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Mary, a saint for us all

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On Mary MacKillop's tomb in North Sydney, there are inscribed her own words: "We are but travellers here". Mary meant them metaphorically, since she was speaking of the journey of faith. But the words are also spectacularly true of her in a literal sense. It's astonishing how much Mary travelled through her life, all the more so given the difficulty of travel at that time, especially when dressed in full religious habit.

A group of us will travel to Rome as pilgrims for Mary's canonisation. In doing so, we will be following in her footsteps, even if we will do it at considerably greater speed and in considerably greater comfort than she did.

In 1873-74, Mary spent 21 months in Europe, making two visits to Rome in that time. Rome was her chief goal, because she was seeking the approval of the Holy See for the controversial Rule she was proposing for her Institute. Some bishops in Australia were deeply unhappy with what Mary was proposing, and she was seeking the support of the Pope himself against the opposition she was facing.

Mary left Adelaide on 28 March, 1873, travelling to Rome on various vessels via Albany, Sri Lanka, Bombay, Aden, Alexandria, Brindisi, Foggia and Caserta. She travelled under the name of Mrs MacDonald and wore secular dress, chiefly because the turmoil in Italy at the time meant that wearing a religious habit could be dangerous.

After an epic voyage and speaking not a word of Italian, she arrived in Rome late on Sunday, 11 May, and booked herself into the Anglo-American

'We are but travellers here ...'



Hotel in the Via Quattro Fontane, just opposite the Scots College.

She wasted no time. On Monday she headed off to the Jesuit church of the Gesù where she often went to Mass, sometimes in the rooms of St Ignatius. There she met Fr Lambert who introduced her to Fr Anderledy who would prove so helpful to her and after whom the Josephite House in North Sydney is named.

On the same day she visited the Irish College, not far from St John Lateran, and there she met the famous Mgr Kirby who would also be a key figure in her Roman story. It was Kirby who found Mary accommodation at what was called the Monastery of Compassion, which is now a residence for students (known as the Convitto San Tommaso) attached to the Angelicum, the Roman university of the Dominicans.

On Tuesday, Mary went to St Peter's and reported in a letter that she "saw little but felt much". It's hard to know what she meant by not seeing much, but it was clearly a moving experience for her.

In the days that followed, she met some of the most powerful figures in Rome, among them Cardinal Barnabò of Propaganda Fide and Cardinal Bilio of the Congregation for Rites, with both of whom she did some serious business despite her lack of Italian.

Finally on 1 June she was received by Pope Pius IX with Mgr Kirby as her interpreter. For the occasion, Mary dressed in her full religious habit, saying later that she was deeply moved to think that the habit itself had been blessed by the Pope. She was received a second time by Pius IX on 24 July; and on both occasions he seems to have been more welcoming of Mary than some of the Australia bishops had been.

Mary's letters make mention of meetings and discussions, churches and catacombs, monasteries and convents, seminaries and universities - all of which she visited. But she makes no mention of Rome's famous tourist sites. Tourism, it seems, wasn't on her agenda. She doesn't mention the Colosseum very near which she lodged, or the Forum

which was just across the road. What she does mention, however, is her growing illness and tiredness, especially as the heat of the Roman summer grew more intense.

On 1 August, 1873, Mary took the train from Rome to Loreto where she spent two days before heading north on a long and tortuous journey to London. After some months in Britain and Ireland, she was back in Rome on 17 March, 1874. This time she complained not only of bad health but also of "mental distress". Much of this had to do with the pressure she was under in seeking the Holy See's approval and also her sense of isolation in a situation where she didn't speak the language.

This second stay in Rome was brief, because she left Rome for Australia on 24 April, now with a huge amount of luggage, including piles of books and school supplies that she had collected. The voyage back to Australia took 74 days.

Mary sailed through the heads of Port Philip Bay on Christmas morning 1874 to be met by her mother when the boat docked at Sandringham. For all the rigours of her time in Rome, she returned with the approval of her Rule that she so wanted. It was the key into the future for her Institute.

She returned as one who understood far better the words she herself had written in 1866: "We are but travellers here". These are words that will echo among us as we follow her pilgrim footsteps in the Eternal City in the days to come.

+ Mary MacKillop



If you stay home, don't miss out on the big event

Most of us won't be packing our bags for Rome this month but we can still be a part of the experience - you just need access to the internet.

Sue Orchison, one of the pilgrims travelling to the canonisation with the archdiocesan group led by Archbishop Mark Coleridge, will share stories and photographs from her journey through her blog Road to Rome.

By logging on to Sue's blog at <http://road-2-rome.blogspot.com>, everyone will be able to discover what it was like to walk in Mary's footsteps in Rome, how the Archdiocese's pilgrims felt during the Vigil Mass and concert held specifically for Australians, and most importantly, what it was like to hear Pope Benedict XVI say the words that officially recognised Mary MacKillop as a saint.

Sue will regularly update the blog with photographs and insights from her fellow pilgrims. She will also record comments from the pilgrims after the Canonisation Mass. These will be incorporated into a reflection slideshow and published on the Archdiocese website on Monday, 18 October.

Catholic Communications will report all the highlights of the pilgrimage through the Archdiocese's website and daily e-news bulletins from 11 to 19 October.

While you are waiting for the canonisation, visit the Archdiocese's website and view a five-minute video on how local people in the Archdiocese connect with the new saint.

Anyone who is going to Rome for the canonisation is invited to e-mail photographs from their journey to cath-comm@cg.catholic.org.au so they may be published in the November edition of Catholic Voice.

● The icon of Mary MacKillop reproduced on the front page of this issue was written by Sue Orchison. It may not be reproduced in any form without permission of the artist.

They're off to be a part of history

Although it's been almost a year since the school leaders of St Mary MacKillop College in Tuggeranong found out they would be going to the canonisation in Rome, the news still hasn't quite sunk in.

"We're going to be part of history, to witness the canonisation of Australia's first saint - it's going to be amazing," college captain Oliver Oakman said.

He will join college captain Danica Tagaza, campus captains Isabelle Schmidt and Andre Wilks, principal Mr Michael Lee and deputy Mrs Michelle Marks, as representatives of the school community on 17 October.

"Andre and I are in Year 9 so we'll be able to bring our experiences back with us and share them with the rest of our school," Isabelle said.

As Mary is their school's patron, the students learn about her life, hold two annual Masses in her honour, and are encouraged to follow her example by taking part in projects such as the social justice committee.

"She is so inspirational," Danica said.

"As a daughter of migrants I can look up to her and follow in her footsteps."

Isabelle has also found her story inspiring.

"She never saw someone in need without doing something about it."

Andre said he was looking forward to sharing the experience with his fellow students and the wider MacKillop community gathered in Rome.



St Mary MacKillop College school leaders Andre Wilks, Isabelle Schmidt, Danica Tagaza and Oliver Oakman discuss their upcoming pilgrimage.

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Mary: a challenge to Australians

Mary MacKillop's canonisation is both an affirmation of the Josephite way of life and a call for renewal to all society, Sisters of St Joseph Goulburn congregational leader Sr Noelene Quinane said.

"It shows us that the way we live our lives as Josephites is a way to God," Sr Noelene said.

"It also raises Mary up as someone to aspire to. I hope the Australian people are ready to take up the challenge."

It was Mary MacKillop's philosophy, carried out by the Sisters of St Joseph, which drew Sr Noelene and others to join them.

"All my schooling was with the Josephites and I

was so impressed by these women in the way they were for God," she said.

As a child she remembers being sworn to secrecy when she discovered the Josephite teachers at her school had asked her mother to sew uniforms for the children who couldn't afford them so they wouldn't feel left out.

Goulburn congregation members Sr Mary Murphy and Sr Mary O'Day remember similar examples of kindness shown by the Josephites during their schooling.

They are both descendants of Mary MacKillop but said it was the characteristics of the sisters themselves, rather than their

relation to their founder, that drew them to the order.

Sr Mary Murphy is currently the community leader of Ardlethan, part of the Western Mission.

When Sr Noelene asked her to take on the role, she said she immediately thought "that is so Mary MacKillop" to go out and serve in a rural community.

What the canonisation shows, Sr Mary O'Day said, is that Mary's life shouldn't just be an inspiration for the Josephites.

"Both the Church and society need authentic heroes and heroines rather than the manufactured idols we have today," she said.

"We need people worthy of imitation. Mary as a saint is one of those people."



Sr Mary O'Day RSJ, Sr Mary Murphy RSJ and Goulburn congregational leader Sr Noelene Quinane RSJ discuss plans for the celebrations.

St Joseph's Primary Eden teacher Sr Rosemary Hart working with stage one students Katie Fethers and Jasmin Parsons.



Students on song for show of lifetime

Like most of us, Australian Catholic University student Erin Cassidy was pretty certain she'd have to settle for watching the canonisation Mass on television.

So when the former Catholic Youth Ministry team member was told that not only would she be headed to Rome but that she would perform with the Vatican Choir on 17 October, she was pleasantly surprised.

Together with fellow student Natalie Prevedello, Ms Cassidy was chosen to represent Canberra in the ACU Performance Group, made up of staff and students from each of the country's six campuses.

Her family were over the moon when they found out she was going to be one of the group's actors.

"They went straight online and booked themselves tickets too," Ms Cassidy said.

Ms Prevedello's family and friends were just as excited at the news she had been chosen as one of the group's singers.

Both women have attended intensive rehearsals in Brisbane to prepare for the many events they'll be involved in while in Rome.

On 16 October Australian pilgrims will attend a special concert where the ACU Performance Group will deliver a dramatisation of part of Mary's life,



Natalie Prevedello and Erin Cassidy, who will sing with the Vatican Choir at the canonisation Mass.

incorporating video and song. This will be followed by a vigil at which the group will sing.

On canonisation day the students will put their Latin to the test and join with the Vatican Choir. Next day, they will provide the music for the Thanksgiving Mass.

Having performed in Canberra and Goulburn as part of a duo for the past few years, Ms Prevedello is certainly used to having an audience - just not one this big.

"We're going to be performing for the whole world," she said.

Ms Cassidy is also no stranger to the stage, having acted in a number of amateur musical theatre productions, but she said there was nothing she could do to prepare herself for the canonisation.

"I'm trying not to think about how many people there'll be," she said.

"It's going to be one of those moments that are just surreal."

A promise well kept ...

In Mary MacKillop's day, Sisters of St Joseph were teaching all over the Archdiocese, but in 2010 there's only one Josephite teacher on staff in a Catholic school.

Sr Rosemary Hart has been teaching at St Joseph's Primary in Eden since 1995, first as a kindergarten teacher, then religious education coordinator and in more recent years as one of the support staff members.

Many sisters around the Archdiocese maintain a connection with Catholic schools in their area and teach in the state schools, but St Joseph's Eden is the only archdiocesan school to have had continuous Josephite staff since it opened.

Mary MacKillop established the school as a gift to the people of Eden, to thank them for caring for her mother's remains after they washed up on the nearby coast of Green Cape.

"She promised to send Sisters of St Joseph to the town as long as she could," Sr Rosemary said.

"There's been Josephites here ever since."

Since her move into support work, Sr Rosemary said the students have started to see her less as just another teacher and more as a religious.

"It gives them a presence of the Church, which is particularly important as there is no resident priest here.

"With the canonisation, our presence has more meaning, because they understand that Mary visited here and founded the Sisters of St Joseph."

While she enjoys the work that she does and feels St Joseph's has really benefited from having religious staff, she said it was no longer necessary for schools to be run by the sisters.

"Wherever there is a need, that's where we need to be," Sr Rosemary said.

"These days there are many well-trained lay teachers to take the place of religious.

"Pastoral support is the greater need now so that's where you'll find us."

Stories, pictures in this supplement by Claire Mitchell.

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Saint an icon for this family



Mrs Sheila van Gent, a descendant of Mary MacKillop.

'Someone in family' going to be canonised

In a family with as many priests and religious sisters as Mrs Sheila van Gent's, it may not be too much of a surprise that Australia's first saint is among them.

"My aunt Sr Finbar said 'someone in this family is going to be canonised' and she was right," Mrs van Gent said.

"But it feels strange to know that it's actually happening."

The Yarralumla resident traces her relationship to Mary MacKillop through her grandmother.

As Catholics in Scotland weren't allowed to record their baptisms and marriages there are no documents to refer to and Mrs van Gent, like all Mary's descendants, has had to rely on an oral history of the family.

Since Mary's beatification in 1995, Mrs van Gent really started to research her family connection. She said the journey to sainthood had driven her whole family to learn more about Mary MacKillop, even the non-church-going members.

Her relations have also been inspired to ask Mary to intercede for them in times of crisis.

Mrs van Gent said there were probably lots of saints, men and women dedicated to helping those in rural communities during the early days of Australia, who would never be canonised.

"The fact that Mary MacKillop has been recognised will help to show the Roman Church just what Australian spirituality is," she said.

Kambah parishioner Mrs Sue Orchison said she was honoured to join Archbishop Mark Coleridge on his canonisation pilgrimage to Rome, as the representative of her family.

Mrs Orchison learnt from an early age the strong influence Mary MacKillop has had in her family, beginning with her great-great-grandmother, Mary Woodward.

"My great-great-grandmother was the housekeeper for the parish priest at Kincumber," Mrs Orchison said.

"The Sisters of St Joseph had an orphanage there and she always made an effort to see Mary of the Cross when she came to visit.

"On one occasion, after her husband died, my great-great-grandmother was stuck at home with her 10 children so Mary of the Cross rowed two miles down the river to see her instead."

Mary MacKillop's influence continued down the generations of the Woodward and Will families, with many of Mrs Orchison's relatives becoming teachers.

She is also someone the families were taught to turn to in times of need.

"Several years ago, when I was diagnosed with breast cancer, I was privileged to be given a relic of Mother Mary of the Cross," Mrs Orchison said.

"During that journey my prayer was through a Mary MacKillop 'holding cross'; when I had no energy to pray with words I held the cross and knew the Lord and I were communicating."



Mrs Sue Orchison writes a Mary MacKillop icon in preparation for her canonisation pilgrimage to Rome.

As the canonisation draws closer, Mrs Orchison has called on her artistic skills in her spiritual preparation.

She designed and created a number of wooden Mary MacKillop Trinity triangles, each inset with a MacKillop medal. They have been given out as mementos to participants in a Canberra walking pilgrimage called The MacKillop Way.

As an iconographer, her more personal project has been to write a Mary MacKillop icon.

"I want to show what an amazing woman Mary was and all the remarkable things she did," Mrs Orchison said.

"She was a horsewoman, capable on a boat, and a very compassionate and loving woman."

It's really big news in Temora

Mary MacKillop is the talk of the town in Temora with a host of retreat days, lectures and services under way to prepare the community for the canonisation.

The parish's three Josephites have had to call on sisters from surrounding areas to help run all the events.

"The canonisation is very big news in Temora," Sr Mary Gerardine Agnew said.

"We have about six families here who are related to Mary through her mother Flora."

One of the sisters always gives a talk during Mass on Mary's feast day, but this year they added two more talks and a community gathering to the schedule.

Sr Frances McAlear travelled from Ungarie to run a MacKillop retreat for the Sacred Heart Ladies, a women's group in the parish.

Last month 46 people took a bus to Wagga Wagga to hear Sr Lynette Young from Melbourne give a talk on Mary.

And parish priest Fr Phil Harding invited congregational leader Sr Noelene Quinane to run a parish retreat on Australia's first saint.

On canonisation day a celebration Mass will be held in Sacred Heart Church featuring new hymns parishioners have been learning for the occasion.

The service will also include a slideshow of photographs of the three sisters, Elizabeth,



Sr Elizabeth Denson, Sr Frances McAlear, Sr Mary Gerardine Agnew and Sr Mary Patricia Cunningham with some of the participants at a Mary MacKillop retreat held for the Temora Sacred Heart Ladies.

Gerardine and Patricia, showing the work they've done in the parish over the years.

There has been a continuous presence of Sisters of St Joseph in Temora since 1887 when three sisters from the Goulburn congregation arrived to take over the Catholic school.

In 1934 the current St Anne's Central School was built. It was run by the sisters until 2001 when St Anne's last religious principal Sr Carmel Drew retired.

In 2003 the sisters handed over use of the convent to the school and they moved to the Southern Cross Village.

"Although there are no longer any sisters on staff, we still volunteer at the school regularly," Sr Gerardine said.

"The sisters have always played an important part in education in Temora."

Historic find opens doors

The original door of the school opened by Mary MacKillop in Bungendore would have been used for firewood years ago if it hadn't been for the sharp eyes of Mrs Barbara Donald. She was attending the monthly parish morning tea in the old school building, now the parish hall, when she saw the door in a rubbish pile.

"This was a door Mary MacKillop had knocked on, had opened, and they wanted to throw it out," Mrs Donald said. "I asked why it hadn't been restored and was told if I wanted to fix it I could take it."

Mrs Donald and friend Mrs Halene Herzog took the door to the Bungendore Woodworks Gallery where they were told it could be restored, but would cost around \$700. The women were prepared to pay half each to save the piece of history.

At that time Mary's beatification was being celebrated with events at places she had visited. The sisters in the parish were selling Mary MacKillop t-shirts, while Mrs Donald saw an opportunity to put her badge-making skills to use.

"I used their design and shrunk it down to make badges, and, would you believe, the amount we raised from the badges was just what we needed to restore the door," she said.

The original schoolhouse door is again being used. A plaque next to the entrance explains the significance of the parish hall and its restored door.

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Devastation gives way to hope for community

RIGHT:
Archbishop
Mark Coleridge
lays the first
glass bricks in
the new St
Mary's Church
at Adaminaby.

Bishop Pat Power will officially open the church and bless the foundation stone on 15 January, 2011.

*Sisters of St Joseph
of Goulburn* ✧



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A family affair at Cooma



Archbishop Mark Coleridge with the Cooma relatives of Mary MacKillop.

Despite what some people may think, saints are not perfect, nor are they sitting at God's side performing heavenly magic that we call miracles.

"For Mary to be a saint means that the love of God took root in and flowed through this young woman," he said. "She then went out and taught the young what it was to be a human being. That love still flows through her after death. That's why she's still present in our midst and that's where the miracles come from."

Archbishop Coleridge anointed the centre's residents with the Oil of the Sick.

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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.



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.

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win a mackillop momento

Put your stamp on a very special day by aking part in our MacKillop competition. In conjunction with Catholic Voice, Australia Post is giving away 10 sets of comm-emorative stamps, with one winner receiving a medallion cover valued at \$29.95. See how to win - **Page 10**



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Emma impresses with her monthly musings

A monthly column written last year for Catholic Voice by a then year 12 student at St Francis Xavier College has been recognised in the annual awards of the Australasian Catholic Press Association.

"Emma's Year" was highly commended in the section for best column. The judge said: Catholic Voice's decision to follow Emma through all the highs and challenges of Year 12 was clearly an inspired choice.

Emma is a naturally gifted writer and through her monthly columns confirmed that while young people like her may be experiencing the world for the first time, they are clearly contemplating the meaning of life in a moving and positive way. This highly commended is more than an encouragement award. It is recognition of an excellent young writer.

In the awards of the ecumenical Australasian Religious Press Association, Naomi Fallon won the silver award in the best photograph section, for a picture titled "The Face of Mercy". The judge said: "The photographer has captured the spirit of the moment, with meaningful expressions on all four subjects. There has been a spontaneous reaction by the photographer at the right moment which has captured a historical moment for all concerned."



The face of Mercy



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what do you know?

1. What do the flowers in the Mary MacKillop window at St Bede's Church in Braidwood represent?

2. Who is the only Josephite still on staff at a Catholic school in the archdiocese and where does she teach?

3. Two Australian Catholic University students from Canberra have been chosen to do what at the Canonisation Mass in Rome?

4. In what year was the Sisters of St Joseph convent in Nimmitabel opened?

5. What NRL team is Sr Bernadette Mary Walsh a big fan of?

6. Why did Mary MacKillop establish a school and convent at Eden?

7. Our mystery guest is one of the best-known faces of the Archdiocese, seen here on ordination day. Who is he?



Answers: Bottom Page 8.

OCTOBER DIARY

Archbishop Mark Coleridge

1 Ordination to diaconate Bony Abraham, Cathedral
 3 Mass with Spanish community
 6 Opening Mass, Disciples of Jesus youth conference
 7 Mass with Missionaries of Charity, Queanbeyan
 9-20 Pilgrimage to Rome
 21 Return to Canberra
 24 Marian Mass, Cathedral
 26 Mission Mass, Cathedral
 27 CCD Mass, Northern Deanery; Archdiocesan Principals' Conference Mass, Watson
 28 Archdiocesan Principals' Conference

Auxiliary Bishop Pat Power

7 Clergy Care Board meeting
 10 Mass and reflections, St Thomas More's parish, Campbell; preach at Syro-Malabar Rite Mass, Yarralumla
 13 Ordination class reunion, Sydney
 17 Mass marking canonisation of Mary MacKillop
 18 Memorial service for deceased drug victims
 20 Guest speaker, Belconnen Pastoral Council
 25 Catholic Services Australia Directors' Day
 29 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine Mass, Bombala
 31 Mary MacKillop celebrations; ordination to the diaconate, Michael Lim

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Many changes but spirit remains 40 years on

A lot has changed over 40 years but the spirit at Sacred Heart Primary School is still that of the Sisters of Our Lady of Missions who founded it, principal Mr Brad Gaynor said.

Four of the foundation sisters, Marie Crosbie, Maureen Belleville, Patricia Keogh and Veronica Martin, joined past and current staff, parents, parishioners and students for the school's 40th anniversary Mass celebrated by Fr Laurie Blake.

This was followed by school tours, art and craft activities, a special assembly and a sports afternoon.

A memorabilia display allowed visitors to see just how much things had changed since the school was opened in 1970.

"There were no computers or electronic whiteboards, but the children did enjoy sitting down to listen to music, history and social

science lessons on ABC radio," one former student said.

Another commented that, "There was no separating rubbish from recycling and taking out wheelie bins. Instead the children would empty the class bins into the incinerator at the end of each day."

A 40th anniversary dinner was also held for 160 people.

The Sisters of Our Lady of Missions arrived in Pearce in 1968, ready to staff the new primary school, but building had fallen behind schedule and it was not completed until 1970.

Instead, the future Sacred Heart students were accommodated at Holy Trinity in Curtin, Ss Peter and Paul's in Garran and Marist College. All students were moved to Sacred Heart in time for the official opening by Archbishop Cahill.

The school had a religious principal until 1980 and other sis-

ters remained active in the parish and school until 1983.

"During the 40 years Sacred Heart has undergone many physical changes, especially in recent years thanks to support from the parent community, the Block Grant Authority, Catholic Education Office, Canberra Catholic Schools Building Fund and the Building Education Revolution," Mr Gaynor said.

"However, it is hoped that the ethos established by the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions, of being open to others, attentive to all, respecting differences, and sharing continues for many years to come."



LEFT: Sisters of Our Lady of Missions cut the anniversary cake at Sacred Heart Primary's celebration dinner: From left, Sr Marie Crosbie, Sr Maureen Belleville, Patricia Keogh and Sr Veronica Martin.

BELOW: Former principals of Sacred Heart Primary School, Pearce (from left): Pat Clark, Marie Shaw, Sr Veronica Martin, Amanda MacKenzie, Sr Maureen Belleville, Pat Whitelum, Sr Marie Crosbie, current principal Brad Gaynor and Sr Patricia Keogh.



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Queanbeyan priest dies

Queanbeyan parish priest Fr Mietek Markowicz died suddenly in Sydney late last month. An autopsy revealed he had severe coronary artery disease.

Polish-born Fr Markowicz came to the Archdiocese in 2000 and worked as assistant priest in Young. He was appointed parish priest of Wanniasa in 2003 and served there until he moved to Queanbeyan in 2008. "We have extended our deepest sympathy to the family," Archbishop Mark Coleridge said. Fr

Markowicz's mother lives in Poland. A Requiem Mass was due to be celebrated in St Raphael's Church, Queanbeyan, before cremation. His ashes will be laid to rest in the family grave in Poland.

● A former Auxiliary Bishop of Canberra and Goulburn and Emeritus Bishop of Bathurst Patrick Dougherty has died from lung cancer. He was 78. He was ordained a bishop in 1976 and served in the Archdiocese until 1983, when he was appointed to Bathurst.

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

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

A spring in the step at Galong

St Clement's Monastery in Galong was alive with colour, music and activity for the annual Spring Festival of the Arts.

The wet and dreary weather didn't deter too many visitors, with all the different events well attended.

The day opened with the reception of the Mary MacKillop Cross, which is touring the nation in the lead up to the canonisation, and musical performances by Young Regional School of Music, the ReJoySing Choir and the Filipino Choir.

One of the highlights of the event was the Universal Dance for Peace led by Josephine Lolicato. She taught the 25 participants a simple Ave Maria chant which they sung while dancing in a circle. Those who weren't brave enough to try the steps, offered support with chanting.

"The dances can be used as a type of meditation," Ms Lolicato said.

"I dance with a group regularly in Canberra and we take chants from all different religions to inspire our movements."



Sr Clementine instructs visitors in the old school room.

Sr Clementine's old school room also drew a large crowd. Dressed in the traditional habit she led the group in times tables, catechism and manners. Adults enjoyed the trip down memory lane while the children got an insight into what life used to be like.

The chalk board and old desks from the museum added authenticity to the experience. But unlike the good old days, Sr Clementine spared her pupils the cane and instead rewarded those who answered questions correctly with chocolate frogs.

The festival offered plenty of entertainment with clown performances by the children from Sacred Heart Primary in Cootamundra, museum tours, high tea and market stalls.

Joint effort to help local needy

Canberra's needy have been helped as a result of a joint effort of the Knights of the Southern Cross and the St Benedict's, Narrabundah, community.

The knights, through their mid-winter food appeal, sought donations of non-perishable food from St Benedict's parishioners, as well as students from St

Benedict's Primary School, to be distributed throughout Canberra.

KSC Canberra branch secretary Mr Stephen Blair presented the donations to the St Vincent de Paul Society for distribution through its network.

"One of the knights' objects is the conduct of charitable activities, and this was a practical way of achieving this," he said.

Parish administrator Fr Steve Fletcher said St Benedict's was known as "a giving parish, generous in its support of a number of charitable activities each year, and this was no exception".

School principal Mrs Anne Staines said the school ran a similar activity at Christmas "so supporting this appeal just came naturally".

Students get safety message



Students from St John Vianney's Primary School, Waramanga (above) were among those to release white balloons over the National Museum of Australia during National Child Protection Week.

An initiative of the National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, the week included the inaugural White Balloon Day official ceremony.

Internet safety was one of the main focuses of the day. Sydney teenager Sage Parker told attendees of how a 23-year-old man solicited

indecent photographs of her over the internet when she was 13.

Other talks reminded parents that, just as they would never allow strangers into their children's bedrooms, nor should they allow their children to communicate with strangers online.

Students then helped to release the white balloons, which are a symbol of support for the protection of children. They are used as a tool to raise awareness that the wellbeing and safety of Australia's children is everyone's responsibility.

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WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

Answers: 1. The Australian states she visited and her family's home of Scotland. 2. Sr Rosemary Hart, St Joseph's Primary Eden. 3. Sing with the Vatican Choir. 4. 1902. 5. Canberra Raiders. 6. To thank the people for caring for her mother's remains. 7. Fr Neville Drinkwater, parish priest of Charnwood, 1954.

Many gifts as school celebrates its history

A refurbished hall, library and resource area were among the gifts for St Vincent's Primary School, Aranda's 40th birthday.

Archbishop Mark Coleridge officially blessed and opened the works, which were funded by \$850,000 from the Federal Government under the Building the Education Revolution.

The opening was part of an in-school celebration of St Vincent's 40th anniversary, led by the students from years 5 and 6.

The children's liturgy included song, dance, prayers of intercession and a dramatisation of the parable of The Good Samaritan, which all focused on the ways the spirit of St Vincent was alive in the school.

ACT Senator Gary Humphries told the children that the Australian taxpayers were like the Good Samaritan because, although they did not all know the staff and students at St

Vincent's, their taxes were used to support the school.

Archbishop Coleridge also addressed the issue of funding, something he hoped the new Federal Government would seriously review.

He said he had never understood why there should be different kinds of funding for Catholic and government schools.

While he was grateful for the Building the Education Revolution funding he said it was not a grand gesture but simply the government doing what it is supposed to do - supporting schools.

Principal Mr John Vance provided a brief overview of St Vincent's 40 years.

It was first operated by the Sisters of the Society of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, then by the Sisters of St Joseph, before the first lay principal was appointed in 1981.

"The staff has kept the spirit of St Vincent alive in the chil-

dren and ensured that it has been passed on from year to year," Mr Vance said.

The 40th anniversary was also an opportunity for St Vincent's to launch its first Reconciliation Action Plan.

After seeking advice from Ngunnawal elder Mrs Violet Sheridan and her son Mr Richard Allen, each of the four sporting houses has been renamed with the Ngunnawal words for features of the environment that match the house colours.

Red house is now dhurra, meaning hills; yellow house is now winyu, meaning sun; blue house is now ngadyung, meaning water; and green house is now ngulla, meaning trees.

"I'm really excited that the school will be using our words," Mrs Violet said.

"We all need to work together to keep our language alive."



Students act out the story of The Good Samaritan during St Vincent's Primary's 40th anniversary liturgy.



St Vincent's Primary students getting into the spirit at their school's 40th anniversary celebration.

60 years service recognised

St Vincent de Paul Society member Mr Neil Naughton has been presented with a Papal Blessing in recognition of 60 years service to Vinnies. Mr Naughton, who turned 80 last year and joined the society's Ashfield conference at the age of 18, has decided it is time to retire from Vinnies. He was known as a tireless worker, never fussed by call outs at

night or weekends, even finding accommodation for clients at night. He filled all executive positions, including president, many times in the society's Blackfriars conference.

The attendance of past and present Vincentians, including regional president Mr Vin Kane, and parishioners from Blackfriars was a mark of the esteem in which he is held.



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Father's Day Appeal

CLERGY RETIREMENT FOUNDATION



Thank You

The annual appeal in support of our Archdiocesan sick and retired priests was launched on the Father's Day weekend in September and already a large number of donations have been received.

Secretary to the Foundation, Mr Kevin Croker, said the Appeal shows how much the Catholic people of the Canberra & Goulburn value the contribution made by priests who are now retired and who have

provided such wonderful pastoral care for them in former times. Funds raised from the Appeal ensure a normal living for our retirees, many of whom are now elderly and in some cases quite frail.

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

Put your stamp on big day

Australia Post will recognise the canonisation of Australia's first saint with the release of a new stamp series - and you can win a set.

The new commemorative stamp series to mark the canonisation of Mary MacKillop will be released on 18 October.

In conjunction with Catholic Voice, Australia Post is giving away 10 sets of the stamps, with one lucky winner receiving a medallion cover valued at \$29.95.

To enter, write to Catholic Voice, MacKillop competition, GPO Box 3089, Canberra 2601 and remember to put your name and address on the back of the envelope. You can also enter on-line, by e-mailing cath-comm@cg.catholic.org.au. Put MacKillop competition in the subject line and tell us your name and address. The competition closes at noon on Monday, 25 October.

The stamp sets are available at select Australia Post outlets from 18 October or can be bought online at



auspost.com.au/stamps. To find out more or to order from the Mary MacKillop stamp series, go to auspost.com.au/stamps.

● The Sisters of St Joseph of Goulburn want to share the canonisation celebration with as many people as possible. They invite people to gather in the upstairs function room at the Goulburn Workers Club from 6pm on Sunday, 17 October. The evening will include watching the event live from Rome. Finger food will be available from 6.30pm. There is no charge and the Sisters encourage people to bring their families, friends or make up a group.

For catering purposes, RSVP by 12 October to telephone 4821 4990 or email rsj@tpg.com.au.

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Better learning plan for disabled

The ACT's three education sectors have joined forces to ensure better learning opportunities for students with a disability.

The Catholic Education Office, Department of Education and Training and the Association of Independent Schools all participated in a review begun in 2005.

Based on the review results, both the education department and the CEO have launched individual disability education strategic plans.

While each sector has taken a different approach to best meet the needs of their respective communities, they will continue to collaborate through the Cross-Sectoral Disability Education Steering Group.

Education Minister Mr Andrew Barr said that through the group, different schools would share their successes and failings so that others could learn from their experiences.

CEO director Mrs Moira Najdecki said it was a great

chance for Catholic, public and independent schools to collaborate and ensure that all students have the same educational opportunities.

She said the CEO's five-year strategic plan, titled Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Catholic Education, would build on past achievements to guide future leadership, partnerships and professional learning, "which will enable each student to experience the possibilities".

CWL branch marks 50 golden years

The Bribbaree branch of Catholic Women's League has celebrated its 50th anniversary with Mass and a lunch.

More than 70 people, including local members of other denominations, attended the Mass celebrated in St Columba's Church, Bribbaree, by recently retired parish administrator Fr Allen Crowe.

A collection was taken up after Mass for the Sisters of St Joseph to help pay for the costs of canonisation celebrations.

At lunch, a speech of homecoming was offered by Sr Kerrie Cusack. Many former residents of Bribbaree returned for the occasion and enjoyed the friendship of years gone by.

The Sisters of St Joseph, who ran St Bridget's Convent, Quandialla, and later, after the convent closed, taught scripture for parish children with the Motor Mission, were represented from many parts of NSW and the ACT.

Catholic Women's League branch members came from the Archdiocese, Boorowa, Crookwell, Young and West Wyalong branches, and former members of Greenthorpe, Grenfell and Cootamundra with apologies from the Gundagai branch.

After a welcoming speech, branch president Mrs Nola Drum invited Mrs Marie Booker, origi-



Mrs Adele Murphy (nee Caldwell), Mrs Marie Booker and Mrs Margaret Green (nee Curtis) cut the celebratory cake.

nal member of the Bribbaree branch, to speak of the history of the branch and reflect on the role it has played in the church and wider community.

A fruit cake made by Mrs Flo O'Connor and decorated by Mrs Pat Potbury was served for afternoon tea.

The cake was cut by Mrs Adele Murphy (nee Caldwell) daughter of inaugural president Mrs Nell Caldwell, Mrs Booker, and Mrs Margaret Green (nee Curtis) daughter of inaugural treasurer Mrs Alice Curtis.

Parish pledges respect

Parishioners of Corpus Christi, South Tuggeranong, have committed to reconciliation with the unveiling (right) of an indigenous plaque in Holy Family Church, Gowrie.

An inscription says the parish acknowledges "the deep spiritual attachment and relationship of the



indigenous people to the land" and commits itself to "the ongoing journey of reconciliation and justice."

Moruya honours local Church history

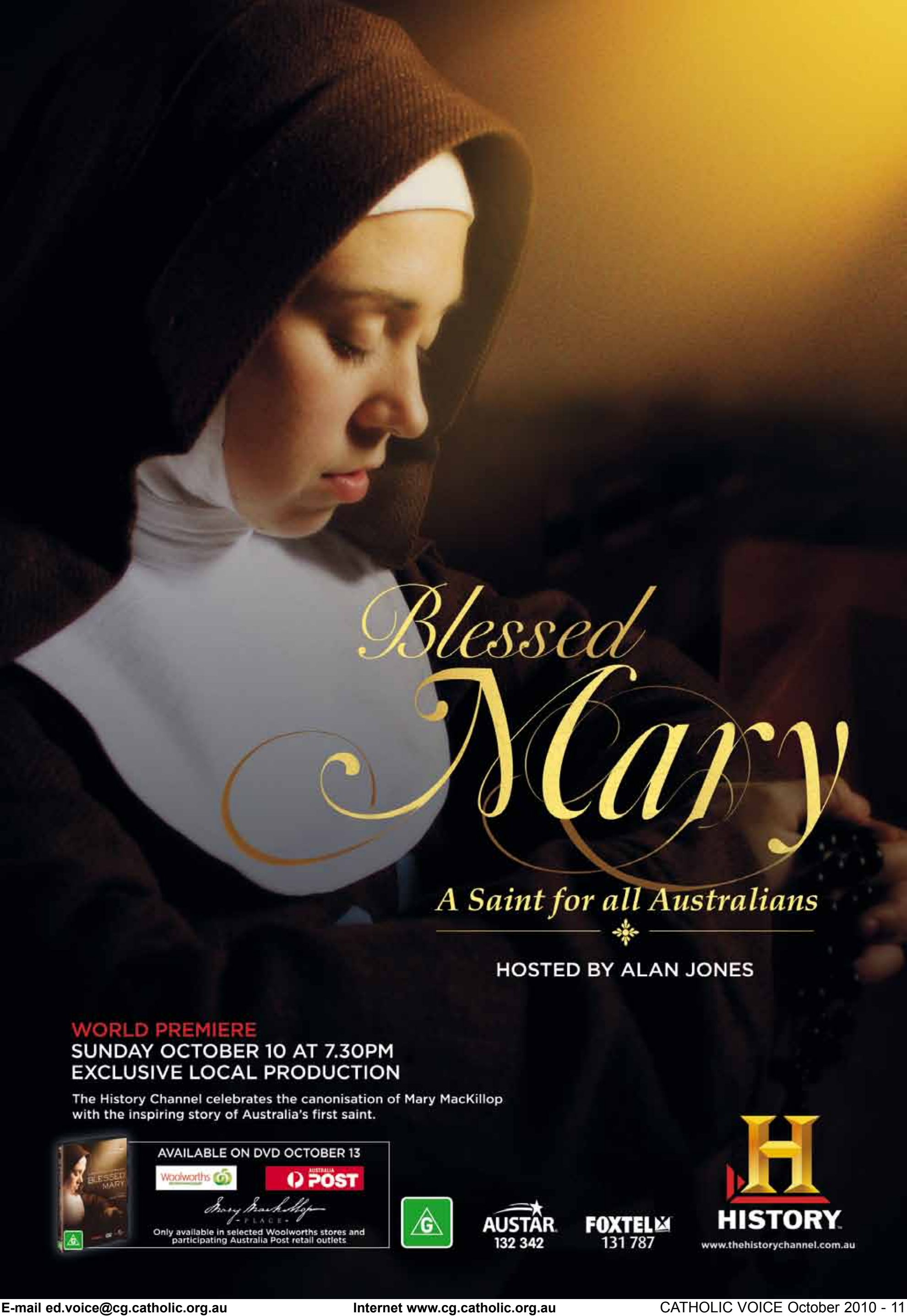
About 90 parishioners gathered in Moruya to honour their priests, past and current, and to launch a brochure on the history of the local Church.

Among those at the lunch were current parish priest Fr Emil Milat, former parish priests Fr Tom Thornton and Fr Bill Keating, deacon Paul Rummery and wife Jo, priests from the Narooma district Fr John Vallayil and Fr Michael Mullen, a past parish priest from Batemans Bay Fr Henry Byrne and a seminarian Fr Milat befriended during a trip to Rome for Year for Priests celebrations.

A memorial brochure compiled by Netta Behringer and Vince Honan, covering the history of the Catholic Church in Moruya since its establishment in 1850 and listing all the parish priests, was launched.



With the celebratory cake (from left) Fr Bill Keating, Deacon Paul Rummery, Fr Emil Milat and Fr Tom Thornton.



Blessed Mary

A Saint for all Australians



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HISTORY

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Vietnamese cardinal honoured

Emeritus Archbishop Francis Carroll paid tribute to a close friend when he was principal celebrant at a memorial Mass in St Christopher's Cathedral for the late Vietnamese Cardinal Francis Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan.

The occasion was also Archbishop Carroll's 80th birthday.

Cardinal Thuan was put into prison in 1975 by the communist government in Vietnam. Over 13 years of horrendous conditions he faithfully bore witness to Christ.

His teaching continues to empower people through his writings in prison. One of those writings, "The Road of Hope", was translated into 12 languages.

Although no-one was allowed to have a bible in prison, he was able to compile 300 Scripture quotations from memory to keep himself in union with Christ.

No Masses were allowed so he curled himself up on a bed made of wooden board, and with three drops of wine and a drop of water on his palm, he would secretly celebrate Mass at night. "The harsh years in prison passed very slowly, while suffering humiliation and abandonment, my only support and hope was the love of Mary," he wrote.



After the Mass, Archbishop Francis Carroll with (from left): Fr Joseph Tran, Fr Joseph Thanh from Sydney, Willy Duardo and Maria Duardo.

He died of cancer on 16 September, 2002, in Rome. Five years after his death

Pope Benedict XVI opened a cause for his beatification.

All dressed up, and ...

There's something rather calming about staying in your pyjamas all day. So it seemed by the relaxed atmosphere at St John Vianney's Primary School, Waramanga. The students looked comfortable and colourful with slippers and dressing gowns helping everyone keep warm and snug. St John Vianney Student Representative Council organised the pyjama day to help raise funds for Olivia Lambert, a six year-old Canberran who has a highly aggressive form of cancer and will be undergoing treatment in Germany. The pyjama day raised \$550.

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The making of a saint

The History Channel's new documentary Blessed Mary: A Saint for All Australians provides a detailed insight into the life and times of Mary MacKillop.

Presented by radio personality Alan Jones, it also looks at what constitutes a Catholic saint and just how Mary qualifies.

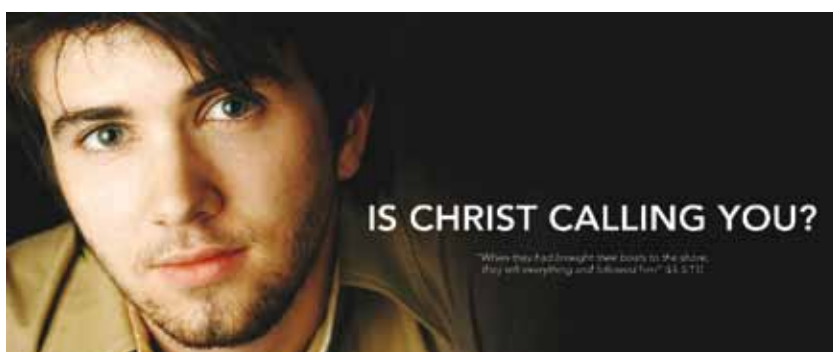
Aimed at Catholics and non-Catholics alike, the documentary uses a mix of narration, interview, old photographs and dramatic re-enactments that make Mary's story accessible even to those who may have limited knowledge of the Church.

At the same time, commentary from religious leaders including Cardinal George Pell and Sr Anne Derwin RSJ provides additional

insights to people more familiar with Mary's story.

Well known lines from the many letters written to, from and about Mary MacKillop are brought to life in the re-enactments. The use of period religious dress and location shots of significant sites such as the Penola schoolhouse helps to provide a better understanding of what life was like.

Blessed Mary: A Saint for All Australians will air on the History Channel on Sunday 10 October at 7.30pm with an encore screening on Sunday 17 October at 8.30pm. A DVD with extras, including Jones' full interview with Cardinal Pell, will be released on 13 October. It will be available at Australia Post, Woolworths and Mary MacKillop Place.



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New life in the spirit



Fifty people gathered at St Peter and Paul's Presbytery, Goulburn, for a one-day Life in the Spirit experience.

Leader of the Mary Mother of Light Prayer Group in Goulburn Ms Pamela Heaton facilitated the organisation of the event.

Led by chairperson of the Canberra and Goulburn Archdiocesan Catholic Charismatic Renewal Mr Ljubo Vranko, the core group of the committee each gave one of the seminar talks.

Goulburn parish priest Fr Dermid McDermott welcomed all from Goulburn, Canberra and surrounding towns and led the first talk on the healing of the blind man by Jesus.

ABOVE: Archbishop Mark Coleridge with Ljubo Vranko and Pamela Heaton.

Art show opening



Liz Jenkinson and Margaret White enjoy the opening night of the Gunning parish art show. Organisation and presentation of the show involved many parishioners. and it attracted visitors from far and wide.

You're Worthy Beauty Salon

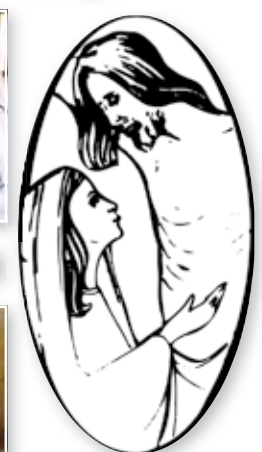
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By Claire Mitchell

During her years as a Sister of St Joseph, Bernadette Mary Walsh has been posted to Canberra, Melbourne and across New South Wales.

She has taught in Catholic primary schools, provided special religious education to state school students while working on the Motor Mission and done catechesis work with the Catholic Education Office.

But none of those positions, as diverse and rewarding as they were, have been as fulfilling as being a parish coordinator.

For 14 years she carried out the role in Adelong and Batlow and for the past 12 months she has been caring for the community of Taralga.

"While I was on the Motor Mission I always felt sad leaving some of the places that had no resident priest because the people appreciated a visit so much," Sr Bernadette Mary said.

"That's when I felt the call to this kind of work.

"When I was teaching, I was confined to the classroom, working with the students and their families. As a parish coordinator it's much wider and very fulfilling."

The path her life has taken is one she never would have guessed when she first felt the call to the Josephites as a young girl.

She was greatly influenced by the sisters who taught her and once prayer led her to the decision to

Footy chat and car repairs provide link for down-to-earth Josephite

join them, she confided in the congregational leader. She told no one else because she said "the decision was between me and God". Her family were informed only two weeks before she entered the convent.

"I tell the kids preparing for Confirmation that when I was being confirmed, I took the name Josephine because I wanted to be a Josephite," she said.

"I grew up in Tumbarumba. When it finally got out that I was entering the convent, the town was shocked.

"It's been challenging at times but I have no regrets."

During her years as a teacher, Sr Bernadette Mary lived in community with other sisters, but when she was appointed pastoral coordinator of Adelong and Batlow she had to live alone for the first time.

While the change in lifestyle was an adjustment, she said it better suited the new work she was doing.

Now in Taralga, she still lives alone, but with Goulburn just 40 minutes down the road she is able to visit other sisters and maintain regular contact.

● Cont Page 19.



A true Canberra Raiders fan, Sr Bernadette Mary in her supporters' gear.



In Ungarie, preparing to drive a homemade go-kart.



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Orphanages look to a future harvest

The Missionary Dominican Sisters of the Rosary run two orphanages in Timor-Leste, supported by Catholic Mission. One is in the suburb of Bidau in Dili and the other is seven hours out of Dili by four-wheel drive in the mountains in the town of Soibada.

At the Bidau Home there are 52 orphans, ranging in age from four years to 22 years, while at Soibada there are 74 children.

They are typical examples of the work supported by Catholic Mission through the World Mission Day appeal. This year it has the theme Build Community Together in Christ, and focuses on the Church in Timor-Leste.

Joao is the oldest young man still in the sisters' care, and has completed his secondary studies and is now in his second year of civil engineering at the state university. Roger has been with the sisters for more than nine years and is now investigating religious life with the Dominican Fathers.

Juliette, 17, and Jenny, 16, have been with the sisters since they were babies. They have both completed high school and are doing their first year as aspirants with the sisters. Dominic is the youngest under the sisters' care. He's not quite five.

Running costs for the home in Bidau alone, are nearly \$30,000 per year. The biggest cost to the sisters is food.



Children collecting bananas at the Dominican orphanage in Dili.

To alleviate this problem and to become more self-sufficient, the sisters have begun the process of buying 2.5 hectares of land outside Dili. They have raised half the funds themselves, and are looking to Catholic Mission to assist with the other half.

By putting the deposit down on the land, they have been given permission to harvest bananas from the property, a treat the children enjoy.

Catholic Mission's support of communities, like these in Timor-Leste, means that the people can feel confident, knowing that they have the opportunities previously unavailable to them.

To donate to the appeal, telephone 1 800 257 296, or go to www.catholicmission.org.au.

BUILD COMMUNITY TOGETHER IN CHRIST

WORLD MISSION DAY APPEAL

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Life and times of a saint

With the canonisation of Mary MacKillop this month, videos, DVDs, sound recordings and books about her life, the mission of the Sisters of St Joseph and the early church in Australia are available from the Catholic Education Office library.

DVDs

Mary. 76 minutes, ages 12 to adult.

Actress Lucy Bell stars in this motion picture which follows the life of service of Mary MacKillop. The docu-drama includes scenes from Mary's life re-created in drama. Integrated with the scenes, are documentary scenes in which experts comment on aspects of Mary's life and the meaning of sainthood.

Mary MacKillop: Soul of the Sunburnt Country. 76 minutes, ages 12 to adult.

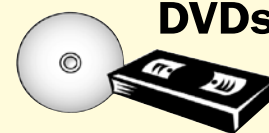
Produced for the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart, this program illustrates the work that the order carries out in education, social justice, health and development, throughout Australia and around the world. The documentary examines some of their projects, as well as featuring the story of Mary MacKillop's life and the formation of the order.

MacKillop's Melbourne. 24 minutes, ages 12 to adult.

This documentary follows the early life of Mary MacKillop. It focuses on her time in Melbourne and Victoria, and includes scenes from present-day Melbourne, interspersed with B&W historical film footage and still photographs.

Mary MacKillop, Caroline Chisholm. Saints and Heroes series, 20 minutes, ages 9 to 16.

Videos & DVDs



This Australian-produced video presents the stories of Mary MacKillop and Caroline Chisholm, heroes from Australian colonial history. It includes on-camera narration by a high school student. The life and dedication to the poor of Mary MacKillop is re-told with flashbacks to B&W photographs.

That Very Troublesome Woman. 62 minutes, ages 12 to adult.

In 1879, Stanley James, who wrote under the pseudonym of Vagabond, became interested in the story of Mary MacKillop, and spent three years attempting to put the story together. He met Fr Julian Tenison Woods, and in a dramatic confrontation between journalist and priest, new light is shed on history and the work of Mary MacKillop.

VHS VIDEOS

The Cause The Process to Beatification of Mary MacKillop. 60 minutes, ages 14 to adult.

Produced with the assistance of the Sisters of St Joseph and narrated by Noni Hazelhurst, this video examines the steps involved in the recognition of saints, and in particular, that of Mary MacKillop.

Mary MacKillop. 47 minutes, ages 10 to adult.

This video is a dramatic re-creation of the early years of the ministry of Mary MacKillop. It depicts Mary's establishment of her first school at Penola, and her founding of Australia's first religious order. The story is an extraordinary example of the power of the human spirit.

Online Library Services

Library services information, and the Online Library Catalogue, are available at <http://ceolib.cg.catholic.edu.au/oliver/libraryHome.do>. - Dennis Granlund (librarian).



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The lesson within loneliness

Several years ago, I was counselling a young man whose struggles with loneliness seemed to be the reverse of the norm. Instead of trying to escape it, he worried about losing it. He was in his early 20s, in love with a wonderful young woman, but was conflicted about marrying her because he feared that getting married might interfere with his loneliness and, in his words, make him "a shallower person with less to give to God and the world."

"I walk into a room," he said, "and automatically look around for a sad face, for someone whose look suggests that there's more to life than partying and the latest celebrity news." There's a danger in simplistically identifying heaviness with depth, but that wasn't true for him.

"Two images do battle within me," he said. "When I was 15, my dad died. We lived in the country and he had a heart attack. We bundled him into the car and my mother was with him in the back seat, holding him as I was driving the car, 15 years old, and scared."

"He died on the way to the hospital, but he died in my mother's arms. Sad as this was, there

was something of beauty in it. I have always felt that this is the way I would like to die, held by someone I love. But, while that image draws me strongly to marriage, I also look at how Jesus died, alone, abandoned, inside of no-one's arms, in an embrace only of something beyond, and I'm drawn to that too.

"There's nobility in that which I don't want to let go of. That too can be a good way to die."


He feared losing his loneliness even as he healthily yearned for intimacy. He couldn't fully explain why he was attracted to the loneliness of Jesus on the cross, except that he sensed that this was somehow a noble thing, something of depth, and something that would give him depth and nobility.

Others have been at this place before him, Jesus among them. For example, as a young man, Soren Kierkegaard renounced marriage for the same reason my young friend feared it.

Rightly or wrongly, he felt that what he had to give to the world was rooted inside the pain of his own loneliness and could only issue forth from that centre and, if

Ron Rolheiser

Fr Ron Rolheiser, theologian, teacher, and award-winning author, is president of the Oblate School of Theology in Texas. www.ronrolheiser.com



he was less lonely, he would have less to give. Was he right?

The fruitfulness of his life, namely, the many people (Henri Nouwen among them) who drew healing and strength from his writing, attests to the truth of his intuition. By their fruits you shall know them!

Kierkegaard is the patron saint of the lonely. But, like my young friend, he was also conflicted by what this did to him. Too few people understood and this immersed him in "the sadness of having understood something true - and then seeing oneself misunderstood."

He confessed too that he lived the curse "of never to be allowed

to let anyone deeply and inwardly join themselves to me."

Thomas Merton, commenting on the same thing, once said that the absence of married intimacy in his life constituted "a fault in my chastity." This kind of depth comes at a price.

Why, despite such an obvious downside, are the Kierkegaards of our world drawn to loneliness in the belief that it holds the key to depth, empathy, and wisdom? What does loneliness do for us?

What loneliness does for us, especially very intense loneliness, is destabilize the ego and make it too fragile to sustain us in the normal way.

What happens then is that we begin to unravel, feel ourselves become unglued, become aware of our smallness, and know in the roots of our being that we need to connect to something larger than ourselves to survive. But that's a very painful experience and we tend to flee from it.

However, and this is a great paradox, this experience of intense loneliness is one of the privileged ways of finding the deep answer to our quest for identity and meaning. Because it destabilizes the ego

and disorients us, loneliness puts us in touch with what lays below the ego, namely, the soul, our deepest self.

The image and likeness of God lies in there, as do our most noble and divine energies. That's the truth behind the belief that in loneliness there is depth.

And so the lesson is this, whether married or single: Don't run from loneliness. Don't see it as your enemy. Don't look for another person to cure your loneliness. See loneliness as a privileged avenue to depth and empathy. Here's the advice of the ancient Persian poet, Hafiz:

*Don't surrender your loneliness
So quickly.
Let it cut more deep.
Let it ferment and season you
As few human
Or even divine ingredients can.
Something missing in my heart
tonight
Has made my eyes so soft,
My voice
So tender,
My need of God
Absolutely
Clear.*

Saints still models in modern times

Q: Having an Aussie saint is great, but surely the concept of saints is outdated today?

That's an interesting perspective, and suggests we could benefit from an historical reflection.

Veneration of particular "holy people" (martyrs, confessors, some teachers, church leaders and those pastorally caring for the poor) began in the second century.

Saints were adopted as patrons by churches, towns and monasteries. Their birth or burial places became destinations for pilgrimages. It was believed that saints had a dual role: as models for us to imitate as well as intercessors who obtained the mercy of God by their prayers.

Such adoptions, and the increasing complexity of the liturgy in a language only the educated could grasp, led to local

In the liturgy

Chair of the Archdiocese's Liturgy Commission Margaret Ryan answers a question posed by a reader. Send your questions to Catholic Voice, GPO Box 3089, Canberra 2601.

devotions (which people could understand and participate in) outside the liturgy.

Novenas, prayers and pilgrimages became a major part of Catholic devotional life. Saints were thought to be sources of spiritual and material benefits. The sanctoral (saintly) cycle in the liturgy increased rapidly. Veneration of certain saints spread beyond the limits of a diocese or country,

and pilgrimages to saints' shrines brought pride and profit to local towns. In some instances, relics were stolen, sold or traded. The accuracy of some saints' lives often rested on slender evidence.

Church councils (eg, in 787) tried to restore a balance in understanding and taught that God alone is to be worshipped and adored, while saints are given respect and honour. Eventually there was a need to curtail abuses and superstitions and introduce regulation. From the late 12th century, the Church sought to control, develop and shape an understanding of sainthood and authorise official saints.

Vatican Council II again reminded Catholics that Christ is the one mediator between God and ourselves. The saints, our spiritual brothers and sisters, are in communion and solidarity with us in the Body of Christ. They are disciples and models who preceded us, those who lived "ordinary" lives in an extraordinary way. The sanctoral cycle was reformed and trimmed (that's when we "lost" St Christopher).

If saints are models for us, some ask "What kind of models?" The vast majority of saints are ordained priests and bishops, religious and martyrs. Where are the role models of married couples and single lay women and men?

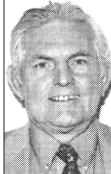
As we rejoice in the celebrations surrounding the canonisation of Mary MacKillop, we might like to ask ourselves how well we are following her modelling.

Are we "obedient in heart and deed"? Do we "teach more by example than by word"? Are we loyal to our beliefs through great challenges and trials, and meet them with "humility and charity"? Is it true that we "never see a need without doing something about it"? Are we consistent in bringing hope and encouragement to the poor and disheartened, the lonely and needy?

Such positives are part of Mary MacKillop's legacy. Outdated? I don't think so!



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SHORTS

Salt. Starring Angelina Jolie, Liev Schreiber, Chiwetel Ejiofor and Daniel Olbrychski. Directed by Phillip Noyce. 100 minutes. M (Action, violence and coarse language).

There is to be an attempt on the life of the US President. If that tantalises you, and you like Angelina Jolie being more energetic than Lara Croft, then you will suspend disbelief and just go with the flow, wherever it leads.

The Extra Man. Starring Kevin Kline, Paul Dano, Katie Holmes and John C Reilly. Directed by Shari Springer Berman and Robert Pulcini. 107 minutes. M (sexual references and infrequent coarse language).

More amusing than funny; a comedy of manners, both good and bad, it relies on its off-kilter characters and the strong performances to communicate this oddball world. For those who appreciate something a little different and touches of wit and irony, this will be quite a pleasure.

Piranha 3D. Starring Elisabeth Shue, Adam Scott, Steven R McQueen and Christopher Lloyd. Directed by Alexandre Aja. 88 minutes. MA 15+ (Strong violence and nudity, blood and gore).

If ever there was real schlock horror, then this is it. It can probably be best described as a hoot. It is one of those movies that can be watched at home by a young adult audience, better with a group who will laugh out loud, jump and scream now and again, and ogle the content.

Vampires Suck. Starring Jenn Proske, Matt Lanter and Christopher Riggi. Directed by Jason Friedberg, Aaron Seltzer. 80 minutes. M.

Those who like the Twilight films and solemnly watch them will probably not be pleased or impressed. Those who have seen the films and not liked them might get some satisfaction at the poking fun.

Wiz of a yarn for youngsters

The Sorcerer's Apprentice.

Starring Nicolas Cage, Jay Baruchel, Teresa Palmer, Alfred Molina and Monica Bellucci. Directed by Jon Turteltaub. 109 minutes. PG (fantasy violence and threatening scenes). Reviewer: Fr Peter Malone MSC*.

Older audiences, for whom this fantasy adventure from Arthurian times to the New York present is not intended, may well remember Fantasia and Mickey Mouse and the mops, brooms and buckets dancing relentlessly to Dukas' music.

In fact, the final credits acknowledge that this screenplay was inspired by that short film. And, entertainingly, there is a brief live-action, special effects re-creation of/homage to that Fantasia scene.

Actually, the film is a bit reminiscent of Harry Potter (and not just in the fact that Jay Baruchel as Dave, the apprentice in question looks like and describes himself as a physics dork). But, so busy has he been with his physics experiments that he has probably never heard of Harry Potter, let alone ready any of the books or seen any of the films. He may not have seen Night at the Museum which this film reminds us of in passing.

It all begins with Merlin and his three apprentices, Balthasar (Nicolas Cage), Veronica (Monica Bellucci) and Maxim (Alfred Molina) and the confrontation with Morgana le Fay (Alice Krige).



Nicolas Cage and Alfred Molina in The Sorcerer's Apprentice.

One is a rogue apprentice (no prize for guessing which one). When the spirit of Morgana (ingested by Veronica to save Balthasar) is trapped in one of those dolls with layers of dolls, Balthasar begins his trek through the centuries to find The Prime Merlinian.

The reluctant Dave does go though his apprenticeship with Balthasar, though often with one or more eyes on the lookout for dream girl Becki Barnes (Australian Teresa Palmer looking like Naomi Watts' younger sister).

Maxim turns up looking like a catalogue sketch (coat, tie and hat) in a turn-of-

the-century advertisement, but a sneering villain none the less.

Lots of action, car chases, flying on gargoyle eagles, clashes with magic powers and, of course, Morgana being released to face her judgment day at Dave's hands, literally filled with magic.

So, some good holiday fun for younger audiences. And, for those who wait until the end of the credits, a suggestion for a sequel.

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

Serious comedy with a challenge

The Kids are All Right

Starring Mia Wasikowska, Mark Ruffalo, Julianne Moore, Annette Bening, Yay DaCosta, Josh Hutcherson. Directed by Lisa Cholodenko. 104 minutes. MA 15+ (Strong sex scenes and infrequent drug use). Reviewer Fr Peter Malone MSC*.

Writer-director Lisa Cholodenko has been interested in relationships and families and, especially, the role of women, their behaviour and feelings.

This is a serious comedy with verve which keeps audiences interested, often amused, often challenged.

The two kids belong to a nuclear family, two parents, two children, one parent a doctor, the breadwinner, the other usually stays at home but has tried some careers and now intends to do garden landscaping.

One kid is 18, going to college, a science buff, the other 15 with the usual adolescent problems. The difference is that the kids have two mums who have been in a relationship for the best part of 20 years.



A scene from The Kids are All Right with Mia Wasikowska second from right.

Each has borne a child through artificial insemination.

The plot development shows the two mums, their personalities, the strong and controlling doctor (Annette Bening) and the softer, home mum (Julianne Moore). While their own relationship has its characteristics and gender consequences, their parenting and dealing with their children's issues seems only too familiar from husband-wife marriage and rearing.

The son (Josh Hutcherson) wants to find out about the sperm donor for his and his sister's conception. The daughter (Mia Wasikowska, Tim Burton's Alice in Wonderland) quite easily discovers Paul (Mark Ruffalo) and they meet.

As might be expected, Paul, now older and wiser and running a restaurant, is drawn into being something of a father-figure. The mums have mixed feelings, the doctor hostile, thinking her role has been invaded. Paul gives the landscaper a job and emotional complications follow.

Media often focus on issues of same-sex male families, parenting and adoption. Here the drama is of female same-sex parents managing families. There are funny moments, some serious reflection on contemporary issues. Audiences who have previous views may not alter them one way or the other. But, while the kids are all right, the presence of the male father-figure sometimes makes them better.

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

Despicable? No, but likeable, yes

Not too many films around with despicable in the title. And the film is so entertaining that critics will not be tempted to use despicable to describe it. It is very likeable, even the villain (hero), Gru. Children will enjoy it, as will adults, but it is for older youngster rather than the littlies.

While some of the elements may be familiar enough, two rival villains and their competitiveness, three little orphans with wide-eyed longing to be adopted, the strands come together in ways that are rather unpredictable.

The characters and the drawings are quite different from the American style and much of the animation was done in Paris by a French team. This is most welcome.

The characters are all exaggerated, especially the adult faces. We know many of the cast who voice the characters - but the drawings don't look like the stars at all.

Steve Carrell (relishing his accent, from Eastern Europe?) is not tall and gangly like Gru.

Jason Segal is quite big but here voices the small, nerdy, paunchy villain, Vector. And,

Despicable Me

Animation film voiced by Russell Brand, Ken Jeong, Jason Segel, Steve Carell and Julie Andrews. Directed by Pierre Coffin. 95 minutes. PG (Mild animated violence). Reviewer: Fr Peter Malone MSC*.

just as well Julie Andrews doesn't look like Gru's mum, a witch-nosed, piled-hair harridan of a mother, with Julie voicing it as gruff and accented as well.

And the plot? The film opens with a bold kid climbing up the great pyramid in Cairo

only to discover that it is a blow-up and the real one has been stolen - as have other emblematic buildings.

There is a lot of slapstick from the Pixar-studio like little minions that Gru relies on for everything, even the final cliff-hanger, well, cable hanger, between two rocket ships. Amusing for all - and adults may like the sub-heading over the door of The Bank of Evil: Formerly Lehmann Brothers.

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

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Pulling together many loose threads

The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything: A Spirituality for Real Life by James Martin SJ HarperOne, 2010, 420pp, \$38.99. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.

Years ago, in another life, I had a bit to do with the Jesuits in Melbourne, in India and here in Canberra. Without exception I have found these men to be good listeners, well-informed, skilled in leadership and men of prayer.

I've always admired the way that Jesuits are promi-

nent in many fields. As Ignatius of Loyola wished his followers to be, they are "contemplatives in action."

With this background I was delighted to encounter *The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything*. This is a splendid book, full of wisdom and practical guidance for living authentically. The author, James Martin SJ, is steeped in Ignatian spirituality. Martin's special gift is to make his founder's wisdom available to all.

Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556) was known for being practical. To quote from the book, "The way of Ignatius is about finding freedom: the freedom to become the person you're meant to be, to love and to accept love, to make good decisions, to experience the beauty of God's creation and the mystery of God's love".

This is a profound subject and maybe a bit scary too. Martin guides us gracefully into Ignatius' "way of proceeding". By following this

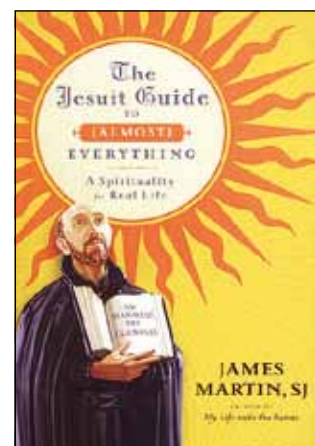
way we discover God in everything - and in everyone too.

With wit and insight Martin passes on strategies for meeting the challenges in life, such as: How do I make good decisions? How do I live a simple life? How do I pray? How do I love? How can I face suffering? How can I find God?

He writes poignantly and humorously of his own experiences and those of his many friends to translate Ignatian principles for a modern audience. The read-

er is left with the lasting impression that here is someone who understands not only the way to God but the way with God.

This book has pulled together many loose threads for me, as it may well do for you. While reading it I realised how my life has been enriched by the genius of Ignatius even without my knowing. So three cheers for James Martin SJ and his truly splendid book.



Sport and the hijacking of our beliefs

Saving Sport - Sport, Society and Spirituality, by Kevin O'Gorman SMA. Columbia Press. 271pp, \$35.95. Reviewer: Mgr John Woods.

The influence of sport is pervasive. As American football coach Vince Lombardi noted: "Football is not a matter of life and death; it is far more important."

Sports programs are the highest rating free-to-air and pay TV broadcasts. A recent Access Economics report showed that sport directly and indirectly contributed \$245.2 million a year to the ACT economy and employed nearly 3000 full-time workers.

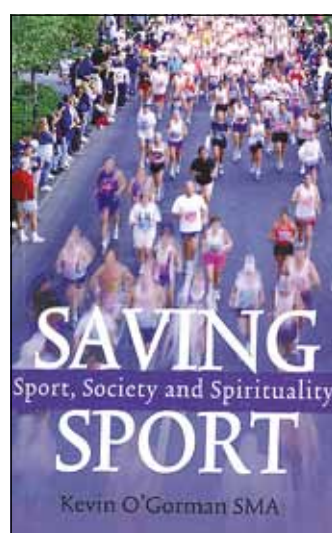
The same report noted that the ACT population is the most active in Australia, with over half of the adults taking part in a sporting activity at least three times a week. Combine these numbers with national and international statistics and one is soon struck by the relative paucity of sociological and theological analysis of sport.

It is the latter which Kevin O'Gorman, a priest of the Society of African Missions and lecturer in moral theology at St Patrick's College, Maynooth, Ireland, tries to address.

While O'Gorman's referencing of predominantly Irish sporting events, personalities and corporate aspects of the same is extensive and parallels much of our Australian experience, it is situated within a more overtly religious culture and one with apparently less sporting possibilities, especially for women.

Saving Sport reflects both O'Gorman's attraction to sport and his theological unease with its contemporary manifestation. He quotes Michael Parkinson, "that the importance of sport is that it doesn't matter, except as an antidote to things that do."

And so considering sport under chapters on faith, spirituality, redemption, God and morality, O'Gorman laments the hijacking of our Christian beliefs, worship and practice



for crass sporting analogy and metaphor.

He quotes Pope Benedict XVI's comment prior to the 2006 Winter Olympics that sport is "waiting to be illumined by God through Christ so that the values it expresses are purified and elevated at the individual and collective level".

As chaplain to the Canberra Raiders, I find the interplay of sport and religious aspirations

provide fertile points of illumination for what it means to be human. I very much agree with O'Gorman's observation that "sport finds its rightful place as the human experience and expression of a longing that finds its end in eternity". And yet it is not either, or. Evangelisation is always through culture and engagement with a culture will nuance our appreciation of the revealed truth we proclaim.

St Paul and Pope John Paul II acknowledged this interplay, as O'Gorman notes, and our evangelical American brothers and sisters have long realised, pointing out that when a high profile athlete speaks the young listen.

The establishment of the ecumenical Sports Chaplaincy Australia (www.sportschaplaincy.com.au) is in line with this understanding. This book, while far more anecdotal than analytical, provides much-needed insight and context for an emerging discussion.

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Crossing the bridge of sadness

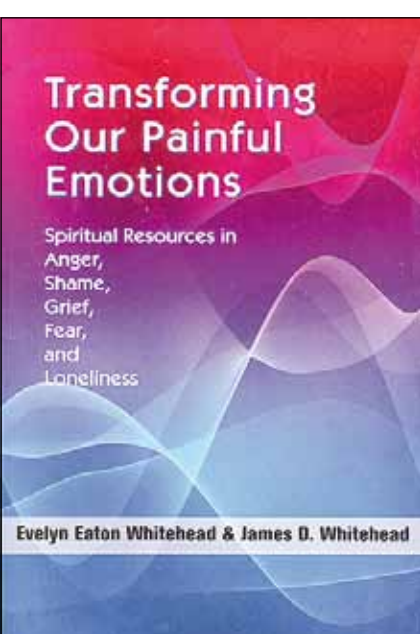
Transforming Our Painful Emotions: Spiritual Resources in Anger, Shame, Grief, Fear, and Loneliness, by Evelyn Whitehead and James Whitehead. Orbis Books, Maryknoll, New York, 2010, 213pp, \$32.95. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.

Evelyn and James Whitehead are a husband-and-wife team who have collaborated over many years. I remember studying, in the '80s, an excellent text of theirs on marriage entitled, "Embodied in Love." Some of their books have been translated into several languages.

Evelyn is a psychologist and James is a pastoral theologian. For over 40 years they have been associated with the Institute of Pastoral Studies at Loyola University, Chicago. They are eminently qualified to address the issues raised in this book.

The Whiteheads have concentrated on five human emotions - anger, shame, grief, fear and loneliness. They name these as painful emotions. They aim to transform these negative emotions by recognising and exploiting the gifts they contain.

The Whiteheads believe that, in order to tame our negative emotions, we need to respect the pain



without succumbing to it. If we continue to wallow in the pain, they say, then we cannot be receptive to the potential gifts of that emotion. These gifts are greater insight into our life and renewed energy to make things different.

If, on the other hand, our chief strategy is to avoid the pain, we retreat from closeness to others, take few risks and diminish our life. We need, they claim, to cross the bridge of sadness.

The Whiteheads construct a strong scaffold of strategies, explain the steps to resolution and point out pitfalls along the way. The key to all transformation is patience and what they term as a fierce attentiveness to positive change.

The authors provide a very comprehensive list of social and religious resources. There are some reflective exercises at the end of each chapter which are helpful in personalising the content.

This is a book of hope. It is both informed and informative and would be useful in many settings. For social workers, parents, students of psychology and for individuals overwhelmed with grief and loneliness, it provides thoughtful, caring advice from this experienced and talented couple.

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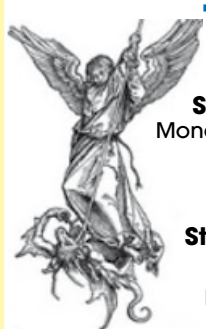
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Got some news? Tell Catholic Voice

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Coming Events



CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME - St John the Apostle Parish Kippax, six-week 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. Southside Ultreya, Gowrie parish, 7.30pm, Tuesday, 26 October. Northside Ultreya, Page parish 8pm, Thursday, 28 October. Inquiries: Merran, telephone 6258 3431.

DAY WITH THE BISHOP - For South Coast Filipinos and their families and friends, 11am Mass, Sunday, 7 November, at Sacred Heart Church, Moruya, with Bishop Pat Power. Followed by agape lunch, spiritual talks and open forum.

MASS FOR STILLBORN, MISCARRIED AND ABORTED BABIES - St Benedict's Eucharistic Centre, Narra-bundah, 5.30pm, Friday, 22 October. All welcome. Inquiries: Bronnie Schlager, telephone 6231 8611, 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.

MINISTRY TO THE NEWLY MARRIED - Mentoring program for newly married couples. Next program starts February. Inquiries: Vivien and Leigh and Debbie and Brian, telephone 6231 3389 or 0414 878 167, e-mail: mnm@grapevine.com.au.

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

REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY - 15th annual remem-

brance for those who lose their lives to illicit drugs, 12.30pm, Monday, 18 October, at memorial site, Weston Park Road, Yarralumla (opposite the junction with Prescott Lane) If you would like a loved one remembered at ceremony contact Marion, telephone 62542961, e-mail mcconnell@ffdlr.org.au.

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 - Rosary and Mass, 6.10pm, Thursday, 14 October, Holy Trinity Church, Curtin, followed by dinner at The Southern Cross Club, Woden. Inquiries: John Malycha, telephone 6251 2912.

WEEKEND RETREAT - Theme, Jesus at Prayer, directed by Fr Peter Ryan CSsR, 26-28 November, St Clement's, Galong. Organised by Legion of Mary. Inquiries: Jacqueline Donohue, telephone 6251 3950, Maria Noronha, telephone 0413 617 390.

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.

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.wvme.org.au.

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

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Footy chat and car repairs are the key

● From Page 13.

One quality that has allowed Sr Bernadette Mary to manage successfully on her own is that she is quite the handy-woman. She's done repairs around the church and parish house over the years and is always happy to get in and try to fix something if it is broken.

"I would never ask anyone to do something that I can do myself and if I do ask people to help then I'll work with them," she said.

Fixing cars is also something Sr Bernadette Mary has been known for. While in Temora in the late 1970s she did a mechanics course at tech and took out the annual motor maintenance award.

Just as her hometown was shocked when she announced she was joining the Josephites, Temora was amazed to discover their resident religious was a whiz at repairing cars.

These days Sr Bernadette Mary continues to surprise some, not so much with mechanical skills but more for her enthusiasm on the sidelines of the football field.

Her nephews David and Don Furner are the coach and general manager of the Canberra Raiders and she has always been a keen fan of the team. It's more than just an outside interest though.

"I also find it useful in my pastoral work," she said.

"Talking to the lads about football is a way for me to connect with them and it encourages them to open up."

Her experiences in the many places she has visited and worked in also help.

"If I'm meeting a new family, for example, and they say they come from such and such a place I can say 'oh, I've been there,



Hard at work preparing the church for Confirmation.

do you know so and so?" and then right up we have a connection."

It is this opportunity to connect with people that is the highlight of parish work for Sr Bernadette Mary.

"It's very important to link with people and their lives," she said.

"Working in small rural towns is certainly at the heart of our Josephite ministry and I am very grateful to be doing this."

Life devoted to students

Sr M Christopher Lang RSJ, who was known for her love of teaching and lifelong interest in the well-being of her former students and their families, has died peacefully in Goulburn. She was 88.

She was born to Mary Ellen and Ernest Lang, of Taralga, on 23 December, 1921. The couple's only child, she was baptized Doreen Gladys. Her father died when she was a toddler and her mother died when she was in the 7th class.

Doreen Gladys Lang entered the convent on the Feast of St Joseph, 19 March, 1942. Her skills as a teacher quickly became evident and over many years of ministry she was highly respected.

She taught a range of subjects including English, mathematics, history, geography, commerce, botany, physiology and science. In



her spare time she taught typewriting, book-keeping and shorthand.

Sr M Christopher was most creative, with skills in flower-decorating, knitting, crochet, tatting and other handiwork

The Mass of Christian Burial for Sr M Christopher was celebrated in Our Lady of Dolours

Chapel at St Joseph's Convent, North Goulburn. Chief celebrant was Bishop Pat Power, with Fr Dermid McDermott, Fr Kevin Brannelly, Fr Henry Byrne, Fr Phil Harding, Fr Frank Keogh and Fr Laurie Bent concelebrating. Sr M Christopher was buried in the sisters' section of St Patrick's Cemetery Kenmore.

She was a woman of deep faith who endeavoured always to live out the mission of the Gospel.



October is Mission Month throughout the entire Church. The theme of this year's Catholic Mission World Mission Day Appeal is 'Build community - together in Christ'. This month we celebrate a wonderful example of this with the canonisation of Mary MacKillop.

The soon to be Saint Mary, was herself a beneficiary of Catholic Mission's support through Propagation of the Faith funds to a fledgling Australian Church and community. It supported a faith that found its home in her heart and revealed itself in a life devoted to responding to God's call to share the Good News and inspire others to serve similarly.

This work of Catholic Mission continues within dioceses in both developing countries and remote areas of Australia with such funds today. Supporting faith communities in their ability to worship, to grow in their faith and to have access to necessary means to serve others, share their faith and to respond to the needs of the wider community.

Whether in East Timor, the Pacific or elsewhere, sustaining the faithful in these communities enables much to be done and the seeds from which tomorrow's saints emerge to be sown. Help us work with them. Give generously to this month's World Mission Day Appeal. Your support and prayers are vitally important.

God bless

Deacon Joe Blackwell

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It was a cold and windy day when Catholic Voice visited St Joseph's Primary School in Bombala so all the children were rugged up indoors. The older students were honing their Christian meditation skills while the younger students were reading in the library.

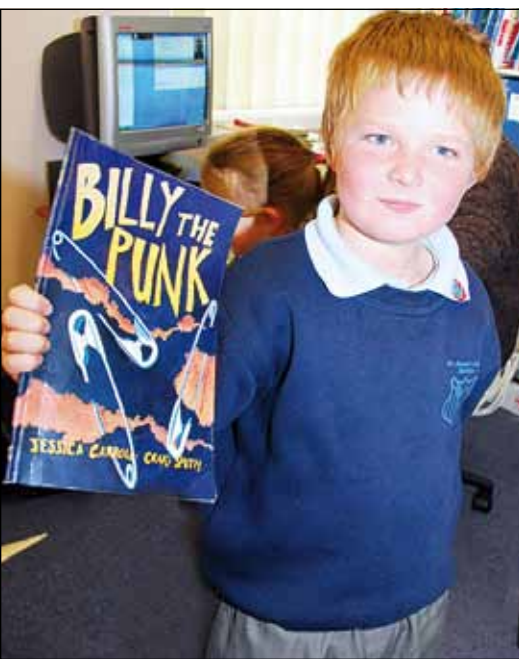


ABOVE: Jaimie Farrell used lots of colours to draw a collection of spring flowers.



LEFT: Lucy Merritt used her weaving skills in this snail artwork.

BELOW: St Joseph's Primary School, Bombala. Back: Riley Patterson, Calum Bedingfield, Bernard Gaunson Papalii, Katie Farrell, Riley White, Jade Brotherton, Austin Stress, Taylor Ventry, Anthony Landini, Emily Perkins, Meg Farrell and Kadeisha Gaunson Papalii. Front: Lucy Merritt, Jessica Norris, Jaimie Farrell, Jack Merritt, Jasper Bruce, Jack Ventry and Calum Garnock. Absent: Joseph Reed and Lachlan Bruce.



ABOVE: Jack Merritt wants to be just like Billy the Punk. RIGHT: Katie Farrell, Taylor Ventry, Jade Brotherton and Calum Bedingfield close their eyes for Christian meditation.



ABOVE: Jack Merritt painted this bright tabby cat.



Jasper Bruce engrossed in a book. 20 - CATHOLIC VOICE October 2010



RIGHT: Lucy Merritt with a library book. LEFT: Eager listeners, Jack Ventry, Jasper Bruce, Calum Garnock, Jaimie Farrell and Lucy Merritt.





Eden's tribute draws many pilgrims

The people of Eden have rallied together to preserve their links to Mary MacKillop by creating a destination for pilgrims the world over to visit.

The old Josephite school building, which used to double as the church, was restored by volunteers and reopened in 2004 as Mary MacKillop Hall.

Mr Philip McGrath, one of the volunteers on the restoration committee, said they had had visitors from across Australia and even overseas, with numbers growing in the lead up to the canonisation.

The walls of the hall are filled with display boards that detail how Mary MacKillop first came to the town and the work of the many sisters who followed her.

Mary's mother Flora was on her way to Sydney to help with a bazaar to raise money for the sisters when her ship, the Ly-ee Moon, was wrecked in a storm.

"Flora's was the only body recovered without any real damage," Mr McGrath said.

"She was completely naked with a scapular around her neck. All the other bodies looked like they had been mauled by sharks.

"The Power family, who owned the motel near the pier, allocated a room for Flora's remains. The people of Eden brought flowers and prayed there.

"As thanks, Mary sent the sisters here and set up a school and convent."

Mary MacKillop returned to Eden in 1899 and 1901 to test the children and sisters have been sent to the town ever since.

The museum includes a display in the choir loft with models dressed in traditional religious garb to show how the building would have been used as a school/church.

There are also photographs and information on the continued pres-

ence of Josephites in Eden, including items about Sr Brigid McMahon and Sr Rosemary Hart, who currently work in the town.

Both women grew up in the area and said they were pleased to be home again.

Sr Brigid was principal of St Joseph's Primary School from 1972-77. Sr Rosemary has been teaching at the school since 1995.

In honour of the town's connection to Mary MacKillop, Pambula parish's canonisation day celebrations will be held in Eden.

People are asked to gather at the wharf at 10am for a procession to Our Lady Star of the Sea Church where Mass will be held at 11am. This will be followed by lunch and afternoon entertainment.



ABOVE: Sr Rosemary Hart, Mr Philip McGrath and Sr Brigid McMahon outside Mary MacKillop Hall in Eden.



ABOVE: One of the museum displays in Mary MacKillop Hall.

LEFT: One of the display boards in Mary MacKillop Hall, paying tribute to the saint who the townspeople describe as "a special friend".



Family is proud of their connection with saint

All the portraits of Mary MacKillop show her in full habit with a serious expression.

So does the painting Young resident Alma Robinson was given in honour of the fact she is one of Mary's descendants.

But it's not the only image of Australia's first saint that springs to Mrs Robinson's mind.

"I remember seeing a photograph of Mary from when she was 19 and she had a thick red plait wrapped across her head," Mrs Robinson said.

LEFT: Alma Robinson, of Young, with a portrait of her relative Mary MacKillop.

"My grandmother told me that Mary MacKillop's grandfather and my great-grandmother were brother and sister.

"My great-grandmother had a house at Nimmitabel and Mary and her brother used to come and visit, travelling by just a buggy and two horses."

Mrs Robinson said her whole family was very proud to be related to Mary MacKillop and she had ensured the story of their connection had been passed down to her grandchildren.

She was invited to attend the beatification ceremony held in Randwick in 1995.

Although none of the family is going to Rome for the canonisation, Mrs Robinson said Mary would be in her prayers.

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why I do



A column in which well known and not so well-known people tell us about themselves. This month we speak to Michelle Emmett, year 12 student at Hennessy College, Young, last year, and a pilgrim to the canonisation.

what I do

Why are you going to the canonisation?

There is nothing that makes me happier than celebrating my faith, whether it's simply going to Mass or something as great as taking part in WYD Sydney. Mary MacKillop's canonisation is going to be a huge celebration of faith. More than that, it's a celebration of the Australian faith, which is definitely under celebrated and under voiced. I'm so proud of the fact that we're about to have our first saint. I'm so proud to be Australian, and most of all, to have the faith I have. I want to be there to celebrate!

What do you hope to get out of being there?

My faith is the most important thing to me - it is who I am and it's how I see the world. I want to take every opportunity to deepen, strengthen and explore that. I don't think I could be present at a celebration like this without being affected, inspired and touched by it.

What impact has Mary MacKillop had on your life?

For me personally she represents faith in action. She went about things in a down-to-earth and practical manner and humbly fought for what was right. She wasn't afraid to put everything on the line for what she believed and her entire life, all her words and all her actions, was a testimony to her love for God. The concept that faith and life cannot be separated is quintessential to me and I can't think of a better role model to look up to and learn from.

Why do you think it's important that she be officially recognised as a saint?

Mary MacKillop's canonisation doesn't greatly affect Catholics who have already been inspired by her story and it's certainly not something she would have ever wanted. What it does provide, though, is the opportunity for the Australian Church and the Universal Church to show the world what we're really about. It gives us the chance to be in the spotlight for all the right reasons - something which doesn't happen often. It allows us to celebrate the life of a truly inspiring individual, to celebrate our faith and to make a bold statement about the footsteps we wish to follow.

Will the fact that she's been canonised make a difference in your life?

In my eyes it doesn't make a huge difference; it's her story and her example that has moved me and inspired me on my own faith journey. I have been fortunate enough to have known her story since I was young. Mary MacKillop's canonisation will bring her story to the attention of many for the first time and I have no doubt that feelings of inspiration and admiration will be stirred.

What difference do you think Australia's first saint will make in the lives of young Australians?

Well if it makes any difference in the life of most young Australians then that's a great start. Even if her canonisation just provides young people who would not normally be exposed to her story the chance to hear it and maybe even be touched by it then that's certainly a gift in itself. For those young people who do find value in their faith, I have no doubt that Australia's first saint will only encourage and inspire them to put their faith into action and change the world, one small step at a time.

There's a new story to tell



Adelong parish coordinator Sr Carmel Piffero.

The Sisters of St Joseph have been active in Adelong for more than 120 years but for many residents, news of the canonisation was the first they'd heard of Mary MacKillop.

The Josephites came to the town in 1884 to establish a second foundation of the Goulburn Congregation of the Sisters of St Joseph, but Mary herself never visited.

"Before she was beatified, we never really talked about her," Adelong parish coordinator Sr Carmel Piffero said. "We promoted our patron, St Joseph, but our founders never really came up. So even though there's been a continuous presence of Sisters of St Joseph in Adelong, Mary's story is actually new to many people here."

With canonisation day getting closer and closer, Sr Carmel is determined to make sure as many people as

possible understand why Mary is to become Australia's first saint.

"I've been trying to do lots of little things to get the word out - talking about her when I visit people, adding short items on Mary to the services I lead on alternate weeks when we don't have Mass," she said.

"I do an ecumenical service at the nursing home and in the last one I took the opportunity to talk to people about Mary MacKillop. They said they found it very informative and they all found something about her life they could identify with."

Sr Carmel also has plans for local celebrations on 17 October, which will include parishioners from both Adelong and Batlow and music by a visiting choir.

For more details on the event contact Sr Carmel, telephone 6946 2049.

A list of Josephite communities in our Archdiocese, past and present

Both the Brown and the Black Josephites were co-founded by Mary MacKillop and Julian Tennyson Woods.

CANBERRA-GOULBURN DIOCESE FOUNDATIONS (Brown Josephites)

Bombala	1887
Bungedore	1888 - 1968
Araluen	1888 - 1928
Eden	1891
Candelo	1900 - 1968
Nimmitabel	1902
Milton	1913 - 1923, and 1951 - 1985
Adaminaby	1918 - 1975
Cobargo	1918 - 1968
Delegate	1921 - 1981
Bega	1927 - 1997
Lake Cargelligo	1929 - 1995
Bemboka	1951 - 1954
Jindabyne	1960 - 1969
Red Hill	1978 - 1995

GOULBURN FOUNDATIONS (Black Josephites)

North Goulburn	1882 -
Adelong	1884 -
Taralga	1884 - 1988, and 2009 -
Temora	1887
Tumbarumba	1888 - 1991

Narrandera	1890
Holbrook	1892 - 1985, and 2009-
Binalong	1896 - 1968
Coolamon	1897 -
Koorawatha	1910 - 1959
Wombat	1914 - 1958
Leeton	1917 -
Wallendbeen	1920 - 1949
Barmedman	1922 - 1997
Batlow	1923 - 1984
Yanco	1924 - 1976
Ardlethan	1924 - 1985, and 2004-
Culcairn	1926
Marulan	1930 - 1938
Batemans Bay	1937
Yenda	1937 - 2002
Quandialla	1937 - 1968
Neutral Bay	1945 - 1998
Hanwood	1948 - 1971
Yoogali	1949 - 1993
Ungarie	1950 - 1982, and 1994
Barellan	1954 - 1983, 1999 - 2004, and 2008 -
O'Connor	1956 -
Vanimo PNG	1965 - 1996
Lyneham	1969 -
Gundagai	1980 - 1983
Suain PNG	1983 - 1991
Burwood	1998 -
Wagga Wagga	1995 -

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Mary brought home the 'true power of prayer'

As far as Mrs Margaret Wilson and her husband Kevin are concerned, Mary MacKillop has always been a saint.

"The canonisation is just belated recognition, which will hopefully bring the rest of the population along with us," Mr Wilson said.

The Farrer couple's devotion to Mary really started after their first visit to Mount Street in North Sydney where they were able to attend daily Mass and pray at her tomb.

However, their connection to Mary MacKillop has existed much longer.

"My father had a great love for his aunty Sarah, Sr Avellino, who was a novice under Mary MacKillop and he taught us to love the Joeys," Mrs Wilson said.

"This connection with Mary led to our first realisation of the true power of prayer. Dad got cancer in 1963 and we knew that that whole order was praying for him.

"He got over his cancer and lived on another 30 years to be a bright man of 78."



ABOVE: Margaret and Kevin Wilson, who have always regarded Mary MacKillop as a saint.



LEFT: Sarah Pola (right), who became Sr Avellino and was a novice under Mary MacKillop.

Ever since, the Wilsons have regularly asked for Mary MacKillop's intercession during difficult times in their lives and the lives of their family.

"We've always placed whatever problems we've had in Mary's hands; not to ask for magic solutions but to ask Mary to intercede to gain the best possible outcome - peace, tranquillity, health - those sorts of solutions rather than the reversal of an impending situation," Mr Wilson said.

Story told in glass



The stained glass window (above) was installed in St Bede's Church, Braidwood, in 2001. It includes the floral emblem of each Australian state Mary MacKillop visited, as well as the thistle to represent her family's home in Scotland. The brown hills in the background highlight her mission to rural areas.

A journey on the road with Mary

Mary MacKillop's sense of pilgrimage has inspired Josephite Associate Mr Neil Harrigan to devise a short Canberra pilgrim walk in her honour.

Starting at Archbishop's House, travelling along the banks of Lake Burley Griffin and concluding with prayers at the stained glass window of Mary MacKillop in St Christopher's Cathedral, pilgrims have been walking The MacKillop Way each fortnight since July.

Whenever possible, Archbishop Mark Coleridge has blessed the pilgrims before they depart and a Sister of St Joseph has led the group in prayers and reflection.

"I've been on quite a journey since my mother bought me a small present from Penola," Mr Harrigan said.

"I became very interested in Mary and what she stood for. She had a real sense of pilgrimage; she was always on the road."

Mr Harrigan also has a long experience with the benefits of pilgrimage, having completed Spain's famous Santiago De Compostela pilgrim walk some years ago.

Each pilgrim who completed The MacKillop Way was given a small wooden triangle encasing a Mary MacKillop



Mr Neil Harrigan (front row, left) departs Archbishop's House with other pilgrims to begin The MacKillop Way.

medal, designed by Mr Harrigan's friend and mentor for the pilgrimage, Mrs Sue Orchison.

"They are the sort of thing I encourage people to throw in their bag if they are going to something where they feel they need the comfort of the saint, or they can just stand it on their desk," he said.

The MacKillop Way was used by many as a spiritual preparation for the 17 October ceremony.

"The canonisation will be an amazing moment in the history of Australia, not just for the Church but for all of Australian society," Mr Harrigan said.

"Mary MacKillop will be seen as the signature of the Australian Church and its spirituality."

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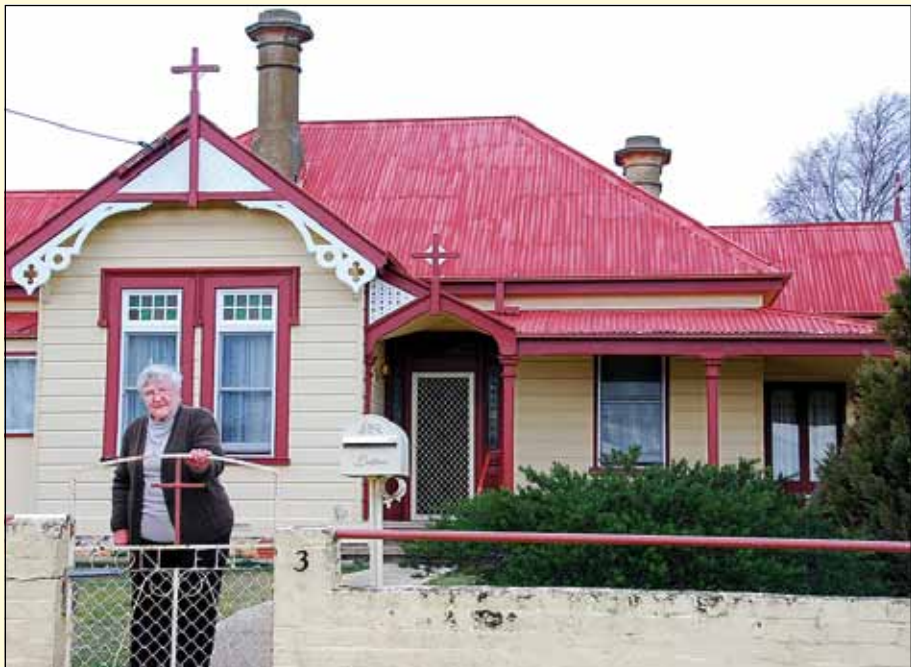
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The photograph (above) was taken around 1919 outside the Josephite convent in Araluen, which was once a thriving town of 20,000 people. The population has decreased dramatically and it is now a small village outside of Braidwood. The convent was moved down the road to a peach farm property where it was used as picker accommodation. Long-time Araluen resident Mr Clem Wilson (below) stands outside the old convent's front door.



Sr Bernadette O'Sullivan (above) is now the only resident of the original Sisters of St Joseph Nimmitabel convent built at Mary MacKillop's request in 1902. It overlooks St Andrew's Church, where the sisters ran classes until a school was completed in 1908. It closed in 1982 due to lack of numbers. Mary had also visited Nimmitabel many times before the sisters were established there, as her mother's cousins lived in the area.

RIGHT: Monaro Josephites Sr Magdalen MacDonald and Sr Helen Madden in the old convent at Bombala. The building is now council owned Lavender House, which has one room of MacKillop memorabilia to showcase its history.



Mary answer for 'thirsty world'

Mary MacKillop's spirit has been alive in the Monaro Josephites since 1888 and the canonisation will ensure it continues to grow in the region long after the sisters are gone, Bombala pastoral associate Sr Helen Madden RSJ said.

"In a world that is thirsting for something of the sacred, Mary is the one who will bring this refreshing spirituality into our land," she said.

"The laity imbued with her spirit will take it forward."

Sr Helen was first inspired by Mary MacKillop when she read about her ministry in rural Australia.

"I wasn't taught by the Josephites but I used to see them in the streets and I was always curious about who they were and what they did," she said.

The sisters gave her a book on the life story of Mary MacKillop, a woman she had never heard of before then.

"After reading that book I realised something within me crossed the pathway of Mary MacKillop," Sr Helen said.

"So here I am, 50 years on, having lived as a Sister of St Joseph and very happy to have done so."

Sr Magdalen MacDonald RSJ from Cooma has always been surrounded by the spirit of Australia's first saint.

She is related to Mary MacKillop through her father Donald MacDonald. The family

came from Scotland to settle in Nimmitabel, and although Sr Magdalen's grandparents didn't live long enough to share their stories with her, letters show that Mary often came to visit.

Educated by the Sisters of St Joseph at Nimmitabel, Sr Magdalen said she was attracted by their kindness and charity.

"After school one of the sisters approached me and asked when I was going to enter the convent," she said.

"Her prompt made me realise that's what God wanted me to do."

Called to follow in Mary MacKillop's footsteps, the Sisters of St Joseph have always believed her life was one of great holiness. But they weren't the only ones.

"People knew this was coming," Sr Helen said.

"At the time of her death Cardinal Moran said 'I believe I have assisted at the bedside of a saint'. People took sods of soil when she was buried because they felt she was destined for sainthood."

By making it all official and drawing international attention to Mary's spirituality, Sr Helen said the whole world can learn from her example.

"Since 1925, when her cause was introduced, we have prayed and prayed, so now is the time to rejoice."

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