

Schools just want to have fun

Students at Catholic schools in the Archdiocese look forward to one day of the year perhaps more than most... the school feast day.

St Mary MacKillop College celebrated the feast of Mary MacKillop with the blessing of a new chapel at its Wanniasa campus. The chapel of St Anthony of Padua, the saint that the school was originally named after, was blessed and dedicated to the memory of foundation principal of the school Mr Paul Butz.

The blessing was attended by the family of the late Mr Butz, as

well as former principals of MacKillop and other invited guests.

Current principal Mr Michael Lee spoke of Mr Butz and his passion for teaching. Mr Lee compared Mr Butz's vocation for teaching to Mary MacKillop's.

Current students of the school used the time to reflect on Mary MacKillop and her contribution, as their patron saint, to the school.

RIGHT: Ashley Sims, Ella Quinlan and Natasha Uzabeaga ham it up as they celebrate the school feast day at St Clare's College Griffith. • Cont Page 12.



Housing stress sparks 'new kind of poverty'

A new kind of poverty is becoming prevalent in the Archdiocese, the St Vincent de Paul Society says in a report highlighting housing stress in the community.

The society calls on state, territory and federal governments to:

- Acknowledge access to a basic standard of housing as a human right of all Australians.
- Build new public housing sufficient to meet the real needs in the community.
- Obtain the most efficient use of existing housing stock to address as much of the need as soon as possible.

The society says that, without action now, "the problem will only continue to get worse to the disgrace of our nation".

It says it prepared the report in response to members seeing significant changes in the number and circumstances of people facing housing stress.

Vinnies frequently helps people who do not have a house to live in or are in imminent danger of eviction.

"They include people facing bank foreclosure, those sleeping in cars, sleeping outdoors, or 'couch surfing' (sleeping in someone else's lounge room on a casual basis).

"It also includes people in so-called informal rent where they cannot gain access to the open market and end up in poor quality housing paying sometimes

close to market rents without the protection of a lease."

The report features more than 20 case studies of housing stress in the Archdiocese to highlight the harmful effect on many vulnerable people. They reflect situations found by St Vincent de Paul conference members on visits to families and individuals.

"Each story is a person or a family for whom access to housing is not something they can take for granted," the society says.

"There is much suffering, fear, distress and anxiety behind these stories. We hope that by telling these human stories we will inspire those with responsibility for our civil society to react more strongly to the evident need and to make better provision for housing in our community.

"This report calls for state, territory and federal governments to recognise formally that access to adequate housing is a basic human right for all in our community and to put in place the public policies that are required to bring this into effect.

"It is argued that governments should return to providing directly a minimum standard of public housing such as was provided in the 1950s and 1960s.

"Modern building standards and efficient design should enable governments to provide sufficient basic housing to ensure that every family has somewhere to live and that people at the lowest income levels

are protected from the excesses of the housing rental market.

"There are many chronic causes of poverty in our community, most frequently relationship failure, mental illness and lack of life skills.

"However, the present shortage of affordable housing has highlighted an additional category of poverty namely those suffering housing stress, mainly the economic poor.

"As a result, people who would otherwise be able to manage on a low income without asking for assistance are turning to the society for assistance.

"This is a 'new kind of poverty' in the sense that people are being pushed into poverty purely by economic circumstances.

"This has, until recently, been unusual and short term in the Archdiocese. It has become a common event. In preparing this report the society hopes to prevent it becoming normal."

The report concludes that, while governments were attempting to halve homelessness in Australia over the next eight years, "these measures will not be sufficient if they don't guarantee every Australian a basic level of housing".

The report presents the experiences of housing stress seen by St Vincent de Paul members in Archdiocese in the course of visiting and helping people in need.

Families may wait years

The waiting lists for government housing in the Archdiocese are far too long to mitigate the housing stress of those qualifying for housing assistance, the St Vincent de Paul Society report says.

One family with four young children that the society visits regularly has been on the lowest rung, the standard needs list, for more than five years.

Meanwhile, they live in private rental they cannot afford and are always short of food.

In May, the Housing ACT waiting list showed 176 applicants were on the priority housing list, 1118 on high needs housing and 539 on standard housing – a total of 1833.

Waiting times were an average of 143 days for priority housing, 497 for high needs and 526 for standard.

The report says the ACT Government's target was for anyone on the priority waiting list to be allocated a property in less than 90 days.

"This suggests the need and demand for public housing is being underestimated," the report says.

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what do you know?

A quiz testing your knowledge of what is in this month's Catholic Voice.

1. How many years was retired Archbishop Francis Carroll Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn?
2. Bribbaree parish celebrated a milestone recently. What was it?
3. Archdiocesan priest Fr Michael Lim was not born a Catholic. He was raised a....
4. When was Marymead founded in Canberra?
5. What special appeal is held on 2 September?
6. Where does Merici College's new principal hail from?

Answers bottom Page 4.

Families may wait years

● From Page 1

"To get onto the priority list an applicant must have in addition to homelessness or housing stress, 'special needs' such as mental health issues, serious medical issues or a disability, such as frail-aged, where the natural support systems are at risk of breaking down; women with or without children escaping domestic violence; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people facing complex issues; and families with children at risk."

To be without affordable housing does not make applicants eligible for housing assistance above the standard category, which means there are two higher priority categories before them.

Because all applicants are subject to an ongoing "comparability test" for a placement, a particular applicant in any category may wait considerably longer than the average waiting period.

The ACT Ombudsman has noted that in July 2010 Housing ACT provided a list of the 50 applications on the high needs list with the longest waiting times. These ranged from more than three years to more than 10 years.

Those applicants who are on the standard list are more likely to have their housing needs met by developing "special needs" and moving to a higher priority list than by their turn coming up on the standard list.

The report says the "system", while looking after those with the greatest needs, is also contributing to people who are suffering housing stress for extended periods of time then developing mental or other special needs problems.

"There should be a change in the administration of ACT Housing eligibility criteria so that the economic poor suffering housing stress are not continually pushed to the bottom of the list," the report says.

The report says the housing problem for single people in the ACT is exacerbated by the

fact that there are very few boarding houses or rooms for rent in the ACT. Crisis centres, private rental houses or flats (often unaffordable on a single income), and ACT Government housing are the only options.

People who cannot afford private rental accommodation cannot wait for years to get into affordable government housing. The people on the priority housing list are generally already homeless. They sleep rough or bunk in someone else's lounge room.

"We are finding families included in this category on an increasingly frequent basis," the society says.

"The extent of housing stress is masked by the resourcefulness of many people who do not have a home of their own.

"Some live with family or friends, often in overcrowded accommodation for example, six or more people in a two-bedroom flat or unit.

"Single parents sometimes share a house and all the problems that can go with two unrelated families occupying a crowded space.

"We have encountered an increase over the last two years of cases of people who are sleeping in their cars for months, not just weeks.

"We encountered last year a mother and teenage daughter who lived in their car for eight months including through the Canberra winter. Homeless single people are 'couch surfing' for months or sometimes years.

"The 'working poor' are making up a growing portion of the potentially homeless that the society is called on to help.

"A similar problem of insufficient government housing is also evident in NSW.

"In a recent case of threatened homelessness we assisted a single mother with four children who had been on the NSW Government Housing waiting list for 12 years. Those on priority waiting lists have a wait of nine months or more."

From near and far

ST MICHAEL'S Primary School, Kaleen, will celebrate its 30th anniversary this year.

Past and present staff, students and community members have been invited to join in the celebrations.

The school will showcase its progress with An Evening @ St Michael's at 6:30pm on Thursday, 27 September. Information: Go to www.stmichaelsps.act.edu.au.

REDEMPTORIST provincial and former editor of Majellan Publications has been appointed bishop of Ballarat. Fr Paul Bird will be ordained bishop on 16 October. The new provincial is Fr Pat Corbett, former superior of the Redemptorists at St Clement's, Galong.

Contributions of news items and photographs to Catholic Voice may be sent to the editor via e-mail at ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au

'Sad' end to CWL in Archdiocese

The process of dissolving the Catholic Women's League in the Archdiocese is almost complete following a special meeting held in Boorowa.

Caretaker president Mrs Angela Devlin said seven branches, four in the country region and three in the central region, decided to continue their association with CWL and will amalgamate with the league in NSW. Three branches decided not to continue, but at least two of them will become parish-based groups.

The meeting was held after agreement from more than 75% of members to proceed with disbanding the league in the Archdiocese.

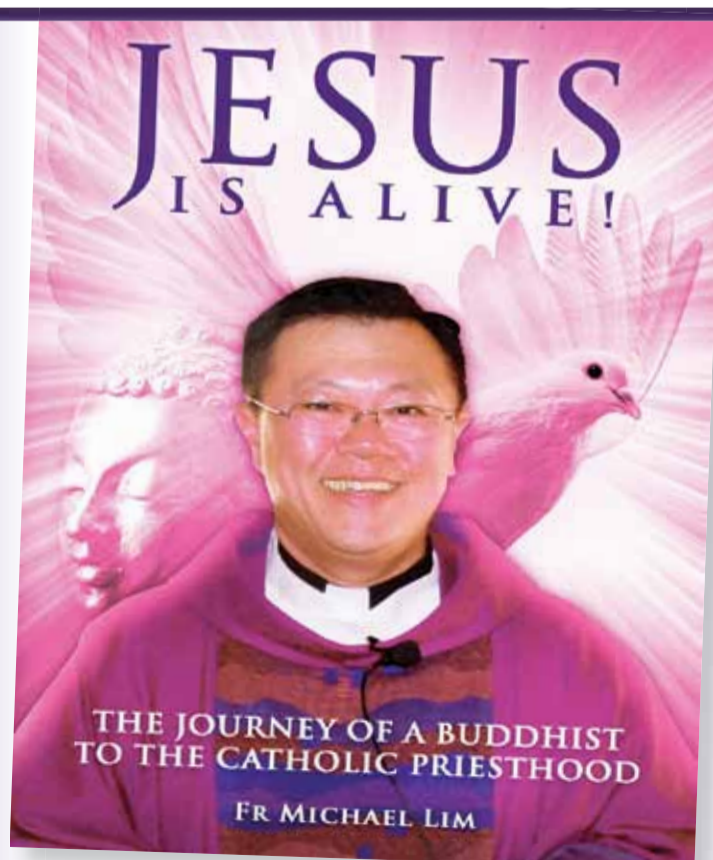
Pope's envoy on move

Apostolic Nuncio in Australia Archbishop Giuseppe Lazzarotto has been appointed the Pope's envoy in Jerusalem, Palestine and Israel. Archbishop Lazzarotto, 70, who has been in Canberra since December 2007, will serve as Apostolic Delegate in Jerusalem and Palestine, and Apostolic Nuncio in Israel. Among many appointments across the world, he was Apostolic Nuncio to Iraq and to the Kingdom of Jordan between 1994 and 2000.

The meeting allowed members of all 10 branches to consider the implications of the final step, and to support or reject the possibility of an amalgamation with CWL in NSW.

Mrs Devlin said it had been a "very hard, sad and painful process. "However, we now look forward to forging new beginnings with the League in NSW.

"We will continue the work of advancing God's kingdom on earth, to the best of our ability, reaching out to women from all walks of life, to meet their spiritual, cultural and social needs, while keeping abreast of social justice and ethical questions."



Fr Michael Lim is a priest of the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn
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St. Therese of Lisieux
Doctor of the Church
Monday 1st October
10.30 am Mass and Homily

The Traditional blessing of Roses will take place during this Mass and the Nuns would be grateful for Roses sent the day before the Feast.



St. Teresa of Avila
Doctor of the Church
Monday 15th October
10.30 am Mass and Homily

During the nine days preceding this feast, the Nuns will offer Masses and Prayers for the Priests and People of the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn.

PARKING NOTICE
To satisfy the local government parking authorities and to enable safer access to the Monastery, we request that your vehicle be parked on the Monastery side of Mugga Way. We respectfully ask also that care be taken in not transgressing any part of our neighbours driveways or parking on nature strips. Thank you.

Plenty to inspire at Proclaim 2012

There was much to inspire those who attended Proclaim 2012, the first national conference for Catholics, focusing specifically on the "new evangelisation".

Director for the National Office for Evangelisation Mrs Marita Winters said feedback, both formal and anecdotal, proved the event had "ticked a lot of boxes".

"It attracted those who were interested in learning more about their faith and how to share it with others," she said.

"We covered topics as diverse as engaging with people with disabilities, attracting young people back to the church and equipping people in parishes to more effectively outreach to those disconnected from the institutional church."

In a show of both solidarity and loyalty to the universal Church, Proclaim 2012 featured input from overseas guest speakers, including president of the Vatican's newly formed Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelisation Archbishop Rino Fisichella, and director of



the Office for Evangelisation in the Archdiocese of San Antonio in the United States Ms Martha Fernandez-Sardina.

Mrs Winters said the input of Archbishop Fisichella was significant because it showed that the Vatican took a great interest in how the New Evangelisation was being embraced and implemented by Australian Catholics, while also recognising the Church in Australia was pioneering many innovative ways of spreading the Gospel.



LEFT: Archbishop Rino Fisichella. ABOVE: Part of the contingent from the Archdiocese at Proclaim 2012 (from left): Sr Patti Jo Crockett MGL, Fr John Armstrong, Carolyn Kitto, Shawn van der Linden, Sharon Brewer and Carmen Kong.

South Tuggeranong parish priest Fr John Armstrong, who was one of a 35-strong contingent from the Archdiocese, said what he sees as key to the new evangelisation might seem obvious to some, but he feels that it is something that Catholics can overlook.

"I think the thing that inspired me is that so many good things are happening in the life of the Church," he said.

While countries such as Australia are seeing a drop in church

attendance, Fr Armstrong said there was much life still to be found in those who remained, and that with the faith of a mustard seed, big things can grow.

"What appears critical is that we develop a living relationship with the person of Jesus at the heart of what we do," he said.

"This is often difficult for Catholics as we tend to be reserved about talking about our faith experiences; we prefer to act on what we believe. I believe the message of Proclaim

is that we have a story to tell that brings life to others."

Archdiocesan director of Pastoral Support Services Mr Shawn van der Linden shared this view.

"My main reflection on Proclaim 2012 relates to the significance of gathering so many people from the parish level to explore in hope the possibilities for the future," he said.

"This experience was in many respects such a contrast to the general mood out there in 'Catholic-land', especially in the context of the difficulties the Church has been having of late."

"The Catholic Church at the grassroots parish level is filled with so many gifts, ideas, good people, faith, hope and love, and the Proclaim conference brought all that together."

Mrs Sharon Brewer, who attended as a parishioner and church-worker, said Proclaim 2012 was "a fantastic opportunity to network with faith-filled, gifted, inspiring and generous people".



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Let's dance

By Archdiocesan Administrator Mgr John Woods

"That's gold!" Have you heard someone use that expression with reference to a stand-out event, comment or joke? It has entered our lexicon, like the more recent "from the get go" in sports commentary.

Again, I am annoyed by everyday events being labelled "fantastic" when they are not or when the most mundane comment is affirmed by "absolutely". I have even heard "absolutely excellent". Do we still teach comparative and superlative adjectives – good, better, best? Now that I am on a roll, I recall a bumper sticker which resonated with me: "I will have any damn day I choose!" Perhaps I am becoming a grumpy old man?

The fact is that life is often routine and repetitive. Most of the time life is not fantastic, at least not in the sense of being out of the ordinary. Some days I feel tired and argumentative, other days I am content with my lot and more accepting of my own shortcomings and the foibles of others. I know I need a still point, a reference within the changing circumstances of my limited vision and experience. In fact, I hunger for it.

Perhaps it was with that awareness that the Australian Catholic Bishops called us to a Year of Grace on Pentecost Sunday.

Grace is the continual movement and, at times, the personal experience of God's love which always seeks communion. This love was fully revealed in the mission of Jesus and continues to engage through the movement of the Holy Spirit, sometimes imagined as a dance wherein God seeks to become "all in all" (1 Cor. 15:28). This is God's mission.

As a consequence, the church, called into being at Pentecost, "does not have a mission, but the mission has a church" (Bevans, S and Schroder, R., 'Prophetic Dialogue', Orbis Books, 2011, p 16). The church is therefore both a "sign and instrument" of the dance, or what we traditionally refer to as the call to holiness or the call to communion with God, within ourselves, with others and with all of creation.

Vatican II reminded us that no-one is excluded from the invitation to enter the dance of life and love. The Year of Grace, wherein we are invited to "start afresh from Christ", is not so much a time of programs and actions as a time of reflection and awareness. It is a time to be gifted anew.

If we could truly begin with Christ, as the Year of Grace urges us to do, then we would more likely appreciate that the church does not have a mission but that the mission has a church.

As a consequence we would be both more prayerful and reflective and more missionary or outward looking, seeking to engage and affirm so as to call others into the dance, the reign of God.

Nourished and sent forth in Christ's name from the celebration of Sunday Mass, the 'source and summit' of our dancing if you like, we would be humbly aware that we are servants not masters. Again, acknowledging that

God is "love hitting the cosmic fan" (Anthony Gittins), and that the Spirit blows where the Spirit will, we would also confirm the truth of St Augustine's comment that, "Many whom God has, the Church does not have; and many whom the Church has, God does not have."

OK, all very well but what does this have to do with me? You see I am married and paying off a mortgage and my wife is returning to work after our second child; I am a single mum raising my beautiful daughter without any support from ex; I am unemployed; I migrated to Australia recently and I am encountering some none-too-subtle prejudice; I am happily married with three beautiful kids and a gorgeous wife; I am a grandparent with ailing health reading this in the car while I wait to pick up my grandson.

Precisely, we, the Church, are a mixed bag. And yet it is into that very diversity and often in the most mundane circumstances that we are called into the dance of life and love. We are called to bloom where we are planted for therein the Spirit moves and calls anew. "Be still and know that I am God" (Ps 46:10). In other words, we are called to holiness from no other place than precisely where we are.

Ann Lamott put it this way: "I do not understand the mystery of grace – only that it meets us where we are but does not leave us where it found us." Or as another put it, "God comes to you disguised as your life."

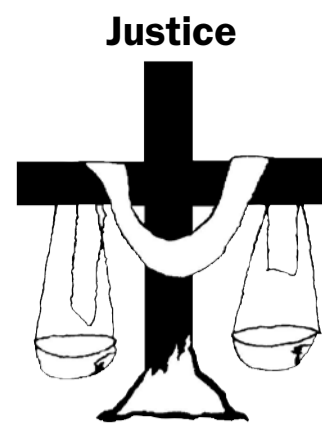
Archbishop Mark, after the example of St Benedict, often called us to "listen with the ear of our heart." Life is more than the quantifiable facts of our existence. There is a mystery, an abiding call within it.

St Bernard of Clairvaux said, "Truth is bitter unless seasoned with grace."

When all is said and done, all is grace; all beckons into the dance of life and love, even the effects of sin (Rom 8:28). Jesus came so that we could have life and have it to the full (Jn.10:10).

I am here reminded of what Melbourne priest Fr Gerard Dowling recently wrote about prayer: "Prayer is anything that you think, say or do that involves you in your relationship with God. However, it is not a one-way process in which you simply reach out to God. It also involves you being open to receive God's intervention into your life."

May the Year of Grace afford each of us a renewed awareness of the engaging presence of God in the ordinary and sometimes extraordinary events of our lives. Now that would be gold. No, that would be grace. Let's dance.



Justice in your vote

By chairman of the Archdiocese's Catholic Social Justice Commission Mike Cassidy

Justice for the vulnerable and marginalised in our society deserves a high priority in deciding how we will cast our vote.

Valuing your vote is a key responsibility of a citizen. Everyone should check their enrolment before the rolls close on 21 September. This may be done online at elections.act.gov.au.

How is marriage a justice issue?

The Catholic Church supports marriage as the exclusive and permanent union of a woman and a man.

Marriage recognises the biological reality that the union of a woman and a man can lead to the birth of children. Without this biological reality and the need for a stable relationship to support the responsibilities that come with raising children, marriage would not be necessary.

It is in the best interests of children, who are among the most vulnerable people in our community, to have both a mother and a father.

While recognising that people of the same sex can have deep and loving friendships, the Church strongly holds that these friendships cannot lead to marriage because of the particular nature and role of marriage.

Supporting and being in solidarity with gay and lesbian people does not mean it is necessary to support same sex marriage. Neither does opposing same sex marriage indicate prejudice against people in same sex relationships. Two institutions may be equal but different.

To get a copy of the commission's candidates' survey, summarising the nine issues identified, contact the commission at csjc@cg.catholic.org.au.

A meet-the-candidates public evening will be held in the North Woden parish centre, 3 Strangways Street, Curtin, at 7pm for 7.30pm to 9.30pm on Thursday, 27 September. Inquiries: Telephone 6235 5452, or email csjc@cg.catholic.org.au

Saint's relic to visit Archdiocese

A relic of St Francis Xavier, one of Australia's patron saints and a co-founder of the Jesuits, will be brought to the Archdiocese this month.

It is very rare for the relic of St Francis Xavier to leave the main Jesuit Church in Rome, II Gesu.

The relic, the right forearm with which he blessed and baptized many thousands of people, will be brought to Young on 25 September; St Francis Xavier College, Florey, on 26 September; St Christopher's Cathedral on 27 September; Yass on 28 Sept-



ember; West Wyalong and Lake Cargelligo on 29 September, before going on to the Wagga Wagga Diocese on 30 September.

Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney Peter Comensoli believed it was appropriate for the relic to visit Australia as part of the celebration of the Year of Grace. The national pilgrimage of the relic will begin on 16 September and end on 3 December. The relic is sym-

bolic of the saint's missionary zeal.

"Millions have been beneficiaries of his work and its legacy over many generations," Archdiocesan Administrator Mgr John Woods said. "His evangelising zeal invites us to reconnect with our baptismal mission." Information: Cathy Moffitt, telephone 6201 9811, email cathy.moffitt@cg.catholic.org.au

WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

1. 23. 2. 50th anniversary of St Columba's church. 3. Buddhist. 4. 1967. 5. Clergy Retirement Foundation's Father's Day appeal. 6. Perth.



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Priest has special gift for world

Cyril Axelrod was born into an orthodox Jewish family and has devoted his life to helping people with disabilities in many countries.

South African-born Fr Axelrod is also the only deaf and blind Catholic priest active in the world.

The Redemptorist priest, who has kept strong links with his Jewish heritage, believes people with disabilities are “angels sent from God” to help everyone learn lessons of unconditional love, trust, hope, faith and inner peace.

He sees his profound deafness since birth and the gradual onset of blindness as a blessing and a powerful teaching tool.

“Most people don’t understand the needs of people with disabilities,” he said on a visit to Canberra.

“We need to push gently, don’t be quietly angry, but we

must remind people we are here, and their attitude will change.”

People with disabilities “can do anything, they think, they belong in the world.

“But, ask me what I need and I will tell you. Don’t assume I need help. Often we don’t need help.”

Fr Axelrod has his own flat and does his own cooking and housework. Braille on his phone, computer and doorbell enable him to communicate with the world.

“I cook for myself; sometimes I also invite people and cook for my friends,” he said.

He uses British Sign Language, which is slightly different from Auslan (Australian Sign Language). His method of communication is called hand over hand. It’s a combination of finger spelling and British Sign Language within the space of his two hands. He went blind



LEFT: Deaf-blind priest Fr Cyril Axelrod... “I stand as a constant reminder, gently pushing, until people are aware.”

later in life and so can identify signs he used to see.

Fr Axelrod’s Jewish parents sent him to a Catholic school for the deaf where he was given a good education by religious sisters; he was taught his Jewish prayers and was able to attend synagogue. “The nuns allowed me to be a dedicated Jewish boy,” he said.

It was after he left school and while studying accountancy from books in a public library that he first read about the Resurrection.

“One of the books I read was a theological book by St Thomas Aquinas. It didn’t matter where I put that book, the next time I found it again. My heart was in turmoil.”

He noticed many similarities between what St Thomas wrote and the traditional, strict Jewish faith he knew.

He then got a friend, who had become Catholic, to take him to Mass. Although “a little nervous, it wasn’t my place”, he noticed there was no interpreter for the deaf people attending. “I asked my friend, ‘do you think deaf people should have an interpreter? They would enjoy the service more.’”

Despite the disadvantage of not being able to hear what was being said, he decided he would like to become a Catholic.

At a later meeting with a bishop, who knew sign language and had worked with the deaf, he told him, “I want to become a priest.”

“He was shocked. ‘You are not even a Catholic yet,’ he told me.” The bishop encouraged him with the comment, “deaf people need a shepherd”. Study in the seminary was not easy as the 40 students and the teachers knew nothing about helping a deaf seminarian.

Fr Axelrod remembers it as a lonely time but on a visit the same bishop re-assured him “you won’t be this lonely forever”.

● Cont Page 10.



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Stand with victims of injustice

- students urged

Archbishop Emeritus of Canberra and Goulburn Francis Carroll preached at the Mass marking the 50th anniversary of the Goulburn school 'strike' and the annual NAIDOC commemoration. Sts Peter and Paul's Old Cathedral in Goulburn was packed with about 700 students representing every school in the Archdiocese. This is the text of his homily.

It's a wonderful sight to see this "Old Cathedral" of Sts Peter and Paul packed full of vibrant young people from so many of our Catholic schools and colleges in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn.

Today we celebrate our NAIDOC Mass honouring and supporting the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of Australia. We celebrate Catholic education and we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the so-called Goulburn school "strike".

We do so in the year marking 150 years since the establishment of the Diocese of Goulburn, now the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn; we are on the cusp of next year's 150th anniversary of the City of Goulburn and that of the Anglican Diocese of Goulburn, now the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn. So today is truly an historical one in an era of local history.

In case some of you don't know, I was your Archbishop for 23 years until my retirement six years ago. To add a little bit of personal history, today is also the anniversary of my being ordained a priest 58 years ago.

The combination of NAIDOC and the commemoration of the Goulburn school strike as a significant event in the history of Catholic education provides a real challenge for the preacher.

In some ways I feel a bit of a fraud on both counts. I wasn't even in the country when the strike took place, being in Rome as a young priest to do further studies, and news reports were few and far between in those days.

I can say, however, that for many, many years afterwards I was heavily involved in the campaign for educational justice that followed the strike as a friend and co-worker with its leaders.

Nor can I claim to have been a significant player in the struggle of the Aboriginal and Islander peoples for justice and recognition, but I gave support wherever

I could and was rewarded with the friendship of many an Aboriginal person. These beautiful vestments which I am wearing were a gift of the Aboriginal Catholic community. They were hand-painted by an Aboriginal woman artist acknowledging what she saw as my "dreaming" or life's-mission of building unity of all peoples especially indigenous and non-indigenous.

I'm sure you already know the story of the strike. From the 1880s for 80 years or so, Catholic schools had to support themselves without any financial help from Governments. It was something of a miracle that the schools managed to survive at all, much less make such a contribution to the nation and the Church.

It was only possible because of the sacrifices of Catholic parents and Catholic parishes with their priests and people who built and maintained the schools in spite of Catholics being a disadvantaged minority suffering considerable discrimination.

Even more significant, was the contribution of the thousands of religious sisters and brothers who for many years made up the whole teaching force. Without their heroic dedication given out of love of God and the children they taught there would be no Catholic schools today.

The schools often provided so little income that the religious lived lives of real poverty, many even going hungry for lack of food while teaching enormous classes and all the time trying to improve their own education and teaching qualifications.

Over those 80 years, efforts were made to obtain a measure of justice for Catholic schools. Many public statements were made about what was called state aid and there were negotiations with politicians but precious little progress was made.

In the 1960s, however, change was in the air. Large-scale migration brought a big increase in student numbers and lay people

were beginning to join the religious as teachers; big and costly changes in educational policies were being made by the State Government.

Largely because of Catholic schools, Catholics generally were better educated and more socially mobile. Some of the old sectarian bitterness was fading and both public opinion and the political scene were changing. The resentment about justice denied meant that Catholics, especially parents and friends of the schools, were increasingly angry and ready to speak out on their citizen and parent rights.

'The history of fighting for educational justice should never be forgotten, nor should educational justice ever be taken for granted'

They felt that years of quiet political lobbying were really getting nowhere. For instance, a year before the strike in Goulburn a massive meeting of 1200 people with all the local politicians present was held in Wagga Wagga.

Then came Goulburn. The government department threatened to de-register Our Lady of Mercy primary school because it did not have enough toilets. The school and parish had no money to provide them. It was then that parents decided that enough was enough and the decision was taken to close all the Catholic schools in Goulburn for six weeks and send the students to enroll in the state schools.

They accepted as many as they could, but there were not places for many hundreds more.

This proved the point that the Catholic schools, who were educating 25% of all Australian children, were keeping the whole system going but without any government funding.

The strike was not, as some tried to paint it, a case of Church versus State but parent- citizens versus the State. The decision was dramatic and political dynamite. Most of the media, especially the Sydney newspapers, severely condemned the action as political blackmail and many old prejudices came to light.

But the publicity all over Australia and far beyond paid off beyond expectations. No-one, least of all the politicians, could ignore this injustice. With the point so clearly made, the students returned to their own schools after one week. While much work was still to be done, the Goulburn school strike was a watershed in raising public awareness of the real issues and certainly was an important part of the gradual achievement of state aid.

Without that government funding none of you would be in Catholic schools today and non-government schools would be a very rare exception. Might I add that the history of fighting for educational justice should never be forgotten, nor should educational justice ever be taken for granted.

Reflecting on that struggle for educational justice, we can easily see parallels with the struggle of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples for recognition and justice.

The injustice done to them was, of course, much greater and more fundamental than that done to Catholic schooling. The indigenous peoples had been dispossessed of their land on the basis of "terra nullius", that is the lie that the land belonged to no-one when white settlement came; their whole lifestyle and much of their culture was taken away from them.

Many of their children were stolen from them and for many years official policy expected

they would die out as a people. Some progress has been made and their story also has had its watershed moments, such as the 1967 referendum recognizing them as citizens and giving them a vote; the Mabo decision and some native land rights legislation; the apology to the Stolen Generation etc.

Nonetheless, much more needs to be done in view of the still desperate social, economic, cultural and educational disadvantage of indigenous people.

In the face of these two stories of injustice, and we could cite many other instances in Australia today, what is to be our reaction as human beings and as Christians?

As followers of Jesus Christ we are called to live justly and to challenge injustice wherever we find it.

In our Gospel, we heard Jesus say: "Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right".

Jesus himself is always our model and we must live as he did. Himself, treated unjustly even to the point of death, He always stood with the victims of injustice and disadvantage with compassion and love. So must every Christian.

We will act justly and compassionately only if we respect every person, no matter whom or what they are and treat everyone without exception as we want to be treated ourselves.

In facing both the big social justice issues and the smaller ones of fairness within our own relationships at home, at school and in our local environment, St Paul gives us powerful and practical guidelines:

"Never have grudges against others, or lose your temper, or raise your voice to anybody, or call each other names, or allow any sort of spitefulness. Be friends with one another, and kind, forgiving each other as readily as God forgave you in Christ. Try then to imitate God, as children of his that he loves, and follow Christ by loving as he loved you".



Archbishop Francis Carroll was principal celebrant of the Mass in Sts Peter and Paul's Old Cathedral, Goulburn.

a centenary of canberra's catholics

A formidable lady of simple goodness

In the 18th in a series of portraits of significant Catholics of the national capital, Bishop Pat Power pays tribute to Kingston Guest House manager Edith Dickinson

A significant part of Canberra's social history is the Kingston Guest House which was bounded by Kennedy, Eyre and Leichhardt streets and was originally built in 1926 as the Printers' Quarters and provided family accommodation. When it became the Kingston Guest House it catered for single men who in the main worked at the Government Printing Office or the Post Office.

When I came to St Christopher's Parish as a newly ordained priest in 1966, Kingston was part of my beat, and at that time Edith Dickinson was well established as manager of the guest house which by then was open to male boarders irrespective of where they worked. I had an earlier indirect connection with Edith whose daughter, Dell, was a classmate at St Christopher's School throughout our primary schooling. Dell was the youngest of 13 children.

Edith Dickinson was a formidable lady, no stranger to hard work. She had come to Canberra with her husband Stan in the 1920s. Like so many of their contemporaries, they began their life in the national capital in Causeway.

As their family grew, the Dickinsons moved to their own home in Dawes Street, Kingston, opposite Kingston Oval, home of the Eastlake (Aussie Rules) Football Club. Several of the Dickinson boys played for Eastlake, and Edith and Stan were strong supporters of the club.

Frank Boyle has fond memories of his three-year stint at the Kingston Guest House in the late 1940s. "Edith Dickinson helped at the Kingston Guest House from at least 1944 when it was managed by Neil Hussey and Les (Bluey) Lane until 1948 with Mr and Mrs Don Kennett managing 1948-49.

"Mrs Dickinson took over in her own right from 1949 until the late 1960s. Mrs Dickinson kept a motherly eye on the younger guests and tended to them when they were ill. She often packed them a special lunch, for example, ham, instead of basic sandwich fillings which was very much appreciated.

"Mrs Dickinson supervised the serving of meals, with guests lining up outside the kitchen. To my knowledge, she never missed a meal – breakfast, lunch or dinner. Shift workers were especially catered for with meals put aside for them.

"Mrs Dickinson was helped in serving meals and in servicing the rooms by two of her daughters, Betty and Dell, and youngest son, Don, who often took meals with the guests."

Dell remembers her mother working long hours, commencing at 5am with the lighting of the wood stoves and ending about 8pm with the washing up. Dell, too, attests to her mother's kindness to her boarders.

One of her guests couldn't pay his week's board so she accepted his offer of a painting he had done of the historic St John's Church in Reid. Dell still has it in her possession. Another guest on one occasion offered in lieu of board a tray he had made.

When I decided to include Edith Dickinson in this series of "Canberra's Catholics", I told Dell that her mother would be the only one in the series who was a non-practising Catholic. Dell corrected me: "She was non-churchgoing Catholic, but she practised her faith in the charity which was so important in her life."

Working long hours, seven days a week made it difficult for Edith to get to Mass and it was not helped by the fact that husband Stan was not well disposed to the Catholic Church.

Dell is grateful to their next door neighbour in Dawes Street, Mrs Stella Somes, for enabling her mother and herself to maintain some tenuous links with the Catholic Church and for the fact that she was a mother figure to her in her own mother's absence.

Dell recalls Edith occasionally giving Stella money to put on the plate for her at St Christopher's. Stella's younger son, Michael, a future Canberra magistrate, was also a classmate at St Christopher's throughout primary school.

Michael Somes remembers Edith Dickinson as a hard-working and extremely charitable woman. One of Michael's vivid memories is that "she would deliver to us from time to time a large tin of pure white dripping, which I must say was very tasty spread on toast with salt and pepper."

The Dickinsons never owned a car and were never flush with money. On a good week when all the bills were paid at the guest house, Edith and Stan would celebrate with a meal at Happy's Chinese restaurant in Queanbeyan, there being no Chinese restaurant in Canberra at the time. Without a car, they would need



Edith (far right) with daughter Dell, son-in-law John Hartley nursing Peter, with Paula on her first Communion day and Laura.



LEFT: Stan and Edith Dickinson on their wedding day.

BELOW: Edith with daughter-in-law Ella and Irene, one of 58 grandchildren.



to organise a lift home after catching the bus into Queanbeyan.

Born in 1900, Edith was still living in her home in Dawes St, Kingston, when she died in 1974. She was diagnosed with cancer in 1972 and given only three months to live. However, her twin grandchildren, Nadine and Scott, were born in that year and Edith announced her determination to live to see them walk.

As Canberra prepares to celebrate its centenary, Edith Dickinson's strong work ethic, her great kindness and charity and her down-to-earth simple goodness are examples of some of the sterling qualities that have given our city its unique character.

Conversation key to gift of life

Talking about organ donation with your family may not be the most favoured topic, but Anne Cahill Lambert believes it's the most important.

"Organ donation is the cheapest bit of community service anyone can ever do – you don't have to pay to do it and you don't have to go out of your way," Ms Cahill Lambert said.

"To have the option to save a life is so important, and this is a topic which shouldn't be avoided since there are about 1800 people in Australia waiting for a transplant."

Ms Cahill Lambert is one of those 1800 people.

Seven years ago the 54 year old was diagnosed with fibrosing alveolitis, a terminal lung illness, and since then has been waiting for a lung transplant.

Told she had three years to live at the time, she has defied the odds and says her condition has somewhat stabilised, but she relies on an oxygen machine 24 hours a day.

Since her diagnosis, Ms Cahill Lambert has been an advocate for organ donation in the ACT.

"After I was diagnosed, I looked at the organ tissue donation sector and thought there were things I could do to help improve our donation rate," she said.

"At that stage over a 20-year period I think there were only, on average, 200 multi-organ donors in Australia – and by that I mean heart lung liver kidney pancreas – which for a nation of over 20 million people was pretty low."

For three years from 2007, Ms Cahill Lambert chaired the group Gift of Life, which provides community education on organ donation in the ACT and surrounding areas.

She is a member of the National Health & Medical Research Council and the Australian Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation



Anne Cahill Lambert with dog Trapper at home in Lyneham.

Authority. In 2005, she was made a member of the Order of Australia for her service to health care administration, particularly through contributions to improve hospital services for women and children.

Ms Cahill Lambert believes the barrier for many people to organ donation is having misinformed ideas about what is involved.

"Some people say 'well I came into this earth with everything and I'm going out with everything'," she said. "I tell them that they actually will be leaving with everything because they're already dead when the organs are donated."

"Other people worry about a mistake occurring and they're not actually dead. But Australia

has very tight criteria with declaring death that everyone's agreed on.

"Three clinicians have to examine the patient to make sure they are dead, so there's no worry about that. They're not going to take organs from live people."

"To get an idea of the statistics, last year alone there were only 50 lung transplant donations in Australia."

"People may not realise you don't have to sign on to the register to be an organ donor – the most important thing is having the conversation with the family because they will always be asked and if they don't know and you're not on the register, that makes things difficult. The key is the family conversation, and Catholics are good at that."

Born in Melbourne, Ms Cahill Lambert moved to Canberra in 1962.

She attended the then St Brigid's Primary School, Dickson, and Catholic Girls' High School (now Merici College) Braddon.

She has a Bachelor of Health Administration from the University of New South Wales and a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Canberra.

Coming from a large family, she has four sisters and a brother, and is an identical twin. She has been married 25 years to Rod and they have a 21-year-old son.

Ms Cahill Lambert worked in the health system for 30 years, retiring from the position

of chief executive officer of Women's & Children's Hospitals Australasia in 2006 when she became too ill to work.

Everyday duties can be a struggle – "even getting dressed takes hours" – but she still manages to run hymns every Sunday at Holy Rosary, Watson, using songs downloaded from her iPad.

"We use the overheads and everyone gets into it; although my son is incredibly embarrassed that my playlists on the iPad are for karaoke hymns," she said.

Besides organ donation, one of her key interests is the building of community. The ACT Government has appointed her to a number of committees including the Remuneration Tribunal, the ACT Australian of the Year Committee and the committee of the Community Centenary Funds Initiative.

Despite her illness, Ms Cahill Lambert's outlook on life remains optimistic.

"I've been sick for so long now, every day is a thrill as the expectation for everyone was that I'd be dead about four years ago, but here I am; so I'm generally upbeat about what will happen," she said.

"At the end of the day I don't expect to get a lung transplant because we just don't have enough for the waiting list, or I may get too sick before then."

"I don't know what will happen, but I don't dwell on it."

"We're here for a good time, and to make the world a different place from the one we found, and that's what I focus on."

For now she hopes to continue her work in raising awareness of organ donation.

"My husband and son are unicyclists and they have this saying, 'if you're going well, don't relax'. and I think that applies to organ donation as well."

* More information on organ and tissue donation can be found at www.donatelife.gov.au

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Merici gets new head

Perth educator Mrs Loretta Wholley has been appointed new principal of Merici College, Braddon. She will succeed Mrs Catherine Rey, who is the foundation principal of the new John Paul College in Gungahlin, which will open next year. Mrs Wholley, who is deputy principal of Mercedes College in Perth, will take up her position at Merici at the start of next year.

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Uplifting time as men come alive

About 40 men from the ACT and interstate gathered at Holy Spirit parish, Gungahlin, for the third menAlive weekend held in the Archdiocese.

Founders of menALIVE, Mr Robert Falzon and Mr Peter Shakhovskoy, came from Brisbane to share, along with team member Mr Joseph Maatouk, from St Benedict's parish, Narrabundah, what it means to be truly alive to the call God has placed on their lives as Christian men.

Feedback from men was positive and encouraging. "I came with reservations and leave with thanks for a very thought provoking weekend," one man said.

Other comments included: "Wonderfully moving, brimming with unbridled and contagious enthusiasm."

"Extremely relevant for my life. This will help me make some positive changes in my roles as husband, father and man of God."

"I have been deeply touched by the message and sharing this weekend. I have some important decisions and life changes to make."

"Thanks for the opportunity to share my faith and life with other Christian men. The depth



of sharing in the small groups was amazing."

"There is nothing like this anywhere. Great things have happened in me."

Mr Maatouk shared about the Father's love in his life as a young man and member of a close-knit Mennonite Catholic family from Lebanon.

Subsequent sessions, led by Mr Falzon and Mr Shakhovskoy, had the themes "The Father's Dream", "The Father's Son", "What Then Must I Do" and "To Be a Man of God".

The men had an opportunity in small groups to discuss the impact of the sessions and to share personal testimonies. During these times many shared a desire to deepen their faith and to become more active in the lives of their family and the Church.

The final two sessions provided practical means to put into effect the next steps to become men alive to God. Prayer, scripture reading, contemplation, reflection and participation in the Sacraments and the life and ministries of the Church, were

discussed and tools provided to help everyone put into practice what had been covered.

Gungahlin parish priest Fr Mark Croker said the gathering was "a most uplifting experience for me as a priest. In an age which calls for men to look deeper into sharing and discovering more deeply their personal relationship with God, Robert Falzon and his team led with their inspiring personal experiences."

"It was good to hear men dealing with their predicament. This takes courage and humility, but by the end of the weekend, as different ones testified, the heavy load seemed a lot lighter to carry, judging by the many brighter and confident spirits who spoke appreciatively of the time shared."

Small groups of men interested in staying in touch to support and encourage one another are being formed, and existing small groups are being expanded.

For information on menALIVE breakfasts, contact Joseph Maatouk, telephone 0409 304 802, or Peter Hilton, of Holy Spirit parish, Gungahlin, telephone 0417 771 761.

Bribbaree celebrates a half century

A large crowd of current and past parishioners, and local residents gathered at St Columba's church, Bribbaree, to commemorate its 50th anniversary. The day began with Mass concelebrated by Bishop Pat Power, Fr Joseph Punnakunnel, from Young, and Fr Phil Harding, from Temora.

After Mass the Curtis family gathered outside the gates which they had donated in memory of Trevor Curtis, and Bernadette Curtis cut the ribbon to open the gates. The crowd moved to the commemoration tree, donated by the Bribbaree CWL, and a plaque was uncovered by

president Mrs Teresa Armitage. Anyone who would like to buy a commemorative mug with a Bribbaree church motif for \$10 should contact A Sweeny, telephone 6347 1223 or N Drum, telephone 6383 2368.

LEFT: A commemoration tree is planted.

Special gift for the world

• From Page 5.

After his ordination, which his mother attended, he began his work with deaf children.

Defying the laws of apartheid, he established a multi-racial school for deaf children in Soweto, a hostel for deaf homeless people in Pretoria, and an employment centre in Cape Town.

He also made pastoral visits to Europe, America and Asia.

In 1988, in Macau he found no services for the deaf, and many people who could not write their names, did not understand the Chinese language and "lived lives of suffering and oppression" because of their disability.

"They were shocked to meet a person who was deaf and leading a successful life, and a priest," he said.

"I had gone to do my priestly work but realised they first needed welfare work. They aspired to so much more than being a street sweeper."

As a result, Fr Axelrod established an education centre for the deaf to attend at night where they were given a basic education and learnt to use computers.

His work continued until, in 1998, his vision began to deteriorate. He moved to England in 2000, where he admits to being depressed about his loss of vision.

However, he began to understand that "my blindness could be a gift to give the world".

A priest for 42 years, he says he is proud to support awareness of people's human rights.

He challenges Australians to remind government of the rights of people with disabilities, including those trying to immigrate to Australia.

"Very few people understand our experiences as deaf people, and even fewer understand being deaf and blind," he said. "I stand as a constant reminder, gently pushing, until people are aware."



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It's OK to be different, girls told

While teenage girls face increasing pressure from the media and pop culture to be perfect, sometimes what they need is someone to tell them it's okay to be different.

Ms Dannielle Miller aimed to do when she presented her program The Butterfly Effect to year 8 students at Merici College.

Ms Miller designed the program to talk to girls in a way they understand about self esteem, friendships, body image and the media. The program has been popular at both Merici College and St Clare's College, where she has presented it for many years.

Last month at Merici College, students seemed enthralled by what Ms Miller said- no mean feat in a room with 180 girls and no microphone - as she guided them with humour and energy.



Danielle Bewick, Julia Angove, Mercedes Bowers, Rachael Albertson-Kill, Lillian Cossetto and Zoe Haseler show off diaries they made in the session.

Ms Miller says she wants the program to teach the girls to critically evaluate messages the media gives them. "We want to empower them to understand their culture," she said.

Empowerment and positivity are important themes in the workshops, which can be tailored to girls aged 12 to 18.

"We love girls," Ms Miller said. "The media can be so negative about teenage girls, and we just make it obvious that we love them."

DVD tells inspiring story of conversion

The story of Fr Michael Lim from Buddhist to Catholic priest has been told in a DVD which is being used as an evangelising tool.

Fr Lim, who was ordained in St Christopher's Cathedral, Canberra, last year and is assistant priest in the Goulburn Mission, was raised the youngest of five in a Buddhist family in Singapore.

In the DVD he shares his encounter with "the power and mercy of the Risen Lord" through the healing of his crippled sister.

When vice-president of Telepace in Australia Ms Ernesta Sculli heard Fr Lim's story of conversion she urged him to agree to a documentary being made.

"I had been trying to find the means I could use to evangelise young men and to get them to understand the life of a priest," she said.

She said 500 copies of the DVD had been sent out, including one to each bishop and to the



Fr Michael Lim... encounter with Risen Lord.

Pope. The DVD will also be aired internationally on Telepace, which is located in Italy and has been broadcasting services worldwide for over 30 years.

Telepace broadcasts in Italian and brings audiences the most recent Vatican News, papal ceremonies, events and interviews.

Telepace in Australia provides Italian and English-speaking content on the channel in this region.

The DVD may be ordered through Telepace Australia, telephone 1300 663 502, or go to www.telepace.org.au.

New hall brings college together

Marist College Canberra now has a venue to house all junior and senior school students under one roof.

The college's Marcellin Hall was officially blessed by Bishop Max Davis and opened by Marist provincial Br Jeffrey Crowe.

A feature of the hall is the external grandstands, for viewing sporting competitions on the college's oval one. The hall contains a weights room, two full-sized basketball courts, staffrooms and state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment.

Alongside the new hall, the school built The Brothers Way, a pathway lined with bollards sponsored by past students and community members to show appreciation to parents, staff and brothers.



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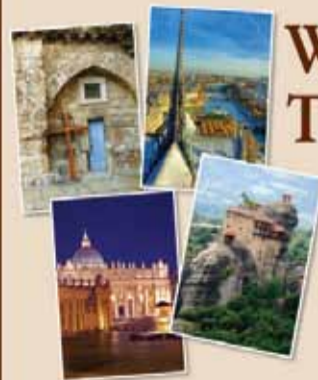
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Schools just want to have fun



St Mary MacKillop College leaders Tyler Friend, Kofi Owusu-Ansah, Ashlee Evans and Abigail Maminimini at chapel opening.

• From Page 1.

“One of the principles MacKillop College follows is one that Mary MacKillop taught, that anyone who wants to be a part of the MacKillop community, can be. We’re inclusive of everyone and welcoming to everyone,” school captain Tyler Friend said. Wannassa campus captain Abigail Maminimini echoed Tyler’s thoughts on the strong influence that Mary MacKillop has on the culture of the college.

“Mary MacKillop was a remarkable woman who left a legacy which now lives on in the hearts of the principals and the students of MacKillop College,” she said.

St Clare’s College Griffith celebrates the feast of St Clare of Assisi a little differently than others. For many years the school has celebrated St Clare’s Day in the second week of August. St

Clare’s Day starts with Mass for the entire school, celebrating the life of St Clare. Then the girls get ready for the rest of the day, which includes food and game stalls, costume competitions and a talent show.

This year’s theme for St Clare’s day was “Carnival”. Teachers and students dressed to impress in their best carnival gear as circus animals, clowns, magicians and even food. All the money raised is donated to the school’s charities, including local organisations Karinya House and Marymead.

Vice principal Ms Natalie Dickie said the entire school looked forward to the day, especially seeing all the costumes that the staff and students come up with. Students echoed this statement, with year eight students Olivia Kambouris and Lucy Grimes declaring it, “The best day of the year”.



ABOVE: Outgoing chief executive officer Mr Bob Wilson (left) hands a lit candle to his successor Mr Paul Trezise.

RIGHT: New president of the society in the Archdiocese Mr Frank Brassil (right) is handed a symbol of office by outgoing president Mr Evan Brett.



Vinnies reaches out to all

A great strength of the St Vincent de Paul Society is its very broad outreach across the community, incoming archdiocesan president Mr Frank Brassil said.

In an address after the Mass commissioning him and incoming chief executive officer Mr Paul Trezise, he said the society’s structure of local conferences meant it could reach people “in almost every suburb and town across the Archdiocese”.

“Our practice of home visitation means we see people in their own circumstances not

in an environment we have created.

“Our conference structure with its very localised decision making means that we can be very responsive and adaptable to local conditions and having over 600 Vincentian conference members who are willing to meet and help people in their local communities is a unique aspect of the society’s way of working.

“Indeed if a mother and children have no food today, the society has the resources and infrastructure to put food on their table tonight. This is not a rare event.”

Mr Brassil said as president his ambition was to strengthen and enhance the conference structure while maintaining the advantages of its local way of working.

Archdiocesan administrator Mgr John Woods was principal celebrant at the Mass held at St Monica’s church, Evatt, where Mr Brassil is a parishioner. Evatt parish priest Fr Warrick Tonkin and Yass parish priest Fr Mick Burke concelebrated.

Mr Trezise has succeeded Mr Bob Wilson, who held the position of chief executive officer for more than 20 years.

Heritage listing appeal on again

The Archdiocese will again appeal against the listing of St Patrick’s church, Braddon, on the ACT Heritage Register.

Archdiocesan administrator Mgr John Woods confirmed the appeal would be made to the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

The process began more than a year ago but the ACT Heritage Council has had to re-start it on two more occasions because of problems with the listing.

Modern science survey

Canberra Catholics are being invited to take part in an online survey by the School of Theology at the Australian Catholic University on the question how Christians relate to the “new universe story” of modern science.

The survey was designed by Dr Peter Stork, principal researcher of the project and an honorary research fellow at ACU.

He says those taking part in the confidential and anonymous on-line survey, will give the university a greater understanding of how they think and feel about the issue of how Christians relate to what modern science says about the universe. The survey may be found at www.intronovo.org

AMP chairman to speak

Chairman of the AMP Bank board Mr Neville Cox will be guest speaker at the National Prayer Breakfast in Parliament House on Monday, 17 September. The breakfast, which has been held since 1982, will take place in the Great Hall. Inquiries: Go to www.nationalprayerbreakfast.org. Mr Cox is a board member of the Wesley Institute.

MGL sisters’ house target nears

The MGL sisters need just under \$100,000 by the end of November to buy a house in Canberra for their novitiate.

The sisters said they had been amazed by the generosity of many friends and supporters. The house will be the training centre for new MGL sisters. The sisters’ work is primarily with youth, the marginalised and the unchurched.

Inquiries about the appeal may be directed to telephone 6156 2720, or go to www.facebook.com/MglSisters

Thinking Retreat?

The Mystics, Friends of our Lives
Monday 15 to Friday 19 October
Sr Moyra Unthank rsj
The experience, insights and wisdom of the great mystics, Julian of Norwich, Teresa of Avila, Hildegard, Mechtilde and Clare, will be explored, inviting us to touch the spark of mysticism deep in our own hearts. \$400

Our Confidence in Christ
– Christ’s Confidence in us!
Thursday 8 to Thursday 15 November
Fr Peter Ryan CSsR
A quiet, contemplative focus on Jesus especially at the Last Supper in John’s Gospel. Single room with shared facilities. \$500

Discovering the riches of the word of God
Monday 26 November to Monday 3 December
Fr Hugh Thomas CSsR
An opportunity to make scripture a deeper part of your life. Fr Hugh Thomas has a wide experience in Retreat programs in the Philippines, Indonesia and Australia. \$500

Skills for Spiritual Leadership
A New Evangelisation
Summer School
18 - 25 January 2013
Celebrating The Year of Grace and The Year of Faith, St. Clement’s Retreat Centre, Galong, NSW is inviting, two members of the Redemptorist Centre at Picture Rocks, Arizona USA, Frs Paul Coury and Thomas Santa to conduct a week-long program which will be of benefit to those in leadership roles, in parishes, schools, hospitals and other outreach ministries. An opportunity to start the year refreshed in body, mind and spirit.
Ensuite room \$640 Single room \$540 (shared facilities).
Pay before 1 November & receive a \$40.00 discount.

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Media couple get nod as ACT's top family

A Tuggeranong couple with three children are this year's ACT Family of the Year.

Jonathan and Karen Doyle, who have three children, run Choicez Media, which works with local Catholic schools, delivering programs for students, parents and teachers.

The award is made each year by the ACT branch of the Australian Family Association to a family that demonstrates good family modelling and contributes to the community.

"Jonathan and Karen Doyle were an inspiration and worthy winners of the award," ACT president Mr Paul Monagle said.

"Each year Jonathan and Karen work with tens of thousands of students, parents and teachers on issues of relationships and sexual decision making. Their work carries comprehensive endorsements from bishops, Catholic education offices and principals."



Jonathan and Karen Doyle with baby Stephanie, son Aidan and elder daughter Olivia. Photograph by Penny - Portraits by Paj.

Choicez Media presents programs in schools for both young men and women. In presentations to all-boys schools, Mr Doyle addresses masculinity, pornography, male sexuality, models of manhood, attitudes to women and faith. In all-girls schools, the program looks at media and marketing, premature sexualisation and body image.



School mates re-united

Our Lady of Mercy College students at the time of the 1962 Goulburn school "strike" were re-united at the event's 50th anniversary dinner. They are (from left): Jenny Isbel (nee Plews), Veronica Steep (nee Hart), Anne Steyns (nee Marshall) and Della O'Heir (nee Anable). Mrs Steep holds a photo depicting the girls at the gate of Goulburn High School. Mrs Isbel holds her old school hat worn on the day. Picture: Goulburn Post.

A chance to be ReFreshed

A three-day camp for year 9 to 12 students, promising music and madness, sport and action, and reflection and decision-making, will be held this month. The archdiocesan school student retreat will run from Friday, 28 September, to Sunday, 30 September, at Cal-

oola Farm, Top Naas Road, Tharwa. The retreat will be animated by the National Evangelisation Team. Inquiries: Liam Mackay, Office for Youth & Young Adults, telephone 6163 4300 or 0401 165 665, email youth_events@catholiclife.org.au

CARMELITE NUNS

To pray with Christ on the Mountain for the needs of the world.

In the footsteps of Mary and Elijah

...to contemplate the Word

...to be love in the heart of the Church.

Carmelite Monastery, 28 Mugga Way Red Hill A.C.T. 2603 (02) 6295 3805

EUCCHARISTIC & MARIAN PROCESSION

Join the procession of the Blessed Sacrament from St. Benedict's Catholic Church, Narrabundah to St. Christopher's Cathedral

PROGRAMME

Meet at St. Benedict's Church, Tallara Parkway, Narrabundah

- 3:00 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- 4:00 pm Procession to St. Christopher's Cathedral, Franklin Street, Manuka
- 5:00 pm Procession arrives
- 5:15 pm Benediction
- 5:30 pm Mass



SUNDAY, 28 OCTOBER

Enquiries: Brian Curtis (02) 6231 3862
E-mail: brian.curtis@homemail.com.au

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



WHAT'S A LIFE FOR?

m SC Missionaries of the Sacred Heart



Join us for a discernment weekend

5th Oct -7th Oct

St Mary's Towers Retreat House, Douglas Park, NSW, or

12th Oct to 14th Oct

The Cliffs Retreat House in Shoreham, Vic.

The retreats begin Fri 7:30 pm and finish Sun 2:00pm

You will have time to pray, reflect and discover more about yourself and God's call. It is designed to discern life: Married, Single, Religious, Priest...

These retreats are also held regularly if you are unable to make one of these dates.

To find out more please contact:

Fr Peter Hendriks msc on 0408 299 170; discern@whatsalifefor.com or visit our website www.whatsalifefor.com

Marymead extends its reach in NSW regions

Marymead has been a household name in Canberra since 1967.

In recent years it has expanded throughout the Archdiocese into the Goulburn and South Coast areas delivering services including counselling and post-separation support.

Marymead is now excited to announce that it will begin operating foster care and contact and changeover programs in the southern and western regional areas of NSW over the next few months.

Marymead was one of the successful non-government agencies selected to manage foster care placements in the biggest change in the out of

home care system in NSW history.

"We are so thrilled to be given the opportunity to take our knowledge and experience in supporting vulnerable children and families to communities in NSW," Marymead's Director of Services for Children and Young People Ms Amanda Tobler said.

"We have 45 years' experience of providing a range of support services to children, young people and families.

"We are seeking foster carers who would like us to support them and their families."

Marymead has started to recruit staff and informing foster carers of the option to

allow it to support them in the important work they do.

It has just completed a number of successful information expos in Goulburn, Yass and Queanbeyan.

The purpose of the expos was to inform existing and new carers, as well as potential employees, of Marymead's foster carer services and supports.

Anyone interested in learning more about Marymead or

seeking to be a foster carer should go to marymead.org.au or contact Marymead on telephone 6162 5800 or email nswfcinfo@marymead.org.au.



Marymead – we're coming to a town near you!

Building futures for children, young people and their families

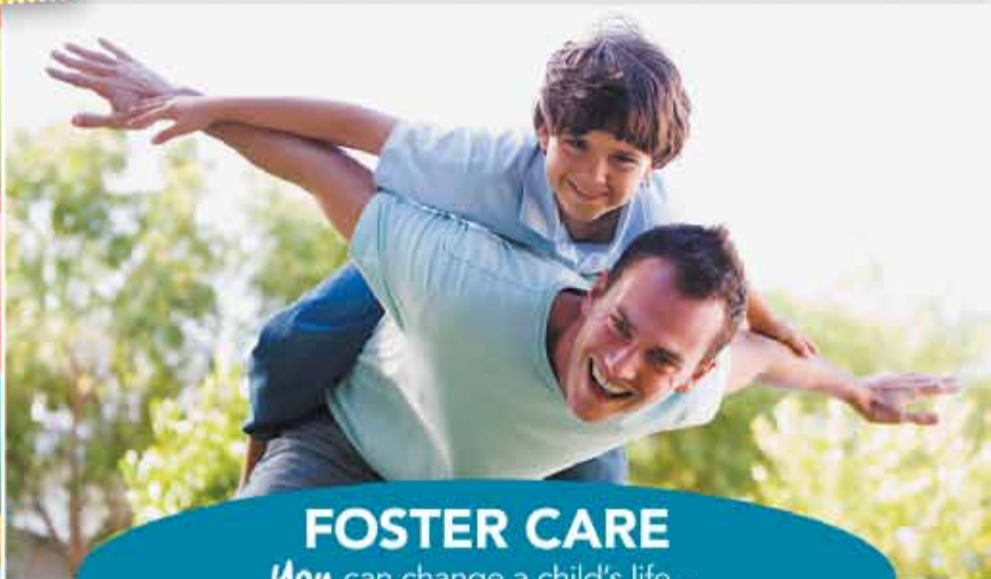


Marymead is a well-respected community based not-for-profit organisation with a 45 year history of providing a range of high quality, innovative support services to children, young people and their families and is now delivering a range of Programs throughout Canberra and regional NSW.

Our programs and services include the following:

- Child and Family Counselling
- Disability Support
- Family Support Programs
- Foster Care and Respite Care
- Grandparent's Support Network
- Indigenous Families Program
- Kids' Companions
- Kinship Support Service
- Mental Health Family Support
- Parent Education Groups
- Post Separation Support
- Residential Care
- Supervised Contact

Marymead has been a household name in Canberra since 1967, and in recent years has expanded into NSW, providing a range of family support services. Marymead has provided foster care services for over a decade and has a strong reputation for providing high quality support to our families. If you are an existing Foster Carer, are interested in becoming a Foster Carer, or wish to find out about Marymead's employment opportunities in the Southern or Western regional areas of NSW or in the ACT, contact Marymead today. marymead.org.au



FOSTER CARE

You can change a child's life...
And there's no better time than **now!**

Marymead Foster Care is in urgent need of people who are willing to provide a safe and nurturing home for children and young people (0-18 years) for occasional weekends, weeks, months or even years. Marymead will provide financial assistance, ongoing training and caseworker support.

PHONE

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on 6162 5800 or email
nswfcinfo@marymead.org.au



REGISTER

for our next bi-monthly
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Contact Marymead Foster Care today!



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ABN 90 677 510 841

marymead.org.au

MARYMEAD IS AUSTICED BY THE CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN.

If you would like to advertise in Catholic Voice, contact editor Geoff Orchison today on telephone 6201 9806 or e-mail ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au

Support our Fathers

CLERGY RETIREMENT FOUNDATION



*Father's Day
Appeal*
Sunday, September
2

Photo: Fr Brian is computer savvy and even uses an iPad when praying the Divine Office daily.

Father Brian Maher

Father Brian Maher is a significant figure in the story of our Archdiocese – a history that now stretches back 150 years.

He has a passion for the history of our Archdiocese and is a fount of information regarding dates, facts and fascinating stories. Although retired he continues his priestly ministry through relief work in many parishes and assists with archival work. Fr Brian was born at Corowa and raised in the villages of Binalong and Galong, at the heart of a region of Irish settlement. He remembers with a twinkle in his eye and a wry smile when he first found out that 'nuns had legs'. When he was at school at St Lawrence's Galong boys were waiting for the parish priest to arrive to say Mass for the school on the 15 August 1945 [Assumption Day] – when Mother Lawrence began to ring the 'big church bell'; she was lifted from the ground and swung in the air revealing her ankles – the bell being rung in celebration – it was announcing the end of World War II.

He is a fifth-generation Australian, entirely of Irish extraction. He graduated with honours in agricultural science from the University of Sydney in 1957 and undertook theological studies at Springwood and Manly before being ordained to the priesthood in 1966. He has served in both city and rural parishes, has published several parish histories and is a regular speaker and writer on local history. You may have been one of his parishioners at Cootamundra, Braddon, Cooma, the Cathedral, Queanbeyan, Goulburn, Bungendore or Aranda. He was also a past Director of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine and Catholic Mission.

Fr Brian is the recipient of an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) awarded for service to the Canberra region "through historical organisations and to the Catholic Church of Australia". This year he completed his latest book *Sesquicentenary 1862-2012* relating the history and personalities of the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn. His many publications include the well-known *Planting the Celtic Cross* and all are available to purchase from the *Catholic Bookshop* at Favier House, Braddon.

Fr Brian is an active member of the committee of the Archdiocesan Clergy Retirement Foundation whose role is to provide support and care for all priests of the Archdiocese and in particular those who are retired and needing accommodation.

Message from Monsignor John Woods

Provision for aged and infirmed priests is the privilege and responsibility of the faithful to whom these men have given their lives. Having borne the heat of the day in pastoral service, their modest needs should now be addressed with dignity and respect. With 18 retired priests and a further 11 reaching the age of 75 in the next five years, the need is obvious. Acknowledging that these men have journeyed with you and your loved ones in joy and in sorrow, your financial support for them can be an expression of your gratitude. I commend the Father's Day Appeal to your generous support.



YES, I WOULD LIKE TO ASSIST THE FOUNDATION WITH A DONATION

My donation is:

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other \$.....

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible

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The Clergy Retirement Foundation, GPO Box 3089,
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email enquiries to kevin.croker@cg.catholic.org.au

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

FDA2012



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GPO BOX 3089, CANBERRA ACT 2601 | SECRETARY EMAIL: kevin.croker@cg.catholic.org.au | WEBSITE: cg.catholic.org.au

So who is CatholicCare Canberra & Goulburn?

We were previously known as Centacare. In July of 2009 we officially changed our name to CatholicCare Canberra & Goulburn. We have been part of the Canberra Community for more than 50 years. You may have seen our famous CatholicCare 'C' around the place. We are proud of our history stemming from a small volunteer base in the 1950's to the large multidisciplinary agency we are today.

Do I have to be Catholic to use any of the programs or services?

The answer is No. CatholicCare provides services to all members of our community. We ensure equitable access to all individuals using our service.

What does CatholicCare do?

The question should really be... what don't we do?

CatholicCare runs approximately 50 programs and services throughout Canberra, Goulburn and the surrounding regions. Helping people involves valuing, strengthening, assisting, supporting and caring for people who are less advantaged in our community. This is what CatholicCare does. We have programs which operate under the following service areas:

- Youth, Mental Health, Homelessness and Family Support Programs
- Disability and Aged Care
- Counselling
- Regional and Family Services
- Comorbidity

Some examples of the service or programs we offer are

CatholicCare Better Access

CatholicCare Better Access offers Psychological counselling services to people on low incomes at no cost to the individual. This service aims to improve the mental health and wellbeing of people in the community who are seeking counselling assistance to address ongoing mental health issues. CatholicCare is utilising the Medicare rebate to cover the cost of the service, encouraging Better Access to Psychological Services for individuals and families through bulk billing.

The service is staffed by qualified Psychologists and Mental Health Social Workers to provide quality therapeutic services across the region, with offices in Manuka, Watson, Queanbeyan and Goulburn.

Want more info? 02 6163 7600

Dorothy Sales Cottages (DSC)

Provides high level In-Home Accommodation Support to eight residents living with Acquired Brain Injury. CatholicCare Canberra & Goulburn have a highly qualified care team who provide individually tailored therapeutic and clinical support which is regularly reviewed and adjusted to meet the residents changing support needs. In addition to this long-term accommodation, a respite bed is available to people with Acquired Brain Injury and high level clinical support needs living in the ACT.

DSC Centre Based Respite Services

Provide a short term and time-limited break for families and other voluntary care givers of people with disabilities, to assist in supporting and maintaining the primary care giving relationship, whilst providing a positive experience for the individual with a disability. If you are an ACT resident or have a family member living with Acquired Brain Injury or high level clinical support needs, looking to minimise barriers and maximise opportunities to participate in your community, then DSC respite may be ideal for you. In addition to fully supported daily living routines, respite visitors also have access to hydrotherapy and land based exercise programs.

Want more info? 02 6285 4084



OUTREACH services

The Youth, Mental Health, Homelessness and Family Support Services provide outreach support, so there's no need for you to come to our offices. Instead, our friendly case workers

will meet you at a place that is chosen by you as safe and comfortable. This might be in the home, at a park or at a community centre. Our case workers can provide a wide range of support including:

- Assistance to identify your goals and develop a realistic plan to achieve them
- Support to enhance your emotional wellbeing & promote resilience
- Education and support with life skills such as budgeting, health, nutrition and personal care
- Specialised assistance to families which promotes healthy relationships and addresses challenges that many parents experience
- Advocacy support and help to connect with community and family
- Information provision and referral to specialist services

These services are specifically aimed at supporting vulnerable families, adults, children and young people.

Want more info? 02 6163 7640.

Aloysius Morgan Retirement villas – CAMPBELL ACT VILLAS AVAILABLE NOW

Are you looking for retirement accommodation which is a little different from the average?



Would you still like to live independently but like the idea of being in a community?

Are you at the fantastic age of 65 or older?

You have the choice of 2 or 3 bedrooms Villas with all the little trimmings you would expect like ducted heating, ensuite, dryer, washing

machine, curtains, carpet, built in robes, stove, dishwasher and the list goes on. Affordable retirement living is available as Aloysius Morgan Villas. Enquiries are also being taken for St Vincents Retirement Villas in Aranda, ACT.

Want more info? 02 6295 4300

Carer's Counselling

This program provides counselling to carers and families which have a family member with a disability, including physical and/or intellectual disability, acquired brain injury and other chronic medical conditions including mental health conditions. The program aims to:

- Assist in defining the roles of family members and managing pressures that arise from these roles
- Explore concerns about the capacity to maintain a caring role
- Assist decision making so that the best interests of the whole family are considered
- Consider the impact of caring on relationships with both immediate and extended family members
- Facilitate discussion around what planning for the future entails.
- Refer to appropriate services e.g. financial management services

This program is available in both Queanbeyan and Canberra.

Want more info? 02 6162 6100



Family and Adolescent Counselling & Mediation (FACES)

FACES is a counselling service for teenagers & young people (between 10 and 21 years) and for their parents, family members and carers.

FACES focuses on increasing communication between family members, resolving difficulties and developing better relationships. The FACES program also deals with issues such as parenting, post separation parenting and grief and loss issues.

Want more info? 02 6162 6100

Groups for Parents

Parenting is one of the most difficult jobs we all face! So we can benefit from the opportunity to talk and share with others.

We have 2 groups which meet these needs:

- Resourceful Adolescent Program for Parents (RAP-P) – for parents of children from 11/12 years to older adolescents
- Bringing Up Great Kids – for parents with young children

Want more info? 02 6162 6100



Where are we located

We have many offices around the Canberra and surrounding region including, Manuka, Red Hill, Watson, Queanbeyan and Goulburn. We have many other sites in which we work in and this includes our school counsellors in many of the Catholic schools in Canberra.

Are you looking for a new employment challenge?

We are always looking for motivated, enthusiastic and passionate staff.



Currently we employ around 220 staff in permanent, permanent part-time and casual roles. Want to join us? We employ staff in the areas of Youth, Mental Health, Homelessness and Family Support Programs,

Disability and Aged Care, Counselling, Regional and Family Services, Corporate & Staff Services, CFO Office and the Comorbidity Portfolio.

Employment vacancies are advertised on our website as well as digital and local printed media.

Our website also outlines the great conditions we offer our staff, including generous salary packaging options, flexible and family friendly working arrangements and the 'day off' for your birthday each year. Sometimes we even have fun!

info@catholiccare.cg.org.au

www.catholiccare.cg.org.au

Contact number 02 6295 4300



SOUTHERN CROSS CARE

(NSW & ACT)

“A great way to live”

Caring for more than 40 years in the local community.

Southern Cross Care (NSW&ACT) is a quality not-for-profit aged care service provider, established for more than 40 years in NSW and ACT.

Offering both independent living and supported living accommodation and care, Southern Cross Care (NSW&ACT) is looking after the needs of older people in the South Western NSW and ACT.

Four brand new independent living units have recently been completed at Cootamundra. The units are one and two-bedroom, two with garages, one pensioner-rental and one fitted for disabilities. An additional 12 units are in the planning stage. These units have been made possible in part by the kind bequest of Mr Arthur Menzies, a local Cootamundra resident.



Southern Cross Care Harden

Our new facility in Harden, *Southern Cross St Lawrence Apartments*, was completed in September 2011 and officially opened by Mr John Killick on 5 November 2011. Blessed by the Archbishop Mark Coleridge, the facility comprises 45 supported living apartments. Each has its own large en-suite bathroom, tea making facilities and opens onto a patio/veranda area with commanding views of the Harden landscape. Several dining rooms, lounge rooms, sitting areas and courtyards have been incorporated in the design along with a large activities room and chapel. The facility includes a special care unit.

Work has been approved for the ongoing development of *Currawarna Apartments*, located in Bombala. A section of the original facility will be converted into a modern complex containing three one-bedroom supported living apartments. The administration area will also be upgraded to contain a coffee shop, men's room, hairdressing salon, chapel and large activities room. The facility accommodates 33 residents.



Southern Cross Care Young.

For more information about Southern Cross Care (NSW& ACT) facilities, independent living units and services, contact Head Office on (02) 9632 3144 or email admin@sch.org.au



Southern Cross Care Cootamundra.

At Young, construction has commenced on four two-bedroom independent living units. It is anticipated that these will be completed by Easter 2013 and is part of the ongoing extension of *Catherine View Gardens*. A total of 43 new units will be added to the village; eight as pensioner-renter units.

Our facility in Campbell, ACT, opened in 2009 and consists of 40 supported living units, all with private en-suites. Two and three bedroom units are available to purchase at our 34 unit village in Garran, located less than a kilometre from Woden Town Centre, and co-located with 70 state-of-the-art supported living apartments, offering low and high care. In Goulburn, Southern Cross *Tenison Apartments* offer 24-hour care to 30 supported living apartments each with private en-suite and patio set in the tranquil gardens of St Joseph's convent.



Southern Cross Care Garran.

When you need it most,
we give you time.



Christine Walters, Manager

Proud local sponsor of World Youth
Day Canberra and Goulburn Diocese.

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KINGSTON	6295 2799
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Grant to benefit clergy foundation



The Archdiocese's Clergy Retirement Foundation received a grant at the Canberra Southern Cross Club's annual presentation of community support grants. Fr Henry Byrne accepted the grant from Chief Minister Ms Katy Gallagher, accompanied by foundation secretary Mr Kevin Croker and club directors Mr Paul Rollings, Mr Adrian O'Loughlin and Mr Jack Rice.



Calvary Health Care ACT

At **Calvary Health Care ACT** we recognise that access to health and hospital services are fundamental to the wellness of our community. Our three services, Calvary Public Hospital, Calvary Private Hospital and Clare Holland House, provide care to all in need from our community and from adjoining communities in NSW.

These three facilities provide hospital and health services in the tradition of the Sisters of the Little Company of Mary, and they are the local representation of Catholic hospital and palliative care services that are a

crucial element of the national public hospital and health system.

Across our three services we employ almost 1500 people who are supported by hundreds of volunteers. Each of these people has different skills and life experiences, and every one of us has taken a unique journey to find our way together. We are linked by the philosophy of 'Being for Others', a commitment that has its origins in the founding of the sisters of the Little Company of Mary by the Venerable Mary Potter in 1877. We demonstrate this commitment by

practising our Values of Hospitality, Healing, Stewardship and Respect.

Our clinicians are dedicated to contemporary clinical best practice and compassionate and patient centred care that complies with the Code of Ethical Standards of Catholic Health Australia. Our non-clinical teams support our clinicians and are constantly refining the processes around every episode of care we provide.

Calvary Health Care ACT works in partnership with the ACT Health Directorate in the provision of plural health services. This partnership is formally described in the Calvary Network Agreement, and we and the ACT Health Directorate are enriching our partnership through formalised Service Networks and a contemporary Clinical Services Plan for the Territory.

While we are excited about the future we also recognise it is not without its challenges. In the near future the development of the Bruce Precinct Master Plan will commence, and that will herald significant change at the Calvary Bruce campus. Included in this growth will be the refurbishment of our Emergency Department, the expansion of Calvary Public Hospital services and capacity and the development of a new Calvary Private



Hospital. And of course, more car parking spaces will be created.

We look forward to playing an increasingly important role in the provision of acute health services in Canberra. We are dedicated to delivering high quality services and compassionate care to every patient we treat. We are proud to provide Catholic hospital and health services to residents of our community and those from further afield.



Regrets, I've had a few, but then...

If only! How often we feel those bitter words of regret: If only! If only I had noticed earlier! If only I had been more attentive! If only I could see that person again, even for five minutes! If only I hadn't been there just then! If only the storm hadn't happened just as I was on the highway! If only I hadn't had that extra drink! If only I had left the party 10 minutes earlier! If only!

We all live with certain regrets and the bitter knowledge that, if only we had been more attentive or patient or courageous or loving at a given moment, our lives would now be very different. If only we could have certain moments of our lives back, to do over differently.

I had such one such moment recently. It wasn't one that in the grand scheme of things was very huge, but it did in its own small way contain all the dynamics of the bitter regret that we feel when we say: If only!

What happened? I had my briefcase (containing passport, Green-Card, laptop, two years of personal diaries and planned agendas, and numerous other

personal papers and photos) stolen from me as I was buying a subway ticket in the London Underground. I'm an experienced traveller and tend to be paranoid in terms of keeping vigilance on my luggage but, as anyone who has ever lost a purse or a briefcase (or, infinitely more tragically, a child) in a public place knows, it only takes a few seconds of inattention for disaster to strike.

In my case, it happened this way: I had just got off a train after speaking at a conference and, shepherding three pieces of luggage, made my way down an escalator to the Underground. I was trying to purchase a ticket for the subway and the self-service machine was not being particularly cooperative and that little distraction, for a period of perhaps one minute, was all it took: I briefly forgot about my luggage.

When I looked down to pick it up, my briefcase was gone. It took an instant to realise what had happened and as I ran to get a security guard my heart sank in the sick recognition that it was too late; I would never

see the contents of that briefcase again.

As I sat with the police, making a report of the incident, I kept involuntarily repeating to myself: If only! If only I hadn't lost my concentra-

Ron Rolheiser

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



tion! If only I had kept my passport and Green-card on my person! If only I could rewind the last 10 minutes of my life! If only!

We've all been there, in ways big and small!

What's the lesson? What might I - or anyone else - learn from moments like these?

First of all, we need to learn to keep things in perspective. Sometimes a moment of carelessness has huge, irrevocable consequences, as in the loss of a

child or a serious accident that causes a death; but for me it meant only the loss of some personal effects, some money, and the loss of the better part of two days (spent in embassies recouping my passport and Green-card).

It was an irritating inconvenience which in the grand scheme of things is, in essence, a mosquito-bite. When I come to die, I doubt this incident will be remembered. But that isn't easy to see at the time. In the moment it's easy to lose perspective.

Second, incidents like this are meant to teach patience. Haste makes waste! It also makes for momentary carelessness and accidents.

This happened to me because I was in a hurry. I had wanted to buy my ticket at the customer-counter, but there was a line-up and, although I had no pressing agenda, I was too impatient to wait in the line-up.

I was trying to save five minutes and that impatience ended up costing me. Hopefully the lesson will be learned.

Finally, incidents like this are meant to teach us to recog-

nise and forgive contingency. Philosophically, contingency means that, unlike God who is self-sufficient and perfect, we live with limit and imperfection.

For us, every one of us, there will be moments of inattention, carelessness, accidents, stupid impatience, and moral lapses. The philosopher, Leibnitz, famously stated that we don't live in the best of all possible universes.

Thus, there will always be lost purses, stolen briefcases, broken heirlooms, and, much worse, tragic accidents that result in lost children and lost lives.

Sometimes, too, there will be moments of moral carelessness that we will also bitterly regret. We aren't God. We're contingent.

So the next time someone accidentally drops and breaks your priceless vase, don't respond with that chastising frown that says: How can you be so clumsy. What an awful thing you've done.

Instead, make old Leibnitz proud, give off a knowing smile that says: Now there's contingency for you!

why I grow what I grow

From little things a life's passion can grow...

A column in which we talk to people from around the Archdiocese about why they are passionate about what they grow. This month we meet Angelo "Joe" Mifsud, who has been a member of the Canberra Bonsai Society for many years.

When Joe Mifsud went to his first bonsai show in 1985, he didn't realise that more than 25 years later he would be creating bonsai himself.

Bonsai is an art form that originated in Japan, and uses miniature trees grown in containers. It was little known in the western world before the 1950s, and is growing more popular with time.

So how did Joe Mifsud start out creating these beautiful bonsai trees?

"Well I blame my wife for that," he said, while his wife laughed. "What doesn't he blame me for?" she said.

His wife, Mr Mifsud explained, gave him his first bonsai tree for Christmas in

1986. He bought the books and followed the instructions, but the bonsai tree died.

He didn't let that stop him though, and in 1988 joined the Canberra Bonsai Society. Having the expertise and advice from more experienced bonsai artists helped him, and he fell in love with creating bonsai.

Mr Mifsud says that while there are many reasons people enjoy bonsai, he was drawn to the artistry in the bonsai trees.

"Being able to create something from just a bush, to something that looks like an ancient tree," he said. "Bonsai is an illusion. You're taking something and you're giving it age. That's what I like."

Others, he said, like bonsai for the relaxation and meditation that it can bring, and the self satisfaction of creating the bonsai. Mr Mifsud is also passionate about using native plants in



bonsai, which is a growing trend in Australia.

"I'm trying to learn more about natives," he said. "We've got all this material in this country; why are we using material from the northern hemisphere when we could be using material acclimatised to the environment?"

The Canberra Bonsai Society holds annual shows, with the next show on 13 and 14 October at Daramalan College. Information: www.cbs.org.au



LEFT: "Joe" Mifsud ... "you're taking something and giving it age".

ABOVE: One of his bonsais, an olive tree he has had since 1989.

Bourne again high-octane action

The Bourne Legacy. Starring: Jeremy Renner, Rachel Weisz, Edward Norton, Joan Allen, and David Strathairn. Directed by Tony Gilroy. 135 minutes. M (Violence and mature themes). Reviewer: Peter W Sheehan*.

This is the fourth film to contain the word "Bourne" in its title (together with *The Bourne Identity*, 2002; *The Bourne Supremacy*, 2004; and *The Bourne Ultimatum*, 2007). Jason Bourne, a CIA agent and former assassin, who suffers from extreme memory loss, features in the novels of Robert Ludlum, and the previous three films have all starred Matt Damon as Jason Bourne.

Five years later, a new character emerges, and Jason Bourne does not actually appear in this movie at all, except in conversation, inscriptions, and photographs. The movie also has a different director (Tony Gilroy). Some of the past characters remain in very brief appearances, like deputy director Pamela Landy (Joan Allen) and Dr Albert Hirsch (Albert Finney), but there is a host of new characters to fuel the action.

Fresh from *The Avengers* (2012), the hero of this movie is Jeremy Renner, who plays the part of a colleague of Bourne,



Jeremy Renner and Rachel Weisz in the fourth of the Bourne movies.

Aaron Cross. Cross is a biologically-modified agent, working for a CIA-unit that trains super-spies. He is participant No. 5 in Operation Outcome, which is a program for enhancing the mental and physical abilities of CIA agents through the use of experimental drugs.

The powers-that-be are worried that links will be made between Operation Outcome and Operation Treadstone (Jason Bourne's operation), as well as other CIA programs, and orders are given to annihilate all participants in Operation Outcome in the name of national security.

To defend democracy in the way it thinks best, government makes immoral decisions to kill its own people, and Cross, who remains the only participant still alive in Operation Outcome, is being hunted down.

Rachel Weisz plays the role of Dr Marta Shearling, a biochemist, who is employed by Operation Outcome and administers the drugs.

Her demise is wanted too, and she teams up with Cross, when she realises the consequences of what she has been doing. With Marta in tow, Cross is pursued by his operations

head, Eric Byer (Edward Norton), who is the villain of the movie.

Cross's predicament gives special meaning to the title-word "legacy", because his life is in danger from events covered in previous Bourne movies.

The movie shares with the previous three films in the series, all the elements that characterise thrillers of this type. The villain has secrets, there is a national threat to true democracy and romantic interest, conspiracy abounds, action is everywhere, and spectacular scenes are set in major cities of the world (New York and Manila).

Typically, there is a wide assortment of action-packed stunts and chases. They occur in the snowy regions of Alaska, city streets, subway stations, and urban free-ways. Particularly good action sequences in this film are the drone pursuit of Cross in Alaska, and the motor-bike chase through the busy streets of Manila, in which a grim-faced Cross hurtles through dense traffic with a terrified Dr Shearling as his willing passenger.

The film's new director, Tony Gilroy, keeps the tension going by engaging in lively plot distractions, and rapid-fire action. There is more than the usual

number of plot twists and turns, which afford significant elements of surprise and unpredictability in the film's storyline. Overall, this is a high-octane movie that aims to be more of a thinking movie, and smarter than its predecessors.

Renner has a lot to live up to to match the appeal and sophistication of Matt Damon, and he acts the part differently but tolerably well.

Renner might not capture the star quality of Damon's particular kind of spy, but he is a credible hero, who acts with force and vigour. Norton disappoints as the arch-villain. Too much time is spent, explaining why he is obviously so nasty.

The movie allows for the possibility that Jason Bourne may return yet another time, but this film has good suspense, quality special effects, snappy editing, and staccato-style cinematography.

Its plot-line may confuse, but it is impressive enough to successfully fulfill most, though not all, of the expectations of a Bourne film, even when Jason Bourne is always in the background, but nowhere to be seen.

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

SHORTS

Bernie. Starring: Jack Black, Matthew McConaughey, and Shirley MacLaine. Directed by Richard Linklater. 99 minutes. M (Mature themes and violence).

A morbidly funny comedy. It is scripted sharply, and is astute in its social observations. The real-life sayings of Carthage's residents are worth the price of a ticket alone for what they reveal about small-town, rural life in conservative America.

Step Up: Miami Heat (Step Up 4). Starring Kathryn McCormick, Ryan Guzman, Misha Gabriel Hamilton, Peter Gallagher. Directed by Scott Speer. 99 minutes. PG (Mild coarse language and violence).

The production numbers are big budget, lots of dancers, costumes, art design, IT backup with a finale that would rival the opening of the 2012 Olympic Games. A lively and colourful show, exuberant and acrobatic and gymnastic performances, sweetness and light. Nobody is really a villain.

Adventure offers lot to believe in

Moonrise Kingdom. Starring: Bruce Willis, Edward Norton, Bill Murray, Frances McDormand, Tilda Swinton, Jared Gilman, and Kara Hayward. Directed by Wes Anderson. 94 minutes. PG (Mild violence, sexual references and coarse language). Reviewer: Peter W Sheehan*.

This is a comedy-drama that takes place on a fictional New England Island (called "New Penzance") about a relationship between two young children, Sam Shakusy (Jared Gilman), and Suzy Bishop (Kara Hayward).

They meet at a church musical performance, and make a pact to come together again the following summer at a scout camp, and they determine to run away together.

Typical of approaching adolescence, we know more about what the children are running away from, than about what they are running to. For the breakaway, Sam brings his camping equipment, and Suzy brings her cat, six stolen books, and her brother's record player.

Both are labelled problem children by the adults who are supposed to look after them. They are lonely for different reasons, and both yearn to be free. They decide to walk to a secluded cove on the Island, called Moonrise Kingdom. Feelings deepen between the two, and the police chief (Bruce Willis), scout master (Edward Norton), and Suzy's unhappily married lawyer parents (Bill Murray and Francis McDormand) go looking for them.

After being found at the cove, Sam is seen by a social services officer (Tilda Swinton), who flies in from the mainland when things go wrong. Known



simply as "Social Services", she wants to put Sam into a juvenile refuge centre. Attracted by Sam's and Suzy's sense of adventure and the fact that Sam is an orphan, the scout troupe decides to help the two of them escape. They are apprehended on a church steeple in the middle of a hurricane and flash flood.

This is a totally engaging movie about human relationships, involving children who feel intensely about their attraction to each other, and adults who have difficulty understanding themselves and the children in their charge. Suzy and Sam create a world for themselves that is half-fantasy, and half-real. They establish themselves in Moonrise Kingdom, because it represents to them the opposite of the harshness that their adult world delivers.

The movie captures delightfully the twilight zone between youth and adolescence. The adults in the movie are foolish and unthinking, while Suzy and Sam

rule a world that is based on friendship, affection, and understanding.

The movie as a whole is not believable, but it is one of those films that give the viewer a lot to believe in. After seeing it, one has no doubt what it is that makes a family really matter. In describing their children, Suzy's parents realize what is happening around them, when they say: "We're all they have ... and it's not enough".

This is a whimsical film that is wonderfully photographed, scripted and directed, and creatively constructed. The movie has the look of a vividly coloured adventure-book, that is unfolding before your eyes, page (frame) by page (frame). Its quirkiness reinforces that look, but it has much to say that is morally sound and very worthwhile.

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



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Christian music: all you wanted to know

Christian Music: a Global History. By Tim Dowley, with eight specialist contributing authors. Lion Hudson, 2011, 264 pages, \$34.99. Reviewer: Jaki Kane, music director of St Christopher's Cathedral.

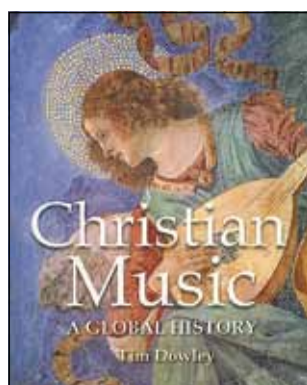
If you have ever wondered about when hymns were first sung, why the Salvation Army has so many brass bands, and the difference between Jesus rock and Christian rock, then this is the book for you.

It will answer a whole lot of questions that may have crossed your mind, and a whole lot more that you probably never considered. For instance, who wrote Amazing Grace,

and how did it become so well known? Why are bells used in church?

Christian Music: a Global History is not a simple chronological history of the music played and sung in church, but an expansive survey of all music inspired by Christianity, including sacred music composed for the concert hall, the history of hymn writing and translating, the contemporary Christian music recording industry, and much more besides.

In 264 illustrated pages it cannot delve too deeply into any topic, but on the whole it handles complex subjects successfully. A list of references for further



reading is provided for people who would like more detailed explanations, and there is also a discography, and a short list of links to YouTube videos. Too short, as much of the subject material covered in the book relates to performance music of the 20th and 21st century,

which really comes to life as music with video. Listening to a gospel choir is wonderful, but watching them as they sing brings a whole new dimension to the music.

The early chapters of the book explore the Jewish and early Christian church music traditions, with explanations of terms such as psalms, canticles and hymns.

Succeeding chapters deal with the development of the rites of the church, including the Mass and the Office, and with Protestant church music and composers such as J S Bach, and Henry Purcell. Even mainstream artists such as Cliff Richard and

U2 get a mention as contributors to the repertoire of songs inspired by Christianity.

What I found most valuable about the book was its global history viewpoint of Christian music. There are chapters on Christian music in Latin America, Africa, South-East Asia, India, China, the Pacific islands and Australia. These have been written by specialist researchers, and although rather short and limited in their descriptions, they provide an insight into the music-making traditions of Christians in other cultures that are fascinating.

Most books that deal with the history of Christian music adopt a eurocentric development model, ending perhaps with a brief mention of the gospel music of the USA. This is refreshingly broad, ethnically comprehensive and honest in its coverage.

Christian music is created and performed by people of many cultures, in a multitude of ways and with a tremendous variety of styles. An understanding of its history and development is important, but this book helps the reader to appreciate it as a constantly evolving social practice, enriched by practical adaptation and cultural diversity.

Taking grief on island holiday

Wish You Were Here: Travels Through Loss and Hope by Amy Welborn. Image Books, 2012, 245 pages, \$19.95. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.

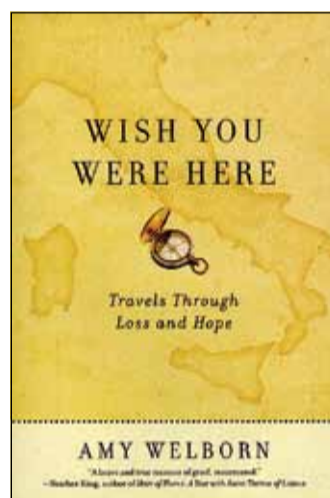
In the olden days, when travelling, we sent post-cards instead of texts to loved ones at home. Then we might finish with the words, "Wish you were here".

Amy Welborn has used this phrase to share her experience of grief at the loss of her husband Mike who died unexpectedly in 2009 while at the gym. Both of them had recently moved to Birmingham, Alabama, to work for

the diocese in education and Catholic publishing.

Five months after the funeral, and still largely uncomprehending, she took her young family to the island of Sicily for a holiday. This is the story of that journey which parallels her own inner journey of memory and reflection.

Welborn is a very skilled writer. The travelogue with its challenges and frustrations is full of interest. Her observations of people, places and events are warm and affectionate. She is disciplined, too. Every scene, every incident she describes contributes to her intensely



personal testimony of the faith which sustains her. It is a tribute to the power of love over even death itself.

Two things stood out for me. The first concerned the wonderful relationship Amy has with her children. She provides stability and allows them to grieve in their own way and their own time.

The second, engendered by this book, was the recognition that everyone's experience of grieving is unique but, mysteriously, has much that is the same. Welborn knows and is able to describe the labyrinthine path we take on our way to inner peace.

My response to her beautiful, authentic narrative is that of Beatle George Harrison, "My guitar gently weeps".

Working on living out your faith

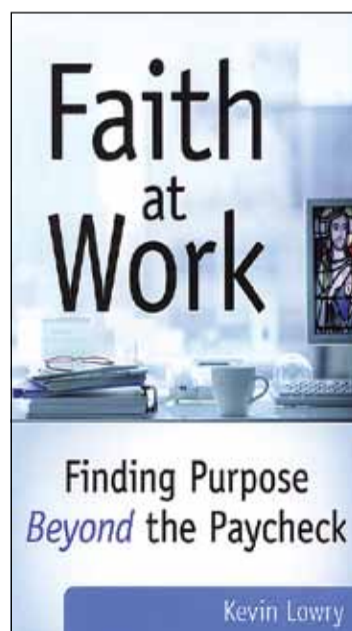
Faith at Work: Finding Purpose Beyond the Paycheck by Kevin Lowry. Our Sunday Visitor, 2012, 135 pages, \$22.95. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.

This little book gets right down to basics immediately. Kevin Lowry, we're told, is "a writer and speaker on topics including faith, work, finances and conversion". By profession he was an accountant and in executive management. He is also a committed and long-time convert to Catholicism, and it shows.

He believes work is an opportunity, not only to make a living, but to live out one's faith. The only way to do this, he says, is to integrate your faith and work completely. Work is central to the Christian vocation - the universal call to holiness.

Lowry expands on this in his engaging style, quoting personal anecdotes and experiences from his own time in secular employment.

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He values humility and positive relationships above all. He believes in setting priorities for work/home balance and he prays often.

No particular magic formula here but everything ties together nicely through that uniquely American prism on life.

Simply Living The Beatitudes by Brother Victor-Antoine d'Avila-Latourrette. Ligouri, 2010, 135 pages, \$27.95. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.

The writer is a monk living in a monastery near Millbrook, New York. He is a published author, mostly about cooking and gardening which are his responsibilities in the community.

Here he has branched out into offering his prayerful insights into the Beatitudes (Matt.5:3-12).

He claims these could well be called a gospel "manifesto".

The good brother clearly sees them as a rallying cry to contemporary Christians.

He launches the results of his research and meditation at us in rather a breathless way with many exhortations that we must and should respond. Simply living it is not.

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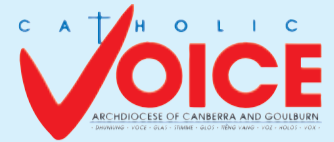
Prayers

O HOLY St Jude, Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue, rich in miracles, near kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor for all who invoke you, special patron in time of need, to you I have recourse from the depths of my heart and humbly beg you, to whom God has given such great powers, to come to my assistance. Help me now in my present and urgent need, and grant my urgent petition. In return I promise to make your name known, and cause you to be invoked. Three Our Fathers, three Hail Marys, three Glorias. St Jude, pray for us and all who honour and invoke your aid. M T F.

Reunions

EX-STUDENTS of Sisters of St Joseph, North Goulburn, and the Riverina. The re-union Mass and luncheon will be held at Coolamon on Saturday, 13 October, 2012, commencing with Mass in St Michael's Church at 11am. Cost \$25. If you wish to attend and haven't received an invitation, please contact Nancy Fleming, telephone 6927 3114 or Marie Curtis, telephone 6927 3147.

EX-STUDENTS of Our Lady of Mercy College Goulburn are invited to attend a reunion lunch on Sunday, 16 September, 2012, at 12.30pm at the Goulburn Workers Club. Cost \$35 per person. For information contact Mary Sykes, telephone 4822 0910, Sue Burgess, telephone 4821 8692. Please RSVP no later than 2 September, 2012, with payment to: OLMC Ex-students, c/- Rose Liardet, PO Box 742, Goulburn 2580.



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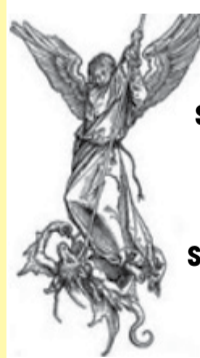
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Coming Events



BATEHAVEN TO THE BUSH – St Joseph's House of Spirituality and Hospitality, David St, Batehaven: Opening Gates of Wisdom, 10am-3pm, 21 November. RSVP 7 November, telephone 4472 4021; Dancing With The Stars: Celebrating All Saints and All Souls, 10am-3pm, 27 October. RSVP 13 October, telephone 4472 4021; Mandala, 5pm-7.30pm, 16 November. RSVP 2 November, telephone 4472 4021. Southern Cross Village, Victoria St, Temora: Opening Gates of Wisdom, 10am-3pm, 7 November. RSVP 18 October, telephone 6978 2585; Dancing With The Stars - Engaging with the Communion of Saints. 10am-3pm, 25 October. RSVP 15 October, telephone 6978 2585.

CALL TO CONNECT FILM - Women and men invited to screening of Nefarious: Merchant of Souls which exposes growing global sex trafficking of women and girls spanning 19 countries. 6.30pm-9.30pm, Monday, 17 September, St Edmund's College, McMillan St Griffith. Cost \$15. Viewing 16+ or at parental discretion. RSVP 13 September. Registration: St Benedict's Narrabundah, telephone 6295 7879 (9am-2pm), Lorraine, telephone 0437 329 371. www.calltoconnect.org

CURSILLO - Canberra men's Cursillo, St Clement's, Galong, 13-16 September. Inquiries: Chris Carlile, telephone 6294 3139, email cjcarlile@optusnet.com.au. Canberra Ultreya guest speaker Ann-Mari Jordens, historian and author of newly released book "Hope" on refugees in the Canberra region since 1947. 8pm, 27 September, St Matthew's parish, Page. Friends and visitors welcome.

DINNER DANCE - St Thomas the Apostle, Kambah, Tongan-style hangi dinner and dance. Music by Moonlight Sway and Tongan community, 7pm, 13 October, school hall. BYO drinks. \$30 per head. Tickets: Tracey, telephone 6231 9219, Debbie, telephone 6231 8577.

MUSIC COPYRIGHT WORKSHOP - For parishes, 10am-3pm, Saturday, 13 October, Rheinberger Centre. Organised in conjunction with the Australian Pastoral Musicians Network. Cost \$20 per person. Lunch provided. Register at <http://apm-noct2012-efbevent.eventbrite.com.au/>

PADRE PIO'S MITTEN - Fingerless glove relic available for veneration, 5.30pm Mass, Friday, 14 September, St

Benedict's Narrabundah. Inquiries: Maria, telephone 6286 5679.

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

ST BRIGID'S PARISH DICKSON REUNION - 50th anniversary of former parish, lunch, noon, Saturday, 13 October, Ainslie function centre, Wakefield Ave, Dickson. Registrations: Paul Maher, telephone 6247 3664, Betty Tuohy, telephone 6247 7980.

SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY - St Michael's Primary School, Kaleen, 30th anniversary. Performance of The Time Travellers - A History of St Michael's Primary School, 1:15pm, 7pm, Monday, 24 September. RSVP office.stmichaelsps@cg.catholic.edu.au; 9.30am, Tuesday, 25 September, Mass, 10.30am unveiling mosaic; 6.30pm, Thursday, 27 September, An Evening @ St Michael's; Friday, 28 September, Children's Day. Information www.stmichaelsps.act.edu.au

SERRA CLUB OF CANBERRA - Jubilarians Mass for priests and religious, starts Rosary 6.10pm, Thursday, 13 September, Holy Trinity Church, Curtin, then dinner Southern Cross Club, Woden. Inquiries: John Malycha, telephone 6251 2912.

TWILIGHT RETREAT - St Benedict's Eucharistic Centre, Narrabundah, retreat on Blessed Virgin Mary, after 5.30pm Mass, 7 September. 6.30pm-7pm light supper, 7pm-9pm retreat. Cost \$5. Registration: St Benedict's office, telephone 6295 7879 (Tues-Thurs 9am-3pm) or Bronnie 0432 257 622.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER - 19-21 October, weekend for married couples, Winbourne, Edmund Rice Centre, Mulgoa (near Penrith). Bookings: Telephone 4283 3435 or go to www.wmme.org.au.

Written entries are invited for the October issue to: Catholic Voice, GPO Box 3089, Canberra ACT 2601, or e-mail ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au by Monday, 17 September. Entries which are accepted for this section are free, courtesy of sponsorship by the Catholic Development Fund.

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Servant of church and country

Capt Richard Brown RAN

Dick Brown, who died on 27 July at the age of 82, was president of the St Vincent de Paul Society in the Archdiocese from 1982 to 1987. He is remembered in particular for his work in recruitment and formation, a role that took him all over the Archdiocese from Crookwell to Tumut, Lake Cargelligo to Eden.

He was always conscious of the important role that spirituality played in the life of the society and ran a number of retreats for members.

Some of the older Vinnies who attended his funeral Mass at Corpus Christi church, Gowrie, recalled those retreats.

They usually finished with a dramatic production of some kind, featuring a great deal of dressing - up and cross - and much merriment.

In his youth, he had ambitions to be an actor, something which was not practical for a young man in a working-class family as the country came out of the Great Depression.

Faced with his personal choice of the stage and his parents' wish for him to take up a plumbing apprenticeship with his father, he compromised by joining the Navy as a cadet midshipman. Almost 40 years later, he retired with the rank of captain. At his funeral, his friend and fellow RAN member Frank Shugg, a later archdiocesan president of Vinnies, recalled some of his postings and responsibilities.

There were also eulogies from his childhood friend Dick Parsons and his son Matthew. The latter noted that Dick had passed away on the feast day of St Theobald of Marly, information that was almost certainly new to everyone in the crowded church, not excluding the four celebrating clergy. It was a fact gleaned from an ancient martyrology which was Dick's favourite reading and which he would quote from to anyone who would listen, including the other members of his foursome on the first or 10th tee of his twice weekly game at Murrumbidgee golf club.

For his family and many friends however, the Dick they will remember is not the expert on obscure saints or navy provisioning or even Vincentian caring, but the talker and spinner of yarns. Matthew felt that he was well summed up by the comment of Toad in Wind in the Willows: "Well, well, perhaps I am a bit of a talker. A popular fellow such as I am - my friends get round me - we chaff, we sparkle, we tell witty stories - and somehow my tongue gets wagging. I have the gift of conversation. I've been told I ought to have a salon, whatever that may be."

For some years, Dick was under treatment for cancer, which he appeared to have survived until it reappeared in a vicious and painful form some months ago. He is survived by his wife Patricia, daughter Julianne, sons Simon, Matthew, Grantly, Adrian, Timothy and Cameron, 13 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Husband, father, family man, Dick Brown served his country and his church. He only had friends.



Another Olympics has ended. It has been a time when celebrations often avert our attention from hardships and challenging issues. Yet for many their daily struggles have continued with no celebration.

From 4am till evening can be a typical day for many children throughout our world. During their day they fulfil chores for home and family whilst struggling with distance and time to include education, where possible.

Catholic Mission has maintained its ear of concern, seeking to hear and respond to the cries of those in need and those who seek to assist them. The Church's network brings us face to face with them.

Together, with the prayers and generous gifts of donors, Catholic Mission endeavours to support their training, provide the materials and means for care, education and security, especially for the young, and enable these communities to both grow in faith and respond to their mission in Christ.

Whether assisting communities through Propagation of the Faith, training faith leaders through St Peter Apostle, or assisting communities of children through Children's Mission, we need your help to help others in Jesus' name.

God bless,
Deacon Joe Blackwell

The Rheinberger Centre, P O Box 7174, Yarralumla 2600. asst.missions@cg.catholic.org.au. Tel: 6163 4321.

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

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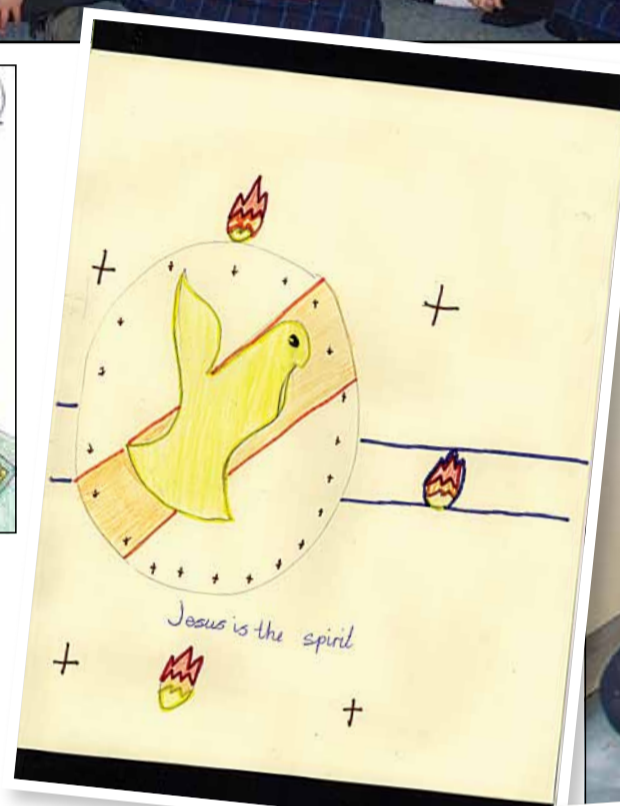
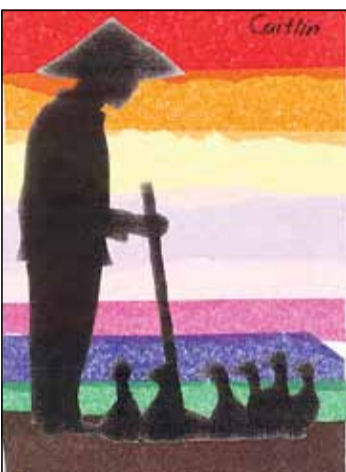




Students in Ms Megan Gorringer's Year 4 class were busy with maths rotation activities when Catholic Voice visited St Clare of Assisi Primary School, Conder.

Students focused on division, mental addition and subtraction.

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



ABOVE: Leilani Keen-Church plays a division game.



ARTISTIC: These artworks were made by Caitlin Mudie (top left), Haylee Olson (above), Tayla Beckett (left) and Tahlya O'Toole (top right).



BELOW: Jessica Charanjit and Ainsley O'Malley concentrate on a maths game on their iPads.



LEFT: Connor Polzin and Tahlya O'Toole play Bingo.



ABOVE: Holly McMahon and Daniel Cabello play doubles or halves.



Troy Williams, Karli Box and Noelle-Alexis Bowles have a break from playing mental subtraction.