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More on the new Pope,
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Welcome Francis



Visit the colleges of the Archdiocese – Pages 11-18

Paul's path 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 are travelling the last stretch of the journey to priesthood with him. He writes:

"Good morning Jimmy."

"Good morning Nulley. We have a new pope."

"Really!?! I'll be right down."

So went the phone call at 5:07am on 14 March. I don't think I have ever got out of bed that quickly nor felt that joyful so early in the morning. The seminary came to life as we were waiting to see whom the cardinals had elected as the new bishop of Rome: the coffee machine was flat out, prayers were being offered, both silently and out aloud, and phone calls and text messages were being made.

Personally, I was deeply moved by our Holy Father's first appearance, especially his humility, his personal moral authority and integrity. I am filled with excitement for the days ahead.

Also special was having Mgr Kevin Barry-Cotter, the parish priest of Cootamundra and Harden-Murrumburrah, visit the seminary. I was blessed to



spend six months at Cootamundra in 2009 for my extended parish pastoral placement.

So Kevin had spent a few days at the seminary and just before he left on the train we were able to have a Mass together for our new pope. The day finished very appropriately with a Holy Hour followed by a happy hour.

Since my last column, I have started to get into my synthesis in a serious way. My supervisor is Fr Paul Connell, a well renowned, thorough and energetic man. I have taken the theme "The love of Christ urges us on" from 2 Corinthians 5:14a as a lens to develop a synthetic view of the Catholic faith.

I have also been sent out to Resurrection parish in St Albans West/Kings Park for my parish pastoral work. I go out there every second weekend. It is a very large and multicultural parish with a wonderful sense of community.

More broadly, I am always surprised by the busyness and freshness that makes up seminary life. A couple of things I have taken on this year include organ lessons and boxing fitness classes. I learnt the organ and piano at high school and have always played the organ in the seminary, but this year I have been sponsored for organ lessons. I appreciate the opportunity and have started to play for enjoyment again; at the moment I am working on a couple of Bach chorale pieces that fit well with the season. The boxing has also been a new experience. While I competed quite successfully on the national circuit for karate until I joined the seminary, boxing certainly has a different style of punching, standing, but requires great fitness.

Then of course there are the various happenings each week that provide a bit of colour to the routine: last week we had the Mass for the trustees who are the bishops of the region of Victoria and Tasmania; CTC had their opening Mass; we've had a few guest speakers come in and there is the variety of sport on Fridays from indoor beach volleyball to "capture the flag".

Although these activities are always great, the most important thing for me this year is my relationship with Our Lord; my spiritual life. I particularly thank Him for the grace He has given in a spirit of fervour in prayer this Lent and all that He shares with me. In short, there have been so many wonderful blessings already this year and I am enjoying the journey towards priesthood.

From near and far

MANY will be sad to hear that, after 28 years, the Woden Christian Bookshop will close its doors for the last time on 30 April.

Competition from the internet has hurt trading and the WCB committee says ongoing viability is not sufficiently certain to risk renewing the lease.

The bookshop was opened in May 1985 by St Alban's Anglican Church, Woden, as a Christian presence in the marketplace, and in 1987 became incorporated as a not-for-profit association serving all denominations.

DR Lyn Billings who, together with husband John, founded the method of natural fertility regulation which bears their name, has died aged 95. Her studies on breast-feeding mothers and women approaching menopause made a major contribution to the work. For half a century they travelled the world teaching and promoting the method in faithfulness to Pope Paul VI's call. She was the author of the best selling non-fiction book *The Billings Method*. She was made a Dame Commander of St Gregory the Great by Pope John Paul II.

JUDITH-ANN Sjostedt was awarded life membership at the annual meeting of the ACT Unit of Australian Church Women. She is the unit's honorary secretary, a position she has held since 2008.

She is a former national social justice convenor of ACW and was archdiocesan president of CWL from 2004-2006; central region president and O'Connor branch president until 2012.

GOULBURN-born Sr Camille Poidevin, who joined the Sisters of St John of God in 1950 in Perth and went on to work for many years in a leprosarium in the Kimberley, has died.



Born in Goulburn on 8 July, 1925, she was the fourth child of Ernest Poidevin and Ada (nee Barden), a devout, Catholic farming family. She was always musical and after finishing at Our Lady of Mercy College, Goulburn, went to Sydney to earn a music and performers licentiate in 1947.

After leaving her nursing positions in the Kimberley, she taught classical music to hundreds of children in Derby and Broome.

She is survived by sister-in-law Ann, nephews Andrew and Simon, nieces Jane, Joanne, Lucy and Louise and many great-nieces and nephews and cousins.

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Canberra schools ring in the centenary

"You're quite an impressive sight, gathered in such numbers," Archdiocesan Administrator Mgr John Woods said as he welcomed a brimming congregation of Catholic school staff and students to St Christopher's Cathedral.

Numbers were cited regularly during a Mass to celebrate the contribution of Catholic education to Canberra as the city marks its centenary year.

Nearly 18,000 students and about 1700 teachers and support staff now learn and work in ACT Catholic schools, a figure few would have imagined when the first school, St Christopher's, opened in 1928.

As Sr Anna Warlow SGS said in a proclamation to open the Mass, the question was asked about the original school: "Will there be children to fill it?"

"Oh, there were children indeed," she said – 100 of them, in fact, and 200 by the end of the first year. The then £14,000 investment (plus about £2000 for running costs) might have seemed short of a viable figure, but the message from the community had been that "with a little pluck and confidence in God, and gen-



erosity on their part, they could achieve a lot".

Sr Warlow ensured the congregation, including Chief Minister Ms Katy Gallagher and Liberal MLAs Mr Zed Seselja and Mr Steve Doszpot, was awake by ringing – with just a hint of wicked delight – the "ris-

ing bell" once used to rouse the sisters at St Christopher's school and convent. Then came a procession of students bearing their school banners, led by foundation students from the new John Paul College.

Sixty new teachers were commissioned and received a certi-

ficate to mark the occasion. Mgr Woods said the occasion was a chance to "celebrate the diversity of cultural and religious backgrounds of those who seek a Catholic education. Our city and nation would be poorer if not for the contribution of Canberra Catholic schools."



ABOVE RIGHT: Ringing endorsement ... Sr Anna Warlow rouses the congregation with the original St Christopher's "rising bell". ABOVE LEFT: Welcome to the family ... new teachers are commissioned during Mass.

Come to historic Galong Monastery

Pilgrimage to Galong Annual Archdiocesan Event

Sunday, 5 May

Mass will be celebrated at noon

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features

We all grow if we meet in good will



**By Archdiocesan Administrator
Mgr John Woods**

The image of Pope Francis seeking the blessing of the hushed crowd in St Peter's Square following his election as the Vicar of Christ was poignant. The unfeigned spirituality and humility of the former Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, "from the end of the world", was palpable.

Pope Francis is an appealing juxtaposition. He is the first pope from the southern hemisphere, albeit of Italian background. He is the first Jesuit pope and he took inspiration from St Francis of Assisi, the champion of the poor. Pope Francis is a former high school physics and literature teacher, an appointee to a number of Vatican congregations and a man of a conservative theological bent who has been engaged in priestly formation. He is a man of modest habits consistent with a commitment to social justice.

There is a founded hope that Pope Francis has the wherewithal to undertake reform of the Vatican curia, to regain credibility lost through the crisis of child sexual abuse and to bridge different issues confronting Catholics of the first and third worlds.

And yet before all else, Pope Francis is a man of faith and prayer. The day after his election he sought the interces-

sion of Mary, "the first disciple", at St Mary Major's basilica and in his homily he stated that the Church must not become just another NGO.

"If we do not confess to Christ, what would we be? We would end up a compassionate NGO. What would happen would be like when children make sand castles and then it all falls down."

By so acting and speaking, Pope Francis gave eloquent witness to both the Year of Grace – to begin anew from Christ – and the Year of Faith – to give thanks for and to embrace the renewal of the Second Vatican Council.

The Code of Canon Law (1983) affirms that it is for the pope to determine whether his office is "to be exercised in a personal or a collegial manner" (c 333/2). The most solemn form of the latter is an ecumenical council (cf. Second Vatican Council). Recent popes have from time to time called a synod of (some) bishops to address a particular aspect or region of the universal church. Cardinals, working in the Vatican or gathered in consistory, advise the pope. Bishops make an official visit to the Vatican every five years and regular pastoral visits to the parishes of their diocese.

The recent arrival of Papal Nuncio Archbishop Paul Gallagher is a reminder of the Vatican's ongoing engagement with both the local church and civil gov-

Nimmitabel celebrates 150th

Sunday, 14 July, will mark 150 years to the day since the foundation stone of St Andrew's Church, Nimmitabel, was laid and blessed.

To mark the occasion, Mass will be celebrated at noon followed by lunch.

The following notice appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald of Thursday, 24 April, 1862:

TENDERS WANTED. - Tenders will be received for the erection of a Roman Catholic Church, at Nimitybelle, until 30th of May 1862. Plans and specifications may be seen at the architect's office, St Mary's, Sydney; at Rev M M'Iroy's, CP, Goulburn; at A McDonald's, Nimitybelle, to whom all tenders must be addressed.

On 27 July, 1863, the newspaper reported the foundation stone was laid by the Rev P Newman, pastor of Cooma. "There was a very large attendance at the ceremony. The style of architecture is Gothic, and the edifice is considered a pleasing addition to this rising township."

Organisers would like a repetition of the very large attendance, but those attending will not be able to see the foundation stone as it is believed to be



under the current altar, since the addition of a sanctuary and porch in 1917 covered the stone.

St Andrew's is the oldest existing Catholic church on the Monaro and for many years was the church at the highest altitude.

The organising committee may be contacted by email at StAndrews150@yahoo.com.au or by telephone to Sr Bernadette on 6454 6306.

The committee seeks copies of photographs of the church and the school for display. These may be sent to St Joseph's Convent, 3 Kirke Street, Nimmitabel NSW 2631, or to the email address. Photographs will be returned.

Contributions to the letters to the editor section of Catholic Voice are welcome. Letters should be no more than 300 words; a name, address and daytime telephone number must be provided. Names will be published.

ernment. And yet, acknowledging that grace builds on nature and that faith is mediated through culture, how else can the Church listen for and respond to the movement of the Holy Spirit in diverse cultures?

Canon law makes provision for plenary and provincial councils (cc. 439f). The latter would be the gathering of all Australian dioceses, the former the gathering of the dioceses of a state. Perhaps it is time to consider such gatherings and engage the living tradition of the "one, holy, catholic and apostolic church" with contemporary Australian culture? As the Australian Church has made a strategic and spiritual response to the crisis of child sexual abuse, why not do so with other pressing matters?

In making this suggestion I am conscious of the ongoing commitment of overworked bishops and the often unheralded work of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. Nonetheless, gatherings in council of representative faithful with the bishops would draw forth graced wisdom and engender a greater sense of co-responsibility in the Church.

The experience of our Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn is instructive in this regard. Encompassing the nation's capital and communities along the coast, in the mountains, on rolling plains to the north and west, and subject to Commonwealth, State and Territorial legislation, the clergy, religious and lay faithful of our Archdiocese were never so aware of being united in their diversity as when we prepared for and celebrated our archdiocesan synods of 1989 and 2004. We experienced something of the same in welcoming young pilgrims to World Youth Day 2008. If people are invited to the table in good will, good things happen.

However, before we too readily point out what others might do, we should ask how engaging are our parish communities? Do we talk to one another? Do we

inquire after those sick or absent from Sunday Mass? Do we welcome the newcomer? Do we look to engage rather than criticise from the sidelines? Responses to these and associated questions will help us to see whether or not we foster community at the most basic level. Grace is mediated through culture, yet it first builds on nature. What sort of people are we seeking to be?

Again, we might ask how effective are our mandated parish pastoral councils, parish finance councils and recommended parish liturgy committees? These are the local instrumentalities which further the pastoral outreach, governance and sanctification of parishioners.

It is, therefore, timely that Shawn van der Linden and Sharon Brewer from CatholicLife are visiting parishes to assist them to take the pulse of their community and to respond to it. I commend them and their work to your community. Rejoicing as we should in the pontificate of Pope Francis, let us not forget that the parish is fundamental to the experience of church. Robert Bausch maintains that in a parish "the pastor [or parish priest] is more significant than the pope, the sister than the cardinal, and the secretary than the bishop."

At the last month's ecumenical celebration of St Patrick's Day at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, the former High Court Judge, the Honourable Michael Kirby called for a willingness to "cross over to the other side". The central tenet of our faith is that God in Christ "crossed over to the other side" and that we, the Body of Christ are called to be "a sign and instrument" of God's desire for communion with all humanity. We may not all agree, but surely we can all grow in respect and understanding if we meet in good will? May the new life we celebrate in communion with Pope Francis this Easter renew each and all of us.

letters to the editor

Religious rights should be poll issue

Freedom of religion is written into the laws of western democracies and has long been respected by all ruling parties. Erosion of that freedom is, however, evident in some democratic countries including Australia.

Civil law should stand on firm principles, not vaporous slogans such as "choice", "quality of life" and "non-discrimination". The latter negative is being used to declare certain citizens phobic in an attempt to intimidate.

Christopher Dawson, an Englishman living in the USA, has spoken of encroaching totalitarianism in western democracy. He also has warned that if Christians cannot exert their right to exist they will be pushed out of modern culture and physical existence (AD2000 March 2013).

Persecution within democracies is already evident. An evangelistic couple in England, who served as foster parents and had an exemplary record, were declared unfit guardians because of their religious precepts, which the judge condemned as "capricious, divisive and arbitrary". Mr and Mrs Johns had told

children that certain sexual acts between consenting adults is sin.

Catholic charities across the USA have been removed from vital social services because they refused to adopt policies or engage in procedures that violate fundamental moral principles.

Also, a number of Christian families in a town of Massachusetts sought to remove their children from morally corruptive sex education classes in the public school.

A court case ensued, Parker v Hurley, and the constitutional right of parents to choose the education of their children was overturned.

Australian law courts have overruled protection of human life, ushering in the abortion of 100,000 infants annually plus the affliction of post-abortion grief in mothers.

Marriage and family are currently under attack at political level.

Civil and religious rights should be a consideration at the forthcoming federal election.

Mrs M T Kennedy, Goulburn.

Letters may be edited for reasons of length, clarity and legality, and to meet style requirements. They should be sent to Catholic Voice, GPO Box 3089, Canberra 2601, or by email to ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au. The closing date for letters is the 15th of the month.



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a centenary of canberra's catholics

Looking back over portraits of a century

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HOME BASE



Gerard Heffernan

Mortgage activity picks up

After a slow start to the year, new data has revealed that Home Loan activity is currently on the rise.

According to RP Data's Mortgage Index, mortgage activity has surged over the past few weeks, the highest since August 2009.

RP Data's, Craig Mackenzie, said that in seasonally-adjusted terms, the index increased, foreshadowing a strong result for February when the housing finance data are released by the ABS in mid-April.

"Of greater significance is the fact that the raw index value over the 28 days to March 10 was the highest since September 2009, which was a point in time when market activity was very strong, underpinned by high levels of first home buyer activity stimulated by low interest rates and the First Homebuyer Grant Boost."

"This suggests mortgage market activity has rebounded strongly in February after the post-Christmas lull, driven by increased levels of consumer confidence, attractive mortgage interest rates (both fixed and variable) driving strong refinancing activity and improved investor demand."

Gerard Heffernan

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the mortgage detective

For the past two years Bishop Pat Power has been providing a series of portraits of significant Catholics of the national capital through the pages of Catholic Voice.

Two years ago, I began this series which has been a source of great satisfaction to me. With the centenary of Canberra on the horizon, I felt it was a good opportunity to highlight the contribution made to the life of our city by members of the Catholic population.

With encouragement from Archbishop Mark Coleridge and Catholic Voice editor Geoff Orchison, I began searching for subjects. The difficulty was not finding them, but limiting them to 23.

The choices were somewhat arbitrary. Another person could well have selected 23 different personalities. I deliberately chose people whom I had known personally.

In those I have chosen, I have probably revealed something of my own values and aspirations, in highlighting the qualities I have admired in others.

I made a deliberate decision not to overload with clergy and religious, so only Mgr Haydon, Fr Tom Wright, Good Samaritan Sr Clare Slattery and Christian Brother Don Gallagher were featured.

There are no bishops among them as I believed that their contributions are already well documented. Each month, I alternated between a male and female subject. The whole 100 years of Canberra has been covered with Mgr Haydon and Miss Sylvia Curley there in 1913 and six of those featured still alive to celebrate Canberra's centenary: Lady Mary Scholtens, Jim Rochford, Jean Reid, Doug Blake, Br Don Gallagher and Sir William Deane.

My original intention was to choose the subjects and then commission various people to write about them. However, when I spoke to the editor of my intentions, he indicated that he preferred me to be the sole author for purposes of consistency.

In the meantime, Fr Brian Maher had already completed the story on Jim Rochford. Brian's historical skills are legendary. He and I were seminary classmates and go



Old mates ... Fr Brian Maher and Bishop Pat Power as children in George Street, Sydney, 1947

back even further than that, and I am grateful for his help and advice with this whole project.

I am indebted as well to family and friends of those about whom I have written. I mention here in particular, Frank Boyle, who would have been a worthy subject in his own right with a long Canberra history and part of shaping its character in the public service and in the Catholic life of Canberra.

It has always been a source of pride for me that Canberra has been relatively free of the sectarianism which has sometimes been part of life elsewhere in Australia. Even before the Second Vatican Council committed Catholics to the ecumenical movement, Canberra's Catholics and the members of other churches have enjoyed good relations.

I have tried to highlight in this series the manner in which Catholics have taken a broad view of their responsibilities to the whole community.

In this way they have anticipated or implemented the exhortation of Vatican II's Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World: "The joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the people of this

age, particularly those who are in any way poor or afflicted, these too must be the joys and the hopes, the griefs and anxieties of all the followers of Christ."

One of my regrets was that Catholic Voice was not featuring letters to editor during the life of the series, as it would have been good to have garnered further information on the people and matters discussed. Maybe it is not too late for those additions to be made.

It is my hope that this representative group of Canberra's citizens can be an inspiration to us all as the national capital proudly launches into its second century.

The series featured Mgr Patrick Haydon, Sylvia Curley, Stan Cusack, Mary Scholtens, Fred Quinane, Kath Durie, Mick Gallagher, Ursula Southwell, Jim Rochford, Olive Mulholland, Br Don Gallagher, Jean Reid, Giuseppe Cataldo, Sr Clare Slattery, Gerry Kilmartin, Kath Scott, Fr Tommy Wrighty, Edith Dickinson, John Buckingham, Margaret Lyons, Doug Blake, Ethel McGuire and Sir William Deane.

* As a result of the series in Catholic Voice, Libraries ACT with permission has re-published the text of all the articles and printable pdf files of the illustrated articles on its website. Go to <http://www.library.act.gov.au/> and follow the links to ACT Heritage Library, then Local History, Personal Stories, Centenary of Catholics.



Two pages from the Pat Power series.



Building the Church

www.cdf.cg.catholic.org.au

By chief executive officer of the Australian bishops' Truth Justice and Healing Council Francis Sullivan

The Royal Commission Into Institutional Responses To Child Sexual Abuse is a critical turning point for the Australian community.

For too long there has been widespread confusion and concern about how Church administrators have handled or mishandled child sex abuse cases. The credibility of the Church, its ministries and members has been undermined as a result of the scandal these atrocities have caused.

Intense media scrutiny and increasing political pressure from all quarters made an enquiry necessary to bring to centre stage the needs of victims and others damaged as a consequence. Perhaps now a pathway to justice and healing will emerge.

The leadership of the Catholic Church has been unequivocal in supporting and openly embracing the royal commission. Despite some media commentary suggesting otherwise, the Church is embracing the royal commission in a transparent and frank manner.

It is vital that the truth be revealed, that victims have the opportunity to tell their stories and receive justice. It is even more crucial that a sustainable process of healing and reconciliation be developed, resourced and implemented.

Most importantly the voices of the victims need to be heard. Victims need to be supported and encouraged to

Voices of abuse victims 'need to be heard'

speaking their truth. This is particularly so for those who have long felt intimidated in airing their experiences. This will be painful and may even be re-traumatising for many. Appropriate measures to ease this suffering must be a priority. Undoubtedly institutions, not the least our Church, must face the shame of failure in this area.

But it is the victims and those damaged who have suffered the greatest hurt, lived with the betrayal and been ostracised from a place they once called their spiritual home.

With this awareness and with a sense of the need to express genuine sorrow and offer some form of atonement, the New South Wales bishops released the Lenten pastoral letter "Sowing In Tears".

Confronting the sinfulness of child sexual abuse, the history of cover-ups and mishandling of cases through such a communicate is for many people long overdue. Discarding an overly legalistic tone in the approach to the public discourse around

these issues and adopting a more pastoral and compassionate voice is also a welcome change.

Of course, this changes little for those damaged by sex abuse and probably has little immediate effect on those still suspicious of the Church's motives. But the pastoral letter represents the start of a long journey towards revealing the truth, bringing about justice and embarking on a process of healing.

And it is to support that same journey that the Truth Justice and Healing Council has been established. Immediately after the announcement of the royal commission the Church leaders, bishops and congregational leaders established the council. Such quick and decisive action speaks loudly of their desire to allow the truth to emerge and to face it openly and honestly.



The council will manage the legal representation throughout the commission's hearings on behalf of the entire Church. It will also speak for the Church in matters related to the commission. Even more importantly, the council will initiate research into best practice procedures, policies and structures to protect children in the future, prevent sex abuse and restore confidence in a community that has clearly lost patience.

We will need to find imaginative ways to reconcile with people damaged, to build bridges with those estranged from the Church through this scandal and to reinvigorate the life of the Church so it is a place of healing, forgiveness and acceptance... so people experience belonging rather than a feeling of being set apart.

Many among us realise that there are aspects of Church culture that need to change.

This does not suggest a reactive response but a considered examination of how governance and administration, pastoral planning, spiritual and liturgical life can become enlivened and better integrated into the lives of Catholics.

Presently the child sexual abuse crisis is eroding the life of the Church and its integrity, along with its capacity to attract ordinary people.

This present crisis calls us to re-found our identity as a pilgrim people humbly seeking God. As the NSW bishops indicate, this may well be heralded by tears and lamenting, but it is surely necessary if we are to reclaim our true identity and purpose.

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Capital's history flavours this teacher's past

By Fiona van der Plaats

While Josephite sister Dr Jo Brady never met her grandfather, since he died more than a decade before she was born, she certainly knew her grandmother, who lived to a ripe old age. But she feels an affinity to both of them.

Her grandparents are former prime minister Sir Joseph Lyons and the first woman elected to the federal House of Representatives, Dame Enid Lyons.

Like Dr Brady, both were committed Catholics and trained as teachers in Hobart. It is through them that she also feels a connection with Canberra – which is a good thing, since she has found herself ensconced in the capital more than once in her lifetime.

Having finished her teacher training at what was to become the Signadou campus of Australian Catholic University, in Watson in 1972-73, she returned in 2005 to take up an academic position on the campus, where she is now the national director for secondary courses, the secondary co-ordinator and the campus leader for the core curriculum.

As Signadou marked its 50th anniversary with a three-day celebration and reunion, Dr Brady took the opportunity to reflect on the march of time since she took up residence in

the Sisters of St Joseph Federation's House of Studies (now MacKillop House) in Lyneham in the early 1970s.

At the time, Dominican sisters lived on campus and Dr Brady admits to feeling a little naughty when, returning as a staff member a few years ago, she first snuck past the reception desk and up to her office in the top corner of the Signadou Building.

"It was quite an eerie feeling, coming up those stairs. It was very much out-of-bounds to us back then," she said, pointing out the hand basin in the corner that is a reminder the little office was once the living space for two Dominican nuns.

Although this "water baby" missed the sea when she first moved to Canberra from the port-town of Burnie in Tasmania, she made the most of what her new home had to offer, especially since founding principal Sr Margaret Mary Brown (then Sr Gerard) encouraged students to make use of Canberra's facilities.

"One of the biggest treats was to study at the National Library. It gave us an opening into so many more resources," Dr Brady said.

Her cohort then was all women – though men would soon be allowed behind the desks – and all teachers in training. It was also a time when



Connections ... Dr Jo Brady's links to Canberra stretch back to a prime minister of the 1930s.

"the bishops wanted to set up Canberra as an education centre for the religious orders ... It was quite a unique arrangement," she said.

On completing her training, Dr Brady was channelled into secondary teaching, even though her training was in primary. "I didn't end up teaching primary until 20 years later and I was a bit out of my depth, so I think it was the right decision."

She went on to become the last Josephite principal of Sacred Heart College in Hobart and then completed her doctorate with ACU in Melbourne before being enticed back to Canberra.

Now she finds herself living on what was the tennis court of the property she started out on,

in one of a small set of units she shares with fellow sisters, who meet twice a week for prayer or a meal.

She is a great believer in the value Catholic-trained teachers bring to the education system and is in the perfect position to foster ongoing generations of teachers that make a difference.

"The Catholic Church has so much tradition to draw from, it helps to provide a different world view ... I also think the university is a much more vital place now," she said.

"It's really come of age and its graduates have something in particular to offer to society, whether they are Catholic, Christian or of other faiths."

One of her current projects is a program that embeds a tertiary

education course in a secondary school setting – in this case, St Mary MacKillop College in Tuggeranong. She is also overseeing a major review and, for the first time, national accreditation of the university's courses.

Dr Brady is no stranger to reviews. She has re-evaluated her own status at various times since she became a nun straight out of school, in 1969 – not least when her cosy little congregation of 30 morphed into more than 800 when it merged with the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart last year.

"I had to think about things then," she said. But she maintains a passion for what she does that she hopes will be passed on to future generations of ACU graduates.

An inspiration by any name

Noreen Dick has been known by many names since she studied primary teaching at Signadou in the late 1960s.

Having started as Sr Rita, she graduated as Sr Noreen Hofman, then became Missy Noreen to the Aboriginal children she taught near Alice Springs, Mrs Noreen Dick to others, Mum to her daughter Helen and, late this year, whatever version of "grandmother" her first grandchild goes for.

The various monikers reflect the different stages of a rich life that has taken unexpected turns, but the one constant is her unwavering Catholic faith.

It even survived the difficult decision to leave the convent after 16 years as a Black Josephite and to later marry a former priest, Clem Dick.

While it was all "above board", the two retreated to Ti Tree, an Aboriginal community 200km north of Alice Springs, where Clem's brother owned a roadhouse and where they

started a new chapter of their lives.

Mrs Dick, or "Missy Noreen", took up a teaching position in the school of more than 100 mainly Aboriginal children and, among other "enlightening" experiences, earned her bus driver's licence and learnt to work with children who were uncomfortable indoors, in shoes and, in some cases, in underwear.

She went on to establish a one-teacher "school within a school" for children who showed potential in their education and then started a pre-school.

Daughter, Helen, was born during their time in Ti Tree. "Because she was conceived there, she was initiated into the tribe," she said.

"They even gave her a name – Ngungala. It means 'little black mulligrub', which is funny because she was such a fair little thing."

Helen, now 26 and Mrs Helen Hamilton, has, after some soul-searching when a

serious lung condition interrupted her architectural studies, followed her mother into the Catholic teaching profession via Signadou.

"You're mad," her mother had said, when she decided to go down that path.

But Mrs Dick, who is on a year's long-service leave from St Mary MacKillop College in Tuggeranong before retiring after 43 years at 66, had been nothing but supportive.

Mrs Hamilton said she was proud to have her mother in the audience in the Great Hall of Parliament House, when she officially graduated at the university's 50-year celebration weekend.

Another daughter following in her mother's footsteps was Julia Byrnes, whose mother Catherine Smith studied at Signadou in 1967-68 and then completed a graduate diploma in religious education in the early 1990s.



Proud ... Noreen Dick congratulates daughter Helen Hamilton after she graduated from Signadou, more than 40 years after her mother.

Ms Byrnes, a religious education teacher at Trinity College in Goulburn, remembered her mother, who now

lives in Cullerin near Goulburn, teaching scripture at the little state primary school in Gunn- ing.

Mary, how your garden has grown

By Fiona van der Plaats

In her modern-day “civvies”, Sr Mary Campion, OP, posed next to a mannequin in the Dominican habit of the 1960s, which she would have worn during her seven years as lecturer at Signadou Dominican College of Education from 1965.

Now 81, and standing downstairs from what were her living quarters in the Signadou Building at what is now Australian Catholic University in Watson, Sr Mary marvelled at how things have changed.

She was glad to see some things hadn't, though, as she looked around at the gathering in the building's central rose garden, celebrating Signadou's 50th birthday. “It's a joy to see again the beautiful architecture of the building and to see the trees we used to water with a bucket having grown so beautifully,” she said.

Those trees and roses made the ideal setting for a late-afternoon reunion of mainly “old

girls”, including the college's founding principal, Sr Margaret Mary (Gerard) Brown, and her successor, Sr Rosemary Lewins, both fresh from the Great Hall of Parliament House, where they were awarded honorary doctorates in the company of the university's newly minted graduates.

“It's a great thrill to meet people again whom I haven't seen for 30 or 40 years, and to see how they remember the place, too,” Sr Margaret Mary said.

“Everyone was made to feel so welcome, especially because of the small size of the place. I used to go out during the holidays and meet (the students') families.”

The following day, Canberra's town crier Alan Moyse called the congregation emerging from Mass celebrated by Archbishop Francis Carroll to the steps of the Lewins Library, where the college's third principal, Sr Pauline Riley, unveiled a sculpture of St Catherine of Siena. Sculptor Linda Klarfield said she had given St Catherine, a

doctor of the Church, a modern look because she wanted women of a similar age to relate to “my favourite saint”.

“She was a determined young woman who had influence with powerful people, even the Pope,” she said.

A book on the history of the college-cum-university, *To Learn – To Teach, Signadou 1963-2013*, by Nancy Clarke, was launched to mark the anniversary.



ABOVE: Role model for women ... Archbishop Francis Carroll blesses the sculpture.



ABOVE LEFT: Under wraps ... Sr Pauline Riley unveils a sculpture of St Catherine. ABOVE RIGHT: Old habits ... Sr Mary Campion with a mannequin wearing an old Dominican habit.



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Our mission: to create a better world

Australian Catholic University (ACU) is recognised for its supportive and personal learning environment.

We aim to empower our students to think critically and ethically, and gain the skills to bring about change in their communities, professions and industries.

Join like-minded students nationwide who have chosen ACU because of our focus on mission, proven graduate outcomes and close links with industry.

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'Inspiring venture' comes to life

Former Merici College principal Catherine Rey was just a touch concerned about the new learning centre the college has named in her honour.

"In my experience, people who have things named after them are usually either dead or old and dodderly," she joked.

But, satisfied that she was neither, the college's immediate past principal of 9 1/2 years, and now principal of John Paul College, officially opened the Catherine Rey Learning Centre, an "inspiring venture" that she had a significant hand in bringing to life.

Merici acting principal Dr Ann Cleary said the centre was not the college's first flexible learning space, but it was the first to have no internal walls.

"It facilitates flexible student groupings and team teaching, which break away from the industrial model of education that does not meet the needs of most students in the 21st century," she said.



Inspiring ... former Merici principal Catherine Rey, back behind a microphone at her old stomping ground.

Merici old girl and now director of the Archdiocese's Catholic Education Office Mrs Moira Najdecki helped to launch the learning centre as well as the revamped Pastoral Care Centre, which was rededicated to another former principal Mrs Julie Dempster.

Faith fuels lawyer's passion

Maria Vieira has the kind of quiet, gentle demeanour that often characterises people with much to give but not much to prove.

It comes as something of a surprise, then, when she says she is a lawyer – a profession that would appear to revolve around the onus of proof.

"The reason I am a lawyer is because I believe very passionately about being a voice for the voiceless," she said. Her interest lies in restorative justice, "dialogue and reintegrating people into the community".

This passion is fuelled by her deep-running Catholic faith, so a berth in the 2013-14 Young Catholic Women's Interfaith Fellowship program was a perfect fit.

Ms Vieira, from St John the Apostle parish, Kippax, is one of 17 women from around Australia who have joined the fellowship, a spiritual and academic enrichment program offered by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference.

The women will study for a graduate certificate in theology, while also taking part in regular live-in gatherings and chances to learn more about interfaith relations and Catholic leadership.

Ms Vieira, 30, who is "passionate about my faith" and has "always devoured everything to do with theology", said she jumped at the chance to study with other women, especially once she found out the fellowship was being offered, for the



A voice for the voiceless ... Maria Vieira is passionate about her faith and her work as a lawyer.

first time, on a part-time basis and that she could continue working while developing her faith.

"I want to study because I think faith formation is important. It is an opportunity to engage at a deeper level in the community," she said.

It is also helping her to engage more with people through her work. "The deep listening skills you develop are applicable across all parts of what you do."

Ms Vieira, who is also studying part-time for a doctorate in law, admits her approach to law might not always be viewed as mainstream. "I do get called a hippie at work," she said cheerfully. But she believes in the value of restorative justice, which focuses on repairing the harm done by crime and helping those most affected, including offenders.

She also believes in the value her faith brings to her ability to connect with the people she works with. "I always hold the other person in awe and wonder that they have been created in the image of God," she said.

ST BENEDICT'S MISSION CENTRE

10 Tallara Parkway, Narrabundah, ACT 2604
<http://www.stbenedict.info>

Who we are & what we do:

St. Benedict's Mission Centre is a work of the Missionaries of God's Love priests. It is a place of welcome and fellowship for all. The Centre focuses on sharing the Gospel through the ministries of Preaching and Healing with an emphasis on Eucharistic adoration, Faith Formation, Empowering and Equipping the Laity for Mission and Evangelization of the youth. The Mission Centre draws its identity and energy from the grace of the baptism in the Holy Spirit which is central to the Spirituality of the Missionaries of God's Love. The Mission Centre is hosted and based at St Benedict's Parish, Narrabundah. Director: Fr Bony Abraham MGL

SPECIAL EVENTS IN 2013

Young Adults Week-end Retreat: 19th & 20th April,
Contact Fr Bony Abraham 62957879

New Evangelization in Post-Modern Culture
Talk and Q&A Forum by Prof. Tracey Rowland
(Dean of JP II Institute for Marriage and Family)
21st August 6.30pm - 9 pm.

Listening to Jesus Formation Programme:
7.30pm to 9pm on 22nd Aug, 5 Sep, 19th Sep,
3rd Oct & 17th Oct. Programme finishes with a
weekend of workshop/retreat on 25-27th October.
Contact: stbenedict@iimetro.com.au

Twilight Retreat on the Blessed Virgin Mary:
7pm - 9pm, 6th September

Veneration of the Padre Pio Mitten:
13th September after 5.30pm Mass

**Inner Healing Retreat Day for wounds and hurts
caused by past experiences of abuse:**
Sat. 26th October 9am-5pm at Collins Wing,
St Benedict's, conducted by Sr Margaret Scully RSM.
Further details TBA.
Contact Fr Bony Abraham 62957879

Twilight Advent Retreat:
Friday 6th December, 7pm-9pm

REGULAR EVENTS

Hour of Mercy: Healing & Intercessory prayer:
Wednesdays 7pm-8pm in the church

Special Intention Healing Masses: Fridays 5.30pm
14th June (Fathers), 23rd August (Mothers),
18th October (Miscarried, Aborted and Stillborn Babies),
8th November (Addictions & Mental Health).

Charismatic Mass: Sundays at 7pm
Praying Ministry available After 5.30 pm Healing
masses and 7pm Sunday Masses

3 Days of Grace (continuous 72 hour adoration):
15-17th May, 10-12th July, 4th-6th September,
30th Oct - 1st Nov, 11-13th December

**Seminars: On the Grace of the New Pentecost
for the New Evangelisation:**
Group discussion after 7pm Mass - 14th April to
19th May & 10th Nov to 22nd Dec

Adoration Times:
Monday 8am to 9.30pm, Tuesday 8am to 10pm,
Wednesday 1pm to 9pm, Thursday 1pm to 9pm,
Friday 7am to 11pm, Saturday 12am to 8 am



Come and see the College in action

OPEN DAY

Wednesday 8th May
9.30am to 7.00pm

Information Evenings

Year 7 Students for 2014

Tuesday 14th May
6.00 – 7.15pm

Year 11 Students for 2014

Thursday 16th May
4.00 – 7.00pm
Careers Expo from 4.00 – 6.00pm



2013 and beyond....

Merici College: Excellence in Educating Exceptional Young Women

Merici is an inclusive Catholic College for young women in Years 7 to 12. Founded in Canberra in 1959, we are a cutting edge, technology-rich school built on a tradition of best practice in girls' education. We achieve consistently excellent results which reflect strong student engagement in learning, innovative classroom practice and academic rigour.

EMPHASIS ON THE PASTORAL CARE OF EACH STUDENT

- A vertical pastoral care arrangement fosters the personal and spiritual growth of students in partnership with parents and a sense of belonging for every student offering real opportunities for student leadership.
- Active and high-profile social justice groups provide outreach to the community. Merici is particularly proud of its partnership with Black Mountain School.

A RICH AND VARIED CURRICULUM

- Diverse and rigorous academic programs offer a broad range of opportunities including an extensive Foreign Languages program, a rich choice of elective subjects and, for students in Years 10-12, a variety of vocational subjects leading to nationally recognised certification.
- Merici is highly focused on its framework for powerful

learning, incorporating individualised brain-based learning and developing in students a responsibility for active learning.

- The College supports students with needs and extends capable students with its challenge program, La Sfida.
- All students are taught to be technology-savvy. Students in Years 7-9 have been offered an optional Laptop Program which has been operating successfully for almost 20 years, and students in Years 11 and 12 have been issued with a high quality laptop for the duration of their senior studies.
- A very strong student led focus on sustainability and healthy eating is aligned with curriculum. The Canteen is run by the staff and students, uses fresh, local produce, no packaging and integrates into the vocational Hospitality and Business curriculum. A kitchen garden and greenhouse, sustainability electives and a co-curricular group all contribute to the College's Health Promotion Program.

AN EXTENSIVE CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAM

- Merici offers a wide co-curricular program which encourages students to develop their interests in diverse sporting, cultural and academic arenas.
- It includes:
 - An award-winning band program, string ensemble and choir.
 - A broad weekend sport program and a thriving Duke of Edinburgh Scheme.
 - Diverse interest groups including Debating, Literary clubs, Anime and Chess Clubs.

EXCELLENT FACILITIES AND RESOURCES

- Continual upgrading of facilities provides innovative and stimulating learning spaces throughout the College.
- The new Trade Training Centre (commercial kitchen and restaurant), several Flexible Learning Spaces, a Technical Support Centre and a Vocational Education and Careers' Centre further enhance the opportunities offered to the students.

'Merici challenges you to love life, have hope, be faithful and build futures more wondrous than you dare to dream'

Wise Street Braddon | Ph: 6243 4100 | www.merici.act.edu.au

John Paul College is a new, innovative, co-educational college creating a Catholic P-12 pathway in the in the Gungahlin region

We are foundation students of John Paul College. Come and join us in 2014!



Open morning: Thursday, 9 May 9.30-11am
Year 7 Information Session: Thursday, 9 May 6.30-7.30.

Accommodating Years 7 & 8 in 2014 in our cutting edge new facilities in Nicholls.

- Emphasis on the pastoral care and holistic development of each student through a unique mentoring and self-directed learning program.
- A dynamic and rigorous academic curriculum underpinned by an educational philosophy which includes brain-based learning principles and the fostering of a growth mind-set in each individual
- Technology rich learning environment
- A strong integrated focus on sustainability and healthy living which includes a canteen run by the school producing fresh, unprocessed meals each day.

An exceptional partnership between education experts and architects has resulted in a stunning building designed to facilitate our unique educational philosophy.

www.jpc.act.edu.au
office.jpc@cg.catholic.edu.au

Expanding for today and the future

The new hub opens at SFX

It's been a few years in the making and now the wait is over.

Students and staff at St Francis Xavier College have full use of the newly built Student Services Hub.

The architectural design has created space for everyone, including the expanding population of Senior students at the College.

St Francis Xavier College is a Catholic Coeducational college for students Years 7-12.

It is committed to delivering quality education, and encouraging students to grasp opportunities and learning with enthusiasm and commitment.

The College has a strong academic program, providing a diverse range of subjects, with an emphasis on pastoral care and student development.

Living the truth, leading with courage and learning for life is the motto that runs deeply through the culture at St Francis Xavier College.

The College is fostering growth in the future leaders of

the community and creating ways for students to participate in outreach programs and community service.

Principal Mr Angus Tulley says that "our vision is to develop young people who are prepared to give back to their community".

Children's learning environments are paramount to accomplishment, and the learning spaces have been created to allow the use of light, air and space. The new Hub is no exception.

It is impressive, encompassing a large open plan gathering space, lined with windows, and filled with couches and tables for students to come together, create ideas, relax and learn.

The space has been designed to bring people together. It is aesthetically pleasing and provides access to technology.

The students have a large space for connecting with others, while having a continuum of services, being close in proximity to both the Resource Centre and the Canteen and cafeteria. This



will meet the needs of students with sustenance and information gathering.

Extra classrooms and teaching areas are a key component to the development; aiming to accommodate current students, while looking to the future.

Offices for key staff members have been strategically placed for students to access easily,

allowing teachers to be available to students which encourages interaction and enables support.

Senior students in Years 11 and 12 have a new Senior Common Room, which is again close to learning facilities and the Canteen.

This room is designed to give them a separate space for learning and connecting.

There is a new Staffroom upstairs, giving staff a wonderful facility for professional learning.

If you want to know more about the College or see the new facilities at St Francis Xavier College, come to the Open Day on Wednesday, 8 May, or telephone 6258 1055 and make an appointment.



Truth and Courage

ENROLLING NOW

St Francis Xavier College

Living with truth • Leading with courage • Learning for life

**Continuing to grow while providing quality
Catholic Education for Years 7-12**

Parents and prospective students from all schools are invited to attend and enrol

YEAR 7-12 2014

Open Evening

Monday 13 May

5.30pm-7.00pm Tours

7.00pm Information Session

OPEN DAY

WEDNESDAY 8 MAY

9am-2pm

YEAR 11 2014

Information Evening

Wednesday 15 May

5.30pm Course Advice

6.30pm Information Session



Living the truth Leading with courage Learning for life



ST EDMUND'S COLLEGE CANBERRA

*A Catholic School in the Edmund Rice
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1954.*

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(w) www.stedmunds.act.edu.au

**For enrolment
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call 6239 0660**

*Offer your son
a school, a
curriculum and
an environment
specifically
designed for boys*

"A Perfect Fit"

*With a history of almost 60 years in boys' education,
St Edmund's College has taught thousands of young men.
Testimonials from former students and satisfied parents are
frequently received. Below is a submission from a member of
our St Edmund's Community.*

*As a Defence family with two boys who were posted to
Canberra we were again confronted with the question "Which
school do we choose?"*

*I had undertaken some research into the optimal styles of
learning for boys and found a great deal of evidence that
supported the fact that boys are more likely to reach their
potential in a "boys only" school. Our boys, one in primary
school and one in high school, each have their own unique
talents and needs. "Is there one school that can satisfy them
both?", I asked myself.*

St Edmund's College satisfied all of our requirements:

- *Academic and vocational pathways that have proven to
be successful*
- *Caring and structured environment*
- *All round education based on Catholic values*
- *Excellent facilities*
- *Co curricula program with strengths in Sport and
Performing Arts*

*However, once enrolled we were pleased to discover that St
Edmund's is so very much more. Within the first week of school
my sons had established solid friendship groups. In fact, they
took to Eddie's as if they had always been there.*

*Eddie's was the perfect mix of education, co curricula and a
Christian upbringing*

*St Edmund's College offers opportunities that have given my
sons the strength and confidence to take on challenges that
previously they would have shied away from.*

*Our sons have developed many life-long friends through St
Edmund's. But, even now as we drive past the school, the boys
say 'I miss that place, I wish I was still there'.*

*For our family and our boys, St Edmund's College was a
perfect fit.*



Open Day - Sat 11 May, 12-3 pm

Yr 7 2013 Enrolment Info Evening 8 May 5:30pm

Morning & Twilight Tour 14 May 9:30 am & 5:30 pm



St Clare's College

A Spirited Learning Community

Seek Wisdom

*Faith in their Future enriched by a
Spirited Learning Community*



4.30 - 7.00PM

**MAY
02**

THURSDAY

OPEN EVENING

We invite you to experience the exciting range of study options and activities available at St Clare's.

**MAY
07**

TUESDAY

YEAR 7 INFORMATION EVENING

6.00 - 7.30PM

The Principal, Staff and Students will outline the many features of St Clare's.

**MAY
14**

TUESDAY

YEAR 11 INFORMATION EVENING

6.00 - 7.30PM

Find out about the variety of courses and leadership opportunities available for senior students at St Clare's.



**FIND OUT
MORE**

1 McMillan Crescent
Griffith ACT 2603

T: 02 6260 9400 the.principal@stclaresc.act.edu.au
F: 02 6239 6015 www.stclaresc.act.edu.au



MaristCollege
Canberra

Together, we create fine young men



Marist College Canberra is an independent Year 4 - 12 Catholic school for boys in the Marist tradition. We have been educating boys in Canberra since 1968.

At Marist, we foster a school climate that allows boys to pursue their studies with purpose and confidence. Our belief in a safe, encouraging and nurturing environment helps promote their full growth as they transform into young men who are the best they can be, leaders in their futures.

At Marist we aim to provide a **balanced curriculum** which aims to develop the **all-round qualities** of our boys.

We cater for the broad range of academic abilities, including the highly able and those with special needs. Each year Marist boys achieve **impressive results at Year 12 level**.

Marist students are characterised as possessing **"a strong mind and a gentle heart"** and we urge our students to be caring, loyal and considerate of others.

The **Religious Education** programme includes a broad range of **faith formation** opportunities, such as **Youth Ministry**, and is central to the Catholic and Marist flavour of our ethos.

Our boys, particularly in the senior years, are expected to be involved in one of the outreach or **community service** activities sponsored by the school.

Pastoral Care is a prime focus of the College. Each

boy is known as a unique and accepted member of the Marist family. We provide an environment where boys are encouraged to develop as a person. The **"Big Brother, Little Brother"** program builds strong relationships between the junior and senior school students.

Marist has an extensive **outdoor-education program**, culminating in the Outward Bound experience undertaken in Year Ten.

We are also highly involved in team **sports** such as cricket, basketball, rugby union, football, Australian Football and hockey as well as cross country, athletics, swimming, snow sports and judo.

There is a selection of indoor **clubs** that include table tennis, debating, computing club, science club, writers' club, and creative and **performing arts** are central to our formal and informal curriculum.

The range of courses, which students may take in the various years, is extensive and details can be found at www.maristc.act.edu.au

ENROLLING NOW

OPEN DAY
Sunday 5 May 2013
9.30 am – 12.00 noon

College facilities will be open for inspection
Headmaster's Address 10:00 am
Head of Junior School Address 10:45 am

**A congregational Catholic school
for boys in Years 4 - 12**

- A Catholic school in the Marist tradition
- A broad varied curriculum geared to the needs of boys
 - Consistently high academic performance
 - Outstanding professional staff
- Excellent all-round co-curricular opportunities

<http://www.maristc.act.edu.au>

Senior & Junior Schools - Marr Street, Pearce
For Enrolment enquiries please call 6298 7200



Senior (Years 7 - 12) - 6298 7200 Junior (Years 4 - 6) - 6298 7271 www.maristc.act.edu.au

Come and experience the Daramalan Family - so much to share

Daramalan College was founded by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSC) in 1962, based on the Heart spirituality of the MSC. Today Daramalan has grown to become one of Canberra's largest secondary schools with over 1460 boys and girls from Years 7 to 12.

Daramalan offers comprehensive and diverse academic, pastoral, spiritual, vocational, sporting and cultural development to prepare competent and confident young men and women for the world beyond school. Enrolments for Years 7 to 12 commence Monday 6 May.



DARAMALAN COLLEGE

ENROLMENT INFORMATION

• **6 May** - Years 7-12 enrolments open

• **7 May** - Try "DARA for a DAY "

Students currently in Year 6 are welcome to attend Daramalan College to experience the opportunities we offer our Year 7 students. Families need to register for either the full day or half day program by Tuesday 30 April 2013 by email <lyn.wynants@daramalan.act.edu.au> or by phone 6245 6379

• **20 May** - Year 11 2014 Information Evening 7.30pm in McCowage Hall

• **24 May** - Year 7 enrolments close

CONTACT DETAILS

REGISTRAR: (02) 6245 6348

Email: enrolments@daramalan.act.edu.au

Web: www.daramalan.act.edu.au



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A School with Heart

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"MacKillop was with me in my academic pursuits."

*Nelson Mendonca, Class of 2011
College Dux with an ATAR of 99.85*

A school can be no greater than its teachers, and MacKillop prides itself on employing the very best. With outstanding NAPLAN and Year 12 results, MacKillop has a strong record of academic success and its students are the greatest benefactors.



"MacKillop is a safe and welcoming community."

*Jacob Creech and Rose Brassil, Class of 2016
Wanniassa Campus Captains*

MacKillop is the largest school in Canberra because students enjoy coming to school each day. There's an energy at MacKillop that is fun, safe, and truly irresistible!



"MacKillop was with me in my faith."

*Andrew Robinson, Class of 2012
Australian School Boy Rugby Representative*

At MacKillop, we are inspired and challenged by the life and work of St Mary MacKillop. We endeavour to be just, loving, faithful, and inclusive - MacKillop is truly a Catholic school for all!



ST MARY MACKILLOP COLLEGE CANBERRA

We're with you for the journey.



info nights

Year 7 2014

Monday 6 May 2013
Mackinnon Street,
Wanniassa @ 6.30pm

Year 11 2014

Wednesday 15 May
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Enrolment period begins
on Monday 6 May and
ends Friday 24 May 2013.



"MacKillop has provided us with opportunity."

*Morgan Rosin and Nathan Backer
College Captains & Class of 2013*

MacKillop offers its students many pathways to extend their learning. Facilities like the new Trade Training Centre and Science Centre, extension programs, and extra-curricular activities mean that there's something for everyone at MacKillop.



"MacKillop was with me as I chased my sporting goals."

*Melissa Breen, Class of 2008
Australian 100m Sprinter, London Olympics*

Students come to MacKillop with many different talents and dreams. They are encouraged and nurtured to pursue these goals, whether they be sporting, academic, artistic, or cultural.



"MacKillop has prepared me for the workforce and further study."

*Tyler Friend, Class of 2012
ADFA Air Force Cadet*

As a co-educational environment, MacKillop reflects the society its students are being prepared to one day lead. At MacKillop, students learn a mutual respect for gender difference and benefit from a cohesive intellectual energy.



Pope's man has an appreciation of 'God's sense of humour'

By Beth Doherty

The work of an Apostolic Nuncio is one of the least understood functions in the Catholic Church, and yet its impact on the overall faith life of a country can be fundamental.

Liverpool-born Archbishop Paul Gallagher was appointed Apostolic Nuncio to Australia in December, following Archbishop Giuseppe Lazzarotto, and arrived in Canberra last month.

Archbishop Gallagher comes with many hopes, and a very real and considered sense of the mission field he has entered.

His previous two posts have been in physically smaller countries, being Apostolic Nuncio to Burundi and Guatemala.

"My countries have been getting bigger since I have been a nuncio. Burundi was 26,000 square kilometres, Guatemala 40,000, but what is that compared with Australia?" he said. "Of course the population density is different, but the sheer distances are daunting."

He is aware urgent matters await him, but conscious that the work is nuanced and requires careful discernment and reflection.

"The hope of any nuncio is to make a positive contribution to the place where they are sent to serve," he said. "At one level, I am here to represent the Holy See and the Holy Father to the political community and the people. From a diplomatic perspective, we are always interested in improving relations and working together. I really look forward to working with the bishops and the people of this country."

"I come here to Australia, continuing to live my life of faith as I have before. I wish to be of service to the local communities in whatever way that is possible through my work for the Holy Father."

"My work here is only valuable and significant to the point that I confirm and strengthen the local people, who will be here when I'm gone."

Australia's Church faces a crucial time with a number of dioceses, including Canberra and Goulburn, without bishops or others with bishops at or approaching retirement age.

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse will also be a focus for the Church during his time here.

"I am apprehensive about my ability to act usefully and positively in the whole question of sexual abuse and which quite rightly the complaints, denunciation and scandal have demonstrated," he said.

"The work in this country in terms of the need for episcopal appointments is also considerable and urgent. We hope to move things forward. However, obviously I can't arrive on Friday and appoint bishops on Monday morning, but we will move as quickly as possible."

Archbishop Gallagher's quietly enunciated faith in Jesus has carried him through challenging times. He is open, too, about the fact that his background before coming to Australia is proof to him that "God has a sense of humour".

Born in Liverpool and raised in a Benedictine parish, most thought he would become a monk. Then he was sent to a Jesuit school, so it was thought he might become a Jesuit.

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



"In my mid teens I responded to an appeal for vocations in my home archdiocese, when the vocations shortage started," he said.

"The vocations director began a campaign for priests and we went to vocations seminars.

"I came to the discernment that I wanted to be a diocesan priest. I wanted to share with others the faith that I had discovered and ultimately the great joy and happiness of belief in Jesus Christ. ● Cont Page 23.

Liverpool-born Archbishop Paul Gallagher was the last nuncio to be received by Pope Benedict XVI before his retirement.

Picture: L'Osservatore Romano.

Information Day on Issues around Modern Sexuality

Saturday April 27, 2013 in The Collins Wing, St Benedicts Mission Centre, Narrabundah.

Presented by Ron Brookman from Living Waters Australia.

The day will focus on restoration, and finding freedom and fullness from:

The pain of pornography for those who look and those who live with them
Unwanted same sex attraction, Sexual addiction
Recovery from sexual abuse
Gender confusion, and
The fear of intimacy

The presentation includes insights from Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body

The day will have three sessions:

10:00am to 12:00pm	Presentation
1.30pm to 3.30pm	Presentation
4:00pm to 5.30pm	Optional Ministry time

About Pastor Ron Brookman:

Rev Ron Brookman leads Living Waters Australia and the Healing Community at Ramsgate Uniting Church. His life story illustrates how keeping quiet about secret sexual passions and drives can lead to deep problems and pain. Ron's story of a double life as a minister hiding homosexual sin demonstrates how powerless we become, in the face of hidden sexual compulsions. It ends with the good news of Jesus' gospel setting him free, restoring his soul and life, and giving him a new beginning. Ron now helps others caught in the grip of sexual compulsions to find freedom through the ministry of Living Waters. He is happily and faithfully married to Ruth, and is the father of 5.

14,000 Seminarians need your help

Celebrate the Year of Faith by supporting seminarians where the Church is poor, persecuted or threatened.

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

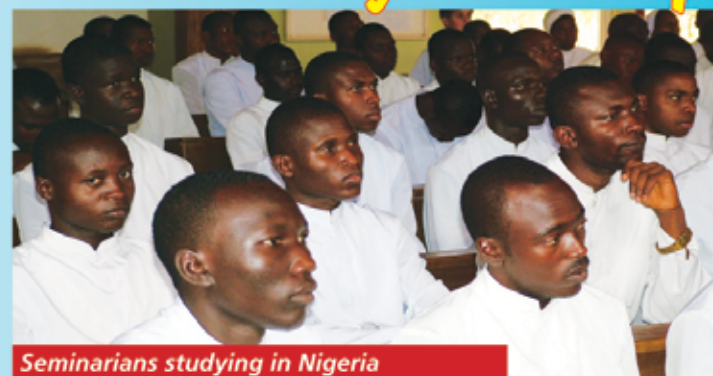
Each year ACN assists with the training of over 14,000 seminarians worldwide. The African continent, for instance, unlike many Western countries, is witnessing a lively flow of new vocations in the seminaries.

But this good news is tempered by the fact that due to the current economic crisis, many seminaries in the poorer parts of the world are struggling to survive. The poverty is great and often means suitable candidates being turned away, since their families nor their bishops have the funds to support their training. It is vital to the future of the Church that not one vocation to the priesthood goes astray due to lack of finance. 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 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.

Anyone able to help this cause will be sent a complimentary Year of Faith rosary blessed by Pope Benedict XVI.

To send your donation please fill in the coupon below and tick the box if you would like to receive the complimentary Year of Faith rosary. An inspirational leaflet explaining the design of the rosary also accompanies the gift set.



Seminarians studying in Nigeria



The centre piece of the Year of Faith rosary, designed by the Vatican rosary makers, is inspired by the Gospel passage about Thomas "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed" John 20:29, as interpreted by the famous artist "Caravaggio" (1571–1610). The crucifix represents the Evangelists through whom the Faith has been transmitted. The Rosary Beads reflect the Vatican colours, symbolizing Faith preserved through the Holy Father.



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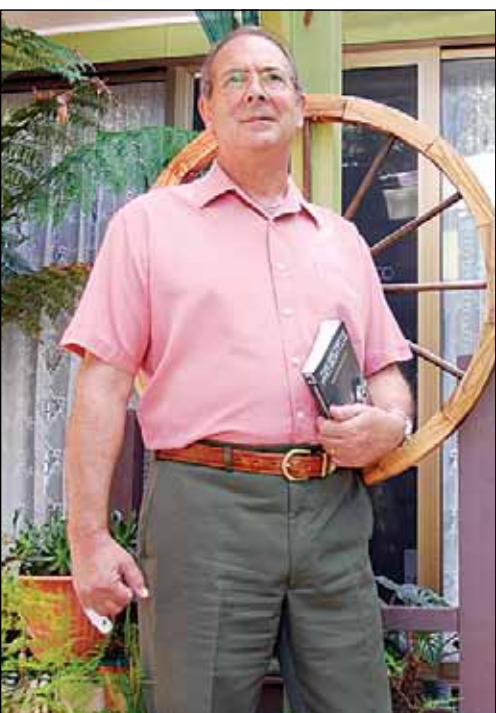
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The Year of the Faith rosary designed by the Vatican rosary makers will be sent out to all those who assist this cause and tick this box. ☐



Author plots the lane to success

A lot of fact can be found in Mick O'Donnell's fiction.

His years in radio communications and cryptography with the Navy, especially in Vietnam and Papua New Guinea, and later in criminal intelligence and chaplaincy with the federal police (notably in the Solomon Islands), have given him much to work with.

Some of the characters the retired Canberra deacon has encountered over the years, and the insight he has gained into World War II and its lasting impact on the Pacific, are at the heart of his murder mystery *The Spectre of Stillsbury Lane*.

But, among all the "quite real" events and locations the book encom-

passes, a "skinny insignificant laneway" beside the Imperial Hotel in Maitland, in the NSW Hunter Valley, takes centre stage.

Stillsbury Lane is a piece of Deacon O'Donnell's past.

He lived at the Imperial Hotel for some of his youth and it seemed a good place to start, with the body of a Japanese official, in a tale built around the unfolding war at Guadalcanal in the Pacific after the Pearl Harbour attacks and the threat to Australia.

The novel was Deacon O'Donnell's way of mixing his love of writing with his knowledge of history and the stories he has collected over the years.

He launched the book in Queanbeyan on Australia Day and will also stage a symbolic launch in Maitland on Anzac Day.

Deacon O'Donnell won't be resting on his laurels after that, however.

Given that "I can type as fast as I can think", he has already written half his next book, *Betrayal: The Curse of Father Patterson*, set during World War I.

He says it is based on a "fascinating real story. There is conscription, not to mention wayward priests and nuns ... let's say it's a bit controversial."

LEFT: Truth stranger than fiction ... Deacon Mick O'Donnell has a lot of true stories to fuel his fictional ones.

Imaginative appeal to young readers

Chris Perkins has a vivid imagination and loves to tell stories.

He has learnt the hard way, however, that such traits don't necessarily sell your CV to a prospective employer.

At 33, he has tried many times to get his career wheels spinning – in everything from sports science and singing to teaching and, yes, even creative writing – but, for a variety of reasons, has stalled every time.

In the end, Mr Perkins, a parishioner of St Thomas the Apostle, Kambah, decided he would back his ability and invest in his own book.

He found a publisher for his fairy tale *The Adventures of Loren and Lightning*, which is attracting interest from primary schools as a book designed to appeal to young, and often reluctant, readers.

This is exactly what Mr Perkins had in mind for the book, to be launched this month at Manuka's Paperchain bookshop.

His short-lived early childhood teaching studies had left him disillusioned with the way reading is taught. "I felt like teachers weren't actually letting the kids read ... and it was all online and stuff about underpants."

So he dug up an 800-word story he had written for a creative writing assessment and, not at all put off by the fact it had earned him only a modest pass, turned it into a 5000-word tale of daring princesses, magical animals and evil wizards.



He also added another story, at the publisher's request.

He is now putting his vivid imagination to work on a second book.

And he has plans to resurrect a yarn about a cricket bat-cum-laser sword that his fellow creative writing students loved. "So I figure young kids will like it too," he said.

ABOVE: Fun with fantasy ... Chris Perkins hopes his fairy tales enthuse beginner readers.



Author Sr Bernadette O'Sullivan (second from left) with Sr Teresa Keane (Bombala), Sr Magdalen McDonald (Cooma), Sr Rosemary Hart and Sr Brigid McMahon (Eden).

Eden honours its Flora

Eden's bond with St Mary MacKillop was further strengthened with parishioners hosting a book launch in honour of Mary's mother, Flora, who drowned at Greencape, south of Eden, in the wreck of the steamer *Ly-ee-Moon* in 1886.

Sr Bernadette O'Sullivan, of Nimmitabel, chose Eden for the premier launch of her book "Flora

MacKillop, A Truly Blessed Mother", with Sr Kath O'Connor of Sydney. The book quickly sold out but is now available at the Mary MacKillop Hall, Eden.

About 60 people attended the launch including members of the Sisters of St Joseph and descendants of the Power family who cared for Flora's body in Eden after the ship wreck.

Youth amid the headstones

Among the 17 headstones in the St Patrick's College private cemetery in Goulburn is that of a 14-year-old boy James Coman.

Part of the inscription reads, from the Book of Wisdom, "He was taken away lest wickedness should alter his understanding or deceit beguile his soul."

It is not clear whether James, who came from Combaning in the Riverina and died in 1875, was a student at St Pat's. But, given he is in the company of priests and a teacher who lived at the school, June Penny thinks it is likely. Ms Penny, an enthusiast of headstone inscriptions, is the co-author (with Jan Grant) of *Goulburn Pioneer Cemeteries: St Saviours, Mortis Street, Towrang, Jewish and St Patrick's College*, which has been compiled as part of the city's 150th anniversary celebrations.

She said that, apart from St Pat's, there are 258 Catholic headstones marking the graves of 463 people in the large Mortis St cemetery.

RIGHT: Grounded in history ... headstones in St Patrick's College private cemetery.



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It was all about "doing words" in Mrs Alison Hall's Year 2 class at Mt Carmel Central. "I'm loving the way you're all thinking," the teacher declared, as the children shared ideas as a group before testing their skills in crossword puzzles. There was also time for a bit of quiet reading with friends.

ABOVE: Artworks by (from left) Toby Russell (Year 1); Carlo Ghirardello (Kinder); Erin Teasdale (Year 2); Grace Bush (Kinder); Pearl Fuller (Year 2).



ABOVE: Thinking, thinking ... Jackson Marchei works on his crossword.



BELOW: Book buddies ... Caitlin Longley reads to Huggy Bear.

BOTTOM: Screen time ... Hayley Silcock and Liana Brown at the computer.



TOP: All eyes to the front ... Mrs Alison Hall takes the floor in a class discussion.

ABOVE LEFT: Page turners ... Billie Walls, Toby Rumble and Charlie Hodges enjoy some reading time.

ABOVE RIGHT: On time ... Bailey Scheffler and Amy Herring set the clock.

LEFT: Too Cool for school ... Jamie Glover and William Kelly chill out with a book.

RIGHT: Where in the world are we? ... Joseph McCarter and Callum Carniel take a global view of learning.



The sounds of community

Four choirs who regularly provide music for Mass at St Thomas the Apostle Church, Kambah, feature on a CD the parish has put together as "a celebration of the diversity of music played at St Thomas' and the community of different cultures that share the one faith".

The CD, called *Different Cultures One Voice*, also features a song written and performed by parishioner Max Giampetro, who is the artist behind the stained glass doors and windows in the church.

The four songs performed by the St Thomas the Apostle parish choir are originals, written by Canberrans and embraced by the congregation.

The Vietnamese community's Dung Lac Choir, which rehearses and sings at Kambah as well as performing with other choirs around Canberra, including at St Christopher's Cathedral, features on the album.

So too does the Couples for Christ and Friends Choir, which performs at other churches around Tuggeranong, and the Youth for Christ Choir, which also sings at Holy Family in Gowrie and St Peter Chanel's in Yarralumla.

The CD will be on sale at an all-welcome launch at St Thomas the Apostle Primary School hall, Kambah, at 7pm on Friday, 12 April. The featured choirs will perform at the event.

First conference for catechists

The new evangelisation will be the focus of the Archdiocese's first catechists conference, to be held at the Rheinberger Function Centre at Yarralumla on 4 and 5 October.

A keynote speaker in a weekend of seminars, scripture and socialising, will be director of Catholic Education from Victoria's Sandhurst Diocese Ms Phil Billington, who has worked with catechists in the Archdiocese in the past.

Mr Shayne Bennett, who established NET Ministries in Australia and has more than 30 years' experience in ministry with young people, will deliver the other keynote address.

Supporting others their cup of tea

One thing the Catholic Women's League would like to make clear from the start is that "tea making is superfluous to what we are here for", as life member Eileen Hogg points out.

She said the CWL in the Archdiocese had done a lot of serious work over 65 years.

Apart from offering spiritual and social support to women in its own parishes, it has not shied away from the big picture, including campaigning on issues such as same-sex marriage, abortion and Sunday trading.

But there is no denying that many matters have been discussed, problems solved and counselling offered over a cuppa or two. So it is fitting that tea-pots were the centrepieces when the women of the league celebrated the Archdiocese's 150th anniversary.

Women were asked to bring a tea-pot over which to share memories during a lunch at St Joseph's in O'Connor.

One with more memories to share than most was Lady Mary Scholtens, who has been on board since the league started out as a group pulled together in the late 1940s by Canberra parish priest Fr Patrick Haydon to help welcome international VIPs and heads of missions.

The group eventually organised itself into its present format, though the size and number of parish-based branches has shifted over the years.



Tea for three ... Eileen Hogg pours a cuppa for the longest-serving member of the Archdiocese's CWL Mary Scholtens (left) and Leone Carse.

The make-up of the meetings has also changed significantly. As Lady Scholtens said, "We are mostly seniors now."

Practical assistance in the early days was more likely to take the form of child minding or providing food for young families. "We also used to welcome a lot of migrant children and women," she said.

"We would invite them to lunch, prepare all this food, then end up eating it all ourselves because their husbands were often not sure about it all."

Now, they are more likely to be offering support to older people with serious illnesses, senior league member, Leone Carse, says.

The women have fond memories of travelling to country branch meetings and other gatherings. Lady Scholtens alludes to a road trip to Adelaide one year in a "big car" belonging to her husband, Jim (Sir James Scholtens).

"It was such fun," she said, smiling conspiratorially at Mrs Carse. As with any good group, it seems, what happens on the road stays on the road.



93 and he's still serving

It seems Catholic Voice has unwittingly started a competition for the mantle of the oldest acolyte in the Archdiocese.

No sooner had 92-year-old Joe Reardon, from St Patrick's in Gundagai, suggested (March, Catholic Voice) that he might well be it than a contender from Grenfell emerged.

Jack Grant (left) who turned 93 on 31 March, has manned the altar of St Joseph's at least once a month for 20 years. It's a job that allows him to "give back after all these years", he said, and he plans to keep it up as long as possible. "But I am always a bit careful these days when I'm walking down the steps - I'm worried I might spill the host or the wine."

RCIA presentation



Nine catechumens and 17 candidates (pictured above) were presented at the Rite of Election and Enrolment held at St Christopher's Cathedral. Archdiocesan Administrator Mgr John Woods presided, with Fr Michael Lim (Goulburn), Fr Steve Fletcher (Narrabundah), Fr Varghese Vavolil (Cathedral) concelebrating.

The catechumens and candidates were accompanied by sponsors and RCIA teams from the parishes of Narrabundah, South Tuggeranong, Page, Barellan/Binya, Cathedral, Goulburn and Yass.

The best brekkie



If Catholic Schools Week is a "celebration of community", as Catholic Education director Moira Najdecki put it, then St Michael's Primary School in Kaleen nailed the brief when it laid on a hearty cooked breakfast for families, friends and politicians.

ACT Education Minister Joy Burch declared hers "the best bacon and eggs I've had in some time", while the enjoyment was smeared across the faces - and down the front of school uniforms, in some cases - of the children.

The parents, for their part, soaked up the chance to let someone else handle the morning breakfast rush for once.

The community breakfast, which fed about 120 people, has been a feature of the St Michael's calendar for seven years.

ABOVE: Breakfast of champions ... Joe Gucci with his sons Isaac (left) and Pharell.

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ADIA Member

When will we be free of our anxiety?

Anxiety, like all tensions, eats at us at various levels. More superficially, we worry about many things. Deep down though we are anxious in a way that colours most everything we do. So much of what motivates and drives us is an unconscious attempt to free ourselves from anxiety.

We are forever nursing the hope that we can free ourselves from anxiety through achievement, success, financial security, fame, leaving a mark, and through power and sex.

We nurse the secret belief that if we have the right combination of these in our lives we will have the substance we need to feel secure and non-anxious.

But experience soon teaches us that these things, though good in themselves, are not our cure. Indeed they can, and often do, make us more anxious: As soon as we have financial security, we become anxious about

protecting it; and as soon as we have power, we are constantly looking over our shoulders in fear about losing it.

As well, success can quickly become a cancer because we have a congenital propensity to identify our self-worth with our achievements and this pressures us always to be doing something of importance for fear of no longer feeling worthwhile.

And sex, unless it is experienced inside a truly committed and unconditional relationship, becomes a drug, with the same addictive quality and ineffectiveness as any other drug. Sex, like achievement and fame, will not quell the deep demons inside us.

We are forever trying to give ourselves wholeness, but we cannot. We cannot self-justify. We cannot make ourselves immortal. We cannot write our own names into heaven. Only love casts out anxiety and,

Ron Rolheiser

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



indeed, only a certain kind of love can give us substance. Only God's love can write our names into heaven. What's the algebra here?

Some years ago, I went on a week-long retreat directed by Fr Robert Michel, a French-Canadian, Oblate missionary. He began the retreat with these words: "I want to make this a very simple retreat for you. I want to teach you how to pray in a particular way. I want to teach you how to pray so that in your prayer, sometime, perhaps not this week, perhaps not even this year, but sometime, you will open yourself so that in your deepest self you will hear God say to you: 'I love you!'"

"Because before you hear this inside you, nothing will be enough for you. You'll be searching for this and for that, running here and running there, trying every kind of thing, but

nothing will ever be quite right. After you hear this from God, you will have substance; you will have found the thing you've been looking for for so long. Only after you have heard these words will you finally be free of your anxiety."

In a culture too easily given to false sophistication, it can be tempting to dismiss his words as naïve, or over-pious, or sentimental; but what these words are inviting us to is, in essence, what Jesus invites us to in John's Gospel.

As we know, in the Gospel of John, Jesus exhibits very little humanity. John's Gospel depicts him as divine from the first page to the last. And, in that Gospel, the first words out of Jesus' mouth are an invitation: "What are you looking for?"

The entire Gospel of John then tries to answer that question: What are we looking for? Throughout John's Gospel, Jesus tells us that we are looking for many things: Living-water which quenches our deepest thirst and never needs to be drunk again, a truth that sets us free, a rebirth to something above, a light that shines eternally. But these images can seem abstract. What's the real kernel inside them?

The Gospel of John eventually answers that in a very clear

way. Near the end of the Gospel (indeed this was probably the original end of John's Gospel) we have that poignant, post-resurrection meeting between Jesus and Mary of Magdala.

It takes place in a garden, the archetypal place where love happens: Mary, carrying spices to embalm his dead body, goes searching for Jesus on Easter Sunday morning. She meets him, but doesn't recognise him.

Supposing him to be the gardener, she asks him where she might find the body of the dead Jesus.

Jesus replies by repeating the question with which he opened the Gospel: "What are you looking for?" Then, before she can answer, he gives the deepest answer to that question: He pronounces her name in love: "Mary".

In that very particularised affirmation of love (for which Robert Michel invites us to pray) he writes her name into heaven. He gives her substance, and he cures her of her anxiety.

Since love needs to be mutual, that affirmation has to be responded to in kind.

And in that lies the risk. As Simone Weil puts it: "Inner communion is good for the good and bad for the bad. God invites all the damned into paradise, but for them it is hell." God willing, for us it is heaven.

God's 'sense of humour'

• From Page 19.

"The Archbishop sent me to Rome when I was 17. This is where the proof is that God has a sense of humour because since then I have spent just two years in the UK.

"When I was in the seminary, there was no one from the UK in the diplomatic service. I wasn't the first 'head on the block', but they eventually worked their way down to me."

Archbishop Gallagher speaks candidly about the adaptation that is required in working in different cultures.

"For example, I had never eaten a bowl of spaghetti before going to Rome," he said.

"My first post was in Tanzania from 1984-1988, and it was quite difficult to adapt to. It was a steep learning curve. At that time however, I was very privileged to work with a very active pastoral nuncio, who spent a lot of energy travelling around the country, who created a new diocese and really knew the people.

"He was an incredible workforce. I learnt a lot from him. I saw that when the nunciature works well that you can make a contribution and help resolve situations."

It was experiences like this and personal gifts that led Archbishop Gallagher to dangerous posts, most notably his time in Burundi.

"Burundi was a problematic mission," he said. "I was designated in November 2003 to go to

Burundi and we were waiting for the authorities to do the Agrément (diplomatic recognition in the country) so that I could begin my diplomatic mission. On 29 December of that year, my predecessor was assassinated.

"Obviously, that coloured the beginning of my mission. Normally when you become a nuncio, it is a moment of immense joy.

My appointment to Burundi was overshadowed by Archbishop Michael Courtney's death. The circumstances were pretty grim. Going there in April 2004 to take over from where he had done a magnificent job obviously wasn't easy.

"Again, these things are questions of faith. You don't go to a place merely because you are asked, but you find the motivation through faith."

Speaking of his time in Guatemala where he lived from 2009, Archbishop Gallagher is well aware of the difference between his previous post and his new one.

"Here in Australia we all enjoy a degree of security that many Central Americans can only dream of," he said. "It was a great joy to be in Guatemala, but the shadow of terrible insecurity and of a people very brutalised by their history was intense.

"One thing I have learned as a nuncio and in the light of faith is that challenges to the Church can be purifying. They invite people to put their faith into action."

Young reaches out to the young

When principal Michael Philpot and the community council of St Mary's Primary School in Young decided to go down the iPad path, they fully expected to encounter obstacles.

Their plan was to start by equipping each teacher with both an iPad and, importantly, the ability to use it – which, Mr Philpot admits, took a little gentle persuasion in some cases, not to mention a bit of "homework" for the teachers.

The next step in the project was to ensure every year 5 and 6 student had an iPad by the start of this school year. Since funding 100 iPads was out of the school budget's reach, this meant putting the onus on parents to provide the equipment and, of course, the all-important insurance.

While there were a few objections, Mr Philpot said they were mainly money-based and the school had been able to lend iPads to those least able to afford them.



App happy ... St Mary's Year 6 students (left to right) Brooke Hunter, Chelsea Gibson and Paris Mohr put their iPads to good use.

He is a great believer in the educational benefits of such technology and said the effort had been worth it.

The school has been rewarded for its commitment to the project with selection as the Archdiocese's "exemplar iPad primary school".

This entitles it to support and professional learning opportunities from Apple, which Mr Philpot said would enable the school to make the most of the technology as a learning tool.

SHORTS

Playing for Keeps. Starring Gerard Butler, Jessica Biehl, Noah Lomax, Judy Greer, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Uma Thurman, Dennis Quaid. Directed by Gabriele Muccini. 105 minutes. Roadshow. M (coarse language).

The first moments might lead us to believe that this is a film about soccer. There is soccer, but this is more of a story about family, and the relationship between a father and his son. He makes the right decisions ultimately, perhaps not the way we were expecting.

The Imposter. Documentary. Directed by Bart Layton. 99 minutes. M (Coarse language and mature themes).

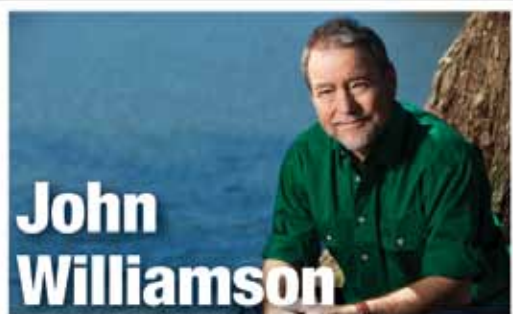
This British film has the kind of plot that, if a fiction film used it, one would think it too far-fetched to believe. It tells story of Frederic Bourdin, a French con-man, who specialised in identity fraud. It fits the well-known dictum: truth is often stranger than fiction.

Mama. Starring Jessica Chastain, Nikolaj Coster-Waldau, Megan Charpentier, Isabelle Nelisse, Daniel Kash, and Javier Botet. Directed by Andy Muschietti. 100 minutes. M (Horror themes, violence and infrequent coarse language).

Arguably, one of the finest exponents of the fantasy-horror genre Mexican director Guillermo del Toro is co-producer of this Spanish-Canadian horror film with a twisty and elaborate plot. The fanciful ending is extraordinarily imaginative and affecting.

Barbara. Starring Nina Hoss, Ronald Zehrfeld, Rainer Bock, Jasna Fritzi Bauer, and Mark Waschke. Directed by Christian Petzold. 101 minutes. M (Mature themes and sexual references).

This is a moving and commanding film about a resolute woman, whose actions save another, if not herself. A complex and thoughtful film.



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Fantasy in an Oz we don't know

Oz The Great and Powerful. Starring James Franco, Rachel Weisz, Mila Kunis, Michelle Williams, Zach Braff, Bill Cobb. Directed by Sam Raimi. 130 minutes. Disney. PG (Mild fantasy violence and some scary scenes).
Reviewer: Fr Peter Malone MSC*.

If you have never read any of Frank L Baum's Oz novels and have only seen The Wizard of Oz, you may have wondered who the wizard actually was and how he finished up with his tricks in the Emerald City. Here is your answer.

Sam Raimi, after his Spiderman films (which starred James Franco in two of them), has opted for a lavish fantasy. His writers have also suggested a parallel with Oscar (the wizard) and his experience with that of Dorothy. Oscar is a carnival showman-conman in Kansas in 1905 – and the sequences are filmed in black and white and box-size screen like the 1939 film. Frank (Zach Braff) is Oscar's put-upon assistant. Annie (Michelle Williams) is in love with Oscar but has received another proposal. He is prepared to let her go. Both Frank and Annie will reappear in Oz.

When Oscar cannot help a crippled girl to walk, the crowds pursue him and he escapes in a hot-air balloon and, like Dorothy, he is whirled away in a powerful storm – and lands in Oz. We are not quite familiar with this Oz. It is beautiful and colourful (and there are Munchkins). There is the Emerald City and the yellow brick road. But the characters there are different.

Oz is ruled by an evil but beautiful (it is Rachel Weisz) witch, Evanora. She has a nice sister, Theodora (Mila Kunis) who is instantly attracted to Oscar. The word is that Glinda, the daughter of the former ruler, had murdered her father. We guess at once that it was really Evanora who did it. A flying monkey, Finley, also turns up and becomes Oscar's assistant, lugging around his bag of tricks. Finley is voiced by Zach Braff and is the equiv-



James Franco and Michelle Williams in Oz The Great and Powerful.

alent of Frank. The crippled girl appears again in the form of a china doll that Oscar rescues and repairs and who joins in the fight against Evanora.

They tell Oscar that there is a prophecy that he will turn up and save the people of Oz. However, he is more interested in himself, gold and getting out of there in his balloon.

But, matters do not go well. Evanora takes over her sister who has perceived Oscar as abandoning her. By a sinister transformation, Theodora turns into the Wicked Witch of the West, bent on revenge on Oscar. But, we do remember who Glinda, the good witch is – and she is played by Michelle Williams.

The rest of the film tells how Glinda sees good in Oscar, how they join good forces to combat Evanora (without any deaths). Which means that Oscar has to delve into that bag of tricks. He becomes the Wizard and

defeats the enemies, especially through that device we remember from The Wizard of Oz, his projecting his image and voice on a big screen, while he is hidden behind the curtains. Everything is in place for the arrival of Dorothy and her story.

It was all filmed in very effective 3D. The sets are wonderful. The action is most entertaining. James Franco seems to be enjoying himself as Oscar. Rachel Weisz is a convincing villain and Michelle Williams a very nice heroine. There is something strange about Mila Kunis both as the good Theodora and very strange, and unconvincing, as the Wicked Witch.

Hard to know whether the planning of the film intended it for younger audiences or not, or for older audiences. There is a lot to admire and enjoy, but overall, it is not quite there.

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

You know there's one in all of us

Goddess. Starring: Laura Michelle Kelly, Ronan Keating, and Magda Szubanski. Directed by Mark Lamprell. 104 minutes. Roadshow Films. PG (Mild sexual references and coarse language).
Reviewer: Peter W Sheehan*.

This is an Australian comedy-musical that is based on a stage play, "Sink Songs", written by Joanna Weinberg. The film is co-written by the author of the stage play, and the director of the movie. The stage play was a one-woman show, performed by Weinberg.

Elspeth Dickens (Laura Michelle Kelly) struggles to balance career and motherhood when her husband, James (Ronan Keating), goes away regularly to protect the whale species. While James is at sea recording the sounds of whales, he leaves Elspeth behind in a country farmhouse with two badly

behaved young children, who are wearing her down.

Lonely, stressed, and unable to cope, she takes James' advice and installs a webcam in her kitchen to see him while he is away, but he is never there. She wiles away the time by dancing, singing and dressing-up in front the camera. The roles she steps into and out of create a fantasy world for her.

Streamed into YouTube and Facebook, a whole lot of people start enjoying her routines, and she quickly becomes a media sensation for her catchy sink-songs. Her burgeoning popularity "for being a Goddess for all the women you are" establishes her as media-gold.

The chance of instant fame is offered to her by a forceful, determined media business executive, Cassandra Wolfe (Magda Szubanski), who realises what a find Elspeth really is, and knows

how her own reputation would be enhanced by bringing Elspeth on board.

While Elspeth is in the city pursuing fame, James returns from whale-watching to his family, and performs unknowingly for the webcam. Adding to the film's gentle satire of reality and celebrity television shows ("there is one in all of us", as the tag-line for the film tells us), Keating does his version of "Master Chef au naturel", with just a chef's apron on while cooking himself a meal, much to the delight of his anonymous audience.

This film has its moments of crudity, but the musical routines are well-choreographed and performed, and sharp comedy comes from the rapier verbal thrusts of Cassandra.

Laura Kelly plays Elspeth with gusto. She has a 2005 British Olivier Award behind

her for Best Actress in the stage musical, "Mary Poppins", and her formidable talents shine in this movie as she delivers a bravura performance. Keating's attractive singing voice and dance routines with Kelly establish him as a good musical choice to partner her.

The movie is entertaining fare, but fluctuates a little disappointingly between media satire about marketing someone into a person they're not, and showing the recovery of a couple trying to re-kindle their romance after forced fame.

This is an enjoyable feel-good movie. Its fantasy-musical routines are worth watching, and especially so, when the exuberant Laura Michelle Kelly is on the screen.

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

Looking beyond usual suspects of history

Mothers of the Church. The Witness of Early Christian Women by M Aquilina and C Bailey. Our Sunday Visitor Inc, 2012, 160 pages pb, \$19.95. Reviewer: Margaret Ryan.

Are you into the lives of saints? Even if not, these "Mothers of the Church", mostly saints, will almost certainly attract your attention. Aquilina and Bailey wrote a book "Fathers of the Church" and, responding to their wives' prompting, have produced this engaging and accessible sequel.

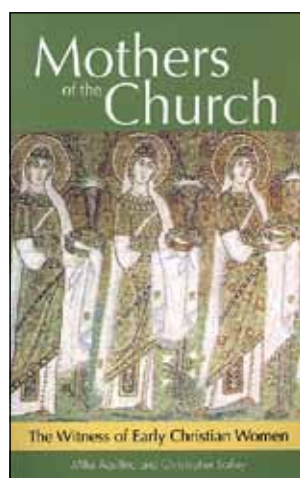
It was delightful to see that the authors went beyond the usually exclusive Church fare of famous virgins and martyrs (though some of these featured) to include impoverished widows, rich aristocrats, business women, a world traveller, a poet and women who discussed theology and philosophy with family and friends.

Both are fairly prolific authors in the Catholic arena. Aquilina has also hosted TV series on the EWT Network, and some works have been translated into several languages. Bailey has focussed on early Christian history and the psalms, and has a reputation for humorous Christian writing.

Apart from the gospels, the authors quoted from three modern collections of ancient and apocryphal sources in book format and online sites. They draw on scripture, history, sermons, hymns and letters from people like Sts Augustine, Gregory of Nyssa, Jerome, Ambrose, Irenaeus and John Chrysostom.

An introduction provided background to the early Christian period, and subsequent chapters draw on these particular women of the first centuries. There was minimal introduction to or commentary on the women: the writers' aim being to permit the stories to speak for themselves. And they do!

So, if you'd like a conversational read about some famous New Testament women, a few martyrs (some accounts are gory), poets and thinkers, and independently minded early Christian women, leaders and heroines all, this could be a good starting point.



Benedict's keen intellect comes to the fore

Jesus of Nazareth: the Infancy Narratives by Joseph Ratzinger, Pope Benedict XVI. Bloomsbury, 2012, 132 pages, \$22.95 hb. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.

At the time of writing the universal Church is coming to grips with the shock resignation of the Pope. He himself has recognised his weaknesses and has apologised for his shortcomings.

I don't know about you but I find humility to be quite refreshing in this era of self-promotion. Whatever we may think of Benedict's pontificate his scholarship is beyond dispute.

Late last year the third of his books on Jesus of Nazareth, the Infancy Narratives, was published.

As with those former volumes this one, although necessarily shorter, is characteristic of Benedict's conversational style, his keen intellect and his skill as a teacher.

As one would expect, he compares the two Gospel accounts about the birth of Jesus in Luke (angels and shepherds) and Matthew (Magi). He

also draws on historical sources, the manuscripts, John's images in his Gospel and the contributions of other scripture scholars.

Benedict's style is unique. For example, he constantly uses such phrases such as "let us return to the text" or "we need not concern ourselves with this".

We can imagine being present at a series of his well-crafted lectures. All power to the translator, Philip Whitmore, for preserving this immediacy.

Benedict dissects many gospel verses and draws our attention to the details.

For example, the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary in person at the Annunciation; to Joseph merely in a dream, albeit a real one. He gives several explanations about the star at Bethlehem.

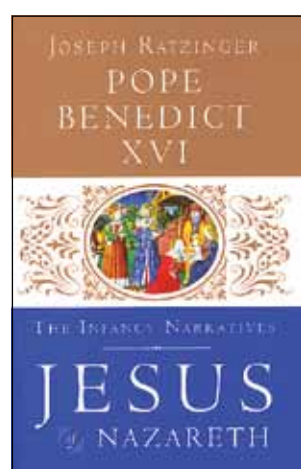
He discusses the reasons the tradition of three kings developed (Matthew mentions only wise men) and why the ox and ass were added to the Christmas crib.

He explains why developing theology caused gospel writers to use earlier prophetic scripture as proof-texts.

The Infancy Narratives have been familiar to us since early childhood. Benedict successfully demonstrates that

these are not meditations presented under the guise of stories but real history theologically thought through and interpreted so that we might understand the mystery of Jesus more deeply.

This small book would be an invaluable guide to preachers, students and all who wish to enter into the mystery of God-with-us. I remember when Benedict released the second of his books on Jesus of Nazareth he said he hoped to complete the trilogy with the infancy narratives if God willed it. We can be deeply grateful that this has happened.



Inspiration for all faith seekers

The Monastery of the Heart. An Invitation to a Meaningful Life by Joan Chittister. Bluebridge, 225 pages hb, \$29.95. Reviewer: Margaret Ryan.

How do I spend my life in a meaningful and fulfilling way? It's the cry of the universe and the ages. This book aims to provide contemporary reflections on the question, based on a 1500-year-old tradition, in our time of social and religious upheavals.

Sr Joan Chittister has been a Benedictine for more than 50 years. She is a respected author and lecturer,

director of a spirituality resource and research centre, and past president of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, as well as holding other national and international positions.

Her immersion in, and love of, the Benedictine tradition prompted her to outline many aspects of "the Benedictine Rule": Our Search (for God), Interior Life, Community, Service, Promise, and Spiritual Growth. Her elaboration of the rule and her rich personal and community experiences, enable her to write lov-

ingly of the delights and challenges of Benedict's vision.

She outlines ideas clearly, and the content is challenging and refreshing. Chittister uses a format that assists readers to follow and more easily absorb her points. The book was written for faith seekers in a secular society, living as individuals, as part of intentional groups or communities. It will inspire many to adopt and live Benedict's wisdom today: how to live deeply the interior life while remaining part of society, living our daily lives well. Highly recommended.

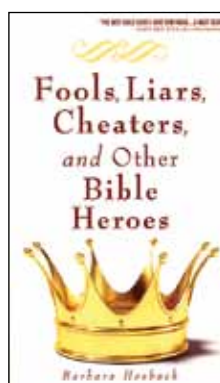
The pros and cons of biblical heroes

Fools, Liars, Cheaters and Other Bible Heroes by Barbara Hosbach. Franciscan Media, 2012, 137 pages, \$23.95. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.

We are accustomed to reading about saints and using these as inspiration. At times we may feel inadequate and unable to reach their lofty heights.

Barbara Hosbach has chosen to go back further to seek out her heroes and heroines, 14 from the Old Testament and 14 from the New, men and women.

Her stance is that God uses weak and imperfect people to reach out to the world in his love. She has chosen extraordinary examples to illustrate this love. There is Rahab the prostitute who lied; Leah, Jacob's first wife and second best to her sister Rachel; Philip (the deacon not the apostle); Ananias, who was fearful but obedient; the un-named demoniac cured by Jesus and the chronic invalid who met Jesus at the side of the pool. There are others, less or better known, but all on record for their response to divine prompting. Dip into the stories of ancient, flawed but loving human beings.



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BOMBALA CELEBRATES - St Joseph's 125th school reunion, 5-7 October. Past pupils, sisters, teachers, priests and friends invited. Inquiries: Daryl White, telephone 6458 3334, Cath Farrell 6458 7213, John Beddingfield 6458 3779.

DAY OF THE UNBORN CHILD - Celebration by pro-life movement on Feast of the Annunciation, 7.30am, Monday, 8 April, Mass, St Patrick's Church, Braddon. Inquiries: Fr P. McGavin, telephone 6251 6547, Philip 6254 3969, John 6161 7055.

DAY RETREAT - 9.15am-4pm, Saturday, 13 April, Carmelite Monastery, Red Hill, "Trusting God in hard times", run by Call to Connect. Speaker Fr Ken Barker MGL. Cost \$25. RSVP: 3 April with payment to Lorraine, telephone 0437 329 371; or St Benedict's parish office, telephone 6295 7879.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY - St Benedict's Church, Narrabundah, 2pm-4.15pm, 7 April, adoration and confession, Divine Mercy chaplet, Mass.

FAITH AND LIFE - Annual announcing and sharing day, 3pm, Sunday, 7 April, Holy Family Church, Gowrie. Faith and Light is an international Christian community of people with a disability, their family and friends. Inquiries: Pam Barker, telephone 6238 0991.

FEAST OF DIVINE MERCY - Sunday 7 April, St Clement's Monastery, Galong. Starts 2pm, Mass 3pm. Afternoon tea, bring a plate. Inquiries Gus or Ellen, telephone 6385 5225.

GALONG CONVERSATION - 1pm-4pm, Sunday, 14 April, St Clement's Monastery, Galong. "Spirituality and Relationship with God", led by Richard White. Bookings: Sue, telephone 6380 5222 or email info@stclement.com.au.

PILGRIMAGE TO OUR LADY OF MERCY SHRINE - Pauline Fathers Monastery, Penrose Park, Saturday, 13 April. Bookings: Judy and Joe Mewburn, telephone 6254 6202.

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

SIX DAY RETREAT - "The Resurrection: Catching the Spark and Recognising it in Others". 15-22 April, St Clement's Monastery, Galong led by Sr Helen Barnes RSJ and Richard White. Bookings: Sue, telephone 6380 5222 or email info@stclement.com.au.

THE SPIRITUALITY OF AGEING - Presentation by Rev Prof Elizabeth Mackinlay, 10am, Thursday, 18 April, The Pines, Tross Head. Archdiocesan Commission for Women. Men and women welcome. \$5 donation. Inquiries Lorraine Barker, telephone 6291 8113, 0437 329 371.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND - 14-16 June, Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville. Inquiries and bookings: Ardell and Bill Sharpe, telephone 4283 3435 or email wsharpe@bigpond.net.au. Website www.wvme.org.au.

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

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Five more sisters say 'yes'

Five more sisters have given their "yes" to God in the Missionaries of God's Love Sisters at two Masses at St Benedict's Church, Narrabundah.

Katherine Stone made her perpetual vows, a life commitment to Jesus, before family and friends.

"A lot of people asked me if I was nervous to commit myself in such an absolute way," she said. "Actually, the only thing I was really nervous about was the weather."

"I've spent the last eight years, not only preparing, but also waiting for this day."

"Having experienced God's love for me, to give my life to him unconditionally as an MGL sister seemed like the most fitting and natural response of love I could make."

The next day, Kelly Ku made her initial vows and Bernadette Toohey, Jessica Pryor and Courtney Chircop entered the novitiate.

The novitiate house is in Quakers Hill, Sydney, but in June, the sisters plan to move the novitiate back to Canberra where they have been able to buy a house.

The novitiate house has come about because of the generosity of many people across Aust-



MGL sisters leader Patti Jo Crockett (front far right) with new members (from left back) Jessica Pryor, Bernadette Toohey and Courtney Chircop. front Katherine Stone and Kelly Ku.

ralia who supported the sisters financially and the growing number of women who were discerning consecrated life, MGL sisters leader Sr Patti Jo Crockett said. The MGL sisters have houses in Melbourne, Sydney and Canberra.

Mass high point of 100th anniversary

Mother Nature might have played havoc with the plans, but that was not going to deter the faithful, as about 200 people gathered to mark the 100th anniversary of the first Mass to be celebrated on Australia's highest point, the peak of Mt Kosciuszko.

The anniversary Mass that was to be celebrated on the summit was moved to a shed at nearby Rawson Pass, thanks to heavy rain and wind, but Bishop Julian Porteous, of Sydney, led the congregation to the summit for a final blessing.

Bishop Porteous concelebrated Mass, which was part of the annual Kosciuszko Festival, with provincial of the Society of Christ Fr Przemyslaw Karasiuk and two Franciscans from Perth, Fr Tomasz Bujakowski and Fr Stanislaw Tomasiak. In honour of the Polish connection to the mountain, special guests included Polish Consul General Mr Daniel Gromann and vice-president of the Polish Council in Australia Mr Leszek Wikarjusz.

Bishop Porteous took advantage of the spectacular surroundings to remind the congregation to "tread gently over this ground" and to preserve it for future generations.

"Here where the wind sings and nature blooms we know that we are not the masters of the environment but rather humble beneficiaries of its beauty and fecundity," he said.

"Looking out on the splendour before us we are moved to be deeply respectful of something which is at once majestic and fragile."



Bishop Julian Porteous (left) with Fr Przemyslaw Karasiuk.

Organisers, led by Kosciuszko Heritage Inc president Ernestyna Skurjat-Kozek, had believed a Mass held on the summit in 2007 to commemorate the music of General Tadeusz Kosciuszko, a composer and freedom fighter, had been the first on the roof of Australia. They later discovered a plaque in St Thomas' Church, Moonbah, commemorating the first Mass on the summit, on 23 February, 1913.

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MISSION TALK



With thanks, congratulations and prayers for Pope Francis as he embarks on his new mission in shepherding God's people, a reminder that we are all participants in Christ's mission.

From 29 April to 1 May at the Sydney Congress Hall, the national conference on mission: Mission: one heart many voices, will be held.

Catholic Religious Australia in conjunction with Catholic Mission are gathering international voices such as Fr Stephen Bevan, SVD, Professor of Mission and Culture at Catholic Theological Union, Chicago, Sr Maureen McBride, Congregational Leader of the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions whose sisters are in 23 countries and Jose Ramos-Horta former President and Prime Minister of Timor Leste.

Local voices include Dr Gemma Tulud Cruz, senior lecturer in theology at ACU whose main research focus is migration, Archbishop Mark Coleridge from Brisbane and Mrs Kath Evans, whose healing was attributed to St Mary MacKillop. Sharing and indeed re-sharing the gift of life we celebrate each Easter, whether near or far, includes our voices too. Consider joining us. e www.mohmv.com.au or 1800 257 296.

God bless,
Deacon Joe Blackwell

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

‘We pray for him’



ARCHDIOCESAN administrator Mgr John Woods has welcomed the announcement of the new pope.

“Habemus Papam, Pope Francis, Jorge Mario Bergoglio, former Archbishop of Buenos Aires, a Jesuit from Argentina and therefore the first pope from the Southern Hemisphere. Turning to the source of all our blessings and in accordance with the request of Pope Francis, we pray for him and his pontificate. May his servant leadership of the People of God be graced in accordance with God’s will.”

THE Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby offered his warmest welcome.

“We wish Pope Francis every blessing in the enormous responsibilities that he has assumed on behalf of Roman Catholics around the world,” he said.

“His election is also of great significance to Christians everywhere, not least among Anglicans. We have long since recognised – and often reaffirmed – that our churches hold a special place for one another.

FIRST words of the new pope: “Dear brothers and sisters, Good evening. You know that the duty of the Conclave was to give Rome a bishop. It seems that my brother cardinals picked him from almost the ends of the earth. But here we are! I thank you for the warm welcome. The diocesan community of Rome has its bishop. Thank you! First and foremost I would like to say a prayer for our Bishop Emeritus Benedict XVI. Let us pray together for him, that the Lord bless him and the Virgin keep him.”

THOUSANDS of people who spent a sleepless night in the main square of Buenos Aires, Plaza de Mayo, to watch the Mass inaugurating former Archbishop Jorge Mario Bergoglio’s Petrine ministry had a pleasant surprise.

At 3.32am in Argentina, the speakers placed outside the cathedral in the square began to carry the voice of Pope Francis. He was calling from the Vatican to greet them.

A huge wave of applause greeted his words. “I want to ask a favour of you,” he said. “I want to ask for us to walk together, to care for one another, for you to care for each other. Do not cause harm. Protect life. Protect the family; protect nature; protect the young; protect the elderly. Let there not be hatred or fighting. Put aside envy.”

HIS first tweet: “Dear Friends, I offer my heartfelt thanks and ask you to continue to pray for me.” Pope Francis’ first tweet was sent from the twitter account @ponitfex, in nine languages. The account has been reactivated following Pope Benedict XVI’s retirement and already has 3.4 million followers.

• Front page picture of the Pope from AFP (Alberto Pizzoli). Back page picture from EPA (Valdrin Xhemaj).

Another Francis takes pride of place

The ever-growing collection of memorabilia St Francis of Assisi Primary School in Calwell has amassed from travellers in honour of its patron saint may have to make room for mementos of a different kind.

Principal David Austin would not be surprised if the collection starts to assume more of a papal flavour now that the school has a nominal bond with the new pontiff.

“We were very pleased to hear the Pope had chosen our name,” he said, especially after the Vatican confirmed that the name was specifically a dedication to Francis of Assisi.

“I must admit that when they first said it was Francis, I had to Google it – there are so many St Francises,” he said.

The school, the only one in the Archdiocese named after Francis of Assisi, was quick to pin up a large image of Pope Francis next to its statue of the saint, but Mr Austin said it was yet to think about a more lasting portrait. A school-wide celebration – “maybe a dress-up day” – is also in the planning stages.

‘He is a very humble man’

When Bishop Lucio Andrice Muandula (right), from Mozambique, woke up in Australia to the news that an Argentinian cardinal he knew and respected was now Pope Francis, he was delighted but not entirely surprised.

“I was very excited this morning when I heard. The media was not really speaking about him before, but I am very happy about this,” he said.

Bishop Muandula, who was in Canberra as a Lenten visitor for Caritas, has met the Pope five times – three times in Buenos Aires and twice in Rome – and admires his approach to his vocation.

“He is a very humble man. In his diocese, he used to visit the suburbs once a month and talk to the people and say Mass. He was always working with the poor and even going on the public buses,” he said.

He said the then Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio told him last year he had written to Pope Benedict, as he was required to



Mr Austin said the students were happy to hear about their link with the Pope.

“They all know about St Francis, about who he is and what he achieved.”

Year 6 students Macey Radburn, Ebony Boulding and Troy Simmons said they were excited about the news. Macey thought the choice of name suggested Pope Francis might be concerned with the environment.

Ebony said that St Francis was a good leader, and Troy said he “helped the poor people”.

ABOVE: Excited ... St Francis of Assisi Year 6 students (from left) Ebony Boulding, Troy Simmons and Macey Radburn are happy about their school’s link to the new Pope.



do at the age of 75, seeking guidance on whether he should continue in his work. “I think he was still waiting for his answer.”

Bishop Muandula said even though there was much discussion about what nationality the new Pope should be, “the important thing is he has to be able to understand and overcome the problems”.

The new Pope had been in the mix in the previous Conclave but had not considered himself a candidate, he said.

“Now, I think he knows Jesus was calling him to rebuild his church.”

He said the choice of the name Francis showed “what a humble man he is and what he thinks”.

Wisdom of Francis

IN a homily at the Vatican parish of St Anna, the Pope explained that sometimes people say to priests:

“‘Oh, Father, if you knew my life you wouldn’t say that.’ ‘Why? What have you done?’ ‘Oh, I’ve done bad things.’ ‘Good! Go to Jesus; He likes you to tell him these things. He for-

gets. He has the special ability to forget. He forgets them, kisses you, embraces you, and tells you only: ‘Neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more.’ He only gives you this counsel. A month later we are the same ... We return to the Lord. The Lord never tires of forgiving us, never! We are the ones who get tired of asking forgiveness. Let us ask for

the grace to never tire of asking forgiveness. Let us ask for this grace.”

HIS final words to the 200,000-strong crowd gathered in St Peter’s Square for his first Angelus: “Have a good Sunday and enjoy your lunch!”

AT an audience for 6000 journalists and media workers:

“Oh, how I wish for a Church that is poor and for the poor.”