

'A church more missionary, more inclusive, more ecumenical...'

A vision for the years ahead

On the 150th birthday of the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn, Bishop Pat Power has expressed the hope that in the years ahead the local Church would be at the forefront of a Church which is more missionary, more inclusive and more ecumenical.

He was speaking at a special anniversary Mass held at the historic Riversdale property on the site of the first Mass celebrated at Goulburn Plains on 3 August, 1833. Archbishop Emeritus Francis Carroll was principal celebrant of the jubilee Mass, which was attended by about 300 people.

"I believe that in the years ahead if our Church is not only to survive but to be true to its calling we must be open to radically new forms of ministry," Bishop Power said.

"Bishops Polding and Lanigan, Caroline Chisholm, Mary MacKillop, Catherine McAuley, Mother Teresa and Pope John XXIII in their different ways and circumstances were prepared to break new ground in living out their vocations.

"Any new forms of ministry must surely be open to a far wider participation of women and a greater deployment of their gifts. I believe the Catholic Church today would not be facing many of its current woes if women had been more significantly part of its governance. Now is the time for the Church to embrace the unique gifts of women in new and creative ways."

Bishop Power said it was a happy coincidence that about the same time as the Catholic Archdiocese's jubilee, the Anglican Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn was celebrating its 150 years. "It is my prayer that it will not take another 150 years for our two churches to come together," he said.

"With determination, more cooperation, mutual trust, a lot of prayer and openness to God's grace we could achieve it in less than 150 months. Or what about 150 weeks?"

Bishop Power said especially since the end of World War 2, Australia had opened its borders to people seeking a new life. Many people and their descendants have made excellent citizens of Australia. "Sadly, such a welcoming approach to refugees is singularly missing from Australia's major political parties at the moment."



The celebration of the local Church's 150th anniversary and the 50 years since the opening of the Second Vatican Council were opportunities to look forward as well as to look back.

The gospel of the day's Mass "calls us to leave aside our fears and hesitations. In the spirit of Vatican II, we are to 'read the signs of the times' and follow Jesus' command to make disciples of all people by proclaiming the Gospel message in a way that is comprehensible and does not shy away from the hard questions confronting us. Six hundred years earlier, the prophet Isaiah had delivered the Lord's message to have a care for justice and to act with integrity.

"It is by these criteria that Jesus' followers are being rightly judged today. Isaiah challenges us to reach out to foreigners, to be truly catholic and all-embracing, not an inward-looking group lazing in our comfort zones."

• Full text, Page 11.



TOP: Young parish choir singers Natalie Ford, Lara Hayes, Taylah Hayes and Callie Palko in full voice. ABOVE LEFT: Dorothy Kennedy, Bryan Kennedy, Philomena Laws and her daughter Marianne Laws, all of Crookwell, with a chalice donated to their great, great uncle Bishop William Lanigan. Picture: Goulburn Post. ABOVE: Hoisting the colours of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

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ARANDA: Christmas vigil 7pm. Christmas Day 9.30am.

BATEMANS BAY: Christmas vigil 6pm 9pm. Christmas Day 9am.

BEGA: Christmas vigil 6pm Bega, 8pm Tathra, 10pm Bemboka, midnight Candelero. Christmas Day 8.30am Bega.

BOMBALA: Christmas vigil 6pm Delegate. Christmas Day 9am Bombala.

BOOROWA: Christmas vigil 6pm (families) Boorowa, 8.30pm Frogmore, 7pm St Clement's Galong. Christmas Day 8am Boorowa, 9am St Clement's Galong, 9.30am Binalong.

BRAIDWOOD: Christmas Day 9am.

BRIBAREE: Christmas vigil 6pm.

BUNGENDORE: Christmas vigil 7pm. Christmas Day 9am.

CAMPBELL: Christmas vigil 6.30pm.

CATHEDRAL: Christmas vigil 6pm Cathedral, 9pm St Peter Chanel's Yarralumla, midnight Cathedral (carols 11.15pm). Christmas Day 8am Cathedral, 9.30am St Peter Chanel's, 11am Cathedral.

CENTRAL CANBERRA: Christmas vigil 6pm Dickson (carols 5.30pm). Christmas Day 8am Braddon, 9.30am Dickson.

CHARWOOD: Christmas vigil 7pm. Christmas Day 9am.

COOMA: Christmas vigil 6pm Cooma, 9pm Nimmitabel. Christmas Day 8am Adamina, 10am Cooma.

COOTAMUNDRA: Christmas vigil 7pm Cootamundra. Christmas Day: 8am Stockinbingal, 9.30am Cootamundra.

CROOKWELL: Christmas vigil 9pm Crookwell. Christmas Day 8am Binda, 9.30am Crookwell.

EVATT: Christmas vigil 6pm. Christmas Day 9.30am.

GOULBURN: Christmas vigil 6pm (children), 8pm Old Cathedral, 6pm Marulan. Christmas Day 9am Our Lady of Fatima, 8am Tarago.

GRENFELL: Christmas Day 8am.

GUNDAGAI: Christmas vigil 6pm (family) 8pm. Christmas Day 8am Gundagai.

GUNDAROO: Christmas Day 9am.

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Where to find Mass close to you at Christmas

GUNGAHLIN: Christmas vigil 7pm (children) 10pm (carols 9.30pm). Christmas Day 9am. No 8am or 5.30pm Mass on Christmas Day.

HARDEN-MURRUMBURRAH: Christmas vigil 7pm.

JINDABYNE: Christmas vigil 5pm Thredbo, 7pm Berridale, 8pm Jindabyne, midnight Jindabyne. Christmas day 9am Jindabyne, 9am Dalgety. Christmas holiday Masses vigil 5pm Thredbo. Sunday 8.30am Jindabyne, 10.30am Berridale, except 5th Sunday of month 10.30am Dalgety.

JUGIONG: Christmas Day 10am.

KALEEN: Christmas vigil 8pm. Christmas Day 8am.

KAMBAH: Christmas vigil 7pm (children), 9.30pm Vietnamese Mass, midnight. Christmas Day 10am.

KIPPAX: Christmas vigil 6pm 9pm midnight (carols 11.30pm). Christmas Day 9am. No evening Mass.

LAKE CARGELLIGO: Christmas vigil 7pm Tullibigeal, 9pm Lake Cargelligo. Christmas Day 9.30am Lake Cargelligo.

MICHELAGO: Christmas vigil 7pm.

MORUYA: Christmas vigil 6pm (outdoor), midnight. Christmas Day 8am Tuross Head, 10am Moruya. Extra Sunday 5pm Mass Carroll College Broulee on 6,13, 20 January.

NAROOMA-COBARGO: Christmas vigil 6pm Cobargo, 8pm Narooma. Christmas Day 7.30am Bermagui, 9.30am Narooma.

NARRABUNDIAH: Christmas vigil 6pm, 8pm (charismatic). Christmas Day 9.30am.

NORTH WODEN: Christmas vigil 5.30pm Curtin (children), 7pm Garran, midnight Curtin. Christmas Day 8.30am Garran, 9.30am Curtin.

O'CONNOR: Christmas vigil 6pm 9pm. Christmas Day 9am.

PAGE: Christmas vigil 6.30pm 9pm. Christmas Day 9am.

PAMBULA: Christmas vigil 5pm Merimbula (children) 7.30pm Eden, midnight Pambula. Christmas Day 10am Merimbula.

QUEANBEYAN: Christmas vigil 6pm (children, Molonglo St), midnight St Raphael's (carols 11.15pm). Christmas Day 8am 10am St Raphael's.

SOUTH TUGGERANONG: Christmas vigil 6pm (children's outdoor) Calwell, 9pm Gowrie, midnight Gowrie. Christmas Day 8am Gowrie, 10am Gowrie. No 6pm Mass.

SOUTH WODEN: Christmas vigil 6pm 9pm. Christmas Day 8.30am 10.30am, all Sacred Heart, Pearce.

TARALGA: Christmas vigil 6pm.

TEMORA: Christmas vigil 6pm (outdoor) Temora, 7pm Barellan, 9pm Ardlethan, 9pm Temora. Christmas Day 8am Ariah Park, 8am Barmedman, 10am Temora.

TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS: Christmas vigil midnight Garran. Christmas Day 5am, 10am Garran.

TUMUT: Christmas vigil 7pm (outdoor). Christmas Day 8am Talbingo, 10am Tumut.

WANNIASSA: Christmas vigil 7pm (children) 9pm. Christmas Day 9am. No evening Mass Christmas Day.

WATSON: Christmas vigil 6pm (children), 10pm. Christmas Day 8am 10am (no 6pm).

WESTON CREEK: Christmas vigil 6pm Holder (family), 6pm Waramanga (family), 9pm Waramanga (carols 8.30pm). Christmas Day 9am Holder (carols 8.30am).

WESTERN MISSION: Christmas vigil 5.30pm Burcher, 6pm Weethalle, 7.30pm West Wyalong, 8.30pm Ungarie. Christmas Day 8am Tallimba, 9.30am West Wyalong.

YASS-GUNNING: Christmas vigil 5.30pm Gunning, 7pm Yass, 8.30pm Murrumbateman recreation hall. Christmas Day 8.30am Yass.

YOUNG: Christmas vigil 6pm (outdoor family), 9pm. Christmas Day 9.30am.

Historic visit by Syro-Malabar head

One of India's leading Church figures, Mar George Cardinal Alencherry, Major Archbishop and head of the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church, will visit Canberra on 1 December as part of an Australian tour.

Cardinal Alencherry's pastoral visit - at the invitation of the Australian Catholic bishops and the national Syro-Malabar community - is the first by a head of the Syro-Malabar Church.

There are about 32,000 Syro-Malabar Catholics in 18 active communities across Australia.

St Christopher's Cathedral administrator Fr Francis Kolencherry was appointed by the Australian bishops as a national coordinator to manage the pastoral needs of the communities under chaplains. There have been initiatives in most cities and towns to celebrate Syro-Malabar liturgies under the direction of bi-ritual priests working for Latin Rite dioceses of Australia. The Syro-Malabar Church is



the second largest of the 22 Oriental (Eastern Rite) Catholic Churches in full communion with the Church in Rome.

While the majority of Roman Catholics belong to the Latin Rite, the Eastern Rite provides a unique dimension to Catholic heritage and spirituality. Syro-Malabar Catholics, also called "St Thomas Christians", trace their origins and faith to the missionary efforts of St Thomas the Apostle, who landed at Kodungallur in Kerala, India, in 52 AD.

Pope Benedict made Mar Alencherry a cardinal in February this year, the fourth from the Syro-Malabar Church.

Cardinal Alencherry visited Sydney where he presided over Qurbana (Mass) in St Mary's Cathedral. On 1 December, he will preside over Holy Qurbana (Malayalam) at St Christopher's Cathedral, before going on to Melbourne, Brisbane, Townsville, Adelaide, Perth, Darwin and regional centres.

School fee increases 'kept to a minimum'

The Catholic Education Commission says it has aimed to keep school fee increases to a minimum for next year.

Fees will rise 3 per cent in ACT systemic primary schools, 4 per cent in ACT secondary schools and 3 per cent in NSW schools.

In considering fees, the commission says it "had to take into account the impact of the NSW Government funding freeze on non-government schools from July 2013 along with the broader implications of State Government funding cuts to education budgets in Queensland, NSW, Victoria and Tasmania and their impact on Commonwealth grant supplementation.

"The commission has aimed to minimise the impact on parents, at least for 2013, by keeping fee increases to a minimum."

In ACT systemic primary schools the fee per term for the first child is \$298 with a 70 per cent discount for a second child and 80 per cent discount for a third. There is no charge for a fourth child.

A 20 per cent discount applies to the first child fee where there is a sibling in an archdiocesan secondary college. This is down from 30 per cent this year.

In ACT systemic secondary colleges, the fees are \$736 per term for years 7 and 8, \$756 for years 9 and 10, and \$918 for years 11 and 12. A 20 per cent discount applies

for a second child attending an archdiocesan secondary school and 50 per cent for a third child. There is no charge for a fourth or subsequent child.

The Canberra Catholic Schools Building Fund contribution is \$139 per family per term.

In NSW primary schools, the fee is \$252 per family per term. A 50 per cent discount applies if a sibling attends an archdiocesan systemic secondary school.

In NSW secondary schools, the fees are \$379 per student per term for years 7 and 8, \$391 for years 9 and 10, and \$436 for years 11 and 12. A 60 per cent discount applies for the second child attending a systemic secondary school, and a 75 per cent discount for a third child.

Fees in NSW central schools are \$252 per family per term in primary, \$379 per student per term in years 7 and 8, and \$391 per student per term in years 9 and 10.

A 50 per cent discount applies on the primary family fee if a sibling attends the secondary section or another NSW systemic secondary school, a 60 per cent discount for the second child attending the secondary section or another systemic secondary school, and a 75 per cent discount for the third child attending the secondary section or another systemic secondary school.

Sisters' years of care won't be forgotten

Nearly a century of service by the St John of God Sisters to the community of Goulburn has come to an end.

Sr Eileen Regan, the last member of the sisters' congregation in Goulburn, planted a pomegranate tree, blessed by Goulburn parish priest Fr Dermid McDermott, in the grounds of Sts Peter and Pauls Old Cathedral.

Sr Eileen has returned to the sisters' mother house in Western Australia. She arrived in Western Australia from Ireland in 1956 and served in Goulburn providing pastoral care from 1995.

Sr Boniface Scully, who returned to the mother house in October, served in Goulburn for 55 years.

A pomegranate tree was chosen because the fruit and leaves feature in the crest of the St John of God sisters. The boy Jesus, holding in his hand an open pomegranate set between two branches and surmounted by a cross, is believed to have appeared to John Ciudad (1495-1550) and addressed him as John of God. The Order of the Sisters of St John of God was found-



Sr Eileen Regan plants the pomegranate tree.


ed in Ireland in 1871. The first sisters arrived in Goulburn in 1916 at the invitation of Bishop John Gallagher. On 2 April, 1916, St John of God Hospital opened in a renovated house given by Anastasia and Frank Kelly.


In 2002, management of St John of God Health Care contracted the Canberra-based Little Company of Mary Health Care to manage the facility for two years and eventually decided to transfer the services and facility to Southern Area Health Service in December 2004. The final decision for the sisters to leave was made because of increasing age and reduced numbers.

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By Archdiocesan Administrator Mgr John Woods

We are in the Season of Advent. Advent is a time of waiting. Our Sunday readings remind us that we await the end times, knowing neither the hour nor the day, and that we are to prepare a way for Christmas; our celebration of God's vulnerability in becoming one with us.

At first glance, this Christmas will be tainted by the spectre of a Royal Commission into child sexual abuse. On the contrary, I would suggest that the commission might help us to embrace more deeply the true meaning of Christmas and Easter.

Jesus was vulnerable and threatened at birth, rejected and vilified in life and innocent in death.

Crucified between heaven and hell, with arms outstretched between the best and worst of humanity, he died reconciling that which continues to divide us.

In life he challenged outward show and hypocrisy and reached out to the victims of his day. In death he forgave his persecutors, pointing beyond the mere dictates of crime and punishment to effect restoration for all.

In becoming one with us and dying for all, he was with the innocent victims of sexual abuse in their torment and he seeks to comfort them now. He holds tenderly those whose pain saw them take their own life. He calls the perpetrators to justice while acknowledging their needs too.

I say this conscious that many perpetrators were in dedicated service of Jesus and so their crimes are all the more confronting.

The scope of the commission will ensure that a mirror is held up to our society. We will acknowledge the dark-

Helping us embrace true meaning of Christmas

ness of innocence betrayed, systemic failure and the need for change. Surely it is the movement of the Holy Spirit that sees all Australians of goodwill support the Royal Commission in its search for truth.

The question of the commission's duration is secondary to a searching inquiry and sound recommendations. Addressing the needs of victims must be paramount while the rights of the accused must be respected.

Let us also not forget the thousands of committed clergy and religious across Australia who suffer collateral damage as a consequence of the actions of some of their peers. They need our prayers and support.

Might one hope that the recommendations of the Royal Commission will be an impetus for church governance that is more reflective of servant leadership and is more involving of women? I do.



Again, I hope that the commission will call for a more consistent response on the part of bishops and leaders of religious congregations as individually and collectively they will oversee the compliance of the Church with the commission's recommendations. Past shortcomings have besmirched the name of all.

I am sure that the commission's inquiries will prompt further reflection within the Church on seminary formation and more especially the gift of celibacy and its obligation for priesthood. Again, there will be agitation for a broad consultation and a contemporary presentation of an integrated understanding and living of the beliefs, values and spiritual underpinnings of Catholic sexual ethics.

In these and all other matters prompted by the commission, I would hope that within the Church and wider society there would be greater aware-

ness, openness, dialogue and, above all, a restorative narrative in place of one that is too often assertive and defensive. Finally, I would urge more engagement with the media on the part of the Church. Without the intervention of the media the Royal Commission would not be in prospect.

As we address the graced challenges of sexual abuse, we also celebrate the 150th jubilee of our Archdiocese.

The Mass to mark the occasion at historic Riversdale, Goulburn, acknowledged the Irish origins of the Australian church in which clergy and religious were to the fore, and the relatively recent transition to a far more culturally diverse mix in which clergy, religious and lay faithful are called to collaborative engagement.

Again, in recent weeks I have celebrated deanery Masses in Temora, Merimbula and Queanbeyan honouring some of the nearly 230 catechists across our Archdiocese who share in the teaching mission of the Church.

Such occasions and a recent Cathedral Sunday Mass celebrating our ethnic diversity, as well as the visit to Canberra of Cardinal George Alencherry of the Syro-Malabar Rite, India, affirm for me that the light of Christ shines ever anew, though elsewhere it is dimmed if not snuffed out.

In union with Mary our Mother and with the scandal of sexual abuse piercing our heart, we await the graces of the Royal Commission and the celebration of Christmas. The call for the former and the gift of the latter undermines the illusion of our self-sufficiency.

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- Dead Sea • Bethlehem • Caesarea
- Nazareth • Sea of Galilee • Mount Of Beatitudes • Taybeh Village • Jerusalem
- Optional Greece & Turkey combination
- Also departing 7th Feb, 13th Jan, 5th Sept, 3rd Oct & 7th Nov 2013

ST PAUL EXPEDITION

A 20 day pilgrimage
Departing 29th May 2013

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- Kalambaka • Philippi • Kavala • Thessaloniki • Koz
- Patmos • Kusadasi • Ephesus • Izmir • Pergamum
- Canakkale • Assos • Alexander Troas • Troy • Gallipoli
- Istanbul • Cappadocia • Optional Malta extension (3)
- Also departing 23rd Sep 2013

VISITATIONS OF MARY

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Departing 9th May 2013

- Lisbon • Fatima • Alba de Tormes • Avila • Segovia
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CAROLS in Manuka are on again this year, featuring the choirs of St Christopher's Cathedral and St Paul's Anglican Church with brass and organ. Come and take part at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 11 December, at St Paul's and Thursday, 13 December, at St Christopher's. Free admission, all welcome.

IN last month's issue of Catholic Voice, we claimed St Thomas' Church, Moonbah, is the highest church in the Archdiocese still in use. Jindabyne parish priest Fr Peter Miller begs to differ. He says Our Lady of the Snows, Perisher Valley, at 1710 metres

From near and far

beats St Thomas' at about 1200 metres. Our Lady of the Snows is open for Mass at 5pm every Sunday in the snow season and for morning Mass on Easter Sunday.

QUEANBEYAN parish priest Fr Troy Bobbin has learnt a lesson on what not to do with used charcoal. After Friday afternoon benediction he discarded some apparently dead coals in a bin in the working sacristy at St Raphael's, Lowe Street. Fortunately, a parish secretary noticed smoke billowing out of the room some time later. There was smoke damage to the room but no damage to the church itself. Fr Bobbin says repairs will be complete by Christmas. A smoke alarm will be put in the sacristy and linked to the presbytery and new procedures will be put in

place to dispose of used charcoal. "It's a lesson for everyone. Charcoal can stay alight for up to 48 hours, even though it feels cold to the touch," Fr Bobbin said.

WORK has begun on the permanent campus for John Paul College, the new secondary Catholic college in Gungahlin.

"We are so excited to see work on the permanent campus begin on schedule to move in at the beginning of the 2014 school year," principal Mrs Catherine Rey said.

The college will begin operation at a temporary site at Mother Teresa School, Harrison, at the beginning of next year.

THE St Vincent de Paul Society store in the Gungahlin centre will close on 3 December. Vinnies says the lease is up for renewal and increased rent means the centre has become financially non-viable. The centre opened in January 2008.

Digger's bible makes its way back home

A pocket-sized bible has been returned to the family of a young Digger 94 years after he died while carrying it on the Somme battlefield in France.

On Remembrance Day in the shadow of the Australian Army Memorial, family historian Mr Darryl Johnston handed the bible to the relatives of Private David John Morgan, who died of head wounds on the Somme on 28 April, 1918.

The bible was accepted by Private Morgan's great-nephew Mr John Morgan and his wife Patricia, son Christopher and grandson Thomas, who had travelled from Sydney.

Private Morgan was the son of Thomas and Gwendoline Morgan of Hurstville in Sydney and the fiancé of Mr Johnston's great-aunt, Nessie Margarette Bessell.

Before Private Morgan left for the Great War he promised Nessie he would return with enough money to marry and buy a house. He carried the bible with him, a 20th birthday present from his father, and in its pages he slipped a tiny photograph of Nessie.

He joined the 5th Australian Division Base Depot and spent most of the next year in the Somme. He regularly wrote to Nessie and his family sending long letters of his experiences in France, photographs and ornate embroidered postcards.

On the morning of the 27 April, 1918 he and his mates were assembled in a trench and about to go over the top to attack the enemy when he was shot in the head. He died the next morning and was buried at the Pernois British cemetery north west of the town of Amiens. A small cross bearing a plate with his details marked his grave. He was posthumously awarded the 1914/15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. The medals were sent to his parents.

In 1923, Thomas and Gwendoline made the long journey to France to visit their son's final resting-place. The



Darryl Johnston (far left) returns Private David Morgan's bible to three generations of his family, John Morgan, Thomas Bramley and Christopher Morgan.

cross had been replaced by a white marble headstone with a small tribute from his family, "We have lost, heaven has gained, one of the best the world contained".

His belongings were eventually returned to his family, including the bible. His medals, letters and postcards have been lost but the bible has survived.

Mr Morgan, who grew up knowing little of his family history, said the bible would be a treasured family heirloom.

"No-one spoke much about our family and especially about David's fiancé, Nessie," he said. "We knew David was killed in the war, but we knew very little about his fiancé or why he went to war."

Mr Johnston said it was hard not to get caught up in the emotion of the moment. "For more than 90 years this bible has made it way through my family," he said. "It has travelled half way across the world and it has survived time and war. It holds more than the Word of God. It also tells the story of two families and two young people who were caught up in events that shaped history and determined the rest of their lives. Just like a time capsule, its stories have passed through my family and finally it has been returned to the Morgans."

Bishops back abuse inquiry

Australia's Catholic bishops say they are ready to cooperate with the Royal Commission into child sex abuse and look forward to consulting with the Federal Government on terms of reference.

"This is a serious issue not just for the Catholic Church but for the whole community," the president and permanent committee of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference said.

"As Catholic bishops and as individuals we share the feelings of horror and outrage which all decent people feel when they read the reports of sexual abuse and allegations of cover ups.

"Over the past 20 years, there have been major developments in the way the Church responds to victims, deals with perpetrators and puts in place preventive measures. In addition, there is a much greater general awareness of the issue of paedophilia in the broader community.

"Sexual abuse of children is not confined to the Catholic Church. Tragically, it occurs in families, churches, community groups, schools and other organisations. We believe a Royal Commission will enable an examination of the issues associated with child abuse nationally, and identify measures for better preventing and responding to child abuse in our society.

"We have taken decisive steps in the past 20 years to make child safety a priority and to help victims of abuse. This includes working closely with police. While there were significant problems concerning some dioceses and some religious orders, talk of a systemic problem of sexual abuse in the Catholic Church is ill-founded and inconsistent with the facts."

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Parishes urged to rethink on pastoral councils

Archdiocesan Administrator Mgr John Woods has called on parishes to look again at the effectiveness of their pastoral councils.

In a review of progress since last year's assembly, he said Archbishop Mark Coleridge had called for parishes to reach out to the unchurched or those who had ceased attending Church.

"Perhaps the relative lack of response to this call is reflective of the need to revisit the effectiveness or otherwise of parish pastoral councils," Mgr Woods said.

"Unless we have active parish pastoral councils, mandated for all parishes at our 1989 Archdiocesan Synod, how can we take up the challenge to engage within our communities and beyond?"

In response to Archbishop Coleridge's call for improvement in the quality of preaching, director of clergy life and ministry Fr Simon Falk had organised an in-service day for clergy. The issue of relevant in-service for clergy would be addressed at a future meeting of the archdiocesan consultants.

The formation of the Archbishop's Youth Council had been delayed until the arrival of a new archbishop.

More than 50 people had attended the Archdiocesan Youth Leaders Forum and discerned a three-year plan, with priorities focused on development of youth networks and communication of youth events and resources.

A number of Youth Leader's Network breakfasts had been organised by the youth office with 40-50 attending.

"While these have attracted Canberra youth mainly, I note that the Western Deanery has conducted some well patronised youth musters at Temora and Young," he said. "The young adults of the National Evangelisation Team stationed in Goulburn have run very well received parish and school youth gatherings across the Archdiocese."

Mgr Woods said the publication Your Family, Your Faith was helping to bridge the gap between schools and parishes.

About 27 000 are printed, but while parishes in Wollongong, Perth and Melbourne had requested access, many



parishes in the Archdiocese did not promote it.

In other points, Mgr Woods said:

- The annual statement of archdiocesan finances would continue to be published in Catholic Voice.

- Eighty per cent of parishes now use the Parish Administration and Communications System (PACS) software which permits reporting and comparison, year by year and parish to parish.

- In response to Archbishop Coleridge's call for encouragement of direct debit contributions for the first and second Sunday collections, the Catholic Development Fund had produced the

"Becoming an E-as-y Giver" brochure for parishes.

- A final decision regarding the scope of works in the Cathedral precinct redevelopment would be subject to the Archdiocesan Trustees' determination. The Archdiocese has appealed the heritage listing of St Patrick's, Braddon, through the ACT Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

- A working party had been formed to renew the archdiocesan website and to see how the Archdiocese might better use multimedia and social networking opportunities.

• Cont Page 14.

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

Moved by the desperate plight of Christians in the Holy Land and throughout the Middle East, the Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) has been supporting the country's beleaguered Christian population.

Sadly, due to ongoing violence and oppression, the proportion of Christians in the Holy Land has plummeted from 20 percent to as little as 1.4 percent in the last 40 years.

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

ACN is helping to keep faith and hope alive throughout the region by providing urgent aid to priests, religious and lay people, offering subsistence help to refugees and building and repairing churches and convents. Please help us strengthen and rebuild the Church in the land of Christ's birth.

A beautiful, handcrafted crib, made of olive wood in Bethlehem, will be sent to all those who give a donation of \$20.00 or more to help this campaign.



Please tick the box below if you would like to receive the little olive wood crib.

"... Churches in the Middle East are threatened in their very existence... May God grant ACN strength to help wherever the need is greatest."

Pope Benedict XVI



30-day prayer guide launched

Prayer and reflection source "30 Days of Grace...in a Year of Faith" was launched at the assembly.

A series of daily scripturally-based reflections, it connects the Year of Grace called by Australia's bishops from Pentecost 2012 to Pentecost 2013 with the Year of Faith called by the Vatican to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council (11 October, 1962 – 24 November, 1965).

Author Mr Shane Dwyer said the resource had been written with the thought that the Church has one role on which all her various activities are founded – to reveal the person of Jesus Christ to the world.

"The degree to which the Church succeeds in this task is the degree to which she fulfills her mission and the degree to which she deserves to exist," he said. Mr Dwyer is archdiocesan coordinator, faith formation and spirituality.

The resource may be used at any time and had been written primarily for individual use, but can be adapted in a variety of ways by groups. The prayers and reflections could open meetings for groups such as the St Vincent de Paul Society, Legion of Mary, RCIA and prayer groups.

It could also serve as a suitable Advent preparation for the feast of Christmas for both individuals and groups.

Early next year a free Lenten supplement will be made available on the www.faithresources.org.au website.

This supplement will provide a structure for Lenten group meetings, ideas for individual preparation for group meetings, and additional reflections based on the Gospel readings for the Sundays of Lent.



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Made of olive wood from the Holy Land, this delightful little crib scene is powerfully evocative of Christ's birthplace.

The cribs are lovingly, handcrafted by poverty stricken families in Bethlehem and your donation helps them survive. (Size: 10 cm x 8 cm)

Please tick this box if you would like to receive the crib ☐

Christ is ‘always knocking’

Catholics have a tendency to believe they have to do good things and get their life right before Jesus will recognise them, Sydney Auxiliary Bishop Peter Comensoli told participants at the archdiocesan assembly.

This was the wrong way around, however, he said. “Christ is always there knocking,” he said. “He is offering all the time his grace, love and friendship.”

First, we needed to receive his grace, the love of God he communicates; “God chancing himself on us”.

“In receiving, recognising Christ, what he actually looks like, then we know how to respond.”

The sequence should be to receive, then recognise, then respond.

Jesus was knocking on the door of our heart and waiting to be let in, not barging in, as we might expect.

“Can we hear him and are we prepared to open the door,” he said. “If so, his offer is to come in and sit with us, side by side, and be our friend.”

Bishop Comensoli said there were different ways to find the face of Jesus, but the key is through prayer. Prayer was similar to friends getting together – in this case “your friend, God” – and perhaps not saying much. A health and long-lasting friendship needed a lot of listening and opportunities to say things.



Bishop Peter Comensoli... “are we prepared to open the door?”

Prayer could be annoying because “it is the simplest thing in the world, but tough, too. This is like friendship.”

He said people needed to think about the “face of Christ” in its entirety, in his hands and his feet. “How does he communicate himself to us through all of himself, in his love, compassion and forgiveness, and in other ways?”

Bishop Comensoli gave two keynote addresses on the themes of Starting Afresh from Christ and Prayer. The assembly was held at Merici College and attended by about 300 people from across the Archdiocese.

In the afternoon, participants attended their choice of five workshops on prayer, addressing adoration, repentance, contemplation, petition and thanksgiving.

FEEDBACK

More than 90 per cent of participants at the assembly who completed an online evaluation said they were satisfied with the event.

In all, 310 people took part in the assembly with 95 per cent of parishes represented.

More than 80 per cent said they were very likely to attend again and about 75 per cent were likely to recommend attendance to a friend.

Some examples of feedback were:

“Wonderful theme, enthusiastic and professional organisation, friendly engagement, wonderful networking opportunities.”

“There was no opportunity for the people present to identify their concerns and to contribute to the discussion about appropriate solutions.”

“Bishop Peter’s presentation on prayer was so simple but so thought provoking.”

“There was a lot of positive conversation flowing about the place as I spoke to new people about the day.”

“Looking forward to being involved/attending future gatherings if the organisation and presenters are of the quality of Saturdays.”

“I must also commend the staff and students of Merici - nothing was too much trouble and the smiles all day were beautiful.”

“It was great to meet people from the rural areas. We in Canberra, often forget the far reaching boundaries of our diocese.”

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INFORMATION SESSION

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a centenary of canberra's catholics

Doug earned trust and respect of all

"Retired 1985 as Clerk of the House of Representatives. Joined the Attorney-General's Department in 1949 and the Department of the House of Representatives in 1950. Became Serjeant-at-Arms 1956, Clerk Assistant 1970, Deputy Clerk 1977 and Clerk of the House in 1982. Honorary Secretary, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association since 1982. Life Member ACT Rugby Referees Association, President Navy League of Australia (ACT) since 1976, currently Vice-President of Canberra City Bowling Association. Over 20 years active involvement with the St Vincent de Paul Society."

Thus read the citation when Doug Blake received his Order of Australia award from Queen Elizabeth at Government House, Canberra on 3 March, 1986.

Leading up to Doug's retirement as Clerk of the House of Representatives in July 1985 a vote of appreciation was passed in the House. Among those who spoke in support of the motion were Prime Minister Bob Hawke, Leader of the Opposition Andrew Peacock, and Ian Sinclair, Leader of the National Party. The Speaker of the House also alluded to the contribution Doug had made on the international scene.

"The parliaments of the Australasian and Pacific regions with which he has had continuous involvement for over 20 years have learnt his value. The Parliament of Papua New Guinea recognised his role in the development of that Parliament by awarding him the Papua New Guinea Independence Medal in 1977. With regard to international parliamentary bodies, he has been Honorary Secretary of the Commonwealth of Australia Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association since 1982."

The Prime Minister drew attention "to the outstanding aspect of Doug Blake's career.

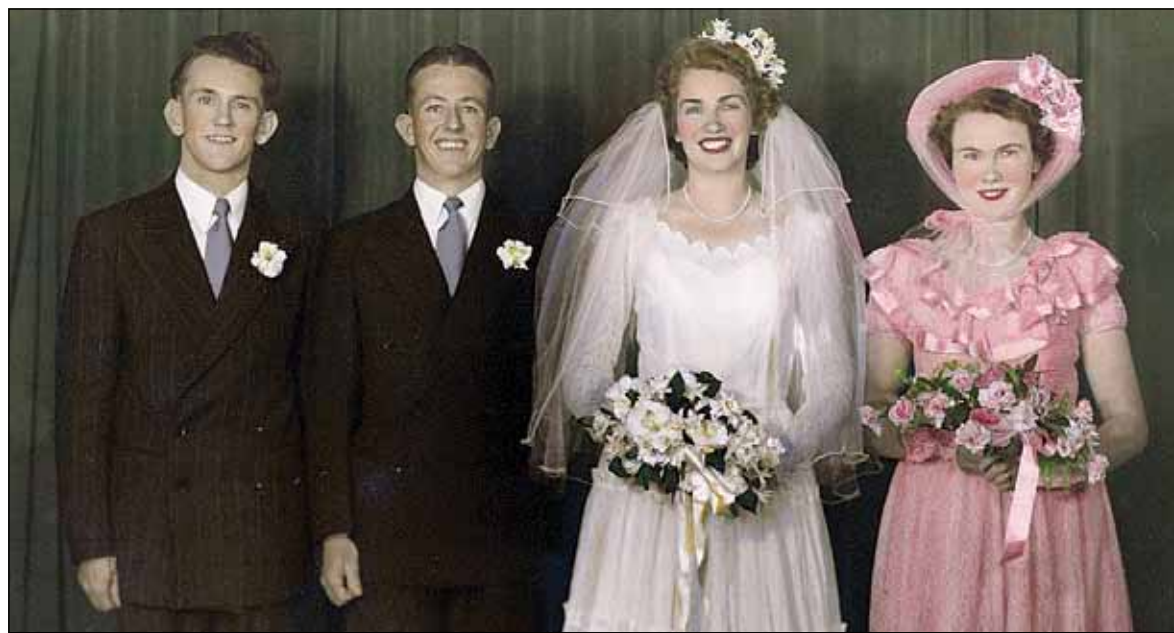
In the 21st in a series of portraits of significant Catholics of the national capital, Bishop Pat Power tells of a Canberran who gave 35 years of service to the Parliament

He has always given consistent, loyal and dedicated service to the institutions that he knows and loves – his church, the Navy and this Parliament and the parliamentary system. Doug Blake has given us 35 years service in this House, 26 of them at the table of the House. In that time he has earned and retained the trust and respect of all sides of the House. That has been no easy task. The position of Clerk requires unfailing discretion, judgement, thoroughness and honesty. Doug Blake has shown all those qualities in abundance."

Ian Sinclair recalled a photo featuring Doug refereeing a rugby game between the Parliament and the Press. The photo showed the Parliament's front row of hooker Bill Hayden being supported by props Doug Anthony and Ian Sinclair. Bill Hayden is supposed to have whimsically remarked that it was the best support he had had in Parliament.

Doug Blake's refereeing career grew out of his playing days for ACT club Royals, and representative football for the ACT. He went on to referee 200 first-grade games in Canberra including nine first-grade grand-finals. He refereed a number of international teams including the All Blacks (four times), the Springboks, the British Lions and a number of Pacific Island teams.

Another leading ACT referee, Peter Richards, tells how his own career began and blossomed under the guidance of Doug Blake. Peter's father and Doug had worked together on



ABOVE: Doug Blake and Pat on their wedding day with best man his brother Reg Blake and bridesmaid Pat's sister Joan de Mamiel.



the construction of the O'Donnell Youth Centre at St Patrick's in Braddon. Doug talked to Peter about his craft, got him "running the line" with him and became a mentor in Peter's own distinguished career as a referee.

Peter saw Doug Blake as a disciplinarian who was always in control of the game and worked hard on his fitness even training in the Rose Gardens of the old Parliament House. It should be noted another Canberra Catholic, Peter McPhillips, rose to great heights as a rugby referee.

Doug Blake attended De La Salle College in Ashfield, Sydney, before joining the Navy at 17, doing his officer training at HMAS Cerberus and graduating as a midshipman. He came out of the Navy at the end of the war as a sub-lieutenant but went back to the Navy Reserve when he came to Canberra in 1949 to serve with Attorney-General's



FAR LEFT: As Serjeant-at-Arms.

LEFT: Receiving the Order of Australia award from the Queen at Government House in March 1986.

Department. VRD is the abbreviation for his Volunteer Reserve Officer Decoration. Like so many newcomers to Canberra, he began in the hostels. In Doug's case it was Gorman House. Doug remembers it snowing for three days in July 1949.

On 6 May, 1950, Doug Blake and Pat Fox were married in St Christopher's Pro-Cathedral with Fr Stan O'Donnell officiating.

Pat was the youngest of five girls in a prominent Catholic family living in the Mount Stromlo area. Pat's only living sister is Joan De Mamiel. Another sister was Kitty Duffy, mother of Sr Marie Duffy, who served two terms as the last congregational leader of the Goulburn Sisters of Mercy.

Doug and Pat have celebrated 60 years of married life and have been blessed with seven children, 13 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. Part of their Sunday ritual after attending Mass is to welcome any family members who drop in.

As I spoke with Doug in preparation for this article, he was concerned that I was not

pursuing his Catholic life in sufficient depth. He reminded me that in 1976 he was in the first group of acolytes in the Archdiocese whom I helped to prepare after Archbishop Cahill expressed the desire to introduce this new lay ministry.

Part of the role of the acolyte is to be a companion and assistant to the priests. Doug had filled that role in many forms. He had been part of the Holy Name Society and served for many years in the St Vincent de Paul Society. He was the first chairman in the Archdiocese of a parish council following the Second Vatican Council when Mgr Favier established a council in the Parish of Braddon. He had been part of the leadership of the planned giving program, and, as previously mentioned, helped building the O'Donnell Centre. Later, he had a part in the building of St Brigid's, Dickson.

Doug Blake has already claimed a very significant place in the history of Canberra.

Learning lessons in the birthplace of Jesus

Martin Smith believes young Australians can learn from the example of Muslims and Christians living and studying together in the Holy Land.

The new director of mission with Calvary Health Care ACT spent six months at Bethlehem University running a course he introduced to teach conversational English to young Palestinians and their teachers.

He is left with strong memories of people young and old who are "faithful to their own traditions and respectful of other's traditions".

The Catholic university, operated by the De La Salle Brothers on their traditional property at the highest point in the town, was an "oasis of calm", Mr Smith said.

"The university sees itself as a place where you 'come to learn and leave to serve'. There is very much a feeling of the coming together of different faiths, of learning together, to go out and create a new Palestine."

The more than 3000 students at the university, which was started in 1973, are three-quarters female and 65 per cent Muslim. Many students come through the wall each day from East Jerusalem.

Mr Smith describes the attitude of the students in today's secular world as "refreshing".

"I'd begin each class with 'God bless you', and they would respond," for example.

"The constant reference to God in everyday life was most remarkable. Muslim and Christians students are very devotional and belief in God's involvement in the world is just accepted, which is different to our usual secular experience."

Mr Smith said the hospitality of local people "shakes you, when you consider how generous they are with limited means."

"Some senior students adopted me and would visit me at home in the evening because they thought I might be lonely."

Mr Smith's time at the university stemmed from four weeks he spent studying the gospel of Luke at the Sion Sisters' centre, Ecce Homo, in Jerusalem's old city. "It is situated in the Muslim quarter so I met a lot of locals, real Palestinians, and had the opportunity to try to understand their life," he said.

He visited Bethlehem University and spoke to the Brothers, including the vice-chancellor, a New Zealander, whom he had worked with at St Bede's College

'Living there you see constant examples of how faiths can live together'

in Melbourne. "We had this desire to see what we could do to help the mother church," he said.

On a return trip, he was given an audience with the Latin Rite Patriarch in Jerusalem and asked how he could help in education. "His response was, 'you can do more than pray for us; the thing we need is help with English conversation', as this is the key to Palestinians being able to secure good jobs."

This led to Mr Smith piloting a program to assist teaching conversational English to the 600 students of the Latin Patriarch's school at Beit Jala, a small Palestinian town near Bethlehem.

"The outcome of that was that the Brothers at the university said they wanted the same thing," he said. "I was offered a position in the education faculty to teach first-year students and to work with Arabic-speaking teachers of English and to mentor in the classrooms."

With the experiences of three Christmases in Christ's birthplace, Mr Smith hopes to return to Bethlehem and the Holy Land to further his studies.

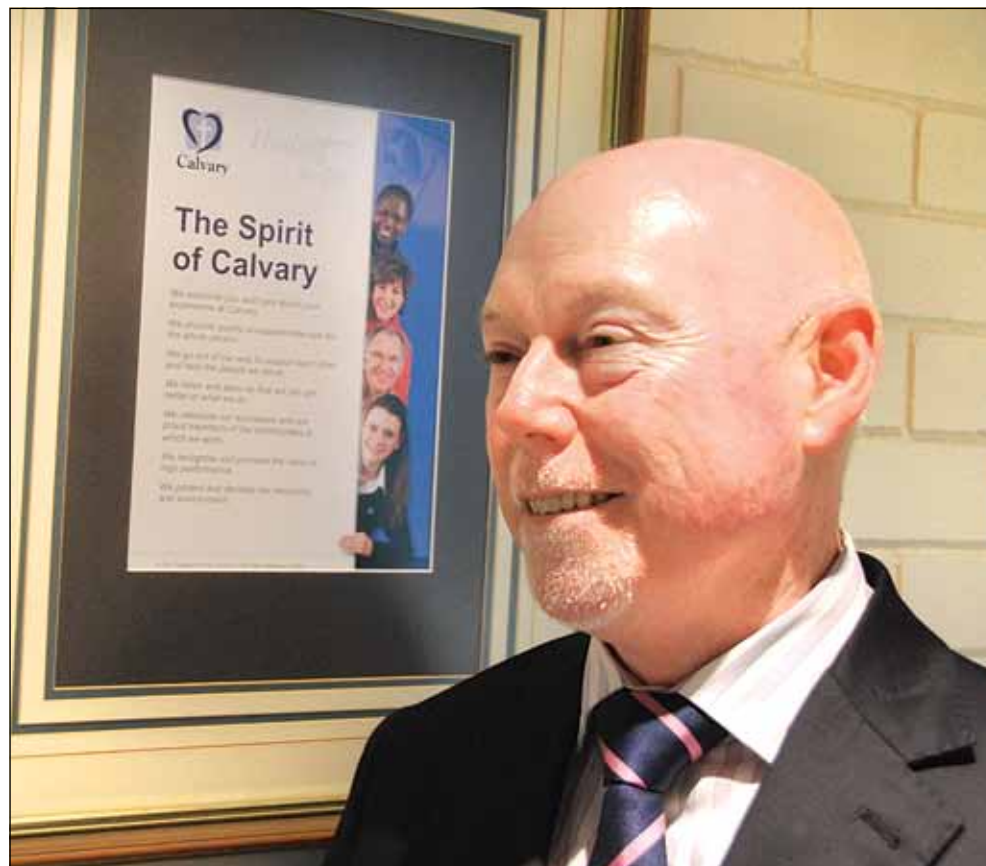
"You look out at Christmas and you know this is where it all happened," he said. "You are seeing people who are descendants of the Apostles. It is delightful at Christmas to see flocks of sheep and their young shepherds wandering around outside Bethlehem city."

"Living there you see constant examples of how faiths can live together."

Mr Smith brings the lessons he has learned in the Holy Land – "you get to question your old assumptions" – to his new role at Calvary Hospital at Bruce. "My role here is to try to help carry on the values of the Little Company of Mary Sisters and their founder Mary Potter, to make them real to all the staff. If we are not discernibly different in the way we do things then we should be questioning why we exist."

"We want to keep the LCM charisms of healing, respect, stewardship and hospitality vital in the place."

BELOW: New director of mission with Calvary Health Care ACT Mr Martin Smith ... "we had this desire to see what we could do to help the mother church".



Val leads way for her students

Teacher at St Michael's School, Kaleen, Mrs Val Ciuffetelli was awarded a certificate of excellence in educational leadership from the Australian Council for Educational Leaders. The award was for leading change and improvement as an assistant principal and as literacy school coordinator and learning support teacher. She has been pivotal in leading educational change to have a marked effect on student achievement.

RIGHT: Mrs Ciuffetelli (right) with Therese Nolan, who nominated her.
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ABOVE: Kinder Nagoya are learning the names of fruit in the Indonesian class and with their teacher Mrs Jo Chilver they have created an Indonesian version of The Hungry Caterpillar.

RIGHT: Eva Corkery of year 5 Panama, stands in front of a picture of St Dominic and proudly displays the rosary beads she made.

BELOW: Jessica Jugovac and Leanna Dettori of year 5 Washington have done pencil drawings of Australian pioneers.



ABOVE: Natalia Rezo, Georgina Haig, Miranda James, and Will Mathews of year 4 Athens enjoy their library session.



ARTWORK (clockwise from top left) by Natalie Neshev (year 2 Rome), Oliaan Jarso (Year 2 Dublin), Sara Bockwinkle, Lily Szabo (Year 2 Dublin) and Sam Cringle (Year 2 Rome).



ABOVE: The year 5 classes are learning about newspapers and creative writing and have created their own version of The Ballarat Times – it is great to have some budding journalists among the class. Tom Gibbs is very proud of the work they have all done.

RIGHT: Isabella Choundary and Imogen Hicks of year 4 London create rhythms in their music class.



150 years of grace ...

This is the text of the homily given by Bishop Pat Power at the Mass celebrated at Riversdale, Goulburn, to mark the 150th anniversary of the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn.

As the Catholic Church in Australia celebrates a Year of Grace and the Universal Church observes a Year of Faith, we in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn commemorate our beginnings as the Diocese of Goulburn by the Decree of the Sacred Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith in Rome on 17 November 1862. We do so by celebrating Holy Mass at Riversdale on the site of the first Mass celebrated in Goulburn by the great pioneering priest, John Joseph Therry on 3 August 1833.

For that historic first Mass, the faithful congregated in Matt Healy's Inn, while today we are gathered by the Parish Priest of Goulburn, Fr Dermid McDermott, whose father, Ernie McDermott, was a much-loved publican in this city and for seventeen years its mayor. I have in my possession a holy water font presented by Fr Therry to my great great grandfather, Morgan Power, on the occasion of his marriage in 1826.

There is a certain symmetry with these sesqui-centenary celebrations beginning while the Archdiocese is without a Bishop, when we realise that the Diocese of Goulburn did not manage to consecrate a Bishop until almost five years after the Roman decree of its foundation. On 10 March 1864, the Bishop of Adelaide, Franciscan Patrick Geoghegan, was named Bishop of the Diocese of Goulburn. At the time, he was seeking medical help for a throat condition in his native Ireland and by 9 May that year he had died following an operation in Dublin. The search for a new bishop rivalled some of the intrigues of modern day politics but eventually concluded with the appointment of Fr William Lanigan, Parish Priest of Berrima, even though in the latter stages of the selection process the new bishop was unsure whether he was to be Bishop of Goulburn or of Armidale! He was duly consecrated Bishop of Goulburn on Pentecost Sunday, 9 June 1867.

Patrick Geoghegan's influence on the Diocese of Goulburn would continue through the Sisters of St Joseph, whose founder, Mary MacKillop, Australia's first Saint, was baptised in Melbourne in 1842 by Fr Geoghegan who had also celebrated the marriage of Mary's parents. It is significant that in these days of historical celebrations, the two streams of the Sisters of St Joseph known as the Black and Brown Josephites have just been united.

Similarly, the Goulburn Sisters of Mercy, who have made such a major contribution to the life of the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn and the Diocese of Wagga Wagga for more than 150 years have now merged into a wider Mercy Congregation covering the whole of Australia.

Any celebration of the Catholic history of this diocese must acknowledge the impact of the Sisters of Mercy and the Sisters of St Joseph in the fields of education, health and aged care, spirituality, pastoral life and social welfare. Records show the "big picture" achievements of both Congregations of Sisters, but God alone knows the countless ways in which the Sisters touched the lives of so many

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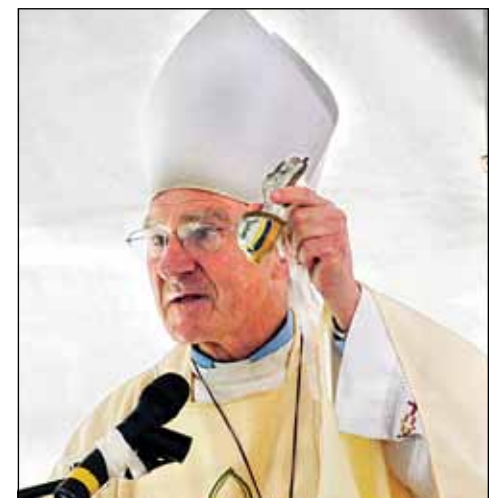
people, young and old, and not just Catholic. The site of this Mass in proximity to the Jail, the old Kenmore Hospital, St Joseph's Orphanage and latterly the House of Prayer is a further reminder of God's grace being mediated to a large variety of people through the ministrations of the whole People of God.

For a time, the Daughters of Charity ministered here in Goulburn while the St John of God Sisters continue to provide a living witness to God's love after many years of outstanding service in their hospital in Bourke Street. The Good Samaritan Sisters, founded in the Benedictine tradition by Australia's first Bishop, John Bede Polding, have given dedicated service in Braidwood, Moruya, Queanbeyan and Canberra while the Presentation Sisters taught at Young and a great variety of Religious Sisters came to Canberra mainly at the invitation of Archbishop Eris O'Brien to staff the Catholic primary and secondary schools in the growing national capital. The Franciscan Missionaries of Mary founded Marymead Children's Home in Narrabundah while the Little Company of Mary in Canberra continues to operate Calvary Hospital and Clare Holland House as a hospice for the dying. The Carmelite Sisters have been part of

Catholic life in Canberra since the 1970s. Christian Brothers, Marist Brothers and De La Salle Brothers are all an important part of the Catholic Education story, while the Redemptorist, Passionist, Dominican and Jesuit Fathers and the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart have drawn on the particular charisms of their founders to enrich the life of this diocese over much of its 150 year history.

To mark this milestone in our diocesan history, Fr Brian Maher has chronicled the clergy: bishops, priests and deacons, who have played such a central role in its unfolding. Today, Catholic Education, in many ways "the jewel in the crown" of our Archdiocese, is almost totally staffed by highly competent and dedicated lay people, very much aware of their vocation within the mission of the Church.

The 150 years we reflect on today has seen the growth of Australia as a nation with Federation in 1901, and the naming of Canberra as national capital in 1913 and the opening of the original Parliament House in 1927 and the current one in 1988. We have also witnessed two World Wars and other major conflicts involving Australian military personnel, the Great Depression, as well as impressive sporting achievements, including the 1956 and 2000 Olympic Games. The 1967 Refer-



ABOVE LEFT: Goulburn students read a welcome to all present.

ABOVE RIGHT: Bishop Pat Power with a holy water font presented by Fr Therry to his great-great-grandfather, Morgan Power.

LEFT: Archbishop Francis Carroll, who was principal celebrant, blesses the congregation.

BELOW LEFT: Wearing vestments from nearly 100 years ago are Fr Michael Lim, Goulburn parish priest Fr Dermid McDermott and Fr Laurie Bent.

endum and Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd's apology to our Aboriginal population have gone some way to recognising the people who have occupied this land for more than 40,000 years but much still needs to be done to redress the injustices suffered by Australia's original inhabitants. I wish to pay tribute to Archbishop Carroll for all that he did to create awareness of such important questions long before it was fashionable to do so. Especially since the end of the Second World War, but even before that, Australia has opened its borders to people seeking a new life in this country for a whole variety of reasons. Many such people and their descendants have made excellent citizens of Australia. Sadly, such a welcoming approach to refugees is singularly missing from Australia's major political parties at the moment.

The Catholic Church has undergone much change in the past 150 years. Bishop Lanigan attended the First Vatican Council from 1869 to 1870 while Archbishops O'Brien, Young and Cahill as well as Bishop Cullinane were Fathers of the Second Vatican Council from 1962 to 1965. Vatican II had a major impact on the life of the Church in its self-understanding, its call for greater involvement of the laity, its liturgy, its relations with other Churches and other Faiths and indeed its place in the modern world. The immediate aftermath of Vatican II was not without its tensions but it was a time of great hope, reflective of the spirit of the Pope who began it all, John XXIII.

We celebrate the 150 years of our Local Church as the Universal Church celebrates the 50 years since the opening of the Second Vatican Council. In each case, it is an opportunity to look forward as well as to look back. The readings so thoughtfully chosen for today's Mass point the way to the future. The Gospel calls us to leave aside our fears and hesitations.

• Cont Page 14.

Last of the Irish reached out to all

The death in Goulburn on 15 October of Fr Joseph Staunton was an historic moment for the Archdiocese. For the first time in its history going back to the proclamation of the Diocese of Goulburn in 1862, there are no Irish-born priests in the diocese.

In its beginnings, the clergy were almost completely Irish and it was some time in the early 1950s that for the first time, Australian born priests outnumbered those born in Ireland. Fr Staunton's death and the celebration of the sesquicentenary of the Archdiocese are occasions to acknowledge the huge debt owed to those priests who came from Ireland to Australia in a missionary spirit to bring the message of Jesus to people in a faraway land.

Joseph Staunton was the second child of a family of nine children born to Thomas and Brigid Staunton in Westport, Co Mayo, Ireland, on 8 May, 1924. After attending a number of schools including the Christian Brothers in Westport, he entered St Patrick's Seminary, Carlow, where he was ordained to the priesthood

by Bishop Thomas Keogh on 1 June, 1947. At the time of his death, he was the second senior priest of the Archdiocese (after Fr Frank Keogh ordained in 1946) and one of the last ordained for the Diocese of Goulburn before it became the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn in 1948.

Fr Staunton served as assistant priest in the parishes of Goulburn, Gundagai, Temora and Yass before a series of appointments as administrator beginning in the late 1950s: Yass, Gunning, Ungarie and Binalong.

In 1965, he was appointed parish priest of Cobargo and thereafter was PP of Bega, Crookwell, Red Hill and Farrer before retiring to Dickson in 2000. However, it was a busy retirement which saw Fr Staunton very much in demand not only in the local parish but right across the Archdiocese.

Always known for his great sense of brotherhood to his fellow priests, Fr Staunton reached out to young and old and was particularly kind to those less mobile than he was. Fathers Barney Lynch,



John O'Brien, Vince Pierse, John Browne, Bill Crahan and many others were the lucky recipients of his ministrations.

Being the well integrated human being that he was, Fr Staunton had no identity crisis in relation to Australia and his native Ireland. The fair-skinned, red-headed young Irish priest quickly embraced the Australian way of life, immersing himself in its culture, whether in a succession of rural parishes where he served or along the coast, which provided a great venue for his love of fishing, or caught up in the fascination and intrigues of political life in Canberra.

Yet his love for his family and for his native Ireland was always deep in his psyche. He made trips home when he was able without any neglect of his parish duties and he developed friendships with Irish people in Australia. He was very much part of life around the Irish Embassy in Canberra. At his funeral were current

Ambassador Mr Noel White, and a previous Ambassador, Mr Richard O'Brien. Fr Staunton was part of St Patrick's Day receptions at the Embassy and met Irish presidents Mary Robinson and Mary McAleese on their visits to Canberra.

In the best of the spirit of the Second Vatican Council, he never saw the exercise of his priesthood confined to "churchy" circles. Especially in the country parishes, he was a much admired and loved member of the wider community, often being asked to occupy positions of public office. He coached young people in English, maths and sport and was frequently called on to be spokesperson for matters of community concern.

He was a big man with a warm pastoral heart, truly catholic and all-embracing in those he served. He was a great fisherman in the literal sense and a dedicated fisher of God's people.

The funeral Mass was celebrated in St Christopher's Cathedral on 19 October with his brother, Fr Jim Staunton of Melbourne principal celebrant. Among the concelebrants were Archdiocesan Administrator Mgr John Woods, Melbourne priests, Frs Paddy Duggan and Paul Maher, and a number of priests of the Archdiocese.

He is survived by his older sister, Maureen (Sr Enda), Margaret, Fr Jim and Gerard.

- Bishop Pat Power

Colourful character had simplicity of Franciscans

The Archdiocese lost one of its most colourful priests with the death of Fr Bill Keating in Bega on 23 October. Ordained a Franciscan priest by Archbishop Mannix in St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne, on 22 July, 1951, he joined the Archdiocese in 1956.

While living at the Archbishop's House in Canberra, he served in the parish of Canberra until he undertook a short stint as administrator of Cobargo parish in 1959 before embarking on a series of appointments as assistant priest in the parishes of Young, Grenfell, Bega, Boorowa and Braddon.

It was in this last appointment that he became chaplain of the RAAF at Fairbairn. Holding a pilot's licence, this appointment enabled him "to stretch his

wings" in many ways although it did not include him taking the controls of RAAF aircraft!

Later, Fr Keating was to be parish priest of Adaminaby, Narooma, Taralga and Moruya until his retirement to Bermagui in 2000.

Fr Keating was a great lover of sport, both as a participant and spectator. He was a keen tennis player, an occasional golfer and an enthusiastic surfer. And he loved to travel. He enjoyed the company of his brother priests especially at the card table and over a meal with a few drinks.

It was always an experience to accompany him to the Moruya races. Knowing just about everyone on the course he would be inundated with tips. I remember



on one occasion being with him when someone or other tipped just about every horse in the book. If we had have listened to no-one except his loyal housekeepers, Ena and Dora, we would have been in the money. Instead, he took home to them a pocket full of winnings from their bets, while he and I had very little to show for our day out.

Fr Keating was very proud of his nephews, Aaron and Clark, both top-line AFL footballers, winning premierships with Adelaide Crows and Brisbane Lions respectively. The other love of his life were his dogs, Kelly, well-known to the Moruya parishioners, and Laddy with whom he shared a great deal of affection in the last years of his life.

He related well to the children of the parish and in the school, and was very much befriended by the Good Samaritan Sisters in Moruya. He was much loved by the members of the Aboriginal communities of Moruya and Narooma.

While he often appeared to display a casual attitude, he was very committed to the priesthood and always faithful to Mass and the Divine Office. He took pride in the restoration of the Moruya church and commissioned Fr Brian Maher to write a parish history.

The illness of the last few years made life difficult for him and for the people caring for him. During the homily at his funeral Mass I paid tribute to the Moruya parishioners, to Colleen and John Manns of Bermagui, to Fr Bernie Patterson and to Kevin Croker for the extraordinary lengths to which they went in caring for him those last years.

No stone was left unturned as Fr Keating celebrated 60 years as a priest on 22 July last year. He insisted that I wear my

mitre for the Mass I celebrated at his home with him, Fr Patterson and Fr Paul Bateman who was celebrating his own diamond jubilee the very next day. Colleen and John Manns organised a wonderful meal for the dozen guests.

With all his love of the good things of life, Bill Keating always maintained a Franciscan simplicity and fittingly Franciscan Provincial Fr Paul Smith and fellow Franciscans Fr Dan Neylon and Fr Phil Miscamble concelebrated at the funeral Mass along with Archdiocesan Administrator Mgr John Woods and a number of priests of the Archdiocese. Deacons Paul Rummery and Joe Blackwell also participated in the Mass.

Fr Keating is survived by his sister, Lorna, in Perth and brother Tony and sister-in-law Mary, along with a number of nephews and nieces including Pauline and Carmel and Aaron and Clark, all present at the funeral Mass celebrated in St Mary's Church, Moruya. - Bishop Pat Power.

Joan was true daughter of Goulburn

The Goulburn region lost a true daughter with the death of Loretto Joan Whalan in Brisbane at the age of 101.

Her father, James Edward Knopp, known as Ted, was the son of Jacob Knopp, headmaster of North Goulburn Public School for 36 years. Jacob's wife, Mary McGovern, was the daughter of James McGovern, the second mayor of Goulburn.

Mary could recall the arrival of the Sisters of Mercy to Goulburn in 1859 when she accompanied her parents in a



Joan Whalan at her 100th birthday dinner with children (from left) Jill Bruhwiler, Jim Whalan and Jan McLaren.

procession of vehicles that went to meet them.

Born in Goulburn, Joan was a boarder at Our Lady of Mercy College for 11 years. While there she gained her licenti-

ate at the Trinity College of Music, London, in the art of speech and drama. She was recommended to join the Royal Shakespearian Company, but instead of treading the boards in London she graced the wards of a hospital in Sydney.

She joined the RAAF in World War 2 and while nursing in Kingaroy met an ex-student of St Patrick's College, Goulburn. She and Gwydir (Guy) Whalan were married in Sydney in 1944 and had three children, Jan McLaren, Jim and Jill Bruhwiler.

They moved back to Goulburn in 1951 and stayed there for the next 15 years before moving to Sydney. Mrs Whalan was one of those who walked Catholic school students to the local government high school during the Goulburn school "strike".

The Whalan's three children were educated at their parents' old schools in Goulburn. Mrs Whalan was president of the OLMC ex-students for many years and also matron of honour at the Butterfly Ball where her duty was to present the debutantes to the archbishop.

Mrs Whalan remained active until the last few days of her life. More than 300 people farewelled her at the funeral Mass with principal celebrant Bishop John Gerry. A guard of honour was formed by ex-service personnel.

Those who attended remembered an effervescent, caring, vibrant little lady who lived to the age of 101. She was always proud to tell people that she was born and educated in Goulburn and was proud of the role her ancestors played in developing the region.

Josephites to go ahead on merger

The merger of the Sisters of St Joseph in Australia and New Zealand has been given the go ahead by the Vatican.

The Sisters of St Joseph of Goulburn have received authorisation from the Congregation of Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life in Rome to proceed with fusion, or merger, with the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart.

Goulburn congregational leader Sr Kerrie Cusack said the sisters "rejoice in the news we have just received."

"It brings to a conclusion for us a process begun several years ago when the various Josephite congregations decided to work together towards a greater sense of unity. In practice, after the merger, the Goulburn congregation will cease to exist as a separate institute. We are planning a celebration to occur on 19 March, 2013, that will mark this historic transition."

"For us the approval for fusion affirms a long-held dream to be reunited, or reconciled, with our Sisters of origin, and to be true to the wishes of our founders, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and Fr Julian Tenison Woods, that the Sisters 'will be brought back together again and be what they were in the beginning.'"

Congregational leader of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart Sr Anne Derwin said they were "delighted to welcome the Goulburn Sisters and to anticipate the mutual enrichment of being one congregation".

The Sisters of St Joseph of Goulburn were founded in 1882 from Perthville, and became one of the five diocesan congregations that later made up the Australian-New Zealand Federation of Sisters of St Joseph.

Grabben Gullen hits 150

One of the oldest churches still in use in the Archdiocese, St Mary's Grabben Gullen, will celebrate its 150th anniversary on 17 March next year. The church and parish were established in the mid-1860s at the request of Irish pioneer families, and pre-date nearby Crookwell parish by several decades.

A foundation stone for St Mary's was laid by Fr Michael McAlroy on 24 May, 1864. On Pentecost Sunday, 9 June, 1867, Bishop William Lanigan was consecrated Bishop of Goulburn and Grabben Gullen came under his jurisdiction.

Mass was then provided monthly by Goulburn clergy until 1880 when resident priests at Crookwell took over.

Crookwell eventually overtook Grabben Gullen as the principal serving parish for the district, although Mass was regularly held at Grabben Gullen until the mid 1970s, and it is still used for weddings and special occasions.

Crookwell parish priest Fr Peter Murphy and his committee have decided to combine the parish's celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Archdiocese with the Grabben Gullen event.

Christmas appeal to aid needy

Catholics of the Archdiocese once again will be invited to contribute to an appeal at Christmas Mass to support those in need in Australia and overseas. The Administrator's Appeal, traditionally known as the Archbishop's Christmas Appeal, will help Fr Mick Burke and Gunning/Yass parishioners to build a church, clinic and convent in a village of 7000 in the remote Oecussi enclave of Timor Leste.

Money raised will also go to the ecumenical National Council of Churches' Christmas Bowl Appeal, as well as the repair of churches in Mabiri and Gagan in the Bougainville Diocese of PNG, the construction of a high school for the most underprivileged in India and the provision of disaster risk education, water and sanitation to communities on Kiribati.

Last year's appeal raised \$58,600. Of that \$20,000 went to construction and maintenance of two centres in Bangladesh dioceses, and another \$10,000 towards a workshop run by the Congregation of Mary Queen of Peace sisters in Vietnam for people with disabilities.

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Do 'something beautiful for God'



TOP: Fr Greg Beath preaching. ABOVE: Reader Madalene Haddrill from St Anne's, Temora. ABOVE RIGHT: Students from Mother Teresa School, Harrison, singing.



Hundreds of children from schools across the Archdiocese, who packed St Christopher's Cathedral for the annual Mission Mass, heard stories of a priest's experience working with the famous Blessed Mother Teresa and her Missionaries of Charity sisters. Fr Greg Beath told the children of the simple advice Mother Teresa gave when he first

met her to "do something beautiful for God". When asked why she worked with the sick and poor, she said: "I do it for Jesus". She saw the person of Jesus in every man, woman and child.

He urged them to make a difference by helping someone else at home, at church, at school, in the community and in the wider world.

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Croatians welcome new chaplain

The new migrant chaplain for the Croatian Catholic community of Canberra and Queanbeyan has been installed.

At a solemn Mass at St Augustine's Croatian Catholic church, Farrer, Archdiocesan Administrator Mgr John Woods installed Fr Miroslav Jelic.

Mgr Woods emphasised the importance of the priest collaborating with the faithful, and people in the pews supporting their priest and praying for him.

Fr Jelic comes to an aging congregation, a community that for various reasons has remained isolated from the local Church.

The challenge for Fr Jelic is to care for the older generation, while trying to re-engage young people to come back to church and the sacraments.

Jessica joins youth ministry team

Having been nurtured in faith and supported by her family, her parish of Holy Trinity Curtin and her school, St Clare's College, Jessica Buchanan is ready to set out on a new adventure.

Next year, she will be giving support and encouraging the faith of others as she joins the National Evangelisation Team (NET).

NET Ministries Australia is a Catholic peer-to-peer youth ministry that helps young people connect with their faith. A NET team worked this year with the youth office in the Archdiocese.

Jessica has honed her skills through participation in the St



Archdiocesan Administrator Mgr John Woods, together with the people, prays over Fr Miroslav Jelic.

He realises a good grasp of English is essential for this task and he is studying English at CIT. He is also making contact with the local Church and finding young people of Croatian origin even at events such as Spirituality in the Pub.

Clare's College youth ministry team. She has also taken part in the activities of the archdiocesan NET team and has actively promoted youth involvement in her parish. She has shared her faith with her peers and has shown integrity and depth in her journey. Now she is taking the big step of making her gifts and talents available to help with the "new evangelisation" on a larger scale.

She will need support through prayer and more practically to raise funds for her NET year. Anyone who would like to support Jessica may contact her by email jessfundraising@gmail.com.



ABOVE: Cathy and Matt Ransom run a workshop on guided Christian meditation. BELOW: Stephen Kirk leads the music group.



Rethink call on parish councils

• From Page 6.

The creation of a Commission for Faith Formation to address needs beyond schools, in parishes, families, government schools and post school, especially at universities, was on hold.

The call for parish liturgy committees had received a muted response; some parishes were addressing the matter and others were doing so through their parish pastoral council, individual parishioners and/or engagement with school teachers.

The proposal for no more than two Sunday Masses had been taken up in Belconnen parishes with one priest. However, in other parts of Canberra there seemed to be a reluctance to reduce to two Masses for fear of parishioners voting with their feet and hence their wallets.

The call not to have more Sunday Celebrations of the Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion than Sunday Masses was seen to be impractical in some smaller and more isolated communities, as was the proposal for the restriction of regular Sunday gatherings to 15 or more parishioners. Some priests were more willing or more physically capable of travelling to serve isolated communities. This might create difficulties when priests were transferred and highlighted the need for an agreed archdiocesan policy or, at least, agreed principles.

There was regional provision of Sunday evening Masses in Canberra, but not in larger rural centres, yet data suggested this should be reconsidered in view of weekend work patterns and lifestyle options.

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150 years of grace...

• From Page 11.

In the spirit of Vatican II, we are to "read the signs of the times" and follow Jesus' command to make disciples of all people by proclaiming the Gospel message in a way that is comprehensible and does not shy away from the hard questions confronting us. We must be prepared to listen as Jesus listened and we must engage with people in the way that he did. 600 years earlier, the prophet Isaiah had delivered the Lord's message to have a care for justice and to act with integrity. It is by these criteria that Jesus' followers are being rightly judged today. Isaiah challenges us to reach out to foreigners, to be truly catholic and all-embracing, not an inward-looking group lazing in our comfort zones. St Paul calls on us to recognise the great variety of gifts among the whole people of God. We are challenged to find unity within diversity and to honour God's goodness and love even in unexpected places and people. In this way we will be open to the God of Surprises.

I would hope in the years ahead, the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn would be in the forefront of a Church which is more missionary, more inclusive and more ecumenical. It is a happy coincidence that at about the same time as our celebrations, the Anglican Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn is celebrating its 150 years. It is my prayer that it will not take another 150 years for our two churches to

come together. With determination, more cooperation, mutual trust, a lot of prayer and openness to God's grace we could achieve it in less than 150 months. Or what about 150 weeks!

Of course, there is as well the call to openness to unity with the other churches and all the followers of Christ for which Jesus prayed so ardently at the Last Supper as St John records in chapter 17 of his Gospel.

Finally, I believe that in the years ahead if our Church is not only to survive but to be true to its calling we must be open to radically new forms of ministry. Bishops Polding and Lanigan, Caroline Chisholm, Mary MacKillop, Catherine McAuley, Mother Teresa and Pope John XXIII in their different ways and circumstances were prepared to break new ground in living out their vocations.

Any new forms of ministry must surely be open to a far wider participation of women and a greater deployment of their gifts. I believe the Catholic Church today would not be facing many of its current woes if women had been more significantly part of its governance. Now is the time for the Church to embrace the unique gifts of women in new and creative ways.

Let us look forward in hope as we continue to walk with each other in faith and love on our pilgrim journey as God's holy people.

Let all the peoples praise you O Lord,
Let all the peoples praise you.

God is last person to be afraid of

We live with too much fear of God. This has many faces, from the superstitious fear of the naive, to the legalistic fear of the over-scrupulous, to the intellectual fear of the very sophisticated.

In the end, we all struggle to believe that God is the last person of whom we need to be afraid. But in our own ways, we all struggle with fear of God.

There is, of course, a healthy fear, not just of God but of anyone whom we love. Scripture tells us that "fear of God is the beginning of wisdom", but fear, in this context, is not understood as fear of punishment or arbitrariness.

Fear of God in its healthy sense is basically love's fear, fear of not living with the proper reverence and respect before the one we love, namely, fear of violating love's proper boundaries.

But that is not fear of hellfire, as we commonly understand this.

Fear is the antithesis of faith and a sign that something is wrong in our love. We aren't afraid of what we love and of what truly loves us.

Everything inside of our Christian faith invites us to move towards God in intimacy rather than in fear.

Indeed in virtually every instance in scripture where God appears within ordinary life, either through an angel, a special phenomenon, or through an appearance of the resurrected Christ, the first words are invariably: "Do not be afraid."

The soothing of fear, not its intensification, is the normal criterion that the voice we are hearing is coming from love.

With that in mind, I would like to offer 10 principles, all rooted in the person and revelation of Jesus, that, hopefully, can be of help in purifying our image of God so that our faith might cast out fear rather than enkindle it.

A parable that exposes many of our unconscious fears of God

I begin with a story that, though true, can act as a parable to expose and highlight many of our unconscious fears of God:

Fear that God is not as understanding and compassionate as we are.

Fear that God is not a big-hearted as we are.

Fear that God does not read the heart and cannot tell the difference between

Ron Rolheiser

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wound and coldness, immaturity and sin.

Fear that God gives us only one chance and cannot bear any missteps and infidelities.

Fear that God doesn't respect our humanity, that God created us in one way but wants us to live in another way in order to be saved.

Fear that God is threatened by our achievements, like a petty tyrant.

Fear that God is threatened by our doubts and questions, like an insecure leader.

Fear that God cannot stand up to the intellectual and cultural scrutiny of our world but somehow needs to be segregated and protected like an over-pious novice.

Fear that God is less interested in our lives than we are and less solicitous for our salvation and that of our loved ones than we are. And, not least, fear that God

is as helpless before our moral helplessness as we are.

Here's the parable: A number of years ago, I was at the funeral of a young man who had died tragically in a car accident.

At the time of his death, on the surface, his relationship to his church and to some of its moral teachings was far from ideal.

'If I were running the gates of heaven I would let him in'

He was not attending church regularly, was living with his girlfriend outside of marriage, was not much concerned about poor or the larger community, and was, in simple terms, partying pretty hard.

But everyone who knew him also knew of his essential goodness and his wonderful heart.

There wasn't an ounce of malice in him and heaven would be forever a less-colourful and more impoverished place if he weren't there.

At the reception following the church service, one of his aunts said to me:

"He was such a good person; if I were running the

gates of heaven, I would certainly let him in."

I assured her that, no doubt, God felt the same way, given that God's understanding and forgiveness infinitely surpass our own.

What are the 10 principles inviting us to live in less fear?

1. God's insight and understanding surpass our own.

2. God's compassion and forgiveness surpass our own.

3. God respects nature, our human make-up, and our innate propensities.

4. God is a blessing parent, not a threatened one.

5. God can handle our questions and doubts and angers.

6. God reads the heart and can tell the difference between wound and malice.

7. God gives us more than one chance, opening another door every time we close one.

8. God desires our salvation and the salvation of our loved ones more than we do.

9. God is the author of all that is good.

10. God can, and does, descend into hell to help us.

"There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love." 1 John 4, 18.

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films

Explosive search for meaning

The Master. Starring: Philip Seymour Hoffman, Joaquin Phoenix, and Amy Adams. Directed by Paul Thomas Anderson. 137 minutes. MA15+. Restricted. (strong sexual references, coarse language and nudity). Roadshow. Reviewer: Peter W Sheehan*.

This is a US film about a veteran, Freddie Quell (Joaquin Phoenix), who is traumatised by his navy service in World War 2, and is being assessed for psychiatric problems. The film is a disturbing, but fascinating, exposé of cult-fanaticism, and has been linked to the current controversy that surrounds Scientology.

Freddie is a drifting psychopath, whose behaviour is fuelled by alcohol, and he has only limited control of his baser instincts. Looking for solace, he discovers a religious movement called, "The Cause", led by Lancaster Dodd (Philip Seymour Hoffman), The Master, and he commits himself deeply to him.

Freddie stows away on a vessel sailing out of San Francisco Bay, and Lancaster is the commander of the ship. Freddie becomes Lancaster's right-hand man, and their relationship emerges as the centrepiece of the film. For their roles, Joaquin Phoenix and Philip Seymour Hoffman shared the best acting award at the 2012 Venice Film Festival, and the film won the prize for best direction at the same Festival.

In its attention to close detail and the impact of its imagery, the film resembles closely "There Will Be Blood" (2007), which was also directed

by Paul Thomas Anderson. The atmosphere created is dark and foreboding, and represents brilliantly the power struggles which take place between Lancaster and Freddie. They are attracted to each other, and Lancaster's intimate questions to Freddie such as: "Have you ever had intercourse with someone inside your family" are as unsettling, as they are revealing.

Such questions are part of an "informal processing" technique that Lancaster conducts to explore his followers' past memories in hypnotic trance. Amy Adams plays Lancaster's wife, Peggie, who tries to prevent the threat she sees in Freddie to her and "The Cause".

This is an extraordinary film, beautifully shot, edited, and patterned. The film is much more than an exposé of a religious cult and more than the confrontation between two disturbed people, who need each other. Freddie draws energy from Lancaster, but Lancaster's messianic delusion feeds on Freddie's pathology.

The acting of both Joaquin Phoenix and Philip Seymour Hoffman is exceptional. Phoenix goes over the top in manifesting the horrors of a psyche out of control, and Hoffman paints an extraordinary portrait of a charismatic, exhibitionistic leader who, knowingly or unknowingly, dupes his worshippers into trusting and believing in his teachings.

Lancaster sees Freddie as a man who has to be saved, and he needs Freddie's salvation as proof of his teachings to both himself and his followers.

Freddie wants redemption, but the film is really about two people, who create their own hell, and Freddie and Lancaster both mirror each other's disturbances. The struggles between the two of them come to a climax when Freddie can no longer endure Lancaster's lies.

The film powerfully tells us that vulnerable people are susceptible to being trapped by irrational belief systems. Provocatively, also, it tells us that some people intentionally engage in illusions, but there are aspects of falsehoods that can create some good. Freddie gains the strength, for instance, to leave Lancaster.

The film is critical about how religious belief systems can be manipulated, but even more disturbing is the question the movie raises at its end: we believe in order to save ourselves, but how can we cope with what happens when what we believe in turns out to be an untruth?

This is a brilliantly crafted, complex, and thought-provoking movie which raises deep and probing questions about the efforts of some people to try to find comfort and spiritual meaning in their lives. If one can endure its enigmas, and weather the storm of its complexity, this quality film is well worth seeing. It is beautifully acted and directed, and explosively tense in what always seems to be on the verge of happening.

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

Unhappy bridesmaids behaving badly

Bachelorette. Starring: Kirsten Dunst, Rebel Wilson, Isla Fisher, Lizzy Caplan, Hayes MacArthur, and Adam Scott. Directed by Leslye Headland. Hopscotch Films. 84 minutes. MA15+. Restricted (strong coarse language, sexual references and drug use). Reviewer: Peter W Sheehan*.

This American comedy-drama film is based on the play by the same name written by the director of the movie, Leslye Headland.

Three young women are asked to be bridesmaids at a wedding of a woman they didn't like a lot at high school. The film has elements that are similar to "The Hangover" and "Bridesmaids" where young adults spend a night before the big day, swearing, drinking, having sex, taking drugs and slicing at one another verbally.



Regan (Kirsten Dunst), Gena (Lizzy Caplan) and Katie (Isla Fisher) are the bridesmaids at the wedding of Becky (Rebel Wilson). They are supposed to be friends, but they cut away at each other, and they reserve their anger most for Becky, who arouses their ire because they are jealous of the fact she has become engaged. All of them are promiscuous, egocentric and foul-mouthed.

At the end of the film, the characters are a little more likeable, but not a lot. All the women, for instance, find relationships that they think will be good for them.

Fun-times and meanness are mixed together too well, and the film engages in too much sex, aggression, lewd talk, and drug-abuse.

At the end of the day, there are parts of this movie that make one cringe. Rather than a biting funny satire, as it might have been, the film picks up some of the worst aspects of "The Hangover" and "Bridesmaids".

It is all about a trio of self-loathing individuals behaving foolishly, and searching for a way out of their angst.

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

Thoughtful view of the future

Robot and Frank. Starring: Frank Langella, Susan Sarandon, Peter Sarsgaard, James Marsden, and Liv Tyler. Directed by Jake Schreier. Sony Pictures International. 89 minutes. M (coarse language). Reviewer: Peter W Sheehan.

This is an American film about an ageing, lonely jewel thief, Frank Weld (Frank Langella), who has served two terms in prison. As Frank slips into dementia, his son Hunter (James Marsden), tries to find a way of avoiding committing his father to a nursing home, and

gives him a robot as a companion (voiced by Peter Sarsgaard).

The film takes place some time in "the near future". The robot walks, talks, cooks and cleans, and is programmed to be Frank's butler. It becomes part of Frank's daily life, and helps to keep Frank's brain active. It is also programmed to supply Frank with therapeutic care. Langella gives a wonderful performance as the old man who first resists and then slips into accepting the robot as his companion. This is a smart movie, well-scripted, well-acted, whimsical and thoughtful, and gently confronting.

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25 December

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Southern Cross Club

A guided tour of 'the Catholic thing'

Catholicism by Robert Barron. Image Books, 2011, 291 pages, \$39.95 hb. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.

The author, Fr Robert Barron, tells us that this book emerged out of the scripts that he composed for the 10-part documentary film Catholicism. This involved three years of planning, writing, editing and filming. There are 10 matching chapters in the book covering God, Jesus, Church, sacraments, Mary, liturgy and the saints.

Barron is the ultimate communicator. He is able to take the great truths of the Catholic faith and flesh them out with stories, biographies and images from throughout the centuries.

He likens "the Catholic thing" to a guided tour around a beautiful cathedral. To this end he has included many plates, some coloured to illustrate his words.

Speaking personally, I love visiting cathedrals and revel in the symbolism of their artworks. Wisely, for those who don't, Barron uses other methods as well to instruct and inspire.

His primary focus is on the person of Jesus Christ and the ineffable mystery of God. Logically, Barron draws on the scriptures, but also the works of philosophers and doctors of the Church. He has an intimate knowledge of Greek and of ecclesiology.

He gives a careful explanation of the eucharistic liturgy always emphasising the personal relationship worshippers have with Christ.

Barron devotes one chapter to Mary. Here he explores the issues that concerned the early Church about her motherhood.

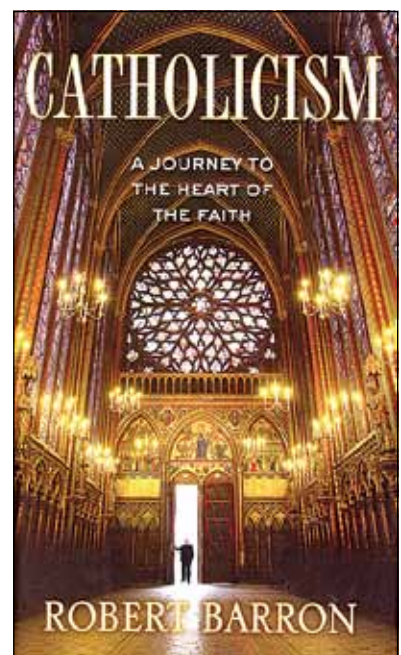
Briefly expressed these are: how could a mortal be the mother of God, and how could she have been conceived and born free from sin before Jesus redeemed mankind?

Barron covers the early years of the Church and the complementary missionary activity of "the indispensable men" Peter and Paul. I had two reactions. First, Christians have

always had healthy differences of opinion and, secondly, the role and influence of the Holy Spirit was uppermost in the minds of these great saints.

Barron gives a very clear exposition of the developed thinking about "the last things" - heaven, hell and purgatory - which will be a comfort to many. There is a wonderful chapter on the Communion of Saints. Barron is a communicator par excellence.

The only minor quibble I have is Barron's repeated use of Yahweh for the name of God. Some years ago Christians were asked not to use this exclusively Jewish terminology. A pity it occurs here.



Prophet who calls it how it is

The Journey of Faith: How to deepen your Faith in God, Christ and in the Church. By Fr Benedict J. Groeschel CFR. Our Sunday Visitor, 2010, 141 pages, \$18.95. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.

Fr Groeschel is a prolific writer of books on faith and spirituality. This one has been re-released in the light of the election of Pope Benedict to whom it is dedicated. It also contains an appeal for funds for the work of Fr Groeschel's religious order.

The original title was Why Do We Believe? As always he gives cogent and well-developed expositions of the Catholic faith. He concentrates on three areas, faith in God, faith in Christ and faith in Christ's Church.

He is unequivocal in countering common misconceptions, eg, Jesus didn't know who he was (what nonsense, explodes Groeschel) or only religious fanatics go to Mass every Sunday (it's one of the Commandments, for heaven's sake!).

He's definitely a man on a mission to explain and defend the truths of the Creed.

The chapter on how to grow in faith is very helpful. The best prayers of faith, he says, are said in times of difficulty and darkness.

There are four significant appendices. One of these contains quotes from the New Testament teaching on faith; another details the challenges to faith experienced by St Therese.

Here is a prophet calling it how it is and how it might be, if we have ears to hear.

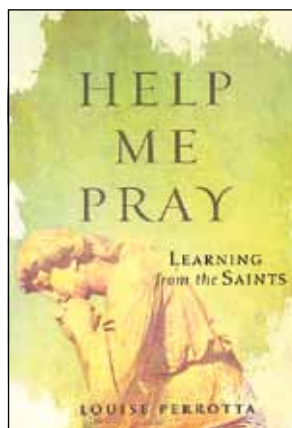
Saints show us the way to pray

Help Me Pray: Learning from the Saints. By Louise Perrotta. Servant Books, 2012, 152 pages, \$19.95. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.

This is not your regular "how-to" book on prayer. It is much more a conversation with friends on what works for them and might well work for you.

The author, Louise Perrotta, is an experienced writer who wisely keeps her own words to a minimum, letting the wisdom of the saints shine through.

She has incorporated examples from 2000 years of Church history. She lists brief biographies of each saint and the sources of their contributions in



the endnotes for each chapter. Not all are male religious; some were married and with families. The book is scholarly without being overwhelming.

The overall message that Perrotta conveys to us is that the saints were consistent and persistent

in prayer. Prayer is for all of us. "Everyone's invited", she says.

Not surprisingly we hear that the saints learned from one another. They were devoted to and inspired by the writings and example of previous generations. Their supreme source of adoration, praise, thanksgiving and penitence remained the psalms. They prayed to other saints for guidance. Perrotta calls this "one big prayer chain".

Help Me Pray is simple but profound, to be dipped into at any point to access and linger over the treasures within. Our saintly friends are only too willing to help us.

Dealing with loss

A spiritual guide for the unemployed. By Timothy Mullner. Ligouri Publications, 2011, 126 pages, \$14.95. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.

Years ago a priest commented to me that whenever people are in crisis that is the time when the Holy Spirit's compassion is most obvious.

I was reminded of this when I picked up this book. Timothy Mullner lost his job when his position in the company was eliminated.

He writes of the pain, the shock, the loss of self-esteem and the shame of being unemployed in a culture that values what we do, rather than who we are.

Mullner's book is addressed primarily to those searching for a job. Equally, it is of value as a type of road-map through grief. This is a beautiful, honest and courageous book, with a happy ending too. It is highly recommended.

Celebrating initiation

Sacraments of Initiation: A Theology of Life, Word and Rite. By Liam G Walsh. Hillenbrand Books, Chicago, 2011, HB, 438 pages, \$50.95. Reviewer: Margaret Ryan.

Prof Walsh OP has degrees in theology with special interest in liturgy and theology of sacraments.

He has taught in universities/ seminaries in Ireland, Rome and Switzerland and been active in ecumenism.

The first edition of this book, published in 1988, emerged from the sacramental theology of the Second Vatican Council.

Since then, the council's philosophical and anthropological assumptions have been challenged on theoretical and practical grounds, particularly by those who wish to restore the pre-Vatican II forms of celebration, sometimes with the flimsiest of theological justification.

The second edition, as the first, shows how the council resituated all the phases of the initiation tradition in a recovery of the great core values of the apostolic tradition.

This is a book for a specialised readership. It would be very valuable for researchers, students, parish and RCIA team members as a reference book (five stars). Though not a heavy text, it is very detailed and is supported by an extensive bibliography and a useful index.

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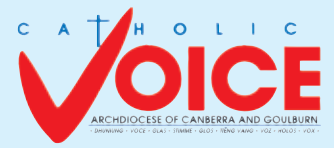
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Prayers

PRAYER to the Blessed Virgin Mary. O most beautiful flower of Mt Carmel, fruitful vine, Splendour of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. O Star of the Sea, help me and show me here you are my Mother. O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succour me in my necessity (make your request). There are none that can withstand your power. O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you (three times). Holy Mary, I place this prayer in your hands (three times). Say this prayer for three days. J T.

THOU O Mary, Help of Christians, who once experienced the hardship and difficulties of acquiring the temporal necessities of life, look with compassion upon him now faced with the same difficulties and help him to find a suitable employment. He is anxious, dear Mother, to be gainfully engaged in work that will relieve his temporal needs without in any way endangering the spiritual wellbeing of his soul. Direct him to employment that will enable him fittingly to provide for himself and the family. O Immaculate Mother, grant my request. I publish thy goodness that others may know the favour thou enjoyest with Almighty God unto His greatest honour and glory. J B.



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Saturday - 9 am
Sunday - 11.30 am (sung)

St Thomas More, Campbell
Sunday - 8.30 am

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canberraltm.blogspot.com

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.

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.

CAROLS IN MANUKA - 7.30pm, Tuesday, 11 December, at St Paul's Anglican Church and Thursday, 13 December, at St Christopher's Cathedral. Featuring the choirs of St Christopher's and St Paul's with brass and organ. Free admission, all welcome.

GRABBEN GULLEN CELEBRATION - 150th anniversary of St Mary's Church, Mass, 17 March, 2013..

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.

LIFE IN SPIRIT SEMINAR - 9am-3.30pm, Saturday, 1 December, Gowrie parish centre, run by Catholic Charismatic Prayer Group at Gowrie. Series of six talks on how to become holy. Cost \$10. Morning and after teas and lunches provided. Applications: Br Matt McKeon, telephone 0402 947 465, Olga Hector 6292 9170, Doris Lander 6286 5743, Jenny Winbank 6292 9490.

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 NEWLYMARRIED - 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.

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.

PRAYER VIGIL - Marian Movement of Priests 6th annual New Year's Eve prayer vigil, 8.30pm, St John the Apostle Church, Cnr Blackham & Chave Streets, Holt. Inquiries: Judy and Joe Mewburn, telephone 6254 6202.

SEMINARS ON THE HOLY SPIRIT - Opening to the Grace of the New Pentecost, five Sundays, 25 November to 23 December, starting with 7pm Mass, St Benedict's Church, Narrabundah. Topics include God's love, Healing love of God, New life, Receiving God's gift, Baptism in the Spirit, and Growth and transformation in Christ. Inquiries: Fr Bony Abraham, telephone 6295 7879.

SERRA CLUB OF CANBERRA - Rosary and Mass, 6.10pm, Thursday, 13 December, Holy Trinity Church, Curtin, followed by Christmas dinner at Southern Cross Club, Woden. Inquiries: John Malycha, telephone 6251 2912.

Written entries are invited for the February 2013 issue to: Catholic Voice, GPO Box 3089, Canberra ACT 2601, or e-mail ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au by Tuesday, 15 January, 2013. Entries which are accepted for this section are free, courtesy of sponsorship by the Catholic Development Fund.

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Women of the sesquicentenary

Parishes are being urged to organise celebrations to pay tribute to women who have helped to shape their communities as part of the Archdiocese's 150th jubilee.

The archdiocesan Commission for Women is encouraging women's groups between now and next April to organise an event, either at parish or deanery level to celebrate women, a particular woman or a group of people.

"Parishes or deaneries may wish to call together parishioners, parish groups and clergy to celebrate women's gifts and the complementarities of men and women in their parish identity over the years," commission chair Ms Judy Netting said.

"They may wish to host a day or evening of reflection or meeting to dis-

cuss the broad range of issues celebrating the participation of women in the Church throughout their local history.

"A public appearance or presentation by a prominent contributor to the current status of the Church in the region could be recognised."

She said the celebration could take the form of a display or exhibition of photographs, documents and relics or souvenirs highlighting the level of contribution of prominent people or groups in shaping the parish or deanery. It may be a Mass followed by a social gathering.

Parishes are welcome to invite the women's commission to attend any activity. Inquiries: Ms Judy Netting, telephone 6278 4163, email judynet-ting@yahoo.com.au.

BBQ with style at Ardlethan



More than 50 Ardlethan parishioners gathered to enjoy a barbeque and social day at the park in Beckom.

Ardlethan and Barellan parishes formed a new mission area with Temora parish in February.

In the new Mass timetable, Ardlethan misses out on social time with parish priest Fr Simon Falk as he needs to hurry away to Mass elsewhere on Mass weekends in Ardlethan.

Creative parishioners have sought other ways to spend time getting to know their new priest. The barbeque was one initiative as Fr Falk came back after Mass at Barellan that day. Encouraged by the turn out and enjoyable atmosphere of the day, parishioners plan to repeat the exercise soon.

Those who attended were treated to silver cutlery wrapped in white linen serviettes.

Top honour for Lumen's Christie

Lumen Christi College student Christie Fanning (right) has received state recognition for her HSC major individual drama project. Her project will be included in OnStage, a selection of the most outstanding HSC performances and projects in drama.

"Only a very small number of students participate in OnStage," her drama teacher Mrs Emma Hibbert said. "Inclusion means Christie is among the top few students in the state in the area of dramatic critical analysis, a wonderful achievement."

Her HSC work was a research project which looked at how young people are more positive and have greater self esteem when they are involved in the performing arts.



With Christmas comes celebrating our Saviour's birth and an opportunity to reflect upon another year and say a huge thank you to all who have supported the works of Catholic Mission. May you and your families have a safe, happy and holy Christmas and New Year.

Birth generally and children should remind us of the ever present and ongoing nature of Jesus' mission: that there are always others Jesus desires to share his love and life with.

Each Christmas our Children's Mission Appeal seeks to provide for projects that serve the needs of children in developing countries and remote Australian communities. By assisting faith communities in their care and outreach of the young, whether through orphanages, schools or in the wider community, Jesus' love and response can bring life and hope.

Access to clean water, food, security, education, health and catechetical materials, does make lasting differences, in Jesus name.

Please keep the young and those who seek to serve them in your prayers. Giving to the Children's Mission Appeal, or as a Children's Mission Partner, will make 2013 happier for many.

God bless and merry Christmas,
Deacon Joe Blackwell

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2013

January

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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Dates to remember in January

- 1** Feast of Mary, Mother of God; World Day of Peace
- 26** Australia Day
- 28** Australia Day public holiday
- 30** School term 1 begins NSW

February

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Dates to remember in February

- 4** School term 1 begins ACT
- 11** World Day of Prayer for Sick
- 13** Ash Wednesday
- 17** RCIA Rite of the elect, St Christopher's Cathedral
- 23** Saturday spirituality seminar, Rheinberger Centre, Yarralumla

March

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Dates to remember in March

- 1** Clergy ember day
- 5** Guinness and God
- 8-12** Canberra 100th birthday long weekend
- 11** Canberra Day public holiday
- 16-17** Historic display, Sts Peter and Paul's Old Cathedral, Goulburn
- 18** Feast of St Patrick
- 19** Fusion celebration of Josephites, Goulburn
- 22-24** Signadou 50-year celebration
- 23** Saturday spirituality seminar, Rheinberger Centre, Yarralumla
- 24** Palm Sunday
- 25** Chrism Mass
- 29** Good Friday
- 31** Easter Sunday

April

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28	29	30				

Dates to remember in April

- 2** Guinness and God
- 7** Divine Mercy Sunday
- 12** School term 1 ends ACT, NSW
- 12-14** ReFresh students' retreat
- 25** Anzac Day
- 28** World Day of Prayer for Vocations
- 29** School term 2 begins ACT
- 30** School term 2 begins NSW

May

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Dates to remember in May

- 2-9** Aust Catholic bishops meet
- 7** Guinness and God
- 11** Saturday spirituality seminar, Rheinberger Centre, Yarralumla
- 12** Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord; World Communications Day
- 12-19** Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- 13** Feast of Our Lady of Fatima
- 19** Pentecost Sunday
- 20-23** Clergy assembly
- 23** St Bede's Primary School 50th anniversary
- 24** Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians

June

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Dates to remember in June

- 4** Guinness and God
- 7** Feast of Sacred Heart of Jesus
- 10** Queen's Birthday public holiday
- 22** St Thomas More Forum annual dinner
- 22** Saturday spirituality seminar, Rheinberger Centre, Yarralumla
- 28** School term 2 ends NSW

July

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Dates to remember in July

- 2** Guinness and God
- 5** School term 2 ends ACT
- 6** World Youth Day commissioning Mass
- 7** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday
- 14** St Andrew's Church, Nimmitabel, Mass 150th anniversary laying foundation stone.
- 16** Feast of Our Lady of Mt Carmel
- 16** School term 3 begins NSW
- 22** School term 3 begins ACT

August

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Dates to remember in August

- 3** Saturday spirituality seminar, Rheinberger Centre, Yarralumla
- 4-11** National Vocations Awareness Week
- 8** Feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop
- 8** Vocations expo "Call Waiting"
- 15** Feast of Assumption of Our Lady
- 25** World Day of Migrants and Refugees

September

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Dates to remember in September

- 1** Father's Day Appeal
- 3** Guinness and God
- 6** Clergy ember day
- 8** Child Protection Sunday
- 14** Saturday spirituality seminar, Rheinberger Centre, Yarralumla
- 20** School term 3 ends NSW
- 27** School term 3 ends ACT
- 27** Feast of St Vincent de Paul
- 27-29** ReFresh students' retreat
- 29** Social Justice Sunday
- 30** Family and Community Day public holiday ACT

October

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Dates to remember in October

- 1** Guinness and God
- 1** Feast of St Therese of Lisieux
- 4** Feast of St Francis of Assisi
- 4-5** Archdiocesan catechist conference
- 7** Labour Day public holiday
- 9** School term 4 begins NSW
- 14** School term 4 begins ACT
- 15** Feast of St Teresa of Avila
- 20** Mission Sunday

November

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Dates to remember in November

- 1** All Saints Day
- 2** All Souls Day
- 2** Saturday spirituality seminar, Rheinberger Centre, Yarralumla
- 8** School leaders' formation day
- 9** Carmelite fete, Red Hill
- 11-15** Clergy retreat
- 24** Feast of Christ the King
- 25-1 December** Aust Catholic bishops meet

December

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Dates to remember in December

- 1** World AIDS Day
- 3** International day of People with Disability
- 3** Feast of St Francis Xavier
- 6** Clergy ember day
- 9** Feast of Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin
- 13** School term 4 ends secondary ACT
- 14** Saturday spirituality seminar, Rheinberger Centre, Yarralumla
- 18** School term 4 ends all students NSW
- 20** School term 4 ends primary ACT
- 25** Christmas Day
- 26** Feast of St Stephen; Boxing Day
- 29** Feast of the Holy Family