

World Mission Day -
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When it comes to Australia's haves and have-nots, bishops warn ... Divide still wide

Australia's Catholic bishops say the conditions that provoked them 16 years ago to call for justice for those afflicted by poverty still exist in an affluent Australian society.

In their statement at the time, Common Wealth for the Common Good, they noted the growing divide of wealth in Australia, with higher levels of serious poverty, unemployment, homelessness and the emergence of an underclass of gravely disadvantaged people.

In their statement this year to mark Social Justice Sunday, they again called on political and community leaders, as they put in place policies based on well thought-out strategies for the years ahead, "to bear in mind the circumstances and needs of the most vulnerable members of our society".

"Every person and every group in society must be able to meet their material needs and realise their potential in a social, economic and spiritual sense.

"We are called to realise that, just as it is in family life and among friends, so it is in the life of our community: if one person is disad-

vantaged or left behind, we are all diminished.

"We cannot survive without others and can only grow and achieve our potential in relationship with others.

"In this regard, one encouraging development is the Federal Government's adoption of a policy of social inclusion, aimed at reducing social and economic disadvantage, and its establishment of a Social Inclusion Board.

"This policy of social inclusion seeks to make it possible for all Australians to participate in the economic, social and civic life of our country. This focus may be the important first step we need to take to address poverty amid the affluence of the past decade or more.

"It is important, though, that a comprehensive approach is taken to addressing poverty - one that recognises that, in addition to the economic dimension of poverty, there

are also significant social, cultural and spiritual dimensions that must be taken into account."

The bishops said it was unacceptable that amid the affluence of Australia 100,000 people are homeless.

More than 6500 families and 10,000 children under the age of 12 are among this number. Each night, 14,000 people sleep rough.

Particular groups were at risk of becoming homeless.

People suffering chronic mental illness often experience other disadvantages, and affordable and stable housing was an important foundation to rebuild a life.

Another group who struggled to find accommodation were former prisoners trying to make a successful transition from prison back into the community.

Many people did not manage this transition well because there was a lack of proper support net-

works. More than a third returned to prison within two years.

The bishops said a growing number of low-income families were at risk of homelessness as a result of the limited availability of affordable rental properties and huge increases in rent. "It is clear that more attention to the needs of low-income families who are being squeezed out of the market will be required in the coming years."

"As Christians we are called to recognise as our brothers and sisters those who are poor or pushed to the margins. We are called to accompany, serve and plead their cause. Do we see in them the face of Christ? Will we respect and restore their human dignity?

"This call and how we respond are central to the life of the worshipping community. In the Eucharist we present ourselves to Jesus, not as rich or poor, powerful or helpless, but as brothers and sisters. We have the opportunity to re-examine our lifestyles and choose to live more simply, in a spirit of solidarity with the poor.

"By living life more in terms of

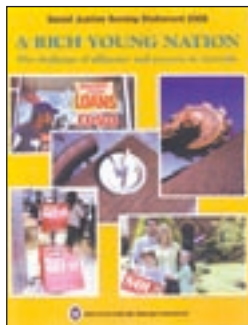
what we need, rather than what we want, we will be less concerned with material acquisition and freed from the clutter of consumerism. Most importantly, we will be in a better position to recognise the needs of others and to see the face of the poor.

"In the gospels, we hear Jesus asking us in Australia today: how aware are we of the poverty in our community? How often do we do a good act for someone in need without hope of earthly reward?

"What changes do we need to make in our society so that all Australians have their basic needs met and are able to participate fully in the life of the community?

"As individual citizens, as families, parishes, communities and organisations, we can take the initiative to reach out to our brothers and sisters in need and to be enriched by what follows.

"For in welcoming the poor, the outcast and the stranger in need, we welcome the living Christ, our God and our Creator into our hearts and our lives."



A RICH YOUNG NATION



No-one can keep seven-year-old's ambition in check

After two years of practice defeating his mother, cousins and school friends, Glen Qi of Rosary Primary School, Watson, has widened his range of opponents to become ACT under-8 chess champion - and he's not satisfied yet.

The result qualifies Glen to compete in the Australian championships in Adelaide in January. However, Glen, 7, has his sights set on a successful future in chess. "When I grow up I want to be the grand master," he said. "That means you're nearly the best chess player in the world but you just have to win one more."

With less than two years of experience under his belt, Glen is already the best chess player he knows. "I learnt from my cousins and I sometimes play at home with my mum. But I beat her all the time."

For the past eight years, chess has been part of Rosary Primary's curriculum and school librarian Ms Sandy Vincent said "chess is not as nerdy as it used to be. We have a qualified chess teacher come to the school and run a program through from kindergarten to year six. I think it promotes logic and competition among the students."

LEFT: Chess champion Glen Qi ponders his next move.



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As Floriade visitors sang and bopped to St Monica's rendition of the Abba hit Dancing Queen, it was obvious the musical director was not the only one remembering when she was "young and sweet, only 17". St Monica's School information technology coordinator Mrs Sharon Griffin conducted the primary school choir of about 30 students, which sang an Abba medley which included Mamma Mia, SOS and Waterloo. "Music and performing is my passion," she said.

"I've sung all my life at school musicals and weddings, and when you think about it teaching is a kind of performance as well." This year's Floriade was themed "Films that shaped our nation" and Mrs Griffin thought the movie Mamma Mia, filled with Abba's music, was relevant. "I've always loved Abba - I wanted to be them! So I'm sort of living out my childhood through this performance."

ABOVE: Practising their favourite Abba song, Mamma Mia, are Evelyn Nicoll, Sophie Bank, Imogen Henshaw, Alyssa Mills, Brooke May and Ruby Giampaolo.



Young people from South Tuggeranong Parish who helped animate catechesis sessions during World Youth Day week in Sydney will relive the experience this month. Through a mixture of drama, song, testimony and reflections at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, the group helped crowds of more than 3000 discover more about the Holy Spirit and their faith.

Everyone is welcome to join the South Tuggeranong catechesis team on Saturday, 25 October, at Holy Family Church, Gowrie, for an evening of drama and fun in the spirit of World Youth Day. Mass will be celebrated at 6pm followed by a light dinner. Afterwards the event Sanctus Dominus in "The Quest for the Holy Spirit" will begin. Inquiries: Jenny Anderson, e-mail jenny.anderson@ccparish.org.au

ABOVE: The drama team (from left) back: Aaron Estrellado, Pete Doherty; middle: Jeanette D'Souza, Kira Anderson, Emma Macintyre; front: Sanctus Dominus (aka Angel Carlile).

Move for CCD

Co-ordination of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine in the Archdiocese will move from the Catholic Education Office to catholicLIFE at the Rheinberger Centre from next year. Archbishop Mark Coleridge said a restructuring of the co-ordination of the CCD would reflect the level of support and resourcing for the program "which grows in importance as the number of our children in government schools increases."

He said Ms Sabina Van Rooy had led the CCD splendidly for the past 12 years. "I want to thank Sabina for all that she has done with catechists, schools and parishes through the years. Her energy, dedication and generosity have been a great blessing." The new position will be advertised soon.

Off to mission school

Goulburn parishioner Mr David Galea, 26, has left to attend the Emmanuel School of Mission in Rome until June next year. Mr Galea was heavily involved in the life of the parish and in preparations for the International Youth Forum and World Youth Day. Archbishop Mark Coleridge has invited parishes, communities and individuals to offer financial support to Mr Galea. "It would be a good investment not only in his personal future but in the future of the Archdiocese." The school brings together a group of outstanding young people from around the world for nine months of intensive experience of community, formation and mission. Donations may be sent to the Archbishop's office, GPO Box 3089, Canberra 2601.

Three years after formation, the archdiocesan Women's Commission has been officially commissioned and is looking to the future.

Founding member Ms Genevieve Jacobs said the commissioning by Archbishop Mark Coleridge in St Christopher's Cathedral was something the group had wanted for a long time.

"The commissioning Mass says publicly that we are part of the structure of the Archdiocese," she said. "It's important that we send that message out. We are here and we exist as a result of the synod. Wheels move slowly but it's time to take some action."

The commission is looking for new members, "people who are obviously committed to the faith, enthusiastic and open to the possibilities of doing new things," chair Ms Julia Trimboli said.

An open meeting will be held from 10am to 1pm on 15 November at the Rheinberger Centre, on the corner of Weston and Loch streets, Yarralumla. Anyone interested in sharing prayer and hearing inspiring stories about women and how they serve their community are welcome to attend.

Student teacher and member Miss Kristy Firkin said she joined the commission because her university lecturer said it would look good on her resume. "But I've really enjoyed being part of the commission," she said. "I've been able to meet so many people and interact with others."

The commission consists of Ms Trimboli, treasurer Ms Volet Carolen, secretary Ms Donella Johnston, clergy representative Mgr John Woods and members Ms Judy Netting, Mr Colin Griffiths, Ms Margaret Ryan, Miss Firkin and Ms Jacobs.

Archbishop Coleridge said the commissioning Mass was an important way of giving the commission a

Women look to the future

higher profile in the Archdiocese.

"At a time when we need to allow the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flourish more richly in the Church, we look to women in a special way," he said. "Women are called now to exercise charismatic leadership in the Church as they have so often before in history. They can lead the Church to places we have never been before."

Inquiries: Ms Trimboli, telephone 6260 5980 or e-mail juliata@cha.org.au



Commissioners Genevieve Jacobs, Donella Johnston, Julia Trimboli and Kristy Firkin.

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Candidates quizzed on social justice

Candidates in this month's ACT election have been asked by the Archdiocese's Catholic Social Justice Commission to give their views on a range of issues from mental health to education.

Commission chairman Mr Mike Cassidy said voters might give weight to the marginalised in society by looking at six justice issues: housing, mental health, the right to life, the justice system, education, and gambling.

The commission had sent a survey to candidates seeking their views, Mr Cassidy said.

"The commission applies Catholic social teaching to public policy so government decisions should be guided by a 'preferential option for the poor'.

"For the ACT election, the commission identified concerns central to the well-being of the most disadvantaged in the community. We are also asking each election candidate for his or her views on how an incoming government might respond to these concerns, and are offering the opportunity to comment more broadly on policy approaches to ensuring a fair go for all.

"Building a productive economy and creating a more sustainable environment are clearly vital priorities. They affect the whole community but particularly the disadvantaged, who are the first to suffer the consequences of any policy failures in these areas.

"We have no specific views to offer on how an incoming government should go about its work in such broad and complex areas. We simply note that they are important, that getting it right on the economy and the environment can involve difficult decisions, and that the burden of adjustment should not be carried by those who can least afford to do so."

The full text of the survey and the responses of candidates, many of whom had yet to respond, are available on the commission's pages on the archdiocesan website www.cg.catholic.org.au go to Agencies and Services, Social Justice, or from the commission e-mail csjc@cg.catholic.org.au or telephone 6235 5452.

Summary of the candidates' survey

Housing: The declining affordability of housing impacts on renters and home-buyers alike. Those most acutely affected are people on low incomes. Rents in the ACT are now the highest in Australia. Emergency accommodation is coming under greatly increased pressure and waiting lists for public housing are still long. An inevitable outcome is acute and sustained stress for many people.

Mental health: The consequences for sufferers, for their families and for the wider community are often severe. Mental illness can lead to homelessness and can also be a contributing factor to criminal behaviour. Members of the commission do not have simple answers. The commission notes, however, that the health system is not always coping well with the demand for services and that those affected as a result are often among the most disadvantaged.

Life issues: The Church's position on the right to life is unequivocal - human life is sacred from conception to natural death - and, accordingly, the Church is opposed to euthanasia, abortion and human cloning. Governments have a grave responsibility to ensure that laws and practices protect and promote human life at all times.

In a society where views on these questions differ widely, meeting this responsibility is easier said than done. ACT legislation essentially permits abortion on demand and does not encourage or assist women contemplating abortion to pause and think about the seriousness of abortion or about the alternatives that might be available.

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

First step towards understanding

An original story with an important message earned first place for St Francis Xavier College in the ACT secondary story-telling section of the Wakakirri national story festival.

Year 11 student Codie Searle wrote the play First Step to tell the story of Stolen Generation member Ms Lorraine Peeters, who was taken from her family aged four.

"After I heard the apology I wanted to deepen my understanding of the Stolen Generation and be the voice of my generation and somehow make a difference," she said.

"Until I heard Lorraine's story I had no idea about the Stolen Generation. It's not that I'm dwelling on the past, but I'm embracing a new future. I want people of our generation to say they are sorry and look forward to a more diverse future where we can all be as one."

Codie said a relative who worked at the department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs was able to put her in touch with Ms Peeters. "I interviewed her over the phone and wrote my story from the perspective of a 16 year old."

Ms Peeters said was honoured to be featured in First Step and travelled from the Gold Coast where she provides trauma education to see the play performed in front of Wakakirri judges. "I was excited and overwhelmed about the play but also proud of Codie," she said.

"For someone so young and especial-



Wakakirri participants (from left) back: Damien Beard, Nicole Best, Alicia Gall, Ms Lorraine Peeters, Codie Searle, Ashly Vu, principal Mr Angus Tulley. Front: Laura Johnson, Shannon Smith, Jacob Warren & Stephanie Orlando.

ly being non-indigenous, I think her story would touch a lot more people than if I got up and told it."

Although 10 students from the college performed in First Step, Codie said a lot more work went on behind the scenes. "The whole school turned it into a performance; it was a joint effort."

College principal Mr Angus Tulley said he was proud of how "deeply moving" the play was. "When the play fin-

ished, there wasn't the normal kind of applause, it was like people were really affected by the story," he said. "I think it's important for students to know about their history and acknowledge the past."

Year 12 student Lachlan Pini won first prize in the story arts section of Wakakirri with his entry Our World, on the experience of a soldier in Iraq. The college will perform First Step at the Canberra Theatre on 17 October.

New clergy arrivals

Two more priests will join the Archdiocese in the next few months. They are Fr Sunil Kadaparambil, from India, and Fr Daniel Manmekhot Eshete, from Ethiopia.

Other recent arrivals have been Fr Paul Njoku, from Nigeria, who is serving at the Cathedral, and Deacon Lourdesamy, from India, who is at South Tuggeranong parish.

"Each of these newcomers enriches our experience of the universal Church which we saw so brilliantly displayed during World Youth Day," Archbishop Coleridge said.

The Jesuit presence in the Archdiocese has been strengthened by the arrival of Fr Frank Brennan, who will be involved in the new Institute for Public Policy at Australian Catholic University, and Fr David Rankin, who has extensive experience in pastoral work. They join long-time member of the Canberra Jesuit community Fr John Eddy.

Archbishop Coleridge will be in Rome in October to attend the Synod of Bishops on "The Word of God in Life and Mission of the Church".



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CATHOLIC VOICE October 2008 - 3

A meeting of the whole Church

By the time this is published, I'll be in Rome at the Synod of Bishops. I've been behind the scenes in earlier Synods, but this is the first time I've been a participating member - or, as they say, one of the Synod Fathers.

The international Synods are held every few years and focus on a topic chosen by the Pope after consultation with the Bishops of the world. The topic chosen for this one is "The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church", and this follows on the theme of the Eucharist at the last Synod.

The Australian bishops are well represented. Cardinal Pell is one of the Synod Presidents appointed by the Pope. Bishop David Walker of Broken Bay and I are elected representatives of the Australian Bishops' Conference.

We also have Bishop Peter Ingham of Wollongong, who is President of the Federation of Bishops' Conferences of Oceania, and Bishop Michael Putney of Townsville, who is on the Post-Synodal Committee for Oceania. So Australia is punching above its weight.

The Synod moves in phases. The first phase is given to the individual contributions of the bishops of the Synod. Each bishop has five minutes to speak to the theme, and you can imagine how many different aspects are tackled as hundreds of bishops speak from their own cultural context and ecclesial experience. It can be a bit of a marathon, but it's a fascinating insight into the universal Church.

I have decided to speak about preaching, since most people's experience of listening to the Word of God focuses on Sunday Mass with its proclamation of the Word in the biblical readings and the homily. Before the Synod, I asked the Archdiocesan Liturgical Commission to conduct a survey about people's experience of preaching.

The results were fairly predictable but interesting nonetheless. It was very much a matter of light and shade. Some were happy with the homilies they heard; many were not and for a variety of reasons.

My own sense is that we have quite a way to go before we have achieved the renewal of Catholic preaching called for by the Second Vatican Council.

The heart of the Council's call was a shift from the sermon understood primarily as an exposition of Catholic doctrine, devotion and discipline to the homily understood primarily as an exposition and application of Scripture.

The homily was to be a proclamation of the Word of God in the life of this particular community, and the response that it sought was what the New Testament calls "the faith that saves". Often our homilies may evoke interest or admiration, agreement or disagreement, but they don't always evoke "the faith that saves".

Mind you, for many people the question is, "saved from what?" Some of the traditional ways of talking about salvation - which is

surely the heart of the Gospel - no longer speak powerfully to people in cultures like ours, and we may have to find new and engaging ways of proclaiming this central truth of what God does in Jesus. That will be one of the challenges of the Synod.

After the contributions of individual bishops, the Synod moves into small language-based groups where some of the main issues that have emerged in the discussion can be explored more deeply.



In addition, there are throughout the Synod late afternoon free-for-all sessions where anyone can intervene on any of the topics that have been raised.

The Pope himself sits through most sessions of the Synod and he is an attentive listener. Being an old university professor, Pope Benedict has also shown himself quite willing to intervene personally in the discussion and always to good effect.

In the final phase of the three-week process, the Synod works at preparing a list of propositions or proposals which are presented at the end to the Holy Father for his consideration.

He has the task of making the final discernment of what will emerge from the Synod for the Church around the world. In that sense, the Synod is consultative rather than deliberative. The Pope is entrusted with the task of taking the propositions and proposals and working them into the Apostolic Exhortation, which is the final document presenting the fruits of the Synod to the whole Church.

But the heart of any Synod is less the final document that appears than the human and spiritual dynamic of bishops from all around the world meeting each other, listening to each other, learning from each other.

Bishops meet and hear many people; they see and come to know more than most of the life of the Church. Therefore, when they come together it's more than a meeting of individuals. In a real sense, they bring their local Churches with them, so that the Synod becomes more than a meeting of bishops. It becomes a meeting of the whole Church.

It was that experience of the Church which marked forever men like Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI when as young men they attended the Second Vatican Council.

My hope is that some of that same power will touch those of us who gather in Rome through these days; and I invite all of you to join us on our journey as you pray with us for the success of the Synod.

Mark

+Bishop Mark

Taking God for a walk

We want answers and we want results. And we want them now.

Well, what's wrong with that, you ask. After all, that's what today's world teaches us to want, urges us to demand, of ourselves and of others.

And so I set out on pilgrimage last year. Not any pilgrimage, mind you, but a couple of hundred kilometers of one of the most famous, the camino to Santiago de Compostela, burial place of St James, in northern Spain.

I took with me expectations of finding answers to some of life's most nagging questions... what does God have in mind for a middle-aged father of three? Is God even interested in how I spend the next 25 years? Why am I not satisfied with my comfortable, lucky existence?

Why can't I be like some, apparently happier, people who glide through life without asking all these questions?

And, I returned to Australia a month later savouring priceless experiences, but without many answers - and, yes, with a few

more questions to add to the bundle I had carried in my backpack.

So what was the point? If I wanted instant results, then, frankly, there was only disappointment. There was a distinct lack of evidence of overt divine intervention, blinding lights etc on the way.

What did I get? I got a holiday with God, fun as well as the sought-after spiritual experience. God appeared in all kinds of strange places and guises; in a walking partner who sometimes delved deep into my muddled brain with his questions (yes, more questions), in one-star hotel keepers who treated strangers with gentleness and generosity, in feet and shoulders and backs that took up the unexpected challenge graciously, in the spirituality of a culture that once I might have arrogantly cast aside as old-fashioned, eccentric, not quite advanced enough for me, in brushes on the path with fellow travelers many with a faster pace and a steeper glint in the eye than I could conjure up.

I'd holidayed with God before; usually I took God to monasteries, to silent places in case God needed a little peace and quiet to work in.

God didn't seem to mind the noise and the mess and the pain and the enjoyment of it all - a week or two away from all that pious stuff that must be happening in paradise.

I'm thinking of taking God away again sometime, not so far this time. Maybe just a day's outing across a hill, down a valley, along a path close to home.

I've still got all those questions, and then some more. I don't think God minds, although I'm less sure God intends to answer them. I think God rather enjoys the company.

voices



Geoff Orchison on unanswered questions

People trafficking: a modern evil

By Sr Pauline Coll SGS*

One could be forgiven for thinking that slavery no longer exists in the 21st century....in 2006 the bi-centenary of the abolition of the trans-Atlantic slave trade was celebrated in the film - Amazing Grace.

However this evil is very much part of our time and our world. Australia is designated as a country of destination for trafficked women, children and men.

Many too, are victims of enslavement. Recently in Australia, on 28 August, the High Court of Australia upheld the slavery convictions of a Melbourne brothel owner and overturned the orders of the Victorian Court of Appeal for a new trial.

In the 1 September edition of Time magazine on page 42, the story of trafficked Indian children is brought to our attention.

Some of these children were adopted by "unknowing" families here in Australia. Under the headings of trafficking and slavery people can be exploited for many reasons.

In Australia people are exploited for many forms of labour - sexual, sweat shops, factories, farms, shops etc - they may have been trafficked here, or once here, having come with legitimate documentation, can be victims of slave like practices.

They may also be here for marriage and adoption. We know that trafficked people come from Asia and also there are some from the eastern European states.

Australia is not considered a country of origin.....as far as we know.

There are many organizations - NGOs and others - who are working for the elimination of trafficking in Australia, the Asia Pacific regions and internationally.

Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH) began in 2005.

ACRATH is endorsed by Catholic Religious Australia, the peak body for 180 religious orders in Australia.

We try to collaborate with other groups who share our mission and we are active in many parts of Australia.

Our mission is inspired by the gospel, Catholic social teaching and the United Nations Declaration of Human rights.

We work in many ways for those who have been trafficked and/or enslaved.

One of our major projects is that of community awareness raising and education.



During the week 15 19 September members of ACRATH have been lobbying politicians in Canberra.

We were urging visa amendment that is based in human rights and not in criminal justice and ensuring that the help offered under government packages to those who have been victims of trafficking are culturally sensitive and appropriate and respond to the needs of the total person.

ACRATH also has representation within international networks of women religious.

Most recently we were represented in Rome at a meeting to establish such a network under the auspices of the Union of International Superiors General (women religious).

This meeting issued a declaration condemning the crime of trafficking in persons and calling on governments, Catholic episcopal conferences, national conferences of religious and Catholic and non-Catholic communities to stand in solidarity with the victims and work against all forms of trafficking.

*Sr Pauline Coll SGS is chair of Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans. She spoke at the Rheinberger Centre, Yarralumla, last month. Picture: The Catholic Weekly.

Apprentices build for future

ABOVE: Visitor Samantha Howarth road tests the new cubby house.

CATHOLIC VOICE October 2008 - 5

Hands-on Studio's recipe for good art means some days adding a little more laughter than work.

Under the management of Centacare, the studio is a non-profit organisation which provides an arts education and life skills development program for young men and women with physical and complex disabilities.

Former teacher Ms Beverley Corkery has managed the studio for the past two years. Aside from the inevitable paper work, she loves coming to work every day. "This is one of the most enriching experiences I've ever had," she said.

"It really is a place where you can make a difference. Here it is really about the important things - the small steps. It's about the little things put together that makes life worthwhile."

This semester about 35 students are enrolled in a variety of courses such as art skills, painting, print-making, pottery or multimedia.

"Just because these people have a disability, doesn't mean they're not artists. Our classes help them see themselves as someone with a skill and we put a focus here on their abilities, not their disability. The classes help them with their social skills and give them opportunities within the community they can take up for themselves.

"They also just have a damn good time! Some days it is more laughter in here than artwork."

While the studio promotes the development of artistic skills, confidence, self esteem and social skills development, it also offers an opportunity for

Laughter, it's so good for the art

students to gain a sense of personal achievement through the exhibition of their work.

"We have a Hands-on Studio exhibition once a year but when someone produces exceptional pieces of work we find an external venue for them to be exhibited. When students exhibit in these places they do so in their own right."

Student Mr Shane Tunks said he loved coming to classes. "It's better than working with Dad," he said. "I'm not a landscaping person - I'm a crafty person." Ms Leanne Boyton said she had been coming to Hands-on Studio "every single Monday for a while". "I really like coming here and drawing," she said.

Hands-on Studio employs two art teachers, but Ms Corkery said volunteers with an art background were desperately needed. "Volunteers would reduce the teacher to student ratio, which at the moment is about eight students to one teacher."

To inquire about classes, volunteering or leasing art to display at your business, telephone Ms Corkery at the Hands-on Studio on 6232 7187.



Shane Tunks gets to work on his self portrait.

Young musos urged to strike a chord

Young musicians are in demand for a family day to be held this month at St Benedict's parish, Narrabundah. Families in the parish and the wider Canberra area, especially those of military personnel, have been invited to the fun day on

Saturday, 25 October. It will be hosted by the Canberra branch of the Knights of the Southern Cross in an effort to build on the spirit of World Youth Day.

On offer will be a mini jumping castle from 11am to 1pm for children up to 12, a

sausage sizzle, a chance to win at the tombola stall and other entertainment. Young musicians wanting to contribute their musical talents should contact Mr Bob Perkins, telephone 6247 2977 (Monday, Wednesday and Friday).

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Make a difference - join the team

The Catholic Youth Ministry team is looking for "passionate, energetic and enthusiastic" young people who want to make a difference in the Archdiocese.

For the past five years, teams of young people have volunteered a year of their lives to youth ministry in the region.

During seminars and retreats, the team uses techniques including drama, sharing, interactive activities, games and music to help high school students to look at themselves and the impact they can have on the world around them, and to explore what it means to be a young Catholic today.

Team coordinator Miss Daniela Kesina said over time

she has seen the difference the CYM team could make to young people's lives. "I feel passionate about delivering a program that is accessible to every high school student and always seeking to discover how we can proclaim the gospel in a way that speaks into the lives of young people today," she said.

Outgoing two-year team member Miss Sarah Heffernan said she learnt a lot about herself and other people. "I really learnt how to be a better leader, which I found out sometimes means following and not just leading," she said.

With the support of Goulburn parish, the CYM team lives in community with basic expenses

covered, including food and board. During the year, team members are professionally trained in youth ministry and gain leadership and life skills.

Archbishop Mark Coleridge said Christ is calling young people to follow him as members of the Catholic Youth Ministry team. "Accept this challenge and you will be richly rewarded," he said. People aged between 18 and 25, interested in joining the team next year may attend an information night at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 14 October, at the Rheinberger Centre, Yarralumla.

Inquiries: Miss Kesina, telephone 6163 4311 or 0400 356 177, or team leader Mr Samuel Mullins, 0423 613 065.



This year's team Sarah Heffernan, Rebekah Fulop, Liam Mackay, Joshua Goldborough, Samuel Mullins and Erin Cassidy.



Emily Hargreaves, Adriana Ilheo, Sam Botchy and Adam Nappo "make the switch" to 100 per cent green electricity.

Green light for a smart school

In an effort to continue "treading lightly on God's earth", Rosary Primary School, Watson, has made the switch to 100 per cent green electricity from ActewAGL.

It is the first ACT school accredited as EnergyWise by the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative.

Principal Mrs Maureen Doszpot thanked Rosary staff and parents who had helped the school achieve its "dream", which was "the culmination of a lot of hard work and commitment. "Rosary students are to be commended and thanked," she said.

"You are the ones who have kept us on track and today you can see the results of your great work."

Mrs Doszpot said Rosary Primary would continue to educate students about sustainable environments and "rise to the challenges of a changing climate. We intend to keep treading lightly on God's earth."

Before making the switch, Rosary Primary used energy efficient lighting, held an Earth Hour and limited the use of electrical appliances to reduce their energy use by 20 per cent.

ActewAGL director of marketing and corporate affairs Mr Paul Walshe congratulated the school on making the switch and said he hoped other schools would follow.

"This change will reduce CO2 emissions by 82.2 tonnes per year," he said. "That's like taking 19 cars off the road each year."

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

EUCCHARISTIC & MARIAN PROCESSION

Join the procession of the Blessed Sacrament from St. Benedict's Catholic Church, Narrabundah to St. Christopher's Cathedral

PROGRAMME

Meet at St. Benedict's Church, Tallara Parkway, Narrabundah

- 3:00 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- 4:00 pm Procession to St. Christopher's Cathedral, Franklin Street, Manuka
- 5:00 pm Procession arrives
- 5:15 pm Benediction
- 5:30 pm Mass



SUNDAY, 16 NOVEMBER

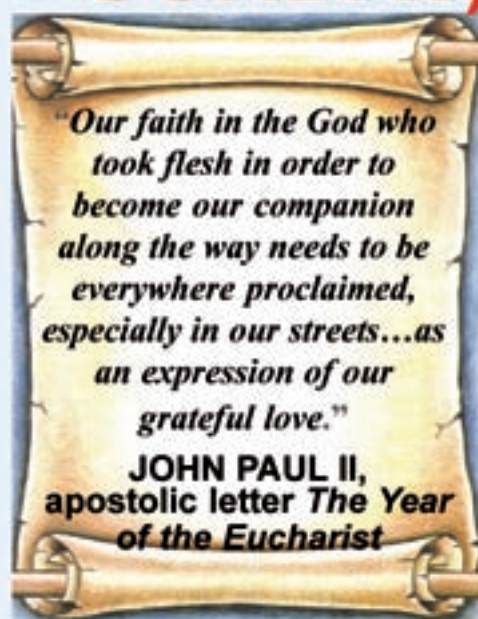
With permission of His Grace

Archbishop Mark Coleridge

Enquiries:

Brian Curtis (02) 6231 3862

E-mail: brian.curtis@homemail.com.au



A bus will be available to transport participants back to St. Benedict's



Pastor Ozzie Cruz gives a gum leaf lesson to students Sebastian Holmes-Smith, Katie Paton, Thomas Paton, Laura Golet, Sophie Hickman, Olivia Blanch, Lincoln Stewart.

Looking forward and back

While celebrating the opening and blessing of new and refurbished areas at St Joseph's Primary, Eden, the community took the opportunity to reflect on the school's rich history.

Principal Mrs Kris Ayres said about 120 people attended the festivities, which marked 117 years since the opening of the school.

"One really good thing about the refurbishments is the new disabled access and facilities," she said. "Before that we had a lot of steps and stairs everywhere."

Two classrooms and an administration area were added to the school and the existing library, two classrooms, the canteen and toilets were refurbished.

Archbishop Mark Coleridge blessed the new and refurbished areas, which were officially opened by Member for Eden-Monaro Dr Mike Kelly.

During the ceremony, Sr Antoinette Baldwin, from the Sisters of St Joseph leadership

team, explained some of the history of the school, which was founded in 1891 by the Josephites and visited twice by Blessed Mary MacKillop in 1899 and 1901.

In between speeches, guests were entertained by singing and dancing of the students and a performance by local indigenous elder Pastor Ozzie Cruz who played God is So Big on the gum-leaf.

Mrs Donella Johnston, from the Catholic Education Office, said the celebration was a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge the debt to those who went before.

"Those present were reminded of the local indigenous peoples who looked after the land and its creatures and more recently Mary MacKillop and her courageous Sisters and all of the students, parents and staff who helped build the school's community into what it is today," she said.

Bringing hope to AIDS victims

An ACT charity is making a practical contribution to the fight against AIDS in Vietnam.

Since the inception of the HOPE (Helping Other Peoples' Efforts) foundation three years ago, six Vietnamese recipients have been selected each year. Fundraising takes place in Australia and the money is spent on the organisations' needs.

HOPE's founder Mrs Judith Orr volunteers with the recipients in Vietnam for six months of the year and spends the rest of the year fundraising in Australia.

"Over the past seven years I have travelled to Vietnam doing volunteer work and have identified who was doing a wonderful job and tried to help them," she said.

From building schools and roads, to providing vocational training and education, HOPE aims to "strengthen people so they can stand on their own two feet".

"We choose projects and try and fund them for a year, and each year we try to do something differently," she said. "HOPE is very interested in unhindered education for children so we watch that very closely and help where we can."

One of the projects helped is the Mai Tam drop-in centre in Ho Chi Minh City, which is run by Fr John Toai as a safe house for mothers and children affected by AIDS.

While in Australia for World Youth Day, Fr Toai spent time widening the profile of AIDS sufferers, speaking at schools and to the media.



Fr John Toai with founder of the HOPE foundation Mrs Judith Orr... aiming to strengthen people.

"HIV is a big problem in Vietnam, where there are 300,000 people living with HIV."

Since the safe house opened with five mothers and seven children in 2005, the number of those needing care, treatment and accommodation has continued to grow.

"At the moment we have 15 mothers and 48 children living at the centre. There are many reasons to support these people and make sure they have proper care and support, otherwise they just wander the streets with nowhere to go," Fr Toai said.

"Many of them are pregnant and when they go to hospital they are told to abort the child.

"We try to prevent the transfer of the disease from mother to child, and then if they don't want to keep the baby we can take care of it."

Also under Fr Toai's direction is another drop-in centre, a hospice facility for people with AIDS and a program which

cares for drug users in the local detention centre.

With no government support, Fr Toai is forced to fundraise through different sources. Twice a year a collection is taken at Mass and the rest of the money is provided through donations.

"We cannot close these facilities. Standards may fall - but they will always stay open. With more funding we would be able to reach out to more people."

This year the HOPE foundation gave Fr Toai \$7000 towards schooling children at the Mai Tam drop-in centre.

"AIDS is an enormous problem in Vietnam and it requires a tremendous amount of support," Mrs Orr said.

"If the HOPE foundation can't do things, I like to lobby other people to help them."

Those interested in supporting Fr Toai or the HOPE foundation may contact Mrs Orr, telephone 6286 3337.



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Manager: Victor Dunn.

Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn

Peter and Paul ready to return

The statues of St Peter and St Paul, which were removed from the roof of the Old Cathedral in Goulburn last year, are repaired and restored and waiting to be returned to their original position.

They are likely to be re-installed while scaffolding is still in place on the western wall.

The large window in the church's western façade is in Moss Vale being repaired and cleaned.

Work is almost complete on stonework on the Bourke Street side.

Many brass items have been returned after cleaning and repairs, and the two lecterns are now in use in the sanctuary.

The next stage of the restoration will begin the stabilization of the northern wall and replacing old linoleum flooring inside the church.



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Support our Fathers

CLERGY RETIREMENT FOUNDATION



Father John O'Brien

In the company of relatives, friends and priests of the Archdiocese, Father John was all smiles as he celebrated his 90th birthday on the 27th August.

The day started with the traditional birthday cake morning teas with residents of Tennison House and hosted by the kind folk of Southern Cross Care. Father John then joined Archbishop Carroll and some of his brother priests at a concelebrated Mass held in the chapel of St Joseph's Convent.

The priests afterwards assembled at Sts Peter & Paul Goulburn presbytery where Fr Dermid McDermott and staff hosted a beautiful luncheon in honour of Fr John.



Father's Day Appeal

The annual appeal in support of our Archdiocesan sick and retired priests was launched on the Father's Day weekend in September and already a large number of donations have been received.

Secretary to the Foundation, Mr Kevin Croker, said the Appeal shows how much the catholic people of Canberra & Goulburn value the contribution made by priests who are now retired and who have provided such wonderful pastoral care for them in former times. Funds raised from the Appeal ensure a normal living for our retirees many of whom are now elderly and in some cases, quite frail.

HOW YOU CAN HELP SUPPORT OUR RETIRED PRIESTS

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Donations may be sent to:

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

Garran Project

The keys to Lanigan House (the former Garran presbytery) have now been handed over to the Archdiocese and the new and refurbished building was opened and blessed by Archbishop Coleridge on the 23rd September.

The Clergy retirement Foundation will manage the new retirement centre which will specifically cater for retired priests of our Archdiocese. Day-to-day management of the centre will be undertaken by Mrs Angela Fleming who was a housekeeper to priests living in the former presbytery.



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



ABOVE and LEFT: In search of the elusive shot; and Loui Seselja's island home looking towards main-land Croatia.

Loui focuses ‘discreetly’ on his obsession

By Geoff Orchison

The whole family lives Loui Seselja's obsession. On holidays, he's been known to pull the car up often and anywhere to pursue it. Sometimes he gets up before sunrise so as not to miss an opportunity.

The object of his attention? Photography.

Croatian-born Mr Seselja is a quickly recognised face in Catholic and in his cultural community circles as the unobtrusive man behind the lens. His work appears equally quietly in many places, often in Catholic Voice.

A professional photographer with the National Library of Australia since 1981, his work has featured recently in Canberra in two exhibitions, part of the Vivid National Photography Festival, one focusing on the life of the Croatian community, the other the archdiocesan Catholic family.

The fact that they are the only two major exhibitions he has mounted says much about the man. He also does not enter for awards. Nor does he tend to hang his pictures on the walls at home. "I get sick of them," he said. "When a picture has served its purpose, then there's no need for it."

Born on the island of Dugi Otok (long island) off the Dalmatian coast, Mr Seselja was the last of his family to migrate to Australia, single and aged 19. His departure was legal. Ten years before, in

1958, he remembers the night his brother escaped the communist Yugoslav regime with a boatload of refugees.

When his plans to finish high school in Australia hit a snag, his lack of English, he turned to his interest in photography. "I realized I had a universal language," he said.

He married Katica in 1971 and incurred her displeasure when, on a weekly pay of \$50, he spent \$90 on his first camera, a Yashica, which a son now owns. His collection of tens of thousands of photographs was well under way.

Mr Seselja does not hesitate when asked about his best shot. "It was of a newly arrived refugee woman, a young woman from Afghanistan with her children. I zoomed in on her eyes and saw the fear in them. I was privileged to take that photograph."

Photographing people has always been his passion; shots of refugees and indigenous people stick in his mind. The ones he enjoys more than any, however, are those of his six children and soon-to-be 10 grandchildren.

What makes a good photograph? "It needs to be genuine, not staged, interesting, beautiful. I try not to interfere in the subject matter. You want them to relax. You don't tell them what to do."

Many of his photographs over the years have related to his Church, his faith, matters he takes

young voices



ABOVE: Getting sandy were Ruby Lipscombe, Isla Ward, Ella Mitchell and Rachel Manangan. BELOW: Gerry Menegazzo likes pandas.



ABOVE: Connor Desmond knew how to work the camera. BELOW: Charlie Taylor and Ming Kangethe-Edmond. RIGHT: Monica Gair.



This month Catholic Voice visited Kindergarten at St Thomas the Apostle Primary School, Kambah. Kindergarten had been learning about the Olympics and its host this year, China. Class KP had recently participated in an assembly where they dressed up as athletes and shared poems. Charlie Kelly said he dressed up as a hockey player "because I love hockey". Both Kindergarten classes KL and KP knew everything there was to know about the Olympics and their favourite sports were running and swimming. Photographs on opposite page: Class KL (top) and Class KP. Drawings: Dragons, by Gemma Barclay; and kites by Ryan Quinn.

seriously. "I have never forgotten that people in the Archdiocese befriended me when I came here. I am at home here."

His perfectionism leaves him constantly frustrated with his work. "I'm always chasing something nice; I never feel I do it properly. The perfect picture is elusive. I have good ideas, but things turn out different." He is also super-critical of his work and "careful to let others be really critical of what I do."

Good equipment can matter - he uses a camera body costing \$10,000, lens up to \$6000 - but what matters most is the subject. "Seconds are important. If you don't have the shot, then you can have the best camera in the world with the best gadgets, but it won't matter."

So, if you're up before sunrise, don't be too surprised to see a man with a camera looking for the ideal landscape shot.

"I would like a nice picture of Canberra; I'm still chasing it. It's an obsession. I get up early, before sunrise, not 10 minutes later. I'm obsessed with lighting. Beautiful mountains are boring without the right light, and you have little time to do it."

Mr Seselja realizes everyone can't share his particular love of photography. Where once upon a time the family car would be halted unexpectedly if his keen eye caught a special angle, "I try to be discreet now on holidays."



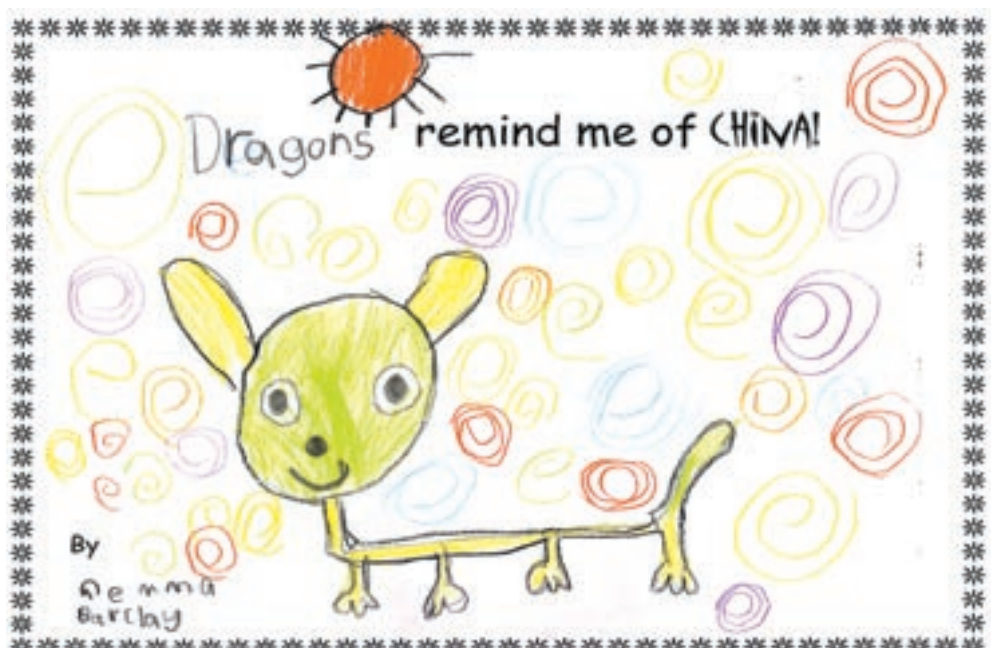
LEFT: The man behind the lens ... Loui Seselja in typical pose, this time at the World Youth Day commissioning Mass at EPIC.

ABOVE: From his catalogue of tens of thousands of shots taken over the years depicting the life and times of Canberrans; this time a group of Croatian dancers.



young voices

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Mercy Sisters lose two stalwarts

Two Mercy sisters, each with more than half a century of service, died recently. They were Sr Ellen Yates and Sr Jessie Mitchell.

Sr Ellen, formerly known in religion as Sr Joan, died at Clare Holland House, Canberra, on 17 August following a short illness.

Sr Ellen was born in Benalla, and entered religious life in 1948. During her 57 years as a Sister of Mercy, she was involved in many ministries including teaching, principal at Mt Carmel School, Yass, working at the CEO Bookshop and, for the past nine years, as congregation archivist.

She contributed to parish ministry through pastoral visitation, provision of meals for the poor and she was an active member of the choir of Holy Family Parish, Gowrie.

Throughout her religious life, Sr Ellen was open to opportunities for further study and continued to develop both academically and spiritually. She completed a teaching certificate, a Diploma in Theology through Mater Dei Institute, Biblical Formation in Jerusalem and a spirituality course through Hawkstone Hall, Shrewsbury.

Sr Ellen is survived by her brother Pat, of Sydney and sister Carmel Burke, of Albury.

Mass of Christian Burial was concelebrated at Holy Family Church, Gowrie, presided over by Archbishop Mark Coleridge.

Sr Jessie Mitchell died peacefully at Mt St Joseph's Nursing Home, Young, on 31 August.

She entered religious life in 1944 and devoted most of her years as a professed Sister of Mercy to teaching. She taught at Cootamundra, Crookwell, Goulburn and Braddon in the Archdiocese as well as Finley, Corowa and Albury in the Wagga Wagga Diocese.

Sr Jessie's love of children, especially those with great needs, combined with her teaching skills and years of experience, enabled her to support, challenge and encourage her students to reach their full potential. She was a particularly gifted mathematician.

She is survived by her sisters, Sr Elizabeth RSM, and Mary, and brother Jim.

Mass of Christian Burial was concelebrated at Mt St Joseph's Chapel, presided over by Young parish priest Fr Richard Thompson.

'Retired' pilgrim's lifetime of service

As tens of thousands of pilgrims were arriving in Australia for World Youth Day, one pilgrim from Tonga was preparing for a special personal celebration.

Sr Therese "Tess" de Dassel was joined by family, friends and sisters from the Little Company of Mary in Canberra to mark the 50th anniversary of her profession to religious life.

A Mass of thanksgiving in St John the Apostle Catholic Church, Kippax, was concelebrated by parish priest Fr Michael Fallon MSC, assistant parish priest Fr Mark Hanns MSC and family friend, retired Bishop Bernard O'Grady. Members of Sr Tess's family joined in the liturgy before Australian province leader for the Little Company of Mary Sr Jennifer Barrow called on her to renew her vows. Fr Fallon had talked with enthusiasm about the freedom that comes with religious vows.

At lunch, Sr Tess's brother Joe paid tribute to her years of service to the community and reflected on their early family life. Many stories followed from family and friends, reflecting on her remarkable contribution.



Sr Tess de Dassel (second from left) with other LCM sisters who spent time in Korea with her (from left): Sisters Mary Treacy, Carmel Byrne, Marie Therese Nilon, Mercia Hoy and Martina Rice.

Sr Tess entered the convent as a postulant in 1955. She recounted being drawn to the picture of Venerable Mary Potter, foundress of the LCM order, and the blue veil she wore.

In fact, it was the nursing aspect of the order which she was drawn to and after three years at Lewisham Hospital in Sydney she made her first vows in 1958. Final profession came in 1961 and three more years at Lewisham followed before she received a posting to Korea to work in a clinic in one of the poorest provinces after the Korean War.

Malnutrition, TB and meningitis were commonplace and it was here that she would call home for the next 16 years.

In 1983, Sr Tess became mission leader of the Little Company of Mary for

the Republic of Korea for the next six years. A decade of involvement in hospice home care and formation ministries followed. She left Korea in 1999, about 35 years after she first arrived to help set up clinics, when she was elected to the congregational leadership team based in London.

When Sr Tess retired from this role in 2005, many thought she would find a quiet, comfortable community back in Australia.

But, this was not her way and in 2006 she became a member of the LCM community in Tonga.

It was as a registered pilgrim from her community in Tonga that she came to World Youth Day. Sr Tess then returned to Tonga to continue her "retirement".

Do you have
news to tell
others? Tell
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Catholic Voice
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6201 9806 or
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Women welcome chance to connect

About 75 women were called to connect when they attended a breakfast at St Benedict's Eucharistic Centre, Narrabundah.

The groups proposed by the eucharistic centre will transcend boundaries, and will involve prayer, hospitality and sharing to maintain the focus on God, allow social interaction in an enjoyable way and encourage women to connect with each other on life's journey.

There was a positive response to the idea of mixing women from various parishes. The groups will meet every three weeks in a convenient location decided by the facilitator and the members of each group.

Two women, Anne Hartwell and Anne Woods, gave a reflection on their experience of connecting in the groups they belong to and the difference it has made to have God as the focal point.

Their stories were evidence of both the richness of women and the grace of God present when women come together to share their journeys, needs and triumphs in a prayerful setting.



Anna Diaz, Elaine McLaren, Donella Johnstone and Kristy Firkin at the breakfast.

An invitation was also made for Catholic women's groups to form a loose affiliation with each other for mutual support and communication and to enjoy a yearly or twice yearly dinner together.

Inquiries about the call-to-connect groups or joining the affiliation may be made to co-ordinators Anne Woods, telephone 6260 6876, Diane Fulop, telephone 6231 4734, and Bronnie Schlager e-mail bronnieschlager@gmail.com

Thanks to the dads

An annual Father's Day breakfast has become a tradition at St Bernard' Primary School, Batemans Bay. The barbeque breakfast is held close to Father's Day to thank fathers, grandfathers, carers and those who are like fathers for all they do. It was a shining example of the community spirit that is a part of the everyday life of the school. Staff began setting up on Thursday afternoon and were in early to start cooking. After breakfast, kindergarten led the school in a liturgy especially for dads. ABOVE Liam Connell with dad Ashley.



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Unite as one world, one family, one mission

This is World Mission Month, with the highlight on Sunday, 19 October, World Mission Day, a global celebration of the missionary work of the Church and missionaries' tireless contribution all over the world.

World Mission Day is celebrated every year in every Catholic community around the world.

This month Pope Benedict XVI calls all Catholics to reflect, and to act. He says in his Mission Sunday message that

mission is a question of love, "...So it is God, who is love, who leads the Church towards the frontiers of humanity and calls the evangelisers to drink from the original source, which is Jesus Christ. ...Only from this source can care, tenderness, compassion, hospitality, availability and interest in people's problems be drawn'.

On World Mission Day, Catholics explicitly unite in prayer, mutual friendship and support - both spiritual and material.

No matter how big or small, rich or poor, every member of God's family prays and collects money in solidarity with mission dioceses. This year the call is to unite as one world, one family with one mission of love for each other.

Australians are fortunate; even with their personal challenges, climate issues, interest rates and the increased cost of living they still have so much more than most people in the world. It doesn't take much, but

one person can make an incredible impact on the lives of many.

Mission is an expression of God's love for us, and our love for others. The God of love is the source of care, tenderness, compassion, hospitality and interest in other people's problems, in order to create one world family.

Catholic Mission internationally is known as the Pontifical Mission Societies, the Pope's own mission societies, working in 160 countries around the world, for more than 185 years.

"For me personally, the best part of working with Catholic Mission is the people I meet," national director Martin Teulan said. "Their incredible stories from all around the world make me proud to be a Catholic. It's what gets me up in the morning. It keeps me believing in God, because I see God so easily in these people."

To donate, visit www.catholicmission.org.au or call 1800 257 296.

Long journey from Vietnam jail to Tiwi Islands

Back in 1965 a young Vietnamese man, Peter Huan saw the plight of the indigenous mountain people of the Diocese of Kontum and how they were excluded from mainstream Vietnamese society.

This empathy was to return many years later when Fr Peter Huan MSC returned to work with a different indigenous community excluded from mainstream society in many ways - the indigenous community on Bathurst Island, part of the Tiwi Islands north of Darwin.

Before he reached the Tiwi Islands Fr Huan's life had many chapters to unfold. He began studies for the priesthood in the major seminary in Kontum, Vietnam, but was imprisoned by the government in 1979 for one year because of his work with the Church. His eldest brother was jailed for three months due to his association with a priest, his brother.

Fr Huan spent three months in a cell three metres by four metres - not big by any stretch of the imagination - but he shared it with 60 people. During his time in prison, he was beaten severely many times.

Forced by the government to leave Vietnam in 1981, he originally thought he would like to go to

Holland, but God had other plans. His visa application was rejected three times.

This was when he knew he should come to Australia, first settling in Melbourne, then Sydney where he finished theological studies with the MSCs.

Fr Huan spent six years working with the indigenous community at Daly River in the Northern Territory. He felt that he had a missionary calling to people of different ethnic backgrounds, particularly with the indigenous community.

He is happy and comfortable working with the people of the Tiwi Islands. He celebrates a school Mass once a fortnight and at Rankou community every other Sunday. There is no church at Rankou so Mass is celebrated in the open air.

"I am not here to teach the people, I am here to be with the people as a missionary and by the blessings of God they will experience conversion; not in the white way, not in the black way but in the way and time it is willed to be," he said.

Catholic Mission supports Fr Huan and his parish on Bathurst Island with funding from its work with communities.

AIDS and an eight year old

Religious sisters Adelfa and Amor are passionate in working in the local villages surrounding Thare in Thailand.

The sisters work with the elderly, the sick and disabled. When they discovered that HIV positive children had been abandoned and left to die in the streets they created a temporary shelter and started a school program for the children.

The sisters ran awareness programs with village leaders, families and teachers to eliminate the fear and stigma of AIDS.

This allowed children to return and be cared for at home with their families.

Jet is an eight-year-old boy who is HIV positive. His father is dead and his mother is unable to take care of him, while his older brother suffers from anaemia. Their tuition fees are paid for by the sisters. Jet is in year 2 at primary school, while his brother is in year 5.

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



Jet with his grandmother and brother.

The sisters don't believe in hand-outs with the exception of school fees, as this is an investment in their future which will help them to break from the vicious cycle of poverty.

Jet is a living example of how Catholic Mission is supporting Jesus' mission of love, bringing fullness of life and allowing young HIV positive patients the opportunity to live a full and happy family life at home.

Jet is now living with his grandmother and his brother and is doing well with the help of antiretroviral drugs to support his immune system.



World Mission Day, Sunday 19 October 2008

**one world
one family
one mission
of love**

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Call 1800 257 296 or donate online at www.catholicmission.org.au



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Olympian Zane dreams of 2012

Year 12 MacKillop Catholic College student Zane Jordan (right) is on his way to being "the best", after recently experiencing every athlete's dream of competing at the Olympics.

Despite wearing national colours of green and gold in Beijing, Zane did not compete for Australia, but represented his birth country of Zambia.

"It was cool to represent Zambia and I was so proud to be able to do that," he said.

"It'd be great to swim for Australia but there would also be a lot more competition. I have thought about becoming an Australian citizen so we'll see what happens by the next Olympics."

Now only 17, Zane got the attention of Zambian officials at the World Swimming Championships in Melbourne last year, with a personal best time of 25.2 seconds in the 50m freestyle.

Despite placing third in his heat at the Olympics with a new personal best time of 24.8 seconds, Zane's result was not fast enough to progress him any further.

"I was really nervous. I reckon I would have gone faster if the crowd wasn't there. I got to live at the Olympic Village and walk in the Olympic opening ceremony. I saw lots of famous people but I didn't talk to any of them."

Zane's shyness with the famous does not affect his confidence in the pool. "I will definitely compete in London. I'm the third fastest 17 year old in Australia for the 200m at the moment and hopefully when I compete at the upcoming nationals I'll do something special."

"When you finish a race and you're



ahead of everyone else, it just feels great. Isn't that why everyone does it - to be the best?"

A top effort

Due to their efforts at the MacKillop state athletics trials, two students from St Joseph's Primary School, Eden, have qualified for the

NSW All Schools Athletics Championships.

St Joseph's was well represented at the trials in Sydney by Hayden Skeers, Ronald Streater-Mason, Shania Aldridge, Sabastian Holmes-Smith and Josh Hickman, following strong performances at the Archdiocesan carnival in Canberra. Hayden jumped 1.31m in the scissor kick style to scoop the gold medal in boys junior high jump and break the state record for scissor kicking. Ronald cleared 1.32m to take out bronze in boys intermediate high jump. Hayden and Ronald progress to the NSW championships at Homebush this month.



Josh Hickman, Ronald Streater-Mason and Hayden Skeers.

Climbing high

Year 7 St Francis Xavier College student Daniel Monaghan placed third in the ACT rock climbing championships and fellow classmate Riley Habraken was selected for the under 14 boy's national basketball squad.

Selected for US league

Year 12 SFX student Eliza Russell has been selected to play with the North American women's baseball league in Boston next June for three months. Eliza was also selected in the Illawarra women's team, who will compete in the NSW Country Championships in Port Macquarie this month.

10th fastest in world

Year 12 MacKillop Catholic College student Melissa Breen is ranked the 10th fastest female junior in the world and the second fastest Australian female in the open age category of the 100m sprint after competing in the IAAF world junior athletics championships in Poland.

Represented ACT

Marist College year 7 student Alexander Tilley represented the ACT in the under 13 soccer championships in Melbourne.

Martial arts champ

Thomas Merienne, from St Edmund's College, is NSW martial arts champion for his age and weight division. Thomas also took away a silver medal in his division for sparring at the Australian national competition.

Helpers needed to guide new arrivals

A serious lack of volunteers is affecting the desired efficiency of Centacare's services.

Director of family and regional services Mr Gerry Lillicrap said about 50 volunteers were needed for Centacare's New Arrivals Humanitarian Service Program and another 10 for the Family Support Program.

"The New Arrivals Humanitarian Service Program helps about 80 individuals every year," he said. "But we are expecting a significant increase in numbers of refugees this year."

Volunteers would be required to help in various areas of the refugees' lives, from meeting them at the airport, to helping them with Medicare and bank information and looking after interests or needs they may have in their first six months in Australia.

"We currently have about 15 active volunteers in Canberra and Goulburn but that is not enough. We desperately need volunteers who can help refugees with simple things like using the bus system, but at the moment we don't have enough people to do even that. Volunteer tasks would vary such as helping with transportation to appointments and just showing them how we live in Canberra and Goulburn."

Mr Lillicrap said due to a lack of volunteers, Centacare's New Arrivals Humanitarian Service Program was not running as desired.

"The more volunteers we get, the more rewarding the experience will be for both sides. Because we have so little volunteers at the moment, we are only covering the essentials.

"The program is not at the level we would like to be running it. The program was originally designed by the government to work with volunteers and it does not work with out them. We don't have enough money to just put on more staff if we don't get the volunteers we want."

Those who would like to volunteer can contact Centacare, telephone 6295 4300.

House of Prayer to shut

The House of Prayer at Silver Wattle is set to close soon.

Archbishop Mark Coleridge said he had taken the decision "with a genuine sense of reluctance and recognition of the grace the community had been in the Archdiocese through the years. I also made it clear that I would seek to ensure that no injustice was done to any member of the community in the process of closure."

The future of the property was being considered, he said.

FACTS ON FUNERALS

Pre-arranged Funerals

A "pre-arranged" funeral is one planned (at no cost) sometimes years in advance of the death. A "prepaid" funeral is one where the person pre-arranges and prepays for the funeral at current costs, fixing the price so that nothing additional is paid when the funeral occurs.

Some people pre-arrange their funeral to reduce the emotional stress on their family when the death eventually occurs, others to ensure that their personal wishes are carried out.

The details are recorded with the funeral director. When the death occurs, the family need only contact the funeral director to have all the instructions of the pre-arranged funeral acted upon. These instructions include the location of the funeral ceremony, whether the funeral will involve a burial or cremation, whether a civil celebrant or clergy is to speak at the funeral ceremony.

Other instructions may include notices and flowers to be ordered, music to be played and whether a service club such as the Returned Services League or a Masonic Lodge is to participate in the funeral ceremony.

M.H. O'Rourke has securely recorded pre-arranged funerals for over ninety years.

If you would like to speak to someone about pre-arranging a funeral, please phone (02) 6297 1052.



M . H . O' R O U R K E
F U N E R A L D I R E C T O R S

PROUDLY AUSTRALIAN AND FAMILY OWNED SINCE 1900

Candidates quizzed

● From Page 3.

The Church's attitude to euthanasia is sometimes misunderstood to imply that a dying person must accept any available medical treatment that prolongs life only marginally yet adds to the person's suffering. In fact the Church upholds a person's right to refuse medical intervention in these circumstances. What the Church rejects is allowing life to be actively taken.

Human cloning for therapeutic purposes is a contentious issue. The Church, however, has a clear position - it involves the deliberate destruction of human life and is thus morally impermissible.

The justice system: With the opening of the new prison, the incoming government can now initiate its own approaches to correction policy. The commission believes the focus should be on rehabilitation as well as punishment.

One element of the government's corrections strategy might be restorative justice. The commission recognises that restorative justice will not suit every situation and that it must never be imposed; a victim of crime should have no obligation to participate and the perpetrator is unlikely to benefit unless fully and willingly involved.

Education: There is a strong correlation between the performance of schools and the socio-economic status of the areas from which they draw their students.

The commission is concerned to ensure that students from lower-income backgrounds receive a fair go

in the education system. If this goal is to be achieved, governments must have an eye to the geographic distribution of education spending.

Gambling: Excessive gambling is dangerous to individuals' mental and physical health. It affects the economic and social well-being of communities and families.

At its most extreme, it can lead to bankruptcy and crime. Excessive gambling is, more often than not, a symptom of an underlying addiction that is very hard to defeat.

State and territory governments have become heavily and unhealthily reliant on revenue from gambling. The gambling industry has produced some good in providing employment, contributing to community organisations and enabling governments to meet social needs. It must now be seriously questioned, however, whether it is doing far more harm than good.

Final observations: Members of the commission carry no brief for any individual candidate or political party contesting the ACT election.

The commission understands that there are many issues on which people of integrity and goodwill will differ.

Its purpose in seeking the views of candidates is to highlight some issues likely to be vital for the future well-being of disadvantaged people in the community, and to encourage a robust debate on how an incoming government might approach these issues.

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Find some toe-tapping lyrics and music

I needed the words for a hymn and I had left the book at work, so I thought I'd try to find the words on the internet.

After 10 minutes of searching, I found the lyrics that I needed and in the process discovered a large volume of websites not only concerned with the lyrics of hymns but also with MP3 and MIDI files as well.

As a result I could read the lyrics and listen to the whole hymn using an MP3 file or listen to the tune of the hymn using a MIDI file.

The World Wide Web provides access to many sites containing Catholic and Christian hymns and songs.

There are hymns on the internet to suit all tastes of religious music from older traditional hymns such as Ave Maria to contemporary gospel rock.

In my searching I discovered a Canberra-based Christian music group called Faith Sing Christian Music (www.faithsing.com/) whose music you can listen to online or download as MP3 files.

The website contains songs the group has written based on Old and New Testament readings from the Bible. This Christian music group has MP3 recordings, lyrics for each song and download sheet music so that other musicians can play its songs.

Another website that contained contemporary Christian music was Christian Music. Com (www.christianmusic.com/).

The Christian Music website contains reviews of contemporary Christian music. These reviews provide opinions and interviews with Christian musicians and may be a good starting point to finding the music of these musicians to listen to.

Another source of Catholic and Christian music on the web is Christian radio stations. Two that I found where you can listen to contemporary Christian music are FM1032 (www.fm1032.com.au/) and ChristianRadio.Com (www.christianradio.com/).

Living with the net



Paul Jenkins

FM 1032 is a Sydney-based online and free-to-air Christian radio station which plays music 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

ChristianRadio.Com contains links to Christian radio stations from the US, some of which transmit over the internet around the world.

With Christmas approaching, there are also quite a number of websites that have Christmas carols for people to listen to and download for the festive season.

To find hymns, carols and other religious songs, I used Google (www.google.com) with search terms such as: hymns, Catholic hymns, Christian music, traditional hymns, Christian hymns, online hymns, Christmas carols, Christmas music, gospel music and gospel rock.

These search terms all produced results. In some cases the music you find on these sites may not be to your taste, but in others you may find music that will keep your toes tapping for hours.

Typing in gospel rock produced 968,000 websites to view; traditional hymns generated 329,000 websites and Catholic hymns yielded 307,000 websites.

There are a number of websites that contain hymns and religious songs that are copyright-free. This means you can download or listen to their songs for free or for a small fee.

However, some websites do not have permission to host these songs and, therefore, are in breach of copyright.

It is important to respect the copyright of the artists who have written these songs and hymns as for many this is their sole source of income.

In searching the internet for Catholic and Christian hymns, you will find some that you know from your childhood and many, many more that you might not know but may come to like.

You never know what you may find until you have a listen.

Do anything, but be honest about it?

You are as sick as your sickest secret!

That's a popular aphorism in recovery circles and it speaks a deep truth. If we have to hide something then we aren't well, at least if the blemishes we are hiding are moral rather than physical.

A recovering alcoholic once told me: "Sobriety is only 10 per cent about alcohol or a drug; it's 90 per cent about honesty. You can drink, if you can do it honestly." Indeed you can do anything, if you can do it honestly.

That's an interesting moral principle: You can do anything if you don't have to lie about it.

There are exceptions to this, of course, if people have hardened their spirits or are otherwise so morally insensitive that they are not ashamed to openly admit or even flaunt duplicity.

But the principle is sufficient as a moral guide for basically anyone walking in grace. Simply put, you can do anything as long as you can be honest about it.

But that covers a lot of ground. Could you cheat someone, be sexually unfaithful, slander someone, or commit a sin of any kind and feel comfortable in sharing that openly with those who are closest to you?

The need to hide some action from others is a strong moral nudging. If we are walking (at least essentially) in grace we don't need any other commandment: We can do anything as long as we don't have to lie about it.

And there is another insight in this. When we do something wrong and then cover it up and lie, it is not so much the particular thing that we did wrong that harms us, it's the lying about it afterwards that does the real damage.

We are all weak, we all fall, we all commit sin. God understands this and it is not so much the sin itself that harms us. What causes the real harm is lying, covering up, sneaking around, not being transparent, living a double life.

Why? Because the human spirit is not made to live in dishonesty and duplicity. When we do wrong, we either have to stop doing what we are doing or, at least in honesty and contrition own our weakness, or our spirits will automatically begin to harden and to warp. Such is the anatomy of the soul, it can not tolerate moral duplicity for long without hardening and warping.

Indeed that is how the unforgivable sin against the Holy Spirit, the one infamous sin that cannot be forgiven, can happen. It begins with lying, rationalization, cover-up, and dis-

Ron Rolheiser

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



honesty. When we sustain a lie for any length of time, we begin to warp our own insides and the sin can become unforgivable not because God doesn't want to forgive but because we no longer see any need to be forgiven.

Lying, especially to ourselves, hardens and corrupts the spirit. That's why Satan is called the prince of lies rather than the prince of weakness.

That's also what is contained in Martin Luther's famous axiom: Sin bravely!

The invitation, in Luther, is not that we should have the courage to sin without flinching, but that, if we do sin, we should have the courage of honesty so as not to lie or rationalize about it after the fact.

One of the qualities that endeared Henri Nouwen to the world was precisely his honesty about his own weaknesses and his refusal to pretend he was anything other than what he was, a sincere, weak man struggling to live his life in honesty.

For example, there were seasons in his life when he wouldn't go on the road alone to give talks and conferences. Partly his reason for this had to do with his sense of community and his desire to bring a core member from his community along with him.

Part of his reason though was more humble. He was also honest enough not to always fully trust himself to travel alone. The presence of family and community around us can be a powerful moral watchdog on our behavior.

Nouwen was humble and honest enough to admit that sometimes he needed this in his life.

Too often we lack that kind of humility and honesty and consequently have things to hide, little or big secrets which we keep hidden and which keep us from full moral health.

When he was falsely accused of sexual abuse, Cardinal Joseph Bernardin was able to stand before the world and say, with credibility: "Everyone who knows me also knows that this accusation is false because my life is an open book."

Everyone who knew him believed him precisely because of the transparency evident in his life, the radical sobriety manifest in his person.

Sobriety is ultimately not about alcohol or some drug. It's about honesty and transparency. And, like honesty and transparency, it is not all or nothing, but has degrees. We are all sober more or less, according to the degree that our lives are an open book with nothing hidden in the closet.

This goes with that ...

As a part of their science and human society and its environment subjects, year 1 students from St Bernard's Primary School, Batemans Bay, had to build shelters which would provide protection from wind and sun.

With help from relatives and friends, structures were built from tree branches, palm fronds, ropes, cardboard boxes, timber off cuts and tarpaulins.

Some students added luxury mod cons such as televisions, doorbells, telephones, clothes lines and solar heating panels.

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Parish priest Fr Tom Thornton gives advice to Adam Thompson.

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Fun adventure, grave consequences

Brendan Fraser swept on to the screen in 1999 as Ric O'Connell, archaeology expert and adventurer, whose talent also lay in combating evil Egyptian Mummies who rose from the dead and threatened, well, everyone.

This was Indiana Jones territory (and there hadn't been one of those films for more than 10 years) but Ric and co were more than adequate, if lower-budget, substitutes.

Rachel Weisz turned out to be a vigorous adventurer as well, though John Hannah as her dippy brother, was along for the ride and getting himself into danger.

It worked so well that a sequel was desirable and inevitable, The Mummy Returns as did Fraser, Weisz and Hannah. And audiences

The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor.
Starring Brendan Fraser, Rachel Weisz and Michelle Yeoh. Directed by Rob Cohen. 112 mins. M (action violence). Reviewer: Fr Peter Malone*.

were delighted.

After quite a while, here comes another sequel and just after Indiana Jones has turned up again.

I don't know whether Steven Spielberg would be too pleased, but this third Mummy film seemed much more enjoyable than adventures in the kingdom of the crystal skull.

One of the difficulties for any sequel is that the novelty of the original has worn off.

However, this time the action moves away from Egypt and scorpion kings to China and dragon emperors.

The prologue to this adventure takes us back to a

ruthless ruler who wanted to be emperor and stopped at nothing to vanquish foes - and there are plenty of action effects to make this introduction to the film spectacularly exciting.

But our emperor, played by Jet Li, wants immortality and summons a benign witch (Michelle Yeoh) to get the elixir of life.

When she falls in love with his general, the wrath of the emperor descends and he and his computer-graphic thousands of warriors do battle.

But, he and his warriors are bewitched and buried and for millennia have just been waiting for someone to



Isabella Leong stars in The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor. Universal Studios.

pour the elixir into his tomb and - the emperor mummy and the soldiers (bearing a remarkable resemblance to the Chinese terracotta soldiers) will return. And that's just the prologue!

It is 1946 and Ric and Evy have retired to England while their now grown-up son, Alex, is not studying but, in fact, is in China, digging up and discovering... guess what and who.

The film is definitely old-time Saturday matinee material, the adventures like those old serials with their cliffhangers at the end of each episode.

Needless to say, Ric and Evy (this time Maria Bello instead of Rachel Weisz, a bit disconcerting as brunette instead of blonde) are sent to China, discover Alex and find themselves entangled with the resuscitated emperor, who has the ability to shape shift, including into a monstrous three-headed dragon, and the terra cotta forces.

Fortunately, the witch is immortal, as is her charm-

ing and martial arts trained daughter, so the O'Connells have some allies.

But they also have some extra enemies in the form of a Chinese general who wants to raise the emperor, serve him and conquer all China.

Intensely serious students of archaeology might have a number of quibbles over plot details and might find it hard to suspend disbelief in all the magic, but the rest of us, in holiday mood, will probably enjoy it for the tongue-in-cheek spectacular adventure that it is.

* 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.

Young boys' friendship

This is a very entertaining story of two young boys and their friendship - though it raises the perennial questions of how much movies influence behaviour, attitudes and desensitising because of violence.

This is the 1980s when First Blood was released, the first of the Stallone Rambo films. Lee Carter (Will Poulter) lives with his brother in a care home for the elderly. He has a video camera and we see him pirating First Blood at the cinema.

Meanwhile, Will Proudfoot (Bill Milner) stands outside the cinema to read the Bible with other members of the Plymouth Brethren. A series of accidents and misbehaviour (not on Will's part) brings the two boys together, Lee being something of a con man, a shoplifter and a bully.

Will is not even allowed to watch TV documentaries in class so, when he happens to see the pirated First Blood and learns that Lee is making his own film to enter in a BBC competition, his horizons open up considerably.

He is an imaginative sketcher and making a film about Rambo (he gets the spelling wrong) and a growing friendship with Lee becomes his preoccupation.

In his imagination and in their film he becomes Son of Rambo

Son of Rambo
Starring Zofia Brokks, Neil Dudgeon and Tallulah Evans. Directed by Garth Jennings. 95 mins. PG (mild violence, themes, coarse language). Reviewer: Fr Peter Malone MSC.

with one of the elderly acting as his father (Eric Sykes in an enjoyable cameo). He has to escape his mother's vigilance and that of Brother Joshua of the Brethren. Complications arise when a group of French exchange students come to the school and a flamboyant boy, Didier (Jules Sitruk) who has everyone doing his beck and call wants to star in the film. Then everyone wants to be in it. Will becomes the celebrity and it goes to his head. Lee is on the outer.

Plenty of emotional complications for Will (whose father is dead) with warnings to his mother from the Brethren to correct him. He clashes with Lee. You know it is going to have a happy ending - but it is a nice one as well.

The boys act very well indeed and, though you keep wondering about their apeing of Rambo and Colonel Trautman and the action scenes, the stronger themes are those of honesty and friendship.

French farce feels good

Only "Titanic" has taken more money at the French box office than this comedy and it is poised to become the most successful French film released in France. This is a comedy directed at exposing French prejudices among communities that live in separate regions of France.

Taking the part of a postal agency director, Philippe Abrams (played with great gusto by Kad Merad), is banished from the south of France to its northern regions after he is caught impersonating a disabled person while trying to seek a job transfer, which would take both him and wife Julie (Zoe Felix) to the sunny regions of France.

His punishment takes him to a region of France renowned prejudicially for its coldness, impersonality and lack of warmth, all of which he does not find. His wife refuses to go, and he cannot bear to report to her that he has found a welcoming community and that he loves being a part of it. To make things worse, Julie's love for Philippe is fuelled back home by her sympathy for his adversity.

Consequently, he sends terrible stories of harsh treatment back to his wife who finally decides to visit him in his new job. Philippe needs the community to behave terribly to support his stories, and it does so. The scenes where his wife is exposed to all the prejudices he has told her are very funny, creating almost the worst weekend Julie has spent in her entire life. Naturally, things become unstuck and Philippe confesses the truth to his wife who eventually decides to join him in his new job and she becomes, like him, part of a community which cares for them both.

In his adaption to his new surrounds, there are many scenes of delicate and infectious warmth as Philippe comes to a realisation that his stereotypes have been profoundly wrong.

The comic genius of Kad Merad shines through together with the flair of Dany Boon, who plays the role of Antoine a carillon performer and an alcoholic postman, and who directs the movie. The whole cast uses comic timing, language bizarreness,

Welcome to the Sticks (Bienvenue Chez Les Ch'tis)

Starring Dany Boon, Kad Merad, and Zoe Felix. Directed by Dany Boon. 106 mins. M (coarse language). Reviewer: Peter W Sheehan*.



Post Office manager Philippe (Kad Merad, left) comes to terms with the differences in Northern France, with his new workmates Antoine (Dany Boon, right) and Annabelle (Anne Marivin), in a scene from Welcome To The Sticks. A Hopscotch film.

and engaging eccentricity to carry off the pretence. The finale is touching as Philippe confirms Antoine's theory on the Chinese proverb that a stranger to the North brays (cries) twice - once when arriving and once when departing.

The weekend where everything goes wrong is funny in ways that only French farce can deliver. This is a well-directed movie, very funny in parts. Everyone in the film obviously had great fun in making it. The film won't rival "Titanic" commercially outside of France, but it offers a highly enjoyable experience. It brings touches of French lightness, warmth and comic flair that leave you feeling much the better for having seen it.

* Peter W Sheehan is an associate of the Australian Catholic Office for Film and Broadcasting.

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Remarkable by any measure

Captain Charles, Engineer of Charity, by Stephen Utick. Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 2008, 276pp, rrp \$ 39.95. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.

The sub-title of Stephen Utick's book is The remarkable life of Charles Gordon O'Neill. By any measure this statement rings true. Charles' one life contained highs and lows enough for three lives.

It is perhaps little-known that Charles O'Neill was a principal co-founder of the St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia and New Zealand.

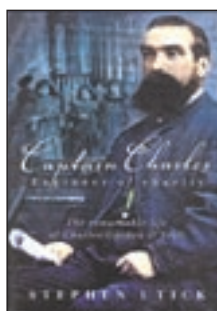
He was born in 1828 in Scotland of Irish parents. Blessed with talent and entrepreneurial vision he became an engineer involved in town planning and the design of churches and schools. He was a devout Catholic with a life-long passion for social justice. He quickly became prominent in the pioneering work of the St Vincent de Paul Society in Glasgow.

In the mid-years of the 19th century there was very little support for the desperate and desti-

tute. The society was unique in that it was lay-led and gave assistance to all regardless of creed.

Charles suffered a business failure and decided to make a fresh start in New Zealand. He settled in Otago during a rapid influx after the discovery of gold. As district engineer he oversaw civil construction work. He was elected to parliament twice where he promoted conservation and opposed provincialism. He helped to create town plans and routes for rail and tramways across New Zealand. He was awarded a prestigious accolade when elected a member of the Institution of Civil Engineers in London in recognition of his work.

But Charles had already decided to move on to Australia partly in reponse to being commissioned by the President-



General of the world-wide St V de P Society to re-establish the society in the Victorian colony. He was unsuccessful and moved to Sydney where he began the foundation in The Rocks in 1881.

With the collapse of the economy in the 1890s, Charles was involved in a financial scandal not of his making. Despite his former affluence and influence he died a pauper, ironically in The Rocks in 1900.

Stephen Utick has been meticulous in his research of the social history of Glasgow, New Zealand and of Sydney during the seven decades of Charles O'Neill's life. The Captain was enmeshed in the social fabric. His fortunes rose and fell with the prosperity of the times and Utick documents this very well. However the figure and the personality of Charles O'Neill himself remains in the shadows.

Perhaps that's just the way he would have wanted it. Certainly he would have been pleased that the net proceeds of this book go to the work of his beloved society.

Exploring the bible Man who enriches our city

God and Bible. Exploring Stories from Genesis to Job. By Antony F Campbell. Paulist Press, NJ, 2008. pb 128pp. rrp \$22.95. Reviewer: Margaret Ryan.

Do you know someone who, in a flush of enthusiasm, wanted to discover the bible and started reading it from the beginning? God and Bible would be a great companion for such a person.

This short text is a companion for the Old Testament, commenting on key passages from Genesis, some of the historical and prophetic books, and Job, under thematic titles such as Immigrants and Survivors and Private Image and Public Power. The author assumes the relevant section has been read, and often writes informally: "Amasa's body was spooking the troops."

Campbell examines the structure of the biblical texts, for example the two accounts of creation and the flood, asks questions and leads the reader to grapple with the purpose and meaning of the text. The clue, he points out, usually lies in the literary genre. Is the section reporting an historical event, or telling the reader about a story or rehearsing a liturgy?

Each chapter includes questions suitable for groups or personal spiritual reflection or discussion. Anthony Campbell is an Australian Jesuit, author and teacher in the Melbourne United Faculty of Theology. It's an interesting read.

A Story & Paintings. By Br Don Gallagher cfc. Choice Media. 166pp. \$49.95. Avail. St Edmund's College. Reviewer: Frank O'Shea.

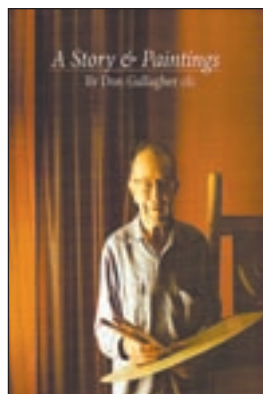
After modern novels with their disregard for conventions like beginning, middle, end, not to mention shifting points of view and the seeming obligation to shock, it is a delight to read a story that is as old-fashioned as my grandmother. And if I say that I loved my grandmother and admired her determination and sassy good sense, you would be right to conclude that I have a similar view of this gentle and uplifting story.

Though written in the third person, it is clearly the brief autobiography of one of Canberra's best known citizens, the author not even bothering to hide behind a pseudonym but happy to give his central character the name Don. It is a name that his grandfather did not approve of, the old man wondering why the lad was not given a good Irish name like Patrick. Because, his father pointed out, in those sectarian days more than 80 years ago, such a name would have closed off many employment opportunities to a working class young man.

Don left small town Victoria to enter the Christian Brothers in Sydney and has spent his working life in the classroom. He was able to develop his youthful talent as an artist and his paintings are found all over Australia. The last 100 pages of this book contain high quality reproductions.

One of the saddest things in modern life is the way that the vocation of the teaching brother has been tarnished by the misdeeds of a very small number of their confreres. I have known hundreds of brothers like Don Gallagher, from a number of teaching orders including his own, good men who dedicated their lives to the betterment of youth and received precious little acknowledgement for their work. A book like this may help to explain the life journey of many of these fine men.

Written with simplicity and wit, this is a story that may well bring a little lump to your throat or a tear to your eye. Old-fashioned, but real and actual, a book that as we look out through the bars of our disturbed world, might make us look up to the stars rather than down to the mud, to raise a prayer of thanks for a man who enriches our city by his talented, humble presence.



Following up on WYD

The CEO library holds many resources suitable for WYD follow-up activities such as youth ministry, retreats, spirituality, theology and personal development.

Check the online catalogue or contact library staff with requests.

Sound Recordings

Receive the Power (CD, ages 12-adult).

The official World Youth Day album with the Guy Sebastian song Receive the Power provides a lasting inspiration of the true power of the Holy Spirit during WYD and into the future. The album includes 19 tracks from a variety of singers eg, Amy Grant, Gary Pinto, Fr. Stan Fortuna, Amelai Farrugia and Russell Watson.

Sacro Song, Sacro Song Two and Sacro Song Three (3CDs, ages 12-adult).

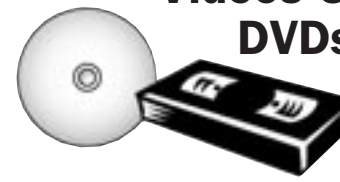
Many participants at WYD were inspired by the lively but spiritual presentations of Fr Stan Fortuna from New York. He composed and sings the songs on all three albums in the Sacro Song series in his own unique rap style with a catechetical theme of the Gospel message of God's love for humankind.

DVDs

Soul Searching: The Journey of Thomas Merton (67mins, ages 16-adult).

The life, writings and religious

Videos & DVDs



experiences of Trappist monk Thomas Merton are explored in this documentary film. Merton is considered one of the most influ-

ential spiritual writers of the 20th century and this program takes a look at his spiritual journey in search of the meaning of life during the 1960s in the US.

Journey of Hope (36mins, ages 16-adult).

The purpose of this film is to provide hope to people to overcome fear, pain, loneliness and despair by highlighting God's care for all of us as individuals. Questions such as: Why do bad things happen to good people and the reason for suffering are answered. Personal stories are told by people on camera.

Prayer With Young People (46mins, ages 5-10).

This DVD contains four separate programs: 1. Prayer of Praise, 2. Prayer any Time, any Place, about Anything, 3. Prayer of Asking, 4. Prayer of Quiet.

Each program consists of a combination of live instructional scenes, with voice over by a narrator, and short stories with audio. The programs explore the place of prayer as talking and listening to God, with ideas and techniques for praying. - Dennis Granlund, librarian.

CATHOLIC BOOKSHOP

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<p>Note: By arrangement with World Youth Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All orders are firm sale: no returns accepted Unless specified, dvds will be supplied in the PAL format, which is standard for Australia. NTSC format is suitable for visitors from USA, Japan and some other countries. Postage and handling charges will be added to orders. Highlights package and Stations of the Cross are also included in the complete set 		

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Prayers

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MAY the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus pray for us. St Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St Jude, help of the helpless, pray for us. Amen. Say this prayer 9 times a day. By the 9th day your prayer may be answered. Publication must be promised. Thank you Sacred Heart of Jesus and St Jude for all prayers answered. Please continue to look after us. Fay.



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Coming Events



AMICUS - Support & friendship/social group for widowed, separated or divorced Catholics regular activities on second and fourth weekends. New members welcome. Inquiries: Len, telephone 6299 6606; Pat 6292 1631, Brian 6291 7402.

CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME - St. John the Apostle Parish, Kippax. Six session program to assist Catholics who have lost touch with a worshipping community and are seeking to renew their faith. Begins 16 October. Inquiries: Parish Office, telephone 6254 3236.

CHRISTIAN MISSION IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE - International conference at Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, Barton, 2-5 October. Keynote speaker Prof Nico Koopmann, Director of the Beyers Naude Centre for Public Theology, Stellenbosch University, South Africa. Full and day registration available. Inquiries 6272 6201 or e-mail jpitman@csu.edu.au

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER WORKSHOPS - Renowned spiritual director, speaker, retreat master and author, Fr William Meninger OCSO, of St Benedict's Cistercian Abbey, Snowmass, Colorado US, 10am-3pm, 15-16 November, Greg Collins Room, St Benedict's Parish Centre, Narrabundah. Inquiries: Peter Ahern, telephone 62547168.

COOTAMUNDRA SCHOOLS REUNION - All ex-students of Cootamundra Catholic schools, reunion long weekend, 4-6 October. Forward names and addresses to be included on mailing list to Margaret Large, 51 Temora Street, Cootamundra, telephone 6942 1851 or 6943 2274.

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

CURSILLO - Ultreyas: Southside Corpus Christi Parish Centre, Gowrie, 8pm, Tuesday, 28 October. Northside Marian Hall, St Matthew's Church, Page, 8pm, Thursday, 30 October. All welcome.

CWL SPRING LUNCHEON - St Christopher's (Canberra) branch, Southern Cross Yacht Club, noon, Tuesday, 21 October. \$25 pp. Acceptances by Friday, 15 October. Jacqueline, telephone 6295 0084, e-mail jahipwel@bigpond.net.au or Vonnice, telephone 6281 1585.

HEALING NIGHT - With Dr John Bonnici-Mallia, medical practitioner with ministry in areas of spiritual, physical, emotional and psychological healing. Friday, 17 October, 5.30pm Healing Mass, 6.15pm talk and healing ministry, St Benedict's Church, Narrabundah. Inquiries: Telephone 6295 7879.

LABYRINTH MEDITATION - St Alban the Martyr Anglican Church, 41 Chappell St, Lyons, 1pm-6pm, Sunday, 2 November. Walking labyrinth is a form of prayer that allows the participant to pray with heart and body. Inquiries: Rev Rebecca Newland, telephone 6281 4505.

MARIAN CELEBRATIONS - Weekend 11-12 October. Mary Help of Christians, Patroness of Australia pilgrim statue St Patrick's parish, Boorowa, Saturday 6pm, Sunday 8am; St Anthony's Harden Sunday

9.30 am, and St Patrick's Binalong Sunday 5 pm. Consecration of parish, parishioners and homes, enrolment in Brown Scapular. Inquiries Fr. Greg Beath, telephone 6385 3030, Gus and Ellen Staunton 6385 5225

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.

PILGRIMAGE - Monday, 13 October, for Fatima Day, to Shrine of Our Lady of Mercy, Pauline Fathers Monastery, Penrose Park near Berrima. Bookings from Canberra, Queanbeyan and Goulburn, telephone Judy and Joe Mewburn 6254 6202.

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

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

RETREAT - 17-19 October, St Clement's Retreat Centre, Galong. Theme "Deep intimacy with the Holy Trinity" conducted by Fr Peter Ryan CSSR. Inquiries: Jacqueline Donohue, telephone 62513950.

RETREAT - "What the Lord asks of You", Redemptorist Retreat Centre, Galong, Friday, November, to Sunday, 9 November. Leader Fr Pat Corbett CS.SsR. Inquiries and bookings: Margaret Ryan, telephone 6163 4302 or e-mail margaret.ryan@catholiclife.org.au

SERRA CLUB OF CANBERRA - 6.15pm, Thursday, 13 November. Rosary and Mass at Holy Trinity Church, Curtin, followed by dinner.

STUDENTS REUNION - Riverina branch of ex-students of Sisters of St Joseph, North Goulburn. Begins with Mass 11am, Saturday, 18 October, Sacred Heart Church, Koorlingal. Lunch at Rules Club, Fernleigh Road, 12.30pm. 50 years reunion for 1958 leaving class and 1956 intermediate class, Margaret McAuliffe (Collins), telephone 6925 2363. 50 years reunion for 1958 intermediate class, Marjory Kelly (Wood), telephone 6926 2918.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND - Weekend for married couples, 31 October to 2 November, Mt Schoenstatt, Mulgoa (near Penrith). Bookings: Telephone 9489 4523 or 4283 3435, website www.wmwe.org.au

Written entries are invited for the November issue to: Catholic Voice, GPO Box 3089, Canberra ACT 2601, or e-mail ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au by Wednesday, 15 October. Entries which are accepted for this section are free, courtesy of sponsorship by the Catholic Development Fund.

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Volunteers who bring joy

It was a special occasion for 15 volunteers at Southern Cross Care Tenison Apartments in Goulburn and pastoral care team leader Sr Colleen Clear RSJ.

After completing an eight-week course under the direction of Sr Colleen the volunteers were presented with a certificate by Southern Cross Care chief executive officer Mr John Ireland.

Sr Colleen and her team welcomed the Sisters of St Joseph and friends of those who graduated to a prayer liturgy and afternoon tea.

After graduating, the men and women commit themselves to visit the residents of Southern Cross



Tenison Apartments for at least half an hour each week.

The visits give joy and happiness not only to the volunteers but to the many sisters and lay men and women who live in the apartments.

New step for Josephites

The conference of Josephite leaders has been established marking the next step in a long journey of dialogue between the various congregations going back over many years.

It came after two days of discussion and discernment by the leaders and leadership teams of the Central and Federation Josephites of Australia and New Zealand.

This conference creates a new space where Josephite congregations

can continue to come together in mission and communion as Sisters of St Joseph.

Some initiatives already shared will come under the conference of leaders, including Josephite retreats, the Justice Network, the Visioning Group. The conference will hold its inaugural meeting this month. Goulburn congregational leader Sr Noelene Quinane is a member of the conference.

Young men build on WYD

One of the many events at WYD was a large gathering of young men called MAD (Make a Difference) 08. Archbishop Mark Coleridge urged the young men to discover the power of the word of God in their lives by daily reflection on the Scriptures.

He insisted that it was not so much for us to interpret Scripture as it was for Scripture to interpret us.

Fr Chris Ryan MGL encouraged the young men in prayer, sharing from his own experience of discovering Jesus in a personal way while he was a teenager.

Among the large groups attending were 100 pilgrims from St. Edmunds College.

As a follow-up, the Young Men of God Movement will present a conference with the theme Standing for the

Truth at the Collaroy Centre in Sydney on 24-26 October.

Politician Mr Tony Abbott will share how he seeks to live a Catholic way of life.

Steve Lawrence, a former AFL premiership player with Hawthorn, will share how as a married man with a family he integrates his faith into his life.

Other speakers will be Byron and Francine Pirola, authors of Celebrate Love, a program of marriage enrichment, and Jonathan and Karen Doyle, founders of Choice Media.

Fr Ryan, who was co-ordinator of the journey of the WYD Cross and Icon through Australia, will preach.

Inquiries: Ben O'Heir, telephone 0410 403 763 or Fr Ken Barker 6281 0132.

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One World, One Family, One Mission of Love! It's October, Mission Month and this is the theme for Catholic Mission's 2008 World Mission Day Appeal. This global celebration of Mission encourages and offers all an opportunity to participate in enabling faith communities to exist, flourish and reach out to those around them, ensuring Christ's mission is alive and effective across our world.

Sisters Adelfa Sand Amor work in Thare Nonseng, Thailand. They support and encourage Basic Christian Communities with help from Catholic Mission that allows their faith communities to gather, pray and reach out effectively in love to those in most need; Jesus' mission in which we share.

Their efforts engage with the sick, elderly and disabled as well as abandoned children in need of food, shelter, medication and education. The Church and Basic Christian Communities provide the effective and far reaching networks that underpin and enable such life saving encounters.

Similarly, with your support, Catholic Mission extends Christ's helping hand to communities in Africa, Southern Asia, the Pacific and South America where need is great and local means grossly inadequate and opportunities limited. Help us help them. God bless,

Deacon Joe Blackwell

The Rheinberger Centre,
P O Box 7174,
Yarralumla 2600.
e-mail:
asst.missions@cg.catholic.org.au
Telephone 6163 4321

Students remember a life



MacKillop Catholic College students have remembered the life of former student Tegan Blunt and raised more than \$5000 for a memorial fund created in her honour as part of their annual feast day celebrations.

This year the college celebrated 10 years of education with a Mass at Tuggeranong Basketball Stadium followed by celebrations at the Isabella campus.

Principal Mr Michael Lee said the Tegan Blunt Memorial Gift, named after the former Year 11 student who was killed in a car accident in June, would "support particular MacKillop students achieve in their chosen fields of endeavour".

More than 1500 staff, students and former staff and students attended the anniversary Mass, including Goulburn Sisters of St Joseph congregational leader and founding principal of the college Sr Noelene Quinane.

During the ceremony Mr Lee said the

school's patron Mary MacKillop had set a benchmark of courage and goodwill for the college.

"As a school we are conscious of how clever and brave we were to take Mary MacKillop as our college patron," he said. "We're a school with a great presence and a great future. Don't ever forget how fabulous you are."

College chaplain Fr John Armstrong encouraged students to follow in the footsteps of Mary MacKillop. "We must ask ourselves, who are those people we need to open our hearts to today. We stand here at a crossroads and pray that our lives make a difference too."

ABOVE: College vice-captains Matt Tabur and Katrina Andric carry in the college banner at the celebration Mass.

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A time to celebrate in the village of Samale.

Small change makes a world of difference

A small prayer group's generosity and the wisdom of village elders have combined to make a difference to the lives of a community in the West African country of Mali.

The villagers of Samale received \$800 two years ago from the dozen members of the prayer group in the Parish of the Transfiguration, North Woden.

Villagers elected a women's committee who decided to use the money to make small loans to women to establish a communal vegetable garden to help improve the health of the whole village.

One villager used her loan to buy small quantities of spices which she sold, often a teaspoon at a time, to mothers and grandmothers preparing the evening meal for the family. Surplus vegetables were sold at the local markets and the women have money to buy extras for their families.

Prayer group member Mr Bryan Docherty said the project had been empowering for the women. The women's committee declined to use any further donations until there was sufficient money to buy a grain grinding machine costing about \$3000.

The machine has been bought and the benefits for the village are many. Each day, the village's girls and women had to grind millet using a huge mortar and pestle and, over time, their hands become calloused. The grinding would normally take most of the day so many girls missed school when they had to help.

The machine means the work can be done quickly and nearby villages use it for a small fee. The girls have the same educational opportunities as the boys, and the women are freed from the daily chore to extend their gardens and engage in other activities.

Former prayer group members Anny and husband Antoine Kalinganire, who works for the United Nations in Mali, were welcomed to the village to mark the completion of the project. A two-compartment grinder and diesel engine, housed in a shelter built with the help of a Melbourne timber company, has pride of place in the village.

The icing on the cake was the fact that, when the project was complete, there was enough money left over to buy water pumps. The men of the village had a chance to be part of the project

by digging two wells for the pumps. Now the gardens are watered without the women needing to carry water for the crops.

"What started as a project for the women has finished up by involving almost the entire village population," Mr Docherty said.

"In return for their donations, the prayer group has received gifts coming from the hearts of the village women.

"After the first few visits, Anny was given her own special village name, Awa, meaning 'who brings happiness'.

"The prayer group has had the pleasure of seeing the joy and excitement on the faces of the women from the photos Anny and Antoine send. A board has been placed above the entrance to the hut with the inscription 'thanks to our friends from Australia' in three languages.

"Anny reports that on the day of the official opening, the village women were overwhelmed with joy that was expressed through their traditional African dances, drums, songs, speeches, hugs and laughs."

Mr Docherty said the "secret collection bag remains in its place each week as the prayer group meets to meditate on the scriptures and continues to support its friends in Samale."



TOP: Village elders admire the grain grinder. ABOVE: The villagers show their appreciation.