

CATHOLIC VOICE

ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN

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FREE

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A gift of two saintly men – middle pages

Cruelty 'does us no honour'

Australia's Catholic bishops and priests have made an urgent plea to government and the broad community for respect for the rights of asylum seekers.

Speaking at their plenary gathering in Sydney, the bishops said current government policy "has about it a cruelty that does no honour to our nation."

"How can this be when Australians are so generous in so many situations where human beings are in strife? Think of the way the Vietnamese boat people were welcomed in the 1970s and '80s. The question becomes more pointed when we think of the politicians who are making and implementing the decisions. They are not cruel people. Yet they have made decisions and are implementing policies which are cruel. How can this be so?"

The bishops called on all parliamentarians to "turn away from these policies, which shame Australia and to take the path of a realistic compassion that deals with both human need and electoral pressure."

• Cont Page 4.



Helping hand ... Lee and Pat Maher help out with the Vinnies window display for Braidwood's 175th Heritage Day.

History in the making

By Fiona van der Plaats

Among the original 10 members of the St Vincent de Paul Society conference in Braidwood, the first to be established outside Sydney, was its founding president Mr J Maher.

That was a mere 53 years after Frederic Ozanam founded the society in Paris. Today, 128 years later, Mr P Maher is busy carrying on the work his ancestor started.

"It was like coming home again" when Pat Maher and his wife Lee returned to Braidwood about eight years ago and joined the Vinnies conference.

Mr Maher was born in Braidwood in 1933 and grew up in the nearby village of Reidsdale, where the old St Bernard's church he attended still stands.

He met Goulburn-born Pat, who was nursing in Braidwood, in 1954 and married her in 1956. Seven children, 19 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren (with two on the way) and a number of years in Queanbeyan later, they are giv-

ing back to the community they feel they owe much to.

Their connection to the conference's past and present was more than enough reason for them to get into the spirit of Braidwood's 175th Heritage Day celebrations.

A Vinnies float, carrying Mrs Maher in a heritage costume, took pride of place in the parade and the shop window was fitted out with mannequins in colonial-style clothes sourced through the society's sorting centre in Mitchell and from locals.

An antique pram, one of the first collapsible models, was contributed to the display by Braidwood parish secretary Helen Hart, along with a dapper men's suit. A Vinnies volunteer supplied the truck for the float, which local children brightened up with a colourful banner of hand prints, reflecting the Vinnies "hand-up" theme.

Preparations for the float and display together were "great fun and also quite mad", Vinnies shop manager Julie Reynolds said.

Rain on parade day forced some last-minute modifications to the float. "We had to leave some things off that we had hoped to have on there." But, otherwise, it was great day for all involved, she said.

It was also a way of promoting the work of the society, which president Cathy Ffrench said could always do with more help.

When Mrs Ffrench, who has presided over the Braidwood conference for six years, joined up a decade ago, it was battling with only three members.

Those numbers have improved but "there will always be people in the community who need our help. A lot of people are experiencing tough times in rural areas."

The costs of electricity and fuel were major problems, she said, and young families in particular who moved to the area looking for more affordable housing were often caught out by the double whammy of unexpectedly high rents and travelling costs.

The conference assists up to 30 people or families a month and members visit people in hospitals, their homes and at Narbethong Frail Aged Hostel. It also distributes hampers at Christmas.

The Mahers are in the office every Friday, talking to people who need assistance, handing out vouchers where needed and helping with budget counselling. "The aim is to help them get back on their feet," Mrs Maher said. "You need to be a good listener and make them feel they are not second grade because, you know, it's a big thing for them to have to ask for help."

Pilgrims brave the cold for Mary – back page



Confirmation - regeneration in Christ Jesus

To the People of God in the Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn,

Over the next period of time I will be conferring the Sacrament of Confirmation for the first time as Archbishop in many parishes of the Archdiocese. I am looking forward to this. Already I am praying for the many hundreds of children who will open their minds and hearts to the deep presence of the Holy Spirit in this Sacrament.

In recent teachings in Rome, Pope Francis has been making a focus on the Sacrament of Confirmation, linking it with Baptism and Eucharist. He taught:

... the three Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist together, constitute

the mystery of "Christian initiation," a single great event of grace that regenerates us in Christ. This is the fundamental vocation which unites everyone in the Church as disciples of the Lord Jesus. (26 March 2014)

It is important to note the key linkages Pope Francis makes here between Confirmation, Baptism, Eucharist, grace, Christ, Church and discipleship. He presents the broad panorama of how the Sacraments form an integrated whole with our vocation in Jesus, alive in his Church.

During the month of June, this whole panorama in our shared Christian life is celebrated in some pivotal significant solemnities – all central to our faith. On each Sunday in June we will celebrate the Solemnities

of the Ascension of the Lord, Pentecost, Holy Trinity, the Body and Blood of Christ and Sts Peter and Paul, Apostles. Let us, therefore, keep close to the Faith we share by participating more deeply in Word and Sacrament in these precious days.

For the children who will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation over this time, my hope and prayer is that you will fully open yourselves to the Holy Spirit, "the Lord and giver of life," like never before. May priests, deacons, parents, parishioners, Religious, teachers, schools, catechists, sponsors all work together to ensure that our children are properly disposed and prepared to receive this Sacrament.

We must put aside any superficial attitudes to this encounter with the

Holy Spirit; attitudes like "my choice alone" (no real parish commitment) in choosing the Sacrament, and over-stressing on parties and presents to be received.

Also, choosing names for Confirmation for superficial reasons, and so on, are insufficient in our preparation for the Sacrament.

However, openness to the gifts and the fruits of the Holy Spirit and studying the importance of each one, careful choice of sponsor and Confirmation name, a real readiness to open our lives to Jesus and commitment to His Catholic Church, especially local parish life – all these aspects and more, create the attitude pleasing to the Lord.

Let us all pray for those who are to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation soon. Sometimes we can be rather cynical about others as they approach this Sacrament. Let us put such negativity aside.

Let the Holy Spirit reign in our Archdiocese!!

May the Holy Spirit bless you and your loved ones, especially those sick or marginalised.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse.

Archbishop's diary

JUNE

- 1 Confirmation, Batemans Bay
- 3 Mass, Marist Champagne Day; Confirmation Kippax
- 4 Confirmation retreat, Good Shepherd Primary School
- 5 Council of Priests
- 6 Confirmation retreat, St Bede's School, Red Hill; Lunch Blue Door, Ainslie Village; Confirmation retreat Holy Spirit School, Nicholls
- 7 Mass, Evatt parish
- 8 Mass, North Woden parish; Confirmation, Cathedral
- 10 Confirmation, Gungahlin
- 11 Confirmation, Gungahlin
- 12 Meeting bishops of NSW/ ACT, Sydney
- 12 Confirmation, Gungahlin
- 14 Mass, Central Canberra parish
- 15 Confirmation, North Woden
- 17 Trinity Catholic College student leaders BBQ, Archbishops House
- 18 Mass, Calvary Haydon Retirement Village; Confirmation, Boorowa
- 19 Confirmation, Young
- 20 Confirmation, Ardlethan
- 21 Confirmation, Temora
- 22 Confirmation, Cootamundra; Confirmation, Boorowa
- 27 Mass for grandparents day, St Mary's School, Crookwell
- 28 Confirmation, Wanniansa
- 29 Mass feast of St John for local knights and dames of the Order of Malta, Cathedral

around the catholic world

Paul VI 'miracle'

VATICAN CITY (CNA): Pope Paul VI will be beatified on 19 October at the conclusion of the synod of bishops on the family. His beatification cause was advanced with the Congregation for the Causes of Saints giving unanimous approval to an unborn child's miraculous healing attributed to his intercession. Paul VI is particularly well-known for his encyclical, *Humanae Vitae*, which spoke about the importance of generosity in married love and the principles of responsible parenthood. At the age of 66 he was elected Pope and chose the name Paul VI in reference to the missionary spirit of the Apostle Paul.

Merciful always

VATICAN CITY (VIS): Never tire of being merciful, Pope Francis urged 13 new priests when he presided at a Mass for their ordination. "Please, have that capacity for forgiveness that the Lord had; He Who came not to condemn but to forgive," the Pope said. "Have mercy, great mercy! And if you are worried about being too forgiving, think of that holy priest of whom I have spoken, who stopped before the tabernacle and said, 'Lord, forgive me if I have forgiven too much. But you have set me a bad example!' And I say to you, truly, it pains me when I encounter people who no longer go to confession because they have been reproached and scolded."



Islam expert honour

SYDNEY: English-born Archbishop Michael Louis Fitzgerald has received Australian Catholic University's highest honour, Doctor of the University. Archbishop Fitzgerald is considered one of the Holy See's leading experts on Islam. He is recognised widely for his eminent service to inter-religious dialogue.

ABOVE: Pro Chancellor Mr Ted Exell (left) confers the honorary doctorate on Archbishop Fitzgerald with Deputy Vice-Chancellor Prof Anne Cummins.

Celebrating women

CANBERRA: An encyclopedia celebrating women and leadership has been launched at the National Library of Australia. The Encyclopedia of Women and Leadership in Twentieth-Century Australia was edited by Australian Catholic University Prof Shurlee Swain, and Prof Judith Smart, of University of Melbourne. View it at www.womenaustralia.info/leaders/index.html

True friend of Jewish people

VATICAN CITY (CAN/EWTN News): Israel's Ambassador to the Holy See says the Pope's upcoming visit to the Holy Land marks an important historical moment both spiritually and politically. "It will be another milestone of historical importance not only in the relations between Israel and the Holy See, but also between the Catholic Church and the Jewish people," Dr Zion Evrony said. "He will be welcomed as a true friend of the Jewish people."

Come and see weekend

SYDNEY: The Sisters of the Good Samaritan are planning to run a Come and See weekend this month for young women searching for a new direction in their lives. It will be held on 6-8 June at Mt St Benedict Centre, Pennant Hills. Inquiries: Sr Bernadette Corboy, telephone 0429074849, email bcorboy@good-sams.org.au.

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Red-letter day at a new saint's school



The obstacles the Archdiocese's newest college faced on its long road to fruition might have tried the patience of a saint, but it was a saint who made its eventual opening a landmark event.

After a dozen years of stop-start planning, what began life as John Paul College was officially blessed and opened as St John Paul II College on its permanent site in Nicholls.

The opening came two days after the college's namesake pope was canonised in Rome.

The college, which started with a foundation group of about 100 year 7 students on the campus of the Mother Teresa school in Harrison last year, moved that group along with the latest year 7 intake into the completed first stage of its new premises this year.

The school, which expects stage two to be ready next year, will ultimately house about 1200 students.

Catholic Education director Moira Najdecki, college principal Catherine Rey and college council chair Keith Cantlie all acknowledged the patience and persistence of those who nursed the project through its many setbacks. Mrs Najdecki thanked parents and students who kept the faith even though "you must have had your doubts".

Archbishop Prowse said one of the greatest honours for a bishop was to bless and open a school, "because a school has a past and has a present and has a wonderful future".

He urged the students to live up to their namesake saint's maxim that "to be fully Christian is to be truly human".

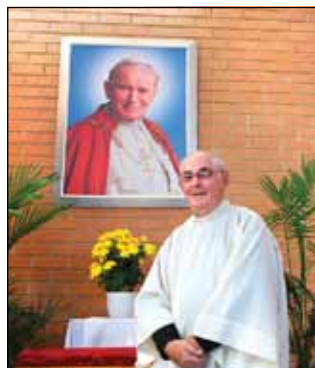
• A gift from God of two saintly men, middle pages.

Fr Stan's 'beautiful moment'

It was a one-in-a-million moment for Rev Stanislaw Lipski, or Fr Stan as he is known, when he stood among the masses near St Peter's Square in Rome to witness the canonisation of popes John XXIII and John Paul II.

The vice superior of the Polish Society of Christ's Provincial House, Narrabundah, had risen at 3.30am on the day and boarded a bus that dropped pilgrims short of the Tiber River.

He then joined the throngs moving towards the Basilica at about 20m an hour and finally found a spot 300m from St Peter's Square, with a view of a large monitor.

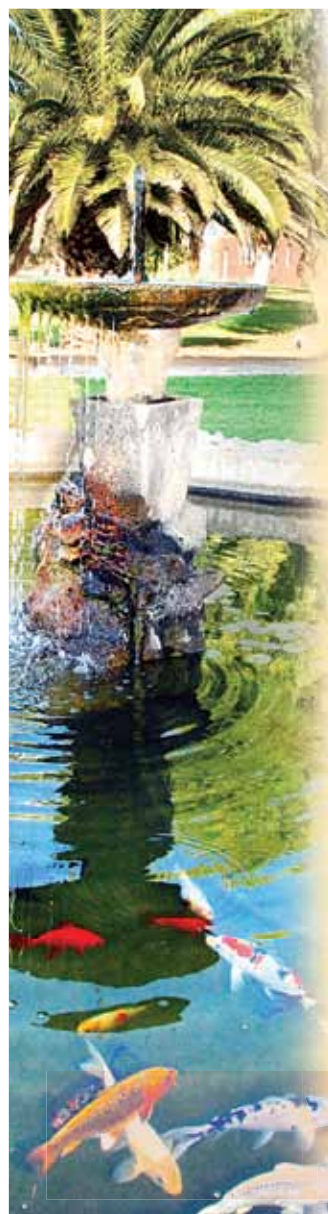



Beautiful moments ... Fr Stan in the chapel of the John Paul II Polish Catholic Centre.

There were many "beautiful moments" in the ceremony but the most moving for Fr Stan was the appearance of Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI, who was greeted with thunderous applause from the crowd and a warm embrace from Pope Francis.

The close-up image of Benedict XVI deep in prayer after his friend John Paul II was pronounced a saint will stay with Fr Stan, who met John Paul II seven times. While in Rome, he attended a Polish-language Mass in St Sebastian Chapel, which houses the tomb of John Paul II, "the father of our (Polish) freedom".

ABOVE: Patience and persistence ... Archbishop Christopher Prowse begins the blessing. RIGHT: Wonderful future... Year 8 students Josh Beale and Sarina Dao (front) and Archbishop Prowse lead the official party.





GALONG

JUNE	<p>Portraits of Jesus in the New Testament – the Gospels and St Paul Friday 20 – Friday 27 June, Fr Michael Fallon MSC A six-day retreat commencing with the evening meal on Friday and concluding after breakfast the following Friday. \$550</p>
AUGUST	<p>Waiting for the Spirit Monday 11 – Monday 18 August, Fr Leo Coffey CSsR A prayerful, reflective time naming and celebrating the presence of God in every dimension of our lives and in our world, and becoming more deeply connected to that life-giving presence. A six-day preached retreat commencing with the evening meal on Monday and concluding after breakfast the following Monday. Ensuite \$650. Single room, shared facilities \$550.</p>
SEPTEMBER	<p>Icons at the Monastery: An experience of Spirituality and Painting Thursday 11 – Sunday 14 September, coordinated by Sue Orchison An icon painting workshop commencing with the evening meal on Thursday and concluding with lunch on Sunday. Single room, shared facilities: \$380 plus \$150 materials fee.</p>
OCTOBER	<p>Hesychia School of Spiritual Direction Sunday 5 – Friday 17 October A two-week program for spiritual directors, men and women in the healing professions and anyone with an interest in their own growth and development. The Hesychia School of Spiritual Direction is based on the Desert Fathers and Mothers of Egypt, Palestine, Arabia and Persia. Hesychia means "watchful, inner stillness, silence". The Hesychia School is an ecumenical and inter faith program designed to provide resources and support for the ministry of spiritual guidance and to encourage the deepening of the spiritual life of participants. The vision is to prepare spiritual directors and spiritual companions through in-depth study, peer learning and spiritual mentoring to serve the growing community of women and men who, from all walks of life and all religious traditions, seek the guidance of the Spirit. Commencing with the evening meal on Sunday and ending after breakfast on Friday 17. Ensuite room \$1070. Single room, shared facilities \$950. Registration requires a deposit of \$100.</p>

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By Fiona van der Plaats

As he steps down after 20 years at the helm of archdiocesan social services agency CatholicCare, Neil Harrigan figures that he, of all people, should be able to cope with the transition to the next stage of his life.

After all, his doctorate focused on staged evolutionary theory as it relates to spirituality, which you don't need to understand to get an inkling that it pertains to a stage in living.

And, as a psychologist, his main interest lies in mental health and other issues related to ageing.

"So I reckon I can let it go," the 73-year-old said of his grip on the CatholicCare rudder.

Mr Harrigan could be forgiven for having a certain attachment to the agency, though, given he has overseen its growth from what was a modest provider of services for the Archdiocese into an \$18m social support agency employing about 270 staff across close to 60 programs.

He refuses to take credit for that, pointing out that he stepped into the role at the same time as the federal government started outsourcing most of its services to the community sector.

"People say Neil took it from this to that, but I just happened to get into it when a wave was breaking all over Australia," he said.

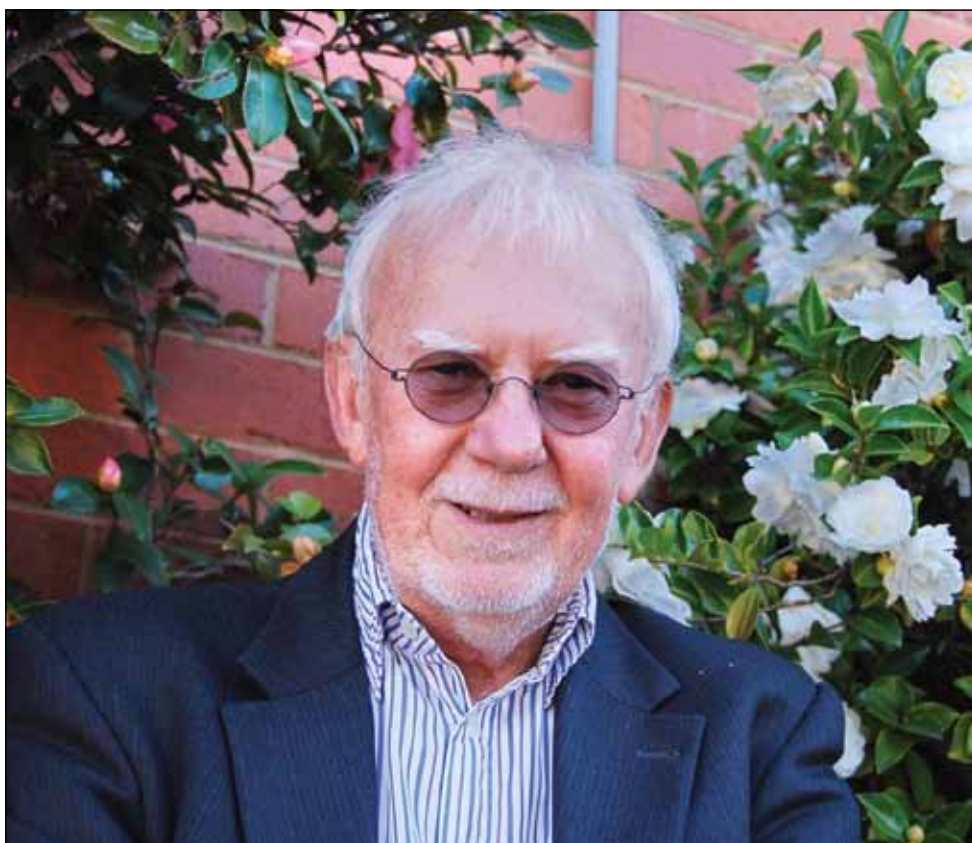
CatholicCare, or Centacare as it was known then, moved into what are now its bread-and-butter areas, such as disability, mental health and homelessness.

Its "big introduction" to the world of community service provision, according to Mr Harrigan, was Ainslie Village, which it ran for many years.

"All of us were surprised how far the government went with its outsourcing," he said, adding that an ageing community will keep the demand for CatholicCare's services growing.

Mr Harrigan will concede that "my stewardship has got it just right for the changeover now". He is satisfied that the "constellations" – the mission, engagement, ethos, structure and direction of the organisation – are lined up for the handover.

A generational change was needed, he said, to ensure continuity at the top especially as the National Disability



"I'm just a guy who got a job" ... Neil Harrigan is modest about his achievements as head of CatholicCare for the past 20 years.

CatholicCare role a perfect fit for man with passion for poor

Insurance Scheme, which has had a significant impact on CatholicCare's operations, settles in over the coming years.

One thing he hopes is that the agency remains true to its charism of listening to the poor, since that is its reason for being.

"If CatholicCare doesn't look like God in the way that it listens to the poor then you might as well throw it out," Mr Harrigan said.

"The poor help us understand the reality of life. They are the ones with the power ... We should always be listening to them, that's if they want to share their wisdom with us."

The Catholic identity of the agency is important to Mr Harrigan, whose own connection to the Church has always been strong.

From Charleville in south-west Queensland, he was raised in "a family of people who educated themselves into belief systems".

"I came out of a hothouse of philosophy around church thinking ... and lived in a world of engagement with the Catholic Church," he said.

He has continued to educate himself in theological and religious subjects. His most recent study foray, with wife Mary, was to Jerusalem to do a course run by

the Sisters of Notre Dame de Sion on the gospels and the Old Testament as they relate to the Passover and Easter.

They also studied together for post-graduate diplomas through the Vatican's Pontifical Urbaniana University.

Mrs Harrigan, who has a degree in theology, comes from a farm north of Gympie in Queensland and accompanied her husband as he worked in the public service covering territory from Rockhampton to Hobart to Perth before they settled in Canberra.

They have three daughters, a son and two grandchildren.

Mrs Harrigan has worked in administration with Australian Catholic University's Signadou campus in Watson for more than 20 years.

It's just one of a number of connections the Harrigans have with the campus. Mr Harrigan lived with the monks at Blackfriars for three months when he arrived in Canberra.

"At the time, I said I wanted to buy a house across the road, and I did."

They still live in that house and Mr Harrigan says it is the ideal spot from which to make the most of guest speakers and other educational opportunities the university offers in any spare time he might have around the therapy sessions he still plans to do for CatholicCare.

The opportunity to continue therapy work is something Mr Harrigan has valued throughout his career.

His position with CatholicCare has been a "perfect fit" for his intersecting passions for psychology, the poor and his faith.

At the same time he has managed to nourish his love of art through CatholicCare's role in programs such as the Hands On Studio in Kingston.

"I have enjoyed the synergy between the care we offer and the people who work with us and how they relate to the Church's mission," he said, adding that he has also been fortunate in the support he has received from the Archdiocese's hierarchy over the years.

Now, as he looks forward to "engaging in issues to do with ageing and mental health", he looks back with satisfaction tempered by modest realism. "I'm just a guy who got a job," he said. "I'm nothing special."

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Cruelty 'does us no honour'

• From Front Page.

"We call on the nation as a whole to say 'no' to the dark forces which make these policies possible. The time has come to examine our conscience and then to act differently."

The National Council of Priests of Australia endorsed the bishops' statement. "Some of our members minister to these asylum seekers in detention centres and are very concerned for their welfare," the priests said.

"The hard-line policies of the current Australian government towards asylum seekers and refugees are extinguishing the Christian virtue of hope for many of these people, some of whom have risked their lives for a new and better life after experiencing oppression and extraordinary deprivation both of rights and resources.

"Like our bishops, many of us have seen the faces and heard the stories of these people, and cannot hide our shame at the way some are being treated. We do not believe that concealing their stories or faces, or keeping secret what the Australian government has been doing to deter these asylum seekers is helpful."

Seminary training is under review

Education of men training for the priesthood in Australian dioceses is being reviewed.

As part of a Vatican initiative, the Australian Catholic Bishop's Conference, through a group of senior seminary directors and other professionals, is looking at current practices regarding child protection training in Australian seminaries and theological colleges.

CEO of the Truth Justice and Healing Council Francis Sullivan met with the group engaged in the review in Sydney.

He said a detailed study to identify gaps in child protection training for new priests was an important part of the Church's reforms.

"Priests have an important role to play in ensuring the safety of children in Catholic communities," Mr Sullivan said.

"Priests need to be able to recognise signs of child abuse, understand how to respond to allegations of abuse and be fully aware of the boundaries in place for all people working with children.

"Ultimately, the group will provide advice to the bishops conference on current practices in seminaries and theological colleges on the formation of new priests."

Archdiocese plans for the future

By Archdiocesan financial administrator
Helen Delahunty

The financial results for the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn for the calendar year 2013 have been finalised, audited and are now presented.

The result for the year is a surplus of \$1.8m following on from a surplus last year of just over \$163,000. Income has grown by \$1.6m and expenses have virtually stayed the same as last year.

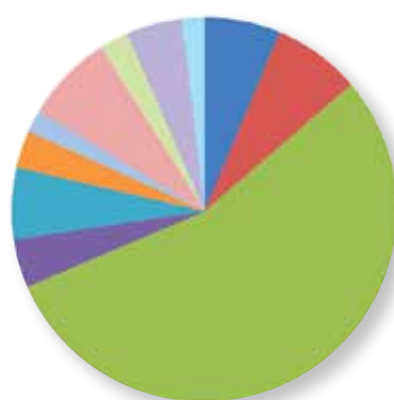
This larger-than-normal surplus is a result of extra income from the CDF being invested in the future needs of the Archdiocese.

It also reflects the CDF policy of investing 75% of the monthly operating surplus in the Archdiocesan Future Fund. This fund is not for the normal running expenses of the Archdiocese, but instead to form the corpus which will grow over the next few years.

The need to plan for extra and diverse income sources has been identified because of our reliance on the yearly payment from the CDF as our major source of revenue.

Cathedraticum – the payment of 20% of the first collection from the parishes – is traditionally for the support of the Archbishop. This year, there has been an increase received of 2% to \$473,000.

The Archdiocesan Levy, which is 5% of the total Planned Giving of each parish grew by 4% to \$234,000. This levy is used to defray these costs (see table on right):

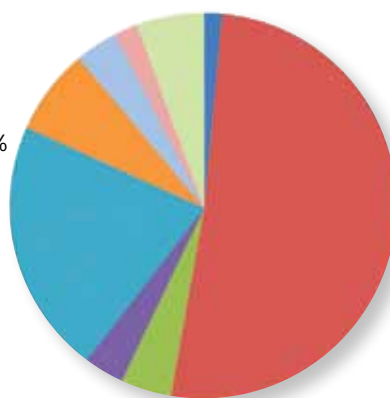


INCOME 2013

- CDF 55%
- CCI 4%
- Rental Income 6%
- Appeals etc 2%
- Archdiocesan Levy 3%
- Interest Income 7%
- Chaplaincy 3%
- Clergy Remuneration Fund 5%
- Clergy Carpool Contributions 2%
- Cathedraticum 6%
- Other Income 7%

EXPENSES 2013

- Administration 51%
- Aust Catholic Bishops Conference 4%
- Appeals 3%
- Agencies & Grants 21%
- Ecclesiastical Education 7%
- Diocesan Charities 4%
- Clergy Supplementation 2%
- Clergy Car Pool 3%
- Archbishops Chancery 2%



Australian Catholic Bishops Conference –actual annual Levies	\$119,316
The NSW Bishops Conference – budgeted annual contributions	\$65,000
Apostolic Nunciature – budgeted annual contribution to the Vatican	\$46,817
National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Catholic Council – budgeted annual contribution	\$2,200
Total budgeted disbursement	\$233,333

Editor retires

Catholic Voice editor and Catholic communications director Geoff Orchison will retire from the positions at the end of next month. Mr Orchison came to the Archdiocese in 1994 and is only the second editor of Catholic Voice in its 26-year history, succeeding the late Ray Frawley. Mr Orchison has been a journalist for about 45 years in South Africa and Australia, and edited daily newspapers for 14 years before coming to Canberra.

President re-elected

SYDNEY: Melbourne Archbishop Hart has been re-appointed president of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. The election took place at the bishops' plenary meeting in Sydney last month. Archbishop Christopher Prowse continues as a member of the bishops' permanent committee. Adelaide Archbishop Philip Wilson was re-elected vice-president.

500-year tradition

VATICAN CITY (VIS): New recruits to the Swiss Guard have been sworn in continuing a 508-year tradition. The fact that Switzerland continued to send young men keen to serve the Pope was a cause for offering fervent thanks to God, said Archbishop Angelo Becciu, who represented Pope Francis.

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What's to love about winter?

In My Day



By Fiona van der Plaats

matching the brilliant reds, oranges and golds that twinkle in the autumn trees.

I should also have remembered how much more fun it is to crunch through colourful leaves on the ground than through the sunburnt summer grass that fills your socks with spiky seeds. And, speaking of crunch – if the autumn apples, pears and grapes don't echo through your sinuses when you bite into them, then you've left them in the fruit basket for too long. The mandarines,

meanwhile, sing with sweetness and the lemons with satisfying sourness.

Then there are the autumn nights. As nice as it is to slip under a light sheet with the cicadas and the ceiling fan humming a lullaby in the background, nothing beats curling up under the comfy doona freshly shaken out of its summer hibernation in the top of the cupboard.

All of this good stuff has been wasted on those of us who spent autumn pining over summer and fretting about the coming winter.

It would pay for us to take more notice of Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*, in which he talks about "the joy we experience daily, amid the little things of life" and quotes from the book of



Sirach: "Do not deprive yourself of the day's enjoyment."

So that's what I'll do as I kick through the last of the dried-out and curled-up autumn leaves on the ground and try desperately to remember what there is to love about winter.

• 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.

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

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Budget moves worry for aid, schools

Catholic agencies covering health care, education and global aid have expressed concern about aspects of the federal budget.

Caritas Australia says it is disappointed to see the government "abandon its responsibilities as a global leader and further damage Australia's reputation as a generous nation".

By cutting almost \$8 billion from Australia's Overseas Development Assistance, the government was "backing further away from its pre-election promises and our nation's commitments to the international community", Caritas Australia said.

Although Australia is one of the wealthiest countries in the world, its aid budget is ranked 13th out of the world's 24 richest nations.

The National Catholic Education Commission expressed strong concern with the Government's decision to use the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as the basis for school funding indexation after 2017.

Catholic education welcomed the funding certainty for Catholic schools, confirmed in the budget, through to the end of the 2017 school year. "This funding certainty will help systems and schools to plan for the next three years and assist school and system leaders to focus on the learning needs of students," the commission said.

However, based on recent experience, the school funding assumptions contained in the budget for 2018 and beyond would not meet the needs of schools and students.

"In the last decade, the CPI has averaged less than 3%," the commission said. "This contrasts with school funding increases reflecting real costs in schools of almost 5.5%."

Catholic Health Australia warned health care co-payments announced in the budget should be monitored to ensure they do not result in adverse health outcomes for socio-economically disadvantaged Australians.

Ongoing monitoring of the new \$7 health care co-payments for GP visits, pathology and diagnostic imaging would help avoid a drop in health care outcomes.

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HOME BASE



Gerard Heffernan

How does the latest Budget affect me?

I recently attended a Mortgage Broking conference in Qld and there was much discussion on the affect of the recent budget and how it will affect the “average Australian”?

What is an “Average Australian”?

How the budget affects me, will be different to how it influences my neighbour's future!

It is like clients asking me “what do other people do when they borrow money”? It doesn't matter what ‘other people’ do, it's what is best for your personal circumstances!

It's the same with the budget! There are always external influences over our lives that we have little control over— that's life! We would like to think we can influence some and probably we can, but not all!

My point is, don't be caught up in the media influencing you telling you how the budget is “going to affect YOU”! Do your own research and check out your own personal circumstances are affected and then, if it's available to you, take action!

Gerard Heffernan

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By Fiona van der Plaats

Beverley Stone's Uncle George, who rode his motorbike to his job as a relief teacher at Telopea Primary until he was well into his 70s, would be proud of his niece.

Mrs Stone is just about to turn 70 and is in her 50th year of teaching. “I think I take after Uncle George,” she said.

Although retirement from part-time teaching at Holy Family Primary in Gowrie is on her mind it's not a given.

“I keep thinking, ‘Will I retire this year or what?’” she said.

“People say, ‘How do you get the energy?’ (Husband) Richard and I are walkers and I am an exerciser. That keeps you going. I do get a bit tired sometimes, but I don't find teaching tedious at all and that's why I'm reluctant to give it up.”

Teaching wasn't Mrs Stone's first choice of career. A talented musician, having been classically trained on piano by the Sisters of St Joseph in Goulburn, she aspired to study at the Conservatorium of Music and forge a living out of that.

Her mother worked hard to keep the family fed and clothed while her husband spent most of his years battling the debilitating effects of tuberculosis, and she was determined to ensure her children received the best grounding possible.

“I can still see her on a Friday, opening her grey purse (which Mrs Stone still has)

Teaching, it's like music to Bev's ears

and taking out five two-shilling pieces for my piano lessons with the nuns. She wasn't going to skimp on that.”

But the contents of the grey purse were not enough to keep the dream of becoming a concert pianist alive.

So Mrs Stone went to Wagga Wagga to study teaching, “which was the other thing I always wanted to do”.

Fifteen schools later, thanks to the nomadic life of an air force officer's wife, Mrs Stone found what is likely to be her final niche at Holy Family in 1987, when her daughter Danielle started school there.

As with most of her teaching positions, Mrs Stone's music credentials were a selling point and Sr Audrey, the principal who hired her, recognised the value in hav-

ing a new kindergarten teacher with musical talents.

Those talents have been put to good use ever since. Mrs Stone, who takes kinder part-time and is the support teacher for the school's 15 indigenous students, writes Holy Family's religious theme song each year.

This year's song is Call to Serve and, like all those she has written, is built on a catchy melody and lyrics.

“It's got to be something that really hits the spot for the kids,” she said, adding that the thrill of hearing more than 600 children singing her song is “brilliant”.

Mrs Stone would like to write and record a collection of songs for special occasions after she retires.

Rainbows to rail against injustice



Merici College students have sought to symbolically align themselves with the 276 young girls abducted from a school in Nigeria.

The women of Merici College were horrified when they

heard of the abduction, principal Loretta Wholley said.

“Not only did they see it as social justice issue, they were also concerned that it was an incredible injustice against women,” she said. “This act of

force provokes the deepest feelings of empathy from the staff and students of Merici College for the victims and their families.

“As a symbolic prayer, the students chose a girl's name from the list released last week.

Each student wrote a girl's name on long lengths of ribbon. These ribbons were draped from the trees in the grounds of Merici College. They used the colours of the rainbow – as a rainbow is a symbol of hope.”



Making a difference with music ... Beverley Stone's love of music has been a key part of her long teaching career.

She is no stranger to performing and recording, having been persuaded by her husband to release a CD of songs, called *Always on My Mind*, in 1994.

She was also the resident pianist for the Vikings Club in Tuggeranong for 20 years and gave that up only five years ago.

She teaches piano to a handful of young people, mainly Holy Family students, and revels in the merging of her two passions.

Teaching has brought her a lot of satisfaction, especially in the opportunities it has given her to make a difference in young people's lives.

"I can't tell you the variety of children I have taught," she said.

"I have a real spot for the mischievous ones ... There's always a reason for why they behave the way they do."

She loves the children she teaches – "Otherwise, why would you do it?" – but when she does finally decide to retire, she is unlikely to have time to miss them.

Along with her music, her other past-time is collecting antiques, particularly porcelain and old-fashioned jewellery.

Her husband, meanwhile, loves his old clocks and radios.

Nearly every available surface of their Fadden home boasts a collectible of some description, reflecting the many stages of their life together, the many places they have lived and Mrs Stone's desire to make her home "look like my nanna's".

"We'll probably have to downsize it all a bit if I retire," Mrs Stone said.

But the look on her face as she gazes around her sitting room, featuring her beloved piano against one wall, suggests the decisions involved in that might be even harder than the decision to retire itself.



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Saint finds a home in pope's college



Special ... John XXIII College head Steve Foley and chaplain Fr Laurie Foote with the relic of St John XXIII in the college chapel.

John XXIII College at the Australian National University has resisted the temptation to update its name.

A proposal to change the name to St John XXIII College in the wake of its namesake pope's canonisation was "debated robustly", according to then college head Steve Foley.

But it was eventually decided the college, one of only two in Australia named in honour of John XXIII, was "named for a man at a point in history" and its title would stay true to that.

The debate over the name was never going to overshadow the importance of the event, however.

Mr Foley said Mass held at the college to mark the canonisation was "one of our better attended" and the celebration dinner was "the best I have seen here".

The 300-odd people who attended the dinner each received one of 400 medallions the college had struck to commemorate the occasion.

The college has kept medallion No 1, while No 2 was presented to its founding Dominican friars, No 3 to the university and No 4 to the Archdiocese.

Taking centre stage in the college's celebrations was a relic in the form of a tiny piece of bone from the body of St John XXIII.

The relic was propped on a velvet cushion in the college chapel under a picture of the soon-to-be saint in the days leading up to the canonisation and will now be given a permanent home at the college.

Mr Foley said the paper trail that accompanied the requisitioning of the relic would also be mounted for display, along with the college's medallion.

"I have never petitioned Rome for a relic before," he said, describing it as an amazing experience.

College chaplain Fr Laurie Foote said the canonisation of John XXIII was a meaningful occasion for the Dominican friars, college staff and students.

"Even the ones who would not be terribly religious were excited. A lot felt this was really something special," he said.

The college also celebrated its connection to St John Paul II, who prayed in its chapel as a cardinal in 1973. A picture of him as pope is proudly displayed in the foyer.

A gift from God of two saintly men



ABOVE: Colour ... young members of the Polish community sing St John Paul II's favourite song.

LEFT: "Two saintly men" ... Archbishop Christopher Prowse passes by an image of the two popes at the start of Mass.

By Fiona van der Plaats

Stan Kowalski could not have been more thrilled to be asked to do the first reading at the thanksgiving Mass in St Christopher's Cathedral for the joint canonisation of the two popes.

The former president of the Council of Polish Organisations in the ACT feels a special connection with Pope John Paul II, who blessed his then six-year-old son Mark in Nairobi in 1980.

"The Pope put his hands on my son's head and blessed him," Mr Kowalski said. "To have been blessed by a saint is a very special thing."

Mark, now an architect in London, could not make it to Canberra for the celebrations but Mr Kowalski said the reading was his way of marking the occasion.

"It's a great day for the Polish community," Mr Kowalski said before the Mass in Canberra, celebrated just hours before the official canonisation ceremony in Rome.

It was also a happy day for members of the Italian community, who turned out to honour their countryman Pope John XXIII and led the celebrations along with the Poles.

The capacity congregation was sprinkled liberally with representatives from across the diplomatic community, ensuring it was a truly international affair.

But it was the youngest members of the Polish community who stole the show.

Decked out in colourful national costumes, children from the Polish dance group Mala Wielkopolska topped off the celebrations with a joyful rendition of Pope John Paul II's beloved Barka.

Their singing, to the accompaniment of a piano accordion, was a change in tempo from the elegant strains of the cathedral choir during the Mass, but it was equally enjoyed by the many who stayed to venerate a relic of St John Paul II.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse presided over the Mass, saying it was a chance to offer gratitude to God "for sending us two saintly men" who led the Church critical moments in its recent history.

He said the main uniting factor between Popes John XXIII and John Paul II, who were due to be canonised in Rome only a few hours later, was "their overriding concern for the pastoral care of souls".



LEFT: Pastoral care ... Archbishop Christopher Prowse and Bishop Pat Power during the thanksgiving Mass.

RIGHT: Honour ... the Polish flag is paraded at the thanksgiving Mass.

LEFT: "A very special thing" ... Stan Kowalski, whose son was blessed by St John Paul II in 1980, presents the first reading.



St Bede's, Red Hill

It was hugs and smiles all round during Grandparents' Day.



These poems and drawings were created by year 5 and 6 students from St Bede's during their Enrichment Day



GREEN

As the farmer sows a seed,
the green grass begins to grow.
It soon will give a gift for all to show.
A few months later, green is truly alive,
Evermore living it will survive.

At evening we chomp some
green on a plate,
The taste of a salad that we all hate.
The sound of a lawnmower keeping
its bristles short,
The sound on the table of salad
tongs and a fork.

Soon the green grass will enter a home,
Upon which will live a green
garden gnome.

As well as the grass green:
upon lives a tree.

Whose home will infest unto thee?
So now as the day comes to an end,
the green grass and trees –
they'll grow again.

As fresh as dew, completely new.
The green in our lives survives true.

By Cameron Wood, Elisabeth Bartone,
Joe Wright and Anneliese Ashen



YELLOW

Yellow is happy like a baby's eyes,
Lighting up with joy from laughter.
Yellow is beautiful like the daisies in
which she plays.

The sun is shining and
shoots a sprout of sunlight gaping
through the storm clouds.

The shining sun shines so strongly
and she smiles with happiness.

By Milly Motherway, Francesca Ciuffetelli,
Flynn McFadyen and Amelia Gulan



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.



St Joseph's, Grenfell

LEFT: School captains Harrison Starr (acting) and Caitlin Nealon on Anzac Day.
ABOVE: Students wheel away the time in the Active After School cycling program.

RIGHT: Happy year 6 girls from St Joseph's in Gundagai for the archdiocesan cross-country carnival.



Culture plays big part in keeping the prison peace

By Fiona van der Plaats

Much of Fr Steve Fletcher's time as a prison chaplain at the Darwin Correctional Centre in the late 1990s and early 2000s was spent walking on eggshells.

More than 70% of the inmates were indigenous and that brought with it a host of cultural and social sensitivities to be negotiated with care.

Some Aboriginal men, for instance, had certain obligations within their family or community and being locked up in prison was not always accepted as an excuse for failing to perform their expected duties.

"A fair bit of our work was an advocacy role (with both the prison system and the indigenous communities) and that sometimes took you into tense relationships," Fr Fletcher MGL, now the parish priest at Narrabundah, said.

It also took him into a number of interesting situations. "Some of the cultural stuff was fascinating," he said, telling the story of holding services where "avoidance relationships or poison cousins" meant that some Aboriginal men needed to be seated where they could not make eye contact with certain relatives. The most satisfying part of the work, he says, was helping indigenous people get access to their own religious traditions and practices, particularly through own-language services. "You could see a greater connection when it was culturally appropriate."

The lessons he learnt have stayed with him and he believes that even though the specifics of coping with indigenous issues in prisons will vary with the location, the principles of understanding cultural and social obligations and relationships remain the same.



Negotiating sensitivities ... Fr Steve Fletcher learnt much about indigenous culture during his time as chaplain in Darwin's prison.

Fr Fletcher spoke about his experience with indigenous inmates, among others, as part of a presentation in Canberra on pastoral care in prisons, hosted by the Archdiocesan Commission for Women.

He worked in Darwin with an Aboriginal deacon, who gave him the help and thread of credibility he needed to win the trust of many inmates. Another important element in nurturing trust was the establishment of a prison chaplaincy committee, comprising the heads of the various faiths in Darwin.

This meant chaplains could maintain their independence and integrity by placing the committee between them and the administration of the prison.

Fr Fletcher was one of the chaplains who successfully lobbied the Northern Territory government to fund a full-time chaplaincy position at the prison.

He says that not all states fund chaplaincy positions, though he acknowledges the Church hierarchy "really values the work of the chaplains" in this Archdiocese. Other speakers on the night were Sr Loretta Corrigan, a Mercy sister who served at the Goulburn Correctional Centre for a decade, and Anne Maybanks, recently elected chair of the Canberra branch of Kairos Outside for Women, which supports families of people in prison.

Vinnies seeks to curb winter's bite

As the winter sets in, the St Vincent de Paul Society expects a spike in calls for help which it says will only be exacerbated by the federal budget's changes to social and community services.

These changes "will inevitably hurt the most vulnerable and increase demand for our services", the society's Canberra/Goulburn president Frank Brassil said.

"The increased economic stresses on the poorest in our community will lead to increased homelessness and more frequent calls for help."

The society is seeking donations for this year's Vinnies Winter Appeal, which raises

funds to keep its social welfare services running. These include emergency accommodation, mental health support and assistance for young parents, youths and young adults.

"Vinnies has a strong presence in our community through our Night Patrol and Blue Door services, where we are able to offer warm food, referrals and a friendly conversation," Mr Brassil said. "Our conferences offer home visitation and assist by bringing food to the table, providing clothing from our Vinnies Shops and a warm, caring presence." Donations to the Winter Appeal can be made by ringing 131 812 or visiting vinnies.org.au/dosomething.

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A practice that makes perfect sense

When Rod Little moved in as principal of McAuley Catholic Central School in Tumut, he found references to "restorative justice" in the school's welfare policies but no evidence of it in practice.

"It was all primitive, hierarchical and codified - for this behaviour there was this punishment," he said.

Having instituted what are now known as restorative practice programs in his past two schools, St Clare's in Taree and Hennessy Catholic College in Young, and seen the difference it made, Mr Little was keen to do the same thing at Tumut.

So he called in archdiocesan professional standards officer and restorative practitioner Matt Casey.

Mr Casey said restorative practice has evolved from what many people know as restorative justice, and takes a more holistic, preventive approach.

It is about "addressing issues of human emotion, connection and relationships" and aims to "support individual wellbeing and repair harm through the development of nurturing, robust families and communities".

Underpinning it all, Mr Casey said, are the two most fundamental commandments: love the Lord your God, and love your neighbour as yourself.

That is why Mr Little was committed to establishing the practice in a "happy, peaceful" country school - not because of any pressing welfare problem, but because "it makes perfect sense and, more importantly, it fits perfectly with the gospel".

The school's staff have received training in restorative practice and parents were also offered the opportunity to learn more. Mr Casey will provide the school with resources to support the program and the next step is to involve the students. "The important thing is to recognise that relationships are built on trust," Mr Little said. "If the students know they are liked, believed and treated with respect, this lessens misbehaviour because they have a relationship with you."

As for those who do misbehave: "When they understand that it doesn't matter what they do, they will be listened to and treated with respect, they are much more likely to accept the consequences." Mr Little said the strategy of concentrating on what took place and who is affected, rather than who did it, "very much takes the shame out



Building relationships ... archdiocesan restorative practice expert Matt Casey in Tumut with McAuley Catholic Central School principal Rod Little.



Taking stock ... Jeanette Dumbrell and Maree Stewart, two of the McAuley teachers in Tumut who have been training in restorative practice.

of the situation". And, according to restorative practice theory, shame is a strong motivator for bad behaviour.

Mr Casey, who has dived into the theory of restorative practice (including co-writing a chapter for the international publication *The Psychology of Emotion in Restorative Practice*), talks about "the compass of shame", which points to behaviours such as avoidance, withdrawal, and attacking others and ourselves. By minimising shame, restorative practice can help people feel better about themselves and thus treat others with more respect, he said.

Mr Little said the new practices at McAuley would probably take up to a year to become an ingrained part of the school's culture.

Church marks its 30th

The parishioners of St Thomas the Apostle in Kambah turned on the celebrations during Archbishop Christopher Prowse's first visit to the parish. The occasion also marked the 30th anniversary of the building of the church, which was opened on 5 May, 1984.

Archbishop Prowse recognised the dedication of Kambah's first parish priest, Fr Bill Kennedy, who was the driving force behind the building and naming of the parish community, school and church.

"Parishioners who have been in the parish from the beginning say that the church was built by the people for the people - to not only be a spiritual home, but a welcoming, active and loving faith community," parish pastoral council member Stephanie Paulissen said.



Built by and for the people ... Deacon Vince Barclay and Archbishop Christopher Prowse during Kambah celebrations.

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Drinking from intellectual wells of every sort

Ron Rolheiser

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



When I was student in the seminary, I had two kinds of teachers: One kind, precisely because they were fiercely loyal to all that is Christian and Catholic, would have us read great secular thinkers, but always with the intent of wanting to help show where these thinkers were wrong.

Our intellectual task as a Catholic seminarian, they would tell us, is to be able to defend Catholicism against the kinds of criticisms found in the writings of these secular, sometimes anti-Christian thinkers and to keep our own faith and teaching free of their influence.

The second set of professors approached things differently: They would have us read great secular thinkers, even if they were bitterly critical of Christianity and Catholicism, but with the intent of seeing what we could positively learn from them.

These are great minds, they told us, and, whether sympathetic to Christianity or not, we have something to learn from them. Do not read uncritically, was their chal-

lenge, but still read with the intent of being instructed.

Early on as a seminary student, because I was still insecure intellectually, I leaned more towards the self-protective approach of the first set of professors and read most secular thinkers defensively.

I no longer read with the intent of trying to prove someone wrong even if that author is anti-Christian

I have to smile now as I look back on the idealistic, but naïve and intellectually frightened, young man I was then, a 19-year-old undergraduate trying to poke holes in the likes of thinkers like Nietzsche, Feuerbach, Marx, Freud, Durkheim and Lenin. I imagined myself David fighting Goliath. It seems misguided and grandiose now, but I still have a fondness for that 19-year-old who was engaged in this battle.

Later on, precisely because some of the valuable insights

in a number of great secular thinkers began to break through, despite my resistance, I began more and more to lean towards the approach of the second set of professors who had invited us to learn from others' insights, no matter the cloak of the author.

Now as I age, both chronologically and in ministry, I find that I am richer and more compassionate to the exact extent that I can do that, namely, remain faithful to the truth wherever I find it, no matter its source.

Hence, today I find myself drinking from intellectual wells of every sort, particularly from secular novelists and essayists; my critical faculties are still patrolling like soldiers on duty, but now with a thirst for the insights these writers have into life and the soul.

I no longer read with the intent of trying to prove someone wrong, even if that author is anti-Christian. I have too much to learn.

Sometimes in our fear of being tainted in our orthodoxy we forget that many of the great theologians in Christian tradition were unafraid to pick up pagan thinkers, mine their insights for truth, and then blend these with their faith.

St Augustine did this with Platonism. Thomas Aquinas, in the face of considerable ecclesial criticism, did the same thing with Aristotle. Ironically, centuries later, we now take many of their intellectual categories, which they originally took from pagan thought, as our very criteria for orthodoxy.

More recently, Liberation Theology, at its best, has done this with Marxist theory; just as feminism, at its best, has done the same with secular social theory.

But many of these efforts have been, in the name of orthodoxy, viewed with either suspicion or positive rejection.

Dare one say that Jesus did the same thing? He picked up parables and stories that were current in his culture and tailored them to further his own religious and moral teachings.

Moreover, he taught, and with precious little equivocation, that we are to honour truth wherever we see it, irrespective of who's carrying it.

But isn't this syncretism? If one picks up truths from diverse pagan and secular sources and harmonises them with one's Christian faith, how does one avoid the accusation of being syncretistic?

Picking up truth from a variety of sources is not syncretism. Syncretism is combining insights gleaned from everywhere in a way that is uncritical of internal contradiction. But we must not confuse tension with contradiction. Tension is not necessarily a sign of contradiction; it's often the opposite.

True faith is humble enough to accept truth, wherever it sees it, irrespective of the tension it causes and irrespective of the religion or ideology of whoever is speaking it.

Big minds and big hearts are large enough to contain and carry large ambiguities and great tensions. And, true worshippers of God accept God's goodness and truth wherever these are manifest, no matter how religiously or morally inconvenient that manifestation might be.

God is the author of all that is good and all that is true! Hence, since no one religion, one church, one culture, one philosophy, or one ideology contains all of the truth. We must be open to perceive and receive goodness and truth in many, many different places - and we must be open to the tensions and ambiguity this brings into our lives.

Bishops' appeal on asylum

Catholic bishops from Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and the Pacific island nations, gathered in Wellington, New Zealand, have told of listening to the stories of people who have attempted to enter Australia by boat.

The bishops expressed their solidarity "with our fellow bishops, priests and pastoral workers in Nauru and Papua New Guinea who are attempting to respond compassionately to the presence and plight of asylum seekers who have been transferred to these nations against their will.

"We appeal to the leaders of Papua New Guinea and Australia to ensure that the Regional Resettlement Arrangement between Australia and Papua New Guinea is reviewed... with a view to developing a more humane approach to asylum seekers attempting to reach Australian shores."

The bishops were moved when they heard Bishop Eugene Hurley speak about the desperate situation of detainees in Australian detention centres. Bishops from PNG and the bishop of Tarawa in



Archbishop Christopher Prowse is greeted by a student at St Patrick's College, Wellington.

Nauru spoke of the detention centres in their countries and their effect on populations of Manus Island and Nauru.

During the conference, the bishops visited Wellington's Home of Compassion and met with the Sisters of Compassion. They heard about foundress, Suzanne Aubert, her work for social justice, the way she was embraced by the Maori community and her study of Maori herbal medicine. Her cause for sainthood is under way and, if beatified, Mother Aubert will be New Zealand's first saint.

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A sports movie about so much more than soccer

Next Goal Wins. Samoa, 2013. Directed by Mike Brett and Steve Jamison. Madman. 96 minutes, M (Coarse Language). Reviewer: Fr Peter Malone*.

The title gives it away – well not quite, the goal being a clue, but the football code for the film is soccer, in the wider world, football. Those who love the code will have no difficulty in watching this entertaining film. Those who know nothing about it may give up, although the excerpts from particular matches are well edited, well-paced to keep up the adrenaline flow.

But there is obviously much more than soccer in this film. The country is American Samoa, population 65,000. Its team has been playing, with little success, sorry, no success, for more than a decade. They are bottom of the FIFA list of countries.

So, this is a film about underdogs, way way under. We are treated in the opening match to a clash between American Samoa and Australia, the latter winning 31-nil! But the team is not absolutely dispirited. They keep on training, have a strong esprit de corps, try out a number of coaches.

We see an American Samoan man, living off-island, as they say, who does his best to build up the players, exas-

perated at their lack of stamina, fumbling the ball, kicking erratically, and the goalkeeper letting too many through. They bring back from Seattle their best goalkeeper (even though he was there for the 31-0 defeat).

Eventually, the president of the local club does some scouting, finding a number of American Samoan players who have joined the American military and live in the US. These are talented men and bring some life to the team. He also finds a Dutch-born coach, Thomas Rongen, who is tough, initially exasperated with the team, but determined.

This is also a film about American Samoa, the American influence, life on the island, families, society and an explicitly devout religious sense and prayer.

A particular feature of the film is the character, Johnny. At first, audiences will be thinking that a girl is playing, and they aren't entirely wrong. However, Johnny is a transgender person, living the life of a woman, but at times that of a man. The technical term for this third gender on the island is fa'afafine. Johnny is also called Jaiyah by the members of the team who accept her/him, especially with such commitment to the game.



The drama of the film is all building up to South Pacific Games; the team steadily keeping up its reputation for losses. But Rongen comes to prepare them for qualification matches for the World Cup, enlisting the presence of the expatriates, pressuring them all during their training regime.

Clearly from the dynamic of the film, the team is destined to have a victory, even if it is just one. They defeat Tonga. It is such a moment of triumph that the audience cannot help joining in the exhilaration and sentiment. They play well in a couple of other games, and find they have jumped 18 places away from the bottom of the ladder. This is a sports film for those who love soccer and are interested in seeing a team build up a spirit and achieve a modest victory.

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

Inspiring bond between man and raptor

Healing. Starring Hugo Weaving, Don Hany, Xavier Samuel, Mark Leonard Winter, Anthony Hayes. Directed by Craig Monahan. Pinnacle Films. 119 minutes. M (Coarse language). Reviewer: Peter W Sheehan*.

An Australian drama film, set in regional Victoria, Healing is inspired by a story written by journalist Geoff Strong in The Age in 1998. It is about the bringing together of prisoners at Won Wron prison, Victoria, and birds of prey at the Healesville Wildlife Sanctuary. Inmates at the low-security centre, which closed in 2004, were given the responsibility of rehabilitating injured birds. The program helped the birds return to the wild, and exposed prisoners to an environment that tried to facilitate genuine caring.

In the film, Don Hany plays Viktor Khadem, who is a prisoner nearing the end of a long sentence. He has over a year remaining of an 18-year sentence for killing his best friend, and is broken in spirit, ashamed, lost and forsaken. He feels estranged from his Iranian son, and doesn't think he has anything to look forward to when he is released.

Hugo Weaving plays prison case officer Matt Perry, who initiates the program of healing for injured birds, and makes Viktor its supervisor against advice. Xavier Samuel, Anthony Hayes and Mark Leonard Winter play the roles of inmates, who also have significant emotional issues to resolve. An expert bird-handler was used to help the cast

handle the birds of prey. Weaving captures brilliantly the conflicts involved in being someone in authority who cares for others, but has the responsibility for disciplining them as well.

The real star of the film is the injured raptor, Yasmine. She is a proud eagle with a 2m wing span, and is a magnificent bird of prey. The animal befriends Viktor cautiously, as both bird and human learn to trust each other. The therapeutic benefit of Yasmine to Viktor becomes obvious. The affection of Viktor for the bird gives the animal the confidence it needs to return to its natural environment, but the bird's affection for her carer draws it back to Viktor.

A wider theme develops as the movie pits the soul of a human who has been confined against the spirit of an animal who has been caged after being hurt. Both animal and prisoner seem to come to a mutual understanding of what it means to leave their confinement behind, and to experience freedom again. This is a hope-filled film that has a dramatic tale of redemption to tell. It is entertaining, enjoyable and educational, and there is a moving truth to its telling that is memorable. So far this year, this is the best Australian movie to come down the cinema track.

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

SHORTS

Godzilla. Starring Aaron Taylor-Johnson, Elizabeth Olsen, Brian Cranston, Ken Watanabe. Directed by Gareth Edwards. Legendary Pictures. 123 minutes. M (Science fiction themes and violence).

Fairly heralded as a return to form for the lizard king after the maligned 1998 American misfire of the same name, this is grounded and gritty, anchoring superb visuals to a competent human story. Delivers on its promise. Godzilla is "a god, for all intents and purposes"; here we see a god who is both saviour and destroyer, and a film which is focused on the micro human story and the macro battle for Earth. Subtle? No. Thrilling? You bet.

Chef. Starring Jon Favreau, Jon Leguizamo, Scarlett Johansson, Sofia Vergara, MJ Anthony, Bobby Cannavale, Dustin Hoffman, Oliver Platt, Robert Downey Jr. Directed by Jon Favreau. Studiocanal. 115 minutes. M (Frequent Coarse Language).

Very much the feel-good (feel-goodest!) film, a story about a chef, naturally, about his particular expertise in cooking and presentation of food, both high-class and popular. It is also a story about family, especially the relationship between a son and his previously neglectful father. A very genial film full of exuberant Cuban music – pity about the repetitious coarse language. Keep looking at the food and ignore the language.

Gardening with Soul. Documentary with Sr Loyola Galvin. Directed by Jess Feast. 96 minutes. G. 96 minutes.

Most audiences will feel all the better for watching this interesting and delightful film. Sr Loyola served as a nurse during World War II and then entered the convent. She is in her 80s as this film opens and turns 90 towards the end. She is a livewire, sprightly and birdlike, working in the garden, cherishing the garden, not only the plants but also the preparation of compost, doing heavy lifting, and enlightening us about the processes of growth, with images of beautiful flowers, shrubs, and what happens every year, from winter through to autumn. For Catholics who are familiar with nuns, this will be a most pleasant experience.

Belle. Starring Tom Wilkinson, Emily Watson, Sarah Gadon, Penelope Wilson, Sam Read, Tom, James Norton. Directed by Amma Assante. Icon. 104 minutes. PG (Mild Themes).

A film many audiences will thoroughly enjoy. On the one hand, it is in the tradition of the elegant English heritage dramas, especially those films of Jane Austen's novels. On the other, Belle has a strong message about racial inequality and racism at the time, centred on Britain's role in the slave trade. There has been no budget stinting on costumes and décor. We see the beauty of the world of the wealthy. We are taken into darker and more realistic areas of London and the ports. The film offers a lot to think about in its well-written screenplay, and a lot to look at in its striking visuals.

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A Holy Land pilgrimage in words to be savoured

Jesus: A Pilgrimage by James Martin SJ. HarperOne, 2014, 510 pages, \$39.99. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.

I am an unabashed fan of the writing of James Martin SJ. I loved his *My Life with the Saints* and his 2010 book *The Jesuit Guide to [Almost] Everything* remains, for me, a precious resource.

So I felt something akin to glee when I was asked to review *Jesus: A Pilgrimage*. Among the many, many books on Jesus this one is a stand-out.

What makes it special is that Martin combines his own considerable biblical knowledge, the fruit of his own contemplative prayer and his lived experience during his first visit to the Holy Land several years ago. Hence this book is a pilgrimage on all three levels.

I was fortunate enough to read the book during the last weeks of Lent and into the Easter season. For me

then, it became a meditation on the Paschal mysteries which was often underpinned by the readings of the day. However, it is not tied to any particular season but to the life and times of Jesus of Nazareth.

The text is enlivened by the customary travellers' tales of getting lost, of being "taken for a ride" and of coping with the fiery furnace of midsummer.

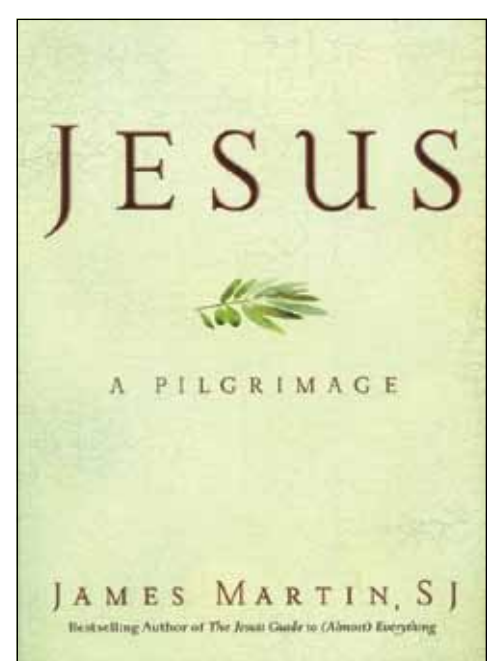
Martin says that to "fully meet Jesus Christ, believers need both to understand the Jesus of history, the man who walked the earth, and to encounter the Christ of faith, the one who rose from the dead". In his pilgrimage Martin does both.

He visits many of the sites mentioned in the New Testament and, like all of us who have been fortunate to go there he finds that the Gospel accounts come alive. Not for nothing is the Holy Land named "the fifth Gospel".

Martin selects prime locations for his meditations, Galilee, Tiberias, Jericho, Capernaum as well as the essentials, Nazareth, Bethlehem and Jerusalem. There are 25 chapters so plenty of opportunity to choose what appeals at the time.

In particular, I was absorbed in the description of his visit to Tabgha, the place of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes, and of his meditative response to that place. Similarly I could picture the pool at Bethesda as described and note again the physical confirmation of the Gospel story in John 5: 1-11 where Jesus heals the paralytic on the Sabbath.

This is not a book to be taken lightly, but one to be savoured and pondered slowly and prayerfully. Martin, with his knowledge of ancient Greek, his interest in archaeology and scripture, and his capacity to express all of these aspects in simple language



makes this book a joy. He gives of himself generously and humbly and we are the richer for his gift.

Hope in the darkest times Words that aim to revive

The Pink Ribbon Path by Mary Ussher. The Columba Press, 2013, 156 pages, \$19.95. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.

The title of this handbag-sized book is an obvious indicator that it is written for those with breast-cancer. Mary Ussher, who was diagnosed in 2009, believes that the Pink Ribbon Path is a way for healing, for living and for hope.

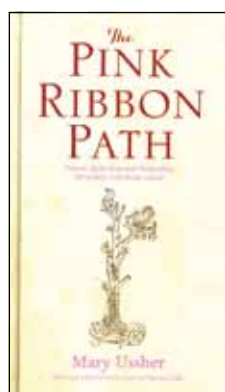
She says that the journey, once embarked upon, becomes a daily joy.

As many do, she kept a journal where she wrote down personal reflections and transcribed prayers she found inspiring. These mark the stages, diagnosis, treatment, after treatment and what she calls "after that". These are sourced from the psalms, the gospels, and fragments from spiritual writers and philosophers. Her own poems are moving and reveal a real reverence and joy in being alive.

The second part of the book concerns Loving Mind-Body Awareness and Christian Meditation. There is guidance on how to meditate, physical posture, breathing and the daily use of a mantra. She recommends Maranatha (Come, Lord).

There are links to audio presentations by Dom Laurence Freeman OSB with written texts reproduced.

The Pink Ribbon Path is an honest and hope-filled series of reflections for those facing this life-threatening disease. It makes the point, yet again, that even in our darkest times God is with us always.

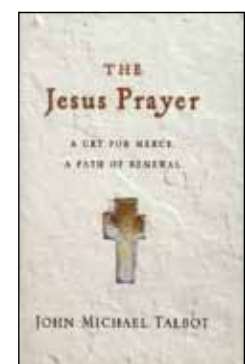


The Jesus Prayer. A Cry for Mercy, a Path of Renewal by John Michael Talbot. IVP Books, 2013, 155 pages hardback, \$22.95. Reviewer: Margaret Ryan.

Many readers will be more familiar with Talbot's music (he's sold four million albums) than with his literary output. As a Christian, he was attracted by the life and teaching of St Francis of Assisi, and in the late 1970s became a Catholic, going on to found a monastic community in Arkansas. He is a motivational speaker and author, keen to link the monastic tradition to contemporary life. His thinking is influenced by the Christian east and west, and he sprinkles his observations and explanations with references to and quotes from a number of Christian writers and saints over the centuries.

This pocket-sized book is structured around the 12 words of "the Jesus Prayer", with one chapter for each. He teases out the theological depths of each word, covering a range of concepts. For example, in "Jesus", he develops understanding about salvation, blood sacrifice, incarnation and deification and the Eucharist. Each chapter ends with a prayer focus and an invitation to meditate on that aspect of the prayer. Talbot offers some tips for praying, something of the prayer's history and a bibliography.

The repetitive Jesus prayer enlivened Talbot's spirituality, and he hopes that the book will open new/revive richness for others. It is very likely to do so.



Modern church building: where has it gone?

The Church Building as a Sacred Place. Beauty, Transcendence and the Eternal by Duncan G Stroik. Hillenbrand Books, 2012, 182 pages hardback, \$99.95. Reviewer: Margaret Ryan.

Is a church building primarily liturgical, sacramental, sacred, iconographic (teaching us about the saints and salvation), devotional or there to house the altar, tabernacle, baptistery etc? What should the church's central focus be? How well do modern churches reveal "beauty, transcendence and the eternal"?

Duncan Stroik is founder and principal of an architectural firm responsible for many building and restoration projects in the US. He is professor of architecture at Notre Dame University and author of many essays on architecture in a variety of newspapers and journals.

Stroik seems distressed that classical architecture has been more recently revived in the secular realm, but only rarely in churches. He admires the famous and beautiful European churches of the Baroque and Gothic periods, with their baldacchinos, liberal use of gold, marble floors, frescoed ceilings, elaborately carved confessionals, corner shrines with flickering candles, side chapels, sumptuous and colourful materials.

For this author, the altar and tabernacle are the primary focus in the church, allowing for sacramental priority, Eucharistic adoration and devotion to the Blessed Sacrament.

There is only muted and passing mention of the Real Presence in the scriptures and assembly, and the implications of these for church architecture. Almost every one of the many

colourful, culturally and artistically beautiful churches in the illustrations feature long, narrow structures with seats horizontally parallel to the sanctuary. Many of these illustrations feature Stroik's own work.

He attempts to demolish what he calls "ten myths of contemporary sacred architecture", and his "twenty prophecies on the future of Catholic architecture" seem wildly improbable (budgets of church buildings will increase, new towns will be designed around churches).

However, Stroik raises architectural issues that could be re-examined. It's true that some post-Vatican II churches are extremely bare, lack even the minimum of uplifting symbol or art, and may not be conducive to prayer. This passionate critique of what Stroik calls "modern iconoclasm" may continue the debate.

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POSITION VACANT – Archdiocesan Communications Coordinator



Archbishop Christopher Prowse is inviting the Archdiocese to “go out with courage and hope in the deep waters to the new depths of evangelisation opening up in our times”. To support this vision, he is establishing a new communications team to provide a coordinated approach to how Archdiocesan communications support the evangelising mission of the Archdiocese.

The new team will combine a number of existing and newly created roles and share a vision for a dynamic and innovative communications hub, which will employ contemporary approaches to communications strategy, technology and multimedia. This team will include multiple roles across areas related to editorial and journalism, ICT, multi-media design, digital content development and social media.

The Archdiocesan Communications Coordinator role will provide the day to day operational management of this new team and will contribute to its ongoing formation and development.

Applications close COB Friday 13 June.

For more information or to receive the recruitment pack for the role, please contact the Archdiocesan Director of Pastoral Support at director@catholiclife.org.au or on 02 6163 4300

St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra Goulburn



Vice President – Centres

The St Vincent de Paul Society in Canberra Goulburn operates a chain of 24 *Vinnies* shops as a key part of its service provision and fundraising. The Society is a volunteer based organisation and it is seeking a volunteer *Vice President – Centres* to become part of the Governance of the Society.

The *Territory Council* is the governing body of the Society in Canberra Goulburn. The Territory Council President appoints Council Office Bearers who are also Board members and who, working within the Territory Council Corporate Governance Policy, have a major role in corporate governance of the Society in Canberra Goulburn. While having a specific area of responsibility, Council and Board members always act for the overall best outcomes for the Society.

Role of the VP Centres

The *Vice President – Centres* has responsibility for oversight of *Vinnies* Centres in Canberra/Goulburn.

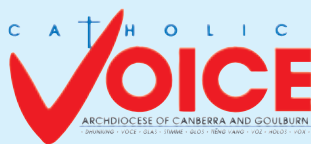
Duties of the Vice President – Centres

1. Attend monthly Board meetings and quarterly Council Meetings and provide independent overview and advice on the Centres Operation of the Society in Canberra Goulburn.
2. Work with and provide advice to the President, CEO and Director of Centres to improve the management and performance of Centres.
3. Chair the Canberra/Goulburn Centres Committee (CGCC) and contribute to the formulation and consideration of Centres' Policies.
4. Visit Centres across Canberra Goulburn and observe operations and presentation of Centres. The VP has a key role in understanding the interests of Centres volunteers and role in ensuring a productive and harmonious working relationship between Centres, Conferences and Special Works and for nurturing and sustaining the Society's core volunteer base.
5. Collaborate with similar office holders of other State and Territory Jurisdictions to improve the management and performance of Centres nationally. Attend the bi-annual National Centres Committee and advise the President, Board and Council of outcomes.

Requirements for the Vice President Centres:

1. A strong commitment to the mission and vision of the Society.
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3. Understanding of the responsibilities of corporate governance and the ability to work collaboratively and constructively with Board and Council members.
4. Commitment to and enthusiasm for improving the effectiveness and outcomes of the *Vinnies* Centres in Canberra Goulburn
5. Willingness to visit and engage with the volunteers and staff of Centres across the Canberra Goulburn area.

If you are interested in taking on this very significant position please contact the President, Frank Brassil, by email on Frank.Brassil@svdp-cg.org.au or telephone 6234 7350.



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TUROSS HEAD - “Ella May Holiday Flats”. Renovated 2br, walk to beach. Fully equipped. Avail all year \$400-\$900 per week, weekends available. Telephone 0414 597 619 or 6278 5271.

To Let - Queensland

NOOSA - Holiday Unit. A 2-bedroom fsc townhouse by the Noosa River and cafes. Well appointed with air-con, HD/TV, DVD, VCR and linen. Heated pool/spa, BBQ and tennis. Book with owners and save. For brochure, telephone (07) 3289 7178.

Holidays

CONSIDER Elm Grove Mountain Retreat as a destination for a self directed retreat or relaxing affordable holiday. Log on to www.elmgrovmountainretreat.com.au or telephone 6947 5888 for further details.

Building Design

COMPLETE Building Services Since 1993. New Homes – Duplex – Townhouses. Extensions and All Documentations. For Authority Approval. Free Quote – Flat Rate. Construction Services is available. Maher William, Mobile 0403 306 352, E-Mail cre8ived@tpg.com.au.

Fitness

COME and join Bootcamp Bob. Mon and Fri inters to advanced; Tues and Thurs beginners; Wed BoxFit (anyone). St Jude's Primary School, 6am to 7am. \$10pp (pay as you go). No bookings necessary. Personal trainer Bob Shakespeare 0416 217 145. Also available one on one, groups, corporates, vets and baby boomers.

For Sale

GRAVESITE, double, available in old Catholic lawn section at Woden cemetery. Costs of both burials, both plaques and maintenance included in asking price of \$7,500.00. Inquiries to ‘Gravesite’, PO Box 6089, O'Connor, 2602 or 0422 096 876.

“THE SHADOW of the Father” - beautiful novel about the Holy Family by famous Polish writer Jan Dobraczynski is available now in English on www.amazon.com

For Sale or Repair

KENWOOD Chef food mixer \$100, microwave from \$50. Warranty for 6 months. Free quote - repairs & parts. Will trade-in or buy Kenwood machines & parts also microwave and appliances. Telephone John, 6166 5512 anytime.

Prayers

THANKS to St Jude and Our Blessed Mother for blessings granted. O Holy St Jude, Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue, rich in miracles. Near kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke you. Special patron in time of need, to you I have recourse from the depths of my heart and humbly beg you to whom God has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me now in my present and urgent need and grant my earnest petition. In return I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. Say three Our Fathers, Hail Mary's and Gloria's. St Jude pray for us all who honour and invoke in your name. Amen

Self-help Group

MASSAGE room with facilities - hourly or daily rates. Private - Discreet. FREE massage, hair cut, transport, odd jobs etc. as exchange or barter. Looking for Hairdresser, Mechanic, Handyman etc. to assist Pensioners/ low income. Telephone John 0403 050 960 anytime.

Services

GREEN waste and mix load rubbish skips. 5+ m3 from \$200. Trailer based, so can do difficult access, in carports etc. Full details at www.trailerskipscanberra.com.au. Telephone 0406 728198.

HANDY MAN and painting contractor. Small jobs specialist, services from: Minor carpentry, plastering, tiling, fence repairs, painting, roofing, plumber and much more. All Canberra area, 10 per cent discount on pensioners. Free quotes. No job too big or too small. Luis Flores, telephone 0404 605 687 or 6140 1317.

Tuition

SINGING - If you can talk you can sing. Lessons make singing easier. Experienced teacher. Varied styles: classical, sacred, musicals and popular. Telephone Rosemary 6297 2974 or 0414 228 618.

Wanted - Musical Instruments

PAYING top dollar for concertinas, button accordians/ guitars/ banjos/ fiddles/ mandolins/ old guitar amplifiers. Any condition considered. Telephone Patrick 9824 8276 or mobile 0432 346 821, email patrick-cullen54@hotmail.com.

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FOR SALE



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Coming Events



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

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

BATEHAVEN AND BEYOND – Offered by Sisters of St Joseph. 4 June, That They May Be One, Sr Carmel Drew RSJ, Holbrook chapel. 5 June, The Parables of Luke, Sr Carmel Drew RSJ, Tumbarumba town library. Inquiries: Sr Mary Murphy RSJ, telephone 6978 2585, maryrsj@gmail.com.

BATEHAVEN RETREATS AND REFLECTION DAYS – 14 June, Finding Hope Amid Life's Chaos, Sr Carmel Drew RSJ. 13 July-3 August, Retreat in Daily Life, Sr Carmel Drew RSJ. 26 July, Eucharist Give thanks to the Lord, Sr Mary Murphy RSJ. Inquiries: St Joseph's House of Spirituality and Hospitality, 12 David Ave, Batehaven NSW 2536, telephone 4472 4021, srjudith@bigpond.com.

CATECHIST PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT – 10am-3pm, Friday, 6 June, St Raphael's, Queanbeyan.

CCR FORMATION DAY – 9.30am-3.30pm, Saturday, 21 June, St Benedict's Church, Sturt Ave, Narrabundah. Presenters Joe and Julie Chircop, leaders and founders of Servants of Jesus Community, Sydney. Talks, praise and worship, and healing prayer ministry. Cost \$25 (\$10 concession), morning and afternoon tea provided. All welcome.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING PRESENTATION – By Prof Tracey Rowland, Dean of the John Paul II Institute for Marriage

and Family, Melbourne. Talk, supper, Q&A, 7pm, Wednesday, 25 June, Collins Wing, St Benedict's, Mission Centre, Narrabundah. Registration \$25. Inquiries: Fr Bony Abraham, telephone 62957879, stbenedict-missioncentre@gmail.com

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.

CONVERSATION AT ST CLEMENT'S – Christian Spirituality and Buddhism, 1pm-4pm, Sunday, 29 June. Facilitators Richard White, from St Clement's, and Michael Dash, a Buddhist mindfulness practitioner and bereavement counsellor at RPA and Concord hospitals. RSVP, telephone 6380 5222.

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 coordinator info@stclement.com.au or Fr Bill Goldman CSsR, telephone 6380 5222.

HOLY SPIRIT SECULAR FRANCISCAN FRATERNITY – 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.

MASS FOR FATHERS – 5.30pm, Friday, 20 June, St Benedict's Church, Narrabundah. Healing Mass with special focus on the father relationship. Pray for fathers both living and dead.

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

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

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.

SERRA CLUB OF CANBERRA - Parents of priests, deacons, religious and seminarians Mass, St Christopher's Cathedral, 11 am, Sunday, 1 June, followed by lunch at Southern Cross Club, Woden, 12.30 for 1pm. Inquiries: John Malycha, telephone 6251 2912.

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

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Refreshed and energised from Easter and Pentecost celebrations, we seek to respond to Christ, strengthened and guided by the Holy Spirit with renewed vigour.

During our daily journey we encounter others in need and are challenged to join them in their journey and together, realise opportunities for growing in faith and access to a better future. The situations encountered are often extreme and uneven with little local capacity to generate funds or initiate change.

Last year, over \$2m was distributed in Australia's remote and rural dioceses of which 85% went to Broome, Darwin, Geraldton and Townsville Dioceses.

Within their parishes – indigenous communities and Mass centres can be hundreds of kilometres apart. This magnifies the overheads associated with worship and most pastoral undertakings. It is here that generosity and prayer makes tremendous differences and enables many ministries to be realised.

There are many communities facing similar challenges around the world that Catholic Mission, with your support, is endeavouring to assist and enable projects for change, opportunities and faith growth to be undertaken. Help us help others, in Jesus' name.

**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

undid the zips and buttons on the wedding outfits they had sucked in their tummies to get on again years after their big day.

Some, such as Marymead's marketing, community relations and fundraising officer Jo Dean-Ritchie (pictured with her husband Stuart Ritchie), admitted to going for a whole new look rather than squeezing into a wedding gown that had mysteriously shrunk in the cupboard over the years.

But, regardless of outfits, everyone loves a wedding and the "bridal party" at Hotel Realm raised valuable funds for Marymead's foster care program.

Guests, who were entertained by Spectrum Big Band and the Canberra Katz Swing Dancers, brought along gifts for foster carers and their families and a celebrant was on hand for those who wished to renew their vows.



A nice thought

The rumour was that NSW Governor Prof Marie Bashir had once been a student at St Bede's Primary School in Braidwood. But, as nice as it would have been to adorn her visit to the school as part of the town's 175th Heritage Day celebrations with that fact, assistant principal Julian Laffan says the school wasn't able to verify it.

Still, it didn't detract from the excitement as the Governor (pictured with St Bede's students Alice and Fergus Tooth) viewed artworks at the school, including decorated boots and the lino print that won the NSW Schools Reconciliation Challenge.

Polished Polish

In light of the canonisation of the two popes, Archbishop Prowse has been telling the story of how a letter a Polish colleague wrote for him in the Pope's native tongue resulted in an invitation to "the Australian Polish priest" and his parents to meet Pope John Paul II in his private chapel early one morning in Rome.

They sat near the Pope as he prayed. "I will never forget the experience of sitting behind a future saint in prayer ... He groaned at times, like he was in pain, praying for the intentions of the world."

The Pope then chatted to Archbishop Prowse and his parents about their life and family, and it was a moment they never forgot.

"Dad made an album of the photographs," the Archbishop said. "He said, 'When I am dying, make sure I have this album in my hands because it will be my passport to heaven.'"



Open for inspection

Another day, another student excursion to the house on the hill in Canberra. Except this house on the hill was the one across the bridge from Parliament House and the student leaders from St Edmund's and Daramalan colleges had been invited to lunch by its tenant, Archbishop Christopher Prowse.

The Archbishop (pictured with the students) continued a tradition set by Archbishop Mark Coleridge and carried on by Mgr John Woods when he led the students on a tour of Archbishop's House. They were treated to a show-and-tell of items of personal value to him, such as relics, pictures of popes and indigenous artefacts.

The visit also included lunch prepared by the Serra Club and a reflection on youth spirituality and the meaning of "having a vocation", led by Fr Emil Milat.



Nearly all white

One can only imagine the collective sigh of relief after the Marymead Bride & Groom Ball as "brides" and "grooms" of all ages

Pilgrims brave cold for Mary

More than 200 hardy souls braved cold winds and a low temperature to attend the annual Marian pilgrimage to St Clement's Redemptorist Monastery, Galong.

Highlights of the day were celebration of the pilgrims' Mass by Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Paul Gallagher, the crowning of a statue of Our Lady and the procession up the hill to Our Lady's grotto.

At the grotto, Archbishop Gallagher, in his occasional address, told pilgrims Mary's whole being was directed towards drawing our attention to her son Jesus.

As Jesus grew from a child to manhood, she became a true and faithful disciple, "the model of discipleship". "We wish to follow her example," he said.

Mary was a witness to Jesus' resurrection. "We, too, as her sons and daughters, are therefore a witness to his resurrection. We wish to be one of Jesus' disciples."

Under the leadership of Vietnamese chaplain Fr Peter My, the archdiocesan event was staged with the help of the Redemptorist community at Galong, the Vietnamese liturgical movement members and the Couples for Christ choir.



Chilly but undeterred... well-rugged-up pilgrims (above) at benediction by Archbishop Paul Gallagher at the grotto; Helen Nguyen crowns the statue of Our Lady (left); Tammy Nguyen in colourful dress takes part in a liturgical movement at the grotto (far left); procession to the grotto (below); brothers of the Missionaries of God's Love lead the procession (bottom right); Peter Duy Tuan Pham (bottom middle) holds a candle for Mary; pilgrims huddle out of the cold for the crowning at the monastery (bottom left).

