

CATHOLIC VOICE

ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN
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FREE

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Helping us face
the music: Page 5

Ready for our big day



Inviting... politicians, diplomats, family and friends will be among those at the installation of Archbishop-elect Christopher Prowse.

Packed Cathedral for installation of Archbishop

Christopher Charles Prowse this month will become the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn's seventh Archbishop in a ceremony in St Christopher's Cathedral.

More than 700 people will pack the Cathedral for the installation Mass and liturgical reception at 11am on Tuesday, 19 November.

Among the invited guests are Governor-General Quentin Bryce, Prime Minister Tony Abbott, Opposition Leader Bill Shorten and many politicians and diplomats.

A large number of Australia's Catholic bishops, as well as Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Paul Gallagher, more than 100 priests from the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn, clergy from the Melbourne Arch-

diocese and Sale Diocese, as well as many religious will attend.

Archbishop-elect Prowse, who is Bishop of Sale and a former auxiliary bishop of Melbourne, will be joined by family members and friends.

Representatives have been invited from each parish, school, indigenous and ethnic communities, other groups and organisations to make the occasion an archdiocese-wide celebration of the people. Attendance at the Mass is by entry card. A limited number of unallocated seats will be made available to the public on a first-come first-served basis on the day.

"After 18 months without an archbishop we are excited to welcome Archbishop-elect Christopher Prowse and look forward to working with

him in the years ahead," archdiocesan financial administrator Helen Delahunty said. "For our small archdiocesan staff it is a logistical challenge to organise such a major event as the installation Mass at short notice but preparations are coming along extremely well."

Consideration was given to holding the ceremony at a larger venue, but the Cathedral was chosen because of its significance to the ministry of the Archbishop and the life of the Archdiocese. Proceedings will be professionally videoed and a highlights package uploaded to the archdiocesan website. Those attending are reminded parking at Manuka is limited.

● God whispers, God does not shout – Page 4.

Help victims of bushfires

People who want to help victims of the devastating NSW bush fires may do so through an appeal being run by the St Vincent de Paul Society.

NSW state council president Ray Reynolds said that, as always, the society would be there for people in crisis helping them recover from the fires.

"Vinnies members live and work in these communities," Mr Reynolds said. "This means we will be there for the long-haul, helping people rebuild their lives in any way possible for as long as they need, but we can only do that with the generous support of the public."

The society's NSW chief executive officer, Michael Perusco, said for the worst-hit communities, financial and emotional assistance would be most important.

"At this stage, financial donations are the most effective way to quickly provide the right kind of assistance to people who need it most," he said.

To make a donation go to www.vinnies.org.au/nsw-bushfire-appeal-nsw, telephone 13 18 12 or send your donation to P O Box 5, Petersham NSW 2049.

We're all on a journey of faith

You just don't know how far and wide your faith can take you.

That was the message teacher Natalie Zarb, from Good Shepherd in Amaroo, had for the 400 students and teachers at the annual Children's Mission Mass at St Christopher's Cathedral.

She was able to give them a fair idea of how far it has taken her, though, talking about her life-changing World Youth Day pilgrimage to Chile and Brazil this year.

As she pointed out to the students, it was "not a holiday", but a chance to learn the meaning of mission and "that we are part of a much larger family".

"The connecting of strangers through faith and mission is a powerful thing," she said, relating the "immense and overwhelming" experience of praying with four million people on Copacabana Beach in Rio



Moving ... students from St Matthew's Primary in Page perform a liturgical reflection at the Children's Mission Mass at St Christopher's Cathedral.

and being moved by Pope Francis' challenge to be "athletes for Christ". Students from 24 schools around the Archdiocese attended the Mass, organised by Catholic Mission and celebrated by Archdiocesan Chancellor Fr Julian Wellspring.

The Archdiocese's newest priest ordained – back page

Paul's path to priesthood

The journey is over, and yet it has just begun. Over the past year readers have journeyed with South Tuggeranong parishioner and former Marist College student Paul Nulley on his path to priesthood. Last month, he was ordained priest in St Christopher's Cathedral (see back page for story, pictures). Here Fr Nulley reflects on the exciting and overwhelming past few weeks.

Praise God! Words cannot express the joy and gratitude I've felt since the moment of my ordination, nearly three weeks ago.

I had felt busy right up to the very moment of the ordination Mass: preparing and organising various aspects of the event, which would not have been possible without the support of so many.

Aware that I might fall into a general busy-ness, I decided to go away for a few days before the ordination itself for some quiet prayer, which was a great immediate preparation.

The ordination was all at the same time overwhelming, humbling and the most natural thing I've ever done. It was not only the culmination of my seven years of seminary and to where my discernment had led me, but



to be surrounded by so many family and friends as I was given a share in Jesus' priesthood was overwhelming.

I was surprised by how many people travelled from Melbourne, Sydney and around the Archdiocese to support me. But, as my father said, "You are the reason for the occasion, not the attraction."

The entire occasion was about praising God, which was certainly aided by the beautiful music of the choir – thank you Jaki Kane!

The most moving part of the ordination was perhaps giving Holy Communion. Although I have done this countless times before, after having said the words of consecration, "this is my body," it was as if I was giving my body and very self to the people when I said, "the Body of Christ." I prayed in thanksgiving after communion that I may be able to serve God and His

holy people to my very last breath, never counting the cost. I've also found the last few weeks so humbling and a bit of an adjustment.

Christ came to me in an intimate way during ordination so that he could come to his people through me.

In a way it has absolutely nothing to do with me, but he chose me and I've been more conscious that wherever I go and whatever I do, I am meant to make present the love of God to everyone I meet. Something I know I can't do myself, but am praying each day to be given the grace to do.

Celebrating Mass each day has become the joy of my life, especially sharing in that intimate union with Christ – I hope I may treasure each Mass that I offer.

I have also noticed that people have welcomed me into their lives quite quickly and profoundly, I think precisely because of who I bring with me.

In hearing of many very sad stories, often where I am quite helpless, I realise all I can do is pray. I know how effective prayer is and I now see one of my main roles as interceding for people, especially through the Mass.

I've now moved to Cootamundra and spent my first weekend in the parish, which includes the parish of Murrumburrah and Harden.

I'm so grateful to be here with a mentor like Fr Kevin and the wonderful communities.

Each day I have given thanks to God for the gift of priesthood and I now look forward to being of service to his people as an assistant priest.

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From near and far

50 years for coast church

Parishioners will get together this month for celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of St Joseph's Church, Merimbula.

Bishop John Cullinane opened and blessed the building on 22 December, 1963.

With parish priest Fr Dennis Fitzgerald, parishioners of the time worked tirelessly to raise funds, holding many activities including housie, street stalls and balls. Many fittings,



Golden moments... St Joseph's, Merimbula. (Picture: Peter Hamer).

such as St Joseph's statue and the stations of the cross, were donated.

Celebrations will be held on the weekend of 23 and 24 November, including Mass at 5pm on Saturday

and a parish dinner at the Merimbula RSL Club at 6.30pm.

Tickets for the two-course dinner are available from Barb Aggenbach, telephone 6495 2569, at \$40 each.

Bishop Pat Power will celebrate Mass at 11am on Sunday. It will be followed by a free barbeque and concert in the church grounds.

Inquiries to Teresa, telephone 6495 0379, or Helen 6495 2119.

St Joseph's, together with St Peter's, Pambula, Star of the Sea, Eden, Our Lady of the Princes Highway, Kiah, and St Joseph's Wyndham, form part of St Peter's Parish, Pambula.

Father's Day Appeal

CLERGY RETIREMENT FOUNDATION

Thankyou



Fr Frank Keogh, retired priest of the Archdiocese.

The Annual Appeal in support of our Archdiocesan retired priests was launched on the Father's Day weekend in September and already the response from donors had been encouraging.

Chairman of the Foundation, Fr Tom Thornton, and the Board of Managers convey their thanks to the catholic lay faithful from right around the Archdiocese, for their support of this most important fund raising appeal. All funds raised directly assist the work of the Foundation in caring for archdiocesan clergy.

The Appeal is still open so please consider completing the coupon below if you have not already made a donation.

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

Strong faith this family's creed

Fr William Creede, a Redemptorist priest from Sydney, has a unique story to tell as the last living sibling out of eight, all of whom entered religious life. Fr Creede, 85, thinks many readers would remember the youngest, Sr Bernadette Creede, a Presentation sister who died earlier this year. She had responsibility for boarders at Mt Erin in Wagga Wagga.

Another sister, Therese, was also a Presentation sister and taught music in Canberra and Young, among other places.

Fr Creede himself would be familiar to many, having been stationed in Galong several times and given missions and retreats in Canberra and Young.

The family of eight children produced three priests, four Presentation sisters and one Mercy sister, "who always insisted she was not the odd one out but the one to give polish and shine to the rest of us".



Given to God ... the Creede family in 1935 (from left) William jnr (a Redemptorist priest), Breidha (Sr Christina, Mercy sister), Peter (Vincentian priest), Aina (Sr Clement, Presentation sister), mother Mary Christina, father William snr, Therese and Bernadette (Presentation sisters), Thomas (Redemptorist) and Moira (Presentation).

Their mother, Mary Christina, died when the youngest was 11, but not before her eldest girl Aina (Sr Clement) died at 21. His father, William snr, was about to enter the Franciscan Fathers when he died. He was buried in the Franciscan habit. "All of us are made of eternity. Indeed, we will need eternity to thank God for our family, for our parents, our fidelity and our faith," Fr Creede said.

Can we afford more priests?

By Archdiocesan Financial Administrator Helen Delahunty

There is much talk among Catholics and the wider community about the shortage of priests. The shortage is real and of huge concern. But as I travel the wide brown lands of this Archdiocese, the question haunts me – can we afford more priests?

The Archbishop's office has been organising the installation for our new Archbishop in November and in that process we need to ascertain the numbers of all groups attending the Cathedral on 19 November.

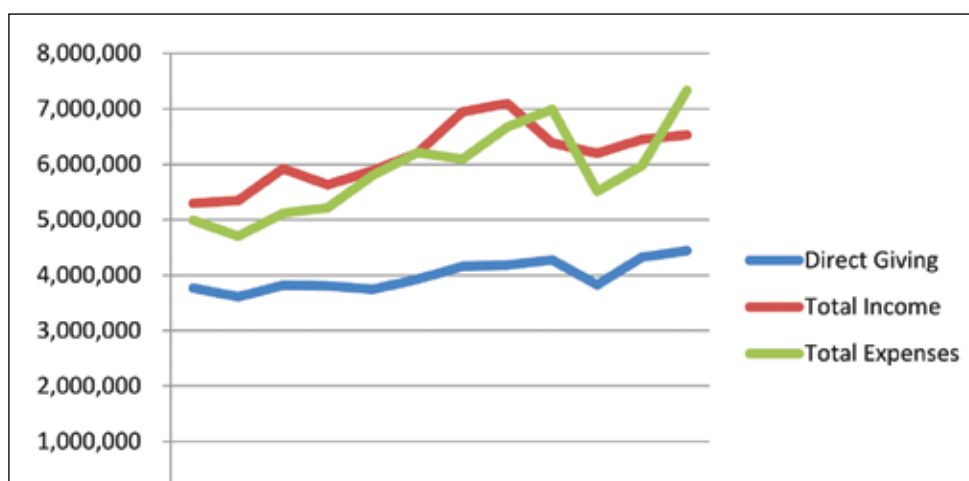
It was surprising to me that we have 87 members of clergy in this Archdiocese. That number includes:

- Active priests: 51
- Religious in parishes: 4
- Seminarians: 7
- Deacons: 8
- Retired priests: 17

The active priests plus the religious are the 55 clergy parishes must ensure are justly looked after.

The Archdiocese sets the stipend for all active priests at \$19,000 per annum. We also encourage household expenses to run at \$12,000 per annum per priest.

So without any extra financial needs, each parish needs to give \$31,000 per annum in the first collection to cover the needs of their priest. That is \$600 per



week. Clearly if a parish has an assistant priest, that number doubles to \$1200 per week.

Over the last 11 years, the reports given by the parishes to the Archdiocese convey an interesting story.

Income from the first collection has increased by 9%, while the increase from planned giving (second collection) has increased by 18%. Total income, which includes all income of each parish, has increased by 23%. Expenses over that same time period have increased by 47%.

The income from the Parish collections is going down in real terms and is not keeping up with the growth in expenses. If that is the case – and with-

out arresting that real decrease in the spending power of the collections – how are we going to justify having a priest in each parish?

One of the many roles of the Archdiocese is to ensure our clergy are covered in terms of their basic needs. If a parish can't contribute enough to cover those costs, the Archdiocese will cover the difference.

Up until August this year, the Archdiocese has paid out over \$110,000 to needy parishes. This figure is growing.

Last financial year (12 months to December 2012) the total was just on \$110,000. So this year after only eight months, we are already over what we

spent last year. Some parishes are not covering the basic costs for their priest and the Archdiocese must be in a position to cover that shortfall.

There are many pressures on the income of the Archdiocese. The past 12 months has seen the costs for responding to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sex Abuse being borne by all dioceses and congregational orders in Australia.

These costs are calculated for each diocese in proportion to the level of Catholic population. We have paid those costs this year, and will continue to do so for the next few years while the Royal Commission continues its work.

This large expense was not budgeted until the commission was announced. We must be in a position where we can pay our bills even if we are not sure what those bills might be. Planning for the future is essential. Planning for the needs of the Archdiocese is vital.

We have over 50 parishes and not all have priests in residence. There are retirements to come and brand new priests to learn the ropes.

Can we afford them now? Can we afford them in the future? It is up to us, our generosity and our willingness to dig regularly into our pockets, to support our clergy and parish.

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God whispers, God doesn't shout

By Fiona van der Plaats

The road to the seminary passed through a cemetery for the Archdiocese's new Archbishop Christopher Prowse.

It's a long story and one he believes would be best fleshed out at another time, but he will say it was the Box Hill cemetery in Melbourne, which he walked through every day from grade 3 to grade 12 to cut 15 minutes off his trip to school.

"I got to know the people in there very well," he said. One thing he learnt from them was that building a career and wealth were not important in the scheme of things.

"They certainly didn't seem to be very important to my friends who were six-foot under. Obviously, you can't take it with you."

That was one of the reasons he chose the priesthood. "I've always seen vocation as quite distinct from career ... I'm not very competitive about things like jobs and money."

He had entertained the idea of working in aviation or architecture. In fact, he did a science course with those careers in mind.

But, even though he maintains an interest in airports, aircraft, buildings and floor plans, "they didn't give me a tremendous amount of energy".

"What did give me energy was some sort of religious dimension to my life," he said.

"I was really attracted to the idea of being involved in bringing God down to the people and the people up to God."

Bishop Prowse's grounding in the faith was certainly there.



Priorities... prayer life tops the list with Archbishop-elect Christopher Prowse.

He attended Catholic schools and he and his brother were altar servers.

The third of six children, he was raised in a large Catholic household where prayerfulness was part of the mix, along with "lots of laughter, fun, fighting and reconciliation".

His parents, Frank, a Hawthorn footballer and mechanical engineer with General Motors Holden, and Marian, who worked in retail, were involved in church life.

Looking back, Bishop Prowse knows he was called to the priest-

hood, "even if it was not obvious at the time because God whispers, God does not shout".

"At the time, I had a fascination with Jesus and the Catholic faith, but I was also very ignorant about a lot of things."

Like many young priests in training, he struggled through his first year at Corpus Christi seminary in Melbourne. But he soon settled into his path to the priesthood, taking on nine years of study instead of the usual seven.

Although he spent time in Italy and has worked in indigenous communities and some

rural areas around Geelong, the bulk of his experience was in the suburban parishes of Melbourne before he was made vicar general 13 years ago.

From there, he became an auxiliary bishop of Melbourne and then Bishop of Sale, where he has served for the past four years.

As he nears his 60th birthday, Bishop Prowse can't quite believe how much things have changed for him in what seems like a short time.

"I do miss the life of a parish priest," he said, referring to

his time in the "spaghetti belt" of Thornbury, where he used to "get on my bike on a Saturday afternoon and pedal off to visit the sick and elderly".

"I must admit to feeling a bit of holy envy when I visit parishes and see what the priests are up to."

At the same time, "other aspects of the life of the Church have opened up to me", and he is looking forward to his new life in Canberra and the time he will spend travelling the Archdiocese.

Given he considers himself "more an extrovert than an introvert", all the meeting and greeting around parishes will suit him. He is also quite happy in his own company, which he will have plenty of while driving around his geographically large jurisdiction.

Back at Archbishop's House in Canberra, all he is hoping for are a lot of fruit and vegetables, a regular hit of spice, some of his favourite Italian food and "not to get fat".

If he's "allowed", he's also happy to knock up his own stir fry now and then.

To work off the food, Bishop Prowse, who says he was never competitive enough to be a noted sportsman, is keen to keep up his walking, perhaps some cycling and some swimming.

"It's often a struggle to find balance with everything, but I do have to set priorities ... I try to make a priority with my prayer life and to get my rest, then I leave the rest up to the Lord."

Concern over same-sex bill

The Catholic Church was one of a group of faith traditions that expressed their concern on the eve of the ACT Legislative Assembly vote that legalised same-sex marriage.

Archdiocesan Administrator Mgr John Woods joined other leaders who said in a statement that they were "concerned for the long-term risks of such a bill for our society".

"While affirming the inherent dignity of all human beings, our faith traditions also affirm the traditional concept of marriage between a man and a woman as being for the good of the individual, the family and society," they said.

They said 70 per cent of Australians identify with an Abrahamic religion, Christianity, Islam and Judaism.

The other signatories are Imam Adama Konda, of the Canberra Islamic Centre, Anglican Bishop Trevor Edwards, Rabbi Shmuel Feldman, Arnold Cummins, of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Pastor Sean Stanton, of Australian Christian Churches, Canberra, and Pastor B J Hayes, of Canberra National Adventist Church.

Pope's sympathy over fires

Pope Francis has expressed his concern for victims of the devastating bushfires in NSW.

In a message sent through the Vatican's Secretary of State, the Pope "prays especially for those who have died and for those who have lost their homes and workplaces, as well as for the numerous person-

nel working to combat the fires and to provide comfort and care for those who are suffering".

April set for canonisations

Pope Francis will canonise John Paul II and John XXIII on the same day next year, 27 April.

"To celebrate them together is a sign of appreciation of the holiness of two popes who paid witness to our time," Vatican spokesman Fr Federico Lombardi said. Pope John Paul II achieved worldwide recognition for his efforts to overthrow communism. Pope John XXIII left an indelible mark on the Catholic Church by calling the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s.

Poverty 'disease risk factor'

General practitioners should screen patients for chronic diseases for which the World Health Organisation has identified poverty as a key risk factor, a health summit was told. Catholic Health Australia head Martin Laverty said cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer and other chronic diseases could be identified and treated earlier if a socioeconomic screening tool was used in doctors' surgeries to identify poverty-related diseases. Mr Laverty said in Canada a poverty screening test was incorporated into a standard general practice consultation. Patients were asked if they had difficulty making ends meet at the end of the month. If they answered yes, doctors considered poverty as a disease risk factor.

Entrusted to Mary

Pope Francis entrusted the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary before the image of Our Lady of

Fatima, which was moved from its home shrine in Portugal to St Peter's Square for the entrustment. "Our Lady of Fatima, with renewed gratitude for your maternal presence, we join our voice to that of all the generations that have called you blessed," Pope Francis said at the close of Sunday Mass attended by 150,000 people. "We celebrate in you the great work of God, who never tires of bending down with mercy to mankind, afflicted by evil and wounded by sin, to heal and to save it." (CNA).

Qld bishop retires

Rockhampton Bishop Brian Heenan, who turned 75 in August, has retired. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1962 and appointed a bishop in 1991.

President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Archbishop Denis Hart said Bishop Heenan "has used his special gifts with compassion for many people in Rockhampton and beyond. He has shown great generosity and friendship to me and to the bishops in working for the people of Australia. We wish him every blessing for the future."

New post for nuncio

Archbishop Jude Thaddeus Okolo has been appointed apostolic nuncio to the Dominican Republic. He was previously apostolic nuncio to the Central African Republic and Chad. He served in the Apostolic Nunciature in Canberra before his first appointment as nuncio.

A passion to help us face the music

A young Melbourne musician with a passion for liturgical music this year packed her travelling guitar and took herself on a fact-finding mission around Australia.

"I needed to know what was happening, whether it was just my own opinion or if others felt the same way," Genevieve Bryant said.

It turned out Ms Bryant, who has been conducting her Make a Joyful Noise music workshops with schools and parishes around the Archdiocese for the past month, was not the only one of the opinion that liturgical music in many parishes could do with some work.

Many parishes welcomed her with open arms, eager to hear her ideas for rectifying what she sees as a general lack of formation in music ministry.

Some were not so sure, however. Here was a young woman who, despite 15 years of experience in music ministry, is the first to admit that, at 28, she still has a lot to learn and who they might have feared was challenging their expertise and their pastoral traditions.

Indeed, Ms Bryant's mission to involve more students in parishes by using music as a "sneaky evangelisation tool" might lead some people to believe that she is planning a pop revolution of sorts.

But that would be missing her point entirely. Evolution would be a better word for it. And the idea is not to popularise the music, as such, but to add a contemporary touch to traditional music.

Ms Bryant says some teachers, particularly those who "aren't formed in the liturgy", struggle to make the right choices between secular-style music that is OK for praise rallies and retreats and songs that are relevant to the Mass. "Choosing songs according to what is popular with kids is not necessarily appropriate to the liturgy," she said. "I believe we have such a rich tradition in Catholic music that there is a way we can make some



Full voice ... Genevieve Bryant at the Explosion youth conference in Canberra with her NET ministry "roadies" Arnie Hurdoyal (left) and Trevor Tye.

changes so it becomes a more contemporary style that appeals to the ears and hearts of the young people while still keeping our traditions."

One of the hymns she has successfully workshopped in parishes and schools, for instance, is *As Gentle as Silence*. "It works, because you have young people who don't know the song thinking it's a good new one, and then you have some of the older people going, 'Oh, I love this old song'."

Ms Bryant, who is involved in everything from Gregorian chants to band music between her own parish in Mitcham, surrounding parishes and St Patrick's Cathedral

in Melbourne, says it doesn't matter what styles and instruments are used as long as they are appropriate.

She says music should be chosen according to three criteria – does the song fit with the text of the liturgy and the action of the Mass at a given moment; does it meet the pastoral needs of the congregation (age groups and parish traditions, for example); and is it achievable for the musicians? Even parishes with limited music resources can hit the mark, Ms Bryant says. "When you can make the congregation sing at full voice you almost don't need a lot of input from a soloist or choir or band."

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Embrace change ... Robert Fitzgerald cautioned Vinnies members about getting stuck in their ways.

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Gerard Heffernan

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Vinnies urged to change with times

By Fiona van der Plaats

Members of the St Vincent de Paul Society in the Archdiocese have been challenged to move with the times to ensure the organisation continues to meet the needs of the community it serves.

Productivity Commissioner and long-time Vincentian Robert Fitzgerald told the society's Canberra-Goulburn congress that members needed to embrace change, particularly in the management of conferences, the use of volunteers and the nature of the assistance offered.

Mr Fitzgerald, who is serving on the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, was the keynote speaker at the congress, where members gathered to chart the future.

He said a contentious matter for the society was the way conferences are set up and run.

While endorsing the conference structure, since "they are the stewards, the custodians, of the essence of the society", he said conferences should not be constrained either by a parish-based model or by power struggles.

"One thing that has beset the society is that conferences often have to own and control everything ... rather than focusing on the needs of the community."

He said if a conference was not working or had lost sight of its principles, members should not be afraid to change it or set up a new one.

Meanwhile, the changing natures of poverty, church and volunteerism meant the society would need to adapt to new ways of delivering its services.

Mental illness and the issues associated with ageing, such as depression and social isolation, were changing the face of need.

"These are not momentary problems. People have long-term issues that create ... deeply entrenched poverty and disadvantage," he said.

The society was guilty, in some ways, of sustaining these problems by fostering a reliance on material support rather than building relationships that "empower people to move on".

"The centre of the society's involvement with people should be the forging of relationships with people, not the giving of aid."

Mr Fitzgerald said the society must also adapt to a changing workforce environment, in which church attendances were falling and young people, in particular, were unwilling to become members of organisations.

This did not mean there was any lack of charitable intentions or willingness to volunteer, but it



Big questions ... St Vincent de Paul Society president Frank Brassil set the scene for the society's congress.

did mean the society had to be open to new ways of recruiting and working with people.

"You cannot continue to have a society that simply draws on a population base that is shrinking," he said of the decreasing numbers of people who identify as Catholics but do not attend Mass or become involved in parishes.

The society also needed to be aware that young people, while still happy to volunteer with charities, did so on three conditions – that they can see they are making a difference; that they are trained and informed in the work they are

doing; and that they can leave when they want to.

This would mean looking at news way of engaging volunteers, such as creating a mix of short- and long-term project teams.

The society's Canberra-Goulburn president Frank Brassil set the scene for Mr Fitzgerald's ideas on embracing change, asking members to consider the question: "Are we doing what we do because it needs doing ... or because it is what we know how to do?"

The concurrent question was: "Do we want to drive our future or be driven by the future?"

He pointed out that the society was not the only organisation involved in caring for the poor, and "we need to think about the charism and character we bring to that".

Mr Brassil said members needed to consider the sustainability of the parish-based conference model and look at ways of attracting new members without changing the society's core values.

The society's values should also be at the heart of discussions about maintaining the viability of Vinnies centres in an evolving retail environment, and decisions about taking on special works and accepting government funding.

'The work will go on...'

At 40, Cathy Clift is Vincentian to the core, having started in a St Vincent de Paul Society school conference at 17 and volunteered in many roles with the society since.

Her services, including as a youth and adult member and a conference president in Narrabundah, could have been lost to the society a number of times if not for a willingness to change tack when necessary.

The first occasion arose 23 years ago, when Ms Clift and a group of fellow Merici College graduates decided they wanted to continue their association with the society.

The conference they approached in her home town of Queanbeyan at the time "put so many restrictions on us that we felt like we couldn't do anything worthwhile".

So the young group joined forces with the St Benedict's parish conference in Narrabundah, which had only three members left who were feeling the strain of juggling commitments.

"After six to eight months, they said 'it's all yours'. So we ran it outside the parish and called it St Raphael's to stick with our Queanbeyan roots," Ms Clift, from Queanbeyan and a registered nurse at Canberra

Hospital, said. Fr Kevin Flynn, who moved into the parish soon after them, gave them his full support.

The conference later moved back under the auspices of St Benedict's after the Missionaries of God's Love took the helm of the parish. The demographic of the parish has changed over the years as has the nature of the need.

"Years ago, people were poor because they had limited income. These days, people seem to have more material goods but a lot of debt, and there seems to be a lot more mental health issues," she said. The essence of her work is still about establishing relationships, though the way she goes about it has changed with her increasing maturity.

"I made some mistakes in the beginning that were certainly interesting. I may have been too naïve and trusting," Ms Clift said.

But she has adapted to meet the need, just as the conference has. "It has changed to suit its environment and what is going on. It's about not fearing the change and understanding that the work will go on, even if it's not necessarily in the format you are used to."

LEFT: Changing tack ... Cathy Clift, a panellist at the congress, has not been afraid to adapt.



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Church proposes major reforms on sexual abuse

The Catholic Church is proposing reforms, including wide-ranging independent input, as part of an overhaul of its approach to clerical sexual abuse.

Chief executive officer of the Truth Justice and Healing Council Francis Sullivan said the reforms would be presented to Church leaders in the first half of next year and could be put in place late next year.

The reform proposals were outlined in the Truth Justice and Healing Council's Towards Healing submission to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

"These proposals recognise that we must do better when we are dealing with victims of sexual abuse and as we work to make sure our institutions are as safe as possibly for children," Mr Sullivan said.

The proposals include:

- Appointing independent compensation commissioners to determine payments to victims who go through the victim response process known as Towards Healing. This would separate the pastoral responses in Towards Healing from the determination of financial payments.

- Appointing lay and independent experts to strengthen the Church's National Committee of Professional Standards.

- Introducing an independent national board to develop and administer national child protection standards. The board would monitor adherence to these standards and publicly report on compliance. It would also provide more rigorous assessment, monitoring, auditing and enforcement of Towards Healing practices.

- Introducing greater transparency through public reporting by both the new



"We must do better" ... Truth Justice and Healing Council CEO Francis Sullivan.

national board and the Towards Healing process.

Mr Sullivan said that ultimately it may be appropriate for the Church to merge the reparation element of Towards Healing into a national compensation scheme to which all relevant institutions would contribute, should this be a recommen-

dation of the royal commission.

"While the Church supports calls for a national scheme, it would have to be a recommendation from the royal commission which is accepted by governments. It could take many years to establish and may face significant constitutional hurdles," he said.

"This is why the Church is going ahead with developing its own reform proposals which could be put in place as soon as late next year and could work alongside any future national scheme.

"They could be revised in the light of recommendations from the Victorian Parliamentary and Cuneen inquiries and the royal commission itself."

The council's Towards Healing submission is at www.tjhcouncil.org.au/royal-commission/tjh-council-submissions.aspx

Staff screening 'has limitations'

Current screening of prospective employees for institutions working with children has limitations, the Catholic Church has told the royal commission.

"There is no fail-safe method that can identify people who are unsuitable to work with children," chief executive officer of the Catholic Church's Truth Justice and Healing Council Francis Sullivan said.

"Current screening includes an assessment of a range of information, but its focus is usually around criminal offences, drugs and violence.

"Organisations need to understand these limitations. They need to get as much information as possible about potential employees that will enable them to minimise risk.

"Unless we are doing all we can to make sure children are safe in our institutions then we are failing them, their parents and carers and the entire community."

Mr Sullivan said the core responsibility of religious and other Catholic organisational leaders is to ensure the safety of children entrusted to their care.

Calls for a national mandatory accreditation and data collection system for all institutions working with children are part of the Catholic Church's submission to the royal commission. The council has called for the establishment of a national mandatory accreditation scheme overseen by a national body with responsibility for auditing organisations against child safe standards and practices.

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Diversity at heart of deacons' unique role

The diversity of ministries deacons undertake, from working in prisons and educational institutions to ministering to sea travellers, was evident in testimonies from participants in the National Association of Deacons' biennial conference in Canberra.

Many among the 75 participants, from the Catholic diaconal community around Australia and New Zealand, spoke about the variety of work they do, demonstrating the important role of a unique ministry that combines the sacraments of marriage and holy orders.

Australian War Memorial director Dr Brendan Nelson, who opened the conference at Kambah parish, also spoke about the unique nature of the ministry, which is still maturing in its Australian form.

He said deacons who were active and vocal in society were able to model, through their words and actions, the virtues of Jesus Christ.

Keynote speaker Deacon Bill Ditewig, until recently the national coordinator of the 20,000-strong diocese in the United States, said every deacon in the US is required to engage in an area of ministry beyond the Church which meets the needs of their own society.

He also talked about the history of the diaconate and outlined the intentions of the bishops of Vatican II, who wanted to send ordained ministers out into the world as agents of transformation.

In his supporting presentation, Fr Elio Capra SDB spoke about how deacons might preach the Good News to those not engaged in the Church. He provided



Unique ... deacons and their families from around Australia and New Zealand who gathered at Kambah parish for their biennial conference.

a theological insight into the role deacons can play in encouraging the laity to be evangelisers. Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Paul Gallagher participated in the

conference, themed Go and Make Disciples of All the Nations (Matthew 28:19), and celebrated the final missioning Mass.

MULCH ensures a rich harvest

The provenance of the fresh produce sold to the 100-plus staff at Catholic agency Marymead in Narrabundah each week is never in doubt.

They can see it all being harvested out the back of their building.

The garden plot, featuring anything from carrots, cauliflower and kale to beans, beets and Brussels sprouts, is the handiwork of about 16 young adults with disabilities who are part of a program known as MULCH (Marymead's Urban Land Community Harvest).

The program is a sustainable garden enterprise in which produce is grown, harvested, packaged and sold all by the MULCH workers.

The idea, says the program's horticulturist Jeff Vivian, is to involve the participants in every aspect of the enterprise, from building the infrastructure and garden beds to packaging and selling.

"We deliberately started the whole thing from scratch so we could put the different skills and abilities of the participants to their best use," he said.

The program has been running for only a few months but already the workers are reaping rewards beyond what comes out of the garden.

"We are getting feedback to say things like the participants are showing



Productive ... MULCH participant Joshua Percival (centre) digs in with the help of support workers Goff Deklan and Jen Scobbie.

more initiative at home," he said. One had even started up his own garden.

Depending on their commitments and abilities, MULCH participants work from four to 16 hours a week under the supervision of Mr Vivian, a coordinator and two support workers.

Their jobs vary from shovelling compost and planting seeds to creating labels and collecting scraps and coffee grounds from businesses at the nearby Griffith

shops. Students from Narrabundah, St Francis Xavier, St Edmund's and Marist colleges also help out in the program.

Mr Vivian, a former teacher who has found the "perfect way" to combine his expertise as an educator with his interest in horticulture and disability services, says the program also includes bush regeneration around the site and managing poultry – "once we get the chook shed finished".

The enterprise also received a boost when the young professionals of NEXGEN, Marymead's "next generation of fundraisers", raised enough money in their first year to buy a dual-cab ute for the heavy lifting.

NEXGEN member Matt Cuthbert, a 22-year-old building certifier, said it was "good to be able to see we are making a bit of a difference because you often don't get to see the money being put to work".

Church taps into the power of chat

Fiona van der Plaats meets a woman who has lots of experience at meeting life's hurdles front on.

If anyone needed proof that the gift of the gab is a gift from God, then Margaret Church is it.

A self-confessed chatterbox, she has put her ability to relate to people to important use over the years, establishing peer-support groups firstly for people without partners and later for people with cancer.

It was her own experience as a single mother of two young children more than 30 years ago that prompted Mrs Church to start up her first group, Singled Out, through her parish in Waramanga.

She had moved to Waramanga after living in Yass for 13 years and knew what it was like to suddenly have to make your own way in a new environment.

"I had met so many people who were really struggling," she said of parishioners and others who had been widowed or separated or on their own for other reasons.

"I thought there must be something I could do to help them out."

So, as a member of the parish council, she sought the blessing of parish priest Fr Ron Flack to set up an informal non-denominational group for people without partners.

"Yes, it was socialising but it was people unburdening themselves. It was an opportunity for them to talk about their feelings with others who under-

stood," said Mrs Church, who continued with the group for six years until she remarried 27 years ago.

In marrying John, a widower, Mrs Church took on four more children. It was a challenge but one she embraced in typical style. "From day one I decided I wasn't only marrying John but I was taking on the whole family," she said.

She did it so successfully that her husband now jokingly complains that the children only ring to talk to Mrs Church, rather than him.

The challenges did not end there, though. In 2005, Mrs Church was told she was "gene positive" to the BRCA2 mutation, which carries a high breast cancer risk.

Three days later she discovered she had a 14cm ovarian tumour and would need to undergo chemotherapy.

The cancer returned the following year but was kept at bay with drug treatment until 2009, when she underwent a breast cancer operation. She has since had both breasts removed and has had to continue drug treatment.

"I accepted it all as part of God's plan for me," she said, adding that she has suffered from a litany of ailments and has "had more operations than anyone I know".

"It tends to make you pretty resilient," she said.

In the meantime, God's plan was becoming evident, even though Mrs Church did not



Resilient ... Margaret Church has channelled her own experiences as a single parent and a cancer sufferer into supporting others in similar situations.

immediately recognise it as such when she rejected the idea of attending a Called and Gifted workshop in Corpus Christi parish.

Parish priest Fr John Armstrong had other ideas, however, and invited her to attend. "I said to him, 'I'm not going to waste your time because I don't have anything to offer, I'm not good at anything.'"

"He just listened to me and then I suddenly stopped and thought, 'Well, I did have this group going in Waramanga. Maybe I can do something like that if I can find the right person out there to help me.'"

That "right person" turned out to be Mary Sant, a fellow cancer sufferer, who helped Mrs

Church establish the Corpus Christi Cancer Support Group.

"It works quite well. Mary is the structured one, who turns up with the manila folder and pens, while I'm the informal one who arrives with chocolate slice," Mrs Church said.

The peer-support group, which still meets at 5pm on the first Wednesday of each month, is the only one of its kind in Canberra.

Having moved to Queanbeyan in recent years, Mrs Church has since started a small support group through St Gregory's parish, which also meets on the first Wednesday. That makes for a busy day for Mrs Church, now 70, who starts off with Mass, plays ten-

nis, attends her Queanbeyan support group, then a local prayer group before finishing off with the Corpus Christi support meeting.

Cancer is something she talks about a lot with others through the support groups, but she doesn't dwell on her own condition.

"It's just part of my life ... I do think about what it would be like to go to heaven. I hope I have enough brownie points to get there.

"But I do want to have my cake and eat it too.

"In some ways you could say I'm in denial. I just keep pushing through and keep doing what I do."

Century-old playground tales live again

The playground stories shared by the 175 people who celebrated the 125th anniversary of St Joseph's School in Bombala dated back nearly 80 years.

The oldest of the alumni was 85-year-old Peter Kimber, who cut the cake at the reunion dinner.

The youngest were the current students, who had a hand in producing a mosaic sign for the front fence. Some students did the leg work on a recipe book to mark the milestone.

People travelled from as far as Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory to celebrate 125 years since the Sisters of St Joseph arrived in Bombala.

The sisters have maintained their service to the school since Sr Stephanie and Sr Agatha led the way in 1888. Sr Teresa Keene still flies the flag, volunteering in the school to prepare children for sacramental programs or to read at Mass, and working with others who need additional assistance. "The unbroken service has taken many forms but in every case it has involved self-sacrifice, broadness of vision and dedication to God, to



Long service ... Fr Henry Byrne flanked by Sisters of St Joseph (from left) Sr June, Sr Bernadette, Sr Wilga, Sr Timothy, Sr Teresa, Sr Philomena, Sr Magdaline and Sr Helen, marking 125 years of Catholic education in Bombala.

the Church and to the people of our town," St Joseph's principal Kim Crannis said. Sr Philomena, the last religious principal, was presented with a commemorative medallion, along with other Sisters of St Joseph, former parish priest Fr Henry Byrne and the school's current students.

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"I love working with kids" ... Angeline Gwese with her three-year-old brother Tino.

Working with children a 'special part of living'

Living with two younger sisters and a toddler brother has more than prepared Angeline Gwese for wrangling with young children in a classroom.

"I love working with kids. With my sisters and brother, it just comes naturally," she said, which is why she signed up as the youngest catechist at Corpus Christi parish in Tuggeranong.

Ms Gwese, 23, assists with a class of kindergarten students on Tuesday nights, fostering an understanding of the Catholic faith through reading, storytelling, craft and a variety of other activities.

Ten months into the role, she is being eased in with the help of a more experienced catechist, who runs the class.

She is also studying for a Certificate III in religious education so she can continue to develop her skills in her chosen ministry.

Staying involved with the Church is important to Ms Gwese, who comes from a family with a strong faith.

One of the first things the family did when they moved to Canberra from the city of Mutare in Zimbabwe four years ago was to join the Corpus Christi parish.

Ms Gwese's father Vincent, who had a brother living in Calwell, had arrived earlier to find work, and mother Doreen and the three girls joined him a year later.

Before she left Mutare, she had been part of a highly organised parish youth group – "we wore uniforms and everything" – and she misses the friends and fellowship.

But her involvement in the parish, along with her work in a supermarket deli and her online IT studies, has helped her to make friends and settle into life in Australia.

Her faith keeps it all "going smoothly". "There's no point in living if you don't have faith in God. Everything will fall apart if you don't believe in Him, in my view."

And her work with the children is a special part of it all. "It's so much fun and it keeps your mind off other things that might be worrying you," Ms Gwese said.

Some of our 'most generous Catholics'

Fiona van der Plaats met some of the Archdiocese's amazing catechists when she attended their conference in Canberra. To find out more she tracked down three catechists to get their ideas on how to "brave" their challenging ministry.

Catechists are part of the largest evangelising ministry in the Catholic Church.

That is the statement the archdiocesan coordinator of religious education in government schools Deacon Matt Ransom used when he welcomed participants to the Amazing Catechists conference in Canberra, and it left nobody doubting the importance of their work.

Archdiocesan director of pastoral support services Shawn van der Linden emphasised the point with the statistic that more than 50% of Catholic students attend government schools.

That means an important part of the early spiritual development of a hefty proportion of young Catholics is in the hands of cate-



Amazing ... Phil Billington and Shayne Bennett were guest speakers at the catechists conference in Canberra.

chists, who run scripture classes and sacramental programs in public schools and parishes.

More than 200 catechists work with 4000 students throughout the Archdiocese and Mr van der Linden described them as "some of the most generous Catholics in the community".

They may not find themselves in the firing line literally, as many catechists in areas of civil unrest around the world so often do, but they have a challenging job nevertheless.

The broad challenge, according to conference guest speaker Phil Billington, is the context in which catechists work. Ms Billington,

director of Catholic education in the Sandhurst Diocese, said a pluralist society, a world with full Catholic schools and emptying churches, the apparent irrelevance of the Church to many people, and the sliding credibility of the Church and "big organisations", all made life more difficult for catechists.

But, as Shayne Bennett, director of mission and faith formation at Brisbane's Holy Spirit Seminary, pointed out to catechists at the conference, those hurdles are not insurmountable.

His advice to catechists is to love, listen and keep things simple. "The challenge is for us to be authentically who God has made us to be so you can bring the gift of yourselves to these young people," he said. "Young people respect authenticity. You don't have to have the latest lingo down ... They understand a language of love and acceptance."

He also described the work of catechists as "brave".

'Why did God let my aunt die of cancer?' and other tricky ones

Aaron McDonnell seems almost bemused when he tries to explain how he ended up teaching and coordinating the scripture and sacramental program for St Christopher's Cathedral in Manuka.

"It was one of those things where you say no and then next thing you know you're doing it," he said.

It's not that he regrets accepting the catechist role. It's just that he was barely in his 20s when he started in 2009 and taking on such a commitment was not on his radar.

But the ministry has delivered its rewards. "It's great for my own faith. It challenges me and strengthens me," he said.

Among the challenges has been learning to work with young children, which was a change from what was until recently his day job as a community engagement advisor with the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

"Helping the kids to understand things has been interesting. Telling children's stories and colouring-in aren't usually my thing," Mr McDonnell said.

At 26, his age has also worked against him on occasions. "Some parents find it weird that someone so young is doing it," he said.

And some have been known to question things he has told their children. "I usually say I'd be happy to seek reference on whatever it is. Sometimes I've been right and sometimes I've been wrong."

But he has enough confidence in his own Catholic grounding and in his "faith contacts" to back himself on being able to come up with suitable answers in the end.

Of course, he has had his fair share of the curly questions children are wont to ask.

"You get all sorts of questions. Things like 'Why did God let my aunt die of cancer?' or 'Why does God hate gay people?' or 'Why are there so many poor people?'"

"The death one is always tricky. I just say we don't know what God's plan for us is, and then I read them the Footprint story – they love that one."

Mr McDonnell is also conscious of being a role model for his students.

"The kids are always watching. For instance, they might see me go up for a blessing at Mass rather than communion and they want to know why I did that."

At the same time, he feels his involvement in many things apart from the Church, including sport, work, Rotary and friends, sets a good example for the children.

"When I'm getting them out the door at 7pm because I have to get to touch football, I think people realise that, yep, you do have a life."

RIGHT: Role model ... Aaron McDonnell says his work as a catechist has strengthened his own faith.



ABOVE: Love, not fear ... Mona McIntosh is still going strong as a catechist after 56 years.

No question about Mona's dedication

Feeling sore and sorry after a fall the night before, Mona McIntosh was not looking forward to teaching her scripture classes at the Laggan and Crookwell public schools the following day.

"They'll ask too many questions about this," she said, gingerly touching her bandage-wrapped forehead.

Not that Mrs McIntosh, who has lived and worked on her family sheep and cattle stud outside Laggan most of her life, has ever shied away from questions in her 56 years as a catechist.

She has fielded them all, from the little girl who wasn't sure she loved God any more because he let her uncle, "a good man", die, to the family who were sure they were "second-grade Catholics" because they did not have enough money.

It helps that the 81-year-old mother of two, grandmother of six and great-grandmother of 14 ("plus one deceased and another on the way") has a great love for children. That love has sustained her as a spiritual guide for countless hundreds of children over more than half a century.

Since her late 20s, Mrs McIntosh has devoted every Thursday of the school year to scripture lessons at the two local public schools.

She also runs a sacramental program for St Mary's Primary in Crookwell.

The numbers might be down on the early days when the schools were bigger and she has her reservations about what she sees as the modern lack of emphasis on learning the "basics", such as the Ten Commandments, but the satisfaction she derives from watching her students receive the sacraments is stronger than ever.

This is partly because she believes it is harder for children today because so many come from families "who don't go to Mass" and have a minimal grounding in their faith.

It is also because she sees how much her students enjoy it.

"They're not afraid these days," she said, remembering her own experience of having to correctly answer more than 50 difficult questions out of the "green Catechism" to be eligible for Confirmation.

Modern catechetics is less about instilling the fear of God and more about encouraging the love of God, she says.

She has also been known as Mona to her students since her first day on the job. "None of that Mrs business," she said.

"That's just identification – it doesn't get you respect. All the other things you do for them get you respect."

4000 young Catholics get set for festival

It might be touted in some quarters as a scaled-down World Youth Day, but archdiocesan youth coordinator Daniela Kesina believes the Australian Catholic Youth Festival has something different to offer young people.

"It's a unique opportunity for them to experience the vibrancy of the Australian Catholic Church," she said.

"People might get to experience the Church in their own diocese, or at World Youth Day they might experience the universal Church, but this is a chance to strengthen their faith in an Australian context."

The inaugural festival, established by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, is expected to attract about 4000 young Catholics to Melbourne from 4-8 December. The newly installed Archbishop Christopher Prowse will travel with an Archdiocesan contingent.

Ms Kesina describes it as an interactive event, at which a smorgasbord of Australian Catholic religious and lay "talent" will mix with young people, field their questions and listen to their ideas.

"You wouldn't normally get 4000 young Australian Catholics together in one spot," Ms Kesina said, hoping that it is a "life-changing experience" for participants in the same way that World Youth Day so often is.

She said the festival would also be a chance for participants to network with like-minded people from around Australia and to "hopefully create relationships that are meaningful and long-lasting".

While young people from year 9 to age 25 have been able to register individually for the event at www.youthfestival.catholic.org.au, the Archdiocese has arranged a package for students from years 9 to 12 who are looking to travel as a group and keep the cost down.

The Catholic Education Office has offered a \$100 subsidy to students from Catholic systemic schools who attend the festival. For more information, go to www.cgyouthministry.org.au/youth/australian-catholic-youth-festival.

Fun way to say happy birthday

Students from St Michael's Primary, Kaleen, have found a delicious and fun way to celebrate Canberra's centenary. Special guests, including local members of parliament, Catholic Education Office representatives, school families and members of the local community, joined students for a vintage afternoon tea. They enjoyed old-fashioned games, music, face painting, hat making, iced tea and more than 300 cupcakes.

Kindergarten through to year 6 students researched, read stories, collected data and brainstormed, as they learnt about sustainability as a part of the 2020 Vision Project. They



Finalists ... Nicholas Giannakopoulos, Arabella Hazel and Methmi Fernando shortlisted in the 2020 Vision - Imagining a Sustainable Canberra competition.

used their findings to create proposals and designs for a more sustainable Canberra. These were on display at the celebrations as part of a mini 2020 expo. The work of several students has been selected for the finals of the 2020 Vision - Imagining a Sustainable Canberra competition. A team of students will take the proposals to the Youth Parliament on Sustainability this month.

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

Past floods back for pioneer family



Catholic centre ... Archdiocesan Administrator Mgr John Woods (back left) and (from front left) Fr Bill Kennedy, Bishop Pat Power and Fr Brian Maher bestow blessings on Springbank Island.

By Fiona van der Plaats

William Sullivan would have had little use for his famed possum-skin coat if he had been alive to join his descendants on their sun-soaked pilgrimage to the home he established at the foot of Canberra's Black Mountain.

Nor would he have recognised the farming land he leased and worked for half a century from the 1860s, since most of it is now under the waters of Lake Burley Griffin.

All that is left is a few hectares of what is now known as Springbank Island.

Not that the Sullivan descendants would let their sense of history be submerged with the parcel of land the Commonwealth resumed from their family 100 years ago.

As Rohan Goyne, Sullivan's great-great grandson and the instigator of the centenary pilgrimage to Springbank Island, said, he and his family have a "real sense of place" in Canberra and among its Catholics.

The Springbank property, which included parts of Black Mountain and Sullivan's Creek, was a Mass centre for Catholics who would otherwise have had to trek to Queanbeyan, and William Sullivan was a benefactor for other Catholic families in the area.

Sullivan, who had 12 children on Springbank with his wife Anastasia, was a free settler who emigrated from Ireland with his cousin and fellow champion of the Catholic community John Morrison.

"I guess it's just part of being an Irish Australian – the Catholic goes with it," Mr Goyne said.

Catholics would congregate at his homestead and the priest would come from Queanbeyan by horse – or horsepower in the case of Fr Patrick Haydon, who travelled on a Harley motorbike in 1911.

Mr Goyne, a born and bred Canberran, is proud of this pioneering heritage and was keen to mark the passing of 100 years since the land was resumed

alongside Canberra's own centenary celebrations.

"The fact they came out here and they made a go of it – you don't ever lose that, it remains in your blood," he said.

It was important to gather up the memories for the sake of his mother Margaret, also a lifelong Canberran, his own two children, his six brothers and sisters (most of whom attended the reunion) and the wider family.

"In 100 years' time, there will be some record of what we did today," he said, of the 60-odd people who cruised to Springbank Island, reminiscing over old photographs along the way.

Retired priest and Catholic historian Fr Brian Maher, who was also part of the organisation and celebration of the anniversary, was joined by Archdiocesan Administrator Mgr John Woods, Bishop Pat Power and Fr Bill Kennedy in conducting a short service and blessing to mark the occasion.

Generosity with a mission

People in the Archdiocese last year gave nearly \$400,000 to support the projects of Catholic Mission.

In its annual report, Catholic Mission said Australians helped 249,112 children, 5226 catechists and 1082 seminarians in 2012.

Catholic Mission's national director Martin Teulan said these results were proof of what can be achieved when Australian Catholics put their faith into action.

"The impact of prayers, gifts and assistance from thousands of inspirational, caring Australians is a testament to what is possible when we live Christ's message," he said.

The Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn was especially generous in its support of Catholic Mission, with \$381,376 raised. "Such generosity demonstrates

how we can make a positive difference in the world," Mr Teulan said.

Australians opened their hearts to reach out to those in need with more than \$8.5 million donated to Catholic Mission's international projects, directly supporting 187 dioceses in 37 countries.

In addition, for the first time, more than \$2 million was allocated to Home Mission Fund projects, which help indigenous communities in remote parts of Australia. Whether they are addressing the educational needs of children or adults, or the spiritual development of broader communities, these projects are crucial for local communities.

"Since his appointment, Pope Francis has encouraged us to live out our faith, and these achievements prove that Australians are doing just that," Mr Teulan said.

Internet www.cg.catholic.org.au



Masterpieces by kinder artists ...
CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE:
Zoe Bugden; Kaitlyn Arnold;
Ethan Warner; Emma Lopez.



All smiles ...
LEFT: Riley
Scerri gets down
to business.
BELOW: Hunter
Svenson makes
a point.
BOTTOM
RIGHT: Indi
Sheather and
Maddy Nunn are
a picture of
concentration.



Their classes are identified as Earth, Fire and Water. And the St Francis of Assisi kindergarten children proved themselves to be forces of nature when it comes to taking on a challenge, whether it be maths, spelling or tackling an apple at fruit break.



Elements of fun ...
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:
Bradley Hedley and friends
spelling out words with blocks;
Emma Lopez and Shankar Patil
with Teddy; Imogen Roberts has
the answer.
BELOW: Daniel Goodchild and
Campbell Matthews partner up.



Parish shares faith journey

Parishioners of Sacred Heart, Moruya, have a story to tell about their faith.

In fact, they have many stories.

As part of a celebration this month to close the Year of Faith, they will get together to launch a collection of their faith stories as a story book.

Each month of the Year of Faith, the parish published a faith story and these have been gathered for the book. Included in the book are stories written by a number of parishioners who attended a storytelling workshop, project coordinator Pat Anderson said.

The book will be available at a parish dinner which will be

held at 11.30am on Sunday, 17 November, at Moruya Bowling Club.

The event will also mark the completed Year of Grace and the Archdiocese's 150th jubilee.

Inquiries: Telephone 4474 2024.

We publish one of the stories here, written by Irene Gleeson.

My story is of the Prodigal Daughter travelling back home to her Catholic faith.

My parents and five-year-old brother emigrated from Slovenia to establish and create a new life in Australia. Four years after their arrival, I was born in the northern beaches of Sydney.

In 1962 I received my sacraments. I was baptised Irena Therese Ostrosko, along came Holy Communion then Confirmation; what was my saint's name? That's how vague my recollection was.

My entry into the Church was one to accept and not question, yet I felt a great mystery mixed with fear of the unknown. Nuns always fascinated me with their reverence and no fuss clothing, there was a simplicity in their presence.

Catholicism was the title you placed on required forms to state your faith.

As a young woman I went out on a limb investigating the vast array of the New Age movement. Eastern religions and philosophies mixed in with work and travel. Life became bitter-sweet.

At that time I had an inability to stand up and speak my truth. This started a series of events that escalated into a continuous walk in peace, joy

and serenity. The other with betrayal, deaths, broken promises and a unsettled spirit that was crying and falling apart.

Silent in my pain, I used marijuana as a way of coping and suppressing the anxiety and self loathing that I had for myself and the world, yet again God was waiting, waiting, patiently waiting.

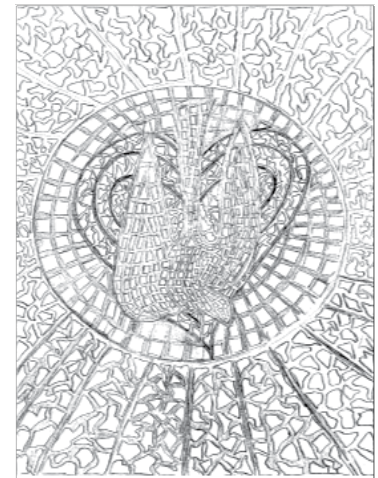
As time passed by, people, places and circumstances brought me into a new light on my passionate desire to find God and His presence in my life.

Through Our Lady, a mother's heart, I understood that which led me to find God

I have now come full circle. As I sit in the perimeters of my Catholic faith and look deeper into the reading of scripture, with prayer and supported by the many spiritual dimensions the Church has to offer, I am nothing but totally humble and grateful for the healing power and forgiveness I have

experienced through God's love for me.

The picture (below) I have sketched is a mosaic I am creating. It represents how I see God in the invisible. Pieces of white tile, broken, cut, cemented together in white grout, and in the form a picture is revealed of the Holy Spirit, His love, Body of Christ in the Eucharist, and God's light.



Women found 'on the edge and at the entry'

By Fiona van der Plaats

It might surprise many to hear that women make up more than half of the Rwandan parliament.

At 56%, it is the highest representation in the world and, as Sr (Dr) Trish Madigan points out, this has made a big difference to the country's recovery from years of bloody conflict.

Sr Madigan, chair and executive officer of the Broken Bay Diocese's interfaith relations commission and a member of that diocese's women's commission, acknowledges that Rwanda is an "extreme example". But, it makes her point about the important role of women in peace building, particularly through interfaith connections.

"Women contribute in a unique and powerful way, and they do interfaith relations in a very different way," the Dominican sister said.

"What we see in the public domain is usually church officials' dialogue, which is almost always male, and women are a bit hidden in that."

Sr Madigan, who spoke on Women of Faith – a Spirituality of Peace Building at the archdiocesan Commission for Women's annual open meeting in Canberra, said women need to harness the strengths they have developed in posi-



Creative ... Sr Trish Madigan (middle) with Commission for Women chair Judy Netting and Bishop Pat Power.

tions of apparent weakness on the margins of society.

She said studies had shown that women's roles and contributions are often marginalised, notably in official religious structures.

"At the same time, this marginalisation can free them from institutional constraints and they have used that to be creative in coming up with solutions," Sr Madigan said.

"Women are very good at working in an environment of storytelling and relationship building, creating strong bonds that underpin their actions."

These skills were evident in the key roles women had played in interfaith representations to parliaments on issues such as domestic violence and climate change.

The image Sr Madigan uses to illustrate her point is the spiritual symbol of

the "woman of wisdom" in the Book of Proverbs, who sits on the edge of the city and calls to people on both sides of the fence.

"It's a strong image for women, showing they can be on the edge but also at the entry," she said.


She cites UN human rights high commissioner Mary Robinson and NSW Governor Marie Bashir as examples of women who have been able to use their experiences on the margins to raise awareness in centres of power.

Sr Madigan believes women are particularly good at fostering effective interfaith relationships because "they are used to being more inclusive and bringing members of the community together", including children, extended family and friends.

This, in turn, builds the power to bring about change through collaboration.

"When you think 35% of Australians don't identify as Christian, then you realise in order to get anything done in Australia, we need to play it together. You can't do it through Christians alone. We also have to reach out beyond religion and to different cultures."

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Nicholas creates a modern career path

Nicholas Arganese's interest in the media has paid off handsomely. One of St Francis Xavier College's captains, Nicholas has been named ACT Vocational Student of the Year at the ACT Vocational Education and Training Excellence Awards. He received the award for work in completing a Certificate II in Creative Industries (Media). Much of the experience he gained was made possible through partnerships the college built up in the community. One such partnership is work the college does each year at the National Folk Festival. Nicholas plans to pursue further study in media once he graduates from college.

Picture: Peter Chin Photographics.



A humbling lesson from the road

Ron Rolheiser

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



sabbatical, and looking forward to walking this ancient and famed road to stretch myself physically and spiritually. The physical stretch happened and fitted the fantasy I'd had before leaving for the walk. But the spiritual stretch was a long, long way away from what I'd fantasised.

My dream had been that I would use this walk to do some deeper inner work, to read some classical books on mysticism, blend the depth of the mystics with the mystique of this ancient trail, do some journaling, and return a deeper and more contemplative person. Such was my dream, but the trail had other ideas.

We were many long hours on the trail each day so that there was basically no time to read or to journal.

pray, but it wasn't the kind of inner work I'd fantasised about. I'd had a fantasy about what I'd wanted to achieve, but, just as for the characters in the movie, apparently this wasn't what I needed.

The trail taught me something else, deeper, more needed, and more humbling:

What I learned from walking the road in the company of three close friends was how spoiled and immature I'd become.

Having lived as a celibate priest, outside of the conscriptive demands of marriage, children and family for more than 40 years, I realised how idiosyncratic and self-centred the patterns and habits of my life had become.

I was used to calling the shots for my own life, at least in its day-to-day rhythms. The Camino taught me that I need to address other issues in my life that are more pressing and more deeply needed than understanding The Cloud of Unknowing. The Camino taught me that in a number of important ways, I need to grow up!

Robert Funk once wrote that grace is a sneaking thing: It wounds from behind, where we think we are least vulnerable. It's harder than we think and we moralise in order to take the edge off it.

And, it's more indulgent than we think; but it's never indulgent at the point where we think it ought to be indulgent. Such too is the Camino Santiago.

pened. The man from The Netherlands hadn't lost any weight; the French-Canadian realised that she would not give up smoking; the Irish writer realised that his real issue was not writer's block, and the father who was doing this walk vicariously for his son realised that he had done it for other, more personal, reasons.

'What I learned from walking the road in the company of three close friends was how spoiled and immature I'd become'

None of them got what they wanted, but each of them got what he or she needed. The roads of life work like that, as the Camino Santiago.

I learned that exact lesson, walking the Camino a year ago. I went there with a certain dream in mind. I was six months beyond chemotherapy treatments, refreshed with new energy, on

Evenings found me exhausted, without energy for much inner work. A shower and a hot meal were essentially the only thing I was up to.

The major book that I'd taken along, The Cloud of Unknowing, lay unopened at the bottom of my suitcase. I managed some hours each day, walking alone on the trail, to

he is befriended on the trail by three people, each on the trail for different reasons.

The first of these people is a man from The Netherlands who is walking the trail to lose weight, fearing that, if he doesn't, his wife will divorce him.

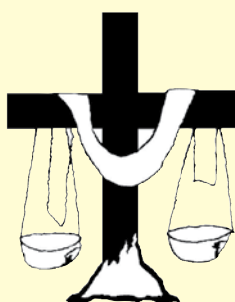
The second of his new friends is a French-Canadian woman, ostensibly walking the Camino to give up her addiction to smoking, but clearly also trying to steady her life after the breakup of a relationship. The third person is an Irish writer, hoping to overcome writer's block.

And so the story focuses on four unlikely walking companions, each doing this pilgrimage with a certain goal in mind.

They persevere and complete the pilgrimage, enter the cathedral of Santiago, observe the customs that have marked the end of the Camino for countless pilgrims for a thousand years, and then realise that what each of them had hoped to achieve hadn't hap-

The Church in the ACT's prison

Justice



Matters

celebration of the six-weekly cycle of three Catholic Masses. Communion services may also be organised from time to time.

One of the Catholic chaplains has an additional role with responsibility for the work of the St Vincent de Paul Society in the centre. For example, where an inmate requires clothing for an activity outside the centre, such as a court appearance, the chaplain can arrange

to provide suitable clothing with the assistance of society members working outside the prison.

Human rights and responsibilities in the corrections environment will always be a key topic for discussion.

The Church continues to be ever vigilant in satisfying herself that the justice of Jesus prevails in this difficult and sensitive custodial climate.

This article was prepared by members of the Archdiocese's Catholic Social Justice Commission, following on the theme of the marginalised in the recent Catholic bishops' annual social justice statement.

Helping faith grow in the world

This year's World Mission Appeal was officially launched in the Archdiocese on the feast of St Francis of Assisi.

Archdiocesan Administrator Mgr John Woods hosted a group of about 30 people at Archbishop's House to hear diocesan director of Catholic Mission in Melbourne Mr Kevin Meese speak after a recent trip to Myanmar.

Mr Meese spoke of the re-emergence and renewed access of Church in parts of Myanmar and of being the first foreign missionary visitor permitted in one region for many decades.

Catholic Mission has a strong connection with Myanmar through pro-

grams which support training seminarians, developing parish pastoral programs and help in the upkeep of boarding homes and orphanages.

Catholic Mission director in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn Deacon Joe Blackwell said support for Catholic Mission and its many works provided opportunities for the Church in Australia to help faith communities around the world to grow.

Mgr Woods encouraged Catholics to continue to support the spread of the Good News and the work of missionaries and faith communities.



Connection ... Mary and Michael Jamison, Mgr John Woods, Deacon Joe Blackwell, Mr Kevin Meese and Mr Jim Killaly at the launch in Archbishop's House.

SHORTS

Diana. Starring Naomi Watts, Naveen Andrews, Douglas Hodge, Geraldine James, Juliet Stevenson. Directed by Oliver Hirschbirgel. Becker. 109 minutes. M (Coarse language).

Serves as a biopic, but without guarantees that the details and insights are actual because Diana is long dead and the Pakistani heart surgeon with whom she had a relationship is silent. Much of the treatment is in the style of popular magazines or TV. It is not quite enough for a valid and useful study of Diana.

I am a Girl. Documentary directed by Rebecca Barry. Palace, 88 minutes. M (Mature themes).

Focuses on six young women in the United States, Afghanistan, Australia, Cameroon, Cambodia and Papua New Guinea. A cinema essay focusing on the six to highlight problems for women in the 21st century, some of the oppression, many of the hopes.

Renoir. Starring Michel Bouquet, Christa Theret, Vincent Rottiers. Directed by Gilles Bourdos. Hoyts. 111 minutes. M (Nudity and infrequent coarse language).

For those who appreciate the paintings of the older Renoir as well as the films of the younger Renoir, this partial biography will be of interest and aspects of it, fascinating. A leisurely film, capturing the mood of rural France in 1915. Beauty is an important theme.

Prisoners. Hugh Jackman, Jake Gyllenhaal, Paul Dano, Maria Bello, Viola Davis, Terrence Howard, Melissa Leo and Len Cariou. Directed by Denis Villeneuve. Roadshow. 156 minutes. MA15+ (Strong themes and violence).

One of the strongest dramas of the year. There are many prisoners, some held in abduction and detention, some trapped in their own personalities. The focus on Hugh Jackman's strong character and the counter-balance of Jake Gyllenhaal's detective makes it a very strong drama. A dark exploration of human nature, evil choices begetting evil consequences.

The Family. Starring Robert de Niro, Tommy Lee Jones, Michelle Pfeiffer, Dianna Agron, John D'Leo. Directed by Luc Besson. 112 minutes. MA 15+ (strong violence).

Sounds like an innocuous title for a situation comedy. Actually, there are some touches of comedy, but the story of a Mafia family is definitely not innocuous.

Comedy gets better, just in time

About Time. Starring Domhnall Gleeson, Rachel McAdams, Bill Nighy, Tom Hollander, Lindsay Duncan. Directed by Richard Curtis. Universal. 123 minutes. M (coarse language and sexual references). Reviewer: Fr Peter Malone MSC*.

Best not to give up on this comedy because it gets better as it goes on - and on.

It has been written and directed by Richard Curtis, best known for his writing of such comic events as Blackadder and Mr Bean, as well as writing films like Four Weddings and a Funeral and Notting Hill.

He directed Love, Actually which was a hit, and The Boat that Rocks which drew no enthusiasm whatever from this reviewer! He is now back on track with romantic comedies.

The centre of the film is Domhnall Gleeson whom we first see at the age of 21, seemingly a born loser in personal relationships, a fiasco at a New Year's Eve party and the expected kiss. However, his father calls him in for a talk and explains that the men in the family have a capacity for time travel.

This is a limited gift, enabling the traveller to go back to a specific place and time and rectify a past mistake. This, of course, provides some humour as Tim does a fair amount of correcting and improving the past. Especially true of his choice of best men at his wedding and dealing with their successive speeches until he gets the right one.

Actually, for a lot of the film, Tim seems a real dill or, as another reviewer put it more politely, gormless. He leaves home in Cornwall, goes to work in a legal office, finds a room in the home of an acquaintance of his father, an extremely eccentric playwright, played with all stops out by Tom Hollander.

Seemingly hopeless in love, he goes with his best friend to a restaurant where the meal is served in darkness, people having conversations without knowing what the others look like. When he gets out into the light, he sees Mary, played by Rachel McAdams.

It would be nice to say that Tim becomes less of a dill, falls in love with Mary and they live happily ever after. Without spoiling the end of the film, we know that actually they will be in love, marry and live happily ever after.



Not quite Four Weddings... a wedding scene from About Time.

But it is a difficult trek to get there as Tim keeps using his time travel to rectify situations which often mean that he changes his story so that he has to keep re-introducing himself to Mary.

As mentioned earlier, the film goes on and on, not just finishing with the nice romance and marriage but proceeding to show Tim and Mary and their married life, the bonds with Tim's mother and father, Lindsay Duncan and Bill Nighy, his wayward sister getting her life in order, and the time when it will be necessary for Tim to give up his privilege.

Throughout the film, Tim is very close to his father, but this theme is particularly strong in the latter part, Nighy showing an unexpected warmth with his son.

Which means, again, the message of the film is that you don't need to rely on gimmicks to fix your life but to have confidence in yourself, rely on yourself, accept your responsibilities.

There are quite a number of Richard Curtis funny lines and eccentric situations, especially the fiasco of the wedding with so much rain beating down on the guests and the tent. And there is an eccentric old uncle who is charm itself but is not exactly with it and creates quite some humour with his offhand remarks and questions.

Not a particularly memorable film, pleasant in its way, what the publicists call a date movie.

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

Thriller with many twists For those with a need for speed

2 Guns. Starring Denzel Washington, Mark Wahlberg, Bill Paxton, Edward James Olmos, Paula Patton, James Marsden. Directed by Balthazar Kormakur. Sony. 109 minutes. MA15+ (Strong violence). Reviewer: Fr Peter Malone MSC*.

There is no subterfuge about the title of this film. It is certainly an action show, with many of the touches of the popular thriller.

The two guns of the title are Denzel Washington and Mark Wahlberg. We see them at the opening in a diner, scouting out a bank for a robbery. Washington plays the cool sardonic type. Wahlberg is the cheeky comedian.

The film is often funny, the two stars playing off each other very well, Washington more the straight man, Wahlberg with the cheeky one-liners. And they keep up an amusing pace throughout the whole film. This is one of those films where it is better to be tight-lipped about the plot developments. Perhaps, suffice it to say,

that appearances are not what they may seem, and there are quite some twists.

This involves Edward James Olmos as a fairly ruthless drug lord, with headquarters in Mexico and a nice quiet suburban home just across the border in the United States - where that bank-to-be-robbed is found. There is Bill Paxton, coming on strongly about the robbery, after the \$43 million-plus that was taken away, raising the expectation of the robbers who thought it would be \$3 million.

All the review can do, while not revealing the plot details, is to whet the appetite of readers who may be attracted by this kind of action story, shootouts, as well as the stars. If they do see 2 Guns, they probably won't be disappointed.

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

Rush. Starring Chris Hemsworth, Daniel Bruhl, Alexandra Maria Lara, Olivia Wilde. Directed by Ron Howard. Hopscotch. 123 minutes. MA15+ (injury detail and coarse language). Reviewer: Fr Peter Malone MSC*.

Any fan of Formula One will not want to miss Rush. For those who are not so keen or dislike it intensely, there is human drama here among the races and competitiveness which is of more than ordinary interest.

The focus of the film is on the Formula One races of 1976 with the characters of Briton James Hunt and Austrian Nicky Lauda. They both come from wealthy families and have fathers who disapprove of their choices of racing driving. However, they are independent-minded, stand up to their parents and decide that this is their vocation.

James Hunt is the very British public school student who lives a privileged life - and rather exploits it in his partying and womanising. Lauda invests money in racing companies and makes himself indispensable especially with his engineering skills and ability to make cars go faster. Hemsworth has a fine opportunity to create a character and he does so with great



Wealthy ... F1 champion Niki Lauda (Daniel Bruhl) in the driving seat.

aplomb. Bruhl is a reliable screen presence in many films from Germany and Spain, as well as in a number of English-language films.

Hunt is handsome and debonair, Lauda is a driven and disciplined man in a severely Teutonic way. Whatever he looks like, he is a champion driver and absolutely determined.

Then comes the gruesome accident where Lauda is severely injured. Within weeks, he is back on the track, determined to preserve his champion status. The film has a pounding musical score as well as the noise of the cars, so fans will feel that they are watching races in real life. Filming and editing of racing sequences is expert.

Glimpses of council's unfinished business

Vatican II: Fifty Personal Stories by William Madges and Michael J Daley (editors). Orbis Books, 2012, 300 pages, \$44.95. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.

It is just over 50 years since the opening session of the Vatican II Ecumenical Council called by Pope John XXIII. Hence the publishing of these 50 stories about that event.

Ten years ago there were 40 personal stories. Many of these have been retained or updated and, of course, there are now 10 additions. I missed the 40 so I've been really happy to catch up with the latest edition.

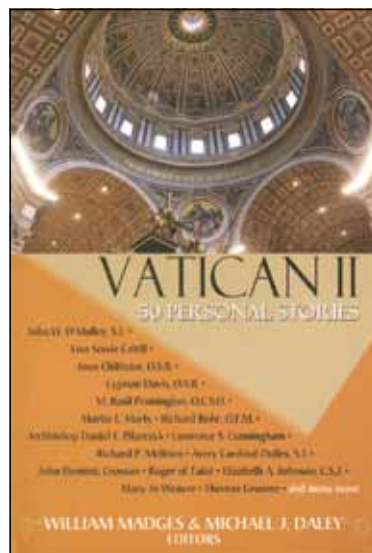
Many of my favourite authors are there, Richard Rohr, Avery Dulles, Thomas Groome, Elizabeth Johnson, Joan Chitt-

ister, Monika Hellwig, Richard McBrien, Donald Senior and more, some of whom are deceased.

It was a real walk down memory lane. I realised again how fortunate I have been to undertake graduate theological studies as a mature-aged student at our own ACU Signadou.

This is an absorbing read. Many of the stories tell of the excitement engendered by the Vatican Council; some reflect on the factors which have inhibited its full implementation.

Change is not the same as renewal, one writer said. Others are more positive about what has been achieved and recognise the good that has stemmed from Vatican II initiatives.



In America, in particular, women religious are lauded for keeping to the spirit and vision of the Vatican Council.

Many recognise the dynamic changes in technology and society which would not have been anticipated when Pope John decided to "open the windows" of the Church.

Many of the writers discuss the process leading to the framing of the final documents. There are fascinating glimpses of the machinations of the competing factions to have their views accepted. Humorous anecdotes abound.

The editors have grouped the stories under six headings. They are: The Council in Context, Vatican II and the Liturgy, What It Means to be Church, Revelation, Scripture and Tradition, Ecumenism and

Interreligious Dialogue, and World Issues and Social Justice.

Plenty of scope there to ramble through the thinking of top writers and theologians.

None of the entries is very long and a number are reprints from previous articles and books. Comprehensive biographies introduce each author.

This is a book to pick up and put down at will while you have a ponder.

It is highly recommended for serious students, for those who wonder what happened at Vatican II and those who can remember.

It has been said that Vatican II was held to complete the unfinished business of Vatican I. Vatican III, anyone?

Labor man who never lost touch with Catholic roots

I Am Bound to be True: The Life and Legacy of Arthur A Calwell, by Mary Elizabeth Calwell, Mosaic Press 2012, 260 pages, \$39.95. Reviewer: Bishop Pat Power.

I clearly remember as a young priest celebrating Mass at St Christopher's Cathedral in Canberra on Ash Wednesday in 1966 or 1967.

Humbly lining up to receive the ashes from me was the daunting but humble figure of Arthur Calwell, Federal Leader of the Opposition.

I was aware that at the time Arthur Calwell was unwelcome in many parishes of Melbourne and often subject to denunciations from the pulpit due to the bitterness of the "split" in the Australian Labor Party.

Arthur Calwell's daughter, Elizabeth, has extensively studied her father's achievements in various roles in the ALP and in parliamentary life.

The rear cover of her very readable and informative biography spells out her intentions.

"Arthur Augustus Calwell (1896-1973) played a dominant role in Australia's development into a free, confident and independent nation in the twentieth century.

"This new biography tells the story of his life, career and achievements and argues that this knowledge is essential for understanding our Australian heritage and identity...

"He experienced opposition for his religious and political values when B A Santamaria and his Movement tried to dominate the ALP.

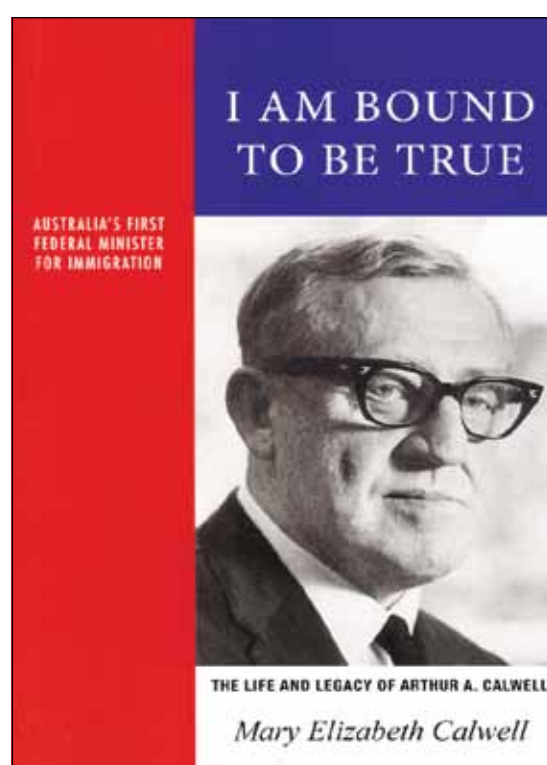
"His principled decision to remain within the ALP at that time cost him dearly and he experienced a campaign of extraordinary malice.

"As Federal Leader of the ALP, he vigorously promoted Labor values and policies, and came close to winning the federal election of 1961."

Arthur Calwell was shaped by his deeply Catholic family life and his adherence to the social teaching of the Church which began a new phase of vitality with the teaching of the popes in the latter part of the 19th century and into the 20th century.

Despite the virulence of the attacks he endured from many sections of the Church throughout his life, Calwell never lost faith in the Church itself.

In many ways, he anticipated the teaching of Vatican II in its promotion of the dignity



of the laity, the engagement of the Church with contemporary society and the importance of religious freedom.

The book demonstrates how Calwell never lost touch with his roots as a Catholic and as a Labor man.

The breadth of his humanity is demonstrated in his achievements in the field of immigration and the book abounds with examples of his support for and on-going friendships with "New Australians".

Readers are treated to insights into his personal friendship with his great political rival, Robert Menzies, his strained relationship with his deputy and successor, Gough Whitlam, and the moving account of his visit to Archbishop Mannix hours before his death.

In many ways, the debate continues about the influence of B A Santamaria and the Movement on Australian political life and the Catholic Church in this country.

No commentator or observer today would deny the impact that they have had on our newly elected prime minister or on Cardinal George Pell.

Forty years after Arthur Calwell's death, this great Australian is worthily portrayed in a way which may throw further light on current church and political life in our nation.

Sense of mystery remembered

Bread of Life. Exploring the Presence of Eucharist in Our Lives, by Louis J Cameli. Liturgy Training Publications, 2012, pb, 122 pages, \$19.95. Reviewer: Margaret Ryan.

How would you help Catholics living in a modern, secular, Western society, more fully appreciate the importance of Eucharist?

Cameli believes that sometimes personalising the question may help and offers his "Eucharistic autobiography". He recalls his sense of mystery as a small child, growing understanding as an altar server, the contemplative aspect via the Forty Hours devotion, his increasing theological appreciation in the seminary, through study in Rome and in later leadership in US seminaries, his sense of intimacy and suste-

nance when celebrating Eucharist with parishioners, including the dying.

The author mines chapter 6 of John's gospel (on "the Bread of Life"), where 14 questions are posed by Jesus, the disciples and members of the crowd. Here, Cameli considers scholarly research into scripture to advance readers' understanding of this sacrament.

Another chapter links the Eucharist to important aspects of human experience: life and death, human sexuality, the transcendent and immanent God, violence and reconciliation, transformation, morality, mission and human fragility.

This combination of good scholarship, presented simply and effectively, and personal experience would appeal to many.

The Church: Unlocking the Secrets to the Places Catholics Call Home, by Donald Wuerl and Mike Aquilina. Image, pb, 227 pages, \$33.95. Reviewer: Margaret Ryan.

Another book about the Church? This one is primarily focussed, not on the worshipping assembly (the Church), but on the building in which believers worship (the church), with the hope that better informed readers will be better able to pray in the church space.

Wuerl and Aquilina jointly wrote an earlier volume (The Mass: the Glory, the Mystery, the Tradition), describing the vessels and vestments relating to service at the altar.

Cardinal Wuerl is a teacher and writer, a former chairman of several committees in the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, on several pontifical councils and Vatican congregations. Aquilina is a Catholic layman, editor, writer and TV co-host on EWTN.

The authors presume that every church is a love story, "written" in and reflecting a language of love. After a couple of introductory theological chapters, the next 28 shortish chapters deal with any-

All you ever wanted to know about your church

thing you'd care to discover more about in a church, from spires to the baptismal font, from stained glass to the poor box.

Each chapter outlines the meaning, purpose, symbolism and history of the particular church feature. In explanation, the authors draw on relevant scripture, official church documents and church writers from Eusebius to Joseph Ratzinger.

The text is both informed and informal, and concludes with brief notes and a short bibliography. Several dozen black and white photos accompany the text.

It (and perhaps its sister volume) would be valuable for the curious, RCIA teams and those new to the Church, or mature Catholics seeking to discover or rediscover riches of the Church's tradition.

Highly recommended.

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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.

EXHIBITIONS - CatholicCare Hands On Studio three exhibitions: Art of Nature, Gallery 3, M16 Artspace, 21 Blaxland Crescent, Griffith, noon-5pm, Wednesday to Sunday, to 10 December; Lake Side, Tuggeranong Arts Centre, 137 Reed Street, Tuggeranong, 30 November- 1 December; Dish@Oatley, 60-62 Oatley Court, Belconnen, 25 November to 24 January 2014.

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

HEALING MASS - For those affected by addictions and with mental health issues, St Benedict's Mission Centre, Narrabundah, 5.30pm, Friday, 8 November.

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.

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.

SCHOOL REUNION - Our Lady of Mercy College, Epping (1948 - 1993), Remembrance Reunion of The Mercy Way. Saturday, 2 November, noon to 4pm. \$30, including light lunch. Inquiries:

Margaret Wylks, telephone 6288 3512, email wylks@home.netspeed.com.au.

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

TWILIGHT ADVENT RETREAT - 7pm-9pm, 6 December, after 5.30pm healing Mass, St Benedict's, Narrabundah. Light supper served after Mass. Cost \$5. Registration for catering, telephone parish office 6295 7879 by 5 December.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKENDS - 8-10 November, a special marriage enrichment experience, Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW. Inquiries and bookings: Ardell and Bill Sharpe, telephone 4283 3435 or wsharpe@bigpond.net.au. Website www.wmme.org.au.

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

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This month we welcome Archbishop Christopher Prowse as he assumes the reins of our local Church and its mission. We thank Mgr John Woods for his leadership and support whilst awaiting this new appointment.

The Installation Mass will highlight the local, national and international nature of the Church. Similarly, school communities from across the Archdiocese gathered in October to celebrate and support Mission at this year's Mass for Mission to Children. Fr Julian Wellspring presided and Natalie Zarb, a teacher at Good Shepherd Primary in Amaroo, shared with students, teachers and CEO staff about World Youth Day in Rio, her mission immersion in Chile and the universal nature of the Church and mission.

Together, regardless of age, mission involves us all. Support for Children's Mission enables the funding of projects for communities of young people, through schools, orphanages, health centres, faith communities and missionary establishments; to enable others to meet life's basic needs of food, shelter, health and education.

Consider becoming a Children's Mission Partner and support such work through monthly donations.

**God bless,
Deacon Joe
Blackwell**

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

Helping others build their futures

The term life coach has only recently come into vogue, yet already people are able to testify how coaching has changed their approach to life.

A personal trainer for the heart and soul, Canberra life coach and facilitator Andrea Dean is applying new strategies for working in the area of spirituality and religion.

"Some say Jesus was the perfect life coach and my work is very much modelled not only on his example but the way he approached his entire ministry," Ms Dean said.

A former Sister of St Joseph, she grew up in the Adelong-Batlow parish, and worked in Catholic education for more than 25 years, in the Wagga Wagga Diocese, Canberra and Goulburn Archdiocese and Vanimo Diocese in PNG.

She has adopted the secular model of life coaching into her business, Future Matters.

"Coaching, with its focus on individual well-being, self-fulfilment, and transformation, seems to represent a significant philosophical departure from what most Christians would consider the historical standard teachings of their church," she said.

"I have a special focus supporting those who work for not-for-profit organisations. Coaching does not present an alternative to Christian philosophy, but a vehicle that encourages people to draw on the wisdom of the tradition in meaningful ways and



Motivating ... life coach Andrea Dean at work.

become persons who are both whole and holy.

"There is no doubt that people are spiritual, but many have had bad experiences with the Church.

"There is a shift happening in our society. That shift seems to be moving away from formal experiences of religion toward relational, creative and community experiences.

"As the Church struggles to nourish the lives of contemporary Catholics, retreats, reflection days, individual and group-coaching sessions are providing a forum for people's deepest yearnings to be heard and personal responsibility developed.

"As someone who deeply loves the Church, I was seeking a way to live the Gospel within and beyond the Church."

Ms Dean, who discovered coaching about 10 years ago, has spent the past two years coordinating the Young Catholic Women's Leadership Fellowship on behalf of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference.

"This experience of seeing how the Church has specifically targeted a program toward women's formation, theological education and spirituality has been inspiring, and I have had an opportunity to really hone those life-coaching skills," she said.

A life coach seeks to motivate, guiding a client to identify trouble spots and formulate a plan for reaching specific goals.

"A coach can help a person examine how they behave at work and how this aligns with their deepest selves," she said.

"A coaching session, for example, would require a client to contemplate such provocative questions as "What three things would people say about you if you died today?" and "What have you done today to make someone's life better?"

Her next one-day retreat exploring stages of Christian forgiveness will be held at MacKillop Conference Centre in Lyneham.

A weekend retreat on the spiritual practices of compassion, mindfulness and gratitude will be held on 22-24 November at The Hermitage, Mittagong.

Inquiries: www.futurematters.net.au



Marianne Wallis, of Jugiong, with Budgerigar, the mixed media work to be raffled at Jugiong.

Art aids history

The fifth Jugiong Art Exhibition in aid of the local historic church will be held this month at the Jugiong Memorial Hall.

The exhibition will depict a variety of artworks and mediums, including paintings, sculptures, ceramics, etchings and drawings. Feature artist will be Al Phemister from Yass, whose sculptures have been widely acclaimed.

A painting, titled Budgerigar, has been donated by artist Catherine Stewart from Coleambally for the raffle. The opening cocktail party will begin at 7pm on Friday, 22 November, cost \$35 a person includes supper and drinks. The exhibition continues on Saturday and Sunday 10am-4pm, \$5 admission, and primary school children are free.

Inquiries and bookings for the cocktail party telephone Jackie Honner 6945 4244 or email benangaroo@bigpond.com.

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CATHOLIC VOICE November 2013 - 19

Our new priest, in a burst of joy

By Fiona van der Plaats

Walking into St Christopher's Cathedral, taking in the Gregorian echoes of the unaccompanied choir and the spring sunshine streaming through the windows, Lou Nulley knew his son's first celebration of Mass as a priest would be something special.

And Paul Nulley rose to the occasion, saying his Mass "very reverently, very passionately", and with the same sense of joy that had filled his ordination in that setting the previous evening.

The Archdiocese's newest priest and his family were backing up after only a few hours' sleep, having sat up till the early hours after the ordination basking in a sense of relief and "enjoying the moment for what it was".

"It was such a joyful occasion. Everybody who saw Paul saw his contagious smile. He was just bursting with joy," Mr Nulley said.

"From every perspective, it was far greater than anything we expected."

From Fr Nulley's perspective, it "felt so natural, so easy. It was such a joy to be surrounded by my classmates on the altar and to have my family there."

Saying "this is my body given for you" and then "body of Christ" as he gave Holy Communion was a moving experience for the new priest. "I felt like I was really giving myself to the people."

At a lunch for Fr Nulley, his fellow seminarians, friends and family following his first Mass, Mr Nulley spoke of his pride in the way his son had dedicated his life to the Lord.

He talked about his strong character, high energy, determination and passion, coupled



with an ability "to listen to what others have to say".

Later, he admitted his son had not chosen an easy road but, as much as he had faced challenges and doubts on the long journey to priesthood, "at the same time, he became more confident that this is what he must do with his life".

"He has ideals but he is quite open-minded," Mr Nulley said. His pastoral work in prisons and in hospitals had given him a solid grounding in the realities of his life's ministry.

For Fr Nulley himself, at least one of the realities of his new life set in immediately after his ordination.

"I felt a new relationship with people ... They would come up to me for their blessings, but then some would just pour out their hearts. You hear some very sad stories."

Fr Nulley has no illusions about what will be expected of him. Just as Archbishop Julian

Porteous, of Hobart, challenged him to be "a man of God" when he ordained him, he knows others will have high expectations.

"People tend to make you part of their family, which is a humbling privilege. At the same time, they expect a lot from you, and that is what I am prepared for," he said.

His actual family, meanwhile, is expecting to see a lot of Fr Nulley, even after he takes up his first appointment, in Cootamundra. "Paul has already indicated that he wants to keep his room at our place," Mr Nulley said.

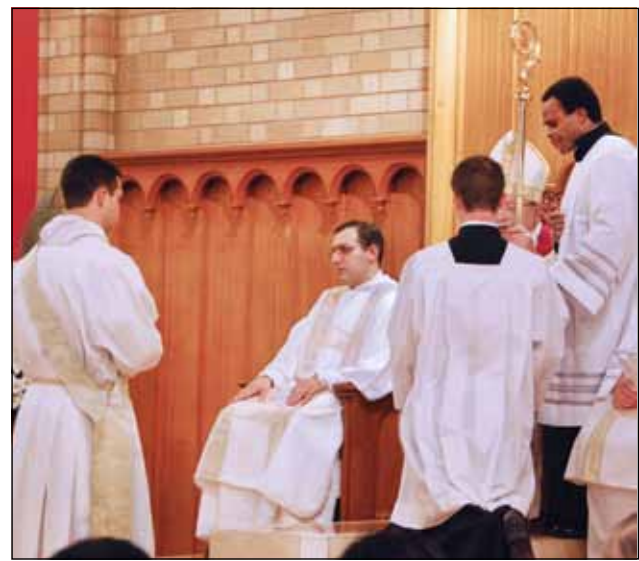
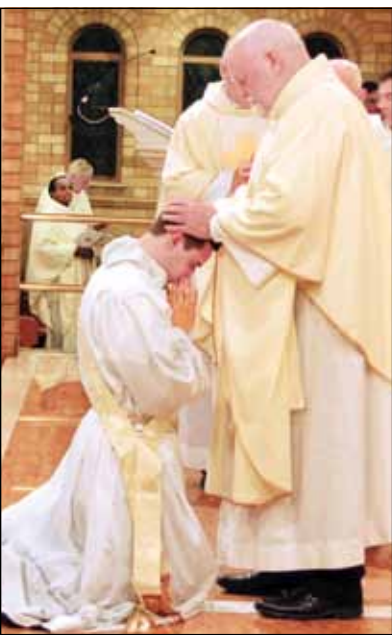
Even though he will now be sharing his son with a much wider community, "we don't seem to have lost anything here – we see it as gaining a lot". One of those gains is, and has been, a house often filled with seminarians, priests and other friends. "My wife (Gabrielle) says to them you are all Paul's brothers, so that means you are our sons, so you can help with the work around here," he joked.

ABOVE: Helping hand... newly ordained Paul Nulley is helped to vest by seminary friends Fr Epeli Qimaqima and Fr Sam Lynch.

BELOW: Promise... Archbishop Julian Porteous questions the candidate.

BELOW MIDDLE: Blessing... Paul Nulley prostrates himself for the litany.

BELOW FAR LEFT: Prayerful... Fr Tom Thornton lays hands on Paul's head.



LEFT: Proud... mum Gabrielle and dad Lou watch their son ordained as a priest for the Archdiocese.

FAR LEFT: At the altar... Fr Paul Nulley takes his part in Mass with Archbishop Julian Porteous (right) and Chancellor Fr Julian Wellspring.