



CATHOLIC VOICE

ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN

Year of Mercy

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FREE

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Grateful to God and to Australia

Mustafa Karimi fled from war-torn Pakistan five years ago, and is now giving back to his community...

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

FIVE years ago, Mustafa Karimi arrived in Australia with no shoes and three items of clothing, having endured an exhausting 10 days travel by boat. Now he's giving back to the community that reached out to him in his time of need.

Mustafa's perilous journey to Australia, necessitated by violent religious persecution in his homeland, is a timely reminder of the situation still faced by many in various parts of the world today.

Raised in the small city of Parachinar, near the border of Pakistan and Afghanistan, Mustafa was just 5 years old when his life suddenly became surrounded by violence.

"In 1996 a sectarian war started between two groups, Shiite and Sunni Muslims, and it engulfed the entire region," he recalls.

"I was very young and our school teacher was trying to hide us under tables because there were grenades and rockets going off everywhere.

"Our school was completely demolished in that fight."

With attacks orchestrated by the Taliban becoming more frequent and more public in the coming years, Mustafa said no one felt safe anywhere.

"They were placing bombs in the marketplaces, on the buses, everywhere," he says. "The situation was deteriorating day by day."

Having decided at the age of 17 that he had to leave in order to be able to have a future, Mustafa, his family and most of their tribe attempted to cross the border and re-settle in Afghanistan.

But on the way members of the Taliban shot and killed 11 of the travellers, including some

Twenty-two-year-old Mustafa Karimi travelled by boat to Australia in 2010, and is now hoping to apply to have his family given residency in the country. PHOTO: ONLINE



of Mustafa's close relatives. The rest of the tribe immediately turned around and went back to Parachinar.

Soon after, Mustafa decided travelling to Australia was his only hope.

After paying about \$15,000, Mustafa first travelled to Thailand, then to Malaysia, before boarding a boat destined for Indonesia. The capacity of

the boat was 10 people, but 20 people desperate to travel to a safe land crammed into it.

After spending a month in Indonesia waiting for the final leg of the journey to begin, Mustafa and about 70 others, including women and children, finally made their way onto a boat to Australia.

He says the first day of the journey was comfortable, but

describes the other nine days as a "total nightmare".

By the eighth day of the journey the travellers had run out of food, and by the last day they had run out of water.

"By then I had actually lost hope," Mustafa says. "I was thinking we were lost and were going to die soon."

But to Mustafa's great surprise, the boat reached Cartier

Community answering the call generously

INDIVIDUALS and parishes in the Archdiocese are generously offering their services, finances and homes as the nation prepares for the arrival of thousands of refugees in the coming months.

The recently formed Archbishop's committee for refugees, made up of Anne Kirwan (CatholicCare CEO), Camilla Rowland (Marymead CEO) and Victor Dunn (Catholic Development Fund general manager), have been impressed by the level of generosity shown already.

"The committee has received numerous offers of assistance - money, personnel, and accommodation - which is most gratifying," Mr Dunn said. "A payment portal is also being set up on the Archdiocesan website for people and parishes to make tax deductible contributions.

"The funds will be held in the account until such time as they are required by entities such as St Vincent de Paul, CatholicCare, and Marist Youth to assist the refugees."

The committee has been meeting regularly, and through Ms Kirwan, has been in contact with government authorities and key organisations that are likely to be asked to coordinate a response.

"Aside from the public announcements that up to 6,000 refugees may be located in rural New South Wales locations, very little definitive advice has been received from the government," Mr Dunn said.

"Once numbers are known and potential locations identified, the relevant government department will liaise with the service agencies that work in this space."

If you would like to offer any form of assistance to the Archdiocesan Refugee Appeal, email: refugees@cg.org.au.

Island on the tenth day of travelling, and after the standard Australian customs checks, the asylum seekers were taken to Christmas Island.

"All I had was just a bag with one pair of pants and one shirt. My shoes fell into the sea so I had no shoes," he says.

For eight months Mustafa was held at the Christmas Island

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

ARCHBISHOP CHRISTOPHER'S DIARY



- November 1st**
11am Mass - St Christopher's Cathedral
- November 3rd**
10.30am Blessing and opening of new school buildings - St Patrick's Primary School, Gundagai
- November 4th**
9am Caritas re-launch - Rheinberger Centre, Yarralumla
- November 6th-8th**
Parish visitation - St Joseph's Parish, Pambula
- November 8th**
10am 150th anniversary Mass - St Joseph's Church, Merimbula
- November 9th-13th**
Clergy retreat - St Clement's, Galong
- November 14th**
9am Orientation day for permanent diaconate program - Archbishop's House
- November 15th**
11am Mass for deceased bishops and priests of the Archdiocese - St Christopher's Cathedral
- 5.30pm Annual Marian Mass - St Christopher's Cathedral
- November 19th**
9am Bishops of NSW/ACT meeting - Sydney
- November 20th-22nd**
Parish visitation - St Mary's Parish, Young
- November 20th**
12pm Western Deanery catechists' Mass
- November 23rd-27th**
Australian Catholic Bishops Conference meeting - Sydney
- November 27th**
6pm Catholic Education Commission commissioning Mass and dinner - St Christopher's Cathedral
- November 29th**
11am 150th anniversary Mass - St Joseph's Church, Delegate

Let us commend the faithful departed to the merciful Father



ARCHBISHOP'S MESSAGE
ARCHBISHOP CHRISTOPHER PROWSE

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

In the times ahead the Year of Consecrated Life will come to an end (February 2 - the Presentation of the Lord). Over this year I have been pleased to see in the Archdiocese many simple, but profound occasions whereby those in consecrated life have been thanked and honoured by us all. Pope Francis has called them to "wake up the world".

During this month of November, dedicated to prayer for our faithful departed, let us join together in a merciful act of collective intercession: let us pray for all who served in this Archdiocese and who have now died.

I recall, when I visited the

Goulburn cemetery, much personal amazement at the hundreds of tombstones of the consecrated men and women who had served heroically in our Archdiocese over the years. We pray for all of them wherever they are buried, with thanksgiving. May they rest in peace!

Beginning shortly, at the same time, we will open with Pope Francis the Jubilee Year

Let us join together in a merciful act of collective intercession: let us pray for all who served in this Archdiocese and who have now died.

of Mercy (December 8 - the Immaculate Conception). I have written a pastoral letter to all about our participation in this international Jubilee Year. Please find it enclosed in this edition of the *Catholic Voice*. Read it carefully within your parishes, schools and communities. Start planning your local pastoral responses now.

Once more, the word mercy is heard again and again. It

is a word that has particular significance during November, with our prayers for the dead.

Firstly, let us remind ourselves that at the Funeral Mass (sometimes called Mass of Christian Burial or Requiem Mass) within the Catholic Tradition that the first priority is to pray for the repose of the soul of the deceased, and to call down God's merciful forgiveness of their sins.

a Mass) is better called 'The funeral liturgy of... or rite of Christian burial of...'. Let us keep these points in mind when we begin planning funerals within our Catholic Tradition.

Finally, as a further petition in November, let us pray for the unborn who have become tragic victims of abortion. Australia has one of the highest abortion rates in the developed world. Each year about 85,000 abortions are performed.

Let us pray too for the mothers and fathers of these aborted children. Healing, mercy and help must await them in the lonely times after an abortion.

For all the faithful departed, especially those in purgatory, we pray in mercy, 'Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.'

May the Lord bless you and your families.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse
Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn

SAINT OF THE MONTH

St Elizabeth of Hungary November 17

St Elizabeth was born in Hungary in 1207, the daughter of Alexander II, King of Hungary. At the age of four she was sent for education to the court of the Landgrave of Thuringia, to whose infant son she was betrothed. As she grew in age, her piety also increased by leaps and bounds. In 1221, she married Louis of Thuringia and in spite of her position at court began to lead an austere simple life, practiced penance, and devoted herself to works of charity. Her husband was himself much inclined to religion and highly esteemed her virtue, encouraging her in her exemplary life. They had three children when tragedy struck - Louis was killed while fighting with the Crusaders. After his death, Elizabeth left the court, made arrangements for the care of her children, and in 1228, renounced the world, becoming a tertiary of St Francis. She built the Franciscan hospital at Marburg and devoted herself to the care of the sick until her death at the age of 24 in 1231. St Elizabeth is the patron saint of bakers, countesses, falsely accused, the homeless, tertiaries, widows, and young brides. Her symbols are alms, flowers, bread, the poor, and a pitcher.

- CATHOLIC ONLINE

- ### November Feast Days
- 1 November All Saints
 - 2 November All Souls
 - 3 November St Martin de Porres
 - 4 November St Charles Borromeo
 - 9 November The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica
 - 10 November St Leo the Great
 - 11 November St Martin of Tours
 - 12 November St Josaphat
 - 16 November St Margaret of Scotland; St Gertrude
 - 17 November St Elizabeth of Hungary
 - 18 November Dedication of the Basilicas of Sts Peter and Paul
 - 21 November The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 - 22 November Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
 - 23 November St Clement I; St Columban
 - 24 November St Andrew Dung-Lac and companions
 - 25 November St Catherine of Alexandria
 - 30 November St Andrew

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Carmelites celebrate two great saints

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

LARGE numbers of friends of the Carmelite Sisters gathered at their Red Hill convent on October 1 and October 15 to celebrate the feast days of St Therese of Lisieux and St Teresa of Avila.

A feature of the October 1 Mass was the blessing and distribution of roses by young children, in honour of the saint known as ‘The Little Flower’.

Fr Martins Aloga, who celebrated the Mass, praised the youngest of the three female Doctors of the Church during his homily.

“She went into religious life at the age of 15,” he said. “Her life was short, but her experience left us with many pages that we can read and so much inspiration that can draw us to Christ.”

St Therese provides us with an ideal example of someone who didn’t complain about her difficulties, but instead made the most of her abilities, Fr Martins said.

“If you look at her biographies, she was very frail and sickly... but in the spirit she was strong,” he said.

“We live today in a world of ambition. Many people are ambitious to be known as stars in the field of movies, sports, technology, fashion, and so on. But Therese only had ambition to be close to Christ.”

Archbishop Christopher Prowse celebrated Mass at the convent on October 15, with Papal Nuncio Archbishop Adolfo Yllana and several other clergy also in attendance.

This year’s feast marked the 500th anniversary since the birth of St Teresa of Avila, and Archbishop Christopher said



As part of the Mass in honour of St Therese of Lisieux on October 1 at the Carmelite convent in Red Hill, roses were blessed and distributed to those in the congregation. Top right, Archbishop Christopher Prowse and Papal Nuncio Archbishop Adolfo Yllana celebrate the feast of St Teresa of Avila with the Carmelite Sisters. PHOTOS: LOUI SESELJA, SUPPLIED

the great Carmelite saint’s way of life remained highly relevant.

“This past year I have con-

templative life.

“The highlights of these retreats, according to the evaluation sheets, were the periods

to come afresh into our Catholic lives.”

St Teresa, the Archbishop added, was a woman of

tion, especially over a five to six year period of her life,” he said.

“She is also seen in her wisdom and understanding, as one of the great reformers and foundresses in the Catholic Church.”

After entering the convent at the age of 20, it wasn’t until she was in her 40s that St Teresa began to actively reform the Carmelite Order, Archbishop Christopher said.

“We need today, more than ever, the charism of St Teresa of Avila for meditative prayer to come afresh into our Catholic lives.”

ducted three retreats in the Archdiocese,” he said.

“In each of these retreats, I noticed a commonality. There is an insatiable thirst for con-

of silence and solitude that were encouraged.

“We need today, more than ever, the charism of St Teresa of Avila for meditative prayer

“immense understanding and wisdom”.

“All her biographers talk about her as a woman who attained great mystical affec-

LOCAL NEWS

Three rural CWL champions given life membership

THREE members of the small Catholic Women’s League (CWL) branch in Bribbaree were recently presented with life membership for their exceptional service to the League over many years.

Gloria Sweeny, Teresa Armitage and Bernadette Curtis served on the executive of the North-West Region for a three-year term and served on the Country Region executive when it was formed after the North-West Region closed.

Ms Sweeny and Ms Armitage have also spent time in the role of vice-president of the Archdiocesan CWL.



From left to right, Gloria Sweeny, Teresa Armitage and Bernadette Curtis. The trio were recently presented with CWL life membership. PHOTOS: SUPPLIED

“These exceptional ladies have acted on our Bribbaree executive as president, secretary and treasurer for several terms,” Bribbaree branch president Nola Drum said.

All three ladies have been active members of the local Catholic community, serving as readers, cleaners, and organisers of various events.

“They have also participated in, and organised, World

Union of Catholic Women’s Organisations days and ecumenical functions and have represented our CWL branch at local celebrations such as the ANZAC Day laying of the wreaths,” Mrs Drum said.

“The members of Bribbaree CWL feel very honoured to have had these three ladies in our branch for so many years guiding us with their wisdom and knowledge.”

EUCCHARISTIC & MARIAN PROCESSION

Join the procession of the Blessed Sacrament from St. Benedict’s Catholic Church, Narrabundah to St. Christopher’s Cathedral

PROGRAMME

Meet at St. Benedict’s Church, Tallara Parkway, Narrabundah

- 3:00 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- 4:00 pm Procession to St. Christopher’s Cathedral, Franklin Street, Manuka
- 5:00 pm Procession arrives
- 5:15 pm Benediction
- 5:30 pm Mass



SUNDAY, 15 NOVEMBER

Enquiries: Brian Curtis 0419 259 177
E-mail: brian.curtis@homemail.com.au

A bus will be available to transport participants back to St. Benedict’s



Friendship group 'energises' parishioners

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

THE Mary Help of Christians Parish Friendship Group based in Pearce celebrated its 25th anniversary on September 18, with more than 60 people attending the celebrations.

In a pleasant surprise, Pearce parish priest Fr Richard Thompson presented the group with a framed Papal blessing for the occasion.

One of the group's organisers Faye Gluhak said the celebrations were thoroughly enjoyed by all.

"It was so successful and inspiring," she said. "It was wonderful to see so many faces."

The friendship group meets most Thursdays for two hours to work together on various local, parish or overseas projects.

Fr Richard said the group helped "energise" some of the elderly members of the parish through selfless works of charity and friendship.

"The friendship group offers practical and prayerful support to individuals and groups by gently using their individual and collective talents," he said.

"They prepare prayer kits for all our kindergarten children at the beginning of each year; they have made over 1,000 rosaries for distribution through the Sisters of Charity; they recycle stamps for the



Members of the Mary Help of Christians Parish Friendship Group after its 25th anniversary Mass on September 18.

PHOTO: LOUI SESELJA

Missions; they prepare our parish's donations to the Samaritan's Purse Christmas Child appeal, just to mention a few of their projects.

"Most importantly they create a space where the dignity of the elderly can flourish

without prejudice."

The group also keeps in regular contact with the nearby North Woden Parish and the St George Anglican Church, Ms Gluhak said.

"We raise money for special projects and meet socially with

them, and we help each other," she said. "This interaction between us is just wonderful and has helped us all to grow and have a better understanding of each other."

Fr Richard and Ms Gluhak both encouraged other parish-

es to consider forming a friendship group where parishioners can work together in a social setting.

"No matter how young or old you are, you can make a difference to another person's life," Ms Gluhak said.

Outback pilgrimage for the Year of Mercy

CATHOLICS in the Archdiocese are being invited to take part in a special pilgrimage from St Christopher's Cathedral to the Bolo Farm Chapel in Condobolin, as a way of marking the upcoming Year of Mercy.

Archdiocesan vocations director and West Wyalong parish priest Fr Emil Milat devised the pilgrimage idea, which involves travelling through seven main towns – representing the seven levels of the spiritual journey according to St Teresa of Avila.

The 384-kilometre pilgrimage is intended to begin from the soon-to-be-appointed Holy

Doors of the Cathedral, Fr Emil said.

"This journey is intended to mirror the interior journey of the spiritual life that St Teresa of Avila so beautifully expressed in her interior castle imagery," he said.

"The pilgrim is encouraged to begin this journey from the specially appointed Holy Doors of St Christopher's Cathedral to arrive at Bolo farm chapel on the first Saturday of the month, for confession then participate in the 6pm Vigil Mass.

"They are encouraged to bring a stone or rock as symbolism of their sins to be left at

Bolo Chapel to be used in the construction of the Marian Grotto."

The pilgrimage passes through the towns of Yass, Harden, Stockinbingal, Springdale, Temora and West Wyalong before finishing in Condobolin.

Fr Emil, who has prepared a detailed guide to the pilgrimage, said there were several symbolic aspects to the pilgrimage and the particular towns pilgrims will pass through.

For more information about the pilgrimage, contact Fr Emil Milat: emil.milat@cg.catholic.org.au.



The Bolo Farm Chapel in Condobolin is the final destination of the pilgrimage, which begins from St Christopher's Cathedral.

PHOTO: ONLINE

Fr Bernie prepares for a peaceful retirement

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

FR Bernie Hennessy says he has mixed feelings about retiring from active ministry on November 4 after 43 years of serving the Church in parishes and communities.

Having reached the retirement age of 75 in October, Fr Bernie will move from Gundagai to Queanbeyan, where he plans to reside permanently.

"I am in reasonable health and would like to have the opportunity to meet personal goals which have been put on hold whilst involved in busy parishes," he told *Catholic Voice*.

"I have mixed feelings about retiring as you are so involved sacramentally and personally in people's lives, the parish, Archdiocese, wider Church and community. That relationship will be different on retirement. I will miss that, despite compensating factors."

Parishioners at Jugiong farewelled Fr Bernie with a special morning tea on October 11, while Gundagai parishioners gathered for lunch on October 25 with Fr Bernie



From left to right, Bill Graham, Paula Butt, and Stephanie Corkhill-Hyles with Fr Bernie Hennessy after his final Sunday Mass at Jugiong on October 11. Ms Corkhill-Hyles presented Fr Bernie with a painting she created as a farewell gift. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

after his final Sunday Mass at the parish that morning.

Parish council chairperson Paula Butt and Gobarralong representative Bill Graham paid tribute to Fr Bernie and

thanked him for the friendship, dedication and faith he had shared with and demonstrated to parishioners.

"Fr Bernie is a man of strong but gentle character

who reaches out to people of all walks of life," Mrs Butt said.

"His ability to make each and every one of us feel special and included is something he

should be very proud of.

"We have been blessed and privileged to have Fr Bernie with us and it is with much gratitude that we thank him for his ministry and friendship which he has brought to our community, from babies right through to the elderly."

The former parish priest of St Patrick's in Gundagai said he has many fond memories of his years of active priestly ministry.

"Every encounter brings its own blessings, particularly through the ministry of the sacraments, visiting the sick at home or in hospitals, and encounters with children and teachers at school," he said.

"I have treasured my association as an army chaplain over 28 years both in full-time and part-time chaplaincy. Also my interest in sport has afforded a wonderful opportunity to connect with so many who often have different affiliations with clergy or church."

Fr Bernie says after a "good long break" he will be available to assist in parishes.

A new parish priest for St Patrick's will be appointed in the near future.

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The fascinating adventure of priesthood

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

THE priesthood is a “fascinating adventure” for Fr Edmund Budzilowicz, the chaplain to Canberra’s Polish Catholics and a priest of the Society of Christ.

The 57-year-old has spent 20 years of his priesthood in Australia, serving Christ in a Religious Order that seeks to minister to Polish migrants throughout the world.

The Society of Christ was established in Poland in 1932 as part of an effort to provide pastoral care to Poles who had left their home country as a consequence of the First World War.

Fr Edmund says he has learnt a lot through his priesthood, and finds great joy in sharing in the sufferings and happiness of people.

“Jesus teaches me how I, myself a weak person, in need of other people to help me, can assist others,” he says.

“He teaches me how to talk about him, not necessarily through words in a beautiful homily, but by being close to other people.”

Fr Edmund, Fr Przemyslaw Karasiuk, and Fr Stanislaw Lipski are the Society’s representatives in Canberra, where the Order has been present since 1972. Their provincial house, which was opened in 1993, is in Narrabundah.

The first Society of Christ priests to arrive in Australia began their ministry in Sydney in 1958, before spreading to South Australia, Victoria, Queensland, Tasmania and even New Zealand.

Fr Karasiuk, the Society’s provincial superior for Australia and New Zealand, said the Order consists of about 450 priests and brothers.

“Half of them work with the Polish migrants and half of them work in Poland,” he said. “Currently we have 28 priests in the province of Australia and New Zealand.”

Both Fr Edmund and Fr Karasiuk believe their experiences of being altar servers for many years was a crucial part of their vocation to the priesthood.

“If you were an altar server, you had some thoughts of the priesthood,” Fr Karasiuk said. “There was a good tradition that altar servers served during the week, even if possible on a daily basis.”

The example of “good and pious” priests was also important for Fr Edmund, who admits he looked up to his



Above, some of the 28 Society of Christ priests who are based in the province of Australia and New Zealand, including Canberra’s Polish chaplain, Fr Edmund Budzilowicz (front row, middle). Below, provincial superior Fr Sylvester Karasiuk. PHOTOS: SUPPLIED

parish priests as heroes whom he aspired to be like.

But it wasn’t until he was 24, having completed two years of compulsory military service, that he heard a strong call to priesthood.

“I went to Czestochowa in Poland for a pilgrimage, and there I felt inside in my heart and my soul, Jesus calling me, ‘Edmund, follow me’,” he explained. “These words were very strong in my heart and I left everything and I went to the seminary.”

Fr Edmund was ordained in 1990, and Fr Karasiuk in 1997. Both spent several years ministering in Poland before deciding to move to Australia to help meet the pastoral needs of Polish migrants here.

They have both spent time in various locations around the country, and say they feel like Australia is their second home.

“If there is no vibrant spiritual life in the family, there are no vocations.”

Fr Karasiuk, who resides at the Polish Catholic Centre in Narrabundah but travels within the province often, said the Society was experiencing a decline in vocations, which he puts down to an increased “spiritual liberalism” within families.

“In my time in the seminary,



about 25 years ago, we had between 70 and 100 seminarians,” he said. “Now we only have 32.”

“But I think we should not talk about a crisis of vocations, we should talk rather about a crisis of the spiritual life in the families.

“If there is no vibrant spiritual life in the family, there are no vocations. When we have devoted religious people and Catholic families, we have vocations.”

The 45-year-old said that in his experience the visible presence of religious was of great help in promoting vocations.

“When there were a lot of vocations, you could see or notice the religious priest or nun by what they wore,” Fr Karasiuk said. “If you don’t see them, you don’t think about that kind of life.”

Nevertheless, both Fr Karasiuk and Fr Edmund remain hopeful about the Church’s future. And their own journeys within a Religious Order give them a level of belief that others will become workers in Christ’s vineyard.

“Life as a member of the religious community is... ultimately, a mystery for me which I don’t completely understand despite the fact that I am deeply submerged in it,” Fr Edmund says. “And that makes my life a fascinating adventure.”

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The recent 'Explosion' youth conference attracted 100 participants from around the Archdiocese. The event is run by the Disciples of Jesus community and the Archdiocesan youth office.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

The Disciples of Jesus community

THE 'Explosion' youth conference was created by the Disciples of Jesus community in 2006 as a way of calling young people into a deeper encounter with Jesus. Three years ago the community decided to run the event in partnership with the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn. The Disciples of Jesus Community is a lay Catholic community that started in Canberra in 1982. Coming out of the experience of the Charismatic Renewal, the community seeks to empower lay people to live their faith boldly in the world, through regular gathering of worship, sharing and formation. The community runs many events that seek to bring young people and families into a new awareness of their faith. To find out more about the community, visit www.disciplesofjesus.org or call Fiona on 0411 144 208.



A youth event like no other

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

ABOUT 100 youth from near and far attended the recent 'Explosion' conference held at St Francis Xavier College in Florey.

The three-day conference, which has been run as a joint venture between the Disciples of Jesus community and the Archdiocesan Office for Youth and Young Adults since 2013, included talks on social justice, sexuality, suffering and the importance of Scripture.

Between talks and seminars, participants enjoyed sports, live music, games and other activities, giving them the chance to build friendships within the large group.

Archdiocesan coordinator for youth and young adults Stuart West said the number of participants at the conference was the largest in recent memory.

He said representatives from right around the Archdiocese were present for the event, with some even travelling from Sydney and Albury to attend.

"Seeing the young people engaging with the questions

they face and being able to have a safe place where they could ask those questions and come to God to have them answered was a real highlight," Mr West said.

About 60 parents of participants attended the final Mass

"We always begin the conference by giving them permission to question their faith and go on a journey of searching for the truth."

of the conference, celebrated by Archbishop Christopher Prowse, which was a highlight for many participants, Mr West said.

Fr Dave Callaghan MGL said the 'Explosion' conference is based upon an approach that is significantly different to most other Catholic youth events.

"We need to start with the questions that the young people already have rather than telling them the answers that we think they need," he said.

"Young people live in a world filled with doubt, and so we always begin the conference by giving them permission to question their faith and go on a journey of searching for the truth. Some people find this confronting, but we find that it helps them engage with the seminars and talks in a whole new way."

Mr West said he was extremely grateful for the team of dedicated volunteers who made the event possible.

"We had about 40 leaders coming together to help run the event... which included lots of youth leaders, people from the Archdiocesan youth office, people from the Disciples of Jesus community, the National Evangelisation Team, the Youth Mission Team from Sydney, and some parents," he said.

"We're also very grateful to St Francis Xavier College who support the event by letting us use the school as a venue."

The Archdiocesan youth office

AS the parish and schools youth ministry liaison officer for the Archdiocese, my role is to provide opportunities for high school students to experience the richness of the Catholic faith through parishes, local movements/communities and the broader Church. The 'Explosion' youth conference, run in collaborative partnership with the Disciples of Jesus community, is an example of how we are able to provide practical support to empower a local ministry, drawing upon their experience, passion and gifts. One hundred high school students from (almost) all corners of the Archdiocese experienced the fruits of this ministry that was previously unavailable to them. To find out what is happening in your local area or to discuss opportunities for support/collaboration, email youth_events@catholiclife.org.au or call (02) 6163 4300.





Mustafa Karimi is now employed as a youth worker at Marist. PHOTO: LOUI SESELIJA

Mustafa's 'nightmare' journey

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

detention centre, before being transferred to Darwin, where he was interviewed as part of the arrival process.

But the initial outcome was not positive.

"I felt hopeless," he says. "You don't see your future. You come all the way to Australia thinking you would have a safe life. But once you get rejected, it means you will be sent back."

Two weeks later, however, having completed more interviews, Mustafa was told he was allowed to stay in the country and would be sent to community detention in Canberra, where he would be a part of the CatholicCare Migration Service (CMS) program.

"It was a really good feeling," he says. "I felt more free, as compared to being in the detention centre. In community detention, you can go to school, make friends, and

do volunteer work, which I did."

During his time in community detention, Mustafa finished his high school studies, completed a Certificate IV in community services, and volunteered his time working in aged care and at Companion House, helping people who had fled persecution as he had done.

In 2012 Mustafa was given permanent residency status, allowing him to move out of community detention.

After finding a home, he contacted staff at CatholicCare, who had supported him during his time in the CMS program, asking if there were any positions vacant.

Mustafa was first employed on a casual basis, and then on a full-time basis as a support worker in the CMS program. After the program ceased at the end of last year, he commenced a new job as a youth worker at Marist.

Mustafa says he's happy to be in a peaceful part of the world now, but he deeply desires to have his family here too.

"I'll be getting citizenship in January, so after that I will apply for the family, because I want them all to be here with me, safe," he says. "I'm very worried about them."

"Being the eldest in the family I feel that this is my responsibility. I should look after them and try to get them to a safe place."

Reflecting on his long and difficult journey to Australia and his new life in a peaceful country, Mustafa says he is glad he made the decision to leave Parachinar, despite the challenges of the journey.

"No one should experience such things as I've experienced in my life," he says. I made it, but I had to cross a lot of difficulties.

"I'm very thankful to God and to Australia."

Couples challenged to witness to wounded families

CANBERRA couples Anna and Tony Di Pietro and Faye and Kevin Noonan recently returned from a series of meetings and workshops in Rome, as part of their involvement in the international married couples' movement Équipes Notre-Dame (Teams).

"It was a most rewarding experience," Mr and Mrs Noonan said.

"We took the opportunity to listen and share stories with couples and priests from a variety of cultures and backgrounds."

"The private audience with Pope Francis was clearly the highlight of our time in Rome. He had a lot to say in his prepared speech about marriage and the future of Teams. His words were punctuated by the characteristic image of Pope Francis listening intently and warmly chatting with those around him."

In his address, Pope Francis warmly welcomed members of the Teams movement, saying: "I am happy to receive you, dear leaders and spiritual advisors of Équipes Notre Dame, on the occasion of your world gathering."

"It is clear that a movement of conjugal spirituality such as yours is fully within the care that the Church wishes to have for families."

He then set out a tough challenge for couples involved with Teams.

"Christian couples and



Australian members of Équipes Notre Dame during their time in Rome. Back row, left to right, David Watts, Anna Di Pietro, Tony Di Pietro, and John Whelan. Middle row, left to right, Faye Noonan, Marnie Watts, Fran Whelan, Tim Jones and Susie Jones. Front row, left to right, Mgr Frank Marriott and Kevin Noonan. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

families are often in the best position to announce Jesus Christ to other families, to support them, to strengthen

and encourage them," the Pope said.

"In fact, I would like to insist on this missionary role

of Équipes Notre Dame."

Pope Francis went on to explain his challenge even more clearly, urging the

couples to be especially close to wounded families.

"We must have the courage to come into contact with these families, in a discreet but generous way, materially, humanly or spiritually, in those circumstances where they find themselves vulnerable," he said.

"Finally, I cannot but encourage the couples of the Équipes Notre Dame to be instruments of the mercy of Christ and of the Church towards those whose marriage has failed."

"A united and happy couple can understand better than anyone else, from within, the wounds and the suffering caused by abandonment, betrayal, and a failure of love."

Following the audience with Pope Francis, the Australian contingent travelled to the Australian Embassy for a meeting with John McCarthy, Australian Ambassador to the Holy See.

Teams has more than 134,000 members in about 80 countries. Leaders came to Rome from many parts of the world including Africa, South America and trouble spots in Eastern Europe and Syria.

The event ended with a closing address from Mgr Vincenzo Paglia, President of the Pontifical Council for the Family.

For more information about Équipes Notre-Dame (Teams), email RegionalTeam@incanberra.com.au or visit www.teamsoceania.com.au.

Lily exemplifying Franciscan values

ST Francis of Assisi Primary School student Lily Curtis received a Fred Hollows Award for Care and Compassion on September 25 at a ceremony at the ACT Legislative Assembly.

Gabi Hollows and ACT Chief Minister Andrew Barr presented the 11-year-old with the award in front of her family members and school staff.

The school's religious education coordinator Lisa Conroy nominated Lily for being "an outstanding model of the Franciscan values of care and compassion".

"She demonstrates warmth in the way she relates to others and is selfless in her relationships, showing consideration of the needs of others," the nomination said.

"Lily has a compassionate heart, exemplified by her promotion of social justice in the school through Mini Vinnies and as a Year 6 leader this year.

"Lily calmly demonstrates her social justice beliefs in her daily actions through true Christian leadership to her peers, her teachers and the wider school community."



Lily Curtis was presented with a Fred Hollows Award for Care and Compassion by ACT Chief Minister Andrew Barr on September 25.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

John XXIII College residents celebrate patron's feast day

ARCHBISHOP Christopher Prowse blessed a new statue of Pope St John XXIII on the feast of the recently canonised Pontiff, October 11, at the John XXIII College chapel in Acton.

During Mass for the occasion, Archbishop Christopher said Pope St John XXIII was an inspirational man who had many outstanding qualities and virtues.

"His motto as a Bishop was 'Peace and obedience'. He tried to live this out all his life," the Archbishop said.

"He tried to be a peacemaker with those who he came in contact with.

"He chose the human characteristics of a sense of humour and a smile to make sure people could be at peace with each other.

"He listened carefully to the heartbeat of Jesus in his life. This is true obedience. He never missed an opportunity of surrendering to the Lord, no matter what his situation was."

The Archbishop also

encouraged the students present at the Mass, who numbered about 50, to be "courageous Christians".

"I want you to feel by my coming here today a sense of importance that I have for the presence of this Catholic college in the midst of an internationally renowned university," he said.

"Bring Christ into your lives and into the life of this university."

"Bring Christ into your lives and into the life of this university. Allow Jesus to look at you and love you.

"Be like John XXIII, and through peace and obedience come to the Lord in all the many invitations he is offering, and will offer you, in your life."

John XXIII College is a residential college for men and women, affiliated with the Australian National University.

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.

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

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

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



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".



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

Catholic Voice

Catholic school to offer distance ed

INDEPENDENT Catholic school St Mary MacKillop Colleges in Wagga Wagga is set to become the first non-government provider of distance education in New South Wales.

Although the school is still awaiting approval from the Board of Studies, if its application is successful it will offer Years 11 and 12 via distance education from the start of 2016.

Principal David Obeid said providing distance education has been on the school's agenda for some time.

"We've had a few families move to the area for the school, but there's always been this request from families who don't feel they can make the move to please provide what we do by distance education," he explained.

"A lot of families, who are in the big cities, often balk at the idea of moving out here to Wagga, because they fear losing the security of employment options... but they've all universally said that they want access to the particular flavour of Catholic education that we provide."

As an independent Catholic school, St Mary MacKillop Colleges has a number of unique features that set it apart from other schools, Mr Obeid said.

"One hundred per cent of our staff are practising Catholics," he said.

"Families love the fact that at the end of the K-10 religious education program, students graduate on to studying, from a classical Thomistic point of view, theology and philosophy, then in Year 12 they've got the



St Mary MacKillop Colleges' Year 12 class, back row, from left to right, teacher Stephen Vieira, Edwina Funnell, Ian Powell (captain); front row, from left to right, Lily Philip, Lacey Johnstone-James, Virginia Morton, and Frances Kingston (captain). PHOTO: SUPPLIED

opportunity to study Catholic apologetics as well."

Parents have also been attracted to the school for its small class sizes and strong academic results, Mr Obeid said.

But the biggest drawcard by far, he added, is the presence of teaching Dominican Sisters at the school.

Since beginning in 2008, the school has maintained a fairly steady level of enrolments – about 120 – each year.

Mr Obeid, who has taught in various government and Catholic schools for more than 20 years, said the MacKillop Colleges student body is exceptionally well behaved.

"Serious discipline issues here would be a child leaving

their blazer in class instead of wearing it to Mass," he said.

The general good behaviour of students is encouraged by the school's efforts to immerse them in as Catholic a culture as possible, Mr Obeid said.

"Starting lessons with prayer, stopping for things like the Angelus, getting involved in charitable works in our visit to the local nursing home, praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet in the afternoon – those things have a concrete effect that you can see in the behaviour of the kids," he said.

Although the school is still in its early years, Mr Obeid has big dreams for its future.

"The long-term hope is that we acquire some of the adjacent land to where we are... so that

we can expand into that, and eventually have enrolments and facilities grow to the point where we can have a co-educational primary school and a separate boys secondary school and a separate girls secondary school," he said.

"I just want to see the school thrive, to do what it set out to do, to give families that need schooling options an opportunity to have their children educated in the faith, to grow in the faith, and to leave knowing, loving, and practising their faith for their whole lives."

For more information about St Mary MacKillop Colleges, phone (02) 6925 6601 or email admin@stmarymackillop.nsw.edu.au.

NATIONAL NEWS

Bishops: Legal euthanasia would endanger people

A RADICAL change to society's most foundational law, overturning the prohibition of euthanasia, would be ethically unjustifiable; could not ensure the legal protection of the vulnerable and would fail to uphold the dignity of the dying, according to a submission from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC).

The ACBC submission to the Inquiry into End of Life Choices was published in October on the Victorian Parliament's Legal and Social Issues Committee's website.

"The clear conclusion of reason and experience is that euthanasia or assisted suicide cannot be made safe because no law allowing euthanasia can prevent vulnerable people from abuse," Bishop Peter Comensoli, Bishops Delegate for Life Issues, said.

"Rather than buying into the dishonest euphemism of 'dying with dignity', we would do better - and be more human - by dignifying the lives of the dying. Palliative care is one key way we can dignify the dying."

The Catholic Church has set out a clear approach to planning for end of life care with resources for patients, residents and health care professionals provided by Catholic Health Australia and the ACBC on the My Future Care website: www.myfuturecare.org.au.

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Archdiocese of
Canberra & Goulburn

Synod report affirms Church teaching

BY ELISE HARRIS

WITH a two-thirds majority vote, the more than 200 bishops gathered for the Vatican's Synod on the Family supported Church teaching on hot-button issues such as homosexuality and Communion for divorced and remarried persons.

The Vatican's Synod on the Family was opened by Pope Francis on October 4 and closed on October 25. This year's event followed the theme 'The vocation and mission of the family in the Church and the modern world', and follows 2014's Extraordinary Synod on the Family, which focused on pastoral challenges involved in family life.

This year's discussion tended to be reduced in Western secular media to two issues: Communion for divorced-and-civilly remarried, and Church teaching and pastoral care regarding homosexuality.

However, actual topics brought up during meetings were much broader, with synod fathers touching on themes such as domestic violence, violence against women, incest and abuse within families, marriage preparation and pornography.

A closing news conference at the Vatican on October 24 reported a sense of collegiality among the global bishops. Only two of the 94 paragraphs showed a disparity in the voting, both of them surrounding the topic of pastoral care for divorced and remarried persons.

Despite the calls by some for the Church to change its doctrine by allowing divorced and civilly remarried Catholics without an annulment to receive Communion, the Synod's final report upheld current Church teaching and practice on the issue.

"It's therefore the responsibility of pastors to accompany the persons concerned on a path of discernment according to the teaching of the Church and the guidelines of the bishop," paragraph 85 read.

While there was an overall support for the Church's teaching and current pastoral practice to remain in place, the document also stressed that divorced and remarried couples are baptised persons who must be "more integrated into the Christian community", while "avoiding every occasion of scandal".

"The logic of integration is the key to their pastoral accompaniment," paragraph 84 said, explaining that their



More than 200 bishops attended the recent Synod on the Family in Rome, including Archbishop Mark Coleridge of Brisbane and Bishop Eugene Hurley of Darwin. The final Synod report upheld current Church teaching and practice regarding Communion for divorced and civilly remarried Catholics. PHOTOS: FIONA BASILE

involvement in the Church "can be expressed in different ecclesial services".

Synod fathers emphasised a process of careful discernment in considering which of the areas of exclusion in the liturgy, pastoral, educational and institutional framework of the Church can be done away with for divorced and remarried Catholics.

In some countries, for example, divorced and remarried persons are not only asked to abstain from Communion, but also from teaching catechesis and from being godparents.

Also affirmed in the document was the Church's stance on homosexuality, which was one of the most contested issues of last year's Synod, particularly in the final

to be given to accompanying families in such situations, paragraph 76 of the document said.

It reiterated that "every person, independent of their sexual tendency, must be respected in their dignity and welcomed with respect", but clarified that "there is no foundation whatsoever to assimilate or establish analogies, even remotely, between homosexual unions and God's design for marriage and the family".

Synod fathers called ideological colonisation in this regard "unacceptable in every case", as well as the pressure local Churches often face to succumb to the secular push allowing for gay "marriage".

The final document also backed Church teaching on life

Topics brought up during meetings included themes such as domestic violence, violence against women, incest and abuse within families, marriage preparation and pornography.

document.

This year, however, the topic of homosexuality was almost completely removed, apart from one paragraph on the pastoral care of families who live with persons who have homosexual tendencies.

"A special attention" ought

issues, such as abortion and contraception.

In paragraph 33, it is reiterated that all human life "is sacred because, since its beginning, it involves the creative action of God".

"The biotechnical revolution in the field of human



procreation has introduced the ability to manipulate the generative act, rendering it independent of the sexual relationship between a man and woman," the document read.

Openness to life was also underlined as an "intrinsic requirement of married love".

While an unfortunate mentality has diffused in society which reduces procreation "to individual gratification or that of the couple", the Synod fathers

stressed that children are always a blessing, and are especially loved by Christ.

Cardinal George Pell, head of the Vatican's economy secretariat, said in a statement that he was "very pleased with the document".

"It expresses well what the current pastoral practice and teaching of the Church are on sexuality, marriage and families," the statement read.

"No doctrinal developments, no doctrinal surprises, no doctrinal backflips. No changes in praxis or discipline," but rather a "beautiful commendation of large families and of the witness of happily married spouses and their children as agents of evangelisation."

EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE OF MERCY

DECEMBER 8, 2015 - NOVEMBER 20, 2016

With the special Year of Mercy set to begin next month, Archbishop Christopher Prowse has written the following pastoral letter to the people of the Archdiocese, encouraging all to respond generously to the Pope's invitation...



Pope Francis has encouraged Catholics to frequent the Sacrament of Confession and to practise the corporal and spiritual works of mercy during the upcoming Jubilee Year of Mercy. At the beginning of the Year, on December 8, the Holy Door in St Peter's Basilica in Rome, pictured below, will be opened. PHOTOS: ONLINE



THE SEVEN CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

To feed the hungry
To give drink to the
thirsty
To clothe the naked
To shelter the homeless
To visit the sick
To ransom the captive
To bury the dead

THE SEVEN SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

To instruct the ignorant
To counsel the doubtful
To admonish sinners
To bear wrongs patiently
To forgive offences
willingly
To comfort the afflicted
To pray for the living and
the dead

THE merciful tenderness of God encounters everyone and excludes no one. This "loving kindness of the heart of our God" (Luke 1:78) is made manifest in the person of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Alleluia!

The announcement of our Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy is a prophetic proclamation from His Holiness, Pope Francis, to draw us all closer to this merciful embrace of the Father of all mercies.

It will commence throughout the Catholic world on December 8, 2015 and conclude on November 20, 2016.

Jubilee years commenced about 700 years ago in the Church. There have been 26 Jubilees and only three have been "extraordinary" (including this one).

Pope Francis has explained the terms of reference around the Jubilee Year in his 'bull of indiction', entitled *Misericordiae Vultus* ('The Face of Mercy'). Please read this carefully: https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco_bolla_20150411_misericordiae-vultus.html.

At the start of the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis will open the Holy Door in St Peter's Basilica in Rome. He explains that it will become "a Door of Mercy through which anyone who enters will experience the love of God, who consoles, pardons and instills hope". In our Archdiocese, a local Door of Mercy will also be opened at St Christopher's Cathedral, Canberra at this time.

The theme of the Jubilee Year is: 'Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful'. This will ensure that both the spiritual and corporal works of mercy will be a true focus.



The logo for the Jubilee Year of Mercy, created by Fr Marko Rupnik SJ, depicts Jesus taking upon his shoulders the lost soul. PHOTO: ONLINE

I encourage all parishes, schools, communities and ecclesial movements in the Archdiocese to respond generously to the Pope's invitation to us all.

There will be many opportunities to receive and express God's mercy over the Jubilee Year.

May our parishes become even more what they are: centres of God's mercy. May all of us live out our baptismal vocation

and become even further who we are: missionaries of God's mercy.

May Mary, who gave birth to the source of all mercy, Jesus Christ, lead us to her Son in our Jubilee Year of Mercy. May we have the trust to place all our sufferings (miseries) into the loving heart of Jesus. This is truly the mercy encounter we all pray for in these times.

Lent 2016 is an obvious pen-

itential time in our liturgical life to focus on mercy. Let us highlight the importance of the Sacrament of Penance during this time.

Another great opportunity is the invitation of Pope Francis for a worldwide '24 Hours for the Lord' (March 4-5, 2016) in which confessions and prayer vigils are asked to be held in dioceses throughout the world.

A particular focus for our Archdiocese will be regional deanery gatherings in 2016 that will focus on the theme of 'Mercy in Marriage and Family Life'. These will follow up on our most successful Archdiocesan gathering held in March 2015. They will also give us a practical focus to express God's merciful tenderness in a crucial area that concerns us all so much.

As further practical resources and themes for this Jubilee Year of Mercy become available, our Archdiocesan agencies will make them available to you.

In the present time, however, I call on all of us in the Archdiocese to become further informed. Let us begin thinking practically on how we can welcome this great mercy moment on the local level.

"In this Jubilee Year, may the Church echo the word of God that resounds strong and clear as a message and a sign of pardon, strength, aid, and love. May she never tire of extending mercy, and be ever patient in offering compassion and comfort. May the Church become the voice of every man and woman, and repeat confidently without end: 'Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old,' (Ps 25:6)," Pope Francis (*Misericordiae Vultus*, s. 25).

Archbishop Christopher Prowse
Catholic Archbishop of
Canberra and Goulburn



“ Mercy is the very foundation of the Church's life. All of her pastoral activity should be caught up in the tenderness she makes present to believers; nothing in her preaching and in her witness to the world can be lacking in mercy.”

- Pope Francis, *Misericordiae Vultus*, s.10

PRAYER FOR THE YEAR OF MERCY

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father,
and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him.

Show us your face and we will be saved.
Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew
from being enslaved by money;
the adulteress and Magdalene

from seeking happiness only in created things;
made Peter weep after his betrayal,
and assured Paradise to the repentant thief.
Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us,
the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman:
"If you knew the gift of God!"

You are the visible face of the invisible Father,
of the God who manifests his power above all
by forgiveness and mercy;
let the Church be your visible face in the world,
its Lord risen and glorified.

You willed that your ministers
would also be clothed in weakness
in order that they may feel compassion
for those in ignorance and error:
let everyone who approaches them feel sought after,
loved, and forgiven by God.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing,
so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord,
and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm,
may bring good news to the poor,
proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed,
and restore sight to the blind.
We ask this of you, Lord Jesus,
through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy;
you who live and reign with the Father
and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.



Pope Francis blesses a prisoner during his visit to the Curran-Fromhold Correctional Facility in Philadelphia on September 27. PHOTO: PAUL HARING; CNS

Canberra's Syro-Malabar community becomes the

Parish of St Alphonsa

*October 4 was a landmark day for Syro-Malabar Catholics in the Archdiocese, as **Matthew Biddle** explains...*

IT BEGAN with just eight families in 2006, but nine years later Canberra's Syro-Malabar community has reached such a large size that it has been established as a parish in its own right.

Almost 800 people gathered on October 4 at St Peter Chanel's Church in Yarralumla to celebrate Mass on the feast day of the community's patron, St Alphonsa, and to hear the proclamation of the decree establishing the parish.

Colour, children, and traditional music marked the celebration, which included a Marian procession after Mass and a shared evening meal.

Archdiocesan priests Fr Varghese Vavolil, Fr Varghese Assin, Fr Praveen Paul, Fr Joshy Kurien and Fr James Antony CMI were joined by Fr Francis Kolencherry, Vicar-General of the Syro-Malabar Eparchy of Australia, who read the decree of establishment on behalf of Bishop Bosco Puthur.

"It is now deemed beneficial that the Syro-Malabar communities in different parts of Australia be coordinated and organised under different parishes, for better pastoral care, smoother administration and consistent spiritual and other pastoral activities," the decree

read. "Having sought and heard the counsel of the presbyter council of the eparchy of Melbourne and in accordance with the norms of CCEO (Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches) and by testimony of this document, I hereby establish this St Alphonsa Syro-Malabar Parish Canberra.

"The territory boundaries of the Parish encompass the Australian Capital Territory and adjacent New South Wales towns of Queanbeyan, Yass and Goulburn. The Syro-Malabar faithful living in the set region will be members of this parish."

Fr Kolencherry said he was delighted to see the community he served for more than eight years become a parish.

"I am so happy and proud because I was here many years with you, trying our best to form a beautiful Christian community to receive Jesus, to share Jesus, to live with Jesus and witness Jesus," he said.

Fr Varghese, who has been appointed as the first parish priest for the Syro-Malabar Parish, said the community had grown from eight families to almost 300 families since it was established in Canberra in 2006.

"We have got 270 children attending our catechesis plus another 500 or more adults in

the community, so we have between 800 and 1,000 people," he said.

The Syro-Malabar Parish currently celebrates its liturgy on weekends at St Peter Chanel's Church in Yarralumla, but Fr Varghese is hopeful that the Parish will be able to build its own church in the future and offer daily Mass.

The St Thomas the Apostle Syro-Malabar Catholic Eparchy of Melbourne was established in March 2014, and is only the second eparchy of the Syro-Malabar Church outside of India.

It has Mass centres or parishes in 16 dioceses around Australia.

"The Syro-Malabar Church is one of the 23 Eastern Catholic rites, and the second largest among the Eastern rites, after the Ukrainian Church," Fr Varghese explained. "This tradition goes back to St Thomas the Apostle, our father in faith. There are three forms of Holy Qurbana (Mass) for the Syro-Malabar people - the most solemn holy Qurbana, which is called Raza and then a solemn Mass, and then the simple Mass.

"It is the unique expression of the Syro-Malabar Catholic people and it is a treasury of the whole universal Church."





Clockwise from above: St Alphonsa parishioners take part in a Eucharistic procession around St Peter Chanel's Church in Yarralumla; a woman and a child pray before receiving blessed food; worshippers venerate the Cross during the liturgy; musicians begin the celebrations; Vicar-General of the Syro-Malabar Eparchy of Australia Fr Francis Kolencherry blesses a family during the offertory procession, in front of a crowd of almost 800 people.

PHOTOS: LOUI SESELJA



Love Is Our Mission: The Family Fully Alive



Families, faith and the universal Church

The recent World Meeting of Families attracted participants from around the globe, including the Archdiocese's Shawn and Branka van der Linden, who share their experience below...

WHILE most Catholics know about World Youth Days which involve millions of young people coming together to celebrate faith and hope in the future of the Church, not many would be aware of the International World Meeting of Families.

It is another truly inspirational event that, like World Youth Day, stands as one of the great legacies of Pope St John Paul II.

It was in 1992 that the Polish Pontiff first articulated his vision for a World Meeting of Families. He conceived of the meeting as a pastoral initiative to strengthen the sacred bonds of the family across the globe. There have been seven previous events since then and they are sponsored by the Holy See's Pontifical Council for the Family.

The theme for this year's World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia was 'Love is Our Mission: The Family Fully Alive'. In his homily at the opening Mass of the congress, Philadelphia's Archbishop Charles Chaput proclaimed: "We really do hope to learn from one another... how we might love our families better". The congress had 18,000 registered participants, and the Papal Mass at the end of the week was attended by nearly one million people.

We were blessed to travel to Philadelphia with a group of 44 Australians (21 adults and 23 children) who were representing other dioceses from around Australia. The group was led by Bishop Delegate for Marriage and Family, Michael Kennedy (Bishop of Armidale), along with Ron and Mavis Pirola, co-chair couple of the Australian Catholic Marriage and Family

Council (ACMFC). We were also fortunate to be joined in Philadelphia by the Archbishop of Sydney, Anthony Fisher and also Emeritus Archbishop of Perth, Barry Hickey. The group travelled first to Washington DC, and then on to Philadelphia for the remainder of the trip.

An encounter with the universal Church

The World Meeting of Families provided a unique opportunity to experience the

encounter with former Canberran Sr Marie Kesina who we spotted in the crowd at the congress by chance. Sr Marie is in her second year with the Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia in Nashville, Tennessee. Prior to joining the Dominicans, Sr Marie served our Archdiocese as a member of the Catholic Youth Ministry team. The encounter with Sr Marie was a reminder that despite the vast size of our Church, it is always a place of familiarity and connection.



Shawn and Branka van der Linden say attending the World Meeting of Families was truly inspirational.

universal Church. Often our experience as Catholics does not extend much beyond the parish or diocesan level. Yet the reality of the universal character of our Church is so fundamental to our identity as Catholics. Being together with the 'rest of the world' and with the Pope really highlighted to us the richness of our Catholic faith.

Despite being together with the rest of the world, we still managed an unplanned

Learning and faith formation

The World Meeting of Families congress provides a wonderful opportunity for learning and formation. As well as attending Mass each day, we were able to attend keynotes and workshops on different topics that explored the practical application of the Church's teaching in different pastoral situations. The following provides an example of some of the workshops that we

attended:

- The other side of Mount Sinai – Growing in Virtue (Dr John S. Grabowski)
- Building a Just Society – Catholic Social Teaching in your life (Dr Helen Alvare)
- Family Ties: How meals, rituals, traditions, worship and prayer create strong, healthy and joy-filled Catholic homes (Lacey Rabideau)
- Creating a flourishing marriage culture (Professor Robert P. George and Sherif Girgis)

world around us. He spoke about the fact that our faith is not meant to be a private thing, as is often encouraged in contemporary society; but rather, it is meant to be shared with the world around us.

We came away from the congress encouraged in our own faith. We now have a stronger understanding of our family as a domestic church, and of the impact that passing on our faith to our children can have in strengthening the Church and our broader community.

An experience of pilgrimage

The most memorable part of the trip for us was the opportunity to share the journey with the pilgrims in our group. There was something very special about travelling together with other Australians to attend an event in another country.

We spent time getting to know members of the group as we explored the cities of Washington DC and Philadelphia; we prayed together and shared intimate Masses at various shrines and churches in those cities, and we spent time together at dinner together each evening – regrouping and sharing the experiences we had had each day. We spent a total of 11 days travelling together, and in that time we learnt so much about how other families are living out their faith, how other parishes around the country support families and married couples, and how other couples experience the Church in Australia. Because we had so many children on our pilgrimage, we were able to witness first hand the way that other families are concretely living out their faith in a day-to-day sense. The children added so



Pope Francis embraces a family who travelled from Argentina to the United States for the World Meeting of Families.
PHOTO: L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

much life and joy to the trip and it was a blessing to have them as part of the group.

Our time in Washington DC and in Philadelphia in the days leading up to the congress were spent visiting the sacred places in those cities that Pope Francis himself would visit in the following days, including the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception (where Pope Francis canonised Blessed Junipero Serra on September 23), St Patrick's Church (the oldest church in Washington DC where Pope Francis gave a blessing and spent some time with the homeless gathered at lunch-time for the St Maria Meals Program) as well as the Shrine of St Rita of Cascia.

Encountering Pope Francis

The week in Philadelphia concluded with a celebration with Pope Francis on the weekend, which involved two main events – the Papal Festival of Families on the Saturday (a major music and entertainment festival), and the Papal Mass on the Sunday.

We found the reactions of ordinary Americans incredibly warm and enthusiastic whenever we mentioned that we had travelled to the United States to see Pope Francis. It was clear that he has touched the hearts of many people, Catholic and non-Catholic alike, with his warmth, genuine love for people and message of mercy and forgiveness.

On the Saturday morning of

the Festival of Families we came together, along with other Australians who were not a part of the group, for Mass with Archbishop Fisher at St John the Evangelist Church in Philadelphia. It was a special experience to be together as Australians whilst together for this international Catholic experience. In addition, we sat with our pilgrimage group for both the Festival of Families and the Papal Mass. So while we were part of a crowd of nearly one million people, we felt a little at home as we shared it with our fellow Australians.

Our marriage and family

It was hard for us to be away from our children for what seemed like such a long time. But at the same time, it ended up being an incredibly blessed time for us as a married couple.

We had time to talk, to explore both cities in our free time, to pray and experience the talks and workshops at the congress, and to take stock as a couple after many years of rearing small children and all the lack of sleep and lack of self-reflection that this usually entails.

We had some perspective away from our ordinary child-rearing responsibilities to reflect on our own marriage, parenting and family, and in particular, in the ways we could do all of them a little better.

We left Philadelphia with a renewed sense of the impor-



Above, the group of Australian pilgrims who attended the World Meeting of Families congress. Bottom left, Archbishop Charles Chaput addresses the gathering while, bottom right, Pope Francis shows his appreciation. PHOTOS: SUPPLIED; L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

tance of prayer as a married couple and as a family; in particular the centrality of the

“If each person goes forth renewed in their commitment to the faith and to interpersonal communion, then the congress will have done its job.”

Eucharist and of Sacred Scripture, and also of the importance of walking side by side with the poor and the

lonely and marginalised in our community, and to share the gifts and the blessings that we experience as a family with others.


We were also encouraged and have great hope about what God is doing around the world in the quietness and ordinariness of family life everywhere. We saw it in the families in our pilgrimage group, as well as in the talks and workshops we attended – the wonderful fruit that is borne from the hard work of parenting children in the faith each day in a thousand different ways.

We are very grateful to Archbishop Christopher

Prowse for providing us with this opportunity to represent the Archdiocese at this great event.

The next World Meeting of Families will take place in Dublin, Ireland. This would represent a great opportunity for the Church in Australia to send families to experience such an incredible experience of the global Church. As Archbishop Chaput stated after the congress in Philadelphia: “If each person goes forth renewed in their commitment to the faith and to interpersonal communion, then the congress will have done its job”.






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Things to learn from the Synod on the Family



BELOW THE SURFACE
BY BRIANNA THOMAS

“IN OUR day the Church is called to proclaim the Gospel by confronting the new and urgent pastoral needs facing the family,” (Pope Francis).

Some things make me uncomfortable.

Take controversial issues, for example. When invited to offer some kind of response to a contentious topic, I generally give a warm but democratic comment, and leave before a debate starts. Why? Because I, like many others, struggle to articulate the incredibly rich and beautiful Church teachings in a way that encompasses both truth and love.

Throughout October, members of our 2,000-year-old Church gathered in Rome for the Synod on the Family. Hundreds of Bishops and Cardinals met with Pope Francis to discuss (and really nut-out) the most difficult issues facing society today. Instead of claiming disinterest, I figured being skilled in the awkward art of representing truth and mercy holds more weight than the comfort of ignorance.



The recent Synod on the Family involved discussions around a number of challenging topics regarding families. PHOTO: FIONA BASILE

In the lead up to the Synod, Pope Francis described the task to be undertaken as reading both the signs of God and human history. The goal of a Synod isn't to produce immediate doctrinal

women in the Church, domestic violence, and pastoral support for families and couples. It was reported that at times there were heated discussions between clergy of differing views. This

It's the old justice and mercy debate. Jesus was an expert at this, as shown in a 2014 Synod document, which said: “He (Jesus) put what he taught into practice and manifested the

Our faith gives us access to an incredibly rich and wonderful truth, and also the world's greatest source of love.

change, but to inform the Pope on the state of the Church in these areas, so he can plan appropriate pastoral action.

The clergy participants discussed topics ranging from family structure to all-things-marriage, homosexuality,

says something about the nature of the issues we're dealing with. They are difficult, and there's no black-and-white, straightforward approach, even for the experts.

The tug of war between truth and love is not a new one.

true meaning of mercy, clearly illustrated by his meeting with the Samaritan woman (Jn 4:1-30) and with the adulteress (Jn 8:1-11). By looking at the sinner with love, Jesus leads the person to repentance and conversion”.

Jesus knew everything about

those women, and every way in which they'd sinned against God. Yet in leading the interaction with mercy, they found truth.

Various Synod speakers requested the language used when referring to these pastoral issues be changed to that of a more positive tone. On homosexuality, some pleaded that any condemning tone be changed to one of mercy and compassion, and the request was further extended to general family concerns. This petition doesn't devalue the Church's teaching on the matter, rather compliments it with the love that we are called to give.

Our faith gives us access to an incredibly rich and wonderful truth, and also the world's greatest source of love. One can't go without the other. St. Edith Stein recognised this when she said: “Do not accept anything as the truth if it lacks love. And do not accept anything as love which lacks truth”. This message is vital to our being genuine and effective Christians.

Many of us are personally affected by one of these difficult pastoral issues, either in our own lives or in the lives of someone nearby. We know that it can be challenging, and knowing how to respond or comprehend is even worse. When pain, rejection and confusion present themselves, fuel yourself with both the love that heals us and the truth that sets us free.

What is this thing called Revelation?



CATECHISM CORNER
BY FR WARRICK TONKIN

FIFTY years ago this month (November 18, 1965), towards the close of the Second Vatican Council, Blessed Pope Paul VI promulgated the ‘Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation’. Its Latin title is *Dei Verbum*.

At its core, this document explores the understanding of Divine Revelation as God's self-communication with human-kind. Revelation, well before it is a set of truths, is a personal encounter with the divine presence. It is God calling us and enabling us to enter, by the free

gift of faith, into a new personal relationship. So, revelation is a person-to-person, subject-to-subject, I-thou encounter.

Revelation is not so much ‘what is revealed?’, rather, Revelation is ‘who is revealed?’

The answer to that question is stated in *Dei Verbum* (n. 2)

flesh, in the Holy Spirit, and thus become sharers in the divine nature”.

Therefore, we can say that the pinnacle of Divine Revelation is God's word – Christ himself. As Jesus states in the Gospel according to John (14:9), “anyone who has seen me has seen the

Verbum states, “[they] are bound closely together, and communicate one with the other... sacred Scripture is the utterance of God put down as it is in writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. And Tradition transmits in its entirety the word of God

and honoured with equal devotion and reverence,” (n. 9).

God's self-communication, God's revelation, is present and at work when those who are already Christian grow “in Christ”, know more fully God's power in their weakness, and enter more deeply into the community of pure divine love that we name as the Blessed Trinity. It is through the Church's Sacraments, homilies, the prayerful reading of sacred Scripture, loving activity with and for others in all that life throws up, that we experience the gift of God's very presence in our lives.

We experience God's self-communication, individually, and as the community of the disciples of Jesus, that is, as the Church, when we prayerfully read the signs of the times.

In short, wherever and whenever revelation and God's saving message is experienced, there God's self-communication continues to bear fruit.

“Both Scripture and Tradition must be accepted and honoured with equal devotion and reverence.”

- *Dei Verbum*, n.9.



and repeated in the Catechism (n. 51): “It pleased God in his goodness and wisdom, to reveal himself and to make known the mystery of his will (cf. Eph. 1:9), which was that people can draw near to the Father, through Christ, the word made

Father”. It is God's only Son, in the Holy Spirit, who reveals the Father to us all.

Our personal and collective (or ecclesial) encounter with God in Christ is nourished through Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture. As *Dei*

which has been entrusted to the apostles by Christ the Lord and the Holy Spirit... thus it is that the Church does not draw its certainty about all revealed truths from the holy Scriptures alone. Hence, both Scripture and Tradition must be accepted

The practice of social justice in everyday life



JUSTICE MATTERS
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WE usually think of paid work as primarily a means to an end. It gives us the capacity to meet our own and our family's material needs.

The Catholic Church goes beyond this. It sees work as valuable in its own right. Among other things, work enhances individual dignity and enables us to join in the continuing creation of God's world. Seen in this light, work is good for our spiritual and emotional as well as our physical and material welfare.

Obviously not all aspects of work add to people's welfare. Work can be dangerous, poorly paid, a source of exploitation or otherwise harmful to society.

Sometimes we can be absorbed in our work to the point of becoming obsessed. We start to live for work rather than work



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

PHOTO: ADOBE STOCK

for a living. We can neglect our family, our friends and the community in the excessive pursuit of material gain or social status or because our dedication to the job goes beyond reasonable bounds. Finding the right balance in our lives is not an easy task.

Public authorities have a major role to play in ensuring a 'fair go' for less powerful groups of workers – whether they are

employees or self-employed. Trade unions, employer associations and benevolent organisations also have a place in defending the rights of vulnerable workers.

We often hear it said that 'work is the best form of welfare'. More often than not, what is really meant is that working is better than relying on social security.

The fact is, however, that

some people are simply unable to work or are not expected to work because of, for example, age or severe disability or caring responsibilities. There is general acceptance in the community that social security should provide for these groups.

Attitudes to unemployed people are often more ambivalent, even to those with significant barriers to work (such as housing or educational

disadvantage) or who cannot find employment despite their best efforts. Social security in this context is described as 'welfare', and it is sometimes not meant kindly.

It is unjust, however, to stigmatise and penalise this group by paying inadequate rates of income support on the assumption that paid work is theirs for the asking. Work may be better than 'welfare', but some people simply do not have the options available to others.

This is not to say that we should disregard the impact of social security provisions on wider social goals such as preserving work incentives, keeping the economy prosperous, and responsibly managing public finances. It is an argument for recognising the legitimacy of disadvantaged people's rights to decent community support. After all, the ultimate purpose of an economy is to meet people's needs – people do not exist to meet the economy's needs.

How does unpaid work fit into all this? Parents at home, carers and volunteers play pivotal roles in the community. What about a fair day's work for a fair day's pay? A future article will consider these issues.

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Archdiocese farewells loyal servants

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

SHAWN van der Linden and Shane Dwyer, two of the Archdiocese's most senior pastoral services staff, were farewelled last month after many years of service.

Mr van der Linden served as the director of CatholicLIFE for the past nine years, while Mr Dwyer had been the senior coordinator for faith formation and spirituality since 2011.

Mr van der Linden's final day working for the Archdiocese was August 28, and he was officially farewelled at a cocktail reception on October 14, attended by about 150 colleagues, friends and family.

The inaugural Archdiocesan director of pastoral support, Mr van der Linden established and led a growing team of staff that has been based at the Rheinberger Centre in Yarralumla.

He said he loved serving the Archdiocese and found his role highly rewarding.

"I could never have anticipated the challenges that would come in this job, but also just how much grace I would experience over the time," he said.

"One of my fondest memories over these times has been the capacity we've had to have genuine teamwork, where there's an experience of trust, healthy conflict, commitment, accountability and a dedication to results.

"It was a valuable experience and something I'm really proud to have been a part of."

Mr van der Linden intends to work in the social services and



Shawn and Branka van der Linden accept a farewell gift from the Archdiocese, presented by Marinko Labudovic and Sandy Cassidy at the farewell reception for Mr van der Linden. PHOTO: LOUI SESELJA

organisational consulting fields, and is considering undertaking further study.

Colleague Matt Casey, the

"His great faith was evident in everything he did, but beyond faith there was a vision of what was possible for the Archdio-

Education Moira Nadjeci and Archbishop Christopher Prowse also thanked Mr van der Linden for his service to the

"His great faith was evident in everything he did, but beyond faith there was a vision of what was possible for the Archdiocese when the lay people come to work with the clergy."

Archdiocesan professional standards officer, said it had been "a great pleasure" to have Mr van der Linden as a friend and to work closely with him over many years.

cese, and a vision of what was possible when the lay people come to work with the clergy in making something happen," he said.

Director of Catholic

Archdiocese and its people for almost a decade.

Earlier in the month (October 1) friends and colleagues gathered to farewell Mr Dwyer, who commenced a new role as

assistant director (formation) with the Lasallian Mission in Sydney on October 12.

Mr Dwyer said he had been overwhelmed by the gratitude and support he had received from Catholics in the Archdiocese during his time in the role.

"One of the joys of my work is that I get to interact with people more or less on a daily basis through the writing and through the seminars and conferences," he said. "It's been one of the wonderful privileges for me.

"The hardest part will be leaving behind the great people I have been working for and with in this Archdiocese. I will miss being here very much."

Mr Dwyer has authored numerous faith resources in the past four years, including the books *I Believe* and *People of the Eucharist*, as well as the daily Lenten resource, *Into the Desert*, and a daily Advent resource that will be available later this month.

Sharon Brewer, the Archdiocesan parish pastoral support coordinator, said Mr Dwyer's wisdom and prayerfulness would be greatly missed.

"Shane has an amazing ability to make the most complex theological concepts sound understandable," she said. "But even greater is his capacity to push the theological concept to the side and to reach down and to touch the spirit."

Corpus Christi parish priest Fr Warrick Tonkin has been appointed to lead faith formation in a temporary, part-time capacity for the next seven months.

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Shane Dwyer chats with Catherine Grinsell-Jones, a participant in the 'Faith and Catholic Theology' course that he facilitated over several years, as part of his role as the senior coordinator for faith formation and spirituality. PHOTO: LOUI SESELJA

St Clare's girls lend a hand in Fiji

BY MEG LILLIE
ST CLARE'S COLLEGE - YEAR 11

AS 10 St Clare's College Canberra students boarded the plane bound for Fiji, there was definitely some nervous energy in the air.

But our worries quickly disappeared as we were welcomed to Fiji with songs, smiles and hugs. We picked up some basic Fijian language and began to embrace the warm and welcoming culture that was evident everywhere we went. Our Rustic Pathways program leaders, Lesi, Jowave, Bethany and Cassie played an important role in making the trip as amazing as it was with their humour and kindness.

We undertook service work in three schools, a village and a home for the aged. The work made us perspire a lot but it was very rewarding. Some of the projects we worked on included:

- Building a bench and table, providing a shaded outdoor area for the school children to study and eat.
- Paving a cement path through Bavu village, which will allow the villagers to move more easily through the village during the wet season when the ground becomes extremely muddy. In Fijian villages, families leave the doors to their homes open whenever they have a meal so that anyone can come and share



Left, the St Clare's College girls with children from Ratu Nemani Memorial School; above, Alexandra Rowland tiles a kindergarten classroom at Uciwai Sangam Primary School. PHOTOS: SUPPLIED

the food. The Fijian communities share everything they own and help anyone who is in need and we hope the path will help them to carry out these incredible traditions all year round.

- Helping to rebuild the teachers' quarters at a small school, which had been damaged after a recent cyclone. We assisted with the project by filling in the bricks of a new septic tank with cement and installing a sink and bathtub. Teachers in Fiji do not get to choose which school they work at, but instead are assigned to those that need staff. As many teachers are sent to work at

schools far from their homes, teachers' quarters are provided at the schools.

- Tiling a kindergarten classroom at Uciwai Sangam Primary School, which originally only had a cement floor. This floor was difficult to clean and uncomfortable for the students to sit on.
- Building a classroom at Ratu Nemani Memorial School. We helped to build brick walls on top of foundations of a space that was an outdoor eating area but was being turned into a classroom as the number of children at the school was beginning to grow.

• Cooking and serving meals for the residents' lunch at the Golden Age home for the elderly. We were able to meet and chat with some of the residents who were happy to have some company.

We really enjoyed our visits at the schools where we got to make friends and play with all the energetic children who loved having visitors to play with.

We also loved experiencing some of the important physical and cultural aspects of Fiji including a traditional Kava ceremony, basket weaving, mud pools, Sigatoka Sand Dunes, a traditional Meke ceremony

and a Methodist Church service. We were amazed by the caring, community and family oriented culture and the happiness that everyone possessed despite an obvious lack of material possessions and money. We hope to share the inspiring qualities we learnt with our friends and family.

The tears we shed at the farewell ceremony were evidence of the impact the Fijian culture, experiences and, most importantly, the people had on us all. We embraced the experience through the words of St Francis of Assisi: "For it is in giving that we receive".

Right, the girls sit at the bench and table they made for one of the local Fijian schools; bottom right, Alexandra Rowland, Annie Brearley and Jaimie Jugovac with a young Fijian girl; below, preparing food for the residents of an aged care home. The group of 10 students was made up of Alexandra Rowland, Alys Farrell, Annie Brearley, Grace Serbatoio, Jaimie Jugovac, Jemma Seddon, Kathryn Longstaff, Meg Lillie, Rahni Darcy and Sophie Hedditch. PHOTOS: SUPPLIED





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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.

SELF-HELP GROUP

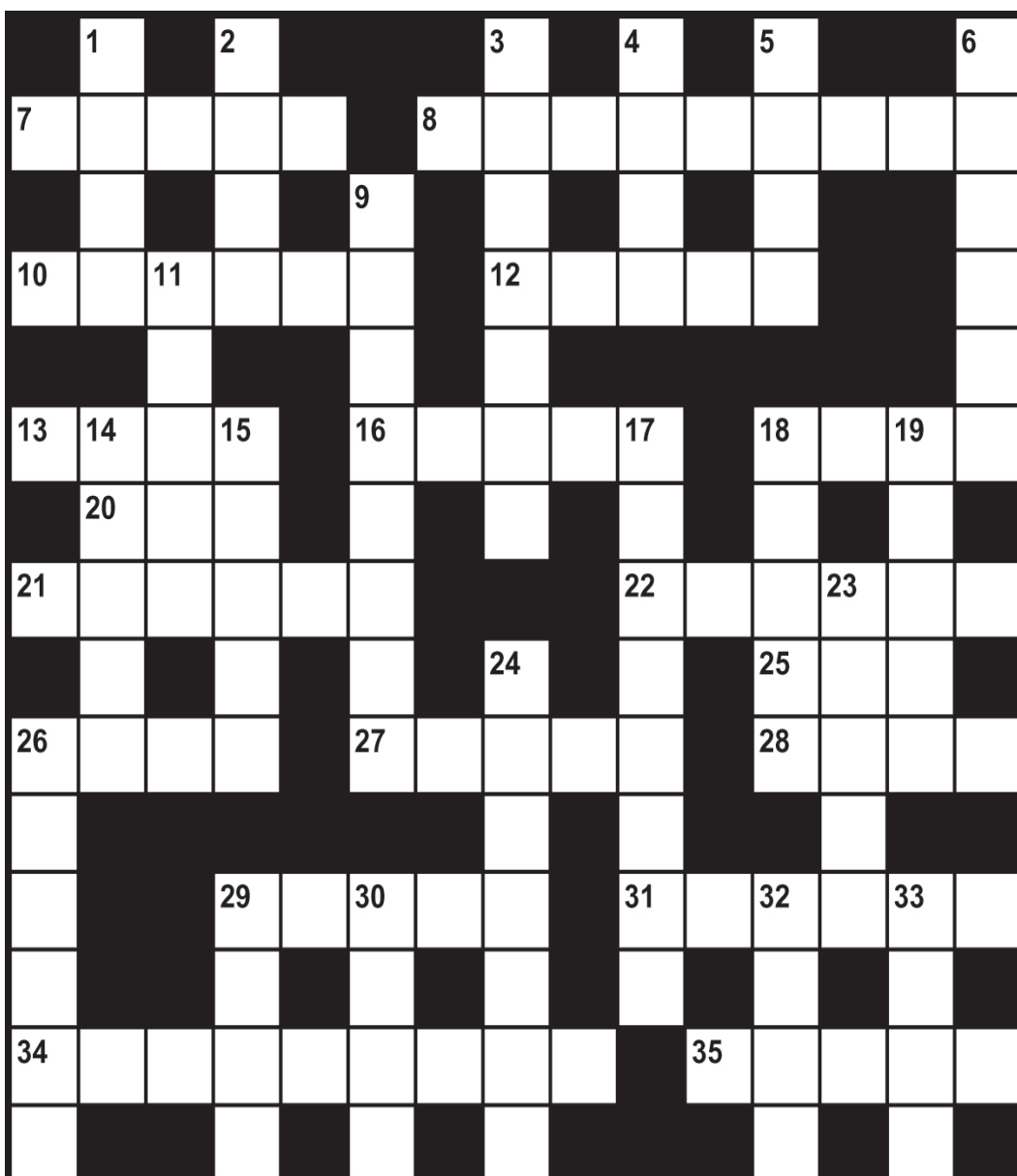
FREE massage, hair cut, nails, food, odd jobs etc. as exchange or barter. Need new members so we can assist pensioners, low income, less fortunate etc. Join a parish friendship group - weekly activities, bus trips etc. Confidential 0403 050 960 anytime John.



Faith Resources

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

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 7 Old Testament book
- 8 Abraham, Isaac, or Jacob
- 10 David, to Goliath
- 12 Language of the New Testament
- 13 ___ of Songs
- 16 Mary, Stella ___
- 18 Long cloak-like vestment
- 20 Pope who wrote Rerum Novarum, ___ XIII
- 21 Patron saint of prisoners
- 22 The Gospel is read from here
- 25 "Ora ___ nobis"
- 26 ___ of the Lord
- 27 Daughter of Jacob
- 28 "Love is not jealous, it does not put on ___." (1 Cor 13:4)
- 29 Title for Pio
- 31 They fed Elijah (1 Kings 17:2-4)
- 34 Possible occupation of Jesus
- 35 "___ us peace"

DOWN

- 1 It was touched to Isaiah's mouth (Isa 6:6-7)
- 2 Vatican ___
- 3 "Why do you, the king's son, look so ___ morning after morning?" (2 Sam 13:4)
- 4 Jesus found Nathanael under one
- 5 Catholic movie star

DOWN

- 6 Holy place
- 9 The ___ Land
- 11 Patron saint of young girls
- 14 Biblical food
- 15 Wife of the prophet Hosea
- 17 She shared the fate of her husband Ananias
- 18 Mea ___
- 19 Head of a monastery
- 23 One of the seven deadly sins
- 24 California mission town, Los ___
- 26 St Joan of Arc is a patron of this country
- 29 His Holiness
- 30 "Let him ___ himself and take up his cross and follow me." (Mt 16:24)
- 32 Adjective for "Reverend"
- 33 3pm prayer

SOLUTIONS IN NEXT MONTH'S CATHOLIC VOICE

October's solutions:





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

Archdiocesan Coming Events

AMICUS: Sunday November 8 (date to be confirmed depending on weather) - Enjoy a day in Len's garden for a sausage sizzle lunch at 12pm noon (more details closer to the event) Contact Patricia/Len (02) 6292 1631 or (02) 6299 6606. Sunday November 29 - Meet for a twilight walk and BYO BBQ/picnic at Lake Tuggeranong. Meeting point to be confirmed. Contact Patricia (02) 6292 1631.

ST BENEDICT'S MISSION CENTRE: Invites you to a Healing Mass with special attention to praying for the healing of addictions of all kinds at 5.30pm on Friday, November 6 at St Benedict's Church, Jerrabomberra Ave, Narrabundah. All are welcome.

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

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



JUGIONG ART EXHIBITION: November 20-22. Mark in your diary the cultural event of the year for Jugiong – the sixth biennial exhibition held at the Memorial Hall with more than 170 works from mainly rural artists. The very talented Stephanie Corkhill-Hyles from Jugiong is the feature artist for this year. Stephanie's works are from the heart and her aim is to move the viewer, whether it be with a smile, a laugh, a tear or just to make them think differently about something. Being raffled on the day is Jugiong artist Angie Fitzgerald's chalk pastel drawing 'Long Plain Colt', which she has kindly donated. The drawing will be displayed at the Jugiong Wine Cellar – where you can purchase raffle tickets and RSVP to the cocktail party. The weekend kicks off with a cocktail party and opening at 7pm till 10pm (\$35 per person) at the Memorial Hall on Friday, November 20. This is followed by two days of exhibition on Saturday, November 21 and Sunday, November 22 from 10am till 4pm. For more information please ring Jackie Honner on 0447 454 130 or email honnermj@gmail.com. An update on our exhibiting artist can be seen on our Facebook page – Jugiong Art Exhibition.

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

SERRA CLUB OF CANBERRA: Rosary and Mass, 6.10pm, Thursday November 12, Holy Trinity Church, Curtin, followed by dinner at Southern Cross Club, Woden. Inquiries: John Malycha, telephone (02) 6251 2912.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER: November 13-15 at Mount Carmel Retreat

Centre, Varroville, NSW. Let your love blossom this spring with a weekend together. A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is a marriage enrichment experience – set in peaceful, picturesque surroundings, away from the distractions of everyday life. During the weekend, couples have a unique opportunity to reconnect, rekindle and refresh their relationship. Give the greatest gift, that of your time alone together – invest in your most precious asset... your marriage! To apply contact: Ardell and Bill Sharpe (02) 4283 3435 or wsharpe@bigpond.net.au. Visit www.wvme.org.au or www.facebook.com/WVMEasternUnit for more information.

ANNUAL CATECHIST MASSES: All catechists, friends and relatives are invited to participate in the celebration of the important ministry of our voluntary scripture teachers. Details are: St Raphael's Queanbeyan, November 18 at 12pm; St Mary's Young, November 20 at 12pm; 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 PATRICK'S PARISH, BOOROWA: Will celebrate 150 years with Mass and a light lunch (provided) in St Joseph's school grounds following Mass at 12.30pm on Sunday November 22. BYO drinks. Everyone welcome. RSVP by November 8 by emailing: stpatricks.boorowa@bigpond.com, phone the presbytery (02) 6385 3030 or Teena McGrath (02) 6227 2864.

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH DELEGATE:

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

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.

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.

Encounter
ARCHDIOCESAN E-NEWS BULLETIN

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Marist boys learn from the best in the UK

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

TWENTY Marist College students from Years 10, 11 and 12, along with three staff members and three parents, took part in the school's UK Football (soccer) Tour from September 25 to October 11.

The tour, which takes place every three or four years, was an eye-opener for most members of the group, according to Year 12 student David Mennie.

"It was good for the boys to experience the culture of their football," he said.

"Over here there's not much of a football following, but over there it's their life, they live it and breathe it. Everything and everywhere is football. No

one cares about anything else over there."

Marist played four matches during the tour against teams from Oxford, St Clare's, Tonbridge and Brentwood schools.

David said while the team was outplayed on each occasion, it was a great learning experience.

"It was good to see how they play football there compared to over here," he said. "In our age group, there's 10 million boys in the UK who play football, of which 9,999,900 are a lot better than we are.

"They had more enhanced tactics, and were very smart about how they played. It was very different to how we play

here. They've got the knowledge and the wisdom when it comes to football, whereas we've just got the leg power."

The group also attended several English Premier League matches, including a match between Manchester City and West Ham United, where the crowd exceeded 70,000.

"We also had a training session at West Bromwich and they taught us a lot of new, different things to what we're normally taught... a new way to think about the football, to think laterally," David said.

As part of the tour, the group also visited several noteworthy sites such as Buckingham Palace and Edinburgh Castle.



Twenty Marist College students travelled through Scotland and England recently as part of the school's UK Football Tour. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Winners all round at annual netball carnival

MORE than 1,200 students took part in the annual Catholic Schools Netball Carnival on October 25, held at Calwell Playing Fields.

This year's event was hosted by St John Vianney's Primary School and attracted 152 teams of players from Years 2 to 6.

Each team played at least five games on the day, with Years 2 and 3 teams playing in a non-competitive tournament.

For the other year levels, winners included teams from St John the Apostle, Good Shepherd, Holy Family, St Francis', St Vincent's, St Monica's, Mt Carmel, Holy Trinity and St Clare of Assisi Primary Schools.

Netballers from the Canberra Darters were on hand to present the members of winning teams with their medallions. Next year's event will be hosted by Sacred Heart Primary School, Pearce.



Above, Maya Smith from Mt Carmel Primary is presented with her medallion. Below, the winning Year 6 team from Good Shepherd Primary pose for a team photo in front of a number of proud parents. PHOTOS: LOUI SESELJA



Above and below, players representing Catholic primary schools compete during the annual netball carnival on October 25. PHOTOS: LOUI SESELJA

