C A T H O L I C ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN

A life of service

Fr Peter Murphy remembered as a man of fidelity and faith

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Last chance

Will your parish have a voice at the youth forum?

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Hoop heroes

Marist basketball teams excel once again during the summer season

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Circulation 20,000

Braidwood's little Rosary crusaders

INSTEAD of playing games or chatting to friends, students at St Bede's Catholic Primary School in Braidwood chose to take part in a different activity during recess last month – praying the Rosary.

Almost every day in May, students from Kindergarten through to Year 6 gathered with a staff member at recess or lunchtime to pray a decade of the Rosary, a practice the school has been observing for a number of years.

"We explore a variety of forms of prayer," school principal Gerard Galvin said.

"But certainly saying the Rosary gives the children a sense of the traditions of the Church.

"The children really do enjoy it, even if they forget their Rosary beads, many are still attending, which is lovely. They just enjoy praying together. They're very positive and enthusiastic about it."



St Bede's Catholic Primary School students from Kindergarten through to Year 6 prayed a decade of the Rosary together almost every day during May.

PHOTO: LOUI SESE

Out with the old, in with the new

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

THE site of the \$35 million Manuka redevelopment is beginning to take shape, with the three unoccupied buildings due to be demolished by the end of this month.

In May, the Haydon Centre was demolished and the site was cleared in preparation for the demolition of the former CatholicCare office building and the old Cathedral presbytery.

Once the site is clear, there will be a 'turning of the sod' ceremony, signifying the start of building work on the site.

The project, which was approved in September, includes the construction of two threestorey office buildings connected by an atrium, a meeting hall, parish offices, and 44 aged care independent living units (ILUs).

Project manager Joe Mammoliti from Hindmarsh told *Catholic Voice* he expects the project to be completed by April 2017

Earlier in May, Archbishop Christopher Prowse announced that the Archdiocese's main administrative building in Manuka will be named after Archbishop Thomas Cahill, the third Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn.

The Archbishop made the announcement on May 6 in front of a large contingent of Archdiocesan staff from Marymead, CatholicCare, the Catholic Education Office, Favier House and the Rheinberger Centre, as well as members of the Cathedral parish.

Most of the Archdiocesan staff present for the announcement will work in the Thomas V. Cahill Centre once it is completed.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



Demolition work will continue on the Manuka precinct site until the end of June, weather permitting.

PHOTO: LOUI SESELJA

2 LOCAL

June 2015

ARCHBISHOP CHRISTOPHER'S **DIARY**

June 3rd

6.15pm Confirmation Mass - Holy Spirit Parish, Gungahlin

June 5th

5pm 'Man Overboard' - Archbishop's

6.15pm Confirmation Mass - Holy Spirit Parish, Gungahlin

June 6th

6pm Confirmation Mass - Sacred Heart Parish, Temora

June 7th Ham Mass for the Year

of Consecrated Life - St **Christopher's Cathedral**

June 9th 4.30pm and 7pm Confirmation Mass -Corpus Christi Parish, South Tuggeranong

9am Meeting of NSW and ACT Bishops

4.30pm and 7pm Confirmation Mass -Corpus Christi Parish, South Tuggeranong

June 13th 9am Youth Leaders Forum/Launch of

WYD 2016 - Rheinberger Centre 6pm Confirmation Mass - Immaculate Conception Parish, Tumut

June 14th

10am Confirmation Mass - St James' Parish, Adelong 5pm Confirmation Mass - St Mary's Parish, Batlow

June 16th

4.30pm and 7pm Confirmation Mass -Corpus Christi Parish, South Tuggeranong

June 17th

6.45am ACU Inaugural Inter-Faith Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast - Old Parliament House

June 18th

10am ACU Annual Senate Planning Day - Sydney

June 19th

June 20th

6pm Confirmation Mass - St Patrick's Parish, Cooma

6pm Confirmation Mass - Sacred Heart

Parish, Cootamundra June 21st

10am Confirmation Mass - St Anthony's

Parish, Harden

June 24th 10.30am Visit to Confirmation Students -Holy Trinity Primary School, Curtin 12.30pm Lunch with retired clergy -

June 27th

Archbishop's House

6pm Confirmation Mass - St Anthony of Padua Parish, Wanniassa

June 28th

9am and 10am Confirmation Mass - Holy Trinity Parish, North Woden

June 30th

10am Opening and blessing of buildings -John Paul College, Nicholls

The Sacred Heart of Jesus found in a Chinese cupboard



ARCHBISHOP'S MESSAGE **ARCHBISHOP** CHRISTOPHER PROWSE

TO my dear people in the Archdiocese of Canberra and

For many centuries Catholic piety has assigned the month of June to devotion to the Sacred

I often think of the following true story when devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary is invoked.

The priest was late for an appointment. Before he left his parish he needed to lock the church. Upon entering his church he found a young Asian man kneeling near the sanctuary with both arms outstretched in deep prayer. The priest politely asked him to leave so he could lock the church. The man was most reluctant to do so. The priest insisted and invited him to return another day.

This young Asian man had a story to tell.

He came from China. His Chinese parents were Catholics but decided not to pass on the faith to him fearing religious persecution. Jesus was never mentioned at home. His grandparents also lived with them. During his younger life he entered their bedroom sometimes without knocking. He often found them kneeling in total silence with their arms outstretched. Their cupboard doors were open. On the inside of the doors were two posters. One was of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The other poster was of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. There was a great sense of peace in the room. The young boy asked his grandparents what they were doing. They never visiting Christian churches. He had no real idea of the different Christian denominations. He did not really feel 'at home' in any of them. Until... Late one afternoon he casu-

ally went into an open Catholic church near where he lived. As soon as he entered he saw sometime that startled him. There in the front of the church - on the left and on the right side of the sanctuary - were statues exactly like the images on his grandparents' open cupboard doors. He felt immediately 'at home'.

In front of the statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, he felt drawn to kneel down. He felt man did return! This time it was on a Sunday morning. I recognised him and engaged in conversation with him through other Chinese who could help me with translations. We all had morning tea together. I was mortified when I heard his story! I felt I had interrupted the action of the Holy Spirit! He was very forgiving when I asked forgiveness. Anyway, he joined our RCIA

group and, in time, I had the honour of baptising him into the Catholic Church.

See how eager the Holy Spirit is to bring us to encounter Jesus Christ! The Holy Spirit will even use posters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary placed on Chinese cupboard doors to bring people 'home' to the Catholic Church! This happens even when the local priest is a little too eager to lock his parish church!

"O Sacred Heart of Jesus, full of love and mercy, we place our Archdiocese into your loving care. Continue to bring us all home to the father's house! Immaculate Heart of Mary, lead us to your son, Jesus, from whom all blessings flow."

> Archbishop Christopher Prowse Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn

There in the front of the church... were statues exactly like the images on his grandparents' open cupboard doors.

really answered this question. He knew it had something to do with Christianity.

He concluded his basic studies. He was now a young man. The opportunity for him to study in an Australian university presented itself. He was so happy when he arrived in Australia. He knew Australia was a Christian country. He wanted to understand Christianity more within the religious freedom found in Australia.

In his spare time, he began

the same peace in his heart as he did in his grandparents' room when they were at prayer. He did not know what to do next. He imitated his grandparents and stretched out his arms and remained still.

All of a sudden the priest came in and asked him to leave. It was the last thing the Chinese man wanted to do. The priest insisted and asked him to return another day.

I was that priest! Thanks be to God, the young

SAINT OF THE MONTH

St Thomas More June 22

St Thomas More was born in London in 1478. After a thorough grounding in religion and the classics, he entered Oxford to study law. Upon leaving the university he embarked on a legal career which took him to Parliament. A wit and a reformer, this learned man numbered bishops and scholars among his friends, and by 1516 wrote his world-famous book Utopia. He attracted



the attention of Henry VIII who appointed him to a succession of high posts and missions, and finally made him Lord Chancellor in 1529. However, he resigned in 1532, at the height of his career and reputation, when Henry persisted in holding his own opinions regarding marriage and the supremacy of the Pope. The rest of his life was spent in writing mostly in defence of the Church. In 1534, with his close friend, St John Fisher, he refused to render allegiance to the King as the Head of the Church of England and was confined to the Tower. Fifteen months later, and nine days after St John Fisher's execution, he was tried and convicted of treason. He was beheaded on July 6, 1535.

June Feast Days

- 1 June St Justin
- 2 June Sts Marcellinus and
- 3 June St Charles Lwanga and Companions
- 5 June St Boniface
- 6 June St Norbert and St Marcellin Champagnat
- 7 June CORPUS CHRISTI
- 9 June St Ephrem
- 11 June St Barnabas

12 June THE MOST SACRED **HEART OF JESUS**

- 13 June The Most Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary; St Anthony of Padua
- 19 June St Romuald 22 June Sts John Fisher and
- Thomas More 23 June St Paulinus of Nola
- 24 June THE NATIVITY OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST
- 27 June St Cyril of Alexandria 29 June STS PETER AND
- 30 June The First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church



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

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LOCAL 3 June 2015

Galong celebrates Mary's month

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

ABOUT 500 people gathered on May 3 at St Clement's Retreat Centre in Galong for the annual Marian procession.

The day began with an outdoor Mass celebrated by Vicar-General Fr Tony Percy, with the help of Vietnamese chaplain Fr Peter My, Korean chaplain Fr Paul Yoo, and Redemptorist priest Fr Peter Ryan CSsR.

Members of several ethnic groups took part in the Mass, in keeping with the event's long tradition. Prayers of the faithful were read in Filipino, Vietnamese, Italian, Croatian, Indonesian and Korean.

Following Mass and lunch, the crowd took part in a procession to the grotto while praying the Rosary.

On arrival at the grotto, Fr Tony spoke to those gathered about two significant commemorative events this year – the 100th anniversary of Gallipoli and the 200th anniversary of the establishment of the feast of Our Lady Help of Christians.

"Life was very tough in the early years of the colony before Federation," he said.

"In addition, there was significant opposition to the Catholic faith. The first governors had to profess that they did not believe in the doctrine of transubstantiation as a condition of becoming a governor in the colony."

While life in Australia is more civilised today, Fr Tony encouraged those present to remain strong in the face of great challenges to marriage and family life.

"All great civilisations, as we know, are built on marriage and family, and civilisations collapse when marriage and family collapse," he said

"Pope St John Paul II described the family as the 'sanctuary of life and love', and surely it is, as we witness it here



A strong crowd took part in the annual Marian procession at Galong last month, including representatives of various ethnic communities.

PHOTOS: MATTHEW BIDDLE

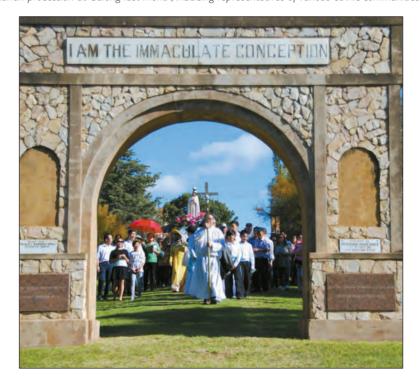
"There are two types of families - dysfunctional families and really dysfunctional families... but even in the dysfunction, love is very much present."

As the most basic cell in society, the family is all-important, Fr Tony said.

"Please don't doubt that what you are doing in your marriages and families is of immense importance to both society and to the well-being of the Church you love so much," he said.

"We must go forward building this country from the foundation of marriage and family.

"See your marriage as a project with eternal consequences. What you do as husband and wife is intimately part of the mission of Christ and the Church."





Archbishop thankful for laity's generosity

GENEROSITY has again Asia-Pacific region. present at Christmas Masses last year, with parishes contributing strongly to the Archbishop's Christmas Appeal.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse expressed his deep appreciation and heartfelt gratitude to parishes for their wonderful support of the Archbishop's Christmas Appeal, which raised more than \$72,994 for projects within Australia, Africa and the

of Wilcannia-Forbes and globally, within the Diocese of Otukpo, Nigeria, \$15,000 and

Philippines, to assist their dioc- Tau, Vietnam received a further emerged as a wonderful gift, Locally, within the Diocese esan seminary with its recovery \$7,994 towards guttering and

> Communities in Fiji received \$10,000 to support the Peoples

The Archbishop's Christmas Appeal raised more than \$72,994 for various projects.

\$10,000 respectively will go towards supporting projects of diocesan importance. A further \$20,000 has been given to the typhoon-affected Diocese of Tagbilaran in Cebu, the

Community Network's activities within their poorer communities.

Completion efforts to last year's building modifications to a monastery in Ba Ria Vung sewage work, as well as provision for clean water supplies to improve the extreme living conditions facing students.

Support has continued for the National Council of Churches in Australia's (NCCA's) Christmas Bowl Appeal, with \$10,000 assisting their Act for Peace projects across the region, according to Deacon Joe Blackwell, director of the Archdiocesan mission and development office.

Ordination date set for Trenton

TRENTON van Reesch will be ordained on Friday, August 28 at St Christopher's Cathedral. Trenton spent four years at the Seminary of the Good Shepherd in Homebush, NSW, before completing his studies at the Pontifical North American College (PNAC) in Rome, where he was ordained to the diaconate last October. He completed an eight-week pastoral immersion at St Christopher's Cathedral parish last year.

4 LOCAL June 2015

Bringing Indigenous Catholics back to the Church

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

THREE years after a major re-shuffle, the Archdiocese's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Ministry (ATSICM) is beginning to make significant progress in helping to bring Indigenous people back into the life of the Church.

The ATSICM began in Canberra and Goulburn in 2007, but after several difficult years its work was brought to a halt, before re-starting with a fresh approach in 2012 under the leadership of Sally FitzGerald.

"It wasn't going to be a welfare organisation, where we were giving out money to help people," Mrs FitzGerald told *Catholic Voice*.

"It was to be a spiritual organisation, getting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture back into the Catholic Church and getting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people back into the Church."

According to the 2011 census, there are more than 3,500 Catholics of Australian Indigenous origin in the Archdiocese, with large numbers present in the parish regions of Tumut, Moruya and Bateman's Bay.

"A lot of Aboriginal people here are Catholics, but they haven't been inside a church for years," Mrs FitzGerald

said.

While reasons for their

While reasons for their absence varies, the legacy of the Stolen Generation means that many Aboriginals still feel disconnected from the Church, Mrs FitzGerald said.

"They're starting to break down these barriers a little bit," she said. "There's been some improvement, but there's a long way to go."

The mother-of-four encouraged parishes and individuals to reach out to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and help them to get involved in the Church community.



Above, Tony Liston and his grandson Sebastian Bernardini use traditional Aboriginal instruments during Mass at St Benedict's Church in Narrabundah, where the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Ministry gather once a month. PHOTOS: LOUI SESELJA

"I'd really like to see every parish open their doors and make us feel welcome," she said

"It would be fantastic if on every parish bulletin it was written 'We acknowledge the traditional owners'. That lets people know that they are welcoming Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people into the churches.

"We have the support of the Archbishop, which is the best thing in the world. We have the support of the Missionaries of God's Love, which is great, but we just need the support of the other diocesan priests and parishes."

Mrs FitzGerald is retiring from her job as the Aboriginal

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

liaison officer at Calvary Hospital at the end of the year and said she's looking forward to being able to devote more time to growing the ATSICM.

"I'm very passionate about it and I get very impatient because it's slow moving," she

"But I think I'm being called to do this, and I just love it. I think it's a really good thing to have in our Archdiocese. It's only tiny steps, but it is moving."

While her ultimate dream for the future is to see an Aboriginal man who has been brought back to the Church through the ATSICM become a priest, for now Mrs FitzGerald simply wants the



ministry to be known in the Archdiocese.

"I'd like to see it grow, I'd like to see it accepted in every parish, that every parish is aware of it, not only of the ATSICM, but also of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in their parish, and that they are recognised," she said

"We want people to see us and embrace us and know that we are alive."

The ATSICM hosts a special Mass on the third Sunday of every month at St Benedict's Church, Narrabundah at 11am. It also organises a range of social events throughout the year. For more information, call (02) 6295 7879.

Leading bioethicist to speak at forum dinner



Professor Margaret Somerville is a renowned bioethicist.

WORLD-RENOWNED bioethicist Margaret Somerville will be this year's guest speaker at the annual St Thomas More Forum lecture and dinner on June 20.

Ms Somerville's talk is titled 'Linking Killing and Kindness: What can we learn from Canada that will help opponents of euthanasia to win the debate?'.

Hosted by St Thomas More Parish in Campbell, the event

is in its 11th year, and organisers are confident up to 150 people will attend. The dinner is open to everyone.

Ms Somerville is a Professor of Law, Professor in the Faculty of Medicine, and Founding Director of the Centre for Medicine, Ethics and Law at McGill University, Montreal, where she has taught since 1978.

She is well-regarded in the field of bioethics, has pub-

lished numerous books and articles, and is a frequent commentator in all forms of media.

The St Thomas More Forum lecture and dinner is on Saturday, June 20 at the Holy Faith Hall, White Crescent, Campbell. Arrive at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Tickets cost \$60 and must be booked before June 15 via www.stthomasmore.org. aulForum or by contacting Sharon Brewer on (02) 6163 4300.

June 2015 LOCAL 5

Couple to represent the Archdiocese at USA congress

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

SHAWN and Branka van der Linden will represent the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn at this year's World Meeting of Families Congress in Philadelphia.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse recently asked the Kambah couple to attend the September event, as part of an Australian delegation including representatives from most of the country's dioceses.

The congress' theme is 'Love is our mission: The family fully alive'. It begins on September 22 and concludes with a Papal Mass on September 27.

The World Meeting of Families has been held every three years since 1994, and is the world's largest gathering of Catholic families.

News that the couple had been requested to attend the congress came as a surprise to both Shawn and Branka.

"I really wasn't expecting to have such an opportunity this year, but I feel very excited and very honoured to be able to go," Branka said.

The couple, who have four children aged between 5 and 13, said they're a normal Catholic family striving to live out their faith as best as possible.

"We try to be a good Catholic family, but we don't always get it right, we have our arguments and we have our messiness that every family



Shawn and Branka van der Linden with their children, from left to right, Jack, 11, Henry, 8, Clare, 5, and Laura, 13. PHOTO: LOUI SESELJA

has," Shawn said. "Our faith is very important to us, and as a family that expresses itself particularly in the values we try to communicate and by going to Mass each week."

Attending the congress with hundreds of thousands of other Catholic families from around the world would be a great learning experience, Branka said. "It'll be great to meet with all these other families and see how they're doing things, and seeing what insights they've got to share about what it's like to live a faith life," she "Every family has seasons, every family has beautiful times but also challenges and hard times, so I'm hoping that as a couple we'll be able to learn how it is that we can invite God into all those seasons of our lives and also how to reach out to others and witness that love in our communities and our workplaces."

Archbishop Christopher said the van der Lindens were the ideal family to represent the Archdiocese at the congress.

"Shawn and Branka have shown considerable leadership in the Archdiocese over many years in the marriage and family life apostolate," he said.

"I believe they have much to offer this conference from an Australian perspective. They are both highly articulate and committed to the Catholic understanding in these areas."

The Archbishop added that the couple's experience at the event, combined with the insights gained at the recent Archdiocesan Assembly, would be of great benefit to the local Church.

"They will learn much and see the global Catholic Church responding to the issues so close to our hearts in marriage and family," he said.

"They will bring this back to the Archdiocese and assist us as we digest the unforgettable days of the Assembly in

Serra continues to grow in Canberra

FIVE new members were introduced to Canberra's Serra Club in April, making it the largest branch of the international group in the region.

President of the Serra Conference of Australia, New Zealand and South Pacific (SCANZSPAC) David Connell said the ACT branch now consists of 43 members, adding that the search for more members was an ongoing process.

"We are especially seeking people with strong leadership skills and young people full of enthusiasm for God's work," he said.

"In Australia and New Zealand we are presently witnessing a major generational change as 4,000 baby boomers per week are retiring. Many of these are Catholics and have strong leadership skills from former roles in various occupations, gifts and talents from the Holy Spirit."

Over the past few months, Mr Connell has met with a number of clubs in the region, encouraging them to actively seek out new members.



 $\hbox{``In} \quad Australia \quad and \quad New \quad \textit{Fr Julian Wellspring blesses the new members of Canberra's Serra Club.}$

"My visits and travelling have the purpose of attempting to revitalise Serra across Australia and New Zealand, but rather interestingly I find that I am the one who is being revitalised," he said.

"These meetings and the deep faith of all of those I encounter are proving inspirational to me. There is definitely, to quote Pope Francis, 'a contagious apostolic fervour' to bring Christ to others through genuine vocations in these Serra communities and right now we are being called to act strongly to grow these communities to awaken in the young a desire to consecrate themselves completely to God and to the preaching of the Gospel."

During his time in Canberra, Mr Connell met with Archbishop Christopher

Prowse, whom he described as "truly inspirational".

"He was very interested in an update of Serra's activities and made many excellent suggestions," Mr Connell told *Catholic Voice*.

"Although Serra is a lay apostolate, little can be achieved without the active, strong support of priests especially parish priests."

Mr Connell said he was

looking forward to the 73rd convention of Serra International, which will be hosted by the SCANZSPAC in Melbourne from July 30 to August 1.

"We are very keen to ensure a good attendance from members and non-members alike – especially representatives of Religious Orders who have an opportunity to promote themselves at stands at the convention," he said.

Serra is a lay organisation that was formed in 1935 and now has more than 20,000 members worldwide.

Its objectives are to foster and promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life, to support priests in their ministry, and to help members recognise and respond to God's call to holiness in their own lives.

For more information about the Serra International convention, visit www.si2015.melbourne. For information about the ACT Serra Club, contact John Malycha on (02) 6251 2912. 6 LOCAL
June 2015

Blessings poured out in honour of Sister Philomena

BY MONIQUE BROUWER

STUDENTS, teachers and community members are sure to remember the opening of the Sr Philomena Shelter, with the blessing performed by the Young Fire Brigade, who doused the roof with water.

On May 7, St Mary's Primary School officially opened the shelter which has been named after Sr Philomena Sewell.

School principal Louise Grant thanked Sr Philomena for her 60 years of service as a Presentation Sister.

"St Mary's is just one of the lucky schools which has benefited from Sr Philomena's generosity and commitment to education, and to the Presentation Sisters," she said.

"We would like to celebrate and give thanks to Sr Philomena through the dedication of this much needed shelter."

The multi-purpose shelter was built as a result of the fundraising efforts of the



The Young Fire Brigade douse the new Sr Philomena Shelter at St Mary's Primary School.

PHOTOS: SUPPLIED

school's community council and provides shelter for protection, learning, games and play.

Sr Philomena was thankful for the acknowledgment and to have her name attached to the structure.

"I'm very happy to have my name attached. It's a place for fun and play," she said.

The event was made memorable by the surprise Fr Tom Thornton had organised, of the Young Fire Brigade dousing the shelter roof with water as the blessing.



New Manuka buildings named

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Archbishop Christopher said there had been numerous worthy suggestions for the new building's name, but he was adamant Archbishop Cahill was the most appropriate choice.

"When I go around the Archdiocese, his name appears all over the place on new churches and buildings that were opened," Archbishop Christopher said. "He was also responsible for the extension of the Cathedral... so it seemed to us that he would be a very appropriate person to name the major building after."

Archbishop Cahill served in the Sandhurst and Cairns Dioceses before his appointment as Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn in 1967. He died in 1978 and is buried in the crypt of St Christopher's Cathedral.

Fr Patrick Haydon, the first and only Catholic parish priest of Canberra, will continue to be remembered in the Archdiocese, with another building in the precinct to be named after him – the Haydon Hall



Archbishop Christopher Prowse with site manager Brett Bremer.

"Fr Patrick Haydon is a legendary figure here in Canberra," Archbishop Christopher said.

"We don't want it to be seen as an administrative building. His name comes in and brings a real soul to it, and brings a real pastoral dimension to it in a particular way."

Archbishop Christopher

also announced the ILUs will be called 'Marian Place', in honour of Our Lady Help of Christians and St Mary of the Cross MacKillop.

Prior to announcing the new buildings' names, Archbishop Christopher led prayers of thanksgiving for the precinct project and blessed the new Cathedral presbytery on

PHOTO: MATTHEW BIDDLE

Franklin Street.

"We thank the Lord for all that has taken place on this site... there have been a lot of happy memories here going back many decades," he said.

The Archbishop also prayed for the safety of the construction workers – who could number up to 140 during peak periods.

Last chance: are you represented at the forum?

PREPARATIONS for this month's youth leaders forum are reaching their conclusion, with the 'Young Faith, Our Future' survey now complete.

Archdiocesan youth and young adults coordinator Stuart West said there was "wide engagement" with the survey from around the Archdiocese, providing organisers of the forum with plenty of topics for discussion.

"Some keys goals identified for youth and young adult ministry were for a focus on faith formation and for young people to be welcomed, to belong, to participate and to serve in our parishes," he said.

Members of the Archdiocesan youth and young adults team also spoke to those gathered for the clergy assembly at Galong last month about the 'Young Faith, Our Future' project.

Mr West said it was a good opportunity for the team to hear the thoughts and advice of the priests.

"The clergy engaged in the process and shared many insights and ideas with us," he said. "There was a general sense of excitement as to where God is leading youth and young adult ministry in our Archdiocese."

The forum, which will take place on the evening of June 12 and continue on June 13 at the Rheinberger Function Centre in Canberra, will include an address from Malcolm Hart, the director of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference office for youth.

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

Plans for the Archdiocesan World Youth Day 2016 pilgrimage, which will be launched as part of the forum, are also progressing steadily.

Mr West said the 20-day pilgrimage would include a tour through Poland celebrating the life of Pope St John Paul II.

Other highlights of the tour include visiting the Marian Shrine at Czestochowa, St Maximilian Kolbe's cell at Auschwitz, and Pope St John Paul II's boyhood home.

To register your interest in the forum, visit www.youngfaithourfuture.org.au or contact Stuart West: stuart.west@ catholiclife.org.au. June 2015 LOCAL 7

Moruya thanks Marg for 40 years of teaching

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

WHEN Marg Croese took up a teaching position at St Mary's Primary School in Moruya in 1975, she never imagined that she would still be there in 2015.

The school and parish community gathered last month to acknowledge the beloved teacher's enormous contribution to the school over the past four decades, thanking her for service to both the school and Catholic education in the Archdiocese.

Director of the Catholic Education Office Moira Nadjecki presented Mrs Croese with a special gift in recognition of the milestone during a school assembly, which was attended by members of Mrs Croese's family and several priests who have served the region in recent times.

"Marg's contribution to Catholic education has been extraordinary and we are truly blessed to have such teachers in our Archdiocese," Ms Nadjecki said. "I congratulate Marg on her dedication and commitment to teaching and wish her all the very best for the future."

Home

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St Mary's teacher Marg Croese with students Claire Mass, Gemma Mass, Ethan Mass and Shane Mass.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Mrs Croese told *Catholic Voice* the years have simply "seemed to fly".

"I consider myself very lucky to have such a wonderful vocation and that's something you don't measure in years, it's a lifelong commitment," she said. The mother of three said she has countless fond memories of the school, which she says has been a large part of her personal and faith journey.

"Making a difference in the lives of children and bringing them to the knowledge that every person counts and can achieve great things; and forming bonds with the students, many of whom I am still in touch with today, have been highlights," she said.

"We also have the highest number of Aboriginal students in our school in the Archdiocese and it's fantastic to see their beautiful faces at school every day.

"As the religious education coordinator I have had the wonderful privilege of working with fantastic parish priests, Fr Greg Beath and Fr Emil Milat, both of whom are now great family friends."

Mrs Croese has also formed lifelong friendships with fellow staff members, who she describes as "wonderful, friendly, committed people".

"I love seeing all the students from Year 6 to Kindergarten, and it is a privilege to be able to teach them about the important things in life, that is, their faith and the knowledge that they are loved by God. I love seeing the growth in their spiritual, emotional and academic life," she said

After 40 years of service to the school, Mrs Croese has well and truly merited retirement, but she said she hopes to teach for "a couple more years".

"My little granddaughter will start school in 2017 and I would like to be there for her first year and that will probably be that," she said.



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8 NATION
June 2015

Internet filtering in Australia only a matter of time, says Christian group

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

AUSTRALIA'S internet providers will soon be filtering pornography in a manner similar to the UK, according to national Christian group, Family Voice Australia (FAVA).

Last month FAVA hosted events in Victoria, New South Wales, Tasmania and South Australia, where the group explained the need for a 'cleanfeed' internet in Australia.

FAVA's Victorian director Peter Stevens said the campaign to have pornography filtered from Australian society began in December, but has recently reached a new phase.

"Just over the last few days we've been in Canberra, myself and a number of other people from various organisations... and we had 18 or 19 key leaders from around the country who assembled in Canberra to begin forming a strategy to have our country filter pornography," he said at the Victorian event on May 15.

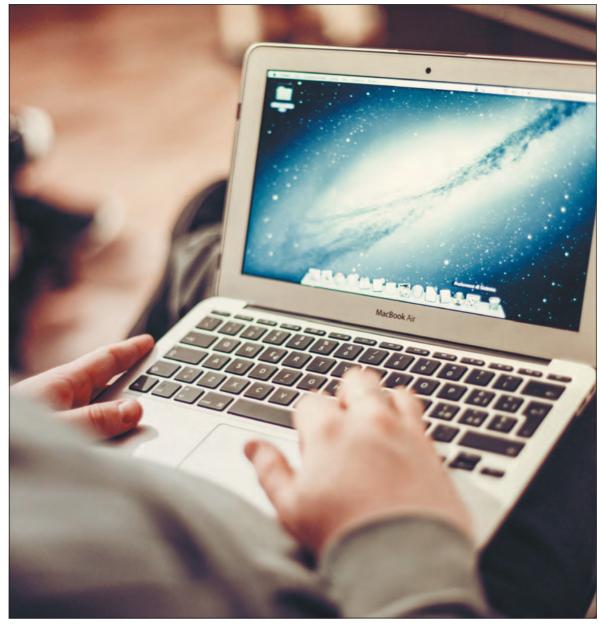
"It's going to be a slow process but we know that in the end, we're going to win, and we're going to have a cleanfeed internet by default in Australia."

Mr Stevens said he and another colleague had been in lengthy discussions with a number of Federal MPs, hoping to gain their support.

"We believe that an important part of achieving cleanfeed internet in Australia is having the support of Federal MPs... particularly crossbenchers, and we already have a considerable number of cross-benchers who want to support us," he said.

"What we are endeavouring to achieve is voluntary filtering by the internet service providers (ISPs). We're not looking to change legislation at this stage, we're looking for our legislators to put pressure on ISPs as they've done in the UK. It's possible to achieve this with hard work and prayer, just as they have."

Pippa Smith and Miranda Suit from Safermedia in the UK were guest speakers at the four events, explaining the



Family Voice Australia's Peter Stevens is confident that Australia will implement an online filtering system similar to that established in the UK over the past few years.

PHOTO: ONLINE

need for internet filtering and the reasons behind their successful campaign, which began in 2010

The four major ISPs in the UK now provide a clean-feed

"The government agrees that websites that facilitate breaches of copyright cause harm, and that internet service providers can, and should, block these websites," she said. implementation of internet filters has shown they can be highly effective without disrupting the internet.

"There should be no argument at all against a require-

"It's going to be a slow process but we know that in the end, we're going to win, and we're going to have a clean-feed internet by default in Australia."

internet by default. Access to inappropriate sites is automatically blocked unless customers opt in.

FAVA research officer Ros Phillips told *Catholic Voice* the Copyright Amendment (Online Infringement) Bill 2015, which is being debated in the House of Representatives, could open the path for internet filtering.

"By the same reasoning, we would argue that harmful websites include those promoting pornographic images that degrade and demean people, as well as those that promote suicide, terrorism, or illicit drug sales, and that internet service providers can, and should, block them too."

Mrs Phillips said the UK's

ment for ISPs to offer all customers the option of a filtered service." she said.

"We just need to get that message to Prime Minister Tony Abbott, Communications Minister Malcolm Turnbull and our other federal MPs, preferably by emails, phone calls and letters to them personally."

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Building the Church

June 2015 WORLD 9

Gay marriage vote a 'reality check' for Ireland

BY ANN SCHNEIBLE
CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY

IRELAND'S decision to legalise same-sex marriage is forcing Catholic leaders to rethink how they have been keeping the faith alive among the nation's young people.

"This vote has certainly changed the landscape in which the Church ministers in Ireland and the outcome offers it new and brave challenges," Dublin native Mgr John Kennedy said, speaking after the May 22 referendum to allow same-sex couples in Ireland to marry.

Mgr Kennedy, an official of the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, told CNA he believed the prosame-sex marriage campaign was successful because of the sizable number of young voters in favour of the legislation.

"For Catholics it raises serious questions about the depth of faith and conscience formation, and the link between the practice of the faith and its relevance in and to society as a whole," he said.

In an interview following the news that the referendum



Archbishop of Dublin Diarmuid Martin says the Church in Ireland needs a 'reality check' after the country voted to legalise same-sex marriage on May 22. Only 38 per cent of voters opposed the legislation.

PHOTO: ONLINE

had passed, Archbishop of Dublin Diarmuid Martin echoed Mgr Kennedy's observations.

"The Church needs a reality

check right across the board, to look at the things we are doing well and look at the areas where we need to ask, have we drifted away completely from young people?" the Archbishop told Irish broadcaster RTE.

"Most of these young people who voted yes are products of our Catholic school system for 12 years. I'm saying there's a big challenge there to see how we get across the message of the Church."

The results of the vote was 62 per cent in favour of samesex marriage, and 38 per cent opposed.

While 18 other countries have already legalised samesex marriage, Ireland is the first to adopt the law through popular vote.

The popular vote to allow same-sex marriage is significant in Ireland on account of its long history of fidelity to the Catholic Church, shaken only in recent decades by scandals among the clergy and religious.

Nonetheless, Mgr Kennedy said the new legislation should not be cause for discouragement, but for a stronger commitment to disseminating the Christian message.

"Instead of perhaps feeling downcast by the decision, or wondering about the role of the Church in the world today, I believe that Catholics must now pause, focus, pray and advance with even greater energy," he said.



FEATURE 11 10 FEATURE

IN MEMORIAM

Fr Peter Murphy

March 17, 1936 - April 24, 2015

Fr Peter Murphy died peacefully on April 24 at Crookwell Hospital, aged 79. Fr Peter's family, friends, parishioners and brother priests filled every corner of St Mary's Church in Crookwell - both inside and out - to farewell the popular priest on May 6. Former seminary classmate and fellow priest, Fr Brian Maher delivered the following homily* at Fr Peter's funeral Mass...

and Ann Gurney, with both partown in the annual Wool Festidays, Peter spent many days with ents having long-time links to val. Tourists can walk the Sham- Fr John at Tralee, being inductthe Boorowa region. Their other children, Dawn, Brian, Leo, Vincent, Darryl and Leslie are with us today. Sadly, the youngest child, Jimmy died a few years ago, but is with us in precious memory. A grandfather of the family is buried here in Crookwell I believe.

I want to review the formative influences in Fr Peter's priestly life. First of all, the parish. He grew up in Boorowa - which was an Irish settled district, and hence strongly Catholic. There or so – and he never stopped givused to be a saying, 'Have you been to Ireland? No. But I've been to Boorowa!' The Irish factor is now recognised in that rock Walk around the town, and visit the beautiful St Patrick's

There were two parish priests who had an influence on Peter. The first was Fr Ned Sheehan, who was there for about 30 years. He never preached a sermon, so I was told – and so was very, very popular. Peter served Mass for him and learnt the Latin – a real

achievement in Catholic circles. Then came Fr John Morrison, parish priest for another 30 years

ing sermons! He was also Town Councillor, and a farmer on his own family property at Queanbeyan, 'Tralee'. In his student ed into the ways of the farm fencing, shearing, getting rid of rabbits. He was educated in rural life, and adopted the style of Fr John in his speech and in the yarns that he related. One that I like was Fr John's after sermon messages: "Next Saturdee there will be a working bee – at the cemetree – the rabbits are eating out your ancestors."

Peter did his schooling at the little parish school under the Sisters of Mercy. He was always

He became a noted golfer, and won an important trophy in Boorowa called the Gungewalla Cup. On cricket he spoke with amusement of his days out at the Balla cricket ground outside Boorowa and the dangers of rabbit holes and snakes.

entered into the sporting life of

the town with great energy. He

fancied himself as a batsman.

Over in his bedroom still there's

a couple of bats reclining in the

corner, one of which he claims

Don Bradman used to use. He

recalled the journeys around the

country with the other cricketers

and footballers on the back of

trucks and utilities. In the joyous

company, there was much stop-

ping at watering holes, or hotels

along the way, the memory of

which often brought smiles to

But, while all this fever of activity was going on, the voice of at Springwood. The years from 1959 to 1965 coincided with the Second Vatican Council Church study was in intellectual ferment – we thought everything was going to change, but in the end the only change was from Latin into English in the Mass.

closer with Jesus and to take

up a mission. Like Jeremiah the

olden day's prophet, he said 'But

Lord, I'm not a good speaker.

I'm not well educated. I'm too

dertook a year of study at St

Stanislaus College to attune

himself to the academic life and

to do some basic language stud-

ies. And then in February 1959.

he started in the seminary, and

so did I. We met that afternoon

in Springwood, with Bishop

Friends guided him. He un-

reer. Dozens of others began out to give some dignity.

Many of you know that Fr

tion in many ways. The old style biretta was discarded by most clergy during those years, but I recently saw a biretta sitting prominently on his bedroom cupboard, occasionally brought

es after that. But we made good

bonds with the other students,

who came from all over the State

and sometimes further than

that, and our horizons also be-

came wider, because of the new

And yet Peter always re-

mained a Boorowa boy. There's

a saying, 'You can take the boy

out of the bush but you can't

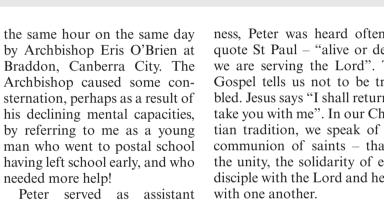
take the bush out of the boy'.

So they say. So in those college

years, that was in fact his nick-

name, 'Boorowa'. He also re-

focus on ecumenism.



Peter served as assistant priest in several places prior to his first appointment as parish priest of Ardlethan in 1979. He made grandiose claims earlier at Cooma in 1978 when the death of Pope Paul VI, Archbishop Thomas Cahill of Canberra and the parish priest of Cooma Fr Patrick Coffey coincided within

"Eye has not seen nor ear heard... the things which God has prepared for those who love him."

(1 Corinthians 2:9)

weeks of each other. Peter then pronounced himself to be the supreme ecclesiastical authority

of the Monaro region! Since his appointment to Crookwell 30 years ago we have celebrated each other's birthday together by a visit to each other. The menu at Crookwell was unswerving, always the same. Prawn cocktail, corn beef, cabbage, white sauce, with six vegetables, trifle and ice cream, and generous amounts of wine. Then in the evening we had to watch hours of television - cricket, golf, football, and the Two Ronnies! But then – we usually met on the evening of St Patrick's back to work next morning to do the Mass for the school kids for St Patrick's Day.

In the past few months of ill-



Above, Fr Peter Murphy's name will forever be a part of the history of St Mary's Church in Crookwell, where he served as parish pries for 30 years. Left, people from across the Archdiocese, including former parishioners, friends, and family members attended Fr Peter's funeral Mass, with the crowd spilling beyond the foyer and out towards the road.

which he gathered from various sales. He would spend hours rubbing back all the old grease and paint off these pieces of furniture and bring them back to the natural wood. Some pieces he'd give away, some he would keep. One Easter, Fr Peter rang me very late one night – it was a custom of the Pope to write a letter to the clergy of the world about their mission, and in this particular letter it mentioned that priests shouldn't get mixed up in dealing with antiques. He said to me, 'Who dobbed me in?' I think he suspected I did! The Pope, I don't suppose, included Fr Peter's leisure activities in his

He certainly didn't neglect his mission. He discovered on arrival here in Crookwell that there were six district churches to attend to on occasion and maintain - Grabben Gullen, Binda, Limerick, Peelwood, Laggan, Tuena. So he kept them going for as long as he could, and he memorialised those churches in the stained glass panels in the fover of the church here.

Another thing he did that very few clergy I know have attempted was to attend the local high school. He was very faithful to going up and talking with Years 10, 11 and 12 students at Crookwell High School. He was generous too in his support of various charities. Timor Leste and other favoured charities. So he was a man of the world also. But there was enough maintenance required here at St Mary's

to demand his attention too. Peter and I proceeded through eight years of study to reach ordination. It was not an easy journey for Peter, having left school at the age of 15. Peter was ordained a priest at St Patrick's Church in Boorowa on the 16th of July, 1966 by Bishop Cullinane. I was ordained in

ness, Peter was heard often to quote St Paul – "alive or dead, we are serving the Lord". The Gospel tells us not to be troubled. Jesus says "I shall return to take you with me". In our Christian tradition, we speak of the communion of saints – that is the unity, the solidarity of each disciple with the Lord and hence

St Paul says "You are all

members of Christ's body". And St John Chrysostom said "the one we love and lose is not where he was before. He is wherever we are". There is an inner mystical union of all who are 'in Christ'. Because words are inadequate. we resort to signs to express this union. We place Peter's body near to the Easter Candle, that Christ may guide his way to the heavenly Father. We will sprinkle his coffin with blessed water. recalling his baptism into Christian life. We surround him with the sweet smelling incense rising, a symbol of prayer rising to God. To say we are 'in Christ' is not to claim perfection. Our solidarity is with the weaknesses as

well as the virtues of each other. So the Church has always counselled us to pray for those who have died, that they may be loosed from their sins. This voice of prayer rises today for all our deceased brothers and sisters that they may enjoy the full vision of God, for St Paul said: "Eye has not seen nor ear heard. the things which God has prepared for those who love him". Now we know that the souls of those who have died in Christ live in his resurrected body. It gives them shelter and carries them forward to the common resurrection, and receiving that body in the Eucharist today we touch them as we await our own dying and rising.

*This is an edited version of the original homily.

and things like that. And then Pat Power also starting his camained faithful to Church tradi-"When he was over here he entered into the sporting life of the town with great energy. He fancied himself as a batsman. Over in his bedroom still there's a couple of bats reclining in the corner, one of which he claims Don Bradman used to use."

he came back to the district here and served in the Post Offices in Boorowa, Cowra and Harden. Living away from home in Svdnev was a shock to him, of which he spoke, as was boarding with strangers. But it all enlarged his views of the small town that he knew and he gained in self-con-

very appreciative of Sister Kevin

McCormack, and the other boys

and girls who were there too,

many of whom kept in touch

And then he saw the prospect

of a career in the Post Office –

so he went down to Sydney, to

Albert Road, Strathfield, for the

postal school. At the old PMG

training institute he learnt te-

legraphy, Morse code, the geog-

raphy of Australia, all the post

office procedures, money man-

agement, the legal obligations

When he was over here he

God was inviting him to walk

their studies at the same time there weren't many other chang-

Peter had a hobby to restore old furniture. He spent hours cutting back old pieces of furniture, 12 FEATURE

Meet Australia's new Papal Nuncio

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

LATE last year Archbishop Adolfo Yllana agreed to be the new Apostolic Nuncio to Australia, but he almost didn't make it to his new posting.

"In Congo, last December, I was accompanied by five bishops and we visited some places where there had been victims of violence. Three religious had been taken and killed," he explained.

"After coming back, the bishop called us and said, 'Thank you very much, the people are very happy. But the group that accompanied us in the car, they were shot upon on the way back. They were able to cover and save themselves. It could have been us'."

Archbishop Yllana recalled the incident during his first interview on Australian soil, speaking to the Catholic Voice on May 7 at his new home, the Nunciature in Red Hill.

Despite having only been in the country for a week, Archbishop Yllana appeared enthusiastic and excited about his new role.

"I was officially appointed on the 17th of February, but as usual the Holy Father asked me well before that, sometime in December," he said.

"Of course I said 'Yes'. I've never said 'No' to the Holy Father, I've always said 'Yes' and I've always been happy. And I know I will be happy here also."

The 68-year-old has served in the diplomatic role of Papal Nuncio for more than 30 years, spending time in at least 15 countries.

Aside from passing through Brisbane and Sydney airports, he had never been to Australia prior to his arrival on April

"It's a new world for me and a new experience," he said.

"It's more organised. I've never lived anywhere like Australia in all my assign-

"It's a big challenge, because this is a big country, but there is a well-rooted Christian tra-

Born in Naga City in the Philippines, Archbishop Yllana has three married sisters and a brother, who is a Catholic priest in the Diocese of Libmanan in the Philippines, Fr Pio Antonio Yllana.

He also has two uncles who are priests and a late aunt who was a Benedictine nun. Sadly, Archbishop Yllana lost his father in 1977 and his mother passed away in 1985.

His initial priestly roles were filled in seminaries in the Philippines, before he went to



Archbishop Adolfo Yllana with Pope Francis in April, shortly before the Archbishop left for Australia to take up the role of Papal Nuncio. The 68-year-old Filipino cleric has served in PHOTO: SUPPLIED the diplomatic role for more than 30 years.

Rome to study canon law and civil law, where he also entered the Pontifical Ecclesiastical Academy – a training ground for those who will serve the Holy See as diplomats around the world.

After completing his doctorate in canon law and civil law, Archbishop Yllana was posted to West Africa in 1984, where he served the Church in Ghana, Togo and Benin.

Over the next three decades he spent time in Sri Lanka, Turkey, Lebanon, Hungary, Taiwan, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, and, most recently, in the Democratic Republic of

He says he's looking forward to being able to walk through the streets of Australia without having to worry about dangers to his security.

"In Papua New Guinea, in Pakistan, and even in Congo, there are places which are not safe," he said.

"But I have never had an escort with me, I would only go out with a driver. But here I don't even need a driver, I will walk. I have the impression that you can go anywhere here

Although he doesn't officially commence his work as a Nuncio with diplomatic status until he presents his credentials Australia's Governor-General, Archbishop Yllana said his role as a representative of the Holy Father began the moment he arrived.

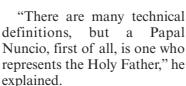
Father. We serve to strengthen the bond between the Holy Father and the bishops.

"We carry out his thoughts and his wishes, communicating them so that we are able to serve the local community and they can see that the Holy Father is concerned for them

My only goal is to be an effective instrument of what the Pope wants here,

to be of service to the bishops and the priests as best as I can."

- Archbishop Adolfo Yllana



"In short, he makes the Holy Father present where he isn't. So for me, as a Papal Nuncio, I will make sure that my presence becomes a real link with the Holy Father, that the people see that we are in communion with the Holy

and he loves them."

With two Australian dioceses currently without a Bishop, Archbishop Yllana will be responsible for gathering information on suitable replacements, which he will provide Pope Francis with.

"The Holy Father mandates us to interview and make observations, but it's up to him to make a decision depending on what we've said," he said.

"We simply give him all that he would need to make a decision."

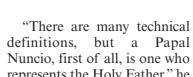
While he admits his knowledge of the Church in Australia is limited, Archbishop Yllana said direct contact with members of the hierarchy here would help him to understand the intricacies of the local Church better.

"I will have a chance to meet them informally [at the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference meeting] and this will give me more of an idea," he said.

"It will demand a little bit of time to be able to see, but I'm very happy with what I know of Australia - that the Catholic faith here is strong."

But Archbishop Yllana, who has a strong devotion to the patroness of the Philippines, Our Lady of Peñafrancia, as well as to St Joseph, said he isn't one to set specific goals in his work as a Papal Nuncio.

"My only goal is to be an effective instrument of what the Pope wants here, to be of service to the bishops and the priests as best as I can," he



November 30, 2014 - February 2, 2016

Wake Up the World Year of Consecrated Life

FEATURE 13

Called by God in a time of war

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

FRANCISCAN friars and priests number almost 30,000 worldwide, yet their presence in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn is limited to just one – Croatian Catholic chaplain Fr Miroslav Jelic OFM.

The sole representative of the Order founded by St Francis of Assisi has only been in Canberra for three years, yet he has already had an impact on the wider community.

Recently, when travelling back to Canberra from Bateman's Bay, where he offers Mass once a month for the Croatian community there, Fr Miroslav made quite an impression during a fuel stop.

"I went in to pay and the lady who was there said 'Wow, you look so cool in that outfit! Did you make it?" he recalled.

"I explained it was a Franciscan habit, but she didn't know anything about it... people who see me in my habit are surprised. But I think it's very important to wear it.

"If people don't see priests wearing a habit or a collar they might not know we're a priest. If you wear it, maybe somebody will start asking about it... and maybe even become interested in being a priest."

For Fr Miroslav, it was indeed the witness of parish priests that prompted him to consider the priesthood.

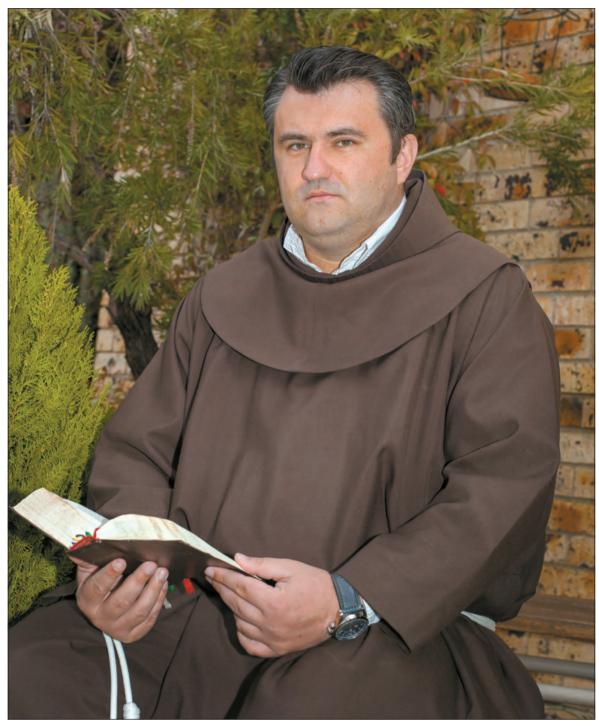
At the age of 11, Fr Miroslav moved to Germany with his parents and three younger brothers during the Croatian War of Independence, where he completed his schooling. It was also where he first felt he had a vocation to the priesthood.

In Year 9 his class was required to complete two weeks' work experience, but unlike those around him who chose various businesses for their placements, Fr Miroslav chose to experience the life of a priest.

"I asked my parish priest if I could do the work experience there with him," he explained. "He was surprised. Everyone was surprised... they all said to me that I must be crazy... priesthood was not popular in Germany."

But the call to priesthood remained with Fr Miroslav, and a month after his family returned to Croatia in 1998, he joined the seminary. It was a momentous occasion for the

"They were so happy to have a vocation from within



Fr Miroslav Jelic OFM was ordained in 2009, after which he spent three years in a parish in Bosnia before being sent to Australia to be the chaplain to the Croatian community in Canberra.

PHOTO: LOUI SESELJA

the village, because the last one was about 35 years ago," Fr Miroslav said.

"The first year was very hard for me because I had never had the experience of writing in Croatian because I learnt everything in Germany... but later there were no problems" in 1291 from Italy and started the Order, and they have a big role for Catholics in Croatian history.

"When Bosnia was under the Ottoman Empire in 1463, we had over 35 monasteries and over 100 churches in Bosnia. All of them were destroyed.

"But the Franciscans stayed

"I asked my parish priest if I could do the work experience there with him. He was surprised. Everyone was surprised... they all said to me that I must be crazy."

Reflecting on his decision to join the Franciscans, Fr Miroslav said the long history of the Order in present day Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina was a significant factor.

"The Franciscans mean a lot to people in Croatia and Bosnia," he said. "They arrived

in Bosnia. There were no presbyteries or churches, so they lived with people in villages. They sent new vocations to Hungary or Italy to study and they returned to stay with the local population. At one stage there were only about 20,000 Catholics. Now we have about 500 000 "

The Franciscans, Fr Miroslav asserts, preserved not only Catholicism in Bosnia, but also the local language and culture.

At 34, Fr Miroslav is one of the youngest priests in the Archdiocese, and can understand many of the challenges facing today's youth.

"In the Western world people can buy almost anything," he said. "Everything revolves around money and I think that's a problem. The material world is not the solution."

With his vocation taking him to a far off foreign land, Fr Miroslav's advice to those discerning is simple – be prepared for anything.

"I would say not to have a lot of expectations," he said. "The life of one priest can be completely different to that of another. You must be ready to accept all things – both positive and negative."

Religious life explained

*The following questions and answers about religious life were compiled by members of the Association for the Promotion of Religious Life (APREL) in Australia.

1. Who are Religious?

Religious are the people God has called to dedicate their lives completely to him. They make vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, in which they give over to him all the material things they may possess, the freedom to fall in love, marry and have a family of their own, and all choices they may make in life. Religious choose this way of life because they have really discovered that Christ is the one they love above all, and that in giving themselves to him, they will not lose anything, but will be totally fulfilled.

2. When do we see religious life emerging in the Church?

From the earliest days of the Church, especially after the persecution of Christians died down, certain men, who aspired to give their lives to God, began to leave the world and live in the desert in silence and prayer, at first as hermits and then together as whole monasteries obedient to an abbot. The early Church also saw the development of orders of virgins who wanted to live as spouses of Christ, dedicating their lives to him. These may be seen as the origin of religious life for women. Throughout the Church's history, many holy people have heard God's call to form religious communities patterned on the life of Christ and based on the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.

3. What is meant by community life?

Life in community is fundamental and essential to the religious vocation. Canon law requires religious to live together; to share all in common both materially – house, money, food, goods and equipment – and spiritually belief, prayer and spirituality. Members of a religious community must live by a common rule that spells out the details of their life together and enables them to offer a powerful example of and witness to, the possibility of human fraternity and charity.

14 OPINION

Catechists' vital role in evangelisation



FOLLOWING FRANCIS BY DEACON MATT RANSOM

"SO, as I look out at you, I think: who are catechists? They are people who keep the memory of God alive; they keep it alive in themselves and they are able to revive it in others. This is something beautiful," (Pope Francis).

Evangelisation, the spreading of the Good News of Jesus and keeping his memory alive, is a constant theme that comes forth from the preaching and writings of Pope Francis. One large group, possibly the largest group of volunteers in our Church, are our catechists who carry out this evangelising mission weekly in our State schools. Within our own beautiful Archdiocese, we have 200 catechists teaching and ministering to about 2,200 Catholic children who attend government schools. These hard-working, prayerful and often unrecognised 'evangelists' seek to bring the love of Jesus, and Catholic teaching to these children. They are truly amazing catechists.

The above quote came from Pope Francis' message at the International Day of Catechists in Rome. This was attended by more than 2,000 catechists from all over the globe and was held in the Paul VI Hall in the Vatican. There were many excellent messages, with an emphasis



Some of the catechists from the Western Deanery of the Archdiocese during a recent training day.

PHOTO: MATT RANSOM

being that without evangelisation, without catechesis, there is no Church.

Regarding the importance of catechesis, evangelisation and the Church, our previous years back. I had asked Archbishop Paul to speak about the mission of catechists in countries where he had previously worked. In Guatemala, where there had been a civil war, the

The main work that I do is to support, train and recruit catechists for the mission our Church conducts in government schools. I am constantly amazed by the impact that our volun-

In Guatemala... catechists were on the forefront of the evangelising mission of the Church. As a consequence... the catechists were sometimes attacked and even killed by the rebels.

Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Paul Gallagher, was addressing a meeting of catechist directors and coordinators a couple of

Archbishop mentioned that the catechists were on the forefront of the evangelising mission of the Church. As a consequence of this most important work, the catechists were sometimes attacked and even killed by the

What a sacrifice!

teers have on the young ones in their class. Recently, Trish Mowbray OAM, disability projects officer for the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, spoke to some of our volunteers and mentioned that one of the young, energetic Wollongong priests attributes his conversion

Compassion and Understanding

and subsequent vocation, to a catechist who assisted him in his school years. I am also amazed that our current laws allow us to do this. That is, if a parent wants religious instruction in a State school, then the school must provide it.

What about you? Are you interested in keeping the memory of God alive, sharing the love of Jesus, being an amazing catechist? If so, then contact your catechist coordinator, parish priest or myself.

"Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest," (Matthew

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How's your resurrected life going?



GOING DEEPER
BY SHANE DWYER

HOW historical is the resurrection of Jesus? Historians, as they write of the life of Jesus, tend to stop at the crucifixion. This is because, it is thought, that what happens next defies normal historical parameters: we leave the realm of history and enter into that of faith.

This approach is understandable but it is altogether too neat. While there is little historical evidence for the fact of Jesus' resurrection (there was no one present in the tomb taking notes), there is plenty of historical evidence for the effect that it had. Primarily, we witness the transformation of those who experienced the risen Jesus. A frightened group of disciples were, as a result of these post-resurrection encounters, transformed into apostles.

Fear is replaced by joy and determination.

The resurrection of Jesus is the physical and spiritual manifestation of a divine reality: that God is not at all constrained by the limitations of creation. In Jesus Christ we see the foundation of our own hope: that in him, suffering and death are not the last word. In fact, they are not even particularly significant words. They are nothing to God.

So, how's your resurrected life going? It must be admitted that many of us tend not to think of the resurrection as applying to our lives here and now. Perhaps we hold on to it as a hoped for future possibility... and miss out on its impact on our lives today. Take a look at the conversation between Jesus and Martha on the subject (John 11). It centres around this very point. Martha assumes that the resurrection is something that will only make an impact in the future: "I know my brother will rise again on the last day". To this, Jesus counters in two ways. First, he proclaims: "I am the resurrection and the life", and then he raises Lazarus from the



lesus' raising of Lazarus from the dead showed how the resurrection applies to our lives right now.

PHOTO: ONLIN

dead. He speaks in the present and he acts in the present. He's not waiting around.

We are a resurrection people. Ponder the thought that Jesus is saying to each of us now: "I offer you resurrection and life", and then wonder what it is you need to do to access that life today. Consider any areas of death and darkness in your life, and in faith ask God to breathe his life into them. Ask yourself this question: 'What if I were to take Jesus' words seriously and allow his life to become my life?' And be aware, that if we are not living Christ's life now, how can we hope to miraculously begin to start living it when we die?





Children and Families BLACKFRIARS LECTURE SERIES 2015

The Blackfriars Lecture Series was established to honour the contributions of the Dominican Friars to the Canberra Campus of Australian Catholic University. For 800 years the Dominican Orders have been committed to the ongoing, systematic and critical search for Truth in all its forms. This Lecture Series seeks to engage the University and the Public in that ongoing quest for the true, the beautiful and the good.

For further information contact OCD.Canberra@acu.edu.au

LECTURER	TOPIC	DATES	VENUE
Mr John Falzon Chief Executive Officer of the St Vincent Paul Society National Council of Australia	The deliberately silenced and the preferably unheard: families and children in a polarised society	Tuesday 9 June, 2015	Room S3, Signadou Building, Australian Catholic University, 223 Antill St, Watson
Dr Adam Tomison Honorary Professor with the Institute of Child Protection Studies	Reforming in Child Protection: time for a new paradigm?	Tuesday 21 July, 2015	Room B10, Blackfriars building, Australian Catholic University, 127 Phillip Avenue, Watson
Ms Megan Mitchell National Children's Commissioner	Children at the Centre: putting child rights into practice	Tuesday 25 August, 2015	Room B10, Blackfriars building, Australian Catholic University, 127 Phillip Avenue, Watson
Mr Francis Sullivan CEO of the Truth, Justice and Healing Council	Sex Abuse in the Catholic Church	Tuesday 20 October, 2015	Room B10, Blackfriars building, Australian Catholic University, 127 Phillip Avenue, Watson
Dr Dianne Jackson CEO of Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY)	Parent Engagement & Student Learning	Tuesday 17 November, 2015	Room B10, Blackfriars building, Australian Catholic University, 127 Phillip Avenue, Watson

16 OUR SCHOOLS

June 2015

Links to the past still strong at St Gregory's

HISTORY may not be the most popular of subjects for school students, but at St Gregory's Primary in Queanbeyan it's a fundamental part of the school's identity.

Catholic education has been provided in Queanbeyan since 1852, two years after St Gregory's Church was completed. The long history of Catholic education in the area is something present staff and students are well aware of.

"We have very strong links to the past," principal Claire Frazer said. "This building used to be a Marist monastery, and the Good Samaritan sisters were also involved in education. We've got a long history, which is significant for us."

In a unique arrangement, St Gregory's Primary is split between a junior and a primary campus, having previously been split between three campuses.

"We're finally re-structuring so that all our Kindergarten and all our Year 1 classes will be at the Lowe Street (junior) campus, and at MacQuoid Street (primary) will be Years 2 to 6," Ms Frazer said.

Although the two campuses are less than a kilometre apart, their separation does have its challenges.

"At MacQuoid Street we have our hall, so for those sorts of functions the Lowe Street students go there," Ms Frazer said. "Lowe Street has the very big church, so for religious celebrations we all go there.

"Queanbeyan is quite used to seeing St Gregory's students on the go, between campuses."

Ms Frazer has been at St Gregory's since 2010, having previously been principal of St Bede's in Braidwood.

"Even though St Gregory's is very different in size to Braidwood, there's still that sense of ownership by the community of their school," she said. "It's quite a large school, but St







Top left, Charli Stokes-Oldfield shows her flexibility. Above, Logan Summerell displays one of the school's pets, while Louise Hill and Andrew Mackenzie hold the class lizards, left. Below, Janelle Kauseni enjoying gymnastics. Bottom left, Year One student Alexander Dormer. Bottom right, teacher Sarah Cook with Phoebe Beckett and Charlie Miller-Bramwell.

PHOTOS: LOUI SESELJA; MATTHEW BIDDLE

Gregory's really has that country town feel about it as well."

Aside from its strong connection to the past, the school also maintains close ties with the Queanbeyan parish.

"Fr Troy Bobbin, our parish priest, is incredibly supportive of the school, and the parish made a significant financial contribution last year that helped us build three new classrooms on site," Ms Frazer said.

"The other really lovely thing about this particular site is we have our stone church built in the 1850s alongside our hall which was finished in 2011. It really links the old with the new."







June 2015 OUR SCHOOLS 17

Trinity students go back to the '80s

TRINITY Catholic College in Goulburn performed their biennial musical during the first week of term two.

The musical, 'Back to the '80s', was a celebration of many popular songs from the 1980s such as 'Kids in America', 'Footloose', and 'We are the World'.

The production was loosely woven around the reminiscences of a 30-year-old man looking back at the halcyon days of his senior year at high school.

More than 40 students were involved as cast, dancers, band, lighting and sound or stage crew.

The school's senior hospitality students also provided freshly-brewed coffee and homemade refreshments for the audience.

The cast held their audiences spellbound for three evening performances and a matinée for the local primary feeder schools.

Those involved are already eagerly anticipating the next musical in 2017.



Above, members of the cast and crew of Trinity Catholic College's musical, 'Back to the '80s'. Below left, Josh Adams, Liam Maddren and Clayton Webb get in the groove. Below right, Isabelle Vu, Holly Webster, and Rowena Russell during a rendition of 'Walking on Sunshine'.

PHOTOS: SUPPLIED





Daramalan excels in the courtroom again

DARAMALAN College won the Canberra region round of the Bond University Faculty of Law High School Mooting Competition held last month.

The college will now represent the ACT when the team competes in the grand final on August 1 at Bond University in Queensland. It is the third consecutive year that Daramalan College has received the golden gavel for Best Canberra Team.

The college congratulates Year 12 students Jack Durr (senior counsel), William Bear (junior counsel) and Alexandra Durr (the team's instructing solicitor) on their efforts in the 'courtroom'. Jack and Alexandra are also siblings.

Lindsay Reid, Daramalan College mooting convener and legal studies teacher also announced to staff recently that the team's two speakers, Jack and William, received advocacy merit awards.

"This is an outstanding achievement given only three students in the ACT received an award this year," he said.

The other advocacy merit award was won by Jessica Apolinar, from St Mary MacKillop College.



The Daramalan team, from left to right, William Bear, Jack Durr and Alexandra Durr, at the Canberra region High School Mooting Competition on May 4.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

18 CLASSIFIEDS June 2015



CLASSIFIEDS

Cost: \$10 for the first 30 words, and 50c for each additional word. Payment by cheque or credit card. Deadline: 15th of the month. Email: ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au

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The Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) has always supported these religious men and women – for the formation of their new vocations and ongoing work; by providing vital support for their life and ministry and ensuring that in their freely given service they at least have the barest minimum to live on. It is vital that the indispensable work of consecrated men and women in Christ's Holy Catholic Church and throughout the missions worldwide continues. ACN is therefore proud to help them in their efforts to make the world a better place.

The average grant ACN gives to support consecrated religious is between \$200 - \$500 but whatever you can afford will be enormously appreciated. ACN forwards the donations directly to the religious superiors in charge of the religious communities and

A beautiful 'Year of Consecrated Life' rosary designed by the Vatican rosary makers and blessed by Pope Francis, will be sent out to all those who donate to this cause and tick the box below.





The Centrepiece of the Year of Consecrated Life rosary, is inspired by the Gospel passage "He said to them, Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men". Matthew 4:19-20. Peter, drops the nets and follows Him.

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

BLESSED PETER TO ROT: The Papua New Guinean community of

Canberra invites you to a special Mass to mark the feast day of Blessed

Archdiocesan Coming Events

BATEHAVEN AND BEYOND: Presentation on 'A heart for life' with Sr Mary Murphy RSJ, on June 4 at the Town Library, Tumbarumba, from 10am-3pm. BYO lunch, cost by donation. Inquiries: Sr Mary Murphy: mary.murphy@sosj.org.au.

June 12-14 - A time of prayer and silence to ponder the gracious love of God for all. Led by Sr Carmel Drew RSJ at St Joseph's House of Spirituality and Hospitality, 12 David Ave, Batehaven,

WEEKEND RETREAT:

a 6pm meal on Friday and concludes with lunch on Sunday. Cost: live-in \$120; Saturday only (9.30am-4pm) \$30. Inquiries: Sr Mary

NSW. Retreat begins with

Murphy: mary.murphy@sosj. org.au.

CCR RENEWAL DAY:

Grow in faith, hope and love! Catholic Charismatic Renewal ACT has joined forces with lesus Youth for this inspiring day of praise and worship, teaching and testimonies, and personal prayer ministry. Date: Saturday, June 13. Time:



9am registration to 4pm.

Venue: Greg Collins room,

Sturt Ave and Tallara Parkway,

Narrabundah. Morning and

afternoon tea provided. It's

free to attend, and a collec-

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tion, call Neda 0415 266

Susanna 0419 902 293.

AMICUS: Sunday June

14, at the Canberra Labour

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Doug: 0402 006 590. Sunday

June 28, at the Tuggeranong

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019, Sandra 0405 692 999 or

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tion will be taken to support

St Benedict's Church, cnr

Peter To Rot, a martyr from World War II. Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, July 11 at St John the Apostle Church in Kippax in honour of Blessed Peter. Fr Isaac Koi MSC, a Papua New Guinean based in Sydney, will be the main celebrant. He will be joined by Fr Paul Koupa, Fr Kenneth, and Fr Gerard McCormack and Fr Paul Brown from St John the Apostle parish. Mass will be in English and Topesian and will include hymns in various Papua New Guinean languages. A special Papua New Guinean lunch will follow the Mass. This year marks the 40th anniversary of Papua New Guinea's independence.

SCC Ten Pin Bowling Centre. Meet for an afternoon of ten pin bowling followed by afternoon tea or early dinner, times TBC. Contact Enid: (02) 6296 5592. 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: Will host an event to honour the parents of priests and those in religious vocations in the Archdiocese on June 14 (Sunday) commencing with

Mass at I I am at St Christopher's Cathedral followed by lunch at the Southern Cross Club, Woden. Inquiries: John Malycha: (02) 6251 2912.

WORLDWIDE MAR-RIAGE ENCOUNTER:

Keep the chill out of your relationship this winter with a weekend together. A Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend is a marriage enrichment experience - set in peaceful, picturesque surroundings, away from the distractions of everyday life. During the weekend, couples have a unique opportunity to reconnect, rekindle and refresh their

relationship. Give the greatest gift, that of your time alone invest in your most precious asset... your marriage! June 19-21 at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW. For more information visit www.wwme. org.au.

WITH GOD IN MIND:

A concert of sacred choral music and poetry featuring Louise Page (soprano) with Janene Broere (mezzo), Rosemary Shepherd (flute), Pauline Sweeney (piano), and Kaleidoscope Singers. Saturday June 20 at 2pm at Uniting Church, Rutledge St, Queanbeyan. Sunday June 21 at 2pm at St Thomas More Primary School's Holy Faith Hall, White St, Campbell. Tickets at the door, adults \$15, concession \$10.

A CALL TO LIVE THE **JOY OF THE GOSPEL:**

For lay, religious and clergy. Sunday June 28, starting with the evening meal at 6pm and concluding with lunch on Friday July 3. Cost: \$650 ensuite, \$550 standard, inclusive of all meals including morning and afternoon tea. Presented by Fr Anthony Kelly CSsR and Fr Frank Moloney SBD: 'A joyless world? A joyless Church? But what of the joy of Christ, God's gift of joy and the practice of joy in the Church today?' Join two world-leading theologians in reflecting and talking about Pope Francis' exhortation on the Joy of the Gospel.

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REGULAR EVENTS

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:

St Benedict's, Narrabundah, Monday 8am-10pm, Tuesday 12pm-10pm, Wednesday and Thursday Ipm-10pm and Friday 7am-Saturday 8am. All welcome.

GOOD SHEPHERD PRAYER GROUP:

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HOLY SPIRIT SECU-LAR FRANCISCAN FRATERNITY: Third Fri-

day 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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Above, Marist's Tyran Kuru prepares for a free throw. Below, Spencer Adams begins another PHOTOS: SUPPLIED Marist attack.





MCC First Basketball team; back row, left to right Nick Cubit, Patrick Cross, Tyrone Mohamed, Sam Bartholomeusz (assistant coach), Rohnan Busing, Jack Bartholomeusz, Zac Maher, Aidan Barnet, James Toohey, and Luke Croker (manager). Front row, left to right, Grant Barclay (coach), Sam de Sousa, Em David, and Nick Abbot.

Nothing but net for Marist

BASKETBALL is booming at Marist College once again after an outstanding summer season on the court.

Of their 43 teams in a number of competitions over summer, 24 made the finals, with five teams going on to win grand finals.

The College's first division team won 10 of their 11 regular season games, but were unable to play in the grand final, as they had to travel to Perth for the 26th annual Marist Basketball Championships.

But other Marist teams won the Under 19 first division competition and also the Under 16 fifth division competition.

Several individuals were rewarded for strong performances throughout the season, with five boys selected in the ACT under 18 squad.

Coach Grant Barclay said Marist's performances over summer confirmed they are the "premier basketball school in the ACT".

He said the first division team's performance has been a particular highlight.

"The team was led up front by the big men Pat Cross and Nick Abbot complemented by Ryan Crowley and Jeremy Manuelpillai," he said.

"The guards set the tone this season by continually disrupting the opposition and were led defensively by Zac Maher and Nick Cubit which allowed Jack Bartholomeusz and Tyrone Mohamed to dominate offensively.

"A characteristic of the play this season has been the outstanding leadership shown by our co-captains Sam de Sousa and James Toohey who showed how to handle pressure both on and off the court. Both boys led by example and

showed genuine Marist qualities throughout the season."

Students James Toohey and Jack Batholomeusz were recognised by Basketball Australia as talented athletes and have been placed on the national pathway for transition to senior basketball. James is a fully funded athlete who is on scholarship at the ACT Academy of Sport.

As part of Marist's basketball program, the players tour the USA every second year, allowing them meet some of the former students and players who are now earning a living from basketball, most noticeably Patrick Mills and former local standout Brendan Clowry.

The winter basketball season begins this month, and with about 30 teams taking part, Marist will be looking for even more success.

Seminar discusses women's key role in sport

By Sabina Van Rooy

ission for Women held its first seminar for 2015 on April 22, based on the theme, 'Women in Sport'.

The theme was chosen to link the evening with the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference social justice statement for 2014-2015, 'A Crown for Australia: Striving for the best in our sporting nation'.

Mgr John Woods, chaplain to the Canberra Raiders, outlined the theology and practice of sport, before Jo Rummery addressed the various fatigues Fulivai and Amber Allen dis-

The presentations highlighted the influence of family, where many have their first encounter with the love of sport.

St Francis Xavier College Florey physical education and health coordinator Lee Dwyer and Year 12 students Maddison

Cater, Sarah White, Lauren THE Archdiocesan Comm- of amateur cycling. cussed the physical, social, psychological and spiritual elements of sport.

> The presentations highlighted the influence of family, where many have their first encounter with the love of sport, and it is through the influence of family, and later role models, where school participation and individual sports consolidate their effect.

> Sabina Van Rooy is a member of the Archdiocesan Commission for Women.



From left to right, Mgr John Woods, Lauren Fulivai, Sarah White, Maddison Cater. Amber Allen, Jo Rummery, Lee Dwyer and Sabina Van Rooy. PHOTO: SUPPLIED