



FREE

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It's a long way from, well, anywhere, but it's a living and active part of our Archdiocese. Catholic Voice journalist Claire Mitchell makes the 400km-plus drive to Lake Cargelligo to find out what makes the locals so happy with their lot. More from the western deanery, P 6,7.



WHAT'S INSIDE

In the lead-up to Canberra's centenary, Bishop Pat Power takes a look at some of the most significant Catholics in the capital's history. He starts with the legendary Mgr Patrick Haydon. Page 11

WHAT'S COMING

Enrolment time is on the way ... we look at the Archdiocese's top high schools and colleges in the April edition.

Life at the Lake

The two most prominent features of Lake Cargelligo are arguably the lake and Fr Mayne Murphy.

As parish priest for the past 20 years in the small bush town about 5-1/2 hours by road from Canberra, he's become quite the familiar face. He was actually born in Lake Cargelligo and lived there until he was seven.

The area has a strong ecumenical sense, so Fr Murphy is known to more than his parishioners.

"My best friend is an Anglican minister and we often go up to the club for dinner together," he said.

"We have an ecumenical evening once a month, which we take turns hosting. There's real cohesiveness through the other denominations."

Historically, the role of Lake Cargelligo parish priest tended to go to senior curates who were ready to step up and run their own parish.

Fr Murphy, however, requested the move to the Archdiocese's most western point. "I spent five years in the Snowy Mountains before I came to Lake Cargelligo, so I was in need of some sunshine," he said.

"I enjoy the community and I like hot weather so I'm very happy here."

Fr Murphy was a late vocation, ordained at the age of 52. Before that he worked as a government surveyor in rural New South Wales, something he said he loved just as much as he loves the priesthood.

"I was way out in the back country working when my cousin, who was priest, sent me a birthday card," Fr Murphy said.

"On the bottom he wrote, 'you ever thought of becoming a priest?'. 'How bloody ridiculous', I thought. But it got me thinking. I rang the then Fr Pat Power for advice and he suggested I go to the seminary in Kensington and try it out."

He studied at St Paul's Seminary and was ordained at St Mary's Church, Young, in 1982. He served as an assistant priest in Goulburn for three years, then as Adaminaby



Lake Cargelligo parish priest Fr Mayne Murphy with his walking stick Sam, outside Our Lady of Lourdes Church grotto.

parish priest for five years before taking up his current position at Lake Cargelligo.

Geographically, it is a large parish, with Mass celebrated weekly at Tullibigeal and Lake Cargelligo, as well as once a month at Rankin Springs. He also celebrates monthly Mass at the former Aboriginal mission of Murrin Bridge, which is now a small indigenous community.

"I'm used to travelling long distances," Fr Murphy said. "I love being this far out. It's 100km either side to the closest priest."

Fr Murphy said he got along well with neighbouring priests and tried to visit them when he could. For the most part though, the parish is quite isolated.

"The school sometimes has the opportunity to go to Canberra but the rest of the

parish doesn't really get to interact with other areas," he said.

As a result, the sense of community in Lake Cargelligo is all the stronger.

"It was very tough out here during the drought but the community pulled together," he said. "It's a great place we've got here. The lake changes it from an ordinary bush town into a really beautiful place to be."

'I have enough, I am enough' – Ron Rolheiser, Page 15

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contact us

EDITOR and ADVERTISING: Geoff Orchison
Telephone 6201 9806 or 0407 008 563.
E-mail ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au
JOURNALIST: Claire Mitchell
Telephone 6201 9872
E-mail cathcomm@cg.catholic.org.au
ADDRESS: GPO Box 3089, Canberra ACT 2601
Favier House, 51 Cooyong Street, Braddon ACT 2612.
Internet - www.cg.catholic.org.au
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what do you know?

1. Name the indigenous community St Francis Xavier Primary, Lake Cargelligo, celebrates monthly Mass with.
2. Which former prime minister's chair is part of the new Irish exhibition at the National Museum?
3. What was Fr Mayne Murphy's profession before he was ordained a priest?
4. When was the Croatian Catholic Mission in Canberra established?
5. Who was Canberra's first and only parish priest?
6. Deacon Michael Lim will be ordained priest for the Archdiocese this month. Where is he from?
7. Which Josephite has just celebrated her 100th birthday in Goulburn?

Answers bottom Page 4.

New financial head for local Church

Helen Delahunty has always strived to provide her expertise only to companies whose work she really believes in.

So when she was offered the role of archdiocesan financial administrator, she could not have been happier.

She succeeds Mr Herbie O'Flynn, who is retiring, and she will take up the position at the beginning of April.

Ms Delahunty is currently the chief financial officer of Greening Australia, and has spent 12 years with the national environmental organisation.

While the decision to leave was a hard one, she said she knew it was time to move on to something else.

"After 12 years in an organisation you begin to have the same ideas come up again and again," Ms Delahunty said.

"It was making me negative, which is not how I like to be. One of my strengths is being positive. So I started to look elsewhere.

"A friend suggested I apply for this position and I am thrilled to have been accepted.

"As an accountant I could really work anywhere, but I have to believe in what I'm doing. This role sits well with me morally, professionally and personally."

Although she has not worked for the Church before, she has been involved in a volunteer capacity, particularly in Catholic education.



The Archdiocese's new financial administrator Ms Helen Delahunty.

She has four boys, two of whom are students at Marist College, and has spent many years on school boards and P&Fs.

One of the things Ms Delahunty said she was most looking forward to was getting out and exploring the Archdiocese.

She has spent the past 13 years in Canberra and was based in Melbourne

before that. But having been raised in country Victoria, she is keen to get out into the bush again.

"I'm looking forward to travelling the Archdiocese," she said.

"I'll be pushing to get out there as much as possible."

Ms Delahunty is from a family of six children, where politics was always hotly contested.

Her sister Mary was a minister in the former Labor Government in Victoria, while her brother Hugh, a member of the Nationals, is a minister in the current coalition State government.

AFL is also very important to the family. Hugh Delahunty played for Essendon, prior to his political career, while their brother Michael played for Collingwood.

"I adore AFL. My four boys play it and I love to watch it," Ms Delahunty said. "We always had a divide in my family, but I'm a Collingwood supporter."

Archbishop Mark Coleridge said he was delighted to welcome Ms Delahunty to the archdiocesan team.

"At this complex and important time when the future must be built, Helen will bring to the task professional skills and personal gifts which will be invaluable," he said.

"As the first woman to hold the position, she will also bring a fresh perspective to the issues and situations we are facing."

Got some news? Tell us! Contact Catholic Voice Phone 6201 9806

Where happiness is

By Liam King
Living in Australia we are blessed with so many opportunities and privileges and having the opportunity to spend two weeks in January with the poor in the Philippines opened my eyes to this fact.

I took part in an overseas tour with a difference. The Gawad Kalinga Youth Great Adventure Tour involved us living with a family in a village built for the poor and helping them with activities, such as building and looking after the children.

It is sad to see that so many young Australians do not realise how privileged we are. I was guilty of being one of these people who take the privilege of having a flushing toilet, a car, a mattress to sleep on and a shower after a long day's work as a right.

There have been many times where I have had to reluctantly give up my bed when relatives came to visit or to allow others to go before me when I lined up in shopping centres.

The time I spent living with the poor, some who live on less than a few dollars a day, opened my eyes to how much I concentrated simply on the materialistic things back home.

In the village, I was lucky enough to live in the house, by house I mean an area no bigger than my own bedroom, of a family who had truly experienced what it means to be poor. The family of six wholeheartedly gave up half of their house for me and for one of my friends to sleep in.

This meant six people slept in an area no bigger than a double bed, with no mattress, in the heat and humidity. This family taught me the importance of giving and sacrifice and also the importance of family life.

While they had nothing they were willing to do anything for us and asked nothing in return.

Changing our world



Catholic Voice each month focuses on the views of a young person and what he or she sees as an important issue of the day

They were so humble and so kind, yet lived in conditions that people in Australia could never imagine themselves living in.

They got up before the sun rose. The mother prepared breakfast, did the washing and looked after the house; the father went off to work to earn money to send the children to school. They lived so simply, yet they were so happy.

After returning home I looked at the simplicities in life in a much different way. It makes me sad to

see so many people, especially Christians, take their blessings for granted. We are so caught up in who has the best phone or who has the most friends on Facebook that we often, me included, forget to see where real happiness is and that is in family and friendships and giving your time to help others.

One thing that struck me was that while kids in Australia are complaining that they don't have the latest computer game the kids in the Gawad Kalinga Victoria Village in Mindoro, Philippines, were playing with empty water bottles with their friends. I have never seen kids so happy.

Simple things such as this showed me that it was time for me to stop worrying about what I have and to worry about the needs of others.

We as youth have so many talents. We must use them for others and not just ourselves. I now believe that by loving others when we think we are going to receive nothing in return is when we learn what true happiness is.

● Liam King is a member of the Corpus Christi Parish Youth Mission Council and has a passion for social justice. He was the ACT representative on the Gawad Kalinga ambassador program last year.

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A taste of our Irish story to go on show

The Catholic Church in Australia stands firmly on Irish shoulders, as shown in a new exhibition opening on St Patrick's Day at the National Museum of Australia.

"Not Just Ned: A True History of the Irish in Australia" traces the influence of Ireland from 1788 through to today.

The extensive display, which took two years to put together, will fill more than 1000sq m.

"We've got loans from right across Australia, the United States, New Zealand and Ireland," senior curator Dr Richard Reid said. "It incorporates around 480 objects, from very small pieces through to items such as an old combine harvester."

Due to the strong Catholicism of the early Irish immigrants, many of the objects on display tell the story of the Australian Catholic Church.

"It was basically an Irish Catholic Church in Australia until the 1950s and '60s," Dr Reid said.

"Indeed, the Australian Catholic Church was built from the huge sums of money raised from the faithful, as suggested by the display of 36 silver trowels of Archbishop William Spence of Adelaide."

He used them to lay the foundation stones of more than 80 churches in his diocese between 1915 and 1934.

Visitors can see the replica Cross of Cong from St Mary's Cathedral in



ABOVE: The chair used by Prime Minister Ben Chifley in St Christopher's.

ABOVE RIGHT: The plaque on the chair.

Sydney, which Cardinal Patrick Moran used in his procession to the altar each Sunday to remind the congregation of their ancient Irish heritage.



Melbourne's Archbishop Daniel Mannix is also well represented with his famous black cloak, top hat, buckled shoes and walking stick from Killarney.

"The Irish Catholics were thick on the ground in this region so there's a lot to see from the Archdiocese too," Dr Reid said.

Convict Ned Ryan's Certificate of Freedom is among the collection, along with the story of how his family established what is now St Clement's Monastery, Galong.

Dr Reid said "Chif's Chair" - used by Prime Minister Ben Chifley

when he attended Mass at what is now St Christopher's Cathedral - had been secured for the exhibition.

He is said to have sat at the back of the church due to public criticism of his marriage to a Presbyterian woman.

"Words alone are poor things to describe an array of objects like this," Dr Reid said.

"They need to be seen, their stories sensed in the viewing."

The exhibition will be open 9am-5pm daily, from 17 March to 31 July. Check the National Museum of Australia website, www.nma.gov.au for details.

Uni presence goes south

Australian Catholic University has partnered with St Mary MacKillop College to provide education students with practical experience they won't find anywhere else.

Unlike typical courses, which include only a four-week practical component, ACU's 30 Graduate Diploma in Education (secondary) students will spend the entire year at MacKillop's Isabella Plains campus.

Two of the diploma subjects will be taught at the south Canberra secondary school. Twice a week students will attend their lectures at the college, and then spend the remainder of their time working alongside staff in the classroom.

The students will also be involved in pastoral teams, staff meetings, assemblies, and all events in which a working teacher would participate.

Dr Jo Brady RSJ, who will be taking one of the subjects at MacKillop, said this new learning model would go a long way towards bridging the gap between the theoretical and the practical.

"When the lectures are run at the university, we have to use videos of scenes from the classroom to explain different points," she said.

"This way the lectures can draw on what they are actually experiencing in the classroom."

ACU Signadou campus dean Prof Patrick McArdle said the approach would give students quite an advantage as they would be able to see how the school functions in an entire year, rather than the snapshot gained from a standard four-week practical.

St Mary MacKillop College principal Mr Michael Lee said he was pleased the school could be a part of an initiative that would bring a university presence to south Canberra for the first time.

"All schools have an interest in ensuring that teachers coming out of university are of the highest standard, and MacKillop's teach-



Part of the ACU contingent with the St Mary MacKillop College captains. Back: Naomi Palmer, Robyn Hume, Tom Armstead and Sarah Box. Front: Dr Jo Brady RSJ, Prof Marie Emmitt, Seanne Inkpen, Adam Refki and Stephanie Sergeant.

ers will now have the opportunity to bring their wisdom, experience and skill to the formation of these pre-service teachers," he said.

The partnership is an extension of a mentoring program established through the Catholic Education Office in 2005, where teachers from MacKillop, Merici and St Francis Xavier College offered their support to ACU education students.

This year's students will also benefit from the mentoring program, which will run after school on the days they attend MacKillop.

Vinnies doorknock is set to hit target

The Vinnies Doorknock Appeal is on target to reach its goal of \$320,000.

Chief executive officer of the Canberra/Goulburn Central Council Mr Bob Wilson said donations just before the end of February totalled about \$200,000.

"We're quite confident we'll raise at least \$320,000," he said. "Most volunteers don't turn their funds in until the last

minute and we still expect more cheques and online donations.

"When a volunteer visits someone who isn't home they leave an envelope in their mailbox. We've been getting a lot of them returned too, which is great."

One third of all money raised will be sent to Queensland for the Vinnies Flood Appeal, while the remainder will be used

locally to fund the society's core work, home visitation.

In 2010, Vinnies volunteers visited over 11,000 homes and assisted around 45,000 men, women and children in Canberra and Queanbeyan. In all, \$800,000 was spent to provide help with accommodation, bedding, clothing, food, utilities and health. Donations can be made at www.vinnies.org.au/2011-doorknock-appeal-act.

St Clement's Retreat Centre

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This four day Retreat is for people who are retired or in the second half of life. A wonderful time to meet new friends and find time to be with the Lord. It begins on Monday with the evening meal and concludes with breakfast on the Friday

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A time to nurture the creative spirit. Sister Helen Barnes RSJ is our artist in residence and she delights in discovering and encouraging the creative abilities of others. The weekend is open to both beginner and those with previous experience in art. Cost \$240

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Fri 7 - Sun 9 October

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The Procession begins at 2.00

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Centering Prayer: How to be contemplative in a secular world

Mon 17 - Fri 21 Oct. Dr. Tom Connolly

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Recently there has been talk of unrest, especially among some clergy, about the new translation of the Missal which will be with us towards the end of this year.

I can understand some of the anxiety and uncertainty, though the kind of defiance heard at times seems odd to me in the life of the Church. On the one hand, it can sound a bit adolescent; on the other hand, it can sound too politicised.

Dissatisfaction with the new texts often seems to me dissatisfaction about something else.

The new translations are a lightning rod for many things which have little or nothing to do with the texts themselves which have scarcely been seen or read - let alone pondered and studied - by some of those who protest most loudly. Dissatisfaction with the texts can conceal dissatisfaction with the politics of the process which produced them. That may be understandable, but it is important to distinguish the process and the product.

Dissatisfaction with the texts can also conceal unease about the idiom of the Roman Rite as the language of the Church's public prayer at this time and this place.

The 1973 translations and, to a lesser extent, the 1998 translations muffled or silenced the idiom of the Roman Rite in all its particularity. Now that the new translations allow that idiom to be heard more clearly, people can end up saying - unwittingly perhaps - that they don't like this idiom and are not prepared to learn it or be taught by it.

Over the years of my involvement in the project, I too have had doubts from time to time about both the process and the product of the translation of the Missal.

I know better than most how flawed the process has been at times and how flawed the final product is at certain points.

But none of that has ever shaken my faith in the project, which is why I was prepared to throw myself into it for some years.

Translation is faithful to trajectories of Vatican II



I have always thought and still think that it was a project that had to happen and that the product will be significantly stronger and richer than the texts we have used since 1973.

On a larger scale, it's a bit like my experience of the Church. I know better than most how imperfect the processes and products of the Church can be.

But I have never lost my faith in the Church or come to think that the Church should be rejected because her processes and products are at times imperfect.

I love the Church in a way that a spouse loves a spouse or a parent loves a child. The spouse has no illusions about the imperfections of the other, but the love remains.

So too the parent: he or she has no illusions about the imperfections of the child, but that doesn't mean that love ceases.

Was the process of producing the new texts perfect? Certainly not. Are the translations perfect? Certainly not. Was the process nothing other than the duplicitous thuggery some seem to suggest? No. Are the texts an unEnglish, slavishly literal farrago of obscurantism, archaism and incomprehensibility? No. In the end, we will have imperfect but still stronger translations that come to us at the end of

a process that was inevitably flawed at times.

In a recent and wholly predictable piece in the press, four supposedly objectionable points of the new translation were highlighted: 1) the response "And with your spirit"; 2) the translation of the Nicene Creed as "I believe"; 3) the expression "my sacrifice and yours" in the "Pray brothers and sisters"; 4) the translation of the "Lord, I am not worthy" as "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed".

Let's look here at "And with your spirit". First of all, the expression is New Testament language, which makes this one of the many points where the language of the Scripture is heard anew.

Four times in the Pauline letters, we find the expression "with your spirit" (Gal 6:18; Phil 4:23; Philemon 25; 2 Tim 4:22).

It may have been a well known liturgical formula even at that early stage. By the time we get to the *Traditio Apostolica* of Hippolytus early in the third century it is a well entrenched liturgical formula; and it is a liturgical formula found in all the most ancient liturgical traditions of East and West.

How then are we to understand "spirit"? Some fear that it implies a dualistic sense of the human person - "spirit" as opposed to "body". But that is far from what is meant here.

One way is to think of "spirit" is that deep point of convergence where all the faculties of the human being - body, mind, heart soul, will, memory and so on - come together.

It is that deep point of the human being where the Holy Spirit comes and dwells, Spirit to spirit; and it is at that deep point that the grace of the priesthood, the gift of the Holy Spirit, takes root in the ordained priest.

In responding "And with your spirit", the people pray that, at that depth, the Lord will move in the priest who presides at the Eucharistic sacrifice.

In this moment, the Lord must move in the whole assembly, since it is the sacrifice of the whole assembly: hence the priest's words, "The Lord be with you".

But in the priest the Lord must move in a way both distinct and related: hence the people's words, "And with your spirit". It asks that here and now the Lord will stir up the grace of ordination in the priest so that the assembly as a whole may enter the sacred mysteries of Christ's sacrifice.

Some have complained that the new translations are a throw-back to a bygone era.

That they look to the past is certain, especially to Scripture. But that is hardly surprising in a Church where the logic of the journey is always "back to the future".

The new translations look back only in order to look forward. They take us into the past in order to take us into the future. That was what Vatican II was all about, which is why in my view this translation project has been deeply faithful to the trajectories of the Council.

Mark Coleridge

Recognise those who support family life

Do you know an individual, couple or family whose work to support marriage or families deserves recognition? If you do, the Australian Catholic Marriage and Family Council wants to hear from you.

It aims to celebrate the quiet work of the many thousands of Australians who live the voca-

tion, freely offering their services to support marriage and families. Nominations are encouraged from Catholic bodies, including parishes, religious orders, lay movements and organisations, for individuals, couples or whole families whose work or life is a witness of love in their community.

To organise a nomination, e-mail familyworks@catholic.org.au and a nomination form will be sent to you.

The council will select up to 20 recipients, and the awards will be presented at the National Family Gathering - Share the Dream which will be held on 15 to 17 April in Melbourne.

MARCH DIARY

Archbishop Mark Coleridge

- 2 Council of Priests meeting
- 3 Catholic Education Office scholarship presentation
- 5 Mass at Cobargo
- 6 Installation Mass Fr Joe Tran at Narooma
- 8 International Women's Day centenary; opening facilities St Patrick's Cooma.
- 13 Rite of Enrolment, Cathedral
- 17 Consecration St Patrick's Cathedral, Bunbury
- 22 ACU graduation Mass, at Cathedral
- 23-24 Celebrations for Archbishop Bathersby, Brisbane
- 25 Priestly ordination Michael Lim, diaconate Luke Verrell at Cathedral

31 Liturgical Commission meeting

Bishop Pat Power

- 2 Council of Priests meeting
- 3 ACT Churches Council meeting
- 4 Mass for Calvary Public Hospital birthday
- 5-6 Weekend Mass, Cooma Parish
- 9 Ash Wednesday
- 10 NSW Bishops' meeting
- 11 ACBC Canon Law Commission
- 17 Ecumenical Service for St Patrick's Day, Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture
- 23-24 Celebrations for Archbishop Bathersby, Brisbane
- 25 Ordination Michael Lim

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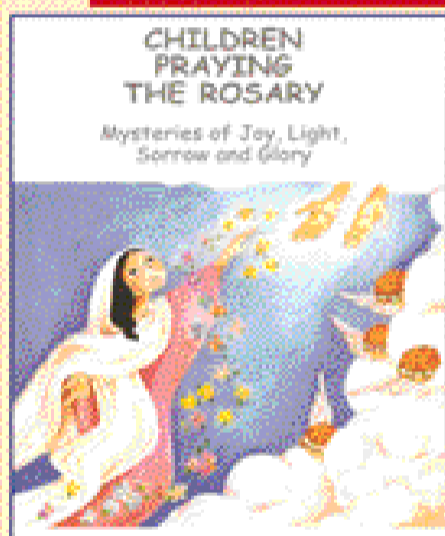
WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

Answers: 1 Murrin Bridge; 2 Ben Chifley; 3 Government surveyor; 4 March 1971; 5 Mgr Patrick Haydon; 6 Singapore; 7 Sr M Tarcisius.

A large group of students, mostly in light blue uniforms, are seated in a tiered assembly hall. They are looking towards the front of the room, appearing to be listening to a speaker. The students are of various ages and ethnicities, and the hall is filled with them, creating a sense of a large gathering.

All are one at Trinity College

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The centre piece of the Eucharistic rosary, designed by the Vatican Rosary Makers, features the hands of the priest during the Consecration, with the reverse side beautifully depicting the Merciful Jesus by Sr Faustina Kowalska. The crucified Christ on the grapevine takes inspiration from the Gospel story where Christ says "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few".



Ph _____ **Email** _____

CATHOLIC VOICE March 2011 - 5

Adversity doesn't dull Tim's vision for the future

Year 3 is a time when students learn fractions and Australian history. For Tim Rees, it was also the time he learnt he was going blind.

Tests performed in 2006 revealed he had optical neuropathy, which involves the degeneration of the optic nerve.

Thanks to a supportive family, dedicated staff and some impressive technology, Tim has been able to continue at Sacred Heart Central School in Cootamundra.

He made the transition into year seven last year and a little creativity from staff ensured he could participate in all subjects.

Now in year 8, Tim is a happy student who has not let his vision loss get in the way of anything he wants to do.

"Thankfully it was never an issue of whether Tim could stay at Sacred Heart or not," his mother Kristen said.

"The staff were on board straight away with making things work."

As the closest blind school is in Sydney, the family of four would have had to move if he could not be accommodated in Cootamundra.

In 2007, Tim was assessed by Vision Australia who recommended that for his long-term education he would need to develop skills that would allow him to learn without relying on his vision.

Sacred Heart learning support assistants Anne Condon and Kathy O'Brien taught Tim Braille, while learning it themselves.

Tim said he didn't find reading with his fingertips too hard to pick



Tim Rees with his mother Kristen.



Tim Rees uses his BrailleNote and special microscope hooked up to a laptop during science.

up, but it did cause a few extra challenges come class time.

"The first braille he had was quite noisy, and he often had to be taken out of class when he was using it because it disrupted other students," Mrs Rees said.

"The new machine, the BrailleNote, is much quieter."

Functioning in many ways like a computer, it incorporates a word processor and internet access, and is small enough to be taken home.

A few adjustments to practical exercises have ensured Tim can take part fully in all subjects.

For example, when the class was examining blood cells under the microscope, Tim simply used a digital microscope hooked up to a laptop.

The image was then enlarged on the screen to the point where he could make out the shapes to get an understanding of what the cells look like.

Sport has proved no obstacle either. Tim is the youngest member of the ACT blind cricket team.

"I don't mind playing with people older than me; it's fun," he said.

The modified game uses a white ball with metal washers inside so it is audible when bowled.

He usually travels to Canberra to play, but has also competed in New South Wales and Victoria.

Community and family

When Mrs Jacinta Elwin started teaching at Lake Cargelligo, she knew she had found somewhere special.

St Francis Xavier Primary School prides itself on its dedication to indigenous education and its commitment to the community, which is why, 16 years later, Mrs Elwin still loves working there.

"It's a community and family school; that's what makes it unique," she said.

Lake Cargelligo has a significant indigenous population, about 20 per cent according to the latest census data.

For this reason, the school has signed up to the National Indigenous English Literacy and Numeracy Strategy, has pledged to include Aboriginal perspectives in all areas of teaching and learning, and has four indigenous teacher educators on staff.

SFX has a close association with the former Aboriginal Mission of Murrin Bridge, now an indigenous community 16km north-west of Lake Cargelligo. One of the mission's original classrooms serves as the SFX library and a memorial to education there.

"NAIDOC Week is very important to us and we all get together to celebrate," Mrs Elwin said.

"Once a term we also have Mass at the pre-school out at Murrin Bridge. We have the Aboriginal Our Father, the Aboriginal Eucharistic Prayer, and some of the kids play the didgeridoo. It's really beautiful."

Parish priest Fr Mayne Murphy celebrates Mass at the school every Friday. Each class takes a turn to organise the readings and parents often attend.

Family involvement is a big part of SFX. The staff room is open for parents who want to drop by, and, as with most small schools, their assistance is appreciated in organising fundraising ventures.

Even when times are tough 'you want to stay'

Finding a convenient Mass time is an issue for many people, but in Weethalle, the parishioners are glad they have a Mass at all.

Fr Mick MacAndrew celebrates Mass in the small Western Mission parish on the fourth Sunday of the month.

Those who can drive 25 minutes to Rankin Springs may also attend Mass the week before with Fr Mayne Murphy from Lake Cargelligo.

For other Sundays, the closest option is West Wyalong, 45 minutes away.

On a good month, Weethalle will have 10 people in the pews, other times only four or five.

While the small numbers limit possible activities and events, parishioner Mrs Faye Maloney said it was vital for Weethalle to continue as a parish.

"It provides us with a spiritual connection and sense of community," she said.

"The Weethalle Mass is a children's Mass, to encourage families, and we always have tea and coffee afterwards."

The parish community's spiritual support was particularly evident during the recent drought. Mrs Maloney said Mass was an opportunity for everyone to come together; for farmers to talk to each other and realise they weren't alone in their struggles.

With most parishioners living on properties, the internet is an important medium to keep everyone connected.

Sr Margaret Hart RSM is the Weethalle community leader, as well as the pastoral associate for West Wyalong, and she's regularly online to contact parishioners.

"Sr Margaret's e-mails become a focal point for us," Mrs Maloney said.



SFX Primary teacher Mrs Jacinta Elwin outside one of the classrooms originally used at the Murrin Bridge Aboriginal Mission.

Most families have a strong history with the school, which was established by the Sisters of St Joseph in 1929. Mrs Elwin's two eldest children attended and her youngest is enrolled in year 6.

SFX secretary Mrs Sue McRae, her husband and their three children are all ex-students and now two of her grandchildren are at the school.

Even Fr Murphy spent his early years at SFX.

Mrs Elwin said the school tried to involve itself in all aspects of the Lake Cargelligo community.

"We always enter the local shows and we work closely with neighbouring schools," she said.



Proud Weethalle parishioner Mrs Faye Maloney.

"They keep us all in contact and remind us about what's happening. She comes out and visits people, too, when she can."

Mrs Maloney and her husband tried to start other services in the parish, but they didn't get much response.

"We used to run communion services the weeks there was no Mass but people didn't come," Mrs Maloney said.

"I used to teach scripture at the public school, too, but we don't have the numbers to maintain that either."

"Now, Sr Margaret prepares any children there for the sacraments."

Despite the challenges of living in a small rural parish, Mrs Maloney said she had no intention of leaving Weethalle for somewhere with an array of Mass times and parish activities.

"The people here are wonderful," she said.

"They give you encouragement; accept you as you are. So even when things get tough, you want to stay for the community."

that's unique ...



SFX Primary Lake Cargelligo students Wendall Kirby, Maddison Bell, Shalarna Thorpe and Heath Lightfoot.

"There's a small school at Naradhan with about 20 kids, and another at Euabalong, so we try and do events with them, such as the small schools swimming carnival."

SFX tries to maintain a connection with the archdiocesan community - no small feat when you live a 5-1/2-hour drive from the Cathedral.

For many years, the primary school has had a partnership with St Francis Xavier College in Florey. The

Canberra students have travelled out west to visit on a number of occasions, and in turn, hosted the primary school during its excursions to the nation's capital.

"It's a wonderful arrangement that allows students from both schools to see a part of the Archdiocese completely unlike what they usually experience," Mrs Elwin said.

"It's so important for us to maintain that connection."

Principal finds her place in the bush

After hours of travelling past nothing but wheat fields, Mrs Florence Ross could hardly believe her eyes when she caught her first glimpse of Lake Cargelligo.

"We finally turned the corner to see the sun setting over this enormous lake. It was truly magical," she said.

"I was awe-struck by the size and space, especially compared to the United Kingdom, where I'm from."

She had been working for the Catholic Education Office at the time and was keen to revisit the Archdiocese's western most point.

So when the principal's position at St Francis Xavier Primary School came up she jumped at it.

"My career in education has taken me many places but now what I really want to learn and experience is life in the bush," Mrs Ross said.

"I have never lost my passion for working with children.

"Being in a small school with such supportive staff allows me to be a very hands-on principal."

Mrs Ross has two children in Sydney and one in Newcastle, who intend to make plenty of trips out west to visit. Her husband will also be living in the town part time.

"My family were very supportive of my decision to come here," she said.



New St Francis Xavier Primary, Lake Cargelligo, principal Mrs Florence Ross with some of her students. Back: Shalarna Thorpe, Madison Morris, Maddison Bell, Mackenna Clarke and Breanna Clarke. Middle: Samuel MacRae, Alice MacRae, Alexander Brigden, Heath Lightfoot and Ella Waters. Front: Timana Cromelin.



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'I spoke to Jesus and said, 'Make her walk and I'll believe in you'

By Claire Mitchell

Deacon Michael Lim has spent the majority of his life as a Buddhist in Singapore, but on 25 March he will be ordained in St Christopher's Cathedral as a priest for the Archdiocese.

Deacon Lim's grandparents were Buddhists who moved to Singapore to escape the oppression in South China.

He was raised on his family's beliefs and showed little interest in Christianity, a minority religion in his home country.

"I didn't really like Christians - I thought they were cocky," he said.

"I had a Baptist girlfriend whom I was trying to convert to Buddhism, while she was busy trying to convert me."

It was at the age of 35 that his life took a dramatic turn

His older sister Violet had suffered from rheumatoid arthritis since her teens. The steroid-based medication she was prescribed had many side-effects; she had to have multiple operations and couldn't walk without crutches.

Doctors also later discovered she had a cyst in her womb. The surgery to remove it almost killed her.

On 14 June, 1995, a family friend, Rose, suggested they take her to a healing service in the local Catholic church.

Michael Lim was sceptical, but willing to try anything to help his sister.

"It was a charismatic service, with people waving their arms or placing their hands on others' shoulders to pray. I thought it was ridiculous," he said.

"Rose told me to pray to Jesus to send the Holy Spirit through the priest to heal my sister. I didn't understand what she was talking about.

"I spoke to Jesus and said, 'Make her walk and I'll believe in you.'"

"When the priest came up to us he prayed over her and then told her to stand. First she walked and then she started to run.

A miracle starts the journey to priesthood

"The first thing that came into my mind was 'He's alive; Jesus is real'. I was in tears."

From that point he wanted to know everything there was to know about Catholicism.

"I read the whole Bible from cover to cover in less than 60 days," he said.

He took RCIA instruction and was baptised, as were the rest of his family.

But he felt God calling him to do more, so just three years later, at age 38, he entered the seminary.

"I knew from the start I wanted to be a diocesan priest," he said.

"I didn't know where God would send me but I knew this was the ministry I was called for."

When he finished his studies at St Francis Xavier Seminary in Singapore, an opening came up in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn.

Deacon Lim wrote to Archbishop Mark Coleridge, who invited him to "come and see" what Australia was like.

He arrived in August 2009 and started out at the Cathedral. He spent seven months in Batemans Bay, moved on to West Wyalong, where he was ordained a transitional deacon, and is currently working in Page parish.

"Arriving in Australia as a migrant I was nervous about whether

er I would fit in, how people would respond to me," Deacon Lim said.

"I was relieved to discover that everyone was very welcoming here.

"What I have seen of the Archdiocese so far has been amazing.

"All the different strands of the Australian character in the different parishes contribute to the richness of the ministry.

"It just reminds you of how universal God is, to be in all these people."

Deacon Lim said he realised priesthood would come with its challenges, particularly at a time when the number of Mass goers is decreasing.

"I say to them, 'It took me 35 years to find God. You were given that knowledge from birth and you want to throw it away? Listen to me. Never waste it.'"

But right now, he is focused on his upcoming ordination.

About 50 family and friends are expected to fly in from Singapore, and the Cathedral is also likely to be filled with parishioners from the regions Deacon Lim has worked in.

"I am excited about my ordination day, but it's a different kind of excitement," he said.

"It's not the kind you get at the Melbourne Cup. Rather it's a peaceful anticipation of growing into my next role.



"Ordination is a celebration of a gift from God. It will be the moment when I cross over into the life of the Church.

"I will no longer belong to myself or to my family. I will belong to everyone.

"Who am I to be conferred this honour?"

Deacon Michael Lim, who will be ordained priest this month, is ready to continue his ministry in Australia.

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Accolades for a life of leadership

Josephite Sr M Tarcisius (pictured right) has celebrated her 100th birthday in Goulburn surrounded by Sisters who have shared her journey over many years.

She cut her birthday cake and received accolades from the Queen, Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition, and local members of parliament. The Pope acknowledged the special occasion with a papal blessing which the Sisters had framed and presented to her.

Sr M Tarcisius was born in Ganmain and given the name Ellen Margaret. She was the daughter of Alfred, a farmer, and wife Mary Ann. She entered the Congregation of Sisters of St Joseph of Goulburn on 8 September 1931.

Sr M Tarcisius qualified as a primary school teacher and her ministry took her to many places including Goulburn, Yenda, Temora, Tumbarumba, Yanco, Taralga, Leeton and Narrandera.

She gave many years to leadership roles in the congregation. For 10 years she was in charge of novices, for six years she was on the general council



of the congregation, and for 12 years she was superior-general of the congregation.

Sr M Tarcisius is revered for the work she did in leadership, especially in her vision for unity and her courageous steps for the sake of mission. She is greatly loved by the Sisters who rejoice with her and who honour her for her contribution to the local Church and all God's people.

Youth called to share faith

Young Catholics commissioned to share their faith are called to be "Ministers of the Resurrection" and preach the culture of life over death, Archbishop Mark Coleridge said.

Speaking at the Commissioning Mass for the 2011 Archdiocesan Youth Office, at St Christopher's Cathedral, Archbishop Coleridge spoke of the importance of youth ministry.

"We have learned the power of peer-to-peer ministry; young people ministering to young people," he said.

"They can meet each other and minister to each other in a way that is unique and is desperately needed now.

"We are commissioning you to be Ministers of the Resurrection, which is the only good news we've got, the only gift we have.

"Many of these young people are in some ways touched by the culture of death. We commission you not only to speak of the life that is bigger than death but to share the gift you have received."

The Youth Office will be responsible for the Catholic Youth Ministry Team, campus ministry at the Australian Catholic University (Signadou), the



Archbishop Mark Coleridge with the members of the Archdiocesan Youth Office, from left: Nick Seselja, Rebekah Fulop, Bernadette Ramsey, Marie Kesina, Elspeth Macpherson, Shahenie Burns, director of pastoral services Shawn van der Linden, Daniela Kesina and Liam Mackay.

2011 Archdiocesan pilgrimage to World Youth Day and other parish support and leadership programs.

Archbishop Coleridge prayed that all who hear the team members would be drawn to love and obey the gospels. He blessed the young people and presented them each with a cross.

About 20 members of the Cootamundra Youth Group made the journey to attend.

Life 'more vibrant' as young Catholic

Nick Seselja has set himself a big task in his new role as campus ministry coordinator at Australian Catholic University.

He wants to make religion as much a part of campus life as sporting and social groups.

"The perception is that you can't be a young Catholic and normal, but I dispute that," the 27-year-old said. "Some people think that being Catholic is not relevant when you are a young adult. But it's an age when it's great to be a Catholic. It makes life more vibrant, fuller and more exciting."

Mr Seselja has been in Sydney for most of the past eight years, firstly as a volunteer running school retreats with the Youth Mission Team, and then as the team manager for five years.

With the recent signing of a three-year agreement for CatholicLIFE to provide campus ministry services at ACU Signadou, Mr Seselja has returned to lead the project.

"In Sydney I saw young people's lives turn around; young guys who had struggled with self harm and attempted suicide and then found a



ACU Campus Ministry coordinator Nick Seselja with Archbishop Mark Coleridge after the Archdiocesan Youth Office Commissioning Mass.

whole new joy through their faith and youth activities," he said.

"ACU wants to be more connected with the Church and my role is part of that."

World Youth Day will be a big focus for 2011, with ACU hoping to send about 90 students, including 10 from Signadou.

Other campus ministry events will include a student faith group called Alegria, daily Mass and the sacraments.

On 28 March, the US documentary The Human Experience will be screened on campus, with the American producer and main star attending. The film focuses on "what it means to be human, and provides some amazing insights such as homelessness in New York and a leper colony in Ghana," Mr Seselja said.

Guinness and God evenings, featuring guest speakers at King O'Malley's Pub, are set to continue. Go to www.guinnessandgod.com.

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ABOVE: Anastasia Ridley practices her spelling.

RIGHT: St Mary's War Memorial School year 5/6 class.



ABOVE: Conor Minogue tests his maths skills on the computer.

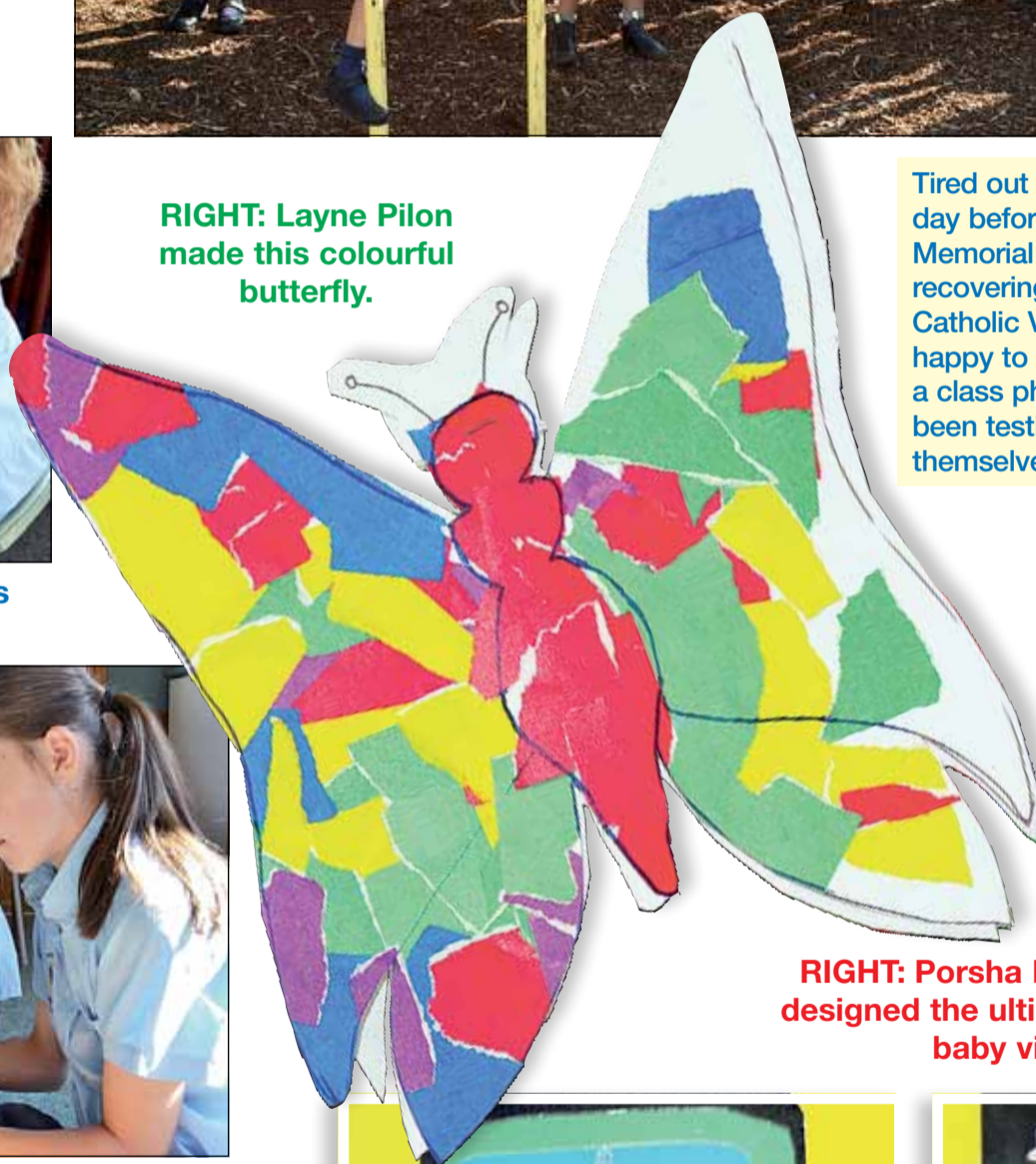


ABOVE: Kate Davidson, Abbey Wiencke and Izzy Mangelsdorf catch up on reading.



ABOVE: Billy Nicholson, Edward Daniher and Jackson Casey busy in their reading group.

RIGHT: Layne Pilon made this colourful butterfly.



Tired out after their swimming carnival the day before, Year 5/6 at St Mary's War Memorial School in West Wyalong were recovering with some quiet reading when Catholic Voice visited - but they were still happy to climb the playing equipment for a class photo. The students had also been testing their creativity by casting themselves in their mixed media artworks.

RIGHT: Porsha Bolte designed the ultimate baby villain.



ABOVE: Lachlan O'Connor as a knight in shining armour. **RIGHT:** Josie Daniher as a beautiful ballerina.



a centenary of canberra's catholics

In the first in a series of portraits of significant Catholics of the national capital by 2009 Canberra Citizen of the Year Bishop Pat Power, we look at Mgr Patrick Haydon, Canberra's first and only parish priest.

Man of the people and confidant of prime ministers

Driving along Haydon Drive in Bruce or calling into nearby Calvary Haydon Retirement Village, there is the opportunity to remember the Parish of Canberra's first and only Parish Priest, Patrick Maurice Haydon.

When he was appointed to Queanbeyan as a 22-year-old newly ordained priest in 1912, he was a priest of the Archdiocese of Sydney. Queanbeyan parish, which incorporated what is now known as Canberra, was part of that Archdiocese even though the Diocese of Goulburn had been established in 1862.

Fr Haydon became Parish Priest of Queanbeyan in 1918 when the change of boundaries brought it into the Diocese of Goulburn.

When the Parish of Canberra was established in 1928, Fr Haydon became its parish priest, already very much at home in the territory which he had been serving from Queanbeyan all his priestly life.

By the time he died in 1949, the Diocese of Goulburn had been elevated to the status of the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn.

From that point onwards, the Archbishop of the day has been notionally parish priest of St Christopher's Parish and the priest in charge has had the title of Administrator.

Historian, Fr Brian Maher, writing in *Planting the Celtic Cross*, paints a graphic picture of Fr Haydon on his motor bike visiting people in the work gangs, celebrating Mass in all kinds of primitive circumstances, even hearing Confessions on the back of his Harley-Davidson because

that gave greater privacy than inside the hall.

Fr Maher points out that one of the Mass centres was Springbank homestead, the footings of which survive today on Springbank Island in Lake Burley Griffin not far from the National Museum.

Fr Haydon is depicted responding to the needs of the community during the Great Depression cooperating with his colleagues in other churches to provide meals for needy people.

Fr Maher says: "Some people were disturbed when Fr Haydon gave each unemployed man at dinner a bottle of beer and a packet of cigarettes; these luxuries were provided by Fr Haydon's sisters, Elizabeth and Mary Haydon."

I experienced similar generosity from Mgr Haydon as an infants pupil at St Christopher's School when our beloved parish priest shouted the whole school an ice cream.

I have many other fond memories of this gentle giant and often wonder if he first influenced me to begin thinking of the priesthood.

I often reflect that those first thoughts came to me around the time of my First Holy Communion.

That day, 24 April, 1949, was one of mixed emotions for our class as Mgr Haydon had died unexpectedly five days earlier on 19 April. I still remember Fr Steve Wellington, who stepped into the breach, saying that Mgr Haydon would have wanted the First Communion to go ahead.

Canberra's first parish priest was a great community builder,



Photographs above and below from the book *Monsignor P M Haydon: A Memoir*, by W Farmer Whyte.

leading by example and involving people at every level.

The material needs of the burgeoning parish were great with St Christopher's Church-School beginning in 1928 and the Good Samaritan Convent in the same year, the presbytery (now the Archbishop's House on Commonwealth Avenue) in 1931, St Patrick's Church-School, Braddon in 1935 and St Christopher's Church in 1939.

Remembering that much of the fund-raising would take place during the Depression, everyone's resources were stretched. Yet, the dances, fetes and other social activities did much to bring everyone together and to allow a whole range of talents to be brought to bear on the endeavours. It was a great exercise in bonding.

A man of the people, Patrick Haydon was just as much "at home" with senior church dignitaries and, in fact, was made Vicar General himself in 1940 and promoted to the highest rank of Monsignor (Prothonotary Apostolic) in 1941.



He was a confidant of Catholic prime ministers James Scullin, Joseph Lyons, Frank Forde and Ben Chifley and had a warm relationship with Robert Menzies and was greatly respected in the general Canberra community.

W Farmer Whyte's Memoir begins: "This is the story of a

great life, greatly lived. The story of a much-loved priest whose days were spent in the service of God and man, and whose passing is mourned by all who knew him.....[On his death] at Canberra, aged 59, men and women of all creeds and classes were joined in sorrow. For he had been the friend of all, his heart as wide as the world, his love and charity boundless."

In the days when Catholics in other parts of Australia were sometimes struggling for recognition and there was not always a good relationship with other churches, Patrick Haydon did much to create a healthy climate in Canberra.

This was generously acknowledged by The Canberra Times in its leading article the day after his death. He was described as "a builder in Canberra" but one who built much more than edifices of stone.

"Great in stature, he was a true Australian endowed with the generosity of nature which we count as a superlative element of Australian character and spreading good-will in his earthly walks.

"Although he has been marked by distinctions of office, he is affectionately regarded by most people still as Father Haydon, for it is thus most of Canberra first knew him and his modesty and humility remained unaffected by the elevation that his works and faith had earned.

"During the development of Canberra, a happy feature of community life has been the absence of sectarian bitterness that has sometimes cast a transient shadow over other cities.

"This Christian good will was early nurtured in the pioneering days when priest and parson shared hall, school or whatever other building was available for services and church activities.

"Father Haydon was an exemplar of a happy brotherhood that was established among the Christian Churches in Canberra in its early days and has touched other aspects of city life."

As we prepare to celebrate Canberra's 100th birthday in 2013, Catholics can be justly proud of Patrick Maurice Haydon's contribution to Canberra's history.

● Next month: Sylvia Curley.

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Sisters' cup overflowing

With three new women joining the Missionaries of God's Love Sisters this year, the novitiate house in Canberra is full to overflowing.

MGL leader Sr Patti-Jo Crockett said the housing situation remained urgent as the sisters sought to establish a permanent home in the Archdiocese, "for the young women coming to give their lives to God and to the spread of the Gospel, especially to youth, the marginalised and the unchurched".

She said the sisters were currently exploring possibilities of building, and are relying totally on God's gracious provision for this project.

The sisters are continuing to expand their ministry, and at the invitation of Bishop Anthony Fisher, they opened a mission house at Quakers Hill in the Parramatta diocese on 2 February.

For more information about the MGL, contact Sr Patti Jo Crockett, telephone 6258 0319 or email pattijo@mgl sisters.org.

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Mosaic tribute to an inspiring woman's work

Work is well under way at Sts Peter and Paul's Old Cathedral in Goulburn on what is believed to be the largest Caroline Chisholm tribute in Australia.

After an extensive planning process, artist Nola Diamantopoulos has started gluing the first pieces of her elaborate mosaic, which will be fitted over the filled-in organ window facing Verner Street. The mosaic will be 3.3 metres high, made up of three 800mm wide panels.

"The project has been particularly exciting from an artist's point of view because it's not something I could just plan out in advance and then methodically complete.

"I have an outline, I have a general idea of which colours will be used where, but it's not until I put a stone down and look at it that I know what's going to go next to it."

With her materials including semi-precious stones, agate, crystal, marble, petrified wood and a traditional Italian molten glass product called smalti, she's got plenty of stones to choose from.

They have been sourced far and wide, from the local lapidary association through to Mexico and China.

"The materials are of the highest quality but I wanted to see how they would respond to the Goulburn environment, so I did a test sample," Ms Diamantopoulos said.

"I made a few tree leaves, attached them to a board and have had them outside the Old Cathedral exposed to the weather. I'm pleased with the results, so now we've started gluing pieces onto the final product.

"Because it's such a responsive process, it's difficult to put a time limit on it. It won't be ready for Easter, as was first hoped, but we are now aiming for the feast of Sts Peter and Paul on 29 June."

Ms Diamantopoulos spent a lot of time researching the life of Caroline Chisholm and her efforts to help young women find employment in Goulburn and the surrounding areas during the 1840s.

"I'm always inspired as I come into Goulburn because I think about what she did here," she said. "She saw a need and came up with a solution and implemented it.

"She worked with the materials around her, so I felt it was important I do the same."

Art display to help fund project

Mary Queen of Apostles Parish Goulburn will host an art exhibition at the Verner Street presbytery on 11-13 March to raise money for the Caroline Chisholm mosaic.

The paintings on display have been loaned by a private collector, and include works by Judy Cassab, Frank Hodgkinson, Robert Juniper, Patrick Carroll, John Coburn and Barbara Tribe.

The official opening will be at 7pm on 11 March. The \$25 admission price includes hors

d'oeuvres, champagne and a presentation on mosaics and the Caroline Chisholm project by artist Nola Diamantopoulos.

The exhibition has an Australian theme and will include religious works as well as modern and traditional visions of the landscape.

It will be open from 10am-4pm on 12 March and 11am-2pm on 13 March, at an admission price of \$5. All proceeds will go towards the mosaic. To book for the opening night, telephone 4821 1022 or 0438 210 321.



Artist Nola Diamantopoulos with test samples for the Caroline Chisholm mosaic she is creating for Sts Peter and Paul's Old Cathedral.

Jenny plots healthier path for women

A series of natural fertility management programs for the Archdiocese will be run by a woman who knows first hand how successful they can be.

Mrs Jenny Braithwaite used the method to have four children, despite infertility problems when she was younger, and has spent the past 10 years sharing her knowledge as a natural fertility educator.

"I find it fascinating and it's so exciting for me when other women feel that as well," she said.

"Natural fertility management is about women learning how their bodies work and making decisions based on that. I can teach women how to chart their symptoms so they can understand if they are ovulating and when they are fertile.

"The benefits are huge. It is natural, healthy, inexpensive and non-invasive."

Mrs Braithwaite, whose children are aged four to 12, was diagnosed with Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome when she was 25 and put on the Pill.

"[My husband] Angus and I had always wanted a handful of kids so the news was a shock," she said.

"I bought the two books I could find on fertility and a Catholic friend put me in touch with a local fertility educator."

Mrs Braithwaite said knowing how her body worked made a huge difference when she was having children.

It took the couple 10 months to have their daughter Tegan, who was born in July 1998. She was soon followed by a son, Mitchell, in December 1999.

"Following Mitch we had a break while we moved to Canberra, but we continued to chart and manage our fertility," Mrs Braithwaite said.

"Towards the end of 2002 we started to try again and it only took four months."

Their second son Lachlan was born in October 2003, and three years later, their fourth child, Dugald, was born.

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



Angus and Jenny Braithwaite with their children, from left: Mitchell, Dugald, Lachlan and Tegan.

"Learning to use natural fertility took time and commitment," she said.

"It's not as easy as 'popping a pill', but developing an awareness of my own body was empowering and gave me a real sense of control. I know it can do the same for other women too."

Mrs Braithwaite will run one-on-one natural fertility management programs, which includes a kit and four sessions, at a cost of \$225. Follow-up sessions will cost \$45 an hour. For more information, contact CatholicLIFE, telephone 6163 4300.

Internet www.cg.catholic.org.au

Maeve gets personal to fund her expedition

St Clare's College student Maeve Bannister has designed personalised First Communion sashes to fundraise for an expedition to help communities in Vietnam and Laos.

Together with 15 other year 10 girls from her school, Miss Bannister will head overseas to discover what life is like outside the comfort of Canberra.

"We're hoping to work with one of the communities on a building project, and just spend time doing what we can for the people," she said.

"I want to make a difference in the lives of the children I visit, as I'm sure they'll make a difference to mine."

The trip is one of many organised by education-focused expedition company World Challenge. Representatives from the organisation gave a presentation at St Clare's and, after an extensive interview process, narrowed the choice from 50 students who applied to a team of 16.



Maeve Bannister with samples of the First Communion sashes she's designed to raise money for her World Challenge expedition.

Each girl was instructed to come up with their own fundraising venture to finance the trip.

"I got my idea after attending a First Eucharist service," Miss Bannister said.

"The kids all looked so nice in their white robes, but they don't get to keep them. I thought it would be

nice if they had something they could take home as a memento, so I thought of personalised sashes."

She got to work designing and has sent out samples to schools and parishes in Canberra and on the coast.

She is hoping for around 350 orders, as she will need to raise close to \$6500.

Fundraising is just the first of many challenges Miss Bannister is sure she will face.

"I'm probably most nervous about being on my own away from my family, but it will be good preparation as I will have to be on my own one day," she said.

"I have been to England and South Africa before but I've never been to a third world country, so this is going to be a very different, eye-opening experience."

If you'd like to order a First Communion sash to support Miss Bannister, telephone 6161 3762 or email maeve.bannister@gmail.com.

Blessing marks 40 years for Croatian community

For the past 40 years, the Croatian Catholic Mission in Canberra has worked to preserve the religion, culture, language and heritage of Croats in the Archdiocese.

At the first of two major celebrations planned to mark the milestone, a statue of Blessed Aloysius Stepinac was installed and blessed outside St Augustine's Church, Farrer.

Archbishop Mark Coleridge concelebrated Mass with the Franciscan Provincial of Bosna Srebrena Fr Lovro Gavran and Australian-New Zealand Provincial Fr Paul Smith.

He then blessed the statue, which was created by Croatian sculptor Anthony Jurkic, who was present at the ceremony.

Priests from other Australian-Croatian Catholic centres attended the event, as well as Croatian



Archbishop Mark Coleridge blesses the statue of Aloysius Stepinac at St Augustine's Church, Farrer.

Ambassador Vincencije Biuk and Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina Damir Arnaut.

Leader of the Croatian Catholic Mission Fr Miroslav Mandic spoke to the large congregation about the history of the mission and the important role it had played.

He thanked God that for the past 40 years the Croatian community of Canberra had followed, blessed and prayed for strength in the future of the mission.

He also extended thanks to Archbishop Coleridge and all members of the Archdiocese for hosting the many immigrant Catholics who had come from countries such as Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The day concluded with an afternoon of cultural entertainment and refreshments.

In the lead up to the celebration, a three-day spiritual renewal was held with Mass celebrated by visiting Croatian priests Fr Stipo Karajica, chaplain at St Mary of the Angels, Sesevetska Sopnica; Fr Zoran Mandic, pastor and leader of the shrine of St Ivo the Baptist, Podmilacje; and Fr Janko Curo, secretary of the Province of Bosna Srebrena.

A second celebration has been planned for the anniversary date, 13 March, with Mass to be celebrated by Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Giuseppe Lazzarotto.

'A few tears' shed in work with HIV victims



ACU student Natalie McCowen with a group of HIV-positive Indian children living at Fatima Health Care Centre.

Volunteering at an Indian centre for HIV sufferers has given Australian Catholic University nursing student Natalie McCowen a whole new outlook on life.

She spent three weeks in the country with a group of fellow ACU students, as part of a program to promote awareness of the Indian culture and build partnerships with local communities.

As most group members were education students, much of the trip was spent teaching in primary schools in the poorer regions of southern India.

The nursing students were also able to spend four days working at Fatima Health Care Centre, which treats people with HIV, leprosy and tuberculosis.

"I work for ACT Health doing community wound care nursing so it was really interesting for me to observe the way they dressed wounds - particularly with the leprosy patients, because that's not a disease we see here," Mrs McCowen said.

"But what really struck me was the children with HIV."

Due to a general lack of awareness about how the disease is spread,

children diagnosed with HIV are often kicked out of home. Most end up living on the streets so the Fatima Health Care Centre tries to accommodate as many children as possible.

"None of them will live past 20, and that's with treatment," Mrs McCowen said.

"We played games with them and they were so happy. It was heart breaking."

Mrs McCowen said the group was humbled by the hospitality they were shown by people who had so little but were still willing to share.

They came face to face with poverty and disease that they had never seen the likes of, which proved very confronting. More than a few tears were shed.

"The trip has really opened my eyes," Mrs McCowen said.

"Having the luxuries I'm used to taken away really made me appreciate life, my friends and family. We have so much here that we take for granted."

"The sisters at the centre do an amazing job."

"I'd love to do some more fundraising for them and if possible go back and do more volunteer work."

How mission has grown

Following the end of the Second World War, the number of Croatian migrants in Australia grew rapidly.

The Catholic Church in Croatia wanted to ensure these migrants were not left without pastoral support, so a number of Franciscan priests, as well as sisters from the Adorers of the Precious Blood of Christ, were sent to Australia.

On 13 March, 1971 the Croatian Bishops Conference appointed Fr Mato Bonic the first Croatian migrant chaplain for Canberra and Queanbeyan, marking the beginning of the Croatian Catholic Mission in Canberra.

He retired in 1986 and was succeeded by Fr Tvrtko Gubic, who led the mission until 2002.

Fr Anto Simunovic then took over, until 2008, when Fr Miroslav Mandic was installed.

Fr Mato Martic, Fr Vjekoslav E Tomic and Fr Drago Prgommet have all held the role of mission assistant.

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

Internet www.cg.catholic.org.au

CATHOLIC VOICE March 2011 - 13

'Going soft' or just being Christian?

Jails are one of the most enduring of government institutions.

Society recognises that freedom of movement is one of the most precious of human rights and that its deprivation is an effective form of retribution for crime, and hopes that it is also a deterrent to further crime and a contribution to public safety by getting offenders off the streets.

Jails do certainly get a specific criminal off the streets for a time but it is less apparent that they are an effective means of permanently reducing the incidence of crime.

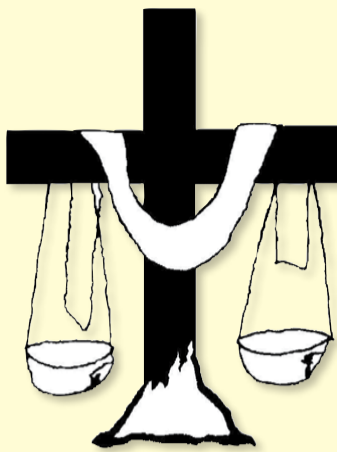
The statistics on jail inmates show that social disadvantage is closely correlated with crime.

A former head of the NSW Department of Corrective Services

The St Maximilian Kolbe Conference of the Archdiocesan St Vincent de Paul Society provides spiritual and material support to inmates at the Alexander Maconochie Centre and their families. The support covers a range of activities including the provision of clothing and leading Christian meditation sessions at the centre. As part of its ministry the conference also assists the Catholic chaplaincy services operating there.

has stated that in his time 60 per cent of jail inmates could not write, and that a very large proportion of people when arrested were not working.

Justice Matters



An occasional column provided by the Archdiocese's Catholic Social Justice Commission

Overcoming disadvantage seems to offer a greater deterrent to crime than hefty prison sentences.

Some spectacular successes have been achieved with restora-

tive justice measures, particularly for juvenile offenders, whereby the offender, the offender's family and the victim meet face to face with the aim of healing the harm done to the victim and the community.

In brief it is about admission of guilt on the one hand and a willingness to forgive on the other. This is truly the application of Christian living to the benefit of society.

Prisons are an unfortunate necessity for certain criminals, but prison life should offer opportunities for the time to be productive and assist rehabilitation.

Some European prisons have changed the nature of prison wardens from overseers to those with the skills and aptitude to be confidantes and mentors of prisoners, able to assist them to recognise their weaknesses and to encourage them to overcome whatever social disadvantage they have on entry to prison.

A prison term brings suffering on both the offender and the offender's family, which is often left destitute and has to suffer ignominy among friends. Frequently, marriages collapse about 15 months into the prison term.

A socially aware prison system may permit private meetings between the prisoner and spouse, may provide child minding during the visit and give the prisoner marketable skills that enable the prisoner to earn and to support the family during the prison term.

As the sentence draws to a close the prison can provide counseling to prepare the prisoner for the difficult task of re-establishing his or her place in a family that will have changed over the prison term.

There is often a tendency in society to deride attempts at more humane approaches in prisons as "going soft".

Christians who believe in the inherent worth of every person should be open to initiatives intended to create the opportunities for prisoners to recognise that their lives can be spent more usefully than in crime, and enable a fresh start.

● Further information on social justice issues is available from the commission, e-mail csjc@cg.catholic.org.au or telephone 6235 5452.

Canberra park that lives up to its new name



Have you experienced the tranquillity of the now renamed Canberra Nara Peace Park?

The sister city relationship between Canberra and Nara was formed in 1993 to foster international understanding, peace and goodwill.

The park was officially opened in October 1999, and is situated in Lennox Gardens.

The word "peace", once rejected, is now embraced as part of the park's name. The anti-Japanese sentiments of some are a thing of the past.

Two magnificent stone lanterns - a gift to Canberra from the people of Nara - stand in the park. A new addition is a pagoda which was the winning entry in a competition conducted in Nara for a suitable work of art to mark the re-naming of the park,

These symbols represent the peace and friendship shared by the two cities, Nara as the ancient capital of Japan, and Canberra, the not quite 100-year-old capital of Australia.

The park was officially re-named the Canberra Nara Peace Park during the Candle Festival in September last year. The Mayor of Nara was unable to attend, and asked Fr Paul Glynn SM to announce the new name at the ceremony.

His late brother, Fr Tony Glynn SM was instrumental in establishing the sister city relationship between Nara and Canberra

The park is an ideal place for a peaceful stroll or maybe a picnic.

Many set to seek Easter light

Close to 1000 people are expected to converge on St Clement's Monastery, Galong next month for the biennial Light to the Nations Easter Pilgrimage.

Targeted at youth, and the young at heart, the event is run by the Canberra Disciples of Jesus community.

"Light to the Nations is a great way for young people to meet other young Catholics at such an important time in their lives, when they are thinking seriously about growing their childhood faith into an adult faith," promotions officer Mrs Ethel Ringrose-Voase said.

"It allows them to experience a deeper faith whilst having fun, helped along by plenty of awesome live music, dynamic litur-

gy and moving testimonies from other young people.

"Past participants have found that when they go back to their parishes or youth groups, they are refreshed and energised and keen to get going."

Light to the Nations begins at 3pm on 21 April and finishes at 12.30pm on Easter Sunday, 24 April.

Pilgrims are encouraged to bring a tent and camp out for the four days.

Alternative accommodation may be arranged with St Clement's Retreat Centre.

All meals are included in the registration price.

Light to the Nations is primarily for those aged 16 and over, but there is a junior program for children under 13 to participate in.

Those looking to extend the experience further can join the eight-day pilgrimage walk before Light to the Nations.

Pilgrims will leave from St Christopher's Cathedral on 13 April and travel 20km a day to reach St Clement's on 20 April.

The group will walk over the Brindabella Mountains to Wee Jasper, cross Lake Burrinjuck by boat and then continue on through Bookham and Binalong before arriving at Galong.

Pilgrims will camp along the route each night. An MGL priest will join the pilgrimage to celebrate Mass each day. There will also be morning and evening prayer.

Inquiries: Go to www.ltnn.org.au.

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Time to stop tormenting the cat ...

Eighty-five years ago, G K Chesterton looked at his society and saw some things that disturbed him. Here's his comment:

"There comes an hour in the afternoon when the child is tired of 'pretending'; when he is weary of being a robber or a noble savage. It is then that he torments the cat.

"There comes a time in the routine of an ordered civilization when the man is tired at playing at mythology and pretending that a tree is a maiden or that the moon made love to a man. The effect of this staleness is the same everywhere; it is seen in all drug-taking and dram-drinking and every form of the tendency to increase the dose.

"Men seek stranger sins or more startling obscenities as stimulants to their jaded sense. They seek after mad religions for the same reason. They try to stab their nerves to life, if it were with the knives of the priests of Baal. They are walking in their sleep and try to wake themselves up with nightmares."

Ah, the genius of Chesterton! I read this passage years ago and have never forgotten it. Even if one doesn't fully agree with his assessment, nobody can argue with his expression.

Moreover it doesn't strain the imagination to see evidence of what he is expressing inside of our own culture today. Salient examples abound: The illegal drug trade is one of the biggest industries in the world, internet pornography is the biggest addiction in the world, excessive use of alcohol is everywhere, high-profile athletes and entertainers brag that they have slept with thousands of people, even as they go in and out of rehab regularly, celebrities show up at parties carrying briefcases full of cocaine, and drug dealers already find a market among our elementary school students.

Evidently many of us today are also trying to stab our nerves to life by constantly increasing the dosage.

But we need not look at the lives of the rich and the famous to see this. None of us is immune. We just do this more subtly. Take, for example, our addictive struggle with information technology.

It's not that the internet and the myriad of programs, phones, pads, gadgets and games that are linked to it are bad. They aren't. In fact, we are a very lucky generation to have such instant and constant access to information and to each other.

Ever smarter phones, better internet programs, and things such as Facebook are not the problem. Our problem is in handling them in a non-addictive way, both in how we respond to the pressure to constantly buy ever-newer, faster, flashy and more capable technologies, and in our inability to not let them control our lives.

We, too, perpetually tire of what we have and seek somehow to increase the dosage to stab our nerves into life.

Ron Rolheiser

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



Whenever that happens we begin to lose control of our lives and find ourselves on a dangerous treadmill upon which we begin to lose any sense of real enjoyment in life.

Antoine Vergote, the famed Belgium psychologist, had a mantra which read: Excess is a substitute for genuine enjoyment. We go to excess in things because we can no longer enjoy them simply.

It's when we no longer enjoy our food that we overeat; it's when we no longer enjoy a drink that we drink to excess; it's when we no longer enjoy a simple party that we let things get out of hand; it's when we can no longer enjoy a simple game that we need extreme sports, and it's when we no longer simply enjoy the taste of chocolate that we try to eat all the chocolate in the world. The same principle holds true, even more strongly, for the enjoyment of sex.

Moreover excess isn't just a substitute for enjoyment; it's also the very thing that drains all enjoyment from our lives.

Every recovering addict will tell us that. When excess enters, enjoyment departs, as does freedom. Compulsion sets in. Now we begin to seek a thing not because it will bring us enjoyment, but because we are driven to have it.

Excess is a substitute for enjoyment and because it doesn't bring genuine enjoyment it pushes us on to further excess, to something more extreme, in the hope that the enjoyment we are seeking will eventually be induced.

That's what Chesterton's metaphors - tormenting the cat and stabbing our nerves back into life - express.

The answer? A simpler life. But that is easier said than done. We live with constant pressure, from without and from within, to see more, consume more, buy more, and drink in more of life.

The pressure to increase the dosage is constant and unrelenting. But this is precisely where a deliberate, willful, and hard asceticism is demanded of us.

To quote Mary Jo Leddy, we must, at some point say this, mean it, and live it: It's enough. I have enough. I am enough. Life is enough. I need to gratefully enjoy what I have.

why I cook what I cook



A column in which well known and not so well-known people tell us about the food in their lives and why it has been important. This month we speak to Margaret Hennessy.

Mrs Margaret Hennessy's decision to run the

presbytery kitchen at St Mary Queen of Apostles Parish, Goulburn was a simple one.

"I've always cooked for friends or family, so when this opportunity came up last September I jumped at it," she said.

With an Irish-Italian background, five siblings and four children of her own, working with food has always been part of her life. "I cooked from the time I

was big enough to sit on the bench and peel," she said.

Mrs Hennessy works at the presbytery four days a week and provides all the meals for resident priests Fr Dermid McDermott and Fr Sunil Kadaparambil. She also cooks for regular visitors Deacon Joe Blackwell and Fr Laurie Bent, and caters the occasional function in the formal dining room.

"The best bit about cooking is the instant gratification - you know straight away if the dish was good or bad," Mrs Hennessy said.

"Most of all, I love it when the plates come back empty.

"To be a chef you need flair, imagination and stamina. To be a cook you just need commonsense and to remember that love is always the secret ingredient."

Date Loaf

1 cup pitted and chopped dates
1 cup brown sugar
60g butter
1 cup boiling water
¾ cup sifted self raising flour
1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
2 tsp vanilla essence

1. Put the dates, sugar and butter in bowl.
2. Add the boiling water and stir until the butter melts.
3. Add the flour, bicarbonate and vanilla and mix well.
4. Pour mixture into a greased and lined loaf tin and bake in a moderate oven (180C) for 45-50 minutes.



Margaret Hennessy with her date loaf and an admiring Fr Sunil Kadaparambil.

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Surrender, here comes Dirty Harry

An impressive film for audiences who like to reflect on the themes of their movies.

The credentials are impressive. The screenplay was written by Peter Morgan, best known for his political dramas like *The Queen*, *The Special Relationship*, *The Last King of Scotland* and *Frost/Nixon*. He has gone in a very different direction this time, a more meditative approach to his storytelling.

Very interesting that Clint Eastwood should choose to direct the film - and was in production when he turned 80 in May 2010. It is movie-making by an old man who is in control of his skills but is thinking thoughts beyond this world. He is exploring themes of near-death experience, the possibilities of an afterlife and of communicating with those who have died.

Clint Eastwood has been directing for more than 40 years as well as developing a screen persona for longer: an iconic western figure in the spaghetti westerns, the *Dirty Harry* policeman in that series as well as the symbolic gunfighters in his "religious" westerns.

He brought this acting career to a close with his coach and issues of assisted suicide in *Million Dollar Baby* and his gruff Walt, a dirty harry figure who finds self-sacrificing redemption. After that, he made the tribute to Nelson Mandela, *Invictus*.

The opening of *Hereafter* is overwhelming, action before the reflection. The re-creation of the tsunami in Thailand

Hereafter
Starring **Matt Damon, Cécile De France, Thierry Neuvic and Jay Mohr. Directed by Clint Eastwood. 129 minutes. M (Mature themes and infrequent coarse language). Reviewer: Fr Peter Malone MSC*.**

received an Oscar nomination. But, the film settles down to tell three very different stories.

The structure of the film is quite schematic. Sections of each story are told in regular turn until, in a pleasing way, the three central characters are brought together in London.

It should be said that *Hereafter* has quite a European feel to it rather than a glossy Hollywood style. That and the seriousness of the subject of the *Hereafter* might account for the film not doing very well at the US box-office.

The first story is set in Paris and concerns a TV journalist and host (Cecile de France) who tries to come to terms with what she experienced in almost drowning. It affects her relationships, her work and sends her to Switzerland to consult an expert on near-death (Marthe Keller).

The second story is set in San Francisco. George (Matt Damon) works in a factory. We learn that he has powers, mysterious to him as well as to others, whereby he knows matters about a person by touching them.

He regrets these powers and the effect they have had on his life and resists the attempts of his brother (Jay Mohr) to make a business out of the phenomenon. There is an episode where a young woman (Bryce Dallas Howard) does a cooking course with George and she finds out more than she anticipated or wanted.

The third story is set in London. Twins live with their addict mother, trying to shield her from social workers. When one of the twins is killed in an accident and the other is sent to foster care, he wants to know more about his brother whom he senses is always with him. Frankie and George McLaren play the twins as recognisably ordinary boys.

It might seem impossible for the three central characters to meet but they do, not in an overtly contrived way, but satisfyingly. George's love for Charles Dickens' novels is an important factor. He listens to tapes of the novels (read by Derek Jacob whom he meets at the London Book Fair).

Clint Eastwood shows great sensitivity in dealing with the themes and in the performances he gets from the central figures.

This is a film to surrender to and it will be richly rewarding.

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

SHORTS

Unknown. Starring Liam Neeson, Diane Kruger, January Jones, Aidan Quinn, Bruno Ganz and Frank Langella. Directed by Jaume Collet-Serra. 113 minutes. M (violence and brief sex scene).

If thrillers about lost or stolen identities appeal to you, then this may be for you. The taut script and interesting cast will keep viewers awake and wondering until the end. But those wanting greater plot plausibility and character depth may be disappointed.

Sanctum 3D. Starring Richard Roxburgh, Alice Parkinson, Rhys Wakefield, Dan Wyllie, Christopher Baker and Allison Cratchley. 109 minutes. M (Survival themes, violence and coarse language).



Follows the story of a team of underwater cave divers, on an expedition in PNG to the most beautiful, unexplored and least accessible cave system in the world that goes wrong. Visually stunning, but a wafer-thin plot and clumsy dialogue. A long way short of a transcendent experience.

127 Hours. Starring James Franco, Amber Tamblyn, Kate Mara, Clémence Poésy, Treat Williams and Kate Burton. Written and directed by Danny Boyle. 90 minutes. MA 15+ (Strong themes).

Innovative biopic about a 26-year-old adventurer who sets out on a weekend hike in a canyon but instead becomes imprisoned for five days after a fall. A mini-masterpiece, but be aware that the film's graphic realism at times might make viewing difficult for some.

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It's not who you gnome ...

Gnomeo & Juliet
Animation film voiced by **Emily Blunt, James McAvoy, Jason Statham, Michael Caine, Maggie Smith, Patrick Stewart, Matt Lucas and Julie Walters. Directed by Kelly Ashbury. 84 minutes. G. Reviewer: Fr Richard Leonard SJ***

Gnomeo & Juliet is a very contemporary reworking of Shakespeare's tale of young lovers from the wrong tribes. The major difference this time around is that all the characters are garden gnomes.

Gnomeo (James McAvoy) is a blue gnome, while Juliet (Emily Blunt) is a red gnome. There is no place for colour confusion in gnome-land, externals matter. Our loving couple have to overcome more than their glaze to have a happy ending.

As you might appreciate, this film has had a long and complex development. It was only after the project got director Kelly Ashbury and Elton John on board that it got made. Kelly brings years of animation experience from some of the biggest recent hits in the genre: the *Shrek* Films, *Madagascar*, *Kung Fu Panda* and *Beauty and the Beast*. Elton John came on not only as the composer but as executive producer.



Fans of Shakespeare will be outraged with all the liberties taken with the Bard's story and characters. Those of us who may not be Shakespearian purists will buckle in and enjoy the ride.

Just as JK Rowling got a generation of young people to fall in love with reading a book again, maybe this film will awaken the interest of kids in the some of the greatest English literature of all time. It is worth the try.

Morally the film has its hearts in the right place: how we look, or where we are

from, or what we believe is not as important as who we are. Sometimes it takes two people who fall in love from, seemingly, two tribes to remind us that we are all, under God, one family after all.

Gnomeo & Juliet may be made for the youngest children, and you can take them with confidence, but there is plenty of joy in this film for parents as well.

* Fr Richard Leonard SJ is the director of the Australian Catholic Office for Film & Broadcasting.

Nicole attracts in intense family tragedy

This is a drama focusing on a couple who have lost their son, hit by a car outside his house. He is their only child and was four years old. Each of them tries to deal with their grief in their own way, but this sets up great tensions because they have reacted so differently. How can they come to terms with what has happened to their son and to them?

This is well-written and well-acted. It offers strong opportunities for Nicole Kidman and Aaron Eckhart to show their dramatic skills. They work well with and against each other so that the audience is drawn into their conflict.

Members of the audience will respond in different ways to the husband and to the wife, liking one and disliking the other, judging one and excus-

Rabbit Hole.
Starring **Nicole Kidman, Aaron Eckhart, Sandra Oh and Dianne Wiest. Directed by John Cameron Mitchell. 91 minutes. M (Drug use and infrequent coarse language). Reviewer: Fr Peter Malone MSC*.**

ing or making allowances for the other.

Nicole Kidman is Becca. Her way of coping tends to suppress too much emotion and to move to a more cerebral stance. Aaron Eckhart is Howie, who is far more emotionally expressive, regretting Becca's moves to eliminate what he values as memories of his son, his dog, the clothes and items in his room, even the suggestion to sell the house.

He accompanies Becca to a help group but she is alienated by their outpourings and, especially, of their reliance on religious comfort and their talk of God. She laughs. She walks out. Howie continues to go and befriends Gaby (Sandra Oh) whose husband has walked out on her. Can she supply comfort and support for Howie? Comfort for herself?

What sustains Becca is tracking down the high-school student who was the driver of the car. He is also living with regrets and a scruple that it may have been his fault, although the little boy had run out on to the street after his dog. The young man, Jason (Miles Teller) is finishing school but is a sketcher and is composing a graphic comic-book, *Rabbit Hole*.

Becca is also handicapped by her irresponsible sister, Izzy (Tammy Blanchard) and handicapped and helped by her rather simple and homespun mother (Dianne Wiest) who is still grieving the death of her adult son by an overdose.

While the film is serious, there are some humorous touches, which enable the audience to stay with the drama, with their own thoughts and feelings.

The film derives from a play and part of the success of the film is that it has some very strong dialogue and speeches which express the inner life of each of the central characters.

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

Potted history but it hits the mark

The Roman Catholic Church: An Illustrated History by Edward Norman. Thames and Hudson, 2007, 192pp, \$45. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.

I'm always a bit wary of any potted version of history. Too much can be omitted, selection of facts can be distorted and the connections can be lost.

Edward Norman, however, succeeds admirably. He is a former lecturer at Cambridge and has written widely on the history of Christianity.

He begins with an explanation of how Catholics understand the essentials of their faith.

The Catholic Church, he states, is organic: its truths are inseparable from the tradition of believers.

It is remarkable for its degree of continuity, according to Norman, which has largely disappeared from other institutions.

He calls his account a survey, ie an analysis of the Church in the world - of how it related to moral and political prac-

tices and the ways in which the Church and society encountered and tried to deal with the aspirations of successive generations.

The Church has never been static. There have always been internal dissensions over law and order, attempts at control by secular authority and external assault by alien powers and ideas. Sound familiar?

Norman traces the origins of Catholicity including the beginning of monasticism, the separation of East and West and the developments before and after.

He explores what he calls the Medieval Panorama and the characteristics of the mind-set that promoted the Crusades, the commitment to pilgrimage and the rise of the Mendicant Orders.

The circumstances leading to the Reformation, he says, were formed by a 16th century Church which indicated a preparedness for change but with no sustained reform agenda.

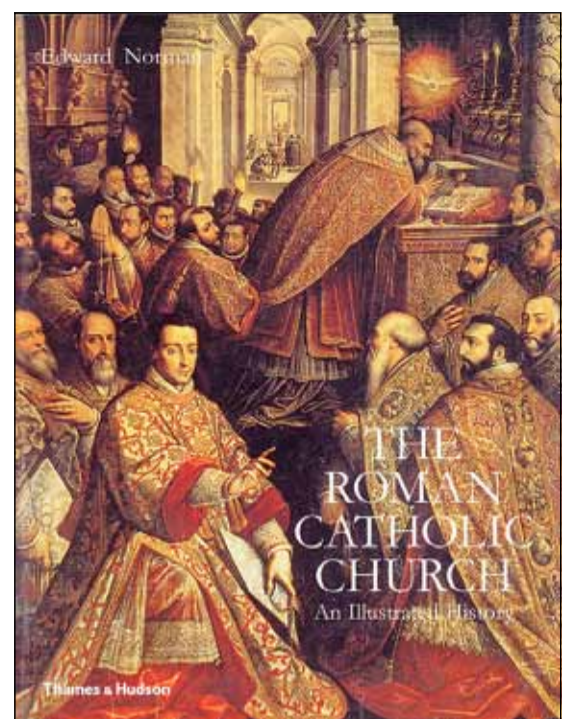
The enormity of the disruption in Europe also saw a hugely successful evangelisation of the Americas and Africa.

Lastly, Norman looks at the Church and the Modern State, Vatican 1, the persecution of Communism and Vatican 2. He ends on a rather gloomy note with Uncertain Frontiers.

As the 20th century ended, he posits, there was a gathering sense that humanist materialism has eclipsed the transcendent views of human life upheld by the Church for centuries.

Prevalent materialism acts as unconscious orientations of life and thought. Cultural pluralism in modern society mitigates against recruitment to the faith. Self-selected spirituality is replacing institutional religion. And so on and on.

This quality edition is illustrated beautifully throughout with photographs and art-work to match the periods covered.



Music to serve the faithful

Catholic Music through the Ages. Balancing the needs of a Worshiping Community, by Edward Schaefer. Hillenbrand Books, 2008. Pb 260pp, \$56.95. Reviewer: Margaret Ryan.

Have you ever wondered to what extent Catholic liturgical music was linked with other aspects of the Church, such as teaching, politics, morality, piety and evangelisation?

If you're interested, this book would provide a good basis for your adventure, a look at the Church from a musical window.

The first section explores the role of music in the Church, and includes the 2008 US Bishops' Conference document on music.

Schaefer examines musical developments from the eighth to the mid-20th centuries, Gregorian chant, polyphony, reforms of the Council of Trent, Benedict XIV and popes of the early to mid 1900s.

Vatican II, music today and in the future form the final segment, where Roman and US documents on music are put under the microscope.

Schaefer is a professor of music at the University of Florida. He is an

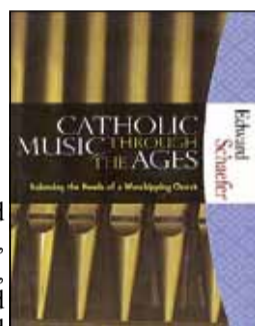
experienced composer, performer, author, and organist and choir director at Catholic parishes and universities.

The "balance" referred to in the subtitle highlights a principle of liturgy here applied to the musical realm: music needs to be "able to express the faith of the faithful in a way that will nourish and deepen that same faith".

The book refers to more than 50 recordings illustrating musical periods and styles and these, as well as electronic visual aids, can be heard and viewed on Schaefer's website.

He writes for an educated audience, drawing on his historical, musical, liturgical and ecclesial knowledge. It's a detailed, well-researched and interesting book, closer to a reference text than to light reading.

His experience allows him to cast a dispassionate eye on unhelpful attitudes and practices of musicians, and invite them to transformation, so that music serves the liturgy, conveying and supporting the community's faith.



For the beginner

Reading God's Word Today. A Practical and Faith-filled Approach to Scripture, by George Martin. Our Sunday Visitor, revised 2009. pb 190pp, \$25.95. Reviewer: Margaret Ryan.

George Martin has written hundreds of articles and meditations and 10 books, primarily on the scriptures. This edition has been revised and partly rewritten after its birth in 1975. Martin writes as a fellow pilgrim, earnestly and encouragingly, and sometimes with personal illustrations.

Part 1 is about reading scripture. He recommends faithful daily reading, and examines what to do when a passage seems dry, which translation/s to use, where to begin, in what sense God is "the author", the principles underlying and practical steps in understanding scripture, the different styles of writing to be encountered, how to approach the sacred text (our attitudes), its relevance to our lives, the role of the Holy Spirit, and scripture and prayer.

Part 2 focuses on scripture as God's revelation: Jesus Christ as the Word - divine communicator, how and when the bible was written, the relationship of the Old and New Testaments, the Trinity and scripture, and the relevance of and role of scripture in the Church.

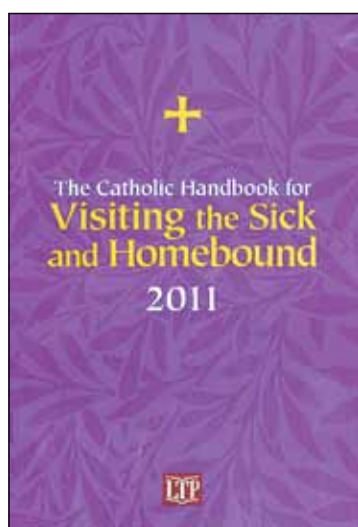
Extra resources and discussion questions are provided. While it lacks lustre, it could be helpful to someone beginning the scriptural adventure.

Useful for those who visit the sick

The Catholic Handbook for Visiting the Sick and Homebound 2011 compiled by Genevieve Glen OSB. Liturgy Training Publications, 2010, 248 pp, \$9.95. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.

Liturgy Training Publications provides a large print portable resource, updated annually, to assist lay ministers in bringing Communion to the sick. This edition, for 2011, includes the Gospels for Sundays in Year A.

It contains all the official rites a lay minister will need. As well as for use in ordinary circumstances, these rites include some from the Book of Blessings appropriate for victims of crime, for a person suffering from an



addiction, for sick children and for those suffering a miscarriage.

There is an impressive introduction which is supportive of,

and encouraging to extraordinary ministers. It gives hints on how to prepare, what to say (and what not to say) to the sick, and defines what is properly the role of the priest. Ministers will find this recommended reading to be very helpful.

At the back is a list of health concerns with the saints who are invoked to intercede on behalf of the sick person. You might need to do a bit of research first if you decide to mention the unusual ones like Christina the Astonishing or Ulric.

This handbook is recommended as a suitable focus for a parish formation session for extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist who visit the sick. The price is reasonable, too.

Internet www.cg.catholic.org.au

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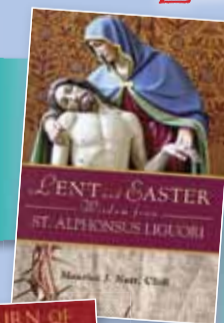
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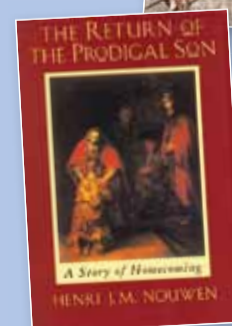
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Prayers

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

PRAYER to the Blessed Virgin Mary: O most beautiful flower of Mt Carmel, fruitful vine, Splendour of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. O Star of the Sea, help me and show me here thou art my Mother. O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech thee from the bottom of my heart to succour me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand thy power. O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (three times). Holy Mary, I place this prayer in thy hands (three times). This prayer must be said for three days. (Published here on behalf of DP).

PRAYER to the Blessed Virgin Mary. O most beautiful flower of Mt Carmel, fruitful vine, Splendour of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my neces-

sity. O Star of the Sea, help me and show me here thou art my Mother. O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech thee from the bottom of my heart to succour me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand thy power. O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (three times). Holy Mary, I place this prayer in thy hands (three times). This prayer must be said for three days. (Published in this issue on behalf of MP, DP, CP, GE and TP. Petitions gained after saying this prayer).

THANKS to St Jude and Our Blessed Mother for blessings granted. O Holy St Jude, Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue and rich in miracles. Near kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke you, special patron in time of need, to you I have recourse from the depths of my heart and humbly beg you to whom God has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me now in my present and urgent need and grant my earnest petition. In return I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. Say three Our Fathers, Hail Marys and Glorias. St Jude, pray for us all who honour and invoke in your name. Amen. Novena should be said for nine consecutive days. D C H.

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Coming Events



ADORATION OF BLESSED SACRAMENT - St Benedict's, Narrabundah, Monday 8am-10pm, Tuesday noon-10pm, Wednesday and Thursday 1pm-10pm and Friday 7am- Saturday 8am.

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

ANNUAL ROSARY PROCESSION - Our Lady of Good Counsel, Cobargo, 2pm, Sunday, 23 October. Organised by combined parish pastoral councils of Narooma, Cobargo and Bermagui.

BUSH DANCE FUND-RAISER - Kairos Prison Ministries Australia Canberra / Monaro region bush dance, 7pm-11pm, 19 March, St John's Church hall, Reid. Live Irish band "Fir Croi", auction, yodeling competition, prize for best bush dance outfit. All funds raised to local work of Kairos Inside/ Kairos Outside. Inquiries: Chris Simons, telephone 0403 873 148.

CURSILLO - Southside Ultreya, 7.30pm, Tuesday, 24 March, Gowrie parish. Northside Ultreya, 8pm, Thursday, 24 March, Page parish. Canberra Women's Cursillo, 19-22 May at Galong. Inquiries: Sandra Franceschini, telephone 0411 555 641, e-mail sanfra5@yahoo.com.au. Cursillo leaders day, 10am, Saturday, 12 March, Marion Hall, Page. Inquiries: Karen Schofield, telephone 6291 2649, e-mail scowie71@tpg.com.au, Merran Martin, telephone 6258 3431, e-mail kpmartin@chariot.com.au. Everyone with involvement in Cursillo welcome.

LIGHT TO NATIONS - Easter pilgrimage, live music, dynamic liturgy, catch up with old friends and make new ones. 21-24 April 2011. Information: www.ltnn.org.au.

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

MINISTRY TO THE NEWLY MARRIED - Mentoring program for newly married couples. 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, Sunday, 13 March, for Fatima Day. Bookings from Canberra, Queanbeyan and Goulburn, Judy and Joe Mewburn, telephone 6254 6202.

ST PATRICK'S DAY ECUMENICAL SERVICE - Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, Barton, 12-1pm, Thursday, 17 March. Organised by the Centre and the Friends of Ireland Society. Irish music and song and liturgy in Irish and English. Led by Bishop Pat Power, homily by Rev Prof James Haire. Inquiries: Angela Devlin, telephone 6231 9104.

SERRA CLUB OF CANBERRA - Rosary and Mass, 6.10pm, Thursday, 10 March, Holy Trinity Church, Curtin, followed by dinner at Southern Cross Club, Woden. Inquiries: John Malycha, telephone 6251 2912.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND - Weekend for married couples, 25-27 March, Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW. Bookings: Telephone 4283 3435 or www.wwme.org.au

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

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Partners in finding freedom

Australia was an important partner of the European Union with many shared values, perspectives and interests, the inaugural Freedom Day dinner at St Clement's retreat and conference centre, Galong, was told.

Ambassador of the European Union to Australia Mr David Daly was speaking at the dinner which St Clement's historians plan to have as an annual event to honour the stories of people from many lands who have found liberty from oppression in Australia.

Today's EU, which was born out of war, was fundamentally grounded in the desire to secure peace, prosperity and the protection of freedom in Europe, Mr Daly said.

"In this the EU has been very successful: for example, today the idea of war between France and Germany is simply unthinkable," he said.

"This political underpinning of the EU helps explain why membership of the EU has been so sought after by other European countries freshly liberated from dictatorships; the accessions of Greece, Spain and Portugal have clearly helped those countries strengthen their post-dictatorship democracies.

"The same should hold true for the former Soviet-bloc countries which joined the EU recently, and for the countries of the Western Balkans starting with Croatia in the near future."

Mr Daly said the EU recognised there were global problems which no country on its own could resolve, such as world poverty, security, climate change and the global economic crisis.

"To tackle these challenges we all need allies," he said. "In looking around the world, therefore, we look for countries with which we



David Daly

share values and similar perspectives so that we can address these challenges better together.

"Naturally we view Australia as an important partner with many shared values, perspectives and interests.

"Reflecting this we agreed in 2008 an important tool to help our growing cooperation - the EU-Australia Partnership Framework.

"We cooperate in areas like foreign policy and security, trade, regional issues, foreign aid, the environment, education and science and research issues.

"Last October in Brussels Australia joined the ASEM - Europe's main forum for discussions with Asian partners together. On this occasion Prime Minister Gillard proposed that the EU and Australia upgrade the political relationship through the negotiation of a treaty level framework. This proposal was warmly received and now officials on both sides are working on it."

Mr Daly, a native of County Sligo, Ireland, said membership of the EU was fundamental to Ireland's new-found self-confidence and it had helped transform its relationship with the United Kingdom. Ireland's position within the EU internal market of 500 million consumers helped explain why United States companies invested twice as much in Ireland than in China between 2000 and 2008.

● On 29 February, 1830, Edward "Ned" Ryan, a convict from the parish of Clonoulty, County Tipperary, in Ireland had all the rights of a free man restored when he received his Certificate of Freedom. This historic document is regarded as the founding document of St Clement's Retreat and Conference Centre at Galong. The Freedom Day Dinner, attended by more than 50 people, was held to mark the occasion.

Honoured for service

A Canberra Catholic has been named Member of the Order of Australia in recognition of his services to the community.

Mr David Crossin, of Barton, received the honour for service to the law through executive roles with legal professional associations.

He was also recognised for service to the community, particularly to aged care support services. Mr Crossin was a member of the Archdiocese Aged Care Board from 1993-1996.

Prayer vigil goes on

The Rosary for Life prayer vigil, which has run for about 17 years, is now held on Fridays from 8am to 9am outside the ACT Health Building, on the corner of Moore and Alinga streets, that houses an abortion facility.

A spokesman said it was "a prayerful, peaceful hour when those present pray for the aborted babies, their parents and all hurt by this most horrendous crime against God the Creator".

More Catholics, particularly young adults, are invited to join the vigil even for a few minutes on their way to work. Inquiries: Philip, telephone 6254 3969, e-mail par31@grapevine.net.au.

ACU enrolments up

Australian Catholic University is bucking the national trend by enrolling over its government allocation for a second successive year.

Nationally, applications for bachelor's degrees are up 8.7 per cent on this time last year.

It is expected that ACU will enroll about 30 per cent over its government allocation.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Greg Craven said that while the caps on enrolment would not be lifted until 2012, the university had a policy of strong growth in place.

"This growth in student numbers will position ACU very well for when caps are lifted, and we are working hard to ensure we have the necessary infrastructure and teaching talent in place to support expansion," he said.



Made to feel welcome

Nervous and excited students and parents of this year's Year 7 were formally welcomed by staff and senior students at Lumen Christi Catholic College. To ease their transition from primary to secondary school, all students were teamed with a Year 11 or Year 12 buddy from their pastoral care class. Although some seemed to revel in their more grown-up status as secondary students, for others the controlled chaos of the lockers and constant changing of teachers and rooms for each class was a little overwhelming. ABOVE: Year 7 student Sophie Heffernan is made to feel welcome by Nicolette Slater and Tori Gammell from year 11.

CWL 65 years on

The Canberra branch (St. Christopher's Cathedral) of the Catholic Women's League, has held its 65th annual meeting. The new committee is: President, Jacqueline Hipwell, secretary Bronwen Grey and treasurer Minike Peerboom. The branch meets in the presbytery meeting room at 10am on the second Tuesday of the month. New members are welcome. Inquiries: Jacqueline, telephone 6295 0084.

MISSION TALK



As Lent approaches we can reflect more deeply on the tough journey Jesus endured for us so that we can share in God's promise of life. It is a promise that we in turn are able to share with others. It is a mission that calls everyone of faith to be involved in varying ways.

Enabling this message - the Good News - to be available, Catholic Mission seeks to address needs and instil its hope in the toughest of places and amongst the poorest of people. Catholic Mission undertakes the support of faith communities within developing countries and remote areas of Australia so that they can enfold the helping hand of Jesus to their wider community; work that is reliant on the prayers and generosity of people within our community.

Within Uganda in Africa, where half their 33.4 million population is under 15 years old, efforts to provide ongoing formation, training and support to full and part-time catechist's will cost \$US14,000 this year. Further assistance has also been requested towards completion work on a number of small churches, convents and a presbytery. These projects enable the faith community to be present and serve others within their communities. Help Catholic Mission to support these people to share their faith with others.

God bless

Deacon Joe Blackwell

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Our annual chance to make a difference

With the Lenten season starting this month, Caritas Australia's annual Project Compassion appeal will be launched to give Australians a chance to reaffirm their commitment to justice and to improve the lives of the world's most vulnerable citizens.

Project Compassion is Australia's largest aid and development fundraising appeal, each year mobilising millions of dollars in aid of global justice.

In 2011 the theme of Project Compassion is "Partner with us to make a difference".

As part of the world's second largest development network - active in more than 200 countries and territories - and bolstered by the support of millions, Caritas Australia empowers vulnerable communities to tackle the structures of poverty and take control of their future.

"The \$9.4 million raised during last year's Project Compassion campaign is helping us combat poverty and injustice across the

globe," chief executive officer Mr Jack de Groot said.

"Millions of vulnerable people around the world are trapped in the midst of crippling poverty, but due to the extraordinary generosity of the Australian public every Lent, we always have much to celebrate come Easter."

Australians had long been accustomed to images of natural disaster and flooding beyond their shores, Mr de Groot said.

"Scenes of devastation around the world never fail to invoke Aussie compassion," he said.

"In January, we watched in shock as our own nation fought a battle with widespread and unprecedented destruction.

"But perhaps most shocking is the familiarity of these horrific images in light of the inundation of Pakistan just six months prior.

"To witness such devastation at home and abroad in six short months, reiterates the fragility of life and calls for our ongoing solidarity with all those who are threatened by disaster the world over."

Mr de Groot said the theme "Partner with us to make a difference" was a message that "runs to the very core of grassroots community development".

Since the onset of flooding in Australia, Caritas had received many messages of support from its partners working in some of the world's most vulnerable communities, he said.

"Although Australians may have greater resources to recover, our partners know that human suffering is not a numbers game," he said.

"It is this solidarity and determination to uphold human dignity that connects us with the rest of the world, that inspires our partners to extend their support, and that motivates Australians to contribute financially in times of dire need, be it to their neighbour at home or to Caritas Australia's Project Compassion."

● **To support Project Compassion 2011, visit www.caritas.org.au/ProjectCompassion or call 1800 024 413.**



Nepalese farmer Kaluram and his wife Sita are now able to sell their surplus produce.

Life-changing for a family

In Nepal, Caritas Australia supports its local partner to run schools to train disadvantaged farmers in new practices to improve food production and livelihoods.

Since the farm training program began in 2004, Caritas Australia has helped more than 12,000 farmers learn new techniques to support themselves and their families.

"Nepal is one of South Asia's poorest countries; around ten million of its 28 million people live in poverty, Caritas Australia's chief executive officer Mr Jack de Groot said.

One program participant, Kaluram, lives with his wife and three children in Nepal's densely populated south west plains. He joined Caritas' program to learn about early season rice

and vegetable cultivation.

Throughout the season, Kaluram met with a trainer and 25 other farmers in a local field, where they learned about land preparation, nursery raising, making compost and managing pests and disease.

Before he joined the program, Kaluram and his family endured the harsh effects of entrenched poverty.

"My field was often empty," Kaluram said. "We had no regular income and poor health, we couldn't always pay school fees. Our [straw] house was a fire hazard.

"For my family there have been many changes. We're producing more vegetables and rice, our house has mud walls, our health is better. We're not dependent on others now."

'I found a place of healing'

Judy is a team member of Aboriginal Catholic Social Services, a community centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Western Sydney, supported by Caritas Australia.

The centre is open to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, regardless of denomination. It offers a holistic service including vocational training, employment skills and activities that nurture spiritual and cultural well-being.

These are important steps towards closing the gap between the health and education of Aboriginal people and the wider community.

Judy and her siblings were removed from their parents as children. She grew up between children's homes, relatives and foster care.



Nine years ago Judy started a short TAFE course where she first learnt to construct a paragraph. She found the community centre while researching Aboriginal services in the Blacktown area. "I began to go there on my free days. I found it a place of spiritual healing and acceptance," she said. Judy took on leadership training and she and the team are now mentors in their community.



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