



Meet our college leaders – middle pages

FREE

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On pathway to priesthood



South Tuggeranong parishioner and former Marist College student Paul Nulley is on the last leg of studies for the priesthood. This year, we will travel the last stretch of the journey to priesthood with him. In his first column, he writes:

“My focus this year is to prepare myself as best I can to receive the gift of the priesthood. However, a lesson I learn time and time again is that it is not my doing: things often do not go to plan or as I expected and yet, upon reflection, I am always amazed to see how God was masterfully at work in the apparent mess.”

* Read more, page 2.



Ainslie resident Amy Linsell gets in with an early donation for Vinnies’ doorknockers Barbara and Martin.

Vinnies appeal aims high

Tens of thousands of people across the Archdiocese will benefit from donations to the St Vincent de Paul Society’s annual doorknock appeal this month.

In the last financial year, nearly 37,000 people were helped by the society, and more than \$1.3 million was given in assistance including food and utility and rent payments.

This year’s appeal target is \$350,000 with Vinnies expanding the doorknock for the first time to Goulburn and Batemans Bay.

Archdiocesan president Mr Frank Brassil said the target was challenging and getting

Doorknock to target Goulburn, Batemans Bay for the first time

enough volunteers was critical to its success.

“It is always the case that the number of people out there doorknocking is proportional to the amount of money you get back,” he said.

Mr Brassil said the prime focus of the doorknock was to raise money to assist the society’s emergency relief programs. This included the aid individual

conferences gave in food and other assistance, as well as youth and special works programs such as homeless services and the night patrol.

The number of requests for aid from Vinnies was reducing, he said.

“We find there are fewer calls but those who do call require more sustained help,” he said.

“Rising utility costs and rentals are critical problems for people.

“Politicians do care but it is not an easy problem to do something about.

“I believe governments should go back to building basic, good quality housing, nothing expensive or elaborate, in a range of sizes and styles. One type doesn’t suit everyone.

“Governments in Australia need to formally recognise housing as a basic human right.”

Mr Brassil said the society had greatly improved its emphasis on fund-raising and marketing over the past few years. It

has also been actively seeking volunteers to take part in its work.

Broadening the geographic area of the doorknock to include Goulburn, which had the longest continuously operating Vinnies’ conference in the Archdiocese, and Batemans Bay was a sign of things to come.

Other major country centres would be considered in the future.

For more information on the work of the St Vincent de Paul Society, to volunteer for the doorknock or to donate, go to www.vinnies.org.au.

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From near and far

MORE feed-back from our popular supplement from November last year on the 150th anniversary of the Archdiocese. Maureen Hennessy, of Cootamundra, says the large picture on the front page was from the Holy Name Society convention at Cootamundra in 1954. We are also indebted to Sr Benedetta Bennett, archivist of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, at North Sydney, who complimented us on the historic supplement. She says Sr Amanda Hurney (pictured above) at Araluen was a Sister of St Joseph. Sr Amanda was at Araluen from 1921 to 1928. The Sisters of St Joseph were at Araluen from 1886 to the end of 1928.

Catholic Healthcare has appointed Emeritus Professor of Accounting at Australian Catholic University Prof Jack Flanagan as chair of trustees. Prof Flanagan, from Sydney, succeeds Sr Joanne Kirk RSM. Catholic Healthcare provides aged care services in the Archdiocese at Blakeney Lodge, Tumut, and Maranatha Lodge, Batehaven.

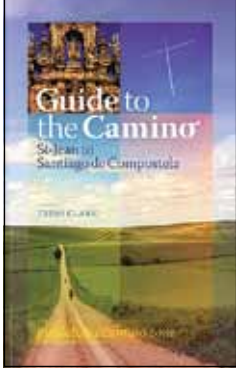


Peter Phelan writes that the December issue brought back many memories. "They include another little known connection to Archbishop Eris O'Brien concerning the smoke damage to St Raphael's in Queanbeyan where we lived briefly in 1966 before moving into Canberra. Between 1947 and 1949 while we were living in Willoughby, St Thomas Church suffered major damage from the same cause. When repairs had been completed, the church was re-opened by Auxiliary Bishop Erisford O'Brien.

The Josephites have lost another of their dearest members, Sr M Tarcisus Saunders, who died peacefully last month in Goulburn, four weeks short of her 102nd birthday and in her 79th year of religious profession. Ganmain-born, she spent many years as a teacher and was congregational leader for 12 years and first president of the Australian-New Zealand Federation of Sisters of St Joseph when it was founded in 1967.

Come on camino with us

We have two copies of Australian author Trish Clark's latest book *Guide to the Camino to give away. To be in the running, tell us your favourite retreat or pilgrimage destination. Send your entry to Catholic Voice, GPO Box 3089, Canberra 2601, or, better still, email us at ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au. Competition closes Friday, 8 February. Book reviewer Margaret Ryan, who recently tramped the camino to Santiago de Compostela herself, has this to say about the book:*



have been increasing exponentially in recent years.

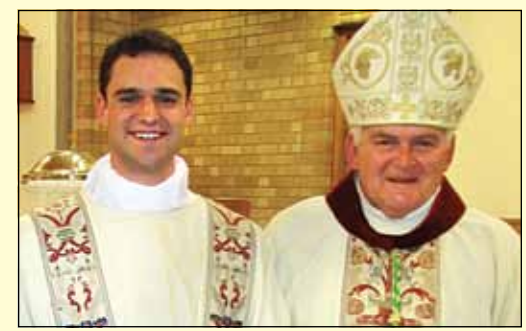
The book is a glossy A5 sized guide containing most things a potential pilgrim needs: how to prepare; suggestions as to what to carry (a backpack is assumed, but other options are included); information on mobiles, money, credit cards, insurance, toilets, cafés/bars; and a very basic Spanish dictionary. Whereas many similar guide books focus on accommodation in pilgrim hostels, Clark lists a range of hotels.

Clark divided the journey into 34 stages, allowing two rest days. Each stage describes information that serves as a DIY travel kit. There are descriptions of places/festivals of interest; distances, altitudes and geographical features; some details about local food, drinks and accommodation; specific daily directions and a map; the contact details and opening times of pilgrim offices; destination churches and Mass times; and a memory/experience that Clark had at that part of the route. The author is very respectful of Catholic traditions and feasts.

There are many colour photos pertinent to each stage.

The book may inspire some to prepare to go on pilgrimage, or could be a lovely gift for someone who has already made the journey. It would have been an excellent reference for me on my recent pilgrimage. 5 stars!

On the path to priesthood



South Tuggeranong parishioner and former Marist College student Paul Nulley (pictured above with Bishop Max Davis) is on the last leg of studies for the priesthood. This year, we will travel the last stretch of the journey to priesthood with him. He writes:

ON the eve of another seminary year, my seventh, I return to Corpus Christi College Carlton with mixed emotions and expectations. I am excited about my priestly ordination, which should be sometime in the second half of this year. I look forward to the opportunity of doing my synthesis, a 25,000 word paper that is meant to bring together all my studies. Also, without doubt what I enjoy the most, and will miss the most, is the fraternity.

Traditionally the deacons return before all the other students and as an act of service they unpack all the rooms for the other seminarians. However, one of the more pressing tasks will be taking the two-minute stroll down to Lygon Street to hear about everyone's holidays: two were given scholarships to backpack around the Holy Land; others were sent on mission experiences in Soho, London, and Calcutta, India; and some of the overseas students were given home leave to return to Vietnam, Korea and the Philippines.

Leading up to Christmas I had a placement at Kambah parish. I am very grateful to Fr Peter My and the community there who welcomed me. For the first time I exercised the ministry as deacon after my ordination in October. Although brief, I will always remember this time fondly. During the holidays I also had my four wisdom teeth removed, joined the crossroads pro-life pilgrimage walking from Canberra to Melbourne, spent some time down the coast, and caught up with family and friends.

My focus this year is to prepare myself as best I can to receive the gift of the priesthood. However, a lesson I learn time and time again is that it is not my doing: things often do not go to plan or as I expected and yet, upon reflection, I am always amazed to see how God was masterfully at work in the apparent mess. Yes, I have been most convinced of my vocation when I have realised that I cannot do it; it is in every sense a gift. In this column I invite you to journey with me as I prepare to receive this sublime gift.

• Paul was born in Canberra in November 1987 to Lou and Gabrielle Nulley. He has an older brother Jonathan (aka Jono) married to Joey who live in Turner and a younger brother Daniel (Dano) who is studying at ANU. After school he worked in the Department of Communication IT and the Arts for a year before joining the Seminary of the Good Shepherd in 2007. He was moved to Corpus Christi College in Carlton to complete studies for the priesthood at the beginning of 2010 after completing a six month pastoral placement in Cootamundra with Mgr Kevin Barry-Cotter.



Catholic Education director Mrs Moira Najdecki (left) ready to turn the first sod at Nicholls with Gungahlin parish priest Fr Mark Croker and John Paul College foundation principal Mrs Catherine Rey.

First students for our newest college

More than 100 students will launch the Archdiocese's newest school John Paul College in its temporary home while work continues this year on the \$29 million construction at Nicholls.

The first students will attend a specially designed facility at Mother Teresa School, Harrison, this year.

Catholic Education director Mrs Moira Najdecki said 2013 "begins another exciting new chapter in the rich history of the Archdiocese.

"As we celebrate the centenary of Canberra we also celebrate the opening of our newest school, John Paul College.

"Across the Archdiocese there are no fewer than seven schools who will be undertaking major building works throughout the year.

"Some of these will receive funding support from the Government, but it is testimony to the efforts of the local communities that these projects will be possible."

Another major project will be undertaken at St Clare's College, Griffith, including a new canteen area and undercroft, renovation of the Clare Wing, and other facilities being added.

At Hennessy College, Young, a new hall and trade training centre will be built, along with other refurbishments, at a cost of more than \$3.6 million.

St Gregory's, Queanbeyan, will get a new classroom block to replace transportable classrooms at a cost of \$1.2 million.

Refurbishment of a classroom block at St Francis of Assisi, Calwell, will cost \$1.2 million.

The administration section and library will be refurbished at Good Shepherd School, Amaroo, at a cost of \$800,000.

Refurbishment of administration and staff facilities at St John Vianney's, Waramanga, will cost \$525,000.

Prayers for terminally ill bishop

Prayers, including a novena to St Mary MacKillop, are being said for Townsville Bishop Michael Putney, who has been diagnosed with incurable cancer and has only a few months to live. Bishop Putney, 66, has been

bishop of Townsville since 2001. "Bishop Putney is very calm and peaceful about his condition and entrusts his future to God," acting Vicar General of Townsville Diocese Fr Michael Taylor said.



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Letters return

Letters to the editor will return to Catholic Voice from next month. As indicated by Mgr John Woods in the accompanying article on this page, lack of charity often was a hallmark of the letters column. Contributors need to be mindful of this if they are to have their letters published.

Letters should be no more than 300 words; a name, address and daytime telephone number must be provided. Names will be published. Letters may be edited for reasons of length, clarity and legality. They should be sent to Catholic Voice, GPO Box 3089, Canberra 2601, or email to ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au.

By **Archdiocesan Administrator Mgr John Woods**

I trust that you had an enjoyable break and that you are embracing the New Year with renewed purpose.

Permit me nonetheless to reflect on our inherent frailty or the fact of sickness and our need for one another.

Sickness afflicts all of us sometime. Bishop Michael Putney of Townsville, a man of wisdom, keen intellect and a pastoral heart, has terminal cancer at age 66. A mate of mine from school has just finished a course of chemotherapy. Each Sunday parishioners pray for the sick and frail.

When seriously sick we are not in control and we are forced to take stock of our lot.

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick reassures the afflicted that they are not alone and that their lives have purpose in Christ. Pope Benedict in his Message for the Twenty-First World Day of the Sick (13 February) reminded us that Jesus, like the Good Samaritan, "looks into the abyss of human suffering so as to pour out the oil of consolation and the wine of hope".

As Mary, in the "one embrace of faith and love" identified with

Sharing our pain, sharing our wisdom

the miracle of Bethlehem and the victory of Christ's resurrection, so too are we called to respond to sickness from a trusting perspective: "It is not by sidestepping or fleeing from suffering that we are healed, but rather by our capacity for accepting it, maturing through it and finding meaning through union with Christ, who suffered with infinite love" (Spe Salvi, 37).

Sickness can also be moral and institutional. The effects of original sin are no respecter of persons or groups.

With that awareness, we pray that the Church's Council for Truth, Justice and Healing will assist the Royal Commission into Child Sexual Abuse to find the truth, pursue justice and assist healing.

The strategic response of the Church needs to be complemented by a spiritual renewal. The Fridays of Lent and throughout the year, being Days of



Penance, are most appropriate for this. Might we also seek renewal in the Sacrament of Penance or Reconciliation?

While making the work of the Royal Commission a personal prayer intention, and a collective one at our Sunday Masses, perhaps we could also spend regular time in prayerful reparation for broken lives?

In union with Jesus, who alone is able to reconcile all, we would identify with the pain of the victims and the perpetrators. We hope that through him, with him and in him who died, descended into hell and rose from the dead, new life will emerge.

Archbishop Mark's motto, Sanguis et Aqua/ Blood and Water (John 19:34) reminded us that from Christ's death came life. We seek new life in addressing the deep wound of sexual abuse.

The Royal Commission will reflect on individual stories and the systemic response or lack of it. Truth will emerge in dialogue.

I write this on 18 January, the 10th anniversary of the devastating Canberra firestorm.

Today's commemorations affirmed the resilience of the human spirit under God's grace and the sense of community manifest in adversity. Today also saw Lance Armstrong confess to Oprah Winfrey and the celebration of the funeral Mass for Ned Kelly.

In his homily Mgr John White, of Wangaratta, said: "We don't make the judgements. We don't know what goes on in people's hearts and souls and minds. God does that. Ours is a church of saints and sinners and we are not here to decide which side Ned falls on." The human story is always a mixed bag.

This centenary year of Canberra and the 150th jubilee of our Archdiocese also calls forth stories to help us better understand our past as we write our chapter.

Indeed, our scriptures and our liturgy are the faith commu-

nity's story and ritual proclamation of God's graciousness.

Archbishop Frank Carroll's motto Nova et Vetera/Things New and Old (Matt 13:52) captured the creative tension between past understandings and a new awareness.

At our 1989 Synod, Archbishop Frank affirmed the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in both the fullness of God's revelation in Christ and in the "one deposit of faith" (Scripture and Tradition).

He then affirmed the same inspiration in every baptised-confirmed Christian, such that "unless each one contributes his or her share of wisdom the whole truth is not available to the group."

Affirming that the Spirit moves in each of us is a fitting segue to the decision to reintroduce the Letters to the Editor page to the Catholic Voice as of next month.

I know that Archbishops Carroll and Coleridge were disheartened by the lack of charity in some previous letters. We cannot attack the integrity of another and claim to love God (1 Jn 4:20).

The Code of Canon Law insists that all the faithful have the right to a good reputation (c. 220) and the right to contribute to the common good of the Church (c. 212/3). While acknowledging that "everyone is entitled to his own opinion, but not to his own facts" (Moynihan), surely a sign of a healthy individual and community is respectful listening?

The Church is a "hierarchical communion"; it is not a democracy but neither is it a dictatorship. For an individual or a group "to listen with their answer running" can stifle the often subtle movement of God's Spirit, be it in the teaching office of the Church, in the "signs of the times" or in the wisdom of an individual.

We need to discern together, as the Body of Christ and with all people of good will.

I conclude by presuming to paraphrase and contextualise Pope Benedict's comment on sickness with reference to the sharing of wisdom in our letters:

"It is not by sidestepping or fleeing from the issues that we grow in faith, but rather by our capacity for accepting the challenge of them, maturing through our wrestling with them and finding meaning through union with Christ, who is love and truth".



Thinking Retreat?

The Emmaus Journey

Mon 4 – Fri 8

Fr Leo Coffey CSsR

For those retired or in the second half of life. A happy blend of 'holiday' and 'holy day'. This gentle experience leads to a sense of wholeness & well being. Accommodation is single room with shared facilities \$400

Song of songs

Mon 11 – Mon 18

Fr Patrick Corbett, CSsR

From its setting in the heart of the Bible, The Song has attracted more commentaries than any other Book in the Old or New Testaments. Its music is heard from the Garden of Genesis to the wedding feast of the Lamb in the final book of the Bible. This retreat will draw on many of these commentaries especially Francis de Sales, John of the Cross and St. Alphonsus. The Retreat is gentle, prayerful and contemplative. Ensuite \$600 – Single room with shared facilities \$500

Directed Retreat

Mon 11 – Mon 18

Richard White

Making sense of our lives by listening to the Spirit revealing the rich meaning in everyday events. Ensuite \$600 – Single room with shared facilities \$500

The Family—The Heart of the Church

Fri 22 – Sun 24

Fr Michael Gilbert CSsR

A retreat centering around the family led by Fr Michael Gilbert editor of The Majellan magazine specialising in topical articles about family life from a Christian perspective. Room with shared facilities \$240

"Come to your Senses" Art Weekend.

Fri 5 – Sun 7

Sister Helen Barnes rsj. Shared facilities \$240

The Resurrection:

Catching the Spark and recognising it in others.

Mon 15 – Mon 22

Sister Helen Barnes rsj and Richard White. Shared facilities \$500

The Mystics – Friends for our lives.

Mon 6 – Mon 13

Sr Moya Unthank rsj. Shared facilities \$500

Directed Retreat

Mon 3 – Mon 10

Making sense of our lives by listening to the Spirit revealing the rich meaning in everyday events. Fr Joseph Carroll, CSsR and Richard White. Shared facilities \$500

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Colourful welcome for Indian cardinal

By Damir Govorcin, of The Catholic Weekly

Cardinal George Alencherry, Major Archbishop of India's Syro-Malabar Catholic Church, is keenly aware of the buzz of excitement his historic visit to Australia generated among Malayalee Catholics settled in Australia.

"The significance of my visit is really an exchange of ecclesial experience between the Church here and the Syro-Malabar Church in India and all over the world," the 67-year-old said.

Along with addressing the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, the archbishop visited Syro-Malabar Malayalee communities in Sydney, Canberra, Brisbane, Townsville, Melbourne, Perth, Darwin and Adelaide.

"There are 35,000 Syro-Malabar Catholics in Australia and it's a privilege for me to be the first head of the Syro-Malabar Church to visit my own community," he said.

"Our Church is missionary and is vibrant in its Catholic practice. Malayalee Catholics have been coming to Australia as immigrants for the past 35 years, mak-

ing a significant contribution to the Catholic community here.

"India is a country of religions. Almost all of the major religions are there, such as Hinduism, Sikhism, Islam, Christianity and so on. Living together is almost the culture in India."

Cardinal Alencherry said Syro-Malabar Catholics were well known for "their cohesion in Catholic life. Every Catholic family of the Syro-Malabar Church practises their faith," he said.

"They go to the Church, they receive the sacraments, they pray and lead comparatively high levels of moral life.

"We have our own way of celebrating the Holy Eucharist – our liturgy celebration is unique to us.

"Everyone in the family prays in the evening together. They recite the Rosary prayer uniting the whole family. We have our own system of fasting during Lent and in preparation for Christmas. We don't eat meat and fish, and become vegetarians."

One of 10 children raised in a devout Catholic family in Kerala in the south-west of India, he has two brothers who are priests and a sister who is a religious.



TOP: Cardinal George Alencherry, flanked by Fr Francis Kolencherry, is given a traditional welcome at St Christopher's Cathedral. RIGHT: The colourful procession. ABOVE: A large crowd greets the visiting cardinal inside the Cathedral.

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a centenary of canberra's catholics

A fiery champion of the battlers

Life in comparatively affluent Canberra can be particularly difficult for those people "doing it tough". Such battlers had a true champion in Ethel McGuire. A social worker by profession, Ethel reached into almost every aspect of the life of Canberra as she stood up for the rights and the human dignity of her clients.

In a brilliant piece in The Canberra Times just after her death in March 2011, Jack Waterford colourfully recorded Ethel McGuire's approach to her profession. "Ethel once commented to me that it had yet to be demonstrated that the average social worker contributed more to the community than the average dry cleaner. She thought most modern social workers ineffably middle-class. That did not quite mean that they were beyond redemption – because Ethel, a fervent if tactless Catholic, did not believe anyone beyond redemption. But she thought many all too smug and comfortable. She did not necessarily trust their instincts, as she trusted her own. Ethel was of the Irish-Catholic working class and didn't apologise for it."

Well, not quite. Ethel's niece, Sister of Mercy Mary Wickham, giving the eulogy at her aunt's funeral spoke of her as "the eldest surviving child of Jane and Thomas Cannon of Sunshine, Victoria. The genetic mix was a potent one of Irish Catholic and Scots Presbyterian... Ethel made regular visits to Melbourne during my childhood and beyond, and the ensuing conversations and heated arguments around the table about politics, religion, trade unions, the public service and family matters echo in all our heads. Ethel was a formidable debater, a scathing opponent and an intellectual virago."

Archbishops, commissioners of police, magistrates, departmental heads and other senior bureaucrats in Canberra would recognise what Mary Wickham was talking about.

In the 22nd in a series of portraits of significant Catholics of the national capital, Bishop Pat Power tells of a Canberran who played a significant role in the Archdiocese's response to supporting people in need.

Ethel was no respecter of persons when it came to standing up against any form of unfairness, especially toward those who found it hard to stand up for themselves.

Losing her father when she was only 11, Ethel as the oldest in the family helped her mother with the raising of the younger siblings. She took on part-time jobs to help out in the family and won a scholarship to secondary school and always had a great appreciation of education, especially of the gift of reading. A scholarship to the University of Melbourne enabled her to pursue an arts degree and undertake studies in social science while caring for homeless women through the Legion of Mary.

Mary Wickham traces the continuing story. Out of this university experience "a formidable social worker was born. One of her first jobs as a social worker was in Perth, where she met her complement, the mild-mannered Kevin McGuire. If Ethel was fire, Kevin was surely as solid and reliable as the earth."

Kevin and Ethel were married in Melbourne at Newman College Chapel in 1953 and moved to Canberra in 1955 with Kevin's public service career. The McGuires spent a short period in Hotel Acton before moving to their Yarralumla home where they would spend the next 50 years.

Ethel McGuire managed to live out her vocation as wife, mother, welfare officer, advocate, friend and much more without any loss of integrity. Indeed, her whole life was one of integrity.

She pioneered social welfare in Canberra, was a Justice of the Peace and a life member of



ABOVE: Ethel McGuire (second from left) with Good Samaritan Sr Placid Tait, daughter Jane Stanton and husband Kevin at Jane's graduation in 1983 at the then Signadou College.

LEFT: With Kevin and grandchildren Michael and Bridget Stanton. BELOW: Ethel and Kevin.



the ACT Council of Social Services. Appreciating her own hard-won educational opportunities, she impressed the importance of education on her own children and those she looked after in the community.

That is not to say that life was without its tensions. Ethel's daughter, Jane, recalls many occasions when the evening meal was interrupted by a knock on the door from the police, resulting in her mother going off to attend to an emergency. Yet, the positive side of all that was that all five children inherited from both their parents a strong sense of justice and a care for those less fortunate.

Neither Jack Waterford nor I would want to give the impression that Ethel was always at loggerheads with other professionals. She worked closely with magistrates Clarrie Hermes and Ron Cahill and her good friend,

psychiatrist Maxine Tennant, and many others who wanted what was best for children and families at risk. Ethel seemed to know everyone in Canberra and those wide contacts were beneficial to all concerned.

In the homily at her funeral Mass, I acknowledged the influence which this valiant woman had on the Catholic Church's social apostolate in Canberra.

"Ethel McGuire played a significant part in leading the Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn in its response to supporting people in need.

"She guided the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary as they set up Marymead in Narrabundah and continued as a member of the board to collaborate with those responsible for care and development after the Sisters were no longer able to be present.

"She had a key role in the formation of Catholic Social Services in Canberra with its early beginnings in marriage guidance and counselling.

"She was part of a formidable team with people like Prof Pat Pentony, Fathers Barney Lynch and Kevin Barry-Cotter, Kath Durie, Bryan Docherty and Fr Tommy Wright. They were all strong characters and there were many robust discussions.

"Ethel was a great help to me as a young priest in the late 1960s. I was often in her office in Green Square in Kingston getting some advice on our clients of common concern in Causeway.

"Neil Harrigan, the current director of CatholicCare has the greatest admiration for Ethel, even though he says with a smile that Ethel was a bit suspicious of him because his background is as a psychologist, not as a social worker."

As Canberra prepares to celebrate its 100th birthday, it can do so with pride, but Ethel McGuire would be warning us to make it a happy birthday for all our citizens, especially those in danger of missing out.

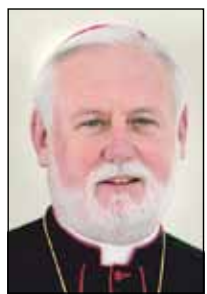
New nuncio is English-born 'Ready, willing' to assist commission

Liverpool-born Archbishop Paul Richard Gallagher, reported to be the only English-born nuncio in the active service of the Holy See, has been appointed apostolic nuncio to Australia. He succeeds Archbishop Giuseppe Lazzarotto, who is now serving in Jerusalem.

Archbishop Gallagher, who turned 59 in January, comes to Canberra after serving as apostolic nuncio to Guatemala since 2009. Archbishop Gallagher was ordained priest in

1977, entered the Holy See's diplomatic service in 1984 and rose through the ranks to become apostolic nuncio firstly to war-torn Burundi in Africa in 2004, and then to Guatemala.

He has also served in Tanzania, Uruguay, the Philippines, in the Secretariat of



State at the Vatican and at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg.

In Burundi, he succeeded Irish-born Archbishop Michael Courtney, who was killed by gunmen on his way back to the nation's capital.

He has a doctorate in canon law and undertook post-graduate studies in international diplomacy in Rome.

He speaks English, Italian, Spanish and French.

The Catholic Church stands ready to assist the Royal Commission into Child Sexual Abuse in any way that is deemed effective, chief executive officer of the newly-formed Truth, Justice and Healing Council Mr Francis Sullivan said.

Mr Sullivan, a Canberran, was responding to the announcement of the terms of reference for the royal commission by Attorney General Ms Nicola Roxon.

"We welcome the appointment of commissioners and once again, commit to fully cooperate and engage with the royal commission and its deliberations," he said.

"At its heart, the royal commission needs to let the full truth come out and ensure that the dignity of those who have been damaged by these atrocities is preserved, that they are supported, and not subject to a reliving of their experiences.

"It is essential that the commission's process contribute to the healing of the victims, and assist them to process what has happened. The Church stands ready and willing to assist in any way that is deemed effective. Apart from participating fully in the

royal commission, the Church will embark on its own processes of atonement and healing to bring light, hope and compassion to this very dark episode."

Former NSW Supreme Court judge and former Commissioner of NSW's Independent Commission Against Corruption Mr Barry O'Keefe QC has been appointed chairman of the Truth, Justice and Healing Council.

The council will include representatives from the community. It will comprise men and women with professional and other expertise and will seek to have an effective on-going relationship with people who have been damaged by the sexual abuse scandal.

Mr Sullivan has held positions as secretary-general of the Australian Medical Association, chief executive of Catholic Health Australia, and consultant to the Pontifical Counsel for the Pastoral Care of Health Care workers at the Vatican.

He is an adjunct professor at Australian Catholic University and was chairman of the university's Canberra campus review panel.

New priest for Central Canberra parish

Current parish priest of Bega Fr Bernie Patterson will become administrator of Central Canberra parish after Easter. In time, his responsibility will also include Campbell parish.

In thanking the Dominicans for their pastoral care of the people of Central Canberra parish, archdiocesan administrator Mgr John Woods said the Dominicans would soon consolidate their efforts in Holy Rosary parish, Watson.

Fr Emil Milat and Fr Joshy Thekkinedath have been appointed archdiocesan chaplains to World Youth Day in Brazil this year. This is Fr Milat's third and Fr Thekkinedath's first WYD experience.

Deacon Paul Rummery has withdrawn from diaconal duties and from his role as parish pastoral associate in Moruya and assisting in Batemans Bay. "Paul has travelled many kilometres and offered tremendous service on the South Coast," Mgr Woods said,

"His personal and engaging manner has endeared him to all manner and ages of people. While Paul will still assist from his home at Tuross, he is looking forward to a more relaxed pace with Jo and their extended family."

Responsibility for St Francis Xavier Church, Hall, now rests with Gungahlin parish. All bookings for baptisms and weddings should be made through Holy Spirit parish, Gungahlin, telephone 6242 9622.



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A mix of modern



Uniting Church, O'Connor.

Saving creation: it's not just up to God

By Thea Ormerod, president of Australian Religious Response to Climate Change

January's terrible heat-waves and catastrophic bushfires have been costly and heart-breaking. Before them were the years of drought and then the floods. All have been especially challenging for rural Australia. For Christians, is it enough to trust in God, or is more being asked of us?

Most of us would agree that Australia's climate is becoming more volatile. The scientific evidence supports this perception. Scientists tell us global warming may not be creating the weather events but they are certainly intensifying them. It is the extreme nature of these events which is so devastating.

Most scientists would add that the evidence for humanity's role in creating this more volatile climate is becoming ever more unimpeachable.

Globally, humanity must find ways of living in harmony with the environment rather than simply exploiting it. Business-as-usual is no longer an option. Thus, investment in renewable energy has been outstripping investment in non-renewables internationally.

Leaders in nearly all Christian denominations have issued strong statements similar to the Australian bishops' statement of 2005, *Climate Change: Our Responsibility to Sustain God's Earth*. They urge the faithful to make lifestyle changes that reflect a caring for Creation, for the sake of those who come after us.

What stops us is the feeling that any effort we make will be costly to us, yet ultimately futile. Christians will tell themselves to trust in God's providence. Let's do that, but trusting in God also means believing that God will make our small actions count.

There are many things we can do. We can travel less, buy less stuff, insulate our homes, eat less meat, use less air con, sell the freezer, hang out the clothes rather than using the drier or switch to GreenPower with your existing electricity company.

Cutting your carbon footprint isn't as radical as it sounds. As a society, we were burning 30% less fossil fuel in 1990 and we lived pretty well then! Thinking big picture, we also need to get behind political change. This election year, think about which candidates support the development of renewable energy and more ambitious emission reduction targets. ● Cont Page 14.



The old and the new... Br Clem (top) at work water divining ... "I have seen the force of the pull on a piece of willow stick strip the green bark off the stick while someone was holding it." The changing face of the National Arboretum (above) as work continues on the 250-hectare site ravaged by the bushfires of 2003 and now featuring different threatened and symbolic trees from around Australia and the world.

Few of the hundreds of thousands of visitors who will enjoy the wonders of Canberra's National Arboretum in the years ahead are likely to be aware of the gift of one man who could be said to be at the source of its success.

He is 84-year-old Redemptorist brother Clem Holz, from St Clement's Monastery, Galong. Well, he's actually 84-1/2, because "at this age you have to count the halves", he says.

Br Clem is a water diviner with a God-given gift his uncle persuaded him to use at the age of 18 while he was still on the family farm in the Hunter Valley.

Last year, water consultant Mr Austin Goodfellow, who has employed Br Clem's skill to great effect previously, called him in to help find a more secure water source for the arboretum.

With a stick of weeping willow and pieces of rusty wire in hand, Br Clem was driven slowly through chosen areas of the arboretum while he leaned out of the vehicle's window watching the pull on the stick.

He found three spots where he believed streams were flowing under the surface. Further investigation showed one had a reasonable flow, one was dry and the third is a winner.

"That one we hope will provide a high-yielding bore; we hope it will be greater than 10 litres-a-second," Mr Goodfellow said.

"This bore together with other sources on site we hope will make the arboretum sustainable into the future."

All achieved with what Mr Goodfellow describes as "mixing modern science with bush traditions".

Br Clem's success is not surprising.

He says 75 to 80 per cent of times he finds the volumes of water people need. "I suppose I must be successful or people wouldn't ring me up," he said.

And people certainly do ring him up. In the 10-year drought from 2000 "the telephone didn't stop ringing" with pleas for help from families on the land.

In those years, he travelled to practically every corner of NSW except the north coast, often divining for water on three or four properties a day, sometimes up to six days a week – "I did 10 one day at Yass, but that was a bit much".

One of the biggest thrills he got was when a man approached him after a talk he gave in a country town and told him, "You saved my marriage."

He believes finding water for drought-stricken farmers in desperate straits has prevented more than a few suicides as well.

Br Clem says he is still learning about his gift – "it's something you're born with, you can't acquire it".

He does it all with pieces of rusty wire ("it's better than galvanised") and a stick. A piece of fresh green weeping willow branch is best for him because "it has life in it".

Mind you, some people use bike pedals, he says. "It's all about whatever you get results with."

Not only does Br Clem find water, but he is able to estimate quality, flow and depth. Quality is important and to determine that Br Clem holds out in front of him an L-shaped piece of wire in each hand. If they then cross over the water is fresh. If they span out, it's hard. Simple. If you have the gift.

Using a method called the Bishop's Rule – nobody is quite sure where the apt name came from – he is able to establish at what depth the water lies.

Br Clem says water divining, or dousing, is based on the passage of electricity through the body. There is no scientific explanation, which upsets scientists. What upsets them more, though, is that results can be obtained using an old piece of wire.

science and bush tradition



ABOVE: Water consultant Mr Austin Goodfellow points to areas of the arboretum site that will benefit from water pumped from the bore Br Clem has sourced.

For those who may believe it is all mumbo-jumbo, Br Clem is quite happy to provide an on-the-spot demonstration, or to get the observer to have a try themselves.

"I have seen the force of the pull on a piece of willow stick strip the green bark off the stick while someone was holding it," he said.

"You couldn't normally rub it off with your hand, so something must be happening."

Br Clem entered the Redemptorists in Newcastle and came to Galong in 1952.

Except for a couple of short periods away, the monastery and its surrounds have been his home ever since.

Time has changed the way St Clement's is used. In the 1970s, the dairy and the school closed and the monastery took on a new role as a retreat centre. In 2006, it was refurbished and now provides accommodation for more than 110 retreatants, conference delegates and community groups.

Br Clem made the final decision to become a religious brother after reading the story of a man dying of cancer. He had worked on a farm all his life and had not married.

When asked if he had any regrets he said that, as a young man, he had felt called to the religious life but had put the decision off. The longer he put it off the easier it became to put it off. "I didn't want that to happen to me," Br Clem said.

Now, 60 years later, Br Clem continues to find satisfaction helping property owners find precious water. With the last big drought passed he doesn't have the same call on his time, but has no plans to hang up his metal rods just yet.

Motorists who speed along the Tuggeranong Parkway in Canberra each day may not take the time to admire the growing 250-hectare arboretum near Lake Burley Griffin. Nor will many appreciate the role played by the man from the country with the simple piece of rusty wire and branch of willow. But Canberrans of the future and visitors to the capital from around the world will benefit from the mix of modern science and the bush.

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

14,000 Seminarians need your help!

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

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

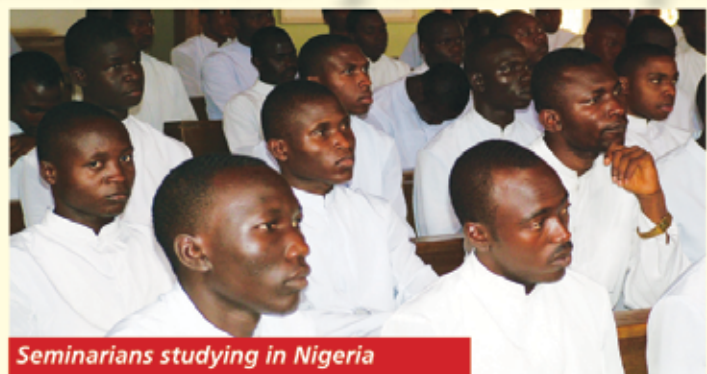
But this good news is tempered by the fact that many dioceses in Africa lack the necessary financial resources to be able to accept all the candidates they consider suitable and who will be needed in the diocese.

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

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

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

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Seminarians studying in Nigeria



The centre piece of the Eucharistic rosary, designed by the Vatican Rosary Makers, features the hands of the priest during the Consecration, with the reverse side beautifully depicting the Merciful Jesus by Sr Faustina Kowalska. The crucified Christ on the grapevine takes inspiration from the Gospel story where Christ says "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few".



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ABOVE: Marist College - Matthew McMahon (college service captain), Damon Mudge (college captain) and Liam Highmore (college vice captain).

ABOVE RIGHT: Lumen Christi Catholic College - (from left) back: college captains Meg Reckord and Dylan Sheedy, vice captains Kate Smith and Isaak Gillard. Front: House captains Baringa, Kate Black and Benjamin Claxton, Monaroo, Kiarah Sayer and Murray White, Gudu, Brittany Wallis and Jack Jennings, Bobbera, Anna Cusack and Budjarn Williams.

RIGHT: St Mary MacKillop College - Luke James (sports captain), Grace Wilkinson (faith & community), Nathan Backer (college captain - boy), Morgan Rosin (college captain - girl), Daniel Dwyer (performing arts), Jayme Brietkopf (sustainability captain).



ABOVE LEFT: Carroll College - (from left) back: Anthony Patrizi (Xavier house captain), Alice Fetterplace (Chisholm captain), James Jeffery (college captain). Front: Justin Roberts (Chisholm captain), Angela Davies (college captain), Matthew Jenkin (MacKillop captain), Absent: Faith Glover (MacKillop captain), Tania Hillier (Xavier captain), Tayla MacDonald (indigenous leader). ABOVE: St Francis Xavier College - Andrew Dudley (college vice captain), Ashly Vu (college captain), Nicholas Arganese (college captain) and Georgia Johnson (college vice captain). LEFT: Merici College - Front: Ellyse Dahl (school captain), Ashleigh Meers (vice captain). Second Row: Hope Cooper (Seiwa house captain), Stephanie Markee (Brescia vice captain), Karina Koeck (Ningil vice captain), Jacqueline Dowling (Balgo captain), Zoe Cleary (Balgo vice captain), Georgia Grow (Tulloch vice captain), Carmelina Tammaro (Tulloch captain). Third Row: Megan Bourne (Seiwa vice captain), Dana Milde (Penola captain), Taylor Jankuloski (Penola vice captain). Fourth Row: Maddison McDonald (expressive arts captain), Aisha Roncon (Brescia captain), Angelica Windsor (SRC captain), Leigh Kalsbeek (sports captain), Monique Pasfield (spiritual captain), Rachel Porter (social justice captain), Hayley Waring (sustainability captain), Hannah Solly (Ningil captain).



ABOVE: Daramalan College - captains Jo Collis and George Southwell.

ABOVE RIGHT: St Clare's College - (from left) back: Hannah Arnold (house captain), Melanie Moore (house captain), Stephanie O'Connor (house captain), Sara Hitchman (house captain), Nicola Phillips (college leader sports), Hope Fraser (college leader social justice), Rebekah Waller (house captain), Lucie Winkler (house captain). Middle row: Carmelina Paragalli (house captain), Shauna Manley (house captain), Rachelle Hardaker (house captain), Eryn Sharp (house captain), Madeleine Ogden (house captain). Front Row: Alice Brown (college leader arts and culture), Stephanie Anderson (house captain), Madeline Cardone (house captain), Sachini Muller (house captain), Sallie Faye Rodriguez (college captain), Brooke Commons (house captain), Tiana Liddell (house captain), Maeve Bannister (college leader faith and community).

RIGHT: Hennessy College - (from left): Dr Peter Webster (principal) Nicholas Moore, Caitlin Brown, James Niddrie, Katelyn Peek, Charlie McClymont, Claire Parker, Alex Penfold, Maddy Pollard, Brendan Maxwell, Jayne Curlew, Patrick Cavanagh and Taylor Holland.



St Edmund's College - Tom Larkin (co-vice captain), Patrick Egli (captain) and Matthew Quinn (co-vice captain).



Our new college leaders for 2013



RIGHT: Trinity Catholic College Goulburn - (from left) front: Captains Isaak Walkom and Zoe Caldwell. Second row: Vice captains Leonard Buckley and Victoria Taylor. Third row: Rebecca Jensen (McCauley house captain), Chloe Montgomery (Rice house captain), Jessica Murray (Keating sports captain). Fourth row: Alexandria Nelson (MacKillop house captain), Jayme O'Brien (Keating house captain). Fifth row: Thomas Lewis (McCauley house captain), Will Atkinson (Rice sports captain), Josh Houghton (Rice house captain). Back row: Jett Bennett (Keating house captain), Nicholas Cooley (McAuley sports captain), Patrick Penning (MacKillop house captain).





Canberra girls ahead in HK

Two Canberra girls for the first time have been selected head senior girl and head junior girl of the Australian International School Hong Kong

They are Hayley Reed (above right), a former student of St Thomas the Apostle Primary School, Kambah, and Pamela Murphy, previously at St Clare of Assisi Primary School, Conder.

The families of both students live in Hong Kong and plan to stay for a few more years.

Parents Joanne and Cameron Reed and Anthony Murphy are teachers at the school and taught at schools in the Archdiocese before coming to Hong Kong.

Julie Murphy was the face of Catholic parents in 2005 Canberra election campaigning.

Yarns around the farm

The Josephite spirituality program, Batehaven and Beyond, will continue this year with two offerings at rural centres this month and next month.

Stories with a Twist in the Tail – Yarns around the Farm will be held from 10am to 3pm on Thursday, 14 February, at Southern Cross Village, Temora. Presenter will be Sr Carmel Drew RSJ. Donation requested.

Those wanting to attend should contact Sr Mary Murphy RSJ, telephone 6978 2585 by 9 February.

Reconciliation – Embracing God's Love will be presented by Sr Mary Murphy RSJ from 10am to 3pm on Friday, 8 March at the town library, Tumbarumba.

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College farewells its first head

Lumen Christi Catholic College Pambula has farewelled its foundation principal.

Mr Paul Carroll, who takes up the position of principal of St Clare's College Griffith this year, led Lumen Christi from humble beginnings with an intake of fewer than 100 students into a college of substantial proportions.

One of his achievements was his role in the commencement of Lumen Christi as a K-12 college, the only one of its kind in the Archdiocese

"I believe the college has developed a sound reputation in the local area, and we have been blessed with a committed and professional staff, supportive parents and students who want to do their best," Mr Carroll said.

"The offer to become principal of St Clare's College came as a big surprise.

"I am humbled to be given the opportunity to lead another school and I will leave Lumen Christi with a combination of sadness and wonderful memories.

"The opportunity to oversee the six building projects has been a wonderful experience and there will be one more in 2014 to complete the college facilities.



"The college has brought a significant injection to the local community in capital works and recurrent funding. "One of the joys was to see the introduction of the primary-aged students to the college.

"Watching the little ones learn how to write and read for the very first time is priceless."

Mr Carroll said the role of foundation principal was "an honour and a privilege and I have enjoyed the position immensely since beginning in late 2000".

ABOVE: College captains and kindergarten students come together to bid farewell to foundation principal of Lumen Christi Catholic College Mr Paul Carroll, who is the new principal of St Clare's College in Canberra.

Guests travel for silver celebration

Narooma parish priest Fr Joseph Tran celebrated the 25th anniversary of ordination with about 200 family members and friends at Our Lady Star of the Sea Church.

He concelebrated Mass with Bishop Pat Power and seven priests, several of whom had been seminary classmates either in Saigon or at St Patrick's, Sydney.

Members of his family travelled from the US and Germany to join in the celebration.

A close friend, Fr Michael Thao, travelled from France and brought Monique, his "adopted mother", with him.

In addressing the congregation, Bishop Power remarked on Fr Tran's strong commitment to the priesthood and to serving



At the celebration (from left): Fr Nam, Bishop Pat Power, Fr Laurie Bent (hidden), Fr Joe Tran, Fr Kevin Murphy (back), Fr Michael Thao, Fr Julian Wellspring (back), Fr Remy Lam and Fr Anthony Nguyen.

the needs of all parishioners.

He noted that almost half the congregation were Vietnamese families who had migrated to Australia, become Australian citizens and raised children.

These migrants continued to make important contributions to the national economy and Australian life in general.

These and similar families demonstrated what could be achieved through

compassionate national immigration policies.

Lunch was served after Mass and members of the Butt family of Jugiong entertained with songs.

Call to Connect

The **Call to Connect (CTC)** women's ministry have starter kits now available for those wishing to start a parish or interparish prayer/sharing group.

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Michelle leaves her marks at MacKillop

St Mary MacKillop College at Tuggeranong honoured its departing deputy principal curriculum with the official opening and blessing of a the Michelle Marks Centre for Scientific Enquiry.

The college also opened and blessed the Maria Philpot Staff Centre and the Robert and Joanna Barr-Smith Library.

Member for Canberra Ms Gai Brodtmann opened the facilities. She spoke about how she was inspired during her school days by teachers like Mrs Marks.

Archdiocesan administrator Mgr John

Woods and college chaplain Fr John Armstrong gave the blessing.

Staff and guests, including Canberra Liberal Party leader and ex-student Mr Zed Seselja and foundation principal Sr Noelene Quinane, paid tribute to Mrs Mark's 24 years of service to MacKillop.

She arrived at Padua Catholic High School (now MacKillop's Wanniasa campus) as a science teacher in 1988. She held positions



ABOVE: Mrs Michelle Marks with current principal Mr Michael Lee.

of faculty coordinator, pastoral coordinator, assistant principal for pastoral care, and campus head at both the Isabella and Wanniasa campuses. In recent years, she has overseen the implementation of the Australian curriculum as deputy principal curriculum. It was fitting that MacKillop name its new science wing in her honour – a centre dedicated to getting the best out of each student.

Graduation day for our catechists



ABOVE: With Deacon Matt Ransom (back, left) are (front) Kerry Shepherd, Anne-Maree Shepherd, Joachim Fatiaki, Jennyrose Brosch and Margo Oliver. Course trainer Mr Matt Casey is next to Deacon Ransom.

Five archdiocesan catechists will use the skills learnt during a Certificate III in Education Support course in their work as scripture teachers in public schools. The group received their certificates from archdiocesan religious education coordinator, government schools Deacon Matt Ransom after Mass at St Christopher's Cathedral. The course, run by CatholicLIFE for archdioc-

san catechists, gives free to the volunteers a nationally recognised accreditation that normally costs \$1500.

The students may also use the qualification to gain work as a teacher's aide or assistant in a school. Other Australian Catholic dioceses are considering buying the program due to state governments requiring greater qualifications for catechists.

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Saving creation not just up to God

• From Page 8.

Whole communities can respond too. There are dozens of encouraging examples of Christian parishes, schools and organisations around Australia which have variously switched to Green-Power, installed solar panels, promoted the Lenten Carbon Fast, advocated for political change or pursued energy efficiency. These communities show that change is possible.

The Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC) has a vision of more and more Christian communities taking concrete steps to help care for Creation. We are currently launching an inspirational and informative online Climate Action Kit which can be found on our website: www.arrcc.org.au.

The extreme weather events we have experienced are the way Creation has of crying out. The call is for humanity to restrain our consumption, to protect the ecological balance that allows life to thrive on this planet.



Parishioners pay tribute to PP

About 100 parishioners, relatives and friends joined parish priest Fr Paul Huthnance to celebrate a special Mass of thanksgiving at Cooma on the 25th anniversary of his ordination.

The symbolic meaning of the occasion was enhanced as Fr Huthnance used the vestments and sacred vessels originally made for his ordination ceremony.

After Mass, celebrations continued in the parish centre.

As Fr Huthnance is parish priest not only of Cooma but also Bombala, many people came from Bombala, Delegate, Nimmitabel, Adaminaby, Numeralla and Jerangle. There were also special guests from further afield.

His Judith and Treg, from Canberra, as well as uncle Frank and sister Nicole with her three children, also attended.

LEFT: Clare Nowland helps Fr Paul Huthnance cut his silver jubilee cake.

Farewell to Good Samaritans

A eucharistic celebration will be held this month to mark the closure of the Good Samaritan presence and ministry in Queanbeyan.

The Good Samaritans started in Queanbeyan on 10 February, 1879.

Bishop Pat Power will celebrate Mass at 9am on

Sunday, 10 February, followed by refreshments in St Gregory's School hall, MacQuoid Street, Queanbeyan.

A feature of the commemoration will be the turning of the sod for new classrooms and parish centre to be named the Sister Lucy Nihill SGS Centre.

New game category

The Australian Catholic Office for Film & Broadcasting has welcomed the introduction of an R18+ classification for computer games in all states and territories.

"The Catholic Church's preferred position is that R18+ material should not be available, but welcomes this outcome as a way of strengthening our morally imperfect system to protect children," office director Dr Richard Leonard SJ said.

Molly awarded for her service

Lumen Christi Catholic College student Molly Campbell was acknowledged for her significant contribution in community service with a special award at Government House in Sydney.

Molly received the Order of Australia Association (NSW), Certificate of Commendation for Community Service.

The award was presented by NSW Governor Prof Marie Bashir.

Molly's parents and grandparents attended the ceremony along with assistant principal of Lumen Christi Mr Adrian Wels.

Molly, 17, has been recognised for her contribution to the Pambula Surf Lifesaving Club, especially with the special nippers program, to the Sapphire Coast Community Band and the pony club over the past five years.

Molly hopes that her award will encourage other young people in the south east to get involved in community service and volunteering.



Molly Campbell with NSW Governor Prof Marie Bashir.

"Molly has many great qualities and her willingness to contribute to the community in the way she does is a credit to herself," then principal Mr Paul Carroll said.

"She is a wonderful ambassador for the college."

Molly acknowledged the many volunteers and friends she has worked with across the various sectors and the wonderful communities of Pambula and Bombala that continue to support and inspire her.

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The deadline for all editorial contributions is the 15th of the month. Early material is welcome. Catholic Voice is published 11 times a year on the first weekend of every month except January.

Jesus' shocking capacity to enjoy life and to give it up

In a lecture recently, I made the point that Jesus shocked people equally in both his capacity to thoroughly enjoy his life and in his capacity to renounce it and give it up.

It was one and the same Jesus who, at a lavish supper with a woman at his feet bathing him in perfume and affection, could tell his uncomfortable hosts that he was thoroughly enjoying the moment without a trace of guilt, and who could tell the same people that the deepest secret of life is to give it all up in self-sacrifice without a trace of thought for yourself.

After the lecture, a young man came up to me and questioned me about the first prong:

How could Jesus give himself over to that kind of enjoyment and pleasure?

My answer: Precisely because of the other part, his capacity to renounce. One relies on the

other, like the two wings on an airplane.

Jesus had a shocking capacity to enjoy life because he had an equally shocking capacity to give it up. That is also true of many other aspects of Jesus' life and ministry.


He could condemn sin, but love the sinner; be fiercely loyal to his own, even as he shocked them in his love of those outside their circle; and he could walk in the greatest freedom anyone has ever known, even as he acknowledged that he did nothing on his own.

And that kind of complexity, that kind of capacity to hold near opposites together in a healthy tension, is one of the marks of greatness. Great people do exactly that. Let me offer some examples.

Dorothy Day, soon to be canonised a saint, stood out for exactly that reason. She carried

Ron Rolheiser

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



both the non-negotiable Gospel-demand for social justice as well as the non-negotiable Gospel-demand for proper morals and proper religious practice. She was radical and pious.

Usually we do not see the same person leading both the peace march and the rosary. Dorothy did both. Most of us can't. We can do one or the other.

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin's writings continue to inspire people across every type of divide for the same reason.

He had the capacity to hold together at one and the same time two, seemingly competing, loves. He was born, he says, with two incurable loves and sensitivities: a love of God and a sense of the other world that he could never betray and an equal love for this physical world and its beauty.

Both were undeniably real to him, both took his breath away, and he tried to live in a

way so as to not betray either of them, despite the tension this created in his life. It gave his writings a rare depth. Most other writing, secular or religious, honours only one of those poles to the denigration of the other.

We see the same kind of complexity in the writings of Therese of Lisieux. On the one hand, her focus is radically other-worldly, the vision of someone who sees this world as ephemeral, flimsy and of little value.

Yet, at the same time, she shows herself as almost unhealthily attached to the good things of this world, the love of family, of nature, of beauty. Therese could write eloquently about wanting to die and leave behind this shadowy film we call life and at the same time feel resentful if she wasn't receiving daily affirmations of love from her family. And she saw no contradiction here because there isn't any. Both are healthy, when they are held together.

St Augustine offers another example. He wrote more than 6000 pages and, within those pages, he said things that have helped trigger anything from negative feelings about sex to forced religious conversions; but he also said things that laid the roots of most orthodox Western theology for the past 1700 years.

He was able to hold a lot of things in tension.

Sadly, we are not his equal and instead pick and choose pieces of his thought to the detriment of his overall vision.

Carlo Carretto, the Italian spiritual writer who died recently, also stood out for his capacity to hold seemingly contrasting truths in tension.

It is rare to see in the same person his particular combination of piety and iconoclasm, his fierce loyalty to the church and his strong criticism of it.

For him, the two depended upon each other. One is healthy only because the other is also there.

Great minds and great persons properly honour complexity.

Nowhere is this clearer than in Jesus. He carried all truth, in all its complexity.

Unfortunately, we, his followers, are not up to the master. That's why there are hundreds of different Christian denominations today.

That's also why there are liberals and conservatives both in our churches and our society.

We find it easier to carry smaller pieces of the truth than to carry the tension of being loyal to its bigger picture.

But simplicity and clarity aren't always our friends.

Sharing in the spirit of Timor Leste

Canberra man Peter Gately tells of his latest missionary experiences in Timor Leste

The very hour I boarded the plane to fly north from Canberra to Dili for missionary work late last year the forearm of St Francis Xavier – the famous missionary who spread the word of Christ through East Asia in the 1500s and who co-founded the Jesuits – was on display at St Christopher's Cathedral.

In the same row of seats on the plane from Sydney to Darwin and later travelling to Dili was Teresa Verdial de Araujo (Alita), CEO of Fundasaun Alola, Kirsty Gusmao's organisation established to help women and children's health and education.

Since beginning overseas missionary work in 2000 with Fr Adrian Meaney MSC, I have established Sails Ocean Sails(SOS) in 2005, a system of re-distribution of used sails from yachts and sailing boats from wealthy developed countries to the developing nations.

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

In the first day we trekked a couple of kilometres up the Maubara Valley over the rocky "river" bed ; being the dry season no water was present.

Sr Filomena and half a dozen Timorese climbed with me, and we eventually reached the spring that was the sole source of above-ground water for the valley, comprising approximately 5000 people.

The quality of the water at the spring was OK but the quantity was equal to one house tap turned partly on.

Drinking water is only available to those with a tank or with enough finances and luck to dig and find underground drinking water on their properties.

Other people wanting water have their children carry a bucketful of brown-coloured water kilometres into their homes every day.

Children and young people do not demand that the community or government owe them a living, and accept their life.

At the same time, they are eager to find out as much as



ABOVE: Peter Gately, Sr Filomena and Timorese locals at the spring, the sole source of above-ground water for the area. BELOW: Handing over a sail to a local fisherman.



possible about new technologies and the world in which they live. They accept where they are and appreciate what they have. It

was a delight to meet the children at the Maubara orphanage. I enjoyed playing with the kids in the villages.

At Tibar I stayed at Klibur Domin, the TB clinic, and undertook surveying for them.

I am designing a sewerage reticulation system for their group of buildings.

Across the road from the clinic is the live-in dormitory Catholic school run by Sr Adelheid, of the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart (Tibar). She was born on the Indonesian island of Flores and has spent time teaching in the Philippines and elsewhere in the Pacific.

She has 103 students at the school, plus other sisters and staff, about 120 people.

The only water they have is a single tank, about 6 feet by 6 feet, smaller than many Canberra home tanks. Underground water is pumped up from a bore and will last as long as it is drinkable.

Yes, I did eventually give fishermen some sails.

In the article published in Catholic Voice after my first visit to PNG in 2000, I ended with the question: "The people of PNG are willing to receive, but are we willing to give?" I would like to reverse that question for Timor and ask: "The people of Timor Leste are willing to share their spirit with us, but are we willing to receive the spirit?"

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HOME BASE



Gerard Heffernan

New Year Financial Hangover?

If you 'over-indulged' in the *spending department* this Christmas, there is no point burying your head in the sand and sit around feeling sorry for yourself hoping it goes away! You need to investigate the situation and see what options you have available.

It costs you nothing but your time to look and be able to make an informed decision. There is nothing worse than regretting sometime in the future that you could have made a positive move now that could save you lots of sleepless nights and maybe even some money?

Try to avoid carrying personal debt on your credit and store cards if you can. These only end up costing you hundreds and in some cases thousands of dollars more if you don't treat them carefully!

Never be afraid to ask what other options are available and NEVER be embarrassed to think that you would be the only one that let your credit card get a little 'out of hand'.

Happy New Year!

Gerard Heffernan

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Streisand makes charming return

The Guilt Trip. Starring: Barbra Streisand, Seth Rogen, and Julene Renee-Preciado. Directed by Anne Fletcher. 95 minutes. Paramount. M (coarse language and sexual references). Reviewer: Peter W Sheehan*.

This American comedy-drama is based on a screenplay written by Dan Fogelman, and tells the story of an inventor, Andy Brewster (Seth Rogen), who invites his widowed mother, Joyce (Barbra Streisand) to share a car journey across America with him for eight days.

The movie is the first leading film role for Streisand (barring ensemble pieces) for 16 years, and is essentially a road movie with a difference, focusing on the relationship between mother and son, who are forced to get to know each other better.

Andy goes on the trip to sell his invention, which turns out to be a drinkable cleaning fluid, but his mother tells him of a lost love she had before she married his father. After Andy calls at his mother's house to begin his journey and say goodbye he decides to take her with him to find the man his mother loved (also called Andy), whom he never knew existed. Along the way, he meets a Kmart receptionist (Julene Renee-Preciado), who is a party to a chain of rejections for the product he is trying to market. He has no success at all with his marketing pitch, until he begins to take his mother's advice.

The movie has good chemistry between mother and son. There is a constant repair-

tee between Rogen and Streisand that captures intimately the relationship between them. Rogen plays the role of a son "put down" by a wilful mother, but there is never any doubt of the affection between them. When the time comes for mutual admission of the attachment, it occurs without the sentimentality a film of this kind might otherwise have had.

There is also a certain charm to some of the film's dramatic moments that flows from the easy relationship that Andy and Joyce forge together. Streisand plays the Jewish mother to stereotype, but not too heavily so, and, Rogen brings excellent timing to his role of the son who would prefer his mother was a little less revealing than she is, especially in public.

The morals of the movie reinforce strong mother-child bonding, but in a very obvious way. The film depends on situational comedy, but you know where it is heading when it shows Andy frequently regressing from adulthood to being an



Seth Rogen is Andrew Brewster and Barbra Streisand is Joyce Brewster in *The Guilt Trip*, from Paramount Pictures.

embarrassed child, trapped by the guilt-producing gaze of a strong Jewish mother who is all-knowing.

This is a friendly movie with two seasoned performers, and typical of most road movies, it shows character development of the people who embark on the journey. It has a lot of charm and many sweet moments. Entertaining and funny, but also predictable.

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

Historical movie one of the best

Lincoln. Starring: Daniel Day-Lewis, Sally Field, and David Strathairn. Directed by Steven Spielberg. 153 minutes. Twentieth-Century Fox. M (mature themes, violence, and coarse language). Reviewer: Peter W Sheehan*.

This thought-provoking, historical drama is set at the conclusion of the American Civil War when President Abraham Lincoln held office as the 16th President of the United States.

Lincoln faced an extraordinary crisis of conscience. Amid the horrors of a brutal war, Lincoln believed passionately in the freedom of all peoples, and the immoral nature of slavery. He knew that a quick conclusion of the civil war, would bring a peace that could mean the voting down by the House of Representatives of the abolition of slavery.

Lincoln's moral crisis was to act to end slavery, or to act precipitously to end the war in a way that would mean the defeat of his amendment on slavery. He was told by the confederate forces that repeal of the slavery amendment would be an acceptable condition to them for their surrender. Not

willing to compromise, he chose to continue the war.

Daniel Day-Lewis gives the performance of his career as Lincoln, and is ably supported by Sally Field as his highly strung, emotionally unstable wife, Mary, and by David Strathairn, as William Seward, the person who worked loyally against his own judgment to secure the necessary votes for Lincoln's critical amendment. For his performance, Lewis deserves fully his Oscar nomination for best actor.

The film is visually stunning, and never loses contact with the political reality that lies behind the complex politics of Lincoln's presidency.

This is a tightly edited movie of sweeping dramatic force, which is acted magnificently. The special power of Day-Lewis's performance is that you are made to feel as if it defines what President Lincoln must really have been like.

Spielberg has directed one of the best historical movies made for a long time.

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

Survival trek a winner

Lore, an Australia movie filmed entirely in Germany, has been named film of the year by the Australian Catholic Film Office.

Lore tells the story of Hannelore, the oldest daughter of five children. At the end of the war, her Nazi parents instruct their children to journey from the Black Forest to their grandmother's home in Hamburg to ensure they are not arrested by the Americans.

The jury commended *The Sapphires*.

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The 'great work' of good Pope John

The Good Pope: The Making of a Saint and the Remaking of the Church - The Story of John XXIII and Vatican II by Greg Tobin. HarperOne, 2012, 267 pages, \$29.99 hb. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.

Last year was the 50th anniversary of the commencement of Vatican II. Understandably this anniversary has spawned a number of publications which are "looking forward, looking back" as Slim Dusty sang so eloquently in another context.

One such book is *The Good Pope*. The author, Greg Tobin, has written extensively about the papacy and Catholicism.

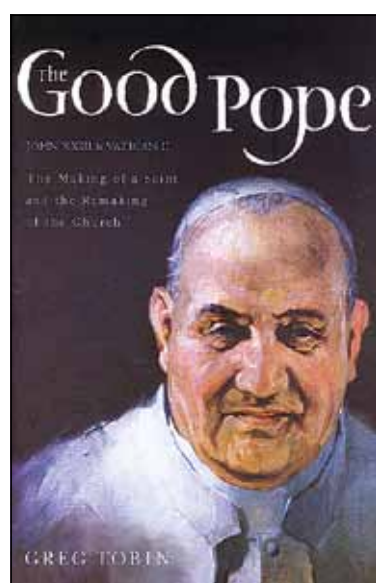
Tobin has had a career in publishing and higher education and has featured on a range of media in the US and internationally. A previous biography, *Holy*

Father, concerns Pope Benedict XVI.

Tobin poses many questions in his attempt to probe the mystery of the now Blessed Angelo Roncalli.

Perhaps the two most pertinent of these are "How did this pious, peasant priest engage the protean, secular, fast-moving, contemporary world so distinctively and effectively?" And how was he able to "dramatically open the doors of the Church to meaningful, necessary and faithful change?"

Tobin divides his book into three sections. Part 1: Priest and Protector concerns John's childhood, seminary life and priesthood, the Great War and after; his years as a Vatican diplomat in Bulgaria, Greece, Turkey and then, perhaps most memorably,



in France before being appointed Patriarch of Venice.

Much of this history is quite well-known from other cited sources. As well, Tobin draws on

Pope John's diaries which he kept most of his life. Published as *Journal of a Soul*, John's common sense and humour shine through.

Part 2, *The Soul of a Pope*, describes the days after John's election. It details the living and working conditions in the Vatican and outlines the powers of the Pope at that time. Almost immediately, John decided to convene an ecumenical council by 1963. When told by members of the Curia that this would be impossible by then John replied, "Good, then we'll have it in 1962".

This faithful son of the Church recognised with outstanding clarity that what was needed was "aggiornamento" - updating. Tobin devotes the remainder of this section to the preparations and opening ses-

sions of the Council, which is fascinating in itself.

Part 3, *Father of the Council*, covers the proceedings of the Council, during which the Pope stepped aside but was influential in the background. Tobin gives a commentary on the several encyclicals Pope John wrote during his short papacy including his last and summative *Pacem in Terris*. He died in early June, 1963.

The "great work" of which he spoke often was left for others to further and to complete. John's unique characteristics of humility, humour and sanctity made him a popular and influential figure world-wide, quite surprisingly for those who had regarded him as an interim Pope.

Greg Tobin has done a masterful job in recalling Il Buono Papa to our collective memories.

A compelling study of Vatican II

Vatican II: The Battle for Meaning by Massimo Faggioli. Paulist Press, 2012, 199 pages, \$19.99. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.

The adversarial sub-title of Faggioli's book about Vatican II, ie, *The Battle for Meaning*, is a justifiable description of its contents.

In the 50 years since Vatican II began there has been a clash of narratives and a clash of interpretations about this Council.

There are two major differences in viewpoints. One is that Vatican II is seen as a rupture in the history of Catholicism and the other is that Vatican II is in continuity with the tradition. Opposite poles, indeed.

Massimo Faggioli, a graduate from Bologna, is now an associate professor of theology in Minnesota. He has authored many articles on Vatican II and contemporary Catholicism.

He has a firm grip on the issues and is painstaking in his research. Almost one-third of his book comprises the bibliography and notes. This, in itself, makes it an invaluable resource for the student.

The book canvasses many of the viewpoints that were present and have emerged since the Council, for example, the entrenched positions on liturgy and ecclesiology. Faggioli simplifies the arguments and presents these in an accessible

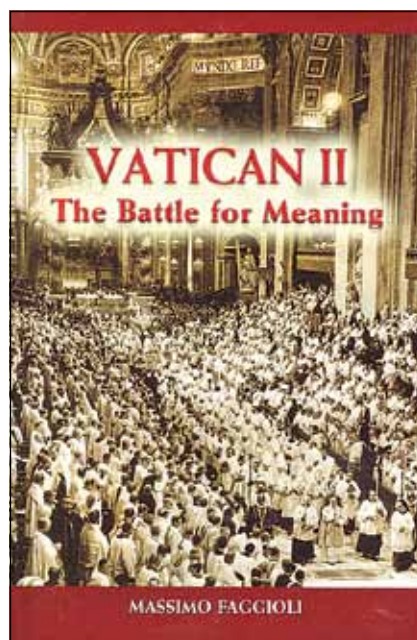
form for the general reader and the academic alike. He is remarkably comprehensive and cogent in his presentation.

In picking out some of his other pearls, I found his understanding of the hermeneutics (interpretation) of liberation and feminist theology to be decisive. His definition of neo-Augustinian and neo-Thomist attitudes (broadly that of the conservatives and progressives) was enlightening.

Other areas of immediate interest to me were his exposition of the Lefebvrian schism; the ecumenical advances which arose from Vatican II (which I think many of we Catholics overlook); the recent influence of Benedict XVI, and the necessarily brief but telling conclusions about the Church in Australia. Clearly we have entered a new phase.

This is a compelling and reasoned study from a master in his subject.

It is essential reading for all interested in the impact of Vatican II on the Church and indeed on the world of today.



Inspiring choices Spiritual journey of discovery

God's Word 2013, Daily Reflections. St Pauls, \$14.95. The New Community Bible, \$11. Reviewer: Sue Orchison.

This book gathers together the daily liturgical readings of the Mass for each day of the year, a reflection on the readings and a space for diary notes or meditation thoughts. It has many applications. I find it useful when preparing music for Sunday Mass as the readings are on hand and a reflection can inspire my choices. It is colourful and well presented. Readings are from the New Community Bible. In launching the international edition of this Bible, Archbishop Mark Coleridge described it as "such a gift. May it find its way into many hands and hearts and homes".

Journey to the Heart. Christian Contemplation through the Centuries. Kim Nataraja (ed). Orbis Books, pb, 428 pages, \$59.95. Reviewer: Margaret Ryan.

The 30 chapters of this book are focussed on a selection of many of the better known Christian mystical exponents and authors, including Jesus, Sts John and Paul, Patristic leaders and the Desert Fathers, Meister Eckhart, the English and Spanish mystics and those of the modern era (Evelyn Underhill, Etty Hillesum, Thomas Merton, Bede Griffiths and John Main).

The essays are based on talks given by authors including Esther de Waal, Laurence Freeman, Shirley du Boulay over four years in a "Roots of

Mysticism" course at the London Christian Meditation Centre. Though the talks were aimed at non-specialist attendees, they are formally and concisely written, and assume an educated audience. It pays to read closely to be able to respond to author's judgements, such as Freeman's depiction of Martha of Bethany as a "domestic terrorist".

The book is almost a basic textbook, and its power lies in providing an accessible introduction to, or overview of, a spiritual journey of discovery. The chapters open up many aspects of the rich expanse of Christian spirituality.

The editor is a Benedictine oblate, author, spiritual director and international retreat leader.

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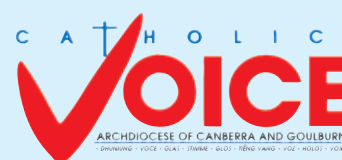
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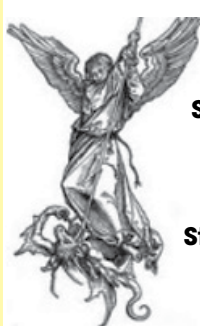
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The deadline for material submitted to Catholic Voice is 15th of each month for publication on the first weekend of the next month.

Coming Events



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

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

GOOD SAMARITAN CLOSURE - Eucharistic celebration to mark closure of Good Samaritan ministry in Queanbeyan, 9am, Sunday, 10 February, St Raphael's Church, Lowe Street, Queanbeyan.

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.

MACKILLOP PILGRIMAGE - Pilgrimage to Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney, Wednesday, 13 March. Coach departs Holy Trinity Church, Curtin, 6.30am, St Joseph's Church, O'Connor, 7am. Bookings from Canberra and Goulburn, telephone Judy and Joe Mewburn, 6254 6202.

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

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

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.

SERRA CLUB OF CANBERRA - Rosary and Mass at Holy Trinity Church, Curtin, 6.10pm, Thursday, 14 February, followed by dinner at The Southern Cross Club, Woden. Inquiries: John Malycha, telephone 6251 2912.

ST VALENTINE'S MASS - 6pm, Saturday, 16 February, St Thomas the Apostle Church, Kambah. Mass will include renewal of marriage promises for married couples and blessing for engaged. Followed by Vietnamese theme dinner dance in school hall, \$30 per person. Bookings: parish office, telephone 6231 9219, Trish 6231 8468 (ah).

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND - 15-17 March, Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, For married couples to take time out of busy schedules. Inquiries and bookings: Ardell and Bill Sharpe, telephone 4283 3435. www.wwme.org.au.

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

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Josephite sister a mentor to many

Sr Lyle Russell, RSJ, also known as Sr M John Baptist, died peacefully in Warrigal Care, Goulburn, where she had been a resident for six years.

She was 83 years old and in her 63rd year of religious profession. Lyle Philomena, the daughter of William and Edith (nee Kelly) is survived by her sisters, Val Flanagan and Elizabeth Bateman and brothers, John and Phillip. Kevin has predeceased her.

Born in Bega and reared on the family dairy farm, she entered the Sisters of St Joseph, Goulburn, on St Joseph's Day, 1946. She had teaching appointments in the Riverina as well as Coolamon, Narrandera, Hanwood, Yanco, Leeton, Tumbarumba, Culcairn, Goulburn, O'Connor, Temora and Batemans Bay.



Sr Lyle was a classroom teacher, primary school principal, community bursar and one whose practical care and outreach were appreciated by many. She was known for her research into Josephite history and tradition.

Strong minded in a quiet, supportive way, she was a mentor to many young teachers and new principals.

The Requiem Mass for Sr Lyle was held in the Chapel of Our Lady of Dolours, St Joseph's Convent, North Goulburn, followed by burial at St Patrick's Cemetery, Kenmore.

Fr Paul Bateman, a relative of the family, was chief celebrant, assisted by Fr Dermid McDermott, Fr Michael Lim, Fr Phil Harding and Fr Wilf Plunkett.

Ex-students come back to celebrate

Two former students helped their old school celebrate St Francis Xavier Day.

Queanbeyan parish priest Fr Troy Bobbin and Moruya parish priest Fr Emil Milat were back at St Francis Xavier College, Florey, for a full school Mass and fun activities and stalls to raise money for charities.

More than \$8000 was raised for Companion House and the St John the Apostle Refugee Resettlement Committee.

Both charities work with people who have sought refuge in Australia.

Evatt parish priest Fr Warrick Tonkin and Fr Alfin Buarlele, of Kippax parish, concelebrated Mass.



Fr Troy Bobbin, Fr Warrick Tonkin and Fr Emil Milat celebrate Mass at St Francis Xavier College.

Former parish is remembered

About 200 people, including many former teachers and Brigidine sisters who had been part of the early days of the parish, attended a lunch to celebrate 50 years of the former St Brigid's parish, now Central Canberra.

A number of original youth group members as well as many former pupils of St Brigid's School also attended.

A highlight was a display on three large screens tracing the early years, events and personnel of the parish.

Mr John Cummins produced a book of memories which he had printed and donated a copy to each family present.

Former parishioner Mr John Shaw spoke on the early days of the parish.

School makes 100pc effort on reading

A group of students from St John Vianney's School, Waramanga, attended the Chief Minister's Reading Challenge awards ceremony at the National Gallery. Ms Katy Gallagher presented framed certificates and prize vouchers to schools that had 100% involvement in the challenge.

St John Vianney's received awards in three age categories, preschool to year 2, year 3 to year 4 and year 5 to year 6. St John Vianney's was congratulated as the only school in Canberra that achieved such a high level of involvement.

The students enjoyed hearing from Australian authors Anthony Hill and Jack



Fr Kieran Adams cut the celebration cake.

A Mass of thanksgiving was offered the next day at St Brigid's Church to remember past priests and parishioners.

ABOVE: At the celebration lunch (from left): Fr Kieran Adams, Betty Tuohy, Paul Maher and Ros Wiley.



Heath who told them how they started writing and what inspires their ideas for books.

ABOVE: From left, front, Mackenzie Bale, Charlize Bale, Kai Viljakainen. Back, Albin Anil, Alexandra Owen, Polly Palmer.

MISSION TALK



With Christmas and New Year celebrations recently complete, widespread fires affecting many communities and work and school in full swing, the early beginning to Lent may come as a further jolt! Yet when we are pulled in many directions with busyness, challenges and threats, the opportunity to shift our thoughts to the core promises and life-giving actions of Jesus is most timely for restoring right balance and hope to our lives.

As children of God, called to share in Jesus' mission to all, we all contribute to a massive and effective body reaching out to bring life and opportunity to others facing life's challenges.

An upcoming conference on Mission (29 April - 1 May in Sydney) captures this truth with its theme of 'Mission: one heart many voices'. Check it out at mohmv.com.au. It can provide a wonderful opportunity to enrich our appreciation of mission and our part in it.

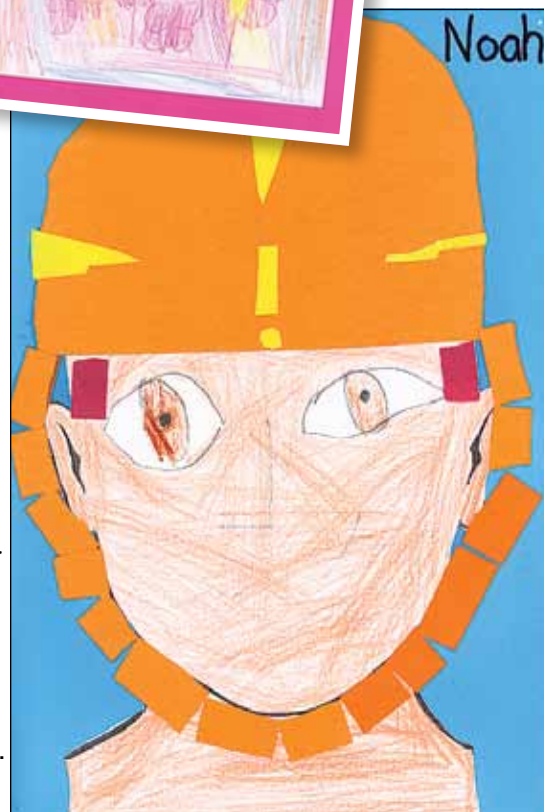
Catholic Mission, with your help, continues to support faith communities to grow in faith and serve those in their midst. Last year alone it cost at least 12 missionaries their lives. Please support these communities with your prayers and generosity. Help us help them. Contact us to give.

God bless,
Deacon Joe Blackwell

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



ABOVE: Billy Hynes, Nathan Proud, Chelsea Hug and Oceana Brain enjoy a game of snakes and ladders.
LEFT: Abbey Hill, Michael Campbell and Thomas Andriunas, of year 2 blue, make colourful Advent calendars, writing kind things they plan to do as they wait for Christmas.



Artwork by (clockwise from top left) Clare Fogarty, Jumana Albheisi, Christana Papandrea and Noah Jenkins.



ABOVE LEFT: Mrs Alicia Peterson with (back) Ben Lillie and Matthew Phillips and (front) Toby Olsen and Toby Jordan.
ABOVE RIGHT: Samuel Molloy (middle) of year five helps kinder children Abby Moses and Harry Angus make gold stars.

ABOVE: Tyson Hannon of year five helps put the finishing touches on a presentation created by Jack Fletcher and Haley Higgins showing interesting facts about spiders.
RIGHT: What is black and red and has 22 legs? Two spiders and a lady beetle - Kai Beaumont, Maddie Field and Bella Hawke.



ABOVE: After much research, Tomas Briody and Kai Martin (sitting), have put together a fascinating Power Point presentation for their year 2 class on the first bionic eye.