



First-day nerves  
– Middle Pages

# ‘We’re thinking of you’



Parishes, schools and communities across the Archdiocese have opened their hearts to the victims of the bushfires in Victoria.

Tens of thousands of dollars has been raised through special collections and imaginative fund-raising efforts.

Archbishop Mark Coleridge set up a special appeal and asked every parish, agency, school and community to collect. Proceeds will be sent on to the St Vincent de Paul Society for distribution.

Prayers for bushfire victims were said at the 11am Mass in St Christopher's Cathedral and in parishes on the national day of mourning called by Prime Minister Mr Kevin Rudd.

Archbishop Coleridge paid tribute to Canberra firefighter Mr David Balfour, who was killed while serving in Victoria.

"To David Balfour's wife, Celia, and family we extend our deepest sympathy and the assurance of our prayers as this time of great sorrow." The Balfours had long been well-known and well-loved parishioners of South Tuggeranong.

He also asked that parishes and communities contribute to the bushfires message book which Mr Rudd has launched "as a lasting

record of the nation's support and sympathy, and our resolve to help them rebuild their lives and their communities".

Archbishop Coleridge said it had been suggested that people in the Archdiocese, especially in Canberra, who may have second homes on the coast or elsewhere offer them rent-free and perhaps even longer term to those who have been left with nothing.

"Perhaps we could also help in a 'rural' way, given how many people on the land have been stricken by the fires. The farmers of this Archdiocese may well have some ingenious ideas on farm-to-farm help - fencing, live stock, feed etc. School-to-school or parish-to parish schemes could also generate some creative possibilities."

Individual donations by cheque may be made out to the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn Charitable and Welfare Fund, and mailed to GPO Box 3089, Canberra 2601. Donations by credit card may be made by telephoning 6201 9800. Donations over \$2 are tax



deductible and receipts will be sent on request.

From holding fundraisers to giving blood, schools around the Archdiocese have showed their support. Principal of St John Vianney's Primary School in Waramanga Mrs Vicky van der Sanden said many students and staff had been affected by the Canberra bushfires in 2003 and as a result memories had been brought "flooding back".

● In Victoria, though the church has burnt down and the town devastated, the community of St Mary's, Kinglake, continue to celebrate Sunday Mass in a local restaurant.

ABOVE: "We are thinking of you..." Emily Locke, Hayley Paterson, Kasey Smyth and Tahlia Bush from St Clare of Assisi School, Conder, have a message for the fire victims of Victoria. LEFT: Part of a procession including vintage and current fire engines as Tuggeranong firefighter Mr David Balfour is honoured by a huge crowd of mourners.

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## entertainment



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**Fr Ron Rolheiser on the healing embrace of the Eucharist.**

**20** Project Compassion begins.

**Catholic Voice each month is following the everyday experiences of St Francis Xavier College schoolgirl Emma as she navigates her way through year 12.**

Dancing, singing, poor organisation and screaming (surrounded by expensive equipment). It's what you learn to expect from a senior media class.

Okay so I know you're thinking that sounds terrible, but I assure you it is quite the opposite. The music blasting from the media room and the constant running around the school are not the actions of an uncontrollable group of students, more the actions of young adults expressing themselves through film.

And just to erase any doubts you may have, we do still have assignments and it does require some skill to get a good mark. I found that I joined media not expecting that it would change my lifestyle and the way I view things.

Everyone laughed when we were told that by the end of the year we wouldn't be able to watch a film without subconsciously naming and criticising each shot. To be honest, I thought it would be a complete bludge.

Unfortunately for us, we received the shock of our lives. There are countless things to be done, ranging from writing to editing footage - even trying to find 42 extras for a short film.

It is a subject where you pour hours and hours of your life into a six-minute film. Naturally, you become close to those you work with when you put your emotions on the line and challenge your boundaries so openly.

One memory that I will not forget is filming for 16 hours over two days for a sitcom - we never used any of this footage. Yet this wasn't the reason I remember those two days so well.

For our major production we were asked to write a sitcom for a certain target audience. Panamax Productions (aka our media group) chose late night SBS and wrote a comedy called A Fun Way to Lose Weight, all about a group of recovering drug addicts - yes, we wanted something truly unique.

Over those two days there was a lot of stress, a lot of laughing and a 30-second clip of myself covered in cake, biscuits, cream and sugar crying about the situation. All in all the six of us were left with many strange memories and a close bond that only that amount of pressure can bring.

I like to think filming is a traumatic experience that you would put yourself through time and time again to get that feeling of success.

Now the pressure is back on with plenty of film festivals and competitions coming up, assignments and a media night each term. I'm sure that we'll have as much fun as we always do and there will be many more memories.

Lucky for me I have the support of my friends and Panamax Productions to get me through, because sometimes the making of the film is just as important as the six-minute glimpse that everyone else will see.

## emma's year



## page2

### Temora honours locals

Members of Sacred Heart Parish and St Anne's school community in Temora were recognised for their contribution to the local community in Australia Day celebrations.

In the citizen of the year section, nominations included St Anne's religious education coordinator Kim Crannis, parent Jenny Schmidt and Temora parishioner Trish Harmon. Emma Southwell, a Year 8 student of St Anne's, was nominated for junior citizen of the year. Parish efforts towards World Youth Day were recognised in the event of the year category and the award was given to centenary of the Sacred Heart Church organising committee.



ABOVE: From left (back) Dennis Sleigh (centenary committee), parish priest Fr Phil Harding, David Keenan (WYD co-ordinator). Front: Trish Harmon, Emma Southwell, Kim Crannis and Aimee Schmidt representing her mother, Jenny display awards granted by the Temora Shire Australia Day Committee.

### Green for a day

St Patrick's Day has come to be associated with everything Irish: anything green, shamrocks and good luck.

It's also a time to remember the legend and history of St Patrick, Ireland's patron saint. He was kidnapped as a teenager by Irish terrorists and exploited as a slave for six years. After making a daring escape, he chose to go back to his kidnappers and extend the hand of forgiveness and friendship. He spent the rest of his life sharing with them the thing he valued most, his faith.

The Canberra Friends of Ireland Society will hold its annual lunchtime ecumenical service at noon on Monday, 16 March, the eve of the great day, at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture in Barton Irish-born Uniting Church minister and centre director Rev Prof James Haire will lead the service. Other speakers will include retired Catholic Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney, also Irish-born David Cremin, and Irish-Australian and former Federal Government minister Susan Ryan. Inquiries: Jessica Nelson, telephone 6272 6201, or Angela Devlin 6231 9104.

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



Parishioners at St Mary's, Young, have spent many hours again this year making palm crosses for Palm Sunday. Last year the team made more than 10,000 crosses for the Archdiocese and helped to fund the parish's World Youth Day team. This year the funds are going to help furnish the new presbytery which will be opened in May. The crosses are sent to parishes that order them at \$10 for 50. Palm crosses may be ordered by contacting the parish office, telephone 6382 2222.

ABOVE: The cross-makers hard at work ... Laurel Green, Joan Spring, Denise Dwyer, Maree Delamont, Jan Manwaring, Gloria McAlister, Sharon Hamill, Jean Spring, Marie McCabe and Irene Hopwood.

## what do you know?

**1. Which of these two churches has a stained-glass window devoted to Mary MacKillop?**

**Cathedral, St Peter Chanel, Yarralumla.**

**2. Which is not a Canberra college?**

**Trinity, Daramalan, St Eddies, Merici**

**3. The famous Bishop Morgan was known to many as "Alo", short for Aloysius. What was his first name?**

**4. In what year did Pope John XXIII die?**

**1958, 1963, 1969, 1973**

**5. What is the name of the church at Narooma?**

**Our Lady of Good Counsel, Our Lady Star of the Sea, St Mary's, Our Lady Help of Christians**

**6. Just a little toddler here, but even today she still loves having a good time with young people. Who is she?**

**Answers, bottom Page 4.**





# Valley school fills its hall to show it cares



The hall at St Clare of Assisi School, Conder, looked all the world like a warehouse, cluttered with a growing mountain of boxes.

In the aftermath of the Victorian bushfire disaster, school parent and truck owner Geoff Paterson and wife Kathy had teed up with a Canberra radio station for St Clare's to be a drop-off point for public donations.

More than 600 boxes of goods were packed by school staff and parents before Mr Paterson joined the long drive south.

Students joined in to write letters and prayers of support that were packed with the donations of toiletries, food, water, clothing and a myriad other items.

The school's telephone had "rung off the hook", principal Mr Greg Walker said, as front-office staff battled to keep up with inquiries from donors.

Parent Ms Di Smyth said among the donors were families from Duffy who faced the 2003 Canberra firestorm and people who drove a trailer-load of goods over from Boorowa.

The parents of one school mother were caught up in the Victorian fires and, although they were safe, they had lost friends.

Mr Walker said a number of the students had been touched to see toys being sent to Victoria to replace those that children had lost.

LEFT: Plenty of hard work here ... with a small section of the mountain of boxes are (from left) school office staff member Shari Selkirk, parent Di Smyth, wife of truck owner Kathy Paterson, Tayla Paterson, principal Greg Walker and school secretary Karen Snowball.

# Everyone sends their messages of hope

From holding fundraisers to giving blood, schools around the Archdiocese have shown their support for those affected by the Victorian bushfires any way they could.

Principal of St John Vianney's Primary School in Waramanga Mrs Vicky van der Sanden said many students and staff had been affected by the Canberra bushfires in 2003 and as a result memories had been brought "flooding back".

"We've been encouraging children to express how they're feeling through prayer and art," she said.

Mrs van der Sanden said the school was collecting donations of second hand or new children's clothes and toys which they would send to Victoria.

"We thought we'd focus on children as many of them have been left with only what they were wearing. The donations have been coming in thick and fast."

Principal of St Anne's, Temora, Mr Dennis Sleight said the school had been "inundated with fundraiser ideas from kids and parents", but most immediately staff members visited the blood bank.

"I heard on the news that burn victims require a lot of blood and it just so happens that the mobile blood bank was scheduled months ago to come to Temora for two days," he said.

Former principal and now a volunteer on the school's pupil support scheme, Sr Gerardine Agnew RSJ, was one of 13 staff from St Anne's who responded to the urgent call from the Red Cross for blood donors to help burns victims in Victoria.

This was the 33rd time Sr Gerardine had donated blood, while for some staff the blood donation was a first.

"We were delighted to be able to show our concern for those in such great need," Mr Sleight said.

Within days of the bushfires, donations of blankets, food, clothes and even pet supplies came flooding through the door of St Jude's Primary School, Holder, principal Mr Michael Lowe said.

Mr Lowe said in the future he hoped to create a sister school relationship with a school in the affected area.

"We'd like to get in contact with a school in that area and send books and supplies to them," he said.

"Even if it was just to send messages of hope, we'd really like to support them."

Headmaster of Marist College, Pearce, Mr Richard Sidorko said the school had ask the staff and students to donate money to the Victorian bushfires.

"We had an appeal amongst the boys and staff and raised \$5600," he said. "We have service captains in the school who organised appeals in the houses."

## Doorknock funds aids victims

Funds from this year's Vinnies doorknock appeal will go to help victims of the Victorian bushfire disaster.

The St Vincent de Paul Society in the Archdiocese normally directs all money raised during the doorknock to local needs, but made an exception this year.

The doorknock ran throughout February, but donations may still be made.

Vinnies ACT suggests the best way to help the bushfire victims is by making a financial donation to the Victorian Disaster Appeal through [www.vinnies.org.au](http://www.vinnies.org.au), by

calling Vinnies ACT on 6282 2722, or through the doorknock appeal.

Chief executive officer Mr Bob Wilson said "a significant portion" of the 2009 doorknock appeal funds would go to bushfire relief.

"Financial donations will provide the most meaningful assistance to those who have lost loved ones, homes and businesses. Vinnies will use funds raised to provide emergency relief and long-term assistance to the communities affected by this tragedy to help them rebuild their homes and lives."



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# An atrocious wound that becomes a fountain of life

Ash Wednesday is by now behind us and we have begun the journey to Easter. The name of the first day of Lent could hardly be more poignant and appropriate, given what we have seen in recent days with the apocalyptic fires in Victoria. How strangely typical of this huge island that in the south we were burning and in the north drowning, one end sizzling, the other swamped.

This is not a land of gentle contours and contrasts. Perhaps it's that sense of the extremes that has always made Australia in some ways so menacing a land, and why perhaps so many of us cling to its shores and huddle in our cities. T S Eliot once said that humankind cannot bear too much reality. It seems we can't easily bear too much of the often harsh reality of our own land.

Fire, it seems, has always been a part of the ecology of the island. Perhaps the Indigenous peoples have understood this in a way that the rest of us struggle to do. But this firestorm was something else. In the words of one of the politicians I met, it turned our forests into atom bombs. Certainly some of the pictures from Victoria were eerily reminiscent of Hiroshima or Nagasaki. Everything was destroyed.

Bushfires are usually capricious, taking some things but leaving others. But these fires were total: they took everything. Rarely in Australia have we been reminded of just how fragile we are.

As at Christmas I thought of Sting's song: "On and on the rain will say how fragile we are, how fragile we are". Here it was not the rain that fell, but the fire from heaven - or at least from above - to create a kind of hell. And how pathetically fragile we all felt. Not just fragile but impotent. There was little or nothing we could do once the firestorm started. Or so it seemed.

And perhaps the fact that we - or at least those of us who are not Indigenous - have been so often insulated against the tragedies of the world made our sense of dismay all the greater. That's the way it is in Australia. It's part of our Antipodean innocence.

The ashes of Ash Wednesday recall in a very physical way the fragility which is our mortality: "Remember that you are dust and unto dust you will return". Hundreds died in the fires, but all of us huddle under the pall of death. That can be a depressing thought, unless we glimpse something more than the pall.

That's what we have glimpsed in the extraordinary resilience of those who survived the apocalypse in Victoria; in the extraordinary generosity of the millions here and overseas who have chipped in to offer help so desperately needed; in the politi-

cians and professionals who have gone way beyond the demands of office to show that they too are flesh and blood and know what compassion means.

For every tragic story of loss - and how many there are - there are as many stories of a heroism which is all the better because it doesn't see itself as such. That was the spirit in which our own David Balfour went to help with the fires and lost his life. Our deepest sympathy goes to Celia and the children in the wake of their tragic loss.

If the ash of Lent's beginning looks to the Easter phoenix rising from the ashes, the life that is bigger than death, then so too do these acts of heroism look to something beyond the ashes of the Victorian apocalypse. I can understand why some who have lost all would say that there is no phoenix to rise from the ashes of these fires.

But I also believe that the atrocious wound of these fires is already becoming a fountain of life that could have come in no other way. God knows, this doesn't mean that it's good that the fires came. But it does mean that there is at work a strange logic which turns even this wound to a fountain which may not quench the fires but which is already strengthening a weary nation. It's the same logic - the logic of Easter - which sends us to the ashes as we begin the journey through the scorched earth of Lent to the garden of Easter which is glorious only because the fires have come.

We have had a National Day of Mourning, and rightly so. On that Day of Mourning, many attended the National Memorial Service held in Melbourne. Here we gathered for Mass in the Cathedral and in many churches around the Archdiocese.

We did so because, however far the memorial service went, it could not touch the heights of Calvary where the sacrifice of Jesus - the Cross in the darkness - tells the full truth of what has been suffered and what lies beyond. The Cross is the key to understanding the apocalypse, and therefore we celebrated the Eucharist. We also did so because only this great act of thanksgiving, given to us by God, can touch the depths of the goodness that this suffering has stirred.

I urge you to continue in prayer for the victims of the fires, the living and the dead. There is no more fundamental service that we can offer the nation in this time of sorrow, no more fundamental duty that we can perform.



+Bishop Mark



MacKillop faith and community captain Michael Rech accepts a donation from Year 12 student Jennie Limberiou.



Students at Daramalan College sort through food, bedding, clothes and toys which the school collected.

## Pope 'deeply saddened'

Pope Benedict XVI sent a message to Governor-General Ms Quentin Bryce expressing his sadness at the tragic consequences of the Victorian bush-fire disaster.

The message, relayed by Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, said:

Deeply saddened to learn of the tragic consequences of recent fires in the state of Victoria, His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI assures all affect-

ed of his closeness in prayer.. The Holy Father commends the deceased to the loving mercy of almighty God, and upon their grieving families and all those suffering from loss of property and destruction of land he invokes divine strength and consolation. His Holiness likewise prays for all involved in providing assistance to the victims of this disaster, encouraging them in their efforts to bring relief and support.

### Donation to Archbishop's Bush Fire Appeal

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Credit Card: \$ .....

☐ Mastercard ☐ Bankcard ☐ Visa

Card Number:

Name on Card: .....

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

Signature: .....

Please make cheque payable to Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn Charitable and Welfare Fund.



Lumen Christi College leaders, from left, vice-captain Clark Darcy, captains Justin Maher-Smith and Erin Nugent, and vice-captain Jaala Hyde led the Pambula college's response to the bushfires. They were using a Rural Fire Services firefighter's helmet to collect cash donations.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW? Answers: 1. Both. 2. Trinity. 3. John. 4. 1963. 5. Our Lady Star of the Sea. 6. Daniela Kesina, Catholic Youth Ministry team manager.



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# Students spread their net wide

MacKillop College funds will go to a bushfire affected school community in the La Trobe Valley of Victoria.

After three days of collections, principal Mr Michael Lee said the college had raised "a substantial amount of money" which would go to Lavalla Catholic College, where he and deputy principal Ms Michelle Marks began their teaching careers in the 1980s.

After a meeting of the Year 12 leadership team and college staff, Mr Lee said the school decided "to focus on donations of cash in return of nothing".

"There was no uniform free day, no sausage sizzle, we simply appealed to the students for donations," he said.

"The students have been very modest and generous and I am proud of the dignity they have brought to the school."

Mr Lee said Lavalla College would use the funds to provide support to its community with food, transport, shelter and clothing and by helping families who required financial support for funerals.

In a college newsletter, St Edmund's headmaster Mr Peter Fullagar said the tragedy of the loss of life and property in the Victorian fires was "somewhat overwhelming".

"As an act of solidarity with those who have lost so much, the St Edmund's community is responding by collecting donations in morning tutor group," he said.

"As a Catholic school community our prayers of support are offered up for those individuals, families and rural communities who have suffered these past days.

"Given Canberra's recent past, there are many in the Canberra community who know first hand the enormity of such events."

In the two weeks following the bushfires, McAuley Central School in Tumut acted as a community gathering point for linen, toys and cash which they handed over to the Red Cross, St Vincent de Paul and Rotary Clubs.

"We started with just the school community, but after advertising we've had such a wonderful reaction from the entire community," principal Ms Patricia Mangelsdorf said.

"It encourages students to think about someone other than themselves, those who are less fortunate. It's a real eye opener for the youngsters who take so much for granted."

Staff and students from St Patrick's Primary School in Gundagai decided victims of the bushfires would need toiletries.

Principal Mr Mark Hockey asked families to contribute a shoebox full of toiletries, marked with which sex and age it would be suitable for.

"We thought that was a good way for children to do something hands-on," he said.

"Our local St Vincent de Paul is coordinating the delivery, so we know it is going to actually get to the people who need it."

More than 1500 staff and students from Daramalan College provided necessities such as food, bedding, clothes and toys, which were packed into two large trucks and transported to people left homeless in the fire-ravaged areas.

Principal Ms Rita Daniels said one person had purchased "over a dozen brand new coffee mugs for the groups for people who had been relocated to temporary shelters."

Daramalan College later held a uniform-free day and which raised more than \$7000.

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



Sr Gerardine Agnew was one of 13 staff at St Anne's, Temora, to give blood. (Photo courtesy of Temora Independent).

## 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."  
Pope Benedict XVI



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# ‘Stir up a fire’, youth urged



CYM team members Will Bardett, Liam Mackay, Ana Moran and Erin Cassidy outside St Christopher's Cathedral with Archbishop Mark Coleridge.

Archbishop Mark Coleridge has encouraged the 2009 Catholic Youth Ministry team to be revolutionaries and "stir up a fire" for archdiocesan vocations.

Ana Moran, Will Bardett, Erin Cassidy and Liam Mackay were commissioned by Archbishop Coleridge as the new Catholic Youth Ministry team during a Mass at St Christopher's Cathedral.

"Canberra is a city that has

never been a stranger to political revolution," he said.

"That is why it is important for us to focus on the revolution that is Jesus.

"This is a revolutionary world beyond all of the politics and all of the ideologies, a world in which Jesus does the unthinkable and touches the untouchable."

Archbishop Coleridge said the Catholic Youth Ministry team

was commissioned "to embody and communicate to others the revolutionary Jesus".

"He has called you to be those who touch the untouchable.

"You will gain much from this and you will be incredibly rewarded for your sacrifice.

"We hope the CYM team stirs up a fire for vocations in this Archdiocese. We need more."

# Many more seek Vinnies' help

The number of people seeking help from Vinnies in Canberra is rising rapidly.

Speaking at the launch of the St Vincent de Paul Society annual doorknock appeal, archdiocesan president Mr Evan Brett said Vinnies had helped 130 new clients in January, 22 of whom had lost their jobs.

"Compared with January last year calls for assistance have risen 30 per cent," he said. "We anticipate that this number will grow even more in the coming months." The doorknock was "an appeal to the value we hold dearest as a nation: a fair go for all.

"Given the challenges we face as a nation and as a local community, now is the time for a real demonstration of compassion and social justice.

"In the capital of this prosperous nation, it is the people we assist who remain the most vulnerable to the economic turbulence of our times. Every day and night our members, who are volunteers, go into the homes of the excluded and marginalised.

"We provide shelter to people experiencing homelessness, financial, emotional and spiritual support for families doing it tough.

"We go out onto the streets of Canberra to reach out to the people who have no place to go, we assist refugees, people in prison, people with drug problems, people with mental illnesses, kids who miss out on the

chance to go away on a holiday, women and children escaping domestic violence, people who live and work on the land, and our indigenous sisters and brothers."

Mr Brett said members were continuing the story of founder Frederic Ozanam and his friends who, in turn, were continuing the story of Jesus and his companions.

"This, for us, is the heart of the matter. No ifs and no buts."

Some things were done differently today. One example was the Compeer program, in which members reach out in acts of friendship to people living with mental illness.

Another program was Clemente, where Vinnies works in partnership with Australian Catholic University to run accredited courses in the humanities for homelessness or disadvantaged people.

"The goal of these courses is to provide a space in which they can experience education as a way of feeling fully human, fully alive," he said.

"Some students opt to go on to use these accredited courses in the pursuit of university degrees. So far we have had 10 graduates from this program and here in the ACT we expect our first graduate at the end of the first semester. In addition, we have had 28 graduates through an indigenous scholarship program in partnership with the three Canberra universities."



Ana Moran, Will Bardett, Liam Mackay and Erin Cassidy bring up the gifts at the offertory procession.

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## Why I do ...

A column in which well known and not so well-known people in our Archdiocese tell us about themselves. This month Angela Kelly, who started this year at St Michael's Primary School, Kaleen, introduces herself.



## what I do

### Why did you become a teacher?

I've always enjoyed working with kids, everyday is different and challenging, I guess it's something I've always seen myself doing since I was little.

### Where were you educated?

St Gregory's Queanbeyan - Primary  
St Clare's College- Secondary  
Australian Catholic University- Tertiary.

### Did a teacher have a special impact on your life?

My year 3 and 6 teacher Miss Krevatin - she was so lovely and her lessons were always fun! If you're reading this, hi!!

### What part of your job do you enjoy most?

Seeing the smiles on the kids faces each day, especially when they achieve that one thing that has been tricky for them to gain an understanding of.

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

The difficult home/life situations some children face and have to deal with everyday.

### In an ideal world, what would you most like to change or achieve through your job?

Giving those children in difficult situations not only an education but a chance to come to school and learn and grow in a supportive and caring environment.

### What are you most looking forward to in 2009?

Working in a new school, new colleagues and new students.

### What do you do for fun outside of work?

Spend lots of time with friends and family and travelling- I LOVE travelling. Next stop Thailand.





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# \$100m stimulus boost for schools

Schools in the Archdiocese will receive up to \$100 million from the Federal Government over three years as part of its economic stimulus package.

In all, \$14.7 billion out of the total \$42 billion package has been allocated to the Building the Education Revolution program providing funding for new facilities and refurbishments to all Australian schools.

Catholic Education director Mrs Moira Najdecki said it was an exciting opportunity to improve school infrastructure and leave a long-lasting legacy for school communities. "The program is first and foremost a jobs stimulus package and, as such, projects must be commenced and completed quickly," she said.

"The Government has set timeframes which are challenging. However, we are in the process of gathering information from our school communities so we can identify and prioritise applications for projects that meet the program criteria. We are confident that we can take full advantage of what is likely to be a one-off opportunity to provide significant upgrades to our schools.

"Each diocese has been given the responsibility for distributing available funding from the program among their Catholic schools on the basis of need. However, there is an expectation that all schools will receive some benefit from the program."

Each diocese has been given the responsibility for distributing available funding from the program among their Catholic schools on the basis of need. However, there is an expectation that all schools will receive some benefit from the program."

A cross-section of schools contacted by Catholic Voice indicated they would seek money to upgrade libraries, enhance sports facilities and install shade cloth.

Principal of Trinity Catholic Primary in Murrumburrah Ms Katrina McGrath said the school would like to spend some money on an outdoor sports centre, which would be shared with the community of Harden-Murrumburrah.

"The town doesn't have any really good facilities and if we could we'd like to provide a venue where the community can do different things," she said.

Principal of St Thomas Aquinas Primary in Charnwood Mr John Bourke said upgrades to classrooms, the library and hall, shade

cloth for outside areas and a language and cultural centre were on the school's list. "If I had to prioritise some things, fencing around the perimeter of the school would be very important," he said.

Principal of Good Shepherd Primary School in Amaroo Mr Graham Pollard said he would like to spend money on shade cloth and hall and library refurbishment. "We are looking at making our hall more user friendly for performances by constructing a stage and improving the acoustics," he said.

St Anthony's Parish School in Wanniasa hoped to make the most of the stimulus money, which was "a once in a lifetime opportunity", principal Mr Tim Elliott said. "We have demountable classrooms here

that are 25 years old and in desperate need of replacing," he said.

Principal of St Benedict's Primary in Narrabundah Mrs Anne Staines said the school's library needed to be refurbished. "We'd like to revamp the library into a resource centre and use the space more effectively," she said.

St Francis Xavier College in Florey "could always do with money for minor refurbishment", principal Mr Angus Tulley said. "The performing arts area needs to be upgraded," he said.

Principal of Sacred Heart Primary in Pearce Mr Brad Gaynor said the school needed to refurbish classrooms, the library, hall and canteen, as well as build a new music and language centre.

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## Pilgrims head for Galong

The grounds of St Clement's conference and retreat centre this year once again will be transformed into a sprawling tent city as young people from across Australia and the Asia-Pacific come to Galong to celebrate Easter at Light to the Nations.

The pilgrimage will begin on Holy Thursday with an evening Mass, remembering the institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper, and the covenant of love Jesus made to his disciples.

On Good Friday there will be a dramatic re-enactment of the Stations of the Cross, enabling the pilgrims to draw deeper into the sacrifice of Easter.

On Friday night the pilgrims will take part in the Liturgy of Shadows, or Tenebrae, which will be celebrated by Archbishop Mark Coleridge, who will then lead them into the sacrament of Confession.

On Easter Saturday the pilgrimage walk up Rosary Hill follows in the footsteps of Archbishop Bede Polding, first Archbishop of Australia. Pilgrims will pray for Australia as he did.

The pinnacle of the pilgrimage is the Easter Vigil on Saturday night.

To register for Light to the Nations, go to the website **www.ltnn.org.au** Places are limited.

In addition to the event an extended pilgrimage will take place before Easter when a group of pilgrims will undertake an eight-day, 150km walk to Galong arriving in time for Light to the Nations.

Archbishop Mark Coleridge will see them off on 1 April from the steps of St. Christopher's Cathedral.

They will head through the Brindabellas to Wee Jasper, across Lake Burrinjuck by boat and through Bookham and Binalong to Galong, averaging about 20km a day.

For more information about the pilgrimage walk, contact Anthony Ringrose-Voase, telephone 6296 1734, e-mail **ringrose-voase@home-mail.com.au**

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# Winemaker Tim's two great loves ...

**By Naomi Fallon**

In the midst of managing a successful winery, Tim Kirk is trying to be the best possible father and husband he can, and doing his bit to make the world "a little less dark".

Mr Kirk, 41, is the chief winemaker and general manager of Clonakilla Wines at Murrumbateman, established in 1971 by his father John as the first commercial vineyard in the area.

"It was always intended to be a business, but he kept his day job," he said.

"It's very hard to make much money out of wine and it wasn't profitable for a very long time."

Born in Aberystwyth, Wales, Mr Kirk was the fourth of six sons to Julia and John, who met while they were completing biochemistry doctorate at Cambridge University.

A year later the family left Wales when Mr Kirk's father was headhunted by CSIRO, which began his "distinguished scientific career in Australia".

Mr Kirk said he enjoyed growing up with seven males in the house.

"My mum is a marvellous woman. Six boys and a dad would have created a lot of male ego flowing around."

He said he might not be the brightest or best looking of his brothers, who are all "very clever and successful people", but Mr Kirk said his job is the most fun.

When he was in Year 10 at Daramalan College, Mr Kirk met "the love of his life", Year 9 St Clare's College student Lara Hughes, at an interschool debate.

"We later became really firm friends on a Catholic youth retreat when we were both 15.

"We were very deep close friends before it became anything romantic, although to tell the truth I fell in love with her when I first met her."

With a degree in theology up his sleeve, Mr Kirk married Lara in 1990 and they moved to Melbourne where they both completed diplomas in education.

"I taught religious education at the Jesuit school, Xavier College for four years.

"I often joke that anyone who can teach religion to Year 9 boys after lunch on a Friday can command the attention of any audience, anywhere, anytime."

While in Melbourne, Mr Kirk discovered another great romance was brewing.

"I suppose I didn't get into wine until I left home and found I not only liked and appreciated wine, but I had a great sense of smell and taste. Melbourne gave me the opportunity

to visit wineries and winemakers and to learn from them. I fell in love with wine over those years."

In 1996 the Kirks returned to the family farm in Murrumbateman with their first born Madeleine, and Mr Kirk began his role as winemaker and general manager of Clonakilla.

"The business has grown enormously since I've come back and now it's regarded as one of the best wineries in the country."

Despite the hot weather Canberra and surrounds endured early this year, Mr Kirk said the grapes on the Murrumbateman property had fortunately "fared quite well".

Clonakilla could not afford another set back, after losing 95 per cent of the Murrumbateman crop to frost in 2007.

"It was certainly a very significant financial and psychological blow and we were justifiably upset. But fortunately we don't have all of our eggs in one basket and we buy fruit from other growers.

"These are interesting times. We've certainly noticed a warming in the climate. In the short term that has worked in our favour. It's changed the cool climate flavours into more robust, richer, warmer climate flavours. We're in a better position than many other wineries."

Since joining the "wonderful, motley group of committed Christians" the Disciples of Jesus when he was 18, Tim's Catholicism has been "the hinge upon which everything else hangs".

"My family, personal and business life is all conducted through the prism of a deep faith in a loving God. It's important to me that we treat everyone we come across with the same dignity and respect.

"My hope is that as a committed Catholic family man with a passion for wine, I can do my bit to make the world a little less dark."

Mr Kirk said he loves being able to go home to have lunch with his family every day. Since the seven family members have outgrown their three-bedroom house, this month the Kirks began building "a proper family homestead to live the rest of our lives in".

Until this year, the couple had opted to home school their five children, but due to the "full time job" of building the new house, they have sent Madeleine, 13, Anna, 11, Aodhan, 10, Thomas, 8 and Kate, 5 to Mt Carmel School in Yass.

"Lara home schooled them because we really just loved having the kids around us. We felt it was the best we could do at the time. We take our role as the first educators of our children very seriously."

While living in Melbourne with wife Lara, Tim Kirk discovered another great romance was brewing. The couple (below) pictured at their highly successful Clonakilla winery at Murrumbateman.



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# Those first-day nerves ...



Hundreds of excited and nervous children across the Archdiocese embarked on their first day at "big school" in early February.

The Archdiocese's first Catholic pre-school, Holy Family Early Learning and Care Centre in Gowrie, welcomed its first intake of 42 students who tested out the brand new facilities on offer.

What to play with first? There was a sandpit full of children, a shiny new adventure play ground and little red bicycles to wizz around on - complete with training wheels.

Kindergarten students at St Monica's Primary School in Evatt shared their first day nerves with new principal, Ms Carmel Maguire.

Despite her busy schedule, Ms Maguire did not mind stopping to help out a fellow "newby", who was not coping so well with the stress of his first day at big school.

Annabel Whalen from KS made a new friend, Ashleigh Druett and learnt all about the "chair fairy".

"She comes and takes your chairs if they're not pushed in," she said.

At St Thomas More's Primary

School in Campbell, the kindergarten class was getting crafty.

Teacher Mrs Helen Bramanathan was preparing for three Lachlans, Lachlan McGrath, Lachlan McFarland and Lachlan Prideux.

Reading books and playing with blocks and beads were among many activities on the agenda for the four kindergarten classes at St Gregory's Primary School in Queanbeyan.

In kinder red, five-year-old Rebecca Goodall said she had enjoyed the experience so far. "I like sitting together and playing with one another," she said.



ABOVE: First the 3 Rs, now the 3Ls... at St Thomas More's, Campbell, Lachlan McGrath, Lachlan McFarland and Lachlan Prideux.

BELOW: Sophie Gibson made a fun pair of glasses at St Thomas More's, Campbell.



TOP LEFT: Cameron Cox checks the time at the new pre-school at Gowrie.

ABOVE LEFT: Pre-schoolers Brady Coghlan and Victor Anthony make sand castles.

ABOVE RIGHT: Grace Black and Sarah Bogue are ready for school at St Gregory's Primary, Queanbeyan.

LEFT: Joshua Garrity gets a sticker from teacher Ms Gemma Cox for being good at St Monica's Primary School, Evatt.

BELOW: New friends Ashleigh Druett and Annabel Whalen at St Monica's, Evatt.



## Be passionate, students urged

During the St Edmund's College opening Mass, new headmaster Mr Peter Fullagar encouraged his students to be passionate about their school.

Archbishop Mark Coleridge celebrated the Mass at St Christopher's Cathedral and college chaplain Fr Ben Roberts concelebrated.

During the Mass, Mr Fullagar and the 2009 college youth ministry team were commissioned by Archbishop Coleridge.

Mr Fullagar said he was excited by the prospect of leading St Edmund's College.

"My hope and prayer is that 2009 is a successful year, a year of growth and learning," he said.

"A year that with our words and actions we can make St Edmund's the very best school it can be."

"I want you to be young men who are passionate about their school."

College vice captain Oliver Mahoney said he had been involved with youth ministry at St Edmund's since he was in year 9 and had found it a lot easier to approach faith when he was surrounded by his mates.

"I have been able to explore my relationship with God and watch my mates go through the same thing as well," he said.



Archbishop Coleridge commissioned the 2009 youth ministry team and thanked them "for accepting the burden of leadership which is also a great privilege".

LEFT: The youngest student at the college Brent Worsley of

Year 4 Blue lights the college candle with the help of Br Matt McKeon.

ABOVE: Archbishop Mark Coleridge congratulates new headmaster Mr Peter Fullagar.



# Gangsters and their victims in Zimbabwe

## voices



Fr Oskar Wermter SJ has been in Zimbabwe for close to 40 years. He is a pastoral priest and a writer who divides his time between working in St Peter's Mbare Parish in Harare and running Jesuit Communications, the media arm of the Zimbabwean Jesuits.

trauma workshops. The division between perpetrators and victims runs right through our parish community: some parishioners are supporters of the "ruling party" and a few were involved in torturing their opponents.

We need a time for "truth and reconciliation", as does the whole country.

Some neighbourhoods have no water, and raw sewage runs along many streets. The water that does come out of our taps is smelly and of dubious quality.

We distribute water purification tablets to protect people against cholera which has hit the country. The overcrowded and dilapidated flats and hostels have the highest incidence.

The faithful no longer shake hands as a sign of peace during Mass, trying to avoid infection. Priest and assistant ministers wash their hands thoroughly before giving Holy Communion.

We have started a parish health committee to advise parish members on hygiene and to assist the poor who cannot get medical treatment because the state hospitals have shut down.

Most people are unemployed. Many survive with the remittances they received from their children, or grandchildren, working overseas, including Australia and New Zealand.

Now even people who used to survive somehow on their own come after dark and tell the priest with some embarrassment because they are not beggars, "Father, we have not eaten for three days".

I have some sacks of mealie meal, beans etc in my office for immediate "first aid", then I send them to the St Vincent de Paul Society office with a note, so SVP investigates and puts them on the list of regular recipients of food aid if necessary.

Many parents come for school fees they can no longer pay, especially now that our own currency has become worthless and schools have no choice but to charge in US \$ or South African Rand.

Social and charitable work takes up a great deal of our time as pastors. The parish house is always beleaguered by dozens of needy people.

Yesterday we buried Irene, mother of four. A divorcee, she had gone to work in South Africa where eventually she fell sick, probably due to HIV. She was in a serious condition when she got on to the bus to head home to children and family. She did not make it.

Three hundred kilometres



Cottages were demolished and thousands left homeless.

before she reached Harare she collapsed died, on the bus. A good number of HIV positive people in Mbare live normal lives on ARV treatment.

AIDS does no longer mean certain death. Far from it. But the fear lingers and people are still afraid of getting tested. This is tragic. Remaining untested and without treatment they have no chance. So we try and spread the word that people should get tested.

I was delighted when a young man told me, "My bride and I, we went for testing, we are all right, now we can get married."

There is no reason to dance on the streets and celebrate the "unity government". Mugabe has swallowed the opposition party before. He is not to be trusted. The people who have ruined the country cannot be expected to rebuild it. They have to go.

Maybe - but that is a very big maybe - this is the beginning of the end for them. A parishioner was kicked out of his flat by gangsters in June. He is still not

back in his place for which he pays rent. He is still occupying a room with his family in our parish centre.

The rule of law has not yet been reestablished. Abducted people are still being tortured. Unless these crimes against humanity committed by the state stop once and for all we cannot celebrate.

We need a new constitution and new elections. This "new" government is at best the transition to legality and lawfulness. But that is still a long way. At worst it is a big dirty trick, and we are being conned, as so often before.

I hope I am wrong, but I need to be convinced by facts, by real change which I do not see yet. The next few weeks will show if there is at least a glimmer of hope or if we have been conned, once again. Tsvangirai makes many promises and certainly has good intentions, but the road to hell is paved with good intentions as they say. However I will be glad if I am wrong. I wish I were.



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Ann Tunnecliffe & Victor Dunn

## Towards a new day this Lent

Towards a new day is the theme for this year's ecumenical Lenten program.

In a foreword to the program, Archbishop Mark Coleridge and leaders of the Anglican and Uniting churches say St Paul reminds us that there is "no Resurrection without the Cross, no dawn without darkness, no fullness of joy without the wound of suffering". In the Year of Paul, "we listen to his voice in a special way through this Lent", they say.

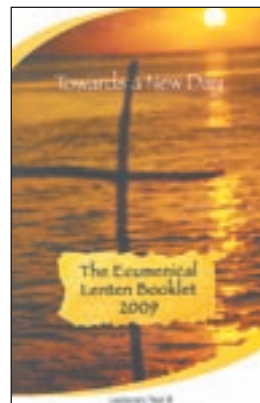
The program contains six sessions and is supported for the first time by a CD containing reading and hymns. For those who cannot attend

real-time study groups, there will be an opportunity to join an online reflection and discussion group.

In each session the readings are creatively considered offering imaginative ways to explore the scripture stories. As well as reflections and focus points, there are stories of contemporary Australians and pictures of traditional works of art.

The program is supported by the catholicLIFE website [www.catholiclife.org.au](http://www.catholiclife.org.au)

The program booklet costs \$8.80 and is available from the Catholic Bookshop Braddon and the Rheinberger Centre, Yarralumla.



## Documentary to promote vocations

A DVD exploring the lives and journeys of Australian men and women will be launched this month to promote vocations.

Entitled Holding Nothing Back, the project by Catholic Vocations Ministry Australia and Choicez Media offers a documentary film and seven in-depth interviews with religious and priests. It was

filmed during and after World Youth Day. From the stories of a former professional tennis player to builders and hospitality workers, the interviews are designed to help young people gain a better understanding of the call to vocation. Newcastle-Maitland Bishop Michael Malone will launch the DVD in Sydney.

**Send your news items and photographs to:  
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them to Catholic Voice,  
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# It's not about blame youth leaders told

Former Wagga Wagga police officer Dr Terry O'Connell has credited restorative practice for making him a "better companion on the journey".

Familiar to many people from his role in the 1999 ABC television documentary, *Facing the Demons*, the director of Real Justice Australia was in Canberra to speak at the Foundations in Catholic youth leadership conference, which was held over five days at the Rheinberger Centre, Yarralumla.

As a police officer in 1990, Dr O'Connell said he was instrumental in developing a national restorative justice model which brought together the victims and perpetrators of a crime.

The model has since been used in schools, workplaces and in the police force itself.

"I got involved with restorative practice because the focus was always on blame and punishment which provided no opportunity for individuals to take responsibility.

"It is about shifting the focus from who is to blame to issues of harm and

relationships."

Dr O'Connell said it would be beneficial for Catholic youth leaders to incorporate the use of restorative practice into their lives.

"Given their work is about promoting the concept of God, restorative practice is essential.

"They are able to engage in these practices to promote the set of gospel values that are so important."

During his session at the conference, Dr O'Connell said through restorative practice people "learn more about themselves and the way they can effectively change others".

"The challenge I want each of you to take up is to be consistent with your practice.

"It's not about blame, you need to help others to grow and to learn. The journey starts with you.

"Not only does this help you become a better leader, but it provides you with a common practice.

"It helps you with congeniality, it creates stronger teams and groups and



Dr Terry O'Connell ... "you need to help others to grow and learn".

a greater confidence in the terms of their own practice."

As a father of seven, a grandfather, a police officer for 30 years and an educator for the past 20 years, Dr O'Connell said restorative practice had helped him and others to make sense and meaning of their lives.

"It's certainly made me a much bet-

ter companion on the journey," he said.

Dr O'Connell has a degree in social welfare and a number of prestigious awards including an Order of Australia Medal and the Paul Harris Fellowship from Rotary International. Last October he received an honorary doctorate from the Australian Catholic University.

# Working together good for schools and local community

For more than a decade, Holy Spirit Primary School and neighbouring Gold Creek School have shared a library, playground and hall with each another and a sporting oval with the greater Gungahlin community.

Now they are to get \$2.5 million to upgrade the shared oval as part of the Federal Government's "Local Schools Working Together" initiative.

"This will be of great benefit to our children and the wider Gungahlin community," Holy Spirit principal Mrs Elizabeth Moroney said.

The upgrade will involve the installation of a synthetic sports field with fencing and lighting, soccer pitch, four-lane running track, two cricket practice wickets and a multi-use field including a hockey field, two futsal pitches and two netball courts.

Extensions to the hall will provide change rooms, amenities and an entrance for after-hours use.

Outside of school hours the oval which is owned and maintained by the ACT Department of Territory and Municipal Services is open to the public, which both school principals said does not worry them.

"There are some tough times coming up and if other people can make use of the oval then I think it's good," Mrs Moroney said.

Gold Creek principal Ms Sue Jose said the facilities were "good for Gungahlin - there is nothing like it in the area. We've got facilities here we wouldn't have as individual schools,"

After more than six years as principal of Holy Spirit, Mrs Moroney said she could not understand why more schools did not share campuses.

"I'm really sold on the idea. There are just so many benefits. A lot of these children went to pre-school together, or live in the same neighbourhood and this way they get to play together at lunchtime."

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



Principals Mrs Elizabeth Moroney and Ms Sue Jose on the area that will be upgraded at Holy Spirit and Gold Creek schools.

"We hold combined sporting events like the swimming carnival and the walkathon. We even have combined fire drills, Anzac Day services and library lessons."

Mrs Moroney said good communication between the two schools was vital for the joint venture to be successful.

"It really requires a lot of working together from the staff, but it's good for them. It's easy to become quite insular within your own school. There's been a really good spirit at this school from day one. We have terrific staff here.

"Every week the staff from both schools come together for morning tea. It really builds relationships between them."

Ms Jose said the shared campus was "a lovely atmosphere to work in".

"It's quite unique to have close to 900 children and staff from different schools working here together," she said.

The two schools share uniforms with the only difference being a blue hat for Gold Creek and a maroon hat for Holy Spirit.

"The sandpit is always just full of children from both schools - you can't tell the difference between the schools," Mrs Moroney said.

Both schools take part in shared library lessons and during lunchtime, Holy Spirit library teacher Mrs Anne Toole said up to 200 children could be in the building.

"If children need something they can go to any teacher - it doesn't matter what school they're from," she said.

"This is the first school for most of these children and so they don't really see this situation as being unusual."

Ms Toole said the shared campus was a great role model for other Catholic schools.

"What better way of evangelising - we are all the same community. It really breaks down those barriers between Catholic and government schools."

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

## New health care head

Catholic Healthcare, which is the largest Catholic provider of aged residential and community services in Australia, has appointed a new chairman. He is former deputy chairman Mr Kerry James, who succeeds Mr Michael Rowan, who was a board member for 10 years. The board has been strengthened by the appointment of Westpac managing director, treasury, Mr Jim Tate

### FACTS ON FUNERALS

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There are different kinds of loneliness and different kinds of intimacy. We ache in many places. When I was a young priest, newly ordained and barely beyond the loneliness of adolescence, certain words at the Eucharist touched me deeply.

I was a young and lonely and words about being drawn together inside one body and one spirit would incite feelings in me to do with my own loneliness.

To become one body in Christ triggered, in me, an image of an embrace that would put an end to my personal loneliness, my endless aching, and my sexual separateness. Unity in Christ, as I fantasised it then, meant overcoming my own loneliness.

And that is a valid understanding. The Eucharist is an embrace meant to take away personal loneliness, but, as we get older, a deeper kind of loneliness can and should begin to obsess us.

This deeper loneliness makes us aware how torn and divided is our world and everything and everyone in it. There is a global loneliness that dwarfs private pain.

How separate and divided is our world. We look around us, watch the world news, watch the local news, look at our places of work, our social circles, and even our churches, and we see tension and division

everywhere. We are far from being one body and one spirit.

So many things, it seems, work to divide us: history, circumstance, background, temperament, ideology, geography, creed, color, and gender. And then there are our personal wounds, jealousies, self-interest, and sin.

The world, like a lonely adolescent, aches too in its separateness. We live in a world deeply, deeply divided.

And the older I get, the more I despair that there can be a simple solution, or perhaps even a human solution at all, to our divisions. Life slowly teaches us that it is naive to believe that all we need is simple optimism, good-will, and an unfailing belief that love will conquer.

Love can and will conquer, but it doesn't happen like in a Hollywood picture, where two people, who really have no business ever being together, fall in love and, despite having nothing in common, despite being deeply wounded, despite being immature and selfish, and despite having no shared faith or values, are able to rise above all their differences to sustained embrace and ecstasy, simply because love conquers all.

At a certain point, we know that real life doesn't work like that, unless we die in that initial embrace as did Romeo and Juliet.

# The healing embrace of the Eucharist

Ron Rolheiser

Fr Ron Rolheiser, theologian, teacher, and award-winning author, is president of the Oblate School of Theology in Texas. [www.ronrolheiser.com](http://www.ronrolheiser.com)



Our differences eventually have their say, both inside of our personal relationships and inside the relationships between countries, cultures, ethnic groups, and religions.

At a certain point our differences, like a cancer that cannot be stopped, begin to make themselves felt and we feel helpless to overcome that.

But this isn't despair. It's health. As anyone who has ever fought an addiction knows, the beginning of a return to health lies in the admission of helplessness. It's only when we admit that we can't help ourselves that we can be helped.

We see in the gospels where so many times, immediately after finally grasping a teaching of Jesus, the apostles react with the words: "If that's true, then it's impossible for us, then there's nothing we can do!"

Jesus welcomes that response because in that admission we open ourselves to help. He replies: "It is impossible for you, but nothing is impossible for God."

Our prayers for unity and intimacy become effective precisely when they issue from this feeling of helplessness, when we ask God to do something for us that we have despaired of doing for ourselves.

We see an example of this within Quaker communities when people gather and simply sit with each other in silence, asking God to do for them what they cannot do for themselves, namely, give themselves harmony and unity.

The silence is an admission of helplessness, of having given up on the naïve notion that we, as human beings, will ever finally find the right words and the right actions to

bring about a unity that has forever evaded us.

The Eucharist is such a prayer of helplessness, a prayer for God to give us a unity we cannot give to ourselves.

It is not incidental that Jesus instituted it in the hour of his most intense loneliness, when he realized that all the words he had spoken hadn't been enough and that he had no more words to give. When he felt most helpless, he gave us the prayer of helplessness, the Eucharist.

Our generation, like every generation before it, senses its helplessness and intuitively its need for a messiah from beyond.

We cannot heal ourselves and we cannot find the key to overcome our wounds and divisions all on our own.

So we must turn our helplessness into a Quaker-silence, a Eucharistic prayer, that asks God to come and do for us what we cannot do for ourselves, namely, create community. And we must go to the Eucharist for this same reason.

## Senator at school Mini-WYD aims to turn the tide



ACT Senator Kate Lundy was present at MacKillop College's awards assembly. MacKillop's 2008 award winners were presented to the assembly, including students from last year's Year 12 class. Principal Mr Michael Lee said he congratulated the Rudd government on the strong focus on education in the stimulus package. ABOVE: College captains Mitchell Ryan and Brianna Thomas with Senator Kate Lundy.

More than 60 young adults (pictured right) from all corners of the Archdiocese flocked to Tuross Heads for weekend of reflection, retreat and learning, which was likened to "a miniature World Youth Day".

Turn the Tide was advertised as an opportunity for young people to engage with their faith for the first time or in a new and deeper way.

Based around the theme "All about a Saviour...a Church...a Mission", participants learnt what it meant to

be a young Catholic today.

Rector of the Good Shepherd Seminary in Sydney Fr Tony Percy spoke about the Church as community and as Catholic. Fr Percy said Turn the Tide was similar to "a miniature World Youth Day 2008".

"For me, it was very uplifting to see so many young people keen to move further into the mystery of Christ, and not on their own, but with those who they can now call their brothers and sisters in Christ," he said.



After Narrabundah Parish Priest Fr Ben Roberts explored Jesus' role in the redemption of humanity, Turn the Tide participant Nathanael Kenmir said he was amazing and inspiring. "He has such a pres-

ence when he speaks that you feel the very emotion that was felt back in the time of the story being told," he said.

"He has such a deep understanding of the scripture but can explain

it in modern terms so people like me, who have not spent decades studying scripture, can understand all aspects. He helps you feel part of the community even if you have never been there before."

## Goulburn leaders

Ss Peter and Paul's Primary School leaders were inducted at the opening liturgy held in Goulburn's Old Cathedral. Parish priest Fr Dermid McDermott celebrated the liturgy which focused on working together to make school a happy and caring place. Principal Mrs Maree Wilsmore presented badges to the school leaders, while they stood at the front of the church with their parents. "The prayers of the faithful, choir, readers and songs made the liturgy a memorable day," prefect Hannah Cummins said.

ABOVE: Student leaders in Ss Peter & Paul's Old Cathedral (from left) front: Elle Thomas, Jack Caldwell, Taylor Spillane, Matthew Wicks,



Chloe McDonald, James Sewell, Cooper Mooney, Tiffany Heath. Back: Jon Brewer, Corey Eldridge, Shania Hunter, Hannah Cummins, Abbey George, Charlie Burgun, Jayde-Ellen Butz, Zoe Cooper.

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Year 4/5Z at St Vincent's Primary School, Aranda, had been very busy during their first week back at school. It was "get to know you" week, said teacher Ms Anne Zaja and the children had been creating self-identity placemats and funny face drawings. After just one week at school, Year 4/5Z could welcome and farewell visitors in Croatian and Ms Zaja said she would continue to teach her class the language throughout the year.

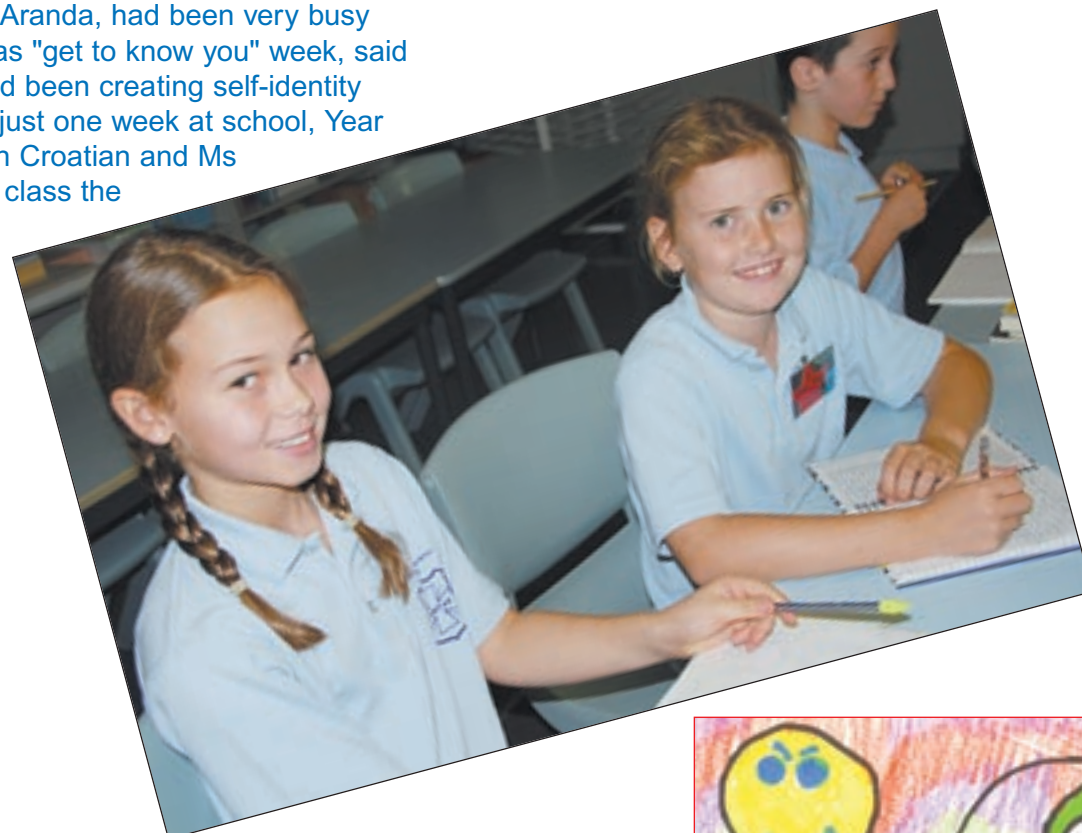


TOP LEFT: Year 4/5Z having fun.

ABOVE: Tara Shannon and Alex Devito carefully pass a candle around the prayer circle.



FAR LEFT: Bailee Tyson and Georgia Wilson deep in thought around the prayer circle.



LEFT: Chloe Giannasca and Taylor Cummings are happy to be back at school.



ABOVE LEFT: Aimee Warnock tells of special times in her life.

ABOVE RIGHT: Jess Radovanovic and LEFT Stephen Abraham show off their artistic ability with these funny faces.

RIGHT: Taylor Cummings tells us a bit about herself in this drawing.







## Books

## Inspiring words

**Seven Words for Three Hours. A Good Friday meditation in Words and Music. Ed Edmund Newell. Darton, Longman and Todd, 2005. 94pp pb, rrp \$58. Reviewer: Margaret Ryan.**

The four gospel writers record seven sayings ('the seven last words') that Jesus spoke while on the cross. They speak of Jesus' human needs, desire to forgive, to ensure his mother's future security, his prophecy concerning "the good thief", his sense of abandonment and the surrender of his spirit.

The seven last words have inspired many writers. While Morton Kelsey, in *The Cross* used them in a fictional way, Newell has edited a series of short and pertinent chapters by well known English (Anglican) church men and women, including Archbishop Rowan Williams, the Bishop of Oxford and canons of St Paul's Cathedral.

The writers draw on contemporary events, books and films to reflect on the meaning of each word and convey its relevance to today.

One track from the original music by Adrian Snell on the CD links with each of the last words. He has captured many of the moods and feelings Jesus might have experienced. If you're seeking a variation on lenten reflections, this could be worth considering.



## Splendid book for Lent

**40-Day Journey With Julian Of Norwich by Lisa E Dahill [ed]. Augsburg Books, 2008, 209 pp, rrp.\$ 19.95. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.**

**Gathered To Serve; Prayers for Parish Leaders by Jerry Galipeau. World Library Publications, 2008, rrp.\$13.95.**

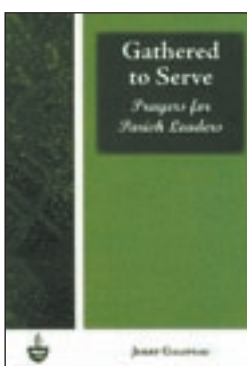
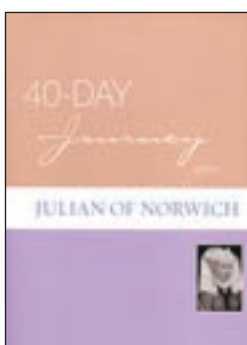
**The Catholic Handbook for Visiting the Sick and Home-bound 2009 by Genevieve Glen OSB, Liturgy Training Publications, 2008, 245 pp, rrp.\$ 7.95.**

40-Day Journey With Julian Of Norwich is the first of the series that I have encountered.

If the others are anything like this one I'm in for a treat when I eventually track them all down.

Each of the "days" is in a double-page format with a quote from Julian, a biblical reference, some questions and journaling reflections with concluding prayers.

There are hints on how to use the book and on keeping a journal as well as potted biographical details about Julian.



I shall be using this splendid little book during Lent.

Gathered To Serve is a collection of more than 80 prayers put together for those in parish leadership.

They are centred on liturgical seasons, scripture texts and events in parish life. The layout is user friendly with one prayer per page used in conjunction with a bible.

Some readers may already know the author's Prayer Services for Parish Life.

The prayers would be a useful resource for school staffs as well.

From Chicago comes the 2009 edition of an excellent handbook for those visiting the sick.

It contains the Rites, very clear directions for distributing Communion to the sick and pastoral care for the dying.

There are Gospel readings for every Sunday of the year given in blessedly large print with an explanation of the reading.

At the back is an eye-opening section on patron saints of the sick.

Special ministers would be well advised to read the introduction carefully prior to using this hand-book for the first time.

## A man of influence and hope

**Golden Years: Grounds for Hope. Val Noone [ed. et al]. Distributed by Rainbow Book Agencies, 2008, 270 pp, rrp \$ 49.95. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.**

The cover is a stunning picture of a lighthouse. The title is *Golden Years*. Both the title and the picture point to the past and to the present. Both indicate hope. This book is an absorbing read. It has three objectives. The first is the focus on the life and work of Fr Jeremiah Golden SJ primarily during his time as chaplain of the Newman Society of Victoria 1950-1966.

There are over 90 individual testimonies which

## for toddlers

Books to read to your little kids as you cuddle up on the sofa before bed...The Two Sons and The Little Gate are from the *Stories Jesus Told* series. They are colourful and simply illustrated with a nice touch of humour that will appeal to reader and listener. Candle Books 2008. rrp \$8.95.

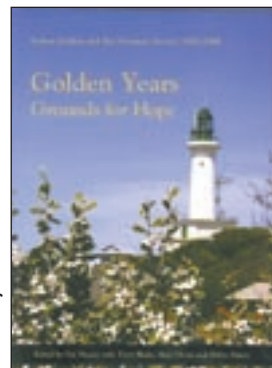
In similar vein from Candle Books is *My Very First Bible*, aimed at toddlers. A nice friendly and simple introduction to the classic Bible stories from Noah to Jesus the good shepherd. rrp \$12.95.

## in brief

Wherever we live each year is naturally cyclical, summer, autumn, winter, spring. As Christians we insert the mysteries of Christ's life into the seasons beginning with Advent and carrying on to Pentecost. This allows us to live these mysteries in ways which provide access to the full reality of resurrection. The *Glenstal Book of Readings for the Seasons* is a collection from writers, theologians, philosophers and poets chosen to add a further dimension to the readings of the Divine Office. They are meant to give a liturgical theology of the mysteries of Christianity during Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter. Each reading has been tried and tested at Glenstal Abbey in Ireland where a community of monks assemble for prayer and listen to these readings at 7am each day. As the preface to the book says: "In such circumstances only the deepest and clearest (readings) survive." Published by The Columba Press, 2008, rrp \$42.95.

flow from a series of seminars held in 2007-8. These salute the influence that this holy, self-effacing but challenging priest had on their formative years at Melbourne University.

Secondly, the compilation provides a fascinating recollection of Catholic student life pre-Vatican II. Many photos, sketches and reproduced material add life to the texts. Thirdly, there are essays from those voices who are now in their own golden years. Many of the writers, some well-known, have had prestigious positions in various fields both here and abroad. Fr Golden died in 1980. He is remembered with affection Australia-wide for his inspiration, the quality of his listening and for his acceptance of all.



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## DVDs for Easter

A number of videos, music CDs, and books with an Easter theme are available for loan from the CEO Library.

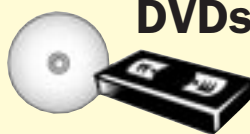
**The Amazing Story of the Last Supper (DVD, 80 mins, ages 10-adult)**

This film combines dramatisation and documentary to look at the tradition of the Jewish Passover and to provide a re-enactment of the Last Supper of Christ with his Disciples. The meaning of the events of the Last Supper for Christians is outlined.

**Worthy is the Lamb (DVD, animated stories from the New Testament series, 30 mins, ages 5-11).**

Using quality animation, this DVD follows the Passion of Jesus Christ from the incident in the Garden of Gethsemane to his trial and crucifixion.

## Videos &amp; DVDs



**Easter in Art (DVD, 66 mins, ages 14- adult).**

Presented in three parts; the Betrayal, the Crucifixion and the Resurrection, this program looks at the Easter story as depicted by artists through the ages.

- Dennis Granlund, librarian.

The library's online catalogue is located as a link on the CEO's website: <http://ceo.cg.catholic.edu.au/> and option: CG Online.

The CEO library is located in the Rheinberger Centre, corner of Weston and Loch Streets, Yarralumla. All parishioners may borrow resources for a small annual fee. Library telephone: 6163 4350.

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# A delight for ear and mind

**Dean Spanley**  
**Starring Peter O'Toole,**  
**Jeremy Northam, Sam Neill,**  
**Bryan Brown, Judy Parfitt.**  
**Directed by Toa Fraser. G.**  
**100 mins. Reviewer: Fr Peter**  
**Malone MSC.\*.**

What a pleasant surprise. For those who like their films visually appealing and literate, intelligent and delightful, this will be a most satisfying entertainment. It is G-rated though it is not a children's film.

The screenplay is an imaginative expansion by Alan Sharp (Rob Roy) of a small 1936 novel.

The book is principally conversations between the narrator of the novel and the Anglican dean who comes to dinner to discuss reincarnation.

Filmed principally in Britain in locations that recreate the Edwardian period in London and in the countryside (with some interiors and scenes filmed in New Zealand), the director is playwright, Toa Fraser, whose previous film, No 2, set in Auckland, acknowledged his Fijian heritage, while this film acknowledges his British ancestry.

Jeremy Northam is expert at playing genial British suave. It is 1904, his brother has been killed in the Boer War and his widowed father, typically tyrannical with the world revolving round him, lives alone though he has an extremely patient housekeeper (Judy Parfitt). His son visits him every Thursday.

They see an ad in the paper for a talk on reincarnation and go to listen. At this



stage, one should say that the father is played by Peter O'Toole at his very best, amazing to listen to and a master class to watch.

He has some wonderful lines delivered with unconsciously arrogant panache (especially when he wakes up at the end of the lecture and responds to "Any questions?").

Father and son meet two characters at the talk, one a brash colonial who is a dealer, able to track down and negotiate whatever one needs. He is played (and spoken) by Bryan Brown as Bryan Brown, always a pleasure with his Aussie ironic humour and kindness.

The other is the rather humourless Dean Spanley, played straight by Sam Neill, especially when we and the others

get to know him. He has more than a passing interest in reincarnation - which involves another life as a dog.

The conversations are interesting and entertaining and, when Peter O'Toole turns up for a meal and becomes involved in the Dean's story, the film becomes quite moving, especially in the father finally acknowledging that one son has died and the other has devoted himself to him.

No special effects, no action sequences, just a delight for ear and eye, for the emotions and for the mind.

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

# Young Dakota's talent is no secret

Based on an award-winning 2002 novel by Sue Monk Kidd, this film has been adapted and directed by Gina Prince-Bythewood. Sue Monk Kidd drew on her experiences of growing up white surrounded by black women and also living on a property with many hives and a honey industry. This film version captures the intensity and the importance of these experiences for the author.

This is a highly emotional film, a film for fear and for tears, one of those easy to dismiss as too feeling. However, it is also a strong film. The opening with the voiceover of the young Lily (Dakota Fanning) and the violence between her mother and her father and her mother's death pervades the film.

Overwhelmed by her father's moods and punishments, Lily runs away from home with the servant, Rosaleen (Jennifer Hudson) to try to find out more about her mother and whether she had been abandoned as her father (Paul Bettany) claimed.

It is important to praise the presence and performance of Dakota Fanning. In the past, she has seemed too precocious to be true, a little adult in a little girl's form. Here, at 14, she shows how confident an actress she is and makes Lily a truly credible character. The main part of the film shows her life with three sisters who

**The Secret Lives of Bees**  
**Starring Dakota Fanning,**  
**Jennifer Hudson and Paul**  
**Bettany. Directed Gina**  
**Prince-Bythewood. 110**  
**mins. M (mature themes**  
**and violence). Reviewer: Fr**  
**Peter Malone\*.**

take Lily and Rosaleen into their home because the sisters have a strong connection to her mother. The three sisters are played by three imposing black actresses, Queen Latifah as August, singer Alicia Keys as June and British Sophie Okonedo as May.

It is 1964 in South Carolina in the aftermath of the civil rights developments of 1963 - and television footage shows Lyndon Johnson signing into law the civil rights legislation. However, attitudes in the south are still bigoted and the young boy who dares to take Lily to a movie becomes the victim of insult and violence. These race themes offer a context for Lily's emotional development.

And the bees? Early in the film, there is a touch of magic realism as Lily has an experience of bees in her bedroom. The reality of the bees (and August explaining their lives and secrets) comes in the hives that the sisters and the young boy tend to produce honey.

If audiences allow for the more overt emotion that American audiences feel and display, it is a fine film of racial equality, of relationships and of the process of an adolescent with a difficult background growing up and taking responsibility for her life.

\* Fr Peter Malone MSC directs the film desk of SIGNIS.

## SHORTS

**W.** Starring Josh Brolin, James Cromwell, Ellen Burstyn, Elizabeth Banks, Toby Jones. Directed by Oliver Stone. 131 mins. M (coarse language and incidental war footage).

For those not particularly interested in George W Bush or American politics, this is still absorbing as a study of a rather irresponsible and spoilt wealthy young man who cannot hold down a job, is looked down on by his successful father in favour of his younger brother but who is supported by a loving wife, has a born again Christian experience, gives up the drink and becomes ambitious.

**My Bloody Valentine** 3D. Starring Jensen Ackles, Jamie King and Kerr Smith. Directed by Patrick Lussier. 101 mins. MA 15+.

Bloody, all right - or bloody all wrong. The original My Bloody Valentine was released in 1981, one of the many slasher films that followed the box-office success of Halloween and Friday the 13th. This version keeps a number of the elements of the original. The more interesting aspects are those of the decline of a mining town. However, that is not what the fans will be wanting to see.

**The Reader**. Starring Kate Winslett, David Kross and Ralph Fiennes. Directed by Stephen Daldry. 124 mins. MA 15+ (sex scenes and nudity).

A film where any judgment (moral or aesthetic) made before the final credits is in danger of being peremptory and wrong. This could be the case for some audiences who might find the nudity and sexuality of the first half too much to watch. However, this contributes to the meaning of the themes when the second part of the film is seen.



**Ghost Town**. Starring Tea Leoni, Greg Kinnear, Ricky Gervais and Kristen Wiig. Directed by David Koepp. 102 mins. M.

Ricky Gervais (above) is usually seen as a poker face, unemotional, acerbic presence in his television series, The Office and Extras. For most of Ghost town he is just like this. You guess that he will have to change by the end of the film but it doesn't seem likely. This is not a laugh aloud comedy but there is a wry sense of humour pervading the film.




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## Return to classic old western

There have not been many big westerns in recent years. Ed Harris has decided to put a great deal of effort into co-writing, producing, performing and directing this new western.

This is a classic western, a return to immersing the audience in a particular place and a particular time with its own ethos and its own morality. A small town has prospered through mining but the wealthy landowner is a self-made man with a dubious past, a man who takes the law into his own hands, as we see from the beginning, when he shoots

**Appaloosa**  
**Starring Viggo Mortensen, Ed Harris, Timothy Spall and Rene Zellweger.**  
**Directed by Ed Harris. 115**  
**mins. M (violence and**  
**coarse language) Reviewer:**  
**Fr Peter Malone\*.**

a marshal and his assistants to avoid them arresting his ranch hands.

It is a compliment to Ed Harris to say that one can imagine Clint Eastwood making this kind of

autumnal western, autumnal insofar as the 19th century west is coming to an end, and in the age of the protagonists. They are not young guns. And the superb photography is by Australian Dean Semler who won an Oscar for Dances with Wolves.

\* Fr Peter Malone MSC directs the film desk of SIGNIS.

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**James Reyne**  
**Thursday 14 May 8:30pm \$29 Dinner & Show 7pm \$69**  
 James Reyne's new album 'Every Man a King' closes a 30-year circle since he first led Australian Crawl into the front line of the Aussie rock boom.





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# Classifieds

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MOLLYMOOK - Birchgrove Apartments. 200m to beach, water view, lovely quiet location opposite reserve. Fully self contained 2 BR, lock up garage and plenty of extra parking and easy walk to Golf Club and Ulladulla shops. Please phone Craig or Kathy 0428 318 156 or 6230 3034.

NAROOMA - Lovely 2-bedroom holiday unit, ensuite and shower/ laundry, TV, DVD, M/W, garage. Easy walk to CBD, golf, close to beach, views. Discount Catholic Voice readers. Ray, telephone 6281 0887.

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

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# Coming Events



**ANNUAL RETREAT** - Goulburn Josephites Associates weekend 13-15 March, St Clement's retreat and conference centre, Galong. Inquiries: Sr Mary Murphy, telephone 6922 5708 or 0429 186 564.

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

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

**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.

**GALONG PROCESSION** - Sunday, 3 May, annual May procession in honour of Our Lady, St Clement's Conference & Retreat Centre, Galong. Open air Mass noon, procession to Lourdes Hill (The Grotto) 2pm. Inquiries: Telephone 6380 5222, e-mail [info@stclement.com.au](mailto:info@stclement.com.au)

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

**OLMC GOULBURN EX-STUDENTS REUNION** - 23, 24 May, to mark 150th anniversary of arrival of Mercy Sisters in Goulburn. Inquiries: Send stamped self-addressed envelope to OLMC Ex-Students, P O Box 742, Goulburn 2580, or telephone Mary Sykes 4822 0910, Sue Burgess 4821 5219, Rose Liardet 4821 8692.

**PRAYER IN THE CRYPT** - Lectio Divina, a contemplative praying of Scriptures, 2.30pm-3.30pm each Thursday, in crypt of

St Christopher's Cathedral. Inquiries: Parish Office, telephone 6295 9555 or e-mail [stchris@velocitynet.com.au](mailto:stchris@velocitynet.com.au)

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

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

**ST MONICA'S SCHOOL EVATT FETE** - Saturday, 21 March, 10am-2pm. Stalls white elephant (toys and knick knacks), cakes and sweets, clothes, books, rides and lots more.

**ST PATRICK'S DAY ECUMENICAL SERVICE** - Irish music, poetry, and prayers in Irish and English, from noon, Monday, 16 March. Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, Blackall Street, Barton. Speakers include Irish-born Bishop David Cremin, Prof James Haire and former Senator and Education Minister Susan Ryan. Inquiries: Angela Devlin, telephone 6231 9104.

**ST THOMAS MORE'S FORUM** - Foreign policy and interfaith dialogue, by Michael L'Estrange, secretary of Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 7.30pm, Wednesday, 11 March, St Thomas More's hall, 30 White Crescent, Campbell. Entry: \$10 per person and \$3 per student at school or university and concession card holders.

**SERRA CLUB OF CANBERRA** - 6.30pm, Thursday, 12 March. Rosary and Mass at Holy Trinity Church, Curtin, followed by dinner. Next meeting Thursday, 2 April.

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

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

## A priest who loved to bring Christ to people

Fr Michael O'Brien was a priest who lived humbly and simply through his vision of Christ the priest.

This was the driving force and the motivating influence in all that he did and in all that he was.

He was affectionately called "Fr Michael" by his parishioners and remembered as a priest from Ireland who left his family, his people and his country, and journeyed into the unknown.

After 63 years in Australia, including 24 years as Narooma parish priest, he died near his place of birth, Tullamore, in Ireland.

Fr O'Brien, who was 88, was on a three-month trip to Ireland when he became unwell and underwent surgery. While he was recovering in a nursing home near Tullamore, he died.

His 63 years as a priest could be deeply marked by his devotion to his vocation and the Church; he was a compassionate person and a great listener, current Narooma parish priest Fr Michael Mullen said.

"His way of life can be described as a simple life based on a deep trust in and love for God and for his people.

"I met him over 30 years ago in Goulburn when he was administrator of St Peter and Paul's parish. However, I came to know him better when I was appointed a priest in Narooma parish.

"I remember him as a quiet man with a deep sense of Irish humour. He loved bringing Christ to people.



"In a spiritual sense, he was the hands and feet of Christ.

"Many times over the years, I heard people talking about how Fr Michael had become part of their families by simply being there for them.

"This reveals a humble man with a big heart, for it is his life that speaks and not his death. This was truly reflected in his daily prayer, the Breviary, the celebration of the Eucharist, his devotion to Mary, the mother of God, and his prayer for God's mercy."

Fr O'Brien was born on 10 October, 1920, at Ballykilmurry, Tullamore, to Patrick and Kathleen O'Brien. He was ordained on 24 June, 1945, at All Hallows, Dublin.

After coming to Australia Fr O'Brien served at Boorowa, Weethalle, Braidwood, St Christopher's Cathedral, Narrabundah, Goulburn and Adelong as well as Narooma. In his retirement he lived at Dalmeny and often helped in the parish by celebrating Mass at Bodalla. He died on 23 January this year.

Archbishop Mark Coleridge travelled from Rome to attend the Mass of Christian burial at Tullamore 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.

Memorial Masses were held at Narooma, Narrabundah and North Goulburn.

## Induction day for new teachers



Ms Lauren Vagg from St Francis Xavier Primary School, Lake Cargelligo, Mr Cameron Ellison from McAuley Central School, Tumut, Ms Maryellen Moore from St Clare's College, Griffith and Ms Carlie Rake from McAuley Central School, Tumut chat with Catholic Education Director Mrs Moira Najdecki during the early career teachers induction day for first year teachers at the Rheinberger Centre.



Lent is a time when we especially seek to draw closer in our relationship with Jesus and deepen our appreciation of the gifts and opportunities Jesus both brings us and calls us to. It is a relationship which has, at its heart, mission involvement. An involvement that does not necessarily, have to give death the final word.

The message of life we receive in Jesus and the key relationship we have with him are both gift and treasures, who's sharing and presence within our world, will continue to be needed to affect life giving change once we have experienced the eternal truths ourselves. It is here that with forethought, prayer and a heart for mission each of us may have an opportunity to consider leaving a bequest in our will enabling Catholic Mission's work to continue.

Whilst ensuring that those we love and our responsibilities are taken care of, such monies, generously given, allow Catholic Mission to support faith communities in providing basic necessities, facilities, materials, means and training so that life and faith opportunities can exist, flourish and serve others in their wider communities, as too will our intercessions.

To help Catholic Mission in this way or find out how to include Catholic Mission amongst the charitable beneficiaries please contact us.

God Bless  
**Deacon Joe Blackwell**

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Bluey Kalion ... "I wanted to come home and keep out of trouble."

# Healthy people for a healthy environment

Families, schools and parishes across the Archdiocese this Lent join thousands nationwide to take part in Project Compassion to address the challenge of global poverty.

Project Compassion 2009 aims to beat last year's fundraising effort of raising more than \$9 million around Australia.

The theme this year for Caritas Australia's major annual fundraiser and the largest fundraising event for aid and development in Australia is "an environment to grow in".

It focuses on the connection between healthy environments and healthy people.

Caritas Australia is part of an international network that works in more than 200 countries and territories, empowering communities to help themselves out of poverty.

Money raised will support Caritas Australia's work with local partners, who are improving their own lives through projects that address issues such as health, education, gender equality, water and sustainable agricul-

ture, priorities which are set out in the Millennium Development Goals.

By building communities' resilience to forces such as climate change, conflict, unfair trading and land degradation, Caritas Australia says it is helping people control their own lives and prepare for the future.

Junior Robinson Sorosu found himself out of school after completing year 10 in Papua New Guinea, with few chances of employment and few reasons to hope for a better future. He joined a gang who roamed the streets of Port Moresby, drinking too much, committing robberies and sometimes taking drugs.

But now the former street boy has transformed his life through learning about organic farming in a Caritas Australia

supported project.

"From the start I got interested in gardening and I began to ask lots of questions, especially about types of vegetables and medicinal plants," he said.

Junior now wants to either join the PNG army or study agriculture. "This course really helped me a lot. Before this course I never thought of gardening and I had no direction." Junior has now helped train people in organic farming. Other graduates have found paid employment and are selling

produce from their gardens. Junior hopes to represent Papua New Guinea in soccer one day.

Donations may be made to Project Compassion by telephoning 1800 024 413, on-line at [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au) or by posting a cheque to GPO Box 9830 in your capital city.



Junior Robinson Sorosu ... a life transformed.

## 'Bluey' is a part of good things in his community

In one of Australia's most isolated desert communities in the East Kimberley, young indigenous Australians are being helped to reconnect with their local community.

The realities of living in such a remote area with few job or study opportunities mean young people face real challenges.

Alwyn "Bluey" Kalion, 18, found himself involved in the juvenile justice system but

with the support of the Palyalatju Maparnpa Health Committee youth project, which is supported by Caritas Australia, Bluey came out of detention in 2007 with a positive attitude and reasons to change his lifestyle.

During his detention, Bluey was supported by workers from the committee. "I would ring them all the time for a talk," Bluey said. "They helped me realise I wanted to come

home, and keep out of trouble. They came and visited me, picked me up and brought me back home. They helped me when I got back to find work. They were friends to me."

Since coming home, Bluey has worked part time and volunteered with the youth project, which focuses on youth employment training, crisis support, self-esteem building and cultural and spiritual activities. The proj-

ect aims to increase young people's resilience, reduce their involvement in the justice system and educate the community about issues affecting indigenous youth.

The Palyalatju Maparnpa Health Committee, an Aboriginal-controlled cultural health service where indigenous and non-indigenous people work together, runs the youth project in three East Kimberley communities. The organisation employs young people and encourages young volunteers in the Kutjungka region to be involved in planning and implementing the services that affect them.

Bluey has worked part time and volunteered to help to coordinate youth discos, community family nights and photography and film projects. He has also contributed ideas to the community youth council and has attended hunting and bush trips with other young people and elders. Since the project began there has been a drop in crime, self harm and suicide in the region's youth.

"The project supports our young people and encourages them to learn new things. They work strongly with our culture and talk to families about how to support young people", senior community member Tossie Baadjo said.

"They have made relationships between young people and adults stronger. We need to support our young people. It's important to make sure they know when they do something good."

The youth project is the first of its kind in the Kutjungka region and relies on young people to give up their free time to volunteer. "I'm part of good things now in my community. I work, play footy and basketball and keep out of trouble." Bluey sometimes plays guitar and sings with local bands at the basketball court and writes his own music. He hopes to "get a good job and keep out of trouble. And go hunting".



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