



College leaders
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FREE

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Church gears to aid inmates



Sr Janet Glass outside the Alexander Maconochie Centre in Hume.

When Canberra's first prison finally opens its doors, a brand new Catholic pastoral care team will be ready to start work.

Sr Janet Glass will coordinate the team, made up of clergy and members of the St Vincent de Paul Society's Maximilian Kolbe conference, at the Alexander Maconochie Centre in Hume.

Suitably qualified for her new role, the former school teacher was a prison chaplain for almost 10 years at Goulburn and Long Bay jails, and for the past 18 months has worked at Belconnen and Symonston remand centres.

"I am a Sister of St Joseph and this is what we are all about," she said.

"Our call is to the disadvantaged and attending to their

needs. Mary MacKillop said 'never see a need without doing something about it'."

Vicar General Mgr John Woods will oversee the Catholic clergy presence in the prison.

"So far Fr John Armstrong, Fr Constantine Osuchukwu, Auxiliary Bishop Patrick Power, Fr Ben Roberts and I have completed the induction course which enables us to celebrate Mass in the jail," he said.

"We're looking to have a real team approach. Obviously we'll be reaching out to Catholic prisoners and staff, but we are open to all people within the jail community."

President of the Maximilian Kolbe conference of Vinnies Mr Roger Fitzgerald said members

Pastoral team will reach out to all when new jail opens

would undertake visitation work. "We will be able to coordinate with other St Vincent de Paul programs for post-release assistance and family visitation," he said.

"Our role will be to provide a whole range of support - there's no work that is foreign to the society.

"The key thing we're doing at the moment is preparation. We've been meeting with other organisations involved in the centre."

Sr Janet said people who administer pastoral care in a prison situation need to be flexi-

ble, open minded and have a sense of humour.

"There are anxieties, it's not an easy job. But pastoral care is really about listening. The plan of action comes later. I try to establish a bond of friendship with the prisoners and when you get their trust then you're able to ask questions.

"We never know the full story - I only know what they choose to tell me. But you can't judge, you come in with an open mind to show them the Church cares."

Sr Janet said prison ministry is not about "saving souls", but being different things for different people.

"It's very ecumenical - I don't know who is a Catholic and who's not.

"It's about compassion and getting across the message that God loves them and forgives them."

Despite working in what most would consider an intimidating environment, Sr Janet said she has never felt afraid.

"We've all been security trained. We know we must obey the prison officers, they're professionally trained with a job to do. If they say 'get out of there', we do it."

Sr Janet said she generally enjoys her work, which some days involves simply playing cards or ping-pong with prisoners.

"They always think they'll beat me at ping-pong, but I've had a lot of practice."

She says she has to "practice not taking my work home with me."

"At Christmas time it is particularly hard; there are some very sad prisoners at that time."

Despite her excitement about starting a new challenge with the Catholic pastoral team in the Alexander Maconochie Centre, Sr Janet said she was disappointed to see a jail established in the ACT.

"It's sad to think the ACT even needs a jail; it says a lot about society.

"But hopefully having the jail in Canberra will keep that family connection.

"When a family member is in jail it separates families and leads to relationship breakdown. Now people shouldn't have to travel as far to visit their relatives."

● According to newspaper reports, installation of the jail's electronic security system has been the main reason for a delay in opening. Prisoners are reported to be likely to arrive no sooner than next month. A public ACT Legislative Assembly inquiry will be held into the delay.

Loved pastor dies on visit to Ireland



Fr Michael O'Brien ... priest for 63 years.

One of the Archdiocese's most respected priests Fr Michael O'Brien has died during a visit to his homeland Ireland.

Fr O'Brien, who was 88, spent 24 years as parish priest of Narooma and had been a priest for 63 years.

On a three-month trip to Ireland he became unwell and underwent surgery. While he was recovering in a nursing home near his home town of Tullamore he is thought to have developed an infection and died.

Archbishop Mark Coleridge travelled from Rome to attend the Mass of Christian burial and spoke on behalf of the Archdiocese. Fr O'Brien's brother Eamonn, who is also a priest, preached. Fr O'Brien was buried on Australia Day.

In addition to Narooma, he served at Boorowa, Weethalle, Braidwood, St Christopher's Cathedral, Narrabundah, Goulburn and Adelong.

After he retired he lived at Dalmeny and often helped in the parish by celebrating Mass at Bodalla.

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features



9 Time to put down the palette?
Well, maybe and then maybe not...

news

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entertainment



17 Of all the television dramas and films made about the sexual abuse of children by Catholic clergy, this is the best one yet. What one critic says about the new release **Doubt**. Amy Adams (pictured left) stars alongside Meryl Streep.

... and what's new

- We have several new features for you to read this year. On this page, Emma's Year begins to trace the experiences of a Year 12 Canberra student and What Do You Know will keep you guessing. Turn to Page 6 for the first in a series of Q&A on Why I do What I do.
- Catholic Voice journalist Naomi Fallon takes on an extra role this year as online media editor to handle the ever-growing demands of the Archdiocese's website and fortnightly e-news. You can contact her on cathcomm@cg.catholic.org.au

Catholic Voice each month will follow the every-day experiences of St Francis Xavier College schoolgirl Emma as she navigates her way through the highs and lows of year 12.

I've finally reached my last year of school. I should feel older than all the other students and be looking forward to that freedom I've been hoping for since the first assignment in year 7.

Problem is that now I'm one of the older students and facing the end of my school years, I've never felt so young.

I've never felt so scared of the possibilities that lie before me. And I've certainly never felt that I'll actually miss my teachers telling me what to do (I'm hoping this one will pass quickly).

A few days ago at work my boss told me about how everyone is asking her eldest son, who is in year 10, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" I can imagine the stress you'd feel when you're asked that and you have no answer. I haven't felt that though. In year 10 I was doing work experience for ACP Magazines in Sydney, so every time a family friend comes around the future careers talk goes something like;

"Hi Emma, are you still at school? Year 12! What are you going to do after - no wait, you're the little journalist."

In some ways I'm lucky I have an answer for that dreaded question, yet I can't help shake the feeling that there's a little too much expectation on me.

I worry that the whole plan that has been played over in my mind will fall through, then in 10 years I will be sitting there in a job I hate, reminiscing about year 12 and how I only needed a few more points to get where I wanted to be.

I feel that, as a senior student, I am constantly reminded that year 12 is vital; achieving a great AST score should be my goal this year. Maybe this is just the master plan of the teachers to get me to work harder? Yet, at the same time, we're reminded about the seemingly magical pathways that can lead you to your career of choice.

But how can you plan if you don't know what you want to be? Should you know?

I don't think it matters really; it's alright to not know what career path you want to follow. Some of the most interesting people didn't know what they wanted to be at 16, and, through an amazing stroke of luck and fate, found something they were really passionate about.

For me, I'll spend my final year learning as much as I can and daring to try anything. It's strange to know that this time next year I'll be a little sad that I'll never have another "creative discussion" with my year coordinator about the boundaries of a school uniform. But I'll quickly forget about it because there will be so much to look forward to.

emma's year



page 2

Gone but not forgotten...

It's difficult to imagine Holy Trinity Primary School without an Eldridge on the books, but it's happened.

Nine students and 33 years on, the youngest child of John and Robyn Eldridge marked the end of an era when he graduated from the Curtin school at the end of last year.

From the first enrolment in 1975 to last December, Damien, Lana, James, Mark, Luke, Michaela, Ashleigh, Marissa and Zac Eldridge were educated at Holy Trinity.

They were supported by their parents who gave generously to the community each year. During the school's end-of-year concert, it was announced an environmental garden would be named in honour of the Eldridges."The Eldridge Garden" contains native plants, vegetables and herbs which were planted and cared for by Holy Trinity students and the school's weekly gardening club.

Although the Eldridge children have moved on from Holy Trinity, the family maintains links with Catholic education. This month Zac begins school at Marist College, Marissa attends St Clare's College, Michaela goes to Merici College and Robyn works as a learning support assistant at St Bede's Primary School in Red Hill.

But the story does not end there. It's likely the first Eldridge grandchild will begin school at Holy Trinity in 2010 and continue the family's long tradition.

TOP RIGHT: Robyn and John Eldridge at Holy Trinity's end-of-year concert.

Off to school, again

A family affair when brother and sister Andrew and Laura Withers (bottom right) graduated Bachelor of Education at Parliament House. Laura will go on to teach at Merici College, which she attended, and Andrew at St Edmund's. The children of Wendy and Peter Withers, of Kambah, they were both baptised by long-time parish priest Fr Bill Kennedy and attended St Thomas the Apostle Primary School. Andrew finished his schooling at Marist College.

Walking to win

ACT author Tony Kevin, who turned to writing after a 30-year career in the public service, has taken out the ACT Book of the Year Award for the second time. He was awarded the \$10,000 2008 prize for Walking the Camino: a modern pilgrimage to Santiago. He won the 2005 award for his book A Certain Maritime Incident: the Sinking of SIEV X.

Where better?

Can't imagine a better place to watch the movie The Man from Snowy River... With the help of local businesses and the Archdiocesan Women's Commission, St Josephs' Primary School was able to host an evening of movies by moonlight at the Adelong Showground. More than 300 people travelled from Tumut, Batlow, Tumbarumba and Humula for the event, which may become annual.

FOOTNOTE: The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose, but mosquitoes come close.

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



what do you know?

- 1. Which is not a Canberra college?**
Merici, Marist, Carroll, MacKillop.
- 2. How many sq kms does Archdiocese cover?**
88,000, 188,000, 18,000, 1,800,000
- 3. If you lived at Gunning, what saint's name would your local church claim?**
St Patrick, St John, St Francis Xavier, St Mary.
- 4. Where is the only Church of St Therese in Archdiocese?**
Binya, Barellan, Bega, Bribbaree.
- 5. Geoghegan was first bishop of Goulburn; where was he bishop when he was appointed?**
Sydney, Limerick, Adelaide, Wilcannia-Forbes.
- 6. Who is this likely looking lad, pictured right? He was a diffident looking three year old in a cowboy suit when this pic was taken in the 1950s. Now he's a priest of the Archdiocese.**

Answers, bottom Page 4.



New blood for youth team



This year's Catholic Youth Ministry team is smaller than previous years, but the team manager insists it is still just as "strong and dynamic".

The 2009 CYM team is made up of newcomers Ana Moran and Will Bardett, both 19, from Canberra and previous members Erin Cassidy, 19, from Canberra and Liam Mackay, 21, from Cooma.

Ideally the CYM team would have six members, but team manager Ms Daniela Kesina said there were many benefits in having a smaller team. "I think if you have a focussed and committed group of young people, then the size doesn't really matter," she said. "I think this is an opportunity for us to go deeper into the community."

A keen photographer and former St Francis Xavier College student, Miss Moran said she was looking forward to running student retreats. Putting her studies at Australian National

University on hold, "the idea of introducing students to something amazing" inspired Miss Moran to join.

"Powerful experiences" at World Youth Day encouraged ANU arts student Mr Bardett to join the team.

"I wanted to find a way to become more involved in my faith and share that with others," he said.

Miss Cassidy said she had more to learn from the CYM team experience. "I'd like to have another year with the team without World Youth Day and see the positive effects it has had on young people," she said.

Mr Mackay said he was looking forward to another year of fun with the team. "I want to continue the relationships with the young people I met last year," he said.

The team's commissioning Mass will be held at St Christopher's Cathedral at 11am on Sunday, 15 February.

ABOVE: The CYM team (from left): Liam Mackay, Erin Cassidy, Ana Moran and Will Bardett.

Vinnies appeal aims high

Vinnies doorknock appeal hits the streets again this month with a target of \$400,000.

All donations received by the St Vincent de Paul Society are used in the local community.

Society president for Canberra and Goulburn Mr Evan Brett said the target was "a tall ask, but it is what Vinnies actually requires to continue to meet the needs of our local community".

Last year the doorknock raised \$368,000.

The major fund-raiser for this year's appeal is the launch dinner which will be held at the Canberra Southern Cross Club at 7.30pm on Thursday, 12 February.

Federal Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Ms Jenny Macklin will be keynote speaker.

The Doorknock runs from Friday, 13 February, until Sunday, 1 March.

Doorknocking may be done weekdays and weekends until 7 pm. Donations tables will be set up at

Woden Plaza and Belconnen mall during that time. Volunteers are needed to man the tables. For further information, telephone Marlene Plumb 6121 2954.

Through the work of Vinnies' 2000 members, volunteers and staff, the society brings about lasting change to the lives of people in need.

Mr Brett said what made Vinnies different from other charities was its grassroots involvement with the people in the local community.

All donations received are used locally. Last year the society provided more than \$1.5 million in direct support to those in need.

Tickets to the appeal launch dinner are available by telephoning 6282 2722 or e-mail stvdpcanb.com.au.

Tickets cost \$100 standard and \$150 VIP. Vinnies staff, volunteers and their partners receive a discount with tickets costing \$65 and \$115.

VIP pre-dinner drinks and canapés start at 7pm, with the dinner and launch from 7.30pm.



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

The St Vincent de Paul Society's 2009 Door Knock Appeal Launch Dinner

- Thursday 12th February 2009
- VIP Pre-Dinner drinks/canapés 7:00pm
- Dinner and Appeal Launch 7:30pm
- The Canberra Southern Cross Club, Corinna Ballroom

Keynote Speaker: The Hon. Jenny Macklin, MP

Featuring Jessica Good as MC

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Qualify for life

Shaping a single voice from so many

From the wintry side of the world, let me offer some summer fare. Last week I was in Spain - Valladolid to be precise - for a meeting of the International Commission on English in the Liturgy.

You may wonder why an English-speaking commission should meet in Spain. Well, it was felt that the famous English College in Valladolid would be a good place for what was thought to be the last meeting on the Missal project.

In recent years, the time and energy of the commission have been consumed by the business of translating the Roman Missal, and it was thought that finally we may have finished our work.

That now seems not to be case, but Valladolid was a good place to meet anyway.

The English College is a remarkable institution that was founded at the end of the 16th century to train priests for England at a time when to be a Catholic priest was to be automatically guilty of treason.

A number of students of the college were hanged, drawn and quartered and are counted among the martyrs of the Church.

Their portraits hang on the walls as a kind of silent but powerful witness not only to the current seminarians at the college but also to visitors like us. In so many ways, the college speaks of a past which is still powerfully present and which points the way to the future.

The only time I'd been in Spain was 25 years ago when I spent a summer learning Spanish in Salamanca, and I was keen to cast an older and wiser eye upon the place.

Mind you, when we flew in from Barcelona, I thought we'd taken a wrong turn and ended up in Siberia. The Castilian countryside was blanketed in snow after some of the heaviest falls in memory.

To make matters worse, my bag didn't arrive until six days later, having gone via London and Belfast. Survival in Arctic chill with just hand-luggage was a challenge, but I got by with a little help from my friends.

Even though the Missal Commission may have to meet again, the Valladolid meeting finished a day early, so we went for an excursion to nearby Segovia.

There we did two things which made a rather incongruous pair. We had Mass at the tomb of the mystic, St John of the Cross, who was renowned for his asceticism and who suffered greatly in his 49 years.

And then we had an extraordinarily late and long lunch which was anything but ascetical. We feasted on the local specialty which is sucking piglet. I struggled at first because it felt as if I was eating Babe. But I got over that and enjoyed the meal immensely.

From Spain, I have come on to Rome for more meetings. Descartes may have said, "I think, therefore I am", but I'm sure what he really meant was "I meet, therefore I am".

That seems to be the lot of a bishop in the Church, or at least of this bishop at this phase of his life.

The meeting that has just finished was the second meeting of what's called the Post-Synodal Council. This was a group of 15 bishops chosen to help the Pope prepare what's called the Apostolic Exhortation, the document that will come in the wake of the recent Synod on the Word of God.

We will also have the task of compiling a list of three themes to send to the Holy Father for the 4 - CATHOLIC VOICE February 2009

next Synod. He will then choose one of the three as the theme for the Synod.

But at this meeting we were trying to put together a possible outline for the Papal document.

That was challenging enough, because the proposed outline has to take account of the 55 Propositions approved by the Synod Fathers but also give the Pope room enough to move as he sees fit.

After an initial discussion in the large group, we did most of the work in two smaller groups, one in Italian and the other in English.

Each group prepared an outline and, from these two, a single proposed outline was put together. In fact, it was surprising how similar the two proposals were.

At meetings like this, there is always the contrast of different cultural and regional styles, and that can be frustrating at times.

You wonder how a single voice can be shaped from these many different voices; and yet a single voice does eventually emerge.

And that's the experience of the universal Church which I found fascinating at the Synod itself, but also on a smaller scale in this meeting of the Post-Synodal Council.

Rome has changed in many ways over time, and it may not be the *urbs orbis* it once was. But it remains one of the great crossroads of the world. And I've come to think through my years in Rome that I'm temperamentally suited to life at the crossroads.

On Sunday next, there's a gathering of all the Aussies in Rome to celebrate Australia Day.

It begins with Mass at the General House of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate and continues with lunch nearby.

From there I'll go out to the Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls to join the Pope in celebrating the Solemnity of the Conversion of St Paul at the Tomb of the Apostle in this Year of Pauline Jubilee.

So I'll be there on Sunday and will bring all of you with me, asking St Paul to bless the Archdiocese with a new apostolic energy as we move into the future.

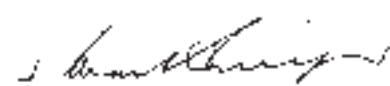
The Basilica was built over St Paul's tomb after he had been beheaded nearby. His body was taken by his companions to be buried in what was Lavinia's vineyard (she was a wealthy Christian matron) and a small shrine was eventually built over the tomb.

But later the Emperor Constantine decided that something nobler was needed and he built a magnificent basilica very like what stands there now.

Much of the original was burnt down in the early 19th century, but what you see now is very similar to what was there before the fire.

A visit there will be a highlight of the Archdiocesan pilgrimage in the footsteps of St Paul that we are planning for June.

The pilgrimage will take us to Turkey where the independent Pauline mission began; it will take us to Greece where it really took off; and it will finish in Rome where his mission came to its climax in the martyrdom which set the seal on all that had gone before.



+Bishop Mark



Can war ever be just?

Wars have scourged humanity throughout its history.

Our own era is no different. At the present time, we hear of wars in - to name just a few places - the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Sudan, Palestine and Israel, particularly Gaza.

Australia has troops engaged in Iraq and Afghanistan. Nations say they want peace, but often resort to war. What are Christian people to make of this? What does the Church have to say on the subject?

In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says, "Blessed are the peacemakers" (Matthew 5:9). In a later passage, he says "there will be wars and rumours of wars" (Matthew 24:6), but does not say specifically whether war can ever be justified or not.

Taking its cue from the Sermon on the Mount, the Church takes its peacemaking role very seriously indeed. It seeks to be an angel of peace in a troubled world. It also asks us to work for peace - in our families, our workplaces, our communities and in the wider world.

It does not say that all wars are immoral. In fact its traditional teaching (dating back to St Augustine of Hippo) identifies several criteria for a just war.

A short article like this can only highlight the central elements in the Church's approach to this vexed issue. The Catechism of the Church (paragraph 2309) says that war can be justified only to correct a "lasting, grave and certain" evil. It goes on to say that all other means of resolution must have proved ineffective or impractical.

It also says that the harm caused by the war must be less than the evil it seeks to remedy, and it notes that the destruction of modern warfare must weigh heavily in this context.

In a nutshell, the Church is telling us that war can be justified but only in strictly defined and unusual circumstances. It seems to be saying that wars can never be just if their main purpose is the protection of economic interests.

The Church is also saying that the onus of proof rests heavily on those who would go to war. In today's world, because of the immense suffering that wars inevitably bring in their wake, the traditional criteria are very difficult to meet.

voices

The Catholic Social Justice Commission for the Archdiocese summarises the main Christian principles to be considered in judging the moral acceptability of going to war.

New youth ministry role

A young father with 15 years experience in youth ministry around Australia has been appointed by Australia's bishops to take up a new position in Canberra.

Mr Malcolm Hart (pictured right), who worked in youth ministry in the Brisbane Archdiocese, has taken up a three-year appointment as senior youth ministry projects officer with the Bishops Commission for Pastoral Life.

"My initial focus will be to work with the Australian Catholic Youth Council to implement strategies suggested by over 300 youth ministers at the youth leaders gathering in November," Mr Hart said.

"There is a lot of work to be done if we are to continue to support ministry with young people after World Youth Day. I believe my experience and existing networks in youth ministry around Australia will assist to develop this role and create a sustainable environment for youth ministry."

Mr Hart began work in 1994 in Bunbury Diocese and moved to the Brisbane Archdiocese in 1999. He helped parishes to train young people and adults in youth ministry leadership roles, to develop support structures for ongoing ministry with young people and to develop resources for parish youth ministry.

He has taken part in or had a pilgrimage leadership role in the previous five World Youth Days in Paris, Rome, Toronto, Cologne and Sydney.



WHAT DO YOU KNOW? Answers: 1.Carroll. 2. 88,000. 3. St Francis Xavier. 4. Barellan. 5. Adelaide. 6. Vicar-General Mgr John Woods.

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Bishop 'ashamed' on Gaza 'Hellish' days - parish priest

By John Pontifex

Gaza's only Catholic priest has given a dramatic account of a people "under siege for 22 days" and underlined the enormous task of rebuilding a community devastated by violence.

Speaking from Gaza City in an interview with the Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need, Mgr Manuel Musallam described how people had not eaten for up to four days and how people had suffered horrific injuries, leaving them with mutilated limbs.

Saying "I have seen people with burnt faces - women and children.", he highlighted the scale of the physical suffering inflicted by the Israeli attacks on Gaza in which at least 1300 died and more than 5500 were injured.

But he insisted on refusing to give in to despair. Mgr Musallam, who is parish priest of Holy Family, Gaza City, said: "We are testifying to Christ in this terrible situation."

"Only that way can we begin to put an end to this hellish experience."

The priest himself narrowly escaped death when a bomb landed on his roof. "It made a large hole but somehow it did not explode but bounced down to the ground."

He said a stray bomb landed in the playground of the school of the Rosary Sisters in Gaza City.

"Thank God it did not explode," he said, "but it continued to burn, creating a terrible smell. Two days later, the soldiers made it safe."

small land mass and systematically deprived of essential food, water, fuel and medical supplies are pushed to desperate measures."

In the letter which he wrote at the height of the Gaza conflict, Bishop Power called on Mr Rudd to do all he could to halt "this dreadful blight on our times".

Bishop Power spoke in a rally which began at the Israeli Embassy and ended at Mr Rudd's residence, The Lodge. He also took part in a candle-light vigil outside Parliament House.

"I was struck by the large number of beautiful young Palestinian children who were present. I wept at the thought of children of their age who have been slaughtered in Gaza in the past two weeks. They are today's 'holy innocents' suffering a similar fate as that which Herod inflicted 2000 years ago."

Bishop Power added his voice to an appeal by Canberra church leaders for



Bishop Pat Power

"peace and justice in Gaza."

In a statement issued during the fighting, they said they were "appalled by the ever-increasing death toll and injuries involving, in no small measure, children and civilians."

"We call upon the Australian government to take a stronger stance for peace and to use all in its power diplomatically to bring pressure to bear on Israel and the United States to bring an end to the hostilities."

"We recognise that there can be no lasting peace without justice and we pray that all parties will be open to negotiation, respecting the rights of all concerned. It is only when every human being, regardless of race or religion, is seen as our brother or sister, that there will be peace and harmony in the human family."

The leaders who issued the appeal were Bishop Power, Anglican bishop-elect Stuart Robinson, the Rev Jim Barr, of the Baptist Church, and the Rev Gregor Henderson, of the Uniting Church.

\$3mil boost for schools

Three Canberra Catholic schools will be refurbished this year at a total cost of nearly \$3 million.

The projects will go ahead after the Archdiocese received grants totalling nearly \$1.9 million from the Federal Government through the ACT Block Grant Authority. The balance is made up of contributions from local communities, the Catholic school system and the Canberra Catholic Schools Building Fund.

A total of \$1.1 million will be spent to refurbish the library and classrooms for kindergarten and years 1 and 2 at St Thomas the Apostle School, Kambah.

At St Monica's, Evatt, \$1 million will be spent on library and classroom refurbishment. At St Michael's, Kaleen, \$700,000 will be spent on classroom refurbishment.

Last year, three projects costing more than \$3 million were begun or completed. These were at Rosary Primary, Watson, St John Vianney's, Waramanga, and Holy Spirit, Nicholls, and provided better classroom, library and other student and staff facilities.

There were no applications from NSW schools for Federal Government funding through the Catholic Block Grant Authority for this year.

SOS! - Christianity in the Middle East

DEEPLY saddened by the crisis engulfing Christianity in the Middle East, Pope Benedict XVI has asked the Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) to provide urgent help.

In many parts of the land Our Lord Jesus Christ knew so well, the faithful now live in fear as increasing poverty and growing extremism threaten the survival of these ancient communities.

A mass exodus of Christians from the Middle East is now taking place. For some it is a question of escaping bloody persecution. In the Holy Land for example, the proportion of Christians has plummeted from 20% to as little as 1.4% in the last 40 years.

ACN is helping to keep faith and hope alive throughout the region by providing urgent aid to priests, religious and lay people, offering subsistence help to refugees and building and repairing Churches and convents. Please help us strengthen and rebuild the Church in the land of Christ's birth.

A beautiful, olive wood crucifix, handcrafted in Bethlehem, will be sent to all those who give a donation of \$20.00 or more to help this campaign.

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"... Churches in the Middle East are threatened in their very existence... May God grant ACN strength to help wherever the need is greatest."
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In the footsteps of Paul Final vows for MGL sister

Parishioners in the Archdiocese this year will have a chance to go on a pilgrimage in the footsteps of the great evangelist, St Paul.

Led by Archbishop Mark Coleridge, the pilgrimage highlights the Jubilee Year to the Apostle Paul declared by Pope Benedict XVI.

The pilgrimage, organised by St Christopher's Cathedral parish, Harvest Pilgrimages and Capital Travel, Manuka, will run from 16 June to 2 July.

Pilgrims will journey through the lands frequented by St Paul with visits to Athens, Corinth, Mykonos, Rhodes, Patmos, Kusadasi, Ephesus, Thessalonika, Philippi, the Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls, St Peter's Basilica.

The journey will end with Mass celebrated by the Pope in Rome to mark the close of the Pauline year.

Bookings and inquiries may be made through Capital Travel, Manuka, telephone 6295 2733, e-mail trish@capitaltravel.com.au

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Ann Tunnecliffe & Victor Dunn

Final vows for MGL sister

A member of the Missionaries of God's Love Sisters Therese Mills had made her final vows at a Mass at St John the Evangelist Church, Kippax.

The occasion confirmed the decision that Therese had lived out for the previous nine years of joining herself completely to the love of her life, Jesus Christ.

As she was originally from Cairns, many friends and family members traveled from north Queensland to support her at the Mass and at a celebratory bush dance at St Edmund's College.

The MGL sisters, a group of consecrated women formed in the mid-1980s in Canberra, are committed to spreading the gospel message of the love of God to all men and women, but particularly to the young and marginalised. Therese has lived out this vision through her leadership of the youth group, Luke 18, the pastoral care of many young people and her involvement in the Asia Pacific School of Evangelisation.

In her role as vocations director for the sisters, she hopes to see many more young women discover that "their greatest happiness lies in completely giving the whole of themselves to Jesus in consecrated life."



Why do you do what you do?

Because I genuinely enjoy it and feel that I have something to offer in assisting the clergy with their work either at a parish or personal level. I have always had a high regard for priests and religious that stems back to the regular presence of a priest or religious in the life of the Croker family. My father and mother were actively involved in the life of their South Wagga parish and so I see my current work as a reflection of their deep commitment to the Church and their deep faith in it. Being associated especially with retired priests, some of whom have been priests for over 60 years, you gain a wonderful insight into their vocation and I am constantly uplifted by their dedication to stay at the helm. No other vocation I know of has an official retirement age of 75!

What does your job entail?

To provide support to all clergy and religious working in our Archdiocese, be they retired or actively ministering in a parish, chaplaincy or other pastoral role. My focus has been working with aged and infirm priests especially in their day-to-day living and accommodation needs. Because of the spread of our retirees, there is travel involved and many medical appointments to attend.

What part of your job do you enjoy most?

Working with the priests and being available to assist them in whatever way I can. I like to visit parishes as often as possible. I have also had opportunities to meet many family members of our retired priests and I have enjoyed that immensely.

What part of the job do you find most challenging or confronting?

Making decisions for or recommendations to priests requiring aged care accommodation, especially high care support. We all enjoy the comfort of our own home and the prospect of that being no longer possible can be difficult for the priest and his carers.

How long have you held this position?

I joined the Archdiocese in July 1991. In 1992 I was involved with the planning and building of Favier House, Braddon. In 1995, Kevin Hctor, secretary of the then archdiocesan Sick & Retired Priest's Fund announced his retirement and so I embraced that role as part of my other chancery responsibilities.

What brought you into this job in the first place?

I had had 22 years in the finance industry, mainly the banking sector. Kevin Bourke, after many years of wonderful service, announced his

Why I do ...



what I do

A column about what makes some well-known and not-so-well-known people in our Archdiocese tick. First is archdiocesan manager of clergy support services KEVIN CROKER (above back), pictured on a visit to Young parish. He is with Fr Stan Snizek (left) who celebrates his golden jubilee this year, and Sr Madeline Lawrence RSM who is a wonderful 106 year old. Fr Geoff Lloyd (right), who is retired at Lanigan House, Garran, renewed acquaintances during the visit.

retirement in 1991 as chief clerk at the chancery and so I applied for the job.

In an ideal world, what would you most like to change or achieve in this role?

More time to visit and attend to the needs of retired priests especially those in remote areas of the Archdiocese. For anyone retiring the adjustment can be difficult to cope with and so visits and phone calls are important means of keeping in touch. I try to balance the desk job with an out-of-office visitation program but as we all know best laid plans can sometimes come unstuck.

What do you look forward to in 2009?

The Clergy Retirement Foundation prospering and continuing the marvellous work it does in caring for our much loved retired priests. It will also be a year when the whole emphasis of care and support of our clergy in this Archdiocese will be reviewed and I look forward to the new challenges that will provide.

What pastimes/other activities do you enjoy.

Margaret and I, in recent years, have experienced two fabulous overseas trips and so I have developed an interest in travelling. I enjoy working in and improving our large garden; activities with the grandchildren and my long standing association in assisting the work of the Carmelite nuns at their Monastery in Red Hill. I live in hope of the Dragons winning another NRL flag.

Traditional rite used

Two Canberra men were ordained in a Solemn Pontifical Mass following the traditional extraordinary form of the Roman Rite not seen in St Christopher's Cathedral for years.

Fr Marko Rehak and Fr Dominic Popplewell were ordained by Archbishop Mark Coleridge for the Priestly Fraternity of St Peter on the feast of one of the celebrated early martyrs of the Church, St Cecilia.

Fr Rehak studied for three years with the Archdiocese of Canberra Goulburn before joining the Fraternity and completing seminary studies at the English-speaking seminary of the Fraternity, Our Lady of Guadalupe, in Nebraska.

Fr Popplewell joined the Fraternity and completed his studies at St Peter's Seminary for French and German speakers in Wigratzbad, Germany.

Both priests had their parents and other family members present at the ordination.

They are posted to Fraternity apostolates in Sydney and Parramatta.

Archbishop Coleridge and the sacred ministers, including the deacon and subdeacon of the Mass, deacons at the throne and the assistant priest all were vested in red signifying martyrdom.

"The solemn liturgy unfolded with a splendour and formalized structure unchanged over centuries," chaplain of the St



ABOVE: Dominic Popplewell (left) and Marko Rehak at their ordination in St Christopher's Cathedral.

Michael's Latin Mass community Fr Ken Webb said.

"It was filled with a symbolism and with ancient and venerable prayers, which expressed so clearly all of the beliefs which Catholics profess every Sunday as they recite the Creed."

2 more priests for MGLs

Three members of the Missionaries of God's Love were ordained, two to the priesthood and one to the diaconate, by Archbishop Mark Coleridge in St Christopher's Cathedral.

Both who were ordained priests came originally from Western Australia. David Callaghan, 29, was born and raised in Perth. Daniel Strickland came from Albany to Perth as a young man to study dentistry.

Both joined the Disciples of Jesus Community around the same time, and then began to sense a call to priesthood. After spending some time on the Youth Mission Team, they each joined the MGL pre-novitiate program in Canberra.

During his formation Fr Callaghan spent a year of mission experience in Darwin at St. Martin de Porres community which is the base for the Aboriginal chaplaincy conducted by the MGL.

A number of indigenous people made the journey from Darwin for the ordination to honour and support him.

At his Mass of Thanksgiving the next day indigenous people performed a traditional dance during the offertory procession.

Fr Strickland spent a year of mission experience in an MGL parish with the urban poor in Manila in the Philippines. He says this experience was defining moment in his life and had a profound influence on his spiritual life.

With the ordinations the MGLs have 15 priests and about 25 young men at various stages of seminary training.

The ordination of Joseph Neonbasu to the diaconate was a milestone for the MGL. He is the first non-Australian to be ordained for the congregation.

From West Timor, Indonesia, he spent time in a seminary in Flores, before being introduced to the MGL by his priest-brother, who was studying at the Australian National University.

At the time of his ordination his six brothers and sisters and their families gathered in their West Timor house to pray for him.



RIGHT: Fr David Callaghan, Deacon Joseph Neonbasu, Fr Daniel Strickland



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Logo wanted by indigenous artists

The newly-formed ACT Aboriginal Catholic Ministry is seeking the expertise of indigenous artists to design a logo.

The new ministry to the indigenous community wants a symbol "that represents who we are", spokesperson Ms Kerrie Hogan said.

The logo will be used in all its activities and will also be included on the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry website when it is established.

Entries in the logo competition should be sent to Ms Kerrie Hogan, telephone 0402 049 650, e-mail kh1961@live.com.au by 31 March. Electronic copy is preferred. The prize is a \$200 gift voucher.

The theme of the vision statement is from Pope John Paul II's address to the indigenous people of Australia in Alice Springs 1986. The ministry seeks to gather together the indigenous community to nurture their spiritual, cultural and social growth and to promote a Jesus-centred ministry of courage and hope.

An Aboriginal Mass and family day will be held on Sunday, 15 March, at St Benedict's Church, Narrabundah. The indigenous community, their families and friends are invited to share in the occasion to celebrate their Catholic faith through indigenous spirituality.

Commonwealth@60

A multi-faith celebration of the Commonwealth will be held at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture in Barton at 11am on Commonwealth Day, Monday 9 March.

The celebration is modelled on the Commonwealth observance which the Queen attends in Westminster Abbey each Commonwealth Day. This year's theme is The Commonwealth @ 60 - serving a new generation.

Local leaders of major world religions will read six affirmations. The celebration will feature indigenous participation, cultural performances, a Tongan choir, Chinese group, Ugandan quartet and the Woden Valley Youth Choir.

Parking is available in the grounds of the centre in Blackall Street and in nearby public car parks. The celebration, which is expected to last for 90 minutes, will be fol-

lowed by lunch. The event has been assisted by the ACT Government's Multicultural Grants Program.



A jungle out there

Students from St Edmund's College, Black Mountain High and the Woden School worked together to present "Twilight in the Jungle" cocktail party at the National Zoo and Aquarium.

St Edmund's hospitality and food science teacher Mr Dean Parkes said the evening was successful raising more than \$9000 for the RSPCA and the Spastic Centre.

ABOVE: Former St Edmund's students Robbie Abel, Robbie Abel, Naseri Naseri and Kesomi Lolotonga provided the music.

Equal effort

The Australian Church must engage indigenous Australians with at least the same commitment and research it places on church growth and renewal, the Anglican Bishop of the Northern Territory says.

Bishop Greg Thompson, former rector of St John's Anglican Church, Reid, will speak this month at a forum at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture. He will present the topic "White Man's Dreaming: The Northern Territory Intervention", at the forum organised by Christians for an Ethical Society at 7.30pm on Monday, 23 February.

He will discuss the efforts of governments to bring change in the NT and the dilemmas faced in this task.

His talk will highlight the marginalisation of the indigenous church and the denial of the spiritual in local community solutions.

Inquiries: H McLaren, telephone 6291 4537 or e-mail chair@ces.org.au Attendance is free

Cursillo leaders

Australia will be the co-ordinating country for the World Cursillo Organisation from 2010 to 2014.

An executive of cursillistas from across Australia will be formed at the next national secretariat meeting in Brisbane in June. The transfer from the current executive in the United States will take place at the World Ultreya in Los Angeles in August.

In the Archdiocese, a new Cursillo secretariat has been formed and has met for the first time at the home of new president Mr Joe Jambor, of Gungahlin.

An important event on the agenda this year is a Cursillo review weekend, which will be presented by a visiting national team on 28 and 29 March at The Gathering Place, 4 Bancroft St, Dickson.

Participants will examine the movement's origins and look again at what the founders had in mind and what they were trying to accomplish.

This emphasis is contained in reviewed guidelines to the Cursillo talks and will provide a deeper understanding of what Cursillo offers.

Interested cursillistas should contact Joe, telephone 6242 7332, Sue 6231 8197 or Merran 6258 3431 or e-mail jja19144@bigpond.net.au



Seeking new day together

"A new day" was the theme for the Sisters of St Joseph of Goulburn and Tasmania when they met for a shared assembly at MacKillop House, Lyneham.

About 50 Sisters from both congregations shared prayer, discussion, discernment and celebration over four days together.

The purpose of the assembly was to consider what shape a future shared journey might take, if such a venture was possible.

The conference process concluded with an historic and unanimous commitment from both groups to "explore new ways of becoming one congregation that will embrace new forms of being Josephite".

ABOVE: Goulburn congregational leader Sr Noeline Quinane chats with Tasmanian congregational leader Sr Jill Dance.

Busting myths

With the story-telling skills of biblical scholar Archbishop Mark Coleridge, the Year of St Paul lecture series crushes common myths about the saint. The lectures explore beyond the simple pages of text and make St Paul jump off paper and into the world.

The four-part series is available from catholicLIFE in DVD format and now in high-resolution digital downloads accompanied by a reflection booklet compiled for individual or group study. Go to www.catholiclife.org.au to order a copy.



More of WYD experience

More than 60 young and young at heart from around the Western Deanery attended a post-World Youth Day rally (above) at Cootamundra. Parishioner Ms Therese Carroll said after a short meet and greet and some get-to-know-you games in St Columba's Hall, the group gathered in Sacred Heart Church for singing. "We headed back to the hall for a barbeque which was fantastic and then prepared to celebrate Mass at 6pm," she said. "We are hoping to come together on a regular basis to continue our experience of World Youth Day." Cootamundra's next similar gathering will be in May for the Galong procession.

Abrahamic traditions

Jewish, Christian and Muslim speakers will address a conference in Canberra on teaching the Abrahamic religions. The aim of the 7th International Dialogue Australasia Network Conference is to equip educators with practical strategies and resources to enable students to explore the similarities, differences and relationships between the Abrahamic faith traditions. Vice-principal of Heythrop College at the University of London Dr Peter Vardy, and Ms Shakira Hussein, of the Faculty of Asian Studies at the ANU are among the keynote speakers. The conference will be held at Old Parliament House from 15 to 17 April.

Moran's the missing man

Canberra's National Portrait Gallery is on the hunt for the missing portrait of the former Archbishop of Sydney, Cardinal Patrick Frances Moran.

In 1882, artist Tom Roberts painted portraits of what he said were three of Australia's most important public figures, dubbing the project "Church, State and the Law".

Five-time Premier of New South Wales Sir Henry Parkes, politician and judge Sir William Charles Windeyer and the third Archbishop of Sydney, Cardinal Moran were the three subjects chosen for Roberts' project.

Gallery director Mr Andrew Sayers said the por-



trait vanished without a trace not long after an exhibition at the Arts Society of New South Wales in 1892 and would be "immediately recognisable" by its likeness to Cardinal Moran and the stylistic similarities to the other two portraits.

"It would almost certainly be the same size as the two other portraits, 66cm by 56cm and if it has not been re-framed it would be in a frame that matches the original frames still on the

other two portraits - a broad gilt-wood frame with some elaboration around the edge." Depending on the condition of the artwork, Mr Sayers said the painting could be worth between \$70,000 and \$100,000.

Support sought for Ethiopian clinic

During what she calls "a privileged time in my life", mid-wife Ms Maryanne Ayres has assisted Dr Catherine Hamlin at a fistula clinic for women in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

On Tuesday, 17 February, supported by Aranda Parish women's group, Ms Ayres will

speak about her experiences at the clinic, support from the Australian Government and ways people can help.

Drinks and nibbles will be served from 7pm for a 7:30pm start at St Vincent de Paul Primary School hall, Bindel St, Aranda.

Cost is a donation to the Hamlin Fistula Relief and Aid Fund and supper will be served by The Shamrocks after formal proceedings.

Inquiries: Mrs Trish Mowbray, telephone 6253 0409 or Ms Rachelle Stannard 62784658.

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Time to put down the palette - perhaps

For more than half a century, Br Don Gallagher has been painting 'anything that will keep still long enough'.

By Naomi Fallon

Br Don Gallagher has always preferred to paint pictures of gum trees rather than children, but when it came to educating the young the former St Edmund's College teacher enjoyed that as well.

Over the past 50 years Br Don has raised more than \$150,000 for the Edmund Rice Foundation from the sale of his work. His 19th exhibition featuring flowers and still life studies during Floriade in September will definitely be his last.

"They tell me I said that 40 years ago," he said.

"But you've got to look at it with commonsense, if you can't do it, you just can't do it."

Br Don grew up in Russells Creek, on

the outskirts of the seaside Victorian town of Warrnambool with his blacksmith father, mother, older brother and younger sister.

Br Don's older brother went on to become a priest, and his sister who lives in Geelong joined the Mercy nuns.

At the age of 14, Br Don said he was "led by the nose and the grace of God" to join the Christian Brothers' juniorate in Sydney.

"It was God who was leading me, he knew what he was up to."

Afraid he would not overcome his shyness, Br Don had to be coerced into becoming a teacher.

"I was scared about giving speeches and anything like that and I didn't like standing up in front of people."



Br Don Gallagher in his studio surrounded by his work.

Despite that he went on to teach primary school students in Rose Bay, Albury, Waitara, Goulburn, Balmain and Bondi Junction before arriving at St Edmund's College in Canberra in 1967.

"I think I was brought into teaching slowly. I started off in the infants' school and they're pretty easy to get along with."

Although he came to like teaching, Br Don confessed he never lost his timidity.

"I think I got better at it as the years went on. I enjoyed it so I must have been doing alright. I enjoyed the students' friendship - you could enthuse them and talk to them."

In 1953 while he was teaching in Albury Br Don discovered his love for painting after he was given a set of paints as a gift.

After encouragement from friends and

colleagues, he showed his first artwork to a local painter who was a former student of the famous artist Max Meldrum. "I kept going to him and showing him my paintings. He put me on the right track."

When he lived in both Sydney and Goulburn, Br Don met two more former students of Meldrum and teachers of the "Meldrum method", from which he continued to learn.

"There can't have been that many of them around, but I just happened to go where they were. It was the providence of God, I suppose."

Now 83 years old, Br Don said he still has "a hell of a lot to learn. But I'll never learn it, it's an endless road."

● Cont Page 13.



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An unexpected pregnancy can be a stressful time, but young mother Emma Donoghue balanced it with finishing high school and still said it was "the best thing that ever happened".

More than 80 people listened to Ms Donoghue speak at the Canberra leg of the nationwide symposium Walking with Love: alternatives and responses to abortion, which was hosted by Archdiocesan pastoral support agency catholicLIFE at the Rheinberger Centre in Yarralumla.

Ms Donoghue had been going out with her now fiancé Nate Young for two months when she found out she was pregnant.

"I was in total disbelief," she said.

"But there was really no choice. We were always going to have him as neither of us liked the other option."

Four days after her 18th birthday, Ms Donoghue gave birth to baby Malakai and nappies, bottles and baby formula became priorities instead of acrylic nails.

"This was the most stressful time I've ever gone through, but it was also the best thing that ever happened to me and I'm the happiest I've ever been," she said.

By educating people about pastoral responses to pregnancy and abortion, Walking with Love aimed to foster relationships with those who encounter vulnerable pregnant women and those suffering the effects of abortion.

The symposiums were the first phase of an initiative of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference to support women in motherhood.

Symposium project officer Ms Angela Lecomber said one in four pregnancies in Australia ended in abortion.

"This is a time where a woman feels uncertain about many aspects of her life - her relationship, finances, housing, study, employment, her own mental resilience and her beliefs," she said.

Birth the 'best thing' says young mum

"So when a woman finds herself pregnant in complex circumstances, she needs a listening ear, affirmation that she is capable of being a competent mother and non-judgmental advice.

Archbishop Mark Coleridge opened the eighth and final symposium and said the evening was about education, not politics.

"Everyone is damaged by abortion - the woman is violated and the child is killed," he said.

"Here we commit ourselves to support pregnant women and women who have undergone abortion. We're certainly not here to judge."

Another speaker Mr Jonathan Doyle said a lack of communication between teenagers and their parents was a serious problem.

"Teenagers perceive being sexually active at a young age as better than not being sexually active," he said.

"Young people facing crisis are simply not talking to their parents and not making choices from a place of knowledge."

Through their company Choicez Media, Mr Doyle and wife Karen deliver values-based sex education and lifestyle choice seminars to about 15,000 young people across Australia every year.



Emma Donoghue, Nate Young and baby Malakai.

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Supporting catechists

Former teacher Ms Christine Roos has taken on the role as Confraternity of Christian Doctrine coordinator in the Archdiocese.

Ms Roos has taught students from kindergarten to Year 12 in ACT, NSW and WA. Most recently in her teaching career she specialised in religious education, liturgy and youth ministry and undertook leadership roles in these areas.

Due to an interest in country Australia and traveling, Ms Roos has camped at various places around the country. She can often be found in the bush with her husband, five children and two grandchildren.

Through her role at catholicLIFE, Ms Roos wants to support the work of parishes and catechists in sharing and instructing faith and providing opportunities for knowing Jesus.

Student groups flourishing

In the past 12 months, outgoing Young Christian Students national coordinator Mr Devett O'Brien established four archdiocesan groups which he is confident will continue to build "a new generation of apostles".

Mr O'Brien was sent to Canberra early last year to start YCS groups in schools and parishes and develop an archdiocesan YCS movement.

"We are a movement run for secondary school students by the students themselves," he said.

"We aim to respond to Pope Benedict's call to build a new generation of apostles by forming students to develop their faith and live it as leaders in their daily lives."

Following interest from parishes and schools in every deanery, groups were started in Narooma parish, Lumen Christi College at Pambula, Marist College Pearce and St Francis Xavier College, Florey.

"The three school-based groups all started directly after World Youth Day and were inspired by the interest generated in the Archdiocese."

This month Mr O'Brien returns to his home town of Brisbane to take on the role of YCS campaign develop-



In Canberra at the archdiocesan YCS camp, Mr Devett O'Brien (front).

ment officer.

YCS would continue to flourish in the Archdiocese, he said.

"The four local groups will be continuing and there are a group of young people in Young who want to start a group there.

"I'm pretty confident that things will continue to grow here with the local leaders taking responsibility."

During an archdiocesan YCS

camp last month, Mr O'Brien said students made plans to hold a state YCS camp in April, a cultural celebration day in July, a joint camp with the Catholic Youth Ministry team later in the year and a senior school students retreat.

Anyone who would like to get involved with YCS may contact the national office by telephone 9637 7863 or email office@aycs.org.au

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College leaders this year

LEFT: Merici College vice-captain Kate Hanns with captain Amy McDonnell.

RIGHT: Hennessy Catholic College, Young, captains Ashley Nicolls from Harden and Laura Ferguson from Young.



St Francis Xavier College (from left) captains Nicholas Lever and Codie Searle, with vice-captains Laura Johnson and Damien Beard.

ABOVE LEFT: MacKillop College captains Mitchell Ryan and Brianna Thomas.

ABOVE RIGHT: Carroll College, Broulee captains Daniel Ewin and Alyssa Louttit and vice-captains Emily McNeill and Phillip Nguyen.

MIDDLE RIGHT: Marist College captain Victor Lu and vice-captain Nirojan

Yamunarajan with headmaster Mr Richard Sidorko.

BOTTOM RIGHT: St Clare's College leader for arts and culture Alana Ray, leader for social justice Sarah Blake, leader for sport Ellen Russell and college captain Alyce Kirby.



St Edmund's College (from left) captain James Fitzpatrick, vice captain Oliver Mahony and academic captain Geoffrey Dimarhos.

Enabling people to move on

By a Tribunal auditor, Ms Anne Ryan

I have been working with the Marriage Tribunal for the past 10 ten years. I was originally approached by my then parish priest to consider undertaking some work for the Tribunal in the area of interviewing. Following training, I was appointed as an auditor and have continued working with the Tribunal in this way.

Most couples entering the sacrament of marriage do so with the intention of it being a life-long commitment. Sadly, often that is not the case. The Tribunal therefore plays a very important and compassionate role in the life of the Church by assisting those who have experienced a marriage breakdown and wish to seek closure in the eyes of God to a particular part of their lives by way of a marriage annulment.

My role as an auditor is to interview witnesses nominated by a person seeking an annulment. Witnesses are family members, relations or close friends. Ideally they should have a good knowledge of the couple's relationship both prior to and following the marriage.

The interview is a non-threatening procedure. Witnesses are asked to sign an Oath promising not to divulge any information or speak about the issue until the case is finalised. Some need reassuring that by giving such detailed evidence they are not betraying confidences or speaking out of turn. The interview process is designed to build the story of a marriage and a witness is relied upon to assist the Tribunal in gathering information about a couple's relationship and marriage. A good witness is therefore a vital part of the annulment process.

From a personal perspective, I find my role as an auditor rewarding and I feel privileged to assist in an area where I can make a contribution to the life of the Church quietly and in the background. It is gentle work, the final outcome of which brings closure and healing, enabling people to move on with their lives.

Helping those whose marriages break down

By Tribunal director
Fr Julian Wellspring

Christmas has been and gone once again. Publicly it is billed as a time of family celebration but increasingly it has also become a time when families become aware of strained or difficult relationships. Some families last Christmas would be very aware of a marriage breakdown. If we do not know someone in our own extended family whose marriage has not worked out, most of us are aware of friends or work colleagues who have experienced a broken marriage.

One aspect of the work of the Tribunal of the Catholic Church is to help people who have experienced a broken marriage and wish to marry in the Catholic Church to do so in accord with the teaching of Christ and the Church. All marriages, civil and religious, that break down can be considered by the Tribunal and a decision made as to whether it was a binding union.



Often when a marriage breaks down people can have all kinds of feelings: embarrassment, hurt, anger, even relief. In such circumstances it is tempting to consign the marriage to the sphere of the private and hope it remains buried in the past. It's routinely assumed it will not impact on a new marriage.

Among other things, the Tribunal provides people with an opportunity to tell their story, have the pain of the past acknowledged and receive appropriate support when entering a new union. Sometimes having an authority recognize a marriage failed for reasons sometimes beyond the control of one or both parties to a union can also help bring healing.

Maybe there is family member or friend who may benefit from the work of the Tribunal? You might consider supporting them in making contact with the Archdiocesan Tribunal office.

Safeguarding the rights of the respondent

By Defender of the Bond, Sr Elizabeth Delaney

As Defender of the Bond, I examine the evidence of the case (the acts) that has been gathered with three tasks guiding my reading and thinking.

Importantly, I need to ensure that the rights of the respondent (the spouse who did not present the petition) are respected. The defender must ensure that the respondent has been informed of the process; has been given an opportunity to present his or her view and to nominate witnesses. The defender's responsibility is particularly serious when the respondent does not agree with the petition or opposes the process of annulment.

Another responsibility is to ensure that the correct procedures have been followed in presenting the case. If not, I need to point out what needs to be done to rectify the situation. Trusted

and tried procedures safeguard the integrity of the process as well as the rights of people.

As a Defender of the Bond when I read the case, I look for evidence that the marriage is a valid marriage. I aim to uphold or defend the marriage bond. In reading the acts, I may look for indications that the parties did understand what they were promising, that they were truly free in making their commitment, that the words that they stated corresponded to their intention or that they were capable of fulfilling what they promised. Obviously, the grounds stated in the petition focus my searching. All the time, I look for facts that are substantiated by a second person.

Because the sacrament of marriage is at stake, the defender of the bond receives the acts immediately prior to their being given to the judge or judges. If new evidence is presented, then the documents must come back to a defend-

‘I wanted to be totally honest’

Reflections of someone who used the services of the Tribunal

After 18 years of marriage at age 41, my wife asked me to leave the family home in a trial separation.

This was not entirely unexpected but it left me devastated and I entered a period of my life that I would rather forget. After the statutory period of time a divorce was granted and I looked at the unwanted prospect of spending the rest of my life as a single man.

After some time an Army chaplain who was a very old friend of mine suggested that I seek an annulment.

I did not immediately accept his suggestion as I thought this to be at odds with the concept of a life-long indissoluble marriage.

At the same time I did not think I was suited to the single life but I did not want to be separated from the Church.

Following a further period of prayer

and consideration, I contacted the Tribunal in Canberra and was advised to commit my story to writing and to give some thought to who might be suitable witnesses.

Rightly or wrongly, I did not consult any books on the subject as I wished my story to be totally honest and not coloured by knowledge of possible grounds.

I wanted to be quite sure that, if an annulment was granted, I would not harbour thoughts that I had somehow manipulated the process.

After what seemed like a short time (about a year), I was advised that my case had been accepted locally but rejected nationally.

Further expert evidence was required and I met with a tribunal appointed psychologist.

Following this the annulment was granted which allowed me to marry again in the Church.



Tribunal auditor Mr Myles Hannan conducts an interview

Gathering information

By a Tribunal auditor, Mr Howard Murray

The auditor plays a key role in the Tribunal process through the gathering of information from witnesses who have knowledge of how the husband and wife arrived at the decision to marry, how the marriage was conducted and what may have contributed to the breakdown of the marriage.

Witnesses are nominated by either the plaintiff, the person seeking the annulment, or by the respondent who is the other party in the marriage.

Those nominating witnesses are asked to suggest people who can provide relevant comment on

what led up to the marriage and to a lesser extent what followed during the marriage.

Auditors are selected because of their ability to interview, with sensitivity, a wide range of people, both male and female, across all age ranges, who may have had a close relationship or friendship with the husband or wife of the marriage. In conducting their interviews, auditors follow a standard interview process developed by the Tribunal, drawing on the requirements of Church law. Auditors must be flexible though in responding to the responses made by witnesses during the interview. ● Cont next page.

Myths busted

ONLY the very rich receive an annulment. No. Many ordinary people have received an annulment.

THE process to establish freedom to marry in the Church takes a very long time. No. There are several processes and some are very short.

ALL marriage cases go to Rome. No. In fact the vast majority of cases are resolved locally in Australia.

TRIBUNAL cases are very expensive. No. All cases are significantly subsidized by the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn. No one is denied Tribunal services because of financial hardship.

COUNTRY people do not have the same access to the Tribunal as city people. No. Although the office is Canberra based the service is provided equally to people throughout the Archdiocese.

THE internet is the best place to find out whether my marriage is null. No. Only meeting with qualified Tribunal personnel and presenting the case to the judge(s) will assist establish if a marriage is null.

ONLY Catholics whose marriage breaks down need the services of the Tribunal. No. Any non-Catholic who has been married before and wishes to marry in the Catholic Church needs to demonstrate they are free to marry according to the law of the Church.

THE people who decide about the validity of marriages are all clergy. No. The Tribunal has married people, single lay people, religious and clergy involved in decision making processes.

THE Tribunal would not be interested in my case. No. Tribunals always pursue those cases where there are grounds for nullity present.

THE children from our marriage will become illegitimate if it is declared null. No. Just as a civil divorce does not alter the status of children the same is true in Church law.

A fair cop as chaplain 'loiters with intent'

Deacon Roger O'Donnell has retired after five years as chaplain to the Australian Federal Police. He was ordained in 1991 as a married deacon in the Archdiocese after serving 20 years in the Royal Australian Navy. He is a Vietnam veteran, and was working in AFP criminal intelligence before beginning theological studies at the Marist Seminary, Hunter's Hill, Sydney, in 1988. His previous appointments have been as parish administrator, archdiocesan director of missions and deacon of the Cathedral.

The past five years has changed me forever - an incredible ministry as chaplain to the AFP in the International Deployment Group.

During this time I've managed to be away in a deployment mission every six weeks or so; a lifetime of amazing experiences and memories as I pastorally responded to terrorist bombings in Jakarta, the tragic Garuda crash in Yogyakarta, repatriation of bodies, dozens of funerals, the aftermath of murders in the Solomon Islands, riots in the capital of Honiara, civil unrest in Dili, East Timor, suicides closer to home, and simply being a confidential and ready presence of God to this vital element of the AFP family.

I was the first Catholic clergy to be appointed to the AFP, and my mandate from Commissioner Mick Keelty was to literally "loiter with intent".

My home base was at our training base at Majura which has a large supporting staff. My liturgical home was St Christopher's Cathedral for preaching, baptisms, wedding and funerals.

In 2003, there were no guidelines to follow because the International Deployment Group was just being established. It



The Rev Roger O'Donnell at an outpost of the Aboriginal intervention initiative near Uluru.

became my parish and pastoral family. In 2003 there were about 40 AFP police officers serving overseas in Cyprus and East Timor. In 2009 there are more than 700 police members with the UN in the Middle East, Africa, Afghanistan, several Pacific islands and in the Northern Territory - and still only one chaplain.

I was sometimes able to use state police chaplains to assist me as many of our peace-keeping missions are composed of state and federal police mem-

bers. There are more than 300 personnel in the Solomon Islands, many of these have been sworn into the AFP for the duration of their deployment, often up to 100 weeks.

I accompanied Commissioner Keelty on a three-day pre-Christmas visit to Uluru, Alice Springs, Darwin, Dili and Honiara. What an extraordinary experience to support these dedicated police officers working in the most demanding and often quite dangerous conditions.

Last September, I relaxed on a 30-day contemplative and meditative retreat to hear the Lord and discern the future direction of my ministry after 17 years ordination. I turned 65 that month and on return to work I chose to retire from this incredibly intense and reactive ministry and hand the mantle to a younger person.

At my farewell, Assistant Commissioner Frank Prendergast presented me the Police Operations Medal and a large pictorial montage of my journey with the AFP since the 1980s. One of my colleagues reiterated my thoughts at the time. "What a ride!" he said. Indeed it was.

Time to put down palette - perhaps

● From Page 9.

Br Don thinks anyone can paint, if they have the interest and the right kind of teaching.

"It's based on an understanding of what you see. I think I could teach anyone to paint."

Of all the things he paints, Br Don said portraits are the hardest. "I like gum trees because they don't have relatives. I won't paint any children under the age of 14, they move too much."

"My favourite kind of subject is anything that will keep still long enough for me to paint it. You can learn everything about painting from still-life objects - so I'll still keep learning from them."

Soon after his arrival at St Edmund's, Br Don was asked by the then headmaster to teach art and photography, which was his introduction to high school students.

Despite teaching photography and taking photos for the school magazine for more than 30 years, Br Don said his weapon of choice was still a paint brush. "I had to learn photography for the school magazine, but I believe the camera is just an empty box with one eye and no brain and no feelings. I think I can do better than a camera."

Almost 15 years ago as a tribute to their former teacher, about 40 St Edmund's old boys donated the materials, skills and time to build a studio and gallery for Br Don on the school grounds.

"I felt a bit embarrassed by the gesture. I didn't really believe they could build a studio. I thought it would be a corrugated iron shed on the oval there."

Br Don has become fond of his studio, where he can be found most days during school hours. "I reckon it's perfect."

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Q. Is the coffin cremated with the body?

A. Yes.

Q. What happens to the handles and other fittings?

A. The coffin along with its handles and fittings are placed in the cremation chamber intact.

Q. What about precious and other metals?

A. The temperature at which the modern cremator operates (between 800° and 1000° C) is such that metals are fused together with other materials so that they are not recognisable and have no salvage value. Any metallic material resulting from a cremation is disposed of in accordance with the instructions of the cremation authority, usually burial within the crematorium grounds.

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Tribunal: gathering information

● From previous page.

They must be prepared to fully explore issues which may be pertinent to the Tribunal's deliberations.

An auditor meets with a witness in a church location rather than in private homes at a time to suit both the witness and the auditor. In most cases, witnesses are unclear about what is required of them but are generally keen to assist although they may know little of the Tribunal or its workings. After briefly explaining the concept of Catholic marriage and its indissolubility the auditor would then explain the role of a witness for a case. Discussion then moves to a series of questions designed to consider the freedom the

couple had at the time that they entered marriage and their ability to live out marriage. Information about the courtship and engagement period, as well as the marriage ceremony itself are obviously particularly important. In general, depending on the level of knowledge of the witnesses, an interview would last approximately an hour and a half.

Auditors have a major contribution to make to help to bring some peace of mind to people who have been close to the marriage and who may have been distressed and upset by what happened to what may have seemed to have been a sound union but which has sadly fallen apart.

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The risk of being alone rather than compromise

In an autobiographical novel, *My First Loves*, Czech writer Ivan Klima shares how as a young man he struggled with a particular ambivalence.

At one level, he wanted to be as free as his friends to act out sexually, but another part of him made him reticent to do that. This left him with the question:

Was his hesitancy rooted in an unhealthy timidity or in a noble desire, a desire to carry his solitude at a high level. In the end, he decided it was the latter.

To carry one's solitude at a high level is not easy to do, especially inside a culture where most everything invites us take a path of less resistance.

Our society, like the one in which Klima was raised, mostly invites us in the opposite direction, to take the road more travelled. Even among people with faith, the idea is prevalent that it is not worth the cost, if the cost is high, to hold out, to retain a high ideal.

Rather our culture suggests: Sooner lower your standards than live in pain.

Sooner let your soul endure an indignity than end up being alone. Sooner sell yourself short than be lonely.

I recently received a letter from a woman who expressed frustration in finding support, even among her church friends, for living out a high ideal.

Here is how she expresses this: "It's been seven years now that I have lived widowhood, bringing me to lots of desolation and loneliness.

"I recall comments that were made to me shortly after my husband died, by good Christian friends: 'You'll marry again.' 'Why get married, just live with someone.' 'Why live with someone, just have the occasional Saturday night sleep over.'"

"This attitude is very prevalent in my age group. And yet I never hear spiritual writers comment on this. You have a large audience. Could you?"

Her letter goes on to help spell out what that ideal is: "There is something amazing and wonderful that widows, male and female, can

bring to the world that is not happening at the moment.

"Everyone is promoting performance and good looks, from medical intervention for sexual dysfunction, to glamorous lifestyles travelling, to being in beautiful homes (always young, good-looking, always in pairs), to anti-aging interventions of all kinds from face-lifts, cellulite reduction, etc.

"We need another voice! Where do we hear of the joys of surrendering to a life larger than ours, to entering the barren landscape of breaking bodies and minds, where the spirit can finally fly free, unencumbered, through cracks and wrinkles?"

Perhaps it's not as much that we have lost the ideal as that we have personally despaired that it can be there for us.

In the end, we all still want to guard the dignity of our souls and we all still seek someone to meet and honour us there, with full respect for who we are.

But, as one journalist reviewing a book on chastity recently put it, that ideal makes more sense when

you're young and still have dreams of what you're waiting for than it does when you're in midlife and have long given up hope that what's best will ever happen for you.

She speaks for our culture which believes, as the popular song puts it, that even a bad love is better than (what seems to be) no love at all.

But, as Doris Lessing once put it: There is only one real sin and that is calling second-best by anything other than what it really is, second-best.

A lot of people struggle with this.

Here's how another woman, also a widow, writes: "And with deepest respect and honour we may have to call upon our courage to walk away from anything and everything that does not resonate with our soul's truth as we struggle to know ourselves in the deepest ways.

"And if in the end we stand alone with the presence of God perhaps that is the way it was always meant to be. In other words, I'm setting my

limits and it's mighty lonely."

That's a pretty accurate description of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.

The gospels, in describing his passion, never dwell on the physical pain (the scourging and the nails) but focus instead on his moral loneliness, his radical aloneness, on what it felt like being "unanimity-minus-one".

And this, his refusal to compromise, was his great gift to us.

He paid the price, in blood and loneliness, of entering that barren landscape of broken bodies and minds so as to carry solitude at a high level.

Despite every kind of pain, humiliation, and loneliness he refused to compromise his ideals. And it left him mighty lonely.

Inside of everything that's best in us, we hear an invitation to join him there: To live in pain rather than lower our standards, to risk being alone rather than compromise who we really are, and to be lonely, mighty lonely even, rather than to sell ourselves short.

Ron Rolheiser

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



Even at Christmas, we sing of Jesus bringing redeeming grace to a world suffering from sin and strife.

Give yourself a lenten makeover

"Lent is my least favourite time of the year. It always seems so negative. What can I look for at Church that would help me change my mood?"

Some Catholic people of my generation, who really try to live their faith, would relate to this view. We learned that Jesus suffered and so should we! In a real sense, Lent was gloomy (with deep purple vestments, and extra prayer sessions) and negative (we were encouraged to give up all sorts of things, including favourite foods and pursuits) and it hung around for 40 days.

At one level, the whole Christian life could be seen as negative, in that human beings are sinful and in constant need of forgiveness. Jesus came to heal, save and restore our relationships with each other and God. Even at Christmas, we sing of Jesus bringing redeeming grace to a world suffering from sin and strife. And at Epiphany the psalm responses speak of the saving power of God.

From a powerfully positive perspective, Christian life can be seen as an opportunity to participate in God's gracious and continuing love and mercy, God's constant invitation to us to clear our rubbish and purify our lives.

For Australians, Lent falls at what is for many a very busy time of year when there are many new starts being made. In Lent we have two goals: preparing for baptism or reviewing our baptismal commitments (at Easter), and refocusing our inner lives and behaviour. There is a promise of real hope and spiritual joy following a period of quite disciplined work on our part.

In the liturgy

Chair of the Archdiocese's Liturgy Commission Margaret Ryan answers a question posed by a reader. Send your questions to Catholic Voice, GPO Box 3089, Canberra 2601.

If we take our Lenten exercise seriously, Lent becomes a mysterious partnership, an adventure, with God and ourselves united to produce a new creation, a reformed, re-prioritised human being.

Just as parents reflect and prepare for the birth of a baby, so we need to prepare for our new birth at Easter. We can do this by removing some of the clutter from our lives, and surrendering to God's priorities and values.

Much of this mysterious change is stimulated by Church liturgies, including the sacraments. The simplicity and sparseness of adornment (eg, no flowers, lenten-specific banners) in the church building itself and music (simplicity in the style and number of hymns) point to the importance of returning to the basics in this season. Meditative silence and simplicity help to focus the heart and mind.

Lenten symbols give pause for thought too. In the lenten journey, we move from the shock and awe symbol of ashes to that of plentiful water (Easter Vigil). These are both very powerful

images for Australians.

The priest's vestments lighten too, from purple, through rose (Fourth Sunday) to white (Easter), as we move from the fast of Lent to the feast of Easter.

It's hard to appreciate a feast unless we also experience a fast. It's hard to appreciate the glorious autumn fruit that Australia produces if we buy the same fruit from overseas all year round: that's permanent feasting rather than fasting!

Lenten Masses provide extraordinary spiritual comfort food, as well as spiritual challenges, by way of the Sunday and weekday readings. These reveal, on a daily basis, God's goodness and generosity, thoughtfulness and compassion, tenderness and outrageous love. There are scriptural stories of forgiveness, miracles, healings and transformations, and the same gifts await us today.

Parishes with RCIA candidates are doubly blessed as they journey with those seeking full communion with the Catholic Church.

Such parishes are involved with eager, soon to-be-Catholics, invigorated by their growing love for Jesus Christ: all praying through the beautiful penitential rites of the Scrutinies.

Our western society is into make-overs: in body shape, careers, personal presentation... Christians deliberately engage with God over the lenten period, primarily through Church liturgies, to experience a make-over with a difference. This one has exciting consequences for us, now and forever, in terms of our developing intimacy with our beloved: God.

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Late last year Catholic Voice visited St Mary's Primary School in Young. Year 1 teacher Miss Amy Manwaring said the class (pictured above) had been learning about holidays and celebrations like birthdays, weddings, Christmas, Easter and Australia Day. Grace Silk said she likes Australia Day because she gets a day off school and eats lamingtons. "My Nan makes really good Anzac biscuits," she said.



Photographs

ABOVE RIGHT: Marylouise Minehan shows an example of her work. RIGHT: Jack Murray, Isabella Hamblin, Grace Silk, Kaitlin Reid, Johnnty Langfield and Cheyenne Bailey.

Drawings

By Madeline Smith (left), Grace Silk (below), Jack Murray (bottom left), Mackenzie Brownlie (bottom middle) and Zac Sell (above right).



Holidays

Holidays rock
On my surf board I have fun
Lucky me
In the car we go
Delicious
At the coast
Yay
Summer rox!
 By Cheyenne Bailey.

way
Dirty we get
A traffic jam
Yellow yak at the zoo
Spending time with your family
 By Michael Mullany

Holden ute gets you to places
O I love holidays
Lollies all the time
Interesting facts on the

Zoe Davis
 working on
 a find-a-
 word.



Music, songs and stories for Lent



Spirit and Song Series (19 CDs, ages 12 to adult).

The CDs include a comprehensive range of religious music by contemporary Christian artists. They are intended to be an accompaniment to parish and school worship and daily prayer. An excellent preparation tool for youth groups and contemporary liturgical ensembles.

A Lenten Journey: The Stories and Scriptures of Lent in Song. Bob Hurd. (CD, ages 10 to adult).

A collection of songs that reflect the Lenten Sunday readings. Songs cover topics such as Ash Wednesday, the temptation, the transfiguration, Jesus and the Samaritan woman, the man born blind, Lazarus, and Jesus in the temple. Several songs use texts from the seasonal psalms such as Psalm 51 and 91.

That You May have Life : Musical Stories from the Gospel of John. Marty Haugen. (CD, ages 15 to adult).

A collection of musical stories based on the text of the Gospel of John that

are suitable for Lent. Stories covered include Nicodemus, the man born blind, the woman at the well, the raising of Lazarus, the last supper and the passion of Christ.

Echo of faith (CD, ages 13 to adult).

Contemporary sacred music written and sung by David Haas, along with other soloists. 14 songs suitable for Lenten reflection.

Behold the Lamb: Young People's Music for Lent & Easter. Mark Friedman and Janet Vogt. (CD, ages 5 to 10).

This two CD set includes 14 contemporary songs for children on the themes of Lent and Easter

The Catholic Education Office Library collection of books, DVDs, videos, and music CDs is suitable for all ages for reflection and study during Lent. Parishioners may borrow for a small annual fee. Telephone 6163 4350, e-mail library@cg.catholic.edu.au

Ideal lenten companion

A Turning to God. Cardinal Basil Hume, ed Patricia Kelly. Darton; Longman & Todd. 95pp, pb, rrp 29.95. Reviewer: Margaret Ryan.



Basil Hume was abbot of the Benedictine abbey at Ampleforth for 13 years before becoming Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster. He remained in that role for 23 years. He is author of several books and articles and an international speaker. In the foreword, the Bishop of Leeds describes him as a man who loved scripture and was centred in prayer.

Kelly is a freelance journalist who drew on previously unpublished material for this book.

The book is simply organised. There are two pages for every day of Lent through till Easter Sunday. Each chapter contains a short scripture reading, mostly from the daily scheduled weekday lectionary, an extract from Hume's writing, and a short prayer. Over the 47 days covered, some of the

cardinal's understanding of Lent and relationship with God emerge.

Hume writes that conversion, thus our change of heart and return to God, includes repentance; that ordinary barriers to closer union with God include selfishness, unkindness, pettiness and grumbling; that we prune our hearts so that new life may blossom.

He reminds readers that the present life is a period of training, to learn the art of loving God and neighbour, and that in our busy world, there is danger of the absence of a deeply prayerful attitude. He asks, does love of neighbour flow from our love of God?

The author is gentle, provocative, understanding, comforting, wise and hopeful and interprets the scriptures to present a snapshot of God as forgiving, patient, compassionate, jealous, just, challenging, vulnerable, victorious and a treasure for the universe! The book will be my lenten companion.

God comes disguised

Things Hidden: Scripture as Spirituality. Richard Rohr. St Anthony Messenger Press, 2008, 238pp, rrp \$40.95. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.

Franciscan priest Richard Rohr's latest book should come with a warning: Beware. All your pre-conceptions are at risk.

And so they are. In the introduction, Rohr offers his reflections "to again unite what should never have been separated: Sacred Scripture and Christian spirituality".

So, I thought, this should be easy. We have been educated in the centrality of the Word of God in our liturgies, trained in its proclamation, schooled in prayer groups. So, for us, scripture and spirituality are coming together nicely, right?

No, it seems, not right.

Rohr states unequivocally that it is not our correct behaviour or morality that bring us to God or God to us. God always and forever comes as one who is totally hidden and yet perfectly revealed in the same movement or event. In other words God comes to us disguised as our life.

Rohr uses example after example to emphasise the importance of right relationship with God. Those who know God are always humble, he says. Those who don't are invariably quite sure of themselves. Unfortunately this is just as true for preachers as for the dwindling numbers in the pews. Jesus was consistent in pointing out the difference. "By their fruits you will know them" [Matt. 7:20].

One of Rohr's chapters is "the razor's edge: knowing and not knowing". He claims that it is essential that we integrate these two streams of spirituality. He illustrates these by using the images of darkness and light. Both are necessary.

For several cen-

turies, he says, religion in the West has been in a defensive mode where we need certainty and clarity.

This glaring solar light paradoxically creates very defined shadows. The "not knowing" or mystical tradition moves beyond words and images into silence. The lunar light is filtered, subtle, less threatening.

Jesus, Rohr states, was a patient "lunar" teacher.

Rohr gives a powerful indicator of these two minds using different translations of the same passage (Matt. 5: 48). "You must therefore be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect." "Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God has lived toward you."

The first, Rohr says, is aimed at personal perfection; the second at divine union. Plenty of food for meditation.

Richard Rohr is an experienced writer, lecturer and retreat director. He not only holds up a mirror to the spirituality of today but also provides a counter-image of what might and should be possible using the scriptures.

Information however is not transformation. Only prayerful, contemplative thinking, he says, will bring forth those deeper meanings. He emphasises that prayer and suffering are the two primary paths of transformation.



Books

Unlocking the mystery of Pius

Pius XII, The Hound of Hitler. Gerard Noel. Continuum, 2008. rrp \$59.95. Reviewer: Fr Dermid McDermott.

Gerard Noel, writer, former editor of The Catholic Herald in England, and translator of volume one of Vatican documents relating to World War II, is well connected to Church sources. His experience of Pius XII in a 1948 private audience began a life-long interest in him. This book is his quest of Pacelli the man and Pius the Pope, "to unlock some of the mystery of an extraordinary life".

Coming a long time after Hochhuth's play The Representative (1963) and Cornwell's Hitler's Pope: The Secret History of Pius XII (1999), it takes a different tack and probes the psychology of the man and how this affected the decisions he made (or didn't make) particularly relating to the Holocaust and abuses in the Church of his time.

Pius' life as canon lawyer, curia official, nuncio and pope follows in chronological order. There are copious biographical notes. It is an easy read and comments, which at times seem repetitious, are in fact reminders of the argument.

This is the "Great Design", the centring of power and authority in the supreme head of the Church, regulated by the new Code of Canon Law within, and by concordats regulating relations with temporal powers without. The fatal flaws in this Great Design and consequences make sad reading. Yet, it is a logical outcome of those times and of the sort of men, particularly Pacelli, who became Pope.

But within this history, there is another biography of sorts here, that of "Mother" Pasquelina, German nun, nurse, housekeeper, co-worker, confident and finally the gatekeeper to Pius. This is a fascinating relationship of over 40 years.

Noel skilfully brings together all the shortcomings of the man (fear certainly not one) and the shortcomings of the Pope, indeed they cannot be divorced and explain why this papacy was as it was. Pius had a giant intellect, but was a man with little pastoral experience and no personal knowledge of the ordinary life of men and women.

The book exposes the shortcomings inherent in any absolute monarchical system - there was no one to cry "the Pope has no clothes!"

If the jury is still out on Pius XII, the last chapter is an excellent summation to it - to help you decide or at least understand.



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Best movie yet on abuse

Doubt.
Starring Meryl Streep, Philip Seymour and Amy Adams.
Written and directed by John Patrick Shanley. 104 mins. M (mature themes). Reviewer: Fr Richard Leonard SJ*.

In 2005 John Patrick Shanley won a Pulitzer Prize, the Drama Desk Award and a Tony Award for his Broadway play, "Doubt". It has been staged in most Australian capital cities since then.

Set as the Second Vatican Council is well under way in 1964, the reforming and charismatic priest, Fr Brendan Flynn (Seymour Hoffman) arrives at St. Nicholas parish in the Bronx.

The local Catholic school is administered by the Daughters of Charity of St Joseph, who were founded by Elizabeth Ann Seton in 1809. Like the French "aeroplane nuns" upon which St Elizabeth modelled her congregation, the DCs, as they are affectionately known, had distinctive headgear - a tight fitting white bonnet with a large black bonnet over it.

Sr Aloysius Beauvier (Streep) runs the school and the convent with an iron glove. The pupils are terrified of her. So are the nuns. The priests probably are too. But Sr Aloysius is at first cautious and then anxious about the new go-ahead curate. The principal wants the Church, her school and the world to stay the way it is. She keeps a careful eye on the reforming Fr Flynn.

When the school accepts its first black student, Donald Miller (Joseph Foster), he is given into Sr James's class. Sr James (Amy Adams) is a junior professed sister, anxious to impress Sr Aloysius. She is as kindly and good as her superior is severe. When she shares with Sr Aloysius that she is worried that Fr Flynn is paying too much personal attention to Donald, Sr Aloysius is galvanized into beginning a crusade to both unearth the truth and expunge Flynn from the school and the parish.

Without a shred of proof except her moral certainty, Sr Aloysius locks into a battle of wills with Fr Flynn that threatens to tear apart the local Catholic community.



Amy Adams on the set of Doubt. Picture: Andrew Schwartz.

Although there are no scenes of any inappropriate or criminal behaviour by anyone, there are some people who would choose not to see a film on this topic.

That would be a shame in this instance. Of all the television dramas and films made about the sexual abuse of children by Catholic clergy, this is the best one yet.

Even though the direction is a little too static, Doubt is a study in how a play can be successfully adapted to the screen. It is also a masterclass in acting. Seymour Hoffman, Streep, Adams and Viola Davis, who plays Donald's mother, have already picked up nominations for major acting awards in the US. On their own, the scenes between Streep and Seymour Hoffman are worth the price of admission. John Patrick Shanley has presented one of the most morally complex and ethically interesting texts I can remember on the screen.

On one level Sr Aloysius is a noble figure, a crusader for the rights of the poor. She will let nothing stand in her way in exposing anyone she suspects of abusing children.

That she is so unable to see that her own treatment of the very children she defends is emotionally abusive makes her

situation all the more desperate.

Not that Fr Flynn is off the hook. Shanley is masterful in giving us a man who has a history. He may be the subject of a contemporary Salem witch hunt, but we intuit enough to know that he is not just a victim here. He can be as manipulative and calculating as his opposing force. We come to see why he says in his opening sermon, "Doubt can be a bond as powerful and sustaining as certainty." For while he may want the winds of change, he cannot foresee the hurricane that will soon be threatening his 1964 clericalism, sexism and extremely poor judgment. He is deeply flawed too.

There are some distracting things that look like mistakes for 1964. For example, stoles were not worn on the outside of a chasuble at this time, and Father's very modern Lenten vestments, while possible at this time, peg him as a very trendy member of the French liturgical movement.

In a church the size of St Nicholas' there would have been a pulpit from which the sermon was delivered, not a lectern at the altar rails. And it would have been very unusual in a Catholic Church to stand and sing a hymn straight after the sermon.

The nuns eat in full glare of the school children at one end of the school cafeteria. Until 1968 most people wondered if nuns ate at all. Some nuns had to eat behind umbrellas while supervising their school's picnic.

But these are quibbles in relation to all the things Shanley gets right

The only thing Doubt clarifies is that when it comes to true justice regarding child sexual abuse in the Church, or any other serious issue, St Augustine in the 5th century was right when he said that "Hope has two lovely daughters, anger and courage: anger so that what cannot be, may not be; and courage, so that what must be, will be."

The problem is in backing up a hunch with certainty and then knowing to whom, when and upon what matters we can give the benefit of the doubt.

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

A strong family feel to these tails

This is a story of two orphaned children, Andi (Emma Roberts) and Bruce (Jake Austin), her younger brother, and is a film adaption of the Louis Duncan novel of the same name.

Andi and Bruce are under the care of two unsuitable foster-parents - their fifth in succession - and they own a pet dog, Friday, whom they have been trying to hide for three years.

Friday is a permanently hungry Jack Russell terrier. Desperate to find a place for Friday, they find a new home for him in an abandoned hotel, occupied by two other dogs.

Bruce happens to be something of a mechanical genius and he begins constructing devices to make Friday, and his friends (soon to arrive at the hotel), happy in the new home.

The barking dogs start to make the neighbours suspicious and Bruce's job is to invent more contraptions to make the dogs content. The breeds in the movie demonstrate well-known behavioural problems for dog-owners. There is Shep, the border collie, who constantly herds; Romeo, the Chinese crested, who is amorously inclined towards Juliet, the poodle; Cooper, an English bulldog who wants to chew every object in sight; Georgia the compulsive fetcher who is looked after by Lenny, the bull mastiff, who has to gaze out of open windows to be happy; and a Beauceron, who has problems with being a guard dog.

All of the dogs offer great testimony to the competence of their trainers; and they were all coached by professionals to handle the mechanical devices that Bruce builds to keep their neuroses in check.

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

Hotel for Dogs.
Starring Emma Roberts, Jake Austin, Lisa Kudrow, and Don Cheadle. Directed by Thor Freudenthal. 100 mins. PG (Mild coarse language). Reviewer: Peter W Sheehan*.

To use words in the film, it is "awesome" to see the dogs queue up in assembly-line fashion for feeding and defecating, two key habits which keep every dog owner earnestly pre-occupied daily.

It is refreshing to see that the film is not animated; it is a live action movie and will appeal for just that reason. The movie for the most part uses shelter dogs, which needed to belong to someone. They were collected six months before the movie

began and 16 weeks were spent in intensively training them.

The movie stresses the belongingness of both the children to others, and the belongingness to the children of the dogs themselves. There is a strong family feel to the movie. Lisa Kudrow, unfortunately, has a very unattractive role as a cantankerous, hippie foster-parent, but Don Cheadle plays warmly the role of a social worker, who tries to keep the kids (and dogs) out of trouble, and who eventually saves the day.

The film focuses positively on family relationships, and the affectionate bonding, that ties children and their canine friends together, and it has some very funny moments. Although it never ever sustains the hilarity of Christopher Guest's 2000 classic "Best in Show," it is in the final run a movie that will appeal most to children. But adults will love the final credits where the actors and crew responsible for the movie are all photographed in besotted fashion with their own pets, indicating that, for them at least, their dogs own their world.

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

Internet www.cg.catholic.org.au

SHORTS

Bride Wars. Starring: Kate Hudson, Anne Hathaway, Kristen Johnston, and Candice Bergen. Directed by Gary Winick. 89 mins. PG (mild coarse language and themes).

A light, enjoyable experience that could have been a lot better. Hudson and Hathaway have made better movies in the past. "The Devil Wears Prada" and "Rachel Getting Married" (soon to be released) are much better vehicles for Hathaway to show off her considerable acting talents.

Gran Torino. Starring Clint Eastwood, Christopher Carley, Bee Vang and Ahney Her. Directed by Clint Eastwood. 116 mins. M (coarse language and violence).

The film, despite its contemporary setting and its frequent coarse language, resembles an old-fashioned western of which Eastwood was an able practitioner, even down to the final showdown on main street. It works in a clunky, self-indulgent way but is far from compelling and has several lame moments.

Igor. Starring John Cusack, John Cleese and Steve Buscemi. Directed by Tony Leondis. 86 mins. PG (mild themes and violence).

You can see the wry sense of humour behind the storytelling, some slapstick laughs and some spoofing and some popular songs. The voice cast is very good indeed. Not a great animation comedy but quite entertaining.

The Wrestler. Starring Mickey Rourke, Marisa Tomei and Evan Rachel Wood. Directed by Darren Aronofsky. 108 mins. MA 15+ (strong violence, drug use and sex scene; coarse language).

Mickey Rourke is certain to be in Oscar contention for his outstanding performance in Darren Aronofsky's superior drama about a washed-up professional wrestler struggling to come to terms with a body that can no longer execute the moves and the void in his personal life outside the ring.



Hotel for Dogs (see review below) has some very funny moments.



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help me and show me you are my Mother. Oh, Holy Mother, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart succour me in my necessity. (Mention your request here). There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee. (3 times). Holy Mary, I place this prayer in your hands. (3 times). Amen. Say this prayer for 3 consecutive days.

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

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CURSILLO: Ultreyas, Southside - Corpus Christi Parish Centre, Gowrie, 8pm, Tuesday, 24 February. Northside - Marian Hall, St Matthew's Church, Page, 8pm, Thursday, 26 February. All welcome.

CURSILLO REVIEW WEEK-END - 28-29 March, The Gathering Place, 4 Bancroft St, Dickson. Non-residential weekend presented by National Cursillo team to provide introduction to revised guidelines to Cursillo talks. Cost \$10. Inquiries: Joe, telephone 6242 7332. Accommodation for country people, telephone 6247 8848.

EVENING FOR WOMEN - Twilight chicken and champagne evening, 7 March, St Edmund's College Griffith. Organised by the Eucharistic Centre and "Call to Connect" for women of the Archdiocese. Inquiries: Bronnie.schlager@gmail.com, Anne Woods, telephone 6260 6876, Diane Fulop 6231 4734, by 3 March.

FUND-RAISING DINNER - Proceeds to community work of Marymead and Karinya House, 7pm, Saturday, 28 February, Corinna Ballroom, Southern Cross Club Woden. Dress: Lounge suit/cocktail. \$60 pp (includes three-course meal and entertainment), or \$440 table of 8. Bookings: Erin Pittman, telephone 6162 5824, e-mail erin.pittman@marymead.org.au by 20 February.

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

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ST VALENTINE'S EVE - Celebration for married and engaged couples, 6.30pm, Friday, 13 February, St Thomas the Apostle, Kambah. Mass, renewal of marriage vows followed by supper. Bring plate, drinks provided. Donation. All welcome. Inquiries: Tracey, telephone 6231 9219 or Trish 6231 8468.

SERRA CLUB OF CANBERRA - 6.30pm, Thursday, 12 February. Rosary and Mass at Holy Trinity Church, Curtin, followed by dinner.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND - 3 - 5 April: Mount Schoenstatt, Mulgoa (near Penrith). Bookings: Telephone 6379 1125 / 4283 3435 or www.wmme.org.au

Written entries are invited for the March issue to: Catholic Voice, GPO Box 3089, Canberra ACT 2601, or e-mail ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au by Monday, 16 February. Entries which are accepted for this section are free, courtesy of sponsorship by the Catholic Development Fund.

Priest 'at home with people'

Fr Thomas Alfred Hunt was always very much at home with people and he had a great capacity to make people of all ages and conditions feel at ease in his company.

Auxiliary Bishop Pat Power made this comment in his eulogy at the Requiem Mass for Fr Hunt 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.

"There were times on the journey when Tom ran into some rough patches, but there was never any doubting his depth of faith, his love for Jesus or his commitment to the priesthood. His earthiness meant that he couldn't

stand people standing on their dignity or in any way pretending to be something other than what they really were. Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, he was a searcher and he was prepared to meet the challenges which the Lord put before him in the circumstances of his life."

His warm family life and growing up in Gundagai were two significant dimensions of his life and were a big part in shaping his future.

"Tom's extended family was important to him as well. His cousins, Sisters Carmel Gardiner, Mary Christopher Ryan and Anne-Maree Elliott are Sisters of Mercy.

"It always appeared to me that Tom had a fond relationship with the Sisters of Mercy beginning in Gundagai and being fostered in many other parts of the Archdiocese. I would like to think that their gentle example contributed to the way Fr Tom was so much in tune with the mercy of God.

"Another phase of his life which influenced him positively was his time at St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill. The camaraderie he experienced at 'Joeys' added to the joyful side of his young character. He relished continuing contact with his old school and its past students and teachers. His positive experience of boarding school helped him to survive seminary life and to relate easily to others as a priest.

"I remember the happy image of him as a newly ordained priest at Queanbeyan. A former president of the Serra Club has written of Tom's ministry there as chaplain when in the twilight of his priestly life he was able to reflect the best of his priestly vocation in the advice and guidance he gave. In between times, he was an effective and much loved pastor in parishes across the Archdiocese."

He was chaplain to the Serra Club

of Canberra for six years from 1989 and members appreciated his time in celebrating special Masses and attending meetings.

"Tom enjoyed the company of his brother priests and he was good to be around. He felt free in our company to have a bit of whinge when the occasion or the subject warranted it

"The heart condition which afflicted him in the latter part of his life became something which was to enhance his spirituality. It effectively forced him to retire prematurely, but his retirement was an opportunity to be more flexible in his response to the Spirit in his life.

"Through his poor health a warm relationship developed with his cardiologist, Dr Marcus Faunce. The doctor looked after prime ministers and many other notables in Canberra and beyond. He and Tommy shared many values and experiences which were mutually enriching and life-giving. In many ways, that relationship typified so much of the way that Fr Tom Hunt exercised his priestly ministry.

"Like Jesus on the road to Emmaus, he was at ease in walking with people on their journey, always being true to his own beliefs and principles, but being prepared to accept others for what they are. In other words, he left room for the Spirit to be at work in his own life and in the lives of others."

Bishop Power said all knew how Fr Hunt discovered the gift of AA in his life, and never failed to spread the good news whenever the got the chance.

"He took me to a meeting one night. It was touching for me to see Tom on his 'home ground' and to witness the deep respect and affection of his fellow travellers for their brother. I know that much of his life and energy in the past 20 years and more was spent in that arena. He understood in the starkest of terms what the incarnation and redemption are all about.

"For most of this year as his health deteriorated and his strength declined, life was not a lot of fun. His beautiful sister, Anne, took him under her wing as she had done often in their adult lives. She brought him home to Gundagai to celebrate Peter's 60th birthday.

"The plan was then to take him to Sydney to have some work done on his teeth. But the Lord decided that Tommy had had enough. I suspect Tom felt much the same way. Like his classmate Fr Joe Rheinberger two years earlier, Tom died peacefully in his sleep. Fittingly, he died in his beloved Gundagai, with his family members not far away."



At a recent retreat in Melbourne, I gathered with Bishops Tony Burgess of Wewak, PNG and Colin Campbell of Dunedin as well as priests, religious and pastoral associates from across the country including missionary Irish who have served our Church in Australia for decades and others who are currently serving overseas in countries such as China.

The ministry and service of those gathered were firmly set in the network of presence that is the Church. This presence is the infrastructure and such people the leaders that enable local church communities and missionaries to undertake their mission within these faith and their wider communities.

Catholic Mission helped those on mission to Australia previously as it now helps the Church within the developing countries of our world. St Peter Apostle Appeals helps to enable cash-strapped dioceses with the training of seminarians, religious and lay catechists, their future faith community leaders. Once trained, their work and that of their diocese and parishes are supported by Catholic Mission through base funding and project funding from Propagation of the Faith and Children's Mission funds.

These important works need our continued support, both financial and prayer. Please help us to continue helping others. Your generous gift makes a difference.

God Bless
Deacon Joe Blackwell

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Closing the door on one chapter, opening another... Mr Steyns before leaving Trinity Catholic College Goulburn.

School head volunteers for another challenge

By Louise Thrower, of the Goulburn Post.

After nine years at the helm of Goulburn's Trinity Catholic College Mr Joe Steyns has no illusions about his place in history.

"After three weeks people will be asking Joe who?" the departing principal said late last year.

That may not exactly be the case, but for the next year he and wife Anne will be happy to be "cogs in the wheel" as they embark on volunteer work in the Philippines.

Under the auspices of The Edmund Rice Foundation, the couple will "teach the teachers" on the island of Negros Occidental, and live among a community of four Christian Brothers. Their mission is to train educators in teaching English.

Mr Steyns backs away from trite phrases like "wanting to give something back. "Anne and I both feel we've done alright. It's just something that's been bugging me and I've wanted to do it for a while. It's the time to do it," he said.

In 2007 he had tendered his resignation to take up voluntary teaching at a Christian Brothers School in Tanzania.

But when a threat to Trinity's boarding operations arose, he withdrew and lobbied for the continuation of what he regarded as a tradition and an obligation.

With a plan for its survival at least for another year accepted in principle, Mr Steyns decided to move on.

He readily cites his greatest challenge over the past nine years as amalgamating Marian College, Goulburn's Catholic girls school, and its male counterpart, St Patrick's College.

In his hands were 800 children, 135 staff and 650 families, a "fair call" by any definition.

Rolled in with this were the traditions of three religious congregations (Mercy and St Joseph's Sisters and the Christian Brothers), male and female institutions and a good dose of community conservatism.

"The old policies (of both schools) could not work in the new place and the psychology was something to overcome. We've worked very hard on developing an identity, but from the third year on, it was Trinity."

He revealed just how close St Pat's came to closing around the time of the amalgamation when the Christian Brothers were grappling with stretched finances.

Mr Steyns said the Brothers could have walked out and sold the real estate but instead took the hard decision of handing the school over to the Catholic Education Office.

"The Archdiocese taking over the school was a hard step. They were taking over something that was burdensome," he said. "To be part of something that kept it going has been something special."

This month the Steyns head off to the Philippines where their work will go a long way to securing much-needed government funding for Catholic schools.

"I'm looking forward to it and I see it as another phase in our lives. I don't like the notion of retirement - it's the kiss of death," he quipped.

● Deputy principal at St Patrick's College, Campbelltown, Ms Mary-Jane Carroll-Fajarda succeeds Mr Steyns.



Fr Frank Jones with families from St Agatha's School in Ecuador.

Former Yarralumla parish priest Fr Frank Jones serves about 60,000 people on mission in San Francisco, a poor suburb of Guayaquil, the largest city in Ecuador, home to many refugees. He has helped build child care and medical facilities. One of the more recent projects was the beginning of a primary school. Fr Jones tells of his adventures in this newsletter sent late last year.

Because of your generosity and prayers we have achieved a great deal for our poor brothers and sisters in San Francisco. I want to express my deepest gratitude to all in the Mission group, in particular all the Club Cientos friends and St Agatha's school in Brisbane and my loyal friends at St Clare's College, Canberra.

The school is doing tremendously well. The sisters are doing a mighty job under tough conditions. They are good fun and provide excellent formation for the families and children.

We now possess three new computers and hopefully we will build a special classroom to house them alongside a small library. I have to wait for the funds to arrive from heaven. The new playground equipped from the generosity of St Agatha's is in its final stage of construction.

The children are ecstatic. It is a wonderful gift for them and provides terrific hope and joy for our community. Not to mention the tremendous rise

Generosity brings a smile to the poor of Ecuador

in squealing, joyful children right next door to padre's house!

The sisters' convent Covento de la Imaculada Concepcion will be completed by mid-January. They are very excited and appreciative of such a gift. Their presence is right next door to the parish compound in San Francisco 2. It is a great location and there is sufficient land for a future high school.

One of the happy adventures was when we hired six buses to take some of our people to the sanctuary of the new saint for Ecuador, canonised in November, Santa Narcisa. The next parish to us is the home of the new saint. We had a great day out together starting with Mass and then a long picnic. We had 450 people for the day, which was the first time for many.

Our medical dispensary is up and running although slowly. However, we are fortunate to be blessed with a very generous doctor. His name is Sixto and his son Fernando, who is also a medico doctor, helps out on the weekends. Fer-

nando is instructing the people to recognise and prevent tropical infections.

The rains are looming. That will bring many problems associated with flooding and mosquito-born diseases. However, the presence of the church is providing a real oasis amid the turmoil of poverty. Our new church San Alberto Hurtado was opened last June with great joy.

The nutrition and child care centres, Santa Margarita and San Juan, are functioning well and providing a real difference to families, especially the working mums and their little ones whom we care after with joy.

The youth are beginning to form a St Vincent de Paul group with special interest for the formation and care of our young people. Many from the age of 16 experience a lack of hope for the future. The most in need are those who have been abandoned and sometimes have to fend for themselves and end up in real trouble. It breaks your heart to see thin, unhappy youth out in the street with nowhere to turn.

I also hope to provide the opportunity for some of the youth to study a trade, with the help of the Salesian fathers who have a good program a few miles up the road. I just need to pay for the programs and provide the incentive and moral support that the kids need to persevere. These are youth who have no parents and often live with an elderly grandmother or just move from place to place.

This Christmas we had a new chapel made from bamboo, very simple, in a new sector of San Francisco 2. The chapel is in honour of St Therese de Lisieux. The Carmelite nuns in Ormiston, Queensland, have made this little chapel possible. It is only a little beginning but from small things done with love, the providence of God blooms.



All smiles on a river boat cruise ... a great day out for parishioners.

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