



Meet our college  
leaders - middle pages

FREE

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## Students plan year with a difference



While her classmates prepare for their first year of university, former Merici College student Rachel Sheville is taking on a journey of a very different kind. She is one of many on an adventure. - Page 5.



## At 109, prayer is still food for thought

On her 109th birthday, Sr. Madeleine Lawrence (pictured left) began her morning no differently to any other: with prayer and Mass. The day wasn't entirely typical though. Sr. Madeleine received letters from the Queen, the Prime Minister and the Governor General to mark the occasion. Born in Victoria in 1902, Sr. Madeleine joined the Sisters of Mercy when she was 17. Her decision to join was influenced by a priest she met when she was a young girl. Sr. Madeleine taught in schools and orphanages in many areas including Goulburn, Galong and Jerilderie. She keeps in touch with many of her students. "They write me letters and I always write back," she said. "Last week a group of them who were at the orphanage came down from Sydney to visit me and to wish me well for my birthday; most of them are in their 70s now. ● Cont page 12.

# A landmark year

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn dating back to the formal establishment of the then Goulburn Diocese in November 1862. A committee has been set up to plan celebrations across the Archdiocese. The landmark year also marks the 50th anniversary of what came to be known as "the Goulburn strike" when a dispute with the government led to the temporary closing of the Catholic school. Many see it as the catalyst for the introduction of state aid for Catholic schools. Australia's bishops have called Catholics to celebrate a Year of Grace starting at Pentecost, and Pope Benedict XVI has proclaimed a Year of Faith for the universal Church starting in October and mark-

ing the 50th anniversary of the opening of Vatican II. "Twelve months may not be quite enough for all that next year holds," Archbishop Mark Coleridge said. "But the Christian life is always much more than the great events and celebrations. At its heart there lies the much humbler day-to-day stuff of faith lived in the family and in the parish. "All of this will be gathered up and celebrated in the many occasions that 2012 will bring, so that these occasions can make the living of faith in the family and the parish a still deeper and richer experience of the encounter with Christ, which alone can make us the more missionary Church we need to become at this time." In reflecting on the establishment of the Goulburn

Diocese, Archbishop Coleridge said it took authorities five years to find a first bishop. "The first man chosen, Patrick Bonaventure Geoghegan, was an Irish Franciscan who had been the pioneer priest of Melbourne before being appointed Bishop of Adelaide," he said. "He was eventually promoted to Goulburn, but died in Dublin before he could take possession of the See. The second man they asked was an Irish priest working in the region, and he simply said no. "Eventually they settled upon another Irishman working in the region, William Lanigan, and he said yes, serving as first Bishop from 1867 to 1900. "In 1948, the Diocese of Goulburn became the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn, though Archbishop

Maguire never moved from Goulburn. It was his successor, Archbishop Eris O'Brien, who moved to Canberra and Archbishop Thomas Cahill who later moved the Cathedral to Canberra." Referring to "the Goulburn strike", he said the Catholic primary school in Goulburn was told at the time by authorities to renovate a dilapidated toilet block but protested that it had no money to do so. "They were then told that no money would be coming from the government and that they simply had to find the money," he said. "This prompted the bold decision to close the Catholic school and send all the children for enrolment at the local Government school. This embarrassed the Government and, some would say, opened

the way to State aid for Catholic schools. "However one interprets it, 'the Goulburn strike' was a memorable event worth pondering 50 years on when school funding is being reviewed. "I might add that the dilapidated toilet block still stands and may need some suitable plaque half a century later." On a national level, the bishops have summoned all Australian Catholics to celebrate a Year of Grace from Pentecost 2012 to Pentecost 2013. "This will be like a year-long retreat when we all have a chance 'to start afresh from Christ', contemplating his face and listening to his voice in a way that stirs new confidence and energy among us," he said. ● Cont Page 19.



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## what do you know?

1. What in the Vinnies doorknock appeal target this year?
2. Who is standing down after 30 years service to Temora and district?
3. Why is Sr Madeleine Lawrence in the news?
4. Artist Don Gallagher has just retired from which Canberra college?
5. How long was Bob Wilson chief executive of Vinnies?
6. What begins on 22 February?

Answers bottom Page 4.

## College honours former pope

The new Catholic secondary college in Gungahlin will be named John Paul College.

The recommendation by the Catholic Education Commission to Archbishop Mark Coleridge to honour the former Pope was accepted as a timely reminder of Blessed John Paul's work for the Church, dedication to all people of faith and the inspiration he was and continues to be for the youth of the Church.

The decision to name the college came after consultation between representatives of the Holy Spirit Parish, Gungahlin, Good Shepherd Primary School, Amaroo, Mother Teresa Primary School, Harrison, Holy Spirit Primary School, Nicholls, and the Catholic Education Office.

Blessed John Paul's feast day, 22 October, will be an important day of celebration for the new college, which will be built at

Throsby. The name will have important links to the associated campus schools Good Shepherd and Mother Teresa.

"Blessed John Paul was a close friend of Mother Teresa and both are seen to be "good shepherds" in the way they ministered in the world," Archbishop Coleridge said.

John Paul's ecumenical work, his inclusive approach as Pope, his work for social justice and solidarity and the establishment of World Youth Day, would all be aspects of his life that would shape the spirit and culture of John Paul College.

The college will open next year in a temporary location at Mother Teresa Primary School, Harrison. Work is expected to begin as soon as possible on the Throsby site, and year 7 and 8 students will move in in 2014.

## Priest had 'best of qualities'



Fr Ron Flack

Archdiocesan priest Fr Ron Flack, who was a heart transplant recipient about 20 years ago, has died in Clare Holland House, Canberra.

Fr Flack, who was 74, died just six months short of his golden jubilee as a priest.

In his homily at the funeral Mass, Bishop Pat Power said when he is asked what is needed in a good priest, he suggests three basic qualities: "that he be a decent well-grounded human being, that he have a warm pastoral heart and that he have a loving relationship with the Lord."

"All of us recognise the best of those qualities in the life and ministry of Fr Ron Flack."

St Christopher's Cathedral was packed for the funeral Mass.

Fr Flack, who struggled with ill health for a number of years, is survived by his older sister Mary; siblings Joan, Colin, Bernie and Paul predeceased him. Mary is the mother of Fr Frey.

He is also survived by his former housekeeper and best friend Frances Smyth.

Fr Flack was born in Goulburn in 1937, did most of his schooling there before entering St Columba's and later St Patrick's seminaries.

He was ordained on 21 July, 1962, in Sts Peter and Paul's, Goulburn, by Archbishop Eris O'Brien.

Fr Flack served as assistant priest at Young from 1963 to 1967 before coming to the Cathedral and taking on the role as secretary to Archbishop Thomas Cahill until 1975.

He was appointed parish priest of St John Vianney Parish, Waramanga, in August 1975, succeeding Fr Timothy O'Donoghue, the first pastor of Waramanga.

He went on to be parish priest of Curtin from 1986 to 1992, administrator and later moderator of Bungendore from 1993 to 2003.

He celebrated weekend Mass at Braidwood and Bungendore from 2003 to 2008.

## From near and far Support for parishes

With more than 10 years experience working in parish offices, Mrs Deb Foote (right) has been appointed as the Archdiocese's first parish support manager.



Mrs Foote will provide support and training to parish offices on new database and software systems.

She has lived in Canberra all her life, and has previously worked as an office secretary for St Benedict's Parish, Narrabundah, and the then St Francis of Assisi Parish, Calwell.

She said this background knowledge would be beneficial. "Since I know a lot of people in parish offices from my previous work, we've got a great network already," she said. "I also have an understanding of the pressure and constraints of the parish office."

## New women's director

Canberra educator Ms Donella Johnston (right) has been appointed director of the Office for the Participation of Women and executive secretary to the Bishops' Commission for Church Ministry.




The position was designed by the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference more than 10 years ago to foster the participation of women in the Church.

Ms Johnston worked as religious education coordinator at St Francis Xavier Catholic College in Florey, and has been a member of archdiocesan commissions. She holds a Masters in Religious Education from the Australian Catholic University.



Ms Johnston said Jesus' simple Gospel message of unconditional love underlaid her work ethos.

## Archbishop's new role

Archbishop Mark Coleridge has been appointed a member of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications. The council looks at how the Gospel might be proclaimed in the vast and complex world of social communications. Archbishop Coleridge is also a member of the Pontifical Council for Culture which addresses the question of the interaction between the Gospel and human cultures.



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# Vinnies doorknock targets \$300,000

Nearly 25,000 families and individuals in Canberra and Queanbeyan were helped by the St Vincent de Paul Society last year.

With demand for its service ever-increasing, the society is hoping to raise \$300,000 in its annual doorknock appeal this month.

President of the society's Canberra-Goulburn central council Mr Evan Brett said over the past few years, members and volunteers had received an increase in demand for help after the festive season.

"Money raised from the doorknock covers the provision of food, emergency accommodation, clothing, school fees, medical costs and other financial assistance that helps lessen the burden for those we assist," he said.

"The appeal is a very important part of the society's fundraising efforts and enables volunteers and staff to assist the less fortunate of our community.

"Our biggest challenge each year is getting to the doors of thousands of people in Canberra who are willing to give generously. This year we need more volunteers than ever to get to these homes we need to call on to reach our \$300,000 target."

Mr Brett said a common theme members and volunteers found in the past year was the complexity of problems facing disadvantaged people. "The value of

assistance required to address these problems has increased significantly," he said.

"It illustrates that more and more disadvantaged people are becoming trapped in the systemic poverty cycle; a condition that once entered is very hard to leave."

In Canberra and Queanbeyan in 2010-11:

- 24,992 families and individuals were helped by the St Vincent de Paul Society

- \$526,377 was spent on providing food to people in need

- \$288,205 was spent on other costs to help alleviate their burden, including utility bills, mortgage/rent payments, and medical costs.

Mr Brett said there were at least five good reasons to support the doorknock appeal.

- You'll be raising money for families and people who need it most

- Doorknocking is a great activity to do with family and friends

- You can collect money in your street or suburb on any day in February

- Doorknocking can be great exercise.

- In just one hour, you could collect hundreds of dollars for those in need.

To volunteer or donate, go to [vinnies-doorknock.org.au](http://vinnies-doorknock.org.au).

Moving from India to be a deacon in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn was "God's call" for Joshy Kurien.

Deacon Kurien, who is from Kerala in south-west India, arrived in Canberra in December 2010 after receiving an invitation from Archbishop Mark Coleridge to see first-hand the culture of the Archdiocese.

"I initially heard about the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn through other priests within that Archdiocese who spent some time working in India," he said.

"After I completed my training and formation in India, I sent Archbishop Coleridge a letter, introducing myself and telling him of my aspirations.

"The Archbishop invited me to come and see the Archdiocese in my preparations to become a deacon, and if I liked it, maybe I could stay and work here. I believe this invitation to come here was God's call, so I knew I had to stay."

Raised in a family with strong Catholic faith, Deacon Kurien says his parents supported his aspirations and the move overseas. "They understand this is a genuine call, so they are so happy for me," he said.

After arriving in Canberra, Deacon Kurien went to parishes in Canberra,

## 'God's call' to a new home and culture



Deacon Joshy Kurien is ordained by Archbishop Mark Coleridge in St Christopher's Cathedral.

Aranda, Batemans Bay and Moruya, "and that gave me a good taste of this Archdiocese," he said. "It helped me realise I am at home here."

Deacon Kurien says he has easily adapted to the religious and cultural differences. "I enjoy the differences and welcome any challenges," he said.

"In India we have got packed churches, but I appreciate the genuine concern of those people living the faith here."

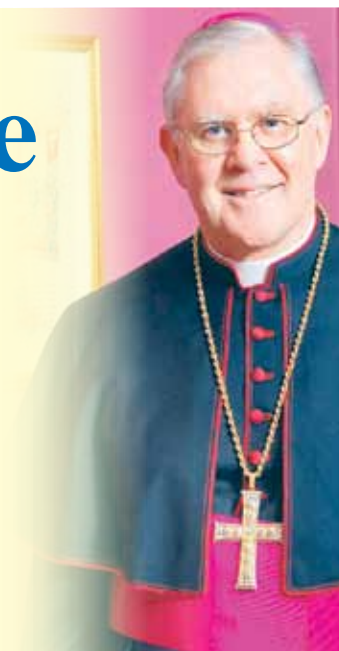
Deacon Kurien is working in South Tuggeranong parish. "I think the rest of my life will be in this Archdiocese," he said.

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# The dialogue between Church and media



the Holy See or the Church is doing here and there.

It is more about a larger engagement which makes a dialogue of cultures possible and which ensures that we don't just talk to ourselves or to the converted but with those who may be uninterested or unsympathetic.

One of the other bishops appointed to the Council with me is Archbishop Rino Fisichella, who is President of the recently established Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelisation.

His appointment is no accident. It signals that the work of the Council for Social Communications is part of the Church's grappling with the question of how to proclaim the Gospel in new ways in the cultures, old and new, of this time.

This will be the theme of the Synod of Bishops in October, and it is a theme which must be woven into the work of all the agencies, not only of the Holy See but of the dioceses and parishes of the world.

My membership of the Council for Social Communications will mean more meetings in Rome and that will mean more time out of the Archdiocese.

But my hope is that the work of the Council will feed quite directly into the life of the Archdiocese at a time when we, too, are grappling with the question of how we might make more effective use of the means of social communication in all their variety to build up the Body of Christ and to proclaim the Gospel far and wide.

This was something that emerged at the Archdiocesan Assembly, and it's something that will be high on our agenda in 2012 and beyond.

*Mark Coleridge*

stand Vatican culture, then take media culture and profile its exact opposite.

Media culture looks for personality, celebrity, where Vatican culture favours a kind of self-effacement, even anonymity.

Media culture tends to think that journalists, bloggers et al have a God-given right to know everything about everything and everyone; Vatican culture by contrast tends to think that at times a certain discretion or reticence serves better, or is even demanded by charity.

Media culture likes to sensationalise, but Vatican culture tends to downplay anything that might look sensational, preferring to maintain an at-times Olympian calm.

Media culture revels in conflict, where Vatican culture tends to minimise conflict and present an unruffled visage.

Media culture prefers the instantaneous, favouring a kind of throw-away culture, but Vatican culture prefers the long haul and throws nothing away, as the Vatican archive well demonstrates.

Media culture is obsessed with meeting deadlines, where Vatican

culture has a more relaxed view of when things should be ready, even if the Holy See can move like lightning when it has to.

Media culture, at least in countries like this, has an essentially secularist view of the world, but the Vatican's view of the world has God at its heart; and this has all kinds of implications for an understanding of the human person and what makes for the flourishing of human society. And so the list of contrasts could go on.

But the point is clear: media culture and Church culture are different. And this can lead at times to mutual misunderstanding and distrust which serves the interests of neither and no-one.

The challenge is to identify and respect the difference and to engage in a dialogue which might be mutually enriching.

That is the kind of challenge taken up by the Pontifical Council for Social Communications.

It goes far beyond telecasts of papal events and the like, which are part of what the Council does.

It is not enough simply to report to those interested what the Pope or

## FEBRUARY DIARY

<b>Archbishop Mark Coleridge</b>	16-17 Post-Synod Council meeting
2 Liturgical Commission meeting	23 Good Shepherd seminary talk
7 Opening of Parliament, St Paul's, Manuka	24 St Mary MacKillop College opening Mass
9 Ordination new Bishop of Armidale Michael Kennedy	26 RCIA enrolment Mass, Cathedral
10 Farewell Mass, dinner Fr Phil Harding, Temora	<b>Bishop Pat Power</b>
13 Opening joint ACU Calvary Clinical School	1-22 Annual leave
	23-29 International conference on Jerusalem in Doha, Qatar

## Temora hails priest's 30 years of service

When parish priest Fr Phil Harding stood down last month it brought to a close 30 years of service by the much-loved pastor to the people of Temora and district.

He will stay in Temora, where he has bought a small home, and will support the incoming parish priest.

Fr Simon Falk has been appointed parish priest of Temora and co-ordinator of the Temora Mission after the division of the Western Mission into the West Wyalong and Temora missions.

A function to mark his changed role will take place on Friday, 10 February, starting with concelebrated Mass at 6 pm in Sacred Heart Church, Temora, at which Archbishop Coleridge will preside. The Mass will be followed by dinner at the Temora Ex-services Memorial Club at 7.30pm. The parish pastoral

council invites Fr Harding's many friends to attend.

Anyone wanting to attend the dinner should contact Mrs Margaret Sleight, telephone 6978 1260. Tickets cost \$30.

A parish barbecue will be held at noon on Sunday, 12 February.

In paying tribute, Archbishop Coleridge said Fr Harding would continue his priestly work as his health permits. He praised Fr Harding's great pastoral work, serving all in need.

Fr Phil, as he is known by everyone in the area, developed a strong reputation for his work in the local hospital and parish school.

Deputy Mayor Cr Ric Firman said he was attentive to all patients



and staff at Temora and District Hospital on his frequent visits, and that his reputation for pastoral work would live on for a long time.

"I am delighted that his new role will enable him to continue this greatly appreciated service," Cr Firman said.

New principal at St Anne's Central School Mr David Keenan spoke highly of Fr Harding's commitment to the school.

"Fr Phil enjoys very close links with the school, and he has supported it strongly for many years," he said. He would continue to be a welcome visitor to the school.

Fr Harding has also served in the parishes of Young, Adaminaby and Queanbeyan, as well as hospital chaplain in Canberra.

In April he will celebrate his 75th birthday and in the middle of this year his golden anniversary of priesthood.

WHAT DO  
YOU KNOW?

1. \$300,000. 2. Fr Phil Harding. 3. She just turned 109. 4. St Edmund's College. 5. 22 years. 6. Lent.



# Rachel plans year with a difference

While her classmates prepare to start their first year of university, former Merici College student Rachel Sheville is taking on a journey of a very different kind.

Ms Sheville, who finished her final year of college last year, has joined the Shao Lin Martial Arts Academy in northern China for a seven-month course in martial arts as part of a gap year she will be sure to remember.

The 17 year old was accepted into the academy after applying late last year – no mean feat for someone who considers herself a beginner in martial arts.

“I only started martial arts a year ago and I’ve really enjoyed it,” she said.

“I found out about this program through a friend of mum, who had trained in China and said it was one of the best experiences she’d ever had.

“I thought this was the perfect opportunity for me to take, so I filled out an application form and then found out I’d been accepted, which was great.

“A lot of my classmates are impressed; they’ve been pretty amazed that I had decided to go and do this and they’re proud of me.”

Before she set off to China, Ms Sheville was training at the Taekidokai martial arts schools in various locations around North Canberra and teaching martial arts to a junior class once a week.

She took up martial arts to improve her fitness. “The main reason I started is because I wasn’t very active – and because it’s not competitive; I found it really fun to get into,” she said.

“I absolutely love it. It’s one of the best things I’ve ever done.” Ms Sheville will live at the academy and learn mandarin as well as martial arts. She describes her daily schedule as “intense.”



Rachel Sheville ... poised and ready to begin a gap year with a difference.

“Every day you wake up at 5.30am to begin qi gong and tai chi, then there are three-hour mandarin language lessons after that, then study time, and meditation to end the day,” she said.

Martial arts appeals to Ms Sheville as it’s “it’s a mental sport, not just a physical sport. A lot of it comes from your own concentration and your mind.

“There are a lot of different styles within martial arts, like tai chi for example, but then there are the other more defensive martial arts styles, sort of like the stuff you see in movies.” Ms Sheville hopes the course will improve her martial arts skills and help her to be “stronger, physically and mentally.”

# England’s calling for Patricia

Hennessy Catholic College student Patricia Webb (right) had only ever dreamed of packing her bags for an overseas adventure.



But when the year 12 student bought a one-way ticket to England for her gap year, her dream became a reality. Four days after Christmas, she left her hometown Young for the historic English town of Canterbury to begin work as a matron at Kent College infant and junior boarding house.

“Working in England was something I always wanted to do after travelling there for a school trip last year,” she said. “England has some of the characteristics of Australia so it feels familiar, but it is also so different in many other ways. Dad is a big traveller too so I always grew up with stories of England. I guess you could say it was calling.”

Ms Webb says her duties at the boarding house will essentially be that of a child-care worker: “I’ll wake the kids up, put them to bed, play sport with them or help them out in class-room,” she said. The children range in age from seven to 11. Although she has been accepted into a bachelor of international studies at the University of Canberra for 2013, Ms Webb is undecided as to whether she will stay in England or return after her gap year ends.

# KNOCK KNOCK

*Who's there?*

**VOLUNTEER TODAY**

## The Vinnies Doorknock Appeal

is held each February to raise much-needed funds for people in need across the Canberra region.

Monies raised through the appeal help fund a range of services provided by Vinnies – from the Society’s unique home visitation service through to emergency accommodation and young carers programs.

We need your help to get to the doors of thousands of generous Canberrans! Sign up to become a Vinnies Doorknock volunteer at [vinniesdoorknock.org.au](http://vinniesdoorknock.org.au) or by calling **02 6234 7340**.

Here are **5 other great ideas** to help us raise funds in February:

1. Host a morning tea, lunch BBQ or other event.
2. Try a desk-knock!
3. Have a trivia night.
4. Set up a team of Doorknockers from your place of work.
5. Host a cupcake or baked goods sale.



## Vinnies DOORKNOCK

February 2012

[vinniesdoorknock.org.au](http://vinniesdoorknock.org.au)

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# Open space, colour mark new age for schools



FAR LEFT: St Monica's Primary School student Brooke May brings forward the cross as part of the school's procession of symbols.

LEFT: Part of the gathering of students from St Matthew's Primary School, Page, pay rapt attention.

Schools in the Archdiocese have benefited from millions of dollars of funding from the Federal Government's Building the Education Revolution program.

Open, colourful learning spaces fitted out with the latest technology are helping to bring education into the 21st century, Catholic Education Office director Mrs Moira Najdecki said.

Late last year, four primary schools held the official blessing and opening of newly refurbished BER facili-

ties. They were St Monica's Primary School, Evatt, St Matthew's, Page, St Anthony's, Wanniasa, and St Clare of Assisi, Conder.

At St Matthew's, the old school hall used for gatherings has been replaced by a newly refurbished hall and extended library.

One of the major highlights of the renovations at St Clare of Assisi has been the addition of 16 new classrooms and breakout areas. At its official blessing and

opening, principal Mr Greg Walker said the school community was glad to be looking forward to a positive future with the brand new facilities after a fire damaged two classrooms in 2009. St Anthony's received about \$3 million in Federal Government funding, which covered the refurbishment of 12 new classrooms and a new library.

St Monica's received \$3.5 million for a new hall along with refurbished classrooms and library areas.

## Holidaying in the slums of India was life changing

While others were soaking up the sun at the coast or relaxing at home during their Christmas holidays, two former St Edmund's College students were helping people living in the slums of India.

After completing their year 12 studies late last year, Daniel Naef and Huw Warmenhoven, who were captain and vice-captain of their school at the time, set off for India for 10 days to work as volunteers in underprivileged areas with four year 11 students and six teachers from their school.

It's an experience they describe as "unforgettable and life changing".

The trip was part of the school's initiative to support disadvantaged communities in India.

The group visited Delhi and Kolkata, working with schools and orphanages in the slums, disabled communities, retirement colonies and the Mother Teresa house for the destitute and dying.

"We were really just helping out with anything and everything these people needed, from cooking to cleaning to fixing things," Mr Naef said.

"This trip was very hands-on so we were able to see the results for ourselves. For instance, one day we helped prepare all the kids' Christmas presents at the school and it was great to see them so happy. It makes you realise what you take for granted; most of these people don't have anything, and to put a smile on their faces is such a rewarding experience."



Former St Edmund's College vice-captain Huw Warmenhoven (left) and captain Daniel Naef with students from the Loreto Day School for the underprivileged in Kolkata, India.

This is not the first time Mr Naef and Mr Warmenhoven have visited India with their school. In December 2010, they were selected to travel with two teachers.

"For the first trip we were just trying to get an experience of India and visit different communities, schools and charity organisations that help the marginalised, so that when we returned in 2011 we had an idea of what to do," Mr Naef said.

His travels highlighted the stark contrast of conditions in parts of India compared to Australia.

"When you see the slum areas, you wonder how people could live in that, it's very confronting," he said.

"I hadn't heard of this side of the world before the school organised the first trip, and it made me realise there's so much poverty in this world, which is heartbreaking to see."

For Mr Warmenhoven, the experience "not only allows the entire college

community to be able to support the marginalised and the underprivileged – which was our founder Blessed Edmund Rice's charism – but it also provides the students and the teachers with an opportunity to be entirely immersed in such a unique culture."

Mr Warmenhoven said four younger students who joined them on the trip and who begin their final year at the college this year, are excited to continue what he and Mr Naef started.

"Since the school plans to continue its volunteer work in India, we were glad to show the younger boys what they could achieve and pass on the flame to them," he said. Both Mr Naef and Mr Warmenhoven hope to continue their volunteer work in the future.

"This experience was a jump start which exposed me to missionary work and helping those in need," Mr Warmenhoven said.

## 'It's a great opportunity to give something back...'

It was travelling to Cambodia's poverty-stricken areas with his family a year ago that made former Marist student Callum Sanders realise he wanted to do something for the disadvantaged people who live there.

After completing his final year 12 exams, Mr Sanders returned to Cambodia in December, spending a month of his Christmas holidays volunteering as a teacher's aide at an orphanage in Phnom Penh.

He educated children about basic hygiene, assisted with activities and taught English and mathematics.

The 18 year old said he was excited to have the opportunity to do something different as he worked with about 140 children aged five to 14 years.

"My friends were saying 'what are you doing, you should just be going on a holiday instead'.

"But I've already been on leisure holidays, this time I wanted to help others," Mr Sanders said.

"When I visited Cambodia last time with my family there were lots of children running around in bare feet pleading with you.

"I thought if I helped one I had an obligation to help as many as possible.

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TOP: St Clare of Assisi Primary School students Jarrad Bain and Jessica Heffernan celebrate with Member of Canberra Ms Gai Brodtmann after unveiling the official plaque.  
ABOVE: Some of the new facilities.



Callum Sanders packs his suitcase for the trip to Cambodia.

"I thought this program would do that and help a bigger number of people as best I could."

Mr Sanders says he began researching volunteer programs in Cambodia shortly after returning from his first trip there.

"I discovered a program that catered mostly for kids who had left secondary school and who wanted to help on their holidays, from ages 18 onwards, and I thought it would be ideal for me," he said.

"I discussed it with my course convener at school at the time, and I decided that was what I wanted to do with all the money I'd saved, so I enrolled and bought a plane ticket."

Mr Sanders plans to study international relations at the Australian National University this year.

His dream is to work for the United Nations or the Red Cross.

He highly recommends volunteering overseas.

"It's a great opportunity to give something back to others, and to help people out who struggle to help themselves," he said.

"Along with that it is an experience you will remember forever."

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Genevieve Daly sings at the official opening and blessing of new facilities at St Anthony's Primary School, Wanniasa.

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## *a centenary of canberra's catholics*

**In the 11th in a series of portraits of significant Catholics of the national capital, Bishop Pat Power tells of the unique contribution of Christian Brother Don Gallagher.**

Canberra is fortunate in its abundance of works of art not just in the National Gallery and the National Portrait Gallery but in a whole host of art-spaces with an appeal to connoisseurs of art and ordinary citizens alike. Local artists have made a huge contribution to such cultural richness.

Br Don Gallagher deserves to be counted among those painters who have given pleasure to large sections of Canberra's population since his arrival here in 1967.

His October 2011 retrospective exhibition *58 Years Behind The Brush* was the culmination of a series of exhibitions which latterly have been held in his own studio at St Edmund's College.

College historian Michael Moloney describes how it all came about. "In 1994 ex-student Tony Larobina noticed that Br Don didn't have a suitable place to paint. He spoke to other Old Boys and the word soon spread.

"They came in their dozens to donate materials and their knowledge and labour to build, free of charge, his dream studio and gallery. In my experience, this is the greatest tribute that has ever been paid to any teacher by a group of his ex-students."

Donald Gallagher was born in Warrnambool, Victoria, on 23 July, 1925.

His blacksmith father, Daniel, and devoted mother, Jean, provided a loving atmosphere for their three children who would all ultimately follow a religious vocation, Don as a Christian Brother, Laurie as a priest and Imelda as a Sister of Mercy.

Don Gallagher's years of formation which began in 1939 were at the Brothers' training college at Strathfield in Sydney.

Although a native Victorian, all of Don's appointments were in New South Wales before he was posted to St Edmund's College, Canberra. He got closest to home when he was appointed to Albury. It was there that he began to paint in 1953.

It was my good fortune to become live-in chaplain at St Edmund's towards the end of 1967 and to share community life with Br Don and his Brothers until I was transferred in February 1971.

I witnessed first-hand his gentle nature and his natural rapport with students, enabling him to bring out the best in them. This was true in the fields of singing and music, sport and art, as well as in teaching the "Three Rs".

His students as well as his fellow teachers and parents were able to recognise that his deep faith informed all that he did and how he related to others.



Br Don Gallagher ... gentle nature and rapport with students.

# Gentle touch of Don's brush with Canberra

Br Gallagher's Folk Group was formed in 1968 from some of his primary school students, singing at functions at Parliament House, the Prime Minister's Lodge, embassy gatherings and naturalisation ceremonies.

They took part in concerts and eisteddfods in Canberra, Goulburn and Albury. Michael Moloney reflects: "I never tired of listening to them. While the rich soaring voice of Robert Lucerne held audiences spellbound and moved them to tears, the vocal comedy of Paul Gleeson, Raymond Blewitt and Vincent Connors had them roaring with laughter.

"They were a remarkably talented group of boys, but they would, without exception, agree that the single factor that lifted them so far above the ordinary was Br Gallagher."

It is no coincidence that 1967 was the first year of the St Edmund's College annual magazine.

Br Don's photographic skills with his ability to capture the moment on top of the huge task of compiling a whole series of records and data ensured a bril-

liant magazine which would become a benchmark for other admiring colleges.

The annual feature over a long period of "Ed Mundy's Diary" provides an important chronicle of one aspect of Canberra's social history.

Last year marked the end of Br Don's time in Canberra as he retired to Charingfield Hostel in Waverley and completed the full circle of his life as a Christian Brother in Sydney where it began.

He has fond memories of his time in Canberra at St Edmund's but also joining the Art Club in Canberra and making many good friends in the art world.

He remembers well his first exhibition at the Canberra Theatre Gallery and many subsequent ones in the St Edmund's College Hall and, most fondly, those in his own gallery.

I have many recollections of people lining up on opening nights keen to get first pick of the beautiful paintings on offer. It should be noted that the proceeds of his paintings went to help less fortunate students have an education at St Edmund's.

Br Don is grateful to his Provincial, Br McGlade, for allowing him at the end of 1974 to have some time in Italy and Spain, not only visiting some famous galleries but also doing some painting himself. Some of that was on display in the recent retrospective.

The cars people drive often say something about the owners. Many people will remember the little Austin A30 which Br Don drove for a long time. In fact, it had had a long life before his brother, Laurie, gave it to him.

It enabled him to travel to places like Goulburn, Tross, Tumut and Young where he produced some beautiful paintings.

When it could go on no longer, it was replaced by the old red van which was always a sign that Br Don was working inside the gallery.

There are no pretensions about Br Don Gallagher, but his humility does not hide his wonderful gifts of which Canberra was the beneficiary for almost half of its history.

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# 'Ordinary bloke' who has made a difference

Vinnies chief executive Bob Wilson retires next month knowing he has helped to change the course of many lives. He reflects on the many changes in society and in his own organisation over his 22 years in the job.

The words on the whiteboard in Bob Wilson's office read, "There are no unworthy poor".

It's a theme that sits very comfortably in the life of the retiring chief executive officer of the St Vincent de Paul Society in the Archdiocese.

Mr Wilson will retire from the position next month, 20 days short of 22 years in the position, a time that has seen enormous change in the way the society functions and in the complexities of people's needs.

"I wanted to work with an organisation that was going to help people," he recalls of his decision to leave a position as secretary-manager of the Bega RSL Club.



"If I hadn't left then, maybe I would still have been involved in club life. In many ways I am still dealing with the same type of people as I did in the club, but with a different focus on their needs.

"I wanted to be a part of an organisation that was doing some good and changing people's lives.

"This does happen in many cases. There are a lot of success stories of people who have been able to change their lives, to improve their relationship with their families and with themselves, who have obtained work and have generally become good citizens."

Mr Wilson describes his initial intentions as "a little pie-in-the-sky". I thought I could help everybody, but I learnt I could not be the answer to everyone's needs. There were going to be some failures, some friendships made and lost.

"The journey has matured me in a way that I now realise I have to rely on a lot of other people to do the job."

He has also grown to understand better the spiritual side of the work of the St Vincent de Paul Society. "We are here to develop our personal spirituality. ● Cont Page 14.

ABOVE: St Vincent de Paul Society chief executive Mr Bob Wilson tries out some basic sleeping accommodation. He was one of a large group of men and women who have raised money as part of Vinnies' annual CEO sleepout in Canberra.



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ABOVE: St Mary MacKillop College leaders Joachim Fatiaki (faith and community captain), Clare Fealy (arts captain), Ashlee Evans (girl college captain), Tyler Friend (boy college captain), and Sam Jeffery (sports captain).

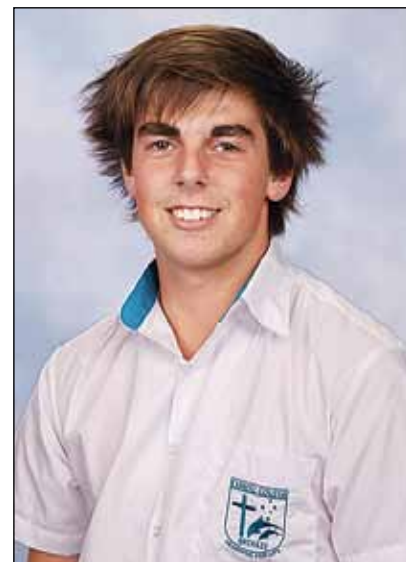


ABOVE: Trinity Catholic College leaders are (from left): Vice-captain Alison Rose, captain Olivia Coles, captain Nicholas Campton-Smith, vice-captain Jordan Sykes.

BELOW: Marist College leaders Gus McManus (service captain), Gene Schirripa (captain), James Colmer (vice-captain).



ABOVE: Daramalan College captains Chris Bucknall (left) and Jordan Brown.



ABOVE: Carroll College Broulee captains David Feletto and Georgia Melrose.



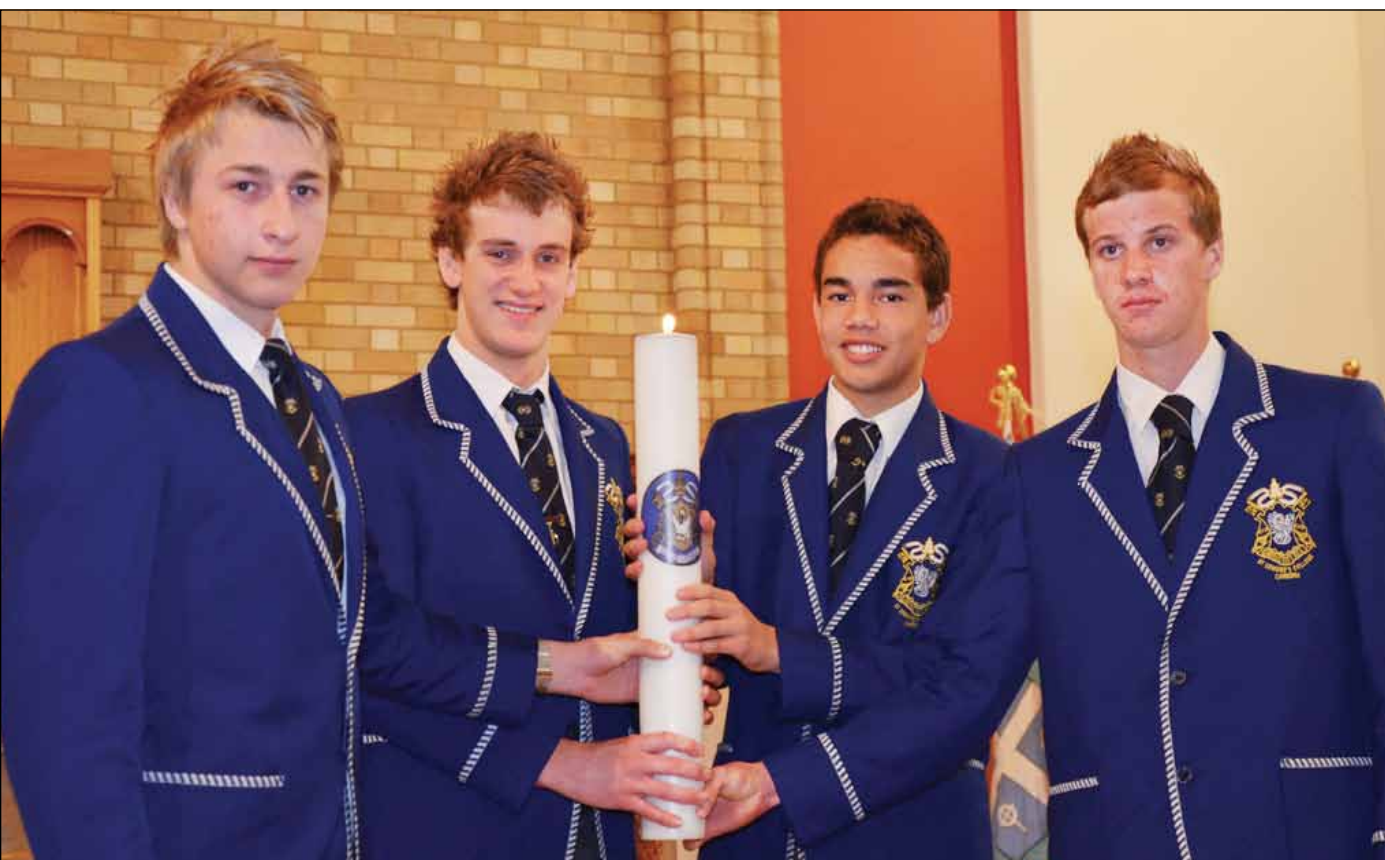
ABOVE: Merici College leaders (from left) back: Meg Ensor, Madeleine Nazor, Rebecca Moore, Imogen White, Anne Cusack (captain), Alysia Smith (vice-captain), Jessica Hargreaves, Grace Yap, Danielle Farrell. Middle: Hanna Darmody, Farrah Marolt. Front: Nicola Clarke, Cassandra McGilvray, Sophia Sanfrancesco, Amy McAuliffe, Charlotte Egli, Sarah Taylor, Jordan Medlock, Georgina Tan. Absent Alix Kerr.



# Our new college leaders for 2012



ABOVE RIGHT: Hennessy College leadership group (from left): Broden Holland, Joseph Everdell, Charlie Keogh, Jennifer McRae, Tahlia Deep, Amy Dewar (captain) Fr Richard Thompson, Mrs Rita O'Connor (year co-ordinator) Joseph Maranin (captain) Sophie McGrath, Kurt Barton, Alice Clark & Dr Peter Webster (principal).



ABOVE LEFT: St Edmund's College leaders from 2011 pass the torch to the new leaders. From left: Huw Warmenhoven (vice-captain 2011), Daniel Naef (captain 2011),

Nathan French (captain 2012), Sam Pearson (vice-captain 2012). College academic captain is Tim Friel.

ABOVE RIGHT: St Francis Xavier College captains Nicklaus Mahony and Chloe Kelly (larger photograph) and vice-captains Courtney Bonner (left) and Riley Catherall.

BELOW: Lumen Christi College leaders (from left) captains Emma Hassan and Charlie Sheedy, vice-captains Sam Tonkin and Nissa Taylor-Doswell.





## Resource ready for Lent study

A Lenten resource designed as a six-week program reflecting on the action of grace and the call to ongoing conversion is now available to order.

Living a Life in Grace has been written for the Archdiocese in preparation for the Year of Grace which begins at Pentecost.

The program can be used in small groups or by individuals. To download product information and a sample text, go to [www.faithresources.org.au](http://www.faithresources.org.au).

Inquiries: Mr Shane Dwyer at CatholicLIFE, telephone 6163 4308, e-mail [shane.dwyer@catholiclife.org](mailto:shane.dwyer@catholiclife.org).

Also available for purchase is an audio CD featuring a recording of the Lenten reflections and music by local musician, Stephen Kirk.



After the ceremony at St John Vianney's Church, Waramanga (from left): Fr Kevin Brannelly, Ms Philippa's father Nicholas, Donna-Anne Philippa, Sr Kathleen Keenan, Ms Philippa's mother Margaret and Archbishop Mark Coleridge.

## Blessed step for Donna-Anne

Donna-Anne Philippa feels blessed to have been given the opportunity to become the first consecrated virgin in the Archdiocese. Ms Philippa says there are only about 2000 consecrated virgins in the world.

The 39 year old's decision to commit her life came six years ago when she read a newspaper article about an overseas woman who had

taken the step. Consecrated virgins live directly under the authority of the bishop and are called to dedicate their lives to prayer for, and service to, their home diocese. "I always thought marriage wasn't for me, and I felt I had a calling so I went and saw Fr Kevin Brannelly for advice."

He acted as her spiritual director, guiding her through study.

## Lonely eagle inspires book of hope

A trip to a national park near Broken Hill was the inspiration for a book by Josephite Sr Helen Barnes (right), artist-in-residence at St Clement's retreat and conference centre, Galong.

Sr Helen was in a group of tourists at Mutawintji National park when ranger Gerald Quayle told them about Charlie, the wedge-tailed eagle, who had been removed from his nest and raised outside his own environment and so never fitted in with other eagles.

The book, Broken Hill Charlie, was originally written for children but in the process Sr Helen began to realise there was a deeper meaning.

"Charlie's story is a reminder of others who have been deprived of their own culture," she said.



"For members of the Stolen Generation and refugees who are displaced there is a longing to belong."

Initially Sr Helen came home from the trip, painted a picture, which is on the cover of the book, and then wrote the text, but did not consider putting it together as a book. "Fr Pat Corbett (then superior of the Redemptorists at Galong) prompted and encouraged me so I completed the pictures in my holidays and the book was born."

The 32-page soft-covered book is available from St Clement's for \$15 plus postage.

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## At 109, prayer still food for thought

● From Page 1.

"I have watched them get their jobs, settle in life, marry, have children of their own, and their children have married, so I have seen them along the line."

Sr Madeleine has lived at Mt St Joseph's Home in Young for nine years.

She likes to keep busy: an ordinary day usually consists of prayer, Mass, reading, writing letters and a game of scrabble.

"The day is always a pleasant one," she said.

"I know my time is well filled in - sometimes I wish it was a bit longer, but I get along all right."

Showing her Victorian roots, she's also an avid follower of the Australian Football League, barracking for the Carlton Blues.

Sr Madeleine has lived through many world events, including two world wars.

"Back when I was at the convent in World War I and II, we didn't have much communication, we weren't allowed to read the newspapers or anything like that during that period - and there was very little radio," she said.

She likes to keep up with current affairs now, though. "I like to watch the 6pm news and read newspapers," she said.

Sr Madeleine is one of six children, with her last living sibling 100 years old.

A popular lady, she writes around six to nine letters a day: "I'm a very speedy writer but I find it hard now to swing the pen," she said.

Despite some hearing and sight problems, Sr Madeleine remains in good health and says she "hardly ever gets sick."

Proving she hasn't lost any of her wit, she adds however: "my legs aren't entirely useless I suppose, but let's say they don't get me there - it's the old chauffer wheelchair that gets me there."

Sr Madeleine's secret to her long life? Plenty of work, being careful about what she eats, and prayer. "Prayer life sustains me physically and psychologically and mentally," she said.

"The last thing I say at night is the Our Father, the first thing I say in the morning when I wake up is the Our Father. The whole day is sandwiched between those two important prayers - for me, prayer life comes first."

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ABOVE LEFT: Anne Bailey, Mary French (nee Clippingdale), Gwen Thomas and Susan Buykx (nee Clippingdale) on their 1961 tour.



ABOVE RIGHT: And today, Mary French, Anne Bailey, Susan Buykx and Gwen Thomas on the golden anniversary of the trip.

# Dear diary, thanks for the memories

Mary French has some important advice for travellers who don't want to forget the highlights of their holiday: keep a diary.

The Kippax parishioner did, and it has resulted in a book many years later.

Fifty years ago Mrs French set off with her sister and two friends on a six-month journey around Australia. Now, using old diary entries, she has published a book about the trip, and says it has brought back the memories in a very special way.

Travels with Antonio: A 1961 Australian Journey is a poignant memoir of the group's 1961 travels, pieced together using old diary entries and photographs. "Antonio" was the affectionate name for

the faithful station wagon that carried them.

The book features many photographs of the towns and cities the group visited, some barely recognisable from how they look today.

Mrs French believes the book, typed directly from the diary entries, provides a fresh and honest look at what Australia was like in those times.

"Fifty years is a long time, so it was a very different Australia back then," she said.

"It was all dust and shrubs, and it was very uncommon for people to travel at the time so there were barely any tourists where we went.

"It was also cheaper – for instance when we stayed at Ayers Rock we camped right

outside for about three pounds, and now there is a resort in the same place for around \$10,000 a night."

Mrs French, who was in her mid-20s and living in Tasmania at the time of the trip, said the idea of exploring the mainland had always appealed to her.

"It never occurred to us to travel anywhere but Australia," she said.

"People don't really do that now; they travel overseas before they travel around their home country, but back then you only travelled overseas if you were very rich – even then you would have to travel by boat which took a very long time."

The group travelled to more than 100 areas, including Alice

Springs, Mt Isa, and her now hometown, Canberra. Despite the constant travel, Mrs French says faith was still a priority to the group.

"We only missed Mass once in that whole six months, which we were very proud of," she said.

Writing a book about the journey almost on its 50th anniversary was actually a coincidence.

"I had always had it as a dream the back of my mind, so it was really just by chance I decided to do it now," she said.

"It was when I went to visit Gwen, who was one of the four girls on the trip, I looked at her coloured slides and saw how old and deteriorated they were getting. I thought I've got

to do something about that – that's real history there."

Mrs French's daughter worked on the design of the book and a friend in St John the Apostle parish typed up the diary entries. It took about three years to finish.

Mrs French and her husband have lived in Canberra for more than 40 years. She and the women from the trip are still firm friends; they recently got together to celebrate the 50th anniversary.

"I will always remember that trip, and I'm so pleased I have finally made it into a book for others to read – I couldn't have ever done this if we all didn't keep a diary," she said.

# College legend calls time

After almost three decades of teaching at St Francis Xavier Catholic College, Florey, food and fabric coordinator Ms Patsy Sheales has retired.

According to college principal Mr Angus Tulley, "many things have changed in terms of the delivery of lessons, but one constant has been Patsy's diligence and care for her students."

Mr Tulley said that many Canberra restaurants were now staffed by Ms Sheales' ex-students.

Ms Sheales began teaching at the school in 1983, when it was known as St Francis Xavier Catholic High School.

She became a driving force behind the biennial school fashion



Patsy Sheales (left) with her SFX colleagues Kim Wilson and Anne Haines at a college alumni launch.


ion parade and helped to organise the annual Pink Ladies Morning Tea, which raises money for the Breast Cancer Foundation.

Ms Sheales hails from Oklahoma and hopes to spend some quality time there with family in her retirement.


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# 'Ordinary bloke' who made a difference

● From Page 9.

"Although I didn't come into the job for that reason, I realise it is a serious aspect of what we do and why we do it."

The spiritual base of the society and its essence as a volunteer organisation had to be maintained, he said.

All those associated with it, conference members, volunteers and staff, had to continue to embrace the core values of the society in the years ahead.

"If you lose those core values, then you have lost the society," he said.

"The core values are still there as they were 22 years ago and beyond, but there is a different emphasis on such things as social justice and advocacy for those in need."

When Mr Wilson took up the position in March 1990, the St Vincent de Paul Society had 35 to 50 calls a day to its Canberra call centre, each parish conference operated autonomously; two women's refuges were operating in Canberra as well as two men's hostels, one in Canberra and the other in Goulburn, a youth drop-

in centre in Manuka and the Blue Door centre for residents at Ainslie Village.

In addition there was a chain of 26 centres operating in the major country towns in the Archdiocese.

Donations funded most of the work for a local conference and there was no reliance on government funding at this level.

Now, the call centre takes 80 to 100 calls a day in Canberra and while home visits by members are still at the core of Vinnies work, some conferences have faced closure as numbers of members dwindled through age and ill health.

The advent of federal and ACT government funding, which now makes up 30 per cent of income, has changed the way Vinnies operates as the needs of the community have expanded in many ways.

"Things have changed because the St Vincent de Paul Society saw needs and knew it had to minister to those needs," he said.



Bob Wilson in a Vinnies' night patrol van ... one of the success stories of the society in recent years.

"That's what we are here for, to serve people in need.

"We are ordinary people helping anyone in need. We see we can make a difference."

Homeless services have expanded to take in all aspects of homeless individuals and families and there has been a move away from refuges to individual homes. The night patrol was introduced.

In co-operation with universities, scholarships are being offered to indigenous students to help them become teachers.

Another program, Clemente, helps homeless people achieve a level of university education. The youth camp and activities program has been in

operation for over 30 years providing fun and mentoring for children needing support outside the family environment.

Internally, increased government funding has led to greater administrative challenges for the society. Marketing and fund-raising has come to the fore in recent years – "we now accept we can't hide our good works under a bushel," Mr Wilson said. "The more we tell people about what we do, the more support we get."

Vinnies now focuses more in its own organisation on human resources, volunteer recruitment, conference support and spiritual development of members and staff.

It also places more emphasis on the way it presents its increasing number of stores, the public face of the organisation. "The centres are pleasant places to shop with dignity for everyone in the community prepared to pay a fair price for good quality, pre-loved clothing and bric-a-brac," he said.

As he nears the end of his tenure, Mr Wilson looks to the challenges that lie ahead for the next chief executive officer. Among them are membership of conferences so that home visitation can continue and the ongoing issue of improving income to meet the growing volume and range of need in the community.

Soon Mr Wilson, who was born at the end of World War 2, the son of an American serviceman and an Australian war bride, will have retirement to contemplate.

He intends to keep up an involvement with the St Vincent de Paul Society working on its archives and becoming active once again in his local conference. He also has 12 grandchildren, who are spread out from the Gold Coast to Tasmania, to visit. And there is travel to fit in, to the United States, where he spent most of the first 12 years of his life, and to Wales, the home of his wife Pat.

On the wall of Mr Wilson's office is a small poster reflecting on the love of Jesus, given to him by a man he helped in his early days in the job. "He came in one day and gave me this poster," Mr Wilson said. "He said, 'I want you to know you deserve this because of what you did for me'."

"I couldn't really remember what we had done to help him, but it was obviously important to him.

"The memory stuck with me. You get the occasional thank-you letter where people say, 'You may not remember but I was helped by you.'"

"You don't do it for the accolades, but it does make you feel you have done something good, that you have made a difference."

# School has that family feel for ex-students

It was like "coming home to family" for Nina Di Placido and Karen Stilling when they returned to teach at the school they attended as students.

At the 40th anniversary cocktail party for St John Vianney's Primary School, Waramanga, Ms Di Placido and Mrs Stilling celebrated with the local community and staff members, and took time to reminisce about their days as students.

Both women were students in the 1970s and have taught at the school for more than 35 years collectively. Two other staff members are also ex-students.

Ms Di Placido, a student from 1978 to 1984, has worked at the school for 18 years and is now assistant principal.

She said returning to her former school – this time as an employee – felt reassuringly familiar.

"It was like coming home to a known family – you knew where everything was, and lots of great memories came rushing back," she said.

"Although a lot had changed with the renovations, the hall and courtyard were exactly the same as I remembered; it was amazing.

"There were quite a few memories from when I was a student here; we had beautiful nuns who were at the school at the time, the fetes were always a big event where my mum used to make her lasagne, and all the concerts we had were great."

But it wasn't only good memories, jokes Ms Di Placido.

"My current office used to be the principal's office back when I was a student, and there's this statue of St John Vianney at the door," she said. "When we were in trouble at school, we used to have to sit in front of the statue waiting to go into the principal's office and since that's now my office, that memory still kind of haunts me."

Mrs Stilling was a student from 1974 to 1976 and began working as a teacher at the school in 1986. She is currently teaching part time.

After her experience as a student at St John Vianney's, she



headed back there for her first teaching job.

"I had only good memories of this school and I loved the teachers that I had; I still have good memories," she said. "I've made lifelong friends here from when I first started teaching, so I'm very

happy to still be here." Although the school is smaller – there are about 280 students enrolled compared to more than 700 when Ms Di Placido and Mrs Stilling were students – they say it will always have a sense of family and community no matter what its size.

ABOVE: Former students Karen Stilling (left) and Nina Di Placido, take in their "then" and "now" photos.



# The world, not bad just unfinished

There's a story told, more legend perhaps than fact, about a mayor of a large American city in the late 1960s. It wasn't a good time for his city: It was facing financial bankruptcy, crime rates were spiraling, its public transportation system was no longer safe at night, the river supplying its drinking water was dangerously polluted, the air was rife with racial tension, and there were strikes and street protests almost weekly.

As the story goes, the mayor was flying over the city in a helicopter at rush-hour on a Friday afternoon.

As the bustle and traffic drowned out most everything else, he looked down at what seemed a teeming mess and said to one of his aides: "Wouldn't it be nice if there was plunger and we could flush this whole mess into the ocean!" He was being facetious, but I worry that we sometimes subtly think the same thing about our world.

Too often, we and our churches tend to see the world precisely as a mess, as caught up in mindless trivialisation, as self-indulgent, as narcissistic, as short-sighted, as no longer hav-

ing values that demand self-sacrifice, of worshipping fame, of being addicted to material goods, and of being anti-church and anti-Christian.

Indeed, it is common today in our churches to see the world as our enemy. And, far from feeling heartbroken about it, we feel smug and righteousness as we gleefully witness its downfall: The world is getting what it deserves.

Godlessness is its own punishment. That's what it gets for not listening to us. In this, our attitude is the antithesis of Jesus' attitude towards the world.

Jesus loved the world. Really? Yes. Is this what the Gospels teach? Yes.

Here's how the Gospels describe Jesus' reaction towards the world that rejected him: As Jesus drew near to Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it saying: "If you, even you, had only recognised on this day the things that make for peace. But now they are hidden from your eyes."

Jesus sees what happens when people try to live without God, the mess, the pain, the heartbreak, and, far from rejoicing that the world isn't working, his

heart aches with empathy. If only you could see what you're doing!

Looking at a world that's breaking down because of its self-absorption, Jesus responds with empathy, not glee; with understanding, not judgment;

## Ron Rolheiser

Fr Ron Rolheiser, theologian, teacher, and award-winning author, is president of the Oblate School of Theology in Texas. [www.ronrolheiser.com](http://www.ronrolheiser.com)



with heartache, not rubbing salt in the wounds; and with tears, not good riddance.

Loving parents and loving friends understand exactly what Jesus was feeling at the moment when he wept over Jerusalem.

What frustrated, heartbroken parent hasn't looked at a son or daughter caught up in wrong choices and self-destructive behavior and wept inside as the words spontaneously formed: If only you could see what you're

doing. If only I could do something to spare you the damage you're doing to your life by this blindness. If only you could recognize the things that make for peace. But you can't see, and it breaks my heart.

The same is true among friends. True friends don't rejoice and become gleeful when their friends make bad choices and their lives begin to collapse.

Instead there are tears, mingled with anxious empathy, with heartache, with pleading, with prayers. Genuine love is empathic and empathy is never gleeful at someone else's downfall.

We are asked by our Christian faith to have a genuine love for the world. The world isn't our enemy. It's our wayward child and our loved friend who is breaking our heart.

That can be hard to see and accept when the world is often belligerent and arrogant towards us, when it's angry with us, when it wrongly judges us, and when it scapegoats us.

But that's exactly what suffering children often do to their parents and friends when they make bad choices and suffer the consequences of that. They

impute and scapegoat. This can feel very unfair to us, but Jesus' attitude towards those who rejected and crucified him invites us to an empathy beyond that.

Kathleen Norris suggests that we look at the world, when it opposes us, in the same way as we look at an angry 17-year-old girl dealing with her parents.

At that moment of anger, her parents become a symbolic lightning rod (a safe place) for her to vent her anger and to scapegoat. But absorbing this is a function of adult loving.

Good parents don't respond to the anger of an adolescent child by declaring her their enemy. They respond like Jesus did, by weeping over her. Moreover a genuine empathy for the world isn't just predicated on mature sympathy. Mature sympathy is itself predicated on better seeing the world for what it is.

The 17-year-old adolescent standing belligerent and angry before her parents isn't a bad person; she's just not yet fully grown up.

That's true, too, for our world: It's not a bad place; it's just far from being a finished and mature one.

## why I grow what I grow

# Organic, it's just the natural way to go ...

**A column in which well known and not so well known people with green thumbs tell us just how they do it. This month we speak to Andy and Annette Hrast.**

Organic growing takes time and patience, but it's worth it; say husband and wife Andy and Annette Hrast.

The Waramanga parishioners have been organically growing fruit, herbs and vegetables in their 100 square metre patch in the Cotter community garden for more than 20 years, and spend about four hours a week maintaining it, particularly in the warmer months.

The plants they grow include onions, pumpkins, beetroot, carrots, corn, potatoes, lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers and capsicum.

Mr Hrast says it's not only the delicious, fresh taste of organic food that makes it worth it, but also the control you have over what you grow.

"It's the pleasure in doing it that appeals to me as well as the taste; I like that you can actually tell the plants to do the right thing and fix them up – you can't do that in so many other things in life," Mr Hrast said.

And it appears green thumbs run in the family, as two of the Hrastrs' children are keen organic gardeners.

"I'm very pleased to say that organic gardening seems to be inherent," Mr Hrast said.

Mr Hrast has been a member of the Canberra Organic Growers Society since 1990 when he began organic gardening.

The group formed more than 30 years ago and has about 700 members who each have their own organic gardens around Canberra.

The key to organic growing is having both time and space, Mr Hrast said.

"You've got to have a fair bit of space in your garden," he said.



Andy and Annette Hrast with one of the organic lettuces grown in their garden at the Cotter.

"As well as that, it's the maintenance that's key – it's not just 'oh put it there and it will grow'.

"For example, instead of using insect repellent sometimes we have to go around squishing the bugs on the cauliflowers by hand, that sort of thing, it makes it more tedious but that's what you have to do."

Mrs Hrast said a common misconception was that people thought organic gardening was complicated.

"People are often confused and expect it to be complicated with all sorts of complex sprays and things involved," she said.

"It's simpler than other sorts of growing because it's all done natural – it's just like growing normally but you simply don't use any harsh chemicals or pesticides."

This summer, the vegetable in their garden Mr and Mrs Hrast are most looking forward to biting into is the tomato.

"It's so fresh from the garden, and organic tomatoes just taste that much better than the regular kind," Mr Hrast said.

When they're not growing organic, Mrs Hrast works as a relief teacher at St Anthony's Primary School, Wanniasa, and Mr Hrast is director of transport policy at the Australian Local Government Association.

They live in Duffy and have lived in Canberra for more than 30 years.



## SHORTS

**The Muppets.** Starring Jason Segel, Amy Adams, Chris Cooper, Alan Arkin, Jack Black and Kermit the Muppets. Directed by James Bobin. G.

Usually it is children who are taken to see a show that is considered suitable for them. With *The Muppets*, it is the film that children could take their parents (and their grandparents) to see. Do Kermit and Miss Piggy rekindle their romance? Of course.



**The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo.** Starring Daniel Craig, Rooney Mara, Christopher Plummer, Stellan Skarsgard, Steven Berkoff, Robyn Wright, Joely Richardson. Directed by David Fincher. 158 minutes. MA 15+ (Strong sexual violence, themes, sex scenes and violence).

Most fans of the late Swedish writer Stieg Larsson's *Millennium* series of crime novels will be pleased with this English-language adaptation, directed with Nordic-style naturalism. The long, complex narrative unfolds with a clarity and conciseness missing from Niels Arden Oplev's 2009 Swedish version.

**Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows.** Starring Robert Downey Jr, Jude Law, Noomi Rapace, Stephen Fry, Jared Harris, Rachel McAdams, Kelly Reilly. Directed by Guy Ritchie. 129 minutes. M (Violence).

Holmes purists beware; this is a rather rambunctious Holmes. For everyone else, a visually stylish and busy, action-packed romp.

**Albert Nobbs.** Starring Glenn Close, Mia Wasikowska, Aaron Johnson, Pauline Collins, Janet McTeer, Jonathan Rhys Meyers and Brendan Gleeson. Directed by Rodrigo Garcia. 108 minutes. M (Coarse language, sex scene and brief nudity).

For her performance as a cross-dressing waiter, Glenn Close may come perilously close at this year's Oscars, to pipping fellow contender Meryl Streep (*The Iron Lady*).

# A Scorsese gem for all ages

**Hugo.** Starring Asa Butterfield, Chloe Grace Moretz, Ben Kingsley, Sacha Baron Cohen, Ray Winstone, Jude Law and Christopher Lee. Directed by Martin Scorsese. 127 minutes. PG (mild themes). Reviewer: Fr Peter Malone MSC\*.

Fans wondered when they heard that Martin Scorsese was to direct a children's film and in 3D. It didn't seem like the material for the director of *Taxi Driver*, *Mean Streets* and *The Departed*. There is no need to be apprehensive, Scorsese has made one of his best films (and the vivid and sharp 3D photography works very well indeed).

So, the question is, who is Hugo? He is a boy, Hugo Cabret, from the novel, *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*, by Brian Selznick. And he is played by Asa Butterfield (from *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*). He is surrounded by a fine British cast led by Ben Kingsley. And he teams up with the vivacious Chloe Grace Moretz (*Kick Ass*, *Let Me In*).

That is the who of the title. But, the interesting question is the where and when of the film.

The where is Paris and most of the action takes place in the railway station, Gare Montparnasse. Not only do we feel we have lived in the station, we know the regulars well, the vendors, the police, but we spend a great deal of time in the cavernous spaces behind the clocks of the station where Hugo lives. The film opens with a lengthy running sequence where we experience Hugo in the long corridors and vast rooms in an exciting 3D tour.

The when is the late 1920s, so the period is re-created with costumes and decor, quite sumptuous to look at – and to a stirring score as well.

The time is important because the film is also about the history of cinema, particularly French cinema and the early silent era. Scorsese is a cinema buff par excellence and he takes the opportunity to immerse his audience in the wonders of cinema and animation. Film buffs will appreciate it. And, because, the central protagonists are children, it offers a wonderful opportunity to learn about cinema in the olden days.

There is a brief cameo by Jude Law as Hugo's father, a man who loved tinkering with machines and novelties. He has rescued a complicated robotic machine and has been attempting to make it work, but a key is missing. After his father's



Hugo (Asa Butterfield) who can always escape behind the railway station clocks.

death, he is taken by his uncle (Ray Winstone) to work on the clocks in the station.

One of the shops is owned by a crusty old man who accuses Hugo of stealing, setting the war veteran commissioner at the station in pursuit of Hugo who can always escape behind the clocks and hide. Ben Kingsley is the shop owner and Sacha Baron Cohen the commissioner.

This leads us to the films of Georges Melies, French pioneer of animation, whose rocket to the moon short is well known. It is assumed that Melies died in World War I, but he did not. His fantasy films went out of fashion with the hard edge of film reporting from the war, and he lost his money and studio and withdrew, embittered, to the station shop.

There is a warmth in the storytelling as Hugo becomes less defensive, where Melies re-discovers and visualises the story of his past and the wonderful experiences of studio filming with his wife, where the key to the robot is found and it begins to work and offers a message to Hugo from his father.

Because Scorsese has always made films for mature older audiences, he knows how to gear his children's film to entertain and interest adults. Obviously, he hopes that children will identify with Hugo and share the wonder of the technical developments of the period and better appreciate where the films they take for granted came from.

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

## Clooney stars in stand-out drama

**The Descendants.** Starring George Clooney, Shailene Woodley, Amara Miller, Judy Greer, Matthew Lillard, Robert Forster, and Patricia Hastie. Directed by Alexander Payne. 115 minutes. M (Mature themes and coarse language). Reviewer Peter W Sheehan\*.

This excellent drama-comedy tells the story of a successful Hawaiian property lawyer, Matt King (George Clooney), whose business preoccupations have pushed him to keep his wife, Elizabeth (Patricia Hastie), at a distance.

She becomes the victim of a boating accident, which puts her into a coma. Matt is faced with respecting his wife's wishes that she wants her life support to be turned off. He tells the older of his daughters, Alex (Shailene Woodley) that he has given permission for their mother to die.

Alex, conflicted in her own feelings about her mother, tells him that her mother has been unfaithful to him. Distraught, Matt learns that her affair was with a real-estate agent involved in a land deal with which Matt is associated. This is an intelligent movie about adult issues, and the film tackles them with understanding and compassion. Clooney shelves his easy-going charm, and rises to the challenge of his role superbly. This promises to be a stand-out film of the year.

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

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# Delving into person of Paul

**Galatians and Romans.** By Brendan Byrne. St Pauls Publications, 2010. PB, 190 pages, \$19.95. Reviewer: Margaret Ryan.

Want to find out more about our Christian roots, development of Christian theology and the person of Paul himself, written by an internationally renowned Australian Jesuit?

Paul's Letters to the Galatians (but which ones?!) and Romans have a common focus on whether a right relationship with God emerges from observing the law given to Moses, or through faith in Christ.

Both Letters impacted on Christian life through the ages, especially at the time of the Reformation, and also influenced past relationships between Jews and Christians.

Though similar in content, the tone differentiates between the Letters: the argument

in "Galatians" appears more controversial, its author even angry, while in "Romans", the approach is more mature, even and diplomatic.

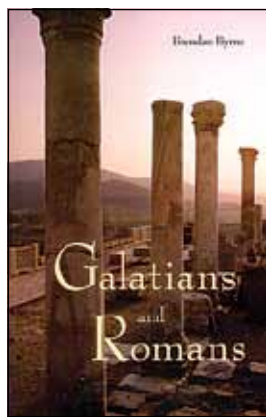
Brendan Byrne is Professor of New Testament at the Jesuit Theological College, Parkville, Victoria.

For six years he was a member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, is a fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities, chief editor of the theological journal "Pacifica", author of numerous books on Pauline spirituality and scripture, including "Romans" in the Sacra Pagina series, and is a contributor to the New Jerome Biblical Commentary.

After an Introduction and structural outline of each Letter, Byrne comments on the text in small sections.

The author brings his theological and historical understanding, and passion for the Word of God, to his explanation and interpretation of the Letters, and these offer the opportunity for a deepening of our relationship with God and a better grasp of our faith.

There is a useful glossary of Pauline terms and concepts, and a short bibliography. The author is writing for an educated readership and presumes some scriptural and theological understanding. It is very readable. Five stars.



# The voices of reason for today

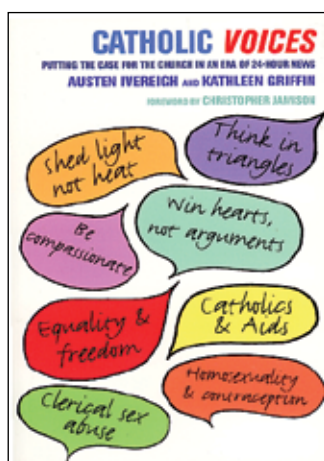
**Catholic Voices: Putting the Case for the Church in an Era of 24-Hour News.** By Austen Ivereigh and Kathleen Griffin. Darton Longman & Todd, 2011, 250 pages, \$32.95. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.

Catholic Voices is the name of a team of trained amateur speakers formed in advance of the visit to the UK by Pope Benedict in September 2010.

They described themselves then as "authoritative but not official".

They set out to be well-briefed, articulate, knowledgeable and able to communicate the settled teachings of the Church.

They did not speak for the bishops but had their support.



They were advertised to the media as happy to be questioned, sympathetic to the media's objectives, familiar with the demands and constraints of live, three-minute interviews on radio and TV and happy to be used or not as the occasion required.

The program was a roaring success. It received many accolades and even requests from other countries to advise on similar initiatives. This book is one of the outcomes.

The Catholic Voices experience developed a method which works for anyone who needs to put the Church's case, not just in a three-minute interview but in ordinary social interactions.

They state that if you can't say it quickly, compellingly and humanly then you've lost people's interest and sympathy.

Catholic Voices have formulated 10 principles of good communication.

These are useful to draw on any time anywhere.

They include to look for the positive intention behind the criticism; to shed light, not heat, ie, stay calm; to win hearts, not arguments; to be compassionate, It's not about you.

They list the usual and predictable topics. Some of these are the Church and politics, homosexuality, assisted suicide, euthanasia, clerical sexual abuse, the rights of the unborn, equality and religious freedom. One can anticipate others.

Catholic Voices demonstrates a timely new brand of apologetics.

In an age where the Church often gets bad press and suffers persistent communications woes, it gives Catholics the tools to speak up about their faith. Highly recommended.

## How to celebrate cultural diversity

**Culture-Sensitive Ministry. Helpful Strategies for Pastoral Ministries.** By K McGuire, E Fernandez, and A Hansen. Paulist Press, 2010. PB, 90 pages, \$16.95. Reviewer: Margaret Ryan.

Is your parish monocultural? Are there any variations among parishioners in first language, ethnic or racial or educational backgrounds, disability, age, marital status, family structure, sexual orientation, socioeconomic level?

Most parishes (reflecting society) are multi-cultural and hopefully aim to be culture sensitive.

Crossing cultural boundaries in the parish can be especially distressing if one is not received with respect, hospitality and openness.

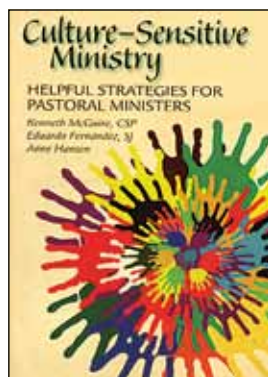
The book examines this issue: how does a parish welcome and integrate people with their gifts, talents and cultural differences into existing communities?

The authors (a Paulist and Jesuit priest and a laywoman) have backgrounds and considerable experience in cultural anthropology, missiology, pastoral theology, teaching, parish work and journalism. Each has experienced crossing cultural boundaries.

The first part of the book examines the nature of culture and how it permeates and influences every aspect of life apart from the biological. It is important for Church leaders to be aware of the dynamics of the culture in which they serve, and the authors offer a number of essential points for reflecting on the complex relationship between faith and culture.

The second section describes a process for parishioners to gather to share and listen to individual and group stories and experiences: the basis for understanding of differences and "otherness" and the core of bridge-building.

Sample workshop handouts are provided, and further handouts and resources are available online. This slim volume provides an accessible background, for professionals and parishioners alike, to an important and perhaps invisible aspect of parish life.



## Looking to an adult faith

**The WOW Factor: Bringing the Catholic Faith to Life.** By William J.O'Malley. Orbis Books, 2011, 180 pages, \$24.95. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.

The cover blurb describes this book as a "popular presentation of the Catholic faith that delights and inspires". The author is William O'Malley. He has been a Jesuit and an educator for over 60 years.

He's learnt a thing or two about human nature during this time. This is his 20th book.

He believes we need to recover a sense of awe and wonder in our faith. He aims to evangelise the "cautiously comfortable" to trade security for surrender: to the truths

about our giftedness, to the needs of others, to God.

The vital ingredient is humility. He asks can we be humble enough to admit that what we don't know will always exceed our grasp?

O'Malley is committed to promoting an adult faith. He grounds this in the sayings and actions of Jesus. He encounters many people whose thirst for God dried up when they left high school. They have never met the adult Jesus.

He is aware of, and sympathetic to, those who have difficulties with Church teachings and law. He names his own issues as well.

His most moving chapter was on forgiveness of sins. He links it with Jesus' practice of healing the sinner.

## WODEN CHRISTIAN BOOKSHOP

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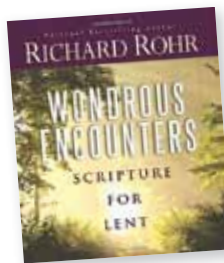
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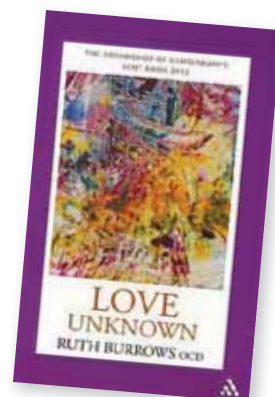
## CATHOLIC BOOKSHOP

Among our Lenten resources this year will be *Living a Life in Grace* and a CD of Lenten reflections and music by local musician Stephen Kirk

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## Prayers

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

**THOU O Mary**, Help of Christians, who once experienced the hardship and difficulties of acquiring the temporal necessities of life, look with compassion upon her now faced with the same difficulties and help her to find a suitable employment. She is anxious, dear Mother, to be gainfully engaged in work that will relieve her temporal needs without in any way endangering the spiritual wellbeing of her soul. Direct her to employment that will enable her fittingly to provide

for herself and her family. O Immaculate Mother, grant my request. I publish thy goodness that others may know the favour thou enjoyest with Almighty God unto His greatest honour and glory. J B.

**Catholic Voice Classifieds cost \$7.70 for the first 30 words, and \$2.20 for each 6 words after that.**

**Payment by cheque or credit card.**

**Deadline is always 15th of the month. Contact us at GPO Box 3089 Canberra 2601, or e-mail [ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au](mailto:ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au)**

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# Coming Events



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

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

**CANBERRA INTERFAITH FORUM** - Symposium, How Can We Contribute to Global Peace and Human Rights?, 2pm-5pm, Sunday, 5 February, functions hall, Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, 15 Blackall Street, Barton. Inquiries: Harry, telephone 0425 224 445, e-mail harry046@hotmail.com.

**FR PHIL HARDING** - Commemorating 30 years service by parish priest Fr Phil Harding, Mass, 6pm, Friday, 10 February, Sacred Heart Church, Loftus Street, Temora. Dinner 7.30pm, Temora Ex-Services Memorial Club, 130 Baker Street, Temora. Payment \$30.00 must be received with bookings and forwarded to Mrs Mavis Murphy, 224 De Boos Street, Temora, 2666 by 3 February. Inquiries: Mrs Margaret Sleight, telephone 6978 1260.

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

**LEADERSHIP FOR WOMEN** - Madeleine Sophie Barat Program sponsored by religious of the Sacred Heart, organised by women for women, focusing on social awareness, spirituality and leadership. Three live-in weekend retreats, 9-11 March, 6-8 July, 2-4 November, The Gathering Place, 4 Bancroft Street, Dickson. Applications: Sr Betty McMahon, telephone 6257

9027, e-mail betty.kp@bigpond.com, by 9 February.

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

**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.

**ST VALENTINE'S MASS** - 6pm, Saturday, 11 February, St Thomas the Apostle Church, Kambah. Includes renewal of marriage promises for married couples, and special blessing for engaged couples. Dinner dance 7pm in school hall, \$30 per person, islander theme. Bookings essential. Inquiries: Tracey, telephone 6231 9219, Trish 6231 8468 ah.

**TAIZE SERVICE** - 6pm, 12 February, All Saints Anglican Church, Ainslie. Candlelit and meditative, based on simple song or chant, reflective readings, silence and prayer for the world.

**WEEKEND RETREAT** - Following in the Footsteps of Thomas Merton, The Hermitage, Marist Brother's, Mittagong. 2-4 March. Facilitator Sr Lorraine Cupitt RSM. Donation \$220. Bookings 15 February. Inquiries: Telephone 6262 8974, e-mail lorraine.pottershouse@virginbroadband.com.au

**WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER** - Weekend for married couples, 23-25 March, St Mary's Towers Retreat Centre, Douglas Park, NSW. Bookings: Telephone 4283 3435 or go to www.wmme.org.au.

Written entries are invited for the March 2012 issue to: Catholic Voice, GPO Box 3089, Canberra ACT 2601, or e-mail ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au by Wednesday, 15 February. Entries which are accepted for this section are free, courtesy of sponsorship by the Catholic Development Fund.

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## 2012 will be a landmark year

● From Page 1.

"It will be a time to refocus, asking the simple but crucial question of every aspect of Church life, 'What does this have to do with Jesus?'"

"A number of events and celebrations will punctuate the Year of Grace, which will replace nothing but gather all things to itself, looking all the time to the Lord crucified and risen who is grace incarnate.

"The Year of Grace in Australia will lead neatly and naturally to the Year of Faith which Pope Benedict has proclaimed for the whole Church from 11 October, 2012, to the end of 2013.

"The Year of Faith will mark the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council, described by Blessed John Paul II as 'the great grace given to the Church in the 20th century'.

"If grace is God's free gift to us in Jesus, then faith is the human response in accepting that gift. The Year of Grace and the Year of Faith will celebrate the two aspects of the saving encounter which happens once God offers us the gift and we accept it.

"In celebrating that encounter, we will go back to the very basics of the Christian life".

In October, the Synod of Bishops will be held with the theme "A new evangelisation for the transmission of the faith".

"It is no accident that this was the theme chosen by the Pope to coincide with the Golden Jubilee of the Council," Archbishop Coleridge said.

"It is a way of saying that the Council itself was all about a new evangelisation - a new surge of Gospel energy - in the wake of two-part apocalypse of World War I and World War II, after which nothing could be the same.

"The Council was not an introverted affair, looking only to the inner life of the Church. It looked outwards and asked the crucial question, How might we preach the Gospel to the world in new ways, given that Jesus crucified and risen is the only response adequate to the ash-heaps of Auschwitz and Hiroshima? What does a new evangelisation require? What might it look like?"

On the world scene, the International Eucharistic Congress will be held in June in Dublin.

Archbishop Coleridge said the Church in Australia and in the Archdiocese owed "an unpayable debt to the Irish who sowed the seed of faith among us".

## Help for our soldiers

Catholics throughout Australia are being asked to do something practical to help Catholic members of the Australian Defence Force by sponsoring special waterproof military prayer books.

The Knights of the Southern Cross are raising funds to print 10,000 prayer books containing the revised translation of the Mass and prayers specific to military personnel. The cost of sponsoring a prayer book is \$4 and donations are tax deductible. Information: www.ksca.org.au click on "What's New". Inquiries: Mr Bob Perkins, telephone 6247 2977.

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The flourish of Christmas/New Year celebrations is often accompanied by considerable expenditure on food, gifts and entertainment.

Reflecting on our recent giving to those we love could form the basis for a prayerful consideration of the generous support of those we do not know.

Many need assistance for formation as well as materials to survive and fulfill their mission undertakings. The assistance given through Catholic Mission often supplements local contributions and supports those whose dedication and commitment to the communities they serve is unwavering.

Catholic Mission's St Peter Apostle Appeal provides essential funds for training priests, religious and catechists in missionary dioceses. This appeal complements our Seminarian Supporters Program which seeks to offset the running costs of seminaries.

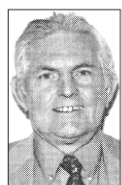
The Seminarian Supporters Program invites people or groups to assist a seminarian for 3 years by committing to give \$1500 annually to support and share in their journey.

Please reflect, what can you do to ease their burdens and enable their endeavours?

God bless,  
**Deacon Joe Blackwell**

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

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Time was one of the big focuses at St Mary's when Catholic Voice came to visit.

Year 5 was exploring the past and learning about the gold rush. The students tested their creative skills by building dioramas of what they thought a town might look like in those days.

Meanwhile the Year 2 children were gazing into the future to imagine what things might be like when they are as old as their grandparents.

According to the story Harry O'Brien wrote on the subject, old age should be a lot of fun.

"When I am old and I'm a grandparent, I am going to love my grandchildren. I will take them for a spin in my Vortex Hovercraft...I will be a millionaire and give them half my money...I will let them stay up until they pass out. I won't let them hurt any animals – except ants. I will be bald and I think I will like it."



ABOVE: Molly Seaman, Matilda Cummins, Ellie Searl and Millijana McGrath from Year 3 are serene during their Christian meditation session.



ABOVE: Donna George helps Luke McCue out with his reading.



ABOVE: Year 4 student Thomas Croker rocks out during his guitar lesson.



ABOVE: This water colour design is of Year 3 student Ellie Searl's heart garden.



ABOVE: Amelia Croker, Joe Slater and Sebastian Crasnick from year 1 use the school iPads to play Maths Bingo.



RIGHT: Year 5 student Joshua Lowe makes a last minute adjustment to his diorama of a gold rush town.



ABOVE: Holly Coggan from Year 4 used charcoal to draw this portrait of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop.



The students in Year 2 used mixed media for their grandparent portraits. The images above were made by Lachlan Evans (left) and Meg Gamble (right).

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



ABOVE: Hamish Macdougall from Year 4 is keen to answer during his class' discussion about space.

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