

CATHOLIC VOICE

ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN
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FREE

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**150 reasons to
celebrate – Page 3**

World Youth Day in Rio: anything is possible



ABOVE FAR LEFT: Part of the ADFA contingent (from left): Chaplain Anthony Doyle, Rachael Cuddihy, Midshipman Gordon Hutcheon, Midshipman Sarah Moriarty and Midshipman Justin Comfort.

MIDDLE: Michelle Emmett. ABOVE: Melissa de Jongh and Daniela Kesina in the rain at Copacabana Beach.

LEFT: Fr Joshy Kurien at the opening Mass.

Mass led by Pope Francis, returning to his home continent for the first time since becoming Pontiff.

On arriving in Rio, Pope Francis said during a welcoming ceremony at the presidential palace: "I have neither silver nor gold, but I bring with me the most precious thing given to me: Jesus Christ."

He stressed that he was there "to meet young people coming from all over the world, drawn to the open arms of Christ the Redeemer."

A contingent from the Australian Defence Force Academy travelled with one of several Sydney groups led by Cardinal Pell.

In the ADFA group were Canberrans chaplain Anthony Doyle, a former lawyer who joined the Army in 2010 and has been active in youth ministry for many years, and midshipman Gordon Hutcheon.

Before arriving in Rio, the group worked in the Pamplona shanty town on the side of a mountain near Lima.

"Come, walk through our streets of Rio. Infect everyone with the joy of Jesus Christ. You, dear young people, are called to be a new generation that passes on your faith to the next generation. Testify that another world is possible!"

With these words, Archbishop of Rio de Janeiro Cardinal Orani Joao Tempesta sought to inspire more than 400,000 pilgrims who gathered on Copacabana Beach, for the opening Mass of World Youth Day.

More than 50 young people and leaders from the Archdiocese were among the pilgrims who were not deterred by rain or a breakdown in the public transport system, as they headed into a week of celebrations alongside millions of youth from around the world.

They had landed in Rio after a hard but uplifting week of mission work in some of South America's poverty-stricken parishes.

The week of prayer, adoration and celebration in Rio culminated with the vigil and

Goulburn cathedral heads for the sky

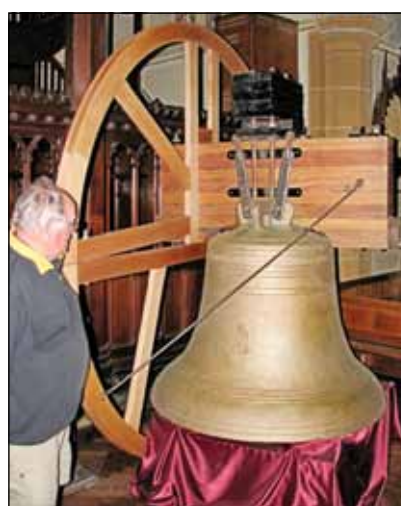
Goulburn's restoration of the Old Cathedral will soon take on a dramatic new face with a spire being added in keeping with the church's original design.

The spire will be placed on top of the bell tower of Sts Peter and Pauls Old Cathedral, and the Murphy bell, commissioned by Bishop Lanigan on his first trip to his homeland Ireland in 1869, will be re-installed.

This work, which should be completed in late October, is being done to mark the 150th anniversary of the Archdiocese. About \$2 million has been spent on the church's restoration and Goulburn parish priest Fr Dermid McDermott says the project is half complete.

A Goulburn engineering firm is building the 10m high copper-clad spire, which will be put in position by crane.

The next big stage of the project will be to move the scaffolding



History reclaimed... Restoration committee member Brian Watchirs admires the Murphy bell.

to the Verner Street wall next to the mosaic to begin further work.

Fr McDermott has written to parishes seeking donations to help cover the cost of the current work.

The NSW Government gave a dollar-for-dollar grant of \$70,000 for restoration of the bell. As the bell had to be removed from the tower, the restoration committee decided to take the opportunity to complete the tower with its spire. Its application for funding to a Commonwealth heritage program was unsuccessful.

Repairs and restoration have been ongoing for about 30 years.

Urgent work included underpinning and attention to rising damp under the sanctuary. This involved the re-interment of the bodies of Bishop Lanigan and Bishop Gallagher and the exhumation of Bishop Barry's body from the chapel at St Patrick's cemetery for re-interment under the sanctuary.

Individual donations are tax deductible and may be sent to Sts Peter and Paul's Old Cathedral Restoration, PO Box 11, Goulburn 2580.

Ian's still on duty after 32 years

Ian Blyton "blew" into Nimmitabel on horseback at 4pm on 4 February 1954.

He was 18 and about to take up the lease on a property his dad had bought for him to take over once he proved he could handle it.

He passed muster and still owns the property, now about 800 hectares, on which he breeds fine-wool sheep and Hereford cattle.

It took him about 25 years to become a "local", he says, and he didn't hurt his cause by marrying a born-and-bred Nimmitabel girl, Rae.

He has brought up eight children in the town and has been a key member of the fire brigade, the show society and the town hall committee for up to 60 years. He has also carted firewood for the convent for all those years.

But if there is any position he has made his own in town, it is as the acolyte of St Andrew's Catholic church. "I don't know whether we were volunteers or whether we were conscripted," he says of the little group Fr Kevin Barry-Cotter hustled into acolyte training more than 30 years ago.



The boss ... Ian Blyton in his familiar spot on the St Andrew's sanctuary.

Mr Blyton has a letter to prove he completed his training, signed by Archbishop Edward Clancy in December 1982.

Now, after 32 years as the only acolyte in Nimmitabel, "I find it quite strange to be sitting down in the body of the church".

Only recently did the 77-year-old attend his first Mass at St Andrew's without sitting on the sanctuary. Having undergone open-heart surgery early this year, he wasn't feeling well enough.

He says he has worked with about 15 priests in the 32 years, including Frs Barry-Cotter, Hilton Roberts, Henry Byrne, Phil Buckley, Joseph Tran, Peter Miller and Paul Huthnance. Visiting priests look to him for guidance and regular priests value his assistance and knowledge. "I suppose, technically, I'm seen as the boss," he said.

Country window to history

Nimmitabel convent was the posting Josephite Sr Bernadette O'Sullivan had been waiting for.

"I had always been in country places and, after being in Sydney for 18 years, when I heard this place was vacant, I jumped at it. I was dying to go back to the country," she said.

It was also a bonus that the area she was moving to had close familial links with Mary MacKillop's mother Flora, whose biography Sr Bernadette was working on at the time.

That was more than five years ago, and Sr Bernadette, as is her way, wasted no time in immersing herself in the history of the place.

Specifically, she has been busy researching the provenance of the installations and objects in the 150-year-old St Andrew's Catholic church.

Her interest started with the 14 stained-glass windows. Then the statues caught her attention. Then followed the pictures, chalices, bells and other objects that have been donated over the years.

Her aim is to compile a booklet detailing who has donated what, and possibly why. "But I want everything to be correct ... and that's the tricky part," Sr Bernadette said.



Getting it right ... Sr Bernadette O'Sullivan and the St Andrew's windows she is researching.

She has pulled together what information she can, covering such things as the window donated by Flora MacKillop's family, the McDonalds, a chalice donated by the Manning family in memory of their father in 1909 and a Sacred Heart statue donated by the family of The Exchange storekeeper and auctioneer E W Cansdell.

Sr Bernadette sought information from people who gathered to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the laying of St Andrew's foundation stone, but she says she still has a lot of verifying to do.



St Joseph's House of Spirituality and Hospitality Batehaven and Beyond

JESUS TODAY

Guest Speaker: Sr Therese Quinn rsj

Jesus' way is a path that leads to freedom.

Inspirational works of contemporary artists will invite us to embrace that way today.

Date: Sunday 25th August

Town: TEMORA

Venue: St Joseph's Hall, Loftus St

Time: 11am - 4pm

Cost: Donation. BYO lunch

RSVP: 16th August

Date: Tuesday 27th August

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

THE launch of a CD, Different Cultures One Voice, at St Thomas the Apostle parish, Kambah, was a time for choirs, families and friends to celebrate music that has enriched Mass in a number of Canberra churches in recent years.



The choirs from Youth for Christ, Couples of Christ and friends, the Vietnamese Dung Lac choir (pictured above), and St Thomas the Apostle parish showed how different cultures collaborated in producing a statement of their shared faith. Each choir sang one of their contributions to the CD.

The audience included Philippines Ambassador and Couples for Christ choir member Mrs Belen F Anota, Bishop Pat Power, Archdiocesan Administrator Mgr John Woods, Kambah parish priest Fr Peter My and South Tuggeranong parish priest Fr John Armstrong.

Copies of the CD are on sale through the St Thomas the Apostle parish office at \$20 each or \$23 including postage; telephone 6231 9219 or email stt.kambah@cg.catholic.org.au. The choirs continue to regularly accompany Mass at St Thomas'.

SINGERS drawn from across the Archdiocese will combine for a musical liturgy from 1pm-4pm on Sunday, 29 September, at St Christopher's Cathedral, and 1pm-4pm on Saturday, 5 October, at Sts Peter and Paul Old

Cathedral, Goulburn. The liturgy is being organised by Queanbeyan parishioner Sabrina deSouza to mark musically the 150th anniversary of the Archdiocese.

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

A BOOK 20 years in the writing on the life of a Croatian cardinal persecuted by the communists has been launched in Canberra. Bishop Pat Power launched "In Search of Cardinal Stepinac: A Complete Biography," by Sydney priest, Fr Zvonimir Gavanovic.

The launch was held at Parliament House because the author wanted to emphasise that the book was about a man who was worthy to be honoured at a place that is a symbol of democracy.

Cardinal Stepinac was persecuted by the Yugoslav regime for defending the Catholic faith and his people. Pope John Paul II pronounced him Blessed on 3 October, 1998.



LEFT: Bishop Power, author Fr Zvonimir Gavanovic and Federal Member for Lindsay David Bradbury at the launch.

YASS parish this month is celebrating the 175th anniversary of the foundation of St Augustine's chapel. A dinner will be held in the chapel at 7pm on Friday, 30 August, to raise money for its restoration. The chapel was one of the first churches built outside the metropolitan area. Tickets for the dinner cost \$35 and are available from Irene, telephone 6226 1086, or at the presbytery on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

TWO "gorgeous girls" are responsible for starting World Cup-winning Wallaby captain Nick Farr-Jones (pictured right) on what he calls his Christian walk.

Mr Farr-Jones, who spoke at the Thomas More Forum annual dinner in Canberra, told guests that he had not grown up in a religious household. His introduction to a Christian life came when two girls he and a mate had met in a cafe said the only way to see them again was to attend their church the following weekend.

He did just that. And so his Christian walk began. A great believer in "process", he has applied the same principles to living as a Christian as he did to rugby and has to his life as a family man, rugby commentator and successful businessman. His talk can be heard at www.stthomasmore.org.au/gallery.html.



Follow the experiences of Deacon Paul Nulley this month on his way to priesthood - Page 12

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Church's 150th is celebration of a community

By Fiona van der Plaats

The star attraction might have been buried somewhere under the altar but that was not going to stop Nimmitabel celebrating the 150th anniversary of the day the foundation stone was laid for the oldest existing Catholic church in the Monaro.

The St Andrew's church community came up with a new commemorative plaque to do the foundation stone's job and hosted a gathering that far surpassed early expectations.

Close to 150 people came from as close as Cooma, Bombala, Bega and Nimmitabel itself, and as far as Sydney, Canberra, Goulburn, Lake Macquarie and Moree, for Mass celebrated by Cooma parish priest Fr Paul Huthnance and to chew over memories at a reunion lunch.

Among them were descendants of E W Cansdell, the local storekeeper, auctioneer and tobacconist at the turn of last century whose family donated the Sacred Heart statue behind the pulpit.

Sr Bernadette O'Sullivan, who has lived in the convent across the road from

the church for more than five years and can't help but immerse herself in the history of wherever she is, said the original hopes were to stage a small gathering of about 50 people.

But the interest in an historic church with saintly connections – given that Mary MacKillop's maternal relatives, the McDonald brothers, were behind its construction – was extensive.

The history of St Andrew's is the story of a town, not just of its Catholics.

It might have been built thanks to the district's proliferation of Scottish Catholics, who attended Mass in the Nimitybelle Inn, but it has been maintained by a whole community.

Ian Blyton, a stalwart of both Nimmitabel and St Andrews, said the church had received support throughout the years from people of all faiths.

"We've had a tradition here right from the word go of a lot of denominations getting involved with us and helping us out," he said. Mr Blyton and his wife, Rae, who has lived in Nimmitabel all her



Community gathers... the celebratory Mass in St Andrew's, Nimmitabel.

life, were key members of the organising group for the 150th celebrations.

With the help of Sr Bernadette and others, they pulled together memorabilia and photos depicting the ebb and flow of the church's fortunes over the years.

It once doubled as a school house for 60-odd children until the now decommissioned St Joseph's school opened in 1907.

It then fell into disrepair and was resurrected thanks to a grassroots effort led by Bombala's then parish priest Fr John A Roche. It lost its school community in the early 1980s, having hosted up to 100 students at its peak, but not before many fond memories were planted.

Among those with such memories is Sr Wilga Howlett, who counts Mrs Blyton among the students she taught in the parish as the newly professed Sr Dolores in the early 1950s.

Among Sr Wilga's duties as one of three sisters at the convent was care of the church, including filling it with flowers and preparing it for Mass.

"I loved it here. The people were lovely," she said.

With the foundation stone celebrations over, the St Andrew's community is planning to do it all again on 24 September 2015, marking 150 years since the church opened its doors.

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in brief

NEW BISHOP: Sydney auxiliary bishop Julian Porteous has been appointed Archbishop of Hobart. Bishop Porteous, 64, has been actively involved in evangelisation, particularly among young people, and is attending World Youth Day in Brazil.



Born in Sydney, he was ordained in 1974 and has been a strong advocate for the new evangelisation called for by Pope John Paul II. He also actively promotes the role and work of new ecclesial movements. He was appointed rector of the Good Shepherd seminary in Sydney in 2002, and was named auxiliary bishop in 2003. He is the author of a number of books.

PEDDLING FALSEHOODS: The Sisters of St Joseph have condemned what they describe as “the current peddling of falsehoods and half-truths” about refugees by both major political parties. They have criticised the move by the Federal Government “to shift its responsibility for protecting some of the world’s most vulnerable people onto Papua New Guinea – an impoverished country without the economic, political and social capabilities to deal with large numbers of traumatised refugees”.

TWO SAINTS: Pope Francis has signed a decree clearing the way for the canonisation of Blessed John Paul II. He will also ask the cardinals to vote on the canonisation of Blessed John XXIII, without requiring a second miracle.

200 VACANCIES: Nearly 200 dioceses around the world are waiting for new bishops to be appointed, including Canberra and Goulburn and Wilcannia-Forbes, which has been without a bishop for four years, the US-based National Catholic Register reports. It says eight US dioceses and nine in the Philippines await appointments.

HELP WELCOME: The Truth Justice and Healing Council has welcomed a decision by the Federal Government to provide \$18 million to establish a legal service, called knowmore, to help people attend the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

An engaging diversity

By Archdiocesan Administrator Mgr John Woods

The search for meaning and purpose underpins our human journey.

It was with that awareness and with a desire to better appreciate our historical context, that I began reading Charles Taylor’s *A Secular Age* (2007). This acclaimed work investigates how it is that 500 years ago it was almost incomprehensible not to believe in God and today the reverse is the case. What happened and where are we now?

In a succinct review of the book, David Brooks notes that Taylor rejects the common assertion that science has replaced religion. Rather, the advances of science and all manner of human knowledge and experience have underpinned a shift from acceptance of one’s place to personal responsibility for creating it. “Religious faith or non-faith becomes a matter of personal choice as a part of a quest for personal development. This shift in consciousness leads to some serious downsides. When faith is a matter of personal choice, even believers experience much doubt.”

And yet, Brooks notes that Taylor insists that people still seek the transcendent and that we are “not sliding towards pure materialism. We are, instead, moving towards what he calls a galloping spiritual pluralism. People in search of fullness are able to harvest the intellectual, cultural and spiritual gains of the past 500 years. Poetry and music can alert people to the realms beyond the ordinary. *Orthodox believers now live with a different tension: how to combine the masterpieces of humanism with the central mysteries of their own faiths* (my emphasis). This pluralism can produce fragmentations and shallow options, and Taylor can eviscerate them, but, overall, this secular age beats the conformity and stultification of the age of fundamentalism, and it allows magnificent spiritual achievement” (Canberra Times, 11 July, p.4).

Some six days before I read the Brooks review of Taylor’s book, Pope Francis released his encyclical (or letter to all the faithful) on faith (*Lumen Fidei*). He thereby completed the trilogy of encyclicals of Pope Benedict on the theological virtues of faith, hope (*Spes Salvi* 2007) and love (*Deus Caritas Est* 2005). A consideration of the theological virtues opens one to a systematic consideration of what it means to be a follower of Christ. This can be a dry academic exercise though it should engage one’s primordial experiences.

Archbishop Gerhard Muller, prefect for the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, said that the second part of the encyclical spoke of the link between faith and truth. “Because faith has to do with knowledge of reality it is intrinsically linked to truth: ‘faith without truth does not save... it remains a beautiful story ... or it is reduced to a lofty sentiment’.”

Archbishop Muller also noted that faith, opening us to the love of God, transforms the way we see things and is therefore a source of knowledge. This is the experience of every man and woman and reflective of the biblical understanding of faith. So, too, faith is the basis of a founded hope about the horizon of human aspiration.



As the theological virtues call us into relationship with the Father, Son and Spirit, the so-called cardinal virtues of prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance order our life in society, being sustained by the sevenfold gifts or promptings of the Holy Spirit received in Confirmation. Such reflections affirm the Catholic narrative of faith and reason as necessary for a comprehensive understanding of what it is to be human. “The glory of God is man or woman fully alive” (St Irenaeus). It is by becoming more truly human, after the manner of Christ – “the Way, the Truth and the Life” – that we enter into greater communion with God and each other.

On the same day that Pope Francis released his first encyclical, he also announced that Pope John XXIII and Pope John Paul II would be canonised. These two quite different men faithfully served the communion and mission of the Church in faith, hope and love. Both have had their champions and their critics. While ours is a revealed religion, it does not admit of a historical fundamentalism nor does it subscribe to the cult of personality. On the contrary, it seeks to respond to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in the Body of Christ – in faith, hope and love – and in the discerned aspirations of all people of good will.

The aspirations of people of good will were touched upon at the recent blessing and opening of the Carroll College multi-purpose hall, Broulee. Addressing the assembled school, Federal Member Mike Kelly spoke of the “patchwork quilt” that is Australian society. He, thereby, affirmed the dignity of all peoples who call Australia home, and he went on to urge gratitude for our good fortune and our responsibility to work for a more just and humane society. More especially, he stressed the need for values based education.

Our Catholic understanding is that the values we hold dear find their source and affirmation in our dignity as being made in God’s image and likeness. Our values arise from our beliefs which are the articulation of our Christian faith. Not all would subscribe to the latter but all can affirm that which arises when we gather and reflect in good will.

The need to affirm that which unites and to respectfully acknowledge difference is reflective of individual integrity and maturing community. I say this as some 50 young people of our Archdiocese gather with their peers for World Youth Day in Brazil. May their experience enthuse each of them to be beacons of good news, growing in awareness of their graced dignity and ever respectful of the dignity of others created in God’s image and likeness.

Putting legs on those aspirations, I reference the recent informal Q&A session Pope Francis had with students in the Vatican. He again affirmed the need to live more simply and become a bit poorer like Christ.

He urged perseverance in the face of fatigue and failure. He spoke of “looking at the horizon, reflecting on where I want to go”, supported by “people who care about you very much because that will help you to get to your destination”. In faith, hope and love, let us continue the journey in our engaging diversity, both within and beyond the Church.

letters to the editor

Note to contributors

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

Letters may be edited for reasons of length, clarity and legality, and to meet style requirements.

They should be sent to Catholic Voice, GPO Box 3089, Canberra 2601, or by email to ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au.

The closing date for letters is the 15th of the month.

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Different issues of justice and charity

I thank Bevil Purnell (“I hope asylum seekers will forgive me”, CV July) for the clarification of the Australian Refugee and Humanitarian Program.

Superficially it seems that “boat people” do not affect the opportunity for refugees from other origins to seek asylum. However, the reality is quite different.

For many years the annual (off-shore) refugee visa quota was 6000 places.

This quota was increased to 12,000 places in 2012-13 as part of a policy aimed at reducing the number of “boat people” arrivals. Clearly that pressure group has gained the focus of the revised offshore program.

In addition, the Special Humanitarian Program of about 7000 annual visa places, increased to 8000 places in 2012-13, has been gradually taken up by “boat people”, even though it is intended for both onshore and offshore applicants.

In 2003-4 about 11% of these places were granted to applicants classified as “irregular maritime arrivals”. In 2011-12 the proportion had increased to 68%. This year the

quota might be allocated totally to “boat people”.

There are more than 20,000 “boat people” awaiting immigration processing in Australia.

The system for supporting these people has been overwhelmed.

The backlog is increasing all the time and, despite the no-advantage rule, the implication for those without the means to get here is a longer wait, to say the least.

Refugees who have the will and the means to flout border protection policies are more likely to attain their goal, and in doing so they expose the different issues of justice and charity.

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Concrete help for homeless

Five-year-old Hannah was the youngest among the "homeless" who slept under the stars for a night in the Holy Trinity primary school grounds in Curtin.

About 50 members of the Holy Trinity community staged their own family-friendly version of the Vinnies CEO Sleepout and raised \$1500 to help the homeless.

Their night out was slightly more mild than the -5C the CEOs had experienced in Civic a couple of weeks earlier,

but the freezing wind that blew in at 3am and the mercilessly cold concrete ensured comfort levels remained realistically low.

The participants started the night with hot soup and an introduction to the Vinnies night van and some of its volunteers.

They finished the next morning with porridge and pancakes.

Meanwhile, Year 11 and 12 students from Merici College slept outdoors in

their school quadrangle to raise funds for, and awareness of, homelessness.

Student representative council captain Angelica Windsor said it was a taste of the conditions the many homeless people faced every night.

"I think that the best way for us to understand the severity of this issue is to give up a warm night at home and instead experience the harshness of life that these people face each day," Merici teacher and student council facilitator

Rugged up ... five-year-old Hannah Busby (above) gets in some drawing before her sleepout at Holy Trinity, while Merici College students (far left) prepare for a long night.

Sonia Conte said the students had been keen to relate more personally to people less fortunate than themselves.

"The uncomfortable conditions were felt by all the students, with only cardboard to sleep on," she said.

"I was really impressed with their maturity and their eagerness to participate."

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Study aims to bring families back together

Reducing distress in the relationship between children in out-of-home care and their birth parents, and ultimately increasing the number who are reunited, will be the goal of a study by the Australian Catholic University's Institute for Child Protection Studies.

The institute, jointly funded by the Community Services Directorate and based at the ACU's Signadou campus in Canberra, has received a three-year grant of \$560,000 from the Australian Research Council to develop and test an intervention model to improve the

contact between children and birth parents.

One of the study's three chief investigators, institute associate director Dr Stephanie Taplin, said five community service agencies in the ACT and seven in Victoria would also provide \$270,000 in cash and \$390,000 in kind.

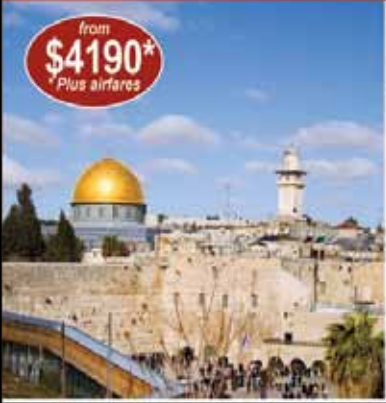
She said the contact between the nearly 40,000 children in out-of-home care around the country and their birth parents was often stressful for both parties and a burden on welfare workers.

"It's one of those very costly, time-consuming, distressing issues where there is not a lot

of evidence of how to do it better," Dr Taplin said.

Having done some of her own work around children's contact with birth parents, she said it was a contentious area that had attracted quite a bit of qualitative research but not a lot of quantitative study.

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Independence ... A resident of Tenison Woods House cleans out the fridge with the help of acting manager Natasha Federow.

Refugee teens finding their way in a new land

It is mid-afternoon on a weekday and a 17-year-old youth, with earphones attached, is rummaging in the fridge at Tenison Woods House in O'Connor.

It is an after-school image you might expect to see in just about any household containing hungry, music-loving teenagers.

In this case, though, the earphones are coaching the Afghan youth in English, which will help him with his school work and his career goal of becoming a mechanical engineer, and the fridge is getting a thorough clean-out.

This is a snapshot of everyday life for the dozen teenage residents of Tenison Woods House, all of whom have arrived in Australia, without parents or guardians, to seek asylum from countries such as Afghanistan and are awaiting visa determinations.

The house is one of two in Canberra managed by the Archdiocesan branch of social welfare agency CatholicCare, in partnership with Red Cross, as part of a Federal Community Detention Program.

CatholicCare director of family and regional services Juleen Schiefelbein said the aim was to create a safe home environment in which the boys, aged between 16 and 18, are encouraged to live as independently as possible.

The residents, some of whom speak a few dialects

from their own country but have limited English, are taught the language and attend Dickson College.

Under the guidance of a house manager and a team of support workers, they adhere to a weekly roster of cleaning, shopping and cooking, and are learning to negotiate the logistics of communal living.

"You do have a group dynamic going on, of course. But we encourage them to try to problem solve among themselves, which is a good skill for them to learn if they are going to be living in group housing for an extended period of time," Ms Schiefelbein said.

The boys, who stay at the house for anything from a few weeks to more than a year, are encouraged to participate in community, sporting and recreational activities, in consultation with the support staff.

They socialise with friends, play sport, spend time on the computers and pursue hobbies such as art. Two of the boys recently submitted pieces to a UN Refugee Agency art competition for Refugee Week and one of the works was chosen among 12 to be included in the region's official desk calendar next year.


Acting house manager Natasha Federow said adapting to a new environment is easier for some boys than others. But it is all about fostering resilience. "It's important that they believe in themselves."



Home art... A painting by one of the residents, which will feature in the UN Refugee Agency's regional calendar next year.

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FHOG only benefits new home buyers

First Home Buyers in the ACT had better hurry and purchase property if they want to buy established properties and get assistance from the Government through the First Home Owners Grant (FHOG) scheme!

From the 1st of September the FHOG will not be available for purchasers of established properties!

The FHOG will rise however from \$7000 to \$12,500 in September for "New" and "Substantially Renovated" properties, as part of efforts to boost the ACT's declining residential construction sector.

The change is designed to help new home buyers and to assist the residential construction industry.

At the moment NSW FHOG is as high as \$15000 for new property and is due to reduce to \$10000 next year. The increased ACT grant will help local builders compete for first home buyers who might have considered building in nearby NSW.

It will be interesting to see the effect on the local housing market, especially in area's where there is minimal residential construction activity!

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One a day just a movie man's habit

By Fiona van der Plaats

Tony Orreill has three passions. And you only have to walk into his living room to guess what they are.

The walls are lined with bookcases and other receptacles filled with music, books and movies.

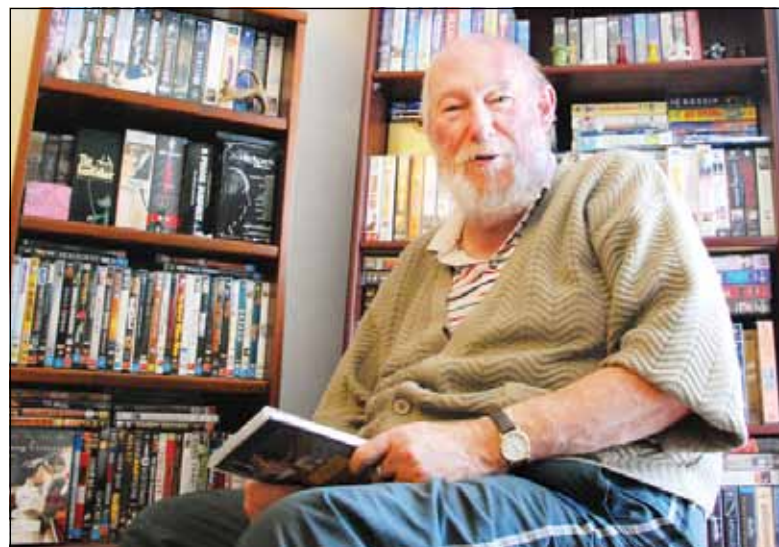
He has music on vinyl and CD and particularly enjoys Gershwin and Mahler. He reads two or three books at once and his favourite author is Stephen King – "I've got everything he's written."

As for the movies, well he thinks he has at least 3000 of them, including many on video tape.

He'll have a more accurate count once he finishes the monumental task of recataloguing them.

Mr Orreill, 71, reads endlessly about movies and is a fixture at local video outlets. He will go for just about anything, from children's genre to horror and musicals to mysteries, and watches at least one a day.

"I try to find something positive in all of them," he said, struggling to think of one he has failed to sit through.



Faith and films ... Tony Orreill shares his passion for movies with his fellow parishioners.

Two of his favourites are Les Misérables, "which I've seen five or six times", and the Swedish vampire flick Let the Right One In.

Inspired by a workshop designed to help people hear and answer God's calling, the retired teacher decided his "love of movies and administrative charisma" were gifts he could share by establishing a movie group in Corpus Christi parish, Gowrie.

The group, which has grown from seven to 30 members since 2007, meets every second Tuesday for an early dinner followed by a movie.

Mr Orreill organises the group, providing information on what movies are showing and where they might eat, as well as making bookings and arranging travel for those who need it.

The members take it in turns to choose the movie.

"There are no restrictions on choices and we always respect others' decisions. Thanks to that, some members have seen their first horror movie and others have seen their first foreign language film," Mr Orreill said.

"We never make fun of anybody's choices except in fun," although that does not mean everybody has to like the movie chosen or agree on what it all means.

In fact, differences of opinion can make for a lively gathering.

"I remember when we saw Doubt, about the nun and the priest, we were divided right down the middle on whether the priest was a paedophile or not," he said.

The members also crowd into his living room once a month to talk about movies and borrow any of the 20-odd DVDs he would have acquired in the four weeks.

Mr Orreill says his aim in setting up the club was to foster friendships between people with a shared faith background and a shared interest.

"For all of us, it's about a love of movies and that brings us together."

Top critic's top choice is...

Fr Richard Leonard, SJ, has only walked out of one movie screening.

"It was the Texas Chainsaw Massacre II. The title should have told me I should not have walked into it in the first place," he said.

"I don't mind a film that tells a dark or violent story as long as some sort of corrective moral influence is in there ... This one had no moral voice whatsoever."

As director of the Australian Catholic Office for Film and Broadcasting, Fr Leonard oversees reviews of movies and television shows on behalf of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. He has a doctorate in cinema studies.

Key among the office's broader duties is to critique movies specifically for parents of teenagers and young adults and for Catholic school teachers.

The office reviewed 221 mostly mainstream films last year, very few of which



would have had any religious relevance or, indeed, would be an obvious fit with the Church's values.

"Some people think we are there to condemn anything that does not live up to Catholic views and that we should only be reviewing films that are G-rated or that they consider appropriate," he said.

"But that would leave us in a terrible position, apart from the fact there wouldn't be much to review."

It would be counterproductive, he says, for the Church to ignore large segments of the film and television culture or to simply condemn everything that might be considered inappropriate.

"Our aim is to tell them (parents and teachers) enough in the review to make up their own minds," he said.

"We are not in the business of telling people what they should and shouldn't see. We just give them the information they need to make their own decisions."

Whereas a film censor might be governed by what they believe a reasonable adult would think about a film, Fr Leonard's reviewers consider what a reasonable Catholic adult might think.

"A reasonable Catholic adult would know we live in a world where people swear, where there is violence, where people aren't necessarily living the lives they'd like them to ... We can't just assume that sort of thing makes a film bad."

The question Fr Leonard uses as his gauge when reviewing a movie is, "What does this say about humanity?"

As for Fr Leonard's personal preference, Citizen Kane is still top of the tree.

"That film just broke every boundary. It was a phenomenal film in terms of cinematography and all the other elements, but it was also a very moral one."

What's your favourite movie, and why?
What do you think of today's high-tech films?

Tell us via e-mail at ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au or write to Catholic Voice, GPO Box 3089, Canberra 2601



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By Fiona van der Plaats

Loretta Wholley has entered her first active semester as principal of Merici College in Canberra determined to win the trust of staff and students.

“Without a doubt, I would have lost some trust by having a baby. That’s just a fact of life,” she said.

Mrs Wholley, the former deputy at Mercedes College in Perth, found out she was pregnant with her second child after accepting the position at Merici.

Alana, sister to five-year-old Teresa, was born in March and Mrs Wholley was on maternity leave for the first two terms of her tenure. Although she did spend some time at the school at the start of the year, she officially assumed duties at the start of term three.

“I know my name has been floating around since July last year and now I have to make sure I put a face to it,” she said.

In the first instance, it will be all about listening. “If I don’t know everybody’s story – what they are willing to tell, at least – by the end of the year, I’ll be disappointed,” she said.

“A bit of humility goes a long way. I don’t know everything, so I have to be prepared to listen and learn.”

That said, she makes it clear she will not be a passive listener. “I would like to think of myself as a collaborator; someone who listens but is not afraid of rocking the boat if I have to.

“I also like to gather the facts before I do anything. I’m a little bit data driven in that way.”

Two of the areas in which Mrs Wholley is keen to start gathering those facts are the school’s use of technology and its learning spaces.

Having taught business and computing, she says information technology remains her passion. “Merici has been at the forefront (of technology use in schools) for a long time, but I really want to take it to boiling point,” she said.

“Now we have students coming through who have had iPads and laptops in primary school, so how do we accommodate these computer-literate students? How do we make sure we are a step in front of them or at least standing side-by-side with them?”

She is also keen to make sure the college’s newly developed learning facilities are used



ABOVE: Strong connection ... new Merici principal Loretta Wholley with baby Alana.

Merici’s new mum keen to share her passion for IT

to their potential, and that students, teachers and parents are all comfortable with them.

Even before she started, however, Mrs Wholley had one regret. “For the first time, I won’t be teaching a class and I’ll miss that.”

She will particularly miss the challenge of teaching religious education to senior students, as she has done in recent years.

“The girls are at such a questioning age.

“They want to do the right thing because their parents and the Church have told them what is right, but society says something different.

“That can be really difficult for them.”

At 41, Mrs Wholley is still young, but “the students keep me even younger ... I’ve always had a strong connection with young people.”

She is pleased that Merici follows the Glasser model of discipline, which focuses on students making choices about their behaviour and understanding the consequences of their choices.

“You can’t be autocratic in a high school, though sometimes you do have to just step in and say this is how it’s going to work,” she said.

Her own approach to dealing with teenage girls, many of whom struggle with changes and choices in their lives, is to ask them the question, “What is worth fighting for and what isn’t?”

These are decisions her own daughters are likely to face one day, but in the meantime Mrs Wholley is happy for them to simply soak up what is around them.

She and husband Michael, a pharmacist, decided they wanted to try living on the east coast 18 months ago and were keen on a “big centre” as opposed to a “big city”.

Canberra fitted the bill, as did the fact Merici was looking

for a new principal after Catherine Rey moved to the new John Paul College.

Since arriving, the family has spent most weekends day-tripping around the district, exploring and visiting markets.

Mrs Wholley, who got to know snow while studying at the Ecumenical Institute in Geneva, Switzerland, for three months, is also eager for her husband to finally see snow fall and for Teresa to build a snowman.

“We came to Canberra for a pharmaceutical conference in April last year and we thought, ‘We could live here.’ And we were right,” she said.

Homilies: It pays to be passionate

A weekly blur, an occasion to learn more about our relationship with God, a chance to challenge people to act... love them or not, homilies are a source of much debate among congregations and clergy. Fiona van der Plaats set out to learn more...

Fr Hilton Roberts was never taught to preach. His training in Rome in the late 1950s might have given him a solid theoretical grounding but he was “thrown in the deep end” with delivering homilies.

He is still not sure, 55 years later, whether he has mastered the art. He insists he is no expert and is surprised when he receives positive feedback.

His own doubts aside, however, Fr Roberts, who lives in a priest’s busy version of retirement in Aranda, is widely regarded around the Archdiocese as a paragon of preaching.

So, given that improving the quality of homilies is, as Archdiocesan Administrator Mgr John Woods has pointed out, on the to-do list for the Archdiocese, his is an obvious source of wisdom.

At the heart of it all, Fr Roberts says, is the conviction that “preaching is a call to transform listeners into the image of Jesus. If you respond to that call, God’s spirit will do the transforming.”

Preaching is about engaging with, and being changed by, God’s word, he says. And part of that process is “making Jesus contemporary with us”.

“We do that not by reading the scripture, as such, but letting the scripture read us ... challenging us in our weakness and our sinfulness, showing us that we have the power to change,” he said.

He also subscribes to the Karl Bath theory of preaching with the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other. Or, in these times, “one eye on the word of God and one eye on the TV”.

Fr Roberts does not write out his homilies because notes “inhibit” him. Neither does he speak off the cuff, believing in always doing his homework.

That preparation starts with prayer and meditation, which brings him closer to God. “If you are aware of God’s presence in yourself, then you find the presence of God out there in the people,” he said.



A service to people... seminary rector Fr Tony Percy.

He does not bother with stories and other speaking techniques, “especially as I get older”, instead relying on conviction. “You might be in fear and trembling but if you are passionate about what you are saying, the words will penetrate.”

Another priest who does not rely on storytelling in his sermons is Archdiocesan Chancellor and Campbell parish priest Fr Julian Wellspring.

“The only story I tell is the Jesus story,” he said. But he does recognise the importance of cutting through the clutter of modern-day noise.

“Our preaching takes place in a world where ... people constantly hear radio, TV and other media, and you are just another voice competing with that, so you need to grab their attention somehow.”

He believes the secret is to be aware of what is happening in the world, in the parish and in the lives of the congregation.

Fr Wellspring’s starting point is prayer and reflection, followed by research and reading around the scriptures. “A good test for a homily is if it deepens the understanding of the scriptures.”

The ultimate test, though, is if it inspires people in their faith. “Many people have said, ‘That was a good homily’, but how many people say, ‘I heard something in that homily that I am going out to act on?’”

That sort of inspiration is what the rector of the Good Shepherd Seminary, Fr Tony Percy, teaches his trainee priests to strive for in their homilies.

‘If you manage to communicate just one idea a week, that ... isn’t bad.’

“We help them to see that the homily is ... a service to people so that the Holy Spirit can change lives,” he said.

First, they must believe in what they are saying. “His style of speaking might not be the best, but a priest will often find that if he really believes it, people will go with him.”

They are also taught to keep the message simple, but not to the point of patronising their congregation.

The process starts with naming the theological fact, meaning or virtue they want to convey, then giving it some meaning for the listeners. If necessary, they then suggest how people should respond to this.

While the length of a homily is not pre-ordained, the seminarians learn to deliver prepared homilies in short, pithy grabs, progressing from one to three minutes.

That does not mean homilies of the future will be reduced to sound bites. But Fr Percy says it teaches them a lot about preparation and getting a message across clearly.

“As a priest once said to me, ‘If you manage to communicate just one idea a week, that is 52 in a year, which isn’t bad.’”

RIGHT: Engaging... Fr Hilton Roberts says preaching is a call to transform listeners into the image of Jesus.



‘It’s a good day if I learn something’

Ruth Ransom goes to Mass for Jesus, not for the homilies. “But a good one does make it more interesting and enjoyable.”

The 21-year-old Australian Catholic University education student is part of a generation the Church has long battled to keep engaged in Sunday Mass.

“It’s not that often that I leave feeling incredibly inspired ... but I usually think it’s a good day if I at least learn something useful or interesting,” she said.

It could be something as basic as the story behind a biblical image. Ms Ransom will always remember, for instance, the sermon in which she learnt that the eye of the needle the camel might pass through may be a reference to a narrow gate in the Jerusalem city wall.

“I like it when the priest tells you what things actually mean or how the scriptures relate to our own lives. It doesn’t have to be anything fancy. It could even just be some practical tips.”

For Assoc Prof Patrick McArdle, dean of the university’s Canberra campus and former seminarian, a good homily needs to be relevant to people’s lives, challenging and intellectually engaging.

“Clergy need to know their people ... If our parishes are going to be welcoming and inclusive then that’s what our homilies need to be. They

also need to challenge us to be better than we are and to be closer in our relationship with God.”

He believes that staying in the safe zone of preaching to the converted is not working for the Church and that some priests are intimidated by their congregations when they shouldn’t be.

“Clergy need to be aware that they don’t necessarily need to have all the answers. As long as they acknowledge that, they can pose the tough questions.”

“One of the great virtues of the Catholic Church is there is not much separation between spiritual and intellectual development, so you can come out not thinking you had to check your brains at the door in order to pray.”

Prof McArdle says planning for homilies should be in tune with the three-year pastoral cycle and each one should be carefully thought-out and prepared.

“I know the clergy are over-busy these days, but they’ve got to remember this is their big gig for the week. No homily should ever be delivered in draft form.”

LEFT: Nothing fancy ...

Ruth Ransom says it is a good day if she learns something from a homily.

There’s nothing Tom digs more than history - and a good coffee

By Fiona van der Plaats

A couple of times a week, Tom Campbell has coffee with an elite group of academics and researchers in the National Library’s Petherick Reading Room.

“We all sit down together at about 10.30, and we might talk about nothing much or maybe someone will say something like, ‘Does anyone know anything about left-handed widgets?’ Usually someone does.”

That someone could easily be Mr Campbell, given his “reasonable facility” in Latin and acquaintance with the French, Italian and Spanish languages, not to mention his long and active interest in all things historical.

“It also helps that I am Catholic,” he said, because that gives him background knowledge in an area that most of the others are not familiar with.

But it is not just about being Catholic. It is about wanting to know the history behind it all.

That is why Mr Campbell, 72, has long been one of several Canberra members of the Australian Catholic Historical Society, which promotes interest, recording and research in the Church’s history in this country.

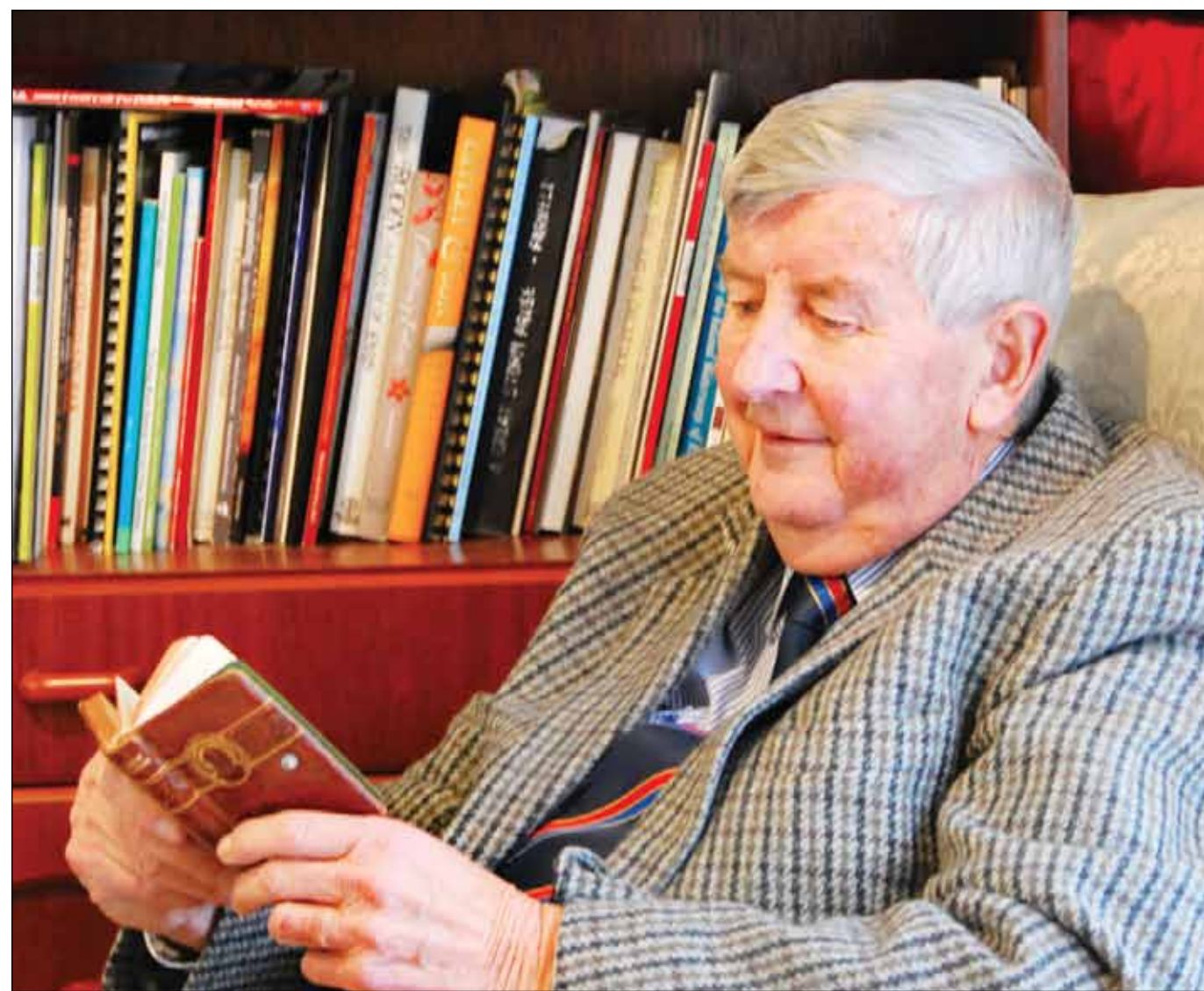
He has presented to the society on the cultural significance of nuns in country NSW, stemming from his studies in the Armidale diocese, and worked on areas of Catholic history including objects in the new museum at St Clement’s Monastery, Galong.

At present, he is delving into the “de-Irishing” of the Church early last century, fascinated by the politics and “skulduggery” behind the comings and goings of bishops and other Church officials.

He is also researching the growth and decline of The Key of Heaven, a daily prayer book originally known as The Poor Man’s Posey of Prayer, which came out of England in the late 1700s and was last seen in a simpler pocket-sized form in 1941.

Another somewhat contentious area of interest is the national cathedral dedicated to Our Lady Help of Christians that exists only as a foundation stone in front of the Archbishop’s House in Canberra.

But Mr Campbell, a former Australian football umpire who lives in the Calvary retirement facility in Bruce with his wife Maureen and keeps active as part of the Pedal Power cycling lobby, does not limit himself to Catholic history.



Digging up the past ... Tom Campbell with The Key of Heaven, the history of which he is researching.

Some of his most recent work includes a study of Anglican religious communities in Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific, and a self-published biography of George Dibbs, who was premier of NSW three times between 1885 and 1894.

His list of published material is lengthy – not bad, he admits, for a

retired public servant “who has no qualifications in anything”, having survived little more than two years of an economics degree in which he passed three out of 10 subjects.

He started out as a telegram manager in the postmaster general’s department in Gunnedah and moved into overseas trade with the government before eventually working on

establishing the National Museum of Australia.

“I was no museum expert, but I am very proud of what we achieved,” he said, describing the long and painstaking job of pulling a diverse and scattered collection together.

“There was just a sheer joy in doing it.”

NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK

4TH - 11TH AUGUST 2013



LEFT: Paul Nulley (far right) with West Melbourne parish priest Fr Anthony Bernal and seminary classmate Deacon John Paul on the feast of St Josemaria Escriva.

We are completely free to ask God what his plan is

Eight steps for discerning God's will

Be quiet in order to hear the Lord's voice calling. Take time to pray and meditate in silence about your vocation, especially in front of the Blessed Sacrament

Find a spiritual director - somebody you can be open with - who can help to develop your relationship with God and to know yourself better.

Ask a priest, brother or sister in your parish to put you in touch with a vocation director.

Read up on religious and priestly life. Look at a good periodical on vocations and check out the ads.

Write to the communities that interest you.

Visit the ones you feel called too.

Build a relationship with the one where you have a sense of coming home. Get involved in its summer or monthly programs. Don't just talk the talk - walk the walk with them as well.

Wait for the Lord. Discerning your vocation is a process. God's timing is always perfect - but seldom seems soon enough!

This year we have travelled with South Tuggeranong parishioner Paul Nulley on the last leg of his journey to priesthood. He writes:

I have now formally applied for priesthood! Seven years of prayer, discernment, study and pastoral work all contribute to my free decision to seek this gift Our Lord is extending to me.

I feel truly humbled knowing that Our Lord has chosen me, me with all my weakness, failings and defects, to be an instrument to proclaim his Good News in Word and Sacrament. But this is where I have received the Good News in my life: at times when I have not responded to his love or just fallen short of the mark. He always comes to me to be with me in my weakness and restore friendship with God through his love. There is nothing more I enjoy than being able to share this Good News with others.

On 1 July I was invited by the seminary to apply for the ministry of priesthood. This required me to hand-write a letter to Mgr John Woods requesting ordination. I also had to hand-write an oath of freedom, which I will sign closer to the date of ordination when I will also make an oath of fidelity and the pro-

fession of faith in front of the seminary community.

Meanwhile, the staff have been conducting scrutinies, seeking feedback from the places I have done pastoral work, from the lecturers at the university and from others whom I have come across during my formation. The rector will then compile a report for Mgr Woods, hopefully with a recommendation for ordination. I shall formally know in the next couple of weeks if I have been approved.

There was so much I wanted to write in my letter applying for ordination because seminary has been a huge journey. I have come to know and to love the faith more through my studies. I have grown in friendship with the Lord and with the saints through the spiritual life. I have not only grown in love for the poor through pastoral work, but desired to communicate God's great love to them, too. I have grown in freedom through the human formation so that I may respond authentically to this vocation.

Although I have grown and changed significantly over the past seven years, my fundamental motivation is the same. It was the love of God that drew me here; the love of God I experienced in

the quiet of prayer and the sacraments, especially the Eucharist and confession. I wanted to respond so completely to that love and dedicate my life to him in response. This is what the vocation to priesthood is: not only a response to God's love, but incarnating that love, which gives life to the world.

Everyone is given a vocation at baptism. A vocation is, simply put, God's plan for your life. John Henry Newman expressed this when he said, "God has created me to do him some definite service." Through our vocation we come to know God's love and we are invited to share that love with the whole world.

Some people are called to the priesthood, religious life, married life or the consecrated single life. We are completely free to ask God what his plan is for us. I experienced an answer to this question through a gentle pull on my heart, which led me to the seminary. Although it hasn't always been easy I have never looked back!

If you are unsure what your vocation might be, I invite you ask God what his plan for your life is and notice what happens in your heart. In my experience, you will not be disappointed.

VOCATIONS DISCERNMENT DINNER



A vocations discernment dinner will be held at Archbishop's house on Friday, 20 September. The evening will begin with prayer at 6pm, followed by an informal dinner with Monsignor John Woods. Any young men and women in Year 11 or older who would like to learn more about and

discuss a call to the priesthood or religious life are invited to attend. RSVP by Monday, 16 September, to Vocations Director Fr Emil Milat, telephone **4474 2024** or email **emil.milat@cg.catholic.org.au** or go to the Archdiocesan website **www.cg.catholic.org.au** and click on Vocations.



National Vocations Awareness Week (NVAW) provides an opportunity for all Australian dioceses, parishes, schools, religious communities, youth and campus ministers, and other Catholic organisations, to focus at the same time on the "call to holiness" (ie, the Christian vocation) that arises from our Baptism, and thus to further foster a vocations culture across Australia.

Catholic Vocations Ministry Australia
www.catholiczvocations.org.au



Serra Objectives

To foster and promote vocations to the ministerial priesthood in the Catholic Church as a particular vocation to service, and to support priests in their sacred ministry;

To encourage and affirm vocations to consecrated religious life in the Catholic Church; and

To assist its members to recognize and respond in their own lives to God's call to holiness in Jesus Christ and through the Holy Spirit.

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The spirituality of MSCs 'fitted me like a glove'

By Pat Mara

"To be on earth the Heart of God" struck a chord with me when I met the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.

Previously I had been a plumber and thoroughly enjoyed my job.

When I reached the age of 24, however, something within me told me I was called to something else.

I wasn't sure exactly what that was, so I took some time off work to give myself the space to listen.

I was quite horrified when it dawned on me that it was priesthood to which I was called. I was paying a mortgage, planning my life for marriage and children, and here was a big spanner being thrown into the works.

So I did my best to ignore the call and continue on with life as I wanted it.

Yet the more I tried to shut it out the stronger it got, to the point

where it really began to weigh me down and I was left with the option of at least giving it a go.

When I made the decision to try the priesthood, immediately a weight was lifted off my shoulders and I experienced a great liberation.

When I was a lay missionary for the MSCs I helped with their "Clean Water" projects and lived the life of an MSC in Fiji and Kiribati.

I discovered the charism of the congregation fitted me like a glove, a very down to earth spirituality which understands the human condition with all its wonderful joys and messiness put together.

I had found a congregation where I could be me as God intended. I have found a peace and freedom particularly when I spend time with the those who are poor and homeless.

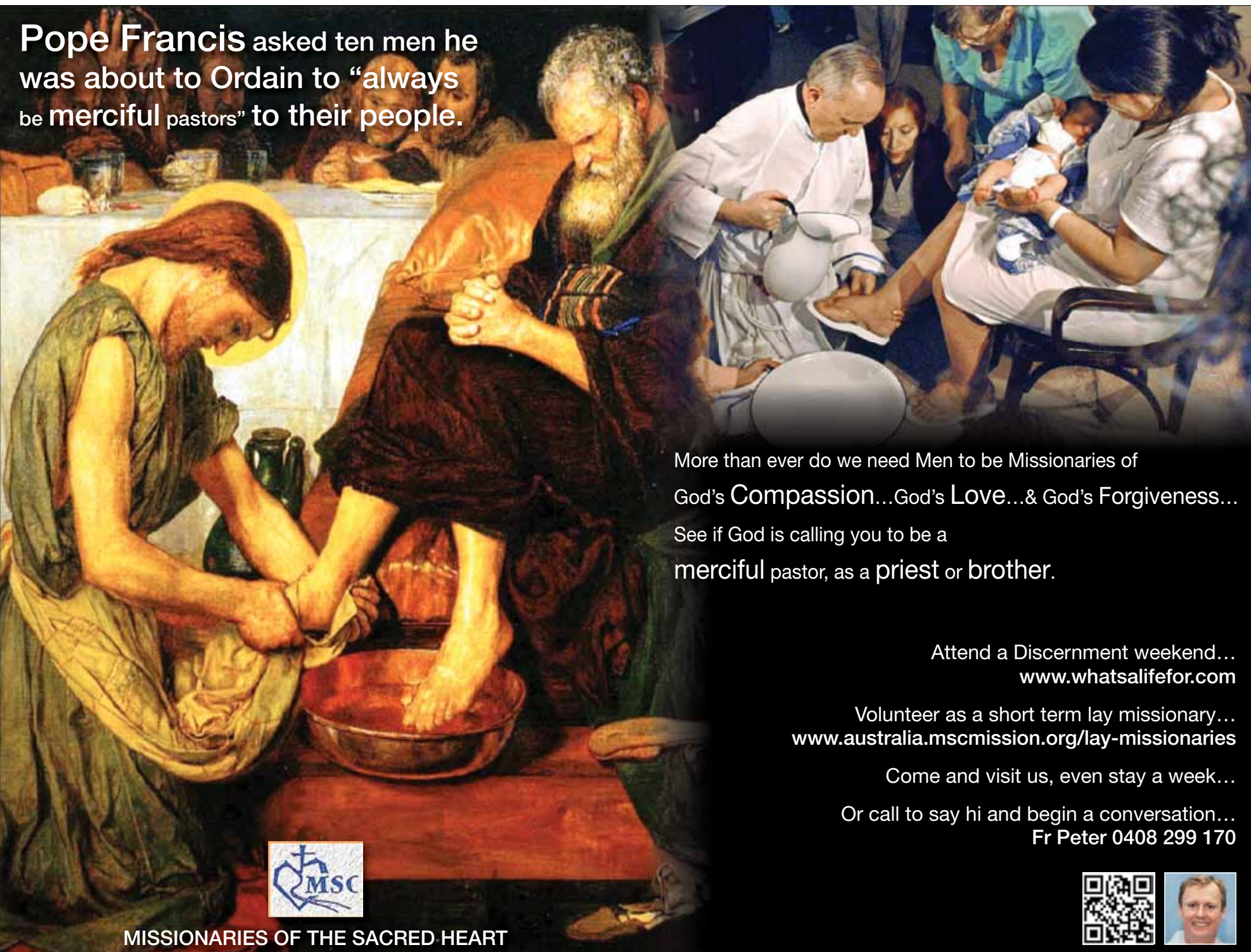


NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS

4TH - 11TH AUGUST 2013

LEFT and BELOW: Pat Mara will be ordained a deacon for the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart on 3 August in Blackburn parish, Melbourne.

Pope Francis asked ten men he was about to Ordain to "always be merciful pastors" to their people.



More than ever do we need Men to be Missionaries of God's Compassion...God's Love...& God's Forgiveness... See if God is calling you to be a merciful pastor, as a priest or brother.

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MISSIONARIES OF THE SACRED HEART



In footsteps of Christ the Priest

Every religious congregation and society takes on its own particular way of walking in the footsteps of Jesus.

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The Confraternity of Christ the Priest walks in the footsteps of our compassionate high priest, Jesus, Who offered His life, all of it, for the glory of God and the salvation of the human race.

The Feast of Christ the Priest - 25 years in Australia

What year was the first official Feast of Christ the Priest celebrated in an English speaking country? 1988, in Australia, after the Confraternity of Christ the Priest was given permission by the Sacred Congregation for the Sacraments and Divine Worship.

As far as we know, in no other English-speaking country has the Feast of Christ the



Fr Thomas Casanova CCS meets Cardinal John Tong of Hong Kong to speak about devotion to Christ the Priest.

Priest been celebrated officially. But it has in Australia for 25 years, and there is reason to believe that this Feast of Jesus, celebrated on the Thursday after Pentecost, may spread beyond Australia and numerous Spanish speaking countries, even to become a world-wide feast.

Pope Pius XI wrote a Votive Mass in honour of Christ the Priest, which is included in parish Missals, Venerable Pius XII wrote about Christ the Priest in one of his encyclicals, the Second Vatican Council explained in Lumen Gentium that we all share in the priesthood of Christ by baptism and ordination, Blessed John Paul II frequently prayed the Litany of Jesus the Eternal High Priest.

Now the head of the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship is from Spain and a keen promoter of this feast. Along with its distinctive missionary work in Australia, the Confraternity of Christ the Priest is working to promote the devotion and Feast of Christ the Priest around the world.

Br Greg McDonald FMS

In one of the first major events for the newly created Marist Brothers' Province of Australia, Br Justin Golding FMS, made his perpetual profession in the chapel of his alma mater at St Gregory's College, Campbelltown on 2 March.

Present for the Mass of Profession were Justin's parents, Ken and Jenny Golding, his brothers Dean and Geoff, and more than 300 Brothers, students and staff from Trinity Catholic College, Lismore, where Br Justin is serving as college youth minister.

After professing his vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, Br Justin received his perpetual crucifix from Provincial Br Jeffrey Crowe FMS. He then shared with the congregation the positive influence of the Brothers while a student at school:

"It was the beginning of an amazing journey that has led me to this day," he said. "A journey where I have encountered numerous Marist Brothers whose lives have inspired and encouraged me to consider their life as my own."

Contrary to the popular-held belief of religious life being a counter-cultural choice, Br Justin provided a refreshing insight: "When you look at this through my eyes, it seems a very ordinary and normal thing to do."

"God has spoken and touched my heart. How can I not respond



ABOVE: Br Justin on his profession day with parents Ken and Jenny Golding.

Br Justin says 'yes' to God

with the gift of my life? Standing before you today, I can't imagine living my life any other way but as a Brother."

Br Greg McDonald FMS, former teacher at Marist College Canberra and now Director of Vocations, said there has been a healthy increase in the number of young men showing interest in the Marist Brothers' vocation.

"A number of enquirers are attracted to our way of living religious life," he said.

"The word 'Brother' not only describes our vocation in the Church, but best expresses our fraternal relationships in community and with those we serve, especially young people who are at the centre of our mission."

* Br Greg McDonald FMS: greg.mcdonald@marists.org.au

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Are we addicted to comfort?

Ron Rolheiser

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



Looking at their radical sacrifice of all comfort, for me, is a mirror that I peer into with considerable trepidation and shame.

I look at my own life and see far too much in the way of an addiction to comfort and safety. I don't want what they had: I want healthy food, clean water, proper hygiene, regular rest, access to good doctors, access to news, to information, access to travel, regular contact with family and friends, opportunities for retreats and vacations, access to ongoing education, and, not least, I want safety. I want to be a good missionary, but I want to be comfortable and safe.

I take some consolation in the fact that times today are much different than they were when these French missionaries landed

Still, it's easy to rationalise and become addicted to comfort and safety. St Paul, reflecting upon his own missionary life, once wrote that he was comfortable with whatever was dealt to him - much or little. I like to believe that too for my own life, but, and this is true for most of us, the more we live with much, the more we tend to protect ourselves inside that plenty.

Thomas Merton once said that what he feared in his own life was not so much a massive betrayal of his vocation, but a series of "mini-treasons" that lead to a different kind of death. And that's the peril that I fear too, for myself and for our culture.

As children of our culture, I believe, we easily become addicted to comfort and safety. Once we have grown used to safety, good food, clean water, proper hygiene, access to good doctors and proper medicine, access to constant entertainment, access to instant information, regular connection with our loved ones, boundless educational and recreational opportunities, and wonderful creature comforts of all sorts, the danger looms large that we will not easily, or at all, be able to let go of any of these.

Consequently we will end up as good persons, no big betrayals, but no big self-sacrifice either; not only unable to give up our lives for our friends but unable to give up even our comfort.

nary soldiers who distrusted them, for opposite reasons.

They were threatened many times, chased out of various missions, some were kidnapped for periods of time, and a number of their houses and missions were burnt down. They lived perennially on the edge of danger, never secure, never free from threat.

Moreover, they had next to nothing in terms of creature comforts. They lived in log and mud hovels, ate bad food, and sometimes no food. They had virtually no access to doctors, little access to what might make for good hygiene, and often, while travelling, had to sleep outside without proper shelter from rain and cold, causing many of them to develop rheumatism and other such illnesses at an early age.

Moreover, they were never able to sink roots, to get comfortable at any place, to make the kinds of friends and contacts that could be a comfort and support to them. They had

faith, God, and each other, and little else.

But they were able to take all of this in stride, without undue self-pity or complaint. They wrote very positive and idealistic letters to their motherhouse in France and to their families, and kept journals within which they expressed mostly joy about their modest successes in the ministry,

We will end up as good persons, no big betrayals, but no big self-sacrifice either; unable to give up even our comfort.

seldom uttering a complaint about the bad housing, bad food and instability in their lives.

As an Oblate missionary myself, as a member of the same religious family, I read all of this, of course, with pride. I am proud of what these men did, and rightly so. They were selfless to the point of death.

But, that being said, reading their story is also very humbling.

in the Pacific Northwest. I couldn't do the work I do, at least not for very long, without proper housing, proper food, proper hygiene, access to education and information, regular rest, and healthy recreational outlets.

My life and my ministry are a marathon, not a sprint, and proper self-care is a virtue not a vice.

The facts on seeking asylum

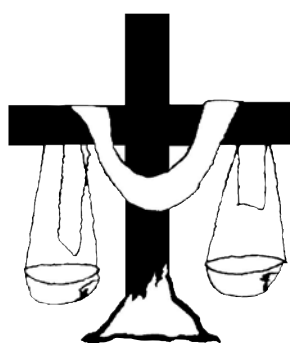
By chairman of the Archdiocese's Catholic Social Justice Commission Mike Cassidy

When a person seeks to enter Australia, the Migration Act 1958 provides for their lawful entry and subsequent stay in Australia. Where people enter Australia without a visa they are detained pending health and character checks and resolution of their entry status.

The controlled entry of people into Australia is necessary for a wide range of very practical reasons, including the need to protect our country's borders and to ensure the safety of people prepared to risk so much to gain entry.

People do attempt dangerous sea crossings and do put their lives at risk in the hope of obtaining asylum in Australia. We have all seen reports of people drowned at sea while making a desperate plea for asylum. We know these vulnerable people will continue to place their trust in people smugglers and will accept the very real risks that accompany that decision.

In situations where a person arriving without a visa is detained, it is essential that the inherent dignity of the person is maintained and that every effort is made



to achieve a prompt and fair resolution of their case.

However, detention does not necessarily imply being held in a physical detention centre. Detention is a status and there are other options for many of those with that status. Community detention, in particular, is a form of immigration detention that enables people in detention to reside and move about freely in the community.

Immigration detention is subject to regular scrutiny from external agencies, such as the Australian Human Rights Commissioner, the Commonwealth Ombudsman, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Minister's Council on Asylum Seekers and Detention to ensure people in immigration detention are treated humanely, decently and fairly.

Comment 'stabbed my heart'

Volunteering with Christian Education In Schools in the ACT has been "so inspiring" for retired teacher Debbie Mazlin.

She recognised that there was an opportunity to be involved with children beyond her teaching career and loves the experience.

"The most satisfying thing is seeing the curiosity and thirst of the children," she said.

Having heard someone talk about sharing the Christian message in the school setting, Ms Mazlin was struck by a child's comment, "What's a Jesus?"

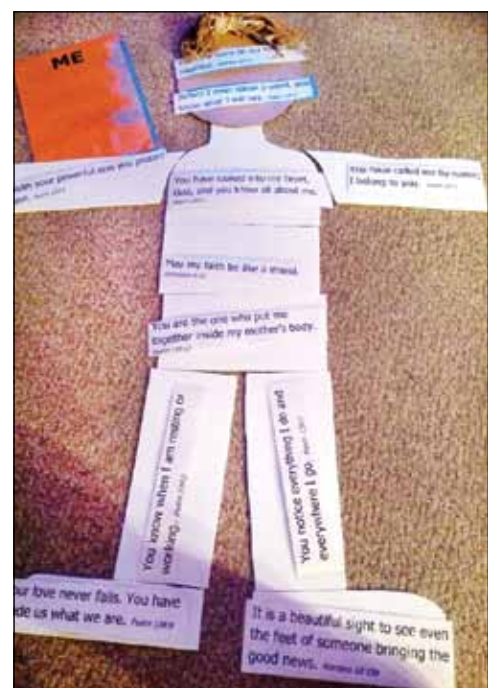
"That really stabbed my heart that there are generations out there who don't know who Jesus is," she said.

It was this call and the opportunity that prompted her to get involved with CEIS. She has seen the rewards of being involved in the faces of the children.

For one boy who already had some church background his Christian faith was validated by classmates and that was a real highlight for her.

"Kids can be bullied for their faith so to see his face shine by having his faith validated by his class was very rewarding," she said.

There are 34 schools who are listed or have requested the CEIS program in the ACT. Parents need to opt in to the pro-



gram and can be helped to do so through the CEIS website at www.ceis.org.au.

CEIS coordinator Ms Karen Baron is pleased with the uptake and the support received from school principals, volunteers and sponsor.

Volunteers are encouraged and training is provided. Ms Baron may be contacted on 0424 393 748 or email at coord@ceis.org.au

SHORTS

Reality. Starring Aniello Arena, Loredana Simioli. Directed by Matteo Garrone. 113 minutes. Curious. M (Coarse language).

Despite Luciano's laugh at the end of the film, this is a rather sad film. The reality of the title refers to reality TV, specifically Big Brother. A lot of background detail for life in the suburbs of Naples. It also has the highly emotional outbursts of the Neapolitans.

Cloudburst. Starring Olympia Dukakis, Brenda Fricker, Ryan Doucette. Directed by Thom Fitzgerald. 89 minutes. Momo Films. MA 15+ (Strong coarse language, nudity and crude humour).

A film with elderly characters at its centre. However, the subject matter is controversial. A great deal of raunchy dialogue. However, the film wants us to see through the raunchiness and the sexual references to the tenderness and dignity of the central characters.

The Heat. Starring Sandra Bullock and Melissa McCarthy. Directed by Paul Feig. Rated MA 15+. 117 minutes. Twentieth Century Fox. Restricted. (Strong coarse language, crude humour and violence).

An American comedy about the unlikely partnership between FBI special agent Sarah Ashburn (Sandra Bullock) and lone-ranger, Boston policewoman Shannon Mullins (Melissa McCarthy). Laying aside the vulgarity, it is a showcase for the formidable comic talents of Bullock and McCarthy.

Pacific Rim. Starring Charlie Hunnam, Idris Elba, Rinko Kikuchi, and Charlie Day. Directed by Guillermo del Toro. 131 minutes. Warner Bros. 2D and 3D M (Science fiction violence).

American science fiction film directed and co-written by Mexican director Guillermo del Toro, a foremost exponent of fantasy cinema. A fantasy-display of giant robots, piloted by humans, battling with alien giant monsters which have risen from the depths of the sea.

A long way from God we know

Only God Forgives. Starring Ryan Gosling, Kristin Scott Thomas, Vithaya Pansringarm, Tom Burke, Bryon Gibson, Kovit Wattanakul. Director Nicolas Winding Refn. 89 minutes. Bold Films. MA15+ Restricted. Reviewer: Peter W Sheehan*.

This multi-national, thriller film won the award for best movie at the recent Sydney Film Festival. Its compelling title suggests a spiritual or religious theme, but it is a very different kind of movie to what its title implies.

Julian Thompson (Ryan Gosling) is a US expatriate living in Bangkok, and he runs a boxing club that is a front for a drug smuggling operation. Julian's brother, Billy (Tom Burke), murders an underage prostitute. In control of the police (with a title that no one dares name) is Lieutenant Chang (Vithaya Pansringarm), known to everybody as the "Angel of Death". Chang sadistically roams the streets of Bangkok with his lethal sword, using it as an instrument of immediate justice. He acts as both judge and executioner.

Chang informs the girl's father, Choi Yan Lee (Kovit Wattanakul), about his daughter's murder and shows her body to him, and permits Choi to beat Billy to death. Chang then cuts off the father's arm for allowing his daughter to be a prostitute, wielding his sword "for the sake of your living daughters".

In the meantime, Julian's mother, Crystal (Kristin Scott Thomas), who is the overlord of the drug ring, arrives in Bangkok to identify Billy's corpse and orders Julian to kill the men who were responsible for his brother's death. Twice he refuses, and Crystal is enraged by his disloyalty.

Crystal's presence starts a cycle of violence, which illustrates the themes of revenge and retribution. Choi is murdered by one of the fighters at Julian's club. Julian confronts Chang about his part in Billy's death, and challenges Chang to a boxing fight which he loses badly. Elsewhere, Crystal arranges for a man called Byron (Byron Gibson) to assassinate Chang. Chang finds and tortures Byron.

Again, Crystal asks Julian to kill Chang and tells him that Chang now knows she ordered the hit. On her third



Ryan Gosling in a scene from the brutally violent Only God Forgives.

request, Julian agrees to her wish. Chang finds Crystal and slits her throat, and Julian is ultimately responsible for killing Chang's wife.

Such is the degree of violence that the title of the film confronts the viewer all the time with the conclusion that "only God" can forgive what is happening. It seems to argue that no one other than God can forgive such ultra-violence, and provokes the viewer by raising the question whether a good God could allow such awful things to take place.

Refn brought us Drive (2011) and, as in that movie, Ryan Gosling and most of the other characters have little to say.

If this film has a God figure in it, it is the (almost) wordless, charismatic Chang, and the film communicates a vastly different understanding of God from any Christian point of view. Refn presents the God of this film as a long way from a forgiving God. This is a cold-hearted film whose content is immoral and appalling, and the movie is directed intentionally to arouse fear.

Having said all that, this film is also highly charged cinema. The photography and lighting are astounding, and its scenes are full of heavily patterned, dark images of great force. It is directed powerfully, evocatively, and hypnotically.

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

Wolverine at his personal best Horror with smiley face

The Wolverine. Starring Hugh Jackman, Tao Okamoto, Rila Fukushima, Hiroyuki Sanada, Svetlana Khodchenkova, Will Yun Lee, Hal Yamanouchi, and Famke Janssen. 126 minutes. Twentieth Century Fox. M (Frequent action violence and coarse language). Reviewer: Peter W Sheehan*.

This American/Australian production is the sixth installment in the X-Men film series and follows on from the events of the last film, X-Men: The Last Stand (2006). Hugh Jackman returns to the title character, Logan/Wolverine, the iconic super-hero figure of the celebrated set of Marvel adventures about mutants in the X-Men series.

The film focuses on Logan's internal struggle with his immortality. He needs desperately to rediscover his identity after allowing himself to lose his purpose for living. Because he knows he can't die, and haunted by the death of Jean Grey (Famke Janssen), he is in torment, and Logan chooses to solve this by opting out of life.

Looking unkempt and dishevelled, he finds himself exposed and vulnerable. Summoned by someone from his past, he is caught up in dramatic events that push his life in directions

for which he is unprepared. This is the most personal of the Wolverine films: his animal-like qualities become human.

The film is set in Japan where Wolverine is offered the chance to be no longer immortal by the soldier he saved. The main antagonist to Wolverine is Shingen Yashida (Hiroyuki Sanada), a Yakuza crime boss. Mariko Yashida (Tao Okamoto), the daughter of Shingen and granddaughter of Yashida (Hal Yamanouchi), is torn between her love for Wolverine and duty to her father. Mariko is caught in a gangland war, and Logan is given the job of protecting her by her grandfather, who is the soldier he saved. The film emphasises the relationship between Mariko and Wolverine, but she is promised to another man. Romance between them is forbidden; it disrupts everybody's plans.

The film is action-packed, violent, and full of near-fatal mishaps. From Samurai sword fights, to doing battle on the top of a Japanese bullet train while hurtling at more than 320kmh, a bulked-up Jackman rises to the challenge. The action everywhere is intense. Such is the pace of the action, however, that broader themes such as Logan's (im)mortality, finding a purpose for living again, and maintaining loyalty and commitment to the women in his life, all take second place. This is a high-action adventure that continues the vitality of previous Wolverine films. By the end, Wolverine is stronger and more determined than ever. The stage is set, it seems, for one more film (at least).

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

100 Bloody Acres. Starring Damon Harriman, Angus Sampson, Anna McGahan, Oliver Ackland, Jamie Kristian, John Jarratt. Directed by Colin and Cameron Cairnes. 90 minutes. Hopscotch. MA 15+ (Strong violence and coarse language, blood and gore). Reviewer: Fr Peter Malone MSC*.

No deceptive title here. No false advertising. We are in country South Australia, on the road in broad daylight. We see a whole range of ads and notices along the road, funny, indicating the way of life in the backblocks of the state – and a parody tone.

Reg Morgan (Damon Harriman) is busy lifting a man, bloodied in an accident, into his truck (very awkwardly), which advertises blood and bone on its side. The company is owned by the Morgan brothers, Reg and his older, domineering brother, Lindsay (Angus Sampson). So, we know the tone of the film at once, comic with blood.

Three young people on their way to a country music festival break down and thumb a lift with the at first reluctant Reg. Sophie (Anna McGahan) is in the front and James and Wes (Oliver Ackland and Jamie Kristian) in the back with the corpse.

We know, more or less, what is going to happen, so we keep antici-



Sergeant Burke (John Jarratt, left) and Lindsay Morgan (Angus Sampson) in 100 Bloody Acres.

pating every move. Lindsay is more bonkers than we thought. Reg is subservient, wanting to please his brother but also to assert himself.

We are in an Australian version of Texas Chainsaw Massacre territory – or a more local Wolf Creek (confirmed when John Jarratt turns up as the local, earnest, policeman).

There is some blood and gore, but not nearly as much as in the American backblocks horror stories. This one is more ironic and so much is played for smiles and laughs. If you like this kind of cult comic horror, then it is better than most. Otherwise, it will probably not be your bucket of blood!

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

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Tomb readers Intimate look at a man who would repair the Church

How to Read a Graveyard: Journeys in the Company of the Dead, by Peter Stanford. Bloomsbury Publishing, 2013, 263 pages, \$32.99. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.

Intrigued by the title of this book? Maybe even a little repelled? Modern cultural sensitivities have conditioned us with a reluctance to engage with the certainty of death. Rituals sanitise the topic. Our loved ones do not die, they “pass over”.

There appears to be a taboo on acknowledging our own mortality.

Peter Stanford believes that graveyards offer a rare welcome. He is a former editor of the Catholic Herald, and a regular contributor to The Tablet and other

British newspapers. He writes with insight, elegance and humour. Already he has chosen his burial plot in a familiar cemetery with, as he puns, “a view to die for”.

Five of the 10 graveyards Stanford writes about are in the United Kingdom. All the results of his research and the accounts of his visits are of interest both as social history and as visible records of church tradition and regulation.

At the back of the book he includes a personal A-Z of graveyards glossary which enhances our understanding.

Stanford says he travelled to burial grounds in Britain and beyond searching for answers about the history of how we treat the dead, how we regard their memory and, inevitably, how we face death ourselves.

He gives a fascinating tour of the Scavi in Rome, the necropolis beneath St Peter's Basilica. His evocative prose almost makes us believe that we are there. It is crowded with ancient mausoleums and tombs pre-dating the building of the previous fourth-century church. At the end of the tour he viewed small shards of bone in a see-through box. He cited evidence, accepted by many, that these are the remains of Peter, the first Pope.

Each of the chapters is written in the same eye-witness style. Among the cemeteries he visited are the Commonwealth War Graves in France, the Pere Lachaise in Paris, the Jewish Cemetery in Liverpool, and the catacombs and Il Cimitero Acattolica both in Rome. Each is a place of pilgrimage and reflection for tourists.

We learn of the customs regarding the disposal of bodies - from burial in open pits, before the hazard to the health of the living was recognised, to the elaborate marble statuary marking the rich in Victorian times. Today, so-called eco-burials and cremations are becoming more popular.

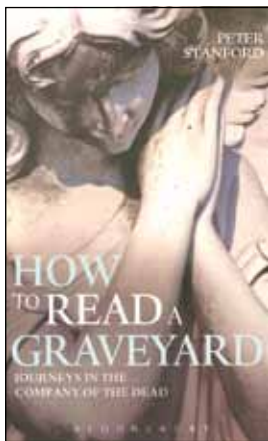
Burial customs continue to evolve. The growing population, particularly in crowded cities, foretells a pressing scarcity of land for burials. Research has indicated that a grave is visited for 15 years at most after the occupant's death.

Recycling seems inevitable. At the same time there is a burgeoning interest in genealogy. Work that out!

Recently, after 15 years, I visited my parents' grave in Victoria, and I was unprepared for how moved I was. There is a real value in acknowledging our debt to previous generations while gazing at their last resting place.

Stanford has generously shared his knowledge and himself. He has shown us that graveyards can be a welcoming place where we are among friends.

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



Pope Francis In His Own Words, compiled by Julie Collazo and Lisa Rogak. William Collins, 2013, 180 pages, \$15.99.

On Heaven and Earth, by Jorge Bergoglio and Abraham Skorka. Bloomsbury, 2013, 236 pages, \$29.99 hb. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.

Quite predictably, here they come. Already there are books about Pope Francis for sale, a number of which are on the shelves of the Catholic Bookshop Braddon.

In His Own Words is a compilation of quotable quotes from his speeches and homilies during the past decade. Many of these are taken from his dialogue with Abraham Skorka (see below). Possibly the most telling is his response when asked what he'll do as Pope: “Repair my Church in ruins”.

On Heaven and Earth is the record of open and wide-ranging dialogues that then-Archbishop of Buenos Aires Jorge Bergoglio had some years ago

with Abraham Skorka, a rabbi and biophysicist.

Originally published in Spanish in 2010, this interchange of ideas is earthed in the Latin-American milieu which has been formative to both men. While many of these cultural references are unfamiliar, there are adequate explanatory footnotes from the translators.

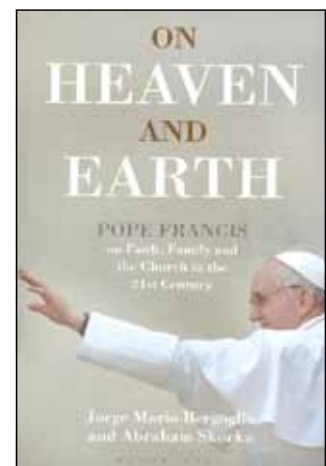
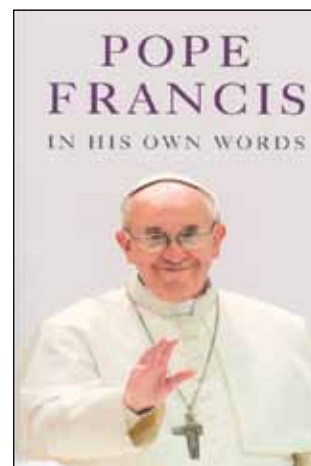
It is clear that a remarkable friendship has been established between the rabbi and the archbishop.

Their discussions are notable for the deep respect each has for the faith and traditions of the other.

This is particularly evident in their mutual and intimate grasp of the Hebrew and Christian scriptures.

The publisher states that they both sought to build bridges between Catholicism, Judaism and the world at large.

Certainly, they are quite fearless in the range of theological and world issues that they address. There are 29



topics in all, including God, globalisation, politics and power, education, women, prayer, same-sex marriage, poverty, the elderly, death, world conflicts and history.

A spirit of optimism for the future characterises both leaders. They recognise the challenges but are motivated by their common belief that this is God's work.

There is an obvious connection in the Pope's thinking with his cultural background.

He exhibits the classic Latin-American mix of doctrinal conservatism and economic radicalism.

Also within this book is the opportunity to learn more about foundational Judaic beliefs and their relevance to the 21st century.

This warm and open record of conversations between two friends is a window into the thinking of our new Pope and a glimpse of possibilities for the Church he leads.

Gentle moments with our God

Touched by God, by Anthea Dove. The Columbia Press, 2012, 120 pages, \$19.95 pb. Reviewer: Margaret Ryan.

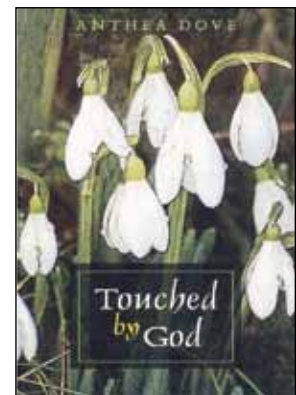
Anthea Dove is a grandmother, former teacher, writer and committed to social justice and ecumenism. She calls her book “a rag bag”, a collection of experiences and

thoughts which recall times she realised God's closeness in nature, and through ordinary events and encounters, with people she met and knew. She uses story and simple poetic format.

The 112 brief and gentle narratives record surprise, gratitude, joy, trust and hope

that emerged from incidents of sadness, forgiveness, awe, suffering, and love, incidents that helped her be more sensitive to, and appreciative of, the divine in the ordinary.

The book may prompt you to find your own instances of God touching you. They happen!



Freedom of forgiving

Set Free: The Authentic Catholic Woman's Guide to Forgiveness, by Genevieve Kineke. Servant Books, 2012, 148 pages, \$24.95. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.


This book merits careful reading. Loving others, the author says, is difficult. People hurt each other on a regular basis either through their actions or by failing to act. Forgiveness is foundational to our Christian faith. It is the practical application that is a murky process.

She lists the steps in that process - naming the injury, grieving the wound, making the act of forgiveness and confessing residual resentment.

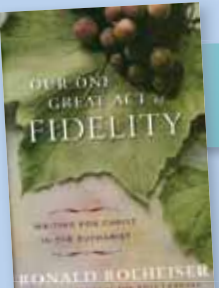
She asks, should we forgive and forget? In small things, yes, but for deep-seated hurts the key is what we do with the memories. It is not always necessary to confront the one who has harmed us. Our sincere prayers for the well-being of the other are enough.

Kineke is a great believer in the power of the sacrament of Penance to overcome resentment. She grounds her premises with examples of real-life people and events. Some of these are poignant. One can only admire the courage of those who have overcome trauma at the hands of others and, by forgiving them, have achieved peace.

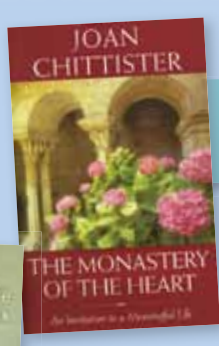
She has some wise words about forgiving our adult children for their poor choices. They need to forgive us as well. She recommends educating young children how to offer and accept apologies. It is not appropriate to respond, “That's okay”. The language should be, “I forgive you”.


CATHOLIC BOOKSHOP

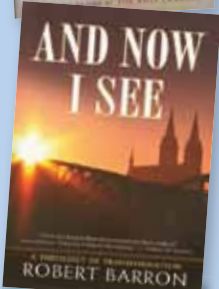
It's always a good time of year for book groups and in the winter months there is an added cosy conviviality. Here are some tried and true favourites



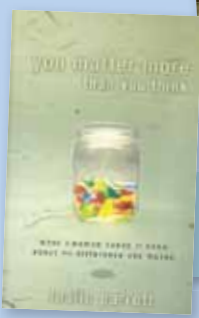
Seeking Spirituality, Ronald Rolheiser \$26.95



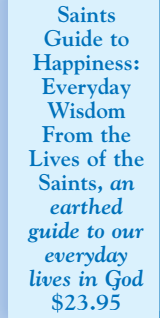
The Monastery of the Heart, Joan Chittister \$29.95



And Now I See, Robert Barron \$39.95



You Matter More Than You Think, Leslie Parrott \$19.95



Saints Guide to Happiness: Everyday Wisdom From the Lives of the Saints, an earthed guide to our everyday lives in God \$23.95

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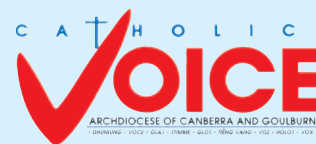
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Coming Events



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.

COUPLES WEEKEND - Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend, 6-8 September, marriage enrichment experience. Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW. Inquiries, bookings: Ardell and Bill Sharpe, telephone 4283 3435 or wsharpe@bigpond.net.au. Website www.wvme.org.au.

DINNER FORUM - Christians for an Ethical Society inaugural dinner forum,

Tuesday, 13 August, Brassey Hotel, Barton. Speaker Mr Ted Evans, former Treasury Secretary, on "Being Christian in a Secular Society, especially as a senior government advisor". Cost \$40 for two-course meal with wine/juice. Bookings: www.ces.org.au.

HOLYSPIRITSECULARFRANCISCAN 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.

MASS FOR MOTHERS - St Benedict's Mission Centre, Narrabundah, healing Mass, 5.30pm, Friday, 23 August. Pray for mothers living and dead.

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.

NEW EVANGELISATION FORUM - St Benedict's Mission Centre, Narrabundah, 6.30pm registration, Wednesday, 21 August. Presentation and Q&A on New Evangelisation in the Post-Modern Era, by Prof Tracey Rowland, dean of John Paul II Institute for Marriage and Family, Melbourne.

Cost \$25. Registration by 20 August, St Benedict's office, telephone 6295 7879 (Tues-Thurs 9am-3pm). Inquiries: Fr Bony Abraham MGL, telephone 6295 7879.

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.

SCHOOLS REUNION - Cootamundra Catholic schools centenary reunion, long weekend 5-7 October. Those wishing to attend contact organising committee for details of events, cost and accommodation. Inquiries: Telephone 0438 532 274 or write to PO Box 23, Cootamundra NSW 2590.

SERRA CLUB OF CANBERRA - Rosary and Mass at Holy Trinity Church, Curtin, 6.10pm, Thursday, 8 August, followed by dinner at The 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.

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

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Every Christian through their baptism is called to respond: to love God and their neighbour.

This message is to go to the ends of the earth; influencing us, individually and as communities of faith, to enable Jesus' authentic message and presence to be accessible to all, including to those who have drifted from or rejected this message. This is the mission we all share.

Often the strongest message of Christ's presence and love is communicated through the words and actions of faith-filled lives. Living and expressing concern for others beyond family, friends or the even the more likable; responses that may indeed be very challenging for us and requiring trust and new understanding.

Such faithful life testimonies do combine to generate good leadership, opportunities and means that enable life and hope to people of all ages.

Catholic Mission, through the generous financial support of people of faith, enables training in faith leadership and other needed skills whilst providing communities with materials necessary not just to survive but to live and make their response to God's call to love. Your gifts and prayers enable positive change. Help us to continue fostering such change.

God bless,
Deacon Joe Blackwell

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Tel: 6163 4321.

Nuncio confirms at Coota

Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Paul Gallagher has visited Cootamundra and Harden parishes for Confirmations. He is pictured in Sacred Heart Church with Cootamundra parish priest Mgr Kevin Barry-Cotter and some of the 23 children from that parish who were confirmed.



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MGL brother dies

A consecrated brother with the Missionaries of God's Love, Br Paul Nixon, who was known to many in St Benedict's parish and the wider community, has died.

Born in 1952, the youngest of three boys, he had been a missionary in PNG, Darwin and remote communities in the Top End.

Br Paul did visitations in Narrabundah and many other parts of Canberra up to the time he was hospitalised with an aggressive cancer at the end of May. He died peacefully in Canberra Hospital on 14 July. Br Paul will be remembered for his unique ministry of compassion and care and a deep prayer life.



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These days of silence and reflection provide an opportunity to ponder the mystery of God's presence and abundant generosity in our daily lives

Director: Sr Carmel Drew

Date: Sunday 20th - Sunday 27th October

Town: BATEHAVEN

Venue: St Joseph's House of Spirituality, 12 David Ave

Time: The retreat begins with a 6pm evening meal on Sun 20th, and concludes with breakfast on Sun 27th.

Cost: \$450 or \$75 per day. (Minimum: three days) Deposit \$50

RSVP: 12th October

Inquiries: Sr Judith

St Joseph's Convent

12 David Ave, Batehaven NSW 2536

Phone: 02 4472 4021



These masterpieces were created by:
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT ...
Alexander Campbell and Miles White (kinder);
Marc Cooke-Russell (year 5/6); Jessica Crane
(year 2/3).

With their school art show
(6-8pm on 8 August in
the school hall) just
around the corner, the
children of St Thomas
Aquinas were busy getting
their masterpieces into
order. There was still
other classroom work
to be done, of course,
and the young ones in the
Early Learning Centre had
playing to do, books to
read and phone calls
to make.



Fun, games and
some quite time in
the ELC ...

TOP: Brienna
Coughlan, Matthew
Cmiel and Zoe
Zakharoff;

ABOVE: Angus
McCombie;

LEFT: Kayden Kefford
and Rylen Campbell;

MIDDLE LEFT:
Nicholas Ayton.



Work to do ...
ABOVE: Mrs
Megan Barons
with Ryan Wilson
and Malual Aleer
in year 3/4;
LEFT: Jorja
Simpson and
Charlotte Searson
in 3/4;
BELOW: Tori
Palencia, Sally
Wilson and
Adriana Skukan in
year 5/6.



Different desktops ...

ABOVE: Jasmine Bros and
Maddison Adams in 3/4;

ABOVE RIGHT: Ebony
Cowan and Thomas Willetts
in 3/4;

RIGHT: Peter Stokes in 5/6.

