

**Queen's honours:**  
**Pages 6, 7**

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## A celebration of our youth

Twelve months on from World Youth Day in Sydney, Catholic Voice looks at where the Church has gone in that time and how preparations all came together in our own Archdiocese. In this special eight-page supplement, we also celebrate some of the achievements and inspirations of our local young people.



## Students' help makes 'real difference'

Twelve families affected by this year's Victorian bushfires were able to pick up school life as quickly as possible thanks to more than \$25,000 worth of donations from three Canberra schools.

After losing their homes in the blaze, Year 12 students Jaryd Rankin and Caitlin Platt from Lavalla College in the Latrobe Valley came to Canberra to personally thank Good Shepherd Primary School, MacKillop College and Marist College for their contributions.

Lavalla College principal Ms Erica Pegorer said she was "humbled and touched" by the donations. "We came here because we wanted to show the schools that their efforts made a difference to real people," she said.

"We had 12 families at Lavalla affected by the bushfires - but we all know someone who died. The support we have received from Catholic schools has been overwhelming - we have had a strong sense that we're not doing this on our own."

● **Cont Page 2.**

LEFT: MacKillop College captains Mitchell Ryan (far left) and Brianna Thomas (far right) with Lavalla students Jaryd Rankin and Caitlin Platt.

# WYD stimulus for vocations

World Youth Day has resulted in an increased interest in religious vocations, archdiocesan vocations director Fr Emil Milat said on the first anniversary of the event.

"Surprisingly I didn't notice a big response directly after World Youth Day, but in the last six months I have seen an increase in interest," he said.

"World Youth Day set off a whole series of events - but the results are hard to pinpoint.

"In our diocese it was during the actual preparation and organisation for the event that we saw an increase in vocations. We had four vocations

to the seminary in the lead up to World Youth Day. I could definitely see the Holy Spirit working before and during World Youth Day."

Clinical psychologist Miss Jessica Wilson, 26, was among eight young people discerning their vocation at the most recent vocations weekend held at St Clement's, Galong.

Miss Wilson said World Youth Day "definitely" encouraged her to find out more about vocations.

"I guess it was a combination of that really powerful presence of the Holy Spirit at World Youth Day, a rekindling of outwardly professing my faith, making new Catholic

friends to support me in my journey and the great gift of God's grace at World Youth Day which led me to open my heart and really pray about what God might want for me in my life," she said.

"Right now I don't know if that will entail a religious vocation, marriage or something else but I'm gradually getting more and more comfortable to being open to whatever it is that God might call me to."

There was "no way" she would have considered a religious vocation before World Youth Day, which she considered "the clear catalyst for my openness to that.



The past 12 months have brought a huge amount of growth as a result.

"Following World Youth Day I feel really close to God and much clearer about what's important to me. I feel peaceful and content in lots of ways, like I've reconnected with being Catholic. I've remembered all the great things about being Catholic, not just the negative ones that can get focussed on when you live a mainstream, secular life."

The next archdiocesan vocations weekend, which involves a series of talks about discernment

ABOVE: Jessica Wilson (second from right) at the vocations weekend with Mr Max Spencer, Sr Terri Emslie, Archbishop Mark Coleridge, Fr Pat Corbett and Mrs Cathy Spencer.

and listening to God, time for reflection and socialisation, will take place from Friday, 4 December, to Sunday, 6 December. For more information contact Fr Milat, telephone 4474 2024 or e-mail [emil.milat@cg.catholic.org.au](mailto:emil.milat@cg.catholic.org.au)

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## Aah, now for the hols

The stress in the lead-up to exams is unparalleled - well, at least it feels that way at the time. I know I was stressed beyond all reason, and it wasn't just because of the ridiculous tests of our academic abilities.

Each and every term, like many other people I know, I promise myself that this is the term I'll change my lazy habits and become what every good student strives to be: organised.

And, just like everyone else, I find that after a week or two I'm already swamped and decide that pulling a few all-nighters seems easier than starting things early. It's not just assessment either; it could be creating art for a competition, writing music for an upcoming concert, finishing that video game or finally getting fit.

As teenagers, we're notorious for leaving things to the last minute. So, is it surprising that in the last few weeks of every term it seems that everyone is suffering from a lack of sleep and slowly the general mood takes a turn for the worse?

In the days leading up to exams, I began to notice this in everyone, but mainly in myself (my short fuse because of a lack of sleep is a dead giveaway).

Suddenly everything is happening at once. A million and one major assessments, study, birthday parties, rehearsals, learning lines, work and, oh no, this article needs to be written.

Perhaps as teenagers we're encouraged and expected to take on more than we can handle. As if all the raging hormones and awkward social encounters aren't enough.

Or, we fear being uninteresting and to avoid this we must do as many extracurricular activities as possible. It probably all comes down to not wanting to disappoint ourselves or feel as if our time is being wasted.

I'll have to take my mum's advice that sometimes you have to stop beating yourself up and maybe being disorganised is not as bad as you think.

And how did I deal with all the things that I had to do in the lead up to exams you ask? Let's just say I'm glad I have a long holiday to catch up on sleep.

### emma's year



## page2

### WYD memories

Since going to World Youth Day as part of the Cootamundra Parish group, Amy Carroll (pictured below) has moved to a boarding school in Sydney, St Scholastica's College.



She says: "The World Youth Day experience taught me so many things about the world, others and myself.

"I feel like World Youth Day helped me keep in touch with God, feeling like he is with me in everything I do.

"Praying seems so much easier as I learnt prayer is not just done by kneeling and talking directly to God, but in little activities each day, God is there to listen.

"Before World Youth Day and as a young child, my mum would say to me 'taking one hour out of our busy lives to talk to Jesus is not too much to ask'.

"Now this 'one hour' is such an important part of my life as I still attend Mass every weekend here at school and really enjoy this time.

"World Youth Day really opened my mind to God and to the rest of the world and I am very much looking forward to going to Spain in 2011."

## Making a difference

### ● From Page 1.

Ms Pegorer said the money Lavalla College received went to the education resources of affected families.

"We wanted them to be able to pick up school life as quickly as possible."

Between visiting schools, Caitlin and Jaryd enjoyed some home cooking with their MacKillop host families and made a few new friends.

"Between everything that has happened I don't think I have had a home cooked meal in so long," Caitlin said.

"It was great to just have a weekend away from everything back home and have fun."

Jaryd said it was nice to see where the money came from.

"It was a really good experience to come to Canberra and be able to personally thank people for their contribution," he said.

"It's also been good to be able to share our experiences and what we've been through. We don't want to make people feel sorry for us, but rather show them the good things they have done."

MacKillop College captain Brianna Thomas said she felt "honoured" that the students had made the trip to see them.

"They are the same age as us, but they have been through so much more," she said. "We've made some lifelong friendships."

MacKillop College principal Mr Michael Lee said he would like to continue developing a relationship with Lavalla.

"We help because we can - that's the Mary MacKillop inspiration," he said.

"This was a lovely opportunity to bring a human dimension to such an awful event."

## what do you know?

1. Which order has been running St Clement's at Galong for many years?
2. The Year of the Priesthood started on 19 June. What feast day is that?
3. How many international pilgrims came to the Archdiocese for pre-WYD activities last year? 470, 4700, 47,000?
4. There are several churches in the Archdiocese named Our Lady Star of the Sea. One is far from the sea. Where is it?
5. Who is the new Bishop of Sale?
6. This young man, (right) now a bit older, was a familiar face as he journeyed around Australia last year.



Answers: Bottom Page 4.

## St Clement's Retreat & Conference Centre

is seeking a Person to be responsible for the Management of the Centre

St. Clement's Centre, near the village of Galong is a rural property located in the South West Slopes of NSW. It is operated by the Redemptorist Congregation and the Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn. The Centre is an hour and a half from Canberra and four hours from Sydney. The facilities include a 100 seat Auditorium. The accommodation consists of 20 ensuite twin rooms and 40 single rooms.

The successful applicant, as well as managing the Centre, will be required to expand the market possibilities. The applicant must have good interpersonal communication skills, effective financial management and organisational ability. The salary range is from \$60,000 to \$80,000 depending on experience.

Applicants, as well as having ecumenical openness, will be required to follow the ideals outlined in the Mission Statement of St. Clement's, namely to create

*'A Centre of Excellence in a peaceful environment for Christian communities and for those seeking spiritual renewal, education, rest, prayer and reflection'.*

Expressions of interest and supporting documents should be forwarded, by 31st of July, to The Rector, St. Clement Retreat & Conference Centre Galong NSW 2585; or email patcorbett@stclement.com.au

# One year on, WYD excitement is back

Excitement will be rekindled and new friendships made during celebrations to be held in the Archdiocese on Saturday, 18 July, to mark the first anniversary of World Youth Day.

WYD Rebooted will be held from 9am to 4pm at the Isabella Plains campus of MacKillop Catholic College.

Another anniversary event will be hosted by Kippax Parish with Mass celebrated at 6pm by Archbishop Coleridge, followed by a prayer rally.

At Tuggeranong, the program includes music, drama, a catechesis by Archbishop Mark Coleridge, Mass and an afternoon full of fun activities.

Event manager Mr Brett Anderson said the get-together would be a chance to "rekindle the excitement" of World Youth Day in a participative and engaging format.

"We hope to revitalise the energy that was evident during the lead-up to World Youth Day," he said.

"By sharing the story of World Youth Day we hope to spur enthusiasm and stir up passion for community building, youth ministry and many other opportunities within parishes, groups and schools.

"The day will be engaging and exciting. It will be a great opportunity to share experiences and to network with others. The development of this event provides an opportunity for youth ministry leaders in parishes, schools and groups to come together and to develop an ongoing support network for future initiatives."

Registration costs \$12, including lunch. More information can be found at [www.ccp parish.org.au/](http://www.ccp parish.org.au/) or by contacting Mr Anderson, telephone 0419 700 306 or email [youth@ccparish.org.au](mailto:youth@ccparish.org.au).

Project officer for the Kippax event Miss Jenny Drum said the event was open to everyone.

"It will be a great opportunity to see old friends and make new ones, celebrate our shared experience of World Youth Day and join together in prayer," she said.

More details will be made available on the archdiocesan website [www.cg.catholic.org.au](http://www.cg.catholic.org.au) and the catholicLIFE website [www.catholiclife.org.au](http://www.catholiclife.org.au) or those who want to take part may telephone 6163 4333.

## WYD memories

Irish pilgrim Helen Mahon said she has so much to say about her "special few days" in Boorowa, she could write a book.

"I personally am still reeling from my experience in Boorowa for WYD, knowing it is almost a year since we were there brings the memories flooding back. I am still in contact with many of the locals who were so good to us and with the family I stayed with.

"My time in Boorowa really made me a stronger person, spiritually with the help of (Boorowa parish priest) Fr Greg Beath's sermons, emotionally as we sang for the locals in the hospitals and health centres and culturally as I experienced the Aboriginal dancing, the sheep shearing, the hill walking and the kangaroos in Boorowa.

"On my return home, I became a founding member of our youth group. One year later we are still going strong, preparing the liturgy for Mass once a month. I am involved with a cantor program for music in regular Masses and I am on the eucharistic ministry team in the parish. I don't feel I would have had the courage to stand up against my peers and do any of these things had I not become the stronger Catholic I am now."

Another Irish pilgrim, Kate Power, said she could write "for hours and not do justice" to her experiences in Boorowa.

"Boorowa was definitely my highlight of the whole trip and I know the others said the same. We have pledged to return when we are a bit further with our studies and can get some

funds together. I think we learned so much from the hospitality of the people in Boorowa and the way we can make a difference and be more Christian by acts of kindness, just as much as by listening to sermons.

WYD definitely opened our eyes up to our role in the community and how

we should spread what we learned from our experiences by reaching out to everyone and getting them involved in the Church in a way which is fun. Another effect our experiences last summer had on us can probably be illustrated by the fact that four young people from our parish trained to be

eucharistic ministers. In our small parish, heads turned the first time my friend Michelle and I proceeded to the altar to give out the Eucharist.

Following the "tremendous impact" WYD 2005 in Cologne had on her life, former St Clare's College student Jessica Pollard applied to travel with the WYD cross and icon around Australia for six months.

"For me WYD was really the time I spent on the road. Seeing ordinary people in ordinary parishes being enlivened and enthused in their faith, day after day, was truly beautiful. Many more people saw the cross and icon around the country than actually made it to Sydney.

"I am now working in Sydney for the St Vincent de Paul Society. I'm involved in Baulkham Hills Parish, who have a vibrant youth movement and I'm in a women's group who connect, pray, reflect and support each other in their faith lives."



Helen Mahon and Kate Power.



Jess Pollard.



Year 12 Merici College students Christine Neou, Amy McDonnell and Emily Dannock (above) can't believe it has been a whole year since World Youth Day.

"I have so many good memories of WYD," Christine said.

"I'm glad it's already been a year because it means we only have to wait for two more years before we can go to the next one!"

During WYD Christine said she learnt that church does not have to be "a quiet sacred space.

"I never thought I'd be so happy to sleep on the floor for a whole week, but it was great. It was really interesting to see how

## All set for next one

you could bring all these people together for one big party, except there were no drugs or alcohol and we were all in a really safe environment."

Emily said she felt proud to be Catholic at WYD.

"It just opened up my eyes to so many things. It made me realise that you don't need all of those materialistic things - you can be happy with just God.

"With a big group of girls there are usually problems, but at WYD there was no bickering or

fighting, everyone got along and just focussed on why we were there. There was a special connection you could see and feel.

"WYD will always be a part of us - we'll always remember it."

Amy said WYD changed her perspective on Catholicism. "I feel differently about it now," she said.

"I don't think I understood the global aspect of it, before I attended WYD. I haven't felt such a depth of connection since then."

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# Hitting pilgrim path into the future

Pilgrimage has been much on my mind these days, largely because of the Archdiocesan Pilgrimage in the Footsteps of Saint Paul. If you want to know more about it, then follow the pilgrimage blog at [www.footstepsofsaintpaul.com](http://www.footstepsofsaintpaul.com).

But I've also been thinking about the extraordinary experience of World Youth Day 12 months ago. When he established World Youth Day years ago, Pope John Paul II understood a few things with unusual depth and clarity. One of them was the power of pilgrimage, and that's what World Youth Day has become above all - a great Christian pilgrimage with the Holy Father as the premier pilgrim.

Pilgrimage isn't unique to Christianity; it's part of most of the world's great religions. But it's always had a special place in biblical religion because for the Bible the journey is the root-metaphor for the human experience of the real God. According to Scripture, the real God never leaves us where and as we are. God always summons us - as he did Abraham - to leave what is familiar and to set forth on a journey into the unknown with God as our leader and guide.

God moves us from one location to another: he is, quite literally, a dislocating God and his dislocations can involve quite a wrench. That's one of the reasons pilgrimage has always been a bit uncomfortable or worse, as World Youth Day was from time to

time. As a young friend of mine said when he came back from World Youth Day in Cologne: "We were cold, tired, hungry and sick...but it was great!"

European Christianity has always been strong on pilgrimage, with Canterbury and Compostela among the great destinations.

Canterbury has vanished from the itinerary, and the pilgrimage to the shrine of St James in the far north west of Spain also fell into abeyance for quite a while.

But in recent years it has made a big comeback.

Even our own Bishop Pat Power and Neil Harrigan, director of our Centacare, have hit the trail to Compostela, as have many others in the Archdiocese. Why have they done it? Not just as tourists, that's for sure.

The little, or not so little, physical journey they have made looks to the larger and deeper spiritual and human journey we all must make, leaving what is familiar and comfortable to enter the larger and richer life which God promises.

That's also why 30 pilgrims from the Archdiocese have hit the trail in the footsteps of St Paul. For the Apostle himself, the apostolic mission certainly meant ceaseless travel.

The call of Christ dislocated Paul completely. He had to leave everything that was familiar. That was why and how he entered the fullness of life and brought hosts of others with him. In following in his footsteps, we have taken the same path.



## ARCHBISHOP MARK COLERIDGE

**16 July:** Mass for the Feast of Our Lady of Mt Carmel.

**18 July:** WYD one year anniversary celebrations at South Tuggeranong and Kippax.

**22 July:** Wollongong Diocese clergy in-service.

**26 July:** Blessing of Cathedral renovations.

**29 July:** Sesquicentenary celebrations, Archdiocese of Brisbane.

**31 July:** Diaconate ordination of Vincent Barclay, Kambah.

## AUXILIARY BISHOP PAT POWER

**4-5 July:** Confirmations, Bega.

**7 July:** L'Arche, "Desert Morning". Board meeting: Catholic Social Services, Australia.

**11 July:** Confirmation, Gundagai.

**12 July:** Confirmation, Jugiong.

**19 July:** Confirmation, Gunning.

**22 July:** Executive Meeting, ACT Churches Council.

**29-30 July:** Sesquicentenary celebrations, Archdiocese of Brisbane.

**31 July:** NAIDOC (National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee) Mass, Cathedral, Blessing additions St Matthew's School, Page. Archdiocesan Finance Council. Diaconate ordination of Vincent Barclay, Kambah.



The Church as a whole, and perhaps in Australia especially, is at an Abrahamic moment. We have to leave what is familiar and head into the new and as yet unclear future to which God is calling us.

Within the Church, there are quite different understandings of which is the right path to take.

But in the end - for us as for Abraham - only God knows the right path. That's why it's crucial for us to keep our eye and ear on God at this time. If we fail to do that, then there will only ever be endless squabbling over which is the right path to take.

World Youth Day was a time when we all came together beyond the squabbling that was inevitably part of the preparation. Even cynical secularist Sydney breathed easy for a week, and the police say the crime rate went down in the city.

The Sydney days were days of the peace and joy which are the fruit of

Christian pilgrimage, however much it may be hard work that takes us where we would rather not go.

What have been the fruits of World Youth Day? The question is often asked. Some of the fruits are visible already: a new sense of the power of pilgrimage, new networks, new confidence among young Catholics, a new and deeper sense of the Church among many Catholics on this far-flung island.

But other fruits are harder to see or are not yet there to be seen. A seed was surely sown in this dry earth Down Under. The seed has been watered with blood, sweat and tears.

Twelve months on, my hope is stronger than ever that the hard-won, costly grace of World Youth Day will be a real power as together we hit the pilgrim path into the future.

*Mark Coleridge*

## Seeds of WYD just starting to appear

It seems to me that those who had worked so hard for so long on World Youth Day were suffering from something like ecclesiastical jet-lag in the second half of 2008. So much energy was expended to get us to Sydney in July 08 that the second half of the year was, by and large, a case of trying to recover.

And for some, there was perhaps a sense of disappointment when they did not see immediately tangible fruit from all their labour. Where were all the young people in the church on Sundays post-WYD? One very obvious hoped-for outcome seemed to have failed to materialize.

In this context, it would be important to note that according to an ACU research project about the Australian pilgrims at WYD08, 73 per cent went to Mass every Sunday before WYD. A massive upsurge of young people in every parish post-WYD was unlikely.

It is also important to point out that this statistic also means 27 per cent of those attending were very new to a faith experience like WYD. In any other youth ministry experience the involvement of such a significant percentage of non-regular church-goers would be considered a wildly successful evangelistic event - reaching those with minimal contact with the Church.

### voices

**Fr Chris Ryan MGL was the coordinator of the WYD Cross and Icon in Australia. "In the Light of the Cross", his book of reflections on the Australian Journey of the Cross and Icon, will be out later in the year.**



As the dust has settled what are some of the other discernible fruits of WYD08?

The ACU study says that seven out of 10 Australian pilgrims rated it "one of the best experiences of my life" or a "life-changing event".

Significant percentages of pilgrims spoke of being more confident in their belief in God, of feeling as if they now have a closer relationship with Jesus and believe more strongly as a consequence of WYD that God loves them. Eighty-one per cent of pilgrims stated they are more

positive about themselves, their life and their future after WYD.

These statistics indicate that WYD had an enormous impact on the faith development of people it was most intended to affect: the pilgrims themselves.

According to the ACU study, 41 per cent of pilgrims are in one or more groups in the Church, and 32 per cent of those young people joined a group because of WYD. I believe this statistic is important because it suggests that they are in a place where their faith is likely to be supported and encouraged. Seeds need to be nurtured to come to full maturity.

Importantly, the study also asked the pilgrims to reflect on the ways in which they felt that they had changed morally after WYD: 52 per cent said they were more forgiving, 41 per cent felt they were more considerate and 35 per cent were making a concerted effort to put others before themselves.

In all, 75 per cent of those surveyed said that they anticipated being involved in volunteering, social justice events, looking after the environment and other similar civic activities as a consequence of WYD.

● Cont Page 17.

### WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

**Answers: 1. Redemptorists. 2. Feast of the Sacred Heart. 3. 4700. 4. Dalgety. 5. Bishop Christopher Prowse, of Melbourne. 6. Kambah boy, Fr Chris Ryan, priest of the Missionaries of God's Love who was prominent during WYD and led the journey of the cross and icon around Australia.**

# Communion still under both kinds

Holy Communion will continue to be distributed in the Archdiocese under both kinds, Vicar General Mgr John Woods said.

He acknowledged that the outbreak of human swine flu had resulted in some dioceses restricting the distribution of Holy Communion to the consecrated host.

"After a prudential consideration of the facts and in keeping with the Government's call to be alert but not alarmed, it has been decided not to follow suit in our Archdiocese," he said.

Mgr Woods has recommended that ministers of Holy Communion take extra care with hygiene.

"Distribution of Holy Communion under both kinds is still permissible. Indeed, it might well be argued, notwithstanding the freedom of individuals in this regard, that to receive Holy Communion on the tongue is a potential health risk relative to that of reception from the cup.

"Therefore for now and perhaps as a continuing practice, it would be prudent for all ministers of Holy Communion to wash their hands, preferably with an alcohol-based antibacterial solution before and after distributing Holy Communion.

"It would also be timely to remind the minister of the cup to firmly wipe

the rim with the purifier after each communicant, to then adjust the purifier to a new point of contact with the rim and to turn the cup before offering it to the next communicant.

"Obviously, those parishioners who have recently come from areas where the H1N1 virus is more prevalent and those with any flu like symptoms or with other health issues should restrict their reception of Holy Communion to the consecrated host."

Mgr Woods said there was no reason for a blanket restriction of the sign of peace to a simple nod, as had been suggested, in lieu of bodily contact.

## School's first head named

A principal with more than 30 years experience in teaching will be the foundation head of the Archdiocese's newest school, Mother Teresa Primary School, Harrison, when it opens next year.

Mr Michael Lowe (pictured right) is current principal of St Jude's Primary School, Holder, a position he has held since the beginning of 2004.

Mr Lowe has also been principal of St Thomas Aquinas Primary School, Charnwood, assistant principal of St Thomas the Apostle Primary School, Kambah, and Ss Peter and Paul Primary School, Garran, and religious education and curriculum officer at the Catholic Education Office.



# Schools 'jumping for joy' over \$35 mil handouts

More than \$35 million will be spent on improving archdiocesan schools, following the latest round of stimulus handouts from the Federal Government.

Nineteen primary schools have benefited from the second round of funding in the Primary Schools for the 21st Century project, which is part of the Building the Education Revolution program.

The largest amount of more than \$3.2 million was allocated to St Anthony's Parish School in Wanniasa to spend on new classrooms.

Principal Mr Tim Elliot said the money will pay for the replacement of most of the temporary classrooms, which the school has used for 26 years.

"We knew we were a school with high needs but we never thought the Government would come up with this amount of money for schools," he said.

"The money will pay for the replacement of 12 out of the 18 temporary classrooms and we will take out a loan to pay for the others.

"I'm amazed at the amount of money but I have to say if they're going to spend any money on stimulating the economy, schools are one of the best places to spend it. It's a great investment in the future of Australia."

Principal of St John the Apostle Primary School in Florey Ms Helen Currie said she was "very excited" about spending just over \$3 million on upgrades to the school's library and classrooms.

"The community has been waiting with bated breath and is excited about the future prospects," she said.

"We really needed the money. The building is 30 years old and the original design is actually quite isolating, so we were hoping for the \$3 million.

Ms Currie said she hoped the new design would "open up" classrooms and enable children to see one another "in a learning environment".

Head of Marist College Junior Mr Matthew Egan-Richards said the school's

allocation of \$2.5 million would be spent on a "multi-purpose learning centre".

Mr Egan-Richards said the building would contain three main learning spaces for the school's Japanese, arts and performing arts programs.

"Ever since I came to this school I have had my eye on the bit of land where we are going to put the building, but I put it to the back of my mind thinking we'd never have the money to do it," he said.

"We're well advanced in the planning stages so we should be able to start building pretty soon. We expect it to be finished by February."

Principal of Sts Peter and Paul's Primary in Goulburn Mrs Maree Wilshire said the school community was "jumping for joy" after receiving \$2.5 million for the refurbishment of a multi-purpose hall and the construction of a library.

"This is an exciting time for our school and we are looking forward to following each stage of the construction process," she said.

"The library and the hall will be wonderful assets to our school community. Both will create quality-teaching environments and enhance the learning outcomes of all students, as they prepare for the 21st century."

Mrs Wilshire said the school was particularly in need of the new hall.

"We're overjoyed to see it finally happening. The whole school will be able to gather together under one roof for assemblies, school liturgies, presentations and performances."

Principal of St Joseph's Primary in North Goulburn Ms Gaye McManus said the \$2 million allocated to the school would be spent on classroom infrastructure and a covered outdoor sports area.

"The funding allows us to now expand our primary school and continue the tradition of providing excellence in education," she said.

"Students, parents and staff are thrilled with the opportunity provided by this grant."

Ms McManus said St Joseph's had "desperately" needed the improvements for many years.

"We had developed a master plan for school building improvement but always thought that it would be 20 years before it could all be realised. Getting funds was always going to be an issue because we are not a wealthy school."

## WHERE THE MONEY IS GOING

St Anthony's Parish School Wanniasa - classrooms - \$3,219,712

St John the Apostle Primary School Florey - library and classrooms upgrade - \$3.039 million

Sacred Heart Primary School Pearce - library refurbishment and hall - \$2.7 million

Marist College Pearce - multi-purpose facility - \$2.5 million

Ss Peter and Paul's Primary School Goulburn - refurbishment of multi-purpose hall and construction of library - \$2.5 million

St Matthew's Primary School Page - library extensions and hall upgrade - \$2,291,200

St Joseph's Primary School Goulburn - refurbishment of classrooms and associated works - \$2 million

St Benedict's Primary School Narrabundah - library and classrooms - \$2 million

St Edmund's College Griffith - library extensions - \$2 million

St John Vianney's Primary School Waramanga - hall and classroom refurbishment - \$2 million

St Thomas Aquinas Primary School Charnwood - library and classroom refurbishment - \$2million

● Cont Page 9

## Changes for parishes

Parish pastoral co-ordinator in Adelong-Batlow Sr Bernadette Mary Walsh has been appointed to Taralga parish.

As a result of Sr Bernadette Mary's appointment as residential pastoral associate, Sr Carmel Piffero will replace her in that position at Adelong-Batlow. Sr Carmel will be replaced at Ardlethan and Arian Park in the Western Mission by Sr Mary Murphy, who is working in Wagga Wagga Diocese.

The appointments were made by Congregational Leader of the Sisters of St Joseph of Goulburn Sr Noelene Quinane in consultation with Archbishop Mark Coleridge. The sisters will begin their new appointments on 1 August.

Archbishop Coleridge said he was "deeply grateful to Sr Noelene and the Congregation for their generosity in responding to the needs of the Church. It is typical of the splendid tradition of service which the Sisters have rendered for so long."

Taralga parish priest Fr Paul McGavin has ended his term and will be on sabbatical leave over the coming 12 months.

Fr Laurie Blake has been re-appointed for a six-year term to South Woden parish and Fr Mayne Murphy to Lake Cargelligo.



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CATHOLIC VOICE July 2009 - 5

## Migrant who built a better Canberra

A former builder and Red Hill resident, Mr Mario Damo, has used his experiences as an Italian immigrant to help others in the ACT for 30 years.

Mr Damo's hard work was recognised with an Order of Australia Medal for his service to the multicultural community.

Before taking on the role as treasurer for the ACT Multicultural Council last year, Mr Damo was executive member of the group for 27 years.

"We organise people who are new to Australia and help them," he said.

"I think it's important to help these people because I know from my own experiences that when you come here and don't know the language you meet a lot of problems. I should help these people because I know what they have been through."

Mr Damo said he was surprised when he received the medal.

"I am happy because whenever I have done something good, I have never rung a bell for attention, but someone has still recognised what I have done."

When he immigrated to Australia 55 years ago, Mr Damo spent two years harvesting sugar cane in Cairns before moving to Canberra.

"I was a builder heer for 45 years. My wife Maria and I really like it here."

Mr Damo has been involved in many community organisations including as a founding member of both the Italo-Australian Club and Villaggio Italiano. He was president of Trevisani nel Mondo from 1980 to 2004, and a member of Fogulat Furlan, the Friulani nel Mondo Association, Serra Club of the ACT and Juventus Soccer Club.

Mr Damo has received many awards including a Knight Officer, Order of Merit of the Republic of Italy and Cavaliere of St Gregory the Great from the Pope.

Mr Damo and his wife are also "great friends" of the Carmelite Sisters in Canberra.

● Cathedral parishioner Mr Michael Thompson, of Forrest, was awarded the Public Service Medal for completing 50 years in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Mr Thompson has provided exceptional service to the department in the management and handling of highly classified documents.

## Help refugees, young people urged

Denise Molony would like to see more young people involved in the resettlement of refugees.

The Aranda parishioner received the Order of Australia Medal for her service to the Indo-Chinese, Albanian and Afghan communities in the Canberra region.

Following 30 years of assistance to refugees in Canberra, Mrs Molony and husband John have "weaned themselves" out of the group they helped found, the Independent Community for Refugees of Australia, formerly known as the Indo-China Refugee Association.

"We've had no official involvement for the past 12 months - we're just providing friendship now," she said.

"I'd like to see a lot more people get involved - especially young people. I think younger people should be taking over and the Government should look at employing more people in this area.

"There are just so many people who need help - true refugees who fear persecution in their own country."

Mr Molony said the original aim of the group was simply to help and resettle refugees.

"It didn't matter where they were from or what religion they were," he said.

"One of the initial reasons we established the group was because we felt guilty about the Vietnam War."

With Mrs Molony as secretary and her husband as president, the group had about 40 financial contributors and eight active members.

"It was very expensive to maintain. The Government was very helpful and gave us lots of advice and help, especially with housing," she said.

Over the years the couple helped resettle about 30 families from Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, South China, Kosovo and Afghanistan.

"The very last family we settled has stuck in my mind," Mrs Molony said.

"They were from Afghanistan and had four children.

"They've been in Canberra for about five years and we still see them. They're doing really well.

"It was a lovely thing to just be able to give these people a hand and get them settled."



Denise and John Molony in their home.

## 30 years spent caring for children

More than 30 years of commitment to foster care has earned an Australian Catholic University student an Order of Australia Medal.

Ms Bev Orr, who is studying a Master of Human Services at ACU's Canberra campus, was awarded the medal for her service to the community, particularly children through foster care and child protection.

Ms Orr is vice-president of the ACT Foster Care Association, president of the Australian Foster Care Association and deputy carer of Families Australia.



She and husband David have worked as foster and kinship carers

for more than 30 years.

Ms Orr said she was both shocked and surprised to receive the honour.

"There are so many people working as foster carers who aren't ever recognised," she said.

"They are the silent heroes looking after the community's most needy children and they also deserve recognition."

Ms Orr encouraged more members of the community to become involved in foster and respite care due to a shortage of Australian carers.

## 'Long way to go' on attitudes

There is "still a long way to go" before people with a disability are readily accepted, according to Canberra lawyer and president of Radio for the Print Handicapped Mr Robert Altamore (pictured right).

The former president of Blind Citizens Australia and Australian delegate to the World Blind Union, Mr Altamore, from Stirling ACT, was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for service "to people with a vision impairment through advocacy roles with a range of organisations".

"We were very excited to hear that I received the medal," he said.

"When you think of the other people who win these awards and what wonderful things people are doing out there, it's a privilege to win."

Despite his busy schedule, Mr Altamore has worked full time for the Australian Government Solicitor's Department since 1984.

"My legal knowledge has certainly been helpful in the running of organisations and advocating for the rights of people with a disability," he said.

"A lot of people have done lots of things for me, so if I can help in some small way I'm very pleased to be able to do that."

Although he thinks the attitude of society towards people with a disability has changed, Mr Altamore said "there is still a long way to go, particularly with employment and social inclusion.



"I'd like to see more people with a disability accepted and recognised for the contribution they can make to the community."

When he is not volunteering for various committees or conducting charity work with his wife Wendy, Mr Altamore said he enjoyed a game of blind cricket.

"We've got enough players for one team here in the Canberra region and every two years we play against other states in the National Championships. We don't fare too badly - we came third or fourth last year."

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# It's time to give all a fair go: academic

As a renowned commentator on national and global political issues Canberran John Warhurst keeps his finger on the pulse of a wide range of the things that matter to Australians.

In recognition of his service to higher education and to the community, the adjunct professor of political science at the Australian National University has been appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in the Queen's Birthday honours.

Prof Warhurst, 61, is deputy chair of Catholic Social Services Australia. He nominates the major challenges confronting the nation as raising the education, health and environment levels of the indigenous population, helping those at the bottom of the socio-economic scale get through the financial crisis, and tackling the problems of drug use and mental illness particularly among young people.

He is shocked by the discrimination he has found to his disappointment even in Canberra, and believes it is time all those who say they care actually spoke up.

In fact, he talks passionately of the needs that are apparent at all levels, whether it be through the St Vincent de Paul Society, in parishes or with church agencies such as Centacare, and the opportunities for ordinary people to lend a hand.

"As parents in a middle-class community such as Canberra, we can be conscious, for example, that we work towards everyone getting a fair go in the education systems, whether they be indigenous, disabled or poor.

"We need to be inclusive. The attacks on Indian students shock me, but even in Canberra, which you think would be most supportive, I have heard of negative attitudes towards international students. This involves people shouting out things, snide comments, not fully accepting them. This surprised me. They are a very important community for Canberra, but we should accept them because it is the Christian and human thing to do not because we fear we could lose their money."

Prof Warhurst said Australia was a comparatively racially tolerant society, "but we can lift our game. Our history in dealing with indigenous people, migrants and asylum seekers is far from squeaky clean. "There are enough racists in Australian society to stain the rest of us."

Prof Warhurst believes the Church itself has to take the lead by ensuring that its agencies "are better than the best in combating all discrimination.

"We have all got a responsibility to speak out; it could even be in our workplace.

"The most insidious thing is that we often go along with outrageous things we hear. Sometimes we have to stand up and say 'that's just not right'."

Prof Warhurst said his involvement in the field of Catholic social services was an expression of "what the Church's message means to me.

"This means sometimes championing unpopular causes, standing up for the disadvantaged and others who need someone to work with them."

Born in Adelaide, Prof Warhurst is married with two adult children. Wife Joan is one of Australia's leading educators and was chief executive officer of the National Catholic Education Commission based in Canberra.

Prof Warhurst was educated in politics and economics at Flinders University in South Australia. He has taught political science in universities for more than 30 years and is a former president of the Australasian Political Studies Association. He is known to Canberrans through a weekly column he writes for The Canberra Times. He has been active in public affairs as chair of the Australian Republican Movement. He is the author and co-editor of a number of books and publications.

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



Prof John Warhurst ... "there are enough racists in Australian society to stain the rest of us."

## 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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Pope Benedict XVI



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\*Aid to the Church in Need is a Catholic charity dependent on the Holy See providing pastoral care to needy and oppressed Christians

## Defence Force gives awards

Two Marist College students, Tim Ingold and Alec Slader have won Defence Force technical scholarships, which were offered for the first time this year.

As a Year 11 student, Tim (far right) will receive a cheque for \$1000 now and by maintaining satisfactory mathematics grades, he will receive a further \$1000 at the end of semester two.

As a Year 12 student, Alec (above left) will receive a cheque for \$1500 now and, if he maintains grades, a further \$1500 later.



## Bishop named for Sale Diocese

Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne Christopher Prowse (pictured right) has been named by the Pope as the eighth Bishop of Sale.

He succeeds Bishop Jeremiah Coffey who retired 18 months ago.

Bishop Prowse, 55, was born in Melbourne. He is a former Vicar General of Melbourne and was appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne in 2003.

The Solemn Mass and liturgical reception of Bishop Prowse as Bishop of Sale will be take place at St Mary's Cathedral, Sale, on 15 July.



Wilcannia-Forbes Bishop Chris Toohey has resigned. His resignation was accepted by the Pope in accordance with Canon 401 §2. This relates to a bishop resigning because illness or another grave reason has caused them to be unsuited to fulfill their office.

Sydney Auxiliary Bishop Terence Brady has been appointed Apostolic Administrator until a successor of Bishop Toohey is appointed. Wilcannia-Forbes Diocese includes 22 parishes and occupies an area over half of the state of NSW.

## Family planning aid on offer

Women of all ages are being encouraged to contact Centacare to learn more about natural family planning.

Consultations are being offered by the organisation, following the training of three more teachers in the Billings Ovulation Method.

During the past 12 months, senior teachers Genevieve Spokes and Joanne Widdup have supervised trainees Gill Belcher, Grace Price and Cathy Madsen as they completed the course.

"We met once a fortnight between March and October last year, before we went to Wagga to do an intensive training weekend," Ms Belcher said.

Now in their final six months of practical training, Ms Belcher said the teachers were seeking more women to "learn more about the method and their bodies".

"The Billings Ovulation Method is a very practical and easy method to learn as it is not invasive in any way. It is inexpensive and 99.9 per cent effective if used correctly.



"Women can use this method as a natural contraception, for conception and most importantly to identify a healthy reproductive system.

It is suitable for women from their first menstruation until completion of menopause and it is also very beneficial for breastfeeding women."

To find out more or to book a consultation contact Centacare, telephone 6162 6100.

ABOVE: Natural family planning teachers Genevieve Spokes, Gill Belcher and Grace Price.



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Manager: Victor Dunn.

**Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn**

## First for footy player

Year 9 student Jack Baker (pictured right) has become the first player to represent Lumen Christi College at the New South Wales All Schools AFL Championships.

Jack was selected to play full forward and in the ruck for the Combined Catholic Colleges Northern NSW team at the championships, which were held in Coffs Harbour.

Coming up against teams representing regions from all over NSW, Jack and his team managed to place third.



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# ACT 'top family' named

A Red Hill couple and their five sons have been named family of the year by the ACT Australian Family Association.

Felicity and Steph-en Cusack not only worked hard at rearing their own five sons, ranging in age from 16 to 26, in line with Christian principles, but they also made a significant contribution to many groups, association ACT president Mr Paul Monagle said.

The Cusack family was an inspiration and worthy winner of the award this year.

"The family contributes to the Church, school groups, and other activities."

The Australian Family Association makes the award each year to a family which demonstrates the importance of good family life and models it to the community, and also contributes to the community.

The family of the year, which has been awarded for more than 20 years, is nominated by



members of the ACT Australian Family Association.

ABOVE: Australian Family Association ACT president Paul Monagle with Stephen and Felicity Cusack, and sons Tom and Luke Cusack. Their other sons are Joseph, Matthew and Paul.

# Parishes urged to celebrate priests

Parishes in the Archdiocese are being asked to think of ways to celebrate the Year of the Priesthood which has been declared by the Pope.

In a letter to Catholics, Archbishop Mark Coleridge said a committee was also considering how to mark the year in the Archdiocese.

From 19 June, the Feast of the Sacred Heart, until 19 June next year, Pope Benedict has invited the whole Church to celebrate a Year of the Priesthood.

Archbishop Coleridge said it would be "a time to focus upon the mystery of the ministerial priesthood and the great gift it is at the heart of the Church."

"The call of Jesus is total, as was his death on the Cross and his Resurrection from the dead. His call claims the mind, the

heart, the soul and the body of a man - which is why the ministerial priesthood is much more than a job.

"The priesthood is hard work, but it is not just a job. It is a job and a marriage rolled into one with something extra as well. That something extra is a special call to holiness.

"In the Bible, to be holy 'as I the Lord you God am holy' (Leviticus 19:2) means to be separate for the sake of service - not just separate for the sake of being separate, but separate for service. Again, if service is not there, then the priesthood will decay into clericalism."

If the priesthood was not an experience of self-sacrificing love, "then inevitably it will become a kind of loveless clericalism, more concerned with

power and prestige than with the priesthood of the crucified Lord", he said.

"The priest serves primarily by living the mystery of the Lord's Cross, sacrificing himself in love for the building up of the Church.

"Through this Year we will celebrate and ponder the gift of the ministerial priesthood. We will pray for the priests we have and give thanks for their tireless service of which only God can take the full measure.

"We will also ask the Lord to send us more priests who can fill the Church with the glory of Christ by emptying themselves in his name.

• The full text of Archbishop Coleridge's letter is at [www.cg.catholic.org.au/about/default.cfm?loadref=86](http://www.cg.catholic.org.au/about/default.cfm?loadref=86)

# Viet bishop on pastoral visit

Vietnamese Bishop Paul Nguyen Van Hoa, who visited Canberra, believes he may be able to provide a helping hand on vocations.

On a visit to Vietnam in February, South Tuggeranong parish priest Fr John Armstrong met Bishop Nguyen Van Hoa from Nha Trang Diocese and told him of Australia's decline in vocations.

"My purpose here is to visit Vietnamese priests, nuns and parishioners in the Archdiocese," Bishop Nguyen Van Hoa said. "In Canberra there is a shortage of vocations for priests and nuns, but in Vietnam we have a lot. I want to establish a good relationship between Nha Trang and the Archdiocese. Perhaps in the future



we will be able to send some of our Vietnamese nuns over here."

ABOVE: Fr John Armstrong, Bishop Nguyen Van Hoa, Sr Kim Hoa from Centacare and Bishop Nguyen Van Hoa's Secretary Fr John Tien.

# \$35 mil for schools

From Page 5.

Primary Campus of St Patrick's School Cooma - construction of Covered outdoor learning area, staff amenities and associated works - \$2 million

St Joseph's Primary School North Goulburn - refurbishment of classrooms and associated works - \$2 million

St Peters and Paul's Primary School Garran - classrooms refurbishment - \$1.5 million

St Joseph's School Boorowa - refurbishment of multi-purpose hall and construction of library and associated works - \$950,000

St Mary's War Memorial School West Wyalong - refurbishment of multi-purpose hall and construction of student amenities - \$950,000

Trinity Catholic Primary School Murrumburrah - construction of covered outdoor learning area and refurbishment of library and associated works - \$850,000

St Vincent's Primary School Aranda - library and hall upgrade - \$774,467

St Mary's School Batlow - construction of library and associated works, administration and staff facilities - \$425,000.

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# It's a new world, but don't forget the past

**At the start of the Year of the Priesthood, Naomi Fallon talks to a historian, author and recipient of a Queen's Birthday honour.**

Following many late nights spent drawing up family trees and writing parish histories, the work of the "last of his tribe" historian and retired priest Fr Brian Maher, has been recognised.

In the Queen's Birthday honours, Fr Maher was awarded an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for service to the Canberra region "through historical organisations and to the Catholic Church of Australia".

"I am proud that my work has been acknowledged," he said.

"But it's more for the excitement it might give my family and friends."

Fr Maher has authored many publications on the history of the Canberra and Goulburn region, including the first historical account of the Archdiocese, *Planting the Celtic Cross: Foundations of the Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn*.

"People properly wouldn't have realised the numerous hours I put in, particularly when I was preparing the history of the diocese. I would work for many hours until late in the night and I was still working full time as a priest."

Fr Maher said his interest in history began when he was 10 years old, visiting the old cemetery in the grounds of the Galong monastery.

"I used to assist the Binalong parish priest by carrying his books and holy water around and I was always a bit of a pain in the neck, following him around and asking questions - what does that mean, why is that there."

Fr Maher was born in Corowa on the Murray River, his father a station manager from Cootamundra and his mother from Williamsdale near Michelago.

"My mother died from illness when I wasn't yet three, so we moved to Binalong and my father sent my brother and I to the Mercy boarding school at Galong.

"That was through the war years and they were hard times. There was not much money or food.

"I used to spend all of my school holidays on rural properties around Binalong and Boorowa."

Fr Maher later went to St Gregory's College in Campbelltown where his love of agriculture bloomed.

"It was there that I made a whole network of friendships with the families of boys from farms and I'm still in contact with a lot of them.

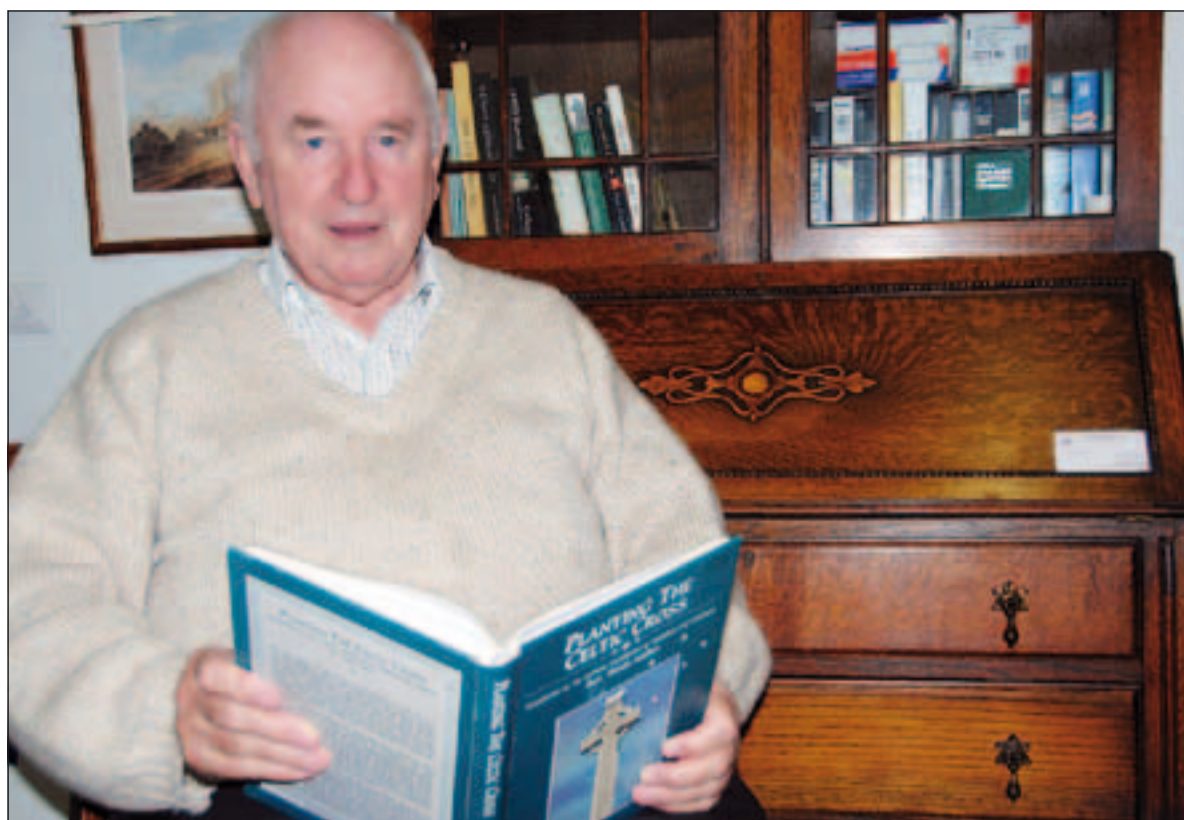
"I was fairly active in school football - it was the most important things at school. Religion came about fourth, after agriculture, biology and football."

After finishing a degree in agricultural science at Sydney University, he spent a year working on irrigation research in Victoria.

"Several of my classmates ended up as agricultural professors and one ended up as the vice chancellor of a university."

Despite trying to "put off" becoming a priest, Fr Maher entered the seminary at Springwood about 22 years old.

"I'd tossed the idea around a bit but that was it. It was just constantly bugging me.



Fr Brian Maher ... I always enjoy doing parish histories and finding out something new.

"I spent four years at both Manly and Springwood. I was ordained in 1966 in what was St Patrick's Church in Braddon, which is now the Merici College hall."

Fr Maher's first appointment was in Cootamundra, where his brother was living at the time.

"That was good because we have always been very close. There was always the pull of the bush in my family circle.

Aranda parish before he retired in 2007.

"There was a period where I resurrected old churches at Bungendore, Gundaroo, Hoskinstown and Tarago, some of which had been closed for more than 20 years.

"Because of closer settlement they were building up communities, so we just sold off a few of the surrounding paddocks to pay

**'On cold nights when other people were doing crosswords, I'd be drawing up family trees.'**

"Over the years I had a couple of short appointments in the country, but not as many as I would have liked.

"Anywhere south west, anywhere from Yass onwards would have been nice. I've always liked the farming, the cropping, the stock and landscape.

"There's a very strong sense of community out there; everyone knows one another and there's a lot of socialising, parties and sporting gatherings."

Fr Maher's longest stays included about 20 years in the Catholic Mission office, six years at Bungendore and 15 years at

for repairs and get rid of the white ants. I'm actually quite proud of that."

But it was during a short appointment in Queanbeyan, early in his career that Fr Maher returned to his love of history.

"I started looking into where my mother's family came from. Her grandfather Jeremiah Keefe was a prominent citizen in Queanbeyan.

"On cold nights when other people were doing crosswords, I'd be drawing up family trees. People started coming to me to find out where their families came from. I became a bit of a guru on Irish immigration.

"I feel as though I'm more or less the last of my tribe, in the sense that I was particularly interested in the rural population of Irish farmers and land holders. Society has just changed so much - everything is more city-centred."

As a result of this changing society, Fr Maher decided to "permanently record the stories of the clergy and their families from Ireland" with his books and parish histories.

"I've done a whole series of parish histories including Yass, Moruya, Crookwell, the Cathedral, Bungendore and Binalong and I'm currently working on Cootamundra. I always enjoy doing parish histories and finding out something new and there's a few more I'd like to do before I fall off the perch.

"I am worried history will be forgotten - it almost has been because of the new media such as television, radio and the internet, it's changed the whole mentality of people.

It's not that people don't want to know, it's just that it's overpowered by everything else like planes ditching into the Atlantic."

In his 72 years, Fr Maher has seen some drastic shifts in society, to what he said is now "a different world".

"There has been a whole change from a nation that was very much centred on rural life to now where it is relatively unimportant.

"When I was a kid growing up, the things that were happening in Harden, Yass and Boorowa were the important things.

"For a kid growing up out there now, what's happening in London, Paris and New York is important."

Fr Maher said Catholic life in Canberra had also changed. "It is more impersonal nowadays with a lot of emphasis on education and more awareness about international social justice.

"The Church is changing - but it's got to change. We've already got about 10 clergy from beyond Australia and more of that will happen. It's more international now."

Despite Australia's lack of vocations, he believes the Church "will survive, but it will have a different face".



A recent gathering of clergy of the Archdiocese at St Clement's, Galong. Fr Maher is fifth from the right in the second row from the front.



This month Catholic Voice visited MacO at Holy Trinity Primary School in Curtin. MacO is the Year 4 and Year 5 Multi-Age Class, taught by Mr Matthew O'Dwyer. MacO had been learning about the culture, spirituality and geographical information of Bali in Indonesia. Rebecca Mount said MacO had learnt that Bali only had two seasons - the warm and dry season and the hot and wet season. "I'd like to visit Bali, but only in the warm and dry season," she said

**RIGHT:**  
**Bali's beauty by Tara Acton.**



Chloe Elliott (middle) tells Lisa Seberry and Stella Phan a joke.



Beautiful drawings by Abbey Friesen (top), Jeremy Miranda-Veloso (above right), Bianca Gillett (above) and Lisa Seberry (right)

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**TOP LEFT:** Mr O'Dwyer with MacO **ABOVE:** Year 5 student Claire Whyte and Bradley Horton from Year 4 have a laugh. **BELOW:** Year 4 student Aidan Goodwin checks out what Year 5 student Abbey Friesen is up to.



Q: Why did the ice cream cone cry?  
A: Because it's mum had been wafer too long!  
Q: How do you stop a rhino charging?  
A: Take away his credit card!  
- By Bradley Horton



Year 5 students Grace Eccles, Sophie Cardone and Rebecca Mount.

CATHOLIC VOICE July 2009 - 11

## For meditation

The Catholic Education Office Library holds a range of DVDs, VHS videos and



**Videos & DVDs**

CD sound recordings that provide guides to personal and group meditation, including instructional DVDs, examples of types of meditation and sound recordings to assist with meditation.

### DVDs

#### Seeing and Believing (ages 16-adult)

This DVD includes a series of 10 guided meditations on DVD (with an accompanying booklet) inspired by classic images of the life of Christ by some of the world's greatest artists. Christopher Herbert, the Bishop of St Albans, introduces each work and artist, and provides a devotional commentary as a prelude to prayerful reflection and contemplation.

#### Footprints in the Sand (32 mins, ages 12-adult)

Inspired by the Footprints poem, this film is a relaxing visual and audio stimulus to refresh and encourage the viewer.

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

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

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

#### Breathe.(Nooma series, 14 mins, ages 15-adult)

This short film is part of the Nooma series that deals with aspects of spirituality that people care about and want to talk about. Breathe depicts a man on a subway who tells the viewer that, in the busyness of everyday life, people should take the time to be aware of their breathing and its meaning. He explains that breath is a picture of a deeper spiritual reality and that maybe if we had more insight into the meaning of breathing, we would better understand how God created us as human beings.

The Catholic Bookshop has donated a DVD player to the CEO library. The player is available for loan to library clients. Library telephone 6163 4350. Email: library@cg.catholic.edu.au - Dennis Granlund (librarian).

# A window into how others see us

**Women in Search of Truth by Jennifer Ferrara and Patricia Sodano Ireland. Our Sunday Visitor, 2009, 229pp, rrp \$34.95. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.**

Everyone has a unique story to tell and everyone, we're told, likes to be heard. Women in Search of Truth is a compilation of stories from converts to Catholicism.

There are some characteristics these women have in common. They are all highly educated and articulate. Many were ordained ministers in their churches with responsibilities for teaching, preaching and presiding at the Eucharist. All of them were and are women of prayer and service. All of them, as each one states, were in search of the truth.

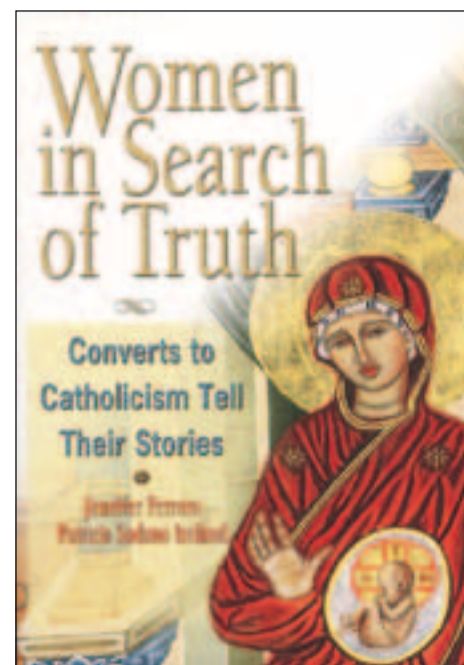
Several of the women are friends from a Lutheran affiliation. They were appalled at their Church's stance on abortion (a big issue in the United States) and towards the ordination of homosexuals. They are painfully honest about the perceived shortcomings of Lutheran administration and authority.

All of the women suffered agonies of indecision. They read widely and listened to the experience of friends. Surprisingly, some discovered EWTN with Mother Angelica or other TV programs as a source of information.

Perhaps not so surprisingly, the place of Mary and the saints was a real issue for Protestant evangelicals. They discovered the Rosary and were amazed to find that meditating on the mysteries led to a deeper relationship with Jesus.

Those who began to attend Mass were disappointed at the preaching and "lack-lustre" liturgical music of the '90s. There was very real grieving for what they were about to leave behind. Nevertheless, they were conscious of being led and graced by God. Uniformly they longed for the sacraments particularly for the Eucharist.

Ten years after being received into the Church these women live comfortably with their decisions and have become



exemplary members of their parish communities. Quite humbling really.

There are many anecdotal collections. Some are better and more absorbing than others. This one, albeit distinctively American, is both a window into how people of other faiths regard Catholicism and a mirror for cradle Catholics with which to view the riches of our received heritage.

# As comfy as an old brown robe

**The Little Brown Book by Sue and Leo Kane. St. Paul's Publications, 2009, 175pp, rrp \$17.95. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.**

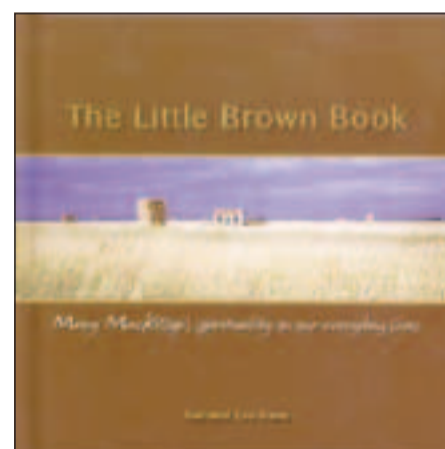
In the food trade presentation is everything. Not always so with books, I've found.

The Little Brown Book is an exception to this observation.

The way it fits snugly into the hand, the simple double-spacing, the illustrations, the quality paper and the very reasonable price make it worthy of a second look.

But, as always, it is the content within that counts.

The authors, Sue and Leo Kane, have taken their inspiration from key sayings of Mary MacKillop.



They marry these with scripture quotes and tiny little vignettes from her life.

Their aim is to explore the spirituality of Mary and to highlight what she has to

say to us today. They point out that Mary will affirm us while throwing out a challenge to us to grow.

We need simply to allow Mary's "good God" into our lives. She herself said, "Keep your mind in peace".

There are 72 reflections, some of which will appeal again and again.

As well, there are guidelines for 10 group sessions and a helpful link to the web-site.

One of the recommendations is to have a cuppa with Mary using The Little Brown Book.

So I did just that. What a sane everyday approach to prayer in our busy world!

This book is as warm and comfy as an old brown robe. Enjoy.

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# Heroes who have gone before us

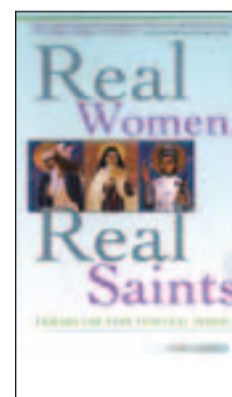
**Real Women, Real Saints by Gina Loehr, Servant Books, 2008, 166pp, rrp \$22.95. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.**

Yet another compilation of biographies about women saints has come on to the market. Called by the hope-filled title of Real Women, Real Saints there are more than 100 of these.

Author Gina Loehr has chosen to group them alphabetically in categories such as Women of Faith, Justice, Prudence, and Fortitude. I found this to be confusing initially.

The biographical details are necessarily sparse for early Christian saints and at times are the stuff of legend. The wording of the descriptors varies which probably indicates the different sources used by Loehr. At other times the language is almost jaunty as, for example, when Loehr speculates as to whether St Rita and St Jude might not work as a tag team on hopeless cases!

Some of the saints are prominent names globally, others better known in their own cultures. All were heroic in their lifetimes. We marvel at the strength of many of them who endured abuse and neglect with grace. At the same time we are appalled at the inequality of the societies in which they lived. The kindness and practical aid given by many of the women is exemplary.



Their patronage extends to many causes from stained-glass windows (St Lucy) to old clothes dealers (St Anne) to television writers (St Clare). There are 17 listed patrons of widows. This is a useful, no-frills reference book of its genre for those interested in the women who have gone before us in faith.

## WODEN CHRISTIAN BOOKSHOP

**More than halfway through the year, and where has the time gone? There's still some time left, though, to catch up on some reading over the winter evenings—they're still long, even if not quite so long.**

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# Tribute to national disgrace

## Disgrace

**Starring** John Malkovich, Jessica Haines, Eriq Ebouaney, and Antoinette Engel. **Directed by** Steve Jacobs. 118 mins. M (Violence, sex scenes, mature scenes, and coarse language). **Reviewer:** Peter W Sheehan\*.

This is the film adaptation of the 1999 Booker Prize winning novel of the same name by J M Coetzee, who won the 2003 Nobel Prize for Literature. The film of the novel won the International Critics' Award at the Toronto Film Festival in 2008.

The film closely follows the book and tells the story of David Lurie, a professor in communications at a university in post-apartheid South Africa. He takes sexual advantage of one of his young students (Antoinette Engel) and he is disgraced. His defiance about his behaviour is absolute, and totally without regret.

Following his dismissal, he goes to the farm of his daughter Lucy (Jessica Haines) in the Eastern Cape. Any attempt to find harmony in his daughter's house is affected not only by his past relationship with her, but also by the political and physical events which envelop them both.

Lucy is raped and finds herself pregnant, and Lurie is brutally assaulted, following an attack on the farm by three black youths. They are both physically and emotionally broken by the assault. The attack is meant to portray that those who are disgraced are also those who are punished and forced to bear the consequences. Lucy and Lurie become victims, and Lurie pays dearly for his ruin.

Lurie is a racist as well as a predator. The film is as much about the breakdown of a flawed human being and the challenges of seeking forgiveness and finding redemption, as it is about a culture or a society undergoing change.



Prof David Lurie (John Malkovich) and Lucy (Jessica Haines) in a scene from Disgrace.

Lurie's past pursues him relentlessly, and his daughter is drawn into the abyss. It is a film that vividly displays the changing face of South Africa in the context of deep exploration of a troubled person's soul.

Lucy decides to keep the child and accepts being a mother in an act of resignation to the culture of which she is a part. She decides to marry into the extended family of the person who raped her, but does this ambiguously to protect her rights, and to escape future violence.

Her decision is a compromise of personal and cultural commitment. For Lurie, there is also pain, and the film becomes a story of a selfish and impulsive individual, who finds the strength to reach out and give to his own child, while not being able to understand the choice she has made.

John Malkovich has the capacity to combine quirkiness and deep seriousness. The role is perfect for him, and he gives an

outstanding portrayal of the narcissistic and pleasure-seeking Lurie, who has condemned himself to solitude.

Newcomer Jessica Haines is excellent as Lucy who lives on the cusp of a culture she refuses to reject.

This is a complicated movie, based on a tough book, and it is focused and intense.

The South African locations are captured wonderfully by cinematographer Steve Arnold, and the direction by Steve Jacobs is sensitive and faithful to Coetzee's intent.

The film as a whole is a powerful tribute to national disgrace, and its thought-provoking wisdom helps mitigate the impact of a bleak underlying despair that has cultural, as well as profoundly personal and human implications for us all.

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

# Drama with charm on the side

Noodle, an absolute charmer from Israel, is a comedy-drama full of compassion that draws attention to the plight of people whom the state decrees to be beyond the pale and therefore washes its hands of them.

Miri (Mili Avital) is a senior El Al stewardess in her late 30s, twice widowed in military conflicts in the Middle East. Tired after a long flight she comes home to her Tel Aviv apartment where her sister Gila (Anat Waxman) has set up residence after separating from her husband Izzy (Alon Aboutboul).

There are issues between the sisters that date back many years, and Gila does not appreciate Miri's attempts to patch up her marriage and tell her where she went wrong.

On this particular day, Miri's life takes a dramatic turn when she agrees to look

## Noodle

**Starring** Mili Avital, Anat Waxman, Baoqui Chen and Alon Aboutboul. **Directed by** Ayelet Menahemi. 102 mins. PG (mild coarse language). **Reviewer:** Jim Murphy\*.

after a six-year-old Chinese boy while her mother, Miri's cleaning lady, attends to some business. But the mother does not return.

As it dawns on Miri (and less appealingly to Gila) that something has happened to the boy's mother, they have to face the possibility that she has been picked up by the immigration authorities for being an illegal alien. If this is the case, they dare not enlist the aid of the police because that would mean advertising that the boy, too, is illegal. Every way

they turn, they are confronted by a maze of red tape.

The child, whom they name Noodle because of his eagerness in consuming Asian takeaway, speaks only Chinese and is afraid and at first uncooperative, so their task in trying to piece together where he is from seems insurmountable.

The characters are sympathetically played, the Chinese boy is delightful in front of the cameras, and the growing friendship between the Israeli hostess and the boy from Beijing is heart-warming.

But sentimentality gives way to quite a suspenseful ending as Miri devises a daring and risky plan to thwart the authorities and reunite mother and son. It will get you close to the edge of your seat.

\*Jim Murphy is an associate of the Australian Catholic Office for Film & Broadcasting.

# Romantic comedy with an old theme

In this entertaining and comic film, Sandra Bullock plays the role of Margaret Tate, the editor-in-chief of a book-publishing company, and she makes it almost impossibly difficult for anyone who happens to work for her. Her visa is running out, and word comes through that she is going to be deported to Canada.

To avoid the deportation order, she proposes that she marries her unsuspecting assistant, Andrew Paxton (Ryan Reynolds). Andrew is intimidated by his boss, and has been tormented by her for some time. His job is now at risk, and he accepts the proposal to protect his position, but also because he has eventual ambitions to be editor in Margaret's place.

## The Proposal

**Starring** Sandra Bullock, Ryan Reynolds, Malin Akerman, Mary Steenburgen, Oscar Nunez, and Craig T. Nelson. **Directed by** Anne Fletcher. 107 mins. PG (mild coarse language and sexual references). **Reviewer:** Peter W Sheehan\*.

This is a marriage of convenience, and it arouses the suspicions of the Immigration Department. Andrew sets his own conditions on the union and they find themselves spending a weekend together with his family in Alaska to try to make their togetherness look legitimate.

This is classical romantic comedy, and a typical theme for such plots is that when two people start to spend time together, they also start to fall in love, with perfectly predictable results. However, the film offers more than that. The comedy that works in this movie doesn't flow entirely from two people, who eventually find themselves attracted to each other, but also from what ensues when two incompatible persons have to struggle to adapt to each other, when neither likes doing so.

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

## SHORTS

**Sunshine Cleaning.** Starring: Amy Adams, Emily Blunt, Alan Arkin, Jason Spevach, and Steve Zahn. Directed by Christine Jeffs. 102 mins. M (Mature themes, violence, coarse language, sex scene, drug use, and nudity).

Set in Albuquerque, US, this is a bitter-sweet movie about a family surviving as best it can under enormous financial and psychological pressures. Not one that will attract a lot of people, but quality viewing nevertheless, and well worth a visit.

**Two Lovers.** Starring Joaquin Phoenix, Gwyneth Paltrow, Vinessa Shaw and Isabella Rossellini. Directed by James Gray. 110 mins. M (coarse language and sex scenes).

Any film that begins with the central character attempting suicide is a fair bet to be a bit on the melodramatic side, but director James Gray studiously skirts the obvious in this offbeat romantic drama about thirtysomethings, set with palpable atmosphere in the Brighton Beach district of Brooklyn in the late 1990s.

**Terminator Salvation.** Starring Christian Bale, Sam Worthington, Moon Bloodgood and Helena Bonham Carter. Directed by McG. 114 mins. M (violence).

James Cameron's 1984 The Terminator told of a cyborg killer sent back in time by Skynet, an artificial intelligence network in the year 2029 bent on exterminating the human race. Credibility gets short shrift among all the shootin' and crashin' and explodin'.



**I Love You, Man.** Starring Paul Rudd, Thomas Lennon, J K Simmons, Sydney Fife, Rashida Jones. Directed by John Hamburg. 105 mins. M (sexual themes, coarse language).

Story of a man about to get married who finds he has no men friends, no one, apart from his brother, he could ask to be his best man. His fiancée and her friends urge him to make some male friends. Very amusing, well-written, well acted.



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Thurs 16th July	High School Musical 3, PG 111 mins

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# Let's not get our prayer mixed up

Prayer is classically defined as lifting mind and heart to God. That's a good definition, but it needs an important qualification.

There are two essential kinds of prayer: Something we call liturgical prayer, the public prayer of the Church, and something we call private or devotional prayer. Unfortunately we often confuse the two.

For example, 500 people might be sitting in meditation together in a church or praying the rosary together at a shrine and this is still private or devotional prayer.

Conversely, someone might be praying the Office of the Church alone at home in an armchair or a priest might be celebrating the Eucharist alone at a kitchen table and this is public, liturgical prayer.

The distinction, as we see from these examples, is not dependent on the number of people participating, or whether the prayer is taking place in a church, or even whether the prayer is being prayed in a group or privately. The distinction is based upon something else. What?

Perhaps a change of names might help us understand the distinction: Liturgical, public prayer might more aptly be called priestly prayer, while private and devo-

tional prayer might better be termed affective prayer.

What is priestly prayer? It is the prayer of Christ through the Church for the world.

Our Christian belief is that Christ is still gathering us together around his word and is still offering an eternal act of love for the world.

As an extension of that we believe that whenever we meet together, in a church or elsewhere, to gather around the scriptures or to celebrate the Eucharist we are entering into that prayer and sacrifice of Christ.

This is liturgical prayer; it's Christ's prayer not ours. We pray liturgically whenever we gather to celebrate the scriptures, the sacraments, or when we pray, in community or privately, something that is called the Prayer of the Church or the Office of the Church (Lauds and Vespers).

And this kind of prayer is not restricted to the ordained clergy. We are all priests by virtue of our baptism and part of the implicit covenant we make with the community at our baptism is the commitment, when we reach adulthood, to pray habitually for the

## Ron Rolheiser

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



world through the liturgical prayer of the Church.

What needs also to be highlighted here, since we easily miss this aspect, is that the Church's liturgical prayer is for the world, not for itself.

The Church, in this world, does not exist for its own sake, but as an instrument of salvation for the world. Its function is to save the world, not itself. In liturgical prayer we pray with Christ, through the Church, but for the world.

Affective prayer has a different intent. Though it has many forms, meditation, centering prayer, praying the rosary, devotional prayers of all kinds, it has a single aim, to draw us and our loved ones into deeper intimacy with Christ.

In the end, no matter its particular form, all non-liturgical prayer ultimately aims at personal intimacy with God and is, ultimately too, private, even when it is done publicly or in a large group.

All private and devotional prayer can be defined in this way: It is prayer that tries, in myriad ways, to open us or our loved ones up in such a way that we can hear God say to us: "I love you!"

It is important to know this distinction when we go to pray: Which kind of prayer are we entering?

To confuse the two is to risk doing both badly. For example, the person who feels frustrated because the liturgical ritual and interaction of a congregation inside a church service are felt as a hindrance and distraction to the private devotional prayers he or she would like to be saying is confusing the two forms of prayer and is consequently doing both badly. The function of liturgical prayer is not first of all devotional.

Or sometimes the confusion leads someone to abandon one form of liturgical prayer altogether. I know a man who after years of praying the Office of the Church is substituting his own

private prayer in its place because he doesn't find the ritual prayers personally meaningful.

His private meditations now might well be wonderful affective prayer, but he is no longer praying the priestly prayer of Christ when he is praying in this way.

We see this sometimes too in well-intentioned, but badly planned, churches services where what is intended to be a liturgical service ends up being a guided private meditation, however well-done and powerful, which neither uses scripture nor prays for the world.

Churches themselves struggle with this. Roman Catholics, Anglicans, Episcopalians, and main-line Protestant churches have a strong liturgical tradition, sometimes to the detriment of affective prayer.

Evangelical and Pentecostal churches, on the other hand, have a strong focus on affective prayer, sometimes to the point of neglecting almost entirely liturgical prayer.

We would probably all do ourselves a favor by having two prayer shawls, each embroidered separately: Priestly Prayer and Affective Prayer.

## Brave women an inspiration today

By Margaret Knagge RSJ

"The Catholicism of mere custom has had its day" is a quote from an article by Fr Joaquin Alliende in The Mirror, a magazine of The Church In Need.

In full it says, "the Catholicism of mere custom has had its day; now we must make a radical option for the faith.

"Faith means something to live for, something to die for."

In the Jubilee Year 2000, Pope John Paul II prayed that the faith of the martyrs of the outgoing century might be the foundation of the new evangelization.

Martyrs live their faith in Jesus and his Church and they die for it and their witness speaks more loudly than thousands of words.

In response to this call of Pope John Paul II and to Pope Benedict's granting to Australia the privilege of hosting World Youth Day in 2008, the Sisters of St Joseph chose to open their chapel to Australians and other visitors.

If you do not know much about the martyrs, visit the Convent of the Sisters of St Joseph in Reynolds Street, Goulburn, to experience an acoustic guide of its treasures.

Here, in the presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament you will be able to listen to a recording of the lives of women and girl saints such as St Catherine, virgin and martyr, St Philomena aged between 13 and 15, St Lucy, patron saint of the blind, St Agnes, stabbed to death, St Cecilia, patron of musicians and St Agatha patron of fire-fighters because of her intercession for the villagers of Mt Etna during a volcanic eruption.

In addition you might listen to the stories of brave women who lived full, persevering lives of witness.

The beautiful stained glass windows reflect the sorrows of Our Lady and the passion of Jesus.

We find suffering very challenging and difficult but, united with Jesus and with the people who followed his way over the centuries, it can not only heal but can effect great good for repentant and unrepentant humanity.

After the example of the martyrs and saints our own lives (even in the little things) can become an inspiration to others.

A friend sent this story to me recently:

A priest in America boarded the bus and was handed a quarter too much in change. He thrust about in his mind as to

whether he should return it to the driver or not; after all it was only a quarter.

As he alighted from the bus he handed the driver the money saying, "you gave me too much change". The driver replied, "You're the priest from the next parish aren't you? I'm new here. I was waiting to see what you'd do! I'll see you at church on Sunday".

The priest stepped off the bus with this prayer, "Thank you, my God, I almost sold your Son for a quarter!"

Little events can have big consequences, can't they?

If you visit the chapel, when passing through Goulburn, pray other women might join the Sisters in the mission of the Church in the spirit of Mary MacKillop and Fr Julian Tenison-Woods.



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**CURSILLO** - Canberra Women's Cursillo 10-13 September at Galong. Contact Karen Meacham, telephone 6291 7802. Northside Ultreya, Page parish, 8pm, 23 July. Southside Ultreya, Kambah parish, 7.30pm, 28 July. All welcome.

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

**PARISH ANNIVERSARY** - St Thomas the Apostle, Kambah, 25th anniversary, 3-5 July. Invitation to past parishioners and friends. Friday, 3 July, dinner dance at Canberra Southern Cross Club, Woden. Sunday, 5 July, celebration Mass 10am followed by roast lunch. Inquiries: Chris Simons, telephone 0403 873 148. E-mail: stt.kambah@cg.catholic.org.au

**RAPHAELS** - Singles social group for Catholics and Christian-minded people, aged 24-40. Meet people for social activities, includ-

ing dinner, movie, social sport, coffee and Mass every two months. Inquiries: Telephone 0401 918 717, www.catholic-social-group.com, e-mail raphsgroup@yahoo.com.au

**SCRIPTURE/ REFLECTION DAYS** - Exploring the gospel women, early women of faith. 10am-12.30pm, 2, 9, 16 July. Cost \$5 a session. Presenter Sr Lorraine Cupitt, e-mail lorraine.potter-shouse@homemail.com.au. Bookings: Telephone 6262 8974.

**SERRA CLUB OF CANBERRA** - Rosary and Mass at Holy Trinity Church, Curtin, 6.30pm, Thursday, 9 July, followed by dinner. Inquiries: John Malycha, telephone 6251 2912.

**WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER** - Weekend for married couples, 24-26 July, Mount Schoenstatt, Mulgoa, near Penrith. Bookings: Telephone 6379 1125 or 4283 3435, website www.wvme.org.au

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

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Members of movements and groups from around the Archdiocese listen to Archbishop Mark Coleridge.

## Build unity, groups urged

Church movements, communities and associations needed to continue building unity and deepening the experience of communion, Archbishop Mark Coleridge said.

He was speaking to about 100 people at a meeting of groups from the Archdiocese held on the vigil of Pentecost.

Archbishop Coleridge said the Church was facing an uncertain future - an Abrahamic time when total trust in God was the only way to go forward.

As Abraham experienced, when he followed his own plans he got into trouble; on the other hand when he put his trust in God things went well.

In the not-so-distant past "we seemed to have known what to do, things were reasonably well defined and explained".

Now things seemed uncertain and questioned, "yet we want to understand all in order to believe".

Amid bitterness and division, lay people needed to be involved, to bring to the Church their experience from being immersed in all aspects of life and work, and to pray for greater unity in the world and in the Church.

Archbishop Coleridge spoke of the urgent missionary need to shape and speak to those who were "no longer among us in the spirituality of communion".

He urged Catholics to find ways to communicate with those who do not belong or are not active in the Church.

The Church was becoming more missionary and Jesus provided us with "unexpected opportunities to use our charisms; that is our gifts from God as part of the Holy Spirit".



This month, throughout the Archdiocese, parishes will conduct the annual Propagation of the Faith Church Appeal to assist faith communities both overseas and within remote areas of Australia, to minister within their wider communities.

This year's theme is "Our Salvation is Bound Together: It's our Mission, Play your Part". It's a call to action for us all, which for some has seen them work as missionaries within their own communities and beyond, playing their parts.

Among them is Sister Barbara Tippolay, a Tiwi Islander and member of the Handmaids of Our Lord congregation, now living and working on the Tiwi Islands to the north of Darwin after years teaching in Papua New Guinea.

Currently, Sister Barbara oversees the Women's Centre, seeking to empower local women through encouraging them in their creativity. Working together in creating textiles and sharing their stories as they work the Centre allows new opportunities for the community including pastoral outreach and care. Such endeavours need to continue.

Catholic Mission, through our appeals and the generosity and prayers of our supporters, who play their part in the fabric which is the family of mission and faith, seek to help meet such need. Help us help others. Please give generously.

God bless  
**Deacon Joe Blackwell**

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If in the course of their investigation, the Coroner discovers that a known person has committed an indictable offence in connection with a death, they then refer it to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

A little known fact is that Coroners also inquire into fires where property has been destroyed or damaged.

For more information please call 6297 1052.



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## Christians get together to pray

More than 250 Christians from many Tuggeranong churches gathered in the Christian City Church (C3 Monash) to celebrate an evening of prayer and worship for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Pastor Steve Janes gave a brief and warm encouragement and introduced the keynote speaker Bishop Pat Power.

In his address Bishop Power highlighted the Holy Spirit's influence in the ecumenical movement. Drawing partly from his own life experiences, he demonstrated how the Catholic Church had grown to embrace the ecumenical movement since Vatican II.

### Inspiring weekend

St Benedict's Eucharistic Centre hosted an inspiring healing weekend by Marist priest from New Zealand Fr John Rea.

The weekend featured healing Masses and a seminar by Fr Rea, who has taught people in many countries for more than 30 years about the healing love of Jesus.

The talks are available on audio at www.stbenedict.info

Based on John 17, Pastor Jon Cathie (Capital Edge Community Church, Erindale), the Rev Peta Thorpe (St Stephen's Anglican Church, Kambah), Chris Simons and Trish Jarzynski (St Thomas the Apostle parish, Kambah), Fr Constantine Osuchukwu (Corpus Christi parish, South Tuggeranong), Roger Soong (Parkway Church, Kambah), Pastor Jill Janes (C3 Monash), and Karyn Connelly (St Anthony of Padua parish, Wanniasa) facilitated a variety of inspiring prayers for Christian unity.

The young people of C3 Monash's worship team led vibrant and prayerful singing

and Sarah Hill of C3 Monash, was the prayerful MC.

The final event for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in the Tuggeranong Valley was an ecumenical Taizé prayer evening at St Thomas the Apostle Church, Kambah.

About 70 people from St Stephen's Anglican Church, Weston Creek Uniting Church, St Thomas the Apostle parish, as well as clergy and members of other churches joined in.

Music was led by members of the Canberra Taizé Group, an ecumenical group, many of whom have visited the village of Taizé in France, and spent time living, working and praying at the monastery.

### Goulburn update

Erection of scaffolding on the Verner Street side of Saints Peter & Paul's Old Cathedral, Goulburn, is well under way. Workman began erecting the scaffolding on the coldest and windiest days this winter. This will be followed by survey work to ascertain the areas of restoration and repair needed on this facade. The restoration committee hopes some of the necessary work on the bell tower can be done and even the bell and housing may be repaired. They have deteriorated to the point where it is unsafe to ring the bell.



Archbishop Mark Coleridge has given permission for the blank window behind the organ to be decorated with a mosaic of Caroline Chisholm whose work has a connection with Goulburn and places south.

The committee would welcome the help of anyone interested in furthering this particular project, and ideas on how it may be paid for.

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# All thrust and parry down in the valley

Tuggeranong residents have the opportunity to "feel a part of history", thanks to the new fencing club established at MacKillop College.

In partnership with ACT Fencing Association (ACTFA), MacKillop has become the first school in Canberra to establish a fencing club.

Principal Mr Michael Lee said he was inspired during a school excursion last year.

"We saw some students fencing at a school in Nice and all of our students wanted to know why we couldn't do it," he said.

"So when we got back I contacted ACT Fencing and offered our facilities. Our club, 'Engarde at MacKillop' is open to anyone who wants to try fencing in the Tuggeranong area."

Mr Lee fenced when he was in high school and said it's the "romance of the foil" he likes about the sport.

"I think when the students are fencing, they feel a part of our history that was so long ago in the era of Maid Marian and Robin Hood."

ACTFA president and coach Mr Gordon Christie said the opportunity to set up a

school club "was too good to pass up.

"Up until this offer there were five clubs in the ACT, all of which were in Woden or above," he said.

"This situation made it very hard for parents of kids that wanted to try fencing in the Tuggeranong area."

With no other school clubs, Mr Christie said fencing's biggest problem was skills development.

"To build the sport you need to start young.

"It normally takes about five years before a fencer has developed to where they are contending well at national level and able to represent Australia.

"The aim we have for 'Engarde at MacKillop' is to build a team to take part in the NSW Schools League. Until we have enough schools involved in fencing in Canberra, we have been invited to take part in the NSW league."

More females at MacKillop have taken the opportunity to try fencing, which goes against the norm.

"Only a third of the state association members are women, and women are prob-

ably not attracted to the sport because it's a bit violent."

Despite its reputation, Mr Christie says fencing is not a dangerous sport.

"There are occasional injuries - but it's nothing compared to football. The equipment we wear is geared towards protection and usually at worst someone will come away with a bruise."

With the sport's popularity on the rise, in the past five years ACTFA members have swelled from 20 to 110.

"I think boys like it because they get to stab people. It's good for people who don't go well in team sports and it certainly is good exercise."

Student Jenny Kennedy started fencing after her mother suggested it.

"I think it's cool that we use swords and we're actually meant to poke people with them," she said.

More information about fencing in Canberra may be found on the ACTFA website [www.actfa.org.au](http://www.actfa.org.au)

**RIGHT:** Jake Miazek, Zak Stewart, Tim Dillon and Christopher Love in the "engarde" position.



## Saving world one step at a time

A St Francis Xavier College student is saving the environment one step at a time, by educating his parents, recycling, riding his bike and initiating Canberra's first Sustainable Careers Expo.

College captain Nick Lever said he conceived the idea of a careers expo during a workshop with environmental group ACT otherWISE.

"The event is the first of its kind in Canberra, which is surprising considering the clear need to have strong leadership in our national capital in jobs that contribute to sustainability," he said.

"It's important to show young attendees that it's not hard to make their careers sustainable and this plays a part in helping to secure the future of our planet."

Despite not knowing which career path he wanted to take, Nick said he would like to work in a sustainable job.

"I started by educating my parents and school on sustainability and I recycle and I ride my bike to school every day. It's about constantly achieving the next level of sustainability and always moving forward."

Greens MLA Mr Shane Rattenbury officially opened the event, which he said was an "excellent idea."

"If you think about all of the kinds of jobs that are around and the difference they can make to the environment, it's actually quite inspiring," he said.

"I studied economics and law at university, but I knew we were going to need lawyers who could

sue for the environment and write environmental laws.

Careers advisor Ms Margaret McLaughlin said the exciting part about the event was that it was "organised for young people, by young people".

"This was not just a great opportunity for young people to learn about possible careers," she said.

"It was also a great opportunity for the young people who organised it to learn about the organisation of an event, the media and networking."

**LEFT:** Radford College student Katina Croft and organiser Nick Lever listen to Gail Sutton from Engineers Without Borders.

### ● From Page 4.

In light of these responses we can discern a distinct trend: that WYD has challenged those who went to put Christ's ethic of loving service to others into practice.

Other anecdotal evidence of WYD's impact that I have found significant includes the following:

1. Regular youth events in the first half of 2009 reported significantly larger numbers of new people (that is, people who had not attended that event on previous occasions).

2. There are many more events for young people to choose from, and many more parish initiatives in the wake of World Youth Day. See Facebook for more information!

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## Seeds of WYD are just starting to appear

3. Youth ministry training and catechesis experiences have produced extraordinary responses from young people. One Archdiocese's annual youth ministry training program grew from 30 participants in previous years to 200 participants this year.

4. Older parishioners wherever I go continually speak to me of the impact of Days in the Diocese on them - the hope and encouragement that it offered. Significantly, many of those who volunteered for different events

speak of it as an extraordinary experience of community and vitality.

They look wistful even as they tell you how tired they were afterwards and hastily add they would do it all again!

As I see it there are three main challenges that lie ahead for the full effect of WYD08 to be realised:

1. Formation. Those young people who were touched by WYD need to continue to be

formed in faith. Opportunities for good catechesis are vital for this.

2. Integration. Our parishes and communities continue to be challenged to welcome and encourage the contribution of young people. Young people need to be integrated into the life of the Church more fully. This is both a challenge for them and more importantly, for the communities that receive them.

3. Evangelisation. Those young pilgrims, who were already Mass attenders, but who now consider themselves to be far more active disciples, need to pass on their faith to their peers so that a ripple effect continues among this generation.

There is a mysterious parable that only appears in Mark's Gospel (Mark 4:26-29).

It speaks of a man who scatters seed on the ground, and whether he is awake or asleep the seed sprouts and grows, and all by itself the soil produces the grain, until the time for harvest comes.

The parable suggests that the flowering of seeds is ultimately God's business - God is responsible for the growth of seeds into fully flowering stalks of wheat.

I believe the seeds of WYD08 are only just beginning to poke up above the ground... and in many places the ground can still be fairly stony.

As for harvest time... well that is certainly still to come.

# Looking back at how it all happened

When Pope Benedict XVI announced at the closing Mass in Cologne Germany 2005 that Australia (Sydney) would host the XXIII World Youth Day, the local church of Canberra and Goulburn could not have known what the next three years would bring. Indeed the size, complexity and the inherent variability of the "WYD project" exceeded all expectations. Despite significant time and financial constraints, the tireless efforts of so many local Church leaders and volunteers ensured unparalleled pastoral preparation, pilgrim support and logistics and delivered highly successful parish and archdiocesan Days in the Diocese events. The one-year anniversary, to be celebrated on 18 July, provides an opportunity to take stock of these significant achievements in the Archdiocese. CatholicLIFE director Shawn van der Linden tells the story.

## The context

Pope Benedict's announcement came at a time of significant change in our Archdiocese. Particularly important were the installation of a new Archbishop, the appointment of new directors in Pastoral Support and Catholic Education and the opening of the Rhenberger Centre.

WYD preparations in Canberra began in late 2006 when the Archbishop appointed a steering committee of youth leaders and past WYD pilgrims and the pace really picked up in November 2007 with the establishment a new Pastoral Support Agency, which is now called CatholicLIFE.

The role of this new archdiocesan agency, headed up by Shawn van der Linden, was to support pastoral planning in the Archdiocese and to coordinate existing programs in faith formation and spirituality and Catholic youth ministry. It was also given responsibility for running the World Youth Day Office.

The sheer enormity of the enterprise became apparent very quickly. A World Youth Day Project Board was set up and a project management consultant employed to put together a comprehensive project management plan, which would set a course to follow and clarify governance, accountability and goals.

Volunteers experienced in logistics, billeting, catering, event management, communication and promotions and finance including fundraising, headed up groups working toward meeting the immediate goals of the event and also the longer term objectives of the WYD Project.

## The preparation

Organisers recognised early in the project that a key to the smooth running of the event was the need to set up WYD coordinators in every parish, school and group/movement in the Archdiocese.

About 75 coordinators were identified and participated in five conferences to ensure that they were well prepared to carry out their highly critical roles of communicators and organisers at the local level.

The main preparatory event for WYD 2008 was the Journey of the Cross and Icon. From 15 to 27 February 2008, thousands of people encountered these two powerful symbols, which brought families, schools and the Archdiocese together in an unprecedented way.

In all, 48 separate JCI events were coordinated collaboratively by the WYD office with WYD coordinators and the Sydney JCI Team.

Among many others important pastoral and practical preparation activities, also coordinated by the WYD Office, were the Pilgrim Partner Support Program, the Bougainville Immersion Program, clergy conferences, WYD Advent Program and Lenten Program, Turn the Tide (January Youth Camp), Archdiocesan Youth Summit and Palm Sunday Masses 2007 and 2008.

Additionally St Edmunds College hosted a memorable WYD Schools Launch in early 2007, which saw our archdiocesan Catholic schools bring more than 3000 students together for a time of celebration and catechesis.

## Days in the Diocese

The official launch of the Days in the Diocese event on 10 July 2008 at the Southern Cross Club in Woden brought together various national and international delegates including clergy and diplomats as well as government and business representatives.

Days in the Diocese became a very spiritually and culturally enriching program for both pilgrim groups and parish communities.



The highlight of the archdiocesan celebrations was the Festival and Commissioning Mass at EPIC on 12 July 2008. Although this day presented significant logistical challenges there was a consistently strong momentum and enthusiasm for the event born out of both practical and pastoral considerations.

From the beginning, Days in the Diocese had been recognised as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the Archdiocese, in all its creativity and diversity, to gather as one family and experience the universal Church with our guest international pilgrims.

In this way the festival and Mass were an opportunity for the Archdiocese to be renewed in its identity and sense of hope about its capacity to face the challenges of the future.

The congregation celebrating Mass numbered between 8000 and 10,000 people. It is estimated that about 4500 of these were international pilgrims and a similar number were local archdiocesan worshippers.

The festival component of the day was a colourful celebration. Four separate stages ran concurrent dance, music and drama performances involving local and international talent.

An inter-school touch football match was organised and there were a series of talks and other spontaneous performances (especially from the Samoans!). "Kids and Families" entertainment was popular with face painting, clowns, circus acts and plaster painting.

The festival included quiet prayer and adoration throughout the day, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation was also available in a specially set up chapel.

A major feature was the exhibition room where more than 60 stalls were set up by a diverse range of archdiocesan groups and movements.

The WYD Office coordinated or strongly supported many other events as part of the archdiocesan WYD celebrations, including the International Youth Forum 2008, the International Ecumenical Youth Festival (run by Chemin Neuf Community), a performance by John Agnotti, a well-known American Catholic music artist, and the special Mass for French World Youth Day pilgrims concelebrated at St Christopher's Cathedral by Archbishop Mark Coleridge and Cardinal Andre Armand Vingt-Trois, of Paris.

The International Youth Forum in particular deserves special mention. It was conducted in Goulburn during the week preceding World Youth Day, and was a joint undertaking of the Archdiocese, Mary Queen of Apostles Parish and the Emmanuel Community. This was a major component of the Days in the Diocese program, involving one-third of its pilgrims.

An astounding total of 1380 pilgrims were billeted in homes in Goulburn, Gunning and Crookwell parishes including the rural villages and localities.

Remaining pilgrims were billeted in group accommodation sites at St. Peter and Paul's School, and three recently vacated aged care facilities. Feedback from the local communities was uniformly positive with many of other or no faith participating as billet hosts or volunteers.

## The numbers

The Archdiocese welcomed 4707 international pilgrims. About 1400 archdiocesan residents attended WYD as pilgrims. Another 2000 pilgrims, who were not a part of our Days in the Diocese program, stayed in the Archdiocese either before or after WYD.

Pilgrims came from Aruba 30, Austria 4, Brazil 80, Canada 160, China 1, East Timor 7, France 900, Germany 450, India 10, Indonesia 393, Ireland 203, Italy 187, Japan 4, Mexico 124, New Zealand 14, Nigeria 100, PNG 345, Philippines 50, Poland 98, Portugal 5, Samoa 410, South Korea 113, Thailand 80, The Netherlands 480, Uganda 90, the United States 169, Military Ordinate 200.

A total of 220 priests attended with their pilgrim groups as well as 15 bishops, including Cardinal Vingt-Trios.

## Billeting

Parishes managed their own billeting, providing home stay or group style accommodation to 4507 international pilgrims during Days in the Diocese. Some pilgrims were accommodated in Canberra schools on the final weekend following the Commissioning Mass. In all, St Edmund's, St Clare's, St Francis Xavier, Marist and MacKillop colleges generously took in 983 pilgrims on the nights of 12 and 13 July.

## Transport

Organisers were determined that international pilgrims would have a genuine experience of the broader archdiocesan parish faith communities, not just those in Canberra. This meant that all parish communities would be able to experience the





international pilgrims, participate in cultural exchange and thus experience something of the international Church. Neither goal could be achieved if the international pilgrims themselves could not be transported from Sydney airport to the parish communities and back.

Transport was seen from the beginning as a significant challenge. Due to the demand for bus and coach transport from Melbourne and other dioceses there was a concern that pilgrims who wished to come to Canberra -Goulburn would not be able to access suitable and affordable transport.

There was a high risk that if left to market forces only Canberra parishes would have the opportunity to host pilgrims due to the extra transport costs to and from regional parishes.

A related goal was to enable as many Archdiocesan youth as possible to attend the WYD events in Sydney especially those from regional and less well-off areas. A solution was needed that would affordably deliver pilgrims to all parishes and also minimise costs to local pilgrims from country areas.

The Archdiocesan Transport Solution provided more than 380 pilgrim group bus or coach movements, each requiring individual itineraries and liaison between bus drivers, parishes and international group leaders.

The pricing for the Archdiocesan Transport Package (\$150) was based on a sharing the burden approach to assist regional pilgrims who could least afford the extra transport costs.

The package covered all transport costs for archdiocesan pilgrims

no matter where they lived in the Archdiocese, and enabled the Archdiocese to host many more thousands of pilgrims who would have otherwise not been able to guarantee transit to Canberra-Goulburn parishes.

The distribution of international pilgrim groups to regional and country parishes around the Archdiocese produced a spiritually and culturally enriching outcome for both pilgrim groups and country parish communities.

### The communication

The workload in the area of communication and promotions was staggering.

The WYD Office was faced with the challenge of developing strategies that would provide information sharing and communication across a broad, diverse and de-centralised organisation, including international cross-cultural communication.

In the final months of the project the WYD Office established a WYD information hotline that was manned 24 hours a day, seven days a weekend a WYD transport hotline to deal with the flow of transport specific information.

Both lines were used extensively by pilgrims, WYD coordinators, the general public and international group leaders.

The WYD Office also achieved extensive positive media exposure in newspapers, radio and TV news.

### The money

By August 2007 it was clear the size and complexity of the project would exceed expectations. Initially the Archdiocese had only resourced the project with one project coordi-



nator, part-time administration support and \$100,000 to cover costs associated with the delivery of events over two years.

The challenge was not only to manage the increased expectations of the project without a significant cost blow out, but also to manage the constantly changing pilgrim numbers, a significant cost driver. Organisers helped manage this risk by successfully attracting significant amounts of extra funding and in-kind donations.

Total expenditure for the project in our Archdiocese was \$1,634 404.

Almost all expenditure was covered by a combination of grants, donations, event income, transport income, registrations, fundraising and merchandise sales. With a high number of international pilgrims attending from Third World countries, discounts and concessions were provided in a way that sought to balance the social/ pastoral responsibility of the project and its limited budget. In total, the project granted \$164,874 worth of discounts and concessions for various purposes.

Key to the financial success of the project was the significant pro-bono and in-kind contributions from various corporate, government, archdiocesan stakeholders, as well as key volunteers. The WYD office estimated these direct in-kind contributions to be valued at more than \$1.5 million.

### What's happening now?

As Archbishop Coleridge said after the event, "It'd be like sowing a seed. If you're expecting overnight results you'll be disappointed.

There have already been signs of new energies and new fruit but we need to be patient and very energetic in devising and implementing strategies to try to build upon the experience of World Youth Day."

As an immediate sign of that energy, CatholicLIFE hosted training in "Rewired" and "Reconnect", two programs from the National Office of Evangelisation aimed at bringing Catholics who have lost touch with their faith back to the Church.



Additionally many promising post-WYD initiatives have been established at a faith community level in parishes, schools, groups and movements.

Important events and developments at an Archdiocesan level include the WYD one-year anniversary which will allow pilgrims to reconnect and experience the sense of God that arises in a large group of people who share a common belief, and development of a youth leaders' network to ensure that all working in the service of young people are known and supported.

Additionally, the Archdiocese developed an annual Foundations in Catholic Youth Leadership train-

ing week which provides professional and economical training in youth ministry.

A comprehensive list of the many initiatives being developed and supported throughout the Archdiocese, can be found at [www.catholiclife.org.au](http://www.catholiclife.org.au)

Many lessons have been learned through Days in the Diocese and World Youth Day.

The Archdiocese has enhanced its capacity to plan and deliver large events, new connections have been made across agencies and regions, and new possibilities have opened up for communicating the Gospel message in our contemporary secular context. Two other key learnings should influence future directions for the Archdiocese:

Firstly, World Youth Day demonstrated that young people are attracted to the Catholic Church.

The recent ACU Pilgrims Progress 2008 Research Project on World Youth Day Sydney 2008, (Mason et al), observes that 70 per cent of pilgrims rated the WYD experience very highly, as "one of the best experiences of my life" or "a life-changing event".

It also reported that the most spiritually helpful aspect of WYD was being with a large, vibrant "community" who shared and celebrated the same faith.

The Archdiocese can be full of hope and confidence as it looks ahead to more initiatives and commits more resources for events with young people.

Secondly, the exceeded expectations and at times seemingly insurmountable challenges served as a powerful reminder of our dependence on the Holy Spirit.

At times the project shone a bright and harsh light on our many limitations, both individual and corporate.

The testimony of so many throughout the planning and delivery of World Youth Day was that prayer and faith in the power of the Holy Spirit was the key to overcoming these limitations.

As the Archdiocese faces the many challenges stretching out before it, prayer and trust in the Holy Spirit must be at the heart of everything.

### Why did you join the CYM team in the first place?

I had taken a year off from study and was looking for things to do with my time. I had been progressively becoming more involved in youth ministry in my parish and I was thinking about ways in which I could further that. A friend who had been on the team previously suggested I think about spending a year with CYM and as I had already taken the year off from uni and was looking to become more involved in ministry it seemed like a natural choice.

### Did World Youth Day affect your decision or encourage you in any way?

The World Youth Day experience helped me to gain a clearer understanding of some important elements of Catholic faith and teaching, which has made me both more comfortable and more enthusiastic to become actively involved in the ministry of the Church; this led me to be more open to the opportunity to do team when it came up.

### What part of WYD touched you the most?

I found our catechesis session with Cardinal McCarrick and the Mass that followed helped me in coming to understand issues

## Why I do ...

**A column in which well known and not so well-known people in our Archdiocese tell us about themselves. This month we speak to Catholic Youth Ministry team member William Burdett, 19, who grew up in Tuggeranong and was educated at MacKillop Catholic College.**



## what I do

continue working with young people in some way.

that I had been having difficulty with and gave me greater insight into what God wants for my life.

### What do you enjoy most about being a CYM team member?

I really enjoy simply hanging out with the young people and getting to know them - I never expected that I would love working with young people as much as I do.

### Which part do you find most challenging?

Students who feel that faith or the Church has nothing to offer them always challenge me to work harder to reach out to them and change that perception.

### What would you like to achieve through your role as a CYM team member?

I would like to see the students we minister to develop a desire to enter into a deep faith relationship and to become more involved in the life of the Church, where they will find the support that faith needs.

### What would you like to do in the future?

At this stage I don't have any plans for my time after team, although I would love to be able to continue working with young people in some way.

# College celebrates by having a heart

Daramalan College celebrated its special day, the Feast of the Sacred Heart, by giving to others.

Each year the college in Dickson marks its feast day with special school activities for all students and staff.

This year it began with a Mass for students, staff, parents and guests. The main celebrant was Fr Bob Irwin MSC, a headmaster of Daramalan in the 1980s, as well as a former provincial of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.

At the end of the Mass a cheque for \$12,500 was given to Mr Bob Wilson and Mr Evan Brett from the St Vincent de Paul Society as well as a large number of blankets for the Vinnies Winter Appeal.

Deacon Joe Blackwell also accepted a cheque for \$12,500 for Caritas Australia. The money was raised by students from the annual kilothon walk.

A donation was given to Fr Adrian Meaney for the MSC Mission Office's Clean Water Project. Staff and students have supported this mission work for many years. This year, the college has given more than \$7500 for water and sanitation facilities at a new school for 450 students in the impoverished region of Tamilnadu in southern India.

RIGHT: Daramalan students form a heart shape to commemorate Sacred Heart Day.



## Crash course in safety

A Canberra college is doing its best to reduce the number of young people involved in motor vehicle accidents.

St Francis Xavier College's parents and friends committee has contributed \$10,000 towards a defensive driving program with Fifth Gear Motoring, which will subsidise course fees for up to 125 year-12 students.

P&F President Mr Stuart Bonner said the committee wanted to work with students to deal with the "very large and complex issue".

"Motor vehicles are something where the more you learn, the more you realise you don't know," he said.

"We can't always have control over motor vehicles; they are the most hazardous thing we will use on a daily basis."

Principal Mr Angus Tulley encouraged students to take advan-

tage of the initiative, which is the first of its kind in Canberra schools.

"There are always serious concerns with kids and cars," he said.

"As a principal you often hear of sad things which have happened in other schools and the longer you are around the more stories you hear."

Mr Derek Crook from Fifth Gear Motoring said the course would show students "some simple and basic tools to avoid being involved in a crash".

"A third of P-platers will crash within their first 12 months of driving," he said.

LEFT: Year 12 students Kate Estreich and Daniel Grebowski get behind the wheel, as P&F president Stuart Bonner, principal Angus Tulley and Derek Crook from Fifth Gear Motoring look on.

## Italian culture? Magnifico...

Language students at Merici College are constantly being challenged to expand their horizons.

Twenty students of Italian extended theirs by spending 20 days in Florence. For three hours a day they studied the Italian language at the Istituto Linguistico Dante Alighieri. With the help of text books provided, they followed lessons held in Italian and completed daily set homework and were immersed in the culture. At the end of their stay they were presented with certificates that indicated level attained, documents that will enhance future CVs.

Study in the country of interest, develops students' language skills and refines their understanding of other cultures. However, the study trips go beyond the classroom, and impact a student's entire life. Language study tours at Merici include a linguistic component to empower students in language proficiency.

Five students have arrived at Merici from Italy to immerse themselves in life at the college. The second stage will allow five Merici students to travel to Italy at the end of November to soak up the Italian culture and language

RIGHT: Merici students... soaking up the Italian culture.  
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