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Manuka gets the go-ahead

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

PLACING the Church in the heart of the marketplace – that's the Archbishop's vision for a major redevelopment of the St Christopher's Cathedral precinct in Manuka.

Last month Archbishop Christopher Prowse announced plans for the \$35 million project have been approved, with building set to commence before the end of the year.

It is hoped that the project will be completed by the end of 2016.

"I'm delighted to announce that it's going ahead," the Archbishop said.

"It will bring a wonderful coming together of the agencies of the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn. I hope all this will serve evangelisation in a more focused way in the years ahead."

Two three-storey office buildings connected by an atrium will be built, as well as a meeting hall and parish offices.

The complex will connect to the Cathedral by a piazza to provide community space, and there will be underground parking for the entire site.

Archbishop Christopher said the new buildings will have a "transcendence" about them and will be in total harmony with the Cathedral building.

"It could come across as sort of a medieval village type of complex where the church, the church bells and the worship dimension and everybody's ordinary life come together in a new synthesis in Christ," he said.

The Archbishop said he had made two "litmus tests" to help him decide to approve the project, which has been under consideration for almost a decade.



An artists impression of the soon-to-be-built Manuka precinct, which will be home to Archdiocesan agency and administration staff. The project is expected to take two years to complete, with building likely to commence before the end of the year.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

In doing so, it became clear that the majority of the Archdiocese's clergy were in favour of the project, and that the funding arrangements were "secure, prudent and wise".

"Even before I arrived here

sophisticated stage, it would be unwise for me to delay it any more."

Another factor in the timing of the decision was the run-down condition of the Haydon Centre, which hasn't been used

ry of Mgr Patrick Haydon, the first parish priest of Canberra, and was used to host various parish functions and events.

It, along with the existing presbytery and offices of CatholicCare, will be demolition.

Funding for the project will come from several sources. Favier House in Braddon and the Rheinberger Centre in Yarralumla, where Church staff work at present, will be leased at the project's completion.

Additionally, 44 aged care independent living units will be built at part of the project, providing a steady income stream for the Church.

Archbishop Christopher said he doesn't expect there to be a need for any fundraising for the project within the Archdiocese.

Archbishop's letter: Page 2

on November 19 last year... advanced architectural plans and construction plans had already been secured," Archbishop Christopher said.

"Given the fact that it had reached such an advanced,

for several years. The Centre is now covered in graffiti as flocks of birds make their way inside the building through numerous broken windows.

Opened in 1962, the building was constructed in memo-

ished as part of the redevelopment.

The new Manuka precinct will also bring together Archdiocesan agency and administration staff, who work in different parts of Canberra.

ARCHBISHOP CHRISTOPHER'S DIARY



October 1st
Feast of St Therese of Lisieux - Mass at Carmelite Monastery, Red Hill

October 4th
Mass at St Christopher's Cathedral, Manuka

October 11th
Visit to Bombala Parish

October 12th
Bombala Parish - Sesquicentenary Mass

October 19th
Marian Mass - St Christopher's Cathedral, Manuka

October 26th
Mass at St Christopher's Cathedral, Manuka

October 26th
Welcome service for National Prayer Breakfast - Parliament House, Canberra

October 28th
Belconnen Regional Parish Council Dinner

October 29th
Israeli / Jewish gathering

October 30th
CEO system leaders / principals / senior staff

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Project to be an agent of evangelisation



ARCHBISHOP'S MESSAGE
ARCHBISHOP
CHRISTOPHER PROWSE

TO my dear people in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn,

It is over 10 years now since serious discussions regarding a major re-development of the Church area at the back of St Christopher's Cathedral Canberra commenced.

When I arrived as Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn, in November 2013, advanced architectural plans about what is now described as the 'Cathedral Precinct Project' were awaiting my final approval. Over almost a year I have made myself totally familiar with what is envisaged. I understand that in 2010 an initial public consultation was held and then approvals sought.

More recently, I have consulted my priests about the matter. The vast majority have urged me to proceed with the project. Just recently, I concluded a fresh, independent analysis of all funding arrangements. This financial analysis was positive.

Therefore, after such a long period of consultation and planning, and relying on the help of the Lord to take us into a new chapter of development in the Archdiocese, I have decided to proceed with the project as a whole and not in stages. I give approval for the construction to begin. I pray that it will represent an exciting agent for evangelisation for the entire Archdiocese in the years ahead.

Regrettably, over recent years, the building infrastructure at the rear of the Cathedral has become in urgent need of generational change.

The Haydon Centre is now derelict. The buildings occupied by CatholicCare are quickly approaching their 'use by' date. The presbytery, though structurally sound, requires extensive interior renovation.

The plan is to demolish these buildings. An underground car park will be built under this entire area (111 car parking spaces).



Archbishop Christopher Prowse and financial administrator Helen Delahunty speak to the media about the Manuka precinct.

Above this car park will be built diocesan offices, parish offices and parish hall, as a three level building.

This attractive building will be architecturally in total harmony with the Cathedral, and will physically enhance the profile of the Catholic presence adjoining the beautiful Manuka precinct of Canberra.

Forty-four independent living units (ILUs) will also be constructed on the site. They will be owned and governed by the Archdiocese. They will provide a "community" dimension to the precinct.

To see all the artist's plans for the Cathedral Precinct Project visit www.cg.catholic.org.au

A new presbytery will be located next door on Franklin Street, Forrest, already owned by the Archdiocese. This house will be suitably refurbished to become a Cathedral priests' home.

The total cost of the entire project is estimated at \$35 million. The project will be funded by rental income from current Archdiocesan assets. The ILUs will provide a long-term funding revenue stream for the project and the Archdiocese into the future.

At present, the administrative/governance/pastoral dimension of the Archdiocese operates on three different sites. The Cathedral Precinct Project will see the physical coming together of the administrative/financial (Favier House), pastoral (Rheinberger Centre), social services (CatholicCare) and educational (Catholic Education) agencies of the Archdiocese.

Such a "coming together" will assist greatly in joint planning, resources and the "human dimension" in offering leadership and support for evangelisation of the entire Archdiocese. Our service to the parishes, communities and especially the poor and marginalised in the Archdiocese will be more keenly focussed for the years ahead.

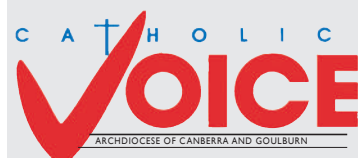
The Cathedral Precinct Project construction will take some years – possibly two years.

For those directly involved, there will be times of inconvenience and anxiety regarding change. I ask sincerely for everyone's "good will", prayers and encouragement over these times ahead.

Of course, the "giving birth" of such a generational change building project in our Archdiocese must be accompanied by the "giving birth" of an associated evangelisation pastoral plan, appropriate for our own Archdiocese within the great Catholic family universal. We will focus increasingly on this vital dimension in the coming times.

I invite all Catholics in this

great Archdiocese to join me in these exciting times ahead. Whatever we do in either pastoral planning, or building constructions, we pray that all will be done under the leadership of the Lord Jesus. Under the Lord's guidance and supported by the maternal prayers of Mary, Our Lady Help of Christians, we entrust entirely these future plans.



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Vinnies changing lives at Oaks Estate

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

ONCE riddled with domestic crimes and even murders, the suburb of Oaks Estate has been transformed into a thriving, supportive community in the past five years.

In 2009, the St Vincent de Paul Society began leasing some of the units in the area to people recovering from mental illnesses as part of their Samaritan Services program.

The program, which is partially funded by the ACT Government, was so successful that the Society was asked to establish a second base for the program in Reid in 2012.

Program coordinator Liz Parker told *Catholic Voice* the program provided a way for clients to get themselves back on their feet.

"When these guys come to us for accommodation, we provide them with a unit, but they have nothing," she said.

"They don't have a bed, they don't have bedding, they don't have a pillow, they don't have anything.

"We also provide case management support and a community drop-in centre. We're here on site, everyday, to help, and that's a really unique part of our model."

Last month Archbishop Christopher Prowse visited Samaritan Services in Oaks Estate, where he took part in the weekly community cooking project, serving meals to residents.

When the Archbishop asked one resident about his experience in the program, he simply replied: "It saved my life".

"I would have been dead from alcoholism," the resident



Archbishop Christopher lends a hand at St Vincent de Paul's Samaritan Services program.

PHOTO: LOUI SESELJA

added. "I was a chronic alcoholic 14 weeks ago, [now] I don't even want to touch alcohol again, it's poison."

Andrew, or 'Whitey' as fellow residents and staff know him, told *Catholic Voice* both he and the suburb had undergone a remarkable change over the past few years.

"This place used to be a crime-haven, and run down... it was terrible, people have been killed out here, it just wasn't a nice place," he said.

"These people have done more for me than you can ever imagine, these people are like

my family. We all help each other out, and we've formed our own community and it's changed the place. My experience living here has been great."

Anthony, a former resident who "graduated" from the program and is now a St Vincent de Paul volunteer at the Oaks Estate site, said he's witnessed many transformations among clients, including himself.

"I arrived in Canberra very ill and homeless," he said. "I got out here and never looked back. It's given me a place where I'm needed."

"The best thing I see is guys

going from being quite introspective to being able to see that the world needs them and they are wanted in the world."

Not only has the Samaritan Services program transformed the entire suburb of Oaks Estate, but its popularity has resulted in an 18-month waiting list to join the program.

"Housing couldn't give the units away when we came here... homeless people would not move here because the reputation was so bad," Ms Parker said.

"We can't place all the people who want to come here

now, we've got more demand than we can meet."

While there are no immediate plans for a third site for the program, Ms Parker said she would gladly welcome the possibility.

"This has worked really well over the last five years... and so has our site at Reid," she said.

"When you can find a person who has been so totally rejected by society, who has these incredible disadvantages in life and feels like nobody cares, and you can give them a home... it really changes people's lives."

Harradine family an inspiration

EDITOR'S NOTE

BRIAN Harradine was best known as the 'staunchly Catholic' federal Independent MP; a modest, yet wily operator who championed the cause of the family, the worker and the disadvantaged.

Brian Harradine the family man was less well known, yet his widow Marian and daughter Cushla paint a picture of a husband and dad most at ease in his home, delighting in his family and needing little else.

They spoke with *Catholic Voice* about their life with Brian, who passed away on April 14 this year, aged 79.

It is not surprising to hear Marian say it took her a little while to consider Brian's marriage proposal.

She was a widowed mother-of-seven, while he was a single dad (his wife had died) with six children.

While Marian admits to sleepless hours wondering how she might cope with 13 kids, this selfless woman also realised Brian's children needed a mother. And their mother she became, creating a Brady Bunch family that thrived on love, laughter and faith.

As a mother-of-four, what impressed me most about Marian's story was how she and Brian embraced their vocation as parents and devoted themselves to raising their 13 children. Marian says having a large family is worth the hard work and some deprivation.

"Every child comes with their unique personality and

they all contribute to the family just by who they are," she says.

Cushla says their home was "a warm and expanding place that had room for everyone".

They say the greatest gift a parent can give their children is to love their spouse. For Brian and Marian, they gave 13 children the chance to have a mum and a dad, and a family and faith life that valued them all.

It's a heart-warming story and, for me, a much-needed reminder to see my children as gifts and my home as a "warm and expanding place".

Warmest wishes from my family to yours,

Felicity de Fombelle

Editor
ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au

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JOHN PAUL II, apostolic letter *The Year of the Eucharist*

Alcohol expert: don't trust your kids

BY FELICITY DE FOMBELLE

"WHERE was your son or daughter at 10.30pm last Saturday night?" alcohol expert Paul Dillon asks an audience of Marist College parents. "Do you know?"

"If they weren't with you, did you check? I speak with parents of students in Year 8 and even Year 7 who wouldn't have a clue."

A passionate speaker who has worked in drug education for 25 years, Mr Dillon is the founder and director of Drug and Alcohol Research and Training Australia (DARTA).

He recently made his third trip to Marist College and spoke to parents on the topic, 'How much influence do parents really have?'

Mr Dillon berates parents who complain that it's all too hard, and says that, overwhelmingly, the evidence shows that parents can have some influence, if they want to and are committed.

"Parents send their children to a sleepover in Year 8 or 9 and know nothing about the house and don't ring during the night to check they are there," he says.

"A sleepover is secret code for, 'I'm going to a party but I'm not telling anyone'. There's a simple formula – know where your child is, know who your child is with and know when they'll be home."

The last piece of advice is particularly important, Mr Dillon says, urging parents to pick up their children or have a trusted friend collect them.

"I hear parents say, 'My child's in Year 9, I've got to let



Paul Dillon chats to Marist College students during his recent visit to the school.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

them fly a bit', and I tell them it's not the time to let them fly. Instead, get a giant pair of garden clippers and clip their wings," he says.

While research reveals that

Mr Dillon says.

There are three types of drinking, he explains: risky drinking, responsible drinking and no drinking.

"There are fewer drinkers

Mother of two Lisa Hicks, whose son Oliver is in Year 8, was impressed by the presentation and the simple idea of emphasising 'positive norms' – letting kids know that it is

"There's a simple formula - know where your child is, know who your child is with and know when they'll be home."

the number of school-aged Australians taking drugs has dropped dramatically, 75 per cent of youth have consumed alcohol by the age of 14.

"When we drink, we drink a lot and binge drinking is the most dangerous way to drink,"

aged 12 to 15 but they are louder and we need to worry about them because they're drinking more than four drinks a session," he says. "For Year 10 boys, the average number of drinks per session is almost seven."

normal not to drink.

"It has reaffirmed that my husband and I are more or less on the right track, but it's still early days," Ms Hicks said.

For more information about drug and alcohol use in Australia, go to www.darta.net.au.

"My top parenting tip is, if you've ever had your child tell you 'I hate you', let them spit their venom and just say, 'But I love you'. The only reason you punish your children is because you love them. Don't waste time explaining your motives. They couldn't care less. Say 'I love you' and walk away. If you stay, they'll wear you down."

- Paul Dillon

Archbishop decides on Mt Carmel school

THE Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn will not lease part of the Mt Carmel School site at Yass for a proposed independent 7-12 school, Archbishop Christopher Prowse announced last month.

While the proposed new school had received some preliminary endorsements from statutory authorities, the Archbishop said he did not believe the campus sharing arrangements were viable.

"I have decided, after extensive consultation and giving the matter serious reflection, that the proposed campus sharing arrangement is not viable," he said.

"Uppermost in my mind is what is best for Catholic education in the Archdiocese, and the good of the children concerned, for now and the future."

The decision follows months of discussion with the group wanting to start an independent Catholic 7-12 school.

That proposal followed the Archbishop's earlier decision to close the secondary section of Mt Carmel School at the end of 2014.

Archbishop Prowse is responsible for approving any new Catholic entity.

A lease announced on July 25 which purported to effect campus sharing with the continuing K-6 Mt Carmel School run by the Catholic Education Office was premature and unauthorised.

Archbishop Prowse said he understood that many people in Yass would be disappointed by the decision.

"However, I could not countenance the proposed campus sharing with many unresolved issues such as governance, Catholic status and shared arrangements," he said.

"I had to act as parents need to make school enrolment decisions for 2015.

"The buildings on the Mt Carmel site will continue to be used by the K-6 school and I remind families that Year 7-12 Yass students have significant educational opportunities at our Canberra Catholic schools."

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Missionaries of the Sacred Heart

‘Pops’ takes Christ to the US homies

BY FIONA VAN DER PLAAT

AT first he was known as Fr Greg. Then he became G-Dog, then G. Now, almost 30 years later, they call him Pops.

But regardless of his moniker, Fr Greg Boyle is always confident he has the respect of the “homies” he works with through his gang intervention program, Homeboy Industries, and that they have his back.

Many a time Fr Boyle has found himself in the crossfire of gang warfare in one of Los Angeles’ most notorious public housing districts.

“I was in a lot of shootouts – it was like the Wild West,” he said. “I’d be hunkering down behind a car after someone had tackled me to the ground to protect me. It was like I was the President of the United States.”

It is a grade of respect Fr Boyle has earned, not by doing things to bring hope to young people who feel they have little to live for, but by showing them where to find hope.

Speaking at Guinness and God recently as a guest of Australian Catholic University, Fr Boyle described his “flashlight” theory.



Fr Greg Boyle has spent almost 30 years helping to rehabilitate gang members in LA.

PHOTO: FIONA VAN DER PLAAT

“It takes what it takes for someone to finally walk towards recovery, and it took me a long time to learn not to try to do it for them,” he explained.

“It’s like the light switch on the wall in a darkened room. I used to try to turn it on for them, but now I have a flashlight that I shine on the light switch so they can make their own way to it.”

Homeboy Industries provides opportunities for gang members to down weapons and arm themselves with job and life skills as they work, often alongside rival gang members, in enterprises such as a bakery, diner, catering busi-

ness, silkscreen business and a farmers’ market.

The program has spawned 46 similar models throughout the United States and eight in other countries, and has a 75 per cent retention rate, meaning three quarters of its participants never relapse or reoffend.

Fr Boyle immersed himself in the lives of disaffected youths after working with the desperately needy in Bolivia. On returning to LA in the mid-1980s, he asked to be sent to the poorest parish possible.

He found himself in a district where eight gangs were at war and the prolific LA gang scene was entering its “decade of death”.

“Anyone who lived through that time is so deeply traumatised, myself included,” he said.

It didn’t take Fr Boyle long to work out that gang members were not in it for a dangerous thrill. “No kid is seeking anything when he joins a gang,” he said. “He is always fleeing something.”

That sense of hopelessness and helplessness was what Fr Boyle aimed to address in 1988 when he developed the Jobs for a Future campaign that became Homeboy Industries in 1992.

“God is at the centre of it all, but it’s never about conversion or doctrine,” he said.

“We pray, though – all the time. The homies are always asking for my blessing.”

Visit guinnessandgod.com to listen to Fr Greg’s presentation.

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Trenton a step closer to ordination

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

CANBERRA'S Trenton van Reesch will move one step closer to becoming a priest this month when he is ordained to the diaconate in Rome.

The 25-year-old has studied for the past three years at the Pontifical North American College (PNAC), and will be one of 44 seminarians from around the globe becoming deacons on October 2.

The former South Tuggeranong parishioner spoke to *Catholic Voice* prior to departing for Rome, and said he first thought about becoming a priest at the age of 11.

"I was always aware of the priesthood and it was something that gradually dawned on me," he said. "It was just a gradual falling in love and by the end of Year 12 it slipped into place and I thought, 'I have to do this'."

But for friend and former parish priest Fr Mick MacAndrew, Trenton had already shown a desire to become a priest much earlier.

"I first met Trenton in 1996 or 1997," he explained. "He and his sister Brigitta asked if they could become altar servers, and I trained them up."

"I can remember the very first Mass they served, we finished Mass... and then Trenton couldn't wait any longer and he said, 'I'm going to be a priest one day'."

Fr Mick said he was impressed with Trenton immediately.

"Even then, he had a humble attitude to his service at the altar, never calling attention to himself, there was nothing superficial about it, it was just plain, humble service. He loved the Mass," he said.



Trenton van Reesch says he learnt a lot of lessons from his recent pastoral placement at St Christopher's Cathedral Parish. PHOTO: LOUI SESELJA

Three months after finishing high school at Marist College, Trenton commenced his studies for the priesthood at the Seminary of the Good Shepherd in Homebush, in Sydney's inner-west.

While leaving home at the age of 18 had its own challenges, Trenton was in for a bigger surprise just two years later.

"Archbishop Mark asked me in December 2010 if I wanted to study at the PNAC in Rome," he recalled.

"He really emphasised the aspect of the universal Church over there, really being able to be so close to the Holy Father, but it was a surprise question."

Reflecting on the past three years at the PNAC, Trenton said he was most grateful for the opportunity to study in Rome.

"It's been a huge learning curve," he said.

"At times when I first went over there it was difficult, almost frustrating with the whole language barrier, and also being

so far from home, from family and friends. But I think I've grown immensely since being over there, being in the culture has been wonderful."

On his return to Canberra earlier this year, Trenton completed an eight-week pastoral immersion at St Christopher's Cathedral Parish.

"I also had the experience while in the parish to go on pastoral visits to a lot of the house-bound and elderly, and I think that was actually one of the highlights," he said.

Trenton said he learnt a number of important lessons from taking part in pastoral visits, including "things you don't learn in the seminary".

"A lot of people just want to sit and talk, and... that's always really driven me, the idea of being Christ to other people," he said. "You're able to brighten their day just by giving them some time to listen to what they have to say. It's an extraordinary gift when people let you into their lives, even when you're a seminarian... it brings you to tears sometimes."

Five priests from the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn will attend Trenton's ordination to the diaconate in Rome, including Fr Mick, who will vest Trenton for the ceremony.

With ordination to the priesthood likely to occur in as little as six months' time, Fr Mick said Trenton would make an excellent priest.

"He's got a pastoral eye and a pastoral ear, and he's always on the lookout and always listening, and I think they're two of the most essential things for anyone wanting to be a good priest," he said.

Non-married hopeful for family synod

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

WIDOWED, separated and divorced Catholics are hoping the extraordinary synod on the family in Rome this month addresses their unique role in the Church.

The two-week synod, which begins on October 5, is based on the topic, 'The Pastoral Challenges of the Family in the Context of Evangelisation'.

Members of the Canberra-based group AMICUS, which provides support and friendship for widowed, separated and divorced Catholics, believe the synod is a great opportunity for the Church to engage with those who are no longer married.

Patricia Clark, who converted to Catholicism after joining AMICUS, said she was looking forward to the synod, as

well as to the Archdiocesan Assembly in March 2015.

"I certainly think that the Catholic Church has an outreach to people who are separated, widowed and divorced, as the people in AMICUS are," she said.

"I believe that in this synod [the Church] will become more understanding of people who are divorced, separated and widowed."

Ms Clark said in her experience in Canberra, there was no evidence of a negative stigma attached to divorce.

"I'm sure there are some Catholics... who might frown on people who are divorced still, but I would say they are in the minority these days," she said.

Last month Pope Francis declared September 28 as a day of prayer for the upcoming synod.

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Gerard Heffernan

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Take the good, not the bad, from sport

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

AFL legend Kevin Sheedy and ABC presenter Geraldine Doogue launched this year's social justice statement, 'A Crown for Australia – Striving for the best in our sporting nation', in Sydney on September 17.

About 150 people gathered in the crypt of St Mary's Cathedral for the launch, including clergy, religious and a large number of Sydney high school students.

The statement examines the role sport can play in strengthening communities and developing virtues in individuals, as well as being an agent of social change on a larger scale.

Bishop of Broome and chairman of the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council (ACSJC) Christopher Saunders told

those gathered that this year's statement was very different to those of previous years.

"This document is the latest in a long and proud tradition of annual social justice statements that goes back to 1940," Bishop Saunders said.

"Usually these documents ask hard questions about some aspect of our national life.

"This statement is different. It is meant to shine a light on something good and call for that good to be protected and nurtured."

However, the statement doesn't ignore the "crown of thorns" that mocks and undermines the true worth of sport and its participants, highlighting three main challenges – the damaging "win at all costs" mentality; the excessive commodification of sport; and the exclusion of vulnerable groups.

"Sport can show us a side to our society that is not only ugly, but often unjust as well," Bishop Saunders writes in the statement.

The challenge for the Church, the statement asserts, is to find ways to honour the positive aspects of sport and work to eradicate the negative aspects.

In Canberra, a public forum to discuss the statement will be held at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture on October 15.

Keynote speakers at the event include former international representatives Joe Roff (rugby union) and Sally Shipard (soccer). ABC sports broadcaster Tim Gavel will be the forum's master of ceremonies.

For more information about the event, call Robyn on (02) 6254 0487 or email: csjc@cg.catholic.org.au.



Kevin Sheedy launches this year's social justice statement.

PHOTO: LOUI SESELJA

Dying a good death

BY FR PAUL-ANTHONY MCGAVIN

MY mother had a good death, and for me it remains a treasured part of her life. This is a sharing of some aspects of her story.

Like births, deaths can be messy and uncomfortable, especially if protracted. I know something of protracted and agonising deaths, having as a child experienced this with my father. With my mother, I could see that she was failing after a long and robust life.

And so I brought her to my own home in Canberra. She was only with me for 10 weeks. I recall saying to her, "You are dying, mother". And she replied, "I know that, son. We wait upon God".

I was happy with her medical care and the in-house support, but wanted some expert advice, so I asked a gerontologist to visit the house. Following assessment of the lab reports, she was able to say: "When your mother's medication is withdrawn, you will count her life in days, not weeks". I thus knew the fragility of mother's life in that last month.

One evening she had a bowel lesion with gases escaping into her abdomen, resulting in excruciating pain that would turn to poisoning of her system. The ambulance was called, and morphine quickly brought relief. At the hospital, mother was composed, and she heard me say to the admitting physician, "I want all medication withdrawn, and my mother kept comfortable". Turning to her I said, "That's what you



Fr McGavin at his university graduation with his mother.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

want, mother?" She replied, "Yes".

She died within 30 hours, and died talking, as the nurse said, "bright as a button". The point of this story is that mother was assisted in her death. But it was not "assisted dying", a term now being used by those who promote "euthanasia". Some important things were in place. I had an enduring general power of attorney. Her medical condition had

been assessed ahead, allowing a "preparing for death". We were able to make clear to the medical practitioners our conviction about palliative care. Death had been prepared for, and was accepted.

But we did not manipulate the dying experience. It was a natural death. That is the crucial point.

Fr McGavin is the University of Canberra chaplain and a member of *Euthanasia No! (ACT)*.

Care and compassion, or a lethal dose?

BY JEREMY STUPARICH

PHILIP Nitschke's recent suspension from medical practice is only surprising because he has been operating without sanction for almost two decades.

Dr Nitschke's latest brush with controversy followed him giving information to a 45-year-old suicidal man who was not terminally ill; but he has been at this for years.

Dr Nitschke has been involved in many publicised cases of people who were not terminally ill, including Gold Coast woman Nancy Crick, Lisette Nigot from Perth and Bundaberg couple Sydney and Marjorie Croft. It has recently come to light that two men in their 20s took their lives, Lucas Taylor in 2012 and Joe Waterman last year, after accessing information from Dr Nitschke's organisation.

All this shows that euthanasia or assisted suicide cannot be made safe. The law is having a hard enough time protecting vulnerable people now, as these cases illustrate.

We saw that with the failed euthanasia experiment in the Northern Territory in 1996-97. Dr Nitschke co-authored an article in the *Lancet* that found: "Four of the seven cases [of people applying for euthanasia] had symptoms of depression". The NT experience demonstrated so-called safeguards collapse in the face of desperate people going doctor-to-doctor seeking someone willing to

DID YOU KNOW?

- *The Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee is holding an inquiry into the exposure draft of the Medical Services (Dying with Dignity) Bill 2014, reporting in October.*
- *In Belgium there are five deaths by euthanasia every day. Almost one third of cases of euthanasia in Flanders were without explicit consent. And only half the cases are reported as legally required.*
- *In Belgium, competent children can now request euthanasia with their parents' consent.*
- *Dr Nitschke supports child euthanasia, saying, "the Belgians are to be applauded for their progressive thinking".*

approve their lethal injection.

Suicidal people deserve our care and compassion, not a lethal dose. We must help them find the source of their pain and to cope with difficult challenges. The solution is not to remove the person, but to deal with the problem.

There is nothing dignified about dying because you feel there are no better options. Palliative care can provide many of those better options. No patient receiving competent palliative care should be in pain – good doctors and nurses can relieve symptoms.

The Medical Board's suspension of Philip Nitschke highlights the dangers. Neither euthanasia nor assisted suicide can ever be safe.

Peruvian Mission Trip 2014

In July, Jeanine and Anthony Doyle joined a group of 11 university students from Canberra to conduct mission work in Lima, Peru. Despite the challenges of becoming accustomed to the Peruvian culture, the group's efforts benefited the community both materially and spiritually...

IN 2013, large numbers of young Australian Catholics served the poor across South America, en-route to World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro. One group, led by Cardinal George Pell, worked in the Pamplona-Alta shanty town in Lima, Peru, where they built 150m of cement staircases, a chapel and a sports court. The Canberra members of the group decided to return for a more involved effort this year.

Our group again partnered with members of a new religious congregation, the Marian Community of Reconciliation known as the Fraternas who originate in Lima and who are now established throughout the world including in Sydney. The Fraternas organise a wide variety of missions into Peru where they have several ongoing projects. We were also joined by two young Mexican-American women and local seminarians whose language skills came in very handy.

Before we left on July 6, we prepared for the mission by learning basic Spanish, and on arrival we had a day of immersion in Peruvian culture, visiting Lima city including the Cathedral, the shrines of St Rose of Lima, St Martin de Porres and St Turibius of Mongrovejo.

After our acclimatisation we launched into five days of intense physical labour. Originally we had been asked to spend mornings in construction tasks and afternoons at a school, however local Fraternas had identified two homeless families as having particular needs and so our task changed to building two basic, but clean and dry houses for them.

Magdalena's husband had been killed in an accident and she had to care for a baby and two young children while suffering physical and mental illnesses. Jose, his wife and three children aged between 9 and 14 had moved from the distant Amazon looking for work. They were living under a tarpaulin which led to his wife developing a serious respiratory illness, while his children, lacking appropriate documentation, were not able to go to school.

Everyone in our group was fairly fit, however, when we saw the magnitude of the task we thought it was impossible. The muddy, steep and stairless terrain made scaling the hills a dif-



icult and demanding task for the missionaries, let alone the locals who have to make this trek to and from their tiny makeshift houses every day. In addition to the houses, it was decided that a staircase would be constructed to make the community's daily commute less treacherous.

Our task was to drag hundreds of buckets of cement, water and other materials up the side of a mountain and later to assist in construction. On day two alone we carried 530 buckets of cement and 35 buckets of water up to the highest house.

Each evening we returned to our adequate but spartan accommodation, enduring cold

showers and internet deprivation before gathering for reflection. I decided not to notice the rats running in the ceiling or the mosquitos buzzing overhead. Each morning began with prayer then breakfast and then we were back on the bus.

The behaviour of most local people made it easy to serve them. No matter how basic their means, local families invariably had their children dressed in impeccably clean school uniforms (rather neater than my children's clothing I must admit) and there were unexpected helpers of all ages. Neighbouring families invited the missionaries into their homes to share a meal and ex-

change stories. Some of the more coordinated missionaries even spent one of their lunch breaks dancing to the latest hits with local teens.

Our dubious Spanish was the source of great amusement;

The students walked away from the experience with a sense of achievement and a drive to look not only overseas but also closer to home for opportunities to help alleviate poverty.

two of our big Aussie men discovered that *'me embarazada'* is not a polite apology for an error but a declaration of pregnancy. The laughs of the builders could have been heard across the Pacific. We also saw the darker side



of Third World life when a local petty official demanded a bribe to allow construction to continue. Fortunately *suburbio* women discovered his game and drove him off like geese chasing away a fox.

What impressed me most was the determination most people there had to improve their lot. Our local contact was Senora Rosa, a former slum dweller who now runs a clean kitchen where local women and children

receive daily, healthy meals all paid for by the local parish. On the final day we were given lunch in an adjacent house and spoke to young adults who had rigged up the internet and were working in wealthier parts of Lima while

studying at night. Ultimately it will be the Lord working in the hearts of these young men and women that may bring lasting change for the campesinos.

When darkness fell on the final night, we had completed



Magdalena's house, and we were 90 per cent done on Jose's. For team member Aaron Medeira, the most profound moment of the mission trip was handing the second house over to Jose and his family.

"The reaction we had when he made his speech was overwhelming... I didn't understand the scale of what we did until that moment," he said.

In the meantime, the Fraternas had been busy and had

found placements for Jose's children in a local school.

The team's work benefited the community both materially and spiritually. The Fraternas stressed that Christian mission includes the principal of solidarity – 'standing with' the poor, not simply meeting physical needs. The community of the Laderas de Chillon shanty-town was reminded that God loves them, among other ways, by sending people from a distant land to their aid. The students walked away from the experience with a sense of achievement and a drive to look not only overseas but also closer to home for opportunities to help alleviate poverty.



The Canberra group joined forces with members of the Fraternas to help construct basic houses for two homeless families in urgent need in Peru, Lima. By the end of the mission trip, one house was complete, and the other was 90 per cent finished.

PHOTOS: SUPPLIED



My LIFE WITH BRIAN

*Brian Harradine was a high-profile politician, who served as an Independent in the Federal Parliament from 1975 to 2005. The 'Father of the Senate', who died on April 14 this year, aged 79, was also a devoted family man. Brian's first wife Barbara died of cancer in 1980, leaving him with six children, and two years later, he married Marian Sheehan, a mother of seven who had lost her husband John to cancer. Here, Brian's wife Marian shares with **Felicity de Fombelle** a remarkable story of family, love and faith.*



SITTING at the dining room table, with children playing all around, the last thing widowed mother-of-seven Marian Sheehan expected to hear from widowed father-of-six Brian Harradine was a marriage proposal.

It was a Sunday afternoon, and the high-profile Tasmanian Independent MP had come to collect some of his children who were playing with the Sheehan clan.

To say that Marian was surprised is an understatement.

"There were kids everywhere, and Brian said to me, 'I'd like you to consider marrying me. I'll ask you on Thursday'," Marian laughs.

"It was like he was moving a Notice of Motion in the Federal Parliament."

The date was February 28, 1982; two years after Marian's husband John had died of lung cancer and almost two years since Brian had lost his wife Barbara to breast cancer.

"I had no designs on Brian and certainly no intentions to remarry," Marian says.

"What he said hit me for six. I was awake all night grappling with it. I thought I could cope with Brian, but I wasn't sure about 13 children. But I also realised his children really needed a mother.

"Brian was a good and very likeable person. But I also had to consider if it was good for the children, mine and his. Through my sleepless night I was thinking, 'Will this work?'"

"I had been praying as well as mulling, and at last, at 5.45am, I had a sense that God would provide all the grace needed. And I felt at peace about it. That was it."

capable woman, Marian accepted Brian's proposal – on the Thursday, as he dictated – and delights in sharing that the pair married in "an indecent haste".

The reason for the Easter Monday April 12 wedding was logistics – it was the only time all the children could attend, as two of them, Anthony and Gemma, were studying interstate.

So a short, six-week courtship it was, but it was a time Marian remembers well, as she and Brian started a life-long

talking, which was wonderful. That was our courtship.

"I came to know Brian as a man of principle. If he believed in a cause, he would fight for it. He was God-fearing – I loved that aspect of him especially. He was just a good person. I could see all these qualities would make him a good husband. I loved him. I could see he was a treasure."

Growing up as the fifth child in a family of 10, Marian was used to big families.

Born in Holland, her family migrated to Australia in 1951

very basic and I remember sleeping under army blankets."

Marian was 18 when a New Zealand land surveyor named John Sheehan, who was stationed in Scottsdale near where her family lived, took a fancy to her. And she to him. He was moving to Tasmania's northwest so they married in December 1962, and Marian fell pregnant soon after. Her first child Anthony was born in September 1963.

Like so many of her generation, she took motherhood (and seven children) in her

cipline to run smoothly. Good manners, cooperation and obedience are important for a happy home."

Marian looks at the stresses on modern families today and reflects how lucky she was not having to juggle paid work and family.

"I think a lot of families now miss out on the simpler and more relaxed lifestyle I had as a young stay-at-home-mum," she says. "I'm full of admiration for the way my children combine their family lives and work but there are a lot more pressures and stresses now."

Marian's eldest child was 16, and her youngest four, when John died of lung cancer at home in March 1980, three months after being diagnosed.

She says she regretted taking her first marriage for granted and was determined not to do that with her second marriage.

"You just expect your husband to always be there," Marian says. "It was a shock."

Being on her own so much during her first marriage was good preparation for her second, with Brian so often in Canberra when the Federal Parliament was sitting.

Not surprisingly, Marian says she was running on adrenalin during those first few months of marriage, while waiting for the completion of house extensions to create extra rooms for the extended family.

"Initially some of the family were sleeping on the floor but they all got on extremely well," she says. "It was like a continuous party; there was constant, excited chatter."

All the children had jobs to do, such as setting the table, washing the dishes and cleaning the shoes, with rosters



Marian with members of the Harradine family at Brian's funeral earlier this year.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

habit of late-evening walks; something they both cherished.

"He'd ring me up at about 9.15pm, once our younger children were in bed, and say, 'I'll meet you halfway'," Marian recalls.

"We'd meet halfway between his house and mine, and do half an hour of walking and

when she was six, living in migrant camps in New South Wales and Victoria before settling in Tasmania the following year.

"Mum and dad emigrated from Holland with nine children, by plane, so we couldn't take many belongings," she says. "We were in old World War II army camps which were

stride, with John often away with work several days or more at a time.

"Seven children aren't that difficult," she says. "Once the third one arrives you're probably as flat out as you're ever going to be. By then they all look after each other and help."

"A large family needs a certain amount of order and dis-

A father like no other

CUSHLA Morris well remembers when her mum Marian and Brian Harradine announced they were getting married – they bought home KFC to celebrate.

“It was the first time we’d ever had takeaway, apart from the occasional fish and chips, so I was stoked,” Cushla says. “And we never had it again”

“I loved Brian. I think I had an inkling something might happen between them and remember saying to mum, ‘I think you should marry Brian Harradine. If you don’t, I will’.”

A teacher, Cushla settled in Canberra 15 years ago with her husband Adam. She was 6 when her father John died, and 8 when her mum remarried. She describes her upbringing as idyllic.

“We knew all the Harradine kids as we attended the same school,” Cushla says. “We were all hanging out over summer and then became a family by Easter. We camped out on the floor initially; it was like a slumber party every night.”

A man of simple tastes, Brian Harradine preferred camping over five-star hotels and would pack Weetbix and powdered milk to take to Canberra. He used to regularly catch up with Cushla and Adam after they moved to Canberra.

“Dad was never any fuss, but we tried hard to provide him with a warm home and a good meal – self-care was never a high priority for him,” Cushla says.

She says Brian’s decline was slow and steady but is grateful he could spend his final years at home, a place she says exuded peace and love. “Mum was so devoted to caring for dad, so beautifully, and dad revelled in her love and attention,” Cushla says.

As for Cushla, she has turned to Hansard as a gentle way of remembering her dad. She bought a few volumes home from Hobart and has been reading some of Brian’s key speeches.

“I feel so proud when I read dad’s words on significant social and political events,” she says. “Now I’m a parent myself, I know how challenging parenting is, and I truly appreciate that I have had two very remarkable parents.”



Above, some of Brian Harradine’s many grandchildren; and right, enjoying a break during a trip to Lake Ada. PHOTOS: SUPPLIED

posted on the fridge. “The first few weeks I made a few concessions with the Harradine children, because I knew Barbara was a gentle and patient person,” Marian says.

“But then I heard a comment from one of the Sheehan’s which was something like, ‘But why do they get away with things?’ That made me stop and think, so I made an announcement at tea time that night, ‘All of you have to be aware that from now the rules are the same for everyone’. It was accepted in good spirit.”

Marian says she and Brian always looked on all their children as ‘ours’, never ‘yours’ and ‘mine’.

“I think the combined family was a happy blend because every member of the family, including Brian and myself, felt loved and secure in their place in the family,” she explains.

And what about being a politician’s wife? How did Marian take to that?

Marian says while she had always been interested in politics, she actually took less interest after becoming Senator Harradine’s wife.

“I felt politics had taken enough of what belonged to me without taking my time as well,” she explains.

“But living with Brian made me very politically aware without really trying and I did take an interest in what he was doing.”

Despite the demands of his job, Marian says Brian was a devoted father, who loved being home with his children and always tried to keep his work separate.

Brian’s physical decline started on March 12, 2005 – just three months before he retired from the Parliament. Marian remembers the day well, as Brian had a major seizure at home that Sunday morning that lasted several hours. He spent a few days in hospital in intensive care, in an induced coma to rest his brain activity.

The seizure marked the end of extended bushwalking for the couple, which was a big loss, particularly as it was such a source of relaxation for Brian. They still enjoyed shorter walks and camping with the car.

Brian was eventually diagnosed with small blood vessel disease of the brain where the vascular system of the brain closes down in some areas. He became increasingly dependent on Marian until, by the beginning of last year, he was totally dependent on her.

“I hated the idea of a nursing home and earnestly prayed to God that he could see his days out at home,” Marian says.

“I learned a lot from those last 18 months. I really felt God giving us strength. I realised there’s a great richness in looking after someone you love.



“I also had a new appreciation of our marriage. I kept thinking how precious this time was. I didn’t look on it as a burden at all.

“His conversation became less and less and often he would talk in a whisper. But every now and then he would pipe up with something which was always apt. He still had a good memory for names, and he still seemed to have a stomach for watching Question Time.”

Brian’s illness eventually put an end to the late-evening walks he and Marian so loved – their Rosary walks as they called them.

“Faith was the glue that held Brian and me so nicely together,” she says. “We always shared our faith – not just going to

Mass, but we’d share insights and pray together, and that was especially precious in the last year.

“Our prayer times became the best times of the day for us, morning and night. And Brian looked his most contented then too. I always felt very close to Brian during our prayer time and God’s peace was often tangible.

“I felt so blessed to have had those 32 years with Brian. I often said to him, ‘Thanks for asking me to marry you Brian’. He taught me a lot of wisdom, and in the last few years taught me a lot of patience.

“Now I just think, if you’re in a situation that you can’t change, just assume it’s all part of God’s holy arrangements.”

Getting married, traditional style



A TIME TO CELEBRATE
BY AOIFE CONNORS

FOR Kevin and Hannah Teo, love blossomed at the University of Canberra chapel where weekly Mass was followed by dessert at Goodberry's in Belconnen.

Throughout their teens and 20s, their friendship grew at the simple university chapel. 23-year-old local Canberra girl Hannah remembers.

In 2008, the couple dated for two years before their engagement in 2012. Sitting in an armchair at a bay window waiting for Kevin, Hannah says she turned around and there he was, proposing on both knees.

When Kevin moved to ACU Melbourne for study, Hannah began writing to him daily with the occasional hand-written note.

"I guess you could call it an old-fashioned relationship," Kevin says.

"[Once engaged], we had a formal betrothal in the parish; an old-fashioned promise to marry. It doesn't carry any basis in Canon law anymore."

Hannah describes marriage as "a life-long commitment to the love of your life".



Kevin and Hannah Teo on their wedding day. The couple welcomed their first child, Zachary Raphael on April 15. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

For research assistant Kevin, marriage is embodied in the exchange of rings, "my loyalty to my wife till death do us part".

"Every action you do as an individual is for the good of the family," he says.

The couple attended a pre-marital course in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn.

"We made a conscious decision not to live together before marriage," 33-year-old Kevin says.

Remaining loyal to the Catholic faith is important for Hannah and Kevin, including not living together before marriage, abstinence from meat on Fridays and receiving the Eucharist on the tongue.

Growing up on the East Coast of Singapore, Kevin firmly believes his practice of the faith reflects "everything that my parents brought me up to be".

The traditional wedding ceremony at St Christopher's Cathedral took more than an hour and a half.

"The poor bride of the next service had to keep circling the Church," Hannah cringes.

The couple also held a ceremony in Singapore for Kevin's family.

On April 15, Zachary Raphael Teo was born. Keeping things traditional, Zachary was baptised at 13 days old and is named after Pope Zachary.

FIVE MINUTES WITH...
CATHY MOFFITT



Cathy Moffitt is the executive assistant to Archbishop Christopher Prowse.

How is being an EA to an Archbishop different to being an EA in the public or private sector?

I have been lucky enough over the years to work with many wonderful people, mostly in the education sector. There is a sense of pastoral care and teamwork, both in private and public systems. In my current role I have a better understanding of the challenges that face clergy and lay leaders. Yet, people continue, to work on in faith. This has been a great life lesson for me.

How did you get the job?

Applied for the position, never having worked for an Archbishop I thought it would be interesting and challenging. After a successful interview, had a chat with Archbishop Coleridge – I obviously said the right things!

What do you like most about your job?

Building relationships with the clergy, religious and lay leaders. The varied areas of responsibility that involve the Archbishop's office – never boring! Working closely with staff who understand that it is OK to believe in God.

Do you live to work or work to live?

Definitely work to live now – over the years my philosophy has changed. Perhaps as I reach milestones in my life I realise I have so much more I want to do. I do love my job, but I love weekends more!

Tell me about your family...

My husband Brad, who now takes second 'fiddle' since the arrival of our grandson – Thomas John, he is 15 months old. His dad, Adam, a carpenter and his wife Ashlee. Second son Jarrod, works in the public service and our daughter, Melissa, with the AFP in Sydney.

What do you enjoy most about being a grandparent?

Everything! His smile, his cuddles, playing in the park, toys all over the lounge room floor, sleepovers – even when there's not much sleep had! We are looking forward to our second grandchild in November.

I am happiest when...

I spend time with my family. Weekends at the coast, long walks on the beach.

A typical weekend?

When at the coast, either relaxing by the fire in winter, or at the beach water skiing and swimming in the warmer months. In Canberra, Saturday morning walks with the dog followed by a paddle on the lake with my dragon boat team, and then, later, dinner with friends. Sunday, either a quick visit to the growers market before Mass, sometimes brunch afterwards, walk with the dog, perhaps a movie later. Always a visit to my grandson Thomas sometime over the weekend!

My philosophy on life is...

Listen with your heart, love unconditionally. Enjoy each day, try not to worry about the future. Don't waste anything, whether it be food or wrapping paper – be inventive!

Shopping, food, reading or travel – what appeals most?

Cooking – trying new recipes from my *Delicious* magazine – I love seeing empty plates! Travel – love the planning and dreaming stage, then waiting in anticipation for the next adventure to arrive.

How does your Catholic faith help you?

Without God I would be such a "worry-wart" - I pray and ask him to carry the load. I talk to God when I feel lonely and I trust in the Holy Spirit to guide me. I love participating in the Eucharist at Mass, knowing Jesus is always there for me, if I allow him in.

Father's Day Appeal

CLERGY RETIREMENT FOUNDATION

Thank you



Fr Henry Byrne, retired priest of the Archdiocese.

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

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

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

St Jude's Early Learning Centre blessed, opened

PHOTOS: LOUI SESELJA

THIS year, St Jude's Primary School welcomed its first batch of preschool children. They moved into their new, custom built Early Learning Centre in March and recently celebrated the official opening and blessing of the new facility.

St Jude's principal Peter Galvin reflected that "this important occasion marks a significant milestone in our school story as we approach our 40 years of operation next year".

It was a very special day with about 70 guests in attendance, including those involved in the planning, design and building of the new facility; staff from the Catholic Education Office and parents.

Mgr John Woods and Fr Kevin Brannelly blessed the building and surrounds and Joy Burch, ACT Minister for Education and Training, officially opened the ELC.

Vicky van der Sanden, principal of St John Vianney's described the ceremony as a "great celebration acknowledging the work of many in creating state-of-the-art spaces that will enhance the learning and development of young children for many years to come".

The ELC provides full-time and part-time preschool for four year olds from the Weston Creek and Molonglo areas. There are currently 52 students enrolled.



Above, St Jude's principal Peter Galvin and left, ACT Minister for Education and Training Joy Burch, address those gathered for the opening and blessing of the Early Learning Centre in Holder. Below, children from Years 1 and 2 are joined by preschool children in performing the 'Bushland Boogie' song and dance.

PHOTOS: LOUI SESELJA



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GOING DEEPER
BY SHANE DWYER

I THINK it would be fair to say that the recent Apostolic Exhortation from Pope Francis, *The Joy of the Gospel*, has been greeted with enthusiasm by the vast majority of those who have read it. It may not offer us anything particularly new, but in an era where living as a Catholic can at times be a struggle, it is refreshing to read again of the joy that the Gospel can bring into our lives – if we let it.

In this I'm reminded of one of the 30 men and women who are participating in the Faith and Catholic Theology (FaCT) course currently being offered in the Archdiocese. This predominantly online course brings together men and women from every walk of life united by a common desire: to deepen their understanding of the faith to which they are committed.

All but one is from this Archdiocese. Somehow, without it having been promoted outside the Archdiocese, Mary Connor from Townsville decided that she wanted to be part of the course too. Every three months she flies down to the seminar that introduces each



Mary Connor flies from Townsville to Canberra every three months to attend a seminar as part of the Faith and Catholic Theology (FaCT) course. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

of the four modules – even though she doesn't have to: she could listen to a recording of the seminar online. Why does she come? Because she wants to be there, and she's the sort of person who likes to go the extra mile.

Sometimes the call to evangelisation can seem very daunting. That's because we forget that we can start in simple ways.

I was reminded of her approach to life when I heard from her recently. As part of their concluding activity for the first module (introduction

to Catholic faith and theology), each participant was asked to draft a few points that they could imagine presenting to an interested group. After all, the gift of faith is not for us alone and we must get used to finding ways to

share it. I was impressed with the different ways in which each of the participants dealt with the task. I decided to encourage everyone to think

Asylum seekers: a way forward

This is the second of three articles from the Catholic Social Justice Commission (CSJC) for the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn on this issue.

IN the first of these articles the CSJC outlined two measures that over time would double Australia's humanitarian intake to 40,000 a year. In this second article we make four more suggestions, this time focused on protecting asylum seekers' human rights.

Australia should cooperate with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and with other countries in the region, to discourage the activities of people smugglers. Governments act in concert to prevent defective aircraft from flying. In the same way they should join together to protect asylum seekers from the risks of using unsafe boats. The means used

to discourage asylum seekers from travelling here by boat should be ethical in themselves. Thus, for example, people held in detention should not have their human rights violated as a deterrent to other would-be asylum seekers.

Robust safeguards should operate on Manus Island, Nauru and any other locations where Australia establishes similar facilities. These should include a transparent process for handling complaints.

Unaccompanied minors (irrespective of their means of arrival) should be treated in accordance with the UNHCR Guidelines on Policy and Procedures for dealing with unaccompanied children seeking asylum. They should be the responsibility of the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection or a delegated State or Territory officer.

The final article to be published next month will outline the CSJC's four other proposals.

about finding opportunities to share what they'd come up with – even though that wasn't part of the original requirements.

That's when I heard back from Mary.

She wrote: When you ask

I have already shared that with them on the day my assignment was completed and just before I emailed it to you. Coincidentally, we had the meeting at my place and the person who is hostess also chooses the topic for discussion.

Sometimes the call to evangelise can seem very daunting. That's because we forget that we can start in simple ways with the people with whom we are already connected. Like Mary Connor, we just need to be willing and prepared to get in touch once more with the joy of the Gospel.

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L'Arche celebrates 50 years

It was an evening of warmth and joy as the L'Arche community gathered at the Hellenic Club recently to celebrate their 50th International Jubilee. **Felicity de Fombelle** and photographer **Loui Seselja** joined them.



L'ARCHE is a special community – a place that brings together people with, and without, intellectual disabilities.

L'Arche is different. While the standard 'model' seems to be that 'normal' people care for those with disabilities; at L'Arche, they share their lives together.

That sharing of life is obvious at the L'Arche celebrations. That sense of 'other' that we too easily apply to people with disabilities doesn't exist. There is an ease and warmth between guests that is uplifting to see.

Our MC is Nathan Kensey, a 33-year-old lawyer at the Attorney-General's department who has been actively involved with L'Arche for a decade. The former Marist student says L'Arche is a place where he can be himself.

Nathan became a L'Arche volunteer assistant and then moved into a L'Arche house. L'Arche has been in Canberra since 1978 and is a community of 13 adults with intellectual disabilities living in three households. Worldwide, there are 146 communities in 35 countries.

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"For me, Jesus is the God of the little, the weakest in our society, and these people really are," he says. "You can't help but be humbled by them, they are so welcoming and honest. At work, I'm with the strong and powerful and it's all about keeping up appearances. But L'Arche couldn't be more different. You can be totally yourself and that's a beautiful thing," Nathan explains.

French-Canadian Jean Vanier was living in France 50 years ago and was motivated to act after visiting psychiatric hospitals.

"He saw the most vulnerable people suffer not so much from the particular disabling condition with which they live, but much more from the rejection and isolation they experience as a consequence of having a



Some of the guests at L'Arche's 50th International Jubilee celebrations: Above, Glenn and Trish Mowbray with their sons, Paul (left), Luke (middle) and Peter (right); top left, Liz Archer with Opposition spokesman for disability, Andrew Wall. PHOTOS: LOUI SESELJA

disability," vice-international leader Eileen Glass said in her keynote address.

"It is the people at the margins of our society who have most to tell us. It is not the accomplishments of a society that reveal its true nature... rather the extent to which each citizen is valued, included, and accorded dignity, respect and a decent life."

For more information, go to www.larche.org.au or call (02) 6282 9066.



Above, community leader Valerie Spencer with Trish Bullock; far left, Catharine Keir with Minister for Disability Joy Burch; left (top) Nathan Kensey with Anne Walsh; and left (bottom) Eileen Glass with Ron Graham. PHOTOS: LOUI SESELJA



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O HOLY St Jude, apostle and martyr; great in virtue, rich in miracles; near kinsman of Jesus Christ; faithful intercessor for all who invoke you; special patron in time of need. To you I have recourse from the depths of my heart; and humbly beg you, to whom God has given such great powers; to come to my assistance and help me now in my present need, and grant my urgent petition. In return I promise to make your name known, and cause you to be invoked. 3 Our Fathers, 3 Hail Marys, 3 Glorias. St Jude pray for us and all who honour and invoke your aid. Amen.



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

Archdiocesan Coming Events

SERRA CLUB OF CANBERRA: Rosary and Mass, 6.10pm. Thursday, October 9, Holy Trinity Church, Curtin, followed by dinner at Southern Cross Club, Woden. Inquiries: John Malycha, (02) 6251 2912.

PUBLIC SQUARE ROSARY: Please join us in praying for peace in the world (and the Middle East) on October 11 at 1pm. The local Public Square Rosary will take place at Garema Place, Civic. Please contact Maria for more information: (02) 6247 4026.

WALKING THE CAMINO: Audio-visual presentation by Peter Kearney about the Camino de Santiago on Saturday October 11 at 11am, at the Corpus Christi Parish Centre in Gowrie; and on Saturday October 25 at 11am, at Holy Spirit Parish Centre in Amaroo. Donation at door. Registration is essential, and can be done by emailing: camino@peterkearneysongs.com.au. Please specify venue location and number of seats needed.

FAMILY CONCERT: The St Mary's Choir has reunited to perform a free family event of 'A Journey of Faith Through Song From Old To New'. There will be three performances. 1) St Raphael's Catholic Church, Lowe Street, Queanbeyan, on Sunday, October 12 from 1.30pm-4pm. 2) Shrine Of Our Lady of Mercy, 9 Old Hume Hwy, (Penrose Park), Berrima,

on Sunday, October 19 from 12.15pm-2.45pm. 3) St Christopher's Cathedral, Franklin Street, Manuka, on Sunday October 26 from 1.45pm-4.15pm.

SPORT AND SOCIAL JUSTICE FORUM: All are invited to this public forum at 7.30pm on Wednesday, October 15 at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, Corner Blackall St and Kings Av, Barton. Keynote speakers will be Joe Roff and Sally Shipard. Donation \$5 requested to cover the cost of the forum. Supper will be provided. Contact Robyn (02) 6254 0487 or email csjc@cg.catholic.org.au.

MASS FOR STILLBORN, MISCARRIED AND ABORTED BABIES: St Benedict's Mission Centre invites you to a Healing Mass at 5.30pm on Friday October 17 at St Benedict's Church, Narrabundah. All are welcome. Inquiries: Bronnie, 0432 257 622.

EVENINGS FOR THE ENGAGED: The next course commences on Saturday, October 18 (9am-3.30pm), and concludes on Saturday, October 25 (9am-3.30pm). For more information or to register, contact Mark and Kathy Haseler on (02) 6166 7634 or via email: mandk@velocitynet.com.au.

EUCCHARISTIC & MARIAN PROCESSION: 4pm, Sunday October 19, departing St. Benedict's, Narrabundah.

Arriving at Cathedral 5pm, followed by Benediction and Mass celebrated by Archbishop. Free shuttle bus available. Inquiries: Brian Curtis 0419 259 177 or email brian.curtis@homemail.com.au.

19TH ANNUAL REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY: For those who have lost their life to illicit drugs will be held on Monday October 20 at 12.30pm at the memorial site, Weston Park Road, Weston Park, Yarralumla (opposite the junction with Prescott Lane). Speakers include Shane Rattenbury (MLA), and a parent who has lost a son. Refreshments will be served following the ceremony.

ARCHDIOCESAN COMMISSION FOR WOMEN: All are invited to attend the annual Open Day on Saturday October 25 at 9.45am-1pm at the Rheinberger Centre in Yarralumla. The guest speaker will be Sandi Cornish, co-author of *Woman and Man: One in Christ Jesus*. There will be a light lunch and a donation of \$5 would be appreciated to cover costs. For all inquiries phone Judy Netting (02) 6278 4163 or 0400 766 784.

THE TRUTH WILL SET US FREE: An address by Francis Sullivan (CEO Truth Justice and Healing Council) at Holy Family Church, Gowrie: Tuesday October 28 from 7pm-8.30pm. Francis will present an overview of the Royal Commission

into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse including: an update on what the Truth Justice and Healing Council is doing; insights into how the Church leadership is working with the Council; and where to from here. All welcome.

CURSILLO: A women's Cursillo will be held at St Clement's Retreat Centre, Galong, from October 30 to November 2. Fr Michael Fallon will be our spiritual director. For more information contact Marian Brunskill on (02) 6291 6773 or 0413 686 551.

CENTREING PRAYER RETREAT: 4pm, Tuesday, November 4 to after lunch Thursday, November 6, 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 phone (02) 6380 5222.

CHARLES DE FOUCAULD: His journey - Our journey - A weekend retreat directed by Fr Peter Ryan CSsR at St Clement's, Galong, November 7-9. All welcome. To book call Jacqueline Donohue (02) 6251 3950 or Maria Noronah 0413 617 390.

CELEBRATING 80 YEARS OF CHRIST'S MISSION IN TARALGA: On Sunday November 16 at 10am Mass,



CHRIST'S mission is to all and involves us all. Throughout the world, on World Mission Sunday (October 19), Catholic parishes are all asked to support the Church's global mission through prayer and support for Catholic Mission's World Mission Day Appeal.

Many in Australia see reaching 70 years as an expectation for the majority. This year's Appeal is focusing on Jamaica, where gun violence is making getting to 35 years of age a real challenge and the desire to be alive when you grow up a plea as much as a goal. Thus this year's theme is 'When I grow up I want to be ALIVE'.

Sister Teresa Tinanisolo, a Marist Missionary Sister, works at the Holy Family self-help centre offering practical and spiritual support to the people of Mount Salem, especially those living in the surrounding ghetto. Sr Teresa offers essential life and employment skills training programs as well as non-violence education classes for children to counter the often witnessed violence promulgated on the streets.

Lives are being changed and alternate futures, with hope, realised. Jesus desires peace and life. Our individual responses combine to enable others to bring this message alive for those struggling around them. Support this year's WMD Appeal.

God Bless, Deacon Joe Blackwell
The Rheinberger Centre, PO Box 7174, Yarralumla ACT 2600.
Email: asst.missions@cg.catholic.org.au
Telephone: (02) 6163 4321

we will be celebrating 80 years since the opening of Christ the King Catholic Church in Taralga. The first church in Taralga was St Ignatius Church, opened in 1865 and is now a private residence. Archbishop Christopher Prowse will be coming to Taralga for this

special event at which confirmation will be administered. After Mass, a lunch will be held in the Memorial Hall (Orchard Street, Taralga). An open invitation is extended to all for this special occasion. For catering purposes, please RSVP to Sr Bernadette Mary (02) 4840 2061.

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Tackling the bigger issues

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

WHEN Canberra Raiders' players come up against problems in life that even they fear to tackle, they seek out someone who has been a permanent fixture at the club for almost three decades – team chaplain, Mgr John Woods.

The Vicar-General of the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn has filled the voluntary role of club chaplain since 1986, when sports chaplaincy was a new, novel idea for many in Australia.

Raiders front rower Dane Tilse has known Mgr Woods since joining the Raiders in 2006, and says he appreciates the spiritual support.

"A lot of the boys are of different faiths in the team, but that doesn't really matter, Fr John's always there for a yarn if you're having a few issues," he says. "I know in the past I've been to see him personally and I got a fair bit out of that."

Even for those who are relatively new to the club, such as Joel Edwards, the high regard Mgr Woods is held in becomes apparent very quickly.

"He's a great guy, and he's always someone you can vent to or have a chat with," he says.

"You look at him and you don't think he's a priest, he's just one of your mates, someone you can talk to."

Mgr Woods says the players and staff often speak to him spontaneously, in a variety of environments, and always with respect for his role.

"Some will call you Father, some will say 'Rev', some will say 'Padre', and some will say 'Woodsy', and that's probably a reflection of how they under-



Mgr John Woods chats to Raiders' utility Josh McCrone at the end of a team training session.

PHOTO: JEANINE DOYLE

stand a chaplain," he says.

Attending training sessions with the players has been a constant for Mgr Woods, and it's where he interacts most with the group.

"You look at him and you don't think he's a priest, he's just one of your mates, someone you can talk to."

"I was 32 or 33 [when I started], so I joined in the training that I could, and I think doing that gained a

respect," he says. "On occasion guys would chat, but it was, and always will be, just low-key footy life, incidental talk. But every now and then it's given rise to more serious

reflections."

Although he loves being involved, Mgr Woods admits the role has its challenges, the

biggest of which is simply time.

"One of the biggest challenges is fitting it in, but there's also an awareness that with more time you could do more," he says.

With this year's social justice statement focusing on the role of sport in society, Mgr Woods believes now is the perfect time

for the Church to increase its engagement with Australia's sporting communities.

"[Sport] is the largest sub-culture in Australia, and I would like to think this year's social justice statement might be an impetus to more serious, systemic reflection, even a prophetic voice affirming that which is good about sport, and perhaps at times making comment on that which is dehumanising, and in so doing, engage with society," he says.

Inspired St John's boys win 2014 Sullivan Shield

FOR the past few months, schools across the ACT and Southern Highlands have been preparing to play in the annual Sullivan Shield rugby league competition.

Fifteen highly enthusiastic boys from Years 5 and 6 at St John the Apostle Primary School in Florey and their coach Chris Dawson were involved in the competition.

It all started in March when the team started training once a week during lunch time. In early June the first round-robin style competition was held, where the team won three out of four games.

Two weeks later, the team played in Pool A of the second round of the Northside com-



St John the Apostle Primary School defeated Holy Spirit 16-10 in the final of the Sullivan Shield.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

petition, winning several games and drawing two games - enough to qualify for the finals day of the Sullivan Shield.

In the semi-final, St John's

came up against the previously undefeated Wanniasa Public School. St John's managed to win comfortably, progressing into the grand final, to be

played against three-time defending champions Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit took an early lead in the final, but with some

words of encouragement and advice in the in-goal from Mr Dawson, St John's were soon back on track. After gaining the lead before half-time, the team maintained their advantage until the final siren rang, winning 16-10.

It was an incredible effort for a team with a large number of players with little or no experience playing rugby league. What the team did have was a whole lot of teamwork and determination to succeed.

* Article written by members of the winning St John's team.

GOT A SPORTS STORY YOU WANT TO SHARE?

Send it to: ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au