

# CATHOLIC Voice



## Linda's century

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Sisters continue the legacy of Mother Teresa in Queanbeyan

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ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GILLBURN

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## Season of penance begins

BEFORE we can determine our penitential actions during Lent, we must first ask ourselves what has God done for us in our lives, Archbishop Christopher Prowse told those gathered for Mass on Ash Wednesday at St Christopher's Cathedral.

"At the beginning of this penitential season of the Church on the way to Easter, let us thank God particularly for all the many blessings he has given us, and in that light take out the darkness in our heart, turn to him, be forgiven by him and be radiant in him," the Archbishop said.

The season of Lent began on February 18, and concludes on Holy Thursday, April 2.

**Archbishop's Lenten pastoral letter – Page 2.**

Archbishop Christopher Prowse marks the forehead of parishioners with ashes during Ash Wednesday Mass on February 18 at St Christopher's Cathedral.

PHOTO: LOUI SESELJA

# Australia's new Apostolic Nuncio

POPE Francis has appointed Archbishop Adolfo Tito Yllana as the new Apostolic Nuncio to Australia.

The Titular Archbishop of Montecorvino will fill the position vacated by Archbishop Paul Gallagher, who was appointed as the Vatican's Secretary for Relations with States in November last year.

Archbishop Yllana was born in the Philippines, and was ordained in 1972. Following his doctorate in civil and canon law, Archbishop Yllana completed post-graduate studies in

international diplomacy at the Pontifical Ecclesiastical Academy in Rome.

Archbishop Yllana was appointed Apostolic Nuncio to Papua New Guinea and Titular Archbishop of Montecorvino in December 2001. He was ordained a bishop on January 6, 2002.

A month later, Archbishop Yllana was appointed Apostolic Nuncio to the Solomon Islands and later appointed Apostolic Nuncio to Pakistan in 2006. His appointment as Apostolic

Nuncio to the Democratic Republic of Congo took place on November 20, 2010.

The 67-year-old speaks English, Spanish, Italian and French.

President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Archbishop Denis Hart welcomed the appointment.

"Archbishop Yllana brings wide and diverse experience, great faith and priestly gifts. We assure him of a warm and enthusiastic welcome upon his arrival and service here in Australia," he said.



Archbishop Adolfo Yllana in the Democratic Republic of Congo. PHOTO: ONLINE



## ARCHBISHOP CHRISTOPHER'S DIARY

**March 4th**  
10.30am Signing agreement  
ACTRCLA/CatholicLIFE -  
Rheinberger Centre  
7pm Archdiocesan principals retreat  
- Bowral

**March 5th**  
All day - Archdiocesan principals  
retreat - Bowral

**March 6th**  
6.30pm Lenten Devotion - St  
Christopher's Cathedral

**March 8th**  
11am Mass - St Christopher's  
Cathedral

**March 10th**  
7pm Guinness and God: Human  
Virtues - King O'Malley's Irish Pub,  
Civic

**March 12th**  
9am Bishops of NSW/ACT meeting  
- Sydney

**March 13th-15th**  
Parish visitation - Bega

**March 15th**  
10am 15th anniversary of St Patrick's  
Church and installation of acolytes  
- Bega

**March 20th**  
10am ACU graduation Mass  
6.30pm Archdiocesan Assembly  
Opening Mass - St Christopher's  
Cathedral

**March 21st**  
8am Archdiocesan Assembly

**March 22nd**  
11am Mass: Commissioning  
catechists/children and youth  
ministry - St Christopher's  
Cathedral

**March 25th**  
10.30am Morning tea with inter-  
religious leaders - Archbishop's  
House

**March 26th**  
9.30am Goulburn Correctional  
Centre - Goulburn  
12.30pm Student leaders barbecue -  
Archbishop's House

**March 27th**  
6.45am Mass - St Christopher's  
Cathedral  
10.30am Visit to Villaggio Sant  
Antonio - Page  
6.30pm Lenten Devotion - St  
Christopher's Cathedral

**March 28th**  
10am Annual consecration of Our  
Lady (ACIES) Mass - St Joseph's  
Parish, O'Connor

**March 29th**  
11am Mass with Knights and  
Dames of the Equestrian  
Order of the Holy Sepulchre -  
St Christopher's Cathedral

**March 30th**  
7.30pm Chrism Mass - St  
Christopher's Cathedral

## Lenten Pastoral Letter 2015

# The victory of crucified love remains incomplete



ARCHBISHOP'S MESSAGE  
ARCHBISHOP  
CHRISTOPHER PROWSE

DEAR friends in Christ,

We have now begun our annual penitential Lenten season as we journey together towards Easter.

It is a time of conversion. A time of coming home to the essentials of our shared life in Christ Jesus, Crucified and Risen!

We all really need this time. We become so easily "cluttered" in our everyday lives. Things we think we need, we don't really need. Things we feel should happen are not all that essential. Our priorities need to be washed and cleansed in the redeeming blood of the "Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world".

Indeed, life can become so "cluttered" that we eventually give up on trying to walk the road of conversion in Christ. It all seems too hard! We can then become indifferent to our relationship with Jesus and then our life with others, especially the poor and oppressed.

This indifference is the theme of the 2015 Message for Lent by His Holiness, Pope Francis.

The Pope writes to us saying: "Our heart grows cold. As long as I am relatively healthy and comfortable, I don't think about those less well off. Today, this selfish attitude of indifference has taken on global proportions, to the extent that we can speak of a globalisation of indifference."

I wish to offer two suggestions to assist us all during Lent to overcome this situation of indifference.

*1. How do we turn around a heart that is growing cold?*

Simply, we place our cold hearts into the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Here we find the fire of God's love for humanity. The love between God the Father and God the Son is pure love. The Holy Spirit is the way for the transformation of cold hearts into this sharing in the fire of divine love.

Essentially this becomes a fact and not just a dream via prayer. I have noticed, for example, that there are a good number of Catholics in the

act of paying attention and truly listening to the Holy Spirit deep within us all.

**Then there is STILLNESS**

As with silence, stillness has both interior and exterior dimensions. There needs to be physical stillness. Again this is not easy in a world of perpetual movement. But physical stillness helps to still the mind and heart. We focus on Jesus within us. Try it! It will take time! Be patient!

**Lastly, there is SIMPLICITY**

We do not have to perform in prayer. We do not have to tell Jesus all the great things we are doing and slide over the things we are not doing. Prayer is about presence not perfor-

my Cross. These were moments of profound encounter with the Crucified Jesus. My heart reached out to them. My strong and urgent desire was to assist practically in any way I could.

Pope Francis reminds us of the immortal words of St Therese of Lisieux who summarises, that even after our deaths, the Christian desire to help those crying out in pain. "I trust fully that I shall not remain idle in heaven; my desire is to continue to work for the Church and for souls," (Letter 254, July 4, 1897).

There can be no indifference from those who pray and express their prayer in practical action for the poor. Let us examine our consciences on this Gospel yardstick in our Lenten conversion journey to Easter.

God bless you all. You are daily in my prayer and heart. Please pray for me too.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse  
Catholic Archbishop of  
Canberra and Goulburn

## It is a time of conversion. A time of coming home to the essentials of our shared life in Christ Jesus, Crucified and Risen!

Archdiocese who do stop every day for silent prayer. Even if this time is short it is often deep. Others have committed themselves to a more disciplined daily 20 minute practice of contemplative prayer. All find this time energising for the rest of the day and helpful with their sacramental participation for Mass.

There may be many wholesome methods of contemplative prayer but, as Fr Laurence Freeman OSB instructed us on a recent visit to the Archdiocese, it always requires of us three things all beginning with 'S'.

**There is SILENCE**

Being silent in a noisy world is not as easy as it seems. But real silence is not simply an absence of noise. It is an interior

mance. Simply being in the presence of Jesus and waiting on him is superior prayer. It is the prayer of Mary, who simply treasures and ponders all that the Lord is doing within her. Let us imitate Mary!

*2. How do we turn around a heart that is indifferent to the least in the Kingdom of God?*

The lesson of the Scriptures insists that the Love of God, as encouraged above in prayer, must lead to love of neighbour.

Recently, I returned from visiting the oppressed Christian communities in the Middle East. I met so many really desperate families. It was interesting for me to observe that so many I met immediately took my pectoral cross around my neck into their hands and kissed it. They motioned me to bless them with

Register at [www.embrace2015.org.au](http://www.embrace2015.org.au)

20 March: Mass 21 March: Talks & Expo  
St Clare's College, Griffith, ACT



# 2015 Archdiocesan Assembly



# Schools urged to be places of prayer, not just good works

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

PERFORMING good works for others can only be beneficial if it is accompanied by a spirit of prayer, Archbishop Christopher Prowse told staff and students of St Edmund's College at the school's opening Mass last month.

In a challenging homily, the Archbishop referred to prayer as "breathing in" – a necessary preparation for "breathing out" in good works.

"In Australia, today, and believe it or not, even in some Catholic organisations because they've taken their eyes off Jesus, they tend to exaggerate the breathing out," he said.

"It's all about doing things for others, especially the poor, which is fine, but before you can do that - breathing out, exhausting yourself as it were

for the sake of the kingdom of God - breath in. And breathing in we call prayer.

"Always be suspicious of anybody who continually talks about giving to others and they never talk to you about prayer. Be suspicious of them because they've only got it half right."

Archbishop Christopher,

or they pray the Angelus," he said.

"I don't want students... who are great at breathing out (good works) but wouldn't have a clue on breathing in (prayer). You're only living your humanity halfway."

The Archbishop praised the Catholic Schools Youth

"I don't want anybody on the staff of St Edmund's to have an overly corporate model of education," he said.

"I don't really care... if your school hums like a beautiful Mercedes Benz and is very organised.

"I don't want a machine. I want the living presence of

benefit of charitable works done for others, the Archbishop said school literature sometimes exaggerates the notion of justice.

"I want justice, but justice has different definitions," he said. "The Biblical definition of justice is the mercy of God. I don't see that too much in the literature.

"I don't want a philanthropic Catholic education system. I want a Catholic education system in this Archdiocese that is unashamedly Catholic, unashamedly breathes in the life of Jesus, encounters Jesus Christ, and because of that the works of justice, mercy and peace flow naturally.

"Please don't be talking all about justice and never talk about the religious dimension, otherwise you're a secularist in a Catholic school."

**"I don't want a philanthropic Catholic education system. I want a Catholic education system in this Archdiocese that is unashamedly Catholic," - Archbishop Christopher Prowse.**

who was educated in the Edmund Rice tradition himself, said school days should be "peppered with" prayer.

"I've been in some of the schools around Canberra and it's great, at midday they have bells going and people stop for a moment, and have a silent time

Ministry Australia (CSYMA) program, which was established by St Edmund's in 2007 and has since been adopted by secondary schools around Australia.

Addressing the school's staff, Archbishop Christopher stressed the importance of retaining the school's Catholic identity.

Christ in this school.

"Sometimes I think the students are leading the staff. Whether you're a Catholic or not, you are in a Catholic school and as the Archbishop I'm saying I want the Catholic identity there to be strong."

While acknowledging the

# Filipino community celebrates in style

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

CANBERRA'S Filipino community came together to celebrate the national feast day of the Philippines on February 1 with a special Mass at St Christopher's Cathedral.

Mass for the feast of Santo Nino, or the Infant Jesus, was celebrated by Archbishop Christopher Prowse, with the assistance of several other priests.

During his homily, the Archbishop spoke of the devotion and holiness of Catholics in the Philippines.

"I've always thought wherever there are Filipinos in our parishes throughout Australia, that parish is blessed," he said.

One of the event's organisers Rosa Stephens said the event demonstrated the strength and numbers of the Filipino community in the Archdiocese.

The community is involved in several initiatives, including a prayer group in honour of Our Lady of Fatima and the international lay movement, Couples for Christ.

"Last August the Missionaries of Charity and Fr Troy Bobbin organised couples and successfully started this group in Queanbeyan," Ms Stephens said.

"The Missionaries of Charity have also requested the Filipino group to take turns cooking for the people at Ainslie Village and we are delighted to be doing that."

It is hoped that the celebration of the feast of Santo Nino will be held annually at St Christopher's Cathedral.



Above and below, Archbishop Christopher Prowse joins Filipino Catholics in celebrating the feast of Santo Nino, the patron of the Philippines.

PHOTOS: SUPPLIED





# Linda still a picture of health at 100

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

FROM World Wars and the Second Vatican Council to the advent of television and computers – Queanbeyan parishioner Linda Moore has lived through all of it and much, much more.

Mrs Moore celebrated her 100th birthday on January 20 with family and friends, and says she was thrilled to receive congratulatory letters from the Queen, the Governor-General and the local Mayor.

But when Queanbeyan parish priest Fr Troy Bobbin gave Mrs Moore a special apostolic blessing on behalf of Pope Francis at the following weekend's Mass, she was even more delighted.

"It was a great surprise. I didn't know anything was happening, I was just told I had to be there rain, hail or shine," Mrs Moore, who is a picture of health, told *Catholic Voice*.

When asked how she has managed to live such a long and happy life, the great-grandmother is quick to say there's no great secret.

"Everyone wants to know that," she says.

"I just lived a normal life and the years went by."

Fr Troy said Linda was a highly respected and loved member of the St Gregory's Parish community.

"Her greatest gift to the Church is the fact that people see a 100-year-old turn up [to Mass] every week," he said.

"Linda is one of those people who just lives out her faith."

Mrs Moore, who has three children, six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren, was born in Queanbeyan in 1915, and was a part of St Patrick's Parish in Michelago where she was baptised, confirmed and married.

In 1972, along with her husband Noel, Mrs Moore moved back to Queanbeyan, where



Linda Moore, centre, with daughters Janice, left, and Clare, right, and granddaughter Charlotte. Mrs Moore, a parishioner at St Raphael's in Queanbeyan, turned 100 on January 20 and was given a special apostolic blessing from Fr Troy Bobbin on behalf of Pope Francis the following weekend. PHOTO: MATTHEW BIDDLE

she has become somewhat of a celebrity.

"Everybody knows her, she's well-respected around town," daughter Clare says.

Mrs Moore's popularity is

friends.

Her two daughters, Janice and Clare, visit their mother daily, but say the centenarian is quite capable of looking after herself.

## "The kids all say 'Don't Google, ring Nanny'. She's got a really good memory and she keeps up to date with all the news."

evident from the vast array of birthday cards – numbering more than 70 – that are spread throughout her lounge room, most of which are from local

"She has really good health," Clare says. "She's got bad hearing, but that's the only thing. She still does everything."

"We idolise her. She's been a

really good mum so it's payback really, we're giving back what we were given."

In her youth, Mrs Moore was a keen sportswoman, and was part of the first women's cricket

"She knows everything," Clare says. "The kids all say 'Don't Google, ring Nanny'. She's got a really good memory and she keeps up to date with all the news."

When asked if she can keep going for many more years, Mrs Moore simply replied with a laugh, "I think that might be a bit hard".

In the meantime, Mrs Moore says she intends to continue enjoying every day of her life, as she has done for the past 100 years.

team in Michelago in 1932.

Today, she still enjoys watching tennis and cricket, as well as tuning in regularly to watch various trivia shows.

# Youth leaders inspired for ministry in 2015

DURING the last weekend in January, 20 youth leaders from across the Archdiocese gathered for formation and practical assistance in running their local youth groups.

Representatives from the parishes of Yass, Merimbula, South Tuggeranong, South Woden, Gungahlin and Queanbeyan listened to keynote speakers address the eight focus areas that can provide direction for how parishes run their local youth activities. These focus areas are set

down in the document *Anointed and Sent*, an Australian vision for Catholic youth ministry prepared by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and include: prayer and worship, catechesis, evangelisation, pastoral care, community life, leadership development, justice and service and advocacy.

The formation weekend was held at the Polish Centre in Narrabundah and was facilitated by the Office for Youth and Young Adults. Participants

also gained an understanding of the different ways youth ministry is conducted in other parishes, enjoyed great fellowship and attended Mass with Archbishop Christopher Prowse at the Cathedral on Sunday morning.

If your parish would like help establishing a youth group or forming your current youth leaders please contact the Archdiocesan coordinator for youth and young adults, Stuart West on 0401165655 or [stuart.west@catholiclife.org.au](mailto:stuart.west@catholiclife.org.au)



Participants at the recent youth leaders formation weekend.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED



# Religious leaders pray for ACT politicians

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

“POLITICIANS are to be artisans of good legislation that brings out the common good and defends life from conception to natural death,” Archbishop Christopher Prowse told members of the ACT Legislative Assembly on February 9.

Speaking at an ecumenical service to mark the start of the parliamentary year at St Christopher’s Cathedral, the Archbishop encouraged local politicians to serve humanity.

“Standing alongside those who are most fragile is a hallmark of a mature community, and the political community here in the ACT has a real role in humanising the culture we live in,” he told those gathered.

“The political community’s role is to do all that it can to advance the dignity of the human person and the fundamental human rights that come from that.”

Archbishop Christopher also described the issues of



Archbishop Christopher Prowse speaks to Jamyang-la, left, and Lama Choedak Rinpoche, the spiritual director and head of Tibetan Buddhist Society of Canberra, right, after leaders from various faiths took part in an ecumenical prayer service. PHOTO: MATTHEW BIDDLE

homelessness and suicide in the ACT as “areas of great concern”.

“People are looking for hope – and in some cases not finding it – looking for a future

free from fear and despair,” he said. “In following Christ, we follow his example of mercy

and tenderness, especially to those on the periphery.”

The Archbishop concluded his address by stressing the need for politics and religion to work together while respecting each other’s autonomy.

Leaders from various Christian denominations – including the Presbyterian, Uniting and Anglican churches – as well as Buddhist monks, led prayers for the work of the members during the service.

Opposition leader Jeremy Hanson told *Catholic Voice* it was important to commence the parliamentary year with prayer.

“It provides a reminder for politicians of the important role that faith plays in the lives of many of our constituents,” he said.

“Many of the teachings of our major faiths; putting others before ourselves, charity and protecting the vulnerable in our society also serve as guiding principles by which we would like to shape our community.”

## Catholics asked to put compassion into action



Archbishop Christopher Prowse with St Francis Xavier College teacher Jarek Ferenc and students Andrew Nolan, Chelsea Rolls and Alison Wijnen. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

THE launch of this year’s Project Compassion appeal, ‘Food for Life’, took place at St Francis Xavier College in Florey on February 17, and was followed by an evening launch at Corpus Christi Parish in Gowrie.

More than 50 senior school leaders, principals, religious education coordinators, mission directors and teachers from Archdiocesan schools attended the launch.

Caritas’ Megan Krolik, the program coordinator for disaster risk reduction in the Pacific, spoke at both events about her work in Fiji.

In partnership with the local community, Ms Krolik said

her team focused on reducing disaster risks, ending violence against women and girls, ensuring access to clean drinking water and working towards sustainable livelihoods.

Ms Krolik, who is travelling around the Archdiocese to thank people for their ongoing support of Project Compassion, also spoke at an Ash Wednesday Mass in Goulburn as well as at various schools and parishes in NSW and the ACT.

For more information regarding Caritas or Project Compassion, contact Deacon Joe Blackwell on (02) 6201 9872 or email [dir.missions@cg.catholic.org.au](mailto:dir.missions@cg.catholic.org.au).



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# Merici students encouraged to serve others

SERVING others will be the focus for Merici College students in 2015, principal Loretta Wholley told the school at its opening assembly last month.

‘*Serviam*’, which is Latin for ‘I will serve’, is the school’s theme for the year, and Mrs Wholley encouraged students to actively serve those in their community.

“The Ursuline sisters, which St Angela Merici founded, followed this philosophy,” she told staff and students at the assembly.

“St Angela encouraged her sisters to not only teach the required academic subjects and to integrate the elements of our Catholic faith but also required her sisters to include service into the learning process. And this is what we are asking you to do and be.

“May the service you share with others this year and beyond sow the seeds of justice, compassion and love that our world yearns for every day.”

School leaders for 2015 Grace Cooper (captain) and Rose Mackay (vice-captain) also inspired the students with their interpretation of the meaning of ‘*Serviam*’.

“For us, your school leaders, this year is all about serving you,” they said.

“We challenge you to serve one person today in some way.



School captains Grace Cooper (middle, left) and Rose Mackay (middle, right) talk to Year 7 students Emma Howse (far left) and Anna Markovic (far right) about settling in to college life. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

At the end of the day we want you to think about how you helped this person and how

good it made you feel. It doesn’t have to be big, it can be as simple as helping mum and

dad out at home, complementing your friend and making someone smile.”

# Taizé spirit alive and well in Canberra and beyond

THIS year marks the 75th anniversary of the Taizé ecumenical community in France and 100 years since the birth of its founder, Br Roger.

There are Taizé groups all around the world, including Canberra. One of the group’s organisers, Annemarie Nicol, said Taizé is known for facilitating gentle and contemplative prayer.

“Taizé is the name of a village in France that is home to a community of monks,” she said. “The monks come from different countries and different Christian traditions.”

Ms Nicol first experienced Taizé in the 1990s in Sydney, and said she immediately felt at home in the community.

“I will always feel that I am a part of the Taizé family,” she said. “Meeting with others and praying in the ‘spirit



Annemarie Nicol and Geoff Driscoll, part of Canberra’s Taizé group. The ecumenical community is celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2015. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

of Taizé’ is an important part of my life.”

Fellow group member Geoff Driscoll said he was impressed with the first Taizé service he

attended in Canberra several years ago.

“It was like no other service I had ever been to before,” he explained. “While there is a

format to the service, there is no leader. The beautiful, prayerful songs last for as long as the group needs.

“The quiet, still peace and gentleness of the service keeps me coming back. There is a real spirit of community, to have other people praying together with you in this way.”

There are a number of Taizé services throughout NSW and the ACT.

The Canberra Taizé group meets every second Sunday at the Weston Creek Uniting Church at 6.30pm. All are welcome. For more details contact Caroline Weller on c.weller@internode.on.net. A retreat entitled ‘Come and Rest a While’ will focus on the prayers and songs used at Taizé. It will be held at St Clement’s Galong from May 29-31. For more details contact (02) 63805222.

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## HOME BASE



Gerard Heffernan

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This is always one of those difficult choices to weigh up immediate lifestyle against long and short term financial decisions! Everyone’s situation is different and should not be judged on another’s.

Whatever your choice(s), just ensure it is an “informed one” and in the long run you are happy with it!

Gerard Heffernan

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# Building the Church

School captains Grace Cooper (middle, left) and Rose Mackay (middle, right) talk to Year 7 students Emma Howse (far left) and Anna Markovic (far right) about settling in to college life. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

www.cdf.cg.catholic.org.au



# Funds running out for Cathedral restoration

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

THE restoration of Sts Peter and Paul's Old Cathedral in Goulburn has reached a critical moment, with funds for the project almost entirely exhausted, 13 years after it began.

Since 2002, more than \$4 million has been spent on the restoration project, but it's estimated that another \$7 million will be required to complete the project. Current work restoring the bell tower is at a standstill, with the parish unable to gather the necessary funds to finish the job at present.

Parish priest Fr Dermid McDermott told *Catholic Voice* raising such large amounts of money has been a challenging task over many years.

While parish fundraisers are helpful, amounts raised are spent quickly, as most of the restoration work requires the setting up and taking down of scaffolding – which can cost tens of thousands of dollars alone.

"The amount of money involved is so great that I think at the moment we're at a bit of a loose end," he said.

"Fundraising can only bring in small amounts... so we're



Work restoring the Sts Peter and Paul's Old Cathedral bell tower is only halfway done.

PHOTO: MATTHEW BIDDLE

heavily reliant upon government grants."

In 2006 the Department of Environment and Water Resources provided the project with a \$1.6 million grant, and Fr Dermid said something similar would be most welcome.

"We have applied for another grant since but we haven't had any luck... you've got to wait your turn to get your bite of the cherry again," he said.

Builder Brian Watchirs, who has been involved in the project for many years, said restoring

the Cathedral was an enormous, but necessary, job.

"Our aim is to make sure that anything we do will last at least 80 to 100 years," he said.

"The Cathedral was built as well as it could have been, it's just its age and there hasn't

been a lot of maintenance done on it since 1927."

The Goulburn Cathedral is the only one in Australia built out of porphyry – a green volcanic stone renowned for its hardness.

Once the restoration of the outside of the building is finished, there are several major tasks that need to be completed inside the Cathedral, Mr Watchirs said.

While the project appears to be several years away from completion, much has been achieved since it began.

One of the biggest achievements has been the clearing out of the underneath of the Cathedral, where three previous bishops – Bishop Lanigan, Bishop Barry and Bishop Gallagher – are buried.

"One man worked in there for about four years, he took over 1,000 tonnes of fill out by hand," Mr Watchirs explained.

Now the undercroft area is completely clear, and open for public tours.

The project began under the leadership of Fr Laurie Blake, and continued under Fr Tony Percy and Fr Dermid, who took over as parish priest six years ago.

## 2016 ENROLMENT DATES

**26 MARCH - THURSDAY**  
Open Evening 5.00pm - 6.30pm

**26 MARCH - THURSDAY**  
Year 7 2016 Information Session  
7.00pm - 8.00pm

**30 APRIL - FRIDAY**  
2016 Primary School  
Pre-enrolment Orientation Day  
First Day 10.00am - 1.45pm

**4 MAY - MONDAY**  
2016 Enrolments commence

**5 MAY - TUESDAY**  
2016 Primary School  
Pre-enrolment Orientation Day  
Second Day

**20 MAY - WEDNESDAY**  
Year 11 2016 Information  
Evening 7.30pm

**22 MAY - FRIDAY**  
Year 7 2016 Enrolments close

## OUR STUDENTS ARE OUR BEST AMBASSADORS...

"DARAMALAN TEACHERS REALLY WANT TO TEACH US, NOT BECAUSE IT IS THEIR JOB, BUT BECAUSE THEY WANT TO EDUCATE US. THEY JUST SEEM SO PASSIONATE AND WANT TO GO THAT LITTLE BIT EXTRA."

"AT DARA WE HAVE GREAT CHOICES. THESE CHOICES HELP US DEVELOPE OUR STRENGTHS AND INTERESTS. WHEN THAT HAPPENS WE ENJOY SCHOOL MORE."

"THIS MIGHT SOUND SILLY BUT DARA TEACHERS LET ME ASK QUESTIONS, EVEN IF THEY ARE OFF TOPIC. I LIKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW WHAT I'M THINKING AND WONDERING ABOUT. THEY HAVE TIME FOR ME."

"OUR TEACHERS SHOW US THAT THEY ARE SUPPORTIVE AND CONFIDENT OF OUR ABILITIES, SO WE FEEL MORE CAPABLE OF TRYING NEW THINGS."

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College Captain

Adam  
College Captain

Tariku  
High School Captain

Emma  
High School Captain



For enrolment enquiries please contact our Registrar on (02) 6245 6348  
enrolments@daramalan.act.edu.au | www.daramalan.act.edu.au

# DARAMALAN COLLEGE

### TRY "DARA FOR A DAY" FOR CURRENT YEAR 6 STUDENTS

We offer all Year 6 students opportunities in April/May to visit the college and experience student life at Daramalan.

More information about these days is on our website [www.daramalan.act.edu.au](http://www.daramalan.act.edu.au) under "Enrolments".

Please note that enrolments for Year 7, 2016 close on Friday 22 May 2015.



# Youth take pro-life cause to the streets



Crossroads walkers outside Sts Peter and Paul Church in Garra during their four days in the ACT.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

A GROUP of 11 young Catholics completed a 1,500km journey from Brisbane to Melbourne on February 7, as part of the annual Crossroads Australia walk.

The group travelled through Newcastle, Sydney and Canberra on their way to Melbourne, where the walk ended with

a pro-life rally at Parliament House. The purpose of the walk was to share and spread the pro-life message and to increase awareness of the right to life of children in the womb.

During their month on the road, the group spoke at numerous parishes and prayed outside

abortion clinics in Queensland, the ACT, New South Wales and Victoria.

It was the third time an Australian group has completed the walk, which is based on similar journeys that occur in the United States, Canada, Ireland and Spain.

## SYDNEY

### Archbishop, Grand Mufti plea for Bali pair

ARCHBISHOP Anthony Fisher OP and the Grand Mufti of Australia, Dr Ibrahim Abu Mohammed came together on February 8 to plead for mercy for Andrew Chan and Myuran Sukumaran who are facing imminent execution by firing squad in Bali. Archbishop Fisher and the Grand Mufti said Andrew and Myuran have reformed and rehabilitated themselves in prison. "Our plea today to the President and people of Indonesia is on the basis of their apparent remorse and repentance for a crime they committed nearly 10 years ago," the religious leaders said. Both men have been in Kerokaban Prison since their arrest, and all appeals for their freedom have been exhausted.

## BRISBANE

### Strong year of vocations for Queensland

SEVEN new candidates for the priesthood in Queensland have commenced their seminary studies, in one of the largest groups in recent times. Queensland's Holy Spirit Provincial Seminary now has 20 men preparing

for the priesthood as well as three deacons. Seminary rector Mgr Tony Randazzo told *The Catholic Leader* the Church should continue to pray for more vocations. "We need to continue encouraging many families and young people to pray for vocations to religious life," he said. "We've all got a vocation, but especially in the Year of Consecrated Life, I challenge young people to consider that God might be calling them to consecrated life as a priest or religious sister."

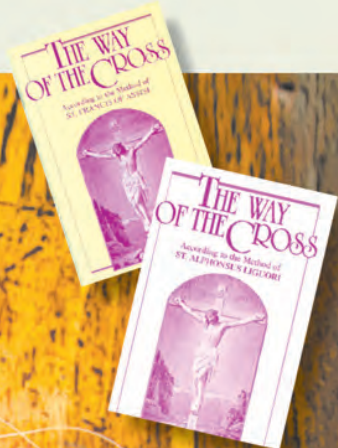
## MELBOURNE

### New DLP senator vows to defend life, morals

IN her inaugural speech to the Victorian Parliament last month the Democratic Labour Party's Dr Rachel Carling-Jenkins vowed to protect the unborn, the aged and victims of trafficking. "I pray that we will look back at this era, appalled at the babies we killed and horrified at the very idea that we would enslave women in prostitution," she told Parliament. "Under my watch there will not be silence on the issues which matter." Dr Carling-Jenkins also tackled the issues of pornography, palliative care and freedom of conscience. "A truly free society enables people to have access to treatment and palliative care services before debating assisted suicide," she said.

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# Film an ‘assault’ on marriage: US Bishop

CINCINNATI Catholics have been warned against seeing the much-anticipated film, *Fifty Shades of Grey*, in a letter sent to priests and provided to the public written by the local Archbishop.

In the letter, Archbishop Dennis Schnurr said the movie’s story line is presented as a romance, but its underlying theme is that “bondage, dominance, and sadomasochism are normal and pleasurable”.

“This movie is in direct contrast to the Christian message of God’s design for self-giving and self-sacrificing love, marriage and sexual intimacy,” Archbishop Schnurr wrote.

“The movie is a direct assault on Christian marriage and on the moral and spiritual strength of God’s people.

“We need to inform our people about the destructive message of this movie and to highlight the beauty of God’s design for loving relationships between a husband and wife in the bond of marriage.”

In attempting to sell the film as “romance”, producers decided to release the movie on February 14, Valentine’s Day.

In Mississippi, the American Family Association and its president, Tim Wildmon, are urging people not to see the movie. Aside from the graphic sexual nature of the movie, the AFA said the movie promotes domestic violence.

On social media, the movement #50DollarsNot50Shades

**“This movie is in direct contrast to the Christian message of God’s design for self-giving and self-sacrificing love, marriage and sexual intimacy.”**

has caught fire with users encouraging people to donate to domestic abuse shelters instead of purchasing a ticket to see the movie.

An online petition to boycott *Fifty Shades of Grey* in the USA has received more than 110,000 signatures.



Archbishop Dennis Schnurr says its important to inform people about the “destructive message” of the film.

PHOTO: ONLINE

## ARCHDIOCESAN EASTER MASS TIMES 2015

**Adelong:** Holy Thursday Adelong 7pm, Good Friday Stations of the Cross Batlow 10am, liturgy Adelong 3pm, Easter Vigil Adelong 6pm, Sunday Batlow 10am.

**Aranda:** Holy Thursday 7pm, Good Friday Stations of the Cross 11am, liturgy 3pm, Easter Vigil 7pm, Sunday 10am.

**Batemans Bay:** Holy Thursday 7.30pm, Good Friday liturgy 3pm, Easter Vigil 7pm, Sunday 9am.

**Bega:** Holy Thursday 7pm, Good Friday Bemboka 11am, Candelo 11am, Bega 3pm, Tathra 5pm, Easter Vigil Bega 7pm, Sunday Tathra 7.45am, Candelo 9.15am, Bemboka 9am.

**Binalong:** Sunday 10am Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion Boorowa: Good Friday liturgy 3pm, Easter Vigil 7pm.

**Bungendore:** Holy Thursday 7.30pm, Good Friday Stations of the Cross 10am, liturgy 3pm, Easter Vigil 6.30pm.

**Campbell:** Holy Thursday 7.30pm, Good Friday liturgy 3pm, Easter Vigil 5.30am (Sunday), Sunday 9.30am.

**Central Canberra:** Holy Thursday Dickson 6.30pm, Good Friday Stations of the Cross Braddon 11am, liturgy Dickson 3pm, Easter Vigil Dickson 7pm, Sunday Braddon 8am, Dickson 9.30am.

**Charnwood:** Holy Thursday 7.30pm, Good Friday liturgy 3pm, Stations of the Cross 7.30pm, Easter Vigil 7.30pm, Sunday 9am.

**Cobargo:** Good Friday Bermagui 3pm, Easter Vigil Cobargo 6pm,

Sunday Bermagui 7.30am.

**Cooma:** Holy Thursday Cooma 6.30pm, Good Friday Stations of the Cross Cooma 10am, Nimmitabel noon, liturgy Cooma 3pm, Nimmitabel 3pm, Easter Vigil Cooma 6pm, Nimmitabel 7pm, Sunday Adaminaby 8am, Delegate 8am, Cooma 10am, Bombala 10am.

**Cootamundra:** Holy Thursday 7.30pm, Good Friday Stations of the Cross noon, liturgy and passion play re-enactment 3pm, Easter vigil 7.30pm, Sunday Stockinbingal 8am, Cootamundra 9.30am.

**Crookwell:** Holy Thursday 7pm, Good Friday liturgy 3pm, Easter Vigil 7pm, Sunday Crookwell 9am, Binda 10.30am.

**Evatt:** Good Friday liturgy 3pm, Easter Vigil 7pm, Sunday 10am.

**Galong Redemptorist Monastery:** Holy Thursday 7pm, Good Friday 3pm, Easter Vigil 7.30pm, Sunday 9am.

**Goulburn:** Holy Thursday St Peter and Paul’s 7pm, Good Friday Stations of the Cross Trinity Catholic College 10.30am, liturgy St Peter and Paul’s 3pm, Easter Vigil St Peter and Paul’s 7pm, Sunday Our Lady of Fatima 7am, Tarago 8am, Marulan 8am, St Peter and Paul’s 10am.

**Gungahlin:** Holy Thursday 7pm, Good Friday Stations of the Cross 11am, Hall 11am, liturgy 3pm, Easter Vigil 7pm, Sunday 8am, 9.30am 5.30pm, Hall 8.30am.

**Harden:** Holy Thursday 5.30pm, Good Friday liturgy 3pm, Easter Vigil 7pm.

**Jindabyne:** Holy Thursday

Jindabyne 7pm, Good Friday liturgy Berridale 11am, Jindabyne 3pm, Easter Vigil Thredbo 5pm, Jindabyne 8pm, Sunday Perisher Valley 8.30am, Jindabyne 8.30am 10.30am, Berridale 10.30am.

**Kambah:** Holy Thursday 7.30pm, Good Friday Stations of the Cross 11am, liturgy 3pm, Vietnamese liturgy 7.30pm, Easter Vigil 7.30pm, Sunday 8.30am 10am, Vietnamese liturgy 5pm.

**Kaleen:** Holy Thursday 7.30pm, Good Friday liturgy 11am, Sunday 8am, 5.30pm.

**Kippax:** Holy Thursday 7pm, Good Friday Stations of the Cross 10am, liturgy 3pm, Easter Vigil 7pm, Sunday 8.30am, 10am, no evening Mass.

**Lake Cargelligo:** Holy Thursday 7pm, Good Friday liturgy 3pm, Easter Vigil 6pm.

**Michelago:** Easter Vigil 6pm.  
**Moruya:** Holy Thursday 7.30pm, Good Friday Stations of the Cross Sacred Heart Church 9am, liturgy 3pm, Easter Vigil 7pm, Sunday 10am, Tuross Head (The Pines) 8am.

**Narooma:** Holy Thursday 5.30pm, Good Friday 3pm, Easter Vigil 8pm, Sunday 9.30am.

**Narrabundah:** Holy Thursday 7.30pm, Good Friday Stations of the Cross 10.30am, liturgy 3pm, Easter Vigil 7pm, Sunday 9am, charismatic 7pm.

**North Woden:** Holy Thursday Curtin 6pm, Good Friday Stations of the Cross Garran 10am, liturgy Curtin 3pm, Easter Vigil Curtin

6pm, Sunday Garran 8.30am, Curtin 9.30am and 5.30pm.

**O’Connor:** Holy Thursday 7pm, Good Friday Stations of the Cross 11am, liturgy 3pm, Easter Vigil 6pm, Sunday 9am, 11am.

**Page:** Holy Thursday 7pm, Good Friday Stations of the Cross in the church 11am, liturgy 3pm, Easter Vigil 7pm, Sunday 8.30am.

**Pambula:** Holy Thursday Pambula 7pm, Good Friday Stations of the Cross Eden, Pambula, Merimbula 11am, liturgy Merimbula 3pm, Easter Vigil Eden 7pm, Sunday Pambula 8am, Merimbula 10am.

**Queanbeyan:** Holy Thursday 7.30pm, Good Friday Stations of the Cross St Raphael’s 10am, liturgy 3pm, Easter Vigil Queanbeyan 6pm, Sunday 8am, 10am. “He is Risen” liturgy 7am, St Gregory’s School Hall.

**South Tuggeranong:** Holy Thursday Gowrie 7pm, Good Friday liturgy Gowrie 3pm, Easter Vigil Gowrie 6.30pm, Sunday Gowrie 8am and 10am (no 6pm Mass).

**South Woden (Pearce):** Holy Thursday Pearce 7pm, Good Friday 3pm, Easter Vigil 8pm, Sunday 8.30am and 10am.

**Taralga:** Holy Thursday 7pm, Good Friday liturgy 3pm, Easter Vigil 7pm, no Sunday Mass.

**Temora:** Holy Thursday Temora 6pm, Good Friday Stations of the Cross Temora 10am, liturgy Temora 3pm, Easter Vigil Temora 6pm, Sunday Ardlethan 8am, Barellan 10am.

**Traditional Latin Mass, Garran:** Holy Thursday 7pm, Good Friday

Stations of the Cross 2pm, liturgy 3pm, Easter Vigil 10pm, Sunday 10.30am.

**Wanniassa:** Holy Thursday 7pm, Good Friday Stations of the Cross 10am, liturgy 3pm, Easter Vigil 7.30pm, Sunday 9am. No Sunday evening Mass.

**Watson:** Holy Thursday 7.30pm, Good Friday Stations of the Cross 10am, liturgy 3pm, Easter Vigil 7.30pm, Sunday 8am, 10am (no 6pm Mass).

**Weston Creek:** Holy Thursday, Holder 7.30pm; Good Friday Stations of the Cross, Holder 11am; liturgy Waramanga 3pm, Easter Vigil, Waramanga 7.30pm, Sunday, Holder 9am.

**West Wyalong Mission:** Holy Thursday West Wyalong 7pm, Good Friday West Wyalong 3pm, Easter Vigil West Wyalong 7pm, Sunday Ungarie 8am, West Wyalong 9.30am.

**Yass:** Holy Thursday Yass 7pm, Good Friday Stations of the Cross Gunning 10.30am, ecumenical Stations of the Cross Murrumbateman 10.30am, liturgy Yass 3pm, Easter Vigil Yass 7pm, Sunday Gunning 8.30am, Yass 10.15am.

**Young Mission:** Holy Thursday Grenfell 7pm, Young 7pm, Good Friday liturgy Boorowa 3pm, Young 3pm, Easter Vigil Boorowa 7pm, Young 7pm, Sunday Bribbaree 8am, Young 8.30am, Grenfell 9.30am.

\* Parishes not included in this list were unable to confirm their Easter Mass schedule at the time of printing.



# Passing on the faith

*The Drum family have been the rock of Bribbaree's small Catholic community for many years, but now it's time for the next generation to take over, as **Matthew Biddle** explains...*

NOLA and John Drum say they're just ordinary people with an ordinary family, yet there's something that stands out when you meet the pair – a strong, stable faith that epitomises the best of rural Catholicism in Australia.

Living in the heart of the Archdiocese near Bribbaree, north-east of Temora, the Drums are well-known in the Western Deanery by laity and religious.

Originally from Shepparton in Victoria, Nola and John moved to Bribbaree more than three decades ago in order to purchase a larger farm to support their growing family.

At the time they had six children, but their lives got busier with the addition of another three children over the next few years.

“With a large family you've got to be organised, there's no way around it. I always found preparation beforehand was the best way to cope,” Nola says.

Although life was busy for the Drums, it was always enjoyable.

“Financially, it's really difficult to bring up children, and it's getting harder to bring up a large family,” Nola says.

“But the real positive in a large family is that the children learn to share... I think that's so important.

“Our kids used to say if you had a fight with someone, at least you always had a lot of others to go and play with.”

Nola says teaching the children the fundamentals of their Catholic faith was a high priority for herself and John from the moment they became parents.

From the age of two or three, the Drum children would join the rest of the family praying the Rosary, giving them a head start on their faith journey.

“I'm a great believer in the family Rosary,” Nola says. “I used to read a story from the Bible to the children each night and then we would pray one decade of the Rosary together.

“So they were getting some knowledge about God from when they were tiny. It's never too early to start prayers, to start talking about God.”

All nine children received their primary education at Bribbaree Public School, where Nola has taught religious education classes for more than 26 years.

With a background in primary and infant education, it's



no wonder Nola recognises the importance of solid faith formation during a child's early years.

“John and I have always had a strong faith in God,” she says. “I think we were just extremely lucky... we were the last of the generation where you actually got excellent faith knowledge given to you in school by nuns and brothers.”

“We both only had secondary Catholic education, and we had the most wonderful training in our faith and the reasons for what we believe, and the young people now, even the generation below us, never received that.

“If people understood why the Church teaches its tenets

of faith, they would cling to the faith much more devotedly. When people don't understand their faith, they start questioning... and they fall away.”

But the Drums are the first to admit their family's faith re-

**“I used to read a story from the Bible to the children each night and then we would pray one decade of the Rosary together... It's never too early to start prayers.”**

cord isn't perfect. Some of their children are more committed to their faith than others, Nola says.

Daniel and Stephen Drum are both seminarians aspiring to the priesthood, while their younger sister Rosemary is a Missionar-

ies of God's Love sister.

Nola believes it was the example of the children's grandparents that helped foster their religious vocations.

“Our parents were very faithful to their faith and great

prayers, and the kids saw that all the time when they went visiting,” she recalls.

“In lots of ways, it's thanks to them that we've got the vocations in our family.”

News of the two boys' decisions to join the Spanish mis-

sionary Order, Verbum Dei, came as a great surprise to Nola and John.

“Stephen went over to the Philippines to have a look at the Order and stayed there for a week or so,” Nola says.

“He came back to Sydney and rang us up and said ‘I'm going to sell up everything and join the Order’. We were quite surprised.

“Shortly after that, Daniel rang us up and says ‘I'm going to sell everything and go with Stephen’, just like that, and no

one expected that. So they went to the Philippines together which was absolutely wonderful.”

Now in their fifth year, Stephen and Daniel are living and studying at the Order's mother-house near Madrid, Spain.

Rosemary's decision to become a religious sister was less of a surprise.

“From when she was quite young, Rosie talked about becoming a nun,” Nola says. “She was very committed to her faith all the way through.”

The Drums believe Rosemary's year spent on the National Evangelisation Team (NET) was vital in affirming her faith and helping her to grow spiritually. The family has had a strong association with NET volunteers since.

Two of the Drum's children, Bernard and Jenny, served on the Archdiocesan youth ministry team, an experience that Nola and John believe enriched their spiritual lives and inspired them to involve themselves in their parish.

“We really enjoy keeping up with the youth ministry team,” John says. “When they come out here, they use this ‘Moonbucca



Above, Nola and John Drum (middle) with their nine children from left to right, Cathy, Jenny, Bernard, Kevin, Peter and Rosemary, with Stephen, Daniel and Martin (sitting).  
PHOTOS: LOUI SESELJA; SUPPLIED

Motel', because we've got plenty of room now that the family have left home.

“It's great to see young people committed to their faith and doing some good in the world, virtually on a volunteer basis.”

The rest of the Drum family are spread out across the country, with eldest son Peter a computer engineer in Sydney, Martin lecturing at the University of Notre Dame in Fremantle, Kevin working as a diesel mechanic in Lavington and Bernard working as a civil engineer with the Bathurst Shire Council.

The youngest of the family, Jenny, has just graduated as a doctor and is working at Dubbo Base Hospital. Eldest daughter Cathy, a secondary school teacher, lives the closest to her parents in nearby Temora, with her husband and eight children.

The dispersion of the family is indicative of the gradual decrease in the size of the local Bribbaree community, including that of the Catholic population.

“We're a very small parish community now,” Nola says. “We used to have much bigger numbers but when we started to have Mass less often, those

attending church began to go elsewhere and our numbers decreased significantly.

“Until recently, we have had two Communion services each month, and one Mass a month in the parish. However, Fr Tom Thornton our administrator... has just offered to give us a trial weekly Mass with one month at Bribbaree and one month at Quandialla to see if the numbers attending will increase.”

The town's population is only about 250, and the Drums fear that it will only decrease in the future.

“No new people are coming into the area,” Nola says. “The school's numbers have decreased drastically. There are just not as many families around.

“Because of economy of scale, farms are tending to get bigger, the smaller farmers sell out or retire, and either bigger farmers or big corporations buy them out.

“I can forecast that when we sell here, sadly, no one will probably live in this house... the farm will be bought by a local farmer and no new family will come in.”

But Bribbaree has served the Drum family well, and the fam-

ily has been – and continues to be – an important part of the local community.

Although she dreams of retiring from the farm and travelling, Nola says the small town will always remain close to her heart.

“We have always been made to feel very welcome here,” she says.

“In a few years we plan to move to Temora to retire and we expect that we will feel very sorry to leave this small community and the lovely people who live here.

“Although we will be involved in the Temora community we would hope we could retain connections and attend events in this community too.”

As for the Drum family, Nola and John share the hopes of all parents – that their children will be successful in what they do.

“I'd like to see them do well in the world but I really want to see them not only have a strong faith themselves, but to pass it on as well,” she says.

And if Nola and John's children follow in their parents' footsteps, the future of the Church is in very good hands.





# Following in the footsteps of Mother Teresa

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

THIRTY-THREE years ago, when Mother Teresa opened the house in Queanbeyan where the Missionaries of Charity would live, she knew the sisters would be striving to alleviate a spiritual, rather than material, poverty.

As such, she decided the Order would focus on teaching religion in the surrounding public schools, an apostolate that continues to be the sisters' priority today.

Sr Antonella, Sr Clare, Sr Constantina and Sr Triumphina say they enjoy teaching in seven nearby public schools, acknowledging that the work of the Order in Australia is vastly different to that in other parts of the world.

"The poverty here is more difficult to heal," Sr Antonella explains.

"In third-world countries, even though people are hungry because they are poor, and they are living in the garbage tin, the family is together.

"They starve together, they die together, you give them a plate of food and they're happy, they share it.

"But here, the poverty is deep because relationships are broken and it takes time to mend them. For me, the thing that is missing is that thirst for God."

Similarly, while the poor in other countries are not difficult to find, it's much harder to locate those in need in Australia, the sisters say.

"Here you have to go and search for the poor, and it's not easy to go and knock on the doors, it takes courage," Sr Triumphina says.

Many doors remain closed, sadly, and when they open, there's no guarantee of a kind response to the sisters' arrival.

"One time we went, this man came out and said 'I'm a Catholic, but I'm not practising. Here's five dollars, go and buy yourself a cup of tea'. We ran for our lives," Sr Antonella says.

Aside from visiting those in the local community, the sisters also tend to those who are sick and dying in hospitals, a work they find greatly rewarding.

"One of the beautiful joys for me is when you see people get better," Sr Antonella says.

"We had one man who we found on the streets and he was just skin and bone. We fed him, and after a few weeks, he



From left to right, Sr Constantina, Sr Antonella, Sr Clare and Sr Triumphina outside the Missionaries of Charity's home in Queanbeyan. The sisters rise at 4.40am each day for morning prayers, before attending Mass and then spending the day doing a variety of mission-related work. On Saturdays they visit residents at Ainslie Village, where they provide meals to those in need, below.

PHOTOS: LOUI SESELJA

could sit in a wheelchair... and after a few more months he started to walk and we discovered that he was an electrician.

"There are also people who are in great pain, great suffering, but there is joy in them, they are happy to die because they know they will be with God."

**"When you totally surrender to God, he will give you many graces. He will open doors for you, so don't be afraid..."**

For Sr Antonella, seeing the Missionaries of Charity concern for the sick and the dying in the Philippines was the inspiration for joining the Order 24 years ago.

"What really struck me was the joy of the sisters and also the giving of oneself completely," she says.

"By looking after people dying on the streets, orphans with no father or mother, people who are sick, you really get in touch with who Jesus is.

"There's so much in our charism that you get to really meet Jesus, especially in people who are suffering."

Sr Constantina says it was

the personal witness of a religious sister at her local parish in South Korea that helped her discover her vocation.

"She knew Mother Teresa personally... and many times she talked to me about Mother Teresa's work and I was quite interested in it," she says.

"The consecrated life is very

much a gift from God. For me, it's a great privilege."

The youngest of the four sisters at Queanbeyan, Sr Triumphina, says it was seeing the sisters' love of prayer and zeal for souls that convinced her to join the Order.

"I saw the sisters praying before the Blessed Sacrament, and that moment touched me very much," she recalls.

"The superior came out and told us the life is very hard... but I said I will try. I stayed with the sisters and I saw their zeal for souls.

"Even if it was raining, the sisters were always ready to go out to help the poor."



The life of a Missionary of Charity is indeed challenging – whether it be the 4.40am wake-ups for prayer, the 10-yearly family visits, or the short three-year stays in a location before being transferred.

"You cannot do it without God's grace," Sr Antonella says.

"The sisters become your family.

"What unites us is God's love, because we each have our own culture, but we don't cling

to our own culture, we cling to the culture that he gave us."

For those considering a religious vocation, the sisters have some simple advice – trust in God and step forward with courage.

"When you totally surrender to God, he will give you many graces," Sr Constantina says confidently.

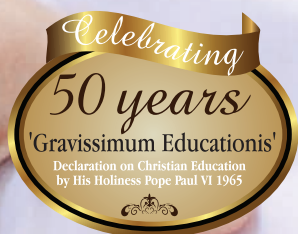
"He will open doors for you, so don't be afraid, trust in God, and he will look after you."



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# Taking responsibility for our Lenten disciplines



**GOING DEEPER**  
BY SHANE DWYER

I REMEMBER years ago noticing the parable of the talents (Mt 25:14-30) for the first time. I can't remember the context, but I do remember the sense of indignation: fancy taking the talent from the man who only had one and giving it to the man who already had 10! I had a sneaking suspicion that God

wasn't all he is cracked up to be, if he can be so unfair. I kept that thought to myself.

Years later, as we think about Lent and our preparations for Easter, this parable is again on my mind. Lent has been through something of a makeover in recent years. Once upon a time it more or less took care of itself. Catholic families all knew what to do: kids would give up sweets, parents would give up coffee and cigarettes (and alcohol for the truly committed), and meat was nowhere to be seen on Ash Wednesday and the Fridays of Lent. Catholics knew where they stood. As kids came down from their sugar high and parents suffered withdrawal from caffeine and nicotine, things

could get a little tense, but that was just part of the experience. It was meant to be hard – after all, as we told ourselves, it was nothing in comparison to what Jesus was going through.

## As free, responsible sons and daughters of God, you and I need to take responsibility for our journey in faith.

These days, the focus isn't so much on us all doing the same thing – although there is a growing re-appreciation of the need to give up meat on the

required days. Instead, we are encouraged to think for ourselves about what we are going to do to observe Lent. This is a high-risk strategy on the part of the Church. We can easily fall into the trap of thinking that if we don't have to do whatever it is, that's because it is no longer important. We can imagine that we're off the hook.

The problem is, the exact opposite is the case. As free, responsible sons and daughters of God, you and I need to take responsibility for our journey in faith. Children need to be told what to do. Adults should not need to be told to do anything like the same degree.

This is where the parable of the talents fits. The man who

lost it all failed, not because he did the wrong thing, but because he chose to do nothing. During this liturgical season, each of us is challenged to think about what it is we are going to do to participate in the healing and purification God is offering us. No one is going to chase us and tell us what it is we should be doing. If they try, tell them you are not a child. Instead, we are being offered an opportunity: to take responsibility for our own response to God as we prepare for the celebration of the central realities of our faith.

To a certain extent, it doesn't matter what we do. Just do something. It's not too late. Start now.

# Mission means stepping out of our comfort zone



**FOLLOWING FRANCIS**  
BY DEACON MATT RANSOM

"I PREFER a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security," – Pope Francis.

We weren't exactly bruised and hurting, however, we did get dirty. It occurred a few years ago, when I was chaplain at a Queensland Catholic college, and I remember the impact that being part of a mission team had on many of the Year 12 students I was working with.

This good group of young people decided to take the challenge to take their faith out 'onto the streets'. There was a wonderful Catholic organisation called Rosie's that fed the homeless and were always in need of volunteers. So I asked my student leaders, permission notes were organised, and off we went.

The students prayed, prepared food and drink and then helped the needy. And they were deeply affected. To be assisting those, who often due to misfortune, had no home or family, was deeply confronting for these volunteers. Assisting the marginalised was also somewhat exciting for these middle-class students.

After some time, we all gathered in a different part of the city where I ran a 'street retreat'. This was a time of reflection upon what had just happened, seeking to see where Jesus was in



Pope Francis, during his time as Cardinal of Buenos Aires, washing the feet of residents of a shelter for drug users in 2008.

PHOTO: CNS / REUTERS

the midst of this time of service. It was a profound time for the students, deeply affecting them. So much so, that they wanted to do it again... every week.

For most of us, the mission that Pope Francis is reminding us of might not be on the street, but it could be in your home with your family, assisting an elderly or disabled relative. Perhaps the mission is in your workplace, or maybe it's assisting a Catholic ministry.

Wherever it is, whoever it may be, let's take the sacramental graces that we receive from our Church and share them with the needy.

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age," (Mt 28:19-20).



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# Respectful listening the way to better race relations



MARTIN Luther King Junior's birthday is a public holiday here in the USA. This year it was a much more political affair than it has been in recent years.

The spate of police killings of young African-American men has caused the whole country to take pause, wondering what is happening in race relations. This year also marks the 50th anniversary of the march that King led from Selma to Montgomery in Alabama seeking voting rights for all Americans. The movie *Selma* was launched over the long weekend of the holiday. It's a great study in race relations even though it is marred by a too simplistic condemnation of President Lyndon Johnson who was doing all he could to secure the changes through Congress. The change required action both by



Tom Wilkinson as President Lyndon Johnson and David Oyelowo as Martin Luther King Jr, in a scene from *Selma*. PHOTO: ONLINE

King and Johnson. It is often that way.

I had the opportunity to visit the grand monument to King in Washington DC earlier in my stay, when the weather was kinder. I also stood at the spot in front of the Lincoln Memorial where King delivered his 'I have a dream' speech in August 1963.

Each time I have called him to mind, I have remembered his

letter to the white clergy he sent from Birmingham Jail earlier in 1963. I have been challenged and inspired by his observations about the role and stance of the 'white moderate'.

He wrote to his white fellow clergy: "I must confess that over the last few years I have been gravely disappointed with the white moderate. I have almost reached the regrettable conclusion that the Negro's great

stumbling block in the stride toward freedom is not the White Citizens Councillor or the Ku Klux Klanner but the white moderate who is more devoted to order than to justice; who prefers a negative peace which is the absence of tension to a positive peace which is the presence of justice; who constantly says, 'I agree with you in the goal you seek, but I can't agree with your methods of direct action';

who paternalistically feels that he can set the timetable for another man's freedom; who lives by the myth of time; and who constantly advises the Negro to wait until a 'more convenient season'. Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will. Lukewarm acceptance is much more bewildering than outright rejection."

Being a white moderate, his challenge has stayed with me. Good race relations still have a long way to go in the USA; so too in Australia.

The police thin blue line is often a good place to start when reflecting on the issue. Aboriginal imprisonment rates in Australia are still a national disgrace. They are worse than when the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody was convened.

We Australians also need to wade in the water. We need the co-operation of the Johnsons and the Kings. All parties need to be at the table, listening respectfully before committing to joint action. That's the way you close gaps and work towards constitutional recognition.

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# Small in numbers, large in community spirit

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

IT'S one of the oldest Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn, and also one of the smallest, but over the years St Joseph's Primary School in Grenfell has built a vibrant, strong community spirit.

The small number of students, combined with the small cohort of staff, allows for the school community to become something similar to a large family.

Every student knows every other student; every staff member knows every student's family; every family knows every other family.

Principal Peter Stephens, who has filled the role since 2009 after moving from Queensland, says the family feel of the school makes it a great place to be a part of.

"You get to know all these kids and their families really well at this school," he says.

"All the kids play together, they're not segregated... and they all know each other."

Mr Stephens, who is also the school's librarian and learning support teacher, says the school places a strong importance on its patron, St Joseph, in trying to achieve its goals.

"The vision of the school is to work together to bring about the potential of children in a country environment, where it's like a family," he says.

While he admits it's always nice to receive new enrolments, Mr Stephens is committed to ensuring the school retains its sense of community.

"I suppose my dreams for the school and the future focus would be to engage kids with new technology but also use that new technology to empower the kids to learn more about themselves," he says.

"Also to continue to develop the family-based feeling of the school with the parents and the school board."



Above, members of the student representative council show their gratitude for community support; bottom left, students listen attentively during a tennis class; bottom right, displaying their photographic skills with principal Peter Stephens. PHOTOS: LOUI SESELJA



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Canberra and Queanbeyan's Croatian community gathered in large numbers on February 7 to celebrate the feast day of Blessed Aloysius Stepinac, who could be canonised later this year. PHOTOS: LOUI SESELJA

# Croatian Catholics honour a national hero

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

CROATIAN Catholics filled St Augustine's Church in Farrer to overflowing on February 7 as they celebrated the feast day of Blessed Aloysius Stepinac.

More than 300 people attended the Mass in honour of the soon-to-be saint, which was followed by a community lunch.

Croatian Catholics from Sydney, Wollongong and Bateman's Bay travelled to Canberra for the celebration, which has been held annually since 2011.

Fr Ivo Tadic OFM and Fr Euzebije Mak OFM joined Canberra's Croatian chaplain Fr Miroslav Jelic OFM in concelebrating the Mass, which was enhanced by the assistance of the St Cecilia choir and Croatian folk musicians.

During his homily, Fr Ivo praised the faith and life of Blessed Aloysius Stepinac, who was persecuted by the Communist regime in the former Yugoslavia.



In November, Archbishop Christopher Prowse confirmed several young adults at St Augustine's, including Nives Kusan, pictured with her parents, Croatian Ambassador Dr Damir Kusan and his wife Loreta, with Fr Miroslav Jelic. PHOTO: LOUI SESELJA

Fr Miroslav told *Catholic Voice* Blessed Aloysius is revered and loved by Croatian Catholics worldwide.

"He helped a lot of people during the Second World War, not only Croatians, also Serbs, Jews and others suffering in the prisons," he said.

Blessed Aloysius was im-

prisoned in 1946, where he spent 15 years before his death in 1960.

He was declared a martyr and beatified in 1998 by Pope John Paul II. It is believed he could be canonised this year.

The Croatian Catholic community of Canberra and Queanbeyan has a particular-

ly special devotion to Blessed Aloysius. In 2011, Archbishop Mark Coleridge unveiled and blessed a statue of the Croatian martyr outside St Augustine's Church to mark the 40th anniversary of the Croatian community in the Archdiocese.

Fr Miroslav, who has been chaplain to the community

since 2012, said its members were very committed to their faith and to the parish.

"The community is still strong," he said.

"Like every church... the majority of the people are older. The younger generation come... but not every Sunday."

He added that members of the community are actively involved in various groups and ministries.

"We have done some projects in the Solomon Islands, in Croatia and in Bosnia," he said. "We also visit the older people in the Croatian villages here."

The Croatian community was established in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn in 1971, and was initially based in Braddon. The first Croatian migrant chaplain was the late Fr Mato Bonic OFM.

In addition to the presence of at least one priest, for many years several religious sisters, the Adorers of the Precious Blood of Christ, also served the community.

Below, the St Cecilia choir in full voice during the Mass, while, right, Croatian folk musicians entertain the crowd during the community lunch. PHOTOS: LOUI SESELJA





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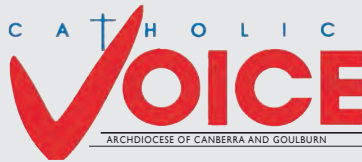
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For others, in parts of the Holy Land that Our Lord Jesus Christ knew so well, the proportion of Christians has plummeted from 20% to as little as 1.4% in the last forty years. The faithful now live in fear as increasing poverty and growing extremism threaten the survival of these ancient communities.

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Pope Francis



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

# Archdiocesan Coming Events

## LENTEN REFLECTIONS:

With Sr Carmel Drew RSJ, on March 3, 17 and 31 at both 10am and 7pm, at St Joseph's House of Spirituality and Hospitality, 12 David Ave, Batehaven, NSW. Reflection days also held on March 12 at Southern Cross Village, Temora, from 10am-3pm; and March 25 at St Patrick's Hall in Gundagai, from 10am-3pm. BYO lunch, cost by donation. Inquiries: Sr Mary Murphy: [mary.murphy@sosj.org.au](mailto:mary.murphy@sosj.org.au).

## WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER:

Start the New Year off with a bang! Spend a weekend with your spouse at a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The peaceful setting of this weekend enrichment is a great way to rekindle the romance in your marriage. Weekend date: 6-8 March at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW. To apply phone Ardell and Bill Sharpe on (02) 4283 3435 or email [wsharpe@bigpond.net.au](mailto:wsharpe@bigpond.net.au). For more information, visit [www.wwme.org.au](http://www.wwme.org.au).

## PILGRIMAGE TO MARY MACKILLOP PLACE NORTH SYDNEY:

Wednesday, March 11, coach departs from Holy Trinity Church, Curtin at 6.30am; and from St Joseph's Church, O'Connor at 7am. For bookings from Canberra and Goulburn phone Judy and Joe Mewburn on (02) 6254 6202.

## SERRA CLUB OF CANBERRA:

Rosary

**AMAZING CATECHISTS:** Archbishop Christopher Prowse will meet with catechists in the Archdiocese at the following events in March:

- Catechist celebration meal, Saturday March 21 (6pm-8pm) at the Rheinberger Centre, cnr Loch and Weston Sts, Yarralumla, ACT.
- Catechist commissioning Mass, Sunday March 22 (11am) at St Christopher's Cathedral, Franklin Street, Forrest, ACT.
- Archbishop's catechist gathering, Sunday March 22 (12pm-4pm) at the Rheinberger Centre.

Cost: \$10 (pay at the Rheinberger Centre door on Sunday). To RSVP please contact Deacon Matt Ransom: [matt.ransom@catholiclife.org.au](mailto:matt.ransom@catholiclife.org.au) or Lyn Granlund: [lyn.granlund@catholiclife.org.au](mailto:lyn.granlund@catholiclife.org.au); or phone (02) 6163 4380.



and Mass, 6.10pm, Thursday March 12, Holy Trinity Church, Curtin, followed by dinner at Southern Cross Club, Woden. Inquiries: John Malycha, (02) 6251 2912.

## ST JOSEPH'S PERTH-VILLE:

Ex-students association inaugural luncheon (ACT and regions). All ex-students are invited to the Southern Cross Yacht Club, Alexandrina Drive, Yarralumla, on Saturday, March 14 at 12pm. RSVP to Anne Pennay (Dykes) on 0407 394 574 or [annepennay@icloud.com](mailto:annepennay@icloud.com).

## WEEKEND RETREAT:

March 13-15 - 'Lent - a desert journey'. A time to pray and reflect on God's invitation to come back to God with all our heart. Led by Sr Carmel Drew RSJ at St Joseph's House of Spirituality and Hospitality, 12 David Ave, Batehaven, NSW. Retreat begins with a 6pm meal on Friday and concludes with lunch on Sunday. Cost: live-in \$120; Saturday only

(9.30am-4pm) \$30. Inquiries: Sr Mary Murphy: [mary.murphy@sosj.org.au](mailto:mary.murphy@sosj.org.au).

## CENTREING PRAYER WORKSHOP:

An introduction and refresher workshop on Centreing Prayer will be held at Marian Hall, St Matthew's Parish, Page on March 18 from 10.30am-2pm. The day will feature DVD presentations from Fr Thomas Keating, renowned Trappist monk. Please bring a personal lunch. Donation \$10. Registrations: Sr Lorraine Cupitt: [lorraineocupitt@bigpond.com](mailto:lorraineocupitt@bigpond.com) or (02) 6231 5383.

## CELEBRATE ST PATRICK'S DAY:

With the Irish community living in Canberra. On March 17, a St Patrick's Day ecumenical service will take place from 12pm-1pm at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, Barton, ACT. Brigidine Sister and advocate against children held in detention centres Sr Jane Keogh CBS will deliver an address. Representatives

will be present from the Catholic, Uniting, Anglican and Lutheran Churches, the Irish Embassy, and ACT Irish organisations. Music will be performed by the Celtic Choir and traditional Irish musicians. Light refreshments will be available after the service. Inquiries: (02) 6251 4838 or 0451 175 728.

## KAMBAH RETREAT:

Fr Gilbert Carlo, a Divine Word Missionary priest from India, will offer a Lenten retreat at St Thomas the Apostle Church Kambah from March 21-26. The theme of the retreat is 'Eucharist and the Word of God for Healing'. Fr Gilbert will preach at all Masses on the weekend of 21-22 March (6pm Sat Vigil, 8.30am and 10am Sun). The retreat sessions will be held from 7pm from March 22 to March 24, with Mass each evening followed by a talk. The retreat concludes with an Anointing Mass at 7pm on March 26. The topics covered will be: the Healing Power of the Cross

in everyday life; the Power of the Word of God in our daily life; and the Healing Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Confessions and spiritual direction available March 24-26 from 10-11am, and other times by appointment. Inquiries to the parish office on (02) 6231 9219 or Trish on (02) 6231 8468 (ah). All welcome.

## MASS FOR THE FAMILY:

Friday March 27 at 5.30pm at St Benedict's Narrabundah. Come along and pray for your family, both living and deceased, families of our nation and families of the world. Let us unite in praying for healing, hope, peace and joy to be kindled in every heart as we turn our gaze to God. All welcome.

## MEN'S CURSILLO:

April 30-May 3, at Warrumbui Retreat Centre, Murrumbidgee. Cursillo is a program of short talks, discussion, prayer and liturgy offering a way of developing faith and deepening a relationship with God. Fr Bernie Patterson will be the spiritual director. Men of the Archdiocese are warmly invited. For more information and registration, contact Rod Gardiner on (02) 6251 1331 or [rodney.gardiner@bigpond.com](mailto:rodney.gardiner@bigpond.com).

## REGULAR EVENTS

## ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:

St Benedict's, Narrabundah, Monday 8am-10pm, Tuesday 12pm-10pm, Wednesday and Thursday

1pm-10pm and Friday 7am-Saturday 8am. All welcome.

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## GOOD SHEPHERD PRAYER GROUP:

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

## HOLY SPIRIT SECULAR FRANCISCAN FRATERNITY:

Third Friday of the month, 7.30pm, St John Vianney's, Waramanga. Secular Franciscans try to follow Christ in the footsteps of St Francis. Inquiries: Tony, phone 0407 072 139, Frank 0400 793 260, email [sfo@fastmail.fm](mailto:sfo@fastmail.fm).

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# Seven new records for Hayden

HENNESSY Catholic College student Hayden Rutter may be set for big things in the future, if his astonishing achievements at the school's recent swimming carnival are anything to go by.

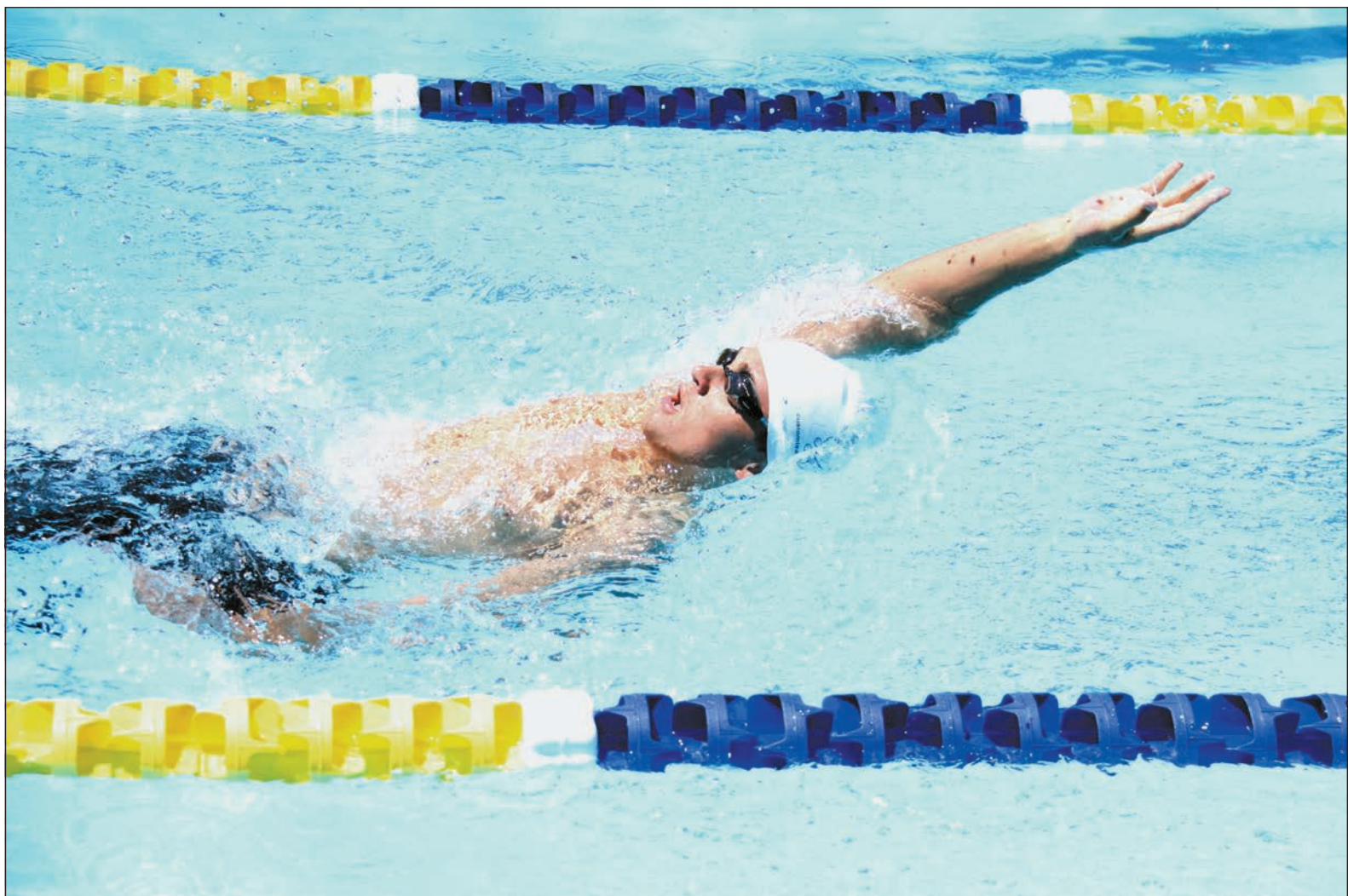
The Year 12 student competed in seven events during the carnival, not only winning each event, but smashing school records on each occasion.

Hayden's name now stands beside the school record in several categories – the 50m and 100m freestyle, the 50m butterfly, the 50m breaststroke, the 50m backstroke, and the 200m individual medley.

On a memorable day, fellow Year 12 student Emme Williams also broke a school record in the girls 50m breaststroke.

Hayden and Emme will be part of Hennessy's team at the Archdiocesan swimming championships to be held in Goulburn in April.

Hayden will be looking to repeat last year's success at the event, where he won first place in six events.



Hayden Rutter in action during the 200m individual medley event. The Year 12 student won seven events, setting a school record in each.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

## Ashleigh puts charity before success Schools prepare for annual carnival

CANBERRA student Ashleigh Lawrence may not have won a gold medal at the recent International Children's Games, but she won the hearts of all involved after an incredible show of sportsmanship.

Representing the ACT in shot put, Ashleigh generously shared her throwing shoes with fellow competitor Karolina Suminska, who had lost her luggage in transit to Australia from Poland.

Without throwing shoes, Karolina would have been unable to compete.

At the closure of the Games, the Year 10 Merici College student was chosen from 25 nominees to receive the event's prestigious Fair Play Award in recognition of her outstanding sportsmanship.

"We were only about two throws apart each time, so it was pretty much do the throw, yank the shoes off, hand them over and try and do them up again quickly," Ashleigh told *The Canberra Times*.

"[Karolina and I] became really good friends.

"She talked to her coach and as many people as she could to learn enough English to say thank you to me, she couldn't believe someone would be so nice. But I said



Ashleigh Lawrence, right, with Polish competitor Karolina Suminska. Ashleigh received the Fair Play Award at the International Children's Games in December for sharing her shoes with Karolina, whose luggage was lost in transit.

PHOTO: ONLINE

anyone in Australia would do this."

During the event, Ashleigh

threw a season-best of 9.39 metres, finishing in 13th place.

The Games, which have

been held annually since 1968, involved more than 1,100 athletes from 30 countries.

CATHOLIC primary schools in the Archdiocese are eagerly preparing for the annual soccer carnival to be held on March 15 at the University of Canberra in Bruce, ACT.

The event will include participants from more than 100 ACT and NSW schools, and will involve more than 1,000 players from Years 3 to 6.

Each team will play at least four games of two 12-minute halves.

St Joseph's School in O'Connor is the host of this year's event, which kicks off at 8.30am and will conclude by 3.30pm.

Last year's Archdiocesan soccer carnival was cancelled due to severe wet weather, but organisers are confident the inclement weather won't be repeated this year.

**GOT A SPORTS STORY YOU WANT TO SHARE?**

Send it to: [ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au](mailto:ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au)