

# CATHOLIC VOICE

ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN

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College's 50 years

FREE

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## Mel's garden refuge open for all to enjoy

As a mother of six Mel Smith found getting out in the garden was a refreshing break from washing, ironing and cleaning.

Now, others get to enjoy her efforts. The grounds of the house she and husband Brian own in Conder will host visitors next month as part of Australia's Open Garden Scheme.

"The thing I really enjoyed about the garden was that what you did stayed that way or got better. With the kids' rooms, it returned to the way it was in no time!"

In light of ongoing water restrictions, the Smiths dug up the back lawn two years ago and the front lawn more recently.

Much hard work has made for a thriving cottage garden with many unusual plants such as the tall weeping tamarisk and the white flowering exachorda as well as many climbing roses to delight visitors.

"I hadn't thought about the Open Garden Scheme until a neighbour said 'your garden looks good, you must put it in,' so we did."

Because of the Smiths' involvement with the St Vincent de Paul Society - Brian is vice-president of the Calwell conference and Mel works four hours a week in the Tuggeranong store - some of the proceeds of the open days will go to Vinnies.

Plants will be on sale on the day and morning and afternoon tea will also be available.

Daughter Christine, who runs a wholesale nursery in the Blue Mountains and is also a teacher at Hawkesbury Agricultural College, will be on hand to help along with "a few gardening friends".

Mrs Smith said Christine offered her plenty of tips and supplemented the garden with plants that she could take back and use later for propagation.

Green thumbs run in the family as another daughter is a florist and a son is a landscape architect.

While Mrs Smith admits to getting "out in the garden every day" she says it is certainly not a chore.

She finds early mornings to be the best time and loves noticing "the new things in the garden you've forgotten you've planted".

And she has made sure that the garden is structured in such a way that its maintenance does not get in the way of travel plans for Brian and her each winter.

• The garden at 72 Charterisville Avenue, Conder, will be open from 10am to 4pm on 7 and 8 November.



## Cathedral plan takes shape

Plans for an historic re-development of St Christopher's Cathedral precinct in Manuka are beginning to take shape with an eye to completion in time for Canberra's centenary in 2013.

An architect has been contracted by the Archdiocese to draw up options for the development of the precinct in two stages in keeping with its status as the jewel in the crown of the Archdiocese.

The first stage would provide church offices on the site of the disused Haydon Centre.

The project is tied strictly to the development of the current church administration offices site at Favier House in Braddon in line with ACT Government plans to re-develop the area.

Archbishop Mark Coleridge said discussions with various ACT govern-

ment agencies were "moving forward well".

As the second stage of the Manuka re-development, the Archdiocese seeks to provide aged care accommodation on the sites of the existing Cathedral presbytery and CatholicCare buildings.

Mr Rodney Moss of Cox Architects in Kingston has been contracted to produce schematic plans for the whole site.

"At the moment, I am looking to establish a committee for the project, and I am also keen that there be good consultation with various stakeholders and the broader community," Archbishop Coleridge said.

The committee will ensure design and provisions of facilities are in keeping with the needs of the archdiocesan

church, the Cathedral parish and the general community.

The project will provide office accommodation for the Archdiocese, facilities for parishioners and a plaza for community use.

An area will be set aside for a display to recognise the historic role the Church has played in the national capital.

As a continuing part of the Church's inner-city presence, in Braddon Archbishop Coleridge envisages the development of a "serious worship space".

This "inner-city oasis" would offer opportunity for Eucharistic devotion as well as regular Mass, which is provided now at St Patrick's Church adjacent to Favier House.



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## page2



ABOVE LEFT: Liam and Cate Whittle with grandma Ethel at home watching the E-event. ABOVE RIGHT: Mrs Kerry Wode hosting the online concert live from St Thomas the Apostle.

## School's concert was quite an e-vent

St Thomas the Apostle Primary School at Kambah has hosted a very different type of concert.

As the school is in the middle of many building projects it could not hold a con-



ventional concert, so it went on-line with the "Hands That Unite" E-event.

Every class made movie files showcasing one of the identified values as part of the Federal Government's Values Education and Student Well-Being Initiative which students had been learning about.

Families were given access to the files over the internet.

They logged on to an online conference site at 7pm and Mrs Kerry Wode and Ms Amy Doszpot compered the concert live online.

"We could clap and smile after each movie, make comments online and even tell everyone if we were watching in our pyjamas," Mrs Wode said.

"Our parents responded very positively with comments such as 'What a great way to have a concert', and 'The younger kids are sleeping on their chairs just like all other concerts'.

"Our E-event was an innovative way to celebrate learning and integrate fabulous new technologies. The first school concert of its kind in Canberra.

"It was amazing how interactive the concert was with families typing responses and using the online applause. The feedback has been very positive,"

## Best time to take a risk, isn't it?

Catholic Voice each month is following the experiences of St Francis Xavier College student Emma as she navigates her way through year 12. As the year rushes towards its end, she has choices to make...

In every group, there's someone who's inspirational. Perhaps they're the sportiest or the smartest, or just have a knack for making people feel great. It's always these sorts of people who encourage us to get back on track and keep working hard towards our own goals.

Since year nine I've looked up to one of my friends. She's an extremely talented musician, but not only that; she's one of the most passionate people I've met.

I've looked up to her for so long that a conversation we had the other day really caught me off guard. it went along these lines:

"Music is so pointless, I'm going to apply for law instead" - cue jaws dropping. (Now for the purpose of this story, let's call her Law; we'll meet a few other characters too).

"How can you say that? Music is something that is universal," said Writing.

"It's just entertainment, I'd rather help people," replied Law.

"Yes but music can help people too," added in Art.

"Yeah, what about things like Live Aid? The ability to unite so many people and the power of them all singing as one for a cause. How can you say that's meaningless?" questioned Writing.

"But every professional musician I know now hates music," Law said defiantly.

"If you're truly passionate about something then that won't happen, and

it won't happen to you, Law," Writing and Art said together.

"I just don't want to be a freelance musician and end up losing that passion because I'd struggle so much," claimed Law.

"Well I'd rather do what I love the rest of my life and have no money than be in a job that restricts my creativity," said Writing.

There is a general murmur of 'mmhmm', before the arguments repeat themselves and begin to go in circles.

Sure, maybe you're thinking if she can get into law then why not take the course.

What I think is wrong in this picture is that this is a young girl who has already lost her passion, already given up on her dreams.

Isn't this meant to be the best time to really take a risk, dive into the deep end with no real plan of what is going to happen, with no regrets? We're young, now is the time to take the chance while the wounds will still heal quickly and people are willing to give us chances.

Maybe it is just the generation Y coming out in me, maybe parents reading this will just shake their heads.

The point is, I'd rather take a leap into the unknown because you know no better than I what will come of it.

With a little bit of luck, it might just be the best decision of my life.

## emma's year



## what do you know?

1. When he was a youngster did someone tell this month's mystery man (see picture) to "go west"? Well, he took it seriously. Who is he?

2. It's Floriade time in

Canberra.... when was the festival first held?

3. Merici College is 50 years old. Who was its foundation headmistress?

4. World Mission Day falls this month. How old is Catholic Mission worldwide? More than 75 years, 150 years, 185 years?

5. If you attended St Mark's, Muttama, for its once-a-month Sunday Mass, what parish would you be in?

6. Where was Bishop Pat Power born?

Answers: Bottom Page 4.



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# Top awards for Archdiocese

The Archdiocese has won a nationally recognised award for its delivery of the Days in the Diocese project in the lead-up to World Youth Day.

The award from the Australian Institute of Project Management in the category ACT community service and/ or development is the first time the body has awarded a church or religious organisation.

The institute acknowledged the Archdiocese for its professional delivery of the 18-month preparation programs, pastoral care, and related logistics such as food, shelter, entertainment and travel to more than 4000 international pilgrims who came to Canberra in July last year.

"The size, complexity and the inherent variability of the task exceeded all expectations," archdiocesan director of CatholicLIFE Mr Shawn van der Linden said. CatholicLIFE is the pastoral support agency which ran the archdiocesan WYD office.

"But, what truly is remarkable is that much of the work was carried out by selfless volunteers working long hours and facing great challenges, and did so with cheery optimism, amazing ingenuity, and can-do attitudes."

But, it was really the planning principles applied to the process that saved the day.

"With no pre-existing culture or expertise in project management, we applied key project management principles in the context of highly significant time, financial and quality constraints which enabled such success."

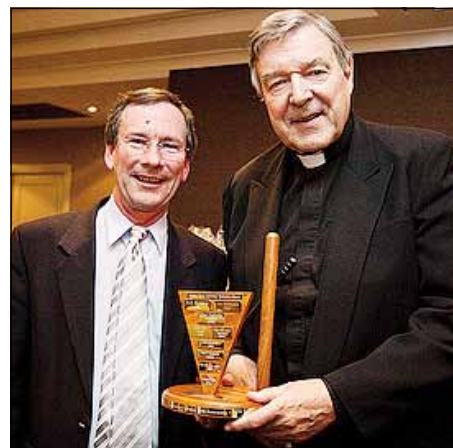
A significant appeal factor of the project submission was how the provision of practical training courses to parish and school coordinators managed to increase regional and community collaboration.

Its success was also characterised by the wide support it gained from local government, businesses, ecumenical groups and other faiths.

Archbishop Mark Coleridge said: "I very much hope that after the successful WYD project we can draw more on creative project management principles and practices to spread the Gospel more effectively. That would be our greatest award."



ABOVE: At the AIPM award night (from left) back: Mgr John Woods, Daniela Kesina, Dominic W. Kelly, Vince Burns, Mark Ransom, Matt Casey, Jenny Drum, Brian Lillcrap, Shawn van der Linden. Front: Rosamia Pascual, Rachel Reeves, Sandy Cassidy, Carolyn Burns, Gina Poulus, Archbishop Mark Coleridge, Ana Manenica, Helena Kesina.



Catholic Voice editor Geoff Orchison picks up the top newspaper award from Cardinal George Pell.

The Archdiocese's newspaper Catholic Voice has won the award for the top Catholic newspaper in Australasia for 2009.

Catholic Voice was announced the winner of the Bishop Philip Kennedy Memorial Prize for Newspapers at the annual conference in Sydney of the Australasian Catholic Press Association.

The judge described Catholic Voice as "revitalised" and a pioneer among free diocesan newspapers. "Catholic Voice, in its third decade and now employing a second staff member, is a versatile and readable paper, with well-designed pages making good use of colour and with contents having appeal for young and old, females and males."

The judge said strong competition had come from other excellent diocesan free publications as well as the Catholic Weekly and NZ Catholic from New Zealand.

The Archdiocese's website at www.cg.catholic.org.au was runner-up in the section for best website. A profile of Fr Peter Day written by Naomi Fallon was runner-up in the section for the best devotional article applying faith to life.

At the annual ecumenical Australasian Religious Press Association awards, Catholic Voice won a silver award in the category for best photograph. The picture entitled Touched by the Cross was taken by Naomi Fallon and was part of coverage last year of the journey of the World Youth Day cross and icon.

The judge said the photographer had "captured expressions of adoration, emotion and veneration. Such a subject would require quick thinking, correct positioning and framing. All were achieved expertly and the result is worthy of high praise for a job well done".

## Footy chaplain raids the trophy cabinet too

Canberra Raiders chaplain Mgr John Woods has taken a place among the household names of the rugby league club including Laurie Daley and Ricky Stuart.

Mgr Woods, who is Vicar-General of the Archdiocese, won the award for Clubman of the Year at the Raiders presentation night.

He was presented with the Fred Daly Memorial Clubman of the Year trophy by Raiders chief executive officer Mr Don Furner, who praised him for his many years of service.

Mgr Woods' name goes on the trophy along side Daley, Stuart, David Furner, Gary Belcher, Craig Bellamy, and in more recent years Reuben Wiki, Alan Tongue and Terry Campese.

Mgr Woods, who described the award as "a complete surprise", attends training in season as well as Raiders' home games where he mingles in the dressing room afterwards.

"I see it as a ministry of presence," he said. "At times a player will want a yarn. Sometimes, they'll say, 'how's it going father?' or 'better pray a bit harder'. Other times they can be a bit more serious."

"All the guys come from families, all with their own story. They're blessed with sporting ability that can mask weaknesses."



## A seat on bench for bishop

Bishop Pat Power has been given a good reason to sit and ponder this year's Floriade theme of Mind, Body and Soul.

He was presented with an antique garden seat by Design Construct Industries in appreciation of his community work and his role as Canberran of the Year.

In accepting the seat, Bishop Power said Floriade gave people an opportunity to see Canberra at its best. He praised organisers for the free access to the festival, which he said each year helped to sensitise people to appreciate the best in others and in the environment.



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- 5:00 pm Procession arrives
- 5:15 pm Benediction
- 5:30 pm Mass



**SUNDAY, 18 OCTOBER**

With permission of  
His Grace

Archbishop Mark Coleridge

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





# Honouring one is a good way to honour all

Our cup has been overflowing this year. I've lost count of the honours and awards that have come the way of different people in the Archdiocese in recent times.

Bishop Pat Power was named ACT Citizen of the Year; Mgr John Woods scored the Raiders Clubman of the Year; Shawn van der Linden and his team at CatholicLIFE won a Project Management award for their work in preparing for World Youth Day; Geoff Orchison and his team won Best Catholic Newspaper at the Australasian Catholic Press Association awards, Kevin Walsh of Goulburn (long the Archdiocesan lawyer) was made a Papal Knight and Anne Rosewarne of O'Connor (a great contributor to the Catholic Women's League) was made a Papal Dame; Fr Brian Maher received an OAM in the recent Honours List; and, last but not least, Nelson Mendonca (15-year old from MacKillop College) won a Young Writer's award.

I'm sure there are others I've forgotten, but that will do for a start. Congratulations from all of us to each of them.

The awards were thoroughly well deserved and were something in which not only the ones honoured but all of us took a certain pride. It can be tempting to say that awards such as these don't really matter. It may even be a typically Australian thing to feel uneasy that one person is honoured while others are not; we can be a little wry about "gongs".

For the Christian, there can also be the sense that it is the honours that come from God rather than from human beings that really matter. In one sense, that is true of course, but is it ever a matter of choosing between one or the other?

To honour one person is not to dishonour others. Indeed, to honour one person can be an excellent way of honouring an entire community. In one way or another, that is true of each of those

from our community who have been honoured in recent times.

But if I've just about lost count of those who have received awards this year, I've certainly lost count of the host of people I've met in every corner of the Archdiocese who are worthy of every honour we can give them.

These are the little people who keep parishes and schools running, who volunteer in our hospitals, who work for Vinnies tending those who are struggling and so the list could go on. Many of them are past the first blush of youth, but that makes their work all the more remarkable, as does the fact that they look for no reward at all.

The generosity and creativity of these people is what helps to make the Church so much more than a business, so much more than just another human institution. It makes the Church the Body of Christ who came not to be served but to serve.

What they offer is all the more powerful and beautiful because so much of it is hidden. I think of the inscription found on many of the tombstones in the great war cemeteries of Europe. Unidentified soldiers were buried and above them was written simply, "Known unto God".

The same might be said of all the unsung heroes around the Archdiocese: what they contribute may not be fully known to us but it is "known unto God".

I also think of something written by the medieval English mystic, Julian of Norwich. She imagined the scene where we would come trembling before the throne of God on judgment day, fearful of the punishment we think we deserve.

Dame Julian then says that God will take one look at us and say simply, "Thanks for all you have done". So let



me here echo the God heard by Julian when I say to the thousands of great contributors out there, "Thanks for all you have done". Without you and your contribution we simply wouldn't or couldn't be the Church.

Perhaps I should take with me in the boot of the car when I travel the Archdiocese a bag of gold medals, but I would need to hand out so many.

Then I wonder whether we should have some kind of Archdiocesan awards each year - Parishioner of the Year, Youth Leader of the Year, Catechist of the Year and so on. It could be kept simple, with none of the self-regarding hype associated with sporting and showbiz awards. It's just a suggestion on which you may have some thoughts or comments which I would be glad to hear.

One group that has been in my mind in a particular way are the elderly and sick who are no longer active. It's tempting to think that they have "done their bit" for the Church, that their time is past.

But I'm not sure that's true. It's not just those who are active who make the Church what the Church is meant to be. It's also those who are no longer active physically but who are active spiritually.

Many of these people who are frail because of old age or ill health have a gift of prayer which is precious in the life of the Church. In some ways, it is the soul of the Church. I have wondered whether we shouldn't establish in the Archdiocese an Order of Intercessors whose task it would be to pray for special intentions from around the Archdiocese and beyond.

We are all aware of the great ministry of intercession performed by the Carmelite nuns at Red Hill. The Sisters

are tireless in their prayers for the Archdiocese, and that is a great gift. But why couldn't we expand the circle of prayer, set it on a broader base as we invite our frail brothers and sisters to perform the hidden but crucial work of prayer and even offer their suffering for the spiritual enrichment of the Church. They could be officially designated and assigned the ministry of prayer.

It may be impossible to identify the Prayer of the Year: that would have to be left to God. But the contribution of these people is another classic example of the unseen ocean of faith and love upon which the Church, the Barque of Peter, always sails.

The Christian life is a ceaseless honouring of the God who is worthy of all praise, as the Psalms declare repeatedly. But the Christian life is also a ceaseless experience of the God who chooses to honour us.

The God we serve and praise is infinitely majestic, unspeakably great. Yet this same God chooses to stoop down to pick us up as we might a little child, gently and lovingly. It is this embrace of the God who takes us to himself which constitutes our true grandeur.

You see it in the architecture of great churches like St Peter's in Rome and Hagia Sophia in Constantinople. Both of them thrust upwards in an evocation of the divine majesty: they make us feel very small. Yet we feel grand at the same time because both churches evoke the sense of the divine condescension, the God who reaches down to us in love.

So as we think of those who have been honoured and of those who should be, we also think of the way in which each of us, without exception, is honoured by the God to whom all honour belongs.

*Mark Coleridge*

## ARCHBISHOP MARK COLERIDGE

### October diary

- 3 Oct:** Opening Mass, Explosion youth event.
- 11 Oct:** Christ the King parish anniversary, Taralga.
- 14 Oct:** Launch of ACU Public Policy Institute.
- 15 Oct:** Mass St Teresa of Avila, The Carmel.
- 18 Oct:** Installation of Croatian mission parish priest Fr Miroslav Mandic.
- 20 Oct:** Mission Mass, Yarralumla.
- 23 Oct:** CCD Mass, Nimmitabel.
- 24-25 Oct:** Sisters of Mercy Goulburn congregation sesquicentenary celebrations.
- 30 Oct:** CCD Mass, Goulburn.

## AUXILIARY BISHOP PAT POWER

- 1 Oct:** Confirmation, Bungendore.
- 8 Oct:** Muslim, Jewish, Christian conversations.
- 11-17 Oct:** Anti-Poverty Week activities.
- 15 Oct:** Assembly, St Francis Xavier College, Florey.
- 25 Oct:** Sisters of Mercy sesquicentenary celebrations, Goulburn.
- 26 Oct:** Catholic Social Services Australia board meeting.

# A beautiful story that needs to be told

An understanding of what motivates Fr Peter Day can be found in his book *Fly Ponders on His Pollen Pillow*. The story can be described as an allegory, a literary device in which characters and events mirror another reality, usually in an obvious way.

Everybody knew, for example, that *Animal Farm* was not a book about pigs; readers of this book will also realise that however cheeky and lovable the Fly character might be, it is not a book about insects.

The story might also be described as a parable, in the sense that the device is used in the gospels, with the analogies explained at the end of the story.

Either way, it is a charming tale that manages to get its lesson across without hitting the reader over the head with it. Like any good parable or allegory, there is a gentleness in the telling, an acceptance of animals and people as they are, not as we would like them to be.

Peter Day knows what it is to be homeless. A late vocation to the priesthood, he spent some time while in the seminary living among the homeless people of inner Sydney.

"You learn a lot, believe me, and you soon lose any opinions you may have that homelessness is a fault of character, or is

## voices



**Fr Peter Day, a Canberra priest and well-known advocate for the homeless, is seeking a sponsor to cover the cost of publishing his modern allegory on homelessness. He spoke with Frank O'Shea.**

necessarily the result of making bad choices," he said.

"It was easy for me, really. I stayed on the streets for weeks at a time, but I always knew that if it got desperate or if I just couldn't hack it any more, I could return home. Mine was a contrived 'homelessness'; and I didn't have to carry the burden of a severe illness to boot. Those who were really homeless were stuck in their situation. And they were, in the main, lovely people, each with his or her own story."

These days, as well as chaplaincy work at Marist College and Mass commitments at

Gungahlin and Ainslie Village, Peter puts much of his effort into Home in Queanbeyan (HOME), the community-based initiative to provide supported accommodation for people with mental illness. The first sods in the physical part of the project were turned in June and that work is expected to be finished in March next year.

The most deadly enemy the Fly character has in the story is the frog, and the book has some fun at that creature's expense. But there are no frogs on the human side of the narrative and I ask Peter why he did not avail of a free kick at the expense of governments or politicians or bureaucrats or big business.

"Governments are all right; there are genuine politicians and bureaucrats trying to help," he says. "We have also received extraordinary support from philanthropic bodies like the Snow and Tyne Reid foundations, not to mention local businesses, Catholic schools and individuals. People really are very generous when they see a need that is not being met."

Peter has sent *Fly* to a number of mainstream publishers. All have been most encouraging, and he shows me some of their replies.

● Cont Page 14.

## WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

**Answers: 1. Fr Troy Bobbin, parish priest of the Western Mission. 2. 1988 as a commemoration of Australia's bicentenary and Canberra's 75th birthday. 3. Sr Clare Slattery SGS. 4. 185 years. 5. Cootamundra. 6. Cooma.**







**How did you get into this line of ministry?**

About five years ago this position came up and I thought I'd do it for a short time to see how I'd go, but after 12 months I decided to stay on. I think what attracted me was having something to do with the marginalised in our society, the people that nobody wants to support or help and work with.

**What does your role involve?**

I work as part of a team with an Anglican priest and chaplains from other religions. I am available to the inmates as well as staff to give them my time and a listening ear. Most of the time it's fairly low key; just being here and being available to the people here which sometimes involves spiritual and grief issues. My primary ministry is to the Catholics in the jail. The position is an ecumenical ministry for anybody that is committed to their faith. We try to see to the needs of the inmates so they can carry out their religious tradition while incarcerated. We offer religious services and pray with the inmates regularly and provide religious reading material.

**What do you enjoy most about your job?**

Being among the men to discuss issues with them and listen to and support them. I really believe it's a work of compassion. I realise that the people are here because they owe a debt to society but my role is to show compassion to them, regardless of what they have done and to be a human face that treats them with dignity and respect and recognises that God is in us all. An inmate came up to me one day and said, "Sister, you are just like us, you are always here." I have reflected on this statement frequently and I think it sums up my ministry.

**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 Mercy Sister, former primary school teacher and current chaplain at Goulburn Correctional Centre Sr Loretta Corrigan**

**what I do****Would you recommend chaplaincy to others?**

I would encourage people to think about being a chaplain because it's a great ministry that is very rewarding. The Kairos prison ministry program is a short course that is run every 12 months and after that experience the journey program is held every fortnight. This program requires an outside group of men who come into the jail and facilitate it. We're currently looking for people who would like to be part of this program and give their time a couple of hours once a month at the jail.

**What do you find most challenging?**

It's challenging to work in the correctional services system. You don't know what's going to happen from day to day, you don't know what needs you're going to find or what type of person you're going to meet. Some of the people in here are very disturbed and that makes it hard to meet their needs.

**Is the jail a frightening place to work?**

I am never frightened - security is a big issue because it is a maximum security facility. We are very safe in our work. We mostly speak to the inmates in a safe area and sometimes we associate with them when we have a prayer service but always in small groups in a secure area.

**If you could achieve something through your job, what would it be?**

I would really like to help people see that there is goodness in them and to concentrate on their goodness and build up their self respect. They can lead a worthwhile life in society and I have seen this happen. It's very important for someone to believe in them and if my faith and respect for them leads them on to a worthwhile in society, that is an achievement.



Year 10 students Steven Boyle and Steven Cuzzillo chat with former Marist College student Fr Chris Ryan about his book.

**WYD a reminder we have 'something to offer world'**

World Youth Day was so successful because it was an "immersion experience in the Catholic Church" for young people.

Immersion is the best way to learn about faith, according to coordinator of the journey of the WYD cross and icon Fr Chris Ryan.

Fr Ryan was speaking on the topic of "capturing a vision for youth ministry in a post World Youth Day era" at the Catholic Schools Youth Ministry Australia national staff conference held at Marist College.

"Our experience of WYD merits reflection," he said.

"We got our mojo back as a Church. For one week, the eyes of a secular nation were upon the Church for all of the right reasons. We were reminded that we have something to offer the world."

Fr Ryan said "It tells them that in the global village, they are not a minority. It consolidates their belief. Faith is caught, rather than taught."

Fr Ryan said youth ministers needed to "invite other young people to share their faith" and "take young people to places where other people share their faith."

"The longer you can sustain the immersion experience in the life of a young person, the better the results. Our challenge as youth ministers is to connect the story of Jesus with the lived experiences of young people, make the gospel come alive so all of a sudden it's their story."

The two-day conference included a dinner with a keynote address by Archbishop Mark Coleridge.

A reflection on his journey with the WYD cross and icon, Fr Ryan's new book "In the Light of the Cross" was launched at the dinner.

A total of 140 educators and youth ministry leaders attended the conference from every State and Territory.

One participant Ms Jenny Foldes, a religious education coordinator from a Sydney boys

college, said it was "wonderful listening to the many young presenters who gave authentic witness to their personal faith commitment. The schools, parishes and indeed the Catholic Church in general are reaping the rewards of the involvement of these young men and women in youth ministry who are leading the way in the call to new evangelisation."

Catholic Schools Youth Ministry Australia started at St Edmund's College in 2003 and, despite being largely a voluntary outreach of St Edmund's director of mission Mr Peter Woods and Narrabundah's then parish priest Fr Chris Ryan MGL, it is influencing Catholic schooling further afield.

It is designed as a post-WYD strategy for the Church and has been endorsed by the Australian Catholic Bishops Commission for Mission and Faith Formation.

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# Merici marks golden years

Fifty years and four name changes later, Merici College is continuing to produce generations of "loving and wise" young women.

Archbishop Mark Coleridge made the comment when he celebrated at St Christopher's Cathedral to mark the college's 50th anniversary.

Archbishop Coleridge said the education of women was "key to the future that God has in mind."

"This is a school that has taught women to be wise. Here is a marriage of faith and reason that gives birth to true and divine wisdom. Wise and loving women have gone forth from this school for 50 years."

Archbishop Coleridge paid tribute to the religious congregations who had contributed to the "extravagant" history of Merici College.

"Six religious congregations got the school going and there were a few more to crank it up."

Principal Mrs Catherine Rey opened Mass with a brief history of the school, which was initially

known as Canberra Catholic Girls High School and opened by founding principal Sr Clare Slattery with just 352 students.

"In celebration of its silver jubilee in 1983, our school was renamed in honour of Angela Merici, the Italian saint who established the Ursuline Order and devoted her life to the education and advancement of girls," she said.

Former members of the Merici community travelled from across Australia to join the celebration.

Up to 20 nuns from the religious orders that established Merici College - two of whom were at Merici in its first year in 1959, Naomi Turner CSB (formerly Mother Campion) and Sr Ruth O'Dwyer PBVM (formerly Sr Agnes) - 13 former college captains, an ex-principal, Mrs Julie Dempster, were among the many people who participated.

One of the many ex-students was John Volpato, who attended when coeducation was introduced briefly between 1977 and 1983.

● **Cont Page 18.**



TOP and ABOVE RIGHT: Scenes from the jubilee Mass celebrated in St Christopher's cathedral by Archbishop Mark Coleridge and chaplain Fr David Callaghan. ABOVE LEFT: The 1959ers - ex Merici students from 1959 in front of the SRC Merici Jubilee Mural alongside Sr Ruth O'Dwyer (formerly Sister Agnes), a foundation teacher (front second from left) and Delia Duke (nee Doyle) 1959 head girl (front far right).

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# Women's report 'work in progress'

Ten years after a report was released into the participation of women in the Church in Australia, a member of its research and planning group said the project was "a work in progress".

The Council for Australian Catholic Women celebrated the 10th anniversary of Woman and Man One in Christ Jesus at a national conference in Canberra.

In a keynote address, Sr Sonia Wagner SGS, who was closely involved with the report between 1995 and 2003, said it was intended to be "a stepping stone, not a destination."

"The document is a work in progress. The findings have not been lost and there have been many initiatives taken up."

Sr Sonia said since 2003 she had been "completely out of contact with the project" and had heard "very little about the ongoing life of the document".

After more than 2500 survey responses and 32 days of public hearings in 23 centres, the Australian bishops committed themselves to implement nine decisions and individual dioceses were to examine 31 proposals.



Sr Sonia Wagner ... "do the doable".

Sr Sonia suggested people try "to do the doable, rather than addressing all of the recommendations."

"No one person can do the whole thing - sometimes I think we've got too many overworked people in the Church."

She said there was an "undue focus on the gaps."

"We're always looking at who is not there and what is not working. Let's focus on an appreciation and continue to hold up the good examples that are already working well."

"Nothing is going to work well at a national level if it's not already working at a diocesan level."

"The signs of the times and our own experiences tell us there is still a long way to go."

"Challenges will present themselves but none of them, I believe, is insurmountable. The real change as we know will occur in the hearts and minds of people."

In an address to the conference, ABC radio presenter Ms Genevieve Jacobs said there needed to be a better "variety of Catholic women portrayed in the media."

"There's a discomfort surrounding religion in our society," she said. "We've ended up a little bit afraid to speak about our faith."

Ms Jacobs said she would let the conference in on a "media secret".

"Goodness sells, it really does. The media loves an easy, happy story. If you are doing something worthwhile in your community, learn how to sell it to the press. If you provide them with a good story and you help them in any way you can, they will help you in return."

Ms Jacobs said she would like to see more good news stories about Catholic women in the media.

"I'd like people inside and outside the Church to feel like they can connect with us. Let's make who we are as Catholic women, genuinely a cause for celebration."

## Tasty start to a school day

Students at the Wanniasa campus of MacKillop College are starting their morning classes on a full stomach, thanks to a new breakfast club.

For the past 10 weeks, the club has been held at the college on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings.

Science and information technology teacher Mr Gary Pickering initiated the club, which attracts more than 70 students.

"Research has shown that if kids have breakfast they learn better and are less disruptive in class," he said.

"For whatever reason, some kids don't get breakfast, so we're servicing that need."

"If kids have already have breakfast and they come and eat here again, we don't mind. That way the other children don't get stigmatised."

Thanks to generous donations from the Tulpule family businesses, which enabled the college to buy a microwave,



Morgan Rosin and Emma Sheargold enjoy breakfast

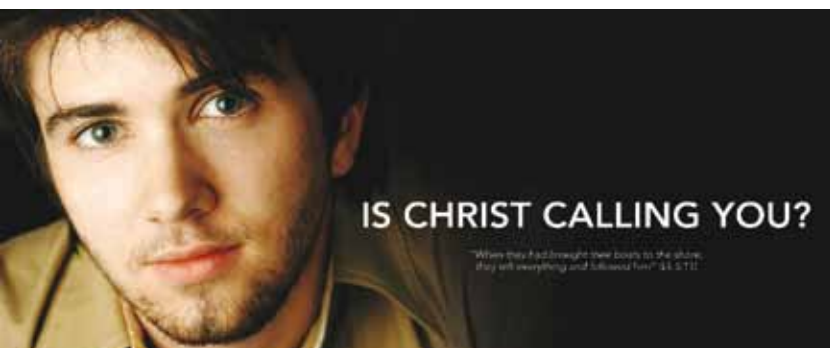
toaster and fund ongoing costs, Mr Pickering said the breakfast club should continue for a long time.

Woolworths at Erindale donates fruit, milk, Milo and breakfast spreads weekly and the Brothers' Oven in Tuggeranong has supplied bread and pastries.

Year 8 student Morgan Rosin said she thought the breakfast club was a great initiative.

"I don't think many people eat breakfast at this school because you hear them saying it in class all the time," she said. "Breakfast gives you energy for the day, so if you don't eat it you can't concentrate in class."

"I've only come to breakfast club a few times, but today they had a barbecue and I love bacon."



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## History society seeks members

The Australian Catholic Historical Society is looking for more members.

"We should never lose site of our history and heritage," vice-president Mr Howard Murray, of Fadden, said.

"Personally I like the learning and knowledge about the faith in which I've grown up. I'm 65 now and I've been involved in the Catholic faith all my life, so it's interesting to look back on history."

"The Church has a lot to offer and it's important that people can look back on that, especially the 18th and 19th century struggles."

"It's interesting to see how the Church operated in those days."

Although the society has about 300 members Australia-wide, Mr Murray said it mainly operated in NSW and the ACT.

"Monthly meetings are held in Sydney but if we had about 20 members from this region we could have meetings in the diocese."

For more information about the society, contact Mr Murray, telephone 6266 3687.

## Display honours Mercy 150th

An exhibition which opens this month to mark the sesquicentenary of the Sisters of Mercy Goulburn congregation offers a view of the life and spirit of this group of women and the rural communities from which they came.

It is a view from the outside, through the eyes of the curators Nancy Clarke and Claudia Hyles, who drew on the congregation's archives and on the oral histories of the sisters.

There are more than 100 items on show, including reconstructions of the front parlour of the convent ready for the priest's breakfast, and the refectory where their sisters had their meals.

The picture is presented of a group of religious women who approach a vocation to serve "the poor, sick and ignorant" with the down-to-earth practical energy and sense of fun that their foundress Catherine McAuley epitomized.

The story is told of their lives as Sisters of Mercy guided by the 'foundress' rule and constitutions, from the congregation's origins in Ireland to the journeys to Goulburn, Albury and Yass.

The exhibition will be open at Trinity Catholic College Study Hall, corner of Clinton and Bourke streets, Goulburn from noon on Saturday, 24 October. It will remain in Goulburn on 25 and 26 October.

It will be on display at Catherine McAuley Hall, Hennessy Close, Young, from 31 October to 2 November. It will also be on show at the Queanbeyan Arts Centre on 6-8 November, St Augustine's chapel, Yass, on 14-16 November, and Sacred Heart parish hall, Albury, on 21-23 November.

At each venue, sisters will be on hand to answer questions and guide visitors through the exhibition.



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Some people are shocked but the Giannini family are grateful to God

# It's full house

Despite living in some unusual circumstances, the Giannini family insist they are not special.

Neo-Catechumenal missionaries from Rome Fabio and Paola Giannini live in Bruce with their 14 children and Paola's mother-in-law Maria Maddalena Abate.

However chaotic this situation might sound, Mr Giannini said he and his wife enjoy having a large family.

"When we got married we didn't have 14 children, they came one at a time so we had a chance to get used to them," he said.

"Everything is possible with the help of God."

Despite the challenges, the eldest daughter Anna, 19, said she did not resent her large family.

"Everything is hard," she said.

"School is hard, uni is hard, family is hard, but God has helped me in every aspect of my life."

With 17 people in the house, Mrs Giannini said she expects the older children to help with cook-

ing and cleaning. "They are very helpful," she said.

"Most of the time I don't have to ask, they just do it."

Mr Giannini said people "get shocked all the time" when they hear about his large family. "Yes we expect that reaction," he said.

"But they usually understand when we tell them our position and our beliefs."

As teenagers, Mr Giannini said he and Paola "discovered the love of God as a father" when they joined the Neo-Catechumenal Way, a Catholic movement dedicated to the Christian formation of adults.

"Before this our lives were meaningless. Even though I had everything I wanted and my family were wealthy, I could not see the meaning of my life."

After marrying in their mid 20s, Mr Giannini said they began to wonder what they could do for God.

"Out of gratitude to Him, we felt the vocation to be missionaries."



(Clockwise from left) Fabio with Paolo, 7, Esther Jane, 3, Daniele, 9, Davide, 12, Anna, 19, Gloria, 14, Francesca, 17, Giacomo, 8, Maria, 18, Lorenzo, 16, Stefano, 11, Maria Maddalena Abate with Emanuele, 4, Paola with Andrea, 20 months, Benedetta, 5. Paolo holds a painting of Kiko Arguello, the initiator of the Neo-Catechumenal Way.

Following an invitation from then Archbishop Francis Carroll, the Giannini family arrived in Canberra on 14 September, 2001, amid the global turmoil that had unfolded a few days earlier with the terrorist attack on the World Trade Centre in New York and other targets.

"Little by little we began to realise the enormity of what had happened. All of the airports were shut and everything looked difficult, but we still managed to get aboard one of the very few flights out of Rome."

Upon their arrival in the Archdiocese, the Giannini family moved to O'Connor.

"The biggest Neo-Catechumenal community in Canberra is at Waramanga parish and they had prepared a house for us in O'Connor."

● Cont Page 19.

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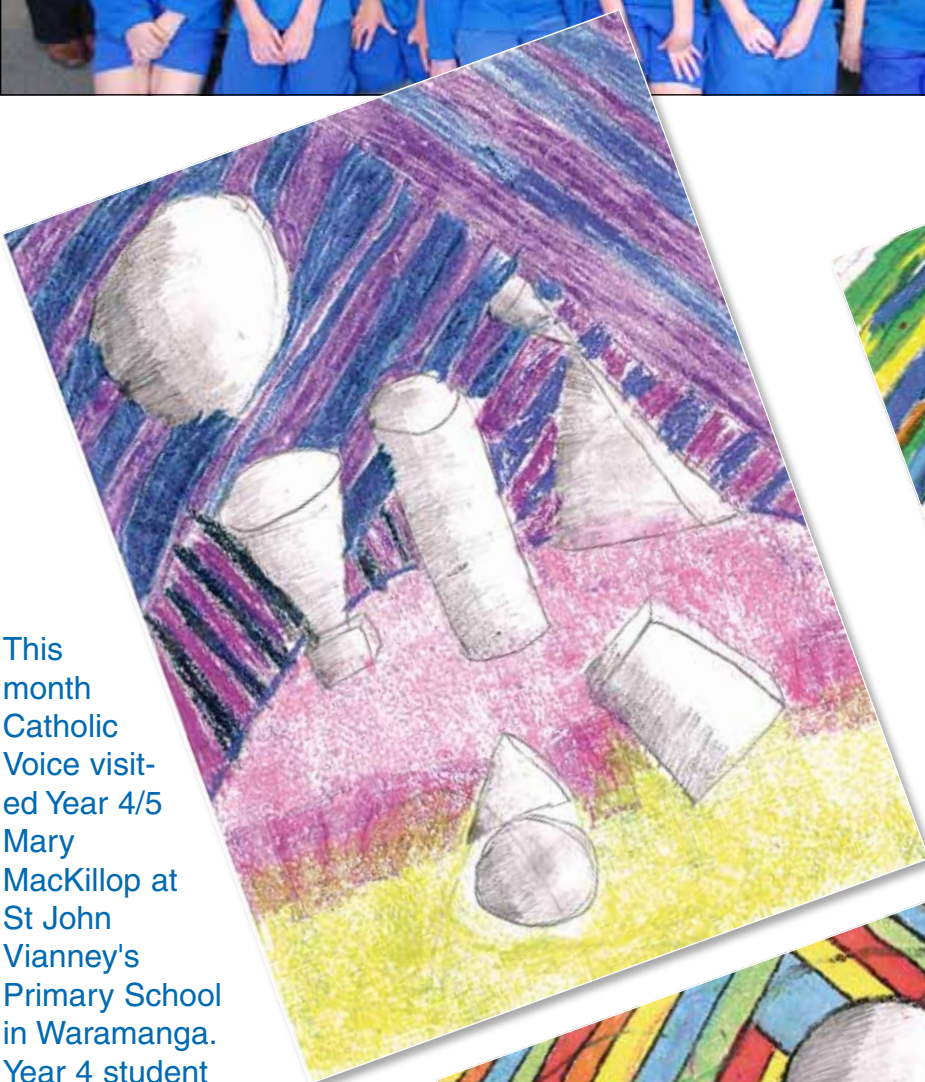




ABOVE LEFT: 4/5 Mary MacKillop with their teachers Rosemary Howard and Kathy Monagle.

ABOVE: Gabrielle Stewart and Emily Brennan strike a pose.

BELOW: Brigid Cooney, Ethan Savage, Chelsea Benac, Erin Thomas, Maddison Ciuffetelli and Mary Foster.



BOTTOM RIGHT: David O'Keefe and Jared Jones keep up the good work.

This month Catholic Voice visited Year 4/5 Mary MacKillop at St John Vianney's Primary School in Waramanga. Year 4 student Tiara Lorimer said her class had been learning about "Australia and the people who came here, like convicts and in the gold rush". Emily Brennan said she was glad her class was named after Mary MacKillop "because she's becoming a Saint soon!"

BELOW: Tiara Lorimer and Danielle Clark take a break.



ABOVE: Beautiful pictures by Amberley Elliott (top left), Chris Morrissey (top right) and Kaitlin Nihill.





# Support our Fathers

## CLERGY RETIREMENT FOUNDATION



With Archbishop Mark Coleridge, retired priests (from left): Paul Bateman, Geoff Lloyd, Laurie Bent, Brian Maher, Hilton Roberts, Ron Flack, Henry Byrne, John Ryan, Frank Keogh, Brian Ebert, Paul Tarpey, Peter Cronin, Bill Crahan, Kevin Flynn and Joe Staunton.

### Retirees gather at Archbishop's House

**F**or retired priests of the Archdiocese, the Year for Priests got off to grand start when Archbishop Mark Coleridge recently invited them to a morning tea and sumptuous luncheon at his residence.

Clergy from across the Archdiocese attended and just prior to lunch joined Archbishop Mark

in concelebrating Mass in the house Chapel. Among those who attended, our local clergy welcomed brother priests originally from other Dioceses but now resident here and who contribute greatly to the work of it - Fr Brian Ebert from Wilcannia-Forbes diocese and Fr John Ryan from Sandhurst.

Of the 20 retired priests of our Archdiocese, half have given over 50 years of service to their priestly vocation. The Mass and reception was a wonderful occasion for Archbishop Mark to again acknowledge and congratulate all retired clergy for the marvellous contribution each has made, and continues to make, to the fabric of our Archdiocese.

### Father's Day Appeal

The annual Appeal in support of our Archdiocesan retired priests was launched on the Fathers Day weekend in September.

Secretary to the Foundation Mr Kevin Croker, said the response to the Appeal showed once again how much the Catholic lay faithful valued the pastoral contribution those retired from active ministry have made to the life of their parish and community over the years.

Donations are still being accepted (see coupon provided) and all gifts are used exclusively for the care and well being of our retired clergy.

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# Author's fourth book ensures history isn't lost

An award-winning writer and lecturer at the Canberra campus of Australian Catholic University has launched her fourth children's book.

Dr Stephanie Owen Reeder (right) launched *Lost! A True Tale from the Bush*, which is her version of the 150-year old colonial story.

It is targeted at primary school children and includes information sections on how children lived in the 1860s.

*Lost!* is a true story of three children, Isaac, nine, Jane, seven, and Frank, three, who survived for nine days and eight nights in the desolate scrub of the Wimmera district of Western Victoria in 1864," Dr Reeder said.

"As well as retelling this amazing story of support, love and survival, I wanted to edu-



cate children about the differences between living in the 19th century and today."

The writer is a lecturer in children's literature at ACU and a freelance editor, writer and reviewer.

She has worked as a history and English teacher, a librarian and a parliamentary editor. She also reviews children's books for *The Canberra Times* and *Australian Book Review*.

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## Another Nelson eyes politics



A MacKillop College student and aspiring politician has been awarded first place in the Year 10 category of the University of New South Wales writing competition.

With his piece about the Iranian government, Nelson Mendonca (above) was the only Year 10 student across the ACT and NSW to receive a perfect score.

The winning article featured "a fictional television series I created about the recent Iranian elections," he said.

The student representative council member admitted he was interested in all kinds of politics on local, federal and international levels.

"I like writing but I'm not interested in fiction, but a more formal type of writing."

Despite his flair for writing, Nelson said he would much rather be a politician than a journalist.

"Although I know that's aiming high. I'll probably just end up working in public administration or studying law."

# Moving on after a loss

Women from Canberra and beyond gathered to socialise, pray and listen to two speakers at a lunch and healing seminar on loss.

The day was hosted by Call to Connect, an emerging ministry for women under the auspices of the St Benedict's Eucharistic Centre at Narrabundah.

Anne Hartwell shared a personal story, and Anne Woods spoke of God's love and presence in times of trial and suffering and of the freedom his healing brings to help people move forward.

The guided reflection and prayer helped open hearts to the truth that God loves us and is close to the broken hearted.

Mention was made of the services provided by Victorious Ministry through Christ, Project Rachel and prayer ministry offered by St Benedict's all of which can assist



with aspects of the healing journey after loss.

Call to Connect co-ordinators are Anne Woods, Bronnie Schlager and Diane Fulop. Inquiries: Bronnie Schlager, telephone 6231 8611, bronnie.schlager@gmail.com

ABOVE: At the healing seminar were (from left) back: Debbie Poulton and Chi Holmick. Front: Cilla Ryan and Amelia Schlager.

## Ordination also a reunion

The ordination of Peter Hendriks as an MSC priest by Broken Bay Bishop David Walker was celebrated by hundreds of well-wishers at St Thomas the Apostle, Willoughby, including his mother Mrs Margaret Hendriks, of Mollmook.

It was also a reunion of former staff of the Archdiocese's Catholic Mission and Caritas offices. Deacon Roger O'Donnell, of Gunghalin Parish, was Archdiocesan Mission Director between 1993 and 2001, and his assistant at the time was Mrs Maria Watts, now a pastoral associate at Calvary Hospital.

Fr Hendriks joined the mission office at the time after studies with the Jesuits.

"He had a very missionary spirit about him," Deacon O'Donnell said.



Fr Peter Hendriks (middle) with Mrs Maria Watts and Deacon Roger O'Donnell.

"We always knew that Peter had a special calling from God."

When Fr Hendriks left the mission office, he began priestly formation with the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in 2003. His formation included a year at St John the Apostle, Kippax, in 2004 with Fr Chris McPhee MSC.

At his ordination, Fr Hendriks was supported by hundreds of parishioners and dozens of priests and deacons.

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# School food hits whole new level

Students from St Clare's College and Marist College took on the daunting task of helping to provide a four-course dinner for 400 guests as part of their hospitality course.

The Adopt a School dinner, held at the Canberra Southern Cross Club's new function venue, was organized under the auspices of the Student to Industry project, an Australian Government initiative.

The club together with Epicurean Catering adopted hospitality students from both colleges. The tasks students performed go towards their competencies in achieving Certificate I and II in hospitality, a nationally recognized qualification.

Students were mentored and guided by managers from the club. They were supported in their endeavours by skilled hospitality staff from both colleges.



Funds raised were donated to local charities including Karinya House, Soup Kitchen, Red Kite, Home in Queanbeyan and the Br Mark May Bursary Fund.

ABOVE: Students who catered for the dinner were (from left) back: Tom Vincent, Mitch Samin, Kieron

Lees, Jarod Gilmartin. Middle: Natasha Milewski, Rebekah Aguilar, Lucy Davies, Laura Giacomini, Hugh McMillan. Front: Briony Pilkington, Taylor Da Pozzo, Lidia Nardi.

# Year 12s take time out

Year 12 students of St Francis Xavier College, Florey, spent two days on a retreat with the theme "Body, Mind and Spirit" at Greenhills Centre, Cotter.

The college aimed to allow students time and space to reflect, pray and celebrate, and above all to re-assess and evaluate their lives and goals at a crucial time. The retreat started with a room blessing and an address by Fr Peter Day, who initiated the project HOME in Queanbeyan. Fr Day spoke of relational poverty, an entrenched isolation in modern Western society in which there is minimal meaningful human contact.

His address had a profound effect on several students, whose feedback included: "Awesome. Very inspirational," "a good alternative look at Christianity and society," "informative, deep," and "I loved his honesty and courage and strength."

Students attended five workshop sessions which were designed to provide them with a variety of strategies to strengthen resilience and nurture balance and harmony between the body, mind and spirit.

The workshops included sessions on building positive relationships with Jonathan and Karen Doyle from Choicez-Media, graduation candle making, praying with



scripture and Christian meditation, personal fitness, and singing as a choir.

The retreat included a liturgy of forgiveness and reconciliation and ended with Mass celebrated by college chaplain Fr Mark Hanns MSC.

ABOVE: A group of the students on retreat (from left): Codie Searle, Carmel Palombi, Emily Hunter, Clare Callahan, Danielle Donne, Daniel Grebowski and Daniel Tadic.

# PP is farewelled



Parish priest of the Croatian mission of Farrer, ACT, Fr Anton Simunovic (above) has returned to his native Bosnia after serving for more than 7 1/2 years. Many parishioners together with his successor Fr Miroslav Mandic, Mr Mario Damo and Fr Edward Evans farewelled him at Canberra airport. He ministered with great zeal and kindness to parishioners not only in Canberra but also in Batemans Bay where there is a big Croatian community. Fr Mandic, who recently arrived from Bosnia, has previously served as a parish priest in Bavaria.

# Kindy surprise



Two classes of kindergarten students at St Clare of Assisi Primary School, Conder, have been given new school bags, following the destruction of their classrooms in a fire. Since the fire, principal Mr Greg Walker said donations had been flooding in.

He was grateful to Savvy School and Formalwear in Tuggeranong for the bags. Rebel Sport donated drink bottles, Holy Family Primary School lunchboxes and Woolworths "goodies for inside the bags".

ABOVE: Bridie McArthur and Ashley Thorne check out their new bags.

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\*Subject to variation

# Filipinos celebrate



The Filipino community in the Archdiocese marked the 111th anniversary of Philippine independence with Mass celebrated by Bishop Patrick Power at St Christopher's Cathedral. The event was organized by Fil-Care Association and the Missionary Apostles of Christ in the Eucharist Sisters in collaboration with the Family Rosary Prayer Group. The celebration was attended by Philippine Ambassador Ernesto De Leon and other members of the diplomatic corps. Singers from the Fatima choir helped bring the liturgy to life.

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## FACTS ON FUNERALS

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The decision to bury or cremate the deceased can be based on very personal ideas of what is appropriate for oneself or others. Some people are guided by their emotional reaction to either option when deciding what to choose, and others are guided by their own or the deceased's religious beliefs. For example, Hindus and Buddhists usually choose cremation, and Orthodox Jews, Muslims, Greek and other Eastern Orthodox Churches choose burial.

If you are undecided, how you answer the following questions may help you decide:

- Is there a family grave with room for another interment? Perhaps you would like to use this?
- If there is to be a burial, which cemetery would you want to use? Is it close enough to visit?
- If there was to be a cremation, would all of the close family members agree? If they do not, a cremation may not be allowed to occur.
- Will you want to visit a place of memory - such as a gravesite or a memorial (for example, a rose bush or niche at a crematorium)?
- Are these places close enough to visit?
- Would you like to create a memorial at home? A cremation would enable you to take the cremated remains home, and perhaps place them in a special urn in the house or garden, or scatter them in the garden.
- Is there a place you have always associated with the deceased? Perhaps a cremation and the subsequent scattering of the cremated remains at sea, in the bush or another place of significance would be appropriate.

If you would like any advice when making this decision, please call 6297 1052.



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# The language of icon not of newspaper

Before Henri Nouwen wrote the book that became his signature work, *Return of the Prodigal Son*, he went to The Hermitage museum in Russia and sat for whole days contemplating Rembrandt's famous painting on the return of the prodigal son.

He was given permission to bring a chair into the museum and he would sit for hours, studying the painting from various angles and letting it speak to him in his varying moods. The result was one of the finest commentaries ever written on both Rembrandt's painting and on the meaning of that famous parable in the gospels.

What Henri Nouwen did with Rembrandt's painting is what we need to do with a lot of the classical language of scripture, the creeds, and dogma.

The language there is more iconic than literal, more the language of metaphor than of ordinary life, deep image rather than video-taped history. This doesn't mean that it isn't true or that it's "Alice-in-Wonderland" mythology.

It is deeply true, so true that we hang our very lives on its truth. But it is meant to be studied, contemplated, meditated, knelt-before and prayed-with, rather than taken literally.

Allow me an example: Consider the language and image surrounding the death of Jesus as paying the price for our sins.

Scripture, our creeds, and our Christian tradition have a certain language around this. Among other things, we say: "He paid the price for our sins. We are saved by his blood. He paid the debt of sin. We are washed clean in his blood, the blood of the lamb. He is the Lamb of God who takes away our sins. He restored us to life, after our death in Adam's sin. He conquered death, once and for all. By his stripes we were

healed. He offered an eternal sacrifice to God. He is our victim. He opened the gates of heaven. He stripped the principalities and Satan of their power. He descended into hell."

Accepting the truth of this language is one thing, explaining it within the categories and language of ordinary life is something else. About Jesus' death, we have a language but we don't have a vocabulary. We know its meaning, but we can never adequately explain it.

What exactly do we mean by these statements? How does Jesus' death save me from being accountable for my sins? How does his death vicariously substitute for human shortcoming, including our own, through the centuries?

Why does God need someone to suffer that agonizingly in order to forgive me? How does Jesus' death open the gates of heaven? Why had they been closed? What does it mean that, in his death, Jesus descended into hell?

Literal explanations come up short here. The words are more like an icon, an artifact that highlights form to bring out essence. The language of scripture, the creeds, and our dogmas put us in touch with something that we can know but struggle to conceptualize and explain.

It is meant to be grasped at levels beyond the just the intellect. It is a language to be contemplated and knelt-before more than a language to be understood literally.

Some years ago, Time magazine did a cover story on the death of Jesus. Among other things, they interviewed various people and asked them how they understood the blood of Jesus as washing them clean.

One of those interviewed was JoAnne Terrell, the author of *Power in the Blood? The Cross in the African*

## Ron Rolheiser

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



American Experience. For her, the question of how Jesus' blood saves us triggered a deep personal search.

Sitting in a seminary classroom and studying the death of Jesus, she began having flashbacks: As a young girl she had seen her mother murdered by a boyfriend. She vividly recalled the blood-soaked mattress and her mother's bloody fingerprints on the wall.

And so her search was very much a search "to find the connection between my mom's story and my story and Jesus' story."

For her, the language around the death of Jesus, its blood and heartbreak, became an icon to be contemplated for meaning.

Like Henri Nouwen she began moving her chair around to look at it from various angles and to see how it spoke to her in her life-situation, to the blood in her own history. The language of redemptive blood gave meaning and dignity to her mother's blood.

We cheat ourselves of meaning whenever we treat scripture, the creeds, and the dogmas of our faith as simple statements of history, newspaper accounts in literal language.

They have a historicity and they are true, but the language surrounding them is not the language of the daily newspaper.

They are anchored in history and we risk our very lives on their truth, but they speak to us more as does an icon than as does yesterday's newspaper.

Their language is meant to be contemplated, knelt-before, and absorbed in the heart as we experience more and more of life's mysteries.

An atheist, someone once quipped, is just another name for someone who doesn't grasp metaphor.

## School gets \$1 mil facelift

After three years and close to \$1 million, the refurbished area of St John Vianney's Primary School, Waramanga, has been opened and blessed.

Funded by a substantial government grant, parent fundraising and the Catholic Education Office, the refurbished area includes a new library, six upgraded classrooms and a teacher's resource area.

Former school board chair Mrs Rachael McLaren said plans for the refurbishment began in 2006 with the then principal Mr Graham Pollard.

"We then applied for a government grant, without which the work could not have been done," she said.

Mrs McLaren said the 39-year-old school was now "a great area in which to work and learn".



Students carried in plaques of their newly named classrooms to be blessed. Kindergarten student Anthony Egan carried in his new class name - St Anthony.

School board chair Mr Justin McLaren said construction was already under way on the next stage of the school's refurbishments, which would be funded by the Federal Government's Building the Education Revolution program.

## A story that needs to be told

### • From Page 4.

"Although the illustrations are exquisite and the message is important and nicely articulated, we are not able ... " And another, "While [Fly] certainly explores issues which warrant public attention, I'm afraid we just weren't confident in finding a sufficiently large audience ..."

A number of teachers have read Fly, he tells me, and have been most complimentary. They have told him that they would be interested in using it as a class text - perhaps in English or social studies or religious education.

Enriched with a foreword written by Sir William Deane, Fly is a beautiful story, elegantly told and exquisitely illustrated by local artist Claire Cimbora.



# Serious, funny, it's a ball

## Looking for Eric.

**Starring Steve Evets, Eric Cantona, Stephanie Bishop and Gerard Kerans. Directed by Ken Loach. 119 min. MA 15+ (strong coarse language). Reviewer: Fr Peter Malone MSC\*.**

When the group of postie-mates, middle-aged, beer-bellied, some slow, others jokey, start with a self-help exercise for their friend, Eric Bishop (Steve Evets), we realise that not everyone needs long-term Woody Allen type therapy or psychoanalysis, but that a team of friends can do a great deal to help one another.

Then, when the exercise leads to looking at oneself through the eyes of someone one loves and/or admires (and they select, Nelson Mandela, Gandhi, Fidel Castro and Sammy Davis Jr), we wonder whom we would choose.

But, it is a great exercise when put into practice by Eric Bishop. He has chosen the great French soccer player for Manchester United, Eric Cantona, a wiz at scoring but temperamental.

His poster is on the wall. He appears to Eric Bishop (and is billed as 'lui-meme') all the way through this serious and often very funny film, discussing life, offering advice, insights and challenges. And it works.

Ken Loach is now 70 and shows that the most ardent of socially concerned filmmakers can mellow with age.



Matthew McNulty as Young Eric and Laura Ainsworth as Young Lily.

Loach stays again with the lives of ordinary, working-class people, his eye and his ear attuned to their daily routines, disappointments and joys, mistakes and hopes, angers and desperation. Loach is always sympathetic.

In the background are local thugs who enjoy manipulation and some psychopathic terrorising (and putting clips of it on YouTube). Loach has no time at all for them. Audiences will enjoy their uproarious comeuppance at the hands of busloads of Manchester United fans in Cantona masks.

But the human stories that Loach so likes to explore carry through: youthful love, panic, disappointments, personal frustration, impossibility of communication, recalcitrant step-sons, single mother and baby.

The word forgiveness is discussed by the two Erics but we think that it is impossible for Eric Bishop to be forgiven by his ex-wife.

But, with Cantona's challenging about possibilities and speaking the truth, we find that reaching out, listening, reflection on errors, human contact are far more enabling than we might have imagined.

This is an often exhilarating entertainment, funny and simply wise (as long as you can live with the super-abundant expletives).

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

## Not so cheery look at mothers, children

"These are my blessings," howls Rhonda (Frances O'Connor), grief-stricken after two of her children meet with a horrific accident. Blessed, by Melbourne director Ana Kokkinos, is a slightly ironic title, since for the mothers in the film the way their offspring behave is anything but a benediction.

Yet the bonds of maternal love, although they may fray at the edges, are not severed. Based on a theatre piece, the several stories seem at first to have little in common, but as the many strands develop they intersect and overlap in small ways.

It is hard to present a digest of such a complex screenplay, but it is about mothers and their children. The first part of the film is titled The Children, and in the first 50 minutes we are introduced to seven children who, in one way of another have dis-

## Blessed.

**Starring Frances O'Connor, Deborah-Lee Furness, Miranda Otto and William McInnes. Directed by Ana Kokkinos. 115 min. MA15+ (strong themes, coarse language and sexual references). Reviewer: Jim Murphy\*.**

appointed their parents. Six of them are teenagers; the seventh is an Aboriginal detective.

Two teenage girls drink bourbon on their way to school, then play truant and go shoplifting; one boy breaks into a house to steal money from a kind old lady; a 14-year-old boy takes his intellectually handicapped sister to live on the streets.

Why do these children behave the way they do? Some of the answers are revealed in the second part of the film, The Mothers.



Blessed could never be called a cheery film and the language and content may not suit everyone, but it is a mature and thought-provoking piece of cinema that looks certain to be in contention when the AFI Awards come around.

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

## Keep it at arm's length

Last year's low-budget Australian shocker Dying Breed drew on the story of Irish convict Alexander Pearce, who was hanged in Hobart Town in 1824 after confessing to cannibalism, a taste acquired by living off the flesh of fellow absconders when trying to flee the penal system upon which our island state Tasmania was founded.

Van Diemen's Land, directed and co-written by young film-maker Jonathan Auf Der Heide, addresses Pearce's story in a totally different fashion - almost elegiacally, which to say the least is unusual for a tale of murder and cannibalism.

The film wastes little time on setting up the story. It opens at the penal settlement Macquarie Harbour in 1822 when eight convicts make a break for freedom. Thwarted in their plan to steal a boat, they are forced to go overland, but are ill-prepared for the rigours of the wilderness. They run out of food in

**Van Diemen's Land**  
**Starring Oscar Redding, Arthur Angel, Paul Ashcroft and Mark Leonard Winter. Directed by Jonathan Auf Der Heide. 104 min. M15+ (strong violence and coarse language). Reviewer: Jim Murphy\*.**

a matter of days, and when hunger gets the better of them they kill the weakest member of the party and eat his flesh. This is repeated again and again until only Pearce is left.

There is not much more to it. The characters don't say much, we don't get to know any of them very well and they remain at arm's length.

The sensitive viewer should be warned that the murders are quite brutal and the victims take some time to die. The language is also pretty rough.

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

## SHORTS

**Away We Go.** Starring Maya Rudolph, John Krasinski, Allison Janney, Maggie Gyllenhaal. Directed by Sam Mendes. 97 min. MA15+ (strong coarse language and sexual references).

Some of the characters are kooky bordering on crazy. But there is a sunny quality about this rather eccentric road movie that makes it a genial experience in an off-the-beaten track kind of way.

**Mao's Last Dancer.** Starring: Chi Cao, Joan Chen, Wang Shuang Bao, Amanda Schull, Camilla Vergotis, Chengwu Guo, and Huang Wen Bin. Directed by Bruce Beresford. 117 min. PG (infrequent mild violence and coarse language).

This will hugely entertain. Its philosophical and cultural underpinnings provide edifying moral messages, and the movie is a welcome return of Bruce Beresford to Australian cinema.

**Shorts.** Starring Jimmy Bennett, James Spader, Jolie Vanier and William H. Macy. Directed by Robert Rodriguez. 89 min. PG (Mild themes and comedic violence).

We enter the imagination of young Toe Thompson (pictured). Entertaining for the young and parents might be fascinated.

**(500) Days of Summer.** Starring: Joseph Gordon-Levitt, and Zooey Deschanel. Directed by Marc Webb. 95 min. M (infrequent coarse language).

A very unusual romantic comedy that is about the perils of defining attachments in simple terms. Clever, not a world-beater in the quality stakes, but it is refreshingly different.

**Funny People.** Starring Adam Sandler, Seth Rogen, Leslie Mann, Eric Bana, Jonah Hill, and Jason Schwartzman. Directed by Judd Apatow. 145 min. MA15+ (Strong sexual references and coarse language).

Knowing one is about to die and deciding to live a better life are always unsettling in their impact, but these themes offer significant dramatic opportunities that the film could have captured, but doesn't. There are some genuinely funny moments.

**Anvil! The Story of Anvil.** Starring: Steve "Lips" Kudlow, Robb Reiner, Lars Ulrich, Scott Ian, Lemmy Kilmister, and Tom Araya. Directed by Sacha Gervasi. 81 min. M (Frequent coarse language and incidental nudity).

A documentary film about a heavy metal band from Toronto. An honest portrayal of two individuals, who have never given up the fight.



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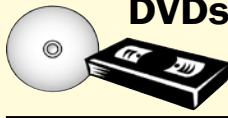




# About the Mass

The Catholic Education Office Library collection contains resources, including DVDs, VHS videos and books that follow the theme of the Mass and liturgy. Listings of resources are in the library's online catalogue.

## Videos & DVDs



### DVDs

A History of the Mass (40 min, ages 12- adult)

This video provides an overview of the evolution of the Mass in the Western church. The program is divided into historical periods that show how the Mass has been shaped by times and cultures.

Mass for Children and Young People (44 min, ages 5-12)

This collection of three programs focuses on the Eucharist as an integral part of our lives and spirituality as Catholics. The programs include: The Mass for Older Children (Grades 4-8), Mass for Young Children (Grades 1-3), Why Do We Go to Mass on Sunday? (Grades 2-6).

Sign, Symbol & Sacrament (17 min, ages 7-12)

This Australian produced video explains how ordinary things such as water, bread, and oil, are used by the Church to symbolise the love of God within sacraments.

### VHS VIDEOS

Exploring the Mass (40 min, ages 8-14)

The parts of the Mass are explained in this British production. Bishop Vincent Nichols celebrates the Mass, while Cardinal Basil Hume and a class of students share in the celebration. Cardinal Hume and Bishop Nichols later explain the meaning and significance of the Mass to the students and answer their questions.

Exploring the Catholic Church (1 course manual, 1 book, 160 min, ages 15-adult)

This CAFÉ video includes a series of eight talks, designed for parish meetings or individual viewing. It features Dr M. D'Ambrosio presenting a look at the basics of Catholic faith, including: The Mass, Baptism, Confirmation, prayer, and Mary and the Saints.

### SOUND RECORDINGS

Join the Circle: Children's Liturgy of the Word. Lectionary Cycle Years A, B and C (1 CD, 30 min., 1 ring binder, ages 5-12).

This CD, plus course binder, provides a collection of 10 songs to support children's liturgical celebration in parishes.

- Dennis Granlund (librarian)

# Pope's clear vision on theology

**Pope Benedict XVI: An Introduction to his Theological Vision by Thomas P. Rausch. Paulist Press, 2009, 195pp, rrp \$44.95[hard-back]. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.**

Thomas Rausch is a respected theologian at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. In this, his 16th book, he examines the theological vision of Pope Benedict XVI.

As a theologian the current Pope played a key role at the Second Vatican Council and in the following years. As Cardinal Ratzinger he was prefect for the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith for nearly 24 years. He is one of the premier theologians of our time.

Yet there are discernible differences between his approach and those of his peers and it is timely that Rausch offers a critical overview.

With great care Rausch unpacks the main themes in Benedict's prolific writings.

The Pope has acknowledged his debt to Augustine as the most formative influence on his thinking.

Rausch teases out the difference between Augustinian and Thomistic tradition, and comments on the consistency of Benedict's theological vision.

Rausch says that the Pope's particular gift is to expound the tradition with remarkable clarity rather than reinterpret it creatively for new situations and problems.

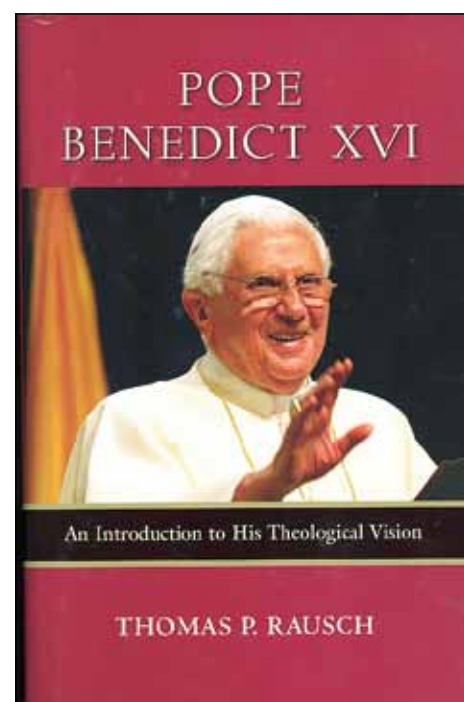
Benedict, he says, is a classic dogmatic theologian. His guiding principle is the objectivity of the truth taught by the Church.

Rausch applies his critique to specific aspects of Benedict's theology - scripture, Christology, ecclesiology and liturgy.

The Pope places emphasis not on experience but on the Church's inherited doctrine. Scripture is seen as God's word.

His is a Logos Christology with scant emphasis on the historical Jesus. His ecclesiology is Eucharistic, ie he insists on the eucharistic nature of the Church.

Rausch says that Benedict has strong views on the theology of liturgy aimed at a more contemplative style of celebration centred on the role of the priest.



Rausch contrasts these with the stance of other noted theologians, some European, some American. Benedict, he notes, is Eurocentric in his orientation.

Thomas Rausch has made a considered analysis of Benedict XVI's theological vision and we are the richer for it. The end-notes and bibliography are a fruitful source for those who would embark on further research.

# Towards a better understanding of us

**What it Means to Be Catholic. Revised edition. Joseph M. Champlin. St Anthony Messenger Press: Cincinnati, 2007. 68pp, pb, rrp \$10.95. Reviewer: Margaret Ryan.**

Ever wondered what to say when asked "What do you Catholics believe?" Where does one start?

For most of the Church year, Catholic children are initiated into one or other of the sacraments, and are often accompanied by proud relatives, many of whom may have only a faint notion of our beliefs and practices.

Perhaps you have friends considering the RCIA, or a relative who knows only the pre-1960s Church? This book would be an excellent contribution to such people's understanding.

American Mgr Joseph Champlin is a parish priest, lecturer and author of over fifty works. His attractively presented A4 booklet has somewhat busy pages, with an invit-

ing text, and is suitable for those in their mid to late teens onwards.

Each of the 12 chapters begins with someone's story which is followed by an outline of related beliefs and, where relevant, some historical explanatory data. It is very readable.

Pages are punctuated by nature and church-related photographs, highlighted quotations and prayers.

Some of the topics covered are: the human person and life choices, our happiness in God's love, the Bible as God's Word, our roots and the Church, faith as relationship, belonging and community, freedom and conscience, public and private prayer, sin and reconciliation, coping with pain and suffering.

The author identifies concerns facing people living in contemporary Western society and successfully shows how the teaching and practices of the Catholic Church deal with them.

# Author aims to bridge the gap

In electing to write about homosexuality and Catholicism, Melinda Selmys has donned a metaphorical flak jacket and, quite deliberately, has vaulted over the barricades into a minefield. One can only admire her bravery.

Selmys is an experienced writer and columnist and she writes like one with lots of well-chosen examples, biting wit, the ability to sum up a thought in a single paragraph.

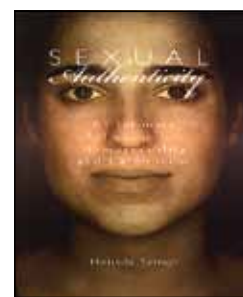
She analyses history, social theory and media influence on the subject of homosexuality in an attempt to bridge the gap between perception and reality.

She is particularly scathing about the use of stereotypes and platitudes that have hindered meaningful dialogue between Catholics and homosexuals. She offers some powerful reflections on John Paul II's "A Theology of the Body" with its core concept of the body as gift.

She has a unique perspective coming, as she does, as a convert from secular lesbianism to committed (and married) Catholicism. She shares a great deal of her own, quite tortured, inner journey.

Selmys says her aims were to help Christians understand where homosexuals are coming from, to explain the Catholic understanding of sexuality and homosexuality so that it will dispel misunderstandings in a secular world, and to help her to understand the issues herself.

If she has achieved these she may well have made a useful contribution to the debate.




**Sexual Authenticity: An Intimate Reflection on Homosexuality and Catholicism by Melinda Selmys. Our Sunday Visitor Publishing Division: 2009, 239 pages, rrp \$34.95. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.**

# WODEN CHRISTIAN BOOKSHOP

**Oh no, October already—where has the year gone? It's time to start thinking about Advent and even Christmas again! For a great range of gifts, cards, calendars, candles, jewellery, rosaries, music and, of course, books, come and check out the Woden Christian Bookshop—make this the year when you get it all done in good time! (But we'll still be here for last-minute shopping, too, of course.)**

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This conference will explore the lives and thoughts of a range of 20th century authors – philosophers, novelists, poets – who, in the midst of cultural upheaval, found their way into the Catholic Church. The different papers will address the theme of 'double vision', considering a number of converts in pairs and as part of a wider movement of intellectual discovery and devotion.

**SPEAKERS:**  
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**Registration:** Mr Ray Finnegan,  
Secretary/Treasurer, 13 Fossey St, Holder  
ACT 2611. Ph: 02 6288 5137  
range1@grapevine.net.au

The Conference will begin with registration at 9:00am and conclude with Mass in the Chapel at 5:15pm.

Australian Chesterton Society - Double Vision: Converts in Combination  
Saturday 10 October 2009

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# Belief when Christianity is caught in the crosshairs

**Losing My Religion: Unbelief in Australia.** By Tom Frame. UNSW Press. 337pp, rrp \$34.95. Reviewer: Frank O'Shea.

I have reservations about the title of this book. That gratuitous pronoun introduces an element of tease, the kind of thing beloved of sub-editors, a hint that this might be a modern equivalent of those books of the past that promised stories of captive nuns or presbytery frolics.

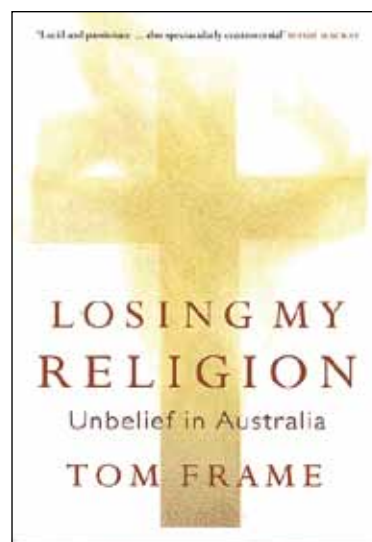
Such an impression is of course dispelled by the secondary title, but the cuteness of the main title grates.

Tom Frame was a naval officer before entering the Anglican ministry. He was bishop to the Australian Defence Forces 2001-07, and is currently director of St Mark's National Theological Centre in Canberra and Professor of Theology at Charles Sturt University. His treatment of his subject is thorough, objective and scholarly.

In setting a context for his arguments, he looks at the history of belief and unbelief in Australia. He deals with secularism, atheism, materialism, agnosticism, humanism and rationalism as they influenced Christianity in this country. He is conscious of the unreliability of affiliation or even participation as measures of the strength of community belief. Nevertheless, the statistics which he presents from census and research data lead him to conclude that "Australians individually and together are losing their commitment to formalised religion."

He deals with the role of science, particularly astronomy and biology, in the decline of religious belief.

There is also a chapter devoted to modern philosophy and theology, most of his examples taken from the Anglican or Presbyterian traditions - bishops John Robinson



and John Shelby Spong for example.

He also summarises the writings of popularisers of anti-theism like Christopher Hitchens and Richard Dawkins who with their own brand of intemperate vehemism insist that "religion is psy-

chologically damaging and socially dangerous."

From being shunned and mistrusted in public life because they did not "fear God", atheists now see themselves as representing advanced thinking against backwardness and superstition.

They have the easier arguments and the cleverest sound bites and a disposition to sneer. Frame is not impressed by their intolerance, disrespect for alternative views and easy recourse to ridicule, and concludes that "contemporary anti-theism has some of the characteristics of fundamentalism, and like all fundamentalism, needs to be opposed."

He warns that writing this book was unsettling to his beliefs and I had some trepidation that reviewing it might have a similar effect. I suspect that I am no different from most people who call ourselves Christian.

Based on comfort as much as conviction, my belief is stuck somewhere between the penny catechism and the universe of Newton and Darwin.

I believe because I was brought up to believe and because a world of doctrinaire secularism is even more frightening than one that is run on some talibanised version of an original creed.

My reaction to the scoffers has always been one of annoyance, mainly with myself for not having the acuity or the training to answer their arguments.

This book treats unbelief with respect and tries to counter the more obvious weaknesses in its case.

But in truth, religion is such an easy target that the ordinary Christian may be best to cling to simple concepts like a community of belief, an over-arching ethical framework and a personal relationship with Jesus.

## Journey of Cross touches us again

**In the Light of the Cross: Reflections on the Australian Journey of the World Youth Day Cross and Icon** by Christopher Ryan MGL. St Paul's Publications, 2009, 176 pp, rrp \$29.95. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.

Just off the launching pad is a book by local author Fr Chris Ryan MGL which recalls the journey of the World Youth Day Cross and Icon around Australia in the year before the huge events of July 2008 in Sydney.

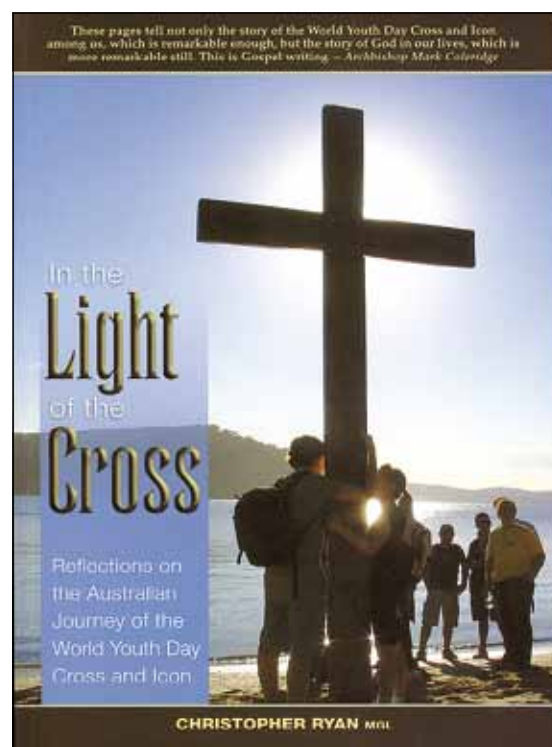
This account draws on more than diary entries, however. Wisely Fr Ryan avoids a chronological description of the progress of the Cross, Icon and Message Stick. Instead he highlights a variety of experiences and uses these to reflect on the deeper gospel meaning behind these powerful symbols.

It is made quite clear that, since the Cross was entrusted to the youth of the world by John Paul II in 1984, the crowds which have gathered to venerate it see in the Cross the presence of Christ in their midst.

Fr Ryan tells of the emotion, the tears and the smiles as people physically touch the Cross. There is a tangible connection for them with the millions who have done so in another place at another time. I have been conscious of this myself at the foot of the WYD Cross with echoes resounding every Good Friday liturgy.

Fr Ryan is consistent in relating the lived experience of the pilgrims to the tradition and teaching of the Church. The Church is indispensable, he says. We are saved together or we will not be saved at all.

He states there is a wonderful moment when, if we persevere with study, reflection, dialogue, conversation and above all prayer, we realise that the Church is beautiful.



There are some poignant stories of conversion which he lays before us for reflection. Equally he relates with humour some of the challenges of the journey such as at the Australia Day races in Armidale. So very Australian!

A selection of photographs silently captures some of the locations. One of these features the Cross alone in the centre of the Canning Stock Route, its shadow stretching behind it on the red soil of the Outback.

The Cross and Icon have left our shores but the journey around the world continues. They are always in transit touching people's lives and pointing to conversion.

We are fortunate here to have a gifted writer, as Chris Ryan is, to interpret the Australian experience for us. I hope that this is not to be his only book as he has much to offer the local Church.

## Educated, articulate and some are angry

**From the Pews in the Back: Young Women and Catholicism.** Kate Dugan and Jennifer Owens [eds]. Liturgical Press, 2009, 237pp. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.

Yet another collection of life-stories of young women's experiences with Catholicism. The title is a dead give-away in that this is an American compilation. Even though the cover shows a row of scuffling school girls the cut-off age for contributors was 36.

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

There are 29 essays. Without exception the women are educated and articulate. Most have higher degrees in theology and other disciplines. They have a well-developed social conscience and a passion for justice. And some of them are really angry.

The burden of the song of the angry ones appears to be what they see as their exclusion from the decision-making structures of the Church, and, in particular, the impossibility of entry to the ministerial priesthood.

It is by no means clear what they understand the priesthood to be.

There is very little talk of breaking open the Word or of their devotion to the centrality of the Eucharist. One senses that there is some confusion between Catholic identity and culture and with core beliefs of the Catholic faith.

There is a call for us to listen to the voices of young women who are passionate and engaged in creating a new way of being Catholic. Read it if you dare.

Internet www.cg.catholic.org.au

## 'Come alive' in prayer

**God, Help Me. How to Grow in Prayer.** Jim Beckman. Servant Books, St Anthony Messenger Press 2009, pb, 168pp, rrp \$28.95. Reviewer: Margaret Ryan.

Jim Beckman, youth minister mentoring executive, speaker and conference host, is a married family man with five children.

His focus in the book is young people in a post-modern culture, one that diminishes our ability to connect with God in prayer, and so, in our most intimate relationship.

The author sees prayer as informing and inspiring a person's true identity.

Part one explains the vitality and necessity of prayer and describes aspects of our contemporary society that undermine our desire for prayer.

Part two looks at prayer as a heart venture, antidotes to avoidance of

prayer and human desolation, consistency and honesty as the LCD of prayer, and living with the unconditional love of Christ within.

In Part three, Beckman suggests ways to "come alive in prayer": through imagination and discernment, a variety of prayer forms and patience with one's prayer journey. Five appendices, two by well-known Fr Armand Nigro, complete the book.

"Yet another book on prayer?" I hear you ask. Yes, and a personable one too, full of stories and explanations, ideas from saints and suggestions from experience. Beckman is convinced that our future depends on young adults being able to access Christian wisdom on prayer.

He's probably right!

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**PRAYER** to the Blessed Virgin Mary, (never known to fail): O most beautiful flower of Mt Carmel, fruitful vine, Splendour of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. O Star of the Sea, help me and show me here Thou art my Mother. O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech Thee from the bottom of my heart to succour me in my necessity

(make request). There are none that can withstand Thy power. O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee (three times). Holy Mother, I place this prayer in Thy hands (three times). This prayer should be said for three days. (Published in this issue of behalf of M P, T P and C P).

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

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## Merici marks golden years

### From Page 7.

Of special interest at the jubilee assembly was the launch by Naomi Turner CSB (pictured right) of Golden Moments: Commemorating the 50th Jubilee of Merici College. It features stories by every college captain for the past 50 years.

The book has already proved to be a popular read as it is filled with many funny and moving stories and more than 400 photographs that depict what life has been like from the students' perspective since 1959.

At the assembly, a time capsule was installed and the SRC Merici jubilee mural depicting key Merici events of the past 50 years was unveiled.

The establishment of the college by six orders of nuns was an audacious innovation in Australian education at the time.

The founding orders were the Sisters of Mercy, Goulburn; the Goulburn Congregation of the Sisters of St Joseph; Sisters of the Good Samaritan; The Brigidine Sisters; the Australian Ursulines; and the Presentation Sisters.

In later years the Sisters of the Holy Faith as well as nuns from other orders including the Dominicans Sisters also came to staff Merici.



The lay staff, who were to replace the nuns, have honoured the legacy of excellence in the education of young women that was set in place by the sisters.

The Mass was followed by an open afternoon at the college at which many people walked down the corridors of their past to relive moments from their school days.

The culmination of the weekend festivities was a ball at the National Museum of Australia. Many people enjoyed catching up with old school mates and dancing the night away.

Liz Hewat (nee Corboy, 1985) said the ball was a great opportunity to "pick up where we all left off and renewing friendships for the future.

"The entire day from the Mass, then wandering the corridors of the school that I attended and adored for six years was absolutely lovely, bringing back many fond memories of my days there.

"Meeting up with former teachers who I remember as very formidable and strong women providing us with a sense of direction and certainty in our lives was wonderful."

• Copies of Golden Moments may be bought from the Merici College website at [www.merici.act.edu.au](http://www.merici.act.edu.au)

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# Coming Events



**CURSILLO** - Women's Cursillo at Galong, 29 October - 1 November. Contact Alma, telephone 6227 2889 or norman-hurst7@bigpond.com. Men's Cursillo 5-8 November. Contact Rod, telephone 62511331. Information on Cursillo Movement from archdiocesan president Joe Jambor, telephone 6242 7332 or jja19144@bigpond.net.au

**CURSILLO** - Northside Ultreya 8pm Thursday 22 October at Page parish. Southside Ultreya 7.30pm Tues 27 October at Kambah parish. All welcome.

**EX-STUDENTS REUNION** - Ex-students of Sisters of St Joseph North Goulburn - Riverina reunion, 17 October, at Temora. Mass and lunch. Inquiries: M Mooney, telephone 6978 0740.

**HEALING MASS** - 5.30pm, 16 October, for stillborn, miscarried and aborted babies, St Benedict's Church, Jerra-bomberra Avenue, Narrabundah.

**HEALING WEEKEND** - 30 October to 1 November, St Benedict's Church, Narrabundah. Friday, 5.30pm Healing Mass and ministry, Saturday 11am-4pm healing seminar, Sunday 7pm Charismatic Mass and ministry. Pre-registration required for seminar \$25. Inquiries: Parish office, telephone 6295 7879, Mary Pidcock, 0403 395 953.

**INTERFAITH FORUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE** - 2pm-5pm, Sunday, 18 October, Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, 15 Blackall Street, Barton. Prof Clive Hamilton and panel representing world religions explore ethical, theological and spiritual issues. Donation \$5. Inquiries: Margaret Roberts, telephone 6272 6201, acc-c@csu.edu.au

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

**MIC SUTHERLAND REUNION** - 15 November lunch. Looking for those who started at Mary Immaculate College in 1960 in First Year or attended any year with this class until Leaving Certificate in 1964. Inquiries: Angela Wydeveld, telephone 6288 8949, e-mail awydeveld@hotmail.com.

**PENROSE PARK PILGRIMAGE** - Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Mercy, Pauline Fathers Monastery near Berrima. Tuesday, 13 October, for Fatima Day. Bookings from Canberra, Queanbeyan and Goulburn. Inquiries: Judy and Joe Mewburn, telephone 6254 6202.

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

**ROSARY PROCESSION** - Far South Coast, 2pm, Sunday, 18 October, Our Lady of Good Counsel church, Cobargo. Fr Michael Mullen PP will lead ceremonies which will end with Benediction.

**ST CLARE'S COLLEGE REUNION** - Class of 1989. Ex-students should contact Jo Adam (nee Barrett), joadam@grapevine.net.au

**SERRA CLUB OF CANBERRA** - Rosary and Mass at Holy Trinity church, Curtin, 6.30pm, Thursday, 8 October, followed by dinner. Inquiries: John Malycha, telephone 6251 2912.

**SOUTH COAST FILIPINOS MASS** - 2pm, Sunday, 18 October, celebrated by Bishop Pat Power, Our Lady Star of the Sea church, Narooma. Reception at community hall.

**TRADITIONAL IGNATIAN RETREAT** - Led by the Benedictine Fathers of the Abbey of Saint Joseph de Clairval. Open to all men aged 18 and above. 3-8 December and 13-18 December, Capuchin Friars Retreat Centre, Plumpton. Inquiries: Thomas Kwok, telephone 0403 189 418, or tom.kwok@bigpond.net.au More information www.clairval.com

**WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND** - For married couples, 23-25 October. Mount Schoenstatt, Mulgoa (near Penrith). Bookings: Telephone 6379 1125 or 4283 3435, or www.wmwe.org.au

**YEAR OF THE PRIEST CELEBRATION** - 10.30 am Mass, Sunday, 11 October, Sacred Heart Church, Pearce. Former parishioners of St Augustine's Farrer and Sacred Heart Pearce invited to remember contribution of all priests who have served the communities. Lunch in parish hall. Inquiries: Parish secretary, telephone 6286 1908.

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

## Women walking with God

Several members of Catholic Women's League in the Archdiocese joined 250 women from across Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea for the 44th national CWL biennial conference held in Perth.

The theme Walking with God - "We walk by faith, not by sight", was reflected throughout the conference by speakers sharing their individual and diverse journeys.

Delegates Angela Devlin, Nola Drum, Anne O'Neill and Jacqueline Hipwell (pictured above right) bring



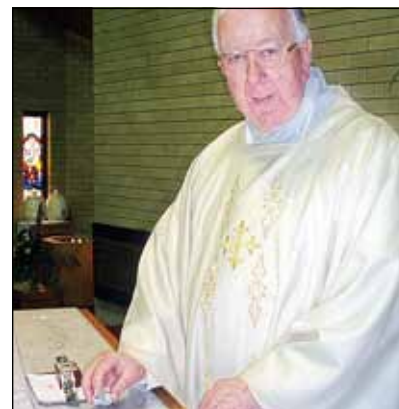
back to the Archdiocese an ongoing commitment to continue the walk with God with renewed vigor and energy.

## Relic for church

A relic of St John Marie Vianney has been deposited in the main altar of the church in Waramanga.

The small portion of bone was brought into the church in a procession and after the homily the relic was deposited and sealed in the altar.

**RIGHT:** Weston Creek parish priest Fr Kevin Brannelly places the relic in the altar.



## Abortion vigil prayers wanted

Those who take part in a weekly prayer vigil outside Canberra's abortion facility in Civic are looking for more support.

On Fridays for the past 16 years five or six regulars, most of whom are on the wrong side of 60 years old, have prayed 12,000 decades of the Rosary.

These prayers are offered for the unborn and their parents, and for all who facilitate and practise abortion, that they may recognise its evil and devote themselves to saving human life instead of destroying it.

Inquiries: Philip Robinson, telephone 6254 3969.

## It's a full house

### ● From Page 9.

It was a difficult moment but everything was okay in the end and we were welcomed by the angels of Waramanga parish."

Unlike her older sister Anna who was "drawn to come to Australia", Maria, 18, did not want to leave her home in Rome.

"So when I came here I refused to mix with people," she said.

"I was so angry at my parents all the time that I relied on praying a lot. In the end I realised I was never abandoned by God and I consider Canberra my home now."

Despite missing their family and friends in Italy, Mr Giannini said the family would stay in Australia for as long as necessary.

"This is in the hands of God; we are more than happy to stay and serve. We left Rome out of gratitude to God and we are very happy in Canberra. It is a city for families."

For the past eight years the Giannini family has worked as missionaries in O'Connor, Waramanga (now part of Weston Creek) and

Wanniassa parishes, where they door-knock, give catechesis and do other pastoral work.

"We give a series of talks in which we announce the love of God," Mr Giannini said.

However the most important part of their lives as missionaries was "to live as Christians and to show your neighbour that it is possible to live as Christians."

As missionaries Mrs Giannini said it was important to demonstrate Christianity in everything they did.

"You show this through your marriage, you forgive one another in your marriage, you love your enemies, behave in a Christian way at work, entrust your faith in your children and have a different relationship with money," she said.

"To experience that Christ is truly risen means to change your life and live in a certain way. This experience can change your life."

● For more information about the Neo-Catechumenal community in Canberra, contact Mr Giannini, telephone 0405 217 038.



October is Mission Month for the Church and celebrations include the worldwide observation of Mission Sunday (18th) and the annual Mission Mass for schools in the Archdiocese at St Peter Chanel's, Yarralumla (20th).

Throughout our world there are many specific needs that are being supported by missionaries from overseas or their own communities. These are underpinned by the presence of the Church and its network. These foundations need our ongoing support for the faith, nurture and encouragement of those engaged in mission and the communities they live in and serve.

With this month's canonisation of Bl Damien of Molokai and his work with those suffering from leprosy, Catholic Mission will be highlighting efforts in India in overcoming many of the challenges associated with this disease and HIV/Aids. The need for good nutrition, shelter, healthcare, community education and care of the children is ongoing but such works are bearing results and enabling hope to emerge.

Catholic Mission needs your prayers and generosity to continue supporting crucial life giving projects and the local church networks that allow pastoral and Eucharistic availability for those living and working in these communities. Help to "reach out and give life"; support our mission appeal this month.

God bless,  
**Deacon Joe Blackwell**

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# Saving the poorest children from life of slavery



Lakshmi and other children in remedial class.

## Reach out is Pope's message to all

"Reach out to the ends of the earth" is Pope Benedict XVI's message for World Mission Day on Sunday 18 October, celebrated by every Catholic community around the world.

Catholic Mission calls all Australian Catholics to reach out with Christ's love to support dioceses that help people affected by leprosy and HIV/AIDS.

"The mission of the Church is to make hope contagious to all whom we meet. It is the desire of

the Church to transform the world with the proclamation of the Gospel of love, and to bring the light of God into this world," the Pope said in his annual address.

Catholic Mission, the Pope's own mission societies, works in 160 countries around the world and has done so for over 185 years.

The Pope called for the international Catholic community to pray and give financial support, especially in these difficult economic times.

Police helped Sr Clara rescue Lakshmi from a life of slavery. Lakshmi had been working as a slave for two years. Lakshmi is only eight years old.

In Marialaya, Chennai, Salesian Sister Clara FMA, along with eight sisters look after the wellbeing of Lakshmi and 150 children in St Joseph's Special Care Home.

They provide shelter, food, clothing, and education for girls aged between four and 18.

The girls come from various backgrounds. Some are orphaned, some are from poor families unable to provide for them, and some girls are brought to the Sisters by the police or awarded by judges as wards of state as St Joseph's is a recognised government home.

Lakshmi is one of the Sisters' most recent newcomers. She is one of 10 children, and her mother, unable to support her, sold her into domestic

slavery as a house cleaner for a local businessman in Chennai. A neighbour realised that she was being mistreated and physically abused, so reported this to the police.

Due to the abject poverty in the country, there is widespread abuse. As a result, the Government has set up a special telephone hotline called "Childline India" for people to report child abuse and exploitation.

The Sisters, along with the local police, visited the house during the day while the owner was at work and took her away. The police arrested the man who has since been imprisoned.

Now the sisters have the task of raising Lakshmi, and protecting her. Lakshmi is from the north of the country, Rajasthan state, and only spoke Hindi when they found her. She has quickly learnt Tamil in the past three months and is adjusting well.

## Friend of lepers is newest saint

Fr Damien of Molokai will be canonised on 11 October, becoming the latest saint and an example of love for those rejected by society.

Catholic Mission joins with the international Catholic community in supporting the canonisation of Fr Damien, celebrating a life of sacrifice and servitude.

"Today we celebrate Fr Damien's life given for all who are excluded or ostracised. Fr Damien was Christ to the people of Molokai," national director of Catholic Mission Mr Martin Teulan said.

As a young priest in 1873, Fr Damien left his home town in Brussels for the isolated island of Molokai, Hawaii, to work with leprosy patients. He described the island as "hell on earth".

He lived and worked in the colony for 16 years until he died of leprosy.

"Fr Damien dedicated his life to helping the people, amid the most shocking conditions," Mr Teulan said.

"Today we are challenged to follow his example, and reach out to

those who are rejected and forgotten."

Despite now being curable, people with leprosy still face stigma and social exclusion. So do their children.

Catholic Mission supports the work of the Church internationally to help people living with leprosy and HIV/AIDS, another disease where sufferers are ostracised by their communities.

The funding support enables priests, sisters and lay workers in these communities to provide medical care, shelter, rehabilitation, pastoral outreach, and a place of acceptance.

Mother Teresa showed great admiration for Fr Damien and supported his canonisation.

When asked what miracle he had performed, Mother Teresa simply said, "Damien himself is a miracle."

If you would like to read further about Fr Damien, visit [www.father-damien.com](http://www.father-damien.com)

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