

C A T H O L I C

VOICE

ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN

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Generous gift of life - centre pages

FREE

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Take opportunity to rug up for winter

Canberra turned on a cold, murky, winter's day when Sarah Clifton (right) modelled some Vinnies ensembles designed to look great and feel warm.

We had the help of fashion consultant Kimberley Granger, who describes herself as a "thrift shopper" who likes to buy her "unique statement pieces from op shops". Where better than Vinnies.

• Make a statement this winter, middle pages.



Busy hands and a nimble mind

- Queen's honours, page 5



Homeless 'humiliated'

We must change as a nation: Vinnies head

Society has failed the homeless by humiliating them and neglecting to give them a voice, a forum on homelessness in Canberra has heard.

The forum, run by the St Vincent de Paul Society, brought together experts on homelessness from the ACT and around Australia to discuss whether the 2008 White Paper target of halving homelessness in Canberra by 2020 could be achieved.

St Vincent de Paul Society national CEO John Falzon said inadequate benefit payments for the unemployed, single mothers and asylum seekers were examples of the ways in which society humiliated and excluded people.

Society then blamed these people for being excluded, creating the conditions for the increasing levels of homelessness that plague areas such as Canberra, which has the second-highest rate in Australia.

"We must change as a nation by tearing down the walls that lock people out, or literally lock them up, and instead build bridges not only to secure affordable housing but to provide education, employment, hope," Dr Falzon said.

He added that change would come about by "listening to the people who are best equipped to tell us how we must change", namely the homeless themselves.

The society's national vice-president, Graham West, agreed



Build bridges... John Falzon.

that "not enough voices of those experiencing the problems are being heard in the debate".

ACT Anglicare director of community services Jenny Kitchin said it was time to "throw down the gauntlet to service providers ... about how we listen to the people that we work with. We think we know what people need, but do we know what they want?"

The forum took the initiative on giving the homeless a voice,



Do we know... Jenny Kitchin.

including on its panel local businessman Glenn Tibbitts, who spent most of his youth and young adulthood living on the streets (see story page 8).

Mr Tibbitts gave an emotional account of his harrowing experiences, adding that he believed homelessness was a "whole-of-community issue" that should not be left just to government and charities to deal with. Homelessness Aust-

ralia CEO Nicole Lawder said the major contributors to homelessness, including domestic and family violence, lack of suitable accommodation for Aboriginal people and a shortage of affordable housing, were "a problem for everyone".

Australian Catholic University law professor and human rights advocate Fr Frank Brennan said Australians were becoming "very individualistic about our notion of rights ... (which) outweighs our idea of social responsibility and solidarity".

Former governor-general Sir William Deane, who topped and tailed the panel discussion, said homelessness was "a distressing indictment of the past and present which constitutes overwhelming present and future challenges to our decency as individuals and a community".

• Glenn comes in from the cold, Page 8.

Paul's path to priesthood

We travel with South Tuggeranong parishioner and former Marist College student Paul Nulley (pictured right) on the last leg of his journey to priesthood. He writes:

People often ask me how I feel about the sacrifices involved in being a seminarian and becoming a priest, by which they usually mean celibacy.

When I try to explain that underlying this decision is a relationship with God and a certainty that he has created me for this vocation, it is not uncommon to hear a flippant, "Well if that's what makes you happy." Although I feel they have trivialised something that is so personal and intimate, there is a deep truth in what they say.

This last month has led me to reflect on the joy of vocation. I attended a wedding and ordination of former classmates.

In both situations both men were so joyful, which made sense to me; this is what God has created them for. I don't doubt that there will be struggles ahead, after all a vocation is a particular way of picking up our cross



to follow Jesus. But Jesus is our way to the Father and our way to eternal life.

I suppose that is why I found it a privilege to attend our annual clergy conference at Galong last month. I felt a real sense of belonging.

It was a time for us as a whole to stop and look around at what is happening in the Archdiocese; the challenges facing us and the opportunities and priorities for mission in the future.

I was also struck by the goodness of the men present, how long they had been on the mission and how they were still exploring new ways to proclaim the good news in challenging times.

In returning to the seminary, which has about the same number of people that were present at the clergy

assembly, I was immediately struck by the youth, energy and enthusiasm here.

Although I don't doubt that this may be tempered with the trials ahead in ministry, I was certainly encouraged to see clearly the new life that the Holy Spirit continues to bring forth.

I think this is also witnessed to by the many ordinations I've attended throughout the year and that are still ahead.

Today also marks the last day of the seminary semester. The time has gone very quickly and it has been a very enjoyable semester.

Yesterday I passed my exam on hearing confessions, which was a 30-minute oral exam before two lecturers.

I've had some interesting pastoral outreach; the most unexpected was being asked to bless a pub. The seminary choir sang, the owner put on a decent feed and also organised for some live music led by Hugh McDonald from the Australian band Red Gum.

I've also started making remote preparations for my ordination, which is scheduled for the end of September.

For the meantime, now that the seminarians have left, I'll be remaining here to continue work on the synthesis; the last major task before ordination.

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From near and far



CONTINUING our historic theme in this year of the Archdiocese's 150th jubilee, Harden's Fr Patrick Kenna sent in this photograph of the 1943 first philosophy class at St Columba's College, Springwood.

In the group are two future cardinals, Edward Bede Clancy (front row, third from left) and Idris Edward Cassidy (middle row, third from left). Seated on the far right of the front row is the Archdiocese's future Vicar-General John Hoare, who at the time was Springwood's head prefect.

MORUYA parish priest Fr Emil Milat admits he took "a bit of a risk" when he arranged for two screenings of documentary film *The Triumph in Batemans Bay*.

"It was pretty scary, to be honest, because I hadn't seen the film ... I could have had egg on my face," he said. So he was relieved to see 150 people turn up to see the film, which follows the journey of a charismatic but drug-addicted youth whose parents send him to Medjugorge in Bosnia-Herzegovina, where Marian apparitions are believed to have taken place.

Fr Milat was also relieved that the film, "made more for a youth audience than a churchy audience", left many of the viewers "with a deep experience of hope and many laughs were included in the experience".

Having been profoundly moved by his own experiences at Medjugorge, which averages a million visitors a year, Fr Milat had hoped for "an intelligent, good-quality doco" to engage people who have not been there. He believes he got that.

STUDENTS from Batehaven, Moruya, Bombala, Cooma, Gundagai, Lake Cargelligo, St Edmund's College and Marist College are expected to take part in the second archdiocesan Catholic primary schools choir festival.

Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Paul Gallagher will award the trophies at the festival, which will be held on Wednesday, 14 August, at Merici College. It is organised by the Knights of the Southern Cross, in conjunction with the Catholic Education Office and Merici College. Admission is free.



SCHOOL feast days are always a special time for students. Merici College staff and students celebrated the feast day of St Angela Merici with Mass celebrated by chaplain Fr Bony Abraham. Students remembered St Angela as an educator of women from all classes of society. Her love and sensitivity to human needs and her deep understanding of God's love for all continues to influence Merici students as they follow St Angela's vision.

The Ursuline nuns came to Australia in 1882, to continue the work of founder Angela Merici. It is believed that as they set out from Sydney to Armidale they vowed to "challenge people to love life, have hope, be faithful and build futures more wondrous than you dare to dream".

At the Mass, student leaders (pictured above) from the each college house presented painted canvasses to the school community. When aligned, the series of canvasses affirm the college's 2013 theme "Building Futures".

Novena of Masses for the 2013 Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel



7th-15th July, 2013

CARMELITE MONASTERY, 28 Mugga Way, Red Hill, ACT

Sunday 7th July 9.00am Monsignor Luis-Miguel Munoz-Cardaba

Monday 8th July 10.30am Father Hilton Roberts

Tuesday 9th July 10.30am Bishop Max Davis

Wednesday 10th July 10.30am Father Brian Ebert

Thursday 11th July 10.30am Father Brian Ebert

Friday 12th July 10.30am Father Julian Wellspring

Saturday 13th July 8.30am H.E Archbishop Paul Gallagher

Sunday 14th July 9.00am Monsignor Luis-Miguel Munoz- Cardaba

Monday 15th July 10.30am Father Julian Wellspring

Tuesday, 16th July, FEAST OF OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL

10.30 am. Solemn Mass and Occasional Sermon

Principal Celebrant: H.E Archbishop Paul Gallagher

After Mass enrolment in the Brown Scapular will take place

The Novena of Masses will be offered for the following intentions:

1. Priests and People of the Archdiocese of Canberra- Goulburn.
2. Peace and freedom for the oppressed people throughout the world
3. All the sick and suffering.
4. Peace and harmony in family life.

Those who wish may forward their intentions to be placed at Our Lady's Shrine in the Chapel

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Supporting parish initiatives

Supporting parish initiatives

Limitations, but work goes on as Archdiocese waits

By Fiona van der Plaats

Archdiocesan Administrator John Woods has admitted to some frustration at finding himself still in the archbishop's office after a year in the caretaker role.

But, having managed "to keep the ship afloat" in a job he had expected to relinquish inside six months, he is determined to achieve as much as his mandate allows in whatever time he has left in the position.

"I am disappointed that it has taken so long (to appoint an archbishop)," he said.

"He is the point of unity within the Archdiocese and with the wider church. And, functionally, as an administrator you can't really innovate, and these rapidly changing times require innovation."

He said he was essentially in a "holding position", and this could have an impact on the Archdiocese's ability to move forward on things such as the Cathedral precinct project, which needed an archbishop's sign-off, and an archdiocesan assembly, which some people believed should not go ahead in the absence of an archbishop.

Parishes had also felt the effect, he said, since only now, after a year, was he authorised to appoint parish priests.

But Mgr Woods believes the Archdiocese has been far from "leaderless", a criticism he has heard "second-hand". "I would be confident that we have crossed the T's and dotted the I's inside the limitations of this interregnum period. And, while I don't think the mandate has been exceeded, I also don't think we have taken a minimalist approach."

Decisions the former Archbishop Mark Coleridge had put in place, such as the Archbishop's Christmas appeal and the episcopal council, had been "adapted and continued". A successful archdiocesan assembly had been staged and another was in the planning. He, Bishop Pat Power and the Australian Defence Force's Bishop Max Davis had ensured Confirmation continued to be celebrated.

The major challenges had been clergy departures, "which have taken a toll on other priests and especially the people they serve", and the demanding "professional standard matters" arising from the royal commission into institutional responses to child sexual abuse.

Mgr Woods said "the provision of, and support for, sufficient clergy to work with the faithful" was high on the agenda for the Archdiocese in the coming year.

So, too, were the question of what parish models would work best in the future, and the nature of lay participation, both paid and voluntary.

He also said better use of communication technology and the "enculturation" of overseas clergy needed to be examined, as did the adequacy of homilies. "Good homilies get people to think and reflect and consider their level of engagement with their faith, their parish and their life. I would suggest there hasn't been any successful parish renewal without addressing the homilies," he said.

Mgr Woods has no idea how much time he has left to devote to these matters in his present role. Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Paul Gallagher said the process of appointing the next archbishop continued "and prayers would be appreciated".

• **Punishing workload is entree for Administrator, Page 7.**

Priest charged

German community chaplain Fr Edward Paul Evans, 83, has pleaded not guilty in the ACT Magistrates Court to three charges of acts of indecency on a person between the ages of 10 and 16. Fr Evans was released on bail to appear in court on 15 August.

In a statement, Archdiocesan Administrator Mgr John Woods said Fr Evans was an incardinated priest of the Augsburg Diocese in Germany. With the agreement of the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn and under the auspices of Catholic Pastoral Services to Germans living overseas, he has been chaplain to the German community since 1993.

Mgr Woods said Fr Evans would not exercise priestly ministry pending the outcome of the matters before the court.

The Archdiocese had co-operated with the police and would continue to do so, and the matter had been reported to the Vatican.

Oldest sister dies

One of Australia's oldest religious sisters, Mercy Sr Madeleine Lawrence has died at Mt St Joseph's Home, Young. She was 110. Her funeral took place from St Mary's Church, Young. Born in Victoria in 1902, she joined the Sisters of Mercy when she was 17. Her decision to join was influenced by a priest she met when she was a young girl. Sr Madeleine taught in schools and orphanages in many areas including Goulburn, Galong and Jerilderie.

In an interview to mark her 109th birthday, she told Catholic Voice an ordinary day involved prayer, Mass, reading, writing letters to her many past students who keep in touch, and a game of scrabble.

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letters to the editor

I hope asylum seekers will forgive me

I am responding to "Justice needed for all refugees" (CV, June) from John L Smith.

The title is fine but the attack on "boat people" is illogical. The great majority of boat people have been found to be refugees. More people claiming to be asylum seekers arrived by air and a far smaller proportion of these people are found to be refugees.

The facts are that the Australian Humanitarian Program caters for 20,000 people per year, providing 12,000 places for refugees and 8000 places for Special Humanitarian Program entrants. It is only these 8000 places that may be allocated to onshore applicants. There are justice issues in this procedure.

If people want to move away from rumours and myths, and face the real facts, there are numerous websites that have the facts.

The Centre for Policy Development produces an online resource Refugee Facts. The Refugee Council of Australia has published Myths and Facts about Asylum Seekers. The Edmund Rice Centre for Justice And Community Education and the School of Education, Australian Catholic University produced a document Debunking the Myths about Asylum Seekers. The Australian Catholic Social Justice Council publications, such as Justice Trends, examine the issues relating to refugees, asylum seekers and other humanitarian entrants.

Australia needs to ensure that it meets all its international obligations in the way that it deals with asylum seekers, so many of whom are children. We have nothing to forgive these people for; I hope that they will forgive me for what I have failed to do for them.

Bevil Purnell, Florey.

Plight of lonely put in too-hard basket

I refer to both Mr Phil Robinson's letter to the editor and Kath Woolf's article (CV, May) and applaud them for speaking up against the evils of euthanasia.

I acknowledge their very real concern at not-so-voluntary euthanasia. The majority of the Church is indeed very blind to this movement.

Kath's article, in particular, rings true when she writes of how marginalised people, such as those who are unmarried with no family, could very well be at risk of not wanting to go on any longer.

The failing community and care by the majority of the Church on this front is a dire situation. The majority of Catholics want to place the plight of the lonely in the too-hard basket, as it would mean practising what they preach.

People left out of our communities (but without the faith in Jesus Christ our Lord, also lack

hope) have no family to be with at times like Christmas and Easter. It will be people like this who don't have faith who will insist such evil becomes legal, in response to the extreme failure of many not living their faith properly by caring.

The scenario I describe above would be the consequence of the comfort zone of common affluence and clique-iness in churches that prefer to be country clubs rather than houses of worship and faith-filled communities. Those in their comfort zone now, asleep at the wheel, will find themselves at the mercy of these killer laws when a shortage of beds becomes a bigger issue in our ageing population.

Political parties cannot be blamed for bringing in euthanasia legislation when Catholics will not be more inclusive to those who don't fit a few good little Catholic moulds.

Groups like Labor for Life are trying to combat the push for this legislation, and the root cause of its support, with very little or no assistance.

Tara McInnes, convener, ACT Labor for Life, laborfor@live.com.au

Catholics also need to evangelise

I was intrigued by Fr John Parsons' opinion that Islam was from God and we should be happy about it ("Avoid stereotyping of Muslims – call", CV, June).

Presumably Fr Parsons was not referring to the Islamic teaching that God has no Son, there was no crucifixion and no resurrection, as being from God?

Presumably he was not referring to the Islamic rejection of one God as Trinity, the cornerstone of our Christian faith, as being from God? Presumably he was not referring to Islamic sharia law with its amputations, floggings and executions as being from God? Presumably he was not referring to invocations to violent jihad in Muhammed's Koran as being from God?

St John of Damascus, the seventh-century Doctor of the Church, who lived in the time of initial aggressive Islamic conquest, rejected Islamic teachings as heresies. They remain heretical today and are no cause for celebration.

Fr Parsons makes a valid point – the need to make a distinction between a religion and its followers of which there are a vast variety, good and bad. The Muslims in our midst (our friends, neighbours, colleagues) provide us with an opportunity for evangelism with the Good News of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ – something they are usually forbidden from hearing in Islamic countries, and something which many are hungering to hear. Our non-Catholic Christian brethren are successfully evangelising Muslims. We Catholics are also called to evangelise, but we need the support and encouragement of our clergy in this mission.

Jeff Dutton, Isaacs.

Always blessed

By Archdiocesan Administrator Mgr John Woods

"Don't you let us down again." Francis Sullivan CEO of the Church's 'Truth, Justice and Healing Council' said that this comment from a victim of child sexual abuse challenged him. Addressing our annual clergy assembly at St Clement's, Galong, Sullivan suggested that the church must truly listen to victims, apologise with sincerity made manifest in systemic change and offer compensation which assists their healing.

As of late June, 24 notices had been served by the Royal Commission into Child Sexual Abuse on dioceses, religious congregations and education offices. Our Archdiocese has not been served and it may not be, though we are preparing our documents in the event that we are. Meanwhile, the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry and the Hunter Valley Special Investigation into child sexual abuse continue. Besides co-operating with civil investigations, the Church has reached out to victims through the Melbourne Response and Towards Healing, neither of which prejudice a victim's rights to legal redress. Moreover, since 2010 allegations of child sexual abuse by a member of the clergy must be referred to the Vatican for direction.

On a broader canvas, there has been a call from retired Sydney Auxiliary Bishop Geoffrey Robinson and others for a review of church governance and culture in response to the deep wound of child sexual abuse. Others, including Cardinal George Pell deny the need for reform to the extent proposed by Robinson. The discussion will continue. I encourage you to share your thoughts and feelings about the remediation of child sexual abuse within the Church and wider society.

Church more than child sexual abuse

By way of context for that discussion, I would note that just as a person with cancer, diabetes or mental health issues is more than their disease, so the Church is more than child sexual abuse. Each day we all benefit from countless graced words and acts. The impetus for those acts is the same as that for the Australian bishops call for a Year of Grace; a deeper and more personal relationship with Jesus under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

The decision has been taken to continue the Year of Grace beyond Pentecost Sunday (Beyond the Year of Grace or BYOG if you will; it is an Australian initiative after all) until 24 November, the Feast of Christ the King and the end of the liturgical year when the Vatican's Year of Faith, which celebrates the blessings of Vatican II and the Catholic Catechism, concludes.

If we look and listen as a pilgrim people, under grace and in faith therefore, we can both affirm the movement of the Holy Spirit and name that which hinders it. Back in 1996, Bishop Robinson cited John Henry Newman who in a letter to a friend claimed, "There is nothing on this earth so ugly as the Catholic Church, and nothing so beautiful". The credibility and mission of the Church have been severely damaged by child sexual abuse. Yet that is not the full story for as we know the "light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it" (Jn 1:5). It is only in Jesus that the "conflict of oppo-



sites" that we find in ourselves can be reconciled. That is why he is our saviour and that is why we must seek individual and communal transformation in him. It is also why the NSW Bishops Lenten Pastoral Sowing in Tears called for prayerful reparation on the part of all the faithful.

In seeking transformation in Christ we will be responding to the Vatican's call for a New Evangelisation. We need to enliven our faith – to make it relational not simply propositional – to engage with disaffected Catholics and those who have yet to encounter the Risen Lord. However, the key is personal renewal. Archbishop Mark often noted that "structures and programs will save no one". They can assist our life in Christ, they cannot replace it.

Besides, the new evangelisation is not waiting for our bureaucratic initiatives. It is happening every day if one but reflects that to evangelise or to further the mission of the Church is to identify, encourage, engage and celebrate the movement of the Holy Spirit. While you could cite me many instances from your experience, permit me to share some of mine.

Evangelising encounters

Recently, I was present at a dinner for directors from across Australia of various welfare initiatives of the Church. Their work is evangelising. I attended the Mass for five Sisters of St Joseph who between them have given 290 years of faith witness. Their lives are evangelising. So too that of Sr Madeleine Lawrence RSM who died recently in Young at age 110. I shared a meal with the five young adults of the National Evangelisation Team who engage with the youth of our schools and parishes. Their work is evangelising. I participated in the St Vincent de Paul CEO Sleepout for the homeless which affirmed that evangelisation occurs in the Church and beyond as the Spirit so moves. I was purchasing food with a friend after praying the prayers of commendation over her deceased dad. The lady serving us did not charge for our coffees in deference to the situation. Her sensitivity evangelised me. I was test driving a car and, on discovering that I was a priest, the sales consultant was interested in discussing faith issues. That was an evangelising encounter. Visiting Fr Peter Day at HOME in Queanbeyan I was part of a conversation as to just what Pope Francis means when he calls for a "poor Church for the poor"? Peter spoke of the call to "wash feet".

This notion of service is surely at the heart of evangelisation or sharing our life in Christ. It was to the fore in the life of St Joseph.

Pope Francis has decided that Joseph is to be acknowledged in the second, third and fourth Eucharistic Prayers, being already acknowledged in the first. He is to be honoured as spouse of Mary. Our honour is also in relationship. A noble man, Joseph did not want to dishonour the pregnant Mary; he sought asylum for his threatened family and he laboured for their well-being. He persevered in faith. Might we, too, accept the Spirit's invitation into the dance of life and, like Joseph, be blessed in our relationships – in both the good and the challenging times.

Trish finds recipe for happy family

By Fiona van der Plaats

It is Thursday evening and the Mowbray family is gathered in the kitchen, where a simmering slow cooker promises a warm and comforting meal to match the atmosphere in the home itself.

The love and smiles are in abundance, and the discipline, where necessary, is firm but gentle.

This is the kind of home Trish Mowbray hopes her children will continue to enjoy, even when she and husband Glenn are not living there.

The couple are planning for their three grown Down syndrome sons to live independ-

ently in the family home in Macquarie, while they live in a smaller place out the back.

"We've been working with the government to make sure it sees us as a Christian family. They'll treat us like a community model, rather than treating them as individuals. So, if something happens to us, they can keep our Christian traditions," Mrs Mowbray said.

Faith and the wellbeing of all people with a disability are important to Mrs Mowbray, who was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia for her work in these areas.

"Our family has been at the centre of it all," she said of the



All about family ... the Mowbray clan (from left), Luke, Glenn, Peter, Paul, Trish, Emmalee and baby Noah, gather for dinner.

direction her life has taken around her four children, all adopted with special needs – Luke, 28, Peter, 26, Emmalee, 24, and Paul, 21 – and Emmalee's five-month-old son Noah.

She has gone from teaching in Catholic schools to working with the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference on disability projects. In between, she became a catechist in state schools and now

runs the School of Religion at St Vincent de Paul parish in Aranda.

She has developed sacramental programs for children and parents with a disability, and programs to keep parents, particularly those with intellectual disabilities, engaged with their own faith communities.

She also manages her sons' work commitments at Koomarri and their other activities, including music and a monthly paper round for Catholic Voice.

Driven by her passion "for people who have been marginalised" and for helping young carers, Mrs Mowbray says her life has been challenging but rewarding.

"I think it was part of God's plan for us ... When we found out we couldn't have kids and then came across a special needs list (for adoption), we gave it to God and said we'll take what comes along," she said.

An independent voice is heard

He has been recognised with a Medal of the Order of Australia for service to journalism and his town of Gundagai, but Patrick Sullivan is the first to admit he might have put a few noses out of joint in his time.

"If you want to be the most popular chap in the community, don't be a newspaper man," he said, reflecting on 50 years as a writer, editor and owner of the Gundagai Independent.

"I enjoyed being part of the community as well as recording whatever happened around the place but, at times, the role became difficult. You just can't please everyone."

Not that he was one to back down from something he believed. Archbishop Francis Carroll discovered this when Mr Sullivan was on the advisory board for the set-up of Catholic Voice 25 years ago. "He (Archbishop Carroll) defined a new dogma for me, called the 'Gundagai infallibility'," he said.

Mr Sullivan, 73, has some regrets about things he has published, however. Not because they weren't true, but because "some things can be hurtful".

The third-generation Patrick Sullivan to own and operate the paper, he saw it through all its technology changes, from hot-metal typesetting to computerisation, before selling it six years ago.

"My enthusiasm had waned," he said, and none of his five children had showed an interest in taking up the reins. It has been "a very clean break" after all those years. "I've found other things to do," he said, notably travelling with his wife of 42 years, Colleen.

Having done his time on school and parish committees with St Patrick's parish, Mr Sullivan still volunteers for the Gundagai conference of St Vincent de Paul Society, of which he is a past president.

RIGHT: "You can't please everyone" ... but Patrick Sullivan pleased enough people to earn an OAM.



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

Busy hands and a nimble mind

They might be 90 years old, but Petronella Wensing's hands are surprisingly steady and nimble. And, as she says, "they are always busy".

The busyness encompasses many activities, but more often than not involves lacework, embroidery, knitting, crocheting or sewing.

Mrs Wensing, from Braddon, credits her busy hands to a case of rickets as a young child in Holland. Treatment for what her big brothers called her "banana legs" laid her up for so long that she learnt to knit "to give me something to do".

Thanks to that skill, 60 years after moving to Australia with husband Michael and two young boys – a third was born hours after she stepped off the ship – Mrs Wensing has been recognised with a Medal of the Order of Australia for service to the creative arts and the community.

She was president of the Canberra Lace Makers Association, and while president of the Australian Embroiderers' Guild in the late 1980s, she contributed to a 13-metre embroidery for the new



Busy hands ... Petronella Wensing works on garters for a granddaughter's wedding.

Parliament House as well as the Sergeant-at-Arms' jabots (ruffles) and cuffs.

The Canberra Museum and Gallery, the National Museum of Australia and the ACT Legislative Assembly hold pieces of her handiwork.

Mrs Wensing also taught textiles and fashion at St Clare's College for 17 years.

She proudly points out that she introduced bobbin lace units "recognised by

the education department" and that one of her former students is now curator of textiles at the National Museum.

She has travelled the world to study the many forms of her craft and, as recently as 2006, she used a grant from the Netherlands government to bring a Dutch lace maker to Australia to run workshops.

These days, most of her handcrafting is for a milestone related to her five children, 12 grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and countless offspring from her seven brothers and two sisters.

Mrs Wensing's contributions to the community are also significant. Notably, she is a member and former president of the Catholic Women's League, which she represented on the immigration department's Good Neighbour Council and through which she helped many migrant women and their families.

For all that she has achieved, Mrs Wensing says a Queen's Birthday gong was a surprise. "You live your life and become part of the community, but you don't expect this."

Cab man hailed for years of service

Weetangera's John McKeough has a framed black-and-white photo taken in 1980, when his industry named him Taxi Driver of the Year.

The mother of one of the two boys in the photo with Mr McKeough gave it to him as a thank you for picking up the boys from school every day in his taxi.

One of those boys contacted Mr McKeough after the 74-year-old's 50 years of service to the taxi industry and the community earned him a Medal of the Order of Australia.

"He's in his 40s now, with a couple of kids," said Mr McKeough, shaking his head slightly as if to wonder where the years have gone.

Taxis are still a big part of Mr McKeough's life, along with his wife of 52 years, Millie, his four children and 13 grandchildren, friends, golf, the Lions club and his parish in Page.

He doesn't drive taxis any more, but he still owns three of them, including "TX 14" – the first licence he bought as a 24-year-old.

He sold it after eight years but bought it back 25 years ago. The £8375 he paid for those original plates would equate to about \$800,000 today. To buy a licence now costs about \$300,000. "It's come down a lot," he said.

For the lowdown on the taxi business in Canberra and around the nation, Mr McKeough is your man. He has served on the boards of Aerial Taxis in Canberra for 27 years, the



Driving days ... John McKeough and his wife Millie with the photograph of two young taxi clients from 1980.

Canberra Taxi Industry Association for about 25 years and the Australian Taxi Industry Association for 24 years.

He established the Aerial Taxis driver training course in 1987, produced an industry newsletter for a few years and contributes to an Aerial magazine.

Mr McKeough and his wife also spent 20 years volunteering as marriage preparation course presenters for what was then Centacare, after Fr Pat Cusack from Page, and then Mgr John Hoare, approached them about giving it a go.

While Millie continued to run pre-marriage FOCCUS courses for the agency, Mr McKeough retired himself from the courses in the 1990s, "when they decided they wanted to pay us".

Internet www.cg.catholic.org.au

'Greater certainty' welcomed in school funding

The Catholic Education Commission has welcomed the ACT budget as an important step towards providing greater certainty for Catholic school funding in the ACT.

Director of Catholic Education Moira Najdecki said she was encouraged by the ACT Government's announcement of the increase in funding through

the national education reforms.

The signing of the National Education Reform Agreement by Prime Minister Julia Gillard and Chief Minister Katy Gallagher has "brought us one step closer to funding certainty for Catholic schools", she said.

"For many years, ACT Catholic systemic schools have received the lowest

levels of recurrent funding for Catholic schools of any state or territory in Australia.

"This agreement recognises the needs of the more than 17,000 students in ACT Catholic schools, their parents/guardians and teachers."

Mrs Najdecki also welcomed the allocation of \$4.62 million to the Smart School, Smart Student,

Supporting non-government students and Supporting non-government preschools initiatives as promised in the lead up to last year's ACT election.

She particularly welcomed the announcement that, as part of the four-year funding to support non-government preschools, \$500,000 has been allocated to the development of a new early learn-

ing centre at St Jude's Primary School, Holder.

Commission chair Daryl Smeaton said the commission "recognises that we are living in a tight fiscal environment, however, investment in education is an investment in the future of the ACT. We will continue to work closely with the ACT and Australian governments."



Needs recognised... Moira Najdecki.



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Time: 11am - 4pm
Cost: Donation. BYO lunch
RSVP: 16th August
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Town: GOULBURN
Venue: J.T. Woods Centre, St Joseph's Convent, Reynolds St
Time: 10am - 3pm
Cost: Donation. BYO Lunch
RSVP: 19th August
Date: Wednesday 28th August
Town: BATEHAVEN
Venue: St Joseph's House of Spirituality, 12 David Ave
Time: 10am - 3pm
Cost: \$25 Lunch provided
RSVP: 21st August
Inquiries: Sr Mary Murphy
PO Box 45, Ardlethan NSW 2665
Phone: 02 6978 2585
Email: marymrsj13@gmail.com

Cold comfort for CEOs camping

When Softball ACT boss and keen camper Matt Morrissey bought a sleeping bag rated for -5C, he never dreamed he would need to test it to that limit.

But put it to the test he did as one of more than 140 CEOs who survived the coldest of this year's Vinnie's sleepouts, shivering through an overnight low of -5C in Canberra's Civic Square.

It was Mr Morrissey's first CEO Sleepout. Horrified by the statistics showing the ACT has the second-highest rate of homelessness in the country, he rallied his workmates and the softball community to exceed his fundraising target of \$2000, which will be used to help the homeless.

For Thom Carter, general manager of the Canberra Calvary professional baseball club, the fact he had a sleeping bag at all made him luckier than a "real homeless person".

At least, when he saw the weather forecast, he could pack more layers of clothing and ask a friend for his super-weight sleeping bag, he said.

Meanwhile, Sleepout first-timers Steph Burgess and Natalie Maconachie said their work in the not-for-profit sector inspired them to participate.

Ms Burgess is finance manager of the John James Memorial Foundation



Bedtime ... Softball ACT's Matt Morrissey dons a "onesie" for a night out in the cold.

and Ms Maconachie is CEO of the Asthma Foundation.

"This just felt like the right thing to do," said Ms Burgess, who "danced around the office like a child" when

she cracked her \$5000 fundraising target the day before the sleepout.

The event had raised \$422,000 up to sleepout night. Donations may be made until 31 August at www.ceosleepout.org.au.

Voice in tune after 25 years

Emeritus Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn Francis Carroll admits his decision to establish a free archdiocesan newspaper 25 years ago was a gamble.

"But it was a gamble worth taking," he said at a reception, hosted by Archdiocesan Administrator John Woods at Archbishop's House to mark the 25th anniversary of Catholic Voice.

Archbishop Carroll had braved wet winter roads from Wagga Wagga to be guest of honour at the celebration, marking an important milestone for a publication that pioneered free Catholic diocesan newspapers around Australia.

He said Canberra-Goulburn was a "tricky large diocese with very disparate groups of people" and his aim in establishing the paper as a tool for "information,



Memories ... (from left) Catholic Voice editor Mr Geoff Orchison, Mrs Helena Lister, Archbishop Francis Carroll and Sr Marie McAlister at the reception.

consultation and dialogue" was to develop a stronger local identity throughout the Archdiocese.

Archbishop Carroll thanked current editor Geoff Orchison, only the second editor since the paper's inception, for his 19 years of service, along with many people who helped to set up and maintain the publication. Among the guests were foundation board chair Mrs Helena Lister and original board members Sr Marie McAlister and Mr Bren Milsom.



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Punishing workload is entree for Administrator

By Fiona van der Plaats

When a new archbishop is installed in Canberra, Archdiocesan Administrator Mgr John Woods will leave his digs overlooking Commonwealth Park with one definite regret.

"I'll really miss the food," he said, having "never eaten so well in my life" thanks to the considerable hospitality skills of Jorge and Lisette Perez at the Archbishop's House.

Apart from being less well-fed, Mgr Woods has no idea what is in store for him. He could go back to a parish or return to his previous role as the Archdiocese's vicar general. But he refuses to waste any time worrying about what might or might not happen.

"Just as challenges and opportunities have turned up for me as Administrator, so they will when I go back to doing whatever I'm asked to do," he said.

One thing he seems sure about is that he will not be sporting a bishop's mitre any time soon. Not that he wouldn't consider the opportunity if it came his way. But it does not feature in his career plan.



"I would really enjoy a break" ... Mgr John Woods has kept up the pace in more than a year as Archdiocesan Administrator.

"I don't have an ambitious bone in my body with regard to the Church. Maybe if I was married and had children and other responsibilities, I would

be more circumspect about such matters.

"That's not to say I don't work hard, because I do. But I don't do it for acclamation.

"I do it out of self-motivation."

And few would doubt that work ethic. Mgr Woods has maintained a punishing sched-

ule since moving into the office of Archbishop Mark Coleridge, who vacated in May last year.

Not only has he carried out many of the duties of an archbishop, but his connections to the grassroots as a former parish priest in Tuggeranong and then administrator at St Christopher's, not to mention his decades as a Canberra citizen (having migrated with his family from New Zealand), have kept him busy with baptisms, funerals, weddings and other engagements.

Such things keep him "grounded", he said. His experiences of being part of a parish community, "where you laugh, cry and grow together", have given him a level of awareness and understanding that he believes others in his position might not have had.

Mgr Woods has come around to saying no to some things, however. And the salient lesson he has learnt from the past year, during which he has soldiered on thinking it would only be for a few months, is the need to factor in some time off. "I would really enjoy a break," he said.

• Cont Page 15.



Australian Catholic University's Open Day is an excellent opportunity to find out what the University has to offer.

The event is free and there will be entertainment, sample bags, a barbeque and more.

With campus tours, information sessions and a chance to meet staff and students, Open Day is the perfect way to discover what university life is all about.

Canberra Campus

Saturday 31 August
9am - 4pm

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Gerard Heffernan

Happy New (Financial) Year

Tax time – a time when you get a chance to stop and look at how you tracked financially over the past 12 months!

As it is appropriate to stop and reflect on how we are doing with different aspects of our lives including our physical and spiritual health – it is also healthy to do the same with our “financial health”.

I think most of us avoid this (maybe even all 3) just because we are fearful of what we might discover. We are afraid to consult the doctor/physical trainer, spiritual director or financial professional for many different reasons, but I believe fear of discovery is probably the highest, a close second is time!

My advice is don't let another financial year pass without at least taking a small amount of time to ensure that everything's in order and consult the appropriate “professional” – after all, it's not just about you – those closest to us rely on this as well.

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Glenn comes in from the cold

Some authoritative voices spoke up in what former governor-general Sir William Deane described as “the most qualified and talented group I have ever seen in one room to address the subject” as part of the St Vincent de Paul forum on homelessness in Canberra.

But the voice with the most impact was stumbling, tearful and untrained. It belonged to the CEO of GET Security in Canberra, Glenn Tibbitts, who spoke publicly for the first time about his own life of homelessness.

It was a hard story for him to tell, but an even harder story to have lived.

It was literally a blow-by-blow account of the abuse and almost-fatal beatings that started before he was born, forcing his mother into premature



In from the cold ... Glenn Tibbitts tells his story of homelessness.

labour, and continued throughout his childhood until, as a young man, “I knew I had to escape”.

Mr Tibbitts found himself alone with “no possessions, no

money, no skills to keep myself alive”.

He spent many months sleeping on the streets, where “the nights were cold and full of noise”, and living off discarded food scraps before he learnt about Vinnies' refuges and other services.

They could only offer so much, however, and Mr Tibbitts life became a vagrant's tale of roaming from state to state, landing in and out of trouble with the law – often inadvertently – and fending off mean-spirited and ill-intentioned people.

Along the way he was introduced to marijuana and thus started a cycle “of self-medication that lasted for years”.

Two sons, one of whom had mental illness and ended up homeless in Brisbane before

committing suicide in 2011, and a much-loved step-daughter came into the picture as he rode a rollercoaster of fortune in an attempt to pull himself out of what is recognised as the cycle of homelessness.

With determination, and the help of organisations such as the St Vincent de Paul Society, Mr Tibbitts now has a wife, another daughter and a business of his own.

His is the story that Youth Off the Streets' Fr Chris Riley, who spoke at the forum, tries to circumvent when his program moves in to “emerging homeless hot spots” to deal with the trauma and lack of opportunity that so often leads to homelessness.

Rome ordination for deacon from Canberra

Canberra's Dominic Byrne, who went to study at The Pontifical Beda College in 2008, has been ordained to the diaconate in Rome.

He was ordained at the Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls with 11 other men from Malta, England, Ireland and Wales by Archbishop Emeritus of Westminster Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor.

On his return to Australia, Deacon Byrne said the ordination was “smooth and enjoyable as the cardinal contrasted the Son and Father themes of the readings during his homily.

“I was aware that something was ending and something else beginning, or perhaps there was continuity of the same golden thread. It was with the last thought that I remembered something I had read: the only response to God's magnanimity is to be thankful and I was throughout.

“We are all equipped to reciprocate God's love, and I tried to be a beacon of his



love at this moment, constantly mindful of his presence.”

Deacon Byrne grew up in Woden before moving to Banks then Kingston, living on Canberra Avenue, opposite his old school, St Edmund's College.

ABOVE: Thankful throughout ...

Deacon Dominic Byrne at his ordination to the diaconate is greeted by Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor.

Hundreds come out to pray - at 1am

The temperature was 5C and the time 1am when about 300 worshippers gathered in St Christopher's Cathedral to join with Pope Francis as he led a worldwide solemn eucharistic adoration from the Vatican.

The Year of Faith event was held on the feast of Corpus Christi.

Deacon Matt Ransom said the gathering brought together young and old and members of many different communities.

The hour-long adoration included periods of silence, Taize chants, scripture readings and benediction.



He attributed the large crowd for the time of day to Pope Francis having a big impact.

“I think also there are people worried about our Aussie church and want to

pray, and I think the 1am time was a cool and unusual thing for youth,” he said.

The congregation prayed for “the Church throughout the world united in adoration of the Most

Holy Eucharist, that the Lord makes her ever obedient to his word so that she appears before the world as beautiful, without spot or wrinkle, holy and without blemish; and for peo-

ple around the world who are suffering from violence, drug or human trafficking, economic insecurity, and those who have been pushed to the margins of society”.

A generous gift that allowed lives to blossom

Faced with the heartbreak of losing their teenage son, Cate Hale and Patrick Willix, part of the St Vincent's school and parish community in Aranda, made the decision to donate his organs so others could live. This is the speech Cate gave at the DonatLife ACT Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving in Canberra.

One Sunday, just over two years ago, our world turned on its head. Our 14-year-old son, Tom, had been injured a week before in a prank with his friends, and suddenly became very sick with gastro-like symptoms.

By the end of that day, I was on the phone to emergency services and my husband was performing CPR on our darling boy on the floor of his bedroom.

Tom was transported to the closest hospital, Calvary at Bruce, as they tried to get him stable. A few hours later, they moved him to ICU, where he looked peaceful and without pain and still, very still.

He was an active child so it was rare for us to see him so still. After the coroner's inquiry, it was confirmed last year that Tom had died from toxic shock.

At the end of the tests, when they announced that Tom was brain dead and that nothing more could be done, we asked about organ donation. It was something I had discussed with him when he was younger and we had both been clear it was what we would like to do.

I often think back on that conversation. I thought I was letting him know what I wished in case he ever needed to make the decision for me. I never imagined it would be the other way round.

As Tom was unable to be moved, we were still in Calvary ICU, but Canberra Hospital is the main hospital for trauma patients and therefore the home of the DonatLife office.



A shining light in the hard times ... Cate Hale and Patrick Willix have taken comfort in the fact their son's organs have given others a second chance.

When we told Calvary we wanted to donate Tom's organs, we weren't aware it had been several years since an organ donation had been organised at Calvary and a new consideration for the staff.

The pastoral care team moved into action, getting the team from DonatLife over to Calvary for us. We are thrilled that there is now a DonatLife person at Calvary two days a week.

Patrick and I found different parts of the process difficult due to our different personalities.

Whereas Patrick struggled with needing to remember details about Tom's medical

history, I found comfort in the medical questionnaire. It gave me something useful to do as I spoke of Tom and remembered his life. But I struggled with letting him go through the doors of the theatre because of the finality of that moment.

Four days after he was rushed to emergency, we would walk out of the hospital without our boy.

Tom is our second child. Conor is 2½ years older than Tom, Amelia is seven years younger and Rory nine years younger.

He was our cheeky, silly boy who would entertain us, joke and tease, driving his siblings crazy. He loved sport and travel and all things new. He stood for justice in the everyday. For his parents, his inquisitive, active mind was a blessing and a curse as he was always exploring and wanted to push everything to the next level.

Tom taught us the importance of family and good friends, to live in the moment, to enjoy all life has to offer and to stand for what we know is right. We often reflect on the fact he squeezed more into his 14 years of life than many people get into 60.

We were overwhelmed and touched by the support we have found within our community – the hospital staff, the DonatLife staff, and our family, friends and school communities.

The decision to donate Tom's organs captured the energy and generosity of spirit that he showed throughout his life. It's been a shining light in the hard times of grief and a reminder that all that pain and heartache in those few days wasn't futile.

As we have grappled to come to terms with a situation that still seems so illogical and hard to grasp, comfort has come from the fact that other lives have blossomed due to Tom's donations, that he was able to give them another chance to enjoy all life has to offer – the joy and the pain of it.

For information on organ donation, go to www.donatlife.gov.au.

A friend at the ready for those in need of support

By Fiona van der Plaats

Having not long separated from her husband "after many years of ups and downs", Patricia Clark turned to her doctor for help to get through it all.

The advice was, "Join a gym, go ballroom dancing and join this group called Amicus".

It took Ms Clark a few months to "get up the gumption" to attend an Amicus function in late 2003 but, a decade on, it is still an important part of her life.

Amicus, meaning "friend" in Latin, started in 1999 as the brainchild of Archdiocesan Administrator Mgr John Woods, then the parish priest at Calwell.

He felt the Tuggeranong Valley needed a support network for people who were divorced, widowed, separated or single. "The Church tends to emphasise family but there are many people who do not have a partner in their life," he said.

His idea was to "create an environment, in a Catholic context, where people could be accepted and supported".

The first Amicus gathering was held in the Calwell parish centre in July 1999. The group has

since expanded to include people from neighbouring parishes and across Canberra.

Ms Clark said up to 30 people, aged mainly from their 40s to 70s, were in the group. Some came and went depending on their changing circumstances, but many were long-term members.

One of those "stayers" is Rosemary Nicholson, who joined after she had been separated for less than a year. She said that while she had support from other friends and family, she also needed a connection with "like-minded" Catholics.

The group stresses that it is not an introduction or dating forum, nor is it a formal discussion group or counselling service – though Ms Clark said members often confide in and seek support from each other.

Amicus meetings take the form of social gatherings on the second and fourth weekend of each month from February to December. These can be home-hosted gatherings, dinners out, dancing at local clubs, picnics, day trips or anything members suggest and agree on.

For find out more about Amicus, telephone Ms Clark on 0412 351 548.



Like-minded friends ... Rosemary Nicholson and Patricia Clark are both long-term members of Amicus, a friendship group for people who are divorced, separated, widowed or single.

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

Internet www.cg.catholic.org.au

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



Model: Sarah Clifton

Kimberley says: "Winter in Canberra is all about layering and a beautiful camel coat can go with almost any outfit. Add a unique scarf for extra warmth and a personal touch."



"This outfit features two of this season's hottest trends – a statement sweater and visible collars and cuffs. Perfect for a winter weekend, or add jewellery and a cute clutch for drinks with the girls."

On trend

Make a statement this winter

"Opportunity shops" are called that for a reason. You never know what you might find in a rummage through the racks of outlets that thrive on the concept of one person's trash being another's treasure.

Knowing this, the St Vincent de Paul Society in the Archdiocese readily accepted the challenge of putting together some quality, on-trend outfits for winter from its Vinnies stocks.

With the help of fashion consultant Kimberley Granger, who describes herself as a "thrifty shopper" who likes to buy her "unique statement pieces from op shops", Vinnies came up with three ensembles designed to both look great and feel warm. Appropriately, Canberra turned on a cold, murky day to allow the outfits, worn with style by Vinnies youth and young adults director Sarah Clifton, to do the talking.

The message from Vinnies, though, is it needs more warm, good-quality clothing to meet the winter demand.

It is also seeking continued donations for its 2013 Winter Appeal. The funds raised allow the society to support people who are struggling to make ends meet by helping with fundamentals such as food, medical, school and utility bills, and visiting people in their homes and health facilities.

Donate to the Vinnies Winter Appeal online at www.vinnies.org.au, or call 13 18 12.



"High-waisted skirts and stockings are a great alternative to pants this winter. The pop of colour in the corduroy skirt adds a little something extra to the outfit, and the faux fur is very on-trend this season."

Internet www.cg.catholic.org.au

'Power House' to spark student performers

The St Edmund's College old boy who has lent his name to the school's new Bishop Pat Power Performing Arts Centre hardly considers himself a "rock star", as Canberra MP Gai Brodtmann labelled him at the opening of the facility.

In fact, he admitted to being "a little bit embarrassed by all of this", since "when God was giving our all his gifts, I'm not sure I got any in the performing arts area".

But Ms Brodtmann's reference was to Bishop Power's wider status in the community as a much-loved and recognised advocate for social justice, among other causes.

It is for banging social and spiritual drums, rather than the musical ones he turned his hand to in the centre he had just blessed, that Bishop Power was honoured in its title.

After all, as Dr Wayne Tinsey, executive director of the school's parent



LEFT: Hard to beat ... Bishop Pat Power tests out the equipment with year 12 school leaders Pat Egli and Thomas Larkin in the performing arts centre St Edmund's College has named after him.

just that. Bishop Power also has a strong history at St Edmunds, having been a foundation student in the mid-1950s, served as its chaplain for four years, and had four nephews attend the school.

The performance centre, which principal Peter Fullagar said would be "affectionately abbreviated to the Power House", is stage one of a four-year college development and will be shared with students from St Clare's College.

It has a band room "wrapped in a high-tech acoustic covering", recording and rehearsal studios, a small theatre and music classrooms, and wardrobe design and storage areas.

organisation the Edmund Rice Education Australia, said, the facility would serve the college's aim of enabling students to use their gifts to their full potential. And Bishop Power was a living example of someone who had done

Catechists: a job with impact

Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Paul Gallagher's stories of catechists as frontline targets of military violence in Guatemala, where he was most recently stationed, provided a new perspective for catechist directors at their national conference in Canberra.

Conference organiser Deacon Matt Ransom said this highlighted the importance and impact of the work catechists do in schools.

About 20 directors, who oversee 5000 catechists working with 100,000 students around Australia, also heard a "prayerful and intelligent presentation" from Truth



Important work ... catechist directors at their national conference.

Justice and Healing Council CEO Francis Sullivan on the challenges catechists face in light of the sexual abuse royal commission.

"One lady said afterwards that she felt a burden lift off her shoulders after listening to Francis," Deacon Ransom said.

St Edmund's College director of mission Peter Woods, founder of Catholic Schools

Youth Ministry Australia, spoke about building links with secondary schools to boost catechist resources. Other speakers included National Catholic Education Commission executive officer Graham Pollard, who talked on connections between the Catholic education system and the work of catechists, and federal shadow minister Kevin Andrews.

No dull moments in top office

If you were principal at your school for a day, what would you do?

Two students at St Mary MacKillop College got the chance to decide as part of the Principals Australia Institute's Principal for a Day initiative.

Year 12 students Yash Bhosale and Grace Vincent were selected from a number of applicants to lead their school for a day last month, under the guidance of the real principal Michael Lee.

The job was quite different to what they expected, Yash said.

"I thought being a principal was really school-based, but you're out in the community a lot talking to other principals, external groups and politicians, all for the good of each and every student at your school.

"There was never a dull moment - we were on the move almost the whole day and it was an enjoyable experience."

In the morning, Yash and Grace led a staff briefing, met with prac teachers from two of Canberra's universities, toured classes and the playground, and visited local primary school St Anthony's, Wanniasa.

In the afternoon, they visited Federal Member for Canberra Gai Brodtmann and met with executive officers of the Catholic Principals



Not what they expected... Students Yash Bhosale and Grace Vincent with principal Michael Lee and ABC announcer Adam Shirley.

Association, the National Catholic Education Commission, and the director of the Australian Catholic Bishop's Conference Office for the Participation of Women.

This filled a busy but typical day in the life of a principal, which ended with a radio interview with ABC Drive host Adam Shirley.

"The students gained a good insight into the complexities of the role of principal - particularly the work beyond the school - and they managed it splendidly," Mr Lee said.

Grace said the experience was beneficial as she considers her post-school options. "I have considered doing primary school teaching after school, so it was a great insight into how schools work," she said.

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Enquiries are also being taken for St Vincents Retirement Villas in Aranda ACT.



Pilgrims set off for one-in-million experience

They might be travelling as a group to the same event but, for each of the Archdiocese's 15 World Youth Day pilgrims, the journey to Rio de Janeiro in Brazil this month will be an individual one.

For Queanbeyan's Theresa Buetre, the week in Rio for World Youth Day and the preceding week of mission work around Santiago in Chile will be "a faith journey of my own".

"My faith is something I've been brought up with but now I want to make it something that comes more from my own experiences," the 20-year-old executive assistant said.

Primary school teacher Nat Zarb is also clear about what she wants out of the experience.

A volunteer with the St Vincent de Paul night patrol, she is also heavily involved in the Mini Vinnies program at Good Shepherd Primary in Amaroo and would like to bring home "a different perspective" to share with the children in the program.

"It can be hard to be in your 20s and Catholic ... I want to give my students something to look forward to and for them to be the volunteers for the future," she said.

Another teacher, Brigitta van Reesch from Holy Trinity in Curtin, is expecting endless questions from her kindergarten class when she gets home.

But she is also hoping her World Youth Day experience helps her to deal with their many other faith-based inquiries. "The kinders come up with a lot of questions that are hard to answer," she said. "It helps if you have a better understanding of it all yourself."



Personal journeys ... Archdiocesan pilgrims (from left) Theresa Buetre, Brigitta van Reesch, Nat Zarb and Victoria Bennett prepare for World Youth Day.

Forensic science student Victoria Bennett, 21, from Moruya, does not quite know what to expect.

Having been encouraged to go by parish priest and member of the pilgrimage group's leadership team Fr Emil Milat, and funded by an anonymous donor from her parish, all she knows is that she is excited and nervous about it all.

Someone who understands those nerves is Archdiocesan youth and young adults coordinator Daniela Kesina, a pilgrimage leader about to have her fourth World Youth Day experience.

Not only is Ms Kesina busy ensuring the group, who will be joining with the Brisbane archdiocese to form a band of nearly 50, has its collective act together

– including visas and vaccinations – but she is preparing to do much counselling during the trip.

"Some people find it really confronting," she said. Apart from the sheer numbers of people – millions are expected to gather in Rio, especially for the overnight vigil and Mass with Pope Francis – there would be both personal and interpersonal struggles as people learnt new things about themselves, their faith, and other people and their "different styles of faith".

"This isn't just a holiday. It's a different type of travelling experience than any other travelling they will do. People think it is the event itself that changes lives, but it's more than that – it's growing with other people on an amazing journey," Ms Kesina said.

Making monsters of our neighbours

Pope Francis "had it absolutely right" when, as one of his first public gestures, he got down on his knees and washed the feet of prisoners, says US author and Christian ethics professor Dr Patrick McCormick.

"That is the most stunning visual act he could have performed," said Dr McCormick, who was in Canberra as part of an Australian tour organised by Australian Catholic University.

"Not only did he choose women as well as men, but he chose criminals, and not just Catholics. And he went to them and bowed down before them and washed their feet.

That, in itself, says he knows what the gospels are all about."

That act exemplified the point at the heart of Dr McCormick's Canberra presentation, *Uncovering the Beauty of the Stranger: Resisting the Temptation to Make Monsters of Our Neighbours*.

As a moral theologian who "takes seriously the call of the Vatican Council to apply the scriptures to our moral analysis and see how they shape our moral vision", he believes the key message from the gospels, and the secret to a better world, boils down to "seeing the humanity in others".

The root of all problems, he says, is the inability or refusal to see God's image (and therefore our own likeness) in "the stranger, the alien and the enemy".

"If we don't recognise their humanity, this allows us to make monsters of them in our imaginations. We give them labels, like terrorist, and we characterise them, we judge them," Dr McCormick said.

"We blind ourselves to the fact that they are, in truth, our own flesh and blood."

He said it was no accident that Jesus was "so often found at the table outside, sitting with the exiled and the outsiders", and that we should learn something from those images.

Dr McCormick, who has written books including *God's Beauty: A Call to Justice* and *The Banqueter's Guide to the All-Night Soup Kitchen of the Kingdom of God*, also spoke during his Australian tour on *A Right to Beauty*, which promotes the idea that "a just society owes all people, especially the poor, the right to experience wonder and beauty, and a chance to use their gifts to make the world a better place".

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



Moral vision ... Dr Patrick McCormick says the secret to a better world is seeing ourselves in others.

Internet www.cg.catholic.org.au

Singers sought for mass choir

Queanbeyan parishioner Sabrina deSouza is hoping to draw together choirs from across the Archdiocese for a musical liturgy.

She wants to make it a combined celebration to mark musically the 150th anniversary of the Archdiocese.

Ms deSouza, who coordinates the morning choir at St Gregory's church, envisages a two-to-three-hour musical recollection of the bible, using hymns sung in parishes.

"This will not be a sing-a-long although parishioners are welcome to join in," she said. "The musical celebration will progress from key moments of the Old Testament, such as Genesis, Moses and the psalms, into the New Testament including hymns about Mary, the nativity and the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

"It is intended to be a collection of hymns that have been blended into medleys – more like a musical."

Ms deSouza hopes to hold the celebration around the end of August at a central venue.

She welcomes interest from people who already sing in a choir, or who just like to sing, to join the combined Catholic choir. Practices will begin soon and will be held on Saturday and Sunday afternoons at various locations.

She may be contacted at sabrdes@hotmail.com or telephone 0412 060 103 (ah).

Uni students get some on-the-job skills by accident

The wrecked car was real, as were the ambulances, the medical equipment and the gathered emergency workers.

But, thankfully for the 30 Australian Catholic University paramedicine students who had just completed their trauma training and were road-testing their newly acquired skills for the first time, the accident victim was acting and the scenario was a simulation.

The exercise was part of a skills competition for the second-year students in the ACT's only paramedicine course.

Paramedicine lecturer Shane Lenson said the aim was to test the students' clinical, critical thinking, time management and patient care skills.

"This can give them a better understanding of the complexities of engaging with patients with trauma and, importantly,

the working relationship they need to have with other services," Mr Lenson said.

He said a "significant amount of organisation" had gone in to preparing scenarios that were challenging and realistic.

The ACT ambulance service had provided vehicles and volunteer staff to add to the authenticity.

Apart from the car crash, the scenarios had students attending to a person collapsing in the shower and an older dementia patient falling down stairs.

Paramedicine student David Still said the simulated exercise felt "real".

"You're still dealing with a real person. You don't want to drop them and you want to afford them the dignity any person deserves."

Mr Still will be dealing with actual traumas when he and



three other trainee paramedics from Canberra join the Vila ambulance service in Vanuatu for more than a fortnight this month.

"The service there has only two crews for the entire country, so I'm expecting we'll be working hard," he said, especially in a nation where the

"safety culture" left something to be desired.

Prospective students can "sample" the paramedicine course during ACU's University Experience day at the Watson campus on 9 July. Register at www.acu.edu.au/universityexperience.

ABOVE: Easy does it ... ACU paramedicine students (from left) Samantha de Smet, Emma Waterhouse, David Still and James Foster extract "victim" Michael Gore from a car wreck.



Youth leaders 'not alone'

For archdiocesan youth ministry officer Liam Mackay, the first Youth Leaders Network breakfast of the year was a reminder of the "incredible number of people around us who are happy to work with young people".

About 40 youth leaders from across the Archdiocese gathered at the Rheinberger Centre in Yarralumla on a Saturday morning to brush up on their skills and resources and to take the opportunity to "network and have a conversation with each other".

Among the group were members of the Indian community, a couple of teachers, a handful of students from Catholic colleges and three clergy, Fr Bony Abraham from the

Signadou campus of Australian Catholic University, Fr Emil Milat from Moruya and Fr Troy Bobbin from Queanbeyan.

"It was great to see such a diverse range of people mixing. Being a diocese that's so diverse, they recognise that there are challenges in what they do, but there are also joys and triumphs," Mr Mackay said.

"Through get-togethers like this, youth leaders see that they are not alone, because sometimes it can feel that way in a small town."

LEFT: Bonding over brekkie ... youth leaders from around the Archdiocese with Fr Troy Bobbin (second from right) at their first gathering for the year.

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Forum to offer reflection on poll

A forum intended to provide stimulus for reflection and conversation on major issues facing Australian society will be held in the lead-up to the September federal election.

St Clement's retreat and conference centre, Galong, is sponsoring the forum, which will be held at the centre from 1.30pm to 4pm on Sunday, 14 July.

Speakers are refugee advocate Sr Aileen Crowe FMM, Cootamundra Aboriginal elder Bob Glanville, Anglican priest Rev Pamela Phillips and Canberra Uniting Church minister Rev Gordon Ramsay.

Sr Aileen has first-hand knowledge of Villawood detention centre as well as the workings of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees in Geneva. Mr Glanville will address the effects of discrimination and racism on Aboriginal people. Rev Phillips will speak on the impacts of climate change and the environmental policies of the main political parties. Rev Ramsay will outline some of the pressing needs of disadvantaged people in society. Inquiries: Telephone 6380 5222 or email info@stclement.com.au



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Haste: is it all just a waste?

Ron Rolheiser

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



over her own children on her way to her den to write.

Along similar lines, we tend to blame secular ideology for so much of the breakdown of the family in our society today when, in fact, perhaps the biggest strain of all on the family is the pressure that comes from the workplace that has us under constant pressure, forever in a hurry, and daily stepping over our children because of the pressures of work.

I know this all too well, of course, from my own experience. I am forever pressured, forever in a hurry, forever over-extended, and forever stepping over all kinds of things that call for my attention on my way to work.

given situation as a moral one. In essence, the more we hurry the less likely we are to stop and help someone else in need. Haste and hurry, perhaps more than anything else, prevent us from being good Samaritans.

The more we hurry, the less likely we are to stop and help someone else in need. Haste and hurry stop us from being good Samaritans

We know this from our own experience. Our struggle to give proper time to family, prayer, and helping others has mainly to do with time. We're invariably too busy, too pressured, too hurried, too driven, to stop and help. A writer that I know confesses that when she comes to die what she will regret most about her life is not the times she broke a commandment, but the many times she stepped

As a priest, I can rationalise this by pointing to the importance of the ministry. Ministry is meant to conscript us beyond our own agenda, but, deeper down, I know that much of this is a rationalisation.

Sometimes I rationalise my busyness and hurry by taking consolation in the fact that I came to be this way legitimately. It's in my genes.

Both my father and my mother exhibited a similar

struggle. They were wonderful, moral and loving parents, but they were often over-extended. Responding to too many demands is a mixed virtue.

It's no accident that virtually all of the classical spiritual writers, writing without the benefit of the Princeton study, warn about the dangers of overwork. Indeed, the dangers of haste and hurry are already written into the very first page of scripture where God invites us to make sure to keep proper Sabbath. When we are in a hurry we see little beyond our own agenda.

The positive side to haste and hurry is that they are, perhaps, the opposite of acedia. The driven-person who is always in a hurry at least isn't constantly struggling to get through the morning to the lunch hour. She always has a purpose. As well, haste and hurry can help make for a productive individual who is affirmed and admired for what he does, even as he is stepping over his own children to get to his workplace. I know this, too: I get a lot of affirmation for my work, even as I have to admit that pressure and hurry prevent me much of the time from being a Good Samaritan.

Haste makes waste, so goes the saying. It also makes for a spiritual and a human blindness that can severely limit our compassion.

Haste is our enemy. It puts us under stress, raises our blood pressure, makes us impatient, renders us more vulnerable to accidents and, most seriously of all, blinds us to the needs of others. Haste is normally not a virtue, irrespective of the goodness of the thing towards which we are hurrying.

In 1970, Princeton University did some research with seminary students to determine whether being committed to helping others made a real difference in a practical situation.

They set up this scenario: They would interview a seminarian in an office and, as the interview was ending, ask that seminarian to immediately walk over to a designated classroom across the campus to give a talk. But they always put a tight timeline between when the interview ended and when the seminarian was supposed to appear in the classroom, forcing the seminarian to hurry. On the way to the talk, each semi-

narian encountered an actor playing a distressed person (akin to the Good Samaritan scene in the gospels). The test was to see whether or not the seminarian would stop and help. What was the result?

One would guess that, being seminarians committed to service, these individuals might be more likely to stop than most other people. But that wasn't the case. Being seminarians seemed to have no effect on their behaviour in this situation. Only one thing did: They were prone to stop and help or to not stop and help mostly on the basis of whether they were in a hurry or not. If they were pressured for time, they didn't stop; if they were not pressured for time, they were more likely to stop.

From this experiment its authors drew several conclusions: First, that morality becomes a luxury as the speed of our daily lives increases; and, second, that because of time pressures we tend not to see a

Big winners still those at the top end

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

Last month's column asked whether the current system of superannuation is consistent with Catholic social teaching's emphasis on giving priority to the needs of the poor.

This month we look at the impact of the tax concessions that underpin the system.

The superannuation system includes a raft of tax shelters. To name just two:

- Superannuation payments received by people aged 60 and over are free of tax
- Income contributed to superannuation funds is taxed at only 15 per cent.

Both give most assistance to those on the highest incomes.

The more income a person has, the greater the likely level of contributions or benefits given concessional treatment.

The value of the concession at higher incomes is further raised by the greater gap between the normal and concessional tax rates.

There may be good reasons to encourage superannuation, but the method chosen does not represent a preferential option for the poor.

The loss of revenue has consequences. It forces governments to cut or delay



spending that would otherwise have priority.

If the revenue were not forgone, then (taking some obvious examples):

- The National Disability Insurance Scheme might be able to start earlier
- The rates of Newstart allowance (unemployment benefits) – now widely acknowl-

edged to be inadequate – could be increased

- Tax rates for the broader population could be reduced
- Short-term spending cuts introduced to meet Budget targets such as achieving a surplus would not have to be as severe (or to be made at all).

The concessions do have some favourable impacts on the other side of the ledger, in that spending on age pensions is reduced. The revenue lost via the concessions, however, is vastly greater than the savings.

Steps have been taken over the past few years to reduce the more extreme benefits that the concessions give people on high incomes.

Those on low incomes are also now being given larger benefits than previously.

The big winners, however, are still those at the top end of the prosperity scale.

Punishing workload for our Administrator

• From Page 7.

He has tried to keep up his running and occasional bike riding "to stay sane", but has found less "discretionary time" to spend enjoying a meal or a movie with friends.

When duty ate into a visit from his Sydney-based brother and his family earlier this year, Mgr Woods realised just how little of his time was his own these days.

While this has meant some rethinking of priorities, his commitment to his beloved Canberra Raiders, for whom he is the chaplain, has never been under question.

"You can cut back on some things but you never let your 'religion' go," he said.

His Raiders would be among the things he would miss if his role in the Church takes him away from home.

"It would certainly be a wrench, especially because of my close personal friends and long association with Canberra," he said. "But if it became apparent that serving elsewhere was the way it had to be, then I would adapt.

I have learnt to be adaptable, and the other thing is, with celibacy, you don't have to consider a wife and family, or education and opportunities for children.

"In that sense, it's about yourself and the people near and dear to you."

Mgr Woods won't dwell on such things, though. His focus remains on not just keeping the archbishop's spot warm, but paving a smooth path for the man who will eventually take the seat.

His leadership style is built on "collaboration and engagement".

"Gone are the days of a parish priest or bishop believing they are at the top of the pile on their own," he said.

"They still have a leadership role that they can't abnegate, of course, but they need to carry out their role in a framework of collaboration or, should I say, co-responsibility."

Meanwhile, he will make the most of the food, hospitality and central location of the Archbishop's House – "it's like living in a hotel on your own" – until the new tenant moves in.

SHORTS

A Gun in Each Hand. Starring Eduard Fernandez, Javier Camara, Leonardo Sbaglia, Luis Tosar, Eduardo Noriega, Ricardo Darin, Clara Segura, and Candela Pena. Directed by Cesc Gay. 95 minutes. Palace. M (Sexual references and coarse language).

Nothing to do with guns. Essentially a series of short pieces with story lines that interact, involving characters who have relationship conflicts. Concentrates a little too pointedly on men's romantic problems, but highly absorbing, comically personal, and offers an intimate look at male insecurity.

Farewell My Queen. Starring: Diane Kruger, Lea Seydoux, and Virginie Ledoyen. Directed by Benoit Jacquot. 95 minutes. Transmission. M (Mature themes, nudity).

Subtitled French drama based on a novel of fictional account of Marie-Antoinette's last three days seen through the eyes of a young servant. Kruger's acting as Marie-Antoinette dominates. Her regal performance fluctuates between power and influence, and human anguish.

The Internship. Starring Vince Vaughn, Owen Wilson, Rose Byrne, Aasif Mandvi, Max Minghella, Will Ferrell, John Goodman, Josh Brenner, Dylan O'Bryan, Josh Gad. Directed by Shawn Levy. 119 minutes. Roadshow. M (Coarse language and sexual references).

Surprisingly entertaining and funny with something for old and young – and some useful messages for both. What seems to loom as a satire on older wariness of computers is not. A good-natured film, less crass than expected, with a lot of wit and jokes.

The Hangover Part III. Starring Bradley Cooper, Ed Helms, Zach Galafiniakis, Justin Bartha, John Goodman, Ken Jeong, Heather Graham. Directed by Todd Phillips. 97 minutes. Roadshow. MA 15+ (Strong coarse language, nudity and crude humour).

Who would have thought this would have become such a successful Hollywood franchise? This one is not as funny as the first film, but better than the second. Allowing for the unreality and absurdity, it leads us into the tantrums, blind consequences of Galafiniakis' man-child attitudes and behaviour.

The Big Wedding. Robert de Niro, Diane Keaton, Susan Sarandon, Amanda Seyfried, Ben Barnes, Robin Williams, David Rasche, Ana Ayora, Patricia Rae, Christine Ebersole. Directed by Justin Zackham. 89 minutes. Roadshow. MA 15+ (Strong coarse language and sexual references).

Proliferation of sex jokes, some funny, some silly, some crass. Some unwarranted comment and criticism of aspects of the Catholic Church. Something of a let-down.



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Forget the plot, feel the action

Furious 6. Starring Vin Diesel, Paul Walker, Michelle Rodriguez, Jordana Brewster, Luke Evans, and Elsa Pataky. Directed by Justin Lin, Vin Diesel et al. 130 minutes. Universal. M (Action violence and infrequent coarse language). Reviewer: Peter W Sheehan.

This is an American action movie that has been classified under the title of Furious 6, and is also advertised under the title of Fast 6 and Fast and Furious 6, all of which signifies that it is the sixth film in a very popular series of action movies that began originally in 2001 with the title, The Fast and the Furious. It is co-directed by six people, including the star of the film, Vin Diesel. Four of its main stars have been in at least four of the series, and four have played main roles in each. The series derives its title through the fact that all of its characters live "fast and furious" lives.

Following past successful heists, Dominic Toretto (Vin Diesel) and his crew of professional criminals have gone into retirement. Dominic lives with Elena (Elsa Pataky) in seeming domestic bliss, and his sister Mia (Jordana Brewster) and Brian O'Conner (Paul Walker) have had a son.

A security service agent, Luke Hobbs (Dwayne Johnson) arrives on the scene to investigate the destruction of a Russian military convoy. Hobbs believes that former British Special Forces soldier, Owen Shaw (Luke Evans), and his crew are responsible. Shaw's ultimate plan is to construct a high-tech bomb which is lethally priceless to the right buyer.

It was Hobbs who chased Dominic down in previous movies, but now he needs the team's support to track Shaw down. Hobbs promises that if Dominic helps him get Shaw, he will grant an amnesty to Dominic and his group.

Dominic agrees to assist when Hobbs shows him a photo of his former girlfriend, Letty Ortiz (Michelle Rodriguez), whom he assumed was dead. Dominic's crew try to find Shaw's hide-outs, but, while it is doing so, Shaw and his henchmen continue to conduct their criminal activities elusively. Letty arrives to help Shaw.

She is suffering from amnesia, after surviving a previous explosion thought to have killed her, and shoots Dominic (non-fatally) before escaping. Previously, she had been part of Dominic's team, but now she has crossed over to the other side and Dominic does all in his power to get her back because she represents family to him and the others. The plot takes a series of twists and turns, all replete with massive car carnage and multiple explosions. The furious



racing of fast, expensive cars, which is the trademark of the whole series, occurs throughout the entire film.

The camera features pectoral muscles everywhere, and there is some off-putting female violence that is quite unusual for the series. The action stunts in the movie, though, are spectacular, and the movie maintains its tension very well. Knowledge of the other movies allows one to access subtle nuances of characters, but the impact of the movie is essentially built around its action and incredible sequences of car chases and automobile crashes.

The stunt sequences are choreographed outstandingly well. There is a nightmare race through the streets of London, and an amazing sequence where Dominic flies through the air in a gravity-defying stunt to join hands with Letty, who is hurtling through air into nothing. Aerial shots of cars and trucks on a coastal highway, and a military plane crash, create equally dazzling effects.

It is the thrill of the action that constitutes this movie's enjoyment, not its plot, or its contrived narrative. Some great visual effects (the runaway military jet-plane, for example) are linked very tenuously with the story-line.

One goes to see this film without any expectations of much character development. But if it is action that is the order of the day, this film supplies it in spades. This is a movie that seeks to entertain with as fast a pace as it can muster. It is filled with jaw-dropping stunts. Morally, it reinforces all the way through that it is "family that really matters", but one notes that grace is said at the team's meal at the end. Significantly, the prayer ends with the line: "And most of all, thank you (Lord) for fast cars". Without a doubt, Furious 7 is well on its way.

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

A family's hope as the years ebb away

Still Mine. Starring James Cromwell, Genevieve Bujold, Campbell Scott, Julie Stewart, Rick Roberts, George R. Robertson, Barbara Gordon, Zachary Bennett. Directed by Michael McGowan. 102 minutes. Umbrella. PG (adult themes). Reviewer: Fr Peter Malone MSC*.

Still Mine is a film about aging and mental deterioration. It will resonate very strongly with older audiences and also with those in their 40s, 50s and 60s who are thinking about their parents and what the future will bring for them. However, this is a film of strength and hope.

It is based on a true story, set in the province of New Brunswick, Canada. The location photography brings the town and of the surrounding countryside to life.

Central to the film is the character of Craig Morrison, played with great strength and determination by James Cromwell, who, after his turn as Farmer Hoggart in Babe, has appeared in many strong roles, a fine screen presence.

As his wife, Irene, Canadian actress Genevieve Bujold, who in the past played Anne of the Thousand Days,

gives a wonderful, unglamorous performance, slowly losing her memory, trying to cope with this, supportive of her husband as he is of her. In the story, they have been married for 61 years and have seven children, the story of their marriage told with delicacy, with intimacy.

The Canadian economy is in decline. Craig has to sell his cattle. He grows strawberries but they are rejected because they are not brought to the depot in un-refrigerated trucks. Because the family house has been so big, he decides to build a new one for Irene and himself. It is here where the difficulties really start.

He relies on his own ability, learned from his father, his knowledge of lumber and cutting down trees and making planks to build the house. Suddenly, he is forbidden to build. He doesn't have a permit, then he doesn't have plans, then his wood is not stamped with approval. There is a threat to have the place bulldozed and he eventually goes to court. The bureaucracy tells him that he is disobeying rules. He makes the distinction between rules and standards and that his work is above standard.

Craig is helped by one of his sons and is constantly advised by one of his daughters, a mixture of both Craig and Irene. When Irene is hospitalised, there is greater concern.

The audience is on Craig's side, even though we know he is a strong and stubborn man and needs to make some kind of compromise. It is when a friend with whom he has been sparring for many years dies and he weeps, we realise that he has great tenderness and that he has shown it to his wife for all the years.

Some commentators have made the link between Still Mine and Amour. The latter Oscar-winning film was intense, confined to the house, focusing on the couple and Alzheimer's, with an intrusion by a zealous daughter. While it showed the great love and tenderness, and the stress on the husband, as Still Mine does, it does not have the scope of the down-to-earthness and hope of this Canadian film. At the end, there is a credit to the Morrison family and indication that Craig and Irene were living at the time of its release. He was 91.

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

Internet www.cg.catholic.org.au

The making of our liturgy

Liturgy: The Illustrated History by Keith F Pecklers. Paulist Press, 2012, hard back, 260 pages, \$119.95. Reviewer: Margaret Ryan.

Have you ever wanted a broad understanding of how our richly textured Catholic liturgy began and developed over the centuries? Are you interested in the associated language, art, architecture, music, vestments and sacred objects?

Pecklers' glossy papered A4 volume with its hundreds of coloured photos and maps, bibliography and index will do that and more.

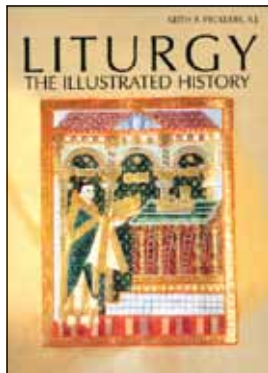
The author is a Jesuit priest, professor of liturgy at the Pontifical Gregorian University and a professor of liturgical history at the Pontifical Liturgical Institute of Sant'Anselmo in Rome.

As well as the topics mentioned above, Pecklers is interested, to a lesser extent, in linked areas such as the liturgical movement in Anglican and Protestant churches, liturgy and its connection with popular piety, education and formation for ministers (clerical and lay), translation of liturgical texts, liturgy and mission, the challenge of globalisation and post-modernity for liturgy, and how liturgy can influence the future of Christianity.

Most of the 50 chapters concern the evolution of Catholic liturgy, and as is usual in Pecklers' writing, his outline connects history, politics and church governance, theology, literature and culture, the arts, anthropology, and how these affect daily living.

One of Pecklers' outstanding gifts is the ability to see the breadth of a topic and its nuanced depths, yet outline the issues clearly and succinctly with reference to pertinent documents or focuses of the period.

Definitely six stars!



A bishop's radical call to end abuse

For Christ's Sake: End Sexual Abuse in the Catholic Church...for Good, by Bishop Geoffrey Robinson. Garratt Publishing, 2013, 154 pages, \$19.95. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.

The reality of child sexual abuse is no longer the elephant in the room of the Catholic Church. It is right out there, in the press, every day.

In Australia the royal commission has commenced its hearings. Here and overseas shocked and bewildered Catholics want answers. How did this crisis arise and why has it been hidden for so long?

Retired Bishop Geoffrey Robinson has grasped the nettle and attempted some answers. This current book is an expansion on his previous *Confronting Power and Sex in the Catholic Church* (2007). He names three major tasks essential for the Church to eradicate sexual abuse permanently: identifying and removing all offenders, reaching out to and assisting all victims and survivors, and identifying and overcoming the causes of abuse and of the poor response by the hierarchy.

He confines his arguments to factors pertinent to the priesthood. He traces the development of moral thinking about God from a religion of fear to one of love. He names moral immaturity as a problem and emphasises the importance of taking responsibility for one's actions. Among other factors he covers are the male Church, the culture of celibacy, the mystique of priesthood, an unhealthy living environment and the lack of professionalism in the priesthood.

Exploring the reasons for the poor hierarchical response he critiques the gulf between right beliefs and right actions and also papal infallibility and prestige.

Bishop Robinson has formulated an action plan. He makes a radical call to the new Pope for the creation of a one-issue council involving the whole Church.

In accord with the *sensus fidei* (sense of faith) possessed collectively by the People of God, Bishop Robinson says this Vatican III must include laity, both men and women.

He offers some practical suggestions as to how this might work in a

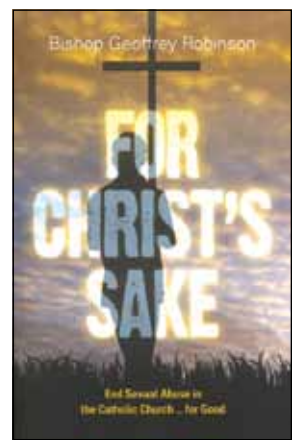
g l o b a l Church. He suggests the creation of three levels of commissions, central, regional and local, with a breathtaking total of accredited persons of perhaps 10,000.

He canvasses the criteria for selection, topics to be covered, feedback, voting procedures and even a method to cover expenses.

It is less clear as to who would have the responsibility and authority to select or reject applicants for this vast project, the complexity of the organisation, the constrictions of time and as to whether its findings would be ultimately effective.

Bishop Robinson is a deeply compassionate man committed to fostering the formation and support of better priests for the Church he loves.

He has made a laudable effort to put forward his proposals to end sexual abuse for good. "Only then," he says, "will the Church regain some measure of credibility".



Joe, the voice of the people on the 8.05

Cronulla is a long way from Canberra, but an elderly gent who boarded the 8.05 train each morning from Cronulla to the city had a knack of melting distances. His name was Joseph A Meagher.

Joe was not your average commuter. A tall, erect figure, with a tangle of white hair and a voice. The voice was his arresting feature, together with his utterances. Over a period of five years, Joe expressed himself on a range of

subjects: courtesy on public transport; the use of mobiles in public places; the media; talk-back radio programs; politics; Sydney's Mardi Gras; political correctness; the paedophilia scandal; the rat race; and, subtly, the wonder of marriage and family.

In the process, Joe delivered himself of some great one-liners; for example, re the written media: "From daily dosed dim-wittedness, deliver us, dear Lord." Was Joe real? Author

Redemptorist priest Fr Max Barrett, who tells of Joe in his latest book *The Eight-O-Fiver*, is coy on the subject.

Fr Barrett, who was stationed for years at St Clement's Monastery, Galong, also wrote the history of the squatter pioneer Ned Ryan under the title, *King of Galong Castle*, as well as *Riot of Ryans and Galong Cemetery*.

The *Eight-O-Fiver* is available from Redemptorist Publications, PO Box 370, Kogarah, NSW 1485. Price \$17.

Vision of Christianity at its best

Christianity at its Best by Donal Harrington. The Columbia Press, 2012, pb, 220 pages, \$29.95. Reviewer: Margaret Ryan.

A new millennium, a new century, a new Pope - but an antiquated and outdated Church, with leaking numbers and poor press?

Harrington presents a refreshing look at Christianity from the perspective of an insider, a loyal critic, expressing Christianity "as it can be and as it is meant to be."

He "de-scales", peeling back the barnacles and limpets, the distortions, wrong emphases and misunderstandings (of the institution of

Church) which have accumulated over the centuries, the traditions and interpretations that have tarnished the originating spirit.

He offers a vision of Christianity at its best, a way of life that is deeply spiritual, religious, attentive to God and Jesus, one that is grateful and hopeful.

The absence of much specific reference to the Holy Spirit was disappointing. Otherwise, the book was fresh, engaging and written informally.

Highly recommended for churchgoers and those interested in spirituality but unconnected with Church.

Valuable role of women monastics


Women of the Church. The Religious Experience of Monastic Women, by Patricia M Rumsey. Columbia Press, 2011, pb, 296 pages, \$31.95. Reviewer: Margaret Ryan.

Sr Patricia Rumsey (Sr Francisca of the Poor Clare congregation), author and teacher, began researching the place of women in Europe for a module in an MA program on women's monasticism (she interprets monasticism in a broad way).

The first two chapters analyse early Christian attitudes to women and how these shaped the theological view of women, and the character of monasticism, focussing particularly on its prayer foundations. She then offers historical snapshots of specific monastic women in the context of their social and economic time and geography (the desert, England and Europe).

Rumsey's thesis is that women monastics have had, and continue to have, a unique and valuable contribution to make to monasticism and monastic theology and spirituality. She intends the book as a "readable introduction for the interested non-specialist and a research tool for the serious student", and is successful. The author opens a window onto a lesser known area of our long and varied religious history.

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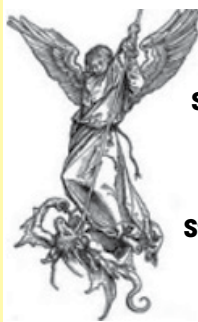
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Coming Events



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

AMICUS - Support & friendship/ social group for widowed, separated or divorced Catholics regular activities on second and fourth weekends. New members welcome. Inquiries: Len, telephone 6299 6606; Pat 6292 1631, Enid 6296 5592.

BATEHAVEN AND BEYOND - Sisters of St Joseph program, Jesus Today reflection days. 11am-4pm, Sunday, 25 August, St Joseph's hall, Loftus Street, Temora; 10am-3pm, Tuesday, 27 August, St Joseph's convent, Goulburn; 10am-3pm, Wednesday, 28 August, St Joseph's House of Spirituality, David Avenue, Batehaven. Inquiries: Sr. Mary Murphy, telephone 6978 2585, email marymrsj@gmail.com.

BOMBALA REUNION - 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 Bedingfield 6458 3779.

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY - St Andrew's Catholic Church, Nimmitabel, 150th anniversary of laying of the foundation stone, Mass, noon, Sunday, 14 July, followed by lunch. Inquiries: Telephone 6454 6246 or email blyton10@bigpond.net.au or telephone 6454 6306, email srsnim@bigpond.com. Names needed for catering purposes, any old photographs or memorabilia appreciated.

COOTAMUNDRA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS REUNION - Long weekend 5-7 October, celebrating centenary of arrival of De La Salle Brothers and 131st anniversary of arrival of Sisters of Mercy. Inquiries: Telephone 0428 433 521, email: lyal55@bigpond.com or P O Box 23, Cootamundra NSW 2590.

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

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

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

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

RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT - Support and spiritual healing for all who suffer grief and loss after an abortion. Retreat Sydney, 5-7 July. Confidential voicemail 0400 092 555 or go to http://rachelvineyard.org.au/

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

SIX-DAY GUIDED RETREAT - St Joseph's House of Spirituality, David Avenue, Batehaven, 20-27 October. Director Sr Carmel Drew. Cost: \$450 or \$75 per day (minimum three days). Inquiries: Sr Carmel, telephone 4472 7063, email carmel.drew@yahoo.com.au.

THE SPIRIT AND THE CROSS - US evangelist Jim Murphy talk and ministry after 7pm charismatic Mass, Sunday, 21 July, St Benedict's Church, Narrabundah. He undertook a 4200-mile journey on foot across America carrying a 6ft cross in an effort of prayer and evangelisation.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND - 6-8 September, Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, special marriage enrichment getaway for married couples. Inquiries and bookings: Ardell and Bill Sharpe, telephone 4283 3435 or email wsharpe@bigpond.net.au. Website www.wwme.org.au.

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

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"Do not be afraid ..." is a common phrase throughout the bible and is the first part of this year's Propagation of the Faith Appeal theme. It challenges all to trust: to believe possible that which follows.

From the perspectives of those Catholic Mission assists, faith communities wishing to grow spiritually and to share their faith or reach beyond their communities to others in need, their aim is to trust that the possibilities are not limited by their own abilities.

For us it is to trust that God has our futures in his hands and that his call to share in his mission and to bring his Good News to the ends of the earth; to share our gifts: our time, talents, prayers and finances, is not beyond us.

As members of the one global family in Christ, the needs of each community to further Jesus' mission, is shared by us all, each with different parts to undertake. Many of the needs that faith communities in developing countries seek to address are often lifesaving as well as life giving.

Pray and do not be afraid. Respond and help us help others by supporting this year's Church Appeal.

God bless,
Deacon Joe Blackwell

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

Nuncio on the road to visit the west Mary 'miracle' gran to visit

Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Paul Gallagher shared stories from his international experience when he visited Gundagai to meet members of the western deanery. Young parish priest and dean Fr Richard Thompson invited the recently appointed Apostolic Nuncio for an informal chat and lunch. Archbishop Gallagher returned to the west to celebrate Confirmation at Cootamundra and Harden.

RIGHT: From left, back row: Fr Leo Coffey CSSR, Fr Phil Harding, Fr Bernie Hennessy. Second row: Mgr Kevin Barry-Cotter, Sr Carmel Piffero RSJ, Archbishop Paul Gallagher, Fr Richard Thompson. Third row: Fr Joe Carroll CSSR, Sr Mary Murphy RSJ, Sr Frances McAleer RSJ, Sr Maria Dunell RSJ, Deacon Patrick Whale. Front row: Fr Pat Kenna, Sr Kathy Hodge RSM, Fr Allen Crowe.



The NSW grandmother, whose recovery from cancer was formally recognised as Mary MacKillop's second miracle, clearing the way for her canonisation, will visit Canberra and Goulburn next month.

Kath Evans will speak at St Joseph's parish centre, O'Connor, at 10am on Monday, 5 August, and at St Thomas More School hall at 7pm the same day. She will speak at Holy Family Church, Gowrie, at 7.30pm, on Tuesday, 6 August, and at St Joseph's hall, North Goulburn, at 10.30am and 7pm on Thursday, 8 August. The talks are being organised by the Josephite sisters at Lyneham.

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TOP LEFT: Chilling out ... Anthony Tinnock relaxes in kinder.
 ABOVE: Colourful kinder ... (from left) Charlie McMahon, Sienna Hannon-Long, Teagan Crooks, Logan Bradberry and Amelia Cunningham.

BELOW: Floor friends ... Charlotte, Hannah Neate and Zali Gibson get ready for a story in kinder.



RIGHT: Sneak peek ... Jeremy Donoghoe, caught mid-sentence in year 4.

BELOW: The write stuff ... Jenna McAleenan and Kade Robertson have eyes only for the page in year 4.

These creative works were produced by: CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT ... Lily Roberts (kinder); Amelia Cunningham (kinder); Sam Hughes (year 5/6); Alesha Hassett (year 4).



ABOVE LEFT: Up front ... Taylor McAleenan and Sophie Adameitis in year 5/6.

RIGHT: Bright smiles ... Sophie Moroney, Harry Whitehead and Rose Hogan in year 4.

LEFT: Wanted ... Riley Weeks and Kaitlyn Neate in year 5/6.

