



City aspires to finish restoration – Page 10

FREE

No. 274 March 2012

Circulation 21,000

2x4 equals loads of fun

It was twice the nerves and double the fun when four sets of twins started their first day of kindergarten at St Michael's Primary School, Kaleen.

Their arrival means the school has a record five sets of twins enrolled. It also means teachers have their work cut out.

Luckily the school has two kindergarten classes this year, with two sets of twins enrolled in each class.

Ruby and Josie Anderson, the only identical set of twins, are excited to begin their learning journey alongside pre-school friends Bryce and Morgan Dalla Costa and Declan and Bailey Cotter, and with new friends James and Peter Bondfield.

Principal Mrs Judy Walsh said teachers were well prepared. Miss Pelle and Mrs Tanchevski were ready for "a very busy year full of adventures and challenges.". This number of twins in a small school setting will provide many varied learning experiences for both adults and students. We are blessed to have so many sets of twins, and all have older siblings attending St Michael's."

ABOVE: Twins Ruby and Josie Anderson, Bailey and Declan Cotter, Peter and James Bondfield and Morgan and Bryce Dalla Costa test out the play equipment.



New mission strategy is launched

An initiative to generate new energy and possibilities in the pastoral and sacramental care of communities has been launched in four areas of the Archdiocese.

The formation of missions based on Goulburn, Queanbeyan, West Wyalong and Temora was an effort to respond to "the grace of this time", Archbishop Mark Coleridge said.

"Structures and strategies have to respond to the facts and to grace; we are trying to hear what the Spirit is saying in this time."

The mission concept, which will vary according to the needs of spe-

cific communities, involves setting up a mission team headed by a parish priest and including other clergy and parish pastoral co-ordinators depending on the circumstances.

The mission structure allowed for a new strategy with elements of the old, that was respectful of individual communities, but offered a more fluid way of working for priests and people, he said.

He described it as "moving beyond the village approach to church life".

The Goulburn mission encompasses the parishes of Goulburn,

Braidwood and Taralga. The mission team is Goulburn parish priest Fr Dermid McDermott, Fr Michael Lim, parish pastoral co-ordinators Sr Bernadette Mary Walsh (Taralga) and Christian Brother Brian Berg (Braidwood), assisted by retired priest Fr Laurie Bent.

The Queanbeyan mission includes Queanbeyan, Bungendore and Michelago parishes. The team is Queanbeyan parish priest Fr Troy Bobbin and Fr Loorthusamy "Samy" Irudeyasamy, and assisted by Fr Kevin Flynn who is retired in the parish.

● Cont Page 2.

What's in vogue and affordable



Autumn's here and it's time to face the fact that cooler weather is on the way. As the temperature drops, we should look to layers, the fashion experts say. Vinnies has a few well-priced options to help us look cool, but stay warm. Page 15.

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 DEADLINE: Editorial and advertising 15th of the month before publication.
 Catholic Voice is published by the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn and printed by Capital Fine Print, Fyshwick. It is a member of the Australasian Catholic Press Association and the Australasian Religious Press Association.
 Every month 21,000 copies are distributed.
 Print Post Publication No. 238684/00009

what do you know?

1. What Canberran received an OAM for service to women's health?
2. Which Archbishop was Fr Ron Flack secretary to?
3. What date is Easter Sunday this year?
4. What year was the Diocese of Goulburn formed?
5. Marking the 50th anniversary of Vatican II, the Pope has declared a Year of
6. When did Daramalan College open?

Answers bottom Page 4.

Young people turn the tide



More than 40 young people from around the Archdiocese gathered at The Pines, Tuross Heads, for the annual Turn the Tide weekend.

This year's theme, "Reaping the Harvest", was based on the parable of the sower seen in the Gospels.

Participants received formation from guest speakers religious education coordinator for government schools in Canberra Deacon Matt Ransom, a founding member of the L'Arche community in Australia Ms Eileen Glass, and archdiocesan vocations director Fr Emil Milat.

Deacon Ransom's sharing was well received by the young people and he made a fantastic start to the retreat.

Ms Glass' talks were a highlight for many.

One young person said, "Eileen's talks really touched me."

They were full of wisdom and they really spoke to where we are at in our lives".

Fr Emil's Milat's spiritual direction of the weekend as well as his input during his talk and his homily was excellent.

Participants were also fortunate to have Bega parish priest Fr Bernie Patterson celebrate the Eucharist on Saturday. His homily was dynamic and engaging.

Over the weekend, participants engaged in a number of activities, including adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, a trivia night, talks, a question panel as well as a lot of free time spent at the beach.

For information on upcoming events, contact the archdiocesan youth office youth_events@catholiclife.org.au.

ABOVE: Enjoying this year's Turn the Tide weekend at Tuross Heads.



CATHOLIC VOICE...Share yours with a friend

From near and far Carl gives his backing

Socceroo Carl Valeri has been named ambassador for the 13th Canberra Catholic primary school soccer carnival. About 1400 children in 120 teams representing most of the 45 eligible Catholic primary schools in the Archdiocese will gather at the University of Canberra playing fields on 18 March.



"This is a big football event for my home town and it's the sort of thing I would have loved to have been a part of if it had been around when I was at primary school in Canberra," Valeri said. "There's not a lot I can do from Europe to help, but I'm delighted to be able to let the boys and girls know I'm supporting them." He attended St Francis of Assisi, Calwell, and St Clare of Assisi, Conder, in the 1990s.

Valeri, who was signed by Italian giants Inter Milan as a teenager and currently plays in Italy with Serie B club Sassuolo, has represented Australia at every level. The carnival is being organised by St Matthew's Primary School, Page.

A SUCCESSFUL fund-raiser was held at the National Archives to help the development of Karahoro, a village in Democratic Republic of Congo. Organiser Ms Hilda Fitzgerald said the event featured refugees providing Congolese traditional dancing and Sudanese cooking. "It was not only a financial success, but an interaction of culture and social inclusion," she said. If anyone would like to help, they may contact her at e-mail hildafitzgerald@netspeed.com.au

New mission strategy launched

● From Page 1.

The former Western mission has been divided into West Wyalong and Temora missions. West Wyalong takes in the parishes of West Wyalong, Ungarie and Weethalle. The mission team comprises parish priest Fr Mick MacAndrew and Sr Frances McAleer (Weethalle).

The Temora mission takes in the parishes of Temora, Ardlethan and Barellan. The team is Temora parish priest Fr Simon Falk, Sr Anne Steenbergen (Barellan) and Sr Mary Murphy (Ardlethan), assisted by Fr Phil Harding who has retired in Temora.

Archbishop Coleridge said possibilities were also being

explored on the Monaro and the far South Coast.

Vicar General Mgr John Woods said the Archdiocese's Council of Priests would discuss the mission model at its meeting this month.

It would also look at a proposed charter which tried to capture the vision of mission in a manageable way. "Regular meetings of the mission team and parish pastoral councils and parish finance committees are essential in growing the mission," he said. "It also looks to affirm and call forth the giftedness of parishioners."

"The proposed charter also calls for annual representative assemblies of the faithful in each mission."

Mgr Woods said priests in the mission teams would work across the parishes of the mission. Parish pastoral co-ordinators would be resident in a parish, but their gifts would be used to serve the mission as a whole.

"The concept of mission calls parishes to think locally but within the mission context, asking 'what are our needs' and 'what contribution can we make to the greater good of the mission', as well as 'what can we draw on from our brothers and sisters in Christ?'," he said.

Mgr Woods said the way in which missions evolved would vary according to local needs and in light of the personalities and giftedness of the people involved.

Goulburn parish priest Fr McDermott said: "Everyone has been very accepting of the mission; everyone has had to make changes with Mass times to fit in, but people are very accepting of that. This will take a lot of finetuning though. The most important thing to realise is the parishes will remain separate."

Final report soon on assembly

The final report on discussions that took place at last year's archdiocesan assembly will be finalised this month and distributed around the Archdiocese. It will first be tabled at the meeting of the archdiocesan Council of Priests on 14 March. Proceedings from the assembly, which had the title The Changing Face of Sunday, were discussed by members of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council when they met last month.



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Fanfare as PM comes to launch training centre

Students at St Mary MacKillop College in Tuggeranong were in for an eventful day when Prime Minister Ms Julia Gillard visited their school for the official opening of the Canberra Region Trade Training Centre.

Ms Gillard was accompanied by School Education, Early Childhood and Youth Minister Mr Peter Garrett and Federal Member for Canberra Ms Gai Brodtmann - and a large pack of media from around the nation.

South Tuggeranong parish priest Fr John Armstrong attended the opening on behalf of Archbishop Mark Coleridge.

The school's training centre, built as part of the Australian Government's \$2.5 billion Trade Training Centres in Schools program, will provide students with access to quality occupational training facilities in hospitality and construction industries.

A key partner in the Canberra Region Trade Training Centre is the Canberra Institute of Technology.

The partnership aims to significantly improve learning opportunities, career prospects and training pathways for students through guaranteed pathways to Certificate III qualifications in industries of high demand.

Facilities for the Canberra Region Trade Training Centre are also under development at St Francis Xavier College, Florey, St Clare's College, Griffith, and Merici College, Braddon.

The four Catholic colleges jointly received \$5.7 million in Australian Government funding as part of round two of the Trade Training Centre program.

At the opening, Ms Gillard said the state of the art centre would allow students to begin their career journey in their own school. "You can learn skills so that when you go

out to workplaces you can use them immediately, because the space and equipment you are using is a lot like where you will work," Ms Gillard said.

"We want every student who emerges from school to have the capacities they need to have their adult journey in a different economy and a different world. It's no longer acceptable to say 'let's just let kids drift away from school because they'll find something to

do.' I'm incredibly proud of the way we've gone through this incredible journey of change; and the Catholic education system has been a partner with us through that journey. At every stage of the journey they have urged us on because they want to see the best for students in every stage of their education."

The official blessing of the training centre will take place on 14 September.

ABOVE: Prime Minister Julia Gillard greets St Mary MacKillop College students at the training centre's official opening. For further information go to www.tradetrainingcentres.deewr.gov.au.







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Ash Wednesday 2012

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The forty days of Lent are a journey towards Easter. They are a time of preparation just as the forty years in the desert were a preparation for the Chosen People to enter the Promised Land and the forty days of Jesus in the desert were a preparation for his public ministry.

By means of the ancient and ever new disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, we prepare ourselves for the celebration of the heart of the Christian life – the triumph of life over death, of light over darkness. And this in a world where death and darkness often seem to hold sway. These disciplines help us to identify how death and darkness have taken hold of us and how we can break their power to experience the truly human life that God offers us.

The metaphor of journey lies at the heart of the Bible; it is the root-metaphor from which the Bible takes its rise. That is why there are so many journey stories in Scripture – the journey of Abraham, the Exodus, the return from Exile in Babylon, the journey of Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem, their flight into Egypt, the journey of Jesus from Galilee to Jerusalem, the Emmaus story, the ceaseless travels of St Paul and so on the list could go almost indefinitely. The question, then, is why the metaphor of journey is so central to the Bible.

At the simplest level, a journey is a movement from one location to another. In that sense, it is always a dislocation. When I was about 14, I dislocated my ankle playing football and I have also dislocated various fingers on the sporting field. I know how painful dislocations can be. For Scripture, the human experience of God is best understood as a journey, because it too always involves a movement from one location to another. The real God never leaves us where and as we are. He always dislocates us. Our experience of God is a wrench. He calls us to leave the old death-dealing world in which we may feel comfortable and to set forth on a journey that will take us to the Promised Land, the garden of Easter. The journey may be uncomfortable, even painful, but it is the only way into the fullness of life.

The story of Cain and Abel (Gen 4:1-16) is seminal, because it is the first story of the human being outside the Garden of Eden, our true home. At the story's end, we are told that Cain goes off to dwell in the land of Nod, east of Eden. In Hebrew, the word

From wandering to journeying

A Lenten letter



“nod” means “wandering”. Cain goes off to live in the land of wandering. From that moment on, the central task not just for Cain but for the human being will be to turn all our wandering into journeying. To wander is to have no purpose or direction; to journey, by contrast, is to have a purpose and direction. God dislocates us so that we can leave behind our wandering and set foot upon the path of true journeying. The journey of which the Bible speaks is, therefore, a creative dislocation. That is the human being's experience of the true God. The false gods always leave us where and as we are – which, in biblical terms, means that they leave us forever in “the land of Nod”. That is why Lent is a time to dethrone the false gods.

Later this year, we will celebrate the sesquicentenary of the foundation of the Diocese of Goulburn, which in 1948 became the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn. We will remember and give thanks for the remarkable journey of those 150 years, in which the Archdiocese has lived through times of great change. We will remember and give thanks for the many men and women – known and unknown – who have been part of that journey and whose faith, hope and love made the Church in this part of the world what it has become. We will do so as their successors, men and women ourselves of faith, hope and love who live in a time of great change.

We may not know the drama of “the Goulburn strike” 50 years ago, which was part of the struggle for economic justice for Catholic schools. Yet in its own way this is a time when we are called to journey beyond what has been familiar and comfortable to a different point where the Church is still the Church, though in ways unknown to those who went before us. This will be in some ways dislocating, but it will be the creative dislocation of God.

At Pentecost this year, we will begin to celebrate what the Bishops of Australia have called a Year of Grace, which will usher in the Year of Faith which Pope Benedict has proclaimed for the whole Church from October this year until the end of next year. The two fit neatly together. Grace is the free gift of God's merciful love, which accompanies us at every point of our journey and without which our journeying would be simply impossible. Faith is our response to the free gift, our willingness to accept what is offered and to allow its power to work in our lives. At times, our sense of God's grace can be weak; we think we can do it all by ourselves. And at times our faith can be weak; we fail to see the gift that is offered and to accept it humbly. Now is the time to focus anew upon the gift that God offers in Jesus and what its acceptance requires of us.

The Year of Grace is best thought of as a time of retreat for the entire Church in Australia. It will be a time to listen anew to the voice of Jesus and to contemplate his face, since only he can lead us beyond our present difficulties and divisions. The Year of Grace will replace nothing that is already in place but will gather up all that is planned – in the Archdiocese, in Australia and around the world. It will continue until Pentecost 2013; and in an arc from Pentecost to Pentecost, it will be a great invocation of the Holy Spirit, rising from the heart of the Church in this country. Together, we will implore the grace of a new Pentecost from God.

The Year of Faith will begin on 11 October, which marks the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council, described by Pope John Paul II as “the great grace bestowed on the Church in the twentieth century” (Novo Millennio Ineunte, 57). For the Council to bear its true fruit, there will need to be a deepen-

ing of faith – in God above all, but also in Jesus as the one sent by God, not just as a role-model who lived long ago but as God's Son and the Saviour of the world, who is among us here and now as presence and power. There will need to be a deepening of faith too in the Church as the Body of Christ, not just another human institution which is an optional extra or even an obstacle on our journey home to Paradise.

From October this year until Pentecost next year, the Year of Grace and the Year of Faith will overlap, as grace and faith must do. For grace without faith is a gift without a receiver; and faith without grace is a receiver without a gift. When the two come together, we have the gift and the receiver; and that is the wondrous exchange that we call salvation. It is that exchange which enables us to turn all our wandering into journeying.

In its earliest days, Christianity was sometimes called simply “the Way” (Acts 9:2). The name picks up the metaphor of journey and puts it at the heart of the Christian life. This is one of the reasons why pilgrimage has always been important for Christians, as it has been for Jews and Muslims as well. The little journey of the pilgrimage looks to the great journey which will lead us home to Paradise. We will be pilgrims through these days of Lent, as we will be through the Year of Grace and the Year of Faith. Each of us will, in our own way, be unsettled by the God who is always, for the children of Abraham, the God of creative dislocation. By that path alone will we come joyfully to celebrate the moment in which the crucified Lord makes his great exodus out of death into invincible life.

Mark Coleridge

MARCH DIARY

Archbishop Mark Coleridge

- 1 Installation Bishop Les Tomlinson, Bendigo
- 2 Clergy reflection day
- 4 Mass, blessing Stations of the Cross, Kambah
- 7 Opening, blessing Catholic Healthcare, Young
- 8 NSW, ACT bishops meeting

- 9 Principals Mass, Batemans Bay
- 15 ACU scholarship awards
- 22 ACU graduation Mass
- 23 ACU graduation
- 31 Installation Fr Simon Falk, Sisters recommissioning, Temora

Bishop Pat Power

- 1 ACT Churches Council
- 2 Commissioning of new teachers
- 7 Australian Bishops Commission for Health and Community Services

- 8 NSW, ACT bishops meeting
- 10 Farewell Mass and dinner for St Vincent de Paul CEO, Bob Wilson
- 14 Council of Priests
- 15 Bishops Commission for Canon Law
- 16 Centenary of Canberra meeting
- 17 Ecumenical Service for St Patrick's Day
- 17-18 Mass at Campbell
- 21 Professional Standard meeting, Sydney
- 30 Talk to St Mary in the Valley Anglican Church, Tuggeranong

WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

1. Anna Wellings Booth. 2. Archbishop Thomas Cahill. 3. 8 April. 4. 1862. 5. Faith. 6. 1962.

Urban farm to support young with disabilities

Marymead is looking to establish an urban farm to provide development opportunities and support to young people with disabilities.

Marymead acting program manager for disability ventures Ms Helen Gardner said the idea for the Growing Abilities farm in Narrabundah arose from discussion with parents who were concerned young people with disabilities had limited opportunities for meaningful and developmentally-focused activities once they left school.

"Once these young people have left school there's just not enough programs in place to assist them," she said. "It comes to the point where the support needs of school graduates with disabilities can impact on a parents' ability to maintain employment."

Focusing on 18 to 25 year olds initially, the farm will offer opportunities for participants to develop a broad range of skills.

"To begin, projects will include egg production, a herb and vegetable garden, composting, plant propagation, recycling, worm farms and grounds maintenance, with produce to be sold at Marymead fundraising days and to staff," Ms Gardner said.

"Over time, our aim is to scale up so that we can become a supplier of produce to local businesses and develop Growing Abilities into a sustainable social enterprise.

"We hope to have the farm up and running later this year."

The proposed location for the farm is a large parcel of land next to the Marymead premises in Narrabundah.

The project has funding support from the Mary MacKillop and Woods-MacKillop Foundations, as well as a 2011 Innovation Grant from the ACT Government.

However, Ms Gardner said Marymead was still seeking extra funding and support.

"We expect to further develop partnerships across the Canberra community as the project develops," she said.

Marymead senior manager for marketing, community relations and administration Mr Jeff Griffiths said feedback from the local community had been extremely positive and supportive.

"People are very encouraging because there is a real need in the community for young people with disabilities to be included," Mr Griffiths said.

"There's no end in sight for where this program can go."

Plans take shape at Manuka



Plans for development of the Cathedral precinct at Manuka have taken another step forward with the advertising for expressions of interest from construction managers.

They will be included on a limited select tender list for construction of archdiocesan offices and aged persons independent living apartments.

"Our intention is to shortlist three or four suitable construction managers from the responses and then work with them to choose the manager for the construction, project manager Mr Herbie O'Flynn said. "Early responses indicate

that our timing in the marketplace is good and this will lead to the process being very competitive."

A limited number of community responses to the development application were received by ACTPLA and are being addressed by the archdiocesan planners.

ABOVE: An artist's impression of the development, as seen from Canberra Avenue, with the office block on the left and the independent living apartments on the right, provided by architect Mr Rodney Moss.



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School answer to young daughter's plea

Eight years ago in Vietnam young Binh Minh, who struggled with profound disabilities, asked her parents if they could build a school to help other children like her have a better chance in life.

Sadly, not long after her request, Binh Minh died. Her parents, keen to preserve their daughter's memory, approached the Sisters of Mary Queen of Peace in Buon Ma Thuot, Vietnam, and they worked together to make sure her wish was fulfilled.

Today, the Binh Minh Disabled School houses 70 students between the ages of three and 20 who live with a variety of physical and mental disabilities.

Run by three sisters from the congregation of the Sisters of Mary Queen of Peace with three assistants, the school gives students the chance to gain an education in an environment that provides emotional and spiritual care.

Vietnam is home to a large number of disabled children – estimated about 1.2 million – including many affected by exposure to chemicals left over from the spraying of Agent Orange.

The Binh Minh Project committee, established last year, includes South Tuggeranong parish priest Fr John Armstrong and member of the Mary Queen of Peace community Sr Kim Hoa Ha.

They aim to build a workshop which will help the school's students become engaged with the local community and hope to recruit extra staff to cater for the school's growing number of students.

The project appealed to Sr Kim through her own experience of growing up in rural Vietnam and living daily with poverty.

"My family taught me about the seven corporal acts of mercy and the importance of welcoming the homeless into our own home," Sr Kim said. "I felt that I needed to help the children from the school to discover opportunities where they could discover their own gifts and talents."

Sr Kim said although children have flourished there was no place for them to work as they became adults, and a sheltered workshop where they could do simple tasks in a structured environment was desperately needed.



Binh Minh Project committee members (from left) Mr Frank Mines, Fr John Armstrong, Mr Neil Harrigan and Sr Kim Hoa Ha during their visit to the Binh Minh Disabled School in Vietnam.

"In the Vietnamese community disabled children can often be locked in their house while their parents are working, or end up begging on the streets," she said.

"This not only shortens their life but also gives them no opportunity to discover their own dignity and worth. It also means that the community does not learn how to include them as valued members."

Members of the project committee visited the school in 2009 to meet students and staff.

In his diary from the trip, Fr Armstrong said the experience "touched me to the heart... what is most moving about this experience is that each child feels cherished and loved".

A number of goals have been set for the next five years of the project.

"Our aims in 2011 - 2015 are to raise \$100,000 to help build the workshop and train four sisters to care for the disabled children and adults," Sr Kim said. "We also plan to invite four nurses from Australia to visit and assist in the establishment of this facility."

For further information on the Binh Minh Project visit <http://heartsbeatingtogether.apostrophe.com/projects/binh-minh>

Cursillo hears about leadership



More than 60 participants travelled from Arian Park, Cootamundra, Canberra, Harden-Murrumburrah, Grenfell, Jugiong, Temora, West Wyalong, Yass and Young for a Cursillo leadership day held at St Mary's Parish, Young.

They heard reflections on leadership, the Cursillo method and enjoyed country hospitality.

In talks from Merran Martin, Margie Doyle, Sandra Franceschini and Jeanne Montgomery, participants were told being a leader was about blooming where they are planted and being the change in their own square metre.

After last October's western women's retreat led by Sharon Coleman, of Temora, group reun-

ions have been meeting regularly in Temora, Grenfell and Young.

A National Cursillo Encounter will be held at Bringelly on the outskirts of Sydney on 17-19 August.

This promises to be a lively time led by the Spanish Cursillo community and the Greater Sydney Cursillo community.

Cursillo is a gentle three-day retreat for men and women.

For more information, contact Donna Bush, telephone 0414 765 248, e-mail gdbush@tpg.com.au.

Next women's Cursillo will be held on 5-8 July at St Clement's, Galong.

ABOVE: The large group gathered for the leadership day at Young.

Filipinos annual thanksgiving



Rosary groups from Canberra's Filipino community gathered to hold their annual thanksgiving Mass at St Michael's Parish, Kaleen. The event is held to pray for the healing of those who are sick or in need of prayers, and to thank Filipino families who have welcomed the image of Our Lady of Fatima into their homes.

Parish priest Fr Peter Doai celebrated Mass, and Philippine

Ambassador Belen Anota was guest speaker.

Joining the celebrations were officers and members of Filipino associations such as the El Shaddai Canberra chapter, the Philippine Cultural Society, Couples for Christ and Holy Rosary host families.

ABOVE: The group in St Michael's Church, Kaleen.

Would you like to see your parish, school or group news in Catholic Voice? Send your news items and photographs to the editor ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au.

Pastoral education course

An introductory course in mental health clinical pastoral education will be held at Canberra Hospital in May.

A basic unit in clinical pastoral education will be held at Kenmore Hospital in Goulburn beginning in June. They will be run by program supervisor Ms Barbara Hall. For further information, contact Ms Lyn Kelly, telephone 6244 2261 or e-mail lyn.kelly@act.gov.au or go to www.pastoralcareact.org/cpe.

Giving something back

In the article "It's a great opportunity to give something back..." in last month's issue of Catholic Voice, Marist student Callum's published last name was incorrect. It is Sandison.

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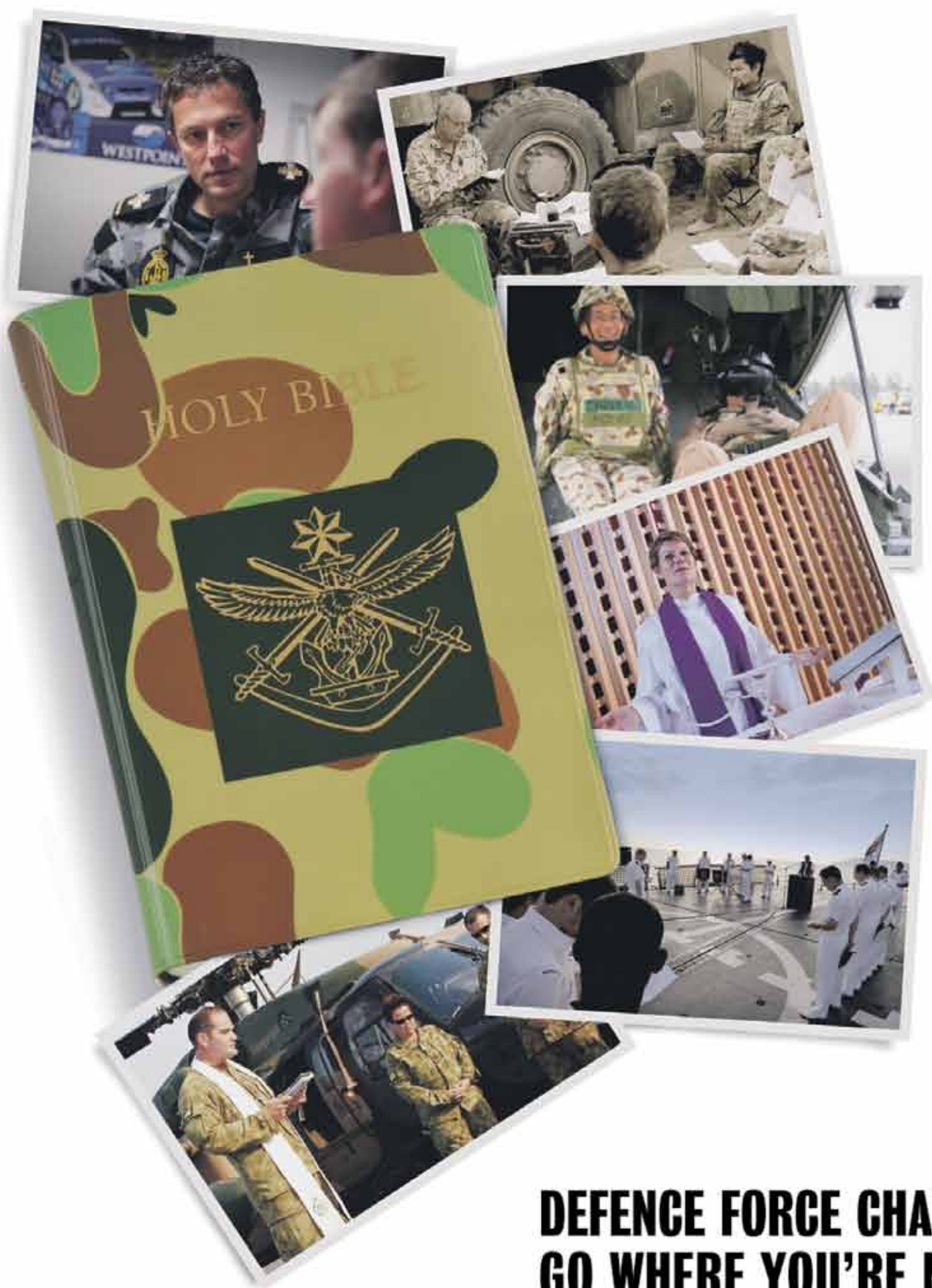
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a centenary of canberra's catholics

In the 11th in a series of portraits of significant Catholics of the national capital, Bishop Pat Power pays tribute to Jean Reid, a convert, teacher and inspiration to many.

Jean personifies best of 'Canberra values'

Canberra in its first 100 years can be rightly proud of the educational opportunities offered to its students, the care for the strugglers in our community and the spirit of ecumenism among the churches at times when elsewhere bigotry and secularism were the order of the day.

Jean Reid personifies the best of these "Canberra values". Born into a Protestant family in Tenterfield NSW, Jean was inspired by her school-teacher father to follow in his profession but reacted to some aspects of her religious upbringing which she perceived as being too exclusive of lay-people in its decision-making.

Jean would later seek to right some of that same imbalance in the Catholic Church. She became a Catholic while she and her future husband, Jim, also a school-teacher, were courting. They were married in 1940 and would eventually have six (very talented) children.

Jean and Jim Reid moved to Canberra in 1954 after they had taught in a series of NSW schools. Jean recalls that there was a series of lucerne fields where Lake Burley Griffin adorns the city today. Jim was science master at Canberra High School while Jean taught at Turner Infants School.

Although she was trained as a secondary teacher, Jean was asked to teach the infants because she could play the piano. Later she would be a very dedicated teacher of children with learning difficulties. She took five years off teaching after the birth of twins, her last born.

Joining the Catholic Women's League, she admired the growth of the organisation under leadership displayed by strong women such as Mary Scholtens, Ursula Southwell and others.

Jean was proud to note the contribution made to the CWL by vibrant country branches.

Sheila Tilse's history of the Catholic Women's League in this Archdiocese describes Jean's election as archdiocesan president in 1958 in these terms: "Jean Reid was to prove herself one of the most capable women to head the CWL in Canberra and Goulburn. A convert, brought up in the Methodist faith, she was enthusiastic about the League and its work. Jean has been described as a 'mover and shaker' (borne out by the growth on the CWL in her time in office). Jean herself speaks of her hopes of finding a place for women in the Church beyond making cakes. She wanted her members to be interested in what was going on in the world, with Catholic women seeing their role in the wider society."

The American Catholic activist, Dorothy Day, was a source of inspira-



tion to Jean. She also speaks of the great encouragement received from Archbishop Eris O'Brien.

Jean became national president of the CWL in 1960 and the following year led an Australian delegation to Rome for a meeting of WUCWO (World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations).

All this happened on the eve of the Second Vatican Council which was to confirm so many of her hopes for the Church and the world.

Around this time, a new Catholic college, Daramalan, was about to open



in Canberra, staffed by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. Its headmaster, Fr John McMahon MSC, headhunted Jean for its foundation staff in 1962. When she completed her time there 20 years later, she was the only remaining original member of staff.

Fellow pioneer teacher Fr Fred Ross, writes, "My memories of Jean during the early days of Daramalan are all pleasant ones. Jean was well respected by all students, particularly by those she called 'slow learners'."

● Cont Page 12.

ABOVE LEFT: Jean Reid.

ABOVE RIGHT: As national president of CWL in 1961, with Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn Eris O'Brien, Mrs Madge Horgan, Mrs Pat Mitchell and Miss Ann Coughlan.

TOP: With fellow Canberra delegates, Joyce Purcell (far left) and Joan Street (seventh from left), after an audience with Pope John XXIII.

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Volunteer Anna is tickled pink with Aust Day honour

By Laura Edwards

When Anna Wellings Booth was diagnosed with breast cancer 25 years ago, she thought, "I don't have time to die – I just have to get on with it and get better."

After successful treatment, she has been the driving force behind many breast cancer awareness and support groups in the ACT and beyond.

Her work hasn't gone unnoticed. On Australia Day she was awarded a medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in recognition of her service to women's health through breast cancer support organisations.

Mrs Wellings Booth has dozens of voluntary breast cancer support roles to her name: she was a foundation member of the Breast Cancer Network Australia, a consumer representative for BreastScreen ACT, a founding member of Bosom Buddies, on the board of the ACT Cancer Council and a trained volunteer with the ACT Palliative Care Society and Cancer Voices ACT.

She is also the Dragons Abreast ACT and region founder and inaugural life member.

For her, volunteer work was always "the natural thing to do".

"My parents were always involved in volunteer work, they were very community minded so it was something I grew up with," she said.

"I didn't consciously think I should volunteer, it was just who I was – it was a part of life."

In between her volunteer duties, Mrs Wellings Booth worked for 20 years as principal's secretary at St Francis Xavier College.

Her work in the breast cancer field began after her diagnosis: "My father always said to me 'an experience isn't worth having unless you do something with it.'"

At the time, Mrs Wellings Booth was encouraged to form her own network.

"We weren't bound by restrictions, we were encouraged to just do it ourselves," she said.

During her breast cancer treatment, she recalls attending a group meeting for people who had cancer.



ABOVE: Anna Wellings Booth (fifth from left) with her Dragons Abreast team mates.



LEFT: Anna Wellings Booth ... "There are plenty of women out there who do so much. I'm just happy to be one of them."

"All they did in the meeting was talk about having cancer," she said.

"And that's fine, we need groups like that too, but at the time I wanted more and I thought 'there's more to life than this'."

The Dragons Abreast team could possibly be seen as the active alternative to other groups.

The members, who are all breast cancer survivors, provide a face for the breast cancer statistics while spreading the message of awareness through participation in the sport of dragon boat racing.

When Mrs Wellings Booth founded Dragons Abreast ACT in 1999, there was only one other Dragons Abreast team in Australia. Now there are 45 teams in Australia, with 58 active members in the ACT.

"It's a very positive group, looking at other things besides cancer and getting some exercise in too," Mrs Wellings Booth said.

"The word 'sufferer' is used a lot when it comes to breast cancer, but these women are certainly not suffer-

ers, they are inspirational women that want to get on and live.

"It brings us together as it's hard to feel alone when we're all on that boat – when we're 20 hearts beating as one.

"The motto of our ACT dragon boat, which is called Tickled Pink, is: 'when the heart weeps for what it has lost, the soul laughs for what it has found'."

The ACT team compete in regatta races interstate, nationally and internationally; placing fifth in the world at an international regatta in Vancouver last year.

Despite the team's success, Mrs Wellings Booth insists you don't have to fit certain fitness criteria to join Dragons Abreast.

"We don't deny a place on the boat to anyone," she said. "It doesn't matter how fit, unfit, big or small they are."

Although at 70 she is not as active in breast cancer organisations as she once was, Mrs Wellings Booth still often attends Dragons Abreast training at Lake Burley Griffin.

"I still get that buzz when I'm in the boat," she said. "There is something so calming and almost spiritual about the lake first thing in the morning, with the mist coming off the water."

Mrs Wellings Booth has been married for more 40 years to David. They have lived in Canberra since the 1960s and have three children. Their daughter, who turns 40 this year, will get a reminder to go with her birthday present that "now is the time to get a mammogram."

"Screening is normally from 50 onwards but if you've got a family history you can go and request one," Mrs Wellings Booth said.

"Detection is key. I was lucky; I caught mine early so I had six weeks of radiation and a lumpectomy but no mastectomy. I was lucky I had a vigilant doctor."

"It's interesting because while diagnosis is on the rise, mortality is on the decline for breast cancer, which means women are detecting it earlier and being more aware of their bodies."

Despite all she has achieved, she remains modest about her role. "The award is really for all women who have had breast cancer, not just for me," she said.

"I could start a club, but you're not going to do it unless you get support, so I'm accepting this on behalf of everyone."

"There are plenty of women out there who do so much. I'm just happy to be one of them."

Parish aims to give charities a helping hand

St Gregory's parish, Queanbeyan, has launched a charitable works program which aims to donate about \$25,000 to local and international charities.

Parish priest Fr Troy Bobbin, who is the driving force behind the program, said the parish was looking to increase its charitable outreach.

"While we have been doing many different activities within the church on a pastoral basis and on a sacramental basis, we haven't gone out and supported different charities in our community and internationally for a while," Fr Bobbin said.

"I thought we'd use the money from the interest we have accrued over the years to start donating to a variety of different charities, both local (Queanbeyan based) charities and universal, sometimes on a one-off basis and sometimes on a month-by-month basis."

Among the charities interested in the program are the St Vincent de Paul youth camps, the L'Arche community for the disabled, Karinya House and the St Benedict's community day centre, together with Home in Queanbeyan.

On an international level, the parish hopes to send volunteers to work with charities and Catholic schools in East Timor.

Fr Bobbin, who has served at St Gregory's for about 12 months, said the idea for the program formed shortly after he came to Queanbeyan.



Fr Troy Bobbin with parish secretaries Rita Pelle and Mary Coombe, parish pastoral council chairperson Bev Raby and finance manager Lee Bobbin.

"Coming in to a new parish, the priest generally looks around to see what's happening, and what's going on with the different aspects of parish life," he said.

"When I started, the councils and I were looking for projects we weren't doing in the parish.

"With our financial situation looking stable I thought we could afford to do a bit more work in the charity area, so we decided on an outreach program that looks at supporting local community organisations as well as others.

As well as donating money, Fr Bobbin is eager to develop a close bond with the charities the parish will work with.

"I don't want this to just be handing over money; I would like to have a relationship with the organisations," he said.

"For example, we are hoping to send a delegation of four or five people to East Timor each year to see what our money is doing and so we can get a rapport going."

For now Fr Bobbin is taking the project "as it comes" and although he isn't certain of its future, he has plans for its development.

"I'm still speaking to the charities and the local community about my intentions with the project," he said.

"As much as I'd like to be more organised it's sometimes better to just go with the flow, particularly with the economic climate.

"The longer term plan for the project is to make it self-funding, so that people who may want to get involved can help with the funding."

City aspires to complete the job

The mission to complete the original 1871 design of Sts Peter and Paul's Old Cathedral in Goulburn is almost within reach, after a development application to erect a spire was lodged with the Goulburn Mulwaree Council.

Goulburn-based heritage architect Mr Garry Dutailis has completed plans for the project that mirror Italian architect Andrea Stombuco's original plan for the church.

Should the application get the green light, the proposed copper coloured, metal-sheathed spire will rise about 10m above the main bell-tower, about 34m above ground level.

Other areas requiring attention in the extensive restoration project include the bell tower, which has already been approved by council to be repaired, stabilisation of the building, serious damp problems and repair of windows.

It is anticipated restoration will be complete in time for the 150th anniversary of Goulburn as a city in March next year.

Publicity officer Mrs Trish Groves has "been saying a few good prayers and keeping all fingers and toes crossed" since the application for the spire was lodged late last year.

Sts Peter and Paul's Old Cathedral was built in 1890 under Bishop William Lanigan. The project to restore the building began in

1986, the brain child of then parish priest Fr Laurie Blake.

"Now (current parish priest) Fr McDermott has picked up the challenge and will get to see how far we can push this project," Mrs Groves said.

Locals had been "enthusiastic" about the planned restoration, and she hopes the changes will reinforce the old cathedral's reputation as one of Goulburn's most treasured heritage buildings.

"I believe that this will be the most impressive addition and enhancement we have had in the restoration process thus far," she said.

"The cathedral is a tourist attraction, and there are lots of other buildings in Goulburn with great significance to the early colony, so this restoration is just another opportunity for people to see what this city has to offer and to restore the cathedral to its deserved beauty."

At an estimated cost of \$145,000 just to remediate the cathedral's bell-tower and erect the spire, Mrs Groves said funding is "crucial."

"The parish has received many generous donations from the community and around the country," she said. "While we have been extremely lucky we can't really rely on individual donations alone, we definitely need those corporate dollars."



Restoration publicity officer Mrs Trish Groves stands outside Sts Peter and Paul's Old Cathedral in Goulburn with the proposed plan.

Excitement of a new school year



Goulburn's Sts Peter and Paul primary school year one students Finnegan Gibson, Emma Webster, Emelia Watts and Isaac Stanberg are excited to be back at school.

Families mark 170-year connection

More than 200 descendants of the McKeough-Croker families have gathered to celebrate 170 years living on the property, "Ayrston" in Golspie. The function began with Mass in St Joseph's Church, Golspie, celebrated by Fr Mark Croker. After Mass everyone moved to the property for a picnic lunch and two plaques were unveiled. One commemorated "Paddy" Ryan and his nephew John James McKeough, the first white settlers at "Ayrston", Taralga. The second plaque



commemorating the McKeough-Croker families was unveiled by Sr M Paulinus Croker and John McKeough, a great grandson of John McKeough. St Joseph's Church was opened in 1897 and is

kept in good order by the people of Golspie even though they do not have Sunday Mass. They travel at least 20km over unsealed roads to attend Mass in Taralga on Saturday evenings.

First-day nerves - only this time it's teacher ...



RIGHT: David Bugden is excited to begin his teaching career.

ABOVE: Lauren Baragry in her first week on the job at Holy Family Primary School, Gowrie.



On his first day as a teacher, David Bugden likened the experience to his first day of school: "the same nerves and the same feelings of uncertainty are all there."

"But like the first day of school, those nerves eventually disappear and you settle in," he said.

Mr Bugden, who graduated from Australian Catholic University last year, has begun his teaching career at Holy Family Primary School, Gowrie.

He and another new teacher Lauren Baragry, who also studied at ACU, will both teach year three classes this year.

Mr Bugden said he got lucky with his first class: "they're at a really good age, so the first day was a lot of fun," he said.

"During my degree I actually completed my fourth year prac here, so I already knew a few of the students and teachers and I couldn't have asked for a better school."

Teaching runs in the family, with Mr Bugden's older brother, two grandmothers and great uncle all teachers.

"I always wanted to be a teacher, as my family had such positive experiences from the job," he said.

"I like being a role model, and it's a fun exciting job - it's really as good as I'd expected it to be."

The 22 year old is all too aware teaching is an uncommon career choice for men.

"It's pretty unfortunate that there is a stigma surrounding teaching for men; it's often seen as a female job and I don't know why that is because it isn't true," he said.

"I think that kind of thinking is slowly going away though; in my year at university there weren't many males doing teaching degrees but in the years below me there were a lot more. Maybe attitudes are starting to change."

A junior soccer coach for six years, Mr Bugden said he has always enjoyed working with children.

"I like leadership roles, and with teaching you get the opportunity to see your students develop and grow, rather than a job just sitting at a desk all day," he said.

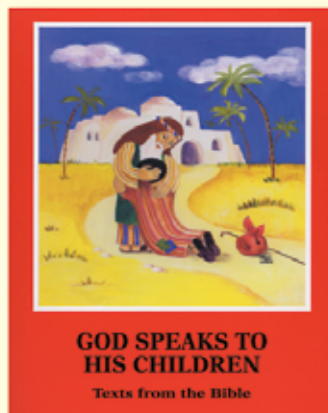
"I think as a teacher it's important to take a positive attitude; I like to have a laugh and joke with my students and just enjoy the day."

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Jean personifies best of Canberra values

• From Page 8.

"She seems to have brought out the best in them, and, as a result, she saw a good number of them gain confidence in themselves and, later on, contribute positively to society."

Jean herself saw teaching children with learning disabilities as the most satisfying aspect of her life in education. People from around Australia and beyond came to observe her groundbreaking work in special education.

Jean was awarded an OAM for her work for children with learning difficulties.

As Daramalan College celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, Jean takes pride in the contribution it has made to half of Canberra's history.

Jean is a great model for women of today seeking to find a balance between family life and pursuing a career.

With her devoted husband, Jim, who became deputy principal of

Campbell High School, she gave all six children a love of learning which they carried into tertiary education.

Jean is proud of the way all her children have committed themselves to working for others. I single out her first-born, Elizabeth, who has brought to reality much of the vision her mother shared with her.

As advisor to Prime Minister Gough Whitlam in women's affairs, as working for women and development in the United Nations, supporting a women's centre in Iran, giving hope to people in India and Zaire and currently working for Caritas in Papua New Guinea combating AIDS and supporting development, Elizabeth Reid has tirelessly and effectively sought to make the world a better place.

Widowed and now retired to Rosedale on the South Coast, Jean retains positive memories of Canberra

where she enjoyed teaching and relished what she saw as a wonderful environment to bring up children. She is especially appreciative of the Catholic schooling available to her family.

Jean is no longer able to get to Mass on a regular basis, but welcomes the visit of an acolyte each Sunday, bringing her Holy Communion.

When I visited her in mid-2011, I was in awe of her clarity of mind, her zest for life and her continuing deep commitment to the Catholic Church.

She showed me photographs taken at her 95th birthday and reminded me that her mother lived to 103.

As I was leaving her home, Jean volunteered without any prompting from me: "People sometimes ask me where I stand with the Catholic Church. I reply, 'My feet are firmly planted in Vatican II.'"

Generosity takes cake



Students and teachers from the food science and hospitality classes at St Edmund's College donated a gingerbread house to Home in Queanbeyan to be used during their annual luncheon held at Home each year. Students from senior hospitality classes also completed an assessment task to design, cost, and prepare a function for the Christmas lunch.

A cheque for \$1000, proceeds of the weekly coffee club and regular Hayden House student donations, was presented.

ABOVE: College principal Mr Peter Fullagar, gingerbread house architects Kyle Maley, Mitchell Polsen and Keegan McGlyn, and manager of Home in Queanbeyan Mrs Anne Pratt.

Contributions of news items and photographs to the columns of Catholic Voice are welcome via e-mail ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au

Serra's positive message on vocations



The 68th president of Serra International, Dr Thomas A Wong, has visited Canberra with a heartening message on vocations worldwide.

Dr Wong is a member of the Serra Club of Hong Kong and was visiting a number of clubs around the world after taking part in the congress for the 70th anniversary of the Pontifical Pastoral Ministry for Priestly Vocations.

He quoted the example of a seminary in Mexico where 600 seminarians are in training and many more have been turned away because of lack of facilities.

Dr Wong met with a group of Serrans at the National Museum and later spoke with chaplain to the Serra Club of Canberra Fr Julian Wellspring.

ABOVE: Dr Thomas Wong and Serra Club members (from left) Audrey Smith, John Malycha (president), Mary Malycha, John Garrety, Cathy Spencer, Max Spencer (SCANZSPAC president), Leo Langtry, John Perez, Barbara Garrety and Paddy Riordan.

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A favourite song



Luke Annetts and Matilda McPherson play Joseph and Mary in a scene from a Christmas play performed by students at Stockinbingal Public School. Every child was given a part in Sr Joseph Christopher's easy to learn Christmas play. One of the favourite songs on the day was Christmas Where the Gum Trees Grow.

Internet www.cg.catholic.org.au

On journey towards wellness

Audrey is a Bardi woman from Djarindjin, a remote community 200km north of Broome in Western Australia.

As is true of many indigenous communities, the rates of deadly lifestyle diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, stroke and kidney failure run high.

A few years ago the diabetes rates in Audrey's community were well over 30 per cent, many times higher than the Australian average.

To prevent diseases like diabetes and improve healthcare in vulnerable communities, Caritas Australia and the Unity of First People of Australia (UFPA) run a holistic, community-owned diabetes management and care program in Djarindjin as well as eight other remote communities across the Kimberley.

Audrey heard about the program in 2005 when UFPA staff visited her children's school.

Eager to support her family's health and learn about the wellness initiative, she set out to make her community a healthier one.

"Aboriginal people die too young from diabetes – it is important to stop this," she said.

"There are lots of people with diabetes here, but before, people didn't know about it." Audrey encourages families to attend an initial community health assessment.

Many adults and children are found to be overweight and at significant risk of chronic diseases.

In partnership with local Aboriginal communities, UFPA trains volunteer carers, like Audrey.

Audrey now encourages families to make lifestyle and dietary changes, as well as enhancing the quality of life for those affected by diabetes.

The nine communities supported by UFPA have seen sustained environmental changes and community engagement including the introduction of edible community gardens, cooking classes, school breakfast programs and diabetes and nutrition education.

Community stores now stock healthy food choices and people are embracing leisure and sports initiatives.

Through a consistent local presence and culturally-appropriate initiatives, UFPA has built trusting relationships with remote communities and helped bridge the gap with mainstream medical, government and educational services.

During Djarindjin's most recent health assessment not a single new case of diabetes was recorded.

"Now people are looking after themselves," Audrey said.

"But diabetes is still a big challenge. We're trying to slow things down by drinking water and eating less sweets and takeaway."



ABOVE: Audrey with some children from Djarindjin, a remote community in the Kimberley.

'Mother of peace' helps in times of crisis

Bae Lisa lives in Mindanao, a Philippines island, with her husband and their nine children. Since 2008, Caritas Australia has supported Bae Lisa, a volunteer with the Mindanao Peoples Caucus.

Since the 1970s more than two million people have been displaced and 120,000 killed in Mindanao's bloody conflict. For decades, the Philippines' mineral-rich island has been mired by land grabbing, economic exclusion, and a disregard for customary

laws and practices that breeds widespread poverty and injustice.

Today, the island is the Philippines' poorest: high maternal and child mortality, malnutrition and lack of education are among the many development challenges contributing to insecurity and injustice.

A traditional leader of the Talaandig tribe and a "mother of peace", Bae Lisa, is one of more than 300 indigenous leaders engaged by the caucus

to work together towards peace.

"In times of crisis I comfort traumatised women and children who fear for their lives," she said.

"I deliver food to displaced people and mediate between government officials and traditional leaders."

Volunteers like Bae Lisa are crucial for maintaining Mindanao's ceasefire, ensuring marginalised community concern is heard at the highest levels.



Bae Lisa ... working for peace.



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Don't let mosquitoes win the day

When grace enters, there is no choice - humans must dance.

W H Auden wrote those words and, beautiful as they sound, I wish they were true. When grace enters a room we should begin to dance but, sadly, more often than not we let some little thing, some minor mosquito to bite, blind us to grace's presence.

I say this with sympathy, not cynicism. We all know how mosquitoes can ruin a picnic. Here's an example: You are celebrating your birthday in your back yard, having a picnic with family and friends. The weather is perfect, the sun is warm, the mood is mellow, and everything around and within you is an invitation to be joyful and grateful.

This is "Sabbath" in the biblical sense: You are celebrating life, your birthday. You are healthy, surrounded by family and friends who love you, enjoying leisure, time off the wheel of work, all with good food and good drink.

Grace has entered and everything is wonderful, except for one thing, mosquitoes. As dusk begins to take hold they discreetly begin to infiltrate, inflicting a

bite here and a bite there until eventually most everyone loses his or her focus and is preoccupied with keeping exposed parts of their flesh under vigilance.

Eventually most of the good cheer and the gratitude evaporate and irritation at the mosquitoes effectively ends any inclination to dance. The picnic is brought down by a series of little bites.

We could all recount a hundred kinds of incidences of this sort. Given the complexity and contingency within our everyday lives, mosquitoes of some type are invariably present.

There is some rain on every parade, some irritation in virtually every situation in life, and some element challenging pure grace within almost every moment of life. Life rarely comes to us pure, free from all shadow.

That's why former spiritualities said that we are "living in this valley of tears". In our lives we never experience a moment of clear-cut, pure, joy. Everything comes with a shadow, a mosquito to the picnic.

And so it is not always easy to dance, even in the clear presence of grace. Mosquito bites can eas-

ily cause us to lose perspective, to lose the big picture, the one that would have us see and celebrate grace, even in the face of some minor irritation. A minor irritation can make us lose sight of a huge grace.

Ron Rolheiser

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



Today there is a rich spiritual and psychological literature that challenges us to try to live more fully inside the present moment and not let our heartaches about the past or our anxieties about tomorrow cheat us out of the riches of today.

But, as we as know, that is easier said than done. Elements from our past - half-remembered lullabies from childhood, an almost-forgotten face, a past

love, a humiliation on the playground deep in our past, a misstep that still haunts us, and a thousand other things from our past - impale themselves into our present.

The future, as well, colours our present as we anxiously worry about an impending decision, the meeting we must have tomorrow, what the doctor is going to tell us at our next visit, and how will meet our next mortgage bill. The present moment never comes to us pure.

And yet the challenge remains, an important and healthy challenge: Don't let the mosquito bites within life blind you to the larger presence of grace! One of my favorite spiritual writers, David Steidl-Rast, articulates this challenge very strongly, though he does it by emphasising the positive.

Here's an example from his writings: "You think this is just another day in your life. It's not just another day; it's the one day that is given to you today. It's given to you; it's a gift. It's the only gift that you have right now, and the only appropriate response is gratefulness.

"If you do nothing else but to cultivate that response to the great gift that this unique day is, if you learn to respond as if it were the first day of your life and very last day, then you will have spent this day very well."

But that is a grace that does not come easily; it must be fervently prayed for. Mosquitoes will inevitably make their presence known at every picnic in our lives. That's a given. The challenge is to not lose sight of the larger presence of grace because of minor irritations.

It helps to keep one's sense of humour about this: I was trying to untie my shoe lace yesterday, a simple, rote act that I've performed blindly thousands of times. I tugged on a lace and, given how shoes are tied, it should be impossible for the laces not to open. But somehow a knot appeared instead! How can this happen?

The answer lies in a simple, age-old, philosophical axiom: In the world of irritation there are no impossibilities, no limits of finitude, only infinite potentialities. Small wonder humans don't always dance when grace enters.

why I grow what I grow

Young gardeners get a taste for fresh produce

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 a school teacher and his keen young gardeners.

Having a school garden is a great way for children to learn about the outdoors and the food they eat according to Eugene Lehmensich, who teaches environmental science at Sts Peter and Paul Primary School, Garran.

The life cycle of plants, how seasons can affect growth and harvesting food are all things Mr Lehmensich's students are learning about, and they can watch it all happen before their eyes in their huge school garden.

The garden has several plots which grow produce including corn, pumpkin, potatoes, spinach and sunflowers.

Mr Lehmensich has taught at Sts Peter and Paul Primary School for three years, and enjoys using the garden as a

hands-on learning tool for students.

"In the garden the kids can pick and eat things while they're learning, and that's fun for them," he said.

"Gardening was probably a great mystery to them when we started but they're used to it now.

"Initially things like watching where potatoes grow and where they come from surprised them, but the main thing that took them aback was the taste - fresh versus refrigerated."

The school's gardening class is connected with the cooking class next door; where students can learn about the food they grow in one class, then cook and taste the food in another.

Mr Lehmensich said the classes are a good way to do something different and get students outdoors.

"It's important to get children outside and to be comfortable with the outdoors, especially the way they are now - they spend a very limit-



ed time outside and a lot of time inside," he said.

"My main thing is to get them to feel safe about what's going on around them, to not jump every time they see a spider or an earth worm, and look at it with interest rather than being afraid of it."

Mr Lehmensich said there are always a lot of smiles in his classes.

"What's most affirming I suppose is that kids who don't

really do that well in other classes can do well here," he said.

"It's a good way of engaging kids who perhaps haven't quite found their way at school yet."

Mr Lehmensich has a garden at home, and his garden-

ing advice is simple: "if you want to grow a good garden you need good soil," he said.

"Also trying not to use pesticides is important; where the insects and bugs can work with you rather than against you."

ABOVE: Students Sarah Lorenz (far left), Michaela Roberts and Ashley Garner work on the spinach plot in their school garden as teacher Mr Eugene Lehmensich watches.

Asylum seekers: Focus must be on human need

In this article the Archdiocese's Social Justice Commission raises ethical questions about Australia's treatment of asylum seekers.

For many years Australia has been having an often-heated debate about asylum seekers. Are there principles to guide what might be a Christian response?

The over-riding theme must surely be that of compassion – for asylum seekers themselves, for their families, and for their communities. Compassion for people in receiving countries, Australia included, is also imperative.

Translating the simple ideal of compassion into practical policy is more easily said than done. One might like to think that Australia would welcome and accept all asylum seekers who are genuine refugees. The numbers across the globe, however, run into tens of millions. Even if Australia were to increase vastly the number of refugees it accepts for resettlement, the intake would still be only a fraction of those with realistic claims to refugee status.

How, then, should Australia choose the individuals and families it accepts for resettlement as refugees? Do those in camps overseas have first call? Do those who arrive by boat have prior claims? How about those who come by air and seek refugee status after their arrival?

Giving priority to those in camps relieves the burden borne by receiving countries less wealthy than Australia. At the same time, it will reduce Australia's capacity to accept refugees who lodge their claims after arriving by boat or air (unless, of course, the total intake is uncapped).

If asylum seekers found to be refugees have priority after arriving by boat, does Australia run the risk of encouraging more people to undertake a hazardous voyage and run the risk of drowning? If so, how does Australia seek to minimise the dangers – and what does it say to the thousands of asylum seekers trapped in camps across the region?

Conditions in Australia's detention centres are harsh. They severely damage the mental and physical health of many asylum seekers, especially those held for long periods. Is it ethical to impose such severe regimes, even if the intent is to save people's lives by discouraging them from risking their lives at sea?

It is common ground between Labor and the Coalition parties that onshore processing of claims for refugee status increases the flow of boat people. Does that justify the inhumane treatment often associated with holding asylum seekers in camps overseas?

An article such as this can do little more than raise some of the main questions about an ethical approach to asylum seekers. It cannot answer those questions definitively. The central point to keep in mind is the primary importance of focusing on human need, even if the issues raised as a result are uncomfortable.

* See also, Principles for a Coherent Refugee Policy, by Frank Brennan SJ, www.eurekastreet.com.au/article.aspx?aid=28881#

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



On trend

Come with us as we take a look at the latest seasonal fashion trends for men and women with key pieces from stores, designers and people in our Archdiocese.

In this issue we focus on Autumn, and include clothing from the St Vincent de Paul Society store in Dickson.

The cooler months are all about mixing it up rather than matching; and this year anything goes with mixing different fabrics and prints.

As the temperature drops, look to layers: for men the quickest wardrobe update is to throw a simple blazer over a shirt and jeans or for women, a cropped jacket over a shirt and pants.

For colours think rich burgundies, crisp greens, earthy browns and jewel tones.

Complete the look with a bright, contrasting handbag or accessories.

Stylist: Jenny Kozlow

Models: Claudia Vannithone, Andy Gallagher and Maria Gidis.

Photographer: Laura Edwards

St Vincent de Paul Society stores provide quality second-hand clothing and household goods to families and people in need. They are also a valuable resource for people to buy quality clothing and other household items at an affordable price. Profits go directly towards supporting people in need.



Maria wears dress \$9, coat \$12, scarf \$3, shoes \$7 and bag \$5, all from St Vincent de Paul's Dickson store.



Andy wears shirt \$7, scarf \$3 and jacket \$12, all from St Vincent de Paul's Dickson store; jeans and shoes from stylist's own collection.

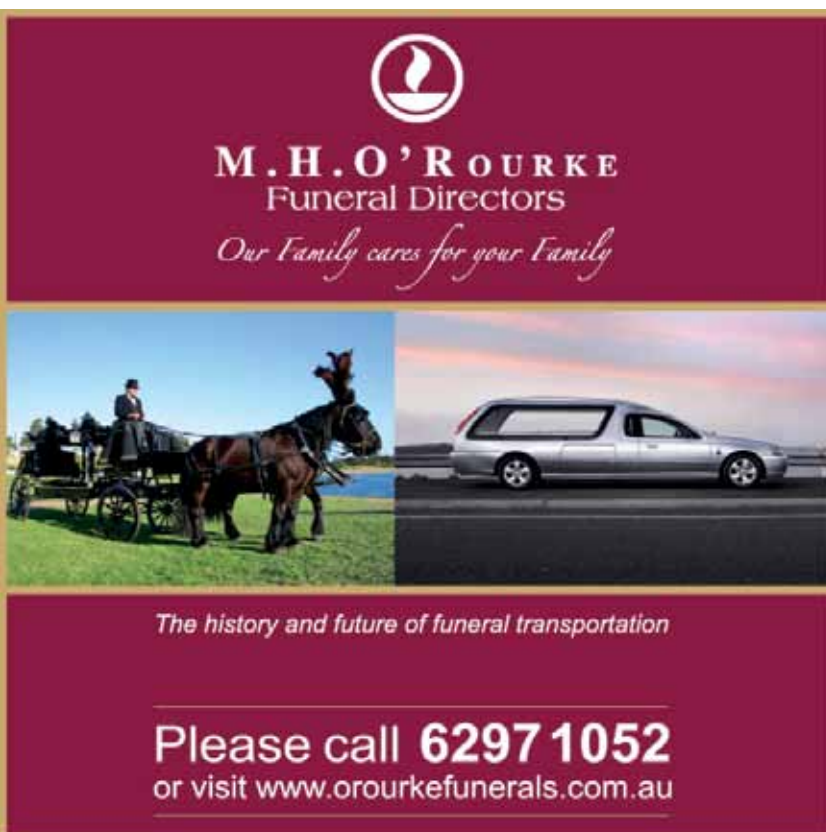


Claudia wears shirt \$7, jacket \$12 and bag \$5, all from St Vincent de Paul's Dickson store; pants and boots from stylist's own collection.


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films

Funny yarn that grows on you

RIGHT: Laura Brent as Mia, Xavier Samuel as David, Kris Marshall as Tom and Kevin Bishop as Graham in *A Few Best Men*.

A Few Best Men. Starring Xavier Samuel, Kris Marshall, Kevin Bishop and Olivia Newton John. Directed by Stephan Elliott. 97 minutes. MA 15+ (Strong crude humour and drug references). Reviewer: Fr Peter Malone*.



American films like *The Hangover*, *The Wedding Crashers* and *Bridesmaids* remind us that the public has an appetite for raucous comedies. The British were more restrained with *Four Weddings and a Funeral*.

Actually, *Death at a Funeral* is relevant here as the writer, Dean Craig, turns his attention to a wedding and transfers the multi-mishap plot to a wedding. And the director is Stephan Elliot, famous for *Priscilla* (less so for *Welcome to Woop Woop*).

This is not a film for the fastidious. It is for those who like a yarn that is funny but not afraid to be crude as well. Xavier Samuel has his chance to be seen in a big hit film rather than in the small-budget stories and horror films that

have marked his career. He is joined by two British comedians who have a solid TV reputation, Kris Marshall (playing the crass friend) and Kevin Bishop (playing the put upon friend).

David (Samuel) has fallen in love with an Australian girl, daughter of a dill of an ambitious Senator, and comes with his friends for the wedding in the Blue Mountains. The Blue Mountains backgrounds look beautiful.

The action takes place over 24 hours and the plot consists of whatever could go wrong does go wrong. This involves slapstick of people knocking into each other, drinking on a stag night with video, complications with a merino sheep called Ramsey, a despondent friend who knocks a huge mar-

riage ball off its pedestal which hurtles down onto the wedding party, a fiasco of speeches.

Drugs come into it with a dealer (a humorous performance by Steve Le Marquand as a druggie with a heart of mush – and a gun). And, the mother of the bride gets high and berserk.

The shock is that she is played by Olivia Newton John as exactly the opposite of what we expect her to be like.

There are also political complications, police complications and the marriage being declared a failure before it has begun. But, all will be well.

Better than expected, it kind of grows on you.

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

Not quite on the money

One for the Money. Starring Katherine Heigl, Jason O'Mara, Daniel Sunjata, Patrick Fischler, Sherrie Shepherd, and Debbie Reynolds. Directed by Julie Anne Robinson. 91 minutes. M (Violence and coarse language). Reviewer: Peter W Sheehan*.

This comedy is based on the 1994 book of the same name by Janet Evanovich, which was a best seller in the US. The film was shot in Pennsylvania.

It tells the story of Stephanie Plum (Katherine Heigl), who accepts a job as a recovery agent and bounty hunter in a bail-bond business, run by her sleazy cousin, Vinnie (Patrick Fischler).

She has no training for the job, has been divorced recently, and is desperate for employment. She is behind in her rent and her car payments, and she is happy to accept anything that pays quickly. In the meantime, her family keeps the pressures on her to find a good job, settle down, and marry again.

Because the bounty hunting of some people pays particularly well, she takes on the job of pursuing Joe Morelli (Jason O'Mara), who is a former policeman on the loose, and wanted for the killing of an unarmed man.

Joe has a bounty of \$50,000 hanging on his head. But Joe also happens to be the person who seduced Stephanie back in high school, when she was 17 years of age, and who then dumped her.

Stephanie still carries the hurt, and she tries valiantly to bring him in.

An agent, Ranger (Daniel Sunjata), gives her lessons in bounty hunting, what not to do, and how to fire a gun, and he pairs well with Stephanie.

In pursuing Morelli, with the help of Ranger, she comes to the conclusion that the evidence against him doesn't quite add up, or make sense. But more importantly for her, is the fact that her old attraction for Joe starts to re-surface, causing major problems. Despite them, however, the film marches predictably to a happy ending.

Heigl plays her role with an affecting vulnerability, but her attraction to Joe doesn't spark, and the laughs along the way are relatively few, despite the film's best efforts to arouse them.

There are some good comic moments. Sherrie Shepherd gives a great performance as a friendly hooker, and Patrick Fischler brings comic zest to his role as Vinnie. But comedy goes well off track in other ways. The movie aims for comedy and mystery, and misses out on both. One of the reasons is that, despite every effort, Heigl struggles to make her role very convincing, and the chemistry between her and Jason O'Mara doesn't make up for what the film fails to deliver in other ways.

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

Internet www.cg.catholic.org.au

Rolheiser's words of comfort, reassurance

Our One Great Act of Fidelity. By Ronald Rolheiser. Doubleday, 2011, 119 pages, \$22.95. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.

Ronald Rolheiser is a specialist in the field of spirituality. He writes a weekly column for more than 90 Catholic publications; Catholic Voice is fortunate to be among them. He has also written a number of books, The Holy Longing probably the best known.

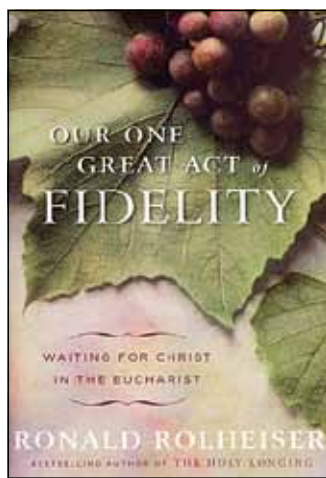
His latest book concerns the Eucharist, rightly defined in Catholic teaching as the source and summit of our faith.

He claims that, of all Jesus' commands, the one we have kept most faithfully is the one to celebrate the Eucharist in his memory.

Rolheiser says that the Eucharist contains and carries deep realities. It is

the continuation of the incarnation of God in history; it is the new manna; it intensifies the community of Christians; it is both a family meal and Christ's ritual sacrifice; it is reconciliation and forgiveness; an invitation to deeper discipleship; a vigil service where we await Christ's return and it is Christ's priestly prayer for the world.

After breaking open these realities Rolheiser goes further, making this resonating point. Speaking personally he says, "I can't always control how I feel



or how I think, and I can't always measure up morally and spiritually, but inside of my perpetual inadequacy and occasional doubt and confusion, I can always be faithful in this one deep way. I can go to the Eucharist regularly...

"This, if all else is uncertain, is what I should be doing while I wait for him to return."

For me, Rolheiser's entire thesis hangs on these words and they are of deep comfort and reassurance.

Rolheiser is a skilled and insightful writer. As with any good teacher he uses

anecdotes to illustrate his points. He keeps his chapters short which makes them ideal for group discussion or individual meditation.

He explains the differences which emerged among the early Christian communities and he is conversant with the practices in today's inter-denominational churches. He quotes quite liberally from that great theologian and luminary St Augustine (AD 354-430) which made me recognise again how old and how rich our liturgy is.

This is a very satisfying book. It may well become a pertinent resource for eucharistic ministers, catechists, RE coordinators, RCIA support groups and, dare I say it, for homilists, too.

Who says life and death is no laughing matter?

Between Heaven and Mirth. By James Martin SJ. HarperCollins Publishers. 263pp, \$38.99. Reviewer: Geoff Orchison.

What the world needs now is love, according to the lyrics of a famous song. Perhaps what the world, and the Church, also needs today is joy, humour and laughter.

US Jesuit Fr James Martin, best-selling author and media commentator, certainly thinks so, and it is hard to argue with him.

He says he has come across a surprising number of spiritually aware people who are, in a word, grim. That's not to ignore the reality of suffering and sadness, but, as he says, in the book he has tried to balance things out a bit. Joy, humour and laughter are virtues necessary for a healthy spiritual life.

Martin spends a couple of hundred pages backing up this point in a highly entertaining but also deeply thought-provoking way.

How better to illustrate that with one of his many humorous anecdotes. Most people have heard the famous joke about Blessed Pope John XXIII who, when asked how many people work in the Vatican, replied "about half of them".

Someone once asked John about the Italian habit of closing offices in the afternoon. "Your Holiness, we understand that the Vatican is closed in the afternoon, and people don't work then." "Ah no!" said the pope. "The offices are closed in the afternoon. People don't work in the morning!"

Another story tells of his visit to a Roman hospital called the Hospital of the Holy Spirit.

On being introduced to the pope, the sister who ran the hospital, flustered by his surprise visit, said: "Holy Father, I am the superior of the Holy Spirit." To which the pope replied: "Well, I must say, you're lucky. I'm only the Vicar of Christ!"

Martin enthusiastically points to Jesus' use of humour; "many of his parables were most likely not only clever but overly funny". What was seen as funny to those living in Jesus' time might not seem that way to us now. In first-century Palestine people were likely to have laughed at many of Jesus' intentionally ridiculous illustrations, such as lighting a lamp and putting it under a basket, or that a person would build a house on sand. Not to mention camels going through the eye of a needle.

His barbed comments to Roman officials, Jewish religious leaders and the wealthy, among others, often seemed designed not only to silence the higher-ups but to provoke a little mirth among his listeners.

Some of Jesus' natural humour might have been tamped down somewhat by the gospel writers to conform to the standards of the time. The unintentional result is that today we more easily associate Jesus with seriousness than with levity.

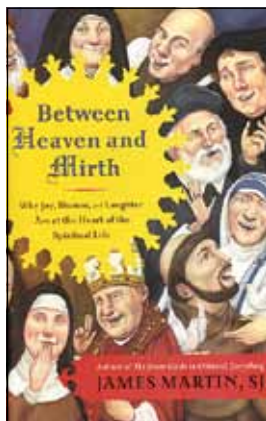
Many early Christian writers favoured a serious approach to life; St Paul in his Letter to the Ephesians warns that we must avoid talk that is "silly". St Ambrose said joking should be avoided "even in small talk". However, St Augustine recommended some joking from time to time. St Thomas Aquinas, in the 13th century, suggested there was a virtue in playfulness.

So, really it's up to you. If silly is not your thing (St Philip Neri was known to cut off half his beard and wear a cushion on his head like a turban), then you may also not see the funny side of the Book of Jonah and the recalcitrant prophet whom even a whale couldn't stomach for long.

On the other hand, serious and pious Mother Teresa, on being asked by one of her sisters how she could become a saint, was heard to reply: "If you want to be a saint, die now. The pope is canonizing everyone!"

Martin says his vision of heaven is one of "endless joy, good-natured humour and abundant laughter". And, as life is not so much a test as a rehearsal for heaven, "one way of preparing for something is by doing it".

Why not allow yourself to enjoy a little heaven on earth?



Seeking Christ in the Mass

Mystical Body, Mystical Voice: Encountering Christ in the Words of the Mass. By C Carstens and D Martis. Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 2011, pb, 260 pages, \$24.95. Reviewer: Margaret Ryan.

Does it matter that Catholics now have a new translation of the Roman Missal? Are there significant changes? What is meant by "the new language"?

This somewhat academic book aims to provide insights to allow Mass participants to enter more deeply into a relationship with Christ present in the Mass. The authors are the Rev Douglas Martis, director of the Liturgical Institute, St Mary of the Lake University (a Pontifical Institute) and Christopher Carstens, director of the Office of Worship, LaCrosse, Wisconsin. The book has been endorsed by Cardinal Charles Chaput OFM.

In part one, "The Liturgical Primer", the authors look at the background and context needed to

appreciate the meaning of the Mass' language: the nature of liturgy, trinitarian and sacramental theology, including the use of words/language. There is particular emphasis on Christ as Logos.

Part two, "The Language of the Roman Missal", features an analysis of the principles of liturgical documents written between 1993 and 2001, and an application of these to the four sections of the Mass. In the last chapter, there are suggestions for liturgical formation that can be used in parishes.

There is a section on what the Church wants us to understand when we say or hear certain phrases at Mass (eg, "for you and for many", "consubstantial with the Father"). I was intrigued by certain omissions, many of which would have general interest.

I struggled to find reference to inclusive or "sensitive" language, and the authors refer to "God and man" at times.

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HOLY Spirit You who make me see everything and show me how to reach the ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances in my life with me. Thank you Holy Spirit. P T.

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 and TP. Petitions gained after saying this prayer.

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my necessity. O Star of the Sea, help me and show me here you are my Mother. O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succour me in my necessity (make your request). There are none that can withstand your power. O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you (three times). Holy Mary, I place this prayer in your hands (three times). Say this prayer for three days. E M B.

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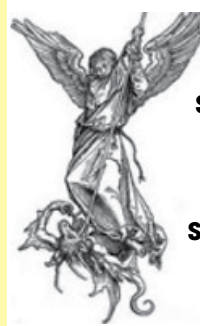
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Coming Events



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.

EASTER FAMILY CELEBRATION - Fund-raising for Feed and Educate Poor Children of Our World (FEP-COW), live music, dancing, sing-along, prizes, 6pm to midnight, Saturday, 31 March, Rheinberger Centre, Yarralumla. Tickets \$20, children \$15, family \$50. Inquiries, tickets: Eric, telephone 0412 239 025, John 0403 050 960., or www.fep-cow.org.

ECUMENICAL SERVICE - In honour of St Patrick, noon, Saturday, 17 March, Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, Barton. Guest speaker Fr Frank Brennan SJ. Representatives from Catholic, Anglican, Presbyterian, Uniting churches and Salvation Army. Inquiries: Angela Devlin, telephone 6231 9104.

Fr GILBERT CARLO RETREAT - Retreat on Eucharist and the Word of God for Healing Life's Hurts and Guilt with Fr Gilbert Carlo SVD 17-22 March, St Anthony of Padua Church, Wanniasa. Fr Carlo will preach at weekend Masses (6pm vigil, 9am and 5:30pm). Retreat sessions 7:30pm - 9pm, 19-21 March, ending with Mass 7.30pm, 22 March. Confession and spiritual direction by appointment. Inquiries: Parish office, telephone 6231 7310 or e-mail sta.wanniasa@cg.catholic.org.au.

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.

JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES RETREAT - St Clement's Monastery, Galong, 9-11 March, presenter Fr Leo Coffey. Cost \$240 (discount available). Inquiries: Sr Janet Glass RSJ, telephone 6953 2019.

LEADERSHIP FOR WOMEN - Madeleine Sophie Barat Program sponsored by reli-

gious 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.

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.

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

RCIA TALK - Archbishop Mark Coleridge will speak on Discipleship according to the Gospel of St Mark, 7.30pm, Tuesday, 8 May, Rheinberger Centre, Yarralumla. Open to all who have been involved in RCIA journey in recent years. Inquiries: Sr Mary Corkeron, telephone 0427 473 290.

SERRA CLUB OF CANBERRA - Rosary and Mass at Holy Trinity Church, Curtin, 6.10pm, Thursday, 8 March, followed by dinner at The Southern Cross Club, Woden. Inquiries: John Malycha, telephone 6251 2912.

TAIZE SERVICE - 6pm, 11 March, Holy Cross Anglican Church, Hackett. Candlelit and meditative, based on simple song or chant, reflective readings, silence and prayer for the world.

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.wwme.org.au.

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

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Humble priest man of prayer

Fr Ron Flack, 1937-2012

There was never anything ostentatious about Fr Ron Flack's faith but he was clearly a man of prayer who lived out the values of the Gospel.

Bishop Pat Power paid this tribute in his homily at the funeral Mass for Fr Flack at St Christopher's Cathedral.

"In his life and preaching the focus was always on Jesus and never on himself," Bishop Power said. "His own down-to-earth humanity enabled him to minister the forgiving love of God to others and to acknowledge his own need for God's grace and strength."

"That came very much to the fore during the many phases of his ill-health."

Bishop Power said a good priest needed 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," he said.

"He never lost touch with his roots in Goulburn and treasured his family life. He lost both of his parents at a comparatively young age within a year of each other around the time of his ordination but that seemed to draw him even closer to his sisters and brothers and their extended families."

"The admirable human qualities in Ron Flack's character enabled him to be an effective instrument of God's grace in the exercise of his priesthood."

"His first years of priestly ministry coincided with the Second Vatican Council, and the council's spirit of openness and the recognition of the dignity of every person sat very easily with the newly ordained Fr Ron Flack."

"In his early years of ministry in Young he had the good fortune to be chaplain to the Young Christian Workers. The brotherly spirit which Fr Ron shared with those young people would be a characteristic of his ministry."

"He never displayed any kind of superiority and worked very easily as part of a team in which he was an effective leader, enabling the gifts of all the parishioners to come to the fore. This was especially true in his first appointment as parish priest at St John Vianney's at Waramanga."

Bishop Power said it would have been 20 years in October since Fr Flack received a new heart. "A heart transplant must have physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual consequences which only the person involved can adequately comprehend," he said.

"Ron never pretended that it was easy but neither did he indulge himself in self-pity. He did everything in his power to cooperate with the medical expertise he was receiving."

"His impaired health would limit his capacity in North Woden, Bungendore and Braidwood but he never ceased to give expression to his beautiful pastoral gifts and he was much loved by parishioners and members of the wider community."

A significant part of Fr Flack's ministry was the 7-1/2 years he spent as secretary to Archbishop Thomas Cahill, Bishop Power said.

Archbishop Cahill relied a lot on Fr Flack to acquaint him with the local culture and its issues. He also served as a much trusted go-between for the priests in their relationships with the new Archbishop. As well, he helped nurture a homely environment at the Archbishop's House with first the Fijian Sisters and then the Croatian Sisters.

"Our hearts go out to to Ron's sister and Tony Frey's mother, Mary. Frances, we cannot thank you enough for the devoted love and care that you gave to Ron in the second half of his life. You have been a veritable source of blessing to each other."



Lent calls us to reflect on our relationship with God in Christ; a relationship which should be full of vitality, hope and activity. This relationship will also lead us to share Jesus' concern for others and the ways we are called to enable Jesus to respond to our needs.

Our faith makes us part of a family and network that seeks to make Christ present throughout the world, in communities that are ready and keen to serve the needs of those within and beyond themselves, regardless of their remote locations or the immensity of the situations that surround them.

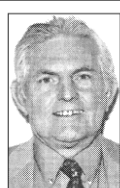
Catholic Mission, through its many works and the generosity of our supporters, assists many of these communities in these life giving and hope building endeavours. Whether it's training future catechists, equipping them, sharing the costs needed for charitable works or providing ways that offer children security, opportunity and hope for the future.

The Church, as a network makes a huge difference to the lives of many, but essentially, it is people helping people in Jesus' name. Help us help others as we make the promises of Christ accessible throughout our world.

God bless,
Deacon Joe Blackwell

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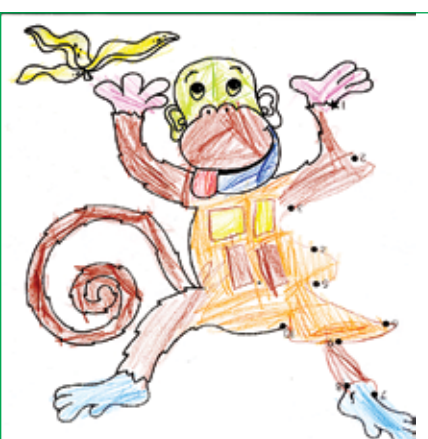


The children in kindergarten were learning all about counting and numbers when Catholic Voice visited St Jude's, Holder.

The students formed groups to work on different activities which helped improve their numeracy skills.

They had also been busy making some artworks to share with Catholic Voice readers.

Next door the other kindergarten class were working on handwriting skills and learning to write their names, with many students impressing their teacher.



ARTISTIC:
These artworks were made by Jayden Casey (left), Sienna Scarano (right), Kai Van Der Merwe (below left) and Lachlan Costello (below right).



ABOVE: Kai Van Der Merwe and Jessica Reardon make numbers out of play dough.

BELOW: Mehar Johal and Lachlan Riley count the stripes on the zebra.



ABOVE: Lachlan Riley counts how many spots there are on the paw print.

LEFT: Mrs Brearley lends Hannah Kearney a helping hand with writing numbers.

BELOW: Thandi Chidoti is pleased with her efforts so far as she writes her name.

