

# CATHOLIC Voice

ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN

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## Archbishop's Message

Archbishop Christopher Prowse

# On the journey to the Plenary Council 2020/21

DEAR FRIENDS in Christ,

This will be my fourth and final reflection on the Plenary Council of Australia (2020/2021). For my other theological/pastoral Reflections refer to Catholic Voice editions (March, April and May 2018)

May I encourage you to access the Plenary Council website at <http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/> to access resources and vital information on this exciting journey of faith for all of us.

We are to listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying to us in these challenging times. The Plenary Council official prayer asks the Holy Spirit to:

“Give us the courage to tell our stories and to speak boldly of your truth. Give us ears to listen humbly to each other and a discerning heart to hear what you are saying”.

These petitions “to speak boldly...to listen humbly” are close to the pastoral heart of Pope Francis in his wisdom for the Catholic Church in this “change of era.” Both responses are necessary simultaneously. “To speak boldly”

(“apostolic courage”) without listening humbly is unworthy of mature Christians. Yet, “to listen humbly” without speaking

*What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?*

out boldly, your observation is a missed opportunity to contribute on our journey of faith together. Let us reflect on these responses carefully in the years up until 2021.

As we gather in the times ahead in all different types of coming together, we are to reflect deeply on this seminal question: **“What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?”** It is what “God is asking of us” not what “we are asking of God.” This is crucial. It enables the whole journey to be a time of deep conversion

leading to pastoral action.

My desire is that each of our six Deaneries (Canberra dividing into two) are to become LISTENING POSTS to what the Holy Spirit is truly saying to us in these times.

We need to follow carefully the four step template given to the entire Catholic Church of Australia on how to engage and respond as we gather in small or larger groups on several occasions in the times ahead. (See the website)

The reflections of each gathering are submitted online to the National Plenary Council team. These will be examined and will develop the agenda for the Plenary Council in 2020/21.

Soon I will gather my Catholic Voice theological/pastoral reflections over the last four months and present them to you both electronically and hard copies for your prayerful consideration. I hope you can reflect on these to help shape our listening and sharing sessions.

Let us pray for each other. Pray for me sometimes.



## Plenary Council Prayer

*Come, Holy Spirit of Pentecost.  
Come, Holy Spirit of the great South Land.*

*O God, bless and unite all your people in Australia  
and guide us on the pilgrim way of the Plenary Council.*

*Give us the grace to see your face in one another  
and to recognise Jesus, our companion on the road.*

*Give us the courage to tell our stories  
and to speak boldly of your truth.*

*Give us ears to listen humbly to each other  
and a discerning heart to hear what you are saying.*

*Lead your Church into a hope-filled future,  
that we may live the joy of the Gospel.*

*Through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
bread for the journey from age to age.*

*Amen.*

*Our Lady Help of Christians, pray for us.  
St Mary MacKillop, pray for us.*



### ARCHBISHOP CHRISTOPHER'S DIARY

June	
<b>THURSDAY, 7</b> 9.00am Council of Priests Meeting	7.00pm Plenary Council Listening Session, Eastlake Football Club, Kingston
<b>TUESDAY, 12</b> 11.00am Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture Board Meeting, Barton	<b>SATURDAY, 23</b> 6.00pm Confirmation Mass, Sacred Heart Parish, Temora
<b>THURSDAY, 14</b> 10.15am Confirmation Retreat, Transfiguration Parish, Curtin	<b>SUNDAY, 24</b> 10.00am Confirmation Mass, Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, Ardlethan
<b>SATURDAY, 16</b> 6.00pm Confirmation Mass, Sacred Heart Parish, Cootamundra	<b>WEDNESDAY, 27</b> 6.00pm Confirmation Mass, St Matthew's & St Vincent's Parish, St Matthew's Church, Page
<b>SUNDAY, 17</b> 9.00am Confirmation Mass, Transfiguration Parish, Curtin 11.00am Confirmation Mass, Transfiguration Parish, Curtin	<b>THURSDAY, 28</b> 6.00pm Confirmation Mass, St Matthew's & St Vincent's Parish, St Vincent De Paul Church, Aranda
<b>TUESDAY, 19</b> 10.00am Plenary Council Listening Session, Eastlake Football Club Gungahlin 7.00pm Plenary Council Listening Session, Eastlake Football Club Gungahlin	<b>FRIDAY, 29</b> 12.15pm Mass, St Christopher's Cathedral 5.00pm THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL - Program of Leadership and Mission, St Christopher's Pastoral Centre, Forrest
<b>WEDNESDAY, 20</b> Overnight St Vincent de Paul CEO Sleepout	<b>SATURDAY, 30</b> 10.00am THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL - Program of Leadership and Mission, St Christopher's Pastoral Centre, Forrest 6.00pm Aboriginal Sunday Mass, St Benedict's Church, Narrabundah
<b>THURSDAY, 21</b> St Vincent de Paul CEO Sleepout 10.00am Plenary Council Listening Session, Eastlake Football Club, Kingston	

## Pope Francis sends blessings as Plenary Council process begins

POPE Francis has sent his support and blessings to the Catholic Church in Australia as it commences a three-year process to consider its future through the Plenary Council 2020.

The Church in Australia, on the feast of Pentecost, yesterday marked the official launch of the Plenary Council, which will culminate in gatherings in 2020 and 2021 to consider the Church's governance, laws and practice.

In a special message for the Catholic community in Australia, Pope Francis said that he hoped “through patient dialogue and faith-filled discernment, the conciliar journey will confirm the Catholics in Australia in a spirit of fraternal unity and missionary discipleship”.

That, the Holy Father said, would enable them to be “a leaven of holiness, justice and reconciliation in today's rapidly

changing society”.

Perth Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB, president of the Plenary Council, expressed his gratitude for the Pope's encouraging message.

“We are embarking together on an important initiative that holds great promise for the Catholic Church in Australia,” Archbishop Costelloe said.

“It is wonderful to know that the Holy Father is aware of what we are doing and fully supportive of it.

“The Pope's prayer for us reminds us of our great need for the wisdom, harmony and openness to God's will, which are the gift of the Holy Spirit, without which the Plenary Council will not bear the appropriate fruit which we pray will renew the face of the Church in Australia.”

Visit the Plenary Council website at: [www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au](http://www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au)

CATHOLIC VOICE

ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN

EDITOR:  
John McLaurin  
[catholic.voice@cg.org.au](mailto:catholic.voice@cg.org.au)  
Ph. (02) 6239 9831

ADDRESS:  
GPO Box 3089  
Canberra ACT 2606

[www.cgatholic.org.au](http://www.cgatholic.org.au)

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## End of Life Choices

# Euthanasia a grave risk

ARCHBISHOP Christopher Prowse welcomed the opportunity to speak out against euthanasia last month warning that supporting assisted suicide would be a fundamental mistake.

Appearing before the Legislative Assembly's Inquiry into End of Life Choices in the ACT, the Archbishop described assisted suicide as de-humanising and a grave risk.

He spoke of euthanasia as a lonely policy only an atomised society would think about and recounted stories from his 38 years of priesthood of being present at good deaths.

His submission highlighted the pressure that euthanasia, would place on vulnerable people.

"If euthanasia were allowed, the concern is that vulnerable people would be overwhelmed by these pressures rather than seeking help," he said.

"Just to speak of euthanasia as a treatment option would send a very strong signal to people that their life is of no great consequence and that their remaining days have no value."



Catholic Health Australia CEO Suzanne Greenwood. Picture: Supplied.

Archbishop Prowse gave several examples about the dangers of euthanasia including the misdiagnosis of illnesses such as depression which can become part of a downward spiral in ethical standards.

"Depression is hard to diagnose and is often misinterpreted, sometimes seen as a rational

response to difficult circumstances," he said.

He also said the acceptance of euthanasia could not be limited because once accepted in some cases, there is a logical progression to expand the boundaries.

"In those overseas jurisdictions where euthanasia is permit-

ted, the boundaries have expanded over the years to include for example, brothers who were deaf and found they would soon be blind."

The Archbishop's appearance before the Assembly committee comes just months after Catholic Health Australia CEO, Suzanne Greenwood, presented to a Western Australian inquiry into end of life choices.

Ms Greenwood said high quality palliative and end of life care is the best option to allow freedom of choice, comfort, dignity and respect as a person nears the end of life, not just for the individual, but also for the family and community that surrounds them.

"CHA's view is that it is never permissible to purposefully end an individual's life through euthanasia or assisted suicide because we believe it compromises the inherent value of the person," she said.

"[It] erodes trust in the medical profession who must care for individuals at all points in their journey."

She said palliative care, although chronically underfunded, addresses the physical, psychological, spiritual, and social needs of an individual nearing end of life.

"It provides ongoing supports to the family surrounding them," she said.

"Clinicians assist patients and their family in the progression of their condition to improve quality of life, relieve suffering,

co-ordinate symptom relief; and to provide support for their comfort and wellbeing, until their natural death."

Ms Greenwood said CHA members are committed to providing the best possible, evidence based compassionate care to all members of society.

"Our members have always valued the delivery of person-centred care that is founded in a respect for human dignity and life."

Fr Bill Kennedy, of the Archdiocese, visits Palliative Care patients every day.

"I have been privileged to attend Clare Holland House each day since it opened in 2001," he said. "I'm aware of the appreciation of the patients through my visits to them caring for their spiritual needs."

**For more information about Clare Holland House call (02) 6273 0336 or go online to <https://www.calvarycare.org.au/public-hospital-bruce/services-and-clinics/clare-holland-house/> or <https://www.pallcareact.org.au/clare-holland-house/>**

*Catholic Health Australia is based in Canberra and represents Australia's largest non-government grouping of hospitals, aged and community care services, providing approximately 10 per cent of hospital and aged care services in the country, including around 30 per cent of private hospital care as well as approximately five per cent of public hospital care.*

## Euthanasia: 5 things to remember

BY JOSEPH DOYLE

### The dignity of the human person is intrinsic to all stages of human life

The Catholic Church believes in the inherent dignity of every human person at every stage of their life. The dignity of each human person is based on the fact that "in man there shines forth a reflection of God himself" (John Paul II, Evangelium Vitae, 5 [1995]). Human dignity is, thus, not "dependent on our usefulness or our health, but simply on our humanity." (Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, Real Care, Love and Compassion).

### Euthanasia violates human dignity and human rights

The first and most basic human right is the right to life, "from conception to its natural end." (Compendium of Catholic Social Doctrine, 155). Because of this, all deliberate termination of innocent human life, "violates the integrity of the human person" and "insults human dignity." (Gaudium et Spes, 27 [1965]).

### The sick and elderly deserve to be treated with special respect

The underlying basis of medical and palliative care is that "those whose lives are diminished or weakened deserve special respect" (Catechism

of the Catholic Church - CCC, 2276). Palliative care that deliberately causes the death of the patient allows the medical profession to become, "distorted and contradicted" (John Paul II, Evangelium Vitae, 5 [1995]).

### Discontinuing medical procedures is not necessarily euthanasia

Discontinuing extraordinary medical procedures that are "disproportionate to the expected outcome can be legitimate." (CCC, 2278). The cause of death must not come through active termination or the withholding of ordinary care but through natural means; as in this case "one does not will to cause death; one's inability to impede it is merely accepted." (CCC, 2278).

### We should not despair for the salvation of those who have taken their own lives

Various psychological and traumatic influences can "diminish the responsibility of the one committing suicide." (CCC, 2282). As a result, the Church prays for those who have taken their own lives and believes that, when it comes to their salvation, "By ways known to him alone, God can provide the opportunity for salutary repentance." (CCC, 2283).

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# Kylie's raising a voice for the homeless

KYLIE WARD hopes her participation in the Vinnies CEO Sleepout will raise awareness of all homelessness people, particularly women and children.

The Canberra-based CEO of the Australian College of Nursing is about to embark on her third Vinnies CEO Sleepout.

Speaking on behalf of many in the health sector, Ms Ward expressed her disappointment and concern at the plight of those finding it increasingly difficult to make ends meet.

"The prevalence of older women facing hardship is disturbing," she said.

"They have most likely been carers all their life for families and bosses if they were employed.

"They have not had the working history and choice of careers to secure strong superannuation and financial security that women do now."

"Personal hygiene is not necessarily something that is discussed regarding homelessness," she said.

"I find it appalling that essential items such as female

personal hygiene products like pads and tampons are taxed when condoms are given out freely to promote sexual health.

"Homelessness is a systemic issue in the community and I think we should learn to identify the point where homelessness or poverty is becoming someone's reality.

"There is so much stigma and shame for people when their personal circumstances are falling apart.

"As a society we need to raise the voice that it is okay to ask for help and reach out before there are no other alternatives. Supporting someone before they become homeless, knowing where to access the services they need, is crucial to how the issues are addressed in the short term, and nurses understand the complicated systems individuals need to navigate through."

Her generosity to the cause coincided with her appointment to the college and move to the ACT.

"I first learned about the Vinnies CEO Sleepout when I lived in Melbourne, but I wasn't



Kylie Ward is taking part in her third CEO Sleepout. Picture: Supplied.

a CEO at that time and couldn't participate," she said.

"As soon as I was appointed as CEO of the Australian College of Nursing, I knew I would participate and have done so

each year.

"I know I am privileged to be a CEO so this is the least I can do.

"Housing affordability is often discussed in the public space and

there are many Australians facing this issue every day.

"We are fortunate that governments in Australia provide a social system that can deliver universal health care, however there are things that can still be improved and access remains an issue."

She has a final message to those CEOs who haven't yet signed up.

"I have a list of people that I am keen to encourage to participate with me this year," she said.

"I urge other CEOs from various nursing and health organisations to also register their participation in this event and join me.

"I encourage every CEO to get involved and participate in the Sleepout.

"People experiencing homelessness are some of our most vulnerable communities, men women and children. It is in ones toughest times an act of kindness means so much.

"If you cannot participate, then get on line, find a CEO and donate to such an important cause."

## NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK – MAY 21 TO 27

# Carmel not slowing down

BRADDON'S Carmel Toohey is showing no signs of slowing down.

A long-time volunteer of St Vincent de Paul Society and pioneer of the Canberra Vinnies Night Patrol, she says she is constantly on the go for 12 months of the year.

"I'll go for as long as I can," the 75 year-old says.

"It just doesn't stop and there is always a need to help others.

"Each person has inherent dignity regardless of their situation or the state that they happen to find themselves in.

"I love helping and being a part of it."

She has concerns about the future of volunteering and subscribes to the theory that generosity is an innate quality and cannot be taught.

"I don't mind helping out because it's what I do," she says.

"But I'm a bit worried as to who will pick up the slack when the behind the scenes volunteers like myself aren't here anymore."

Mrs Toohey, puts her kind outlook down to her Catholic upbringing in Bega.

"I come from a big extended family," she says.

"We were brought up to always look out for others."

The mother of two and grandmother of two hardly stops to count the cost of the work she does behind the scenes and it's no surprise to learn that she admires the efforts of St Teresa of Kolkata.

Mrs Toohey works closely with the Missionary of Charity Sisters in Queanbeyan and at any given time can be found cooking for them so they can help feed the poor at Ainslie Village.

She actively supports other ventures also such as the Christmas fare at Captains Flat and her culinary skills are well-known.

She has been cooking and baking since she was eight years old and is also an accomplished sewer and knitter.

She says beanies and gloves are the most popular items at this time of year for obvious reasons however she laments the fact that she will likely take her textile skills to the grave.

"It's a skill which was passed onto me and at this stage I can't see myself passing the intricacies of the craft on to anyone," she says.

A former aged care worker who was involved in enhancing the quality of life of the elderly, Mrs Toohey describes her home as a busy drop-in-centre.

It is there where she often organises



St Vincent de Paul volunteer Carmel Toohey is kept busy 12 months of the year. Picture: Supplied.

pick-ups and drop-offs of goods collected by the Central Canberra Parish which can be used by the poor and homeless.

"I wouldn't have it any other way," she says.

Mrs Toohey and her husband Ray celebrated 53 years of Marriage last month.

# Natalie wins 2018 ACT Volunteer of the Year

BY LACHLAN ROBERTS

A PRIMARY school teacher who ran a social justice group for her students and taught them how to make the time to give back to others has won the 2018 ACT Volunteer of the Year.

Natalie Wright received the award at the 2018 Volunteering Awards for her volunteer work with St Vincent de Paul Society as a coordinator for Mini Vinnies, a social justice group for primary school children.

The program encourages students twelve and under to volunteer their time to fundraise and advocate for social justice issues such as homelessness.

Ms Wright started out with a group of 25 students and over seven years, her group grew to 125 kids, becoming the largest Mini Vinnies

group in Australia.

The 31-year-old primary school teacher prefers to work away from the spotlight but was happy that volunteer work was given the recognition it deserves.

"I find all the attention a little uncomfortable, to be honest, but it is great to promote my school and St Vincent de Paul and obviously for volunteer work this week, which is fabulous," she said.

"When I first started teaching at Good Shepherd seven years ago, they had a humble group of 25 students in their Mini Vinnies group, and over that time we expanded it to up 125."

This article is used with permission and was first published on May 29 on <https://the-riotact.com>



## St Vincent de Paul Society 2018 Winter Appeal

# When they can't afford to pay rent

WHEN you can't afford to pay your rent, do you risk falling deeper into debt, or do you face sleeping on the street? When you can't afford to pay your energy bill, do you and your family decide to freeze in a cold home or to go hungry?

Every day in Australia, someone faces impossible choices like these.

"They need help from you and I to get through the winter," Warwick Fulton, President of the St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn, said when launching the 2018 Vinnies Winter Appeal.

People like Jenny who, after eight years of experiencing domestic violence, had the impossible choice of leaving home with nothing or living in fear for the rest of her life.

"Fortunately for Jenny and her young children, Vinnies was able to step in after she'd made her brave choice, help them to find somewhere to stay and now, with support, they are back on their feet," Mr Fulton said.

Over 116,000\* women, children



Supporting Vinnies from left to right is Gerard Heffernan, Chris Shortis, Erin Macarthur and Catherine Braybon. Picture: John McLaurin.

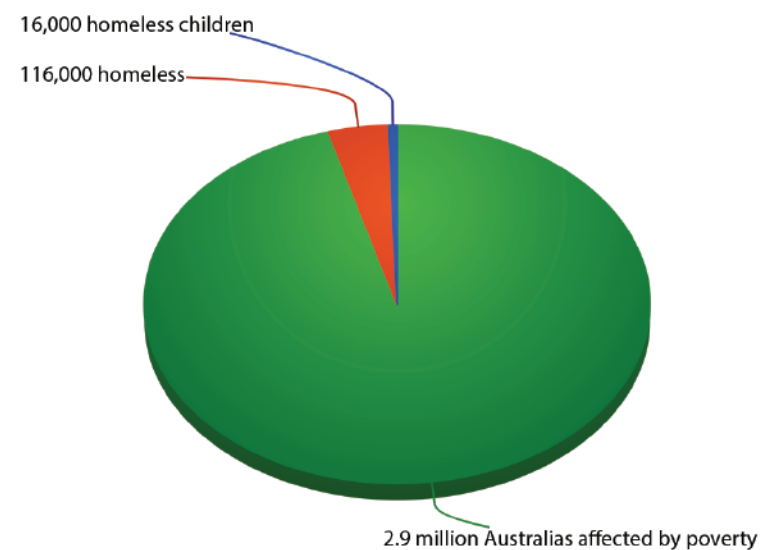
and men are experiencing or are at risk of homelessness on any given night in Australia, a statistic Vinnies knows all too well. It's easy to forget that people struggling to make ends meet are people just like you and me. They face choices no-one should have to make. A job loss, physical or mental health issues, toxic relationships – can all threaten someone's security.

"From 2016 to 2017, Vinnies

members provided over \$1.8 million in direct assistance including food vouchers or parcels to people in need," Mr Fulton added.

Winter is a very difficult time of year if you are homeless or you can't pay for your heating or other essentials. Vinnies relies on generous donations from the community to support the Winter Appeal. To donation today, visit [www.vinnies.org.au/winterappeal](http://www.vinnies.org.au/winterappeal) or call 13 18 12.

### Homelessness Statistics as at Winter 2018



**37%** increase in homelessness rates across New South Wales.

**74%** increase in overcrowding – this is a direct result of the lack of safe and affordable housing across our cities and towns.

**43%** increase since 2013/14, 74,000 people were supported by homelessness services in NSW in 2016/17.

**92%** increase in rates of homelessness for young people aged 19-24, and for older people by 24%.

Source: St Vincent de Paul Society

## Lending a hand to those on the periphery



LEFT (top and bottom): Archbishop Christopher Prowse catches up with the community at Oaks Estate earlier this year. Pictures: John McLaurin.







# First Plenary listening sessions

THE ARCHDIOCESE will roll out the first of its Plenary Council Listening and Dialogue sessions in Canberra later this month with similar events being organised for the regional deaneries in the upcoming months.

The first two ACT listening sessions in will take place at Eastlakes Football Club in Gungahlin on June 19, while two more sessions will be held at Eastlakes Football Club in Kingston on June 21.

Last year, newly elected Australian Catholic Bishops President, Archbishop Mark Coleridge announced that a Plenary Council for the Catholic Church in Australia will take place in 2020 and 2021. They are to be held in Adelaide and Sydney respectively.

Pope Francis recently gave his blessing to the Plenary Council. It is only the fourth ever to be held in the history of Australia.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse will attend all the Canberra sessions along with Fr Richard Thompson, the parish priest of Mary Help of Christians South Woden. As the



Fr Richard Thompson will help organise the Plenary Listening and Dialogue Sessions. Picture: Amber Marr Photography.

Dean of the Canberra Deanery, Fr Thompson will help organise and support the facilitators for the sessions.

He is inviting all who would like to share their vision and experiences of the Australian Catholic Church to join in one of these sessions, especially those who feel isolated or disconnected

from the Church in any way.

“These are large group gatherings for the Canberra Deanery, but there is also the opportunity for smaller parish, school, institutions and even individuals to make submissions to the Plenary,” Fr Thompson said.

“The driving question behind each submission is “What do you

think God is asking of us (the Catholic Church) at this time?”

Fr Thompson says there are formats on the website to assist all who would like to make a submission. “In each case we should pray, read the question and reflect, share and listen, then pray and respond by sending in our submission before Easter

2019,” he said.

“I am particularly keen to see the disenfranchised, young people and migrant Catholics contribute to the future vision and life of the Catholic Church in Australia.”

To learn more about the Plenary Council and to make your submissions go to <http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/>

## Plenary Council 2020/21

### Listening and Dialogue Sessions in Canberra

#### Listening and Dialogue Session 1

Tuesday June 19, 10am - midday  
Eastlake Football Club Gungahlin

#### Listening and Dialogue Session 2

Tuesday June 19, 7pm- 9pm  
Eastlake Football Club Gungahlin

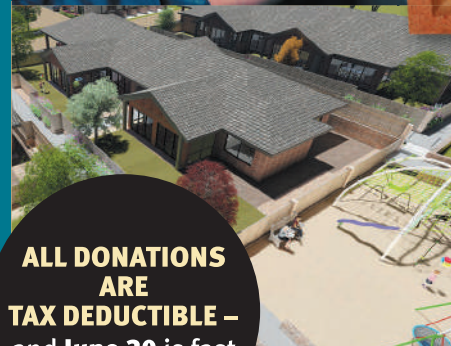
#### Listening and Dialogue Session 3

Thursday June 21, 10am to midday  
Eastlake Football Club Kingston

#### Listening and Dialogue Session 4

Thursday June 21, 7pm - 9pm  
Eastlake Football Club Kingston

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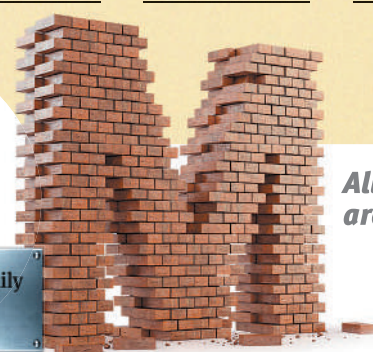
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# Extending Ministry into far-flung places

AN IDEA birthed at the announcement of the Year of Youth two years ago is now bearing fruit for regional dioceses around Australia.

Particularly so with a youth team led by the Missionaries of God's Love (MGL) Sisters traveling to three remote dioceses in 2018.

Three MGL Sisters - Therese Mills, Bernadette Toohey and Amy McCabe, two MGL Brothers - Buddhika Perera and Nelio Dos Reis, as well as five lay young people - Jess Bond, Xavier Direen, Aodhan Kirk, Larissa Lagas and Nathlene Ng, have been based in the Diocese of

Townsville since March.

The team has assisted with local youth engagement initiatives and youth leadership training within schools and parishes, with plans to move to the dioceses of Darwin and Port Pirie for three months each for the remainder of 2018.

The Sisters felt inspired to reach into regional dioceses after the announcement of the Year of Youth came amidst the 2015 Australian Catholic Youth Festival in Adelaide.

"Much of our work at the moment takes place in the context of city Youth Ministry, where there are large youth

offices and ample opportunities for youth engagement," Bernadette says.

"We were inspired to reach further afield in the Year of Youth to ensure that youth in the remotest areas of our country receive the opportunity to engage with the life of the Church and know about this year that has been set aside with them in mind."

A number of lay young men and women have responded to the opportunity to volunteer on the team for nine months, motivated by the opportunity to meet young people in rural parts of our country and participate in the Year of Youth in a meaningful way.

For Aodhan Kirk, 19, the chance to serve within the Church in Australia was a large part of his decision to join the team from his home town of Murrumbateman, NSW.

"After doing missionary work overseas I really had a sense of the need in my own country to bring Jesus to people and the challenge that presents and I got excited about that," he said.

"The opportunity to see and minister to many parts of the Australian Church within the Year of Youth was something that sat well with me and that I saw as a really awesome opportunity.

"I'd love to see growth and revival in the Church in Australia and see many young people seek Jesus in the context of the Catholic Church."

The team members are enjoying the opportunity to forge authentic connections and see the Holy Spirit at work in a range of places around Australia.

"We are very aware that the



Aodhan Kirk (far left) pictured here with the ministry team and Bishop Timothy Harris (middle).

places we visit are each flourishing in their own way and have a uniqueness and giftedness already present," Therese, who is leading the team says.

"We're hoping to bring some support and encouragement in partnering with dioceses, parishes, schools and young people in remote areas who are at times isolated from opportunities to connect."

An important element of the Sisters' work in each diocese will be connecting with Indigenous young people and communities.

"It is part of our charism that we are drawn to work with our Indigenous brothers and sisters wherever we go," explains Therese.

The Sisters have previously

worked with elders and school students within the Diocese of Townsville and enjoyed the opportunity to return during the Year of Youth.

During their time in the diocese, the team has built strong connections with St Patrick's College, Townsville, as well as Abergowrie College, Ingham, two boarding schools with Indigenous students from some of the remotest communities in the country.

The original article was first published by Melbourne Catholic May 2018 edition and is used with permission.

To read the full article go to <http://cgccatholic.org.au/catholic-voice/>

## Five Minutes with Sam Stubbs

Youth Minister

**How old are you?**  
19 last month

**What school/s did you attend?**  
St Edmunds College Canberra

**What influenced you to become a Youth Ministry Worker?**  
I really enjoyed being a part of the senior youth ministry team in year 11 and 12. It helped me grow as a person and I want to be able to help other young people get that opportunity and be the best they can be!

**Are you full time or part-time in Youth Ministry?**  
Part time (2 days a week)

**Are you studying or working elsewhere?**  
I am studying Social Work at ACU and working in residential care part time

**What sustains your faith in an increasingly secular society?**  
Seeing how much of a positive impact can be had on young people and all people through goodness and acts of kindness. Seeing how much of a need there is in the field of child protection helps me to keep going forward to get to the point that I want to be at and in a position where I can change young people's lives, I couldn't get to that point without knowing God is journeying with me.

**What qualities would you like to bring to this role?**  
A willingness to help-out wherever I can



**What is your message to young people?**  
That God is with you every step of the way

**What are you most looking forward to in the Year of Youth?**  
Being a young person and getting more young people closer to God

**Which is your favourite Saint?**  
St Joseph

**What is your favourite sporting team?**  
Golden State Warriors

**What is your favourite food or beverage?**  
Satay Chicken

**Who is your favourite actor/actress?**  
Will Ferrell

**What is your favourite book?**  
Extreme Adventures

**What music do you listen to most?**  
James Bay

**What is your favourite place for a holiday?**  
Tasmania

**What is your favourite quote, phrase or motto?**  
"We shall never know all the good that a simple smile can do" - Mother Teresa

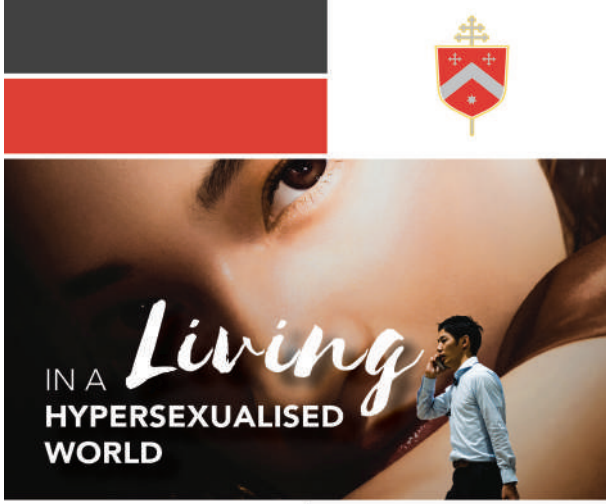
## Chosen Youth Conference

July 12 to 15 at Mannix College, Melbourne

'You did not choose me, but I choose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit; fruit that will last'. (John 15:16)

AS THE Catholic Church in Australia celebrates the Year of the Youth in 2018, join hundreds of young people from all over the nation in Melbourne between July 12 and 15 for an unforgettable four days of fun, faith discovery and fellowship. With a lineup of amazing speakers, life changing sessions, Eucharistic celebrations, awesome workshops, live theatre and music performances, the CHOSEN conference is the perfect opportunity for you to rediscover GOD and His purpose for your life!

"CHOSEN Youth Conference is an initiative of Jesus Youth Australia. For more information go to <https://chosenconference.org>.



Who

When

Where


ALL YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

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ST CHRISTOPHER'S MANUKA, ACT 2603

Guest Speaker

Paul Ninnes



[CGYOUTHMINISTRY.ORG.AU/YOUNGADULTFORMATION](http://CGYOUTHMINISTRY.ORG.AU/YOUNGADULTFORMATION)



# Buy-a-Brick: Appeal is Marymead's

**Marymead officially launches its Buy-A-Brick Appeal providing hope and change for children in need and in times of crisis from the ACT and regional NSW.**

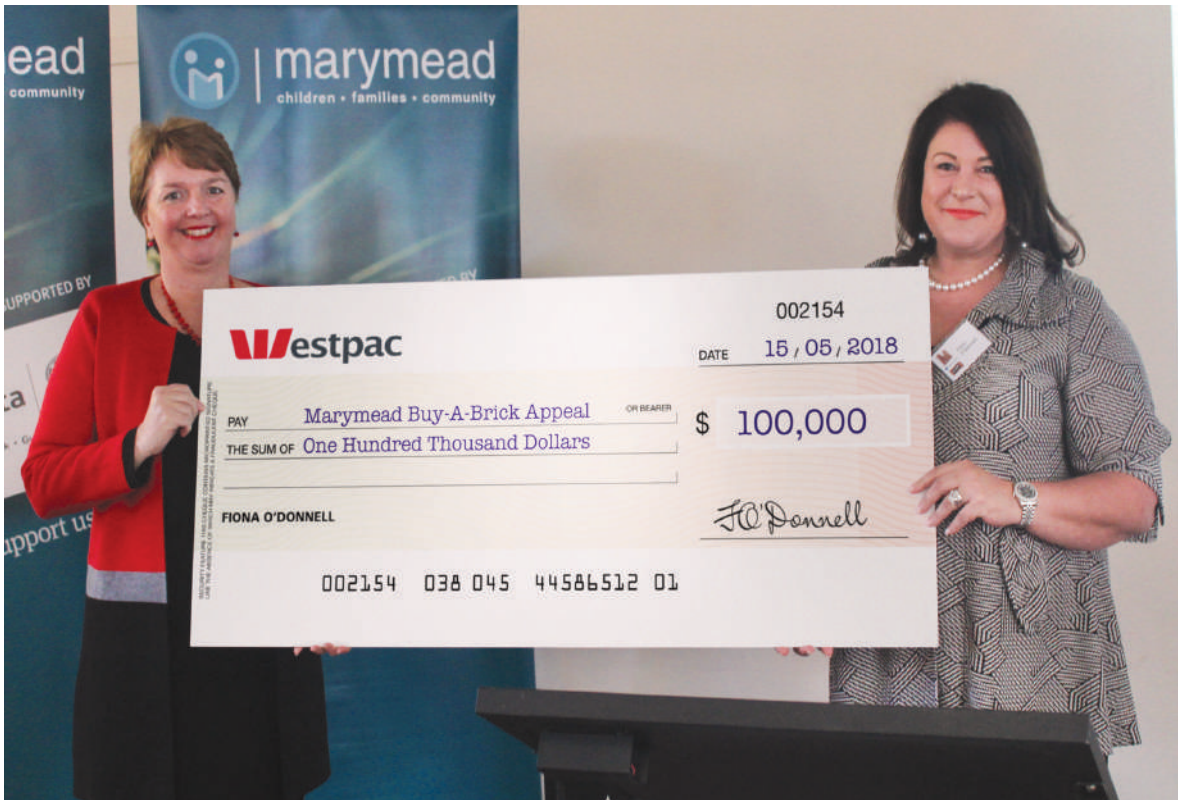
MARYMEAD hopes to raise \$1.3 million from their Buy-A-Brick Appeal which was officially launched at the Rheinberger Centre in Yarralumla.

Funds raised from the appeal will help the organisation to build two of three care cottages at their original Narrabundah site which is being redeveloped.

The cottages will provide much-needed short-term accommodation for vulnerable children, young people with disabilities, those who have recently left hospital, as well as families who have travelled from regional NSW to access services in the ACT.

The appeal, which was the organisation's biggest ever, was attended by Marymead patron Lady Helen Deane together with husband Sir William Deane, and was timed to coincide with the UN International Day of Families and the start of National Families Week.

Marymead CEO Camilla Rowland said she was delighted



Marymead CEO Camilla Rowland receiving the large cheque from Fiona O'Donnell. Picture: Supplied.

more than \$108,000 was raised at the launch.

“What a great start to the appeal with naming rights to one of the three care cottages already sold,” she said.

“We encourage individuals, families and organisations from the ACT and regional areas of NSW to show their support by buying a brick, or two or more.

“All donations are tax

deductible.”

Marymead's Media and Marketing Manager, Jeff Griffiths, said the wonderful start was mainly due to Fiona O'Donnell, a previous board member of the organisation, who handed over a cheque for \$100,000.

“This amazing donation grants the O'Donnell family naming rights of the first cottage which will be called ‘Coral's

Cottage’,” he said.

“It is named after Fiona's late mother, Coral Henderson, a passionate supporter of Marymead and past president of our auxiliary in recent years, who passed away late last year.”

Marymead continues to provide a vast range of high quality, innovative support services to children, young people and their families throughout the ACT

and regional NSW, with offices in Canberra, Goulburn, Moruya, Wagga Wagga and Young.

The organisation's array of programs and services now includes an autism centre, child and family counselling, disability support, early intervention and family support programs, respite care, a grandparents' support network, mental health family support, parent education groups, post-separation support, residential care and supervised contact and changeover.

Marymead also delivers its permanency program in the southern and western NSW regional areas which includes foster care, restoration support, adoption and guardianship.

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Helen Delahunty (left) and Archbishop Prowse (right) thank Loui Seselja and his wife Katica.  
Picture: Jeanine Doyle

# Loui Seselja is the

**L**OUI Seselja's whole family lives his obsession of photography. On holidays, he is known to pull up the car often and anywhere to pursue it.

Sometimes he gets up before sunrise so as not to miss an opportunity.

Croatian-born, he is a quickly recognised face in his Catholic and cultural community circles as the unobtrusive man behind the lens. His work quietly appears in many places.

His talents recently featured in two Canberra exhibitions as part of the Vivid National Photography Festival.

One group focused on the life of the Croatian community, the other covered the Archdiocesan Catholic family.

The fact that they are the only two major exhibitions which he has mounted says much about the man.

He says he does not enter for awards, nor does he tend to hang his pictures on the walls at home.

"I get sick of them," he said.

"When a picture has served its purpose, then there's no need for it."

Born on the island of Dugi Otok (long island) off the Dalmatian coast, Mr Seselja was the last of his family to migrate to Australia, single and aged 19. His departure was legal. Ten years before, in 1958, he remembers the night his brother escaped the communist Yugoslav regime with a boatload of refugees.

He turned to his interest in photography when his plans to finish high school in Australia hit a snag, due to his lack of English.

"Through my photography I realized that I had a universal language," he said.

He married Katica in 1971 and incurred her displeasure when, on a weekly pay of \$50, he spent \$90 on his first camera, a Yashica.

From that point his collection

of tens of thousands of photographs was well underway.

Mr Seselja does not hesitate when asked about his best shot.

"It was of a newly arrived refugee woman, a young woman from Afghanistan with her children," he said.

"I zoomed in on her eyes and saw the fear in them.

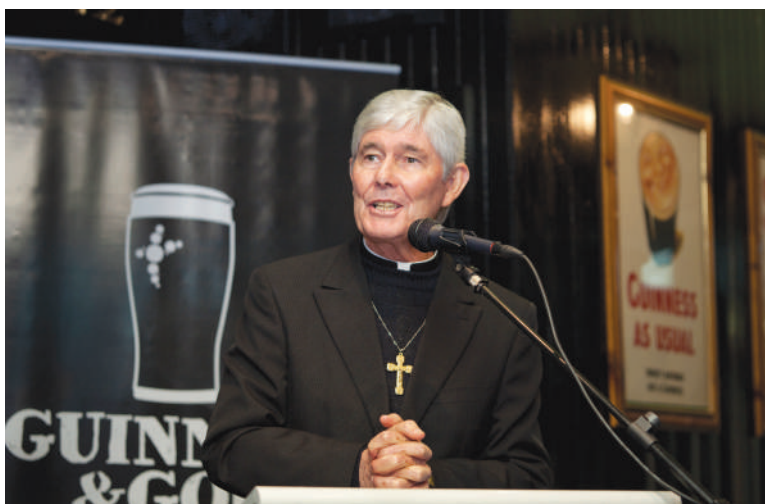
"I was privileged to take that photograph."

Photographing people has always been his passion; shots of refugees and indigenous people stick in his mind.

The ones he enjoys more than any, however, are those of his six children and 20 grandchildren



World Youth Day 2008 Days in the Diocese on February 25, 2008.



Bishop Eugene Hurley, Bishop of Darwin, speaking on how to reach people on the fringes of Church and Society on April 10, 2012.



Farewell for Fr Mierek Markowicz, former parish priest of Wanniasa at his farewell on July 13, 2008.

with another one on the way.

He says what makes a good photograph is that it needs to be genuine, not staged, interesting and beautiful.

"I try not to interfere in the subject matter," he said.

"You want them to relax and you don't tell them what to do."

Many of his photographs over the years have related to his Church, his faith, matters he takes seriously.

"I have never forgotten that people in the Archdiocese befriended me when I came here," he said.

"I am at home here."

He says his perfectionism leaves him constantly frustrated with his work and he is always

chasing something nice.

"I never feel I do it properly," he said.

"The perfect picture is elusive. "Often I have good ideas, but things turn out different."

He is also super-critical of his work and careful to let others be critical of what he does.

He says good equipment is important but what matters most is the subject.

"Seconds are important," he said.

"If you don't have the shot then you can have the best camera in the world with the best gadgets, but it won't matter."

So if you are up before sunrise, don't be too surprised to see a man with a camera looking



Carmelite Sisters in Canberra during Mass on August 26, 2015.

for the ideal landscape shot.

The long-time photographer for the Archdiocese is stepping

away from his role at the Catholic Voice to spend more time with his family.



Loui Seselja has captured the images of thousands of people over the past 40 years in his career as a professional photographer. The ones he cherishes the most are those of his family. Catholic Voice Editor John McLaurin speaks to the man behind the camera as he finishes his time as a photographer for the Archdiocese.

# man behind the camera



World Youth Day 2008 Days in the Diocese on February 25, 2008.



Brother Matt McKeon during his farewell Mass at St Edmund's College Canberra on December 2, 2016.

As Mrs Seselja points out his work with Catholic Voice combined two of his main interests, the Church and taking photos.

Mr Seselja's career as a photographer with the National Library spanned three decades between 1981 and 2010.

He left hundreds of, primarily, documentary photographs in the Library's historic collection.

He insists that he is not putting the camera away entirely, but says he is looking forward to being home more often.

"I have had a wonderful time working for Catholic Voice

and have been involved with it from its beginning" he said.

"It has been an absolute privilege but I feel that the time is right to at least slow down."

His talent and efforts were celebrated with morning tea at St Christopher's Pastoral Centre attended by Archbishop Christopher Prowse.

He and his predecessors were often been the subject of Mr

Seselja's photography over the years.

"Loui has been a great example of a Catholic married and family man over many years," Archbishop Prowse said.

"As a migrant from Croatia he has inspired so many and we thank him particularly for his talents as a photographer used so generously in the service of the Catholic Voice."



Easter Vigil Liturgy at Croatian Catholic Church, Farrer ACT on March 26, 2016.



Archbishop Christopher Prowse's Pastoral visit to Cootamundra on July 19, 2014.

Archdiocesan Financial Administrator, Helen Delahunty, also thanked the retiring photographer.

"I have known Loui to be most generous with his time and resources for a good while," she said.

"I put that down to his great love of the Archdiocese and the people in it."

Mrs Seselja says working for Catholic Voice has been good for her husband as he had met many good people along the way.

"We have a growing extended family and it will be good to have him around more to help pick up kids from school and to run them to their various activities," she said.

Mr Seselja with family and friends present recently celebrated 50 years since arriving in Australia which he feels blessed to call home.

Here he has provided Catholic Voice with 10 favourite shots taken during his time as a photographer for the Archdiocese.

To see more of Loui's photos online go to <http://cgatholic.org.au/> and to <http://cgatholic.org.au/catholic-voice/>

## Did you know:

Loui has been taking photos for Catholic Voice since its first edition in June 1988 until now. He also helped design the very first masthead.



5 EDITORS

Ray Frawley, Geoff Orchison, Felicity de Fombelle

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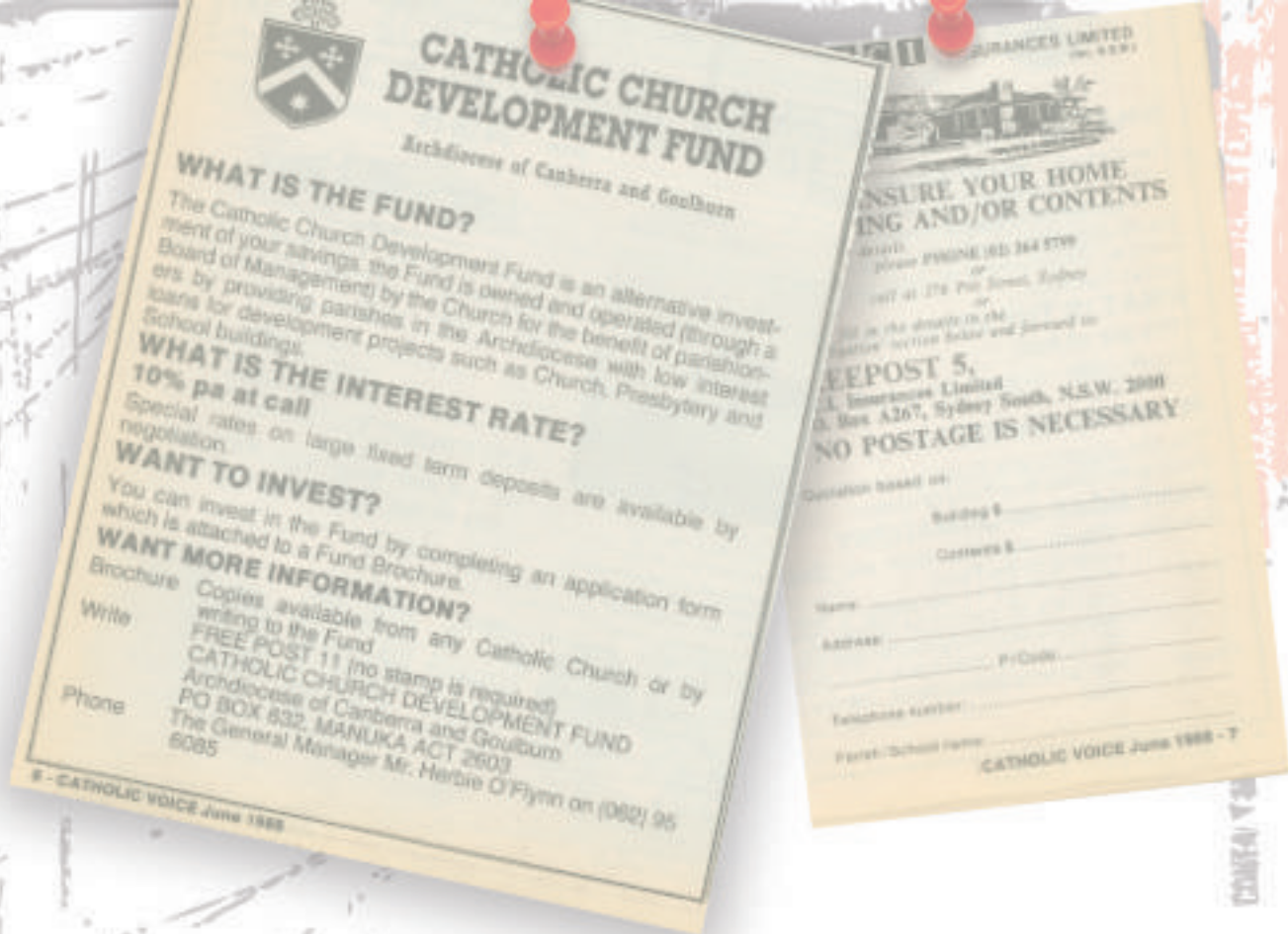
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# Blessing Miss Jordan's Garden at St Michael's

ST MICHAEL'S Catholic Primary School community in Kaleen gathered to remember and celebrate the life of Jordan Taylor, a sustainability enthusiast at the age of 7, who lost a sudden fight with a brain tumour.

Jordan's life was celebrated through an opening and blessing, by Archbishop of Canberra –Goulburn Christopher Prowse, of a Greenhouse and Garden built by members of the school and business community.

After waking early on the 17th May 2017 with a headache, Jordan crawled into bed with her mother Mia where she did not regain consciousness. Within hours Jordan was at Canberra Hospital receiving emergency surgery ahead of being flown to Sydney by the Snowy Hydro Helicopter. Over the next few days Jordan did not respond to further surgery or treatment and early on the 26th, with her Mother and Father by her side, Jordan passed.

Alan and Mia Taylor who had recently moved to Canberra have been overwhelmed by the love and generosity shown.

“Being new to town, we were astonished by the support we had received, from food deliveries, to a cupcake stall, and the generous donations of time and materials from many local companies have been truly appreciated. We are part of a beautiful community and we are grateful for that. Thank-you so much for your support,” Jordan's mum Mia said.

“Jordan would be very proud of what we have created here.”

Jordan's school community was keenly supported by the business community in creating a legacy in her honour, a greenhouse to celebrate Jordan's short life, and in memory of her cause for sustainability declared so young.

St Michael's Principal Mr Patrick Ellis said Miss Jordan's Greenhouse is all about precious life, nurturing growth and passion for sustainability.

“Jordan's memory will be forever in the hearts and minds of future students who come to learn the way nature works, to support the growth of healthy fresh foods, and how to create sustainable energy and environments.”

Distinguished guests including Senator Zed Seselja, Archbishop of Canberra Goulburn Diocese Christopher Prowse, Director of Catholic Education Ross Fox, MLAs Meegan Fitzharris, Alistair Coe, Michael Patterson, Suzanne Orr and James Milligan joined the community gathering.



Images Courtesy: Michael Taylor Photography



## St Monica's Joins World's Greatest Shave



COURAGEOUS St Monica's Primary School students have put their hair on the chopping block for the 20th Anniversary of the Leukaemia Foundation World's Greatest Shave to help raise awareness of blood cancer that has touched the lives of family members.

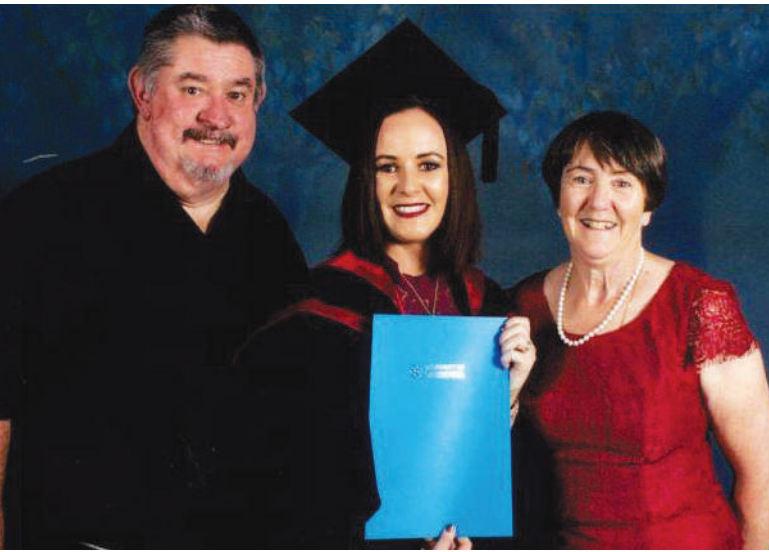
Ava Platts and Jack Howlett proudly shaved their heads in

front of the school in an effort to raise funds for vital research, and emotional and practical support for families facing blood cancer. The students have helped to raise a whopping \$8000 for the Leukemia Foundation which will transform their clippings into wigs for cancer patients and 'floating blooms' that absorb oil spills at sea.

## Hennessy student graduates law with top honours

FORMER Hennessy Catholic College school captain Alicia Prest has graduated from the University of Canberra with a Bachelor of Law with First Class Honours and three Dean's Excellence awards while working full-time and raising three boys.

In an impressive display of academic excellence, Alicia topped several of her subjects, received eight awards for her outstanding achievement and was invited to become a member of the Golden Key International Honours Society for achieving a



GPA of 6.68.

Alicia was also the recipient of one of three Herbert Burton Medals for providing a valuable contribution to the University in combination with her outstanding academic results.

Alicia's drive for purpose compelled her to help other young women in law co-founding the University of Canberra Women Lawyers Mentor Program, connecting

third year female law students with professional female lawyers to assist with the transition from University.

The mother of three recently completed her Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice and has since been admitted to the Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory. Hennessy College is immensely proud of Alicia and her ongoing contribution to our community.



# Catholic Student Announced Young Person of the Year 2018



ST MARY MACKILLOP College student Jasmin Statham-Smith has taken out top honours with Senior Snowy Monaro Region Youth Awards Person of the Year 2018 for her leadership, generosity and selflessness in the wider community.

The 17-year-old Cooma local credits her motivation

for community service to the formative work done at St Patrick's Parish School in Cooma and now at St Mary Mackillop College Wanniasa where there is a strong focus on reaching out to others.

"My schooling has given me the foundation, platform and confidence to start and continue my efforts in helping others

within various communities that I have served in already," she said.

"It has enabled me to extend myself by learning new skills that I will continue to use throughout the rest of my life."

Jasmin's true dedication and passion for helping others was the driving force behind the establishment of the Cooma Interact Club (through Cooma Rotary), travelling to South Korea in 2016 for the International Rotary Convention, and her work with the Community Chest.

"I encourage other young people like me to continue to do community service, and to have a say," she said.

"Ultimately it's not about recognition, it's about helping others, being selfless, becoming a leader and empowering others within our local, regional and city communities to serve without expecting anything in return."

Out of 200 nominees Jasmin was also announced as a semi-finalist for the NSW/ACT Young Achievers Award in

# Sts Peter and Paul Garran Celebrates 50 Years



Past students, teachers, staff and parents gathered to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Sts Peter and Paul Primary school.

The National Arboretum set the stage for the 60's themed night that was embraced with colour and flair and loads for boogying down to the Funky Fedoras.

The class of '78' were honoured to be asked to cut the celebration cake.

Principal Margaret Pollard said it was a fabulous night for reminiscing and renewing old acquaintances.

The 50th Anniversary celebrations will continue throughout the year with in school events leading up to Founders Day in September.

A big thanks to the organising committee who worked tirelessly to ensure the events was a smashing success.

# Walking together for a bright future for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children

EVERY Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student in Catholic schools in the Canberra Goulburn Archdiocese will be supported to embrace their culture and identity, and to achieve personal excellence, through a commitment launched by Catholic Education during National Reconciliation Week.

Catholic Education Canberra Goulburn has moved quickly to commence implementation of its Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Strategy, the system's first dedicated policy to improve the learning outcomes of the region's Indigenous students.

Director Ross Fox said the strategy is built on the belief that a child's first teacher is the parent but that the child's growth and future is the shared responsibility of the village



- teachers, principals, and the whole school community.

"At Catholic Education we believe that a child's background should not determine their educational success and our schools are very serious about achieving our vision for inclusive communities that deliver contemporary quality learning for every person," Mr Fox said.

Catholic Education and

schools have already commenced implementation for more than 600 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students who attend Catholic schools in the Archdiocese from Wiradjuri in the north, south to Ngarigo and Yuin country.

Ngunnawal parent Selina Walker, and member of the Archdiocesan Catholic School Parents advisory group said the

strategy had been developed in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander parents from school communities throughout the region.

"The thing I like most is that it focuses on an individual child's learning and making sure that they are achieving their personal best, which will not only help their employment prospects, it will give them the confidence

they need to make the life they want," Ms Walker explained.

"A strong sense of culture and spiritual identity is very important to the mental health and wellbeing of our children and to their learning. The strengthening of culture and identity is a pillar of this strategy which is tremendously important for our children."

"Ultimately this strategy is about families and schools working together for the child," Ms Walker said.

Ross Fox said while every community, culture, language and child may be different what remains the same is the vital role of education in their future success.

"It is our shared responsibility to work and walk with Elders and families to ensure our First Nations children have the knowledge,

# St Bede's Red Hill relay for children in poverty



The St Bede's Primary School community in Red Hill has raised more than \$1400 for Project Compassion.

As part of the school's Lent social justice fundraiser students ran a water bucket relay as a way to relate to children living in poverty and great hardship.

St Bede's families have also generously donated bottled water to be collected by St Vincent de Paul and diverted to Tathra NSW after the bushfires.



**JUNE 8 (4pm to 6pm):** 'Living in a sexualised world' talk by Paul Nannes, director of Real Talk Australia. Talk is being given at St Christopher's Pastoral Centre. For more information go to [cgyouthministry.org.au/youngadultformation](http://cgyouthministry.org.au/youngadultformation) or email [youth@cg.org.au](mailto:youth@cg.org.au)

**JUNE 10 (12pm):** Canberra Regional AMICUS (meaning friend) Group will meet for lunch at Crowes Restaurant at Gundaroo Colonial Inn. Lunch to be followed by a walk around the town. Contact Patricia on 0412 351 548.

**JUNE 10:** St Greg's Youth LIVE – Save the Date.

**JUNE 15 (7pm):** Greta Bradman Live in Concert with Pianist Kate Johnson at St Christopher's Cathedral Canberra. To book visit [www.gretabradman.com](http://www.gretabradman.com) or call Ticketek on (02) 9266 4034.

**JUNE 19 (10am and 7pm):** Plenary Council Preparatory Listening and Dialogue ACT sessions 1 and 2. Both events held at Eastlake Football Club Gungahlin, ACT.

**JUNE 21 (10am and 7pm):** Plenary Council Preparatory Listening and Dialogue ACT sessions 3 and 4. Both events held at Eastlake Football Club Kingston, ACT.

**JUNE 22 (7.30pm to 9pm):** 14th annual St Thomas More Parish and Forum Dinner at Mercure Hotel, Braddon ACT. \$85.00 includes dinner and wine. Keynote speaker is The Hon Dan Tehan MP. He will speak on Freedom of Religion in Australia Today. RSVP by noon on Friday June 15. Register at <https://goo.gl/gwgvIU> and other enquiries to 0416 823 447 or by email at [forum@stthomasmore.org.au](mailto:forum@stthomasmore.org.au)

**JUNE 24 (12pm):** Canberra Regional AMICUS (meaning friend) Group will meet for lunch at the Portrait Café (National Portrait Gallery, Parkes ACT). Lunch to be followed by a walk / tour of the gallery. Contact Rosemary on 0428 599 342.

**JUNE 29 and 30:** Joy of the

Gospel parish revitalisation sessions at Haydon Hall in St Christopher's Pastoral Centre in Manuka. For more information contact Kylie on (02) 6239 9800.

**JUNE 30 (9am to 1pm):** Garage and Plant Sale at Rheinberger Centre, Cnr of Loch and Weston Streets Yarralumla, ACT.

**JULY 8 (12pm):** Canberra Regional AMICUS (meaning friend) Group will meet for lunch at Little Brother Café in Red Hill. Contact Paul on 0419 411 691.

**JULY 11 and 12:** St Greg's Youth Queanbeyan Retreat. Save the Date.

**JULY 12 to 14:** The PROCLAIM 2018 conference in Brisbane is organised and hosted on behalf of the National Centre for Evangelisation, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and by the Archdiocese of Brisbane. For more information go to <http://promo.proclaimconference.com.au/>

**JULY 14 (9am to 4pm):** Catholic Charismatic Renewal Seminar on Prophetic Intercession presented by Anne Marie Gatenby, National CCR Intercession Coordinator at St Peter Chanel Parish Room, Yarralumla, ACT. To register and for more information, call Neda on 0415 266 019 or Susanna on 0419 902 293.

**AUGUST 3 (7am to 7pm): Twelve hours of adoration at St Christopher's Cathedral. For more information go to [cgyouthministry.org.au/12hoursofadoration](http://cgyouthministry.org.au/12hoursofadoration) or email [youth@cg.org.au](mailto:youth@cg.org.au)**  
**AUGUST 6 (9am to 3pm):** SHINE Student Gathering for Youth Ministry students from years 9 to 11 at Marist College Canberra, Pearce ACT. For more information go to [cgyouthministry.org.au/shine](http://cgyouthministry.org.au/shine) and email Nathan at [nathan.galea@cg.catholic.edu.au](mailto:nathan.galea@cg.catholic.edu.au)

**AUGUST 11:** St Mother Mary of the Cross MacKillop Pilgrimage at Star of the Sea Church Eden, NSW. More information to follow at a later date.

**SEPTEMBER 5 to 7:** Australian Catholic Communications Congress 2018: Communicating Hope and Trust. Held at Rydges South Bank Brisbane. The congress is open to everyone communicating the Good News across Catholic media or communication channels. For more information go to <https://www.catholic.org.au/>

**SEPTEMBER 10 to 14:** The National Council of Priests (NCP) are holding a convention in Canberra to discuss matters for the Church following the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and in preparation for the Plenary Council in 2020 and 2021. More details to follow as they become available.

**SEPTEMBER 21 to 23:** The Australian Catholic Youth Ministry Convention (ACYMC) will take place at the Rooty Hill RSL Club. Hosted by the Australian Catholic Bishops Office for Youth and the Diocese of Parramatta. For more information go to <http://youth.catholic.org.au/>

**SEPTEMBER 22 (9am to 1pm):** Garage and Plant Sale at Rheinberger Centre, Cnr of Loch and Weston Streets Yarralumla, ACT.

**OCTOBER 19 to 21:** Young Men of God Conference. More details to follow.

**OCTOBER 24 (2pm to 5pm):** Year of Youth forum at St Christopher's Cathedral. Open to youth, young adults, clergy and leaders.

**OCTOBER 26 (5pm to 9pm):** Joy of the Gospel Review and Feedback session at Haydon Hall in St Christopher's Pastoral Centre in Manuka. For more information contact Kylie on (02) 6239 9800.

**NOVEMBER 10 (9am to 1.30pm):** Marymead Annual Fete at Rheinberger Centre, Cnr of Loch and Weston Streets Yarralumla, ACT.

**NOVEMBER 15 to 18:** Canberra Women's Cursillo at Greenhills. Save the date.

REGULAR GROUPS

**CANBERRA TAIZE GROUP:** Meets for prayer every second Sunday of the month at Weston Creek Uniting church at 5.30pm.

**CATENIANS in CANBERRA:** Meet on the third Thursday of the month at 6.45pm for the 7.15pm meeting which is followed by dinner at 8pm. Venue: The Southern Cross Club Woden.

**COMMUNITY OF THE RISEN LORD CANBERRA:** Meet at 7.30pm each Friday evening in St Brigid's Church parish hall (2 Bancroft St Dickson) for charismatic praise and worship with an anointed sharing of the Word. Contact Shan on 0412 310 364 or Sean 0448 510 237.

**GOOD SHEPHERD PRAYER GROUP:** Meets each Wednesday from 7pm to 9pm in the parish room at St Peter Chanel's Church Yarralumla. Rosary, charismatic praise and worship, teachings, testimonies, prayer ministry, intercession and fellowship. Contacts Susanna on 0419 902 293, Neda on 0415 266 019 and Gabriel on 0432 082 642.

**HOLY SPIRIT SECULAR FRANCISCAN FRATERNITY:** Meet on the third Friday of the month at 7.45pm, St Augustine Church, 262 Beasley St Farrer. Secular Franciscans try to follow Christ in the footsteps of St Francis of Assisi. Call Tony on 0407 072 139 or Hélène on 0420 533 264. Email: [sfo@fast-mail.fm](mailto:sfo@fast-mail.fm)

**IGNATIUS GROUP OF CANBERRA:** Meets fortnightly for discussion and reflection. Based on the international movement Christian Life Community. Contact Steve on 0407 147 540.

**LEGION OF MARY:** Meets on the third Sunday of each month at St Joseph Church O'Connor at 2pm.

**MAN OVERBOARD:** A monthly gathering of young men discerning priesthood. It is a time to gather, reflect; and commune in order to feel supported during a time of such importance. Each gathering will be held on the first Friday of every month (public holidays excepted). Please RSVP to Fr Paul Nulley at [paul.nulley@cg.org.au](mailto:paul.nulley@cg.org.au) For catering purposes or follow the prompts at <http://www.manoverboard.org.au/>

**MARIAN MOVEMENT OF PRIESTS:** Meets to pray a Cenacle at St Joseph's Church O'Connor each Wednesday following the 8.30am Mass. Contact Maria on (02) 6247 4026.

**menALIVE:** Encouraging authentic Christian manhood, the Canberra chapter of 'Men Alive' meet on the first Monday of each month at St Christopher's Cathedral for Mass at 5pm. Mass is then followed by drinks at 'Public Bar' in Manuka.

**MINISTRY TO THE NEWLY MARRIED:** A mentoring program for newly married couples or engaged couples soon-to-be married. Contact Debbie & Brian (02) 6231 3389 or 0414 878 167 Email: [mnm@grapevine.com.au](mailto:mnm@grapevine.com.au)

**TAIZE PRAYER:** The Canberra Friends of Taizé Ecumenical Group meets regularly for prayer every second Sunday of the month at Weston Creek Uniting Church at 5.30pm. Prayers, songs, Scripture readings and silent meditation as used in the monastery in Taizé, France. All welcome. Enquiries to Annemarie (0421 492 554) or [CBRTaizeFriends@internode.on.net](mailto:CBRTaizeFriends@internode.on.net)

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CORPUS CHRISTI SUNDAY: June 3

# 200 Years of Eucharistic Adoration

*Last month, Archbishop Christopher Prowse and many of the Catholic bishops of Australia took part in a celebratory Mass to commemorate 200 years of Eucharistic Adoration in Australia. Our Archdiocese has connections to the very early Church of Australia and to two of the pioneering families as John McLaurin discovers:*

THERE is a long-held dispute among those concerned with the history of the Catholic Church in Australia, as to where pioneer priest Fr Jeremiah O'Flynn left the Blessed Sacrament when he was detained and deported from the colony in 1818.

Over the past 200 years, the ever popular take is that before departing Fr O'Flynn left the Blessed Sacrament at William Davis' Cottage at The Rocks in Sydney.

There also seems to be substantial evidence that a Consecrated Host was also left at James Dempsey's house not far away in Kent Street.

Many historians agree that the Blessed Sacrament spent time in the homes of both Mr Davis and Mr Dempsey.

Both Mr Davis and Mr Dempsey were stonemasons in the early days of the colony. It is said that they were good friends. Records show that these pioneer

Catholics were both very active in the early life of the Church in Australia.

After eventually moving to Parramatta, Mr Davis donated his property at The Rocks for the building of what we still have as St Patrick's at 'Church Hill' and the old Davis Cottage.

For many years the old 'Davis Cottage' has been known as the 'Holy House of Australia'. Tours are conducted from there on a semi-regular basis.

## The Davis connection



Archbishop Christopher Prowse with Jane Chifley at the 200th anniversary of Eucharistic Adoration in Australia. Picture: Supplied.

JANE Chifley, a former teacher at Sacred Heart Central School Cootamundra, says her distant relative - William Davis, had no direct descendants.

"His adopted son was killed when he fell off a horse in his twenties," she said.

"He had a nephew John Davis, who we are descended from.

"My father's maternal Grandmother - Granny Waters, was a direct descendant of John Davis."

Miss Chifley says in Ireland during the days before William was sent to Australia, that he was a white or blacksmith and was arrested for suspicion of making things for the Irish uprising in 1798.

She also says he was flogged

twice by Samuel Marsden - once for his faith according her late father.

"Dad also said that he [William Davis] kept the Blessed Sacrament in his house," she said.

"People would come to the Davis house to venerate the Sacrament and say the Rosary in front of it.

"This was during the time when there was no priest or Mass and it was kept fairly quiet amongst the Irish."

Peter Breen in Northern NSW is another descendant of John Davis. He has a set of William Davis' Rosary beads.

Miss Chifley, originally from Bathurst and now of Sydney, is also a grand-niece of Ben Chifley - the 16th PM of Australia.

## The Dempsey connection

*"History, our yesterday, is told today, so that it will be remembered tomorrow."*  
- (Dennis Dempsey 2002)

JAMES Dempsey passed away in 1838 and was buried in Sandhills Cemetery (Central Station). His son Cornelius, and his wife Jane (nee) McGuigan, left Sydney settled at Emu Flat on the Upper Shoalhaven left Sydney and moved to manage a farm at Braidwood.

A number of his descendants still remain in the area including Dennis Dempsey, a current Braidwood parishioner.

Dennis authored the family's history book of being in Australia.

He also wrote the following Letter to the Editor to The Catholic Weekly in 1998 although it was not published at the time.

The following is an extract of the letter which details parts of James Demspey's life and the family's claim to being left with The Blessed Sacrament in 1818:

*In the many years that have elapsed since the Blessed Sacrament was left in Sydney, the Dempsey family have remained in the background, content with their own version of this event. We have the deepest respect for the*



Dennis Dempsey authored the family's history book of being in Australia. Picture: Supplied.

*early pioneers of the Catholic Church in Australia, people like James Dempsey, William Davis and the many others who gave selfless service to enable the religious freedom we enjoy today in this wonderful country.*

*We also respect the Davis family and in no way intend to denigrate their relatives' contribution to the early history of the Catholic Church in Australia, but we would ask the Davis family to consider that others also hold claim to part of that history.*

*James Demspey arrived in Australia in 1802 after being transported for life for his part in the ill-fated 1798 uprising in Ireland. He left behind in Ireland a young wife he never saw again and four young children. The youngest son Cornelius, from*

*whom I am descended, came to Australia on December 16 1821.*

*James Dempsey was a stonemason, and as such, was in great demand in the young colony. He was granted an absolute pardon on March 16, 1811.*

*We have documentary evidence that James Demspey (a lay Carmelite) practiced his religion very publicly, even during his term of sentence, when he accompanied the condemned to the scaffold praying with them to the end. James also opened his home in Kent Street as a 'prayer and communications centre for the Irish and a base for a pious confraternity which he established. About 25 men with Dempsey at the head gathered for daily Rosary.*

*The Dempsey family also has documentary evidence that James*

*Demspey opened his home to the sick and needy, and on Sundays travelled from as far as Parramatta and Campbelltown to take part in a paraliturgy based on the Mass, and also for prayers at times when the colony was priestless. Mass, Confessions and other religious ceremonies were conducted by Fr Therry and Fr O'Flynn in James Dempsey's house before Australia had a church.*

*When Fr Jeremiah O'Flynn, the first free Catholic priest in Australia was deported in 1818 at short notice, he left behind the Blessed Sacrament.*

*Dempsey oral family history (confirmed recently by the two most senior members of the family) says that Fr O'Flynn was in the process of ministering to the sick when he was advised of his imminent arrest. He went quickly to the nearest house (James Demspey's Kent St residence) and left the pyx and its precious contents there before moving to a more public place where he was arrested.*

*Dempsey oral family history then stated that the Blessed Sacrament was moved from house to house to ensure that it was undiscovered by the authorities.*



# Not making assumptions

EARLY on the road to becoming a priest, Fr Kimi Vunivesilevu learnt not to make assumptions about the future. Having arrived in Australia from Fiji in 2008 to begin his formation as an MSC priest, he was laid low by a life-threatening illness just six months into his novitiate. The disruption to his life and formation from the ensuing surgeries and medical treatment, along with visa problems “taught me not to have expectations”. That is why Fr Vunivesilevu, who was ordained in Sydney last August, is not looking too far ahead as he begins his three-year placement as assistant priest at

St John the Apostle parish in Kippax. He is looking only as far as getting to know the people of the parish, along with the students in the parish schools and at Daramalan College, and will be guided by some advice he once received from a parish priest. “He told me you should spend the first year looking at how things work before you think about changing anything,” he says. It won’t be the first time Fr Vunivesilevu has heeded the advice of his elders. Having been inspired to join the MSCs while working for them as secretary to the Superior

of the Pacific Region after graduating in computer programming, he was encouraged when an older priest told him that, as challenging as the priesthood can be, it held many joys and he had no regrets. “I hope, when I get to that age, I can say, ‘I’ve enjoyed that, it’s been good,’” he says. So far, so good, since “I haven’t regretted my decision once”. Fr Vunivesilevu, who grew up in Suva as the fifth of six children, left Fiji because he felt he “knew too much about everybody” from his job with the Superior. Having considered Japan, he



Fr Kimi and parish secretary Sharon Greaves at Kippax parish office. Picture: Fiona van der Plaats.

decided Australia would be a good place “to focus on my own formation”. That decision gave him another reason not to have any regrets.

“After I got sick, my doctor told me I would have died if I had stayed in Fiji because my condition probably wouldn’t have been diagnosed,” he says.

# Four generations of followers among 150,000 pilgrims

*Rome pilgrimage helps local Neo-catechumenal Way community celebrate 50th anniversary*

BY FIONA VAN DER PLAAT

GERALD Scerri was initially reluctant to join the 10-day pilgrimage to Rome in early May to mark the 50th anniversary of the Neocatechumenal Way. He and his wife, Tania, were “too busy concentrating on the reality here” in Canberra, including their 10 children and 14 grandchildren, to focus on the bigger picture. In the end he chose to join the 16 pilgrims from Canberra, along with his wife and youngest daughter Gabrielle, 17, and was glad he did. “It wasn’t until I got there that I realised how important it was for me to go,” Mr Scerri said. Seeing the four generations of followers among the 150,000 pilgrims was enough to remind him of his important place in a “beautiful tapestry in which everyone is connected”. His decision to go was also consistent with Pope Francis’



Discussing their trip from left is Tania, Gerald and Gabrielle Scerri, and Paul and Christina Hill. Picture: Fiona van der Plaats.

message during his address to the pilgrims at Tor Vergata in Rome. “Go. The mission demands that we leave,” he said. “But, in life, there is a strong temptation to remain, not to take risks ... It is easier to stay at home, surrounded by those who love us, but it is not Jesus’ way.”

It was this mission that prompted Paul and Christina Hill to pack up four (aged 9, 11, 13 and 18) of their eight children and join the Canberra pilgrims. “It wasn’t easy,” Mrs Hill said of the arrangements needed to make it all happen. “It was a lot of work to leave the others in Canberra.”

But support from their family and local community, along with hospitality from the Way’s community during the pilgrimage, enabled them to join a gathering that reminded them of their part in something much bigger than themselves. “The reality is [the community] is quite small in Canberra

and you can feel quite isolated and even persecuted,” Mrs Hill said. Her overwhelming reaction to celebrating with the wider community was “joy and a huge sense of gratefulness to God”. For Mr Hill, who admitted it was not easy to be a Catholic in today’s society, the pilgrimage offered a chance to evangelise, as directed by the Pope, regardless of how “scary” that could be. Gabrielle Scerri, meanwhile, relished the chance to celebrate with people who shared her faith and commitment. “It was harder coming back here because it is harder to be Christian here – it’s a cultural thing, I think,” she said. While Mr Scerri described the pilgrimage as “very relaxed”, Mrs Scerri stressed it was “not just a holiday and tour of Rome, but a formation for all of us”. “We were all connected. We were all there because the word of God brought us there,” she said.



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## Church Ministry

# menALive saved my life: Frank *And it can save yours too*

*'God is most glorified when men are fully alive' – St Irenaeus of Lyons*

FRANK Stanford is a good example of what menALIVE can do for a man searching for answers in his faith.

He says it has saved his life. "And it can save yours too," he adds.

By his own admission, he is not a choir boy. Not yet anyway! Faith, family and friends reign supreme in his life.

Until two years ago, the faith element for Mr Stanford has often been 'rocky' at best or non-existent.

As a child growing up on the Central Coast of New South Wales, he would attend daily Mass along with his mother of Catholic Irish descent. Often he would be an altar boy.

He says his father (and best mate until he passed away in 2016), had zero faith at the time, but became Catholic when he met his mother.

As is the case for many of us who lose our path, his (Frank's) faith fell right away when he hit his teens.

"I guess I never really got anything out of going to church because it did nothing for me," he said.

"Peer pressure to do other things was huge and still is." Whilst the self-professed

Queanbeyan larrikin has always passed the pub-test as a good bloke, he acknowledges back in 2015 that his life wasn't going so well.

"I wasn't a very nice person to be around," he said.

"Often I used profanities and didn't care what anyone thought."

It was at his lowest ebb that Mr Stanford's life changed for the better.

Upon the suggestion of St Raphael's Parish Priest Fr Troy Bobbin, he attended his first menALIVE weekend.

"My life had to change because something had to give," he said.

"At the time I was at rock-bottom and in a very dark place."

He says going out to West Wyalong for a weekend in 2016 with 20 other guys whom he didn't know was a challenge.

He wondered whether it would be just another 'flash-in-the-pan' event with no real meaning.

Mr Stanford says the turning point for him was listening to Canberra-based menALIVE guys like Torrien Lau, Brad Moffitt, Tim Cahill and Matt Wolnicki. "They were opening up and being vulnerable about themselves



Queanbeyan's Frank Stanford is a changed man thanks to menALive. Picture: John McLaurin.

in their own lives," he says.

"I think as blokes we are brought up to hide our emotions and to put on a façade that everything is alright even when it isn't.

"And his isn't very healthy at all because inside I was drowning in muck and filth; and I know many other guys are as well."

Those closest to Mr Stanford say his transformation within a short space of time has been 'truly remarkable'.

Not only is he a regular at Mass but he is often called upon as an Extraordinary Eucharistic Minister.

It's a far cry from his days as the designated barbecue sausage turner.

"I still love cooking the snags,

don't worry about that," he says.

"But being asked to join the menALIVE presenting team has been a humbling experience.

"Especially knowing that there are men out there who are just like I used to be; and being able to witness their own transformation is a real blessing."

His wife Selina acknowledges that she has seen an obvious growth in her husband's faith.

She has also noticed greater satisfaction with life in general.

"Up until a few years ago we rarely talked about faith as a family," she says.

"But now it seems quite normal."

"I am very grateful for the day that Frank first experienced menALIVE and the subsequent

effect that it has had on our family life.

"In a healthy kind of way I was quite envious of the bond which the menALIVE guys have and share.

"It is actually what made me take action to further develop my own faith journey."

**For more information about menALIVE and any upcoming weekends go to <http://www.menalive.org.au/>**

**menALIVE meet in Canberra at St Christopher's for Mass at 5pm on the first Monday of each month. To join the email list for reminders, send an email to Anthony Morrison via [anthony.morrison@menalive.org.au](mailto:anthony.morrison@menalive.org.au)**

## Weekends offering significant support for men

FATHER Emil Milat has no hesitation in helping to host menALIVE weekends.

He is acutely aware of rates of depression and suicide among men in the rural areas.

Like many others he believes the weekends offer men in the country [and elsewhere] significant support especially in tough times.

"Men's health issues in rural and remote areas are the highest in the nation," the West Wyalong Mission Parish Priest said.

"Each time we host a weekend in our area they are well-supported.

"It tells me that there is definitely a need for this sort of thing out here."

This year's location of Lake

Cargelligo proved to be popular and followed on from successful weekends in West Wyalong in 2016 and an uplifting Holy Spirit filled reunion in 2017.

"Almost the entire Lake Cargelligo Sunday male Mass congregation of 12 attended together with guys from Griffith, Parkes, West Wyalong and Condobolin area attended," Fr Milat said.

"It was a real coming together of city and country and we even had one man travel from as far away as the South Coast [of New South Wales]."

Seven team leaders travelled from Canberra and Queanbeyan.

Fr Milat said he was delighted with the weekend at the Lake.

Over the two days men

gathered in the Fr Mayne Murphy Hall at St. Francis Xavier School for prayers, food and fellowship as well as for talks, workshops and discussions pertaining to those seeking to live a purpose driven life.

"All who attended got a huge amount of satisfaction out of the time include," he said.

"The local men commented how they grew in understanding the reality that God the Father has created us with purpose and he has a role for us to play using the gifts he has given us in the life of our families, our workplaces and the life of the church.

"The result is that for many men, they are inspired, encouraged and feel they have a new sense of mission."



A small group in Lake Cargelligo has formed to meet regularly after the weekend.

menALIVE next weekend is at

St Mel's Parish in Narrandera on June 2 and 3. For more information about future weekends go to <http://www.menalive.org.au/>



# Coleridge elected as new president of bishops conference

THE AUSTRALIAN Catholic Bishops have elected Brisbane Archbishop Mark Coleridge as their new president at a conference last month.

Archbishop Coleridge who took up the new position on May 10 takes over from Melbourne Archbishop Denis Hart.

The Brisbane Archbishop paid tribute to his predecessor.

“With his courtesy and efficiency, Archbishop Hart has made a unique contribution as president of the Conference since 2012,” Archbishop Coleridge said.

The departing Archbishop Hart completed six years as

president having been elected in 2012.

Archbishop Coleridge was ordained auxiliary bishop of Melbourne in 2002 and later became Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn.

He has served as Archbishop of Brisbane since 2012.

“With few illusions about myself or the task that awaits, I humbly accept the call to serve as president of the Conference at a time that is clearly challenging,” Archbishop Coleridge said.

“Among other issues, we bishops will together have to address the recommendations of the Royal Commission and prepare for the upcoming Plenary Council 2020.

“I trust I will be able to provide the unifying leadership this will require.

“Pope Francis is showing the way for bishops conferences around the world, and I look to his leadership to guide and inspire mine in Australia.”

Sydney Anthony Fisher OP was elected vice-president of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference on the same day Archbishop Coleridge was elected.

Both will serve two-year terms.

To read a question and answer interview with Archbishop Coleridge go to <http://cgcatholic.org.au/catholic-voice/>



## Catholic Church calls for boost in minimum wage

THE AUSTRALIAN Catholic Council for Employment Relations has told the Fair Work Commission that the minimum wage is “manifestly inadequate” and hundreds of thousands of families are living in or threatened by poverty.

The ACCER, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference agency focused on employment matters, has told the Fair Work Commission that its view on wage levels is based on Catholic social teaching, which holds that workers “have the right to wages that will support themselves and their families at a decent standard of living”.

It has argued that this right is an internationally recognised human right and that it is also recognised in the

minimum wages provisions of the Fair Work Act 2009, under which the national minimum wage and award minimum wage rates are set.

ACCER points out in its submission that as the employer of 220,000 people in various ministries, the Catholic Church is among the largest employers in the country. The Church, therefore, has a significant interest in ensuring that workers receive fair remuneration.

The ACCER submission can be downloaded from the Fair Work Commission’s website at: <https://www.fwc.gov.au/documents/sites/wagereview2018/submissions/accr-sub-awr1718.pdf>

To read the article in full go to <http://cgcatholic.org.au/catholic-voice/>

PNG family group to celebrate patron  
CANBERRA’S Peter To Rot Papua New Guinea Family Group will meet at St John the Apostle Parish next month to celebrate the PNG Blessed’s Feast Day on Saturday, July 7. The day will begin with Mass at 11am and is to be followed by a traditional PNG lunch feast. All are welcome.  
For more information contact Francesca Deklin on 0437 415 052 or email Nick Palm at [nppalm@hotmail.com](mailto:nppalm@hotmail.com)

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### BRIEFS

**ADELAIDE ARCHBISHOP FOUND GUILTY OF FAILING TO INFORM POLICE**  
ADELAIDE Archbishop Philip Wilson has been found guilty of failing to inform police about allegations of child sexual abuse. He maintained his innocence throughout this long judicial process. It is not yet clear if he will appeal the verdict. Following the publishing of the 59-page judgment by Magistrate Robert Stone in the Newcastle Local Court on the morning of May 22, “I am obviously disappointed at the decision,” Archbishop Wilson said. “I will now have to consider the reasons and consult closely with my lawyers to determine the next steps [and] I do not propose to make any further comment at this stage.”

**SA AND TOWNSVILLE MOURN THE DEATH OF ARCHBISHOP FAULKNER**  
THE CATHOLIC communities of South Australia and Townsville are mourning the death of Emeritus Archbishop Leonard Faulkner. The former Archbishop of Adelaide Archdiocese and Bishop of Townsville diocese died on May 6 at the Pines Lodge in Adelaide, aged 91. His funeral Mass was held in St Francis Xavier’s Cathedral on May 14. The eldest of ten children, he was born in Booleroo Centre in the southern Flinders Ranges on December 5, 1926. After entering the seminary at Rostrevor College in Adelaide he was ordained a priest in Rome on January 1, 1950. He was appointed Bishop of Townsville on November 28 1967 and on June 19, 1985 he was installed as the seventh Archbishop of Adelaide.

**POPE ANNOUNCES JUNE 29 CONSISTORY TO CREATE 14 NEW CARDINALS**  
VATICAN CITY (CNA/EWTN News) Pope Francis has announced that there will be a consistory on June 29 to create 14 new cardinals each of whom express the universality of the Church. Among the newly appointed cardinals is His Beatitude Louis Raphael Sako I, the patriarch of Babylon for the Chaldean Catholic Church and the Archbishop of Baghdad. On June 29, the day of the consistory and the Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul, the new cardinals will concelebrate Mass with Pope Francis in St. Peter’s Basilica alongside the new metropolitan archbishops named during the previous year, who traditionally receive the pallium from the pope on that day.

**POPE ON PENTECOST: THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT CHANGES HEARTS**  
VATICAN CITY (CNA/EWTN News) Though people may promise to change things, it is the third person of the Holy Trinity that creates real change through the reinvigoration and renewal of hearts, Pope Francis said on Pentecost Sunday. “Plenty of people promise change, new beginnings, prodigious renewals, but experience teaches us that no earthly attempt to change reality can ever completely satisfy the human heart,” the pope said May 20. “Yet the change that the Spirit brings is different. It does not revolutionize life around us, but changes our hearts.”

**OSCAR ROMERO AND POPE PAUL VI TO BE CANONIZED OCTOBER 14**  
VATICAN CITY (CNA/EWTN News) The Vatican announced that Bl. Pope Paul VI and Bl. Oscar Romero will be canonized together on October 14, 2018. Following a recent meeting between the Council of Cardinals and Pope Francis, it was decreed that the two blessed will be canonized alongside four others: Bl. Francesco Spinelli, Bl. Vincenzo Romano, Bl. Maria Caterina Kasper and Nazaria Ignazia of Saint Teresa of Jesus. The canonizations will take place during the 2018 Synod of Bishops on the topic of young people, the faith and vocational discernment, which is set to take place this year between October 3 and 28.



## Action enabled through the Archbishop's 2017 Appeal

BY DEACON JOE BLACKWELL

FINALISATION of last Christmas' Archbishop's Appeal has again enabled generosity and need to meet in Jesus' name. Archbishop Christopher Prowse expressed his great appreciation and heartfelt gratitude at being able to offer almost \$67,000 for projects both overseas and to our near neighbours in Australia from the 2017 Archbishop's Christmas Appeal.

Thank you to all who supported this Appeal. Internationally, the La Salette Matha Province in India has received over \$12,200 towards the provision of a school bus to transport young children to school from poor surrounding villages and Bethlehem University in the Holy Land received \$5,000 for student assistance to those in need.

Ten thousand dollars each went towards projects within the Dioceses of Otukpo, Nigeria in Africa and Tagbilaran, Cebu in the Philippines, the latter focusing on ongoing recovery work at their Diocesan Seminary.

The National Council of Churches' Christmas Bowl Appeal, has also been given \$10,000 towards their Act for Peace development projects within our region. Locally, \$5,000 will support the Wilcannia Hub project assisting young indigenous families whilst the remaining funds will assist diocesan projects within the Wilcannia Forbes Diocese.

## Marriage, divorce, secularism and child support

BY ANDREW  
HERSCOVITCH,  
CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE  
COMMISSION

Catholic teaching maintains that marriage is for life, but there are questions of social justice to consider when couples part or divorce

CATHOLIC teaching on the permanence of marriage is clear. Marriage is for life, just as Jesus said. In a secular society such as Australia, separation and divorce are common – including among Catholics.

The fragility of marriages is itself a serious concern, but it also has serious implications for social justice. It would be irresponsible not to have a framework in place for minimising unfairness between the parties affected and protecting the broader interest of the community.

This is no simple task. People will have widely different views on what constitutes fairness, but the absence of a framework would tilt the scales heavily in favour of the stronger party to a marriage and impose excessive burdens on the community as a whole.

Child support is a crucial element of any such framework. Interestingly, Australia's Child Support Scheme (CSS) has a number of features that sit well with the Church's teaching on social justice. It provides scope in the first instance for the spouses to agree on the financial arrangements between them. It sets minimum standards for such arrangements so that the

interests of the children remain paramount.

It encourages reconciliation where that is a realistic possibility. Where the parties cannot come to a mutually acceptable financial outcome, the minimum standards become the "agreement" by default. Australia's CSS also provides for a government agency to register agreements between the spouses and to collect maintenance for the children if that is the wish of the spouses or if a spouse does not meet his or her responsibilities voluntarily.

Maintenance is taken into account when assessing the recipient's entitlement to income support such as Parenting Payment. In so doing, it reduces the financial impact of marriage break-down on the community.

The CSS was started in the late 1980s. The "system" that preceded it left the determination and collection of maintenance largely to the courts. The amounts assessed were usually low and the amounts collected were substantially less, leaving the children's carers out to dry and the community as a whole to carry much of the financial load. It provided little scope or encouragement for reconciliation.

By any measure it was at odds not only with Catholic principles of social justice but also with community expectations. It is food for thought that, often unknowingly, secular wisdom often reflects traditional Catholic values.

Please send comments on the article, or requests for further information about the Commission, to [SocialJustice@csj.org.au](mailto:SocialJustice@csj.org.au).

# Serra Club marks 40

CANBERRA'S Serra Club marked the 40th anniversary of receiving its charter from Serra International at a special Mass celebrated by Archbishop Christopher Prowse in Holy Trinity Church, Curtin.

After Mass, Archbishop Prowse presented the club president, John Smith, with a certificate from the Serra Council.

The Archbishop noted the role of Serra in petitionary prayer for vocations and encouraged the club to join with other groups in the Archdiocese praying for this intention.

Eight past presidents of the club dating back to the 1988 president, John Drury, were in attendance at the anniversary dinner and each one recalled highlights of their time as president.



Members of Canberra's Serra Club with Archbishop Prowse at a special Mass. Picture: John McLaurin.



**Missionaries of  
the Sacred Heart**

YOU JUST HELD HER,  
**LET HER CRY AND  
SAID NOTHING.**

**EVERYONE HAS A STORY.**

I remember it well. A man collapsed and died at the front gate of his home after work. I was called to the hospital, anointed the man and prayed with his gathered family.

His wife wrapped her arms around me and began to weep. I held her, feeling quite helpless to do anything else.

The following Sunday after mass a young man approached me, saying, "I want to thank you Father for what you did for my Aunt. We were all telling her not to worry, Uncle is in heaven now. You just held her, let her cry and said nothing. That's what she really needed. Thank you Father."

He shook my hand and walked away, leaving me stunned.

– Fr Patrick Sharpe msc

To discover more MSC stories please visit [whatsalifeformsc.com/stories](http://whatsalifeformsc.com/stories), attend a discernment weekend retreat, volunteer as a short term lay missionary or just call Fr Peter 0408 299 170



# 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: catholic.voice@cg.org.au

## ACCOMODATIONS

**BRUCE, ACT:** Full board available for a student in a caring Catholic home. Close to universities and amenities. Long term option only. \$250 pw (neg) plus expenses. Referees required. Phone: 0430 667 447.

**CANBERRA:** Own room, bathroom and sitting room (including utilities) in a clean and comfortable house in Duffy, sharing with one older person. Would suit student or quiet person. Non-smoker, references required. \$170pw, call 0429 300 549

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**HARDEN**  
**MURRUMBURRAH:** Modern  
2 b/r townhouse with a/c. L/U  
garage, private, easy access to  
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Set in a complex of four. Apply  
with current references - \$180  
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## HOLIDAYS

**BROULEE:** Spectacular views near beach. Six-bedroom, three-bathroom house. Two living areas, includes balcony with wonderful views, fully equipped. Great for family groups – sleeps 14. Phone: (02) 6257 1222. Visit [www.broulee-beachhouse.com](http://www.broulee-beachhouse.com)

**CURRAJONG, JERVIS**

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Email: [catholic.voice@cg.org.au](mailto:catholic.voice@cg.org.au)

**BAY:** Fantastic house with six bedrooms, two bathrooms and rumpus. Sleeping 14, it's ideal for two families to share. Stylishly redecorated in mid-2010. Visit [www.currajongbeach-house.com.au](http://www.currajongbeach-house.com.au)

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# FOR SALE or REPAIR

**BOAT:** Aluminium 3.7m twin cylinder Mercury motor and trailer. ACT rego, four life jackets, Hummingbird electronic fish finder and oars. All immaculate condition. Photos available. \$1,750. Phone Max on (02) 6254 4994 or email maxrowe@grapevine.net.au

**GARDEN:** Bags of garden manure cow and sheep, \$6 per bag. Minimum order is five bags. Free delivery around Canberra area. Phone Mark on 0427 053 988.

**KENWOOD** CHEF FOOD MIXER \$100, MICROWAVES from \$40. Six month warranty. Free quote for repairs. Will trade-in or purchase old items. Microwave glass trays from \$10. Phone John on (02) 6166 5512 or 0403 050 960.

## SERVICES

**BM SCRAP METAL:** Any scrap metal wanted - Unwanted cars, trucks, vans, bikes, bus etc. We pay cash \$\$\$ With every sale we would like to donate a percentage into our parish. So let's clean up and support our local parish established in 1965. Call Matt Martin - 0422 050 553 or Bill Martin - 0412 210 245.

**COUNSELLING:** Things not going to plan? Sometimes we need to talk to someone who can help. Maybe it is time to contact a professional at Counselling Solutions ACT. Visit [www.act-counselling.com.au](http://www.act-counselling.com.au)

**GETIN2IT PLUMBING:**  
New homes, fix taps, toilet repairs, blocked drains. Min call out fee \$80.00 – discount for pensioners. Please call us for your free quote as well as some water saving tips. Call Matt – 0422 050 553.

**HANDYMAN and PAINTING CONTRACTOR:** Small jobs specialist. Services range from minor carpentry, plastering, tiling, fence repairs, painting, roofing, plumbing and much more. All in Canberra area. Free quotes. 10% discount for pensioners. No job too big or too small. Phone Luis Flores on 0404 605 687 or (02) 6140 1317.

**SINGING:** If you can talk then you can sing. Lessons make singing easier. Experienced teacher. Varied styles including classical,

sacred, musicals and popular.  
Phone Rosemary on (02) 6297  
2974 or 0414 228 618.

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

**DALMENY, NSW:** Building site for sale. Great location with ocean views. Phone John on 0413 153 384 or 0417 200 153.

**GUNGAHLIN:** I B/R apartment in Flemington Road. Short walk to Gungahlin Market opposite to the future light rail. Phone 0421 544 878.

## SELF-HELP GROUP

Share your talents with others, exchange or barter. Assist pensioners, low income earners and those less-fortunate. Need for massage, hair-cut, nails, food, odd jobs etc. Massage can improve circulation, mobility and well-being. Confidential. Phone John anytime on 0403 050 960.

# LivingWORD

Free Gospel reflection  
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classifieds/](http://cgcatholic.org.au/classifieds/)**

## PRAYERS

## Prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary

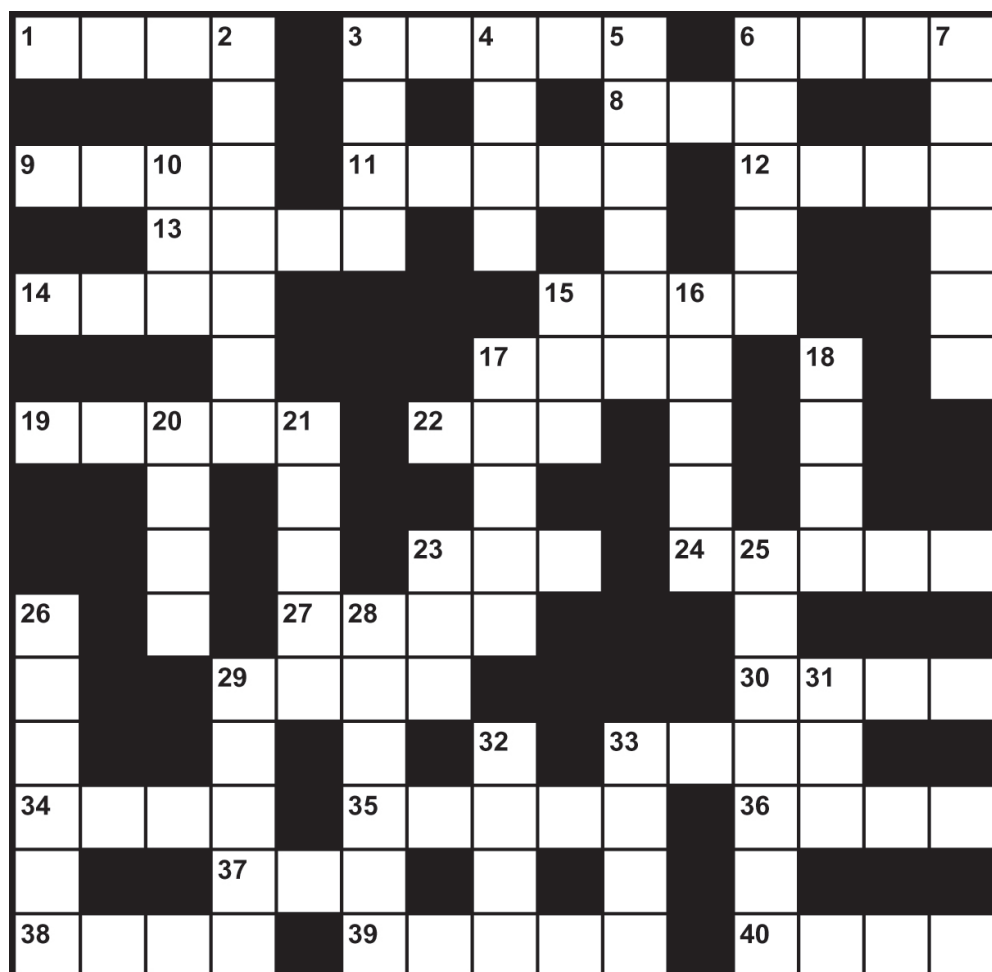
-This prayer must be said for three days and after that the request will be granted.  
O most beautiful flower of Mt Carmel, fruit vine splendorous of heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my mother. O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee (pray this 3 times). I place this cause in your hand (x3). Thank you for mercy toward me and mine.

## VOCATIONS

**Are you considering a vocation as a priest for the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn?**

**If so please contact  
Fr Paul Nulley  
paul.nulley@cg.org.au**

# CROSSWORD

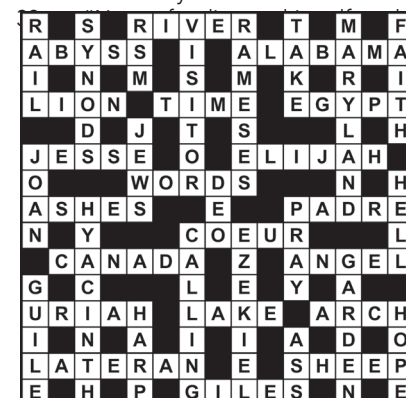


[www.wordgamesforcatholics.com](http://www.wordgamesforcatholics.com)

ACROSS

- 1 First family member
  - 3 Where Jerusalem was
  - 6 \_\_\_ and abstinence
  - 8 Church assn. for kids
  - 9 "\_\_\_ my sheep." (Jn 21:17)
  - 11 Commandment word
  - 12 Where the Vatican is
  - 13 "We \_\_\_ for the resurrection of the dead..."
  - 14 "...and sends \_\_\_ on the just and on the unjust" (Mt 5:45)
  - 15 Actor and convert Cooper
  - 17 Catholic Brazilian soccer great
  - 19 Jericho heroine
  - 22 "...born of the Virgin Mary and became \_\_\_."
  - 23 OT prophetic book
  - 24 Baptism symbol
  - 27 First King of Israel
  - 29 US state in which the Diocese of Nashville is found
  - 30 "...the \_\_\_, raise the dead..." (Mt 10:8)
  - 33 A biblical sea
  - 34 First family member
  - 35 Title for Jesus
  - 36 Fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23)
  - 37 First family member
  - 38 Our \_\_\_ of Fatima
  - 39 These fell in Jericho
  - 40 Christmas visitors
- DOWN
- 2 Renaissance Marian art title
  - 3 First Catholic US president, familiarly
  - 4 Jazz musician and Catholic

- convert Brubeck
- 5 Type of sin
- 6 Number of days Jesus spent in the desert
- 7 Catholic poet/essayist John Samuel \_\_\_\_
- 10 Samuel's mentor
- 15 Bible opener (abbr.)
- 16 Spiritual program
- 17 Adjective for the Bishop of Rome
- 18 Commit a deadly sin
- 20 The Inferno
- 21 Diocese in Idaho
- 23 A religious
- 25 Son of David
- 26 Catholic apologist and mathematician
- 28 One of the 12
- 29 First Catholic United States Chief Justice
- 31 Wedding vow
- 32 First family member



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# Nepal calling for Jan and Gavan

**Caritas is a “..non-political and not for profit organization... devoted to serving the poor; the most disadvantaged and the marginalised, irrespective of race, caste or creed, colour and religion.” (Caritas Nepal Growing Together in Solidarity).**

BEFORE Jan and Gavan Cashman could participate a six day trek in the Annapurna region of Nepal, they had to raise \$7000 between them for Caritas Australia.

Not only did the South Belconnen parishioners meet their target for Caritas, but they exceeded it.

“We have always been extremely impressed with its collaborative and empowering work in most needy communities,” Mrs Cashman said.

“The idea of supporting the work of Caritas and at the same time being part of an exciting adventure was very appealing to us.”

Many people from the couple’s former parish of St Matthew’s Page, wonderful families and friends, were most generous with their donations.

During the fundraising phase they were encouraged and supported by Viviane Piccinini of Caritas as well as by Jenny Keyes and her team at Inspired Adventures - the travel agency which organised the trip.

After months of training and fundraising, they landed in Kathmandu about midnight on November 10 last year.

The group joining Mr and Mrs Cashman comprised of Catherine McGrath and Scott Herring from NSW, Caritas representative Kerry Stone and her husband Colin, Jacinta Cosgriff from Victoria, Judy Mason from Tasmania; and Toni McGrath from South Australia.

On their first day in Kathmandu, the group attended a vibrant and colourful Mass in the Assumption Church.

“The singing was wonderful,” Mrs Cashman said.

“After the Mass we were given a presentation at the Caritas Nepal Office on the work of the organisation in Nepal, the humanitarian challenges it faces and the breadth of projects it undertakes to address these.”

They visited three world heritage sites: Boudhanath, the largest Buddhist stupa in the world, Pashupatinath, a Hindu cremation site on the banks of a river, and Durbar Square, Kathmandu’s “beating heart”.

“We saw signs of the devas-



Top: Trekking team with porters and guide (Jan kneeling centre; Gavan 3rd from right at rear) Above: At the Integrated Pest Management Programme for Small Farmers near Pokhara (Jan and Gavan standing in centre) Picture: Supplied.

tating effects of the 2015 earthquake and restoration work being undertaken by various international agencies on buildings of high cultural significance,” Mrs Cashman said.

cance,” Mrs Cashman said.

“Traffic in Kathmandu is chaotic!”

From Kathmandu they took a short flight to Pokhara, with stunning views of the

Annapurna Range, in the foothills of which their six day trek was to take place.

After lunch they were welcomed at Caritas Kaski Office

and given a presentation on the work of organisation in the Pokhara District.

They were then taken to see the Integrated Pest Management Program for Small Farmers.

It is aimed at providing education and support for farmers to reduce their reliance on pesticides and to make their farming practices more sustainable gen-

erally.

On November 13 the group began the trek with a daunting 3,767 steps upwards.

For the next five days they traversed the foothills of the

Annapurna Range, mostly steep up and down stages but occasionally pleasant strolls through forests of oak and rhododendron.

Magnificent views of the Annapurnas and beautiful terraced fields accompanied them. There were occasional rest stops at little villages.

Along the trails they exchanged many friendly ‘namastes’ with Nepalese travelers and other trekkers.

“The long days ended at teahouses where we enjoyed Nepalese food and drink and then retired to basic sleeping quarters,” Mrs Cashman said.

“Masala tea and Everest beer went down well but not together.

“In the mornings we were often rewarded with a spectacular view of the sun rising over the Annapurnas.”

Along the way they saw children spinning tops, villagers returning from the fields, older children carrying smaller siblings up the slate and stone steps and simple dwellings, sometimes with solar panelled rooftops along with colourful clothes drying in the sun on stone walls with pickles fermenting in jars.

The mountains are sacred to Hindu and Buddhist and Annapurna is the name of the goddess of the harvest.

“Machhapulchhare, the Fish Tail, one of the eight mountains in the Himalayas that is over 8,000 metres, is most shapely and beautiful,” Mrs Cashman said.

“It has never been climbed and climbing it is now forbidden. We are sobered by the realisation that the solar panels, metal water tanks, other building materials, beer and the contents of the tea houses and other supplies, have all been carried in for days at a time on the backs of people or mules.”

Mrs Cashman was full of praise for Caritas and the work that they are doing.

“This extraordinary trip has brought home to us the disparity between the privileged life for many of us here in Australia and how hard life is for most Nepalese people – and yet their lives are full of cheerfulness and dignity,” she said.

“We saw how Caritas is empowering the poor and marginalised to improve their lives and perhaps the glow of the sunrise over the Annapurnas is a kind of metaphor for the optimism which this empowerment is bringing about.”

To read this article in full go to <http://cgatholic.org.au/catholic-voice/>

*The glow of the sunrise over the Annapurnas is a kind of metaphor for the optimism which this empowerment is bringing about.*



Caritas Women's Luncheon



Caritas' annual Women for the World luncheon fundraiser at the Royal Canberra Golf Club was well attended my familiar faces to many in the Archdiocese. Pictures: Jeanine Doyle.



2018 BLACKFRIARS LECTURE SERIES  
**First 1000 Days of Life**

**Dr Mike Freeland, a Member of the Federal Parliament and a paediatrician, speaks on the First 1000 Days of Life, the period of time covering preconception through to a child's second birthday.**

**Date:**  
Wednesday 13 June 2018

**Time:**  
5.30pm - registration and refreshments, 6-7pm - lecture

**Cost:** Free

**Where:**  
Room 302.G.13  
Signadou Building  
Australian Catholic University  
223 Antill Street, Watson ACT

RSVP is essential by 8 June 2018

For more information and to RSVP email  
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