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ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN

**A Time to Celebrate**

Joys and challenges for first-time parents



**Feature**

Celebrating our Aboriginal culture

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**Local News**

New Editor for Catholic Voice



No. 302 September 2014

# An invitation to families

BY FELICITY DE FOMBELLE

LET'S TALK about marriage and family life: that is Archbishop Christopher's invitation to Catholics and the reason he has called an Archdiocesan Assembly for March 21 next year.

The Archbishop has called the event, *The Joy of the Gospel in marriage and family life*.

**"I want this to be a day for the family and I really encourage mums and dads to come along with their kids."**

Archbishop Christopher

The aim is for Catholics from across the Archdiocese to come together to talk about the joys and challenges of marriage and family life today.

"I've been in the role for almost one year and have visited most of the parishes, and now I want to bring everyone together," the Archbishop said.

"I want this to be a day for the family and I really encourage mums and dads to come along with their kids.

"In the morning, I want to lead a retreat for parents focusing on the document, 'The Joy of the Gospel'.

"In the afternoon, I want to have an expo where the various groups in the Archdiocese can showcase their wares, if you like. Many of these groups are operating in isolation or unknown to each other and I'm not sure that ordinary Catholics know much about them either."

There will be separate activities for teenagers and younger children.

Archbishop Christopher sees the Assembly as a way of beginning to focus on family issues at the local level.

The family is a top agenda item for the Catholic Church with Pope Francis having called an Extraordinary Synod in Rome next month to discuss how families are faring and what role the Church can play.

About 150 synod fathers will participate in the two-week session, including presidents of national bishops' conferences, the heads of Eastern Catholic Churches, and the heads of major Vatican offices.

Melbourne's Archbishop Denis Hart, the president of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference, will be Australia's sole representative.

**"The family is experiencing a profound cultural crisis... the weakening of these bonds is particularly serious because the family is the fundamental cell of society, where we learn to live with others despite our differences and to belong to one another; it is also the place where parents pass on the faith to their children."**

Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, s.66

The purpose is to define the "state of investigation" on the topic, in preparation for the ordinary assembly of the synod in October 2015.

## CLAIM THE DATE

**What?**

Archdiocesan Assembly

**When?**

Saturday March 21, 2015

**Where?**

St Clare's College, Griffith



## My seven best buddies, says Dad

Canberra lawyer Brian Curtis loves being a Dad, and calls his seven children his best buddies. He is also devoted to their Mum and his wife, Clara. Brian's top piece of advice to Dads is to lavish love on their wives... "love her to bits" he says. "Never stop telling her how crazy you are about her. Kids need that loving atmosphere to thrive". Read Brian's essential tips for becoming a 'super Dad' on Page 4. **Picture: Brian Curtis with his children at Easter this year – left to right, Frances, Peter, John, Brian, Gerard (on Brian's lap), Michael, Ben and Joseph.**



## ARCHBISHOP CHRISTOPHER'S DIARY

**September 2nd**  
6.30pm – Guinness & God  
("The Human Virtues"  
Series 2- Prudence)  
King O'Malley Pub, Canberra

**September 3rd**  
Day with priests, principals and  
RECs, Rheinberger Centre

**September 9th**  
Confirmation Mass,  
Queanbeyan

**September 10th**  
Confirmation Mass,  
Queanbeyan

**September 11th**  
Confirmation Mass,  
Bungendore

**September 12th**  
• Visit/talk Mary Help of  
Christians Confirmation  
students.  
• Samaritan Services Volunteer  
• Community Cooking Project  
Vocations Dinner

**September 13th**  
Morning tea with religious  
congregations in the  
Archdiocese Confirmation  
Mass, Pearce

**September 14th**  
Confirmation, Pearce 5.30pm  
Mass, Cathedral

**September 16th**  
CSYMA National Staff  
Conference – Reflection "Joy  
of the Gospel", St Edmund's  
College

**September 17th**  
Year 6 retreat, St Benedict's,  
Narrabundah

**September 18th**  
Confirmation Mass,  
St Matthew's, Page

**September 19th**  
Graduation Mass – Year 12,  
Trinity Catholic College,  
Sts Peter and Paul's Old  
Cathedral, Goulburn

**September 21st**  
• Confirmation Mass,  
Narrabundah  
• Confirmation Mass for  
Korean Community, Aranda

**September 29th**  
Family and Community Day

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# Gospel joy in the north – west



ARCHBISHOP'S MESSAGE  
ARCHBISHOP  
CHRISTOPHER PROWSE

DEAR PEOPLE of God in  
the Archdiocese of Canberra  
and Goulburn,

Recently I have been celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation in the North-West of the Archdiocese. It was my first time at some of these parishes and many are quite remote.

At Lake Cargelligo, the parish priest, Fr Mayne Murphy, seems a real biblical prophetic figure! He is elderly and slow in his pace but still remarkably agile mentally. My conversations with him were always pastoral, positive and missionary in spirit. His life story to priesthood is a fascinating one.

The Aboriginal community is strong in number at Lake Cargelligo and the nearby Aboriginal Mission. It was a joy to visit so many of our First Australians and I was also pleased to see a good number of Aboriginal children in our Catholic school.

Then there was a visit to the Catholic community at Ungarie, where the citizen of the year for 2014 is our own Sr Frances McAleer RSJ. St Mary of the Cross MacKillop would be so proud of her.

The Chapel of "Christ the King" at Bolo Farm (near Condobolin) is worthy of a prayerful visit. Br Dominic Drago OFM Conv lives there and prays for the Archdiocese in intercession.

It was a joy too to visit St Mary's, West Wyalong. Fr Mick MacAndrew is the parish priest and his hospitality and prayerfulness were a strong witness to me. I met so many parishioners at the reception



Archbishop Christopher with Peter at the Aboriginal mission

after the Confirmation Mass including a Vietnamese family who have just moved into the parish and were about to open a bakery called "The French Connection". Welcome to multicultural Australia!

A few weeks earlier I visited, for the first time, some other parishes in roughly the same area. There was Boorowa with the beautiful stained glass windows, Young and the happy presbytery of

Fr Tom Thornton PP and the newly ordained Fr Paul Nulley. There was also Ardlethan and Temora where the parish priest, Fr Simon Falk, offers his considerable pastoral gifts in the service of the Gospel.

Sure, we have real parish challenges. Which parish doesn't? Yet the Gospel of Joy is still proclaimed in Word and Sacrament. Let us thank the Lord for such men and women of Gospel joy!

## A welcome from the Editor

"WHAT DID you do at work today Maman?" my young sons often ask me. The answer is always the same: "I wrote stories".

I tell them that I write stories about people's lives, the happy times and the sad.

And so, dear reader, that is how I introduce myself to you, as someone who writes stories.

I believe in story telling; in sharing our tales of joy and success as well as struggle and heartache. It helps to share, as hard as it can sometimes be. In reading about other people's stories, we see our own. We realise we're not alone and we think of others.

It is a thrill and a privilege for me to be the new editor of *Catholic Voice* and, in these pages, I hope you might find stories that are relevant and engaging.

The Catholic Church is often accused of being out of touch with modern society and people's lives, and I think sometimes there is a real disconnect.

But Pope Francis is reminding us that the Church exists for the person – to honour the



Felicity and Paul de Fombelle with their four boys

dignity of every human being – and we know that the individual is nothing without their community.

Over time, I hope we can build a relationship. You'll learn about me and I'll learn about you. Just as I chat to parents at my son's soccer match or school drop off, and just as I try to greet a few people at Mass, I hope *Catholic Voice* can be a place where we connect and share our stories.

I am the editor of your newspaper, and will work hard

to offer you a range of stories to entertain, challenge, inform, help and encourage you and your family.

So tell me what you think – what you like or don't like and what you'd like to see.

I look forward to sharing the journey with you.

Warmest wishes from my family to yours,

Felicity de Fombelle

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# My seven kids – I call them my best buddies



**BEING A DAD**  
BY BRIAN CURTIS

MY DAD said that kids were the greatest treasure a man could have. They are a gift that keeps giving. And taking. Mostly giving. My wife and I are blessed to have seven. I call them my best buddies. I like to take them everywhere I go. Sometimes all together. Sometimes one at a time, so I can enjoy them each in their own uniqueness. Like icecream. I can never work out which one I like best. Best to have them all, so I don't miss out. I hate to miss out.

If I could give one tip to young Dads, what would it

be? Love your little buddie's mother. Love her to bits. Never stop telling her how crazy you are about her. Pretend if you have to, but make sure you come across sincere. Kids need that loving atmosphere to thrive. Like thirsty little plants, kids soak up love by osmosis.

I was blessed to have so many good uncles growing up. Two of them gave me an indelible picture. One, John, a big bear of a man, used to walk up on my aunt in the kitchen and give her a big bear hug. No funny business. Just a pure, intoxicatingly beautiful hug. All the kids in the room could just feel the love. It totally permeated the atmosphere and you just wanted to soak it in.

The other uncle, Pete, used to get in behind the wheel of his big family 12 seater van, with an assortment of kids and nieces and nephews in the back. Before he started the engine, he looked at my aunt

(a different one – his wife). Uncle Pete took her hand. And smiled. Then he started the engine and drove off, still holding her hand. A kid could never soak up enough of that sort of love. It is like those super hot, super relaxing spas, but you don't get heat stroke by being in them for more than 10 minutes. Aaahhh, so nice, you can just feel it!

A few more tips for the keen Dads aiming for 'super Dad of the year' award (in no particular order):

**Love her to bits.  
Never stop telling her  
how crazy you are  
about her. Pretend  
if you have to, but  
make sure you come  
across sincere.**

Be a Bear Grylls style father in the nursery. Get your hands dirty early changing stinky nappies. This is new age frontier where your forefathers

feared to tread. If you can handle those poo bombs that explode out the nappy, up the shirt and down the shorts, you can handle anything fatherhood will throw at you! I was so proud of my nappy changing skills. My kids might have had the oldest grubbiest clothes, but if ever they were caught with their pants down in the kiddies playground, my kids would be the ones smelling like roses.

Take charge of house chores. It has romantic benefits I am told. Now the kids are older, we have a roster at home. The boys are always given two choices. You do your chores and get a happy Dad. Or you get a cranky vengeance seeking ogre and then you do your chores. I always try to give the lads a worse option.

Aim high. Both in relationship with your better half and in what you expect from yourself

and your kids. Remember you are the benchmark that your boys will follow and your girls will expect in other guys. Take control of your lower passions, or they will take control of you. This last issue is a biggie, so best left to another day.

A final tip, an easy one. Get out of the house. Regularly. Enjoy the outdoors. With her. Just with the kids. Sometimes just alone. Find your personal man cave. Just don't stay in it too long.

Wishing you all the best, you legendary Dads out there.

## Legendary Dad tips:

1. Love your little buddie's mother to bits
2. Get your hands dirty early (Bear Grylls style)
3. Take charge (of house chores)
4. Set high expectations
5. Get out of the house

## WORLD NEWS

### Families urged to love

FAMILIES HAVE been urged by Archbishop Christopher Prowse to take the lead in building a world based on humanity and love.

Individuals and communities need to be the catalysts for change at a larger, worldwide level, the Archbishop said during a multi-faith memorial service last month for the victims of the MH17 flight tragedy.

"Maybe we can try again at the local level to build a world based on humanity and love," Archbishop Prowse said at

the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture.

"Whatever an ethical principle of humanity looks like for our world in the future, it must start in our families and homes, in our streets and neighbourhoods, in our towns and nation."

The Archbishop described the period since the July 17 incident as "troubling", but added that "new and unexpected streams of true humanity" have shone through, providing the world with fresh hope.

### Military force can be justified: Pope



People displaced by violence sit outside St. Joseph Chaldean Catholic Church in Ankawa, Iraq

POPE FRANCIS has declared he is willing to travel to Iraq if required to help bring an end to the ongoing violence against religious minorities, including thousands of Christians.

The Holy Father made the comments on August 18 during an in-flight news conference on his way back to Rome from South Korea.

"At this moment it is not the best thing to do, but I am willing," he said.

The Pope also said the use of military force can be justified when used to stop "unjust aggressors", but that it must not be abused.

"I underscore the verb 'stop'; I don't say bomb, make war – stop him. The means by which he may be stopped should be evaluated," he said.

"To stop the unjust aggressor is licit, but we nevertheless need to remember how many times, using this excuse, the powerful nations have dominated other peoples, made a real war of conquest."

He added that a single nation should not decide how to stop an unjust aggressor, but several nations should decide together.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse said the situation in Northern Iraq was one of ter-

ror for members of various faiths, describing it as "pure evil".

He added that a goal for the international community should be to re-establish the rule of law so that displaced Iraqis might be able to return to their homes.

"For hundreds of years [there have been] communities coexisting in a peaceful way – Jews, Christians and Muslims," Archbishop Prowse said.

"They have formed a great cultural fabric of peace and that's being dismantled at the moment, which is of enormous concern."

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*Doctor of the Church*  
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 11am Mass and Homily  
 Celebrant: The Most Reverend Christopher Prowse  
*The Traditional blessing of Roses will take place during this Mass and the Nuns would be grateful for Roses sent the day before the Feast.*

**St. Teresa of Avila**  
*Doctor of the Church*  
 Wednesday 15th October  
 11 am Mass and Homily  
 During the nine days preceding this feast, the Nuns will offer Masses and Prayers for the Priests and People of the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn.

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# The country boy who became our Archbishop

*Archbishop Emeritus Francis Carroll reflects with Felicity de Fombelle on his 60 years as a priest.*

**A**RCHBISHOP Emeritus Francis Carroll used to joke with his sister Rose that she would be his “domestic mentor” when he retired – passing on cooking tips and other handy hints. Sadly, his older sister died of pancreatic cancer just one month before he retired as our fifth Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn eight years ago and returned to live in Wagga Wagga.

The pair were close: Rose was a mother of 11 and her death was a huge loss to Archbishop Carroll, who celebrated his 60th anniversary as a priest on July 27 this year.

“We used to joke that she’d give me cooking tips and so on, but it never happened,” the Archbishop said.

“I manage fairly well. I have my main meal at midday and something lighter in the evening. I’ll knock up some pasta or some cold meat with a few trimmings. A lady comes in twice a week for a few hours and she’ll cook me a meal, which I appreciate.

“If I’m around on a Sunday there’s dinner at the Bishop’s House for local clergy and sometimes I go there.”

A much loved figure who led our Archdiocese from 1983 to 2006, Archbishop Carroll was ordained a priest at St Brendan’s Church in Ganmain, near Wagga Wagga, in 1954. He said Mass at the Church to mark his 60th anniversary.

“We were a four-child family for a long time and then, after an eight-year break, my parents had three more children – Leila, Peter and Paul,” Archbishop Carroll said.

“Paul was just three years old when I was ordained!”

Another tragedy for the Archbishop was when his brother Barry was killed in a car accident when Barry was 28. The Archbishop was on the Indian Ocean sailing to Rome when he got the news.

“I remember leaving on the boat from Sydney and Barry said to me, ‘I’ll tell you a secret. I’m announcing my engagement in a fortnight’s time,’” Archbishop Carroll said.

“My father wasn’t very well at the time and Barry was running the farm, so it was a tremendous loss to all of us.”

Family is a great blessing to the 84-year-old Archbishop and his four siblings are all in Ganmain – sisters Kathleen and Leila and brothers Peter

and Paul, “confirmed farmer bachelors” who grow crops and run 1000 sheep on the family farm.

“If I’m coming back from the bush after saying Mass I might ring Kath and drop in for a meal,” the Archbishop said. “She’ll always invite the others and we sit and chat for a couple of hours; it’s lovely.”

Home for Archbishop Carroll is a modern unit in a new suburb of Wagga Wagga called Wiradjuri, which used to be the old cattle and sale yards and the town rubbish tip!

His days start with a 7am walk before the Archbishop says Mass in his own chapel. The radio is on during breakfast and the Archbishop then heads into town to collect his mail and buy the local paper.

“The only reason I get it is the death notices!” Archbishop Carroll said. “I was a priest in this diocese for a few years and then 16 years as the Bishop so I know an awful lot of people, and belong to a very large extended family. We were one of the small Carroll families.”

The Archbishop has some regular commitments – he does weekend Masses for the Temora and West Wyalong missions, visits sick relatives or friends and hosts his brother-in-law and a small group of friends every Thursday for Mass and afternoon tea.

A quiet man who likes his privacy, the Archbishop used to be “absolutely petrified shy” as a newly ordained priest but says he has learned to mix well with people over the years.

“Even now I am still slightly nervous when I preach, but I think that’s a good thing,” he admitted. “I think I give better homilies nowadays; I’ve got more time to prepare. But it’s still a big responsibility and you can’t get too blasé.”

Archbishop Carroll has also come of age with the Internet.

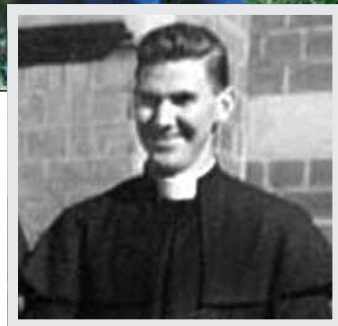
“When I was in Canberra my secretary used to tell me I should learn about computers but I said ‘why do I need to when I’ve got you!’” the Archbishop said. “But I promised her I would learn when I retired, so I’ve taught myself.

“I check emails and use it a bit for information. I’ve got a mobile phone too, but only for emergencies.”

The Archbishop has long been a strong supporter of prison ministry and on Wednesday afternoons he goes into Junee Correctional Centre as part



MAIN PICTURE: Archbishop Carroll at the family farm in Ganmain in July this year with siblings, from left, Leila, Peter, Kath and Paul. RIGHT: Ordination day on July 27, 1954. FOOTBALL PICS: Taken in late 1968 at Ganmain at a match between the Carroll’s and the rest of Ganmain, when Archbishop Carroll was Bishop of Wagga Wagga. He trained with his relatives and was fit enough to play, but locals were worried the Bishop might break his leg. So the Bishop donned his episcopal robe to be Captain/Coach of the Carroll senior team, which won. The Carroll junior team lost.



of the Kairos Prison Ministry ecumenical program.

“There are about 24 prisoners doing the course and we have discussions and prayers and hymns,” Archbishop Carroll said.

“You feel you are doing a bit of good, and it gives them a boost. They ask, ‘why do you fella’s come, there’s nothing in it for you?’

“We tell them it’s because we care about them, which bowls them over a bit. Some people have the attitude that we should throw away the key, but most of them have made

one bad mistake or never had a chance in life.

“At the end they say, ‘that’s the first time I’ve ever felt loved or valued for myself’, or ‘you made me feel like I was part of a family’.”

Of the 36 priests in his graduation year at Manly College, 13 are still living and, last month, eight of them gathered in Sydney for a reunion, which included Mass in the Old Chapel “where we struggled for six years to pray!”

“I only ever expected to be a priest in country parishes in Wagga Wagga, so my 60 years

have been quite wonderful really,” Archbishop Carroll said. “I’ve had many ups and downs, more so as a Bishop than as a priest! But I can only be grateful.”

While he says the Church is struggling in many ways, he quotes Mother Teresa who said the Lord does not tell us to be successful, but faithful.

“For me a real concern is our diminishing congregations, and there’s no glib answer for that,” he said. “I think the Royal Commission is a necessary purification for the Church and, while painful, we almost have to have a burial before there can be a resurrection.”



# Stopping off in Malibu without a surfboard



POSTCARD FROM BOSTON  
FR FRANK BRENNAN SJ

I HAVE never ridden a surfboard but I knew I would be in for a treat when asked to preside at a wedding in the parish of Our Lady of Malibu, California.

En route to take up a one year appointment at Boston College, I stopped over in LA to conduct my first "grand" wedding – the groom being the son of one of the first couples I married.

I started the day with a fascinating conversation with Douglas Kmiec who, hav-

ing come to prominence as a Republican constitutional lawyer serving in the Reagan and Bush Administrations, then came out during the 2008 election campaign saying Catholics could vote for Barack Obama.

Kmiec was denied Communion by some of the bishops at the time. After election as president, Obama made him Ambassador to Malta where he used the position to cultivate inter-faith diplomacy. He now lectures in constitutional law at a university just up the road from the parish, and drops in regularly at the presbytery for a chat.

That evening, the parishioners gathered to launch a documentary *Radical Kindness: The Life of Monsignor John Sheridan*. Sheridan was a legendary Irish parish priest

of Malibu and it was moving to hear parishioners speak so glowingly of a priest they counted as their best friend. Parishioner Martin Sheen, the well known president of West Wing fame, narrated the movie and was there for the screening.

And then there was the wedding. The groom, young Australian Daniel McCallum, met his wife Virginia in London when studying music. After the ceremony, the bridal party and their friends put on a one hour concert mostly of their own compositions, and Daniel played the oboe and didgeridoo.

The surf at Malibu didn't look all that grand to me, but it was a great way to be welcomed into parish life in the USA. It was a grand wedding in every sense.



Groom Daniel McCallum playing the didgeridoo after his wedding

# Faith and politics: How well do they mix?



GOING DEEPER  
BY SHANE DWYER

OCCASIONALLY I meet Catholics who express annoyance that the Church is involved in the social or political sphere. 'Faith and politics don't mix' is the common assertion, and any comment by the Church on socially or politically con-

tentious issues is deemed inappropriate. For some, church is meant to be a respite from thinking about such things, not the place where we are made to feel uncomfortable about them.

While visiting a parish of the Archdiocese recently, I watched someone leave Mass during the homily because the priest had questioned whether the current government policy on asylum seekers has a place in a just society. Anger has to go fairly deep before somebody is prepared to make that sort of symbolic public statement...

These sorts of issues are al-

most inevitably divisive and, as a result, need to be handled with appropriate sensitivity and intelligence. However, demanding that the Church be silent on these matters may be premised on a misunderstanding of what the Catholic faith actually is. A faith that is divorced from the real lives of people, and the issues they are dealing with, is not the Catholic faith at all.

For one thing, Catholicism is not a cult. That is to say, we do not find meaning and purpose by either physically or ideologically distancing ourselves from the world. Our faith demands

that we be involved. This is because our faith is in the person of Jesus Christ, in whom we experience God entering our world and becoming one of us. Because of Jesus, Catholics can never say that our faith and our world are separate.

As followers of Christ, we are to do as he did: bring the spiritual and the physical together. We are to be men and women with a mission to the people whose lives intersect with ours. For this reason we can say that our vocation as baptised Catholics breathes with two lungs: personal holiness (our prayer

and spirituality) and mission (our relationships with one another and society as a whole). One side without the other is at best a warped experience of faith, and may even be described as nonsensical.

The Catholic Church exists for one reason only – to reveal Jesus Christ to the world and to proclaim his message. Sometimes the implications of that can make individual Catholics feel uncomfortable. Is that really such a bad thing?

**Shane Dwyer is the Archdiocesan Coordinator, Faith Formation and Spirituality**

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**Australian Catholic Historical Society**

*The 1962 Goulburn "Schools Strike" reality and myth*

Speaker: Dr Brian Croke, Executive Director: Catholic Education Commission NSW  
2.30pm, Sunday 21 September

Crypt Hall, St Patrick's, Church Hill (Grosvenor Street), The Rocks, Sydney  
Meetings and afternoon tea conclude around 4.30pm

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# A testing time for parents with baby Albert



A TIME TO CELEBRATE  
BY AOIFE CONNORS

FOR NEW mum Catherine West, the moment baby Albert Raymond was born on February 21 was “a joyful experience”. With her husband Stuart and her own mum, a former midwife, present at the birth, Catherine says it was “a moment when our little family got a bit bigger and I grew a new space in my heart”. It was also emotional for 26-year-old Stuart. “I cried with the realisation that nothing was ever going to be the same again,” he recalls. “I’d always wanted to be a father.” The couple, who met through their involvement in youth mission teams, had discussed hav-

ing a big family early on in their relationship. “Catherine wanted eight children, I jokingly wanted 15,” Stuart says. As a first-time mum, 23-year-old Catherine has it sussed. Breastfeeding is “just me and Albert time,” she quips. “People say babies are expensive, unless you use reusable nappies and breastfeed, which means they cost nothing.” The couple got a crash course in parenting when Albert got sick when he was just three weeks old. An overnight trip to Wagga Wagga turned into a six-day hospital stint, as their son’s initial high temperature was later diagnosed as meningitis in the spinal column. “Holding Albert during injections, or seeing him wheeled into the operating theatre... it was a trying time,” Stuart says. “After Albert came home, I sat in the church for a few hours whinging to God. I came out feeling better.” For Catherine, the hospital



Catherine, Stuart and Albert West

experience was a time for the family to grow. “It challenged us to appreciate the time we had with Albert because he was a very sick baby,” she says. A healthy baby Albert was christened on 19 April at the Easter vigil Mass at Sacred Heart Church, Pearce by Fr Richard Thompson.

**Have you had a baby? Are you getting married? Share your celebration with us at [ed.voice@cg.catholiclife.org.au](mailto:ed.voice@cg.catholiclife.org.au)**

FIVE MINUTES WITH...  
MOIRA NAJDECKI



*Moira Najdecki has been the CEO of the Archdiocesan Catholic Education Office for eight years.*

**The biggest challenge for teachers today?**  
Being able to do what they are best at – teaching and supporting their students – while also meeting the increasing number of other responsibilities. The undervaluing of teachers has put enormous pressure on the profession.

**What do you like most about your job?**  
Visiting all the schools each year is a joy. Students love learning although I know that many of them still answer ‘nothing’ to that question of ‘What did you do at school today?’

**Do you live to work or work to live?**  
My children are all grown and I am fortunate to have a supportive and retired husband who loves cooking and a staff who give 120 per cent. All this means I can devote myself to my job, which I love.

**Tell me about your family.**  
I come from a close family of seven children, all born and raised in Canberra. Between us we have 17 children who have attended ACT Catholic schools. My husband Steve and I have four children, three grandchildren and another one due very soon.

**A typical weekend?**  
A long walk with a good friend; the occasional film; Sunday evening dinners with the kids, their partners and grandkids.

**My philosophy on life is...**  
Choose to be happy.

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# Gossip, and the power of our words



**FOLLOWING FRANCIS**  
BY DEACON MATT RANSOM

POPE FRANCIS has captured the world with his prayerful, practical ministry. He is also saying some very wise things, which will be the focus of this column.

"It's so rotten, gossip. At the beginning, it seems to be something enjoyable and fun, like a piece of candy. But at the end, it fills the heart with bitterness and also poisons us," Pope Francis said on February 16. "I tell you the truth," he preached to the crowds filling St. Peter's Square, "I am convinced that if each one of us would purposely avoid gossip, at the end, we would become a saint! It's a beautiful path!"



Pope Francis welcoming children

"Do we want to become saints? Yes or no?" he queried, as the crowds replied, "Yes!"

"Yes? Do we want to live attached to gossip as a habit?" Pope Francis continued, "Yes or no? No? Okay, so we are in agreement! No gossip!"

Jesus offers the example of the fifth commandment, "Do not kill," and goes on to add, "but I say to you: Whoever is angry with his brother will be guilty before the court."

"With this, Jesus reminds us that even words can kill," explained the Pope. "When it is said that someone has the 'tongue of a serpent,' what does it mean? That his words kill."

Since arriving back in the Canberra and Goulburn Archdiocese with my wife and children after 12 years living in Cairns, I have been struck by the wonderful region and the faith-filled Catholics.

However, I am also aware of the huge amount of chatter and talk that happens about everything, and sometimes this is not nice. Perhaps it is due to the political environment or the lack of success of our local sporting teams, however the vitriol of the gossip, at times, surprises me.

Pope Francis has some great things to say about gossip, which we read above. The Pope even goes so far as to say that gossip can kill!

What are we doing with the things that we think, hear and say? Do we lift up, cheer up and hold up those around us? Or not? And if not, why not, remembering the words of the wise apostle James who said, 'Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts' (James 3:4). So, let us be loving with the power of our words and follow the lead of Pope Francis, who is such a good role model.

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**Gerard Heffernan**

## 5 ways to blast your mortgage

With interest rates currently low and banks in a competitive mode, it is a good time to **refinance your mortgage** and to consider the change from a variable interest rate to a fixed. There may also be a better rate available with your existing lender.

**Principal and Interest repayments instead of Interest only**, can help save you money. Interest Only essentially means you are not paying down your debt, rather you are merely servicing the loan itself.

A great way to reduce your interest and make some savings is with a **mortgage 100% offset account** where the money in the account is used to offset interest charged on your mortgage.

Consider dumping **any lump sum payment**, such as a \$2,000 tax refund, work bonus or dividends from other investments, in your mortgage.

Don't forget to pay all your mortgage fees and costs up front, and to always **check your statements** as any mistakes will ultimately cost you.

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# Vale Cardinal Clancy

A HUMBLE man at home with ordinary people and a champion of the poor and marginalized: that's how Cardinal Edward Clancy, who passed away on August 3, has been remembered.

The 90-year-old Cardinal was the fourth Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn and served here from 1979 to 1983.

Born in Sydney in 1923 to school teacher John and his wife Ellen, Edward Bede Clancy entered the seminary at the tender age of 16 and was ordained a priest when he was 25.

He was appointed to several parishes and was a distinguished Professor of Scripture at St Patrick's Seminary in Manly, before becoming Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney in 1974.

During his four-year stint in Canberra and Goulburn, Archbishop Clancy opened churches in Waramanga, Holder, Aranda and Narrabundah, as well as St John the Apostle



Cardinal Edward Clancy (Oil on canvas, 2005 by Paul Newton)

Primary School in Florey. He also established an outreach mission where parishes hosted the re-settlement of Indo-Chinese refugees.

In 1983 Archbishop Clancy was installed as the Archbishop of Sydney, a role he held until he retired in 2001.

For the last eight years of his life Cardinal Clancy was cared for by the Little Sisters of the Poor, as he battled a series of health problems.



Pope John Paul II and Cardinal Clancy visit School of the Air, 1986

Archbishop Christopher Prowse said Cardinal Clancy's "integrity and concern for the marginalised will be long remembered."

More than 1500 people attended the Mass of Christian Burial for Cardinal Clancy at St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney on August 9, including Prime Minister Tony Abbott – a former seminary student of Cardinal Clancy's.

*"We remember him as a generous, disciplined leader who loved the Church, and was at home with ordinary people."*

**Archbishop Denis Hart**

*"I remember a prayerful, dedicated, humble and hard working Archbishop. Of course you were never in doubt who was in charge but he always took full responsibility for his actions."*

**Bishop Peter Ingham (Wollongong)**

*"He was a somewhat shy and reserved personality, who was capable of taking decisions and standing by them. He had a genuine, but regularly hidden sense of humour. He lived simply and coped very well with his declining strength."*

**Cardinal George Pell**

*"Cardinal Clancy was a gifted man and above all will be remembered for his love of the Scriptures and the Eucharist."*

**Archbishop Timothy Costelloe**







# On the Road Again

*Four days, almost 1000kms, half a dozen parishes and schools... life in a rural Archdiocese.*

Catholic Voice editor **Felicity de Fombelle** and photographer **Loui Seselja** recently joined Archbishop Christopher as he hit the road to visit communities in the more remote parts of our Archdiocese.

ARCHBISHOP Christopher isn't one for standing still. When he assumed the role last November, he vowed to spend his first year travelling the length and breadth of our vast rural Archdiocese, and travel he has. Recently, Catholic Voice joined the Archbishop as he headed west. He enjoys being on the road and is at ease as he strolls into schools, presbyteries and local cafes to have a yarn. "I love making house calls," the Archbishop says as he settles into the driver's seat.

First stop is Harden, where the Archbishop has asked 37-year-old Indian priest Fr Joshy Kurien to join us for morning tea at a local café. The Archbishop orders mugs of coffee and an assortment of gigantic muffins, which he keeps imploring us to eat!

Fr Joshy arrived in Cootamundra in February and Archbishop Christopher admires his "missionary heart".

"I want to create an environment in the diocese where people expect a non-English speaking priest," the Archbishop says.

The Archbishop declares it is time to push on so off we go to West Wyalong, where big-hearted priest Fr Mick MacAndrew serves up steaming bowls of vegetable soup with warm crusty rolls.

A country boy from rural Queensland, Fr Mick spent the first nine years of his priesthood in Canberra but doesn't miss city life.

"The rural area has a particular calling on my heart," says this hospitable priest, who has been hosting dinners to bring parishioners together.

Tummies full, we hit the road for Lake Cargelligo, one hour away.

The next day is busy. There's a Confirmation Mass for 21 school children and Archbishop Christopher is surprised and delighted to meet Japanese Anglican priest, Paul Kumasaka, who has been in Australia for 18 years and is based at Lake Cargelligo.

Ecumenism is strong at Lake Cargelligo and Canon Kumasaka describes himself as "back-up support" for Fr Mayne Murphy, helping at funerals and other Masses.

In the afternoon, principal Jacinta Elwin takes the wheel and she and Aboriginal Education Assistant Joy Kelly take Archbishop Christopher to Murrin Bridge Aboriginal Settlement, which he has asked to visit.

Later, en route to West Wyalong, the Archbishop decides to drop in on Sr Frances McAleer, the community leader at Ungarie who became



PICTURES (clockwise from top left): Archbishop Christopher enjoying a cuppa with Fr Mick MacAndrew; with Aboriginal elders at Murrin Bridge Mission; Aboriginal students at Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School in Lake Cargelligo; Posing for photos with Canon Paul Kumasaka and newly confirmed teachers Sarah Heatley (next to Archbishop) and Amy Golding

"Citizen of the Year" in the 2014 Australia Day Awards.

A quiet lady, Sr Frances emerges from behind the house when she hears the Archbishop calling. She's been working in the garden, but we are soon ensconced at the kitchen table drinking tea from china cups.

Archbishop Christopher wonders aloud whether he might be able to fit in a walk when we arrive back in West Wyalong.

Fr Mick is his usual hospitable self that evening, preparing a delicious meal of steak, potatoes and vegetables. He has invited parishioners Brian and Ruth O'Riley – who have prepared an apple crumble for desert – and Martin Kelleher, a 92-year-old who arrives with a bread and butter pudding. What a feast!

The following morning, Catholic Voice departs. Archbishop Christopher and Fr Mick wave us off at the bus stop, while Fr

Mick hands over goodie bags of water, fruit and chocolate bars.

The Archbishop has more to do – a visit to Bolo that afternoon and Confirmation Mass for five children that evening at Ungarie.

On Sunday morning, there is Mass at West Wyalong, followed by morning tea with Fr Mick and parishioners.

Then it's time to fill up with petrol for the long trip back to Canberra.



## Embracing and knowing our first Australians

ARCHBISHOP CHRISTOPHER is delighted to meet a group of Aboriginal elders at Murrin Bridge Mission; he wants to pay his respects and hear their stories.

Established in 1949, the settlement is home to about 150 people, and has a preschool and medical centre.

Aboriginal elder Peter, shares with Archbishop Christopher boyhood stories of carrying shanghai's to kill galahs, pigeons and rabbits. "I like the bush life," he says. "We still have men's camps where we go out bush and live off the land."

Later, Archbishop Christopher shares a story which reveals his passion and commitment to Aboriginal issues.

As a priest in Melbourne, he once offered to help find rental accommodation for some Aboriginal people.

A local agent said that wouldn't be a problem, until he learned they were Aboriginal and changed his mind. "That's just racist," the Archbishop says. "A moral rage came into me and I thought, that's not the sort of Australia I want to live in."

"I vowed that, if I could do anything at all to make a tiny contribution to getting rid of racist attitudes, I would."

"When you think of the tragic circumstances which have brought Aboriginal people to their present situation, they could be very bitter. But they are so forgiving."

"There is a deep lament that their traditional ways have been taken away from them, and that their children are showing little interest in continuing their ancient traditions."

Archbishop Christopher said the nation needed to "become friends" with Aboriginals and work with them to plan a future.

"Australia has lurched from one symbolic action to the next but there's nothing in the middle," he says. "We'll bring them out for the Olympics and walk across the Harbour Bridge but in between they become invisible."

"There is no use making Australians feel guilty about it. But we need to make people feel responsible for it."

"The key is to befriend Aboriginal people and listen to their stories. Australians understand what personal grief is but this is cultural grief, and we need to understand where they are coming from."

## A school community drawing closer to God

IT WAS a special day at Lake Cargelligo when 21 of the 38 children at Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School were confirmed, along with two teachers.

Teacher Sarah Heatley is only in her first year at the Lake, but feels a real sense of belonging to the school and church community.

"I went to a Catholic school and was baptised as a child and now I've come back to Catholic education as a teacher," Ms Heatley said.

"I have a real sense of peace at Mass each week and the

church has been reassuring for me."

Since starting at Lake Cargelligo seven years ago, teacher and Mum-of-two Amy Golding says she has become "more religious than ever."

"Last year my father passed away suddenly and my father-in-law and since then I've found myself praying more and it's brought me closer to God," Ms Golding says.

"This is a big change in my life and will make everything come together."

At the Confirmation Mass, the Archbishop encouraged

the children to see Jesus as a close friend.

"You talk to your good friends every day because they are special to you," the Archbishop said. "If Jesus is your best friend, you'll talk to him often too. That's what we call prayer."

The Archbishop led the children in a simple prayer, asking them to put their hand on their heart and say, "Jesus, you are with me and you are in me."

"It's a beautiful prayer, especially when you feel sad or lonely, which we all do sometimes," he said.



# You can make a difference by becoming a Marymead foster carer

MORE THAN 20,000\* children are currently in out of home care in NSW and many more need a home. Today, more than ever, there is a significant shortage of foster carers, with many children and young people urgently needing homes and a family who cares. Marymead needs a broad range of carers both in the ACT and throughout regional NSW, to meet the diverse needs of children who are looking for a home – including single people, couples and families from a range of cultures and lifestyles. We welcome and value established families, those who have finished raising their own children and people without children.

Marymead provides carers with all the support they need, including initial and ongoing training, an experienced and dedicated foster care worker who will provide ongoing support and guidance, financial



support, opportunities for carers to network together and a unique program to provide children with books to help develop their reading skills.

Attending a Marymead foster care information seminar is a great place to start if you would like to hear more about becoming a foster carer. These seminars are held regularly

in the ACT and in both the southern and western regions of NSW. The next seminars are being held this month, one in Canberra on Saturday 20 September and one in Bega the following day, Sunday 21 September. The seminars commence at 12.30pm with a light lunch being provided and children are most welcome.

To register your attendance please phone the Marymead foster care team on 02 6162 5800 or email them at [fcinfo@marymead.org.au](mailto:fcinfo@marymead.org.au).

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

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

Programs that help separated parents maintain positive relationships with their children and programs that support chil-

dren and young people whose parents and caregivers are separated or divorced are also provided by Marymead. Additional information in relation to these post separation support services can be obtained by phoning Marymead's family relationships program on 02 6162 5829.

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



**Further information, including current employment opportunities is available at Marymead's website, [www.marymead.org.au](http://www.marymead.org.au)**

\*Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Report; Child Protection Australia 2012-2013

**Providing innovative, quality services to the community since 1967.**

Marymead, a well-respected culturally inclusive, not-for-profit organisation is proud of its 47 year history of providing a range of high quality, innovative support services to children, young people and their families and is now delivering a broad range of programs throughout Canberra and regional NSW.

Our programs and services include the following:

Child and Family Counselling	Grandparent's Support Network
Contact Program	Kids' Companions
Disability Support	Mental Health Family Support
Early Intervention	Parent Education Groups
Family Support Programs	Post Separation Support
Foster Care and Respite Care	Residential Care

## Assisting Responsible Care for Kids (ARCK) & Kids And Youth Are Kool post Separation (KAYAKS)

The ARCK & KAYAKS programs at Marymead aim to help families adjust to the difficult process of separation and/or divorce. In the KAYAKS program, qualified and experienced counsellors work with children of school age (5-18).

The aim is for KAYAKS to be a fun and supportive experience for the children. Counsellors use a range of art and play activities as well as talking therapy to engage children. Children may attend group sessions for a period of 6 weeks or they may have individual appointments. The ARCK program works with parents who experience ongoing conflict. The main aim of the program is to help parents develop greater understanding and skills around how to support their children following separation. ARCK does this through both individual and group work. At no point are both parents required to be together in the ARCK program.



Email: [arck@marymead.org.au](mailto:arck@marymead.org.au)

**Foster Care PROGRAM**

**Have you been thinking of becoming a Foster Carer?**

Marymead Foster Care is in urgent need of people who are willing to provide a safe and nurturing home for children and young people (0-18 years) for just one night to a lifetime and regular planned respite, both in the ACT and in regional areas of NSW. Marymead will provide financial assistance, ongoing training and caseworker support.

To find out more phone us on 6162 5800 or email us at [fcinfo@marymead.org.au](mailto:fcinfo@marymead.org.au) or attend one of our Foster Care Information Seminars which will enable you to learn more about becoming a Foster Carer with Marymead.

### Marymead Foster Care Information Seminars

#### Canberra ACT

Saturday 20th September  
12.30PM – 4.30PM

MARYMEAD 255 Goyder St. Narrabundah

#### Bega NSW

Sunday 21st September  
12.30PM – 4.30PM

CLUB BEGA 82 Gipps St. Bega

*Children are welcome and a light lunch will be provided.*

**Register your attendance today –**

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# Support our Fathers

## CLERGY RETIREMENT FOUNDATION

By Fr Henry Byrne

By far the majority of Australian priests serving in the Diocese of Goulburn as it originally was and the present Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn, came from country parishes. In addition, most of them came from working class families; the implication being that those families would not be able to afford the cost of tertiary education in a seminary, should one of their boys consider the vocation of priesthood. As a result, the cost is borne by the Diocese/Archdiocese. This in turn means that in the main, the education of the priest is provided by the contributions of the faith community that constitutes the Diocese/Archdiocese.

In my own case, I grew up in the south coast parish town of Bega, the second eldest of five children, one of whom died aged 6 months in 1934. My father was a local builder until his untimely death from illness in the 1936 at age 45, leaving a wife and four children aged 12 months to 11 years of age. The Diocese of Goulburn provided the financial means for me to undertake the journey to priesthood; for that I have always been extremely grateful. It certainly created a bond with the Diocese. I was ordained in 1953, twelve years before the second Vatican Council ended. A lot of adapting after! At one stage during my time of active ministry there were 7 priests who came from the Bega Valley working in various parishes of the Archdiocese. A great contribution from a small faith community.

On ordination, I took out a small Life Insurance Policy, following the example of my mother, who, after the death of our father, took out a small life policy, as she said, 'to cover the necessary funeral expenses'. Also at that time, on ordination we were required to make an annual contribution of two English pounds to the Sick Priest's Fund; equivalent today's terms of \$4-5. It was a Fund to set up by the priests themselves to pay for the services of a supply priest should one their number be taken ill and unavailable to provide the necessary weekend Masses. That simple self-organized Sick Priest's Fund was the genesis of the wonderful Clergy Retirement Foundation we now have operating in the Archdiocese. Like the mustard seed of the Scriptures, it has grown into a flourishing tree, thanks in large measure again, to the generous contributions of the faith community that constitutes the Church of the Archdiocese.

Over the years of active parish ministry and now in retirement, I have had reason to call on the services of the Sick Priest's Fund, the Sick & Retired Priest's Fund that followed it and the Clergy Retirement Foundation as it now is, for a variety of hospitalisations and surgery. In planning my retirement, it was in partnership with the Clergy Retirement Foundation that I was able to acquire accommodation for retirement, which ultimately enabled me to settle in Canberra at the Calvary Retirement Community to be closer to specialist medical services when needed. That has proved most beneficial.

On behalf of the clergy of the Archdiocese who use the services of the Clergy Retirement Foundation, I would express our sincere and heartfelt thanks to the faithful of the Archdiocese for their response to the Annual Father's Day Appeal. May our generous God abundantly reward your own generosity.



Slow-cooked duck and beef cheeks were on the menu at the Archbishop's House last Wednesday, as Archbishop Christopher Prowse hosted lunch for his retired clergy.

Thirteen out of the 22 retired priests who live in the Archdiocese made it to lunch, which followed a period of reflection with the Archbishop and a concelebrated Mass in the house's chapel.

Secretary of the archdiocesan Clergy Retirement Foundation Kevin Croker said the lunch was a rare chance for the priests to catch up with each other.

"It's a social day with the Archbishop that we hope will become an annual event," he said.

Retired clergy had done a similar thing with Archbishop Mark Coleridge in the past but it had not become an established tradition.

The Archbishop thanked the retired priests for their faithful priestly service in the Archdiocese over so many years. He encouraged them to enter into the retirement phase of their priesthood with serenity and prayerfulness. He said, "A new contemplative phase of your priesthood begins in retirement. Your prayers for the intentions of the Archdiocese and the Archbishop are most gratefully received."

Father's Day  
Appeal  
Sunday, September  
7



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**OUR MISSION:** CatholicCare Canberra & Goulburn is the welfare arm of the Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn. In keeping with the Catholic Church's Teachings we uphold the dignity of each person by:

- Providing high quality accessible services that are aligned with individual needs
- Empowering individuals, couples and families
- Promoting healthy, inclusive communities through relationships and collaboration for the common good



## Who is CatholicCare Canberra & Goulburn?

CatholicCare Canberra & Goulburn have been part of the Canberra community for nearly 60 years! We are proud of our history stemming from a small volunteer base in the 1950's to the large multi-disciplinary agency that we are today.

## What does CatholicCare do?

The question should really be...what don't we do? CatholicCare runs approximately 57 programs and services throughout Canberra, Goulburn and the surrounding regions.

Helping people involves valuing, strengthening, assisting, supporting and caring for people who are less advantaged in our community.

## We have programs which help people in the following service areas

- Youth, Mental Health, Homelessness and Family Support Programs
- Disability and Aged Care
- Counselling
- Regional and Family Services
- Comorbidity

*In the past year we helped approximately 7,000 people in our local region.*

*This year that number will increase.*

## Where are we located?

We have many offices around the Canberra and surrounding region including, Manuka, RedHill, Watson, Queanbeyan and Goulburn. We have many other sites in the Archdiocese which we work in and this includes our school counsellors in many of the Catholic schools.



## Volunteers

Many of our Programs could not run without the assistance of our fantastic volunteers.

Would you like to contribute to your community and assist us with the great work we do?

We need volunteers in all areas.

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Employment vacancies are advertised on our website.

Here you can also find out about the great conditions we offer our staff, including generous salary packaging options and the 'day off' for your birthday each year.

## Your Support

Would you like to help us do more?

Donations to CatholicCare Canberra & Goulburn help us to continue to reach those who are the most disadvantaged in our community. All donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible and make a huge difference to the lives of the people we support.



**OUR VALUES: RESPECT STEWARDSHIP SOLIDARITY EXCELLENCE**



# Walking on water and sinking like a stone



**FAITH MATTERS**  
FR RON ROLHEISER

FAITH ISN'T something you ever simply achieve. It's not something that you ever nail down as a fait accompli. Faith works this way: Some days you walk on water and other days you sink like a stone. Faith invariably gives way to doubt before it again recovers its confidence, then it loses it again.

We see this graphically illustrated in the famous story in the Gospels of Peter walking on water. The story goes this way: The disciples had just witnessed a major miracle, Jesus feeding more than 5,000 people with five loaves of bread and two fishes. Having just witnessed a miracle, their faith was strong. Soon afterwards they get into a boat to cross a lake. Jesus is not with them. A few miles out

they run into a fierce storm and begin to panic. Jesus comes walking towards them on the water. Initially they're frightened and take him for a ghost. But he calms their fear by telling them, right from the centre of the storm, that he is not just Jesus but that he is God's very presence.

Peter is immediately buoyed in his faith and asks Jesus to let him too walk on the water. Jesus invites him to do so and Peter gets out of the boat confidently and begins to walk on the water. But then, realising what he was doing and the incredulous nature of it, he immediately starts to sink, cries out for help, and Jesus has to reach out and rescue him from drowning.

What we see illustrated here are two things that lie at the heart of our experience of faith, namely, that faith (literally) has its ups and downs and that it works best when we don't confuse it with our own powers.

Faith has its ups and downs: We see this, almost pictorially illustrated, in the incident of Peter walking on the water. Initially his faith feels strong

and he confidently steps onto the sea and begins to walk. But, almost immediately upon realising what he was doing, he starts to sink. Our own faith works exactly like that, at times it lets us walk on water and at other times we sink like a stone. The Gospel image of Peter walking on the sea speaks for itself.

If we feel discouraged because our faith vacillates in this way, we can take consolation from these words from Julian of Norwich. Describing one of her visions, she writes: "After this He [Jesus] showed a most excellent spiritual pleasure in my soul: I was completely filled with everlasting certainty, powerfully sustained without any painful fear. This feeling was so joyful and so spiritual that I was wholly in peace and in repose and there was nothing on earth that would have grieved me. This lasted only a while, and I was changed and left to myself in such sadness and weariness of my life, and annoyance with myself that scarcely was I able to have patience to live. ... And imme-

diately after this, our Blessed Lord gave me again the comfort and the rest in my soul, in delight and in security so blissful and so powerful that no fear, no sorrow, no bodily pain that could be suffered would have distressed me. And then pain showed again to my feeling, and then the joy and delight, and now the one, and now the other, various times." (Showings 15)

Julian of Norwich was a renowned mystic with an exceptional faith and, yet, like Peter, she too vacillated between walking on water and sinking like a stone. Her confident feelings came – but they also left.

Faith works best when we don't confuse it with our own efforts. For example, Donald Nichol, in his book, *Holiness*, shares a story of a British missionary working in Africa. At one point, early in his stay there, the missionary was called upon to mediate a dispute between two tribes. He had no preparation for this and was totally out of his depth. But he gave himself over to the task in faith and, surprisingly, reconciled

the two tribes. Afterwards, buoyed by this success, he began to fancy himself as mediator and began to present himself as an arbiter of disputes. But now, however, his efforts were invariably unhelpful. Here's the irony: when he didn't know what he was doing, but trusted solely in God, he was able to walk on water; as soon as he began to wrap himself in the process, he sank like a stone. Faith works like that: We can walk on water only as long as we don't think that we are doing it with our own strength.

The Sufi mystic, Rumi, once wrote that we live with a deep secret that sometimes we know, and then not, and then we know it again. Faith works like that, some days we walk on water, other days we sink like a stone, and then later we walk on water again.

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

[www.ronrolheiser.com](http://www.ronrolheiser.com)

## Skilling up our team of volunteer catechists



Angela – mum-of-three from Gungahlin



Pauline – a catechist at Queanbeyan, wife and mum

A GROUP of volunteers who teach religion to Catholic students in government schools has recently graduated from a course to improve their teaching skills.

The Archdiocese paid the \$1,000 cost of the Certificate III in Education Support, as a way of encouraging the catechists to do the two-year, part-time program.

The nationally recognised course gives the graduates teaching skills so they can work in roles such as teacher aides, disability support officers and EA's in schools.

There are 220 catechists across the Archdiocese who teach 2,200 students.

Gungahlin mother of three **Angela Laria**, who works part-time in office administration, said the benefit of learning contemporary teaching skills against a catechism backdrop attracted her to the course.

"I have discovered interesting and relevant teaching approaches that have helped me better understand the challenges and joys of teaching," she said.

"I feel ready to put this knowledge and skill into practice with my ambition to become a teacher in the near future."

Fellow catechist **Pauline Verrell** has been a volunteer scripture teacher at Queanbeyan for many years and said she had gained a greater understanding about the ways children learn.

"Knowing about the different intellects at play within a child's mind has helped me to vary my lessons," she said.

"And I can enjoy the lessons more because I now realise I share an experience of my faith which goes beyond the course I am delivering."

### Did you know?

- Fifty per cent of Catholic children in the Archdiocese attend government schools.
- Catechists are trained volunteers – there are 220 catechists across the Archdiocese who teach 2,200 students in government schools.
- Catechists take a class for 30 minutes each week and 30 minutes of preparation is required.
- Catechists receive a clear curriculum as well as training and ongoing professional development.
- Any church-going Catholic can become a catechist.

**For more information about becoming a catechist, contact Matt Ransom: [matt.ransom@catholiclife.org.au](mailto:matt.ransom@catholiclife.org.au)**

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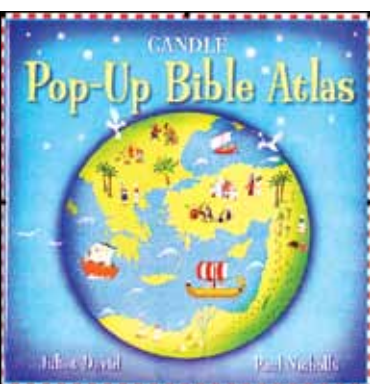


# Faith for kids



**BOOK REVIEWS**  
FR MICK MACANDREW

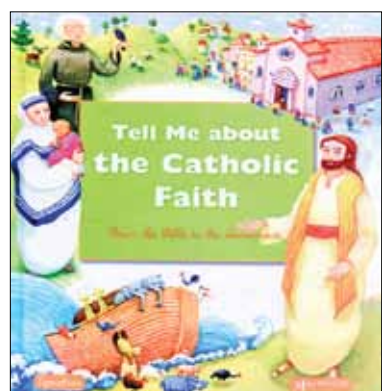
WHILE THERE are many Catholic sites and good resources for families online, books are still popular for families when it comes to sharing faith. I have found the following books useful.



**Pop-Up Bible Atlas**, by Juliet David & Paul Nichols, published by Candle.

Pop-up books have always been a favourite of mine since, at age five, I received a pop-up nativity scene book for a Christmas present. I still search bookshops for such pop-up treasures and recently came across this. Priced at under \$20, this is a real gem with pop-ups and secret envelopes to open. Spanning Abraham's Journey,

The Exodus, Solomon's Temple, the Ministry of Jesus, Jesus' Last Week and St Paul's Missionary Travels, it is engaging and informative.



**Tell Me About the Catholic Faith – from the Bible to the Sacraments**, edited by Vivian Dudro and Isabelle Galmiche, published by Ignatius/Magnificat.

When we think of children and their journey of faith and religion, an important aspect is reliable and fulfilling knowledge to accompany and inform their appetites for the sacred.

This is such a book, for ages six and up. Priced at under \$40, it is a narrative on many topics that children have a mine of questions about regarding their Catholic lives.

Using a two-page spread per topic, it would easily hold the attention of children (and adults). While the detail is limited for the array of topics – from Bible Books and personalities, History of the Church, Catholic Beliefs, Saints and Vocations, the narrative has catechism accuracy.

# Maison Mumbai



**MOVIE REVIEWS**  
BY PETER W. SHEEHAN

**THE HUNDRED-FOOT JOURNEY.** Starring: Helen Mirren, Om Puri, Manish Dayal, and Charlotte Le Bon. Directed by Lasse Hallstrom. Rated PG (Mild themes and infrequent coarse language). 122 min. Walt Disney Studios.

Co-produced by Steven Spielberg and Oprah Winfrey, this American comedy-drama (based on the best selling novel of the same name) tells the tale of an Indian family setting up a restaurant in a French provincial town.

The Kadam family is led by a proud Papa (Om Puri) who establishes his family restaurant in the picturesque village of Saint-Antonin-Noble-Val in Southern France. Papa's gifted son, Hassan Kadam (Manish Dayal), is head cook, and he has been taught expertly by a mother who believed passionately that "life has its own flavour".

Papa and his family are refugees from Mumbai in India and they experience major problems when they open their restaurant. Across the street is an established, Michelin-starred, upper-class restaur-

ant by the name of "Le Saule Pleureur" run by a stern, unbending proprietor, Madame Mallory (Helen Mirren). Her Michelin restaurant doesn't sit comfortably at all with "Maison Mumbai" just opposite.

People who love good eating will warm immediately to this movie. Beneath all the talk about food is a film that demonstrates what can happen when cultures clash. Food becomes a metaphor for both cultural tension and cultural harmony.

This film exposes us entertainingly to the subtleties and intricacies of different cultures trying to exist together. But above all, it is quality comfort viewing for all those who love good food and fine cooking.

**Peter W. Sheehan is**  
**Associate of the Australian**  
**Catholic Office for Film and**  
**Broadcasting**



GUINNESS and God brings together young adults to chat about challenging topics with guest speakers, in a pub.

The faith and reason event is held every month at King O'Malley's and is hosted by the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn and Campus Ministry at the Australian Catholic University (Canberra Campus).

As well as stimulating talks and Q & A sessions, Guinness and God is also a great way to connect with other young adults from different parishes and movements around the Archdiocese.

**Forthcoming Guinness**  
**and God events**



Melinda Tankard Reist



Robert Falzon

**Tuesday October 7:**  
Robert Falzon, author, speaker and founder of Men Alive, speaking on the topic of 'Fatherless Australia'.

**Tuesday November 11:**  
Melinda Tankard Reist, author, speaker and advocate for women and children, will be presenting 'The Effects of Pornography'.

For more information please contact [youth\\_events@catholiclife.org.au](mailto:youth_events@catholiclife.org.au)  
Or see our website [www.guinnessandgod.com](http://www.guinnessandgod.com)  
**Event officially starts 7.30pm, but generally live music from 6.30pm.**

**CATHOLIC BOOKSHOP**

**Healing the Masculine Soul**, with study and discussion guide, \$17.95

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# Singing to celebrate our Feast Day



STUDENTS FROM St John Vianney's Primary in Waramunga lifted their voices in song last month as the school celebrated its patron saint's feast day.

Another cause for celebration was the blessing and opening of a refurbished administration area and staffroom by our Vicar General, Mgr John Woods.

After seven years of refurbishment, the 43-year-old school is now complete – and ready to meet the needs of students, staff and parishioners.

Mgr Woods also blessed two religious artefacts from Jerusalem, which were recently donated to the school.



# A fitting send off for two great men

After serving the Archdiocese for four decades between them, CatholicCare boss Neil Harrigan and Catholic Voice editor Geoff Orchison retired last month, and were farewelled with a reception. **Report: Felicity de Fombelle**



NEIL HARRIGAN almost didn't get the job as head of CatholicCare ... his interview was so bad!

That's what former Archbishop, Francis Carroll, revealed at a reception recently to farewell Mr Harrigan, who has retired from CatholicCare after 20 years, and Geoff Orchison, who has retired after two decades of editing Catholic Voice.

"Neil made an absolute mess of it," Archbishop Carroll said. "But after our proposed appointment fell through I suggested we give him another go, and he breezed through it.

"I've almost been on my knees ever since thanking God, because Neil was an absolute treasure as everyone knows."

There was no great drama with Mr Orchison's appointment, Archbishop Carroll said, although, as Mr Orchison reminded him, the Archbishop was out of the country at the time!

Archbishop Christopher Prowse hosted the cocktail reception at his Residence to honour the "unbelievable service" of Mr Harrigan and Mr Orchison, who attended with their wives Mary and Sue, and families.

"I always said I slept well at night because I had top people in all the important executive positions, such as Neil and Geoff," Archbishop Carroll said. "Their real bosses were the people of the Archdiocese and they knew that; they knew they had to serve

Clockwise from top left: Helen Delahunty with Neil Harrigan and wife Mary (centre); Geoff Orchison speaks while wife Sue looks on; Neil and Geoff with Archbishop Emeritus Francis Carroll and Archbishop Christopher; Helena Lister with Sue Orchison. PICS: Loui Seselja

all the people and they did that magnificently. We owe them a great deal for their professional expertise and wonderful spirit of cooperation and loyalty to the Archdiocese."

Archbishop Carroll said Mr Orchison arrived as a professional journalist who took up the job "with great enthusiasm and skill".

"He wrote in a language that people could understand," the Archbishop said. "It was not too preachy and always had a



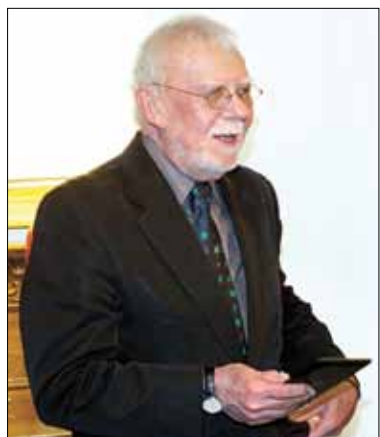
Educated by the Marist brothers in South Africa, Mr Orchison told the audience he could not have produced the newspaper without the support of Sue and their shared faith. Mr Harrigan also paid tribute to Mary who he said he loved dearly.

Clockwise from below: Monsignor Luis-Miguel with Fr Julian Wellspring; Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Paul Gallagher with Monsignor John Woods and ACU Associate Professor Patrick McArdle; Neil and Geoff with their families; Francis Sullivan chats with Fr John Usher, Vicar-General, Archdiocese of Sydney; Neil shares a few words

**"Geoff wrote in a language that people could understand."**

Archbishop Emeritus Carroll

worthwhile message. To keep up that level for 20 years is very impressive. We made the brave decision not to charge any money for the paper and that turned out to be a great success."





# Classifieds & Real Estate

## To Let – Coast

**BEAUTIFUL BROULEE** – Year round. Great family holiday home – sleeps up to 10 – 100m to beach and shops. Contact Melinda or Joyce, telephone 4471 6444, quote this ad and “Carey House” for a 10% discount off normal rates (excludes Christmas and Easter Holidays).

**BROULEE** – 2-bedroom beach cottage, fully equipped. Expansive coastal and sea views and short stroll to beaches.

See “Beach Cottage” in [www.brouleebeachhouse.com](http://www.brouleebeachhouse.com) or telephone 0417 193 736.

**BROULEE** – Spectacular views near beach, 6-bedroom 3-bathroom house newly renovated. Telephone 6257 1222 [www.brouleebeachhouse.com](http://www.brouleebeachhouse.com).

**CURRARONG, JERVIS BAY** – Fantastic house with 6 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and rumpus. Sleeping 14 it's ideal for 2 families to share. Stylishly redecorated mid 2010. 800m to beach. [www.currarongbeachhouse.com.au](http://www.currarongbeachhouse.com.au).

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**LUXURY** Farm Stay. Stony Creek Farm B&B. Princes Highway Bega. Luxury accommodation in a 100-year-old farmhouse in the beautiful Bega Valley. Enjoy gourmet breakfasts with home grown and local produce. Contact Wendy and Martin, telephone 6492 7385. View at [stonycreekfarm.com.au](http://stonycreekfarm.com.au) or on Facebook.

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## Prayers

**THOU O Mary**, Help of Christians, who once

experienced the hardship and difficulties of acquiring the temporal necessities of life, look with compassion on him now faced with the same difficulties and help him to find a suitable job.

He is anxious, dear Mother, to be gainfully engaged in work that will relieve his temporal needs without in any way endangering the spiritual wellbeing of his soul. Direct him to employment that will enable him fittingly to provide for himself and his children.

O Immaculate Mother, grant my request. In return I shall publish the goodness that others may know the favour thou enjoyest with Almighty God unto His greatest honour and glory. JB.

## 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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It is designed for individual or group use and can be used at any time in the coming liturgical year, with instructions included on how to adapt the material for either Advent or Lent.

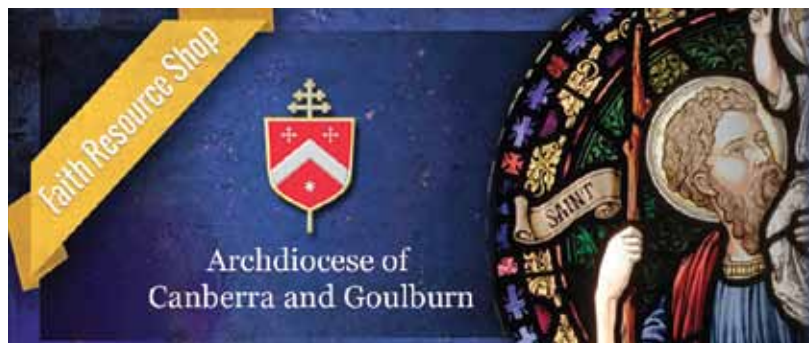
Author: Shane Dwyer

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Written entries are invited for the October issue to: Catholic Voice, PO Box 7174, Yarralumla, ACT 2600, or email [ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au](mailto:ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au) by Monday September 15. Entries which are accepted are free, courtesy of sponsorship by the Catholic Development Fund.

# Archdiocesan Coming Events

**CURSILLO:** A Women's Cursillo will be held at St Clement's Retreat Centre, Galong, from October 30 to November 2, 2014. Take time out to reflect on your faith through a series of talks, exploring what it means to live a more fulfilling Christian life. Fr Michael Fallon will be our spiritual director. For more information please contact Marian Brunskill on 6291 6773 or 0413 686 551.

**A CONVERSATION ABOUT LOSS AND GRIEF:** The Archdiocesan Commission for Women invites you to a presentation with Melissa Milosavljevic, a social worker with Catholic-Care. Men are women are invited to attend on Tuesday 11 September in the meeting room of St Bernard's Church, Batehaven, beginning at 12.45pm. A \$5 donation would be appreciated to cover costs. Enquiries to Judy Netting 6278 4163 or 0400 766 784.

**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. Inquir-

ies: 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 workshop on the Hesychia School focusing on the ancient art of Christian spiritual direction. An ecumenical and inter-faith program. Inquiries, bookings: Sue Rolfe, retreat co-ordinator [info@stclement.com.au](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:info@stclement.com.au) or [sue.orchison@gmail.com](mailto:sue.orchison@gmail.com)

**MEDITATION ON JESUS:** In style of Fr Gilbert Carlo, meets Thursdays 7.30pm, St Thomas the Apostle, Kambah. Inquiries: Trish Jarzynski, phone 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](mailto:mnm@grapevine.com.au).

**VIRTUOSITY 2014 @ ST THOMAS AQUINAS PRIMARY SCHOOL:** 24 -25 September, 5.30pm to 7.30pm, School Hall, 25 Lhotsky Street, Charnwood. Children from the Early Learning Centre through to Year six will exhibit artwork including sculpture, decorated pottery, still life painting, water colours, collage, printing and weaving. There will be music performances and a Poetry Cafe.

**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.



MANY CHILDREN struggle for food, security and opportunities for hope. Days are very long and security in sleep is not guaranteed. Such circumstances see many children travel to more populated areas, alone and vulnerable.

Extracting children from living in danger of exploitation and violence has generated responses from many Christian communities over many years.

One such undertaking supported by the generosity of people who give to Catholic Mission is the St Elizabeth Girl's Home in Kampala, Uganda. Run by Sisters of the Good Samaritan for the past 16 years, the Sisters, with their support staff, provide a safe place to call home for 139 girls.

During their time at St Elizabeth's the girls receive education and jobs skills training such as catering, tailoring and computer skills and are assisted into reputable employment.

Through our Children's Mission Partner's Program, Catholic Mission seeks to bring hope to young lives around the world. Help us continue to work with faith communities to help children. Become a Children's Mission Partner from as little as \$15 a month. Together we can bring hope.

God bless,  
**Deacon Joe Blackwell**  
The Rheinberger Centre, PO Box 7174, Yarralumla ACT 2600.  
Email: [asst.missions@cg.catholic.org.au](mailto:asst.missions@cg.catholic.org.au)  
Telephone: 6163 4321

## The gift of a monstrance

BY LOIS BILLINGS

EARLIER THIS year, the monstrance at St Peter Chanel's in Yarralumla was damaged, and could not be repaired.

For Adoration, the Blessed Sacrament had to be exposed in the lunette. But in May the Serra Club donated a new monstrance, in memory of John Frawley, 81, who died on March 19 this year.

John was a long-time Serra member who spent many hours before the Blessed Sacrament praying for vocations. John Smith, from the Serra Club, presented the monstrance to Fr Peter L'Estrange at the end of Mass in June. He said Mr Frawley's devotion to the Serra Club was "inspirational" and added that, as Margaret and John were parishioners at St Peter Chanel's for 58 years, it seemed fitting that the monstrance was made for the church, John's second home.



Margaret Frawley with the new monstrance

## Colleges cooking for the community

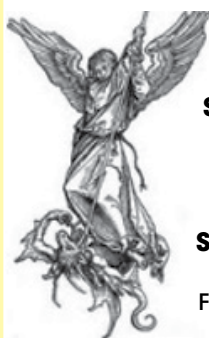
YEAR 11 and 12 Hospitality students from St Edmund's College and Marist College will cook for more than 250 guests at the Southern Cross Club on September 17 to raise money for HOME in Queanbeyan, which cares for 19 people with mental illness.

If you can donate products or services, contact **Dean Parkes at St Edmund's on 6239 0630** ([dparkes@stedmunds.act.edu.au](mailto:dparkes@stedmunds.act.edu.au)).

Picture: Year 11 St Edmund's students Glen Parker (left) and Jesse Forge practice their culinary skills.



News items and photographs may be sent to Catholic Voice [ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au](mailto:ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au)



### TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS

**Sts Peter and Paul, Garran**  
Monday – Thursday – 7 am  
Friday – 7 pm  
Saturday – 9 am  
Sunday – 11.30 am (sung)  
**St Thomas More, Campbell**  
Sunday – 7.45 am  
FSSP Canberra: (02) 6161 5320  
[canberraltm.blogspot.com](http://canberraltm.blogspot.com)

### TIMBER FLOORING SPECIALISTS



**Warehouse Clearance Sale**  
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# Hitting the right notes at Good Shepherd Primary School

*Catholic Voice editor Felicity de Fombelle and photographer Jeanine Doyle were recently welcomed at Good Shepherd Primary at Amaroo, where the students and dedicated staff were proud to show off their school community.*

OUR FIRST stop is kindergarten, where Natalie Zarb is in charge; she believes all teachers should at some stage teach a kinder class.

Natalie is in her fifth year at the school but this is her first time teaching kinder, and she loves it. She says it's been invaluable to see how children learn in their first year of school and to introduce them to school life.

From Natalie's active kinder class, we visited Year Five where the mood was much more subdued, as teacher Luke Mooney's charges were quietly reading.

Luke is in his first year at Good Shepherd after moving from St Bede's in Red Hill.



Top picture: Graham Pollard with Evan, Thomas, Hayley and Grace; Second picture: Guitarist Lochlainn; Third picture: Year five teacher Luke Mooney strums the chords with Lochlainn and, below, Kinder teacher Natalie Zarb with Hayley and Grace

He is one of six male teachers at Good Shepherd, and also a keen guitarist, who was happy to pull out his guitar and play a tune with student Lochlainn.

Dad-of-three Graham Pollard is the principal of Good Shepherd, having returned to schooling after two years at the National Catholic Education Commission.

Before that Graham was principal at St John Vianney's in Waramanga and St Thomas More's in Campbell, where his wife Margaret is now principal.

Graham says Good Shepherd is exploring the option of BYOD (Bring Your Own Device – as in iPad) for Years Five and Six students next year.

Some of the staff will visit a school in Sydney in Term Four to see how the program might be implemented at Amaroo.



He says Good Shepherd has a good relationship with its sister schools in the Gungahlin Parish and is privileged to have the parish church and presbytery on site at the school.

Top picture: Andrej and Monica; Main picture: Evan and Shadelle; Bottom picture: Anne McKenna (left – Finance Manager) Luke Maher (REC) and Joan Jones (Office Manager)

