



Senator Zed Seselja with wife Ros and their five children, from left to right, Thomas, 13, William, 9, Michael, 15, Olivia, 7, and Grace, 1.

PHOTO: LOUI SESELJA

Politics and faith a good mix for Zed

By Matthew Biddle

"WHAT'S going on with your government?"

It's a question Liberal Senator Zed Seselja had been asked on numerous occasions in various locations – Parliament, news studios, radio stations. But never in a confessional.

Until recently, when he decided it had been a while since he had received the Sacrament of Reconciliation and stopped in at a local church.

Senator Seselja recalled the anecdote during his presentation to Canberra's menALIVE group on March 28 at St Benedict's Church in Narrabundah.

The Liberal Party politician used the story as a way of CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Honouring their heroic sacrifice

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

AS the beneficiaries of the courage of the ANZACs 100 years ago, we ought to give thanks for their heroic sacrifice, Archbishop Christopher Prowse said during his homily for the ANZAC Day National Mass at St Christopher's Cathedral in Canberra.

In front of a large congregation, Archbishop Christopher explained that the ANZACs had given their lives so that we can live in peace.

"This peace is not simply the absence of war," he said. "Rather, it is a baton in the relay race of life that is now passed onto this present generation of Australians. "All of us have a role to play in the unending challenge of peace-making in our time, even if this means giving over our lives so that others may live in freedom."

bishop Christopher Prowse said during his homily for the ANZAC Day National Mass at St Christopher's Cathedral The ANZAC story, he went on to say, is a reminder of the virtues of courage, determination, heroism and self-sacrifice.

> Such virtues were exemplified by Fr John Fahey, a Catholic chaplain who served at Gallipoli, the Middle East and in Europe.

"He was the first chaplain to go ashore at Gallipoli on April 25, 1915, disregarding his orders to stay on the ship, like all good chaplains," Archbishop Christopher said.

"He asserted that it was his

pastoral duty to go with his men into battle wherever they go. There are numerous accounts that he worked tirelessly in remaining alongside his fellow soldiers, in consoling the wounded, burying the dead and encouraging those around him."

Through their sacrifice, the ANZACs, the Archbishop said, have given us an enduring gift of peace.

^aIn this Mass we remember their immortal deeds within the Sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross," he said. "We pray that all those who have paid the supreme sacrifice and all those who have served in conflicts may rest in peace. This is a peace that the world cannot give, Christ's own peace, his gift to us."



Irish-born Catholic priest Fr John Fahey was Australia's longest serving front-line chaplain. PHOTO:ARCHDIOCESE OF PERTH ARCHIVES

ARCHBISHOP CHRISTOPHER'S DIARY



May 1st 5pm Vocations meeting/dinner

May 3rd I lam Mass - St Christopher's Cathedral

May 6th

10am Morning tea and naming of new Cathedral Precinct buildings

May 7th-14th ACBC

May 15th

2pm Visit to St Bede's, Red Hill Confirmation students 2.40pm Visit to St Thomas the Apostle, Kambah Confirmation students

May 17th

8am Confirmation Mass, St Thomas the Apostle, Kambah 10am Confirmation Mass, St Thomas the Apostle Kambah

May 18th-21st Clergy Assembly - Galong

May 24th

I lam Confirmation Mass - St **Christopher's Cathedral**

May 26th

12.30pm Ecumenical Roundtable -Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, Barton 5.30pm Vespers/Folk Choir of Notre

Dame - St Christopher's Cathedral

May 27th

6.15pm Confirmation Mass - Holy Spirit Parish, Gungahlin

May 28th

12.30pm Student Leaders BBQ -Archbishop's House 6pm Confirmation Mass - St Joseph's Parish, Grenfell

May 29th

6pm Confirmation Mass - St Mary's Parish, Young

May 31st I Iam Mass - St Christopher's Cathedral

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Where is the Holy Spirit in what we do?



ARCHBISHOP'S MESSAGE ARCHBISHOP **CHRISTOPHER PROWSE**

A COMMON question asked of us after an event is: 'How did it go?' We hear it often. Even when we go on holidays or stay at hotel accommodation, there's always an evaluation sheet. It can be tiresome. But the corporate world seems to demand this!

Even among us Catholics we are often asking the following somewhat similar questions. For example, 'How did your Easter ceremonies go?' 'How did the Archdiocesan Assembly go in March?' 'How did the Confirmation Mass go?'... 'How did "it" go?'

How do we answer this? We have to be careful not to translate everything from the corporate world into our ecclesial world. There might be similarities but there are also great differences!

We must not simply say 'Oh, the food was OK. It ran smoothly. There was a good attendance. Tea and coffee could have been a bit hotter'. I suppose all these issues are significant but they not the most important thing when you have a Church event! Surely!

As a faith-filled people, just talking on the practical level is not enough. Australians are generally very practical people. It's both our strength and our weakness.

When we gather as the People of God we need to know more than just the practicalities. For instance, when we had our ecclesial assembly or when we celebrate Confirmation Masses in these months to come, or when

In a sense we become 'fruit' inspectors. We look for the fruits of the Holy Spirit in our missionary endeavours.

14:17).

we in our liturgical committees review our Easter ceremonies, we're not just simply talking about 'an' event or a concert or a musical. Far from it! When we gather it's just not just another conference!

When we gather as Christ's body on earth these are all expressions of THE event. It's not an 'it'. The saving events of the life, death and Resurrection of Jesus alive in his Church, particularly in his Sacraments and the gatherings of his people

If this could be used as our Biblical template to see where the Holy Spirit is in our missionary endeavours, we could ask ourselves: 'So where was righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit in our Easter ceremonies. Confirmations, Assemblies and so on?'

are all part of THE great event!

phrase questions that are more

for answers to the following

question when we review our

encounters with Christ in his

Church: 'Where is the Holy

Biblical template, "For the

Kingdom of God is not a mat-

ter of eating and drinking, but

of righteousness, peace and joy

in the Holy Spirit," (Romans

We might helpfully use the

Spirit in what happened?'

So, therefore, how can we

I suppose I am looking

The Christ event!

appropriate?

This is where the real Christian assessment starts. In a sense we become 'fruit' inspectors! We look for the fruits of the Holy Spirit in our missionary endeavours.

May Feast Days

SAINT OF THE MONTH

St Matthias May 14

St Clement of Alexandria assures us, from tradition, that this saint was one of the 72 disciples, and we learn from the Acts of the Apostles that he was a constant attendant on our Lord. St Peter having, in a general assembly of the faithful held soon after the death of Jesus, declared the necessity of choosing a

12th apostle, in the place of Judas. Two were unanimously pitched upon by the assembly, as most worthy of the dignity, Joseph, called Barsabas, and Matthias. After devout prayer to God, that he would direct them in their choice, the apostles proceeded in it by way of lot, which fell to Matthias, and he was accordingly ranked among the apostles.

St Matthias received the Holy Spirit with the rest soon after his election; and after the dispersion of the disciples, applied himself with zeal to the functions of his apostleship in converting nations to the faith. He is recorded by St Clement of Alexandria to have been remarkable for inculcating the necessity of the mortification of the flesh with regard to all its sensual and irregular desires, an important lesson he had received from Christ, and which he practiced assiduously on his own body.



1 May St Joseph the Worker 2 May St Athanasius 12 May Sts Nereus and Achilleus; St Pancras 13 May Our Lady of Fatima 14 May St Matthias 17 May THE **ASCENSION OF THE** LORD 18 May St John I 20 May St Bernardine of Siena 21 May St Christopher Magallanes and companions 22 May St Rita of Cascia 24 May PENTECOST **SUNDAY**

25 May OUR LADY, **HELP OF CHRISTIANS**

26 May St Philip Neri 27 May St Augustine of Canterbury **31 May THE MOST**



Surely this is what the early Church in the Easter readings of this month indicate. As with the early Church so with us. We are trying to make 'God sense' of the death and Resurrection of Jesus in our own place and time. We want to make sure that we are dynamic "missionary disciples" (as Pope Francis would say in The Joy of the Gospel).

During the month of May, particularly, we could well look to Mary in knowing the right response to the presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst. She is, and will always be, the first among the faithful. We particularly remember her intercession on the 25th of May, the Solemnity of Our Lady Help of Christians, the patroness of Australia.

In Mary's 'assessment' she always responded with joy and praise. She gave thanks to God for his presence among us more than anything else. She magnified the Lord! Let us try to do the same.

> Archbishop Christopher Prowse Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn



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LOCAL 3

War chaplains remembered for their bravery

BY DENIS CONNOR

May 2015

DURING World War One the Australian Army appointed chaplains to care for the spiritual and pastoral needs of the men serving in the First Australian Imperial Force (1AIF).

Appointments as chaplains were made from the major religious denominations based on the proportion of adherents to the respective denominations in the Australian population. Of the 414 clergymen who served as chaplains in the first AIF, 86 were Catholic priests from Australia's dioceses and religious orders. Four of these were priests who had an association with the then Diocese of Goulburn – Frs Ignatius Bossence, Fabian Dwyer, Joseph McDonell and Thomas Mullins.

For a Catholic chaplain the role involved offering Mass for the servicemen in the unit to which he was attached who were Catholics. It also involved hearing confessions, in particular of men who were preparing to go into battle, offering the Sacrament of Extreme Unction to those who had died or who were wounded, and assisting with the burial of the dead. They were often serving very close to the frontline and placing their own lives in danger. Chaplains also had an important pastoral role, tending to the wounded in hospitals, and offering comfort to



Above, participants at the clergy retreat for the then Diocese of Goulburn in 1913. Fr Joseph McDonell (back row, third from left), Fr Thomas Mullins (back row, fourth from left), Fr Ignatius Bossence (second row, second from left) and Fr Fabian Dwyer (not pictured) served as chaplains during World War One. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

those who had lost their mates. It was often the chaplains who would write a letter home to the next of kin of men who had been killed.

Fr Bossence, originally from Melbourne, had been ordained in 1912 and was serving in his first Goulburn Diocese appointment at Gundagai when he enlisted as a chaplain in 1916. He saw service on both the Western Front in France and in the Middle East. It was at Jaffna where he was awarded the Military Cross for his action in recovering wounded men in the face of fire. Fr Bossence returned briefly to the Diocese following his discharge from the AIF, and then in the Brisbane Archdiocese, before moving to Sydney where he lived the remainder of his life.

Fr Thomas Mullins also received the Military Cross while serving with Australian Light Horse units in the Middle East. Of Irish background, Fr Mullins, who had served in the Diocese since 1902, was the parish priest of Ardlethan when he enlisted as a chaplain in 1915. He served briefly in Gallipoli late in 1915, but was then based in Egypt and the Middle East. It is recorded that in March 1918 he was one of the celebrants of a Mass in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem in honour of all who had died in the war. After the war Fr Mullins returned to Ardlethan and remained there as parish priest until his death in 1939.

When Fr McDonell enlisted in 1916 his appointment was as a chaplain for "voyages only", which meant he would serve on troop transports from Australia to Europe and the return journeys, usually with the wounded. However this was changed before he had completed the first return journey, and he was posted with the Seventh Light Horse in the Middle East. Fr McDonell had a brother, Fr Peter Paul McDonell of the Passionist Order, who also served as a chaplain.

Fr Fabian Dwyer, born at Moruya, was a priest of the Sydney Archdiocese, who served briefly in the Goulburn Diocese as parish priest of Araluen in the early 1920s. He enlisted for service as a chaplain in February 1917, and arrived in Europe in the later months of that year. Posted with Australian Infantry units he served on the Western Front in France. It is reported that he became popular with the men he served for his practice of passing out franc notes to those commencing periods of leave in France. He suffered several bouts of bronchial asthma through 1918, which saw him hospitalised in both France and England. Following the war Fr Dwyer served in Araluen, where he was active in supporting the building of the community hall. Sadly, he contracted influenza while serving in the Wollongong parish and died in July 1929.

Denis Connor is the archivist for the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn.

Assembly a great success: survey

By Matthew Biddle

THE recent Archdiocesan Assembly, 'Embrace', was a great success, according to almost 200 responses to the evaluation survey.

The survey, which was open for a week after the March 20-21 event, attracted a large number of positive comments and a high level of appreciation for the work of those who organised the Assembly.

Ninety per cent of the 182 respondents said the Assembly successfully provided an opportunity for representatives from across the Archdiocesan community to gather with their Archbishop for a time of formation and spiritual renewal.

Seventy-nine per cent said 'Embrace' achieved its goal of deepening the collective response to Pope Francis' vision outlined in *Evangelii Gaudium*, while 87 per cent agreed the Assembly strengthened the bonds of communion in the Archdiocese.

The number of participants who were satisfied with aspects of the Assembly was strong, with Professor Greg Craven's keynote speech proving to be the most popular (91 per cent of respondents satisfied).

The choice of venue (96 per cent) and the program scheduling and timing (94 per cent) also received ticks of approval from almost all survey respondents.

In an encouraging sign for the future, 96 per cent of respondents said they would be likely to attend future Assemblies.

General comments included

in the survey responses noted the professionalism of the event and the honesty of the speakers, as well as expressing gratitude for the crèche and youth programs.

"I felt part of family, God's family, and I was inspired by all those working together towards the same goal trying to follow Jesus," one respondent wrote.

Another said: "I thought every single part was excellently managed and organised and your speakers were fantastic... It was the best Archdiocesan event I have attended."

The three keynote speeches, delivered by Archbishop Christopher Prowse, Professor Greg Craven, and Lara and Tim Kirk, as well as the panel discussion, are available to view at embrace2015.org.au.



Embrace with Joy Marriage and Family Life

Following on from the wonderful conversations, thoughts and reflections from the Archdiocesan Assembly, embrace 2015, Archbishop Christopher Prowse has written a Pastoral Letter to the people of his Archdiocese.

In it, Archbishop Christopher addresses many of the challenges and rewards that marriages and families face today, and then asks us to reflect on questions that draw us into deeper consideration of each of the topics.

You are encouraged to engage with the Pastoral Letter - to read it, reflect on it and discuss it in your parishes, schools and families.

Copies of the letter have been distributed to all parishes, and you can also download an electronic version from www.cg.catholic.org.au.

LOCAL

Faith and family Senator Zed's priorities

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 explaining the difference between separation of Church and State and separation of Church and politics.

"Separation of Church and State is a good thing, but separation of Church and politics is a different thing, because everyone's world view informs their vote and political views," he said

"I don't believe in a theocracy... but at the same time, our faith and our world view absolutely informs the direction we go in, they form our laws. One of the reasons why our laws have stood the test of time is because they are based on a strong Judeo-Christian world view.'

The fourth of six children in immigrant Croatian an Catholic family, Senator Seselja said his parents' experience of living during the Communist regime had a major impact on his decision to take up politics.

"When people have experienced an oppressive regime like that it causes you to reflect on the importance of politics because you know that the people who are in power can have a major influence over your life," he said.

At the age of 21, Senator Seselja married Ros, whom he described as "the greatest gift that God has given me". A year later, the couple had their first child, a change that kick-started the Senator's political ambitions.

"For fatherhood me, changed, focused and sharpened my outlook on life," he said.

"It makes me emotional when I reflect on how much I love my children... but it's an insight into the goodness that's within us.

"It led me to a political outlook in a sense. I want the best for my kids, so I want to make sure the world they're growing up in is a reasonable one."

"My family and my faith were a big part of what drew me into politics, but then ironically, politics takes me away from my family more often than I would like."

Senator Seselja joined the Liberal Party in 2003, and was elevated to the leadership in 2007. After five years in charge, he stood down from the ACT Liberal leadership in 2013, but was elected to the Australian Senate later that year.

Through the ups and downs of politics, it's been his family and his faith that have supported Senator Seselja the most.

He said he tries to make time for prayer and reflection every day, often praying for his



Senator Zed Seselja believes it's important for Christians to make sure their values are reflected in the nation's laws. The 38-year-old says his family was a big part of the reason why he became involved in politics as a young man. PHOTOS: LOUI SESELJA

fellow parliamentarians, no matter what political party they belong to.

"My personal prayer life, as it always has been, is never what I would like it to be, but it's there and it's regular, although sometimes not at the

"Christians have an obligation to try to make a difference in the world and to try to make sure those sorts of values are reflected in our parliaments as much as possible."

quality I would like," he said. "I am a constant failure when it comes to genuine prayer time, but... it's something I'll strive more to do."

Working in an environment that is often hostile to religious beliefs can be challenging, Senator Seselja said.

"People try to shut Christians out of politics by saying... 'Don't try to impose your view of the world on me, don't bring your religion into



my parliament'," he said.

obligation to try to make a difference in the world and to try to make sure those sorts of values are reflected in our parliaments as much as possible."

At the age of 38, Senator Seselja could have many more years left in politics, but he's careful not to place too much emphasis on his position.

"Politics is not the be all and end all," he said.

"I hope that when I reflect

on my time in politics, be it "But Christians have an next year or in 15 years' time that I will be able to say that I tried to live out those values that I went in with, and that I made a difference in a range of areas."

The next menALIVE event is a men's weekend at Sacred Heart Parish in Pearce on May 16-17. For more information contact Ellis Murphy (ellism@) homemail.com.au or (02) 6161 8653 or 0418 218 653) or Anthony (anthonypmorrison@ gmail.com).

Advertisement **HOME BASE**



Gerard Heffernan

Six simple steps to improve the value of your home

For most people, their family home will be the most expensive asset they will ever own. There are often a variety of ways you can improve its viability to your lifestyle and in doing so improve the property value.

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Youth leaders prepare to discern future direction

By Matthew Biddle

OVER the next month the Archdiocesan Office for Youth and Young Adults will be engaging with the wider Archdiocese in a process of discerning the future path for youth ministry.

The key event, a forum, will take place on the evening of June 12 and continue the following day at the Rheinberger Function Centre in Canberra, and will include an address from Archbishop Christopher Prowse.

It's expected that about 80 participants will attend the forum, which is the fourth such

event to be held in the Archdiocese in the past decade. Previous forums were held in 2007, 2009 and 2012.

Archdiocesan youth and young adults coordinator Stuart West said the youth to gather a whole heap of information around what people see as valuable, where they feel we should be focusing our time and energy, where they see needs or where they see opportunities for youth

All Archdiocesan priests and religious are also invited to attend.

"The key goal that we're looking for is building unity and community across the Archdiocese in the area of

The priorities identified at the 'Young Faith, Our Future' forum on June 12 and 13 will form the basis of the youth and young adults ministry's vision for the next three years.

leaders would discuss the results of the 'Young Faith, Our Future' survey currently being conducted throughout the Archdiocese.

"From the survey we hope

ministry to grow," he told *Catholic Voice*. "Together then we can mutually discern where God's leading us as an Archdiocese in youth and young adult ministry."

youth and young adult ministry so that we can develop a common vision for our Archdiocese," Mr West explained.

The priorities identified at

the forum will form the basis of the youth and young adults ministry's vision for the next three years.

The youth leaders forum will also feature the official launch of the Archdiocesan World Youth Day pilgrimage.

The Archdiocese will take a group of between 30 and 45 young adults over the age of 18 to Krakow, Poland, for the July 2016 event.

To participate in the survey or to register your interest in the forum, visit www. youngfaithourfuture.org.au.

For more information, contact Stuart West: stuart.west@ catholiclife.org.au.



Join us for the official launch of the World Youth Day pilgrimage on June 13

For more information, visit www.youngfaithourfuture.org.au

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6 LOCAL

Foster caring a rewarding experience

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

THE need for foster carers in the ACT is becoming increasingly urgent as the numbers of children requiring out of home care continues to grow.

There are more than 700 children in the ACT in the out of home care system - most of whom are in placements with relatives – and the high level of demand appears to be present nation-wide.

"Foster carers are like gold," acting program manager for Marymead's out-of-home care Amy Tulloh said.

"Across Australia there are an increasing number of children that come into the out-ofhome care system every year, and the carers are decreasing.

"At the moment for foster care, we are seeing lots of sibling groups come into care and unfortunately we don't have a lot of carers who have the capacity to do this."

Marymead, which is one of the ACT's two foster care agencies, has almost 100 registered carers who provide various types of care – emergency, con-current and long-term.

But it's not enough.

"There's never enough carers," Ms Tulloh said. "We try our best to place the majority of children in care but because there's not enough, they may not end up in the most ideal placement, therefore multiple placements may be made."



PHOTO: ONLINE For carers Leanne and Cameron, foster caring provided them with a chance to have children in their lives.

While she admits it can be challenging, Ms Tulloh said being a foster carer is a rewarding and important role.

Foster carers Leanne and Cameron told Catholic Voice their motivation for taking on the role was a desire to have

it didn't have a negative impact

on Leanne and Cameron. "The process of training to

become a foster carer was long

"We were not expecting the children to steal our hearts quite so quickly, but it has been a delightful surprise."

"I believe that every child deserves to have a secure, stable and loving childhood," she said. "I also believe that it takes a village to raise a child and at times families need support and help from the community."

children in their lives and to help families in difficulty.

Although the process of becoming a foster carer, which includes various checks, a mandatory training period and six interviews with Marymead staff, can take up to 12 months,

and involved as I believe it should be," Leanne said.

"It prepared us for the momentous task we have undertaken."

The couple have been caring for a baby boy since August last year, having previously cared for another infant temporarily.

"There is much comment and rumour about the type of children in foster care," Leanne said. "The two children who have been in our care have been absolute delights.

"They have delighted us with their intelligence, humour and gentle, beautiful natures. We were not expecting the children to steal our hearts quite so quickly, but it has been a delightful surprise."

Leanne added that the couple are planning to foster more children in the future, and would highly recommend foster caring to others eager to help children, families in need, and the wider community.

"This is such a vital role and an opportunity to make a huge difference to the lives of children in very desperate circumstances," she said.

"There is a desperate need for carers for a great range of children from newborn babies to teenagers."

The Franciscan Missionaries of Mary established Marymead in 1967, in an effort to address the need to provide a residential care facility for children and families in temporary crisis.

The Sisters provided a range of services to local families until their departure in 1986, after which the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn assumed responsibility for the operation of Marymead.

CATHOLIC DEVELOPMENT FUND ANNUAL REPORT 2014

HE CDF was established on January 1, 1987 as an amalgamation of the separate Provident Funds of Canberra and Goulburn. It was formed to assist in the implementation of the mission of the Church in the Archdiocese by seeking deposits, making loans, providing advice, assisting income generation and by prudent financial management. As the treasury for the Archdiocese it is not separately incorporated, managing funds and loans vested in the Trustees.

A total of \$4,268,544 was distributed to the Archdiocese from the CDF's 2014 operating surplus. Of this the Archdiocese invested \$1,950,000 CCI with Investment Management in the Catholic Values Trust. The balance at the end of 2014 in this trust account stood at \$6.5M.

The trust account is referred to as the Archdiocesan Future Fund (AFF). The AFF operates within an approved investment strategy that involves the

And the state of t	2013	2014	
TOTAL REVENUE	12,430,253	11,794,106	
OPERATING SURPLUS	5,906,267	4,822,913	
TOTAL ASSETS	237,771,106	259,519,078	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	224,628,181	246,021,784	
NET ASSETS	13,142,925	13,497,294	
Distributions			
	2,251,020	2,318,544	
Archdiocese	2,201,020	-//	
	1,870,000	1,950,000	
Archdiocese Future Fund Wilcannia-Forbes			

LOAN BOOK (As at 31 December 2014)

System schools	\$19M	16%	Congregational schools	\$8.5M	8%
Parishes	\$2M	2%	Equipment schools	\$0.7M	1%
Archdiocese	\$3M	3%	Aged Care	\$51M	45%
Healthcare	\$27M	24%	Other dioceses	\$0.7M	1%
Other	\$1.5M	1%	Carpool	\$0.7M	1%

maintenance of a balanced portfolio exposed to cash, fixed interest, shares and listed property - the Catholic Values Trust. The goal is to grow the AFF to \$15M and achieve a long term average annual return of cash rate plus 5 per cent. A distribution of \$200,000 was also made to the Bishop of the Diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes.

The CDF was able to make distributions despite a significantly reduced operating surplus. The 2014 surplus was \$1,083,354 down on that achieved in 2013. In order to maintain the level of distributions the CDF Board reduced the percentage of funds directed to reserves. A significant factor in the reduced operating surplus was the reduction in the CDF's loan portfolio which declined by some \$24M during the course of 2014 to \$90M. At the end of 2013 the loan

Loan Portfolio 2014



Deposit sources 2014



portfolio stood at \$115M.

It is anticipated that demand for loan funds will improve during 2015 with the Manuka Precinct development and indications from two major Catholic organisations they propose to commence major new projects during the latter part of 2015.

YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE

Wake Up the World Year of Consecrated Life

LOCAL 7

November 30, 2014 - February 2, 2016

Standing up for the marginalised

BY BETH DOHERTY

IT'S an unusual religious community.

Slightly north of Canberra city is the house that is not a convent nor is it an apartment. To most it would look like an ordinary home.

Yet, it's been at times an interreligious home, and much has happened within its walls. Christian, Muslim and Sufi have shared a fragile faith and hope that might get them through a life and death crisis.

Asylum seekers have heard the outcome of their cases there. They have learned of their imminent deportation to danger. Others have recovered from mental illnesses suffered as a result of traumatic journeys by sea and having fled persecution.

Hazaras and Pashtuns from Afghanistan and Pakistan, Iranians, an Iraqi and even a Togolese from the Ivory Coast of Africa have sat at table, shared a story and worked on an asylum appeal with Sr Jane Keogh, the woman that brings them together.

After completing her high schooling at Merici College in Canberra, Sr Jane entered the Brigidine order at the age of 16 and has never regretted the decision.

She is one of the youngest members of the 70-strong community, but confesses that her life is a little different to some of the older members.

"When I wake up in the morning I have this drive, I think somehow it's because I've been so brought up on the Gospels, on the story of Jesus," she explained. "What's stayed with me is that whole sense of a need for all of us to create a better world for children, for people's grandchildren."

Sr Jane's background is in education and she spent 26 years teaching in Catholic schools around Australia.

She is passionate about education, and speaks of the importance of giving a good religious education.



Sr Jane Keogh has been involved in refugee advocacy for several years. Last year, she was involved in a non-violent protest in the office of a federal politician, which ended when police arrested the protesters. PHOTO: FLICKR

"I found that it was important not just to teach children things, but to help them to grow and have confidence and poise, to become good citizens of the world," Sr Jane said.

"We tried to integrate their

anger that she does about how people are treated.

It was this passion that led her to what has become a vocation over the last fourteen years.

"I was so appalled at Australia's response after the understand people who've had such a different background from me.

"When you get close to people like this, I don't think any of us can turn away. More of us need to sit beside asylum seekers, and the poor. You

"I've lived with drug addicts. I've lived with people who've never been loved, who've never been cared for, who've never had a chance in life."

faith growth with the religion that we taught them. We wanted them to grow as a whole person."

After 26 years of teaching, Sr Jane travelled to the United States to do a Master's degree in "teaching people how to care".

Sr Jane finds that her passion is so strong that sometimes she wonders why others don't feel the same righteous Tampa incident. I didn't know any refugees, I didn't know any Muslims. I'd never mixed in with people like that," she said.

"I just went to try and help them have their voices heard, and I didn't dream that I would find that, or discover that they had real stories. So only by living with them and watching them over the years have I come to know and can't help it after that, you have to respond.

"My passion has been strengthened because I've come to know many marginalised people. I've lived with drug addicts I've lived with people who've never been loved, who've never been cared for, who've never had a chance in life."

Last year, after 14 years of active campaigning and advo-

cacy on behalf of refugees and asylum seekers, Sr Jane became involved in a movement of church people called #lovemakesaway.

It was through this movement that she experienced a conversion within a conversion.

She openly admits that in her early days of refugee advocacy, she had criticised sharply politicians for their cruelty, and that she was at first slightly sceptical of the non-violent, prayerful activism of #Lovemakesaway.

#Lovemakesaway became a successful social media campaign, as people of faith came together and staged prayerful, non-violent protests in the offices of federal politicians.

"I saw what they were doing, and because my own commitment to the Gospels is very strong, I found an affinity with them," she said.

"So we trained, we went along. You couldn't be involved unless you had that Christian commitment.

"The movement of #lovemakesaway has since expanded into other areas such as climate change, you might have heard that they raised money to donate 12 solar panels to Kirribilli house, but the government has refused them."

Sr Jane begins her day with meditation, and admits that sometimes she is more of a talker than a listener.

This morning meditation helps her to become centred in her faith, and her call to follow the Jesus of the Gospels.

"Religion's not just something for Church on Sunday. Jesus was out there with people, he was with people all the time," she said.

"He was with the poor and the marginalised. He stood up for what he believed in, even though he knew it would take him to the cross, and he did that with a dignity and with faith."

Beth Doherty is the communications project manager at the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference.



Building the Church

Church seeks to educate on dangers of euthanasia

CATHOLICS across Australia are being urged to learn more about the nature of euthanasia and the dangers it poses to society, with the launch of a new pamphlet exploring the truth and the myths of the life and death debate.

The pamphlet, called *Real* care, love and compassion – the alternative to euthanasia, was released last month by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference.

The Bishops are responding to a fact sheet released by the National Church Life Survey last year, which found 22 per cent of church-going Catholics are neutral or unsure what they think about euthanasia.

"The pamphlet will help inform people about the dangers of legalised euthanasia," Bishop Peter Comensoli, the Bishops' delegate for addressing euthanasia, said. "This will help people to appreciate why practices of respect and care are always the better option for the dying.



The ACBC pamphlet outlines the dangers of legalised euthanasia.

"Euthanasia is not just an issue of personal choice, because it always involves at least one other person. Allowing someone to cause the death of another is always an issue of public

Sh@ | SNEDDEN HALL & GALLOP LAWYERS

concern because it is a power that can so easily be abused."

The pamphlet can be downloaded from catholic.org.au/ euthanasia, and copies will be available at Catholic parishes.

Lismore Cathedral conservation continues



An artist's impression of the restored St Carthage's Cathedral in Lismore. PHOTO: ONLINE

BISHOP of Lismore Geoffrey Jarrett has announced the commencement of the next stage of the conservation work of St Carthage's Cathedral.

The six-month project to restore and refurbish the interior of one of the region's most notable buildings follows the essential exterior works undertaken in 2010 and 2011 to repair extensive storm damage, and repoint and clean the brickwork.

The new stage will focus on the renovation of the sanctuary, the central altar area, including the preservation of its heritage features and the eventual completion of its marble paving according to the original intention.

"The plans for the sanctuary have been considered over 10 years, to give it a beauty and permanence worthy of the modern liturgy which at the same time remains in harmony with the original design," Bishop Jarrett said.

"I have a deep sense that in carrying out this work we are doing our part to keep faith with the past generations of Catholics from Lismore and the Diocese."

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WORLD 9

A 'springtime' of leadership for women

BY ELISE HARRIS CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY

WITH more opportunities opening for women to take leadership roles in Vatican councils and congregations, women are filling the ranks of the Roman Curia on a historically unprecedented level.

"I think we are at a point of seeing... a springtime for new forms of leadership... in the Church," Cardinal Peter Turkson told CNA.

Cardinal Turkson, President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, was speaking to participants of an April 14 conference held at Rome's Pontifical University of St Thomas Aquinas.

He referenced numerous changes being made in the ongoing reform of the Church and the Roman Curia, noting that the process has opened new doors for both women and laypersons to take up roles of leadership that have never before been open to them in the Vatican's governing body.

The Cardinal recalled how Flaminia Giovanelli was appointed as the undersecretary for his council in 2012,



In 2012, Flaminia Giovanelli was the first laywoman to be appointed as the undersecretary for the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace. PHOTO: ONLINE

making her the highest ranking laywoman in the Roman Curia and the first laywoman to hold the position of undersecretary. Before Ms Giovanelli's

appointment under Pope

Benedict XVI, only one other woman, Sr Enrica Rosanna, had ever held the position.

Cardinal Turkson revealed that his council is looking for a new secretary after the previous secretary was reassigned. He recalled that in a conversation with Pope Francis, the pontiff gave the green light for a woman to fill the position.

The Cardinal made a point to emphasise that while the role of women is increasing in the life of the Church, it's a process that "takes time".

While Pope Francis has been outspoken on the topic of women, Cardinal Turkson noted that previous popes have done the same, referring to Pope St John XXIII's encyclical 'Pacem in Terris', and Pope St John Paul II's 1988 papal letter dedicated entirely to the topic of women, 'Mulieris Dignitatem'.

Cardinal Turkson said another topic on the table for discussion for the Council of Cardinals is the possible merge of the Pontifical Council for the Family and the Pontifical Council for the Laity. When looking at possible heads for such a council, for Pope Francis "the Council for Laity can be managed by a parent, a man and his wife, and the Council for the Family can be taken care of by a similar group," the Cardinal explained.

Rosary the key to defeating Boko Haram: Nigerian Bishop

BY ALAN HOLDREN CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY

A NIGERIAN bishop says he has seen Christ in a vision and now knows that the Rosary is the key to ridding the country of the Islamist terrorist organisation Boko Haram.

Bishop Oliver Dashe Doeme says he was praying the Rosary before the Blessed Sacrament when Jesus appeared, extending a sword toward him, which he reached out for.

"As soon as I received the sword, it turned into a Rosary," the Bishop said, adding that Jesus then told him three times: "Boko Haram is gone".

"I didn't need any prophet to give me the explanation," he said. "It was clear that with the Rosary we would be able to expel Boko Haram."

The group has killed 1,000 people across Nigeria this year, according to Human Rights Watch, which reports that more than 6,000 have died in Boko Haram-led violence since 2009.



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Mary Undoer of Knots

Once an obscure, little-known Marian devotion, the image of and novena to Mary Undoer of Knots has suddenly come to prominence in recent times. But the devotion is not new, as Matthew Biddle explains...

NLIKE some the most well-known Marian devotions that were born out of apparitions, devotion to Mary Undoer of Knots came via Mary's intercession in a troubled marriage.

In 1615, German couple Wolfgang and Sophie Langenmantel approached Jesuit priest Fr Jakob Rem in a desperate bid to save their marriage, which was in dire trouble.

Fr Rem and Wolfgang prayed together for Mary's intercession, and the priest held up the couple's marriage ribbon – a symbol of the spouses' unity presented during the wedding – to an image of Mary.

It is believed that Fr Rem prayed fervently that Mary untie all the knots in the Langenmantels' marriage, and following his prayer, the ribbon became luminously white, and the couple's marriage was healed.

Many years later, the couple's grandson, Hieronymus Langenmantel, became a priest, and around the year 1700 he commissioned a painting depicting the miraculous healing of his grandparents' marriage.

The resultant image has been attributed to Johann Georg Melchior Schmidtner, and shows one angel presenting the knotted marriage ribbon of the Langenmantels to Mary, who then works to undo the knots before handing the

smoothed ribbon to a second angel.

Since its completion, the painting has been venerated in the parish church of St Peter in Perlack, Germany, where it remains today.

For many years, the devotion was only minimally known, until the 1980s when a Jesuit priest who was studying in Germany saw the image and was greatly impressed by it.

The priest acquired a copy of the painting and took it back to his homeland, Argentina, where devotion to Mary Undoer of Knots spread rapidly with the priest's encouragement. The priest's name was Jorge Bergoglio.

Since his accession to the papacy in 2013, Pope Francis' strong devotion to Mary Undoer of Knots has been widely publicised, resulting in a rapid rise in its popularity

He went on to explain what these "knots" can take the form of, saying: "When we do not listen to [God], when we do

6 C The knot of Eve's disobedience was untied by the obedience of Mary; what the virgin Eve bound by her unbelief, the Virgin Mary loosened by her faith."

- St Irenaeus, Against Heresies.

around the world.

The Holy Father first spoke of the devotion on October 12, 2013, when he welcomed the original statue of Our Lady of Fatima to St Peter's Square.

Pope Francis recalled the words of St Irenaeus, a secondcentury bishop, in his work Against Heresies: "The knot of Eve's disobedience was untied

crete things that demonstrate our lack of trust in him - for that is what sin is - and a kind of knot is created deep within us.

"These knots take away our peace and serenity. They are dangerous, since many knots can form a tangle which gets more and more painful and difficult to undo.

"All the knots of our heart, every knot of our conscience, can be undone."

With these words, the devotion was raised from obscurity, and became the source of great interest among Catholics worldwide.

Knowledge of the Pope's love



of the devotion has also grown, so much so that last year, some 20,000 youth signed a four-foot tall birthday card for Pope Francis featuring the image of Mary Undoer of Knots.

National Sanctuary

SEVERAL years after the then-Fr Bergoglio took the devotion to Mary Undoer of Knots to Argentina, it spread to neighbouring Brazil. A local couple, Suzel and Denis Bourgerie, who had seen the original painting in Germany, received permission to build a church in honour of Mary Undoer of Knots.

The couple also wrote and published a novena booklet to Mary Undoer of Knots, which has received a nihil obstat and imprimatur. It has been printed in 19 languages and it is believed that more than 1.3 million copies have been distributed.

The small church quickly became too small, and in 2006, the Bourgeries, having received approval from their bishop, opened the National Sanctuary of Mary Undoer of Knots.

The Sanctuary is served by 15 priests and seats about 3,000 people.

Meanwhile, in another part of the world, Edson Bosetti, the director of the National



by the obedience of Mary; what the virgin Eve bound by her unbelief, the Virgin Mary loosened by her faith".

not follow his will, we do con-

FEATURE 11



Sanctuary of Mary Undoer of Knots' official US website, has been integral in spreading the Marian devotion in America.

He said he first discovered the devotion in 2000 at the recommendation of a friend.

"It is a devotion that touches everyone in the world," he said. "All of us have knots to be undone, we want to be free of our problems, and we need Our Lady beside us to hear us, to comfort us, to encourage us, to free us."

Mr Bosetti said devotion to Mary Undoer of Knots has spread rapidly in the last decade, reaching countries in Europe, South America, Africa and Asia.

"Since 2005, when we started to promote the devotion in North America... it has increased tremendously, not only in North America but worldwide," he said.

"The number of people accessing our website doesn't stop growing, and we keep printing more and more Novena booklets.

"The devotion really speaks to every person, in any social class."

The engineer said revelation that Mary Undoer of Knots is the Holy Father's favourite Marian devotion has been the source of an upsurge in interest of late.

"In the 1980s when Pope Francis was still a Cardinal, he brought the devotion to Our Lady Undoer of Knots to South America, more specifically to Argentina, then it was spread through Brazil, Canada, the United States and then around the world," he said.

And it's not just the Pope who has a special place in his heart for the devotion to Mary Undoer of Knots. Prominent US Cardinal Timothy Dolan appears to be another loyal devotee.

In the 2009 book, Doers of the Word: Putting Your Faith

Cardinal Dolan, who is the Archbishop of New York, even goes on to explain the effects "knots" can have on our lives.

"Ah, the knots in our life. How they suffocate our soul, beat us down, betray our heart's joy, and even bind our will to continue living," he writes.



A procession through the streets of the Philippines is held every year in honour of Our Lady Undoer of Knots. PHOTO: ONLINE

into Practice, Cardinal Dolan writes: "I'm always fascinated by the different titles Mary has in the Church... Just when I thought I had heard them all, I learned a new one: Mary, Undoer of Knots.

"The friend who introduced me to this one travels the world helping people undo the knots in women and men tied up emotionally after the horror of abortion and testifies to Mary's efficiency under this intriguing title. "Knots separate us from God, chaining our very being and strangling our faith, keeping us from flinging like children into the arms of God, our loving Father."

Australia

IT'S not known exactly when the devotion first reached Australia, but according to Mr Bosetti, the first Australian order placed on the Undoer of Knots website occurred less than 10 years ago, in 2006.

But the devotion is starting to become more widely known. Last year, a prayer group in the combined parish of St Michael's and St Patrick's in Blacktown, NSW, began meeting once a week in honour of Mary Undoer of Knots.

Earlier, in February 2014, the NSW-based St Paul's Publications began to stock a 40-page booklet titled *Our Lady, Untier of Knots* published by the Catholic Truth Society.

According to St Paul's marketing consultant Sonja van Vliet, the booklet initially sold at about the same rate as similar booklets produced by the same publisher.

"However, by August our customers (book stores primarily) were ordering in much larger quantities," she said.

"We're due to receive 1,000 copies from the publishers next week to meet the increased demand."

And it's likely that demand may increase further during the month of May, which has been especially dedicated to Marian devotions since the 13th century.

In May 2014, Pope Francis encouraged Catholics to start praying the daily Rosary. Perhaps this year he will encourage the continued revival of his favourite Marian devotion. Regardless of whether he does or not, the once unknown Our Lady Undoer of Knots will continue to spread throughout the Catholic world. Opposite page, an impression of the original painting of Mary Undoer of Knots, believed to have been completed around the year 1700. Left, in March 2014, Pope Francis met with the President of Argentina, Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, who presented the Holy Father with an image of Mary Undoer of Knots. The Pope first saw the image in the 1980s when he was a priest, and was so impressed by it that he acquired a copy and took it back to Argentina, where the devotion has grown ever since.

PHOTOS: ONLINE; REUTERS

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER TO MARY UNDOER OF KNOTS

Holy Mary, full of God's presence during the days of your life, you accepted with full humility the Father's will, and the devil was never capable to tie you around with his confusion.

Once with your Son you interceded for our difficulties, and, full of kindness and patience you gave us example of how to untie the knots of our life.

And by remaining forever Our Mother, you put in order, and make more clear the ties that link us to the Lord.

Holy Mother, Mother of God, and our Mother, to you, who untie with motherly heart the knots of our life, we pray to you to receive in your hands

(the name of person), and to free him/her of the knots and confusion with which our enemy attacks.

Through your grace, your intercession, and your example, deliver us from all evil, Our Lady, and untie the knots that prevent us from being united with God, so that we, free from sin and error, may find Him in all things, may have our hearts placed in

Him, and may serve Him

always in our brothers and

sisters. Amen.

12 FEATURE







Above, Fr Dermid McDermott washes the feet of parishioners at Sts Peter and Paul's Old Cathedral in Goulburn on Holy Thursday. Right, Pope Francis venerating the Cross at the Liturgy of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday in St Peter's Basilica. PHOTOS: SUPPLIED; L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

Above, Pope Francis joins numerous Cardinals from around the world during the procession towards St Peter's Basilica in St Peter's Square on Palm Sunday, March 29. Left, the Altar of Repose on Holy Thursday at St Patrick's Church in Cooma. PHOTOS: L'OSSERVATORE RO-MANO; SUPPLIED



HOPE IN THE RESURRECTION

In the midst of suffering and persecution, Pope Francis says Christians should be consoled by Jesus' promise...

minded strength that comes from Christ's death and Resurrection, calling them to be witnesses of peace and justice, especially for those suffering today in regions of extreme

violence and persecution. "From the risen Lord we ask the grace not to succumb to the pride which fuels violence and war, but to have the humble courage of pardon and peace," the Pope said to tens of thousands of cold, rain-soaked pilgrims in St Peter's Square for Easter Sunday Mass.

Delivering the traditional Urbi et Orbi address from the central balcony of the Basilica after the Mass, the Pope asked Jesus, as "the victor over death, to lighten the sufferings of our

OPE Francis re- many brothers and sisters who Christians are persecuted for his name, and this Easter of the of all those who suffer injustice as a result of ongoing conflicts and violence"

Pope Francis listed by name some of the current conflict zones around the world, especially the Middle East, Africa, and Ukraine, and called for the poor and the migrants who

Looking down from the loggia of St Peter's Basilica on the scores of pilgrims with their umbrellas, braving the inclement weather, the Pope appealed for all those suffering: "the marginalised, the imprisoned,

to arms dealers".

"Jesus shows everyone the way to life and happiness: this way is humility..."

peace in those regions of ongoing violence.

He made particular mention of Kenya, which is still reeling from the massacre of 148 young people at Garissa University College on April 2.

The Pontiff also appealed for "peace and freedom" for victims of slavery, drug dealers, and are so often rejected, maltreated and discarded, the sick and the suffering, children, especially those who are victims of violence".

to and take courage from Jesus' consoling words: "Fear not, for I am risen and I shall always be with you".

Top right, Fr Christopher Blust FSSP lights the fire during the Easter Vigil for the Latin Mass Community at Sts Peter and Paul's Church in Garran. Middle right, East Timorese Catholic women carry crosses during a Palm Sunday procession in Dili. Bottom right, Fr Tom Thornton blesses the Paschal Candle during the Easter Vigil, with the help of server Marty McGrath, at St Patrick's Church in Boorowa. Below, Marist students, from left to right, Jack Nash, Liam Tutty and Charlie Kurthi lead the College re-enactment of the Stations of PHOTOS: LYLE DUNNE; LIRIO DA FONSECA; DERMOT MCGRATH; SUPPLIED the Cross in the school grounds.



FEATURE 13

"peace for this world subjected

He called on them to listen

By the death and Resurrection celebrated on Easter Sunday, Pope Francis said, "Jesus shows everyone the way to life and happiness: this way is humility, which involves humiliation. This is the path which leads to glory".

"Christians, by the grace of Christ, dead and risen, are the seeds of another humanity, in which we seek to live in service to one another, not to be arrogant, but rather respectful and ready to help," he said to the large crowd.

This grace is a strength, not a weakness, the Pope added. Rather, "those who bear within them God's power, his love and his justice, do not need to employ violence; they speak and act with the power of truth, beauty and love".

- CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY







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- 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.

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GOING DEEPER By Shane Dwyer

I DON'T know if you've ever read Dante Alighieri's *Divine Comedy*: it is one of those classics of Christian literature from another age. I worked my way through most of it years ago. It is in essence a long poem, written by a man going through what we might describe today as a 'mid-life crisis'. As a poem it is full of imagery, and best not taken as an eyewitness account of the situations it describes. It begins with the words:

"In the middle of the journey of our life, I came to myself, in a dark wood, where the direct way was lost. It is a hard thing to speak of, how wild, harsh and impenetrable that wood was, so that thinking of it recreates the fear. It is scarcely less bitter than death: but, in order to tell of the good that I found there,



Christ's Resurrection at Easter - which is often symbolised by the rising sun - should be a cause of celebration and happiness for Catholics, after the penitential season of Lent. PHOTO: LOUI SESELJA

I must tell of the other things I saw there."

There are a number of things I remember from my reading of this massive poem, most of them taken from the depictions of hell and purgatory that Dante paints for us. I remember the bleakness and futility of hell. And I remember how the suffering of purgatory was only for as long as a soul chose to remain there. Always the invitation to move through to paradise was present, but not forced on a soul still aware of its need for healing.

I also remember an interesting statistic: most people who read the *Divine Comedy* manage to read the books on hell and purgatory, but they begin to get the stitch when it comes to paradise. I'm afraid I was one of those people. After the drama and intrigue of hell and purgatory, paradise just seemed a little too good to be true and, quite frankly, beyond my experience.

Why am I writing about this? It occurs to me that we have a similar response to the Easter season. We are, as our faith teaches us, an Easter people. We live in the light and life of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. However, statistics tell us that we are more likely to feel at home during Lent than we are during Eastertide. Our churches are full on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, and yet often only half full for the Easter Vigil. Lamentation and self-recrimination are easier to maintain than joy and celebration. Such is the human condition.

We must resist this tendency. There is so much in our faith experience that can, at times, be difficult. What sustains us is the deeply felt realisation that we do not trust in God in vain. Through the power of the resurrection of Jesus, we have been reborn in hope and in the power of the Holy Spirit who has been poured into our hearts.

Dante told of the difficult aspects of the afterlife because he wanted to give the context for the good things. This is the time for the good things. We must not overlook them and avoid seeing the joy and peace we are being offered in Christ. Glum Catholics are an oxymoron.

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Pope reminds us of the madness of war



FOLLOWING FRANCIS BY DEACON MATT RANSOM

"WAR is madness... war is irrational; its only plan is to bring destruction: it seeks to grow by destroying. Greed, intolerance, the lust for power... these motives underlie the decision to go to war and they are too often justified by ideology," (Pope Francis).

Pope Francis has been speaking regularly and clearly about the 'madness of war'. In the midst of his care and reform of the Church, calling Christians to focus on evangelisation and reminding us to watch over the poor, there has also been a sharp message from the Pope

regarding the evils of war. Recently he reminded the world about what is referred to as the 'first genocide' of the 20th century.

The massacre of 1.5 million Armenians early last century is one of three genocides of the 20th century that the Holy Father mentioned during his homily on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 12. Using similar phrases to those of Pope St John Paul II, when travelling to Armenia

from 1915 to 1923... concealing or denying evil is like allowing a wound to keep bleeding without bandaging it".

The madness of war! From a personal perspective, I remember travelling with my wife to Europe a few years ago and the two of us having the opportunity to visit war cemeteries in Belgium. One dark, imposing place sticks out clearly in my mind because of the 43,000 unmarked German graves in a

"It seems that humanity is incapable of putting a halt to the shedding of innocent blood."

in 2001, Pope Francis spoke of the trauma, pain and immorality of war.

"It seems that humanity is incapable of putting a halt to the shedding of innocent blood," he said, adding that it is our duty to remember the "senseless slaughter of the Armenians by the Ottoman Turks

site the size of a rugby league field. These, mainly unprepared university students, were thrown into the western front battles with minimal success. As I wandered through this space, thinking, talking and praying, the thought that came to mind was the utter stupidity of war.

As Cathy and I left this place,



Pope Francis blesses the Austro-Hungarian cemetery in Redipuglia. PHOTO: REUTERS

we came across a photo of Adolf Hitler and his henchmen, in this same place, also reflecting... and planning revenge.

War is madness! "Listen, O Lord to the lament that rises from this place, to the call of the dead from the depths of the Metz Yeghern (genocide), the cry of innocent blood that pleads like the blood of Abel, like Rachel weeping for her children because they are no more," (Pope St John Paul II).

"Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God," (Matthew 5:9).

Faith, family, fighting and factions



POSTCARD FROM BOSTON BY FR FRANK BRENNAN SJ

THIS is my last postcard from Boston. I have survived the snowiest winter on record. There is much about this country I will miss, and some things that I will be happy to leave behind. The Americans do things with style, and there are no half-measures. The Easter ceremonies at the church of St Ignatius were superb. This is a country where family and faith count for a lot.

I recently visited the newly opened Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the US Senate here in Boston. The Institute contains perfect replicas of the Senate Chamber and Teddy's office. On his office walls there are some wonderful family and Irish mementos, including the Irish flag and the street sign to Dunganstown, County Wexford, from whence the Kennedy clan came.

Two framed letters caught my attention. There was the note sent by JFK from the Choate School to his mother when Teddy was born saying:

Dear Mother,

It is the night before the exams



The Kennedy family at the Vatican in 1939, at the coronation of Pope Pius XII. The Institute for the US Senate in Boston is named PHOTO: ONLINE after Ted Kennedy, who is pictured standing in front of his father Joseph.

so I will write you Wednesday. Lots of love. PS. Can I be God*father to the baby?*

Beside it is the framed note to Teddy from his grandnephew Jack:

Dear Uncle Teddy,

Will you be my Godfather now? Love. Jack.

There is something very American about such touching, familiar and simple letters being framed in gold for all to see on the office wall of one who served in the US Senate for 47 years - completing the circle of faith and family.

As well as family and faith, there are factions and fighting,

especially over race and gender. Only in the United States could there be threatened boycotts and litigation over whether a florist or a baker might decline the request to prepare an elaborate flower arrangement or a personalised wedding cake for a same-sex marriage. Discussing the matter with a class I said that I had no problem with the bakery or the flower shop being required to sell bread and flowers in a non-discriminatory way. You either sell goods to everybody or to nobody.

I said I was happy to show deference to the artistic florist or religious baker who says: 'Doing the wedding arrangement is an expression of my artistic and/ or religious understanding of what is being celebrated, and thus I choose not to accept your offer to provide my services for a professional fee at your gay wedding. I just wouldn't be able to put my heart in it, as I would need to do if I were to produce an arrangement of true excellence. I think it would be better for everyone if you approached the baker or florist around the corner (though admittedly I think they're not quite as artistic or expressive as I am), and I promise not to say a word to anyone. Have a great party! I

just can't bring myself to do it joyfully and passionately. I hope you understand.'

I told the class I would prefer to live in a society where that was possible - maximising freedom for all, provided there was another florist or baker on hand. The students looked at me in stunned silence as if I were being Jesuitical or quaintly old-fashioned. I suspect some thought, 'He's not American. He just doesn't get it'.

Then just when people thought the nation was coming to terms with the dreadful police shooting in Ferguson, along came the horrific, coldblooded and deceptive behaviour of the Charleston police officer captured on a mobile phone as he gunned down a defenceless African-American man from behind, firing eight shots, before dropping his Taser beside the body as if to make out that there had been a struggle placing him in mortal fear. The deceased Walter Scott had come to officer Michael Slager's attention because his car had a faulty tail light. The killing and the high-pitched political postmortem could only happen in the USA.

The best and worst of things are found here in the USA. I am happy to be coming home, hearing the call of the kookaburra. I will hear more than enough of Hillary Clinton and Jeb Bush from across the Pacific in the year to come.

First stage of refurbishments complete at St Joseph's

SAINT Joseph's Primary School in O'Connor celebrated the completion of the first stage of refurbishments on April 9, with about 50 guests joining staff and students for the official opening and blessing

Over the past few months numerous enhancements have been made to the school buildings, including the installation of a lift and the reconstruction and redesigning of several existing classrooms.

The additional space will assist the school to move from one class per year group to two. Principal Sue Dempsey said the additions were just the beginning of a four-stage master plan to refurbish the school, which will mark its 60th anniversary next year.

Funding for the work was provided largely by the Federal Government, which contributed \$675,200 towards the project. The school community raised more than \$260,000 for the refurbishments.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse, who blessed the new areas, invoked the protection of St Joseph over the school community.

"May his influence be strong within this building and his example touch the hearts of all who enter here," he prayed.

This year there are 219 primary students enrolled at St Joseph's, as well as 54 preprimary students.

Right, St Joseph's students Isabella and Alysha won an art competition to be the first to travel in the newly installed school lift. Below, Archbishop Christopher Prowse with Senator Zed Seselja, Fr Bill Kennedy, and students Sophie, Rosie (middle) and Rahul.

PHOTOS: LOUI SESELIA







Above, St Joseph's principal Sue Dempsey thanked all those involved in the refurbishment project during the official opening, which students and staff attended, right. PHOTOS: LOUI SESEL/A

NO

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Searching for God in a science-mad world



BOOK REVIEW By Fr Tony Percy

Our Quest for God, by Fr Neil Brown, published by St Paul's Publications.

THIS book is probably illnamed. It should be entitled, "God's Quest For Us". In our silliness we tend to think that we can find God, but of course we can't. The real search is God's quest for us. And he does find us!

Fr Neil Brown is the author, a priest of the Archdiocese of Sydney, my former lecturer of some years ago and a thoroughly wonderful human being. His forte is moral theology and Catholic social teaching, but he has ventured into philosophical theology in this book.

So, now that I have declared my interests, I can make some comments about this little gem of a book.

In its early stages, the book tends to be elusive. But, then again, this is the way that our relationship with God seems to proceed. It is intimate, to be sure, but it is elusive. Just when we thought we had hold of God, we seem to lose our grip. And this is how it should be, should it not? God is God. He is mysterious and wholly other. If we think we have got hold of him, there is a good chance we have got hold of something that is not God.

There are 10 chapters. I found the one on the Word of

OUR QUEST FOR GOD



NEIL BROWN

God to be the most compelling. It is about the unity of scripture. The Church, in all her wisdom, teaches that if we want to understand the sacred text, then we have to explore both its human and divine meaning.

We get at the former by trying to understand what the human author intended. Here we have to attend to history, culture and literary forms. What was the world like when he or she wrote the text? What type of culture was operative? Is it a history book, a satire, a song, a poem? Inattentiveness to these criteria will yield incredulity.

We get at the divine meaning by taking the human meaning and locating it within the entire biblical text. This is what we mean by the unity of scripture. Never read a text in isolation, but take care to situate it within what has gone before and after.

Then, we should read the text within the rich tradition we have received in the Church. So, for instance, we read a biblical text which deals with the Eucharist. We can come to understand its spiritual meaning far better by observing the way the Church has practised the Eucharist and understood its historical development.

Finally, we will mine the spiritual riches of scripture if we read the text keeping in mind other truths of the faith. This is called the analogy of faith. For example, in contemplating Christ's teaching on marriage and family it will be helpful to contemplate the truth that God is the Blessed Trinity. God is a communion

Fr Brown does not make the fatal mistake of making science and religion competitors. They are not.

of life and love and we, made in God's image and likeness, are called to familial life that is communion of life and love.

Fr Brown makes an important contribution to the way we should interpret scripture and not be spooked by the 'new atheists' who pretend to think they know what they are talking about when they mock certain scripture texts. How often they quote a passage of scripture and misinterpret it, because they have not considered its context. Fr Brown writes: "You cannot peel away the layers of an onion to discover what an onion really is. Likewise you cannot peel away verses, chapters, or books of the Bible to see what is truly the Word of God.

"Like the onion, the Bible is all verses and the books together. Select verses or books in isolation, as [Richard] Dawkins does, and you have something other than the Word of God. Take any section or book and make it the total message and you will end in Jonestown or hope, like Heaven's Gate, to be taken up into a comet's tail."

With mention of Richard Dawkins - *The God Delusion* - we can finish. Fr Brown has made a significant contribution in answering people like Dawkins, who are enamoured by science and see it as a new religion.

Fr Brown does not make the fatal mistake of making science and religion competitors. They are not. As St Augustine said years ago, there is no inherent contradiction between them. Rather, they make good neighbours, and good neighbours have fences, since they provide both demarcation and an avenue for dialogue.

What Fr Brown does, through his plentiful recourse to poetry, narratives, novels, history, philosophy, theology, and even agnostic and atheistic sources, is to show that the 'God question' transcends science. Science has brought us many benefits - who can doubt it. But can it save us? Can it give meaning to our lives?

Fr Brown thinks not. And surely we agree. One finds meaning, liberation and healing through an encounter with the one who is the source of both reason and faith. And we can only have an encounter with a person, not a thing. And that is why philosophy and theology use a different language to science. They speak the language of the heart and it is all about "heart speaking to heart".

Age of Adaline fails to ask the deeper questions about death

By Peter Sheehan

THE Age of Adaline is an American fantasy-drama that tells the story of a woman who is made ageless through a car accident. Well after the accident, she falls in love with a man, who, like everyone else around him, ages normally.

Adaline Bowman (Blake Lively) crashes her car while driving alone on a dark road one stormy night, and she emerges from the crash immune from the effects of time. Nothing rational can explain what has happened to her, and all we know is that a flash of lightning has caused the problem and the process responsible is one of electron conversion.

Born in 1908, Adaline has remained 29 years old for nearly 80 years. Because of her situation, she leads a solitary existence and withdraws into herself whenever she is tempted to get too close to anyone she might care for.

One day Adaline meets a rich, attractive, young man called Ellis Jones (Michiel Huisman), to whom she is attracted romantically. She realises that she wants things in life that she has never had, and her feelings for Ellis gradually put pressure on her to reveal her secret. She finds herself being forced to decide whether or not she wishes to trade immortali-



After a car accident in 1937, Adaline Bowman remains 29 years old for nearly 80 years. PHOTOS: ONLINE

ty for the chance of a normal relationship with Ellis.

The film deals only superficially with its major concerns. Living forever is the issue for Adaline, and the film treats immortality as a sophisticated, problematic lifestyle choice for



Adaline, bypassing any deeper significance for the theme. There is no philosophical or thinking exploration by Adaline or anyone else in the movie of the consequences of the fact that Adaline has passed beyond the influence of death. There is a classic Hollywood romantic feel and look to this movie. Unfortunately, it trades classic Hollywood romance eventually for soap.

Peter Sheehan is an associate of the Australian Catholic Office for Film and Broadcasting.

22 CLASSIFIEDS



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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.

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

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Exp. Date



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

Archdiocesan Coming Events

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 I 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 MONAS-TERY, GALONG: Sunday, May 3 for the annual Marian Procession. For bookings phone Judy and Joe Mew-

phone Judy and Joe Mewburn on (02) 6254 6202.

MASS FOR MOTHERS:

St Benedict's Mission Centre, Narrabundah invites all to a healing Mass on Friday May 8 at 5.30pm with the special focus on the mother relationship. Come along and pray for mothers, both living and dead, to give thanks for their mothering, to pray for God's blessing for the role mothers play and to pray for all those whose relationships with their mothers need God's healing touch.

AMICUS: Sunday May 10, at the National Library. Meet at 12pm at Bookplate Café for lunch at table booked in the name of AMICUS, then enjoy one of the free exhibitions available. Saturday May 23, at the Vikings Chisholm



NATIONAL MISSION CONFERENCE: Mission: One Heart, Many Voices will offer valuable professional and personal development and will nurture a vocational heart for mission in those working in the Church. It will be held at the SMC Conference and Function Centre in Sydney from May 18-20. The conference's purpose is to affirm, inspire, nurture and enable participants to 'go forth boldly' living the joy of the Gospel and making Christ present in the world today. There will be a diverse range of international and local speakers, panel discussions and workshops. To register or for more information, visit http://mohmv.com.au/2015conference/registration.html.

Club. Meet at 6.30pm in the Champs Bistro at the table booked in the name of AMICUS for dinner, listening to music and dancing, if you wish. 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.

SERRA CLUB OF CANBERRA: Rosary and Mass, 6.10pm, Thursday May 14, Holy Trinity Church, Curtin, followed by dinner at Southern Cross Club, Woden. Inquiries: John Malycha: (02) 6251 2912.

CALL TO CONNECT WOMEN'S MINISTRY: Will hold an info morning tea at 1 Iam on Sunday May 17 at St Monica's meeting room Evatt, organised by the "Call to Connect" Charnwood interparish group for the women of Belconnen. It will be an opportunity to socialise, pray together and hear about the prayer/ sharing group offered by the ministry. For more information visit www.calltoconnect. org. Inquiries and/or RSVP for catering purposes: Diane 0419 266 423 or Pauline 0429 064 168.

BATEHAVEN AND

BEYOND: Presentation on 'You are God's work of art' with Sr Carmel Drew RSJ on May 21 at Southern Cross Village, Temora, from 10am-3pm. BYO lunch, cost by donation. Presentation on 'Contemplative Practices' with Sr Julie Connelly RSJ and Sr Patricia Snudden RSJ on May 23 from 10am-3pm, at St Joseph's House of Spirituality and Hospitality, 12 David Ave, Batehaven, NSW. Cost \$25, lunch provided. Inquiries: Sr Mary Murphy: mary.murphy@sosj.org.au.

TAIZÉ PRAYER

RETREAT: At St Clement's Monastery, Galong May 29-31 led by Richard White from St Clement's. The retreat centres on the prayer, music and tradition of the Taizé community in France. The ecumenical and inclusive monastic community has strong appeal to people searching for a style of prayer centred on music, silence and community. Cost: \$300 ensuite, \$260 standard (shared facilities). Fully catered Friday night to Sunday lunch. St Clement's is set on 800 acres in picturesque,





ST CLARE'S COLLEGE 50TH GALA DINNER

COMING EVENTS 23

GALA DINNER: We invite all past and present community members of St Clare's College to join us for a fantastic evening celebrating and reminiscing the past 50 years of our wonderful College. Held at St Clare's on Saturday, May 30, from 6.30pm to 11.30pm, there will be a three-course meal, a special performance from "Cats" our College musical for 2015, a chance to catch up with friends, dance to the music from the '60s through to now and take "selfies" at the photo booth. Cost: \$95 per person. Drinks may be purchased at the venue. RSVP: May 15 by 6pm. For more information visit http://stcc.act.edu.au.

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REGULAR EVENTS

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRA-MENT: 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 SECU-LAR 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.

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Masters champion Jordan Spieth remains true to his Jesuit education

By Seth Gonzales Catholic News Service

VEN after becoming the toast of the sports world, golfer Jordan Spieth, a 21-year-old Dallas Jesuit graduate, remained humble and down-to-earth as he worked the crowds at Augusta, handled the media, and bantered with morning and late night talk show hosts after his historic win.

That's no surprise to those who know the new Masters champion, who set course records at Augusta from April 9-12 on his way to the coveted prize and the iconic green blazer. They say he has kept family first, especially his younger sister, Ellie, who is autistic.

"He is just very genuine," said Steve Koch, athletic director at Jesuit College Preparatory School in Dallas, which claims Spieth as a graduate of its class of 2011. "He says what he believes. He believes in supporting others, taking care of others before he takes care of himself."

Michael Earsing, the president of the Jesuit school, said the foundation of family, balance and caring for others has no doubt created a different perspective for Spieth, one that will serve him well after winning the Masters.

"We talk about Ignatian balance in everything we do and I think Jordan and his family are a really good example of that balance," Earsing told *The Texas Catholic*, newspaper of the Diocese of Dallas. "When we talk about balance, we talk about love. We talk about how much he loves his sister, someone he loves and who has kept him grounded. We talk about how important life is to all of us as Catholics. What a wonderful thing."

At the Masters, Spieth became the second-youngest player to win and was the first

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to reach 19 under par in the tournament. His 28 birdies in the four rounds at the Masters is a tournament record. He also logged the best scores after 36 and 54 holes. And if that were not enough, he is only the fifth player in tournament history to lead from start to finish. He finished 18-under par, 270.

Spieth is now ranked as the second-best golfer in the world behind Rory McIlroy, and is watching his already rising status accelerate significantly.

Spieth's win at the Masters

has inspired the Dallas Jesuit community, but perhaps none more so than the school's golf team.

Jesuit golfer Cameron Suhy said the team members were constantly checking their phones to get the latest on Spieth, who only four years ago was in their shoes playing golf for Jesuit.

"It was pretty nerve-wrack-

University Interscholastic League.

Jesuit golf coach Cathy Marino, herself a 10-year veteran of the LPGA, said while Spieth definitely stood out on the golf course, he was just a normal teenager.

"He was a regular high school kid a lot of the time and I was glad to see that. I think that's important especially



Jesuit College graduate Jordan Spieth wears the iconic green jacket, which has been presented to the winner of the Masters tournament since 1949. PHOTO: CNS

ing the whole week just watching him having to sit on the lead but when he finally pulled it out, it definitely gave our team a lot of confidence," Suhy said. "We saw that a kid from Jesuit could win on golf's biggest stage."

During his time at Jesuit, Spieth led the team to three Class 5A state titles in the once you turn pro and it becomes a business," she said.

For Spieth, the Masters win brought him a paycheck of \$1.8 million. He already has an endorsement deal with Under Armour and there is talk that other lucrative endorsement deals are in the works.

Unlike other Masters champions who take the week off

following the tournament, Spieth played in the RBC Heritage in South Carolina from April 16-19, saying he wanted to give back to the tournament that was good to him when he turned pro.

That loyalty is not surprising for those who see Spieth on the national stage. They say he is the same young man with the same value system that he had embraced at Dallas Catholic schools, including his elementary school, St Monica's Catholic School.

"Jordan was always respectful to staff and students alike," said Colette Corbin of the school's student services department. "He was one of those kids who would just stay and help clean up in the cafeteria if he saw that I was short on students helping. He was considerate of others' feelings and tried to include other students who might otherwise not be part of a group."

And Jesuit's Earsing said Spieth will be an inspiration for students, parents and teachers in Dallas Catholic schools.

"I think it's a hope of everybody who works in Catholic education that you see somebody who is achieving at such a high level, who is also a wonderful model for our students," Earsing said.

"Jordan is just the common man who achieves greatness through the blessings and talent God has given him to the maximum."