

CATHOLIC Voice

ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN



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FREE

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From left to right, Marist College students Xavier Mooney, Pat Cross (John) Andrew Colmer (Jesus), and Aiman Batsch during a portrayal of the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday.

PHOTO: MATTHEW BIDDLE

In a world of darkness and despair, Jesus Christ is

OUR REASON FOR HOPE

THE RESURRECTION of Jesus Christ is not just an historic event, but the source of all hope in a world engulfed by darkness, Archbishop Christopher Prowse told the congregation of St Christopher's Cathedral on Easter Sunday, March 27.

"So many people in the world today feel that the world is not becoming a place of safety or care, indeed some would say it's

becoming a hostile planet," the Archbishop told a crowd of more than 800, which spilled outside and onto the steps of the Cathedral.

These fears, the Archbishop explained, include concerns over ecological issues, threats to marriage and family life, and homelessness, among others. He likened such fears to the fear experienced by Mary Magdalene on Easter morning.

"She places herself in a tailspin of fear and despair with humanity, and she says 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and I don't know where they have put him,'" he said. "It's a bit like us saying, 'They have taken the dignity out of humanity and we don't know where they've placed dignity'. So we can easily join the nascent Christian Church in the first moments there."

Yet, just as Mary Magdalene's fears were soon overcome by joy, we too must never lose hope.

"Despite all the reasons for dragging us down into the darkness, there is every reason for hope because of Jesus Christ, and only because of Jesus Christ," Archbishop Christopher said.

"We don't just come to Mass today to recall an historic event. We come here today because in

the midst of our darkness, we want to be people of hope, not a naïve optimism, but a realistic hope."

Christ, through his suffering and death, has "nailed our darkness" to the cross, taking on our burdens and redeeming us, the Archbishop said. "Only God himself can transform sinful, broken, fragile humanity into something that reflects God's original design for us," he said.

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ARCHBISHOP CHRISTOPHER'S DIARY



April 1st

5pm Man Overboard - Archbishop's House

April 2nd

10am 10th anniversary of St John of God Mass and tree dedication in the grounds of Sts Peter and Paul's Cathedral - Goulburn

2pm 30th anniversary Mass of thanksgiving for Missionaries of God's Love and turning of the sod - MGL Chapel, Garran

April 3rd

11am Divine Mercy Sunday Mass - St Christopher's Cathedral

April 6th

12.30pm College student leaders barbecue - Archbishop's House

April 8th-10th

Parish visitation - Temora Mission

April 12th

10am Institute for Professional Standards and Safeguarding governance day for clergy - Rheinberger Centre, Yarralumla

6pm Commissioning Mass for Warwick Fulton, St Vincent de Paul Society new president - St Thomas the Apostle Church, Kambah

April 13th

12.30pm Lunch with Canberra ecumenical leaders - Archbishop's House

6pm Jesus Youth teen retreat - Greenhills Conference Centre

April 16th

Monaro Deanery Assembly - St Andrew's Uniting Church Hall, Cooma

April 17th

11am Good Shepherd Sunday Mass - St Christopher's Cathedral

April 20th

9am National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council formation and catechesis - Alice Springs

April 23rd

6pm Mass - St Anthony's Church, Wanniasa

April 24th

11am Mass - St Christopher's Cathedral

April 30th

Northern Deanery Assembly - St Joseph's School Hall, Goulburn

Easter faith and political issues

ARCHBISHOP'S MESSAGE
ARCHBISHOP
CHRISTOPHER PROWSE

TO THE people of God in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn.

Easter faith is the fundamental source of Christian joy, hope and peace! Throughout the centuries, Christians have summarised our united response to the death and resurrection of Jesus in one word: Alleluia! (Praise the risen Lord!)

The arising question soon follows – how is Easter faith to be lived in our daily life? More specifically, in an election year for both the Federal and ACT 'political worlds', how is Easter faith to impact on the big political issues of the moment? Such political issues are many today. For example, how is Easter faith to respond to:

- Abortion,
- Euthanasia,
- Same-sex marriage,
- Aboriginal references in the Australian Constitution,

• Refugees, and so on?
May I suggest a few moral compass markers?

1. We will not locate specific answers to particular political questions of our day simply by finding particular proof texts from the Bible. In the Scriptures, we will find, however, moral and ethical principles, values and general directions, and motivations that will assist us in our common search for

good. Of course, there is much in common in these two worlds, but there is, however, an autonomy and independence to be respected in both. Cooperation is needed (see *Gaudium et Spes*, s. 40).

3. Catholic social teaching will insist that basic and fundamental human rights must be respected by all. Among others, there is the right to human life from womb to natural death. There is freedom of

secular world is a particular task of the laity (see *Gaudium et Spes*, s. 43). All of this important work is part of evangelisation.

In our Australian political world, as in so many Western democracies, ideological agendas abound. Being part of the prophetic Church, we are to distinguish truth from falsehood. We are to focus on what deepens and perpetuates true human happiness and hope. With our gaze on faith and holiness that leads to eternal life, we are best equipped to offer true contributions to the challenges faced by all today.

I am sure there are many other moral compass markers. These are but four examples that come immediately to mind.

In the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn, there is considerable talent among many faith-filled lay Catholics. In the vexed political world of today, I hope the above offers some cause for reflection and encouragement.

Be assured of my prayers for you and your families.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Archbishop Christopher Prowse
Catholic Archbishop of
Canberra and Goulburn

With our gaze on faith and holiness that leads to eternal life, we are best equipped to offer true contributions to the challenges faced by all today.

human flourishing in our world of today (for example, the 'Golden Rule' of Matthew, chapter seven).

2. Our Catholic Tradition will state that though the Catholic Church and the political community both exist in organisational structures, they are by nature and purpose quite distinct. The Church is organised so that its spiritual and prophetic roles are paramount. The political community is to organise temporal structures that serve the common

religious expression and freedom of speech. There are all the human rights of family and children, and so on. The dignity of human persons forms the basis of all human rights. Duties and responsibilities arise from such rights.

4. The Second Vatican Council strongly underlined the duties of the lay faithful in the Church to exercise their baptismal dignity and take on particular responsibility in the world and society. Day-to-day politics and advocacy in the

BELCONNEN REGION

As part of the ongoing process commenced in 2006, the Archbishop has written to the parishes of the Belconnen region about a consultative process concerning the reorganisation of the Belconnen parishes.

This letter will be available on the weekend of April 2-3 and will be read out at each Mass. Members of the Belconnen Parishes Working Group will also be on hand to answer questions.

A public meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday May 3, 2016 at St Francis Xavier School theatre, Florey. Your attendance at this meeting is welcomed.

Inquiries can be directed to:

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Fr Tony Percy
Vicar General
tony.percy@cg.org.au

April Feast Days

4 April THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

5 April St Vincent Ferrer

7 April St John Baptist de la Salle

11 April St Stanislaus

13 April St Martin I

21 April St Anselm

23 April St George; St Adalbert

26 April St Mark

27 April St Louis de Montfort

28 April St Peter Chanel

29 April St Catherine of Siena

30 April St Pius V

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Strong prayer, Sacramental life essential for RECs

RELIGIOUS education coordinators (RECs) in Catholic schools should have a strong prayer life and frequent the Sacraments, Archbishop Christopher Prowse told a gathering of the Archdiocese's RECs on March 1.

With an REC present from every Catholic school in the Archdiocese except for one, the Archbishop thanked the teachers for their work and acknowledged the significant responsibilities placed upon them.

"I want you to feel first of all a spirit of gratitude and thanks from me and from all the Archdiocese," he said.

The Archbishop then stressed the importance of an "authentic" faith within the lives of the RECs.

"The first thing I would like you to do is to develop a prayer life," he said.

"You are Catholic religious

education coordinators, so you're close to the Catholic Church, you do go to church, Mass is important, and the Sacraments are important.

"Otherwise, please, do not continue as a religious education coordinator, because it's not going to work out, neither for you nor for the children in your classes."

"I don't want you to dumb down the Catholic faith because you think it's unpalatable to the children. I want you to translate it in a way that is fragrant."

Of the 55 RECs gathered for the occasion, 17 were new to the role, as of the beginning of the 2016 school year.

Using a phrase coined by Pope Francis, Archbishop Christopher said being an REC was a great opportunity for the teachers to be "missionary disciples" in their

schools, but added that the role would not be an easy one.

"If you're going to be an RE coordinator, welcome to Calvary," he said.

An REC also needs to combine Scripture and Tradition effectively, in order to transmit the faith to the next generation, the Archbishop

be an REC, you've got to have, in a sense, the Bible in one hand, and a summary of our 2,000-year history, which is the Catechism of the Catholic Church, in the other hand.

"I don't want you to dumb down the Catholic faith because you think it's unpalatable to the

"What has been the difference between a great Confirmation and one that was just OK? Sometimes the organisers of the liturgy have concentrated more on the choreography of the ceremony, rather than the spirit of the ceremony," he explained.

"Some, I think without reflecting on it, have linked up a school concert with preparing the liturgy. But it's not a concert, it's an encounter with Jesus Christ.

"At the end of the night I don't want people to say 'Well done, the kids performed very well'. It's not about performance, it's about presence."

Archbishop Christopher also suggested some ideas for schools to take part in the Year of Mercy, such as by focusing on a spiritual or corporal work of mercy each week, or setting up a Holy Door in the school.

Clergy, staff get glimpse of Manuka buildings

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

ABOUT 40 clergy and staff of the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn got a sneak-peek at the construction site of the new Church administrative buildings on March 21.

Clad in hard hats and high-visibility vests, the group were given a brief tour of the site by Brett Bremer, the manager of the site.

Although scaffolding surrounded the majority of the site, areas such as the underground carpark and the atrium were visible to the clergy and staff.

Mr Bremer said construction was on track to meet the April 2017 completion date.

"At this stage we're progressing fairly well, so it's looking good as far as the program goes," he told those present.

Recent progress has seen the second of three levels of the residential building, which will include 44 independent living units, near external completion.

At the conclusion of the site tour, Archbishop Christopher Prowse led prayers for the continued safety of workers on the site.

The \$35 million project was approved in September 2014 and will see staff from the Archdiocese and its agencies work in two three-storey office buildings next door to St Christopher's Cathedral.

A meeting hall and parish offices will also be built as part of the project.



Above, Archbishop Christopher Prowse leads clergy and staff in a prayer of blessing over the Manuka precinct site. Below, Fr Paul Nulley, Fr James Onoja and Fr Varghese Vavolil.
PHOTOS: LOUI SESELJA; MARIA CROWLEY



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Crowds flock to spend 24 hours with the Lord

HUNDREDS of Catholics in the Archdiocese took the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Penance during the '24 Hours for the Lord' held last month.

Several parishes facilitated an extended period of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on March 4 and 5, during which time priests were available to hear confessions.

"There were many, many confessions... which is great because that is what it's all about, that is where we meet the kind and merciful father," Archbishop Christopher Prowse, who himself heard confessions at St Christopher's Cathedral, said.

Mary Help of Christians Parish in Pearce took the initiative a step further by creating an opportunity for staff and students from the parish school, Sacred Heart Primary, to spend time in Adoration.

"This was certainly a highlight as most students and some staff had never experienced solemn Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament before, and this was a chance for them to share in this experience and for us to explain its meaning and significance," parish priest Fr Richard Thompson said.

"Following the school we had Adoration all night which was well supported by parishioners. We fed them during the night with soup and sourdough.

"Our parish may make this a regular Lenten experience."

Queanbeyan parish's 24 hours of Adoration included three two-hour periods for Reconciliation, which parish priest Fr Troy Bobbin said was "very well attended".

"We had 39 registered people, keeping watch through the night, but many others turned up throughout the evening to say a



Archbishop Christopher Prowse leads Benediction at the conclusion of the '24 Hours for the Lord' at St Christopher's Cathedral on March 5. Several parishes across the Archdiocese took part in the initiative. PHOTO: MATTHEW BIDDLE

few prayers," he added.

Other parishes to take part in the 24 Hours for the Lord included

Charnwood, Evatt, South Tuggeranong, Gungahlin, Narrabundah and Young.

The 24 Hours for the Lord is a personal initiative of Pope Francis that first took place in 2014.

Concert highlights Catholic Schools Week

MORE than 270 students from seven Catholic schools took part in the C4 Combined Catholic Colleges Concert at the Canberra Theatre Centre on March 10.

College students from Darumalan, St John Paul II, Merici, St Clare's, St Edmund's, St Francis Xavier and St Mary MacKillop presented a program of 13 music

and dance performances to an audience of more than 300 parents, friends and community members.

This is the fourth year that the Combined Catholic Concert has been held. Merici College was the host of this year's concert.

Concert director Kevin Knapp noted that the concert has continued to grow every year.

"This year we have expanded the concert program to include dance," he said. "It is a warming sight to see the students from different colleges come together, rehearse, perform and get to know one another."

Maree Williams, head of religious education and curriculum services, reiterated the importance

of the colleges working together and the many talents of all the students.

"This week is about raising awareness of the great work being done in our schools and [the concert] is a wonderful opportunity for our community to enjoy the talents of musicians, singers and dancers in our Catholic schools," she said.



Students perform during the C4 Combined Catholic Colleges Concert on March 10, in front of a crowd of more than 300 people.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

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Recent interference in the banking industry by legislators has made it even more confusing when it comes to borrowing money!

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I am getting more and more clients wanting us to manoeuvre through the 'mortgage maze' for them as lenders are constantly moving interest rates in both directions e.g. Investment and interest only loans recently rose, some lenders fixed rates recently dropped. Then you get a low interest rate advertised and when the customer enquires about it, there are so many "terms and conditions" attached to it they discover they were never going to qualify in the first place!

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Marymead unveils bold future plans

AFTER almost half a century of community service in Canberra, Marymead is embarking on a bold campaign to strengthen and improve its existing services, as well as establishing several new ones.

The organisation launched its strategic plan for 2016-2020 on March 7 in Canberra, titled 'A fundamental option for vulnerable children, young people and their families'.

"We are on a mission to transform the lives of vulnerable children and young people in our region," Marymead CEO Camilla Rowland said at the launch.

The organisation undertook "rigorous strategic consultation and planning" over five months, to determine its future priorities.

"This work also confirmed that there are growing significant gaps for families at risk in the region and we will work to develop services to address these," Ms Rowland said.

"Going forward, Marymead will... provide specialist, early intervention, clinical therapeutic services and support programs and services."

A range of services will be expanded, including family counselling, after school care, foster care in NSW and supported contact services to assist those affected by separation.

"Our broader goals are to become a leader in the development and provision of evidence-based, outcome-oriented services to support children and young people and we will retain our strong



Marymead CEO Camilla Rowland with ACT Minister for Disability Chris Bourke, middle, and Marymead's board chair Robert Kennedy at the launch of the organisation's 2016-2020 strategic plan on March 7. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

connection with the Canberra community," Ms Rowland said.

"Our strategic plan may be for four years but our mission is setting the way ahead for our next 50 years."

That mission, according to the strategic plan, will be achieved "by working in a way that is consistent with Catholic social teachings, beliefs and customs and the professional expectations of the social services community".

ACT Minister for Disability

Chris Bourke said the strategic plan was an important statement outlining Marymead's goals.

"Marymead has been supporting Canberra and the surrounding communities since 1967 and rarely in that time will the landscape for community organisations have been changing so dramatically, thanks in large part to the effects of the National Disability Insurance Scheme," Dr Bourke said.

"Against this backdrop, it is imperative for community

organisations to have a clear picture of where they are heading and how they plan to get there. This is what the Marymead strategic plan delivers.

"I congratulate Marymead on producing this strategic plan and look forward to seeing it deliver for our community."

In February, it was announced that Marymead will manage Ricky Stuart House, a purpose built respite centre in Chifley for children with disability.

Auxiliary members recognised for 50 years of service

VOLUNTEERS who form the Marymead Auxiliary have been recognised for serving the Canberra community for 50 years.

The Marymead Auxiliary received a 'Canberra Gold Award' at a ceremony on March 11, and the organisation's CEO Camilla Rowland said she was delighted with the news.

"It's a tribute and acknowledgement to the many amazing people who have supported Marymead's children and families for so many years through a vast range of community engagement and fundraising activities," she said.

"The Marymead Auxiliary continues to go from strength to strength, including having raised half a million dollars within the last eight years, with 2015 being its most successful year ever."

Marymead was established by the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary and opened its doors in the ACT in 1967. Three years prior to the opening, a group of local women began fundraising to help finance the nun's social welfare and missionary activities. The first formal meeting of the Marymead Auxiliary took place in March 1966.

Since then the Marymead Auxiliary has coordinated hundreds of community events and activities.

Canberra Catenians celebrate milestone

ARCHBISHOP Christopher Prowse joined members of the Canberra Circle of the Catenian Association and their wives to celebrate the Circle's 200th meeting on February 26 at the Canberra Southern Cross Club.

The Archbishop said the Circle provided valuable social and spiritual support to its members.

He spoke about a typical day in the life of an Archbishop, and drawing upon people he had met that day, he encouraged the Circle to find ways of helping Indigenous people, who are the most disadvantaged group in the Australian community, and young people.

The Catenian Association is an international group of practicing Catholic laymen who meet socially, at least once a month.

There are about 300 local branches or Circles around the world and more than 30 in Australia. The Canberra Circle was inaugurated in October 1997 and a large number of the original members were present for the 200th meeting.

Those interested in finding out more about the Association can contact the Canberra Circle secretary, John Malycha, at canberracatenians@yahoo.com.au or view the Circle's website at www.canberracatenians.com.



Archbishop Christopher Prowse with (from left to right) current president of the Canberra Catenians Terry Brown, past presidents Norm Russell, Bob Wilson, George Kazs, Paul Scholtens, Robin Wells, Laurence Lawlor, Myles Hannan and John McWilliam. PHOTO: SUPPLIED



Participants at the recent Youth Ministry Equipping School held in Canberra. The four-day course was run jointly by the Asia-Pacific School of Evangelisation and Catholic Schools Youth Ministry Australia. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Youth learn ministry, evangelisation skills

THE Asia-Pacific School of Evangelisation (APSE) and Catholic Schools Youth Ministry Australia (CSYMA) joined forces to conduct the Youth Ministry Equipping School from February 24-28 in Canberra.

Held at the St John Paul II Centre in Narrabundah, the school attracted about 80 participants from around Australia, as well as some from Papua New Guinea. The

event's aim was to train leaders in youth ministry and give them the skills to evangelise.

Each day of the school began with Eucharistic Adoration and Mass, before participants attended lectures and seminars examining topics such as youth ministry skills, prayer, leadership, and cross-cultural mission training.

School coordinator Sr Therese Mills MGL said the enthusiasm of

the participants was a measure of the event's success.

"It was exciting to see so many young people come together, to want to be equipped for the work of evangelisation and youth ministry and then go back into their workplace or ministry on fire for mission," she said.

One of the participants at the school, Peter Doherty, a leader in the Disciples of Jesus youth

ministry, said it was an enjoyable experience and one that he would recommend to anyone considering mission work or youth ministry.

"I was impressed at everyone's genuineness and level of faith formation, whether they were school leavers or older," he said. "The content of the course was spot on."

After completing the four-day course, participants have the opportunity to join several short mission

trips throughout the year. APSE will lead mission teams travelling to Papua New Guinea and Fiji; CSYMA will take a team to Uganda, and other teams with travel to India and Townsville with the Missionaries of God's Love Sisters.

The Asia Pacific School of Evangelisation is an outreach of the Disciples of Jesus Community. For more information about the school and missions, visit www.apse.net.au.

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West Wyalong men inspired



Men from around the Archdiocese and beyond took part in a menALIVE weekend on March 12-13 in West Wyalong. The Catholic men's ministry was founded in 2003 and has hosted almost 350 weekend events since then. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

THIRTY men participated in a menALIVE weekend on March 12-13 in West Wyalong.

The weekend involved talks, small group and reflection activities, and three hours of confessions - a highlight of the two days.

The weekend was the result of many months of preparation, led largely by West Wyalong parish priest Fr Emil Milat and the Canberra-based menALIVE team.

Fr Emil, who covers three parishes and several other churches in the far west of the Archdiocese, said it was a successful weekend.

"It was a delight to see men come together from several Mass centres with support from their city counterparts, particularly because in rural areas rates of depression, suicide and other men's health issues are the highest in the nation," he said.

One participant travelled from the South Coast for the weekend, while two men journeyed from Melbourne.

The occasion was also the first time the Canberra menALIVE team has held a weekend without supervision from the movement's home base in Brisbane.

MenALIVE was founded in 2003 by Robert Falzon, Peter Shakhovskoy and a small group of lay men in Brisbane.

Since then, almost 350 weekends, with more than 18,000 participants, have been held across Australia.

The goal of menALIVE is to bring men together, to renew their faith in God and to encourage them to become an active force of renewal in the Church.

The next menALIVE weekend will be held in Queanbeyan on May 21-22. Visit www.menalive.org.au for more information.

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Death penalty a political tool, says barrister

BY SIOBHAN REEVES

“POLITICS invades the space of justice when it comes to executions,” renowned barrister Julian McMahon told a crowd of almost 100 at the St Thomas More Forum on February 24 held at Holy Faith Hall in Campbell.

“All executions that I’m aware of are political, and Thomas More is a great example of that,” he added.

Mr McMahon is a Melbourne barrister who has worked on death penalty cases for more than 13 years, including the recent trials of Bali Nine members Myuran Sukumaran and Andrew Chan, who were convicted of drug smuggling and executed in Indonesia last year.

He is also the president of Reprieve Australia, an organisation opposed to the death penalty, and has worked on capital punishment cases in several countries.

During his presentation at the forum, Mr McMahon spoke about the political undertones of the death penalty, the execution of St Thomas More, the cases he has worked on and the current international situation around the death penalty.



Julian McMahon speaking with Andrew Chan, right, and Myuran Sukumaran, left, in 2010. The pair were executed in April last year.

PHOTO: EPA IMAGE / MADE NAGI

He even moved some audience members to tears when describing the final days of the Bali Nine pair, who he said, “died with enormous dignity and generosity”.

Mr McMahon also recalled his visit to St Thomas More’s prison room, which is no longer open to the public, and noted in particular

the saint’s prison writings, which have been of comfort to many facing execution.

The 2015 Victorian Australian of the Year left the audience with “a moral injunction on you to pay attention to the world around you”.

“If we don’t speak out against whatever injustices we see, then we

are failing,” Mr McMahon said.

When asked about the relationship between the death penalty and abortion, Mr McMahon reiterated the need to “respect life, each and every life, from the most abhorrent prisoner to the most helpless person suffering from dementia, to an unborn child”.

The objectives of the St Thomas More Forum are to promote discussion and debate on the challenges of faith in the modern world, to recognise the significance of the life of St Thomas More, and to develop a networking environment and opportunity to hear from stimulating speakers on topical issues.

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Resilient community celebrates Barmedman's 100th

BY JOHN MCCLAURIN

PARISHIONERS past and present descended upon Barmedman's St Joseph's Catholic Church on the weekend of March 12 and 13 to celebrate the church's centenary.

The rather impressive looking red brick church which sits on Goldfields Way, halfway between Temora and West Wyalong, was quick to be erected in 1916 after the Catholic community of Barmedman had lost their first church to a fire.

Representatives from the Josephite Sisters were present at the celebrations, which started on the Saturday evening with a dinner at the local bowling club and ended with lunch at the same venue after Sunday Mass.

Archbishop Emeritus of Canberra and Goulburn Francis Carroll was the main celebrant of the Mass, with the church at full capacity.

He was assisted by Temora parish priest Fr Simon Falk and Sydney-based Marist Fr Robert Barber, whose parents operated the old Barmedman Hotel between 1958 and 1962.

During his homily, Fr Simon spoke about the resilience of the Catholics in Barmedman who keep the show going on a daily basis, despite only having Mass offered on the second and fourth Sundays of each month.

He also noted that while it was an important occasion to mark the 100 years of the building, it is the people inside who make up the church as "living vessels", which makes it much more worthy of celebrating.

During the Mass parishioner Ann Ryall read a moving poem written by her deceased mother Pat Ryall, reducing a number of the congregation to tears.

After the Mass, the old church bell was rung loudly and an olive tree was planted in the garden on the convent and school side of the church, as a symbol of peace in the community, with the clergy taking turns to shovel the remaining soil back into the hole.



St Joseph's Church in Barmedman was built in 1916, after the first parish church was destroyed in a fire.

PHOTO: LOUI SESELJA

The olive tree was of great significance to the people of Barmedman, because it had been grafted from an olive tree at the neighbouring town of Ardlethan.

And what makes that particular olive tree so special is that it had been brought back to Australia from the Garden of Gethsemane in the Kidron Valley, by front-line World War I chaplain and former Ardlethan parish priest Fr Tom Mullins.

At the time that Fr Mullins returned to Australia, he was assigned to the parish of Ardlethan, of which Barmedman came under, and so it was Fr Mullins who actually planned the building of the Barmedman church.

A shiny commemorative plaque for the occasion was drilled into the bricks at the front of the church and then guests made their way to the bowling club for refreshments and lunch, where they were also greeted with a

slideshow of photos and a table full of memorabilia from the past 100 years.

Guests travelled from as far away as Melbourne, Sydney, Bathurst, Canberra, Griffith, Temora, West Wyalong, Leeton, Ardlethan, Ariah Park, Wellington, Wagga Wagga, Braidwood and Hay as well the Central Coast of New South Wales.

Long-time parishioner Patricia Wells, who was the main organiser of the centenary celebrations, said she was proud of the way the event went.

"It was a wonderful celebration and it was great to see so many faces return to this place which has meant so much to so many people," she said.

"Over the years we have enjoyed the baptisms, the first holy communions, the confirmations and the marriages, but we have had to attend the funerals of our loved one's here also."



Above, Archbishop Emeritus Francis Carroll, Fr Simon Falk and Fr Robert Barber plant an olive tree in the church grounds. Bottom left, Lewis and Linda Heinjus during the celebratory dinner on March 12. Bottom right, from left to right, Jean Durham, Sr Bernadette Mary Walsh RSJ, Marge Bremer, Ray Gaynor, Marlene Gaynor, Fr Simon Falk, Sr Noelene Quinane RSJ (standing), Jan Gaynor, Jenny McKelvie.

PHOTOS: JOHN MCCLAURIN



Graduates encouraged to lead with mercy

MORE than 200 students officially graduated from Australian Catholic University (ACU) on March 18 at a ceremony at Parliament House in Canberra.

Prior to the ceremony, a special graduation Mass was celebrated at St Christopher's Cathedral, with about 30 graduates in attendance.

During his homily, Archbishop Christopher Prowse said it was a memorable day for the students and the culmination of many years of hard work.

"You can take your place in Australia as a citizen with good qualifications, but also a determined heart to make a contribution to this ancient, but new, land of ours, at a very critical time in our history," he said.

Reflecting upon the readings for the Mass, the Archbishop reminded the graduates that the frequent practice of mercy was a better measure of success than levels of fame and wealth.

"I would hope that any graduate from Australian Catholic University would be merciful in their expression of leadership," he said.

"It might not make you famous, there might not be much money in it, it might not help you to go up the corporate ladder. But, when you do what Jesus does... there is



ACU graduating students Joel Constance (Bachelor of Nursing/Bachelor of Paramedicine), Michelle Gordon (Bachelor of Nursing) and Emma Rouland (Bachelor of Nursing/Bachelor of Paramedicine).

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

"When it comes your time to retire... I want you to think not so much about how much money you got and how far up the corporate ladder you went," he said.

"Be like Mary MacKillop. How many lives will you have changed for the better because of your servant and merciful leadership here in Australia?"

This year's graduation was an historic occasion for ACU, with the first dual Bachelor of Nursing/Bachelor of Paramedicine students among the graduates.

Thirty-five students graduated with the double-degree, after four years of full-time study at the ACU campus in Watson, ACT. A further 44 students graduated with a Bachelor of Nursing.

Each of the nursing and paramedicine graduates have already secured employment, with seven graduates set to take up roles as paramedics in the United Kingdom.

Campus dean associate professor Patrick McArdle said ACU graduations were more than just an academic celebration.

"It's an occasion to mark the entry to professions that serve the common good and the needs of individuals in our communities whether through education, health care or social services," he said.

deep inner peace, extraordinary hope, a sense of satisfaction that no money or position on the

corporate ladder can give you."

Archbishop Christopher offered St Mary of the Cross MacKillop

as a mentor to the graduates, and encouraged them to respond to the needs of others as she did.

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Priests and religious are above all the apostles of Divine Mercy - and not merely during the extraordinary Year of the Mercy that Pope Francis has proclaimed for the whole Church. They feed the hungry, comfort the grieving, endure injustice. They promote reconciliation and absolve the repentant from their sins. Day by day, through the works of spiritual and corporal mercy, they show people the Face of the Merciful God. 'They' are the priests and religious of the Catholic Church. Pope Francis has proclaimed an Extraordinary Year of Mercy, which is intended to be "a time of grace for the Church and to help render the witness of the faithful stronger and more effective." It is surely also an occasion to reflect with great gratitude on the witness of those who proclaim this Mercy with their whole lives.

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

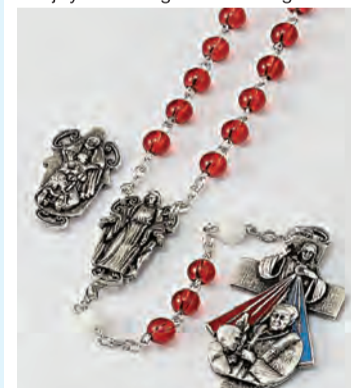
It is vital that the indispensable work of priests and religious in Christ's Holy Catholic Church and throughout the missions worldwide continues. The Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) is proud to help them in their efforts to make the world a better place. The average grant ACN gives to support priests and 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 Mercy rosary designed by the Vatican rosary makers will be sent out to all those who give a donation of \$15.00 or more to support this cause and tick the box below.



A priest blessing a child during Mass on Flores Island, Indonesia.

The rosary design: Jesus Christ is the face of the Father's Mercy
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Catholic Voice

Changes to Safe Schools program welcomed

CHANGES to the controversial 'Safe Schools' program have been welcomed by Christian groups who have campaigned against the program for more than 18 months.

Education Minister Simon Birmingham announced on March 18 that the program would be available in secondary schools only; that parental consent will be required for children to participate in program lessons and activities; that some parts of the program will be rewritten; and that sexual and gender diversity advocacy and activism should not be part of the program.

Family Voice Australia and the Australian Christian Lobby (ACL) were pleased with the changes, but said there were still problems with the program.

"An ideology that says

someone's gender is largely a social construct continues to be the underlying idea taught to children and that is something most parents would have issues with," ACL managing director Lyle Shelton said.

"Gender specific speech should

madness."

The changes to the Safe Schools program came in response to an independent review of its content, undertaken by University of Western Australia academic Professor Bill Loudon.

The review found that sev-

consult any parent groups.

After a briefing on the review, some 43 government backbenchers signed a letter to Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull requesting the \$8 million of Federal funding for the program be suspended pending a parliamentary inquiry.

"The religious education and curriculum services team within Catholic Education has examined the Safe Schools Coalition's material," she said.

"The material viewed has not been deemed appropriate for use in our Archdiocesan schools."

Ms Williams said the material goes beyond the purpose of the program, does not align with the Australian curriculum for Years 7 and 8, and is problematic in regards to age appropriateness.

"Catholic Education has strong programs in place with KidsMatter, MindMatters and School Wide Positive Behaviour Support and access to the Bullying No Way resources," she said.

"It is very unlikely that the Safe Schools Coalition material will be implemented in our schools."

"Gender specific speech should not be purged from our schools to suit an ideology. This has nothing to do with stopping bullying."

not be purged from our schools to suit an ideology. This has nothing to do with stopping bullying.

"Kids should not be confused with the prohibition of words like 'he' and 'she' or innocuous phrases like 'ladies and gentlemen' or 'boys and girls'. This is ideological

eral resources contained within the program were not suitable for all children.

The review, however, did not examine the resources and materials recommended for use by the program. It consulted only five Victorian schools, and did not

Head of religious education and curriculum services for Catholic Education in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn Maree Williams said creating an environment free from bullying was a priority for Catholic schools, but not by using the Safe Schools program.

Hundreds take part in Brisbane's first pro-life march

BY EMILIE NG*

HUNDREDS prayed the Queensland Government would continue to uphold a child's right to live during the first pro-life march through Brisbane on March 5.

More than 400 people, including Catholic supporters, converged for the first 'March for Life' through Brisbane city in a silent protest against abortion.

The march took the pro-life message from Queens Park to Parliament House in an effort to voice opposition to legalising abortion, which is still a crime in Queensland.

Catholic pro-life woman Anne-Marie McClarty was among the hundreds praying for thousands of women who might walk through an abortion clinic this year.

"I think it was a prayerful presence," she said. "Somehow people's hearts were being touched."

The march ended with brief addresses from Brisbane father and businessman Daniel Edmonds, prominent pro-life supporter Graham Preston and the Australian Christian Lobby's Wendy Francis.

Mr Edmonds called abortion "the greatest human rights abuse in our time".

"That abuse is saying that killing is the solution to social problems," he said.

Mr Edmonds said members of the pro-life movement needed to make abortion the primary voting issue for local, state and federal elections.

"Once you've voted on this issue, you must, must, must talk to every elective representative in

every body, anyone who represents you in any parliament, that this is why you either are voting for them or against them," he said. "If every pro-life person in the whole community did this we would have a tidal wave of change."

Australian Christian Lobby Queensland director Ms Francis said no human law should legitimise abortion.

"Our country is suffering from a deep moral confusion and we each have a choice to make," she said.

"We have a clear obligation to oppose it."

March for Life Brisbane will be an annual event held in March.

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



Above and below, hundreds of pro-life supporters took part in Brisbane's first 'March for Life' on March 5.

PHOTOS: ALAN EDGECOMB



Mother Teresa to be canonised in September

BY ELISE HARRIS
CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY

AFTER months of anticipation, the date of Mother Teresa's canonisation has finally been announced. It falls on September 4, which this year will also mark a special jubilee for workers and volunteers of mercy.

Although it's been rumoured for months that Mother Teresa's canonisation will take place on September 4, the Vatican made the date official during a March 15 consistory of cardinals.

Mother Teresa was born Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu on August 26, 1910, in Skopje, Macedonia. After joining the Sisters of Loretto at age 17, she was sent to Calcutta, where she later contracted tuberculosis, and was sent to rest in Darjeeling.

On the way, she felt what she called "an order" from God to leave the convent and live among the poor.

After she left her convent, Mother Teresa began working in the slums, teaching poor children, and treating the sick in their homes. A year later, some of her former students joined her, and together they took in men, women and children who were dying in the gutters along the streets.

In 1950, the Missionaries of Charity were born as a congregation of the Diocese of Calcutta. In 1952, the government granted them a house from which to continue their mission of serving Calcutta's poor and forgotten.

She died on September 5, 1997, and was beatified just six years later by St Pope John Paul II on October 19, 2003.

In addition to Mother Teresa, the consistory also decided on



Blessed Mother Teresa will be canonised on September 4, almost 13 years after she was beatified.

PHOTO: ONLINE

the canonisation dates of four others, Blessed Maria Elisabetta Hesselblad, Blessed Jose Sanchez del Rio, Blessed Stanislaus of Jesus Mary and Blessed Jose Gabriel del Rosario Brochero.

The canonisation of Blessed Jose Sanchez del Rio is also noteworthy. He will be made a saint on October 16, alongside Blessed Jose

Gabriel del Rosario Brochero.

Blessed José Luis Sánchez del Río was brutally tortured and killed when he was 14 years old during the 1924-1928 religious persecution by Mexican President Plutarco Elías Calles. José Luis had enlisted in the ranks of the Cristeros, under the command of General Prudencio Mendoza.

He was martyred by the Federal Army on February 10, 1928. According to the story, the soldiers cut off the soles of his feet and forced him to walk barefoot to his grave. Moments before he was killed, the boy shouted, "Viva Cristo Rey!" or "Long live Christ the King!"

His character was one of the main protagonists in the 2013 film,

For Greater Glory.

Blessed Jose Gabriel del Rosario Brochero, frequently referred to as the "gaucho priest", will be Argentina's second saint.

Born on March 16, 1840, the priest suffered from leprosy throughout his life, and is known for his service to the sick and the dying. He died in 1914 and was beatified by Pope Francis on September 14, 2013.

Sweden will also receive a new saint in Blessed Maria Elisabeth Hesselblad, who will be canonised on June 5 alongside Polish Blessed Stanislaus of Jesus and Mary Papczynski.

Born in the small village of Faglavik, in Sweden's western coast province of Alvsborg on June 4, 1870, Blessed Maria Elisabeth was a nurse and a convert to Catholicism. After her conversion, she went on to found a new order of Bridgettines, called the Most Holy Saviour of St Bridget.

She died in Rome on April 24, 1957, and was beatified on April 9, 2000, by St Pope John Paul II.

Blessed Stanislaus of Jesus and Mary Papczynski is a Polish priest born in 1631 and beatified by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI in 2007.

Often referred to as the 'Father Founder', Blessed Stanislaus is known for his writings and constant encouragement to contemplate God's mercy and to turn to Mary Immaculate for guidance and protection.

In addition to founding the Congregation of Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, the priest also experienced visions of Holy Souls in Purgatory, and urged penance and prayers on their behalf.

Pope: Easter message brings hope to victims of violence

BY ANN SCHNEIBLE
CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY

IN HIS *Urbi et Orbi* message for Easter, Pope Francis encouraged victims of terrorism and Christian persecution to find hope in the Lord's resurrection.

By rising from the dead, Jesus has "triumphed over evil and sin", the Pope said to the crowds which filled St Peter's Square on Easter Sunday, March 27.

"May he draw us closer on this Easter feast to the victims of terrorism, that blind and brutal form of violence which continues to shed blood in different parts of the world," he said.

The Pontiff cited the March 22 attack in Brussels, where suicide bombers killed more than 30 people and injured hundreds of others.

"With the weapons of love, God has defeated selfishness and death. His son Jesus is the door

of mercy wide open to all," Pope Francis said.

Speaking on persecuted Christians, Pope Francis encouraged them to find comfort in Christ's resurrection.

"Along with our brothers and sisters persecuted for their faith and their fidelity to the name of Christ, and before the evil that seems to have the upper hand in

the life of so many people, let us hear once again the comforting words of the Lord: 'Take courage; I have conquered the world,'" he said.

Pope Francis delivered the traditional address from the central balcony of St Peter's Basilica to an estimated 70,000 people after celebrating Easter Mass in the square.

"Before the spiritual and moral

abysses of mankind, before the chasms that open up in hearts and provoke hatred and death, only an infinite mercy can bring us salvation," he said.

After having suffered and died, Jesus' resurrection "makes us sharers in his immortal life", while enabling "us to see with his eyes of love and compassion those who hunger and thirst, strangers and

prisoners, the marginalised and the outcast, the victims of oppression and violence".

Pope Francis spoke of the "indescribable suffering" experienced daily throughout the world brought about by "brutal crimes", whether they take place in homes or through "large-scale armed conflicts".

He spoke of the long-term conflict in Syria which has left a

"wake of destruction, death, contempt for humanitarian law and the breakdown of civil concord".

"To the power of the risen Lord we entrust the talks now in course, that good will and the cooperation of all will bear fruit in peace and initiate the building of a fraternal society respectful of the dignity and rights of each citizen," he said.

Pope Francis remembered the

crises in other Mediterranean and Middle East regions, including the Holy Land.

Referring to ongoing tensions between Israelis and Palestinians, the Pope prayed for concord, "patience, openness and daily commitment to laying the foundations of a just and lasting peace through direct and sincere negotiations".

He also addressed the Ukraine

war, praying for humanitarian initiatives in the country.

Praying also for "the seeds of hope and prospects for peace in Africa", Pope Francis recalled the "political and social tensions" in countries such as Burundi, Mozambique, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan.

Pope Francis also prayed that the Easter message may invite us to remember the floods of migrants and refugees - "including many children" - who flee "war, hunger, poverty and social injustice".

He called for the upcoming World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul to centre on human dignity, and to establish policies that especially help the "most vulnerable" and those "persecuted for ethnic and religious reasons".

Finally, Pope Francis prayed for all who have lost hope, from the elderly who suffer loneliness and weakness, to young people who worry about the future.

How the universal Church celebrated EASTER

From Palm Sunday through to Easter Sunday, the ceremonies of Holy Week were an inspiring journey for many, recalling the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.



Left, Archbishop Christopher Prowse begins the Palm Sunday Mass outside St Christopher's Cathedral. Bottom left, students from St Francis of Assisi Primary in Calwell re-enact the Last Supper. Above, Archbishop Christopher washes the feet of 12 men and women during Mass on Holy Thursday. Below, the Paschal Candle alight during the Easter Vigil at Corpus Christi Parish in South Tuggeranong.

PHOTOS: MATTHEW BIDDLE; LOUI SESELJA; SHARON BREWER





Left, Pope Francis washes the feet of migrants and refugees at the Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers, in Castelnuovo di Porto, Rome, on Holy Thursday. Above, the Pope during the Easter Vigil Mass at St Peter's Basilica. Below, Marist College student Andrew Colmer during the re-enactment of the Stations of the Cross. PHOTOS: L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO; MATTHEW BIDDLE



Above, members of Canberra's Croatian community during the Easter Vigil on March 26 at St Augustine's Church in Farrer. Below, Archbishop of Sydney Anthony Fisher distributes Easter eggs to children after Mass on Easter Sunday. PHOTOS: LOUI SESELJA; GIOVANNI PORTELLI



DIVINE MERCY

One of the fastest growing devotions in the Church today developed in the 1930s, when Our Lord appeared to a simple, Polish nun, who he later referred to as “the secretary” of his mercy, as Matthew Biddle explains...



The original image of Divine Mercy, painted by Eugene Kazimierowski in 1934.

PHOTO: ONLINE

FEBRUARY 22, 1931 began as an ordinary day for Sister Faustina, a member of the Congregation of Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy living in a convent in Cracow, Poland.

The day began with recitation of prayers and attendance at Holy Mass, and was followed by the nun's regular tasks working in the kitchen or the vegetable garden.

But in the evening, while the 25-year-old was alone in her humble cell, she suddenly saw a vision of Jesus Christ that would come to be honoured by thousands, if not millions, of people worldwide in the years to come.

Sister Faustina's visions of Christ continued for several years, and his messages were preserved through a diary the nun wrote at the instruction of her confessor.

That diary has since been translated into Spanish, French, German, Portuguese, Russian and Italian, and nearly one million copies of the 700-page book have been sold.

While the Divine Mercy image is arguably the most widely known aspect of the devotion, there are several other components to it, namely the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, the Feast of Divine Mercy, the Novena to Divine Mercy and the Hour of Mercy.

History

Helen Kowalska was born in a small Polish village on August 25, 1905, and was the third child in a family of 10. The family was poor, and Helen only received three years of basic education.

Three weeks before her 20th birthday, Helen entered the Congregation of Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, an order devoted to the care and education of troubled young women. The next year Helen received her religious habit and her religious name, Sr Maria Faustina of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

From the outside, Sr Faustina was just like any of the other nuns – dutiful to her tasks and faithful to the rule of life; cheerful to others and unselfish in her love of neighbour.

Yet God, it seems, had special plans for her.

From a young age, Sr Faustina desired a closer union with God, and this desire came to fruition with the vision she received in 1931, some six

years after she entered religious life.

In the *Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, she recalls that first vision:

“In the evening, when I was in my cell, I saw the Lord Jesus clothes in a white garment. One hand [was] raised in the gesture of blessing, the other was touching the garment at the breast. From beneath the garment, slightly drawn aside at the breast, there were emanating two large rays, one red, the other pale... After a while, Jesus said to me, Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the signature: Jesus, I trust in You. I desire that this image be venerated, first in your chapel, and [then] throughout the world.”

After explaining the vision to her confessor, Sr Faustina was told to simply paint God's image in her own soul. But immediately after leaving the confessional, Jesus told her:

“My image is already in your soul. I desire that there be a Feast of Mercy. I want this image, which you will paint with a brush, to be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter; that Sunday is to be the Feast of Mercy. I desire that priests proclaim this great mercy of Mine towards souls of sinners. Let the sinner not be afraid to approach me. The flames of mercy are burning Me – clamouring to be spent; I want to pour them out upon these souls.”

The saint says she felt exhausted

‘Let the sinner not be afraid to approach me. The flames of mercy are burning Me - clamouring to be spent; I want to pour them out upon these souls.’

- Jesus to St Faustina

and overburdened by the requests of Jesus, and wished to be relieved of them. She even asked Jesus to give the graces to someone else, convinced they were being wasted on her.

But instead Christ sent Sr Faustina a holy confessor, Fr Michael Sopocko, who would assist her to carry out his requests.

Fr Sopocko asked the painter Eugene Kazimierowski to paint the picture according to St Faustina's directions. After more than

12 attempts, St Faustina eventually accepted it as satisfactory in June 1934. It was around this time that Fr Sopocko asked Sr Faustina to write down the details of her visions, which eventually became the *Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*.

Sr Faustina diligently wrote down as much as she could for the next four years, until her health no longer allowed her to continue.

By that stage, she had been suffering from tuberculosis for almost two years, but her condition deteriorated rapidly in August 1938. Sr Faustina died on October 5, 1938, aged 33.

After her death, several other paintings of the Divine Mercy image were created, each significantly different from the other. The Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy asked Stanislaw Batowski to paint the image for them to adorn their convent, however it was lost in a fire soon after its completion.

Batowski painted a replica, but at the exact same time he presented the new version to the Sisters, another artist, Adolf Hyla, was presenting an image he had painted, as a votive offering in thanksgiving for his family's survival during World War II.

Faced with the decision of which painting to keep in the convent, the Sisters turned to the advice of a visiting Polish Cardinal, Adam Sapieha, who eventually chose Hyla's version.

It would later become one of the most reproduced images of Divine Mercy.

The *Diary* remained largely unknown until 1979, when it was

in 2000, she was canonised by the same Pope.

Spread of the Devotion

Knowledge of the Divine Mercy devotion has undoubtedly grown at a rapid pace since St Faustina's canonisation 16 years ago. But even prior to her canonisation, many Catholics worldwide were developing a great love for Divine Mercy.

After the saint's death, her confessor, Fr Michael Sopocko gave some of the main documents related to St Faustina's revelations to a Marian priest, Fr Joseph Jarzebowski. While the documents did not include the complete diary, they did include information about the Divine Mercy Novena, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, and the Divine Mercy image.

In 1941 Fr Jarzebowski took the documents and a copy of the Divine Mercy image to the United States, where the devotion soon began to spread. In 1960 a National Shrine of the Divine Mercy in Massachusetts was dedicated.

Although the Divine Mercy devotion was known of in Australia by some, it wasn't until the 1990s that it began to spread more widely.

This was thanks largely to the establishment of Divine Mercy Publications in 1992, a small business dedicated to spreading the devotion, led by Victorian John Canavan.

In the years since its establishment, Divine Mercy Publications has distributed more than one million



St Faustina Kowalska's visions of Christ over several years form the basis of the Divine Mercy devotion, which has gradually spread around the world. Divine Mercy Sunday, celebrated one week after Easter, falls on April 3 this year. PHOTO: ONLINE

their entire lives as a tender mother her infant, and at the hour of death I will not be a Judge for them, but the Merciful Saviour,” (par. 1075).

Australia even has its own Divine Mercy Shrine, located 20km south of Tarcutta, NSW. The Shrine is part of the Wagga Wagga Diocese, and its leader, Bishop Gerard Hanna, will say Mass at the Shrine on Divine Mercy Sunday.

The Shrine's caretaker Damian Tetley says in the seven years that he and his family have maintained the property, the devotion has grown significantly.

“The Shrine has really established Divine Mercy in the diocese, because most parishes now have some sort of devotion to Divine Mercy,” he says.

There is also a Shrine of Divine Mercy in Keysborough, Victoria, which is home to the local Polish Catholic community. A Holy Door for the Jubilee Year of Mercy was opened at the Shrine on December 8 last year.

And in rural Western Australia,

building of the State's first Church to be named after the Divine Mercy commenced in 2011.

Further, more and more parishes right around the country have set up regular times to pray the Divine Mercy chaplet, sometimes weekly, other times monthly.

In the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn, a special celebration on the Feast of Divine Mercy has been held at St Clement's Monastery in Galong every year since 2004.

While knowledge of the devotion is clearly growing in Australia and around the world, the message of Divine Mercy is still foreign to many others.

But in this Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, which will feature a World Youth Day in Poland, St Faustina's homeland, there could be no better time to discover the devotion that Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI described as “a central message for our time”.

The work of the saint who Jesus called “the secretary” of his mercy is far from over.

The five key aspects of Divine Mercy, as found in the *Diary*

The Image

“Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the signature: Jesus, I trust in You. I desire that this image be venerated, first in your chapel, and [then] throughout the world. I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish,” (par. 47-48).

The Novena

“I desire that during these nine days (Good Friday until Divine Mercy Sunday) you bring souls to the fountain of My mercy, that they may draw therefrom strength and refreshment and whatever grace they need in the hardships of life, and especially at the hour of death,” (par. 1209).

The Chaplet

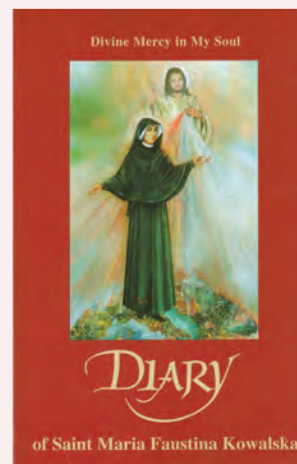
“Whoever will recite [the chaplet] will receive great mercy at the hour of death. Priests will recommend it to sinners as their last hope of salvation. Even if there were a sinner most hardened, if he were to recite this chaplet only once, he would receive grace from My infinite mercy,” (par. 687).

The Hour of Mercy

“At three o'clock, implore My mercy, especially for sinners; and, if only for a brief moment, immerse yourself in My Passion, particularly in My abandonment at the moment of agony. This is the hour of great mercy for the whole world... In this hour, I will refuse nothing to the soul that makes a request of Me in virtue of My Passion,” (par. 1320).

The Feast

“I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open... The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment... It is my desire that [the Feast of Mercy] be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter,” (par. 699).





Above, Josephite Sisters gathered to celebrate the Order's sesquicentenary on March 19. Below, Sr Julie Connolly RSJ reads a letter from the congregational leader, Sr Monica Cavanagh RSJ prior to Mass. PHOTOS: LOUI SESELJA



Below, a display of historical items, including wood from the coffin of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. Right, Archbishop Christopher Prowse blesses children during the offertory procession. PHOTOS: LOUI SESELJA



Josephite Sisters celebrate 150 years of continuing the legacy of

St Mary MacKillop

SISTERS of St Joseph from around the Archdiocese gathered on March 19, the feast of St Joseph, for a special Mass to celebrate 150 years since the founding of their Order.

Fittingly, the Mass was celebrated at St Joseph's Church in O'Connor, with a crowd of about 300 people joining 30 Sisters for the occasion.

Several symbols representing the history of the Josephites were placed near the sanctuary prior to Mass. They included five candles, representing the five Sisters who arrived in Goulburn in August 1882.

Items recalling the legacies of the Order's founders were also present – wood from the coffin of

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop; a statue of Our Lady held by Fr Julian Tenison Woods during his final moments on earth; as well as a breviary and ritual that he used.

Congregational leader Sr Monica Cavanagh RSJ, who was unable to be present for the occasion, sent her greetings via a letter, which was read out at the start of the Mass.

In the letter, Sr Monica recalled the beginnings of the Josephites 150 years ago.

"One hundred and fifty years ago Mary and Fr Julian listened to the heartbeat of the world of their time," she wrote.

"They saw a need and were led by God to respond to the misery and wretchedness of the bush children and the afflicted poor to

undertake urgently needed works of charity for which no other religious were available."

Today, Sr Monica said, the Sisters of St Joseph continue to respond to the urgent needs of the time, by responding to the pleas of children in detention centres and refugee camps; endeavouring to address the health and educational needs of Indigenous Australians; and providing educational opportunities in Timor Leste and Peru.

Additionally, the Sisters attend to the experience of grief and loss among children; they stand alongside people in rural communities as they struggle with natural disasters; and often the Sisters are simply a "listening ear as people share their wonders and heartaches in the midst of daily life".





Above, Archbishop Christopher mingles with the crowd after Mass, below, Sr Mary Andrew RSJ and Sr Mary Paulinus RSJ. Left, several Josephite Sisters prepare to cut the anniversary cake.
PHOTOS: LOUI SESELJA



“Josephites from all walks of life continue to be a hand of hope in so many situations today,” she wrote.

“As we look back and see what our good God has done for us through the lives and ministries of the Sisters of St Joseph over 150 years, let us give thanks. May our hearts be filled with joy as we celebrate this gift to our Church and to our world.”

Archbishop Christopher Prowse was the main celebrant of the Mass, assisted by 10 priests from around the Archdiocese.

During his homily, the Archbishop said St Mary of the Cross MacKillop was a type of Abrahamic figure, placed before us as a sign of hope and faith.

“She has given us a marvelous

example, here in Australia and now universally, about what faith means in our time and our place,” he said.

He also reflected upon the co-founder of the Sisters of St

“Josephites from all walks of life continue to be a hand of hope in so many situations today.”

Joseph, Fr Julian Tenison Woods, who he described as a “man of many talents”.

The Archbishop also referred to a letter written by Fr Woods in

which he stated that: “Our highest ambition was only to find fuel for the burning heart of our Blessed Lord”.

“One hundred and fifty years later, those expressions are still full of Gospel fervour and Abrahamic faith,” Archbishop Christopher said.

“We thank the Lord for the sesquicentenary of the Penola establishment of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart. I want to thank, as the Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn, particularly the Josephites for their unbelievable contribution in this Archdiocese over the years.

“Let us pray that the Josephites’ influence be shared continually in Australia for many, many years to come and also internationally.”



Above, Sr Colleen Howe RSJ with Fr Bill Kennedy and his family members. Bottom left, the Charnwood St Thomas Aquinas Parish choir during Mass. Bottom right, Sr Colleen Clear RSJ with Paul O’Callaghan and daughter Cheree.
PHOTOS: LOUI SESELJA



Assessing the bigger picture at election time

If we want to make our vote count, we should assess the political parties' efforts to seek justice...



JUSTICE MATTERS
CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

WE all face a Federal election this year and, for those in the ACT, a Territory election for good measure. As we consider our voting intentions, we will be faced with many issues but we should put those into the 'big picture'.

If we could shrink the earth's population to a village of precisely 100 people, with all the existing human ratios remaining the same, there would be:

- 50 females and 50 males;
- 26 children and 74 adults (eight of whom would be 65 and older);
- 60 Asians, 15 Africans, 14

from the Americas and 11 Europeans;

- 33 Christians, 22 Muslims, 14 Hindus, seven Buddhists, 12 people who practice other religions, and 12 people who would not be aligned with a religion;
- 12 would speak Chinese as their first language, five Spanish, five English, three each Arabic, Hindi, Bengali and

- 17 would be unable to read and write;
- Seven would have a tertiary education (thanks mainly to advances in Asia);
- One would be dying from starvation, 15 would be undernourished, and 21 would be overweight.

When we consider our world from such a compressed perspective, the need for acceptance,

agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation... you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.

- If you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death... you are more blessed than three billion people in the world.
- If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a

are more blessed than more than two billion people in the world who cannot read at all.

So where do you fit into this "big picture"? In Australia, and in the ACT, there are issues of justice that bear our consideration. The Australian Bishops will likely make a statement (as they did for the 2013 Federal election), drawing attention to issues worth considering in making our vote count. And our Archdiocesan Catholic Social Justice Commission will provide information on justice issues for the Territory election, including questions we might ask of candidates to help us decide who will make our community more just.

We are not expected to frame our voting intentions solely on issues of social justice. There are other matters of government that must also come into our decision making. However, a society that eschews justice will ferment other social ills and in the end descend into chaos: history tells us so.

A society that eschews justice will ferment other social ills and in the end descend into chaos: history tells us so.

Portuguese, two each Russian and Japanese, and 62 would speak other languages;

- Five people would control 32 per cent of the entire world's wealth and all five would be US citizens;
- 77 would have shelter from wind and rain but 23 would not;
- 22 would own or share a computer;

understanding and education becomes glaringly apparent.

The following is also something to ponder:

- If you woke up this morning with more health than illness... you are more blessed than the one million who will not survive this week.
- If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the

roof overhead and a place to sleep... you are richer than 75 per cent of this world.

- If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish some place... you are among the top eight per cent of the world's wealthy.
- If your parents are still alive and still married... you are very rare, even in Australia.
- If you can read this article, you

Celebrating my favourite time of year



BELOW THE SURFACE
BY BRIANNA THOMAS

AS A child, I was bitterly competitive. I wanted to win everything, and I turned the world into a contest. I even made a habit of telling friends who my favourites were and why (I've changed, trust me).

In primary school, I named Christmas my favourite over Easter.

Presents trumped chocolate and six weeks off school ran rings around a long weekend. Christmas was widely accepted, including its religious heritage, but Easter felt bolder and more awkward for my 10-year-old self. I couldn't say to my friends who went luxury camping over Easter that I went to two Masses, a veneration and a passion play. Everyone loved Christmas, but Easter didn't feel like it had much to offer.

For whatever reason (maturity perhaps, or Jesus), Easter has now become my favourite event in the Church year.

We are all crazily busy and even with Lent, we can hit Holy Thursday like 'Oh, I wasn't ready!' I find myself at Holy Thursday



The candle-lit Saturday Vigil Mass is a highlight of the Easter Triduum for many Catholics.

PHOTO: ONLINE

Mass each year unprepared and catching my breath from the day, but met with a grace of invitation. Jesus welcomes us into that Last Supper, wanting us there with him, however we have come. It ends with a darkness that draws us into the sorrow Jesus must have felt in the garden – alone, with no one near.

For some businesses, Good Friday is the only day of the year they close. It demands a respect, even if not fully understood. I find I wake up with a quiet sadness or reverence hanging in the air, that

accompanies me throughout the day and into the afternoon liturgy.

Long readings normally make me fidget, but on Good Friday, the veneration reading of Jesus' experience on the cross is totally captivating. In that moment, we relive flashes of the crucifixion scene 2,000 years ago.

We so often hear that 'Jesus died for us', and that we're at risk of becoming numb to the concept. I get complacent and can give more of a response to someone buying me coffee than to the knowledge that Jesus gave his life to save me

from darkness. On Good Friday though, something wakes up inside me and I see the story differently. I find myself more alert and attentive to the nails through his hands. He didn't have to do it; he let it happen, for us. Let's not be numb to that.

My favourite part of all (I still have favourites) is when everyone processes into the church on Saturday night, candlelight rippling through the crowd, singing alleluias. That joyful word we've essentially fasted from during Lent seems to break through all the

grief and darkness from the last few days. Here the hope is tangible and the impact of Easter becomes obvious – Jesus broke death into pieces and made a way for us to be free.

I have beautiful memories of Easter liturgies, retreats and family traditions over the years, but one story will never leave me. My creative mum designed an enormous treasure hunt each year with cryptic clues that pointed us around the block, each station holding chocolate and the next clue. My six siblings and I worked together to fly through and find the last prize, which was always the biggest.

One year we were led to the kitchen table only to find it bare. Dropping to our knees, we eventually found our bunnies resting above our heads on the beams under the table. Next to the bunnies though, we discovered piles of shriveled mush that busted some ungrateful vegetable-hater for stashing food under the table during meals. The mush had been there some time and no longer resembled the peas-and-carrot formation it once had.

This kept us laughing for years to come, and reminds me that although Easter can feel quite solemn, the whole point is Sunday morning, with the good news of the empty grave. Rather than living our lives from the seriousness and heaviness of Good Friday, we have to be living from the joy and hope of Easter Sunday.

Support our Seminarians



Adrian Chan



Alex Osborne



Joshua Scott



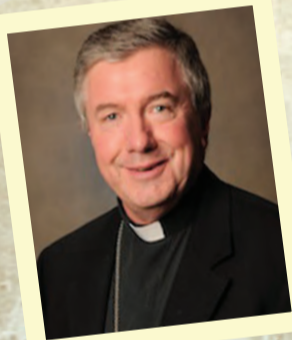
Namora Anderson



Eden Langlands

Good Shepherd Sunday

APPEAL 17 April, 2016



Dear Friends,

I am convinced that the Holy Spirit is calling some young men in our Archdiocese to become priests in our Archdiocese.

Already we have five strong young men in the Lord in our seminaries training to be priests. There are about five others that I am aware of that are very seriously thinking and praying to join them in coming years.

But I am sure there are many others who we do not know of at present who are thinking of a vocation to the priesthood.

All I want to say to those in the latter group: Be courageous! Be not afraid! Pray, join us!

I ask everyone in the Archdiocese to pray especially on this Good Shepherd Sunday for an increase of vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood for service in our Archdiocese. Thank you for your prayers.

I ask all priests and seminarians on this particular Good Shepherd Sunday to preach on this topic. Please share your vocation stories to deepen a real vocations culture throughout the entire Archdiocese on all levels. At the same time, I ask that a special collection be taken up in all Masses in the Archdiocese on Good Shepherd Sunday. This money will be used to help defray the very considerable costs associated in the academic training and seminary formation over many years in the preparation of our seminarians for priesthood. These will be, please God, our future priests in our parishes. Please give generously!

May Jesus, our High Priest, raise up a whole generation of new priests in our Archdiocese!

For this we pray together.

+ *Christopher Prowse*

Archbishop Christopher Prowse
Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn

ABN: 12 689 322 721 | PH: (02) 6201 9800 | FAX: (02) 6257 7410
FAVIER HOUSE, 51 COOYONG ST. BRADDON ACT 2601
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ENROLMENT INFORMATION SESSIONS

2 MAY

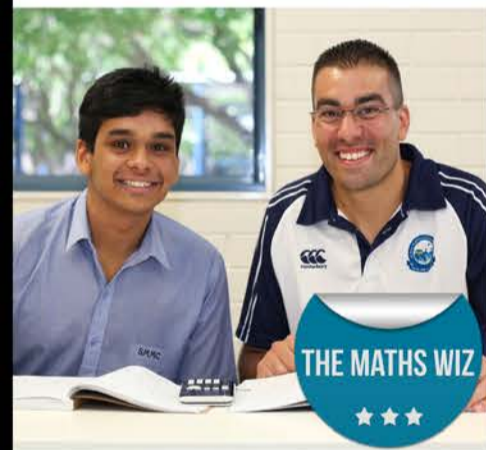
Year 7 Info Night
6.30pm
Wanniassa Campus
Mackinnon St, Wanniassa

5 MAY

Try MacKillop Day
(For Year 6 Students)
Wanniassa Campus
Mackinnon St, Wanniassa

11 MAY

Year 11 Info Night
6pm
Isabella Campus
Ellerston Ave, Isabella Plains



THE MATHS WIZ
★★★



THE CHEF
★★★



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Session 1

10:00 am Registration
10:15 am Principal's Welcome
10:30 am Tour
11:30 am Morning Tea

Session 2

12:30 pm Registration
12:45 pm Principal's Welcome
1:00 pm Tour
2:00 pm Afternoon Tea



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29
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**Please register on our website to
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**MAY
03
TUESDAY**

Open Evening

4.00 - 7.30PM
Tours between 4.00 - 6.00pm
and 6.30 - 7.30pm.

YEAR 7 INFORMATION

Formal presentation by the Principal,
Mr Paul Carroll and senior students
between 6.00 - 6.30pm.

**MAY
17
TUESDAY**

Year 11 Information Evening

6.00 - 7.30PM

Discover the many courses and
leadership opportunities available
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College





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Wednesday 4 May 2 – 7pm

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3 & 10 MAY

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TO REGISTER

YEAR 7, 2017 INFORMATION EVENING

Tuesday 10 May 6 - 7.15pm

Enrolment forms will be available.

YEAR 11, 2017 INFORMATION EVENING

Thursday 12 May 6 - 7.15pm

Careers Expo 4 - 6pm

Senior Information Handbooks will be available.

ADDITIONAL SCHOOL TOURS

Saturdays
30 April & 7 May
2.30pm

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Merici College ... Reflections from our students



I am not sure I know what I would like to do in the future. I love Merici because it will help me to accomplish my dreams of being successful in whatever I choose to do.

Kirah Doyle, Year 7

College years at Merici are great because I feel like I am gaining all the knowledge and skills I need for further studies at university. My goal is to be an architect.

Jaime De Olim, Year 11



I was offered a place in a vertical double degree at the Australian National University. This consisted of a Bachelor of Politics, Philosophy and Economics (completed in 2015) and a Juris Doctor (Law, currently studying).

Rebecca Bromhead, 1999 Graduate

I was taught by many inspiring teachers during the six years I spent at Merici. These teachers, and the wide range of academic and co-curricular activities I had the opportunity to participate in, thoroughly prepared me to undertake further study and balance this study with other interests.

Danielle Farrell, 2012 Graduate



Learning about and engaging with, social justice at Merici College connected me with the issues that face our community, locally and globally. I have committed my life to social justice, working at Vinnies in Australia

and South Africa, for government departments on health and education projects and for the Red Cross in Kenya. I have also contributed to fostering greater gender equality with UN Women Australia. I am currently the manager of a program in Western Sydney that supports refugees and people seeking asylum. I am grateful to Merici for opening the window to this long term commitment.

I am forever grateful to Merici College for preparing me for my adult life. The community helped me develop a very strong foundation in terms of striving for excellence, developing confidence in myself and my abilities, being open to exciting opportunities throughout my military career and beyond, and embracing life-long learning. Thank you.

*Air Vice-Marshal (Ret'd) Margaret Staib, AM, CSC,
1980 Graduate*



In the late 1970s the expectations for what women could do were very narrow: to be a teacher, a nurse, a mother, a secretary or a nun. My Merici Principals actively cultivated the view that girls have other options if they want

them, including a university education. It gave me the assurance to launch into an exciting life of exploration, which is still unfolding."

*Dr Rosalie Woodruff, Greens MP for Franklin, Tasmania,
1980 Graduate*

Visit www.merici.act.edu.au or contact Ms Trish Ryan, the Enrolment Officer on 6243 4102.
The Merici College Restaurant will be open from 4.00pm. Bookings preferred, telephone 6243 4100.



St John Paul II
College

Justice Peace Courage

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Year 11 2017 Information Session

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Year 7 – 12 in 2017
Monday 9 May
5.00pm – 6:30pm Tours
6.30pm Information

Information Evening
Year 11 in 2017
Wednesday 11 May
5.00pm Tours & Course Advice
6.00pm Information

SFX Open Day
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9.00am – 2.30pm Tours
9.00am – 12noon
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COUNSELLING - Things not going to plan? Sometimes we need to talk to someone who can help. Maybe it is time to contact a professional at Counselling Solutions ACT. Check out the website: counsellingact.com.

HANDYMAN and painting contractor. Small jobs specialist, services from: minor carpentry, plastering, tiling, fence repairs, painting, roofing, plumbing and much more. All Canberra area, 10 per cent discount for pensioners. Free quotes. No job too big or too small. Luis Flores, telephone 0404 605 687 or (02) 6140 1317; David Villaseca 0450 891 470 or (02) 6174 0334.

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

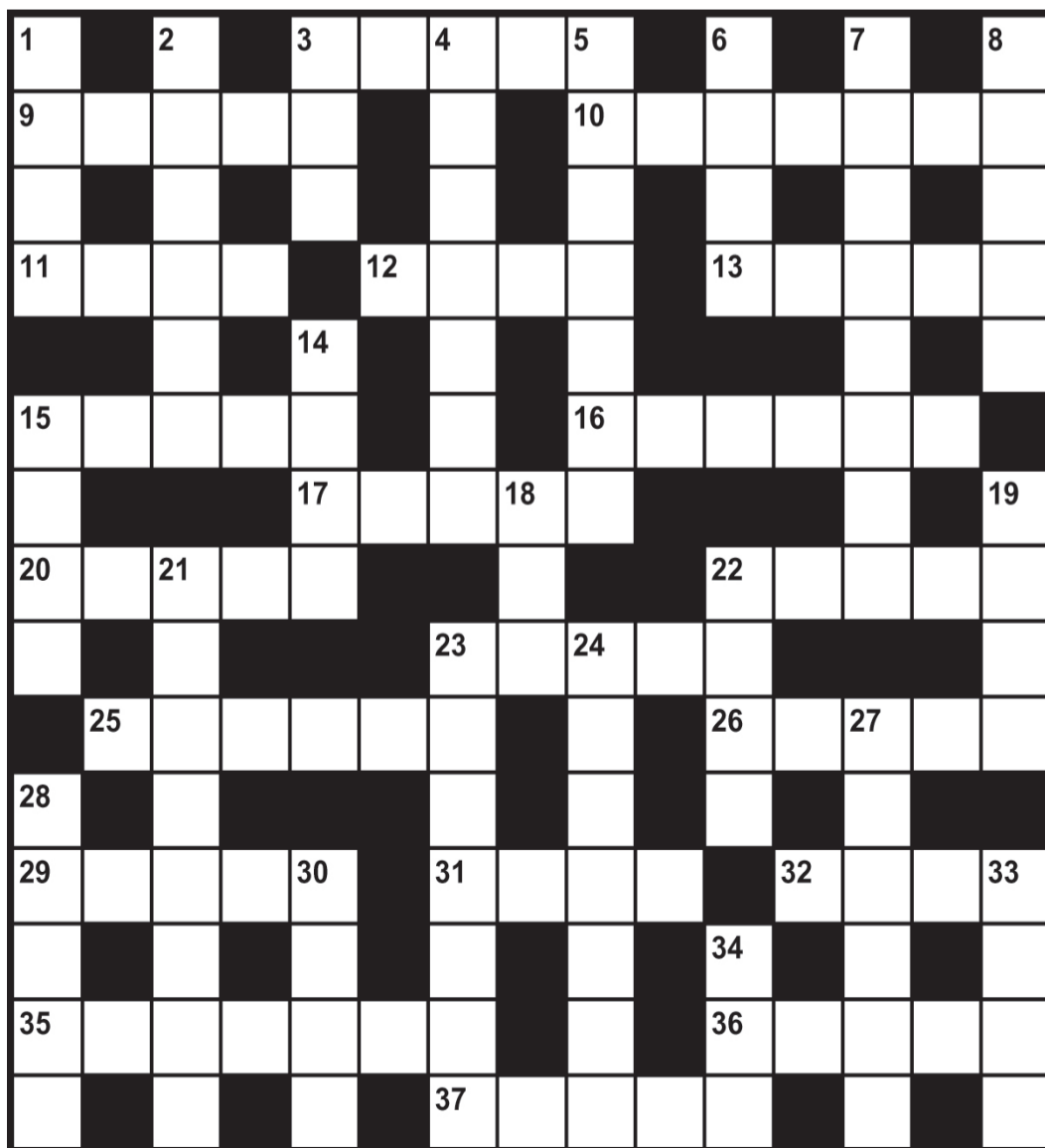
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FREE massage, hair cut, nails, food, odd jobs etc. as exchange or barter. Need new members so we can assist pensioners, low income, less fortunate etc. Join a parish friendship group - weekly activities, bus trips etc. Confidential 0403 050 960 anytime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

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CROSSWORD



www.wordgamesforcatholics.com

ACROSS

- 3 Mary, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, is patron saint of this South American country
- 9 David married his widow
- 10 Avian symbol of the atonement
- 11 "Blessed art ___ among women".
- 12 Monk called "The Father of English History"
- 13 Garden tempter
- 15 "Fort" diocese in Indiana
- 16 Book written by St Thomas More
- 17 People looked like this to the blind man Jesus cured (Mt 8:24)
- 20 Vatican guard
- 22 Catholic pastime?
- 23 Sign of ___
- 25 The women brought these to anoint Jesus' body
- 26 Greek title for Jesus
- 29 "___ to God in the highest"
- 31 "... wrapped him in swaddling clothes and ___ him in a manger" (Lk 2:7)
- 32 French Christmas
- 35 Words that introduce the prayer of consecration
- 36 Biblical tree
- 37 She saved Joshua's spies

DOWN

- 1 One of the seven deadly sins
- 2 Buying or selling of spiritual things
- 3 First Greek letter in Jesus' title
- 4 Altar perfume
- 5 First of the seven churches listed in Revelation

- 6 Charity
- 7 Near ___ of sin
- 8 Prayer spot?
- 14 "Immediately they left their ___ and followed him," (Mk 1:18)
- 15 Describes some men in the Bible
- 18 Holy day cusp
- 19 Amos compared the women of Bashan to these animals (Am 4:1)
- 21 "... ___ thy help or sought thy intercession ..." (Memorare)
- 22 Angelus call
- 23 Prayer book
- 24 "Christian" first used here (Acts 11:26)
- 27 "___ in excelsis Deo"
- 28 The Hebrews fled from here
- 30 The Extraordinary Jubilee ___ of Mercy
- 33 Breaks the eighth commandment
- 34 OT book and prophet

SOLUTIONS IN THE NEXT CATHOLIC VOICE

March solutions:





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

Archdiocesan Coming Events

ACIES: Legion of Mary annual consecration to Our Lady, Saturday April 2 at 10.30am, St Joseph's Church, Boronia Street O'Connor. All welcome. Phone (02) 6251 3950 for more information.

FEAST OF DIVINE MERCY: Sunday April 3 at St Clement's Monastery, Galong. Program: 2pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament; 2.15pm Confessions - during recitation of the Rosary (as priests for confession may be limited, all are urged to seek confession in their own parish prior to the feast); 2.45pm Divine Mercy Chaplet; 2.55pm Veneration of the Divine Mercy image and blessing of personal Divine Mercy icons; 3pm Holy Mass. Afternoon tea will be held after Mass. Ladies are invited to please bring a plate. Inquiries telephone Gus or Ellen (02) 6385 5225.

GUINNESS AND GOD: Tuesday, April 5, Missionaries of God's Love priest Fr Dave Callaghan will be presenting on 'What Christianity needs to learn from atheism' at King O'Malley's Irish Pub, Civic, ACT. For more information please contact youth_events@catholiclife.org.au or see our website www.guinnessandgod.com. Event officially starts at 7.30pm, but generally live music from 6.30pm.

AMICUS: Sunday April 10, meet at 12pm for lunch at Rodney's Nursery, Pialligo and then a walk around the nursery and other places of interest in Pialligo. Contact Patricia 0412 351 548. Sunday April 24, meet at 12pm at Googong Dam (place TBC) for a BYO barbecue/picnic lunch and nature walks. Contact Paul 0419 411 691.



YEAR OF MERCY PILGRIMAGE TO CANBERRA: On Sunday, May 29, the feast of Corpus Christi, pilgrims are invited to take part in a national Eucharistic pilgrimage in honour of Our Lady Help of Christians to pray for Australia and especially its Government. Program for the day:

- 11am Mass at St Christopher's Cathedral
- 12pm Five kilometre pilgrimage departs from Cathedral
- 1.02pm Pilgrimage arrives at Archbishop's House
- 1.10pm Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament outside the entrance to Archbishop's House, with possibility of confessions afterwards
- 1.20pm Lunch in the gardens next to Archbishop's House and around the lake
- 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet at steps of Archbishop's House
- 3.15pm Final blessing of pilgrims, with coaches departing back to Sydney, Goulburn and Albury.

For more information contact Mary Clare Meney on 0435 496 624 or Kathleen Horsfall on 0431 734 206.

BATEHAVEN AND BEYOND: Six day guided retreat, April 10-17. 'Meeting the stranger' - this retreat focuses on the disciples who struggled to recognise the risen Jesus, and enables retreatants to refocus on the one always present and always drawing closer. Director: Sr Carmel Drew. Retreat begins with a 6pm evening meal on April 10 and concludes with breakfast on April 17. Cost: \$450 or \$75 per day; non-refundable deposit of \$50. Inquiries: Sr Mary Murphy: mary.murphy@sosj.org.au.

#INSTAGRACE: April 13-16. A great opportunity for teenagers from Year 9 to 12 to encounter and experience the love of God at a stay in program (residential camp) through workshops, music, games, testimonies and inspiring talks.

Green Hills Centre, Cotter Road, Stromlo, ACT. Registration fee \$125. Please email jesuayouthcanberra@gmail.com or call Roby Ray Joshua on 0433 828 266.

SERRA CLUB OF CANBERRA: Rosary and Mass, 6.10pm, Thursday April 14, at Holy Trinity Church, Curtin, followed by dinner at Southern Cross Club, Woden. Inquiries: John Malycha, telephone (02) 6251 2912.

IS IT I LORD?: MGL Vocations Discernment Weekend, 7pm Friday, April 15, to 2pm Sunday, April 17, at the MGL Chapel, 6 Boake Place, Garran, ACT. For men seeking to know God's will for their life. Come join the Missionaries of God's Love priests and brothers for a weekend of prayer, reflection and

brotherhood to help you discern your vocation. \$20 donation, accommodation and meals provided. Inquiries: frkenmgl@gmail.com or davemgl@yahoo.com.au.

HEALING RALLY: Friday April 22 at St Benedict's Church, Narrabundah, ACT - starts with 5.30pm Healing Mass followed by rally with praise and worship and prayer ministry for healing. Presented by the National Service Committee of Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR). All are welcome.

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 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.

COMMUNITY OF THE RISEN LORD CANBERRA: Join us for a weekly charismatic praise and worship with an anointed sharing of the word every Friday at 7.30pm in the St Brigid's Church parish hall, 2 Bancroft Street, Dickson. Contact Shan 0412 310 364 or Sean 0448 510 237.



Encounter

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Remembering the 1916 Easter Rising

Speaker: Dr Frances Flanagan, Sydney Environment Institute, University of Sydney
 2.00pm, Sunday 17 April

Crypt Hall, St Patrick's, Church Hill (Grosvenor Street), The Rocks, Sydney
 Meetings and afternoon tea conclude around 4.30pm
Guest speaker each month presents on a topic of Catholic historical interest. All welcome.
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Charity the key ingredient of fraternal correction

THE SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY: ADMONISH THE SINNER

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

ARGUABLY the most difficult spiritual work of mercy for an individual to perform is that of admonishing the sinner, yet it is an important duty for Catholics according to one of the Archdiocese's most experienced confessors, Fr Kieran Adams OP.

The Dominican priest spoke to *Catholic Voice* recently about the spiritual work of mercy, in light of the 12 years he spent as a confessor at St Mary Major's Basilica in Rome, where he would hear confessions on a full-time basis.

During those years, Fr Kieran says he had countless opportunities to 'admonish' – either through the Sacrament of Confession or through providing spiritual direction to individuals.

"To admonish a person, I think you have to take into account the situation, listen very carefully to what they're saying, and see if they're aware of what they're doing," he explains.

"When a person comes for spiritual direction, they come because they want to come closer to God, so therefore they're already reaching out.

"In admonishing, we're trying to lead the person away from a somewhat distorted view of God. God is always a God of mercy. In the Book of Isaiah, it says, 'Though your sins are scarlet, they shall become as white as snow'. In other words, God is always there and is always reaching out to us."

The word 'admonish' is derived from the Latin word '*monere*', which means to warn or advise. Fraternal correction is something every individual has a duty to do, Fr Kieran says. "There's a duty out of love for the other person, to say, 'You can't do that'," he says. "It's a duty for the overall good of the situation, where a person might need to be admonished."

But in doing so, one must be careful and sensitive to the situation, in order to admonish with charity.

"As a confessor, the first thing to do is to listen to what they have to say, because you can't get a full picture until they outline what the problem is, and also you might have to ask questions to get a fuller understanding," Fr Kieran says.



Fr Kieran Adams OP every individual has a duty to admonish others in a charitable way.

PHOTO: LOUI SESELJA

"You have to be very sensitive in the questions that you're asking and be gentle with them.

"I would say it's the duty of the confessor to listen, if necessary to ask certain questions, and then

or warnings, which are often exactly what they need to hear.

"You come across people with tunnel vision," he says. "Sometimes people might just say 'I've never thought of it that way be-

"It's the duty of the confessor to listen, if necessary to ask certain questions, and then offer advice... it comes back to the general welfare of the penitent."

offer advice... it comes back to the general welfare of the penitent and their relationship with God, that's what the confessor's all about."

While it is possible that the response to admonition might be negative, Fr Kieran says most people are grateful for any advice

fore', because they might come and talk about certain things from a particular angle."

Like all the works of mercy, the duty to admonish the sinner has Scriptural origins that provide guidance on the appropriate way to practice the work of mercy.

The words of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew are perhaps the clearest explanation found in the Bible: "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he

listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church," (Mt. 18:15-18).

REGULAR CONFESSION TIMES IN THE ARCHDIOCESE

Aranda: Saturday 7pm-7.30pm

Batehaven: Saturday 5pm

Bega: Friday 5.30pm-6pm; Saturday 9.30am-10am

Boorowa: Saturday 5.30pm

Braddon: Friday 12pm-12.30pm

Campbell: Sunday 9am-9.20am

Cathedral: Thursday 6pm-6.30pm; Saturday 11am-12pm

Charnwood: Saturday 4.30pm

Cooma: Saturday 5pm-5.45pm

Cootamundra: Saturday

5pm-5.30pm

Crookwell: Saturday 5.30pm

Dickson: Saturday 9.30am

Evatt: Saturday

4.30pm-5.30pm

Gundagai: Sunday

5pm-5.45pm

Gungahlin: Saturday

5.15pm-5.45pm

Gunning: Sunday 8am-8.15am

Holder: Saturday 5pm-5.45pm

Kambah: Saturday 5pm-5.30pm

Kippax: Saturday

11am-11.30am

Latin Mass Community:

Saturday 10am-10.30am; 7pm-

8pm (Garran)

Merimbula: Saturday

9.30am-10.30am

Moruya: Saturday

10.30am-11am

Murrumburrah: Sunday

9.45am-9.55am

Narooma: Saturday

9.30am-10am

Narrabundah: Friday 6pm;

Saturday 5pm-5.30pm

North Goulburn: Saturday

9.30am-10am

North Woden: Saturday 5pm-

5.30pm (Curtin)

O'Connor: Saturday

4.30pm-5.30pm

Page: Saturday 11am-12pm

Queanbeyan: Friday

11:30am-11:50am; Saturday

4.30pm-5pm

South Tuggeranong: Saturday

10am-10.30; 5pm-5.30pm;

Sunday 5pm-5.30pm

South Woden: Saturday

11am-12pm

Temora: Friday 5pm-5.50pm;

Saturday 10am-10.45am

Tumut: Saturday 5pm-5.45pm

Ukrainian Catholic Community:

Saturday 8.30am (Lyneham)

Wanniassa: Saturday 9.30am-

10am; 5pm-5.30pm

Waramanga: Saturday

11am-12pm

Watson: Saturday 12pm-

12.30pm; 5pm-5.30pm

West Wyalong: Saturday

9.30am-10am

Yarralumla: Tuesday

6pm-6.30pm; Saturday

5.15pm-5.45pm

Yass: Saturday 10am;

5pm-5.15pm

Young: Saturday 10am