

CATHOLIC VOICE

ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN

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FREE

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By Fiona van der Plaats

Outside the chapel of the Pope John Paul II Polish Catholic Centre in Narrabundah stands an oversized bust of its saintly patron.

The inscription under the bust is a quote from the homily for his funeral in 2005, delivered by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, his successor as Pope Benedict XVI: "We can be sure that our beloved Pope is standing today at the window of the Father's house, that he sees us and blesses us. Yes, bless us, Holy Father."

For the Polish Society of Christ's provincial superior Very Rev Przemyslaw S Karasiuk, known as Fr Sylvester, those words were especially meaningful as the priests prepared to celebrate the canonisation of their countryman Pope John Paul II.

The society took the lead in organising a thanksgiving Mass, celebrated by Archbishop Christopher Prowse at St Christopher's Cathedral on the day of the canonisation.

Although the society scheduled a six-day provincial retreat and Mass for its own community in the following week, it felt it was important to "share" its thanksgiving celebrations with both the Italian community (in honour of Pope John XXIII) and the general congregation.

"John Paul II is not only a saint for Polish people; he's a gift for the whole Church," Fr Sylvester said.

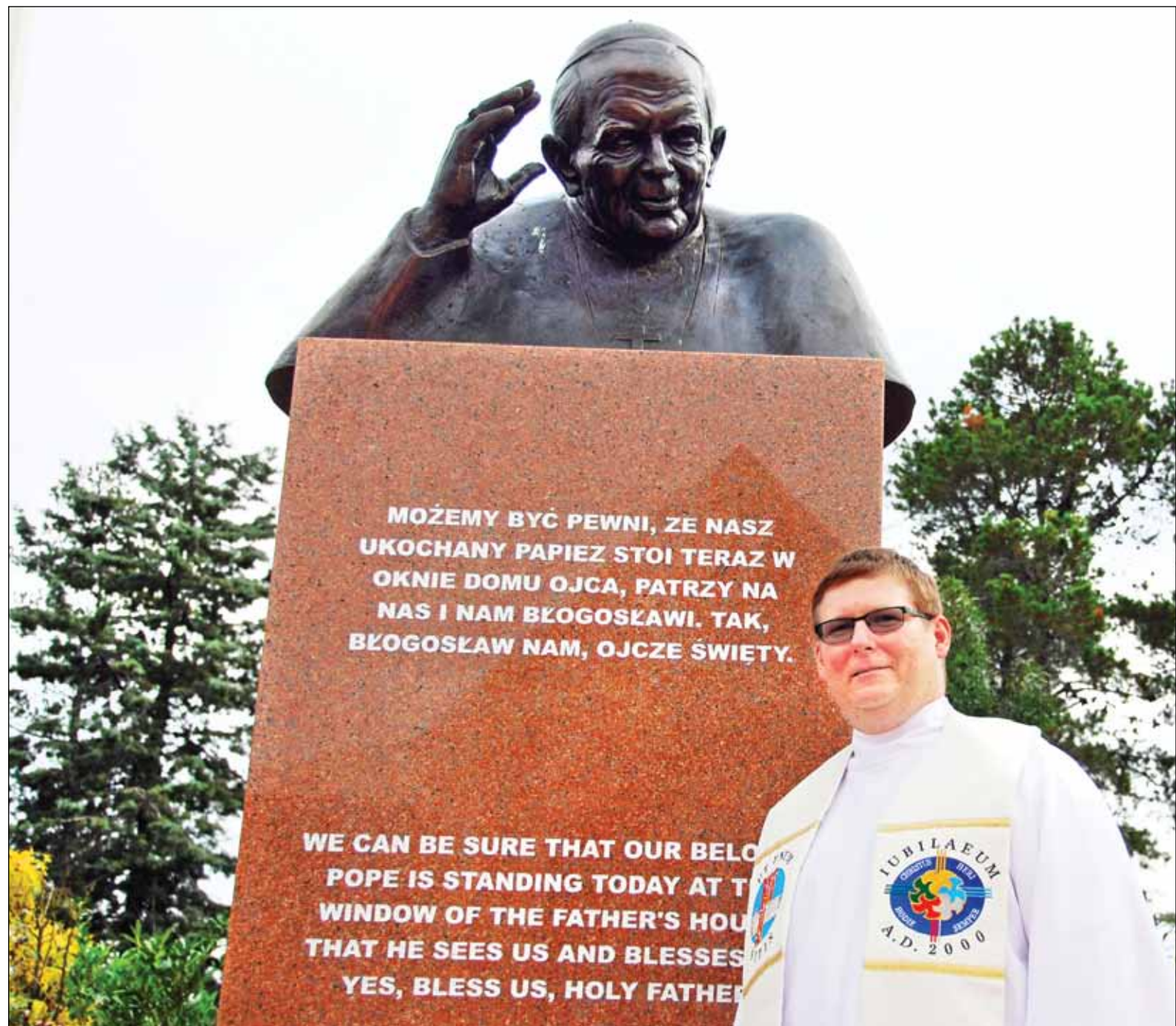
"Every canonisation does something to revitalise the Church ... and this one is not just about John Paul II but also John XXIII."

The earlier pope's sainthood was also marked by Australian National University's John XXIII College, which held a prayer service and dinner to honour the occasion.

Fr Sylvester said the canonisation of two popes strongly linked by Vatican II "reminds us about the changes it brought to the Church".

For Fr Sylvester and his Society of Christ brothers, there is no getting past their special connection to John Paul

Church honours a 'man of prayer'



At the window of the Father's house... Pope John Paul II watches over Fr Sylvester and the Polish community.

II. The most valued treasure held at their centre is a relic of the Polish pope, provided by his private secretary Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz.

A collection of Vatican medals and coins to commemo-

rate every year of his papacy and other milestones is also on display.

Fr Sylvester saw Pope John Paul II a number of times and met him once, as part of a small group of priests, in 2000.

He remembers the powerful effect he had on crowds of people in general, but particularly the Poles as they fought for freedom from communist rule in the late 1980s. "He knew how to encourage people to not be

afraid; to be free but also to be responsible for their freedom," Fr Sylvester said. "When you met him, you felt he was a man of prayer, as well."

• New saints' contrasting vision of papacy, Page 8.



CEOs set for taste of the street – Page 3



Is the Holy Spirit calling you to a vocation?

Have you ever thought that the Lord is calling you to a vocation to the priesthood, diaconate or religious life? Many have! Indeed, research has surprisingly indicated that 1 in 10 young adults have seriously contemplated this in their lives.

I suppose I was about 17 years of age when I thought seriously of joining the priesthood. I recall being attracted to finding silent places just to think and "be". It may have been visiting churches in quiet times. It was also, strangely, sitting on my own for long periods in cemeteries! How strange you must

think I am! Despite my busy life – I am still a lover of silences. They help me focus and build inner strength. I encounter the deep whispering of Jesus in silence.

In those earlier days, the call to priesthood became stronger in quieter times. I then sought out opportunities to learn more about the priesthood. I read about it. I spoke to some priests about the priesthood. I spoke with the Diocesan Vocations Director. The call became stronger. Eventually, through co-discerning with the Bishop and his advisors, I was invited to join

the seminary. It was quite a challenge to do so. I suppose some thought I was foolish. Yet it gave me great peace.

I am convinced that some young adults reading my humble words can relate to my story. I am sure the Holy Spirit continues to call at least 1 in 10 youth to a vocation especially priesthood. What about you? Pray to Jesus now to give you clarity of heart and conviction of will to consider the matter. Pray in silence and probe your heart. If God calls you, be courageous in your response.

I am praying for an increase of vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn. Parishes are praying with me too, especially via the leadership of the Serra Club and their Eucharistic Pilgrimage.

Join with us in these prayers for vocations.

Contact Vocations Director, Fr Emil Milat, emil.milat@cg.catholic.org.au; P O Box 23, Moruya, NSW 2537.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse

Archbishop's diary

MAY

- 1 Dinner, adult education session on Evangelii Gaudium, Bungendore parish
- 5-10 Australian Catholic Bishops Conference plenary, Sydney
- 12-16 Federation of Catholic Bishops Conferences of Oceania conference, Wellington.
- 17 Couples for Christ national conference Mass, Canberra; Mass, O'Connor parish 6pm
- 18 Mass 30th anniversary Kambah parish 10am
- 19-22 Clergy assembly, St Clement's Galong
- 24 Confirmation, Tumut parish
- 25 Mass Cathedral 11am
- 26-29 International Theological conference on Interfaith Dialogue, Melbourne
- 30 Launch day hospice covenant care, Curtin; vocations dinner
- 31 Confirmation, Moruya

around the catholic world



Diocese's wait over

A monk who was born in Forbes will return to his home diocese as its new bishop. Fr Columba Macbeth-Green (above), who is vicar provincial in Australia of the Order of Saint Paul the First Hermit (Pauline Fathers) and rector of the Shrine of Mary Help of Christians, Marian Valley, Canungra, Queensland, has been appointed seventh bishop of the Diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes. He is a Queensland police chaplain.

The Diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes has been vacant since the resignation of Bishop Christopher Toohey in 2009.

Born in Forbes, on 30 June 1968, he was educated at Red Bend Catholic College, Forbes. On leaving school, he taught music and joined the Army Reserve as a piper.

He joined the Pauline Fathers in 1990, studied for the priesthood at Vianney College, Wagga Wagga, and was ordained in November 1997.

"If someone told me a month ago that I would be appointed the Bishop of Wilcannia-Forbes Diocese, I would have said they were joking. I still can't believe it's actually happened," he said. "When I became a monk I never thought that I would minister to people in my home diocese."

'Not a court'

VATICAN CITY (VIS): Confession is not a sentencing court, but rather an experience of forgiveness and mercy," Pope Francis said to about 600 priests and deacons.

"We must not forget that the faithful often struggle to receive this sacrament, both for practical reasons and for the natural difficulty of confessing one's own sins to another man," he said.

"Therefore, it is necessary to work hard upon ourselves, on our humanity, so as never to be an obstacle to but rather to facilitate an approach to mercy and forgiveness."

He encouraged them to welcome penitents "not with the attitude of a judge or even that of a mere friend, but with God's charity.

"A priest's heart is a heart that is able to be touched. If it is true that tradition suggests the dual role of doctor and judge for confessors, we must never forget that the doctor cures and the judge absolves."

Attack condemned

CANBERRA: Archbishop Christopher Prowse has condemned the attack by vandals on the Canberra Islamic Centre in Monash.

"Catholics throughout Canberra and beyond send our prayers and sentiments of solidarity to our Islamic friends," he said.

"This act of vandalism is totally unacceptable. We pray for all members of the Canberra Islamic Centre. May they feel our support at this time.

"We must re-double our efforts to ensure that all religions represented in Canberra feel safe and secure to practise their faith without fear."

'Give us a hand'

HONIARA (CNA/EWTN News): After heavy rains led to flooding on the island of Guadalcanal which left more than 20 people dead, the bishops of the Solomon Islands have appealed for prayerful support for their people.

"We are experiencing a moment of a true Way of the Cross," said Bishop Luciano Capelli of Gizo. "Just remain close and if you can, also give us a hand."

A great shepherd

TOWNSVILLE: Bishop Michael Putney has died after a long battle with cancer. President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Archbishop Denis Hart described Bishop Putney as "a great and priestly shepherd, a gifted theologian and ecumenist, and a significant contributor to the work of the Australian bishops".

Advocate for peace

MANILA (CNA/EWTN News): The Philippines' newest cardinal Orlando Beltran Quevedo OMI is a dedicated servant of the poor who has advocated for peace between Christians and Muslims. He said he had a "sense of fear" and a "feeling of inadequacy" when named cardinal.

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Australian Catholic Historical Society
"Winners are Grinners:
A curious tale of Episcopal One-upmanship"
Speaker Rev Dr John De Luca,
Historian, Musician and former PP Maroubra
2.30pm Sunday 18 May
Crypt Hall, St Patrick's, Church Hill
(Grosvenor Street), The Rocks, Sydney
Meetings and afternoon tea conclude around 4.30pm
Guest speaker each month presents on a topic of Catholic historical interest. All welcome.
Inquiries: Email secretaryachs@gmail.com or go to www.australiancatholichistoricalsociety.com.au

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CEOs set for a taste of the street

The harsh street sounds filling the National Film and Sound Archive's new theatre during the launch of this year's Vinnies CEO Sleepout in Canberra were merely a taste of what participants can expect on the night.

NFSA boss Michael Loebenstein, who will host the event at his venue on 19 June, said the soundscapes were "experience by proxy".

"But wait till you hear them in the middle of the night," he warned.

Sounds and images from the real world of homelessness will be broadcast around the NFSA's courtyard as the participants try to sleep through a cold winter's night.

St Vincent de Paul Society's Canberra-Goulburn CEO Paul Trezise said Vinnies would make good use of the host's "wealth of archival footage" to give the event a feel unique to its location.

Mr Loebenstein, who will be participating in his second sleepout this year, said he would have taken part even if he wasn't the host.

When he left Vienna for Australia a couple of years ago, the global financial crisis had a stranglehold on Europe and his exposure to this opened his eyes to the "precariousness of the middle class" and "how quickly life can be turned upside down". At the same time it fuelled his appreciation for, and the need to contribute to, the work of non-profit and charitable organisations such as Vinnies. After last year's "sobering" experience in the sub-zero temperatures of Civic Square, Mr Loebenstein says he will be more prepared this year.

"It's all about layers", he said, as well as having a good sleeping bag and "making sure you put as much cardboard as possible between yourself and the ground".

Another CEO working on her cardboard folding is Homelessness Australia boss Glenda Stevens, who will be taking part in her first sleepout.



Layering ... Homelessness Australia CEO Glenda Stevens and National Film and Sound Archive boss Michael Loebenstein gear up for this year's Vinnies CEO Sleepout.

She said the fact she went home to a warm bed in a safe house every night while 105,000 people around Australia had nowhere to call home was her motivation to take part.

"I'm expecting to be cold, miserable and have very little sleep ... but, for me, it's only one night," she said.

Vinnies is hoping to raise \$500,000 through this year's event.

Last year, 140 bosses from all sectors of the community took part, attracting \$489,555 in sponsorship. The funds will be used to help people who are homeless and this year the focus will be on one of the key causes – housing affordability. Mr Trezise said other major causes were domestic and family violence, financial stress and relationship breakdown. Register for, or donate to, the 2014 CEO Sleepout at www.ceosleepout.org.au.

Priests asked for views on cathedral project

A decision on the proposed redevelopment of the Archdiocese's Manuka precinct, next to St Christopher's Cathedral, is expected in the next couple of months.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse has asked the priests of the Archdiocese to consider and respond to the plan for the precinct, the latest version of which was presented to them at a special gathering in the cathedral before Easter.

He wants the priests to tell him in coming weeks whether they support the redevelopment, worth more than \$30 million, as a whole, in part or not at all.

The plan for the one-hectare site includes an office block to house most of the Archdiocese's administration staff and agencies, a public courtyard and a block of independent living units to be offered under loan and licence arrangements with the Archdiocese.

Architect Rodney Moss told the gathering the buildings would respond in a contemporary way to the architecture of the cathedral. He said the project involved unlocking the value of the land to provide facilities and help generate income for the Archdiocese.

The units for independent living are designed to be larger than standard ones on the market to recognise the extra needs of the older residents. Such units are in "incredibly high demand".



Archdiocesan financial administrator Helen Delahunty said plans for redeveloping the area had been on the table "in some form or another" for a decade.

The decrepit state of the Haydon Centre, immediately adjacent to the cathedral, and the growing need for expensive work on the outdated offices and presbytery on the block meant decisions needed to be made.

She said the plans addressed the Archbishop's desire to have the Archdiocese's agencies and programs operating mainly from one site. The redevelopment would also ensure the Archdiocese was administered from its "spiritual home" close to the cathedral, as is the case in most dioceses around Australia.

Aesthetically, it would be a beautiful addition to the Canberra landscape, set on a significant block of land. The independent living units would generate income and help to fund the redevelopment. "It'll be an asset that's working hard for us," she said. Ms Delahunty acknowledged the challenges of the project, including funding and change management, but said it would set the Archdiocese up for the next 50 years.

CDF Annual Report

The Chair's Report



On the advisory board's behalf and as it's chair, I am pleased to advise that the Canberra and Goulburn Catholic Development Fund continues to grow with our Archdiocese and remains in good health.

We exist solely for the benefit of the membership of the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn and are a mechanism through which the Church community of Canberra and Goulburn can make the most of their financial resources and activities.

To accompany the figures below, I am pleased to bring the following points of interest/commentary to your attention:

- The CDF Board approved an increase in the distribution to the archdiocese of 3% to a total of \$2,251,020.
- The distribution to the Diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes was maintained at \$180,000 IN 2013.
- The distribution to the archdiocese for investment with CCI Investments was increased to \$1,870,000. This increase reflects the CDF policy of investing 75% of the monthly operating surplus in the Archdiocesan Future Fund.
- During 2013 the CDF's loan portfolio decreased quite significantly from \$160m to \$114m (hence, the drop in revenue). That is, a reduction of close to

\$46m. It proved necessary for the CDF to withdraw from a number of syndications in order to have the funds available for local archdiocesan initiatives such as John Paul College. The CDF was also conscious that funds may ultimately be required for the development of the Manuka Precinct.

- Projected demand for loan funds during 2014 is in the order of \$20m and includes loans for projects at John Paul College; Hennessy College; Scalabrini Aged Care; Little Company of Mary Health Care. The CDF has the capacity to lend a further \$40m during the course of 2014.

The ongoing success of our Fund would not be possible without the good work of many.

In particular though, I am pleased to bring to your attention the fine leadership and managerial skills of Victor Dunn and Michelle Murdock, the respective Manager and Operations Manager of the Fund. Their ability to maintain an excellent relationship with their team and our advisory board, ensures the day to day good management and future success of the fund.

Although we have only recently welcomed Archbishop Christopher Prowse, we have already enjoyed the fruits of His Grace's leadership and look forward to serving him and our Archdiocese further as we continue to rise to each and every opportunity.

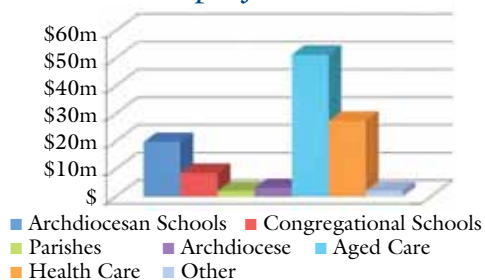
*Yours in faith,
Dominic W. Kelly
Chair*

	2012	2013
TOTAL REVENUE	14,686,165	12,430,253
OPERATING SURPLUS	5,835,463	5,906,267
TOTAL ASSETS	230,739,545	237,771,106
TOTAL LIABILITIES	219,201,868	224,628,181
NET ASSETS	11,537,677	13,142,925
Distributions		
Archdiocese	2,185,457	2,251,020
Future Fund	600,000	1,870,000
Wilcannia-Forbes		180,000
TOTAL DISTRIBUTIONS	2,785,457	4,301,020

Deposit sources 2013



Loan portfolio 2013



Youth leader looks to a new mission

Youth ministry has come a long way in the seven years since Daniela Matic (then Kesina) first signed on with the Archdiocese.

As Catholic youth ministry team coordinator, her initial focus was on local preparations for the 2008 World Youth Day (WYD) in Sydney and developing programs and policies in response to the 2007 review of youth ministry in the Archdiocese.

It was not an easy time, but “some of my best memories are from those first 18 months”, she said.

Among the highs were joining the WYD Journey of the Cross and Icon and, more prosaically but just as importantly, helping to start the progression towards a new world of youth ministry.

By the time Mrs Matic stepped into the role as archdiocesan coordinator for youth and young adults in 2010, she had

some clear ideas about what she thought needed to happen.

Among those ideas were greater transparency, accountability, support and professionalism in the area, including training for youth leaders in ethics and basic standards.

A youth leaders’ network was established, “because we wanted people to have a greater ownership of youth ministry – not just doing things because the diocese said so”.

Mrs Matic also wanted to see more stability and continuity in youth ministry, something she believes has now been achieved through collaboration and the development of “creative partnerships” in and between agencies, organisations and parishes.

“It’s all about working together, rather than staying in your own silo, which is often a more comfortable thing for people to do,” she said.



Faith by attraction ... Daniela Matic has helped to change the face of youth ministry in the Archdiocese.

“Each collaboration we have done has been a lot of hard work but each one has been so worth it.”

The success of those partnerships is one of the reasons Mrs Matic feels she can now move out of her role and on to something new.

She is not sure what that will be yet. At 32 and recently married to software engineer Ivan Matic, she will take long-service leave and ponder her next project.

Chances are it will have something to do with education. “I’ve always felt a calling to teach in one way or another,” she said, having studied teaching at Australian Catholic University and taught at Good Shepherd Primary in Gungahlin before taking a year out to volunteer with the archdiocesan Catholic youth ministry team.

She had not seriously considered that year as an option until she was coaxed along to an information night and was

moved by the “genuine witness” of a young woman for whom the experience had been life-changing.

That young woman, she says, was the embodiment of the “attraction” Pope Francis refers to in his *Evangelii Gaudium* exhortation when he writes: “It is not by proselytising that the Church grows, but ‘by attraction’.”

The year in the youth ministry team “touched my heart”, fuelling her love for the Archdiocese, particularly its regional areas, and her desire to see its young people grow in their faith.

This eventually led Mrs Matic towards working in the area.

Believing, as Pope Francis also says in his exhortation, that we are all “a mission on this earth”, Mrs Matic says she has been one of the lucky ones because “that has been an obvious part of my job description”.

As one of 11 children, she has thrived in the support of her family, particularly her parents and grandparents, “who have inspired my faith by living their faith joyfully”.

Suffering, pain a ‘wake-up call’

Why we experience pain and suffering might remain a mystery to many of us, but until we accept it as essential to the human condition we will struggle to understand who we truly are.

That was the message of encouragement Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Paul Gallagher had for the young, and young at heart, who heard him speak about suffering as part of the Guinness and God series of talks in Canberra.

“I offer this encouragement as we all try to make sense in our own lives of the mystery of suffering,” he said. When people contemplated suffering, the danger lay in dwelling on the avoidance of pain, whereas pain was often a “natural and necessary thing”.

“Suffering is at the heart of human experience and reality,” he said, and pain was “a wake-up call to being truly human”.

He used the example from the Bible of Job who, in wrestling with the mystery of suffering, found a way forward and a reason to live.

Jesus was the “great model of suffering” for Christians, he said. By enduring “the most extreme suffering imaginable”, he went “right into the heart of human experience”.

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ACN also helps those sisters active in the charitable apostolate, relieving them of the daily burden of supporting themselves while they also care for the poorest of the poor, whether in the slum quarters of the great cities, in the vast expanses of the Amazon rainforest, or in the remotest regions of the African Savannah.

It is vital that the indispensable work of religious sisters in Christ’s Holy Catholic Church and throughout the missions worldwide continues. Religious sisters are the unsung heroines in the Church. ACN is therefore proud to help them in their efforts to make the world a better place, even just a little.

The average grant ACN gives to support a religious sister or novice is \$300 – but whatever you can afford will be enormously appreciated. ACN forwards the donations directly to the religious superiors in charge of the religious communities and congregations.

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Some of the young and vibrant Dominican Sisters from Ho Chi Minh City that ACN supports

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VOCATIONS DISCERNMENT DINNER

A vocations discernment dinner will be held at Archbishop's house on Friday 30 May.

The evening will begin with prayer at 6pm, followed by an informal dinner with Archbishop Christopher. Any men or women in Year 11 or older who would like to learn more about and discuss a call to the priesthood or religious life are invited to attend.

RSVP by 26 May to Vocations Director Fr Emil Milat, telephone 4474 2024 or email emil.milat@cg.catholic.org.au



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Berridale 'a picture'



Catching up ... parishioner Warwick McCabe (left) and Terry O'Brien, Grandson of Edmund and Ellen O'Brien, who donated the land for St Joseph's church.

Abundant rain in the fortnight before St Joseph's Church's centenary celebrations in Berridale meant the church grounds and surrounding hills were "a picture of green" for the big day. "Fittingly, it rained during the Mass but cleared afterwards as guests made their way to the luncheon," parishioner Rob Staples said.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse celebrated Mass at the historic church, assisted by parish priest Fr Peter Miller, Fr Paul Foley and Fr Henry Byrne. Visitors travelled from Sydney, Canberra and throughout the Snowy Mountains for the occasion and, appropriately, exactly 100 parishioners and friends signed the visitor register.

A special guest was Terry O'Brien, grandson of Edmund and Ellen O'Brien, who donated land for the church. Before it was built, the O'Briens hosted Mass in their living room at Ivy House.

'The law wasn't after me. It was the thugs you

The beat goes on as Felix seeks to repay the favour

By Fiona van der Plaats

Felix Machiridza considers himself shy by nature. But his yearning for social justice has outmuscled any instinct to keep to himself.

"Deep inside I have always ached to address injustices for everyone," he said.

"It took away my shyness and prepared me for coming to a foreign land where I knew no one."

That foreign land was Australia, to which he fled in 2010 after his protests against the injustices of the ruling regime in Zimbabwe put his own life, and the lives of his family and friends, in danger.

He had lost family members, including his mother, a sibling and a cousin, to political violence and he had every reason to fear for his own life when a senior political figure in his home province in the Zambezi Valley blocked his efforts to educate the people on their constitutional rights.

"He said he would crush me - he was a locomotive and I was a cyclist, and we were about to meet on a level crossing, I took that threat very seriously."

So Mr Machiridza took the chance to move to Canberra as part of the support staff for a newly instated ambassador.

"In essence it was an escape because it was not a diplomatic appointment," he said.

Besides, "the law wasn't after me. It was the thugs, the people who could do anything with impunity, who you were always on the run from."

Mr Machiridza had put himself in the firing line by writing anti-propaganda stories for newspapers and becoming national coordinator for the Artists for Democracy in Zimbabwe Trust, which ran civic education programs through the "festivals" its members performed at.

"I was so passionate about social justice that I threw caution to the wind," he said.

His anger had grown as he had watched the beautiful country in which he enjoyed a "wonderful childhood" torn apart by strife and cruelty.

A teacher by profession, he was hounded out of the classroom along with so many of his colleagues, who were accused of propagating anti-government sentiments and physically abused in front of their students.

Church needs 'more joy': US preacher



Vocation to preach... Fr Maurice Nutt, the first Afro-American to receive a Catholic doctorate of preaching.

American Redemptorist priest Maurice Nutt knows what it is like to be a member of a minority group.

As an Afro-American he is part of a racial minority in the United States, and black Catholics make up only three per cent of the Catholic population.

"For many years we as a group didn't know where we fitted in," he said. "But, in the past 50 years Afro-Americans have begun to take up their claim in the Catholic Church."

Fr Nutt was speaking on a visit to St Clement's Redemptorist Monastery at Galong.

The roots of Catholicism lie in northern Africa and he cites the examples in the New Testament of the baptism of the Ethiopian

eunuch and the role of Simon of Cyrene in helping Jesus to carry the cross.

"We were there when they crucified our Lord," Fr Nutt said.

"We can also lay claim to three African popes, so it is, indeed, our church."

He says Afro-American Catholics have faced racism and segregation even in Catholic churches. They were excluded from or made to sit at the back of churches but remained faithful. "Why keep the faith of those who oppress us? We have looked beyond the oppression and kept our eyes on Jesus," he said.

"My love of the Eucharist keeps me faithful to the Church, the real presence of Jesus in this Church."

He says the word of God is important to Afro-American Catholics. "We bring jubilation and vibrancy into the life of the Church. We shout 'Amen' after a good homily. We are concerned about the lives of another."

"Our Church needs more joy. If we realised the power of the Resurrection that brought redemption to the world, we would be joyful. We possess the Resurrection; new life doesn't happen after we die. Resurrection joy is what we live right now. Sometimes we just need to inform our face."

Fr Nutt has been inspired by the election of Pope Francis, "who encourages us to share our lives and our faith in meaningful ways, to help the poor and the cast offs, which is our mission as a Catholic and a Redemptorist".

He recounts a conversation with the doctor who performed an emergency appendix operation on him at the time of the Pope's elec-

tion. "I thanked him for saving my life and allowing me to see this day. I am so excited about the church of today," he said.

Fr Nutt, who is a member of the Redemptorist parish mission preaching team based in Chicago, is an author of three books as well as a teacher of preaching. He describes himself as "Catholic born, Catholic bred, and when I die Catholic dead".

He is the first Afro-American to receive a Catholic doctorate of preaching.

"My faith as a Catholic and my vocation as a Redemptorist revolves around preaching the word of God," he said.

Fr Nutt joined the Redemptorists in 1983 and was ordained a priest in 1989. From a middle-class family of four boys, his father died when he was three years old.

As a result the family moved to an inner-city area of St Louis, Missouri, in St Alphonsus Liguori "Rock" parish, run by the Redemptorists.

"The pastor of the church was a father figure to me, so, as a child, I wanted to be like him. At seven, I said I was going to be a priest."

His first pastoral assignment after ordination was as associate pastor of the parish where his vocation was born and nurtured. Not long after that he was named the first African American pastor of the historic parish. Under his pastoral leadership the parish grew from 150 families to more than 1200 families.

Fr Nutt hopes to visit Australia again and to offer workshops at St Clement's, Galong.

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were on the run from’

That’s when Mr Machiridza headed for the capital, Harare, where he studied at the College of Music and began his campaign against the regime through his music and writing.

He and some fellow teachers also started up a boarding school in the countryside, as a safe place for young children to be educated.

That passion for social justice has not subsided since moving to the safety of Canberra.

There are still things he cannot reveal about his personal connections to Zimbabwe, but suffice to say he has kept a close eye on the social and political developments there.

“Zimbabwe has changed but things are still dire,” he said, having sneaked back in 2011 and left after a week because, he said, it was not safe for him to be there.

Meanwhile, he is channelling his energy into helping others through his job as social worker with the Red Cross.

Mr Machiridza was among the latest batch of more than 150 students to graduate from Australian Catholic University in Canberra.

Studying for his Bachelor of Social Work was as much about the means as the end, as he took comfort in the “nurturing, caring and inclusive culture” of the small campus.

It was also “a process of self-healing”.

“I wanted to do social work so I could help others. I have benefitted so much from the good will of strangers that I felt I needed to repay the favour.”

He is now employed by the Red Cross, where he is part of the migrant program, working with asylum seekers.

He would also like to work in mental health and is planning on more study to further enable him to “help people uplift their lives”.



“Music keeps me going” ... Felix Machiridza with a mbira, from his strife-torn home land of Zimbabwe.

Meanwhile, Mr Machiridza finds joy in his network of friends, including those he has made through university and the African Catholic community, and his music.

He teaches drumming at the Playing Field Studio at Australian National University and his flat in Curtin is

packed with instruments, including guitars and a tambourine-shaped mbira.

“Music keeps me going,” he said, remembering how “we would play the drums and dance and sing in the villages we grew up in”.

“It will always be a part of my life.”

Human Rights BLACKFRIARS LECTURE SERIES 2014



The Blackfriars Lecture Series was established to honour the contributions of the Dominican Friars to the Canberra Campus of Australian Catholic University. For 800 years the Dominican Orders have been committed to the ongoing, systematic and critical search for Truth in all its forms. These lectures provide an opportunity for the University to engage the community in the ongoing quest for the true, the beautiful and the good.

For further information contact Mary Moran (mary.moran@acu.edu.au) or 02 6209 1129

DATES	LECTURER	TOPIC
Thursday 29 May, 2014	Mr Tim Wilson Australian Human Rights Commissioner	<i>The end of rights and the beginning of responsibilities</i>
Thursday 26 June, 2014	Dr Anne Gallagher AO United Nations Consultant and Advisor on Human Rights and Human Trafficking	<i>Two cheers for human rights</i>
Thursday 31 July, 2014	Dr Helen Watchirs OAM ACT Human Rights and Discrimination Commissioner	<i>A Case Study on Human Rights in the ACT – 2014 Audit of Women’s Conditions of Detention at the Alexander Maconochie Centre</i>
Thursday 28 August, 2014	Dr David Corlett Researcher, Author, part of the Production Team for <i>Go Back to Where You Came From</i>	<i>TBC</i>
Tuesday 23 September, 2014	Professor Raimond Gaita Professorial Fellow, University of Melbourne Emeritus Professor of Moral Philosophy, King’s College London	<i>Human Rights and Human Dignity</i>

VENUE: BLACKFRIARS BUILDING, 129 PHILIP AVE, WATSON | PRE-DRINKS 5.30PM | LECTURES 6-7PM

Drugs: it's time for parents to get on board

The Vatican's moral direction for policies/strategies relating to illegal drugs was made clear in The Palermos Declaration at The Third Global Conference on Drug Demand Reduction on 25-29 September, 2000, in Palermo, Italy, attended by more than 700 delegates from 72 countries, including the Vatican's Cardinal Javier Barragan,

The declaration said in part, "Therefore we resolve and commit ourselves to creating drug-free societies throughout the world... Therefore we oppose and resist all activities that would increase the use of illegal drugs such as legalisation and harm reduction. We oppose any strategies or policies which encour-

age or enable continuous drug use, such as so called 'harm reduction/harm minimisation' ideologies and practices."

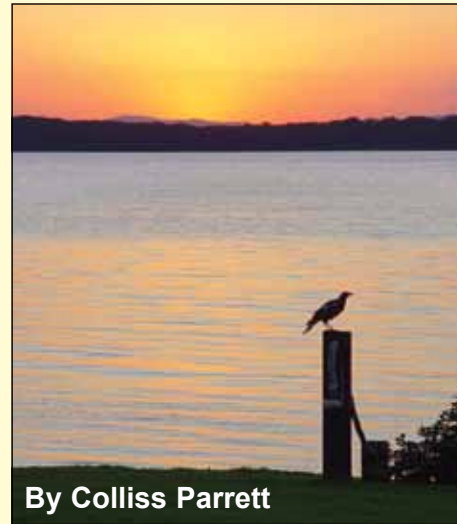
But these are the very ideologies and practices which have been implemented for more than two decades in Australia, and continue to this day.

Disaffection with the Vatican's moral position on illegal drugs reaches to the highest levels. Hard to believe? On 21 January, 2014, Ernest Istook, journalist with the Washington Times, gave this heading to an article response to President Obama's dangerously misleading comments on cannabis: The Blunt Truth - White House drug czar contradicts Obama on marijuana.

The article includes the comment, "They should add Mr Obama's name to the list of confusing messengers who perpetuate false notions - except confusing messenger is too polite a term. Outright hypocrite fits better."

In the British Medical Journal (3 March, 2013) Prof John Henry, of The Imperial College, London, said, "Cannabis is as dangerous as cigarette smok-

In My Day



By Colliss Parrett

ing - in fact, it may be even worse." He added that users are up to six times more likely to develop schizophrenia.

Another specialist, Dr William Oldfield said, "The puff taken by cannabis smokers is two-thirds larger, they inhale a third more, and hold down the

smoke four times longer... chemicals in cannabis smoke are retained in the body to a much higher degree, and cannabis today is 40 times stronger than that used in the 1960s."

The British Lung Foundation pointed out three joints a day can cause the same damage to airways as a pack of 20 cigarettes.

For their children's sake, I would implore parents to back the Vatican's support for drug-free strategies and to bring their concern forcefully to those in authority.

* Colliss Parrett is director (rtd) Drugs of Dependence, Commonwealth Department of Health, drugs policy adviser, Australian Family Association (ACT).

* IN MY DAY is a column about modern society, community and the things that arise in our day-to-day world that cause us to reflect on how we live together and interact. Contributions of about 350 words are welcome. Send them to cathcomm@cg.catholic.org.au.

Generous response to appeal

Parishes have once again shown strong support for the Archbishop's Christmas Appeal. Archbishop Christopher Prowse has expressed his deep appreciation for donations to the 2013 appeal totalling \$71,216 for projects in the Asia-Pacific.

The undertakings of Fr Mick Burke and parishioners of Yass and Gunning received a \$25,000 boost towards building a medical clinic in the remote mountainous region of the Oecussi enclave in Timor Leste.

Communities on Samoa received \$10,000 for emergency relief supplies. A similar amount was given to provide water and sanitation to schools in the PNG Diocese of Wewak. A monastery in Ba Ria Vung Tau, Vietnam, received \$16,216 for building modifications and clean water supplies. The National Council of Churches in Australia's Christmas Bowl Appeal received \$10,000 for its Act for Peace projects across the region.

New saints' contrasting visions of the papacy

The joint canonisation of two popular but very different popes is a "masterstroke in that you get contrasting visions of the papacy", a Catholic academic says.

Assoc Prof Patrick McArdle, dean of Australian Catholic University's Canberra campus, believes the differences between the two new saints John XXIII and John Paul II could be seen as a unifying factor for the Church.

"These two guys are presenting a bookend ... as two pivotal figures in the life of the Church in the 20th and 21st centuries," he said.

St John XXIII was pope for only five years, from 1958 to 1963, while St John Paul II had the longest tenure in papal history, from 1978 to 2005. But they were both "enormously popular", Prof McArdle said.

"They both seemed to have the ability to speak to the crowds. John was probably more like a benign uncle, while John Paul was the sort of man who drew lines in the sand."

Dubbed "the good Pope", St John XXIII "contrasted with his contemporaries because of



Popular popes... Prof Patrick McArdle, "a message for the Church".

his clear attention to the lives of ordinary people".

St John Paul II also became a man of the people, and possibly more of them due to his longevity and the fact he was the first pope to travel the world (adopting the famous gesture of kissing the ground of the new country he landed in).

The two also served in very different eras. John XXIII reigned over a boom period for religious vocations but that had waned by the time John Paul II

took over and lay people had taken on roles that Prof McArdle said would not have been envisaged in the 1950s.

The clear link between the two popes was Vatican II. John XXIII started it and John Paul II acted on its reforms.

"John saw the true job of the council as opening windows and letting the Spirit move around the Church," Prof McArdle said.

"The council could not change the deposit of the faith but the way the deposit of the faith was expressed was open to change."

Here, he says, another difference between the two popes emerged.

"For John, the pastoral response was always the priority. For John Paul, the pastoral response was important but his priority was a clear and unambiguous teaching of the doctrine."

The joint canonisation is "a message for the Church", Prof McArdle said. "Clearly, the current pope has put an agenda on the canonisation of two popes, even if we are not clear on what that agenda is."

The Carmelite Auxiliaries
Invite you to
**A Day of Reflection
on Carmelite Spirituality**
Father Hilton Roberts will be our Director
Carmelite Chapel, 28 Mugga Way, Red Hill ACT
Tuesday 27 May, 2014

Program:
10.15am gathering at The Carmel
10.30am first session begins
11.30am social time and preparation for Mass
12pm Mass celebrated by Fr. Hilton with homily
1pm Lunch
1.45pm-2.45pm second session and conclusion

*There is no charge to attend though guests are asked to bring along their lunch
— tea and coffee will be provided and kitchen facilities are available.*

To register your attendance, please RSVP to The Carmel
on Phone 6295 3805 or by email to agnescb@bigpond.net.au

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People of harmony place of challenge

A strong partnership between home and school guides St Michael's to provide more than a great education.

St Michael's Primary School Kaleen is a Catholic systemic school catering for 230 students from Kindergarten to Year 6. St Michael's is staffed by highly trained professionals who are committed to providing the best of Catholic education for our children.

The school is situated on spacious and well-kept grounds featuring extensive and varied playing spaces for all students.

The community at St Michael's believes it has an exciting, challenging and happy school, which lives out our values through a school-wide behaviour program based on positive affirmation and reinforcement.

St Michael's community is a reflection of our school vision: a people of harmony, a place of challenge.

The school is committed to providing strong quality curriculum in all academic areas and provides an education based on the values of Jesus. St Michael's has a particular focus on developing literacy and numeracy skills across the school.

St Michael's values a fully sequenced curriculum from K-6 which is enquiry-based, comprehensive, progressive and in line with the Australian Curriculum. The school has a comprehensive ICT integrated program, with networked

computers, Interactive Whiteboards, laptops and iPads for the teachers and students' use.

All this exciting learning takes place in refurbished classrooms, versatile break-out spaces, outdoor options and our modern multi-faceted library resource centre.

St Michael's provides individual education programs assisting students with special needs, a program for gifted and talented students and a strong student leadership focus. Opportunities also exist for private music and drama classes.

Everyone is invited to visit St Michael's on either open day, when you will be able to meet many teachers, students and parents. Please feel free to contact the principal, Mrs Judy Walsh for further information, on 6241 4022 or office.stmichaelsps@cg.catholic.edu.au or visit the school website www.stmichaelsps.act.edu.au



Catholic schools enrolling now

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Harrison
Holder
Kaleen
Kambah
Narrabundah
Nicholls
O'Connor
Page
Pearce
Pearce
Red Hill
Tuggeranong
Wanniassa
Waramanga
Watson
West Belconnen

Good Shepherd Primary School
St Vincent's Primary School
Merici College
St Francis of Assisi Primary School
St Thomas More's Primary School
St Clare of Assisi Primary
Holy Trinity Primary School
Daramalan College
St Monica's Primary School
St Francis Xavier College
St John the Apostle Primary School
Sts Peter and Paul Primary School
Holy Family Primary School
St Clare's College
St Edmund's College
Mother Teresa School
John Paul College
St Jude's Primary School
St Michael's Primary School
St Thomas the Apostle Primary School
St Benedict's Primary School
Holy Spirit Primary School
St Joseph's Primary School
St Matthew's Primary School
Sacred Heart Primary School
Marist College Canberra
St Bede's Primary School
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St Anthony's Parish School
St John Vianney's Primary School
Rosary Primary School
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Yass
Young
Young

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St Bernard's Primary School
St Mary's Primary School
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St Bede's Primary School
Carroll College
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Sacred Heart Central School
St Mary's Primary School
Ss Peter & Paul Parish Primary School
Trinity Catholic College
St Joseph's Primary School
St Joseph's Primary School
St Patrick's Primary School
St Francis Xavier Primary School
St Mary's Primary School
Trinity Catholic Primary School
Lumen Christi Catholic College
St Gregory's Primary School
St Anne's Central School
McAuley Catholic Central School
St Mary's War Memorial School
Mt Carmel School
Hennessy Catholic College
St Mary's Primary School



St Michael's Primary School
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www.stmichaelsps.act.edu.au

OPEN DAYS

Tuesday 6th MAY
Tours at 10am, 2pm & 5.30pm

Wednesday 14th MAY
Tours at 10am, 2pm & 5.30pm



ENROLLING FOR 2015

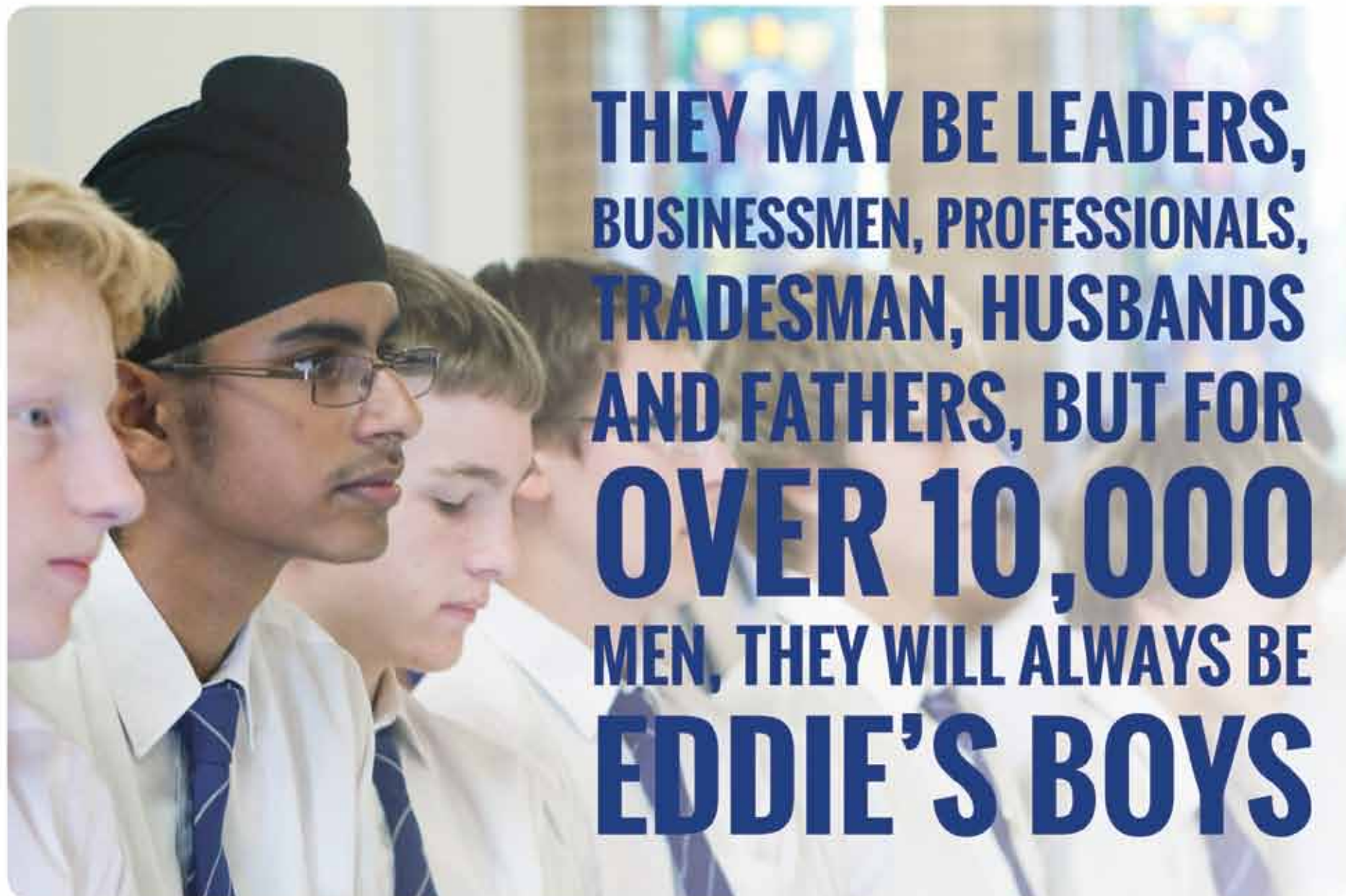


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MAY Open Day
10th Saturday, 12 to 3 PM

15th Year 11 2015 Enrolment Information
Thursday, 6 PM

5th Year 4 – 7 2015 Enrolment Information
Monday, 5:30 PM

13th Morning & Twilight Tours
Tuesday, 9:30 AM & 5:30 PM



MAY 01 **OPEN EVENING** **4.30 - 7.00PM**

THURSDAY

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

MAY 06 **YEAR 7 INFORMATION EVENING** **6.00 - 7.30PM**

TUESDAY

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

MAY 13 **YEAR 11 INFORMATION EVENING** **6.00 - 7.30PM**

TUESDAY

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

It is no accident that St Clare's College will celebrate 50 years of continuous education to the Canberra community in 2015. The reason for its establishment in the beginning is now further enhanced with contemporary research supporting the many benefits of girls being educated in a girls' only school.

St Clare's has a proud history of success in many fields of endeavour across academic, cultural, sporting and extra-curricular activities. This is due to the support of parents and staff working collaboratively to provide the opportunities for a vibrant and willing student body to participate in the many fields of endeavour available today. St Clare's College is a welcoming school and open to all.

It is interesting to note that research shows girls in a single sex school are often more competitive amongst their peers in their desire to achieve. The environment of a single sex school, especially for girls, promotes opportunities for students to overcome gender bias that may occur through social learning. Girls approach their studies during the compulsory years more positively in a single sex school and will enthusiastically attempt the areas of Maths, Science and Technology at the senior levels where female representation is generally lower in co-educational schools.

The opportunities for leadership are extensive throughout their secondary schooling at St Clare's. The girls have the potential to be considered as a Pastoral Care Captain, be on the Student Representative Council, the captain of one of the twenty six St Clare's sports teams, a House Captain or one of the five senior leadership roles. Girls are role-modelling to girls and the students learn how to be confident, articulate and influential through their involvement in a community of empowered and self-assured young adults.

As a Catholic school, the climate of the College is based on the life and teachings of Jesus and inspired by the example of St Clare. There is an environment of acceptance, forgiveness and reconciliation in the way that people treat each other as well as a sense of hope for the future. Students are provided the opportunity to explore their spirituality and have a better understanding of the role of religion in their lives. The students at St Clare's are also well known in the ACT for their commitment to the less fortunate through raising funds for charities and volunteering for many causes. They are generous and compassionate in their work for the underprivileged.

The students at St Clare's can shine in whatever they choose to undertake. The girls' only environment provides the opportunity to build their confidence without socially imposed barriers to hold them back. The expectations are clearer for them in a College that has students from Year 7 to 12 all growing, learning and working together for their mutual benefit and the benefit of society generally.



Show-time for these SFX students

St Francis Xavier College and the Canberra Theatre Centre have announced the three students who will be taking part in the theatre's first on-site VET training course.

Year 12 students Larissa Caston, Alex Parker and Alexandra Pilicic from SFX will work behind the scenes with the theatre's technical staff across the next two school terms, gaining skills towards a fully accredited Certificate 2 in Entertainment.

The students will work with lighting designers, sound engineers, mechanists and technical staff on real shows at the theatre, learning what it takes to get a show up and running.

It's hoped the students will use these skills to further their technical theatre education after high school.

Student Larissa Caston is excited about the opportunity to work with real theatre professionals.

"It's an amazing opportunity to work in a professional industry rather than working in a school class and to come away with a qualification from it," she says.

"I've done work experience at Canberra Theatre before but this time I'm hoping to refine skills I've already gained at school.

"It's going to be much faster paced than during performanc-



es in school so I'm looking forward to it.

"After school I'm hoping to study audio engineering. I'd love to work in a theatre or use it to work in music recording."

The VET training course is the first of its kind to be offered

at Canberra Theatre and was developed by education staff at the theatre alongside staff at St Francis Xavier.

Director of Canberra Theatre Centre Bruce Carmichael says it's a wonderful opportunity for the theatre to be involved

in helping to educate the next generation of technical staff.

"This is a great way for us to give back to the community and ensure the passion we have for live theatre and entertainment is shared with those in our city. I'm excited to see these students

learning new skills in our venue and we're proud to now be able to offer them this opportunity."

For information about enrolling your child at St Francis Xavier College go to www.sfx.act.edu.au or call the College on 6258 1055.

St. Francis Xavier College

Enrolling Now. Catholic Education. Years 7-12



Open Evening
Year 7-12 2015

Monday 12 May

5.30pm-7.00pm Tours

7.00pm Information

Information Evening
Year 11 2015

Wednesday 14 May

5.30pm Course Advice

6.30pm Information

SFX Open Day
Friday 16 May
9am-2.30pm

Living the truth

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John Paul
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Gungahlin

"Walking in the footsteps of John Paul II in the year of his canonisation."

COME AND SEE US AT JOHN PAUL COLLEGE, GUNGAHLIN

Open Morning

Thursday 8 May 9.15am - 11.15am

Year 7 Information Session

Thursday 8 May 5.30pm in the College Hall

Tours from 4.30pm to 5.30pm

John Paul College is an innovative, co-educational college creating a Catholic P-12 pathway in the Gungahlin region. Accommodating Years 7-9 in 2015 in our new cutting edge facilities in Nicholls:

We focus on the pastoral well-being and holistic development of each individual student

- through a unique one-on-one mentoring program which fosters strong partnerships between parents, students and the school.

We provide a dynamic and rigorous academic curriculum

- underpinned by an educational philosophy which includes brain-based learning principles and the development of a Growth Mind-Set in each individual

We have introduced an innovative self-directed learning approach

- which develops independence, time management and organization skills and enables students to be challenged and individual needs to be met.

We operate in a Technology-rich learning environment

- allowing learning anywhere, anytime.

We have a strong, integrated focus on sustainability and healthy living

- which includes a canteen run by the school producing only fresh, unprocessed and home cooked dishes.

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One Parish, Three Primary Schools

The three primary schools of, Holy Spirit Nicholls, Good Shepherd Amaroo and Mother Teresa Harrison, work together to provide a Catholic Education for the **Holy Spirit Parish in Gungahlin**. Each school individually provides a quality, happy, faith filled education for their students. Collectively the three schools represent the face of Early Learning and Primary Catholic Education in Gungahlin, from Pre-school to Year 6. We also work closely with our Secondary College John Paul College as the children move onto their Year 7 to 12 education.

Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School is a Kinder to Year Six School in the heart of Gungahlin's growing community with an Early Learning Centre catering for children from four years of age at our Mother Teresa campus. The Good Shepherd school community prides itself on its welcoming atmosphere. A wide variety of excellent learning experiences are provided to all students and everyone is encouraged to be the best they can. Good Shepherd has many extra-curricular activities for all interests, including sports, music tuition, chess, choir and Maths. We embrace the Gospel values and celebrate them through our fortnightly Prayer celebrations. These prayer celebrations focus on life skills and Gospel teachings such as, how to treat each other and how to care for our world.

Good Shepherd is a school that caters for every child's needs, and lives out its motto; "To be together the heart of God"

OPEN DAY: Wednesday 7 May, 9.15am-11am & 3:30pm-5:30pm
School contact: 6255 7888
Email: office.goodshepherd@cg.catholic.edu.au



Holy Spirit is a school that values academic excellence, positive relationships and the message of Christ as witnessed in the Gospels. We celebrate life, learning, diversity, community and our Christian story. We encourage individuality and creativity, and through best teaching practice we inspire learning with an engaging, student-centred curriculum. At Holy Spirit we are dedicated to the development of all students in an exciting and stimulating learning environment, enhanced by various technologies. Our embedded Values Education Program has created a school where children feel safe and happy. Holy Spirit is a welcoming school that works collaboratively and in harmony with all its members. We are a Kinder to Year 6 School, and also offer a pre-school and four year old program at the Mother Teresa School.

OPEN DAYS: Tuesday 6 May, 9.30am-1pm & 6.30pm, Friday 16 May 9.30am-1pm
Information evening: Tuesday 6 May, 7pm
School contact: 6241 8640
Email: office.holyspirit@cg.catholic.edu.au



**HOLY SPIRIT
CATHOLIC
SCHOOL
NICHOLLS**



Holy Spirit, Our Spirit



Mother Teresa School opened for the first time in February 2010. The school includes an Early Learning Centre which runs a four year old program as well as classes in Kindergarten through to Year 6. At Mother Teresa we have a model of service that we can only hope to emulate. The school motto is "do small things with great love." This statement underlies our beliefs and guides our relationships with one another.

Our school buildings are modern, provide an excellent learning environment and promote sustainability.

The school works closely with our active and involved parents to promote a welcoming, caring and nurturing learning community.

OPEN DAY: Wednesday 7 May, 9am-11am & 4pm-6pm
School contact: 6241 5604
Email: office.motherteresa@cg.catholic.edu.au



**Mother Teresa
School**



Do small things with great love



MERICI COLLEGE OPEN DAY

Wednesday 7 May
9.30am–7.00pm

YEAR 7, 2015

INFORMATION EVENING

Tuesday 13 May
6.00pm–7.15pm

Enrolment forms will be available.

BE A
MERICI GIRL
FOR A DAY!
TUESDAY 6 MAY

CONTACT US
TO REGISTER

YEAR 11, 2015

INFORMATION EVENING

Thursday 15 May
6.00pm–7.15pm

Senior Information Handbooks will be available.

Merici College: Dedicated to Excellence in Women's Education

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

EMPHASIS ON THE PASTORAL CARE OF EACH STUDENT

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

A RICH AND VARIED CURRICULUM

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

- The College supports students with needs and extends capable students through a differentiated teaching and learning program.
- All students are taught to be responsible citizens in our Digital Community. We have been operating a laptop program for almost 20 years.
- A very strong student led focus on sustainability and healthy eating is aligned with curriculum. The Canteen is run by the staff and students, uses fresh, local produce, no packaging and integrates into the vocational Hospitality and Business curriculum. A kitchen garden and greenhouse, sustainability electives and a co-curricular group all contribute to the College's Health Promotion Program.

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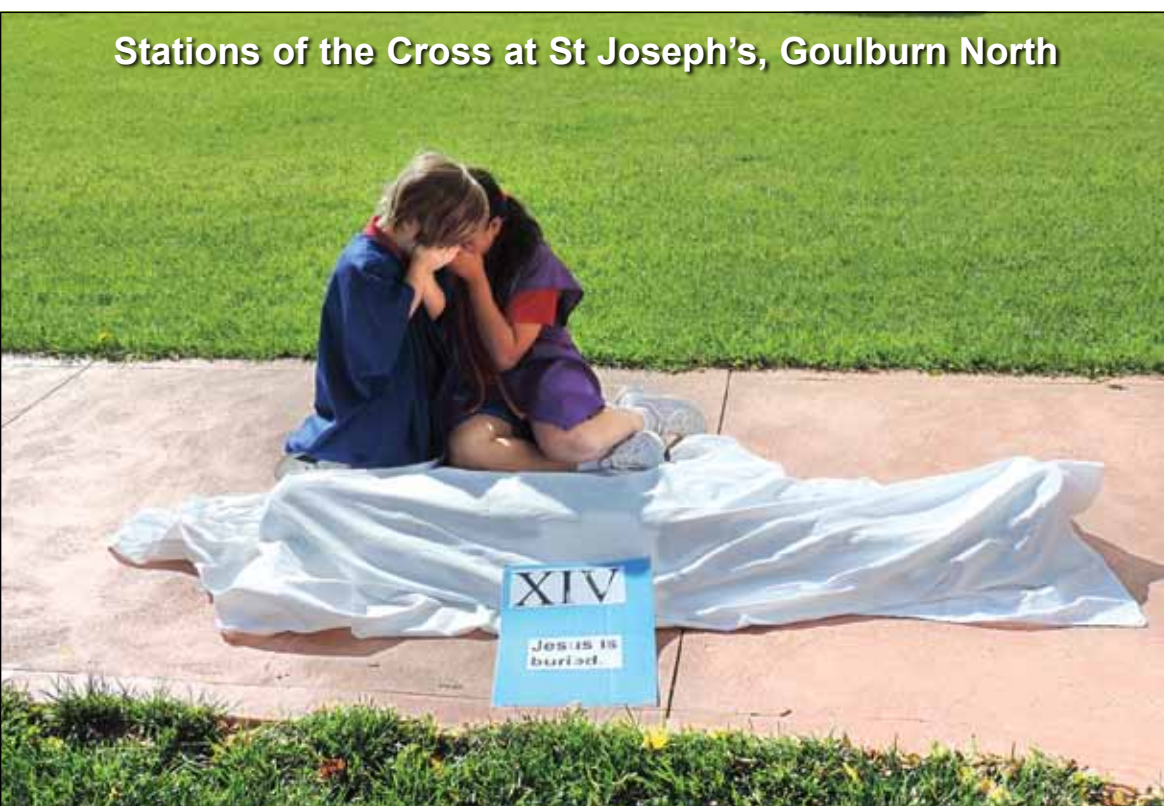


St Benedict's, Narrabundah



TOP LEFT: Off and running ... St Benedict's students put their best foot forward in their cross-country carnival at Stromlo Forest Park. TOP RIGHT: Shaping up ... Braydon Jewell and Jacinta Van Der Kallen work with plasticine in kinder; ABOVE FAR RIGHT: Claudia Connor from kinder and her buddy Georgia De Jongh. LEFT AND ABOVE: A day at the National Gallery ... Teah Hanns and friends check out the water; Taylah Ellems and Zoe Bridle enjoy the day out; as does Clare Laffey.

Stations of the Cross at St Joseph's, Goulburn North



Step by step ... Students from years 5 and 6 at St Joseph's staged scenes from the Stations of the Cross around the school grounds.



Harmony Day at
Sts Peter and Paul, Garran



We invite schools from around the Archdiocese to submit photos to our Young Voices page. Photos should be 1mb or more in size and the children in them should be identified where possible. Images of students' artwork are also welcome. Send your contributions to Fiona at cathcomm@cg.catholic.org.au.
*No more than 20mb per email please - you can send a series of emails.

There is always hope 'even in great suffering'

"There is always hope even at the point of great suffering," Archbishop Christopher Prowse told this year's Easter Sunday congregation at St Christopher's Cathedral.

This message underpinned his homilies over the three days of Jesus' passion and resurrection.

On Holy Thursday, he asked people to see the Easter triduum as "not three separate days but three moments in ... the one saving moment".

"In the Lord's death and resurrection we hope to find our deepest identity and our surest anchorage in life's turning tides."

On Good Friday, Archbishop Prowse talked about Jesus, through his own suffering and death, taking on our own suffering and sinfulness.

The extraordinary thing about it, he added, was that "Jesus has already entered into our pain before we've even

asked him. That is what grace is. It is amazing grace."

But it was not just a matter of Jesus coming to us in our suffering and sinfulness. As Christians, the only way our burdens could be lifted was by "going to the Lord and placing all that concerns us at the foot of the Calvary Cross".

"By nailing our sufferings onto the Calvary Cross the springtime of Easter will surely come," he said.

This fed into the Archbishop's message of hope on Easter Sunday.

"Let us not run away from the frailties of our humanity but rejoice in them," he said. "Let us now see that our ultimate destiny is in Christ risen from the dead."

In the week before Easter, the Archbishop told the clergy that he recognised that, more than ever, the priesthood was "a most complex vocation to live



Oil of life ... Deacon Don Nguyen presents the oil of Chrism to Archbishop Christopher Prowse, flanked by master of ceremonies Fr Warrick Tonkin, at the Chrism Mass.

out". He was speaking at the annual Chrism Mass, during which the sacramental oils to be used during the year are blessed. "We live out the priesthood in the shadow of the Calvary

Cross, as always, but in a particular manner today." From the parishes he had visited so far, Archbishop Prowse said he could see that "your parish people truly love you. More so, you

truly love them with the love of Jesus."

• Read Archbishop Prowse's Easter homilies at <http://www.cg.catholic.org.au/about/default.cfm?loadref=536>.

Carmelite nuns mark 40 years of prayer

The Carmelite nuns of Canberra celebrate on 24 August the 40th anniversary of the establishment of The Carmel of Saints Peter & Paul from the Melbourne Carmelite monastery.

Special events will be held throughout the year to mark the occasion.

The first is a day of reflection, led by Fr Hilton Roberts, who will speak on Carmelite spirituality.

It will be held from 10am to 2.45pm on Tuesday, 27 May, at The Carmel, 28 Mugga Way, Red Hill.

Bookings, which are free, may be made by telephoning The Carmel on

6295 3805 or emailing Sr Mary Agnes agnescb@bigpond.net.au

At The Carmel, a community of six nuns dedicate their lives to prayer, praise and spiritual service of God throughout the Archdiocese.

Until 1974, the Carmelites had one other monastery outside of their Melbourne headquarters.

It was founded in 1966 in Wagga Wagga at the invitation of Bishop Francis Henschke.

The then Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn, Thomas Cahill, invited

the nuns to open a monastery in Canberra, which happened under prioress Sr Gertrude Ryan.

For many years, daily Mass was celebrated in the nun's residence, but in 1994 a chapel was built and opened.

Since then the chapel has been the focal point for daily Mass as well as many celebrations, especially the annual novena leading up to the feast of Our Lady of Mt Carmel in July and the major feast days of St Therese of Lisieux and St Teresa of Avila in October.

'Sick of fear campaign' on refugees

Australia can do "a whole lot better" in its treatment of asylum seekers, retired Auxiliary Bishop of Canberra and Goulburn Pat Power has told thousands of people at a rally for refugees.

Speaking at the Break the Silence rally in Canberra's Garema Place on Palm Sunday, Bishop Power echoed Pope Francis' words that "refugees are not pawns on the chessboard of humanity".

"I believe that all of us here today are heartily sick of the fear campaigns that have demeaned Australia for far too long in relation to people who need our love and acceptance, not the bitterness of hate and rejection," he said.

People had gathered around Australia "to say loud and clear to our political leaders that we do not espouse the harsh policies which both major political parties are push-



Fair go ... Bishop Pat Power (second from right) and Vicar General Mgr John Woods (far right) joined the Break the Silence rally for refugees on Palm Sunday.

ing in relation to refugees and asylum seekers".

"Today we are breaking the silence to say to all those who exercise some sort of power that we acknowledge the sisterhood and brotherhood of all

humanity, that we believe in the dignity of every person and that as members of one human family, we Australians do really believe in a 'fair go' and want what is best for those who most need it," he said.

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Health depends on giving away our wealth

Ron Rolheiser

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



and without compromise: For instance, the Gospel of Luke, a Gospel within which Jesus warns us that it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of Heaven, nevertheless praises the rich who are generous, condemning only the rich who are stingy.

For Luke, generosity is the key to health and heaven. In the Gospel of Matthew, when Jesus reveals what will be the great test for the final judgment, his single set of criteria have entirely to do with how we gave to the poor: Did you feed the hungry? Give drink to the thirsty? Clothe the naked?

Finally, even more strongly, in the story of the widow who gives her last two pennies away, Jesus challenges us to not only give of our surplus to the poor, but to also give away some of what we need to live on.

The Gospels, and the rest of the Christian scriptures, strongly challenge us to give to the poor - not because they need our charity, though they do, but because our giving to them is the only way we can stay healthy.

We see the same message, consistent and repeated, in the social doctrine of the Catholic Church.

From Pope Leo XIII's *Rerum Novarum* in 1891 to Pope Francis' recent *Evangelii Gaudium* we hear the same refrain: While we have a moral right to own private property, that right is not absolute and is mitigated by a number of things, namely, we only have a right to surplus when everyone else has the necessities for life.

Hence, we must always be looking towards the poor in terms of dealing with our surplus.

Moreover, Catholic social doctrine tells us, too, that the earth was given by God for everyone and that truth limits how we define what is really ours as a possession.

Properly speaking, we are stewards of our possessions rather than owners of them. Implicit in all of this, of course, is the implication that we can be moral and healthy only when we view private ownership in a larger picture that includes the poor.

We need, always, to be giving some of our possessions away in order to be healthy. The poor do need us, but we also need them. They are, as Jesus puts it so clearly when he tells us we will be judged by how we gave to the poor, our passports to heaven. And they are also our passports to health. Our health depends upon sharing our riches.

every authentic ethical and faith tradition.

For example: We know from experience that when we give of ourselves to others we experience a certain joy in our lives, just as when we selfishly hoard or protect what is ours we grow anxious and paranoid.

Native American cultures have forever enshrined this in their concept of Potlatch, namely, their belief that, while everyone has a right to private property, there are real limits to how much someone may own.

Once our wealth reaches a certain point we need to begin to give some of it away - not because others need it but because our own health and happiness will begin to deteriorate if we hoard all of those possessions for ourselves.

Jewish spirituality shares the same idea: Again and again

in the Jewish scriptures, we see that when a religious leader or prophet tells the Jewish community that they are the chosen people, a nation specially blessed, that affirmation comes with the admonition that this blessing is not for them alone, but that, through them, all the nations of the earth might be blessed.

In Jewish spirituality, blessing is always intended to flow

When we give to the poor both charity and justice are served, but some healthy self-interest is served as well

through the person receiving it so as to enrich others. Hindu, Buddhist, and Islamic spiritualities, each in their own way, also affirm this, namely that it is only in giving away some of our gifts that we ourselves can remain healthy.

Jesus and the Gospels, of course, teach this repeatedly

When times are tough, what road do you choose?

From what I can see, the temptation for many of us is to be content with being in the second group. That's fine as far as it goes.

However, the problem with it is that we can fail to realise that those in the second group are vulnerable. All it takes is a crisis of some sort (they come along often enough) and those in the second group find themselves either drifting or jumping into the first group. They leave. The only real option (and the one to which we are all called) is to go in search of God and allow ourselves to be led to the life God is offering us - a life transformed in Christ.

As we look back over the past 2000 years, it is no coincidence that in times of extended difficulty the great saints come to the fore. These saints are simply people like you and me. What distinguishes them isn't how extraordinary they are. It is their willingness to say "yes" to what God is asking of them - and to keep saying "yes" irrespective of what their lives throw at them.

It is the narrow road, but also the road in which peace and joy can be found.

• shane.dwyer@catholiclife.org.au

By Shane Dwyer, archdiocesan coordinator faith formation and spirituality

I was speaking at Masses at one of the parishes in the Archdiocese recently, and I found myself being a little bit more challenging than I normally am.

It had occurred to me that I'd given up another weekend to spruik options available to local Catholics interested in some sort of faith formation, and that the only reason I was doing that is because I see how important it is that we take our faith seriously.

Perhaps there was a time when the prevailing culture made living our faith easy, and so we could coast along in our faith with the implicit support of family and friends; but I fear that is no longer the case.

Getting in touch with what we believe, and coming to terms with the implications of that for how we live our lives, can only happen today if we take responsibility for our own faith development.

As I was thinking and praying about what I would say to the parish, I was reminded of the history of Catholic experience over the past 2000 years.

The Church has periodically been through tough times before - many of them considerably tougher than now. What's more, a glance down the ages reveals that in tough times Catholics divide into three groups: those who leave, those who simply hang in there hoping it will all work out, and those who throw themselves more deeply into their faith.

The group in which we end up being is ultimately our choice and our responsibility.

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Liverpool-born Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Paul Gallagher was given the chance to, in his words, “consider seriously my Irishness” when he was invited to speak at an ecumenical service on St Patrick’s Day at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture in Canberra.

During my earliest years it did not even occur to me that we had Irish blood or connections. I was baptised Paul Richard. Paul because it was short and could not reasonably be abbreviated into something I would hate for the rest of my life, as was the case with my father who was christened “Sylvester” because the tyrannical parish priest refused any other name when the child was presented for baptism on 31 December, the feast of that saintly pope. I was given Richard in memory of the paternal grandfather I never knew.

That Gallagher was an Irish name was recognised when the question of the pronunciation arose and my Dad said it was an Irish name and should be pronounced with the second G silent, but that is as far as he would go.

Our identity was Liverpool, with all its complexities and ambiguities. The Morans next door at No 28, now they were Irish, with Irish music and song at Christmas and at other family gatherings, which we heard through the wall. They had Irish relatives and souvenirs, and made trips across the sea, but not us. Our Catholicism was no less fervent than theirs, but more discreet.

Dick Gallagher, my grandfather, was an Anglican, and it was his formidable wife who saw to it that all her children followed her.

Growing up in the Toxteth area of Liverpool, my father had suffered, and I choose the word subjectively on his behalf, the sectarian tensions which prevailed particularly in pre-World War 2 Liverpool. He would hide his school cap under his blazer and run the gauntlet of some Protestant peers on his way home from school, but we know that both sides were not angels.

He also shared with us his dread of the 12 July, when Liverpool’s Orange Lodges would parade to Exchange Station, in the city centre to take the train for their traditional day-out to Southport.

The city was tense on the morning of such marches, skirmishes were not unknown following provocations on both sides.

When I passed to grammar school, the personal Irish question was more obvious, as I tried to work out not only who I was but how I related to the others at my Jesuit college, together with a growing awareness of a more serious Irish question in the national and international politics of the late 1960s and early ‘70s.

As the years passed, I came to the personal undocumented conviction that we, the Gallaghers and Clarkes on one side, and the Farrells and Cosgroves (you see I am already well in with the new GG) must be “children of the famine”.

Years later when I read Cecil Woodham-Smith’s marvelous and shocking book *The Great Hunger*, I had a glimpse of what some of my ancestors may have endured in the Liverpool hovels in which they found shelter in their tens of thousands in the 1840s and ‘50s.

The Liverpool in which I was born was evolving from that of my father’s

Pitch a tent in Paddy’s green fields

youth. I think I am correct in saying that in 1971, I was the first lay Catholic to read in our Anglican cathedral, a building the then Dean Edward Patey, described as “the world’s only unfinished ancient monument”. It was the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The order of service described me as “a young Catholic”. I was told I would be challenged as I began to speak, and so it was. Had what unfolded been a piece of music, I would have described it as “heckling ma non troppo”.

It is not an exaggeration to say the Gallaghers from Donegal are there and everywhere else. The New York phone book has pages and pages and pages of them; there are even 70 such entries in the Canberra phone book, and of course the ACT is led by one of the clan. I have visited the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, which lists either 23 or 32 Gallaghers, I can’t remember exactly, who died in that war. You have to be very far from anything to escape us, you can run but you cannot hide (cfr. Joe Louis).

As the Reverend Professor James Haire informed this gathering in 2011, Patrick was most probably born towards the end of the fourth century near to Carlisle, close

by to the Solway Firth. On the Scottish side of that stretch of water, where Patrick may also have been born, two centuries later St Mungo otherwise known as Kentigern, who went on to become the first Bishop of Glasgow, founded an abbey at Hoddam, near the present town of Lockerbie of tragic memory.

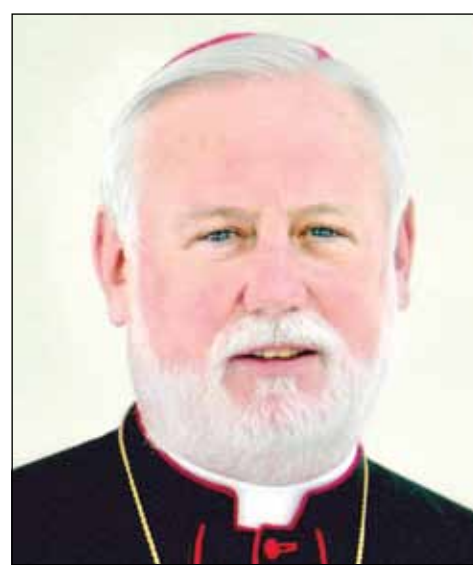
Hoddam or Hodelm is the title See granted me by Pope John Paul II when he named me a bishop in 2004. Perhaps I could gain entry to every Irish club in the world if I started introducing myself by saying that St Patrick was born in my diocese.

So it is that the one thing the historians seem agreed on is that Patrick was not Irish, and yet so identified is he with Ireland, that it is not all to be dismissed as myth.

Patrick is the very embodiment of Irishness, and he is so because he was or rather so he became. Something must have happened to him in those years of captivity which, together with missionary zeal, drove him to return and never leave the land which he adopted and which adopted him.

Patrick becomes “Paddy” and the ubiquitous generic identification of the Irish.

I was ordained priest in the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King in



Liverpool by Archbishop Derek Worlock, who together with the Anglican Bishop David Shepherd, did more to rid our city of the sectarian prejudice of which I spoke earlier than any other two persons in the city’s history.

It was they who had the courage to teach us to reach for that Christian perfection, which finds its ultimate expression in love of our enemies.

Their partnership, based on the principle “better together”, is commemorated today

in a monument to them erected in Hope Street, which joins their two cathedrals.

The Roman Cathedral is built on the

site of the Victorian workhouse, which itself was the very symbol of poverty, hopelessness and suffering in the port-city which generated much of Britain’s wealth in the late 18th and 19th centuries.

It symbolised the fate of many of the Liverpool Irish, and contrasted with the destiny of many others. There were no tears at the demolition of the workhouse.

Despite all the variety of South Lancashire Catholicism, the Catholic cathedral is simply and I hope affectionately known as “Paddy’s Wigwam”.

Let us return to Patrick’s identification with Ireland and I would dare to suggest that in the Christian faith there is indeed an inducement to such identification.

The Incarnation of the Son of God is a total identification with humanity. God makes his dwelling among us, he establishes his tent in our midst.

He assumes our flesh and is “the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation” (Col 1:15), and in which we humans share as “the image and glory of God” (1 Cor 11:7). Christ redeems at a stroke through love that which was disfigured by sin within the

creature. It is a total commitment, a total identification.

Men and women of faith have always done this: from the Catholic tradition I think of the Jesuit Matteo Ricci leaving Rome for China, of Blessed Charles de Foucauld, a French count born in Strasbourg and who lived among the Tuareg of North Africa, and of Mother Teresa, an ethnic Albanian from Skopje in Macedonia, who became in every sense an Indian woman, an Indian saint.

As in the common perception, so in a much deeper sense, Patrick cannot be distinguished from Ireland and Ireland from him.

His irrevocable commitment has lived on in myth and in fact because he was real and his love of Ireland and those to whom he ministered there was real.

His memory has an impact today, because his life and work changed something through faith and love. He has never left Ireland.

He came to leave his bones among the peoples of the “Dark Edge of Europe”.

The Irish have learnt well from their patron, and they too have shown a remarkable genius for adaptation and identification wherever they have journeyed or been forced to go by politics or the simple desire for a better life and future.

As I think of these things, of course I think of the Ireland of today, where there is a work unfinished, and the many other places where the Irish live. But I also think of Syria, the Ukraine and South Sudan, which have mammoth problems, which seemingly defy our desire to find solutions.

These conflicts challenge our commitment, individually and as the international community. We want to make a difference but it is often dangerous, and apparently hopeless.

Patrick, and his like, tells us that we need to raise the bar, expect more of ourselves not less. Patrick was not interested in a “temporary assignment” and would not have believed in “a quick fix”.

We need to stay and not pull out, to go the extra mile. We have to identify with those among whom we would pitch our tent.

Perhaps we have to forget who we are to discover what we can become, to realise our potential, to be of service and benefit to our brothers and sisters.

Pride in our heritage and its particularity must always be a celebration also of what we have in common, of what we all are and what we all are called to be.

Loss of identity, the adoption of a new identity and the acquisition of a new sense of belonging should not be just a matter of adaptation and survival, but rather of growth and becoming, of loving and flourishing.

In many ways I am none the wiser about my Irishness than before, but I can deny nothing and simply revere the memory of the one without whom, in the turnings and tribulations of history, and in God’s good Providence, I would not be here talking to you this fine St Patrick’s tide.

‘It is that the one thing the historians seem agreed on is that Patrick was not Irish, and yet so identified is he with Ireland, that it is not all to be dismissed as myth’

Family, footwear and faith key to a life lived for others

John Gerard Frawley

5 May 1932 – 19 March 2014

John Gerard Frawley was born in Queanbeyan on 5 May, 1932. He was the oldest of seven children to Thomas Frawley, who had migrated with his family from Ireland as an 11-year-old, and Clare Burke, from Sydney. He is survived by all of his siblings, Joan, Ted, Marie, Peter, Trish and Helen.

He went to primary school at St Gregory's in Queanbeyan and spent three years at Waverly College in Sydney. His schooling was cut short when Tom, his dad, decided John should work in the family retail footwear business. He returned from Sydney and joined the family business as a 15 year old.

After working in the business for six years, John was given a leave of absence for six months to experience the world. Along with two friends from Queanbeyan, Peter Stapleton and Don Hill, they ventured to Far North Queensland and ended up in Cairns and the surrounding towns. John worked on the Kuranda railroad for all of three days and ended up working in a sawmill.

Being the friendly and talkative person that he was, a major part of the experience was always going to be the social aspect of the trip. At one of the Saturday night socials, at the Trocodero Dance Hall, he tried to impress a particular local lady. He wasn't necessarily as impressive as he thought he might have been, as the lady in question quite literally said to her friends – "If that little man comes near me again, I'll scream".

It wasn't until the next day when the local lady spotted John and his mates at Mass, that she viewed "the little man" in a different light. She accepted the invitation of a car trip to Kuranda for the day and that is how Margaret Elizabeth Matthews met John Frawley.

It may also have been the day John determined how powerful prayer and attendance at Mass could be!

Margaret was a telephonist at the exchange and so was able to keep in constant - and free - contact with John after he returned to the family business after his six-month sabbatical. They married in Gordonvale on 28 August, 1955. In August 2013 they celebrated 58 years of marriage.

On 9 March this year they renewed their wedding vows with Archbishop Christopher Prowse, while John lay in bed at Clare Holland House. A truly special and memorable event.

Initially John and Margaret lived above Frawley's shoe shop in Kennedy St, Kingston. They decided to build and move into one of the new outer suburbs, so they moved into 90 Hopetoun Circuit in Yarralumla in 1956. This would be the family home for 57 years until John's illness necessitated a change.

John and Margaret had six children - Gerard, Mark, Louise, Stephen, Anthony and Simon. Mark died as an infant during a holiday in Gordonvale.

Along with the spouses of four of the children, Marie, John, Diane and Sehida, there are 12 grandchildren and four grand dogs. You would be surprised how much family discussion is held concerning the dogs.

John was proud that the families grew and had successful marriages, mirroring his great marriage with Margaret.

John was a great family man and a great father. This was particularly evidenced during the past 27 years since Anthony's near fatal car accident. John and Margaret's love and support over many years of recovery and rehabilitation were a sign of amazing devotion to a



loved child. John supported his kids in any direction they wanted to go, even if they didn't follow into the family business.

John loved the telephone, so much so that it led to one of his nicknames, Johnny Telephone, and led the Frawley's staff to give him a gold plastic phone as a present one year.

John worked in the business for well in excess of 60 years. It was not until the cancer returned when he was 80 that he had to give up working in the shop in Civic. His mind never switched off about the business though.

The thing John treasured most about the family business was the relationship forged with Ted and Marg. He called the relationship with Ted his second marriage.

The way he told it, Ted did the finances and he did the praying. While there is a certain truth to that, John was selling himself short.

The business grew and adapted over many years, peaking at eight stores.

The fact that a family business beginning in 1927, selling boots off the back of a truck to Parliament House construction workers, is still running as a family business 87 years later, is due in no small part to John, as well as prayer.

If family and footwear were important to John, the foundation of his very being was his faith.

His philosophy was simple - the challenges life threw at you were a test of faith while the blessings that came your way were prayers answered. In short, prayer was powerful. And you could never say enough prayers.

In the '60s and '70s he worked tirelessly for the St Vincent de Paul Society. He was instrumental in setting up the first charity stores in the Archdiocese in Narrabundah, Dickson and even Wagga.

His relentless and continuous involvement in numerous charities and organisations throughout his life are a testament to his selfless, generous and caring nature. Whether it be villages in South America or India, Vietnamese boat refugees, Brain Injury Association, providing financial support for strangers he heard about struggling in his grandchildren's schools, his generosity knew no bounds.

There were three main beneficiaries of his generosity - The Serra Club, Missionaries of Charity and St Peter Chanel's parish.

He found one of his vocations was in support of the clergy, through the Serra Club. He became a trusted confidant and friend of a large number of seminarians and priests and was always available to lend an ear.

John was a significant contributor to the Missionaries of Charity, Mother Teresa's Sisters, in Queanbeyan.

He seemed to always be on call to provide assistance, especially when the refuge was being set up, and he made a fine driver on many trips around NSW, taking Sisters to where they needed to go.

Until he was sick, he spent most Saturday afternoons with the Sisters, feeding those less fortunate at Ainslie Village.

St Peter Chanel's was his second home. Over the years he was a reader, cleaner, money collector, counter and he served as an acolyte for in excess of 30 years.

One of his closest friends, Vic Gilles, summed it up beautifully the other day. He said he didn't know whether to pray for John or to John. He decided it best to take a bet each way.

(an edited version of the family eulogy).

Internet www.cg.catholic.org.au

Prayer-filled moments



Revisiting Cursillo... (from left) back: Angela Cornell, Christine Lynch, Tony Brown, Fr John Armstrong, Joe Jambor, Jo Rummery, Peter McCue. Middle: Cecily Daley, Viv Wheatley, Hilda Fitzgerald, Irene Costmeyer, Margaret Berry, Maria Pizzano, Carol Kennedy, Elaine Gruber. Front: Fr Allen Crowe, Mary Tyrie, Merran Martin, Michael Allam, Brian Mahony, Irma Jambor, Margaret Wilkinson, Jane McGlew.

Inspirational talks and meditations as well as gentle liturgies made for a prayer-filled time for the 22 people who took part in the Cursillo Revisited weekend at St Clement's monastery, Galong.

Fr John Armstrong and Fr Allen Crowe were co-spiritual directors with Fr Armstrong travelling from Batemans Bay to take part.

His talk with the theme Are We There Yet? challenged all to see the here and now, the pre-

sent moment, as important and where God wants us to be.

Participants were touched by Fr Crowe's good humoured sharing of his 20 years of priesthood, as well as his talk entitled Pilgrims Walking Together and his gentle liturgy.

The key message of the weekend of seeking a closer and deeper relationship with Jesus was most appropriate for the season of Lent.

A particular feature of the weekend was the warmth and friendship of all present.

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Muppet madness fun for all

Muppets Most Wanted. Starring Ricky Gervais, Ty Burrell, Tina Fey and The Muppets. Directed by James Bobin. Walt Disney. 113 minutes. G. Reviewer: Callum Ryan*.

Following on from 2011's reboot of the Muppets franchise, this sequel plays to the strengths of the first film and expands the universe in which it takes place too.

Incorporating self-referential humour, catchy tunes and an overwhelming wave of celebrity cameos, the follow-up is wonderful entertainment for all ages.

The new adventure begins exactly at the conclusion of the last film, and the Muppets lead out with a song about the pitfalls of releasing a sequel.

From there, they are quickly signed on with a new agent, Dominic Badguy ("it's pronounced Badjee, it's French", played by Ricky Gervais), who whisks them off on a grand tour of Europe.

Once there, Dominic's plan is clear: replace Kermit with the evil criminal Constantine, an uncanny doppelganger for Kermit, and commit a spree of crimes across the continent under the cover of the tour.

Interpol inspector Jean Pierre Napoleon (Ty Burrell) and CIA agent Sam the Eagle are hot on their heels, but only Kermit, now imprisoned in a Russian Gulag, can truly save the Muppets from the nefarious mastermind in their midst.

The 2011 film was both a nostalgia trip and an update of sorts for the Muppets, dragging them back into the public eye and, I imagine, kindling fandom for Kermit, Miss Piggy and Co in thousands more children worldwide.

This film capitalises on this ground-work, and ditches exposition for a mad caper through several major European cities.



Mad caper through Europe... Gonzo, Miss Piggy, Kermit, Floyd, Walter and Scooter. Picture: Jay Maidment. ©2014 Disney Enterprises, Inc.

Though this could have been a criticism, the gamble certainly pays off for anyone who has ever seen the Muppets before.

Kermit is still afraid to commit to the glamorous Miss Piggy, Gonzo proposes and delivers increasingly absurd stunts, Statler and Waldorf continue their heckling.

Writers James Bobin and Nicholas Stoller know what we want from the gang, and constantly deliver it.

The jokes fly thickly and largely hit their target, especially those which wink knowingly at the audience, such as Constantine's promise of "a heart-warming lesson about sharing or waiting your turn or the number three".

This is modern entertainment tinted with a strong sepia-toned reminiscence of the Muppets' heyday.

The questions of identity and friendship raised are somewhat glossed

over, but they aren't the true aim of this film, just by-products of its other furry attractions.

The musical numbers, written again by Bret McKenzie, are energetic, toe-tapping tunes and the excellent choreography and staging from director Bobin complement them wonderfully.

The incredibly talented cast of puppeteers operating and voicing the Muppets remain unparalleled – the emotion they capably render from felt and glue is subtle and appropriately levelled for the audience, and always overshadow the human element.

This said however, the human cast is also grand – the three leads, all best known for their respective television work, clearly have a ball, and provide more than capable foils for the Muppets.

• Callum Ryan is an associate of the Australian Catholic Office for Film and Broadcasting.

shorts

The Grand Budapest Hotel. Starring: Ralph Fiennes, Tony Revolori, Saoirse Ronan, Tilda Swinton, Harvey Keitel, Willem Dafoe, F. Murray Abraham, and Jude

Law. Directed by Wes Anderson. Twentieth Century Fox. 100 minutes. M (Violence, sexual references, nudity, and coarse language).

and Chris Miller. Warner Brothers. 100 minutes. PG (Mild animated violence and crude humour).

British-German comedy-drama focuses on Monsieur Gustave H (Fiennes), the concierge of a European luxury hotel who is framed for the murder of one of the hotel's guests. Very well crafted and highly unconventional, the surface of the film is zany comedy, but deep down it offers melancholic reflection, and the two layers are held together delightfully.

The Lego Movie. Voices of Chris Pratt, Will Ferrell, Elizabeth Banks, Will Arnett. Directed by Phil Lord

One of a rare breed of animated kids' films and should be recognised alongside the Toy Story trilogy as an adventure which can captivate and entertain viewers of any age. Fun, inventive and engaging, perfectly constructed viewing for the whole family.

The voice cast is brilliantly filled out by a collection of Hollywood stars. Chris Pratt is a wonderful everyman in the lead role, and his journey of self-discovery is laden with real feeling and warmth.

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Popes: the good were very good, and the bad...

Good Pope, Bad Pope: Their Lives, Our Lessons by Mike Aquilina. Servant Books, 2013, 136 pages, \$24.95. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.

The excitement which has followed the election of Pope Francis has been experienced worldwide. Predictably, many books have come on to a market eager to learn about the Bishop of Rome in person and about the papacy in general. This is a good thing, right?

We are used to modern-day popes being remarkable men, different in personality but always true to the Church's teaching and mission. Hence Mike Aquilina's latest

book *Good Pope, Bad Pope* gains an intriguing focus.

Aquilina is an author or editor of more than 40 books on Catholic history, doctrine and devotion. He is also a witty writer and broadcaster who engages his audience with his ability in story-telling.

His goal is to point out that even the worst popes did nothing to damage the teaching of the Church and the great ones advanced our understanding of doctrine.

This, he states, is the triumph of the papacy. The lives of these popes, good and bad, fulfil the promise of Christ that he would be with the Church always.

Sensibly, Aquilina has chosen only 12 popes among the 266 possibilities. These range across the centuries from St Peter to Blessed John Paul II.

Some were saints, some were rogues or fools. The good were very good and the baddies, such as Alexander VI (who was a Borgia) were very, very bad. Yet through all the dynastic, political and doctrinal struggles the Church has survived. This is a timely reminder for contemporary Christians in these challenging times.

Aquilina has written about snippets of Church history in such an entertaining way that it made me laugh out loud at times. It's likely that you will do so, too.

All you wanted to know about popular Francis

I Ask You To Pray for Me: Opening a Horizon of Hope. Pope Francis, Paulist Press, 2013, 93 pages, \$19.95.

Francis, A New World Pope by Michel Cool. William B Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2013, 120 pages, \$19.95.

Saint Francis, Pope Francis: A Common Vision by Gina Loehr with Al Giambrone. Servant Books, 2014, 125 pages, \$24.95. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.

Like breaking waves, the Pope books keep coming.

Gina Loehr's book about the two Francises, as she refers to them, is written in collaboration with her father. She is a university lecturer in theology who has produced several books on the saints.

She recognises that St Francis was completely dedicated to being an authentic image of Christ in the world. The fact that the current Holy Father chose the name Francis indicates a similar desire, she believes.

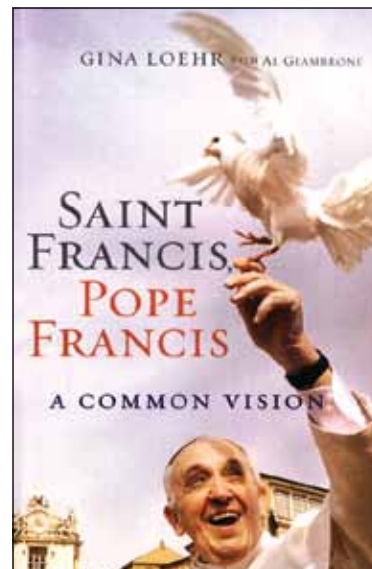
Loehr examines five gospel values that characterised St Francis: humility, charity, church,

peace and joy. Each chapter contains a scripture reflection on one of these values, examples from the saint's life, an examination of how Pope Francis is committed to that Gospel value, and finally the relevant church teaching. Each chapter then concludes with questions for personal reflection.

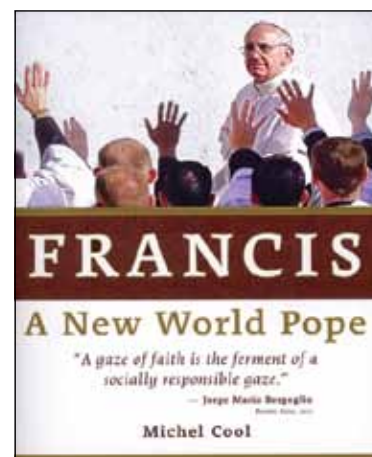
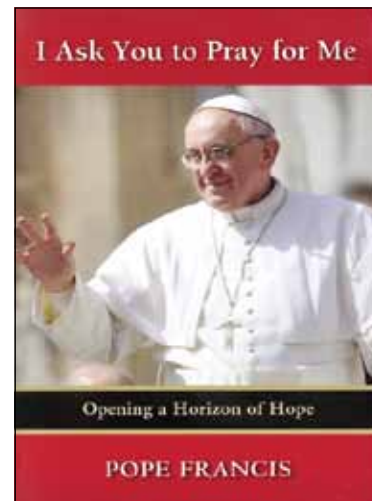
This is a scholarly work, compiled with care by an author who knows St Francis well and who makes a useful contribution to our growing admiration for Pope Francis. Some original thinking becomes our food for thought.

I Ask You to Pray for Me is a collection of Pope Francis' homilies and speeches during the first three weeks of his papacy. Published in collaboration with Vatican publisher Libreria Editrice Vaticana, these reveal Francis' friendly and assured delivery, his acknowledgement of his predecessors, and his signalling of a new direction. Saves you a trawl through the internet.

Michel Cool is a French journalist. His *Francis, A New World Pope* is a translation into English and it shows. He repeats



much of what has already been covered during Francis' first heady days. There are lots of little grabs from eye-witnesses in Rome and Argentina and re-published interviews with those in the know. He identifies 10 pressing matters for the Pope to address. The reform of the Curia and the Vatican finances are not among them. Clearly the caravan has moved on.



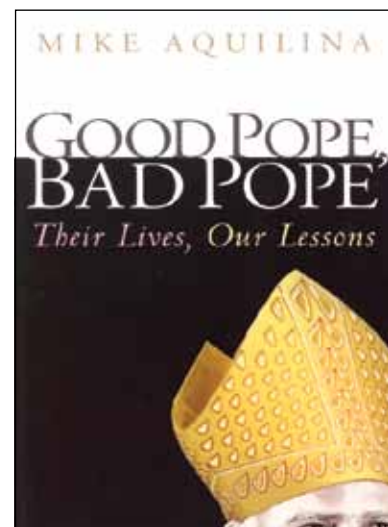
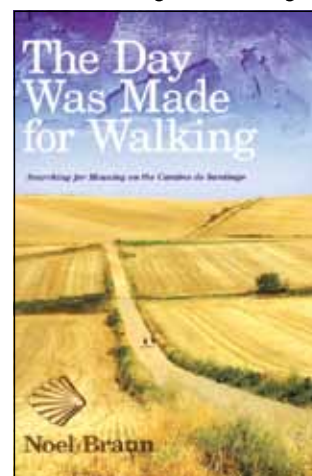
Search for God of mystery

The Day Was Made for Walking by Noel Braun. Sid Harta Publishers, Victoria, pb, 257 pages, \$24.95. Reviewer: Margaret Ryan.

If you were an Aussie aged 77, would you set out on the 800km Camino de Santiago de Compostela? Catholic Noel Braun walked 700km across part of France in 2010, and returned the next year to walk across Spain (1500km in total). He prepared physically (in the gym and the bush) and linguistically (language courses in both countries prior to walking). He chose to carry his pack and stay at hostels. Braun lost his wife of 42 years to depression and suicide, and attempted the journey partly searching for spiritual and emotional insights for the rest of his life. He describes himself as a person of "reasoned faith", seeking the God of Mystery.

Whereas other books on the Camino often provide something of the history and culture of the places the writer travelled through, or some practical tips for would-be pilgrims, Braun concentrates on an account of each day of his journey. He describes those he met en route, and the merits of the particular hostels where he stayed. It's a personal memoir, with suggestions for additional reading.

The author has published two novels and another memoir (concerning his response to his wife's death). I was disappointed that he chose to disclose little of how the Camino affected him spiritually.



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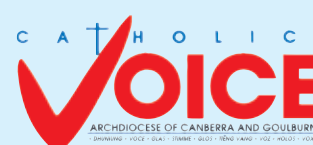
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AMICUS – Support & friendship/ social group for widowed, separated or divorced Catholics regular activities on second and fourth weekends. New members welcome. Inquiries: Len, telephone 6299 6606; Pat 6292 1631, Enid 6296 5592.

CATECHIST PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT – 10am-3pm, Monday, 12 May, Our Lady Help of Christians, Bermagui; 10am-noon, Saturday, 17 May, Rheinberger Centre, Yarralumla; 10am-3pm, Wednesday, 21 May, St Mary's, West Wyalong; 10am-3pm, Friday, 23 May, St Joseph's, Grenfell; 10am-3pm, Monday, 26 May, St Patricks, Cooma; 10am-3pm, Friday, 6 June, St Raphael's, Queanbeyan.

CHURCH CENTENARY – Sunday, 21 September, St Patrick's Church, Binalong. Mass 11am, then lunch 12.30pm. Old photographs or material send to jackie@ieu.asn.au.

GOOD SHEPHERD PRAYER GROUP – Meets Wednesdays 7pm-9.30pm, parish room, St Peter Chanel's Church, Yarralumla, ACT. Rosary, charismatic praise and worship, teachings, testimonies, prayer ministry, intercession and fellowship. Inquiries: Susanna, telephone 0419 902 293, Neda 0415 266 019, Gabriel 0432 082 642

HESYCHIA SCHOOL OF SPIRITUAL DIRECTION – 5-17 October, St Clement's Retreat and Conference Centre, Galong. Redemptorists Fr Thomas Santa and Fr Paul Coury from Arizona, return to conduct

workshop on the Hesychia School focusing on the ancient art of Christian spiritual direction. An ecumenical and inter-faith program. Inquiries, bookings: Sue Rolfe, retreat co-ordinator info@stclement.com.au or Fr Bill Goldman CSsR, telephone 6380 5222.

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.

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.

PILGRIMAGE TO GALONG – Sunday, 4 May, pilgrimage to St Clement's monastery for annual Marian procession. Bookings: Judy and Joe Mewburn, telephone 6254 6202.

PREPARING FOR PENTECOST – Series of teachings after 7pm Mass, in Collins Wing, St Benedict's Mission Centre, 11, 18, 25 May and 1 June.

REFLECTION SERIES – St Benedict's Mission Centre series Emotions in Spiritual Life, 7.15pm-8.45pm, Thursdays in May, in Collins Wing, Jerrabomberra Ave, Narrabundah. Presented by Fr Tony Shick MGL. Donation. Inquiries: Fr Bony Abraham MGL bonyab@gmail.com

SERRA CLUB OF CANBERRA – Rosary and Mass, 6.10pm, Thursday, 8 May, Holy Trinity Church, Curtin, followed by dinner at Southern Cross Club, Woden. Inquiries: John Malycha, telephone 6251 2912.

THE MYSTICS: FRIENDS FOR OUR LIVES – Retreat led by Sr Moya Unthank RSJ, 5-12 May, St Clement's Retreat and Conference Centre, Galong. The retreat is an opportunity to find a blessing and assurance and comforting wisdom in the lives of these saints. Information and bookings: Sue Rolfe, telephone 6380 5222 or info@stclement.com.au

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND – 13-15 June, Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville. Marriage Enrichment experience for married couples. Bookings, inquiries: Ardell and Bill Sharpe, telephone 4283 3435, wsharpe@bigpond.net.au or go to www.wwme.org.au.

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

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Pentecost celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit. Received at our baptism and confirmation it empowers us in faith and calls us to involvement in Christ's mission: the means to overcome the seemingly impossible as we journey through life with Christ.

Last month, 20-year commemorations of the horrors of the Rwandan genocide remind us of the enduring memories and stark senses of loss faced daily by Rwandans, still seeking healing and hope.

This healing, through Christ and the Holy Spirit, is the message made present by the communities of faith and their priests in Rwanda. Many themselves caught up in the horrors and loss, now seeking to place their trust in the true message of healing through forgiveness and sharing this message.

It is endeavours such as these that Catholic Mission, through the works of Propagation of the Faith, support and encourage. It enables people surrounded by immense suffering and heartache to share the means to restore hope and opportunities for Easter's resurrection and life.

Fr Emmanuel is one of three priests in Naymata parish, who with members of their community, are living this message and need our support.

God bless, Deacon Joe Blackwell

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

From near and far

Random pampering

Archdiocesan clergy care coordinator Carmel Gibbons has passed on a message from her daughter, Emma O'Brien, who is seeking "random acts of kindness" from us for Mother's Day.

She is hoping the kindness will come in the form of donations of "luxury" items, such as make-up, moisturiser, perfume and other such products, to include in pamper hampers for pregnant women and mothers in crisis who turn to the not-for-profit Karinya House for help.

Ms O'Brien said the idea was inspired by the "Zach Attack" concept in the US, where a mother who lost her son last Mother's Day has started a drive to provide hampers or gifts to mothers sitting by their children's bedsides in hospitals on Mother's Day in her son's honour.

Contact Ms O'Brien on 0418 640 760 or dej.obrien@yahoo.com.au.

Raining donations

It poured rain on the April day on which 13-year-old Alyssa Anderson led a small team of people on a 7km walk around Lake Tuggeranong as a Caritas Ks (Kilometres for Compassion) event.

If only they could have bottled some of it and sent it the way of the people they were out to help – those around the world who don't have access to clean drinking water. Alyssa was inspired to mobilise her Act1v8 Corpus Christi team of parishioners, family and friends to do the charity walk after hearing Australian Catholic Bishops Conference media officer Beth Doherty talk about her mission work in Paraguay at an Archdiocesan youth Explosion event.

A little young to jump on a plane to Paraguay, as she wanted to do, Alyssa enlisted the support of Fr Peter Day and Fr Luke Verrell and she and her team raised more than \$2500. They're still taking donations. Contributions can be made at <http://my.caritasfundraising.org.au/act1v8alyssa>.



ABOVE: Wet but determined ... Alyssa Anderson (left)

leads the walk around Lake Tuggeranong with Ariana Strmota.

30 years on

Think back 30 years. Did you happen to be at St Thomas the Apostle Parish Kambah and were involved in building the church in any way? If so, the current parishioners are keen for you to join them in marking the 30th anniversary with a Mass celebrated by Archbishop Prowse on Sunday 18 May at 10am.

Of course, you don't need to have been connected with the construction phase to go along for the Mass, barbecue lunch and other celebrations. Contact the parish office on 6231 9219 or stt.kambah@cg.catholic.org.au for more details.

Give and take

Giving things up for Lent is all well and good but, as Archbishop Christopher Prowse pointed out in a Lenten homily, it is worth considering how meaningful our sacrifices are. He told the story of the man who proudly told him he had given up beer for Lent, only to have his wife put it in perspective after her husband was out of earshot. Don't get too excited, she said, he's taken up drinking whiskey every night instead.



Minds on matter

A group of teenagers conspiring with 10- and 11-year-olds to produce "elephant's toothpaste" out of hydrogen peroxide might sound like a volcano waiting to explode, but this particular experiment was conducted under controlled conditions at Merici College in Braddon.

The college made its year 9 science students and its more extensive resources available to help year 5 and 6 students from St Thomas More Primary in Campbell with their study of matter.

The "elephant's toothpaste" was one of four carefully chosen experiments the younger students attempted as part of two Big Sister Science Days.

The Merici girls are arranging Big Sister Science Days with St Joseph's in O'Connor and hope to extend the offer to other schools.

ABOVE: Sisterly chemistry ... students and teachers from Merici College and St Thomas More Primary at a Merici Big Sister Science Day.

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Help is in the bag as group puts prayer into action

By Fiona van der Plaats

For such an important accessory, the little material bag belonging to the Wednesday prayer group from North Woden parish is an unassuming item.

For the past 15 years or so, the blue-and-white checked bag with its distinctive red rim has sat unobtrusively in the room when the group of 10 or more meets every week.

It is not handed around like a Sunday collection plate. It simply sits and waits for whoever can afford it to pop in a few dollars – or more.

Bryan Docherty, the bag's unofficial minder, never knows from week to week how much has gone into the bag, but he does know it averages up to \$2000 a year.

As Mr Docherty says, that amount "can buy a lot of stuff" in some African countries, and that is exactly what it has done.

The bag, sewn by Mr Docherty's wife Marie, came into being as an "outreach project" after the group decided to help members Anny Uwamariya and husband Antoine Kalinganire to support a niece who was brutalised during the genocide in Rwanda and could not afford to complete her education.

After that, the bag's takings followed the Rwandan couple to Mali, where Antoine had moved with the United Nations.

There they were used to help the people of a Muslim village outside the capital Bamako form a small-loan cooperative, build a fenced vegetable garden and buy a millet grinder and water pumps. This was all done through a local

women's committee and helped to foster sustainable practices in the community.

Contributions to the village were boosted when the prayer group's Bill Bartley requested people donate to the bag rather than buy him presents when his family threw him a 90th birthday party. When he died last year, it was also his wish that contributions be made to the bag in lieu of flowers.

The bag's latest outreach project in Mali is an orphanage run by a French congregation of sisters in the town of San, on the edge of the Sahara Desert in the troubled north of the country.

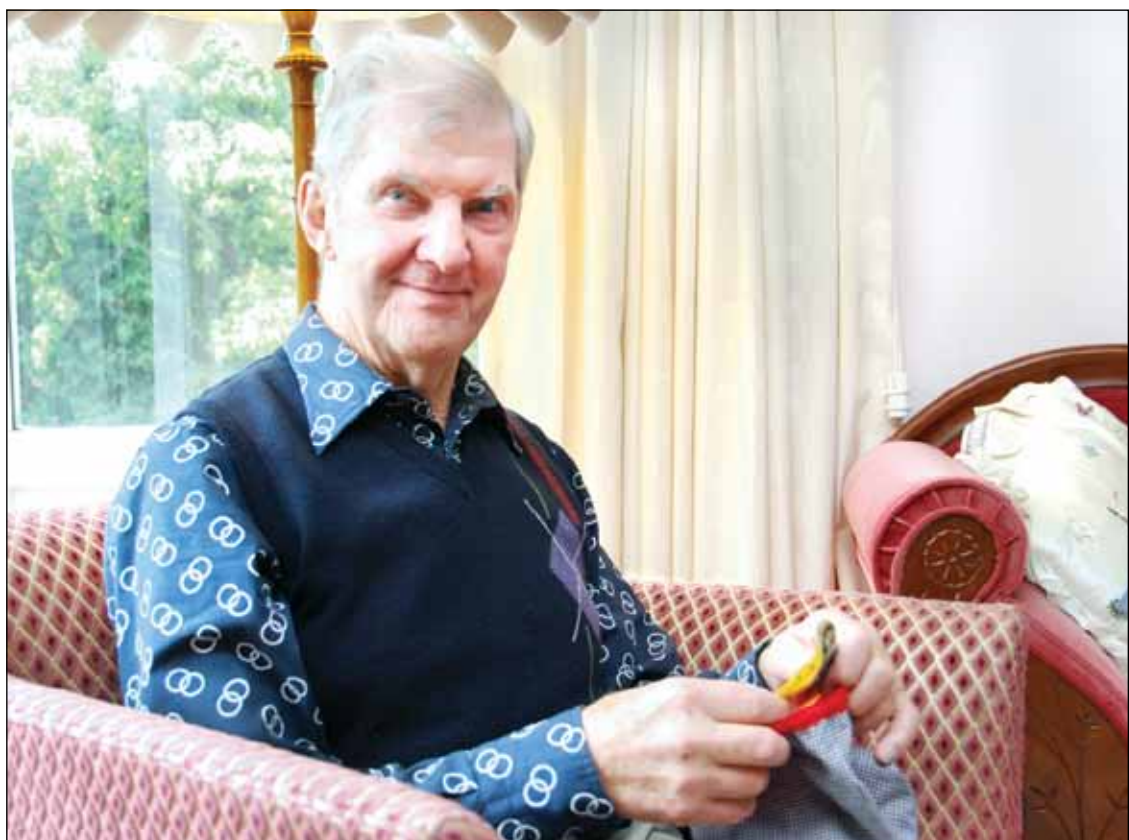
The prayer group lodges the funds into Anny's account, and she makes the often perilous 900km round trip to deliver supplies to the Dofini Orphanage.

They have also arranged for an air-conditioner to be installed, which has reduced the infant death rate, and bought a radio and speakers so the children can sing and dance.

Meanwhile, Antoine supervised the establishment of a vegetable garden and orchard, along with the installation of two water tanks.

The continuation of the delivery runs to the orphanage will depend on the political situation in Mali, but the one certainty is that the little bag will continue to hold up its end of the bargain as long as it is needed.

"All I ever need to do is mumble something about getting ready to send the next lot of money to Anny and there is always something there when I open it," Mr Docherty said.



ABOVE: In the bag ... Brian Docherty with the Wednesday Prayer Group's collection bag.



LEFT: Fruits of labour ... a young relative of Anny Uwamariya with produce from the orchard Anny and husband Antoine helped establish at the Dofini Orphanage.

BELOW: Source of life ... the water tanks the Wednesday Prayer Group helped to buy for the orphanage's garden and orchard.



BELOW LEFT: Nurturing ... Anny Uwamariya nurses a blind child at the Dofini Orphanage in Mali.

BELOW RIGHT: A place to call home ... babies are watched over at the Dofini Orphanage in Mali.

