYD) in Sydney, 15 - 20 July 2008. Without financial assistance, youth from these poor and oppressed countries, would not be able to respond to the Pope's invitation for all youth of the world to attend WYD.

ACN sponsored the youth delegation, pictured left, to WYD in Cologne 2005. These young people from Sudan returned home and spread the good news of their meeting.

James Shawish will never forget the words of the Holy Father. "He encouraged us to feel united with God, our country and the world at large. He urged us to go and proclaim what we had heard to our friends, to their families and to share what we had experienced when we were together as brothers and sisters from all over the world."

Join us in Prayer with the Pope and for the success of World Youth Day

Anyone able to help this cause will be sent a complimentary Papal Rosary of Pope Benedict XVI, and a Holy card with a prayer for World Youth Day. We ask you to join the Holy Father and the Catholic community in prayer for the success of this unique and faith filled event.

To send your donation please fill out the coupon below and tick the box* if you would like to receive the complimentary Papal Rosary and prayer card.



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Expiry Date ____/____/____ Signature.....

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Aid to the Church in Need ... a Catholic charity dependent on the Holy See, providing pastoral relief to needy and oppressed Churches

Any surplus donations we receive will be used for the youth apostolate in those countries where the Church is persecuted or suffering.



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Jubilees celebrated



Queanbeyan's Good Samaritan sisters celebrated the end of the Sisters' 150th anniversary year. Archbishop Mark Coleridge attended lunch, held at the home of Good Samaritan Sesquicentenary Committee member Mrs Maryanne Tarrant. The golden jubilee of Sr Beverley Caffery and diamond jubilee of Sr Joy Mary Edwards was recognised on the day. ABOVE: Sr Beverley Caffery and Sr Joy Edwards with Archbishop Coleridge.

Students' special day

Bermagui Public School students Ashleigh and Liam Russell were baptised and Raquel Lagana, Chelsea Manns, Ashleigh Russell and Thien Luu received the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Special religious education teachers and students from the school celebrated the end of 2007 with the story of the Jesse Tree, read by coordinator of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine Ms Sabina Van Rooy and SRE school coordinator Ms Ceilia Moore. ABOVE: Parish priest Fr Michael McMullen with Raquel Lagana, Chelsea Manns and Ashleigh Russell.



Award for teaching

Head of School of Education at the Australian Catholic University Canberra campus Dr Carolyn Broadbent received a 2007 Carrick Award for Australian University Teaching. Winners received \$10,000 prize money to

reward the diverse contributions they made to the quality of student learning. Dr Broadbent received the award specifically for inspiring teacher education students to build sustainable communities of learning through the Adult, Recreation and Training Services Factory initiative at the Canberra campus. ABOVE: Dr Broadbent receives the award from institute executive director Prof Richard Johnstone.



Drawing the line

Two archdiocesan students have their artwork on display at the National Museum of Australia. Aaron Stephen from Marist College Junior School won second prize and Tiahne Douglas from Mt Carmel Central School, Yass, was awarded third prize in the primary schools category of the "Drawing the Lines" political cartoon competition. The students' work can be viewed in the exhibition "Behind the Lines: The year's best cartoons" until 30 February.

Glimpse of Aussie life

The Australian Catholic University's Canberra campus hosted a tour of 26 American university students. Students participated in lectures and workshops on a variety of topics including Australian history, cultural icons, the Australian political system, indigenous culture and religion.

Games on the way

Students from St Francis Xavier College in Florey participated in the 2008 Pacific School Games "One Year to Go" show. Students handed out tattoos and balloons to children and the school also plans to get involved in other aspects of organisation of the games. The Pacific School Games is an international sporting event for school students aged 10 to 19 and will be held in Canberra from 30 November to 6 December.

Supporters visit Old Cathedral

Many supporters of Sts Peter and Paul's Old Cathedral restoration appeal travelled to Goulburn from Canberra, Kiama, Sydney and Crookwell to attend a Mass of Thanksgiving.

Archbishop Mark Coleridge was principal celebrant assisted by parish priest Fr Tony Percy, former parish priest Fr Laurie Blake and Fr Varghese Valvolil.

The main news on the restoration was the erection of scaffolding on the western façade of the church. Tenders will be called this year to restore, repair and, where necessary, replace the sandstone on the western wall.

Work will also begin on underpinning the northern wall which is starting to rotate because of inadequate construction in the foundations. This task will take at least 18 months to complete.



A new sound system has been trialled in the Old Cathedral with pleasing results. Quotations are being sought from other sound system suppliers before a decision is made.

ABOVE: Fr Laurie Blake (left) and Fr Tony Percy leave the Old Cathedral at the end of Mass.

RIGHT: Kirilee Caston, Tegan Burggraaf, and Kate Muscat who took part in the promotion. Picture Measa Cox.



Double celebration

Croatian chaplain Fr Drago Prgomet recently celebrated his 70th birthday and his 45th anniversary of priesthood. Several busloads of former parishioners travelled from previous parishes to celebrate the occasion. South Woden parish priest Fr Laurie Blake also celebrated his 70th birthday and the Croatian community baked two identical cakes for the priests. Croatian Franciscan Missionary Fathers Antonn Simunovic and Drago Prgomet assisted when Archbishop Mark Coleridge celebrated Mass during his visit to the Mission. During the Mass the choir performed Croatian hymns for the large congregation.

RIGHT: Fr Edward Evans, Fr Drago Prgomet, Fr Laurie Blake and Fr Giuseppe Canova celebrate Fr Prgomet's and Fr Blake's birthdays.



Rich mix of cultures



Six MGL brothers professed initial vows, and five made promises, at a Eucharistic celebration on the feast of the Immaculate Conception. The ceremony featured a rich mix of cultural expressions, reflecting the various backgrounds of the brothers making vows and promises. The gospel process was done with a PNG dance and song performed by the PNG brothers, complete with headdress, bongo drums, and other regalia. The offertory procession was preceded by a Bali dancer, Martin Lada, one of the brothers, who was fully attired in traditional Balinese dress. The prayers of the faithful were a mix of five languages. ABOVE: Brothers who professed initial vows (from left): Wenseslaus Edy,

Matheus Wuwu, John Kiak, Corey Payton (Al Habagat not in picture).

Kippax priest's farewell

After serving as acting parish priest at St John the Apostle Parish, Kippax, for the past 12 months, Fr Peter Wood MSC celebrated his final Sunday Mass last month. He had been standing in for parish priest Fr Michael Fallon MSC, who was on leave.

A large number of parishioners attended morning tea to say thank you and farewell to a man who had become a well loved member of the parish family.

Fr Wood thanked everyone for their generosity, support and love. He said he had not been a parish priest before and had been concerned how he would follow in the footsteps of Fr Fallon. He said he need not have worried, as he discovered that what people wanted was for him to just be himself.

His gentleness and compassion pervaded the community. His homilies reflected a close personal relationship with Jesus and he encouraged everyone to seek out and care for the lonely, aged, infirm and marginalised in the parish family as well as in the wider community.

Ruby to remember

Mr Bill and Mrs Julie Hannigan have celebrated 40 years of marriage. During a ceremony at All Saints Church in Numeralla, Cooma parish priest Fr Joseph Tran blessed a ruby ring which Mr Hannigan placed on his wife's finger. Fr Tran presented the couple with a blessing from Pope Benedict XVI. The Hannigans were married on 2 September 1967 by Mr Hannigan's brother, Fr Laurie Hannigan SM and now live in Scarborough, Queensland.



All for the missions

St Thomas Aquinas Primary School in Charnwood raised over \$800 through their mission fete. All sorts of activities including a white elephant stall, hair spraying, spiders, lollies and sports kept everyone entertained.

One stall was organised, contributed to and run completely by students. Raffle prizes included a soccer ball, movie money and lolly jars.



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PM and choir star for Vinnies

Prime Minister Mr Kevin Rudd and the inspirational Choir of Hard Knocks have lent their support to this year's St Vincent de Paul Society's annual doorknock appeal.

They starred at a dinner held at the National Convention Centre in Canberra to launch the appeal.

Vinnies gets some government funding for its special works and emergency assistance programs, but relies on donations and surpluses from its shops to fund most of its work. The doorknock, which is taking place this month, is a critical fund raiser.

In 2006/7, the society helped more than 40,000 people in the ACT and surrounding region. Nearly \$1.1 million was spent on food and in direct financial assistance, with more than \$500,000 going to families in the ACT alone.

The society also supplied clothing and furniture to many families from donations it received. This assistance is funded from donations and surpluses from Vinnies shops.

All money raised in the doorknock will be spent in the Canberra region. All doorknockers are volunteers. As administrative overheads are covered from other sources of funds, no donated money is spent on staff or other costs.

Vinnies supports those in need in the community through:

- * Direct assistance by home visitation to people in crisis who need food, clothing, furniture, company and counselling in all parts of Canberra and the region.

- * Vinnies centres where people can buy quality clothing and furniture at low prices

- * Support for refugees

- * Holiday camps for children from families the society supports

- * A drop-in centre at Ainslie Village

- * A night patrol providing food to homeless people in Canberra

Special works including a shelter for homeless men, and support for families in crisis.

Showing compassion globally

In the six weeks leading to Easter, Caritas Australia's 2008 Project Compassion appeal is calling on Australians to meet the challenge of global poverty.

Caritas Australia, an agency of the Catholic Church, is part of an international network that works in almost every country helping people help themselves out of poverty.

Through Project Compassion, Australia's largest international development appeal, Caritas Australia hopes to beat last year's record of almost \$9 million.

In 2007, Australians helped farmers in Bangladesh gain food security, assisted women in East Timor receive safety from domestic violence and supported grandmothers in South Africa to look after orphans whose parents had died from HIV/AIDS.

"By working through our strong Catholic Church networks around the world, we are able to minimise our costs and ensure more money gets through to the people on the ground who need it most, Caritas Australia chief executive officer Mr Jack de Groot said.

This year Caritas Australia is turning its attention to slum dwellers in the Philippines. Psyche Mae lives with her



family on the edge of a massive, festering urban garbage dump in the Philippines capital, Manila.

Before the support of Caritas Australia, life was a constant struggle to buy food and pay school fees. Psyche Mae's family were unable to save money and when desperate borrowed from

moneylenders at exorbitant interest rates.

Caritas Australia helped establish savings groups to support income-generating activities such as bag and card making. Members have also established a small shop in the community.

Caritas supports classes in non-formal adult education, art, English, computing and sport. From this support, youth leadership groups have been established which meet regularly and provide an opportunity for young people to have a say in their community's future.

Assisting some of the most marginalised in Brazil's Sao Paulo slum, educating young women in Nairobi's slums, providing toilets and sanitation to the people of West Java and educating farmers in Fiji to improve their crops and their incomes are all projects being supported by Caritas Australia's 2008 Project Compassion

"Caritas only discriminates on grounds of need," Mr de Groot said. "Wherever people are living in poverty or marginalised we reach out to support them to realise a better life."

People may support the Project Compassion appeal by telephoning 1800 024 413 or on the web at www.caritas.org.au

An invitation to return home

People who are baptised Catholic but who are not part of an active faith community are being invited to take part in a program aimed at helping them reconnect.

The Catholics Returning Home (CRH) program in parishes across the Archdiocese is starting up again.

Weekly sessions will be run at St Vincent's, Aranda, this month and next month, and at St Anthony's, Wanniasa, in April and May.

The program has

helped thousands of people to reconnect in small parish groups.

Clarice, a participant in Aranda parish last year, described it as the best thing she had done as a way to return to the parish community.

"Because it was such a long time for me, it was like going back to grass roots and very beneficial," she said.

Another participant, Jesse, had moved from her home parish to Canberra and had been attending services in another religion follow-

ing the move.

But now she feels re-connected.

"Coming back to my own religion was the best. It was good to meet other people who felt the same way," she said.

The Aranda program will run on Tuesday evenings over six weeks covering topics such as life journeys, the Church today,

liturgy, forgiveness and peace, and faith.

Interested people can contact the organisers at stv.aranda@cg.catholic.org.au or telephone 6251-3030 or come along at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 12 February, to the St Vincent's parish centre in Bindel Street, Aranda.

The Wanniasa program will run on Mondays from 7.30pm

to 9pm from 7 April to 12 May. Inquiries should be directed to the parish office, telephone 6231 7310, e-mail sta.wanniasa@cg.catholic.org.au, website <http://grapevine.com.au/~stanthons/>

Parishes at Goulburn, Kippax and Watson are also expected to host sessions again this year.

BUILD THE CHURCH

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- \$900,000 towards a new church at Amaroo.

- \$680,000 towards a TAS centre at Sacred Heart Central School, Cootamundra.

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Evangelisation challenge daunting but vital

Fr Tom Thornton in his thoughtful reflection "Can't give what we don't have..." (CV, December 2007) may be casting the role of Catholic schools too narrowly. A key theme of the NSW and ACT bishops' recent pastoral letter "Catholic schools - at a cross-roads", the catalyst of Fr Tom's reflection, is the increasing importance of the schools' role in evangelisation.

Few would question Fr Tom's statement that Catholic schools are most effective when they are complementary and supportive of the faith of the parents who send their children there. The evangelical task of the Catholic school is in all probability easier where parents have a high faith commitment and practice.

However, it would be, in my view, to confine significantly the role that Catholic schools have played over a long time to say that Catholic schools should only look to service students in this more fortunate situation. Some of the more prominent religious orders that have or are conducting Catholic schools were founded, among other things, to educate children lacking a good family or home.

I do not read the bishops' pastoral letter, as Fr Tom seems to suggest, as implying that the primary role of catechesis in faith has devolved to the school, largely to the exclusion of parents or the broader Church community.

There is nothing in my view in the letter that indicates that the bishops are seeking to diminish the responsibility or role of parents in this area. I think that the reality is, even where they are strongly committed to faith practice, parents will look to the schools as better placed to deliver in some areas of catechesis than themselves.

These call for those with proper training and learning, best provided through the school. Certainly to this end, I agree with Fr Tom that there is a need to improve and maintain the catechesis of teachers and, also as much as possible, parents themselves.

There is a challenge held out by the bishops in the pastoral letter to ensure that the schools retain and deepen their Catholic ethos and identity, particularly in a more secular culture.

However, the object of this is not so much to safeguard what Catholic schools have stood for, or achieved, in the past, as to ensure that they are able to meet the evangelical role which the bishops see as so important for them in the contemporary environment.

The bishops are quite emphatic. They say that one course is to "downsize our school system to a scale at which we can choose students and staff who readily embrace the mission of the Catholic school". Alternatively, they point out, "we can reaffirm our commitment to the essential elements of the Catholic school while recognising, and even embracing, changing enrolment patterns as 'signs of the times' and of a new mission for Catholic education". The bishops say that this alternative is the "better course forward". In doing so, they look to the schools as "the centres of the new evangelisation".

While many might, quite understandably, find this daunting, it behoves us all to pray and work for its fruition.

- Paul Sykes, convenor, Catholic Issues Committee, Association of Parents and Friends of ACT Schools Inc. apfacts@bigpond.com

Is religion being targeted?

Bombala parish priest Fr Mick MacAndrew wants to take action to help us all become more media savvy.

An article last month in the Sydney Morning Herald could create anger towards the Church. The article was a commentary on a report detailing how much money is owed to the Commonwealth Government because of the Higher Education Co-contribution Scheme (HECS) loans and, in particular, the Fees-Help scheme which allows for deferring of HECS repayments until the graduate is earning above \$40,000 per year.

The article, while detailing the total indebtedness of the schemes, unfairly singles out the sector that provides tertiary education to assist candidates for religious ministry. There are no comments about the many other sectors which have taken up the options for tertiary education such as tourism, beauty, natural therapies, alternative energy, .

It is interesting to note that not one of our Canberra and Goulburn seminarians receives any funds from the HECS or Fees-Help schemes.

Since the beginning of January the Sydney Morning Herald seems to have been waging a campaign raising discontent about government assistance to non-government schools, and now has the training of ministers of religion in its sights.

At the same time, the newspaper ran a weblog vote concerning World Youth Day. It was particularly notable that the phrasing of the questions seemed to try to engineer splitting any supportive vote for WYD while the phrasing of those questions opposing WYD could easily be linked, thus inflating the value of any anti-WYD votes.

Early viewing of the results showed that the tactic had backfired as the pro-WYD votes in both categories were far more numerous than the anti-WYD votes.

Media manipulation is becoming a serious issue not only for the Catholic Church, but for all good religions in our society. It seems that the easiest defence that some media spokespersons use is that "the media gives the customer what the customer wants". So, maybe, we need to double our efforts at educating Catholics to be media savvy and to critique what the media says we need or want.

As we do this, we probably need the issue to have top billing for a while. I would propose to set up a "media minder" web site to allow supporters to identify and challenge beat-ups against the Church. If there is anyone who would be able to give technical assistance and sponsorship for the site, I would be glad to hear from them. I can be contacted on bombaladelegate@cg.catholic.org.au or telephone 6458 3020.

A journey of discovery

Auxiliary Bishop Pat Power starts an eight-month stint of long-service leave this month - his first such break in 42 years as a priest and 21 as a bishop. Here he looks to what may lie ahead.

It has only been in the second half of my life, that I have deeply appreciated my origins. My father's ancestor came to Australia as a convict from Ireland in 1797 and my mother's parents came from Lebanon in the 1890s looking for a bright future.

My imminent time of sabbatical gives me the opportunity to breathe in the air and to walk on the soil which nurtured my ancestors in both countries where I will spend about a week. I will be in Lebanon on 29 February on which day my dear mother would have turned 100. She died in 1995. In Lebanon I still have cousins whom I look forward to meeting.

Morgan Power was transported from

Wicklow and arrived in Botany Bay on 27 May, 1797. I have lots of cousins in Australia and we had a significant reunion in 1997. Sadly, we have lost trace of any relatives in Ireland, but I look forward to connecting with the spirit of my forebears.

In between Lebanon and Ireland, I am hoping to spend a couple of days in Lourdes. I was born on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and this year is the 150th anniversary of the apparitions. Following that I will undertake nearly 800km of the pilgrim walk from St Jean Pied-de-Port to Santiago de Compostela in Spain.

I am grateful to Archbishop Mark and to many other people who have enabled me to take the "time out" and embark on such a significant journey. I promise to pray for all the people of our wonderful Archdiocese while I am on pilgrimage and I look forward to returning refreshed and reinvigorated at the beginning of October.

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New principal finds out what makes his school so special

By Naomi Fallon

Author, academic, former journalist and seminarian, Dennis Sleigh is not your average school principal.

Mr Sleigh has become well known in the NSW country parish of Temora where he has worked to have the senior section of St Anne's School re-opened.

Year seven to ten enrolments had been lacking for a number of years at St Anne's and at the end of 2006 the high school section was closed. "Despite the signs, very few people realised the secondary section of the school was collapsing around them." In order to re-open the central section of St Anne's, Archbishop Mark Coleridge requested a non-negotiable 20 year-seven enrolments for 2008. "The people here banded together."

Twenty one students are enrolled in year seven this year and from now on 70 per cent of year six enrolments are required. "The staff have been incredibly supportive and dedicated to what is going on. It's hard work but the spirit among the people is incredible. Because of the parents, because of the staff and because of the incredible passion of the parish priest Fr Phil (Harding), it has become a resurrection experience."

Born in Swansea, Wales, Mr Sleigh spent his first seven years in the United Kingdom before his family moved to Wollongong. After graduating from high school, he worked as a journalist for the South Coast Times in Wollongong. "I had been encouraged by teachers all my life to write, in primary school and in secondary school," he said. "I had an insatiable urge to write."

A journalism career was discarded only six months later when Mr Sleigh entered St Columba's Seminary at Springwood. He spent the following four years studying to become a priest and left the seminary after a year of theology. Mr Sleigh "fell into" a career in teaching, which began at St Patrick's Parish Primary School in Albury. "I wanted to be a teacher but the way I got into teaching was fortunate. It wasn't quite your normal introduction."

With no formal qualifications, Mr Sleigh became the principal's apprentice at St Patrick's and taught a class of 56 children. "In the mornings I would teach and the principal would sit up the back and do all of his bookwork and watch

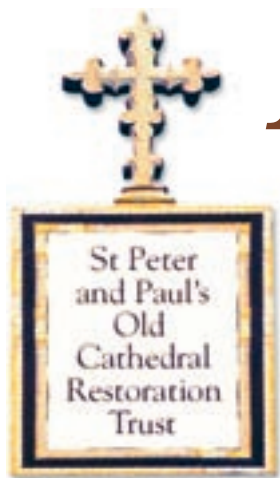


me, and in the afternoons, he'd teach and I would sit up the back and do all of the corrections, and watch him. We would discuss the whole process after school every day."

After a year at St Patrick's Mr Sleigh began to externally study a Bachelor of Arts degree and continued to teach. "It was the most incredible, most enriching sort of a process," he said. He went on to be principal of schools at Coleambally, Lavington, Florey and Garran and was also a lecturer at Australian Catholic University.

Mr Sleigh met accountant Miss Margaret Hodgson at a Young Christian Workers national conference in Bendigo. "I walked into this room and I saw this rather lovely young lady sitting down over there and I went and sat beside her and was talking to her," he said. "And then my future wife came in and said 'excuse me you're sitting in my chair'."

● Cont next page.



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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Flood and fire doesn't dim their faith



Mr Sleigh with this year's year seven students outside St Anne's.

What makes St Anne's so special

● From previous page.

"Well that was the end of it. She just decided that I was definitely in need of rescuing and she's been rescuing me ever since. I'm just so glad I went to that conference." Margaret and Dennis celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary in January.

Their first son Paul, 38 is married with three children, Tim, 35 is recently married and the youngest is Anne, 32. "When she's not travelling the world, she teaches at St Clare's. She is the one who convinced me to do masters in theology."

Mr Sleigh finished his first degree, the Bachelor of Arts while teaching at Sacred Heart School in Koorngal and has been studying ever since. Over the years he has accumulated a Diploma in Education, a Graduate Diploma in Educational Administration, a Graduate Diploma in Religious Education, a Masters in Education Administration and a Master of Arts in Theology. "I've been a perpetual student because I love study."

While working at Wagga Wagga Diocese's Catholic Education Office, Mr Sleigh reverted to his 'urge to write' and authored his first book. "I was driving all around Wagga diocese so I simply had a dictaphone. As I'd drive along I'd reflect on what I had seen from these early career teachers and out of that came my first book called Summer Before Teaching."

Mr Sleigh's urge returned again soon after with Teaching Tricks - Ideas for Busy Teachers. He later addressed another passion for law and co-authored two more books Australian Teachers and The Law and A School Principal's Guide to Law in The 21st Century. He has contributed chapters to several other books and written about 250 articles for various magazines. "I get a great kick out of that, it's an ego trip."

Mr Sleigh was Principal Human Resources Officer at the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn's Catholic Education Office when he decided to move to Temora. "I thought I would see out my days in the bureaucracy but they needed a principal in a hurry and I put my hand up to come here for 12 months."

Mr Sleigh has recognised the community importance of the 130-year-old St Anne's School. "The number of people who are here now whose parents, grandparents and in a significant number of cases great grandparents went to St Anne's has given to the town a sense of 'this is what Temora is'. St Anne's is part of Temora, it's more than ownership, it's almost as if the school permeates the personality of a lot of the parents."

Twelve months has become a five-year contract. "By the time the job was advertised in May we'd fallen in love with the place. We can see parents here are struggling from the effects of the worst drought on record. Yet, despite their massive concerns, they still want to support the school. Emotionally they are a strong community, but they are also suffering greatly."

St Anne's school and Temora parish have co-organised a rural outreach program and the first meeting attracted 15 people. "Once a month we will hold a get-together so anyone at all who wants to get together can have an opportunity to talk."

Some of the money raised through last year's Archbishop's Christmas Appeal was distributed to the drought affected Temora parish to fund the program. "As a caring community, the parish and school want to provide a venue and an opportunity. It'll still be seen as a Catholic thing for a while but we don't want it to be seen as a Catholic thing. It's an initiative of the Catholic Church but it's for everyone."

Mr Sleigh and his wife enjoy living in Temora and plan to stay for a few years yet. "We both found the welcome the community has given us has been an incredible example of what Christian hospitality is all about. I would find it very easy to retire here."

After years of turmoil which has included flood and fire, parishioners have been told it is not yet time for another church in Adaminaby.

Fifty years ago the present township of Adaminaby was created when the Eucumbene River was dammed to make way for the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Scheme. Over 100 buildings including St Mary's church were dismantled and re-erected in the new town before the surrounding valleys were flooded.

Parishioners attended Mass at St Mary's in new Adaminaby until the church was destroyed by fire in July 2006.

A Mass was celebrated in December on the drought-affected shores of Lake Eucumbene to mark 50 years since the church was relocated. It was here during his homily Archbishop Mark Coleridge announced he would postpone rebuilding St Mary's.

"In Adaminaby the Mass-going population has dwindled to about 10 or 12 regulars," he said. "It is no secret those who come regularly and support the parish are an aging group. They are the salt of the earth and I pay tribute to them."

Archbishop Coleridge said he hoped to see a church built in Adaminaby in the future.

"I don't want to sound harsh but these are the facts. If the Mass-going community does not increase, then it is hard for me as Archbishop to say 'yes'. It doesn't mean I'm saying 'no' either though."

Held on the feast day of the Immaculate Conception, the Mass was attended by about 100 people and concelebrated by Cooma Parish Priest Fr Joe Tran.

"It is a great day for our Adaminaby community," he said. "We are not just saying farewell to the past but welcome to the future."

Fr Tran said he hoped to see a growth in Mass attendance at Adaminaby. "The people are the ones who have a say by putting in the commitment," he said. "For me, any church is a sign of hope."

Lake Eucumbene is the largest man made lake in the Snowy Mountains, although current levels as low as 20 per cent have revealed the steps which once belonged to St Mary's Church.

For cousins Mrs Jane Kennedy and Mr Fred Fletcher the ceremony brought back many memories of Old Adaminaby. "Our aunt, Martha Fletcher was the first to be married here at St Mary's," Mrs Kennedy said.

Mr Greg Russell stood above Lake Eucumbene and recollected where the homes of his relatives once stood. Mr Russell had hoped St Mary's would be rebuilt and was disappointed there were so few Mass-goers in Adaminaby. "In my day you didn't have anything to do on Sundays, you only went to Mass," he said. "People today are just too busy."

Until St Mary's is rebuilt, Fr Tran will continue to celebrate Mass at St John's Anglican Church in Adaminaby.





LEFT: Archbishop Mark Coleridge celebrates Mass with the dwindling lake in the background.

MIDDLE LEFT: Mrs Marie Fletcher from Cooma chats with Archbishop Mark Coleridge after Mass.

MIDDLE RIGHT: Parishioners who attended Mass at St Mary's in Old Adaminaby, Mrs Doris Kennedy, Mrs Jane Kennedy and Mr Fred Fletcher, gathered for the 50-year celebration.

BOTTOM FAR LEFT: The group at the historic Mass with Archbishop Coleridge and parish priest Fr Joe Tran.

BOTTOM LEFT: All that's left at the site of St Mary's Church after the fire.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Archbishop Coleridge with baby Jack Robert Lucas.





College to share WYD experience

Students at Canberra's MacKillop Catholic College, in solidarity with their rural companions, have sponsored two young people from St Mary's parish in West Wyalong to attend World Youth Day.

The Student Representative Council held lunchtime stalls to raise funds for various charities and causes, and has also been active in preparing for World Youth Day.

MacKillop College, which celebrates its 10th birthday this year, will host the WYD Cross and Icon on Friday, 22 February, as it makes its way around Australia.

The gesture of reaching out to help West Wyalong youth fitted in with MacKillop's liturgical theme last year, "Lord, lead us to seek beyond our reach".

ABOVE: Two MacKillop Student Representative Council members Christopher Smith and Kirsty Purcell present West Wyalong parish priest Fr Troy Bobbin with a cheque for \$1200 towards the cost of WYD registrations. Acting principal Ms Rita Daniels looks on.

Middle-East peace: 'we must do more'

Former Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn Francis Carroll has added his voice to those of other church leaders calling on the Australian Government to take more action to support a just and lasting peace for Israel and Palestine.

He was a member of a delegation of nine Australian Church leaders, including Anglican Primate Archbishop Phillip Aspinall, who visited Jerusalem and the Holy Land.

They met and expressed friendship and support for Christians in Palestine and Israel, and met Jewish and Muslim faith leaders and representatives of the Israeli Government and the Palestinian Authority.

In a statement they asked Australian Churches to:

- * pray for a just and lasting peace for Jerusalem and the Holy Land;
- * encourage the Australian Government to take more action to support a just and lasting peace for Israel and Palestine;
- * hear the stories of the suffering and oppression, perseverance and hope of the people of the Holy Land;
- * sponsor aid and development



Archbishop Carroll ... visited Jerusalem and the Holy Land.

projects in the West Bank and Gaza;

- * support the status of Jerusalem as an open city for all faiths and peoples;
- * encourage Australian Christ-

ians to visit the Holy Land and foster relationships with Palestinian Christians;

* build stronger relationships with Jewish and Muslim communities in Australia.

* help Australians more fully understand and respond to the situation in Israel and Palestine.

The leaders said they had been "encouraged by international efforts toward a just peace renewed at Annapolis, and by the desire for negotiations between the Government of Israel and the Palestinian National Authority.

"We were distressed to hear Palestinians, both Christian and Muslim, relate the suffering and fear experienced daily by large numbers of their people. We saw and heard evidence of systematic harassment, physical and psychological oppression, widespread unemployment, poverty, and economic deprivation, resulting directly or indirectly from Israeli military occupation of the West Bank. Their suffering compels us to respond, and we assure Palestinians of our compassion and concern."



Parish honours the past

Former parishioners and priests of St Thomas More's parish, Campbell, are remembered in a special way on memorial walls that have been created in the refurbished Our Lady's grotto.

The wall was dedicated at a ceremony late last year.

The parish council and school community undertook the project to recognize the vision and hard work of Tony Zorzi, Tom McCormick and Bill Fearon who designed and built the grotto. They also wanted to recognize through the memorial walls the contribution of deceased priests and parishioners who worked to create and maintain the parish.

The foundation parish priest was the late Mgr John Hoare. For a considerable time, beginning with Bishop Aloysius Morgan, the parish was under the pastoral care of the military vicariate. A reduction in the number of chaplains available to serve the Australian Defence Forces has resulted in the pastoral care passing to the Dominicans from Blackfriars Priory at Watson.

LEFT: Standing at the grotto with the memorial walls in the back ground are (from left) Mrs Elizabeth Anderson and Mrs Anne Docker, both daughters of Mr Bill Fearon, Mr Tom McCormick and Mrs Marta Glasson, daughter of Tony and Santana Zorzi.

Schools clean up at ACT awards



Two Canberra primary schools have won ACT NoWaste Awards.

St Francis of Assisi Primary School, Calwell, won the bronze award in the overall category for work students are doing to reduce the waste they are sending to landfill.

Good Shepherd Primary School, Amaroo, won an award of commendation in the highly competitive education category. Since becoming a


WasteWise school, Good Shepherd has reduced its land-fill-bound waste by 50 per cent.

ABOVE: St Francis of Assisi Primary teachers Mr Eugene Lehmensich and Ms Kirsty McKay with year 6 students Ryan McShane and Linley Strain.

ABOVE RIGHT: Good Shepherd Primary teacher Ms Tracey Donnellan with the award.



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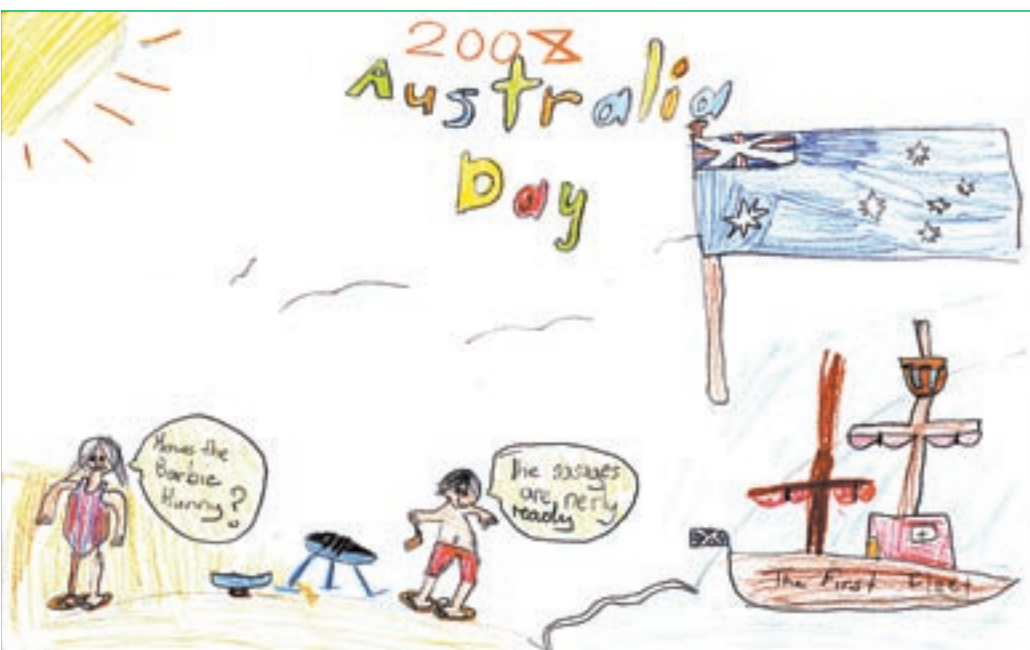


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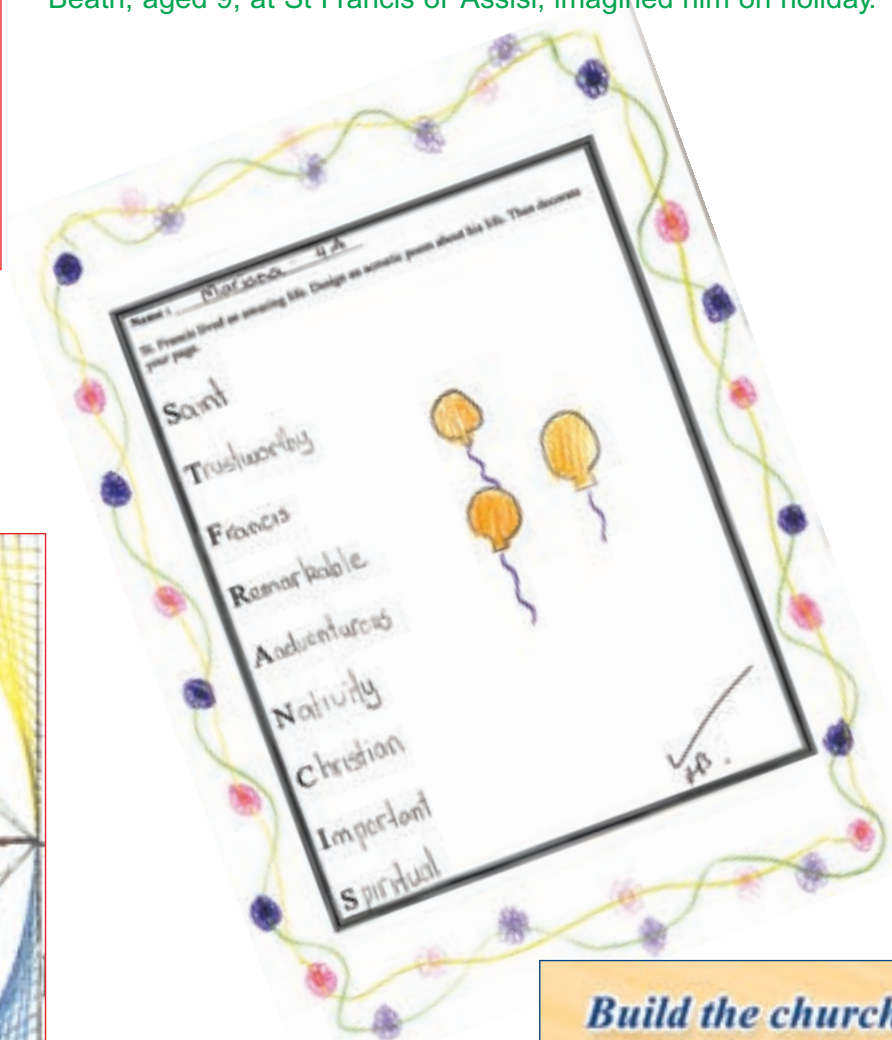
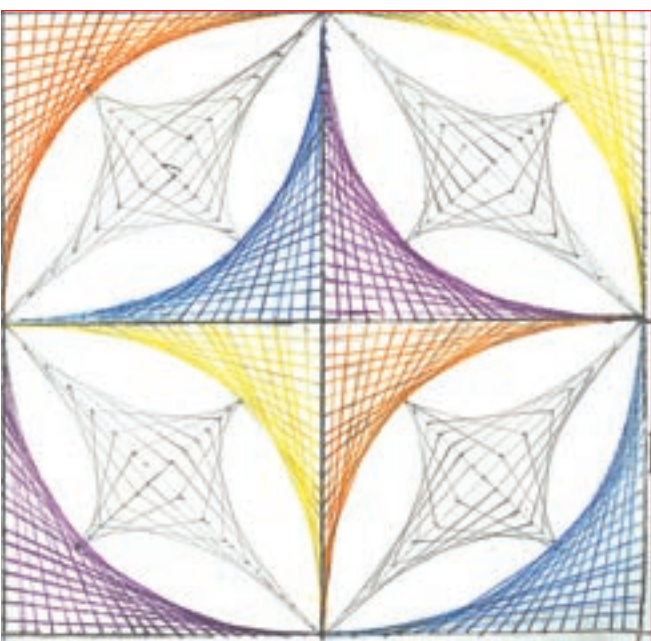
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ABOVE: Barbeque-time! That's how Kymberly Crockett, of 4 BN, at St Francis of Assisi Primary School, Calwell, sees it.
ABOVE RIGHT: Just what sort of daredevil is Fr Emil? Rille Beath, aged 9, at St Francis of Assisi, imagined him on holiday.

ABOVE: Daniel Jones, of 4BN, at St Francis of Assisi, had parish priest Fr John skydiving!

BELOW: Some lovely artwork from Josh Hickman, aged 11, from St Joseph's School, Eden.



ABOVE: An acrostic poem from Mariana Elmoudawar, of St Francis of Assisi.



ABOVE: Bradley Elliott, of St Francis of Assisi, takes a look at Australia Day.

Just joking!

Q: Why did tiger look down the toilet?

A: He was looking for Pooh!

Q: What's black and red and white all over?

A: A sunburnt zebra!

Q: What is a cats favourite song?

A: Three blind mice!

Q: Why can't a bike stand up?

A: Because it is two tired!

Q: When is a baby good at basketball?

A: When it dribbles!

Q: What type of animal needs oil?

A: A squeaky mouse!

From 11 year old Clare Smith who was in year 5 at Trinity Primary School, Harden.

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Daniel Strickland (left) and David Callaghan with Archbishop Mark Coleridge after their ordination as deacons.

Two MGLs on their way to priesthood

Two Missionaries of Gods Love, Daniel Strickland and David Callaghan, have been ordained deacons in St. Christopher's Cathedral by Archbishop Mark Coleridge.

Both of the newly ordained deacons come originally from Western Australia, Daniel from Albany and David from Perth.

Daniel will minister at St. Benedict's parish in Burwood, Melbourne, and David will minister at St. Benedict's parish, Narrabundah. The MGL have responsibility for both parishes.

In his homily Archbishop Coleridge emphasised that Daniel and David will need to lay their lives down, dying to themselves in imitation of Jesus, the good Shepherd. The celebration was enhanced by a dynamic worship ministry from Melbourne.

The two ordinands were presented to Archbishop Coleridge firstly by John and Jan Kennedy, leaders of the Disciples of Jesus Community, on behalf of the lay faithful. Then MGL moderator Fr Ken Barker testified to their readiness for ordination as a result of their formation, including studies at Catholic Theological College in Melbourne.

Showing us how to share our good fortune

Christmas is past and a new year has begun. They are times to celebrate our good fortune and to share gifts with people that we care for among our family and friends.

Over this period of the year, we are also reminded that many people are not as fortunate as we are and this reminder provides an excellent opportunity for everyone to donate money, clothes, blankets and food to help others in our community.

With rising interest rates and inflation, more and more people are falling on hard times and require our assistance to survive from day to day.

This is a national as well as a global problem. Poverty affects men, women and children of all ages; poverty doesn't discriminate, it affects people of all races and religions.

To aid people in need, we are very fortunate to have the assistance of Catholic charities and agencies such as the St Vincent de Paul Society and Caritas Australia.

We hear about these charities in the news and when they hold special appeals. Through these messages, charities attempt to make us more aware of those around us in need. The more the community helps others, the more it helps itself.

The internet is also helping the community to be more aware of the valuable work being conducted through websites set up by these organisations.

Catholic charity sites include: 1) The St Vincent de Paul Society (www.vinnies.org.au/home.cfm) is dedicated to spreading the message of "good works" within Australia.

There are 14 links in the right-hand menu bar including appeals, events, how you can help and services.

The events page contains information about national St Vincent de Paul events including Magic Moments at the Sydney Cricket Ground on 27 March and the Charles O'Neill book launch on 17 April.

The services page contains information about many important services offered by the society to help people in need including: budget counselling, drop-in centres, drug and alcohol support centres, family care and support, and women's and family refuges.

Clicking on the link next to each service will provide further details about the particular service and the locations of these services.

2) Associated with the St Vincent de Paul Society's website is a separate website for Vinnies Youth (www.vinnies.org.au/youth/home_national.cfm). This website is aimed at young people and young adults who wish to help others.

The links in the menu on the left side of the page provide information about events, formation and training, fundraising, programs and volunteering. The vol-

Living with the net



Paul Jenkins

unteering page contains information about becoming a Vinnies volunteer and what a person needs to do to become involved.

The fundraising page provides examples of activities young people can get involved in to help raise money for the St Vincent de Paul Society in their state or territory.

3) Caritas Australia (www.caritas.org.au/) is the Catholic agency for international aid and development. Its website contains six main links in a menu across the top of the page.

When you pass your cursor over these links, drop-down menus appear with more specific links regarding these topics.

The main links are about us, take action, what we do, be informed and donate.

Some examples of specific links within the drop-down menu for take action include help raise funds, World Youth Day, Project Compassion and Make Poverty History.

To find out more about these Catholic charities and their mission of service, click on their About Us pages. Gifts and donations are gratefully accepted at any time of the year.

Till next month, happy surfing.

FACTS ON FUNERALS

Experiences of grief

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

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

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

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

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

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

For further information please call 6297 1052.



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Reputed to be the most popular Catholic website on the internet. Catholic.net is based in Connecticut, USA, and is the successor of the pioneering Catholic Information Center on the Internet (CICI) which commenced in 1995. It was described at the time by Pope John Paul II as "very, very great". The site's goal is to provide Catholics with information that builds a "Christ-like character". (Courtesy Church Resources)

Latin Mass choir's program

The February program for St Caecilia's Choir is:

Saturday, 2 February: Purification of the BVM (Candlemas): Sung Mass 9am.

Sunday, 3 February, Quinquagesima Sunday, Ordinary: Missa Cum Jubilo (Chant Mass) Motet: Ave Verum (Wilton), Hymn: Processional: Sing All Creation, Recessional: Guard And Guide Me Great Redeemer.

Wednesday, 6 February: Ash Wednesday: Sung Mass 7pm.

Sunday, 10 February, 1st Sunday of Lent: Propers of the Day, Ordinary: Mass 17 for Lent and Advent, (Chant Mass), Hymns Processional: Attende Domine, Recessional: Forty Days and Forty Nights.

Sunday, 17 February, 2nd Sunday of Lent: Propers of the day, Ordinary: Mass 17 for Lent and Advent (Chant Mass), Hymns: Processional: Praise to the Lord, Recessional: Forty Days.

Sunday, 24 February, 3rd Sunday of Lent: Propers of the Day, Ordinary: Mass 17 for Lent and Advent (Chant Mass) Motet: Ave Verum (Wilton), Hymn: Processional: All People That On Earth do Dwell, Recessional: Attende Domine.

The choir sings at the Traditional Latin Mass at Ss Peter's and Paul's Church, Garran at 11.30am on Sundays and at 7pm on feast days. Inquiries: Maria Henry, telephone 62496278 (h), e-mail mariahenry@bigpond.com

The March issue of Catholic Voice will be published on the second weekend of the month - a week later than usual - to allow for extended coverage of the journey of the WYD Cross and Icon.

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What if...?

What if we all were more consistent? What if we all had wider loyalties? What if we were slower to dismiss others' ideas? What if we took seriously the biblical idea that God's revelation comes mostly in what is strange and foreign to us?

What if we all took to heart the idea that a little learning is a dangerous thing, that a little ideology is more dangerous still, and that other peoples' passion for truth might be just as real as our own? What if we all remembered that a heresy is a truth nine-tenth spoken?

What if the pious were to become more liberal and the liberals were to become more pious? What if those who are involved in prayer groups were to become equally as involved within social action?

What if those with a passion for social action were to become equally as obsessed with private prayer and private morality? What if the pious and the liberal were to become more understanding of each other?

What if liberals were to become as known for their humility, respect of others, and personal prudence as they are known for their social concern? What if conservatives were to define family values widely enough to include the welfare of the poor and of all races? What if

Evangelicals were to get serious about justice and justice groups were to get serious about Jesus?

What if liberals were to draw more prudent boundaries even as they challenge others beyond rigidity? What if conservatives were suddenly to push for a greater risk and openness even as they defend the hard-won wisdom of tradition? What if both liberals and conservatives were able to do as Jesus did and bring out from their store the old as well as the new?

What if pro-life groups were also to become as known for their defence of the poor, ethnic minorities, the ecology, and the imprisoned? What if pro-choice groups were to champion, in the name of women, the most defenceless of all groups in the world, the unborn? What if both groups were to become renowned for their gentleness, their respect of others, and their willingness to sit down and calmly discuss anything? What if these two groups began to pray together?

What if both women and men were to adopt an attitude of sympathy towards each other, recognizing as Virginia Woolf says, that "life, for both of us, is arduous, difficult, and a perpetual struggle"? What if both men and women were more gentle, less cynical?

What if the Church began to challenge people to enjoy sex even as it teaches non-negotiable the value of chastity? What if secular culture were to preach the value of chastity even as it challenges towards liberation from sexual

repression? What if both the Church and the world recognized the importance of what the other is saying regarding sexuality?

What if all the Christian churches would begin to focus on the things we share in common (a common God, a common Christ, a common scripture, a common creed, many fundamental dogmas, 2000 years of mostly-shared history) instead of the things that separate us? What if all churches would focus as much on who is living in charity, joy, peace, patience, goodness, long-suffering, fidelity, gentleness, and chastity, as on who is dogmatically right?

What if all the people on spiritual quests who are agnostic about their churches were able to understand the importance of involvement in a concrete historical community? What if we all understood more clearly that only obedience and genuflection can save us from being slaves to the pride and wounds of our own egos? What if the churches were to become as known for their challenge to be free-thinking as they are for their challenge to obedience? What if both the churches and the emerging non-ecclesial spiritualities were to be more self-effacing, less righteous, less judgmental?

What if theologians were to become as renowned for their children's stories as they are for their attention to hermeneutics? What

Ron Rolheiser

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser, theologian, teacher, and award-winning author, is President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas. He can be contacted through his website www.ronrolheiser.com



scriptural fundamentalists were to read the scriptural commentaries of Raymond Brown? What if liturgists were appreciated as much for their practical judgment as they are for their sense of the tradition and aesthetics? What if those who planned the liturgies in your parish understood basic human boredom and tiredness?

What if religious writers were genuinely as interested in bringing God's consolation and challenge to the world as they are in their own reputations? What if all columnists and editorial writers simply forgot about the labels of liberal and conservative for a while and wrote up things as they appear on a given day?

What if we were all able to stretch our hearts in new ways to be open to a God and a truth that is forever beyond us? What if we all took more seriously the fact that God is ineffable and all of our language about God is, in se, inadequate?

Certainly, we would all be more compassionate - and considerably easier to live with!



It's here, 2008! The year World Youth Day comes to our shores and we seek to welcome many from all over the world: that together, we may celebrate our faith and energise the next generation in the faith and mission of Christ.

It is a faith and mission where many continue to be called to serve and respond despite the risks. During 2007, 21 missionaries lost their lives serving others, including 15 priests, 3 deacons, 1 sister, 1 brother and a seminarian. Sr Anne Thole of Swaziland was only 35 when she died saving patients from a burning hospice in South Africa.

However, their work is vital with the training of others to undertake such work still needing our support and generosity.

The formation of students for the priesthood, religious life or as catechists within such communities draws essential support from funds raised each year through Catholic Mission's St Peter Apostle Appeal and our Seminarian Supporters Program. This Program enables people or groups to assist a seminarian for 3 years by committing to give \$1500 annually to support and share in their journey.

To support this Appeal or Program, or to find out more about our work, call us on 6163 4321.

God bless,
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Josephites lose their oldest Sister

One of the Archdiocese's oldest sisters Sr M Fabian RSJ has died at the age of 105. Born at Temora on 25 July, 1902, she died peacefully at St Joseph's Convent, North Goulburn, on 7 December.

She will be remembered for her grace and gentleness, her faith and prayerfulness, and her attitude of service and thanksgiving.

She had great confidence in a loving God who would raise her up to the eternal joys of heaven.

She was the daughter of John Joseph and Emma Mary (nee Breust) and is pre-

deceased by her siblings Ronald, Angus, John, Charles, Margaret, Alice, Jean, Elsie and Marjorie.

Sr M Fabian entered the convent of the Sisters of St Joseph (Goulburn) on 15 August, 1931.

Her first profession of vows occurred on 5 July, 1934 and final profession on 7 July, 1939.

As a primary school teacher, she served across the country regions of the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn and the Wagga Wagga Diocese at Leeton, Tumbarumba, Batemans Bay, Temora,

Batlow, Barmedman and Holbrook. She had a great love for children and an interest in their well-being, qualities which remained with her up to her death.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in Our Lady of Dolours chapel at St Joseph's Convent, North Goulburn, on 11 December. Principal celebrant was Goulburn parish priest Fr Tony Percy, with Fr Varghese Vavolil, Temora parish priest Fr Phil Harding and Fr Peter Ryan CSsR concelebrating.



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Pope reflects on lives of Apostles

The Apostles. Pope Benedict XVI. Our Sunday Visitor Publishing Division, 2007, 174pp, rrp \$ 24. 95. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.

At his general audiences from March 2006 until February 2007, Pope Benedict XVI gave a series of talks on the Apostles and the origins of the Church.

"After Mary", he said, [who is] "a pure reflection of the light of Christ, it is from the Apostles, through their word and witness, that we receive the truth of Christ". These talks have now been edited into a book.

The Pope prefaces his reflections with some clear teaching on the origins of the Church.

He quotes a past slogan "Jesus yes, Church no" and

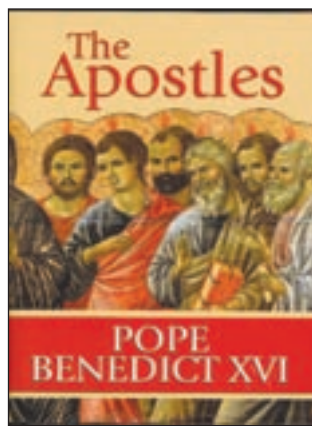
points out that this is totally incompatible with the intention of Christ.

Christ is always contemporary with us and with the Church built on the foundation of, and alive in the succession of, the Apostles, he says.

Benedict gives a marvelous definition of apostolic tradition.

"Tradition," he says, "is the river of new life that flows from the origins, from Christ down to us, and makes us participate in God's history with humanity".

Having set the scene the



Pope concentrates on one apostle at a time devoting several sessions to Paul, the "Thirteenth" Apostle.

Pope Benedict is clearly a skilled teacher.

He takes the fragments we know about the Apostles from Scripture and from other writers of the time to draw out the qualities of each one. He then finishes his reflection with a suggestion.

For example he says, "St Bartholomew stands before us to tell us that attachment to Jesus can also be lived and witnessed to without per-

forming sensational deeds."

The Pope also features apostolic co-workers of the Apostles whom he traces through Acts and the Letters of the New Testament.

He sketches a portrait of Pricilla and Aquila (a married couple) as a model of the domestic Church.

His last talk concerns the elusive women of Scripture. The Pope then comments on the letter of Pope John Paul II "Mulieris Dignitatem" and praises its acknowledgement of, and thanks for, the Spirit-given charisms of women throughout history.

This little volume brings together the information we have about the Apostles in compact and accessible form. It would benefit student and preacher alike.

A good read for Lent

Brokenness and Blessing. Towards a Biblical Spirituality. Frances M Young. Darton, Longman & Todd, 2007. pb 144pp, rrp \$34.95. Reviewer: Margaret Ryan.

What have you got when an ordained woman minister (Emeritus Professor at the University of Birmingham and Honorary Fellow of Sarum College), author of books on patristics, one who has an adult son with life-long intellectual disabilities and living in a L'Arche community, a husband with prostate cancer and who accompanied her mother during her massive stroke, writes about biblical spirituality? Perhaps not a best seller, but certainly an author comfortably straddling the academic and domestic worlds.

Frances Young delivered the Sarum Theological Lectures in 2004 and these five chapters (adapted for a wider audience) with an introduction and conclusion form the book. Young aimed to address the gap between the work of biblical scholars and church-attenders, and address the tensions around scripture existing between the denominations, seeking a renewal of biblical meaning and through learning from the early Church fathers and mothers.

In teasing out the biblical meaning, Young reflected on current global issues and personal experiences. She explored the topics of the desert experience, Jacob's wrestling match, the Jesus of history and his earthiness, the theology of poverty and disability, Christianity as a love poem and marriage.

Young writes seriously but simply and relevantly. Incidental topics cover the Fall and Redemption, discipleship, kenosis, ecumenism, transformation, the welcoming of difference...

She weaves in hymns and stories, the writing of ancients and contemporaries. The book contains a readable glossary, endnotes, a bibliography and an index.

Definitely recommended. It could be a good read for Lent.



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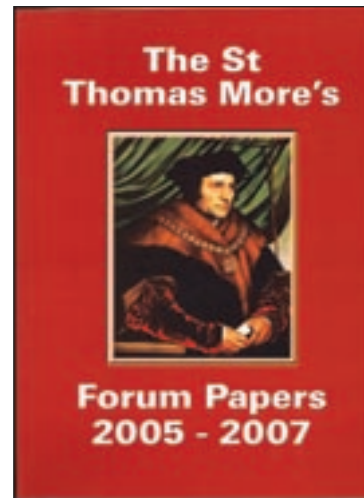
Forum's food for thought

The thoughts of individuals ranging from Prime Minister Kevin Rudd to wine-maker Tim Kirk, Federal Police Commissioner Mick Keelty to Cardinal George Pell are contained in a book launched in Canberra late last year.

The St Thomas More's Forum Papers 2005-2007 was launched by Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia Murray Gleeson.

The forum held at St Thomas More's parish hall, Campbell, has attracted speakers from the fields of politics, the media, business, public service, the universities and the clergy to debate issues in the public square with a Catholic and Christian perspective.

At the book launch, Jesuit provincial and president of Catholic Religious Australia Fr Mark Raper SJ was named as the speaker for this year's fourth annual St Thomas More's Lecture. Other forthcoming speakers will include Vice-Chancellor of Australia Catholic University Prof Greg Craven and High Court Justice Susan Crennan.



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Year in life of Church

DVDs

Discover the Church Year: A Year with the Lord, Film 2. (15 min, ages 8 - 13).

In this Australian-produced program, student narrators outline the various events of the Church year, as depicted in the life of Jesus. Effective graphical rings are used to point out the cycle of the Church year, and the narrator explains each phase, eg. Advent, Christmas, Ordinary Time etc.

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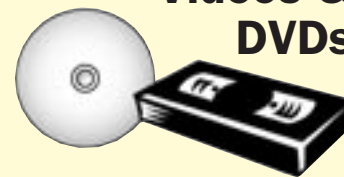
Gospels for Lent Cycle A (10-15 min, ages 10-adult)

A series of six videos that present the Gospel stories used during Lent. Titles: (1) The Transfiguration; (2) The Temptation; (3) The Betrayal; (4) The Man Born Blind; (5) The Raising of Lazarus (6) The Woman at the Well

Becoming Catholic : An Adult's Faith Journey. (Catholic Update series, 33 min, ages 16-adult).

This video explores the Catholic Church's Rite of

Videos & DVDs



Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA, by reflecting on the personal faith experiences of individuals. The program contains four segments: 1. Story segment; 2. Witness segment; 3. Teaching segment; and 4. Music video reflection.

This is the Night : A Parish Welcomes New Catholics (Adults)

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

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

Introduced by Fr Anthony Scannell, this video is intended as a total Lenten journey for the family. The journey is covered in examples of scripture, drama, story and music. The program is divided into seven parts or themes which can be watched during the weeks of Lent.

Lenten Resources

The CEO Library holds a good collection of books, DVDs, videos, and music CDs suitable for all ages for reflection and study during Lent. All parishioners may borrow resources from the Catholic Education Office Library for a small annual membership fee. The Library holds an extensive collection of VHS videos, DVDs, sound recordings and books for all ages.

The Catholic Education Office Resource Library is located at the Rheinberger Centre, Corner of Weston and Loch Streets, Yarralumla.

Gangster epic plots a pathway to justice

American Gangster will probably go straight into the canon of outstanding gangster films.

It is not mythmaking like Coppola's Godfather trilogy. It is not operatic and rhetorical like the films of Martin Scorsese. Rather, it is a matter-of-fact recounting of the career of Frank Lucas from 1968 to 1975 and the work of a special anti-drugs squad led by Richie Roberts.

It tells its story while vividly recreating the period and using the New York locations effectively. At moments it is almost documentary-like. However, piece by piece, it builds up two portraits, two ways of life, two codes of ethics moving towards an action climax and a justice epilogue.

The screenplay was written by Steven Zaillian and other writers. Zaillian made a great impact with his ability to fashion a screenplay for Schindler's List and then for Gangs of New York (geared to Scorsese's style). Direction is by Ridley Scott, who capitalizes on his talent for quick storytelling from his hundreds of commercials.

For almost 30 years, Scott has been making popular entertainment but has made classics of science-fiction (Alien), futuristic fables (Blade Runner), feminism (Thelma and Louise), costume epics (Gladiator).

American Gangster.

Starring Denzel Washington, Russell Crowe and Chiwetel Ejiofor. Directed by Ridley Scott. MA 15+ (strong violence, coarse language, strong drug use). 156 mins. Reviewer: Fr Peter Malone MSC*.

Frank Lucas, from North Carolina, had a deprived childhood and then, in New York became the chauffeur and collector for crime boss, Bumpy Johnson. When Johnson died in 1968, Lucas took charge, drawing on his experience and creating a crime empire, an African American empire employing his family, which the Italians and the authorities could not readily believe or accept.

With Denzel Washington as Frank Lucas, the character has charm, has learnt urbane ways and has begun to move in New York society. But episodes leave no doubt he could be ruthless.

By going to market sources in South East Asia and bribing the military to bring the purest of heroin to the US, he undercut his rivals with quality drugs. He received some protection from the Mafia but

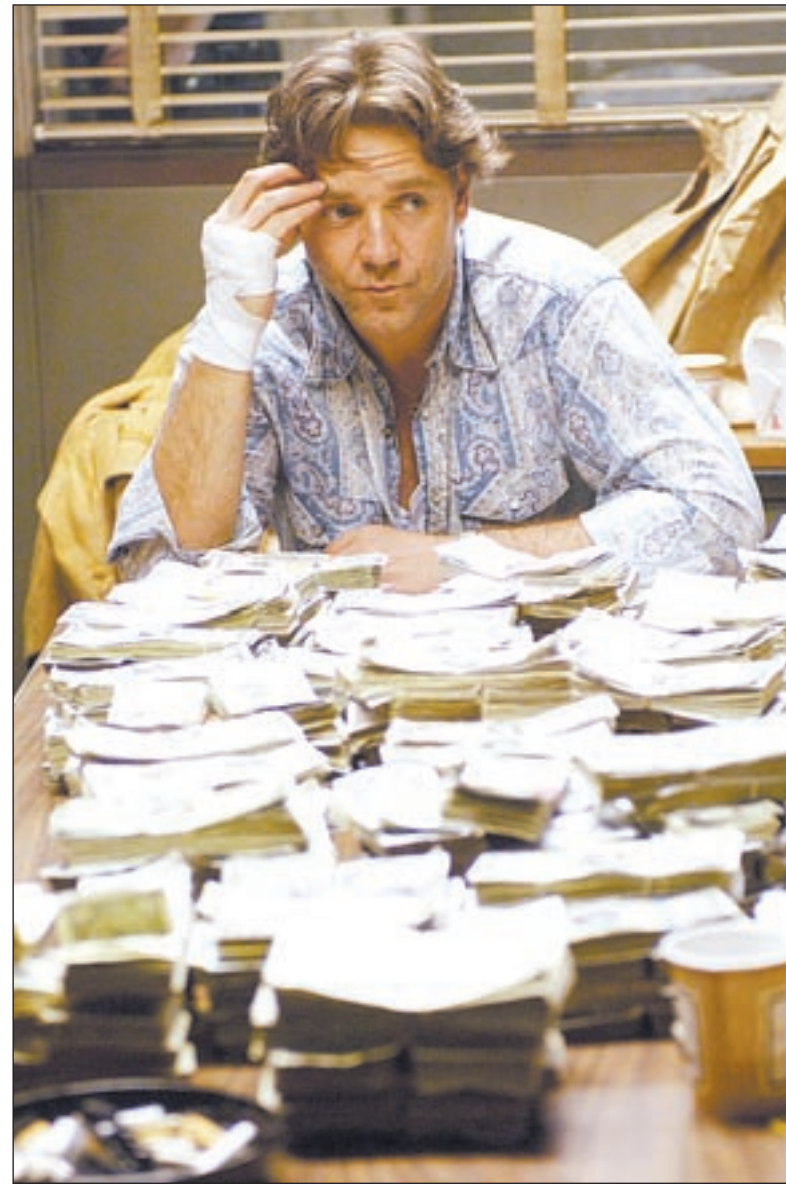
was also pursued by corrupt police for their cut of the profits.

With Russell Crowe as Richie Roberts, the detective whose private life could be a shambles was, nevertheless, incorruptible and persevering with his squad and finally finding a way to bring Lucas down. Much of the quite long film (over two and a half hours) is painstaking in its delineation of characters, the steps Lucas took to consolidate his work, as well as the careful work of Roberts.

A gallery of top character actors fill out the supporting roles. These include Chiwetel Ejiofor as Huey Lucas, Ruby Dee as Mrs Lucas, Josh Brolin as a corrupt detective, Armand Assante as the Mafia protector, Ted Levine as the officer in charge, Joe Morton as Lucas's counselor.

Not as violent or verbally assaulting as Scorsese's films like Goodfellas or The Departed, it does have its violent moments, but these are comparatively brief.

* 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.



Russell Crowe as outcast cop Richie Roberts in the success story of a cult hero from the streets of 1970s Harlem, American Gangster. David Lee/Universal Pictures.

Cherished novel finds its home in a film of real emotion

This is a very moving film which can be recommended. The novel, The Kite Runner, by Khaled Hosseini, topped the best seller lists for a long time and developed a devoted following.

As with most film adaptations, readers who cherish the novel express their disappointment at what has been omitted or at the different emphases on characters.

Listening to some of the readers speak about their disappointments, I found that what they said they did not find in the film was actually what I experienced. Practically all of what they valued had been communicated to me as a film viewer. Which means that many films do convey the emotional experience of the novel and the impact of characters - but differently.

A page of text might be conveyed in only a few moments through a richly designed set, costumes and a facial gesture. But the reader misses the experience of reading the text and dwelling on it and so does not always perceive what can be conveyed and communicated in even some seconds of moving images and sound.

The Kite Runner offers glimpses of Afghanistan from the 1970s, times of greater peace and prosperity for many despite the Communist rumblings, through the 1980s and the Russian invasion to the 1990s and the rule of the Taliban. The film concludes in the year 2000.

For most of us who have general impressions of and ideas about

Afghanistan which have now been overshadowed by the conflict since 2001, the film could be something of an eye-opener.

The central character is a young lad from a well-to-do family, Amir, who idolises his father whom, he thinks, does not think highly of him. His best friend is a servant, Hassan, the son of the manager of the household. Together, along with the children of Kabul, they excel in flying kites (a great symbol of freedom and exhilaration) and are determined to win the city competition as the boy's father had done years earlier. The servant boy is a devoted friend, loyal, loving. Hassan becomes the victim of a crisis which will haunt Amir and torment him in regret for the way in which he acted.

The family escapes the Russians by fleeing with great danger to Pakistan and thence to the United States. The sequence where Amir's father stands on principle against the Russian soldier wanting to exploit the women is impressive.

The central part of the film portrays the migrant experience in America in the 1980s and 1990s, education, work, becoming acclimatized, the brashness of the younger generation and the hardships of the older generation who have had to



The Kite Runner.

Starring Homayan Ershadi, Shaun Toub and Khalid Abdalla. Directed by Marc Forster. M (moderate themes and violence, infrequent moderate coarse language). 128 mins. Reviewer: Fr Peter Malone MSC.

assume a completely different way of life and work in more menial circumstances than they did at home. The experience is both an American welcome and a humiliation.

The third part of the film shows the now adult, Amir, returning in secret to Afghanistan to seek out Hassan's son and rescue him. We are amazed and appalled to see the havoc the Taliban have wrought on Kabul, on society and on people's rights and security. There is a personal challenge for Amir which serves as a kind of atonement for what he did and did not do as a spiteful child. And kite-flying is again the symbol of freedom and, now, of hope.

The performances, especially of the young Hassan who is memorable and Homayan Ershadi who is very moving as the father, are fine and convincing. So, too, are the locations.

Direction is by Marc Forster, the Swiss who is slated to direct the next James Bond film. The Kite Runner is a film he can be proud of.

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Coming Events



CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME - Six weekly sessions. Begins 7.30pm, Tuesday, 12 February, at St Vincent de Paul Parish Centre, Bindel Street, Aranda. Inquiries: Telephone 6251 3030, stv.aranda@cg.catholic.org.au

CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME - St Anthony's Parish, 108 Sternberg Crescent, Wanniaassa, each Monday 7 April to 12 May, 7.30pm-9pm. Inquiries: Parish Office, telephone 6231 7310, e-mail sta.wanniaassa@cg.catholic.org.au, website <http://grapevine.com.au/~stanthonys/>

CENTENARY MASS - St Joseph's Girls Orphanage centenary Mass celebrated by Archbishop Francis Carroll, St Joseph's House of Prayer, 153 Taralga Road, Goulburn, 11am, Sunday, 7 August. Former children of St Joseph's and families invited to reunion picnic. 12.30pm. Inquiries Margaret Brown, telephone 6262 9290

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER - Lenten retreat at St Benedict's Parish In-Service Centre, Narrabundah, with Carmelite Fr Greg Burke OCD. Two Saturdays, 16 February and 15 March, 10.30am-4pm. Register: Parish office, telephone 6295 7879, 9am-1pm Tuesday to Friday; e-mail stbenedict@iimetro.com.au

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

CURSILLO - Ecumenical Ultreya, St Paul's, Manuka. Saturday 9 February, 10 for 10.30am to about 2pm. Ultreyas: Southside - Corpus Christi Parish Centre, Gowrie, 8pm, Tuesday, 26 February. Northside - Marian Hall (St Matthew's Church, Page), 8pm, Thursday, 28 February. GET HOOKED ON GOD -

Catholic Adult Faith Formation course, begins 1 March; 4 units over 10 months. Led by catholicLIFE staff and specialist theologians. Cost \$420. Closing date 20 February. Inquiries, registration: Margaret Ryan, telephone 6163 4302, e-mail margaret.ryan@cg.catholic.org.au

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER - Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend for married couples, 28-30 March, Merroo Christian Centre, Kurrajong, NSW. Bookings, inquiries: Telephone 9589 4523 or 4283 3435, www.wmme.org.au

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

MERCY CELEBRATION - 150 years celebration of arrival in Goulburn of Sisters of Mercy. Weekend 24, 25 October, 2009. Inquiries: Telephone 4821 3304.

ST PATRICK'S DAY - Annual Ecumenical Service, noon, Monday, 17 March, Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, Blackall Street, Barton. Inquiries: Angela Devlin, telephone 6231 9104, e-mail: angela1@homemail.com.au

WYD ADORATION VIGIL - Pray for World Youth Day in the presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament every first Saturday of month. Next vigil Saturday, 1 March, St Peter Chanel's, Weston St, Yarralumla. Exposition following the 6pm Saturday Vigil Mass, then adoration all night to 6am Sunday. Inquiries: Susanna Taylor, telephone 0419 902 293 or www.wyd-incanberra.org.

Written entries for March to: Catholic Voice, GPO Box 3089, Canberra ACT 2601, e-mail ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au by Friday, 15 February.

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Prayer

O MOST beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruit of the vine, splendorous of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this my necessity. O Star of the Sea, help me and show me 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 succour me in my necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. O show me here you are my mother. 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). Thank you for your mercy towards me and mine. Amen. P M.

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

ST JUDE, thank you for answering my prayers. M D.

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PROPERTIES

MOVING AHEAD WITH YOU

with Cross and Icon

● From Page 2.

Thursday 21 February

Bega - St Patrick's Parish (Carp Street)
9.30am - Procession from ANZAC Gates to St Patrick's Church
10.30am - Liturgy and time for veneration at St Patrick's
11.30am - Close

Pambula - Lumen Christi College (388 Pambula Beach Road)
12.30pm - Welcome to the Cross and Icon
1pm - Cross and Icon transported to Jigamy Farm, with Message Stick travelling by Dragon Boat (Princes Highway)
1.30pm - Indigenous Ceremony at Jigamy Farm
5pm - Close

Eden - Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish (Calle Calle Street)
6pm - Procession from corner of Imlay and Bass Streets to Our Lady Star of the Sea Church
7pm - Ceremony focussing on Mary MacKillop
7.45pm - BBQ; Reconciliation available and tours of MacKillop Museum
9.30pm - Close

Friday 22 February

Bombala/Delegate - St Mary's Parish (Queen Street)
7am - Ecumenical prayer service and breakfast
7.45am - Departs

Cooma - St Patrick's Parish
9am - Ecumenical Liturgy
10.30am - Close

Marist College Canberra (Marr Street)
12 noon - School liturgy
1.30pm - Close

MacKillop College (Ellerston Ave)
2pm - School Liturgy
3pm - Procession to Sacred Heart Church, Calwell
4pm - Liturgy and Reconciliation Ceremony at Sacred Heart Church.
5.15pm - Close

Tuggeranong Town Park (Anketell Street)
6pm - Procession to Tuggeranong Town Park via Anketell Street
7pm - Concert and Liturgy, including Reconciliation
10pm - Close
This is a joint event of all Southern Canberra Parishes

Wanniassa - St Anthony's Parish (Sternberg Crescent)
10.30pm - All night vigil
4am - Close
This is a joint event with St Thomas the Apostle Parish, Kambah.

Saturday 23 February

Mt Stromlo - St John Vianney's Parish
6am - Procession to summit of Mt Stromlo
7am - Ecumenical Prayer Service in burnt out observatory
8am - Close
This event is being organised with the cooperation of the ANU Catholic Chaplaincy. This event will commemorate the Canberra firestorm.
Waramanga - St John Vianney's Parish (87 Namatjira Drive)
8am - Breakfast and animation

10.30am - Close
This event is being run in conjunction with the Neo-Catechumenal Way

AIS - St Matthew's Parish Page (Synthetic Field, Leverrier Cres)
12 noon - Mass and Handover from Southern Canberra Parishes
1pm - Veneration (and BBQ)
3pm - Beginning of procession to Calvary Hospital
This is a joint event of all North Canberra Parishes

Kaleen - St Michael's Parish (2 Tyrrell Circuit)
4.30pm - Reception of Cross and Icon and veneration
6pm - Mass
7pm - Close
This is a joint event with St Monica's Parish, Evatt

Gungahlin - Holy Spirit Parish
7.30pm - Cross and Icon arrive with performance by primary school choirs (Good Shepherd Primary School, Burdekin Street)
8pm - Cross and Icon to be moved into Church for veneration (multi-cultural food stalls operating outside)
9.30pm - Close

Kippax - St John the Apostle Parish (Cnr Chave & Blackham Streets)
10.30pm - All night vigil in Church
8.30am - Close

Sunday 24 February



Cathedral - St Christopher's (55 Franklin Street)
9.30am - Mass
10.30am - Procession to Reconciliation Place via Telopea Park West, Bowen Drive and Foreshore cycle path

Reconciliation Place (Parkes Place)
12 noon - Reconciliation Ceremony
1pm - Close
1.30pm - Cross and Icon taken over lake on Southern Cross Boat

Australian War Memorial (Treloar Cres)
2.30pm - Procession to War Memorial along ANZAC Parade
3pm - Remembrance Service
4.15pm - Close

Narrabundah - St Benedict's Parish (cnr Jerrabomberra Ave and Tallara Pkwy)
5.30pm - Youth Festival
7pm - Charismatic Mass
10pm - Close



Monday 25 February

St Clare's College and St Edmund's College (Canberra Ave)
8.30am - St Edmund's
9.55am - Close of St Edmund's event
10.05am - St Clare's
11am - Close of St Clare's event

Daramalan College (Cowper Street, Dickson)
11.30am - School liturgy
12.15pm - Close

Merici College (Wise Street, Braddon)
12.45pm - School Mass
1.30pm - Close

St Francis Xavier College (Lyttleton Cres, Florey)
2pm - School liturgy
3.30pm - Close

Queanbeyan - St Gregory's Parish (47 Lowe Steet)
5.30pm - Outdoor Liturgy followed by Ecumenical event and all night vigil
8am - Close

Tuesday 26 February

Canberra
11am - Service at ACT Legislative Assembly.
11.30am - Procession to Garema Place
11.45am - Prayer with Cross and Icon in Garema Place
2pm - Close

Jindabyne - St Columbkille's Church (2 Kosciusko Rd)
6pm - Prayer service
10pm - Close

Wednesday 27 February

Mt Kosciusko
11.30am - Service at Rawsons Pass (Cross and Icon to be transported from Thredbo to Rawsons in NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service vehicle)
11.45am - Procession to summit of Mt Kosciusko
12.30pm - Handover ceremony to Diocese of Wagga Wagga
1pm - Veneration
2pm - Close



Arrival in our Archdiocese

1 From Front Page.

"People are going to see their community in a way they've never seen it before. They're going to be very surprised and feel very welcomed as well."

Features of the journey will include a procession of utes in rural Stockinbingal, an indigenous ceremony in Pambula, an ecumenical prayer service at Parliament House and the handover on the summit of Mt Kosciusko.

Sacred Heart Central School teacher Miss Camille Bayada is "one of many" people from Cootamundra parish helping to coordinate the visit to their area. A procession of utes will begin in Stockinbingal and end in Cootamundra where a prayer service will be held. "The procession of utes is supposed to be a way of representing our farming community who has been doing it pretty tough for a very long time," she said.

"We have a beautiful community, comprised of many wonderful people. As in any place, the country is not always an easy place to live, as we see tragedies and hard times too often. We see the journey of the cross and icon and World Youth Day as a way to promote hope, reconciliation and healing in our community."

St Anne's school teacher Mr David Keenan is coordinating the program in Temora parish. "The cross will be welcomed out at Lake Centenary and then have a procession into Temora town," he said. "As it processes in through the Temora main street, aircraft from Temora Aviation Museum will fly over."

Mr Keenan encourages people of all ages in Temora to get involved. "I think everyone is pretty excited that a small town like us is getting the cross and icon. This isn't just something for the cities."

Waramanga parish want people to get up early on Saturday, 23 February, for a 6am procession to the summit of Mt Stromlo in Canberra. An ecumenical prayer service will take place in a burnt out observatory dome on Mt Stromlo to commemorate the 2003 bushfires and recognise the effect they still have on the lives of many Canberrans.

St Bernard's Primary School religious education coordinator Mr Paul Hamer is looking forward to the visit to Batemans Bay. Following a school and parish liturgy, a "surfing" of the cross will take place, resembling something you might see at a rock concert. "This is where the cross will be moved over the top of the students' hands," he said. "Hopefully, it might stir up interest in some of the young people."

With WYD getting closer, Mr Hamer said students were becoming increasingly involved in fundraising by collecting old mobile phones. "They're hoping to raise enough money to subsidise their own costs as well as financially support someone from overseas. By doing this we want to inspire the children to think about social justice as well as environmental issues"

Lumen Christi College teacher Mr Leif Bergersen said the visit to Pambula would begin with a 2.5km procession by students. A ceremony will take place at Jigamy Farm, a sacred meeting place for local indigenous people. "We wanted to capture the diversity of the area and incorporate the natural scenery and this process will help the kids feel like they're part of the journey," he said.

What the journey is about

'... giving people a chance to encounter Christ in the world'

By Jess Pollard

It was my privilege to travel with the WYD Cross and Icon for five and a half months for the first half of their epic journey around Australia. I was a youth ministry volunteer on the travelling team.

The team was made up of people from all over Australia and was led by Fr Chris Ryan MGL from Narrabundah parish. We travelled more than 30,000km, attended over 500 events and met thousands and thousands of people.

All in all it was an amazing time and one which has greatly encouraged me in my journey as a young Catholic.

I found that I was continually surprised and touched by the way the Cross and Icon were impacting upon communities. I observed people from all walks of life enthusiastically engaging with the Cross and Icon.

One of my favourite memories is from Tully in North Queensland. The Cross and Icon were being processed through the main street by students from the state high school and suddenly two guys who were working in the IGA store ran out onto the street and asked if they could carry the Cross.

They were warmly welcomed by the students and they continued all the way to the end of the procession.

As they abandoned their post at IGA I was reminded of the apostles leaving their fishing nets behind. I guess I shouldn't have been surprised by moments such as these - with the WYD theme "receive the power of the Holy Spirit" constantly ringing in my ears.

Another of my favourite memories is from the Central Coast of NSW. We were in Terrigal very early one morning in July and the young people from the community had decided to take the Cross and Icon to the Skillion.

It is an unusual land formation, a sharp incline and cliff which sticks out of the coastline.

For the Terrigal community the Skillion is a sad place; many young people have taken their lives there and it has been the site of violence and suffering.

As the Cross stood at the top of the Skillion we prayed for the young people who had ended their lives there and for all those who had lost hope around the world. We prayed for new life and hope to spring from the Cross and Icon's visit to that place.

Something that immediately strikes people when they see the WYD Cross is that it is an empty cross - it is not a crucifix, it does not have the body of Jesus upon it.

For this reason the Cross speaks loudly of the new hope that is found in the new life of Jesus. The empty Cross also symbolises freedom and victory. Jesus went to the very extremes of our human existence and he conquered it. He reaches out to us with an embrace that knows what suffering is.

The morning on the Skillion was extremely moving. Many men were brought to tears as the prayers were prayed with sincerity and strength. As people venerated the Cross and prayed in front of the Icon, I began to really understand what the journey is all about; giving people a chance to encounter Christ in the world.



Jess Pollard ... travelling with the cross.

John Paul II had amazing wisdom when he instructed the youth gathered in Rome in 1984 "to carry the Cross in the world as a symbol of Christ's love for humanity."

I encourage you to play your part in the journey of the Cross and Icon when it arrives in our Archdiocese.

A symbol of Christ's love for us

The 3.8 metre high wooden cross was built and placed as a symbol of the Catholic faith, near the main altar in St Peter's Basilica during the Holy Year of 1983.

At the end of the year, Pope John Paul gave this cross as a symbol of Christ's love for humanity.

"My dear young people, at the conclusion of the Holy Year, I entrust to you the sign of this Jubilee Year: the Cross of Christ! Carry it throughout the world as a symbol of Christ's love for humanity, and announce to everyone that only in the death and resurrection of Christ can we find salvation and redemption." (His Holiness Pope John Paul II, Rome, 22 April 1984).

Since 1984 the WYD Cross has made its way



around the world, throughout Europe, behind the Iron Curtain, and to parts of the Americas, Asia, Africa and briefly to Australia, being present at each international celebration of World Youth Day along the way.

In 1994 the Cross began in earnest what has since become a tradition: its year long journey

around the dioceses of the host nation of each international World Youth Day, as a means of prayerful preparation for the big event.

Heralding these international celebrations of young people, the Cross is now best known as "the World Youth Day Cross".

The media have often

called the Cross the "Olympic Torch" of the World Youth Day.

In 2003, Pope John Paul II gave young people a second symbol of faith to be carried in the world, accompanying the WYD Cross - the Icon of Our Lady, "Salus Populi Romani", a contemporary copy of a sacred and ancient icon housed in the first and greatest basilica to Mary the Mother of God in the West, St Mary Major.

On Palm Sunday, 9 April 2006, Pope Benedict XVI presided over a Palm Sunday Mass followed by the handover of the WYD Cross and Icon of Our Lady. The handover marked the formal commencement of Sydney's role in hosting WYD08.