

# Fined for praying the Rosary

By Matthew Biddle

EIGHT Canberra Catholics, including a priest of the Archdiocese, received an official police warning on April 15 for allegedly breaching the exclusion zone around the ACT Health Centre in Civic.

The group, which has held weekly pro-life prayer vigils outside the facility for more than 17 years, was gathered outside PJ O'Reilly's Irish Pub on West Row when police asked them to move elsewhere. Seventy-five-year-old Kerry Mellor decided not to move from the location, and was consequently fined \$750.

The Health (Patient Privacy) Amendment Act 2015 Bill, introduced in the ACT Legislative Assembly by Greens Minister Shane Rattenbury and passed on October 29, established the exclusion zones, which came into effect on March 22.

The Bill prohibits behaviour that attempts to stop a person from entering the building, as well as "a protest, by any means... in relation to the provision of abortions" in the facility.

Mr Mellor, who has been attending the prayer vigils for the past 12 years, told *Catholic Voice* he was convinced the police had made a mistake.

"We do not believe that we are protesting," he said.

"We are praying, which is directed exclusively to almighty God and his Blessed Mother. It's not a protest, it's a petition that God will act to change the hearts and minds of people.

"It's also an ancient tradition to pray for the dead, including the innocents killed here – we pray for their souls, and we make a small act of reparation for this horror committed in our midst, in our community."

Contrary to media reports, the pro-life group does not hand out anti-abortion material, nor do they engage in conversation with



Participants in the weekly prayer vigils outside the ACT Health Centre in Civic were given a police warning on April 15.

"I have made a formal request exclusion zone be clarified to all Christopher Prowse took part in parties. a prayer vigil outside the facility

"We've had conflicting advice, which makes it hard for everyone," he said. "It's in the interests of

# "It's not a protest, it's a petition that God will act to change the hearts and minds of people."

each Friday morning.

health centre.

Mr Mellor said he had taken legal advice, and would not be paying the \$750 fine, which could lead to a trial in the ACT Magistrates Court.

individuals entering or leaving the

Rather, the group recites 15

decades of the Rosary, a litany for

life, and several concluding prayers

behaviour' in the legislation. I'm awaiting the outcome," he said.

the basis that our quiet prayer

cannot possibly be interpreted as

any of the types of 'prohibited

ng Mr Mellor also said it was imba portant that the official interpretart. tion of the rules in relation to the Las

police, as much as in our own, to have clear definitions of what the law says we can do, and what it says we can't do."

tial in the ACT Magistrates Court. tion of the rules in relation to the Last year Archbishop WINNER OF THE 2015 ACPA AWARD FOR BEST NEWSPAPER

PHOTO: MATTHEW BIDDLE

Christopher Prowse took part in a prayer vigil outside the facility during the annual '40 Days for Life' campaign.

Later, after the Bill establishing the exclusion zones was passed, he described the legislation as "cold and clinical".

"It completely ignores the complexity of the abortion issue itself," he said at the time.

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

# ARCHBISHOP Christopher's Diary



May 1st 11am Mass - St Christopher's Cathedral

#### May 3rd

6.30pm Guinness and God - King O'Malley's Irish Pub, Civic

#### May 4th

10am Council of the Seminary of the Good Shepherd - Sydney

#### May 5th-12th

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Plenary meeting - Sydney

#### May 14th

6pm Mass - Holy Spirit Parish, Gungahlin

### May 15th

I lam Confirmation Mass -St Christopher's Cathedral

#### May 16th-19th

Clergy Assembly - Galong

#### May 20th

9.30am CSYMA National Conference - St Edmund's College, Canberra

# May 21st

6pm Mass - St Augustine's Parish, Yass

### May 22nd

10.30am Mass for the anniversary of the dedication of St John the Evangelist Chapel - John XXIII College, ANU, Canberra

#### May 25th

7pm RCIA formation -Rheinberger Centre, Yarralumla

#### May 26th

9am Council of Priests meeting -Archbishop's House

**May 28th** 6pm Mass - St Jude's Parish, Holder

#### May 29th

I Iam Mass and blessing of World Youth Day pilgrims - St Christopher's Cathedral 6.30pm Vespers - St Christopher's Cathedral



ARCHBISHOP'S MESSAGE ARCHBISHOP CHRISTOPHER PROWSE

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

Pope Francis has published his much awaited apostolic exhortation, 'Amoris Laetitia'.

This is of particular importance to the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn. We have now begun our second year of focussing on marriage and family life in our Archdiocesan Assemblies. The first Regional Assembly has taken place and others are planned during the year.

We rejoice that we can now join the universal Church in reflecting and planning ahead at deeper levels for the support of marriage and family life in our Archdiocese.

Clearly, the very first action is for as many as possible to read the Papal document. It is a long document (257 pages) but highly accessible. Pope Francis is known

#### for his pastoral tone in all he says and writes. It will be of great interest to us all. Could I suggest that perhaps parishes and communities consider section by section over a period of time and reflect prayerfully with each other.

Pope Francis explains his aims in writing the document: "I thought it appropriate to prepare a post-synodal apostolic exhortation to gather the contributions of the

Pope Francis presents the aims and purposes of marriage and family life in a compassionate manner.

Introducing 'The Joy of Love'

two recent synods on the family, while adding other considerations as an aid to reflection, dialogue and pastoral practice, and as a help and encouragement to families in their daily commitments and challenges," (n.4).

He adds: "It is my hope that, in reading this text, all will feel called to love and cherish family life, for 'families are not a problem, they are first and foremost an opportunity'," (n.7).

The first chapter offers a biblical reflection. This is followed by a detailed examination of the

### FEAST DAY OF THE MONTH

**St Athanasius** May 2

St Athanasius, the great champion of the faith was born at Alexandria, about the year 296, of Christian parents. Educated under the eye of Alexander, later Bishop of his native city, he made great progress in learning and virtue. In 313, Alexander succeeded Achil-



las in the Patriarchal See, and two years later St Athanasius went to the desert to spend some time in retreat with St Anthony. In 319, he became a deacon, and even in this capacity he was called upon to take an active part against the rising heresy of Arius, an ambitious priest of the Alexandrian Church who denied the divinity of Christ. This was to be the life struggle of St Athanasius. In 325, he assisted his Bishop at the Council of Nicaea, where his influence began to be felt. Five months later Alexander died. On his death bed he recommended St Athanasius as his successor. In consequence of this, Athanasius was unanimously elected Patriarch in 326. His refusal to tolerate the Arian heresy was the cause of many trials and persecutions for St Athanasius. He spent 17 of the 46 years of his episcopate in exile. After a life of virtue and suffering, this intrepid champion of the Catholic faith, the greatest man of his time, died in peace on May 2, 373. St Athanasius was a Bishop and Doctor of the Church.

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actual reality of today's "patchwork" families. Then there is a summary offered of the Church's teaching on marriage and family. Two particularly beautiful chapters are then given as a reflection on love. They are like a handbook on the meaning and purpose of love and intimacy. There follows a chapter on some pastoral issues and the loving care of children. Finally, the document concludes

with sections on accompanying, discerning, and integrating weakness and spirituality.

There is no lack of topical issues that Pope Francis comments upon. These include, birth control (42), sexual abuse of children (45), disability and migrants (47), euthanasia (48), addictions (51), same-sex unions(52, 251), surrogacy (54), role of father (55), gender identity (56), birth regulation (82), mothers (102), forgiveness (107), virginity (161), celibacy (162), adoption (179), elderly (191), grandparents (192), domestic violence (204),

### May Feast Days

2 May St Athanasius 3 May Sts Philip and James 8 May THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD 12 May Sts Nereus and Achilleus; St Pancras 13 May Our Lady of Fatima 14 May St Matthias 18 May St John I 20 May St Bernadine of Siena 21 May St Christopher Magallanes and companions 22 May THE MOST HOLY TRINITY 24 May OUR LADY HELP **OF CHRISTIANS** 

25 May St Bede the Venerable; St Gregory VII; St Mary Magdalene de Pazzi

26 May St Philip Neri 27 May St Augustine of

Canterbury

29 May THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

31 May The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

parishes (229), families (230), divorced and separated (242-246), death of loved one (253), and conscience (303).

Particularly in our Year of Mercy, we find that Pope Francis presents the aims and purposes of marriage and family life in a compassionate manner. He avoids a language that condemns. Rather, he champions the presentation of the Lord's mercy as a healing balm for all with problems. As he states "... the Church is not a tollhouse; it is the house of the Father, where there is a place for everyone, with all their problems," (n.310).

So, may I encourage you now to take up the document and read it thoroughly. Reflect deeply on it. May our Archdiocesan gatherings be enriched by the depth of this wonderful document from our fatherly Pope. Let us be guided by a key phrase in *Amoris Laetitia*: "It is a matter of reaching out to everyone," (n.297).

Easter blessings to you and all your families, especially those who struggle and are vulnerable. Please pray for me sometimes.

> Archbishop Christopher Prowse Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn



EDITOR: Matthew Biddle catholic.voice@cg.org.au Ph. (02) 6163 4300

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

www.cgcatholic.org.au

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# Senator: Let your views on marriage be heard

#### BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

WITH Australia on the verge of a national plebiscite on the issue of same-sex marriage, it's important for individuals to "stand up for what they believe in", according to ACT Liberal Senator Zed Seselja.

Senator Seselja spoke to parishioners of St Thomas the Apostle Church in Kambah recently, on the topic of Why we should support marriage'.

Speaking to Catholic Voice after the event, Senator Seselja said his main message was to encourage those present to speak about issues that they feel strongly about.

"It's not about convincing people of a particular case, it's about giving them the encouragement and tools to be involved and to be part of a public discussion, because I think there are many in the community who feel that a lot

# Members of Mary's army renew their consecration

BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

ABOUT 40 members of the Legion of Mary in the Archdiocese gathered for the annual consecration Mass on April 2 at St Joseph's Church in O'Connor.

The group were joined by Fr Bill Kennedy and Fr Laurie Foote OP, who led the customary Legion prayers before celebrating Mass for the occasion.

The prayers began with the Rosary, followed by a short address by Fr Bill on the history and development of the Legion of Mary.

He spoke about the life of Frank Duff, founder of the Legion of Mary, who was first an active member of the St Vincent de Paul Society.

"When he had that first meeting in Dublin, it was called 'Our Lady's Confraternity of Mercy', and so for many years it was known as that," Fr Bill explained.

"Later, Frank had the idea of a legion, like the Roman legion of soldiers going out on behalf of the Emperor.

"But this is Mary's army set in battle array."

The Legion of Mary also adapted some of the characteristics of the Roman legion, Fr Bill said.

"The Roman soldiers carried their banner with the Roman eagle at the top," he said. "Frank replaced that with the Holy Spirit, the dove."

In adapting another article used in the Roman Legion of old, the of issues are just too big," he said. "But it all starts with individuals or groups making decisions to be

involved." The 39-year-old said he would be happy to speak at other parishes in the Canberra region.

"I'm always sensitive when I go to churches or community groups that I'm not there to deliver an overtly political message, certainly not a partisan message," he said.

"It's more about enlivening our community to be involved, to consider the big public policy questions that are in front of us, and churches have a really important and legitimate role to play in that."

The former leader of the Liberal Party in the ACT said there were numerous ways individuals could get involved in political matters and ensure that their voices are heard.

"I think getting informed is important, and secondly, communicating with your elected representatives," he said.

"You should do it in as personal a way as possible. While an email is good, particularly if it's a personally-drafted email rather than a mass-produced email, a hand-written note is better.

"A phone call is good as well, and obviously if you can grab your local representative when they're at a local shopping centre or out and about in the community, then that's a really good way of doing it."

Further, engaging in discussion with family members, friends, and work colleagues is equally important.

"The more people who stand up for what they believe in, the more others in the community who feel the same way will feel encouraged to do so as well," Senator Seselja said.



Senator Zed Seselja says it's important for individuals to have their say on matters they feel strongly about. PHOTO: ONLINE



A member of the Legion of Mary in the Archdiocese places her hand on the Vexillum while reciting part of the consecration to Our Lady on April 2. The Legion is the largest apostolic organisation of lay people in the Church. PHOTO: MATTHEW BIDDLE

Legion of Mary applies the word the Church on a voluntary basis 'tessera' to the three-panelled by performing some active work leaflet containing the prayers of the Legion.

After Fr Bill's address, members processed to the Vexillum, placed one hand upon it, and recited the words from the consecration to Our Lady: "I am all yours, my Queen, my Mother, and all that I have is yours".

The group then recited the full consecration prayer, as well as the Catena Legionis before Mass.

The Legion of Mary is an association of Catholics who serve each week such as visiting hospitals, nursing homes and prisons and providing instruction in the faith to both children and adults.

It was founded in Ireland in 1921, and draws its inspiration from the book, True Devotion to Mary, written by St Louis de Montfort.

There are more than 10 million active and auxiliary members of the Legion of Mary, making it the largest apostolic organisation of lay people in the Church.

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# 4 LOCAL

# MGLs still growing, 30 years after foundation

### By Matthew Biddle

THIRTY years after their foundation, the Missionaries of God's Love (MGL) are embarking on another expansion in Canberra to meet the steady increase in vocations.

The religious congregation's headquarters in Garran, ACT, will be extended to provide a large classroom, 10 extra bedrooms, and

# "I am thankful for the way that God has worked in the hearts of young men, way beyond my expectations."

other facilities, at a cost of about \$800,000.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse officially blessed the construction site on April 2, at the conclusion of a special Mass to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the congregation.

Fr Ken Barker MGL, the congregation's founder and moderator, said 2016 was a particularly special year for the entire community, and an opportunity to reflect upon the



Above, Archbishop Christopher Prowse blesses the site of the Missionaries of God's Love novitiate house extensions. Fr Ken Barker MGL, top right, said the congregation is hoping to open another mission house in Australia. PHOTOS: MATTHEW BIDDLE; ONLINE

many blessings of the past three decades.

"I am thankful for the way that God has worked in the hearts of young men, way beyond my expectations, and way beyond anything that I could have produced or thought up," he said.

"It's all God's grace, in this day and age, and in this particular time of the Church, that he would raise up young men of this calibre to give their hearts to God.

"I'm also thankful for the many people who have been contributors



along the way, in so many different ways."

Fr Ken said six young men were on the verge of ordination presently, demonstrating the congregation's growth.

"We're hoping to open up another mission here in Australia as well as maybe another one overseas," he said.

The MGLs are a consecrated group within a Catholic charismatic covenant community, the Disciples of Jesus. In 2014 the congregation was formally recognised by the Vatican as a religious institute of diocesan right.

To support the MGL Novitiate House building appeal by making a financial donation, contact Fr Ken Barker MGL: (02) 6281 0132 or frkenmgl@gmail.com. All donations are tax deductible.



# **ST BENEDICT'S MISSION CENTRE (MGL)**



# Commission seeks to foster a 'rich liturgical life'

#### By Matthew Biddle

SERVICE at the altar and Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion were two of the topics discussed by the new Archdiocesan Liturgical Commission (ALC) during their first meeting for 2016 on February 25.

The Commission is made up of five members appointed by Archbishop Christopher Prowse – Fr Warrick Tonkin (chair), Jenny Anderson, Stephen Kirk, Jaki Kane and Sharon Brewer – and will meet five times throughout the year.

On January 27, the ALC's newly revised terms of reference were agreed upon, providing the Commission with clear objectives and roles.

The ALC's executive officer Sharon Brewer told *Catholic Voice* parishes and individuals were welcome to bring any liturgical concerns to the Commission's attention.

"My role is to deal with the day-to-day public questions, and if it is a matter of policy or if it's a significant discussion, then I'll take it to the Commission for them to perhaps advise on," she said.

"For example, I could get

phone calls asking what's the best music for a funeral, or why there's no eulogy in the middle of the funeral Mass."

At the Commission's first meeting for the year, brief discussion took place about the need for some liturgical training regarding ministries involving the distribution of the Eucharist and service at the altar.

Further, regarding liturgical music, the possibility of teaching one or two Mass settings across the Archdiocese was discussed.

The ALC has also decided to review the current model used in the Archdiocese for celebrating a Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion in the absence of a priest.

The lay members of the ALC, who are appointed for a three-year term, have had significant experience or training in the field of Catholic liturgy.

South Tuggeranong parishioner Jenny Anderson completed a Certificate IV in Pastoral Liturgy at the Catholic Institute of Sydney in 2003, and in 2011 she was conferred in her Masters of Theology with a Distinction in Liturgy. Jaki Kane has been the music director at St Christopher's Cathedral for the past 20 years, and has completed a Bachelor's degree in music with honours at the Australian National University.

Stephen Kirk has been involved in music ministry in the Church since 1994, leading and directing music for several large events, such as last year's Australian Catholic Youth Festival.

The stated purpose of the ALC is to "assist the Archbishop on matters pertaining to Catholic liturgical worship. The ALC seeks to foster a rich liturgical life within the Archdiocese where local communities are informed, supported and challenged".

It is required to acquaint itself with the state of liturgical activity in the Archdiocese; be aware of liturgical activities in other appropriate places; advise on the implementation of proposals; suggest initiatives to promote pastoral liturgical action; and strive for a mutual accord throughout the Archdiocese in matters of liturgy.

To contact the ALC, call Sharon Brewer on (02) 6163 4300 or email sharon.brewer@cg.org.au.

# Lively discussion at first Assembly

### BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

THE challenges of marriage and family life in today's world were eagerly discussed by participants at the Monaro Deanery Assembly held at the Uniting Church Hall in Cooma on April 16.

About 50 Catholics representing parishes in Jindabyne, Nimmitabel, Bombala, and Cooma attended the first of the five regional deanery assemblies planned for 2016.

While the hot-button issues often highlighted by the media - the Church's position on marriage and divorced and remarried couples were a source of lively discussion, other topics, such as living with family members struggling with mental illness, were also raised.

During his keynote address, Archbishop Christopher Prowse stressed the importance of demonstrating the joys of marriage and family life to the wider community. "Using a football image, are we

boundary umpires or the coach?" he asked.

"The boundary umpire's job is to say whether the ball's in or out... so do we say that's right, that's wrong, that's regular, that's irregular, that's moral, that's immoral - do we end up spending all our time doing that?

"Or are we the coach? Encouraging people to grow in the game, letting them know what the game is about."

Married couples in today's world are "like a living Gospel" the Archbishop added, providing others with a wonderful example of true love.

"Marriage is the best arrangement that humanity's ever come up with," he said. "It's not just a Catholic ideal, it's a human ideal."

The ideal of marriage needs to be fully understood before we can discuss the challenges to marriage, Archbishop Christopher said.

"I want us to start where there's wounds, where there's vulnerability," he said.

"What can we do in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn a little bit more effectively, pastorally and practically, to assist people on



Above, Cooma parish priest Fr Mick MacAndrew speaks with participants of the Monaro Deanery Assembly on April 16. The event PHOTO: MATTHEW BIDDLE was the first of five similar meetings planned for 2016 in each Deanery.

this accompaniment, this healing and this conversion? How can we channel our resources to the vulnerable ones in marriage and family life?"

Following the Archbishop's address, participants discussed the topics raised with one another, before several individuals from the region presented short testimonies on mercy and forgiveness in their lives.

Later in the day, participants formed groups and examined what actions can be taken in parishes to make them places of mercy and to address the issues raised in discussions.

In his final remarks, Archbishop Christopher reminded those present that mercy involves two elements - forgiveness and a call to conversion.

"Jesus always called people to conversion, it wasn't just total acceptance," he said. "God kisses you first, then he asks you to do something better, not the other way around. Let's not forget that second part."

The Northern Deanery Assembly will be held on April 30.



Archbishop Christopher Prowse told participants of the Monaro Deanery Assembly that married couples are like a "living Gospel". PHOTO: MATTHEW BIDDLE

# CEOs to prepare their sleeping bags yet again

AN ANTICIPATED 150 of the region's business leaders will roll out their sleeping bags at Questacon, the National Science and Technology Centre, next month for the 2016 Vinnies CEO Sleepout.

The St Vincent de Paul Society's Canberra/Goulburn CEO Paul Trezise said the funds raised will help people who are homeless, as well as helping to find ways to stop the slide into homelessness.

# Parishes to take part in national church survey later this year

#### BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

EVERY parish in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn will take part in the National Church Life Survey (NCLS) later this year.

It will be the first time the entire Archdiocese participates in the survey, which takes place every five years. In 2011 an estimated 22 parishes took part.

Archdiocesan coordinator of parish pastoral support Sharon Brewer said parishes would conduct the survey individually during a set period of time when parishioners are gathered for Mass.

"All the paperwork comes to the parish directly," she explained.

"They will have three weeks to do the survey, the last week of October and the first two weeks of November. It will take about 20 minutes."

From the data gathered, the NCLS will produce parish reports, which will likely be available in early 2017.

"The survey aims to provide parishes with data that can be used to check the 'health' of a parish and to focus attention on those areas that will assist in building up the Body of Christ at a local level," Ms Brewer said.

"It can really change how a parish thinks about their mission."

It is expected that about 400,000 church-goers from more than 20 denominations around Australia will take part in the survey. It will be the sixth time the survey has been conducted, with the first survey held in 1991.

NCLS Research national director Ruth Powell said the survey would ask questions to help map the Australian church landscape, as well as helping local churches to reflect on their own vitality.

"We also want to find the lighthouse churches, those that are being innovative," she said.

"We hope to meet the needs of many parts of the church, including schools and agencies by gathering information that is helpful for their mission objectives."

NCLS Research is also considering the possibility of participants completing the survey online.

For more information about the NCLS, contact Sharon Brewer (sharon.brewer@cg.org.au) or clergy representative Fr John Armstrong (john.armstrong@cg.org.au).



Canberra business leaders will once again raise money for homelessness services by participating in the 2016 Vinnies CEO Sleepout in June.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

"One night of uncomfortable and disruptive sleep has a huge impact on you the next day, your alertness and mood is severely impacted," Mr Trezise said.

"Imagine sleeping like that for weeks, months and even years.

"This practical experience for CEOs gives them some insight into how hard it can be to hold a job, continue study or even keep a family and relationship together if you're homeless.

The St Vincent de Paul Society is aiming to raise \$400,000 from this year's Sleepout event to help deliver their services across Canberra and Goulburn to people at risk and currently experiencing homelessness.

# 6 LOCAL

# Calvary's 'hospital for the future'

A NEW Calvary private hospital, scheduled to open in July 2017 and costing nearly \$70 million, will double the number of beds available on the Bruce ACT campus.

The existing Calvary Private Hospital, established 28 years ago within the Calvary Public Hospital, will be returned to the public hospital giving it extra beds.

The new hospital, which is being funded by Calvary, will open as a 94-bed facility with 74 surgical and medical beds, 12 dedicated post-natal beds and an eight-bed CCU/High Dependency Unit. It will have the capacity to expand to 156 beds.

Calvary chair John Watkins, who hosted a site blessing and turning of the sod on March 22, described it as "a hospital for the future" with eight state-ofthe-art operating theatres for a range of procedures from day surgery to complex surgery in digital operating suites, along with private single rooms with hotel-like ensuites.

# Calvary chair John Watkins described it as "a hospital for the future".

More than 350 jobs will be created during construction. Once built, the hospital will offer 50 new full-time clinical and administrative positions.

An additional eight beds are planned for Calvary Private's existing private mental health clinic, Hyson Green.

A pedestrian bridge will link the new hospital to the existing Calvary Public Hospital and Emergency Department.

Founded by the Sisters of the Little Company of Mary, Calvary is a charitable, Catholic health care organisation that has been operating in Australia for more than 130 years.

In the ACT, Calvary operates a comprehensive array of services and facilities, including Calvary Public and Private Hospitals at Bruce, Calvary John James Hospital, Calvary Haydon Retirement Community and Clare Holland House palliative care, with Calvary Community Care services available across Canberra.



Above, Calvary CEO Mark Doran, left, and Calvary chair John Watkins, right, at the soil turning and site blessing of the Calvary BrucePrivate Hospital on March 22. Below, an artist's impression of the new hospital.PHOTOS: SUPPLIED



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May 2016

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beads represent the rays of light of the

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between

divine

Covenant

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Every confessor must accept the faithful as the father in

the parable of the prodigal son. Confessors are called to

embrace the repentant son who comes home and to express

the joy of having him back again.

# Matt's mission to eradicate poverty

#### **BY SIOBHAN REEVES**

WALKING 4,500km across Australia while bouncing an AFL football the entire way is no mean feat, yet Canberra man Matt Napier is aiming to go one better in 2016.

In June, the 39-year-old will set off on a 2,250km walk through Africa while kicking a soccer ball, in an effort to again raise awareness about global poverty.

The three-month journey will commence in Walvis Bay, Namibia, and Mr Napier plans to pass through the Kalahari Desert, Botswana, and the northern part of South Africa, before finishing in Maputo, Mozambique.

While he won't know the language, Mr Napier said he was confident the soccer ball would help him connect with people along the way, particularly children.

"I have been to southern Africa before and they are such a generous and loving race of people," he said. "I won't be able to speak their language but we will be able to share the language of soccer. Sport is a very powerful tool bringing people together from all walks of life on a level playing field."

During his five-month walk across Australia in 2013, Mr Napier endured temperatures ranging from -8 to 45 degrees and went through six footballs and five pairs of shoes. But he said it was worth the effort.

"The most rewarding part was being able to get the message about poverty out to so many people," he explained.

"I spoke with thousands of school children and members of Parliament on how we all need to become better global citizens, by that I mean doing our fair share in helping the world's poor break the poverty cycle."

Mr Napier will be living under the poverty line during his journey across Africa, spending no more than \$1.50 each day on food to highlight how some 1.3 billion people survive around the world. "We will also be doing a docu-

mentary to highlight the fantastic work that organisations such as Oxfam, Care, Caritas and Fred Hollows have done over the last 25 years in halving extreme poverty and the reasons why some of the world's poor still can't break the poverty cycle," he said.

An active member of Mary Help of Christians Parish in South



South Woden parishioners Matt and Wendy Napier have embarked on several fundraising ventures in the past few years, in an effort to raise awareness of global poverty. Matt's PHOTO: SUPPLIED next mission is to walk 2,250km through Africa in June, kicking a soccer ball the whole way.

Woden, Mr Napier said the words of Scripture provide a strong indication of our duty towards the

poor. "The Catholic Church should be in solidarity with the poor," he said. "We as Catholics need to set an example for the rest of the world to follow, particularly when it comes to generosity to help the disadvantaged.

"Now is the time for the Catholic Church to stand up and lead the way when it comes to ending extreme poverty and show the world what being a Catholic is all about."

At a local level, Mr Napier and his wife Wendy run charity garage sales in Canberra once a month, where they sell unwanted goods donated by members of the local community.

The funds raised go towards a variety of projects in developing countries, such as maternal health care in Uganda, sustainable food sourcing for orphans in Zambia and a community bank in Malawi.

For more information about Mr Napier's journey or to follow his progress, visit: www.walktoabetterworld.com.

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# 8 NATION

# Bishops: Protect children from pornography

EXPOSURE to pornography harms children to such an extent it should be considered child abuse, Australia's Catholic bishops said in a recent call for action.

"Children have a right to be children, away from the pressures applied by advertising and other images on television and the internet for them to dress and act as mini-adults. Bombarding children with sexualised images can hurt their normal development," a commission of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference said in a statement to the Australian Senate committee submitted in March.

The committee was making an inquiry into the harm of internet pornography.

Australia's Catholic bishops said there is an obligation to protect families from pornography. They said pornography has become mainstream and is now "the wallpaper of young people's lives". They lamented sexualised images in advertising, music videos and computer games.

"Allowing children to be exposed to pornography is a form of abuse," the bishops said. "The Church has its own shameful history of child abuse and, particularly because of that terrible experience for victims, does not



Allowing children to be exposed to pornography is a form of abuse, say Australia's Catholic bishops. PHOTO: ADOBE STOCK

want to see other forms of abuse of children such as the harms from the increased availability of pornography."

They cited a link between children's exposure to pornography and their likelihood of becoming victims of sexual violence.

Many children are first exposed

to pornography before the age of 13, according to the studies the bishops cited.

Children exposed to pornography are more likely to agree with sexual relations before marriage, more likely to have sexual relations before their peers, and more likely to adopt risky sexual behaviour. They are more likely to regard women as sex objects and to molest other children.

"There is compelling evidence of the need for the Australian community to act to save children from this harm, but also to save the broader community from the harms of adults damaged in their childhood," the bishops said.

They also noted the Christian case against pornography, citing Jesus's words: "Everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart," (Matthew 5:28).

The bishops said pornography "harms the fabric of our community" and makes it more difficult for men and women to relate to each other in a mutually respectful and loving way. Pornography "objectifies people as less than real persons and offers a distorted view of relationships".

Where parents can't or won't act to protect children, the community has a duty to do so, they said.

The bishops suggested an internet filtering system, with an opt-out for adults, possibly inspired by the model in the UK. They advocated research on parental awareness of pornography's dangers for children and a public education program for parents on how to prevent pornography exposure.

The bishops' statement to Parliament was prepared by the Bishops Commission for Family, Youth and Life and signed by the commission's acting chair, Bishop Peter Comensoli of Broken Bay Diocese.



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A consecrated Host that fell to the floor and appeared to bleed in 2013 has been approved for veneration in Poland. PHOTO: ONLINE

# Bleeding Host in Poland 'has hallmarks of a Eucharistic miracle'

A BLEEDING Host that "has the hallmarks of a Eucharistic miracle" was approved for veneration in Poland recently.

The announcement was made by Bishop Zbigniew Kiernikowski of Legnica, a town in southwestern Poland, on April 17.

On Christmas Day 2013, a consecrated Host fell to the floor, the bishop said. It was picked up and placed in a container with water. Soon after, red stains appeared on the host.

Then-Bishop of Legnica, Stefan Cichy, created a commission to monitor the host.

In February 2014, a small fragment was placed on a corporal and underwent testing by various research institutes.

The final medical statement by the Department of Forensic Medicine found: "In the histopathological image, the fragments were found containing the fragmented parts of the cross striated muscle. It is most similar to the heart muscle".

Tests also determined the tissue to be of human origin, and found that it bore signs of distress.

Saying that the Host "has the hallmarks of a Eucharistic miracle", Bishop Kiernikowski explained that in January 2016 he presented the matter to the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

In April, in accordance with the Holy See's recommendations, he asked parish priest Andrzej Ziombrze "to prepare a suitable place for the Relics so that the faithful could venerate it".

- CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY

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# Rome's Trevi Fountain to be dyed red for martyrs

ON April 29, the Trevi Fountain, one of the most popular and emblematic tourist spots in Rome, was dyed red in recognition of all Christians who even today give their life for the faith.

The event was organised by Aid to the Church in Need and seeks to "call attention to the drama of anti-Christian persecution".

In a statement posted on their website, the aid group said they hoped the initiative will be "the start of a long lasting, concrete reaction everywhere so that the persecuted people of the 21st century can, as soon as possible, return to fully enjoying their natural right to religious freedom".

The organisers added that "the systematic violation of the right to religious freedom, especially that of Christians, must become the central issue of the public debate".

The Chaldean Catholic Bishop of Aleppo, Syria, Antoine Audo, and Cardinal Mauro Piacenza, the international president of Aid the Church in Need, spoke at the event.

Iraq and Syria are two of the countries where there is a severe



The famous Trevi Fountain in Rome, Italy.

persecution of Christians, with the Islamic State killing, enslaving and driving people out of their homes. Christians in Nigeria are also at risk from attacks by the militant group Boko Haram, while Christianity is illegal in countries including North Korea and Somalia.

Pope Francis has spoken frequently during his papacy on

PHOTO: ONLINE

modern-day martyrs. On April 7, the Pope called martyrs "the lifeblood of the Church".

"It is the witness of our martyrs of today – so many – chased out of their homeland, driven away, having their throats cut, persecuted, they have the courage to confess Jesus even to the point of death," he said.

- CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY

# Missionaries of the Sacred Heart LOOK. HEY BROKEN, JUST LIKE ME.

# **EVERYONE HAS A STORY.**

John was a young man in hospital who suffered from multiple psychiatric pathologies. He asked me to bring him communion after mass.

I opened the pyx and saw that the top host was cracked when I had previously closed the lid. I placed this host in his hand and he looked up at me and said:

"Look. He's broken, just like me".

I felt an overwhelming awe of God's presence and I was moved to tears as I realised he had captured in a few words all the theology of this Sacrament.

He taught me more in that moment than all the years of studying in the seminary, filling me with gratitude in seeing the broken Jesus here before me, both in the host and in John.

- Fr. Roy O'Neil msc

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# AMORIS LAETITIA

# 'THE JOY OF LOVE'

Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation contains no change to Church doctrine, but rather calls for better pastoral care...

ATHOLICS who have divorced-andremarried need the fullness of Church teaching. They also need a wise pastoral and community response to their difficulties that can help them grow in the Christian life, Pope Francis writes in his new document on love in the family.

"The Church's pastors, in proposing to the faithful the full ideal of the Gospel and the Church's teaching, must also help them to treat the weak with compassion, avoiding aggravation or unduly harsh or hasty judgements," the Pope said in *Amoris Laetitia*.

Pope Francis' highly anticipated post-synodal apostolic exhortation on the gifts and challenges of family life was published on April 8.

Titled *Amoris Laetitia*, or 'The Joy of Love', the document was presented to journalists in Italian, French, English, German, Spanish and Portuguese. Signed on March 19, the feast of St Joseph, the release of the document was delayed in order to allow time for its translation into other languages.

The apostolic exhortation is the conclusion of a two-year synod process discussing both the beauty and challenges of family life today. Hosted at the Vatican in 2014 and as domestic violence, incest and abuse within families, and marriage preparation.

Pope Francis acknowledged the attention generated by the synods, saying, "The debates carried on in the media, in certain publications and even among the Church's ministers, range from an immoderate labour, celebration and tears. The Pope spoke about sexuality within marriage and on the sometimes devastating effects of poverty and migration on families. He also touched on the importance of communication within the family, the challenges of raising children in a technology-saturated world,

# "As Christians, we can hardly stop advocating marriage simply to avoid countering contemporary sensibilities, or out of a desire to be fashionable or a sense of helplessness in the face of human and moral failings."

2015, these synods gathered hundreds of bishops from around the world.

While much of the Western secular media focused its coverage on homosexuality and the question of Communion for the divorcedand-civilly remarried, actual topics discussed in the meetings were much broader, with synod fathers touching on themes such desire for total change without sufficient reflection or grounding, to an attitude that would solve everything by applying general rules or deriving undue conclusions from particular theological considerations".

The wide-ranging document included Biblical reflections on family, as well as discussion of the family as a place of faith and and the witness of virginity.

Pope Francis devoted a substantial section of the document to the topic of educating children, observing, "The family is thus the place where parents become their children's first teachers in the faith". He also offered suggestions for improving marriage preparation programs, inviting engaged couples to consider a simple wedding and to set aside technological distractions.

In a world where many have lost respect for marriage and are delaying the union or choosing cohabitation instead, the Church must speak up, Pope Francis said.

"As Christians, we can hardly stop advocating marriage simply to avoid countering contemporary sensibilities, or out of a desire to be fashionable or a sense of helplessness in the face of human and moral failings," he reflected. "We would be depriving the world of values that we can and must offer."

At the same time, he said, "there is no sense in simply decrying present-day evils, as if this could change things. Nor is it helpful to try to impose rules by sheer authority. What we need is a more responsible and generous effort to present the reasons and motivations for choosing marriage and the family, and in this way to help men and women better to respond to the grace that God offers them".



Pope Francis takes a selfie with a newly married couple at the general audience in St Peter's Square on December 2, 2015.

Pope Francis praised the "indissolubility of marriage", saying that it "should not be viewed as a 'yoke' imposed on humanity, but as a 'gift' granted to those who are joined in marriage". He added that "divorce is an evil and the increasing number of divorces is very troubling".

In addition, he said that "divorced people who have not remarried, and often bear witness to marital fidelity, ought to be encouraged to find in the Eucharist the nourishment they need to sustain them in their present state of life".

In the document's introduction, Pope Francis wrote that "everyone should feel challenged by Chapter 8", which is titled 'Accompanying, discerning and integrating weakness'.

That chapter, which describes the Church as "a field hospital", discusses the pastoral care of the divorced-and-civilly-remarried, as well as those who cohabit and face other irregularities.

Pope Francis wrote that "it is a matter of reaching out to everyone, of needing to help each person find his or her proper way of participating in the ecclesial community". He emphasised that the divorced-and-remarried "can find themselves in a variety of situations" and that this variety requires discernment and accompaniment on the part of pastors.

The Pope voiced agreement with the Synod Fathers' observations that divorced-and-remarried Catholics need to be "more fully integrated into Christian communities... while avoiding any occasion of scandal". He restated that the divorced-and-remarried are not excommunicated, and quoted the Synod Fathers, who had said that "language or conduct that might lead them to feel discriminated against should be avoided". Care for these persons is not a weakening of Christian faith and belief in the indissolubility of marriage, but is rather "a particular expression of its charity", he said, again quoting the synod fathers.

While he affirmed the ideal of sacramental marriage in ministering to those in broken situations, the Pope also rejected a one-sizefits-all approach to individual cases.

Considering the "immense variety of concrete situations" that the divorced-and-remarried have put themselves in, he said, "it is

## "Jesus wants a Church attentive to the goodness which the Holy Spirit sows in the midst of human weakness."

understandable that neither the synod nor this exhortation could be expected to provide a new set of general rules... applicable to all cases".

Instead, he said, what is possible is "a responsible personal and pastoral discernment of particular cases" that would recognise varying degrees of responsibility and therefore varying consequences or effects.

This is also the case with admission to the sacraments of Confession and Communion, he said, due to mitigating factors that might reduce a person's culpability.

"Hence it can no longer simply be said that all those in any 'irregular' situation are living in a state of mortal sin and are deprived of sanctifying grace," Pope Francis said. "More is involved here than mere ignorance of the rule. A subject may... be in a concrete situation which does not allow him or her to act differently and decide otherwise without further sin."

Someone in such a situation of objective sin but without full culpability can grow in charity with the help of the Church, and "in certain cases, this can include the help of the sacraments", he noted. "I would also point out that the Eucharist 'is not a prize for the perfect, but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak'," he added, quoting from his 2013 apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*.

The Pope acknowledged the importance of fidelity to the Gospel, saying that "To show understanding in the face of exceptional situations never implies dimming the light of the fuller ideal, or proposing less than what Jesus offers to the human being".

He called it "reductive" in discernment merely "to consider whether or not an individual's actions correspond to a general law or rule".

"A pastor cannot feel that it is enough simply to apply moral laws to those living in 'irregular' situations, as if they were stones to throw at people's lives. This would bespeak the closed heart of one used to hiding behind the Church's teachings," he said.

Pope Francis professed understanding for those who prefer "a more rigorous pastoral care which leaves no room for confusion".

"But I sincerely believe that Jesus wants a Church attentive to the goodness which the Holy Spirit sows in the midst of human weakness, a mother who, while clearly expressing her objective teaching, 'always does what good she can, even if in the process, her shoes get soiled by the mud of the street'," he wrote.

- CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY



Amoris Laetitia was signed on March 19, before being released in several languages on April 8. PHOTO: DANIEL IBANEZ / CNA

# Exhortation a realistic examination of family life



Shawn and Branka van der Linden, pictured with their four children. The couple say Amoris Laetitia is both encouraging and challenging to married spouses and families. PHOTO: LOUI SESELJA

#### BY MATTHEW BIDDLE

CANBERRA couple Shawn and Branka van der Linden say Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation is a must-read for all married couples and families.

As the couple chosen to represent the Australian Catholic Marriage and Family Council in responding to *Amoris Laetitia*, the van der Lindens have found time to read the 257-page document in the past weeks while juggling family and work commitments.

"We really loved reading it," Shawn and Branka said. "It is such an encouragement to have a Church document speak in such a realistic way about the practical experience of family life.

"It is easy to read and so relevant to our actual lived experience."

Married for 17 years and with four children, the van der Lindens said *Amoris Laetitia* speaks to the ordinary Catholic family, clearly acknowledging that there is no such thing as a "perfect family".

"The Pope speaks about being very realistic about our limitations, imperfections and struggles as we try to live family life," they said. "He also talks about the importance of mothers and fathers and the unique and beautiful contribution that each makes in the life of the family."

Although the document provides profound reflections on God's vision for marriage, it also offers a challenge to married couples, parishes and Church administrators to discover more effective ways of supporting those preparing for marriage, the van der Lindens said.

"We feel that this is a great challenge as surely entry into the sacrament of marriage necessarily requires more than an ad hoc tick-the-box meeting or two prior to the wedding day," they said.

"On this point the Pope challenges us to focus on the 'quality' of the marriage preparation, and consider how it could be made more attractive as a kind of initiation to the sacrament of matrimony."

Further, the exhortation challenges spouses to go beyond their own immediate needs and seek to serve others.

"It is such an encouragement to have a Church document speak in such a realistic way about the practical experience of family life."

"It calls us to go outside of ourselves, outside of the comfort of our own families, to always be looking to the needs of those in the broader community, especially those who are doing it tough in some way," they said.

"Pope Francis affirms the Church's rich teaching on marriage throughout the document, and at the same time, calls on all of us to extend compassion and mercy towards everyone that we meet, and to be a Church that welcomes all."

"While it is quite a long document, it is not meant to be read in an entire sitting from cover to cover," Shawn and Branka said.

"Rather, it is meant to be read slowly and prayerfully. It can be picked up and digested a chapter at a time; at whatever pace the individual reader or couple can manage."

# FIFTY YEARS OF CURSILLO

In January 1966, 36 men took part in the first Cursillo weekend in the Archdiocese, held at Inveralochy, near Goulburn. Half a century later, more than 2,000 people have experienced Cursillo in this region, joining an extended family of Christian believers...

HIS year, a Catholic tradition and spiritual experience that originated on the Spanish island of Majorca celebrates its 50th anniversary within the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn

The Cursillo movement has contributed significantly to the growth and spiritual development of Catholics in the Archdiocese. It has also been the catalyst for other movements such as Kairos Prison Ministry, Marriage Encounter and Antioch

In many ways, the members of Cursillo in this Archdiocese have been instrumental in taking the movement to new places and lands. Teams from Canberra and Goulburn have been sent to outreach to Wagga Wagga, Wollongong and Bathurst dioceses and have been part of larger teams introducing Cursillo to Darwin, Perth, Auckland and American Samoa. Local members were also involved in the first Anglican Cursillo in Australia, held in Goulburn in 1979.

The milestone will be marked with a celebration Mass at St Christopher's Cathedral, followed by lunch and social gathering on Sunday, October 23; as well as a special spirituality weekend on October 28-30, looking at the teachings of Pope Francis and the role of Cursillo.

"We're having a celebration, to give thanks to the Lord for the many blessings the Cursillo movement has given to individuals, families, parishes and the Archdiocese in the past 50 years," Merran Martin, the president for the Canberra and Goulburn Cursillo movement, said.

"Our celebrations are also a time for us to stop and give thanks for the hard work and sacrifice of all those people who came before us. We acknowledge and thank the pioneers of the Cursillo movement in our Archdiocese, the bishops and clergy who have championed it, and today's leaders who continue to make it available.'

Cursillo is a Spanish word meaning "short course" - in this case, a short course in Christianity. The Cursillo movement began in Spain in 1948.

In 1965, the first English-speaking Cursillo in Australia took place in Armidale, NSW. The first Cursillo conducted in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn followed in January 1966. It was a men's Cursillo held at St Michael's Agricultural College, Inveralochy, on the Tarago Road, about 24km from Goulburn.

Fr Lou Heriot from Melbourne was the spiritual director. Thirtysix men participated, including 11 team members, led by John Cooney. Among the participants was Tim Cobham, who would later become a significant driving force in the establishment of the movement in the Archdiocese.

The second men's Cursillo weekend held in the Archdiocese took place in October 1966, at Mount St Eymard Monastery, Bowral. The entire team of eight were raw rookies who had only made one Cursillo. Fr Joe Rheinberger had been appointed as spiritual director of the movement for the Archdiocese and had been sent to make a Cursillo in Sydney. Tim Cobham was lay director.

In December 1968, the first women's Cursillo weekend in the Archdiocese, run by a team from Sydney, was held at Ursula College at the Australian National University.

The movement continued to grow, particularly throughout the 1970s and 1980s, and it became well established in the Western Deanery. Cursillo weekends were also held in the Northern and Coastal Deaneries. The first Cursillos for both men and women in the Monaro Deanery were held at the old convent in Cooma in 1989. Most influential during this period was the leadership of Fr Harry Morrissey, parish priest of Kippax, where the movement became very strong.

"Since these early beginnings, it is estimated that there have been well over 200 Cursillo weekends held in the Archdiocese with more than 2,000 people undertaking a Cursillo weekend including priests, deacons, religious and lay people," Mrs Martin savs.

The Archdiocese has also hosted three 'National Encounters', during which Cursillo delegates from other Australian dioceses gather for the sharing of ideas and friendship. The most recent National Encounter occurred in October 2015.

While the Cursillo movement s essentially a movement of lav people, the continued support and active involvement of priests have been key elements in the continued growth of the movement, according to Mrs Martin.

"The Cursillo experience helps move faith from the head to the heart as it encourages greater commitment to Christ and the living out of faith in everyday life," she says.

"It is significant that the Cursillo movement does not expect participants to undertake any specific work or ministry, but instead empowers

individuals to choose their own area of action, according to their own gifts and preferences in the environments in which they live and move."

Cursillo retreats take the form of a three-day weekend, normally from Thursday evening through to Sunday afternoon. The weekend includes brief presentations, given by both lay people and clergy, and provides an opportunity for the participants to take time out for prayer, discussion, reconciliation and reconnecting with Christ. The weekend also provides an opportunity to meet people with the same interest in developing a deeper relationship with Christ.

John Duck undertook his Cursillo in January 1976 at Blackfriars Priory, Watson, ACT. He still remembers the experience 40 years later.

"Apart from marriage, Cursillo has been the singularly most

significant, life-changing experience of my life," he says.

"Cursillo led me to take a more active role in my parish and at the Archdiocesan level. In fact, from being an extremely introverted and shy one of which was Catholic members being on their first few teams. "I had the privilege of being on two such teams," Mr Duck recalls.

"As the sole Catholic member, I

was way out of my comfort zone

weekend is encouraged to continue to meet with others in a group reunion to stay on track with practices of prayer, study and action. Group reunions are an important aspect of the Cursillo movement and provide

"In the end, I was a reluctant person who found a community... of likeminded people from right across the Canberra and Goulburn Archdiocese who have been prepared to share their innermost thoughts and feelings with me. What a privileged journey it has been."

person in public I ended up facilitating live-in weekends for various groups throughout the Archdiocese in the 1980s."

In the late 1970s the Anglican community asked the Catholic Cursillo community for assistance in establishing Cursillo in their diocese. This support took several forms,

but was made to feel welcome from the first training meeting. I was overwhelmed by the way the community supported me throughout, knowing I was the odd one out in the group. I regard those two experiences as among some of the best moments in my privileged life."

Each person who makes a Cursillo

ongoing support and encouragement. The Cursillo movement in the Archdiocese also hosts monthly gatherings called 'Ultreyas', for people who have already attended a Cursillo weekend.

Mr Duck says the benefits of Cursillo would not have happened without the support of a special group of men.



"They walked the journey with me for some 30 years sharing each other's joys, hopes and sad times," he savs

"They supported one another through serious illnesses, the deaths

of four of the group, long-term illnesses of spouses, divorce, separation, troubled children - you name it, we were there for one another. But there was also plenty of time for jokes and laughter over a cuppa. "In the end, I was a reluctant person who found a community and not just a local community but



Left, participants from all over Australia gathered in Canberra last October for the Cursillo National Encounter. Above, local members of Cursillo enjoying the dinner held at the 2015 National Encounter. Right, the first women's Cursillo weekend in the Archdiocese was held in December 1968, at the Australian National University's Ursula College. Since then, more than 200 Cursillo weekends have been held in the Archdiocese, with more than 2,000 people taking part. The Cursillo movement originated in Spain in 1948, and involves a 'short course' in Christianity. Since its beginnings, Cursillo has spread to numerous countries around the world.

PHOTOS: SUPPLIED

a community of like-minded people from right across the Canberra and Goulburn Archdiocese who have been prepared to share their innermost thoughts and feelings with me. What a privileged journey it has been.'

Joy Harmer undertook her Cursillo weekend 36 years ago with three ladies from her parish, and still recalls it with great fondness and gratitude.

"I thank God that I have belonged to the Canberra and Goulburn Cursillo family for 36 years," she savs.

"Back then it was a particularly sad and difficult time in my life.

"So many beautiful people have loved, nourished, encouraged, laughed and cried with me and shared their faith along this journey. Through Cursillo, I have met wonderful, faith-filled people throughout



the Archdiocese in Canberra, on the Monaro, down the Coast, in the Western Deanery and in Goulburn."

Jo Rummery was invited to attend a Cursillo at the former St Michael's Novitiate in Goulburn in 1990 at a challenging time in her life.

"Cursillo and the prayerful support of its people helped me when my husband Paul and I were trying to make important decisions while discerning his journey towards ordination to the permanent diaconate," she savs.

"I won't ever forget members of my Cursillo family who were there for us among our family and friends at his ordination with their prayers and letters of encouragement. We had to let go and let God work within us into a life of giving and receiving. We truly discovered the love of Christ, receiving it through the giving."

While the movement has a long and proud history in the Archdiocese, it's important that it continues to grow and flourish in the years ahead.

"We must continue the work of the pioneers of the Cursillo movement in the Archdiocese," Mrs Martin says. "For Cursillo to flourish in the 21st century, the movement needs to embrace the laity, Church, liturgy, priests and religious of today and not just the best memories of vesterday.'

On Sunday, October 23, a special Mass will be celebrated at St Christopher's Cathedral at 11 am followed by lunch at St Benedict's Parish in Narrabundah, to celebrate Cursillo's 50th anniversary. For catering purposes, please RSVP by October 10 to Joe Jambor: irmandjoe@gmail com. All who have experienced a Cursillo weekend as well as their family and friends are invited to join in the celebrations.



Professor John Haldane spoke on the topic of 'Sex and society' recently in Canberra, where he discussed the problems arising from a cultural preoccupation with sex

PHOTO: ONLINE

# Professor: 'Culture is destroying itself'

# Leading Catholic philosopher John Haldane says the cultural preoccupation with sex is a grave threat...

EX (has) acquired an ideological edge... removed from the creation of children", renowned philosopher Professor John Hal-

dane told a crowd of almost 100 at the Holy Faith Hall in Campbell on March 31, during a public lecture on the topic of 'Sex and society'.

Professor Haldane is one of the world's foremost intellectuals. He is the J Newton Rayzor distinguished chair in Philosophy at Baylor University, USA. He is also professor of moral philosophy and co-director of the Centre for Ethics, Philosophy and Public Affairs in the University of St Andrews, Scotland; visiting professor in the Centre for Character and Virtues in the University of Birmingham, England; permanent research fellow of the Centre for Ethics and Culture. University of Notre Dame, USA, and chair of the Royal Institute of Philosophy, London.

Professor Haldane was appointed by Pope Benedict XVI in 2005 as consultor to the Pontifical Council for Culture. He is also a member of the Pontifical Academy for Life and of the Pontifical Academy for Thomas Aquinas.

During his presentation, Professor Haldane spoke eloquently on the history of modern society's obsession with sex, noting the effects of the world wars on the family.

"The legacy of [the wars] was that families were broken," he said. "The world began to party because it had lost its hope in anything else.

"People looked in a direction to try to find something that would provide them with some kind of satisfaction and fulfilment, and I think sex began to take on that role in people's lives."

The ensuing fatalism that crept into Western society with the threat of nuclear annihilation, combined with the advent of contraception, societal acceptance of abortion, lives might have been the quest for religious meaning or some other kind of existential meaning, becomes set aside as a quest just for sexual fulfilment."

Professor Haldane noted a "sexual schizophrenia" in society, where paedophilia is held to be severely distasteful yet the sexualisation of children, particularly girls, in advertising and entertainment, is accepted.

"The whole pornography industry is seeking to drive down the age at which they can depict people explicitly in sexual activity, and parents are sexualising their manifestation of bad cultural conscience, we have a lot of guilt and uncertainty about what we're doing sexually and so we need a scapegoat and the paedophile emerges as the guilty party.

"But notice that at the very same time we condemn somebody for their sexual interest in children... we're also producing all of this imagery, which is sexualising those very children".

Professor Haldane discussed the international lobby movements for polyamory and polygamy and on the Genetic Sexual Attraction movement, noting that these are

"[Other innovations] are coming, I don't think there's any doubt about that. People in this room today will live to see polyamorous and sibling marriage."

divorce had further detrimental effects.

"All of these combined to focus the culture's attention on sex... sex began to become casualised, it's taken outside of the context of marriage and the expectation of children, and that has just proceeded relentlessly," Professor Haldane said.

"Moreover, it's acquired an ideological edge as well, because now people for whom in an earlier age the quest for significance in their

and the introduction of no-fault own children, and at the same time logically coherent outcomes of a condemning people who have a sexual interest in children. I think this is schizophrenia," he said.

> "The reason we are so condemnatory of paedophilia is it's the one area in which it's still possible to make ethical judgements about sexuality. In every other sphere we've entered into the age of no judgement, there's nothing you can say in criticism of people's sexual practices and interests.

> "The one area that's left is paedophilia and I think that's a

perverse understanding of marriage, which started with no-fault divorce.

"Once you've departed from a certain conception of marriage and the family, a conception that sees the function of marriage existing as a social institution for the sake of the creation of children... there's no good principled ground on which to resist these other innovations," he said.

"I think they're coming, I don't think there's any doubt about that.

People in this room today will live to see polyamorous and sibling marriage."

Professor Haldane also made particular note of what he sees as the increasing eroticism, sentimentalism and consumerism in affluent Western societies that have changed how we think about personal relationships.

He described the movements to change the meaning of marriage as "bourgeois consumerism parading under the vanity of being radical thought".

When asked about his hope for the future, Professor Haldane said "the seeds of its own destruction are contained within it... it's going to get worse before it gets better".

"I think this culture is destroying itself, from the children up. The people who are the greatest victim of all of this are children," he added.

Professor Haldane is in Australia due to his appointment to a Visiting Professorship at The University of Notre Dame Australia. He is teaching a 13-week unit on the 'The Good Society, its Nature and Foundations' within the School of Philosophy and Theology.

Professor Haldane will deliver a public lecture in Sydney on May 12 on the subject 'The challenge of barbarianism and how to deal with it'. For more information, visit www.nd.edu.au/haldane.

# Goodness corrupted in the name of entertainment



I RANG home last week on my way to the cinema to say I was seeing the new *Batman v Superman* movie, only to hear my siblings screech, "DON'T DO IT". This seems dramatic until you read reviews of the movie, which are fuelled with spluttering rage.

People are angry that this socalled 'superhero' movie severely deviates from the traditional prescription of such a tale.

Superhero plots usually explore the clear positions of good and evil. They give people something to hope for and something good to cling to. This one, however, was muddy and dark, giving little promise that our hero was going to take care of us. Every character felt partly corrupt, and the plot seemed to feed on lies and distrust.

The film didn't fill me with the same patriotic rage as the hardcore comic fans experienced, but I still



The Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice film is a tale of darkness, distrust and unforgiveness

felt betrayed in being served a pseudo-superhero plot. Heaviness was stitched into all levels of society, with deception in the governments, the heroes not trusting each other and the personal integrity of our characters being called into question. Quite seriously, everything felt like it was tainted, and it was hard to know who to side with. I know they were trying to be edgy and entertaining, but this pervasive negativity felt toxic, reflecting a worrying part of our reality. It may seem trivial, but in fact moving away from the traditional plot for such darkness seems worse when you understand what negativity does to the brain. The human brain retains negative information (sounds, memories, thoughts and feelings) far easier than their positive counterpart. Our emotion centre, the amygdala, codes and remembers the negative emotion of fear more vividly than any other emotional experience. I bet you can recall the teasing comments PHOTO: ONLINE

from past years quicker than the affirmations.

Considering its neurological strength, acknowledging the toxic levels of negative stimulus surrounding us is confronting. Just consider modern news, music and humour - we didn't need our superhero plot infected too.

Christian researcher Dr Caroline Leaf has a PhD in Neuropsychology, and teaches on the toxicity of negative thoughts. She explains that a high percentage of our illnesses develop from our 'thought life', with fear being a huge contributor. Our thoughts affect us physically and emotionally, and yet we subject ourselves with toxic fuel for the fire.

In this respect, the film does us no favours. Our 'superheroes' are holding grudges towards each other, and the hatred coming from the villain is overwhelming. Forgiveness isn't mentioned and the film's general pathetic attitude is summed up by the quote, "No one stays good in this world". I'd rather not internalise that belief, thank you!

If negative thoughts and experiences have this much influence over us, I ask myself what I'm doing watching a film that dropped the empowering superhero tale to corrupt goodness in the name of entertainment.

I think it's still worth watching the *Batman v Superman* film, as the special effects are great and it's genuinely entertaining, but I do believe the director made some essential mistakes. We are in a time when being good is hard, and being a Catholic is harder. In trying to evolve and develop a new flavour, they robbed us of one thing we need most – goodness and a winning team to hold on to.

# Journalist/Editor Catholic Voice Newspaper

Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra Goulburn



Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn

### The Role

The Archdiocesan Journalist/Editor role is a full-time position operating within the Archdiocesan Communication team. This role is integral to the successful implementation of Archdiocesean communication, with the principal focus being on the Catholic Voice newspaper.

The purpose of the Catholic Voice newspaper is to *inform* from a Catholic perspective and to *form* the Catholic community. It is by virtue of these pursuits that the paper nourishes people's faith and spirituality.

### The Person

The successful candidate will be a self-starter with demonstrated journalistic experience and proven writing skills. Energetic and able to work independently and quickly, the successful candidate will be an effective team player who maintains high levels of personal organisation and commitment to assignments and tasks. They will be an all-rounder with a keen eye for detail and be able to put a story together with speed and style.

The successful candidate will have knowledge and commitment to the Catholic faith, along with an understanding of the evangelising mission of the Catholic Church.

To download a position description go to www.cgcatholic.org.au/positions-vacant/ For more information contact Jeanine Doyle 02 6163 4300 or jeanine.doyle@cg.org.au To apply, submit a cover letter and resume to maria.crowley@cg.org.au

## ST AUGUSTINE'S CATHOLIC PARISH, YASS Homes for Sale







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#### R MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Yass Valley Property: Andrew Curlewis Ph: 0429 669 635 andrew@yassvalleyproperty.com.au





# A National Eucharistic Pilgrimage in honour of Our Lady Help of Christians to pray for Australia and especially it's Government

Gear of Mercy Pigrimage to Canberra

# **Pilgrims are invited to** Canberra, Sunday 29 May **Feast of Corpus Christi**

MERCHER

Participate in the concluding 5km Eucharistic Procession, Sunday 29 May after 11am Mass at St Christopher's Cathedral processing to Archbishop's House (site of the proposed Basilica of Our Lady Help of Christians) afterwards enjoy a **BYO picnic lunch in the park** 





Sponsored by The Rosary Crusade The National Association of Catholic families & The Servants of Mary Help of Christians

#### for more information contact

Sydney: Mary Clare Meney 0435 496 624 Canberra: Brian Curtis 0419259177

Melbourne: Anne & John Tilley 03 9720 2934 Albury: Kathleen Horsfall 0403 788 281





A Blessing from Archbishop Prowse on leaving St Christopher's Cathedral

# CATHOLIC SCHOOLS & EARLY LEARNING CENTRES ENROLLING NOW 2-20 MAY

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cg.catholic.edu.au





A Catholic, co-educational, secondary school for all.

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# One big, happy family at Daramalan

DARAMALAN College was established by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSC) as a school for boys in 1962. Since then the College has gone through a number of significant changes and is now well established as a large Catholic co-educational school for students in Years 7 to 12.

One of the distinctive features of the College is the MSC ethos, 'Spirituality of the Heart', that provides a special element to all aspects of education at Daramalan as it underpins all of its practices and values. Students who come to Daramalan quickly embrace the concept of the Daramalan family where all are welcomed and provided with opportunities to grow into being people who know that they are loved by God and cared for by the staff who are strongly committed to their work and to on-going learning.

The Daramalan family concept is enhanced by the large numbers of former students who choose to send their children to the College, ensuring that the strong links that have been established since 1962 are maintained into the future.

Students come to Daramalan



Students during the annual charity walk, which raises funds for Caritas and the St Vincent de Paul Society. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

from all over Canberra and the surrounding areas. The College has a strong tradition as a school that caters for the needs and interests of a wide range of students and has excellent contemporary facilities and resources to support students in their learning and their holistic development. A significant building program over the past decade has created outstanding facilities for students and staff to engage in teaching and learning. In 2017 new science facilities will be opened. The College supports staff to

2017 COLLEGE ENROLMENTS NOW OPEN

undertake regular professional learning so they are well equipped to provide high quality teaching to students in their subject areas as well as in areas such as the effective use of technology and student well-being.

Social justice and community service programs are available to all students in addition to an extensive range of sporting, cultural and academic co-curricular opportunities. Performances by students in music, drama and dance and annual expos of student work in subjects such as fashion, furniture construction, photography and art enable students to showcase their learning and skills to their families and friends.

All students have retreat opportunities and leadership training is provided to help students develop into well-rounded young adults ready to play an active role in the broader community.

An information evening for all current Year 10 students and families who will be going into Year 11 next year will be held at the College on Thursday, May 19 from 7.30pm. So come along and see what Daramalan College can offer its College students.

# YEAR 11 & 12, 2017 ENROLMENTS NOW OPEN

We are now offering places to College students in 2017. Come along to the **Information Evening at 7.30pm Thursday** 

19 May 2016 for more information. Everyone welcome.

# DARAMALAN COLLEGE

FORTES IN FIDE

For enrolment enquiries please contact our Registrar on (02) 6245 6348 enrolments@daramalan.act.edu.au | www.daramalan.act.edu.au

# Man ...





A CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR BOYS

OPEN DAY | Sunday 1 May | 9am–12pm | Years 4–12 | maristc.act.edu.au | 🖪 🛩

#BeMarist

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# Living

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# Learning



**Open Evening** 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 All welcome Friday 13 May 9.00am – 2.30pm Tours 9.00am – 12noon 'Experience SFX'

# Enrolling NOW for Years 7 -12 www.sfx.act.edu.au



# UNIVERSITY

# EXPERIENCE



University Experience is a free program that gives you the opportunity to sample the degree of your choice. If you're in Year 10, 11 or 12, this is a perfect chance to:

- get a feel for our Canberra Campus
- learn about industries and careers
- meet ACU staff and current students
- hear helpful tips on preparing for university
- enjoy the entertainment and fun campus atmosphere

CANBERRA CAMPUS – TUESDAY 5 JULY CNR PHILLIP AVE AND ANTILL ST, WATSON

> register Online acu.edu.au/uni-exp

# 22 CLASSIFIEDS



# Classifieds

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

### TO RENT

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

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

BROULEE - Spectacular views near beach, six-bedroom, threebathroom house, two living areas, balcony with wonderful views, fully equipped, great for family groups, sleeps 14. Phone (02) 6257 1222; www.broulee beachhouse.com. CURRARONG, JERVIS BAY -Fantastic house with six bedrooms, two bathrooms and rumpus. Sleeping 14 it's ideal for two families to share. Stylishly redecorated mid 2010. 800m to beach. www.currarong beachhouse.com.au.

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

BEAUTIFUL VILLAS - For lease, South Cooma. Generous size with either a 2 or 3 bedroom layout. Quiet position and will suit singles or a couple. Contact 0413 185 696.

### HOLIDAYS

NOOSA - Well appointed twobedroom townhouse at Noosaville by the Noosa River and cafes. Heated pool/spa, tennis court, BBQ, linen and towels. For brochure, map and tariff list phone owners: (07) 3289 7178.

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

### FOR SALE

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

# FOR SALE OR REPAIR

KENWOOD Chef food mixer

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

### SERVICES

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. SINGING - If you can talk you can sing. Lessons make singing easier. Experienced teacher. Varied styles: classical, sacred, musicals and popular. Phone Rosemary (02) 6297 2974 or 0414 228 618.

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

### SELF-HELP GROUP

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

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#### www.wordgamesforcatholics.com

ACROSS

- 3 Ideal church instrument6 Ark of the \_\_\_\_
- 8 Patron saint of sailors
- 9 OT historical book (abbr.)
- Catholic actor Liam
   He went to heaven in a
- 13 He went to heaven in a whirlwind15 St Thomas' surname
- 15 St Thomas' surnar
- 17 Genesis serpent20 Lot's wife was turned into a pillar of this
- 21 Greatest king of Israel23 Liquid used in some sacra-
- 23 Liquid used in some sacraments24 "One in with the Father..."
- 24 One in <u>visition</u> with the Patherian
  26 This was offered to the risen Jesus (Lk 24:42)
- 27 Vatican news service30 "Light from light, \_\_\_\_ God
- from..." 32 Catholicism is the official religion of this tiny country
- 34 Brothers of Joseph
- 37 Catholic comedian Costello38 Religious instruction for con-
- verts (abbr.) 39 St Paul, the Apostle to the \_
- 40 Scripture

#### DOWN

- One of the theological virtues
   James was mending these when Jesus called him (Mk 1:19)
- 3 Archdiocese and capital of Canada
- 4 St Philip's surname
  5 OT historical book (abbr.)
  7 Father-in-law of Cajaphas (
  - Father-in-law of Caiaphas (Jn 18:13)
- 10 Medieval English monk
- Abraham was one
   To do this is human, but to for-

camp, St Maximilian 20 What the apostles did while Jesus prayed in the Garden

Catholic vaudevillian, Gracie

Saintly convert executed in

Mother-in-law of Ruth

19 Priest who offered his life for

another's in a Nazi prison

22 Catholic United StatesSupreme Court justice25 Liturgical colour

give is divine

Auschwitz

14

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- 25 Liturgical colour27 He says there is no God (Ps 53:1)
- 28 The Flood
- 29 Catholic actor Martin \_\_\_\_, of 'The West Wing' fame
- 31 Title for clergy (abbr.)
- 32 One of the Gospels
- 33 Husband of Queen Jezebel
- 35 Opposite or absence of good
  36 "... <u>this day be at my</u> side..."

#### SOLUTIONS IN THE NEXT CATHOLIC VOICE

April solutions:





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

THE ARCHDIOCESAN COMMISSION

FOR WOMEN: In partnership with the An-

glican and Uniting Churches will host an event:

'An ecumenical response to domestic violence,

for Christianity and Culture, Cnr Kings Ave and Blackall Street, Barton ACT. Archbishop Prowse

will join ministers from the Anglican and Uniting

domestic violence in our community. Domestic

advocates will examine the nature of violence

BYO lunch, beverages provided. A donation

on the day would be appreciated to cover

and look for practical solutions to the problem.

costs. For more information contact Margaret

sionforwomencg@gmail.com.The Commission

one in each Deanery. More information will be

(02) 6231 0664 or 0417 418 838 or commis-

is organising similar days beyond Canberra,

available in the June edition of Catholic Voice.

Churches, to present their observations and concerns regarding the increasing occurrence of

violence experts, practitioners and legal

for such a time as this' on Saturday June 18,

from 10am to 4pm, at the Australian Centre

# Archdiocesan Coming Events

#### **ONE MILLION ROSARIES** FOR UNBORN BABIES:

2016 is scheduled for May 6,7 and 8. Persons participating in this multinational pro-life prayer event will pray at least one Rosary for an end to the surgical and non-surgical killing of unborn human persons. For details about registering go to: www.saintmichaelthearcangel organization.org.

AMICUS: Saturday May 7, meet at 12pm for lunch in the Spout Café National Arboretum followed by a guided tour. Contact Enid (02) 6296 5592. Sunday May 29, meet at 12pm for lunch at TBC in Manuka followed by a movie of your choice. Contact Enid (02) 6296 5592. AMICUS is a support and friendship/social group for widowed, separated or divorced Catholics; regular activities on second and fourth weekends. New members welcome.

**CHRISTIAN UNITY:** Corpus Christi parish in South Tuggeranong will host a liturgy for the 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity' at 7.30pm on Monday May 9 at Holy Family Church, 167 Bugden Ave, Gowrie. The preacher will be Canon Roberta Hamilton from St Mary in the Valley Anglican Church. Refreshments will follow. All are welcome. Inquiries may be made to the parish office, Tuesday to Friday, 9am-4pm on (02) 6291 6688.

### **SERRA CLUB OF CANBER-**

RA: Rosary and Mass, 6.10pm, Thursday May 12, at Holy Trinity Church, Curtin, followed by dinner at Southern Cross Club, Woden. Inquiries: John Malycha, phone (02) 6251 2912.

#### YEAR OF MERCY PILGRIM-AGE 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

PTY, LTD.



especially its Government. Program for the day: I I am Mass at St Christopher's Cathedral; I2pm Five kilometre pilgrimage departs from Cathedral; I.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 BE-**

YOND: 'From agony to amazement', May 31 at the Chapel, Holbrook, from 10am-3pm. BYO lunch, cost by donation. Weekend retreat, May 27-29, 'The ground of compassion is love'. This weekend retreat invites retreatants to ponder these words of Julian of Norwich by reflecting with some of the women of the scriptures. Retreat begins with a 6pm meal on Friday May 27 and concludes with lunch on Sunday May 29. Retreatants may choose to attend on Saturday only from 9.30am-4.30pm. Cost: Live-in \$120, Saturday only \$30. Inquiries: Sr Mary Murphy: mary.murphy@sosj.org.au.

### **WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE**

**ENCOUNTER:** The weekend is a marriage enrichment experience for married couples - set in peaceful, picturesque surroundings, away from the distractions of everyday life. During the weekend, couples have a unique opportunity to reconnect, rekindle and refresh their relationship. Take time out of your busy schedule, to invest in your most precious asset... your marriage! Weekend date: June 24-26 at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW. Bookings online at www.wwme. org.au or Bill and Ardell Sharpe

on (02) 4283 3435 or wsharpe@ bigpond.net.au.

#### **GROWTH THROUGH** HEALING RETREAT: During

this silent retreat we will explore key elements of our spiritual journey, including darkness and transformation. We will also see the Beatitudes as a way of understanding how emotional baggage can trap us and prevent our necessary healing and growth. Thursday, September 13-15 at St Clement's Retreat Centre, Galong. Cost: \$240. Facilitator: Sr Lorraine Cupitt. Registration: (02) 6380 5222 or info@stclement.com.au.

#### **MARIAN PROCESSION:**

Date change - will be on Sunday, October 9, 2016 at St Clement's Galong.

### **REGULAR EVENTS**

#### **HOLY SPIRIT SECULAR FRANCISCAN FRATER-**NITY: 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 Ipm-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.





# December 8, 2015 - November 20, 2016 EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE OF OKERCY

# The privilege of passing on the faith

# THE SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY: INSTRUCT THE IGNORANT

HROUGH her involvement with the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) over the past six years, Jennie McDonald has supported 41 adults as they embraced the gift of faith and journeyed to full communion with the Catholic Church through the Sacraments of Initiation.

For Jennie, the opportunity to share her faith with others is a blessing, and she feels humbled and honoured to walk alongside people who recognise the call of faith and choose to join the Church

Jennie told Catholic Voice that her faith has always been a very important part of her life, and her desire to share this faith with others came naturally. In part, she attributes this to her upbringing.

"I am very lucky that I was raised in a Catholic family where both of my parents gave me a wonderful example of what it means to live as an active member of our parish community," she says.

"As children and adolescents my siblings and I were encouraged to participate, not only by attending Mass, but also by helping out wherever we could. We were also encouraged to question, understand and talk about our faith."

The RCIA process has been a part of Jennie's life for many years, going back to her childhood when her father was part of the RCIA team at the former St Francis of Assisi Parish in the 1980s.

"I have fond memories of attending Easter Vigil celebrations and watching as adults chose to become part of our Church family," she recalls. "This was very inspiring for me as my faith grew and developed.

"When I got married, my husband Ian said he would support me as I continued to practise my faith. At that time he wasn't Catholic, and while he believed in a God, he didn't have any religious connections of his own.

"As time passed Ian increasingly accompanied me to Mass and after 11 years of marriage he said to me 'I think I'm ready to do the RCIA journey'. Naturally, I was delighted", Jennie says with a smile. It was at this point that Jennie's involvement with the Corpus Christi Parish RCIA team began. Jennie accompanied her husband to the first few RCIA meetings and when the assistant parish priest made an assumption that Jennie was part of the RCIA team, Jennie agreed to become involved.

"I didn't set out to join the RCIA team," Jennie says. "In a way,



Above, Shannon Wood is baptised by Fr Luke Verrell at Holy Family Church in Gowrie during the Easter Vigil Mass on March 26. PHOTOS: SHARON BREWER; SUPPLIED Shannon was led through the RCIA process by Jennie McDonald, pictured below.

it chose me.

"The following year, I made a spur-of-the-moment decision to continue my involvement with the RCIA. I'm sure the Holy Spirit was working in my heart – it was almost like I was being tapped on the shoulder."

and universities; and others have come to the faith through marrying a Catholic spouse. Sometimes, people baptised and raised in another Christian denomination decide to join the Catholic Church. For Jennie, hearing each person's story is inspiring.

## "The opportunity to share my own faith experiences is a privilege, and through the RCIA, I can honestly say that I gain as much as those who are coming to join the Church."

Over the past six years, Jennie has met with people who have around Jesus Christ, who made decided to consider the possibility of becoming Catholic. Through engaging in discussion at RCIA meetings and attending Mass together, people have the opportunity to explore what it means to be Catholic, and while there is never an obligation to continue, the majority of enquirers feel called to continue the RCIA journey.

Jennie explains that some people come to the RCIA with little or no exposure to Christianity; some have attended Catholic schools

"Our Christian faith is centred it clear that faith is to be shared, that we should let our light shine and share the Good News with all people," she says.

"The opportunity to share my own faith experiences is a privilege, and through the RCIA, I can honestly say that I gain as much as those who are coming to join the Church. Members of the RCIA team share Church teachings and faith experiences, but those who are undertaking the RCIA journey also have a lot to share.



"We foster a sense of trust and highlight the importance of community, and through our shared experience we all have an opportunity to grow and deepen in our relationship with God.

"The RCIA candidates and catechumens are a gift to the whole community. Many parishioners have told me how they are encouraged in their own faith journey by the witness of adults who are willing to stand up, say Yes Lord, I believe' and become part of the Catholic Church."

### 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 (Lvneham) 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

5pm-5.15pm

Yass: Saturday 10am;

Young: Saturday 10am