

CATHOLIC VOICE

ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN

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Miracle gran Kath comes to town: P 7

FREE

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Vote 1 social justice

Catholics are being urged to bear in mind the disadvantaged, vulnerable and voiceless when they go to vote on 7 September.

The Australian Catholic Social Justice Council has published a leaflet "to help you think about some important issues that will be decided in this election".

"As Christians, we are called to be informed, active participants in our society, to vote wisely and to have a special concern for the most vulnerable individuals and families," the council says.

"The Church does not tell us how to cast our vote, nor does it endorse any political party. Often, it can be difficult to judge which policies are the most consistent with Christian values, and people may legitimately disagree on such matters."

The leaflet may be accessed at www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au.

Australia's Catholic bishops have written to more than 1300 parishes across the nation asking Catholics to "look beyond their own individual needs to apply a different test at the ballot box – the test of what we call the common good".

Their statement is available for download at www.catholicsvote2013.org.au.

Catholic Social Services Australia has urged people to select candidates "who will keep a clear sight of the needs of those people in our society who are poor, disadvantaged and voiceless."

"We urge all voters to consider which of the political leaders is most likely to bring our community back from the recent trend of demonising people who seem to be a so-called drain on the public purse," executive director Mr Paul O'Callaghan said.



The faces on the front line

They're the people you see or the voices you hear when you contact our parishes...

Parish secretaries handle an infinitely varied lists of duties. There is no one mould, but the one thing they all have in common is the ability to relate to other people. Visit Felice Kasita (left) and two of her colleagues in their workplaces - see middle pages.

More support on way for parishes

A full-time parish pastoral support officer is to be appointed to fill a "big gap" in the Archdiocese's relationship with its parishes.

A report conducted to "feel the pulse" of the Archdiocese's parishes revealed that changes in key staff members over the years, among other things, had left gaps in the delivery of formation and resources in a number of areas.

These were identified as communication with the Archdiocese, sacramental preparation, parish councils and committees, liturgical training and evangelisation.

Parishes also indicated they needed more help and guidance in areas such as youth ministry, faith formation and spirituality, marriage and families, and operational matters such as occupational health and safety and building maintenance.

Archdiocesan director of pastoral support services Shawn van der Linden said the report suggested the Archdiocese needed a more coordinated and centralised approach to working with parishes.

This would start with the allocation of a full-time staff member to support sacramental and adult initiation programs, man-

age resources such as multimedia material and updates on liturgical ministries, assist in the formation of lay leadership, communicate events and formation offerings, and assist with parish initiatives.

"We are trying to respond by providing a grassroots connection with someone who is there to talk to them about their needs," Mr van der Linden said.

One of the main issues raised during the consultations with parishes was Archdiocesan communication. Given that the Archdiocese is working on redeveloping its online offerings, electronic communication was a particular focus.

The report found a large variance in priests' and parishes' levels of skills and interest in information technology, though "the majority of priests acknowledged the need to embrace modern methods of communicating".

Some priests said they needed more support in website development and online conferencing and learning, and many wanted a more streamlined and centralised approach to receiving information about events and other Archdiocesan information.

The report points out that the Archdiocese's CG Online project, "a major piece of work that not only helps the Archdiocese define its pastoral goals but will also be a tool for evangelising those who visit the site", will address many of the concerns.

But it acknowledges the need to find ways of supporting parishes' ongoing IT needs, including website development and training in social media.

In response to the report's findings on supporting lay leadership, the Archdiocese will adopt a centralised approach to the delivery of the Called and Gifted program, which has been operating in South Tuggeranong and Narrabundah.

It is also planning to partner with the Catholic Education Office in beefing up its support of parishes and school religious education coordinators in their delivery of sacramental programs and formation opportunities for paid and voluntary staff. The report, which came out of surveys of, and consultations with, parish priests and their teams, is being sent to parishes for discussion.

Support our clergy in Father's Day Appeal – see Page 15

Paul's path to priesthood

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

How quickly it all comes to an end! I cannot believe after seven years at seminary there is less than one month remaining before I return home.

And the end has snuck up on me: after handing in my synthesis I thought we had two weeks to go before our priesthood retreat, but it starts this Sunday. This week I have turned my mind to music for the ordination, invitations, correspondence I had let accumulate, and have attended to some of those things I have been putting off, like root canal work.

It is with praise and thanksgiving to God that I am able to invite you to attend my ordination to the priesthood at St Christopher's Cathedral on Friday, 27 September.

Although I am being ordained, the focus is on the celebration in the local Church. Ordinations are a time when the Christian community gathers and thanks



God for sending more shepherds into his harvest. It is a time to pray that all priests will be strengthened for their ministry so that they may reflect the heart of the Good Shepherd to all his people. If you are not able to make it on the 27th, I would ask you to spare a prayer for me that day.

In a sense, ordination is daunting. I cannot believe how quickly it is coming up and I probably don't realise the change in life and lifestyle that will occur. For example, even just a simple thing of never having celebrated Mass, to celebrating it every day will be an adjustment.

But I am also feeling settled and looking forward it. There is a real sense of starting life afresh in the diocese. I am also eager to start full time pastoral ministry after such a long period of preparation.

Over the next month I have the priesthood retreat, which will be at Seven Hills.

On the way I will stop over at Penola, St Mary MacKillop's first school, and turn the journey into a bit of a pilgrimage. I'll also be learning how to celebrate Mass and the other sacraments as well as some homiletic preparation.

At some stage I will also have my synthesis defence and I probably need to do a bit of preparation work for that.

The last community activity I'll be involved in is our annual skit night. I'll be playing a role in a musical comedy.

This skit only lasts about 15 minutes, but it's always a great night and one gets to see the many hidden talents of many seminarians. I'll also take this time to farewell the people I have come to know, tidy up loose ends and continue to prepare for ordination.

Before too long I'll see you all back home in the Archdiocese and I invite you to continue to follow this column as I begin my pastoral ministry.

*From
near
and far*

Legacy call

QUEANBEYAN Legacy chairman Bob Sealey, a parishioner from St Raphael's in Queanbeyan, has put out a call on behalf of the club for people who have received help from Legacy over the years.

The Queanbeyan branch, established 10 years after Legacy was founded in Australia, is planning a big celebration to mark its 80th anniversary in mid-October. Organisers are keen to hear from any of the thousands of

families of fallen service people supported by Legacy in the wake of several wars and other military commitments over the years.

They are especially eager to hear from people who have benefited from the Queanbeyan club's work.

Queanbeyan-Eden-Monaro Legacy president Richard Gregory said the club would be speaking to its wards around Queanbeyan, Bungendore and Jerrabomberra.

"But I have no doubt that there are many others – perhaps men and women who have

grown up and been educated with Legacy's help, wherever they may have come from – who would like to join us for the celebration." The people to speak to are Suzanne McInnes on 6297 1876 or Peter Kalkman on 6299 8057.

BELOW: Lasting legacy ... Rotary's Kevin Pippard (right) presents Queanbeyan Legacy chairman Bob Sealey and head of fundraising Michelle Todd with a donation from Rotary's Anzac Day activities at Bungendore's Royal Hotel.



EVER had a secret urge to check out a hospitality mortuary or operating theatre, while you're well enough to enjoy it? You can this month when Calvary Community open day is held from 10am to 2pm on Saturday, 14 September.

Calvary Health Care ACT is hosting the day for the community to see some of the areas that are usually out of bounds, to let people revisit important moments in their family history, and to demystify the hospital. You'll get to meet Hal, the training simulator, too.

If all that makes you hungry, a sausage sizzle will be on offer. There's also entertainment for the kids.

EVERY young soccer player's dream... Daniel Findlay, a year 2 student at St John the Apostle Primary, Florey, won a competition and was picked from thousands of children to walk onto ANZ Stadium with the captain of the Manchester United football team. He was seen on TV by millions of people, including his uncle who lives in England. To win the competition his father Scott had to answer a question that then went to Manchester United where names were drawn out of a hat. What's more, Daniel got to keep the full kit of shirt, shorts and socks.



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Yass chapel lays foundation for new life

Despite a sabotage campaign from termites, the historic St Augustine's Chapel in Yass will celebrate the 175th anniversary of its foundation day in the best shape it has been in for years.

Thanks to the determination of parishioners, and donations of time, skills and money from the community, the chapel is being rejuvenated in preparation for its new life as a public venue.

A group of parishioners and local historians have been keen to restore the chapel, one of the first churches built outside the Sydney metropolitan area. Originally, it was the only church to be found between Campbelltown and Melbourne.

Yass Historical Society member and St Augustine's parishioner Diana MacQuillan said the chapel, which parish priest Fr Mick Burke closed a few years ago because of safety issues, "has no real architectural merit but is historically important to this area".

Fr Burke said he had insisted the parish could not sustain two churches and admitted he had not seen the conservation of the chapel as a priority.

But he has given community members, led by retired electrician and now volunteer foreman on the restoration crew Bob Nash, the go-ahead to revive the building.

Fr Burke said original estimates had priced the job at up to \$400,000 but

generous markdowns from tradespeople and suppliers, along with volunteer help, meant the final bill was more likely to be about \$70,000.

Mr Nash, a lifetime parishioner who has seen two of his children married in the chapel, said he had believed the restoration was achievable for the parish, even after the extensive damage to the floor from up to 50 years of termite activity was revealed.

He said the biggest jobs were renovating the original hardwood floor, a painstaking job being undertaken by heritage flooring experts, and installing new stairs to the gallery at the back of the church.

Mosaic tiles will be laid in the foyer, the walls are being patched and painted, and the sanctuary will be untouched apart from touch-ups and the removal of some parquet floor covering.

Mr Nash expected the building to be open for use by the end of this month.

Fr Burke said interest in the conservation project extended beyond the parish.

"One of my things is that the place be opened up to the whole community," he said.

"Our primary focus will be the arts in their various forms. Yass is a very arty place," he said. Organisers of two major art events had already indicated they would use the venue.



New life ... foreman Bob Nash and Fr Mick Burke (above) survey the restoration work in St Augustine's Chapel in Yass. The chapel about 1861 (left).

The restoration group is looking for further donations from the community to help finance the project.

Fundraising activities will include a dinner in the chapel on Friday, 30 August, to celebrate the 175th anniversary of its foundation day. For tickets (\$35), donations or information, telephone the presbytery on 6226 1086.

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in brief

Consecration to Mary

Pope Francis will consecrate the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on 13 October as part of the Marian Day celebration that will involve the statue of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima. According to the Portuguese shrine's website, the statue will leave for Rome on the morning of 12 October and return the next day.

Our Lady of Fatima appeared to three shepherd children in the village of Fatima in Portugal in 1917. She urged prayer and devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. (CNA).



Living donor leave

Employees who become a living organ donor will earn up to six weeks leave following a landmark agreement by Australian Catholic University. In response to the announcement of a Federal Government pilot program of supporting leave for living organ donors, ACU has committed to register as a supporting employer and has already included the leave provisions for staff.

Help urged for Syria

Caritas Australia, the Catholic Church's international aid and development agency, has called on Australians to do more to help ease the humanitarian crisis in Syria.

Caritas Australia has launched a Syria Crisis Appeal with crucial funds needed in coming months to help with the escalating crisis in which more than 100,000 people have died and another 8.3 million need urgent humanitarian aid.

Faith not 'frosting'

Pope Francis, in a Sunday Angelus message, has emphasised the importance of a deep faith that is fixed on Jesus, warning against a religious life that is only superficial. Faith "is not some decorative or ornamental thing," he said.

"To live the faith is not to decorate life with a little religion, like a cake is decorated with a little frosting. No! It's not that. Faith entails choosing God as a fundamental criterion of life, and God is neither meaningless nor neutral. God is love." (CNA/EWTN News).

In Pope's black bag

Pope Francis has revealed the contents of the black bag he carried during his trip to World Youth Day in Brazil.

"There wasn't the key to the atomic bomb! There is a razor, a breviary, my diary, a book to read – I brought one on St Therese of Lisieux, to whom I am devoted ... I always take this bag when I travel. It's normal. We should be normal!"

Dignity in our differences

By Archdiocesan Administrator
Mgr John Woods

Both the ACT and NSW are considering the possible introduction of same-sex marriage legislation. (*Canberra Times*, 29 July, pp 1, 4). New Zealand and the UK are among the growing number of countries to have legislated for same-sex marriage. For some (many?) the issue is a no-brainer. However, I wrestle with the issues underpinning this discussion in the conviction that love and truth are two sides of the one coin in determining what it is to be human, whatever our sexual orientation.

In the hope of contributing to an informed discussion of so-called same-sex marriage, I agreed to appear on the SBS Insight program which aired on Tuesday, 13 August. I made a number of comments during the two hours of taping and was, therefore, surprised to find that I was afforded only one (edited) comment in what went to air. Others on the panel advocating same-sex marriage were given far more time. Biased? I thought so and so too did many who made unsolicited comments to me afterwards.

The Church opposes the call for same-sex marriage legislation. It does so because natural law, not the Church in the first instance, proposes that marriage is the union of a man and a woman open to the possibility of the procreation and formation of children in a permanent and exclusive relationship (Code of Canon Law [1983] c 1055). This is to the good of the individual and the common good and has, therefore, been enshrined in civil law. I here note that my comment that so-called same-sex marriage is an oxymoron, because it cannot be unitative and procreative, was edited out of the Insight program.

Traditional marriage is predicated on difference (people of the opposite sex), not sameness (people of the same sex); two becoming one in their complementarity and their potential to generate new life. Proponents of same-sex marriage have tried to circumvent this two-fold foundation of marriage by calling for "marriage equality". This, too, is a misnomer as it purports to reduce marriage to its merely unitative aspect. Besides, we are not comparing like to like when considering heterosexual and homosexual unions. The latter is not capable of the union proper to

complementarity and neither is it able to generate new life. It is not discrimination to point this out. *Nemo dat quod non habet* – *You cannot give what you have not got.*

These comments are predicated on the significance of gender. Indeed, while there have been changes in the development of marriage, including the move away from women as mere chattels, or the confirming of family and political alliances, or the possibility of inter-racial marriages, to marriage founded on romantic and personal attraction, I am unaware until now of a concerted call for marriage to be other than the union of a man and a woman. The ultimate irony will be that if proponents of same-sex marriage carry the day, the equality that they seek will be lost as soon as they obtain it, for marriage as we know it will no longer be. Ultimately, the question is, what is marriage?

Again, I had suggested in the recording of the Insight program that while the proposal for same-sex marriage was highly contentious, I did not detect anything other than respect for the dignity of all concerned in the discussion; robust difference of opinion, yes, but lack of respect, no. I, therefore, suggested that the wider community needs more time to discuss the issues, recognising the right and duty of the state to legislate for the status of persons. This comment was edited out, as was my call for the Church not to be marginalised in this discussion in the "secular state". I made this request as the Church's position and that of many others, is based on the natural law. All I ask is that the merits or otherwise of the natural law argument be considered.

While the growing consensus of human sciences since the 1970s is that homosexuality is a variation of sexual attraction, not a disorder, the Church's position is nuanced. The Church insists that there be no discrimination against people of homosexual orientation. Moreover, the inclination is not sinful, if "gravely disordered"; a very unfortunate phrase used by the Church that has caused misunderstanding and personal hurt for people of same-sex attraction, albeit valid in its intent if one acknowledges the statistical and natural law norm of heterosexual attraction.

Where does this leave the person of homosexual orientation? In the same place



as the heterosexual person: called to a life of chastity founded on an understanding that I am more than my sexual orientation. However, anecdotal evidence and the cohabitation of most couples on entering marriage would suggest that chaste living is not the norm for young adults.

In part this might well explain why so many of them support alleged equality for same-sex marriage; they argue that it should all be a matter of personal choice. As Margaret Thatcher would have it: "There is no such thing as society, just individuals." This is a challenge for the Church and all who maintain that interpersonal union and openness to the gift of (as distinct from the claimed right by scientific intervention to) parenthood are proper to the marital commitment alone.

It is often forgotten that on the basis of the "unitative and procreative" nexus of traditional marriage, the Church not only opposes homosexual behaviour and, therefore, same-sex marriage, but also masturbation and pornography, premarital intercourse, adultery and IVF, though personal moral culpability must also take account of one's knowledge and freedom.

Part of the challenge of the New Evangelisation is to address and witness to these matters in what Pope John Paul II called a "consistent ethic of life".

Life is messy. If same-sex marriage legislation is passed, even with an exemption granted for religious bodies, this will not be without challenge as has been seen overseas.

Rights, including the right of a child to an upbringing by both or at least one biological parent, are not always reconciled easily. Indeed, what one can do and what one ought to do is not always the same.

What should the status of same-sex attracted couples be at civil law? I am not sure, but I do note that the ACT Attorney General would have it that same-sex civil law unions now afford couples the same rights at law as married couples.

While that might be cause for concern with respect to the good of traditional marriage, the matter will not rest there.

With you and all people of goodwill I will continue to wrestle with the issues in the hope that love and truth will afford us a discerned way forward.

letters to the editor

Refugees: learn from history

Any new Federal government should learn from our history, and review the refugee program.

In the mid/late 1970s after the Vietnam war ended, processing teams, including selection officers and doctors, were sent to countries bordering Vietnam.

The many thousands accepted as refugees under the Orderly Departure Program were flown here to new lives, in cooperation with the UNHCR. I was at this end of the operation.

Then the role of overseas selection officers was virtually aban-

doned. Our national health policy is based on early intervention. If immigration had understood six years ago that early intervention was a vital instrument of compassion and meant meeting the problem head-on, ie, in source and transit countries, 1000-plus would not have died.

Experts tell us it has cost \$5 billion so far for nearly 50,000 arrivals - or \$100,000 per person.

For that amount we could have sent an army of selection officers and doctors to repeat the successful Vietnam experience. Why do we have history if not to learn from it?

Colliss Parrett, Blackall Street, Barton ACT.

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.

'Whole new ball game' on school funding

The Archdiocese's Catholic schools have now joined "a whole new ball game" after Catholic education commissions around Australia committed to federal funding changes.

John Barker, head of finance and planning with the Archdiocesan Catholic Education Office, said that while the new arrangements were positive, the school sector would be "starting from scratch" in adjusting to a different way of distributing funding.

Catholic education commissions around the country have agreed in principle to what the Federal Government calls its Better Schools Plan and each state and territory is expected to agree on an implementation plan in coming months.

Mr Barker said the challenge unique to the Canberra-Goulburn office was handling two separate state and territory jurisdictions.

And one of the biggest adjustments would be working within a single budget, rather than supplementing recurrent funding with money for targeted programs.

But the changes are not expected to be a jolt. "It's a six-year transition period so it will be some time before we see concrete results," Mr Barker said.

The new-look National Catholic Education Commission, meanwhile, is preparing to support the sector through a period of adjustment.

While pleased that the commitment has been made and with the certainty the arrangements are expected to bring, executive director Ross Fox warns of much hard work ahead.



Support ... NCEC head Ross Fox says the hard work on school funding is still ahead.

"In reality, while the funding arrangements have been determined, they still need to be implemented," he said.

"There is still a lot of detail to work through ... it's a bit like when you buy a house and you might find there are creaking floorboards you need to deal with."

School funding deals have been high on Mr Fox's agenda since he took up the role of leading the commission into a new era of policy analysis and advocacy only two months ago.

He said the Federal Government's move into areas of education it had not previously been involved in, including national testing and accountability, had given the commission scope to "clearly articulate where Catholic education stands".

He said the Catholic sector had made a remarkable contribution to education in about 180 years and still had a lot to offer.

"In a changing society with changing pressures, we need to keep looking at how we preserve the unique qualities of Catholic education for future generations," he said.

Music to mark 150th

A music celebration to mark the 150th anniversary of the Archdiocese will be held at St Christopher's Cathedral and at Sts Peter and Paul Old Cathedral in Goulburn.

It will take the form of blended hymns featuring key moments from the Old and New Testament.

The celebration will be held from 1pm to 4pm on Sunday, 29 September, at St Christopher's Cathedral, and from 1pm to 4pm on Saturday, 5 October, at the Old Cathedral in Goulburn.

Contributions of news items and photographs may be sent to ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au or to GPO Box 3089, Canberra 2601



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Moves afoot to enliven rich music heritage



New life ...
Genevieve Bryant
will help parishes to
beef up their music.

A young musician from Melbourne with a passion for liturgical music has been enlisted to help reinvigorate music ministry around the Archdiocese.

Genevieve Bryant, a cantor, pianist and choir leader with St John's in Mitcham, will spend next month working in schools and parishes as part of her Make a Joyful Noise tour.

Ms Bryant, who is recognised for her performances in events for the Melbourne Archdiocese and is involved with the popular Evergreen group project with the Missionaries of God's Love, has been travelling

around Australia helping parishes to improve their liturgical music.

With her assistance, the Archdiocese hopes to find young, gifted musicians in its schools who can fuel the music life of the parishes.

"This is a constructive way to try to get the talent that is in the schools to translate to the parishes," Archdiocesan director of pastoral support services Shawn van der Linden said.

Ms Bryant's itinerary for the month will take her to the Explosion youth conference and the catechists' conference in Canberra in the first

week, then to St Patrick's in Cooma and Carroll College on the South Coast, as well as Young and Cootamundra, and a week around the central deanery to finish.

Her sessions, although tailored to each audience, will cover three main areas: how to make an old hymn sound good, the parts of the Mass, and learning new music.

Mr van der Linden said the aim was not to "be Hillsong", but to enliven music ministry within its Catholic traditions.

"We know that music is very powerful for evangelisation, but we don't need to throw out our Catholic

identity to get good music. We have such a richness in our Catholic musical heritage, but sometimes it just needs to be presented in a more joyful way."

Problems with music ministries in parishes, including a lack of musicians, practice time and know-how were raised at the Archdiocesan Assembly two years ago. Music has also been identified as an ongoing issue in an Archdiocesan youth consultation report last year and a parish consultation this year.

Inquiries: Sharon Brewer at sharon.brewer@catholiclife.org.au or telephone 6163 4300.

Sung Latin Mass
Roman Canon in Gregorian chant and Monteverdi propers from
Messa a Quattro voci da cappella
with Gloria from Monteverdi
Selva Morale e Spirituale
Rev Dr P A McGavin as celebrant on the occasion of his 70th birthday
with singers and instrumentalists alumni & students of the
School of Music, ANU.
St Joseph's Church, off Macarthur St, O'Connor
11am-12.30pm, Sunday 29 September 2013
as a Mass, not a "concert", there is no admission charge,
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Young choirs in tune and on song

Ten-year-old Pippy Makeham loves nothing better than to join her fellow school choir members in a rousing rendition of Non Nobis Domine.

But only when the choir is on song. "It sounds very cool – when it's in tune. It can sound terrible when it's not."

Fortunately for Pippy and the nearly 50-strong choir from St Patrick's Primary in Gundagai, their version of the medieval hymn sounded impressive as it resonated around the Merici College gym during the Archdiocesan Catholic Primary Schools Choir Festival.

Pippy, a "not very low but not very high" alto, and two of her year 5 choir mates, alto Lucy Reardon and soprano Georgia Murphy, were excited to show off the vocal skills they had been honing every lunchtime.

The choir was not able to match its second placing in the inaugural event last year, however. That honour went to another St Patrick's, from Cooma, which won last year. This year's winner was the St Edmund's Junior Choir, from Canberra, with tuneful renditions of Kneels at the Feet of His Friends and the gospel hymn Oh, When the Saints.

Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Paul Gallagher joined Merici principal Loretta Wholley in presenting the prizes, including third place to St Bernard's from Batemans Bay and an encouragement award to Lake Cargelligo's St Francis Xavier choir, which travelled five hours each way to participate. A highlight of the day was a combined presentation in which most of the choirs gathered as one to sing One Voice, One Song and Engelbert Humperdinck's A Lovely Way to Spend an Evening.

Bob Perkins, who coordinated the event on behalf of the Knights of the Southern Cross and the Catholic Education Office, said the mix of seven choirs was different from last year. "We had mainly local choirs last year but they mainly came from the country this time," he said.

For most of the travellers, the placings were by the by, he said. "People were saying they just wanted to come along to enjoy the day."



TOP: Winning voices ... St Edmund's Junior Choir takes centre stage at the festival.

ABOVE: Excited ... members of St Patrick's school choir from Gundagai, (from left) Georgia Murphy, Lucy Reardon and Pippy Makeham after their performance.

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On song ... St Patrick's school choir from Gundagai at the Catholic Primary Schools Choir Festival.



Gerard Heffernan

More Renters Becoming Home Buyers

In this financial climate of low interest rates, there is certainly a trend toward people who have been renting discovering the possibility of moving into the realm of home ownership!

Families and single people who are paying \$450 per week in rent are realizing they can pay an extra \$50 per week (approx) and pay off a home loan of \$400,000 (based on a 30 year term at 5% p.a.).

Coupled with this move is a trend for family members assisting their loved ones, if they don't have a saved deposit, with gifts and family security guarantees.

For those borrowers who have trouble showing a pattern in savings, some Lenders are also taking into account the rent that they have been paying as a sufficient record of capacity to repay, as long as the rented property is through a licensed agent.

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Rosary's history blowing in the wind

It took artist Michael Winters only a few seconds to conceptualise how he might depict 50 years of Rosary Primary School's history in one artwork.

He knew he had 17 metres of wall space at his disposal and he could almost immediately visualise the years passing by like pages blowing in the wind.

Months later, those pages could be seen blowing across Rosary's front wall in Watson as the mural to mark the Dominican school's half-century was unveiled on, appropriately, St Dominic's feast day.

"It's good to see a school having its identity out in public like this," Mr Winters said, as he saw his own handiwork, which he had painted and transported in panels from his studio in Dubbo, assembled for the first time.

As far as identity goes, if the rosary beads running through the connecting panels were not a giveaway, then the life-size images of St Dominic and, at the very start of the pages of history, a Dominican nun were.

Catechists' 'amazing' work

Amazing is an appropriate name for a catechists' conference, given that is the word Deacon Matt Ransom uses when he considers the legion of religion instructors he oversees in the Archdiocese.

"I think it is quite amazing that there are so many people out there who are happy to give their time and go out into the schools," he said of the 220 catechists who teach about 2500 children in state schools and parishes around the Archdiocese.

Deacon Ransom, who is archdiocesan religious education coordinator for government schools, acknowledged that in an increasingly secular society some might expect catechists to become less relevant and perhaps even scarce.

But he was pleased to see the Archdiocese gained 20 catechists last year and that demand for their services in schools had remained steady. "I have been pleasantly surprised by how well the catechists are received in schools and the way students respond," he said.

Deacon Ransom said new catechists were always welcome.



History unveiled ... founding staff Sr Maure Campbell and Mrs Marie Shaw and the mural depicting 50 years of Rosary history.

The school's two founding principals, Sr June Peck and Sr Maure Campbell, and its first lay teacher, Mrs Marie Shaw, pulled down the canvas to reveal the mural.

Sr June reminisced about starting a school on a piece of land in the middle of nowhere and in classrooms containing virtually nothing "except the best thing - children, lots of children". And, of course, "we had hope".

Current principal Mrs Maureen Doszpot said the aim in commissioning the mural was to "create something beautiful that is a visual reminder of the past with links to the present as well as a glimpse of the future".

That future may well manifest itself in the two blank "pages" the artist incorporated into the mural, which he hoped the students themselves would fill in.

Parish tries new model for council

Yass parish has replaced the traditional pastoral council model with a committee-based system that parish priest Fr Mick Burke believes is unique in Australia.

Under the new model, parishioners will not nominate for election. Instead, they can sign up as one of eight committee leaders who will automatically form the parish pastoral council.

The committees, each with three or four members, cover youth, welfare, liturgy, ecumenism and outreach, the parish school, wider education, social and fundraising events, and maintenance.

The discrete committees will meet every second month and the council members will come together in the alternate months.

Fr Burke said the Archdiocesan assembly had recognised the need to make parish councils more effective.

Fr Burke said he had looked around at other models, particularly in the United States.

"The problem is that in America they have big numbers on their parish councils, sometimes up to 40, and that's not going to work here."

So he spent a few months formulating a model that he adapted from the way the council in his other parish of Gunning was operating almost by default.

Fr Burke does not expect to have problems filling the committee and council positions, saying parishioners are likely to respond to the fact that "at least they know what they will be doing".

The commitment is teaching basic scripture and preparing students for sacraments for half an hour a week during school hours in NSW schools or after school in the ACT parishes' schools of religion.

All new catechists are taught the curriculum and mentored by experienced team members in each school or parish, he said.

He is hoping prospective volunteers will be among the 120 catechists, leaders and sacramental volunteers registering for the inaugural Amazing Catechists Conference at the Rheinberger Centre in Yarralumla from 4-5 October.

Keynote speakers will include Shane Bennett, director of mission and faith formation at Brisbane's Holy Spirit Seminary; Phil Billington, director of Catholic Education in the Sandhurst Diocese; and Shawn van der Linden, Archdiocesan director of pastoral support services.

For information, contact Deacon Ransom on 6163 4380 or matt.ransom@catholiclife.org.au.

Parish celebrates its women

When promoting an event to celebrate women at St John the Apostle, Kippax, the organisers deliberately refrained from naming the guest speakers.

The thinking was that familiar faces from the parish would emerge from relative anonymity to tell their inspiring and moving stories.

Co-organiser Sabina Van Rooy said their stories illustrated just how many exceptional women were members of the Kippax parish.

The event, held to coincide with Mary MacKillop's feast day, showcased 12 speakers from a cross-section of ages, backgrounds and experiences.

The youngest speaker was 22-year-old Australian Catholic University stu-

dent Stephanie Cox, who talked about her pilgrimage to World Youth Day in Brazil. The most senior was Judy Kenny, who is over 80 and has been a St John's parishioner for more than 35 years and spoke on the changing face of the parish.

Other talks covered personal experiences of living with disability, music ministry and young families and professional perspectives on prison ministry, pastoral care at a secondary college, and social justice and refugee issues. "We've already had a lot of interest in doing it again next year," Ms Van Rooy said.

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Fiona van der Plaat sits down with a leader on the National Council of Jewish Women of Australia, who recalls the Catholic connections that have shaped her interest in other faiths.

Growing up in the west of Scotland, “where there was always religious tension”, Dr Anita Shroot could not help but develop an interest in the interaction between faiths.

Hers was one of two Jewish families in a street where one other household was Catholic and the rest were Protestant.

The Catholics and the Protestants were not allowed to play with each other “and I was the only one who played with all of them”.

“There was anti-semitism and a lot of Christian tension in the area, but the way I was brought up made me think that this was wrong,” Dr Shroot said.

Now chair of the national interfaith portfolio with the National Council of Jewish Women of Australia, the former dentist said she has “always liked to mix in broader circles”.

She remembers travelling with two Catholic friends, after finishing her dental studies in Glasgow, to Rome where the brother of one of the girls was studying at a seminary.

“I stayed with these girls at a convent for a week and that was one of the things that sparked my interest (in Catholicism).”

She also met two priests, from India and Africa, and was enlivened by their conversations over dinner table. “There we were, talking about sterilisation and contraception and other things.”

Such interaction fuelled her interest. “I feel that, through the years, exploring other people’s faiths has made me feel more about my own faith,” she said.

Dr Shroot’s “wandering Jew” heritage has given her a rich history to draw on in developing her sense of Jewishness.

She rattles off a list of countries that have played host to her Jewish ancestors – not always kindly, of course. She has Lithuanian Jewish connections on both sides and her father was born in Tel Aviv.

Her parents met in Scotland before moving to South Africa with their young family, then back to Scotland.

Dr Shroot met her Jewish husband Alan, a medical doctor, in Scotland. Having served in a mission hospital in Tanzania, he was keen to work in “the bush” and they ended up in Condobolin as a young couple with a baby before moving to Canberra 32 years ago.

Her daughter and two sons are now in their 30s and have their own children, six in all. They have maintained their Jewish faith, the oldest son living in Jerusalem as an Orthodox Jew, and all are married to Jews.

Dr Shroot, who calls herself an “orthodox Jew with a small o” or



Empowered ... Dr Anita Shroot says there is a misapprehension that Jewish women are oppressed.

Best way forward is to discuss our differences – interfaith leader

“modern orthodox”, is pleased to see her children have followed on with their traditions.

She has never believed in pushing them in any direction, though.

In the same way, she has never believed in pushing other people towards her beliefs.

“I feel that we are living in the same country and we all have our beliefs ... The best way to see that we all have many things in common is to discuss our differences in a respected and formed way.”

For that reason, she is happy to share her understanding of her own faith with others.

For instance, she accepted an invitation from the Archdiocesan Commission for Women to present on Women and Judaism in the 21st Century in Canberra in August.

She says there is a misapprehension that Judaism, especially the Orthodox version, oppresses women.

“I think Jewish women have always been empowered and now they are becoming much more vocal about their spiritual needs,” she said.

“Even though Orthodox Judaism, like Orthodox Christianity, is reluctant to change, many more Orthodox women have found ways within Jewish law that they can participate more.”

She says her daughter-in-law, who lives in an Orthodox community in Jerusalem, is “very empowered”.

“It’s just that women see themselves as having different roles than some other women might.”

Dr Shroot says it comes down to choice.

“A lot of secular people, even in Israel, possibly don’t get it – they see

these women dressed the way they dress, with a brood of children, and they come to the conclusion that they are ‘just a wife’ or ‘just a mother’ and that they don’t have a life in their eyes.”

“But the fact is they have chosen their life. A lot of people would walk away from the Orthodox way of life if it didn’t suit them.”

Dr Shroot, who has remained active in the Jewish community, including playing a role in finally getting a mikvah (a ritual bath for women) in Canberra, feels it is time to step back and let younger women take the reins.

“I think it is quite an exciting time for them,” she said.

“I have probably missed the boat a bit because things were much more conservative when I was young.”

“There is a lot more opportunity for Jewish women now.”



WYD and its pilgrims (clockwise from top left): Alicia Timermanis from ACU Signadou with children from Pamplona, Peru, where she helped with missionary work; a crowded Copacabana Beach at the opening Mass; the ADFA group at Iguazu Falls, Sarah Moriarty, Rachael Cuddihy, Chaplain Anthony Doyle, Gordon Hutcheon, Justin Comfort, Xavier Vasta and Ashlea Waight (front); Archdiocesan pilgrims (from left) Kate Lindbeck, Michelle Emmett, Fr Joshy Kurien, Theresa Buetre and Melissa De Jongh; Angus Jones finds a spot to rest on fellow pilgrims Teresa Gasparin, Tamara Gillies and Marie Kesina.

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Guiding light on journey of faith

When the core group of the Faith and Light community in Canberra met early in August, the items on the prayer table were a poignant tribute to the late Delia Duke.

Sr Rita Reilly SGS, who was once a leader of the group and had enjoyed a long friendship with Mrs Duke, was invited to the meeting.

"It was rather beautiful," she said. There were roses, "which were very dear to Delia", and a pilgrim shell that assured them all "that Delia is still guiding us on our Faith and Light journey".

Mrs Duke, who was 72 when she died in late July was instrumental in helping to establish the Faith and Light movement in Canberra and was a community leader for 14 years.

The international movement consists of faith and fellowship communities of people with disabilities, their families and friends.

It was a presentation by founder Jean Vanier at the Haydon Centre in 1977 that inspired Mrs Duke and others to begin a community in Canberra.

Mrs Duke was keen for one of her four sons Dominic, who has Down syndrome, to live independently and had long campaigned for the Church to do more for people with disabilities.



Moving ... Dominic Duke (left) leads his Faith and Light friends in a liturgical tribute to his mother, Delia.

Speaking at her funeral Mass at St Christopher's Cathedral, Sr Jeanie Heininger, the Good Samaritan sister who took up the reins in response to Mrs Duke's call for disability services, remembered Mrs Duke receiving a standing ovation in the Cathedral after addressing the first Archdiocesan synod in 1989.

"She had flair, she had grace, she had joy and she had dignity ... and she added all this to disability services," Sr Jeanie said.

At one of her last appearances at a Faith and Light meeting, Mrs Duke reflected on "the gift that children with disabilities are" and the joy she found in the families and friends in the community, Sr Rita said.

"How she loved the shared prayer, the friendship and the celebration. People with disabilities are great at celebrating."

As they did at the funeral service, where Dominic led a Faith and Light group in a moving liturgical tribute to his mother.

Inspired young pilgrims back in 'real world'

One of the most important moments for the Archdiocese's World Youth Day pilgrims came during a two-day retreat outside Rio de Janeiro in Brazil after all the official celebrations were over.

During the retreat, the young people were asked to focus on what might have been their "God moments" during their pilgrimage.

Archdiocesan youth coordinator and pilgrimage leader Daniela Kesina said this question, and other reflections, allowed the pilgrims to "unpack" their experiences.

"Those last two days were critical for them," she said. From her own experience of four World Youth Day pilgrimages, she knew many would have felt overwhelmed by the experience.

"Our challenge now is to support these young people now that they are back in the real world ... to plug them into something beyond it."

Ms Kesina said the pilgrims were particularly inspired by Pope Francis and his challenge to young people to avoid being a generation who "sit on our balconies and leave it all to others".

"Everybody talked about the Pope's words afterwards, more so than I've seen in other years," Ms Kesina said.

She said World Youth Day was not a "silver bullet" for inspiring young people in their faith, "but it is an important step".

Apart from the week of celebrations in Rio, the pilgrims undertook a week of mission work with an underprivileged parish in Chile that was more a watch-and-learn exercise than the hands-on community service they were expecting.



On a high ... Australian Catholic University pilgrims, including some from Signadou, visit the Christ the Redeemer monument in Rio. Picture: Tristan Velasco.

But Ms Kesina said the lessons they learnt about how hard it is to be a practising Catholic in such areas, and how much they had in common, were rewarding.

Meanwhile, the six World Youth Day pilgrims from the Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra have started putting their inspiration to work.

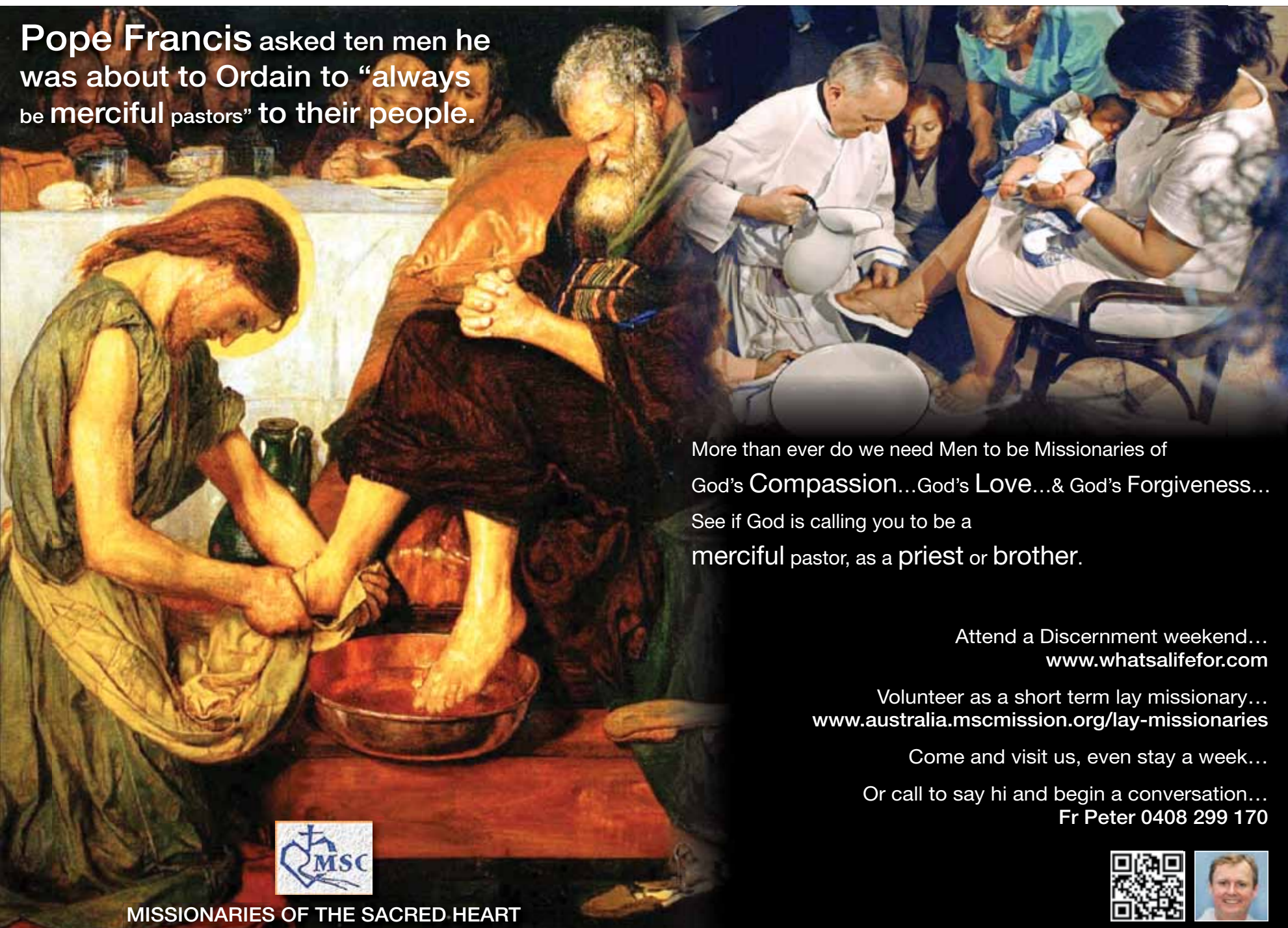
Chaplain Anthony Doyle, who accompanied the group as part of the Sydney archdiocesan pilgrimage, said the experience had prompted them to set up a formal

Catholic group at the academy as well as a choir for its Sunday night Mass.

He said the group was keen to learn from the active youth ministries at the universities in Sydney. It was also looking at returning to Peru, where it did missionary work before the Rio events, to offer more assistance.

He said the pilgrimage had a big impact on them all. "Some were very strong in their faith, some were fringe, but all moved substantially on the continuum."

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



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MISSIONARIES OF THE SACRED HEART





Choices ... NET leader Naomi Schick talks to Merici College year 11 students (from left) Maya Montalvo, Atueny Manyang and Zoe Alleyn.

Expo opens some young minds to a future vocation

Watching thousands of students meandering among the stalls at the Canberra CareersExpo, contemplating what they might do for a living, John Smith was realistic about his chances of signing up future priests or nuns on the spot.

“We are not going to recruit many to the priesthood here,” he said.

“But we are going to get some kids who are open to thinking a little bit wider than what their immediate career expectations are,” he said.

Mr Smith was representing the Serra Club, which promotes vocations to the priesthood and religious life, and was out to challenge students to consider what the word “vocation” meant to them.

This challenge took the form of a survey that gave respondents three possible answers to the meaning of “vocation”.

The choices were: “being in a particular occupation, business or profession”; “a yearning to follow a particular activity, career or passion”; or “a commitment for life in marriage, single life, religious life or priesthood”.

Of the 1345 students who were asked the question, nearly two-thirds chose option two. About a fifth chose answer one and just over 16% went for the third option.

Mr Smith said, in general, the students they approached treated the question seriously. “You also get a few who want to look further into it.”

The Archdiocese’s NET youth ministry members were recruited to the Serra Club’s mission so the event’s young patrons could talk to people closer to their age, “rather than grey-haired old men like me”, as Mr Smith put it.

One of the NET leaders, Naomi Schick, said it was fun to interact with the young people and, in some cases, to reconnect with students she had met during the team’s visits to schools in the Archdiocese.

She found it interesting to gauge the different reactions from the students when she asked them about the word “vocation”.

“Some just look at you and say, ‘What’s a vocation?’, but some will go, ‘Oh, yeah, it’s number three’,” she said.

A lot of the girls, in particular, went for the third option, she said, adding that it was surprising to see how few of the students seemed interested in why they were being asked the question.

For the record, Ms Schick’s own understanding of “vocation” is “what God is calling me to, what my deeper calling in life is”.

The word secretary might suggest a job focused on clerical work and general office keeping. But pair it with the word parish and it takes on a whole new meaning. Parish secretaries come in all varieties, and so do their long and varied lists of duties.

Yes, they answer phones, handle correspondence and do the filing. But, equally, they are publications officers, event managers, executive assistants, music directors, project managers and even pseudo-counsellors.

On the front line

Parish secretaries are ‘the first image of the church’

Felice Kasita was quite content cleaning St Christopher’s Cathedral in Manuka.

“I don’t mind what work I do with the Church. It’s all serving God and serving the people,” she said.

But others, knowing she had an accounting background and had worked as a school office manager in Indonesia before moving to Canberra with her Australian husband three years ago, were not so happy to let her skills go untapped. And so the 30-year-old

wound up as the secretary at St Benedict’s parish in Narrabundah three days a week.

It’s a job she does not take lightly, but one in which she treads lightly.

“The parish secretary is the first image of the church. If people call and the secretary is grumpy, they might think the church is bad,” she said.

She reminds herself of that when confronted with anger and rudeness, not usually from parishioners but from people looking for handouts and other assistance.

“No matter how rude they are, I try to treat them like I would treat Jesus,” she said.

“Sometimes they tell me lies but I just do what feels right in my heart, otherwise I can’t sleep at night.”

Dealing with people, both pleasant and otherwise, is just one aspect of what Ms

Kasita says is a varied and enjoyable job. “This parish is so alive. It’s not just phone calls, emails and taking bookings,” she said. There are the people who just want to talk and there are all the groups, such as the St Benedict’s Mission Centre, that need her help in some way.

And not to forget the odd jobs that crop up, such as organising a plumber for the broken toilet in the parish office.

But Ms Kasita takes it all on with a smile. “Sometimes Father (Steve Fletcher) says, ‘Felice, you shouldn’t be doing this, it’s not part of your job’.

“But I am always aware that whatever I am doing, I am serving God.”

RIGHT: “This parish is so alive” ... Felice Kasita says her work is all about serving God and people.

‘You could write a book on it’

mindful, especially when people came in, that you were working in his house,” she said.

Mrs Twyford, 68, has negotiated that territorial matter with a number of priests since then, including Fr Mick Burke, Fr Bernie Patterson and now Fr Michael Lim, and it is just one of the things she takes in her stride for the 10 hours a week she is in the office.

“You are called upon to wear many hats,” she said.

Apart from bookkeeping and publishing the parish bulletin, she looks after copyright for the church music (she is also involved with the choir, as well as the Valley Harmony Ladies Choir in Tathra), produces overheads for Mass, and manages certificates and registrations.



Satisfying ... Catherine Morris feels her work in the Gungahlin parish helps to make a difference in people’s lives.

‘The best part is feeling like you have made a difference’

As a parishioner of Holy Spirit parish in Gungahlin for three years and the mother of three girls at the attached Good Shepherd Primary School, Catherine Morris had seen enough to know the parish secretary’s role would be “fairly involved”.

When she accepted the invitation to take over the job for three days a week late last year, she figured her background in events management would serve her well, particularly in terms of communication and time management.

She was right. But, as Fr Mark Croker and his staff moved into the newly built presbytery and office in Amaroo, Mrs Morris discovered a raft of interesting jobs to add to her administrative role.

“You find yourself doing odd little things, like helping Father to set his house up. We were choosing furniture and buying bedspreads,” she said.

It is all part of the “trust relationship” between Fr Croker and the staff. “As a team, we have a really good relationship in terms of what he expects

from us and what we expect from him,” she said. “If something needs to be done, it’s about knowing that it is going to be done.”

And, in one of the biggest parishes in the Archdiocese, covering three primary schools and John Paul College, there is a lot to be done.

Events and bookings need to be managed, parish groups need assistance, rosters and weekly bulletins need to be compiled, baptisms, weddings and funerals need to be documented, and, of course, people just want to talk.

While Mrs Morris, 39, enjoys the variety in her work, the most satisfying part is being there for the people who need to talk.

“One member of our parish calls regularly just for a chat. It is nice to know that if I am the one person he speaks to that day, I have made a difference ... The best part is feeling like you are making a difference in people’s lives,” she said.



She has become part of the furniture at St Patrick’s, especially since her own three children went to the parish primary school and now three of her four grandchildren are there.

Mrs Twyford, a breast cancer survivor who lost her husband Tony to lymphoma three years ago, says the job may not always be easy but it keeps her engaged.

“It’s an interesting place to work. You could write a book on it,” she said.

RIGHT: Wearing many hats ... Mary Twyford, with her grandchildren Kendrick Twyford, Hugo Spitzer, Ayesha Twyford and Alexia Spitzer.



God's love doesn't stand outside

Ron Rolheiser

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



out of arrogance, but that's a very different kind of suicide, not the kind that most of us have seen in a loved one.

Generally our own experience with the loved ones that we've lost to suicide was that these persons were anything but arrogant. More accurately described, they were too-battered to touch and were wounded in some deep way that we couldn't comprehend or help heal.

Indeed, often times when sufficient time has passed after their deaths, in retrospect, we get some sense of their wound, one which we never clearly

that's deeper than our own and a judgment that intuits the deepest motives of their heart.

Moreover, God's love, as we are assured of in our scriptures and as is manifest in Jesus' resurrection, is not as helpless as our own in dealing with this.

We, in dealing with our loved ones, sometimes find ourselves helpless, without a strategy and without energy, standing outside an oak-like door, shut out because of someone's fear, wound, sickness, or loneliness.

Most persons who die by suicide are precisely locked inside this kind of private room by some cancerous wound through which we cannot reach and through which they themselves cannot reach.

Our best efforts leave us still unable to penetrate that private hell.

But, as we see in the resurrection appearances of Jesus, God's love and compassion are not rendered helpless by locked doors.

God's love doesn't stand outside, helplessly knocking. Rather it goes right through the locked doors, stands inside the huddle of fear and loneliness, and breathes out peace.

So, too, for our loved ones who die by suicide.

We find ourselves helpless, but God can, and does, go through those locked doors and, once there, breathes out peace inside a tortured, huddled heart.

suicide is analogous to death by cancer, stroke, or heart attack; except, in the case of suicide, it's a question of emotional cancer, emotional stroke, or an emotional heart attack.

Often times, in retrospect, we get some sense of their wound, one which we never perceived while they were alive

Moreover, still to be more fully explored, is the potential role that biochemistry plays in suicide. Since some suicidal depressions are treatable by drugs, clearly then some suicides are caused by biochemical deficiencies, as are many other diseases that kill us.

The person who dies in this way, almost invariably, is a very sensitive human being. Suicide is rarely done in arrogance, as an act of contempt. There are of course examples of persons, like Hitler, who are too proud to endure normal human contingency and kill themselves

perceived while they were alive. Their suicide then no longer seems as surprising.

Finally, we need not worry unduly about the eternal salvation of those who die in this way. God's understanding and compassion infinitely surpass our own. Our lost loved ones are in safer hands than ours.

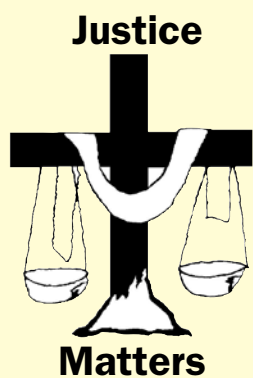
If we, limited as we are, can already reach through this tragedy with some understanding and love, we can rest secure in the fact that, given the width and depth of God's love, the one who dies through suicide meets, on the other side, a compassion

ruins the memory of the person who died. His photographs slowly disappear from our walls and the manner of his death is spoken about with an all-too-hushed discretion. None of this should be surprising: Suicide is the ultimate taboo.

So what's to be said about suicide? How can we move towards understanding it more empathically?

Understanding suicide more compassionately won't take away its sting, nothing will, except time; but our own long-term healing and the redemption of the memory of the one died can be helped by keeping a number of things in mind:

Suicide, in most cases, is a disease, not something freely-willed. The person who dies in this way dies against his or her will, akin to those who jumped to their deaths from the Twin Towers after terrorist planes had set those buildings on fire on 11 September, 2001. They were jumping to certain death, but only because they were already burning to death where they were standing. Death by



able to the disabled, their families and carers.

The scheme is aimed at giving a holistic approach to disability care including early intervention in care which is designed to reduce the reliance upon future resources.

Much has been written about the funding of the scheme and whether it is just and fair on the taxpayer resulting in an increase in the Medicare levy by half a percentage point from 1.5 to 2 per cent from 1 July, 2014, to provide strong and stable funding for Disability-Care Australia. To those whose income qualifies for the additional Medicare levy the cost is approximately \$1 per day (for those earning around \$70,000). For a society that prides itself on egalitarianism is \$1 a day too much to pay?

By Annemarie Nicol

Three times a day, in a tiny hillside village in France, the bells of Taizé ring out, calling people to the common prayer. Taizé has become known across the world for its distinctive style of repetitive singing.

What fewer people in Australia realise is that it is home to a unique monastic community, made up of about 100 brothers from different Christian religious traditions who live together in a "parable of communion". This was the vision of its founder, Br Roger Schutz, who saw community as a place where divisions among people may be healed and transformed.

Since the 1950s, the community of Taizé has been welcoming people. Today, it draws thousands of mostly young adults, but also families and older people. They come from different countries and Christian denominations, speak different languages and embrace different cultures. They come to pray and work together, to explore their questions and to search together for an authentic experience of living the Gospel.

In February 1995, I was one of those young people. Like so many others, I came for a week, however I was totally entranced by the beauty and simplicity of the spirituality of Taizé, that I stayed for another week, and then another, and another.

I finally left the small village a year after I arrived, with a fresh invigoration for my faith, a renewed sense of belonging as a Catholic, and a multitude of lifelong friends from all over the world.

Tiny village that spreads its sound across the globe

At the heart of Taizé is prayer and silence. Like everything at Taizé, the prayer itself is very simple – songs in different languages, using short verses from scripture, sung repeatedly, seemingly without beginning or end. The songs themselves are prayer, but they are also an entry point for silence, a deep and peaceful silence, a sacred space that allows us listen for the voice of Christ.

In Canberra many small groups meet regularly in local churches to pray in the Spirit of Taizé. This is not to create a Taizé movement, rather to spend time in quiet prayer with others, through the experiences of our lives, work, study and families.

Taizé's Br Matthew will lead an afternoon reflection at 2pm on Thursday, 3 October, in the chapel at St Mark's Theological College, 15 Blackall St, Barton. The afternoon's theme is Reconciliation and the New Solidarity. It will involve quiet time, reflection and discussion. From 7pm, there will be an evening prayer at City Uniting Church on Northbourne Avenue. This will be followed by supper and time to chat.

Inquiries: am.nicol71@gmail.com or go to www.facebook.com/groups/taize.canberra

Is \$1 a day too much to pay?

By former member of the Archdiocese's Catholic Social Justice Commission Josephine Stevens.

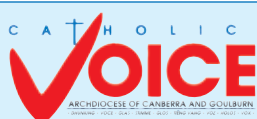
We are indeed fortunate in the ACT as we have the opportunity to be part of the pilot of the National Disability Insurance Scheme as it is rolled out throughout Australia, with the full scheme to commence progressively from July 2016 and be fully implemented by 2019.

Fortunate, too, that we have an agency such as CatholicCare to help us navigate our way through the changes to care (Disability 'change of lifetime', Catholic Voice, June) that "by mid-2016, up to 5000 Canberrans are expected to have transferred to the scheme, which will be rolled out from July next year".

The scheme is ambitious in that it seeks to unify the states and territories so that there is no disadvantage based on location.

The system being replaced is fragmented, often creating complexities and disparities between the levels of care and support avail-

Catholic Voice and the weekly E-bulletin – all the Archdiocesan news you need every month – and they're free!



Support our Fathers

CLERGY RETIREMENT FOUNDATION



At Mass with Fr Frank Keogh (third from left) are Carmel Gibbons rn, the Foundation's Clergy Care Co-ordinator, Marlene Irving, local and long-time friend and carer, Fr Pat Kenna and Mr John Landon, local and long-time friend.

*Father's Day
Appeal*
Sunday, September
1

Father Frank Keogh

Fr Frank Keogh was born in Goulburn, though his parents lived in Taralga and he has always considered himself a Taralga lad. His early education was at St Joseph's Convent, Taralga, and after achieving his Leaving Certificate at St Patrick's College, Goulburn, he went on to spend a year at St Columba's, Springwood, before joining St Patrick's Seminary at Manly.

One of the greatest influences in his life was a former parish priest of Taralga, Fr Austin O'Connor, who encouraged his decision to become a priest when Frank was his altar server.

Following his ordination to the priesthood in Taralga on 25 July, 1946, Fr Keogh served at the parishes of Bega, Murwillumbah, Canberra, Goulburn, Delegate and Braidwood. While in Canberra as senior assistant priest at the Cathedral, he served as Director of the Pontifical Mission Aid Societies. For a brief period before this, he was Archbishop Eris O'Brien's secretary which, as Fr Frank recalls "in those days involved a lot of chauffeuring the Archbishop around the Archdiocese".

In August 1972, the then Archbishop, Thomas Cahill, appointed him to Murrumburrah where he remained as the much loved parish priest until his retirement from active ministry in July 2000.

Secretary of the Clergy Retirement Foundation Mr Kevin Croker recalls Fr Frank's role as a stalwart of the former Sick & Retired Priest's Fund which was established in 1987. "Archbishop Carroll", he said, "appointed Fr Frank as one of six founding priests to the Fund and it is wonderful that the Foundation now supports him in his retirement in Harden".

At 93 years of age, and in his 67th year as an ordained priest, Fr Frank is well cared for by the good folk at St Lawrence's Southern Cross Village in Harden and celebrates Mass in the chapel every day, often concelebrating with Fr Pat Kenna who also lives in the township.

Message from Monsignor John Woods

Now in its eighth year, the Foundation's mission remains strong – to provide basic living assistance, convalescence care, accommodation support and health assistance to ensure that after a lifetime of selfless service to generations of families, our priests are well looked after and continue to live with dignity.

With 19 retired priests and a further 11 reaching the age of retirement in the next five years, the need is obvious. Acknowledging that these men have journeyed with you and your loved ones in joy and sorrow, your financial support for them can be an expression of your gratitude. I commend the Father's Day Appeal to your generous support.



YES, I WOULD LIKE TO ASSIST THE FOUNDATION WITH A DONATION

My donation is:

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other \$.....

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible

First name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Rev):.....

Surname:.....

Address:

Town/Suburb:

Postcode:

Phone:.....

Donations may be sent to:

The Clergy Retirement Foundation, GPO Box 3089,
Canberra ACT 2601 or fax Donations to: 02 6257 7410
email enquiries to kevin.croker@cg.catholic.org.au

☐ I would like to become a regular donor.

Please charge my credit card.

Monthly: \$.....

☐ Please send me information on remembering
The Clergy Retirement Foundation in my will.

☐ Cheque (payable to Clergy Retirement
Foundation) or

Charge my Credit Card

☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa

Card Number:

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Expiry Date:/.....

Signature:.....

Thank you for your help in providing for the care of our sick and retired priests of the
Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn

FDA2013



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GPO BOX 3089, CANBERRA ACT 2601 | SECRETARY EMAIL: kevin.croker@cg.catholic.org.au | WEBSITE: cg.catholic.org.au

There's a lot going on at Marymead

Marymead has been a household name in Canberra since 1967 and in recent years has expanded its reach within the Archdiocese delivering a range of family support services in southern and western regions of NSW.

Marymead's array of programs and services include child and family counselling, disability support, foster care and respite care, adolescent residential care, early intervention programs, family and mental health support programs, contact and changeover services for separated parents in significant conflict, an indigenous families' unit and support for grandparents raising their grandchildren.

Assistance for those in a parenting role to improve their parenting skills and strengthen their relationships with their children is also provided by

Marymead's Family Skills Program, with parenting groups for women, men and couples all on offer.

Programs that help separated parents maintain positive relationships with their children and programs that support children and young people whose parents and caregivers are separated or divorced are also provided by Marymead.

Additional information in relation to these post separation support services can be obtained by telephoning Marymead's Family Relationship Program on 6162 5829.

For those considering employment in the not-for-profit community sector, Marymead provides a vast range of options that offer flexible working arrangements, free car parking and professional development opportunities.



Further information, including current employment opportunities is available at Marymead's website, marymead.org.au.

You can make a difference – become a Marymead foster carer

Today, more than ever, there is a significant shortage of foster carers, both in the ACT and NSW, with many children and young people urgently needing

homes and a family who cares. Marymead needs a broad range of carers to meet the diverse needs of children who are looking for a home - including single people, couples and families from a range of cultures and lifestyles. We welcome and value established families, those who have finished raising their own children and people without children.

Marymead provides carers with all the support they need, including initial and ongoing training, an experienced and dedicated foster care worker who will provide ongoing support and guidance, financial support, opportunities for carers to network together and a unique program to provide children with books to help develop their reading skills.



Building futures for children, young people and their families

Since 1967, Marymead, a well-respected community based non-for-profit organisation, has provided a range of high quality, innovative support services to Canberra's children, young people and families and now delivers a range of programs throughout the ACT and regional NSW. **Our programs and services include the following:**

- Child and Family Counselling
- Disability Support
- Family Support Programs
- Foster Care and Respite Care
- Grandparent's Support Network
- Indigenous Families Unit
- Kids' Companions
- Mental Health Family Support
- Parent Education Groups
- Post Separation Support
- Residential Care
- Supervised Contact



Talking With Your Kids

Talking With Your Kids (TWYK) is a 2 ½ hour presentation which assists parents who are separated and other significant people in a child's life to talk to them about difficult issues in a way that supports the children. TWYK aims to have a mixture of mothers, fathers and other caregivers in each course, to enable a range of views, knowledge and options. We will not enrol you and your child's other parent in the same TWYK group. **For further information please contact us today on 6162 5829.**

Marymead – now delivering a range of support services throughout the ACT and regional NSW – **contact us today on 02 6162 5800 or visit marymead.org.au**



CARING FOR CHILDREN • SUPPORTING FAMILIES • STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY

Employment Opportunities at Marymead are available now!

Contact us today
02 6162 5800
OR VISIT
marymead.org.au

Foster Care PROGRAM



You can change a child's life...
And there's no better time than **now!**

Marymead Foster Care is in urgent need of people who are willing to provide a safe and nurturing home for children and young people (0–18 years) for occasional weekends, weeks, months or even years. Marymead will provide financial assistance, ongoing training and caseworker support.

Why not attend one of our upcoming information sessions:

ACT FOSTER CARE
19 September 2013
MARYMEAD, CANBERRA
5 December 2013
MARYMEAD, CANBERRA

NSW FOSTER CARE
13 September 2013
QUEANBEYAN, NSW
20 September 2013
YOUNG, NSW

Children welcome, please contact Marymead for session times and venue.

Register today by phoning 6162 5800 or email fcinfo@marymead.org.au

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MARYMEAD IS AUSPICED BY THE CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN ABN 90 697 530 841

Live life to the full with
Southern Cross Care
(NSW & ACT)



Southern Cross Retirement Village, Young

Southern Cross Care (NSW & ACT) is a quality aged care service provider, established for more than 40 years in NSW and ACT.

Offering independent living, home care and supported living accommodation and care in a Christian environment, Southern Cross Care (NSW & ACT) is looking after the needs of older people in South-West NSW and the ACT.

At Young, four two-bedroom independent living units have been completed as part of ongoing extension of *Catherine View Gardens*. A total of 43 new units will be added to the village; eight as pensioner-renter units. The village is located less than two kilometres from the shopping centre and 500m from the Young Health Service. All units are in excellent condition and a 24-hour emergency call system is in place.



Southern Cross Freemason Village, Harden

In Harden, *Southern Cross St Lawrence Apartments*, winner of the 2012 *Master Builders & Boral Excellence in Building Awards* in the Special Purpose Dwelling award category, comprises 45 modern supported living apartments. Several dining rooms, lounge rooms, sitting areas and courtyards have been incorporated in the design along with a large activities room and chapel. The facility includes a special care unit and 10 independent living units are located on the site.

Four independent living units have been completed at *Cootamundra Village*. The units are one and two-

bedroom, two with garages, one pensioner-rental and one fitted for disabilities. An additional 12 units are in the development stage.

Southern Cross Apartments in Campbell, ACT, consists of 40 supported living units, all with private en-suites. At Garran, *Southern Cross Ozanam Apartments* are located less than a kilometre from Woden Town Centre, and comprise 70 state-of-the-art supported living apartments and 34 independent living units. In Goulburn, *Southern Cross Tenison Apartments* offer 24-hour care to 30 supported living apartments, each with private en-suite and patio set in the tranquil gardens of St Joseph's convent.

Southern Cross Currawarna Apartments in Bombala has been recently renovated to include a new administration area featuring a coffee shop, men's room, hairdressing salon, chapel and large activities room. The facility accommodates 33 residents.



Southern Cross Retirement Village, Cootamundra

Live life to the full with Southern Cross Care (NSW & ACT). Services include home care, residential aged care and independent living at 40 locations. Phone (02) 9790 9400 or email admin@sch.org.au or visit www.sch.org.au

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Clergy foundation gets grant

The Archdiocese's Clergy Retirement Foundation received a grant at the Canberra Southern Cross Club's annual community support lunch and presentation of grants.

The foundation was among a number of locally based organisations to receive grants.

At the presentation are (from left): foundation secretary Kevin Croker, Fr Henry Byrne and Southern Cross Club chief executive Greg Mitchell.



Calvary Health Care ACT is celebrating two centenaries in 2013

Calvary Health Care ACT

proudly joins the Canberra and nearby communities in celebrating the centenary of Canberra. While we have only been a part of the community for 34 years, we – like many of the people who have relocated themselves and their family to Canberra – now feel strong connections and fond relationships with the broader Canberra 'family'.

But this year we have recognised another centenary at Calvary, and that is the 100th anniversary of the death of the Venerable Mary Potter, the founder of the Sisters of the Little Company of Mary. Mary died on 9 April 2013 at 65 years of age.

At Calvary we proudly state that our services are "in the tradition of the Sisters of the Little Company of Mary", so there are obvious reasons why we pay attention to the passage of 100 years.

The Venerable Mary Potter established the Sisters in Nottingham,



England, in 1877. Mary and her small community commenced their service by offering food to the needy and by tending compassion to the sick and dying. These services are the origin of the Sisters dedication to palliative care, and Calvary Health Care ACT proudly continues that service to our community from Clare Holland House.

Mary also pioneered the education and training of nurses. As more women joined the Sisters of the Little Company of Mary and became trained nurses, Catholic leaders around the world sought Mary's

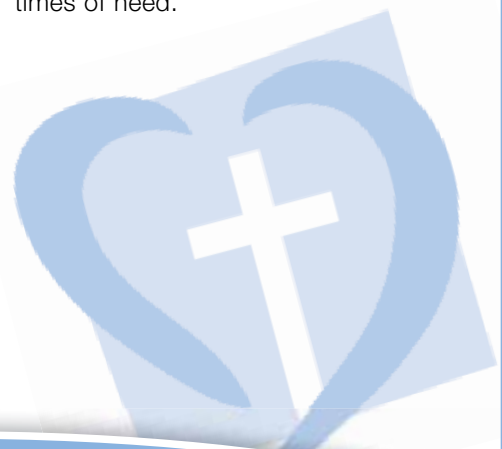
assistance in bringing compassionate and skilful care to their communities. And so it was that that in 1885 Mother Raphael led a pioneer group of six sisters to Sydney.

They soon become renowned for the tender and loving care given to the sick and to the dying in their homes, and for the special reverence with which they laid out the bodies of the dead. In 1889 the Sisters opened Children's Hospital of the Holy Child, the first wing of Lewisham Hospital. In time the Sisters services were sought in other areas of Australia, and Little

Company of Mary Health Care now provides services in the Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia.

On the centenary of her death, we think Mary would be delighted to see Calvary Health Care ACT delivering on our mission to bring the healing ministry of Jesus to those who are sick, dying and in need through 'Being for Others'.

We look forward to being a part of the Canberra's next century; we will share the community's happiest episodes, be your source of healing and compassion, and be with you through times of sadness and grief. We recognise it is a privilege to grow with you and to be able to assist in your times of need.





As one of the largest providers of Disability & Mental Health Services in the ACT, CatholicCare Canberra & Goulburn are ready to provide support and guidance to you for a smooth transition into DisabilityCare Australia... where you will have more choice and control.



Providing services to your community for over 50 years!

CatholicCare Canberra & Goulburn have been part of the Canberra community for more than 50 years. We are proud of our history stemming from a small volunteer base in the 1950's to the large multidisciplinary agency that we are today.

What does CatholicCare do?

Our vision is for an equitable society where the rights, dignity and worth of all individuals are recognised and promoted.

CatholicCare Canberra & Goulburn is the welfare arm of the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn. We uphold the dignity of each person by providing high quality accessible services that are aligned with individual needs, through empowering individuals, couples and families, and by promoting healthy, inclusive communities through relationships and collaboration for the common good.

Come to CatholicCare, we provide a suite of services to meet individuals and family needs including; planning and facilitation, accommodation, in home support, community access and engagement, counselling, carer support services, allied health services, youth support and mental health practitioners.

Do I have to be Catholic to use any of the programs or services?

The answer is no, CatholicCare Canberra & Goulburn provides services to all members of our community. We ensure equitable access to all individuals using our service.

Why choose CatholicCare?

- We are champions of CHOICE and are ready to make your goals a reality
- CatholicCare is a well-respected organisation that understands people with disabilities, people with mental illness and their support networks
- We have a long standing commitment to providing personalised services that deliver on our clients goals and aspirations
- We have always believed that our services are about empowerment and the highest quality of life for our clients
- Our dedicated team of highly-skilled and experienced staff are committed to working with you in an open and transparent way
- Excellence - we aspire to the highest standards of service for the people we care for, in all that we do and for all in our community
- We have strong values and always place the individuals we support at the heart of what we do
- We ensure everyone feels welcomed and respected, supported and treated with dignity each time they access our services
- We have over 50 years experience within the region

How do you CHOOSE to live your life?

What does a Good Life look like to you? CatholicCare is committed to supporting you to achieve your personal goals and aspirations, making you the centre of the decision making and providing you with choice and control over your, or your loved ones, life.



Brian loves fishing; CatholicCare makes this goal a reality.

Your Social Life

Do you want to spend more time with friends out and about in the community? CatholicCare's energetic and experienced staff will work one on one with you to connect you with your local community and support you to achieve your personal goals.

Your Home

Do you want to live in your own home or share with others? CatholicCare is an experienced provider of accommodation services for people with a disability wishing to live independently in the community and can offer you the support you need to make it happen. Whether it is support in finding a property or in maintaining it, CatholicCare has a range of services to meet your individual needs.

Joanne had lived with her parents for a great deal of her adult life; CatholicCare supported Joanne to fulfil her wish to live independently.



Michael enjoys cooking in his own home; CatholicCare provides support for Michael to prepare his own meals.

Your Independence

Do you want to have choices about what happens in your home and when? You may be currently living in your own home or with family, either way CatholicCare can tailor support that has you at the centre of decision making and provides you with choice and control over your life. From when you wake up to when you eat your dinner, CatholicCare is committed to working with you to meet these needs.



Betty and Ray are carers; CatholicCare is facilitating futures planning with the family for their daughter.

Are you a Carer or Family Member?

Do you need support through the transition into DisabilityCare Australia? We are also experienced in the provision of support to families and carers, and have a range of services to meet your needs. We can:

- Assist in defining the roles of family members and managing pressures that arise from these roles.
- Provide flexible respite options to you and your loved one.
- Explore concerns about the capacity to maintain a caring role.
- Assist decision making so that the best interest of the whole family are considered.
- Consider the impact of caring on relationships with both immediate and extended family members.
- Facilitate discussion around what planning for the future entails.
- Refer on to appropriate services, such as financial advisors or advocates.

Are you looking for a new employment challenge?

We are always looking for motivated, enthusiastic and passionate staff and volunteers. Currently we employ around 250 staff and volunteers in various roles.

What to join us?

Employment vacancies are advertised on our website as well as in digital and local printed media.

Our website also outlines the great conditions we offer our staff, including generous salary packaging options and flexible and family friendly working arrangements.

Find out more about us on the website.
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www.catholiccare.cg.org.au
 PH: 6295 4300

SHORTS

Gambit. Starring Colin Firth, Cameron Diaz, Alan Rickman, Tom Courteney, Cloris Leachman. Directed by Michael Hoffman. 89 minutes. Roadshow. PG (Mild coarse language, violence and sexual references).

A brief, light, comic story of art forgery and theft. Humorous and easy entertainment. The main twist is at the beginning of the film rather than at the end which makes it more entertaining. This is a soufflé of a movie, but fans of Colin Firth will admire his serious portrayal and his laughing at the end. Fans of Cameron Diaz will also enjoy her vivacious screen presence.

We're the Millers. Starring Jason Sudeikis, Jennifer Aniston, Emma Roberts, Will Poulter, and Ed Helms. Directed by Rawson Marshall Thurber. 110 minutes. Roadshow. MA15+. Restricted. (Strong coarse language, sexual references and nudity).

An American comedy about the creation of a bogus family to legitimise the transport of drugs. A group of talented actors have come together, however the film is directed primarily to promote vulgar displays to demonstrate broad, comic appeal. Jason Sudeikis owns his part as David, while Jennifer Aniston and the others try hard. Some high comic moments but lots of low ones.

What Maisie Knew. Starring Julianne Moore, Steve Coogan, Onata Aprile, Joanna Vanderham, and Alexander Skarsgard. Directed by Scott McGehee and David Siegel. 99 minutes. Madman Entertainment. M (Coarse language).

A powerful and moving film about dysfunctional relationships seen through the eyes of a young child. It offers a thoughtful and heart-rending emotional drama about a child coming to understand the love between her father and mother has died. Onata Aprile is wonderful as the child trapped in the crossfire.

The Way, Way Back. Starring Liam James, Steve Carrell, Toni Collette, Sam Rockwell and Alison Janney. Directed by Nat Faxon and Jim Rash. 103 minutes. Studio Canal. M (coarse language).

Troubles of a 14 year old adolescent? Again? Yes, but more interestingly explored than usual – and with some nicer touches. Liam James is particularly convincing as Duncan, travelling to a holiday house with his mother (Toni Collette) who has taken up with a divorced father, Trent, (Steve Carrell) and his rather self-centred teenage daughter. Trent asks Duncan how he would rate himself from one to 10. He tries six. He is dismayed when his prospective step-father tells him he thinks he is a three.

Beyond the Hills. Starring Cosmina Stratan, Cristina Flutur. Directed by Christian Mungiu. 156 minutes. Madman. M (Mature themes and coarse language).

Based on events which occurred in 2005 in a Romanian Orthodox monastery where a young woman died during an exorcism ritual. The police investigated and those taking part were found guilty of the woman's death. This film highlights the mental and emotional state of the victim, focusing on the role of the priest in charge who decided on the exorcism and the nuns who assisted.

The Bling Ring. Starring Emma Watson, Georgia Rock, Katie Chang, Taissa Farmiga, Isreal Broussard, and Leslie Mann. Directed by Sofia Coppola. 90 minutes. Roadshow. MA15+. Restricted. (Strong drug use).

American comedy-drama depicts true story of a group of teenagers, obsessed with fame, who robbed the homes of Hollywood celebrities. Coppola doesn't moralise, but argues the spoiled teenagers are victims of their age, captured by the social pull of websites that they access too easily.

Black comedy one for the blokes

Pain and Gain. Starring Mark Wahlberg, Dwayne Johnson, Anthony Mackie, Tony Shalhoub, Ed Harris, Rob Corddry, Rebel Wilson, Michael Rispoli. Directed by Michael Bay. 129 minutes. Paramount. MA 15+ (Strong violence, drug use, coarse language and sexual references). Reviewer: Fr Peter Malone MSC*.

"Finesse" is used by one of the main characters. However, it is not a word that immediately springs to mind while watching the film.

Many audiences will be alerted by the name of the director, Michael Bay. With such films as Bad Boys, Pearl Harbor, The Island and The Transformer series, fans will have no hesitation in rushing to the box office and will probably not be disappointed. Others who fear that Michael Bay films are too bombastic in style, and the volume too noisy to sit through, will probably be well advised to give this one a miss.

However, though it does go on a bit, it has its moments. It also has its down moments.

It is probably best described as a black comedy, a parody of robberies and crimes. The characters are not at all likeable, though very well played, and there are quite a lot of nasty moments. And Bay has thrown in some gross-out moments which will have even well-spoken audiences exclaiming "yuck", and some bits of violence that are more than in your face.

The idea behind the black comedy is in many ways amusing. We see Mark Wahlberg as a gym fitness trainer running away from a squad of police and then the film goes into flashback. A screenplay has the very good device of having each of the central characters explain themselves and their background to the audience, intercutting with the action and continuing throughout the film. Lots of explanations which are comic and ironic.

Danny goes on and on about the American dream and his wanting to achieve it, even going to a seminar conducted by a manic Ken Jeong urging people to be doers rather than donters. Trouble for Danny is that a number of his heroes fulfilling the American dream are the main characters from The Godfather trilogy.

He resents many of his clients, especially a food restaurant king played with heroic patience by Tony Shalhoub. If awards for film endurance under torture and attempted killings were to be given, it would surely be to Tony Shalhoub for Pain and Gain.



On the run... Dwayne Johnson as Paul Doyle in Pain and Gain. Picture: Jaimie Trueblood.

Wahlberg is good at taking himself seriously while communicating his below-par intelligence. And his discovery of his mistakes.

One of the scene-stealers is Australian Rebel Wilson with much the same performance as she gives in her films A Few Best Men, What to Expect When You're Expecting, Pitch Perfect, Bachelorette. And she doesn't change her accent. She can get away with all kinds of outlandish remarks because of her comic and seemingly ingenuous presence.

So, a mixed experience, a macho show and not designed for a female audience. It's one of those shows that appeals to the blokes.

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

An uncomfortable poke at the privileged

Elysium. Starring Matt Damon, Jodie Foster, Sharlto Copley, Alice Braga, and William Fichtner. Directed by Neill Blomkamp. 109 minutes. Sony Pictures. MA15+ Restricted. (Strong bloody violence). Reviewer: Peter W Sheehan*.

This American science fiction film tells of a destitute Earth, and an area for the privileged and elite, called Elysium that orbits in space above it. The film is written and directed by Neill Blomkamp, who brought us District 9 (2009). Scenes on Earth were shot in a garbage dump in the slums of Mexico, while the scenes for Elysium were shot in the affluent suburbs of Mexico City and in Vancouver.

Elysium is reserved for the very wealthy. It is a high-tech space station which provides every conceivable luxury, and has special advantages for its citizens such as an instant cure for any disease through special healing bays installed in every house.

Those who are not on Elysium live below it, surrounded by desolation and disease. The governors of

Elysium enforce any law that preserves the lifestyle of its citizens, even to the extent of destroying disabled spaceships carrying refugees from Earth which try to land. Elysium doesn't want to relinquish control in any way of its borders, or reverse the class distinctions that guarantee its future.

Max DeCosta (Matt Damon) lives on Earth, struggling to understand the injustices of his world. As an adult ex-convict on parole he works in an industry assembly line that is monitored by robot drones, and an accident exposes him to a severe dose of radiation.

The cancer he gets from the radiation gives him only five days to live, and he knows that his only chance of survival is to reach Elysium. He can't meet Elysium's draconian anti-immigration laws and he agrees to steal the identity of a rich businessman for the price of a ticket.

This brings him into conflict with the person in charge of police on Elysium, Secretary of Defence Delacourt (Jodie Foster).

Thinking that Elysium is becoming too liberal, Delacourt wants to tighten control further and she has taken ruthless steps to become Elysium's next president. She uses Kruger (Sharlto Copley), a psychopathic secret agent, who has assisted her in the past to help her again, and she pits him against Max.

This is an intelligent sci-fi movie which probes plausibly a piece of the possible future. The size of Earth's population easily divides it into the haves and have-nots, and as poverty and misery have grown, social class distinctions have arisen to separate the privileged from the under-privileged. One can easily imagine that "Elysium versus Earth" has parallels for countries trying to cope with people who come to their shores in desperation, willing to take enormous risks to find a better life.

Class warfare has been a rich field for past films of note, but there is a special contemporary relevance to the issues that this film raises. Max seeks passage to Elysium together with Frey

(Alice Braga), his childhood sweetheart and her leukemia-stricken daughter.

Blomkamp exposes us to the luxurious features of Elysium in a way that makes us uncomfortable about the advantages of the privileged, and the actions taken by Delacourt.

This is a movie that dramatically raises major social and political problems of today, but its pursuit of the ever-popular theme of action-violence keeps it away from looking at them too closely. One is never sure. Earth's problems are entirely believable, but the solutions Elysium provides are not.

The visual effects are stunning and they combine seamlessly with both the realistic and fantasy elements of the film. It plays seriously around the contemplative edge of very good science fiction. Its social commentary is disturbingly contemporary, and it is a movie smart enough to be highly involving as well.

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

What moves us to compassion?

Compassion: Living in the Spirit of St. Francis, by Ilia Delio, OSF. St Anthony Messenger Press, 142 pages, \$21.95. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.

Ilia Delio, as you'd expect, is thoroughly steeped in the spirituality of St Francis, and a key writer in the Franciscan intellectual tradition.

She concentrates on the areas of science and religion. Currently she is involved in research projects on technology and evolution and in that scary subject of transhumanism.

She believes that our 21st century world is sorely in need of compassion. She uses incidents from Francis' life as a paradigm to be followed. "He learned to love what was weak and fragile," she writes, "and he learned to care for what the world discarded".

She identifies and laments the increasing fragmentation of humanity. We live in private worlds and private dreams, fearing the stranger in our midst. We can relate to that with the impasse over asylum seekers. Francis was a supreme exemplar of compassion which means "to suffer with".

Delio's book asks - and answers to a great extent - key questions such as: What moves us to compassion? How can we learn to love more deeply? Can we learn compassion as a way of life? She bases her statements on incidents from the life of Francis, but other writers as diverse as Teilhard de Chardin, Bonaventure, Nouwen and Rolheiser are drawn in as well. She deplores over-use of technology as being isolating. The book highlights signposts to recover our common humanity so that we may be one.

Amazing theologian

The Paul of Surprises. His Vision of the Christian Life, by Geoffrey Turner. Darton, Longman and Todd, 2012, pb, 160 pages, \$34.95. Reviewer: Margaret Ryan.

Are you turned off Christianity? Turner acknowledges that many are, but asserts that at least some may be ignorant of what Christianity is about. Believing that Christianity is more a way of life, a pattern of behaviour, than intellectual propositions, he aims to present an understanding of the Christian life, primarily through a study of St Paul.

He notes that Paul's "instructions" can't be seen as a comprehensive guide to life, as Paul was often responding to context-bound questions.

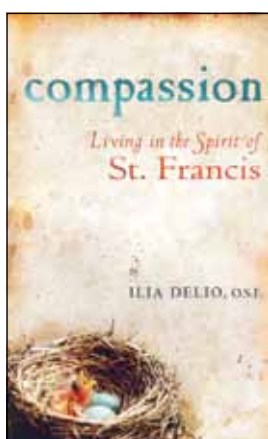
The author is a former president of the UK Catholic Theological Association, and was head of theology at two colleges at the University of Leeds.

The perennial question of Paul's authorship of New Testament books arises early, and Turner settles on eight definites, with a possible ninth.

Chapter 1 establishes that Paul was less interested in rulebook morality, and more concerned about a person's character, ethics, openness to grace and spirituality. The following chapters examine various aspects of spiritual "character": humility, faithfulness, hope, love, holiness, unity and how to respond to slavery. The final section explores Paul's understanding of "life in Christ".

This is a serious text, showing the development of Paul's grasp of Jesus Christ and the Christian life. It is helpful that Turner makes no attempt to canonise Paul, and points out justified caveats, eg, that some of Paul's moral advice is culture and time-bound. Nevertheless, the book is a subtle reminder of the amazing theologian that Paul was.

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



See and tell with our plain-speaking Tim

Holy See, Unholy Me: 1000 Days in Rome, by Tim Fischer. ABC Books, 2013, 309 pages, \$35. Reviewer: Fiona van der Plaats

Tim Fischer is prepared to admit he was wrong about Pope Benedict's resignation.

Not the act itself, mind you, but its timing. He had guessed it would happen a year or two later.

In his book *Holy See, Unholy Me*, the former National Party leader and deputy prime minister reflects on his 1000 days in Rome as Australia's first resident ambassador to the Holy See, and those three years were obviously enough for him to see writing on the Vatican wall that others couldn't, or wouldn't.

It seems his first inkling came after only a fortnight at his post in 2009, when he presented his credentials to the then Pope.

Benedict struck him as "an entirely sincere man, but a man for whom the worries of the huge worldwide Church were an obvious burden that he carried with him every day".

By the final year of his posting, he writes, he was regularly raising the possibility of a papal resignation "around the dinner tables and conference rooms

of Rome", only to have senior officials and clergy dismiss the idea.

Fischer's telling of the story could be read as a blatant "I told you so".

But in the context of a diary written in the same raw, matter-of-fact style in which he speaks, it is more honest than boastful.

It is probably misleading to call this a diary. Certainly, it is based on the diaries Fischer vowed to keep during those 1000 days, having regretted not doing so during his ministerial years.

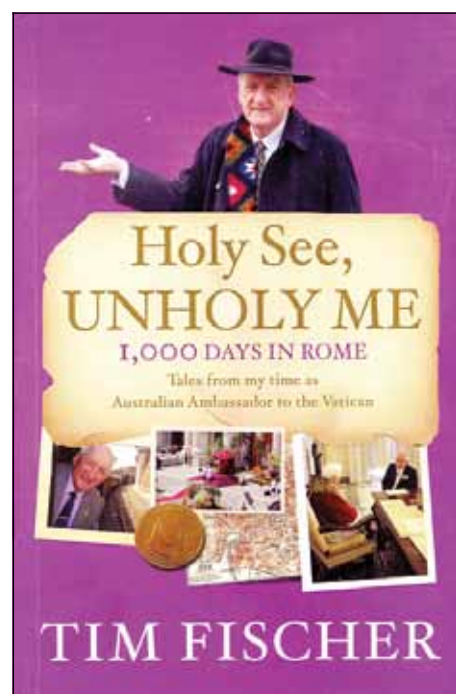
But this is no chronological account of everyday life in a small but interesting diplomatic mission and centre of religion.

What we get is a front-row view of the dramas and strategic manoeuvres that go on in a tiny jurisdiction with more global muscle and longer political tentacles than some might expect.

There are fascinating insights into a strictly observed hierarchy, which Fischer negotiated with studious homework and political nous.

"I was representing Australia, so I didn't want to be a shrinking violet," he writes.

"But I always had to know my place in that pecking order, which is



measured from the day you present your credentials to the Pope."

Fischer, leading "Team Australia", was never in doubt about one of his key missions - to take every opportunity to promote Australia's bid for a rotational seat on United Nations Security Council.

This he did, if he must say so himself, with thoroughness and dedication.

Although Fischer is a man of faith who is able to throw some light on religious aspects of the Holy See, it is his strong views on the politics, power and scandals surrounding the Vatican, along with some enlightening historical context, that make the most interesting reading.

A journey with saintly 'sisters'

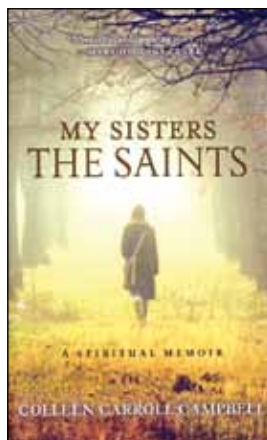
My Sisters the Saints. A Spiritual Memoir, Colleen Carroll Campbell. Image 2012, hb, 212 pages, \$34.95. Reviewer: Margaret Ryan.

Where do you turn in times of crisis, when life seems to be going nowhere? Raised in a loving Catholic family, Campbell was a fashionably-dressed, party-loving US undergraduate when she decided her life lacked substance and focus. Her questions led her to courses on feminism, but she became disillusioned.

When she read her dad's gift of a book on the life of St Teresa of Avila, life began to change. She discovered similarities between Teresa's story and her own. Teresa's "spicy, messy and meandering journey" gave her impetus to re-establish connection with God.

Later, Campbell's father was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. It was Thérèse of Lisieux, whose account of her "tender and trying relationship with her father" (both men had a form of dementia) and her personality, that gave the author support. Sr Faustina's writings inspired Campbell to trust God as she became a speech-writer for President George Bush and then married.

Edith Stein's writings gave her consolation when conception seemed impossible. Mother Teresa's "dark night of the soul" spurred courage to bear the cross of her father's illness and death, and she pondered Mary, mother of Christ, during her difficult pregnancy. Campbell's autobiography is engaging, honest and lively.



Contributions of news items and photographs to Catholic Voice may be sent to the editor at ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au

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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.

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.

BRIDGE FOR PEACE - Ministry team, after 5.30pm healing Mass, Friday, 4 October, St Benedict's Mission Centre, Narrabundah. Talk by Annette Eckart followed by ministry; 10am-4.30pm, Saturday, 5 October, seminar and healing service, talk by Annette Eckart, in The Collins Wing, facing Jerrabomberra Ave, Narrabundah. Inquiries: Fr Bony Abraham at office or stbenedictmissioncentre@gmail.com or Bronnie, telephone 0432 257 622.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY - St Joseph's Church, Merimbula, 23-24 November. Inquiries: Fr James, telephone 6495 1880, Helen, 6495 2119, Teresa, 6495 0379.

HOLY SPIRIT SECULAR FRANCISCAN FRATERNITY - Meets third Friday of month, 7.30pm, St John Vianney's, Waramanga. Secular Franciscans try to follow Christ in the footsteps of St Francis. Inquiries: Tony,

telephone 0407 072 139, Frank 0400 793 260, email sfo@fastmail.fm. Venue may change during winter.

MOTHER TERESA FEAST DAY MASS - 10AM, Saturday, 7 September, St Raphael's Church, 47 Lowe Street, Queanbeyan, followed by morning tea. Inquiries: Parish office, telephone 6299 4611.

PADRE PIO MITTEN - On display during 5.50pm healing Mass, Friday, 20 September, and afterwards for veneration, St Benedict's, Narrabundah.

TRANSITUS OF ST FRANCIS - Joint celebration, 6.08pm, 3 October, St Albans Anglican Church, Chappell Street, Lyons. Followed by pot luck dinner, so bring meal to share.

TWILIGHT RETREAT - Friday, 6 September, St Benedict's Mission Centre, Narrabundah, "Growing in relationship with God through adoration", with Fr Bernie Patterson. Healing Mass 5.30pm, light supper, then talk, reflection and prayer 7pm-9pm. Registration: St Benedict's office (9am-3pm, Tuesday to Thursday) telephone 6295 7879.

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

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

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

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.

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.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKENDS - 6-8 September and 8-10 November, a special 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.wwme.org.au.

Written entries are invited for the October issue to: Catholic Voice, GPO Box 3089, Canberra ACT 2601, or e-mail ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au by Monday, 16 September. Entries which are accepted for this section are free, courtesy of sponsorship by the Catholic Development Fund.

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The ability of the Church to evangelise, by providing support and training to faith communities and enabling actions in response to other's needs, relies very much on the generosity and prayers of us all. It is also at the heart of Catholic Mission and its work.

Last year, from non-tax deductible donations to our Propagation of the Faith Appeals, Catholic Mission was able to provide \$2 million through the Home Mission Fund to Australian dioceses with significant First Australian populations. Four-fifths went to Broome, Darwin, Geraldton and Townsville dioceses.

In Broome Diocese, the largest recipient, these funds assist with clergy and religious stipends, diocesan and parish programs and maintenance, repair and replacement costs of vehicles for pastoral visitation and Mass. Some communities celebrate Mass three times a year due to their remoteness.

Darwin assisted eight parishes and a number of projects including their diocesan youth coordinator's travel throughout the territory and its islands.

Huge distances over land and sea along with remoteness inflate many costs and continued help is needed. Give generously to our Propagation of the Faith and World Mission Appeals.

God bless,
Deacon Joe Blackwell

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A diligent, dedicated, humble lady of faith

Mary Doreen Lawler

Mary Doreen Robinson was born on 16 January, 1929, the only daughter of Les and Dorothy Robinson.

Doreen, as she was commonly known, had fond memories of her early childhood, including learning to swim in the Myall River at Bulahdelah.

Doreen attended St Patrick's Convent School in Berry and was gifted academically. At her Intermediate Certificate, she achieved one of the top marks in the State. In the mode of the time she was not encouraged to pursue further tertiary education. She became a telephonist in the Berry telephone exchange.

The family moved to Canberra in 1957 and Doreen, from a devout Catholic family, began her long association with St Christopher's Church, its people and its societies, including one of special significance for her, the Legion of Mary.

One of her fellow members in the Legion of Mary was Peter Lawler. In 1957, Peter's wife Patricia died tragically in childbirth, leaving him with five children - Geraldine, Anthony, Mary, Peter and John - all under 10. In 1958, Doreen accepted Peter's proposal of marriage. On 11 October, 1958, the Feast of the Blessed Virgin, Doreen became mother to his children and moved

to 6 Tennyson Crescent, Forrest. In the early 1960s, Doreen became mother of two more children, Michael and Christopher.

In this diligent, dedicated and humble lady, these virtues found observable expression, then and throughout her life.

Tennyson Crescent was the family home for 40 years. It became a kind of Catholic meeting place. Clergy and religious visited regularly, they came simply in friendship and to enjoy warm hospitality. Catholic migrants came from Capital Hill and Hillside hostels. Lasting friendships were formed.

Doreen organised the large family while attending to demands of Church and schools, and even teaching at St Edmund's.

Her hunger and determination for further education led her in later years to matriculate and to graduate with a Bachelor of Arts from the ANU and to add diplomas in education, librarianship and religious education. She often had to rush home from lectures to get the washing off the line.

In the 1980s, the Lawlers acquired a farm on the Shoalhaven River near Braidwood. It was called Mount Carmel and dubbed the Kibbutz. Peter was now secretary of the Department of Admini-



strative Services. He playfully announced to Doreen one evening that he had decided to make a lady of her. This was his way of telling her he was to receive a knighthood. Officially Doreen could now choose to be called Lady Mary - she said it sounded better than Lady Doreen - but she did not parade the title.

In 1983, the press announced "Sir Peter Lawler lands nice Catholic double". He had been appointed ambassador to Ireland and to the Holy See. Lady Mary was by his side as a supportive and efficient ambassador's wife. She served Australia wholeheartedly in the three years that followed.

There were the regular attendances as non-resident ambassador at the Holy See, meetings with Pope John Paul II and other church dignitaries. Lady Mary once presumed to tell the Pope, "I'm praying for you Holy Father". The Pope replied "You and me too!"

After their return to Australia in 1987, Doreen resumed her many activities at St Christopher's. A decade later Peter and Doreen decided it was time to move from Forrest. This was to be a short-lived move. The home in Eucumbene Drive, Duffy, and its contents were destroyed in the 2003

Canberra bushfires. The loss of collectibles, records and keepsakes of a lifetime profoundly affected Doreen, an event she never recovered from.

Peter and Doreen retreated to Kiama where they stayed for a few years. It was here that a light hearted episode took place that summed up Doreen's reputation as a person of constant faith.

As a young boy, Tom, Chris and Mary Lawler's son, when leaving his grandparents' residence, got his Achilles caught by the sharp edge of the screen door. He went down in a screaming heap and Doreen was quick to his aid. Before she could say a word, Tom, in enormous discomfort yelled "Don't say anything nan - I know you're just going to say something about God."

On her wedding anniversary in 2012 began for Doreen an unexpected and terrible sequence of hospitalisation and suffering. This intensified over the remaining months of her life. She accepted it with the eyes of faith.

Fr Kevin Brannelly was principal celebrant of the Requiem Mass in St Christopher's Cathedral, assisted by Mgr Luis-Miguel Munoz-Cardaba, Fr Paul Stenhouse, Fr John Flader, Fr Julian Wellspring, Fr Bernard Maxwell, Fr Simon Grainger and Fr Des Purcell. (from eulogy delivered by John Lawler).



Fun in the sun ...

LEFT: Will Grant (kinder) shows off his Skylander model for news.

RIGHT: (from left) Ellarose Cowden-Davis, Georgia Pendergast and Grace Glover in year 5.

BELOW: (from left) Bryce Hodgetts, Judah Rose, Nicholas Trakula, Michael Le and Segar Dotter, from year 5, juice up fruit break with a game of Rock, Paper, Scissors.



When the sun smiles on your school, there is nothing for it but to take your fruit break and your show-and-tell outside. Which is what the children of St Mary's happily did.



Snacks and smiles ... ABOVE LEFT: Matilda Knight, year 5, prepares for fruit break; ABOVE: Kinder's Ellie Van Weerdenburg with her banana lunchbox; LEFT: Marissa McDonald shares a moment with her kinder classmates; BELOW: Jin McKay and Bailey Phillips, from kinder, enjoy their fruit; BELOW RIGHT: Kinder's Tilley Blake and Scarlett Walters.

These creative and colourful pieces of art were done by ...
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Tilley Blake (kinder), Tarlaya Te-Kowhai (kinder), Ryley Bonner (kinder) and Milly Preston (year 4).

