

CATHOLIC VOICE

ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN

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40 years of The Carmel – Page 9

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Sexual abuse: 'now is the time for real action'

A long-awaited meeting between Pope Francis and six survivors of clerical sexual abuse sent a clear message that the issue was at the top of his agenda, CEO of the Church's Truth Justice and Healing Council Francis Sullivan said.

The Pope asked the three men and three women from Ireland, Britain and Germany for forgiveness for the Church's sins of omissions in sex abuse scandals.

"For the first time it seems, the Pope has publicly recognised the hurt and suffering people feel over the inaction of Church leaders when confronted with the reality of sex abuse," Mr Sullivan said. "I hope if he travels elsewhere, the Pope will meet with more survivors of abuse. It is also very welcome that the Pope has flagged his recognition that it has been leadership within the Church that has played a part in the abuse scandal.

"The comments from the Pope are the strongest we have heard from the Vatican and they reinforce the position taken by the Catholic Church here in Australia as we go through the Royal Commission.

"The Pope now needs to back up his comments with real action and start the long and difficult process of reform which, in a 2000-year-old institution like the Catholic Church, can be difficult, slow and complicated.

"The Pope now has in place his agenda for reform, a powerful internal dedicated Vatican Commission to drive the changes and the support and good will of the billions of Catholics around the world. Now is the time for change and real action."

In his homily at Mass attended by the six victims in the Sanctae Marthae Chapel, Pope Francis said: "I feel the gaze of Jesus and I ask for the grace to weep, the

grace for the Church to weep and make reparation for her sons and daughters who betrayed their mission, who abused innocent persons.

"Before God and his people I express my sorrow for the sins and grave crimes of clerical sexual abuse committed against you. And I humbly ask forgiveness.

"I beg your forgiveness, too, for the sins of omission on the part of Church leaders who did not respond adequately to reports of abuse made by family members, as well as by abuse victims themselves." The Pope said it caused him "distress and pain at the fact that some priests and bishops, by sexually abusing minors, violated their innocence and their own priestly vocation. It is like a sacrilegious cult, because these boys and girls had been entrusted to the priestly charism in order to be brought to God."

Cardinal on road to sainthood

By Fiona van der Plaats

A week before the fall of Saigon in April 1975, Therese Thuy Tien fled to Australia with her daughter Pascale, her parents and one of her sisters.

Ms Tien's husband Patrick Dinh, a physics lecturer who could not leave initially because he was of military service age, managed to join them in October that year.

One family member who did not come with them was Ms Tien's brother Archbishop Van Thuan, who was later to become Cardinal Francis Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan.

The clergyman was under house arrest when his family left and was then transported by sea to North Vietnam, where he was imprisoned for 13 years, nine of them in solitary confinement.

It was during this time, under shocking conditions, that he bore witness to his faith in extraordinary ways, including writing texts that have continued to bring hope and inspiration to others.

Not that his family knew much about what was going on at that time with the brother and son who would later be set on the path to beatification.

"We did not receive any news about him for years. We thought they had already killed him," Ms Tien, who lives in Canberra with her husband and daughter, said.

The Red Cross tracked him down after four years in what was euphemistically known as a "re-education camp" and was able to tell his relieved family he was alive.

"Later on he was told by the Communists to write to ask us for medication because he was sick," Ms Tien said.

"We had to send a prescription to a pharmacy in France every month. It was for hundreds of antibiotics. We knew it couldn't be for him but we had no choice."

The family was also asked to send milk, supposedly to sustain Ms Tien's ailing brother. "We would send cans of condensed milk but after he was released he told us they



would bring him empty cans and say the mice ate it all." The Red Cross arranged at one stage to take him to France for an operation before returning him to North Vietnam.

Ms Tien says the family relied on their strong faith to help them through this time.

"We always trusted in God," Ms Tien said. "We got that from our parents. When we flew out from Vietnam, we were empty handed but we put our trust in God.

"Mum used to pray and say we give him (the Cardinal) to God so God can use him the way he wants to. We would also say a rosary every day for him."

It was a joyous time for the family when Cardinal Van Thuan was

released after 13 years and came to visit them in Sydney and Canberra in 1989. He visited again in 1993, when his father died. Pope John Paul II made him a cardinal in 2001, a year before he died of cancer at 76. Ms Tien, who in 2005 visited the prison her brother spent many years in and met guards he had converted to his faith, said his imminent beatification (the diocesan phase of the process finished last year) is a source of great joy and pride for the family.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse will dedicate the 11am Mass at St Christopher's Cathedral on Sunday, 10 August, to the Cardinal, marking the 12th anniversary of his death.

Trust in God ... Therese Thuy Tien and her husband Patrick Dinh with photos and mementos of her brother Cardinal Francis Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan, who is on the path to beatification. Mass will be celebrated in his honour at St Christopher's Cathedral at 11am on 10 August.



The lay faithful: branches grafted onto true vine, Christ

As Christifideles Laici beautifully phrases it: "According to the Biblical image of the vineyard, the Lay Faithful, together with all other members of the Church, are branches engrafted to Christ the true vine, and from Him derive their life and fruitfulness." (n.9)

As in all other parts of our Catholic world, the lay faithful in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn constitute the major part of our diocesan "family". So many of our leaders in the Archdiocese are laity. I think immediately of parents and men and women in professional life. They take on responsibility in the Church's mission for the sanctification and evangelisation of the world. More specifically, in every diocese, including Canberra and Goulburn, so many of the lay faithful assist the bishop directly in the governance of the diocese.

I would like to mention two such lay leaders who have recently retired

from long-time roles of leadership in the Archdiocese. How wonderfully they have activated their baptismal dignity to the greater glory of God in our local Church.

NEIL HARRIGAN (Director of CatholicCare)

For over 20 years, Neil Harrigan – through Centacare/CatholicCare – has shown the face of Jesus to so many of those who live in highly marginalised situations. Under his leadership, CatholicCare has flourished. It continues to live out practically for us all the command of the Lord to watch over the sick, hungry and lonely. We offer our thanks also to his wife, Mary.

GEOFF ORCHISON (Catholic Voice Editor)

Also, for over 20 years, Geoff Orchison has made Jesus known and loved via the media. More than 230 of the 300 editions of Catholic Voice have been published under his role as editor.

His media expertise has been invaluable in assisting the Archbishops of our Archdiocese to make the voice of the Catholic Church known in the media "marketplace". We thank also his wife, Sue.

In highlighting the Gospel contributions of Neil and Geoff, I simply wish to thank them sincerely on behalf of all of us in the Archdiocese. We do not take their contributions for granted. We know that other gifted men and women will follow them.

Yet, in mentioning them specifically, we can see that the teachings of the Second Vatican Council on the lay faithful are being lived out in our very midst practically.

Long may their good example live on in inspiring other lay faithful to live out their baptismal dignity in our Archdiocese!

**Archbishop
Christopher Prowse.**

Archbishop's diary

AUGUST

- 5 Liturgy, visit to Confirmation students, St Joseph's Primary, O'Connor; BBQ with student leaders Carroll College, St Clare's College, Archbishop's House.
- 6 Meet staff, students St Edmund's College
- 7 Morning tea, St Bede's Primary, Red Hill
- 8 Mass, St Clare's feast day, St Clare's College
- 10 Confirmation, O'Connor
- 12 Meet student leaders Marist College, Merici College, at Archbishop's House
- 15 Visit students, staff St Thomas More Primary, Campbell
- 16 Confirmation Mass, Goulburn
- 17 Confirmation Mass, Braidwood
- 19 Visit Confirmation students, St Michael's Primary, Kaleen
- 20 Lunch, St Benedict's community day centre, Queanbeyan; Confirmation Mass, Kaleen.
- 23 Anniversary dinner, Carmelite Sisters
- 24 Mass, 40th anniversary foundation of Carmelite Monastery, Cathedral
- 28 Pre-Confirmation visit, St Thomas More School, Campbell

around the catholic world

Peace summit 'not in vain'

VATICAN CITY (VIS): The Pope has launched a fresh appeal for fervent prayer for peace in the Holy Land in the light of the tragic events of recent days. "I still recall the meeting of 8 June with Patriarch Bartholomaios, President Peres and President Abbas, with whom we invoked the gift of peace and heard the call to break the cycle of hatred and violence," he said. "Some might think that such a meeting took place in vain. But no, because prayer helps us not to allow ourselves to be overcome by evil, nor resign ourselves to violence and hatred taking over dialogue and reconciliation."

New leader for religious

MELBOURNE: Sr Berneice Loch RSM (pictured right) has been elected president of Catholic Religious Australia. She is currently leader of the Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea. She received the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in 2013. Among her leadership achievements was her central role in the establishment of Mercy Partners (2004-2011) and more recently the Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea. She replaces Sr Annette Cunliffe RSC. (Picture: Casamento Photography).



Project Compassion nets \$11m

SYDNEY: Caritas Australia has thanked thousands of supporters, including schools and parishes, across Australia who helped raise almost \$11 million in Project Compassion.

Run over the six weeks of Lent, Caritas Australia's major annual fundraiser over the years has helped thousands of vulnerable communities around the world to build better lives for themselves.

Coast college head named

SOUTH COAST: Carroll College, Broulee, will have a new principal from the beginning of the 2015 school year. He is Steve Bath, current assistant principal curriculum at the college, a position he has held since 2007.

Mr Bath has held a number of leadership positions in the Archdiocese over the past 20 years.

He has worked at the former Padua Catholic High School, Wanniasa, Mt Carmel Central School, Yass, and MacKillop Catholic College, Tuggeranong.

Anglican world leader to visit

MELBOURNE: The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, will attend the installation of the new leader of the Australian Anglican Church at a service in Melbourne this month. Archbishop Welby, spiritual head of the world's 70 million Anglicans, is making a fleeting visit to Australia so he can attend the inauguration service of Melbourne Archbishop Philip Freier at St Paul's Cathedral on 13 August.

contact us

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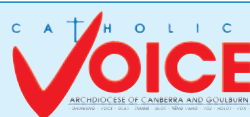
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Open mind is all that's needed

Apart from personal belongings, participants in the Archdiocese's Overflow retreat in Galong this month need only bring an open mind and their "lived experience".

That is the advice from retreat guide Frances Tilly, a trained leader in the Ignatian spiritual exercises and a spiritual director.

Mrs Tilly, a pastoral associate in the parishes of Our Lady of the Way in North Sydney, said participants will not need any particular knowledge or experience to reap the full benefits of the retreat.

"All you need is an openness and readiness to give it a try. Where you are is where God is willing to meet you and you just enter into it as you can and as you want to."

The retreat will be structured around "dynamic and integrated spiritual exercises" grounded in the exercises of St



Ignatius. "The whole key starting place is always someone's lived experience," Mrs Tilly said. "It's all about listening, and praying in a way that engages the whole of me and my instincts, not just rattling off the prayers of the Church." She will guide people through the exercises and then they will be given time to "process it all" individually before joining a "guided spiritual conversation" as a group.

Daily Mass and opportunities for Reconciliation will be the sacramental

threads in the retreat. Retreat organiser Deacon Matt Ransom said he expected people of all ages and experiences to be among the group of about 40 at Galong from 29-31 August.

Young people faced with decisions about what to do with their life would benefit from the retreat, he said, as would parishioners of all ages who may be looking to "step back from their busy lives and perhaps look at what changes they can make".

"It's a chance to reflect, relax and restore in a prayerful environment," he said.

"There will be lots of good food, five-star accommodation, and a good variety of social and physical activities, sleep and prayer."

For information on the Overflow retreat, contact CatholicLIFE on 6163 4300 or info@catholiclife.org.au.

Our new editor



The new editor of Catholic Voice, Felicity de Fombelle, is a mum of four and a journalist, who moved to Canberra from Melbourne about seven years ago.

She started her journalism career in 1990 as a "copy kid" at the Melbourne Sun newspaper. She has worked in the Canberra press gallery at Parliament House and in London. She was in newspapers for many years before working as a press secretary for several federal politicians.

She has been the editor of the Archdiocesan family magazine My Family, My Faith since 2011, and has also published a book.

Married to Paul, she relishes family time with her four young boys and also enjoys reading, keeping fit and annual holidays to France to visit her husband's family.

New six-year terms for parish priests

Archbishop Christopher Prowse has confirmed the reappointments for six years of a number of parish priests.

Fr Mick Burke has been reappointed to Yass and as administrator of Gunning; Fr Lachlan Coll to Wanniasa; Fr Mark Croker to Gungahlin; Fr Tony Frey to North Woden; Fr Dermid McDermott to Goulburn and as administrator of Braidwood and Taralga in the Goulburn

Mission; Fr Emil Milat to Moruya; Fr Peter My to Kambah; Fr Warrick Tonkin to Evatt and Fr Julian Wellspring to Campbell.

Fr Sijo Thekkekunnel will be administrator of Tumut and Fr Varghese Vavolil acting administrator of St Christopher's Cathedral. Deacon John Lim will live in Bungendore presbytery and work part-time in the Queanbeyan Mission, as well

as in the military, ecumenical and inter-religious apostolates in the Archdiocese. Deacon Matt Ransom has been appointed to South Woden and will continue his role in the catechetical apostolate. Seminarian Trenton van Reesch has begun an eight-week pastoral immersion at St Christopher's Cathedral. He will return to Rome and will be ordained to the diaconate at St Peter's Basilica on 2 October.

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Image: Australian Catholic Youth Festival, Melbourne, December 2013



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Pray for crash victims

In the wake of the Malaysian Airlines disaster in Ukraine, Archbishop Christopher Prowse called on people to pray for the victims.

He expressed shock at the death of so many Australians in the crash.

"I was especially saddened to hear that one of the victims is a Canberran," he said.

He called on people in their workplaces and at home to spend a minute in silence to remember in their own way all the nearly 300 victims and their loved ones.

"Our prayers go out for all the victims and their families at this terrible time," he said.

Nation's biggest rosary event

Jane Chifley believes children's prayers are "very powerful".

"Sometimes I think God hears them more than he hears some of us adults," she said.

That is why the music teacher from Sacred Heart Central School in Cootamundra has been so driven over the past three years to involve schools in what she calls the rosary version of the Cancer Council's Biggest Morning Tea.

Miss Chifley officially started the National Rosary Event, in which school children around Australia are encouraged to say a decade of the rosary at a given time, or as close to it as possible, while teaching in Wollongong in 2012.

She organised the event again last year, as a teacher in Narellan Vale near Camden outside Syd-

A Sacred Heart sister who was on staff at Kincoppal-Rose Bay School in Sydney, Sr Philomene Tiernan RSCJ, was one of 28 Australian victims.

Principal of the Sydney Catholic girls school where she had worked for more than 30 years as a teacher and boarding mistress Hilary Johnston-Croke said Sr Philomene was "a very much loved staff member and friend".

The ACT victim was reported to be 50-year-old public servant and mother of two Liliane Derden.

ney, and the prayers were said for "life issues".

She has since taken up a full-time job at Cootamundra but has carried her commitment to the event with her.

This year's national rosary will take place at 10.30am (EST) on Monday 13 October and the prayers will be for "the future of Australia, its protection and for our youth".

The event is being promoted through the Catholic Education Office, and although schools do not need to register Miss Chifley estimates that between 30,000 and 100,000 students have taken part around Australia in the past two years.

A picture will also be circulated to primary schools as the basis of a colouring-in competition to accompany the rosary event.

PILGRIMAGES

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Theologian's thoughts turn to retirement, just quietly



Sense of community ... Prof Raymond Canning is retiring after 28 years on campus at Watson.

By Fiona van der Plaats

The long summer school holidays are, as Prof Raymond Canning has said to his three children, the "time for reading the Russian novels".

Now, although the summer holidays are still months away, he is thinking about reading War and Peace – again.

And reading more poetry. And watching more movies. And perhaps spending some time in the garden he is having redone, even though he doesn't consider himself a gardener.

It will all be part of a new life of retirement for the 66-year-old professor of theology at Australian Catholic University's Watson campus. Prof Canning has worked for the university since it was founded in 1991 and, in the five years before that, for the teachers' college ACU grew out of.

In that time, he has played an integral role in the growth of the university's offerings, particularly in the area of theology, was director of the Centre for Inter-religious Dialogue and contributed to the core curriculum units on the common good and dignity of the human person.

He would also like to continue to put his interest and expertise in inter-religious dialogue, which he thinks is vital to encouraging theological reflection and building relationships between people of different faiths, to good use in his retirement, "but I'm not sure how I'll do that yet".

Regardless of the paths he takes from here, the sure thing will be the Augustinian values and principles that have underpinned his life, studies and work since he was young. The eldest of nine children in a "very Catholic" family, Prof Canning did most of his schooling at the Augustinian-run Villa-nova College in Brisbane.

The values his family and school instilled in him resonated with the young Raymond. "I was an altar boy and trained other altar boys ... and I always did well in religious education classes."

He joined the Augustinians after leaving school and spent 20 "very rich years" with the order, including studying philosophy and theology in Rome in the late 1960s and early 1970s. His doctoral thesis, meanwhile, was an examination of Augustine's interpretation of the unity of love for God and neighbour.

Prof Canning regards the years he was able to spend studying, reading and inter-

preting the teachings of St Augustine and trying to discern the shifts in his theological thought as a "great privilege".

As someone once said to him, if he was going to devote himself to a single author then it would need to be somebody substantial. Prof Canning was pretty confident St Augustine, as "one of the greatest minds in history", could stand up to the scrutiny.

Given Prof Canning's upbringing, the saint was also a logical choice. "It was a natural progression," he said, noting the "sense of fraternity, the sense of hospitality and the emphasis on community" as some of the values that attracted him.

A sense of community has been an important aspect of his time at ACU. "I have been very lucky here to have supportive colleagues – very talented, energetic and imaginative people." He has also "loved the warmth and enthusiasm of the students, of all ages".

When he started at what was then a Dominican-run teachers' college, Prof Canning "could not have imagined what it would become". Not only did the development into ACU mean more programs could be offered, but it also meant theology could be taught in its own right rather than just as part of the bachelor of education course.

Prof Canning draws great satisfaction from seeing his students of theology making their mark in pastoral care, academia, chaplaincy roles, social services and many other areas.

His hope now is that bachelor of theology course, which was dropped as a face-to-face format because of a lack of numbers, will be resurrected as an online offering soon.

Meanwhile, Prof Canning, having cleaned out room B71 on level 1 of the Blackfriars Building at Watson, which has been his office "for quite a long time", will turn his attention to family matters.

He has one daughter getting married in September and another off to England next year, after finishing year 12, to work as a teacher assistant.

He also expects to be picking up more of the slack while his Belgian wife Lutgart continues to work on her kitchen design business.

In general, he will do what he has always done and get on with whatever he does in his own quiet but thoroughly considered way. "That's my style – to keep my head down," he said.

In changing times new welfare leader aims to make a difference

By Fiona van der Plaats

She might have just been handed the reins of a leading player in the changing and challenging welfare sector, but as far as baptisms of fire go, this one is not at the top of Anne Kirwan's list.

The new chief executive officer of Archdiocesan social services agency CatholicCare will step into Neil Harrigan's formidable shoes knowing that she has had the best grounding possible.

After 20 years with the agency, including half of them in management, and a lead-up period as acting agency head, she feels she is ready for the challenge.

"I have had great supporters and mentors in Neil and also (former agency deputy) Faye Green over 20 years," she said.

"I have been saying to everyone that I have big shoes to fill. But I'm very excited about the opportunity."

It's an opportunity she has been earning since her real baptism of fire 20 years ago, when she started as a casual worker at Ainslie Village, which provided accommodation for the homeless.

It was there that the young psychologist first encountered the flesh-and-blood manifestations of the mental conditions she had studied.

"When I was studying psychology, I would read about paranoid schizophrenia and wonder if I would ever meet someone with it. Well, from my first day at Ainslie Village I met many people with paranoid schizophrenia."



A "great fit" ... Anne Kirwan is taking over as head of CatholicCare after 20 years with the agency.

It was an eye-opener for Ms Kirwan to work in a place where "no day was ever the same".

"We had a wonderful collection of people who were homeless."

"Some of them would get off the trains, stay a while and then head off on the trains again to somewhere else. Then they'd be back again the next year."

It was there that she learnt to advocate for vulnerable people and tells the story of early on in her experience calling out an emergency services worker who was negative and judgmental about a resident who was becoming psychotic and delusional.

When CatholicCare, then known as Centacare, assumed

control of Ainslie Village, Ms Kirwan realised she had found her niche.

"The clients were good and I loved the mission of the agency, helping society's most vulnerable people. It was a great fit for me."

Not only did it fit with her Catholic upbringing and faith, but it suited her natural inclination to work out what makes people tick.

"From when I was a child I've always been interested in how people think and, more importantly, how the way you think affects the way you feel."

She also describes herself as "a bit of an extrovert" whose ability to talk to people and

make them feel comfortable "can be very helpful in the welfare sector".

"What really motivates me is having a role where I can make a difference in people's lives," Ms Kirwan said.

"I'm blessed that I have the opportunity every day to work with fabulous people and now I have the opportunity to influence the way the organisation works with people."

It is an important time for the agency, which is reorganising itself to fit into a new welfare environment driven by the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

"The welfare sector is experiencing unprecedented change and the agency needs to adapt and change the way we work. My responsibility is to lead that change and support our staff and clients through that," she said.

She will also maintain her own clinical caseload, to stay in touch both with her profession and with the people the agency exists to serve.

Ms Kirwan's experience in management roles has taught her to find a balance between her work and private life.

• Cont Page 8.

A LIFE LESS ORDINARY

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What have you done?

"So, what are you going to do?"

That's quite a demanding question. Not as confronting as "what have you done?" or "why did you do that?", but demanding enough.

It's one I've been answering for a few months after unwisely telling people well in advance that I intended to retire.

Retiring is a little like moving, really. As a journalist, I've inflicted moving house on my wife and family several times, not as often as a bank manager or perhaps some public servants, but often enough.

With moving, the agenda seems clear; ends are neatly tied, houses sold, promises made about friendships, minds are refocussed on one of life's traumas, starting afresh, stepping out into the unknown, proving yourself yet again in your chosen field.

Retirement apparently can mean some of these things, but probably

In My Day



By Geoff Orchison

not all. For some lucky (or sensible) people retirement appears to be a bit like slipping into a comfortable pair of old shoes. Just one big long weekend.

A friend of a friend apparently didn't bother to get out of his dressing gown until after lunch each day. We scoffed and tutted and felt sorry for him. And yet....

Others, and, it seems, many of those who are posing that question

at the start of this column, need to know that plans are in place, not an idle hour left unaccounted for. My vagueness about plans leaves them looking slightly askance at me.

Their question, and my uneasy response as I now realise, leaves the door open for them to launch into a well-rehearsed spiel about what they intend to do when retirement comes knocking.

Even leisure, it seems, requires the appointment of a project director.

I feel somewhat intimidated by the litany of achievements still lining up to be knocked off by these worthy people.

I wonder why I have the feeling that I don't quite understand them.

I'm told by any number of well-meaning, thoughtful friends that in retirement "you won't know yourself", which may or may not be a concern, and that "I don't know how I found time for work".

One ventured that he is working harder in retirement than he ever did in his working life.

For some of us blessed with an anxious disposition, however, the thought of waking up in the morning without a looming deadline, often self-imposed, without thoughts of story ideas, photo possibilities, media inquiries invading the brain space, without a thumping heartbeat and an urge to leap out of bed and get going, appears to have quite luxurious aspects.

I have this pact with God about retirement.

Firstly, God doesn't go first, and secondly, God doesn't have to tell me what God has in mind for me. God just needs to open the door. Then, when I'm asked "what are you going to do?", I can truthfully say, "God knows..."

• THIS month marks the 301st issue of Catholic Voice, which began in June 1988. It also marks the 233rd issue – and the last – that I have had the pleasure of editing.

• 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 catholiccomm@cg.catholic.org.au.

'Ordinary' family's labour of love

Audrey and John Smith, who have run the Billings natural family planning program in Canberra for more than 40 years, have been named ACT family of the year by the Australian Family Association.

Together they have developed an online program for couples to use for natural family planning. It has worldwide application and the site is getting hits from countries in Africa, as well as from Russia and China.

Australian Family Association ACT president Paul Monagle said Audrey and John Smith were an inspiration.

They had made a significant contribution to their fam-

ily but also the community, the Church and the nation.

The Smiths have two adult daughters and two grandchildren, but still find time for many activities including arranging Friday adoration at St Christopher's Cathedral and taking part in the Serra Club.

Mrs Smith described their family as "ordinary". "No doubt I am talking to the converted and repeating what others have said, when I say that the family is the basic unit of society. It should receive greater support from governments of the day. In particular for me, the concern is the single-income family with one parent, usually the mother, not in

the paid work force, providing nurturing and raising the children because the parents are the best ones to fulfil this role. But all manner of families are swimming against the tide.

"I have been greatly influenced by John Paul II, who saw the family as an active and vital agent in establishing a civilisation of love and the renewal of Christian culture. He was a champion of marriage and family life. There is a lot of talk of recent times about the retirement age but as far as the family goes, there is no retirement age. Continuing to be involved with the extended family and our grandchildren is a labour of love."



More support needed... Australian Family Association ACT president Paul Monagle with John and Audrey Smith.

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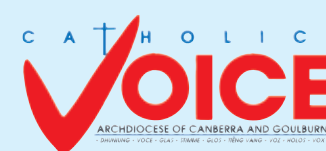
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Pizza man's supreme choice takes some topping

By Fiona van der Plaats

When he was 12, John "Jack" McGrath decided he should be a priest.

The thought came to him while he was sitting on a step at Daramalan College one lunch time, contemplating life and religion, which "was a very big part of my life".

"Then someone kicked a football, which came bouncing past me so I got up and chased it," he said, and that distraction was the beginning of the end of his call to the priesthood.

The idea did not exactly go bouncing away with the ball, but life threw him other opportunities that demanded his attention.

The most enticing of these was served up on a pizza plate.

Having left school after year 10 to take up an apprenticeship as a motor mechanic and later start his own motor repair business, he couldn't resist when a friend, who owned a pizza shop in Batemans Bay, suggested three of them join forces to start a pizza delivery business in Canberra.

He only has his wife Julie to blame, really, since she was the one who sent his friend in the Bay an article about the Silvio brothers in Brisbane, who were making a fortune as the first pizza delivery business in Australia.

And so the seed was planted for the birth of Jacko's Dial-a-Pizza in Page in 1987. There is some doubt about whether it was the first in town, since a similar outlet opened a suburb away in Scullin "probably a couple of weeks before us".

Mr McGrath smiles at the memories of Jacko's in full swing. "We used to drive around in little Ford Escort vans with a phone on the roof."

They originally filmed the ads for the business in Mr McGrath's family home in Kaleen, with his sons Trevor, now 40, Tim, 35, and Luke, 33, helping out. "We'd boil the kettle to get steam to make the pizzas look hot."

Jacko's grew for five years until Pizza Hut moved in and started offering two-for-one deals with free soft drinks.

Meanwhile, the Jacko's team had been introduced to the Domino's enterprise at a world pizza rally in Las Vegas.

"They stood out like spots on an elephant and we came back saying we wanted to be Domino's one day," Mr McGrath said.

Domino's wasn't in Australia at that time, so they signed up with Silvio's. "Initially, it was the worst mistake we had made because the branding change killed us."

They were rescued when the owner of Hungry Jack's, who also had a major share in Silvio's, bought the rights to Domino's in Australia but ran it using Silvio's systems.

That opened the chance for Mr McGrath and his partners to start up Domino's in Canberra.

"When we rebadged the shops, we would have kids down at the lights with wobble boards advertising the specials," Mr McGrath said. "The business just grew."

He ran the Domino's outlet in Florey that is now widely known as the busiest in Australia until five years ago, when he stepped aside to give himself a break from the relentless hours.

At 61, he has not given up making pizzas, though. With the help of his family, he runs Jacko's Catering, making and selling pizzas from the back of two vans for events.

• Cont Page 8.

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



A slice of life ... John "Jack" McGrath with his pizza van.

Help Religious Sisters - the unsung heroines in the Church!

They smile, they heal, they teach, they comfort. Around the globe Catholic religious sisters quietly perform their dedicated and heroic service without remuneration and barely even noticed by the wider world. But in order to help others, they themselves also need to be helped, for although they are ministering angels to so many, they themselves still need their daily bread and a roof over their heads.

Each year the Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) supports over 9,000 religious sisters in every corner of the globe. Many religious congregations turn to the charity for help, not least for the formation of their precious new vocations. While many congregations in the Western world have few or no new vocations and even seem to be dying out, in other parts of the world the religious communities are filled with young and smiling faces.

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

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

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

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HOME BASE



Gerard Heffernan

Winter Home Sales

Last week I took advantage of the holidays and braved a visit with my children and friends to the crisp snow covered mountains surrounding Canberra. The fact that we live in a picturesque, clean and expansively serviced city just a few hours from the snow, surf and even the "harbour city", it became quite evident to me just how good we have it in Canberra.

In recent times I have met with a number of couples and families who have recently moved here and are looking to call Canberra home. In general, these people echo these sentiments and yes we do have to 'brave the cold' as it were – but just dressing appropriately can overcome this.

Sales indicate auction clearance rates are on the improve and 4 of those were my clients (successful bidders) just in the past 2 weekends who decided to make Canberra their home for now!

Winter, Spring, Summer, Autumn – when is the right time to buy? I know 4 couples who would say "Now!"

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Backing for the 'new battlers'

Cleaners represent some of the nation's "new Aussie battlers", Archbishop Christopher Prowse said.

After a meeting with representatives of government cleaners who feared they would lose their jobs or suffer pay cuts as a result of a change in employment guidelines, he said cleaners generally represent some of the lowest paid workers in Australian.

They also often have English as a second language.

"They start work when we go home," he said. "They are sometimes described as our 'invisible' workers. They came to speak to me. They felt so desperately let down in their contractual awards and government approved guidelines.

"I believe they represent some of Australia's new Aussie battlers. I am happy to stand alongside them in solidarity.

"Developing a culture of solidarity with such workers is

Anne's aim is to make a difference

• From Page 5.

The youngest of three children, she describes herself as the "coordinator" of her two older brothers and of the family in general.

She also tries to find time to indulge her love of movies and to read, and football is a big part of her life. Her love of Carlton in the AFL and the Canberra Raiders in the NRL "is testimony to my loyalty and persistence, since both teams are in a redevelopment phase".

Most important of all is her young daughter, who is delighted that her mum is not only the "boss" now but is the first female head of the agency.

"She's been asking me lately, 'Are you the boss yet?'. So it was great to be able to tell her that now I am."

Pizza man's career choice takes some topping

• From Page 7.

"I don't think I'll ever get sick of pizza," he said, adding that his favourite is one he makes for himself but does not have on the menu – "pepperoni, mushroom, olives and jalapeno peppers on a thin base".

Son Trevor, meanwhile, runs Trev's eatery in Dickson, keeping the kitchen fires burning on the family catering tradition.

Alongside his busy work life, Mr McGrath has managed to fit in time for rugby,



Our 'invisible workers'... Archbishop Christopher Prowse with (from left) Carlos Pavez, Linda Morrison, Liza Grealy and Fe Anave Miles.

all part of living out our Catholic social doctrine principles."

Archbishop Prowse said economic matters could not be ignored. "Jesus said don't be obsessed with your wages; he

didn't say they're not important." The Government says its decision to scrap the guidelines for government-employed cleaners will not have the effect claimed. It is claimed cleaners

of Commonwealth buildings will be \$5 an hour worse off under the changes. The Government says cleaners covered by the guidelines will not face a pay cut.

Uni set to trash the ash

Australian Catholic University's Canberra campus dean Assoc Prof Patrick McArdle says the transition to a tobacco-free campus from next year makes perfect sense.

From next January, existing smoking restrictions in the ACU buildings will be extended to all outdoor areas and university property.

The university is instituting the restrictions on all of its campuses, following the lead of Ballarat, which has been smoke-free for six years, and Melbourne, which joined all Victorian universities in going smoke-free from July.

As Prof McArdle points out, a large percentage of the student body in Canberra is studying health-related subjects, "so we do really have to take a stance on this".

It is also a logical move given the ACT is one of the nation's leaders in creating

smoke-free environments, he said, and given that one of its campus tenants, CatholicCare, already has similar restrictions in place.

Prof McArdle acknowledges that the change may be difficult for some people, but says he knows of only a few staff members and a small number of students who are smokers.

The university will "focus most of our efforts on getting the message right this year and then have a blitz on it next year", he said.

This would include pointing people to relevant support services and policing any attempts to smoke in adjacent areas, such as in front of the Holy Rosary church.

"The main issue will be making sure we don't move the problem on to someone else," he said.

concrete trucks on a casual basis, just for something different.

As for that idea about being a priest, Mr McGrath still reflects on that occasionally.

His Catholic faith remains very important to him and he is considering becoming an acolyte now he is semi-retired.

But he has no regrets about the path he chose. "Life just gives you those chances," he said.

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Building the Church

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40 years
of The Carmel



Carmelites growing God's garden

The beautiful garden surrounding the Carmelite Monastery in Red Hill tells the story of how far both the property and its inhabitants have come in the past 40 years.

"Things have certainly grown," Sr Gabriel Anne, one of the founding members of the monastery in August 1974, said.

"I have grown too. Just looking at the garden and thinking of the care and attention we have given it, we really have put roots down. We came up here with nothing and now this is home."

Sr Gabriel Anne was one of five nuns sent from the Carmelites' monastery in Kew, Victoria, to establish a community in Canberra 40 years ago.

With her were two other existing members, current superior Sr Mary Agnes and Sr Tharsicius.

Making up the five were the original superior, Sr Gertrude, who died in the late 1990s, and Sr St John, who died in 2002.

The monastery is now home to six nuns, the other three being Sr Elizabeth, Sr Monica and Sr Josephine.

"We came from a large place surrounded by walls. It was a 'real' monastery built along European lines," Sr Mary Agnes said.

"Moving in here was like moving back into a house again," Sr Tharsicius added. There were no gates, no garden, not even a back fence. "The children from the Grammar school used to go for a run and come right through our back yard."

Now the lush and neatly clipped front hedge keeps out stray runners and shelters the monastery from the street. But it doesn't mean visitors aren't welcome.

The nuns are kept busier than ever these days opening the door, as they have done for the past 40 years, to people who need their prayers and someone to talk to.



Making a difference ... Archbishop Christopher Prowse with (from left) Sisters Josephine, Beth, Monica, Mary Agnes, Gabriel-Anne and Tharsicius in the chapel of the Carmelite Monastery, Red Hill.

These visitors come from all walks of life and often do not share the Carmelites' faith. Their troubles vary in nature and severity but more often than not reflect the times they live in.

"Some people have depressing and distressing situations," Sr Tharsicius said. "They just need to be assured that someone is praying for them and thinking of them." Ill health, family problems and unemployment are common concerns, but they are only a few on a long list. "You feel so sorry for them," Sr Mary Agnes said. "It makes you realise how protected you are and we thank the Lord for that."

The nuns don't pretend to be trained counsellors but their ability to listen

without judgement and put others' troubles "before the Lord" has made a difference to many lives.

"So many people contact us later to say their prayers have been answered," Sr Mary Agnes said. "We think often that it's their faith, not just our prayers, that gets them through."

They do have "repeat customers" but many are one-offs who need what the Carmelites can offer at a moment in their lives. There are also those who become good friends with the nuns because, as Sr Tharsicius puts it, "they believe they wouldn't have coped if they didn't have us".

The nuns themselves are family to each other. "That's one of the good

things for us because we are deprived of a 'normal' family," Sr Tharsicius said.

They generally work around the monastery – on housework, gardening, sewing, preparing for their daily Mass in the chapel that was built 21 years ago, and other duties – in the companionable silence the rule of their order dictates.

That silence is filled with prayer and is only broken out of necessity or during the evening recreation time.

It is a way of life that is a mystery to many. But for the nuns it is quite simple. "We tell people that it is a life of prayer for the Church and the world," Sr Mary Agnes said.

The nuns leave the monastery only to shop for groceries and to attend medical and other appointments, but they are happy for outside groups to visit them and ask about their life.

School children are often interested callers. "I remember one boy said, 'Do you eat junk food? When I said 'no', he thought we were awfully deprived,'" Sr Mary Agnes chuckled.

They say people are also fascinated by the sight of nuns in habits, since they don't see many religious people in "uniform" any more.

The three Red Hill "originals" all have stories of starting out as young women in the order with at least one parent who had their doubts.

In fact, they still have friends and others who question why they joined the Carmelites.

"I've had old school friends who say, 'You would have done well in the world,'" Sr Tharsicius said.

But all these years on, all three are obviously ensconced exactly where they want and need to be, going on the heart-felt nods of agreement when Sr Mary Agnes says, "I feel so grateful to the Lord for having called me here."

We rejoice with the Sisters on their anniversary

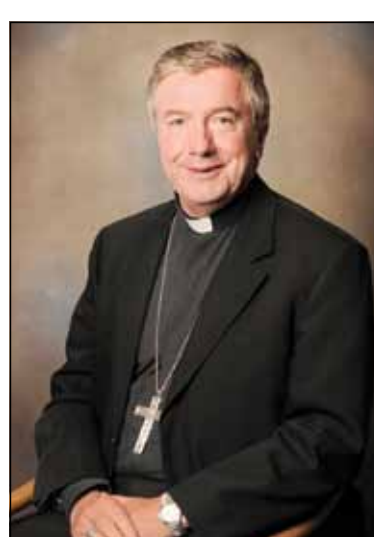
The Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn rejoices at the 40th anniversary of the foundation of our Carmelite Sisters in Canberra.

In the early 1970s Canberra Archbishop Thomas Cahill approached Sr Marie Theresa, prioress to the Kew Monastery, inviting the nuns to establish a foundation in Canberra to pray for the needs of the church, its priests and lay faithful of the Archdiocese. The Archbishop was aware of Kew establishing a monastery also in Wagga Wagga some eight years earlier. A further foundation at the invitation of the Archbishop of Florence was established in 1982 in an old abandoned Carmelite monastery near Tavernelle in the outskirts of Florence. I myself have visited

this monastery several times and have found it a wonderful piece of Australia in the middle of the Tuscan hills!

Initially, five nuns travelled up the Hume Highway from Melbourne under the leadership of the late Sr Gertrude Ryan. Three of the original group, including the current prioress, Sr Mary Agnes, continue at the monastery and together with another two nuns make up the present day community of six.

In those early days, daily Mass was provided for the sisters by the Cathedral parish. However, when the Apostolic Nunciature moved to Red Hill Canberra from Sydney in 1978 the then Nuncio, Archbishop Barbarito, and Archbishop Edward Clancy agreed that



daily Mass would be provided by the Nunciature. This association continues much to the joy of the nuns. On behalf of the whole of the Archdiocese we thank the Nunciature for their

wonderful chaplaincy over so many years.

In 1993 after a major fundraising exercise, a chapel was built adjacent to the monastery. This not only freed up much-needed accommodation for the sisters but more importantly has given them a secure and sacred place to exercise their ministry in keeping with their contemplative life.

A growing number of people make contact with the Carmel each day seeking the Sisters' prayers for a whole range of intercessory intentions. We are confident these many calls for prayer, often of a critical nature, have been heard by the Good Lord and have been interceded by His Blessed Mother.

I would like to offer the invitation for young women to consider a possible vocation to the consecrated life with the Carmelite Sisters. I offer this invitation particularly to the daughters of many of our migrant communities in Canberra and beyond. The vocation to the consecrated life is a very important aspect of our Catholic life. I pray that vocations will be plentiful in the years ahead.

On behalf of all of us we warmly congratulate the Sisters on the 40th anniversary of their foundation here in Canberra. We look forward to the 80th anniversary!

Yours sincerely in Christ,
**Archbishop
Christopher Prowse**

The search for full happiness



Jesus had the answer ... Namora Anderson outside Sacred Heart Church, Moruya.

People matter

Do you ever have moments when you look in the mirror and wonder about the meaning of your life?

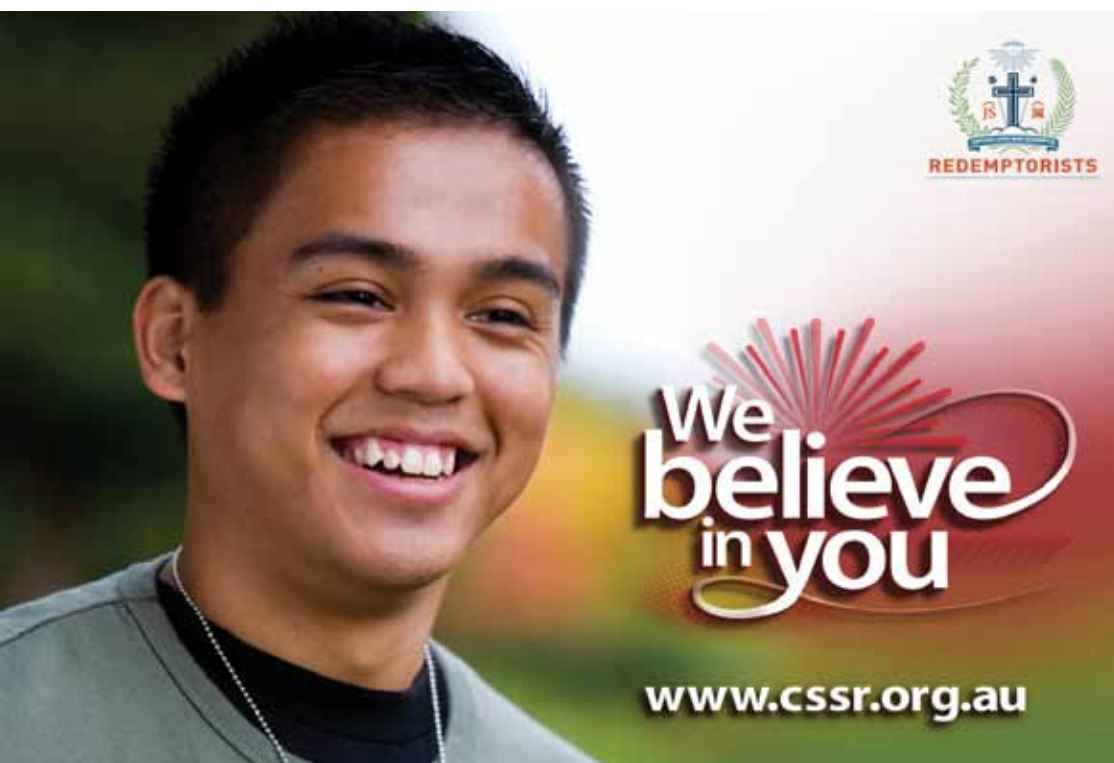
These are not just moments of – there must be something more OR there could be something more.

Rather, these are moments when you sense you are being drawn into something more and you don't understand fully where this is coming from, or where it may lead you.

It is a real challenge to leave behind what you know and what makes you comfortable. It is a real challenge to risk it all in the name of three simple God-given words, "Come, follow me".

Would you consider living your life as a Redemptorist priest or brother? Would you consider joining as a lay partner in mission?

Redemptorists live in community in order to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In various ways throughout the world they proclaim that people matter. They matter to God. They matter to us. For more information contact vocations@cssr.org.au.



National Vocations Awareness Week provides an opportunity for dioceses, parishes, schools, religious communities, youth and campus ministers, and other Catholic organisations, to focus at the same time on the call to holiness (the Christian vocation) that arises from Baptism, and to foster a vocations culture across Australia. Catholic Vocations Ministry Australia www.catholicovocations.org.au

By Namora Anderson

I am a fifth-year seminarian for the Canberra and Goulburn Archdiocese. I would like to share, through my experience, the finding and following of your vocation.

We all have vocations, whatever they are.

What's more is that we have vocations in our vocation. The best definition of vocation that reconciles with me is essence: who we really and fully are.

A vocation is God showing us what our charisms are and where best to use them.

Happiness can be found outside one's vocation, but full happiness will never be attained outside of your vocation.

This is, for the most part, how God was able to call me into the seminary. When I was a mechanic, one day I realised that though nothing was badly wrong in my life I noticed that something was preventing me from being fully happy.

It came to me that if there was an answer Jesus would be the one to have it.

It was then in a lot of time in prayer and with the sacraments that I discovered the call to priestly life.

Once following your vocation, it's important to remember the end which you seek.

Contemporary society tells us that intelligence, popularity and possessions are the goals for which to seek.

We seek them with great courage and perseverance. We seek them because they are goals that are good, they are "goods".

However it is here that we stop, we fail to ask if these are goods that give pleasure and happiness; how much more would we get by attaining The Good? The Good, Namely God, is where all, not just some, of our desires are completed.

Thus only when the whole person is ordered and co-operating together do we find a peaceful joy that surpasses the words themselves.

This took me years to comprehend. May this help you in your journey and save you from wasting a lot of time and effort.

God bless.

Internet www.cg.catholic.org.au

VOCATIONS DISCERNMENT DINNER

A vocations discernment dinner will be held at Archbishop's house on Friday, 12 September. The evening will begin with prayer at 6pm, followed by an informal dinner with Archbishop Christopher Prowse. Any young men and women in Year 11 or older who would like to learn more about and

discuss a call to the priesthood or religious life are invited to attend. RSVP by Monday, 8 September, to Vocations Director Fr Emil Milat, telephone **4474 2024** or email emil.milat@cg.catholic.org.au or go to the Archdiocesan website www.cg.catholic.org.au and click on Vocations.



An MSC on 1400cc hits the road...

Newly ordained Missionary of the Sacred Heart priest Patrick Mara is embarking on a pilgrimage with a difference this month, aboard a 1400cc motorbike.

The ride will be a "spiritual journey" for the priest, who is making a 4600km ride from Sydney to Darwin, where he will minister in a parish, detention centre and prison until the end of the year.

The Suzuki GSX1400 was a gift from a fellow MSC priest.

"One of our priests was an avid motorcycle rider for his whole life, but now he's 74," Fr Mara, 35, said. "He had a motorbike and he offered it to me."

Patrick joined the MSCs in 2007 after a year of lay mission work in Kirabati and Fiji, which allowed him to use his first trade, as a plumber.

In fact, he was working happily in his trade, paying a mortgage and preparing for a life of marriage and children, when he felt a strong calling from within to do something else.

"I was 24 and I wasn't sure what that calling was exactly, so I took some time off work to give myself the space to listen," he said.

He was "horrified" when he realised that it was the priesthood he was being called to, so much so that he did his best to

ignore it and continue with the life he had planned and wanted.

"But the more I tried to shut it out, the stronger it got," he said. "It began to really weigh me down and I was left with no option but to at least give it a go."

When he made finally the decision to try the priesthood, a weight was immediately lifted off his shoulders.

He said the MSCs really struck a chord with him. "The charism of the congregation fits me like a glove, a very down-to-earth spirituality which understands the human condition with all its wonderful joys and messiness put together. I found a congregation where I can be 'me' as God intended."

What Fr Mara particularly loves about the MSCs is that there is a place for each individual to express themselves and their love for God in any particular ministry.

"Our mission is 'to be on earth the Heart of God' where one finds their peace and freedom. I have found it in spending time with the homeless, and those who have fallen through the cracks of society through rejection, mental illness, and drug addiction.

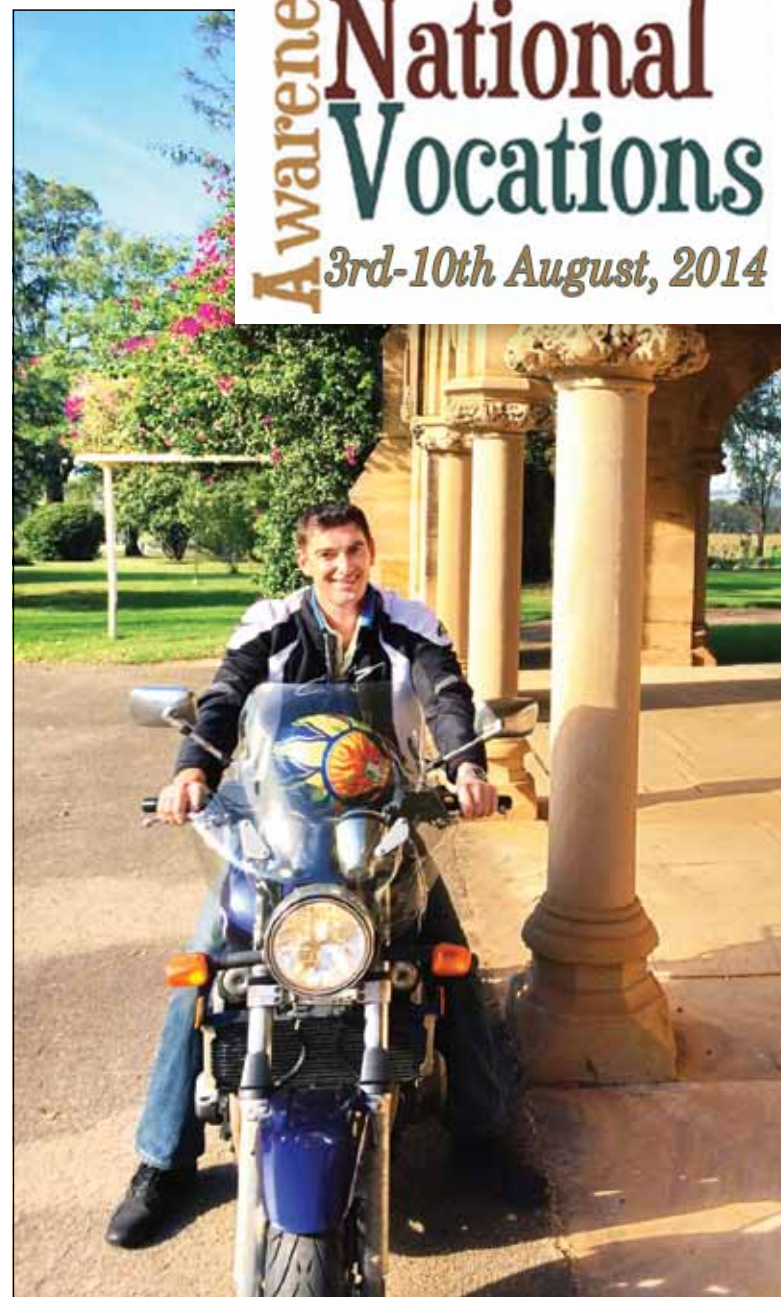
"They are the people I love to spend time with; they are the people in whom I meet Jesus."

His father John said he was proud to see Patrick "very, very happy" in "a wonderful order".

He described his son as a "very talented tradesman" whose religious vocation would allow him to combine his abilities as a plumber with his love of mission.

It has already been quite a journey from plumber to priesthood for Patrick Mara. As this newly ordained Rev revs along the Stuart Highway, he follows a well-marked road and a God whose love could lead him to minister anywhere.

To find out more about the MSCs go to misacor.org.au.



Ready to hit the road... Fr Patrick Mara prepares for the ride from Sydney to Darwin (above), and at his ordination by Bishop Eugene Hurley (left). Picture www.vincentlai.com.au.

Awareness Week
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expertise which is not available in developing countries. **Why not contact us? Just for a chat?** There's no obligation – just have a go!

Fr Peter > 0408 299 170

<http://australia.mscmission.org/lay-missionaries>

An 'image of mercy' in my heart

By Mai Nguyen-Doan

It is a gift and treasure to arrive in Australia and become a Sister of Mercy, but the journey is a mystery.

I escaped Vietnam with my younger brother in 1990 and we were repatriated to Vietnam in 1994. In the refugee camps, we were educated by three Australian Sisters of Mercy.

In late 1996, I was sponsored to Australia as a returned refugee. I thought of the Sisters, but I only remembered their names. In 2007, I bought a DVD, a documentary about Vietnamese refugees going back to visit the camps in Malaysia and Indonesia. Unexpectedly, I saw the three Sisters in the DVD and through a parish priest reconnected with the Sisters again.

My early childhood awareness of my desire to explore religious life was fulfilled by the mystery of this reconnection, which led to my immersion in the initial formation program from 2008 and to my first profession of vows in August 2013.

I did not have to find out what Mercy is all about before I decided to join the Sisters of Mercy because the image and presence of the three Sisters in my heart had given me all the information I needed.

Currently, I am in full-time ministry with McAuley Community Services for Women in Melbourne as a case manager, to support women and their children who come to stay in our refuges escaping family violence.

I endeavour to carry on the mission of Mercy in my support, as I journey with the women and their children at a most difficult time of their lives as together we seek to re-establish a safe and loving environment.

I find myself very privileged to continue the work which Catherine McAuley started in the early 19th century.



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Attending to the need wherever they see it

Pallotti College is a ministry in Australia of the Society of the Catholic Apostolate (SAC), an international order of priests, brothers and sisters.

It is part of a world-wide network of similar retreat centres located in nearly every continent.

The centre is operated by a team, consisting of SAC members and lay volunteers offering a place of hospitality and welcome to all who come.

People of all faiths are nourished as part of the ecumenical ethos.

Alongside the sacred ministries offered, team members also witness to their faith, living out their apostolate through welcome and care, providing a place of renewal for body, mind and spirit, work close to the heart of Pallotti.

Following the spirituality of St Vincent Pallotti, the team is also committed to various forms of outreach within the local community and beyond, even to the city of Melbourne.

This includes involvement in dialogue with many other faiths and participation in an exciting initiative of street ministry. The team believes its members are called to attend to the need wherever they see it.

With a special connection to the SAC in Germany, the team has for many years included young



German lay volunteers who generously give up to a year of their lives to join the Pallotti College family.

Fired with the spirit of giving, these enthusiastic young adults are an enormous enhancement to the various ministries.

Their experience here often sparks a desire to participate more in ministry and charitable works when they return home.

This includes at least one consecrated vocation with a young woman who subsequently joined a Benedictine order in Cologne, as well as vocations in the broader sense where a spirit of faith, care and giving is integrated into the lives of those who have worked with the team.

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Parish community still holds the key, says new youth leader

By Fiona van der Plaats

Stuart West's plan for his life when he finished high school was to study applied science with a focus on genetics and to work in medical research.

That plan went out the window, however, after he took a gap year to work in youth ministry.

"I realised that if I went into medical research I would be working for humanity but I would be locked away from it.

"When I started doing youth ministry I realised I wanted to work with people, not just for them. I might have been able to save lives through medical research but what was the point if I couldn't help people to save their souls and their hearts?"

That revelation took him down a path of youth ministry work that has led to his latest role as the Archdiocese's new youth and young adults coordinator.

Having worked for three years as a volunteer with Youth Mission Team (YMT) Australia in Adelaide and Sydney, and then for two years as a paid YMT coordinator in Sydney, the now 26-year-old has most recently been the Archdiocese's parish and schools youth ministry liaison officer.

"As the coordinator, I will be taking an overarching look at what we are doing in the youth office, including looking after what we will be doing in the lead-up to World Youth Day in Krakow two years from now, and also providing direction and support for Josh (Goldsbrough, archdiocesan youth ministry project officer) and Greg (Jeffery, ACU campus ministry coordinator)," Mr West said.

His aim is to continue to foster a unified approach to youth ministry. "We want to bring youth leaders together so we can share ideas and learn from each other."

Having been involved in Christian youth groups and ministries of "different flavours" throughout his school years and beyond, Mr West has boiled his vision down to the basics.



Bigger plans ... archdiocesan youth and young adults coordinator Stuart West.

"It all comes back to the core concept of what do we have in common? What are the core principles of our faith?" he said.

He believes parishes, "that is, the parish community rather than the structural parish", are still the "foundational building blocks of our Church" and are thus crucial to youth involvement.

"The challenge is to encourage young people to make the move to join in and also to encourage other parishioners to meet them, invite them in and get them involved."

Mr West also believes it is important to help young people recognise their "invitation" to become involved. "It really is about a one-on-one personal invitation to encounter the person of Christ. I was invited to that through my family and the people we met through our faith."

The middle child among five boys, Mr West not only had the benefit of a Catholic upbringing but his faith survived the test of his mother's death from ovarian cancer in his mid-teens.

"That was one of the crucial points in my faith formation," he said.

"It really made me question my faith, and I believe if we question openly and are open to an answer, God will provide."

He would sit on a cliff top in the national park outside his back fence, looking over the valley and wrestling with "Is God real?" and other big questions.

"I got the real sense in that quiet space that God was saying 'I do love you and I have bigger plans for you that you will see later'."

Mr West has since come to realise that his vocation is as a husband, to Catherine, and a father, to six-month-old Albert.

His youth ministry role is his "secondary calling" but it is also "a rare and unique opportunity to do what I love and feel strongly about".

Now studying education and science at the University of Canberra, having worked for two years as a handbag and luggage salesman, he sometimes thinks "at this point I could have finished my degrees and postgraduate studies and be working in medical research".

"But then I think, no, I wouldn't change a minute of what I have done so far."

Surgeon to talk on breast cancer link to abortion

A US surgeon and international speaker on breast cancer risks will give a talk in Canberra this month.

The ACT Right to Life Association is bringing Dr Angela Lanfranchi to speak at 7.30pm on Thursday, 28 August, at University House, ANU, as part of an Australian tour.

Dr Lanfranchi's work with her associates for a number of years has

focused on showing the connection between abortion and breast cancer.

A breast cancer surgeon who has practiced in New Jersey since 1984, she is the author of articles on the physiology and epidemiology of abortion breast cancer and hormonal contraceptive risks and informed consent.

In her work with the Breast Cancer Prevention Institute, of which she is co-

founder, she has travelled over 15 years throughout the US and to Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Europe, China, India and South Africa. She has spoken at the United Nations, medical schools, hospitals, universities, cancer organisations, and local and national government bodies about breast cancer risks, including its association with induced abortion and hormonal contraceptives.

Jesuits' books are winners

Two books by Australian Jesuits have taken out top awards from the peak body for US Catholic publishing houses. The Association of Catholic Publishers awarded top spots in the strongly contested prayer and spirituality section to Fr Richard Leonard and Fr Michael Hansen. Fr Richard Leonard's *Why Bother Praying?* and Fr Michael Hansen's *The First Spiritual Exercises* were singled out from the several hundred Catholic religious titles published last year in the US.

Broome's first bishop dies

Broome's first Bishop John Jobst SAC has died in Austria aged 94. He cared for the diocese of Broome and its Aboriginal people from 1959, when he was made Vicar-Apostolic of Kimberley to 1995 when he retired after 29 years as Bishop of Broome. Bishop Jobst attended all four sessions of Vatican II. Australian Catholic Bishops Conference president Archbishop Denis Hart said: the bishops remember him "with affection and gratitude as a man of integrity and priestly goodness, and a true missionary".

Give refugees a chance, Govt urged

The Australian Government has been urged to provide all asylum seekers with the opportunity to put forth their claim for refugee status. Director of the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office Fr Maurizio Pettenà said "we have an obligation to find out why these people have attempted to come to Australia."

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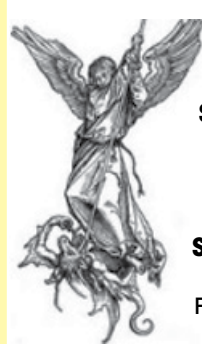
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People want to know 'you care'

For Catholics keen to share the moral truth with a society that doesn't necessarily want to hear it, it's often less about what they say and more about how they say it.

That was the message Patrick Langrell, campus ministry convenor at the University of Notre Dame and founder of the youth forum Theology on Tap, had for the audience at the archdiocesan Office for Youth and Young Adults' Guinness and God presentation in Canberra.

Speaking on Standing Up for Truth in the Modern World, Mr Langrell said that simply defending the truth often results in arguments, but speaking the truth with love is more likely to pave the way for constructive conversations about moral issues.

He said the truth needed to be spoken with love because people "don't care how much you know till they know how much you care".

Truth and love must always go together, he said, but they must also be shaped by prudence and having the wisdom to recognise how much of the truth others need to hear, when they need to hear it and how.

The idea, he said, is to share "a joyful vision that we believe in" not just because it is true but because it can enrich lives.



Truth and love ... Patrick Langrell during his Guinness and God presentation in Canberra.

Mr Langrell acknowledged that standing up for the truth is not easy in a society in which people are less able to discuss moral issues in an adult way and in which the shared moral wisdom has diminished.

"I don't think things are going to get better anytime soon," he said,

mainly because a number of outside forces, including social, economic and cultural structures, have been working against it for a long time.

But, as Catholics, the vocational choices they make and the way they speak the truth can still make a big difference, he said.

Now it's your turn to sleep out...

As Canberra's business leaders thaw out from their night under the icy stars during the Vinnies CEO Sleepout, the wider community is now being invited to take on the challenge of being "homeless" for a night.

Members of the public can take part in the Canberra Community Sleepout in more forgiving conditions, on Friday 14 November at the Australian Institute of Sport.

The Sleepout is a partnership between Communities@Work and St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn.

"We are working together to reduce homelessness in our community by raising awareness and the much needed funds required to provide practical assistance to those who are struggling to meet their basic needs," the society's Canberra/Goulburn

CEO Paul Trezise said.

"The Community Sleepout is a great opportunity for our supporters to come together and grew from feedback we received at the CEO Sleepout - that staff, friends and family also wanted to sleep out to make a difference."

Participants can register online as a team, family or individual at sleepout2014.gofundraise.com.au.

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Sleeping out for a cause ... Vinnies' Canberra/Goulburn president Frank Brassil (left) at the launch of the Community Sleepout at the AIS with Communities@Work CEO Lynne Harwood and Paul Trezise.



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A God who wants to distract us

Ron Rolheiser

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



There's a story in the Hindu tradition that runs something like this: God and a man are walking down a road. The man asks God: "What is the world like?" God answers: "I'd like to tell you, but my throat is parched. I need a cup of cold water. If you can go and get me a cup of cold water, I'll tell you what the world is like."

The man heads off to the nearest house to ask for a cup of cold water. He knocks on the door and it is opened by a beautiful young woman. He asks for a cup of cold water. She answers: "I will gladly get it for you, but it's just time for the noon meal, why don't you come in first and eat." He does.

Thirty years later, they've had five children, he's a respected merchant, she's a respected member of the community, they're in their house one evening when a hurricane comes and uproots their house.

The man cries out: "Help me, God!" And a voice comes from the centre of the hurri-

cane says: "Where's my cup of cold water?"

This story is not so much a spiritual criticism as it is a fundamental lesson in anthropology and spirituality: To be a human being is to be perpetually distracted.

We aren't persons who live in habitual spiritual awareness who occasionally get distracted.

Human nature naturally finds itself absorbed in the affairs of everyday life, and God designed human nature in just this way

We're persons who live in habitual distraction who occasionally become spiritually aware.

We tend to be so preoccupied with the ordinary business of living that it takes a hurricane of some sort for God to break through.

C S Lewis, commenting on why we tend to turn to God only during a hurricane, once put it this way: God is always speaking to us, but normally

we aren't aware, aren't listening. Accordingly pain is God's microphone to a deaf world.

However none of us wants that kind of pain; none of us wants some disaster, some health break-down, or some hurricane to shake us up. We prefer a powerful positive event, a miracle or mini-miracle, to happen to us to awaken

God's presence in us because we nurse the false daydream that, if God broke into our lives in some miraculous way, we would then move beyond our distracted spiritual state and get more serious about our spiritual lives.

But that's the exact delusion inside the biblical character in the parable of Lazarus and Dives, where the rich man asks Abraham to send him

back from the dead to warn his brothers that they must change their way of living or risk the fiery flames.

His plea expresses exactly that false assumption: "If someone comes back from the dead, they will listen to him!" Abraham doesn't buy the logic. He answers: "They have Moses and the Prophets. If they don't listen to them, they won't be convinced either, even if someone came back from the dead."

What lies unspoken but critically important in that reply, something easily missed by us, the reader, is that Jesus has already come back from the dead and we aren't listening to him. Why should we suppose that we would listen to anyone else who comes back from the dead?

Our preoccupation with the ordinary business of our lives is so strong that we are not attentive to the one who has already come back from the dead.

Given this truth, the Hindu tale just recounted is, in a way, more consoling than chiding. To be human is to be habitually distracted from spiritual things. Such is human nature. Such is our nature.

But knowing that our endless proclivity for distraction is normal doesn't give us permission to be comfortable with that fact.

Great spiritual mentors, not least Jesus, strongly urge

us to wake up, to move beyond our over-preoccupation with the affairs of everyday life.

Jesus challenges us to not be anxious about how we are to provide for ourselves. He also challenges us to read the signs of the times, namely, to see the finger of God, the spiritual dimension of things, in the everyday events of our lives. All great spiritual literature does the same.

Today there is a rich literature in most spiritual traditions challenging us to mindfulness, to not be mindlessly absorbed in the everyday affairs of our lives. But great spiritual literature also assures us that God understands us, that grace respects nature, that God didn't make a mistake in designing human nature, and that God didn't make us in such a way that we find ourselves congenitally distracted and then facing God's anger because we are following our nature.

Human nature naturally finds itself absorbed in the affairs of everyday life, and God designed human nature in just this way.

And so, I think, God must be akin to a loving parent or grandparent, looking at his or her children at the family gathering, happy that they have interesting lives which so absorb them, content not to be always the centre of their conscious attention.

Asylum seekers: a way forward

Contributed by the Archdiocese's Catholic Social Justice Commission

Arguments about Australia's response to people seeking asylum have been passionate and angry, at times generating more heat than light.

The Catholic Social Justice Commission (CSJC) for the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn has been considering the issue. This is the first of three articles offering some thoughts based on Catholic social teaching.

The primary purpose of any policy concerning asylum seekers must be respect for the life and dignity of the human beings directly or indirectly involved. It means honestly recognising the human impact, good and bad, the policy will have.

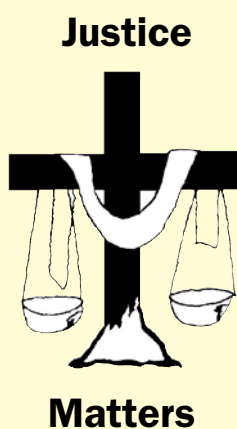
The CSJC cannot help but note that advocates of particular strategies tend to overstate the favourable impacts while minimising the adverse consequences of what they propose. At the same time they are prone to understate the positive elements and highlight the negative impacts of alternatives.

In developing its own position the CSJC is conscious of the need

to avoid these extremes and to make proposals that are principled and practical. We therefore suggest a 10-point plan as a basis for moving to a more compassionate yet realistic response.

The first two points relate to the overall effort Australia makes in accepting refugees and other humanitarian entrants. One is that the Government should immediately restore Australia's humanitarian intake to the levels set by its predecessor – 20,000 now rising over five years to 27,000. The other is that the Government should consider doubling the intake to 40,000, if necessary with a phase-in period of three to five years – Australia's current contribution to the resettlement of refugees and others in need of humanitarian assistance lags behind that of many countries of comparable wealth.

The next article will address the issue of people smuggling and safeguards for the rights of asylum seekers.



Former RSJ leader dies

A former community leader of the Sisters of St Joseph at North Goulburn has died.

Sr Patricia Lenane RSJ, (pictured right) also known as Sr M Jerome, died on 24 June at Bourke St Health Service (St John's), Goulburn, aged 82.

She was the daughter of Joseph John Lenane and Maria (nee Chalker) and sister to older brothers Michael Bernard, Vincent Francis and Thomas Patrick, and younger brother John Joseph.

Sr Patricia was a much loved member of the Sisters of St Joseph. She was community leader at North Goulburn until early this year when illness prevented her from continuing.

She was teacher and principal at many primary schools in the Archdiocese and in the Wagga Wagga Diocese.

In 1976-79 she taught at St Matthew's Primary School, Page. During this time she was elected member of the Josephite congregational council on which she served six years.

In 1984, she was appointed to set up a joint novitiate with the Perthville Sisters of St Joseph at North Ryde and undertook study and work in formation ministry.

In 1990, Sr Patricia established a hostel at Lyneham for country girls in their first



year of study in Canberra. This work was demanding and the ministry successful, continuing to this day. Sr Patricia embraced life fully and was renowned for her joyful mischievous nature. She loved people, appreciated the glory of nature and enjoyed knitting, cooking, reading and accounting.

A Requiem Mass was celebrated at Our Lady of Dolours Chapel, North Goulburn, and she was buried at St Patrick's Cemetery, Kenmore.

Committed to rural people

Sr Elizabeth Denson RSJ, also known as Sr M Stephanie, died on 10 June at the Temora District Hospital. She was 84 years.

Sr Elizabeth, born in Quandialla, was the daughter of Sidney Joseph and Stephanie (nee Anthony) and sister to John and Stephanie who have both predeceased her.

She was a much loved member of the Sisters of St Joseph and taught in many schools across the Archdiocese and the Wagga Wagga Diocese.

Her commitment was to rural people and she lived and ministered in the community and region of Ungarie from 1993 until 2007. She then went to live at the Southern Cross Care village in Temora. She is especially remembered for her love of our country and country people.

A Requiem Mass was celebrated at Our Lady of Dolours Chapel, North Goulburn, and she was buried at St Patrick's Cemetery, Kenmore.

Boy who charms the Beast

Belle et Sebastien. Starring Felix Bossuet, Tcheky Karyo, Margaux Chatelier. Directed by Nicolas Vanier. Icon Films. 104 minutes. PG (mild themes and coarse language). Reviewer: Fr Peter Malone MSC*.

What a pleasant surprise. In a film which adults and children could enjoy, the audience is taken into the French Alps on the border with Switzerland. And, not only are we taken there, we feel we are really in the midst of some rather breathtaking scenery, mountains, villages, the different seasons, the variety of animals found in the Alps. Director Nicolas Vanier has made something of a career of directing and photographing nature documentaries.

Even at the opening, with Cesar (Tcheky Karyo) and his grandson, Sebastien (Felix Bossuet) walking along the craggy edges of sheer cliffs, we are immersed in the way of life of the people of the Alps. They hear shots where animals are killed and they find a small kid on the lower ledge needing rescue. Cesar lowers Sebastien down to retrieve the animal, quite a dizzying and difficult feat.

Sebastien is only six, a good boy, pleasant but not cute in the American-movie style. Cesar is something of an old grouch, a drinker, but devoted to his grandson. When it appears that the sheep are being taken by a huge dog, maltreated by its previous owners and now running loose and



Sebastien with The Beast, who becomes Belle.

wild, the men of the village set out to shoot it.

However, Sebastien has encountered the wild dog, pacified it, talked to it and has become a friend. The mountaineers have called it The Beast. After a short time with Sebastien, The Beast becomes Belle, and human and dog – quite a huge white dog, in fact – become firm friends. Sebastien even stands in front of Cesar's rifle to protect Belle.

As a story about humans and dog, it will be a delight to those who have a passion for canine friends – and might almost be a means of converting those would never see themselves as dog-lovers!

But that is not all. We are informed that it is 1943, and that means occupied France. It is gradually revealed that there is a squad of German soldiers in the village, making demands for supplies, especially bread, from the locals and, in secret, slaughtering some of the sheep for food.

The other predators are wolves roaming the mountains. Cesar's niece, Angelina (Margaux Cartelier) is the baker and the leader of the German squad is rather sweet on her.

As we might have been led to believe because of the occupation and the proximity of the Swiss border, the theme of leading Jewish refugees over the mountains

becomes an important subplot, involving Angelina, the local doctor who serves as a guide, and even Sebastien and Belle.

As one group is snowed in on Christmas Day, Belle saves the day by leading the group on a secure path.

The film is often strikingly beautiful with landscapes to wonder at and admire. The characters are friendly but rugged, mountain people.

Belle, despite her fearsome first appearance, is a beautiful big dog, and she and Sebastien are great friends.

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

SHORTS

The Lunchbox. Starring Irrfan Khan, Nimrat Kaur, Nawazuddin Siddiqui. Directed by Ritesh Batra. Madman. 103 minutes. PG (Mild themes).

A success not only in India but the world over. The audience is immersed immediately into the life and vitality of the city of Mumbai. The film is about basic values, the quality of human life, possibilities for happiness, the realities of sadness and some betrayal, the basic sadness in the deep experiences of long illness, death, and the delight in the celebration of marriage and wedding. It reaches into the hearts of an older audience – one hopes that a younger audience might stray into the film, slow their pace down, and contemplate some of the deeper values of life, even through communication in a lunchbox.

Dawn of the Planet of the Apes. 3D. Starring: Andy Serkis, Jason Clarke, Keri Russell, Gary Oldman, Toby Kebbel and Karin Konoval. Directed by Matt Reeves. 20th Century Fox. 130 minutes. M (Violence and infrequent coarse language).

American science-fiction sequel to the 2011 movie, Rise of the Planet of the Apes. Set 15 years after the events of the first film, and follows 10 years after a lot of human-kind has been wiped out by a flu epidemic caused by a virus. Apes and humans meet, become enemies, and move forward, human-like, to do battle with each other. As before, it is the apes that steal the show. Since the virus, the apes have prospered, but humans are in social collapse, and the film intriguingly shows the apes as observers of the devastation humans have created. Quite violent in parts, but technically outstanding.

Rio 2. Voiced by Jesse Eisenberg, Anne Hathaway, Andy Garcia, Jermaine Clement, Jamie Foxx, Will I. am, Rita Marino, Kristin Chenoweth, Rodrigo Santoro, Tracy Morgan, George Lopez. Directed by Carlos Saldhana. Fox. 99 minutes. G.

A very happy film, as was Rio, happy characters – and villain Nigel turning up again. From the studios which produced the Ice Age films, so a good record for producing entertaining animation, popular with audiences. Animation style is vivid, bright colours, cheerful in themselves, well delineated characters, mostly birds, with some other eccentric animals and a range of humans, sympathetic conservationists and the big boss and his squad of loggers.

Tim's Vermeer. Starring Tim Jenison, Penn Jillette, Colin Blakemore. Directed by Teller. Sony Classics. 80 minutes. M (Infrequent coarse language).

Seemingly innocuous little documentary proves to be an engrossing study of obsession and genius, and the fine line dividing the two states. Tim Jenison, an inventor and founder of a successful software company, falls upon research which suggests that the 17th century Dutch master painter Vermeer used sophisticated arrangements of lenses and mirrors to create his incredibly photorealistic works. Jenison sets out to imitate him. His unquenchable thirst for knowledge spurs this entire endeavour. A testament to human brilliance and perseverance, this is both a wondrous documentary and an awe-inspiring film.

Jersey Boys. Starring: John Lloyd Young, Vincent Piazza, Michael Lomenda, Erich Bergen, and Christopher Walken. Directed by Clint Eastwood. Roadshow Films. 134 minutes. M (Frequent coarse language).

The film version of the phenomenally popular stage musical, Jersey Boys, which was a hit worldwide, and recently toured Australia. Tells the story of four young men from "the wrong side of the tracks" in New Jersey who came together to form the The Four Seasons, a famous rock group of the 1960s. When The Four Seasons fill the screen with their voices, their singing and their songs are thrilling.

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A film first for Timor Leste

Beatriz's War/A Guerra Da Beatriz, Timor-Leste, 2013, starring Trim Tolentino. Directed by Bety Reis and Luigi Acquisto. Abra Films. 103 minutes. M (Mature themes, violence and infrequent coarse language). Reviewer Fr Peter Malone MSC*.

This is the first feature film from Timor Leste, a local production, directed by a local, Bety Reis, in collaboration with Australian director Luigi Acquisto.

While older Australians still remember television footage of the Indonesian invasion of East Timor in 1975, the controversy over the deaths of Australian journalists, and the occupation by Indonesia of the former Portuguese colony, younger audiences will not be so familiar. Beatriz's War offers an opportunity to learn about the events and appreciate the experiences of Australia's near neighbour.

The action takes place over a crucial 25 years, from the invasion to the vote for independence in 1999, and its immediate aftermath. In 1975, Beatriz is a young girl, brought by her mother because of

the danger, to a man who used to be a rival family leader. She asks for the betrothal of her daughter to his son, Tomas. Beatriz is a strong-minded girl. Tomas is rather a gentle boy, easily bullied. But there is an attraction between the two. The parents ratify the union, but the local priest, Fr Nicolau, cannot bless it until they come to marriageable age. Ultimately, they do, and Beatriz becomes pregnant.

The occupation is more difficult for the women who stay at home, while the men, including Tomas, go into the hills to join resistance movements. In some ways, the women in the village get used to the presence of the soldiers, especially the commander, a man of deep brutality.

The years pass and, unexpectedly, Tomas returns. But, is this really Tomas? This gives force to the final part of the film, Beatriz dealing with the return of her husband, the villagers relying on traditions to gauge the truth of the return.

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

Those who may carry antidote to western breakdown

Jesus and The Dreaming: Discovering an Australian Spirituality Through Aboriginal Christian Dialogue by Frank Fletcher MSC. St Pauls, 2013, 344 pages, \$24.95. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.

The author, Dr Frank Fletcher, was a Missionary of the Sacred Heart. He died late last year aged 81. His book is a summary of his life's work as an Australian priest.

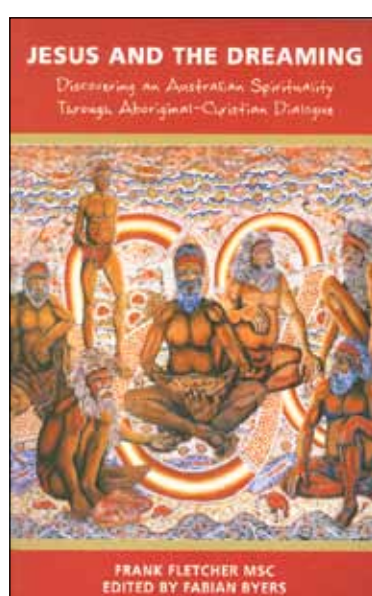
He lectured in theology at St Paul's National Seminary Kensington NSW and worked with the Aboriginal (Koori) community of South Sydney for nearly 20 years.

His enduring interest in Aboriginal spirituality was given impetus by his encounter with the indigenous leader Rev

Charles Harris to whom this book is dedicated. Harris said in a 1989 address, "The God of the Christian Churches has failed the Aboriginal people... but we Aborigines have found Jesus for ourselves."

The shock of these words remained with Fr Fletcher. Their implicit meaning is that it was western presumption that God was identified with western civilisation. To accept the Christian God meant embracing the civilisation whose practitioners had taken over Aboriginal land.

This feeling of cultural and spiritual superiority by westerners fails to take into account the surprising number of likenesses between Aboriginality and the Christian faith tradition. Fr



Fletcher claimed that Aborigines instinctively are in touch with their Aboriginality: it is a com-

munion which includes harmony with their forebears.

In the book he draws heavily on the work of Bernard Lonergan and his landmark text *Method in Theology* and the subsequent development of its principles by Robert Doran. Clearly these are for the initiated or students in theology.

When Fr Fletcher wrote of his experience of soul and ceremony, he made some interesting assertions. He believed that many young adults are attracted to spirituality but reject a religion dominated by doctrines and sacraments.

He said Aboriginal people carry part of the antidote to the western breakdown. This is the understanding of soul – the reality of our lives.

He said soul underpins and accompanies all movement of spirit.

Soul also underpins and accompanies the functioning of the body.

Thus soul, spirit and body are in unity. If then we grasp that all the earth is in soul we have a way of opening to the Dreaming.

All this and much more is the fruit of Frank Fletcher's reflection and writing.

Through his study of Aboriginal spirituality he made a huge contribution to the Australian Church.

This is a critical factor in developing a uniquely Australian relationship with God and with one another.

Compelling look at Our Father

Our Father, Who Art on Earth: The Lord's Prayer for Believers and Unbelievers by Jose Tolentino Mendonca. Paulist Press, 114 pages, \$21.95. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.

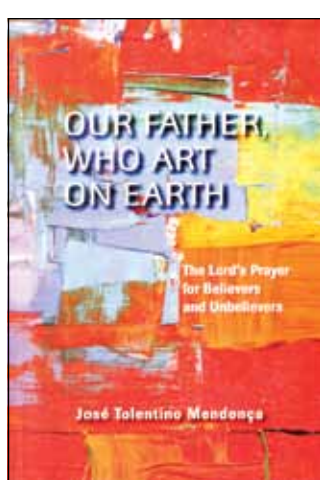
An arresting title, isn't it? How many books, I wonder, have been written which explore the nuances in Jesus' exemplar on how to pray?

Most of these involve the usual line-by-line biblical and spiritual exegesis (interpretation). In this little book, Jose Tolentino Mendonca offers more.

Mendonca is a poet, priest and professor at the Faculty of Theology of the Catholic University of Lisbon. His graceful prose is enhanced by the sensitive English translation by Mary John Ronayne OP.

In the prologue to his engaging book, he begins by quoting the opening lines to a song by Jacques Prevert, "Our Father who art in heaven. Stay there, and we'll stay on earth." Mendonca asks, "Where is God? And where are we?" He says that, mysteriously, it is the earth which separates us or brings us close to God.

What makes this book such an engrossing read is the originality of the author's images. Consider, for example, these phrases.



"We pray because we are a prayer." "God is greater than the heavens." "God's will cannot be done without us." "Ask for hunger for those who have bread." "All lives are bread."

The author references many sources in his commentary; St Augustine, Thomas Merton, Simone Weil, Cervantes and Ernest Hemingway are some of the writers and thinkers who have influenced him. His fundamental reference is the Bible.

Jesus, he writes, produces a paradigm for Christian prayer.

Ultimately the Our Father asks the Father to be the Father. The One we address proves to be the object of our petition.

Mendonca points out that the first two words are Our Father and the last one is evil.

Where evil is concerned there are many things we do not have an explanation for, he writes, but do we have any answers to the question of good?

Paradoxically the experience of evil points us towards gratuitous love. We recognise this truth in the Cross and the Resurrection of Christ.

This compelling book is highly recommended for private and group meditation.

What drove Judas on path of betrayal?

Carry On In Faith by Thomas P. Leiker. Ligouri, 2013, 105 pages, \$16.95. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.

The opening sentence of the preface asks, "Another book about the passion?" and then "What makes this one any different from the others?" I had been wondering the same, but soon became immersed in the author's choices and style of story-telling.

Thomas Leiker is an experienced catechist, liturgist, musician, RCIA co-ordinator and teacher in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. That's quite a CV which more than qualifies him to write about the passion of Jesus Christ.

Leiker points out the slight differences in the writing and theological emphasis of the four evangelists. While remaining true to these accounts and without conflating the gospels, he has produced a coherent narrative which enhances our imaginative meditation and takes us back to those times. In covering the last days of the Lord's life, he also writes about the people Jesus encountered briefly or knew well. I found the most fascinating of these was

Judas Iscariot. Have you ever wondered, as I have, what drove him to betray Jesus when he did? Leiker tells us that Judas was a Maccabean, a zealot who for a time belonged to an extremist group likely to have been led by Barabbas. Judas dreamed about the fall of Roman rule and his own role in bringing it about.

Judas had heard, via Annas, a relative, that there would be honour in bringing in Jesus, this enemy of Rome and Israel. Judas figured that he would be recognised for his efforts to bring Jesus to justice and, as the Messiah would never permit himself to be killed, Jesus would rise up and lead the Jews in overthrowing the Romans.

When he approached the Jewish authorities there was no mention of money. Thirty pieces of silver was the market price of a slave. It was equal to the reward paid for turning someone in. To have refused it would have branded Judas a liar, likely to stand trial also. Judas' expectations were dashed and his protestations ignored as he was excluded from the inevitable process set in train by the Sanhedrin. This little book has earned its place in a niche market. I liked it.

Hope and Help for Living with Illness by Karen Zielinski. Franciscan Media, 116 pages, \$19.95. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.

Illness is an integral component of human existence. The challenge is to make sense of suffering and to retain some balance and hope.

Karen Zielinski has done it all in spades. She is a Franciscan sister who has lived with multiple sclerosis since 1975. Her medical condition has not defined her. Rather it has refined her mission, to offer the sick compassionate care.

She makes the sobering observation that health problems touch all our lives. Everyone will be a patient one day. Perhaps harder is being a care-giver and advocate of a loved one who is ill. Then there are many uncertainties and unsettling decisions to be made.

Everyone will be a patient one day...

Zielinski knows and names them all. There are no platitudes here.

The book lists practical ways to help those who have chronic conditions; gives loving advice to care-givers; talks about the challenges of mental illness; expands on the comfort of prayer and embracing our losses.

There are reflection questions and an appropriate prayer.

Of its type this is the most useful book I have read. The author sums it up thus, "We are invited to strive for holiness and health amid the broken circumstances of our lives". Highly recommended.

One Thousand Gifts, a dare to live fully right where you are \$19.95

The Open Door: Entering the Sanctuary of Icons and Prayer, helps us discover how icons can become part of our prayer, Frederica Mathewes-Green \$24.95

Our Elf Help Books are small but pack a punch of wise prompts, *When Your Parent Dies*, *Prayer Therapy*, *Loneliness Therapy*, *Grief Therapy*, *Keep-life-Simple Therapy*, *Elf-help for Overcoming Depression*, *On the Anniversary of Your Loss* and many more \$9.95 ea

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CURRARONG, JERVIS BAY - Fantastic house with 6 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and rum-pus. Sleeping 14 it's ideal for 2 families to share. Stylishly redecorated mid 2010. 800m to beach. www.currarongbeachhouse.com.au.

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Public Notice

PADRE Pio's Mitten (blood stained glove) will be available for veneration during the Healing Mass at St Benedict's Church, Narrabundah on Friday, 12 September. Enquiries, telephone 0262865679.

Self-help Group

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AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE



Executive Secretary, Bishops Commission for Pastoral Life

A vacancy exists in the Secretariat for Pastoral Life for an Executive Secretary, who will provide executive support to the Bishops Commission for Pastoral Life and its councils. The Commission addresses nationally issues related to the participation of all the faithful, with a focus on the areas of asylum seekers, disability, family, marriage, migrants, prisoners, and refugees, the marginalised and pro-life initiatives.

Applicants should have a tertiary qualification or equivalent experience in a relevant discipline and be demonstrably committed to the mission of the Catholic Church.

For a copy of the position description and confidential inquiries, contact the General Secretary of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, Fr Brian Lucas, T: 02 6201 9845, F: 02 6247 6083 or E: gensec@catholic.org.au.

Those interested must send an application, addressing the key accountabilities and the knowledge, skills and experience of the position, and including the names of three referees, to GPO Box 368 CANBERRA ACT 2601 or gensec@catholic.org.au, to arrive no later than 11 August 2014.

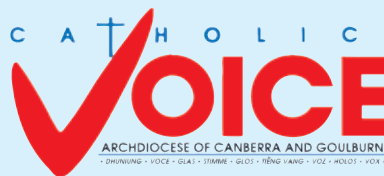
Finance Officer, General Secretariat

A vacancy exists in the General Secretariat for a Finance Officer, who will be involved in all aspects of the financial administration of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference.

Applicants should have a tertiary qualification or equivalent experience in a relevant discipline.

For a copy of the position description and confidential inquiries, contact the Business Manager of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, Mr Glenn Mowbray, T: 02 6201 9855, F: 02 6247 6083 or E: busman@catholic.org.au.

Those interested must send an application, addressing the key accountabilities and the knowledge, skills and experience of the position, and including the names of three referees, to GPO Box 368 CANBERRA ACT 2601 or busman@catholic.org.au, to arrive no later than 11 August 2014.



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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.

CENTERING PRAYER RETREAT – 4pm, Tuesday, 4 November to after lunch Thursday, 6 November, St Clement's Monastery, Galong. With DVDs by Trappist monk Thomas Keating. Facilitator Sr Lorraine Cupitt RSM. Cost \$240, shared bathroom. Registration and inquiries, email info@stclement.com.au or telephone 6380 5222.

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

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

GREGORIAN CHANT RETREAT – 19-21 September, Carmelite Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW. Practical event for participants to learn to sing chants for two Masses, the Night Office, sung Angelus and chants in honour of the Holy Cross. Inquiries: Telephone 8795 3400.

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 work-

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

HOLY SPIRIT SECULAR FRANCISCAN FRATERNITY – 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.

ICON PAINTING WORKSHOP – Thursday, 11 September, to Sunday, 14 September, St Clement's Retreat and Conference Centre, Galong. Experience of spirituality and painting with master teacher Prof Patrick Staikov Bernard, who learned his craft in Russia. Inquiries: info@stclement.com.au or sue.orchison@gmail.com

MASS FOR MOTHERS – Healing Mass, 5.30pm, Friday, 23 August, St Benedict's Church, Narrabundah. Pray for mothers living and dead.

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

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

MOVIE NIGHT - HOME in Queanbeyan's 5th annual fundraiser, Friday, 5 September, at The Q featuring The Soloist, starring Jamie Foxx and Robert Downey Jr. Also, address by gold medallist swimmer Petria Thomas and author of Swimming Against The Tide, an autobiography of her career and experiences with depression and injuries. Tickets: www.theq.net.au or The Q Box Office, telephone 6285 6290.

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

PILGRIMAGE TO SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF MERCY – Saturday, 13 September, for Fatima Day, Pauline Fathers Monastery, Penrose Park, near Berrima. Bookings from Canberra and Goulburn: Judy and Joe Mewburn, telephone 6254 6202.

POPE FRANCIS – A day at St Clement's Monastery, Galong, Saturday, 9 August, on Pope Francis, The Franciscan Tradition and the Challenges of Relativism with a Postmodern Culture. Speakers Dr Peter Vardy, British academic, philosopher, theologian and author, Dr Paul Rout OFM who lectures in Franciscan spirituality and philosophy of religion, and South Woden parish Fr Richard Thompson. Inquiries: Wendy Rowe, telephone 6227 4191 or email wendy.rowe@bigpond.com

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

SPRING FASHION PARADE - Calvary Hospital Auxiliary, 7.30pm, Saturday, 30 August, The Southern Cross Club, Phillip. \$60 a head or \$500 for pre-booked table of 10. Tickets from Daphne Ashley telephone 0407 835 846 or Tony Steer 6259 9676.

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

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Each year there are celebrations of milestones in ministry: celebrations of ordination, profession and of being a catechist. Many have continued their service into their retirement.

Their long service has enhanced our faith communities. July saw emeritus Archbishop Francis Carroll and Fr Neville Drinkwater, Parish Priest of Charnwood, celebrate their 60th anniversaries of ordination. All these milestones speak of service and ministry involving extensive formation, training and ongoing education.

This has been true of many who have come from overseas and are serving in our local Church of Canberra and Goulburn. Such formation and good leadership, though essential, is a huge burden and constraint for missionary dioceses and their communities.

Catholic Mission, through our society of St Peter the Apostle, seeks to assist these communities meet the costs of formation for students to priesthood, religious life and as catechists. Donations that assist others to meet such costs enable the fruits of so many prayers for vocations to be nurtured to fruition and Christ's mission to flourish.

To support this work, please send donations to the address below or contact us.

God bless,
Deacon Joe Blackwell

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

Shared stories

Every Tuesday afternoon, students with refugee and migrant backgrounds from St Francis Xavier College and St John the Apostle Primary in Florey meet in the primary school's library.

They have afternoon tea together and then they knuckle down to work. The younger students read to the older ones for 15 minutes. Then they work on numeracy and literacy activities while the secondary students tackle assignments or homework.

Rebecca Jefferys from St John's and Leilah Ayton from St Francis Xavier say it is all in the name of, among other things, grooming the children's literacy and numeracy skills and their self-esteem as learners, as well as providing opportunities for the older students to mentor the younger ones.

The students are also working on a project to record their families' stories. These will be collated into a book celebrating their history and the gifts they have brought to Australia.

Go west

Fancy a tour of duty in the far west? The Diocese of Broome in Western Australia is looking for volunteers to help with the work of the Church in Aboriginal missions.

If you can lend a hand with anything from administrative tasks, building maintenance and gardening to staffing the shop, cooking and cleaning for six months or more, volunteer coordinator Anneliese Rohr would love to hear from you on (08) 9192 1060 or volunteers@broomedioocese.org or PO Box 76, Broome, WA, 6725.

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

From near and far



Growing up

"Wow, I love that I'm now an adult of the Church."

That was the response of one of the 36 children confirmed by Archbishop Christopher Prowse at St Christopher's Cathedral in Manuka.

The children (pictured above) are among many around the Archdiocese to be confirmed in recent and coming months.

While preparing for their confirmation, the children from St Bede's and St Christopher's school of religion also pulled together a car boot full of blankets, beanies, sleeping bags and winter clothes to donate to the St Vincent de Paul Society's Winter Appeal.

Deeds for dads

Before Mother's Day this year, Emma O'Brien, daughter of archdiocesan clergy care

coordinator Carmel Gibbons, sent out a plea for donations of "luxury" items, such as cosmetics and pamper products, to be distributed through Karinya House to pregnant women and young mums in crisis.

She was so "overwhelmed and humbled" by the response, resulting in gifts for more than 60 women, that she has enthusiastically launched into her original plan to extend the kindness, in time for Father's Day, to dads in crisis.

The idea is to gather gift vouchers or money for vouchers (for anything from restaurants to shops to movies), or gifts for Father's Day, to be distributed through CanFaCS, which supports sole-father families at risk of homelessness.

Ms O'Brien will be collecting, from anywhere in Canberra, until Wednesday 27 August and would love to hear from people on 0418 640 760 or dej.obrien@yahoo.com.au. She has signed off her request with "I promise not to ask for anything else for a loooong time", but we don't think people will mind hearing from her again.

Virtually there

It was a case of the new media meeting the new evangelisation when Archbishop Christopher Prowse launched a book by Hobart's Archbishop Julian Porteous via Skype from Canberra. Archbishop Prowse was virtually at the launch at St Mary's Cathedral Centre in Hobart, congratulating his "brother Bishop Julian" on production of New Evangelisation: Pastoral Strategy for the Church at the Beginning of the Third Millennium and looking forward to his next instalment.

Internet www.cg.catholic.org.au

CATHOLIC VOICE July 2014 - 19



St Matthew's,
Page



FAR LEFT: Year 3
chook monitors
Preston Watkins and
Mya McGlynn.

ABOVE: Sophie
Gould (left) and
Alexis Stanuga write
intentions for the
Prayer Wall.

LEFT AND BELOW:
Artworks by Georgia
Ryman and Vaiuku
Latukefu from year 3.



ABOVE: Ashleigh
Loughhead and
Arthur McGlynn,
from year 1, with
the Making Jesus
Real box.

LEFT: (from left)
Zoe McCarthy,
Max Berry, Daniela
Munoz, Raechel
McKinnon, from
year 3, at the Chief
Minister's Reading
Challenge Wall.



St Patrick's, Bega

ABOVE: Kinder students Emma Keller, Payton Alcock,
Ruby Hoskins and Jeremy Kull smile for Jesus.



Lumen Christi,
Pambula Beach

LEFT AND BELOW: Lili Elton
prepares to be "swallowed"
by a ferocious dinosaur
during a performance of
ERTH's Dinosaur Petting Zoo,
while Amarlia Schwager
feeds a friendly one.



Hannah Fernandez
performs her original
composition during
the Lumen's Got
Talent final on the
last day of term.



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:
cathcomm@cg.catholic.org.au.
No more than 20mb per email please
– you can send a series of emails.