



Vinnies in the valley  
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FREE

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## Baby, it's boom time at college

Evidence of a national baby boom is apparent at St Francis Xavier College, Florey, where another six teachers have welcomed newborns.

In August last year Catholic Voice visited the college when 12 staff members had given birth.

According to recent Australian Bureau of Statistics research, those staff members contributed to the 2007 national baby boom of 285,200 registered births, the highest number recorded. The only downside to the nation's baby boom is the humanities and science departments at St Francis Xavier College are short-staffed.

RIGHT: Pictured: Leah Leggott and baby Cameron, Rachel Mancini and baby Claire, Chauntelle McNamara and baby Cooper, Leilah Ayton and baby Nikolas, Amber Rebecca and baby Lexi and Shaun Lendrum and baby Isla.



# Pre-school push

Canberra will soon have its first Catholic pre-school, and more are likely to follow.

The Catholic Education Office will open a Catholic early learning and care centre in the grounds of Holy Family Primary School, Gowrie, at the beginning of first term next year.

Catholic education director Mrs Moira Najdecki said the decision to trial a care centre in the Archdiocese was a response to the Commonwealth Government's new early childhood policy and its recognition of the importance of early childhood learning.

"Similarly, the ACT Government's school curriculum framework now covers the years from pre-school to Year 10. This has seen the incorporation of existing government pre-schools into government primary schools. Catholic pre-schools will give parents choice at all levels of education in the ACT."

Mrs Najdecki said the proposed pre-

school provided the opportunity for parents of children in the Tuggeranong Valley to choose Catholic pre-school education with continuity through enrolment in subsequent years in local Catholic primary schools.

The centre will provide formal pre-school education and childcare services for four year olds.

It will offer 30 places next year with priority given to parishioners seeking full-time places.

Support in the parish and school community is very strong, but limited spaces may still be available.

The centre would be open to all who wanted to share in the ethos of Catholic education, Mrs Najdecki said.

It will be staffed by fully qualified teachers and child care workers dedicated to providing high quality care and learning. The building and grounds are being refurbished to meet relevant standards.

The pre-school curriculum will be based on the ACT Government curriculum framework "Every Chance to Learn", and will be underpinned by the philosophy that pre-school aged children learn through structured play.

Child care will also be available for children before and after normal pre-school hours and during school holidays.

The centre was approved by the Catholic Education Commission as a pilot program.

A second centre is expected to open with the planned new Catholic primary school in Harrison in 2010.

If successful, the two centres will be the beginning of a number of Catholic early learning and care centres providing a Catholic pre-school option in the Archdiocese, Mrs Najdecki said.

● The new primary school in Harrison will initially cater for children in pre-school to Year 3. It is expected to grow to an enrolment of about 460 children.

## Archbishop's Advent Letter on the Word of God

*'I would urge every Catholic to read and pray the Bible every day...'*

What the Archbishop says, go to:

[www.cg.catholic.org.au/about/default.cfm?loadref=86](http://www.cg.catholic.org.au/about/default.cfm?loadref=86)

**We wish all readers the peace of Christ this Christmas**





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near and far

New head  
for Eddies

St Edmund's College's new headmaster has more than 20 years experience in Catholic boys schools behind him.

Mr Peter Fullagar, college dean at St Joseph's College, Gregory Terrace in Brisbane, will succeed Dr Christopher Hayes.

Like St Edmund's, the Brisbane college is an Edmund Rice school with more than 1200 boys from year 5 to 12.

Mr Fullagar, who has held the position for six years, said he had found it to be a richly rewarding experience to work in a dynamic educational community. He has deputised for the principal on many occasions.

In between the administrative work, he has continued to teach and has enjoyed this opportunity to teach Year 9 history and Year 12 religious education classes.

Before joining St Joseph's College, he spent 16 years at Iona College in a variety of roles, initially as head of physical education and later deputy principal.

Mr Fullagar said he was looking forward to drawing on his experience in Catholic boys schools to serve St Edmund's well.

Mr Fullagar is married with children. Running is a great enjoyment in his life and he is looking forward to stretching out on some of the beautiful trails around Canberra.



Locals shine in new  
presbytery project

A new era began for St Mary's parish, Young, with the blessing of foundations for the new presbytery, the third priests' residence the parish has built since its establishment in 1871.

The last residence was in disrepair and was demolished to make way for ground space at Hennessy College.

Parish priest Fr Richard Thompson said almost entirely local business would be building the presbytery. He designed the original concepts and architect Mr John Atkinson from Wombat turned the concepts into reality. Local builder Mr Adam Tanner is using his team and local contractors.

The residence will accommodate three priests and will offer a guest/ meeting room and a small chapel.

"I have gone to great lengths to ensure that water and power facilities are as efficient as we can get them" Fr Thompson said, "I would like this to be a showpiece of what is possible in energy efficiency."

"This will be a priests' residence, not a church office," he said. The offices were relocated to Campbell Street adjoining the parish centre when the old presbytery was demolished in January.

The presbytery is expected to be officially opened on 24 May 2009 by Archbishop Mark Coleridge.



Servers Greg Brodderick, Nick Duff and Georgia Mugridge with Fr Richard Thompson as he prepares to bless the foundations.

Retreat time for our clergy



Bishops, priests and deacons from across the Archdiocese gathered at St Clement's Monastery, Galong, for the annual clergy retreat. Here a group take time out under the trees in the grounds of the historic centre.

Women must 'work for peace'

Catholic women should work with each other and with other religions to achieve world peace, according to the Catholic Women's League (CWL) archdiocesan president.

Mrs Jacqueline Hipwell was speaking after returning from the World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations Asia-Pacific conference in Seoul, Korea, which had the theme "women peacemakers, united in faith and action".

Mrs Hipwell said the conference which takes place every four years was a chance to "talk, interchange ideas and pray" with other WUWCO members. "During the conference I discovered that CWL needs to do more for peace in the world," she said.

To begin the process, Mrs Hipwell said she would encourage CWL branches to pray for peace and address politicians.

"Each branch will work individually with their social justice and bioethics conveners to work out what they can do. I would like us to think about peace in the world and work towards it rather than worrying about our own individual problems."

When the conference was addressed by a



ABOVE: The Australian and New Zealand group with Mrs Jacqueline Hipwell (front third from right), Mrs Thora Regan (front fourth from right), Mrs Eileen Hogg, (back, far left) and Mrs Patricia Liddiard (back second from left).

Buddhist nun, Mrs Hipwell said she realised "we are all working towards the same thing".

About 300 women attended the conference, representing Australia, China Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, the Philippines, South Korea, Taiwan, the UK and the US.

Catechists blessed for service

Seven catechists have received papal blessings for 25 years service to religious education of Catholic students attending state schools in the Archdiocese.

They are Margaret Berry, of Boorowa, Shirley Boag and Maureen Watson, of Evatt, Roma Hill, of Grenfell, Margaret Matthews, of Temora, Veronica Siegert, of Koorawatha, and Bernice Wilson, of Batemans Bay.

Certificates of accreditation and service and special service awards were presented at five regional CCD Masses.

Archbishop Mark Coleridge celebrated Mass at Gundagai, Bishop Pat Power at Jindabyne, Goulburn and Waramanga, and Mgr John Woods at Batemans Bay.

Miriam Bugeja, of Queanbeyan, and Doreen Holland, of Batlow, were presented with the Mona McInstoch Award for 30 years of service. Patricia Reardon, of Temora, and Sr Ann Steenbergen, of Barellan, were presented with the Fr Michael O'Brien Award for 35 years service. Fr Adrian Cork, of Michelago, was presented with the inaugural Motor Mission Award for 45 years service.

Parishes across the archdiocese are recruiting volunteers for the 2009 school year.



Shirley Boag (left) and Maureen Watson, from St Monica's parish, Evatt, with archdiocesan CCD coordinator Sabina Van Rooy and Bishop Pat Power after they received a papal blessing.

Anyone able to give time by attending formation and training courses and teaching students in state schools should contact their parish priest or parish CCD coordinator.



# Fees rise 'kept to minimum'

Fees for students at Catholic schools next year will rise by 6 per cent for ACT secondary, 3 per cent for ACT primary and 2 per cent for NSW schools.

The Catholic Education Commission said it was very aware of the difficulties being faced by some communities in the Archdiocese and it had aimed to keep fee increases to a minimum while trying to balance budget demands.

The tuition fee structure will remain unchanged for 2009.

The 2009 term fees in systemic schools are:  
ACT primary  
First child \$264, second child \$79.20 (70 per cent discount), third child \$52.80 (80 per cent discount), fourth child no charge.

ACT secondary colleges  
Years 7-8 \$594, Years 9-10 \$610, Years 11-12 \$742. Discounts 20 per cent for second child attending an archdiocesan secondary school, 50 per cent for third child, no charge for fourth or subsequent child attending either an archdiocesan primary or secondary school. Full fee is payable on the oldest child.

Contributions to the Canberra Catholic Schools Building Fund will be \$114 a term, up from \$109 this year.

NSW primary  
Family tuition fee \$228. A 50 per cent discount applies on the family fee if a sibling attends a NSW systemic secondary school. No charge for a fourth or subsequent child attending a systemic primary, central or secondary school.

NSW secondary (per student)  
Years 7-8 \$343, Years 9-10 \$354, Years 11-12 \$395. Discounts 60 per cent for the second child attending a systemic secondary school, 75 per cent for the third child, no charge for fourth or subsequent child attending a systemic primary, central or secondary school. Full fee is payable on the oldest child.

NSW central schools  
Primary per family \$228, Years 7-8 \$343 per student, Years 9-10 \$354 per student.

Discounts 50 per cent on primary family fee if a sibling attends the secondary section or another NSW systemic secondary school. 60 per cent for the second child attending the secondary section or another systemic secondary school. 75 per cent for the third child attending the secondary section or another systemic secondary school.

No charge for fourth or subsequent child attending a systemic primary, central or secondary school. Full fee is payable on the oldest child.

# Former Canberra bishop retires

Bathurst bishop and former Auxiliary Bishop of Canberra and Goulburn Patrick Dougherty has retired.

Pope Benedict accepted his resignation on reaching the age for retirement after 25 years at the helm of Bathurst Diocese.

Assistant priest in the Cathedral parish and a noted liturgist Fr Patrick O'Regan was named diocesan administrator until a new bishop is appointed.

Bishop Dougherty was born in Kensington, Sydney, on 21 November 1931, the second of four sons born to Madge and William Dougherty.

His secondary school education was completed at St Columba's College, Springwood,

in 1948. From there he continued studies for the priesthood at St Patrick's College in Manly before being sent to Propaganda Fide College in Rome, where he was ordained a priest on 7 December, 1954.

He obtained his Doctorate of Divinity in spiritual theology from the Urban University in Rome in 1957 before returning to serve in a Sydney parish.

At Cardinal Gilroy's invitation he spent 1958 in Rome researching the life of Mother Mary



Potter, foundress of the Little Company of Mary.

He later served as assistant vice rector and then rector of Propaganda Fide College. In 1963 his book, Mother Mary Potter, foundress of the Little Company of Mary was published.

In 1970 he returned to Australia, having been appointed to the newly established secretariat of the Australian Episcopal Conference in Canberra.

He was ordained bishop in December 1976 and from then until 1983 was Auxiliary Bishop of the Canberra and Goulburn Archdiocese and secretary of the Australian Episcopal Conference.

In 1983 he was appointed Bishop of Bathurst.

# Vinnies in valley gears up for next 20 years

A lot has changed since Dee Hogan began work in Tuggeranong nearly two decades ago.

The first manager of the valley's Vinnies store continues in that role today with five staff and 40 volunteers on the books - and a newly extended building to cater for the needs of the area's residents for the next 20 years.

The \$1.2 million extensions to the centre provide double the previous retail shop area, a large sales counter, expanded sorting area, rooftop parking for staff and helpers, and a modern area to receive donations.

Gone are the two traditional clothing bins out the front of the centre. Instead, a secure room has been built providing external access for donors via chutes and treble the space for donations. Staff members are happy too, as the donations fall into trolleys for easier handling, and the chore of emptying bins in the rain or scorching sun is avoided.

"There is a lot more people coming in since those early days, and they represent a much wider cross-section of the community," she said.

"We have a lot of regular customers who like the atmosphere and the variety. Vinnies stocks quality items at reduced prices, which in the current economic climate can really help people to meet their budgets."

The centre will continue to accept



donations of clothing, bric-a-brac and books, and is taking re-saleable furniture, but not old mattresses, for the first time.

"We love the donors who respect us and don't give us their old rubbish," Mrs Hogan said. "We don't want people's worn-out garden shorts and dirty old sneakers."

Donations of children's toys, collectables, jewellery and good quality clothing delight her. Sadly, many donations are unusable. Last financial year, Vinnies spent \$80,000 on tip fees. Donated clothing is sorted into four categories, re-saleable, donations to Africa, rags and "straight to the tip".

Vinnies deputy chief executive officer Mr Michael Taarnby said the organisation had "moved away from op shops" to running "quality second-hand stores".

ABOVE: Vinnies' crew at Tuggeranong (from left) front: Joan Hibberson, Rohini Mudalige and manager Dee Hogan. Back: Dolinde Bosker, Betty Fogarty, Di Nolan and Terry Widdicombe. The large counter was made by Vinnies' Mitchell centre manager Gerry Forceville. LEFT: New extensions are closest to camera.

A major feature of the St Vincent de Paul Society was that 100 per cent of the profit from its centres stayed in the Archdiocese and was channeled into helping people in need.

Vinnies spends about \$1.8 million a year in providing cash and goods assistance.

Mrs Hogan emphasises that the operation of the centre would falter without the great staff and volunteers she has. "We desperately need more volunteers, particularly now that the shop is so much bigger."

Age and gender does not matter, although volunteers need to be physically able. Opening hours at Tuggeranong are 9am to 5pm weekdays, 9am to 3pm Saturdays and 10am to 3pm Sundays. Mrs Hogan would welcome volunteers to contact her on telephone 6208 6000.

## Anglicans name bishop

The rector of a Sydney parish has been elected the 10th bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn. The Rev Stuart Robinson, who is national mission facilitator for the Anglican Church of Australia and rector of Chatswood, is married with four children. The electoral synod, the parliament of the diocese, came together over two days and consisted of 110 clergy and 240 lay representatives drawn from all facets of the diocese. Bishop-elect Robinson will be consecrated in the diocesan Cathedral of St Saviour in Goulburn.



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Ann Tunnecliffe & Victor Dunn

*The CDF extends Christmas greetings to all  
Voice readers*



# When the bandwagon is in fact a hearse

Recently, the Canberra Times published a piece which began with the resounding claim that the Catholic Church is becoming increasingly irrelevant to Australians.

That's quite a claim about a community which, numerically at least, is something between a quarter and a third of the national population and is the second largest employer in the land, to say nothing of being a huge provider in the key areas of health, education and welfare. And such numbers are only the tip of the Catholic iceberg.

All of which raises the question of what on earth was being said or implied about relevance.

The Times article went on to speak of the situation that has arisen in the supposedly very relevant parish of St Mary's, South Brisbane.

It suggested that relevance for the Catholic Church would mean abandonment of the Church's doctrine and discipline such as we have seen at St Mary's over a period of time and in defiance of both episcopal and papal authority.

Yet if history teaches anything, it teaches that true irrelevance for the Catholic Church lies in the way of abandonment of the Church's doctrine and discipline, and that true relevance lies in the way of faithfulness to that doctrine and discipline for the sake of the mission of the Church.

For a pope or bishop to see it in any other way would be dereliction of duty, since it is the God-given task of the Pope and the bishops to safeguard and promote the unity of the universal Church by encouraging an ever deeper faithfulness to the doctrine and discipline of the Church for the sake of mission.

To suggest that "Rome" is bullying the Archbishop of Brisbane and St Mary's Parish into submission is nonsense.

If excommunication does come in Brisbane (which God forbid), it will come not as some ham-fisted act of tyranny by "Rome", but as the sorrowful recognition that a community has placed itself outside the communion of the Church by open and persistent defiance of the Church's doctrine and discipline and a refusal to engage in any real dialogue. Excommunication would declare that the path chosen by St Mary's Parish and its leaders is not the path of true relevance but the path of true irrelevance.

To see a community like St Mary's as somehow pointing the way into the future or as somehow embodying what was taught by the Second Vatican Council is to misunderstand not only the Council but also the future that God has in mind and how the Church might get there.

It is absurd to think that a General Council would abandon key points of the doctrine and discipline of the Church, however much the Council might have sought to express these in a fresh way beyond the ash-heaps of Auschwitz and Hiroshima.

As Pope Benedict has pointed out many times, the Council was not only about discontinuity of a kind but also, and more deeply, about continuity - the con-

tinuity which takes us back through the apostolic tradition to Jesus himself.

It is no less absurd to think that the Church might enter the future of God by abandoning - in the name of some supposed relevance - the doctrine and discipline in which that apostolic tradition takes form.

If relevance is in fact what the Times article claimed, then I for one would be quite happy for the Catholic Church to settle for irrelevance and seek a relevance of another kind, the relevance of Jesus, the relevance of the Cross.

The Times piece was also strong on the point of inclusiveness, stressing that the Church must be open to all.

This is true, of course, and if any Church in this country has been the Church of the mob, open to all, it has been the Catholic Church.

But the inclusiveness of the Church does not mean that there are no boundaries.

It does not mean that there is no such thing as sin which sets a person or a group outside the communion of the Church.

You only have to read the Letters of St Paul to see that from the earliest days there were situations where something like excommunication happened.

Sin of one kind or another was judged to be so grave that it placed the person or group outside the community. In Paul's own terms, they were no longer "in Christ", however much they may have insisted that they were still "in Christ".

It is not simply a matter of what the individual or group claims, but of what the Church judges with the authority given by Jesus.

The Church is open to all - but to all who recognise what sin is, who acknowledge that they have sinned, who seek the Church's forgiveness for that sin and then set out on the new path of discipleship within the community, following what the Church teaches in the name of Jesus.

The Church is not and cannot be open to those who do not recognise sin, do not seek forgiveness and do not take the new path opened up by Jesus in the Church.

In the end, communities like St Mary's and those who support them, fail to recognise the difference between a bandwagon and a hearse.

With the best of good intentions - and no-one is attributing any of this to malice - they jump gleefully on the bandwagon of a certain relevance and inclusiveness without realising that what looks like a bandwagon into the brave, new world of the future is in fact a hearse leading to a dead end that they do not see coming.

Such confusions do not help, and it is the task of the Pope and the bishops to speak with one voice in pointing the way beyond them.



+Bishop Mark



## Harsh reality of life in the sunburnt west

Despite the confident headlines recently that "only 63 per cent of rural NSW is in drought" that 63 per cent covers the Murray-Darling basin, the bread-basket in NSW

It is here in the west of our Archdiocese that drought conditions still endure.

Both our major dams in the Murrumbidgee catchment area, Burrinjuck and Blowering are below 50 per cent of capacity and in the Lachlan catchment area, Wyangala is below 20 per cent, and this at the beginning of summer.

We've had good patchy rain over the last months, and "depending what cloud you're under" the farmers may or may not have a crop.

It is hard on the morale to travel around the Western Deanery and see that some farmers will make it, others will not because of this patchy rain.

So our DVD Mate Helping Mate is still available and being offered to all parishes for the support of our families on the land.

Those parishes that have drought assistance programs find that while there has not been such great call for domestic water, there are other areas of need which still need to be addressed.

At Cootamundra, our program has helped with covering domestic water, school fees, telephone and electricity bills, bad debts, house renovations, funeral expenses and many other emergencies.

An added problem was the discovery of plague locust hatchings in the district recently; one infestation was reported as being 300m wide and 6km long and could have wiped out all the crops if left unchecked.

Pastures protection boards pay for the spray, but farmers had to find the finance on a very strict budget to pay for fuel for a spraying they had not reckoned on.

Our fund made \$10,000 available for fuel for farmers for this exercise.

As everyone knows, fuel is not cheap; it can cost anywhere between \$500 and \$1000 to fill up a tractor. The spraying is continuing to save the crops.

We are still hopeful for reasonable crops this year and the continued support for those who are the bat-tlers on the land.

● Anyone wanting to support the parish in helping those in need in the rural districts may contact Fr Kevin Barry-Cotter, telephone 6942 2514, or P O Box 441, Cootamundra 2590.

### voices



**Cootamundra parish priest and dean of the western deanery Fr Kevin Barry-Cotter looks at some of the realities of life on the land at the beginning of another hot summer.**



## Pope wants a photo of your family

Pope Benedict XVI wants a photo of your family to add to a massive mosaic of families from all over the world as part of the celebrations for the Sixth World Meeting of Families to be held in Mexico City in January.

The photographs will make up a giant collage forming a portrait of Pope Benedict which will be unveiled during the event. The Mosaic of the Families has already had more than a thousand photos

contributed, but Australia is seriously under-represented so far.

For those who would like to attend the World Meeting of Families, an Australian pilgrimage group has been established, headed by Bishop Eugene Hurley and Ron and Mavis Pirola. The pilgrimage will leave Sydney on 9 January, returning on 21 January, with an optional five-day extension to spiritual and cultural sites returning on 25 January.

For details of the Australian pilgrimage, go to [www.harvestpilgrimages.net.au](http://www.harvestpilgrimages.net.au) or telephone the Pirolas on 9349 1710.

To add your family photo to the mosaic, send a jpg file to [photowmf2009@gmail.com](mailto:photowmf2009@gmail.com) including the name of the person sending the picture, the family's last name, country of origin and city of residence. The pictures should not exceed 4 megabytes and should not be taken with a mobile phone camera.



# Have fun and give to a good Christmas cause

Vinnies is running a Secret Santa Campaign this Christmas to encourage local businesses and the community to support the society to help people in crisis.

This is a light hearted campaign that encourages people to think of the pointlessness of a novelty gift compared to the real needs of people facing crisis and disadvantage.

Once people have donated they can print off a fun electronic voucher to give in lieu of a gift so they can still enjoy the spirit of Secret Santa. This can be done by visiting the society's website [www.vinnies.org.au/secretsanta](http://www.vinnies.org.au/secretsanta)



Donations may also be made through Christmas appeal parish envelopes which are available in parishes and Vinnies Centres.

Cash and credit card donations may be made in person at Vinnies centres or the society's main office at 17-19 Colbee Court, Phillip.

Credit card donations may also be made by telephone on 6282 2722.

All donations to Vinnies are spent locally. Although donations from the ACT, country and coastal areas are processed in the archdiocesan office in Canberra, money is returned to the area from which it came.

## Growing MGLs seek more seminary space

The Missionaries of God's Love have outgrown their seminary in Melbourne and urgently need to expand to accommodate the growing number of seminarians. A seminary building appeal was launched in Melbourne by Archbishop Denis Hart.

Moderator of the MGLs Fr Ken Barker spoke about the Church's urgent need for more priests formed in a genuine life of holiness with the fire to evangelise. The MGLs take a vow of radical poverty and depend entirely on the providence of God.

A range of donations options are available online at [www.mglvocations.org](http://www.mglvocations.org) or donations may be mailed to Fr Barker at 6 Boake Place, Garran, ACT, 2605. Inquiries: Fr Steve Fletcher at [mglfletcher@gmail.com](mailto:mglfletcher@gmail.com)

## How to support in pregnancy

A DVD, featuring the personal stories of two young women faced with an unexpected pregnancy, has been launched as part of a strategy to explore alternatives and pastoral responses to abortion.

The Walking with Love DVD comes with an accompanying study guide which aims to help people come to understand ways in which they can support women who face an unexpected pregnancy.

A project of the Bishops Commission for Pastoral Life, the DVD may be ordered through the website [www.walking-withlove.org.au](http://www.walking-withlove.org.au)

## Appeal will help many

### ARCHBISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

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

Inquiries: Tel: 02 6163 4321

Funds from this year's Archbishop's Christmas Appeal will again be channelled to a number of causes. The appeal will be run across the Archdiocese at all Christmas Masses.

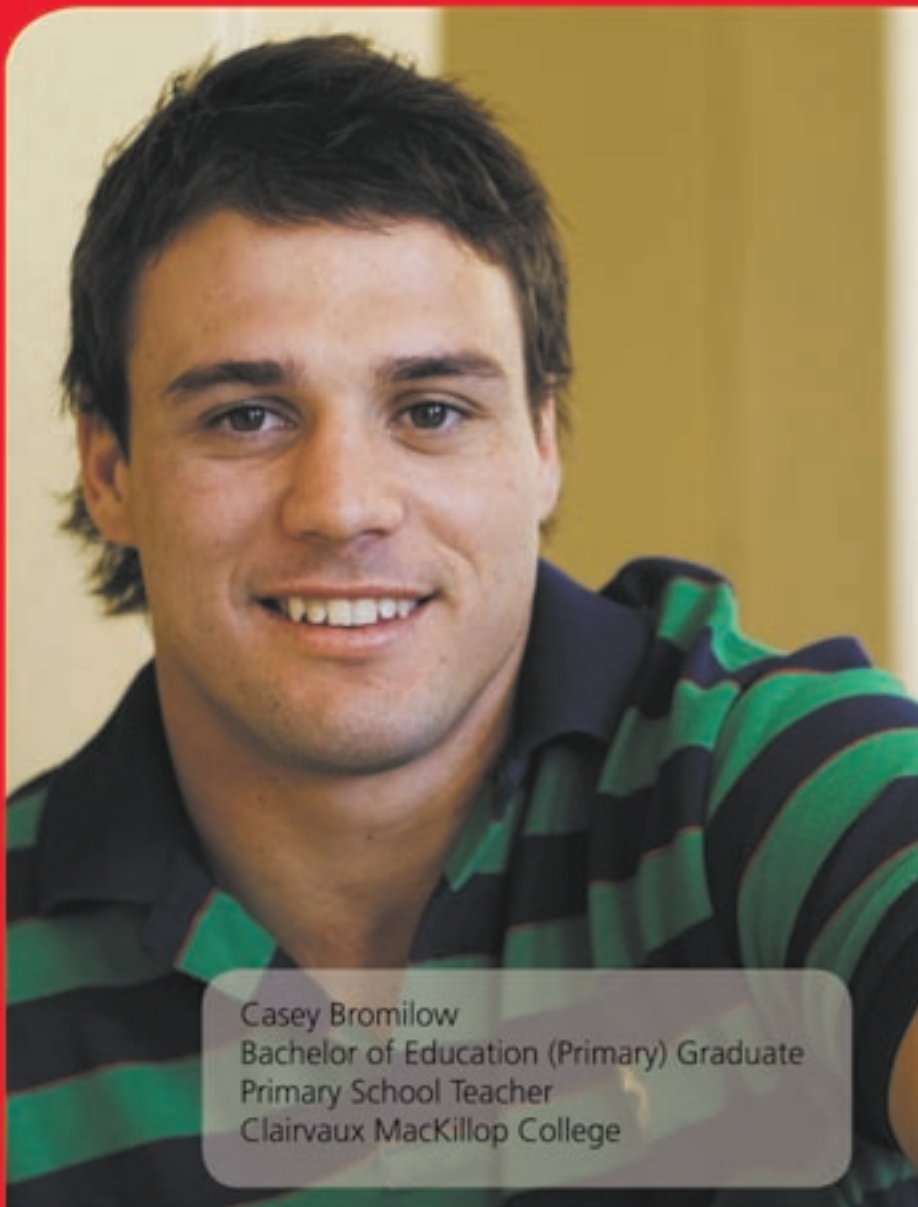
Money will again be directed to help communities in the Archdiocese affected by drought.

The Archdiocese also contributes to ecumenical works undertaken through the National Council of Churches in Australia as its response to the Christmas Bowl Appeal.

A portion of funds will be

sent to Uganda while another amount will be used to help people in the Asia/ Pacific region.

Last year's appeal raised more than \$80,000 with \$10,000 sent to the National Council of Churches in Australia, \$3000 towards Caritas Australia's efforts in Bangladesh and a similar amount to Our Lady of the Pacific parish in Russian's far east port city of Nakhodka as a contribution to their combined church, parish centre and rectory building project. The rest was used to help drought-hit communities in the Archdiocese.



Casey Bromilow  
Bachelor of Education (Primary) Graduate  
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For more information on your 2009 study options please come to our information evening or visit our website.

### Information Evening:

Canberra Campus  
Thursday 18 December, 5pm - 6:30pm  
223 Antill Street, Watson

[www.acu.edu.au/qualify](http://www.acu.edu.au/qualify)

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Qualify for life



# New ambassador to Vatican a man for all places



Mr Tim Fischer is welcomed to Archbishop's House by Archbishop Coleridge.

He might be just as comfortable in a country pub, but former deputy Prime Minister Mr Tim Fischer can expect a drastic change of scenery when he takes up his newly appointed role as the first resident Australian ambassador to the Holy See.

More than 150 people attended a reception at Archbishop's House in Commonwealth Avenue in honour of Mr Fischer's recent appointment.

ABC radio journalist and master of ceremonies for the evening Ms Genevieve Jacobs said Mr Fischer would look as comfortable in Rome as he would in Boree Creek pub.

"Those of you who know Tim Fischer would know he has not bridged gaps, he has flown across them," she said.

Host Archbishop Mark Coleridge welcomed members of the Catholic, diplomatic and business communities to the gathering for "something of an Aussie icon".

"Tim looks so different from different angles," he said.

"He brings the qualities of humanity, finesse and complexity to this task. I think this is a decision

that in all kinds of ways will serve national and regional interest."

Mr Fischer said he would like to use his role to address issues of inter-faith dialogue "between Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam and so many more" and assist those who were already "building interfaith connection, understanding, respect and tolerance."

"And we all know the world needs much more of that in this difficult start up on the 21st century," he said. "I hope in one small little way as your representative, as the Australian government's representative, to the nation state of the Holy See I will be able to add my pennies worth in that regard."

Mr Fischer welcomed the many foreign representatives, including ambassadors from Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Austria, Korea, France, Brazil and Lebanon, High Commissioners from Uganda, Solomon Islands, Botswana and Malta, the Charge de Affaires of Chile and the Vice Counsel of Belgium.



In the presence of the Pope, Archbishop Coleridge (nearest the camera) presented a report from one of the English language working groups at the Synod.

## Have Bible in your home and read it

Have the Bible in your homes, read it and grow more deeply in your understanding of what it contains, the synod of the world's bishops meeting in Rome has urged Catholics.

The theme of the assembly of bishops, which included Archbishop Mark Coleridge, was the Word of God.

"Learn silence so that you may hear the Word of God in power; let there be silence after you have listened, so that the Word of God may continue to dwell in you as a living presence speaking to your heart," the Synod Fathers said.

"Let it echo within you as the day begins, so that God may have the first word, and let it echo within you at day's end so that the last word may also be God's."

"In the Bible is heard the sigh of sorrow that rises from the earth, the cries of the oppressed and the lament of those who grieve."

"At its heart there stands the Cross where Christ, alone and abandoned, lives the tragedy of the most atrocious suffering and the tragedy of death."

"Because of this, the darkness of evil and death is illumined by the light of Easter and by the hope of glory."

"Along the streets of the world there walk with us brothers and sisters of other churches and ecclesial communities."

"There too we meet men and women of other

religions who hear and faithfully put into practice the teachings of their sacred writings and who can work with us to build a world of peace and light, since it is the will of God that 'all human beings should be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth'" (1 Tim 2:4).

For the text of the Synod Fathers' message, as well as remarks made to the Synod by Archbishop Coleridge and his report on behalf of the English-language working group, look on the archdiocesan website at [www.cg.catholic.org.au/about/default.cfm?loadref=243](http://www.cg.catholic.org.au/about/default.cfm?loadref=243)

Archbishop Coleridge has been elected as a representative of Asia and Oceania to help the Pope prepare his document in response to the Synod.

Twelve members were elected and three appointed by the Pope to the post-synodal council.

The council will help the Pope prepare his apostolic exhortation and work with him as the next step towards the following Synod probably in three years.

The other representatives from the region are Cardinal Joseph Zen Ze-kium, of Hong Kong, and Bishop Luis Antonio Tagle of the Philippines.

The first meeting of the council will be in Rome in late January.



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Archbishop Coleridge in the procession of bishops at the Synod's opening ceremony.

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# Schools urged to unite on social justice

Marist College students have encouraged schools to work together to tackle social justice issues by holding Canberra's first Christian justice night.

About 100 people attended the evening, including students from Canberra Girls Grammar and Trinity Christian Schools, St Edmund's, St Clare's, Merici and St Francis Xavier colleges.

As a member of the Marist Justice and Solidarity Group, Year 10 student Hew Sandison helped to produce the evening.

"After we held a successful justice night for Marist students, we wanted to do something to get other people involved," he said.

Hew said the night was aimed at promoting and strengthening social justice and human rights work and beginning inter-school collaboration on future social justice projects.

"We want to break down barriers between schools and work together rather than against one another," he said. "Schools don't often communicate with one another when it comes to social justice."

"It's important to get students involved and make them aware of social justice issues, especially in these times."

The evening included speeches from former Afghani and Tibetan refugees, discussion groups and question time.

Mr Sayed Reza Moosawi spoke about his escape from Afghanistan after his brother was killed by members of the Taliban.

"There's no peace for anyone in Afghanistan. They've lost their hopes and loves - especially women, they can't leave the house without their husbands."

"We had a peaceful life before the Taliban. When people think of Afghanistan, they always think of terrorism, but there are good people there too."

Mr Moosawi works with the Australian Afghan Hassanian Youth Association to educate young people and assist with their settlement in Australia.

"I try to teach them about Australian customs because it's very



Marist Justice and Solidarity Group vice-president Liam King and president Tom Nulley-Valdes present on the night.

hard for the new generation. I try to teach our people how to integrate themselves into Australian culture. I want our people to be role models in front of Australian people, to be useful and helpful in the community."

Hew said Marist College had began preparations for next year's Canberra Christian Justice Night, which he said might be open to the public.

## Parish reaches out as it expands

Parishioners at Corpus Christi South Tuggeranong are ensuring that others also benefit while they raise funds to expand their own church.

Fifty cents out of every dollar donated to the building program will go to charity.

Parish priest Fr John Armstrong said the One to One Building Fund sought to help five local charities who worked with people who would otherwise not have a home of their own. The charities are At Home Project in Queanbeyan; Centacare's migrant and refugee program; Karinya House for mothers and babies; L'Arche and Marymead's indigenous program.

"In seeking to provide for the needs of the local community, the parish considered it was important to remember how we are called to recognise the face of Christ in the face of another," Fr Armstrong said.

The parish plans to expand the foyer to provide for gatherings of people before and after Mass. It is also seeking to make it easier for people with disabilities to gain access to the Church and to collect water off the church roof to use in surrounding gardens. People interested in making donations to the project may contact the parish office, telephone 6291 6688.

## College hit by fire

St Edmund's College has been left with repair and replacement costs of up to \$40,000 after a suspected arson attack.

The fire was discovered at night by a security guard who smelt smoke coming from a storeroom next to the gym. "If we hadn't had a security guard on duty we would have lost the gym," headmaster Dr Christopher Hayes said.

"All of our soccer equipment for the school was lost and there is structural damage to the storeroom. I would say there is between \$30,000 and \$40,000 worth of damage."

## HARVEST PILGRIMAGE PREVIEW 2009



### VISITATIONS OF MARY

Lisbon (1) Fatima Anniversary (3)  
Avila (2) Burgos Garabandal (2)  
Loyola Lourdes (3)  
Optional Medjugorje Extension OR  
Link with Graces of France  
**A 15 day pilgrimage journey**  
Departing:  
• 9 May • 9 June • 29 July  
• 9 September • 9 October 2009



### GRACES OF FRANCE

Paris (2) Lisieux (2) Chartres  
Nevers Paray Le Monial (2) Taize  
Ars La Salette (1) Turin (2)  
Optional Lourdes Extension (3) OR  
Link with Graces of Italy  
**A 13 day pilgrimage journey**  
Departing:  
• 20 June • 20 September  
• 20 October 2009



### PATHWAYS OF ST PAUL

Athens (2) Ancient Corinth Samos (1)  
Patmos (1) Ephesus Day Kusadasi (2)  
Pergamum Assos (2) Gallipoli Istanbul (2)  
Optional Malta Extension (3)  
**A 14 day pilgrimage journey**  
Departing:  
• 14 April with Anzac Day in Gallipoli  
• 4 October 2009



### GRACES OF ITALY

Padua (2) Venice Ravenna Florence (2)  
Siena Assisi (2) Loreto (1) Lancia  
San Giovanni Rotondo (2) Monte Sant'  
Angelo Pietrelcina  
Optional Rome Extension (3)  
**A 14 day pilgrimage journey**  
Departing:  
• 15 May • 29 June • 3 September  
• 29 September • 19 October



### ROME & MEDJUGORJE

Rome (3) Medjugorje (7)  
Optional Malta Extension (3)  
Why not Extend to the Holy Land?  
**A 14 day pilgrimage journey**  
Departing:  
• 24 February • 14 April • 24 May  
• 16 June • 28 July • 12 September  
• 8 October • 29 October 2009



### EXODUS JOURNEY

Cairo (3) Mt. Sinai (1) Petra (2) Amman (1)  
Sea of Galilee (3) Nazareth Jericho Mount  
Of Beatitudes Bethlehem Jerusalem (5)  
Optional link to Pathways of St Paul  
**A 19 day pilgrimage journey**  
Departing:  
• 9 February • 30 March • 9 May • 14 June  
• 28 August • 19 September • 14 October



### JOURNEY OF CHRIST

Frankfurt (1) OR Amman (1) Sea of  
Galilee (3) Nazareth Jericho Mount Of  
Beatitudes Bethlehem Jerusalem (5)  
Optional Cairo & Jordan Extension  
**A 13 day pilgrimage journey**  
Departing:  
• 15 May • 29 June • 3 September  
• 29 September • 19 October



### GRACES OF EASTERN EUROPE



Warsaw (2) Czestochowa (2) Auschwitz Wadowice  
Krakow (3) Shrine Of Divine Mercy Budapest (2)  
Eucharistic Miracle of Ludbreg Shrine Of Our Lady  
Of Marija Bistrica Zagreb (2)  
Optional Croatia or Graces of Italy Extension  
**A 15 day pilgrimage journey departing:**  
• 4th May • 23 August 2009



### CROATIAN ENCOUNTERS



Zagreb (2) Shrine Of Our Lady Of Trsat Rijeka  
Plitvice Lakes (2) Zadar Shrine Of Our Lady  
Of Sinj Split Dubrovnik (2) Medjugorje (5)  
Optional 3 Night Extension to Rome  
**A 15 day pilgrimage journey departing:**  
• 13th May • 1 September 2009

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# Women ready to challenge

A new generation of educated women are set to challenge the Church, according to a NSW country Labor senator.

Guest speaker at the archdiocesan Women's Commission's annual open meeting, Senator Ursula Stephens said women traditionally fitted into more "caring and supportive" roles.

"Due to an educated population we have a new generation of women coming through who can do anything," she said. "This educated population will challenge parish priests in their roles."

During conversations with her former parish priest and now rector of Good Shepherd Seminary in Sydney Fr Tony Percy, Senator Stephens said she had suggested future priests be "exposed to women as thought leaders. They will learn to value a different perspective, which is important."

Due to Australia's aging population, Senator Stephens said young people would have to take on bigger roles in the Church. "We have to think about what Australia and the world are going to look like in 2020 and plan for that change of demographic in the Church."

"During World Youth Day I was really inspired by how I saw women taking up leadership roles and were really stepping up to the plate. Normally we would have to almost thrust young people into those roles."

"The next generation are starting to take up those leadership roles which is the real legacy of World Youth



Senator Ursula Stephens (fourth from left) with women's commissioners Ms Volet Carolen, Ms Judy Netting, Ms Genevieve Jacobs, Miss Kristy Firkin and Ms Donella Johnston.

Day. We need to harness that energy and enthusiasm."

Acting chair of the Women's Commission Ms Donella Johnston said a younger generation of women needed to be invited and encouraged into positions of leadership. "We're looking for three new commission members for 2009," she said. "We are welcoming nominations with open arms."

Anyone interested in joining the Women's Commission or wanting more information may telephone Ms Johnston 6234 5489 or e-mail donella.johnston@cg.catholic.org.au

## 30 years serving youth

This year marked 30 years of service from the St Vincent de Paul Society's youth volunteers to children in Canberra.

During this time more than 240 youth camps have been held for more than 3000 children.

About 90 volunteers celebrated the milestone at the Erindale auditorium, sharing memories, rekindling friendships and encouraging current volunteers to continue St Vincent de Paul's youth work.

Volunteer Mr Tim Moore said the youth programs began because a group of students believed every child deserved a holiday, regardless of their family's circumstance.

"The Vinnies program was established to give kids a break," he said.

"It was an opportunity to spend time with people who saw the best in them and who wanted to give them memories that could help them through the tough times."

"It has been really inspiring to hear about how this spirit has thrived over the years and how Vinnies continues to care for kids who so needs its support."

Predominately run by young volunteers, St Vincent de Paul Youth camps, sports teams, activity days, training programs and support groups are for children from disadvantaged backgrounds, for those with caring responsibilities of a relative and for some who simply need time out.

St Vincent de Paul Youth president Mr Dave Bresnik said there was a constant need for volunteers.

"There's a growing need for our programs and it's heartbreaking to turn kids away just because we can't get enough staff," he said.

During the celebration Ms Chelsea Gutterson was commissioned into a leadership role.

Young people who would like to know more about St Vincent de Paul's Youth programs may telephone Sr Therese Haywood 6121 2955.

## Dara's innovations boost to literacy

Students in years 7 and 8 at Daramalan College this year have benefited from innovative approaches to teaching and learning literacy.

In response to the Federal Government's literacy agenda, the college had been proactive in creating literacy classes designed to enhance the literacy skills of targeted students, literacy teacher Ms Anne Durham said.

This had helped make the curriculum more accessible to more students.

A designated learning support classroom had been created with 20 computers, furnishings, air-conditioning, noticeboards and, most importantly, new teaching programs had been implemented.

"At the beginning of each school year, targeted students in Year 7 are tested in the areas of reading, comprehension, writing and spelling."

"Students in Year 8 are also targeted for testing in these areas of literacy, in response to their Year 7 ACTAP results. The results contribute to the overall picture of each child."



Students James Day and Grant Kershaw at work.

Ms Durham said the college had decided last year some students would benefit from the creation of literacy/ English classes.

"In term four last year, learning support staff investigated existing literacy programs in the ACT and NSW. We knew that the integration of IT into teaching pedagogy was essential to the success of Daramalan's intended literacy program."

This year students in two literacy/ English classes in Year 7 and two in Year 8 take part in a combination of specific literacy programs.

One IT program, "Text Types" has been developed at the college and is available to students, families and staff on the school intranet. The interactive program analyses the structure and language features of the following specific texts: Report, narrative, recount, exposition, explanation and procedure.

Students will be retested at the completion of the Year 7 and 8 English/ literacy course to determine their progress. Learning support staff are compiling and analysing the collection of quantitative and qualitative data.

## Cameras, action at SFX

Budding film makers and entertainers can be found on stage and behind the scenes at St Francis Xavier College.

The college in Florey has opened a fully functional entertainment and media vocational training skills centre, complete with lights, cameras and action.

A \$58,000 grant from the Federal Government's national training infrastructure program enabled the school to buy lighting equipment, video cameras and computers.

After a storm in 2007 caused water damage, the carpet was replaced and the school invested in over 250 new seats for the theatre.

Principal Mr Angus Tulley said despite being constantly asked for interviews, he was excited about the new and improved facilities. "They provide many students with opportunities for success which is what we are on about at St Francis Xavier College."

Media teacher Mr Peter van Rijswijk said the college

offered certificates 1 and 2 in live production and events, a certificate 1 in media and a certificate 2 in television broadcasting.

"The skill centre is all about developing pathways and networks for students," he said.




Year 11 students Jessica Stewart and Georgia Columbus practise filming of classmates Maria Marando and Cait McGrath.

"The more local media and theatre companies know about the skills our students are gaining, the more likely they are to employ them."

Student Jessica Stewart said the media training "gives us good skills and an advantage over other students our age."



Vinnies volunteers celebrate a milestone.



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By Naomi Fallon

She came to Karinya House to make a difference, but 11 years on Marie-Louise Corkhill says it is her clients who are making the difference to her life.

As Karinya House coordinator Ms Corkhill and her staff provide supported accommodation and outreach services to women who are pregnant or have newborn babies and are in crisis.

"I think we're just providing opportunity through what we've been given," she said.

"We talk a lot about dreams here. We help women be the best mums they can be or go back to school or learn to drive. It's a place where lives change and miracles happen."

Originally a small town girl, Ms Corkhill said an upbringing in rural New South Wales had a great effect on her life.

"I think the country gave me resilience in life that others don't get to experience. It gave me a lot of strength and taught me a lot from a young age.

"I think I've been greatly gifted my whole life. I've been greatly loved by a caring and supportive family."

Ms Corkhill credits the "strong and compassionate" females in her life as one of the reasons she chose to do social work.

"My mother and grandmothers were pretty inspiring ladies. Coming from a rural background at that time I think it was probably a little bit different. They inspired me to think about the different things I could do with my life."

Ms Corkhill was already studying nursing in Sydney when she realised she wanted to be a social worker.

"I visited a drop in centre in Darlinghurst and met some people who were homeless - it was a turning point for me. I came from a fairly sheltered background and I saw a different side to life there. That was a big shock I think.

"But I suppose I was young and thought I could change the world."

Much of Ms Corkhill's early career as a social worker

# Karinya - a place where miracles happen

was spent in western Sydney, which she said was "a great learning curve".

"I saw a lot of violence and inhumanity. As a social worker I saw how people treated one another and how children were treated.

"I did a lot of case work counselling and work with women in violent situations. I think that led me to a love for working with women."

After 16 years in Sydney, Ms Corkhill applied for the position of

Karinya House coordinator in 1997.

"It was a new project, particularly working with women, and I liked the idea of what it was trying to do."

Three months later Karinya House had its first client but "not much more".

Since then, the organisation has expanded into a second house and now provides supported accommodation for up to seven women and their babies and outreach services to more than 50 clients at any one time.

"I think the biggest thing we do here is listen to people and their stories when no-one else really has."

"I originally had those aspirations where I thought I could make a difference in people's lives. But now I've got to the stage where they're making a difference to my life, every day. They're my inspiration really.

"It's difficult enough for a loving couple to raise a child let alone someone who chooses to have a baby on their own. These women really do hard stuff, they are really courageous.

"Whether or not we want to admit it, single mothers are constantly judged and they are still one of the most disadvantaged groups in our society."

To accommodate Canberra's growing need for services for women and babies, Ms Corkhill would like to see Karinya House expand even further.

"We'd like to raise \$1 million as an endowment fund to support the work of Karinya. In addition we would like to



Marie-Louise Corkhill with a Karinya House client and baby.

partner with the government and the community to build a cluster housing facility. We just don't have the space or resources to support our current client load."

"Social problems are hidden in Canberra because of the general wealth and the aesthetics. It is a beautiful city, but there are great needs here too."

● For more information or to make a donation to Karinya House, contact Ms Corkhill, telephone 6259 8998 or e-mail [info@karinyahouse.asn.au](mailto:info@karinyahouse.asn.au)

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# A 'quiet presence' to many Faith-filled in life and death

One of the Archdiocese's senior priests, Fr John O'Brien, who arrived from Ireland to serve the then Goulburn Diocese in 1945, has died peacefully in hospital in Goulburn at the age of 90.



A concelebrated Requiem Mass was offered by Archbishop Mark Coleridge at St Peter Chanel's Church, Yarralumla. Retired Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn Francis Carroll and Auxiliary Bishop Pat Power as well as more than 50 priests, including seminary classmate Fr John McSweeney, concelebrated. Fr O'Brien was buried at the Woden cemetery.

Fr O'Brien was born on 27 August, 1918, at Beglieve, Bailieborough, Co Cavan, Ireland, to John O'Brien and Annie Brady. He was ordained in June 1944 at All Hallows College, Dublin, and arrived in the Goulburn Diocese on 20 April, 1945.

He served in many parishes, including Gundagai, Tumut, Queanbeyan, Weethalle, North Goulburn, Cooma, Cootamundra, Adaminaby, Curtin, Adelong, Yarralumla and Goulburn.

In his eulogy, South Woden and former Goulburn parish priest Fr Laurie Blake said Fr

O'Brien, who spent many years in Goulburn, had a deep interest in current events and in people, as well as how things worked or were built.

"Many a tradesperson would ask me about their friend Fr O'Brien. He would follow all the building and road works around town informing himself of how things worked. At dinner he told us of laser theodolites, how sign writers could write in mirror image, or the latest way of laying pipes underground. While parish priest of Adelong/ Batlow he supervised every span in the new bridge of the Hume Highway across the Murrumbidgee at Gundagai. The farmers of Weethalle and the orchardists of Batlow were quizzed at length too.

"Have you ever wondered why the presbytery in Bombala does not sit square on the block? The answer is that John spent a year mapping the direction of the sun in all seasons and built it accordingly. One could imagine John asking the carpenter Jesus just how he made the yoke so light that it did not chafe.

"He loved his food. He carefully explained to one housekeeper how to cook cabbage and bacon the Irish way and one day we had a special

potato dish covered in cheese and I heard him mumble 'They can't let a good spud be'.

"Then there were his broad beans. He planted, harvested, blanched and froze them, and even though he gave a lot away, we still seemed to have them for months. Often at the end of a meal he'd say, 'Well there is nothing more to be got', and he'd be gone."

Fr Blake said when word of Fr O'Brien's death came to him he was putting the finishing touches to his words for the feast of All Souls. "My thoughts went immediately to the many, many souls John ministered to in his lifetime. In his active years in Goulburn and well into his retirement, John spent many hours visiting people especially the elderly, the shut-ins and people in hospital. I know that this was a routine of a lifetime. The remembrance and the joyful hope we celebrated last weekend would have been a constant homily of John's with his quiet presence and reassuring words."

Fr Blake recalled Fr O'Brien's "wicked sense of humour" and mastery of one-liners.

"His personality and his genuine care and concern for people endeared him to all. When John left to retire he

handed over a list of 76 names of people he thought needed ongoing attention. But he found it hard to take retirement in Harden and I urged him to come back and live his retirement in Goulburn. He jumped at it. We announced his return at every Mass and people at every Mass spontaneously applauded."

Fr O'Brien is survived by a twin brother, Peter, sister-in-law Kathleen and niece Ann Kavanagh, living in Ireland. In a note read at the Mass, his niece told of a visit she and husband Barry had to Goulburn in 2001. "It broke my heart the day we left at Goulburn train station, and I could not imagine how he or his own family felt when he first left home to travel to the other side of the world."

She thanked Goulburn carer Erina Bill "who had so much time and cared very deeply for him. We appreciate her efforts in arranging our last phone call to Fr John while he was in hospital."

In his note, Peter O'Brien told of his brother fearing a submarine attack as he left in wartime in a convoy bound for Australia. "He left goodbye with us soon after (getting a telegram) and I have to say it was pretty tough saying goodbye."

Monie Williams  
30 January 1924 - 21 September 2008  
A capacity congregation of family and friends gathered at St Andrew's Church, Nimmitabel, for the Requiem Mass for Monie Williams.

Concelebrants were her brother Fr Paul Bateman, Cooma parish priest Fr Paul Huthnance and other priests.

Her son David spoke of her faith-filled life at Steeple Flat.

In the homily, Bombala parish priest Fr Mick MacAndrew said Mrs Williams did not have an easy end to her life.

"Blindness and confusion over a couple of years would have dulled some of the power of her life for you who knew her most," he said.

"What had she done to deserve such an end to a life of love, faith and goodness? But why not?"

"Why would you want to miss out on probably the greatest legacy of Monie Williams? For it is the lessons about dying that are the most important in teaching us how to live."

In her young adult years she was a governess, going on to nurse at the Mater Hospital in Sydney, and in Mayfield, Hobart and Bega.

She then became the wife, mother and grandmother that most knew her by. In every place she was a faithful parishioner, Fr MacAndrew said.

In later life when Joff had died, she moved to Bega and became an active member of the parish's St Vincent de Paul conference.



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## Priest dies at Gundagai

Fr Thomas Alfred Hunt last month died peacefully at his brother's home in Gundagai where he and the family had gathered to celebrate a 60th birthday in the family. He was 73.

Fr Hunt, who was retired, had been in especially poor health over the past 18 months. A concelebrated Requiem Mass was offered at St Patrick's Church, Gundagai. He was buried at North Gundagai cemetery beside his mother and father.

Fr Hunt served in many parishes including Boorowa, Queanbeyan, Cootamundra, O'Connor, Goulburn, Temora, Ungarie, Cobargo, West Wyalong, Waramanga and Braddon.



## Faith courses on again in '09

After 13 years and several hundred participants, the next course in Catholic Adult Faith Formation 1 will start in January.

Operating as a distance education program, the first workshop takes place in Canberra and afterwards the workshops and cluster groups occur regionally.

During the year there are four workshops and eight cluster meetings with the remaining work to be completed at home.

The four units of the course are scripture 1 - the gospels, adult life journey - psychology and spirituality of adulthood, theology 1 - God and the Church and sacraments and liturgy 1.

Guest presenters for 2009 include Archbishop Mark Coleridge, Bishop Pat Power, Mgr John Woods, Sr Liz West and Fr Dermid McDermott.

Current participant Ms Anne Ryan said she enjoyed the flexibility of the course.

"My commitment to the reading

and course work has waxed and waned with the changing demands of other aspects of my life," she said.

"However the course allows for that."

"This course has made me realise it is easy to get stuck in your understanding of the Catholic faith which is dynamic, living and, dare I say, changing. I have learned that faith is not just a private notion and maybe its communal nature offers a great counter-cultural gift to the world."

The archdiocesan Women's Commission will subsidise registration for several women who wish to undertake the program. An application form will be sent to parishes soon.

CAFF will begin on 31 January at the Rheinberger Centre in Yarralumla. For more information contact Ms Margaret Ryan, telephone 6163 4302 or e-mail margaret.ryan@catholiclife.org.au

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## Students foot the bill



Students from St Bede's Primary in Braidwood participated in Operation Christmas Child, a Samaritan's Purse project which brings joy to children in desperate situations around the world through gift-filled shoe boxes.

Principal Ms Clare Frazer said St Bede's students enjoyed the opportunity to be involved in the "simple, but hands-on project. As each shoe box gift is delivered, it is treasured by the child that receives it and is a lasting reminder that he or she is precious to God," she said.

ABOVE: Students with their shoe box gifts.

## Clever kids

Sacred Heart Primary School, Pearce, received runners-up with honours in the primary school applied technology discipline of the Australasian-Pacific Tournament of Minds finals.

To earn second place, Sacred Heart students presented their Kahootz3 animation to a panel of three judges and an audience.

St Clare's College, Griffith also represented ACT in the Tournament of Minds,

which required teams of students to solve open-ended challenges in applied technology, language literature, maths engineering or social sciences.



ABOVE: Sacred Heart team members Chad Brown, Alexander Slookee, Caitlin Byrnes, Clare Corkhill, Peter Hill and Alexandra Smith, with team leaders Jenny Bartlett and Julie Jillard.



## Whale of a time

St Joseph's Primary School students had a whale of a time during the recent three-day Eden Whale Festival, which had the theme "pirates by the sea".

ABOVE: Students took part in the opening ceremony, street parade and the pirate competition.

## Rice raises awareness



During Mission Week, staff and students at St Bernard's Primary School, Batemans Bay, raised awareness and \$1600 for the less fortunate.

A special rice day was held, where students lined up to receive a small amount of plain boiled rice, comparable to what millions of people around the world experience on a daily basis.

Rice day made Year 3 student Brock Stuart feel grateful "because I always get something different for breakfast, lunch and dinner," he said. "Some people just get one bowl of rice and that's it for the day."

On rice day, Heidi Shooks from Year 3 said she thought about children who were less fortunate than herself.

"It makes me sad because we have choices," she said. "We are spoilt with the food we get."

Later in the week students held a market day with activities and stalls to raise money for the missions.

There was a variety of activities including guessing games, apple bobbing and students could even get their hair done in a beauty parlour.

LEFT: Year 5 students Madelyn Brooks, Karlee Cooper, Eve Castiosros, April Saunders and Holly Kemp enjoy their rice.

## Sharing their skill



St Edmund's has launched the first edition of a new college magazine called Undercurrent, which emphasises the importance of literacy. About 180 people, including staff, parents, students and members of the board, attended the launch.

Headmaster Dr Christopher Hayes said it was important to celebrate students' gifts and acknowledged the courage it took to share a piece of writing with others.

ABC radio presenter Mr Ross Solly, who was a special guest and judge, said writing was important and he encouraged students who has a particular skill to translate it into a career.

Undercurrent authors read some of their work, which magazine editor Mrs Michelle da Roza said was the "most enjoyable part".

"It was a very important message to our boys that despite the many changes technology has brought to us, the world still needs and admires those who can write well," she said. ABOVE: Zakary Huggett-Wright, who won the awards for college poetry and prose, is congratulated by Mr Solly.



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# History a vital part of new era at Galong

A deep interest in Australian history is an important feature of the experience the first manager of St Clement's retreat and conference centre brings to the job.

Mr Ken Evenden, who retired this year after eight years as head of John XXIII College at the Australian National University, believes marketing the historical dimension of the centre is a priority.

Every part of the Galong complex, which includes the Redemptorist monastery, exudes history. It has come a long way since it began life as "Galong Castle", an unpretentious, pioneering homestead built by Edward (Ned) Ryan in the 1840s.

Mr Evenden's appointment is another step in the transition of

responsibility for the centre from the Redemptorists to the Archdiocese and its growth as a retreat and conference venue.

Mr Evenden said the celebration of Irish culture, Shamrock in the Bush, which is held each year at St Clement's was an example of the type of event that needed to be fostered. "We need to look at others like it," he said.

Mr Evenden also intends to promote St Clement's uniqueness as he works at developing a more diverse clientele to increase the occupancy rate.

"My vision is to create a contemporary, dynamic and welcoming retreat and conference centre building on the good work of the Redemptorists over the years," he said.



Ken Evenden at the entrance to the historic St Clement's retreat and conference centre at Galong.

"i will become self-sustaining, outreaching and ecumenical while being faithful to its Redemptorist roots and its ethos as a retreat centre for spiritual renewal."

He is keen to maintain the close links the centre has developed with the Archdiocese and the Wagga Wagga, Bathurst and

Wilcannia-Forbes dioceses.

Mr Evenden said he was impressed with the "real peace, the sense of serenity you get when you walk into St Clement's"

He paid tribute to the extraordinary work done by superior Fr Pat Corbett and the welcoming and enthusiastic staff.

Before his time at John XXIII, Mr Evenden spent 10 years as supervisor of Catholic schools in regional Queensland.

"I hope to be able to bring my leadership and management experiences from these positions to lead St Clement's into a future full of promise and hope," he said.

# Mentors mean new start for refugees

Refugees and asylum seekers in Canberra are being offered new hope for the future under a program that gives them work experience.

Calvary Health Care's mentoring program aims to prepare refugees for career or study.

Program coordinator Ms Teresa Irwin has received a lot of positive feedback, with 22 trained mentors and 10 refugees taking part.

"We developed the program as a pilot and have created a model for other organisations to take on," she said.

"We hope that other organisations in the community and throughout Australia will become involved."

Mentors and participants receive training in cultural awareness and interpersonal skills, while participants are also taught about work place culture and etiquette and hospital orientation.

"Most of our participants come here without anything but hope to begin new lives," Ms Irwin said.

"I believe this program is pivotal in their lives at times that are crucial. This program can provide hope, value, self-esteem and a direction for their future."

Mission integration officer Mrs Mary Moran mentors graphic design student Mr Ardeshir Gholipour, who came to Australia from Iran in 2000.

"Sometimes I think it's the opposite - he's mentoring me," she said.

"He's designed the most beautiful posters for our Christmas party, he's very creative. It's just wonderful, he's really helped me."

After about a month with his mentor, Mr Gholipour was grateful for the program and said he had learned a lot.

"The program allows a lot of opportunity and freedom for both the mentor and me," he said.

"It has made me feel so welcome in the community because I've met all kinds of wonderful people."

Pastoral care administration assistant Mrs Maria Watts mentors former Sudanese refugee Miss Sarah Kadayi in office duties. "Sarah is so keen to try anything," she said.

"She handles everyone really well and she understands my humour, so we have a laugh."

Miss Kadayi said the program has given her confidence to go into the workplace.

"This program gives you an overview of what you can expect after finishing your studies," she said.

"You learn, make new friends and it's so encouraging."



Mr Ardeshir Gholipour at work with mentor Mrs Mary Moran.



Mrs Maria Watts mentors Miss Sarah Kadayi.



From Nathan Kensey in India, where he is a volunteer with Asha Niketan Nandi Bazar.

Gifts of the everyday flow regularly here in India. We have recently been gifted with four straight days of rain, something I admittedly found hard to appreciate as I waded knee deep down Calicut's main street through the product of severely backlogged sewers.

That notwithstanding this is a country incredibly rich in the small gifts of life and the community of L'Arche Asha Niketan, in Nandi Bazar, for people with disabilities and those who share life with them, is no expectation. India regularly displays a disarming honesty, for instance the pedestrian warning signs here in Kerala show a person engaged not in a gentle stroll but a full sprint (an honest appraisal of the only appropriate way to negotiate Indian traffic).

As such I was a little surprised the other day when Vijaya, an assistant (those who accompany people with disabilities), announced that we would have "special food" that day. Given our almost exclusively vegetarian diet I was envisaging a chunk of lamb or perhaps a whole chicken would be deposited in front of me at lunch.

But no, veg curry it was once again. This happened again the following week - special food was announced but as far as I could tell, very un-special rice and vegetables were served.

I eventually asked Vijaya what was so special about these meals, to which she

## The small gifts that really matter

replied, "Because they are sponsored". Our special meals that day were paid for out of a generous pocket. The meal was special because it had been gifted to us.

As part of World Mental Health day, our little community ran a mini-conference. Speaking at the gathering were a number of distinguished professionals. About half way through the proceedings I looked and noticed my friend Arivind, a core member (those with a disability) and 18-year veteran of the community (with a disposition to mischief!).

To my horror he had worked his way on to the speakers' table and sat down in the chair of the current orator. As he helped himself to the speakers' morning tea all I could think was "Oh heck, how do I get him down from there?". Just then another of the speakers, a judge of the Keralan Court, put his arm around Arivind and secured his place among the distinguished. As I watched our guest talking quietly into Ari's ear and sharing his food, I was struck by the dignity that the judge had recognised in Ari and the beautiful gift it was to acknowledge it.



# 2009

## MP A Catholic Voice Calendar

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17.12.18

### January

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				1	2	3
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#### Dates to remember in January

- 1** World Day of Peace  
**11-18** Summer School of Evangelisation, Bathurst  
**12-16** St Vincent de Paul young carers camp  
**23-26** Archdiocesan summer retreat for young people, Tuross  
**26** Australia Day  
**28** School term 1 begins NSW  
**31** Catholic Adult Faith Formation 1 course begins

### February

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#### Dates to remember in February

- 2** School term 1 begins ACT  
**9-13** Foundations for Catholic Youth Leadership course, Rheinberger Centre  
**11** World Day of Prayer for the Sick  
**14-15, 21-22, 28-1 March** Vinnies doorknock appeal  
**25** Ash Wednesday  
**25** Marymead information night for Kids' Companions

### March

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#### Dates to remember in March

- 2** Celebrations 30 years of Calvary Public Hospital  
**9** Canberra Day  
**26** ACU graduation Mass with Archbishop Mark Coleridge, Cathedral

### April

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#### Dates to remember in April

- 6** Chrism Mass  
**9** School term 1 ends NSW and ACT  
**9-12** Light to Nations pilgrimage, Galong.  
**10** Good Friday  
**12** Easter Sunday  
**21-23** Young Christian Students movement camp  
**25** Anzac Day  
**28** School term 2 begins NSW and ACT

### May

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#### Dates to remember in May

- 3** Marian Procession Galong  
**10** Mother's Day  
**15-17** Vocations to priesthood weekend, Galong  
**18-21** Clergy Assembly  
**24** Our Lady Help of Christians patroness of Australia  
**28** World Communications Day  
**31** Pentecost Sunday

### June

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#### Dates to remember in June

- 8** Queen's Birthday  
**24** Vocations to priesthood dinner with Archbishop Mark Coleridge

### July

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#### Dates to remember in July

- 3** School term 2 ends ACT  
**3-5** Disciples of Jesus discipleship camp years 10-12  
**7** Clergy Recollection Day at Galong  
**10** School term 2 ends NSW  
**10-12** Youth for Christ Australia-Oceania leaders conference  
**20** School term 3 begins ACT  
**27** School term 3 begins NSW  
**31** NAIDOC Mass

### August

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#### Dates to remember in August

- 2-9** National Vocations Awareness Week  
**8** Feast day Blessed Mary MacKillop  
**27** Celebrations 10th anniversary Women and Man: One in Christ Jesus, Archbishop's House  
**30** World Day of Migrants and Refugees

### September

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#### Dates to remember in September

- 2** Vocations to priesthood dinner with Archbishop Mark Coleridge  
**5, 6** Father's Day appeal  
**6** Father's Day  
**22** Clergy Recollection Day at Archbishop's House  
**25** School term 3 ends ACT  
**27** Social Justice Sunday  
**29** NSW Young Christian Students statewide camp, Goulburn

### October

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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

#### Dates to remember in October

- 1** Feast day St Therese of Lisieux  
**2** School term 3 ends NSW  
**5** Labour Day  
**12** School term 4 begins ACT  
**15** Feast day St Teresa of Avila  
**18** World Mission Day  
**19** School term 4 begins NSW

### November

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#### Dates to remember in November

- 3** Melbourne Cup Day  
**8** Archdiocesan Clergy Retreat  
**15** Carmelite fete, Red Hill

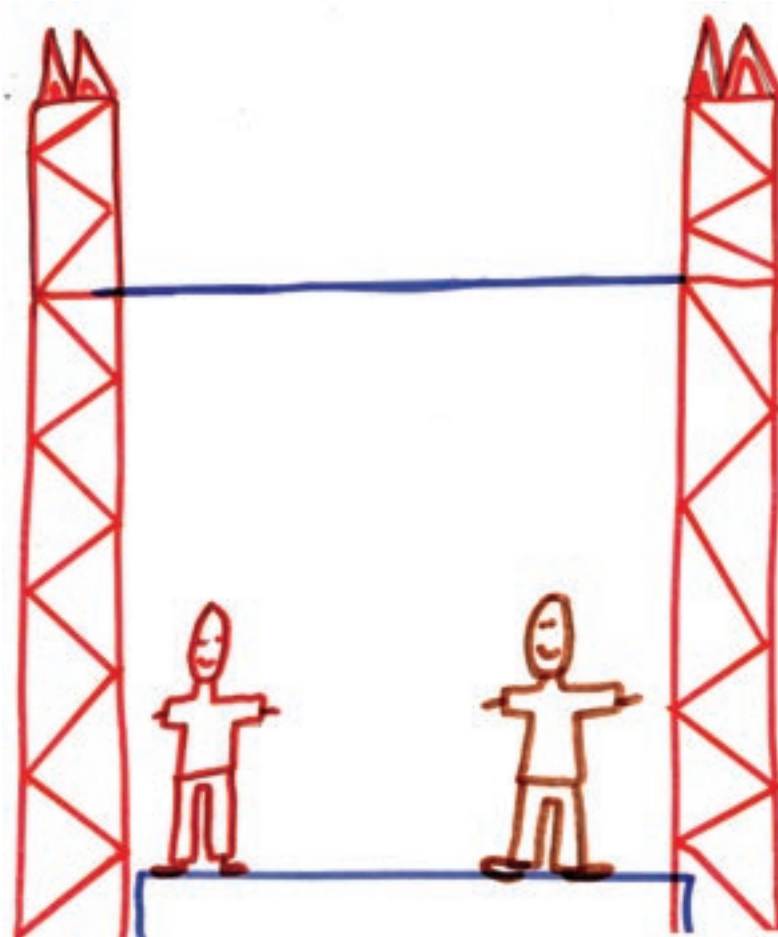
### December

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#### Dates to remember in December

- 4-6** Vocations to priesthood weekend, Galong  
**11-13** Disciples of Jesus youth discipleship camp years 9-12  
**18** School term 4 ends NSW and ACT.  
**25** Christmas Day  
**26** Boxing Day





This month Catholic Voice travelled to Trinity Primary School, Murrumburrah, to visit Year 3 and their teacher Ms Terrena Bateup. Year 3 said they had been learning about farming and Australia, and were also reading the book Matilda by Roald Dahl.

**FAR LEFT:** Jeanie Redmond drew a picture of Matilda.

**LEFT:** Nathan McCarthy drew a picture of the jumping castle which he played on with Travis, Blake and Tom at Trinity Fair.

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Jack Alcorn wrote an acrostic poem about forgiveness:

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Oh Lord will you forgive me  
Reconciliation is where you get rid of all of your sins  
Giving to the poor is one of the best things you can do  
I don't like meanness  
Very sorry people can be forgiven  
Every single person is part of God  
Niceness is how you show love  
Everyone should be kind  
Sins can be forgiven  
Sins come in all different ways

**Only joking**

**Q:** What do you call a fly with no wings?  
**A:** A walk!  
By Patrick Smith

**Q:** Where do you find a cat with no legs?  
**A:** Exactly where you left it!  
By Jacob Richardson

**Q:** Why did the first hand cross the road?  
**A:** To get to the second hand shop!  
By Blake McGrath





Photographs  
 TOP LEFT: Meg Kennett and Hannah Madden.  
 ABOVE LEFT: Chloe Ward and Jane Fitzgerald.  
 ABOVE: Adam Fitzpatrick, Jeanie Redmond and Thomas Butt.  
 ABOVE RIGHT: Year 3.  
 FAR RIGHT: Travis McGrath, Charlie Brown, Jack Alcorn and Nathan McCarthy.

## Book review

A book review of Roald Dahl's *Matilda*, by Meg Kennett and Hannah Madden.

This book is about a young girl named Matilda Wormwood. Her parents are very nasty. She is good at arithmetic and reading and writing. Matilda is only five and a half. She has discovered that she has a special power. Her teacher is Miss Honey, she is very kind. Miss Honey thinks Matilda is very special. Her parents and the headmistress think Matilda is a brat but she is smarter than all of them! Matilda's best friend is Lavender. She is the same age as Matilda. Matilda loves to read Charles Dickens books. She is planning to make the evil Miss Trunchbull leave the school. This book is suitable for children and adults. This book is 100% awesome.



ABOVE: Chloe Ward drew a picture of Miss Honey from the book *Matilda*.

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# Day off for parish heroes



Parish secretaries from across the Archdiocese have put aside their administrative cares and enjoyed a day of exchanging ideas and making friends.

About 25 secretaries attended parish secretary's day which was held at the Rheinberger Centre in Yarralumla.

Parish services manager Mr Howard Lipscombe initiated the day seven years ago. "It provides the more experienced secretaries with updates and those who are new to the fold make friends to help them on their way," he said.

"The country secretaries tend to become isolated and need the reassurance that they are not alone, and the city secretaries play an important role in this."

Batemans Bay parish secretary of over 20 years Mrs Anne Jackson said parish secretary's day is "always worth the trip". Mrs Helen Hart, from Braidwood parish, said she always got a lot out of the day. "It's great to know you're not the only one - whatever problems and situations you encounter, the other secretaries share the same," she said.

# Young farewell



Ninety members of St Mary's parish community at Young farewelled Fr Geoff Lloyd as he prepared for his next leg of retirement at Lanigan House in Canberra. At lunch, testimonies were given and Fr Lloyd responded with good humour and a blessing. The parish donated a new winter wardrobe to Fr Lloyd.

ABOVE: Fr Geoff Lloyd (middle) with Young parish priest Fr Richard Thompson and archdiocesan manager for clergy support services Mr Kevin Croker, who has been instrumental in Fr Lloyd's care and transition.

# Bishop's travels



Auxiliary Bishop Pat Power gave a talk on his recent travels when St Christopher's CWL branch held its spring lunch attended by about 50 women and some men. Bishop Power spoke about visiting Lebanon and Ireland, Lourdes and a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela in Spain.

Among those who attended were members of Australian Church Women, including national president Mrs Jean Thomson and members of the ACT unit and the Uniting Church in Canberra.

ABOVE: At the lunch were archdiocesan secretary Dianne Purcell, Mary Ford, central region president Mieke Foley, Sr Rita Reilly and Eileen Neil.

# Remembering...



During November, in keeping with the tradition of the Church, special prayers are offered for deceased relatives and friends, the Holy Souls. For the Sisters of St Joseph of Goulburn this took on a special meaning as they gathered at Woden Cemetery on All Souls Day to begin a series of rituals to remember, pray for and celebrate the lives of those sisters who have died and are buried away from Goulburn.

Sisters travelled long distances to gather with friends, relatives and associates at the sacred burial grounds in Stockton, Griffith, Canberra, Holbrook, Narrandera, Rookwood, Culcairn, Leeton and Bimbi to pray for and remember 11 special sisters.

It was a sacred and faith-filled experience, a time for telling stories, a time of inspiration and hope and a time to celebrate and rejoice for those who had "fought the good fight finished the race and kept the faith".

ABOVE: In the foreground are Sr M Judith, Sr M Patricia, Sr M Beatrice and Sr M Christina.

# CWL get-together



Some of the happy band of CWL members at their mid-term meeting held at St Benedict's parish centre, Narrabundah. Branch president Mrs Janice Kelly welcomed everyone including the CWL executive. President is Mieke Foley (Kippax), vice-presidents Pat Liddiard (O'Connor) and Marie Gallagher (Watson), secretary Angela Devlin (St Christopher's) and treasurer Anne O'Neill (Watson).

# School lends hand



Thanks to a local school, former archdiocesan priest Fr Frank Jones is one step closer to his plan of eliminating poverty with education.

Through a fundraising dinner, St Clare's College, Griffith, raised more than \$22,000 for the Ecuadorian mission of the former college chaplain Fr Jones.

Textiles and food technology coordinator Ms Diane Harris said it was a "wonderful evening. Not only did the students who were involved benefit personally but their efforts helped to benefit a group of very poor people living in Ecuador who suffer in ways that are unimaginable to us," she said.

Ms Harris said Fr Jones planned to use the money to continue building classrooms.

"Fr Frank said the best way to help people out of poverty is with education."

Representatives of a number of South American embassies attended the event, as well as Canberra personalities including ABC radio's Mr Tim Gavel and Canberra Raiders player Troy Thompson.

Through the government initiated Adopt a School and student to industry programs, St Clare's partnered with the Southern Cross Club, who provided the college with mentors in hospitality.

ABOVE: Laura Hudson and Rebecca Jones working hard at the dinner.

# Strengthen bonds

Leaders of Australian and New Zealand Sisters of St Joseph came together at Mary MacKillop Place in North Sydney for an inaugural conference to strengthen bonds for mission and act as one in today's Church and world.

Josephite congregational leader Sr Anne Derwin and president of the Federation of Sisters of St Joseph Sr Jill Dance said the meeting of the leaders of the six congregations paved the way for decisions to be made together for Josephite mission. Sr Mary Quinlan represented the NSW province.

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Internet [www.cg.catholic.org.au](http://www.cg.catholic.org.au)



# Biggest and the best

Ss Peter and Paul's, Goulburn, promised to host the biggest and best annual Catholic primary school basketball championships this year, which marked the competition's 25th anniversary.

Hosting the championships for the fifth time, the school produced a carnival atmosphere with promotional activities, entertainment and displays.

More than 220 basketball games were played at five venues across Goulburn, with the help of 60 referees and 200 volunteers.

More than 800 students from over 40 schools from Wilcannia-Forbes, Broken Bay, Sydney, Parramatta, Bathurst, Wagga Wagga, Wollongong and Canberra-Goulburn took part.

Principal Mr Michael Kerin said the senior girls division 1 grand final between Ss Peter and Paul's Parish Primary School and Our Lady Star of the Sea Primary School, Terrigal, was one of the most exciting games.

"Both sides went into the final undefeated with big winning margins so the crowd was expecting an exciting match and were not disappointed," he said.

A successful free throw with six seconds left on the clock ensured the win for Terrigal by one point.

In another close final, Ss Peter and Paul's junior girls division 3 team defeated Nazareth Catholic Primary School from Shellharbour 10-8.

## All about sportsmanship

Sportsmanship and fun were the orders of the day at Boorowa's annual touch and netball carnival.

About 2700 primary school students from all over the South West Slopes and ACT region took part in the carnival, which translated into 115 netball teams and 127 touch teams.

Secondary students from Hennessey Catholic College, Young, and Boorowa Central School helped coordinate the day by refereeing, managing, coach-

ing, scoring and assisting in the canteens.

"If it wasn't for the excellent community service these students give, it would be very difficult for the carnival to proceed," Mr Paul Corcoran said, a teacher at St Joseph's in Boorowa.

"With the support of all the participating schools the carnival this year was another highly successful day."

Mr Corcoran said the carnival was non-competitive and winners received a certificate.

"The day is about sportsmanship, fun, participation and socialising.

The smaller St Joseph's Primary Schools from Bombala and Boorowa joined forces to field teams for the carnival.

Bombala students were billeted with families from St Joseph's in Boorowa, showing the "true community effort" Mr Corcoran said the carnival requires.



ABOVE: Year 6 netball team made up of students from Bombala and Boorowa.

## Inflated interest in squash

Students from St Matthew's Primary School in Page were treated to an afternoon of professional squash coaching on an inflatable squash court.

As part of Squash Australia's national coaching conference which was held at the Australian Institute of Sport, a demonstration for about 50 coaches from around Australia was held at the school.

The squash court came from Western Australia and was set up in the school hall, where about 20 children were taught squash skills.

St Matthew's was chosen for the demonstration after a group of students chose squash for the school's elective sports program.

Teacher Ms Victoria Winter said the students enjoyed the afternoon.

"They definitely benefited from taking part and they loved using the inflatable court," she said.

"It developed their interest in the sport."

## 26 schools compete in netball carnival

This year's archdiocesan Catholic schools netball carnival was hosted by Holy Spirit Primary School, Nicholls.

Students from Year 2 to Year 6 from 26 schools took part in the carnival, with teachers and parents volunteering for the roles of coaches and scorers.

Holy Spirit School's 16 teams all enjoyed the day.

In addition to playing netball, students could take part in clay painting, treasure hunts and raffles, eat fairy floss and buy show bags.

Winning teams from each division received a trophy and runners-up received medals.

All students who participated on the day took home a ribbon and a drink bottle.

## Soccer organisers seek support

St Anthony's Primary School, Wanniasa, is hosting the 2009 archdiocesan primary schools' soccer carnival on Sunday 29 March at the Wanniasa playing fields.

More than 1500 children and their families are expected to attend the carnival from schools throughout Canberra and south east NSW.

St Anthony's is seeking donations of cash, food, products, services or prizes to help cover expenses and raise funds on the day.

All sponsors will receive a mention throughout the day, regardless of the level of support given.

Anyone who wants contribute to the event should email pf@stanthonys.cg.catholic.edu.au or call Mrs Gail McKillop, telephone 6231 0144.



Ss Peter and Paul's Goulburn senior girls' team during the launch of the basketball championships in the school grounds with an orange Hummer loaned from Goulburn's General Motors. (Back) Emerson Kidd, Abbey Ridley, Maddison Hedley, (middle) Monique George, Emily Mills, Naomi Jale, Kate Ryan and (front) Charley Micallef.




LEFT: Katelyn Back from Year 6 practices in the inflatable squash court at St Matthew's Primary School, Page.

BELOW: Action from the Catholic schools netball carnival at Nicholls..



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# How the 'net has grown

Eight years ago in April 2001, I wrote the first article for Living with the Net. In that article I began with the question how many times have you heard the words byte, fragmentation, Pentium and internet and thought to yourself, I'm not sure what they mean, but I'd like to?

Hopefully after eight years I have been able to help you answer these and many other questions about computers and the internet. Advances in computer technology and the Internet have been huge. Pentium computers were reasonably new in 2001 and we were using Windows 95 and Windows 98 for the most part. Now most users run Windows XP and Windows Vista.

The internet had not yet heard of blogs and video streaming. Now they are commonplace and most people have either read someone's blog or created their own.

Interactive whiteboards were in their infancy and purchased at great expense. Few schools had one. Now most schools have at least one, many have one in every classroom.

Yet, even after eight years some things remain the same or have been only slightly changed, such as tips for searching the internet. These include effective searching tips such as: 1. Using key words more effectively, 2. Using more than one search engine, 3. Using natural flowing language, 4. Using quotation marks and 5. Using advanced search options.

Over time many search engines have come and gone yet the best still stand the test of time. I still use Google (www.google.com), Yahoo (www.yahoo.com) and AltaVista (www.altavista.com) to find most of the information I require for personal and professional use.

Sadly, I can no longer use Searchopolis or WebCrawler as their links no longer operate. On the positive side I have discovered and used new search engines such as the educational ERIC (Education Resources Information Centre (http://eric.ed.gov/).

## Living with the net



Paul Jenkins

Many of the Christmas websites that I would normally write about in December are still with us, while some have disappeared. Some of my favourite Christmas websites include: A Holy Christmas (www.rockies.net/~spirit/sermons/christmaspage1.php), Christmas in Cyberspace (www.njwebworks.net/christmas/), The Christmas Archives (www.christmasarchives.com/index.html), and Keeping Christ in Christmas (http://internetpadre.com/Christmas/xmas.html).

The most useful religious webpage I found was the Mary Page (www.udayton.edu/mary/). It is one of the most comprehensive and informative sites on the internet dedicated to Mary, Blessed Virgin. It contains a wealth of information about Mary including prayers and meditations, a gallery, library, research documents and resources. Fortunately it has stood the test of time and is still operating today.

Over the past eight years the volume of e-mails that have travelled the world has increased exponentially - from a few million each year to many millions each day.

We also have Catholic television online in the form of the Eternal Word Television Network (www.ewtn.com/). Its mission is "to bring the Eternal Word of Jesus Christ to all." EWTN has become the largest religious media network in the world, transmitting programs 24 hours a day to more than 122 million homes in 125 countries and 19 territories. Fortunately the Catholic Church has embraced the use of technology and the internet to spread the Good News. It has done this extremely effectively.

So after 86 articles and some 50,000 words, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank my readers for your support and encouragement. Living with the Net is taking a break for a while. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Goodbye and until next time, happy surfing.

# Why do we struggle with the Church?

Today a lot of people are struggling with the Church and this is more complex than first meets the eye.

Statistics show that in the past 50 years there hasn't been a huge drop-off in the number of people who say that they believe in God.

Surprisingly, too, there hasn't been a huge drop-off in the number of people who name a church or a denomination to which they claim to belong.

The huge drop-off has come mostly in one area, actual church-going. People still believe in God and their churches even when they don't often go to church. They haven't left their churches; they just aren't going to them.

We aren't so much post-Christian as we are post-ecclesial. The problem is not so much atheism or even religious affiliation, but participation in the Church.

Why? Why does our culture struggle so much with the Church?

Liberals like to think that it is because the Church has been too slow to change and that it is unhealthily out of step with today's world.

Conservatives like to think the opposite, namely, that people have grown disenchanted with the Church because it has changed too much and been too accommodating to the culture. There is some truth in both views, but analysts suggest that there are other reasons, reasons to do with the general breakdown of family and public life.

It is not just church-life and parish-life that are in trouble today. Declining church attendance is paralleled everywhere: Families and neighbourhoods are dissipating and breaking down as people guard their privacy and individuality more and more.

Civic organizations and clubs are finding it hard to function as they once did and there is simply less of a sense of community everywhere than there once was.

No wonder that our churches are struggling. Churches and parishes are, by definition, communities that are not based upon private intimacy, that is, they are not made up of people who choose to relate to each other on the basis of being like-minded.

Rather churches and parishes are, by definition, made up of people who are called together despite their differences to meet around Christ and a set of values that molds them into a community beyond private preference.

But that is not easily understood in a culture that believes meaningful community can only be formed on the basis of private choice and a personal need for intimacy.

## 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**



Today we don't just bowl alone, we also do spirituality alone.

People today tend to treat their churches in the same way as they treat their families.

They want them to be there for them, for rites of passage, for special occasions, and for the security of knowing they can be turned to if needed, but they don't want them to interfere much in their actual lives and they want to participate in them on their own terms.

People no longer feel they need the Church. They admit their need for God and for spirituality, but not their need for the Church. Hence we have the popular notion that says: I want spirituality but not the Church.

Finally, there is the notion that the Church as an institution is too flawed, too fraught with compromise, too narrow, too judgmental and too hypocritical to be credible, to be the institution that mediates salvation.

Jesus is pure, but the Church is flawed, goes the logic. Hence, a lot of people choose to relate to the Church very selectively and very sporadically.

I have never found a better answer to that than the one given by Carlo Carretto, the Italian spiritual writer, who loved the Church deeply but was honest enough to admit its faults.

Late in his life, he wrote this ode to the Church:

"How much I must criticize you, my church, and yet how much I love you! You have made me suffer more than anyone and yet I owe more to you than to anyone. I should like to see you destroyed and yet I need your presence. You have given me much scandal and yet you alone have made me understand holiness.

"Never in this world have I seen anything more compromised, more false, yet never have I touched anything more pure, more generous or more beautiful.

"Countless times I have felt like slamming the door of my soul in your face - and yet, every night, I have prayed that I might die in your sure arms!

"No, I cannot be free of you, for I am one with you, even if not completely you.

"Then too - where would I go? To build another church? But I could not build one without the same defects, for they are my defects. And again, if I were to build another church, it would be my church, not Christ's church. No, I am old enough, I know better."

That's an insight that can help all of us, both those of us who are going to church and those of us who aren't.

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# What was Jesus really like?

**Jesus: A Portrait by Gerald O'Collins SJ. Darton Longman & Todd, 2008, 246pp, rrp \$29.95. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.**

There are many, many books about Jesus and yet, it seems, there is always room for one more.

Jesus: A Portrait is the latest by well-known theologian Gerald O'Collins. In fact this is his 50th book.

O'Collins has been concerned that recent populist presentations about Jesus have raised frivolous issues such as "cover-ups" that have hidden the "real truth" for centuries.

These and other secondary questions, he says, avoid the face-to-face encounter with Jesus as furnished by eye-witnesses in the Gospel accounts of Mark, Matthew, Luke and John.

O'Collins draws on what he terms the remarkable contribution to New Testament studies made by Richard Bauckham, who demonstrates that the named characters in the Gospels were eye-witnesses to the words and deeds of Jesus and who furnished much of their material to the later evangelists.

O'Collins central thesis is "What was Jesus really like?" He acknowledges the answer will never be complete.

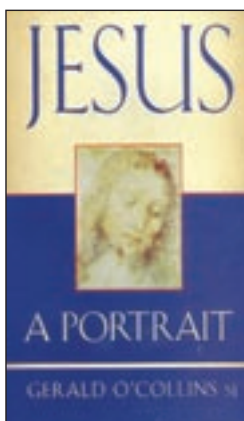
With skilful exegesis, that is critical interpretation of the texts, he groups his conclusions under chapter headings such as Jesus the Healer, Jesus the Teacher, Jesus the Abiding Presence...

The chapter I found particularly appealing was The Beauty of Jesus. This follows a theme of St Augustine in his Confessions which O'Collins links to the Gospel of John. Christ is seen as beautiful in the womb, in his baptism, beautiful in his transfiguration, beautiful in his scourging and in his resurrection and so on.

O'Collins has made yet another masterly contribution to the field of systematic theology. Students will already know and trust his sure hand. A glance at his up-to-date bibliography is a rich resource for their research.

Jesus: A Portrait is scholarly while remaining accessible to those of us who are done with essay-writing but still like to keep up with contemporary thinking.

I read it quite comfortably over one weekend and have found much to think about since.



## A map for readers

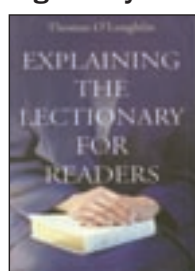
**Explaining the Lectionary for Readers, by Thomas O'Loughlin. Blackrock, Co Dublin: The Columbia Press, 2008. PB 115pp, rrp \$27.95. reviewer: Margaret Ryan.**

Have you ever wondered "Why do we bother with some or all of the readings at Mass?" or "Why do readings come up when they do?"

Fr Thomas O'Loughlin is Professor of Historical Theology at the University of Wales, Lampeter, and author of numerous books. Experience in parishes taught him that regular Mass attendees and those in the ministry of reader often have questions about the purpose and structure of the lectionary used at Mass. He aims to provide a map of the Liturgy of the Word.

The 15 short chapters cover topics such as : the purpose and value of a lectionary, how lectionaries are compiled and structured, how each evangelist reveals the identity of Jesus, the structure of the liturgical year and the readings from each season, the structure of and themes in Sunday readings for Years A,B and C, an overview of weekday readings for Ordinary Time, and the numbering systems of the Psalms.

E-mail [ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au](mailto:ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au)



# Journey of discovering our Church

**The Church: The Evolution of Catholicism, by Richard P McBrien, HarperOne, 2008, rrp \$49. Reviewer: Fr Warrick Tonkin.**

In many different ways we were all touched by the celebration of World Youth Day in Sydney. Whether we were a pilgrim, participated in Days in the Diocese, or watched the event unfold on television, no-one could have escaped the fact that the Catholic Church is bigger than our own backyard. To echo the sentiments of the Irish novelist, James Joyce in his novel Finnegans Wake, the Church is literally "here comes everyone."

Fr Richard P McBrien, in his latest book The Church: The Evolution of Catholicism, provides us with a valuable prism through which we can examine this Church, the community of the disciples of Jesus, to which we belong.

Starting with the Scope of Ecclesiology (the theology of the Church), McBrien takes us on a journey exploring how the Church has understood itself from New Testament times, through the sweep of history, and examines in greater detail the Church's move from the First Vatican Council (1869-1870) to the eve of the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965).

In examining the understanding of the Church that emerged from Vatican II, McBrien focuses on the key statement of Pope Paul VI in opening the Second Session of the Council on September 29, 1963. He described the Church as a mystery "a reality imbued with the hidden presence of God."

McBrien also relies on the distinction that Cardinal Leo Jozef Suenens (Belgium) made between the Church looking out to the rest of the world and engaging with the world. Cardinal Suenens called this the Church "ad extra."

The second, and complementary way of looking at the Church, was the Church living with and within itself. Cardinal Suenens called this the Church "ad intra." These complementary distinctions provide McBrien with the framework for the later part of his work.

One of the jewels of Richard McBrien's book is his treatment of Vatican II and the issue of continuity/discontinuity. Those who opt for absolute continuity alone would maintain that as a result of Vatican II the Church's understanding of itself is the same as it was at the start of the Council.

Those who opt for absolute discontinuity would maintain that Vatican II cre-

ated a seismic shift in how the Church understands itself, and that there is no need to look at the Church prior to the Council.

Quite correctly McBrien emphasises that the issue is not continuity or discontinuity. It is not one or the other. McBrien is correct in showing the reader that the true touch of the Holy Spirit at Vatican II was that continuity and discontinuity exist in a creative tension, which always produces growth.

There is one unfortunate misreading of a concept on McBrien's part. In discussing the Magisterium of the Church, McBrien launches into the issue of the potential ordination of women to the priesthood.

He maintains that the Church's stance is a matter of discipline, and thus open to change. This is not the mind of the Church. The Church is not in a position to change its teaching on this issue at any time.

On balance, Fr. Richard McBrien provides us with a masterful work, invaluable to students and teachers alike.

His style of writing opens up this massive topic to the general reader. All who join McBrien on the journey of discovering our Church will be richer for the experience.

## Wonderful prayer aid

**Prayer: The Heart of the Gospels by James McCaffrey OCD. Blackrock, Co Dublin: The Columbia Press, 2008. PB 184pp, rrp \$31.95. Reviewer: Margaret Ryan.**

This gem examines each gospel individually, looking at its themes, style and the person of Jesus, and thus is a tool to help readers pray through each gospel.

McCaffrey also investigates Jesus himself at prayer: reasons, times, places, methods etc.

For example, in Mark's gospel he covers Jesus' solitariness in prayer and his Gethsemane prayer as well as prayer issues for today such as waiting on the Lord, "wasting time" in prayer and the power of faith.

Because he deals with each gospel in chronological order of writing, he is able to reveal the Church's developing understanding

of the depth and complexity of the Christian prayer tradition.

McCaffrey recommends we pray the scriptures through the heart and mind of Mary: with reverence and awe, at ease and sure of God's love, with great trust, confidence and faith.

He outlines the method of lectio divina, and gives an example of this prayer style at the end of each chapter.

Chapters on "Praying with the Holy Spirit" and a compilation of references to prayer in the gospels complete the book.

Dr McCaffrey is prior of the Oxford Carmelite community, director of the retreat centre there and is an author and international lecturer. His scholarship is evident and conveyed in a clear, interesting and comprehensive way.

The book would be a wonderful aid to prayer and an inspiration for personal or group spirituality.

## Have fun with saints

**Saints Off The Pedestal by Amanda Roberts. St. Anthony Messenger Press, 2008, 151pp, rrp.\$ 21.95. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.**

This is a fun read. In it Amanda Roberts seeks to define the relevance that these revered men and women from the past have for us today.

She concludes that their question and struggles are identical with ours. They had to define their identity, discover their vocation and persevere with hope in the face of suffering, loss, failure and hostility.

Roberts chooses 10 saints from Peter to Therese of Lisieux. For each saint she identifies a particular quality. For example she has Peter "moving beyond failure" and Martin de Porres "responding to our neighbour in need". She believes the saints are accessibly human. In illustrating this, her book becomes a fun read.

One anecdote that had me laughing was about Aloysius Gonzaga, a 16th century Italian saint from a princely family. His father took his four-year-old heir with him while he trained his troops. Aloysius was outfitted with miniature armour and weapons and gained the skills his father had hoped for. He learned to use gunpowder successfully, discharging his firearm indiscriminately to the consternation of bystanders. Apparently he learned to swear like a trooper too. Name me a parent of a pre-schooler who doesn't relate to that scenario!

## Essential resource

**Know, Love and Live the Catholic Faith by John E Pollard. Our Sunday Visitor, 2006, 255pp, rrp \$22.95. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.**

Every so often there appears a book that seems destined to become an essential resource for those who are teaching and learning about the core beliefs of the Catholic Church.

This is one such manual. Fr Pollard is a member of the International Catechetical Council. He has been involved in the preparation of several national catechetical directories in the US as well as the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

There are three main parts: Catholic Faith focuses on the

living tradition of the Church; Catholic Life concerns the person's lived response of faith and Catholic Practice outlines the basic actions performed by Catholics.

Each chapter begins with a scripture reflection followed by a succinct outline of Church teaching. Then follows study questions with answers. Fr Pollard says these are questions asked by his parishioners. Lastly there are questions for group discussion and for personal reflection.

With its concise content, easy layout and its over-riding concern for pastoral application, this book is one of the best. Ideal for use in RCIA programs and for Catholics Returning Home.

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# No winners in cruel political maze

This film won the Camera d'Or for the best first-time director at the Cannes Film Festival in 2008 and also this year's Sydney Film Festival's international competition.

It tells the story of the last months in the life of Irish Republican Bobby Sands (played by Michael Fassbender), who after more than two months on a hunger strike for the right to be considered a political prisoner and not a criminal, died at the Maze Prison in Northern Ireland.

He was buried following a Requiem Mass at St Peter's Cathedral, west Belfast, following his death in May, 1981. Liam McMahon and Brian Milligan play Sands' fellow prisoners who, like Sands, insist they are political prisoners, not criminals. Stuart Graham plays the part of the head guard, Raymond Lohan, who lives his life in constant fear of terrorism and who engages in brutal violence.

The prisoners are treated cruelly, inhumanely and with total disrespect for their rights, and Lohan plays the ultimate price in a terrorist pay-bank.

The film vividly depicts the conflict between IRA prisoners and

**Hunger**  
Starring Michael Fassbender, Liam Cunningham, Stuart Graham, Brian Milligan and Liam McMahon. Directed by Steve McQueen. 96 mins. MA15+. Reviewer: Peter W Sheehan\*.

the guards of the prison in the living hell of one of its infamous H Blocks. Sands was the first to die of 10 men. The hunger strike ended five months later when the British Government started to meet the prisoners' demands.

Fortunately, Sand's story was imprinted on the memory of Steve McQueen, who was a child of 11 at the time, and he later went on to direct this movie.

The film - much of it without words - has an intense focus to it and an extraordinary inner-centeredness.

This is not a film about martyrdom, or being a hero, or being a victim, as some might think, but a vivid portrayal of a person who went to extremes to say what he wanted to say. It is about men who chose firstly not to wash or wear a prison uniform and then not to eat in order to be heard.

Strikingly pertinent to all those interested in the preservation of life, there is a long, unforgettable

conversation between Sands and a Catholic priest, Fr Dominic Moran (played by Liam Cunningham) about the decision to go on strike.

Engaging in small talk at first, their conversation - with their profiles dramatically silhouetted throughout - pits the ideological commitment of Sands against the force of the priest's moral position.

The interaction between them compellingly and cogently confronts the issues surrounding the importance of life, and puts Sand's decision to sacrifice his life in ethical perspective.

This is a movie that exemplifies controlled stoicism, and it is terrifyingly powerful in its uncompromising avoidance of any form of sentimentality. Its stoicism and endurance contrast starkly with popular images of Irish sentimentality or romanticism.

Fassbender went on a medically supervised diet to do this film and the scenes of Sands towards the end of the movie are almost



Michael Fassbender as Bobby Sands and Liam Cunningham as Fr Dominic Moran in a dramatic scene from Hunger.

unbearable to watch.

This film is unrelenting in what it depicts, and it does much more than dramatise history. It uses history to depict events that challenge and confront, and it presents no easy winner. One can't help but draw parallels with Abu Ghraib, Guantanamo Bay and Australia's own detention centres where refugees have a story to be heard and understood by those who prefer not to hear their message.

Complex and controversial, the film explores the cruelty of civil war in Ireland in a deeply moving and unsettling way.

"Entertaining" and "enjoyable" are not the right words to describe this film. Here, we have cinema artistry at work that is displayed boldly and with exceptional strength.

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

**Nights in Rodanthe**  
Starring Richard Gere and Diane Lane. Directed by George C. Wolfe. 96 mins. PG (mild themes and coarse language). Reviewer: Fr Peter Malone MSC\*.

## Unavoidable tear or two

Nicholas Sparks has written some popular best sellers that are highly emotional. Several have been made into films, Message in a Bottle, A Walk to Remember, The Notebook. Such novels and films are easy to look down on as romantic tear-jerkers - and they are - but who says we can't like this playing on our emotions?

Adrienne, the mother of a critical teenage daughter and a bookish 10-year-old son, grieving the recent death of a beloved father and upset that her husband has walked out for another woman but is pleading to be taken back, helps out a close friend at her guest house resort on the North Carolina coast.

A hurricane is strengthening in the Atlantic. But, that will be nothing to the emotional storm she will experience. The only guest is a doctor, Paul, who is fighting a malpractice lawsuit and whose doctor son is alienated from him and has gone to work for the poor in Ecuador. Even though you can make an educated guess - or, any old reasonable guess - as to what is going to happen (and, by and large, you will be right), most will not be able to avoid a tear or two (or more).

Fr Peter Malone MSC directs the film desk of SIGNIS.

## Comedy with a serious edge to it

This is the first feature film for Rob Schneider, and it is a comedy that entertains.

An over ego-conscious real estate agent, Stan Minton (played by Rob Schneider) constantly humiliates people to satisfy his ego and greed.

He gets caught for fraud, and facing prison for his misdemeanours he is terrified at the prospect of being victimized and assaulted by his fellow prisoners.

Before going to prison, he enlists the help of "the Master" (played by David Carradine), a self-styled guru, who teaches him to defend himself by turning him into a martial arts expert, who knows all the tricks of the trade.

The first half of the film is corny, but the second half isn't, and the charisma and eccentricity of Carradine are necessary to rescue the film in its early stages.

Stan goes to prison and suddenly, his ego has an outlet; the small man looks, fights and talks big.

Behind the prison walls he quickly gains the respect of his fellow prisoners, even to the extent of being able to reconcile the warring factions among them.

The cell-block suddenly has a new bully-hero, who can protect himself very well indeed.

The weakness of the con man on the outside gives over on the inside to a new-found strength of purpose.

**Big Stan**  
Starring: Rob Schneider, David Carradine, Jennifer Morrison, M. Emmet Walsh, and Scott Wilson. Directed by Rob Schneider. 105 mins. M (moderate sexual references, moderate coarse language, Moderate violence). Reviewer: Peter W Sheehan\*.

The complication is that the prison warden Warden Gasque (played by Scott Wilson) does not want the harmony among the prisoners that Stan is able to produce; maintaining war inside the prison is profitable and Minton is a problem.

He has a deal for Stan, but at the last minute Stan rejects it and opts to defend his mates.

Although the film aims for laughs, it resists the temptation to go for slapstick.

The fights scenes are surprisingly good and the film introduces some famous fighters (such as Dan Inosanto, a former student of Bruce Lee, and the fighting champion, Randy Couture who stars in Scorpion King 2) to satisfy martial arts fans.

Schneider practises his newly found martial arts skills with awesome finesse and it is not at all hard to understand the respect that he engenders among the prisoners.

In minor roles, Jennifer Morrison

plays Stan's myopic wife, Mindy; and M Emmet Walsh plays his corrupt lawyer rather foolishly.

In essence, this is a prison-movie parody that is a better comedy than most, and it manages to maintain a serious tone well in its second half.

When Big Stan is offered the arrangement by Warden Gasque to release him from prison early, Stan experiences acutely the moral dilemma of accepting the offer of freedom (at a price), or staying behind to protect the welfare of the friends he has made in prison.

The plot line is not tight and there is some very questionable moral advice from Stan to his fellow prisoners on their sexual practices, but the movie is funny, especially when it moves behind the bars.

It will appeal both to those looking for laughs and those wanting to be enthused by some very good martial arts action fighting.

The fight scenes, orchestrated by Mike Gunther are tightly choreographed and very convincing.

There are some crude jokes along the way, and there is silliness and naivety in some of the humour, but generally the film succeeds as a comedy that has a serious point to it.

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

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# Dramatic portrayal of nativity

## DVDs

The Nativity Story (Text and DVD, ages 10-adult).

This popular motion picture provides a realistic and dramatic portrayal of the events of the birth of Jesus. Also available is a companion picture book that includes colour photographs from the motion picture. Minimal text includes quotes from Scripture relating the birth of Jesus.

The Meaning Of Christmas (The Wonder of Christmas Series) (10 mins, ages 11-18).

The background meaning of the Nativity story and the tradition of Christmas for Christians is explained in this Australian production. High school students act as commentators who explain the meaning of Christmas with switches to scenes of coloured stills as well as live action filming.

The King is Born (30 min, ages 5-13).

A fully animated story that depicts the early life of Jesus, from the annunciation to Mary, Jesus' birth, the coming of the three Wise Kings, and the flight into Egypt.

Little Shepherd.(25 min, ages 4-8).

This animated program retells the nativity story through experiences of the shepherd boy Joel, who comes to

observe the birth of Jesus.

## SOUND RECORDINGS

Carey Landry & Carol Jean Kinghorn. How Beautiful is the Child: Music for Advent and Christmas (1 CD



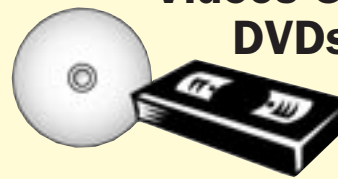
and music book, ages 8-12).

A compilation of 14 songs for children to suit the themes of Advent and Christmas for children.

Monica Brown, Our God is Near: Children's Hymns and Songs for Advent and Christmas.(CD, ages 4-11).

Australian singer-songwriter Monica Brown has composed this collection of nine hymns and songs suitable for the themes of Advent and Christmas. The songs also have accompanying instrumental tracks.

## Videos & DVDs



The Catholic Education Office Library holds a good collection of DVDs, videos, books, and music for Christmas. Listings of resources may be found in the library's online catalogue. Click the Advanced Search tab and choose Subject search. Type Christmas, or Jesus Christ - Nativity.

The online catalogue is located as a link on the CEO's website: <http://ceo.cg.catholic.edu.au/> and option: CG Online. All parishioners may borrow resources from the CEO Library for a small annual fee.

The library will be closed for Christmas holidays from Thursday, 24 December, to Monday 12 January, 2009. Best wishes for a happy and Holy Christmas.

The Catholic Education Office Library is located in the Rheinberger Centre, the corner of Weston & Loch Streets, Yarralumla on the site of St. Peter Chanel's Church. Telephone: 6163 4350, fax 6163 4351, e-mail [library@cg.catholic.edu.au](mailto:library@cg.catholic.edu.au) Open weekdays 9am-5pm.

- Dennis Granlund librarian.

# Truth is out there and complicated

This is another film about American-Muslim relationships, or the lack of them. Echoing the ambiguity of its title, the film focuses on Samir Horn (played by Don Cheadle) who is an explosive expert, a Sudanese American and a devout Muslim, and he keeps showing up where terrorists do their bombings.

Samir is imprisoned and becomes friendly in jail with Omar (played by Said Taghmaoui) who leads a terrorist group.

Samir uses the skills he has learnt to engage in terrorist activities, including the bombing of a US embassy in Nice and he is recruited to a plan to put suicide bombers on buses in the US.

Samir is pursued across the globe by FBI agent Roy Clayton (played by Guy Pearce) and the final confrontation

between Samir, the terrorists and the FBI makes for gripping cinema.

But things are not as simple as the label, "Samir-the-Traitor," allows you to think. This is really a film about the duplicity of covert operations and the film has a surprising even-handedness about the way it treats Muslims and the various jihad-committed characters in it.

Samir's behaviour contrasts with that of others, like Max Archer, an FBI-agent (played by Neal McDonough), who has no trouble living with his prejudices. The film tries to be fair not only to the American cause, but to the terrorist groups that are implacably opposed to it; the movie is not anti-American, and it is not anti-Muslim.

Cheadle plays the role of Samir in a very low-key way, almost daring us to come to any rational conclusion about all that is happening and what he seems to be involved in doing. One is left with a decided sense of moral ambiguity about his character, and the film engenders a strong sense of belief in the world as a place that is very well-suited to the formation of terrible alliances.

There is no one evil, and no one force for good. The film asks us to draw our own conclusions about contemporary anxieties, post 9/11; its politics are multi-sided and its story-line is plausible.

Religion has a strong role to play. Samir's unwavering devotion to his own religion lends his actions spiritual force that paradoxically gives the movie a strong sense of ethical direction. The FBI agent who pursues him, Roy Clayton, plays out his own

E-mail [ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au](mailto:ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au)



Samir Horn (played by Don Cheadle) ... low-key.

**Traitor**  
**Starring: Don Cheadle, Guy Pearce, Said Taghmaoui, and Neal McDonough. Directed by Jeffrey Nachmanoff. 110 mins. M (terrorism themes, violence, and coarse language). Reviewer: Peter W Sheehan\*.**

history as a minister's son. The film advocates religious tolerance of all sides and Samir's faith is used to try to counteract the terrorist's group's own objectives about extreme violence. As a result, the movie is rather more intelligent than others like it; it doesn't ground the viewer in simplistic interpretations or point to them too obviously. But how can the honourable Samir be responsible for the murder of so many others? Whose faith is being misused, and by

whom? Ambiguous motives and moral conflicts abound in this film, and it earns its title as a thinking person's action movie. However, the natural caution that the film engenders makes its story-line complex, and at times engagement in the action gives way to thinking about it.

This is the first feature-length film under the direction of Jeffrey Nachmanoff, who wrote the screenplay for The Day after Tomorrow. His direction is well-controlled and we are typically exposed to world locations into which the story is embedded, and the film's action sequences are played out across the globe without looking too contrived.

The pace of the movie is taut, the viewer is always kept guessing, and the action-play is entertaining, but the resolution is far from being settled or comfortable.

We might want to feel satisfied at the end of this movie, but comfort is a feeling this film intentionally does not want to deliver.

Most political thrillers aim to excite the viewer, often in paranoid fashion, and leave it at that. This film manipulates our sympathies in an unusual and clever way. It is unusual, because it preaches tolerance in a morally ambiguous world; and it is clever, because it leaves the ultimate judgement up to us.

The film lives up well to its tagline - "the truth is complicated," and it demonstrates convincingly that total behavioural consistency in anyone should never be assumed.

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

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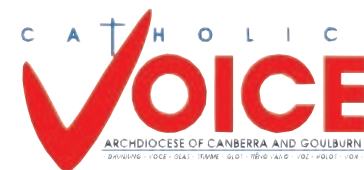
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THANKS to St Jude and Our Blessed Mother for many favours granted. J P.

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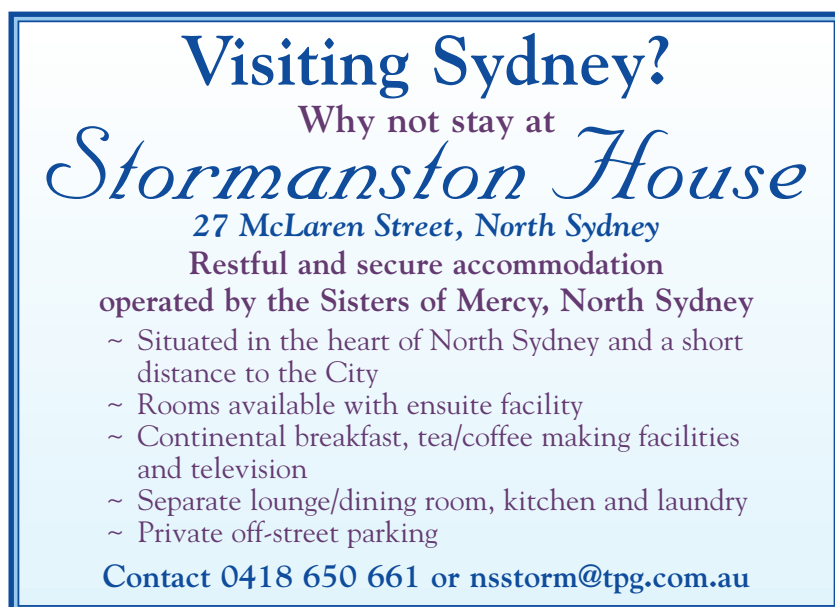
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# Coming Events



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.

CAFF COURSE - Catholic Adult Faith Formation 1 course (scripture, theology, spirituality, sacraments) recommences 31 January. Facilitators travel to your region. 4 units. Distance education format. Inquiries: Margaret Ryan, telephone 6163 4302, margaret.ryan@catholiclife.org.au or learning@catholiclife.org.au telephone 6163 4333.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE - Led by St Caecilia's Choir, 7.30pm, Sunday, 7 December, at Chapel of St John the Evangelist, Daley Road, ANU. Featuring carols for choir and congregation with organ, trumpet, timpani, Gregorian chant, renaissance polyphony and instrumental solos. Inquiries: Maria Henry, telephone 6249 6278 or e-mail mariamhenry@bigpond.com

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

FERRY CRUISES - Sunday, 14 December, 6pm and 7pm, Southern Cross Yacht Club, Yarralumla, Christmas carols and supper, continuing 8pm, Rheinberger Centre, Yarralumla. Fund-raiser for FEP-COW (Feed & Educate Poor Children of Our World). Inquiries: Eric, telephone 6254 9924, Ted 6254 1919, John 6286 4454.

LABYRINTH MEDITATION - Start the New Year with a chance to reflect on the year that has passed and pray for the year to come. New Year's Eve, 1pm-6pm, Wednesday, 31 December, St Alban the Martyr Church, 34 Chappell St, Lyons. Come at a time that suits. Inquiries: Rev Rebecca Newland, telephone 6281 4505.

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

PILGRIMAGE - SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF MERCY, Pauline Fathers Monastery, Penrose Park near Berrima. Saturday, 13 December, for Fatima Day. 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.catholicssocialgroup.com, e-mail raphsgroup@yahoo.com.au

RECONNECT PROGRAM - Small group program beginning soon for inactive Catholics who haven't been to Mass for a while. St Matthew's, Page. Inquiries: Elspeth, telephone 6278 6833 (h), Mary 6254 1827(w).

SERRA CLUB OF CANBERRA - 6.15pm, Thursday, 11 December. Rosary and Mass at Holy Trinity Church, Curtin, followed by dinner.

Written entries are invited for the February 2009 issue to: Catholic Voice, GPO Box 3089, Canberra ACT 2601, or e-mail ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au by Thursday, 15 January. Entries which are accepted for this section are free.

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## Parish visit to chapel

A group of 16 parishioners from Adelong/Batlow travelled by bus to Goulburn after an invitation from the Josephite Sisters to visit the Chapel of Our Lady of Dolours. In the group were (from left) front: Shirley Lampe, Sr Bernadette Mary, June Avery (sitting), Jenny Brady, Jennifer Hughes. Middle: Alice Whiting, Janice Vanzella, Doreen Hughes, June Avery, Marie Pearce, Bruce Wilkinson. Back: Elizabeth Thompson, Trish Wilson, Maria Fairweather, Tony Vanzella, Bill Lampe, Noel Pearce.



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

# Christmas Mass times in parishes

ADELONG-BATLOW: Christmas vigil 6pm Batlow, 8pm Adelong. Christmas Day 9am Adelong.

ARANDA: Christmas vigil 7pm 10pm. Christmas Day 10am.

ARDLETHAN: Christmas Vigil 6.30pm at Aria Park, Christmas Day 9am

BARELLAN: Christmas Vigil 6.30pm

BATEMANS BAY: Christmas vigil 6pm. Christmas Day 7:30am 9am 11am Croatian Mass. Until January 26, 6pm vigil, Sunday 7:30am 9am.

BEGA: Christmas vigil 6pm Bega, 7pm Bemboka, 8pm Tathra. Christmas Day 8am Candelo, 10am Bega.

BOMBALA: Christmas vigil 7:30pm Bombala, Christmas Day 8:30am Delegate.

BOOROWA: Christmas vigil 5pm Binalong, 6:30pm Harden, 8pm Boorowa, 9pm Galong Monastery, 9:30pm Frogmore. Christmas Day 9am Boorowa, 9am Galong monastery.

BRAIDWOOD: Christmas vigil 8.00pm, Christmas Day 9am. January vigil 6pm, 9am Sunday.

BUNGENDORE: Christmas vigil 6pm in church grounds, 8pm Gundaroo. Christmas Day 8:30am Bungendore.

CAMPBELL: Christmas vigil 6pm (children). Christmas Day 10am.

CATHEDRAL: Christmas vigil 6pm St Christopher's cathedral, 9pm St Peter Chanel's Yarralumla, midnight cathedral. Christmas Day 8am cathedral, 9:30am St Peter Chanel's, 11am cathedral. No 5:30pm Mass at the cathedral on Christmas day.

CENTRAL CANBERRA: Christmas vigil 6pm Dickson. Christmas day 8am Braddon, 9.30am Dickson.

CHARNWOOD: Christmas vigil 7pm midnight. Christmas Day 10am

COOMA: Christmas vigil 6pm, Cooma 9pm Cooma; 9pm Nimmitabel. Christmas Day 9am Cooma, 9am Adaminaby.

COOTAMUNDRA: Christmas vigil 7 pm (family), 9pm Christmas Eve Mass; Christmas day: 8am Stockinbingal, 9.30am Cootamundra.

CROOKWELL: Christmas vigil 9pm. Christmas Day 8am Binda, 9:30am Crookwell.

EVATT: Christmas vigil 6pm Evatt (children), 9pm Evatt, 9pm Hall. Christmas Day 8:30am Evatt.

GRENFELL: Christmas vigil 6pm Bribbaree, 8:30pm Grenfell. Christmas Day 9am Grenfell.

GOULBURN: Christmas vigil 6:30pm Marulan, 8pm Our lady of Fatima, 6:30pm midnight Sts Peter Paul's Cathedral. Christmas Day 9am Sts Peter and Paul's Cathedral.

GUNDAGAI: Christmas vigil 7:30pm (family), 8pm. Christmas Day 7:30am, 9:30am Jugiong.

GUNGAHLIN: Christmas vigil 7pm (children's Liturgy Mass), 10pm (Carols 9.30pm). Christmas Day 9am, all at new Holy Spirit Church in Burdekin Ave Amaroo.

JINDABYNE: Christmas vigil 5pm Thredbo, 7pm Dalgety, 8pm Jindabyne, midnight Jindabyne. Christmas day 9am Jindabyne, 9am Berridale.

KALEEN: Christmas vigil 7pm 10pm, Christmas Day 9.30am.

Internet [www.cg.catholic.org.au](http://www.cg.catholic.org.au)

KAMBAH: Christmas vigil 7pm (children), 9:30pm Vietnamese Mass, midnight. Christmas Day 10am.

KIPPAX: Christmas vigil 6pm 9pm midnight (11:30pm carols). Christmas Day 9am

LAKE CARGELLIGO: Christmas vigil 7pm Tully 9pm Lake Cargelligo Christmas Day 9.30am Lake Cargelligo

MORUYA: Christmas vigil 6.00pm, 10pm. Christmas Day 8am Tuross Head, 10am Moruya. January 6:00pm vigil Moruya, Sunday 10am Moruya, 8am Tuross Head. 6pm Broulee or Moruya tba

NAROOMA-COBARGO: Christmas vigil 6.30pm Cobargo, 7pm Narooma. Christmas Day 8am Bermagui, 10am Narooma. January vigil 6:30pm Cobargo, Sunday 7:30am Bermagui, 9:30am Narooma.

NARRABUNDAH: Christmas vigil 6pm, 8pm (charismatic vigil), 12 midnight. Christmas Day 9am.

NORTH WODEN: Christmas vigil 5.30pm Curtin, 7.30pm Garran, midnight Curtin. Christmas Day 8.30am Garran, 9.30am Curtin.

O'CONNOR: Christmas vigil 6pm. Christmas Day 9am.

PAGE: Christmas vigil 7pm 9pm midnight. Christmas Day 9.30am.

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

QUEANBEYAN: Christmas vigil 6:30pm St Gregory's (carols 5.45pm outdoors), midnight St Raphael's (carols 11:30pm). Christmas Day 8am and 10am St Raphael's.

SOUTH TUGGERANONG: Christmas vigil 6pm Calwell (outside), 9pm Gowrie, midnight Gowrie. Christmas Day 8:30am 10am Gowrie.

SOUTH WODEN: Christmas vigil 6pm 9pm. Christmas Day 8:30am 10:30am, all at Sacred Heart, Pearce.

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

TEMORA: Christmas vigil 6:30pm in the park (children), 9pm. Christmas Day 8am Barmedman, 10am Temora.

TUMUT: Christmas vigil (outdoors) 6pm. Christmas Day 8am Talbingo 10am Tumut

WANNIASSA: Christmas vigil 7pm (children), midnight (carols 11:30pm). Christmas Day 9:30am.

WATSON: Christmas vigil 6pm (children) 10pm (carols 9.30pm). Christmas Day 8am 10am.

WESTON CREEK: Christmas vigil 6pm Holder (children), 6pm Waramanga (children), 9 pm Holder (8.30pm carols) Midnight Mass Waramanga (11.30pm carols) Christmas Day 9.30am Waramanga

WESTERN MISSION: Christmas vigil 6.30pm Aria Park, Barellan and Ungarie, 8.30pm West Wyalong and Weethallie. Christmas Day 9am West Wyalong, Burcher and Ardlethan.

YASS: Christmas vigil 6.30pm Gunning, 8pm Yass, 9.00pm Murrumbateman (in the Recreation Grounds. Christmas Day 8am Yass, 10am Wee Jasper.

YOUNG: Christmas vigil 6pm outside (family), 9pm. Christmas Day 9.30am.

CATHOLIC VOICE December 2008 - 23



As Christmas approaches and we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth amid a tightening economy, let us keep in our minds and prayers those without the means and safety nets we have.

With a recent bout of illness that saw me in bed for the day, during which I contemplated whether to go to the doctor or the hospital. I was able to check my temperature and blood pressure and drink as much clean water as I needed.

I became conscious that in many countries such thoughts and access to clean water let alone tablets or medical equipment and facilities are luxuries not to mention the ability to afford the day away from work.

Catholic Mission, each Christmas, makes an appeal for funds for their Children's Mission projects that seek to assist communities of young people with access to clean water, medicine, food security, and education. It is an opportunity to bring to hope and remedy to the most vulnerable.

Help us continue helping others overcome the struggles of their early years. Contact us today to give or find out more.

Thank you to all who have enabled us through their prayers and generosity to fulfil our mission on their behalf.

God Bless and may your Christmas be holy, safe and merry.

**Deacon Joe Blackwell**

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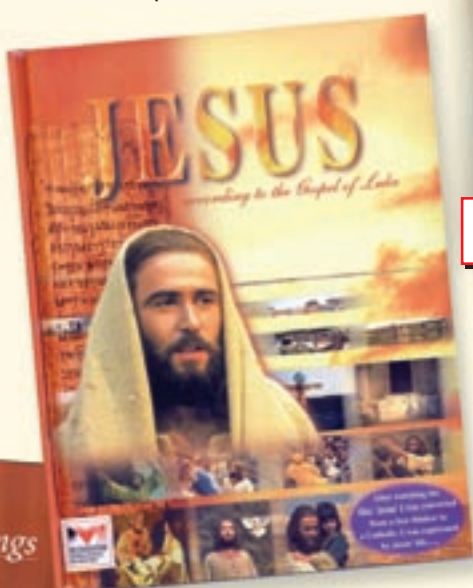


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