

Dara stuns judges with Shakespeare

Daramalan College impressed the judges in the Sydney finals of the premier division of the Rock Eisteddfod Challenge.

With the eternal themes of love and loss against the backdrop of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, 60 students presented an eight-minute stage production.

The college won two awards, one for excellence as a school community and the other for soundtrack.

In the earlier Canberra finals against seven local schools, Daramalan took out five awards for excellence, in set design and function, drama, stage use, soundtrack and costuming character. The group also won awards for student achievement and school community support. The performers then went on to take part in the state finals for the fourth time. Daramalan College has been part of the Rock Eisteddfod since 1992.

RIGHT: A scene from the production with Year 12 student Alyssa Londos playing Juliet.

What's cooking

We drop in on Alma Corkhill to try her simple scones - Page 15



Gift of Galong Redemptorist Fr Pat Corbett on his life at St



The changing face of Sunday

Parishioners and members of other church groups and communities are being invited to take part in exploring the future direction of the Archdiocese under the theme "The Changing Face of Sunday".

In extending the invitation, Archbishop Mark Coleridge said consultation was a crucial part of the Church's life at this time.

"This is a time when all the voices need to be heard, because it's a time when we need to work together to build the future," he said.

An archdiocesan assembly will be held on Saturday, 12 November, at the Rheinberger Centre, Yarralumla, to provide an opportunity for learning, listening, exploring, planning and praying about the future direction.

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The program for the day includes a keynote address from Archbishop Coleridge, followed by facilitated and interactive discussion on the following topics related to the assembly theme:

- 1. How many Sunday Masses are needed?
- 2. Sunday liturgy: challenges and opportunities
- 3. Work/ life/ family balance and Sunday: how do we understand "Sabbath rest" in contemporary society?
- 4. Youth and young adults and Sunday: how can the Catholic



community engage with younger generations?

- Sunday and the many who are not attending Sunday Mass
 Sunday collections: a
- new spirituality of giving The work of the

assembly will influence archdiocesan planning for the future and will inform the deliberations of various consultative groups, including the Episcopal Council, the Council of Priests, the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council and archdiocesan commissions.

A background paper for those taking part says the Archdiocese faces four large challenges:

* To revitalise our faith and sacramental life, especially in the Mass

- * To make our communities places of prayer, welcome and outreach
- * To spread the Good News in new ways in our living, working and teaching
 - * To act justly in our communities, wash-

ing the feet of the world, especially of the poorest, and promoting the dignity of creation.

"In all of this, it must be remembered that the key is Jesus Christ crucified and risen. Unless we keep our eye and ear firmly fixed on him, much in the life of the Church will simply be politics," the paper says.

"In that sense, the fundamental question is this: "How can we come to a new encounter with the Jesus crucified and risen – not just on Sunday but in every moment and aspect of our life?

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• Archbishop's letter Page 4.



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contact us

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Voices heard on new approach to crime

Bishop Pat Power and Mr Matt Casey shared their experiences of the prison system during a workshop on the newly released Social Justice Statement.

The Australian Catholic Social Justice Council document explores the current state of Australia's justice system and calls for a new approach to crime and punishment.

People from across the Archdiocese gathered on the weekend before Social Justice Sunday to workshop the statement and come up with ways to put its recommendations into action.

Bishop Power congratulated the group on its work. "All you hear in the media, especially in the lead up to an election, is that we need to get tough on crime," he said. "It's important that people like yourselves have your voices heard.³

He shared stories from his prison ministry, and highlighted the lack of respect to visitors that he often witnessed.

They would drive down to the jail only to find out there was a lock down that day and they couldn't go in," he said. "Or when it was open, they'd have to wait an inordinate amount of time in the car park until it was their turn. They weren't given a second thought."

Archdiocesan parish support coordinator Mr Matt Casey said the current justice system often treated prisoners with lack of respect. "There are people in jail who should stay there, but not many," he said. "We need to find a better approach than simply locking people up."

He talked to the group about the principles of restorative practice and how effective talking things out with all involved could be. "We're far better off helping people take responsibility for their behaviour," he said.

Participants identified a number of actions that could be taken, including improving education and teaching life skills to help prevent people from engaging in criminal activity; providing more support for families of prisoners; establishing better programs to help prisoners during their transition back into society; and using restorative practice before sentencing.

The face of Sunday

• From Page 1.

"That encounter is the Christian life, which is why Jesus himself needs to be at the heart of the forthcoming assembly. He is the only way into the future.

Everyone is welcome to attend the assembly. Registrations for planning and catering purposes are needed by 4 November and can be done via the assembly website www.cgassembly.org.au. Spaces are limited and every effort will be made to ensure even representation from parishes, agencies and other faith communities. Online registrations are encouraged, or e-mail Sharon Brewer to request registration. Information: Sharon Brewer, telephone 6163 4300, e-mail sharon.brewer@catholiclife.org.au. For further background information on the theme go to www.cgassembly.org.au.

what do you know?

- 1. What is the focus of the 2011-12 Social Justice Statement?
- What project is the Old Cathedral restora-2. tion committee currently working on?
- 3. Name the organist who has played at Mass in Taralga parish since 1956.
- In which country was Young's new assistant 4. priest Fr Joseph Punnakunnel ordained?
- 5. How many Canberra schools competed in the Active Kids Challenge?
- Where will the first group of Year 7s at the 6. new Gungahlin secondary college start the 2013 school year? Answers bottom Page 4.



Lion-hearted effort



Grenfell Lions Club Citizen of the Year Judy McInnes (above) receives her award from Hazel Pickwell and Terry Carroll.

Ms McInnes was overwhelmed when her unyielding work in the Grenfell community was recognised.

The night was full of surprises for Ms McInnes, beginning with the arrival of her daughter and granddaughter from Western Australia, followed by her four sons and work colleagues.

She has worked for St Joseph's Parish and School, the Community Health Centre voluntarily, the Ken Hunter Lodge and the Grenfell swimming club. Her dedication and skill at the Ken Hunter Lodge resulted in more than \$400 000 being given to the Senior Citizens Committee. In 2009 she was awarded the Rotary Paul Harris Fellowship for her volunteer work.

New charismatic head



Ms Neda Kesina has been elected as the new chairperson of the Canberra-Goulburn Charismatic Catholic Renewal Committee.

She replaces Mr Ljubo Vranko, who served for a number of years. The committee is made up of representatives from each Catholic charismatic prayer group and community in the Archdiocese. Ms Kathleen Kinsella was elected to replace Br Matt McKeon as secretary, while Sandra Cabrera stayed on as treasurer. Inquiries: Ms Kesina, e-mail neda.kesina@gmail.com, telephone 6258 3992 or 0415 266 019.

ABOVE: Fr Ken Barker, Mark Ransom, Ljubo Vranko, Sandra Cabrera, Neda Kesina, Kathleen Kinsella and Pamela Heaton

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news

Vinnies warns as cash dips

Vinnies is set to cut back on its spending in the Archdiocese after dipping into its cash reserves by more than \$900,000 in the past year.

Canberra-Goulburn central council president of the St Vincent de Paul Society Mr Evan Brett, in a letter to members, has warned that Vinnies "cannot be the answer to everyone's requests as we have been in the past".

The society is looking to curtail capital expenditure, reduce expenses, increases sales at its shops, make a larger effort on fund-raising, seek efficiencies across the operation and look at ways clients are cared for in its special works programs, Mr Brett said.

"Over the past year, and more recently the past three months, we have had to access our cash reserves to such an extent that we are now in a position that we have to curb our expenditure," he said in the letter.

"Cash reserves have reduced by \$915,850 over the past year.

"These funds are over and above any funding from our Christmas, winter and doorknock appeals and CEO sleepout, and trading from our centres.

"Nett profit from appeals last year was \$1,013,906 and from centres it was \$1,462,861. Government grants totaled \$3,432,173, but our services to people in need and homelessness services totalled \$6,009,945."

Sleepout success

The 150 CEOs who took part in the Vinnies sleepout in the Canberra and Goulburn region raised \$425,000. "The funds raised from the CEO Sleepout are directly supporting men, women and children who have not chosen to be homeless, but have had to face that reality," chief executive officer of the St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn Central Council Mr Bob Wilson said.

Over the past financial year, the society had faced an increase in demand for assistance. "The funds from the sleepout help us to continue to focus on providing services that are important for people affected by a wide range of problems, including mortgage stress, affordable accommodation, mental illness and domestic violence," he said.

Mr Brett said all expenditure had been justified, "and I support the efforts exercised by conferences in particular to maintain client dignity. "However, we cannot sustain this level of support."

Mr Brett said the issue had been troubling the society for the past 12 to 18 months, but had reached a critical state in the past four to six months. "It is not just the emergency relief program distributed by our conferences, but the problem lies across all areas of our work," he said.

"Over the past four years, we have significantly expanded services to clients, mostly unfunded by government. Costs are fast growing beyond our capability to hold without cutting services.

"We don't want to make cuts because the need out there is huge. But, wages go up, IT infrastructure needs are significant, we have had to bring on more staff to handle compliance with government legislation, occupational health and safety and child protection. Government funding has become tighter and is decreasing so we are using our own resources more and more."

Over the past 10 years, the Archdiocese had suffered widespread drought which had resulted in many needs in rural areas and had caused Vinnies to tap into its cash reserves.

Financial donations had also been sent to help victims of the Queensland floods and the Victorian bushfires. "When we suffered bushfire people everywhere came to our aid, so we needed to reciprocate," he said.

Mr Brett said the bottom line was that Vinnies would continue to support people, "but the level of support is not necessarily going to be as great as it was".

Gungahlin college students to get temporary home

The first Year 7 students at the new Gungahlin Catholic secondary college will start the 2013 school year off-campus due to building delays.

An environmental investigation into the Gungahlin suburb of Throsby, where the college is to be located, will prevent the classrooms from being completed by 2013 as was planned.

During a public meeting last month, the Catholic Education Office assured parents and community members that despite the delays, classes would still be able to begin as scheduled.

The students will be temporarily housed at Mother Teresa Primary School in Harrison.

Mother Teresa principal Mr Michael Lowe said eight new classrooms would soon be built for his school, to cater for growing enrolments, and that Year 7 students would be able to use them until the secondary college was ready.

Mr Dominic Braybon from the Catholic Education Office said all necessary resources for high school subjects would be made available to the students, who may need to stay at the primary campus until the end of 2013.

Those students would then be able to start Year 8 at the Throsby site in 2014, along with the next intake of Year 7s.

For more information, contact Mr Braybon, telephone 6234 5440 or email dominic.braybon@cg.catholic.edu.au.



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mark our bishop

In the middle of November, we'll be having the Archdiocesan Assembly. When I came to the Archdiocese, I was keen that this be an annual event. But for one reason or another (one big one being World Youth Day in 2008), this will be only the second Assembly in five years.

There are various consultative bodies in the Archdiocese – the Episcopal Council, the Council of Priests (and Deaneries), the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council, the various Archdiocesan Commissions. All of these both feed into and draw from the annual Archdiocesan Assembly which is open to a broader range of people than any of the Councils or Commissions.

I have said that this is a time when all the voices need to be heard, because it's a time when we need to work together to build the future. If we just sit back and wait, nothing much will happen. The future will have to be built – by grace, it is true, but a grace which looks to our energetic and creative cooperation.

That is why consultation is a crucial part of the Church's life at this time. No-one but God sees things whole. Each of us who is human sees part of the whole, some perhaps more than others. Therefore, the wisdom of the group is vital.

This is something mysterious that I have seen time and again at, say, meetings of the Bishops. We are faced with some seemingly intractable problem, and early in the discussion it seems there is no way forward. But as the discussion evolves, the wisdom of the group begins to have its effect; and slowly there emerges a way forward to which none of would have come alone.

As the Archbishop, I would be foolish to think that I saw things whole, or that I alone could see the

A time when all voices need to be heard

way forward, or that I alone had all the bright ideas and good suggestions.

I may see and know many things, but there are many other things that I don't see or know. That's where I depend heavily upon a process of consultation if I am to make decisions which are in tune with the will of God; and this process presumes a mutual listening.

I listen to those who speak to me, and they listen to me as well.

There are some who think that for the Bishop to listen means that he does what they say. They seem to think that if the Bishop doesn't do what they say, then he hasn't listened.

But it's not like that. I can listen to certain voices but then decide to do something different – not because I haven't listened, but because I make the hopefully prudent judgement that another path is the way to go.

The kind of consultation I mean is not a political process but what I would call an ecclesial process. It's appropriate to the Church rather than the Parliament. Within this ecclesial process, what the Church believes and teachers in the name of Jesus provides the context within which we speak and listen to each other. In other words, when I have to make decisions after listening to the voices, I am not free to do things which are at odds with what the Church believes and teaches. I have to make my decisions within the context of the Church's faith and the tradition which has passed that on unbroken from Jesus until the present day.

Within a political process, it is the exercise of power which matters. This isn't to say that politics always has to be a brutal power-play, but it is inevitably concerned with the exercise of power – in the interest of the common good, one hopes.

But an ecclesial process is different. At its heart it is an exercise of charity, by which I mean a self-sacrificing love which speaks with respect, courtesy and humility. If we cannot speak and listen to each other in this way in the Church, then our life in Christ itself runs the risk of becoming a brutal power-play. In his Rule, St Benedict urges the Abbot to listen even to the youngest monk, since the Holy Spirit may speak as much through him as through a senior monk. Benedict is right: the Holy Spirit is unpredictable.

Hence the need to listen to all the voices, especially at a time like this when we need some lateral thinking as we seek the way into the future.

Lateral thinking requires lateral speaking and listening, but always within the parameters of what the Church believes and teaches and also within the parameters of what is possible.

But a note of caution: it is often true that a great deal more is possible than we think. This may well be a time when we need to expand our vision of possibility in the Church.

All the speaking and listening, the long and often messy process of consultation, must eventually lead to decision and action. Otherwise it will be just words to the wind that leave nothing unchanged.

In the Church, many of the decisions have to be made by the Bishop after the voices have been heard. But no Bishop should ever make decisions in splendid isolation: he is always a "we" rather than an "I".

My hope is that the forthcoming Assembly will be a time for the kind of speaking and listening proper to the Church, so that the fruits of the Assembly can pass to the consultative bodies of the Archdiocese and then on to me for decisions attentive to the impulse of the Holy Spirit and in accord with the mind of Christ.

+ hanthing

OCTOBER DIARY

Archbishop Mark Coleridge

- 1 Sisters of St Joseph chapter assembly opening Mass
- 2 Installation acolytes, lectors, Narrabundah
- 4 Youth Explosion opening Mass
- 10 Ad limina visit to Rome
- 26 Hennessy College student leaders barbeque, Archbishop's House
- 27 St Clare's College student leaders barbeque, Archbishop's House; Liturgical Commission meeting
- 28 Catholic Education office principals day
- 31 Dinner with Catholic Youth Ministry team, Goulburn

Bishop Pat Power

- 4-5 National Tax Forum, Parliament House
- 6 Clergy Care Board
- 8-9 Masses at Batemans Bay
- 9 Filipino community gathering, Batemans Bay
- 11-12 Catholic Social Services Australia: Directors' Forum
- 17 National Poverty Day: Cleaners' Rally, Garema Place, Civic
- 19 Executive meeting of ACT Churches Council
- 23 Confirmation, Batemans Bay
- 25 Missions Mass, Yarralumla;
- Archdiocesan Finance Council.
- 27 CCD Mass, Young
- 29 Sisters of Mercy Mass, Goulburn
- 30 50th anniversary celebrations, St Peter's Lutheran Church, Reid

Parishes face change

Changes are afoot in the parishes of Young, Grenfell and Bribbaree with new Mass times and a new assistant priest.

Missionary of Our Lady of La Salette Fr Joseph Punnakunnel has been appointed assistant priest to Young and will also help parish priest Fr Richard Thompson in his pastoral duties to Grenfell and Bribbaree parishes.

Born in Kerala, India, Fr Punnakunnel was ordained in 1986 after studies in the Philippines. He was welcomed into the parish in September.

From the beginning of October, there will be a number of changes to Sunday Mass times. "Due to declining Mass attendance we have decided to close Monteagle, Koorawatha and Caragabal as Mass centres," Fr Thompson said.

"The churches will continue to be used by those communities for prayer services, liturgy of the word and other occasions, but Sunday Mass will no longer be offered."

Mass times in Young will continue as usual: 6pm Saturday vigil and 8am on Sundays. In Grenfell, Mass will be at 8am on Sunday only.

Village Masses will be offered on rotation. First Sunday of the month will be 7.30am at Wombat; 10am at Quandialla on the second Sunday; 10am at Bribbaree on the third Sunday; 7.30am at Murringo on the fourth Sunday and no village Mass on the fifth Sunday of the month. There will be no village Masses in January.

1. Prisons and the justice system. **2**. The bell tower. **3**. Mrs Joan Croker. **4**. The Philippines. **5**. **15**. **6**. Mother Teresa Primary, Harrison.

WHAT DO

YOU KNOW?



Bianca Gillett (holding rope) encourages kindergarten student Charlotte Anastasi as she flies through the air. They are watched excitedly by Zane Garrett, Chloe Brassil and David Birch.

Leaping into healthy life

Students of Holy Trinity Primary, Curtin, practised the double-dutch, single and group ropes in preparation for their Jump Rope for Heart skipping day.

Holy Trinity was one of 15 schools in the ACT that took part in the Active Kids Challenge.

Open to all ACT schools, the challenge runs for 10 weeks and teaches students about a healthy way of living.

Each week the learning focus is on a different aspect of a healthy lifestyle, with five main messages promoted.

These messages encourage the students to drink more water, trav-

el in an active manner, eat the right amount of fruit and vegetables, play outside rather than inside on electronics and to simply be active.

Year 6 teacher Mr David Mead said the concept was to promote a healthy lifestyle and change attitudes around physical activity.

By including Jump Rope for Heart, the school was also able to raise funds for the Heart Foundation.

"The whole school has been out skipping during their lunchtimes," Mr Mead said. "Most of our students who live locally walk or ride to school now."

Book swap aims to turn page on literacy

Students at St Matthew's Primary, Page, and St Benedict's Primary, Narrabundah, have helped to improve literacy in remote indigenous communities.

The Great Book Swap program encouraged students to bring in their favourite book and swap it for someone else's – after making a donation to the Indigenous Literacy Foundation.

The foundation will use the proceeds to buy reading material for remote communities that do not have access to books.

In recognition of their efforts, student representatives from the many Canberra schools that had taken part attended an Indigenous Literacy Day morning tea with Governor-General Ms Quentin Bryce at Parliament House.

Each school presented a large model book to foundation ambassador Kate Grenville and chair Juliet Rogers as a visual representation of their financial contribution to the project.

Ms Grenville spoke of her experience visiting a remote indigenous community where there were only a handful of books available to the whole school.



Isabel Steward and Raell Monteiro present St Matthew's Primary's book to Kate Grenville and Juliet Rogers from the Indigenous Literacy Foundation.

"These kids know so many things that nonindigenous people know nothing about," she said. "They know how to read the landscape. They're smart kids who are literate in plenty of ways that matter in that harsh country. But learning to read and write without books is very difficult."

In most Australian schools, parents fundraise to buy books. In remote communities, this isn't possible, Ms Grenville said, so the foundation provides much needed reading material.

"The kids treasure those books. It's so inspiring."

The event was also used to launch the foundation's first book, The Naked Boy and the Crocodile, which is a compilation of stories written by children in remote communities during a series of workshops with author Andy Griffiths.

For more information, go to www.indige-nousliteracyfoundation.org.au.



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1300 ASK ACU CATHOLIC VOICE October 2011 - 5

Dialogue is key to promoting identity

Maintaining Catholic identity in the workplace was one of the key topics discussed at the Catholic Health Australia National Conference in Canberra.

St John of God Health Care group director of mission Ms Jennifer Stratton and Sandhurst Diocese Catholic Education Office director Ms Philomena Billington ran a joint forum on the issue by offering advice from their two different workplace contexts.

"Our Catholic organisations are made up by people of different faith beliefs, or none," Ms Stratton said.

"We're catholic with a small c too. We reflect the world and everyone is welcome."

The group agreed that while identifying an organisation as Catholic was simple enough, promoting and demonstrating this identity was often easier said than done.

"We don't set out to convert, rather through our actions we want to give an experience that shows what we believe," Ms Stratton said. According to Ms Billington, the key was dialogue.

"We need to continue to develop our knowledge and understanding of Christian traditions and invite people into a dialogue about those traditions," she said.

"After all, you can't appropriate a tradition if you don't understand it."

Speaking from a health care perspective, Ms Stratton said one of the most important ways of demonstrating Catholic ethos was by providing compassionate care. "Quality care is a given, but on top of that, we want our staff to see the inner pain of patients and their families and respond compassionately.

"They may not use God language, but by reaching out in the spirit of the Good Samaritan they bring God to that person."

Speaking more broadly, she said it was essential that spiritual needs were met and addressed within a Catholic organisation.

This could be achieved by ensuring access to sacred places, offering pastoral care and ensuring the sacraments and other rituals are celebrated.

"Gathering regularly as a community to worship and give thanks offers a sense of belonging, regardless of faith," she said.

Her final mandate was that Catholic organisations must maintain a commitment to serving the poor, oppressed and marginalised.

How that happens in practice depends on the organisation, but may include fundraising for particular projects or using the standing of the company to advocate for social justice issues.

Both speakers also stressed the importance of not letting the business side of the organisation become divided from the mission statement – that there must be a balance between upholding the Gospel values of caring for others and generating the funds to do so.

• We're ageing so let's celebrate: Page 14.

Visit goes off with a bang



Expressions on the faces of the young students at Mother Teresa Primary School, Harrison, were priceless when they were introduced to the world of science.

Thirteen Year 7 and six Year 10 students, as well as teachers, from St Francis Xavier College, Florey, visited to share their love of science by demonstrating various experiments to squeals of delight from the younger pupils in pre-school to Year 3.

ABOVE: St Francis Xavier College student Ashley O'Brien has the rapt attention of Amelia Gaspari (closest to the camera) and Charlotte Hebda.

Everyone had a ball at Grenfell





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More than 250 people danced the night away in Grenfell for St Joseph's Catholic debutante ball. C The event followed the long standing tradition of welcoming young ladies into society, complete with white gowns, boys in matching suits and an impressive performance of the Valetta Waltz.

Eighteen debutantes were presented to Bishop Pat Power, who officially opened the ball. Six Year 3 students from St Joseph's Primary School, Olivia Beasley, Maya Squires, Caitlin Nealon, Tara Schaefer, Elizabeth Nowlan and Kylee Lindsay, attended as flower girls. Mrs Dianne Franks was matron of honour. Representatives from St Joseph's school and parish, as well as the local Anglican parish, attended.

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ABOVE: The official party at St Joseph's Catholic debutante ball. Picture: Classique Imagerie Studio Young

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Problems solved as school celebrates



Bishop Pat Power blesses the new library at St Joseph's Primary School, O'Connor.

Renovating a 50-year-old building offers plenty of difficulties, but with a little creativity anything is possible.

This was certainly the case for the team building the new library and early learning centre at St Joseph's Primary, O'Connor.

Speaking at the opening of the **Building the Education Revolution** funded works, Catholic Education Office director Mrs Moira Najdecki praised staff and students for their patience during the slightly longer than anticipated construction process.

"The architects and builders met with some very unfriendly plumbing and had to rethink their whole design, but it all came together in the end," she said.

St Joseph's Early Learning Centre is the fifth to open in the archdiocese, providing pre-school children with a Catholic education alternative.

Principal Mrs Sue Dempsey said the centre would cater not only for future students of St Joseph's Primary but also children who would continue at other schools in the area.

In addition to the major pro-Government funding iects. through the School Pride scheme and \$300,000 raised by the school community covered the costs of a refurbished staff room and new learning hub.

Volunteers are still answering the call 50 years on

For 50 years Palms Australia has sent volunteers all over the world to take part in sustainable development projects in impoverished communities.

Back in 2008 Mr Tony Bozicevic from Queanbeyan decided to join their ranks and travelled to Papua New Guinea to share his skills as a music teacher.

With the support of a fellow Palms volunteer, he spent two years working at Sacred Heart High School in Tapini, a station run by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.

"I was employed as a music teacher but pretty quickly ended up doing a bit of everything," Mr Bozicevic said.

"Local staff often didn't turn up to work so I'd fill in teaching social science, English, computing - wherever I was needed.

"I was also the boys boarding master, which was pretty much a 24-hour job."

Located in a mountainous region about a half-hour flight from Port Moresby, the school catered for around 250 students, mostly males, in years 7-10.

They varied in age from 12 to 35, creating an extra challenge for staff.

Mr Bozicevic lived in one of the school houses and became involved in all aspects of community life – including killing a pig as an initiation into the village.

While the dial-up internet proved to be a patience tester and phone lines were down for nine months of his stay, Mr



ABOVE: Palms volunteer Mr Tony Bozicevic with the pig used in his initiation into the village.

Bozicevic was surprised by the quality of the resources he had to work with.

"The MSCs are brilliant administrators," he said.

"By securing AusAid funding they have rebuilt the high school and primary school, set up a hydro power station and opened a hospital.

"Unfortunately, improving structures doesn't necessarily mean greater development for the people. Corruption in Papua New Guinea is so widespread that if the MSCs ever left the station, the people wouldn't be able to continue their good work."

Mr Bozicevic said he felt the experience really allowed him to answer his call to missionary work.

Since it was established in 1961, Palms has met over 1400 requests for volunteers in 38 countries in the Pacific, Australia, Africa, Asia and South America.

• Palms Australia is celebrating its golden jubilee with a dinner at Ryde-Eastwood Leagues Club, West Ryde, on Saturday 22 October. Bookings: Palms Australia, telephone 9518 9551 or register online at: www.palms.org.au/news/50thanniversary-dinner-22-oct-2011/.



a centenary of canberra's catholics

In the eighth in a series of portraits of significant Catholics of the national capital, 2009 Canberra Citizen of the Year Bishop Pat Power remembers Ursula Southwell.

It was rather exceptional for a woman to be heard in command of the air waves. Ursula was one of the first female radio announcers in Australia.



VOCATIONS WEEKEND FOR MEN AND WOMEN DISCERNING THEIR CALL Friday, 2 December to Sunday, 4 December at St Clement's, Galong Talks by Archbishop Mark Coleridge, other speakers of note and priests of the Archdiocese FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Fr Emil Milat on 4474 2024 and email: emil.milat@cg.catholic.org.au For brochure go to www.cg.catholic.org.au and click on Catholic Vocations Supported by the Serra Club of Canberra

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Ursula gave voice to best of 'bush capital'

Listeners to ABC Radio 666 in Canberra think nothing of the fact that three of the four radio hosts are female. But when Ursula Southwell performed such duties from 1942 to 1946 for what was then 2CY it was rather exceptional for a woman to be heard in command of the air waves. Ursula was one of the first female radio announcers in Australia.

Ursula Lynch was one of nine children born in Sydney where she attended St Vincent's College, Potts Point. This afforded her the opportunity to study French, Latin, German and some Russian. After school she completed a steno/secretarial course which enabled her to work for the ABC in Sydney with Radio Australia shortwave broadcasting.

When Ursula was transferred to Canberra in 1942, the ABC occupied a small studio in the Melbourne Building in London Circuit, Civic, above what is now the Charcoal Grill Restaurant. She boarded at the Hotel Civic and had a phone in her room (rather unusual in those days) in case an urgent broadcast had to be made from Canberra.

A fascinating interview with Ursula conducted by Rod Quinn on ABC 666 on 8 May, 1995, can be accessed at www.tinyurl.com/6h3yteq. She recalled how 2CY was effectively a regional ABC station, taking most of its programs from 2FC and 2BL in Sydney.

However, being the war years it played a big role in recording messages from Australia's parliamentary leaders. Care had to be taken even in the selection of music lest a particular song or tune be substituted and played as a signal to the enemy.

In the course of her work, Ursula recorded messages from Prime Ministers Menzies, Fadden, Curtin and Chifley. She shared with Rod Quinn the pride and joy in recording other notables such as chairman of the BBC Lord Reith, general manager of the ABC Sir Charles Moses and Governor-General the Duke of Gloucester.

Clearly the highlight of her career up to that point was the end of the war when there was dancing in the street in Civic on VE Day.

Ursula described Canberra in 1945 as a lovely country town and to the end of her days she saw Canberra as the "bush capital".

She told the story of how her fiancé, Malcolm George (Mack) Southwell, was droving a mob of sheep through Civic.

He paused and let them graze for a while on City Hill as he visited Ursula in the ABC office on London Circuit for morning tea.



Keeping control of the mob of sheep was no difficulty as Mack simply whistled orders to the sheep dogs from the open window of the upstairs office.

Ursula and Mack were married in 1947. Mack was part of a pioneering family of the Canberra region with connections to both St Ninian's Presbyterian Church and the St John's Anglican Church.

He converted to Catholicism and played an active part in the St Vincent de Paul Society as well as participating in many community services.

Mack and Ursula lived the first eight years of their marriage at "Rosevale" Barton Highway, Ainslie as it was then designated. Their home once stood where the North Lyneham shops are now located. Their first two children, Jane and John, were born while there. In the mid-1950s, Mack drew a soldier settler's block of land further out past Hall. Two more children, Robert and Simon, were added to the family at "Ginnagulla".

Ursula continued to maintain her contact with social and church groups in Canberra.

On one occasion she was loading up the car with trays of lamingtons and cream cakes. Having all the trays placed across the seat of the old Plymouth car, she quickly went back inside the house to collect her handbag before setting off for town.

On her return to the car, she was greeted by "Tibby" the black pony displaying a snout white with icing sugar, cream and coconut and not a cake to be seen!

Ursula Southwell was a person of deep faith which expressed itself in personal and family prayer and a deep commitment to making the world a better place. This was part of her motivation in the Catholic Women's League.

She was the first archdiocesan president of the CWL serving from 1954 to 1956. Her big aim was to have the league spread outside Canberra. At the end of her term in 1956, the CWL had grown to five branches with 362 members.

In 1960-61 she filled the position of national vice-president during the period that Jean Reid was national president.

In 1968, Ursula's media skills were called on when she was appointed publicity officer. In 1974, she lobbied vigorously in a campaign to raise standards in the mass media.

Perhaps sensitised by her study of other languages, Ursula had a particular passion for assisting European migrants and their families.

This resulted in numerous picnics being held at "Ginnagulla" with migrants and their families joining in celebrating the Australian bush with barbeques, games, fun and laughter.

She was part of the establishment of Daramalan College, playing a key role in the annual college art exhibition, which proved to be a significant fundraising activity.

Following Mack's death in 1975, Ursula came to live in Belconnen taking part in parish and community life as well as supporting her adult children and their families.

She continued to drive almost to the end of her life. There is a youthful vibrancy in her voice in her 1995 interview with Rod Quinn and Ursula remained young at heart right up to her death on 1 September, 2004.

Ursula Southwell would have loved to have been part of Canberra's centenary celebrations as she epitomised the best of the spirit of Canberra.

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profile

Galong - it's in this Red's blood

tranquil surrounds of St Clement's Monastery, true. Galong

went there in the 1950s when it was a minor seminary after finishing school at Christian Brothers College, Lewisham, and has returned at various times over his priestly life.

His latest stint began 18 years ago and ended last month when he relinquished his position as superior and was moved by the Redemptorist Congregation to a leadership position in Sydney.

He remembers how it all began. "Way back in the last century, I fell under the spell of the travelling Redemptorist roadshow - remember those parish missions? All that heaven and hell-fire preaching.

"Well, I guess I joined the Reds to make sure I was on the road to heaven. I had finished secondary school but in those days Latin was a necessity for the journey to priesthood and Latin was not in my curriculum vitae.

"So I journeyed from Sydney to the Redemptorist minor seminary in Galong where I spent two years. I must have done well enough, because after ordination I was sent back to Galong to teach Latin.'

Fr Corbett was ordained in Ballarat 50 years ago next year. He spent the first 10 years of priesthood at Galong and continued studying by correspondence with Armidale University.

"I look back on those years in the troubled 60s as a special time where I was able to find my place in a very changing world," he said.

He eventually left Galong, moving to the congregation's major seminary in Melbourne and then to the United States for further studies. On his return to Australia, he took on consecutive roles as novice master, then vicarprovincial and later provincial, what he described as "wonderful, exciting and challenging times".

"It came as a relief to finally return to Galong some 18 years ago for what looked like semi-retirement," he said.

But it turned out to be anything but the quiet life. One of the major challenges was, in the words of Fr Corbett, "what to do with the gift that is Galong?'

"Like others, I had a dream of what Galong could become if we had the vision, energy and,

Little Company of Mary

Contact Sr Helen Kelly vocations@lcm.org.au

Healing

Compassion

Hospitality

Pat Corbett has spent much of his life in the of course, the finance to make the dream come

"It took a lot of heartache and goodwill on The Sydney-born Redemptorist priest first the part of many to make Galong what it is today.

"It was in combination with the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn that the vision and bigger picture became possible.

"Archbishop Francis Carroll gave his full support and financial help to keep Galong alive and well as a kind of sanctuary within the Archdiocese. I am grateful to the present Archbishop Mark Coleridge for his continuing and generous support for what Galong is and what it can still become."

He has a vision for St Clement's to develop further in care of the environment by becoming a model of self-sustainability. Government bodies are already working with the centre in hi-tech recycling. He sees the potential, too, for St Clement's to become a centre of excellence in the arts and music.

Cont Page 16.



The familiar figure of Fr Pat Corbett (far left) leads the May Marian procession at St Clement's, Galong.

Help Keep Christianity Alive in the Land of Christ's Birth

The Holy Father's concern for the Christian presence in the Holy Land and Middle East led him to call on the Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) to prioritise support for a Church that is "threatened in its very existence". Benedict's XVI's plea for the faithful in the Middle East follows an upsurge of anti-Christian fundamentalism, which has helped cause a mass exodus from the region.

Among the places worst affected is the Holy Land, where the number of Christians has dwindled to barely 150,000. Over the past 60 years, the percentage of Christians in Bethlehem has plummeted from 85% of the population to only 12%. In Jerusalem the figure has fallen from 20% to just 1.1%. What would Christmas Day at the birthplace of Christ be like if the faithful were no longer there to gather, worship and celebrate?

Please help us to sustain the 'living stones' - the faithful themselves - who walk the lands Christ knew so well, otherwise Christianity worldwide runs the risk of losing this first-hand witness and the Holy Places simply becoming museums for tourists to visit.

Your donation will help ACN's projects to support the faithful in the Cradle of Christianity. These include support for priests, religious and lay people, offering subsistence help to refugees and building and repairing churches and convents. Help is also given to crucial media projects aimed to promote the message of

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

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Pope Benedict XVI

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God grant ACN strength to help wherever

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CATHOLIC VOICE October 2011 -

around the northern deanery

Gunning's work of art begins to take shape





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10 - CATHOLIC VOICE October 2011

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

Artists have been working for months to prepare their entries for the 16th annual Gunning Parish art show and sale, but this week the biggest artwork of all needs to be constructed – the exhibition itself.

"The ladies who take care of the hanging process are very good at their work," art show committee member Ms Margaret Jenkinson said.

"You can't just put something up anywhere. You have to take into account the colour, tone and shape of the works."

The committee prides itself on putting together an exhibition where the diverse entries are all shown in their best light. Submissions come from near and far: Canberra, Goulburn, Crookwell, Gunning there's even a man in Brisbane who sends a piece in each year.

In addition to paintings and drawings in all manner of mediums, the show will include photographs, woodwork, barbed wire sculptures, pottery and scented candles.

The art is always complemented by floral arrangements that are placed throughout the room, and this year will be no exception. But with the new timing for the show, visitors can expect to see a rather different array of blooms.

Joan puts her heart into parish's Mass

Taralga parish has long prided itself on having high quality musicians in their liturgies, parish pastoral co-ordinator Sr Bernadette Mary Walsh RSJ said.

ABOVE: Gunning

committee member

parish art show

Hewitt adjusts a

Mrs Maureen

Nell Anderson

painting.

Organist Mrs Joan Croker has since 1956.

Mrs Croker said music was a very important part of the liturgy and a way to enhance prayer.

"Music is played from the heart," she said

From the age of 14, she was taught how to play the piano by the Sisters of the Good Samaritan before going on to the Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

"I loved practising," she said.

"There were no disturbances as there are for children now; it was always an enjoyable activity."

The first day she stepped into the church after moving to Taralga the previous organist approached been playing at their weekly Mass Mrs Croker and asked if she could play the organ.

She had no idea how to play, except for her piano skills. Despite this, she took the role of the parish organist and taught herself.

Mrs Croker said Taralga's organ had a simple structure which made the transfer from the piano easier.

She said she loved the music in Mass and felt privileged to be able by a flautist from Sydney, adding to play in such a sacred space. The further depth to their sound.

Last year the show coincided with the annual Gunning Fireworks Festival, which committee member Mrs Maureen Hewitt said brought in plenty of new visitors. So when it was announced the festival would be in October this year, the art show committee decided to move their event to the same date.

Gunning parishioner Pauline Wicksteed will officially open the show in the old school on Friday, 7 October, with supper and drinks from 7.30pm. It will then be open from 10am-4pm on Saturday and Sunday, 8 and 9 October, with lunch and Devonshire tea available.

While opening night is usually local affair, Mrs Hewitt said Saturday and Sunday had always tended to attract tourists out discovering a weekend in the country.

The art show is the only fundraiser for the parish. The committee takes 20 per cent of the sale price of each item and the money is then used to cover the parish's running costs and help maintain the many old churches and buildings.

The show includes a raffle and this year's prizes will be a knee rug knitted by a Gunning parishioner and a painting donated by Canberra artist Nell Anderson. For more information, contact Maureen Hewitt, telephone 4845 1308.

Old Cathedral hopes to ring in city jubilee

Still on a high from the unveiling of the Caroline Chisholm mosaic, the Sts Peter and Paul's Old Cathedral restoration committee has now moved its focus to the bell tower.

Works supervisor Mr Brian Watchirs said it had been about 10 years since the historic bell was used regularly. The last time it was struck was for the death of Pope John Paul II, once for every year he lived.

He said the aim was to have it ringing again in time for the 150th anniversary of the founding of the city of Goulburn in 2013.

The committee is currently waiting for approval from the NSW State Heritage Council before work on the bell tower can begin.

The plans they submitted are based on original concept drawings for the cathedral, and include various versions of a spire at the top of the tower. Committee publicity officer Ms Trish Groves said having access to the drawings allowed them to provide the Heritage Council with plenty of alterna-

tives for the project.

She said the spire would complement the mosaic and really make a feature out of the northern facade. "People's eves will be drawn from the mosaic to

the spire and back again," she said. "We have been fortunate in gaining a grant of \$70,000 from NSW Heritage on a dollar for dollar basis.



ABOVE: Taralga parish organist Mrs Joan Croker practises before Mass.

music of the Mass is led by two singers, Jacquie Corby and Leone Walsh. The trio is also often joined

Troy loves getting taken for a ride

may not seem like much of a challenge, but when your seat is on the back of a bucking bronco, it's a completely different story.

Known as saddle bronc, it is one of the many popular events at this month's annual Bungendore Rodeo – one Forbes cowboy Troy Read practices for every day.

As a former Canberra resident, the Bungendore Rodeo used to be to give it a go," he said. Mr Read's local competition. And even though he lives almost four hours away now, he makes the drive each year to compete against some of the most talented cowboys in the country.

The rodeo is a joint fundraiser for the Bungendore Catholic and E-mail ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au

Staving seated for eight seconds Anglican parishes and attracts competitors from across the country keen to battle it out for more to practice," Mr Read said. than \$9000 in prize money.

> take up the sport by his younger brother, who is the current Australian saddle bronc champion.

> "I saw him out there, thought it looked cool and decided I wanted

Mr Read soon discovered that "looking cool" took a lot of work. The brothers do mixed martial arts every day to keep themselves fit and limber, in addition to hours training on bucking bull machines and with practice horses in the arena.

"The older you get the more prone you are to injuries, so you really need

While the events may look Mr Read was first inspired to scary, Mr Read said it was more a feeling of nervous anticipation about what the animal was going to do next. He used to compete in bull riding as well, but after a few too many injuries, he's decided to stick to horses.

The rodeo will get under way at 8am on Sunday 23 October. Admission costs \$15 for adults and \$10 for children aged 12-16. Children under 12 can attend for free. For full details, go to www.bungendorerodeo.com.au.

Internet www.cg.catholic.org.au





around the northern deanery



"The cost of our work will far exceed \$140,000 so we will be seeking further financial assistance to help us complete this particular part of the restoration."

The entrance on the northern transept was also bell tower. recently restored and now features a stained glass window of the Risen Christ, salvaged from the decommissioned Reidsdale Church in Braidwood parish.

ABOVE: Trish Groves and Brian Watchirs look over plans to restore the bell tower on Sts Peter and Paul's Old Cathedral.

LEFT: The Old Cathedral with bell tower on the left.

RIGHT: Inside the old



What's a life for?

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time!

CATHOLIC VOICE October 2011 - 11

When English is a foreign language

When you think of bilingual schools you might think of countries overseas, in Europe, perhaps, where English is taught as a second language. You might even think of some exclusive and expensive school in Australia. You don't necessarily think of the Australian Outback.

Wadeye (Wad-Air) is a remote town a few hundred kilometres from Darwin at the western edge of the Daly River.

A population just over 2000 people, with seven different languages from 20 different tribes make up the townsfolk. Wadeye is the largest Aboriginal community in the Northern Territory.

The town itself is totally cut off during the wet season, and only accessible by sea or air.

Thamarrurr (Tam-ah-Rrah) School has a dedicated unit to develop educational resources in the dominant Aboriginal language of the says students "have a right to learn in a language town, Murrinh Patha.

taught to every student. It is the predominant language used in Early Learning Literacy for all students' right through to year three. English is a language they speak until then.

Murrinh Patha in religion class.

teaching at Thamarrurr School for many years, tant for the children too."

that is their own mother tongue." English, for Murrinh Patha (Moor-in-Putt-ha) is them, is not a second language, but a foreign one.

They begin school only speaking English, so they can understand it and have a comprehension of what they are saying.

"It is impossible to learn in a language you From year four, students can only learn can't speak." Sr Tess said. "You need to understand the meaning of what you're say-Sr Teresa (Tess) Ward OLSH, who has been ing. Educationally and ethically, it is impor-

World Mission Day Appeal





All over the world Indigenous communities share their faith - our faith. Please give generously in your parish or visit www.catholicmission.org.au

Martin Teulan said children's development was better when they were learning in the language they spoke at home. "They learn spoken English before they begin literacy in English which gives the students a context to understanding. From then they are learning their religious studies in Murrinh Patha, which speaks to their heart, their spirituality, in a way that English cannot." Catholic Mission supports mission in

National director of Catholic Mission Mr ABOVE: Teaching the Murrinh Patha language throughout a student's school years is a strong indicator of future educational and career success, says Sr. Tess Ward, pictured with a teacher, Francella Bunduk.

Australia through the Home Mission Fund.

Hear indigenous voices

"Hear My Voice" is the theme for this year's World Mission Month, where people are encouraged to hear the voices of the world's indigenous peoples and to celebrate their unique cultures, languages and spiritual traditions.

In his World Mission Sunday statement, Pope Benedict XVI invites people to stand in solidarity to help carry out evangelising activities in mission territories and support the work of the Universal Church.

National director of Catholic Mission Mr Martin Teulan said as Australians in mission "we are all encouraged to come together as one in the name of Christ: to share and to listen.

"At Catholic Mission we form Australians for mission and raise funds for mission - in Australia and around the world.'

In Guatemala, Catholic Mission financially supports the catechumenal training of laity and the supply of teaching materials.

The social gulf between the descendents of the Spanish and the Mayan is stark. The former, comprising three per cent of the population live in the cities and own 70 per cent of the productive land. They control the nation's finances, political institutions and military. The Mayans' descendents, the Q'eqchi (Ke Tchi) people form a numerically superior though much neglected underclass. Most are poor subsistence farmers eking a living on marginal mountainous lands.

The Mayans' living legacy is as plain as the aquiline nose on Pedro Xol (Shol) Mucul's face. Pedro along with tens of thousands of



Pedro holds a copy of The New Testament in the Q'eqchi language.

other lay catechists is the embodiment of the Church in Guatemala. He is a catechist in the remote village of Chapin Arriba.

"I am a Q'eqchi man," Pedro says. "My role is primarily as a missionary to announce the Good News to my people. I am an instrument of the Lord to bring others to salvation."

With fellow ministers he gathers the community on Sundays for the Celebration of the Word and Holy Communion. He presides at mid-week services, takes the Eucharist to the sick and dying, and offers prayers of intercession in the traditional Q'eqchi style.

"In Chapin Arriba a priest will come to celebrate Mass once a month or six weeks," Pedro says.

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young voices at st thomas more's primary, campbell

Year 1 at St Thomas More's Primary, Campbell, learnt all about colour last term.

Mrs Anna D'Amico's classroom was covered in artworks exploring warm and cool colours, as well as interesting designs using complementary colours. The students were busy making animal artworks when Catholic Voice visited.

Some groups were working on lizard drawings and dot paintings, while others were making caterpillars out of coloured beads or spiders hanging from bright blue webs.



ABOVE: Sophie Hallett used red and green in this artwork because they are complimentary colours.

BELOW: Cody Grace's favourite part of God's creation is a snail.





RIGHT: Grace Gabriel shows off her spider web.

LEFT: Mr Fergus Millar helps Anna Connolly make a beaded caterpillar.

RIGHT: Nicholas Brennan concentrates on his design. And below is his echidna artwork, created using warm colours.





LEFT: Scarlett Taylor used cool colours to make her peacock design.

BELOW: Year 1 students at St Thomas More's Primary in Campbell.





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ABOVE: Sophie Hallett adds another row of dots to her lizard painting. CATHOLIC VOICE October 2011 - 13



We're ageing so let's celebrate

People need to stop looking at ageing as a problem, Minister for Mental Health and Ageing Mr Mark Butler said in a keynote address at the Catholic Health Australia National Conference.

Speaking at the National Convention Centre in Canberra, he called for a change in attitude to Australia's ageing population.

"There's been a focus on fiscal consequences, but we're a rich country, we're a smart country, so let's get some perspective," he said.

Instead of lamenting the fact that an ever increasing percentage of Australians will be over 65, Mr Butler said we should be celebrating our achievements in extending life expectancy.

"People can expect that after they've raised their families and finished the peak of their careers that they'll still have 20 to 30 good years."

He was keen to point out that just because someone stopped paying taxes, didn't mean they stopped contributing to the community.

As a case in point, he noted the growing numbers of older Australians going back to university after they had retired. "Just think of the life experience that they can bring to tutorial sessions that would otherwise just be made up of 19 year olds – not to mention the money they are putting into our education system by attending," he said.

The Government is focused on community consultation and forums as it develops a new aged care reform package.



Mr Butler ... "a smart country".

By Sr Noelene Quinane RSJ, Sisters of St Joseph Goulburn congregational leader

Twelve months on from canonisation, our Australian people are still coming to terms with what it means to have a canonised Australian saint.

We are all learning a new way of relating to this Australian woman, now our saint. For so long we have prayed for her canonisation; now she is canonised – so what?

The canonisation not only gave cause for joyful celebrations last October, it has led to an increased interest in deeply significant questions: what is our Catholic faith about? Where does religious life fit in the context of Australian life today? Who was this woman, Mary MacKillop? And what meaning does she have for my life?

There has been a much deeper search for accurate information and the real story regarding Mary of the Cross MacKillop. By virtue of the fact that she and Fr Julian Tenison Woods were co-founders of the Congregation of Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, there has been a new awareness and an increased interest in the life of Fr Woods and his considerable contribution to the Australian Church and society.

It is my belief that there is a genuine desire to understand the legacy left to us by Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop. I further believe that she is having a powerful influence, already, on the development and growth of our Australian spirituality.

Her life and legacy touches the lives of many people, not only in Australia and New Zealand but across the world, especially in places like East Timor, Peru, Scotland and Ireland.

What is that legacy? Initially she worked in response to the misery and wretchedness of bush children and the afflicted poor. Translated into today's context, it is standing with and working to uphold the dignity of the poor and marginalised across every sector of our society.

Today, for instance, Sisters – and associates – live and work with indigenous communities, work on behalf of refugees, and advocate for change in structures at government and community levels.

Today, Josephite Sisters remain a vital presence in rural communities, providing support, encouragement and pastoral care. With a decline in the number of priests, many sisters provide the only regular face of the Church and enable the coming together of the Christian community as well as providing support in times of death and loss.

Through her canonisation, Mary of the Cross MacKillop has been set free for the world – a world which is in great need of the example such a woman gives; a woman who despite poor health and obstacles, responded so generously to her God and to the people she served.

A year on, new saint's legacy is being felt



Sr Noelene Quinane (above) received Communion from the Pope at the canonisation Mass, under the watchful gaze of the new saint (below).



Mary was known to have said, "Remember we are but travellers here". Further, that "There where you are you will find God".

As our first canonised Australian saint may she intercede for all of us who continue our pilgrimage journey, striving to be faithful to our God and seeking to find God in the challenges and blessings of our lives.

So, why should I give up dreaming?

By Jane Weber*

Once again I have run out of space for my excessive amount of books; books that I refuse to throw away.

To be completely honest, a lot of them won't provide me with any intellectual stimulation. The reason I have hoarded them for so long, despite the fact they smell good, is purely sentimental.

I grew up reading these books. I have won a golden ticket with Charlie Bucket, escaped a dragon on a flying chair and unfolded mysteries with Nancy Drew.

Reading has allowed me to discover who I am; it has developed my imagination and taught me how to dream.

Some laugh at young girls peering out of their bedroom windows, looking for fairies

dancing in their garden. It now seems to be an amusing trick adults play on their children, providing them with Shirley Barber books and laughing at the children building fairy rings.

Mr Butler also

discussed the mental

health reforms that

were introduced in

had shown that effec-

tive mental health

policy would require

more than just solid

which was why the

reforms incorporated

programs concerning

housing, employment

and training as well

support,

clinical

as health.

He said research

the federal budget.

But the laugh falls on the parents. When my cousin and I looked out of our grandparents' window at the age of four, I could see the fairies in sparkling dresses with beautiful, almost translucent wings. There was nothing unclear about it.

My parents snuck into my room and stole the teeth I hid under my pillow for the tooth fairy to shield me from the pain of discovering one doesn't exist. How could they be so sure the tooth fairy wouldn't come?

As I went through school there was the kid who told me that Santa doesn't bring my Christmas presents and that the

Changing our world



Each month we focus on the views of a young person and what he or she sees as an important issue of the day

tooth fairy doesn't exist. I felt sick, and not to mention stupid, as I realised my parents, the people I trusted more than anything, had been lying to me in the name of protection.

Then the bitter day came on my 11th birthday when the letter didn't arrive from Hogwarts.

After that, at the age of 12, other children began to transform. Girls started wearing make-up and put on overly revealing mini-skirts.

They think magic doesn't exist and from that point the fairies have disappeared from their gardens and Santa's sleigh is forgotten at Christmas.

At 17 I still don't own any make-up. And even though I don't expect Santa to come down my chimney, I still dream.

My dream of going to Hogwarts is almost gone – although I must admit, each year I think maybe the entrance age to Hogwarts has been raised and a wax-sealed letter will come in my mailbox – but now I dream of studying overseas and owning a small cottage away from everything.

All those kids who threw out their books are now the ones discussing what colour to dye their hair next and whether stubble or a beard is more masculine. They have forgotten how to dream.

My hair is still its natural colour, I don't know how to use a curler and my skirts fall to my knees.

My childhood deserves to live on and I refuse to forget those fairies glimmering in my grandparents' garden.

A childhood is precious and something to be cherished; those books of dreams and imagination should not end up in the dumpster, dusty and torn.

So I think it's time to buy another bookcase.

• Jane Weber is a year 11 student at Narrabundah College. She loves reading and could sit and write for hours. She completed work experience at the Catholic Voice in September and plans to study overseas after school. Her aim is to become a journalist.

Prayer: simply get over the boredom Do we ever really understand or master prayer? Yes and no. When we try to pray, sometimes we walk on water and sometimes we sink like a stone. Sometimes we have a deep sense of God's reality and sometimes we can't even imagine that God exists.

Sometimes we have deep feelings about God's goodness and love and sometimes we feel only boredom and distraction. Sometimes our eyes fill with tears and sometimes they wander furtively to our wrist-watches to see how much time we still need to spend in prayer.

Sometimes we would like to stay in our prayer-place forever and sometimes we wonder why we even showed up. Prayer has a huge ebb and flow.

I remember an incident, years back, where a man came to me for spiritual direction. He had been involved for several years in a charismatic prayer group and had experienced there powerful religious emotions.

But now, to his surprise, those emotions had disappeared.

When he tried to pray, he experienced mostly dryness and boredom. He felt that there was

something wrong because his fiery emotions had disappeared.

Here's how he expressed it: "Father, you've seen my bible, seen how most every line is highlighted with a bright color because the text spoke so deeply to me. Well, right now, I feel like pitching my bible through a window because none of that means anything to me anymore. What's wrong with me?"

The quick answer could have been: "God is wrong with you." I pointed him towards the experience of Teresa of Avila who, after a season of deep fervour in prayer, experienced 18 years of boredom and dryness. Today, I would have him read the journals of Mother Teresa who, like Teresa of Avila, after some initial fervour in prayer, experienced 60 years of dryness.

We nurse a naïve fantasy both about what constitutes praver and how we might sustain ourselves in it.

And what often lies at the centre of this misguided notion is the belief that prayer is always meant to be full of fervour, interesting, warm, carrying spiritual insight, and carrying the sense that we are actually praying.

Coupled with this notion is the equally misguided notion that the way to sustain feeling and fervour in prayer is through constant novelty and variety, or through dogged concentration.

Ron Rolheiser

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

Classical writers in spirituality assure us that, while this is often true during the early stages of our prayer lives, when we are neophytes at prayer and in the honeymoon stage of our spiritual lives, it becomes less and less true the deeper we advance in prayer and spirituality.

Much to the relief and consolation of anyone who has tried to sustain a prayer life over a long period of time, the great mystics tell us that once we are beyond the early, honeymoon stage of prayer, the single greatest obstacle to sustaining a life of prayer is simple boredom and the sense that nothing meaningful is happening.

But that doesn't mean that we are regressing in prayer. It often means the opposite.

Here's a canopy under which to pray even as we struggle with boredom and the sense that nothing meaningful is happening:

Imagine you have an aged mother who is confined to a retirement home.

You're the dutiful daughter or son and, every night after work, for one hour, you stop and spend time with her, helping her with her evening meal, sharing the events of the day, and simply being with her as her daughter or son.

I doubt that, save for a rare occasion, you will have many deeply emotive or even interesting conversations with her.

On the surface your visits will seem mostly routine, dry, and dutiful. Most days you will be talking about trivial, everyday things and you will be sneaking the occasional glance at the clock to see when your hour with her will be over.

However, if you persevere in these regular visits with her, month after month, year after year, among everyone in the whole world you will grow to know your mother the most deeply and she will grow to know you most deeply because, as the mystics affirm, at a certain deep level of relationship the real connection between us takes place below the surface of our conversations. We begin to know each other through simple presence.

You can recognize this in its opposite: Notice how your mother relates to your siblings who visit her only very occasionally.

During those rare, occasional visits there will be emotions, tears and conversations beyond the weather and the trivia of everyday life. But that's because your mother sees these others so rarely.

Prayer is the same. If we pray only occasionally, we might well experience some pretty deep emotions in our prayer.

However, if we pray faithfully every day, year in and year out, we can expect little excitement, lots of boredom, regular temptations to look at the clock during prayer ... but, a very deep, growing bond with our God.

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 is important. We speak to CWL member Alma Corkhill.

Alma loves lifetime in the kitchen

Catholic Women's League country region president Mrs Alma Corkhill has always found herself busy in the kitchen.

She entered her culinary creations in various shows during her youth and, once she was married, her five children ensured she had plenty of cooking to do.

"They'd come home from boarding school or university in the holidays and always bring friends with them to stay," Mrs Corkhill said. "One June long weekend I don't think I left the kitchen at all."

While living in Boorowa, her scones were always in high demand by visitors and tour groups who stopped in at the Arts Co-Op for Devonshire tea. And since moving to Crookwell, her popular recipes continue to get a work out.

Mrs Corkhill sells her cakes and slices at the weekly markets in the region, she caters for the Crookwell seniors' afternoon tea twice a month, and along with the parish's other CWL members, she provides food for local funerals.

While the markets help to provide a bit of extra income, Mrs Corkhill said her many cooking exploits really help her feel productive.

Simple Scones

(makes 8)

Ingredients 3 cups self raising flour

150ml cream, plus a little extra for basting

300ml water

- Method
- 1. Preheat oven to 220 degrees.
- bowl and stir into a crumbly mix.
- 3. Slowly add the water until it forms a workable dough.
- 4. Knead the dough on a floured board and then pat it down level.
- 5. Cut the dough into rounds and place them on a greased oven tray.
- 6. Brush the top of each scone with a little cream before putting them in the oven.
- 7. Cook for 15-20 minutes, until the scones have risen to the desired height.
- 8. Separate immediately and allow to cool on a wire rack. Cover them with a tea towel to keep in the steam. After 5-10 minutes they're ready to serve.

EAK HOU

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2. Combine flour and cream in a





Galong: it's in this Red's blood ...

• From Page 9.

Over his years at Galong, Fr Corbett came to love the bush and its people. "I realise the great contribution they make to the fabric of our nation," he said.

"The recent long drought years have shown me the extraordinary qualities that are in the hearts of the people of land. Against all odds, and even the loss of lifegiving crops, they are there next season ready to try again.

"I believe they are the true Aussie battlers and they have taught me so much about life and the qualities that make up the Australian character."

The needs of his congregation now take him away from the bush to the city.

"The Redemptorist Congregation, like so many others in the western world, is experiencing great diminishment and the effort to keep the ship afloat is requiring all hands to be on deck," he said.

"Sadly, there are no longer willing recruits to join the fray and old hands are being recalled to roles in leadership.

"While it was not the ideal time to leave, I believe Galong is in a position to find its own way into the future as a modern retreat and conference centre now very much in lay hands.

"Religious schools, hospitals and retreat centres have had to undergo a handing over of a spirit and way of life to new and competent lay people - I believe this is very much a movement of the Spirit."

Not that Fr Corbett is exactly leaving Galong for good.

"Some are calling this a Clayton's move as I will remain on the board of directors and the management committee, and I will also be part of the retreat team in 2012," he said. "However, I have a new address and a new role in Sydney."



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films

Tried and true romantic comedy

Chalet Girl. Starring Felicity Jones, Ed Westwick, Tamsin Egerton, Bill Nighy, Brooke Shields, Bill Bailey, Tamsin Egerton and Sophia Bush. Directed by Phil Traill. 97 minutes. PG (Mild sexual references and coarse language). Reviewer: Fr Peter Malone MSC*.

It was a bit of a shock to realise that this was a British film – having assumed it was American. It does sound like one of those American films about young people, a junior romantic comedy. In fact, it is very much like that in plot and types of characters. However, there is a bit more of British edge and some comic touches about it that puts it a notch or two above its US equivalents.

The film is also absolutely formulaic – or predictable. But, the formula is tried and true: young girl from the wrong side of the tracks (actually, here from a working-class part of London) stuck in a dead-end, fast-food outlet job, but with a skill that is going to come in more than handy when a competition arises, dead mother, old codger father (a sympathetic Bill Bailey), a chance for a job at a chalet in the Austrian Alps among the posh and snobbish, a romance with the son and heir, some deception, frustration, temptation to give up, a chance because of a generous gesture, victory, and having it all.

Perhaps that spoils it by outlining the plot, but once it starts, that is what you would be expecting anyway.



Felicity Jones ... on side right from the start.

Because Felicity Jones is a perky, common-sensed and interestingly attractive actress, we are on side right from the start.

And, talk about product placement, not just the Tesco bags which do appear, but Austria itself. It looks beautiful, the mountains and snow glittering, the comfortable chalet, the chair lifts and the slopes – plenty of Austria and I wouldn't be surprised if many in the audience decided they must go there and take up skiing or snowboarding.

The leading man is Ed Westwick, one of those heartthrobs in the Robert Pattinson vein. He could actually pass for Robert Pattinson's brother. His parents are played by Brooke Shields being haughty and mean and Bill Nighy being surprisingly ordinary and nice.

Our heroine makes some bad judgments despite her common sense, gets tangled in a relationship that she should have given far more thought to. But, learning one's lessons and finding true love, which means commitment, is what most romantic comedies are about.

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

Absurd Mr Bean makes a clever James Bond

Johnny English Reborn. Starring: Rowan Atkinson, Rosamund Pike, Gillian Andersen, and Daniel Kaluuya. Directed by Oliver Parker. 101 minutes. PG (Mild action violence). Reviewer: Peter W Sheehan*

Johnny English (Rowan Atkinson) returns in this movie to pit his skills against international assassins, who are plotting to murder the Premier of China with the aid of a mind-control drug that routinely programs anyone to kill.

He has been mothballed for incompetency, and cast out to a Tibetan Buddhist monastery to learn the secrets of self-control, but has another chance to redeem himself and make up for past mistakes.

His job is to get to the assassins before they create global chaos, and he has every gadget imaginable to help him. Along the way, he needs to tackle also the conspiracy that permeates MI-7. It is not the spy agency it used to be.

A sequel to Johnny English (2003), it has a less absurd plot, focuses more pointedly on its thriller potential and uses elaborate stunts with explosions to match. It also uses a rich array of exotic locations, including London, the mountains of Switzerland, Macau and Hong Kong, but basically still relies on the considerable comic skills of Atkinson.

He is a gifted comedian, who roleplays people who typically have delusions of grandeur. He is extremely adept at making his characters look awkward. Forever unable to live up to their own expectations, they misidentify, make awful judgements about the wrong person, create havoc with their mistakes, and all the while are blissfully innocent of what they are doing, or what is happening around them.

The film parodies the James Bond secret agent series, and plays close to the cuff of the Bond genre by including a substantial number of its familiar plot elements.

Some of Atkinson's comedy routines pay off, such as the chase along the streets of London while he drives a wheelchair, which cleverly parodies the proverbial car chase sequences in modern action films. Atkinson is best, however, trying to cope with the absurdities of being an awkward person, and the film frequently slips into trading parody for clumsy slapstick.

Those who are addicts of the antics of the embarrassed Mr Bean will appreciate the special genius of Rowan Atkinson. As a cross between Maxwell Smart and Mr Bean, Rowan Atkinson in this film pushes the character of James Bond one fanciful notch further as Johnny English.

Being a little older, he plays James Bond with comic-serious flair this time around, and the movie is entertaining, but it never quite dramatically establishes a highly original comic character that may yet be born again.

* Peter W Sheehan is an associate of the Australian Catholic Office for Film and Broadcasting.



The Help. Starring Emma Stone, Viola Davis, Bryce Dallas Howard and Jessica Chastain. Directed by Tate Taylor. 146 minutes. M (Mature themes).

It's not quite accurate to say that one will enjoy The Help. Actually, one might be squirming in one's seat at times – for the right reasons. This is about American racism, as late as 1967. It works very well in dramatising issues from the past which need to be remembered and repented of, a warning that racism is often virulent just under the surface.

Zookeeper. Starring Kevin James, Rosario Dawson and Leslie Bibb. Directed by Franki Coraci. 102 minutes. PG (Mild crude humour).

Older grandparents will remember the Francis the Talking Mule movies of the 1950s. Younger grandparents may remember Doctor Doolittle's song, Talk to the Animals. Parents will remember all kinds of talking animals on the large and small screen. Here's another one. The littlest children may find the animals funny, parents could enjoy it, but it is fairly basic comedy.

books

God talks to Lighting candle amid negativity his people

The Consuming Fire. A Christian Guide to the Old Testament. (updated and revised.) By Michael W Duggan. Our Sunday Visitor Inc. 2010. PB, 686 pp, \$43.95. Reviewer: Margaret Ryan.

What's your record for a long conversation? Duggan sees the Old Testament (Hebrew scriptures) as God's conversation with his people, via prophets, poets, priests, singers, editors, lasting well over a millennium. The scriptural texts (46 for Catholics) include stories, history, poetry

and wisdom writings. How to begin to unravel all this?

Michael Duggan is associate professor of theology and religious studies at St Mary's University College in Calgary, Canada: a highly qualified lecturer and author.

Duggan presumes readers have under-

taken no systematic study of the scriptures. Introductory chapters provide an explanation of traditional ways of describing the biblical books, biblical history and geography and how the bible developed.

This context then allows readers to understand the times the events occurred and the period when the inspired author wrote about the events, so they can better grasp the implications for lives today.

The author comments on each book in bitesized chunks, provides a summary of the book's structure, connects the text with parts of the New Testament (Christian scriptures) and encourages a prayerful reading (lectio divina) of specific passages.

This text is an updated version of one written 20 years ago. He rewrote 15 chapters and portions of other chapters in light of his reading, particularly from that in "The Anchor Bible Dictionary". There are no footnotes but a bibliography for each chapter is provided, as are regular cross-references to other biblical books.

The book's title captures not only the passionate nature of God's love for us, but something of Duggan's passion for the scriptures and his desire to make the O T texts as accessible as possible. It is written as a reference book, and could be a self-education tool for personal or group study. The nine pages of coloured maps could greatly assist such a project. It's informative, thorough and connects faith and life.



The Gratitude Factor: **Enhancing Your Life through** Grateful Living. By Charles Shelton PhD. Hidden Μ Spring, 2010, 184 pages. \$29.95.

The Grateful Heart: Living the Christian Message. By Wilkie Au and Noreen Cannon Au. Paulist Press,2011, 239 pages, \$29.95. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.

Some years ago, when the going got very tough for a while, I received some sound advice on how to cope. Every night, before bed, write down five things that had happened to me during that day for which I was grateful. So I did. And, thank God, this strategy worked.

Good old Ignatius of Loyola recognised and emphasised the value of gratitude in Christian living. One of his Jesuit sons, Charles M Shelton, a professor and licensed psychologist, has written his sixth book expanding and illuminating Ignatian thought from his own disciplinary perspective.

In The Gratitude Factor he offers a critique of gratitude explaining its various types. Based on his own research, which draws on his clinical experience and on the wisdom of his fellow Jesuits, Shelton has crafted exercises, strategies and reflection questions encouraging readers to cultivate this virtue for their own wellbeing. By the way, recording

Meet true face of humanity

Faces of Christ. By Jane Williams. Lion Hudson, 2011, 125pp, \$24.99. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.

In these days of screens and iPods it remains a delight to hold a beautiful book in one's hands. Faces of Christ contains carefully chosen plates

of paintings from different eras and cultures.

Williams says that she is not an artist or art historian but a Christian theologian. She is committed to Christology, the study of the person and work of Jesus Christ.

She describes Jesus' face as the true face of humanity. Through art we can perceive and emulate his idealised humanity. Our own actualised humanity is given ultimate dignity and importance by Jesus' sharing in it.

The eight chapters of this little book follow the life of Christ, as seen through the Gospel accounts, from the Annunciation to Pentecost. The accompanying texts draw us in to examine the paintings prayerfully and meditatively, leading us to a deeper understanding of the life and message of Jesus. The experience is not dissimilar to pondering and wandering through a cathedral with its centuries-old stained glass windows.

I have met Williams' writing before through her book Angels. Her latest one is a gem. Not all books with shiny gold titles are throw-away reading. This one certainly is not.



The

Factor

Enhancing Your Life

through Grateful Living

CHARLES M. SHELTON

daily is one of them.

ters systematically.

true gratitude.

gratitude.

torted.

five positive happenings

sense of gratitude, Shelton

believes, we are led to see that

all is gift and all is graced.

By consciously fostering a

Shelton orders his chap-

He begins by defining

what gratitude is, then he

explores and gives tech-

niques on how to grow in

and visual aids to illustrate

his points. He also unlocks

different types of quasi-

gratitude and even harmful

goodness is ignored or dis-

focused meditation on the

Grateful Jesus, starting with

Jesus' upbringing in Jewish

considered the significance

of what a 'grateful Jesus'

does for our spiritual lives?"

He asks, "Have we ever

culture and tradition.

We learn that in these,

Finally, Shelton gives a

There are simple graphs

Big question, complex answer.

The Gratitude Factor is eminently suitable for study groups, for retreatants and for individual readers.

It lights a candle in the darkness of doubt and negativity and unlocks in us the sense of our own goodness. And that just has to be a gift.

Coincidently another book on gratitude has also been released this year.

The latest in the "Heart" series by Wilkie Au, this one, co-written with Noreen Cannon Au, is titled The Grateful Heart.

The question that lies at the heart of this book is "how can we foster a disposition of gratitude that can be sustained throughout the seasons of our life?"

We learn that living with an abiding stance of gratefulness is profoundly different to feeling thankful when something good happens. Christian spirituality fosters gratitude because this is linked to personal wellbeing which moves us to generosity in serving others. The authors are steeped

in Ignatian spirituality. Wilkie is a professor of theological studies and Noreen is a practising Jungian analyst.

They have a unique position on which to base their observations and advice.

They counsel a change in perspective in order to see ordinary blessings that we can overlook.

They quote, "Being grateful is a state; thanking is an action."

They mention the value of ritual, for example saying grace might well be expanded to cover other events of the day.

The writers state that gratitude is the central motif of the spiritual exercises of St Ignatius.

They furnish us with the bones of these exercises through their recounting the experience of a dying friend. They recommend writing a Grateful Testament of Your Life as part of a life review. This is on my list.

These two important books on gratitude have the same theme while differing in presentation. Both have their value. I have been enriched by their wise and compassionate analysis of this great virtue.

I have also been affirmed in my conviction that a spirit of gratitude becomes more ingrained as one ages gracefully. Quite a plus really.



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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

Prayers

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, PS and TP. Petitions gained after saying this prayer.

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 thy 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.

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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; activities on second and fourth weekends. 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.

DINNER DANCE - 10th anniversary event to raise funds for FEPCOW charity project in Sri Lanka, Philippines and PNG. 7pm-midnight, Saturday, 15 October, Italo/ Australian Club, Forrest. Tickets, inquiries: Eric, telephone 6254 9924, Ted 6254 1919, Margaret 6254 4048. www.fepcow.org

GUNNING PARISH ART SHOW Opening supper 7.30pm, Friday, 7 October, 10am-4pm, 8 and 9 October, art for sale, Devonshire teas, light lunches. Inquiries: Maureen Hewitt, telephone 48451308

HOLY SPIRIT SECULAR FRANCISCAN FRATERNITY - Third Friday of month, 7.30pm, St John Vianney's, Waramanga. Secular Franciscans follow Christ in footsteps of St Francis. Inquiries: Frank Farrell, telephone 6258 7645 or 0400 793 260.

LADIES CURSILLO - Thursday, 27 October, to Sunday, 30 October, St Clement's Monastery, Galong. If you would like to come along, contact Sharron Coleman, telephone 6973 9460, e-mail sharron-coleman@hotmail.com.

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

MINISTRY to the NEWLY MARRIED -Mentoring program for newly married couples, just married or soon to be married. Next program starts February 2012. Inquiries: Vivien and Leigh and Debbie and Brian 6231 3389 (h) or 0414 878 167, e-mail: mnm@grapevine.com.au.

MOTHERS PRAYERS - National Day of Prayer, 1.30pm-4.30pm, Saturday, 29 October, Holy Trinity Church, Strangways

Street, Curtin. Pray for mothers and children. Inquiries: Anne, telephone 6282 0874.

PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUP - Meets second Friday of the month after 5.30 pm Healing Mass, parish centre St Benedict's Church, Narrabundah Inquiries: Maria, telephone 6286 5679.

PALMS 50th BIRTHDAY DINNER -7pm, 22 October, Ryde-Eastwood Leagues Club, 117 Ryedale Road, West Ryde. For volunteers, friends and supporters of Palms. Inquiries: Telephone 9518 9551, or register online www.palms.org.au/news/50th-anniversary-dinner-22-oct-2011/

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

PUBLIC FORUM - Christians for an Ethical Society forum, 7.30pm, 25 November, Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, Barton. Guest speaker Prof Peter Newman, head of Curtin University Sustainability Policy Institute.

REUNION - Ex-students of Sisters of St Joseph at Temora, 15 October. Inquiries: M Mooney, telephone 6978 0740.

REUNION LUNCH - St Bernard's School, Batemans Bay, from 11am, Sunday, 20 November. Celebrating 75 years of St Joseph's School and St Bernard's School. Thanksgiving Mass 9am, followed by morning tea. Inquiries: Maureen Kinross (Devine), telephone 44721282, e-mail mjk187@bigpond.com.au.

SERRA CLUB OF CANBERRA - Rosary and Mass at Holy Trinity Church, Curtin, 6.10pm, Thursday, 6 October, then dinner at The Southern Cross Club, Woden. Inquiries: John Malycha, telephone 6251 2912.

MARRIAGE WORLDWIDE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND - For married couples, 21-23 October, Edmund Rice Centre, Douglas Park, NSW. Bookings: Telephone 4283 3435 or www.wwme.org.au.

Written entries are invited for the November issue to: Catholic Voice, GPO Box 3089, Canberra ACT 2601, or e-mail ed. voice@cg.catholic.org.au by Monday, 17 October. Entries accepted are free.

Sponsored by Catholic Development Fund Ph: 6201 9870 Email: cdf@cg.catholic.org.au

Wed 60 years ago



Canberra couple Mr and Mrs Les and Josie Collier celebrated 60 years of marriage on 22 September. They are pictured on their wedding day in 1951, after being married in St Christopher's Cathedral. The couple began their life together in Harden, where Mr Collier was born. They then moved to Canberra in 1969, where they have lived ever since. The Colliers celebrated their diamond jubilee with their family, which includes 11 children, 27 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Remembering those lost

The 16th annual remembrance ceremony for those who have lost their lives to illicit drugs will be held at 12.30pm on Monday, 17 October. The memorial site is on Weston Park Road, Yarralumla, opposite the junction with Prescott Lane. Refreshments will be served. Anyone who would like a loved one remembered at the ceremony, contact Marion, telephone 6254 2961, e-mail mcconnell@ffdlr.org.au.

Sports celebrity dinner

groups to benefit from a national sports celebrity dinner to be held in Canberra next month. Wallaby and author Peter Fitzsimons, AFL player Jason Dunstall and Olympic swimmer Nicole Livingston will be among the guests. Organised by the Marist College Canberra Old Boys Association, the dinner will be held on 5 November at the Southern Cross Club, Woden.





Liardet Street, Weston Phone 6287 3466



Pre-paid funerals available www.toscandinn.com.au

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

The team for the next western deanery women's Cursillo is in training. The Cursillo will be held from 27 to 30 October at St Clement's Monastery, Galong.

"Cursillo is a wonderful and life changing experience," lay director Sharron Coleman said. Anyone who would like to seek the presence of God in a deeper way is invited to attend. Contact Sharron, telephone 6973 9460, e-mail sharron-coleman@





At team training at Temora were (from left) back: Fr Allen Crowe, Annie Liddle, Beverley Dunn, Anne Morton, Toots Noack, Jan Wright and Sue Heggaton. Front: Sharron Coleman, Renae Wiencke, Jeanne Montgomery and Janice Mc Cormack.





This month's mission theme and appeal highlights the need of all people of belief to contribute and be joyfully heard to make the Church fully the Church Jesus desires, especially the voices of indigenous peoples and their communities. A point emphasised by Pope John Paul II when in Australia

in 1986. The theme 'Hear my voice ... believe' conveys the universal mission of the Church, which Pope Benedict XVI reminds us in his 2011 Mission Sunday message "... involves everyone, everything and always ... good news to be passed on to others." Passed on by all the baptised whose voices need hearing by others within their local communities and the Church globally.

Indigenous voices may struggle to be heard globally but are most effective locally in faith development and mission activity. Catholic Mission, and the generosity of those who give, enables support that train future indigenous leaders such as catechists and contributes towards the means to feed their faith and outreach to the wider community.

God bless. **Deacon Joe** Blackwell

The Rheinberger Centre, P O Box 7174, Yarralumla 2600. asst.missions@cg.catholic. org.au.

Tel: 6163 4321.

CATHOLIC VOICE October 2011 - 19

School captain opens doors to dialogue

Adam Refki's role as this year's St Mary MacKillop College captain has provided the school with more than just a student leader; it's been an unprecedented opportunity for interfaith dialogue.

As a practicing Muslim, Adam is the college's first non-Christian captain committed to another faith something principal Mr Michael Lee said had been a fantastic opportunity.

"We're a Catholic school for all, not a school only for Catholics," he said. "A significant percentage of our enrolments are non-Catholics and I think Adam's appointment has been comforting for those many families who want a Catholic education for their children but aren't Catholic.

"Adam has given us the opportunity to prove our integrity.'

When Adam first considered standing for captain, he never really thought his religion would be an issue. He had been school captain at St Thomas the Apostle Primary School, Kambah, and while taking on the job at a school the size of MacKillop would be a much bigger challenge, he was sure it was something he could do well.

Staff and students obviously agreed, as they voted him in to the top job.

Adam said he was always happy to talk about his faith with curious students. Having learnt so much about Catholicism by attending Catholic schools, he said it was only fair he share his knowledge of Islam.

By taking on the prominent role of school captain, that interfaith dialogue has been able to continue further

religions is often limited to what we Islam." see in the media, and those reports are almost always negative," he said. served MacKillop as an excellent



shown me how open and accepting Catholics can be. So now when I read those negative articles I stop and think, 'I wonder what the other side of the story is?'. Hopefully I've 'Our understanding of different given others a different view of

Mr Lee said Adam had not only "My experience at MacKillop has school captain, but his appointment had also demonstrated that "a good ABOVE: St Mary Catholic school has room for everyone". As a school founded on the captain Adam Refki tradition of St Mary MacKillop, a woman who dedicated her life to fellow student providing Catholic education to all Daniel Wilson. and who worked closely with people of other faiths, Mr Lee said Adam's appointment continued that tradition very well.

MacKillop College (right) chats with



'Indelible' part of our history

After more than two decades of service to the Archdiocese in education and spiritual formation, Mercy Sister Barbara Murray is retiring.

Archbishop Mark Coleridge praised her for her unique contribution to the story of the Archdiocese as tributes were paid to her at a farewell morning tea at Archbishop's House.

"She is indelibly part of the history of the Archdiocese," he said.

In a message read to the gathering, Emeritus Archbishop Francis Carroll thanked her for her friendship, support and close co-operation over many years.

He said she had made a "major contribution as a Sister of Mercy to the life and mission of the Church.

She has shown dedication and given leadership in a number of areas - school education, adult education and spiritual formation - in two local churches of Wagga and Canberra and Goulburn.

"I have known her as a trusted collaborator on diocesan education commissions, diocesan pastoral councils and a companion on two synodal journeys."

Director of pastoral support services Mr Shawn van der Linden said Sr Barbara had been "a treasure" to E-mail ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au



Archbishop Mark Coleridge presents a bone china tea set to Sr Barbara Murray as part of her farewell gift.

> all working at the Rheinberger Centre

> "She was the face of Christ to us in so many ways, seeing the positive in all things," he said.

> Sr Barbara said her work in the Archdiocese had been "a wonderful experience.

> "I was happy as a teacher, but this has been more than happiness."

> She recalled asking Archbishop Carroll "would you have a job for me", and was invited to join a new pastoral planning committee which had a charter to put into practice the recommendations of the 1989 Synod.

> This led to committee secretary Mr Ken Hutchings and Sr Barbara taking to the road for many trips to parishes across the Archdiocese.

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