

CATHOLIC Voice

ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN

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Why it's vitally important to defend marriage
Special four-page coverage **Page 14-17**



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From the soil of the Archdiocese - Trenton ordained to the priesthood

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

IN front of family, friends and parishioners, Trenton van Reesch was ordained to the priesthood on August 28, the feast of St Augustine, at St Christopher's Cathedral.

About 50 priests from the Archdiocese and beyond were present to welcome their newest member to the priestly ministry, including several from interstate and even overseas.

A noticeable feature of the 300-strong crowd was the presence of Fr Trenton's seminary classmates from the Seminary of the Good Shepherd – several of whom have been ordained in the past few years.

During his homily for the Mass, Archbishop Christopher Prowse spoke fondly of Fr Trenton, who grew up in Canberra, attending Holy Family Primary School and Marist College.

"I am happy and joyful because God is raising up in our midst one of our own from the soil of the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn to the priesthood," the Archbishop said.

He said Fr Trenton, who he described as "our dear brother", thought about becoming a priest from an early age.

"What seems to have been predominant in Trenton's pilgrimage to the priesthood has been his lifelong love of Christ crucified," the Archbishop said.

"Like St Peter, Trenton wants to be a witness to the sufferings of Jesus.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Fr Trenton van Reesch with parents Chris and Jeanette after his ordination on August 28.

PHOTO: MATTHEW BIDDLE



ARCHBISHOP CHRISTOPHER'S DIARY



- September 1st**
6pm Confirmation Mass - St Monica's Parish, Evatt
- September 2nd**
9.30am Clergy, Principals, RECs Education Leader's Day
- September 4th**
9.30am Congregational Leaders Meeting - Archbishop's House
5pm Man Overboard - Archbishop's House
- September 6th**
11am Mass - St Christopher's Cathedral
- September 8th**
5.30pm Confirmation Mass - St Gregory's Parish, Queanbeyan
- September 9th**
5.30pm Confirmation Mass - St Gregory's Parish, Queanbeyan
- September 10th**
7.30am National Service Celebration of the reign of Queen Elizabeth II - St Paul's Anglican Church, Manuka
12.30pm Student Leaders BBQ - Archbishop's House
- September 11th**
10am Visit to Confirmation students - Mary Help of Christians Parish, South Woden
5pm Archdiocesan Retreat
- September 13th**
12pm Archdiocesan Retreat
- September 15th**
5.30pm Confirmation Mass - Mary Help of Christians Parish, South Woden
7.30pm Confirmation Mass - Mary Help of Christians Parish, South Woden
- September 16th**
6.30pm Confirmation Mass - St Matthew's Parish, Page
- September 17th**
11.30am Visit to Confirmation students - St Benedict's Parish, Narrabundah
- September 18th**
2pm Visit to Confirmation students - St Jude and St John Vianney Parish, Waramanga
6pm Confirmation Mass - Holy Rosary Parish, Watson
- September 19th**
6pm Confirmation Mass - St Benedict's Parish, Narrabundah
- September 20th**
10am Confirmation Mass - St Augustine's Parish, Yass
- September 23rd**
9.30am Australian Catholic Council for Ecumenism and Inter-Religious Relations Meeting - North Sydney
2pm Bishops Commission for Ecumenism and Inter-Religious Relations Meeting - North Sydney
- September 24th**
5pm Confirmation Mass - St Jude and St John Vianney Parish, Waramanga
7pm Confirmation Mass - St Jude and St John Vianney Parish, Waramanga
- September 25th - October 1**
Archbishop's Personal Retreat

Growth in priestly numbers in the Archdiocese



ARCHBISHOP'S MESSAGE
ARCHBISHOP
CHRISTOPHER PROWSE

MY DEAR people of God in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn.

Instinctively, Catholics understand the importance of the ministerial priesthood in the life of the Church.

We thank the Lord Jesus, the High Priest, for the priestly ordination of Rev Trenton Scott van Reesch at St Christopher's Cathedral on Friday, August 28 (feast of St Augustine) for the Archdiocese. We pray for his life of priestly service amongst us. We thank his family, friends, and formators for preparing him in the priesthood.

Also, we have priests from overseas joining us in the months ahead. They originate from Samoa, India and Nigeria. We welcome them heartily.

Recently I accepted an invitation to offer some teachings at an international Catholic conference in Kerala, India. Many of our Indian priests originate from Kerala. The conference



Participants at the clergy retreat at Galong earlier this year. PHOTO: PAUL RUMMERY

attracted 3,500 participants. It was held at the Divine Retreat Centre - the biggest Catholic retreat centre in the world! India has a religious culture. In contrast, Australia is secularist. It gave me fresh insight into reasons why Kerala is 'home' to an abundance of vocations to the priesthood, religious life and vibrant leadership within the lay faithful.

The family of one of our new Indian priests, Fr Varghese Assin Thaiparambil Joy, lives near the retreat centre. They came and visited me. We were so

happy to meet each other. I was able to thank them personally on behalf of the entire Archdiocese for supporting their dear son's transfer for a period of time to our Archdiocese.

They were so humble and joyful. With profound Catholic faith, they declared simply their delight to offer their son to me in the Archdiocese. I was deeply moved by their faith declaration of surrender.

All of us have a significant responsibility to ensure these generous new priests feel at 'home' with us.

During this international retreat, we were visited by Cardinal George Alencherry, the Bishop who assumes pastoral responsibility for the entire Syro-Malabar Catholic community worldwide. During his homily he said something that is central to Christian faith. He announced that: "Once we have surrendered to Christ, we live in victory". How true! Despite the 'encircling gloom' around us, in Jesus we live in the victory of his death and resurrection. Certainly, Keralese Catholics live this out in the fullest measure. They offer us all a wonderful example of Catholic family life.

One of the other speakers highlighted in a simple manner the importance of Christian family life and vocations. He summed up his message by using the word 'family' as a catchy acronym. He said it meant, "Forget About Me, I Love You". Let's ponder upon this and live it out! Let's pray for an increase of vocations to the priesthood and religious life in this Year of Consecrated Life.

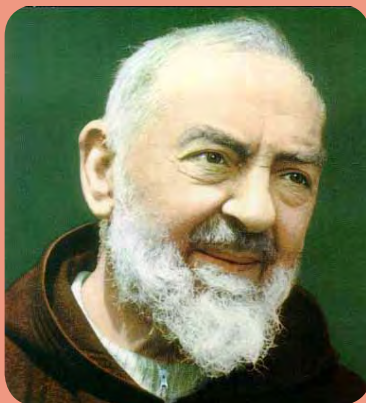
With every encouragement in Jesus.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse
Catholic Archbishop of
Canberra and Goulburn

SAINT OF THE MONTH

St Pio of Pietrelcina September 23

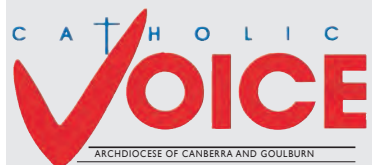
Francesco Forgione was born to Giuseppa and Grazio, peasant farmers, in the small Italian village of Pietrelcina on May 25, 1887. He became a Capuchin novice at the age of 16 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1910 after seven years of study, after which he became known as Padre Pio. On September 20, 1918, Padre Pio was kneeling in front of a large crucifix when he received the visible marks of the crucifixion, making him the first stigmatised priest in the history of Church. Upon his death in 1968, the wounds were no longer visible. In fact, there was no scarring and the skin was completely renewed. The wounds of the stigmata were not the only mystical phenomenon experienced by Padre Pio. The blood from the stigmata had an odour described by many as similar to that of perfume or flowers, and the gift of bilocation was attributed to him. Padre Pio had the ability to read the hearts of the penitents who flocked to him for confession which he heard for up to 12 hours per day. He died on September 23, 1968 at the age of 81, and was canonised by Pope John Paul II on June 16, 2002.



- CATHOLIC ONLINE

September Feast Days

- 3 September St Gregory the Great
- 8 September The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 9 September St Peter Claver
- 12 September The Most Holy Name of Mary
- 14 September The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
- 15 September Our Lady of Sorrows
- 16 September St Cornelius and St Cyprian
- 17 September St Robert Bellarmine
- 19 September St Januarius
- 21 September St Matthew
- 23 September St Pio of Pietrelcina
- 26 September St Cosmas and St Damian
- 28 September St Wenceslaus, St Lawrence Ruiz and companions
- 29 September St Michael, St Gabriel, St Raphael
- 30 September St Jerome



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Left, Trenton van Reesch processes into St Christopher's Cathedral for his ordination ceremony on August 28. Below, Trenton lies prostrate while the congregation sings the litany of the saints. Right, Archbishop Christopher Prowse lays his hands upon Trenton's head, signifying the invocation of God's blessing upon Trenton. The laying on of hands has been used in priestly ordinations since the first century. PHOTOS: LOUI SESELJA



The call to priesthood heard in a rugby scrum

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"He recalls from a very early age gazing up at the crucifix in his home parish of Gowrie and being totally focused on it. Trenton reflects that 'the crucifixion enthralled me. It was so beautiful and so masculine. It was protective, and yet gentle. Agonising and yet the greatest comfort'."

Over time, Trenton was more strongly attracted to the priesthood, and a powerful calling took place in an unusu-

al place, the Archbishop said.

"Believe it or not it was during a rugby football match," he revealed.

"So there is our dear Trenton, packing down for a scrum, when he experienced unexpectedly an overwhelming sense of joy, peace and desire to become a priest, not a rugby player.

"From then on he knew who he was meant to be... a priest in the light of Christ crucified. What a great win for Jesus. Trenton had surren-

dered to the victory of the Cross. May he always do so."

Archbishop Christopher made particular mention of Fr Trenton's close relationship with his mother Jeanette, who fittingly celebrated her birthday on the day of her son's ordination.

"[Jeanette] was pivotal in [Trenton's] faith," Archbishop Christopher said.

"She taught Trenton how to pray. He speaks of her gentle example, tireless compassion and gentle touch. It seems she

is a kind of St Monica to Trenton."

The Archbishop concluded by encouraging others to respond to God's call the same way Trenton has.

"We pray that others will follow Trenton and respond to the still and quiet voice of God calling others to the

priesthood and religious life, especially in this Year of Consecrated Life," Archbishop Christopher said.

Fr Trenton celebrated his Mass of Thanksgiving on August 29 at Holy Family Church in Gowrie, where he was joined by parishioners of his home parish.



Top right, Fr Trenton joins his fellow priests during the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Bottom right, Fr Trenton imparts his first blessing upon a family. Below, Archbishop Christopher Prowse and Fr Warrick Tonkin with Fr Trenton. Left, Fr Trenton embraces his mother Jeanette. PHOTOS: LOUI SESELJA, MATTHEW BIDDLE



Milestone month for three priests

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

ONE-HUNDRED-AND-SIXTY years of priesthood were celebrated in the month of August, with three of the Archdiocese's priests reaching major anniversaries of their ordinations.

Fr Adrian Cork (August 1) and Fr Kevin Flynn (August 3) both celebrated 60 years of priesthood, while Fr Michael Mullen (August 22) celebrated 40 years since his ordination.

Fr Kevin marked the occasion with a special Mass on August 2 at St Raphael's Church in Queanbeyan, where he spoke about the joy he experienced saying Mass the previous day with his former seminary classmate, Fr Adrian.

"I was privileged to be with a group of people who experienced a real miracle of love," he said. "[Fr Adrian] can't talk and he has great difficulty eating... it's pretty sad stuff. But there was no sadness, it was all joy and love and happiness as he sat there with me and we celebrated the Eucharist, him mouthing the words."

Reflecting on his own priestly journey, Fr Kevin said he had been through a particularly challenging time many years ago that made him realise his deep need for God.

"I had to learn I was no longer indestructible," he explained. "I had to learn I no longer had the answers. I had to be humiliated... and in that time of despair, I came to see I could no longer cope, and I came to acknowledge that only God could do what I needed."

"But looking back, I think to myself that by surrendering, by giving in, I experienced the love of God."

Close friend and protégé Fr Tom Thornton said Fr Kevin has allowed God to work



Above, Fr Kevin Flynn, and right, Fr Michael Mullen, both of whom celebrated major anniversaries of ordination in August.
PHOTOS: MATTHEW BIDDLE

through him in an admirable way.

"When Fr Kevin finished at Young, he went and worked and lived on the streets of Sydney," he said.

"He went to where people were most needy. He went and saw and shared with them the life of Christ. He did it not by preaching to them, but by living with them. He exudes compassion, mercy, gracefulness, prayerfulness and, believe it or not, gentleness."

Fr Michael, administrator of St Vincent de Paul Parish in Aranda, told *Catholic Voice* his four decades of priesthood has gone quickly.

One of 11 children born and raised in Forbes, NSW, Fr

Michael's pathway to priesthood was unique in several ways.

"I was a student for the Wilcannia-Forbes Diocese for nearly four years, and then I left," he recalled. "I came to Canberra to work in the public service, in the education and science department, and then I went back to the seminary for this Archdiocese."

"It wasn't easy choosing to leave the seminary, nor choosing to go back, but it was all part of the journey."

Fr Michael was ordained in his home town of Forbes by the then-Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn Thomas Cahill.

His priesthood has taken him to most areas in the



Archdiocese, including Eden, Lake Cargelligo, Pambula, Bateman's Bay, Goulburn, Queanbeyan and St Christopher's Cathedral.

Fr Michael has also had the opportunity to live with several priests from overseas, includ-

ing Samoan priests Fr Pale Leota and Fr Lolesio Gisa who currently reside at Aranda.

"In the last six years or so, I've lived with about eight or nine priests from all different cultures," he said.

"It's been very enriching."

Sung Choral Latin Mass
Roman Canon

SETTING BY
CARDINAL DOMENICO BARTOLUCCI
1917-2013, PAST DIRECTOR SISTINE CHAPEL

WITH ANTHEMS BY FARRANT, TALLIS AND BYRD
CONCLUDING WITH SALVE REGINA

SINGERS FROM THE
ANU SCHOOL OF MUSIC
UNDER THE DIRECTION OF
DR ANDREW CICHY

CELEBRANT: REV DR P A MCGAVIN
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 72ND BIRTHDAY.

St Joseph's Church, O'Connor
11am Sunday 27 September 2015

Donation to defray costs, please

 Archdiocese of
Canberra and Goulburn

We invite you to encounter

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COMMUNITY

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COMING SOON

www.cgatholic.org.au

Get ready for our NEW Archdiocesan website launching mid October 2015

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

PHOTO: MATTHEW BIDDLE

A priest in the Andes anointing the sick.

Cameroon

The different languages represent an answer to the Love that knows no boundaries. The centre of the Cross depicts The Annunciation where Mary answers "YES" and from that moment Mary's faith receives new light. The heart is inspired by the words of St Augustine: "You have made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you".

The Year of Consecrated Life rosary set will be sent out to all those who assist this cause and **tick** this box.



PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Catholic Voice

Nation's oldest Catholic nun remembered

A STATUE of St Mary MacKillop, donated in memory of a beloved Mercy sister who died in 2013, was blessed on August 13 at Mount St Joseph's Nursing Home in Young.

Fr Allen Crowe, who celebrated Mass for the nursing home residents, blessed the statue, donated by the niece of Sr Madeleine Lawrence RSM, Margaret Sadler, and her husband, John.

"When we unveil this new statue for public veneration it is so that we might be inspired by the life of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, who followed Christ so faithfully," Fr Allen prayed prior to the blessing.

Mr and Mrs Sadler travelled from Melbourne to be present for the blessing.

The statue will remain at the Young nursing home, where Sr Madeleine lived for 10 years before her death on June 16, 2013, aged 110. Sr Madeleine joined the Sisters of Mercy when she was just 17, and worked as a teacher and carer at schools and orphanages in Goulburn and surrounding areas.



Margaret and John Sadler with the statue of St Mary MacKillop donated to Mount St Joseph's Nursing Home in honour of Sr Madeleine Lawrence RSM, left, who died in 2013 aged 110. She was Australia's oldest Catholic nun. PHOTO: MATTHEW BIDDLE

Enthusiasm growing for youth conference

YOUTH in the Archdiocese are being encouraged to attend this year's Explosion youth conference, to be held at the end of this month.

Open to all high school aged people, the conference will focus on the theme, 'Is God responsible for this?'

Archdiocesan youth ministry support officer Ellen Thomas told *Catholic Voice* organisers were hoping to see about 150 attendees.

"It's been awesome seeing the conference grow steadily over the last several years and we'd love to see it become more accessible as our major Archdiocesan youth event," she said.

Held at St Francis Xavier College in Florey from September 29 to October 2, Miss Thomas said there were many aspects of the event to look forward to.

"The highlight of the con-

ference seems to be different for each person," she said.

"Last year we got a range of feedback.

"For some it was an encounter with Jesus, while for others it was giant bubble soccer and dousing themselves in war paint for capture the flag, or

even experiencing that yes, great contemporary Catholic music does in fact exist."

Miss Thomas encouraged those considering whether to attend to take up the opportunity.

"You'll get to spend the week having fun with a bunch

of other teenagers, ask any questions about God, the universe, and everything, and experience the richness of the Church in a new way," she said.

Early-bird registrations for the event close on September 8. Go to explosionconference.org.au to register.

Is God Responsible for this?

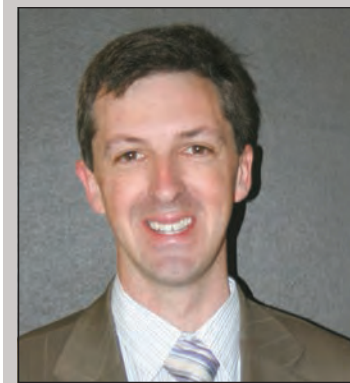
Explosion Youth Conference is for all high school aged young people

29th September to 2nd October

explosionconference.org.au

Contact: 0400 949 580

New Vinnies leader commissioned



New Vinnies president Graham West.

LEADING not-for-profit consultant Graham West has been officially inducted as national president of the St Vincent de Paul Society of Australia.

A commissioning Mass was held at St Peter Chanel's Church in Yarralumla on July 25 for Mr West and members of the Society's national council of Australia.

All 14 national council members travelled to Canberra for the event, which occurs once every four years.

Mr West recently paid tribute to the Society's national treasurer and former national president, Anthony Thornton, who passed away suddenly on July 11.

"Anthony made an enormous contribution as president," Mr West said. "His experience and enthusiasm in guiding the Society over the past four years has been a significant positive force and he will be sorely missed."

Mr West succeeded Mr Thornton in the role of president following elections held in March. He will lead the Society in Australia for the next four years.

Mr West lives in the Snowy Mountains with his wife Tanya and their three children. He has more than 20 years' experience working in government and not-for-profit agencies.

"I first joined the Society as a 17-year-old doing home visitations in the Campbelltown, NSW area," Mr West said. "I even met my wife Tanya through the Society when we were both youth representatives for our Dioceses."

"The transformational experiences the Society provided me with have set the course of my life since and have been a source of great joy and inspiration."

"We have many challenges in our journey that as a Society we need to face. There have been massive transformations in wider society, the Church and the nature of poverty and exclusion that we are called upon to respond to with open hearts and active hands and minds."

Queanbeyan celebrates 175 years

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

ALMOST 500 people took part in celebrations on August 9 marking the 175th anniversary of the establishment of the Queanbeyan Catholic Mission.

The day began with a special Mass for the occasion, held in St Gregory's Primary School hall to accommodate the large crowd.

During the Mass, the parish's baptismal and wedding registers were placed near the altar in recognition of the long and

"We've been very privileged to have a faith community and to have such wonderful priests who would come here."

proud history of the Church in the region.

There have been an astonishing 35,276 baptisms, 13,536 marriages and 13,298 deaths recorded in the Queanbeyan registers since records were first kept in 1843.

During his homily, Fr Troy Bobbin said the parish had humble beginnings when it was established by Bishop John Polding in 1840.

"It was only a few people who, when Queanbeyan was established, came to realise that they needed their own resident priest, so they asked for one," he said.

"From that time on until



The Queanbeyan Mission celebrated its 175th anniversary on August 9 with a special Mass for the occasion and a variety of family entertainment, including rock climbing, above left, face painting, above right, and performances from the St Gregory's Primary School choir, top right.



PHOTOS: MATTHEW BIDDLE

today, we've been very privileged to have a faith community and to have such wonderful priests who would come here. But it's not just the priests who make up a parish, it's all of us together."

After Mass, Fr Troy blessed three new classrooms built last year at St Gregory's Primary.

He also announced that the parish centre would be named the 'Nihill Centre', in honour of the foundation community

leader of the Good Samaritan Sisters of Queanbeyan, Sr Lucy Nihill.

During the remainder of the day, the St Gregory's Primary School choir entertained the crowd with several

performances. Other activities organised by the parish, including a bouncy castle, a petting zoo, face painting, rock climbing, a giant slide, and a historical display also proved popular with those gathered.

MANUKA PRECINCT UPDATE

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

THE underground section of the new Manuka precinct is almost complete, with the building likely to start taking shape in the coming weeks.

Archdiocesan financial administrator Helen Delahunty said although there had been only minor visual changes to the site recently, work has been progressing steadily underground.

"The last couple of months have been really concentrating on transferring services," she said. "We've been changing the underground pipes for sewerage and water and other services, and that's taken a number of months.

"They're digging the basement out right now, so

in the next couple of weeks there'll be lots of concreting happening."

The construction team is using precast concrete for the outside of the new building, which means the site will be transformed rapidly.

"Once the basement is put in, the building will take shape really quickly," Ms Delahunty said.

"Instead of building it brick by brick, the precast concrete is set in a factory and it will be delivered to the site as large lumps of concrete which will just be put up on the site."

Meanwhile, Archdiocesan staff gathered recently to discuss the layout of the new offices with the architects and interior designers.

"We had a whole of staff meeting to talk about the fit out of the building and how we'll be looking to do things a little bit differently from the way the offices are configured at the moment," Ms Delahunty said.

She also thanked the residents of Manuka and Forrest for their patience during the last few months.

"The changes to the parking situation around the Cathedral have been difficult in the last month especially, but it's now finished and so the parking is almost back to normal," she said.

"We're very appreciative. There's been very few complaints about the process."

The project remains on track to be completed by April 2017.



The Manuka precinct site has been cleared and the underground section is almost complete, with the building's wall due to go up in the coming weeks. PHOTO: LOUI SESELJA

Steady progress continues at Manuka despite the rain



Praying for the Church and the world

The only enclosed contemplative community in the Archdiocese is devoted to prayer, as Matthew Biddle explains...

IN A world saturated with sensory stimulation at every turn, the enclosed, contemplative community of Carmelite Sisters in Red Hill is an oasis of peace and contentment where God can truly be found.

The monastery is home to six professed Carmelites who have devoted their lives to praying for the Church and the world while following the rule of St Teresa of Ávila.

Each of the Sisters has their own, unique vocational story, but one thing is common to all – the presence of a deep desire to draw closer to God.

“Praying for the world and everyone in it and offering praise and thanks to God – that’s really what attracted me,” Sr Gabrielle Anne, who joined the Order in 1966, explains.

“But what really drove me was an inner conviction too strong to ignore.”

For Sr Beth, who wasn’t raised in the Catholic Church, reading the words of St Thérèse of Lisieux during a retreat provided the initial inspiration for her to join the Carmelites in 1962.

“I found a book called *The Story of the Springtime of a Little White Flower*, and I read that and from then on I got a great desire to do what she did, to give my life for the world, to pray and to draw closer to God,” she says.

“I had experiences in life before that I didn’t find fulfilment in anything that the world offered, so I decided I would like to follow that path.”

The young French saint’s writings also prompted the desire for religious life within Sr Monica, who had been a teacher in Queensland for four years prior to entering in 1979 as a 24-year-old.

“All of a sudden it was just a powerful calling, that I felt this was my vocation, to follow the Carmelite way of life after reading St Thérèse and other books about the Carmelite way,” she says.

Sr Tharsicius, who joined the Carmelites 60 years ago aged 18, says she was “convinced” that she had to at least try out a religious vocation.

“I thought of the Carmelites, so I looked them up in the telephone book and wrote them a letter, and they told me I was



The Carmelite Sisters in Red Hill devote the majority of their daily lives to prayer, which often includes praying for the needs of those who contact the Sisters with specific requests. Below, from left to right, Sr Tharsicius, Sr Josephine, Sr Beth, Sr Monica, Sr Mary Agnes and Sr Gabrielle Anne.

PHOTOS: LOUI SESELJA

too young, I was only about 15,” she recalls.

“Eventually I went in and tried. It was a challenge but I knew I had to try it and that I wouldn’t have been happy if I hadn’t entered.”

The Sisters spend the majority of their day in prayer, with time set aside for periods of

work and one hour of recreation each day – the only time the Sisters have to talk with one another.

“If you have silence you can hear the Lord talking and you can also speak with him,” Sr Gabrielle Anne explains. “It gives you that opportunity to really listen and to collect yourself, you’re not distracted so much with chat. That’s also why we have solitude as well.”

“No matter how difficult it may seem, you’ve got that inner peace that helps you through all the troubles.”

Living in a small, enclosed community has its challenges at times, the Sisters say.

“You’ve got to always keep in mind to work as a community, and what is for the greater benefit of everyone,” Sr Monica says.

“Sometimes it can be difficult, you might have something planned and you have to keep on changing your plans, to make sure that it’s not our will but God’s will that we’re doing.”

But such challenges are minimal when compared to the innumerable joys of religious life, and particularly the fulfillment that comes by knowing they are living out God’s purpose for their lives.

“If you open yourself to God, he does fill that empty space in you, and that’s very fulfilling,” Sr Gabrielle Anne says. “No matter how difficult it may seem, you’ve got that inner peace that helps you through all the troubles.”



“What stands out for me is the positive response of the people who come here,” Sr

Monica adds. “You might not feel as though you’re doing much, but they seem to gain so much when they come here and ask for prayers.”

The Sisters receive requests from all over Australia and even from overseas for prayers for various needs, such as family problems, sick friends and relatives and the deceased.

They also pray for vocations, which they admit are few and far between in Australia today.

“You might get vocations, but you’ve got to get them to persevere,” Sr Tharsicius says. “You can even get some that are professed and they’ll stay a few years and then suddenly decide it’s not for me and they go.”

Their advice to those discerning? Simply to give it a go. “Pray about it, and if you’re really convinced, give it a try, and the Lord will help you,” Sr Tharsicius says.

“Even if you don’t persevere, you gain from the experience,” Sr Gabrielle Anne adds.

Archbishop thanks Catholic India

THE Church in Australia should increase its efforts to “exchange gifts” with the Church in India, according to Archbishop Christopher Prowse.

The Archbishop spent a week in India at the end of July, where he attended the ‘Power 2015’ international youth conference held at the Divine Retreat Centre at Muringoor, Chalakudy in Kerala.

He told *Catholic Voice* the trip provided a way for him to express his gratitude for the generosity of the Church in India.

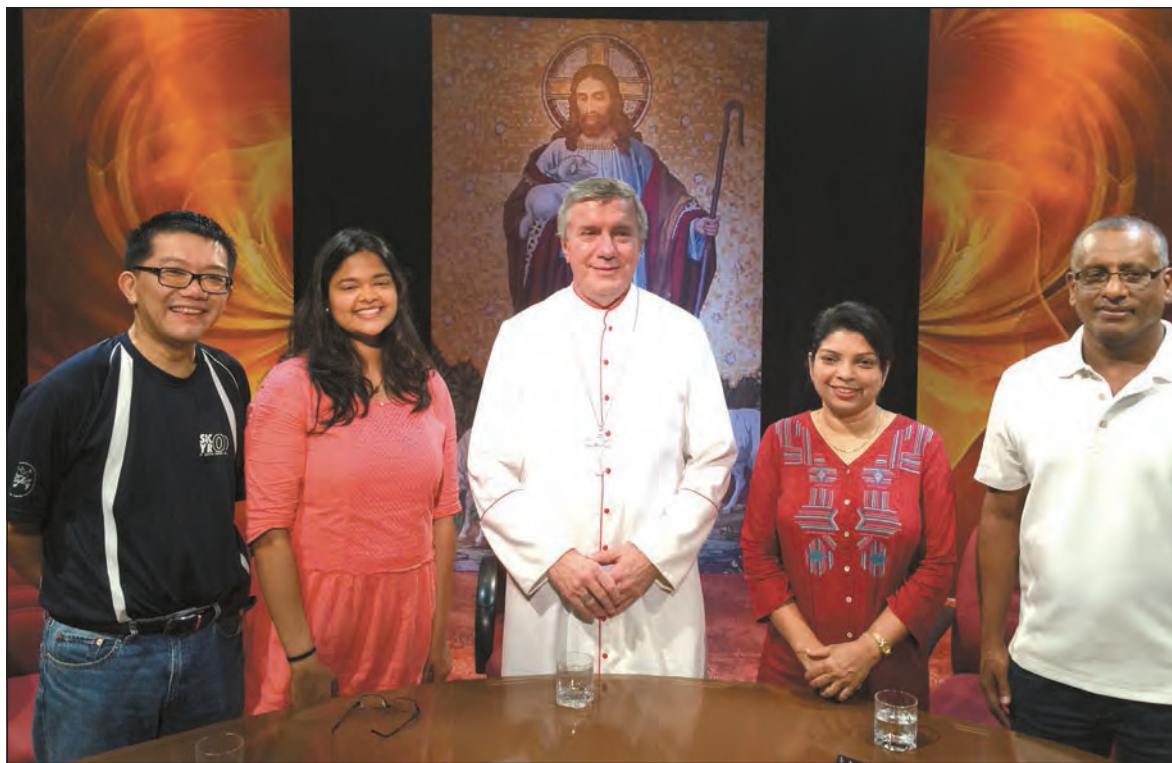
“It gave me the opportunity of thanking the Catholic Indian community in Kerala for all that they’re doing in Australia and in our Archdiocese in offering their sons and daughters to come here and assist us in ministry,” he said.

There are several Archdiocesan priests who originate from Kerala, and during his time there, Archbishop Christopher met with the parents of Fr Assin, who arrived in the Archdiocese earlier this year.

“I was able to personally thank them for sending their son out to us,” he said.

“We forget that priests coming from overseas do have parents and families and it means a lot to the families to have a child of theirs in another part of the world.”

The Archbishop said it was important that the Church in



Archbishop Christopher Prowse with a group of panellists featured on a television show broadcast on Goodness TV, a station that operates from the Divine Retreat Centre in Kerala, India. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Australia recognised the generosity of the Church in India and responded accordingly.

“The Catholic Church in Australia is welcoming and inviting quite a lot of priests from India to all our dioceses and we’re all benefitting from that,” he said.

“But it’s got to be a two-way street, we’ve got to be able to also offer gifts back to India to thank them.”

One way of returning the favour would be for Australian parishes or dioceses to connect

with an Indian parish or diocese and work together on common projects, the Archbishop said.

It was the second time Archbishop Christopher had taken part in the international youth conference, which attracted about 3,500 participants.

He described the event as a “mini World Youth Day”.

“I gave talks on the Sacraments, the love of God as expressed in the Scriptures, and the Sacrament of Matrimony,” he said.

“If I wasn’t giving talks, or

celebrating Mass, then I was in the television station speaking on all sorts of different topics... I was involved in about eight programs.”

Kerala, which is home to the largest number of Catholics in India, is a “powerhouse” for the Catholic faith at present, Archbishop Christopher said.

“It’s a vibrant Catholic community with a tremendous evangelisation outreach to the world, particularly with personnel - priests, brothers and nuns,” he said.

Joseph pledges to sleep in his car for 15 weeks for Vinnies

JOSEPH Frawley, a former intern at the St Vincent de Paul Society, has committed to sleeping in his car for 15 weeks while he completes his Law Honours thesis at the Australian National University, to raise awareness and funds for the Society’s Clemente higher education program.

Joseph’s thesis sleepout started on July 20 and will run through to October 30.

“I’ve been sleeping in my car to put myself through a little bit of disadvantage to try and imagine what some people really have to go through, whilst also raising money and awareness,” Joseph said.

The Clemente program enables people who have experienced homelessness, family breakdown, addictions, mental health issues or disabilities to access a higher education program. Last year 119 people enrolled in the program.

“Joseph’s selfless dedication to making a difference in the community and giving a hand up to people less fortunate is incredibly humbling,” the Society’s president Frank Brassil said.

Joseph is aiming to raise \$13,000 - a dollar for every word of his 13,000-word thesis.

To donate, visit www.joesleepout.wordpress.com.



University student Joseph Frawley is raising funds for the St Vincent de Paul Society’s Clemente program by sleeping in his car for 15 weeks. PHOTO: STUART HAY

Advertisement

HOME BASE



Gerard Heffernan

Major Banks in a Shake Up

Recently you will have noticed that the major banks have come under fire as they have raised interest rates on investor’s loans.

This is a direct result from the crackdown from Australia’s regulatory body, APRA, who have ordered the 4 major banks to hold billions of dollars more in reserve to protect against losses on their loan portfolios. They have been telling them this for more than 2 years!

The losers are the existing clients who now are paying 0.27-0.29%pa higher on their loans or \$1080 more on a \$400,000 loan.

The winners are the smaller banks and we will now see a shift in investment lending toward the smaller lenders who have not been as impacted by the APRA scrutiny as the major 4.

New investment borrowers will also be impacted and so it does pay to seek professional advice if you are looking for this type of lending and potentially save you thousands of dollars.

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Building the Church

www.cdf.cg.catholic.org.au

Women's League branch set to close

ONE of the last branches of the Catholic Women's League (CWL) in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn will meet for the last time next month.

Members of the Dickson branch voted to close the group at its August 18 meeting, with the lack of new members the major reason for the decision.

There are currently 17 financial members of the group, although most have been members for many years.

The monthly meetings will continue on the third Tuesday of September and October, and the group will gather for a Mass of thanksgiving on November 17.

The branch's closure means there is only one CWL group left in Canberra, which is based in Curtin.

It's expected that several members of the Dickson branch will join the group in Curtin.

The CWL was first established in the Archdiocese in 1945. It works to support the clergy, give solace to the lonely and provide practical help to the needy.



Members of the Dickson branch of the Catholic Women's League. Back row, left to right, Pat Zurzi, Margot Whitey, Lorraine Vahland, Marie Flood, Marie Gallagher, Maurine Rogers. Front row, left to right, Mieke Foley, Marj Dobson, Betty Tuohy, Lady Mary Scholtens, and Anne O'Neill.

PHOTO: MATTHEW BIDDLE

Tony joins the extended Franciscan family

ON the feast of the Assumption, August 15, Tony Bozicevic made a lifelong commitment to live the Gospel life of poverty and simplicity in the Secular Franciscan Order (SFO).

He was received into the Order by the local minister, Anthony Dunncliff-Hagan in the presence of Franciscan priest Fr Norbert Pittorino OFM.

Mr Bozicevic said the way St Francis of Assisi lived the message of the Gospel had provided him with inspiration to attempt to do likewise.

"[St Francis] saw that the Gospels were not just books to be read, but they show us a lifestyle that is supposed to be lived," he said.

"As Christians we are all called to live the message of the Gospels to the best of our ability. As Franciscans we are inspired to live it with the same spirit as St Francis."

Fr Norbert said the SFO, sometimes referred to as the Third Order of Franciscans, is a way of life and not simply a pious sodality.

"Secular Franciscans make a commitment to follow Franciscan spirituality in the way they live and work for the rest of their lives," he said.

"While it does not bind a member under oath as it does



Above, members of the Secular Franciscan Order gathered on August 15 to witness Tony Bozicevic's entry into the Order. Right, local minister Anthony Dunncliff-Hagan receives Mr Bozicevic into the Order.

PHOTOS: LOUI SESELJA

in a Religious Order, it does imply a serious commitment to live this way of life until death.

"It is a promise, under honour, to come closer to the Lord following the example of St Francis or Assisi and St Clare of Assisi by living up to their ideals as far as possible while still remaining in a secular state."

Mr Bozicevic said he was attracted to the SFO because it allows him to be a member of the extended Franciscan family

without being a professed religious.

"It enables us to keep our day jobs and remain open to marriage and family life," he said. "The SFO enables me to belong to a Religious Order of the Church while still remaining in the world, and by living in the world I am able to live my apostolate through my everyday work."

The SFO was founded almost 800 years ago by St Francis, for people who, due to

marital life and family commitments, could not enter the monastic life of the First Order (priests and brothers) or the Second Order (Poor Clare nuns).

During St Francis' lifetime, many married men and women were drawn to the SFO. There are more than 400,000 secular Franciscans worldwide, and about 40 fraternities of secular Franciscans in Australia.

The SFO is open to all lay people of faith who feel



inspired to live the Gospels in the spirit of St Francis of Assisi, and who feel a special belonging to the Franciscan family.

ACU reflects on 25 years of education

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

"DOES this place glorify Jesus?"

That was the question Archbishop Christopher Prowse reflected upon during his homily at Australian Catholic University's 25th anniversary Mass on August 20.

Speaking in front of a small crowd of staff and students, the Archbishop thanked God for blessing the university over the past 25 years, and challenged it to live out the objectives of Catholic education.

"We are not here to glorify ourselves," he said.

"We are just earthenware vessels that carry the pure gold of Jesus and that's what Catholic education is about and that's what Australian Catholic University is ultimately about.

"Does this place glorify Jesus? Is this a place where the Holy Spirit dwells?"

Archbishop Christopher spoke about his time in the Middle East last year, particularly his visit to a Catholic university in Beirut.

"There was a vibrancy about that place," he said.

"They didn't want money, they didn't want prestige, they didn't want the good looks, they didn't want extra egoisms.

"They wanted Calvary, they wanted crucified love."

While Catholics in Beirut



From left to right, Judith Norris, Amanda Johnson, Archbishop Christopher Prowse, ACU's Canberra campus dean Patrick McArdle, Connie Ryan and Sr Rosemary Lewins after the 25th anniversary Mass.

PHOTO: MATTHEW BIDDLE

face the real possibility of martyrdom for their faith, the Archbishop said a different

"I'm looking for martyrs and I'm looking for humility in Catholic education," he

sense of martyrdom about how we go about our education."

"A Catholic university enables the Catholic point of view to enter fully, publicly and equally into the great debates of our time."

type of persecution existed in Australia, which we need to be willing to accept.

said. "We pray in humility and also with great sacrifice, for a

The university also held celebrations for the milestone in Sydney, with more than 400

people attending a special Mass at St Mary's Cathedral on July 31, including Prime Minister Tony Abbott and several other distinguished guests.

Speaking at a dinner after the Mass, ACU Vice-Chancellor Greg Craven said the tertiary institution had humble beginnings.

"Our university began on January 1, 1991," he said.

"We had one professor, one Vice-Chancellor, three faculties and 5,000 students spread across eight campuses in four States.

"The early founders of the university must contemplate its present reality with astonishment and hopefully pride."

Today, there are more than 32,000 students from 90 different countries studying at seven campuses.

Professor Craven quoted the late Cardinal Edward Clancy, who was the founding Chancellor of ACU, in articulating the purpose of Catholic universities.

"[It is to] bring Catholic convictions and principles into the university arena to subject them to the public and searching analysis of scholars of every academic and ideological background," he said.

"A Catholic university enables the Catholic point of view to enter fully, publicly and equally into the great debates of our time."

Couples prepare for the Vatican

CANBERRA couples Anna and Tony Di Pietro and Faye and Kevin Noonan will join three other Australian couples for an audience with Pope Francis at the Vatican this month.

The group will be in Rome with other leaders of Equipes Notre-Dame (Teams), where they will discuss the issues for marriage globally, as well as future directions for the movement.

With 134,000 members in more than 70 countries, Teams is one of the largest and most diverse movements for married couples in the Church. At a time of falling Mass attendance, Teams has grown worldwide every year since its inception in France in the late 1930s.

Couples will be travelling to Rome from all parts of the globe, including significant contingents from Europe, the USA and South America, as well as representatives from Africa and the Middle East.

There are also hopes and prayers that representatives will



Australian members of Equipes Notre-Dame (Teams).

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

be able to attend from world trouble spots such as Syria.

Couples involved with Teams meet in the home of a couple each month for a meal and discussion on diverse topics about relationships, the Church and the world. Over time couples become close, supporting each other and sharing about the

issues that matter in their lives.

There are about 180 Teams in the Oceania region, comprising about 1,700 members in Australia, New Zealand and the Philippines. For more information about Teams, email RegionalTeam@incanberra.com.au or visit the website: www.teamsoceania.com.au.



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Heavyweights debate euthanasia

The robust and respectful exchange held a large audience captive for almost two hours, as Robert Hiini explains...*

A PACKED Town Hall witnessed a once-in-a-decade event on August 13 when the Archbishop of Sydney, Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP, debated Princeton Professor of bioethics Peter Singer on whether voluntary euthanasia should be legalised.

ABC religion and ethics editor Scott Stephens opened proceedings at his own, playful expense, saying the tribalism typical on “a certain ABC television show on Monday nights” was about to be eclipsed by the “civil” and “deeply humane” engagement that would ensue.

Neither he nor the audience were left disappointed, with Professor Singer and Archbishop Fisher trading their respective 12-minute arguments and five-minute rebuttals before taking 40 minutes’ worth of questions from the floor in a robust, but never bitter, exchange.

In what the Archbishop described as a “generous” gesture, Professor Singer adopted the definition of euthanasia outlined by Archbishop Fisher in his historic 2004 debate with euthanasia advocate Dr Philip Nitschke (“an act or calculated course of omission intended to shorten life with a supposedly merciful motivation”).

Professor Singer argued that killing by voluntary euthanasia did not violate the autonomy of a person but respected it, adding that a competent, well-informed adult was “the best judge of whether the quality of their life is still acceptable and, with the informed view of doctors... whether it can be expected to get better or not”.

He said he was not “an absolutist about autonomy” and did not want to make it easy for people to end their lives because of a condition that was otherwise treatable or from which they had a reasonable hope of recovery, such as sadness after a failed romantic relationship.

In his view, there wasn’t much of a moral difference between euthanasia regimes in which doctors provided people with lethal injections, or regimes of physician assisted suicide (PAS) in which doctors provided patients with prescriptions for death inducing drugs.

PAS regimes, particularly in the USA, Professor Singer said, had proven that strict conditions could be imposed on euthanasia without it spreading to other vulnerable people and groups. Archbishop Fisher opened his case by offering two wartime



Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP and Professor Peter Singer squared off in a public debate on whether voluntary euthanasia should be legalised on August 13 at Sydney's Town Hall.
PHOTO: GIOVANNI PORTELLI / CATHOLIC COMMUNICATIONS

scenarios of fatally wounded men: one who was shot in a mercy killing; and the other, who was held by his brother, reliving many of their childhood memories while drifting

from our first breath to our last, and that’s the basis of our equality and our human rights. That’s the reason we protect even the hopeless.”

Real world examples, par-

efficiency, beauty and productivity above all else, would begin to internalise its logic, eliminating themselves with the aid of the state so as not to be a “burden” on others.

to answer questions outside of what he deemed to be the scope of the debate question: particularly questions about the spread of voluntary euthanasia to involuntary cases.

One such question came from a man with spina bifida myelomeningocele who asked how people in favour of legalising euthanasia could reasonably assess future suffering, referencing the euthanising of babies and infants, including those with spina bifida, in the Netherlands.

But there were also moments of levity.

During a testy exchange between Professor Singer and a questioner, Archbishop Fisher calmed the audience’s discomfort by pointing out that the Professor’s 1979 book, *Practical Ethics*, to which the questioner had referred, was now in its third edition and for sale in the foyer.

The full debate is available on the Sydney University Catholic Society’s YouTube channel.

**This article first appeared in The Catholic Weekly and is republished with permission.*

“However reduced our condition, we have a radical dignity from our first breath to our last, and that’s the basis of our equality and our human rights. That’s the reason we protect even the hopeless.”

- Archbishop Anthony Fisher



in and out of consciousness until death.

“Arguably that second approach puts a higher value on human love and relationships but also is more demanding. It asks more of people,” the Archbishop said.

“In Professor Singer’s view of life... its point is fulfilling preferences, whereas on my view of life... it is intrinsically valuable,” the Archbishop said.

“However reduced our condition, we have a radical dignity

particularly in Europe, provided ample evidence of what happens when the “logic” of euthanasia is enacted in a society, with euthanasia now not limited to the terminally ill, but extended to the seriously sick, mentally ill, babies and children.

“If relieving suffering is what the euthanasia debate is all about then we have to be honest with ourselves about where that leads,” Archbishop Fisher said.

People already under pressure in a culture which valued

“Euthanasia is sold to the community as being for the extreme cases, for unrelievable pain – especially for the terminally ill – but then it’s extended to those who are chronically sick; those with mental illnesses, those with existential despair,” the Archbishop said.

“There is bracket creep; it evolves.”

While always civil, the night was not devoid of biting moments.

Professor Singer declined

Calls to halt Planned Parenthood funding

HUNDREDS of demonstrations were held outside Planned Parenthood clinics across the USA in August, with protesters calling on the Federal Government to stop funding the abortion giant.

After videos were released in July showing Planned Parenthood officials discussing their foetal tissue donation program in graphic detail, the Chicago-based Pro-Life Action League called on a national day of protest.

Eric Scheidler, the group's executive director, said that "with 240 out of 342 cities reporting" more than 58,000 people turned out to protest on August 22.

"Great day! Except for Planned Parenthood!" he tweeted that evening.

His organisation teamed up with other pro-life groups including Created Equal and 40 Days for Life to organise the national protest in a matter of a few weeks.

Charmaine Yoest, president and CEO of Americans United for Life, posted photos on Twitter of demonstrations around the country showing crowds of protesters wrapped around city blocks in front of various Planned Parenthood facilities.

Lila Rose of Live Action posted a collage of protesters holding signs with the slogan "Planned Parenthood sells baby parts" and commented that, "America is waking up and speaking out! May we see a world where every life is protected".



Pro-life groups hold a rally opposing Federal funding for Planned Parenthood in Washington, DC on July 28.

PHOTO: OLIVIER DOULIERY / GETTY IMAGES

In the videos released by the citizen journalist group Centre for Medical Progress, Planned Parenthood officials discussed the collection and transfer of body parts from aborted foetuses, compensation and itemisation of the parts, and possible alteration of abortion pro-

cedures to obtain more intact specimens.

In the most recent video, a former StemExpress technician described harvesting organs from "the most gestated foetus and closest thing to a baby that I've seen".

The videos have sparked

investigation and calls for the removal of funding to Planned Parenthood from both Congressional and State legislators and officials.

The organisation receives more than \$500 million a year from the United States Federal Government.

Planned Parenthood maintains that it has been acting within federal law, and that any donation of foetal organs of aborted babies are made with the mother's consent and are not done for "valuable consideration".

- CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY

Pope: 'Teach your children how to pray'

BY ANN SCHNEIBLE
CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY

POPE Francis continued his weekly catechesis on the family on August 26, saying that parents have the responsibility to teach their children to pray.

Delivering his address to pilgrims and visitors gathered for the weekly general audience in St Peter's Square, the Pontiff stressed the importance of teaching children how to show love for God through prayer.

"It is beautiful when mothers teach their little children to blow a kiss to Jesus or to Our Lady. What tenderness there is in this," he said. "In that moment the child's heart is transformed into a place of prayer. And this is a gift of the Holy Spirit."

However, in off-the-cuff remarks, the Pope lamented how there are children who are

not taught the most basic prayers by their parents, a phenomena he said he has witnessed in the city.

"There are children who have not learned how to make the sign of the cross," he said. "You, mother, father - teach your children how to pray, how to make the sign of the cross."

Children should learn prayer with "the same spontaneity" as when they learn to say "daddy" and "mummy", so that it stays with them forever, the Pope added.

The Pope's address was the latest in a series of catecheses dedicated to the family.

Since late last year, the Pontiff has been centring his Wednesday addresses on this theme as part of the lead-up to the World Meeting of Families in September, as well as October's Synod of Bishops on the Family.



Pope Francis embraces a baby on August 26.

PHOTO: L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

In his catechesis, delivered in Italian, the Holy Father observed how many Christians know they need prayer, but do not have the time.

"Their regret is sincere, certainly, because the human heart always seeks prayer, even

without knowing it; and if it does not find it, it does not have peace," he said.

It is for this reason that Christians must cultivate a love for God, he said.

Pope Francis acknowledged there is little time available in

family life, but said by finding time to pray, we "give time back to God".

In so doing, we escape the obsession with not having enough time, rediscover "peace in the important things", and "discover the joy in unexpected gifts".

As he has done on numerous occasions, the Holy Father encouraged the faithful to read the Gospel every day, saying it is a particularly important practice for families.

"The Gospel, read and meditated on in the family, is like good bread which nourishes the hearts of everyone," he said.

"In the family of prayer, in strong moments and in difficult periods, may we be entrusted to one another, in order that every one of us in the family may be protected by God's love."

The cost of redefining marriage

American scholar Ryan Anderson travelled to Canberra in August to warn Australians of the consequences redefining marriage will have on children, religious freedom, and society, as Matthew Biddle explains...

REDEFINING marriage will have significant consequences for Australian society, American Ryan Anderson warned hundreds of Canberrans on August 18.

Speaking at a gathering at Parliament House organised by the Australian Christian Lobby, the renowned speaker and author spoke about the American experience with same-sex marriage and the need for careful consideration of the consequences of changing the Marriage Act.

Dr Anderson, a senior research fellow at The Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank in Washington DC, began by clarifying the oft-quoted but misleading term, ‘marriage equality’.

“Everyone in this auditorium is in favour of marriage equality,” he said.

“We all want the government to treat all marriages equally. What we disagree about is what sort of relationship is a marriage.

“It’s only if you can answer the question of what marriage is can you then determine whether or not any given marriage policy is violating equality or upholding equality. Simply appealing to equality alone doesn’t get you anywhere.

“Marriage equality is a great slogan, a great hashtag for Twitter, but it’s utterly vacuous when it comes to actual intellectual substance, because no one’s against marriage equality.”

A decision to redefine marriage, Dr Anderson asserted, would affect what is taught in schools, and as a result, impact upon the culture, beliefs and actions of society.

“The law will teach your children and your children’s children either that marriage is about a man and a woman... or that marriage is about whatever size and shape consenting adult romance comes in,” he said.

“If you redefine marriage to make it a genderless institution, there’s no institution left in your public life that upholds even the ideal that every child deserves both a mother and a father.

“[It] sends the signal that men and women are interchangeable

and therefore mothers and fathers are replaceable.”

Historically, Dr Anderson said, marriage between a man and a woman has been based on three secular truths.

“It was based on an anthropological truth that men and women are distinct and complementary,” he said. “It was based on a biological fact that reproduction requires both a man and a woman. And it was based on a social reality that children deserve both a mother and a father.

“When you combine those three secular truths about human nature, it explains why every culture throughout human history viewed marriage as a union of male and female.”

If marriage were to be redefined to include same-sex couples, other relationships would also be included in the definition in time. Dr Anderson said Americans are now pushing for the definition of marriage to extend to what they call “thrupples” – three person relationships.

“The logic of the redefinition of marriage leads well beyond same-sex couples,” he said.

“If you have a referendum and you say that justice requires you to redefine marriage for marriage equality for the same-sex couple, on what basis do you then deny marriage equality to the same-sex thrupple or, for that matter, to the opposite sex quartet?

“It simply follows the logic that if marriage is just about consenting adult romance... why can’t three, four or more people have that?”

The definition of parenting and of children would also be changed if marriage was redefined, Dr Anderson argued.

“It will lead to an increase in assisted reproductive technologies, it will lead to an increase in surrogacy, in sperm donors, and egg donors,” he said

“What do we know about these technologies? They create many more embryos than will ever be implanted and delivered. So many of these embryos end up in freezers or being destroyed - very early human beings at the very beginning of their lives are extinguished.

“These children are being cre-



Dr Ryan Anderson addressed a large crowd of Canberrans at Parliament House on August 18, warning of the dangers of rushing into changing the Marriage Act. The American author and speaker encouraged Australians to speak up in defence of traditional marriage.

PHOTOS: ONLINE

ated with the intention of then depriving them of a relationship with either a mum or a dad. This is unlike anything else in human life.”

er and father are present in the lives of their children is still pursued, Dr Anderson said.

“Sometimes marriages fall apart and divorce is a tragic ne-

won’t have a married mum and a dad. But no one sets up those things as the ideal.

“If you redefine what marriage is, you will change what

Religious freedom would also be jeopardised if marriage was redefined, as has already occurred in the USA, Dr Anderson said.

“Don’t allow the LGBT lobby to intimidate you into silence. If people who believe the truth about marriage don’t speak up to defend it, that’s a sure fire way of making sure that the LGBT activists win on this issue. But if you all speak up, you then give courage to your neighbours who believe the same things you believe but thought they were all alone.”

- Dr Ryan Anderson

Although the institution of marriage has been weakened in recent times, with increased levels of divorce and separation, an ideal scenario where a moth-

cessity,” he said.

“Sometimes someone gets pregnant outside of marriage and they choose life for that child but that means the child

that ideal is, and biotechnologies will then be used to fill in those gaps.

“By design, a mum or a dad will be missing.”

“We’ve seen adoption agencies run by the Catholic Church in the United States forced to shut down because they wanted to find children homes with



married mums and dads,” he said.

“Bakers, florists and photographers - various professionals whose professional lives intersect with the wedding industry - have been penalised by the government.

“What’s vitally important to point out here is that none of these professionals ever said something like ‘I don’t serve gays and lesbians’... their only objection was to the same-sex wedding.”

Already in Australia there are hints at what the future could have in store for those who defend traditional marriage, Dr Anderson said. He referred to the treatment of fellow American Katy Faust on the ABC’s Q&A program earlier in August.

Ms Faust was raised by her lesbian mother and her partner, and while she speaks lovingly of them, she believes children deserve a mother and a father.

“Repeatedly the other panelists said ‘You’re a hater, this is evangelical clap-trap, this is irrational, this is bigotry, this is hatred’,” Dr Anderson said regarding Ms Faust’s treatment on the program.

“If that’s what they’re saying now, when our view about marriage is the law, what will they do after the government rede-

fines marriage?”

Religion, Dr Anderson said, need not even come into the debate.

“There’s no conflict between faith and reason,” he said. “The best of philosophy and the best of theology point to the same conclusion.”

He concluded by encouraging Australians to speak without fear, and to learn from the mistakes of the United States.

“This is even more fundamental than your tax rates and your free trade policies. This goes at the very heart of human society and human culture,” he said.

“Don’t allow the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) lobby to intimidate you into silence. If people who believe the truth about marriage don’t speak up to defend it, that’s a sure fire way of making sure that the LGBT activists win on this issue. But if you all speak up, you then give courage to your neighbours who believe the same things you believe but thought they were all alone.

“You guys have the chance to be the country that gets this right. You might be the remaining Western nation, the remaining English-speaking nation that doesn’t redefine marriage, which will then be the example for the rest of the world.”

Key developments in the marriage debate

MAY 22

Ireland votes in favour of allowing same-sex marriage in an historic referendum, making it the world’s first country to make the change after a popular vote.



MAY 26



Labor Opposition Leader Bill Shorten announces his party will move a bill to legalise same-sex marriage in the coming days.

MAY 28

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference releases a pastoral letter titled *Don’t Mess With Marriage* outlining the Church’s position on same-sex marriage.



JUNE 1



Bill Shorten introduces a private member’s bill, the *Marriage Amendment (Marriage Equality) Bill 2015*, to Parliament, proposing the words “man and woman” in the Marriage Act be replaced by “two people”.

AUGUST 12

After a lengthy meeting, the Coalition party room decides to uphold the male-female definition of marriage as a fundamental party policy. Prime Minister Tony Abbott announces the Coalition will consider taking the issue to a plebiscite or referendum.



Cultural, religious groups support marriage

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

RELIGIOUS and cultural groups have declared their support for traditional marriage, with a number of leaders making their views known in recent weeks.

On August 12, a number of Muslim and Christian leaders issued a statement declaring their belief that the traditional definition of marriage be retained.

The head of the Supreme Islamic Shiite Council of Australia Sheikh Kamal Moselmani, the Maronite Bishop of Australia Antoine-Charbel Tarabay, and the Archbishop of the Melkite Catholic Eparchy of Australia and New Zealand Robert Rabbat were among the signatories of the statement.

"We are very concerned about the rush to introduce new legislation allowing for same-sex marriage, which is wrong both in policy and in principle," they wrote.

The leaders also expressed their concern over possible restrictions to freedom of religion as a result of the legalisation of same-sex marriage.

"On what basis will our faiths and their ministers be protected if we refuse to celebrate religious same-sex marriages? If same-sex marriage is implemented it will only be a matter of time before someone



Aboriginal Elder of Bundjalung Peter Stephens, left, with Wiradjuri man James Stephens, right. The pair were among the initiators of the Uluru Bark Petition, calling for the current definition of marriage to be preserved.

PHOTO: MATTHEW BIDDLE

sues us for refusing to marry them to their same-sex partner," they asserted.

Members of the Greek Orthodox Church have also

traditional marriage.

In a letter sent to the communities of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese in July, Archbishop Stylianos

the institution of the family more generally," he wrote.

"As Orthodox Christians, therefore, we are obliged, once again, to express in the strong-

"On what basis will our faiths and their ministers be protected if we refuse to celebrate religious same-sex marriages?"

been urged to have their voices heard on the issue, with the Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church encouraging his people to sign a petition to the Australian Senate in support of

Harkianakis warned against the redefinition of marriage.

"Should such an Act be legalised, [it will have] destructive consequences on the institution of marriage, but also on

est possible terms, our objection to the enactment of such legislation."

The first means of expressing such objection is through prayer, the Archbishop said.

"We are also called upon to protest by gathering signatures, requesting the defeat of the proposed legislation," Archbishop Stylianos wrote.

In Canberra, a group of Indigenous leaders presented a special petition calling for the preservation of the current definition of marriage to the House of Representatives on August 20.

Known as the Uluru Bark Petition, it states that marriage between man and woman is, and has always been, sacred to the oldest living culture on earth, and as such it is "an affront to the Aboriginal people of Australia to suggest another definition of marriage".

The petition was signed by more than 70 individual members of about 47 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nations.

Aboriginal Elder of Bundjalung and one of the initiators of the petition Peter Walker said the presentation of the petition to Parliament was an historic occasion for Indigenous Australians.

"I'm not an anti-gay campaigner, I'm also not homophobic as some of the media portrays me," he said.

"As an elder and traditional custodian of the land I say it is important to allow the Indigenous ancient voice to be heard in this debate."



Flowers were arranged to form the words 'MUM & DAD' on the lawn of Parliament House as a way of thanking Prime Minister Tony Abbott for supporting marriage.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Floral display sends a message of thanks

MORE than 3,000 bouquets of flowers were placed in front of Parliament House in Canberra on August 11 as a way of thanking Prime Minister Tony Abbott for supporting traditional marriage.

The collection of flowers, which were arranged to form the words 'MUM & DAD',

was organised by the Christian Federation as a way of encouraging Mr Abbott and Federal MPs on the day of Parliament's resumption.

Executive director of the Christian Federation Peter Kentley said many Australians believe the current definition of marriage is "great".

"We represent a group of Australians who think that the way we've got marriage balanced now is pretty good," he said. "No one's being discriminated against with civil unions and de factos, we all just accept one another."

Family First Senator Bob Day, who greeted the organisers,

said the floral message was an innovative and enterprising initiative.

"Gestures like this are a really smart thing to do, because it taps into the traditional sentiment of most Australians," he said.

"If there was a referendum on whether to insert a change

[to the Marriage Act] ... I think the Australian people would vote no."

On the same day, a full-page advertisement produced by the Australian Marriage Forum appeared in *The Australian* newspaper. The ad declared: "All relationships matter. But not all relationships are marriage".

Families called to be 'creative minorities'

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

'MARRIAGE Sunday' was celebrated for the first time in the Archdiocese on July 26, with a special Mass at St Christopher's Cathedral honouring the beauty and dignity of marriage.

Married couples from around the Archdiocese attended the Mass, which concluded with a special nuptial blessing conferred by Vicar-General Fr Tony Percy.

During his homily, Fr Tony said it was important to recognise that no marriage or family

is perfect.

"Dysfunction exists within each one of us – perhaps more so than we care to admit," he said.

"And so logically, marriage

often used by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI.

"Jesus own words can encourage us, through our marriages and families, to be the new 'creative minorities'

We need to speak about this more and acknowledge it.

"Societies are built upon the foundation rock of communities, the most fundamental of which is marriage and family,

"Societies are built upon the foundation rock of communities, the most fundamental of which is marriage and family."

and family is dysfunctional. But it is the best thing we have in support of each other. Despite our wounds, we deeply desire to stick together."

Fr Tony said families are "creative minorities" – a phrase

that will help build society from inside out," he said.

"By entering into marriage and beginning the adventure of starting a family, husband and wife contribute enormously to the well being of society.

since it is a society of love and life."

The former seminary rector and author of *Theology of the Body Made Simple* concluded by outlining the five pillars that marriage stands upon.

Marriage, he said, is a covenant; is a partnership between a man and a woman for life; is good for husband and wife; is for the procreation and education of children, and, is a sacrament.

"We can see from this that marriage is not primarily a right, but a gift of God and like all gifts of God an interplay of divine and human freedom," Fr Tony said.

Special Masses celebrating the gift of marriage were held in several dioceses around the country during the months of July and August.

Putting children first is not homophobia

It's time for careful consideration of the implications of changing the Marriage Act, writes Archbishop Julian Porteous...

THE recent decision by the Coalition partyroom to continue to uphold the existing legal definition of marriage, effectively putting off any possibility of change until after the next election, has provided the Australian people with the opportunity to step back from the emotion and vitriol of the debate and more closely consider the arguments on both sides.

In particular, this is a time for serious and careful consideration of the arguments advanced for changing the Marriage Act.

Much of the case advanced for change has been based on rather simple sloganeering: 'All love is equal', 'End discrimination against same-sex couples', 'Fight for marriage equality'.

Yet in the rush to overcome what seemingly appears to be some great injustice, no serious consideration has been given to the full implications of the proposed change and its possible unintended consequences for society. I want to suggest that there are several crucial issues that have not been properly addressed or considered.

First, to oppose changing the Marriage Act to include same-sex couples is not homophobic or dangerous to those who have same-sex attraction.

In a democratic society we need to ensure that everyone is given the opportunity to put their case for public policy reform and have that case exposed to rigorous and critical examination.

All of us can claim to have strong feelings on this issue, so it does not help the discussion for one side to claim they are more emotionally invested in it



The debate about marriage should be calm and respectful of all positions, says Archbishop Julian Porteous.

PHOTO: ONLINE

than those on the other side. The debate in our society needs to be calm and respectful of all positions.

What concerns me greatly is that Australian Marriage Equality's director Rodney Croome has already indicated that he is opposed to free speech on this issue. Rather than encourage reasoned debate and discussion, Croome has called on parents whose children attend Catholic schools in Tasmania to make formal complaints to the State's Anti-Discrimination Commissioner about my decision to provide them with information outlining the Catholic teaching on marriage.

Such an approach is completely opposed to the nature of Australian democratic values. This is a worrying development. If Croome genuinely believes that providing material on Catholic teaching to parents

with children at Catholic schools is in some way discriminatory, I have great fears for the future of our democracy.

Instead of seeking to shut down debate, Croome and those pushing for change should be encouraging everyone to examine the arguments on both sides.

Yet in some ways we should not be surprised at this development. In countries that have changed their legal definition of marriage, pastors and priests face legal threats for merely announcing Christian teaching on marriage and sexuality that has existed for more than two millennia.

Once the legal definition is changed it is inevitable that those who hold the traditional understanding of marriage will be persecuted. Faith-based schools and religious organisations will come under tremendous pressure to stop speaking

about their particular teaching on marriage for fear of prosecution. There is no way of guaranteeing this will not happen.

In all this debate over marriage we have forgotten the reason society has singled out the marriage relationship for particular legal recognition and support.

Marriage is ultimately about children. Social science studies overwhelmingly show that, all things being equal, children do best when reared by their biological parents in a loving, married relationship.

We all yearn to know where we come from and to grow up with our biological mother and father, who have committed themselves to each other in a relationship of lifelong sexual fidelity. Married love is fundamentally different from other types of love because it has the unique capacity to generate children.

Most cultures and people throughout history have given special recognition to the marriage relationship because it is the best environment for rearing children. Same-sex relationships are fundamentally different and have not received the same legal recognition because this type of relationship, by its very nature, is incapable of generating children.

It is a great tragedy when a child is forced to grow up without contact with their biological mother and/or father because of death, separation or divorce. As a society, we must do all that we can to prevent such situations.

However, it is a different matter altogether for governments to give further legal sanction and endorsement to relationships that would seek to create a child with the intention of depriving that child of the opportunity to be reared by their biological parents in a loving married relationship.

Already children of same-sex unions are speaking of their confusion and hurt. They are sensing that they have been denied something vital for full human growth - the experience of the love of both a father and a mother.

Any decision will have significant implications on the nurturing of the next generation.

This will be significant not only for children being reared in same-sex households but also in terms of the messages going out to children about the nature of marriage and family. Our nation rightly prizes its spirit of freedom and fairness, and this debate must not diminish these values.

** Archbishop Julian Porteous is the Archbishop of Hobart.*

SUPPORT our Fathers

CLERGY RETIREMENT FOUNDATION



Our Diamond Jubilarians Fathers Adrian Cork & Kevin Flynn



Father Kevin Flynn celebrating his
Diamond Jubilee Mass at St Raphael's
church Queanbeyan

Father's Day
Appeal
Sunday, September
6

Two of our much loved retired priests,
Fathers Adrian Cork and Kevin Flynn
proudly celebrated their Diamond
Jubilee of priestly ordination on the
1st and 3rd August respectively.

A large crowd of parishioners and
friends attended St Raphael's church
Queanbeyan on the 2nd August to be
with Fr Kevin as he celebrated Mass
with Fathers Tony Percy and Tom
Thornton.

Whilst the focus at that Mass was on
Fr Kevin's ministry over 60 years, he
made special mention of his old mate
Fr Adrian who, only the day before,
concelebrated Mass with him at his
retirement home in Garran ACT. The
two priests were joined by a small group
of parishioners from Fr Adrian's former
Parish of Michelago and despite his
frailty, Fr Kevin said 'it was all love and
happiness as he sat there with me and
we celebrated the Eucharist – it was
absolutely out of this world'.

Fr Kevin was born in Harden and
attended school at the De La Salle
Brothers in Cootamundra. After his
many parish appointments, and prior
to his retirement in 2003, he served as
Chaplain at the Goulburn Correctional
Centre.

Fr Adrian is one of few Canberra born
priests and even fewer who were
parishioners of the original parish
of Canberra which began in 1928.
He was born on the 24th January
1931 and attended the original parish
primary school of St Christopher's
at Manuka under the Sisters of the
Good Samaritan. He proceeded, with
classmate Tom Wright, to St Joseph's
College at Hunter's Hill in 1944 for
secondary education. They both went
on to seminary studies in 1949 at St

Columba's College, Springwood, and St
Patrick's Manly.

Fr Adrian was ordained on 1st August
1955 at St Christopher's church by
Archbishop Eris O'Brien. He had brief
appointments at Gundagai [1955],
Murrumburrah [1956], and Queanbeyan
[1959] with duties at HMAS Harman
[1961] and chaplain to the Rural
Movement and as assistant in the
Chancery. In 1964 he became fulltime
Diocesan Secretary to Archbishop
O'Brien to whom he was strongly
devoted when the Archbishop's health
was failing. When the Archbishop retired,
Fr Adrian took a parish appointment in
1968 at Bribbaree and moved as Parish
Priest to Evatt in 1974. Here he was
developing a 'greenfield' parish from
scratch, living always under financial
pressure to develop a residence, school
and church [St Monica's]. It seems that
he never took any recreation leave
in 15 years there. In 1989 he went to
Michelago as Parish Priest where the
pressures were not from school or
church needs, but the horrendous roads
to his station churches at Bredbo and
Jerangle through dust, rain and at times
snow.

From Michelago, Fr Adrian also took on,
in 1993, the role two days a week of
Chaplain at the Woden Valley [Canberra]
Hospital, residing in his old family
home at Forrest. In this period he also
experienced a serious car accident.

In 2011 he retired to the Foundation's
Lanigan House, Garran, and after a short
time there, he moved into residential
care at Ozanam Apartments also in
Garran.



Dear Friends in Christ,

On the weekend of the 5th and 6th
of September 2015 the Annual Fa-
ther's Day Appeal will be conducted
throughout the Archdiocese for our
retired priests and their practical
needs.

Despite the fact that we live in
very troubled times for the Catholic
Church, people continue to be ex-
traordinarily generous in all ways
to the priests who have been of
service to them over many years.

One aspect of the Archdiocese of
Canberra and Canberra is particu-
larly noteworthy in regard to our
retired priests is how many of them
make themselves available to help
out in parishes when the parish
priests are away on holidays or
sick. The generosity of what we call
"supply priests" from our priests in
retirement is quite extraordinary.
There are many other retired priests
who are just simply too sick to do
this. I know that they pray for our
parishes, our Archdiocese, and
especially for me their Archbishop.
We should never underestimate the
Lord working through the prayers
of intercession of us all, especially
our retired priests. This is their real
contemplative priestly mission as
they reach the twilight of their lives.

As we have loved them so much in
the years of their active service, we
continue to love them in the years
of their retirement, and especially
those in failing health. A practical
way of doing this is by giving gener-
ously to the Father's Day Appeal. It
is an appeal that I commend to your
generosity.

I thank you so much for the con-
tinued generosity and support you
give to our priests in these troubled
times.

With gratitude and hope in the
Lord.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+bb Howa

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Website:

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Thank you for your help in providing for the care of our sick and retired priests of the Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn

FDA 2015



OUR MISSION: CatholicCare Canberra & Goulburn is the welfare arm of the Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn. In keeping with the Catholic Church's Teachings we uphold the dignity of each person by:

- Providing high quality accessible services that are aligned with individual needs
- Empowering individuals, couples and families
- Promoting healthy, inclusive communities through relationships and collaboration for the common good



Who is CatholicCare Canberra & Goulburn?

CatholicCare Canberra & Goulburn have been part of the Canberra community for nearly 60 years! We are proud of our history stemming from a small volunteer base in the 1950's to the large multi-disciplinary agency that we are today.

What does CatholicCare do?

CatholicCare runs approximately 55 programs and services throughout Canberra, Goulburn and the surrounding regions.

Helping people involves valuing, strengthening, assisting, supporting and caring for people who are less advantaged in our community.

We have programs which help people in the following service areas

- Youth, Mental Health, Homelessness and Family Support Programs
- Disability and Aged Care
- Counselling
- Parenting and Mediation
- Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs

In the past year we helped approximately 10,000 people in our local region.

This year that number will increase.

Where are we located?

We have many offices around the Canberra and surrounding region including,

Manuka, Red Hill, Watson, Moruya and Goulburn. We have many other sites in the Archdiocese which we work in and this includes our school counsellors in many of the Catholic schools.



Volunteers

Many of our Programs could not run without the assistance of our fantastic volunteers.

Would you like to contribute to your community and assist us with the great work we do?

We need volunteers in all areas.

Youth, Mental Health, Homelessness & Family Support Services, Family & Regional Services and Disability and Aged Care.

Are you looking for new employment?

We are always looking for motivated, enthusiastic and passionate staff.

Currently we employ around 300 staff in permanent, part-time and casual roles. Want to join us? We employ staff in the areas of Youth, Mental Health, Homelessness and Family Support Programs, Disability and Aged Care, Counselling, Regional and Family Services, Corporate & Staff Service and the CFO office.

Employment vacancies are advertised on our website. Here you can also find out about the great conditions we offer our staff, including generous salary packaging options and the 'day off' for your birthday each year.

Your Support

Would you like to help us do more?

Donations to CatholicCare Canberra & Goulburn help us to continue to reach those who are the most disadvantaged in our community. All donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible and make a huge difference to the lives of the people we support.



OUR VALUES: RESPECT STEWARDSHIP SOLIDARITY EXCELLENCE

Marymead, a household name since 1967

MARYMEAD, a well-respected not-for-profit organisation, has been a household name in Canberra since 1967. In recent years it has expanded its reach within the Archdiocese and now delivers a range of high quality, family support services throughout southern and western regions of NSW, as well as the ACT.

Marymead's array of programs and services include child and family counselling, early intervention programs, post separation support, parent education groups, foster care, family and mental health support programs, contact and changeover services for separated parents in significant conflict and support for grandparents raising their grandchildren.

Marymead also offers innovative, person-centred support services for people with disability and their families. These services may be purchased through funds received under the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), or may be supplied under HACC



Marymead delivers a range of high quality family support services in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

funding.

The services offered include:

- Marymead's award winning urban land community

harvest program (mulch), a social enterprise that provides skills development and networking opportunities;

- Short-term accommodation (respite) services, tailored to meet the needs and interests of the individual, in an

age appropriate setting;

- Kese, a residential respite service for children aged 5-12. Kese gives children experience away from home to build friendship groups, living skills, resilience and independence;

- In-home support for individuals and other family members;

- Community access and physical wellness programs;

- After school and school holiday programs (Wheelie Fun) for teenagers with complex needs. Young people meet peers and have fun in a supportive and enjoyable environment;

- Social support for children and young people whose families are affected by disability (Kids' Companions);

- Plan Coordination and Funds Management services to assist people to maximise their NDIS Plans.

For further information regarding any of Marymead's programs and services, please visit the Marymead website, marymead.org.au, or phone Marymead on (02) 6162 5800.



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Marymead, a well respected culturally inclusive, not-for-profit organisation is proud of its 48 year history of providing a range of high quality, innovative support services to children, young people and their families and is now delivering a broad range of programs throughout Canberra and regional NSW.

Our programs and services include the following:

Child and Family Counselling
Contact Program
Disability Support
Early Intervention
Family Support Programs
Foster Care

Grandparent's Support Network
Kids' Companions
Mental Health Family Support
Parent Education Groups
Post Separation Support
Respite Care

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Are you a rich oligarch or a poor nomad?



GOING DEEPER
BY SHANE DWYER

IN *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis has taken a stance that only the bravest of leaders could take. He's calling us to put our personal comfort aside. He wants each of us to contemplate what our contribution to the earth and all humanity should be.

His premise is that playing around with half-hearted attempts to address the current situation, but only to the degree that we are not personally inconvenienced, won't work. The only way others are going to get what they need and that the earth is going to heal, is if we are prepared to go without some of what we have. It's going to hurt.

In this encyclical, Pope Francis moves beyond environmental and scientific arguments and turns to Catholic theology. His contribution is founded on two central Catholic convictions.



Often those living in poverty are happier than those with a vast array of material goods and wealth.

PHOTO: ONLINE

Firstly, that the care for the poor is to be an essential pre-occupation for all Catholics. Secondly, creation is a gift and not to be taken for granted: we are to receive it and make use of it with an attitude of reverence and joy.

You may have seen a recent television series where British actress Joanna Lumley joined the Trans-Siberian railway

from Hong Kong to Moscow. It's a long way and the program suffered to some degree from trying to fit such a long and diverse journey into three one-hour programs.

However, I was struck particularly by a couple of the encounters she had. Her exchange with an extraordinarily wealthy Russian oligarch, with his Faberge Easter Egg adapted

as a vodka bottle container, was an eye-opener: super wealthy, forebodingly aggressive and surrounded by tight security. By way of contrast, her encounter with a small family of Mongolian nomads was funny and moving. This family shared with her all that they had – which was next to nothing. They offered their smallest possessions with joy. A cup of

mare's milk, highly valued, was offered to the honoured guest. While horse's milk is probably not Joanna's ideal beverage, she responded to it with cheerful gratitude.

It raises the obvious question: who's living the more sustainable and spiritually fulfilling life? Is it the Russian oligarch with his sumptuous surroundings and his bodyguards, or the Mongolian nomad with his small herd of horses and his joyful connection to the land? This is the question that Pope Francis is putting to all of us. He's saying to the oligarch (and to us) that we might actually be happier if we had less and valued it more.

So that the poor can have access to more than the bare minimum, you and I need to address the fact that many of us have much more than we need. There are people who are starving while we discard our excess and build bigger houses to store our possessions.

As the sons and daughters of God, developing gratitude and reverence for all of the gifts of the earth and growing in our willingness to share those gifts with those who cannot easily access them, must increasingly be part of who we are.

Pope asks for generosity, poverty



FOLLOWING FRANCIS
BY DEACON MATT RANSOM

"HOW I would like a Church that is poor and for the poor... And those words came to me: the poor, the poor. Then, right away, thinking of the poor, I thought of Francis of Assisi. Then I thought of all the wars, as the votes were still being counted," (Pope Francis).

Over the Christmas holidays last year, when my family and I were interstate, there was the chance for me to experience and participate in this 'poor Church for the poor' that Pope Francis is calling us to be.

Early on Christmas Day, we were with a Catholic group visiting a homeless persons shelter to feed the residents and bring them gifts. The team of volunteers met at a central location, packed up the barbecue, food and gifts for the morning and then travelled to

the accommodation.

Upon arriving at the fairly dilapidated residence, we set up the barbecue and began cooking, while some of us went and talked to the locals... hopefully bringing them some Christmas cheer. It was an eye-opening experience talking with people who, for a variety of reasons, found themselves facing great poverty with little support. It seemed to bring them some happiness, whilst the volunteers encountered the joy of giving

Pope Francis is reminding us to be generous and to use our gifts for others.

beyond themselves.

There was one middle-aged man, Robert, who needed to urgently chat to someone. As we both walked off to find a private place to talk, he let out this wild laugh at something I said that wasn't funny and I remember thinking, 'OK, be careful, this will be an interesting time'.

Robert then unloaded a whole lot of stuff he needed to talk through and after some time conversing we finished with prayer and a bite to eat. Robert's

case worker was aware of some of his concerns that were spoken about and was excellent in offering to take this further.

"A poor Church is a Church that practises voluntary simplicity in her life... breaking down every dividing wall, especially to the poor," (Pope Francis). This group that I had the opportunity to work with, on that early Christmas Day, were doing just that. All the volunteers came from stable middle-class families, however, this was not enough for them. These individuals were looking at ways to take their abilities and gifts and share the tremendous wealth that we Australians have, to those less well off.

Pope Francis isn't necessarily asking us to be poor, although some may have that specific call, however, he is reminding us of the call of Jesus, to be generous, to use our gifts for others and that storing up treasures on earth will never truly satisfy.

"Do not store up treasures for yourselves on earth, where moth and woodworm destroy them and thieves can break in and steal. But store up treasures for yourselves in heaven, where neither moth nor woodworm destroys them and thieves cannot break in and steal," (Matthew 6:19-20).

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What is the Catechism of the Catholic Church?



CATECHISM CORNER
BY FR WARRICK TONKIN

WELCOME to 'Catechism Corner'. Through this column I hope to be able to 'unpack' some of the riches of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. But first, a question: what IS this thing called a Catechism?

To discover the origin of our Catechism we need to go back to the 16th century when the Church issued the *Catechism of the Council of Trent* (1566). This large work was prepared to recalibrate the Church's self-understanding in the aftermath of the Protestant Reformation during the early 1500s. It was designed to be a source book to help the clergy in instructing their people. It was not written as a manual to be read by the faithful. This Catechism set out the Church's official teachings under four broad headings: the Creed; the Sacraments; the Commandments; and the

Lord's Prayer. The Catechisms that many older Catholics grew up with, usually in question and answer format, was based on this *Catechism of the Council of Trent*.

Following the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965), the Bishops, meeting at an Extraordinary Synod in 1985, decided to produce a new Catechism. The new work was to reflect the wealth of teaching emanating from the Council and incorporating the riches present

"The faith is as much a matter of the heart as it is of the mind."

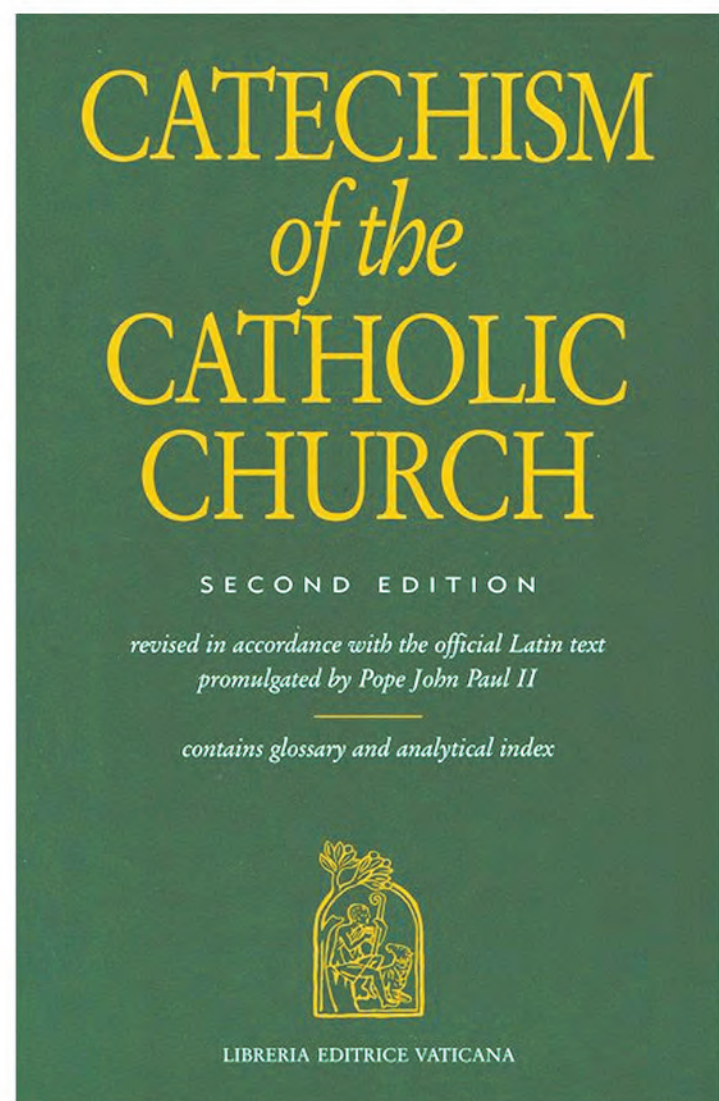
in more recent theological and Scriptural studies. Its format was to reflect the broad structure of the 1566 document.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* was published in 1994. At the time of its launch Pope St John Paul II wrote that "in reading the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* we can perceive the wonderful unity of the mystery of God, his saving will, as well as the central place of Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, sent by the Father,

made man in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit, to be our Saviour. Having died and risen, Christ is always present in his Church, especially in the Sacraments; he is the source of our faith, the model of Christian conduct, and the teacher of our prayer".

On June 22, 1994, the then-Archbishop of Perth Barry Hickey launched the Catechism in Australia at the National Press Club in Canberra. He concluded his remarks as follows: "As an outline of Catholic belief its coverage is comprehensive but not complete. No book can ever contain the totality of the Catholic faith because the faith is primarily an experience of God not just a set of truths. It is a love of Jesus Christ and a desire to follow him not a recital of formulae. It is a call to unity with God through participation in the Body of Christ, the Church, not a check list of orthodoxy. In other words the faith is as much a matter of the heart as it is of the mind."

As we begin to delve into 'Catechism Corner' may we do so with an open mind, and a heart prepared to be wrapped in the loving arms of our Lord, Jesus Christ.



The second edition of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* was published in 1994, and is based upon the 1566 *Catechism of the Council of Trent*. PHOTO: ONLINE

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Hayden Piercy
Health Student



Clockwise from above, Hennessy student Josie Taylor teaching Cambodian children how to skip; some of the Year 11 students with children at an orphanage in Phnom Penh; the students building homes for local families; and Hamish Gledhill entertains a group of children.

PHOTOS: SUPPLIED

Students' unforgettable Cambodia immersion

BY EMME WILLIAMS AND
JAMES VITNELL*

IN THE July holidays, 24 Year 11 Hennessy Catholic College students and four staff travelled to Cambodia.

We were involved in a variety of activities which allowed us to engage with the Cambodian people on a number of different levels.

We spent three days building two houses for families living in a poor village outside Siem Reap. Before our visit, the families were living in tiny, run-down shacks made primarily from palm leaves. During the building of the new homes, we learnt many skills and witnessed traditions performed by locals in the hot and humid climate.

At the completion of the houses, we took part in a small ceremony hosted by one family as a thank you for our donation and our work. After we had built new homes for the community, the reactions of these families left a significant impact on us, and it was at this point that many of us on the trip realised how lucky we are here in Australia and how fortunate we were to be able to improve the lives of two families in this small Cambodian village.

We did not just build houses, we also built relationships, regardless of the language barrier. Many of us brought

balls, skipping ropes and drawing materials with us to give to the children in the village. Each day the children would be waiting for us to arrive. We played games and watched them smile, laugh and involve themselves in our games. We were very fortunate to be able to form strong relationships with the children.

After the three days of building, we spent a day travelling in a small bus to Phnom Penh,

What we thought was such a small difference meant an entirely new lifestyle for the families we helped.

the capital city of Cambodia. We spent some time visiting an orphanage run by the Sisters of Mercy. Our fundraising in Australia allowed us to give the orphanage a significant donation.

The children and volunteers in the orphanage were filled with happiness and joy, even though for some they had endured a sad past. These young children had the ability to reshape our views and aspects on life as a whole.

As we drove and walked through the country, we were exposed to the harsh realities

that people live in. We witnessed children eating from garbage piles in the streets, met workers who were paid only 41 cents per hour and saw families living along the waterside in crude tents.

The trip has allowed us to appreciate the little, simple things in life, making us realise how blessed we truly are. We have become stronger, more grateful and resilient human beings through these experiences, particularly our visit to the Khmer Rouge S-21 prison, the 'killing fields' of Choeung Ekand, the children and volunteers in the orphanage and the families we built houses for. Cambodia has allowed us to understand the commitment we have to ensure those who are underprivileged and marginalised are given opportunities we in Australia take for granted.

Experiences like these are unforgettable and invaluable. We will forever cherish the memories we forged during our immersion in Cambodia. What we thought was such a small difference meant an entirely new lifestyle for the families we helped. One day we wish to go back to the village and witness the change and renew friendships made. We encourage anyone who has an opportunity like this to go, as it truly is a life-changing experience.

*Emme Williams and James Vitnell are Year 11 students at Hennessy Catholic College in Young, NSW.



Jesuit Scripture scholar's work a must-have



BOOK REVIEW
BY FR TONY PERCY

***Life Abounding: A Reading of John's Gospel*, by Fr Brendan Byrne SJ, published by St Paul's Publications.**

WHY is it that we Australians underestimate ourselves? You know the scenario. There is a meeting and discussions centre around getting a guest speaker in for some important occasion. People suggest a host of speakers from overseas – the USA, the UK, Europe, Asia. Virtually no one suggests an Aussie. Is it an inferiority complex?

I don't really know, but what I do know is that we have enormous reservoirs of talent in this country. Archbishop Christopher Prowse observed this recently. He told me he was quite taken aback by the talent in this Archdiocese when he arrived.

Well, let me tell you about one of Australia's pre-eminent Scripture scholars, who has received accolades from all around the world – Fr Brendan Byrne SJ. He has recently published *Life Abounding: A Reading of John's Gospel*.

It completes his work on all four Gospels. The others are: *Lifting the Burden: Reading Matthew's Gospel in the Church Today*, *A Costly Freedom: A Theological Reading of Mark's Gospel*, and *The Hospitality of God: A Reading of Luke's Gospel*. We have St Paul's Publications to thank.

As the titles of all four books indicate, Fr Byrne's work is not exactly a Scripture commentary, but a spiritual and theological reading for the 21st century. Because of this, they will appeal to almost anyone who

It is chiefly concerned with the bread of life discourse. By reading Fr Byrne I found that I have been able to discern, in a more penetrating way, what John 6 is intending for the listener and reader.

Life Abounding is an evocative title for the work. In his introduction Fr Byrne tells us the story of Alan Walker, an Australian Methodist pastor who founded Lifeline. Some people are barely clinging to life. Lifeline tries to take them from this precarious situation to a new vision where life is more abun-

The books will appeal to anyone who is interested in praying and understanding Scripture and drawing closer to Jesus.

is interested in praying and understanding Scripture with the intent of drawing closer to Jesus Christ. Of course, they are good for preaching, too, which as we know, is not confined to priests. Baptismal grace impels us to announce the good news in whatever way and circumstances God sees fit.

This latest work from Fr Byrne's pen is simply superb. For instance, 2015 is Year B in the three-year Sunday cycle of the Church's liturgy. In the middle of proclaiming the Gospel using St Mark's Gospel, the Church inserts five weeks of St John's Gospel, chapter six.

dant – where life is more than just mere existence.

Fr Byrne is convinced that the distinction between a life of meagre, bare existence and a life which is abundant, abounding in eternal, resurrected life, is central to the theology of the fourth Gospel. Hence, Fr Byrne's aim in writing his book is to "move human beings from mere existence to a conscious sense of sharing the divine eternal life – and the joy that goes with it".

That sums things up perfectly, I would say. A copy for the house, school, or presbytery is a must.



Fr Brendan Byrne SJ has now authored four books that provide a spiritual and theological reading of the four Gospels. The Jesuit priest is one of Australia's leading Scripture scholars. PHOTO: ONLINE

Low-budget thriller will have you on the edge of your seat

MOVIE REVIEW
BY CALLUM RYAN

AUSSIE export Joel Edgerton has teamed up with low-budget horror producer Jason Blum to bring you one of the year's most surprising films, *The Gift*. Despite its schlocky premise – the past comes back to haunt a school bully – the tense characterisation and unbearable mounting dread make this an impressive film.

The opening shots prowl through an empty home, open plan with grand windows, and cinematographer Eduard Grau makes every move feel predatory and motivated. Couple Simon and Robin are being shown around the property, having moved to California to 'start afresh' – they make the purchase and begin to furnish their abode.

At a homewares store, Simon is approached by 'Gordo', a schoolmate whom he can barely recognise. The next day Robin goes to the front door to find a bottle of wine and a note from Gordo, and when they



Joel Edgerton plays Gordo in *The Gift*, a thrilling meditation on how the past can catch up with you. PHOTO: ONLINE

reluctantly invite him over for dinner to say thank you, the past and the present begin to collide in unpleasant ways. As Gordo's gifts continue to arrive at the house, a wedge is driven between the couple as Simon's apparent innocence comes into question.

Having both written and directed the film, Joel Edgerton

keeps his narrative tightly focused on the three leads. It's a low-budget film, with one key location and few cast members, but it doesn't feel constrained. His staging makes terrific use of the house's vast expanses of glass, overseen by production designer Richard Sherman, and the family always feels watched and vulnerable.

Simon is played by Jason Bateman at first as an everyman and loving husband, but he removes his layers carefully to reveal an arrogance and prickliness. His performance is pitched as a dichotomy from Gordo, who you can clearly imagine as a target for his confident and assured bullying. When Simon's life begins

to unravel, the audience's pity is tinged with disgust at what he may have done in the past, but it's Bateman's talent which keeps the character relatable to the end.

Edgerton, playing Gordo in his own film, is a terrifying enigma. Any moment of clarity or insight offered to the audience is later called into doubt – he is as unpredictable as he is dangerous. Framed as both antagonist and a pitiable victim, Edgerton walks a fine line to enable his co-stars to score on their big emotional beats.

As the third vertex of their triangle, Rebecca Hall plays Robin with a subtle empathy for Gordo, which prolongs their contact with him and thus their distress. She makes this illogical choice feel properly motivated, and her emotional suffocation engulfs the viewers.

Not for the faint of heart, this is a thrilling meditation on how the past can catch up with you.

Callum Ryan is an associate of the Australian Catholic Office for Film and Broadcasting.



Classifieds

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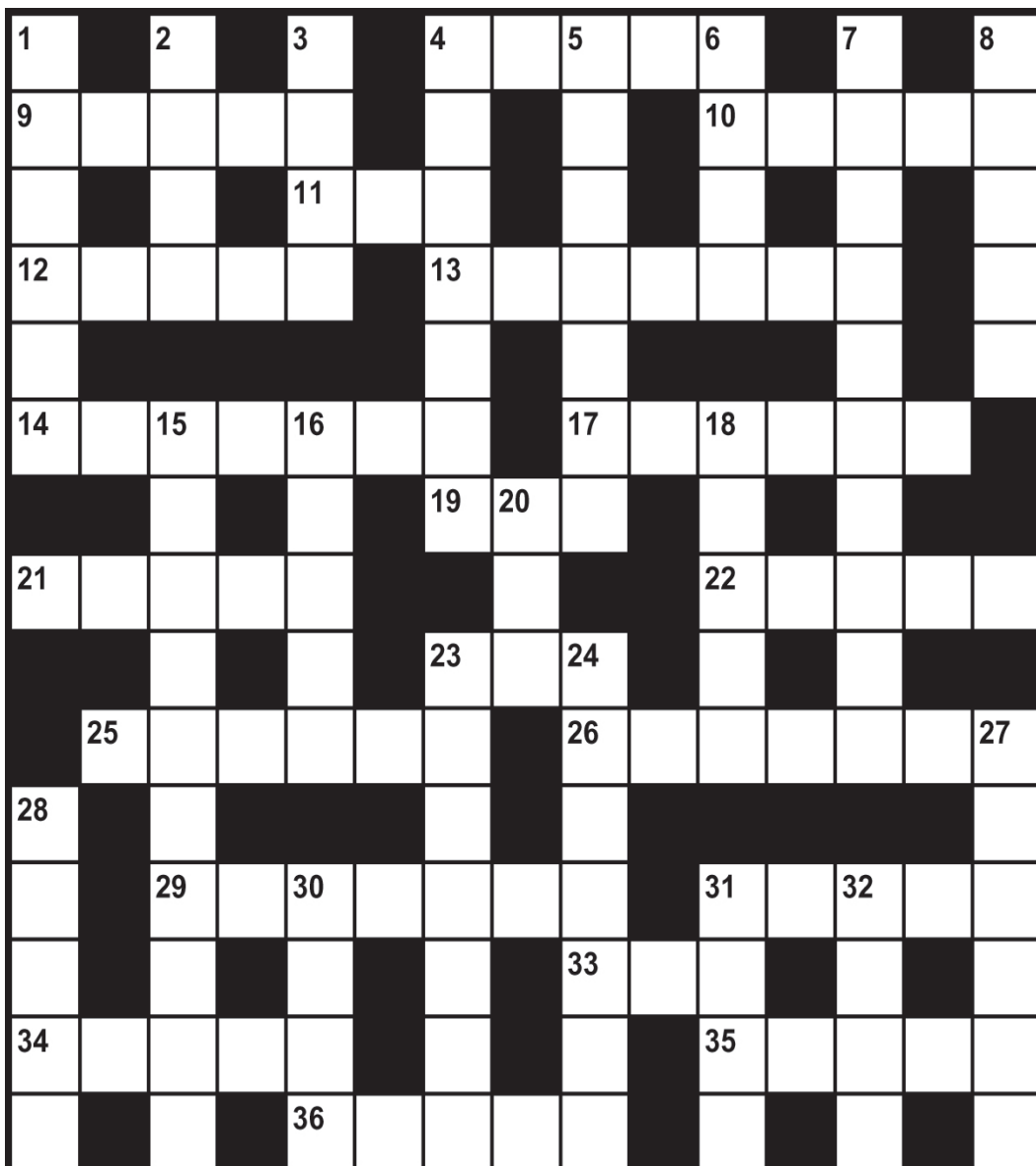
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ACROSS

- Commandment word
- Son of Abraham
- Where Vatican City is
- Number of foolish and wise virgins in the Gospel
- One of the 10 plagues
- A Sunday in Lent
- Fourth book of the Bible
- Biblical money
- The Dead or the Red
- One of the seven deadly sins
- Clerical representative
- Agency headed by uncle of Cardinal Dulles
- Rachel's maid (Gen 29:29)
- "I ___ in God, the Father Almighty..."
- Words added at the beginning of a Scripture reading in the Lectionary
- St Francis de ___
- Fear of the Lord
- The disciples ate this on the Sabbath (Mt 12:1)
- Make up for sin
- Builder of the golden calf

DOWN

- Number of sacraments, in Mainz
- Wise men
- NT book that follows John
- What Mary was
- Home of the Archdiocese of Edmonton

- Home of St Rose
- Place of reservation for the Blessed Sacrament
- Church council
- Mary's prayer
- "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the ___?" (Job 38:4)
- First bishop of Canada
- An Old Testament high priest
- ___ and verse
- Fast and ___
- Most solemn Christian feast
- Sarah's response when she heard that she would have a child
- Jesus turned water into wine here
- The ___ of confession
- Pope during Attila's time

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

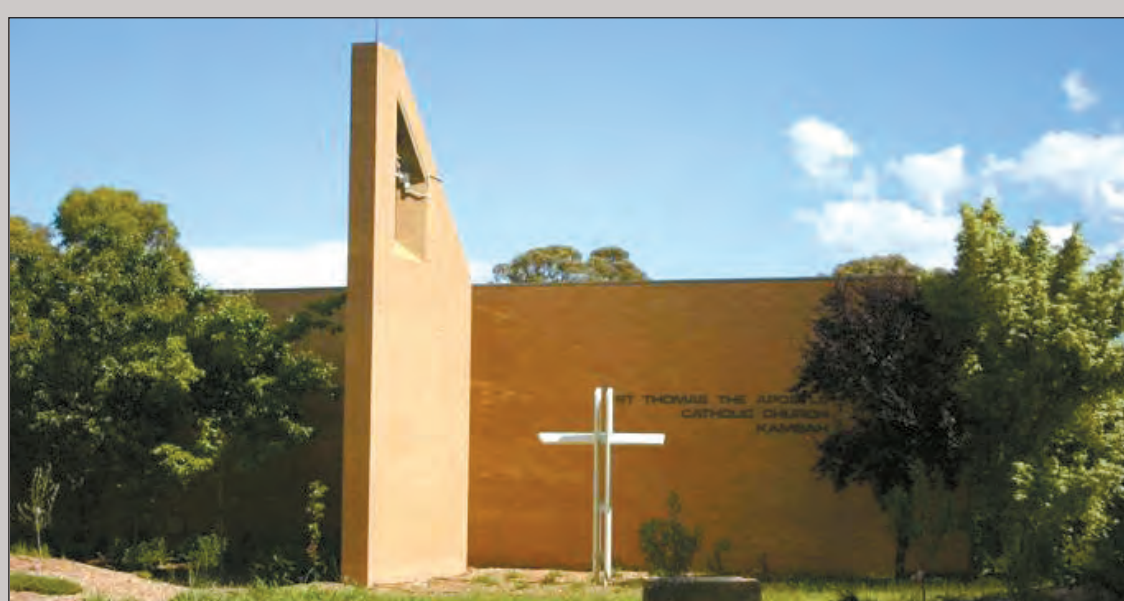
Archdiocesan Coming Events

HEALING MASS: St Benedict's Mission Centre Narrabundah invites all to a healing Mass on Friday, September 4 at 5.30pm with the special focus on the father relationship. Come along and pray for fathers both living and dead to give thanks for their fathering, to pray for God's blessing for the role fathers play and to pray for all those whose relationships with their fathers need God's healing touch. St Benedict's Church, Jerrabomberra Ave, Narrabundah. All welcome.

MAN OVERBOARD: The next gathering for any young men in the Archdiocese discerning priesthood will be on Friday, September 4. It is a time to gather, reflect, and commune in order to feel supported during a time of such importance. Each gathering is held on the first Friday of every month at the Archbishop's residence from 5pm-7pm. RSVP at www.manoverboard.org.au.

SERRA CLUB OF CANBERRA: This event is to host priests and religious who have reached a significant Jubilee in their vocation. Rosary and Mass, 6.10pm, Thursday, September 10, Holy Trinity Church, Curtin, followed by dinner at Southern Cross Club, Woden. Inquiries: John Malycha, telephone (02) 6251 2912.

BATEHAVEN AND BEYOND: Presentation on 'You are God's work of art' with Sr Carmel Drew RSJ, on September 15 at the Chapel, Holbrook, from 10am-3pm. BYO lunch, cost by donation. Presentation on 'Heart to heart' with Sr Mary Murphy RSJ, on September 16 at St Patrick's Church Hall, Gundagai, from 10am-3pm. BYO lunch, cost by donation.



ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH, KAMBAH: All past and present students, teachers and parish members are invited to attend the 40th anniversary celebration of the parish on Sunday, September 27, at St Thomas the Apostle Church, 37 Boddington Circuit, Kambah, ACT. Program of events: 10am: Celebration Mass; 11.45am-12pm: Nibbles and drinks with old friends; 12pm: Barbecue lunch; 12pm-late afternoon: Music and entertainment, provided by parish choirs and musicians. Sporting activities and games for families and children will also be held. Replies to parish secretary Elizabeth Wilson (02) 6231 9219 for catering purposes would be greatly appreciated.

Inquiries: Sr Mary Murphy: mary.murphy@sosj.org.au.

WEEKEND RETREAT: September 11-13 - 'Come seek my face': Thomas Merton, Hildegard of Bingen and others offer us some ways to respond to this invitation in our prayer and daily life. Led by Sr Carmel Drew RSJ at St Joseph's House of Spirituality and Hospitality, 12 David Ave, Batehaven, NSW. Retreat begins with a 6pm meal on Friday and concludes with lunch on Sunday. Cost: live-in \$120; Saturday only (9.30am-4pm) \$30. Inquiries: Sr Mary Murphy: mary.murphy@sosj.org.au.

CLASS OF 1975 REUNION: A 40-year reunion will be held for students from Catholic Girls High School Braddon and Daramalan College who finished Year 12 in

1975 (including those from that group who finished before Year 12) on Saturday, September 12 at the Mercure Hotel Canberra (Braddon). For more information find us on Facebook: Dara-Braddon 1975 or email Mich: mcollopy@bigpond.net.au.

CURSILLO: National Cursillo Encounter, 'The Joy of the Pilgrim Heart' will be hosted in Canberra on October 16-18 at Greenhills Conference Centre, Cotter Road, ACT. The Encounter will feature a series of talks, reflections and liturgy designed to explore the core of Cursillo, the Pilgrim Heart. Participants may attend for the full live-in experience or on a daily basis. For inquiries or registration, contact Joe Jambor on (02) 6242 7332 or at irmandjoe@gmail.com. All welcome.

CENTREING PRAYER MEDITATION RETREAT: At Galong. 'Liberation from our human condition and false self arrangements'. Renowned Trappist monk, Fr Thomas Keating, will journey with us through his DVDs. Facilitated by Sr Lorraine Cupitt RSM who is an experienced retreat leader, teacher and practitioner of Centreing Prayer. Opportunities for personal Centreing Prayer on this silent retreat. October 20-22 at St Clement's Retreat Centre, Galong NSW. Further inquiries to info@stclements.com.au or phone (02) 6380 5222.

JOIN ARCHBISHOP CHRISTOPHER PROWSE: For a day of teaching about the merciful love of the Lord. The Archbishop invites all Catholic Charismatic prayer groups and communities, and anyone who wants to deepen their faith in the Lord, to come to this inspiring day on Saturday, October 31 in the Conference Room, Rheinberger Centre, Weston St, Yarralumla,

ACT. From 9am to 4pm. Entry is free, a collection will be taken to support the work of the CCR in the Archdiocese. For more information call Neda 0415 266 019, or Sandra 0405 692 999.

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH DELEGATE: Will celebrate its centenary on November 29, with Mass at 11am celebrated by Archbishop Christopher Prowse and Fr Mick MacAndrew followed by lunch. For more information contact Sandra Walker (02) 6458 8089.

REGULAR EVENTS

HOLY SPIRIT SECULAR FRANCISCAN FRATERNITY: Third Friday of the month, 7.30pm, St John Vianney's, Waramanga. Secular Franciscans try to follow Christ in the footsteps of St Francis. Inquiries: Tony 0407 072 139, Frank 0400 793 260, email sfo@fastmail.fm.

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

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

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: St Benedict's, Narrabundah, Monday 8am-10pm, Tuesday 12pm-10pm, Wednesday and Thursday 1pm-10pm and Friday 7am-Saturday 8am. All welcome.

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St. Therese of Lisieux
Doctor of the Church

Thursday 1st October: 11am Mass and Homily
Celebrant: Fr Tony Percy, Vicar General
The Traditional blessing of Roses will take place during this Mass and the Nuns would be grateful for Roses sent the day before the Feast.

St. Teresa of Avila
Doctor of the Church

Thursday 15th October: 11am Mass and Homily
Celebrant: The Most Reverend Christopher Prowse
During the nine days preceding this feast, the Nuns will offer Masses and Prayers for the Priests and People of the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn.

PARKING NOTICE
As the local government parking authorities and to enable safer access to the Monastery, we request that your vehicle be parked on the Monastery side of Mugga Way. We respectfully ask also that care be taken in not transgressing any part of our neighbours driveways or parking on nature strips. Thank you.

Australian Catholic Historical Society
Nostra Aetate and 50 years of interfaith dialogue - changes and challenges
Speaker: Dr Patricia Madigan OP, Executive Director; Dominican Centre for Interfaith Ministry, Education and Research, Strathfield
2.30pm, Sunday 20 September
Crypt Hall, St Patrick's, Church Hill (Grosvenor Street), The Rocks, Sydney
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Ben's quest to wear the Baggy Green

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

DESPITE the recent Ashes loss, the future of Australian cricket looks bright, with the Under-19 national side taking the honours during its August 4-22 tour of England.

Several members of the squad of talented teenagers have already been earmarked as future stars, including Year 11 Daramalan College student Ben Taylor.

The towering 17-year-old played in three of the five one-day matches between Australia and England, with the series finishing 2-2, after one game was abandoned due to bad weather. But Australia's victory in the only Under-19s Test match meant they returned home with bragging rights.

A left-arm spin bowling all-rounder, Ben says his first experience playing cricket outside of Australia was a memorable one.

"It was different, with the climate and playing at different grounds, but it was certainly enjoyable," he told *Catholic Voice*.

"It was good, competitive cricket being played by both teams. It was a bit heated at times but that always creates something different, so it was really good."

Ben was economical with the ball, finishing with 1-35 (10), 0-22 (9) and 1-39 (10) in the matches he played. He wasn't required to bat on each occasion.

"Personally I went pretty well," he says. "Team-wise I would have liked to have won the series, but we all played pretty well and learnt plenty."

It was Ben's first time representing his country, having played at State/Territory level on numerous occasions.

He says his next goal is to



Year 11 Daramalan student Ben Taylor returned from the Australian Under-19 cricket team's tour of England on August 25. The 17-year-old has his sights set on playing in the Under-19 World Cup next year.

PHOTO: MATTHEW BIDDLE

be a part of the squad for the Under-19 World Cup in Bangladesh next year.

"That's the big one on the calendar for me," he says. "Hopefully I go to the Under-19 nationals and do well there... but it will take care of

itself if I do the right things on and off the field."

Cricket, it seems, is in Ben's blood. His dad played first grade cricket in NSW and his younger brother Sam is in the ACT Under-15s squad.

Initially he was a medi-

um-pace bowler, and it wasn't until he suffered a back injury that he tried his hand at bowling spin.

"Mr Collis, who's the head of cricket here, told me to bowl spin in one of the First XI games for Daramalan and

it just progressed from there," he recalls.

After playing two seasons of First XI cricket for Daramalan, Ben played in the ACT first grade competition last season for North Canberra Gungahlin.

Daramalan coach Trent Pollard said he was ecstatic when he heard that Ben had been selected in the national Under-19s side.

"I was pretty stoked that he made the team, considering he's still got another two years in the team and the World Cup coming up," he said.

Mr Pollard said despite his success, Ben has remained down to earth and is simply a "fantastic kid".

"Because of his first grade, ACT, and Australian commitments he can't play much for the school anymore, but... he loves playing for the school when he can which is a credit to him," Mr Pollard said.

Earlier this year, Cricket Australia national talent manager and former Australian captain Greg Chappell told *The Canberra Times* he could see great potential in the Daramalan student.

"He is a very promising young all-rounder," he said.

"He has got some improvement to make obviously as all young cricketers do, but he has the potential to be an all-rounder so I think it's important for his development to keep working on his batting."

Ben says he'd be thrilled to one day wear the famous 'Baggy Green' and represent his country at the highest level.

"I think that's everyone's goal, but I've just got to take it one step at a time and keep working hard and see what happens," he says.

Casey's national golfing success

CASEY Cook of Lumen Christi Catholic College once again showcased her golfing skills at the recent School Sport Australia Under-17 National Golf Championships in Canberra.

Casey was one of six players representing NSW in the girls team, competing against teams from Queensland, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and the ACT.

The week-long championships required golfers to complete a physically and mentally challenging format of competition. Casey played numerous

rounds of golf, winning all but one of her matches.

"Casey demonstrated wonderful courtesy... outstanding sportsmanship... and a truly inclusive manner towards her teammates."

It was a wonderful team effort and all of the girls, who so often compete against each other in tournaments around

Australia, were able to come together and represent their State or Territory with pride.

"At all times Casey demonstrated wonderful courtesy... outstanding sportsmanship towards her opposition, and a truly inclusive manner towards her teammates," Denise Clune, NSW Girls Golf manager from Warilla High School, said.

Casey is a national champion; a member of the NSW combined girls and boys team, who were declared overall national champions for their combined efforts and a credit to her family and school.



Lumen Christi Catholic College student Casey Cook in action during the recent Under-17s National Golf Championships.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED