

# CATHOLIC VOICE

ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN

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College leaders:  
Pages 6, 7

FREE

No. 251 February 2010

Circulation 21,000



Haiti's destroyed Catholic cathedral. Picture: Aid to Church in Need.

Catholic aid organisation Caritas experienced its own miracle when members of its rescue team freed a 70-year-old woman from the ruins of the Port-au-Prince cathedral, six days after the earthquake.

The day search operations were officially called off, a 20-year-old man was rescued, having spent 11 days trapped in the rubble of a hotel shop.

Last week a funeral was held among the ruins of Port-au-Prince Cathedral for the city's Archbishop, Joseph Serge Miot, and Vicar General, Mgr Charles Benoit, who were both killed.

Caritas Australia chief executive officer Jack de Groot said the funeral was an opportunity for Haitians to remember the loved ones they had lost.

"This marks the symbolic end for many, many people who will not have funerals, who were buried under the rubble or trapped in unmarked graves by the devastation of the earthquake," he said.

"The situation for many of the survivors also continues to be extremely difficult. Coordination efforts have improved and the security situation is stable.

## Miracles amid the misery

"Caritas has a hospital open and we are delivering relief supplies including water, food and shelter but the need is just simply enormous."

Humanitarian aid continues to be flown in from around the world.

The World Bank agreed to waive Haiti's debt of \$41.83 million for the next five years while it works on ways to eradicate the sum completely.

Aid to the Church in Need teams are restoring communications with surviving priests and other religious so they can continue to support those in their parishes who have lost much.

Donations to help the people of Haiti can be made through Caritas Australia at [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au) or by telephoning 1800 024 413, and through Aid to the Church in Need at [www.aidtochurch.org](http://www.aidtochurch.org) or by telephoning 9679 1929.

Haiti's President Mr Rene Preval late last week said that nearly 170,000 bodies had been counted since the quake, based on a body count done by a state company that has been collecting corpses in the capital and burying them in mass graves.

Thousands more dead remain buried under the rubble. Add to that the 1.5 million Haitians who are now homeless and the situation looks bleak.

Yet since the disaster first hit, where there was tragedy there were also small glimmers of hope.

A 22-day-old infant was pulled from the rubble in the Haiti coastal city of Jacmel a week after the quake hit.

The next day two children were rescued from the wreckage of collapsed buildings in Port-au-Prince. A teenage girl was pulled from under a house 15 days after the quake.

# A new wave of poverty

Even people with full-time work are joining the growing number of homeless as rising costs and the impact of the global financial crisis continue to bite.

The St Vincent de Paul Society, which will hold its annual doorknock appeal this month, is seeing a new wave of poverty hitting the region.

Canberra/Goulburn central council director of special works for the society Mr Shannon Pickles said it was important to realise that homelessness could happen to anyone.

With the annual doorknock to run from 13-28 February across Canberra and Queanbeyan, Mr Pickles said this was the perfect time for people to reassess their ideas of homelessness and give generously to support those in need.

"Most people don't understand homelessness because they don't want to," Mr Pickles said.

"They think it's something that happens to those other kind of people - drug addicts, alcoholics, young people who choose to leave home.

## Homelessness 'can happen to anyone' - Vinnies



Three residents at Samaritan House in Hackett, which provides crisis accommodation for single men in the ACT.

ple - drug addicts, alcoholics, young people who choose to leave home.

"Trust me. No one chooses to be homeless. And holding on to that perception is people's way of tricking themselves into believing they're safe, that it couldn't happen to them."

Mr Pickles said he was seeing a growing number of people who had full-time work but still were not earning enough to make ends meet.

According to a recent report from the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute, rising house prices have led more people

into the rental market, which in turn has caused increased rent prices, decreased vacancy rates, and ever-growing housing stress for low-income earners.

Mr Pickles said a lack of knowledge about managing finances and a reluctance to ask for help were also large factors in the growing number of working poor.

"And the social stigma of not wanting to seem poor, combined with the extreme advertising of interest-free sales often lead people into massive debt," he said. "It all gets very messy, very quickly."

Each year in the Canberra/Goulburn Central Council area, the St Vincent de Paul Society helps 65,000 people in their drop-in-centres and through the night patrol van. It receives 12,000 calls for emergency relief; accommodates 740 individuals and 280 families who are without a home; supports 40 disadvantaged persons through university; and provides ongoing outreach support for up to 100

homeless men, families or those living with a mental illness.

The society has seen close to a 50 per cent increase in demand across its services over the past 12 months. But without sufficient staff and resources, people in need are turned away daily.

This year the doorknock appeal target is \$400,000. All money donated locally will be spent locally.

"Yes, homelessness can happen to anyone, but there are steps you can take to ensure it doesn't happen to you," Mr Pickles said.

"Get help early. It doesn't make you any less of a person if you ask for help. Be aware. Talk about homelessness with friends and family. And if you can, make a donation. The money you give could go to a family down the street that you didn't even know were struggling."

Donations to the doorknock appeal may also be made by telephoning 6282 2722 or online at [www.vinnies.org.au](http://www.vinnies.org.au).



## quick guide

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DEADLINE: Editorial and advertising 15th of the month before publication.  
 Catholic Voice is published by the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn and printed by Capital Fine Print, Fyshwick. It is a member of the Australasian Catholic Press Association and the Australasian Religious Press Association. Every month 21,000 copies distributed.

Print Post Publication No. 238684/00009

## winners are

The winners of a copy of Inside the Vatican, a light-hearted, two-part documentary released by Madman Entertainment and SBS, are: Carolyn Mongan, of Campbell, Peter Nelson, of Spence, Anthony Miller, of Goulburn, Mr and Mrs P Burg, of Farrer, Beth Berdin, of Macquarie, and Marian Wolski, of Chisholm.

## news and features

**9 Three years ago, Rachael Duncan (right) made the biggest decision of her life: she gave up an international opera career to live in Canberra as a wife and mother**

**10, 11 The Archdiocese has six permanent deacons and more are on the way. How do they see their ministry?**

**15 We salute our priests - a Year for Priests profile**



## entertainment

"Up in The Air is a subtly crafted black comedy-drama-romance about the insecurity and rootlessness at the core of modern American (and by extension, Australian) corporate life. It is probably the most disturbing film I have seen for some time."

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## page2

## Challenge of a century

By Nelson Mendonca\*

Climate change, the defining issue of our time. So why are we doing so little about it?

At times, the problems of the world all seem too overwhelming. We feel powerless and insignificant. However, if everyone has this mindset, how can we achieve anything? It is collective action spurred on by world leaders and implemented at the grassroots that will face up to the challenge.

As Lehman Brothers collapsed and Wall Street tumbled in late 2008, the world panicked. Suddenly Western and developing governments alike, many already in crushing debt, forked out hundreds of billions of dollars to bail out banks and save car manufacturers.

We saw an emergency unfold in the space of days, and we found a common resolve and political will to do whatever necessary to rectify the situation. What happens with climate change? Many of us are in denial. The financial crisis was unfolding before our eyes, but climate change is gradual. We see no immediate gain in addressing the problem, because we can't immediately make money out of it, and the sea levels haven't flooded our houses overnight.

In Al Gore's An Inconvenient Truth, the unforgettable slide show that has undoubtedly changed the course of human history, we are shown a frog dropped in a bucket of water. Gore tells us that if the water is hot, the frog will immediately jump out. However, if the water is cold and gradually increases in temperature, the frog will stay put. We have to think long-term, whether we like it or not.

In the film, Gore also presents us with a set of scales. On one side are some bars of gold. On the other side, the entire planet. Gore asks us to choose.

It may seem clichéd and maybe far-sighted, but if we continue our destructive habits, the economy will be obsolete when rising temperatures and sea levels endanger human existence.

Catholic Voice will focus each month on the views of a young person and what they see as important today



## changing our world

In other words, there might actually be something more important than the immediate economy (shock, horror!). Are we always going to think like this - that the economy is the only priority? We can't let every little hurdle distract us from the task of saving our very existence in the future.

So what can the average person do? Well, to start with we can pressure our governments to take the lead - a global consensus would be a central component of progress on this front. The consumer can hold big business to account. Remember, the big polluters are at your mercy. If you make a conscious decision to 'buy green', you are sending a message. More importantly, you are depriving companies of profit from polluting ventures. They will have to turn 'green' out of necessity. Cutting back on energy use is the obvious tip. Converting to renewable sources is another great idea.

God's creation must be protected. We cannot allow ourselves to exploit the world that God gave to us and entrusted to us. Humanity is the steward of divine creation. Pope John Paul II said in 2001: "we immediately see that humanity has disappointed God's expectations... degrading that 'flower-bed' which is the earth, our dwelling-place".

It's time to meet the climate challenge. How we respond will define this generation.

\* Nelson is 15 and a student at St Mary MacKillop College. He is starting Year 11 and is studying mathematics, English, religion, law, economics and Italian. He has a strong interest in politics and society.

## School on song



Fifty one singers from St John's the Apostle Primary School, Florey, got a taste of the life of a recording artist when they produced their first CD at Artsound.

The senior choir members, led by choir master Ms Sue Fisher, recorded six songs in the Manuka studio, including Advance Australia Fair and St John's School Song.

"They are a great group of students who love singing," Ms Fisher said. "To be in a recording studio was a unique experience for the children and valuable to the students' musical experience."

Over the past few years, the senior choir has sung at Australian Citizenship ceremonies, Parliament House, Christmas Carols in the City, an aged care facility, garden party, Mass at St Christopher's Cathedral and Yarralumla and at Floriade.

## Love is in the air

Couples have been invited to a "celebration of love, romance and the joy of Christian marriage" to mark St Valentine's Day this month.

A renewal of marriage promises for married couples and a special blessing for engaged couples will be part of 6pm Mass on St Valentine's eve, Saturday, 13 February, at St Thomas the Apostle church, Kambah.

Organisers say those who are married, engaged couples, those who have lost a partner, couples of all ages, families and children are welcome. Couples are invited to bring a framed wedding photograph to include in the display at Mass.

Couples will gather for a meal after Mass at the Southern Cross Club Tuggeranong. Inquiries and dinner reservations to Tracey, telephone 6231 9219 or Trish 6231 8468 ah.

## May is for Marymead

This May will be the first annual Marymead month. The Canberra child and family centre is constantly looking for more community support so they have declared May the month for businesses, clubs, church groups and individuals to host a fundraising event.

Marymead works with about 1000 families, teaching parents how to care for their children, helping to prevent family breakdown through therapeutic intervention and crisis care, and providing foster care. Any group or individual who wishes to help may telephone Jeff Griffiths on 6162 5824 or e-mail jeff.griffiths@marymead.org.au.

## what do you know?

1. Lent is nearly here, but what does Lenten mean?

2. Aah, such a cute lad then, but this padre (pictured right) knows how to give orders.

3. Parramatta has a new bishop, Anthony Fisher, its third. Who was the first?

4. Haiti is in the news as it reels from the effects of an earthquake. It and the Dominican Republic share an island in the Caribbean. Name it.

5. What feast day marks the beginning and end of the Year for Priests declared by Pope Benedict XVI?

6. Where was William Lanigan pastor before he was appointed Bishop of Goulburn back in 1867?

Answers: Bottom Page 4.



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# Millions to be spent on boost for schools

Trinity Catholic College Goulburn this year will be getting a major makeover with a multi-million dollar construction and refurbishment program being undertaken.

It is one of only 577 secondary schools in Australia to receive funding under Science and Language Centres for 21st Century Secondary Schools, a competitive element of the Federal Government's Building the Education Revolution program.

A grant of \$1.97 million will allow the building of a new state of the art science centre. Construction has begun on the St Patrick's campus and is due to be completed in June.

In addition, a major project has been approved for refurbishment and construction on the St Patrick's campus to allow consolidation of the college onto one site from next year. The total cost is expected to be about \$6.5 million and will be supported by \$3.33 million from the government's Capital Grants program.

Last year, the Federal Government's Building the Education Revolution economic stimulus package allocated an unprecedented \$14.7 billion for all schools across Australia with \$100 million to be provided over three years to Catholic schools in the Archdiocese for building and refurbishment projects.

Every primary and secondary school has received up to \$200,000 each under the National School Pride

element of the program for minor capital and refurbishment works.

Primary schools will also receive between \$250,000 and \$3 million each depending on school size under the Primary Schools for the 21st Century element of the program for major capital works.

Some major projects were completed last year, many more will be completed this year and the remainder next year.

Mount Carmel Central School, Yass, has secured a grant of nearly \$1.7 million to develop sports facilities in partnership with Berinba Public School.

It is part of the Local Schools Working Together pilot program, a Federal Government initiative aimed at encouraging school sectors to work together to develop shared educational facilities.

A consortium comprising St Francis Xavier, Merici, St Clare's and St Mary MacKillop colleges and the Canberra Institute of Technology was successful in securing a grant of up to \$6 million to develop shared trade training facilities on the four college sites. Building will begin mid year and will be completed next year.

This is part of the Federal Government's Trade Training Centres in Schools program which aims to increase the proportion of students completing Year 12 by improving student access to trade training facilities.

● Cont Page 4.

## Major upgrades for Merici

Merici College is planning major upgrades to technology, hospitality and business studies opportunities this year thanks to a number of Federal Government grants and college funds.

The Catholic girls' high school will soon offer a new commercial kitchen and permanent restaurant to be used by Years 10-12 Vocational Education and Training (VET) students.

Merici is part of a consortium of Catholic systemic secondary schools and CIT, which have won a grant through the Federal Government Trades Training Centre funding.

The college will also take over running its canteen, giving students from both the hospitality and business studies VET areas hands-on experience in running a small business.

Technology will also be getting an upgrade at Merici this year.

Several new flexible learning areas are planned, which will include significant numbers of new computers.

The fleet of laptop trolleys will be increased and each Year 11 student in 2010 will be provided with their own laptop. This will be part of a rollout which will ensure that by the beginning of 2011, all senior students have access to their own laptop.

The school's wireless network will be expanded this year and a further 11 interactive whiteboards will be added to classrooms.

Merici College is an educational leader in digital technology, with the first laptop program introduced in 1994.



Merici College students Cassandra Rosetta and Erin Butler (Year 12 2009) test out their hospitality skills.

The cost of the works will be covered by a combination of Federal Government grants and college funds.



**St Vincent de Paul Society**  
*good works*

## 2010 Doorknock Appeal

(1st February-28th February 2010)

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# Priesthood: Christ's gift to build up the Church

In the wake of the Murphy Commission Report in Dublin on the abuse of children, there has been a fair bit of talk about clericalism as somehow at the core of the problem. There is surely truth in this if we understand clericalism as the abuse of power to dominate and destroy others.

Power is a dangerous thing; it can be used well or badly. If used well it creates; if used badly it destroys. Clericalism is one of the most insidious forms of power badly used. It leads not to the authority of Christ which is entrusted to the ordained but to the dark power of Satan which is grasped by those who, in Paul's words, are "enemies of the Cross of Christ".

In recent times the category of clericalism has been extended to include some things which, in other times, would have been considered part and parcel of the identity of the ordained. Things like clerical dress and clerical titles are at times considered clericalist where once they would simply have been taken for granted as outward signs of something deeper.

Not that dress and titles are essential to the identity of the ordained; they simply provide an example of what I mean. Any sense of the ordained as other, separate, different can also be dismissed as clericalism. Yet ordination has always been seen as setting a man apart, making him separate, other, different - but only for the sake of service. Not for the sake of power, privilege and prestige, but for the sake of the One who came "not to be served but to serve".

This takes us to the heart of the biblical understanding of holiness - and we should make no mistake:

the ordained man is called to be a *holy* man. If he's not that, then he won't be the servant he's ordained to be.

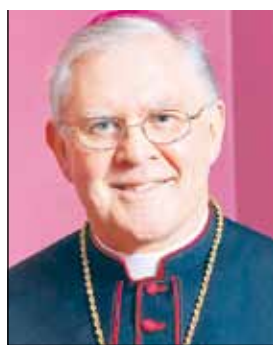
The Bible understands holiness first of all as a separation. In the name of God, the people set someone or something apart; and they do so for the sake of the service of God. To be holy, then, is to be separate for the sake of service. There you have the two essential elements of the biblical sense of holiness: separation and service.

The problem with clericalism is that it is separation not for the sake of service but for the sake of power, privilege and prestige. It's not the way of self-sacrificing love but of self-serving exploitation. That's why it destroys.

What a priest wears, what he is called, whether he is celibate: these are not the things that make for clericalism. They are intended to show forth more clearly the God-given identity of the priest as a man set apart for service.

They are meant to be a way in which the priest comes closer to the people with the intimacy of Christ which is always a way of self-sacrificing love; and the history of the Catholic priesthood offers a host of witnesses to this, luminous among them St John Vianney.

It is within this great tradition that our three new seminarians - Joshua



**Clericalism is one of the most insidious forms of power badly used. It leads not to the authority of Christ which is entrusted to the ordained but to the dark power of Satan which is grasped by those who, in Paul's words, are "enemies of the Cross of Christ".**

Scott from Young, Alex Millar from ANU and Namora Anderson from Queanbeyan - seek to take their place. We praise God for them and pray that the One who has called them will guide and protect them in every way.

The priest is never called to exercise a destructive power, but he is called to exercise authority. And it can be easy to confuse authority with the exercise of power that we call authoritarianism - especially at a time like this when authority of any kind is regarded with suspicion.

The priest is entrusted with the ministry of authority in the Church; that is one of the most crucial ways in which he serves. He is to exercise the authority of Christ for the sake of building up the Body of Christ, which means to sanctify the Church in order to equip her for mission.

The authority of Christ is stranger than we usually think, as the Gospels make clear. The Jesus who comes to meet us in the Gospels is strange in many ways, but one of the strangest things about him is that he is supremely authoritative without ever being in any way authoritarian.

The people and even Jesus' opponents recognise that he speaks "with authority", an authority that seems to come directly from God rather than from any human

source. But he speaks and acts as one whose authority depends upon a kind of powerlessness - supremely of course on the Cross. He coerces no-one, exploits no-one, destroys no-one, even though he himself is coerced, exploited and destroyed.

In the Church we speak of apostolic authority. We believe that this was an authority entrusted by Jesus to those whom he sent out as apostles. We also believe that the apostles passed on this authority to their successors, the bishops, who in turn share that authority with the ordained who share the apostolic ministry with them.

In a time as complex and confusing as this can be, we need this apostolic authority more than ever. We certainly don't need to confuse apostolic authority and clericalism in a way that ends up throwing the baby out with the bathwater.

In this Year for Priests we seek to identify and celebrate in a special way the ordained priesthood as a gift given by Christ in order to build up the Church as a priestly people.

It is a good thing at such a time that we think more deeply about clericalism, its roots and effects, and about how different it is from the authority of Christ which lies at the heart of priestly ministry.

My hope is that this will lead priests to live their priesthood more purely and joyfully and lead all Catholics to love the priesthood as Christ's gift to his Bride the Church, whom he never fails to love and for whom he never fails to provide.

*Mark Coleridge*

## ARCHBISHOP MARK COLERIDGE

**3 Feb:** National Liturgical Council meeting.

**8 Feb:** Foundations in Catholic Youth Leadership and Ministry Training course.

**8 Feb:** 20 year anniversary Ministry to Newly Marrieds.

**10 Feb:** Daramalan College opening Mass.

**11 Feb:** Catholic Ethos in Health Care presentation, Sydney.

**13 Feb:** Installation of acolytes, Pearce.

**14 Feb:** Catholic Youth Ministry team commissioning Mass, Cathedral.

**15 Feb:** ACU orientation Mass.

**17 Feb:** St Francis Xavier College opening Mass.

**18 Feb:** Marist commencement Mass.

**19 Feb:** St Mary MacKillop College opening Mass.

**20-21 Feb:** Mass, Page.

**27-28 Feb:** Installation special ministers, acolytes, Temora.

## AUXILIARY BISHOP

**PAT POWER**

On leave

## New bishop the youngest

Dominican friar and ethicist Anthony Fisher has been named the third bishop of Parramatta and the youngest Catholic bishop in Australia.

He succeeds Bishop Kevin Manning who has held the office since 1997 and is retiring.

Bishop Fisher, 49, was coordinator of World Youth Day 2008 in Sydney. For the past seven years he has been parish priest of Watson's Bay and an auxiliary bishop of Sydney.

"It is a very great privilege to be entrusted with this role of leadership and service in the vibrant young diocese of Parramatta," Bishop Fisher said.

"Western Sydney is one of Australia's fastest growing areas, with a median age of only 32, many young families and numerous ethnic communities. Parramatta may be one of our youngest dioceses but it is already the fifth most populous in



**Bishop Anthony Fisher, the third bishop of Parramatta.**

Australia and has many exciting possibilities."

Born in south-west Sydney and educated in several Sydney schools, Bishop Fisher studied history and law at the University of Sydney before practising in a city law firm. From this time he was also involved in the pro-life movement.

In 1985 he entered the Order of Preachers (Domin-

icans), a religious order dedicated to preaching the Catholic faith in the context of a life of study, prayer and community. He studied theology in Melbourne, was ordained a priest in 1991 and completed a doctorate in bioethics at the University of Oxford in 1995.

"World Youth Day brought home to me the importance of youth ministry and the major contribution young people can make to our Church today," he said.

He is chairman of the NSW Catholic Education Commission and a member of the Australian Bishops' Commissions for Doctrine and Morals and for the Health and Community Services. He is also a member of the Vatican's Pontifical Academy for Life.

He will be installed at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta, on Thursday, 4 March.

## Millions for schools

### • From Page 3.

Successful applications under the Federal Government's Capital Grants program were lodged for Mother Teresa Primary School, Harrison, St Mary MacKillop Catholic College, Trinity Catholic College and Lumen Christi Catholic College, Pambula Beach.

At Mother Teresa Primary School, stage 1 of the new campus of Good Shepherd Primary School will be completed in early February. It comprises an early learning centre, administration, six classrooms and associated works at a cost of \$6 million, all funded by the Canberra Catholic community.

The next stage beginning this year will comprise four additional classrooms and associated spaces and student and staff amenities at an estimated cost of \$2.57 million. The project will be supported by a government grant of \$726,000. A library and multi-purpose hall will also be built this year under the Building the Education Revolution Program with a grant of \$3 million.

At St Mary MacKillop College, a project has been approved to refurbish the library, staffroom and associated works on the Wanniasa campus. The total project cost will be \$1.76 million supported by a government grant of \$909,000.

Lumen Christi Catholic College, Pambula Beach, secured a Commonwealth grant of \$1.2 million to build a new multi-purpose hall. The total cost is expected to be \$2.4 million.

## WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

**Answers: 1. Springtime. 2. Duntroon military chaplain Deacon John Lim. 3. Bishop Bede Heather, who retired in 1997. 4. Hispaniola. 5. The Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, 19 June. 6. Berrima.**



# Churches join forces for Lenten book

Members of four churches in Canberra have worked together to produce the annual ecumenical Lenten study book.

"Love in the Shadow" has been written and professionally designed by seven members from the Anglican, Baptist, Catholic and Uniting churches.

Each of the six sessions is supported by a CD containing the Lenten readings and hymns.

Each year members of Christian churches, hosted at CatholicLIFE, work together to produce the book.

The hope is that during Lent, participants will be drawn from a couple of churches of different denominations in each parish area.

The Archdiocese began the ecumenical initiative following the 1989 Synod, and has produced annual study books for about 18 years. It is the only ecumenically produced Lenten study in Australia.

This year's artworks are from a collection of paintings by modern international artists.

The story segment features excerpts from writings by Etty Hillesum, a young Jewish woman caught up in the violence of Nazism in Holland in the 1940s.

The aim of the study is to encourage Christians to more fully align their lives with that of Jesus, and to follow the journey of Christ through his passion, death and resurrection.

Three styles of praying are suggested for use over the six sessions. The book will be supported by an online discussion website for those who may prefer this method of communication and reflection.

For more information, follow the link in the "Latest News and Resources" section at [www.catholiclife.org.au](http://www.catholiclife.org.au) to see something of the book and place an order online. The cost of the publication is \$11 plus postage and handling for 1-20 copies and less for orders over 20.

Inquiries: Telephone 6163 4300 or [info@catholiclife.org.au](mailto:info@catholiclife.org.au).

● Lent: Time for a Spiritual Stocktake, Page 14.

# Students leave an iconic mark

St Benedict's Primary School, Narrabundah, has been chosen to represent the children of the Archdiocese in an iconography project for St Christopher's Cathedral.

Led by St Benedict's School of Iconography director Mrs Wendy Fisher-Hudson, each student from kindergarten to Year 6 was given the opportunity to mix ochres and block out the main colours for two of the four icons in the series.

One tells the story of the miracle of the fishes, while the other features a boat carrying the four evangelists.

The boards started by the students will be placed under the two main icons, featuring Sts John Chrysostom and Athanasius.

St Benedict's Primary School acting religious education coordinator Margaret Harod said it was a wonderful opportunity for the students to experience the process of icon writing first hand.

And while they would have loved to complete the icons themselves, Mrs Fisher-Hudson said that the necessary layering process of ochre and metals could not be done at school.

"But they all did such a wonderful job and it's fantastic that they have been able to contribute to their cathedral," she said.



Archbishop Mark Coleridge approached Mrs Fisher-Hudson about the project just over a year ago. He wanted icons of St Athanasius and St John Chrysostom to be installed in the niches above the Franklin Street side door, "to give the Fathers of the East a place in the Cathedral in order to represent the universality of the Church".

Mrs Fisher-Hudson said it was a slow process as iconography was a very meticulous practice. "Icons aren't just holy pictures," she said. "They're a means of prayer that draws you in to contemplation. And because the luminosity is created by many layers of ochres and metals, it takes time."

# Ethiopian priest dies suddenly

Ethiopian priest Fr Daniel Manmektot Eshete (right), who was serving as assistant priest at Narooma, has died suddenly on a visit to his homeland.

Fr Eshete died in hospital while being treated for diabetes.

He was visiting relatives and friends in Ethiopia following the sudden death by heart attack of his brother just before Christmas.

The funeral Mass was held at Holy Saviour parish, Archbishop of Addis Ababa Abune Berhaneyesus D. Souraphiel said.



## St Clement's Galong

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**LEFT: St Francis Xavier College vice-captain John Colley, college captains Jessica Cox and David Frawley, and vice-captain Alana McQueen.**



**ABOVE: Lumen Christi College vice-captain Sarah Zuiderduin, captains William Russell and Maddison Haseldine and vice-captain Jacob Dadd.**



**LEFT: Trinity College Goulburn leaders (clockwise from top left) captains Sam Boileau and Kirsten Rowcliff, and vice-captains Brad Monkhouse and Kate Thompson.**



**LEFT: St Edmund's College captain Daniel Matthews (left) and vice-captain Michael Doyle.**

**RIGHT: St Clare's College leader arts and culture Rachel Townsend, college captain Laura Boyd, college leader social justice Eliza Mitchell and college leader sports Angela Winter.**



**ABOVE: St Mary MacKillop College captains (from left): Jenny Tabur (arts and culture captain), Danica Tagaza (college captain), Oliver Oakman (college captain), Alex Kellar (sports captain), Monique Wilks (faith and community captain).**



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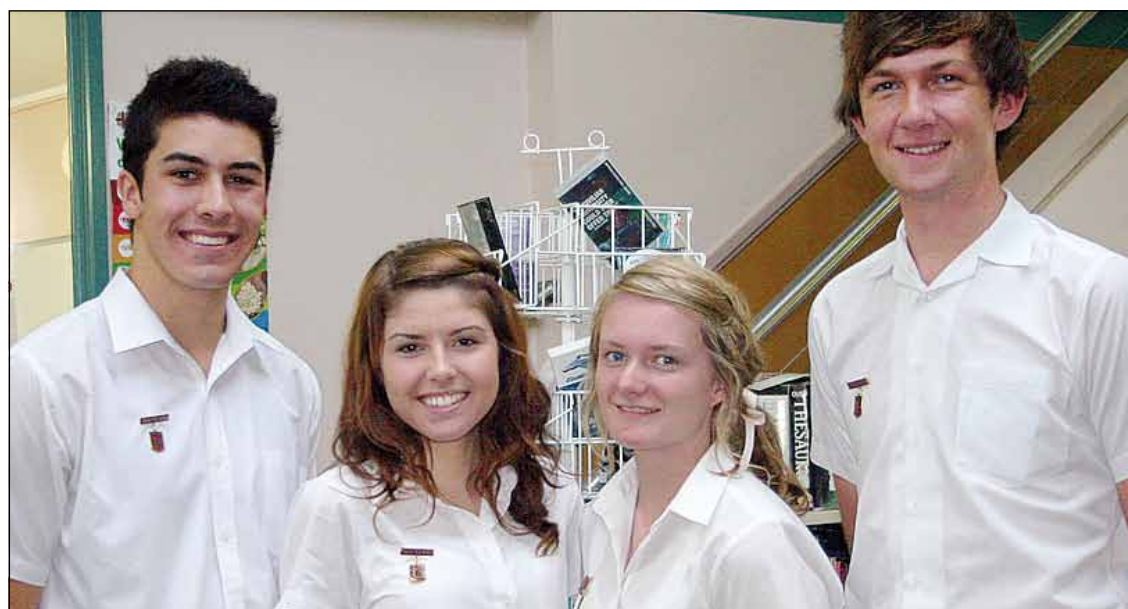
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**ABOVE: Carroll College Broulee vice-captains James Cornall and Beck Downes, and college captains Maddy Hornby and Mitch Shaw.**

**Pictures and information on school captains was supplied by the various colleges.**

Catholic Voice may also be accessed online at the Archdiocesan website  
[www.cg.catholic.org.au](http://www.cg.catholic.org.au)

## St Benedict's Eucharistic Centre

**LENTEN RETREAT:** 25 February 9.30am-3pm

**ADDRESS:** 17 March 7pm by Michelle Moran, chairperson for the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services, at St Benedict's Church, followed by tea & coffee.

Inquiries: St Benedict's Parish, telephone 6295 7879

Details of Call to Connect women's breakfast in March issue of Catholic Voice.

Inquiries: Bronnie Schlager, telephone 6231 8611, e-mail [bronnieschlager@gmail.com](mailto:bronnieschlager@gmail.com)



# This year's college leaders

**RIGHT: Daramalan College captains Katie McKeon and Zack Drury.**



**LEFT: Marist College headmaster with vice-captain Ben Cummings and college captain Tim Sullivan.**

**ABOVE LEFT: Merici College vice-captain Natalia Pelle (left) and college captain Heather Cork.**

**ABOVE RIGHT: Hennessy College Young captains Paige Potts, of Harden, and Matthew Anderson, of Young.**



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# Women set out to remember historic report

Catholic women will be under the spotlight over the coming months with a series of talks and a travelling photographic exhibition to mark the 10th anniversary of the Woman and Man: One in Christ Jesus report.

The first talk, Women in the Scriptures, will be given by Archbishop Mark Coleridge at 11.30am on 28 February at Sacred Heart parish, Temora. This will be repeated at 7.30pm on 16 March in the Rheinberger Centre, Yarralumla.

His presentation will be the first of many planned this year by the Archdiocesan Commission for Women.

Further sessions will include information on roles in church administration available for lay people, presented by canon lawyers, as well as talks from women about their work in the Church.

The series will coincide with the National Photographic Exhibition of Inspirational Australian Catholic Women's arrival in the Archdiocese. The exhibition was compiled by the Council for Australian Catholic Women and the Bishops Commission for Church Ministry.

Each diocese in Australia was invited to nominate two women for inclusion in the exhibition.

Mrs Sharon Brewer and Ms Eileen Glass represent the Archdiocese.

Mrs Brewer is a wife and mother who has been active in parish life at the then St Francis of Assisi, Calwell, and now Corpus Christi, South Tuggeranong for 23 years.

Ms Glass is the spiritual director of L'Arche, an international federation of faith communities where people with and without an intellectual disability share life together.

She has worked for more than 35 years to build awareness of the needs and rights of people in the margins of society and the church.

The Commission for Women will take images from the exhibition to a number of parishes across the Archdiocese. They can also be seen online at [www.opw.catholic.org.au/diocesan-news/national-photographic-exhibition-of-inspirational-australian-catholic-women.html](http://www.opw.catholic.org.au/diocesan-news/national-photographic-exhibition-of-inspirational-australian-catholic-women.html).

For information about the exhibition or the series of talks telephone Judy Netting 6278 4163.

# Landmark moment for Missionaries



Joseph Neonbasu has become the first Missionaries of God's Love brother from overseas to be ordained a priest.

Fr Neobasu, from West Timor in Indonesia, was ordained by Archbishop Mark Coleridge. He had been in formation with the Missionaries of God's Love for seven years.

When he arrived in Australia he had little English, but with great faith he overcame the obstacles of language and cultural transition.

His ordination is a sign of the changing face of the MGL, which has welcomed many candidates from other cultures into its formation program

As well as Australians and New Zealanders, the MGL now have brothers in formation from the Philippines, Indonesia, India, Papua New Guinea and Africa

People travelled to the ordination from Melbourne, where Fr Neonbasu did most of his training, and from Sydney, where he has Indonesian friends. The local Indonesian community turned out in force, together with parishioners of St Benedict's, Narrabundah, where he worked as a deacon.

The most touching moment of the ceremony came when Joseph's mother and father and his two brothers, both of whom are priests, helped him to vest in his priestly chasuble.

LEFT: Fr Joseph Neonbasu with father Petrus Senu, mother Theresia Beli and priest brothers Vincent (left) and Gregory.

# Students show charity begins at school

Holy Family Primary School, Gowrie, has been honoured by the Order of Australia Association.

The Year 6 charity group received the Student Award for Citizenship and Community Service at a special ceremony at the Australian National University.

The school's religious education coordinator, Ms Sabina Van Rooy, said charity group members, along with strong support from teaching staff and generous donations from school families, had encouraged students to show real Christian action by responding to appeals, fundraising and donation requests.

Last year the school sent nearly 2000 socks to those affected by the Victorian bushfires, and supported breast cancer research, mothers and babies and refugees through other fundraising activities.



The RSPCA, aged care agencies and the MS Society were all helped by the school. Students raised enough money to buy a new humidicrib for Canberra Hospital. They also supported the St Vincent de Paul and Smith Family Christmas appeals, and made decorated Christmas shoe boxes filled with gifts for children in other countries.

Year 6 charity group, principal Mr Paul Croker and religious education coordinator Ms Sabina Van Rooy with the award.



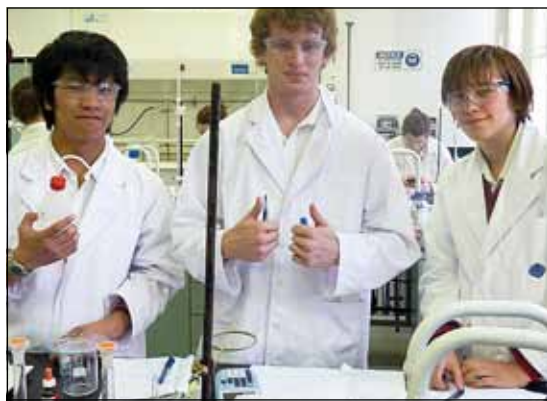
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Students from Daramalan College have won first and third places in the finals of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute Australian National Chemical Analysis Competition held at the Australian National University. Three Year 12 chemistry students (above), Kevin Le, Daniel Conlin and Stephanie Cox received a gold medallion. Vanessa King, Hannah Lee and Alexandra Humphrey Cifuentes came third.

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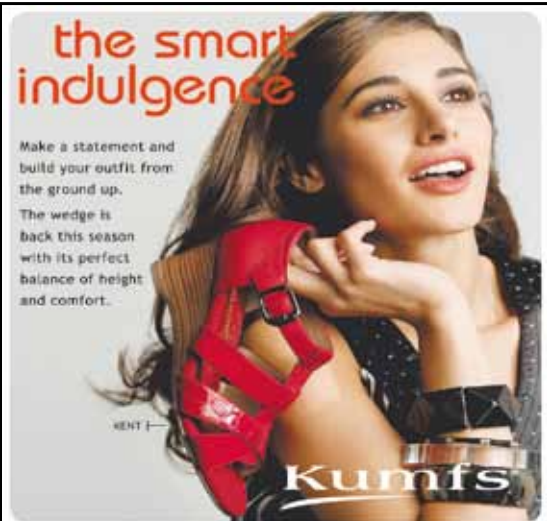
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# Rachael's on song with being a wife and mum

**Opera singer Rachael Duncan had a flourishing singing career in Germany, but something was missing. Claire Mitchell finds out what brought her back to Australia.**

Three years ago, Rachael Duncan made the biggest decision of her life: she gave up an international opera career to live in Canberra as a wife and mother.

And while she couldn't be happier now, growing up her mind was firmly on music.

She studied and performed in Brisbane, London and Italy before landing her big break in Germany, where she spent five years on the opera stage.

"It was a lot of hard work and dedication but it was fantastic; absolutely brilliant," she said.

Ms Duncan was told early on that her voice was particularly suited to the German repertoire so she started to study the language, attending weekly night classes and listening to tapes on the bus and train.

But nothing prepared her for being completely immersed in a foreign language.

"For the first six months I felt like I was drowning and for the first 12 I was thoroughly exhausted," she said.

Luckily she was able to call on her supportive parents.

"Mum and Dad came over for Christmas every year I was there," she said.

"And in the first year, Mum stayed for something like two or three months and just helped me with everything."

Her career was flourishing, her German was fluent, and she was surrounded by friends and supportive people.

But something was missing.

Before she moved to Germany she had broken up with partner Stephen.

They had known each other for years in Canberra, and had maintained a long-distance relationship while she was in London.

But when she was offered a contract in Germany, the couple realised their lives were heading in separate directions (Stephen had just started his own company) and so they called it off.

"A friend of mine in Munich told me not to end up like the other singers who at the end of their careers had nothing but memories," Ms Duncan said.

"He said I should finish my contract and then go back to Australia, marry Stephen and have children.

"I had always wanted to be a wife and a mother but I was an opera singer. What was I supposed to do?"

First she decided to find out if Stephen was even still an option. An out-of-the-blue phone call confirmed he was single, so that was a sign.



**Rachael Duncan happy at home with 4½-month-old son Alexander (left), as Romilda in Handel's Xerxes (top), and as Musetta in Puccini's La Boheme. (above).**

**'Having a family was a conscious choice. I didn't want to be 50, career ending, and have nothing but a book full of reviews and photos. There's more to life.'**

But she didn't know when the right time to leave the company would be - there were still so many opportunities ahead.

Soon enough, her body made the decision for her. She lost her voice. A doctor confirmed it was due to emotional stress and suggested she take some time off.

So her mother ("my knight in shining armour") packed her up and took her back to Australia.

She had two months until the opera season recommenced and during that time she had to make a decision.

"I caught up with Stephen, which was wonderful, and I basically told him, 'if you want me to stay then let's get married'," she said.

"I didn't live in Australia. I had a career, a house, friends, a contract, and I was not going to give that up on the off chance something might happen. It was either marriage, or I was going back to Germany.

"We'd known each other for so many years. We'd always loved each other.

"He spent two months trying to decide, then very intelligently realised he couldn't live without me. So we got married and now have two beautiful children: Georgia (2½) and Alexander (4½ months)."

Ms Duncan has traded the limelight for a family home, and while she does miss singing, she said she was very happy with how her life had turned out.

"Having a family was a conscious choice," she said. "I didn't want to be 50, career ending, and have nothing but a book full of reviews and photos. There's more to life."

Ms Duncan still sings at recitals, such as the Carols of the Nation at Archbishop's House at Christmas, but right now she's just really enjoying being a mum.

"I feel so lucky that I've been able to do so much," Ms Duncan said. "My personal motto is: you can have everything; you just can't have it all at the same time. "I think I've proved it's true."

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Year 5 student Calina MacGinley Jamieson puts together one of the Mini Vinnies' school starter packs.

## Kambah kids help others make a brighter start

Families across Kambah, Greenway and Bonython have had an easier start to the school year thanks to the Mini Vinnies.

The group consists of more than 20 enthusiastic students from St Thomas the Apostle School, Kambah, who gave up their lunch-time to pack up 80 school starter packs, which were distributed across the district over Christmas.

It was an initiative of the Kambah conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society who recognised a need to help families at the start of the school year.

The Southern Cross Club provided a grant of \$800 and another benefactor donated \$200, which was used to buy books, pencils, biros, folders and glue sticks.

The students then volunteered to pack them up so that the society

could distribute them with the Christmas hampers.

St Thomas school chaplain Mrs Caroline Barclay started the Mini Vinnies at the beginning of last year.

They meet each week at lunch time, pray, plan activities and help other children in the school.

Such activities include a games day, held in second term, which raised \$600 for the St Vincent de Paul Society.

Kambah conference president Mr Warwick Fulton said he was grateful to the staff and students at St Thomas for their generous donation of food for the Christmas hampers, their fundraising efforts for the society and the wonderful work done by Mrs Barclay and the Mini Vinnies.



Members of St Thomas the Apostle School Mini Vinnies put together the school starter packs.

# The call of our team of 'storm-troopers'

## 'Perhaps it is the Holy Spirit's creative response to a changing world'

Archbishop Mark Coleridge has described them as "a team of storm-troopers" who may be sent by the bishop whenever and wherever a need arises. They bring a range of experience to the ministry not necessarily found in the priest. They are permanent deacons, and the Archdiocese now has six of them. The number is growing in dioceses across Australia. How do our married deacons see their ministry?

"I believe that I experienced a personal call to this ministry during a Mass in which I was the only person present with the celebrant. The gospel reading was from the prologue of John's gospel which proclaims clearly the divinity and humanity of Jesus; the call which I received through this reading was to proclaim the importance of Jesus' humanity to the people of God.

"My immediate reaction was strangely elation, albeit with some confusion as to how I should proceed, taking into account my status as a lay person and without any clear direction as to how and where such proclaiming should take place. And so I did nothing about it; but the caller persisted. I committed myself and this message to prayer and for another five years kept asking my caller to lead me to the means by which this call could be fulfilled. I was led to an appointment with my Archbishop (Francis Carroll) and my path to ordination had begun."

These are the comments of Paul Rummery, of Tuross Head, husband and father, ordained to the permanent diaconate in December 2001.

Many years before, in 1987, Roger O'Donnell, at the time a member of the Australian Federal Police



Deacon Paul Rummery

Bureau of Criminal Intelligence, met with Archbishop Carroll who encouraged him to study theology.

When he was ordained in 1991, there were about a dozen married deacons in Australia. Now the number has risen to well over 100 with another 20 or so in formation. He has since gone on to be a parish administrator, director of missions for the Archdiocese and full-time chaplain for the International Deployment Group of the Australian Federal Police.

Today, in addition to deacons O'Donnell, who among other tasks now serves Gungahlin parish, and Rummery, who works in the coastal deanery, the Archdiocese has four more married deacons.

Joe Blackwell, ordained nearly a decade ago, runs the Catholic Mission and Caritas offices in the Archdiocese and serves in the Page and Goulburn parishes, John Lim is chaplain at Royal Military College Duntroon serving the Military Ordinariate, Vince Barclay, who was ordained last July, is a teacher at St Mary MacKillop College, and Patrick Whale joined their ranks when he was ordained at Boorowa in December. Three more men are at various stages of preparation.

As Archbishop Coleridge observed in a Catholic Voice column, deacons are not second-class priests; they have a distinct ministry of their own. "My own understanding - which is still evolving - is that the deacons are a team of storm-troopers attached directly to the bishop," he said. "They have a flexibility and mobility that a priest doesn't usually have. They can enter the social, cultural and professional world which the presbyter would find difficult to enter because of his tie to the local community."

Deacon Lim received Christ's "invitation to follow him to greener pastures" while meditating on a parish men's retreat in 1998. He was ordained in December 2002.

"In some way, deacons do appear like a storm of dust, stirring up and encouraging the faithful," he said. "After the dust has settled, they're off to another place. It fits well in my current posting as a deacon-chaplain.

## Our newest deacon ordained



Boorowa parishioner Patrick Whale late last year was ordained deacon at St Patrick's Church, Boorowa, by Archbishop Mark Coleridge. Deacon Whale was supported by fellow deacons and their families, 10 visiting priests, and family and friends including wife Fran, who manages the town's St Vincent de Paul shop. Deacon Whale studied for the past four years under the direction of Fr Warwick Tonkin and with the support of Boorowa

parish priest Fr Greg Beath.

The choir for the Mass was led by Bede Morrissey supported by St Joseph's Primary School Choir and the local M & D Society.

After Mass, supper was served by the Friends of St Joseph's and local parishioners to visiting family and guests.

ABOVE: Archbishop Coleridge lays his hands on Deacon Whale, watched by Deacon Joe Blackwell and Deacon Paul Rummery.

"The diaconate is another way of making the Church visible wherever we are. It is our response to God's calling and ministering in the world that will hopefully encourage other vocations, be it diaconate, religious life or priesthood. There is a time for God to build up and a time to dismantle."

For Deacon Barclay, it was in the late 1990s that he underwent "my second conversion experience. I fell deeply in love with the depth and beauty of the Catholic faith. I began to devour books on theology, scripture, apologetics, and Church history. This knowledge was life changing and it was as if my eyes were opened anew." He began formal studies in 2005.

Each of their paths as deacons has taken markedly different twists and turns. They have their heartaches and their rewards.

"In my pastoral work, I feel very privileged to be invited into some very intimate, special and sacred spaces," Deacon Lim said. "Whether it's walking with someone through their pain or final moments on Earth or celebrating a joyful event such as a wedding or baptism, there is a certain essence which feeds one's soul, that spells of hope and that life is certainly worth living.

"Working with the cadets especially at RMC, it's very inspiring to see a cadet grow and mature as a person in character and faith. This vocation is continuously full of surprises. It has led me to witness and do things I've never dreamt possible especially at my stage in life."

For Deacon Blackwell, pastoral visitation and sharing important times with people and families through events such as illness, baptisms, weddings and funerals, "especially the opportunity to bring the message of hope in troubled situations", has proved most satisfying. "Most challenging has been the ever increasing secular mind sets."

Deacon Blackwell said, following the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami, it was uplifting to be a part of the amazing network of faith that is the Catholic Church, locally, nationally and globally. "The prompt, life-enabling affect and capacity of the faithful to respond to enormous need with love and concern in prayer and generosity provided a real example of Christ's capacity to care, feed, clothe, shelter and bring hope to many no matter their location and situation."

Eighteen years after ordination, Deacon O'Donnell said he has "never been happier in my ministry. My greatest delight is to celebrate weddings - a witness to my married state, married to Cora for almost 45 years, with three married offspring and 10 grandchildren - preach at Gungahlin parish, celebrate baptism and simply remain prayerful to God's will.

"One of my great delights is to rise early in the morning and sit silently with the Lord for at least 30 minutes, to empty myself of any expectations for the day, to wait on the Lord's prompting and delight as the day unfolds, from a grieving family who have lost a loved one, to counselling a relationship situation, to preparing a couple for marriage, and responding to an emergency call from one of my Vietnam veteran or Federal Police mates, or simply being with Cora and my beautiful family."

For Deacon Rummery, a special part of his ministry is among the aged and infirm. "This has allowed me the privilege to share in what can only be described as a treasure trove of faith experiences.

"By this I mean that people carry within them a special need to communicate with someone representing a church ministry. Some of them can recall a particular religious encounter which has left them wondering about its meaning and which often prompts them to seek answers.

"Their questions are often inarticulate and the person seemingly ill at ease, but their questions and their need for the answers can be clearly seen as the working of the Holy Spirit. Some of the people will say that they have wondered about whether God should have a place in their life and have carried questions in their heads for years."

The more recently ordained Deacon Barclay said: "I have a strong desire to teach the faith, to evangelise, to demonstrate the depth and beauty of the faith through my life, to instill in others a love for scripture and the sacraments, and to teach others how to pray."



TOP: A 2002 photograph of permanent deacons and their wives (from left), John and Anne Lim, Roger and Cora O'Donnell, Joe and Wenda Blackwell and Paul and Jo Rummery.

ABOVE: Military chaplain Deacon John Lim.

MIDDLE LEFT: A worn-out Deacon Roger O'Donnell with the Australian Federal Police at Guadacanal on Anzac Day 2006.

How do wives fit into the ministry? Deacon Lim said: "Nothing would have happened if Anne was not in support of my being called. In fact it was Anne who strongly suggested I take up theological studies, realising the restlessness in my spirit some time back. She was involved right from the beginning and throughout the discerning process. So were the children. I refer Anne and the children as my 'live-in theologians'."

As for the future, Deacon O'Donnell said he reflected at a recent ordination of a deacon. "What has changed? Undoubtedly, there is a much greater accept-

ance of married deacons among the lay and clergy. There are many reasons for this, but married deacons are now quite visible in many parishes; we celebrate scores of wedding each year, we have faithfully served God and the church for many years now, and through this faithfulness to our role to serve with a diaconal heart, there is strong credibility of our ministry."

Deacon Lim sums up: "I think what is happening at present is a re-shaping of the diaconate as evidenced by the different areas of involvement in which we deacons are called to serve. Perhaps it is the Holy Spirit's creative response to a changing world."

ABOVE LEFT: On ordination day last year, Deacon Vince Barclay is vested by wife Caroline watched by daughter Grace and son Andrew. Deacon Joe Blackwell is in the background.





Budding film-makers Emma Paine and Nick Leaver.

## Film-maker duo focus on path to stardom

The media program at St Francis Xavier College has helped set two budding film-makers on the path to stardom.

Year 12 students Emma Paine and Nick Leaver last year racked up a host of awards in media competitions and this year they will both begin studying at the Australian Film Television and Radio School.

Their successes included wins at Lights! Canberra! Action!, Bond University Film and Television Awards, Tuggeranong Arts Centre Leonid, Robin Anderson Film Festival, and the Thies ACT School Recycling Advertisement competition. Both have also had many productions screened in festivals across the ACT and NSW.

Nick first started filmmaking in Year 9. He and a group of friends left a screening of Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles convinced they could have done a better job, so they got to work.

Emma is more interested in the story-telling side of things. She started out in journalism, writing a regular column for Catholic Voice, before branching out into media studies. For examples of Nick and Emma's films go to [www.youtube.com/user/BoilMyKettle#p/u](http://www.youtube.com/user/BoilMyKettle#p/u).

## Bulldozers are gone and school's in

After two years of disruption by cranes, bulldozers and construction workers, renovations at St Gregory's, Queanbeyan, are finished.

Primary students at the MacQuoid Street campus can now enjoy a new library resource centre, shade structure, four classrooms and an amphitheatre, which were officially opened and blessed late last year.

Principal Mrs Judy Walsh said former parish priest Fr Dermid McDermott and former principal Mr Tim Smith had been the driving force behind the project so she was pleased they could both attend the opening to see their dreams realised.

The Federal Government, through the NSW Catholic Block Grant Authority provided \$466,985 towards the \$1.5 million total cost. The balance was raised by the school and parish community.

St Patrick's Parish School Cooma also had cause to celebrate when the refurbished primary and infants campuses were officially opened by Federal Member for Eden-Monaro, Dr Mike Kelly.

St Patrick's, a kindergarten to Year 10 school, gained funds through the Federal Block Grant Authority to refurbish six classrooms and build two new classroom blocks to facilitate the relocation of the infants campus from its previous site at Cooma North, more than 2km away.

From planning to completion the project took more than five years and the whole school is now centrally located around St Patrick's Church.

Learning at St Bede's Primary, Braidwood, will be a lot more fun this year thanks to a host of refurbishments completed at the end of 2009.

The school now boasts a new library, which includes a teacher resource room. The hall was repainted with new lighting and heating. All classrooms have been repainted, with new lighting, cupboards and fans installed.

The landscaped grounds now include a new playground.

In addition to a host of former staff and students, family and friends, special guests on the day included the school's oldest ex-student Mr Pat Coffey, 89.



ABOVE: Archbishop Mark Coleridge blesses the additions at St Gregory's, Queanbeyan. LEFT: Jessie Lavis and Ellie Weaver try out the new slide at St Bede's, Braidwood.

BELOW: Students at St Patrick's Parish School, Cooma, take a run across the newly landscaped area on the kindergarten-to-Year-2 campus.



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## Lifetime of service honoured

A long-time member of the St Vincent de Paul Society has been recognised after his death for service to the poor and needy.

Mr John Kennedy received an apostolic blessing from the Pope days after his death. A family member said he was nominated for the blessing but was unaware of it as it was to be a surprise for him. He worked tirelessly for the St Vincent de Paul Society up until a couple of months before his



death after being diagnosed with an inoperable melanoma. The blessing was presented to his wife Gloria by Fr Kieran Adams OP from Central Canberra parish.

ABOVE: Mrs Gloria Kennedy holds the papal blessing flanked by her children Louise Kennedy, Kathryn O'Neil, John Kennedy and Libby Goodsell.

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The 2009 Year 6 students at St Bede's Primary School, Red Hill, late last year were trying to fit in as many activities as possible before they moved on to high school. When Catholic Voice visited, the children were all working on a class dance routine.

And during the breaks they found time for chess, watering the garden, helping out some kindy kids with an art project and having fun outdoors filming an entry for an ABC 3 advertising competition.

RIGHT: Students strut their stuff on the dance floor.



Beautiful drawings by Heather Coghlan (far left) Millie Scutt (middle) and Siena Montgomery. FAR LEFT: Nikhil Mathai and Laura Rainey watering. LEFT: Laura McMurray (right) helps kindergarten students with their poster (from left): Thomas Newham, Laura Cusack, Flynn McFadden and Tahlia Giugi.

BELOW: Students shoot a scene for an ABC 3 advertising competition.



Ebony Ferraro, Thomas Vane-Tempest, Isabelle Cooney and Kate Botterell give their brains a work out.



# Lessons from the monastic cell

Monks have secrets worth knowing. Here's some advice from the Desert Fathers: Go to your cell and your cell will teach you everything you need to know. Here's another counsel from Thomas a Kempis' famous book, *The Imitation of Christ*: Every time you leave your cell you come back less a person.

On the surface these counsels are directed at monks and cell refers to the private room of a monk, with its small single cot, its single chair, its writing desk, its small basin or sink, and its kneeler.

The counsels suggest that there is a lot to be learned by staying inside that space and there are real dangers in stepping outside of it. What can this possibly say to someone who is not a monk or contemplative nun?

These counsels were written for monks but the deep principles underlying them can be extrapolated to shed wisdom on everyone's life. What's the deep wisdom contained in these counsels?

They are not saying, as has sometimes been taught, that a monastic vocation is superior to a lay vocation. Nor are they saying

that, if someone is a monk or a professional contemplative, social interaction outside of one's cell is unhealthy.

Cell, as referred to here, is a metaphor, an image, a place inside of life, rather than someone's private bedroom. Cell refers to duty, vocation, and commitment.

In essence, this is what's being said:

Go to your cell and your cell will teach you everything you need to know: Stay inside of your vocation, inside of your commitments, inside of your legitimate conscriptive duties, inside of your church, inside of your family, and they will teach you where life is found and what love means. Be faithful to your commitments and what you are ultimately looking for will be found there.

Every time you leave your cell you come back less a person: This is telling us that every time we step outside of our commitments, every time we are unfaithful, every time we walk away from what we should legitimately be doing, we come back less a person for that betrayal.

## 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)



There's a rich spirituality in these principles: Stay inside your commitments, be faithful, your place of work is a seminary, your work is a sacrament, your family is a monastery, your home is a sanctuary, stay inside of them, don't betray them, learn what they are teaching you without constantly looking for life elsewhere and without constantly believing that God is elsewhere.

Carlo Carretto, the renowned Italian spiritual writer, shares a story to illustrate this: After he had been a monk for more than a quarter of a century and had spent thousands of hours alone in the desert praying, he went to visit his elderly mother.

She was a woman who had been so consumed with the duties of raising a large family that for long periods of time, paralleling his years of solitude in the desert, she had been too busy to have any quiet time in her life. He had spent long years in quiet. She has spent long years in activity.

Yet, by his admission, she was perhaps more contemplative than he was. Moreover, he suspected that she was more selfless than he and that she possessed a depth of soul that he could, at that stage of his life, only envy.

But the conclusion he drew from that realisation was not that there was something wrong with what he had done during those long, monastic years in the desert. Rather there was something very right about what his mother had done in giving herself over so selflessly to her duties as a wife and mother.

He had gone to his cell and it had taught him what he needed to know. She had gone to her cell and it had taught her what she needed to know.

His was a monk's cell in the technical sense. Hers was a monastic cell in the wider sense.

Both lived monastic lives and both monasteries taught them what they needed to learn.

As well, every small betrayal of his monastic vocation had left him less himself, just as, for his mother, every small betrayal of her duties as wife and mother had left her less herself.

What we have committed ourselves to constitutes a monastic cell. When we are faithful to that, namely, to the duties that come to us from our personal relationships and our place of work, we learn life's lessons by osmosis.

Conversely, whenever we betray our commitments as they pertain to our relationships or to our work we become less than what we are.

We are all monks and it matters not whether we are in a monastery or are in the world as spouses, parents, friends, ministers in the church, teachers, doctors, nurses, laborers, artisans, social workers, bankers, economic advisors, salespersons, politicians, lawyers, mental health workers, contractors, or retirees. Each of us has our cell and that cell can teach us what we need to know.

## Cursillo reaches out to young

Young people will gather on the June long weekend at Bringelly for a national Cursillo event designed to give younger Catholics an outlet to share their faith journey and make friends.

Donna Bush and Donna Evans are Canberra Goulburn representatives on the organising committee of the Cursillo National Encounter for Young People on 12-14 June. They want to hear from people, especially those in their 20s and 30, who would like to be involved. Those who have not yet experienced a Cursillo retreat would be welcome.

The agenda can be summarised in the words of Clare Langworthy, 29, who expresses a desire to "meet and share the faith journey with like-minded people of her own age".

The weekend at St Joseph's Retreat Centre Bringelly, near Campbelltown, will take the form of talks, workshops, free time and entertainment, mixed with the opportunity of personal sharing.

Inquiries: Donna Bush, telephone 6231 1821 or Donna Evans 6299 8552 or e-mail [gdbush@tpg.com.au](mailto:gdbush@tpg.com.au).

## Lent: time for a spiritual stocktake

By Margaret Ryan

Were you baptised as a baby? Most Catholics were, and in a sense we had it easy, though we missed out on an adventure!

Today, adults in the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) process take from six to 24 months (there's no hurry) to come to know and love Jesus and experience the local Catholic community before baptism, which usually occurs at the Easter Vigil.

For centuries in the early Church, baptism (the word means overwhelmed with water) was, and again more recently has been, a major focus of Lent. By the third century of the Christian era, the Church had developed procedures and rituals to initiate people, nearly always adults, into the Christian community and so, into the Body of Christ.

These seekers, called catechumens (hearers of the Word), attended the first part of the Mass for three years and received instruction from the bishop, along with the whole community.

After this formation, if their sponsors testified to their conversion of life, they became "the elect", were allowed to attend Mass up to the gospel and were regularly prayed over during Lent, in intense preparation for baptism.

On Holy Thursday, they bathed, and on Good Friday, fasted. They spent Holy Saturday with the bishop, who prayed with and taught them.



As Sunday dawn approached, "the elect" turned westwards and renounced Satan, then faced east and professed faith in God. They removed their clothing, acknowledged their belief in the Trinity, and were fully immersed three times in water. The newly baptised were then anointed all over with the perfumed oil of chrism ("confirmed"). After they dressed in white garments, they joined the gathered community, prayed the whole Mass for the first time, and received Communion.

In the early years of the Church, and in various periods since, seeking baptism entailed considerable social and economic risks and penalties. Baptism was a life marker, definitely a big deal.

During Lent, as we support the RCIA candidates in our parish, we are invited to consider our own baptism. What is its value? Its implications? How faithful am I to my baptismal calling and commitment, to live with Christ's attitudes and values? What do I need to do, with God's help, to change?

Fortunately, Lent is a graced time of review, an opportunity to conduct a spiritual stocktake, and to throw oneself on the mercy of our loving God.

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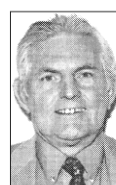
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### How long have you been at Samaritan House and how did you first get involved?

I've been a case manager at Samaritan House for just over 11 months. Before I took on this role I spent 25 years as the leader of the Disciples of Jesus Covenant Community. Leadership changes meant I needed to find new work and almost immediately this position with St Vincent de Paul, who I have had a long standing respect for, came up.

### What does being a case manager entail?

I maintain the day-to-day running of the house, which is home to 12 men at a time. I also work closely with those men to help them look at the underlying issues that led them to homelessness and work out how they can overcome them.

### What do you enjoy most about your work?

Most of all I enjoy opening the front door to someone who has called up asking for help. To see them begin a new chapter in their life is pretty rewarding.

### What impresses you most about the people who come to stay at Samaritan House?

I think there's a lot of goodness in men in this country and you really see that in the people here. They have come from difficult circumstances but you soon realise they have a great sense of humour, are fun loving and all have really strong values.

## 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 John Kennedy, case manager at Samaritan House, a Canberra men's shelter operated by the St Vincent de Paul Society.**



## what I do

### When you're not working at Samaritan House, how do you spend your time?

I'm a married man with six children and 15 grandchildren so family is very important. I am still a member of the Disciples of Jesus through which I do aid work in Papua New Guinea and Indonesia. And I love the Canberra Raiders with a passion.

### What is the most challenging part of your work?

Taking a house of individuals who are disconnected and helping them move into a cohesive, harmonious group of people is a huge challenge that we are faced with all the time.

### How have things changed since you started at Samaritan House?

When I took on this role, our current boss had just returned from a leave of absence and he was very keen to see things function more smoothly around here. Eleven months on, things are definitely functioning better and we're a much more cohesive team.

### What legislation or social values would you like to see change to help those at Samaritan House?

I want to see an end to anything that leads to apathy or complacency about homelessness in our city. And I think both individuals and government bodies need to work to change the cynicism among the homeless. I don't want to see our country lose sight of the plight of the poor. People should remember Jesus' words, "whatever you do to the least of my brothers, that you do unto me".



St Mary's Crookwell parish priest Fr Peter Murphy (second from right) with his three brothers Les, Leo and Brian Murphy.

## Crookwell honours its long-time pastor

St Mary's parish, Crookwell, held a Year for Priests celebration with a Mass and lunch in honour of parish priest Fr Peter Murphy. He was ordained in Boorowa in 1966 and has served St Mary's since 1985. The prayer group and parish council decided to hold a day in his honour.

Fr Wally Fingleton, well known to St Mary's parishioners, concelebrated Mass with Fr Murphy. Prayers were offered for all past priests of St Mary's parish.

Fr Murphy's sermon was devoted to the priesthood. This was followed by lunch, served by the Catholic Women's League, complete with speeches and a celebratory cake.

Members of Fr Murphy's family were present, including his three brothers Brian, Leo and Les with their wives Lyn, Deanne and Yvonne. Winn Ryan, who worked with Fr Murphy at Boorowa post office before he entered the seminary in 1959, was also present.

St Mary's School principal Ms Shelley O'Brien presented Fr Murphy with a folder of letters and tributes from school children. Two books were opened so parishioners could record their thoughts on the blessing of the priesthood and the parish priest.

They will be presented to Fr Murphy and Fr Fingleton this month, which marks Fr Murphy's 25th year at St Mary's and Fr Fingleton's 95th birthday.

## We salute our priests ...

I was born at Cootamundra and am the sixth son of rural parents whose farming property was between Wallendbeen and Stockinbingal. I started school at Cootamundra and completed it as a mature age student at Trinity College, Wagga Wagga.

### Where and when were you ordained?

At Temora on 15 November 1985; so I am entering my jubilee year this November.

### Where have you served since ordination?

At St Mary's Young, Canberra Hospital chaplaincy, 17 years in the Royal Australian Navy as a chaplain and am in my sixth year as parish priest of Young.

### What attracted you to the priesthood, and was there a particular influence on your life which led to your decision to heed God's call?

I was a "johnny-come-lately" to the Catholic Church so my progression to priesthood was not bred into me from my family. As an adult I was baptised and took my baptismal promises seriously so that following that initial call, priesthood was the logical eventual step. I was greatly influenced by Catholic communities and individual members who also took their baptismal promises seriously.

### Is the priesthood what you thought it would be?

I had no prior expectation of what the priesthood would be like. I did not have a Catholic upbringing so my exposure to priests in the field was limited. I initially made enquiries with the Franciscans and still harbor a strong soft spot for the spirituality of St Francis. My view of priesthood was always about a deeply personal relationship with God that would eventu-

As part of the Year for Priests, Catholic Voice and the Archdiocesan website will profile some of the priests of the Archdiocese.

The first is Young parish priest Fr Richard Thompson. The website may be found at [www.cg.catholic.org.au](http://www.cg.catholic.org.au)

ally flow over and into His people. Mine has always been an instrument model of priesthood.

### What have been the highlights of your ministry?

Definitely centered on my years with the RAN. I traveled the world and experienced the universality of the Catholic Church in many environments. I do not feel restricted by the local Church, but am enthused by the energy and the vast mission of the Church. There is still much to do locally which is as significant as the needs of the wider Church.

### What would you say to young people concerning a religious vocation?

To young people and indeed any people considering a religious vocation in the Catholic Church I would say be true to yourself and your relationship with God. Honour that relationship by understanding and respecting the Church's responsibility to lead all people to acknowledge our God as Father of all, and we his sons and daughters. In that way, there will be no orphans in the Family of God.



### What is the major thing you have learned since leaving the seminary?

I have learnt not to let study interfere with my education. There is much to know and learn, most of which is yet to be written, yet to be read and yet to be implemented.

### What changes have you observed in the Church since becoming a priest?

The biggest change I have noticed is the lack of respect that the Church and her priests and religious now command in society. I suspect this is as a result to a huge extent of the abuse and criminal activity suffered by so many of the faithful at the hands of those in Church leadership in recent decades. The effect of this abuse has damaged and pained every aspect of the Church and her sacred mission.

### Has there been a particular major inspiration for you in your pastoral work and what are your personal hopes?

Because I have been inspired by a priest who, even in his own weaknesses, has come closer to God and selflessly presented the just and merciful face of Christ to so many in need, I have positive hopes for the future. I have witnessed Christ at work in the pain and suffering of ordinary people. I have seen the grace of God work through the weaknesses of those who are called to serve in the Church. I simply hope that someone could say the same of me when I enter eternity.

When I was ordained I said on my ordination card: "Ordained for the service of God's people". Today, I would not change the wording at all.

### FACTS ON FUNERALS

## What should I wear to a funeral?

Etiquette has changed much this century in all facets of life, but none more so than in the conventions of mourning.

As late as the 1920's, etiquette for mourning precisely dictated what a person should wear according to their relationship to the deceased. For example, young widows were required to wear deep black crepe for a year, followed by a six month period of lighter mourning (usually still black but not necessarily crepe) and then second mourning (with colours such as lavender, purple or magenta being acceptable) until the second anniversary of the death. In those days, mourning clothes bore no relationship to the feelings of grief one did or did not have. It was a sign of respect for the deceased, and indicated to the community that a person was bereaved.

Since then, the social attitudes on clothing worn to a funeral have changed significantly. With the exception of some immigrant groups, there are no longer any "hard and fast" rules about the appropriate colour or style of mourning clothes, nor the length of time these should be worn.

As funerals are still events of significance, people will tend to wear their "best" clothes (even if this amounts to an open necked shirt and jeans).

Despite the many changes in etiquette over the years, one thing remains unchanged – the support you show to a bereaved family by attending the funeral. It goes without saying that your presence is much more important than what you wear.

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## SHORTS

**Invictus.** Starring Morgan Freeman, Matt Damon, Leleti Khumalo, and Scott Eastwood. Directed by Clint Eastwood. 133 mins. PG (infrequent coarse language).

Clint Eastwood brings a sure touch to deliver a true story with great emotional impact. He effectively mixes culture with history, and deep emotional drama.

**The Road.** Starring Viggo Mortensen, Kodi Smit-McPhee, Charlize Theron and Robert Duvall. Directed by John Hillcoat. 112 mins. MA 15+ (strong themes and violence).

A beautifully made film which offers so much to reflect on. It is a pity that it won't appeal to a wide audience who may not be attracted by its post-apocalyptic scenario, by its grim quest as a surviving father and son make for the coast.



**In the Loop.** Starring Peter Capaldi, Tom Hollander, James Gandolfini, David Rasche and Anna Chlumsky. Directed by Armando Iannucci. 106 mins. MA 15+ (strong coarse language).

Even if you are not into political satire, you might well enjoy this fast-paced look at spin, international pressures, civil service activities and inactivities, gossip and rivalries, official bullying and badgering of ministers and their staffs and deals, double deals and deceptions between the Americans and the British.

**Law Abiding Citizen.** Starring Gerard Butler, Jamie Foxx, Bruce McGill, Colm Meaney and Viola Davis. Directed by F. Gary Gray. 108 mins. Rated MA 15+ (strong violence and coarse language).

Disturbing is probably the word to describe the effect of Law Abiding Citizen. It is also unbelievable (though in these days of terrorist attacks and the availability of destructive technology to wreak havoc has to be kept in mind). Another word to describe some murder sequences is horrible.

# Success but at what cost?

**Up in the the Air**  
Starring George Clooney, Vera Farmiga, Anna Kendrick, and Melanie Lynskey. Directed by Jason Reitman. 109 mins. M (Coarse language, sexual references and brief nudity). Reviewer: Tony Kevin\*.

Up in The Air is a subtly crafted black comedy-drama-romance about the insecurity and rootlessness at the core of modern American (and by extension, Australian) corporate life. It is probably the most disturbing film I have seen for some time.

George Clooney plays Ryan Bingham, an employment termination consultant, who has built a highly successful career out of informing people who have lost their jobs, and helping them embark on the first painful steps of their personal transitions through denial, anger and grief, to final acceptance.

Ryan's company's business is booming and he is busier than ever, on an increasingly frenetic schedule of flying visits to American cities, to give workers the bad news of retrenchments that their managements lack the courage to pass on themselves. He is about to rack up his cherished ambition - seemingly his only real goal in life - of becoming American Airlines' seventh 10 million mile frequent flyer.

Ryan is both a predator and a healer of sorts. He wields the executioner's axe with a ruthless compassion, recognising that being prematurely let go from one's career employment is one of the most disruptive passages in modern life, and that people forced to experience this transition deserve to be treated with some dignity. At least, he believes, they deserve to be given the bad news face-to-face.

Ryan has learned to cope with the emotional stresses of his job by developing a working philosophy of absolute minimalism. He has ruthlessly pared away almost all his possessions and relationships, to become a perfectly disciplined, almost disembodied human machine, whose home is literally up in the air, where he spends most of his life.

He has constructed his life around the belief that we all carry messy "backpacks" of possessions, relationships and memo-



George Clooney and fellow frequent business traveller Vera Farmiga.

ries. He "lives" in an efficiency apartment in an American city that looks like every other American city, but he spends over 300 days a year on the road. He is comfortable everywhere but at home nowhere.

The perfectly trained air traveller, Ryan has developed techniques for managing with minimum stress and total cool the tedious business of flying.

A casual pick-up in an airport hotel bar of a female counterpart frequent business traveller (Alex, played by Vera Farmiga) quickly settles into a satisfying adult no-strings, no-questions-asked affair.

But Ryan's hard-won equilibrium is being threatened by two developments. His boss, overwhelmed with work but hungry to grow the business as the US recession gathers pace, adopts a clever young management school graduate's plan (Natalie, played by Anna Kendrick) to convert the business to a standardised teleconferencing model, meaning efficiencies and savings, but no more travel for Ryan.

Natalie goes out on the road with Ryan for one last trip, to experience the business at its sharp end, so that she can perfect her model. This offers the most searingly funny moments in the film, as we watch her clumsy efforts to emulate Ryan's silky-smooth management of termination interviews, and her growing understanding of what his lifestyle is costing him.

Ryan is also being unwillingly pulled back by his elder sister into the messy business of real family life. He is obliged to

return home to Nebraska for his kid sister's upcoming wedding.

The young couple can't afford a honeymoon: instead, they have asked their friends to help them compile a souvenir album using a life-sized cardboard cut-out of them, photographed in front of all the places they would like to have visited. Ryan is expected to furnish much of the album, and it upsets his sense of self.

Up in the Air offers haunting metaphors at many levels for modern urban corporate life. It portrays the aimlessness and enervating effect of too much travel: in the end, everywhere in America looks pretty much the same from the air.

The shallowness of Ryan's protective philosophy of cool minimalism is exposed when he returns to the town where he grew up for his sister's wedding.

There is much food for thought in this film, though I found its ending unsatisfying. There is a catharsis of sorts - which I won't reveal here - but we are left literally up in air. The film presents in a brilliant mock-documentary style - the termination interviews in particular being achingly authentic (no accident, because many of the interviewees here were actually real people whose jobs had recently been terminated). It is a film made for George Clooney. Well worth seeing.

\* Tony Kevin's latest book is *Crunch Time: Using and Abusing Keynes to Fight the Twin Crises of our Era* (Scribe, September 2009).

## Here's a local product to be proud of

Bran Nue Dae has been a long time coming. What began life as songs written by Aboriginal musicians about growing up black in white

Australia during the 1960s, morphed later into a popular stage musical that toured Australia in the 1990s, delighting audiences with its boisterous energy and humour.

Now Bran Nue Dae has been adapted for the screen by director Rachel Perkins (Radiance, One Night the Moon), Reg Cribb, Johnny Chi and other original members of the band Kuckles, whose early experiences in Broome inspired the songs.

Those who missed the stage show will be surprised and delighted at the deft way Bran Nue Dae mixes political irony and satire with a love story and zany optimism.

It is set in Broome in 1969, where young Willy (Rocky McKenzie), who attends a Catholic mission school in Perth, is back home briefly, doing his best to fit in and enjoy life with his friends and other members of his generally care-free community.

Willy is in love with Rosie (Jessica Mauboy), with whom

**Bran Nue Dae**  
Starring Rocky McKenzie, Jessica Mauboy, Geoffrey Rush, Ernie Dingo, Missy Higgins, Tom Budge, Dan Sultan, Magda Szubanski, Deborah Mailman, Ningali Lawford-Wolf. Directed by Rachel Perkins. 85 mins. PG (medium level coarse language). Reviewer: Jan Epstein\*.

he grew up, but Rosie has caught the eye of the local Lothario Lester (Dan Sultan), who by his good looks and standing in the community which gathers at the Roebuck Bay Hotel, has turned Rosie's head.

To complicate Willy's sense of abandonment by Rosie, his mother Theresa (Ningali Lawford-Wolf) wants him to become a priest, and sends him back to the mission school. He is singled out by school principal Fr Benedictus (Geoffrey Rush), as the Aborigine most likely to succeed. After raiding

the tuck-shop with others at night, Willy avoids punishment by running away. From here on it becomes (mostly) a rollicking fast-paced, at times slapstick musical comedy, more in the mould of Chaplin and the Keystone Cops than conventional road movies.

Yet despite the surface jollity of Aboriginal music Broome-style, ironically defiant lyrics are embedded in the vibrancy of the music that relate starkly to the demeaning treatment endured by most Aborigines during 200-odd years of white settlement.

In several ways, Bran Nue Dae stands at the opposite end of the spectrum to Samson and Delilah. But seen as twin portraits of where Aboriginal cinema is heading and where it has come from, it is a film to be proud of and to enjoy.

\* Jan Epstein is an associate of the Australian Catholic Office for Film & Broadcasting.

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The Appeal is providing much needed free counselling services to all that seek them in the Black Saturday bushfire districts.



For more information go to [www.cam.org.au/recovery-newsletter](http://www.cam.org.au/recovery-newsletter)



# Few saints but many heroes

**Planting the Celtic Cross. Foundations of the Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn. By Fr Brian Maher. Published by the author. 380pp. rrp \$49.95. Available Catholic Bookshop Braddon. Reviewer: Frank O'Shea.**

The history of Catholicism in Australia through much of the 19th century is closely tied to the history of the Irish community, and nowhere was this more evident than in southern NSW.

Starting from Campbelltown, the Irish settled along a corridor 200km wide stretching to Albury and beyond. Much of that region is today the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn.

Fr Brian Maher, a prolific writer and speaker on local history, has re-released his fascinating account of some of the early pioneer priests and Catholic settler families.

It is not a comprehensive academic history and indeed he is as interested in the humanity and prickly eccentricities of the early priests as in their successes as builders and clerical organisers.

Goulburn, Queanbeyan and Yass were the main centres of early Catholic mission. St Augustine's church at Yass is one of the two or three oldest Catholic chapels in Australia.

Gaps in the records make it difficult to say when exactly Mass was first celebrated there, although Fr Maher says it would have been in 1842 at the latest.

When in the 1860s it was decided to establish a diocese for Southern NSW, Goulburn was selected as the seat, although Yass's more central location and seniority as an established mission, made a strong case for locating there.

The Irish-Benedictine conflict was at its most intense at the time and was reflected in the attempts to appoint a bishop.

The final choice fell on Fr William Lanigan, then the pastor at Berrima. He was enthusiastically supported by Archbishop Polding and because he came from Tipperary, was acceptable to the Irish faction.

As it happened, Polding was overseas at the time of Lanigan's consecration and the ceremony was carried out by the episcopal Quinn brothers of Bathurst and Brisbane, and their cousin Murray of Maitland, as public an expression of Irish victory over Benedictinism as one would wish.

Not that Lanigan was to be envied. His diocese had 16,000 Catholics spread over 42,000 square miles - an area one-third larger than Ireland - for

which he had a mere six priests and some of them were erratic and undependable.

It is in the nature of remote and isolated territories such as those in 19th-century NSW that they attract loners and misfits, be they clerical or lay. Some of the early priests of the Goulburn diocese gravely tried the patience and administrative ability of the new bishop.

There were disputes about priestly dues and complaints about drinking; some priests were in serious debt; there were whispers of liaisons with housekeepers and accusations of political involvement.

It is little wonder that Lanigan had the reputation of being a dour churchman, "...a man who had no jollity in his makeup and could not appreciate it in others," in the words of Patrick Hartigan ("John O'Brien").

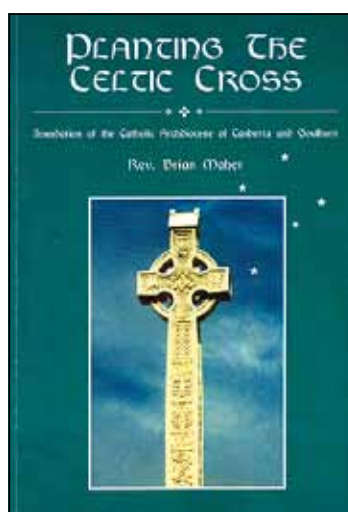
In time, there was the inevitable reaction to the Irish dominance. The Manly Union, an association of priests dedicated to encouraging the emergence of a native Australian clergy, was set up in 1918. Its chief exponents were Terence McGuire and Hartigan. McGuire would later become the first Archbishop of the new Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn in 1948.

Fr Maher has packed a massive amount of information and scholarship into this book. He admits that he has not sought to "give a comprehensive record of church developments within the city of Canberra," although he does a treat of the life of Mgr Haydon.

The work will be eagerly read not just by those interested in Catholic or Irish influences in early NSW but by anyone curious about early European settlement and in particular anyone whose ancestors came to these parts.

Above all, it is a contribution to the body of learning that regards history, not just as the study of wars, political movements and economic trends, but as the story of ordinary people.

Fr Maher presents us with few saints, but with many men and women whose lives were raised to minor epics by the environment and times in which they lived.



# Looking at Lent

## DVDs

Lent (18 mins, ages 7-12).

Written and presented by Gaynell Cronin, this program explores customs, traditions, prayers and ways Lent is kept. It invites viewers to deepen their understanding of Lent, as a time to turn to God.

Project Compassion Story. (8 mins primary, 13 mins secondary, ages 8-adult).

Produced by Caritas Australia, it features the efforts of Caritas to provide assistance to people in developing countries. The program uses an example of support provided to a Cambodian village to help the people become self-reliant.

## VHS VIDEOS

Gospels for Lent Cycle C (10-15 mins each, ages 10-adult)

A series of six videos that present the Gospel stories used during Lent. Titles of the six videos are 1) The Transfiguration; 2) The Temptation; 3) The Trial; 4) The Prodigal; 5) The Adulteress; 6) The Fig Tree.

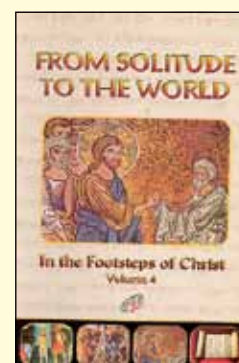
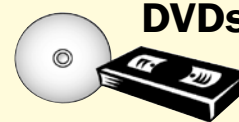
Becoming Catholic: An Adult's Faith Journey. (Catholic Update series, 33 mins, ages 16-adult).

Explores the Catholic Church's Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, (RCIA), by reflecting on the personal faith experiences of individuals. Contains four segments: 1. Story; 2. Witness; 3. Teaching; and 4. Music video reflection.

This is the Night : A Parish Welcomes New Catholics (Adults)

Follows the faith journey of a group of catechumens from celebration of the third scrutiny during Lent to their reception as members of the Catholic Church at the Easter vigil. Candidates and members of

## Videos & DVDs



the parish community describe their experiences of Christian initiation and the spirit of celebration and welcome that is present in the parish.

From Solitude to the World. (30 mins, ages 14-adults).

Emphasises the beginning of the public life of Jesus, the temptation in the desert and his miracles. Modern scenes from the Holy Land are accompanied by narration of the story of Jesus and religious paintings that emphasise the physical

environment and historical context in which Jesus lived. The sections of the video in the desert and the temptation of Jesus provide possibilities for reflection during Lent.

## SOUND RECORDINGS

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

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

The CEO Library is open to the public. It is in the Rheinberger Centre, the corner of Weston & Loch Streets, Yarralumla, on the site of St Peter Chanel's Church. The library holds a good collection of books, DVDs, VHS videos, and music CDs suitable for all ages. Resources may be borrowed for a small annual fee. Telephone 6163 4350, fax 6163 4351, e-mail library@cg.catholic.edu.au Open weekdays 9am-5pm.

- Dennis Granlund (librarian)

# Exploring the Lenten journey

**Exploring the Void by N. and J. Carver. London: Darton, Longman and Todd, 2008. pb 96pp. rrp 15.95. Reviewer: Margaret Ryan.**

## WODEN CHRISTIAN BOOKSHOP

With 2010 now well underway, the summer at (potentially) its hottest and Lent almost upon us, maybe you're thinking of setting aside some time for serious reflection. For books for study or meditation, music, posters or other devotional aids, check out what we have in stock (or feel free to phone or email). But we also have plenty on the lighter side, too, as well as gifts and children's books!

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Would you like to explore the Lenten journey based on a DVD and discussion, as well as the scriptures? Exploring the Void does just this, and is a worthwhile five-session program, suitable for all ages, perhaps particularly for younger people and/or those new to Christianity.

The readings are appropriate to the film selections and Lenten theme, and are independent of the weekly readings in the Catholic lectionary.

Touching the Void is an award winning British film (2004) based on the book written by two young mountaineers who set out to climb Siula Grande in Peru and their subsequent fight for survival after disaster strikes.

In the film, the two men comment on the story as it unfolds, and recall their thoughts and feelings at the time. Connection is made between their travels and the Christian journey of life, and particularly that through Lent.

The sessions (each of which has the sections On the Ascent and On the Descent) include specific extracts from the DVD, Scripture readings, personal reflection and discussion, and a closing prayer time.

The chapter titles give a clue to the scope of the book: Travelling Companions, Plateaux and Summits, Breaking Free, Decision Making and Out of the Void. Notes are provided for leading group sessions.

The book is simply written, and provides material for a personal spiritual stocktaking. It is pocket-sized for convenient perusal.

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Journeying with Jesus: A Companion's Guide (Dennis McBride) \$39.95

Fear Not!: Preaching in the Year of Luke (Bill East) \$24.95

Woman You are Free: A Spirituality for Women in Luke (Susan Yanos) \$14.95

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**DALMENY** - 3-bedroom house, walk to beach, fully equipped, TV, DVD, BBQ, bush setting, carport, Telephone 6248 5236.

**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.

**PRAYER** to Our Lady of Mt Carmel. Most beautiful Flower of Mt Carmel, fruitful vine, Splendour 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) L C.

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Advertisers please note that it is a policy of Catholic Voice that advertisements for prayers do not carry phrases such as "your request will be granted" or "prayer must be published", or "publication must be promised". - The Editor.



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Photographs sent electronically should be in the form of a jpg file and should be of no less than 350Kb in size.

The deadline for material is the 15th of each month.

Catholic Voice is published on the first weekend of the month.

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# Comina Events



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

**CHARISMATIC RENEWAL ADDRESS** - by Michelle Moran, chairperson of International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services, 7pm, 17 March, St Benedict's Church, Narrabundah. Followed by tea and coffee. Inquiries: St Benedict's Parish, telephone 6295 7879.

**CURSILLO** - Lay directors' day 10am, 13 February, at Page parish meeting room. All cursillistas interested in preparations for this year's Cursillos welcome. Southside Ultreya, 7.30pm, 24 February at Kambah. Northside Ultreya, 25 February at Page. Inquiries: Merran, telephone 6258 3431.

**FERTILITY CARE TRAINING** - 13-month program at Campion College, Sydney. Inquiries: Dr Ver

onica O Connell, telephone 9637 7999, e-mail: fertilitycare@chertsey.com.au

**LENTEN RETREAT** - St Benedict's Narrabundah, 9.30am-3pm, 25 February. Inquiries: St Benedict's Parish, telephone 6295 7879.

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

**ST PATRICK'S DAY** - Annual ecumenical service, noon, Wednesday, 17 March, at Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, Blackall Street, Barton. Bishop Pat Power in attendance. Inquiries: Angela Devlin, telephone 62319104, e-mail: angela1@homemail.com.au

**ST VALENTINE'S EVE** - Celebration for married and engaged couples at St Thomas the Apostle, Kambah, 6pm, Saturday, 13 February. Mass includes renewal of marriage vows and blessing of engaged couples. Dinner after Mass at Southern Cross Club, Tuggeranong. RSVP for dinner, Tracey, telephone 62319219 or Trish 62318468 (ah).

**TAIZÉ RETREAT** - Led by Trish Watts and David Harman, weekend 26-28 February at Caloola Farm, Top Naas Rd, Tharwa. Cost \$120 for full registration (Fri night to Sun lunch), \$70 for live-out, and \$50 for Saturday only. Ecumenical event, all welcome. Registration and more information: Russell Clarke, telephone 0427 110 745.

**WOMEN'S BREAKFAST** - "Call to Connect", 8am-10am, Saturday, 20 March. Inquiries: Bronnie.schlager@gmail.com.

**WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER** - Weekend for married couples, 19-21 March. Edmund Rice Retreat Centre, Mulgoa (near Penrith). Bookings: Telephone 6379 1125 or 4283 3435, website www.wvme.org.au

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

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## Indigenous community celebrates

The ACT Aboriginal Catholic Ministry celebrated the end of 2009 with a community twilight barbeque at St Benedict's, Narrabundah.

More than 50 people attended from St Benedict's Parish, the community, indigenous and non-indigenous friends.

Indigenous artist Johnny Huckle entertained the group with songs such as "Spirit Man" and "Wombat Shuffle". The children in particular danced to his songs in between face painting and balloon making.

Among those who attended was a group of Tiwi elders and friends from Bathurst Island.

The group, Ngarukuruwala - we sing songs, performed earlier in the day at the National Film and Sound Archives and had spent some time at the National Australian Museum. Adding to the sense of community, the Tiwi elders gave an impromptu performance.

Last year, there were two other important events for the ministry, an indigenous Mass held at St Benedict's following a traditional smoking ceremony, and attendance by seven members at the national NATSICC assembly in Brisbane. More than 250 people attended including bishops, priests, deacons and religious from around Australia.

The ACT Aboriginal Catholic Ministry has a renewed action plan in place for this year to help the ministry to develop. It looks forward to growing together with the indigenous community and non-indigenous friends.



NATSICC assembly delegates from the ACT (from left): Kerrie Hogan, Bronnie Schlager, Ngunnawal elder Aunty Agnes Shea, Kerry Bridges, Annette Shea and Wayne Thompson.

### Mass for Filipinos

Filipinos in the South Coast area gathered at Mary, Star of the Sea Church, Narooma for the annual Mass for their families and friends. Mass was celebrated by Narooma parish priest Fr Michael Mullen, assisted by Fr Daniel Eshete. Parishioners from Batemans Bay to Eden as well as some families from Goulburn and Canberra came for the celebration. BELOW: Among those at the celebration were (from left): Neri Wilkinson, Mina Ind, Sr Angelita MACE, Eva Barling, Elena Pope, Anita Stiggins and Analisa Johanessen.



ABOVE: Binalong children Will Goode, Breanna Dyball, Natasha Goode and Francesca Knight received the Sacrament of Reconciliation from Fr Greg Beath at St Patrick's Church, Binalong.

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2009 proved a savage year for missionaries with 37 being killed globally; almost double 2008 and the worst that decade. They were serving pastorally as priests (30), religious sisters (2), seminarians (2) and lay volunteers (3).

Their very deaths express starkly the need for Jesus' transforming message, where forgiveness, peace, love and life prevail and flourish. Their message and work! No doubt others will continue their endeavours and still more will need training and support in the ever expanding mission of Christ to the world.

Bishops, priests and religious express the difficulties and need for help so that their faith communities can thrive, inspired by well trained leaders of faith and devotion.

Are you able to help? The provision of essential funds for the education and formation of students for the priesthood, religious life and as catechists within missionary dioceses needs our help. Catholic Mission is conducting our annual St Peter Apostle Appeal for this. The need is great and their means limited. Help us help them that others can encounter Christ's love through them.

Your generous gift and prayers do make a difference. Contact us to support this appeal or to discuss, individually or as a group, other ways.

God bless,  
**Deacon Joe Blackwell**

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# Towards a better world

Caritas Australia's Project Compassion - the largest fundraising event for aid and development in the nation - gives Australians a chance to support the poorest communities realise a better future.

With the theme "Blueprint for a better world", this year's Project Compassion focuses on The Millennium Development Goals, an eight-step global action plan for halving world poverty by 2015.

Money raised will support Caritas Australia's work with local partners, who are improving their own lives by addressing issues such as health, education, gender equality, water and sustainable agriculture, priorities which are set out in the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

Since 2008 Caritas Australia has supported Jalaris Aboriginal Corporation to run the Kids Future Club in Derby, a small coastal town 200km north of Broome.

Many of Derby's indigenous families have low literacy levels and limited job opportunities, and are affected by poor health and housing - some of the complex issues underlying truancy and poor school performance among the area's children.

The Caritas-supported program takes a holistic approach to increasing school attendance and raising academic performance for truanting children.

This includes running an afternoon Kids Club where Aboriginal children and their parents can become familiar with structured education, health and nutrition in a culturally relevant way.

The Kids Club sees the wellbeing of children as embedded in that of their parents and extended family.

The whole family is encouraged to get involved in the women's room, drop-in centre and mobile health clinic. Elders and parents run music, storytelling and painting activities as well as visits to historical sites and bush medicine trips.

## project compassion

"I've gone on bush hunting, fishing and gathering trips with the elders - I love it!" Teneille says.

A strong team of Aboriginal child education workers has been built through the program's focus on developing local capacity in child development, education and health. Through taking on feedback from kids, families and local agencies, staff are providing positive experiences of education, health and nutrition - and Derby's Aboriginal children are getting on track with the education system.

The wider community has also benefited through a reduction in petty crime, increased employment, and improvements in community participation and health.

While she used to resist going to school, Teneille now attends every day - and looks forward to it.

In Cambodia, Samon, 14, lived with his Aunty Tou in poverty after his parents died from HIV/AIDS related illnesses. His aunt explains the hardships they faced. "Before, I was selling fried bananas but no-one buys them in the dry season. It was so difficult to find enough food for my family, pay medical expenses and send Samon to school."

However in 2006 Aunty Tou and her family received assistance from a Caritas Australia supported Community Empowerment Program that aims to alleviate rural poverty. While Aunty Tou received small business training and a loan to start her own business, Samon was able to attend the project's youth group.

● Project Compassion 2010 aims to beat last year's fundraising effort of over \$8.7 million around Australia. Donations may be made to Project Compassion by phoning 1800 024 413, on-line at [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au) or by posting a cheque to GPO Box 9830 in your capital city.



Teneille is one of more than 160 children who have attended Kids Club at Derby north of Broome.



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PHOTO: GARY GOODEN

## Landmark opening for Marymead

Built entirely as a result of the goodwill of the people of Canberra, Marymead's new administration building was officially opened by Governor-General Quentin Bryce.

The Cassells Building is the first substantial construction at the Narrabundah site in 40 years.

Established in 1967 by the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, Marymead is dedicated to helping vulnerable and disadvantaged children and families. It has received support from the ACT and Federal governments, who provide the majority of funding, as well as the Catholic Church and the Canberra community.

"The fact that such a building is even possible is a true reflection of the respect and appreciation that the Canberra community has for the work that we do at Marymead," chief executive officer Ms Hilary Martin said. The building was funded entirely by donations.

A large amount was bequeathed by Alice Patricia Cassells, after whom the building is named.

Further money was raised during the "buy-a-brick" campaign launched in 2007 as part of the Marymead 40th anniversary celebrations.



Governor-General Quentin Bryce officially opens the new building watched by Ms Hilary Martin.

Funds also came from individual sponsors and the ongoing efforts of the Marymead auxiliary.

Ms Bryce told the 100-plus crowd of Marymead staff and supporters that she was delighted to officially open the Cassells Building. Vicar General Mgr John Woods blessed the building. Marymead patron Lady Helen Deane led prayers for the prosperity of Marymead and its programs.