

# CATHOLIC VOICE

ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN  
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**We care ...  
– Pages 13 to 18**

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## Our links with Mary

A special supplement will be published in the next issue of Catholic Voice to mark the canonisation of Mary MacKillop.

It is being published in conjunction with a video produced by Catholic Communications which will be seen on the Archdiocese's website at [www.cg.catholic.org.au](http://www.cg.catholic.org.au) from the beginning of October.

Both the supplement and the video will focus on the stories of members of the Archdiocese, young and old, religious and lay, who have connections with the saint.

In the coming months, Catholic Voice, the Archdiocese's website and the weekly e-news will carry up to date coverage of events leading up to the canonisation, as well as the big day itself and its aftermath. The e-news is available by free subscription, which is obtained via the home page of the website.

**RIGHT:** Students of St Mary MacKillop College, Tuggeranong, welcome the MacKillop cross in a brief liturgy when it visited the school on a national tour last month.



Preparations are under way to mark the canonisation of Mary MacKillop on 17 October in liturgies and gatherings across the Archdiocese.

At Masses around Australia on the weekend of 16 and 17 October a special liturgy will be used to celebrate the event.

Thanksgiving celebrations will be held in the five deaneries of the Archdiocese on Sunday afternoon, 31 October, with venues and times to be announced.

Vicar General Mgr John Woods described the intended activities as "prayerful gatherings" at which, it is hoped, returning pilgrims may be willing to reflect on their experiences at the canonisation ceremony in Rome.

A liturgy to be used at the local gatherings is being prepared by the Archdiocese's canonisation committee.

A holy card with a picture of Mary MacKillop on the front and an appropriate prayer on the back will be available for all participants. Refreshments will be available at the gatherings.

The MacKillop cross pilgrimage led by the Knights of the Southern Cross is well under way, after two stops in the Archdiocese.

# Home celebrations to mark the big day

The cross was taken from North Sydney Memorial Chapel, where it had laid on Mary MacKillop's tomb, to St Mary's Cathedral to be blessed for its journey.

Goulburn was the first stop on the tour, where the cross was taken to Sisters of St Joseph Convent and nursing home. A liturgical reception and private veneration was held, followed by high tea with the sisters.

The journey continued on to St Mary MacKillop College in Canberra where the cross was received by the students.

The pilgrimage will return to the Archdiocese with a stop on Saturday, 4 September at St Clement's Monastery, Galong, for its spring festival.

Pambula parish, which has a special connection with Mary Mac-

## Canonisation live on TV and web

The canonisation will be seen live on TV and the web, direct from St Peter's Square in Rome. Sky TV will broadcast live from about 6.30pm on Sunday, 17 October, while ABC News 24, has indicated it will broadcast as much as possible of the ceremony. Both will provide expert commentary on the events. ABC1's Compass program will feature the canonisation at 10pm.

Other stations have indicated they will have features and live crosses to Rome. A live web stream of the ceremony will be available from the Archdiocese of Sydney website ([www.sydneycatholic.org](http://www.sydneycatholic.org)), the XT3 social network site ([www.xt3.com](http://www.xt3.com)), or the Mary MacKillop site ([www.marymackillop.org.au](http://www.marymackillop.org.au)).

Killop, will host its celebrations in Eden on 17 October.

People will gather at Eden wharf from 10am and a procession will make its way to Our Lady Star of the Sea Church for Mass at 11am. This will be followed by

lunch and entertainment in the afternoon. Those attending are encouraged to bring a picnic rug and make it a family day.

Eden held a special place in Mary MacKillop's heart. Her mother, Flora, died when the vessel

Ly-ee-Moon capsized and was lost off Green Cape in 1886. Her body was brought ashore at Eden Wharf. Mary was grateful to the people of Eden for the care they took of her mother.

In 1891 Mary MacKillop sent her Sisters to start St Joseph's School, Eden. The Sisters have been teaching continuously at St Joseph's for almost 120 years.

The original church/ school-house, now Mary MacKillop Hall, has become a museum to Blessed Mary. It houses memorabilia and tells a pictorial story of Mary's life particularly her connection to Eden. Information: Terry-Ann Tregear at St Joseph Primary School, telephone 6496 1682 or e-mail [info@stjosephseden.nsw.edu.au](mailto:info@stjosephseden.nsw.edu.au).

**Support our retired priests this Father's Day – see Page 13**



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## what do you know?

1. Which major celebration did Herbie O'Flynn organise when he first started working for the Archdiocese?
2. When and where will the MacKillop Cross Pilgrimage return to the archdiocese?
3. The picture (right) turns back the clock, but this woman today has a link with Mary MacKillop. Who is she and what is it?
4. Who in the Archdiocese has recently been awarded the Papal Cross?
5. Which Vietnamese visitor to Canberra will have his cause for canonisation officially opened next month?
6. The Bungendore Rodeo is an ecumenical fundraiser for which two parishes?
7. How many prayer sessions do the Carmelite nuns at Red Hill undertake each day?



Answers: Bottom Page 4.

## The best of times and the worst of times

By Josh Swingler\*

It has been 13 years since my first day of school. It is about 20 or so days until my last. The dominant force in my life is about to up and leave me high and dry. It's a strange feeling to say the least.

But before it disappears from my life, it leaves me with one final task: the Higher School Certificate examinations.

Perhaps the most daunting challenge I have been presented - five exam papers, which are each about three hours in length. It would seem that my entire future hinges on the success of these papers. It is, almost, too much to handle.

The amount of pressure put upon us as students in this final year is verging on the ridiculous. But that is not to say we are ill prepared. Our teachers turn into some kind of super-team in these final months. They work tirelessly for us, and I think to some degree a lot of us miss that.

My Modern History teacher, for example, more or less begs us for practice essays, and is only too happy to pick them apart and tell us how to put them back together again.

Our Studies of Religion teacher seems to have photocopied the bulk of the National Library for us, and collated all the relevant information concisely and neatly.

In my first Extension 2 English lesson, I was provided with the personal e-mail of my teacher, and offered his unlisted phone number. The amount of time dedicated and reserved for we seniors is impossible to match. And I certainly appreciate it. How I would survive without them I have no idea.

And the number of times that I have been informed that the HSC is the most difficult time of one's life does not detract from the stress at all.

But with the HSC completed, the issue remains to pick my tertiary institu-

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



## Changing our world

tion and course - and this is a daunting selection to make.

First I must consider where. Sydney, Melbourne, Gold Coast, Brisbane, or even regional Victoria - each far enough away from home to warrant concern from both my parents and myself.

So issue Number One - where to go, and where to live? How much is it all going to cost?

I have to find somewhere to live, and each day I will have to feed myself. But that is all conditional on which course I choose, at which institution. In the final days of year 12 we are besieged with University Admission guides, each resembling a local Yellow Pages.

Sifting through the numbers and text is hard work indeed (and I must say, most of the courses seem to be the same.) Next comes the attempt to understand what I would actually learn. Crammed with jargon, the description of the courses is difficult to understand. Perhaps this is the first admissions test - actually understanding the course guide. Survival of the fittest, whoever makes it to the end of the guide, is offered a place.

So what will I do? I must say, at this stage, I have no idea whatsoever.

First and foremost, I am trying not to think about it.

Instead, I am focusing on these exams, not getting ahead of myself - and trying not to implode.

\* Josh Swingler has recently turned 18. He is in his final days of Year 12 at Lumen Christi Catholic College, at Pambula Beach (where he lives). He hopes to attend university in the future, but prior to that wants to see the world.



## CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESAN FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR

Archbishop Mark Coleridge, Catholic Archbishop of the Canberra and Goulburn Archdiocese, is seeking to appoint an Archdiocesan Financial Administrator due to the pending retirement of the current Financial Administrator.

This is a senior position within the Church reporting to the Archbishop, Episcopal Council and Archdiocesan Finance Council. To be successful you will require a strong commitment to the Catholic Church, proven management experience and a demonstrated ability to think strategically.

This is a full time position and is located in Canberra. An attractive salary package will be commensurate with experience.

To obtain a position description and selection criteria contact the Vicar General, Monsignor John Woods at john.woods@cg.catholic.org.au. Enquiries to Fr John on (02) 6201 9800.

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## Artist and the priest face off

A Canberra artist's painting of Mgr John Woods did not make the finals of the nation's richest portrait competition, but it will take pride of place on the Vicar General's wall at home.

Ross Townsend, whose portraits of four past archbishops of Canberra and Goulburn hang on the walls of Archbishop's House, persuaded Mgr Woods to be the subject for his annual effort at the Doug Moran National Portrait Prize, Australia's and, it is claimed, the world's biggest.

"John thought I was joking when I mentioned it to him, but I was serious," Mr Townsend said. "Each year I look for an interesting subject."

A photographic session aimed at providing the artist with material for the painting was about to finish when the right moment arrived. "We were packing up when the light suddenly looked brilliant. I said to him, 'sit there, keep still'. It was fluke." The large portrait was the result. One Mr Townsend describes as "one of my best, a fantastic subject".

RIGHT: The priest and the portrait.



## Fellowship on offer

Applications are open for the fourth Young Catholic Women's Interfaith Fellowship to be held in Canberra between January and May next year.

It is being offered by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Office for the Participation of Women, in collaboration with Australian Catholic University. The live-in fellowship includes academic, theological and spiritual formation components.

Successful participants will receive a Graduate Certificate in Interfaith Relations from ACU.

Applications are open until 8 October for young Catholic women from mid-20s to mid-30s who are passionate about the involvement of women in the Church.

Full details can be found at [www.opw.catholic.org.au](http://www.opw.catholic.org.au).

# A notable award for Cathedral musician

St Christopher's Cathedral organist Ms Carmel Walshe has been presented with the highest Papal honour given to laity.

Friends, family and those who have benefited from Ms Walshe's musical talents over the years gathered for Mass in the Cathedral where Archbishop Mark Coleridge presented her with the Papal Cross for services to music.

"For 50 years she has washed feet by making music," Archbishop Coleridge said.

"She is a magnificent servant who has helped the Church to make music and sing the praises of God."

Ms Walshe first played at St Christopher's when she was 14, at the request of Monsignor John Hoare.

She began with the Novena and Benediction on Thursday evenings and soon afterwards was asked to play for the Italian Mass and choir.

She has since played for many other choirs as well as weekly weddings and funerals, both at the Cathedral and most churches in Canberra.



Archbishop Coleridge fastens the Papal Cross to Ms Carmel Walshe's jacket.

Ms Walshe has taught piano for the past 48 years and was awarded an OAM for services to music in 1999.

Her former classmate at St Christopher's School, Mrs Lyn O'Flynn, said Ms Walshe was always available to play the organ for services involving any of the students, who still get together regularly.

"Music has been Carmel's life," Mrs O'Flynn said. "She is an amazing person and just a really lovely, humble lady."

## Rodeo reunion

The 50th Bungendore Rodeo will be celebrated next month with a reunion. The annual community event is a combined fundraiser for St Mary's Catholic parish and St Philip's Anglican parish. Any past workers, committee members, judges or competitors who want to attend, contact [gaylesillis@bigpond.com](mailto:gaylesillis@bigpond.com) or telephone 6238 1491.

## Art on show

The annual Gunning art show and sale will be opened by winemaker Mr Tim Kirk on Friday, 10 September. The show in the old Catholic school hall will continue from 10am to 4pm on Saturday and Sunday, 11 and 12 September. Artworks from some of the region's leading artists will be on show and for sale. At 1pm on Saturday, local cookbook author Ruby Brown will launch her book *Biscuits, Slices and Tarts* (Gluten Free). Inquiries: Maureen Hewitt, telephone 4845 1308.

You are invited to share with the Nuns in the honouring of two great Carmelite saints, in the Solemn Ceremonies for 2010 to be held at the Carmelite Monastery, 28 Mugga Way, Red Hill.



### St. Therese of Lisieux

Patroness of the Missions and Doctor of the Church

Friday, October 1st  
10.30am Mass and Homily

Celebrant: Fr Hilton Roberts

The traditional Blessing of Roses will take place during this Mass. And the Nuns would be grateful for roses sent the day before the Feast.



### St. Teresa of Avila

Doctor of the Church

Friday, October 15th  
10.30am Mass and Homily

Celebrant: Fr Frank Leo

During the Novena preceding these feasts EARNEST PRAYERS WILL BE OFFERED FOR priests and people of the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn.



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I had dinner recently in Canberra with Tim Fischer who was full of talk of the canonisation of Mary MacKillop.

In between courses, Tim talked us through the program, which looks to be a cracker. There's not just the canonisation itself, but various events leading up to it and others following after.

So it's going to be a hectic time, with lots of prayers and lots of parties.

I was also asked to open the Coonawarra Winemakers Road Show in Canberra. They come to the capital each year, but I was keen to accept their invitation this year because they have donated a hundred dozen bottles of their best to help with the canonisation celebrations in Rome.

As I pointed out at the opening, we were celebrating not just one of the finest products of the Coonawarra (their wine) but also another of its finest products (the soon-to-be-St Mary MacKillop).

By coincidence, vines were first brought to the terra rossa of the Coonawarra by a Victorian of Scottish extraction named John Riddoch. Mary MacKillop, also a Victorian of Scottish extraction, sowed a different seed in the terra rossa, and it has yielded an even greater harvest.

I was touched that the wine-makers brought as a gift a little blue cross made by the children from the Catholic school in Penola, who are very much part of Mary's great harvest.

A few weeks back, I was down in Bendigo to deliver the annual Marian Lecture at Catholic College Bendigo, which celebrates the legacy of the Marist Brothers in the school.

Usually the lecture focuses upon one or other aspect of the mystery of Mary, the Mother of Jesus.

But in this unusual year I decided to focus on the woman whom I

# Mary was a genuine do-gooder and so much more



called "the other Mary" - Mary MacKillop.

The title of my lecture was "The Other Mary: Saints as seeds of hope" (the full text can be found on the archdiocesan website under Our Archbishop, Lectures and Addresses or at [www.cg.catholic.org.au/uploads/rsfil/02514.pdf](http://www.cg.catholic.org.au/uploads/rsfil/02514.pdf)).

I stressed that whatever I said of Mary MacKillop was also true pre-eminently of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, who is first among the saints.

In that sense, my choice of theme wasn't as wayward as it may have seemed.

My title was taken from chapter 28 of Matthew's Gospel, where Mary Magdalene and "the other Mary" go to see the tomb where Jesus had been buried.

They find the stone rolled away from the entrance of the tomb; they see the tomb empty; they meet the Risen Lord. They become the first witnesses of the Resurrection.

The identity of "the other Mary" isn't clear, and for the purposes of the lecture I decided it was Mary MacKillop.

My point was that, like all the saints, Mary is before all else a witness of Easter.

Like "the other Mary" of the Gospel, she saw and heard the Risen Christ, and this made all the difference. It was that encounter which enabled and explained everything that she said and did in her remarkable life.

She was certainly a woman who did good, but she was far more than the do-gooder that some who are uncomfortable with sanctity are prepared to tolerate.

Australia tends to be a culture that looks askance at the idea of sanctity and scoffs at the idea of the miraculous.

But it doesn't mind people doing the right thing by the battler, and on those grounds Mary MacKillop is judged acceptable, even by those who sniff at the idea of canonisation and all that the Church means by it.

Mary was a genuine do-gooder; she went the extra mile with the battler; she stood up for the poor; she was a woman of action, not just talk.

But she was much more, and that's what canonisation recognises. She was a woman who met the Risen Lord, and through whom as a consequence the power of Easter flowed.

The power of Easter is the power of a love stronger than death, the power that raised Jesus from the dead.

It was that power that flowed through Mary in her life on earth, and it's that power that flows through her still to work the miracles scoffed at only by those who have never met the Risen Lord and who therefore haven't got a clue what Easter is all about.

Because she had met the Risen Lord, Mary was gripped by a grand vision of human possibility, and that vision became the hope that never failed her, even in dark times.

She taught the young many things, but at the heart of all that she and her Sisters taught there was the hope that only Easter can give.

In offering them that, Mary gave the young the one thing which in the end the human being can't live without.

All of this will be gathered up into the celebrations in Rome next month. In drinking the good wine of the Coonawarra, we will toast "the other Mary" who planted a seed in Penola and in a host of human hearts beyond.

People once asked: How can good wine come from the dry soil of Australia?

They also asked: How could a saint come from the most godless place on earth?

In drinking some of the world's best wine, we will rejoice in "the other Mary" who is the gift that the Church in Australia now offers to the world. Great things bloom in places that surprise.

*Mark Coleridge*

## EUCCHARISTIC & MARIAN PROCESSION

Join the procession of the Blessed Sacrament from St. Benedict's Catholic Church, Narrabundah to St. Christopher's Cathedral

### PROGRAMME

Meet at St. Benedict's Church, Tallara Parkway, Narrabundah

3:00 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  
4:00 pm Procession to St. Christopher's Cathedral, Franklin Street, Manuka  
5:00 pm Procession arrives  
5:15 pm Benediction  
5:30 pm Mass celebrated by Archbishop Coleridge



**SUNDAY, 24 OCTOBER**

With permission of  
His Grace  
Archbishop Mark Coleridge

Enquiries:  
Brian Curtis (02) 6231 3862  
E-mail: [brian.curtis@homemail.com.au](mailto:brian.curtis@homemail.com.au)

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



## SEPTEMBER DIARY

### Archbishop Mark Coleridge

1 Confirmation, Goulburn  
4 Confirmation, Bombala  
7 Confirmation, Evatt  
8 Vocations dinner  
9 Confirmation, Page  
10 80th birthday celebrations, Archbishop Carroll  
12 Confirmation, Braidwood  
15 Confirmation, Weston Creek  
17 Mass for Mary MacKillop's relatives, Cooma; blessing site and turning first sod, Aaminaby  
18 Confirmation, Campbell  
19 Confirmation, Narrabundah; parish mission Gowrie  
20 National financial administrators dinner  
22 Confirmation, Weston Creek  
26 Confirmation, Yass; Women in Scriptures, Yass  
28 Clergy reflection day  
30 Feast of Michael and All Angels, preach St Paul's, Manuka

### Auxiliary Bishop Pat Power

2 ACT Churches Council  
Confirmation, Kaleen  
3 Ember Day gathering with Archdiocesan clergy  
4 Confirmation Taralga  
8 Guest speaker, Companion House dinner  
10 80th birthday celebrations, Archbishop Carroll  
11-12 Confirmation, South Woden  
15 Manly Union Mass, Manly NSW  
17 Mary MacKillop Mass for St Mary MacKillop College  
19 Confirmation, Bungendore  
21 Cathedral Precinct meeting  
23 Catholic Care in-service day  
24 Chair Bishops' Commission for Health and Community Services; Archdiocesan Finance Council  
26 Social Justice Sunday  
27-1 October Lead retreat for Maitland-Newcastle clergy

### WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

Answers: 1. Pope John Paul II's 1986 visit to Canberra. 2. Galong, on 4 September. 3. Sr Noelene Quinane, head of the Goulburn congregation of the Josephites. 4. Cathedral organist Carmel Walshe. 5. Cardinal Francis Xavier Nguyễn Văn Thuận. 6. St Mary's Catholic parish and St Philip's Anglican parish. 7. Eight including Mass.



# Big family gathers for 25th

More than 550 past and current parishioners of Holy Family Church, Gowrie, gathered to mark the 25th anniversary of the church's opening.

Archbishop Mark Coleridge blessed the new building works at the church and then concelebrated the anniversary Mass with 15 priests, many of whom had served in the parish.

Commemorative coffee mugs, key rings and anniversary wines specially commissioned for the occasion were popular with those who attended.

In his homily, Archbishop Coleridge commended Fr Mick Burke and Mr Ernest Munns for their vision and foresight in building the church so early in the life of the parish. He also congratulated

ed the subsequent priests and parishioners, who over the years developed a vibrant community.

Parish priest Fr John Armstrong was delighted to see so many former parishioners return for the celebrations with some coming from as far as Melbourne and the NSW Central Coast.



ABOVE: Parish priest Fr John Armstrong, Archbishop Mark Coleridge and founding parish priest Fr Mick Burke cut the celebration cake

LEFT: One of the first parishioners Trish Tarlington and founding Holy

Family Primary School principal Sr Audrey Pigram join other guests to look at the archival photograph albums that span the church's 25-year history. Many former parishioners and members of founding councils and committees attended the celebrations.

## Webcast focus on ministry of Jesus

The fourth national e-conference, Jesus the Christ, will go live online on 16 September.

A collaboration between the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference's Commission for Mission and Faith Formation and the Broken Bay Institute, the e-conference is a free webcast accessible by groups and individuals across the country.

Australian Jesuit priest Fr Gerald O'Collins will lead the e-conference, sharing his insights into the life and ministry of Christ.

He will be joined by presenters Mrs Merrill Kitchen OAM, Dr Claire Renkin and Ms Phil Billington.

Topics covered will include Jesus Fully Human, The Jesus I Meet in the Holy Land, Jesus Truly Divine, Touching the Transcendent Christ Through Art, The Cross and Resurrection, and Mission of Jesus Made Real in Education.

The event will run from 10.30am to 3.05pm. Participants will be able to e-mail questions to presenters and have them answered in real time. All content will be archived for later viewing.

To access the e-conference, go to <http://jesus.vividas.com>.

CatholicLIFE will provide group access to the e-conference at the Rheinberger Centre, corner of Weston and Loch streets, Yarralumla.

Corpus Christi parish, South Tuggeranong, will also provide live access, in addition to re-presenting it on 18 September.

Any parish or group who would like support to self-coordinate the e-conference should contact Matt Casey at CatholicLIFE, telephone 6163 4307 or e-mail [matt.casey@catholiclife.org.au](mailto:matt.casey@catholiclife.org.au).

## Five-star performance

Australian Catholic University has received the highest rating for indigenous participation in The Good Universities Guide for 2011.

The university received the maximum five-star rating in that section and four stars for getting a job after graduation, student demand, staff qualifications, cultural diversity and access by equity groups.

The guide said the university's areas of strength included the disciplines of nursing and education. "All courses place considerable emphasis on ethical and social issues and values."

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

## Help keep Christianity alive in the Holy Land and Middle East

DEEPLY saddened by the crisis engulfing Christianity in the Middle East, Pope Benedict XVI has asked the Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) to provide urgent help.



In many parts of the land Our Lord Jesus Christ knew so well, the faithful now live in fear as increasing poverty and growing extremism threaten the survival of these ancient communities.

A mass exodus of Christians from the Middle East is now taking place. For some it is a question of escaping bloody persecution. In the Holy Land for example, the proportion of Christians has plummeted from 20% to as little as 1.4% in the last 40 years.

ACN is helping to keep faith and hope alive throughout the region by providing urgent aid to priests, religious and lay people, offering subsistence help to refugees and building and repairing Churches and convents. Please help us strengthen and rebuild the Church in the land of Christ's birth.

A beautiful, olive wood crucifix, handcrafted in Bethlehem, will be sent to all those who give a donation of \$15.00 or more to help this campaign.



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# National role for Cathedral priest

The administrator of St Christopher's Cathedral has been appointed the first national co-ordinator of Australia's 11,000 Syro-Malabar Catholics.

Fr Francis Kolencherry, who spent many years in his homeland India working with the under-privileged, will undertake the role in conjunction with his duties at the Cathedral.

He was appointed by Australia's bishops after a request from the Synod of the Syro-Malabar Rite of the Catholic Church.

The Syro-Malabar Church is one of the Eastern Rite (Oriental) Catholic churches and has a rich history. Founded by St Thomas, one of the 12 Apostles, in 52 AD after he travelled to Kodungallur, on the Kerala coast of India, it has become one of the biggest oriental churches in the world with 4.7 million Catholics.

As national co-ordinator, Fr Kolencherry will liaise between the growing Syro-Malabar migrant communities in

Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide, Canberra, Parramatta, Wollongong and Darwin in the practice of their faith and traditions. He will oversee and administer their pastoral needs and help forge links between the Catholic Church in Australia and the Syro-Malabar Church in India.

Born and educated in India's south and ordained in December 1980, Fr Kolencherry worked as executive director of Catholic charities in helping to improve the quality of life of tens of thousands of underprivileged people.

He was also executive director of India's nationwide "Save a Family Plan" which sought Canadian families to sponsor the poorest Indian families. During his time, about 15,000 Canadian families were supporting the program.

He was founding president of a plan to reorganise orphanages in his home state of Kerala which resulted in improvements for the children in food, clothing, shelter

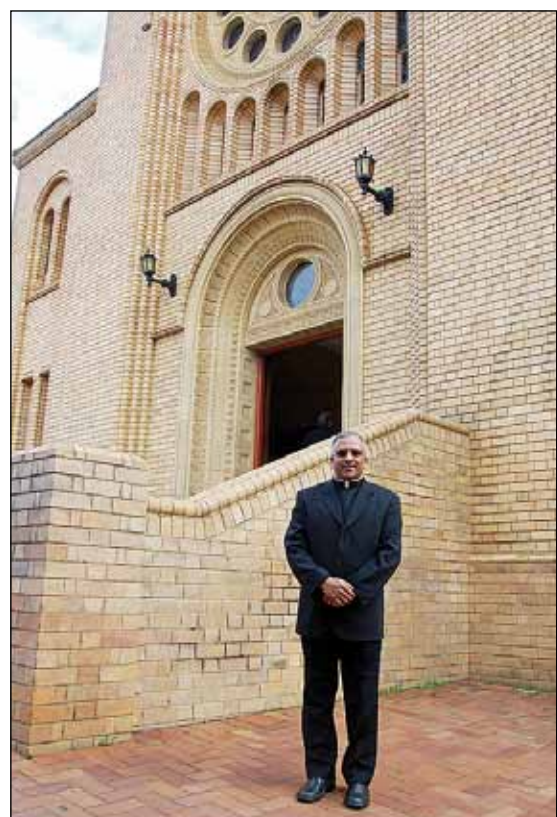
and education. "We had 798 orphanages containing 44,000 children belonging to the poor families," he said "In creating this forum, we could improve their quality of life by securing rights for them from the government."

Fr Kolencherry said the Catholic Church in Australia had been strengthened by the arrival of migrants who enriched the Church's openness to, and inclusiveness of, all people and cultures.

"Their participation in the life of the Church in Australia enables us to have a more complete image of the Catholic Church, of its universality, its historical past, as well as the longevity and richness of its traditions and the colourful variety of its rites."

● The Syro-Malabar Catholic Rite website is at [www.smcim.org/index.htm](http://www.smcim.org/index.htm).

RIGHT: Fr Francis Kolencherry outside St Christopher's Cathedral.



## Money needed for Pakistan aid

Caritas Australia is calling for donations to help 20 million people affected by the worst floods Pakistan has experienced in decades.

The relief effort includes the delivery of hygiene and shelter kits, water purification tablets and food to people in the severely affected areas of Shangla, Kohistan and Swat districts in Pakistan's north-west.

With much of the region's farmland submerged, millions of families have lost their only source of income so Caritas will also initiate cash for work projects to mobilise people to repair damaged infrastructure.

Go to [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au) or telephone 1800 024 413 to make a donation.

## High country parish rebuilds

Four years after fire destroyed St Mary's Church in Adaminaby, construction has now begun on a new church for the Snowy Mountains town.

A committee was formed in 2006 to design the building and ensure the construction process met guidelines and budget restrictions.

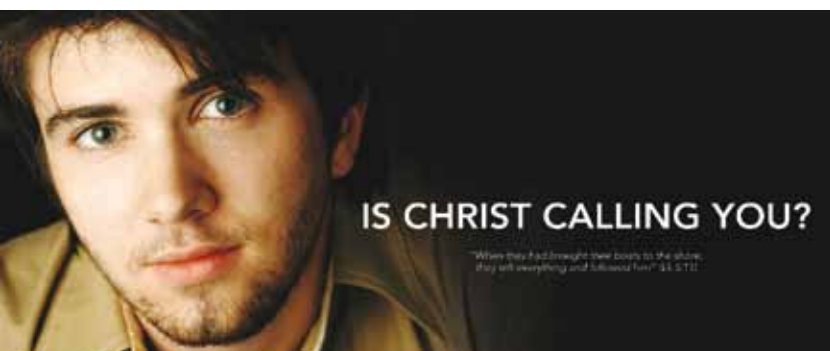
Construction is estimated to take 21 weeks, meaning the church will be completed well in time for the official opening and blessing of the foundation stone by Bishop Pat Power on 15 January 2011.

The date is exactly 100 years after Archbishop Kelly laid and blessed the foundation stone of the new church in the former Adaminaby town.



St Mary's Church project manager Vince Gullotto of Dewram Constructions discusses progress on site with Building Committee secretary Monica George.

In 1957, as part of the Snowy Mountains Scheme, this church building was relocated to the site in the present town, where it stood until the 2006 fire.



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## Painters gather to learn from the master

A group of budding icon painters came away from a weekend at St Clement's retreat and conference centre, Galong, with an example of their first effort.

Master of the Narrabundah School of Iconography Patrick Staikov Bernard and fellow iconographer Wendy Fisher-Hudson took 18 painters from the Archdiocese, Sydney and Jamberoo through their paces at a weekend school.

The school followed a retreat led by Sr Helen



ABOVE: Patrick Staikov Bernard gives Merilyn Caruana, of Jamberoo, a helping hand at the icon school held at St Clement's, Galong.

Barnes RSJ and Fr Pat Corbett CSsR exploring the spirituality of Luke's Gospel.

The course offered tuition on writing an icon of the Virgin, learning the basics of painting faces and folds, and understanding the theology behind icons.



# Youth plan to boost link with parishes

The Archdiocese's new youth and young adults coordinator Daniela Kesina says she is looking forward to working directly with parishes to help better engage young people.

The former Catholic Youth Ministry (CYM) team manager hopes to visit as many parishes as possible to find out what they want and need to enliven the participation of their youth.

"I really want young people to become integrated into the parish," Ms Kesina said.

"That means you need more than just a youth group; you also need activities and events that will engage young people with the wider parish community.

"If you don't, then once they're too old for youth group they no longer have a connection to the Church. If they are already involved in parish life then it is a much easier transition."

Ms Kesina said in addition to overseeing the CYM team, and leading the 2011 World Youth Day pilgrimage, part of her new role would be to reach out to young people who are not church-goers.

CatholicLIFE's new Guinness and God program is one such initiative, which involves talks on Church and faith in the relaxed setting of King O'Malley's Irish Pub in Canberra.

The first attracted more than 100 people to hear Archbishop Mark Coleridge talk.



Archdiocesan youth and young adults coordinator Daniela Kesina.

"It's a way of bringing faith to people in a context that they're comfortable with," Ms Kesina said.

"Then the next step is to help those people reconnect with parish life."

The same principle will also be involved with the Australian Catholic University chaplaincy program.

Ms Kesina said she would work with the chaplain, who is meeting the spiritu-

al needs of students on campus, to then integrate them into parish life as well.

"I've learnt a lot working with the CYM team and I'm excited to see how that can expand to a broader setting," Ms Kesina said.

"Primarily, I just want to provide a space where young people are supported to find the love of God so they can be transformed and become fully alive."

## Wrapped with love



Moruya parish's newly formed craft group is helping to extend the warm hand of friendship to those in need.

Members are busy making wraps for the Wrap With Love organisation, which over the past 18 years has sent more than 220,000 wraps to people suffering extreme cold in 75 countries, including Australia.

Anyone interested in sharing craft skills, friendship, morning tea and lots of laughs should contact Pat Anderson at the parish office on Mondays or Tuesdays, telephone 4474 2024, or come to the Kennedy meeting room next to the Moruya presbytery on Fridays between 10am and noon.

ABOVE: Sue McDonald and Jo Rummery have fun while they add their contribution to the wrap-making.

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Professor Anthony Kelly (left) with Pope Benedict XVI and Cardinal William Levada.

## ACU theologians get top honour

Two Australian Catholic University (ACU) academics have been honoured as inaugural Fellows of the Australian Catholic Theological Association.

Rev Professor Anthony Kelly CSsR and Rev Professor Gerald O'Collins SJ were recognised for their outstanding contributions to theological education over a sustained period, and exemplary service to the disciplines of theology and Church.

Professor Kelly is Professor of Theology at the Canberra Campus and has published more than 20 books. Last year Pope Benedict XVI renewed his appointment to the International Theological Commission for a further five years.

Professor O'Collins is Adjunct Professor at ACU and one of Australia's most internationally renowned theologians. He served as Dean of Theology at Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, and has published a number of major theological works.

Earlier this year he was awarded an honorary doctorate by ACU in recognition of his contributions to theological scholarship and service to the university.

# Vietnamese bishop had strong ties with Canberra

A Vietnamese cardinal detained for many years in solitary confinement by the communists will be remembered in a Mass in Canberra this month.

Archbishop Francis Carroll will offer 11am Mass at St Christopher's Cathedral on 12 September in remembrance of Cardinal Francis Xavier Nguyễn Văn Thuận who died on 16 September 2002.

Cardinal Thuận has been declared a Servant of God and the solemn session to promote the cause for his canonisation will open in Rome on 22 October.

His sister Ann came to Canberra in 1961, followed later by three other sisters and his parents, so Cardinal Thuận made a number of visits to the Archdiocese to see his family.

Scullin resident Mrs Pam Dewhurst has been a friend of the family for almost 50 years and has fond memories of Cardinal Thuận.

"He was just such a lovely bloke," Mrs Dewhurst said.

"He used to tell jokes in English. There was always laughter when he was around.

"When he said Mass he'd be completely absorbed in the mystery. I've never met a priest like him."

On 24 April 1975, he was appointed Archbishop of Saigon. On 30 April, Saigon fell to the North Vietnamese Army, and he was detained by the Communist Government of Vietnam for 13 years, nine of them in solitary confinement.

He wrote reflections and prayers of hope on scraps of paper which were smuggled out to the Vietnamese community and later published.

He was released in 1988 but kept under house arrest. He received permission to go to Rome in 1991 but was not allowed to return home.



Mrs Pam Dewhurst with a photograph of Cardinal Francis Xavier Nguyễn Văn Thuận, whose cause for canonisation will be officially promoted in Rome next month.

Mrs Dewhurst said that throughout his imprisonment Cardinal Thuận had always maintained hope in God, something he dedicated his life to. "The last time I saw him was in 2001 when he had returned to Australia for his mother's 100th birthday," she said. "He said that, in keeping with Vietnamese tradition, as Australia was where his father was buried, Australia was now a part of him too."

## FACTS ON FUNERALS

### Pre-arranged Funerals

A "pre-arranged" funeral is one planned (at no cost) sometimes years in advance of the death. A "prepaid" funeral is one where the person pre-arranges and prepays for the funeral at current costs, fixing the price so that nothing additional is paid when the funeral occurs.

Some people pre-arrange their funeral to reduce the emotional stress on their family when the death eventually occurs, others to ensure that their personal wishes are carried out.

The details are recorded with the funeral director. When the death occurs, the family need only contact the funeral director to have all the instructions of the pre-arranged funeral acted upon. These instructions include the location of the funeral ceremony, whether the funeral will involve a burial or cremation, whether a civil celebrant or clergy is to speak at the funeral ceremony.

Other instructions may include notices and flowers to be ordered, music to be played and whether a service club such as the Returned Services League or a Masonic Lodge is to participate in the funeral ceremony.

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## Seminarians slog it out



Archdiocesan seminarian Trenton Van Reesch (left) in action with teammates.

The Archdiocese's future priests pitted their skills against more than 200 other men in religious formation at the 11th annual Inter-Seminary Soccer Competition.

Held in Wagga Wagga, the archdiocesan seminarians at Good Shepherd in Sydney were challenged by Vianney College Wagga Wagga, Redemptoris Mater Sydney, Corpus Christi Melbourne, Holy Spirit Parramatta, the Missionaries of God's Love and Holy Spirit Brisbane.

"The competition was intense with players not holding back when representing their respective seminaries," third year seminarian for the Archdiocese Duc Mac said.

"Players struggled with poor pitch conditions, playing on large patches of

mud. It resulted in serious injuries and many tired legs by the end of the day."

He refereed the final in which Redemptoris Mater beat the Missionaries of God's Love 5-0. Good Shepherd came third.

"The final goal came in the final minute, and scenes of wild celebration erupted from the Redemptoris Mater crowd at the full time whistle," he said.

The annual event is the highlight of the year for the seminarians, but it's about more than just soccer.

"It is a time when we can get together and meet others who are also travelling on the same journey, and to see the diversities of the Church in Australia, which is reflected in those in religious formation."

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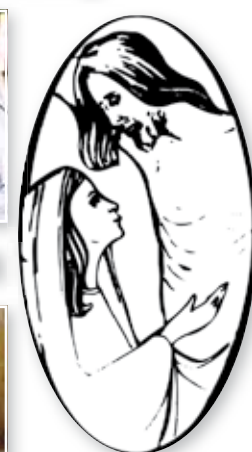
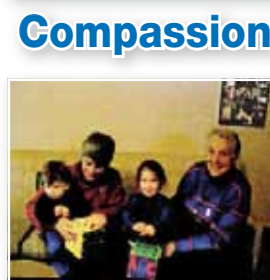
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**Retiring archdiocesan financial administrator**  
**Herbie O'Flynn talks to**  
**Claire Mitchell about the**  
**difference his strong faith**  
**has made in a lifetime of**  
**service.**

There are three things retiring archdiocesan financial administrator Mr Herbie O'Flynn hopes to be remembered as: "A devoted family man, as my family has given me so much joy; a soldier, as Duntroon and the Army shaped me to maturity; and a man of God, as the Church has fulfilled my life."

Mr O'Flynn retires this year after seven years as financial administrator and more than two decades in the service of the Archdiocese.

Raised in a Catholic family, he was educated by the De La Salle Brothers in Marrickville.

He made an effort to attend Mass every Sunday, even during his 20 years service in the Australian Army.

"I always wore my faith on my sleeve," he said.

"I was fortunate enough to meet up with a good Catholic girl and most places we went to had chaplains and Catholic priests.

"I always saw the good the Church was doing me, through the people and priests I met and the messages I heard and saw."

The Army taught Mr O'Flynn about maturity and strength. He went in a boy of 17 and came out an experienced Vietnam veteran of 37.

During that time he married Lyn and they had five children.

The family was active in the Church, with Mr O'Flynn racking up a number of stints as chair of parish councils, finance commit-

# Personal touch that made the difference

tees and parents and friends associations.

But it took the Pope himself to get him to officially start working for the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn.

"After I left the Army I ran a store that sold games, that is until Mgr John Hoare came in and said Pope John Paul II was coming to Australia," he said.

Mr O'Flynn was recruited to coordinate the Pope's 1986 visit to Canberra, which included organising a Mass for 1000 people. His business and logistic skills were quickly put to the test.

The event also required him to work with priests and parishes, allowing Mr O'Flynn to start his Church career on a pastoral level - something he appreciated when he was appointed general manager of the newly established Catholic Development Fund (CDF) the following year.

"When I moved to the CDF I already had a pastoral connection with the priests," he said.

"I then spent two years travelling to all the parishes, forming relationships with the parish priests and parishioners on a more personal level.

"That's what I'm most proud of; that my work wasn't just reliant on good business sense but on a pastoral connection through which the priests knew me as a good Catholic."

Good business sense did play an important part in his success though, as he was able to build the CDF's assets up from \$2 million to \$200 million by the time he handed over the reins to Victor Dunn in 2007.

Mr O'Flynn attributed the growth to improved technology and the Church working more closely together.

"I've really enjoyed helping the Church enter the electronic age," he said.

"We used to have to mail out invoices then wait for cheques, some of which didn't come, and then have to wait while they were processed. Now it is all automati-



ABOVE: Mr Herbie O'Flynn chats with his mentor of the past 20 years, Bishop Pat Power. BELOW: Mr O'Flynn meets Pope John Paul II on his visit to Canberra in 1986.



cally direct debited. I'd hang my hat on that as an achievement."

In 2003 he became the archdiocesan financial administrator, while maintaining his role with the CDF for another four years.

Mr O'Flynn said one of the highlights of the position was that

he was able to continue his pastoral connection with the Archdiocese.

"My greatest enjoyment is visiting priests in the far flung corners, staying overnight and enjoying their hospitality," he said.

● Cont Page 10.

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## Education head is honoured

Catholic education director Mrs Moira Najdecki (pictured right) has received a national award for her leadership in the field of education.

She has been made an honorary fellow of the Australian Council for Educational Leaders.

The award recognises her "unwavering commitment to Catholic education" that has spanned more than 25 years at St Clare's, Merici, St Francis Xavier and MacKillop Catholic colleges, and the Catholic Education Office, Canberra.

The citation notes her role as a teacher, year co-ordinator, subject area co-ordinator, assistant principal, principal, human resource officer and Director of Catholic Education.

It says her outstanding leadership capabilities have been pivotal to her role on the National Catholic Education Commission Executive, where she is chair of its technical committee.

"Her leadership and management of the Canberra and Goulburn Catholic Education Commission where she is the executive secretary and a member of the Audit and Risk Committee is widely recognised as exemplary."

The fellowship also recognises her loyalty to the Australian Catholic University as a member of the senate.



## ACT ABORIGINAL CATHOLIC MINISTRY

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# Personal touch that made the difference

## ● From Page 9.

"To be able to see the priests as friends and companions, to see them as real people has been my privilege."

Although he will soon retire as financial administrator he will continue with the Archdiocese as a special projects officer, so he can finish his work on the Cathedral precinct redevelopment.

Mr O'Flynn's position is being advertised and he said whoever

takes over will be dealing with a very different kind of Church to when he first started.

"Looking back, the Church was bigger, but now its members are more loud and proud.

"People in the pews are more committed than they used to be; they actually want to be there.



Mr Herbie O'Flynn with staff of the CDF in the 1980s.

"Albeit, numbers are falling and that stresses the system. There'll be challenges in the future that will require prayer, that will require the building of local communities, and they'll require us to look at how we can do things differently.

"We need to be loud and proud of who we are and what we do. I know I am."

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# Kids take pledge to play

Students at St Thomas More's Primary School in Campbell will be involved in at least one hour of physical activity each day as part of the 2010 Minister's Physical Activity Challenge.

The children are among 19,000 students who have agreed to take part in the program, which will run throughout term three.

Mr Andrew Barr, who is the ACT minister responsible for both sport and education, launched the challenge at St Thomas More's.

He joined in an afternoon of rotating sporting activities and talked about the importance of maintaining regular physical activity.

"Physical activity can promote healthy growth and development, build strong bones and muscles, improve your personal fitness and help you achieve and maintain a healthy weight," he said.

"It is also a great way for you to make friends and learn physical and social skills.



Mr Andrew Barr launches the Minister's Physical Activity Challenge at St Thomas More's Primary School.

"Being active as a kid also establishes a routine that can stay with you for life."

The challenge is open to all primary schools in the ACT. It is an initiative of the Children's Physical Activity Foundation, of which Mr Barr is patron.

## Learning about Mary

Students from Trinity Catholic School, Murrumburrah have been learning about Mary MacKillop's life, the type of woman she was and why she deserves to become Australia's first saint.

Year 2, 3, 5 and 6 students have drawn charcoal portraits of Mary MacKillop. Year 4 have been reflecting on her achievements.

"Blessed Mary MacKillop was special because she kept forgiving her enemies and the Bishop who excommunicated her," Holland Taylor Garbett wrote.

"Blessed Mary MacKillop was special because she trusted all people. She was kind to people. She loved everybody even the priests when they got rid of her," Sam Phillips wrote.

"Blessed Mary MacKillop was special because she took the time to look after the poor. She was



Year 5 students (from left) Charlie Brown, Hannah Madden, Jeanie Redmond and Rory Bolger with their sketches.

always helping when someone needed something," Taylah Smith wrote.

Year 2/3 hosted a whole school Mass, reflecting on the amazing contributions of Mary MacKillop.

## Why did you take on the position?

Three years ago I was in the middle of the Young Women's Interfaith Fellowship, while on leave from a teaching career when I became very ill and needed emergency surgery. This illness and the Fellowship made me discern a different direction in life. The job opening came up at the same time and I felt it was God showing me a new direction for my life to take.

## What does being a pastoral coordinator entail?

A large part of my job is funeral arranging and I also look after our memorial wall. I visit the sick and coordinate with my pastoral associate Simone on her regular visitation schedule. I try to put people in touch with services available to them in the community, particularly the elderly and the marginalised. I look after our care meals fridge and give occasional speeches and presentations. I organise rosters for visits to new parishioners and people having a child baptised, as well as the running of communion services to the nursing home and provide training for all these.

## What is the most successful program you have led?

I am really proud of the funeral ministry that we have. We are able to provide a really personalised service to people in their time of need that reflects what they need to do in the midst of their grief while remaining faithful to Catholic beliefs. We provide a lot of support with often difficult issues like music and booklets. We offer after funeral hospitality and send condolence cards and remembrance cards on the first anniversary.

## What are some of the challenges for pastoral care in South Tuggeranong?

Corpus Christi is the sixth largest parish in Australia and one of the challenges is simply being aware of all the needs out there. It can be hard to know who needs what and how to go about finding them, if indeed they want to be found. With more than 30 funerals a year and 200 baptisms it can get very busy, so the challenge is to maintain sight of

## Why I do ...

**A column in which well known and not so well-known people tell us about themselves. This month we speak to Susanne Schmidt, pastoral co-ordinator at Corpus Christi parish, South Tuggeranong.**



## what I do

our Catholic ethos without getting sucked under in the endless vortex of administration.

## What do you get out of providing pastoral care to others?

I love the fact that I have a job that I enjoy going to. While I wish it paid a bit more, I get endless job satisfaction out of being of assistance to people in what is often a difficult time in their lives.

## Why is pastoral care so important?

Parishes are busy places and sometimes we get caught up in "doing" things. A lot of pastoral care is just "being" rather than "doing" and I think we show the face of Christ to others by being with them in their need rather than "doing" things, although there is a need for this as well. Some of the initiatives we have in our parish, such as book groups, craft groups, movie groups and prayer groups, while they are partly about the activity, are also about the social links and the community that is created. I see this as vitally important.

## When you're not busy working for the parish, how do you like to spend your time?

I enjoy spending time with my family, my husband and two young children. We love to travel. Personally, I love reading, I'm a keen bookbinder and I love entering competitions.



# Honouring the unsung heroes

Unsung Heroes was the theme as students across the Archdiocese celebrated NAIDOC Week with Mass in St Christopher's Cathedral.

Representatives of schools in all five deaneries gathered to honour those who are often forgotten.

After a smoking ceremony on the Cathedral steps, the children processed in to the sound of clapping boomerangs and the voices of the choir of St Mary's Primary School, Moruya. Aboriginal elder Ruth Bell welcomed everyone to Ngunnawal country in the language of her people.

The Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Mark Coleridge who spoke to the students about his recent trip to Darwin where he met Aboriginal elder Miriam-Rose.

He said she had told him about an important word in her language, dadirri, which means deep silence and deep listening.

"Just as indigenous people have learnt from us, we, as non-indigenous Australians, need to learn to listen to them," Archbishop Coleridge said.

"We must listen with the ears of the heart and recognise that they have gifts to offer and things to teach us.

"If we truly listen to each other, listen to our indigenous brothers and sisters, then we are listening to God."

Many schools also held their own NAIDOC events.

Merici College held an assembly to introduce the Reconciliation Action Plan designed for the staff, students, and school community.

"At Merici, we seek an environment where the community experiences indigenous Australian culture and gives opportunity to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to celebrate their heritage, to highlight positive experiences, acknowledge the past and develop relationships with the local Ngunnawal people," Year 11 student Ella Masri said.

The Merici event also included a performance of The Last Kinection by a hip hop trio in honour of their last remaining elder.

At Pambula, the Lumen Christi Catholic College community gathered together for a liturgy. Music, "the language of the earth", was used as a uniting symbol.

The liturgy began with acknowledgement of the Thaua peoples of the Yuin nation, the traditional custodians of this land. This was followed by a performance of Yothu Yindi's "Djapana", with didgeridoo accompaniment by students. A reconciliation quilt was also formally presented to the college.

At Daramalan College, the Aboriginal flag was raised and students released helium balloons in colours of both the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags. As each balloon flew away the student named an Aboriginal achiever. Family members of indigenous students were named for their contributions to medicine, community and sport. As part of the week, students visited Tidbinbilla where they met an Aboriginal ranger and learnt about traditional methods of survival.



A smoking ceremony is held outside St Christopher's Cathedral for this year's NAIDOC Mass.



ABOVE LEFT: Aboriginal Education Assistant Vanessa Capstick addresses students at Lumen Christi Catholic College on issues surrounding reconciliation as symbolized in the hand made quilt. ABOVE RIGHT: Daramalan College Students (from left) Christina Kavouras, Amy Griffin and Elinor Knaggs prepare to release their named balloons.



## Crookwell's tribute to Fr Bill

St Mary's Church, Crookwell, was filled with wellwishers to celebrate with Fr Bill Kennedy the golden jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood and his 80th birthday. He concelebrated Mass with parish priest Fr Peter Murphy who was ordained 44 years ago on the same date.

Fr Kennedy spoke about his childhood at St Mary's and was pleased to see Molly Davies, Grace Smith and Bradley Smith in uniform representing his old school.

He commented on the stained glass windows with their theme of the sacraments he had received in the church combining the biblical scene with an Australian colonial happening.

At a lunch, organised by the Catholic Women's League, Mr Bryan Kennedy reminisced on Fr Kennedy's childhood in Crookwell and work in the Commonwealth Bank in Yass and Sydney before entering the seminary.

Mr Don McIntosh spoke of his time at St Patrick's College, Goulburn, and entertaining the youth club with magician acts.

Mr John Wheeler from Kambah told of Fr Kennedy forming St Thomas the Apostle Parish and building it up to be one of the biggest in the Archdiocese.



Fr. Andrew Benton (Fr. Bill's cousin), Pauline Coady, Fr. Peter Murphy, Fr. Bill Kennedy, Bryan Kennedy and Dorothy Kennedy.

His cousin Philomena Laws commented on Fr Kennedy's close contact with his extended family.

Mr Rick Banfield noted the extra work he does outside his parish duties with the St Vincent de Paul Society, the Mary Potter Nursing Home and Hospice and as diocesan chaplain to the Catholic Women's League and Legion of Mary.

The day ended with Fr Kennedy cutting a cake made by Dorothy Kennedy in the shape of a book and decorated by Margaret Gay, with one page marking his jubilee of priesthood and the other his 80th birthday.

Marika Mychailuk  
ACU graduate, Canberra campus

*Your future starts here*

Australian Catholic University is strengthening its position as the university of choice for high achieving students, with applications for bachelor's degrees up nearly 32 per cent nationally on this time last year.

We are Australia's only Catholic, national, publicly funded university and we welcome staff and students of all beliefs and backgrounds.

Join nearly 20,000 students who have chosen ACU because of our proven graduate outcomes and strong links to industry.

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Year 3 BT at St Matthew's Primary in Page were enjoying fruit break when Catholic Voice visited. The children took turns sharing their news and then it was time for maths. Working in groups they explored shapes and graphs using blocks, the interactive whiteboard and exercises in their books.

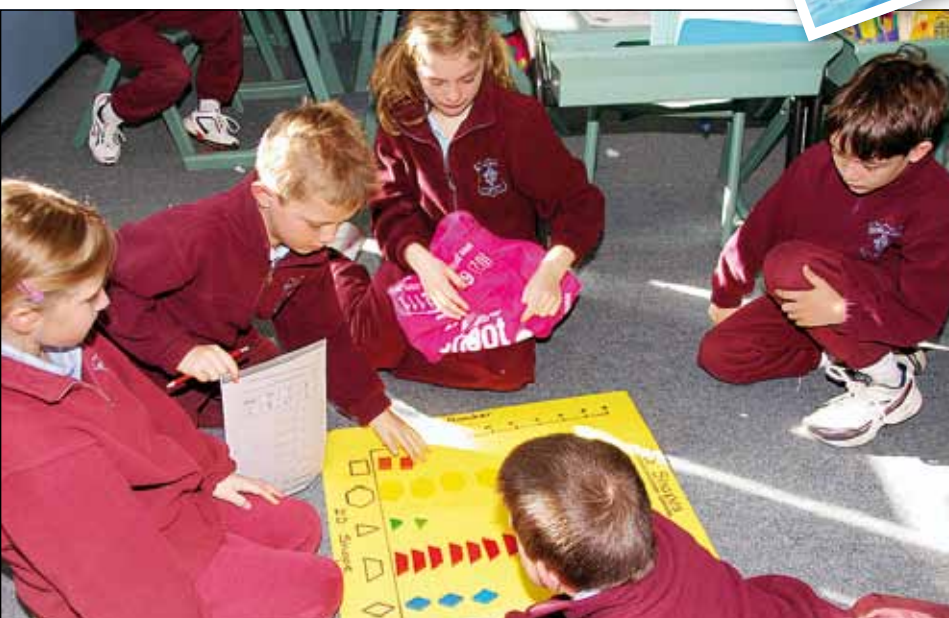


ABOVE: Quintin Shelley enjoys an apple for fruit break.

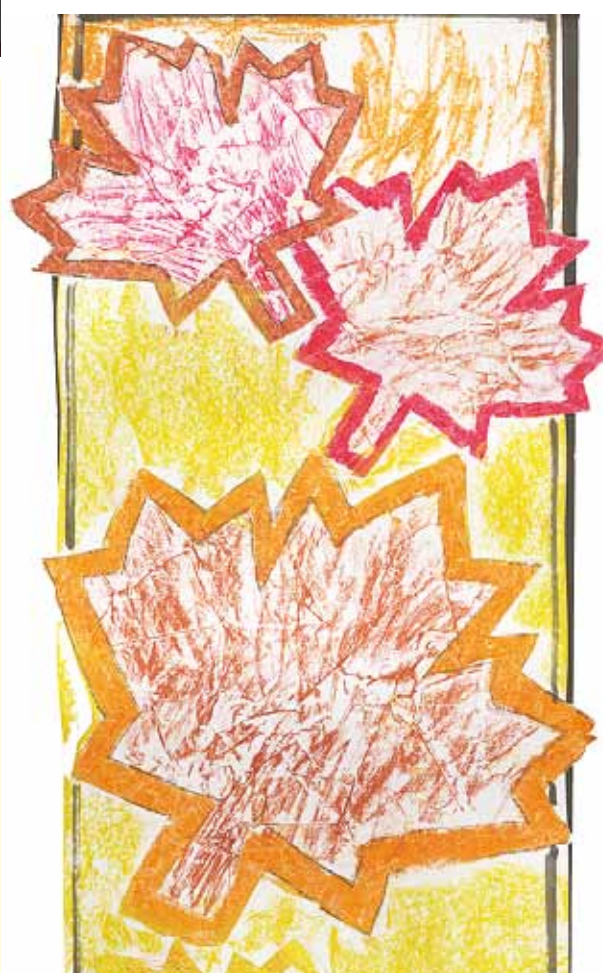


LEFT: Ms Cathy Talbot with her year 3 class.

BELOW: Olivia Harding, Tom Wyers, Jasmine French and Zac Mitchell teamed up to make this submarine.



ABOVE: This group worked together to graph different shapes. Clockwise from left: Laura Bailey, Tom Wyers, Ruby Housego, Grady Whitton and Sidney Sheargold. RIGHT: Zac Dickason made these autumn leaves. FAR RIGHT TOP: Claire Wilks drew this cheery blossom tree surrounded by bumble bees. FAR RIGHT BOTTOM: Lucy Chapman used lots of different colours for this portrait.



ABOVE: Joseph Walker and Lucy Chapman concentrate. LEFT: Claire Wilks and Tara Gledhill watch Quintin Shelley.



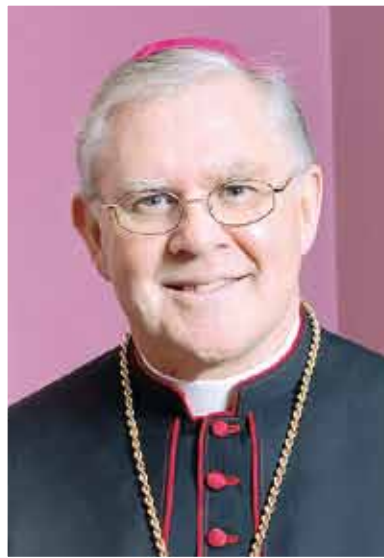
# Support our Fathers

## CLERGY RETIREMENT FOUNDATION

Father's Day  
Appeal

Sunday, September

5



### Message from Archbishop Mark Coleridge, 2010

This Archdiocese has the highest percentage of "retired" clergy of any diocese in the land. About one third of our priests are now "retired", but that doesn't mean that they're doing nothing. Far from it. The priests who have laid down the burden of responsibility as Parish Priests continue to be a vital part of the life of the Archdiocese. They have borne the burden in parishes for many years, and you might say that they are entitled now to sit back and take a rest. But the priesthood is not like that. The very fact that priests retire has perhaps encouraged the sense that the priesthood is a job like many others. But the priesthood is not just a job. It's a job and a marriage rolled into one, with an extra bit thrown in – by which I mean the communion with the unseen supernatural without which the priesthood becomes an empty shell. You can't retire from a marriage; you can't retire from a family. Even if you retire from a job, the deeper engagements remain. That's why the "retired" priests remain at the heart of what we are as the Church and why we need to support them through the Clergy Retirement Foundation. So I commend to your generosity this year's Father's Day Appeal. Giving generously to the Appeal is not only a way of saying thanks to the "retired" priests for all that they have done and are doing, but also a way of recognising and celebrating the gift of the ministerial priesthood in the Church.

Mark Coleridge  
Archbishop of Canberra  
and Goulburn



Our retired priests each have an individual story and Fr Joe Staunton is no exception. We share with you part of his story and that is his passion for fishing – and not just throwing a line in from the beach but big game fishing, especially for Marlin. The following is a passage from a book "Big Game Fishing at Bermagui" – *The 'new age' of the 1970s began with Father Staunton elected a president of the Bermagui Big Game Anglers' Club. He was the parish priest serving at Cobargo and Bermagui from 1965 to 1977 and has been described as leading the BBGAC into*

*the modern age. As he had been a keen angler and commercial fisherman from his early days in Ireland, Fr Staunton knew and understood the interests and problems of each group and was a good friend to both.'*

These days Father Joe, who is 86 years of age, lives contently in his home at Dickson and, up until recently, regularly celebrated Mass at St Brigid's parish church, Dickson. Fr Joe has a wonderful housekeeper and neighbours who keep a caring eye on him. Parish priest Fr Kieran Adams OP regularly enjoys Fr Joe's company over a meal or two.



Fr Staunton is one of a large group of retired clergy cared for by the Clergy Retirement Foundation. Secretary to the Foundation, Mr Kevin Croker, emphasised just how important it was for the Father's Day Appeal to be supported by the catholic lay faithful. 'Without their donations and the assistance of parishes, we simply could not provide the level of care each of our retirees presently enjoy' he said.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP SUPPORT OUR RETIRED PRIESTS

### My donation is:

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other \$.....

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible

First name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Rev): .....

Surname: .....

Address: .....

Town/Suburb: .....

.....Postcode: .....

Phone: .....

### Donations may be sent to:

The Clergy Retirement Foundation, GPO Box 3089, Canberra ACT 2601 or fax Donations to: 02 6257 7410 email enquiries to [kevin.croker@cg.catholic.org.au](mailto:kevin.croker@cg.catholic.org.au)

☐ I would like to become a regular donor.

Please charge my credit card.

Monthly: \$.....

☐ Please send me information on remembering The Clergy Retirement Foundation in my will.

☐ Cheque (payable to Clergy Retirement Foundation) or

Charge my Credit Card

☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa

Card Number:

.....

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

Signature: .....

Thank you for your help in providing for the care of our sick and retired priests of the Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn





# Wide range of care for children and families

Marymead is a community based, not-for-profit organisation with a 43-year history of supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged children and families.

It has grown up as an integral part of the Canberra community and now also provides services to the broader region including Queanbeyan, Goulburn and the South Coast.

Established in 1967, Marymead has evolved from a residential care home in the '60s and '70s to today's organisation, providing a wide range of programs and services primarily focusing on caring for children and supporting families within the community.

Marymead's main focus is children and young people. Programs and services include Child and Family Counselling, Disability Support, Family Support Programs, Foster Care and Respite Care, Grandparents Support Group, Indigenous Children's Program, Kid's Companions, Mental Health Family Support, Parent Education Groups, Post Separation Support Programs, Residential Care, Supervised Contact and Changeover.

Marymead provides support to children and young people by:

- Providing care and assisting in healing.
- Working with families to enhance their wellbeing.
- Advocating for the resources, policies and programs to which they are entitled.



- Applying their knowledge and evolving to meet new challenges.

How can people support Marymead?

Marymead currently works with about 1000 vulnerable children and families each year. While Marymead does receive government funding for some of its programs, it must rely on support from the local community.

There are many ways people can be involved to help Marymead make a real difference to a child's life.

These include by:

- \* Making a tax deductible donation.
- \* Raising funds in the community or workplace on behalf of Marymead.
- \* Becoming a foster carer or respite carer.
- \* Donating through a Workplace Giving Program
- \* Joining the Marymead Auxiliary to organise and attend fundraising events.
- \* Leaving a bequest in their will.
- \* Becoming a corporate sponsor.

For more information about Marymead's programs or services visit [www.marymead.org.au](http://www.marymead.org.au), or contact Marymead marketing and community relations manager Jeff Griffiths, telephone 6162 5824 or e-mail [jeff.griffiths@marymead.org.au](mailto:jeff.griffiths@marymead.org.au)

Marymead is auspiced by the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn.

## If so, now could be just the right time!

Marymead Foster Care is seeking people who are willing to provide a safe and nurturing home for children and young people for occasional weekends, weeks, months or even years. Marymead will provide financial assistance, ongoing training and caseworker support.

### THE NEXT MARYMEAD FOSTER CARE

#### Information Sessions

Thursday 16th  
September 2010  
12.30pm to 1.30pm or  
6.30pm to 7.30pm at  
Marymead

#### Training Course

'Positive Futures –  
Caring Together'  
Commences on  
Thursday 21st  
October 2010

To register your attendance or to obtain further information regarding Marymead Foster Care please contact Lisa on 6162 5843 or email [fcinfo@marymead.org.au](mailto:fcinfo@marymead.org.au).

Marymead is auspiced by the Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn



Caring for Children • Supporting Families • Strengthening Community

# Adria Village Stirling

*Nestled in the Weston Creek suburb of Stirling, surrounded by a lush tree scape, Adria Retirement Village is one of Canberra's best kept secrets.*

Adria village was established as the Croatian Village by the Croatian Community of Canberra and Queanbeyan. Its official opening in 1994 was the result of years of voluntary work done by members from the local Croatian community both in the administration and building of the Village. On the 24th August 2007 the Croatian Village formally underwent an official name change to Adria Village Limited.

The purpose of the building of Adria Village was to ameliorate the economic and social conditions of needy persons in the community and to provide the elderly with quality accommodation and care.

Today Adria Village aims to provide quality care to aged persons of Croatian, Australian and other ethnic background.

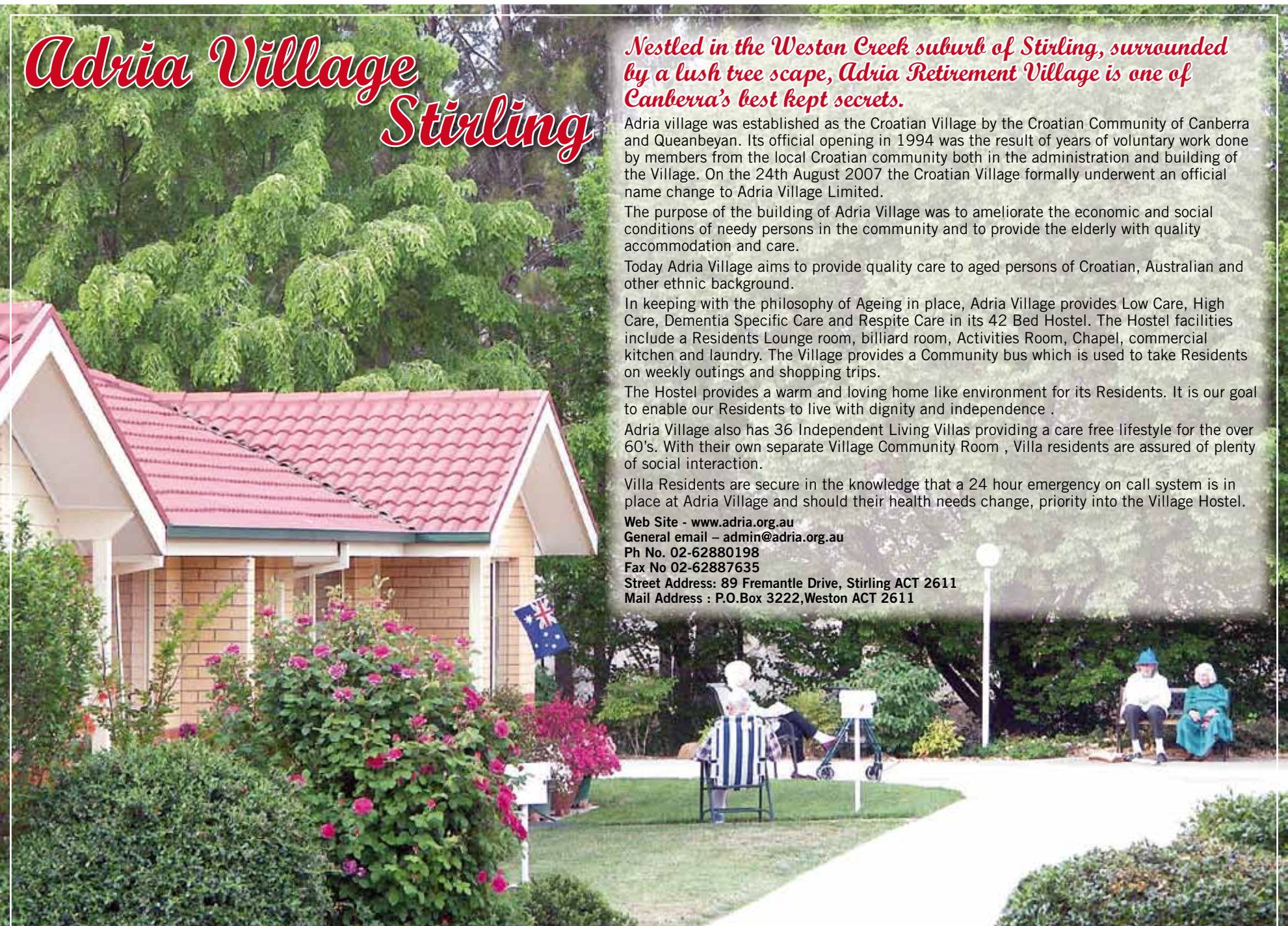
In keeping with the philosophy of Ageing in place, Adria Village provides Low Care, High Care, Dementia Specific Care and Respite Care in its 42 Bed Hostel. The Hostel facilities include a Residents Lounge room, billiard room, Activities Room, Chapel, commercial kitchen and laundry. The Village provides a Community bus which is used to take Residents on weekly outings and shopping trips.

The Hostel provides a warm and loving home like environment for its Residents. It is our goal to enable our Residents to live with dignity and independence.

Adria Village also has 36 Independent Living Villas providing a care free lifestyle for the over 60's. With their own separate Village Community Room, Villa residents are assured of plenty of social interaction.

Villa Residents are secure in the knowledge that a 24 hour emergency on call system is in place at Adria Village and should their health needs change, priority into the Village Hostel.

Web Site - [www.adria.org.au](http://www.adria.org.au)  
General email - [admin@adria.org.au](mailto:admin@adria.org.au)  
Ph No. 02-62880198  
Fax No 02-62887635  
Street Address: 89 Fremantle Drive, Stirling ACT 2611  
Mail Address : P.O.Box 3222, Weston ACT 2611





# A safe place for most vulnerable

Karinya House, which is in its 12th year of operation, has supported thousands of pregnant and parenting women in crisis in the ACT and region.

It has done this by providing supported accommodation, transitional housing and outreach services.

In the financial year ended 30 June 2010, Karinya supported 52 residential clients and their babies and 307 outreach clients. It is worth noting that 59 per cent of these women were aged 25 years and younger and 60 per cent were homeless when referred to Karinya House.

The work of Karinya and the unique service it provides is widely respected by other health and welfare organisations in the community.

Karinya House has established successful partnerships with government services and community agencies to support pregnant and parenting women.

*"We wish to acknowledge the remarkable outcomes the dedicated staff of Karinya House have brought about by helping clients with special needs. Their holistic and multifaceted support of these clients has enabled many families to successfully parent."* -

## Impact Program ACT Health.

Kaya, one of Karinya's residential clients says: "Karinya has helped me by giving me a safe place to live and a stable network during my pregnancy and following the birth of my daughter, Mayrah.

"I will never forget the support I have been given by the staff or the difference Karinya has made to my life."

Like many charities Karinya House experienced a significant impact from the global financial crises. This impact resulted in a renewed focus on its fundraising endeavours.

Karinya receives 53 per cent government funding, meaning it would not be viable without the generosity of the community.



The Catholic community has provided ongoing support for the Project 1000 appeal that aims to target 1000 families or individual donors to contribute \$200 per annum.

Karinya has 606 Project 1000 donors who have committed to supporting its vital work by giving on a recurring basis. Karinya's goal is to have 700 donors by the end of December.

As another fundraising endeavour, Karinya will be hosting a fundraising BBQ at Bunnings, Belconnen on Saturday, 4 September.

This is an opportunity for people to show support while doing Father's Day shopping. All funds raised will go directly towards supporting women, children and families who are among the most vulnerable in the community.

\* For information on providing support to Karinya House or to subscribe to Project 1000, telephone 6259 8998.

Sometimes  
the beginning of life  
is the hardest part...

**Karinyahouse**  
for mothers & babies

Karinya House is a dynamic, compassionate organisation providing accommodation, referral and outreach support to pregnant women and their families on a 24 hour basis

Telephone: 02 6259 8998

Website: [www.karinyahouse.asn.au](http://www.karinyahouse.asn.au)

Email: [info@karinyahouse.asn.au](mailto:info@karinyahouse.asn.au)

## CatholicCare Canberra & Goulburn

**SOCIAL JUSTICE – EMPOWERMENT – EQUALITY – COLLABORATION – SOLIDARITY – SPIRITUALITY  
EXCELLENCE – RESPECT - COMPASSION**

*CatholicCare Canberra and Goulburn (formerly known as Centacare), is the welfare arm of the Roman Catholic Church and has operated within the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn for more than 50 years.*

During this time CatholicCare has grown from the beginnings of a small volunteering organisation to the large multidisciplinary welfare organisation it is today. CatholicCare operates with a simple and clear premise – to help people.

In keeping with the Catholic Church's beliefs we are committed to:

- Providing high quality accessible services
- Empowering individuals, couples and families
- Promoting healthy, inclusive communities through relationships, partnerships and collaboration

### Do I have to be Catholic to use this service?

The answer is NO. CatholicCare provides services to all members of our community. We ensure equitable access to all individuals using our services.

[www.catholiccare.cg.org.au](http://www.catholiccare.cg.org.au)  
[info@catholiccare.cg.org.au](mailto:info@catholiccare.cg.org.au)

### Disability and Aged Care Services

The portfolio provides support to a wide range of people in the areas of accommodation support, in-home support, community support, flexible respite solutions and community linkages in the ACT. We also provide a Brokerage service which offers the opportunity for people or other organisations to purchase services. This is a 'fee for service' program and we decide on an individual basis whether to accept clients based on our ability to provide a quality service.

For more information please call 6163 7600

### CatholicCare ACCESS Program

The CatholicCare ACCESS program is a bulk billing counselling service, offering Psychological services to people in the community to improve their mental health and wellbeing. This service offers assistance to people experiencing symptoms of mental ill-health such as depression, anxiety, grief and loss, alcohol or drug abuse. The service can be accessed via an appointment and mental health plan from your GP.

For more information please call 6163 7600

### CatholicCare GROGWatch Program

CatholicCare's GROGWatch Program is a new project funded by the Binge Drinking Initiative of the Department of Health & Ageing.

It is an early intervention service which will aim to support young people aged 12 -24 years who are taken to the ACT Police Watchhouse or Emergency Medical services as a result of binge drinking.

GROGWatch will offer outreach services Friday, Saturday and Sunday mornings and assess risky drinking behaviours, promote harm reduction and health promotion to young people who access the service.

CatholicCare staff offer follow up support, education, information and referral services over a period of 3 months, and reassess drinking behaviours after 3 months to measure the effect of intervention and education on alcohol use.

For more information please call 6163 7666

### Youth, Mental Health, Homelessness & Family Support

The programs in this portfolio include both outreach and residential services to young people, families and individuals. All programs offer individual case management, information, referral, advocacy and support and seek to assist people to achieve their individual goals.

For more information please call 6163 7600

### Counselling Services

Provide both family and relationship counselling services to individuals, couples and families. These programs specialise in

working with couples and families to build better relationships through improving communication and conflict resolution skills. We also provide counselling to Carers of a person with a disability (including mental health condition) and regularly conduct practical and informative parenting courses. In addition to these services which are based in Canberra, we have some programs in regional areas of NSW:

- Family & relationship counselling in Bega and Moruya
- Counselling for individuals and families in drought affected areas, including Cooma, Bega, Young, Yass and Goulburn.

For more information please call: 6162 6100

### Volunteers

#### We need you!

Volunteer involvement with CatholicCare is appreciated and welcomed.

In partnership with paid workers our volunteers enhance and extend the provision of services to CatholicCare clients.

To volunteer or to receive more information please contact our Volunteer and Training Manager on 6295 4301.



**CatholicCare**  
Canberra & Goulburn



# It's a great way to live ...

The past 12 months have been a period of great activity for Southern Cross Care especially in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn.

During that period every one of Southern Cross Care's residential aged care facilities was subjected to the rigors of triennial inspection by the Aged Care Accreditation and Standards Agency with each one passing with flying colours.

While Southern Cross Care believes it offers at all times the best accommodation and care possible it is always good to have an independent assessment confirming that claim.

Another highlight was the ever-increasing numbers of volunteers who have graduated from the eight-day Pastoral Care Training Program.

Led by a qualified team leader in each facility, the pastoral carers each journey with three to five residents.

Their weekly individual visits develop a trust relationship which enables each resident to share



A year of great activity ... work on the new apartments at Cootamundra.

feelings of joy, loss and grief which they have experienced over a lifetime, as well as receiving support as they continue their journey in residential care.

Southern Cross is very proud that its only access criterion for care services is need, with the "next knock on the door" policy ensuring that no-one is excluded.

Southern Cross is excited that its re-building projects, for the most part, are almost completed.

The new 80-apartment facility at Young was blessed and officially opened on 31 July; the final stage of apartments in Cootamundra will be finished by the end of September; the last stage of re-development at Bombala will commence in the final quarter of this year while work is well under way with the building of 45 new apartments at Harden.



Residential units at Campbell, ACT.

In addition, the site works for the 43 new two and three bedroom villas at Young have been completed with the building works about to commence.

The old Young Retirement Village complex will be refurbished/ redeveloped to provide 28 one and two bedroom affordable units with access also by pensioner/ renters.

Southern Cross Care anticipates beginning the building of

15 units (including pensioner/ renter) at Cootamundra before year's end.

Southern Cross Care is proud to be part of the Church's ministry to valuable and valued older people throughout the Archdiocese.

\* For more information about services and accommodation, contact Godwin D'Amato, telephone 9632 3144, email [gdamato@sch.org.au](mailto:gdamato@sch.org.au).

## SOUTHERN CROSS CARE

(NSW & ACT)

*"A great way to live"*

### ARCHDIOCESAN CENTRES



NEW Southern Cross Apartments – Young



Southern Cross Villas – Temora



Southern Cross Catherine View Villas – Young



NEW Southern Cross Apartments – Bombala



NEW Southern Cross Apartments – Cootamundra



Southern Cross St. Lawrence Home – Galong



NEW Southern Cross Independent Living – Harden



Southern Cross Tenison Apartments – Goulburn



Southern Cross Independent Living – ACT



Southern Cross Ozanam Apartments – Garran



Southern Cross Independent Living – Garran

Southern Cross Residential Aged Care offers modern/new single room bed sitter apartments with private ensuite, tea making facility, balcony/ verandah access.

Our "next knock on the door" access policy ensures that no-one is excluded whilst our

professional, qualified and experienced staff ensure the best care possible for our valued and valuable residents.

Our quality 1,2 and 3 bedroom independent living units are available at reasonable entry prices and affordable fortnightly fees. Pensioner/Renter

accommodation is available (without entry fee) at Temora and Canberra and will soon be coming to Young and Cootamundra.

For more information or enquiries, please contact Godwin D'Amato on (02) 9632 3144 or email [gdamato@sch.org.au](mailto:gdamato@sch.org.au)



# Students show compassion for needy

Many young people across the Archdiocese support the St Vincent de Paul Society each year through fund-raising at their schools.

The Feast of the Sacred Heart on 11 June was celebrated at Daramalan College with a Mass and other school activities that recognised the importance of this special day on the school's calendar.

This year was chosen as the Year of Compassion at the college and Daramalan affirmed its commitment to the year's theme with a donation of new blankets to the St Vincent de Paul Society's Winter Appeal.

About 40 blankets were donated, with the society's chief executive officer Mr Bob Wilson and Ms Chelsea Gutterson accepting the gift as well as a cheque from the school for \$13,000 towards the work of the St Vincent de Paul Society with Canberra's needy.

During the handover at the college, Mr Wilson said how pleased he was with the donation of new blankets and the difference it made when families received new goods.

"It measurably lifts people's dignity when such an effort is made to support the less fortunate," he said.

He finished by thanking everyone at the college and stressed how much of a difference Daramalan's donations would make this winter.

Mr Wilson was back at the college for another presentation on the first day of term 3.

He was presented with a cheque for \$13,700, being part proceeds of Daramalan's 2010 Kilothon.



ABOVE: St Vincent De Paul chief executive officer Mr Bob Wilson accepts a cheque for \$13,000 from Daramalan College ministry coordinator Ms Maria Tolfree along with college students and teacher Mr Andrew Digan.

RIGHT: Archdiocesan president of the St Vincent de Paul Society Mr Evan Brett receives a donation from the college kilothon from college captain Kate McKeon and Assistant Principal Ms Angela Dunn.



**St Vincent de Paul Society**  
CANBERRA/GOULBURN CENTRAL COUNCIL  
*good works*

*Ordinary people helping anyone in need*

We offer a hand up to people in need. We do it simply because we believe people matter – we believe we not only have much to share, but also much to learn.

We provide a complete range of services:

- Housing and other accommodation for men, women, and families in crisis
- Support and care for Canberra's rough sleepers
- Blue Door, a drop in centre providing breakfast and lunch
- Night Patrol, a food van that provides nourishment and friendship for the homeless
- Vinnies Centres (shops), providing quality clothing and household goods
- Home visits, our volunteers provide care and support to people by visiting their homes
- Children's holiday camps and activities
- Clemente, a free tertiary education program
- Compeer, helps break down the stigma of mental illness through friendship



Without our volunteers, we would not be able to continue the important work that we do within our community.

Our volunteers are everyday people, but what they do is extraordinary.

For more information:

P: 02 6282 2722

E: info@svdp-cg.org.au

W: [www.vinnies.org.au](http://www.vinnies.org.au)



# It's about promoting life ...

Catholic Healthcare is passionate about providing excellent services to sick, frail, elderly and marginalised persons through NSW and south east Queensland.

Its story speaks of life, service, community, stewardship and justice, inspired by faith.

Established in 1994 by the bishops of NSW and the ACT, Catholic Healthcare strives to uphold the dignity of the human person in all circumstances and at all times, regardless of age, state of health, frailty or disability.

It is a large Catholic provider of residential aged care and community services and operates two healthcare services.

Within the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn, Catholic Healthcare operates two residential aged care services:

- Blakeney Lodge, Tumut with its wonderful atmosphere and community spirit and
- Maranatha Lodge, Batehaven, situated on the beautiful south coast with ocean and bushland views.



In the neighbouring Diocese of Wollongong, Catholic Healthcare also operates St Mary's Hostel & Retirement Village, Berkeley, Bishop McCabe Village, Towradgi and Villa Maria Centre, Unanderra.

"We Care" is the focus of this Catholic Voice supplement. Catholic Healthcare evidences this state-

ment by providing a diverse range of services through 39 residential aged care services, 10 seniors living communities, 2 healthcare services and 33 community services programs which assist 5000 clients.

Catholic Healthcare is supported in its mission by more than 3300 employees and many generous volunteers.



## Aged care may not be what you think ... experience the difference with Catholic Healthcare

**Catholic Healthcare specialising in the care of the aged, the frail and people living with dementia.**

**Blakeney Lodge** 27-29 Carey Street, Tumut

**Villa Maria Centre** 15a Blackman Parade, Unanderra

**Maranatha Lodge** Calton Road, Batehaven

**St Mary's Retirement Village** 211 Northcliffe Drive, Berkeley

**To speak with one of our friendly customer service team call us today on:**

# 1800 551 834

[www.catholichealthcare.com.au](http://www.catholichealthcare.com.au)



# It's tough to live on your ego

Renowned theologian Hans Urs von Balthasar once suggested that there are two different dramas we can live out in life, an ego-drama or a theo-drama.

We live an ego-drama when we draw our basic energies from our ego and from the highs and lows that our ego undergoes in life, feeling good when things are going well and feeling depressed when they are not.

When we are living an ego-drama we are easily, and often, discouraged, angry, and depressed.

We live a theo-drama when we draw our energies from something beyond ourselves, from God.

When we do this the highs and lows of our daily lives do not affect us so deeply and we are less prone to discouragement, anger, and depression because we are drawing meaning and energy from something beyond the fluctuations of our own egos.

Nowhere is this truer than in ministry where, invariably, we are either too full of ourselves when things are going well or too discouraged and angry when they are not.

There's a story inside the mystical tradition of Islam that brilliantly illustrates this.

It has different versions, all making the same point, but here's the one with which I'm most familiar:

Once upon a time there was a young man, full of sincerity and idealism, who felt the call to preach God's challenge and consolation to the world.

So he went into the deep woods and apprenticed himself to the Elders who trained him and when they felt he was ready laid hands on him, blessed him, and sent him out to preach God's challenge and consolation.

And this is how he did it: Each day he would enter a town just before noon when the market squares were most crowded and cry out: "Does anyone want to hear about God's challenge and consolation?"

Always there would be someone, an elder, who would step forward and say: "Yes, we will hear you speak on this."

And the elder would take him to his house and after the supper meal some people would gather.

But not many people would come, and some would come late

## 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)



and others would leave early, and he sensed they were listening to him only out of politeness, without real interest.

So after each such session the young man would go back to his lodgings feeling empty, discouraged, thinking that these surely were not the people to whom he had been called to minister.

So it went on, for a long time, a short time, or for whatever time it was.

Each day this cycle would repeat itself; He would go into a town, cry out, ask if anyone was interested in hearing about God's challenge and consolation.

Always an elder would step forward and take him to his house, each

night a small group would gather, some would arrive late and others would leave early, they would listen to him politely, engage him in polite questions, and he would leave feeling empty and discouraged.

Until one day he entered a town just as he always did, cried out just as he always did, and an elder stepped forward just as was the pattern.

But this time things were different: Instead of taking him to his house, the elder took him to the town square where a platform had been erected and a large number of seats set up.

That evening the whole square filled with people and no one arrived late and no one left early, and they listened to him intently and engaged him in deep questions long into the night.

He went back his lodgings that night filled with energy and all the next day he worked enthusiastically at preparing what he would say that night.

And when he got to the town square that evening it was just as the night before, a huge crowd had gathered.

But, just as he was about to step up to speak, the elder tugged at his

sleeve and said: "Someone else who will speak tonight, not you."

And it was just as the night before, nobody came late and nobody left early and everyone listened intently and engaged the speaker in deep questions long into the night.

But the young man felt empty and listened without heart.

When it was over, he returned to his lodging nursing an inchoate frustration.

The next morning, early, he packed his few belongings and began to walk out of the town when, just at its edge, the elder stopped him and asked: "Why are you leaving us?" The young man replied: "It seems you don't need me to preach to you, you have others."

And so the elder took him by his sleeve and said gently: "Let me give you a counsel: The person who was so full of himself two nights ago and the person who was so empty of himself last night - neither of those persons is you."

"Stay with us and let us teach you who you are."

Wise, wise words, carrying a meaning far deeper than first imagined.

# A 'magnificent' Catholic layman

Born of a migrant father and Australian mother, James Scholtens built a career of public service, enjoyed the confidence of seven successive prime ministers and was knighted by the Queen for his efforts.

Sir James Scholtens was born in Melbourne on 12 June, 1920, and died in Canberra on 26 July this year.

In a message read at his Requiem Mass in St Vincent's Church, Aranda, Archbishop Mark Coleridge described him as "a magnificent figure, embodying all that is best in the Catholic layman who excels in family life, in professional life and in the life of faith. He was strong, loving and wise - and filled with a taste for life that never deserted him."

James Scholtens' father was a migrant from The Netherlands and the family lived on a small holding in a tiny township near Melbourne.

James joined the service of the Commonwealth Government in 1935 as a telegraph messenger in Melbourne.

In 1941 he came on promotion to Canberra in the Department of Commerce. Here he met a stenographer in the Prime Minister's Department and, after a period in the RAAF during World War 2, he married Mary Maguire in Brisbane on St Patrick's Day, 1945.

In December, 1949, he took up duty in the Prime Minister's Department and remained there until 1980.

At retirement he was director of the Office of Government Ceremonial and Hospitality. He worked with prime ministers Menzies, Holt, McEwen, Gorton, McMahon, Whitlam and Fraser, and was often included as a member of delegations accompanying them on overseas trips.

He also had primary roles in visits to Australia by the Royal Family, heads of state and prime ministers.

In 1977, he was created a Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order (KCVO), an honour personally bestowed by the Queen.

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



One of his roles was as Commonwealth Director for the visit of Pope Paul VI and he was a consultant for the visit of Pope John Paul II.

Sir James became a member in 1946 of the Order of the Knights of the Southern Cross, a Catholic lay organisation which he enjoyed serving through the years. For nearly 20 years he arranged the National Anzac Day Mass in Canberra under the delegation of the Military Bishop.

He had a sense of humour that put people at ease and was not impressed by position or status. When asked at a function with academics which university he had attended, he replied that he was educated at Random.

In his homily at the Requiem Mass, Bishop Pat Power said one of the hallmarks of a truly great man "is that he wears his greatness lightly."

"Even the wonderful account of Jim's life at the back of the Mass booklet is understated, giving only glimpses and hints of a rich and beautiful life."

"For most mere mortals dealing with VIPs even on a small scale could lead to a

sense of their own self-importance. But not in Jim's case. Jim wore his greatness lightly. His very instructions for this funeral liturgy made it clear that he wanted no fuss.

"Sir James Scholtens treated little children and his fellow parishioners and friends with the same dignity that he accorded the people he served so nobly in public life. Jim was at home in his garden, among his colleagues and friends and, most of all, in the company of this beloved family.

"Of course, Jim was no pushover. I recall with a smile many of the jousts he had with his old friend, Fr Tommy Wright, both in St Patrick's parish in Braddon and when they were together planning the visit of Pope John Paul II in 1986.

"He was a man with strong convictions but he always respected the differing viewpoints of others.

"Archbishop Cahill used to tell a story of Jim averting a major diplomatic incident involving the future Pope John Paul when the Polish Cardinal visited Canberra in 1973. There was a dinner in his honour at Parliament House and the Cardinal was refusing to participate in some particular toast. I am not sure of the details of how Jim managed it but Archbishop Cahill was forever grateful to Jim for his intervention.

"For all his public profile, it was Jim's family life which mattered most to him. It was always edifying for me to see Jim and Mary together as much in love as on the day they were married in 1945.

"Jim was at home with God, at peace with himself, with others, especially his family, and with nature."

Sir James leaves wife Mary, son Paul and daughters Mary Anne, Maureen, Kathy, Libby and Margie, 23 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

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## SHORTS

**Splice.** Starring Adrien Brody, Sarah Polley and Delphine Cheneac. Directed by Vincenzo Natali. 104 minutes. MA (strong violence and sex scenes).

The Frankenstein myth. It must be a deeply archetypal story for it to have been expressed in so many different forms. Filmed in chill colours, the film has a coldly pervasive atmosphere. It is old-fashioned B movie material given A production and cast.

**Cairo Time.** Starring Patricia Clarkson, Alexander Siddig, Elena Anaya and Tom McCamus.

Directed by Ruba Nadda. 89 minutes. M (infrequent coarse language and sexual references).



If you can't manage a holiday in Egypt, seeing Cairo Time could be the next best thing. If it's a travelogue you're after, the deficiencies of storytelling may not be an issue. But anyone looking for an absorbing study of human relationships will feel short-changed by this Canadian-Irish-Egyptian co-production.

**The First Day of the Rest of Your Life.** Starring Jacques Gamblin, Zabou Breitman, Déborah François and Marc-André Grondin. Directed by Rémi Bezançon. 114 minutes. M (mature themes, drug use and sexual references).

The kind of story the French do so well, a focus on a family, their interactions, their crises. It is different in its screenplay and in its structure. It takes place over five days, but not consecutive days. Rather, the days are significant over a period of twelve years. The film was popular in France and won three Cesar awards, including most promising actress for Deborah François as the daughter and Marc-André Grondin as the younger son. The film travels well outside France.

**The Ghostwriter.** Starring Ewan McGregor, Pierce Brosnan, Kim Cattrall, James Belushi, Timothy Hutton and Tom Wilkinson. Directed by Roman Polanski. 128 minutes. MA 15+ (strong coarse language).

Robert Harris, a best-selling writer of conspiracy books, has collaborated with Roman Polanski in adapting his novel, Ghost, for the screen. He says in refining, cutting and selecting for the screenplay, the film has some better features than the book. An absorbing contemporary thriller with fascinating political suggestions and implications.

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# It could become a cult movie

### Scott Pilgrim vs The World.

Starring Michael Cera, Mary Elizabeth Winstead, Kieran Culkin and Jason Schwartzman. Directed by Edgar Wright. 117 minutes. M (action violence, sexual references and coarse language). Reviewer: Fr Peter Malone MSC\*.

Well, not quite the world. Rather, vs the exes of the girl Scott Pilgrim has a thing for - so maybe the title should be Scott Pilgrim vs His World.

Based on a six-year series of comics/graphic novels, with author Bryan Lee O'Malley collaborating with director Edgar Wright, it is an entertainment for the 20-plus or minus age group who can identify with the characters and the situations, for whom Scott Pilgrim (and actor Michael Cera) could be surrogate figures.

This is a role that suits Michael Cera perfectly. He is more Michael Cera-like than usual, and that is saying something. He does always seem the same, though in taking an alternate role in Youth In Revolt, he showed that he really could do something different when required.

Edgar Wright, British director who enjoyed playing with zombie conventions in Shaun of the Dead, and police mysteries in Hot Fuzz, tackles the graphic novel with exuberance and visual flair that has comic-style words all over the screen, has the characters performing as if they are in comic strip panels, not worrying about realism but creating Bryan Lee O'Malley's world visually and letting rip.



Scott Pilgrim (Michael Cera) tries to romance Ramona Flowers (Mary Elizabeth Winstead) in the comedy Scott Pilgrim vs the World. Picture: Kerry Hayes.

Needless to say, any audience in an older age bracket needs to be warned that they are going to feel much older than they thought they did and some frustration tolerance might have to be exercised. But, this is a film of its time, of our time, of the culture of comic books, graphic novels, of computer games, of the instantly instant.

And, that older audience that watches Scott Pilgrim, may be reminded of other comic book heroes. Back in the early 1930s, Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster created Superman and his mortal incarnation, Clark Kent. In real life they were Clark Kents who were able to imagine Superman and experience some vicarious adventures. Scott Pilgrim is somewhat Clark Kentish, with Michael Cera look, hesitancy and rising diffident intonations.

Superman was truly a hero, a super-hero, vs the evil world. Scott Pilgrim is much more modest. He has tentatively begun a relationship with a 17-year-old Chinese schoolgirl who becomes the biggest groupie of Scott's band (Clark Kent was a journalist, nowadays everyone young wants to be in a band).

His band members are really variations on this theme, except for Kim (Allison Pill) who used to be Scott's girlfriend in school. There is also his gay room-mate, Wallace (an effective Kieran Culkin) reminding us that we live in a franker era on relationships and orientations. When Scott sees Ramona Flowers (Mary Elizabeth Winstead), a refugee from New York to Toronto, where the film is set (and Michael Cera comes from), he discovers a fickleness in himself and sets his heart on Ramona.

His quest is not the elimination of evil, so he is not quite vs the world. Rather, he has to confront Ramona's exes in comic fights or musical competitions that allow him to be a hero and for the screen to highlight his kapow battles.

And, besides, the superheroes usually give up their love interest in life to dedicate themselves to their quests. Scott Pilgrim really wants Ramona Flowers.

Many younger audiences and young adults will resonate with this and the film may become something of a cult movie. On the other hand, in 30 years, movie watchers and social commentators may be wondering about 2010 sensibilities.

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

## A black comedy that's not for all

### Four Lions

Starring Riz Ahmed, Kayvan Novak, Nigel Lindsay, Adeel Akhtar, Benedict Cumberbatch. Directed by Chris Morris. M (mature themes, coarse language and sexual references). 98 minutes. Reviewer: Fr Peter Malone MSC\*.

Satire and parody. How far can you go? Some cultures are good at satire and enjoy it. The British comedy tradition is in that vein. Americans are less prone as a whole to appreciate irony. Recent events have made satirists and cartoonists very wary about Islam. With Christianity it seems no-holds barred.

Those may be some of the thoughts before seeing Four Lions if you have heard that it is a black comedy about suicide bombers and was made by Chris Morris who has had a strong, if chequered, career as a television satirist.

Can you make a film on this topic these days - well, he has made it, so the question is should he have made it. Chaplin mocked Hitler and Mussolini in 1940 in The Great



A scene from the black comedy Four Lions.

Dictator. Perhaps the lines were so easily drawn then, that it didn't matter if the Germans or Italians didn't like it. Now innocent victims of suicide bombers are in our midst and their relatives and friends grieve. Satire, mockery? The quickest answer is that if this does not sound like your sense of humour, then simply don't go.

If you feel that one way of coping with the terrible consequences of fanatical beliefs is to show the ridiculous side of such behaviour and the less-than-heroism and even stupidity of those who believe

that they are martyrs with instant entree into heaven, then here you are.

Four Lions is often cleverly written and, at times, makes for some laugh-out-loud comedy. Riz Ahmed (Road to Guantanamo) has decided that the best thing to do, given the terrible state of the world, is to commit an atrocity and blow bystanders up with himself. Two of his friends (and now disciples) are, to put it kindly, very slow-witted.

The other member of the team is Barry, Anglo-Saxon, but a convert to terrorist Islam where he has made a place for himself that he could not do in real life. He is the critic and the contradictor.

They go to Pakistan for some training but are fairly hopeless and get sent home.

They are also essentially British and they fall back on different taken-for-granted little details of British life and customs, TV and music, food, ordinary jobs in the workplace, which shows the mixed motives that have not been sorted out.

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

## NZ look at indigenous challenges today

At once, Boy (a lively and attractive James Rolleston) looks into the camera and recites his life story for us - and for the class where this is part of a lesson. He lives in a community of Maori people, disadvantaged but with a lively spirit that sustains them or leads them into trouble.

It is 1984 and pop culture has more than made inroads in this part of New Zealand. Boy has a devotion to Michael Jackson, and this theme is humorously woven through the whole film. Some of the kids are

called Dynasty and Falcon Crest (or Chardonnay). Boy's ne'er-do-well, often dim, but exuberantly optimistic father is called Alamein, where his father fought. This indicates that there are quite a few laughs, and laughs out loud, to be enjoyed.

It all takes place over a week when Boy's gran goes away to a funeral and Boy is in charge. He sometimes indulges in a fantasy world, where Michael Jackson figures, and also imagines all kind of heroic and romantic adventures for himself. Which don't happen.

**Boy**  
Starring James Rolleston, Te Aho Aho Eketone-Whitu, Mavis Paenga and Taika Waititi. Directed by Taika Waititi. 88 minutes. M (mature themes, coarse language, drug use and violence). Reviewer: Fr Peter Malone MSC\*.

He also has a six year old brother, Rocky, who thinks he has magic powers.

Then Boy's father turns up from prison, with two friends, who have formed a gang.

There are plenty of poignant moments, especially since the boys' mother died in giving birth to Rocky and this has become part of his consciousness. If someone were to organise a day of film on indigenous people facing the 21st century, two films worth considering would be Samson & Delilah for Australia and Boy for New Zealand.

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

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# Four models of living

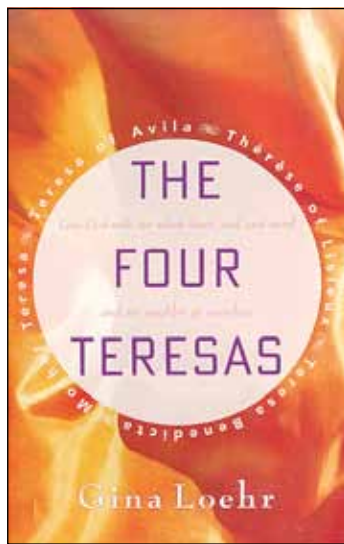
**The Four Teresas** by Gina Loehr. Servant Books, 2010, 128pp, \$22.95. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.

It is always a pleasure to come across another book by an author whose work and style has appealed before. I remember Gina Loehr from her Real Women, Real Saints. This time, with commendable originality, she has produced The Four Teresas.

The Great Commandment is named in all three Synoptic Gospels as that of loving God with all your heart, mind, soul and your neighbour as yourself. Loehr identifies this central element of Christ's teaching as the means by which we fulfill our Christian calling. She has chosen the four Teresas to illustrate how each of these women lived out one particular aspect of the commandment - Therese of Lisieux (heart), Teresa of Avila (soul), Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (mind), and Blessed Teresa of Calcutta (neighbour).

She states the four Teresas are masters and models of living out Christ's command. As such they are our teachers. No surprises there.

The Four Teresas has one chapter on each woman containing a short account of her life, a



presentation of her teaching and a reflection on how to apply that teaching in our lives. This format was crafted for study groups for which it is eminently suitable.

Loehr has the ability to draw on these women's lives with their inescapable challenges, joys and sorrows so that we identify with them. These famous saints are not just up there beyond our reach. Their doubts and fears are substantially the same as ours. It is their extraordinary response in love, not the problems they faced, which marks them as our mentors in the present day.

Of the four Teresas, the one I am least familiar with is St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross. Better known perhaps as Edith Stein she was born in 1891 into a devout Jewish family. She converted to Catholicism, then entered the Carmelites and died in the gas chambers at Auschwitz in 1942.

As with the others, Loehr gives 10 ways to become more like St Teresa Benedicta, a deceptively simple method of exploring her sanctity.

I really liked this book. I can see multiple uses for it especially for those charged with enriching the lives of women young and old.

## A reflection of beautiful lives

**A Light to the World: Reflections from Kylemore Abbey.** The Columba Press, 119pp, \$24.95. Reviewer: Bishop Pat Power.

This beautiful little volume encapsulates some fascinating history going back 150 years when a good Protestant gentleman built a gorgeous castle as a home for his family and friends in the wilderness of the Connemara country-side. Fifty years into the story, a community of Irish Benedictine nuns moved into Kylemore Abbey. This book is a living history of grace-filled lives immersed in the most spectacular countryside. The beautiful photography reproduced on almost every page is reason enough to make it a little treasure.

But the book also takes its readers into the spiritual lives of the Benedictine Sisters. The psalms and other prayers of the Divine Office are beautifully presented and illustrated in a way which

makes them suitable for reflection and prayer. So often the psalms and the Divine Office generally can be seen as something only accessible to mystics, scholars and those well-versed in the spiritual life.

This book makes the richness of this part of the scriptures available to all who have a heart for beauty, goodness and light.

The back cover sums it up: "This book reflects the prayer of the nuns throughout the year, as they follow the unfolding liturgical cycle, parallel to the seasons. Evocative photographs from the grounds of the Abbey lead into meditation and prayer. A selection of psalms from the daily office of the nuns gives words with which the reader can reach out to the Creator, responding to the stirrings in the soul inspired by personal experience of natural beauty, life and human endeavour."

## Weekly meditations for women

**Grace-Filled Moments** by Johnnette S Benkovic. Our Sunday Visitor, 2001, 255pp, \$26.95. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.

Johnnette S Benkovic is the author of many books, most of them with the word "grace" in the title. She is an American, married with children, who

hosts two international programs broadcast by the EWTN network.

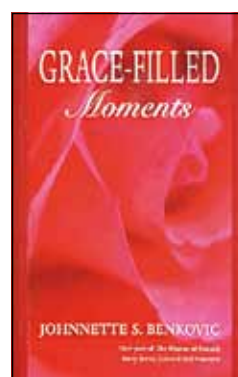
In this book, she states her hope that the reader will be inspired "to enter fully into the grace of authentic femininity and the call of spiritual motherhood".

She advises that her study-guide should be used in a group setting and that each participant prepare the meditation and the responses to the questions beforehand. Equally it can be used alone.

Much of Benkovic's motivation has been fuelled by John Paul II's Letter "On the Dignity and Vocation of Women". In addition she draws on the words of many holy women through the ages - some famous, some lesser known.

Benkovic has divided her book into chapters with declamatory headings all starting with "The Soul of Woman Must Be..." These "musts" include "expansive", "quiet", "clear", "warm", "self-contained" and so on. You get the idea.

The author has done a lot of research in matching quotes to scripture and in posing relevant questions to these. There are 52 meditations which she suggests could be used weekly for a year, or more frequently if desired. This little book is a lite 'n easy introduction for those unfamiliar with scriptural prayer and reflection.



## All about overcoming adversity

The Catholic Education Office library holds resources, including DVDs, VHS videos, sound recordings and books that feature the theme of overcoming adversity.

### DVDs

**Invictus.** 128 mins, ages 12 to adult.

This inspirational motion picture, set in South Africa in the 1990s, is directed by Clint Eastwood, and stars Morgan Freeman as President Nelson Mandela and Matt Damon as the captain of the South African national rugby team.

Following the release of Mandela from prison, and the abolition of apartheid, the new president plans to bring unity by placing the focus of the nation on winning the 1995 rugby World Cup, which was hosted by South Africa.

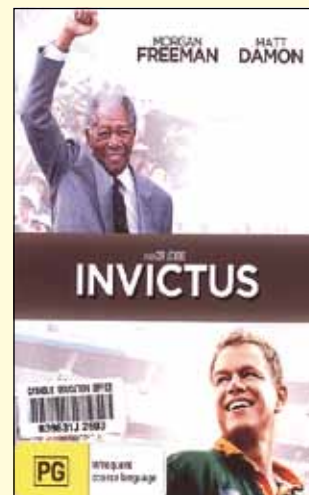
**Tackling Peace.** 44 mins, ages 15 to adult.

Excellent Australian focus and up-to-date, positive, teenage/ youth role models.

The story of Israeli and Palestinian youths who unite over the game of Australian football arranged by the Peres Centre for Peace. Tackling Peace goes behind the scenes as young men from different sides of a bloody political war set aside a lifetime of prejudice and hostility to compete as a team.

**We are Together.** 87 mins, ages 12 to adult.

Charts three turbulent years in the life of Agape, an orphanage founded by



a social worker, "Gogo" Zodwa Mqadi, in KwaZulu-Natal. Most of the children have lost their parents to AIDS.

The film focuses on the experiences of 12-year-old Slindile Moya and her siblings and friends who are members of the orphanage's choir.

**Don Bosco.** 113 mins, ages 12 to adult.

Motion picture stars Ben Gazzara in the story of Don Bosco. He battled single-handedly to save the children of the streets of Turin and inspired the formation of the Salesians, one of the largest childcare networks in the world.

The plot develops slowly, but builds to emotional scenes which depict the commitment of Don Bosco to helping children and their great affection for him.

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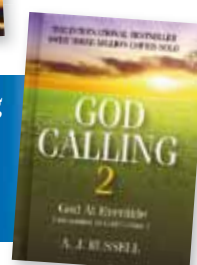
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## Prayers

**PRAYER** to the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit, you who make me see everything and show me how to reach the ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances in my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank you for everything and confirm once more that I never want to separate from you, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with you and my loved one in your perpetual glory. Amen. Pray this on three consecutive days.

**PRAYER** to St Anthony. O Holy St Anthony, gentlest of saints, your love for God and charity for His creatures made you worthy, when on earth, to possess miraculous powers. Miracles waited on your word, which you were ever ready to speak for those in trouble or anxiety. Encouraged by

this thought, I implore of you to obtain for me (request). The answer to my prayer may require a miracle; even so you are the Saint of Miracles. O gentle and loving St Anthony, whose heart was ever full of human sympathy, whisper my petition into the ears of the sweet Infant Jesus, who loved to be folded in your arms; and the gratitude of my heart will ever be yours. Prayer must be said for three days. R N.

**Catholic Voice Classifieds cost \$6.60 for the first 30 words, and \$1.65 for each 6 words after that. Deadline is always 15th of the month. To place a photograph costs only an extra \$16.50. Contact us at GPO Box 3089 Canberra 2601, or e-mail [ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au](mailto:ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au)**

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## Volunteers needed

Mental health support program Compeer has just celebrated its first birthday in Canberra and Queanbeyan, but organisers need more volunteers.

Operated by the St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/ Goulburn Central Council, the Compeer program complements traditional therapy by providing friendship to people recovering from a mental illness.

"The program helps people overcome the devastating effects of mental illness through the power of friendship," Compeer coordinator Ms Kerrie Richardson said. "It is a unique program, as it provides friendship opportunities outside a clinical setting, focused on matching people who are referred by their chosen health professional with a volunteer who is caring and compassionate."

Ms Richardson said the program was looking for more male volunteers in their 20s. Volunteers need to give at least four hours each month for a minimum of 12 months to build a friendship.

For more information telephone 6121 2953 or e-mail [compeer@svdp-cg.org.au](mailto:compeer@svdp-cg.org.au).

Contributions of news items and photographs to the columns of Catholic Voice are welcome. They may be sent to the editor via e-mail at [ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au](mailto:ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au) or by post to GPO Box 3089, Canberra 2601.

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

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# Coming 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.

**CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME** - St John the Apostle Parish Kippax, six-program to assist Catholics who have lost touch with the worshipping community. Starts Tuesday, 6 October. Inquiries: Telephone 6254 3236, or e-mail stj.kippax@cg.catholic.org.au, website www.stjohnkippax.org.au.

**CURSILLO** - Canberra/Western deanery men's Cursillo, Galong 28-31 October. Inquiries: David, telephone 6294 2979, e-mail javecunneen@grapevine.com.au. Northside Ultreya, Page parish 8pm, Thursday, 23 September. Southside Ultreya, Gowrie parish, 7.30pm, Tuesday, 28 September. Inquiries: Merran, telephone 6258 3431.

**HEALING SERVICES** - Aboriginal Catholic Ministry is hosting healing services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, families and friends at St Benedict's parish centre, 5.30pm, 9 September, 5.30pm, 14 October, 5.30pm, 11 November. Inquiries: Kerrie, telephone 0402 049 650, Sally 0422 066 080 or e-mail Bronnie.Schlager@gmail.com.

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

**PILGRIMAGE TO THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF MERCY** - Pauline Fathers Monastery, Penrose Park near Berrima, Wednesday, 13 October, for Fatima Day. Bookings: From Canberra, Queanbeyan and Goulburn, Judy and Joe Mewburn, telephone 6254 6202

**PRAYER MINISTRY** - Fr Richard McAlear OMI from Boston. Mass and prayer ministry, 5.30pm, Friday, 17 September, St Benedict's Church, Narrabundah. Teaching and healing day, 10am-4.30pm, Saturday, 18 September. Registration with

\$25 payment by 13 September. Charismatic Mass, 7pm, Sunday, 19 September. Inquiries: Mary, telephone 0403 395 953 or 6248 7264, parish office 6295 7879.

**REUNION** - Ex-students of St Patrick's College and Tech Goulburn, 1958-1965 group. Canberra 15-16 October. Inquiries: Robert Jepsen, telephone 6259 8313.

**SERRA CLUB OF CANBERRA** - Jubilarians' dinner. Rosary and Mass, 6.10pm, Thursday, 9 September, Holy Trinity Church, Curtin, followed by dinner at Southern Cross Club, Woden. Inquiries: John Malycha, telephone 6251 2912.

**TEMORA REUNION** - Ex-students of Sisters of St Joseph, 9 October. Contact: M Mooney, telephone 6978 0740.

**WOMEN'S RETREAT** - Hosted by Call to Connect, "Do not let your hearts be troubled" (Jn 14:1). 5pm, Saturday, 9 October to 4.30pm, Sunday, 10 October, Warrambui Retreat and Conference Centre, Murrumbateman. Talks, personal story, prayer opportunities, small group sharing, social time and Sunday Mass. Registration, inquiries: Telephone 0432 257 622, e-mail Bronnie.Schlager@gmail.com or registration packages only St Benedict's parish office, telephone 6295 7879.

**WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER** - Weekend for married couples, 22-24 October, Winbourne, Edmund Rice Retreat Centre, Mulgoa (near Penrith). Bookings: Telephone 4283 3435 or go to www.wwme.org.au.

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

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## A true 'Sister of Mercy'

Sr Margaret Watson's sudden death at Gundagai Hospital brought great sadness and shock to the members of her family of origin, her religious family, the parishioners of Weston Creek and all people who knew and loved her in a joyful and dedicated life as a Sister of Mercy.

Born at Cootamundra, Sr Margaret spent her childhood years at June, Armidale and Tumut before entering the Sisters of Mercy, Goulburn, in 1954. After her religious profession, she was involved in many ministries including teaching, care of boarders, school principal, congregation councillor and pastoral associate.

At the time of her death, she was pastoral associate at Weston Creek, a ministry she had been engaged in since 2002. Parish priest Fr Kevin Brannelly said Sr Margaret had made "a deep and lasting impression on all with whom she came into contact. She had a special care for all the sick and house-bound; she consoled and compassionately supported those mourning the loss of a loved one ... a particular concern was for the children in the two primary schools and for the dedicated staff in both of them".

The most important facet of Sr Margaret's life was her deep love of God and of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, expressed in her devotion to prayer, her love of the Eucharist, her faithfulness to praying the rosary and her commitment to following the foundress of the Sisters of Mercy, Catherine McAuley, in living a Mercy way of life.

Mass of Christian Burial for the repose of Sister Margaret's soul was concelebrated at St Christopher's Cathedral, with Archbishop Mark Coleridge as presider, Bishop Patrick Power as chief celebrant, and many celebrants, including Emeritus Archbishop Francis Carroll.

In his homily, Bishop Power referred to Sr Margaret's special charism of friendship.



"In a Christ-like manner she recognised the personal gifts and needs of all the people in her life. Margaret responded to her baptismal calling to be the friend of Jesus and as a Sister of Mercy she lived out that calling in a way which very naturally drew other people to recognise Jesus as their friend, their brother, their Saviour and their God.

"If at times she was tentative and somewhat diffident in recognising her own ability and gifts, she always relied on God's nearness and goodness. It meant, too, that she was able to sympathetically reach out to others in their struggles and be someone with whom they could easily identify. In every sense, she was a true 'Sister of Mercy'. Like Jesus, to whose call she so generously responded, she was very much at home with God's little ones. It was among them that her witness was so fruitful and powerful.

"I cannot imagine what it must have been like in 1957 for the 20-year-old Sr Boniface to be launched into the classroom at Finley or a couple years later to arrive at the colourful mining town of Captains Flat where I am sure she would have encountered many a new experience. Her times caring for boarders in Albury and in Yass gave an added dimension to her teaching life which undoubtedly at times involved a sharp learning curve. That Sr Margaret always remained young at heart is a great testament to what she gave and what she herself learnt as a good teacher.

"We have been blessed in this part of the world since 1993 when Margaret assumed a new phase of her vocation as a Sister of Mercy, undertaking parish pastoral work in Gowrie, Bungendore and for the last eight years in Weston Creek."

Sr Margaret is survived by seven sisters and brothers, Gloria, Dorothy, Marie, Anne, Morris, John and Frank.

## Soup-er way to build community

More than 120 people from the churches of Temora gathered for the Sacred Heart Ladies' annual soup day.

There were 10 different soups on offer as well as sandwiches, cakes and slices, all prepared by the members.

St Anne's Central School provided the musical entertainment, followed by a presentation by former resident Mr Brian Kahlefeldt who spoke about his humanitarian work in Sri Lanka.

"Our soup day is simply a way of getting everyone from different churches in the town together to enjoy each other's company and friendship," Sacred Heart Ladies member Ann Wood said.

"All money that is raised by us from any activity is put back into our parish and school community."



Sister Gerardine and Brian Kahlefeldt at the Temora soup day.

Picture: J A Bradley & Sons.

The Sacred Heart Ladies provide catering for most Temora parish functions.

Members also contribute to the Temora and District Hospital kiosk roster, Meals on Wheels, and the visiting roster for house-bound residents.



**What a year!** Between disasters and preparing for Mary MacKillop's forthcoming canonisation there are many things being highlighted for our concern and support. Yet what we celebrate and how we can respond with confidence through our Church's agencies is underpinned by our faith communities globally and their abilities to exist and engage in worship and Christ's work around them.

Supporting these basic needs is the foundational and essential work undertaken by Catholic Mission; endeavours that rely on the generous giving of our donors. The funds assist dioceses in developing countries including remote areas of Australia to meet their overheads and the mobility of Church and faith community leaders to support worship and pastoral activities.

These and other projects assist whole communities so that men, women and children can have hope. However, support of these everyday fundamental activities can find themselves overlooked amid the media blitzes of major disasters and celebrations. Catholic Mission's work builds the health and effectiveness of our global faith network that undertakes so much in Christ's and our names.

Please help Catholic Mission and the Church's global mission by giving generously that together we can assist. Contact us on 6163 4321 or at www.catholicmission.org.au to donate.

God bless,  
**Deacon Joe Blackwell.**

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By Claire Mitchell

There is a great diversity in the lifestyles and ministries of the Archdiocese's religious sisters.

Some women are called to a life dedicated to prayer, such as the Discalced Carmelite Nuns in Canberra. Others have found their calling living in community and helping the poor, as the Missionaries of Charity in Queanbeyan do. Some live alone and work in parishes, as Sr Margaret Hart of the Sisters of Mercy Goulburn Congregation does.

Each path has its particular strengths and challenges, but as Carmelite Sr Gabriel Anne said, "each of the different religious lifestyles is needed".

The six sisters at the Red Hill Carmelite Monastery have seven different prayer sessions each day, in addition to morning Mass.

Their remaining time is spent on housework, gardening, preparing the following day's liturgy and attending to the many prayer requests they receive.

Wherever possible, their work is done in silence, allowing the sisters opportunity for prayer. They do not leave the monastery unless absolutely necessary, although visitors frequently stop by in search of someone who has time to listen.

"We firmly believe in the power of prayer," prioress Sr Mary Agnes said. "People often call us to say their prayers have been answered."

Sr Gabriel Anne and Sr Tharsicius said their families and friends were shocked when they announced they were joining the Carmelites, but they felt an inner conviction too strong to ignore.

"I was inspired by the nurses of the Little Company of Mary, but it seemed to me they had two jobs, health care and being a religious sister," Sr Gabriel Anne said.

Sr Mary Agnes said those who truly felt the call to the contemplative life would find it irresistible.

"I think of the words of St Edith, 'What was not in my plan was in God's plan'. We all had a number of ideas of where we thought our lives were headed, but this is what God wanted."

Sr Acacia found she also had to accept God's plan over her own when she joined the Missionaries of Charity.

# All Sisters on the journey



Living with three sisters in Queanbeyan, she teaches special religious education to government school students in Queanbeyan, Bungendore and Captains Flat. The sisters also operate a women's refuge, and visit migrants and other families in need.

Their work is supported by four hours of daily prayer, including Mass, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the Rosary. The Missionaries of Charity emphasise community life and eat all meals together in the convent.

Sr Acacia said her vocation provided her with the peace and joy she was missing, but it was not a life she had chosen.

Struggling with an emptiness she didn't know how to fill, she opened the Bible at random and asked God for a sign. "When I read the passage I thought, 'What? You want me to be a nun? But I want a husband and children'," she said.

She sought counsel from a spiritual adviser who recommended approaching the Missionaries of Charity.

"I went to the sisters and tried very hard to make them reject me. I turned up at their door on a motorcycle and to my disappointment they were delighted.

"The day I finally entered it was like a waterfall spilled over me and I felt such peace and joy."



ABOVE: Sr Cherubina and Sr Acacia with 14-month-old Apajo, who is staying with her mother at the sisters' refuge. LEFT: Sr Tharsicius, prioress Sr Mary Agnes and Sr Gabriel Anne outside the Red Hill Carmelite Monastery. RIGHT: Sr Margaret Hart, part of the Western Mission team.



Mercy Sister Margaret Hart has gained great joy from her ministry, which follows yet another path.

She lives alone in West Wyalong, as there are no other Sisters of Mercy in the area. She serves in the Western Mission as both the Weethalle community leader and the West Wyalong pastoral associate.

Her role requires weekly trips to meet parishioners in Rankin Springs as well as regular visiting days in Weethalle and surrounds.

Sr Margaret helps with the ecumenical scripture class at West Wyalong High School and manages the sacramental program.

Her schedule includes weekly retirement village visits, offering

coffee in the parish centre for those who want to stop by and attending to general parish business.

Sr Margaret said she still maintained her connection to the Goulburn congregation, even though she did not live in community.

"Congregational events are very important; meetings, community days and sisters' funerals," she said. "The older we get, the more important the gatherings become."

Sr Margaret said living alone in a rural area was challenging but "the greatest gift is what I gain from visiting others. I always leave feeling very touched."

## Walking nuns still on the road

The Sisters of Mercy Goulburn Sesquicentenary Exhibition, Walking Nuns, will end its second travelling session in Canberra.

The display will be on show at the Rheinberger Centre in Yarralumla from 8.30am-8pm on 7 September, 9am-8pm on 8 September, 3pm-6pm on 9 September and 9am-2pm on 10 September.

Walking Nuns was put together by Nancy Clarke and Claudia Hyles to showcase the life and spirit of Mercy Sisters and the rural communities they worked in.

There are more than 100 items on show, including reconstructions of a convent front parlour ready for the priest's breakfast, and of the refectory where their sisters had their meals. The life-sized clinical teaching model from the Albury Mercy Hospital has been dressed in the distinctive Mercy Sisters' religious habit from the 1960s and a television slideshow depicts the cities, towns and villages where the Mercy Sisters worked.

The exhibition was first displayed in Goulburn last year, the 150th anniversary of the Goulburn congregation, and then travelled to Yass, Young and Queanbeyan.

In August this year Walking Nuns was also taken to Boorowa, Cootamundra, West Wyalong, Griffith, Finley and Tumut. Canberra will be the final stop for 2010.



Sisters Barbara Murray, Edmund Farrell, Monica Purcell, Stephanie Medwin, Mary Crowe and Loretta Corrigan in the 1968 Cootamundra school walkathon.