



Three days of sport, music, games and faith
PAGE 6



Parish dinner a popular event on the social calendar
PAGE 17

60th anniversary of Canberra's oldest Catholic secondary school
PAGE 8



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Finding answers for families

BY FELICITY DE FOMBELLE

CATHOLIC families are “surrounded and suffocated” by discouragements and the Church must provide answers, Pope Francis has said.

Speaking at the end of the two-week Extraordinary Synod on the Family in Rome, the Pope also urged bishops to “find concrete solutions to so many difficulties and innumerable challenges that families must confront”.

Canberra mum-of-two Veronique Clyde said she was excited that the Pope had put family life on top of the Church agenda. Ms Clyde's husband Wesley is not a Catholic but attends Mass with his wife and their two children Gererd, 13, and Amelie, 12. Gererd attends Daramalan College and Amelie is at St Vincent's Primary School in Aranda.

“Catholic families face the usual pressures that all families face, like financial stress and being time poor,” Ms Clyde said.

“But one of the real challenges for the Church I think is making our parishes as ‘family-friendly’ as we can and nourishing the Catholic families that are practising and going to Mass.

“My children are altar servers and I think it's also really important to involve families and to speak with and engage children, because the more involved a family can be, the more they feel ownership of their parish community.”

The findings of the Synod will be the subject of a year-long



Veronique Clyde with her husband Wesley, son Gererd and daughter Amelie.

PHOTO: TIM SLOAN-GARDNER

review leading to the Ordinary Synod in Rome in October, 2015.

While media coverage of the Synod predictably focused on debate around homosexual-

been in agreement, or silent in a false and acquiescent peace,” he said. “Instead, I have seen and I have heard – with joy and appreciation – speeches and inter-

homosexuality and divorced Catholics.

A report issued mid-way through the Synod stated that gay people had gifts and quali-

“One of the real challenges is making our parishes as ‘family-friendly’ as we can.”

ity and divorced Catholics and spoke of deep divisions in the Church, Pope Francis said he expected disagreements.

“Personally I would be very worried and saddened if there hadn't been these... animated discussions... or if everyone had

ventions full of faith, of pastoral and doctrinal zeal, of wisdom, of frankness and of courage.”

While the bishops and cardinals overwhelmingly endorsed the pastoral approach reflected in the final report, consensus was lacking on two issues;

ties to offer the Church. It also stated that homosexual partnerships, while morally problematic, provided gay couples with “precious” support.

But the final report adopted substantially different language and stated that “people with

Discussing the family – the process.

1. Pope Francis urged bishops to speak their minds clearly and fearlessly at the two-week Extraordinary Synod on the Family (a preparatory synod), held in October 2014.

2. World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia in September 2015.

3. The Ordinary Synod will be held from October 4 to 25, 2015. The theme will be: The vocation and mission of the family in the Church and the modern world. A final report will be produced for Pope Francis.

4. Pope Francis will write a post-Synodal exhortation or teaching document summing up the entire process and offering a definitive take on the matter.

homosexual tendencies must be welcomed with respect and sensitivity”. It repeated that marriage was only between a man and a woman.

Interestingly, the revised paragraph failed to reach the two-thirds majority to pass. Two other paragraphs examining whether divorced and civilly remarried Catholics can receive Communion, also failed to pass.

Vatican spokesman Fr Federico Lombardi said the failure of the paragraphs to pass meant they needed to be discussed further to achieve a consensus at the Ordinary Synod next October.



ARCHBISHOP CHISTOPHER'S DIARY

November 1st
12.15pm Mass - feast of All Saints - St Christopher's Cathedral

November 2nd
7.30am Mass - Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, Bermagui
9.30am Mass - Narooma

November 5th
Carroll College student leaders BBQ lunch at Archbishop's house

November 7th
12pm catechist Mass - Western Deanery Cootamundra

November 9th
11am Mass - Multicultural Sunday - St Christopher's Cathedral

November 10th-14th
Leading clergy retreat - Galong

November 16th
10am Confirmation Mass and 80th anniversary - Christ the King, Taralga

November 18th
Dinner Christian Brothers ACT

November 19th
Convocation Day - Missionaries of God's Love 10am. Mass at 5pm

November 20th
Council of priests, trustees and consultants meetings

November 21st
• 11am Mass and staff awards - Mary Potter Day - Calvary Hospital, Bruce
• **7pm ordination to the priesthood - Dominic Byrne - St Christopher's Cathedral**

November 23rd
• 10.30am Confirmation Mass - Croatian Community, St Augustine's Parish, Farrer
• NATSICC Meeting - Sydney

November 24th-28th
Australian Catholic Bishops Conference - Sydney

NAME OUR TWO NEW BUILDINGS

As part of the major redevelopment of the St Christopher's Cathedral precinct in Manuka, Archbishop Christopher is inviting Catholics to suggest names for two buildings - the main office building and also the aged care independent living units.

These two buildings will be named after a saint or an early pioneer of the Archdiocese.

Send your ideas to:
Erin Gordon
PO Box 7174,
Yarralumla, ACT, 2600.

May the holy souls rest in peace



ARCHBISHOP'S MESSAGE
ARCHBISHOP
CHRISTOPHER PROWSE

DURING the month of November each year we remember the faithful departed in our Masses, devotions, prayers and fasting. It is a beautiful act of charity to pray for those who have died before us. I suppose each one of us, as we approach death, would be comforted that others would be praying for us and will continue to do so after our death. The living have a responsibility to pray for those who sleep in Christ. We pray that they may rest in peace. There is little evidence of this devotion in the Scriptures.

In our Catholic Tradition, however, there is much evidence. Even at the Catacombs in the earliest days of Christianity we find the tombs of early Christians marked with ancient Christian symbols and calls to pray for the deceased. Words like 'pax', 'pace', 'peace', and so on, are invitations to pray for the dead. Even in cemeteries today we so often find invitations on tombstones to pray for those who have gone before us. Also, in our liturgies, over the centuries, there have been constant calls to pray for the dead. These prayers are sincere, respectful and loving. For example, one of our liturgical prayers for the dead asks the Lord: *"Guard him/her from all harm and on that great day of Resurrection raise him/her up with all your saints. Pardon his/her sins and give him/her eternal light in your kingdom. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen."* Perhaps you may now wish to pray this prayer for someone who has died that you wish to pray for especially in November (pause for prayer). Sometimes we may feel that our prayers for the living seem unheard by the Lord. But never let us doubt the intercessory spiritual power of our prayers for the dead, especially those in Purgatory. Although often misunderstood, the Catholic teaching on Purgatory is important. In short, it means that our heavenly father reaches out with loving mercy and forgiveness to those before death as well as those after death. Let us pray for our deceased family members, our friends and parishioners. Let us pray,

also, for those who have no one to pray for them in their death – the forgotten, the lost, the abandoned. We pray for those victims of abortion, war, violence and hatred. We pray especially for those who died a violent death... may they rest in peace... the peace of the resurrected Jesus. As Archbishop, I pray especially for the deceased Archbishops and Bishops of the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn. In a particular way, I pray for Cardinal Edward Bede Clancy who died in recent months. He served our Archdiocese splendidly as Archbishop over a four-year period. "Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace."

Some precious family time

EDITOR'S NOTE

HOW LUCKY are Paul and I that we are able to take the boys to France each year. It's a long flight, and challenging with a baby, and it blows a hole in the budget, but it's a priority for Paul and I to spend that precious time with our boys, and to be with his family. Everything is different, not just the language. Each morning Arnaud, Eric and Thibault would take it in turns to head to 'la boulangerie' to buy our baguette and breakfast would follow - 'chocolat chaud' (hot chocolate) sipped from a bowl, with baguette and jam, which the boys – taking the lead from their papa – would dip into their chocolat chaud. They loved it. The day would gently unfold from there... no school drop off or lunches to prepare, no work... no routine! Here are some highlights:

- A family expedition to Paris, staying in a quirky hotel (on the sixth floor of a hospital) opposite Notre Dame Cathedral. We cruised the Seine, ate in brasseries and dreamed of Parisian life. Admiring the stylish mums supervising their children at the Jardin du Luxembourg, I vowed to update my wardrobe and aim for that chic 'Parisian



Former secretary at the Apostolic Nunciature Mgr Luis-Miguel Munoz Cardaba and Felicity at a cafe in Paris. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

maman' look;

- Catching up with Mgr Luis-Miguel Munoz Cardaba, the former secretary at the Apostolic Nunciature in Canberra, who had just arrived in Paris. A relaxed Mgr Luis-Miguel said he had seen more people in one day in Paris than he had in one year in Canberra.
- An auberge (traditional country inn) which had recently opened in the village where Paul's maman lives. We enjoyed many a long lunch with the

locals – for less than \$20 there's an entrée and main, followed by cheese, desert and coffee, with wine included of course. The French love their food. But the best thing of all? Being with our children for six weeks. Given Paul and I both work, it was lovely to have so much family time. Warmest wishes from my family to yours, Felicity de Fombelle Editor

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Breaking the bathroom mirror

BY FELICITY DE FOMBELLE

“GIRLS can’t be what they can’t see”. That was the key message from parenting expert Dannielle Miller to more than 100 Merici College parents recently.

Ms Miller said mums in particular needed to be positive role models for their daughters and help them to feel confident.

“The ultimate glass ceiling for girls and women is the bathroom mirror and we don’t seem to be able to break that,” Ms Miller said.

“Your daughter will not grow up seeing herself as a beautiful woman unless she sees you embracing yourself as a beautiful woman.”

A passionate speaker who has written four books about body image and self-esteem, Ms Miller is the founder of Enlighten Education and has been running workshops at Merici College for many years.

She told the parent seminar, that the three main categories of ‘girl insults’ were being called “fat”, a “tart” and “full of yourself”.

But more concerning to Ms Miller is what teenage girls tell themselves, their inner voices.

“As an exercise, I often ask girls to close their eyes and raise their hands if they believe, and tell themselves, they are not beautiful and don’t measure up to their friends,” she said.

“Not all hands go up in primary school, but by high school, every girl has her hand up, and they realise that every girl feels the same way.”

She said girls were only at war with their bodies because



From left to right, Farah Almashawreh, Dannielle Miller (Enlighten Education), Loretta Wholley (Merici College principal), Sasha Godwin, and Nina Dzhydzhora. PHOTO: JEANINE DOYLE

society was waging a war on their bodies. To illustrate, she showed a disturbing collection of advertising shots of women in sexually explicit poses and photos of flawless models airbrushed to perfection.

Mother of two Leonie Macri was shocked at the extent to which pictures were touched up to make models “unattainable beauty creatures”.

“I make a conscious effort not to expose my daughters to too much ‘Hollywood’ stuff,”

Ms Macri said. “I like how Dannielle speaks to the girls about bullying behaviour and asks them to raise their hand if they’ve done it, because sometimes the girls don’t realise it is bullying and they regret it later.”

For mum Anne Jackson, whose 15-year-old daughter Cameron is in Year Nine at Merici, the seminar was a reminder of the need to model behaviour.

“Our children are always watching us and you have to be

on your guard, in a sense, particularly about making throwaway comments,” Ms Jackson said.

“To me it’s also about being positive all the time. As women we often put ourselves down, consciously or not, and if our children see a lifetime of that it can become ingrained.”

Ms Miller encouraged parents and teenagers to be informed about how the media, fashion and advertising industries manipulate images of women.

“When I watch Video Hits I’m watching soft porn, which glorifies violence against women,” she said. “And the song lyrics are so crude and crass.”

While she pleaded with parents to constantly affirm and love their teenage daughters, Ms Miller admitted it’s not always easy.

“I tuck in my 13-year-old boy and he gives me a kiss and a hug and it’s lovely,” she said. “With my 15-year-old daughter, I go in to see her and she says to me, ‘Get lost, you stalker’.

“But at the moment she’s away on a school trip and she’s posted messages on Facebook about how much she misses me coming into her room every night!”

How to help teenage girls:

• **Mums:** Be a positive role model to your daughter. Girls can’t be what they can’t see.

• **Dads:** You have a huge responsibility too. Affirm your daughters for their beauty and worth.

• **Connect with other parents:** We ask for advice about sleeping and feeding when our kids are babies so why not when our children are teenagers?

• When teenage girls are asked what they want more of, it’s love. It’s not always easy, but they yearn for love, so show them love.

• Help girls turn their critical gaze away from themselves and onto our culture, by alerting them to ads and fashion magazines that debase women, and by boycotting such products.

Catholics take their faith to the streets

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

HORNS were sounded, heads were turned and traffic was stopped – but most importantly, Jesus was adored.

About 100 Canberra Catholics took part in the city’s annual Eucharistic procession on October 19, from St Benedict’s Church in Narrabundah to St Christopher’s Cathedral in Manuka.

Fr Ken Barker MGL carried the Blessed Sacrament for the one-hour journey, flanked by several Missionaries of God’s Love seminarians; while others carried the pilgrim statue of Our Lady Help of Christians.

During the procession, pilgrims recited the Rosary and several litanies, as well as singing a number of Marian hymns. The procession ended with



Fr Ken Barker MGL carries the Blessed Sacrament from Narrabundah to Manuka.

PHOTO: MATTHEW BIDDLE

Benediction at the Cathedral, followed by Mass celebrated by Archbishop Christopher Prowse.

Organiser Brian Curtis told *Catholic Voice* the annual event

began in 2002 as a Marian procession.

“In 2004, with permission of the then Archbishop Francis Carroll, we ‘upgraded’ it to a

Eucharistic and Marian Procession,” he explained.

Eucharistic processions are believed to have first been held in the 14th century in Europe,

and continue to be held around the world.

Sydney’s annual Corpus Christi procession is the largest in Australia, with more than 5,000 people taking part each year.

Mr Curtis said such events are part of a great Catholic heritage that should be preserved.

“The community at St Benedict’s Narrabundah has been the great powerhouse of Eucharistic Adoration in the Archdiocese for many years,” he said.

“Carrying that Eucharistic faith from St Benedict’s to the mother Church, the Cathedral, is a great testimony... that their Eucharistic faith is not a secret to be kept for themselves, but a gift to be shared with the wider church and the whole Canberra community.”

Bikers share their faith with all

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

THEY ride Harley Davidsons, wear black leather, and often sport intimidating beards and faded tattoos, yet this unique group of men has a common bond that trumps everything else – their faith in God.

On the outside, members of the motorcycle club 'God's Squad' look rough, tough, and even downright scary. But looks can be deceiving.

Canberra's Peter Hilton has been a part of God's Squad for the past 12 years, and told *Catholic Voice* he was first attracted to the group's willingness to share the message of the Gospel.

"These were guys whose mission field was broad, it was right out on the edges, with marginalised people predominantly, with bikers and people in the streets who were struggling," he says.

"I could see that they were really doing good work, and they also go into prisons and schools and talk about what it means to be a Christian."

An active member of Holy Spirit Parish in Gungahlin, Peter's passion for motorcycles was triggered when he was just four years old, and has remained strong ever since.

"My uncle took me for a ride on the back of his Vincent, which is a classic English motorcycle... in its day it was probably the fastest motorbike around," he says.

In the early 1970s Peter got his first motorbike, but it wasn't until 2002, just before becoming involved with God's Squad, that he got his first Harley Davidson.



Gungahlin parishioner Peter Hilton, who converted to Catholicism about 20 years ago, says members of God's Squad share their faith with some of the most marginalised people in society. PHOTO: MATTHEW BIDDLE

Inspired by the writings of John Smith, the founder of God's Squad, Peter says the thought of joining the group presented itself on many occasions.

"There was a real sense that this was meant to be, it was a calling I felt," he says. "It was almost like God was reminding me, tapping me on the shoulder."

Since joining God's Squad, Peter says he's been amazed at the diversity of people the group interacts with.

"Just being out on the road, people will stop and have a conversation with us," he says. "I guess you can't get more public about what you stand for than the patch on our back. People will come up to us at the service station and just start talking to us."

Engaging with members of other motorcycle clubs – sometimes even outlawed clubs – is another important part of the mission work that God's Squad does, Peter says.

And contrary to the usual

connotations that surround such bikers, Peter says members of bike clubs are often just "larrikins who love their motorbikes".

"A lot of them talk about their fathers and their children, a lot of them are really close to their dads and their sons and grandsons. I think what they're really looking for is camaraderie and brotherhood," he says.

"They're tough men but a lot of them have got a very soft centre, and they love their families, they love their kids.

"The difference with us is that at the top of where we stand is God, our families, our church. For them, at the top of their hierarchy is their bike club."

While members of God's Squad are well liked by many other bikers, there are some who don't share the same feelings.

"Not all the guys in the motorcycle scene like us," Peter says.

"The newer guys in the motorcycle scene, for example, they don't know us, so they wouldn't trust us initially. That trust and respect is earned, and it's generally done on a personal level."

But overall, bikers of other clubs respect what God's Squad stands for.

"We get asked to pray for them and their families, because they know that's what we do," Peter says. "We also get asked to do weddings, baptisms and funerals."

Friday nights are the group's regular "ministry nights", where they go out together, often to visit someone in the motorcycle scene, or perhaps to a local pub for a meal.

"We just try to be there," Peter says. "More than half the time it's just being there and being seen. People come up to us and ask, 'What are you guys about?' And we tell them, and that opens the door."

"But there are times when... we go out on a Friday night and no one's interested in us being there. You go home and you think that was a waste of time, but it never is."

"God provides those opportunities, we've just got to be willing to be there and answer those opportunities."

Celebrations all round for Charnwood parishioners

ON July 24, 1954 Fr Neville Drinkwater was ordained in the Hamilton Church, Newcastle and from there took up his priestly ministry in the Canberra and Goulburn Archdiocese.

Not wanting "any fuss", Fr Drinkwater celebrated his 60th anniversary of ordination with 9.30am Mass at St Thomas Aquinas Parish in Charnwood, attended by children from the parish school.

On the following Sunday, July 27, parishioners acknowledged Fr Drinkwater's faithful commitment to his priestly ministry, an important part of which was the establishment of the parish in February, 1974.

On September 7, Charnwood parishioners gathered to celebrate 40 years as a parish and



Fr Neville Drinkwater with Cesare DeFranceschi in 1974. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

the 25th anniversary of the opening of the parish church. Following the 9am Mass, a special tribute was paid to Aldo Giurgola (the architect), Cesare DeFranceschi (the builder) and Fr Drinkwater, after which a brunch and an anniversary cake were enjoyed by all.

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Karinya House set to expand services

BY FIONA VAN DER PLAAT

FOR the past 17 years Karinya House has welcomed into its embrace more than 4,000 women in need of support during and after pregnancy.

Many of them have turned to the service after living in cars, sleeping on couches or finding themselves otherwise homeless, often with young children in tow. The service's original three-bedroom residence and the four-bedroom home that was added a decade ago have been a haven for these women, who come from around the Archdiocese and from all walks of life.

But now Karinya House is widening its embrace thanks to a new purpose-built facility that will double its capacity to support women in need of intensive help and, for the first time, provide temporary accommodation for other mothers and their young children.

The Cluster Housing Project, to be built on community land in Belconnen, will be constructed by the ACT Government and leased to Karinya House,



Marie-Louise Corkhill and Catherine Cooney are looking forward to Karinya House's expansion project. PHOTO: FIONA VAN DER PLAAT

which will be responsible for the fit-out and landscaping.

The project includes three two-bedroom cottages, four two-bedroom units, a four-bedroom general accommodation block, an administration building, a storage facility, and a playground and barbecue area.

For service director Marie-Louise Corkhill and vice-president Catherine Cooney, the project is the result of many years of planning and represents a "fresh start" for the women and children they support.

"For our clients it's going to be a beautiful home," Ms Corkhill said. "It will be

uncluttered and they'll have their own space."

The extra space will also be a big change for the service's staff, who operate out of a cramped kitchen-dining room while overnight support workers sleep in what doubles as a daytime office.

At present, Karinya House

accommodates about 100 women a year and provides outreach support to more than 500 others.

Ms Cooney said it was hard to put an exact figure on the growth in the caseload in the new facility but "we are bracing ourselves" as the service expands to encompass women with slightly older children.

Ms Corkhill and Ms Cooney say their "aspirational" date for completion of the building project is next May – to coincide, appropriately, with Mother's Day.

In the meantime, Karinya House, which relies on fundraising, corporate sponsorship and financial donations for at least half of its annual operating budget, is upping the fundraising ante as it seeks to cover not only the cost of the fit-out and move, but also the cost of running an expanded service for vulnerable women and children.

For more information, visit www.karinyahouse.asn.au. To donate, contact Marie-Louise Corkhill on (02) 6259 8998 or ML.Corkhill@karinyahouse.asn.au.

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Bombala celebrates 150 years

BY ERIN GORDON

EVEN without a parish priest, the Bombala Catholic community's spirit is strong and their parish is a wonderful beacon of warmth and heart.

On October 12, local Catholics gathered at St Mary's Church to celebrate the parish's 150th anniversary.

In honour of the occasion, Archbishop Christopher Prowse celebrated the Mass, noting with admiration how well kept and cared for the parish is.

"For the hand of the Lord rests on this mountain,' might be a way that we can express our thanks to God over 150 years of his presence in this Catholic parish," Archbishop Christopher said during his homily.

"This church rests on the side of a mountain. Over these 150 years we can just imagine the Sacraments that have been celebrated here in good times and in bad for the people over many generations."

After Mass there was a celebratory morning tea at the



Archbishop Christopher Prowse joined parishioners at St Mary's Church in Bombala last month to celebrate 150 years since the parish was established, PHOTO: CARL HEINRICH

adjacent primary school, St Joseph's, where it was apparent that many strong, hard-working and affirming Catholics are responsible for keeping the Bombala community alive and thriving.

One such person is Sr Teresa Keane, a Josephite nun who, in the absence of a parish priest, leads a Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion three times a month as well as visiting the elderly and dying in the area.

Nine other Josephite nuns from the nearby towns of Nimmitabel and Bega as well as from places further afield such as Croydon and Surry Hills joined Sr Teresa for the special occasion.

Curious youth make Explosion a success

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

ABOUT 80 young people from near and far attended last month's 'Explosion' conference at St Francis Xavier College in Florey.

The three-day conference, which was run as a joint venture between the Disciples of Jesus Community and the Archdiocesan Office for Youth and Young Adults, included talks on God's love, salvation, reconciliation and mission.

Between talks, participants enjoyed sports, live music, games and other activities, giving them the chance to build friendships within the group.

Archdiocesan coordinator for youth and young adults Stuart West described the conference as a "positive experience".

"The young people asked a lot of questions, whether it was questions about faith and reason or moral issues... and I think a lot of them found the answers they were looking for,



Participants at last month's 'Explosion' conference.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

which is great," he said.

Fr Dave Callaghan MGL was present for the duration of the conference and fielded numerous questions from the inquisitive participants, Mr West said.

The theme for the conference was 'If this is real', which is part of a larger quote attributed to

author CS Lewis.

"The whole week focused around this quote, which was, 'If Christianity is false, it's of no importance, if it's real, it's of infinite importance, the only thing it cannot be is of moderate importance'," Mr West explained.

While most of the participants

came from Canberra, some travelled from as far as Albury and Tasmania to attend.

Mr West added that there were two aspects of the conference that participants seemed to enjoy the most.

"The opportunities to connect with the Sacraments, whether in Mass or Adoration or Reconciliation, was one thing that was quite strong; the other thing was just the games and fun, connecting with other young people," he said.

Mr West said there were various reasons why participants attended Explosion.

"I think a lot of them came because they had questions," he said.

"And I think many came because... they have friends who aren't Catholics or they feel alone in the practise of their faith and this is an opportunity for them to be supported and to see other Catholics who are living their faith in the same way they are."

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Seminary rector to return to Canberra

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

HE'S helped to transform the Seminary of the Good Shepherd in Homebush, NSW, into one of Australia's finest seminaries, but after six years at the helm, Fr Tony Percy is preparing to return to the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn.

The seminary rector finishes his six-year appointment at the end of 2014, and will return to his home Archdiocese after a period of sabbatical in January.

During his time at Good Shepherd, Fr Tony has witnessed the ordination of more than 40 young men from a variety of dioceses around the country. He told *Catholic Voice* he's found the experience "rewarding".

"We've ordained 43 fellas in the last seven years out of this seminary, so we're going forward," Fr Tony said. "And we've got 40 fellas here now and the intake for next year looks quite positive. All the signs are that it's going to continue, so that's really good."

After a five-year stint as parish priest of Goulburn from



Fr Tony Percy says he's enjoyed watching young men mature and grow at the Seminary of the Good Shepherd. PHOTO: LOUI SESELJA

2003 to 2008, Fr Tony was asked to become rector of the seminary.

"We had a parish dinner, and after the dinner, Archbishop Mark Coleridge said to me, 'The Cardinal would like you to be the rector of the seminary',

which was a great surprise to me," he recalled. "I had a think about it for a week, and then I said 'I'll give it a go'."

Unlike in previous generations, those who commit to priestly or religious vocations today are going against the

trend, Fr Tony said. "Back in the '50s, '60s and early '70s, to become a priest was a good thing to do. Now it's counter-cultural, no question," he said.

But this doesn't mean there is a "vocations crisis" affecting seminaries and religious

congregations, Fr Tony said.

"Some places are doing very well in terms of vocations," he said. "I think the places that are doing well are those offering very good formation, where they've actually overhauled their formation process, and that's what we've done here."

Good Shepherd places a strong emphasis on providing a wholesome formation in several areas – human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral and apostolic.

"What we try to offer as much as we can is the human formation," Fr Tony said. "We do that firstly in our spiritual year, which is a dedicated year set aside to help the men to know Christ and to know themselves."

While he's looking forward to returning to his home Archdiocese, Fr Tony admits he will greatly miss the seminary when he departs.

"You forge many relationships and friendships here," he said. "But it's time to move on."

NSW priest Fr Danny Meagher has been appointed as the rector for the next three years, from the beginning of 2015.



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St Edmund's marks 60 years of excellence

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

'CELEBRATING our community' – that's the theme that Canberra's oldest Catholic secondary school is focusing on in 2014 as it marks its 60th anniversary.

Past and present staff, students, parents and graduates – known as 'Old Boys' – have all been a part of the celebrations, reflecting the strong community bonds that exist within the school, according to principal Peter Fullagar.

"We really value the relationship we have within the school between the staff, the parents and the boys, all centreing around their development from young boys right through to young men who graduate," he said. "The school has always been highly regarded in the community, and I think that now the school's reputation is not only for their performance of a good all-round education... but also for producing fine young men who are very focused on doing things for others."

St Edmund's is one of only three all-boys secondary schools in Canberra, the others being Marist College and Canberra Grammar School.

St Edmund's board member Nichole Overall, whose two sons are students at the school, said her initial concerns about sending her boys to a single-sex school have been completely eradicated.

"What I found personally about the school is that they know what boys need, and I



have found that exceptionally helpful and positive in terms of providing an education for my sons," she said.

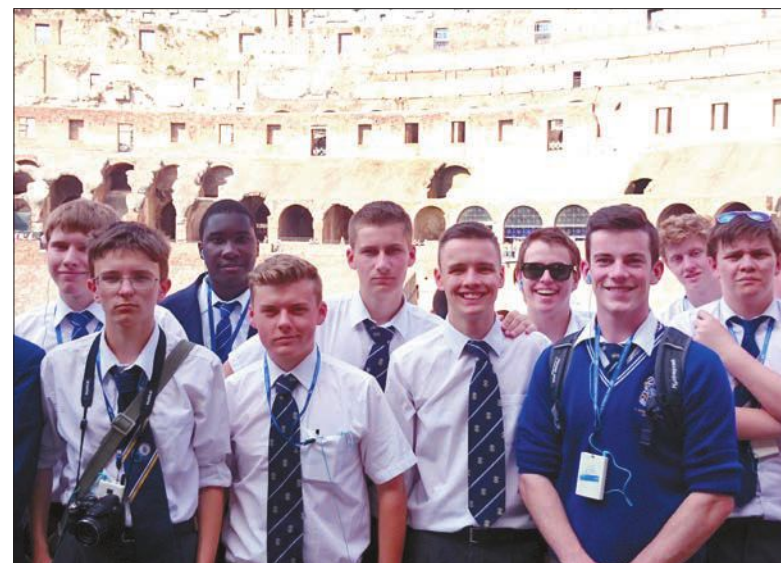
Mrs Overall also emphasised the school's positive reputation in the wider community, which she believes helps to attract new students.

"Despite the fact that it's titled as St Edmund's College Canberra, the truth is that its influence and reach over the last 60 years extends throughout the region," she said. "The school has achieved a great deal over its entire 60 years, and I think it really does have a right to be proud of the contribution that it's made to the wider region."

St Edmund's was initially opened as a War Memorial College in 1954, built in memory of the many Christian Brothers' students who had died in the two World Wars. It was run by the Christian Brothers until



From the past to the present, St Edmund's College has been one of Canberra's most popular schools, with almost 12,000 students graduating from the school in its 60-year history. PHOTOS: SUPPLIED



1995, when the first lay principal took charge.

Almost 12,000 students have graduated from St Edmund's, many of whom have become leaders in various fields, including the Church. Bishop Pat Power, Mgr John Woods, Fr Julian Wellspring and Fr Luke Verrell are just some of the

former St Edmund's students who have become priests.

Old Boy James Keeley, who graduated in 2001 and now teaches at St Edmund's, said he hopes the school will continue to provide a strong and innovative education while keeping a firm grip on its past.

"I'd love the school to retain

the tradition that it's been built on, the ideas of mateship and camaraderie," he said.

"I'd love to see it remain true to its roots of all boys education... it's something I feel is really beneficial for young men and something that I'd love to see continue for a long, long time."

Called and Gifted bearing good fruits

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

MARY-LOU Pentony never realised she had a gift to encourage others in their spiritual growth until she attended a 'Called and Gifted' workshop.

The Hackett parishioner said the workshop, which aims to help participants discern their spiritual gifts, or charisms, was an answer to prayer.

"For some time I've felt sure that we ordinary Catholics are being called in a special way to help restore the reputation of our Church by reflecting the love of Jesus more clearly," she said. "But how to do it? Like many of us, I'm often more conscious of my weaknesses than of my gifts."

For Ms Pentony, the Called and Gifted workshop gave her the chance to discover her gifts and talents and to practice new ways of using them.

During the workshop, participants were asked to fill out

an inventory, helping them to determine their unique gifts.

"We were given resources to help us continue the discernment process, experimenting gradually in the weeks, months and years ahead, beginning usually with our most likely gift," Ms Pentony said.

"For me, this may be the gift of encouragement – fostering the personal and spiritual growth of individuals. I also enjoy writing, so now I watch less TV and write more letters."

But the Called and Gifted workshops aren't just for adult Catholics. Lara Kirk attended the workshop with three of her five children, and said it was a great opportunity to reflect on how one lives out their faith.

"My teenage and young adult children found it enlightening and so did I," she said.

"It has certainly given them a framework to go forward being aware that they have God-given



From left to right, Fr Paul Uwemedimo MGL, Anna Kirk, 17, Aodhan Kirk, 15, Madeleine Kirk, 19, Lara Kirk and Michelle Emmett. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

gifts which are unique to them and to their calling in life so that they can notice, develop and celebrate those gifts."

Corpus Christi parishioner Lorraine Barker first attended a Called and Gifted workshop nine years ago, and says it has had a significant impact on her life.

"I attribute the Called and Gifted program to my current focus in life really, because it prompted me to early retirement... about three years ago, to meet the new evangelisation," she said. "It was the catalyst in giving me the tools to know how to discern the best way of contributing to the community

of the Church."

Ms Barker said the workshops help people identify the areas where they are gifted, and she said she would recommend it to anyone.

"The weekend is only ever a beginning too, that's what I've found. In learning about it and in presenting the program, I have found that it's just extended my own personal experience, I keep learning things about myself, which is positive," she said.

Earlier this year, the Archdiocese held two Called and Gifted workshops in Canberra and Batemans Bay. Organiser Sharon Brewer said she hopes to run the workshops again next year in both Canberra and the regional areas of the Archdiocese.

For more information or to invite CatholicLIFE to your parish to host a Called and Gifted workshop, call (02) 6163 4300 or email sharon.brewer@catholiclife.org.au.

One year down, many more to go

*It's been almost a year since Archbishop Christopher Prowse was installed as the leader of the Canberra and Goulburn Archdiocese. He spoke to **Matthew Biddle** about his first impressions of Catholics in the region and the challenges for the future...*



WHERE is the Holy Spirit moving in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn?

That's the question Archbishop Christopher Prowse has been trying to answer during his first year leading the Archdiocese.

November 19 marks one year since the Archbishop's installation, and he told *Catholic Voice* he has been impressed by the hospitality of the people of the Archdiocese.

"The people have been very kind and loving towards me," he said. "There's a respect and a welcoming kindness, and generally as I go around the parishes there is a delight that I'm visiting them."

Archbishop Christopher said he had four main goals when he took the role – to visit the Archdiocese extensively, to promote vocations, to make a decision about the Manuka precinct project and to promote evangelisation. He believes he has made good progress on each of these goals.

"I haven't been around to all of the Archdiocese, but I've been to most of the parishes," he said. "Those goals will remain, each one of them I've just started but I will add and modify them as I see what the need is."

"The priests and the permanent deacons I find a great group of very dedicated men... and wanting to get to know them and supporting them and encouraging them in their commitments is another one of my highest priorities."

Visiting some of the more remote parts of the Archdiocese has been a particular highlight for the 60-year-old Archbishop.

"I love meeting people where they are," he said. "My visits to places like Lake Cargelligo, West Wyalong, Merimbula, Moruya, Cooma and Goulburn, where there are great histories of Catholic presence, these are all highlights."

Since his instalment on November 19 at St Christopher's Cathedral, above, Archbishop Christopher Prowse has been busy visiting as many parishes and schools in the Archdiocese as he can, where he says he's been impressed by the hospitality and kindness of the people.

PHOTOS: SUPPLIED

But the year hasn't been without its challenges, the Archbishop added. "One of my major challenges is to ensure that there is an adequate number of priests in the Archdiocese," he said.

"I'm keen to encourage new seminarians for the Archdiocese, supporting the ones who

said, but one that also presents an "opportunity to do better in a very difficult situation".

"I have found that people are hopeful and determined with the priests and the bishops of Australia to work towards better structures and attitudes in this area," he said.

As for the future, the Arch-

"I love meeting people where they are," he said. "My visits to places like Lake Cargelligo, West Wyalong, Merimbula, Moruya, Cooma and Goulburn, where there are great histories of Catholic presence, these are all highlights."

are already there, and also to open the doors to recruiting suitable priests from overseas.

"We seem to have two new seminarians to start next year with the existing five that we have already, and I've also invited six priests from overseas to come and join us over the next year or two because we're very short of priests and need to attend to that immediately."

The Royal Commission into child abuse is a continuing challenge, Archbishop Christopher

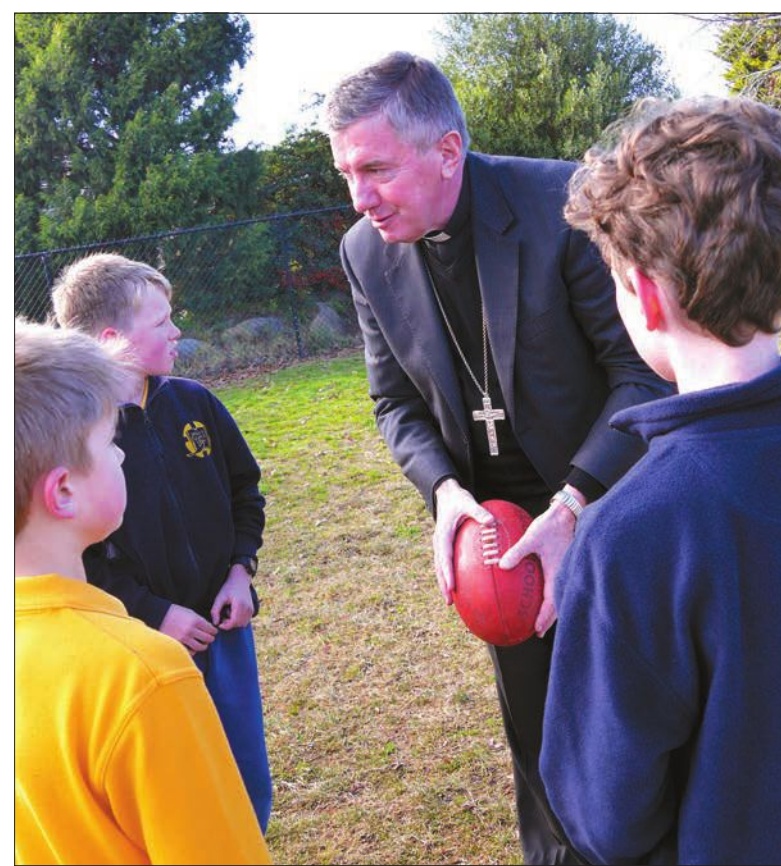
bishop is focusing his attention on the challenges to marriage and family life, beginning with next year's Archdiocesan Assembly.

"I'm very keen to make sure that throughout the whole Archdiocese we, with the Church universal under the leadership of Pope Francis, really focus on the pastoral care of marriage and family life, which everybody understands is undergoing extraordinary challenges today," he said.



Archbishop Christopher has spoken regularly at 'Guinness and God' during his first year in Canberra, above, and has even managed to pass on some of his football knowledge to young Catholics in the Archdiocese, below.

PHOTOS: SUPPLIED



Ordinary men pursuing the *extraordinary*

Alex Osborne, Will Burdett, Namora Anderson and Joshua Scott are four ordinary young men who have their sights set on an extraordinary vocation - priesthood. The seminarians spoke to Matthew Biddle about their unique journeys and the highs and lows of life in the seminary...

THEY were once mechanics, lapsed Catholics, and even agnostics, but they are now the future of the Catholic Church in Canberra and Goulburn.

Seminarians Joshua Scott, Namora Anderson (both fifth year), Alex Osborne and Will Burdett (both fourth year) are based at the Seminary of the Good Shepherd in Homebush, NSW, and are all past the halfway mark of their seminary studies.

Before they become priests, they will be ordained deacons, following the path of current deacons Dominic Byrne, who will be ordained on November 21, and Trenton van Reesch, whose ordination will occur next year.

For the quartet of seminarians, who come from various parts of the Archdiocese, the seminary experience has been unique, due in part to their very different, personal journeys of discernment.

At 22, Alex is the youngest of the group, having joined the seminary after finishing high school as an 18-year-old.

Growing up in England, Alex and his family moved to Canberra in 2004, becoming part of St Thomas Aquinas Parish in Charnwood, where Alex says he discovered his vocation.

"I became very interested in the Church and in the faith, and this was largely due to my parish priest (Fr Neville Drinkwater) who is a wonderful homilist," he says. "Every night I used to read from the lives of the saints.

I began to look at my own life in terms of what's God's purpose was for me.

"Gradually, I came to the realisation that I love to learn about the faith, and I got such a buzz out of trying to share the faith."

After finishing school, Alex decided to give the seminary a go.

"I was pretty sure that I wanted to become a priest," he says. "Coming to the seminary for the first year program gave me the best way of engaging in my vocation."

An art and history enthusiast, Alex says the study load at the seminary hasn't been a problem for him, but there have been other challenges.

"The hardest thing I found was adapting to the routine of waking up early every morning



and going to bed at a responsible time," he says.

Now, with almost four years of seminary experience under his belt, Alex says priesthood appears much closer than it did initially.

"Now that I'm halfway, I wake up in the morning and I think 'I'm going to be a priest in three years, I better get ready, really quickly'," he says.

The next phase in Alex's journey towards priesthood will be a six-month pastoral placement at Young, starting on December 1, which he says he's looking forward to greatly.

Fellow fourth-year seminarian Will Burdett will also commence his pastoral placement at the Temora Mission in December.

The 25-year-old is a product of Corpus Christi Parish – the home of Deacon Trenton and recently ordained Fr Paul Nulley.

The youngest in a family of five, Will says his faith took some time to develop.

"As a young child, we went to Mass every week... but through most of my teenage years we were Christmas and Easter Catholics," he says.

"I started taking more of an interest in religion and faith in the top end of high school, and started getting more involved, largely through school, in little ways."

The idea of becoming a priest had first presented itself when Will was 16, and it started to become stronger when he began working in youth ministry in 2009.

"Travelling around the Archdiocese like we did, I got to know a number of the priests a lot better and got a much more

Above, Will Burdett, left, Alex Osborne, middle, and Joshua Scott, right, share a laugh before leaving for class. Between studies and regular prayer, the seminarians enjoy a variety of recreational activities and weekly fraternity nights. There are more than 40 men studying for the priesthood at Good Shepherd Seminary in Homebush from several dioceses. PHOTOS: LOUI SESELJA



developed idea of what priesthood is, and that encouraged me in a lot of ways to make that decision," he says.

He admits the "novelty" of the seminary has worn off, and says the rigorous studies can take their toll after a few years. "It's just so long, it just keeps going, so keeping motivated with the studies can be a challenge," he says.

"There are challenges of community life as well. People have habits that annoy you... and if you have other stresses, those things can really aggravate you. But as annoying as it can be, it doesn't measure up to all the positives of community life."



Among those positives is the sense of brotherhood that exists among the seminarians, as well as the opportunity to experience pastoral work.

But for Will, the most enjoyable part of seminary life is seeing fellow seminarians receive the gift of ordination.

"For Fr Luke Verrell's ordination I was book-bearer," he says proudly. "During the consecration I was kneeling on the step, literally shoulder-to-shoulder with him... and that was really special."

"Nothing's as exciting as when we have the news that someone's been approved for orders or has a date for ordination."

Representing the NSW part of the Canberra and Goulburn Archdiocese, Joshua Scott and Namora Anderson are part of a unique group of seminarians in their fifth year at Good Shepherd. The class consists of an experimental physicist, a former bodybuilder, an investment banker, an electrician, a tourism officer and a mechanic.

The diverse range of personalities has become a close-knit group, but Namora – the resident mechanic – says it wasn't always that way.

"We didn't get along," he says. "Every person was so different, that at the start we pretty much hated each other... the arguments were pretty intense."

Born and raised in Queanbey-

an, Namora never aspired to the priesthood, and says his faith was rather shallow.

"We always went to Mass, even though, like most teenagers, we didn't really care about it... you just go because you're told to go, but there's no real desire for God," he says.

After finishing high school, Namora became an apprentice



mechanic but says he had no clear plan of what he wanted to do in life.

Incredibly, it was through his association with "some really bad people", that he came to discover God's plan for his life.

"My mates had everything the world says you should want, but they were really hurting inside," he says. "One guy even cried on my shoulder... and that moment broke my understanding of everything."

"Then I really started thinking, if the world is really wrong, then who is right? There must be some truth somewhere. I realised that Jesus is the one with all the answers."

Some time later, Namora says the idea of joining the seminary came to him in prayer.

"It just kept slowly emerging like a gentle wind, it kept bringing back the idea, and it was just so peaceful and fulfilling that I decided to give it a shot," he says.

One of the seminary's practical jokers, Namora believes it is important to retain a sense of fun despite the rigours of

seminary life. "I love joking and mucking around, sometimes I do a lot of pranks in the seminary to lighten the atmosphere, but I realise the seriousness and the importance of it all," he says. A keen European soccer follower, the 25-year-old admits he's neither fond of studying nor reading, preferring a more active lifestyle.

As such, he chose to complete a pastoral placement of 12 months, rather than six, at Moruya Parish, which will finish in December.

"Moruya, like most country parishes, has got a great community, and it's such a great place to grow," he says. "It's been such a learning experience."

While Namora, Will and Alex were all raised Catholic, their fellow seminarian Joshua Scott only became Catholic at the age of 16.

Hailing from Young in NSW, Joshua says his parents had no religious background at all, making his journey from what he describes as agnosticism to Catholicism even more remarkable.

"When I was 16, my sister was diagnosed with an acute form of leukemia and she was quite ill for some time," he recalls.

"During those times I had a lot of really faith-filled people who were Catholics show concern for me and my family, which was very comforting."

"So I explored the question of 'Who is God?' and 'Who is this person that wants to know me?' It was by exploring these questions that I made a decision to become a Catholic. In March 2005, I was baptised along with my two sisters. It was a day that I will never forget."

Joshua says after discovering God, he began to "get to know him" through daily Mass, Adoration and Confession.

"I started to fall in love with the Lord," he says. "As I kept journeying along in life and just doing what normal blokes do... I came to the conclusion that I may be called to priesthood, and so I seriously discerned it."

Joshua says despite the obvious difficulties of being so far from home, he has felt comfortable in the seminary since day one.

"As soon as I walked in [to the seminary], I felt, 'This is it, this is where I'm meant to be' and I haven't looked back," he says.

The 25-year-old is quick to stress that, like other young men, he enjoys recreational time with friends whenever he can.

"Some people think we just sit around and pray all day like monks, or are floating around the ceiling in ecstasy," he says. "We do actually get out and we enjoy ourselves. I hang out with my mates a lot and just do what the majority of normal blokes do, play Xbox and that sort of thing."

"There are a lot of misconceptions people have about seminarians. I feel that we're simply ordinary men pursuing the extraordinary."

Joshua says he simply desires to "bring the heart of Jesus to the world" through priesthood.

"To bring the love of God to all parts of people's lives, the good and the bad, that's why I want to be a priest," he says.

The Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn will hold a vocations weekend on November 21-23. For more information contact Fr Emil Milat on (02) 4474 2024 or via email emil.milat@cg.catholic.org.au.

'Helmsman of the Council' beatified in Rome

BY ANN SCHNEIBLE
CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY

ADDRESSING those gathered in St Peter's Square for the beatification of Pope Paul VI, Pope Francis reminded Christians who live out the Gospel message that they are "God's newness" both "in the Church and in the world".

In his October 19 homily, the Pope said God is "continually surprising us, opening our hearts and guiding us in unexpected ways".

An estimated 70,000 people were present at the Mass to celebrate not only the closing of the Extraordinary Synod on the Family, but also the life of

Blessed Paul VI, who first established the Synod of Bishops as an institution of the Church designed to help the Pope with his magisterial office.

"When we look to this great Pope, this courageous Christian, this tireless apostle," the

"Thank you, our dear and beloved Pope Paul VI... for your humble and prophetic witness of love for Christ."

Holy Father said, in reference to the new blessed, "we cannot but say in the sight of God a word as simple as it is heartfelt and important: thanks.

"Thank you, our dear and beloved Pope Paul VI. Thank

you for your humble and prophetic witness of love for Christ and his Church."

Referring to him has "the great helmsman of the Council", Pope Francis cited Blessed Paul VI's words at the closing of its final session: "Perhaps

Church, and in that way it will be clear that he, and no other, is her guide and saviour".

"In this humility," Pope Francis continued, "the grandeur of Blessed Paul VI shines forth: before the advent of a secularised and hostile society, he could hold

supporter of the mission *ad gentes*", adding that "it is the witness above all of the apostolic exhortation *Evangelii nuntiandi* with which he intended to re-awaken the enthusiasm and the commitment of the Church for the mission".

Pope Francis also mentioned Blessed Paul VI's "profound Marian devotion".

In particular, he noted the new blessed's proclamation of Mary as "Mother of the Church" at the close of the third session of the Second Vatican Council as well as his 1974 apostolic exhortation *Mariialis Cultus*, for the right ordering and development of devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Seminarian rescues Blessed Sacrament

BY JOHN PONTIFEX

BOMBS fall in Northern Iraq and the sound of the explosion sends shock and fear into the hearts of the people.

Amid the sound of crying and frenzied activity, people pack up what belongings they can carry and make off into the night. In the midst of it all stands Martin Baani, a 24-year-old seminarian.

The realisation is dawning on him that this is Karamlesh's last stand.

For 1,800 years, Christianity has had a home in the hearts and minds of the people of this village, full of antiquity. Now that era is about to be brought to a calamitous end; Islamic State are advancing.

Martin's mobile phone rings: a friend stammers out the news that the nearby town of Telkaif has fallen to "Da'ash" – the Arabic name for Islamic State. Karamlesh would surely be next.

Martin dashes out of his aunt's house, where he is staying, and heads for the nearby St Addai's Church. He takes the Blessed Sacrament, a bundle of official papers and walks out of the church. Outside a car awaits – his parish priest, Fr Thabet, and three other priests are inside.

Martin gets in and the car speeds off. They leave Karamlesh and the last remnants of the village's Christian presence go with them.

Speaking to Martin in the calm of St Peter's Seminary, Ankawa, it is difficult to imagine he is describing anything except a bad dream.

But there is nothing dreamy in Martin's expression. "Until the very last minute, the Pashmerga (the Kurdish armed forces protecting the villages) were telling us it was safe," he

explains. "But then we heard that they were setting up big guns on St Barbara's Hill (on the edge of the village) and we knew then the situation was very dangerous."

Taking stock of that terrible night of August 6, Martin's confidence is bolstered by the presence of 27 other seminarians at St Peter's, many with their own stories of escape from the clutches of the Islamic militants.

Martin and his fellow students for the priesthood know that the future for Christianity in Iraq is bleak.

A community of 1.5 million Christians before 2003 has dwindled to less than 300,000. And of those who remain, more than a third are displaced. Many, if not most, want a new life in a new country.

Martin, however, is not one of them. "I could easily go," he explains calmly. "My family now live in California. I already have been given a visa to go to America and visit them."

"But I want to stay. I don't want to run away from the problem."

Martin has already made the choice that marks out the priests who have decided to stay in Iraq; his vocation is to serve the people, come what may.

"We must stand up for our rights; we must not be afraid," he explains. Describing in detail the emergency relief work that has occupied so much of his time, it is plain to see that he feels his place is to be with the people.

Martin is already a sub-deacon. Now in his final year of theology, ordination to the priesthood is – God willing – only a few months away.

"Thank you for your prayers," says Martin, as I take my leave of him. "We count on your support."



Martin Baani in the chapel of St Peter's seminary in Ankawa Erbil in Northern Iraq.

PHOTO: AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED



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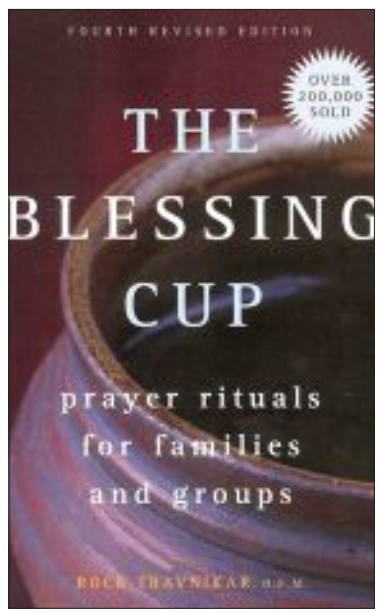


BOOK REVIEWS
BY BRYAN COLEBORNE

The Blessing Cup: Prayer Rituals for Families and Groups, by Fr Rock Travnikar, published by Franciscan Media.

The idea for *The Blessing Cup* is to take a cup, of any material, and to make it central to a family or group which wishes to gather around it for prayer at times of personal significance.

The book is organised into five sections: 'Family Life', 'The Circle of Love', 'In Times of Need', 'Milestones of Christian Life', and 'Holy Days and Holidays'. Each section contains a page that is arranged under the same headings - an opening prayer, a passage of scripture, petitions, a collect and a sharing of the blessing cup in prayer or song. Some examples of specific pages are:



'For the Blessing of a Home', 'For a Local Faith Community', 'When Someone is Ill', and 'In Honour of a First Communion'.

Fr Rock Travnikar is an American Franciscan who adapted *The Blessing Cup* from a similar, smaller book by a Lutheran pastor, Jack Lundin. Now in its fourth edition over a period of 30 years, it has grown with the help of contributions from its readers, who have discovered its value in the development of prayer in family and group life.

Heist film an Aussie gem



MOVIE REVIEWS
BY PETER W. SHEEHAN

SON OF A GUN. Starring Ewan McGregor, Brenton Thwaites, Alicia Vikander, Matt Nable, Damon Herriman, Nash Edgerton, Jacek Koman, Tom Budge. Directed by Julius Avery. 108 minutes. Rated MA 15+ (Strong themes, violence and coarse language).

Son of a Gun is a swaggering kind of title, with the touch of the macho. It is a story of criminals in Western Australia, in prison, out of prison, and carrying off a huge robbery at the Kalgoorlie Gold mines.

The international star is Ewan McGregor, using his Scots accent, playing Brendan, a famous robber, who finds himself in jail, looking for an opportunity to escape, looking for a young patsy he can rely on to make connections when



Ewan McGregor and Brenton Thwaites star in *Son of a Gun*.

PHOTO: ONLINE

he gets out of jail after a short-term sentence.

The young man is played by Brenton Thwaites, a young actor from Cairns who had a stint in *Home and Away*.

JR (Thwaites) meets Brendan in prison, where they form a close bond. Once JR is released, he manages to arrange an escape for Brendan and his close associates, which, when completed, allows them to plan the gold robbery in Kalgoorlie.

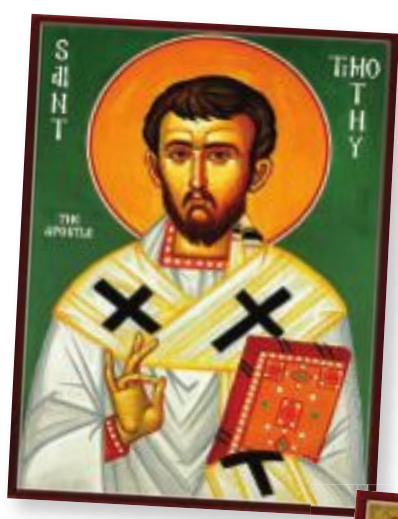
The latter part of the film shows the robbery in detail, the escape, and, as we might have suspected, no honour among thieves. By the end of the film, JR has certainly learnt a lot from Brendan and is shrewd enough to get an upper hand.

The film makes WA look attractive as well as desolate in the mines around Kalgoorlie. And, as heist and caper films go, with its Australian touches, this is quite an – even improbable – entertainment.

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A TIME TO CELEBRATE
BY AOIFE CONNORS

THE most exciting part about having a new baby is waiting to find out who the little person is going to be, says mum of three Katarina Doyle.

“What they will look like, what kind of personality they will have, what changes to the dynamic of the family they will make, and if they will take after any of us,” Katarina explains.

Married to Steve, the couple have three children, five-year-old Joshua, three-year-old

Isabella and baby Emily who is now four months old.

“Our latest addition was baptised at St Peter Chanel’s Church in Yarralumla, by our friend Fr Chris Ryan,” Katarina says.

Named Emily Patricia Doyle, Katarina says she and Steve give each child a middle name after one of their grandparents.

“We feel they were such great teachers to us and great examples of Christian parenting, we want to honour them in this little way,” Katarina says.

She adds that the most challenging aspect of having a baby is sleep deprivation, especially when you are juggling other little ones at the same time.

“While you’re feeding, they have to be patient in whatever they need at that very moment, which can be hard for toddlers who can’t see past the next five minutes,” she laughs.

One of the most important values that Katarina and Steve try to instil in their children is to be kind and caring to others.

“School will teach them to read and write and count and to be social, but it’s our job as parents to teach them values that will help them to be good people,” Katarina says.

“[As parents], we try every day to be better people in the hope they will witness this.”

Being a Catholic parent means putting faith into all facets of our lives, Katarina says.

“Every night before bed and before dinner we pray with the children, and they are able to pray for anyone or anything they wish,” she explains.

“We talk about Jesus, Mary and the saints in our everyday lives as it comes up, so it’s not just something that we do at Mass, but part of who we are.”



Katarina and Steve Doyle with their children, Joshua, 5, Isabella, 3, and baby Emily.

PHOTO: LOUI SESELJA

Love your neighbour more than theology



POSTCARD FROM BOSTON
FR FRANK BRENNAN SJ

THE Boston fall is beautiful. One Sunday afternoon as the motley leaves were falling, I attended a fine celebration at Brandeis University. They bestowed the Gittler Prize for ‘lasting scholarly contributions to racial, ethnic and religious relations’ on Fr Gustavo Gutierrez OP, one of the founders of liberation theology and the author of the 40-year-old classic, *A Theology of Liberation: History, Politics and Salvation*.

Fr Gutierrez was introduced by Fr Walter Cuenin, one of the leading Boston priests who asked Cardinal Bernard Law to move on some years ago. He is now coordinator

of the interfaith chaplaincy at Brandeis.

Fr Gutierrez, 86, waxed eloquent for more than an hour, casting his notes aside. He recalled that the Gospel commissions us to go and make disciples of all nations, not to do theology. Recalling the par-

For Fr Gutierrez, writing theology is like writing a love letter to and about his God and about his Church.

able of the Good Samaritan, he indicated that the question, ‘Who is my neighbour?’ goes unanswered because it places the self at the centre. Rather, Jesus asks ‘Who was neighbour to the one fallen by the

wayside?’ So we are called to go out, in relationship, constituting neighbourhoods. He reminded us that Pope Francis is fond of urging people to go to the periphery, to the margins.

A journalist once asked Fr Gutierrez if he would write the same book on liberation theology 40 years on. In reply he asked the journalist if he would write the same love letter to his beloved many years after their courtship. For Fr Gutierrez, writing theology is like writing a love letter to and about his God and about his Church. He would write differently today but with the same sentiment.

The preferential option for the poor is not an option for the spiritually poor. The spiritually poor are saints and they are easy to love. The option is for the poor who face an end to their life before their time, those whom Hannah Arendt said do not have the right to their rights. We are not to be the voice of the voiceless. The voiceless must find their voice.

FIVE MINUTES WITH...
ARCHBISHOP PAUL
GALLAGHER



Archbishop Paul Gallagher has been Australia’s Apostolic Nuncio to the Holy See since December 2012, having previously filled the same role in Guatemala.

What’s a typical day like?

A typical day starts with Mass in the Nunciature Chapel at 7.30am with the Sisters who work in the Chancery and look after the domestic arrangements. This is followed by a period of prayer and breakfast. At 9am we start in the office. The morning is occasionally interrupted by visitors or engagements outside. A light lunch follows at 1pm. After a traditional early afternoon pause, I work through until Vespers, which, as often as I can manage it, is followed by a swim in the pool of a local health club. This has taken the place of tennis in my life, which I played for 47 years until my knees told me they had had enough! Dinner is usually at 8pm.

My philosophy on life is...

My philosophy of life is trying to live as a Christian in a thankful way, acknowledging my many blessings and God’s providential love. At best I try to take things a day at a time, and not plan too much for the future. The God of surprises has usually turned things upside down, when I have tried to plot the future.

A typical weekend?

Weekends here are often spent away from Canberra. There are a good number of invitations to visit communities and celebrate Mass with them. There are also meetings and conferences. If I am in Canberra, I say Mass at the Carmelite Monastery on Saturday morning, and then I try to catch up on my personal correspondence and “put my affairs in order”. The weekend also offers the opportunity to do a little shopping and go to the cinema, take a walk round Lake Burley Griffin or up on Red Hill, or meet up with some friends.

Who inspires you?

Although there are people I admire, even revere, I think the person who inspires me most is the common man or woman, the person in the pew, who lives their faith in quiet commitment, often bearing a heavy cross without grumbling. For me these are the real heroes: the parent with the handicapped child; the carer of an elderly person suffering from dementia; the long-term unemployed who keep their dignity; the volunteer who help out at Vinnies, etc.

What are your hobbies?

I like reading, but I am not a great reader, as I fall asleep too easily and take too long to read any book. My life has always involved travelling, so I cherish stability and look forward to giving up flying when I retire. I enjoy cooking. I taught myself when I lived in an apartment in Rome, and I find it very therapeutic. I have a certain nostalgia for my own kitchen.

Tell me about your family...

My mother at 86 still lives in the family home in Liverpool and is very independent. My sister lives in South London with her husband. Their three boys are all living away now: two with their own families in England and one in Hong Kong. My sister Patricia is the principal of a Girls’ Catholic Secondary School and is passionate about her job. My brother John and his family are based in Norwich, East Anglia; he works for a taxi company.

How does your Catholic faith help you?

The Catholic faith is my life. It challenges me every day, inviting me to conversion, repentance and commitment to the Gospel. Without it I think I would have turned out very mediocre and selfish.

You don't have to be superman to be a good dad



BEING A DAD
BY BRIAN CURTIS

MY father was a genius at three things. Believing in me. Being there for the big moments. And infecting his kids with a love of the outdoors.

Like my relationship with each of my own seven kids, my relationship with my father was a little different from that he had with each of my siblings. But that is how it should be, for, as dad would say, each of us is different and special in our own way. Growing up in a family with two brothers who were adopted and looking very different from me, dad said he always wanted to wake up and see a rainbow of smiles – each one unique.

In his letter to the Thessalonians, St Paul had his own list of what being a father is: to encourage, to comfort and to urge his children to live lives worthy of God. My father was not a Bible scholar, but he was definitely on the same wave length as the man from Tarsus when it came to fathering.



From left to right, Peter, Joseph, Ben (lying down), Gerard, Michael and John with Brian Curtis and his father Tom. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Dad was forever saying he was proud of me, and as a kid, you could never get tired of this. He would also drop everything, it seemed, to turn up for the big swimming carnival I was in, or the school play. For each of his kids, he was there when it mattered most.

As a civil engineer, dad worked overseas for all my years growing up, first in

Malaysia, then Canada, and then for many years in Jakarta, Indonesia. Bringing his family wherever he went, we grew up as a close knit mob - dad, mum and five kids. We learnt as kids how blessed we were, growing up as very privileged expats in Indonesia, where extensive third world poverty is very evident. Dad never tired in reminding us kids to 'thank God', not just

for our material blessings, but for the most important things in life: our faith, our health and our family.

Dad used to take us sailing, often on overnight voyages. He always had a thermos of coffee to keep him awake, and I liked to stay awake with him as much as I could. It was a thrilling feeling, sailing at midnight, on a clear night, seeing the Jakarta

lights fading behind us, out into the big open darkness.

Dad was never afraid of letting me shoulder responsibility. One night I will never forget, when as a young teenager, he handed me the tiller a little past midnight, once we were out of the shipping lanes, pointed to the compass for the direction to head, and told me to wake him up in an hour while he had a sleep downstairs. Me, on the deck on my own, with all the family asleep in the hold, with the responsibility of steering the ship either to safety or to its doom. What tremendous confidence such huge responsibility gave me!

It is hard to be objective about my own fathering, but easier to judge my own father. History will judge him kindly. Dad did not leave any great monetary inheritance for us - he believed in spending it on his kids while we were growing up. Unlike St Paul, dad never gave us any epistles. But he gave us what he could, his values and his love. Dad did his best. I will count myself a successful father if I do the same.

P.S. My dad is not dead yet. I wanted to give him a eulogy ahead of time. I am not sure how good the audio will be inside the coffin. Wishing you the best of health dad!

Pope challenges youth to swim against the tide



FOLLOWING FRANCIS
BY CATHY RANSOM

OVER the past few weeks families have been encouraged by the energy and dynamism of Pope Francis and his determination for the Church family to do some down-to-earth talking.

There is a sense of hope and interest in the Synod on the Family, and not just among Catholics, but the broader community as well.

The world seems captivated by our fatherly leader – our Pope – who is not afraid to tell it 'as it is' and who has urged us to talk about the awkwardness and messiness of family life.

While many would consider Pope Francis a reformer, the Pope has called on us to be "revolutionaries" by actually rediscovering something that has been around for a long time, the gift of the Sacrament of Marriage.

Marriage is an institution that many of us take for granted, but Pope Francis wants Catholics, particularly young adults, to look at it with fresh eyes.

Speaking at World Youth Day this year in July, he said:

"Today, there are those who say that marriage is out of fashion. Is it out of fashion?... They say it is not worth making a life-long commitment, making a definitive decision, 'forever', because we do not know what tomorrow will bring. I ask you, instead to be revolutionaries, I ask you to swim against the tide."

Pope Francis wants Catholics to look at marriage with fresh eyes.

Pope Francis challenges young people to go against the culture that "sees everything as temporary" and to discover the joy that comes through a life-long commitment.

True joy, he says, comes when we have the courage to swim against the tide and embrace the unique vocation that God has designed for our happiness, which for many, will be marriage.

Having issued the challenge, Pope Francis explains that at the heart of a husband and wife's marriage journey, is the love of Christ. No matter what our state in life, we are reminded

that our strength ultimately comes from the heart of God - from the Spirit who enables us to follow in the footsteps of Christ and to be his light to the world.

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Sacred Heart moving with the times

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

WITH a new iPad program, 30 enthusiastic staff, and 366 bright young students, Sacred Heart Primary School in Pearce is thriving as it nears 50 years since its establishment.

Principal Anne Staines, who started at Sacred Heart in 2012 after serving as principal at St Benedict's Primary School in Narrabundah, says the school strives to prepare children for the future and cater for their individual needs.

"Our vision is to provide a safe and happy place for the children to learn, which is not uncommon to any school," she said.

"Also, education reflects the time in which children live, so hence using technology as best as we can, but not as a replacement for, say an overhead projector. We actually use the capacity of technology to improve opportunities for children.

"A child who had difficulty handwriting can now use technology to show their understanding and what it means in a very creative and different way, so they can now succeed where they sometimes couldn't."

Students in Years 3-6 at Sacred Heart are taking part in the 'Bring Your Own Device' program, where each child brings an iPad to school, or is provided with one. The school is one of the first in the ACT to adopt the program.

Ms Staines said the school was also trying to improve its facilities to reflect its vision for catering to individuals' needs.

"You'll see lots of different furniture that tries to suit those children who need to

move all the time, so there's stools that wobble, there's also lounges where the children can sit and relax and read," she explained.

Ms Staines said she has several hopes for the school's future.

"[We hope] to continue to build community, and to continue to change the physicality of the school, so it reflects more clearly what we're doing in the classrooms," she said.

"Our prime purpose is to provide quality teaching and learning and therefore every decision we make is about improving that."

The school was opened and blessed in 1970, and several Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions taught the children until 1983.

The Sisters relinquished the principalship of Sacred Heart Primary in 1980, after which the first lay principal, Pat Clark, took charge.



Right, teacher Laura Stumbles assists Logan Stewart during an English class, while below, Year Three students Helena Angelos and Kahlia Athanasiou show off their school iPads. PHOTOS: LOUI SESELJA



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CATHOLIC VOICE Yours FREE every month

North Woden celebrates community

North Woden parishioners gathered for their annual parish dinner recently, and it was an opportunity for all to get to know one another better.

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

THE Parish of the Transfiguration in North Woden held its annual parish dinner recently, with about 80 people gathering at the Southern Cross Club for an evening of socialising and thanksgiving.

Parishioner Margaret O'Donovan has been organising the event for the past eight years, and said it's a great way for parishioners to get to know one another.

"You know most of the people who are there but you don't always sit down and actually talk to them," she said.

The parish is a combination of the Sts Peter and Paul Church in Garran and Holy Trinity Church in Curtin, both of which are also home to associated primary schools. As a result, the parish is large and includes people of all ages, according to Mrs O'Donovan.

"There are some young families with children at the school, and then there are older, more established families whose children used to go to the school and who are now older and retired," she said.

Principal of Daramalan College Rita Daniels was the event's guest speaker, and she talked about the important networks that can be built between parishes and schools.



Last year, North Woden parish priest Fr Tony Frey celebrated 40 years since his ordination to the priesthood.

At the 2013 parish dinner, Fr Frank Brennan SJ paid tribute to Fr Tony, thanking him for four decades of "exemplary pastoral service making him the go-to priest for so many people in Canberra during their hour of need or on their special day of celebration".

Mrs O'Donovan echoed Fr Frank's words in her praise of

Fr Tony. "He's the most fantastic man, he doesn't put obstacles in anyone's way, he's trying to make everything doable," she said.

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Clockwise from top right, Norma and Jack Crosby, John and Nora Calolo, and Ros and Peter Phillips.
PHOTOS: LOUI SESELJA



Above, Margaret O'Donovan and principal of Holy Trinity Primary School Judy Spence; left, principal of Daramalan College Rita Daniels and North Woden parish priest Fr Tony Frey; bottom left, Anne and Bob Perkins with their son Andrew; below, Holy Trinity deputy principal Cameron Tarrant with his wife Janelle.
PHOTOS: LOUI SESELJA



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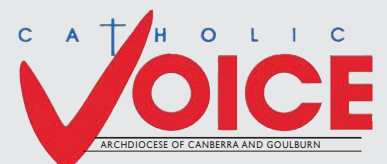
Melinda Tankard Reist, author and speaker will be presenting 'The Effects of Pornography.'

For more information please contact youth_events@catholiclife.org.au

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Event officially starts at 7.30pm, but generally live music from 6.30pm.



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

Archdiocesan Coming Events

CENTREING PRAYER

RETREAT: 4pm, Tuesday, November 4 to after lunch Thursday, November 6, St Clement's Monastery, Gelong. With DVDs by Trapist 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 FOU-

CAULD: His journey – Our journey – A weekend retreat directed by Fr Peter Ryan CSsR at St Clement's, Gelong, 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, 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.

AFRICAN MASS: The monthly African Mass for November will be celebrated by the Apostolic Nuncio to Australia, Archbishop Paul Gallagher, at St Peter Chanel Catholic Church, Cnr Weston and Loch Street, Yarralumla, on Sunday, November 16 at 11.30am. Fundraising to support the fight against the Ebola virus in Africa.

PARISH ASSEMBLY:

On the topic of 'How does Pope Francis challenge our Parish Community?' at St Thomas the Apostle Parish, Kambah. Wednesday, November 26, at 6.30pm for a 7pm start, concluding at 10pm. More details will be provided in parish bulletins in the coming weeks.

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION:

Fr Laurence Freeman OSB, an English Benedictine monk who teaches meditation in the Christian tradition around the world, is to be in Canberra for a few days in early December. He is the spiritual guide and director of the World Community for Christian Meditation – an ecumenical and global spiritual community. The Australian Christian Meditation Community is hosting Fr Freeman's series of talks "Christian Meditation – the Heart of Creation" on Friday, December 5 (7.30pm to 9.30pm) and Saturday, December 6 (9.30am to 3.30pm) at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, Blackall Street, Barton, ACT. The talks will be opened on the first evening by Archbishop Christopher Prowse, proceedings on day two will be opened by Anglican Bishop George Browning, and the closure



will be conducted by Rev Ivan Roberts, Uniting Church Canberra region presbytery chairperson. Advance bookings are essential, via a form available on the website (www.christianmeditationaustralia.org) or phone (02) 6281 2378. Additionally, clergy and religious of all denominations are invited to a morning retreat with Fr Freeman on Monday, December 8 at the same venue. Contact Rod on 0401 731 918 or Fr Simon Falk (simon.falk@cg.catholic.org.au) for more information or to register.



WE gathered as one, whether as school communities or united as parishes across the Archdiocese, to celebrate and support Mission during World Mission Week. Fr Varghese Vavolil, administrator of the Cathedral, led our Mission Mass celebrations and shared with students, teachers and CEO staff about mission as he has experienced it and shedding light on this year's theme, 'When I grow up, I want to be ... ALIVE'.

Many faith communities throughout the world and within remote Australia rely on our support to exist and to reach out to others.

To share an awareness of and a sense of supporting mission with those you love, consider our 'Life-Giving Gifts' this Christmas. These donations come with a Christmas card carrying a mission story. The full list of gifts can be explored at catholicmission.org.au, and scroll down to click on 'Life-Giving Gifts'.

After 13 years as diocesan director of Catholic Mission, I am ceasing in the role and a new director will prayerfully take up the reins of this most important work to facilitate and promote Christ's mission. Thank you for your support over many years and prayers as I continue my ministry within the Archdiocese.

Help bring faith alive with hope.

God Bless,

Deacon Joe Blackwell

The Rheinberger Centre, PO Box 7174, Yarralumla ACT 2600.

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Telephone: (02) 6163 4321

ST MARY'S 80TH ANNIVERSARY: Mass to celebrate the 80th anniversary of St Mary's Catholic Church, Tuena will be held there on Sunday, November 23 at 12pm. The church was built during the Great Depression of the 1930s, and initially could seat about 70 people. It was a part of the Laggan Parish from 1956 until 1973, before becoming a part of the Crookwell Parish. In the 1990s a restoration committee was formed, overseeing extensive repair work to the building, most of which was done on a voluntary basis. The church was re-dedicated in 1996 once the work was complete. Everyone is welcome to attend the celebrations for St Mary's 80th anniversary. As a light luncheon will be available afterwards an indication of numbers planning to attend would be much appreciated. Phone: (02) 4834 5120, (02) 4834 5283, or (02) 4834 5267 for more information or to register your attendance.



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Former stars outline sport's potential for social change

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

"THE best [sporting] cultures are ones that are built on very strong values and virtues," former Wallaby Joe Roff told those gathered for a public forum discussing sport and social justice on October 15.

Mr Roff joined former national soccer player Sally Shipard, ABC broadcaster Tim Gavel and Fr Peter Day in discussing the implications of this year's social justice statement, 'A Crown for Australia: Striving for the best in our sporting nation'.

About 60 people attended the forum at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, which was organised by the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council (ACSJC).

Mr Roff, who described himself as an "adequate Catholic" who strives to be better, spoke of the opportunities sport provided him and how they shaped the person he has become.

While acknowledging that sport has "extremism" that brings out its worst qualities, Mr Roff said sport also challenges the virtues of those involved.

"You can't shirk the decisions that you make in your sporting career and the values that you stand by," he said.

"The further you go up the chain the more those get tested. You have to maintain your balance of virtues."

Mr Gavel, during his opening comments, praised the statement for encouraging a "back to basics" approach.

"I think we have lost sight of the true essence of what sport is all about," he said.

"Sport can be something that can change society, and I think that's where we have a great responsibility."

Schools get the points at Boorowa



On October 17, almost 150 schools took part in the annual touch rugby and netball carnival at Boorowa, including many Catholic schools. Above, St Thomas More Primary School students take aim during the netball competition, while below, students from Sts Peter and Paul Primary School show their skills at touch rugby. PHOTOS: SUPPLIED



Tipping comp strengthens parish community

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

AUSTRALIANS' passion for sport can be successfully used in combination with their faith – just ask parishioners at Corpus Christi Parish in South Tuggeranong.

For the past four years, the parish has been running a football tipping competition that has successfully helped parishioners who have little or no involvement in the parish to form friendships through their common love of sport.

Additionally, the competi-



John Brewer, right, with 2014 winner Neil Kinsella and his son Darcy. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

tion has doubled as a form of alms giving, with funds raised going towards helping a Vietnamese school for orphans.

Parishioner John Brewer came up with the idea to run a tipping competition, initially just covering the AFL.

"After Mass often I'd be talking with a few friends about the weekend's matches and what had happened, and so we thought we might as well have a tipping competition," he explained.

"We started off doing an AFL competition, and then people said they wanted other codes covered, so then I started an NRL competition and a Super 15 competition as well."

The avid Port Adelaide supporter said he believed the competition provided many social benefits for the parish.

"It's a good way to connect with people... who are not active in the parish in other regards," Mr Brewer said. "It's also a good way to break the ice, a conversation point."

The majority of participants are Corpus Christi parishioners, ranging in age from as young as seven through to some in their 70s.

Mr Brewer said there were about 60 participants in the competitions across the three codes this year, with about \$500 raised for the Vietnamese school.