

Reaching out

Pope Francis' changes to the annulment process all about pastoral care

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The Ordinariate

Australia's unique diocese continues to grow and spread

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World champion

Conor Simpson beats the Irish at their own sport

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Maria and Mark Ransom, together with their six children and 11 grandchildren, have been named 'Family of the Year' by the Australian Family Association. PHOTO: LOUI SESELJA

Family of the Year an inspiration

THE Australian Family Association (AFA) has announced that the 'Family of the Year' for 2015 is the Ransom family of Farrer.

Maria and Mark Ransom, along with their six children and 11 grandchildren, are a great example of a faith-filled family, ACT president of the AFA Paul Monagle said.

"The Ransoms have ridden the thrills and spills of family life while living the call of the Gospel to pass on the faith through their family and community life," he said. "They're an inspiration for many and worthy winners of the award."

The annual award recognises a family that demonstrates good family modelling but also contributes to the community, and is chosen from families nominated by AFA members.

With hundreds of thousands fleeing persecution, Archbishop Christopher Prowse declares

Refugees welcome here

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

THE Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn is ready and willing to open its doors to Syrian refugees fleeing persecution, Archbishop Christopher Prowse has declared.

In the wake of the September announcement that an additional 12,000 refugees from Syria and Iraq will be resettled in Australia, Church leaders around the country have pledged to do their bit in providing accommodation for the refugees.

"The recent awareness in Australia of the Syrian refugees

has galvanised the attention of the country and the Catholic communities in this Archdiocese," Archbishop Christopher said.

"We are wanting to work in total cooperation with exist-

"I would encourage parishes to think seriously about whether they could possibly take on a family or two."

ing structures, both within the Church and within the governments of the ACT and NSW, and to work perhaps with other ecumenical groups, to take our share of responsibility for these new migrants who will be

coming in over the next period of time."

The Archbishop said he had already received offers of help from many generous Catholics in the Archdiocese.

"I've been encouraged by a

number of spontaneous gestures from parishes writing to me saying that they'd like to take on some refugee families," he said. "What I'm doing at the moment is trying to liaise with our diocesan structures and the

government structures to be able to work together to make sure we can do this as best as we possibly can."

While acknowledging that a commitment to accommodate a refugee family entailed signifi-

cant sacrifices – both personal and financial – the Archbishop urged the community to consider doing so.

"I would encourage parishes to think seriously about whether they could possibly

take on a family or two and to let us know about that as we get some more efficient structures together over the next period of months," he said.

Last month Pope Francis appealed to every parish, religious community, monastery and sanctuary to take in one refugee family.

"Faced with the tragedy of tens of thousands of refugees fleeing death on account of war and hunger, and who are traveling toward a hope for life, the Gospel calls us to be 'neighbours' to the smallest and abandoned, and to give them a concrete hope," the Pope said.

ARCHBISHOP
CHRISTOPHER'S
DIARY



October 1st
2pm Inculturation Program
for Priests

October 2nd
4pm Youth Explosion
Conference - St Francis
Xavier College, Florey

October 4th
**I I am Mass (Respect
Life Sunday) - St
Christopher's
Cathedral**

October 8th
6.30pm Serra Club Mass -
Holy Trinity Parish, Curtin

October 10th
10am Young Men of God
National Conference
- Wollongong

October 11th
10.30am Feast Day Mass -
John XXIII College, Acton

October 15th
I I am Feast of St Teresa
of Jesus Mass - Carmelite
Monastery, Red Hill

October 17th
10.15am Cursillo National
Encounter Welcome/Mass

October 18th
**I I am Mass - St
Christopher's
Cathedral**

October 26th-28th
50th Anniversary of *Nostra
Aetate* - Pontifical Gregorian
University, Rome

October 31st
2pm Catholic Charismatic
Renewal, 'The Merciful Love
of the Lord' presentation
and Mass - Rheinberger
Centre, Yarralumla

Gathered in Jesus to serve the world



ARCHBISHOP'S MESSAGE
ARCHBISHOP
CHRISTOPHER PROWSE

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

In recent times I have led three prayer retreats in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn. What a joy for me! I hope it's been a blessing for those who participated!

There was the retreat for our priests and deacons, then the retreat for the school principals of the Archdiocese, and most recently the Archdiocesan retreat.

I give special thanks to the various agencies for organising these wonderful encounters with Jesus. I thank Fr Simon Falk and his team, the Catholic Education Office and to our pastoral support staff based at the Rheinberger Centre.

In regard to our pastoral support services, I wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge most gratefully the work of Mr Shawn van der Linden who recently resigned as director of CatholicLIFE after eight

years of pioneering leadership. Thank you so much Shawn!

These retreats have all desired the one blessing: that Catholic leaders may gather to encounter Jesus. This spiritual refreshment will enable us to serve better the kingdom of God in our world today.

The timetable for the retreats were similar: prayers in common, silent times, celebrating the Sacraments (especially the Eucharist and Confession), and

All pastoral energies come from our encounter with Jesus - especially our efforts to stand alongside the poor and the marginalised.

input sessions.

Not everyone is able to make a retreat. But all of us are called daily to turn our thoughts in prayer to our Lord. Jesus is our everything. Jesus is the centre of our faith and our Archdiocese. All pastoral energies come from our encounter with Jesus - especially our efforts to stand alongside the poor and the marginalised.

We have much to thank the Lord for in these days:

- For the ordination to the priesthood of Fr Trenton van Reesch and for further vocations;

- For the hundreds of youth in the Archdiocese who have recently received the Sacraments of Penance, First Eucharist, and Confirmation;

- For the work of those involved in health, education and social welfare apostolates of the Archdiocese, particularly at the end of a very cold winter;

- For parish life and the lay faithful;

- For the Religious in this Year of Consecrated Life;

taught by Pope Francis in *Laudato Si* and the care of our earth;

- For the Vatican Synod on Marriage and Family Life in October; and,

- For the Royal Commission and victims of child abuse.

Dear friends, I find in our Archdiocese an untapped hunger and thirst for prayer. This is a wonderful sign to me of the presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst!

Please take whatever opportunities you can to grow in your prayer life. Jesus, Mary and Joseph will help us with all the Saints (especially the 'October' Saints: St Thérèse of the Child Jesus, the Holy Guardian Angels, St Teresa of Jesus, St Ignatius of Antioch, St John Paul II and Sts Simon and Jude).

Thank you for your faith and courage during most difficult times for the Catholic community in Australia.

Let us continually gather as one in Jesus to serve the world of today. Pray for me sometimes.

God bless you and your families always.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse
Catholic Archbishop of
Canberra and Goulburn

SAINT OF THE MONTH

St John of Capistrano
October 23

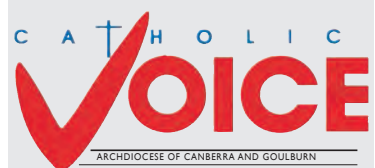
St John was born at Capistrano, Italy in 1385, the son of a former German knight. He studied law at the University of Perugia and practiced as a lawyer in the courts of Naples. King Ladislas of Naples appointed him governor of Perugia. During a war with a neighbouring town he was betrayed and imprisoned, and upon his release he entered the Franciscan community at Perugia in 1416. He and St James of the March were fellow students under St Bernardine of Siena, who inspired him to institute the devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus and His Mother. After his ordination he travelled throughout Italy, Germany, Bohemia, Austria, Hungary, Poland, and Russia preaching penance and establishing numerous communities of Franciscan renewal. When Mohammed II was threatening Vienna and Rome, St John, at the age of 70, was commissioned by Pope Callistus III to preach and lead a crusade against the invading Turks. Marching at the head of 70,000 Christians, he gained victory in the great battle of Belgrade against the Turks in 1456. Three months later he died at Illok, Hungary. His feast day is October 23. He is the patron of jurists.

- CATHOLIC ONLINE



October Feast Days

- 1 October St Therese of the Child Jesus
- 2 October The Holy Guardian Angels
- 6 October St Bruno
- 7 October Our Lady of the Rosary
- 9 October St Denis and companions; St John Leonardi
- 14 October St Callistus I
- 15 October St Teresa of Jesus
- 16 October St Hedwig, St Margaret Mary Alacoque
- 17 October St Ignatius of Antioch
- 19 October Sts John de Brebeuf and Isaac Jogues; St Paul of the Cross
- 22 October St John Paul II
- 23 October St John of Capistrano
- 24 October St Anthony Mary Claret
- 28 October Sts Simon and Jude



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‘Momentous’ changes to annulment process

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

POPE Francis’ reforms to the annulment process are the “most momentous changes” in the area in more than 300 years, according to Fr Julian Wellspring, the Archdiocesan Marriage Tribunal’s director.

On September 8 the Vatican released two papal documents *Mitis Iudex Dominus Iesus* (*The Lord Jesus, the Gentle Judge*) for the Latin Church and *Mitis et Misericors Iesus* (*The Meek and Merciful Jesus*) for the Eastern Church. The documents contained new rules that replace small sections of the Code of Canon Law regarding annulments.

Three more priests ready to serve the Archdiocese

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

AN ‘exchange of gifts’ has taken place between the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn and the Diocese of Otukpo, Nigeria, with three Nigerian priests committing to serve in the Archdiocese for at least the next four years.

Fr Martins Aloga, Fr James Onoja and Fr George Ogah arrived in Canberra on August 25 and began serving in their appointed parishes on September 18.

The trio have been appointed as assistant priests at the parishes of St Patrick’s in Cooma (Fr George), Corpus Christi in South Tuggeranong (Fr James) and St Christopher’s Cathedral (Fr Martins).

It was during his time as Bishop of Sale that Archbishop Christopher Prowse first visited Nigeria in 2010, where he took the initial steps towards creating a strong link between the two countries.

The first ‘exchange of gifts’ occurred soon after, when two Nigerian priests - Fr Francis Ootobo and Fr Joseph Abutu - took up positions in Sale in exchange for infrastructure resources.

Frs Martins, James and George spent three weeks with their fellow Nigerian priests in Sale before travelling to Canberra.

Interestingly, during Archbishop Christopher’s 2010 visit to Nigeria he ordained Fr George – not knowing that five years later the two would be reunited in the Archdiocese of

While media conjecture over the impact of the changes ensued in the following days, Fr Julian said it was important to recognise that the Church’s teachings about marriage have not changed.

“Pope Francis has simply sought to... introduce some administrative measures that will provide a better level of pastoral care.”

“All that the Church has ever taught about marriage remains,” he said. “What Pope Francis has simply sought to do is to introduce some administrative measures that will provide a better level of pastoral care for people whose marriages have broken down.”

These measures include three significant changes, Fr Julian explained.

“The Pope has sought to make the service more available for people,” he said. “There are parts of the world where... they

“All cases have to go to two Church courts at present,” Fr Julian said. “With these changes, they will only have to go to one Church court... and that will mean that the whole process will be much faster.

“The final thing that Pope Francis has done is he’s asked that there would be no charges or costs associated with the processing of tribunal cases. The Pope wants the service to be free and available to any person regardless of their status or finances.”

don’t have the resources to have a Tribunal. By enabling Bishops to be involved in judging these cases, it immediately makes the service much more available throughout the world.”

The second important change relates to the speed of the annulment process.



From left to right, Fr Martins Aloga, Fr George Ogah and Fr James Onoja near the famous ‘Australia rock’ at Narooma. The three priests, all from the Diocese of Otukpo in Nigeria, arrived in Canberra in August, and after a month of getting to know the Archdiocese they have now taken up their individual parish appointments.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Canberra and Goulburn.

The 39-year-old, who is from a family of 18 children, said his first month in Australia had been a “great experience”.

Fr James, who was ordained

because we’re very comfortable here and the people are very warm and friendly,” he said.

Ordained in 2006, Fr Martins said the three priests, who were all contemporaries at

“The Diocese of Otupko is offering us priestly personnel, which we badly need,” he said.

“Christianity in Nigeria... only started 120 years ago and

“This is like a home away from home for all of use, because we’re very comfortable here and the people are very warm and friendly.”

almost six years ago, said although the weather in Canberra is much cooler than the Nigerian climate, the new priests has acclimatised quickly.

“I think this is like a home away from home for all of us,

school, are “very disposed” to assist the Church in Australia, where clergy numbers are far lower than they are in Nigeria.

Archbishop Christopher said he was delighted to have the “happy group” of priests offer the Archdiocese their service.

it was an Irish priest in a canoe going up the Niger river who stopped off at little villages and proclaimed for the very first time the Word of God.

“Now, 120 years later, it is one of the powerhouses of the Catholic Church in the world.”

The changes come into effect on December 8, the first day of the Year of Mercy, a decision Fr Julian believes is no coincidence.

“I think the Pope sees it as a way of showing the merciful face of Christ to people who have had, in some cases, great suffering, through the breakdown of a marriage and for whatever reason have been unable to approach the tribunal,” he said.

“For some people this will make it more possible for them to approach the Church and become involved in pursuing the matter of an annulment where perhaps before they had been reluctant to.”

LOCAL NEWS

Catholic Voice wins best newspaper award at ACPA



Catholic Voice’s best newspaper award.

THE Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn’s newspaper, *Catholic Voice* has won the Australasian Catholic Press Association (ACPA) best newspaper award for 2015.

The award was announced at the ACPA ceremony on September 10 in Broome, WA, and while it’s not the first time *Catholic Voice* has won an ACPA award, it is the first time in six years.

The newspaper also won a highly commended award for best design and layout of a newspaper.

The judges said *Catholic Voice* was an “exceptionally well designed and professionally produced publication”, notable for the amount of local content it contains from around its large Archdiocese.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse was delighted to hear the news.

“This is a great honour for the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn,” he said. “Quality Catholic newspapers both inform and form our Catholic people, and it is wonderful to get national recognition that our own newspaper, *Catholic Voice*, is doing this so well.”

Mother Teresa's legacy remembered

THE Missionaries of Charity Sisters commemorated the 18th anniversary of the death of their foundress Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta on September 5.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse celebrated Mass for the occasion at St Raphael's Church in Queanbeyan, which was attended by many of the co-workers, volunteers and friends of the Sisters. Fr Troy Bobbin, Fr Martins Aloga, Fr James Onoja and Fr George Ogah concelebrated the Mass.

During his homily, the Archbishop spoke of the great legacy left by Mother Teresa and continued by the Missionaries of Charity.

"Mother Teresa was often heard to say that we must be empty before God can fill us with his love," he said.

"We have to acknowledge our own sinfulness. So often we're so full of our own self-importance that the love of God doesn't have any hospitality in our filled hearts.

"But Mother Teresa's suffering in her life made her a fitting instrument of God's love.

"Both the vertical and horizontal dimensions of our Christian life come together in Jesus Christ crucified. Mother Teresa of Calcutta totally surrendered herself to Jesus."



Queanbeyan's Missionaries of Charity with clergy and servers after the September 5 Mass honouring Blessed Mother Teresa.

PHOTO: LOUI SESELJA

Since arriving in Queanbeyan 33 years ago, the Missionaries of Charity have been working tirelessly

throughout the Queanbeyan and Canberra areas to alleviate the sufferings of poverty.

In a generally affluent area

such as Canberra, the greatest poverty the Sisters encounter is spiritual poverty. As such, they spend the majority of their

time teaching religion in the local public schools, as well as visiting the lonely, sick and neglected.

Revamped website a 'massive improvement'

THE new Archdiocesan website will be launched on October 12, after an intensive 12-month period of development and creation.

The Archdiocese enlisted the team at Voodoo Creative to develop the new site, and general manager Tim Perry said it had been a challenging but rewarding experience.

"Working with such a large organisation as the Archdiocese is always challenging because there are so many stakeholders," he said.

"The website is very large in terms of content volume and we are using some complex functionality. As a result, there have been some technical challenges that we've faced, but we always enjoy the challenge of pushing ourselves to achieve a great result."

The new website features a fresh, modern design, which Mr Perry said was "a massive improvement" on the previous site, and the information contained within the site has been re-structured to be more user friendly and accessible.

Perhaps the biggest external change is to the web address, which has changed from www.



The Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn's new website will be launched on October 12.

PHOTO: ONLINE

cg.catholic.org.au to www.cgcatholic.org.au.

The website's theme is 'We invite you to encounter Jesus, community and mission', a

project leader Erin Gordon.

"We want the user to explore the many layers of the Catholic Church and feel immersed in its wonder and enriched upon

attractive and compelling introduction to the beauty of Catholicism.

"The website seeks to provide that introduction in a way

"There's a theology behind the website, which is to make Jesus known and loved, as St Thérèse of Lisieux would say."

phrase that succinctly outlines the purpose of the website,

according to Archdiocesan communications manager and

leaving," she said.

The website also seeks to be a powerful formation tool for the Church, providing an

that gets the balance right between being accessible for those who are just beginning an inquiry, yet, in some areas,

also detailed enough so as to do justice to the breadth of the Catholic vision for life," Ms Gordon said.

"It will engage practicing Catholics, reach out to Catholics who have become disconnected from the Catholic faith, and provide a platform for the local Church to go out from itself and witness to the love of God in Jesus Christ to the broader community."

Archbishop Christopher Prowse said using the internet as a tool for evangelisation was essential in today's world.

"There's a theology behind the website, which is to make Jesus known and loved, as St Thérèse of Lisieux would say," he said. "Not necessarily just by verbal words, but also by using the social communications revolution as a means of evangelisation and the spreading of God's word."

He thanked those who had helped create the new website and said it is an attractive medium of forming and informing the public about the Church.

"It's something for us to be proud of and to be used for the greater glory of God," the Archbishop said.

Teenager's passion to pass on the faith

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

THIRTEEN-YEAR-OLD Christian Fatiaki could be spending his Wednesday afternoons socialising with friends, playing sports, or watching television, but instead he's passing on his Catholic faith to primary school children.

The Year 8 student has been volunteering his time to assist with the school of religion at

"I wanted to help the kids learn about God."

Mary Help of Christians Parish in Pearce for the past two months.

He told *Catholic Voice* his motivation for helping with the weekly classes was a desire to share the faith with others.

"There were all these other groups that I could go into but I wanted to help the kids learn about God," he said.

"Most of them come from public schools so they don't really get taught religion, so it's good that they can come and know more about God."



Christian Fatiaki assists young children taking part in Mary Help of Christians Parish's school of religion classes. The 13-year-old has been volunteering as a catechist for the past two months. PHOTO: LOUI SESELIJA

School of religion coordinator at Mary Help of Christians Parish Maureen Blackmore said teachers, students and

parents were all impressed by Christian, as well as by other teenagers who have helped with the classes previously.

"We've been blessed in this parish," she said.

"I think for at least the last eight or nine years we've

always had some young people helping.

"It's great for the kids to have these people who are not much older than they are, and who are showing them how great their faith can be and that it's something to be shared, not something to be ashamed of. It's really invaluable."

Ms Blackmore encouraged other teenagers and youth to consider volunteering their time to help share the faith with younger children.

"I think they would find it very fulfilling," she said. "There's no monetary rewards, but there's lots of superannuation available at the end of the line."

The school of religion program at the parish is for both sacramental and non-sacramental classes for children between Years 1 and 6 who attend government schools. It takes place at Sacred Heart Church in Pearce every Wednesday during school terms from 4pm to 5pm.

For more information about becoming a catechist, contact Deacon Matt Ransom: matt.ransom@catholiclife.org.au.



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St Teresa of Avila: mystic, theologian and reformer

BY DOUG KELLY

THE path of the pilgrim Church through this world is often rough and stormy but the Lord sends saints and prophets to lead us forward. This year, the 500th anniversary of the death of St Teresa of Avila (March 28, 1515 - October 4, 1582), is a special time for reflecting on the gifts and graces of this extraordinary woman: saint, doctor of the Church, mystic, visionary, theologian, reformer and refounder of the contemplative religious life.

St Teresa entered a Carmelite convent when its spirituality was at a low ebb through too much openness to the outside world. In spite of constant poor health, Teresa persisted in a demanding personal life of prayer and contemplation. Her long-term aim was to re-establish the Carmelite Order on its original principles of simplicity, separation from the world and absolute poverty. This is why in the 'Constitution' that she drafted in 1563 with the sanction of the Pope, for the first of her new foundations, she included the rule of 'Discalceation', that is, going without shoes as a sign of complete renunciation of the world's goods and all worldly values.

In her life of constant and rigorous prayer and deep spiritual contemplation, St Teresa received visions from the Lord that inspired her to go forward with her work. St Teresa explored new ways of raising the mind and soul to God in prayer, so that she is known as the 'doctor of prayer' because of her unique and powerful insights in the reaching out of the soul to the Lord.

Her life was never easy. Like all reformers bringing about a change from the familiar and easy-going ways of the present, she faced opposition and even



This year marks 500 years since the death of St Teresa of Avila.

PHOTO: ONLINE

persecution. When in 1576 opponents from the old Carmelite Order obtained a decree ordering her to cease her work, she obediently retired to a life of prayer in one of her monasteries and patiently waited for the

Like all reformers bringing about a change from the familiar and easy-going ways of the present, she faced opposition and even persecution.

vindication of her cause that came from both the Spanish King and Pope Gregory XIII.

The original charter that had authorised her work allowed St Teresa to establish religious houses for men as well as women. She attracted to her cause persons of outstanding

devotion and holiness, most notably the great mystic and doctor of the Church, St John of the Cross.

In some 20 years of ceaseless work and travel, St Teresa founded 17 houses for women and the same number for men. She had thus brought about the transformation of the contemplative religious life for men and women. The Discalced Carmelites have spread since her lifetime to most parts of the world and for 500 years the people of God have been served and inspired by their lives of prayer and holiness.

To celebrate St Teresa's feast day and to give thanks for the blessings and graces that she has brought into the world, the Sisters of the Carmelite Monastery of St Peter and Paul (28 Mugga Way, Red Hill) extend an invitation to all to join in honouring St Teresa of Avila at Mass celebrated by Archbishop Christopher Prowse and several priests at the Monastery on her feast day, October 15, at 11am.



For the past 16 years, prayer vigils for the unborn have been held regularly outside the ACT Health Centre in Civic.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Pray for the unborn

WITH Greens Minister Shane Rattenbury's bill to create exclusion zones around Canberra's abortion clinic set to be debated in the ACT Legislative Assembly soon, members of the group who pray outside the clinic are urging the Catholic public to join them.

Fr Paul-Anthony McGavin, Catholic chaplain to the University of Canberra and a frequent participant in the prayer vigils outside the ACT Health Centre in Civic, said there is great resistance to those who voice an alternative to abortion, focusing on notions of "women's rights" or "harassment".

"From either side of the debate, there can be hard lines drawn on what is a complex issue," he said.

"And from either side there can be harassment, whether the shouting down of those whose position is pro-life, or intrusive, black-and-white 'end abortion' confrontation.

"Our position is different. Where we have signage, it is not black-and-white in its colour or in its message. Rather, it is 'Adoption is something that both can live with'; or 'Every child is unique, distinct, and unrepeatable from

the moment of conception'; or 'Pray for all people hurt by abortion'."

In an online poll conducted by *The Canberra Times* in July, after Mr Rattenbury announced his plans to introduce the exclusion zones legislation, 76 per cent of respondents said they did not support the legislation and believed it would be an attack on free speech.

Fr McGavin said the group welcomed all people of goodwill to join in the prayer vigil, which centres on the recitation of the Rosary.

"We are not a formal group, and our 'governance' is by consensus, and we have the support of our Archbishop," he said.

"The important thing is our common prayer and witness, and behaviour that is unaggressive, non-obstructive, and a presence, rather than a protest. Our numbers are small, and we would welcome others to join us for our weekly vigil."

The prayer vigils take place from 8-9am each Friday outside the ACT Health Centre, opposite the city Post Office. For more information, contact Kerry Mellor: kerrybj@grapevine.com.au.

Public forum to discuss social justice statement



Jon Stanhope AO.

PHOTO: ONLINE

JON Stanhope AO and Sr Jane Keogh CSB will be keynote speakers at an upcoming public forum on the 2015-16 Social Justice Statement, *For Those Who've Come Across the Seas: Justice for refugees and asylum seekers*.

The statement, issued recently by the Catholic Bishops, challenges Australians to think again about our national response to asylum seekers, especially those who come to Australia by sea.

It invites us to recognise the desperation that has driven such people to seek refuge far from their homes.

Drawing from the words of our national anthem, the title of the statement, is a reminder of Australia's aspiration to be a place of welcome and inclusion.

The statement takes its inspiration from the actions and words of Pope Francis on his 2013 visit to the Italian island of Lampedusa, where he met

the survivors of a refugee tragedy and mourned for those who had died. As he said in his sermon at Lampedusa:

"These brothers and sisters of ours were trying to escape difficult situations to find some serenity and peace; they were looking for a better place for themselves and their families, but instead they found death," the Pope said.

"Has any one of us wept for these persons who were on the boat? For the young mothers

carrying their babies? For these men who were looking for a means of supporting their families?"

All are invited to the public forum at 7.30pm on November 11 at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, corner of Blackall St and Kings Ave, Barton. A donation of \$5 is requested to cover the cost of the forum. Supper will be provided. Contact Robyn on (02) 6254 0487 or email csjc@cg.catholic.org.au for more information.

Fun Run raises money for those in poverty

CARITAS Australia's Canberra and Goulburn branch brought plenty of colour and cheer to the annual *Canberra Times* Fun Run on September 6.

Lulu Mitshabu, Caritas' diocesan director for the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn, completed the 5km run on behalf of the team, which raised \$1,200 for taking part in the event.

The funds will make a difference in the lives of millions of people around the world living in extreme poverty.

"This was an opportunity

for everyone to get involved and put their compassion into action," Ms Mitshabu said.

"It was about standing in solidarity with the world's poorest communities in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Pacific and in Australia.

"Each and every day, thousands of women and children around the world need to walk many kilometres simply to fetch water, search for food or get to the local market. Every donation contributes to this change."

Caritas Australia supports more than 190 humanitarian relief and development pro-

grams promoting the good of every person and of the whole person, regardless of people's religious, political or cultural beliefs.

A collective effort to reach \$1,000 can provide youth empowerment workshops for 12 months in the favelas in Brazil.

This is the first year that Caritas Australia has taken part in the fun run.

"We hope to raise more funds next year and we expect more people will join us in our fun run team," Ms Mitshabu said.



Caritas' Lulu Mitshabu, Mary Mitshabu and Marko Rodic.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

CatholicCare responding to NDIS

WAITING lists of more than a year for children and adults trying to access services are a thing of the past, thanks to CatholicCare's steady expansion in response to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

The organisation's 'CHOICES' program, which has operated since July 1, 2014, already provides numerous services to NDIS recipients, but recently launched several additional services in speech therapy, counselling and assessment, and behaviour management.

CatholicCare CEO Anne Kirwan said the decision to provide the new services was a response to the growing demand from clients.

"People have been contacting us asking for these services, so we decided that now that the funding is available, we would start offering them to people," she explained.

"I think the waiting list for some of these services in the ACT was over 12 months... but with us there's virtually no waiting list now."

CatholicCare's director of counselling and allied health services Kim Linsell said the initial response to the new services had been positive.

"We've had good feedback so far across the breadth of the services we're offering," she said. "Some people have experienced difficulty getting counselling for a family member with an intellectual disability whereas we're very open to providing that service, so that's been a really good response from that group of people."

Providing such specialist services is part of CatholicCare's "holistic" approach.

"We've got disability services, accommodation services, respite services, and outreach services," Ms Kirwan said. "So if somebody comes in,



CatholicCare speech therapist Eliza Williams working with a young child.

PHOTO: LOUI SESELJA

often we can meet other needs that present along the way... there's that ability for us to provide multiple services to people."

Ms Kirwan said the introduction of the NDIS had resulted in a "fundamental shift" in the provision of services such as those offered by CatholicCare.

"Families that have needed funding have had to go on

waiting lists for years in the past," she said. "Now they get their own packages of care and can choose what services they want and who they want to provide them."

The agency's leader believes CatholicCare's response to the new way clients access services has been highly effective.

"CatholicCare's growing in response to the demand from

the community," Ms Kirwan said.

"We think it's been a wonderful initiative for people in terms of being able to better meet people's needs with disability and we're really happy that we've been able to respond and be part of it."

For more information about the services, contact CatholicCare on (02) 6162 6100.

LOCAL NEWS

Scripture and Tradition our most helpful tools

BY DELVING into the riches of Scripture and Tradition, we can best learn how to respond to pastoral and ethical challenges in our parishes and schools, Archbishop Christopher Prowse told clergy, principals and religious education coordinators last month.

Speaking to 22 priests and 135 school leaders on the subject of 'Pastoral-Ethical Principles for Topical Issues Today', the Archbishop said Catholics were fortunate to have several key resources available to them.

"When we look at ethical-pastoral issues we're not starting from scratch," he said.

"The two sources of our inspiration are Scripture and Tradition.

"We over-emphasised [the Catechism] too much for a whole generation... now the opposite is the danger. Catholics are saying [the Bible] is the one and [the Catechism] is out of date. We are Catholic Christians and we say both are equal.

"Part of Catholic leadership is to be formed and informed by those resources."

Archbishop Christopher said a careful balance between prayer and action was required to deal successfully with pastoral and ethical challenges.

The Archbishop also outlined four helpful principles for responding to a pastoral challenge – experience, analysis, theological reflection, and pastoral planning.

"Silence is the beginning and end of true pastoral action," he said. "The world may not believe this, but you and I as followers of Jesus see it as our anchorage."

Cooma looks to the future

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

MORE than 80 members of St Patrick's Parish Cooma and the surrounding regions gathered for the Parish Assembly on September 13.

Five years after the last Parish Assembly at Cooma, parishioners discussed ways to build and strengthen the parish community in the coming years.

Parish priest Fr Mick MacAndrew said holding an Assembly was an ideal way of allowing parishioners to share their thoughts on what the parish is doing well and what it can do better.

"At my first parish pastoral council meeting in February I asked the councillors to tell me the best things about the parish and then their concerns for the parish," he said.

"This initiated such good conversations that over the following couple of meetings we decided to let all the parishioners have their say, both in the form of a survey as well as an Assembly."

The Parish Assembly kicked off with a presentation by Archdiocesan parish pastoral support coordinator Sharon Brewer, who addressed the question 'What is Pope Francis Asking of our Parish?'

"The Pope has been prolific in his writings, his words and indeed by his actions in showing us what it is to be a Catholic in this time and in this place," Mrs Brewer said.

The recent Papal documents, *Evangelii Gaudium*, *Laudato Si*, and *Misericordiae Vultus* can "richly animate what you as a parish community choose to do", she added.

Mrs Brewer then looked at some of the Pope's messages regarding five specific areas – the liturgy, community, outreach activities, youth and young adults, and education and spirituality.

"We are called to take the fragrance of Christ's presence to those in the pews, to the families who present their children for the Sacraments, to the people in Cooma who are searching for something... and to our own loved ones," she concluded.



Cooma parishioners Carol Byrne, Eva Tange and Sue McPhie share ideas at the Cooma Parish Assembly, led by Archdiocesan parish pastoral support coordinator Sharon Brewer and parish priest Fr Mick MacAndrew, below. PHOTOS: MATTHEW BIDDLE

"If you can be islands of mercy in this parish and in this wider community of Cooma then I believe that Pope Francis would indeed say to you that you have taken up the challenge."

Fr Mick presented a collation of statistics gathered from a recent survey of Mass-goers in the region, which he said provided some important insights into the concerns of individuals.

"Our parish is definitely a friendly place," he said, referring to the 65 per cent of survey respondents who described the parish as a "place where everyone would feel welcome".

"These statistics affirm you all for all the things that you have been doing and are doing in our parish community over many years."

Although he believes the parish is still "dynamic", Fr Mick said the demographics of Cooma's Catholics was an important consideration.

"We have got that really big issue of not enough young people coming into our church, but we still have them in the parish," he said. "And we do



have a large number of aged parishioners."

In the survey, 131 out of 174 respondents cited the lack of young people who are active in the parish as one of their concerns. A further 115 said the rapid ageing of the parish was also problematic.

But Fr Mick said the majority of parishioners were hopeful and confident about the parish's future, according to the survey.

"The statistics will give us a lot of study to do, a lot of impetus to carry out new things, but most of all they are affirming us in what we are

doing successfully," he said.

The final session of the Assembly involved parishioners sharing ideas in small groups of ways things could be done differently in the parish in light of the words of Pope Francis.

Fr Mick said the event was a great success and produced several encouraging outcomes.

"I was very happy at how the day ran and by looking and listening to the people, they were happy too," he said.

Mrs Brewer will now process the discussion responses generated from the Assembly and prepare a report for the parish pastoral council.

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Youth festival theme song chosen

“WHERE can we see God?” - a simple question that triggered a young songwriter to compose the lyrics chosen as the theme song for the Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF) this year.

“When our eyes are truly opened, we see God as the poor and thirsty, the heart of justice, the lost and searching,” singer-songwriter Genevieve Bryant said.

“When we proclaim this belief, God gives us the grace to be pure of heart.”

The young artist composed the lyrics for her song, which is titled ‘Pure of Heart’, after experiencing “an incredible energy” at the inaugural festival held in Melbourne in 2013.

“I wanted to write a song that captured both the theme of the festival and the vibe that’s created when so many young people come together to celebrate their faith,” Ms Bryant said.

“I am so excited to be a part of it all again this year.”

Having landed herself some “amazing opportunities” in recent years, the Melbourne based artist now describes herself as a “travelling music minister” performing and presenting workshops at parishes and schools across Australia.

“I’ve been blessed to have the chance to share my music, faith and experiences with others,” she said.

“I continue to be inspired by the amazing young people I meet.”

In her early high school years, Ms Bryant began composing lyrics, the process of which she likens to writing a diary.



Melbourne based singer-songwriter Genevieve Bryant has written the theme song for this year’s Australian Catholic Youth Festival, titled ‘Pure of Heart’.

PHOTO: FIONA BASILE

“I taught myself the guitar [at the age of 14] and started putting words to music,” she explained.

Change’ and ‘Little Things’. She has also been involved in composing and recording the ‘Evergreen Live’ album.

choosing a theme song was not a competition.

“The youth festival chooses to facilitate this process and

“I wanted to write a song that captured both the theme of the festival and the vibe that’s created when so many young people come together to celebrate their faith.”

“I was pretty quiet at school so sharing those thoughts and stories made me anxious. Imagine sharing your diary out loud.”

Ms Bryant has produced two albums called ‘Make a

Organisers of the youth festival advertised for songwriters to send in their expressions of interest based on the theme for the festival, ‘Blessed are the pure of heart’, before selecting a song.

Director of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference office for youth Malcolm Hart said it was important to understand that the process of

announce a festival song because it is committed to supporting and encouraging young Australian artists who make a powerful contribution to the Church,” Mr Hart said.

The festival’s theme song will be professionally recorded over the coming weeks and made available on the youth festival’s website, www.youthfestival.catholic.org.au.

NATIONAL NEWS

Bishops call for a resolution to marriage debate

AUSTRALIA’S Catholic bishops have urged politicians to resolve the divisive debate on proposals to redefine marriage.

In a submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee for the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, the Chair of the Bishops Commission for Family, Youth and Life, Archbishop Anthony Fisher, asked senators to uphold the traditional understanding of marriage.

“Marriage is a fundamental institution for all societies because of its importance in uniting spouses as potential parents and in providing for the upbringing of their children,” he said.

“Many marriages do not involve children, but where children are born they have the right to grow up with their mother and father and marriage helps achieve that.”

The Senate Committee was holding an inquiry into ‘The matter of a popular vote, in the form of a plebiscite or referendum, on the matter of marriage in Australia’. The Committee handed down its report on September 16, recommending there not be a popular vote, but that the issue be dealt with by Parliament.

“Australia’s Catholic bishops want marriage as traditionally understood to continue to be supported in our laws and social policies,” Archbishop Fisher said. “A process should be found to resolve this divisive issue that involves the whole community in an open and respectful debate.”

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Pope to Obama: Protect religious freedom

BY ANN SCHNEIBLE

POPE Francis reminded US President Barack Obama that religious freedom is one of America's most "precious possessions," while lauding the nation's Catholics who work toward a society marked by tolerance and inclusivity.

"With countless other people of good will, American Catholics are likewise concerned that efforts to build a just and wisely ordered society respect their deepest concerns and their right to religious liberty," the Pope said on September 23, addressing the US commander-in-chief at the White House in Washington, DC.

"That freedom remains one of America's most precious possessions."

Echoing the appeals by the US bishops on the issue of religious freedom, the Pontiff told President Obama: "All are called to be vigilant, precisely as good citizens, to preserve and defend that freedom from everything that would threaten or compromise it."

Pope Francis also stressed the role American Catholics have played in building a tolerant and inclusive society in the nation, one which safeguards individuals and communities, while "rejecting every form of unjust discrimination".

In his remarks prior to the Pontiff's, President Obama noted how the 20,000 people gathered on the White House lawn served as only a small reflection of the "deep devotion of some 70 million American Catholics".

The Pope's meeting at the White House, marking the first major event of his visit to the



Pope Francis meets with US President Barack Obama at the White House for a welcoming ceremony on September 23.

PHOTO: L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

US capital, comes at a time of uncertainty with regard to religious freedom in the country.

Affecting many Catholic as well as other religious institutions, the Obama administration's 2012 Health and Human Services (HHS) mandate requires institutions to provide contraceptive services, often failing to offer exemptions to those who oppose the bill on religious grounds.

There are also concerns regarding the religious rights of those who oppose same-sex marriage after the US Supreme Court ruled earlier this year to legalise marriage

between gay couples across all 50 States.

Pope Francis' speech to President Obama also addressed the issue of climate change, and acknowledged USA's commitment to seeking solutions to air pollution.

"Accepting the urgency, it seems clear to me also that climate change is a problem which can no longer be left to a future generation," he said.

He said this is a "critical moment in history" with regard to caring for our "common home".

Citing his encyclical on the environment, *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis stressed the need for

continued changes in the areas of "sustainable and integral development".

"Such change demands on our part a serious and responsible recognition not only of the kind of world we may be leaving to our children, but also to the millions of people living under a system which has overlooked them," he said.

"Our common home has been part of this group of the excluded which cries out to heaven and which today powerfully strikes our homes, our cities and our societies."

Inspired by the certainty that the creator does not

abandon his creatures, the Pope said, we as Christians "wish to commit ourselves to the conscious and responsible care of our common home".

The September 22-28 apostolic journey to the US marks Pope Francis' first on American soil.

The Pope's visit to the US capital also included the canonisation of Blessed Junipero Serra and a visit to the US Congress.

Pope Francis also addressed the United Nations Headquarters in New York City, before travelling to Philadelphia for the World Meeting of Families.

Sistine Chapel Choir to release first ever album

FOR the first time ever, the Vatican has opened the doors of the iconic Sistine Chapel for a studio recording with the Sistine Chapel Choir – the world's oldest choir.

The landmark new album, *Cantate Domino*, captures the sounds of the extraordinary acoustics, with music performed by the Pope's own choir. It was released on Deutsche Grammophon on September 25.

The album, which was made by special permission of the Vatican, includes music written for the Sistine Chapel Choir by Palestrina, Lassus and Victoria during the Renaissance. There are also

two pieces of Gregorian chant, alongside world premiere recordings of the original version of Allegri's fabled *Miserere* (Sistine Codex of 1661) and a *Nunc dimittis* attributed to Palestrina which is still used during papal celebrations. *Cantate Domino* offers listeners the chance to hear these pieces as the composers intended – in Latin and in the surroundings for which they were originally written.

In order to capture the magic, mystery and beauty of this centuries-old music in such unique surroundings, Deutsche Grammophon set up a specially constructed studio

within the Chapel. The mixing desk was set up in an ante-chamber, next to the "Sala del Pianto" (where the newly elected cardinal is first dressed as Pope).

The Sistine Chapel Choir is made up of 20 adult singers and 30 boy choristers, and is directed by Mgr Massimo Palombella, who was appointed to the role five years ago by Pope Benedict.

"It is my hope that these masterworks will touch millions of listeners worldwide, and connect them to the historical culture and deep spirituality of the Catholic Church," Mgr Palombella said.



The Sistine Chapel Choir, made up of 20 adult singers and 30 boy choristers, has released its first ever album, *Cantate Domino*.

PHOTO: BURKHARD BARTSCH

Defeating violence with love in the Congo

HELPING girls and young women overcome trauma and heal following beatings and sexual violence is the healing ministry of Sr Angelique Namaika, a woman with a passion for justice who is transforming her community.

Sr Angelique was recently invited by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to share her experiences with people in Australia.

She addressed a gathering of staff from the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office (ACMRO), Catholic Health Australia (CHA) and the ACBC Secretariat in Canberra, where she outlined the problems caused in the Democratic Republic of Congo by a rebel group called the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

Of greatest concern to the Augustinian religious Sister is the widespread brutality of the LRA over the past decade.

"I've come to Australia to give my testimony about the activities I've developed for women who have been victims of atrocities of the LRA," she said.



Sr Angelique Namaika visited Australia recently to speak about her life-changing work in the Congo. PHOTO: ONLINE

"There are lots of kidnappings in the villages - women and children, boys and girls, mostly between 10 to 12 years old.

"As soon as they are kidnapped, they are given as wives to the rebels.

The girls are victims of sexual violence."

Sr Angelique, who received UNHCR's Nansen Refugee Award in 2013 for "her exceptional courage and unwavering support for survivors of brutal violence", lives in a small village called Dungu where she has helped to rebuild the lives of more than 2,000 women. Twenty-seven

orphans reside with her.

Through a variety of practical activities, Sr Angelique helps the women to overcome their trauma, and to learn new skills that assist them in finding employment.

"It's possible to heal from trauma," she said.

"It's very important to listen

to the women, and not to listen to them just once, but to continuously listen to them, to help them overcome the trauma. Some women also choose prayer in order to heal.

"We also have activities to help the women gain jobs to become self-sufficient in their lives and to become independent in society."

These activities include baking, cooking and sewing, as well as participation in literacy classes.

Sr Angelique has established a bakery, which employs 200 women and has made bread affordable for people in the village.

She has built a school, an orphanage and started a farm to provide employment and fresh food.

Thankfully, she believes the battle against the LRA is gaining some ground.

"The rebels' influence has decreased because the Congolese army and United Nations peacekeeping mission now live in our community to protect us," she said.

"Our wish is that the rebellion stops so that we can live peacefully again."

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

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

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



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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".



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United in faith, distinct in expression

It's been almost six years since Pope Benedict XVI's move to help Anglicans to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church, but the Personal Ordinariates are still unheard of in parts of the Catholic world, including parts of Australia, as Matthew Biddle explains...

NOVEMBER 4, 2009 – Pope Benedict XVI issues the Apostolic Constitution, *Anglicanorum Coetibus*, providing for Personal Ordinariates for Anglicans entering into full communion with the Catholic Church.

It was an historic moment and one that had been longed for, hoped for and prayed for since the 16th century Reformation, and as such the sheer gravity of the reunification of Anglicans with the Catholic Church is something many are still trying to comprehend.

The first Personal Ordinate was established in England in January 2011, the second in the United States in January 2012, and the third in Australia in July 2012.

Each Ordinate is a non-geographical diocese of the Catholic Church, and each has its own ordinary – the equivalent of a bishop.

Australia's Ordinate, called the Personal Ordinate of Our Lady of the Southern Cross, is led by Mgr Harry Entwistle, a 75-year-old former Anglican priest and bishop based in Perth.

Speaking with *Catholic Voice* recently, Mgr Entwistle said the Ordinate is still largely unknown to areas of the Church in Australia, including parts of the Canberra and Goulburn Archdiocese.

Yet in the few years since its establishment, it has set up nine communities around the country, with another three in formation.

"When you think what we've been asked to do is to create a diocese from scratch, to have 20 priests and 12 communities within a few years is quite amazing," Mgr Entwistle says.

"We have just established a presence in the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese and we will be establishing a presence in the Sydney Archdiocese from the middle of next year."

Eventually, the Ordinate hopes to be present in every Australian diocese, but it's a process that Mgr Entwistle believes will take time.

Part of the process is simply

communicating the Ordinate's existence to the Catholic population, as well as explaining what exactly an Ordinate is.

Mgr Entwistle says the history of the development of the Ordinate starts with the Reformation of 1534.

"Ever since the Reformation in the 16th century there have been members of the Church of England who have worked for and prayed for the reunification of the Church of England with the Western Catholic Church," he says.

"Throughout the centuries, there have been several attempts made but they always failed, partly because the Protestant element within the Church of England has always been too numerically strong or politically strong."

Anglicans in recent times, Mgr Entwistle explains, wanted some form of unity with the Catholic Church that retained their English spiritual tradition. These desires generally were articulated in petitions, which became increasingly eager in the 20th and 21st centuries.

"Things began to come to a head once the ordination of women had occurred and the ordination of openly gay, partnered bishops in the United States," Mgr Entwistle says.

Pope Benedict XVI's 2009 response to such petitions enabled Anglicans and others who have not received all the Sacraments of Initiation in the Catholic Church to do so through the Ordinate.

But this doesn't mean only those with an Anglican background can be a part of the Ordinate's communities – far from it.

"In Canon Law, a Catholic belongs to the diocese in which they live," Mgr Entwistle says.

"In an Ordinate, because it's a Personal Ordinate, you become a member of it by personal choice.

"So it's a declaration that it is your personal choice to be a member of this non-geographical diocese.

"We have people worshipping in the Ordinate who are not members as such but they come because they resonate with the



Fr Stephen Hill, above, is representing the Ordinate in the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese. Right, Archbishop Mark Coleridge ordains Fr Neville Yun and Fr Stephen Gronow as priests for the Ordinate on November 29, 2013 in Brisbane.

ethos, the charism and the liturgy."

Reflecting on the Pope's landmark decision, Mgr Entwistle says it was something he never

ever did I think that I would end up, not only within the Catholic Church, but as a leader of a non-geographical diocese in it," he says.

"It was almost unbelievable. And what was absolutely amazing was the relative speed at which Pope Benedict responded - within three or four years,

ness. That's what we asked for, that's what he gave us."

Mgr Entwistle says the Ordinate brings with it several unique spiritual, theological

“Never, ever did I think that I would end up, not only within the Catholic Church, but as a leader of a non-geographical diocese in it. It's not what I thought would happen, but then all my ministry I've been sideswiped by the God of surprises.**”**

- Mgr Harry Entwistle



thought would happen.

"I was brought up in the north-west of England in a very sectarian kind of area and never,

"It's not what I thought would happen, but then all my ministry I've been sideswiped by the God of surprises.

which in the scheme of things is rather like lightning.

"What Pope Benedict offered us was unity with distinctive-

and pastoral gifts to be shared by the whole Catholic Church.

One of these gifts is a new Missal, which will be promul-



gated and authorised for use within the Ordinate at the beginning of Advent this year.

"This is a huge piece of Church history," Mgr Entwistle says. "It's the first time since the Reformation a new Missal has been produced which incorporates and includes material from not only prior to the Reformation, but since, for use within the Western Catholic Church. This has never happened before."

Other unique aspects of the Ordinate are the language used, the positioning of the priest, and the use of classical hymns, Mgr Entwistle adds.

"We're bringing a tradition and a whole spirituality, an Englishness, that is quite different from other expressions of the Catholic faith," he explains.

"The Ordinate liturgy uses language that is sacred and poetic. It is extremely good En-

glish, and it's full of imagery.

"The ideal is that the liturgy is celebrated by the priest facing in the same direction as the people, in other words, *ad orientem*, which is creating interest among those concerned with liturgical affairs in Rome.

"What we're aiming for is good liturgy, good preaching, good music and good pastoral care."

While the Ordinate has its

own distinctiveness, Mgr Entwistle stresses that it is completely unified with the rest of the Church.

"The Ordinariates are in full Catholic unity," he says. "We're like every other Catholic, our priests are ordained Catholic priests, any Catholic can worship in the Ordinate, and members of the Ordinate can worship in any Catholic diocesan parish or community.

"The great joy of the Ordinate is we can be, and are, in unity with the Holy See but yet maintain our own distinctiveness and expression of the Catholic faith that we share."

In the six years since *Anglicanorum Coetibus*, the three Ordinariates around the world have grown steadily, Mgr Entwistle says.

"Many Anglicans who became dispirited within the Anglican Church a long time ago became Catholics anyway," he says. "It's many of them, who converted to Catholicism individually, but still hold on in their depths to some of the Anglican traditions, who are supporting us and worship in Ordinate parishes occasionally.

"The initial expectation that droves of Anglicans would all be pouring in, knocking on the doors of the Ordinate, really was wishful thinking."

But numbers aren't his concern.

"We're here to stay," Mgr Entwistle says.

"We just have to communicate this great ecumenical gift that God has given to the Church, that here is the unity for which we have all prayed, right in our midst, and we have to embrace it and grow it.

"Since the Reformation, the English tradition has influenced the Catholic Church from outside its boundaries. That influence can now continue from the inside and shared with all.

"The important thing is to be faithful and to journey on. The rest, well, it's not entirely in our hands."

To stay informed of the Ordinate's growth in Australia, individuals can join the Ordinate's supporters network by visiting its website, www.ordinate.org.au.

Canberra's enduring CITY CHURCH

Name changes, legal battles, and renovations - St Patrick's Church in Braddon has been through it all in its rich 80-year history, as Elizabeth Baxter explains...

ON OCTOBER 20, 2015 it will be 80 years since St Patrick's Church in Braddon was blessed and officially opened by the Bishop of Goulburn. The sturdy red brick building is still "fitting snugly into its surroundings" as the Catholic newspaper *The Angelus* said in 1935.

St Patrick's is the only church on the northside of the ACT that owes its existence to Fr Patrick Haydon, famous in local and national history. He was the founding father of the Catholic Church in the nation's capital, and the first and only parish priest of the parish of St Christopher's, Canberra from 1928 to his death in 1949 at the age of 56.

Fr Haydon's passionate commitment to the idea of a federal capital began when he became a curate in Queanbeyan in 1912 - if not earlier. As parish priest of Queanbeyan from 1918 he used to travel on his Harley-Davidson motorbike to say Sunday Mass in whatever shed or hall was available for the workers who were building the new capital. On the northside, they used the Trades and Labour Hall on Acton Peninsula. He often heard confessions sitting on his motorbike under a tree because it was more private than in a small hall. After 1928 the old Ainslie Primary School was used.

Six-foot-four and built to match, he was a man of tremendous energy, vision and cultivation of mind with a vision for Canberra. While he was still in Queanbeyan he began building St Christopher's Church school in 1926 and planning for St Patrick's Church. Before a suitable site

became available, the Great Depression hit Canberra and building almost came to a halt. Any uncommitted money the parish had was used to help those thrown out of work and their families.

Fr Haydon shepherded his people not only through the new project of a bush capital but through the Depression and the Second World War. He was a man with whom people of all degrees felt comfortable. Dame Enid Lyons, who knew him well, wrote that "he had the mind of a poet and the halting tongue of a Demosthenes. His stammer

He often heard confessions sitting on his motorbike under a tree because it was more private than in a small hall.

was one of the worst I have ever encountered... no one who knew him will ever forget the charm of his mind or the greatness of his soul".

At the beginning of 1935, Fr Haydon was granted the lease of a 2 3/4 acre site on the corner of Donaldson and Ballumbir Streets and by late August the little red brick building was finished and in use. The first function was a fundraising dance on August 20, at which, according to *The Canberra Times*, a "tasteful supper" was served. The dance floor is still there today under the carpet of the church. The first Mass was said on September 1 and school commenced on September 10.

The building was intended

to serve as a school, church and parish community centre. This was the pattern for newly developed parishes after the Catholic bishops decided to operate their own school systems, and the architect Louis Burns of Sydney had provided a neat solution. A single room 100 feet long ran the length of the building and could be

pews by tipping the tops up and over to form the backs of the seats.

Two wings projecting towards Donaldson Street held school offices and music rooms and these were joined by an open verandah with the main entrance in the middle.

Although *The Canberra Times* described the four class-



divided with accordion partitions into five rooms, four of which were used as school rooms. The room on the Civic end was furnished as a permanent chapel with a marble altar and tabernacle designed by the architect. On Fridays after school the partitions were pushed back into recesses and the whole area was available for parish functions, weddings and Sunday Mass. The school desks were ingeniously designed to be converted into

rooms as "light and airy", they were only in fact six by eight metres in size. 'Cosy' might have been a better description. Funerals, which usually took place during the week, were rather awkward because the school children could not leave the building until the funeral was over.

The cost of the building and school fittings was £3,500, all paid for by the fundraising efforts of the parishioners. This was a tremendous achieve-

ment for a community just recovering from the Depression. Fr Haydon described it at the official opening as "the realisation of a dream achieved after years of difficulties".

The school was established by the Good Samaritan nuns who taught there until the end of 1954 when they moved to Narrabundah. On the northside it was the only Catholic church until St Patrick's Memorial Church Hall opened on Ipima Street, Braddon, in 1953 and the only Catholic school until 1956 when St Joseph's was opened in O'Connor.

When the Sisters of Mercy took over in 1955 the school was bursting at the seams with almost 500 students. Temporary classrooms and an assembly hall had been added at the back of the building, but the children were still sitting three to a desk built for two. Classes of almost 100 continued well into the 1960s, the years of post-war immigration from Europe and tremendous expansion in Canberra. Many of the children could not speak English when they arrived. The efforts of the Sisters in their crowded classrooms seem superhuman in retrospect and despite these conditions many of the children went on to do well academically and forge significant careers.

The school, the church celebrations, the clubs and societies that met there and all the work that went with them, were a focus for men and women uprooted from their old lives and trying to make new ones in the 'bush capital'.

Even after St Patrick's in Braddon was opened there was still a need for Mass at Donaldson Street and until



Above, current parish priest Fr Bernie Patterson celebrates Mass in St Patrick's Church in Braddon, a church that was built 80 years ago under the leadership of Fr Patrick Haydon, below. PHOTOS: MATTHEW BIDDLE; NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA

1974, Mass was said in the school's large kindergarten room. Many today who were hostel dwellers of the time will remember Mass in "these primitive conditions", as a visiting Dutch priest once described the fibro building.

The name of the school-church was changed during the 1950s to St Mary's - Our Lady of Mercy School to avoid confusion with the much bigger church-hall on Ipima St which, in 1955, became the centre of the new St Patrick's Parish Braddon. It closed in 2000 and is now the Merici College gym.

By 1973, with the local families getting older, enrolments at St Mary's had dropped and the school was closed. The red brick building reverted to being a church, and was subsequently used largely by migrant groups. Among these, the German Boniface community has made it their home since the 1970s.

The need to maintain a city church for the Civic area was recognised and in 1983 it was imaginatively renovated under Fr Brian Maher with the help of the Boniface community. The altar was placed centrally and seating provided for up to 260 people. Members of the German community donated wooden carvings including the crucifix that hangs behind the altar. Two windows were designed by Gerry Cummins, brother of a late parishioner and creator of the internationally acclaimed 'Peace and Creation' windows of St Monica's Cathedral, Cairns.

The window on the left of St Patrick's altar, the Baptism window, shows typical dwellings of different cultures to which the Gospel has been preached. The one on the right, the Communion window, shows a selection of churches and the domes of Sancta Sophia and St Peter's can be identified.

The altar itself is half of the one used by Pope St John Paul

II when he said Mass at the Canberra National Exhibition Centre on November 24, 1986 and commemorates the church's connection with the Polish community whom he visited in 1973.

The red brick building was re-dedicated in 1985 as the intimate, prayerful and attractive church we have today. In 2002 it regained its original name of St Patrick's.

It is now a city church welcoming not only the local residents of the surrounding houses and flats, but workers from the Civic and government offices, visitors to Canberra and university students. Sunday Mass at 8am attracts a congregation of about 80 and Mass is still held on Sunday for the German community, which numbers about 35. The weekday lunch-time Mass at 12.30pm on Tuesday to Friday attracts about 40 each day with many more on first Fridays and standing room only on Ash Wednesday and All Souls Day. Today the congregations at St Patrick's show the new face of Catholicism in Australia. They include many who have come to Australia from Asia, Africa and the Pacific.

The possibility that the church block might be sold for development raised a great deal of anxiety among Canberrans and resulted in the church being Heritage listed. The Archdiocese appealed this decision and after protracted legal proceedings the listing was cancelled. However, the decision was made not to sell the property.

For the time being, Fr Haydon's church is still part of the visible history and soul of Canberra.

St Patrick's will be open for prayer from 11am to 2pm on October 20, with Mass at 12.30pm, followed by a cup of tea. On Sunday, October 25 a celebratory Mass at 8am will be followed by morning tea.



Top, St Patrick's Church in 1951, when it served as a school, church and parish community centre all in one, and above, St Patrick's pictured in 2015.
PHOTOS: DEPARTMENT OF CAPITAL TERRITORY COLLECTION; LOUI SESELJA

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Speaker: Dr Ann Maree Whenman, Lecturer in Religious Education, Australian Catholic University, Strathfield
2.30pm, Sunday 18 October
Crypt Hall, St Patrick's Church Hill (Grosvenor Street), The Rocks, Sydney
Meetings and afternoon tea conclude around 4.30pm
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Marists rejoice in welcoming new Brothers

"WE are called to serve one another and walk humbly with God."

The words to the hymn, *'We Are Called'*, rang out joyfully at St Kevin's Parish, Eastwood in Sydney on the feast of the Assumption (August 15), as Br James Hodge FMS and Br Jack O'Sullivan FMS made their First Profession of Vows as Marist Brothers.

More than 120 Brothers, family and friends gathered to witness two young men publicly pronounce the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience for one year.

Br James, 31, was educated at Marist College Rosalie in Brisbane. He worked in campus ministry before taking up an appointment in Cambodia where he spent nine months working alongside the Brothers at Salla Lavalla, a boarding school for disabled children.

"Through my experiences of working alongside the Brothers in Brisbane and then at Salla Lavalla in Cambodia, I found myself being continually drawn to them," he said.

"Their strong sense of fraternity, Marist spirituality, and their witness of simply being Brothers to others and to youth on the margins, were



Br Jack O'Sullivan (second from left) and Br James Hodge (fifth from left) celebrate after making their First Profession. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

"Through my experiences of working alongside the Brothers... I found myself being continually drawn to them."

vocational qualities that resonated strongly in me."

Br Jack, 26, was educated at Notre Dame College in Shepparton, Victoria, before

working in youth ministry for the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

"Participating in three World Youth Days and animating youth groups in par-

ishes left me with a hunger and a desire for a closer relationship with God," Br Jack said.

"The witness of the

Brothers and the Marist formation program helped me reach a point in my vocational discernment where I realised something that had been stirred long ago could only be satisfied with 'giving it a shot'. At that point, I felt free to enter the novitiate and better discern where God was leading me in my Marist life."

Both men completed their two-year novitiate in the United States with an American novice. Part of their novitiate included an experience of intercultural formation with Marist novices from Latin and South America, designed to provide a more global context to their future ministries with young people in need.

Marist Provincial Br Jeffrey Crowe FMS welcomed the new Brothers, saying: "Jack and James, from your time of discernment in the novitiate, I know you understand the content of your religious commitment. We rejoice in this moment as we all feel the conviction and the enthusiasm of your young hearts to follow Christ in the spirit of St Marcellin Champagnat".

For more information about the Marist Brothers, contact Br Greg McDonald FMS on 0407 492 022.

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Life is short, but eternity is forever



BELOW THE SURFACE

BY BRIANNA THOMAS

IF YOU haven't heard about the Ashley Madison scandal, brace yourself and let me fill you in. At first glance, AM looks like a regular dating site. On closer inspection, the wedding ring on the cover girl's finger and motto "life is short, have an affair" give away their game. Ashley Madison, and many other organisations around the world have set themselves up as a dating site for people already in relationships, to make for an easy affair. A few months ago, a major scandal occurred when AM was hacked and all their clients exposed, ruining the company's greatest weapon of promised secrecy.

You're probably just as shocked as I was at the complete lack of morality and virtue, but I realised that perhaps some of their philosophy isn't as distant as we may hope. The "life is short" motto sounds a little too similar to something I see on Facebook and in youth culture everyday...

When I first heard the term YOLO, standing for 'You Only Live Once,' I loved it, and was excited to use the new phrase.



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

PHOTO: ONLINE

What an invigorating reminder of the shortness and preciousness of life, and the importance of living well! Unfortunately I was too optimistic and overestimated the phrase completely. YOLO is often used in conjunction with a reckless or impulsive act. Drinking too much? Hook-ups and parties? YOLO! As if saying the phrase makes the act OK. Clearly, in light of only having one shot at life, your time is best spent engaging in as many pleasure-seeking activities as possible. I hate to disagree, but I think the YOLO supporters may have wildly missed the mark.

The Ashley Madison and YOLO philosophies get points for one thing – we have been given just one single, short life here on earth. Unfortunately the rest of what they're teaching doesn't make for a happy ending, as they fail to look beyond the gratification of the present moment. What their mottos and consequent actions are saying is that the most important thing to chase, seek and invest in is an immediate buzz, without consideration of the consequences. They promote satisfying proximate needs at the expense of long-term goodness and values.

CS Lewis said something

powerful that stings the wound of instant gratification: "If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next". If we truly look at the gravity of having only one short life here on earth, we get the sense of a richer, more meaningful philosophy that also encompasses our eternal life. As Christians, we know that our time on earth is temporary but life is eternal, and our eyes are fixed there as we run the race here.

That all sounds pretty serious, but don't go thinking that

being a Christian means a boring and lifeless existence. You couldn't be further from the truth! The same CS Lewis who revealed profound truths about eternity often spoke of love and friendship like they were air for breathing. He proclaimed his affection for drinking tea, reading books, watching sunsets, and living out dreams.

Jesus himself says in John 10:10 to "live life to the fullest". There is no mistake here - being a Christian and knowing that we are headed for heaven does not mean a joyless life without adventure. We are made for something great, and it means thinking deeper and looking further than the things that satisfy the moment but leave us wanting.

About 60 years ago, an alcoholic who lived on instant gratification and YOLO philosophies converted to Christianity. Arthur Stace was so struck by his new found hope that he felt inspired to write 'Eternity' all over the streets of Sydney with a crayon. After avoiding arrest nearly 25 times, he had planted the word in half a million locations. The simple sermon inspired people to lift their eyes and have hope, and left a legacy throughout the large city.

Stace's message is the antidote to the Ashley Madison and YOLO take on life. Live big, well, fully, adventurously and sweetly but with your eyes forever upward, while your feet carry you around town.

Faith and belief - what's the difference?



CATECHISM CORNER

BY FR WARRICK TONKIN

WHAT does it mean to be a person of faith? What is this thing called faith? When we say that we believe in God, what do we really mean?

These questions call us to see if there is a distinction between faith and belief.

Faith connotes a profound trust, a confidence and a loyalty. It has to do with a person's fundamental orientation in life. Faith is a dimension of every human life – it is inherent in every person.

Faith is the capacity to penetrate the haze, to face honestly what there is, both in the world

and in ourselves. In this dimension, there is a deep connection between faith, truth and freedom.

Faith is not always religious in its content or context. Faith is a person's way of seeing themselves against the background of shared meaning and purpose.

From the Catholic perspective, faith is a free gift from God. It is God's invitation for us to

incline our ear to the one who speaks'.

When the young boy Samuel, in the First Book of Samuel (3:1-14) in the Old Testament, first heard God speaking to him, he replied, "speak Lord, your servant is listening". We could paraphrase the quote to read "speak Lord, I incline my ear to your presence". But in truth, the way we most often hear God's

Sometimes the words 'faith' and 'belief' are used interchangeably. But it is possible, and even necessary, to distinguish between the two.

'Faith' is considered more basic, more personal; as having to do with one's fundamental orientation toward life.

'Beliefs', on the other hand, are considered to be secondary, more intellectual; they have to

accepting religious doctrines and to refer to a particular doctrine that is accepted.

Some people have split faith and belief in this way – faith is an activity of the heart; belief is an activity of the mind. However, in theology (that is, faith seeking understanding) we must be wary of either/or situations. More times than not situations come under a both/and perspective. So, we shouldn't think of faith or belief, rather it is always faith and belief. They both form, inform and build on each other.

All of this allows us to stand together, within the community of the Church, during the Eucharist, and proclaim "I believe". To quote *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* itself, "Whoever says 'I believe' says 'I pledge myself to what we believe'. Communion in faith needs a common language of faith, normative for all and uniting all in the same confession of faith," (n. 185).

Sometimes the words 'faith' and 'belief' are used interchangeably. But it is possible, and even necessary, to distinguish between the two.

be in right relationship with God, self, others and our world. When we accept God's gift, and act on it, we grow in faith and discover, gradually, who God is calling us to be as a person, and who is the deepest centre of our heart's desire – God.

By responding in faith, to God's gift, we engage in obedience, and the word 'obedience' comes from the Latin *ob-audire*, 'to engage in rapt listening', 'to

word is not via our ears, but rather through listening hearts.

To quote the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (n. 166) – "Faith is a personal act – the free response of the human person to the initiative of God who reveals [Godself]. But faith is not an isolated act. No one can believe alone, just as no one can live alone... The believer has received faith from others and should hand it on to others".

do with the conceptualisation of religious matters and their formation as doctrines.

The difference between 'faith' and 'beliefs' is sometimes stated this way: The faith by which one believes (faith); the faith that one believes (beliefs).

Theologians generally agree that faith should describe one's fundamental relationship with God. Belief is used by theologians to mean both the act of

The practice of social justice in everyday life



JUSTICE MATTERS
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SOCIAL justice can sometimes seem very distant from ordinary life. We talk and write about it in terms of abstract ideas such as fairness and social responsibility. We tend to think of it as an issue for governments and community organisations.

That's all fine as far as it goes. Governments and community organisations have a central role to play in creating the conditions for a just society. They support people who have fallen on hard times, assist the unemployed to find work, provide access to health care and education, protect parents and children at risk of abuse, shelter the homeless, regulate markets to reduce imbalances of power, and much else besides.

But individuals and families also have a crucial responsibility. For one thing, their presence



Volunteering with charities are simple ways we can help create a fairer world.

PHOTO: ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

and dedicated work within governments and community organisations are vital. For another, they can identify areas of injustice, propose remedies, advocate for change, and stand with those suffering injustice.

Is that all? Well, no, there's more. Social justice demands a response from us as individuals and as members of families and local communities (including parishes and schools). We also have obligations as international

citizens. How might we answer the call?

To start with, there are the basics. We must meet our family commitments as parents, spouses, children and siblings. We should do our civic duties, such as paying our taxes. We should be conscientious and ethical employers or employees. We must be good neighbours. We must respect the natural environment.

Beyond that lies a multitude

of possibilities. The question we might put to ourselves is: 'How can we use our resources – such as time, knowledge, skills, experience and money – to create a fairer world?'

The answer we give will depend partly on our life circumstances, but we should not underestimate what we can contribute. For example, in an affluent society such as ours, even those of us who are financially secure can easily mistake wants

for necessities and conclude that we have a much smaller capacity to help people in need than is really the case. We should pause to remember that Jesus asked the rich young man to surrender all he had.

What non-financial avenues are open to us? We can work with Vinnies. We can be part of the prison ministry. We can visit hospital patients. We can volunteer to answer phone calls on helplines. We can support refugees and migrants as they settle into our communities. We can stand by mothers-to-be who elect to keep their child rather than have an abortion. There is, of course, much more. We cannot do them all, but we have plenty of choice in what we can do.

The Scriptures make it clear that justice lies at the heart of what God wants of us. To take one instance, in Matthew's Gospel, in the account of the last judgement, Jesus says we are responsible for the needs of people who are hungry, thirsty, naked, sick, or in prison. These and so many other passages read like commands (and not just gentle encouragement) to give personal service as well as to be a prophetic voice.



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Braidwood's growth an encouraging sign

THIRTY years ago, St Bede's Catholic Primary School in Braidwood was struggling to maintain sufficient enrolment numbers and was on the verge of closing.

"Numbers were dwindling to around 40 and it looked like St Bede's might close, but thankfully the community pulled together and ensured it stayed open," principal Gerard Galvin explained.

In recent years, the school has grown steadily, so much so that next year it plans to open another Kindergarten class to cater to the increased demand.

Mr Galvin, who moved to Braidwood with his family in 2010 to commence working at St Bede's, said he wasn't surprised at the school's increased popularity.

"I absolutely love it here," he said. "It's such a beautiful, warm community... and there are close links between the school and the parish."

"You have families here that are into their third and fourth generations of students at the

school, so that sense of community is very strong here.

"We're all very privileged to live and work in this lovely school and town."

Although the school community cherishes its small town environment, Mr Galvin said

"While we're only an hour away from Canberra, sometimes it feels like we could be 10 hours away."

embracing technology in the classroom was an important focus at St Bede's.

"While we're only an hour away from Canberra, sometimes it feels like we could be 10 hours away," he said.

"We don't want our students disadvantaged, so this year we embarked on a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program.

"The vast majority of students bring in an iPad each

day and the teachers are using those to support the children's learning, so that's exciting for our rural school."

St Bede's was established in 1859, and celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2009. For almost 100 of those years, the Sisters of the Good Samaritan were involved in teaching at the school.

Right, students praying the Rosary together at recess time; below, teacher Ann Monkhouse with (from left to right) Benjamin, Lawry, Baden and Nelita. PHOTOS: LOUI SESELJA



Left, Fr Dermid McDermott with St Bede's student Finlay Edwards during a school Mass earlier this year. Below, from left to right, Jono, Orlando, Harrison, Jack, Darcy and Riley enjoying the sunshine during recess time. PHOTOS: LOUI SESELJA



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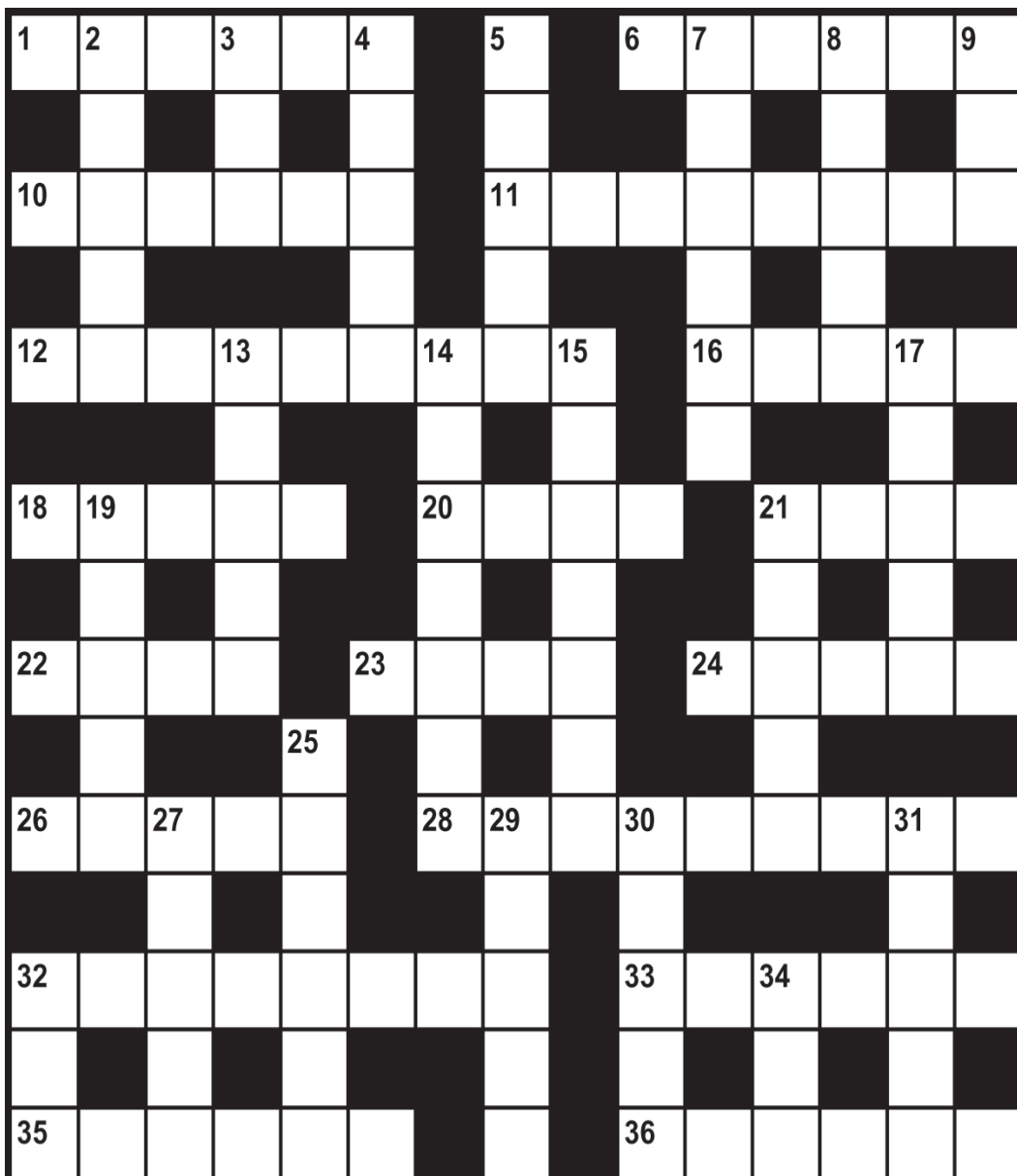
Archdiocese of
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CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- The Diocese of Fairbanks is here
- Successor of Moses
- Catholic United States Supreme Court justice, Sherman ____
- Jesus Christ
- They may be Joyful, Glorious, or Sorrowful
- Patriarch respite, perhaps
- "____ Angelicus"
- Baptismal basin
- Say the Rosary
- The golden ____
- "Urbi et ____"
- He walked with God (Gen 5:24)
- Catholic actress and First Lady of the American Theatre
- A vow
- The Eucharistic Prayer
- Hometown of St Benedict
- ____ Tekakwitha, "Lily of the Mohawks"
- Superior of convent

DOWN

- Not clergy
- Day dedicated to Marian devotions (abbr.)
- Saul's general
- Greek prayer
- The Diocese of Baker is here
- Sacred music
- According to I

- Thessalonians, we will meet the Lord in this (with "the")
- Dismas, the Good ____
 - Hell
 - Time for some Easter services
 - Brother of Ishmael
 - Confirmation gesture
 - "____ Lingua"
 - Biblical heroine
 - Biblical expanding agent
 - Color of smoke if no pope is elected
 - Catholic actor, Tony ____
 - Third century Pope
 - Noah built one
 - Adam donation

SOLUTIONS IN NEXT MONTH'S CATHOLIC VOICE

September's crossword solutions below:





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

Archdiocesan Coming Events

AMICUS: Sunday October 4 - Meet at 10.30am at Hall Markets and then follow on for lunch at George Harcourt Inn Gold Creek about 1pm. To join us contact Enid, phone: (02) 6296 5592.

Sunday October 25 - Enjoy a relaxing BYO picnic/BBQ at the Cotter Dam Reserve followed by a walk for those inclined. Meet at 12pm. To join us contact Patricia: 0412 351 548.

BATEHAVEN AND BEYOND: Presentation on 'Forgotten at our peril: The real story behind the creed we pray on Sundays' with Sr Virginia Bourke RSJ, on October 8 at Southern Cross Village, Temora, from 10am-3pm; and on October 19 at Madonna Place, Leeton from 10am-3pm. BYO lunch, cost by donation. Inquiries: Sr Mary Murphy: mary.murphy@soj.org.au.

SERRA CLUB OF CANBERRA: Rosary and Mass, 6.10pm Thursday October 8, Holy Trinity Church, Curtin, followed by dinner at Southern Cross Club, Woden. Inquiries: John Malycha, phone (02) 6251 2912.

PUBLIC SQUARE ROSARY: Will take place at Garema Place, Civic, on October 10 at 1pm. Please join us in praying for our nation in support of marriage. For more information contact Maria (02) 6247 4026.

ARCHDIOCESAN COMMISSION FOR WOMEN: Invites you to a presentation by Anne Lanyon about 'A Spirituality for the Whole World'. Anne is deputy director of Sydney's Columban Institute. She will examine our sacred responsibilities as stewards of God's creation, now and into the future, and discuss the Pope's recent encyclical *Laudato Si*. Please join us at the parish centre, Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Strangways St, Curtin on Wednesday October 14 at 7.30pm. Men and women are invited to attend. A \$5 donation would be appreciated to cover costs. Inquiries to Margaret Ryan (02) 6231 0664 or 0417 418 838.



ST PATRICK'S PARISH, BOOROWA: Will be celebrating 150 years with Mass and a light lunch (provided) in St Joseph's school grounds following Mass at 12.30pm on Sunday November 22. BYO drinks. Everyone welcome. RSVP by November 8 by emailing: stpatricks.boorowa@bigpond.com, phone the presbytery (02) 6385 3030 or Teena McGrath (02) 6227 2864.

HEALING MASS: St Benedict's Mission Centre invites you to a Healing Mass for stillborn, miscarried and aborted babies at 5.30pm on Friday, October 16 at St Benedict's Church, Jerrabomberra Ave, Narrabundah. All are welcome.

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.

SIX-DAY GUIDED RETREAT: October 18-25 - 'If God can be addressed as Abba then everything else is different'. Led by Sr Virginia Bourke RSJ at St Joseph's House of Spirituality and Hospitality, 12 David Ave, Batehaven, NSW. Retreat begins with a 6pm meal on October 18 and concludes with breakfast on October 25. Inquiries: Sr Mary Murphy: mary.murphy@soj.org.au.

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, 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.

CALLING ALL CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUPS AND COMMUNITIES: Join Archbishop Christopher Prowse and Fr Ken Barker MGL for a day of teaching about the Merciful Love of the Lord. If you are in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, or you would like to grow in faith, you are very welcome to this inspiring day at St Peter Chanel's and the Rheinberger Centre, cnr Weston and Loch Sts, Yarralumla, ACT, on Saturday October 31, 9am to 4pm, with Mass in the church at 3pm. Bring your lunch, morning and afternoon tea provided. Entry is free. A collection will be taken to support the work of the CCR in

this Archdiocese. To register for the day, please call Neda 0415 266 019, Sandra 0405 692 999, or Susanna 0419 902 293.

ST THOMAS AQUINAS PRIMARY SCHOOL: Warmly invites past students, past and present staff, parents and parishioners for its 40th anniversary cocktail dinner at St Thomas Aquinas School Hall, West Belconnen on Friday, November 6 at 6.30pm for a 7pm start. Tickets \$25, dress: smart casual. RSVP by October 27, by calling (02) 6258 4077 or email communitycouncil.staquinas@cg.catholic.edu.au.

THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF PAMBULA: Will celebrate its sesquicentenary (150 years) on the weekend of November 7-8. This milestone will be celebrated with a dinner at Merimbula RSL Club on Saturday November 7 and Mass on Sunday November 8 at St Joseph's Merimbula at 10am to be celebrated by Archbishop Christopher Prowse. The five churches in the parish are Our Lady Star of the Sea, Eden, St Peter's Pambula, St Joseph's Merimbula, Our Lady of

the Highway Kiah and St Joseph's Wyndham. The parish warmly invites all past religious and former parishioners to join them for this celebration. For more information, contact the parish office: (02) 6495 1880, Bernadette (02) 6496 1360 or John (02) 6495 6325.

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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*Twenty-one-year-old Canberra Catholic
Conor Simpson has the world at his*

Dancing FEET

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

BY DAY he's a university student, by night he's waiting on tables, and in between he's a world champion Irish dancer.

Twenty-one-year-old Conor Simpson trumped his highly-fancied Irish and English rivals earlier this year when he came first in the Under 21 category at the Irish Dancing World Championships in Montreal.

Despite his success, Conor, who qualified for the world event after winning the Australian championships, remains committed to helping to grow the sport. In fact, he can be found every Tuesday evening leading classes in Irish dancing in suburban Pearce in the ACT.

It was during his own childhood that the former Marist College student first developed his passion for Irish dancing.

"I've been dancing since I was about 9," he says.

"Once I started, I enjoyed it and I got hooked. I love it, because it keeps you fit and active, and it's good for coordination.

"When I was about 14 or 15 I stopped dancing for a couple of years... but then in 2013 I went overseas and I got back into it. I immersed myself in Irish culture and I got hooked again."

Part of the Sacred Heart Parish in Pearce, Conor says he inherited his passion for Irish dancing from his mum, Monica, who founded the Simpson Academy for Irish Dance in Fyshwick more than 20 years ago, just before Conor was born.

While Irish dancing has always been a part of the family's life, Conor says it was only an enjoyable pastime for many years.

Like any Irish dancing family, the famous Riverdance

spectacle would often be viewed at home, time and time again.

"When I was little I always used to put it on and watch it," Conor says.

"I know a lot of people my age who started dancing because they saw Lord of the Dance or something like that, so it's helped our sport a lot."

Conor's first experience of competing at a world championship occurred when he was just 13, having qualified via the Australian championships and the ACT championships.

In the following years, he continued to compete on the world stage, finishing as high as third on two occasions. But it was a year spent overseas that provided Conor with renewed motivation to be the best in the world.

"My 2013 gap year was a turning point in my dance career," he says.

"In my final years of school I was playing rugby in the First XV and dancing was very much taking a back seat. When I went overseas [to Ireland] my focus was on dance and I really became a part of the dance community and understood what an important role dance plays in Irish culture.

"I danced with one of the biggest schools over there, the Carson-Kennedy Academy of

"I knew I had danced well, and my teachers were happy with it, but Irish dance is one of those subjective sports that you can never really tell for sure who's going to win."

Irish Dance, and there's a really high standard there. The teacher (Gerard Carson) is a five-time world champion, so it was amazing."

In preparation for his assault on the world title this year, Conor went back to Ireland last summer for six weeks of intensive training and competition. On his return home, he



Conor Simpson celebrates after winning the Irish Dancing World Championships earlier this year, above. The 21-year-old is passing on his passion for the sport by teaching aspiring young dancers, below. PHOTOS: SHAMROCK PHOTO; LOUI SESELJA

trained as often as six days a week.

His victory at the event often dubbed the 'Olympics of Irish dance' was a testament to his work ethic.

"It was just amazing to win," he says.

"I knew I had danced well, and my teachers were happy with it, but Irish dance is one of those subjective sports that

you can never really tell for sure who's going to win."

Competing against 25 of the world's best, Conor outperformed the field in three categories of dancing – a hard shoe round, a light shoe round, and a set dance round.

Like many sports, Irish dancing requires its exponents to be in peak physical condi-



tion, so a career in the sport would only be temporary, Conor says.

"Because it's not something you can do when you're really old, generally dancers will transition into something else once they're about 30," he says.

"Some of the shows are quite high-paying, so you can make a career out of it. If a good show came up like Riverdance or Lord of the

Dance, and it was the right timing, then I'd happily join that.

"But I also want to finish my degree in economics and finance, and then I'll have something behind me."

The next challenge for Conor will be the 2015 Australian championships (September 29 - October 3) in Sydney, before he heads to Glasgow next year eyeing off another world title.