

Dream realised

St Patrick's Primary
opens visionary
refurbishments

PAGE 17



Pambula's 150th

Coastal parish
celebrates 150 years of
a faith-filled community

PAGE 10-11

Mass times

Every parish's
Mass schedule for
Christmas 2015

PAGE 20



FREE

No. 316 December 2015

Circulation 20,000

Archbishop's Aussie joke sends Pope into hysterics

"TANTI kanguri," Archbishop Christopher Prowse said as he greeted Pope Francis in Rome on October 28, prompting a burst of laughter from the Argentine Pontiff.

The Archbishop said he thought of the Australian take on the common Italian phrase 'tanti auguri' – which means best wishes – while he was waiting in line to greet the Pope.

Although the encounter was only brief, Archbishop Christopher said he felt like he was "meeting a loving father".

"I felt I was meeting a parish priest of the world and there was a great sense of feeling relaxed with him," he said.

"I felt that I was talking to a saint in the making."

The Archbishop was attending a conference celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Vatican II declaration, *Nostra Aetate*.



Archbishop Christopher Prowse greets Pope Francis in Rome on October 28. The Archbishop said he felt like he was talking to a "saint in the making".

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Pro-life prayer vigils banned

New ACT legislation prohibiting praying outside an abortion clinic passes with support of Greens and Labor

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

PRAYING silently outside an abortion clinic in Canberra will be a criminal offence attracting a fine of up to \$3,500, under legislation passed recently.

The Health (Patient Privacy) Amendment Act 2015 Bill, introduced in the ACT Legislative Assembly by Greens Minister Shane Rattenbury, passed on October 29 with the support of the Labor Party.

The Bill establishes a minimum exclusion zone of

50 metres around approved medical facilities, where anyone wishing to protest, hold vigils or interact with visitors to the facilities will be prohibited from

"The real issue is trying to assist fragile women with unwanted pregnancies to consider deeply options other than abortion."

entering.

The ACT Liberal Party moved to amend the Bill to permit peaceful protests, but did not succeed.

For the past 16 years, prayer

vigils have been held outside the ACT Health Centre in Civic. Earlier this year Archbishop Christopher Prowse took part in prayers outside the facility

during the annual '40 Days for Life' campaign.

The Archbishop described the legislation as "cold and clinical".

"It completely ignores the

complexity of the abortion issue itself," he said. "The real issue is trying to assist fragile women with unwanted pregnancies to consider deeply options other

than abortion.

"Counselling must be given a higher imperative in our community to help women and men who find themselves in such lonely situations."

ACT Right to Life president Bev Cains said the prohibition on any form of protest was "ridiculous".

"What is the point of having human rights legislation when a majority in the Legislative Assembly can ride roughshod over the most basic human rights of freedom of assembly, religion, and protest?," she said.

"A person on the opposite side of the road to the building need only wear a pro-life badge

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

ARCHBISHOP
CHRISTOPHER'S
DIARY



December 1st
5.30pm Catechist Mass - Mary Help of Christians Parish, Pearce

December 3rd
5.30pm Public forum: 'Uniting or Dividing? Christians and Muslims in our globalised world' - Chapel at ACCC, Barton

December 4th
10.30am Volunteers Day - CatholicCare offices, Blackfriars
1.30pm Visit to Alexander Maconochie Centre
6pm Cathedral Parish Christmas party for volunteers - Rheinberger Centre, Yarralumla

December 5th
6pm Canberra Malayalees Association Christmas gathering - Performing Arts Centre, Namadgi School, Kambah

December 6th
8.30am Confirmation Mass - St Columbkille Parish, Jindabyne

December 7th
12.30pm Clergy Christmas BBQ - Archbishop's House

December 8th
12.15pm Mass - Opening of the Year of Mercy and blessing of pilgrims - St Christopher's Cathedral
5.30pm Book launch: *Lay People in the Asian Church*, by Dr Peter Hai - ACU, Blackfriars Garden, Watson

December 10th
9.30am Advent Reflection with Archbishop Prowse - Rheinberger Centre, Yarralumla

December 11th
10.30am CEO end of year Mass - St Christopher's Cathedral

December 13th
I am Jubilee Year of Mercy blessing of Holy Door/Jubilee Mass for Fr Tony Percy and Fr John Armstrong - St Christopher's Cathedral

December 20th
I am Mass and admission to candidacy of Namora Anderson for sacred orders - St Christopher's Cathedral

December 24th
Christmas Vigil Mass - St Christopher's Cathedral

December 25th
I am Christmas Day Mass - St Christopher's Cathedral
12.30pm Clergy Christmas lunch - Archbishop's House

A time for merciful accompaniment



ARCHBISHOP'S MESSAGE
ARCHBISHOP
CHRISTOPHER PROWSE

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

The Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy (December 8, 2015 - November 20, 2016) is upon us. I sense a growing awareness of this in the parishes. Parish groups are deciding upon practical pastoral approaches. They are reading Pope Francis' foundational document on the Year of Mercy (*Misericordiae Vultus*). My own pastoral letter on Mercy is also available (November's *Catholic Voice*). All of this has my every encouragement and support.

At the same time, we have now entered the Advent liturgical season, as we ready ourselves for the great feast of Christmas. During this time, we are continuing to receive summary reports of the October Synod of Bishops in Rome

on family life. I read one such report recently. It was from one of the Italian Archbishops who assisted in organising the Synod. He offered three words, which he felt summarised the discussions.

- (1) Accompaniment: Rather than condemn, we are to accompany mercifully family life today in all its challenges and situations.
- (2) Healing: Healing discern-

In this Advent/Christmas season, let us imitate Mary and with great mercy in our hearts, accompany Jesus, the source of all mercy, into the challenges of our everyday lives.

ment is to be offered to families today. As the entire Church is made up of families in all their forms, we serve family life by assisting them to discern and heal the many issues that daily they encounter.

- (3) Conversion: Turning back to the Lord in repentance is at the very centre of the Christian life. It is an encounter of the Lord's tenderness. It is

God's loving kindness offered to all as a gift of grace. This is so often a step by step and gradual return to the God of all mercies.

Let us keep these three points in mind in 2016 during our deanery regional gatherings on the topic of 'Mercy in Marriage and Family Life'.

When I reflect carefully on the above and given the fact that the Christmas season is so

as Pope St John Paul II observed, a living tabernacle who carries Jesus in her womb in a kind of first ever Eucharistic procession.

In the birth of Jesus at Bethlehem, Mary is observed as presenting her first born Son to the world, to humble shepherds and wise men from the East.

Throughout his entire life, Jesus is, in one form or another, accompanied by his mother. We think particularly of Cana to Calvary.


So, in this Advent/Christmas season, let us imitate Mary and with great mercy in our hearts, accompany Jesus, the source of all mercy, into the challenges of our everyday lives.

I pray for you all at Christmas time. May "the loving kindness of the heart of our God" (Luke 1:78) bless you and all members of your family, especially the ones who struggle the most, with the joy and hope of Christmas. Enjoy any holidays that may be forthcoming. May the merciful Lord bless you throughout 2016.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse
Catholic Archbishop of
Canberra and Goulburn

FEAST DAY OF THE MONTH

St Stephen
December 26



St Stephen's name means 'crown', and he was the first disciple of Jesus to receive the martyr's crown. Stephen was a deacon in the early Christian Church. The apostles had found that they needed helpers to look after the care of the widows and the poor. So they ordained seven deacons, and Stephen is the most famous of these. God worked many miracles through St Stephen and he spoke with such wisdom and grace that many of his hearers became followers of Jesus. The enemies of Jesus were furious to see how successful Stephen's preaching was. They could not answer his wise arguments, so they got men to lie about him, saying he had spoken sinfully against God. St Stephen faced that great assembly of enemies without fear. The saint spoke about Jesus, showing that he was the saviour God had promised to send. He scolded his enemies for not having believed in Jesus. At that, they rose up in great anger and shouted at him. But Stephen looked up to heaven and said that he saw the heavens opening and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. His hearers dragged St Stephen outside the city of Jerusalem and stoned him to death. The saint fell to his knees and begged God not to punish his enemies for killing him. After such an expression of love, the holy martyr went to his heavenly reward.

- CATHOLIC ONLINE

December
Feast Days

3 December St Francis Xavier
4 December St John Damascene
7 December St Ambrose
8 December THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
9 December St Juan Diego
11 December St Damasus I
12 December Our Lady of Guadalupe
14 December St John of the Cross
21 December St Peter Canisius
23 December St John of Kanty
25 December THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
26 December St Stephen
27 December THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH
28 December The Holy Innocents
29 December St Thomas Becket
31 December St Sylvester I

CATHOLIC
VOICE

ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN

EDITOR: Matthew Biddle
matthew.biddle@catholiclife.org.au
Ph. (02) 6163 4308

ADVERTISING: Brianna Thomas
brianna.thomas@catholiclife.org.au
Ph. (02) 6163 4303

ADDRESS: PO Box 7174
Yarralumla, ACT, 2600
Rheinberger Centre, cnr Weston and Loch Streets, Yarralumla

www.cg.catholic.org.au

DEADLINE: Editorial and advertising
15th of the month before publication.

Catholic Voice is published by the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn and printed by Capital Fine Print, Fyshwick. It is a member of the Australasian Catholic Press Association and the Australasian Religious Press Association.

Every month 20,000 copies are distributed.

Print Post Publication No. I00008082.

Catholics take Christ to Canberra's streets

TRAFFIC between Narrabundah and Manuka came to a halt on November 15 as a crowd of almost 100 Catholics took part in the annual Eucharistic procession from St Benedict's Church to St Christopher's Cathedral.

Fr Ken Barker MGL, who carried the Blessed Sacrament during the journey, and several Missionaries of God's Love seminarians, who carried the pilgrim statue of Our Lady Help of Christians, led the procession.

Participants recited the Rosary and several litanies during the procession, as well as singing a number of Marian hymns.

"Processions such as these have great symbolic meaning and are a great heritage not to be lost."

The event finished with Benediction at the Cathedral, followed by Mass celebrated by Archbishop Christopher Prowse.

It was the 14th time such a procession has been held in the nation's capital, with the first taking place in 2002.

Organiser Brian Curtis said the procession went smoothly and that he was grateful for pleasant weather once again.

"It was great to have the Archbishop's support again, along with the ever present help of the Missionaries of God's Love, without whom the procession could not be run," he said.

"Some Catholics may see



Catholics took part in the annual Eucharistic procession from Narrabundah to Manuka on November 15.

PHOTOS: LOUI SESELJA, MATTHEW BIDDLE

events such as these as old fashioned. I believe processions such as these have great symbolic meaning, and are a great heritage not to be lost. The Blessed Eucharist is Christ himself. It is the greatest treasure of our faith."

Mr Curtis added that the procession was a good way of publicly witnessing to one's faith.

"It is always a highlight each year to walk past the 'latte' set in Manuka shops, singing Catholic hymns and reciting litanies of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Precious Blood," he said. "You see a lot of open mouths and wide-eyed stares.



Archdiocese ready for arrival of refugees

PREPARATIONS for the arrival of thousands of refugees in the coming months are continuing, as the Archdiocese looks to provide as much assistance as possible to those in need.

During November, the Archbishop's Refugee Committee (ARC) met with staff from the Department of Social Services, to discuss the proposed resettlement process.

While the number of refugees to be resettled within the Archdiocese is not yet known, it is possible that parishes and individuals will be able to assist by providing accommodation, the ARC's Victor Dunn said.

The Migrant and Refugee Settlement Services of the ACT also hosted a meeting recently, where it was indicated that it was unlikely that any

"There is every indication that refugees will be settled in rural communities."

refugees would arrive in the ACT before January 2016.

"The meeting was also informed that all arrivals would likely be based in Canberra for six to eight weeks for initial processing,

after which they would be relocated to other parts of the region," Mr Dunn said.

"There is every indication that refugees will be settled in rural communities and to this end parishes are invited to indicate their willingness to assist in the settlement and support of refugees.

"An indication too of those individuals who are willing to participate in training would be welcomed by the ARC."

Parishes and individuals wishing to assist or donate to the Archdiocesan refugee fund can contact the ARC: refugees@cg.org.au. A payment portal will also be established on the Archdiocesan website in the near future.



**Donate to the
Archdiocesan
Refugee Fund**

www.bpoint.com.au/payments/aocgcwf
More information contact the ARC: refugees@cg.org.au.

The ‘electric current of the Holy Spirit’

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

MORE than 160 members of Catholic charismatic prayer groups and communities in the Archdiocese gathered in Yarralumla on October 31 for a day of teaching, led by Fr Ken Barker MGL and Archbishop Christopher Prowse.

Representatives from the Community of the Risen Lord, Jesus Youth, St Benedict’s Mission Centre, the Disciples of Jesus, and several other

“All charismatic movements in the Church are a great gift of God’s mercy - the gift of the Holy Spirit upon us.”

groups took part in the event, with individuals travelling from as far as West Wyalong, Merimbula and Cooma.

During his presentation, Archbishop Christopher described the charismatic movement in the Church as an “electric current of the Holy Spirit”.

“It enlivens us, gives us hope and apart from anything else gives us great joy,” he said.

“All charismatic movements in the Church are a great gift of God’s mercy – the gift of the Holy Spirit upon us.”

The Archbishop said all Catholics today are called to



Members of Catholic charismatic prayer groups and communities took part in a day of teaching on October 31. It was the first time such an event has been held in the Archdiocese, and its success prompted the decision to host similar events on an annual basis. PHOTO: MATTHEW BIDDLE

be “missionary disciples” who evangelise without proselytising.

“It’s great to see in the Archdiocese many prayer groups that are ecumenical,” he said.

“But I’d like to see also many prayer groups that lead

people into the Catholic Church. This is a real priority.”

One of the event’s organisers Susanna Taylor told *Catholic Voice* it was a “joyful” day for all those involved.

“It was wonderful to see the response of people in the Charismatic Renewal to the

Archbishop’s invitation,” she said.

“The talk by the Archbishop was a real highlight. He challenged us to reach out beyond our prayer groups and communities to bring the Good News to the poor and marginalised.

“Fr Ken Barker’s talk was also very profound, teaching us that when we know our own brokenness we will then have compassion for others.”

The event is set to become an annual one, with November 5 already locked in for 2016’s gathering.

Give generously this Christmas

AS WE gather to celebrate the birth of Jesus, parishes will be conducting the annual Archbishop’s Christmas Appeal at their Christmas Masses. Times of celebration make hardship all the starker. To offer a helping hand to others this Christmas can be a way of stirring the great hope of Christmas.

Funds raised will again support the National Council of Churches’ Christmas Bowl Appeal, the People’s Community Network’s activities in Fiji as well as projects locally within the Wilcannia-

Forbes Diocese, and globally, within the Diocese of Otukpo, Nigeria and the Typhoon affected Diocese of Tagbilaran, Cebu in the Philippines. Funds will also support indigenous food and medical care programs within Quezon City.

Last year, the Archbishop’s Christmas Appeal raised \$72,994. \$20,000 went toward supporting typhoon recovery at the Tagbilaran Diocesan Seminary in Cebu, \$15,000 supported pastoral initiatives in our neighbouring Wilcannia-Forbes Diocese, \$10,000 went towards activities assisting

people living in informal settlements in Fiji; \$10,000 to provide water within the Diocese of Otukpo, Nigeria and \$7,994 to enable completion, with gutters and down pipes, the building modification at the monastery in Ba Ria Vung Tau, Vietnam, as well as provide a further well for clean water to improve the extreme living conditions facing students in addition to \$10,000 for the National Council of Churches in Australia’s (NCCA’s) Christmas Bowl Appeal, to assist their Act for Peace projects.

ARCHBISHOP’S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

I would like my donation to be:
| \$20 | \$50 | \$100 | \$150 | Other \$ _____

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr/Rev _____
(Block letters please)

Address _____
_____ Postcode _____

Please find enclosed my | Cheque | Money Order

I prefer to use my | Bankcard | Visa | Mastercard

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Signed _____ Expires _____/____

Please send to: Mission & Development Office,
GPO Box 3089, Canberra, ACT, 2601

Inquiries: Deacon Joe Blackwell: 0407 909 295



Building the Church

MANUKA PRECINCT UPDATE

Manuka precinct taking shape, on track for April 2017

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

THE site of the new Manuka precinct has been transformed over the past few months, with the underground section complete and the base of the building nearing completion.

Archdiocesan financial administrator Helen Delahunty said the majority of work being done relates to the main administration building (the Thomas Cahill Centre), although some work has also been done on the 44 independent living units.

The transfer of services has also now been completed, meaning that parking on Franklin Street for those visiting St

Christopher's Cathedral has returned to normal.

Ms Delahunty said the builders would take a short break over Christmas and New Year,

“There were some challenges at the start of the project... but it’s all been managed very well.”

but would be back on the job in the middle of January.

“I’m very happy with the progress we’ve made,” she said.

“There were some challenges at the start of the project, particularly regarding the soil and the ground... but it’s all been managed very well.”

It is expected that the precast concrete for the outside of the new building will be put in place in the coming months, meaning that the site will rapidly change, visually.

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

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



An aerial view of the Manuka precinct site. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Croatian community welcomes Papal Nuncio

AUSTRALIA'S Papal Nuncio Archbishop Adolfo Yllana visited the Croatian Catholic community of Canberra and Queanbeyan for the first time on November 8.

The Nuncio celebrated Mass at St Augustine's Church in Farrer for the community, before joining parishioners and the Croatian Ambassador to Australia Dr Damir Kušen for lunch.

Archbishop Yllana encouraged those present to continue to work and pray together in unity, as a community of believers.

The 68-year-old was appointed as Papal Nuncio to Australia in February, after Archbishop Paul Gallagher was made the Vatican's Secretary for Relations with States.



Archbishop Adolfo Yllana celebrated Mass with Fr Miroslav Jelic OFM for the Archdiocese's Croatian Catholic community on November 8. PHOTO: LOUI SESELJA



Pro-life prayer vigils have been held outside the ACT Health Centre for the past 16 years. PHOTO: MATTHEW BIDDLE

Exclusion zone laws a ‘direct attack on freedom of speech’

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in their lapel, wear a pro-life t-shirt, or hold a pair of Rosary beads in their hands for someone to claim intimidation.”

The Australian Christian Lobby's Wendy Francis said the Bill would do nothing to help women.

“This is a direct attack on freedom of speech and political communication on the contested issue of abortion,” she said.

“It will ban peaceful protests, prayer, support workers and councillors who can provide women with alternatives in a way that is not harassing or intimidating.

“This bill is aggressive and ideologically driven. It goes too far, ensuring that this kind of good can never happen in the ACT.”

The legislation is expected to come into effect in the middle of next year.



The fulfilling life of a Good Samaritan Sister

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

ON February 2, 1857, five women came together at the request of Archbishop John Polding OSB to found the first Australian Religious Order, the Sisters of the Good Samaritan.

More than 150 years later, the congregation continues to serve the Church through a ministry focused on charity, hospitality and stewardship of the earth.

Affectionately known as the 'Good Sams', the Sisters have had a presence in the Canberra and Goulburn region since 1879, when they founded a boarding and day school in Queanbeyan. The Sisters were pioneers of Catholic education in Canberra, opening St Christopher's School in 1928.

Today, the legacy of the Good Sams is being continued by Sr Rita Reilly SGS and Sr Sue Hallams SGS, who reside at the community's home in Red Hill.

The pair spoke to *Catholic Voice* recently about their vocations and life as Good Samaritan Sisters, admitting they couldn't be happier anywhere else.

"Religious life is a gift," Sr Sue says. "I've had a very blessed and happy life as a Good Samaritan, and it would be lovely if other young women would also feel that attraction."

Sr Rita says that despite the occasional challenge, she's never questioned whether she was in the wrong place.

"I made a commitment and even though there have been hard times, I don't think I've ever really looked back," Sr Rita says. "In fact, I've always felt I was very blessed and fortunate."

"I wouldn't want to be



Sr Sue Hallams (right) and Sr Rita Reilly (left) say they couldn't be happier as Sisters of the Good Samaritan. PHOTO: MATTHEW BIDDLE

anything else other than a Good Samaritan."

The two Sisters share similar vocation stories. Both were educated, for a time, by Sisters of the Good Samaritan, giving

Canberra, recalls. "My eldest brother became a Marist Brother, and somehow I started thinking about that kind of life."

"Mum and dad also had a lot to do with the Church. Dad

Sr Rita taught with the Good Sams for a few months at St Patrick's in Braddon, an experience she says was highly formative.

"I saw the Sisters in a different light," she says. "It was then

"I made a commitment and even though there have been hard times, I don't think I've ever really looked back."

them the inspiration and courage to follow their footsteps.

"I never really thought about becoming a nun, but I admired many of the nuns who taught me," Sr Rita, who grew up in

would be there most weekends helping the Sisters, and mum did some cooking for the nuns, so there was that connection with the family."

After finishing her schooling,

that I started thinking about a vocation. I spoke to mum and dad and they wanted me to wait longer. But I remember saying to them, 'If I don't try it now, I don't think I will'."

After entering in 1954, Sr Rita made her first profession in 1957.

Meanwhile, in another area where the Good Sams were based, Sr Sue was attending St Mary's College in Wollongong, where she came to know several inspirational Sisters.

"The Sisters helped to nurture in us a real love of God and a relationship with God," she says.

"In those days it was seen as an option to become a religious, it was always held before us that maybe God was calling you to this way of life."

"My difficulty with the whole thing was being the only daughter, and not knowing how my parents would take it. It was hard, but they were very good about it."

Sr Sue's novitiate commenced in 1963, and three years later she made her first profession. Her 50th anniversary of profession will be in 2016.

The Sisters' way of life is based primarily on the parable of the Good Samaritan, as well as the Rule of St Benedict. Over the years, the practicalities of life as a Good Sam have changed significantly, the pair say, but the changes have been for the better.

"In the early days you were appointed to ministries... but now there's much more looking at what gifts does this person bring to our congregation and where does it fit," Sr Sue, who has filled a pastoral role at St Francis Xavier College in Florey since 2005, explains.

"The needs today are different. Catholic schools are on a strong foundation... so now we're working with refugees and in the Philippines with the poorest of the poor."

Sr Rita's ministry revolved around education initially, but in 1996 she took up a different type of ministry, which she's remained in ever since.

"I was offered a position with CentreCare in the area of disabilities, and from then on my whole focus, in terms of ministry, has been disabilities," she says. "It was a great change for me, and I really enjoyed it. I feel like I've found my place."

Like most Religious Orders, the number of Good Sams has declined over the years, but Sr Sue says there has been growth in other areas.

"When I entered, the big communities would have had 20-30 Sisters in them... but now we've got only two or three in most communities," she says.

"There's still a vibrancy and energy in the congregation. We have three countries outside of Australia where we minister now – Japan, the Philippines and Kiribati."

"The numbers of Oblates and Associates – people who accept the whole charism of the Good Samaritans while living their own way of life – is also growing."

Whether the presence of the Good Sams in Canberra and Goulburn will continue long into the future or not is in God's hands, but the Sisters are confident that the Order's legacy will always remain.

"Being a Good Samaritan might look very different in the future, but those core values will always be a part of it," Sr Sue says.

Encounter
ARCHDIOCESAN E-NEWS BULLETIN

JESUS

COMMUNITY

MISSION

Sign up for a weekly update of the news and events happening around the Archdiocese

www.bit.ly/encounter_enews

Two rural churches set for sale

TWO of the oldest Catholic churches in the Archdiocese appear destined for new owners, as populations in rural areas continue to decline.

St Columba's Catholic Church in Koorawatha (built in 1932) and St Patrick's Catholic Church in Weethalle (built in 1956) have been used less frequently in recent times, but remain places of significant historical value.

On November 1, Weethalle parishioners gathered for Sunday Mass for the last time at the church, after which they shared fond memories of life in the parish.

West Wyalong parish priest Fr Emil Milat said the low numbers of regular Mass-goers at Weethalle made the decision inevitable.

"A monthly Mass at times had only two people and sometimes none in attendance so it was not feasible to continue," he said.

"The future of the Church is yet to be decided by the community. Sale is an option that is being discussed or perhaps a couple moving from Canberra to live at the spacious property rent free to minister spiritually to the local community.

"The Church is not a corporation, but a family, so if the cessation of Masses makes it harder for one person to attend Sunday Mass, it is a significant problem and we must seek new pastoral methods, through the Holy Spirit's inspiration, to meet the difficulty."

Monthly Masses will continue at the parish's other two small churches at nearby Tallimba and Rankins Springs.



The 83-year-old Catholic church at Koorawatha, above, and St Patrick's Church in Weethalle will likely be sold in the near future. Weethalle parishioners gathered for the final Sunday Mass at the church on November 1, All Saints Day. PHOTOS: ONLINE; SUPPLIED

Fr Emil will also continue to pastorally care for the community by celebrating baptisms, funerals and special events.

A decision on the future of the Koorawatha church is also yet to be confirmed, however, parish administrator Fr Tom Thornton said the parish finance council and parish pastoral council are looking to sell the church, which is in a state of disrepair.

"The cost of repairs, maintenance and assorted other outlays are not warranted due to its lack of use," Fr Tom wrote in the parish bulletin.

Parishioners have been encouraged to express any concerns about the pending sale in writing.



Social Justice Statement 'encouraging and practical'

THIS year's Catholic Social Justice Statement has the potential to be a catalyst for a more just and humane response to asylum seekers, Sr Jane Keogh CSB told those gathered at a public forum to discuss the statement on November 11.

"I believe this statement, and particularly the process of taking it to the people, is one of the most encouraging things to happen in the Church lately," she said.

"This statement is strong. It speaks directly against current policies and practices.

"It is encouraging and practical, and it points a way forward. It gives direction for personal, local, national and international responses."

The Brigidine Sister joined former ACT Chief Minister

Jon Stanhope, as well as Zimbabwe-born human rights activist Felix Machiridza in examining the statement, titled *For Those Who've Come Across the Seas*.

During her presentation, Sr Jane spoke about practical

capital of Kurdistan opened their doors and their hearts. They set them up in churches and halls. The whole population made sacrifices but they did what a follower of Jesus would do in their circumstances."

"I believe this statement... is one of the most encouraging things to happen in the Church lately."

ways individuals and communities could help those in need.

"In June 2014, 800,000 asylum seekers fled ISIL and invaded the capital of Kurdistan, a city no larger than Canberra," she said.

"The Christians in the

Mr Stanhope spoke about the negative consequences of mandatory detention and off-shore processing, challenging politicians to take an humane policy to the next election.

Mr Machiridza, who came to Australia in 2010 as an asylum seeker from Zimbabwe,

recalled the dire situation he faced as an underground journalist under the Zimbabwean dictatorship. Four years later, his family were able to join him, although not without great difficulty.

"I am living testimony that if someone who is broken and has no hope is well supported and received and is assisted on the way, they can do so much to give back to the community that nurtured them," Mr Machiridza said.

The forum concluded with an invitation to all to participate in the 'Kitchen Table Conversations' on the statement (contact csjc@cg.catholic.org.au) and in the Archdiocese's Parish Refugee Support Project (contact refugee@cg.org.au).

Advertisement

HOME BASE



Gerard Heffernan

Save some \$\$\$ this Christmas

How to survive the holiday shopping season without busting your budget?

Write down everyone you plan to buy a gift for, no matter how small the gift may be. Include ideas of what to give each person, along with the maximum amount you're willing to spend.

Don't wait until Christmas Eve to start buying gifts. Keep your eyes open all year round for items friends and family would like; it's often when you're not looking for something specific that you stumble across the perfect gift for Dad or your best friend.

If you're unsure of which specific item to buy search for reputable online reviews. Check sites with user reviews and ratings.

There's an abundance of homemade pickles, hand-knit hats, and handcrafted stationery these days, thanks to a growing obsession with all things crafty, artisanal, and homespun.

If it's too late for this year, maybe prepare for next, these are just a few ideas!

Have a safe, blessed and peaceful Christmas!

Gerard Heffernan

0402 026 246

gerard@hls.com.au

www.hls.com.au



J.P. VERDON

PTY. LTD.

• RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL

• NEW INSTALLATIONS & REPAIRS

• OBLIGATION FREE QUOTES

Licensed Plumber, Drainer & Gasfitter

Call Peter on 6281 5695

or Mobile 0412 663 029

26 Anderson Street, Chifley

Catechists thanked for valuable ministry

"THE sowing of the seed of faith may seem like a small thing, but when it flourishes it's a magnificent thing which builds the kingdom of God," Fr Tony Percy told catechists of the Northern Deanery on November 18.

The Vicar General was preaching during the first of five special Masses to be celebrated before the end of the year in thanksgiving for the work of voluntary catechists in the Archdiocese.

Fr Tony spoke about the importance of the ministry and its immense value to the Church, explaining how results may not always be visible but are often occurring through the grace of God.

Deacon Matt Ransom, the Archdiocesan Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) coordinator, thanked those present for their ministry and presented awards to several long-serving catechists.

Miriam Bugeja was presented with the Fr Michael O'Brien award for 35 years of service as a catechist; Pauline Verrell received the Archbishop's medal for 20 years of service, and Michelle Bennett and Valerie Brooker



Catechists from the Northern Deanery were thanked for their ministry at a special Mass at St Raphael's Church in Queanbeyan on November 18.

PHOTO: MATTHEW BIDDLE

were recognised for 10 years of ministry.

Deacon Matt said he was grateful for the work of the Archdiocese's 200 catechists in 2015.

"This year across the Archdiocese we've educated around 2,000 baptised Catholic kids in State schools," he said.

While the catechist ministry will continue in its present form in 2016, there are also plans to develop an additional program.

"We are hoping to develop a student catechist program across the Archdiocese, where trained Year 10 and 11 students teach Catholic primary school

students who attend State schools," Deacon Matt explained.

The second Mass to celebrate catechists was held on November 20 at Young, while other Masses will be held at Pearce (December 1), Merimbula (December 9), and Jindabyne (December 10).

LOCAL NEWS

Vinnies needs your help this Christmas

THE St Vincent de Paul Society is calling on Australians to help restore hope this Christmas, by donating to its 2015 Christmas Appeal.

The Canberra/Goulburn branch of the Society says a donation can help provide families and individuals doing it tough with the right assistance so they can have the hope and means to rebuild their lives.

"Sadly, for many people Christmas is a time they feel further isolated from society if they don't have support networks," president Frank Brassil said. "Families struggle with large household bills and the stress of the school year looming can leave families feeling helpless."

As Christmas approaches, calls for help to the Society have increased and are expected to grow up until the end of December.

To make a donation to the Appeal, visit www.vinnies.org.au or call 13 18 12.

Letters to the Editor back in 2016

LETTERS to the Editor will return to the pages of *Catholic Voice* in 2016, beginning with the February edition.

The views expressed in the Letters to the Editor are not necessarily endorsed by and do not necessarily represent the views of *Catholic Voice* or the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn. Letters are submitted on the condition

that *Catholic Voice* may edit them for reasons of length, clarity and legality, and to meet style requirements.

To submit a Letter to the Editor, email ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au or mail to *Catholic Voice*, PO Box 7174, Yarralumla, ACT, 2600. Letters submitted without a name and address will not be published.

Every goodbye is different

Some things are more important than others, like finding a local funeral director you can trust. We bring a depth of experience and understanding that could only come from being an integral part of the community.

Proud sponsor of the Pilgrimages of St. Therese in 2002 & St. Francis Xavier during the Year of Grace.

Belconnen 6251 2344
Kingston 6295 2799
Queanbeyan 6297 1546
Tuggeranong 6293 3177



TOBIN BROTHERS
A GUARDIAN FUNERAL PROVIDER

EVERY GOODBYE IS DIFFERENT

tobinscanberrafunerals.com.au

Proudly Australian | 24 hours | All Areas | Prepaid Funerals

Celebrate the Year of Consecrated Life: ACN

by supporting priests, religious sisters and brothers wherever the Church is poor, persecuted or threatened

Throughout the world wherever the Church is poor, persecuted or threatened, there are tens of thousands of priests, religious sisters and brothers daily living the 'Yes' they have already given to God.

They have left everything in order to follow the One who has called them. They can be found wherever Jesus is to be found – in silent adoration before the Tabernacle, and in the slum quarters and refugee camps of the Third World; in bombed out cities, at the bedside of the sick and dying – in short, wherever their fellow men and women are alone and despairing. But they are also to be found engaged in building a better future. Millions of children have them to thank for the opportunity to go to school and benefit from some form of vocational training. And many initiatives for reconciliation have come about thanks to their involvement.

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.



A priest in the Andes anointing the sick



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

The Cross of the rosary is inspired by the word "YES" in faithfulness to His Call and to His Mission.

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".



Send to: Aid to the Church in Need, PO Box 7246 Baulkham Hills BC NSW 2153

Phone/Fax No: (02) 9679-1929 E-mail: info@aidtochurch.org Web: www.aidtochurch.org

I/We enclose \$..... to support the work of Priests, Religious Sisters and Brothers wherever the Church is poor, persecuted or threatened.

I enclose a cheque/money order payable to Aid to the Church in Need or please debit my Visa or Mastercard

Exp. Date ____/____ Signature

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Sr/Rev
BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE

Address

Postcode

Ph

Email

Aid to the Church in Need a Catholic charity dependent on the Holy See, providing pastoral relief to needy and oppressed Churches

Locals celebrate Boorowa's milestone

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

CLERGY, religious, parishioners and guests celebrated the 150th anniversary of St Patrick's Parish in Boorowa on November 22.

About 300 people attended Mass for the occasion, which was celebrated by Archbishop Christopher Prowse and Young Mission priests Fr Tom Thornton and Fr Paul Nulley.

Several other Archdiocesan priests were present for the occasion, as were a number of Sisters of Mercy, representing members of the Order who had been associated with St Patrick's since 1882.

During his homily, Archbishop Christopher expressed his gratitude to those who had helped found the parish community 150 years ago.

"We can thank the Lord Jesus for all that was, and has been, here at Boorowa," he said.

"The forefathers of our Catholic faith, the mothers, brothers and sisters before us have left us a living legacy in this magnificent church."

While acknowledging the legacy of the past, Archbishop Christopher encouraged those present to continue to live out their faith despite the difficulties of life in regional towns today.

"It's challenging times, let's be frank about it," he said. "There's a great retreat around the whole of Australia from rural towns to much bigger towns and cities.

"It's like a relay race... and now the baton's in our hands. We cannot be despondent. Faith is not the place for nostalgia.



Above, Archbishop Christopher Prowse celebrates Mass for the 150th anniversary of St Patrick's Parish, and right, cuts the anniversary cake. PHOTOS: MATTHEW BIDDLE

"The faith that we have is an energising faith, and just as the early frontier Catholics in this area had enormous challenges, we too have enormous challenges, but of a completely different time, especially with the passing on of the Catholic faith to younger generations, who are more persuaded by what they see on social media than what they receive at school or in their families.

"I encourage all of you, in this challenging time, never to give up hope and to keep your eyes on Jesus."

After Mass, the Archbishop, Fr Tom and Fr Paul planted a special remembrance tree outside the church, before the

crowd enjoyed an historical display and a shared lunch in the grounds of St Joseph's Primary School.

Parishioner Teena McGrath said the celebrations were recognition of a significant milestone in the parish's long history.

"The heritage and tradition we have here at St Patrick's is something that we behold," she said. "The legacy that our forefathers have left us and the commitment to their faith were enormous.

"As a parish we are proud of where we have come from, proud of our past, a past that we need to take with us as we navigate the next 150 years."



Archbishop Christopher, Fr Tom Thornton (left), and Fr Paul Nulley (right) plant the remembrance tree. PHOTO: MATTHEW BIDDLE



TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS

Sts Peter and Paul, Garran
Monday - Thursday - 7 am
Friday - 7 pm
Saturday - 9 am
Sunday - 11.30 am (sung)

St Thomas More, Campbell
Sunday - 7.45 am

FSSP Canberra: (02) 6161 5320
canberraltm.blogspot.com



Supporting Your Community

With your financial gift or bequest, you can make a difference. Please support people in need

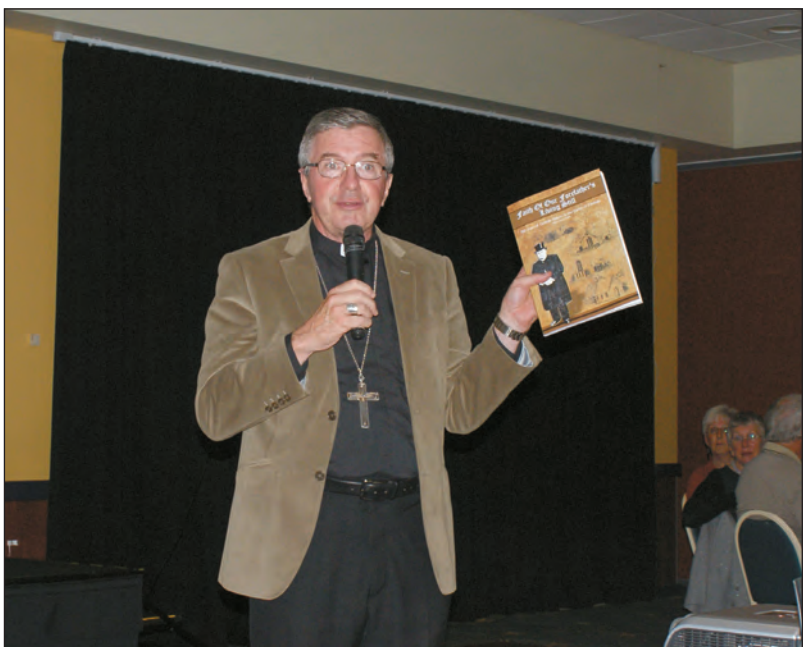
CatholicCare Canberra & Goulburn is the welfare arm of the Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn

p. 6295 4300
www.catholiccare.cg.org.au





Above, Pambula parish priest Fr James Antony CMI with Archbishop Christopher Prowse, who visited the coastal parish on the weekend of November 6-8, coinciding with its 150-year anniversary celebrations. Below, the Archbishop helps to launch the book, *Faith of Our Forefathers, Living Still*, written by parishioner and local historian John Liston (bottom). The historical work was compiled especially for the parish's sesquicentenary celebrations, and numerous copies have already been sold. PHOTOS: SUPPLIED



Thankful for 150 years of blessings

Since its establishment in 1865, the parish of Pambula has endured everything from floods to bushfires, yet one thing has remained constant - the strong, unwavering faith of the Catholic community. The parish's 150th anniversary celebrations on November 8 were a chance for all members of the community to reflect upon the many blessings God has bestowed on the parish over the years...

ARCHBISHOP Christopher Prowse joined the Parish of Pambula for their sesquicentenary over the weekend of November 6-8, linking it with his official canonical visitation.

The 150-year celebrations began in the Bega Parish earlier this year, as the two parishes were originally formed as one parish in 1865. By 1886, the parish was large enough for Cardinal Moran to create the two separate parishes of Bega and Pambula.

The Archbishop commenced his visitation by meeting with the staff and students of Lumen Christi Catholic College at Pambula Beach on November 6.

Later the same day, Archbishop Christopher met with the combined parish pastoral council and other members of the parish for prayer, discussion, evaluation and guidance.

On November 7, the Archbishop joined Fr James Antony CMI in visiting one of the parish's Mass centres at Eden, where he met the local Sisters

of St Joseph, Sr Rosemary Hart RSJ and Sr Brigid McMahon RSJ.

Parishioner and local historian John Liston then delivered a talk on the pioneering missionary priests of the region, who from the early 1840s travelled from their mission at Queanbeyan or Moruya to the Two-fold Bay district to celebrate

Mass in the 1886 shipwreck.

The Archbishop also spent a significant time at Imlay Nursing Home, anointing the sick and elderly and distributing Holy Communion.

During the 5pm Mass on November 7 at Star of the Sea Church in Eden, the Archbishop spoke of the importance of developing a prayer life and

prayer titled, *Faith of Our Forefathers, Living Still*.

The weekend's celebrations concluded on November 8, when the Archbishop and Fr James offered Mass at St Joseph's Church, Merimbula.

During the Mass, a new parish prayer book was launched, and Archbishop Christopher blessed the couples in the par-

ish who have reached 50 years or more of marriage. He also prayed particularly for the religious Sisters present, who were representing the 96 Sisters who have served in the parish over the past 124 years.

"We thank the Lord for all the many blessings he has given to the parish of St Joseph's, Pambula over the last 150 years," the Archbishop said. "It's been a difficult time over the years. The first church floated away in a flood. The second church was burnt to the ground in a bushfire. Some of the more pessimistic people I've met over the last few days are saying in the present moment that the people are staying away from the Church."



- Archbishop Christopher Prowse

the sacraments with Catholic settlers and build permanent church communities.

Mr Liston also spoke of the connection St Mary MacKillop had with the parish convent school and the unbroken 124-year presence of the Sisters of St Joseph in Eden after the tragic drowning of the Australian saint's mother, Flora MacKil-

lop in the 1886 shipwreck. The Archbishop also spent a significant time at Imlay Nursing Home, anointing the sick and elderly and distributing Holy Communion.

During the 5pm Mass on November 7 at Star of the Sea Church in Eden, the Archbishop spoke of the importance of developing a prayer life and

prayer titled, *Faith of Our Forefathers, Living Still*. The weekend's celebrations concluded on November 8, when the Archbishop and Fr James offered Mass at St Joseph's Church, Merimbula.

During the Mass, a new parish prayer book was launched, and Archbishop Christopher blessed the couples in the par-

ish who have reached 50 years or more of marriage. He also prayed particularly for the religious Sisters present, who were representing the 96 Sisters who have served in the parish over the past 124 years.

"We thank the Lord for all the many blessings he has given to the parish of St Joseph's, Pambula over the last 150 years," the Archbishop said.

"This parish has a great sensitivity to widows, the bereaved

and those who are grieving," he said.

"May this animate this particular ministry that clearly continues on here, particularly with such an ageing demographic."

Creating and maintaining strong links between the parish and Lumen Christi College was another important challenge for the community, as was the need to continue to stand alongside the local Aboriginal community, the Archbishop said.

The final challenge for the parish referred to the "mystical, or vertical, dimension of the parish's life".

"Hopefully we can encourage mediation groups to flourish in our parish," Archbishop Christopher said.

"This will help people to listen carefully and savour deeply the beauty of creation, to help them see the beauty deep within the human heart."

Many of the parishioners then journeyed to the 148-year-old St Peter's Church in Pambula where the Archbishop unveiled a plaque at the entrance of the church, commemorating the parish's milestone.



Above, middle, Archbishop Christopher celebrates Mass for the parish during his canonical visitation. Above, right, the Archbishop and two children of the parish cut the anniversary cake. Below, from left to right, Sr Rosemary Hart RSJ, Michael Wood, Michael Gandon, Lynn Robert, Monica Wood (seated), Peter Philipps, Jenny Horton, Sr Brigid McMahon RSJ and Fritz Michelin with Archbishop Christopher. Bottom, servers lead the procession after the anniversary Mass. PHOTOS: SUPPLIED





Canberra man Tony Pead, below, has taken part in every Christus Rex pilgrimage since the annual three-day, 90km walk first took place in 1991. Between 250 and 400 people participate in the pilgrimage from Ballarat to Bendigo each year.

PHOTOS: PATRICK GIAM

Tony a pilgrimage veteran after 25 years

EVERY year since 1991, Catholics from all parts of the country have taken part in the annual Christus Rex pilgrimage, making the 90km journey from Ballarat to Bendigo on foot.

A number of aspects have remained the same over the years – the blessing of pilgrims on the opening morning, the venues for camping overnight, and the time-honoured prayers and litanies sung throughout the three days.

Another constant over the 25 pilgrimages has been the presence of Canberra man Tony Pead – the only person who has walked every pilgrimage.

Mr Pead spoke to *Catholic Voice* recently about his involvement in the pilgrimage, which is held on the last weekend in October each year to coincide with the feast of Christ the King, according to calendar used in the Extraordinary Form of the liturgy.

He said the pilgrimage has come a long way since its humble beginnings in 1991.

“There were about 20-25 walkers and five or six infrastructure people on the first one,” he said. “Now the average attendance is anything between 250 and 400 people.”

“On that first pilgrimage, I remember that about six of us battled manfully with the Gregorian chants for the Masses; we did a workmanlike job, sure enough, but many of

us still struggled with the chant notation.

“The original choir of six has grown to a choir pushing 50 this year.”

Mr Pead said the group who organised the first pilgrimage were eager to replicate the Paris to Chartres pilgrimage on Australian soil.

“Pilgrimages were usually occasioned by relics of saints, or shrines, or miracles that had occurred,” he said.

“As Australia had none at that time, it was thought that a three-day pilgrimage between two relatively close cathedrals in honour of the social reign of Christ the King would be a fitting way in which to revive the pilgrimage tradition.”

This year’s pilgrimage, held from October 23-25, was one of the largest, and included participants of all ages and from all parts of the country.

“There’s everyone from small children to elderly people, but the 15-30 age group is always impressively large, which is a great sign of hope,” Mr Pead said.

Although the walk is challenging physically, Mr Pead said injuries and fatigue were not the only difficulties he had faced over the years.

“I was once overtaken by a 90-year-old,” he said. “Imagine the demoralisation!”

“There have been times when I’ve thought I’ll never walk the next day. But the resilience of the human body is amazing.



“I’ve been blessed to never be subject to blisters, only bruising on the soles of my feet.”

While there are numerous highlights during the pilgrimage, Mr Pead said there was one particular aspect he enjoys the most.

“The Mass on the second day of the pilgrimage, which these days because of the wonderful numbers who attend, is held under a beautifully adorned tent outside, always seems to work,” he said. “It’s very moving and a highlight for a lot of people.”

The 60-year-old, who has been part of the pilgrimage choir each year, said he wouldn’t miss the event for the world.

“It’s something which is

very special to me and at times I get quite emotional when I see all these young people... who are now men and women in their 30s, and I’ve known them since they were under 10,” he said.

“It means a lot to me and is a source of great satisfaction to see the pilgrimage grow and... to see communities being enriched by it.”

He also encouraged newcomers to join the pilgrimage in the coming years.

“The pilgrimage is a major Catholic cultural event in this country,” he said.

“People really ought to come along and see for themselves. They’ll be greatly welcomed... and hopefully be spiritually invigorated by participating in it.”

NATIONAL NEWS

MSC priest the new ACBC general secretary

FATHER Stephen Hackett, a priest of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, has been appointed the new general secretary of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC).

The Australian bishops announced the decision during their plenary meeting at Mary MacKillop Place, Sydney on November 24.

Fr Hackett, who is currently a parish priest in Tasmania, will commence his new role in early 2016 following the appointment of Fr Brian Lucas as national director of Catholic Mission. Fr Lucas has been general secretary since August 2002.



“The Australian bishops searched the length and breadth of the country to appoint a priest who would manage and lead the Conference and the general secretariat staff with a depth of administrative and pastoral experience,” ACBC president Archbishop Denis Hart said.

“Fr Stephen has tremendous gifts and energy and will serve the Church well. I am deeply grateful to Fr Stephen and to the MSCs for this great support.”

Fr Hackett said while he was surprised to be offered the role, he was excited about the opportunity and grateful to the Australian bishops for placing their confidence in him.

Born in 1959, Fr Hackett was professed to the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in 1982 and was ordained in 1986.

He has ministered in parishes, diocesan governance, secondary education, university chaplaincy, and the vocations apostolate. His primary academic qualification is in theology, with postgraduate awards in peace studies and education, and a doctorate specialising in architecture and liturgy.

Fr Hackett is currently parish priest at St Therese of Lisieux Parish, Moonah-Lutana, in Tasmania. His research interests include church architecture and the liturgical arts, while his personal and professional interests include theology, liturgy, education, poetry, music, design, and architecture.

Pope's words of praise for pro-life activists

POPE Francis praised pro-life activists as "Good Samaritans" to the most vulnerable, citing their commitment to defending life at all stages and their role in affirming the dignity of women.

Meeting with members of Italy's pro-life movement on November 6, the Pope called on those present "to protect the most vulnerable people, who have the right to be born into life, as well as those who ask for a healthier and more dignified existence", according to the Vatican Information Service translation.

"There is a need to work at different levels and with

perseverance, in the promotion and defence of the family, society's foremost resource, especially with reference to the gift of children and the

Italy's pro-life movement has gained rapid momentum in recent years, although abortion has been legal in the Mediterranean nation since

we genuinely teach the importance of concern for other vulnerable beings, however troublesome or inconvenient they may be, if we

Samaritan" in their efforts to defend the lives and dignity of the most vulnerable.

"Faced with the suffering and needs of our defenceless brothers, some turn away or move on, whereas others stop and respond with generous dedication to their cry for help," he said.

"Before the various forms of threats to human life, you have approached the frailty of others, you have taken action so that in society those who live in precarious conditions may no longer be excluded or marginalised."

- CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY

"Faced with the suffering and needs of our defenceless brothers, some turn away or move on, whereas others stop and respond with generous dedication to their cry for help."

affirmation of the dignity of the woman," he said.

The Pontiff's remarks came during a private audience with the 510 pro-life activists who were taking part in the Congress of the Movement for Life held in Sacrofano, Italy.

1978. More recently, Italy has been confronted with efforts to enact legislation that would allow for euthanasia, beginning with the 2009 killing of young Eluana Englaro.

Citing his encyclical *Laudato Si*, the Pope asked: "How can

fail to protect a human embryo?"

He stressed the importance of recognising human life as a gift to be defended, lauding the pro-life workers present at the audience for following the example of the "Good

Holy Father: Refugees are 'God's children'

BY ANN SCHNEIBLE
CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY

AMID questions over whether European nations will reevaluate their migrant policies in the wake of the deadly attacks in Paris on November 13, Pope Francis offered a reminder that refugees are more than statistics: they are children of God, each with his or her own inherent dignity.

"Behind these statistics are people, each of them with a name, a face, a story, an inalienable dignity which is theirs as a child of God," the Pope said on November 14 at an audience marking the 35th anniversary of the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS).

Pope Francis made these remarks one day after 129 people were slaughtered and more than 300 wounded in Paris by more than half a dozen Islamic militants.

During the audience with JRS, the Pope acknowledged the mass increase in the number of refugees fleeing Africa,

Refugee children at the Sharia Al Haman Hope Refugee Camp in Duhok, Iraq.

PHOTO: DANIEL IBÁÑEZ/CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY

Asia, and the Middle East in what has become largest-scale exodus since World War II.

He lauded JRS' presence in conflict and post-conflict regions, recalling the agency's


mission: "to accompany, to serve and to defend the rights of refugees".

The Pontiff concluded his address by calling those working with refugees to reflect

on the Holy Family, as well as Christ's words: "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy".


"As you persevere in this work of providing education

for refugees, think of the Holy Family, Our Lady, Saint Joseph, and the Child Jesus, who fled to Egypt to escape violence and to find refuge among strangers," he said.


**GIL-JONES BARKER**

General law practice
- Canberra & NSW

Incorporating the practices of
Gillespie Jones & Co and
Dickson Legal



PH: 02 6180 5111
Unit 1, 129 Giles Street, Kingston ACT 2604

**Australian Catholic
Historical Society**

Annual Mass and Christmas Lunch
Speaker: Professor Greg Craven, Vice-Chancellor,
Australian Catholic University
Saturday 5 December
Mass 12pm, Lunch 12.30pm
Mary MacKillop Centre, Mount Street, North
Sydney
Cost and booking details to be advised.
Guest speaker each month presents on a topic of
Catholic historical interest. All welcome.
Inquiries: Email secretary@acshs.org.au or go to
www.australiancatholichistoricalsociety.com.au

CATHOLIC VOICE Yours FREE every month

TRIBUNAL of the Catholic Church

Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn

*Outreaching to all those who have experienced a
marriage breakdown and question the validity of
their first marriage as understood by the Church.*

ENQUIRIES: Ph (02) 6201 9802

Mail: GPO Box 89, Canberra 2601 Email: tribunal@cg.catholic.org.au



THE FACE OF
Mercy

2015 ADVENT REFLECTIONS

A **FREE** online
daily Advent
resource program
for small groups,
prayer groups,
prayer
companions,
staff reflections,
families and
individuals.

Subscribe at
www.thefaceofmercy.org.au

Laying down our weapons for Christmas



BELOW THE SURFACE
BY BRIANNA THOMAS

IN mid-November, as the dust from the Paris attacks settled, the ghastly truth was uncovered. The details and death count shocked the world, striking those affected by the trauma and watching around the globe with grief and fear. The incidents in Paris were part of multiple terror attacks performed that week.

Seen often in the face of suffering is the quite remarkable concept of strangers joining together despite their differences, in the name of solidarity. The Paris events hold many such stories while the whole city grieved as one. People of all faiths, backgrounds, and ages gave their support freely to show that peace trumps violence.

A video went viral of a Muslim man who blindfolded himself on the Parisian streets only days after the attacks. He had a sign asking for hugs as a display of unity. After some initial hesitation in the crowd, the people overcame their worry



A young woman pays her respects during a memorial service held in Prague for the victims of the Paris attacks. PHOTO: FLICKR

and embraced the man fully. He risked criticism, and the onlookers put aside their pain for bridging peace.

The rest of the world also responded in solidarity to the disaster with support and prayers. Facebook became awash with red, white and blue flags as profile pictures; while Twitter users heavily embraced the hashtags #PrayForParis and #JeSuisParis to show support. Monuments around the world wore the French flag in coloured light, including the Sydney Opera House, Rio de Janeiro's Christ the Redeemer, the One World New York Trade Centre and even our very own

Black Mountain Telstra Tower.

We have seen the same level of support following local disasters in the past. The Victorian Black Saturday bushfires (2009), the Queensland floods (2010-2011) and the Lindt Café hostage crisis in Martin Place (2014) immediately spring to mind. People from all corners united in their grief and their support for the victims – evidence that something beautiful can come from heartbreak, and unity can be found in chaos.

In the lead up to Christmas, we can get so caught up with creating our own experiences, we forget to embrace the true essence of the season. Australians

spend \$4.5 billion each year just on pre-Christmas sales, and it feels like the focus has turned to delivering the perfect Jamie Oliver lunch. Instead of being a time for unity, it is both stressful and painful.

Christmas honours a young girl who received the scary news that she was pregnant in unbelievable circumstances. She was criticised, endured a rough journey on the back of a dusty animal at full-term pregnancy and had to place her precious newborn in a feeding trough for animals. Then, fleeing death from a bloodthirsty man, the new family became refugees seeking safety.

Nothing about the birth of Jesus was comfortable or perfect in the way we desire our Christmas to be. It was all about giving for goodness, truth, love and peace.

In the same way that solidarity can flow from disaster, unity can come from Christmas. A large part of the world stops on the same day to spend time with loved ones, and many have their once-a-year Church experience. Locally, Christmas can be a time for unity and peace within the family, and within ourselves.

In the cold Christmas of 1914, an unofficial truce in the Western Front trenches of World War I allowed German and English soldiers to mingle on Christmas Day. They exchanged gifts between sides, respectfully buried their dead and played a famous game of football on neutral ground. An ultimate act of peace, where grievances and hatred were dropped for a day in the name of unity and the Christmas spirit.

Families can be messy and complicated, and Christmas often highlights the worst of it. May we make the effort to drop our grievances and call a truce in the name of unity. Whether including the difficult relative or forgiving a past hurt, let go of prejudice and allow unity to flow from the chaos this Christmas.

A fair day's work for a fair day's pay



JUSTICE MATTERS
CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

MOST people would agree that they should do a fair day's work for a fair day's pay. They would also wish to receive in their turn a fair day's pay for a fair day's work.

What is a fair day's work? It is easy to answer this question in general terms. The worker is conscientious, observes the terms of his or her engagement, acts cooperatively with and honestly towards others in the workplace, uses resources efficiently, and produces the required goods and services.

It is more difficult to be prescriptive about what this means in specific instances. As a result, assessing whether a worker is

living up to these standards will often be subjective.

There are other complications. What if workers are employed under oppressive conditions or under duress? What if health and safety are at risk? These situations are not just theoretical possibilities. We often read, for example, how migrants and holders of work visas are grossly

pay structure. That has gradually given way to a complex system based on employers' capacity to pay, the state of the economy, productivity, and workers' responsibilities and skills. The contemporary concept of a "minimum" wage might seem to imply some recognition of the individual worker's needs, but in practice takes no account of

expect employers to pay workers with children at higher rates. Instead successive governments have stepped into the breach by assisting parents through the tax system and social support. Some question whether this is fair to childless taxpayers, but Catholic teaching strongly favours community recognition of and support for children's needs.

millions of dollars – that some senior executives receive. These levels of remuneration can be the outcome of agreements struck with a board that is not, or appears not to be, "at arm's length" – and they look even more unfair when they are reward for cutting the number and/or conditions of employees.

How does the principle of "a fair day's work for a fair day's pay" apply to unpaid workers such as parents at home, carers and volunteers? At first sight it might not seem to apply at all. The worker has duties as does his or her paid counterpart, but receives nothing material in return.

Unpaid workers are, however, entitled to expect their workplaces to be respectful, healthy and safe. They should also have the scope to earn an adequate income elsewhere or to be materially supported by the community (for example, through carer payments) and, if working at home, by family members with paid work or other resources.

A worker's income should be at least enough to meet his or her needs and those of his or her family.

underpaid and exploited – despite the elaborate machinery in place for establishing and enforcing work conditions. A fair day's work looks very different in such circumstances.

What is a fair day's pay? Australia has wrestled with this question for well over a century and the answers have changed over time.

In the early 1900s we introduced the concept of a basic wage, tailored in part to family needs, as the foundation for our

family responsibilities.

What does the Catholic Church's social teaching have to say? In essence it stands for the principles that:

- A worker's income should be at least enough to meet his or her needs and those of his or her family;
- Tax and other government policies should recognise the impact of family members who are financially dependent on the worker.

It is not practical or fair to

The Church is also insistent that vulnerable groups should have special protection in the workplace. These include people with disabilities, young people new to the labour force, and those with limited skills in English. The essential point here is the serious imbalance in power between employer and worker, leading to the sorts of aforementioned abuses.

Equally at odds with fairness are the very high salaries and bonuses – often in multiple

The Word was made flesh... and still dwells among us



CATECHISM CORNER
BY FR WARRICK TONKIN

DECEMBER is upon us and with it comes the buzz of summer, warmer weather, harvest time, the cricket season, and, of course, Christmas.

But do we take some time, in all of this busyness, to ponder why we celebrate Christmas at all? It is not just a holiday season, a time to pause from our usually busy lives. Christmas is that great 'pause' when we stop to reflect on, and give thanks to God, for the most momentous event in the history of humankind – the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, God's Son, became a human person, just like us (in all things but sin).

Every Sunday we stand as a community of faith in our respective parishes and gatherings and we recite the Creed, either the Apostles' Creed or the Nicene Creed. In both of those

statements of faith we profess, personally and collectively, that "He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary," or, "By the power of the Holy Spirit he was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man".

The Church has a particular word to encapsulate this watershed moment in our history. It calls this event the Incarnation. Incarnation comes from the Latin word *incarnus*, which literally means "the enfleshment

Do we take some time, in all of this busyness, to ponder why we celebrate Christmas at all?

of". So, this describes what actually happened, God became 'enfleshed' in the womb of the Virgin Mary at the time of the Annunciation (which we celebrate each year on March 25). In the fullness of time he was born, in Bethlehem, on what we now call Christmas Day. Sacred Scripture, and the ongoing Tradition of the Church tells us



In the Incarnation, God became enfleshed in the womb of the Virgin Mary at the time of the Annunciation.
PHOTO: ONLINE

that he grew to manhood and ultimately suffered, died, rose from the dead and ascended into heaven.

But now we hit a snag. Many

people erroneously believe that the Incarnation ended with Jesus' Ascension into heaven. That is not so! The Incarnation will never end. We are assured,

via the Gospel of Matthew with Jesus' own words: "And look, I am with you always; yes, to the end of time," (Mt. 28:20).

How, then, is the Word made flesh in our world today? Yes, he is present in and through the Church when the Sacraments are celebrated and the Word of God, through the pages of Sacred Scripture, are proclaimed. But where else do we meet Jesus? We meet him in every human situation. We meet him in our families, and the tensions that can rise to the surface, especially at this time of the year. We meet him with those who struggle to provide the basic necessities of life for themselves and their loved ones. We meet him in our hospitals and our aged care facilities. We meet him in the refugee camps scattered throughout the world. We meet him in the shattered bodies and the torn faces of the victims of abuse and terror in all its forms, from sexual abuse and domestic violence, to abominable acts of mass terror.

Jesus is in all of those situations.

As we gather in our various ways at Christmas, spend some time reflecting on the reality that "the Word was made flesh and still dwells among us".

MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE

ATTEND THE *ACU MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE* INFORMATION SESSION AND LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR STUDY OPTIONS.

CANBERRA CAMPUS

Thursday 17 December, 5.30pm – 7pm
Cnr Antill Street and Phillip Ave, Watson

APPLY NOW FOR 2016

www.acu.edu.au/apply2016

Sarah Kalfas
Health Student

ACU
AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY



Sequel set to entertain kids this Christmas

MOVIE REVIEW

BY CALLUM RYAN

IN THE first *Hotel Transylvania*, a human visitor to Dracula's titular guesthouse ultimately bridged the human-monster divide, bringing the formerly incompatible communities together. Outside of Aardman, Pixar and (occasionally) Dreamworks, few animation houses strive for excellence, and this sequel from Sony Animations seems happy to cater for the less scrupulous, younger viewers. Sure, its slapstick is occasionally funny, but parents may find themselves occasionally checking their watches.

We open with the wedding between human Jonathan and Dracula's daughter Mavis, and quickly move through the five years following their nuptials. They have a son, Dennis (or Denisovich, if you ask his grandfather Drac), a little tot who has inherited his dad's large and buoyant red hair. Dennis displays no signs of inheriting his mother's vampirism, much to his grandfather's dismay, and Mavis begins to consider emigrating their family to California.



Hotel Transylvania 2 is likely to be popular in cinemas in the coming school holidays.

PHOTO: ONLINE

Dracula cooks up a plan with Jonathan to dredge up Dennis' taste for blood. While Jonathan and Mavis tour Santa Cruz, CA, Drac and his buddies Frank (Frankenstein's Monster), Wayne (Werewolf), Griffin (Invisible Man) and Murray (the Mummy) take the tyke out for a few tutorials in the art of becoming a monster. With a deadline set (Dennis

must sprout his fangs before his fifth birthday), the monstrous mob have to race against the clock, or risk losing Dennis, Mavis and Jonathan to California forever!

On two occasions, a character refers to Drac as Dennis' 'Vam-pa'. The joke is immediately apparent, but in both instances, the portmanteau of 'Vampire' and 'Grandpa'

is explained at length. This level of intellect seems to sum up the whole film. The script, written by Adam Sandler and Robert Smigel, aims for simple humour, and it's all too obvious for those hoping for some emotional and comedic nuance. Admittedly, some of the jokes work. A gelatinous lump aptly named Blobby, who can apparently absorb and store all

manner of paraphernalia in his translucent body, provides a number of good slapstick moments. There's a nice underlying message throughout the film, conveying how it's okay to be different, but this is somewhat undermined by the predictable conclusion.

In the voice cast, a handful of prized (or once-prized) comedians sound as though they're just gunning for a pay cheque. On the other hand, Selena Gomez is surprisingly strong as Mavis, conveying plenty of emotion beyond her relative youth, and Mel Brooks, playing Drac's father and Nosferatu-esque vamp Vlad, is always a welcome presence.

With the Christmas school break looming, this will probably get a fair amount of business until Pixar's *The Good Dinosaur* lumbers into cinemas. If you liked (or endured) the first film, this will probably satisfy your needs. Kids could certainly do worse than *Hotel Transylvania 2*, but parents will just as certainly hope for better come the next school holidays.

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



RESTORE HIS HOPE THIS CHRISTMAS.

Please support those who need it most by completing the donation envelope in this issue of the Catholic Voice.

The impact of your gift will be felt well beyond December 25th.



Vinnies Christmas Appeal



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works



Vision becomes a reality for St Patrick's

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

TWO years ago, the dream of St Patrick's Primary School in Gundagai to offer modern, integrated learning spaces for its students looked like it would never come to fruition, after the school's application for a government grant was rejected.

But on November 3 the school community gathered to celebrate the fulfillment of that dream, as the new refurbished classrooms were officially blessed and opened.

School principal Mary Quinane explained that it had been a long process to eventually commence the improvements to the school.

"It has been a very long-held vision of mine and that of other school community members and Catholic Education members to provide students of St Patrick's with

the very best educational facilities they can possibly have," she said.

"We put in a Block Grant Authority (BGA) application in 2013, only to be disappointed. We were unsuccessful.

"Due to a technicality, we got word in early 2014 that our application was reconsidered and the project was on track. In 2015 building finally began."

The Australian Government provided \$470,744 towards the project, while the school community and parish contributed \$160,000. Catholic Education supplied the remaining \$275,000 required for the project.

Ms Quinane, who will complete her time as principal at St Patrick's at the end of this year, said she was proud of the new classrooms and thankful for the patience of staff and



Top left, Catholic Education director Moira Nadjeci, St Patrick's principal Mary Quinane, Archbishop Christopher Prowse, St Patrick's acting principal Lisa Wilson and Riverina MP Michael McCormack unveil the plaque for the refurbished buildings. Above, school children sing the St Patrick's school song. Right, Ms Wilson, Ms Quinane and Vincent Powell, who will take over as principal in 2016. PHOTOS: LOUI SESELJA

students during the building process. "I hope the present students and the future students enjoy the fluid, bright, integrated learning spaces for many years to come," she said.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse, who blessed the new buildings, prayed in thanksgiving for all involved in the refurbishment project.

"We give thanks to all who have been involved in this project, namely the architects, builders, tradesmen, Catholic Education advisors and teachers," he prayed.

"May your spirit, O God, continue to guide our students and teachers in every aspect of learning, today and through the years which lie ahead."



Below, Year 4 students (from left to right) Harriet Kingwill, Fletcher Dean and Brylee Cotterill in one of the refurbished classrooms. Right, Archbishop Christopher Prowse gets to know some of the St Patrick's students. PHOTOS: LOUI SESELJA





Classifieds

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

TO RENT

BEAUTIFUL BROULEE - Year round. Great family holiday home - sleeps up to 10 - 100m to beach and shops. Contact Melinda or Joyce, telephone (02) 4471 6444, quote this ad and "Carey House" for a 10 per cent discount off normal rates (excludes Christmas and Easter holidays).

BROULEE - Two-bedroom beach cottage, fully equipped. Expansive coastal and sea views and short stroll to beaches. See "Beach Cottage" in www.brouleebeachhouse.com or phone 0417 193 736.

BROULEE - Spectacular views near beach, six-bedroom, three-bathroom house, two living areas, balcony with wonderful views, fully equipped, great for family groups, sleeps 14. Phone (02) 6257 1222;

www.brouleebeachhouse.com.

CURRARONG, JERVIS BAY - Fantastic house with six bedrooms, two bathrooms and rumpus. Sleeping 14 it's ideal for two families to share. Stylishly redecorated mid 2010. 800m to beach. www.currarongbeachhouse.com.au.

TUROSS HEADS - "Ella May Holiday Flats". Renovated two-bedroom, walk to beach. Fully equipped. Available all year \$400-\$900 per week, weekends available. Telephone 0414 597 619 or (02) 6278 5271.

HOLIDAYS

NOOSA - Well appointed two-bedroom townhouse at Noosaville by the Noosa River and cafes. Heated pool/spa, tennis court, BBQ, linen and

towels. For brochure, map and tariff list phone owners: (07) 3289 7178.

BROGO - Discover Brogo at The Homestead family-friendly cabins. Self-contained, 20km to Bega, half-hour to Sapphire Coast, 10 minutes to Brogo Dam, walk to Brogo River to fish, swim etc. Phone (02) 6492 7362; 0451 047 702, email info@thehomesteadbrogo.com.au.

FOR SALE

BAGS of garden manure cow and sheep \$6 a bag, minimum order five bags, free delivery around the Canberra area phone Mark 0427 053 988 or email Kellie.potts@bigpond.com.

TUDOR lounge suite, fully restored and in prestige condition approximately 100

years old \$4,000 ono (02) 4476 3408.

TWO-STOREY 3/4 bedroom brick house in Narooma filtered views, fenced rear yard, double garage, solar hot water, reverse cycle air/con, two toilets, two showers, (02) 4476 3408.

FOR SALE OR REPAIR

KENWOOD Chef food mixer \$100, microwave from \$50. Warranty for six months. Free quote for repairs. Will trade-in or buy microwaves or Kenwood mixers. Glass trays from \$10. Phone John (02) 6166 5512.

SERVICES

SINGING - If you can talk you can sing. Lessons make singing easier. Experienced teacher.

Varied styles: classical, sacred, musicals and popular. Phone Rosemary (02) 6297 2974 or 0414 228 618.

STYLE SECRETARIAL SERVICE - Minutes of meetings, shorthand transcriptions, word processing, transcriptions from CDs, spreadsheets, data processing, proofreading, mailouts, and filing. Phone Anne (02) 6247 7373, email anne@stylesecretarial.com.au; www.stylesecretarial.com.au.

SELF-HELP GROUP

FREE massage, hair cut, nails, food, odd jobs etc. as exchange or barter. Need new members so we can assist pensioners, low income, less fortunate etc. Join a parish friendship group - weekly activities, bus trips etc. Confidential 0403 050 960 anytime John.

Faith Resource Shop



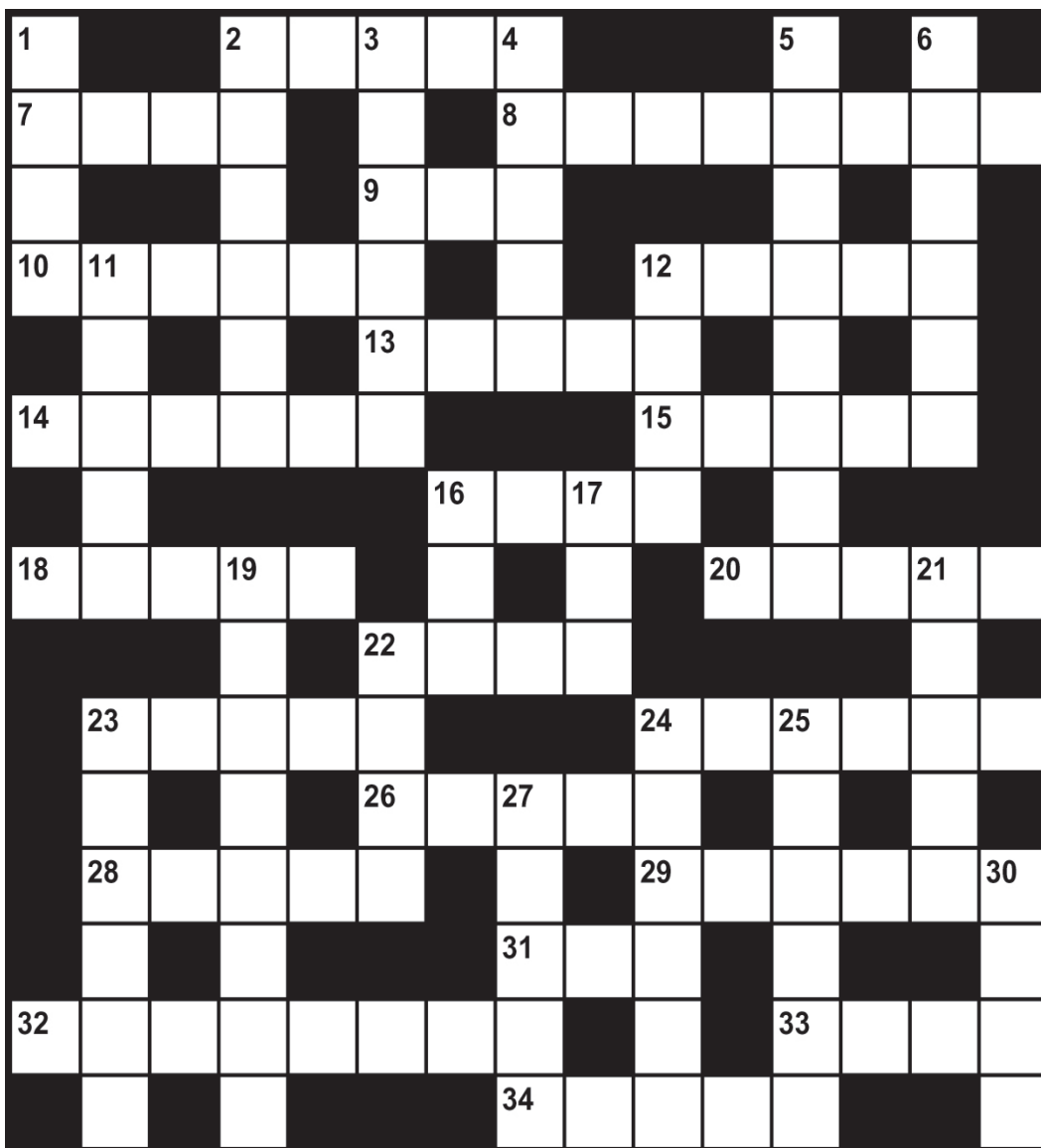
Archdiocese of
Canberra and Goulburn



Faith Resources

Check out our latest products at
www.faithresources.org.au

CROSSWORD



www.wordgamesforcatholics.com

ACROSS

- Passover meal
- The Wise Men came from here
- "O come, O come ____"
- ____ Saints' Day
- "____ at the right hand of the Father"
- Biblical instrument
- French spelling of St Lucy
- This kind of man renounces the Lord (Ps 10:3)
- Home of St Teresa
- "Bearing gifts, we traverse ____"
- Common biblical harvest
- Son of Sarah
- John Paul II's "Ecclesia in ____"
- Simon's mother-in-law was cured of this (Lk 4:38-39)
- Famous pilgrimage in Spain, ____ de Santiago
- Biblical animal of transport
- One of the prophets
- Founder of the Society of the Divine Word, ____ Janssen
- Pontiff who died in 1758, Pope Benedict ____
- Saintly wife of the Frankish King Clovis I
- Catholic singer Perry ____
- Fr Junipero ____

DOWN

- Papal symbol
- The Infant of Prague, for one
- Describes some sins

- Physical remains of, or item that has touched the body of, a saint
- The Works of Mercy require us to forgive all these
- Founder of the Discalced Carmelites
- Isaiah spoke of a new one (Isa 66:22)
- "I ____ no evil for thou art with me" (Ps 23:4)
- Donkey
- Father of Jehoshaphat
- Holy Spirit
- Declare a marriage invalid
- Diocese or bishop starter
- The domestic church
- St Peter ____
- Mother of Augustine
- Ephraim ____ with the nations (Hosea 7:8)
- Jubilee entry

SOLUTIONS IN THE NEXT CATHOLIC VOICE

November's solutions:





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

Archdiocesan Coming Events

ANNUAL CATECHIST

MASSSES: All catechists, friends and relatives are invited to participate in the celebration of the important ministry of our voluntary scripture teachers. Details are: Sacred Heart Pearce, December 1 at 6.30pm; St Joseph's Merimbula, December 9 at 12pm; St Columbkille's Jindabyne, December 10 at 12pm.

ST CAECILIA'S CHOIR:

Will hold its annual carol service on Sunday, December 6 at 7.30pm at St John the Evangelist Chapel, ANU, Acton, ACT. The carol service features Renaissance polyphony, Gregorian chant and carols for choir and congregation. Inquiries: Maria Henry: (02) 6249 6278 or email mrhnry@gmail.com.

KALEIDOSCOPE PRODUCTIONS:

Presents Christmas Cheer - A concert of carols, jokes and a visit from Dickens' Scrooge. Guest artists: Louise Page, Janene Broere, Mary O'Brien, Michael Politi, with Rosemary Shepherd

on flute. Saturday, December 12 at 2pm, at Queanbeyan Uniting Church, Rutledge Street, Queanbeyan, NSW. Tickets at the door: \$15 adults, \$10 concession. In support of HOME in Queanbeyan.

AMICUS: Saturday December 12 - Come along and join/share in our Amicus Christmas Party at Tricia's at 7pm (more details closer to the event). Contact Tricia (02) 6288 4070.

THE MARIAN MOVEMENT

OF PRIESTS: Invites you and your friends to the 9th annual New Year's Eve prayer vigil at St John the Apostle Church, corner of Blackham and Chave Streets, Holt, ACT, Thursday December 31, from 8.30pm. Program: First cenacle 8.45pm (Joyful mysteries), second cenacle 9.45pm (Luminous mysteries), third cenacle 10.45pm (Glorious mysteries). Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament - 8.30pm until midnight. Supper will be available after midnight in the parish library. Inquiries: Phone Judy and

Joe Mewburn on (02) 6254 6202.

SISTERS OF ST JOSEPH:

Invite you to claim the date for the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Sisters of St Joseph by St Mary MacKillop and Fr Julian Tenison Woods in Penola on 19 March 1866. Venue: St Joseph's Parish, O'Connor. Date: March 19, 2016 at 11.30am.

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.

*Every life is unique,
Every funeral should be too.*



For more than 100 years, M.H. O'Rourke's has provided families with caring practical advice on arranging funerals.

We offer support and will help you find the best way of celebrating the life of your loved one.



M.H.O'Rourke
Funeral Directors

Canberra (02) 6166 0966
Queanbeyan (02) 6297 1052
E: info@orourkefunerals.com.au
www.orourkefunerals.com.au

Catholic Bookshop celebrates Advent & Christmas



CATHOLIC BOOKSHOP

Favier House 51 Cooyong St Braddon,
GPO BOX 3089 Canberra ACT 2601
Telephone: 02 6201 9888 Fax: 02 6262 7560
Email: bookshop@cg.catholic.org.au

OPEN WEEKDAYS 9.30am-5pm, SATURDAYS 9am-1pm

Come in and see our range of nativity sets

Christmas Mass times 2015

in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn

ARANDA: Christmas Vigil 7pm. Christmas Day 10am.

ADELONG/BATLOW: Christmas Vigil 6pm Batlow. Christmas Day 9am Adelong.

BATEMANS BAY: Christmas Vigil 6pm and 9pm. Christmas Day 9am.

BEGA: Christmas Vigil 6pm Bega, 7pm Bemboka, 8pm Tathra, midnight Candelo. Christmas Day 8.30am Bega.

BOMBALA: Christmas Vigil 5pm Delegate, 7pm Bombala.

BOOROWA: Christmas Vigil 6.30pm St Clement's Galong. Christmas Day 8.30am Boorowa, 8.30am St Clement's Galong. No Masses at Frogmore or Binalong.

BRAIDWOOD: Christmas Vigil 6pm.

BUNGENDORE: Christmas Vigil 6pm. Christmas Day 9am.

CAMPBELL: Christmas Vigil 6pm (children). Christmas Day 9.30am

CATHEDRAL: Christmas Vigil 6pm Cathedral, 9pm St Peter Chanel's Yarralumla, midnight Cathedral (carols 11.15pm). Christmas Day 8am Cathedral, 9.30am St Peter Chanel's, 11am Cathedral, 5.30pm Cathedral.

CENTRAL CANBERRA: Christmas Vigil 6pm Dickson (carols 5.30pm). Christmas Day 8am Braddon, 9.30am Dickson.

CHARNWOOD: Christmas Vigil 7pm. Christmas Day 9am.

COOMA: Christmas Vigil 5pm Adaminaby, 7pm Cooma, 9pm Nimmitabel. Christmas Day 8am Jerangle, 9am Cooma.

COOTAMUNDRA: Christmas Vigil 8pm Cootamundra (with carols and nativity play). Christmas Day 8am Stockinbingal, 9.30am Cootamundra.

CROOKWELL: Christmas Vigil 6pm Crookwell. Christmas Day 9am Crookwell, 10.30am Binda.

EVATT: Christmas Vigil 6pm. Christmas Day 10am.

GOULBURN: Christmas Vigil 6pm (children) Old Cathedral, 8pm Old Cathedral, 6pm Marulan, 6pm Taralga, 6pm Crookwell. Christmas Day 9am Our Lady of Fatima, 9am Tarago, 9am Crookwell, 10.30am Binda.

midnight Jindabyne. Christmas Day 9am Jindabyne, 9am Dalgety.

JUGIONG: Christmas Day 10am.

KALEEN: Christmas Vigil 8pm. Christmas Day 8am.

MORUYA: Christmas Vigil 6pm (outdoor), midnight. Christmas Day 8am Tuross Head, 10am Moruya.

NAROOMA: Christmas Vigil 5pm Cobargo, 7pm Narooma. Christmas Day 7.30am Bermagui, 9.30am Narooma.

Pambula. Christmas Day 10am Merimbula.

QUEANBEYAN: Christmas Vigil 6pm (children, Molonglo St), 9pm St Raphael's, midnight St Raphael's (carols 11.15pm). Christmas Day 8am 10am St Raphael's.

SOUTH TUGGERANONG: Christmas Vigil 6pm (children's outdoor) Calwell, 9pm Gowrie, midnight Gowrie. Christmas Day 9am Gowrie. No 6pm Mass.

SOUTH WODEN: Christmas Vigil 6pm, 9pm. Christmas Day 8.30am, 10am, all Sacred Heart, Pearce.

SYRO-MALABAR MASS (Malayalam language): Christmas Vigil 11.30pm, Yarralumla.

TARALGA: Christmas Vigil 6pm.

TEMORA MISSION: Christmas Vigil 6pm (outdoor) Temora, 7pm Barellan. Christmas Day 8am Ardlethan, 9am Temora, 10am Ariah Park.

TUMUT: Christmas Vigil 7pm. Christmas Day 8am Talbingo, 10am Tumut.

WANNIASSA: Christmas Vigil 6.30pm (children), 9pm. Christmas Day 9am.

WATSON: Christmas Vigil 6pm (children), 10pm. Christmas Day 8am, 10am (no 6pm).

WEST WYALONG MISSION: Christmas Vigil 6pm West Wyalong, 9pm Weethalle. Christmas Day 8am Ungarie, 10am West Wyalong.

WESTON CREEK: Christmas Vigil 6pm Holder (family), 6pm Waramanga (family), 9pm (carols 8.30pm) Holder, Christmas Day 9am (carols 8.30am) Waramanga.

YASS-GUNNING: Christmas Vigil 5.30pm Gunning, 7pm Yass, 8.30pm Murrumbateman recreation hall. Christmas Day 8.30am Yass.

YOUNG MISSION: Christmas Vigil 6pm, 8.30pm Young, 7pm Bribaree. Christmas Day 8.30am Boorowa, 8.30am Young, 9.30am Grenfell.



GUNDAGAI: Christmas Vigil 7pm. Christmas Day 9am.

GUNDAROO: Christmas Day 9am.

GUNGAHLIN: Christmas Vigil 7pm (children) 10pm (carols 9.30pm). Christmas Day 9am. No 8am or 5.30pm Mass.

HALL: Christmas Vigil 7.30pm (carols 7pm).

HARDEN-MURRUMBURRAH: Christmas Vigil 7pm.

JINDABYNE: Christmas Vigil 5pm Thredbo, 7pm Berridale, 8pm Jindabyne,

KAMBAH: Christmas Vigil 7pm (children), 9.30pm Vietnamese Mass, midnight. Christmas Day 9am.

KIPPAX: Christmas Vigil 6pm, 9pm, midnight (carols 11.30pm). Christmas Day 9am. No evening Mass.

LAKE CARGELLIGO: Christmas Vigil 9pm Lake Cargelligo. Christmas Day 9.30am Lake Cargelligo.

LATIN MASS COMMUNITY: Midnight Mass Garran. Christmas Day 7am Campbell, 10am Garran.

MICHELAGO: Christmas Vigil 6pm.

NARRABUNDAH: Christmas Vigil 6pm, 8pm (charismatic). Christmas Day 10am.

NORTH WODEN: Christmas Vigil 5.30pm Curtin (children), 7pm Garran, midnight (starting at 10pm) Curtin. Christmas Day 8.30am Garran, 9.30am Curtin.

O'CONNOR: Christmas Vigil 6pm. Christmas Day 9am, 11am.

PAGE: Christmas Vigil 6.30pm (children), 9pm. Christmas Day 8.30am.

PAMBULA: Christmas Vigil 5pm Merimbula (children) 7.30pm Eden, midnight