

# CATHOLIC VOICE

ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN  
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Your 2010 calendar  
– see back page

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## The face of Mercy...

More than 500 women who went into places others "would not or could not go" have been honoured on the 150th anniversary of the foundation of the Goulburn Sisters of Mercy. More than 1100 people packed St Peter and Paul's Old Cathedral in Goulburn to pay tribute to the city's "walking nuns".

In his homily, principal celebrant Archbishop Mark Coleridge said the Goulburn congregation of the Sisters of Mercy were once "the prime evangelisers of south-eastern New South Wales."

"They were loved by the people wherever they went, and they were extraordinarily close to the people, even as they lived the great separations of convent life in other times," he said.

"These were women from Westbury to Westport, who left home to bring the exiled home into the grace of God. They embraced human weakness, wherever and however they found it.

"Each of them is a name and a number, but each of them is much more than that. Each of them is a story unto herself, a mystery known only to God."

Archbishop Coleridge said the sisters went where others "would not or could not go - into schools, hospitals, orphanages, prisons, homes and a thousand other places. They were a mighty humanising force in what was at times an inhuman world." • Pictures, stories Page 10, 11.



The oldest Australian Sister of Mercy, 107-year-old Madeleine Lawrence, is greeted by Bishop Pat Power.

# School fees up 3pc

Fees for students at Catholic primary schools in the ACT will rise by 3 per cent next year.

Secondary school fees in the ACT will increase 6 per cent, while the rise in all NSW schools will be 2 per cent.

The increases have been recommended by the Catholic Education Commission and approved by Archbishop Mark Coleridge. The same fee increases applied at the start of this year.

The commission said it was "very aware of the impact of the drought and rural decline in the NSW sector of the Archdiocese and of the difficult financial times for many parents". It said it had attempted to keep fee increases to a minimum.

There is no change to the fee structure.

The 2010 term fees in systemic schools are:

### ACT primary

First child \$272, second child \$81.60 (70 per cent discount),

## \$6 mil boost for trade training

Four ACT Catholic colleges have received \$6 million in federal funding as part of a trade training program.

The funding will be used for new building and construction facilities at MacKillop Catholic College and St Francis Xavier College along with upgrades to hospitality facilities at St Clare's College and Merici College.

Under the title Canberra Region Pathways Trade Training Centre, the four colleges aim to increase student retention rates in secondary schools and help meet the future skill needs of Australia through improved access to vocational education.

third child \$54.40 (80 per cent discount), fourth child no charge.

### ACT secondary colleges

Years 7-8 \$630, Years 9-10 \$647, Years 11-12 \$786.

A 20 per cent discount is offered for a second child attending an archdiocesan secondary school and a 50 per cent discount for a third child. There is no charge for a

fourth or subsequent child attending either an archdiocesan primary or secondary school. The full fee is payable on the oldest child.

Contributions to the Canberra Catholic Schools Building Fund will be \$120 a term, up from \$114 this year.

### NSW primary

It is the first trade training centre bid to be successful in the ACT.

A key partner in the trade training centre is the Canberra Institute of Technology which will provide qualifications for courses.

ACT Catholic Education Office director Mrs Moira Najdecki said the funding was a great investment in the youth of the ACT.

"We aim to encourage more students to remain at school until the completion of Year 12 by combining vocational training with academic study, thus giving them more chances for a successful start to their adult working careers."

The fee for a family is \$233. A 50 per cent discount applies to the family fee if a sibling attends a NSW systemic secondary school. There is no charge for a fourth or subsequent child attending a systemic primary, central or secondary school.

### NSW secondary (per student)

Years 7-8 \$350, Years 9-10 \$361, Years 11-12 \$403. A 60 per cent discount applies for the second child attending a systemic secondary school, and a 75 per cent discount for a third child. There is no charge for a fourth or subsequent child attending a systemic primary, central or secondary school. The full fee is payable on the eldest child.

### NSW central schools

Primary fee for a family \$233, Years 7-8 \$350, Years 9-10 \$361.

A 50 per cent discount applies on a primary family fee if a sibling attends the secondary section or another NSW systemic secondary school. A 60 per cent discount applies for the second child and a 75 per cent discount for the third child. There is no charge for a fourth or subsequent child attending a systemic primary, central or secondary school. The full fee is payable on the eldest child.

We wish all readers a Christ-filled Christmas



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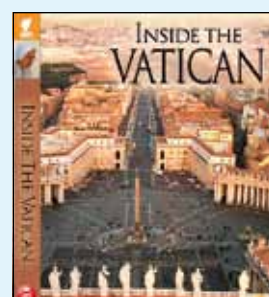
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## be a winner

Portraying everyday life inside the Vatican has been practically impossible. But in a light-hearted two-part documentary, *Inside the Vatican*, released by Madman Entertainment and SBS, viewers are taken on a tour behind the walls of the tiniest state on earth. From kitchens to workshops, from the fire department to the farm, filmmakers capture the industry and cheer of those who work behind the scenes in Vatican City.



Ten copies of the DVD are on offer to readers. You can put yourself in line for this special Christmas gift by e-mailing your name and address to [voice@cg.catholic.org.au](mailto:voice@cg.catholic.org.au). Winners will be sent their copies when they become available in December.

## contact us

EDITOR and ADVERTISING: Geoff Orchison  
 Telephone 6201 9806 or 0407 008 563.  
 E-mail [ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au](mailto:ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au)  
 or [cathcomm@cg.catholic.org.au](mailto:cathcomm@cg.catholic.org.au)

ADDRESS: GPO Box 3089, Canberra ACT 2601.  
 Favier House, 51 Cooyong Street, Braddon ACT 2612.  
 Internet - [www.cg.catholic.org.au](http://www.cg.catholic.org.au)

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## Is it beautiful, or is it ugly?

It's been a big year. A year to think about the future, growing up, to reflect, to take risks and, of course, to create experiences of a lifetime. As 2009 draws to a close it's time to celebrate and that means the year 12 formal.

This is a huge event for all the graduating students and a time for decadence and going all out. I was recently shopping for my formal dress. Usually, it would be a joyous occasion filled with lots of frills, prints and bold colours. Something was different this time. Everything looked identical, the sequins just weren't sparkling like they usually do. I couldn't help thinking where the dresses came from, and what warranted their price tags? It can't be the synthetic fabric? Is it simply that women are willing to spend more on a special occasion? Or are we buying the brand name?

Very few people would be able to tell you where their clothes are made, and even fewer stores would be willing to reveal that secret. It's scary to walk through the mall and see all of the chain stores filled with hundreds of items of clothing which will likely be bought and tossed in the span of a month. The hard work that goes into our garments ends up on the rubbish heap in less than a month because advertisers tell us that's the way things should be. Cheap labour gets cheaper. To me, it just doesn't make sense.

It's the same story with technology. With everything moving at such a rapid pace, nothing is ever quite good enough. I remember when I was in year 10 it seemed the only thing people talked about (besides the waves of gossip that come with being a teenager) was who had the best phone. I'm sure I went through about three phones that year, from slide, to flip to touch screen. The worst was probably the attention-seeking hot pink touch screen slide phone.

Now, I'd rather stick to something a lot plainer. I'd rather spend my time in op-shops or getting out the sewing machine. The glitter, frills, bright colours and obnoxious advertising just seem too much. Especially when you think of all the problems that reckless spending can cause. For an industry that promotes beauty, it's a very ugly business.

## emma's year



## Hats off to Sarah

Canberra mother of three and president of Karinya House Home for Mothers and Babies Mrs Sarah Kelly (above right) made a stunning impression off the track at the Melbourne Cup. She won the prestigious Fashions on the Field competition at her first attempt. She topped all other entrants looking as one newspaper described it, "like a classic Dior model - lean grey pencil skirt and shapely sleeveless jacket by Cue, extravagantly wide, flat-brimmed grey hat by milliner Christine Waring".

## Not a carpet snake...

A brown snake with an apparently religious bent caused something of a scene at St Jude's Church, Holder, on All Souls Day. An acolyte setting up for a school Mass noticed the one-metre-long poisonous snake slithering across the carpet in front of the altar. Weston Creek parish priest Fr Kevin Brannelly said the snake seemed to have trouble gaining traction on the church carpet and was not moving fast. The government ranger was called and the reptile was swiftly rehoused. Mass began three-quarters of an hour late.

## Manager moves on

Catholic Bookshop manager for the past 17 years Mr Graham Upshall had been a great ambassador for the Catholic Church, Bishop Pat Power said.

Mr Upshall has left the bookshop after managing it since it was established in Favier House. Before that he ran the Goulburn Christian Bookshop from 1987 to 1989 and the St Vincent de Paul bookshop.

Mr Upshall "always presented a very human face to people from every possible background," Bishop Power said. "Smiling, helpful and seemingly never flustered, he not only gave great help to customers but was the embodiment of Christian service. His deep commitment to his faith meant that he always sought to show the face of Jesus to anyone who came across his path."

"On a professional level, I found his knowledge of literature to be amazing as was his ability to track down all kinds of books when requested. He was called upon to be an instant expert on the saints, on all kinds of devotions and on sundry Catholic issues. He had to please people along all parts of the theological spectrum. He always responded with grace and dignity and for this the whole Archdiocese is truly grateful."

Mr Upshall said he "felt very privileged serving not only Catholics but a wide ecumenical customer base as well as interfaith customers."

"I sold books not only within the confines of the bookshop but also at book displays at Australian National University, Australian Catholic University, Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, Barton, St Clement's Galong and many parishes in the Archdiocese as well as Military Ordinariate conferences in Manly and Wahroonga."

Mr Upshall paid tribute to Mrs Joan Kyneur and Mr Bob O'Hehir,

who mentored him, and members of Catholic Bookshop boards, especially Fr Tom Wright, Mr Joseph Palisi, Mr Walter Armstead, Lady Mary Scholtens, Mrs Eileen Hogg, Mr Bob Wilson and Mr Bryan Docherty.

## Outreach needs aid

Last month's story about a Cursillo team's narrow escape from the tsunami in American Samoa said the local bishop would welcome a follow up visit next year to support the outreach. Sponsorships of \$100 as well as larger or smaller donations are sought. Donations may be sent to: Cursillo Asia Pacific coordinator Tam Nguyen, PO Box 190, Corinda, Qld 4075. Direct transfer to: Account Name: Australia-Catholic Cursillo Movement - Vietnamese, BSB 034-043, A/c No 20-2951.

## what do you know?

1. Who was known as the "Bacon Priest"?
2. How many women have joined the Goulburn Sisters of Mercy over 150 years? 140, 540, 1040?
3. What anniversary have the Sisters of St Joseph recently celebrated?
4. This young man has gone on to devote much of his adult life to the needs of those less fortunate in the Archdiocese. Who is he?
5. On 1 November, it was the 80th anniversary of St Mary's Church, West Wyalong. How many churches have been built in the parish over its history?
6. How many parishes make up the Western Mission?



Answers:  
 Bottom Page 4.

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# New 'dame' dedicates award to the workers

An O'Connor parishioner has dedicated the papal honour she received to the many men and women who work in the Church without expecting reward.

Mrs Anne Rosewarne was made a dame of the Order of St Sylvester and invested by Archbishop Mark Coleridge at Mass in St Joseph's Church, O'Connor.

She has been a member of CWL at O'Connor since 1966 and has served the league in various executive roles at branch, regional, archdiocesan and national levels.

After being invested with the insignia, Mrs Rosewarne said she

accepted it as "a great honour that I didn't expect".

She said she dedicated it "to all those men and women in all parishes who do what they can and don't expect anything for it".

The papal honour is a symbolic gesture by the universal Church to recognize the contribution of an individual to the Church not just locally but generally.

CWL archdiocesan president Mrs Jacqueline Hipwell said Mrs Rosewarne's dedication to the Church "has been exemplary and especially, more recently, in the Parish of St Joseph during the



Anne Rosewarne receives her papal honour from Archbishop Mark Coleridge with O'Connor parish priest Fr Bill Kennedy looking on.

rebuilding of the church and parish centre after a devastating fire".

In recommending Mrs Rosewarne for a papal honour, parish priest Fr Bill Kennedy said she

had been "a loyal and dedicated member of this parish and a wonderful help to me."

"She is at Mass each day and is an example of Catholic living at all times."

"In all my time here she has prepared the parish bulletin each week, is secretary of the parish pastoral council and finance committee, the church restoration committee and parish centre building."

"Anne's wonderful father received the Papal award of Croce Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice in 1980. Her curriculum vitae shows her involvement in all aspects of parish life, and I highly recommend her for a papal honour."

Born in Tamworth, she married Kenneth Rosewarne in 1957 and has eight children, 14 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

She was educated at St Gregory's School in Queanbeyan.

# Prayer the key for charity

The head of an international Catholic charity that raises more than \$120 million a year in donations believes managing the money is important, but prayer is the key.

Secretary-General of Aid to the Church in Need Mr Pierre-Marie Morel visited Canberra to meet with Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Giuseppe Lazzarotto.

The organisation, which has its headquarters in Germany and 17 other national offices including one in Sydney, has raised about \$3 billion since it was founded in 1947 by Fr Werenfried van Straaten.

He was known to many as the "Bacon Priest" due to his efforts after World War 2 to help keep alive 3000 priests and more than six million Catholics expelled from Eastern Europe.

Aid to the Church in Need now sponsors the training of one in eight seminarians around the world and manages 5000 projects on every continent, from helping to build churches to providing a bicycle or a mule to transport a priest.

Mr Morel said he was most proud of the generosity and prayer of the 700,000 worldwide benefactors whom he described as the "engine for the hope of the Church" as they pray for and support the pastoral mission of the Church. Every 27 seconds around the world Mass is offered for the intentions of the benefactors.

"We are managing money but prayer is absolutely key. If it is not first, then we are merely activists and we will fail," he said.

Eucharistic adoration has now been initiated daily in the Aid to the Church in Need headquarters and is attended by staff.

"We hear every day of priests being killed here, churches burnt there, we hear of typhoons. With eucharistic adoration we can give to God what we are carrying each day. We can continue to praise God for his goodness and mercy."



Secretary-General of Aid to the Church in Need Mr Pierre-Marie Morel (left) with Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Giuseppe Lazzarotto and Australian national director of the charity Mr Phillip Collignon.

Mr Morel said it was the also the experience of many parishes in France that those offering adoration were once again attracting young people.

Aid to the Church in Need was developing programs to touch the new generation of young people, not necessarily in parishes but in places of pilgrimage. "We have to go where they are," he said. "Our national offices are opening bureaus in pilgrimage places that they are coming to, such as Knock, Lourdes and Paray-Le-Monial."

"We need more and more to touch the heart of the young. They are passionate people and they want to be challenged."

Mr Morel said extending the use of new technology was also a priority of Aid to the Church in Need, for example with better targeted websites and, in some countries, a presence on Facebook.

# \$80 makes a difference

Eighty dollars buys bedding and a meal for a homeless person on Christmas night. This is one of the ways donations to the annual Christmas appeal of the St Vincent de Paul Society can be used.

"A family Christmas dinner is one of the most celebrated and beloved meals of the year, but many of the people who call the society in distress each day, do not get to experience the simple joy of sharing a special meal with family and loved ones," archdiocesan president Mr Evan Brett said in launching the appeal. "The society believes in giving people hope for the future, and bringing them joy."

"Our 2700 volunteers and members visit young families who have had their electricity cut off. They sit

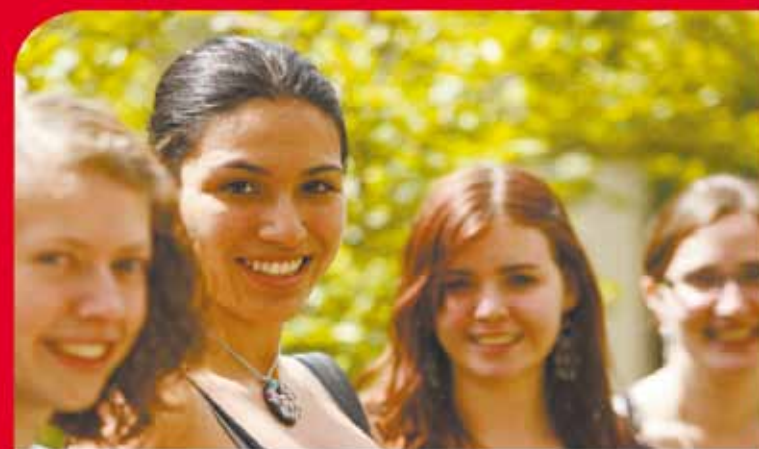
and chat to lonely men and women who never have visitors over the season of goodwill. We also provide beds for the homeless so they can wake up on Christmas morning with a roof over their head."

People may give to the appeal through envelopes in Vinnies centres, at parish churches, at Vinnies Christmas stands at major shopping centres, or at [www.vinnies.org.au](http://www.vinnies.org.au)

- \$100 sends a child who has never enjoyed a holiday to a Vinnies youth camp.

- \$200 buys meals and gifts for a family on Christmas Day.

- \$500 buys the gift of hope for a family. It means the difference between keeping their home for another week or sleeping on the streets.



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## Join in carols

Carols of the nation will be held at Archbishop's House in Commonwealth Avenue from 5pm to 7pm on Sunday, 20 December.

Children are invited to bring baby Jesus from their nativity set for Archbishop Mark Coleridge to bless.

Opera singer Rachael Duncan, the Cathedral choir and the Rejoice Singers will lead the singing.

A sausage sizzle and soft drinks will be available. Bring a chair or picnic blanket.

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# Reaffirming power and importance of Christmas

The meaning of Christmas has been spelt out in a million different ways. One of the oldest and deepest of these is the sense of Christmas as the marriage between heaven and earth.

In some of its most beautiful passages, the Old Testament speaks of Israel as the bride of God, with the Song of Songs the best of all examples. Taking its cue from this vision, Christianity has seen the moment when God takes human flesh as a profoundly nuptial moment.

Heaven is wedded to earth, and eventually the New Testament will see the Church as the bride of Christ.

Human language always strains to speak of the relationship between heaven and earth, between God and us.

In the case of marriage, the Bible takes one of the most important of all institutions to speak of that relationship.

Marriage was important in the biblical world because it provided society with stability and it secured the future in a world where the future seemed even more precarious than it does now.

Marriage was not just between two individuals. It was between two families, two tribes, two nations. At the level of royalty, it was a vital element in world diplomacy.

One of the great questions of the ancient world was always: Shall we marry our enemies?

Marriage, then, was essentially social; and the right kind of marriages were vital to stabilising society and securing the future, since it

was marriage that produced children and provided the environment in which they could be nurtured to the kind of maturity the society sought.

The extravagant celebration that accompanied marriages - and still does in many cultures - was not just because this marriage was thought to be a good thing for the couple but also for their families, and because it promised for the entire community the stable and secure future which human happiness requires.

It was this solemn sense of marriage which led the Bible to speak of the relationship between heaven and earth in nuptial terms.

In more recent times, marriage has changed greatly in places like Australia. For one thing, marriage is now seen in almost exclusively individual terms; it's between two people and seemingly has little to do with the building of society now and into the future.

That's one reason, I think, why more people decide not to marry. They decline the marriage ceremony and prefer a de facto situation because the ceremony speaks of the essentially social significance of marriage, whereas those who prefer a de facto relationship see their relationship as individual.



**'In this culture, Christmas has been trivialised in a host of ways, and what's happening to marriage is another factor - though a large one - contributing to that process.'**

Marriage has been atomised and has therefore been reduced.

The fact of easy divorce has also fuelled the trivialisation of marriage in recent times.

No-one will deny the need for divorce in certain situations, but now it has become so easy that

there's a sense of just giving marriage a go.

If it doesn't work out, even in the short term, then I can look elsewhere: that can be the mentality.

This is not to deny the pain that comes with most divorces, but it is

to say that easy divorce reinforces the trivialisation of marriage in this culture.

The same could be said of civil unions. Again, no-one

of reasonable mind would want to deny justice to homosexual people who have the same rights as any human being and no less a claim on respect.

But the problem with same-sex "marriage" is that it reduces marriage, the real thing, to one of a number of equally valid options; and this inevitably means a trivialisation of marriage.

True justice requires that the right thing be done to homosexual people without doing the wrong thing to married couples and to society as a whole.

Insofar as marriage is trivialised, harm is done to the ecology of human society and the future rendered less stable and secure.

We have learnt that the ecology of the natural world is more fragile than it seems and that, if interfered with beyond a certain point, the natural world turns against the human being.

The same is true of the ecology of the social world; and the trivialisation of marriage is one way of interfering with that ecology in a way that will have it turn against the human being, by which I mean communities, not just individuals.

Insofar as marriage is trivialised, the nuptial image loses power as a way of speaking of the Incarnation.

In this culture, Christmas has been trivialised in a host of ways, and what's happening to marriage is another factor - though a large one - contributing to that process.

But it is something which Christians can resist in a creative and positive way - reaffirming not only the power and importance of marriage, but also the power and importance of Christmas beyond the shimmering of tinsel and the strains of Jingle Bells.

To love and serve the culture in the name of Christ will mean at times being counter-cultural, often at real cost to ourselves.

That was always true, and it's no less true now than in the past. The Cross always looms over the Crib.

*Mark Coleridge*

## ARCHBISHOP MARK COLERIDGE

- 1 Dec:** Clergy Advent reflection day.
- 2 Dec:** CCD Mass, Yarralumla.
- 3 Dec:** Blessing new buildings St Gregory's Primary School, Queanbeyan.
- 4 Dec:** Ordination to permanent diaconate, Boorowa.
- 5-6 Dec:** Vocations weekend, Galong.
- 8 Dec:** Opening St Mary's Cathedral, Perth.
- 12 Dec:** Ordination Joseph Neonbasu, St Christopher's Cathedral.
- 19-20 Dec:** Mass Bombala, Delegate.
- 20 Dec:** Carols of the Nation, Archbishop's House.
- 27 Dec:** Orations Editorial Committee Washington.

## AUXILIARY BISHOP PAT POWER

- 2 Dec:** Galong board meeting.
- 3 Dec:** ACT Churches Council meeting.
- 5 Dec:** L'Arche Christmas party.
- 6 Dec:** Faith and Light Christmas party.
- 7 Dec:** Laurence Freeman reflections.
- 9 Dec:** Retreat for retired Josephite Sisters, Goulburn.
- 11 Dec:** NSW Social Welfare meeting, Sydney.
- 13 Dec:** Confirmations Jindabyne and Dalgety.
- 17 Dec:** Archdiocesan Mission and Planning group.
- 24 Dec:** Christmas Vigil Masses Bemboka and Nimmitabel.
- 25 Dec:** Christmas Mass Adaminaby.

# At Christmas God is setting us free

Human beings long to be free. Refugees from war and civil strife literally run across their continent, or risk starvation and drowning to climb aboard suspect vessels to escape persecution, violence and death.

Many Aboriginal Australians still resist the controversial restrictions of "the intervention" in the Northern Territory.

Victims of floods and fires, of poverty and oppression, of illness and abuse, desire to shed their burdens of hunger, homelessness, ill-health, and of being forgotten.

We grow sick of our own sinfulness and long for healing.

Men and women pine for genuine love. We crave to be respected, accepted and loved despite our faults and mistakes.

At times we manage to love others unconditionally, for a short while at least, breaking down walls of hostility and fear, of difference and historical choices, of gender, ethnic and age discrepancies. We do prefer "light" to "darkness".

Women and men seek peace, externally and within.

In reflective moments we recognise that peace emerges from just relationships - in family, community, with our environment and all created things.

## voices



**True peace and joy are independent of circumstances, says Margaret Ryan**

In peaceful mode, we can appreciate the other person, and readjust our vision and priorities, and experience joy.

Thank God for Christmas and its celebration in the Church Year, during which we have about three weeks to reflect on the Christ in Christmas!

God is aware of our true needs of freedom, love, peace, joy... Christmas Mass readings remind us that through Jesus, (his

name means God saves), God, the ever compassionate one, is setting us free.

Nearly every scriptural text of the four Masses on Christmas Day speak of Jesus as saviour, the one who has come to liberate and purify us, to enable us to come closer to God.

Jesus came to earth to tent (dwell) with us in love.

Though announced by angels and adored by shepherds and wise men, Jesus had to flee the country to avoid Herod's clutches.

Even as a baby, he experienced the human realities of hatred, insecurity, exile and persecution.

He would have learned love from the trust, generosity and prayerfulness of Mary, and the kindness, gentleness and compassion of Joseph.

True peace and joy are independent of circumstances.

Somehow in the chaos of a crowded Bethlehem, the lack of the inn-keeper's hospitality and the smelly and unhygienic conditions of the stable, the Prince of Peace was born, the one who modelled peace and who offers peace to all peoples.

How can I bring some peace to our broken world?

## WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

**Answers: 1. Fr Werenfried van Straaten, founder of the charity Aid to the Church in Need. 2. 540. 3. 120th anniversary of the death of Fr Julian Edmund Tenison Woods, co-founder of the congregation. 4. Vinnies chief executive officer in the Archdiocese Bob Wilson. 5. Three. 6. Five, West Wyalong, Ardlethan, Barellan, Ungarie, Weethalle**



# Indigenous justice 'elusive' still

Social justice for indigenous people is still an "elusive objective" despite the Bringing Them Home report and last years' national apology from the Prime Minister to the Stolen Generations, according to Australian of the Year Prof Mick Dodson.

He addressed more than 250 people from across Australia at the Mercy Justice conference, which was held over three days in Queanbeyan.

Themed "Embrace the Other and Welcome Difference", the conference featured speakers including 2007 Australian of the Year Mr Tim Flannery, ABC journalist Ms Margot O'Neill, psychologist and refugee worker Sr Maryanne Loughry, women's advocate Ms Madge McGuire and social justice and refugee advocate Sr Denise Coghlan.

Director of the ANU National Centre for Indigenous Studies, Professor Dodson was unimpressed that no recommendations from the Bringing Them Home report had been fulfilled.

"It could be argued that the first four of these principles were either fully or partially satisfied by the federal and state governments," he said.

"But at the federal level, the last one relating to compensation has been flatly rejected by the Prime Minister.

"He has not only rejected the idea of compensation as recommended by the Bringing Them Home report, but the department responsible for indigenous affairs has rather insultingly suggested that the closing the gap policy caters for the



Prof Mick Dodson ... bewildered.

needs of the conversation of the Stolen Generations, although it contains nothing specific for them.

"It bewilders me why a program on closing the gap, which is essentially about delivering citizenship rights to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, should be a substitute for the redress to the survivors of the forcible removal policy."

Professor Dodson said the Northern Territory intervention was not the path to social justice. "Aboriginal people live with the reality of having been pushed to the margins for so long, every single day."

In order to close the gap, Professor Dodson said Australians needed to take responsibility and start building solutions that involve themselves.

"We now have the opportunity to create new stories, of indigenous and non-indigenous people. Remember that our kids will read them one day and they will judge us

as they should. Will we rise to the challenge and make them proud?"

Award winning ABC journalist and author Ms Margot O'Neill addressed the conference on her experiences of ordinary people fighting government immigration policies.

She tells in her book, Blind Conscience, of "Trish", who was drawn to Villawood Detention Centre to check on the conditions of children. She met an asylum seeker which changed her from "a trusty middle-class citizen into a tiger", who accosted politicians at any opportunity and whose house was raided by immigration officials.

"I wrote this book to try to honour these people who inspired me," Ms O'Neill said.

"They proved they could make a difference; they proved how toxic this policy was."

Ms O'Neill said the asylum seeker advocates that she met taught her "human rights really are about enlightened self-interest."

"I hope everyone knows at least one of these wonderful advocates, some of whom are probably in this room, because the rest of us need to live off that kind of human capital rather than angry bitterness.

"Those advocates were not just campaigning for the refugees in detention camps, but for all of us, who didn't have the time or inclination to fight."

Despite the poor treatment of refugees in the past, Ms O'Neill said she believed Australia was not heading down that path again.

## It's a big new year for young

Next year will start with a bang for young people of the Archdiocese with two big events lined up.

Turn the Tide 2010: Unlock Life!, the annual archdiocesan gathering for young people, will be held on the Australia Day long weekend, 22-25 January, at The Pines retreat centre at Tuross Heads.

From 8 to 12 February, Catholic leaders working and volunteering in youth ministry, teaching and social work from across Australia will gather in Canberra for Foundations in Catholic Youth Leadership and Ministry Training.

Turn the Tide is a time of reflection and retreat for young people. It is open to anyone aged 16 to 35 and costs \$155 a person including accommodation and meals. People may register at [www.catholiclife.org.au/faith-Turn-the-Tide-2010](http://www.catholiclife.org.au/faith-Turn-the-Tide-2010). Last year, Turn the Tide attracted more than 60 young adults.

The program for February's training in Catholic leadership and youth ministry will be delivered by some of Australia's most prominent speakers and educators. Organisers say past participants can expect updated and fresh content. It will be held at CatholicLIFE, The Rheinberger Centre, corner Weston and Loch Sts, Yarralumla.

The program covers Peter and Paul: Leaders of the Early Church with Archbishop Mark Coleridge; Ethics in Ministry with Young People with Dr Rob Long; Responsibility and Restoration with Mr Phillip Marsh and Mr Matt Casey. A Catholic Theology of Human Sexuality with Fr Tony Percy and Byron and Francine Pirola; Arise Young People: Giftedness and Personal Growth with Sr Mary Madeline OP, Sr Mary Rachel OP and Sr Cecilia Joseph OP.

Information at [www.catholiclife.org.au/foundations](http://www.catholiclife.org.au/foundations).

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### How long have you been involved in CWL and how did it begin for you?

On arriving in Sydney in 1980 I became interested in the activities of the Catholic Women's League and joined the organization as a member firstly of St Agatha's Pennant Hills branch. In 1990 on moving to Canberra I joined the Canberra branch (St Christopher's) of the league; and subsequently I am still a financial member of that branch. In the ensuing years I have occupied various positions on the branch at executive level.

### What does your elected role as archdiocesan president entail?

In 2005 I was elected archdiocesan president of CWL. My role in this position involves representation at national conferences held throughout Australia, and official visits to regions and branches within the Archdiocese, as well as representing the national executive at official functions held in Canberra from time to time. The ongoing responsibilities include the distribution and collection of information among the regions and branches, and generally promoting the wellbeing of the organization and the members. Ecumenism is a vital force in the performance of my duties and in this regard I encourage and support the special days services sponsored by Australian Church Women and make positive attempt to accept all invitations to attend other church functions.

### What do you enjoy most about CWL?

Making new friendships in both country and city regions of the league; I enjoy all facets of league activities.

## 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 Jacqueline Hipwell, archdiocesan president of the Catholic Women's League



## what I do

### When you are not active in this role, what do you do for leisure?

I belong to National Council of Women, Australian Church Women, The Ionian Club Canberra Inc and the View Club. I am also a special minister of Holy Communion, a reader and a member of the parish pastoral council of St Christopher's Cathedral. I look after two of my grandchildren before and after school and during the holidays. I enjoy embroidery, lace making, reading and social occasions also my family and friends.

### What parts of the role are most challenging?

Dealing with the business of the league, especially e-mails, snail mail and phone calls, which occupy a large portion of my day, about 25 hours a week.

### What are the major challenges facing the CWL as an organisation?

At present the major challenge to CWL is the diminished membership due mainly to natural attrition and the need to encourage new membership.

### How has CWL changed in the time you have been involved?

While adhering to the aims and objectives of the league it is apparent that in these days members are confronted with the temptations of pursuing other interests. Due to the fact that younger women work full time, it is harder to involve them. This problem is common to most voluntary organizations.

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## Four score years to celebrate

Over its 80 years of life, St Mary's Church, West Wyalong, can boast 4451 baptisms, 1029 marriages, 851 funerals and three ordinations.

Sunday, 1 November, was a day for West Wyalong to celebrate the anniversary of the dedication in 1929 of the current church, the third built in the parish which was established in 1894.

Fr Fogarty, who arrived that year, was the first parish priest of West Wyalong when the parish extended from Marsden on the Newell Highway to Yalgogrin North, through to Ardlethan and Lake Cargelligo. He built the first church which acted also as a school and meeting place for the area. Parishioners had to endure the summer heat in a church built out of corrugated iron.

The second church built in Church Street in 1912 was a little more substantial, made out of West Wyalong bricks. It served again as a school building and lasted until the present church was completed.

To mark the 80th anniversary a celebration was organised with displays of photographs of weddings, baptisms, confirmations and first holy communions that had been performed in St Mary's, as well as photographs of priests who had served the parish.

At the beginning of the Mass, parishioners carried up the baptismal, confirmation, marriage and deceased registries. During Mass, Sr Helen Kearins, sang "If these walls could talk", a song she wrote for the parish's centenary. After Mass, long-time parishioners Mr Bert Collins and Mrs Judith Boneham cut a celebratory cake.



ABOVE: Rod Minogue carries up the baptismal register.



LEFT: Parishioners with some Christmas boxes. From left, front: Kath Roscarel, Ben Pettit, Kaleb Davis. Middle: Paige Cooper, Lily Cooper, Noelene Pursehouse, Cody Davis. Back: Bernadette Pettit, Matt Cooper, Jeanette Davis.

## 'Amazing' effort out west

Parishioners of the Western Mission, which includes West Wyalong, Ardlethan, Arian Park, Barellan, Ungarie and Weethalle have turned their attention from their own problems to help others.

Over four weeks they packed 134 boxes to be sent to children, many of them orphans, in wartorn countries as part of the Samaritan Purse Christmas Box Appeal.

"By participating in Operation Christmas Child we share God's unconditional love with a child in

desperate need," parish priest Fr Troy Bobbin said.

He described the effort as "amazing, considering the drought and tough economic times we have had over the past number of years".

As well as the boxes, cash donations for postage and contributions to complete additional boxes were given by the parishes.

Noelene Pursehouse led the effort to promote and organise the Christmas boxes.

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Parishes will be conducting the annual Archbishop's Christmas Appeal at Christmas Masses to meet pressing needs in the Archdiocese and beyond.

"Times of celebration make hardship all the starker. To offer a helping hand to others this Christmas in the midst of natural disasters, financial crises and ongoing drought during 2009 can be a way of stirring the great hope of Christmas," Archbishop Mark Coleridge said.

Part of the funds raised will go towards projects in the Asia-Pacific region including establishing clean water access in Papua New Guinea communities and health clinics and assistance with a low cost housing in Kammam Diocese in North India.

A contribution will be made towards completing construction of

a parish church in Fr Constantine Osuchukwu's home parish of St Paul's, Oweere-Umudioka, in Orlu Diocese, Nigeria.

Fr Osuchukwu currently serves in Corpus Christi, South Tuggeranong parish.

The Archdiocese will continue to support the National Council of Churches' Christmas Bowl Appeal.

Last year the appeal raised \$72,700, of which \$10,000 went to the Christmas Bowl Appeal to be given to the National Council of Churches in Australia.

In addition, \$5000 each went towards an HIV project in Uganda and a housing renovation program in India.

The remaining funds were used to help drought affected communities in the Archdiocese.

# Youth look for common vision

More than 40 youth leaders from across the Archdiocese met to develop a common vision for ministry with young people in a forum organised by the archdiocesan CatholicLIFE agency.

The gathering aimed to foster a sense of unity among participants and re-engage leaders in development initiatives endorsed by the review of youth ministry and services held in 2007.

Leaders shared their experience of youth ministry including initiatives under way in Goulburn Parish, St Francis Xavier College, the Young Christian Students movement, Barellan (in the Western Mission), the Disciples of Jesus Community and Corpus Christi parish, South Tuggeranong. Many said the sharing widened their view of what was happening in the Archdiocese and what is possible when working with young people.

There was general agreement in the group to:

- Establish a model of youth ministry founded on the principles of evangelisation and informed by the national vision "Anointed and Sent"
- Establish an Archbishop's Commission for Young People
- Work from a common youth calendar
- Meet annually as deanery groups
- Hold a youth leaders forum in August 2010.

The group had initial discussions about an Archdiocesan pilgrimage to Madrid for WYD



2011. Feedback from the group will be used to develop a concrete plan.

In a talk to the forum, Archbishop Mark Coleridge said youth ministry or the youth apostolate implied a mission to the young to empower them to be sent out. It was a time for the Church to be more missionary even though it was tempted to be less.

"The whole point of youth ministry is to lead the young to Jesus. In the end Jesus is all we've got. Unless they find their way to Jesus they will never discover the magnificent truth of the real God. If they never find Jesus they will never discover the truth of who they are."

Archbishop Coleridge said he saw the Archdiocese had clearly charismatically gifted youth leaders doing extraordinary things. These needed to be co-ordinated without quenching the Holy Spirit or putting a dampener on creativity.

# Ministry team's year of service ends

This year's Catholic Youth Ministry team has capped off its year of service to the Archdiocese with a farewell celebration in Goulburn where it is based.

The team comprising Liam Mackay, 22, Erin Cassidy, 20, Ana Moran, 20, Will Burdett, 20, and Mary-Anne de Luca, 24, spent the year working with high schools, parishes and youth groups to help young people grow in their faith and character.

They used drama, music, games, personal sharing, small group work, prayer and reflection to encourage young people to explore the relevance of the gospel in the context of modern youth culture.

The team lived in Goulburn where they immersed themselves in community life, received professional training in youth ministry and cultivated their own journey of faith through daily Mass, communal and personal prayer and reflection.

"Being on the team has been unlike any other experience I've had," Will Burdett said. "While the

team's focus is helping other young people to develop their faith, through their enthusiasm, openness and commitment, they in turn have inspired us to further our own journey of faith."

As part of the farewell, Archbishop Mark Coleridge celebrated Mass at Sts Peter and Paul Old Cathedral.

The team is now recruiting for next year. Anyone who wants to be involved in or support the team may visit [www.catholiclife.org.au/faith-Catholic-Youth-Ministry-Team](http://www.catholiclife.org.au/faith-Catholic-Youth-Ministry-Team) or telephone team manager Ms Daniela Kesina on 6163 4311.

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# Surviving the big C: you wouldn't read about it, usually

Derek Ferguson is a survivor. He has a letter written two years ago by an oncologist to prove it. In it, the doctor says that the oesophageal cancer diagnosed is "likely to prove fatal within 12 months".

That was in September 2007. Earlier this year Mr Ferguson and wife Janice moved from Lockhart, where he had been principal of St Joseph's Primary School, to retire at Araluen between Canberra and Batemans Bay - their "dream location".

The family's experiences in the intervening years are the material for a book they have published: *Oesophageal Cancer, The Next Epidemic*.

"The cancer was caused not by diet, the lack of exercise or smoking, but by 30 years of acid reflux eating the great western diet of red meat, three veggies and while bread while treating the reflux with various over-the-counter and prescription antacids," Mr Ferguson says.

"It was not until I researched oesophageal cancer and Barrett's oesophagus that I discovered the statistics that one in 20 sufferers of reflux will develop Barrett's, and one in 10 of these people will die from oesophageal cancer within six to 18 months of diagnosis. The survival rate is only five per cent over five years."

Mr Ferguson was driven to write the book - an almost diary recollection of the months of treatment - with contributions from his wife and family "to help others cope with their own cancer journey".

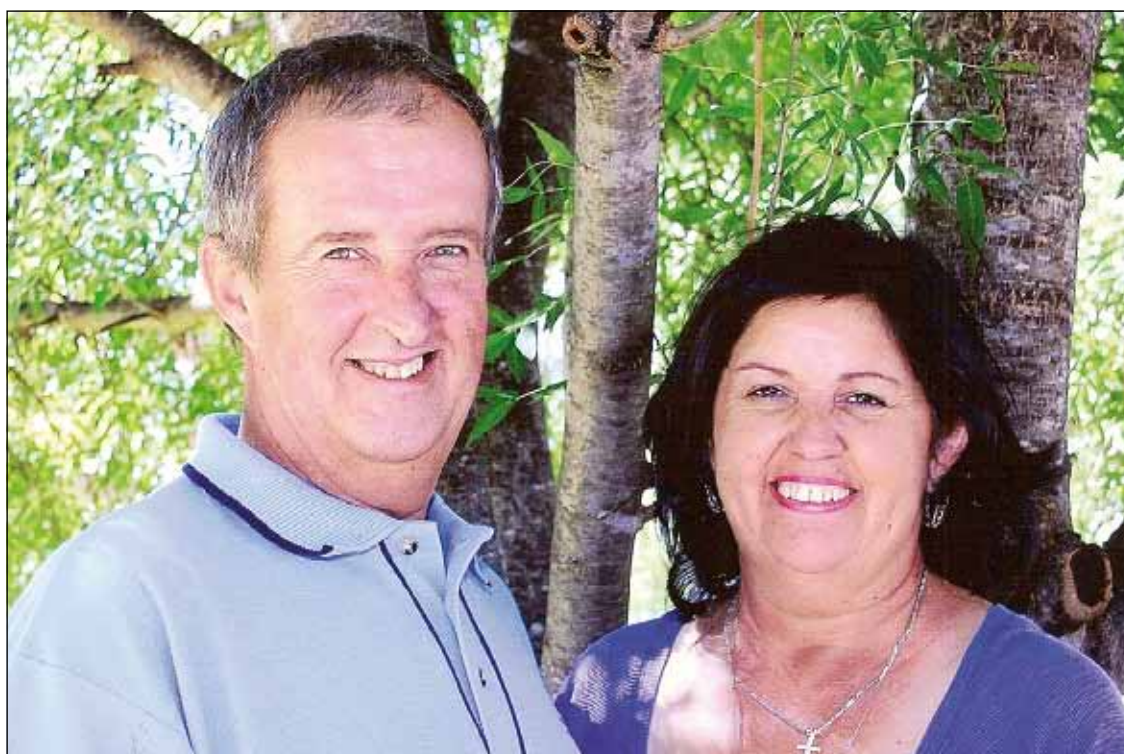
It tracks a rollercoaster of emotions as "Team Ferguson", as he calls the extended list of family, friends and medical professionals, fought the illness.

His wife recalls: "The day Derek got the phone call from his doctor at school and drove home to tell me, I knew the minute he walked through the door that it wasn't good news. I felt like my stomach had contorted into a thousand spasming knots. We held each other so tightly and cried like never before."

"The word 'cancer' that we all fear and dread had come to roost at our door."

Mr Ferguson says he spent the first 53 years of his life "acting invincible with regards to my health". Cancer changed that.

"I decided not to keep my journey a secret from the world," he said. "If my journey could help others cope with their cancer, then I would open my life to help them through too."



**LEFT: Derek Ferguson with wife Janice ... now retired at their dream location.**

**ABOVE: The couple's book on Derek's fight to survive cancer.**



One of the first things the family did was to increase their knowledge of the enemy. "Our knowledge of the disease itself was improving with the internet, although much of what we found was couched in too high a medical level and jargon for we mere mortals to comprehend."

"This also solidified my idea to write a book aimed at the patient and the carer for lay people across the world wanting to understand oesophageal cancer and its insidious death sentence on too many people."

It was at that time that Mr Ferguson wrote: "I am not scared or worried about dying. I have a calm feeling that the Lord will take me to heaven in his time. I do however have a strong conviction that this illness will be used to help countless others as time progresses."

"I want to talk, message, communicate, see, touch, smile, share, enjoy and encourage each of our five children every day. They are all dealing with cancer the word and cancer the sentence in their own ways. I will remain positive. I will be healed. I will survive for their sakes, for Janice's sake, for God's greater plan and future."

Am I working for selfish reasons, to be cured, he asked himself. "If so then I intend to help many people to receive my reward as well. Thank you Lord for my healing became my nightly prayer."

At 9am on 8 March, 2007, the Fergusons received the phone call from their oncologist that the scan taken the previous day confirmed the cancer diagnosis but recommending that they return to Wagga Wagga to begin treatment "towards a possible curative result". The journey had begun in earnest.

• Cont Page 12.

*'The word cancer that we all fear and dread had come to roost at our door' - Janice Ferguson*

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**RIGHT: Sr Christopher Ryan, Sr Pius Dora, Sr Bernadette MacNally and Sr Marie Duffy cut the celebratory cake.**

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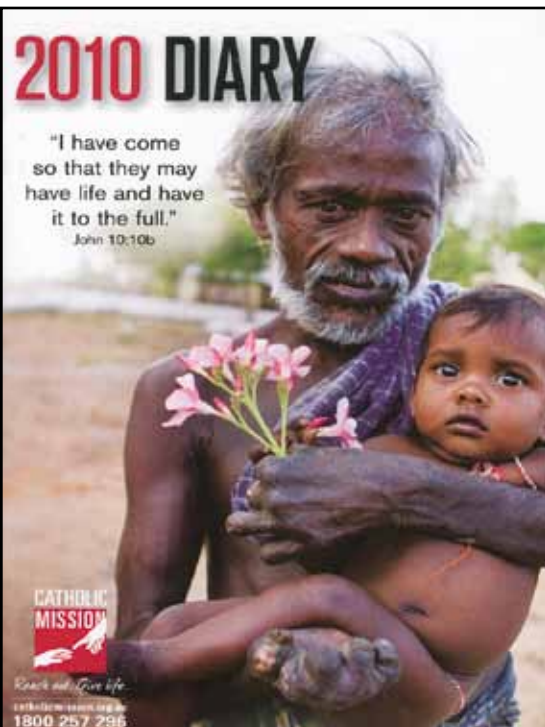


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**BELOW LEFT: Sr Pius Dora and Sr Bernadette MacNally with candles, which were gifts from the Goulburn Sisters of Mercy. BELOW RIGHT: Curator Ms Nancy Clarke puts the final touches to the exhibition. BOTTOM RIGHT: The only four members of the congregation who are still living in Goulburn: Sr Loretta Corrigan, Sr Ursula Drennan, Sr Gabrielle Owen and Sr Maria Assunta Roberts.**



## Display shows Mercy spirit and rich traditions

An exhibition depicting the life and spirit of the Goulburn Sisters of Mercy was created by two "sympathetic outsiders" to commemorate the sesquicentenary.

Nancy Clarke and Claudia Hyles used the congregation's archives and oral histories to curate an exhibition about the sisters' history, which was on display at the senior campus of Trinity College.

"The sisters have been overwhelmed by the exhibition," Ms Clarke said. Through the exhibition, Ms Clarke said she and Ms Hyles wanted to do "more than just list the successes of the sisters."

"We wanted to give a little bit of a picture of the places the sisters had worked in and the range of work that they did. We wanted to make sure we had covered the changes."

Despite the changes, Ms Clarke said the sisters' traditions had continued, and she hoped the exhibition would demonstrate that. "We had

some incredible sources and material, but then we had some terrible gaps, which was very frustrating."

More than 100 items were on display, including a clinical teaching model from the Albury Mercy Hospital, a slideshow, as well as photographs and documents. The exhibition will also travel to other towns, which are of significance to the congregation.

While looking through the exhibition, Sr Christopher Ryan was taken back to her years of teaching kindergarten in Goulburn in the late 1950s. "In those days the classes were fairly big, there were 84 students in my class," she said. "They were dear little kids. I loved teaching them."

Congregational leader Sr Marie Duffy said the order was "indebted" to the curators. "This is our heritage to which all of us are connected and by which all of us are affected."



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# 'We remember those who came before'

Congregational leader Sr Marie Duffy said more than 540 women had joined the Goulburn Sisters of Mercy in the past 150 years.

"We remember those who came before us and upon whose shoulders we stand," she told an overflowing Sts Peter and Paul's Old Cathedral. "The city of Goulburn is significant to every member of our congregation."

Sr Marie thanked more than 70 sisters who had returned to Goulburn for the sesquicentenary celebrations, including the oldest Australian Sister of Mercy, 107-year-old Madeleine Lawrence, who had travelled from Young.

Sr Marie said she was especially delighted to welcome visiting sisters from Ireland, Sr Pius Dora, from Rochfortbridge and Sr Bernadette MacNally from Westport, who were representing the order's founders.

Sr Bernadette said she found the Mass "very emotional". "I was crying during the ceremony," she said. "We felt very much a part of the congregation. We are all one."

After Mass, friends and family reunited with the sisters during a lunch, which was held in the grounds of Trinity College's senior campus.

Bishop Power said the sisters of Mercy were very special to him. "One thing I always say about the nuns - and the Mercies in particular - is that you are always in their debt," he said.

"You do one thing for them and they do three more for you."

During the celebrations, Fr Geoff Lloyd reminisced about his childhood, when he and his brother Pat were raised in St John's orphanage by the Sisters of Mercy.

"It is roughly estimated that some 2000 boys had the wonderful care of those women," he said. "They built their lives and sent us into the world. Whatever the situation, they were there to help and console us. We appreciate what has been a blessing - not only at the time, but what has been ongoing."

The commemorative Mass was concelebrated by Archbishop Mark Coleridge, Bishop Pat Power, Archbishop Emeritus Francis Carroll, Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Giuseppe Lazzarotto, Wagga Wagga Bishop Gerard Hanna and Bathurst Bishop Emeritus Patrick Dougherty, as well as 27 priests and two deacons. A combined choir from the Old Cathedral and Our Lady of Fatima church led the singing.



**ABOVE LEFT: Archbishop Mark Coleridge celebrates Mass in Sts Peter and Paul's Old Cathedral. LEFT: Sr Clare Sheedy and Sr Christopher Ryan reminisce about the old days. BELOW: Goulburn MP Ms Pru Goward, Bishop Mark Coleridge and Congregation Leader Sr Marie Duffy at the celebration dinner.**



## GENUINE FAITH ENCOUNTERS IN 2010

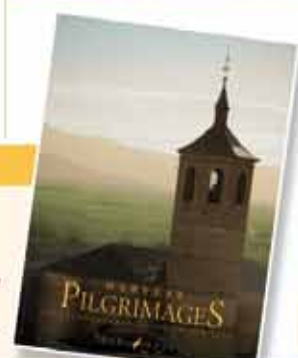
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# Greater role, but more to do

Women are playing a greater role in many parish ministries but the Archdiocese's Commission for Women would like to see more done.

Chair Mrs Judy Netting said a survey of parishes carried out by the commission suggested there was greater equality achieved in the participation of women and men across a range of roles on parish councils, finance committees and in the liturgy in the 10 years since the launch of the bishops' report *Woman and Man: One in Christ Jesus*.

To further this, the commission is calling on parishes to consider hosting a day or evening gathering to consider how they might locally affirm and promote the participation of women.

It suggests the event with the theme "Becoming one in Christ Jesus" could begin with a scheduled

weekday Mass, sensitive to the liturgy of the day and mindful that it is the Year for Priests.

Some parishes may want to get together and organise a regional gathering. The commission is willing to provide a speaker or facilitator for the event. Another survey carried out by the commission in the past year looked at how women are enriched by their experiences with Church.

Most of those who responded said they had some enriching experiences in parishes, church movements or social groups. Many expressed concern at the diminishing number of clergy and the fact that priests were overworked. A number also were worried that church was irrelevant to young people and that women's gifts were not being maximized.

## Surviving the Big C...

### • From Page 9.

What followed was a punishing regime of radiotherapy and chemotherapy, of feeding tubes, of "aches where I had never had aches before", of laughter with other patients, of compassionate care from nurses and doctors.

"We also started to find out who our real friends were and who were not. Some people showed genuine concern for me, while others went out of their way to avoid me. A few even crossed the street so as not to have to stop and say something inane. I totally understand this now."

He completed 33 high-level radiotherapy treatments concurrently with two major rounds of chemotherapy at the Riverina Cancer Care Centre, Wagga Wagga.

Chemotherapy finished at the end of July 2007 and the Fergusons celebrated with a short trip to Hawaii and a journey along Victoria's Great Ocean Road by caravan.

In January last year Mr Ferguson officially retired as principal, and the couple set off in May to fulfill a dream, traveling 13,000km around Australia by caravan.

He wrote en route: "I still believe that if you say something, mean it, truly believe it, then it is only a matter of time before it actually comes to pass.

"It has worked for me in countless situations in the past, some as simple as finding a parking space all the way to my 'cure from oesophageal cancer'.

"Now what do I have to look forward to and stay positive and alive for another day, week, month, year or more? What is God's plan for me? I don't believe he saved me just to 'run amuck' in Australia and have fun. Is it this book?"

Back in September 2007, Mr Ferguson's oncologist told him he would not classify him as "in remission" or "cured" until at least September 2009. In September, he put the finishing touches to the draft and delivered it to the printer.

Oesophageal Cancer, The Next Epidemic is available from Mr Ferguson, website [www.oesophagealcancerbook.com](http://www.oesophagealcancerbook.com). The cost is \$29.95 plus \$7.95 postage and handling. Books are at various outlets including hospital shops and bookshops.

Profit will be directed to voluntary organisations and cancer research, Mr Ferguson said.



Sr Julie Connolly, Margaret Granger, Pat Thorne, Sr Kristin Johnston, Val Flanagan and Sr Antoinette Baldwin at the anniversary gathering.

## Josephites mark two historic milestones

Sisters of St Joseph from the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn as well as Wagga Wagga, Sydney, Adelaide, Bathurst and Newcastle gathered, along with members of the Woods family, to mark the 120th anniversary of the death of Fr Julian Edmund Tenison Woods, co-founder of the congregation.

To mark the occasion, Mass was celebrated in Our Lady of Dolours Chapel, St Joseph's Convent, North Goulburn.

The Goulburn congregation of the sisters has also launched the Woods-MacKillop Foundation as a way of marking the Tenison Woods anniversary and the centenary of the death of Mary MacKillop.

Congregational leader of the Sisters of St Joseph of Goulburn Sr Noelene Quinane said the foundation was a means of continuing the work of the congregation, "particularly the Josephite option for the poor and disadvantaged, in a time when it is becoming more difficult to have sisters involved in active ministry.

"The foundation aims to provide some funding to partner organiza-

tions in isolated and remote areas for projects to improve the quality of life for participants through social or economic development.

"Its prime objective is to support innovative and sustainable projects that target the poor and needy in accordance with the charism and mission of the congregation."

At a lunch shared with friends and parishioners after the 120th anniversary Mass, Sr Noelene named the congregational history room recently established in the North Goulburn convent in honour of Mother Benedict Seymour.

Mother Benedict, a congregational leader for a total of 33 years, was regarded by many sisters as the "real founder" of the Goulburn congregation, she said.

"She was noted for her great care for the welfare of each sister as an individual, and her great interest not only in the lives of her sisters, but of members of their families as well. The chapel of Our Lady of Dolours, erected in memory of Fr Julian Tenison Woods, stands as a lasting legacy to her determination and perseverance."



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Students at St Benedict's School, Narrabundah, were enjoying a wellbeing expo when Catholic Voice visited. Co-ordinated by Mrs Margaret Harrod, activities in various classes included healthy breakfast, sunsmart, health food and games, and personal hygiene. Kindergarten and year 4 were having fun together in the school hall.

TOP LEFT: Yummy healthy food... Alycia Bencic, Isabella Olney, Claire Bennett.

TOP RIGHT: Jacob Faggioni, Kaitlyn Dalla Costa, Adam Viali, Jarred Paull, Gabrielle Coates, Emma Bradford and Isabella Coles get ready to have fun.

BELOW: On your marks... Leo Blaney-Brown, Zara Milin, Brianna-Rose Hack, Monica Park and Anastasia Livanes.

Healthy eating drawings by year 4 students Isabella Olney (right) Gabby Coates (far right) Alycia Bencic (far right below), and Lachlan Spencer (below).



Isabella Coles, Gabrielle Coates, Freddie Konno, Nathan Hughes, Anastasia Livanes and James Peresan get ready to play.

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



James Peresan, Lauren Zarb, Clare Laffey, Mikko Rhee, Alex Pippas, Molly Wright and Rhys Curran are on the move.

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CATHOLIC VOICE December 2009 - 13



# Standing at the foot of the cross ...

When the young French mystic, Therese of Lisieux, was trying to explain her vocation, she referred to a soul-searing insight that was once given her:

*One Sunday, looking at a picture of Our Lord on the Cross, I was struck by the blood flowing from one of his divine hands. I felt a pang of great sorrow when thinking this blood was falling on the ground without anyone's hastening to gather it up. I was resolved to remain in spirit at the foot of the Cross and to receive its dew. ... I don't want this precious blood to be lost. I shall spend my life gathering it up for the good of souls. ... To live from love is to dry Your Face.*

At one level, this can be seen as an image of simple excess piety, an over-pious young nun sitting in a chapel, admiring a crucifix and getting emotionally over-wrought in an imaginative scene of Jesus being abused and crucified.

But this is a metaphor, a mystical image, and a very challenging one.

When Therese of Lisieux speaks of Christ here she is referring not just, nor even primarily, to the body of the historical Jesus, but to the body of Christ in this world. Christ is still suffering and blood is still flowing from his face and his hands in many parts of our world.

One of our tasks as Christians, and simply as human beings, is to, metaphorically, notice that blood, gather it up, and properly honour it.

The Christian task, always, is to stand at the foot of the cross and gather up its dew so that this preciousness is not lost.

How do we do that?

- When Amnesty International, or any group or individual dedicated to justice, goes to wartorn and violent parts of our world, documents the violence there, and lists publicly the names of all those who have been made to disappear, they are standing at the foot of the cross, receiving its dew, and hastening to gather it up.

- When a nun leaves the safety and security of her own country and community and travels to the Sudan to be with women

## 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)



who are being raped and documents their stories, she is standing at the foot of the cross, receiving its dew, and hastening to gather it up.

- When a friend on a playground rushes in after an incident to console the vulnerable young person who has just been humiliated by the school bully, she is standing at the foot of the cross, receiving its dew, and hastening to gather it up.

- When a man, like Greg Mortenson, steps out of a life of privilege and comfort to risk everything, including life itself, to build schools in the most rural parts of Pakistan so that young

Muslims, especially young Muslim women, can receive an education, he is standing at the foot of the cross, receiving its dew, and hastening to gather it up.

- When men and women dedicate their lives to working with the mentally disabled so as to help enable the lives and dignity of those whose talents are different, they are standing at the foot of the cross, receiving its dew, and hastening to gather it up.

- When an idealistic young person joins the peace corps, or becomes a missionary, in the sincere desire to help someone who is less privileged, he or she is standing at the foot of the cross, receiving its dew, and hastening to gather it up.

And ...

- Whenever any of us takes time at our place of work or in our home to listen to that wounded soul who has worn out everyone's patience with complaints and whining reminiscences, we are standing at the foot of the cross, receiving its dew, and hastening to gather it up.

- Whenever any of us makes the effort to listen with

empathy to that friend, colleague, or sibling, who is wrapped-up in jealous frustration because his or her life has not turned out as he or she had dreamed, we are standing at the foot of the cross, receiving its dew, and hastening to gather it up.

- Whenever any of us notices another's achievement and sincerely congratulates and blesses him or her on that success, we are standing at the foot of the cross, receiving its dew, and hastening to gather it up.

- Whenever any of us, empathically, pray for all those people in this world whose dreams are being crushed and who are suffering the martyrdom of obscurity and anonymity, we are standing at the foot of the cross, receiving its dew, and hastening to gather it up.

Blood still flows from both the hands and the face of the one being crucified. Mostly it goes unnoticed, with no one hastening to gather it up.

Our task, like that of Therese of Lisieux, is to notice, and to make sure that this preciousness does not go unnoticed, unmarked, without its proper honour.

## FACTS ON FUNERALS

### Experiences of grief

Grief is a simple word used to describe the natural responses we have when facing a loss.

Loss of a job, declining health, marital breakdown, even leaving home or school can be accompanied by feelings of loss and grief, and are only some of the losses we may face during our life.

As we learn to cope with our loss and adjust to a changed situation we may go through many changes of feelings, thoughts and behaviours. We may even question our spiritual beliefs. This is grief in action.

There are no right or wrong ways to grieve, and feelings of loss do not stick to a rigid timetable.

However, there are some reactions to loss that are common to many people. These reactions may include sadness, depression, anger, guilt, regret, thoughts of "why me?", resentment, poor concentration, and/or withdrawal from social activities.

As you make your way through the grief process you need understanding, information and assistance. Be patient with yourself. Don't be afraid to ask for help. A friend who will listen without judgement, or a private journal where you can write your thoughts, can be a great comfort.

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## Refreshing ideas for teachers

A fun-filled and engaging training session for volunteer teachers from a variety of Christian denominations was held at the Rheinberger Centre, Yarralumla.

Organisers and participants agreed the "resourced...and refreshed" training morning benefited their work of teaching religious education to children.

Volunteer teachers registered with the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) in the Archdiocese teach about 2800 students in NSW government schools, and ACT schools of religion. There are also a growing number of children taking part in activities in ACT government schools.

The concept originated from three members of the Christian Religious Education committee, Karon Barron, of the ACT Council of Churches, Sylvia Marris, of Scripture Union ACT, and Christine Roos, CatholicLIFE coordinator for the CCD.

The three committee members pooled their resources and gifts to create a morning that not only resourced



Caroline Barclay and Vanda Chandler have fun at the training session.

and refreshed teachers' approaches to classroom learning activities and relationships with children but also provided structures for networking.

Volunteers are always required for this special ministry with children. Volunteering can take many roles such as teaching, making resources, assisting teachers, transporting teachers who are unable to drive, or by being a prayer partner.

- Contact Ms Roos, telephone 6163 4380.

## Addition matches historic altar

Restoration of Sts Peter and Paul's Old Cathedral, Goulburn, is ongoing with work being carried out on the northern gable at the same time as interior refurbishment. A new ambo constructed of marble to match the Bishop Barry altar has been installed. The ambo was designed by Goulburn parish priest Fr Dermid McDermott and architect Mr Garry Dutailis to complement the Bishop Barry altar. The symbols of the lion, the eagle, the ox and the young man, representing the four evangelists is featured on the front of the ambo. This is in keeping with the symbols on the original marble altar installed in 1928.



ABOVE: The ambo was consecrated by Fr Laurie Bent at a vigil Mass.

## Children closest to her heart

Sr Margaret Brown RSM

A Mercy Sister who spent more than 30 years ministering at children's homes in Goulburn has died suddenly in Brisbane.

Margaret Brown, formally known in religion as Sr Dominic, was born in Goulburn and entered religious life in 1950. After professing her vows as a Sister of Mercy in 1953, she taught at St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Crookwell, followed by Gooloogong, Gundagai and West Wyalong.

In 1966, she began ministry at St Joseph's Girls Home, Goulburn. For more than 30 years she embraced the role - firstly at St Joseph's until its closure in 1976, and then at St John's orphanage. This was the ministry closest to her heart. She was instrumental in changing the delivery of care from institutional to a home-like environment in the mid 1970s.

Her relationship with the children did not cease after they left St Joseph's and St John's, rather she continued to maintain close links with the children - and their children - until the time of her death.

A past resident of St Joseph's said in the Goulburn Post:

"Her job was to look after kids like ourselves, but it didn't stop there. When we left, she felt it her duty to continue looking after us. She set my brother up in a unit in Goulburn. I moved into a flat and she helped furnish it, get the bond together and even provided me with meals at times."

After St John's closed in the late 1980s, Sr Margaret moved to Canberra and worked in family care at Marymead Child and Family Centre, followed by pastoral ministry through Centacare's family support program. At the time of her death, she was involved in parish ministry, in a voluntary capacity, in Aranda parish.

Sr Margaret is survived by her brother, Michael, sister Anne (Jeffrey) and sister-in-law Paula. Mass of Christian Burial for the repose of Sr Margaret's soul was celebrated at St Raphael's Church, Queanbeyan, with Bishop Pat Power as principal celebrant.





# Parish builds one-to-one

Parishioners of Corpus Christi, South Tuggeranong, have undertaken a project that will foster their own community at the same time as helping others.

As numbers attending Mass at Holy Family Church, Gowrie, have increased, the community faced the problem of providing a suitable gathering space so people would feel welcome to meet before and after celebrations.

The work entails providing a larger foyer area and more accessible toilets in the building.

There has also been an emphasis on providing for the surrounds by capturing rain off the roof to water the gardens which surround the church.

It is also hoped to place solar panels on the roof. Inside, steps have been undertaken to enhance the sacred space.



As the parish also wanted to link with other communities, it launched the One-to-One project which sought to commit half of the money raised for the church development to help Karinya House; the At Home Project in Queanbeyan; L'Arche; Marymead and CatholicCare.

Over the past nine months about \$26,000 has been raised, half of which has been donated to the five groups.

# Students learn trade

Year 11 students from Lumen Christi Catholic College, Pambula, took the chance to learn from a qualified tradesperson and help their school when they built bricked seating areas. In an effort to encourage students to consider an apprenticeship as a career pathway, The Australian Brick and Block Training Federation provides bricks and tuition to schools across Australia. Hard at work (from left) are: James Grant, Cameron Strickland, Brent Wilson and Taylor.



**Got some news? Tell us!**  
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# Fun raising funds



Students at St Thomas Aquinas School, Charnwood, had lots of fun raising more than \$900 for Catholic Mission. Activities at a mini-mission fete included cake and lolly sales, raffles, face and hair painting and a massage stall. Among those having fun were (from left): Taylor Tamawskyj, Emily Rowbotham, Djnaya Fraser-Chalmers and Sam Williams.

# Pioneer family reunion



About 200 descendants of Thomas & Sarah (nee Grealy) Heffernan came together at Candelo for a two-day reunion to celebrate one of the district's pioneer families. A special family Mass was celebrated at St Joseph's Church, which still is the place of worship of the Heffernans of Candelo.

Convenor of the gathering Ms Carmel Toohey said following the death of an aunt this year "we realised the family was into its seventh generation and we needed to renew contacts with the extended family. More importantly the younger gen-

erations needed to be made aware of their strong Irish-Australian Catholic heritage."

Fr Paul Bateman, whose mother was a Heffernan, has written extensively of the family heritage in his book "Heffernans of Clonbonane". He will publish soon a further work "In the Shade of Jimmy Ryan's Tree" that tells of his memories of growing up in the Bemboka-Candelo area.

The gathering visited former and current family properties and ended with Mass, a barbeque and an evening at Pambula.

Picture: Michelle Armour.



Seven Christian Churches in Moruya have come together for an informal barbeque. Members of the Anglican, Baptist, Catholic, Presbyterian, Sanctuary, Southern Life, and Uniting churches gathered in Russ Martin Park. It coincided with the Jesus All About Life media campaign involv-

ing advertising on billboards, TV, the internet and YouTube, and in local newspapers encouraging people to inquire about Jesus. Moruya parish priest Fr Emil Milat said for several months a deep desire for Christian unity had become a common vision for the Moruya Christian Ministers Fellowship.

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# A welcome story that's well Carreyed

Quite an exhilarating experience of Charles Dickens' classic tale of miser, Ebenezer Scrooge, his meanness to his clerk, Bob Cratchit, his unwillingness to celebrate Christmas with his nephew, Fred, and his miserable and lonely life.

We all remember that he encounters the ghost of his business partner, Jacob Marley, who warns him that he will see three more ghosts.

These are The Ghost of Christmas Past, who takes him back to see his childhood and his love for Belle but his choice of a life for money; the Ghost of Christmas Present, a jovial ghost who takes him to see the happy meal at Fred's and Bob Cratchit's toast to Scrooge, despite his family's dislike of him, and Tiny Tim's, "God bless us, everyone"; and the sinister, shadowy Ghost of Christmas to Come who reveals Scrooge's death, buried unloved, housekeeper and friend gossiping about him as they look through his things - and the revelation that Tiny Tim has died.

**A Christmas Carol**  
Starring Jim Carrey, Gary Oldman, Colin Firth, Bob Hoskins, Robin Wright Penn and Michael J Fox. Directed by Robert Zemeckis. 96 mins. PG (mild themes and scary scenes). Reviewer: Fr Peter Malone MSC\*.

Needless to say, Scrooge is mightily relieved when he lands back in his room and it is Christmas morning. He has a chance to save his life - which he does, to the full.

Though seen many times on screen, the story is always welcome.

What makes this version even more welcome is the amazing technology that has been used to bring Scrooge and Dickens' characters and fantasy to life. The 3D version is well worth seeing for its animation and production designed to display the depth photography all the way through.

While the film stars Jim Carrey as Scrooge (as well as the three



Jim Carrey stars as miserly Ebenezer Scrooge.

Ghosts), the technique used is that of "performance capture" on which animation is built, using the performances of the cast (who do not have to don period costumes but can concentrate solely on acting, effects will do the rest).

This technique was used by Robert Zemeckis for The Polar Express and, sometimes disconcertingly, for Beowulf. Once one gets used to the idea and accepts it,

it makes for a different kind of experience, having the benefit, not just of the voices of the cast but of their performances with added enormous visual flair for characters and backgrounds.

Carrey is very good as Scrooge but has moments of his familiar body agility and movements. Colin Firth is Fred. Gary Oldman is Bob Cratchit and Tiny Tim (his Bob being animated as much shorter

and plumper than Oldman himself, though audiences who know him will recognise him).

The version captures the mood of Dickensian London. We are immersed in the life of the city as well as isolated in Scrooge's home and accompany him on his flying journeys into the past and into the future. Small children may be alarmed at a number of sequences which could be quite frightening, especially a coffin and grave sequence which would be more than at home in a Tim Burton film.

Zemeckis' screenplay nicely reminds us of the Christian dimension of the feast of Christmas with images of churches and crosses and the singing of many carols. And, of course, Scrooge's meanness reminds us that the celebration is not about money or commercialism - if only that were true these days.

\* 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.

## SHORTS

**Nordwand.** Documentary film by Philipp Stolzl. 121 mins. .M (mountaineering deaths)

An impressive piece of film-making, a must for those who follow mountain climbing. However, it is an extraordinarily grueling film to watch if you are caught up in the characters and their efforts to climb the north face of the Eiger.



**Cold Souls.** Starring Paul Giamatti, Emily Watson and David Strathairn. Directed by Sophie Barthes. 101 mins. M (infrequent coarse language).

An entertaining comedy drama with the touch of metaphysics. Paul Giamatti is in rehearsals in New York but is in the middle of an existential crisis. He can't do the part. His agent rings him and suggests reading an article in the New Yorker about an agency which extracts souls and keeps them in storage.

**Dorian Gray.** Starring Ben Barnes, Colin Firth, Ben Chaplin and Rebecca Hall. Directed by Oliver Parker. 112 mins. MA 15+ (strong violence and sex scenes).

Dorian's life of depravity is rather posed and postured here. Not a definitive version of the novel but an interesting interpretation.

**Amelia.** Starring Hilary Swank, Richard Gere and Ewan McGregor. Directed by Mira Nair. 111mins. PG (mild coarse language).

You would have to be a bit of a grouch not to enjoy this old-fashioned lavishly produced portrait of aviator, Amelia Earheart.

# Sad ending to a nun's happy song

Sister Smile (Sœur Sourire). In 1963, the pop music world was swept by a Belgian Dominican nun's recording of a song she had written about the founder of her order. You couldn't turn on the radio in Australia without hearing the Singing Nun's jaunty, happy tribute to "Dominique-nique-nique". The nun's identity was at first kept secret - after all, she was a member of a cloistered order - so she was given the name Sœur Sourire by an executive of the record company.

Now, I could whistle the tune but I knew next to nothing about Sœur Sourire, and I confess I was expecting some sugary, goody-goody biopic. Sister Smile is anything but.

Jeannine Deckers, aka Sister Luc Gabriel, was beset by problems throughout a relatively short life that came to a tragic end, and this Belgian-French co-production, written by Belgian Stijn Coninx (who also directed), Chris Vander Stappen and Ariane Fert, is a heartfelt and compassionate account of her ups and downs, with plenty of conflict to make compelling drama.

The advertising poster calls her "nun, singer, rebel, feminist and lover", but the film is never quite so blunt. At its centre is a marvellous performance by Cécile de France. Playing Jeannine from a tomboy teenager to a sadly disillusioned woman, she imbues the character with great warmth, vibrancy and sensitivity.

She did not get on with her parents, who owned a patisserie and hoped she would run it one day. She loved music and art, and when she walked out of home to join the convent, hoping to be a missionary

**Sister Smile (Sœur Sourire)**  
Starring Cécile de France, Sandrine Blancke, Chris Lomme, Marie Kremer. Directed by Stijn Coninx. 119 mins. PG (mild themes, brief nudity and infrequent coarse language). Reviewer: Jim Murphy\*.

in Africa, her mother told her never to darken their door again.

As a novice with the Benedictines, she did not respond well to discipline. She could not see how being made to stand out in the rain for some infraction of what she considered silly rules made any sense. The one thing that saved her was the Reverend Mother relenting and giving back her guitar.

Sister Luc Gabriel had a genuine love for her religion and was excited by the reforms promised by the Second Vatican Council

Her life changed when the church chose her to appear in a television documentary, and arranged for her to make a record of her Dominique ditty. In one of those quirks of popular culture, it went straight to the top of the charts (proceeds going to the church). But the convent and the hierarchy closed ranks around her and did not tell her that half-a-million copies of her disc had been sold. When she found



out she was furious, even more so when she realised the convent was prepared to fast-track her passage to Africa to put the lid on her burgeoning music career. She believed her music was a way to get the Lord's message to a wider audience.

She quit the convent, intent on making a career as an entertainer, only to find herself forbidden to use the name Sœur Sourire. The church owned it. When an impresario managed to get her bookings in Canada, she offended most of her fans in Catholic Quebec by a song that thanked the Lord for the contraceptive pill, and major venues cancelled her bookings.

With her parents, her church, her record company and her management withdrawing their support, her life spun out of control. She became addicted to alcohol and pills and sought out the only friend who had remained true. Annie (Sandrine Blancke) had had a crush on her from schooldays, and she and Jeannine entered into a lesbian relationship until their deaths in a suicide pact in 1985.

The film suggests that Jeannine was a victim of a repressive family environment and the strictures of the religious life, which robbed her of the ability to love. But it also seems clear that she was seduced by her brief celebrity status and could not handle the collapse of a singing career that never went much beyond one hit record.

Either way, the life of Belgium's Singing Nun is a sad story, effectively dramatised in a balanced, even-handed film.

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

**Franklyn.**

Starring Ryan Phillippe, Eva Green and Sam Riley. Directed by Gerald McMorrow. 132 mins. MA 15+ (strong themes). Reviewer: Fr Peter Malone MSC\*.

Philippe). Yes, the characters all come together. Intriguing.

\* Fr Peter Malone MSC and is an associate of the Australian Catholic Office for Film & Broadcasting.

# Intriguing, if you get it

Tantalising. At least, this is what writer-director Gerald McMorrow hopes about the beginning of his new film. And, if you are tantalised, you will stay with it, puzzling about the two different worlds we are seeing, then gradually becoming more satisfied as they come together.

But, some may feel exasperated finding the two worlds

too difficult to understand. This reviewer was tantalised.

We are put into two worlds without warning, although the central character in a fantasy city that looks to London's Dickensian past as well as showing futuristic touches, Meanwhile City, announces that he is on a mission to kill.

Suddenly, we are in contemporary England, the world of the rich and psychiatrists, of a young man whose engagement and wedding plans have collapsed and an eccentric media student who seems to have a death wish. We go backwards and forwards, following the story of Jonathan Preest (Ryan

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For the information of members and guests



# Looking to the heavens

**The Heavens Proclaim: Astronomy and the Vatican by Guy Consolmagno SJ [ed]. Our Sunday Visitor, 2009, 231pp, HB, rrp \$79.95. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.**

To celebrate the International Year of Astronomy in 2009 the Vatican has published a very impressive volume called *The Heavens Proclaim* (from Psalm 97:6).

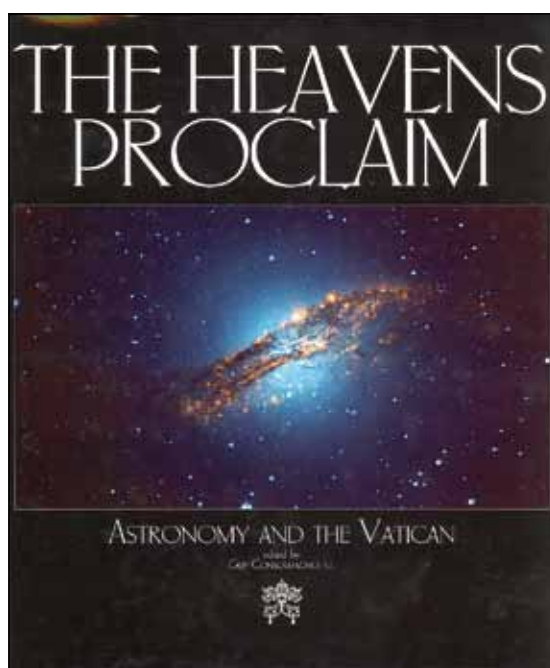
The Vatican Observatory is situated at the summer residence of the Pope at Castel Gandolfo. It is staffed mostly by Jesuits who are engaged in present-day astronomical research.

The principal aim of the book is to clarify the relationship between science and the accepted beliefs of the Catholic faith.

There are chapters devoted to the discoveries about the universe and the stars. There is also an emphasis on the biblical cosmos with its faith in the existence and the providence of God.

A secondary purpose, no less interesting, is to give an account of the history and the activities of the scientists at the Vatican Observatory.

I knew very little of the Church's great tradition of astronomy and I found it fascinating. Of particular interest was the process by which the modern calendar evolved, including the calculation of the



date for Easter. Equally informative was the biographical piece on Galileo which dispelled a few myths.

Many popes have encouraged the science of astronomy. Paul VI was particularly interested. He spoke directly to the Apollo astronauts when they landed on the moon in 1969.

Each of the chapters is written by a Vatican astronomer. For those interested in the heavens the texts are informative and accessible.

It is good to be abreast of what the Church teaches and of the contributions made by the Vatican scientists to world knowledge.

The photographs of the cosmos are superb and the layout interspersed with poetic quotes.

This book would be a valuable addition to any library or a splendid gift for the lucky recipient.

## Five star help for liturgies

**2010 Sourcebook for Sundays, Seasons and Weekdays, ed. D.A. Knott. LTP: Chicago, 2009. 300 A4 pp, pb, rrp \$29.95. Living Liturgy for Cantors, K.Harmon, J.A. Zimmerman and C.W. Conlon. Liturgical Press: Collegeville, Minnesota. 208 pp, pb, rrp \$21.95. Reviewer: Margaret Ryan.**

If you wish to set yourself and/or your parish up for liturgy in 2010, these books, published by the two most respected liturgical presses in the US, are at a premium.

The first book has many features, one of which is an introduction to the liturgical year, one

preparing for the inauguration of the New Roman Missal. The next seven comprehensive chapters cover the five liturgical seasons of the Church year. The authors (priests, women and men liturgists and lecturers, musicians, linguists and directors of liturgy) explore the theological meaning of each season, and provide commentary for each season on the New Roman Missal, the sacraments, funeral liturgies, Liturgy of the Hours, the RCIA, liturgical music and the environment, liturgical ministers, school liturgy, as well as notes for each day of the year.

A cantor is one who sings the psalm and leads the congrega-

tion in music. The book is designed to help cantors (and members of the parish) prepare themselves to reflect on the psalm texts. The full Living Liturgy book is available in A4 size each year for preparation of Sunday Mass, and this B5 volume is compact and manageable.

This second resource is a combination of lectionary and commentary for the Sundays and major Feasts of the Church year. The reflections provide insights including how to live the readings for the week.

These are very accessible and pertinent commentaries for parishes and schools for the current liturgical year. Both: Five stars!

## Angels, mirrors of God's love

**About Angels by Michael Trainor. St Pauls Strathfield, 2009. HB, 48 pp, rrp \$12.95. Reviewer: Margaret Ryan.**

In some circles, angels ("messengers", representatives of God who move between God and

people) are all the go and have been so for centuries.

Typing "angels" into your search engine could net you more than 100 million options.

Perhaps thinking of angels illustrates our desire for kindness and security in an uncertain world, for personal spirits to care for and journey with us, or for our search for "the other", for God.

Human beings are essentially mystics, seeking truth beyond the visible, scientific and technological.

Just as God has an infinitely complex nature, so angels reveal a variety of qualities and characteristics that mirror God's loving attitudes.

Trainor writes about the names and qualities of angels, both of light and darkness, invites reflection on the colourful icons reproduced on the book's glossy paper, recounts stories associated with particular angels and provides some contemplative exercises.

This compact, small, simply written (for age 12 onwards) hardback, from a reputable lecturer and priest of the Adelaide Archdiocese, could be a delightful and thoughtful gift.



The fete organizing committee, stall convenors and the Sisters, wish to thank everyone who attended the Fete on the 14<sup>th</sup> November – it was a great success!

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

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

## Christmas with meaning

The Catholic Education Office library at the Rheinberger Centre, Yarralumla, holds a wide collection of DVDs, videos, books, and music for Christmas. Listings of resources may be found in the online catalogue. The online catalogue is located as a link on the CEO website <http://ceo.cg.catholic.edu.au/> and option: CG Online.

Click the Advanced Search tab and choose Subject search. Type: Christmas, or Jesus Christ - Nativity.

CEO library staff have been pleased to provide library services to schools and parishes over the past year. We hope we were able to meet your requirements and look forward to doing so once again in 2010. Best wishes for a happy and Holy Christmas.

### DVDs

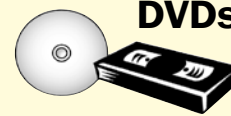
**The Nativity Story** (Text and DVD, ages 10-adult).

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

**The Meaning Of Christmas** (The Wonder of Christmas Series) (10 min, ages 12-18).

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

### Videos & DVDs



**The Crippled Lamb** (26 min, ages 4-8).

This fully-animated DVD tells the nativity story as narrated by old Asah the camel. Asah teaches young Benjamin goat about life by telling him the tale of Joshua, a crippled lamb who was always left out from the flock.

God had a special plan for Joshua. Joshua was on the spot

to observe the birth of Jesus and help the family. A picture book of the story is also available.

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

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

### SOUND RECORDINGS

**John Burland, Christmas Star** (CD, sheet music and resource book, ages 5-10).

Australian singer/songwriter John Burland composed this CD of 24 songs that celebrate the Christmas story. The songs are based on Scripture and retell the Christmas story with music, and narration.

**Christopher Willcock, Sing We Now of Christmas** (CD, ages 11-adult).

A beautiful collection of Christmas hymns and songs performed by a choir and recorded at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Portland, Oregon.

NOTE: The library will be closed for Christmas holidays from Thursday, 24 December, to Monday, 4 January.

- Dennis Granlund, librarian.

## A small taste of Benedict

**Breakfast with Benedict: Daily Readings by Bert Ghezzi [ed]. Our Sunday Visitor, 2009, 205pp, rrp \$29.95. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.**

This is a series of five-minute reflections taken from talks given by the Pope.

There is no particular order or theme in the 120 short readings.

They include topics as varied as the environment, interpreting scripture, world peace, the mercy of God, relationships, concern for the poor and its connection with the liturgy.

These are sourced from addresses to young people, seminarians, the Jewish community, and the sick as well as from

general audiences and homilies.

Like any good buffet we are spoiled for choice.

This little book would make an attractive stocking filler. Eggs, ham and hollandaise sauce not included.

## WODEN CHRISTIAN BOOKSHOP

As we make ready for Christmas with all the cards, gifts, parties and gatherings, travel plans, etc., etc., it's easy to let slide the opportunity for real preparation that Advent offers. For studies, devotions and other aids to spiritual and mental preparation (as well as for cards, gifts, music, etc.), contact the Woden Christian Bookshop, conveniently located on Platform 2 of the Bus Interchange.

**Bus Interchange, Woden ACT 2606  
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# Classifieds & Real Estate

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

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

TUROSS HEAD - "Ella May Holiday Flats". Renovated 2br, walk to beach. Fully equipped. Avail all year \$400-\$900 per week, weekends available. Telephone 0414 597 619 or 6161 7793.

## To Let - Queensland

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## To Let - Rural

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## Prayers

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.

THANK you, St Jude.

PRAYER to Our Lady of Mt Carmel. Most beautiful Flower of Mt Carmel, fruitful vine, Splendor of Heaven, Mother of the Son of God and Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my hour of need. Star of the Sea, help me and show me that you are my Mother. Holy Mary, Mother of God Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly ask you from the bottom of my heart, to assist me in my hour of need. There are none that can withstand your power. Show me that you are my Mother, Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you. (3 times) Dear Mother, I place this cause in your hands.(3 times). Fay.

## Employment

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### A Christmas gift for yourself or someone else?

"L'Osservatore Romano", the Vatican newspaper, provides an invaluable service for all who wish to be fully and accurately informed about Pope Benedict and the life of the Church today.

Annual Subscription 2009-2010: \$230.00 for the weekly, airmail, English edition.

Contact: Confraternity of Christ the Priest, PO Box 1272 Doncaster East Vic 3109; phone (03) 9842 0144; mobile: 0407559508; email: [contact@christthepriest.com](mailto:contact@christthepriest.com); secure online service: [www.christthepriest.com](http://www.christthepriest.com)

Catholic Voice Classifieds cost \$6.60 for the first 30 words, and \$1.65 for each 6 words after that. Deadline is always 15th of the month. To place a photograph costs only an extra \$16.50.

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# Coming Events



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

**CAROLS OF THE NATION** - 5pm-7pm, Sunday, 20 December, at Archbishop's House, Commonwealth Park. Celebrate the Christmas Spirit with carols from around the world with the Cathedral Choir and many others. Parking and entry via Commonwealth Park - Albert Street. Sausage sizzle and soft drinks on sale.

**CAROL SERVICE** - With choirs of St Christopher's Cathedral and St Paul's Anglican Church Manuka. 7.30pm, Tuesday 8 December, at St Paul's Anglican Church; 7.30pm, Thursday, 10 December, at St Christopher's Cathedral. Free admission, no booking required.

**CEREMONY OF LESSONS AND CAROLS** - St Thomas Aquinas parish, Charnwood, 6.30pm, Wednesday 9 December with barbeque to follow

**CHRISTMAS CANTATA** - Presented by Combined Churches Ecumenical Choir. 8.30am, Sunday, 6 December, as part of worship service Tuggeranong Uniting Church; 3pm at St Peter's Anglican Church, Weston; 9.30am, Sunday, 13 December, as part of worship service Weston Creek Uniting Church, 7pm at St John Vianney Catholic Church, Waramanga. Inquiries: Bob Swainson, telephone 6287 5113 or Charlotte Hearder 6288 4801.

**CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE** - Led by St Caecilia's Choir. 7.30pm, Sunday, 6 December, at Chapel of St John the Evangelist, Daley Road, ANU. Featuring carols for choir and congregation accompanied by organ, brass, and timpani as well as Gregorian chant, renaissance polyphony and mediaeval carols. Inquiries: Maria Henry, telephone 6249 6278, e-mail mariam-henry@bigpond.com

**FEP COW FUND-RAISER** - Two one-hour cruises 6.30pm and 7.30pm, Sunday, 13 December. Christmas carols, supper, adults \$30, concession \$25. Inquiries: John, telephone 6286 4454.

**FERTILITY CARE TRAINING** - 13-month program begins January at Campion College, Sydney. Inquiries: Dr Veronica O Connell, telephone 9637 7999, e-mail: fertilitycare@chertsey.com.au

**LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR** - With Good Shepherd Prayer Group continues Wednesdays ending 16 December. Begins 7pm rosary, 7.30pm praise and worship, 8pm seminar presentation. St Augustine's Catholic Church, corner Beasley and Drevermann streets, Farrer. Inquiries: Neda, telephone 6258 3992 or Susanna 0419 902 293.

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

**NEW YEAR'S EVE PRAYER VIGIL** - Marian Movement of Priests, from 7.30pm, St Michael's Church, Kaleen. Inquiries: Judy and Joe Mewburn, telephone 6254 6202.

**SERRA CLUB OF CANBERRA** - Christmas party, Thursday, 10 December. Inquiries: John Malycha, telephone 6251 2912.

**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, e-mail tom.kwok@bigpond.net.au website www.clairval.com

Written entries are invited for the February 2010 issue to: Catholic Voice, GPO Box 3089, Canberra ACT 2601, or e-mail ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au by Friday, 15 January. Entries which are accepted for this section are free, courtesy of sponsorship by the Catholic Development Fund.

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# Mass times at your parish this Christmas

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

**ARANDA:** Christmas vigil 7pm (children) 10pm. Christmas Day 9.30am.

**BATEMANS BAY:** Christmas vigil 6pm. Christmas Day 9am Until January 26, 6pm vigil, Sunday 9am.

**BEGA:** Christmas vigil 6pm Bega, 7pm Bemboka, 8pm Tathra. Midnight Mass Candelo, 8.30am Bega.

**BOMBALA:** Christmas vigil 7.30pm Bombala, Christmas Day 8.30am Delegate.

**BOOROWA:** Christmas vigil 7pm Boorowa, 7pm Harden-Murrumburrah, 7pm Binalong, 9pm Frogmore, 9pm St Clement's Galong. Christmas Day 9am Boorowa, 9am St Clement's Galong.

**BRAIDWOOD:** Christmas vigil 8pm, Christmas Day 9am.

**BUNGENDORE:** Christmas vigil 6pm in church grounds, 8pm Gundaroo. Christmas Day 9am Bungendore.

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

**CATHEDRAL:** Christmas vigil 6pm (children) St Christopher's Cathedral, 9pm St Peter Chanel's Yarralumla, midnight cathedral. Christmas Day 8am cathedral, 9.30am St Peter Chanel's, 11am cathedral. No 5.30pm Mass at cathedral on Christmas Day.

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

**CHARNWOOD:** Christmas vigil 7pm midnight. Christmas Day 10am. Reconciliation: Tuesday 22 December - 7.30pm

**COOMA:** Christmas vigil 6pm, Cooma 9pm Cooma; 9pm Nimmitabel. Christmas Day 9am Cooma, 8am Adaminaby. 2nd Rite of Reconciliation: Cooma, Tuesday 15th December 7.30pm.

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

**EVATT:** Christmas vigil 6pm 9pm Evatt, 9pm Hall. Christmas Day 8.30am Evatt.

**GRENFELL:** Christmas vigil 6pm Bribbaree, 8.30pm Grenfell. Christmas Day 9am Grenfell.

**GOULBURN:** Christmas vigil 6.30pm (children) SPP Old Cathedral & Marulan, 8pm Our Lady of Fatima Nth Goulburn, Christmas Day 9am Sts Peter and Paul's Old Cathedral.

**GUNDAGAI:** Christmas vigil 6pm (family), 8pm. Christmas Day 8am. Gindagai 9.30am Jugiong

**GUNGAHLIN:** Christmas Vigil 7pm (Children's Liturgy Mass), 10pm (carols 9.30pm). Christmas Day 9am

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

**KALEEN:** Christmas vigil 7pm 10pm, Christmas Day 9am.

**KAMBAH:** Christmas vigil 7pm (outdoor family Mass), 9.30pm Vietnamese Mass, midnight. Christmas Day 9.30am.

**KIPPAX:** Christmas vigil 6pm 9pm midnight (11.30pm carols). Christmas Day 9am

**MORUYA:** Christmas vigil 6pm, 9pm. Christmas Day 8am Tuross Head, 10am Moruya.

From Sunday 27 December until 17 January extra 5pm Mass Sundays at Carroll College Broulee. Other usual Mass times for January are 6pm Vigil Moruya, 8am Tuross and 10am Moruya.

**NAROOMA-COBARGO:** Christmas vigil 6pm Cobargo, 6pm Bodalla, 8pm Narooma. Christmas Day 8am Bermagui, 9.30am Narooma. Regular Mass times vigil 6pm Cobargo, 6pm Bodalla, Sunday 8am Bermagui, 9.30am Narooma. Second rite Reconciliation 7.30pm 17 December Narooma, 7.30pm 22 December Bermagui, 7.30pm 23 December Cobargo, also 9.30am-10.30am 24 December, Narooma.

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

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

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

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

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

**QUEANBEYAN:** Christmas vigil 6.30pm St Gregory's (carols 5.45pm outdoors), midnight St Raphael's (carols 11.30pm). Christmas Day 8am 10am St Raphael's.

**SOUTH TUGGERANONG:** Christmas vigil 6pm Calwell (outside), 9pm Gowrie, midnight Gowrie. Christmas Day 8.30am 10am Gowrie.

**SOUTH WODEN:** Christmas vigil 6pm 9pm. Christmas Day 8.30am 10.30am, all Sacred Heart, Pearce.

**TARALGA:** Christmas vigil 6pm.

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

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

**WANNIASSA:** Christmas vigil 7pm (children), 9pm. Christmas Day 9am.

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

**WESTON CREEK:** Christmas vigil 6pm Holder (children), 6pm Waramanga (children), 9pm Holder (8.30pm carols). Christmas Day 9.00am Waramanga.

**WESTERN MISSION:** Christmas vigil 6.30pm Ardlethan, 7pm Rankin Springs and West Wyalong. Christmas Day 8am Ungarie, 8.30am Barellan and Aria Park, 9.30am West Wyalong.

**YASS:** Christmas vigil 6pm Gunning, 8pm Yass, 9.30pm Murrumbateman (Recreation hall). Christmas Day 8.30am Yass, 10.30am Wee Jasper. Reconciliation 8.30am noon 22 December, 8.30am noon 6pm 23 December, 8.30am noon 24 December, Yass.

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



With Christmas fast approaching and a new year almost upon us, I say 'Thank you!' to all who have joined with us in prayer and generosity to support so many through the works of Catholic Mission this year.

In the face of another challenging year where disasters have left some projects, especially orphanages, with greater demands on their services and care along with rebuilding and repair needs, our work and Christ's mission continues.

Many of these projects form part of Catholic Mission's Children's Mission activities which focus on assisting children; seeking to help communities of children with basic life giving opportunities such as food, clean water, access to health treatment and facilities, shelter and education.

Each year, at this time, Catholic Mission conducts its annual Children's Mission mail out Appeal. Many others support our work with children by giving varying amounts, monthly or quarterly, by becoming Children Mission Partners. Together, they enable us to affect change and manifest hope in the lives of many of our world's young people.

To support our work for children at this time, or on a regular basis as a Children's Mission Partner, please contact us.

We wish all a holy, safe and joyous Christmas.

God bless.

**Deacon Joe Blackwell**

The Rheinberger Centre,  
P O Box 7174,  
Yarralumla 2600.  
e-mail:  
asst.missions@cg.catholic.org.au  
Telephone 6163 4321



# 2010

## January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
31					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

### Dates to remember in January

- 1** World Day of Peace
- 22-25** Turn the Tide youth camp, Tuross Heads
- 26** Australia Day public holiday
- 28** School term 1 begins NSW

## February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

### Dates to remember in February

- 2** School term 1 begins ACT
- 8-12** Foundations in Catholic Youth Leadership and Ministry course, Rheinberger Centre
- 11** World Day of Prayer for the Sick
- 13-28** St Vincent de Paul Society doorknock appeal
- 15-19** ACU orientation week
- 17** Ash Wednesday

## March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

### Dates to remember in March

- 5** World Day of Prayer
- 7** CWL Country Region AGM, Galong
- 8** Canberra Day public holiday
- 13** CWL Central Region AGM, Narrabundah
- 17** Feast Day St Patrick
- 26** ACU graduation
- 28** Palm Sunday
- 29** Chrism Mass, St Christopher's Cathedral

## April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

### Dates to remember in April

- 1** School term 1 ends NSW
- 2** Good Friday
- 4** Easter Sunday
- 9** School term 1 ends ACT
- 20** School term 2 ends NSW
- 24** Opera at the Monastery, Galong
- 25** World Day of Prayer for Vocations
- 25** Anzac Day
- 26** Anzac Day public holiday
- 27** School term 2 begins ACT

## May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	31					1
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

### Dates to remember in May

- 2** Marian procession Galong
- 4-10** Australian Catholic bishops meet, Sydney
- 9** World Communications Day
- 12** World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations Mass, Yarralumla
- 14-16** Vocations weekend
- 16-23** Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- 17-20** Clergy assembly
- 22** CWL Archdiocesan Council AGM/conference, Rheinberger Centre
- 23** Pentecost Sunday
- 24** Feast Day Mary Help of Christians
- 31-13 June** Archdiocesan Year of Priest pilgrimage to France

## June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
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### Dates to remember in June

- 5,6** Propagation of the Faith Appeal
- 11** Year for Priests ends
- 14** Queen's Birthday public holiday

## July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

### Dates to remember in July

- 2** School term 2 ends ACT and NSW
- 4** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday
- 19** School term 3 begins ACT
- 20** School term 3 begins NSW
- 30** 25th anniversary Mass opening Holy Family Church, Gowrie

## August

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

### Dates to remember in August

- 8-15** National Vocations Awareness Week
- 15** Assumption of Our Lady
- 29** World Day of Migrants and Refugees

## September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

### Dates to remember in September

- 3-5** Spring Festival of the Arts, Galong
- 8** Vocations dinner Archbishop's House
- 17-19** Working retreat for men and women, Galong
- 21** International Day of Peace
- 26** Social Justice Sunday
- 24** School term 3 ends ACT and NSW
- 27** Family and Community Day holiday ACT

## October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
31					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

### Dates to remember in October

- 1** Feast Day St Therese of Lisieux
- 4** Labour Day public holiday
- 11** School term 4 begins ACT
- 12** School term 4 begins NSW
- 15** Feast Day St Teresa of Avila
- 24** Mission Sunday
- 26** Archdiocesan Mission Mass

## November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

### Dates to remember in November

- 1** All Saints Day
- 2** All Souls Day
- 13** Carmelite fete
- 14-19** Clergy retreat
- 22-26** Australian Catholic bishops meet, Sydney

## December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

### Dates to remember in December

- 1** World AIDS Day
- 3** International Day of People with Disability
- 3-5** Vocations weekend
- 10** School term 4 ends ACT secondary
- 15** School term 4 ends NSW primary and secondary
- 17** School term 4 ends ACT primary
- 25** Christmas Day
- 26** Boxing Day