

CATHOLIC VOICE



Papal comic

Marvel artist releases comic book on the life of Pope St John XXIII

PAGE 9



Exciting times

St Mary's Primary students looking forward to new playground facilities

PAGE 16

Welcome home

New Catholics complete their RCIA journey into the Church

PAGE 3



FREE

No. 308 April 2015

Circulation 20,000

Record numbers from around the Archdiocese come together Gathered as a spiritual family



Members of Couples for Christ during the Archdiocesan Assembly, 'Embrace' on March 21. The event attracted 730 registrations, with many more watching via a live stream.

PHOTO: LOUI SESELJA

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

PASSIONATE speakers, relevant topics, heart-rendering testimonies of faith and love and a record number of participants helped to make the recent Archdiocesan Assembly, 'Embrace', one of the most successful events in the Archdiocese's history.

The March 20-21 event attracted an incredible 730 registrations – more than double the number of participants in the last Archdiocesan Assembly in November 2012.

While many of the attendees were from ACT parishes, there were a significant number of people who travelled long distances for the event. Some came from as far as Temora, Bega, Bombala, and West Wyalong, while one family from Victoria made the journey to St Clare's College in Canberra.

In an Archdiocesan first, the Assembly was live streamed, allowing those unable to attend to participate from anywhere in the world. At the time of printing, the video of the event had been viewed more than 1,300 times.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse told *Catholic Voice* the Assembly – which was his first as Archbishop – exceeded all expectations.

"I was delighted with the Assembly," he said. "It was well attended, well organised and well received."

"There was a real sense of the ecclesial family in the Archdiocese during the entire two days. There was respect, joy and much hope."

The Archbishop said he hopes participants returned to their homes and parishes with

"renewed energy for evangelisation in married and family life".

"There is much to be concerned about in family life but also there is much to rejoice and learn from each other," he said.

"We are now in a period of reflecting on what took place, on what was said, and where we could focus our considerable pastoral energies in the future to support fragile married and family life."

He also extended his gratitude to the organisers and those who participated either directly or via the live stream.

"We thank the Holy Spirit for blessing us," Archbishop Christopher said.

"We now ask the Holy Spirit to guide us on what the next steps might be."

"We will listen very carefully too on the international discussion regarding these topics in the upcoming Synod in Rome."

All participants have been encouraged to complete an online evaluation of the Assembly, which will be used to prepare a final report of the event for Archbishop Christopher.

Full coverage - Page 10-11

ARCHBISHOP CHRISTOPHER'S DIARY



Silence and praying for vocations



MY dear people throughout the Archdiocese,

During April and beyond we rejoice in the Easter liturgical season.

There is always an economy of words in the Gospels. Important encounters with the risen Lord Jesus are often summarised into just a few sentences. The Easter encounter of Jesus with Mary Magdalene (John 20:16-17) comes to mind. It seems to be summarised into just three words: "Mary... Rab-buni... Go!"

Yet these Gospel passages, upon reflection, seem to be full of deep silences of recognition, mercy, faith and profound joy. What is not said seems as important as what is said.

In April we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday (second Sunday of Easter) and Good Shepherd Sunday (fourth Sunday of Easter). They illustrate deep

mysteries of our faith. If we allow them, they silence us into even deeper reflections on the Almighty God's AMAZING GRACE.

Let us focus now on Good Shepherd Sunday.

This year and thereafter we will focus this day on vocations to the priesthood and religious life. The Archdiocese is in great need of more vocations to the diocesan priesthood. In this year dedicated to Consecrated Life, we pray too for all religious vocations. A special collection will be taken up throughout the Archdiocese to help fund the education of diocesan seminarians.

When I ponder on my own vocation to the priesthood, I think of the deep silences I felt drawn to in my youth. I felt incredible peace in solitary places like empty churches and beautiful parks and gardens (even cemeteries!). I still do. In those earlier years I did not realise I was praying deeply. It was all God's grace. Sometimes there were words and thoughts and readings (especially from the Bible). But most of the time for me it was simply being in God's loving and silent

presence. They were my 'Mary Magdalene' moments with the risen Jesus who whispered deeply in me: "Go!"

I am sure the same Holy Spirit is whispering in the hearts of many young people today a similar whispered invitation to the priesthood or religious life. Allowing all of us, especially the young, to be drawn to the silences of God is a wonderful way of promoting vocations. Yes – let there be words and spoken petitions. But let there be Godly silences too.

Are we really comfortable with Godly silences in today's noisy and busy world? I am not so sure. But in this Easter let us try to be more comfortable in imitating Mary, the Mother of God, and "treasure and ponder" rather than gossip and complain! The Marian profile of prayer is surely a haven for vocations.

Practically, therefore, for the petition of vocations to the priesthood and religious life, let us:

- Pay visits to the Blessed Sacrament in open churches;
- Try giving priority to some quiet times in the morning and evening;

• Encourage ritual silences during the Mass (for example, after the readings and Holy Communion);

• Support meditation groups in our parishes.

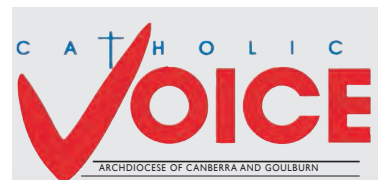
We all benefited from listening in attentive silence to each other in the recent Archdiocesan Assembly on Marriage and Family Life. It made the time so special. The Holy Spirit was given an opportunity to speak to the listening heart within us all.

Let young people, particularly, listen deeply to the Holy Spirit in their lives. If you sense the fragrance of a vocation to the priesthood or religious life, do not be afraid. Pray in silence even more! Let the attracting power of Jesus draw you deeply to the place where the Holy Spirit is calling you.

I pray for you all daily. Please do the same for me.

God bless you and your families always.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse
Catholic Archbishop of
Canberra and Goulburn



ACTING EDITOR: Matthew Biddle
matthew.biddle@catholiclife.org.au
Ph. (02) 6163 4390

ADVERTISING: Erin Gordon
erin.gordon@catholiclife.org.au
Ph. (02) 6163 4314

ADDRESS: PO Box 7174
Yarralumla, ACT, 2600
Rheinberger Centre, cnr Weston
and Loch Streets, Yarralumla

www.cg.catholic.org.au

DEADLINE: Editorial and
advertising 15th of the month
before publication.

Catholic Voice is published by
the Archdiocese of Canberra
and Goulburn and printed by
Capital Fine Print, Fyshwick. It
is a member of the Australasian
Catholic Press Association and
the Australasian Religious Press
Association.

Every month 20,000 copies are
distributed.

Print Post Publication
No. 100008082.

Archbishop joins prayer vigil for life



Archbishop Christopher Prowse took part in the annual 40 Days for Life prayer vigil outside the ACT Health Building in Canberra on March 24. The prayer vigil has been held on every weekday during Lent, in line with similar vigils around the country. Archbishop Christopher told *The Canberra Times* participants in the prayer vigil are "simple people of goodwill who have a troubled social conscience". "We would like to think there might be alternatives given more vigorously to women who do find themselves with unwanted pregnancies," he said.

PHOTO: BEV CAINS

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Journey home complete for new Catholics

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

A GROUP of new Catholics from within the Archdiocese will be welcomed into the Church at Easter, having completed their journey through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) program.

In one of the final steps on their journey, 27 members of the group gathered at St Christopher's Cathedral on February 22 for the Rite of the Elect.

"These wonderful catechumens and candidates feel that life without Christ is a perpetual wilderness."

Together with their sponsors and families, the group gathered in the crypt of the Cathedral before the Mass where Archbishop Christopher Prowse spoke to each individually.

"It was an absolute delight before this Mass to meet each of these catechumens and candidates in the crypt," the Archbishop said during his homily.

"I asked each one of them what attracted them to the



Those preparing to be received into the Catholic Church at Easter met with Archbishop Christopher Prowse on February 22 for the Rite of the Elect. Prior to the Mass, the Archbishop spoke to each catechumen and candidate, asking them why they wanted to become Catholic. PHOTO: SHARON BREWER

Catholic Church.

"I heard the word "wilderness" coming from their lips many times.

"These wonderful catechumens and candidates feel that life without Christ is a perpetual wilderness. They continually

told me they 'feel at home' as they approach the Catholic Church for entry. They are on the road to conversion, and

through penance and faith, and our prayers, hope to be received soon into the Catholic faith."

Marist Brothers to farewell Canberra

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

THE Marist Brothers will leave Canberra in the coming months after almost 50 years of service to the Archdiocese.

In a letter distributed on March 5 to the Marist College Canberra community, Brother Jeffrey Crowe, the Marist provincial, said the decision to withdraw the community of Brothers from Canberra had been made "reluctantly" and asked for the community's understanding.

"Our circumstances as a group of Brothers have changed such that we have to make some hard decisions about where to keep communities," Br Jeffrey wrote.

"Six communities have been closed around the country in the past five years with two new ones created this year. In the case of Canberra, we have had two deaths in the past 18 months and an additional challenge since we have invited Br Lawrie McCane to be part of a new community initiative from the second half of the year."



From left to right, Br Tony Shears, Br Kevin Murray, Br Anthony Atkinson and Br Lawrie McCane.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Br Jeffrey said moving out of Canberra would be "painful", particularly for the present members of the community - Br Lawrie, Br Anthony, Br Kevin and Br Tony.

"We are so grateful to the generations of families, col-

leagues, students and pastors who have welcomed us and worked alongside us to build up the wonderful college that Marist is today, and of which we are all justly proud," he wrote. "We are very confident in the College leadership at all

levels to continue the Marist spirit and to form young Marists to play their part in society and Church into the future."

Marist headmaster Richard Sidorko said the school community would miss the

Brothers' presence greatly.

"It is sad for those of us here now who hold the Brothers in high regard, and sad for the many friends, Old Boys, former parents and staff who have known the Brothers since the College began in 1968," he said.

"Having the Brothers in the school, whether it be in teaching or by their being around spending time with people, always lifted my spirits and reinforced in my mind just how privileged a role we all shared as Marists, lay people and religious men, in continuing to realise St Marcellin's vision here in Canberra.

"It is now time for us lay Marists to assume completely the task of educating our boys in the spirit of the Brothers and of St Marcellin... While the Brothers will no longer have a community here in Canberra, our College is still very much a Marist Brothers school."

The school plans to host a fitting farewell for the departing Marist Brothers in the coming months.

Youth team ready to change hearts

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

THEY might love motorbikes, surfing, music and good food, but the new members of the National Evangelisation Team (NET) have devoted 2015 to something they're even more passionate about – sharing their faith with other young people.

The team arrived in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn in February after an intensive six weeks of training in Brisbane.

For the rest of the year, the team will travel to all parts of the Archdiocese, running mini-retreats at schools, and leading youth events in parishes.

The team is made up of six members – Catherine De Battista, Nicholas Kelly, Chris Beaton, Alice Tate, TJ Mills and Sarah Morgan.

Team leaders Catherine and Nicholas, both 20, told *Catholic Voice* they're looking forward to the challenge of youth ministry.

"I love seeing young people happy and joyful and excited for God and really living their life, not just riding the waves," Catherine said. "My dream



From left to right, Catherine De Battista, TJ Mills, Sarah Morgan, Nicholas Kelly, Alice Tate and Chris Beaton. PHOTO: LOUI SESELJA

with this year is to really see young people realising that God isn't just for old people, God is for everyone, and having Jesus in your life is one of the most incredible things you can ever have."

Nicholas, who has taken a year off from an engineering degree to be a part of NET, said he hopes to grow in his own faith through the experience and to change the hearts

of the people he encounters.

"Especially in a Church that is ageing, the youth are either disconnected or they're not as present as they have been in the past, and that to me is a real shame," he said. "One of the greatest things about NET is it's bringing the Church onto their level so they can be involved."

Parish and schools youth ministry liaison officer Joshua Goldsbrough said he's been

impressed with the new team since meeting them in February.

"I could tell that they, along with all of the other teams, had received some really solid training and formation," he said. "We also had some time to hang out and straight away it felt like a little, even if a very diverse, family. Each of them has a warmth, and in their own way, a desire to connect with young people."

Marriage ministry still blooming, 25 years on

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

TWENTY-FIVE years after it began in Canberra, the Ministry to the Newly Married program is still providing newlyweds with vital support during the early stages of their marriage.

This year, 24 newly-married couples are taking part in the program, which officially kicked off in February with a formal dinner where couples were matched with their mentors for the year.

Brian and Debbie Kensey, who are part of the program's leadership team, said each newly-married couple is paired with a new "adoptive" couple each year for the duration of the five-year program.

The adoptive couple then meets with the newly-married couple four times during the year, where they have a discussion based on a specific topic.

Some of the subjects covered include dealing with feelings, financial plans, married sexuality, dealing with fears and jealousy, forgiveness and healing, and marriage spirituality.

"The success of the program depends on the degree to which the adoptive couple can open themselves up to the newly married," Mr Kensey said. "The talks are really about the nitty gritty of day-



Some of the couples taking part in the Ministry to the Newly Married program this year.

PHOTO: WAYNE CASSIDY

to-day life, but by definition the faith of the adoptive couple must come through."

The Kenseys have been an adoptive couple for the past 12 years, and believe their involvement in the program has strongly benefited their own marriage.

"We believe it helps us phenomenally," Mr Kensey said.

"We give a talk where we open ourselves up to the newly married couple, and in doing that we have to talk to each other about the topic, so it significantly helps our marriage."

On average, the 22 adoptive

couples taking part in the program this year have been married for about 30 years, Mr Kensey said, several of whom have been through the program themselves.

The key message the program tries to convey is the importance of open, honest and regular communication.

"It's about strongly encouraging newly-marrieds to sit down and talk about things," Mr Kensey said.

"It also helps them to be better prepared to address issues when they arise."

Ministry to the Newly Married was originally established in the USA, and Canberra couple Bernice and Maurie Boland set up the program in the Archdiocese in 1990.

It also operates in Adelaide, Perth and Brisbane.

The program is open to couples recently married in the Catholic Church.

For more information contact Brian and Debbie Kensey on 6231 3389 or 0414 878 167 or by e-mail mnm@grapevine.com.au.

New fertility website to be a world first

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

ACT Right to Life and the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn signed an agreement to produce an exciting new fertility awareness project last month.

The Archdiocese's Marriage, Family and Relationships team will create a website called 'Fertility Aware' later this year, thanks to funding from ACT Right to Life.

Archdiocesan natural fertility educator Anna Johnstone, who is managing the project, described it as a "new beginning in the fertility awareness world".

The website will provide information about the three major fertility awareness - or natural family planning - methods in Australia - the Billings Ovulation Method, the Sympto-thermal Method and the Creighton Model.

"This will be a portal for education and information, and initially a directory to services," Ms Johnstone said.

"Hopefully, as we build relationships with all the stakeholders around Australia in the fertility awareness world, we'll be able to get more cooperation and more collaboration and be able to offer professional, cohesive services for fertility awareness methods."

Information about human reproduction and fertility health will be included in the website, as well as education in the fundamental value and dignity of the reproductive system and the body's natural procreative capacity.

Ms Johnstone said the purpose of the new website was to make fertility-related information and services accessible to those who need it.

"Fertility Aware provides links to fertility education for women hoping to conceive and also those spacing or avoiding pregnancy," she said.

"It offers a new approach to fertility management where women and couples are at the centre of their own reproductive health care, working in harmony with their natural procreative capacity."

For more information visit www.fertilityaware.org.au.

St Patrick's Bega celebrates 150 years

BY ALBERT MCKNIGHT

CITIZENS of the Valley congregated on March 15 to celebrate 150 years of St Patrick's Parish in Bega.

The proceedings began with Archbishop Christopher Prowse arriving in a procession led by three representatives of the Bemboka Light Horse Troop and their mounts.

A crowd gathered outside the church to welcome the Archbishop, with St Patrick's Catholic Primary School pupils forming a guard of honour for him to walk through.

The Archbishop celebrated a special Mass for the occasion, assisted by Bega parish priest Fr Michael Lim.

After the Mass, many people wandered around the school on tours to see the changes that have occurred throughout the years.

Lunch was held in the school hall, which also had a history exhibition prepared by the St Patrick's school children.

Stalls in the hall sold merchandise especially prepared for the event, and an anniversary book written on the history of St Patrick's parish was also launched.

Our People, Our Times, Our Reflections was created by the editorial committee of Pat McRae, Veronica Northcott and Betty O'Brien, and it had sold more than 250 copies midway through the day.

Copies of the book will continue to be sold at the school and parish churches.

Fr Lim said the celebrations were wonderful and he was pleased with the turnout.

"It's nice to see so many people here who at one time have



Archbishop Christopher Prowse is greeted by St Patrick's Primary School students as he arrives to celebrate Mass for the 150th anniversary of the parish church. Below, representatives of the Bemboka Light Horse Troop lead the procession.

PHOTOS: BEGA DISTRICT NEWS

been part of this parish," he said. "We are always in the process of repairing and rebuilding ourselves especially in schools, because they are the future of the Church community."

The parish communities at Bega, Tathra, Bemboka and Candelo were all very strong, Fr Lim said.

The 150th anniversary celebrations were part of Archbishop Christopher's pastoral visitation to Bega, which included visits to local schools and many sick people around the shire. He congratulated the

people of Bega on "their wonderful family life and sense of sticking together in good times and bad".

"I'm here to encourage them in the faith and thank not only the Catholic community, but the entire community for all their good work," he said.

He was also impressed at how some families of the Bega St Patrick's parish have been involved in the church for the past three to four generations.

**This article first appeared in the Bega District News and is reprinted here with permission.*



Unique ministry model a sign of the future

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

THE success of a unique model of youth ministry at St Augustine's Parish in Yass has resulted in the agreement being renewed for another year.

St Augustine's, the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn, and parents of youth in the parish, have been working together for the past two years in building a vibrant and strong youth group.

The agreement between the parties allows Archdiocesan parish and schools youth ministry liaison officer Joshua Goldsbrough to assist the St Augustine's youth group.

Archdiocesan director of pastoral support Shawn van

der Linden said the arrangements have proved to be a great success thus far.

"I think it's a good example of where Archdiocesan support, a parish, and parents can work together to do something good for young people," he

"It's been very successful; there have been leaders who have been formed, initially in the school, and now within the parish community."

said.

"That's what the agreement is, it brings those different people together to ensure resourcing and support happens for a youth ministry coordinator in the parish."

Mr van der Linden said the model represented a new

approach to youth ministry that could become more common in the future.

"The old model just isn't going to work all the time, where we expect the parish to have the wherewithal [to run a youth group], and that's where

the Archdiocese can come alongside and provide support to make it happen," he said.

"We're trying something new so we need to keep learning from the experience and evaluating and changing the way that we do it.

"It's been a great learning

experience so far from an Archdiocesan perspective."

St Augustine's parish priest Fr Mick Burke told *Catholic Voice* the youth group had previously been run by a team of dedicated adults who were beginning to find the organisa-

tional demands "very draining".

He added that Mr Goldsbrough's role was not to run the youth group but to train youth leaders from within the community.

"His primary role is to gather the younger people but at

the same time encourage people to come through as leaders of youth within the parish," Fr Mick said.

"It's been very successful; there have been leaders who have been formed, initially in the school, and now within the parish community.

"Joshua's a great mentor to the younger people, and [the arrangement] is successful in that we have 30 young people gather on a regular basis for recreation, food and reflections on their faith."

Fr Mick asserted that the model's success demonstrated that it could be of great benefit to other parishes and communities in similar circumstances.



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Inspired to take Christ to the youth

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

ENDURANCE is one of the first attributes that comes to mind when one meets Br Matt McKeon – a sprightly, active 89-year-old Christian Brother whose enthusiasm to bring Christ to young people is unquenchable.

Despite his age, he still drives to St Edmund's College every day, glides up and down staircases with ease, and devotes hours of his time to providing spiritual direction.

But Br Matt hasn't always been in perfect health. In 2009 he suffered a heart attack, which he thought was the end of his work on this earth.

"My heart stopped," he says. "Luckily, I had called the ambulance and they kicked me back into life."

Nothing, it seems, can keep this Christian Brother down. Six years after the near-death experience, he's back to his best, even frequenting the gym three times a week.

While his ministry has mainly revolved around teaching, in recent times Br Matt's focus has been providing spiritual direction to St Edmund's students and to individuals in the Archdiocese.

Born in 1925, Br Matt says he was raised in a strong, Catholic home.

Distance prevented the children from attending Catholic schools, so Br Matt's parents decided he would receive religious education at home.

"I had to learn five questions from the Catechism every week," he recalls. "Dad would examine me and if I knew them, he would give me the comic book called *The Champion*, which as a kid I was keen to read."

Br Matt's upbringing and strong formation served him well, and religious life made its way onto his agenda when he was still at school in Queensland.

"I was asking what am I to become in life?" he explains.

"One day I walked into the back of a church that I began to visit regularly because it was



Br Matt McKeon has taught and provided spiritual direction at St Edmund's College for the past 20 years. PHOTO: LOUI SESELJA

on my way to school. There was a pamphlet that said 'Have you a vocation in life?'

"I read it, and it said there are thousands upon thousands of young people out there who will never know Christ unless someone volunteers to tell them. And something in me said 'Yes, I'm interested'."

About a year later, at the age of 18, Br Matt joined the Christian Brothers. In the following years he spent most of his time teaching in 12 schools in NSW and the ACT.

One of Br Matt's most treasured memories is being headmaster of St Patrick's Technical

School in Goulburn during the famous 1965 schools strike that brought financial assistance to Catholic schools across Australia.

A decade later, Br Matt had another memorable experience, travelling to Rome to study for six months.

"It was a marvelous blessing," he says.

"Up until that point in time I was very much teaching religious education from the head. After this six-month spiritual renewal, I was ready to teach it from the heart, and that was a dramatic change."

Looking back on his 70

years of religious life, Br Matt says he's been blessed to work with youth for all his life.

And he has no plans to cease working with young people anytime soon.

"I enjoy spiritual direction very much, I enjoy Canberra, I enjoy this particular school's atmosphere," he says.

"As long as health stays with me I'll continue to work in spiritual direction wherever I'm called."

"I realise I was given the gift of religious life, which was a grace offered to me. I'm extremely grateful that religious life was my call."

Autumn Fair to raise much needed funds

BY DEACON JOHN LIM

SAINT Mary's Parish in Bungendore is hosting an Autumn Fair in the church grounds on April 11.

Established in 1863, St Mary's is not only one of the main historic icons of Bungendore and the region, it also serves as the spiritual centre of a vibrant and growing community. The fair is to raise desperately needed funds for the restoration of the church building and grounds.

The major attraction will be a variety of stalls selling a wide range of items, while a car boot sale is also planned. The parish will operate several stalls to raise funds specifically for the restoration of its major stained glass window.

There will also be a special plant stall, which, thanks to the generosity of St Thomas the Apostle parishioners in Kambah, will include a large number of quality plants.

St Mary's has even revived its vintage chocolate wheel, which will operate during the day with a range of prizes.

An auction of donated items will be conducted at around



Members of the St Mary's community in Bungendore are organising an Autumn fair to raise money for the restoration of the church.

PHOTO: DAVID WEBSTER

midday, including some old church pews in good condition. A list of auction items will be posted online closer to the day.

A range of activities have

been planned for the children including a dinosaur display, a jumping castle and a variety of games. Music, busking and dancing displays will also take

place during the day.

The Autumn Fair is planned as a day of fun and entertainment and people of all ages are welcome to attend.

For more information, to hire a stall, or to donate an item for auction, contact the parish on (02) 6238 1247 or email stm.bungendore@cg.catholic.org.au

Galong going from strength to strength

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

IT'S the go-to place for Catholic laity and religious on the east coast of Australia, but what is it that makes St Clement's Retreat Centre in Galong so popular?

Retreat coordinator Fr Bill Goldman CSsR believes people come to the 800-acre property at Galong for a variety of reasons, but says there are several key attractions.

"People find a sense of peace here," he said. "They find reconciliation, they find the presence of God."

The retreat centre has a long history, tracing its origins back to 1918 when the original three-storey monastery building was officially opened. Other buildings on the site were completed in 1923 and 1954.

The monastery also served as a 'juvenate' – a type of boarding school for boys who may then go on to study for the priesthood.

Fr Bill said juvenates were common in the early 20th century and provided boys with an excellent, classical education.

"It was for young boys who expressed an interest in priesthood," he explained.

"All the fellows who ever



For many years, St Clement's Retreat Centre in Galong has been the venue of choice for several Catholic dioceses when hosting conferences and retreats. The centre is also used regularly by various Christian denominations.

PHOTO: MATTHEW BIDDLE

came here thoroughly enjoyed the experience. They did their high school, then there was

juvenate at Galong; and while most decided not to pursue priesthood, some did, entering

by the Redemptorists.

Since then, with the help of various grants, renovations

"I hope people would come here and have an experience of the presence of Jesus in their lives, and to pray for peace and justice in our world."

another discernment period where they decided whether they wanted to go on to become a Redemptorist."

Before its closure in 1975, about 900 boys completed the

the Redemptorist order.

With the buildings no longer in use, it was decided to turn St Clement's into a centre for retreats, which would be organised and led primarily

and refurbishments have taken place at St Clement's, turning classrooms into a conference centre and upgrading the accommodation facilities.

Fr Bill said the retreat cen-

tre's reputation is such that whenever someone in the ACT or NSW mentions Galong, St Clement's immediately comes to mind.

"We're well known and I think people look to us as a symbol of stability, particularly in a rural area," he said. "We're a presence to the local community, and to the whole southwest really."

"I think the beauty of this place is that we're on the edge of three or four dioceses – Bathurst, Wagga, Canberra and Goulburn and Wilcannia-Forbes. All the priests of those dioceses use this place for their clergy retreat."

St Clement's is also available to other denominations, and is often used by members of the Anglican Dioceses of Canberra and Goulburn, Bathurst and the Riverina, as well as members of the Uniting Church.

Fr Bill said he hopes visitors to St Clement's in 2015 will continue to be refreshed and to find peace from their time at the retreat centre.

"The world is so violent and traumatised," he said. "I hope people would come here and have an experience of the presence of Jesus in their lives, and to pray for peace and justice in our world."

Anniversary celebrations for ACU's graduates

MORE than 150 students graduated from Australian Catholic University's (ACU) Canberra campus on March 20.

Students graduated from Certificate, Bachelor, Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma and Master courses in the Faculty of Education and Arts, the Faculty of Health Sciences, the Faculty of Law and Business and the Faculty of Philosophy and Theology.

The graduation commenced with 10am Mass at St Christopher's Cathedral, before the graduation ceremony at The Great Hall, Parliament House in the afternoon.

During the Mass, the graduands committed themselves to "lives of integrity and to an on-going search for truth".

"We will strive to embody in our personal and professional lives the values and ideals of the Gospel," they prayed.

"We will seek to maintain a close bond with the Church community and its leaders, so that our particular witness will lead others to value the unity



From left to right, ACU Vice-Chancellor Greg Craven, Dr Anita Callaway, who graduated with a Doctorate in Practical Ministry, and ACU Chancellor John Fahey. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

of the Church as a sign of God's reign in the world."

The graduation Mass and ceremony were a celebration of the hard work and commitment the students have displayed throughout their three

or four years at the university.

Debra Thoms, chief executive officer of the Australian College of Nursing, delivered the occasional address to the graduands and their families and friends.

ACU is Australia's largest provider of graduate nurses and with a strong history of nursing education at its Canberra campus.

Canberra campus dean Patrick McArdle said gradua-

tion was an occasion for universities to publicly celebrate their successes; for students as graduates in their chosen fields, and for staff as a tangible sign of the important nexus between teaching and research.

"For 25 years Australian Catholic University has been graduating highly successful professionals who have made a positive difference in education, health, theology and welfare in Canberra and the region," he said.

"We pride ourselves on the commitment to the common good which characterises our students and graduates and which has served our community so ably for over a quarter of a century.

"Our graduates are prized for their professionalism, work-readiness and dedication to high ethical standards in the professions. It is for this reason that graduates of ACU Canberra enjoy such high employment rates on completion of their degree."

ACU is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2015, having been established in 1990.



Writer.

Musician.

Healer.

Leader.

Prophet.

Woman.

Saint.



Australian Catholic University (ACU) invites you to attend two free public events.

Enjoy a night of performance. Come along to *Hildegard of Bingen and the Living Light*, a free docudrama performed by international mezzo soprano Linn Maxwell.

6pm, Friday 1 May 2015

Signadou Chapel, 223 Antill Street, Watson, Canberra

Please register to attend at: www.acu.edu.au/723958



Find out why solving the world's toughest problems is not only the right thing to do, but is also good for business.

Attend *Why Business, Why Now: Solving the World's Toughest Problems*, a seminar led by Fred Keller, Founder and Chair of Cascade Engineering (USA).

6pm, Thursday 30 April 2015

ACT Legislative Assembly, 196 London Circuit, Canberra

Please register to attend at: www.acu.edu.au/723669

Comic book of a saintly superhero

A COMIC book that narrated the life of Pope St John XXIII has been re-issued 50 years after its initial release.

The Story of Pope John XXIII is a re-issue of a profile written and drawn by Joe Sinnott, an artist known for inking memorable Marvel titles such as *Thor* and *The Avengers* during the golden age of comics.

In the early 1960s Mr Sinnott, a Catholic, was busy with a Marvel series called *The Fantastic Four* when he got a call from George Pflaum, the head of Treasure Chest of Fun and Fact, a publisher of faith-themed comics. He had seen Mr Sinnott's work and wanted him to create a biography of the Pope.

After agreeing, Mr Sinnott penciled and inked *The Story of Pope John XXIII* by day and penciled and inked *Thor* by night.

Mr Sinnott then decided to take leave of absence to devote his attention to the Treasure Chest project.

The story was broken up

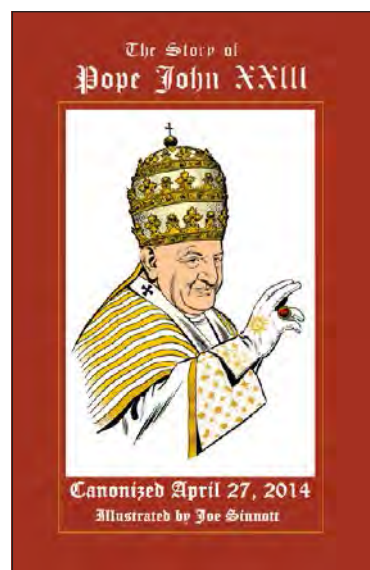
over several issues of *Treasure Chest*, but Mr Sinnott had always hoped to see it in a longer, complete format.

More than 50 years later, the resulting narrative has been lavishly republished as a handsome, oversized red hardcover. This was made possible by a Kickstarter campaign that succeeded in raising more than \$10,000.

Mr Sinnott penciled and inked *The Story of Pope John XXIII* by day and penciled and inked *Thor* by night.

The volume's colour restoration, which was done by artist Leonardo Ito, is regarded as an improvement on the original comic.

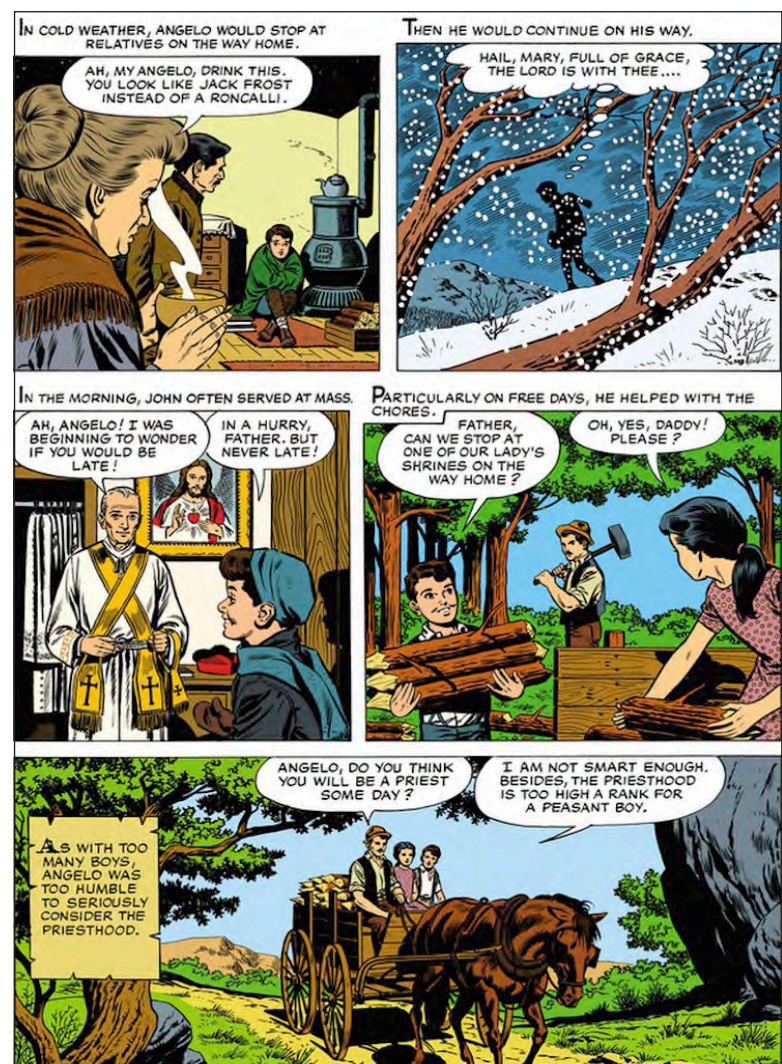
The paper is now a high-grade glossy stock that gives the colours a richness that the first version, printed on less



Renowned Marvel artist Joe Sinnott has re-issued a comic book about the life of St Pope John XXIII, more than 50 years after its initial release. PHOTOS: ONLINE

expensive paper, could not match.

Suitable for readers of all ages, Sinnott's biography was originally published in 1962, the year its subject convened the Second Vatican Council. Pope John died the following June, and was canonised on April 27, 2014.



Pope Francis declares Holy Year for Mercy

DURING his homily for a Lenten penitential service last month, Pope Francis announced an Extraordinary Jubilee to start at the end of the year, which will be dedicated to a theme close to the pontiff's heart: mercy.

"Dear brothers and sisters, I have thought about how the Church can make clear its mission of being a witness of mercy," the Pope told attendees of his March 13 penitential liturgy in St Peter's Basilica.

"It's a journey that starts with a spiritual conversion. For this reason I have decided to declare an Extraordinary Jubilee that has the mercy of God at its centre. It will be a Holy Year of Mercy."

The biblical passage for the Holy Year's theme is from Luke 6:36, in which Jesus tells his disciples, "Be merciful as your Father is merciful".

"I am convinced that the whole Church will be able to find in this Jubilee the joy of rediscovering and making fruitful the mercy of God, with which we are all called to give consolation to every man and every woman of our time," Pope Francis said, before entrusting the Holy Year to Mary, Mother of Mercy.

The Pope made the announcement during a penitential liturgy opening the sec-



The Extraordinary Jubilee, or Holy Year, will commence on December 8 and will finish on November 20, 2016. PHOTO: ONLINE

ond '24 Hours for the Lord' event, which he originally called for in Lent of last year.

An initiative of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelisation, the event is designed to widen access to the Sacrament of Confession by having parishes open their doors for an extended period of time with priests available to those who come.

The Jubilee, also called a Holy Year, will commence on December 8 - the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception - and will close on November 20, 2016 with the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe.

Sunday readings during Ordinary Time for the Holy Year will be taken from the Gospel of Luke, as he is often

referred to as "the evangelist of mercy". Among the well-known parables of mercy present in Luke's Gospel are those of the lost sheep, the lost coin and the merciful father.

The official announcement of the Jubilee will take place on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 12, with a public proclamation in front of the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica.

Each of the four papal basilicas in Rome has a holy door, which are normally sealed shut from the inside so that they cannot be opened. The doors are only opened during Jubilee years so pilgrims can enter through them to gain the plenary indulgence connected with the Jubilee.

The rite of the opening of the Holy Door symbolises the idea that the Church's faithful are offered an "extraordinary path" toward salvation during the Jubilee year.

After the Holy Door opens in St Peter's Basilica, those of the other three Roman basilicas, St John Lateran, St Paul Outside the Walls and St Mary Major, will be opened.

The Catholic tradition of practising the Holy Year began with Pope Boniface VIII in 1300, and since 1475 an Ordinary Jubilee has been celebrated every 25 years to allow each generation to experience at least one during their lifetime. However, as is the case with Pope Francis' 2016 Holy Year of Mercy, an Extraordinary Jubilee can be called for a special occasion or for an event that has a particular importance.

Until now there have been 26 Ordinary Jubilee celebrations, the last of which was the Jubilee of 2000.



The Joy of the Gospel in Marriage and Family Life

'Embrace', this year's Archdiocesan Assembly, brought members of the Church in the region together as a spiritual family, as Matthew Biddle explains...



Above, Jessica and Gareth Logan with their children Rose and Patrick; below Archbishop Christopher Prowse blesses Antony and Kripa Antony and their children Neeta, Nihal and Anjali during the opening Mass for the Assembly on March 20. PHOTOS: LOUI SESELJA

The family has gathered," Archbishop Christopher Prowse said at the start of his homily during the opening Mass for the Archdiocesan Assembly, 'Embrace'.

His words were simple, yet profound. While the Assembly focused on marriage and family life, there was also a great sense of participants being part of a larger, spiritual family – that of the universal, Catholic Church. It was a theme repeated throughout the event.

"We're here tonight as a spiritual family. There's a bishop, there's priests, there's deacons... and then we have the laity. We gather in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn as a family," Archbishop Christopher told those who had filled St Christopher's Cathedral to capacity.

"With all my heart as your spiritual father, we ask the Lord to speak to us afresh. I ask everybody here tonight to really

listen like never before over the next 24 hours."

The Archbishop, who was joined by about 30 priests in celebrating the Mass, invoked the guidance of Jesus, Mary and Joseph for the Assembly and reminded the congregation of the variety of members who are part of the Church family.

"I'm delighted to see so many grandparents here tonight," he

"You're one of us, we're one of you, together in this patchwork that we call family today - full of promise but still a long way to fulfilment."

said.

"I'm delighted to see single people here, people on their own. Perhaps your spouse has already gone to heaven, perhaps you're divorced and you're not sure you should even be here tonight.

"Yes, of course you should be here. You're one of us, we're one of you, together in this patchwork that we call family today

– full of promise but still a long way to fulfilment."

At the end of the Mass, the Archbishop pronounced a special blessing over married couples and families and encouraged them to spend some quality time together in preparation for the following day's events.

The Assembly continued on March 21 at the recently refurbished St Clare's College in Grif-

fith. Musician Stephen Kirk led the crowd in Morning Prayer at the start of the day, before official proceedings got under way.

Between keynote speeches, participants mingled and browsed the 30 stalls set up as part of an expo, showcasing the various agencies and groups in the Archdiocese.

Throughout the day, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament,

as well as Sacramental Confession, took place.

After lunch, which was provided by the St Vincent de Paul Society, a panel of speakers answered various questions asked by participants.

The panel was made up of the keynote speakers – Archbishop Christopher, Professor Greg Craven, and Tim and Lara Kirk – as well as Vicar-General Fr Tony Percy and newlyweds Greg and Anna Jeffrey.

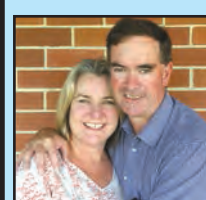
Topics covered included making the Church's documents more accessible, the best way to keep youth in the Church, the benefits of marriage preparation, homosexuality, divorce, domestic violence, contraception and poverty.

For many, the highlight was the final session of the day where everyday, ordinary Catholics shared their stories in a bid to show that the stereotypical picture of a Catholic family is not now the reality of many Catholic families.



Above, Chris Carlile, Don Velasco with baby Liam, and Merlene Carsula; below, Paul Cologon spoke about his struggle to keep his faith during his youth and the difficulties of being separated from his son during the 'Catholic Stories' session. PHOTOS: LOUI SESELJA

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE KEYNOTE SPEECHES



Lara and Tim Kirk
Our Family, Our Faith

* Being welcomed into the home of a family where faith is shared can be an affirming and encouraging experience.

* Our bodies have a profound capacity to

express tenderness, intimacy and love. In family life we get to use that gift all the time.

* The most effective way to achieve a safe, satisfying and comparatively trouble-free sex life is, as it has always been, in a committed, monogamous relationship.

* We are in great need today, as a Church and as a society, of families who have been illuminated by the Gospel.

* We need 'functional enough' families with Jesus at the centre. To be such a family, you need to be hopeful, affectionate, have a capacity for repentance and forgiveness, make 'couple time' a priority, eat together, spend time in prayer, address your mess, and find other families who share your faith and values.



Professor Greg Craven
Embracing the Facts - Catholic Life Today

* A homosexual couple who want to be married is not something the Church can accept. But we cannot pretend that the desire for intimacy does not precede from values

similar to the ones that we have, only expressed in a way that we cannot accept. This makes such debates very difficult.

* One of the problems we face is that if you present a view of marriage or family from a Catholic point of view, you will be told that your view is wrong and that you are not allowed to express it.

* This is not only a debate about family and marriage, but one about freedom of religion too. In law, politics, and policy today, freedom of religion is an inferior right. It always loses.

* We need critically to understand what the most effective form of debate is. Speaking the truth in love is the most likely way of being persuasive.



Archbishop Christopher Prowse
The Joy of the Gospel in Marriage and Family Life

* Marriage is changing dramatically. We need to use good, philosophical arguments to defend our positions.

* There's a crisis in relationships, there's a crisis in basic friendship, there's a crisis in intimacy.

* It's important for Catholics to know what it means to be a Catholic, to have a strong Catholic identity, so we know where our foundations are.

* In the Christian understanding of marriage, there is an intrinsic link between love sharing (the unitive dimension) and life giving (the procreative dimension).

* The most vulnerable place for an Australian to be today is in the womb of his or her mother.

* For any society, the family is the crucible of its future, and for the sake of our children's future, we must be its defenders.



facebook twitter
#embrace2015

Stef Lloyd @StefLloyd1 · Mar 20
@CGCatholic watching from maitland necastle diocese #embrace2015
View conversation

Jan Harvey @kinsall27 · Mar 20
A fabulous presentation Lara & Tim - Well done! @Cionakilla #livestreaming #embrace2015

Loretta Wholley @LWholley · Mar 20
Inspiring individual stories of faith, hope and love. The power of God moving through marriage and family life. @CGCatholic #embrace2015

Serena Grassia Calling the people of our Archdiocese together as one. very proud to be part of this community #embrace2015
Like · Reply · March 20 at 7:48pm

What the participants thought of embrace2015



“ It was great to have the good news of family life and faith presented from a range of different perspectives.”

Fr Paul Nulley
St Mary's Parish,
Young, NSW



“ All of the speeches were excellent and the sharings of people was a great idea. Overall, it was just a fantastic day.”

Leigh Belcher
St Thomas the Apostle Parish,
Kambah, ACT



“ The highlight was Lara and Tim Kirk, who shared their life story and experience with us. It must have taken enormous trust.”

Esther O'Brien
Corpus Christi Parish,
South Tuggeranong, ACT



“ The real gift for me was the way that the Assembly tapped into the real life and the real concerns of real people.”

Sr Katherine Stone MGL
St Benedict's Parish,
Narrabundah, ACT



Combined schools concert hits all the right notes

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

ONE of the highlights of the recent Catholic Schools Week (March 9-13) was the annual ACT Combined Catholic Colleges Concert, involving more than 170 students from six Catholic schools.

Students from St Francis Xavier, Merici, Marist, St Edmund's, Daramalan and St Clare's Colleges gave three outstanding performances to an audience of more than 250 parents and friends. The performances were led by a jazz ensemble, a choir and a concert band.

The event, which was first held in 2013, was hosted by St Francis Xavier College on March 12. It was originally established by St Francis Xavier music and band teacher Kevin Knapp, who conducted the jazz ensemble for the concert.

Mr Knapp told Catholic Voice the concert went as smoothly as he could have expected.

"One of the highlights for me was working with some of the students who I had in my jazz ensemble at St Edmund's College when I arrived in Australia three years ago," he said.

"All the students improvised - some for the very first time in their lives - and they operated like a well-oiled machine. The jazz band understood the jazz language and the importance of communication on stage and were able to do the entire set, including solos, on their own."

Mr Knapp said feedback from students, parents and school staff had been overwhelmingly positive.

"People have been impressed by how organised the event was and how professional the students looked and acted," he said.

It is hoped that the concert band and the jazz band will meet on a regular basis in the future, and perhaps tour representing Catholic Education one day.

Meanwhile, in the coastal region of the Archdiocese, students from Carroll College, St Mary's Primary School and St Bernard's Primary School also came together for several combined performances to celebrate Catholic Schools Week.

Left, Rory Davison from St Edmund's College plays the clarinet during the annual Combined Catholic Colleges Concert.
PHOTO: SUPPLIED





Catholic Schools Week a hit at Lumen Christi

CATHOLIC Schools Week (CSW) is a celebration aimed at raising awareness and promoting the strength and distinctiveness of Catholic schools. This year, CSW involved all primary and secondary school communities across NSW and the ACT.

The week provides an opportunity to strengthen the relationships between all members of the community, including staff, parents, students, priests and parishioners.

Lumen Christi Catholic College in Pambula Beach, NSW, hosted several events during CSW, including visits from St Patrick's Primary School students and a Mass for the whole school community.

St Patrick's students were treated to a variety of activities during their visit, including drama performances, art-based activities and a taiko music workshop.

Australian Catholic schools enrol about 20 per cent of school students across Australia. There are more than 600 Catholic primary and secondary schools across NSW and the ACT, providing quality education in environments that focus on faith and pastoral care.

Catholic schools teach the same curriculum as government schools throughout Australia. Expectations of achievement and conduct are high. A broad curriculum caters for a wide range of interests and abilities, with a strong focus on the individual. Catholic schools offer highly qualified, professional and devoted teachers who cater to the diverse learning needs of our students.

For more information about Catholic schools in the Archdiocese, visit www.ceocg.catholic.edu.au



Students from St Patrick's Primary School in Bega, from left to right, Mia Triggell, Karolina Gaunigio and Josie Pearson during their visit to Lumen Christi Catholic College for Catholic Schools Week. PHOTO: SUPPLIED



St Francis Xavier College

Enrolling now Years 7-12



Open Evening
Year 7-12 in 2016
Monday 11 May
5:00pm-6:30pm Tours
6:30pm Information

Information Evening
Year 11 in 2016
Wednesday 13 May
5:30pm Course Advice
6:30pm Information

SFX Open Day
9:00am-2:30pm Friday 15 May



MERICI COLLEGE OPEN DAY

Wednesday 6 May
9.30am–7.00pm

YEAR 7, 2016

INFORMATION EVENING

Tuesday 12 May 6.00pm–7.15pm

Enrolment forms will be available.

YEAR 11, 2016

INFORMATION EVENING

Thursday 14 May 6.00pm–7.15pm

Careers Expo 4.00pm–6.00pm

Senior Information Handbooks will be available.



**BE A
MERICI GIRL
FOR A DAY!**
5, 11 & 15 MAY

CONTACT US
TO REGISTER

CONTACT US
TO REGISTER



Merici College ... Building Futures for Exceptional Young Women

Merici College is an inclusive Catholic College for young women in Years 7 to 12. We are a cutting edge, technology-rich school built on a tradition of best practice in girls' education. We achieve consistently excellent results which reflect strong student engagement in learning, innovative classroom practice and academic rigour.

Merici College ... A dynamic, welcoming community

- A rich Religious Education program that bridges faith and life.
- All students have access to College facilities.
- A diverse and rigorous academic program.
- Learning and teaching in vibrant cutting edge flexible learning areas.
- Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Technology Program and Digital Community Agreement.
- An extensive Co-curricular Program.
- Sustainability, Kitchen Garden and Healthy Eating initiatives.
- A Trade Training Centre (commercial kitchen and restaurant), a Technical Support Centre and a Vocational Education and Careers' Centre further enhance the opportunities offered to the students.

Merici College ... Caring for your daughter's well-being

- A vertical pastoral care system (Years 7-12) which fosters the personal and spiritual growth of students in partnership with parents. It offers a sense of belonging for every student and real opportunities for student leadership.
- A formal program which addresses current issues relevant to adolescents including cybersafety, positive mental health and wellbeing.

- A Christian Service Learning Program that supports local and global needs.
- Access to support services including Psychologists, a Defence Transition Mentor and an Aboriginal Contact Teacher.

Merici College ... Reflections from our students

- I was given lots of information and guidance that helped me settle into high school. I am looking forward to our Year 7 camp so that I can spend more time with my new friends. The school leaders have helped me find my way around the College.

Caitlin, Year 7 student

- Bringing your own computer to school this year has helped create more familiarity in using technology in the classroom and the teachers are always supportive and willing to help me.

Georgia, Year 8 student

- It's great being able to become involved in so many different academic and co-curricular activities. I am a member of the Social Justice group and I am looking forward to helping other people in our community.

Emma, Year 9 student

- The College's focus on sustainability is amazing. Each day we learn more ways to

keep our environment safe. Through my day to day practices, such as using the correct bins, minimising waste, recycling, and working in our kitchen garden and glasshouse, I feel like I am helping to sustain a healthy environment.

Olivia, Year 10 student

- The vertical grouping in PC is fantastic at Merici, allowing students from all years to integrate and form relationships. It also gives the senior students the opportunity to develop their leadership skills and be role models, which builds on a larger sense of community and belonging, and enhances the school spirit.

Sarah, Year 11 student

- Merici has given me the skills that I need so that my career pathway can begin in 2016. I graduate this year knowing that I have developed as a whole person, academically, socially and spiritually.

Alicia, Year 12 student

Come and visit the College on Wednesday 6 May, 9.00am–7.00pm to see first-hand the excellent facilities and services Merici offers students so that they can begin to build futures more wondrous than they dare to dream.

www.merici.act.edu.au

Visit our website at www.merici.act.edu.au or contact Ms Trish Ryan, the Enrolment Officer on 6243 4102.
The Merici College Restaurant will be open. Lunch: 12.30–2pm, Dinner: 4.30pm–7.30pm. Bookings preferred, telephone 6243 4100.



THE DANCER

★★★



THE ALL ROUNDER

★★★



THE HIGH
ACHIEVER

★★★



THE ARTIST

★★★



THE WRITER

★★★



THE LEADER

★★★



THE SCIENTIST

★★★



THE BUILDER

★★★

There's something for
everyone at MacKillop.

ENROLMENT INFORMATION SESSIONS

4 MAY

Year 7 Info Night
6.30pm
Wanniassa Campus
Mackinnon St, Wanniassa

7 MAY

Try MacKillop Day
(For Year 6 Students)
Wanniassa Campus
Mackinnon St, Wanniassa

13 MAY

Year 11 Info Night
6pm
Isabella Campus
Ellerston Ave, Isabella Plains



THE MATHS WIZ

★★★



THE CHEF

★★★



THE PERFORMER

★★★



THE ECONOMIST

★★★



THE SPORTS
STAR

★★★



THE LANGUAGES
STUDENT

★★★

ST MARY MACKILLOP COLLEGE CANBERRA



A Catholic co-educational secondary school for all.

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Who do you want them to be?

Be Marist



OPEN DAY | Sunday 3 May | 9am–12pm

maristc.act.edu.au |  

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.

WE'RE A CATHOLIC SCHOOL THAT WELCOMES EVERYONE, SO WHEN WE SAY 'THE DARAMALAN FAMILY' IT'S MORE THAN JUST WORDS.

AT DARA WE HAVE GREAT CHOICES THAT HELP US DEVELOP OUR STRENGTHS AND INTERESTS. WHEN THAT HAPPENS, WE ENJOY SCHOOL MORE.

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

Tiarnie
College Captain

Adam
College Captain

Tariku
High School Captain.

Emma
High School Captain

TRY "DARA FOR A DAY" FOR YEAR 6 STUDENTS

We offer all Year 6 students an opportunity in May to visit the College and experience student life at Daramalan. More information about these days can be found on our website below.

Food Science professional kitchen

New Canteen with student dining and social areas

New Trade Training Centre

DARAMALAN 2016 ENROLMENT DATES

30 APRIL 2015	THURSDAY:	2016 Primary School Pre-Enrolment Orientation Day - Option One
4 MAY 2015	MONDAY:	Enrolments for 2016 commence
5 MAY 2015	TUESDAY:	2016 Primary School Pre-Enrolment Orientation Day - Option Two
20 MAY 2015	WEDNESDAY:	Year 11 2016 Information Evening 7.30pm
22 MAY 2015	FRIDAY:	Year 7 2016 Enrolments close



DARAMALAN COLLEGE

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



St Edmund's College

CANBERRA

Achieving today. Leading tomorrow.

Opens its Doors

Thursday 9th April
4.30pm to 7.00pm

Enrolling Now
for 2016
Years 4 to 12

We aim to achieve
We seek to lead

A Catholic School in the Edmund Rice Tradition. Educating Boys Years 4 to 12 since 1954.

110 Canberra Ave, Griffith ACT t 02 6239 0660 e enrolments@stedmunds.act.edu.au www.stedmunds.act.edu.au

APRIL 30 TRY A DAY @ ST CLARE'S

THURSDAY

Become a St Clare's girl for a day! We invite prospective Year 7 students to experience the excitement and enriching opportunities available at St Clare's.



Please register on our website to attend.
www.stcc.act.edu.au

*50 years of faith, tradition and pride.
Built on a Spirited Learning Community.*



St Clare's College

1965 - 2015

MAY 05 OPEN EVENING

TUESDAY

4.00 - 7.30PM

Tours between 4.00-6.00pm
and 6.30-7.30pm.

YEAR 7 INFORMATION

Formal presentation by Senior Students and the Principal, Mr Paul Carroll, between 6.00-6.30pm.



MAY 19 YEAR 11 INFORMATION EVENING

TUESDAY

6.00 - 7.30PM

Discover the many courses and leadership opportunities available for senior students at St Clare's.

1 McMillan Crescent
Griffith ACT 2603

the.principal@stcc.act.edu.au
www.stcc.act.edu.au T: 02 6260 9400

FIND OUT
MORE



Justice Peace Courage

COME AND SEE US AT ST JOHN PAUL II COLLEGE, NICHOLLS

St John Paul II College is an innovative co-educational college creating a Catholic P-12 pathway in the Gungahlin region. Catering Years 7 to 10 in 2016, it will add a year group each year, with the first Year 12 students graduating in 2018. The final stage of our state of the art campus in Nicholls will be completed for the beginning of the 2016 school year, ensuring top class facilities for all core and elective subject areas.

We focus on the pastoral well-being and holistic development of each individual student

- through a unique one-on-one mentoring program which fosters strong partnerships between parents, students and the school.

We provide a dynamic and rigorous academic curriculum

- underpinned by an educational philosophy which includes brain-based learning principles and developing a Growth Mind-Set in each individual.

We have introduced an innovative self-directed learning approach

- which develops independence, time management and organisation skills, enabling students to be challenged and individual needs to be met.

We offer a rich and varied elective and co-curricular program, including lunchtime clubs

- fostering the interests and facilitating the development of the unique talents of each student.

We operate in a Technology-rich learning environment

- allowing learning anywhere, anytime.

We have a strong, integrated focus on sustainability and healthy living

- which includes a canteen run by the school producing only fresh, unprocessed and home cooked dishes.

Open Day Tuesday 5 May

with tours between 9.15am-11.00am, 1.45pm-3.00pm and 4.30pm – 5.30pm.

An Information Session will be held in the College Hall from 5.30pm.

www.jpc.act.edu.au | office.jpc@cg.catholic.edu.au
1021 Gungahlin Drive, Nicholls ACT 2913
(02) 6163 4800



'Man Overboard' to meet once a month

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

AFTER six years in charge of the Seminary of the Good Shepherd in Sydney, the recently appointed Archdiocesan Vicar-General Fr Tony Percy is continuing to help foster vocations by establishing a new group for young men discerning the priesthood at the request of Archbishop Christopher Prowse.

Called 'Man Overboard', the group will meet once a month at Archbishop House, beginning on Friday, May 1, from 5pm. They will then take part in the vocations discernment dinner.

"This group attempts to provide formation for young men contemplating entering the seminary," Fr Tony said.

"It gives them an opportunity once a month to come together and to receive support from the priests of the Archdiocese, seminarians, and each other, and it gives them some time to really think and feel if they'd like to be thrown overboard into the mission of God's kingdom."

Fr Tony intends for the group to meet on the first Friday evening of each month for about two hours.

"The first hour will be formation and prayer and the second hour will be a meal, and



The new group 'Man Overboard' will meet once a month for formation, prayer and a meal.

PHOTO: LOUI SESEJJA

that's where I hope to get different priests in the Archdiocese

different gifts... so this can help the young men in their

thrown overboard into the sea after he boarded a boat going

"It gives them an opportunity... to come together and to receive support from the priests of the Archdiocese, seminarians, and each other."

to come and have a meal and tell their story," he said.

"Priests are very different characters as we know, they are never uniform, they have different interests and ideas,

discernment. Exposure to just a couple of priests is too narrow and restrictive."

As for the group's name, Fr Tony said it evokes the story of the prophet Jonah, who was

in the exact opposite direction that God had called him.

"I was trying to think of a name that would be both theologically adept and would also appeal to young men," he said.

"Jonah's story really is a way of saying people need you to go and proclaim who the true God is. It is very relevant for modern society."

Fr Tony said he believed it was important to establish a group for those discerning the priesthood in the Archdiocese for several reasons.

"It brings them together and the young men begin to realise that they're not on their own," he said. "It gives them time to think, to feel, and to stop and pray, and also to ask questions and to clarify matters."

Encouragement, he added, was another significant benefit of such a group.

"My experience in the seminary was that... the seminarians are swimming against the current of secularism, they're really making a very counter-cultural decision," he said. "For that to happen, and in order to persevere in this commitment, you need encouragement."

It's hoped that similar groups for young men and women discerning marriage, religious life, or a single, consecrated life, might also arise in the future.

For more information or to attend the first meeting of the 'Man Overboard' group, visit manoverboard.org.au or contact Fr Tony Percy on 0431 225 574 or via email: tony.percy@eg.catholic.org.au.

OUR SEMINARIANS



WILL BURDETT - FIFTH YEAR

WHEN the idea of serving in the priesthood was first presented to me I was 16; I thought the idea was ridiculous - there's no way I could possibly be a priest - and I put it out of my mind. Over the next few years, however, the idea kept coming

back to me and eventually I had to take it seriously. Later, working for the Church and getting to know our priests, I came to see their priesthood as a profound way of giving themselves to others, and I found this very attractive. I decided to enter the seminary at 21. Life in the seminary has encouraged me to

grow spiritually and personally, and I love the regular life of prayer and the strong sense of friendship and brotherhood in the community. This is my fifth year of seminary formation and this year I am enjoying a change of scene back home in the Archdiocese. As part of my training, I am spending several

months in the Temora Mission for a pastoral placement - similar to the way a prac-teacher spends time on the job in a school while studying. This means I have an opportunity to take what I have received in my formation and give something of myself for the people of God.

JOSHUA SCOTT - SIXTH YEAR

WHEN I was baptised in 2005, priesthood was not a vocation I was attracted to. After a time of getting to know God and being active within my local parish, I yearned for something more.

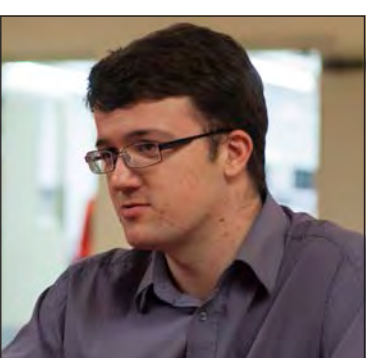
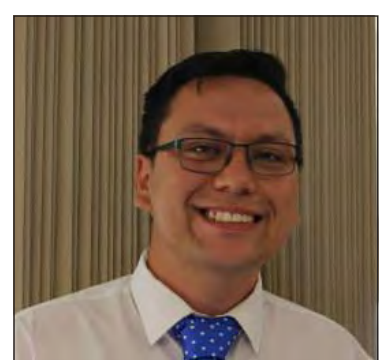
After years of running from the possibility of priesthood, I decided to seriously discern it

as an option for my life. After a time of prayer and discernment I entered the Seminary of the Good Shepherd in 2010. You would think as a 21-year-old from country New South Wales that leaving everything behind to pursue this vocation would be daunting. Besides the initial difficulties of being far from home in a foreign city, I

knew that at that point in time it was where I was meant to be, and I haven't looked back. The seminary life has encouraged me to strive to be the best disciple of Jesus Christ that I can; it has encouraged me to grow spiritually, to grow in myself as a person, to grow in knowledge of God and his Church and to grow in how I can be a witness

of Jesus to the world through pastoral work.

Now in my sixth year of seminary formation, I am on the home straight. I cannot wait to be able to return to the Archdiocese to serve alongside our priests, with our amazing brothers and sisters, for the greater glory of God! Please pray for your seminarians!



ALEX OSBORNE - FIFTH YEAR

AS I grew up I always thought of becoming a priest, and at the age of 18 I decided to take the plunge. I was afraid I would be signing away my youth to seven years of labour in a dry and dusty, old and stagnant time capsule.

I have never been so wrong.

The seminary is like no other place on earth. Imagine a place that is equal parts monastery, army barracks and university fraternity. A seminarian's day and life revolves around about three and half hours of prayer each day. In between prayer and meals, a seminarian spends most of his time in study. He will complete about 45 university

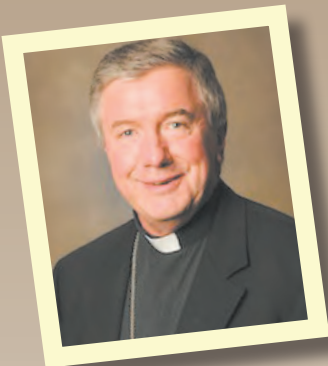
courses, not to mention the different pastoral works he will perform. Throughout his time in the seminary, a seminarian will encounter many others like him, young men willing to dedicate their whole lives to service of God and the Church. This common purpose promotes a common camaraderie, and a fraternity that will last lifetimes.

The seminary is, however, a journey as well as place, and its function is to prepare men to live out their vocation. This vocation, this magnificent sense of purpose, the knowledge that you have been called by God, is the second greatest part of being a seminarian. The greatest part is to respond to this call.



Good Shepherd Sunday Appeal

“Be courageous! Be not afraid! Pray, join us”



Dear Friends,

I am convinced that the Holy Spirit is calling some young men in our Archdiocese to become priests in our Archdiocese.

Already we have five strong young men in the Lord in our seminaries training to be priests. There are about five others that I am aware of that are very seriously thinking and praying to join them in coming years.

But I am sure there are many others who we do not know of at present who are thinking of a vocation to the priesthood.

All I want to say to those in the latter group: Be courageous! Be not afraid! Pray, join us!

I ask everyone in the Archdiocese to pray especially on this Good Shepherd Sunday for an increase of vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood for service in our Archdiocese. Thank you for your prayers.

I ask all priests and seminarians on this particular Good Shepherd Sunday to preach on this topic. Please share your vocation stories to deepen a real vocations culture throughout the entire Archdiocese on all levels. At the same time, I ask that a special collection be taken up in all Masses in the Archdiocese on Good Shepherd Sunday. This money will be used to help defray the very considerable costs associated in the academic training and seminary formation over many years in the preparation of our seminarians for priesthood. These will be, please God, our future priests in our parishes. Please give generously!

We intend to make this an annual vocations observance at this time throughout the Archdiocese. This year is our first year! Let's make a real effort and make a great start to launch the initiative for future years!

May Jesus, our High Priest, raise up a whole generation of new priests in our Archdiocese!

For this we pray together.

+ Christopher Prowse

Archbishop Christopher Prowse
Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn

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Don't ignore the existence of the devil



FOLLOWING FRANCIS

BY DEACON MATT RANSOM

"WE too are tempted, we too are the target of attacks by the devil because the spirit of evil does not want our holiness, he does not want our Christian witness, he does not want us to be disciples of Christ. And what does the spirit of evil do, through his temptations, to distance us from the path of Jesus?" (Pope Francis).

One area that has not received attention from the secular press has been our Pope's frequent references to the presence of evil and specifically the reality of the devil. It is a subject that our Church in the western world, over recent decades, has avoided, glossed over or done away with, as purely psychological. Yet, here we see Pope Francis reminding us of the reality of a genuine, spiritual evil that scripture refers to as Satan. So why this focus?

The great apologist and advocate for the Christian faith CS Lewis, referring to the



Religious art often depicts Satan as a fallen angel, in accord with the teachings of Scripture and Tradition.

PHOTO: ONLINE

excesses that humanity can fall into, suggested the following in *The Screwtape Letters*: "There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest

in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight". Perhaps Lewis was also referring to mankind's inclination to swing from one extreme to the other, and while sitting at an extreme, totally ignoring other

perspectives. We are being reminded by this that evil is more than human error.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (391) reminds us of this personal evil, the scriptures refer to the spiritual reality of this point (Isaiah 14:12-15 and Revelation 12:7-12), and the

lives of the saints add further weight to this fact. St Ignatius of Loyola was known to say "the devil is the enemy of our human nature".

All this discussion is not meant to frighten, but to inform. Yes, there are psychological, behavioural and rational reasons behind many problems in the world, as the various sciences have helpfully informed us. However, what do we do with this additional knowledge?

Fortunately we have answers. The Church, in her wisdom, suggests frequent use of the Sacraments to allow us to receive Christ's freedom from inner turmoil and evil. Scripture reminds us of the power of the name of Jesus (Romans 10:13). The Rosary is known as a formidable prayer. And then there is the wisdom of prayerful, holy priests, religious and lay people who can help us discern what the source of our distress may be.

And so back to the earlier question, why this focus? Simply, it is a part of living in a beautiful, but broken world, and a part of the journey of those who follow Jesus. Pope Francis is reminding us of this.

The 72 returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name". Jesus replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven," (Luke 10:17-18).

At the end of time, God, not Stephen Fry, will ask the questions



GOING DEEPER

BY SHANE DWYER

THOSE of us who are regularly on the internet and alert to things to do with the faith we hold, may have been dismayed to see a family favourite getting stuck into God. British actor and comedian Stephen Fry has been on our screens for years now. He's the kindly, obviously intelligent, slightly pompous and buffoon-like fellow who hosts the *QI* program each weeknight on TV, and has been in such favourites as *Blackadder* and various wildlife documentaries over the years. He's like a well-loved family friend - largely harmless and a bit entertaining.

So imagine the furore caused when, during an interview with Irish television, he saw fit to berate God. If you have a chance to watch the interview, it is worth

doing. If you do a search on 'Stephen Fry and God' a version of the video will come up. Normally I wouldn't point people in the direction of vitriolic atheism, but it serves to highlight the problem we all encounter today when dealing with the atheist agenda: that it assumes an understanding of God that has nothing to do with what we actually believe. The God Stephen describes is one I would reject too. I often find this problem when talking with atheists: that we both end up agreeing that God, as they understand him to be, is not worth believing in and doesn't exist. The fact that the video has been viewed six million times tells us that we ought to consider exactly what's being said.

During the interview, Stephen paints an interesting picture for himself. In that picture, he imagines standing before God, telling God off for the various things he believes God got wrong. Among the accusations is that God causes suffering.

There are a number of problems with Stephen's imagined lecture before God. One of them is that, as he comes before the Almighty... the Alpha



British actor Stephen Fry's thoughts about God reflect the problems of today's atheist agenda.

PHOTO: ONLINE

and the Omega... the Being at the centre of the Universe, Stephen imagines he will be self-possessed enough to be able to articulate his indignation. Imagine an ant standing before Mt Everest or the Niagara Falls, hands on hips, with the firm intention of telling the mountain or the falls a thing or two. The disparity between God and us is even greater than that between the mountain and the ant. Indignation will not be at

the forefront of our minds.

The second problem is that when it comes to asking questions about suffering, Stephen won't be the one in the judge's chair. Suffering is a fact of life, and is part of our physical nature. For example, if you fall out of tree you are going to get hurt. The law of gravity, required to keep the Universe operating, makes that so. Blaming God for the pain we feel when we hit the ground indicates a naïve and

deliberately unhelpful view of who God is and how God works.

In Matthew 25 we read that, as we make an account of ourselves before God at the end of time, God will be the one asking the questions: did we feed the hungry, visit the sick and the imprisoned, comfort the lonely, and ease the sufferings of others? Did we allow ourselves to be the means by which God addresses suffering in the world? What will our answer be?

No one deserves the death penalty



POSTCARD FROM BOSTON
BY FR FRANK BRENNAN SJ

THE snow has stopped falling in Boston - finally. It's melting in fact. People are taking bets on whether there will still be snow piled on the sidewalks at the time of the Boston Marathon to be run on April 17. The trial of Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, the surviving 2013 Boston Marathon bomber, will still be running. Some of his surviving 264 victims have been giving gut-wrenching evidence here in the federal court house. The death penalty has been the talk of the town, just as it was last month in Australia when people focused on the plight of Andrew Chan and Myuran Sukumaran during weeks of legal and political manoeuvring with Jakarta.

Some of the Australian commentary on the Indonesian justice system has been understandably very critical. But living here in the USA for a year, I have come to realise that the death penalty infects every justice system no matter how good and robust it is. In the end, the death penalty is always political. That's why I am very grateful to Pope John Paul II who changed his position on the death penalty, saying that there is no warrant for its use, provided you can guarantee the protection of the community by the long-term incarceration



Andrew Chan, left, and Myuran Sukumaran, right, are facing imminent execution by firing squad in Bali. The pair were convicted of drug trafficking in 2005 and have been in Kerokaban Prison since their arrest. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

of the unrepentant serious offender.

It took more than two months to empanel a jury for the marathon bomber. They had to find 12 jurors and 6 replacements who were 'death ready'. They had to be jurors who would be

would have pleaded guilty. His trial would be long finished; he would now be serving life imprisonment, and people would be spared the months of agony debating his death sentence.

The US Supreme Court has a few horrific death penalty

times when the jury has recommended only life imprisonment. Meanwhile, they have overridden the jury recommendation of the death penalty only 10 times.

The jury for Courtney Lockhart who had spent 16 months

The death penalty infects every justice system no matter how good and robust it is. In the end, the death penalty is always political.

prepared to impose the death penalty if some of the federal offences were proved. That's hard in the state of Massachusetts where they have abolished the death penalty. The court drew from a jury panel of 1,350 persons. They had to complete a 28-page questionnaire as part of the selection process. Except for the death penalty, Tsarnaev

cases coming up this month. Two cases come out of Alabama where the state judges are elected, often on law and order platforms. The state judges have the power to override the jury decision on the death penalty. Since 1976 when the Supreme Court reinstated the death penalty, Alabama judges have imposed the death penalty 101

as a soldier in Iraq voted unanimously that he serve life imprisonment because, as Justice Sotomayor of the US Supreme Court wrote, his life had been "influenced by mitigating circumstances relating to severe psychological problems he suffered as a result of his combat in Iraq". Sixty-four soldiers from his brigade never made it

home; 12 who did have been arrested for murders or attempted murders committed since their return home.

The other case is from Oklahoma where they use a three drug protocol to kill the prisoner. The first drug, which is supposed to induce the coma, is midazolam, which is not approved for general use as an anaesthetic. Recently the administration of the drug was botched and a prisoner took 40 minutes to die writhing in pain. The second drug is supposed to paralyse the prisoner, and the third drug stops his heart. The Supreme Court has been asked to decide if it is constitutionally permissible for a state to carry out an execution using these drugs when "there is a well-established scientific consensus that the first drug has no pain relieving properties and cannot reliably produce deep, coma-like unconsciousness".

The death penalty is barbaric and unfair. You can never get it right. It's just so wrong. The Americans are not for changing - yet. We Australians should do all we can to convince our neighbour Indonesia to join the world trend towards abolition of the death penalty. President Joko Widodo provided a slight opening during the discussion of the plight of the two Australians on death row when he said, "The Constitution and existing laws still allow [the death penalty] but in the future if it is necessary to change it, and [if] the people really want it, why not?" I will not miss the horror of the death penalty and the garish court discussions of it when I return to Australia, where our last execution was 48 years ago. Thank God.

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New playground on the menu for St Mary's, Young

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

AFTER a strong academic year in 2014, students and staff at St Mary's Primary School in Young have turned their attention to developing the school's playground facilities in 2015.

The project will take the majority of the year, and principal Louise Grant says it's an exciting time.

"We're looking forward to creating lots of hands-on opportunities in the playground for the children," she said.

"We're thinking of going with a theme of tyres, so tractor tyres and car tyres and giving it that rural theme."

Ms Grant took charge of the school at the start of last year, after spending 21 years living and working in a range of international schools in South-East Asia.

One of several new programs that have commenced in the school in the past 18 months has been the introduction of Indonesian as a second language for children in kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2.

Ms Grant says her aim is to help each individual succeed in all facets of life.

"We aim to help them reach their full potential in terms of



their academic, spiritual, social and emotional development," she said.

"We're very pleased with our positive NAPLAN results in 2014 and we're planning on further improvement in 2015."

The school, which consists of about 380 students and 35 staff, hosted a number of successful events in 2014, including a Spring Fair, a grandparents day, and a Mother's Day morning tea.

But Ms Grant said there was another significant event that was perhaps the highlight of the year.

"One of our highlights of the year was our Confirmation, when Archbishop Christopher Prowse came to Young and along with our parish priest Fr Tom Thornton and his assistant Fr Paul Nulley we had a very meaningful and memorable occasion for the children and their families and the staff," she said.

Top left, Jack Lane, Tom Smith, Tom Wark and Riley Dixon; top right, Riley Powderly and Ollie McColl.
PHOTOS: LOUI SESELJA



Above, teacher Jillian Murray assists students during an art class; left, more happy St Mary's Primary School students making the most of their lunch break; below, school principal Louise Grant.
PHOTOS: LOUI SESELJA

VOCATIONS DISCERNMENT DINNER

A vocations discernment dinner will be held at Archbishop's House on Friday, 1 May 2015. The evening will begin with prayer at 6pm, followed by an informal dinner with Archbishop Christopher.

Any men or women in Year 11 or older who would like to learn more about and discuss a call to the priesthood or religious life are invited to attend.

RSVP (required) by 27 April to Vocations Director Fr Emil Milat, phone **0414523036** or email **emil.milat@cg.catholic.org.au**





Fifty years of memories shared as St Clare's celebrations begin

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

ABOUT 500 present and past staff and students of St Clare's College and their families gathered on February 28 for the first of four events in 2015 celebrating the College's 50th anniversary.

Refurbished areas of the school were officially blessed and opened by Archbishop Christopher Prowse and the director of the Catholic Education Office, Moira Najdecki.

But for most, the highlight of the day was the cocktail party that followed, which provided those present with a chance to reminisce with old classmates or colleagues in a relaxed and comfortable atmosphere.

In his brief address for the occasion, Archbishop Christo-

pher praised the school's commitment to Catholic education.

"We thank all those who, in any shape or form over the last 50 years, have helped to bring the light of Christ, the protection of Christ, the education of Jesus into the lives of countless young girls and many generations of women both present and past, and please God, in the future," he said.

His words were echoed by Ms Najdecki, who paid tribute to the nuns who "established the values, culture and the faith that has served St Clare's so well over five decades".

Six members of the inaugural St Clare's class, including Ms Najdecki, and one of their teachers attended the event.

St Clare's principal Paul Carroll said the celebration was a marvelous event.

"It was wonderful to see the ex-students reliving past memories especially on their tour of the classrooms at St Clare's," he said.

"There was a great deal of laughter and story telling among the ex-students."

The College will continue its celebrations with a Gala Dinner at the National Convention Centre on May 30, a special Mass and fair on May 31, and a performance of the College musical, 'Cats', on August 1 for former students and staff.

Right, Catholic Education Office director Moira Najdecki with Barbara Jeffery; below, St Clare's students and various guests joined Archbishop Christopher Prowse as he blessed the refurbished areas of the school.

PHOTOS: LOUI SESELJA

Top left, from left to right, Laura Vandenbroucke, Jessica Benac, Georgia Fogarty, Lucy Winter, Anna Vandenbroucke and Eleanor Scott enjoying the 50th anniversary celebrations; above, former Catholic Education Office director Geoff Joy with his wife Kate.

PHOTOS: LOUI SESELJA



Above, St Clare's College principal Paul Carroll thanked all those involved in the refurbishment project during his address at the official blessing and opening.

PHOTO: LOUI SESELJA



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SOS! ... Christianity in the Middle East ... SOS!

Moved by the desperate plight of Christians throughout the Middle East, the Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) calls on your support to help the region's beleaguered Christian population.

A mass exodus of Christians from the Middle East is now taking place. For some, like the Christians of Iraq and Syria, it is a question of their very survival as they flee the bloody persecution of the militants of the Islamic State (formerly ISIS).

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.

ACN is helping to keep faith and hope alive throughout the region by providing urgent aid to priests, religious and lay people, offering subsistence help to refugees and building and repairing Churches and convents. Please help us strengthen and rebuild the Church in the land of Christ's birth.

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"Nowadays, persecution of Christians is worse than it was in the first centuries of the Church. There are more Christian martyrs now than at that time."

Pope Francis



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

Archdiocesan Coming Events

SERRA CLUB OF

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

AMICUS: Saturday April 11, at Oriental Terrace, Erindale. Meet at 7pm for dinner at table booked in the name of AMICUS. Contact Enid: (02) 6296 5592. Sunday April 26, BYO picnic at Cotter. Meet (place TBC in email) at 12pm for a BYO BBQ/picnic and if desired a walk to follow. Contact Patricia: (02) 6292 1631. AMICUS is a support and friendship/social group for widowed, separated or divorced Catholics; regular activities on second and fourth weekends. New members welcome.

FEAST OF DIVINE

MERCY: Sunday April 12 at St Clement's Monastery Galong: 2pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. 2.15pm Confessions - during recitation of the Rosary. As priests for Confession may be limited, all are urged to seek Confession in their own parish prior to the Feast. 2.45pm Divine Mercy Chaplet. 2.55pm Veneration of the Divine Mercy image and blessing of personal Divine Mercy icons. 3pm Holy Mass. Afternoon tea will be held after Mass. Ladies are invited to please bring a plate. Inquiries telephone Gus or Ellen (02) 6385 5225.



GUINNESS AND GOD: Tuesday, April 14, Monica Doumit, lawyer and bioethicist, will be presenting on a Catholic response to disability care. For more information please contact youth_events@catholiclife.org.au or see our website: www.guinnessandgod.com. Event officially starts at 7.30pm, but generally live music from 6.30pm.



CANBERRA MEN'S

CURSILLO: Thursday, April 30, 7:30pm to Sunday May 3, at Warrambie Conference Centre, Murrumbateman, NSW. This is a three-day retreat concluding at 4pm on Sunday and is open to all the men of the Archdiocese. Contact Rod Gardiner: (02) 6251 1331 or email rodneym.gardiner@bigpond.com.

GALONG MARIAN

RETREAT: Josephite Sr Robyn McNamara and St Clement's Fr Bill Goldman CSsR will guide retreatants on a Marian Retreat from Friday, May 1 to Sunday, May 3. On the weekend of the historic annual Marian procession at Galong, participants will join in reflecting on Mary, the Mother of God, as a woman of faith and the disciple who leads us to Jesus. Inquiries: telephone (02) 6380 5222,

email info@stclement.com.au.

PILGRIMAGE TO ST CLEMENT'S MONASTERY, GALONG: Sunday, May 3 for the annual Marian Procession. For bookings phone Judy and Joe Mewburn on (02) 6254 6202.

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.

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.

MINISTRY TO THE NEWLY MARRIED: A mentoring program for newly married couples, just married, or soon-to-be married. Contact Catharina and Graham and Debbie and Brian, phone (02) 6231 3389 or 0414 878 167, email: mnm@grapevine.com.au.

MILESTONES

Fr Hilton Roberts turns 80



Fr Hilton Roberts celebrated his 80th birthday on March 14 at St Simon's Church in Kaleen. Fr Hilton was the parish priest at Kaleen from 1976 to 1986, and is fondly remembered by members of the community there. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Century for Batlow legend



Catherine O'Grady celebrated her 100th birthday on March 15 by attending Mass with her family and friends. Mrs O'Grady was among the first students to attend St Mary's Primary School in Batlow when it opened in 1923. Her father was also one of the prime movers in building St Mary's Church in Batlow, which remains the local church today. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

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Goals, skills, excitement at soccer carnival

MORE than 1,100 children from 25 schools around the Archdiocese competed in the Canberra and Goulburn Catholic Schools' Soccer Carnival at the University of Canberra on March 15.

St Joseph's Primary School in O'Connor hosted the event and former Olympian and Matildas captain, Peita-Claire Fothergill (nee Hepperlin), was the ambassador.

Principal of St Joseph's Sue Dempsey said the event was a great success.

"After 12 months of planning, the carnival was magnificent, foremost as a community event and secondly as a fundraiser for our school," she said.

"Many parents, relatives and staff contributed before, during and after the carnival, ensuring the overall success of the day.

"With perfect weather, good sportsmanship, wonderful food and carnival activities, everyone had a really enjoyable day."

Of the nine Year 3-4 divisions and the six Year 5-6 divisions, teams representing Holy Family Primary led the way, finishing top in five divisions.

St Benedict's Primary School, Narrabundah, will host the Catholic Schools' Soccer Carnival in 2016.



Players from Holy Family Primary (white) and St Joseph's Primary (blue) take part in the annual Archdiocesan Catholic Primary Schools soccer carnival. Twenty-five schools were represented at the event, which was held at the University of Canberra on March 15.

PHOTO: MATTHEW BIDDLE

Catholics win inter-faith cricket tournament

A CRICKET tournament between members of the Catholic, Anglican and C3 Churches on March 15 in Sydney ended in triumph for the Catholic team.

Featuring former NSW Premier Kristina Keneally, the team clad in papal white took out the top trophy in a round-robin contest at the University of Sydney.

The denominations came together in friendly rivalry to raise funds for a women's Bible-based literacy program in Pakistan.

"The contest exceeded expectations - especially in the quality of play," Bible Society Australia CEO Greg Clarke said.

"I was thrilled to see these denominations take to the pitch as opponents but more importantly as partners in supporting Bible mission. It was a joy to be there."

The tournament was closely fought, with each team winning one 10-over match. The

winner was decided according to the highest combined average, in a system devised by the guest of honour, former Australian Test captain Brian Booth. That gave victory to the Catholics, with the Anglicans as runners-up.

The player of the tournament award went to Chris Gordon from the Catholic

"It's a great competition and it's all in the spirit of camaraderie and shared faith in Christ."

team, who is the director of chaplaincy services at Macquarie University.

Ms Keneally was also recognised with an award for the quality of her gamesmanship.

"It's a great competition and it's all in the spirit of camaraderie and shared faith in Christ, and a desire from all of



From left to right, C3 captain Pastor Paul Bucknell, Anglican captain Rev Michael Jensen, Catholic captain Bishop Bosco Puthur, and members of the Catholic team Fr James McCarthy and Chris Gordon.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

us to see God's word made available all around the world," she commented.

"So there's rivalry and sledging but it's all in good faith."

She also commended the

Bible Society's support of the women's literacy project in Pakistan for "allowing those in crushing poverty to gain literacy... and spiritual access to one of the most sustaining

things - the word of God."

The Bible Society has also organised an online auction of various cricket memorabilia to provide further funds for the cause.