

A saintly visitor



The relic arrives in St Christopher's Cathedral (above), and is carried into St Francis Xavier College by (left) Elizabeth Jamieson and Tobias Nevile, and (right) Riley Brassington and Kelsie Greenwood.

Hundreds of people, young and old, have welcomed the relic of St Francis Xavier on its journey through the Archdiocese.

The relic, which rarely leaves the main Jesuit Church in Rome, II Gesu, is the right forearm with which he blessed and baptized many thousands of people. Transported in a specially-made reliquary, it was welcomed to the Archdiocese with a large congregation at Mass and veneration at St Mary's Church, Young. Its second stop was at St Francis Xavier

College, Florey, where students got the chance to be the first people in the ACT to view the relic.

The relic arrived at the college in the morning and was escorted by students into the hall, where a liturgy was performed in honour of the saint.

"I think at first some people were a bit freaked out by the idea," college captain Nick Mahony said. "The teachers explained why we have relics and what it would look like so everyone knew what to expect."

"We've been focusing our morning pastoral prayers on the relic and its meaning," Year 12 student Rachel Watson said. "We learn a lot about St Francis Xavier and we've been talking about how relics are a way of remembering saints."

Archdiocesan Administrator Mgr John Woods told students: "The world in which we live in is far different from 16th century Japan, India and Indonesia. The relic, in a way, takes us back there to those times."

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what do you know?

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

1. What is the theme of next month's Archdiocesan Assembly?
2. Who won the Archdiocese's first primary schools choir festival?
3. What is the name of the 70-year-old church at Bombala?
4. Who started the Christian Brothers schools in Australia?
5. After which saint is the primary school at Lake Cargelligo named?
6. In what year was the first Mass celebrated on Mt Kosciuszko?

Answers bottom Page 4.



CATHOLIC Voice was highly commended in two categories at the annual awards of the Australasian Catholic Press Association.

The newspaper was awarded in the best advertising supplement section for its On Trend feature about fashions available through St Vincent de Paul stores. The judge said: "This was a compelling and arresting feature with well-executed photo images. Highly worthy of being so close to the top award."

Catholic Voice was also highly commended in the category for best newspaper front page. The page in the August 2011 issue highlighted the unveiling of the mosaic on the outside wall of Sts Peter and Paul's Old

From near and far

Cathedral in Goulburn. The judge said the page had a strong subject line and good original pictures which held interest.

The Bishop Phillip Kennedy Memorial Prize for the best newspaper went to The Southern Cross, from Adelaide, and the best magazine to Australian Catholics.

ARCHDIOCESAN religious education co-ordinator for government schools Deacon Matt Ransom has clocked up many thousands of kilometres visiting catechists in all the deaneries. He is pictured (below) at Grenfell with Sue Seymour, Margaret Taylor, Mary Moffitt, Sue Davidson, Nola Drum, Judy Bryant and archdiocesan coordinator of spirituality and faith education Shane Dwyer.



IT was the first-of-its-kind as Lumen Christi College, Pambula, celebrated Lumen Day with K-6 students. The atmosphere was festive and happy as staff and students enjoyed many fun-filled albeit wind-swept activities, including a whole school liturgy, led by parish priest Fr Bernie Patterson, a concert and the "Lumen Olympics".

ABOVE: Year 12 students get into the spirit of things on their last Lumen Day (from left): Jordi Nugent, Nick Hynes, Erin Morrison, Kelsey Martyn and Anna Theris.

RIGHT: Goulburn parish priest Fr Dermid McDermott at the historic Riversdale property. His father Ernie, then Mayor of Goulburn, was instrumental in the City Council helping the National Trust buy the property in 1967 from the then owners.



Organisers of celebrations to mark the 150th anniversary of the Archdiocese are seeking descendants of families who may have been among the congregation for the first Catholic Mass in Goulburn.

The first Mass was celebrated at Matt Healy's Riversdale pub stables on 3 August, 1833 by pioneer priest (and wild colonial spirit) John Therry. This is the same year that surveyor Hoddle laid out the new town of Goulburn.

A feature of the 150th celebrations will be another Mass at Riversdale, now owned by the National Trust of Australia, on Saturday, 17 November.

The two census records of Argyle County in 1828 and 1836 identify about 700 Catholics. Many of these were emancipated ex-convicts and the Catholic community generally was considered a minority.

Farms held by Catholics were mostly smaller and less productive than those held by members of other church groups, however some of the earliest baptisms were at the request of non-Catholic landlords generously supporting their employees.

Fr Therry enjoyed warm relations across all people in the Goulburn community. He used what became known as the "Fr Therry Candle", a torch-stick of bark dipped in lard, - to light

Descendants of pioneer families sought

the way on his legendary visits around the far-flung bush communities.

Some of the family names mentioned in his diaries include Bowen, Kenny, Keigheran, Dwyer, O'Brien, Croker, Hume, O'Sullivan, Blakes, Barbers, Reddals, Manton, Davis, Keily, Kiley, Byrne, Sykes, Huon, O'Neill, Donoghue, Brown, Hyland, Mitchell, Colgan, Bowen, Bowler, Hefferan, Sheehan, Hayes, Wales, Tuohy and Ryan.

Organisers of the celebrations would appreciate hearing from families descended from these Goulburn pioneers; or from other families from around the 1830s who may have been involved in the first Mass and the early parish.

Anyone with stories and ideas may contact the parish office in Verner Street, Goulburn, or e-mail the parish pastoral council paulfleming2005@yahoo.com.au.



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Prayer at centre of next assembly

This year's Archdiocesan Assembly, planned for next month, will have the Year of Grace theme, Starting Afresh in Christ.

Plans are well under way for the assembly, which will be held on Saturday, 3 November, at Merici College, Braddon. All members of the Archdiocese are invited to attend.

It will have a different flavour to last year's assembly which focused on the many changes and challenges the Church faces.

This year, the assembly will make prayer its central theme. In its planning, the coordinating team is taking on the challenge described in Novo Millennio Ineunte:

"Our Christian communities must become genuine 'schools' of prayer, where the meeting with Christ is expressed not just in imploring help but also in thanksgiving, praise, adoration, contemplation, listening and ardent devotion, until the heart truly 'falls in love'". (NMI 33).

The main goals for the assembly will be to:

- Listen to the Holy Spirit



- Recognize God's grace in our lives, and pray for healing in our relationships and our Church
- Encounter Jesus afresh, and
- Ask God for a new and deep wave of grace to forge the future.

Highlights of the day will include a keynote address by Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney Peter Comensoli, Mass, a celebratory lunch and an afternoon of opportunities to experience different forms of prayer including guided meditation and prayer through music.

Participants will be able to choose two sessions, each focusing on a different prayer response of thanksgiving, petition, repentance, adoration or contemplation.

The sessions will provide an opportunity to learn about and experience



Bishop Peter Comensoli.

these prayer forms. There will also be a status report on the decisions and proposals promulgated by Archbishop Mark Coleridge at last year's assembly and the launch of the Archdiocesan Year of Grace faith resource. Participants will be given a free copy of this resource to take home.

The day will provide the Archdiocese with an opportunity to farewell the five members of the National Evangelisation Team who have been working in schools and parishes over the past year.

Information and registration details are available at the official Archdiocesan Assembly website, www.cgassembly.org.au. Registration is essential so that catering, seating and other logistics can be organized. Information: Sharon Brewer, telephone 6163 4300.

Cuts 'disregard' parents' rights

A proposed cut to non-government school funding by the NSW Government showed a blatant disregard for the rights of parents and citizens who choose Catholic schooling, Archdiocesan Administrator Mgr John Woods said.

"The position of the Church is equity in funding for all students - government, independent and Catholic," he said.

"A radical reduction in funding for NSW Catholic schools is a retrograde step, all the more bitter in the aftermath of the 50th anniversary of the iconic Goulburn Catholic schools strike."

The move would severely impact the provision of quality education across the Archdiocese.

In a statement, chairman of the Catholic Education Commission in NSW Bishop Anthony Fisher said for the first time all Catholic schools in NSW faced a radical and immediate cut to their NSW government subsidy.

"The bishops of NSW are advised that the NSW Government is about to announce an unprecedented cut to the recurrent grant for NSW non-government schools of \$66.7 million per year, or 8% of the 2012 total," he said.

"We understand that from January 2013, state government funding for Catholic systemic schools is to be cut by \$24.5 million per year. Catholic independent schools will face immediate cuts of up to \$496 per student."

He said the move may force some families out of Catholic schools, force reductions of teachers and curriculum options, compromise other essential educational provisions or force school closures.



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By Archdiocesan Administrator Mgr John Woods

I recently purchased a framed panoramic photo that takes in the Canberra landmarks of the spire of St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, the sweep of Parliament buildings on Capital Hill and the imposing Telstra Tower on the backdrop of Black Mountain.

The scene reminded me that my during my formative years my family lived near St Andrew's and that for most of the ensuing years I have lived and worked in Canberra. The scene also reminded me that I have been and continue to be formed in relationships by the Church, by the rule of law in a democratic society and by the impact of social and other media.

Last month, as a Year of Grace initiative, we were privileged to have the relic of St Francis Xavier in our Archdiocese during its three-month pilgrimage to Australia from the Gesu, Rome. The relic of St Francis Xavier, the 16th century co-founder of the Jesuits and patron saint of missionaries, affirmed that our God seeks engagement in and through us. In Christ God became incarnate or at-one-with-us, as we proclaim at Christmas. He continues to effect communion with us in the waters of baptism, as he did in and through Francis Xavier and with all who follow their informed conscience.

I share the foregoing in the context of my recent experience of celebrating Confirmation. More especially I have reflected on the somewhat neglected seven-fold gifts of the Holy Spirit, namely, Wonder and Awe, Reverence, Knowledge, Understanding, Wisdom, Right Judgement and Courage (Ish.11:2-3), and the fruits arising from the Spirit's movement which are characteristic of personal and communal well-being:

love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Gal 5:22-23).

Are we really open to ongoing transformation under the guidance of the Holy Spirit? In this Year of Grace some pertinent questions could be:

Do I foster a sense of wonder and awe in both the sweep and the intricate marvels of nature and the diversity of cultures and religious aspirations wherein God is revealed? Do I have a reverence for the love and majesty of God revealed in Christ and for my own God-given dignity and for the dignity of others? Do I question so as to grow in knowledge and understanding and to learn from my individual and shared experiences and thereby grow in wisdom after the mind and heart of God? Do I seek to discern God's will from a place of communal and personal prayer and constructive dialogue, and do I have the courage of my convictions?

To the extent that one does, I would suggest that one can claim to have a "faith and reason" response to life. "Awareness is the means; the present moment is the focus" (Kabir Edmund Helminski).

It is said that Francis Xavier left on his missionary journey with a breviary, a catechism and the work of Croatian humanist Marko Maruli ("De Institutione bene vivendi"). Those few works reflected his desire to engage with "faith and reason".

I heard a contemporary challenge to engage with "faith and reason" in the presentation of former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd at the recent National Prayer Breakfast in the Great Hall of Parliament House. Of course, the response might well vary on party lines but the wrestling must be done by those claiming to have a

Taking the broad view



living faith as distinct from a merely nominal one. And so, what are the hierarchy of beliefs and values that I support in my community and why?

The first community is the family. This year's Social Justice Statement, "The Gift of Family in Difficult Times", seeks to name and constructively engage with pressures on families, affirming that "the future of humanity passes by way of the family" (www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au).

It is perhaps timely that the Federal Parliament's defeat of the bill to legalise same-sex marriage (42 for and 98 against) was an affirmation of traditional marriage, not discrimination against people of same sex orientation.

Sadly, many supporters of same-sex marriage seem unable or unwilling to make this distinction, presuming that marriage can and should be redefined without adverse effect on the individuals, families or society.

In essence, both the Church and our Federal Parliament affirm traditional marriage while rejecting all forms of prejudice on the basis of same sex orientation.

Again, for those Canberra faithful seeking to

cast a vote responsive to the Church's social justice teaching in the upcoming ACT Election, I refer you to the Archdiocesan Social Justice Commission's Survey at www.canberracatholicsvote.org.au.

Permit me to conclude as I began, with a personal aside. Both at school and in the seminary I learnt very little about our close neighbour Indonesia, the world's fourth most populous nation and the largest Muslim nation.

For that matter, I received next to no formation in comparative religion. I continue to address my ignorance, recognising that in a changing and often violent world we need to find common ground, clear in what we bring to the table but with a willingness to let go in recognition of a hierarchy of truths.

We are called to be people of faith and reason and, therefore, people of love and truth, ever open to deeper appreciation of the same. To so reflect and engage with our community will be to our mutual benefit and a witness to the one who seeks to be all in all (1Cor 15:28).

Conscious that we are in this journey together or we are not in it at all, may we be enriched by the blessings of our relationships, especially that of our family, the blessings of the Church, the blessings of our Parliament and the blessings of diverse media. I am both heartened and challenged by the movement of the Holy Spirit in the symbolic interplay in my panoramic print.



Help 'special someone'

Every year across the world, Catholics celebrate World Mission Sunday, a day to reflect on the urgency to proclaim the Gospel and pray for commitment to Christ's mission of salvation.

World Mission Day will be celebrated on Sunday 21 October, and the whole month has been dedicated to restoring hope to those who suffer from exclusion, poverty, injustice and those whose life has been diminished in some way.

Catholic Mission has set the focus in Australia on the Philippines, with school children being encouraged to "restore hope to a special someone".

A school resources kit has been provided to every Catholic school throughout the nation. It aims to provide opportunities for teachers and students to deepen their understanding about issues of mission and justice.

The resources have a special emphasis on hope and how Australians can commit to building a better world for God's people.

A school DVD entitled "Restore Hope to a Special Someone" has been made to encourage each person to be involved in the work of global mission and to share the loving grace of God with all.

Featured in the DVD is the song "A Special Someone", by Jeremy Fowler, from emerging Christian band New Empire. To see the clip, go to www.catholicmission.org.au/aspecialsomeoneDVD

Fundraising for Catholic Mission is an excellent way for children in Australia to connect with children in the Philippines and around the world and to help make a real difference in their lives—providing nutrition, shelter, health care and education.

When schools raise funds for Catholic Mission, the money goes directly to support children in need.

Students can create their own individual events and collect donations from family and friends for their efforts.

To donate, go to <http://www.catholicmission.org.au> or call 1800 257 296.

Great graces have come through Vatican II

Long-time priest of the Archdiocese Mgr Kevin Barry-Cotter was a student in Rome for three of the four sessions of one of the most significant events in the Church's life, the Second Vatican Council, in the 1960s.

Pope Benedict has called Catholics to a "Year of Faith" starting on 11 October, the 50th anniversary of the opening of Vatican II. Australia's bishops have called Catholics to a "Year of Grace" from Pentecost 2012 to Pentecost 2013, with the theme that we should "start afresh from Christ" to address issues confronting us in our church and in our world.

Mgr Barry-Cotter is sharing his reflections on Vatican II in an ongoing series of columns published on the archdiocesan website.

He writes: "Some of the great graces that have come to us in our time have come through Pope John XXIII's Second Vatican Council, 1962-1965. His vision was that the Council was to be a 'new Pentecost', bringing with it a renewal of the graces of the first Pentecost by activating the Gifts of the Spirit in our lives and in our Church."

"For Catholics of my generation, Vatican II caused a great, and some would say, a necessary, upheaval in the Church, and it was only after some years, when things settled down a bit,

that we began to see its graces. Catholics of the next generation lived through upheavals not only in the Church but also in the world, and our two archdiocesan synods of 1989 and 2004 helped us to focus on the graces of Vatican II.

"To the present generations, Vatican II is already ancient history and seems to be irrelevant, and they are the generations for which I write. As Pope Benedict said: 'There is no pre or post-Conciliar Church, but one unique Church that walks the path towards the Lord...'"

• The series may be found at <http://www.cg.catholic.org.au/news/default.cfm?loadref=461>.

Election hopefuls quizzed on social justice

Dara adds a little magic

Catholic voters in this month's ACT election have been urged to give weight to the marginalised in society by looking at nine justice issues.

These are housing; mental health; the right to life; marriage; the justice system; education; gambling; climate change; and ACT economy and the taxation system.

The call has come from the Archdiocese's Catholic Social Justice Commission.

The commission has asked election candidates to give their views on a range of issues. The full text of the survey and the updated responses of candidates, are available on the commission's website www.canberracatholicvote.org.au, or from the commission e-mail csjc@cg.catholic.org.au or telephone 6235 5452.

"The commission applies Catholic social teaching to public policy so government decisions should be guided by a 'preferential option for the poor'," commission chairman Mr Mike Cassidy said.

"For the ACT election, the commission identified concerns central to the well-being of the most disadvantaged in the community.

"We are also asking each election candidate for his or her views on how an incoming government might respond to these concerns, and are offering the opportunity to comment more broadly on policy approaches to ensuring a fair go for all.

"Building a productive economy and creating a more sustainable environment are clearly vital priorities.

"They affect the whole community but particularly the disadvantaged, who are the first to suffer the consequences of any policy failures in these areas.

"We have no specific views to offer on how an incoming government should go about its work in such broad and complex areas.

"We simply note that they are important, that getting it right on the economy and the environment can involve difficult decisions, and that the burden of adjustment should not be carried by those who can least afford to do so."

● For a summary of the survey turn to Page 12.



Daramalan College brought a little of its own magic to the Rock Eisteddfod this year taking out three awards in the RAW division.

The students impressed the judges at the Sydney Entertainment Centre to win awards of excellence for drama, costuming character and creative innovation.

Dance teacher Ms Louise Chapman was delighted with the efforts of the 74 dancers to bring the

magical characters from "Into the Woods" to life.

Musical theatre giants Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine created this musical in 1987.

Daramalan's Rock Eisteddfod performance was a cheeky tribute to their fractured fairy tale, Ms Chapman said.

ABOVE: Emma Spencer and Mikayla Thomas in a colourful scene from the performance.

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All about copyright

A music copyright workshop will be held for parishes from 10am to 3pm on Saturday, 13 October, at the Rheinberger Centre, Yarralumla.

The workshop will explore what copyright is, why parishes need a copyright licence to use music and what they need to know about recording words, melody lines, music scores, recorded music, digital files and new technology.

Participants can register at: <http://apmnoct2012-efbevent.eventbrite.com.au/>

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HOME BASE



Gerard Heffernan

Springing into Spring...

The days are getting warmer, longer and much more enjoyable than the 'coldest winter in 12 years' we have just endured.

These warmer days not only affect our fingers, toes and quantity of clothing in a positive way, but also the property market. More people are out looking at homes on a weekend instead of rugging up in front of the fire. Mum and Dad stop the car at an open home on the way home from soccer or netball, rather than protect themselves from the 'crisp' elements outside.

Whilst there was a reported 'record drop' in the market in the June quarter, this doesn't reflect what we would expect for these coming warmer months. It is my experience that activity is still strong and enquiry has dramatically increased just over the past few weeks. So if you read sensationalised reports about 'record drops' it is not 'doom and gloom'.

Let's all warm to a better outlook.

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Chloe sets off on mission to make difference

It's not every day that you meet someone who is about to represent their country at the United Nations, especially when that person is only 18 and still in high school.

In January, Chloe Kelly, a college captain at St Francis Xavier, Florey, will travel to The Hague in the Netherlands as a representative of UN Youth Australia to take part in the model United Nations.

She is one of 17 students selected from across Australia who will make the month-long trip to Europe.

Once there she will join 4000 students from more than 90 countries, who will debate resolutions to the world's biggest challenges including poverty, energy, war, human rights, the environment, nuclear disarmament and international law.

Chloe has been selected to form part of a special committee on human rights, a subject she is passionate about.

"Human rights and equality are two things that I am particularly interested in," she said. "So I'm really excited to be a part of the human rights committee."

Chloe was selected to go after attending UN Youth Australia's ACT conference.

UN Youth, which is run by people under 25, for people under 25, holds annual conferences in each state and territory, where young people learn about international relations and diplomacy, as well as taking part in workshops and activities.

The ACT branch of UN Youth selected Chloe as one of five Canberra students invited to attend UN Youth's national conference in Melbourne.

At the national conference she was awarded the perpetual trophy for negotiation and diplomacy for skills she displayed during workshops. This helped land her one of the coveted spots on the Australian delegation to The Hague.

The students will embark on a two-week cultural tour of Europe, where they will get to see the sights before travelling to Geneva to visit UN headquarters.

Chloe is busy finishing her senior studies, while working on her resolution proposal to take to the conference as well as fundraising for her trip.

Bombala church marks 70th

Bombala parishioners have gathered to celebrate the 70th birthday of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Church.

The church was built in 1940-42 under the direction of Fr Dean Griffin, who had a great devotion to Our Lady, to replace the smaller St Mary's.

During the war years many prayers would have been offered to Our Lady for peace in the world. Some of the beautiful stained glass windows remember family members who gave their lives for their country.

The church built during this time was an inspiring effort from the small community. Bombala is still a small, but vibrant community and to celebrate the occasion of 70 years dinner was served in the parish centre for about 40 parishioners.

They farewelled and thanked Fr John Parsons, who was resident priest from January to the end of June. Parish priest Fr Paul Huthnance, who lives in Cooma, an hour's drive away, visits each Wednesday and Saturday to celebrate Mass. On Sundays, the Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion is celebrated.



Chloe Kelly is practising her diplomacy skills in preparation for visiting the United Nations.

"We're encouraged to engage with the community when raising money so we can promote UN Youth and they work they do," she said.

An aim of UN Youth is to give young people the skills to effect change and give back to their local community, as well as encouraging them to think of solutions to local, national and international problems.

Once she has returned from the trip, Chloe hopes to begin study in international relations and the Asia-Pacific at the Australian National University.

She hopes to one day work in a humanitarian capacity for a multi-national company or charity.

Inquiries from businesses or individuals to sponsor Chloe's trip should be directed to chloemkelly@hotmail.com.

Centenary Mass on summit

A feature of next year's Kosciuszko festival is planned be a centenary Mass on the mountain.

Organisers hope to mark on 23 February the centenary of the first Mass celebrated at the summit.

Kosciuszko Heritage Inc, which organises annual cultural events in the Snowy Mountains, is seeking archival material such as photographs, newspaper clippings, letters, family stories and other documents relating to the first Mass on Mt Kosciuszko. A selection will be published in a souvenir book.

A photographic exhibition that documents Catholic life in Australia's migrant communities, is also being planned.

Mt Kosciuszko is a special place for the Polish community as the mountain was climbed by Polish scientist and humanitarian Sir Paul Edmund Strzelecki.

Anyone willing to share material may contact Dr Ernestyna Skurjat-Kozek, email Ernestyna@kosciuszkoheritage.com.

Father's Day Appeal

CLERGY RETIREMENT FOUNDATION

Thankyou



Fr Brian Maher, retired priest of the Archdiocese.

The Annual Appeal in support of our Archdiocesan retired priests was launched on the Father's Day weekend in September and already the response from donors had been encouraging.

Chairman of the Foundation, Fr Tom Thornton, and the Board of Managers convey their thanks to the catholic lay faithful from right around the Archdiocese, for their support of this most important fund raising appeal. All funds raised directly assist the work of the Foundation in caring for archdiocesan clergy.

The Appeal is still open so please consider completing the coupon below if you have not already made a donation.

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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

Religious liberty under threat in same-sex moves

Speaking to the St Thomas More forum, he said enormous pressures would be brought to bear to teach children in Christian schools that same-sex marriages were the equal of real marriages and thus that homosexual acts were the equal of conjugal ones.

“Now, more than ever, we must proclaim it with clarity and charity, as St Thomas More did. To say that redefining marriage won’t affect our community’s understanding of marriage is a lie we must resist. So too the pressures to bully us into silence.

Bishop Fisher said Catholics would be naïve to think freedom of belief was always respected in Australia and always would be.

Everyone would one day have the occasion when they must “choose between the true and the comfortable, when we must vow ourselves to Christ or something less”.

“The view that marriage is between a man and a woman, which was common to people of every known religion, philosophy and culture in history till now has suddenly become unspeakable,” he said. “To achieve this, the same-sex marriage lobby have cleverly shanghai the language of race equality, repeatedly declaring that marriage redefinition is ‘inevitable’, that eight out of ten people support the change, and that opponents have no arguments to offer, only neo-Nazi hatred or (worse) ‘religion’.”

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

St Patrick's Parish School, Cooma, took out first prize in the inaugural Archdiocesan primary schools choir festival.

St Patrick's Primary School, Gundagai, was awarded second place with Holy Trinity Primary School, Curtin, third.

The competition was judged by three professionals, all of whom have experience working with choirs.

Seven primary schools competed in the festival, which was attended by more than 300 students, parents and teachers. Some schools formed choirs especially for the event, and all want to come back next year.

The event was a joint venture by the Knights of the Southern Cross, the Catholic Education Office and hosts Merici College. It was timed to coincide with celebrations for the Year of Grace.

Mr Bob Perkins, from the Knights of the Southern Cross, came up with the idea for the festival, and said he was inspired by a film to make it happen. "I watched *Sister Act* a few times," Mr Perkins said, "and I thought, 'wouldn't this be great?'" There were some *Sister Act* fans among the schools as well, with one choir performing the song "My God" ("My Guy") from the first *Sister Act* movie.



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The promotion of priestly formation is one of the highest priorities of the Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN).

Each year ACN assists with the training of over 14,000 seminarians worldwide. The African continent, for instance, unlike many Western countries, is witnessing a lively flow of new vocations in the seminaries.

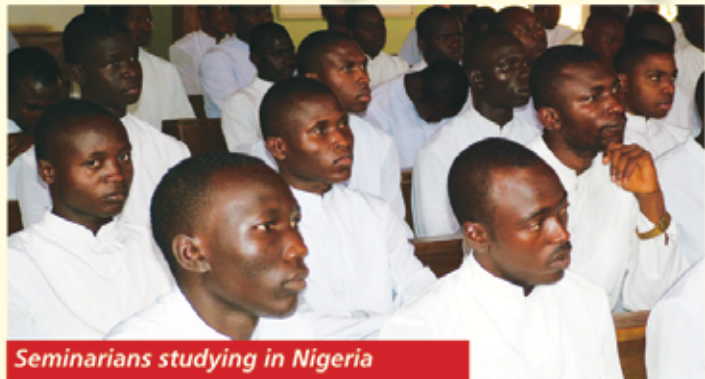
But this good news is tempered by the fact that many dioceses in Africa lack the necessary financial resources to be able to accept all the candidates they consider suitable and who will be needed in the diocese.

Vocations are also lost due to the lack of space in overcrowded seminaries. Today one seminarian in every five comes from the continent of Africa. By now African missionaries travel all over the world, proclaiming the Good News. But the Church in Africa, though so rich in vocations, still shares the material poverty of her faithful. As a result, numerous seminaries all over Africa need your support.

These young African men who have responded to the call to the priesthood can infect us also with the strength and enthusiasm of their faith. The words of Pope Benedict – “The Church is young!” – apply especially to Africa. We must not allow these young men, who have chosen to give their lives to God, to be turned away because there is insufficient money to train them. They are the future of Christ’s Holy Catholic Church.

The average grant ACN gives to a seminarian is \$500 – but whatever you can afford will be enormously appreciated. ACN forwards the donations directly to a local bishop or to the rectors of the seminaries. You can be assured of their prayers both now and when they come to offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

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Seminarians studying in Nigeria



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a centenary of canberra's catholics

Medicine way of life for a man of faith

"Dr John Buckingham was one of the ACT's most respected surgeons. Under his guidance, Calvary Hospital became a leader in breast-cancer surgery.

"John Buckingham has left a lasting clinical legacy in the way he treated his breast-cancer patients with dignity and compassion. He is also remembered as someone who supported his theatre staff in their professional development while regarding them warmly as people and friends.

"In the Australia Day 2012 Honours List, John Buckingham was posthumously appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in recognition of his services to medicine."

Thus reads the inscription on the ACT Honour Walk into which John was inducted in May 2012. In 2010, the gentle self-effacing doctor was named ACT Senior Citizen of the Year in recognition of his outstanding service to medicine.

Just a month before John Buckingham's death aged 63 on 29 March, 2011, Canberra Times journalist Sally Pryor wrote a major feature on Canberra's much-loved surgeon.

"He pioneered the sentinel node mapping technique which enables diagnosis of lymph node involvement with breast cancer diagnosis.

"He was one of the first to show the value of CT scans in the early diagnosis of appendicitis both here and overseas.

"But he is best known in Canberra for the way he looks after his patients, involving himself in their care in the years after treatment.

"A life-long Catholic, he said he had always seen the way he practised medicine as integral to his faith.

"I think people wonder how I do what I do. I went into medicine because I felt that it's not just being a doctor and diagnosing. It sounds corny, but I

In the 19th in a series of portraits of significant Catholics of the national capital, Bishop Pat Power tells of one of our most highly respected surgeons



John Buckingham with wife Sue, who shared his dedication to their patients.



believed in it. I think it's a way of life, it's looking after people and part of that is my faith," he said.

"Born in Melbourne, he graduated in medicine and surgery from the University of Sydney in 1971 and went on to train in general surgery at the prestigious Mayo Clinic in America. He returned to

Australia and joined the staff of Canberra's newly opened Calvary Hospital in 1979 and later became a specialist breast surgeon for the ACT region."

David Buckingham, delivering the eulogy at his brother's funeral, spoke of the way John's religious beliefs informed everything he did.

"An enduring feature of John's life was his faith. It ran deep. It gave him a strength and a clarity of view that was both abiding and ever present.

"John regarded the Church as an extension of his family. It was his community and when those in the Church talk of the 'ecclesia' as being the community of the faithful, John embraced that in every dimension.

"In his practice as a doctor, John was not only a good and competent and extraordinarily careful surgeon, he was also one who empathised and engaged with his patients in a way that ultimately saw them come to regard him in almost saintly terms.

"There was never too much that John could do for a patient – including his now famous 'bosom buddies' – but it was his ability to listen and to communicate in the simplest, most sensitive and totally honest way that his patients so deeply appreciated. He was a great doctor!"

His surgeon colleagues, Drs Michael Gillespie and Stephen Deane, wrote for the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. "The development of a locally based graduate medical program, first as the Canberra Clinical School of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Sydney, and then later as the ANU Medical School allowed John to expand his interest in clinical teaching to students, and as the general surgical training program of RACS expanded, to registrar training as well.

"He excelled in his teaching role, and his elevation on retire-

ment to Clinical Associate Professor pleased him greatly.

"John was a strong contributor to the Australian and New Zealand Chapter of the American College of Surgeons (ACS). He served as chapter secretary for many years and, at the time of his death, was president of the chapter and a member of the board of governors of the ACS, representing fellows in Australia and New Zealand. He made particular contributions in establishing the annual American College of Surgeons lecture at the RACS annual scientific congress, the ANZ side of an exchange travelling scholarship between the RACS and the ACS, a travelling scholarship for RACS trainees to visit the annual ACS clinical congress, and the continuing financial security of the chapter."

When John became aware of his pancreatic cancer diagnosis, he asked me to walk the final journey with him and Sue.

Sue was not only his devoted wife and mother of their four children, James, Peter, Kate and Michael, but an integral part of John's medical practice, sharing the same outstanding dedication to their patients.

It was an inspiration for me to witness the mutuality of their love through which John and his family supported each other as they prepared for John's death.

A great number of Catholic doctors have made outstanding contributions to the Canberra community in its 100 years history.

John Buckingham stands tall among them.

From forklift driver to social worker...

As a teenager, Stacey Anderson knew she wanted to help people. Social work seemed like a dream to her, a way to make a real difference in people's lives.

But growing up in Brisbane suburb Logan Central, one of the lowest socio-economic areas for indigenous Australians, her chances of completing enough education to do this were low.

As one of 10 children being raised by a single mother, Ms Anderson had to drop out of school before finishing year 12 to get a job and help take care of her family.

She worked as a forklift driver at a factory in Brisbane for more than 16 years before deciding to move to Canberra in 2000. She said the change was mainly so she could have a career for herself.

"If I had stayed in Brisbane, I wouldn't have had as many opportunities as I do now," Ms Anderson said. "I moved [to Canberra] because I had a goal. I didn't want to just work in a factory; I wanted to really achieve something in my life."

Ms Anderson got a job in the public service and then, in 2010, was offered an opportunity to further her education through Relationships Australia's Indigenous Pathways program.

This allowed her, along with 15 other indigenous people from the Canberra

region, to study an 18-month course and gain a Diploma of Counselling.

After graduating with a diploma, Ms Anderson was offered another opportunity - to enrol at Australian Catholic University and study social work.

"Social work was always a passion and a dream," Ms Anderson said. "It's been in the back of my mind, I've always had a vision. Everything just fell into place for me then and I was able to start studying at ACU."

After applying to study social work, Ms Anderson became one of only five people nationally to win a scholarship from the Department of Human Services.

"I'm a Department of Human Services indigenous scholar now, so I study and am still paid my wage from the department," she said. "It means I have that financial support to be able to study full time."

Ms Anderson started a Bachelor of Social Work at the ACU Canberra campus this year. Through the Indigenous Pathways program she was able to have her Diploma of Counselling count towards her degree so she can finish faster.

She also has lots of support from within the university, particularly from the indigenous unit and its head Dr Christine Fejo-King.



Stacey Anderson never thought she would achieve her dream of becoming a social worker, but now she is almost there.

"She is such an inspiration to me," Ms Anderson said.

"She's really worked hard to give me so many more opportunities. She's now invited me to go to the International Social Work Federation conference in Malaysia this November with her, which is really exciting.

"When you've got a really good indigenous coordinator that supports you and

backs you like that, giving you these development opportunities as an indigenous student, it really means a lot."

Ms Anderson is currently gaining hands-on experience in a work placement with Centrelink.

"I think helping people has always been important to me," she said. "[At Centrelink] you deal with such a range of things, like homelessness, youth at risk, domestic violence. I just want to help as much as I can."

She leaves soon to go to a remote indigenous community in Western Australia to do social work placement.

"Helping indigenous Australians obviously means a lot to me, being indigenous. That's something I would want to focus on when I'm finished the degree," she said. "I think for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, having a social worker with an indigenous background can really help."

After she completes the degree, she hopes to work for the Department of Human Services as a social worker, to give back to them after they have helped her so much, and continue to advocate for indigenous people, especially in education.

"For me, as a teenager, I wasn't interested in education," she said.

"It was just about getting a job and surviving, not about studying. Education is so important and I want to promote that."

Stacey Anderson never thought she would achieve her dream of becoming a social worker, but now with the help of ACU she is almost there.

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Students in Ms Cate Druhan's Kinder Padua class were making cards for Father's Day when we visited St Anthony's Primary School, Wanniasa.

When students had finished their cards they played spelling games with cards or on the iPads.

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

BELOW: Annika Zachara and Reeni Kremisis make cards for father's day.

ABOVE: Olivre Van Puyvelde and Owen McKenna concentrate on their artworks.



ABOVE: Denzeil Maningoling has fun with his card.



ABOVE: Sophie Trappett realises the perils of glue.



ARTISTIC: These artworks were made by Ryan Williams (top left), Annika Zahara (bottom left), Justin Stanniforth (above) and Eliza Begley (below).



ABOVE: Justin Stanniforth and Jake Hackett play spelling games.

College team on mission to support youth

A group of St Edmund's College students have completed an eight-day mission to Darwin and the Tiwi Islands.

The college's senior youth ministry team ran mini-retreats for St John's College and O'Loughlin College in Darwin. A highlight was a night retreat for about 75 St John's boarders who come from the Northern Territory as well as Papua and PNG.

The evening was full of fun activities and the team shared on the theme of "Breakthrough into New Life" through drama, personal sharing, talks, small groups and responding.

Another highlight in Darwin was a visit to the Don Dale Juvenile Centre which housed about 30 young people, mostly teenagers.

While initially the students were hesitant, they stepped out and conducted a drama and personal sharing before mingling, bonding and initiating a healthy sense of competition with sports matches to build relationships.

After two days in Darwin the mission journeyed by plane to the Tiwi Islands starting at Bathurst Island, where they were greeted by local elder Maralampui, who accompanied them for three days. The team began their outreach by running retreats for students in years 5 and 6 at a Catholic primary school.



After a boat trip to Melville Island, they ran retreats for middle school boys and girls at Tiwi College, which is a response from the Tiwi people to educate their young people away from their local communities to give them support for study and growing in understanding their culture. The team did an exceptional job sharing the faith message through drama and testimony.

Year 12 team member Andrew Gaughan said the mission was "an amazing experience

where we ran retreats but received so much more from the indigenous young people in sharing their culture with us".

Brendan Trudgen, a year 11 student, said: "Absolutely fantastic! This was an experience of a lifetime.

"The youth ministry team opened many doors for indigenous youth and it was a privilege to share some of my faith and indigenous culture. Can't wait to go next year and experience it again."

ABOVE: The St Edmund's College youth ministry team travelling with students from Tiwi College to Bathurst Island.

Batlow books gold medal haul



St Mary's School, Batlow, found a way to combine their students' enthusiasm for the Olympics with Book Week festivities.

The school launched an Olympic reading challenge to celebrate the Olympic Games, Book Week and the National Year of Reading. Students had to complete a pentathlon of reading activities over 15 days.

Teacher Mrs Julie Murray, who organised the event, said she wanted to do something fun for the students. "I wanted to encourage them to use the library and try reading some different books," Mrs Murray said. "Sometimes they get stuck on reading one type of book instead of looking at other genres."

To complete the challenge and be awarded a gold medal, students had to read at home every day for 15 days, read two non-fiction books and two fiction books, and borrow from the library regularly.

They had to also write a book review, and year 3-6 students had to



Jessica Ovenden and Rebekah Gardener (above) read some of the featured books. Students who completed the pentathlon with their certificates (top).

write a poem about reading. Students who completed the challenge in full were awarded gold medals.

There were a few clear favourite book choices, with the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series popular, as were books by Andy Griffiths.

Holly Murrel said that she read Diary of a Wimpy Kid for the challenge, and liked the book because "it was really funny".



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Harry Shepherd meets author Br Hickey at the launch of his book Patrick Ambrose Treacy: Christian Brother, Enterprising Immigrant.

A book about the life of Christian Brother Patrick Ambrose Treacy, who founded the Christian Brothers in Australia, has been launched at St Edmund's College, Canberra.

Br Treacy led the first Christian Brothers to Australia in 1868 and opened the first of many schools three years later in Melbourne.

He was known for dedicating his life to establishing schools, and for his efforts to raise funds to open them.

Christian Brother Regis Hickey wrote the book about his life, entitled Patrick Ambrose Treacy:

Christian Brother, Enterprising Immigrant.

At the launch in Canberra, Br Hickey was asked by a student why he had written the book. He said he was always interested in the life of Br Treacy.

"I also wanted to write about the influence of Mary on Br Treacy," he said. "Other books about his life left out her influence on him." Br Hickey published the book to coincide with the centenary of Br Treacy's death.

* Patrick Ambrose Treacy: Christian Brother, Enterprising Immigrant is available from Penguin Books Australia.

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This article was supplied by the Archdiocese's Catholic Social Justice Commission.

Housing: The declining affordability of housing impacts on renters and home-buyers alike. Those most acutely affected are people on low incomes. Rents in the ACT are among the highest in Australia. Emergency accommodation and public housing are in short supply. An inevitable outcome is acute and sustained stress for many people.

Mental health: The incidence and prevalence of people in our community who have a mental illness is high. Mental illness has serious consequences for sufferers, their families, those around them, and the community as a whole. Governments have become more responsive in recent years. It is vital that adequate services for mental health be available at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (the ACT prison). The Archdiocese's Catholic Social Justice Commission welcomes the opening of improved facilities for the treatment of people with a mental illness at The Canberra Hospital.

The right to life: The Catholic Church's position on the right to life is unequivocal - human life is sacred from conception to natural death - and, accordingly, the Church is opposed to abortion and human cloning.

The Church believes women who face an unintended pregnancy should be offered support. It also opposes euthanasia while recognising the right of a terminally ill person to refuse medical intervention when the treatment is futile or overly burdensome, disproportionate to benefit. Governments have a grave responsibility to ensure that their laws and practices protect and promote human life at all times.

Marriage: 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 responsibilities that come with raising children, marriage would not be necessary. Allowing same sex marriage would go against the function of marriage, which recognises a natural relationship based on biology and the complementarity between men and women.

Equality refers to uniformity in the way a law is applied to people, but there is a very big difference between equality and sameness. Whilst 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.

The justice system: Rehabilitation of offenders and meeting the needs of crime victims are vital. The reintegration of offenders into the social and economic life of the community should be a central aim. So also should be a generous response to the needs of crime victims.

Restorative justice may help to achieve such outcomes in many instances.

Education: Meeting the needs of students from disadvantaged backgrounds is a priority. There is a strong correlation between the outcomes achieved by schools and the socioeconomic status of the area from which the students are drawn.

In both the government and non-government sectors, education resources flow disproportionately to schools in higher-income locations. Schools in low-income areas, however, need a greater share of education resources if they are to give their students a better chance in life. Clearly there are question marks over whether the existing system gives enough

ACT election candidates are quizzed

weight to the education needs of students from low-income families.

Gambling: The ACT Government has become heavily reliant on gambling revenue, especially from poker machines. Excessive gambling is dangerous and addictive, and poker machines are particularly problematic in this respect.

An immediate end to poker machines is not practical. The steady reduction that the ACT has initiated in their numbers is, however, a good start. The Archdiocese's Catholic Social Justice Commission notes that the Commonwealth has become more active in moves to curb the growth of poker machines, and urges the incoming ACT Government to work with the Commonwealth in this area.

Climate change: If consensus opinion among climate scientists is accurate, climate change in the form of global warming caused by human activity represents a major threat to life on the planet.

The ACT has legislated to achieve a reduction of 40 per cent (of 1990 levels) in carbon [dioxide] emissions by 2020. This by itself will have only minimal impact on global warming. It will, however, complement Commonwealth measures for the same purpose and can be regarded as an example for other jurisdictions to emulate.

ACT economy and the taxation system: Any government's capacity to promote the common good depends in part on the state of the economy and the public revenue it generates.

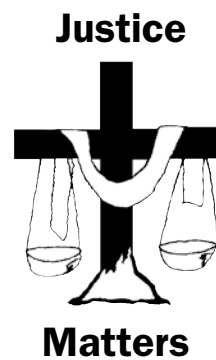
The conventional wisdom is that high rates of economic growth should be government policy, but this is increasingly coming into question because the common good goes beyond economic wealth and because of its potential impact on the environment - leading to calls for moving towards a 'steady state' economy which would generate adequate but static levels of economic activity.

The recently concluded tax review has recommended the gradual replacement of stamp duties with higher levels of annual taxes on land. It has also made a series of other recommendations, including increased rates of tax on gambling activity. The Catholic Social Justice Commission does not have a specific view to offer on these recommendations, other than to urge that the impact on those with least resources will be the primary consideration.

Final observations: Readers are encouraged to see the full text of the survey; questions posed and the unedited responses received at www.canberracatholicvote.org.au. Responses are posted as received.

Members of the commission carry no brief for any individual candidate or political party contesting the ACT election.

The commission understands that there are many issues on which people of integrity and goodwill will differ. Its purpose in seeking the views of candidates is to highlight some issues likely to be vital for the future wellbeing of disadvantaged people in the community, and to encourage a robust debate on how an incoming government might approach these issues. - CSJC chairman Mike Cassidy.



Papal envoy's special memories

By Beth Doherty

World Youth Day in Sydney and the canonisation of Mary MacKillop are special memories the Pope's envoy in Australia will take with him as he heads for his new post.

After five years based in Canberra, Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Giuseppe Lazzarotto has left for the Holy Land – his final appointment in a 41-year diplomatic career – having been appointed Apostolic Nuncio to Israel and Cyprus, and Apostolic Delegate to Jerusalem and Palestine.

Shortly before leaving, Archbishop Lazzarotto spoke warmly of his time in Australia, and highlighted the two events.

"The first really memorable moment for me was World Youth Day which took place when I had recently arrived here," he said.

"It was really wonderful. From what I saw and what I heard, it was also much beyond the expectations preceding the event.

"The Holy Father was so happy. I had the occasion to speak to him afterwards and he was so pleased. The concerns he had about the long distance to travel were totally dissipated.

"The Canonisation of Mary MacKillop was the second beautiful celebration and again so well prepared, both here in Australia and also in Rome.

"In particular, I would refer to the Thanksgiving Mass at St Paul's Outside the Walls. There was such an intense atmosphere of prayer at that celebration. It was so dignified and solemn, and really Australian. There was a real touch of the Australian character."

Archbishop Lazzarotto said he had visited almost all dioceses and every state in Australia.

"I have been to the small towns and villages, responding to the many invitations addressed to me to participate in special events in the life of the Church," he said.

"These have been a beautiful part of my life and my work.

"I'm sure all of Australia would forgive me for mentioning in a special way my time in the Northern Territory.

"I spent 10 days with Bishop Eugene Hurley. I visited many Aboriginal communities and it was wonderful. I still remember meeting the young people in Darwin and talking with them after the Mass. It was a beautiful moment of sharing with young people."

Archbishop Lazzarotto sees much hope in Australia for the Church.

"I always met people with very strong faith," he said. "I met groups who were really trying to find a new way of expressing their



The Pope is greeted by then Prime Minister Mr Kevin Rudd as he arrives for World Youth Day. Archbishop Lazzarotto is in the middle.

faith, concerns and love. I see a lot of love there for the Church."

He spoke in a special way of young people that he met in Australia and had some advice for them:

"I think of the words of the philosopher Seneca who said: 'If a man does not know which port he is steering for, no wind will be favourable to him'.

"Young people have many winds blowing around them. They are full of life, expectation and hope. But it is important that they know what port they are steering for.

"When you are young, you see your life ahead as a journey. But if in your journey, you don't have a direction, everything is lost and meaningless.

"My advice to young people would be, 'Don't think of God as someone who has nothing to do with this journey. God is there – at the beginning, and you will meet him at the end. Take him on board.'"

The work of a nuncio is wide and varied, and Archbishop Lazzarotto says the diplomatic work of the Church is not always well understood.

"The nuncio like everyone gets up in the morning," he said.

"After a moment of personal prayer and celebration of the Mass, you have office work during the morning.

"We receive a lot of correspondence at the nunciature in Canberra and I value this opportunity. I always try to respond to people in an informal way.

"I try to be as personal as possible. There are people and situations behind the letters and I like to address them properly. There are hopes and joys which need to be encouraged."

"In the afternoon, there is also a moment for work and this is more on my own. Then there are the diplomatic aspects of my life which includes contact with other embassies and the government."

Archbishop Lazzarotto said he was "so happy that I met Jesus from the very beginning of my life, when I was a very small, young boy.

"From the very beginning, I always considered he was my life.

"I am grateful that he called me in a special way to follow him. This is the perennial source of my happiness and my joy."

He is happy about his new post particularly because it is where Jesus himself walked.

"Once you live in the Holy Land for a while, you cannot forget it," he said. "I was there 30 years ago and it was so meaningful and intense.

"I know the situation has changed, but it is still the Holy Land. It is still the land that God has visited physically.

"The Prince of Peace walked north, east, south and west in the Holy Land, and I really believe that we have a responsibility to bring about peace in that part of the world."

'Don't think of God as someone who has nothing to do with this journey. God is there – at the beginning, and you will meet him at the end. Take him on board.'

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

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



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Vinnies shows style at Floriade



Vinnies volunteers Paul and Leigh at the charity marquee.

This year Floriade is doing more than entertain visitors and locals; it is helping the less fortunate in the Canberra community.

The St Vincent de Paul Society is one of the major charity partners for this year's festival, along with the Yellow Van food rescue program.

"We at St Vincent de Paul are truly delighted at the opportunity to be involved in Floriade 2012," the society's chief executive officer Mr Paul Trezise said. "Floriade allows us to engage with a large number of people that may not even be aware of the work that St Vincent de Paul is doing in the community."

Floriade, which attracts about 400,000 people through the gates, has provided a major boost to the Canberra economy for nearly 25 years.

The theme of this year's Floriade is Style and Design, with many of the flower bed designs inspired by fashion trends.

Both charities are running awareness programs and activities for the duration of Floriade and have a special charity marquee.

Just some of the activities being run are celebrity cooking classes, children's fruit carving, and a fashion show featuring clothes from Vinnies charity stores.

At the charity marquee, visitors can dress up in costumes from Vinnies stores and have their picture taken photo-booth-style while sporting wigs, hats and other novelty items.

In the marquee there's also a chance to donate money towards the cost of a meal for those less fortunate in the region, meet the Yellow Food Van mascot, and sign up to be a Vinnies volunteer.

Floriade runs 9am-5pm from 15 September to 12 October. Entry is free, as are many activities around the park. For more information visit www.floriadeaustralia.com.

On trend

Racing fever

This season it's all about the races. With the Spring Racing Carnival and the Melbourne Cup just around the corner, get out your fascinators and suits and you'll certainly back a winner in the fashions on the field, like these ACU students.



For the men, stay classy with a classic suit in black or grey. Add some colour with a light coloured shirt and a stand out tie. Just always ensure your shoes and belt match- white, grey or black are always good colour choices here.

Model: Michael Gore



The little black dress works for any occasion. For the races add a blazer in spring's hottest colour- mint- and some statement jewellery so you'll be right on trend.

Model: Tamar Peacock



For those girly girls, go ultra-feminine with a pastel pink dress accentuated with lace and pearl necklace. Finish off with a white cardigan and matching white lace fascinator and you'll have a classic look every time.

Model: Tiffany Pedler



Wearing a brightly coloured dress will always make you stand out from the crowd. Pair it with a lady like cardigan, like this polka dot one, to keep it races appropriate and match your shoes to complete the look.

Model: Eliza Bell

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Poor are your ticket into heaven

The rich are getting richer, and we are almost beyond surprise at how rich that is.

Every day, our newspapers, our televisions, and the internet, report financial compensations that, even just a generation ago, were unimaginable: Corporate executives receiving a hundred million dollar bonuses, an athlete signing a contract for a hundred million dollars, entertainers signing contracts for tens of millions, people in information technology earning billions, and ordinary folks everywhere joining the millionaire club.

And what's our reaction? Difficult to judge. We express indignation and protest that this is out of proportion, even as we nurse a not-so-secret envy: I wish it was me!

We adore the rich and famous, pure and simple, and in the end, despite our envy, we grant them their due: Good for them! They worked for it. They have the talent. They deserve all they get!

But how should we view being rich from a faith perspective? Jesus warned that riches are dangerous, dangerous to the soul and dangerous to society. So what should be our attitude

towards having wealth, both as this pertains to the very rich and as it pertains to us?

First, it is good to avoid a number of things: To begin with, we must never idealise poverty and see wealth as a bad thing in itself. God is rich, not poor, and heaven will not be a place of poverty.

Poverty is something to be overcome, eradicated. The poor don't enjoy being poor. Next, we must avoid too-quickly politicising both poverty and wealth. Our lens must always be moral rather than political, though obviously both wealth and poverty have huge political implications.

Finally, before attacking the possession of wealth, we must ensure that we are free from embittered moralising which, whatever its moral guise, is little more than envy.

What principles should guide us in terms of an attitude towards wealth?

Underlying everything else, we must always keep in mind Jesus' warning that the possession of wealth is dangerous, that it is hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven. Moreover that warning should

be a huge aid in helping us to accept some other principles:

The possession of wealth is not a bad thing of itself; it is how we use it and what it can do to our hearts that can be bad. Jesus makes a distinction between the generous rich and the miserly rich. The former are

And so the challenge for all of us who are rich in any way is to continually give our wealth away. We need to do this, not because the poor need what we give them, though they do; we need to do this so that we can remain healthy.

Philanthropy, of every kind, is more about the health of the one giving than the health of the one receiving. The generous rich can inherit the kingdom, the miserly rich cannot. The poor are everyone's ticket into heaven - and to human health.

Finally, this, too, must always be kept in mind as we view wealth, both our own and that of the very rich. What we have is not our own, it's given to us in trust. God is the sole owner of all that is and the world properly belongs to everyone.

What we claim as our own, private property, is what has been given to us in trust, to steward for the good of everyone. It's not really ours.

Further still, we need to remember that it wasn't just our own ingenuity and hard work that gave us what we view as our own. The fruits of our labour are also the fruits of other peo-

ples' labour. We too easily lose sight of that.

Here's how Bill Gates snr puts it: "Society has an enormous claim upon the fortunes of the wealthy. This is rooted not only in most religious traditions, but also in an honest accounting of society's substantial investment in creating fertile ground for wealth-creation. Judaism, Christianity, and Islam all affirm the right of individual ownership and private property, but there are moral limits imposed on absolute private ownership of wealth and property."

"Each tradition affirms that we are not individuals alone but exist in community - a community that makes claims on us. The notion that 'it is all mine' is a violation of these teachings and traditions. Society's claim on individual accumulated wealth is ... rooted in the recognition of society's direct and indirect investment in the individual's success. In other words, we didn't get there on our own." (Sojourners, January-February, 2003)

Indeed, none of us did! If we remember that we will more easily be generous.

Ron Rolheiser

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



good because they imitate God, the latter are bad.

When we are generous, particularly in a very prodigious way, riches won't close our hearts. But the reverse is also true. All miserliness, all stinginess, all lack of generosity closes our hearts in ways that make it hard to enter the kingdom of heaven, or genuine human community to put in purely human terms.

why I grow what I grow

From a veggie patch to this...

A column in which we talk to people around the Archdiocese about why they are passionate about what they grow. This month we look at one of Canberra's biggest tourist attractions and meet Andrew Forster, the man behind the flowers.

For 25 years, Floriade has been drawing locals and tourists alike to admire its beautiful and innovative flower designs at Commonwealth Park.

Head gardener Andrew Forster has worked on every Floriade since the inaugural festival in 1988, something not many people involved in the event could claim.

Mr Forster said his love for plants came at an early age.

He had a veggie garden as a child and then developed a further passion when he attended an agricultural high school in Adelaide for a couple of years.

It was as a horticulture apprentice with the ACT Government in 1987 that he became involved in the Floriade trial, the test run for the first Floriade, which was

to be a one-off event for the celebration of Australia's bicentenary.

In 1997, after working on the event for 10 years, he was named Floriade's head gardener.

"I was really excited," Mr Forster said. "I really enjoy my job. I like talking to people, I like promoting the event."

And you can tell. Walking through the event with him, he is constantly asking people if they need help, finding little things to fix up in the garden beds, and talking to his staff.

"I love walking through the event, listening to what people are saying about the gardens and the designs," he said.

"Hearing them say they like this one, or that one, is really great."

Currently landscape architects are hard at work on the designs for Floriade 2013, which aims to be bigger and better than before to celebrate Canberra's centenary.

"As head gardener, I have some input into the designs," Mr Forster said. "I give



advice on what areas of the park are good for different kind of flowers, or what flowers will look best together."

And his advice for people coming to Floriade? "Come more than once, because flowers bloom at different times during the month. So you'll get a different effect at the start, middle and end. And go up on the ferris wheel, so you can see the designs from the air."



TOP: Floriade head gardener Andrew Forster and (above) a scenic view of the magnificent display.

SHORTS

The Expendables 2. Starring Sylvester Stallone, Liam Hemsworth, Jason Statham, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Jean-Claude Van Damme, Nan Yu, Charisma Carpenter, Chuck Norris, Jet Li, Dolph Lundgren, Terry Crew. Directed by Simon West. Universal. 102 minutes. MA 15+ (strong violence and language).

Pretty much over-the-top and pretty brutal – cancel that: ugly brutal. The two Expendable movies have a niche audience – macho, action-oriented fans, many of whom have developed a computer-games sensibility, kill or be killed. If you are making a list of must-see movies, this one is expendable.

Monsieur Lazhar. Starring Mohamed Said Fellag, Sophie Nélisse, Emilien Neron, and Danielle Proulx. Directed by Philippe Falardeau. Palace Films. 95 minutes. M (Mature themes).

This unsentimental film is infused with love and optimism, and in the final run, it carries the powerful message that education has come to dehumanise the relationship between teacher and student, and that shouldn't be.

Finding Nemo 3D. Voiced by Albert Brooks, Ellen DeGeneres, Alexander Gould, and LuLu Ebeling. Directed by Andrew Stanton and Lee Unkrich. Walt Disney Studios. 107 minutes. G (Some scenes may frighten young children).

A delightful film, which benefits greatly from 3D animation. Those who enjoyed it back in 2003 will live through that enjoyment again with extra delight.

The Watch. Starring Ben Stiller, Vince Vaughn, Jonah Hill, and Richard Ayoade. Directed by Akiva Schaffer. Twentieth-Century Fox. 102 minutes. MA15+ (Strong coarse language, sexual references, sex scene and comedic violence).

American science-fiction comedy that aims low in the comic stakes, and is fueled mostly by testosterone on the march. Best suited for those who seek coarseness and vulgarity, and a ridiculous plot to lighten the load.

Beasts of the Southern Wild. Starring: Quvenzhané Wallis, and Dwight Henry. Directed by Benh Zeitlin. Icon. 93 minutes. M (Mature themes).

Extraordinary film about a fearless six-year old girl called Hushpuppy who lives with her alcoholic father in a fictitious bayou community on an island surrounded by rising waters in Louisiana. Emotionally very powerful, and communicates movingly.

A bright and breezy escape

Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted. Voiced by Ben Stiller, Chris Rock, David Schwimmer, Jada Pinkett Smith, Sacha Baron Cohen and Frances McDormand. Directed by Eric Darnell, Tom McGrath, Conrad Vernon. Paramount. 93 minutes G (General audience). Reviewer: Fr Peter Malone MSC*.

It's seven years already since Alex, Marty, Melman and Gloria left their New York Zoo home and were transported to Africa. In the sequel, they were still having African adventures. This time, they decide to leave Africa and make for home, setting out first for Monte Carlo where the villainous and scheming penguins have flown their plane with no intention of coming back to rescue the stranded group. The familiar voices are back: Ben Stiller, Chris Rock, David Schwimmer, Jada Pinkett Smith along with Sacha Baron Cohen as the mischievous King Julien.

The writers must have more than a soft spot for Europe. We spend a lot of time in Monte Carlo, not only at the casino, which they leave the worse for wear, but the whole city as they flee, penguins and monkeys along with them, from the relentless and ruthless pursuer of animals, Mademoiselle Dubois voiced by Frances McDormand and with determined relish.

After the mayhem in Monaco, they arrive in Rome, having bought a run-down circus so that they could escape in their train. Disaster – though the



film spends some pleasing time in Rome for those who have visited the city. The marquee is set up in the Coliseum (which the pragmatic penguins decide ought to be torn down for something new and efficient). Julien visits the Vatican and kisses the Pope's hand – and swallows the papal ring which he tries to pawn.

What are stranded animals to do? They decide that the show must go on, so they spend time in the Alps inventing new acts, getting a Russian tiger who has lost his mojo, Vitaly (Bryan Cranston), to rediscover his courage, helping out the maestro sea-lion, Stefano (Martin Short), Alex falling for Gia (Jessica Chastain).

This is mainly where there are some funny parts, especially Marty being shot

out of a cannon and fulfilling his dream of flying. There is quite some amusing use of music and songs from Pomp and Circumstance, Non je ne regretted rien (from Mlle Dubois) and Born Free.

It's on to London where they want to impress an impresario who could take them back to New York and home at the Zoo. It won't spoil things to say they do get back to NYC, but they realise they have discovered life in the world and their cages are too confining for them. Scarcely have they had time to realise this than there is Mlle Dubois in a final face-to-face confrontation.

It's all rather bright and breezy, which is how it should be.

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

A gripping remake worth recalling

Total Recall. Starring Colin Farrell, Kate Beckinsale, Jessica Biehn. Directed by Len Wiseman. Sony. 118 minutes. M (Action violence, coarse language and nudity). Reviewer: Fr Peter Malone MSC*.

A remake of the 1990 science-fiction film with Arnold Schwarzenegger and Sharon Stone, directed by Paul Verhoeven. Time has enhanced the memory of the original and, with the huge outburst against this new version, it has acquired pedestal-classic status.

This raises a perennial question: should movies be remade? This review is happy to go out on a critical

limb and praise Total Recall, 2012. In 1990, the about-to-be governor of California was basically a bodybuilt action star with a heavy accent and delivery. Sharon Stone was just another actress – Basic Instinct came after this. Maybe, audiences read back their later iconic status into the film.

The point. Colin Farrell is an actor, handsome but ordinary-looking. It means this version offers a hero who is bewildered, manipulated, tormented by nightmares, laboring in a humdrum factory job, seeking his true identity and prepared to go to the company, Rekall, to be injected with new memories.

Audiences can identify with Farrell. His wife is played by Kate Beckinsale who turns into a relentless pursuer of her husband, a fighter bent on vengeance. And, whatever her limitations, Beckinsale can act more persuasively than Sharon Stone could in 1990.

There is Jessica Biel as the mysterious rebel from The Colony. This time, there are two habitable parts of earth after chemical warfare in the 21st century, the United Federation of Britain and The Colony (as the map shows it: Australia) rather than Mars in the original. Bryan Cranston is the ruler of the Federation with malign intent on the

Colony. Bill Nighy appears briefly (with an American accent) as Matthias, leader of the Revolution.

One of the most striking features of this Total Recall is the production design. The futuristic sets, intricate with great detail and huge in scope, are outstanding. Whatever is happening in the action, there is something to look at, amazing sets.

It is gripping in its action and in its questions (though laziness in the screenplay often substitutes quick expletives for genuine emotions of fear and frustration).

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

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A rich source of personal discovery

Amazing Love by Fr Ken Barker MGL. Modotti Press, Connor Court Publishing. Pty Ltd. 160 pages \$22.95. Reviewer: Barbara Flynn.

A strong commitment to evangelisation permeates the writings and mission work of Fr Ken Barker, founding moderator of the Missionaries of God's Love.

He is well recognised in the Australian Catholic Church and in several south-east Asian countries.

Amazing Love has the declared purpose of evangelising cradle Catholics by offering teachings and reflections on the truth of God's amazing love offered to every human being in a relational way which seeks a personal response.

This book is a rich source of teachings informed by scripture, the Catholic Catechism, Church

tradition and writings by recent popes.

Fr Barker's contemplation of and reflections on the mystery of God's love operating in people's lives in contemporary settings are indicative of his life of deep prayer and personal relationship with God whom he celebrates throughout his writing.

Substantially the book opens the heart to gratitude towards God whose generous unconditional love and Spirit, manifested in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, empowers with a living hope and purpose people if they but believe and acknowledge the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

He explains that an individual's conscious acceptance of what God has done for humankind through Jesus must become heart knowledge and be the core principle underlying



ABOVE LEFT: Brisbane Archbishop Mark Coleridge launches Amazing Love, watched by author Fr Ken Barker. ABOVE RIGHT: The book's cover.

ing a personal encounter with the risen Christ.

The realisation of God's love for the individual is transformative, leading to a deep faith informed by love and not by law.

He draws continuously on Scripture, both Hebrew and Christian texts, as his authority for the teachings which he offers.

He explores in turn the amazing love of God revealed in the redemptive purpose of the incar-

nation, the true identity and destiny of human beings as God's creation, the theology of the Cross and the resurrection.

All are exposed as amazing acts of God revealing his merciful love and assuring the human family of God's unfailing faithfulness.

A skilled writer and confident theologian, Fr Barker explores difficult Christian beliefs with clarity and succinctness



and evident deep personal reflection.

He provides concrete examples of God's intervention in human lives from his own experiences as priest and through stories, anecdotes and parables gleaned from a wide range of contemporary sources.

Aware of certain misconceptions in Christian belief that some people hold, he employs scripture to direct the truth,

placing before the reader lucid explanations.

Teachings on the crucifixion and the resurrection are of note here.

Four Australian bishops have highly recommended his intensely spiritually enlightening book as a rich source of personal discovery and effective learning.

Additionally, the book is a commendable resource for enriching the faith of members in parish communities including secondary school-aged youth.

Fr Barker has brought into clarity God's design for the destiny of humanity while inviting each reader to appropriate the gift of God's amazing love in their lives as "a personal operative reality" determining their personal identity and destiny.

* This review first appeared in the Catholic Leader, Brisbane.

An unlikely biography of feisty Fr Bob The good old-fashioned way

The Postie and the Priest: A look at Father Bob Maguire through his letter-box. By Ron Burrows. Fairfield Press, 373 pages, \$34.95. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.

There would be few in Australia who haven't heard of Fr Bob Maguire, until early this year long-term parish priest of South Melbourne.

His principal concern has always been for the battlers of his city - the poor, the homeless, the hungry and the lonely. Victorian of the Year in 2011, Fr Bob was widely regarded as a maverick priest among conservative thinkers. He was generous and unstinting in his support of the needy and a seasoned public speaker not afraid to call a spade a shovel.

His unlikely biographer is Ron Burrows, a postie who delivered mail to him for 19 years. Fr Bob agreed to be interviewed by Burrows once a week during the postie's lunch hour. Burrows used a voice-recorder and much of his writing is in direct (very direct) speech from the subject.

The priest is a wily customer and doesn't share a lot of his own history. Burrows is not a Catholic and while this works to highlight the inclusivity of Fr Bob, his continued use of terms like rectory for presbytery and chancel for sanctuary is off-putting. His astonishing question "What's Vatican II?" was placed there, I assume, to give full rein to Fr Bob's curmudgeonly outbursts.

No doubt there will be other biographies of this grumpy, iconic warm-hearted priest, for there is much more to tell. Burrows has captured much of what we already know about Fr Bob. He wanted to write this book and Fr Bob let him.

Natural stepping stones to our God

Landscapes of Prayer. Finding God in you world and your life. By Margaret Silf. Lion Hudson, HB, 95 pages, \$ 19.95. Reviewer: Margaret Ryan.

Silf's occupation as a writer and retreat leader is evident in this nine-part reflection on landscapes. She draws on metaphor to allow the garden, mountain, seashore, forest, river, jungle, desert, cave and night sky illuminate aspects of our spiritual journey.

The many, and often evocative, photographs, an aid to reflection and meditation, are drawn from the iStock and Corbis web pages, and employed as a stimulus for exploration of personal spiritual landscapes.

Is the forest/soul dark, revealing landmarks and does it highlight grief and confusion, fear and doubt, aloneness and stillness? Is it "magical", colourful, majestic? Does it whisper, provide ground water, give protection, food? Are the entrance and exit paths visible or overgrown?

Each meditation describes possibilities, relates a modernised scriptural story, poses a series of questions that could form the basis of profitable reflection or a time of retreat. The approach is gentle, inviting and supportive. The ordinary and beautiful are viewed as valuable stepping stones to our immanent and transcendent God.

Strengthening Your Family: A Catholic Approach To Holiness At Home. By Marge Fenelon. Our Sunday Visitor, 192 pages, \$23.95. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.

Marge Fenelon has produced a readable guide to marriage and parenting the good old-fashioned way - lots of prayer, guidelines and boundaries, hospitality and family-based activities.

She uses extracts from Church documents, prayers and humor-

ous anecdotes to illustrate practical ways in establishing and maintaining a spiritual schedule in modern family life. These can be quite engaging.

Fenelon's "how-to" book is written in that confident, committed reactionary style that some American organisations use when trying to chart their way through the challenges of reality TV, shallow relationships and worse. Good luck with it all.

WODEN CHRISTIAN BOOKSHOP

Already October - time to start thinking about Advent studies! In the meantime, for cards, books, music, rosaries and other pious items, jewellery or gifts for all occasions, visit, email or phone **Canberra's independent** Christian bookshop on Platform 2 of the Woden Bus Interchange.



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The Communications Officer will have an understanding of communications, websites and social media, and administrative tasks, with direct responsibility to the General Secretary.

Working as part of the Communications team, the Communications Officer is responsible for updating the various websites; managing eNews platforms and blogs; writing and disseminating media releases where required; some social media initiatives; and administrative duties to assist the General Secretary, Communications Director and Director, Office for the Participation of Women, where required.

The Communications Officer will assist with the development of resources; writing of media releases; some design and multimedia work; and administration of these.

An understanding of and commitment to the mission of the Catholic Church is essential.

Required:

- Working knowledge of adobe products, particularly Photoshop and Dreamweaver
- An understanding of HTML and Joomla
- Proven design skills needed for in-house publications
- Ability and interest in web design and maintenance
- Excellent knowledge of Microsoft platforms (Word, PowerPoint)
- High level of written communication
- Awareness and experience using social media platforms particularly Facebook and Twitter
- An eye for detail, time management and strong organisational skills
- Excellent administrative skills and ability to work collaboratively

Would suit:

- Communications or multimedia student at a tertiary institution
- Arts student with particular interest in web-based communication
- Recent graduate

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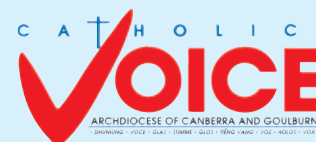
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Reunions

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 of Marie Curtis, telephone 6927 3147.

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

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



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The deadline for material submitted to Catholic Voice is 15th of each month for publication on the first weekend of the next month.

Coming Events



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

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

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.

CONVERSATIONS AT GALONG - Sunday, 21 October, 10am-4pm, Psychology and Religion; 11 November, Reflections on Grief and Loss. Facilitator Richard White. Cost \$10. Bookings: The secretary, St Clement's, telephone 6380 5222.

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.

EUCCHARISTIC AND MARIAN PROCESSION - Sunday, 28 October, starts 3pm, St Benedict's Church, Narrabundah, with adoration of Blessed Sacrament. 4pm procession to St Christopher's Cathedral, 5pm procession arrives, 5.15pm benediction, 5.30pm Mass. Inquiries: Brian Curtis, telephone 6231 3862, email brian.curtis@homemail.com.au

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

INTRODUCTION TO RESTORATIVE PRACTICE - Seminar, 5pm-7pm, Tuesday, 16 October, Rheinberger Centre, Yarralumla. Facilitator Matt Casey. Cost \$99. Inquiries: Philomena Letki, training development coordinator CatholicLIFE, telephone 6163 4300, email training@catholiclife.org.au

LEADERSHIP FOR WOMEN - Madeleine Sophie Barat Program sponsored by religious of the Sacred Heart, organised by women for women. 2-4 November, The Gathering Place, 4 Bancroft Street, Dickson. Applications: Sr Betty McMahon, telephone 6257 9027, e-mail betty.kp@bigpond.com.

MASS FOR BABIES - Mass for still-born, miscarried and aborted babies, 5.30pm, Friday, 19 October, St Benedict's Church, Narrabundah.

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

MINISTRY TO THE NEWLY MARRIED - a mentoring program for newly married couples; just married or soon to be married? Contact Catharina and Graham and Debbie and Brian, telephone 6231 3389 or 0414 878 167, email: mnm@grapevine.com.au. Next program starts February 2013.

MUSIC COPYRIGHT WORKSHOP - For parishes, 10am-3pm, Saturday, 13 October, Rheinberger Centre, Yarralumla. Organised in conjunction with the Australian Pastoral Musicians Network. Cost \$20 per person. Lunch provided. Register at <http://apmnoct2012-efbevent.eventbrite.com.au/>

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

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

RENEWAL DAY - Catholic Charismatic Renewal day of prayer, led by Anne Marie Gatenby. 9am-3.30pm, Saturday, 10 November, parish room, St Peter Chanel's Church, Yarralumla. Cost \$25 includes morning tea and lunch. Inquiries: Neda, telephone 0415 266 019, Sandra, telephone 6231 8827, Susanna, telephone 0419 902 293.

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.

SERRA CLUB OF CANBERRA - Rosary and Mass at Holy Trinity Church, Curtin, 6.10pm, Thursday, 11 October, then dinner at Southern Cross Club, Woden. Inquiries: John Malycha, telephone 6251 2912.

WEEKEND RETREAT - A Year of Grace, 23-25 November, St Clement's, Galong, directed by Fr Gabriel Maliakkal OCD. Organised by Legion of Mary. Bookings: Jacqueline Donohue, telephone 6251 3950, Maria Noronha, telephone 0413 617 390.

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.wme.org.au.

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

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Icon for parish

An icon of the Annunciation has taken its place in St John Vianney Church, Waramanga, as part of the Weston Creek parish's commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Archdiocese.

It was painted by parishioner Mr Jose Fernandez, the father of a Neo-Catechumenal Way family sent by the Pope for mission work in Australia.

Mr Fernandez, by profession a graphic artist, donated the icon to the parish. The icon is based on the ancient and traditional art of Byzantine iconography.

"The scene of the Annunciation has a deep relevance on the sanctuary of the church," parish priest Fr Kevin Brannelly said.

"It is an artistic depiction of the moment of the Incarnation of our Divine Lord. We have Mary and the Archangel Gabriel, then our Redeemer, who takes upon himself our human nature through the working of the Holy Spirit, and it is the Father who asks Mary's consent to become the Mother of His Son. The Godhead, the Blessed Trinity, is intimately connected with the scene portrayed in the icon.

"Finally, it involved St Joseph to whom Mary was betrothed."

Remembering those lost

The 17th annual remembrance ceremony for those who have lost their lives to illicit drugs will be held at 12.30pm on Monday, 8 October, at the memorial site, Weston Park Road, Weston Park, Yarralumla (opposite the junction with Prescott Lane) Speakers will include Elaine Bridge, a parent who lost a son.

Anyone who would like a loved one remembered at the ceremony, contact Marion, telephone 6254 2961 or email mconnell@ffdlr.org.au.

Conversations on Sunday

A series of Sunday "conversations" are being planned at St Clement's retreat and conference centre, Galong. This month's topic, led by former Jesuit Mr Richard White, is psychology and religion. It will look at ways psychology and religion can contribute to an understanding of anxiety and depression. It will be held 10am-4pm on 21 October. Cost is \$10. Bookings to the secretary, St Clement's, telephone 6380 5222.

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Late September saw the pilgrimage of the relic of St Francis Xavier in our Archdiocese. St Francis, canonised in 1622, was named a patron of mission along with St Therese of Lisieux in 1928, whose relic also graced our archdiocese some years ago. During our period as a mission country St Francis was a patron saint of Australia.

His example and the effects of his missionary ministry continue to invite and challenge us to respond and support Christ's ongoing mission. The message of hope, opportunity and life that Jesus promises still needs the arms, legs, minds, voices, love and generosity of Christians.

Together, in Jesus' name, we can enable others to receive the means and support to grow and bring hope. 'Restore Hope: Share Grace' is the focus of Catholic Mission's October, World Mission Appeal.

Funds raised will help faith communities, such as many in the Philippines, to respond to people's needs for safer housing, education, life's basics and opportunities for spiritual care and growth. Support Catholic Mission's work as we ask St Francis and St Therese for their intercession for the success of Christ's ongoing mission..

God bless,

Deacon Joe Blackwell

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



Our saintly visitor

• From Page 1.

More than 100 people welcomed the relic, which is on a national tour as part of the Year of Grace, to St Christopher's Cathedral.

Hundreds took advantage of the relic's almost two-day stay in the Cathedral to attend several Masses, including special occasions for the Spanish, Vietnamese and Syro-Malabar communities, veneration and vespers.

About 60 students from St Bede's School, Red Hill, came to view the relic.

"We've been learning about St Francis Xavier's life and how amazing he was," year 6 student Ella Cusack said. "Seeing [the relic] is a once in a lifetime experience."

"I think it's almost like you're in touch with God when you see it," Edwina Kelly said. "It's really special to be able to come here."

The relic went on to visit St Francis Xavier Church, Gunning, St Mary's parish, West Wyalong, St Francis Xavier Primary School, Lake Cargelligo, and St Kevin's Church, Rankins Springs.

The wooden case the relic is transported in has an Australian flavour. A group of Sydney designers created the case's style, which was signed off on by Sydney Auxiliary Bishop Peter Comensoli, the national convenor of the pilgrimage.

The case was made using timber from almost every state in Australia, and will be sent to Rome with the relic when the tour is over.

Renowned for his passion to share the gospel, St Francis was co-founder of the Jesuits and pioneered missionary evangelisation by the Catholic Church in East Asia. He was born into a wealthy noble Spanish family in 1506 and died on the island of Shangchuan in 1552 while preparing to visit mainland China. He was canonised in 1622.

• More coverage of the pilgrimage of the relic in next month's issue of Catholic Voice.

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TOP: Year 11 students at St Francis Xavier College Nick Arganese and Kelsey Reist stand by the relic.

ABOVE RIGHT: Farewell from St Francis Xavier College (from left): Alexander Parker, college captains Nicklaus Mahony and Chloe Kelly, Hannah Woodford-Smith and

acting religious education coordinator Jarek Ferenc.

ABOVE LEFT: The relic arrives at St John the Apostle Church, Kippax, led by Ted Kell, carrying the cross, Fr Alfin Buarlele, and pall bearers (left) Peter Evans and Denes Bogsanyi, and (right) Phil Donoghoe and James Cox.



MIDDLE PICTURES: Parishioners venerate the relic at St Mary's Church, Young. ABOVE LEFT: The relic is carried into St Christopher's Cathedral. RIGHT: Veneration of the relic by Ella Cusack from St Bede's School, Red Hill, in the Cathedral.



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