

# CATHOLIC **VOICE**

ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN  
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## *Archdiocese celebrates double Ordination*



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# Archbishop's Message

Archbishop Christopher Prowse

# Viewing life from the “Wound”

DEAR friends in Christ,

In recent weeks I listened attentively and for some time to several sex abuse victims/survivors. They are courageous people. They are all at different phases of coming to terms deep within from criminal and diabolical actions perpetrated by people in the community, some of whom are committed Catholics even religious leaders. The deep wounds of abuse are not healed in some rapid manner

One of the secondary survivors coined the expression of “sitting in the wound” of all that has taken place and looking at the future from this perspective. He found this viewpoint painful but redemptive. I found great wisdom in his insight.

Over the next period of time you may wish to read the official response from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and Catholic Religious Australia (<https://www.catholic.org.au/acbc-media/media-centre/media-releases-new/2139-acbc-and-cra-response-to-the-royal-commission/file>) to the Royal Commission. There are also the four volumes of advice offered to us from our “Truth, Justice and Healing Council” published for your perusal (<http://www.tjhcouncil.org.au/>).

However painful for us all, the reality prophetically disclosed to us by the victims and the Royal Commission have left us all with raw feelings of betrayal and disbelief. Amongst many responses, two words have become mantra words to assist us on the practical responses: transparency and accountability.

Although we have a long way to go, the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn has made great strides in child safety and the gradual implementation of the recommendations of the Royal Commission. This has all been done in a growing archdiocesan attitude of transparency and accountability. I commend the hard work of our Institute of Professional Standards and Safeguarding (IPSS) in this area. Work has commenced on updating the website to advise of this progress. (<https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/a-new-era-for-professionalstandards/>).

It is perhaps the cultural attitudes in our society and the Church that will take an even longer time to mature in the same areas of concern.

Although there are many aspects of our church life that rightly come under the scrutiny of the secular world, the Catholic Church is not simply

another international corporation amongst others in the world. Due to our Baptism we have become the people of God, the Body of Christ.

So, therefore, our long journey ahead is best described theologically as a journey of deeper conversion to Christ. It demands a leadership posture of truly listening in a humble spirit to all that the Holy Spirit is revealing to us in these troubled times. We do not seek to be a “new” Church but the Church that God has always truly willed us to be. We may wish to change all sorts of arrangements in the Church but such change may not be deep enough. That is why the word “conversion” is so rich and fundamental to all change.

Never fear, the Holy Spirit is surely with us more than ever to inspire within us our faith to respond to the grace of God prayed for and longed for in our time.

We really struggle with this statement of faith.

For example, I am still noticing in our Plenary Council discussions progressing throughout the archdiocese at present that so many of us struggle with the question: “What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?” So many almost

automatically respond about practical matters they feel should be happening at this time in the Church. This is an important question, but it is not THE first question of the Plenary Council. What is God doing?

Perhaps we could all learn from taking the advice of the survivor above who finds hope by “sitting in the wound”. For Christians, salvation arises from sitting in the wounds of the Saviour. Only in these wounds can redeeming healing be found. St Thomas was invited to touch the wounds of Jesus. It prompted faith in him. He gave us one of the most beautiful prayers in Christianity: “My Lord and my God” (John 20/28). Let us do the same as we continue the path of conversion.

To overly spiritualise our current dilemmas in the Church is to avoid the necessary transformation of our “culture” desperately needed. However, to transfer for some other time our spiritual foundations and opt purely for the governance/corporation response will never truly change the human heart. In a TOTAL response let us walk forward together allowing the Holy Spirit to lead us out of the “Babylon” of today. For this we pray.

## ARCHBISHOP CHRISTOPHER'S DIARY

### October

- SATURDAY, 6 9.00am Mass, Singles for Christ National Conference, St Gregory's Primary School Hall, Queanbeyan
- SUNDAY, 7 11.00am Mass, St Christopher's Cathedral
- WEDNESDAY, 10 12.00pm Council of the Seminary of the Good Shepherd Meeting, Homebush, Sydney
- THURSDAY, 11 10.00am ACU Senate, Mass/Meeting, North Sydney
- FRIDAY, 12 1.00pm World Youth Day Panama, Gathering, Haydon Hall, St Christopher's Pastoral Centre
- SATURDAY, 13 12.15pm St Vincent de Paul Festival Mass, St Christopher's Cathedral
- SUNDAY, 14 9.00am Marian Procession, Galong
- SUNDAY, 21 9.30am Confirmation Mass, St Thomas More Parish, Campbell  
11.00am Opening/Blessing John Paul II Polish Catholic Centre, Narrabundah  
5.30pm Mass, St Christopher's Cathedral
- MONDAY, 22 6.00pm Holy Hour – Liturgy of Lament and Healing, St Peter Chanel's, Yarralumla
- TUESDAY, 23 - MONDAY, 29 Arabian Catholic Youth Conference, Dubai
- FRIDAY, 26 5.00pm The Joy of the Gospel-Program of Leadership and Mission, Haydon Hall, St Christopher's Pastoral Centre
- WEDNESDAY, 31 6.30am Canberra Ecumenical Prayer Breakfast, Pavilion, Northbourne Avenue, Canberra

# Holy Hour

## Liturgy of Lament & Healing

Monday October 22, 6:00pm - 7:00pm  
St Peter Chanel's Church,  
Cnr Weston and Loch Streets, Yarralumla  
Archbishop Christopher Prowse presiding

This Liturgy accompanies the National Apology to Victims and Survivors of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse. In prayer, we will gather with heads bowed seeking healing and hope in Christ.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN

JOURNALIST:  
Chris Gordon  
[catholic.voice@cg.org.au](mailto:catholic.voice@cg.org.au)  
Ph. (02) 6239 9831

ADDRESS:  
GPO Box 3089  
Canberra ACT 2601

[www.cgatholic.org.au](http://www.cgatholic.org.au)

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Cover Picture: Namora Anderson and Adrain Chan's Ordination at St Christopher's Cathedral Canberra  
Photo: Luwyl Ambida



# Catholic School Funding

## School funding announcement recognises needs of Catholic families

The needs of families who choose a Catholic school in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn have been recognised by changes to school funding announced by the Morrison Government, according to Catholic Education Director Ross Fox.

Mr Fox welcomed the announcement by Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Education Minister Dan Tehan to provide additional funding to the 14,000 students in the 29 Catholic schools across the ACT and NSW.

“I thank Minister Tehan and

families,” he said.

“Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn will need continuing access to the choice and affordability fund announced by the Government to ensure families have a real choice of affordable non-government schools. Decisions on the allocation of these funds are yet to be made.


Mr Fox said the announcement addresses flaws in the way the funding model identifies the needs of Catholic school parents. He welcomed this commitment as the share of these funds to





**Dallas McInerney**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Catholic Schools NSW

**“The 2017 changes would have forced dozens of Catholic primary schools in middle and high socio-economic parts of NSW to substantially increase their fees in coming years - in some cases, taking fee levels past \$10,000 per year,”**



**Ray Collins**  
Acting Executive  
Director NCEC

**“Families can only have school choice if there is an affordable alternative to free, comprehensive government schools. If the only option is a high-fee school, choice is restricted to those parents rich enough to afford high fees.”**



**Linda McNeil**  
Catholic School Parents  
ACT/NSW

**“We’ve had parents campaigning in various parts of the state who have been instrumental in educating policy-makers and the community about the flawed previous funding model and the urgent need for changes.”**

Prime Minister Morrison for listening to the concerns of Catholic educators, for understanding the impact the old model would have in driving up fees and for acting to ensure Catholic schools can remain affordable for families,” Mr Fox said.

“I note the particular advocacy in the Coalition Government of Senator Zed Seselja for fair funding for non-government schools in the ACT.”

The funding arrangements announced last year by the Turnbull Government had threatened the future of Catholic schools, in particular in the ACT and regional areas, according to Mr Fox.

“This additional needs-based funding will assist Catholic schools to remain affordable for

Catholic schools will support the diverse needs of Canberra communities.

“Importantly, the government has committed to a review of the funding arrangements that will examine the fee expectations in all non-government schools to ensure affordable choice,” he said.

“This will also be an important initiative to meet the needs of students at Catholic schools in the Archdiocese and we look forward to collaborating with government to ensure an equitable outcome for our families.

“More accurate measures of need will deliver additional funding and close some of the funding gap facing our Catholic schools compared to the funding policy announced last year.”

## Review of School Funding at a Glance:

### New funding plan

- \$4.6bn to Catholic and independent schools over the next decade.
- \$1.2bn fund for priorities to improve school choice and affordability. Only independent and Catholic schools can apply.
- New funding formula. To be determined by a direct measure of parents’ income. “Overfunded” schools to get an extra two years to transition down to 80% of the Schools Resource Standard (SRS).
- \$1.1bn of the total package to be spent in the next four years.

### Breakdown of \$4.6bn funding

- \$170.8m in interim funding in 2019. Independent schools guaranteed to get at least 3% funding growth
- \$3.2bn from 2020 to 2029 by replacing the socio-economic status score of communities’ capacity to contribute to schools with direct measure of parents’ income
- \$1.2bn from 2020 to 2029 for the Choice and Affordability Fund to be allocated for government priorities including diversity, regional, rural and remote education. Only independent and Catholic schools can apply to this fund.

### Who will be affected:

- There are over 1,200 Catholic primary schools across Australia. In 2016, all of them had fees below \$4,000.
- Only about 160 of these schools (12 per cent) would need to increase fees by \$2,500 or more to compensate for the decreased funding once the new model is introduced
- Some schools may have to increase fees by \$4000 or more but only about 36 schools (3 per cent) would need to do this, and this is because parents can afford it.
- Most Catholic primary schools — more than 800 (about 60 per cent) — would need only minimal fee increases or will actually get more government funding.

### Under original Gonski:

- School funding was set as a proportion of the SRS. The base amount in 2018 is \$10,953 for a primary student and \$13,764 for a secondary student.
- In NSW, regardless of how wealthy its parents were, Catholic primary school parents weren’t expected to contribute more than 13.5 per cent of base funding per student or about \$1400.
- Catholic schools got more government funding which kept fees low, often in the range of \$2000-\$3500 even at the most highly advantaged schools. For an independent primary school in the same area, they would need to charge the parents about \$8000.



# A major milestone

BY CHRIS GORDON

THERE must be something about Spring ordinations.

On September 7 this year, Fr Adrian Chan and Fr Namora Anderson were ordained priests in St Christopher's Cathedral.

Forty years earlier, almost to the day, Monsignor John Woods was the fresh-faced young deacon being ordained to the priesthood.

Msgr Woods was ordained on September 9, 1978 after serving as a deacon in Young and assisting in Blacktown, Redfern and North Sydney while still a seminarian.

I've known Msgr Woods for some time, but never known his age. So I try to do the maths... priest since 1978, seminarian since 1972... so that would make you...

"Under the old scheme, I'd be a pensioner now," he said, denying me the chance to blurt it out.

It's a significant milestone... 40 years doing anything is a significant achievement in his time that has included a wide range of appointments in the Archdiocese.

Once ordained, Msgr Woods was appointed to Queanbeyan where he stayed for three years, before a two year stint in Goulburn, then Canada for another two years doing Canon Law studies (and at this point you could sense he was dying to drop his Alanis Morissette anecdote. I moved him along).

Upon his return, he had another short stint in Queanbeyan, then Warramanga as Assistant Priest and doing Marriage Tribunal work full time for about seven years.

Next was St Francis of Assisi, Calwell for 13 years, his longest appointment.

Then, to the Cathedral as Administrator, then Vicar General and consequently Archdiocesan Administrator between Archbishop Mark Coleridge and Archbishop Christopher Prowse.

He continued for a year as Vicar General with Archbishop Christopher, then was appointed



TOP LEFT: A (slightly) younger Fr Woods. BOTTOM LEFT: The special commemorative cake prepared by the North Woden parish. RIGHT: Msgr Woods reflects on his 40 years as a priest.



back to being the cathedral's Administrator while the new buildings were constructed.

During that time he was appointed Vicar for Education and in January this year went to North Woden parish, continuing as Vicar for Education.

He's waiting for me to ask about his role at the Raiders. I'm determined not to.

"And Raiders Chaplain since

We're only missing an 80s pop culture reference to win a game of "Woodsy Bingo."

All of which lies at the heart of Msgr Woods' strength... his ability as a communicator and his ability to connect with people.

He makes it easy to have a laugh with him (sometimes at his expense) with a light-hearted and self-deprecating nature that

is for most people... you get up, you have a shower and you get on with the new day."

"God's Spirit calls constantly. My awareness of that is especially manifest at Mass, in all manner of encounters and reflections, and in my still inconsistent personal prayer."

The challenge he believes, and one that excites him, is to stay engaged. He often quotes the saying, 'God comes to you disguised as your life'.

"I acknowledge the theoretical sacred-secular divide but live by the understanding that in Jesus, God seeks to become one with us, all of us, not just a select few."

"I haven't batted down or withdrawn. I'm still excited and looking for ways to engage. For me personally, going for a run helps keep up my energy levels."

"But at the end of the day you're going to be brought back to yourself and what you're about. It's like that quote from Mad Max... you can run but you can't hide."

Mad Max reference. BINGO!

But behind the dated pop culture quote, as he often does, he is making a greater point. In this case, about life being a work in progress.

"For me, the challenge is that attempt to walk with God... call it spirituality... and to get on with what you have to do."

"As a priest you are called to reflection, but you are also called to action. And it's trying to integrate the two. So that's the goal, to be open to God's call and to be at peace with myself knowing this side of the grave we never fully get it together."

**God's Spirit calls constantly. My awareness of that is especially manifest at Mass, in all manner of encounters and reflections, and in my still inconsistent personal prayer.**

1986," he finally adds with a grin, unprompted.

And there it is. Can't help himself. He's been dining out on the Green Machine stories for 32 years so what's one more mention, right?

Raiders story... check. Alanis Morissette story, narrowly averted.

helps to disarm and engage people, but beneath that he remains a very contemplative man, a committed man of God still trying to come to grips with life's big questions.

"I used to think there'd come a time when it would all come together," he said.

"I don't think it does this side of the grave. I just think sometimes we get it together a little more, and sometimes we muck it up again. I still have all the energy and desire I need. And I can still get frustrated and up tight."

"There are issues... you know, the Royal Commission, the Plenary Council coming up... Those are important, but they're big helicopter issues. Day to day in the parish it's people and relationships and immediate things that fill our days. And as it

## Memorial Service a comfort for the bereaved

St, Raphael's, Queanbeyan, annual Candlelight Memorial Service was held September 17.

This Service, an initiative of St. Raphael's Bereavement Support Group, is intended to offer comfort and hope to those who are involuntarily recruited to the pilgrimage of grief and loss, invariably imposed by the death of a loved one.

Those who have had recent bereavements receive invitations to attend. Many, whose bereavement is more distant, now anticipate it as an essential part of their spiritual calendar year.

The Service, as suggested by the title, has an emphasis on light, solitude and hope. There is a focus on participation, with sharing of prayers between those read and those jointly recited, with interspersed music, and shared reflective time, in darkness.

Everyone is invited to write/remember their loved one by writing their names in The Bereavement Memorial Book, light a candle and take a rose, symbols of light and hope respectively.

Attendees value it as offering spiritual and emotional solace both in the reflective nature of the Service and the opportunity it offers to experience communality of support from those on a similar journey.

## Merici models Maker Space to Minister

Merici College was pleased to welcome ACT Minister Mick Gentleman in September for a tour of their Makerspace and to meet some of the engineering students.

Among his portfolio of responsibilities, Minister Gentleman is the Minister assisting the Chief Minister on Advanced Technology and Space Industries.

He spoke to the students about the ACT's bid to host the Australian Space Agency and its push to strengthen the existing hub of space-related industries and testing and education facilities in the territory.

The students explained aspects of their current rocketry projects to the Minister, highlighting some of their rocket component designs that were being constructed on Merici's 3D printers!

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# Parish secretaries the engine of the Archdiocese

MORE than 40 parish secretaries from around the Archdiocese met at St Christopher’s Pastoral Centre on Wednesday, September 12 for the annual Parish Secretary Day.

The event, which has been going for more than a decade, has grown from 24 attendees in its first year to around 40-45 most of the time.

Parish Support Manager Deborah Foote said the day is equal parts recognising and thanking the secretaries, as well as providing them with new information and training.

This year representatives from the Catholic Development Fund were guest speakers.

“Our secretaries are truly the engine that runs the Archdiocese,” she said.

“People would be amazed at the amount of work these



Parish Support Manager, Deborah Foote.

amazing people do.”

Deborah said the Parish Secretary Day, along with being a social get together and a great opportunity to network and put a face to the names they communicate with, was the main

professional development for the secretaries each year.

“We try to bring in people from different areas of the Archdiocese who have different areas of expertise so they’re up to date on the latest policies and

regulations and what they need to know,” Deborah said.

“It’s a practical day with a little bit of spirituality... they went to mass this year which was very well received... so it’s a range of things that are relevant to their daily life in the parish.”

One of the biggest challenges facing the secretaries in recent years has been the sheer depth and breadth of information they are meant to be across, and experts in. As with all organisations, red tape and creeping administrative overload chews up more and more time.

“The secretaries are the point of contact, often the first person people speak with in the parish, and they’re expected to know everything,” said Deborah.

“Over the last six years at least they’ve had to know more and more things to do with

government legislation. Compliance has been the biggest area of growth in the last 6-10 years.

“If someone wants to hire the parish premises, the secretaries have to make sure there’s a contract drawn up, that they have public liability, that they have working with children checks if necessary. They have to explain if there’s a fee involved, have to make sure the place is left in a neat and tidy condition, have to explain work health and safety rules, and all in a friendly, lovely manner.

“Not to mention the many other tasks they cover... book-keeping, new technologies and software, websites and facebook they look after... it’s a huge load they carry and we are very lucky to have such helpful, positive and caring secretaries doing so much for us.”



# Know Your Options Information sessions

**Canberra Campus**  
10-14 December 2018, 2-6pm  
Corner Antill St and  
Phillip Ave, Watson

[acu.edu.au](http://acu.edu.au)





# Aranda celebrates 50 years



ON SUNDAY August 5, the Parish of South Belconnen celebrated the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the Parish of St Vincent de Paul, Aranda on August 3, 1968.

The anniversary was celebrated with a special Mass and was followed by a 'bring and share' lunch in St Vincent's School hall which was attended by about 150 parishioners.

The school hall has a special place in the lives of early parishioners as Mass was celebrated there from the time the school opened in 1970 until St Vincent's Church was completed in 1982. The hall was the place where the children of the parish were

baptized, received their first Eucharist and were Confirmed.

St Vincent de Paul parish was the first parish in Belconnen. From January 1, 2018 the Parishes of St Vincent de Paul, Aranda and St Matthew's were amalgamated to form the Parish of St Matthew's and St Vincent's Parish, South Belconnen.

The great spirit of camaraderie and friendship formed by parishioners was evident on the day. Over those 50 years, many had worked together to build both a church building and caring community, as well as a school. Many of the foundation parishioners are still resident in the parish and continue to contribute

generously of their time and efforts in making the community very welcoming and caring.

The presence of so many current parishioners, many of whom are recent arrivals from countries that include Korea, India, Africa, the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Germany, Poland and Spain, at the lunch was wonderful. It gave us all the opportunity to spend time socialising with our more recent parishioners as well as old friends.

The spirit present at the celebration of this momentous occasion bodes well for our future as we continue forward as the Parish of St Matthew's and St



## Manager

The Clergy Retirement Foundation [the Foundation] of the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn is seeking a full time Manager to commence in January 2019.

The Manager is tasked with the day-to-day administration of the Foundation and for the provision of care and support for retired priests of the Archdiocese. The position reports to the Board of the Foundation.

### The Person

The position calls for a caring and energetic professional who is motivated to support a group of retired Catholic priests to enjoy secure, comfortable and fruitful lives. The successful applicant will work with a small team to provide care and assistance to approximately 25 priests.

The position requires a self-starter with demonstrated administration experience, communication and computer skills. They must be able to work independently and to respond quickly to changing or developing situations involving the aged.

The position requires regular travel throughout the Archdiocese and, on occasions, overnight stays.

The position requires an understanding of and support for the ethos and values of the Catholic Church. This position is subject to relevant ACT and NSW child protection checks and criminal record checks.

### Salary

A competitive salary package including vehicle will be negotiated with the successful applicant.

### The Skills

#### Essential

- experience in management in the aged care sector, particularly in care planning coordination
- excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- strong advocacy skills
- ability to manage multiple stakeholders
- a balanced and level-headed approach to emergency and stressful situations
- advanced level computing skills to ensure documentation and reporting is maintained in accordance with organisational and legislative requirements
- high level writing skills

#### Preferred

- diploma qualification or above in aged care or health administration would be advantageous but not essential
- financial management and accounting experience
- knowledge of property management including Body Corporate structures.

To download the job description go to [www.cgatholic.org.au/positions-vacant](http://www.cgatholic.org.au/positions-vacant)

For more information contact Victor Dunn on 6239 9800 or email [employment.services@cg.org.au](mailto:employment.services@cg.org.au)

To apply, please submit a cover letter and resume to [employment.services@cg.org.au](mailto:employment.services@cg.org.au) **Applications close 12 October**

**m/SC Missionaries of the Sacred Heart**

**YOU JUST HELD HER,  
LET HER CRY AND  
SAID NOTHING.**

## EVERYONE HAS A STORY.

I remember it well. A man collapsed and died at the front gate of his home after work. I was called to the hospital, anointed the man and prayed with his gathered family.

His wife wrapped her arms around me and began to weep. I held her, feeling quite helpless to do anything else.

The following Sunday after mass a young man approached me, saying, "I want to thank you Father for what you did for my Aunt. We were all telling her not to worry, Uncle is in heaven now. You just held her, let her cry and said nothing. That's what she really needed. Thank you Father."

He shook my hand and walked away, leaving me stunned.

— Fr Patrick Sharpe msc

To discover more MSC stories please visit [whatsalifeor.com/stories](http://whatsalifeor.com/stories), attend a discernment weekend retreat, volunteer as a short term lay missionary or just call Fr Peter 0408 299 170

You are invited to share with the Nuns in honouring  
two Carmelite Saints  
In the Solemn Ceremonies for 2015  
To be held at the Carmelite Monastery  
28 Mugga Way Red Hill ACT (02) 6295 3805

**St. Therese of Lisieux**  
Doctor of the Church

**Thursday 1st October: 10.30am Mass and Homily**  
Celebrant: Archbishop Adolfo Tito  
Yllana Apostolic Nuncio to Australia  
The Traditional blessing of Roses will take place during this Mass and the Nuns would be grateful for Roses sent the day before the Feast.

**St. Teresa of Avila**  
Doctor of the Church

**Thursday 15th October: 10.30am Mass and Homily**  
During the nine days preceding this feast, the Nuns will offer Masses and Prayers for the Priests and People of the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn.

**PARKING NOTICE:**  
As the local government parking authorities and to enable safer access to the Monastery, we request that your vehicle be parked on the Monastery side of Mugga Way. We respectfully ask also that care be taken in not transgressing any part of our neighbours driveways or parking on nature strips. Thank you.



# Deep reforms urged Women share their many gifts

BY MARK METHERELL

THE BISHOP of Parramatta, Vincent Long, in an outspoken speech in Canberra, has urged the faithful to support Pope Francis in reforms for a more inclusive Church and an end to clericalism.

Speaking to a meeting of Concerned Catholics of Canberra Goulburn, Bishop Long expressed concern about the “silent schism” facing the Church, called for a greater role for the laity including for women in the Church, and said the clerical, male dominated culture of the Church was dying.

He told the meeting attended by about 200 people that the Church was facing “the biggest crisis at least since the Reformation”.

The conservative clergy’s reaction to the direction Pope Francis was taking and theological conflict spurred by events in the United States was like “a tectonic fault line”.

Bishop Long said he hoped and prayed that Pope Francis stayed the course because “nothing less than deep reform will save the day”.

It was time for grassroots Catholics, the baptised, to take their rightful place, to hold their leaders to account.

For the Church to be a truly synodal and listening Church, it had to go beyond the business as usual approach in consulting with the baptised in preparation for the 2020 Plenary.

On women’s role in the Church he said: “I believe in gender equality but I don’t think injecting women into the ailing, clericalist structure will be a liberating experience for them...”

Pope Francis had spoken of a “new theology of women”... and I would like to postulate that what we need even more is to find fresh ways in the Church and a fresh way of ministry for women and men.

So long as women were excluded from governance structures, the Church was depriving itself of the richness of our full humanity, like having only one half of the brain in service.

“The Pope needs the voices of women to remind him of the many disillusioned Catholic men and women who yearn for a modern, inclusive Church.”

Also speaking on the need for reform at this week’s gathering in Canberra was Sister Clare Condon, a Good Samaritan Sister and national religious leader, and Ms Anne Kirwan, CEO of Catholic Care Canberra Goulburn.

BY ANDREA DEAN

THE CONSULTATION Day on September 8 for women of the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn was a remarkable success. Registrations jumped to 110 with most women coming from the Canberra region and a few travelling from Bombala, Goulburn and beyond the Archdiocese.

The opening prayer invited all to reflect on the experience and inspiration of St Mary Magdalene, who is now acknowledged by the Church as ‘Apostle to the Apostles’.

With a deliberate focus on discernment and listening, the process enabled women of diverse ages and backgrounds to share their hopes for reform within the Church. This process of respectful listening enabled participants to express their ideas and feelings freely.

By the end of the day, participants working in small groups had developed practical recommendations around ten key areas for action. Participants expressed their passion for the renewal of the Church and their distress about the damage caused by clericalism.

As there were a large number of proposals for submission to the Plenary Council, another



consultation day will be held in November to ensure that a final summary is developed in a collaborative manner. Yet to be discerned, is what bold vision might be possible for a women’s group in the Archdiocese, how it might operate and who will be involved.

In commenting on the event, Colleen Rowe said, “I’m filled with hope and look forward to the next part of the journey.”

Susan Page, said “Wow, what a stimulating exhausting day!”

The Spirit is alive and well in our church today expressed through so many inspiring women of faith who attended the consultation day. The pace, reflection time, listening and sharing were managed in a professional, considered, and effective prayerful environment.”

If you were unable to attend on September 8 and wish to be informed as these issues develop please provide your contact details using the form available at [www.catholicwomen.org.au](http://www.catholicwomen.org.au)

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sand & gravel mixes, decorative gravels, mulches – tan barks, forest litters & more.

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# Voice of youth speaks up

ARCHBISHOP Christopher Prowse said he was blown away by the questions and comments provided by primary and secondary students from across the Canberra-Goulburn Archdiocese.

Students were invited to discuss the question that has been central to all plenary listening and dialogue sessions: “What does God want of the Catholic Church in Australia today?”

They not only provided mature and well-considered responses to that question, they also had a few questions of their own.

As part of the listening and dialogue session on Tuesday, September 4, the senior students held a Q&A with the Archbishop and asked him many of the most important questions facing the church today, including:

How do we make the Church more engaging?

Shouldn't the Church allow women to hold more prominent roles?

How do we re-engage people who have turned from the Church because of the abuse that occurred over many years?

Archbishop Prowse, after answering and discussing those and other questions with the students, praised them for the maturity of their questions, the amount of thought they'd put into them and the way they were articulated.

Following the Q&A, the Archbishop held a similar session with the junior students.

He complimented the students on the way they'd been able to focus on the key areas affecting the Church today, and encouraged them to continue in the discussion about shaping the Church around God's wishes.

Earlier in the morning, participants engaged in a number of activities before splitting into the junior and senior groups, with the younger students creating works of art including clay, paintings, songs poems and even a rap.



And they reckon ABC's Q&A program asks some tough questions!!! Archbishop Christopher Prowse was impressed by the depth and insight of questions asked and the following discussions by the senior students at the Voice of Youth gathering recently. Puicture: Chris Gordon



The junior students created clay presentations, poems, songs, poems and raps to express their spirituality and their relationships with God. Picture: Chris Gordon



Archbishop Prowse asked the senior students to provide him a blessing and to pray over him that he might better do God's will. icture: Chris Gordon

## Junior Youth Group builds strong link with Sacramental Program

ON FRIDAY evening St Clare's College hosted their second Youth Rally

Students from Years 10 to 12 from across Canberra came together to celebrate the Year of Youth.

The night focused on St Augustine's quote; "To fall in love with God is the greatest

romance; to seek him the greatest adventure; to find him, the greatest human achievement."

The night had a total of 72 students, Youth Ministers and staff in attendance from St Edmund's College Canberra, Marist College Canberra, St Francis Xavier College, Merici College, Canberra Girls Grammar

School, St Mary MacKillop College Canberra, St John Paul II College, and Daramalan College.

The participants heard from three amazing speakers, Father Dave, Sister Kat (both from the Missionary of God's Love) and the St Clare's 2015 Faith & Community Captain, Cat

Ringrose. Students also had the chance to hear some personal testimonies.

Some remarked that they felt encouraged and inspired that through the challenges and problems they face, the voice of God will always be there to guide them along the journey.





# My Camino de Santiago

BY FR RICHARD THOMPSON

BY FAR the most common question asked during the Camino experience is “Why am I doing this?” My answer to this question is not unique, but it is personal.

I originally planned to do this in 2013 but was asked to move parish (Young) at the end of that year. I decided to defer the Camino until I had settled in my new parish of South Woden in Canberra. So now as I enter my 33rd year of priesthood, I thought the timing was right to accept all the challenges that the Camino involves - spiritual, physical, relational and financial.

**Spiritual.** The Camino offers me the chance to review the last 33 years of ministry without the necessary distractions that are part of parish life. I think it is important to unclutter my head and heart and so clear space for the Lord to continue to lead me on His journey.

**Physical.** I have always loved to travel and am not afraid to face a fair challenge on my body while I think it can handle it. As I get older I figure the body will be forced to face challenges I might not choose, so I am taking advantage of this time in my life to walk the 800 plus kilometres on this sacred journey in the footsteps of multitudes of pilgrims who have passed

this way over the centuries. The physical will lead me through the historical, mystical, mythological and legendary encounter with St James.

**Relational.** People travel this path for all sorts of reasons and their individual stories motivate and fascinate me. They energise and intrigue me. They teach and humble me. I need such people and their stories to add to my own. This has also been a serious time for me to bring others’ stories with me and deposit any of their pain and sorrow at the Cross along the way.

**Financial.** Planning and maintaining the Camino experience has a cost. I spent a couple of years preparing-saving, researching, attending seminars, talking with previous pilgrims for example. I was generously supported by Kathmandu in the research and purchase of the

**I think it is important to unclutter my head and heart and so clear space for the Lord to continue to lead me on His journey.**

right equipment, and their staff were so wise with their advice. By a twist of fate and a blessing, the airlines lost my backpack stocked with 9kgs of everything I needed for the Camino. It turned



Fr Richard receives a blessing along the Camino Way. Picture Supplied



Fr Richard departs for the adventure of a life time, to walk the Camino de Santiago. Picture: Supplied



The long 800km Camino stretches out before Fr Richard as he embarks along with other pilgrims. picture Supplied

up back in Australia three weeks after I had started my journey. I had to replace everything the day after I took my first steps. The blessing was I climbed the hardest part of the pilgrimage through the Pyrenees carrying nothing. Another story, but a happy ending.

For me the Camino is a living metaphor for life. It requires faith, hope and love, “and the most important of these is love.”

I am on track to finish the Camino 33 days after I started - one day for each year of Our Lord’s life and also one day for each year of my priesthood.

## NCP Conference

ONE hundred and twenty clergy from around Australia, representing a combined total of 4300 years of service to the church, participated in the National Council of Priests Convention at the QT Hotel in Canberra this week.

The NCP Convention is held every two years and this year was jointly hosted by the Diocese of Wagga Wagga and the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn.

This year’s theme was “Being Catholic in Australia today... after the Royal Commission and before the Plenary Council.”

Convention Chairman Fr Paddy Sykes from the Wagga Diocese said that the committee, which included himself along with Bishop Pat Power, Msgr John Woods and Fr Simon Falk, aimed to provide a conference with a difference – bringing together a smorgasbord of Australian speakers – male and female – to address the issues of

the Church at this present time.

Guest speakers included Father Frank Brennan SJ and, from Concerned Catholics, John Warhurst and Marilyn Hatton.

Topics discussed covered a wide variety of prominent issues facing the church today including the Seal of Confession, same-sex marriage, the role of women in the church, governance, safeguarding and euthanasia.

Monsignor Woods described the talks and the discussions that followed them as very timely and relevant

“The theme is very much in the context of following the Royal Commission and moving to the Plenary Council,” he said.

“The National Council of Priest’s sole intention is to further the good of the church in Australia.

All of the people here and all of the speakers have a deep commitment and love of the church and it’s out of

that that their faith and their particular gifts and engagement in all works of life that sharing concerns arises.”

“Not only the concerns directly mentioned in the Royal Commission but also those which were highlighted around issues of governance at the parish, at the diocesan and at the national level... issues concerning formation of students for the priesthood and formators thereof, and issues concerning the church seeking communication and dialog with society and not withdrawal and put down.

“And so anything that was said here, I would suggest the intent was entirely honourable.

That doesn’t mean everyone would agree on every point every speaker made... but the intention that in the light of the Royal Commission and the desire for a Plenary Council that the bishops have called for, we need to look, in simple terms, at how



we do church because how we’ve done it in the past hasn’t found ourselves covered in glory.

“The bottom line, or the take away is, as Archbishop Mark Coleridge, president of the Bishop’s Conference said, it’s not business as usual.”



# Archdiocese celebrate

*54 priests and around 30 seminarians assisted principal  
Ordination to the Priesthood of Nam*

**Their lives have been linked for some time now and so it was fitting that Deacon Namora Anderson and Deacon Adrian Chan should both be ordained priests together at the same ceremony at St Christopher's Cathedral on September 7.**

BEFORE a packed congregation, with Archbishop Christopher Prowse the Principal Celebrant and with Bishop Pat Power, 54 priests and around 30 seminarians assisting, the two were ordained priests in the same Cathedral where they were ordained deacons together just a year earlier.

The pair promised their obedience to Archbishop Prowse and his successors, whilst also pledging to lead a celibate life for the sake of the Kingdom.

Fr Luke Verrell and Fr Dermid McDermott vested Fr Namora, while Fr Tom Curran and Edward and Theresa Chan vested Fr Adrian.

Family members of Fr Adrian and Fr Namora also participated as Readers and in the Presentation of Gifts.

Prior to his formation and studies, Fr Anderson was an apprentice mechanic from Queanbeyan.

He left Queanbeyan to complete seven and a half years of formation at the Seminary of the Good Shepherd at Homebush in Sydney and during this time he also took on periods of pastoral work in Cootamundra, Goulburn, Moruya, Young, and Temora.

Since leaving Homebush he has been principally based at Holy Spirit Parish, Gungahlin.

Fr Adrian Chan was born in Singapore and went to Christian Brothers Schools for his primary and secondary education and thereafter, the National University of Singapore studying the political sciences.

He worked for some years in the computer industry. Ten years ago, he joined the Discalced Carmelites, learning philosophy at the St Francis Xavier's Seminary Singapore, followed by theology at the Teresianum in Rome.

Having completed his studies, he has decided to opt for a diocesan vocation. He was attached to Bega



*Pictures: Luwyl Ambida*

and Gungahlin as a seminarian, then Kambah as a deacon.

Both men had family and friends present, many of which travelled great distances to attend.

Fifteen members of Fr Adrian's family came from Singapore for the Ordination including uncle, aunts and cousins. Father Tom Curran OCD also made the trip from Singapore to join clergy from

many other dioceses who participated in the Ordination.

A wonderful cake was prepared for them by the Cake Lady.

The Archdiocese's two newest priests have already been given their appointments. Fr Adrian will be taking up the appointment of Assistant Priest at South Woden effective from December 7, and Fr Namora will be Assistant Priest



at Tumut and Gundagai from September 21.

Fr Adrian said his first week as a priest had already been a fantastic experience.

"I presided at all the Masses on the weekend in Kambah, and met many more new people after Mass," he said.

"Kambah gave me a new set of beautiful vestments from Vietnam and I used them on Sunday as well as for a funeral on Tuesday. It is an honour to serve."

Promoter of the Ordination was Fr Daniel Meagher and Fr Paul Nulley was the Master of Ceremonies.





# es double Ordination

al celebrant, Archbishop Christopher Prowse at the  
nora Anderson and Adrain Chan





# Assembly allows RU-486

BY BEVERLEY CAINS

ON 19 September the ACT Legislative Assembly voted 15-4 to allow the abortifacient drug RU-486 to be prescribed and dispensed in the ACT. The four MLAs opposing the move were Mrs Vicki Dunne, Mrs Elisabeth Kikkert, Mr Alistair Coe and Mr Andrew Wall. The new legislation allows “medical abortions”, as distinct from “surgical abortions”, to be conducted away from a medical facility in the privacy of one’s own home.

The relevant Bill had been introduced by Greens MLA Caroline Le Couteur back in March.

In opening the resumed debate in September the ACT Minister for Health and Wellbeing, Meegan Fitzharris, said “The broad intention of Ms Le Couteur’s bill is to make abortions more accessible in the ACT, and the government is very pleased to support this”.

Ms Fitzharris explained that the Bill would now allow women to access a medical abortion through their GP or “telehealth provider”.

Commenting on the decision Mrs Bev Cains, President of the ACT Right to Life Association, said the procedure still represented the destruction of unborn human life, and showed little respect for the health, especially the mental health of the woman. “In the political push for abortion the reality of post-abortion syndrome is lost”.

Ms Fitzharris also took the opportunity to move an



amendment allowing the ACT Health Minister to declare new “exclusion zones” around any medical practice or pharmacy which requests it. It is illegal for citizens to communicate in any way about abortion within an exclusion zone. An exclusion zone already exists around the

“exclusion zones” originating from Queensland and Victoria in early October).

Minister Fitzharris told the assembly that the government was still working on making abortions “more affordable”.

In opposing the Bill, Mrs Dunne praised the fact that the

for which women need more support, she noted that even pro-abortion feminists such as Australian academic Renata Klein are scathing of the mantra that RU-486 is “safe and effective”.

In her book RU486: Misconceptions, Myths and Morals Klein states that an “approach that truly respects women’s health and wellbeing could not, in good faith, endorse this fraught abortion method”.

Klein argues that RU-486 has been developed and promoted in the interests the medical profession, the drug companies and government health economies and offers no advantage to women who are left unsupported and often unsupported to undergo a physically and emotionally fraught process on their own.

“I do not see that as caring for Canberra women” said Mrs Dunne.

**..the procedure still represented the destruction of unborn human life, and showed little respect for the health, especially the mental health of the woman.**

*Mrs Bev Cains, President of the ACT Right to Life Association*

Marie Stopes abortion facility in Civic.

The Health Minister said she recognized the recent ACT Court ruling that silent prayer is not a prohibited activity but that she will “continue to monitor the situation”. (The High Court will consider cases involving so-called

legislation provided for a right to conscientious objection and does not include an obligation for the objector to refer patients to someone who would provide the service.

While Mrs Dunne has always opposed abortion as an inadequate solution to situations

# Social Justice and illicit drugs



JUSTICE MATTERS  
CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

BY NOEL BENTLEY

ILLICIT drug use is an endemic problem within the Australian community and can cause physical and mental illness amongst users, and emotional trauma within families. It is responsible for many deaths whether accidental or by suicide.

Common reasons for illicit drug use can include any one or more of the following: peer pressure, the desire to explore altered states of consciousness, mental impairment and self-medication.

Often the drug user seeks self-medication as a result of childhood traumas arising from a seriously dysfunctional family or environment. Perhaps trauma has been experienced in later life, or the user simply wants to be able to “manage” the everyday stresses of life.

Statistics are invariably used by parties for or against the decriminalisation of illicit drug use but the figures often are presented with a particular bias which clouds the deeper causes of this societal problem. Increasingly, we read in the media and in medical publications of the link between drug abuse and the user’s lack of groundedness or meaningful connection with the world around them.

Arguments for decriminalisation

Some claim there allegedly is little or no evidence that relevant

penal provisions are actually working to reduce the level of drug abuse. It is extremely costly to police and enforce and society can ill afford to spend such resources which would be better committed to increasing funding for rehabilitation programmes. And, most importantly, there are the very large sums of money exchanging hands amongst drug syndicates.

Imprisonment may well be doing more harm than good in modifying behaviour, by hardening offender attitudes to crime. Also, the inmate’s family can suffer psychologically, as well as materially in that it removes that person from the workforce who might otherwise be providing economic and social support.

There are supposedly strong social justice grounds for decriminalising illicit drug use, thus removing the stigma

attached to the practice (eg, following imprisonment). And decriminalisation reforms would reduce the risk of human rights abuses, against the individual and their families, within the criminal justice system.

However, from a Christian perspective the argument relating to individual rights is flawed in that it does not recognise the centrality of individual and family responsibility — that is, to oneself as the “temple of the Holy Spirit”, and to one’s family (and vice versa), as well as to the community.

*We will look at this side of the argument next month.*

*Please send comments on the article, or requests for further information about the Commission, to Social. Justice@cg.org.au.*

## Assisted suicide still a threat



BY STAFF WRITER

ASSISTED suicide still a threat to territory residents

Within days of legislation to allow the ACT and Northern Territory to introduce euthanasia being defeated in the Australian Senate, a new bill was tabled in the House of Representatives to keep the issue on the political agenda.

As reported in The Voice last month, the Senate on August 15 narrowly voted against a bill to allow territories to legalise euthanasia and assisted suicide. ACT Senator Zed Seselja was the only territory politician to vote against the dangerous move.

Senator Seselja argued “this is not fundamentally about territory rights; it is about human rights. The passage of this bill will inevitably lead to assisted suicide in the ACT, almost certainly with minimal safeguards, as supported by the bill’s sponsor. I will stand up for the human rights of Canberrans not to be pressured to end their lives.”

Instability in the parliament means there is a chance the new bill in the House of Representatives might be debated in coming months.

The ACT and Northern Territory Governments have continued their campaign against this restriction on territories, but have not shown the same level of concern for other limits on territory rights.

Territories are treated differently to states in a number of ways, both in the Australian Constitution and in their governing laws.

In particular, states have 12 senators each and each senator is generally elected for a six-year term. Territories have two senators each, elected for a three-year term. This means Tasmania has one senator for every 43,000 people, while the ACT has one senator for every 200,000 people.



# Vatican delegates in Canberra

DELEGATES of the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue (PCID) have been in Australia over the last week to observe and engage with the way Australian faiths communicate and co-operate.

Described as a Pastoral Visit, the delegates visited Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne during their stay and undertook a number of meetings and discussions with representatives from a range of faiths.

Starting on Sydney on Sunday, September 16, the Pastoral Visit concluded on Tuesday, September 25 and featured a busy schedule.

Spanish Bishop Miguel Ángel Ayuso Guixot, secretary of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, said he was very happy with what he had seen in Australia and could reconfirm the existing spirit of multiculturalism.

"Australia is very multicultural, which is a gift to be preserved, because when we look at other parts of the world, we see how sometimes we lose this precious gift and we enter into conflict and exclusivism," he said.

Reflecting on the delegation's visit to western Sydney and a diocese with 150 cultures, Bishop Ayuso encouraged all Australian Catholic communities to enhance religious dialogue and collaboration with other faith communities to build social cohesion while serving those in need.

"Pope Francis is promoting a culture of encounter and that there be an attitude of openness – to be open to other faiths in respect and friendship," Bishop Ayuso said.

"Today, as we look at the world, we see Pope Francis is constantly appealing to and calling to the international community for the accepting and welcoming of all kinds of refugees. His message to the entire world is to be very sensitive to the reality that every person



TOP: A delegation from the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Inter-religious Dialogue visited Australia in September to witness and discuss the Australian experience of inter-faith co-operation and communication. LEFT AND RIGHT: In Canberra session included small group discussion on common goals and beliefs.

is my brother and my sister and, therefore, we must respect every human person."

Bishop Ayuso said education was the key to create a loving, just and accepting society.

"Dialogue means we have to remain fully in our own identity ... not a melting pot, but a lovely mixed salad. We must avoid relativism and remain deeply rooted in our own religious traditions," he said.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse, who accompanied the delegation throughout their visit, believed Australia offered a unique view of cultures and faiths

working together.

"Surely one of the greatest gifts of Australia is our multi-cultural dimension. Particularly since the Second World War we have welcomed people from

**Surely one of the greatest gifts of Australia is our multi-cultural dimension. Particularly since the Second World War we have welcomed people from every corner of the globe in peace and relative social stability**

*Catholic Archbishop Christopher Prowse*

every corner of the globe in peace and relative social stability," he said. "This has offered Australia immense fruits and has

made us in many ways the envy of the world. One aspect of our new multicultural composition is often overlooked. When people come to Australia they also bring their various religious cultures

with them. Australia now has an extraordinary multi-religious culture. In so many ways this has become the "social glue" keeping

us together as one nation."

Archbishop Prowse said there had been a growing appreciation within the Catholic Church of inter-faith co-operation in recent decades.

"For the first time, an official delegation from the Vatican has come to Australia for a brief visit to observe the fruits of our dialogue with world religions here in Australia. Their main task is to advise Pope Francis on the Catholic Church's attitudes, teachings, dialogue and initiatives regarding building bridges of peace together."

*Source: ACBC Media Blog*

## Youth Ministers gather

YOUTH Ministry Coordinators from across the country gathered last week in Melbourne for the Australian Network of Diocesan Youth Ministry Coordinators annual meeting.

The gathering brought together leaders from 16 Dioceses and provided an opportunity to discern the movement of the Holy Spirit in youth ministry across Australia.

Sydney Catholic Youth Coordinator, Chris Lee, spoke of the importance of the network, saying "it allows us the opportunity to connect in with people facing similar struggles

and challenges.

"Our role is one that can be of high influence but also high responsibility so the opportunity to bounce ideas with other big picture people allows us to be able to dream and start implementing what could be while constantly being reminded of what matters."

It was evident that Diocesan Youth Ministry leaders found a new confidence in the direction of their ministry both locally and nationally following the gathering. The next annual meeting will be held in the Diocese of Lismore in 2019.





# Support for Royal Commission into Aged Care

CATHOLIC Health Australia (CHA) supports Prime Minister Scott Morrison’s call for a Royal Commission into aged care so that the future of care for Australia’s elderly can be properly and independently addressed.

CHA members share the community’s expectation for quality and compassionate care for all our older Australians and commend the commitment made to improving their future through this much needed examination and national conversation.

Chief executive of CHA, Suzanne Greenwood, said the Royal Commission should be used as an opportunity to ensure that the aged care system is fit-for-purpose for the care of older Australians.

“This Royal Commission should not be used as an excuse to ‘down tools’ on progressing the significant reforms to improve the aged care system that are already underway or recommended in recent reports.

“These reforms stem from the Tune Report and the Carnell Paterson Report, and focus on improving quality regulation, increasing informed consumer choice and control of services, and securing the resourcing of the ever-burgeoning need for aged care services,” Ms Greenwood said.



Scott Morrison visiting an aged care facility. He has called for a Royal Commission into the standard and delivery of aged care services. Picture: Supplied

Currently the prospects for older Australians needing quality aged care services are uncertain with no federal funding plan that will cater for the projected 2 million aged 85+ Australians by 2055.

“If the terms of reference are properly targeted, this Royal Commission could be a defining moment in aged care. CHA welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the development of the Terms of Reference, and to contribute to the Royal Commission.”

CHA members are 100% not-for-profit providers serving more than 1 in 10 older Australians accessing aged care services.

## BRIEFS

**MELBOURNE:** The passing of new laws that will impose mandatory prison sentences on people who assault emergency services workers is a step backwards for Victoria’s criminal justice system, says Jesuit Social Services.

“We all agree that emergency services workers perform vital services in the community and should be safe at work. Mandatory sentencing is not the right way to achieve this.

These laws will have a wide-reaching and harmful impact on ordinary Victorians, undermine judicial discretion and will further clog our court and prison systems,” said Jesuit Social Services CEO Julie Edwards.

**SYDNEY:** Following an extensive review of Safeguarding structures and the resolute commitment to fostering a culture of safety and care for children and those who are vulnerable, the Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay officially launched its new Diocesan Office for Safeguarding at a function in Waitara on September 19.

The launch acknowledged the imperative for the people of Broken Bay to be able to experience the Diocese and its works as a place of safety, welcome and inclusion.

This integrated model of Safeguarding is a significant direction for

the Diocese put in place by Most Rev Peter A Comensoli before his appointment as Archbishop to Melbourne and is the first stage in drawing together the important work being done in the areas of Safeguarding, Child Protection and Professional Standards across all sectors.

**DARWIN:** Excitement, hope-filled anticipation, a sense of peace and some trepidation – these are just a few of the many emotions being felt by the incoming Bishop of Darwin on the eve of his ordination.

Speaking about his priorities, goals and concerns for his new flock, Fr Charles Gauci said he intended to focus his time on listening to the people, learning from them and working out how best to serve them.

Fr Gauci was appointed to the role in June by Pope Francis.



# THANK YOU

The Clergy Retirement Foundation Committee, on behalf of all priests, especially those who are retired, wishes to thank everyone from across our vast Archdiocese who so generously supported the 2018 Father’s Day Appeal.

*The Appeal is still open to accept donations and this can be done by completing the coupon below*

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St Christopher’s Pastoral Centre  
GPO Box 3089  
Canberra ACT 2601

Secretary email:  
[kevin.croker@cg.org.au](mailto:kevin.croker@cg.org.au)

Website:  
[www.cgatholic.org.au](http://www.cgatholic.org.au)

## Bishops’ welcome Pope meeting

*The following is the response by Archbishop Mark Coleridge to Pope Francis’ announcement that he would convene a meeting of presidents of Bishops’ Conferences.*

I welcome Pope Francis’ decision to convene a meeting of the presidents of Bishops Conferences to discuss the Church’s ongoing efforts to address the immense harm caused by sexual abuse.

Such a meeting is unusual, but it is appropriate and justified as the Church internationally must stand united to eliminate this evil from our midst.

As the Australian bishops and leaders of Catholic religious orders said last month, so must the universal Church say as one: Never again.

I will go to Rome armed with our understanding gained from decades working to eliminate child sexual abuse and the toxic cultures that allowed it to happen. I will also go with the stories of survivors in my heart and the many things we have learnt from the Royal Commission.

The meeting in February will be no quick fix, but it is a step in the right direction and may be able to suggest to Pope Francis further steps to be taken.





# Teams gather in Fatima

FIVE Canberra couples attend Teams International Gathering in Fatima (52)

The recent 12th International Gathering of Teams was a deeply moving experience for five Canberra couples. They were part of a group of 38 Australians who arrived in Fatima using very different means of transport. Some walked part of their journey following the Camino trail, while others chartered a bus and toured with fellow Australians.

The Gathering focused on the joys and challenges of married life in the context of contemporary society. Enlivened by the Gathering, a number of Teams couples later went on to attend the World Meeting of Families in Ireland.

The size of the world Teams movement came into sharp focus, while sitting in Fatima's massive Basilica together with 8,500 Teams members, from 80 countries. Attendees included a significant contingent of clergy, with 400 priests, 18 bishops, and 4 cardinals who were speakers at the event. Speakers gave witness covering a diversity of languages, cultures and ages. This year, strict quotas had to be imposed on each country, as expressions of interest from the 150,000 members of Teams were about double the capacity of the venue.

Each day, a different part of the world led the agenda. There

were many memorable moments, such as the enthusiastic dancing and singing at the African Mass. Not to be outdone, the English-language Mass finished with a jazz version of "When the Saints Go Marching in". The entire Basilica erupted into song! In later activity, the central square (about the size of a football field) was filled with umbrellas as each couple sat together in shade to share some quiet time.

There were many thought-provoking presentations from clergy and married couples. Especially memorable, was the speech from Cardinal Turkson, who spoke on Human Ecology: Fraternity & Communion. The Emeritus Archbishop of Mosul, Iraq, spoke of the courage of ordinary couples in times of extreme adversity. The message was punctuated by his own personal story of when he was kidnapped by Islamic militants.

Married couples from around the world also spoke about the everyday reality of married life. South Australia's Vee and Rene Pols delivered one of the best presentations of the conference, focusing on forgiveness in marriage. Attendees remarked with admiration about the Australian way of speaking plainly and directly, in a way that touched the hearts of many.

Accommodation for Australian couples was spread over



Sarah & Mark Stooove – flag bearers for Australia at the opening ceremony

many hotels. Each mealtime, attendees returned to the allocated hotels for a shared meal with other couples. Of course, the likelihood of sitting with other English-speaking couples was remote, but it did not seem to matter. There always seemed to be someone who could translate, and then others who could retranslate into the remaining languages around the table. This process sometimes

produced amusing results, but it was all part of the experience! A lot of animation, hand waving and laughing supplemented any attempts at communication. Of course, the assistance of a glass of wine also made the job a little easier!

The joy, friendship and openness of attendees was catching and reciprocated. It would be hard to return home without being changed in some way by the

experience. The couples certainly returned richer, enlivened and with more understanding of the internationality of the Teams movement.

Teams is a movement for married couples, who meet regularly in small groups. For more information contact Genevieve and Tim Power at [teamspower@bigpond.com](mailto:teamspower@bigpond.com) or visit the website: [www.teams-oceania.com.au](http://www.teams-oceania.com.au)

## Caritas network responds to Typhoon Mangkhut

THE CARITAS international network is on the ground responding with emergency assistance, following the devastating impact of Typhoon Mangkhut, considered the strongest typhoon this year.

Typhoon Mangkhut (also known locally as Typhoon Ompong) made landfall in the Philippines early Saturday morning, before wreaking havoc across southern China and Hong Kong.

It estimated that over 60 people have died so far, with dozens missing, in the typhoon which had sustained winds of 205 kilometres per hour and gusts of up to 255kph. The numbers of fatalities is expected to rise. With power supplies disrupted and challenging communications, the true extent of this humanitarian emergency is only beginning to emerge.

Heavy rains and strong winds rushed through Northern Luzon and parts of Central and Southern Luzon, one of the main islands in the Philippines, further south of Cagayan. Meanwhile, storm surges of up to six metres high hit coastal areas, triggering flash floods and landslides.

Caritas Australia's Senior Programs Coordinator for Emergencies, Richard Forsythe, said the quick response and long-term disaster preparedness training within the communities has assisted many who were badly impacted by the typhoon.



"The Philippines is a country where many people are Catholic and there is a large church network," Mr Forsythe said. "Because we are embedded in local churches, part of the social fabric of communities, we are often the first responders, able to provide food, water and shelter to those most in need."

NASSA (Caritas Philippines) and Caritas Australia's sister agency in the US, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) are on the ground and part of the large Caritas

international network, assessing the situation and helping to deliver essential food, such as canned goods and rice, as well as hygiene kits.

As part of this response, NASSA said almost 12,000 families (almost 50,000 individuals) were evacuated from Cagayan province late last week.

"The region of flood-prone rice plains and mountain provinces has a history of deadly landslides. Father Gariguez added in the coming days the priority

would be to provide food and hygiene kits to communities impacted, given there had been significant damage to agriculture including rice, corn, vegetable, banana and other crops.

Matt Mc Garry, CRS's country representative said; "We have stocks of emergency relief materials pre-positioned outside of Manila and have set up a system that allows us to transfer cash to disaster-affected families through private financial service providers in the immediate aftermath of the disaster."

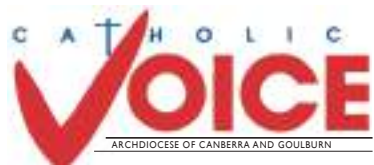
Meanwhile, there are concerns that the possibility of floods may exacerbate the likelihood of waterborne disease, an eventuality which Caritas staff are also preparing for.

The Caritas network will remain in the Philippines before, during and after the typhoon. Rapid Assessment Teams have been deployed and an operations centre has been established.

Australians who wish to support the people of the Philippines at this time can do so by donating to Caritas Australia's Asia Emergency Appeal <https://www.caritas.org.au/asia>

Caritas Australia is the lead agency of the CAN DO consortium, (Church Agencies Network Disaster Operations), members of which are currently conducting needs assessments.





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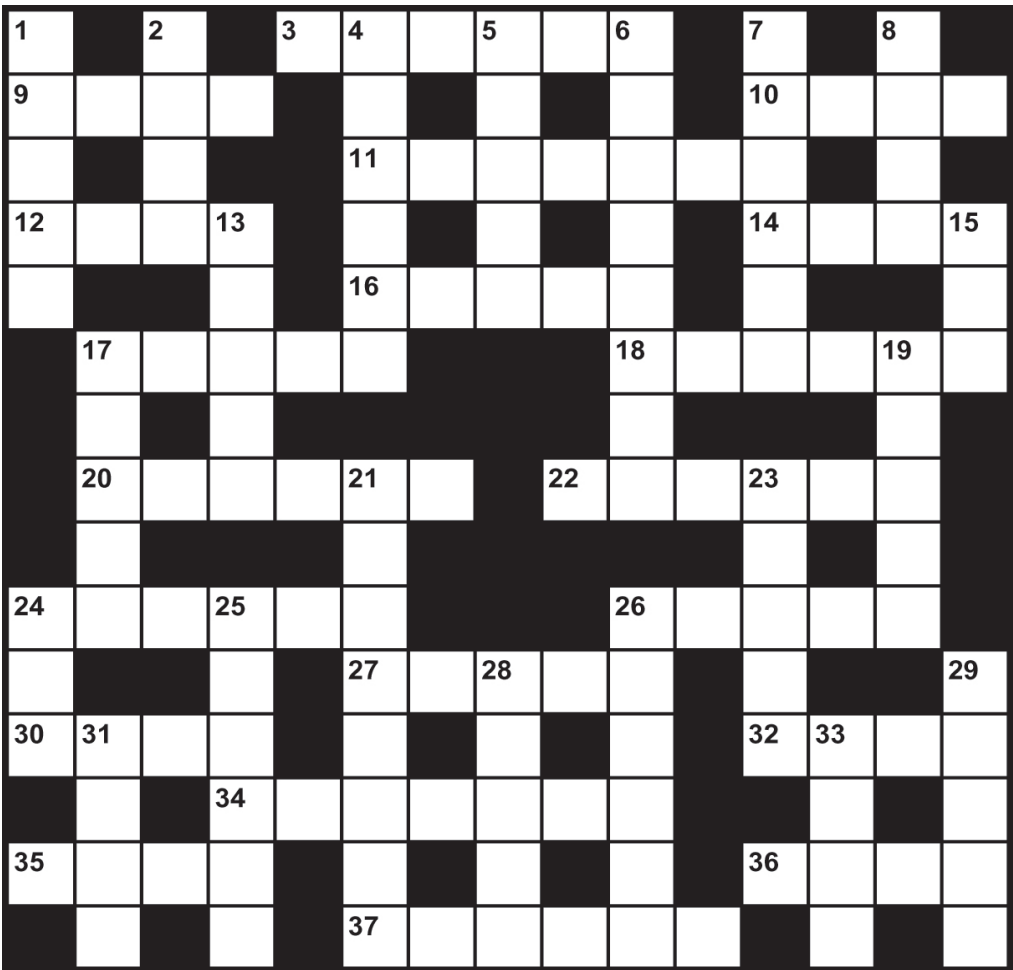
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### ACROSS

- 3 The 12 \_\_\_\_ of Israel
- 9 Biblical garden
- 10 \_\_\_\_ to Emmaus
- 11 In 13:23, Jeremiah asked if this animal could change its spots
- 12 Aaron made a golden one
- 14 Jesuits' motto (abbr.)
- 16 Temple tree
- 17 The form of a sacrament
- 18 Patron saint of beer brewers
- 20 Our Lady of \_\_\_\_
- 22 An angel
- 24 \_\_\_\_ Minor (Franciscan Order)
- 26 Catholic singer and songwriter George M.
- 27 "...and the rich he has sent \_\_\_\_ away" (Lk 1:53)
- 30 We should enter by the narrow one
- 32 Bible section
- 34 Church spire
- 35 Friday in Lent no-no food
- 36 Where Jesus met the Samaritan woman
- 37 Liturgical season

### DOWN

- 1 Prince of \_\_\_\_
- 2 The Mass is both a sacrifice and a \_\_\_\_
- 4 Articles of clothing or bones of saints
- 5 "You \_\_\_\_ of vipers!" (Lk 3:7)
- 6 Companion of Daniel
- 7 Make a father of

- 8 One of two names in a Catholic book publishing company
- 13 Commandment that tells us to worship only God
- 15 He called to Adam, "Where are you?" (Gen 3:9)
- 17 Communion host
- 19 Father of Rachel
- 21 Prayer of repentance
- 23 She tied a scarlet cord in her window
- 24 Tree under which Jesus saw Nathanael (Jn 1:47-48)
- 25 First word of a Latin hymn
- 26 Hometown of Simon
- 28 By the end of the 20th century there had been 265 of these
- 29 Place of the \_\_\_\_ (Mt 27: 33)
- 31 Killed by Cain
- 33 Job owned five hundred yoke of these



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# Coming Events

**OCTOBER 13:** Canberra Regional Amicus Group. Dinner at the China Tea House, Erindale. Meet at 7PM for Table booked in the name of Amicus. Contact Rosemary 0428 599 342.

**OCTOBER 19:** Home in Queanbeyan's Movie Night 2018. "Back to Burgundy." 6pm at the Q Theatre. \$75 includes drinks, hot snacks and movie entry. Contact manager@homeinqueanbeyan.org or (02) 62842409.

**OCTOBER 19 to 21:** Young Men of God Conference. More details to follow.

**OCTOBER 21:** Gala Concert featuring The Australian Rugby Choir. Proceeds to Farmer's Drought appeal, entry by gold coin donation. Artists include Drew Ashley, Julie O'Connor, Rachel Campbell, Harry Cleverdon, , The "Butt" Family, Greg Jamieson, Oscar Smith and Trinity School Choir.

**OCTOBER 24 (2pm to 5pm):** Year of Youth forum at St Christopher's Cathedral. Open to youth, young adults, clergy and leaders.

**OCTOBER 26 (5pm to 9pm):** Joy of the Gospel Review and Feedback session at Haydon Hall in St Christopher's Pastoral Centre in Manuka. For more information contact Kylie on (02) 6239 9800.

**OCTOBER 27 (10am):** Plenary Council Listening and Dialogue in the Western Deanery. Session will be held somewhere in Cootamundra. Location to be confirmed.

**OCTOBER 28:** Canberra Regional Amicus Group. Lunch at Bredbo Pub, Monaro Hwy for Lunch. Meet at 12 noon then visit to the Christmas Barn. Table booked in the name of Amicus. Contact Paul 0419 411 691.

**NOVEMBER 3 (9am to 4pm):** Archbishop's Teaching Day for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. At Haydon Hall in St Christopher's Pastoral Centre, Manuka. All are welcome. To register and for more information, call Neda on 0415 266 019 or Susanna on 0419 902 293.

**NOVEMBER 3 (9am to 4:30pm):** Call to Holiness - Archbishop's Day of Teaching for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. Haydon Hall at St Christopher's Pastoral Centre. Mass, talks, praise and worship. Event free, Lunch \$5, Morning tea provided. All welcome! To register please text Neda 0415 266 019, Susanna 0419 902 293 or Maida 0423 658 326.

**NOVEMBER 4:** St Greg's Youth LIVE. Save the date.

**NOVEMBER 9-11:** Weekend Retreat on Personal Holiness. Directed by Father Hugh Thomas CSSR at St Clements Galong. Organised by the Legion of Mary. All welcome. Enquiries and bookings Jacqueline 6251 3950 or Rick 0429878794.

**NOVEMBER 10 (9am to 4pm):** Consider the Cause of the Poor - A seminar on responding to the needs of the poor in the current age. Presented by the Good Shepherd prayer group with Kate Cleary and Fr Bernie Patterson. Parish Room in St Peter Chanel's, Weston St, Yarralumla. For information call Kate 0404 112 428, Neda 0415 266 019, or Susanna 0419 902 293.

**NOVEMBER 10 (9am to 1.30pm):** Marymead Annual Fete at Rheinberger Centre, Cnr of Loch and Weston Streets Yarralumla, ACT.

**REGULAR GROUPS**

**CANBERRA CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMUNITY (CLC):** Meets fortnightly. It's part of an international lay organisation originating from St. Ignatius of Loyola who formed the Jesuits. Groups are based on ordinary people leading ordinary lives practising Ignatian spirituality, the essence of which is finding God in the everyday. Contact Steve on 0407 147 540.

**CANBERRA TAIZE GROUP:** Meets for prayer every second Sunday of the month at Weston Creek Uniting church at 5.30pm.

**CATENIANS IN CANBERRA:** A Catholic men's group sharing faith and

friendship and supporting each other and their families. Meet on the third Thursday of each month, 6.45pm Southern Cross Club Woden followed by dinner, often with guest speaker. Contact: Phil Murray 0419 695 927.

**COMMUNITY OF THE RISEN LORD CANBERRA:** Meet at 7.30pm each Friday evening in St Brigid's Church parish hall (2 Bancroft St Dickson) for charismatic praise & worship with an anointed sharing of the Word. Contact Shan on 0412 310 364 or Sean 0448 510 237

**COUPLES FOR CHRIST (CFC) CANBERRA CHAPTER:** For more information contact Chris Carlisle 0414 938 831.

**GOOD SHEPHERD PRAYER GROUP:** Meets each Wednesday from 7pm to 9pm in the parish room at St Peter Chanel's Church Yarralumla. Rosary, charismatic praise and worship, teachings, testimonies, prayer ministry, intercession and fellowship. Contacts Susanna on 0419 902 293, Neda on 0415 266 019 and Gabriel on 0432 082 642.

**HOLY SPIRIT SECULAR FRANCISCAN FRATERNITY:** Meet on the third Friday of the month at 7.45pm, St Augustine Church, 262

Beasley St Farrer. Secular Franciscans try to follow Christ in the footsteps of St Francis of Assisi. Call Tony on 0407 072 139 or Hélène on 0420 533 264. Email: sfo@fastmail.fm

**IGNATIUS GROUP OF CANBERRA:** Meets fortnightly for discussion and reflection. Based on the international movement Christian Life Community. Contact Steve on 0407 147 540.

**LEGION OF MARY:** Meets on the third Sunday of each month at St Joseph Church O'Connor at 2pm.

**MAN OVERBOARD:** A monthly gathering of young men discerning priesthood. It is a time to gather, reflect; and commune in order to feel supported during a time of such importance. Each gathering will be held on the first Friday of every month (public holidays excepted). Please RSVP to Fr Paul Nulley at paul.nulley@cg.org.au For catering purposes or follow the prompts at <http://www.manoverboard.org.au/>

**MARIAN MOVEMENT OF PRIESTS:** Meets to pray a Cenacle at St Joseph's Church O'Connor each Wednesday following the 8.30am Mass. Contact Maria on (02) 6247 4026.

**menALIVE:** Encouraging authentic Christian manhood, the Canberra chapter of 'Men Alive' meet on the first Monday of each month at St Christopher's Cathedral for Mass at 5pm. Mass is then followed by drinks at 'Public Bar' in Manuka.

**MINISTRY TO THE NEWLY MARRIED:** A mentoring program for newly married couples or engaged couples soon-to-be married. Contact Debbie and Brian on (02) 6231 3389 or 0414 878 167. Email: mnm@grapevine.com.au

**TAIZE PRAYER:** The Canberra Friends of Taizé Ecumenical Group meets regularly for prayer every second Sunday of the month at Weston Creek Uniting Church at 5.30pm. Prayers, songs, Scripture readings and silent meditation as used in the monastery in Taizé, France. All welcome. Enquiries to Annemarie (0421 492 554) or CBRTaizeFriends@internode.on.net



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# Five Minutes with Rebecca Kiarica

Parish Liaison, Bateman's Bay

## What is your job title and what do you do?

My title is Parish Liaison and Pastoral Care Coordinator (Bateman's Bay), but I really do a lot of administrative work, however I feel the pastoral side is more where it's at for me. Even sitting at the front desk is all about being pastoral.

## How long have you worked for the Archdiocese?

About 8 years

## What are the best parts about your job?

I really enjoy working as part of the sacramental team, working alongside our parish priest and the teachers in St Bernard's school. Here we assist parents who are bringing their children for a sacrament, but they are often unsure about a lot of things, so it's in that space that we work to bring Jesus to them in a very real way. I also feel it's a real privilege to be part of people's lives when they are sharing matters of the heart. My ministry in my job is "listening," then comes all the practical work, which I don't mind either.

## Who inspires you in your faith?

My daughter is my inspiration. She was raised Catholic but as a young woman went about seeking out what being a "Catholic" means for her. She discovered real beauty in the Church and why we as Catholics do what we do. Also a friend of mine who has a great gift of prayer. These two inspire me daily.

## Do you have a favourite Saint?

My favourite saint is St Catherine of Siena, also a great inspiration for me.

## What's the most embarrassing thing that you've done in your present job?

My most embarrassing and humbling thing has been, when I've made a blunder in the bulletin and knowing that 300 people over the weekend have spotted it.

## What was the last concert you went to and the next one you'd like to go to?

I last went to see the ballet in Melbourne, "Alice's adventures in wonderland", SPECTACULAR. Next show is Lin Manuel Miranda's "HAMILTON", can't wait!

## What is your favourite sporting team and/or sport (and why)?

I don't really have a favourite sporting team, but we follow the Rabbitohs in our house, my husband's influence on all of us. Even my son-in-law had to come on board if he was to take our daughters hand in marriage

## What is your favourite food or beverage?

I just love food full stop and coffee is my addiction.

## What is your favourite place to eat?

Outside cafes in Paris.

## What is your favourite movie?

Rob Roy



## Who is your favourite actor/actress?

Clive Owen

## What is your favourite book and last book read?

"To Kill a Mockingbird" and one just read is, "The Glove Maker"

## What is your favourite place for a holiday?

Paris... can't get enough.

## What is the best thing about where you live?

Where we live is inspiring and peaceful, its beautiful, being surrounded by bush and ocean.

## What is your favourite quote, phrase or motto?

"Do all things with great love," Mother Theresa quote.

## What is the best advice you have ever been given?

The best advice I've been given was to, live in the present moment as much as you can, not to worry about tomorrow.

# Archbishop's call to Holiness



ARCHBISHOP Christopher Prowse has urged all members of the Charismatic Renewal to attend this year's Teaching Day.

"It is vital that I meet with all leaders of the prayer groups and communities on this day. I am waiting for you!" the Archbishop said.

The annual Teaching Days were an initiative by the Archbishop for all people involved in the Renewal. Susanna Taylor, a member of the local CCR Service Committee, described the days as being both enjoyable and inspirational.

"It's always a wonderful day and we encourage anyone who would like to come to enjoy it with us – everyone is welcome!" she said.

This year's theme is 'Call to Holiness: How to be holy in today's world.' The Archbishop will give two talks in the morning, with well-known local priest Fr Ken Barker MGL giving a talk after lunch. There will also be praise and worship, testimonies

and a Show and Tell where all the different groups and communities present briefly about themselves and their activities.

Neda Kesina, the Chairperson of the CCR Service Committee in this Archdiocese, explained that at present there are around nine groups – four prayer groups and five communities – involved in the Renewal in Canberra.

"We are very keen to meet with any Charismatic prayer groups and communities from other parts of our Archdiocese," Neda said. "We also hope the day will encourage people to start up prayer groups in their areas."

A national CCR meeting is held in Australia each year with representatives from every state and territory. Neda represents the ACT at these meetings.

Internationally, the governing body for the Renewal is the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services (ICCRS), based at the Vatican.

At the Golden Jubilee of the Renewal last year, Pope Francis announced the creation of a new Charismatic body called CHARIS. Both ICCRS and the Fraternal Covenant Communities will join together as CHARIS from Pentecost 2019.

"This is something we are already working towards here in Canberra," Neda said.

"Our CCR Committee is made up of representatives from Charismatic communities and prayer groups so we look forward to the opportunities CHARIS brings for even greater unity."

The Archbishop's Teaching Day "Call to Holiness" will be held at Haydon Hall, St Christopher's Pastoral Centre, Manuka on Saturday November 3 from 9am – 4.30pm. Entry is free, with a sausage sizzle lunch for \$5. A collection will be taken for the work of the Renewal.

The event is organised by the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Canberra-Goulburn. To register please contact Neda (0415 266 019), Susanna (0419 902 293) or Maida (0423 658 326).

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TOP LEFT: Engaging discussions were the order of the day at the Women's Consultation session in September. TOP RIGHT: The Theme was thrift-couture, or op-shop chic, as Merici College hosted Canberra's largest thrift shop social event, "Merici Night Out." ABOVE LEFT: The organising committee for NCP 2018 - Fr Paddy Sykes, , Fr Simon Falk, Bishop Pat Power and Monsignor John Woods ABOVE RIGHT: Inspirational but also FUN was St Clare's second annual Youth Rally. BELOW: The students of Hennessy Catholic College and St Mary's Primary in Young combined to spelled out 300 in this drone photo to commemorate 300 years since the birth of the founder of the Presentation sisters.





# Carnival sees Boorowa boom

THERE aren't many events that can triple a city or a town's population for a day.

The Olympics didn't... the NRL and AFL grand finals don't.

But the Boorowa Touch/Netball Carnival on Friday, October 26 does.

It has been running for over 25 years and existed in a different format as far back as the 1950s, but shows no signs of stopping.

"It's not just one of the biggest school events in the region, it's the biggest carnival in NSW Primary School sports," said St Joseph's Primary School principal and event co-organiser Brendan Maynard.

"Often when you tell people you're from Boorowa people will say "I used to go to the Carnival... my kids have gone to the carnival... so it's been synonymous with the town for a long, long time."

Over 4,500 children, and around 2,500 teachers, family and spectators and assistants take part... a total of somewhere between 7,000 to 7,500 that will be at the Boorowa Showground on the day. Not bad for a town with a population of around 3,500.

In all, 434 teams will be

playing, 188 netball and 246 touch footy, and representing a wide area and wide variety of schools.

"A lot of the teams are from our local region, but there are schools from Goulburn, Braidwood, the South Coast, Canberra... and it's a mix of public, Catholic systemic and independent schools as well.

"On top of that, many high school and college students come from across the region to assist the juniors so it's a cross-sector carnival."

And it's not just the size of the event that stands out. The format is pretty rare these days too.

"There are no finals," advised Mr Maynard.

"It's not about that. It's a day primarily about coming together, playing and enjoying those sports and meeting children from all over the place. It's about participation and obviously it's a format that has stood the test of time."

The day is also an important fund-raiser for the schools and the logistics of catering to the massive crowd begins well in advance of the day.

Mr Maynard also expressed his gratitude to the Hilltops Council



The population of Boorowa trebles for one day each year when touch football and netball players from the region's primary schools, and beyond, descend upon the town for it's sport's carnival.

for their assistance across a range of areas.

"They're pretty amazing with all the things they do to assist

with this. From supplying the ground and facilities to helping with roads and traffic and lots of other ways... it's a great

community event."

The first games kick off at 9am and play through until 3.30pm.

## Stars shine in Brumbies High School 7s

CANBERRA turned on the weather for the Brumbies High School and College 7s Finals yesterday which was held at Southwell Park in Lynham.

After several Gala Days across the 3 Brumbies regions and 1000's of students playing 7s for their schools, yesterday was the crowning event to see who would be named the best 7s schools in the Brumbies Region.

A big thank you from us here at the Brumbies to all schools and especially the teachers who continue to support our events and expose their students to the game that we all love.

A big congratulations goes to the following teams that proved to be the best school 7s teams in the Brumbies region:

- 7/8 Girls - Carroll College
- 7/8 Boys - St Edmunds College
- 9/10 Girls - Bega High School
- 9/10 Boys - St Edmunds College
- 11/12 Girls - St Clare's College
- 11/12 Boys - Daramalan College .



### BRIEFS

**COOMA:** With the end of the snow season closing in, students of St Patrick's, Cooma recorded strong results in the Interschools Snowsports Championships.

Five days of racing, competing against 120 other skiers from all over Australia, earned Connor Cusak (Year 7) very respectable placings. Audrey Willett (Year 2), also did well as did Hudson Hughes (also Year 2) who picked up high placings as well.

**COMING EVENTS:** Winter sports are winding up but summer sports are just getting started. Here's some of what's happening up in coming weeks:

- 23rd - 26th October: NSWPSA Boys Cricket
- 31st Oct - 1st November - NSWPSA Athletics
- 5th - 8th November - NSWPSA Girls Cricket