

# CATHOLIC VOICE

ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN

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**Archbishop's Message**  
Archbishop Christopher Prowse

## IN THIS *Edition*

# Christmas 2018 - we beg to differ!

**R**ecently I came across a beautiful saying that is so suitable to Christmas.

"A lighted candle came into a darkened room and said:  
"I beg to differ."

On the first Christmas it was night. Luke's Gospel makes this clear by observing that "there were shepherds... keeping guard over their sheep during the watches of the night" (Lk 2/8). It seems that Jesus was born in the middle of the night. People were sleeping.

Yet, it was not simply the absence of the sun that caused this midnight. Another type of "darkness" was at play: inhospitality. The fact that St Joseph and Mary were in a stable in the first place was "because there was no room for them in the inn." (Lk.2/7) The Holy Family, at least at this crucial moment of salvation history, were homeless due to the absence of hospitality in Bethlehem.

Into this "darkened room" comes the "lighted candle" of Jesus.

His coming was prefigured by the Angel of light's encounter with the Shepherds. This heavenly light "stood over them and the glory of the Lord shone round them". (Lk.2/9)

Here the cosmos or universe is communicating a language for us all. It is that the dawn begins at midnight. It is that darkness will not have the last word – the light begs to differ. There is hope. There is light. There is a tomorrow of joy. For Christians that LIGHT IS JESUS, our hope and glory!

In Australia today there seems so much midnight darkness.

For example, I am aware of much mental illness, especially in our rural



areas. There has been a spate of tragic suicides in farming districts in recent times. Anguish and trauma arises from this in families and friends. How will they cope this Christmas?

Then there is even more homelessness. For most, Christmas is a time of gatherings for Church and family reunions. Sadly, for too many, the thought of family gatherings is a heartache and not a reason for joy. The darkness of loneliness arises in the hearts of some marriages and families.

Finally, the lost, the least and the last in society are always there but at Christmas their basic needs are more prominent. Groups like our St Vincent de Paul offer practical help to those confronting the darkness of insecurity – even for the most basic of needs.

Into all this "darkened room" comes the "lighted candle" of the Christ-child who says in a thousand ways to the encircling gloom: "I beg to differ."

The creation and sustaining of a

"culture of tenderness", as Pope Francis would helpfully describe it, is a true light in the darkness. Living in Jesus we will not allow human selfishness and aggression to have the last say. With Jesus – never! There is always mercy and forgiveness.

It is certainly true to say at Christmas – "Isn't it great to be loved!" But it is even greater to say "Isn't it great to love!"

Jesus is always found in the latter. Jesus is forever the redemptive light that scatters the darkness of sin.

If this is what Jesus does, so must we do the same this Christmas. This is not done in a sentimental and trivial manner but something real and practical.

As St Francis of Assisi expressed it beautifully in his Peace Prayer: "Where there is darkness, let me bring your light."

In being the light of Jesus this Christmas in many unspoken ways, we shout out to the cynical and self-absorbed darkness of today: we beg to differ!



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### Archbishop's Diary December 2018

**SUNDAY, 2 11.00am** Mass, St Christopher's Cathedral

**TUESDAY, 4 1.30pm** Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture Board Meeting, Barton

**WEDNESDAY, 5 10.00am** Wagga Wagga Diocese Consultors Meeting, Wagga Wagga

**THURSDAY, 6 11.00am** Australian Multicultural Foundation Board Meeting

**FRIDAY, 7 10.30am** Archbishop's Office for Evangelisation Staff Advent Reflection, Haydon Hall, St Christopher's Pastoral Centre, Forrest

**SUNDAY, 9 11.00am** Mass, St Christopher's Cathedral  
**12.30pm** Mass/lunch African Community, St Peter Chanel's, Yarralumla

**THURSDAY, 13 9.00am** Council of Priests/Trustees & Consultors Meeting, Archbishop's House  
**7.30pm** Christmas Carols, St Christopher's Cathedral

**SATURDAY, 15 2.00pm** Induction of new rector Reverend Dr Benjamin Edwards, St Pauls Anglican Church, Manuka

**SUNDAY, 16 8.00am** Mass, St Christopher's Cathedral

**SUNDAY, 23 11.00am** Mass, St Christopher's Cathedral

**MONDAY, 24 6.00pm** Children's Mass, St Christopher's Cathedral

**TUESDAY, 25 12.00am** Midnight Mass, St Christopher's Cathedral  
**11.00am** Mass, St Christopher's Cathedral



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

ADDRESS:  
GPO Box 3089  
Canberra ACT 2606

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

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# Seed scattered Yeast hidden

BY FR TONY PERCY, VG

**Recently, I had a day that stopped me in my tracks. There is much debate about the Catholic Church. The issues of governance and inclusion are front and centre stage. Let's hit inclusion first.**

I celebrated Mass early at 7am and was quite taken aback by a curious coincidence that appeared in the Liturgy of the Word. Both readings highlighted the complementarity of men and women in the salvific mission of Christ.

The first reading was from Ephesians 5. The text speaks about the mutual subordination of woman and man in Christ. In the Old Testament a woman gained dignity by being joined in marriage to a circumcised male. Not so the New Testament. A woman gains her dignity by being baptised and thus intimately joined to Christ. From their mutual surrender in marriage, husband and wife become living witnesses to their children and society. Hence the mantra, marriage is for family and family is for society.

The Gospel reading was from Luke 13 and proclaimed two parables about the kingdom of God. The first is about a man who scatters seed which grows into a tree. The birds find shelter. The second parable is about a woman who takes and mixes yeast in with flour and presto, we have bread. Luke does this often in his gospel. He is inclusive, and in this case the inclusion is with respect to how men and women both participate intimately in the development of the kingdom of God.

Unity respects and loves difference. It is through the experience of unity – not uniformity – that personal being is enhanced and often in unexpected ways. When applied to sexual difference, we speak of the complementarity of the sexes. Obviously this is important when understanding the nature of human sexuality, but it affects a whole range of human activity, including the proclamation of the Gospel.

Both Paul and Luke are trying to highlight for us – it seems to me – the fact that when the Gospel was first preached it respected the complementary nature of the proclamation. Women have a place. Men have a place. And we do well to respect the different ways that the proclamation must inevitably have if we are to have a Church of unity.

Think for instance of the public preaching of St. Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179). She preached to popes, bishops, priests, and the baptised. But for some reason, this has not always been the case in Church practice. Is it

because we have aligned preaching with the Eucharistic liturgy which reserves the homily to the priest?

But preaching the homily is one thing; preaching publicly is another. The grace of Baptism not only means we die and rise with Jesus, but we are commissioned to preach his death and resurrection. Not to have the feminine and masculine voice heard in this proclamation is surely debilitating. You'll be happy to know, no doubt, that our newly launched youth ministry in the Archdiocese has twelve youth ministers – six of them young women preaching the Gospel among their peers.

What about governance in the Church and women's role in it? In the evening of that day, I attended an excellent talk by Greg Craven – vice chancellor of Australian Catholic University. His topic was, "The Catholic Church: Where to from here." Greg is an eminent constitutional lawyer and was a member of the Truth, Justice and Healing Council. During his talk he raised the issue of women and governance. His points were sensible. As he spoke I began a mental exercise, the fruit of which is what follows.

Each Tuesday the Archbishop of

Canberra and Goulburn convenes his episcopal council. It includes three men, three women. There are two clerics, one layman who is the Chancellor. One of the women holds the position of Archdiocesan Financial Administrator (AFA), the other two are Executive Assistants. Each Wednesday, I convene a vicar-general meeting. It includes two men, three women. These meetings are not what you would call "yes minister" meetings.

Furthermore, most of our important portfolios in the Archbishop's Office for Evangelisation (Chancery) are entrusted to the leadership of women. The AFA is a woman; the head of Communications is a woman; the head of Marriage, Family and Relationships is a woman; the manager of the Institute of Professional Standards and Safeguarding is a woman; the manager of the Catholic Development Fund is a woman; the manager of Parish Pastoral Support is a woman; the head of Fundraising is a woman; the head of our Tribunal is a woman.

Two out of three of our Archdiocesan agencies have female CEO's – CatholicCare and Marymead. And for the record, sixty-one per cent of our Catholic school principals are female

and sixty-eight per cent of assistant principals are female. I might add that all of them have been chosen on talent and merit. The Archdiocese does not have quotas.

After Craven's talk, the day finished with a meal with a priest friend. He invited a life-time female friend of his and her son. This woman is an accomplished doctor, mother of three and at one stage Lord Mayor of the City of Darwin. You guessed it, she was educated by religious women!

There is much to be grateful for and there is much to do. We have the "seed" and we have the "yeast." It is time, once again, to proclaim the goodness of the Lord.





# MY CHRISTMAS *Wish*

*S*ometimes it's something grand, noble and universal, sometimes it's something individual and practical, but we all have our private wishes, and even more so at Christmas. We asked some people from across the Archdiocese what their Christmas wishes were and here are their answers. Why not add your Christmas wishes to the comments section below this story on the Catholic Voice website [www.catholicvoice.org.au](http://www.catholicvoice.org.au)





**1 Maria Hicks, Institute for Professional Standards and Safeguarding Manager**

My Christmas wish is that every child be treated as the precious gift they are; nourished by the love of their family and friends and filled with the wonder and awe of the Christmas season. May everyone enjoy a safe and happy Christmas.

**2 Victor Dunn, Chancellor of the Archdiocese**

At Christmas time I think in particular of the children of the world. Not that I do not think of them throughout the year but Christmas brings a sharper focus. I reflect how Jesus was born in a manger to a loving family and I was born in a hospital to a loving family.

What little we know of Jesus' childhood it seems to have been pretty normal as was my childhood through the late forties and fifties. My wish is that children the world over could experience the same love, peace and security that I did.

**3 Father Joshy Kurien, Dean of Western Deanery**

Let us stand in front of the crib for a few moments in silence and wonder, and slowly closing our eyes knowing that, here, Jesus is finding us, loving us and cuddling us with tenderness, experiencing a deep sense of joy and peace.

**4 Michele Murdock, Manager Catholic Development Fund**

After a busy year I wish for a Christmas enjoying some quiet time in the company of family and friends. I look forward to our joyous outdoor Christmas Eve celebration at St Mary's Church, Bungendore with clear skies above us. Safe travel to those on the roads and a blessed Christmas & Happy New Year to all!

**5 Bernie van Wyk, ACT CEO St Vincent de Paul Society**

May this Christmas and every day from then on may we pause daily and take stock of the gifts our life bestows on us; showing gratitude for what we have, and that every single person we meet and engage with be treated equally – because we all matter.

**6 Father Martins Aloga, Dean of Coastal Deanery**

Christmas is here again, and Christ is the reason for the Season. We use this opportunity to wish the Archbishop, Christopher Prowse, his 'alter ego', Fr. Tony Percy VG, and the People of God in the Archdiocese a joyful yuletide. All roads leads to the Coast! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us in the Coastline of the Archdiocese

**7 Father Tony Percy, Vicar General of the Archdiocese**

I think gratitude is a good way to approach Christmas. Mary and Joseph found a simple abode for the first Christmas, among the animals and probably the stench. Hard to think that they weren't grateful for such accommodation, shielding them from the elements. So, yes, I am thankful for the water I drink, the food that nourishes me, the family and friends in my life. And I am grateful for the Baby who has shown his tenderness and love for me – for us

**8 Ross Fox, Director Catholic Education, Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn**

My Christmas wish this year is that 2019 continue to fill our school communities with hope, joy and wonder. That our students continue to grow and thrive in the understanding of their faith. Advent blessings to everyone, stay healthy and safe this holiday season.

**9 Camilla Rowland, CEO Marymead Child & Family Centre**

That people in the community are generous with their care, support and time for each other, and that they consider the Christmas message of renewal and joy in showing their appreciation for those in their family, and helping those in need.

**10 Helen Delahunty, Archdiocesan Financial Administrator**

My wish is for all our Archdiocese to rest and enjoy a break after a long and busy year. We have another big year ahead of us, so we need to be ready for it. Enjoy a happy Christmas with your loved ones

**11 Father Richard Thompson, Dean of Central Canberra Deanery**

As we approach the Christmas season I sincerely wish all in the Central Canberra Deanery a joyous and peaceful Christmas. On behalf of the clergy I thank all parishioners who have showed loving support to those of us in active and retired ministry. In these challenging times your support makes all the difference as we all struggle to regain the innocence exhibited in the events of the Christ child's birth. Every blessing upon you and yours.

**12 Mike Cassidy, Chairman of the Catholic Social Justice Commission**

A group of parishioners in every parish, committed to social justice, holding the candidates in our forthcoming NSW and Federal elections to account on justice issues.

A flood of letters to Prime Minister Morrison to get all the kids off Nauru and to restore hope to all on Nauru and Manus by resettling them.





# Grieving & Praying

*those who died by suicide*

SUICIDE has long been a subject that society as a whole has struggled to discuss.

It's a subject that religions and people of faith have also grappled with.

But it's also subject that has, in more recent years, been brought into the light. With a greater awareness of mental health has come an appreciation of the importance of talking about depression and suicide.

A special Memorial Mass was held at St Joseph's Catholic Church, O'Connor on November 21 for those who have died by suicide. Fr Paul Nulley described it as part of a process of healing and mercy.

"The Memorial Mass was an opportunity for those who have lost a loved one by suicide to come together, remember their loved ones, pray for their souls and renew hope once more in the mercy of

God," he said.

Fr Paul said 41 people were remembered at the Mass. Each had their name read during the Eucharistic Prayer with photos placed and a candle lit for them from the Paschal Candle.

“The Paschal Candle, which is blessed during the Easter Vigil, is lit at every baptism and funeral. The Paschal Candle symbolises the light of Christ, which scatters all darkness - even the darkness of death itself - as it proclaims the new life of the Resurrection.”

“Anyone who wished to have a loved one remembered was welcome to attend. Every story is different but there is still stigma and shame associated with suicide.

"I am also aware that some people have had bad experiences with the Church upon the death of their loved one. Only last month when I celebrated

a funeral, at the burial, one of the mourners went over to his dad's grave and said, 'In the eyes of the Church, he committed the unforgivable sin.'

“However, as our understanding of the causes and reasons for suicide increase, so too does the Church’s pastoral response, and I was able to inform this man of the Memorial Mass being celebrated tomorrow.”

Fr Paul said that a number of the people who attended after hearing about the service were from other faiths.

In his time as a priest, Fr Paul said he had encountered a number of people dealing with the loss of loved ones to suicide.

“During my five years of ministry, I have had the privilege of journeying with two mothers after the death of their children; and I am humbled by their faith, their courage, their love and

all that they have shared with me," he said.

"This Mass was celebrated in response to a suggestion from one of these mothers."

Fr Paul admitted that there is no template for such a service and that he was “feeling his way” to an extent in terms of the form of the Mass.

“But I think it is important that this Mass was celebrated and that those who have been affected by the death of a loved one hears the Church clearly say that She still cares for you and your loved one and wants to be here for you.

"I think it's important that the reality and impact of suicide is acknowledged and that those affected have the opportunity to come together, in a setting of faith, and exchange their stories with the hope of finding solace and support."

# Archbishop's Christmas Appeal

Jesus' birth is a gift of love seeking to embrace all people in their need. It is a gift we celebrate and are called to share.

We are again being called to support the needs of our neighbours through the Archbishop's Christmas Appeal collections during Christmas Mass celebrations across the Archdiocese.

Through our generosity and shared concern for others, contributions towards helping the rural parish of St Joseph's, Battambang in Cambodia provide improved and extended education opportunities to students.

These contributions last beyond their infant years to primary, secondary and tertiary levels whilst also seeking to improve the self-sufficiency of the parish and their community.

Much needed support will also go to the Diocese of Broome in Western Australia to further their presence and work across many isolated and remote communities as well as to our near neighbour, the Diocese of Wilcannia Forbes, facing similar issues.

Continued support will be given to:

- the National Council of Churches' Christmas Bowl Appeal to assist in bringing hope and opportunity to those in need in Vanuatu, Myanmar, Zimbabwe, Syria and Pakistan;

- student assistance for those in need at Bethlehem University in the Holy Land where the University is endeavouring to train future leaders within a Catholic education environment;

- projects within the Diocese of Otukpo, Nigeria in Africa and within the La Salette Matha Province in India focused on helping the poor.

**Last year, the Archbishop's Christmas Appeal raised \$67,883. Of this:**

- \$10,000 went to the Diocese of Otukpo, Nigeria,
- \$10,000 to the Tagbilaran Diocesan Seminary in Cebu, Philippines for ongoing typhoon recovery work;
- \$15,607 supported pastoral initiatives in our neighbouring Wilcannia Forbes Diocese and a further \$5,000 to the Wilcannia Hub project assisting young indigenous families;
- \$12,276 towards the provision of a school bus to transport young children to school from poor surrounding villages through the La Salette Matha Province in India;
- \$5,000 to Bethlehem University in the Holy Land for student assistance to those in need; and
- \$10,000 to the National Council of Churches in Australia's (NCCA's) Christmas Bowl Appeal, to assist their Act for Peace projects.

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## 5 minutes with Fr Adrian Chan

Assistant Parish Priest, Mary Help  
of Christians, South Woden



**What parishes have you been involved with in this Archdiocese?**  
Bega, Gungahlin, Kambah

**Do you have any places you particularly like to visit?**  
Jindabyne for the snow

**Who inspires you in your faith?**  
My novice master Father Tom Curran for his humour and Irishness

**Do you have a favourite Saint?**  
St Teresa of Avila

**Have you been to any great concerts?**  
I prefer musicals like the Sound of Music and Hairspray

**Do you have a favourite sporting team and/or sport (and why)?**  
I support As Roma since studying in Rome

**What is your favourite food or beverage?**  
Non spicy Indonesian food

**Do you have a favourite place to eat?**  
Canberra centre food court

**What is your favourite movie?**  
Gladiator starring Russell Crowe

**What is your favourite book and last book read?**  
Pillars of the Earth. The Hunt for Red October

**What is your favourite place for a holiday?**  
Hong Kong

**What is your favourite quote, phrase or motto?**  
Life is like a box of chocolates

**What is the best advice you have ever been given?**  
What matters is the journey not the results

## Fraternity and support for retired priests



ELEVEN of the Archdiocese retired priests attended a special lunch at the Archbishop's House on Friday, November 2.

The retired priests lunch has become an annual event and Manager of the Clergy Retirement Foundation Kevin Croker described it as a very friendly and supportive get-together.

"It brings them all together in a fraternal, sharing environment but

also thanks them for the wonderful, supportive role they play in supporting their brother priests, especially with the supply of masses," he said.

The lunch was preceded by a Mass that was concelebrated by the priests and Archbishop Christopher Prowse in the Chapel at the Archbishop's House.

A number of retired priests were unable to attend due to unavailability, illness or distance to travel.



# Wishing you peace, hope & joy



# Remembrance Day

## *around the Archdiocese*

Every year at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, Australians (and may other people around the world) fall silent in honour of the day the guns fell silent on the western front, marking the end of the Great War.

This year was a particularly poignant occasion, marking 100 years since that first Armistice Day.

For Remembrance Day this year, we asked parishes and schools around the Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn to let us know how they commemorated the occasion. Here are the responses we received.



### Remembrance Day – St Monica's Primary School, Evatt

On Monday St Monica's gathered as a school to mark Remembrance Day, which was particularly important this year as it marks the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War.

The service was led by 6E and included many of the symbols we associate with Remembrance Day - the Australian flags, a slouch hat, military medals, poppies and a wreath made from flowers growing around our school. We also had Cpl Cohen, who is dressed in a replica of the uniform worn at the Battle of Lone Pine.

### Remembrance Service – Hennessy Catholic College, Young

By Stephanie Cooke, MP

Today I participated in the Schools special Remembrance service with every student from Hennessy Catholic College in Young. Also joining the service was Mayor Ingram and Cr Walker.

First up I had a guided tour of the school with incoming captains Anabelle Hudson and Charlie Crisp. It was wonderful to be so openly welcomed, and to spend dedicated time with you both!

The service, featuring Major Phillip Mitchell's Young Army Cadets was deeply meaningful.

The feature of the service was a moving address by Young Army Cadet and Hennessy Catholic College student Emma Suitor-Clark who recently returned from the adventure of a lifetime to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Amiens. She spoke confidently and honestly - a future leader in the making!

Thank you Principal Mrs Trazel Scott, Captains-Elect, Teachers and Students for the effort that went into today. I look

forward to seeing you all again soon.

Remembrance Day – Sacred Heart Central School, Cootamundra

Thank you to our students and Mrs Trinder who joined others from Cootamundra today to honour the 100th anniversary of the Armistice which ended the First World War (1914-18).

### Remembrance Day – St John The Apostle, Florey

3Blue spent the term collecting cans, bottles and poppers and their teacher Mrs Fear took them to be recycled. The money they raised was donated to Legacy. They raised \$100. 3Blue asked members of the forces to come and lay a poppy on our prayer space. A member of Legacy came to accept the money and gave us a certificate. May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be everywhere loved ....forever.

### Remembrance Day – St Edmund's College, Canberra

On Friday 9 November, Year 9 History classes paid their respects at the Australian War Memorial to complement their study of the First World War.

Students were able to experience the First World War exhibits and reflect amongst the 62,000 handmade poppies displayed, to commemorate Remembrance Day and the end of fighting in the First World War.

### Remembrance Day - St Mary's, Young

To begin our School week this week, the whole of St Mary's Primary School Young participated in our Remembrance Day Liturgy.

We commenced with a reminder about how important this day is to us as Australians and some interesting facts about how many Australian men and

women went off to war, how many of these people were injured and how many of these people lost their lives in battle.

We had a minutes silence after listening to the ode, followed by listening to the beautiful song titled "In Flanders Fields". Our Liturgy concluded with the following prayer and a representative from each class being invited to come and receive a handmade Poppy to take back to their prayer tables.

Some classes created their own poppies which have been proudly displayed around the gardens of our school.

### Remembrance Day – St John Paul II College

By Vicki Walsh

Our College was sprinkled with beautiful hand-crafted poppies to mark the 100th anniversary of the Armistice which ended the First World War (1914–18). There were several displays around the College which served as a visual reminder to our students, staff and visitors of the sacrifices made by the 60,000 Australians who never returned from the Great War.

JPC marked Remembrance Day reverently with one minute's silence and the Ode being read by one of our Defence Students.

With a Defence population of nearly 12% of students, the ADF and their families play a big part in our College. JPC recognizes and supports our Defence Families, who every day continue to make sacrifices and contribute towards the safety of our country.

A heartfelt thank you to our College Community, members of the 5000 Poppies Project Facebook, residents of The Grove and the Embroiders Guild of ACT for providing their beautifully crafted poppies for our tributes around the College.





# Catholics & War

*“And you will hear of wars and rumours of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise up against nation and kingdom against kingdom...”*

Matthew 2

BY ANTHONY DOYLE

**T**he last two weeks of the liturgical year, the Church in the readings both of the daily Eucharist and in the Divine Office calls us to take stock and to reflect on the last things – of the great battle between good and evil when Christ the King will bring an end the rebellion of Satan and all evil. We then enter Advent and look to the nativity of the Prince of Peace.

As we do so, we cannot fail to notice that we live in a world driven by conflict; nation against nation and increasingly terror groups ‘non-state actors’ in modern parlance. One hundred years ago this month, the guns fell silent on the ‘War to end all wars.’ For a moment, it appeared that this might be true; then the world was plunged into a second, even greater conflict. At the end of that war, the victorious powers established a body designed to prevent further war – the United Nations. It has signally failed in this goal.

Finally, with the collapse of the ‘Evil Empire’ of Soviet Communism in 1989, the historian Francis Fukuyama declared “The end of history” and with it major conflicts. And then came the rise of Islamicism and then expansionistic China, opportunistic Russia and the atomic insanity of Kim Jong Un’s North Korea.

Given the unending predilection of humans to conflict, how should Catholics respond? What does the Church teach us?

In fact, it was the Church that first proposed moral rules to restrict the occurrence and severity of war. St Augustine in the fifth century proposed a series of criteria that with amendments, still stand today and remain dominant in both Christian and secular Western thinking. The Second Vatican Council – with reservations – reaffirmed the traditional view and the Catechism of the Catholic Church restates in basic form Catholic thinking on war.

The ethics of war cover two areas; Jus ad bellum – when (if ever) is it right to go to war; and Jus in bello – the rules of war or the Laws of Armed Conflict (LOAC) in modern military language.

LOAC concepts are straightforward but their application is endlessly difficult.

There are two principles; Proportionality – that appropriate force is used. This would rule out some weapons entirely for example Biological ones. Discrimination or Non-Combatant Immunity means that deadly force is not to be used against civilians, medical personnel, etc. This gets difficult where, for example, Saddam Hussein placed civilians on top of military installations.

Since the 19th century the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and other bodies have drawn up lists of prohibited weapons and actions. The ICRC is at present trying to create discussion on new weapons such as drones that can kill automatically without a human issuing the order to fire – a very bad idea.

Jus ad bellum is more complex. There are variations but generally there are seven criteria that must be met before going to war can be justified. They are:

(a) Just cause. This can go beyond mere self-defense, coming to the aid of others can be invoked. Defining Just cause is of course the challenge.

(b) Competent authority. Traditionally this means a nation state. One cannot simply gather a few people and head off to war. Some now argue that there needs to be international authority – presumably the UN. However, the inability of the UN – especially the five permanent members of the Security Council – to agree on anything in this area throws doubt on this view.

(c) Right intention. This excludes (theoretically) wars of revenge.

(d) Last resort. All reasonable peaceful means must have been tried first.

(e) Proportionality. The result cannot be worse than the original problem.

(f) A reasonable hope of success.

(g) Comparative Justice. This is an extension of Just cause where all the issues between the hostile groups are considered not just the immediate flash point.

While the rules are clear and reasonable, the problem of course lies in application. For this reason, Catholics legitimately differ on when it is a moral act to go to war. On one extreme some Catholics argue that the nature of modern weapons means that war is now never justified. By this logic however we would now live in the Islamic State of Australia even though very few people would want this. On the other hand, very few Catholics would believe that we should casually go off to war – the 20th Century has taught us that if nothing else.

This brings us back to Advent. While Catholics should support prudent peacemaking by governments and NGOs, humans will never abolish sin ‘that worm within the brow of Cain’. Ultimately our hopes rest not on ourselves but on Christ the King, the Prince of Peace who at the proper time will establish his kingdom of Peace, Justice and Love.

Amen! Come Lord Jesus!







# We are ALL agents of Evangelisation

**Shane Dwyer** is the Director of the National Centre for Evangelisation and the Catholic Enquiry Centre.

**Did you know that you are an agent of evangelisation? This might come as a surprise to you, but if you don't believe me you might believe the Pope:**

*All the baptised, whatever their position in the Church or their level of instruction in the faith, are agents of evangelisation, and it would be insufficient to envisage a plan of evangelisation to be carried out by professionals while the rest of the faithful would simply be passive recipients.*  
**Evangelii Gaudium #120**

It is hard to live and proclaim our faith today without mutual support and assistance. It is for this reason you are being invited to join our newly formed Agents of Evangelisation Network (AEN).

The AEN has been developed by the National Centre for Evangelisation, the agency I direct, with a view to providing mutual support and the sharing of resources among the wide variety of Catholics throughout this country who are seeking to share their faith with others.

Some AEN members work for dioceses, parishes or Catholic schools etc. Others are parents or grandparents who are interested in passing on their faith to their children or grandchildren. Whatever a person's situation, he or she can benefit from becoming part of a growing network of support where stories can be shared, ideas floated, questions answered, existing resources suggested and new resources developed. Details on how to join this network can be found at [nce.catholic.org.au/registration-form](http://nce.catholic.org.au/registration-form)

Each year at this time our faith calls us to 'pay attention' in the hope and expectation of the coming of Jesus. This is not just about a future event, although

it will ultimately culminate with that. Rather, it is about acquiring an attitude of heart here and now, so that we might learn to see Jesus always in the variety of ways in which he can be found.

It begins by acknowledging that Jesus is first and foremost to be found in the vulnerable.

He sets this pattern for us as he enters the world as a newborn child, born to displaced parents.

He endorses it in his teaching and in his ministry, where he makes it very clear that 'whatever you do to the least of these, you do to me' (Matthew 25:40 – 45).

He crowns this teaching when he is revealed as the rejected and despised suffering servant so poignantly foretold by Isaiah (Is. 53).

It is easy to resist this central teaching of our faith: that we will stand or fall on the degree to which we have paid attention to the needs of the most vulnerable in our society and in our world.

Some protest that this is not true, in the belief that faith will be enough to save them. They ignore the fact that if our faith doesn't inform every aspect of our lives, and inspire the way we reach out others, it is not really faith...

The journey of faith means we are to

allow God to lead us through the trust and hope we have in God to become people who live in imitation of his Son. Central to this includes having a practical care and concern for those who are most in need: the unborn, the child, the battered, the neglected, the homeless, the addicted, the refugee, the prisoner, the sick and the dying.

In my previous article I referenced the pending Plenary Council. The question the Council planning committee puts to us is 'what do you believe God is asking of us today?' In order to answer that question each of us must be not only alert to what God is asking, but also to how we ourselves intend to assist God in bringing about his will in this country.

It's not all up to someone else. If we are not prepared to be involved then we should have very little to say on the matter. Something to ponder as we enter into this Christmas season...

## Rediscovering the Jesse Tree

**By Sharon Boyd**

**Advent is my favourite time of the liturgical year. It marks the beginning of the new Church calendar and the end of the Gregorian calendar. I love the carols, particularly O Come, O Come Emmanuel, and the wreath with its candles that mark the 'count down' to Christmas Day. Advent anticipation has a very different feeling from that of Lent. It has a joyful expectant tone.**

'Advent' derives from the Latin word *adventus*, commonly translated as 'coming.' It is a time to prepare for Jesus to be born anew in our hearts so that we can be alert for his Second Coming. In Advent we keep vigil and ponder God's salvific actions through the Incarnation – as God became human to walk with us.

Advent in Australia is juxtaposed against a burgeoning social calendar, the rush to complete things before year's end and the pressure to purchase Christmas presents. With such competing priorities it can be a challenge to focus on the message of Advent found in the rich readings of Year C of the Lectionary.

The First Sunday in Advent sets the tone for what is to come, with Jeremiah 33:14-16. "I will raise up for David a just shoot" introduces the genealogy or family tree of Jesus, a descendant of King David, whose father was Jesse.

One of the less familiar Advent



traditions, inspired by the stories of the Old Testament, is the Jesse Tree, which introduces the lineage of Jesus who is Emmanuel – Hebrew for 'God with us.' Decorations placed on the Jesse tree present the people and events leading from the time of King David to Jesus, highlighting the suffering of the Israelites and their long wait for salvation.

Advent highlights our longing for salvation – which will come through the Incarnation, God born in a manger.

Through our Baptism, we join Jesus' family tree, and decorating the Jesse Tree teaches us the Old Testament story of redemption—ultimately the story of our redemption.

Decorating the Jesse Tree in Advent teaches some important lessons. Children learn about Advent in new ways by placing the symbols (ornaments) on the tree, but this tree harbours mysterious lessons for adults also – as is shown by its appearance in carvings and stained glass windows in great European

cathedrals.

Listen deeply to the readings this Advent and consider how the lessons of the Jesse Tree might serve to counterbalance the hurly burly of December.

*Ms Sharon Boyd, MA is the Professional Specialist-Liturgy Education ACU Centre for Liturgy*



# YEAR OF YOUTH

The Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn has been blessed with a very active, enthusiastic and inspirational Youth Ministry. In this International Year of Youth they have been incredibly busy, as the following pages will show.







# 2018 In Review

**The Youth Ministry of the Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn, part of Catholic Schools Youth Ministry International (CSYMA) continues to grow and expand its presence across the Archdiocese. In this Year of Youth, the Youth Ministry organised or participated in a host of activities. Here are some of those activities.**

## YMI EQUIPPING SCHOOL March 2018

Approximately 110 leaders, Youth Ministers, teachers and students participated in the YMI Equipping School in Canberra this year. The 2018 YMI Equipping School was run by Catholic Schools Youth Ministry Australia (CSYMA), in partnership with the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn, the Australian Catholic University and Catholic Super.

## YOUTH MASS & RALLY St Christopher's Cathedral – March 4

More than 350 young people attended including groups from Bathurst and Broken Bay Dioceses. The Mass was Celebrated by Archbishop Christopher Prowse and eight concelebrants including Archdiocesan Youth Chaplains.

## CSYMA LEAD CONFERENCE March 5

The CSYMA LEAD conference was held on Monday the 5th of March 2018. Fifty Youth Ministers, post-school young people on a year of mission, led the students through praise and worship, key inputs, personal testimonies and opportunities to respond to the challenge to 'Open New Horizons' in their lives. Over 350 senior students involved in leading Youth Ministry initiatives within our Catholic secondary schools gathered to be equipped in ministry and formed in faith in this Year of Youth.

## 24 HOURS OF ADORATION March 23

Young people in the Archdiocese responded to the Australian Catholic Bishop's call for a 'Year of Youth,' by kick-starting 2018 with 24 Hours of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at the Cathedral. Groups of Catholics gathered to ask God's blessing on this special year, spending time in silence, praying the Rosary and in praise and worship.

## LEADING THE NEW EVANGELISATION April 14-15

The second unit of the Graduate Certificate in Education: Leading the New Evangelisation run through the Australian Catholic University was held at St. Christopher's Pastoral Centre in Canberra across the 14th and 15th of April. This unit focussed on examining and critiquing the current approaches to creating schools as centres of the New Evangelisation. Students engaged in practical workshops and seminars around planning and leading staff and student faith formation experiences and explored current models of Youth Ministry (the CSYMA four phase model), as well as engaged in critical thought and discussion around these current approaches.

## CATCH THE WAVE – WESTERN DEANERY April 5-6

On the 5 and 6 of April our central schools from the western region gathered together for a combined Catch the Wave retreat experience with hundreds of students from years 8 and 9 in Tumut, Temora and Cootamundra. The two days were run by our Archdiocesan youth Ministers with Catholic Education office, they were powerful youth ministry retreats that were designed to assist in launching the CSYMA Youth Ministry framework in our regional areas.

## SPIRIT RETREAT May 26-27

Throughout the day, the themes of God's Love, The Gift of Jesus and the Holy Spirit were explored through talks, testimony, small groups and drama. The participants were invited to respond to the messages through reconciliation and adoration. St. Benedict's Church in Narrabundah was standing room only as the participants of the SPIRIT retreat joined the parish community for 6pm mass.

## CATCH THE WAVE – ST JOHN PAUL II COLLEGE June 19

St John Paul II College in Canberra had their first ever Catch the Wave retreat for the Year 9's! The day was run in 2 sessions, both with approximately 70 students in each. The sessions focussed on the analogy of 'catching the wave of faith'. Six youth ministers from the Canberra and Goulburn Diocese took part. The team ran icebreakers, dramas, personal sharings, talks, activities and small groups. Deacon Namora Anderson from Holy Spirit Parish assisted with the day.

## 2018 YMI ENGLAND MISSION

July 1- July 14  
Youth Ministers from our Archdiocese took part in this Mission which included school visits and planned activities, 'Catch the Wave' events, LEAD Days with the senior students and multiple one-hour Blast sessions. During their stay they visited 3,000 students and launched a number of programs already taking place in our Archdiocese.





#### PREPARATIONS FOR WORLD YOUTH DAY BEGIN July 25

A contingent of 12 young Catholics from the Archdiocese met with Archbishop Christopher Prowse and a number of other clergy and laity to begin plans for attending World Youth Day in Panama in January.

#### CATHOLIC LEADERS FORMATION SYMPOSIUM August 10

One hundred and forty teachers and church leaders from across Australia gathered in Canberra on Friday August 10 to discuss new initiatives around teacher and Church leaders formation. The day, which included the presentation of the vision for the Catholic Leaders Formation Network (CLFN), started with all participants entering into prayer which was used from the CLFN 'Formed in Prayer' weekly resource.

#### SHINE GATHERING August 22

Over 450 Year 9 and Year 10 students from the Archdiocese gathered at Marist College for the Shine Gathering. The students had all chosen an elective within their Religious Education curriculum after participating in the Catch the Wave retreat run by Youth Ministers this year.

#### VOICE OF YOUTH LISTENING & DIALOG SESSION September 4

Students from across the Archdiocese attended a Listening and Dialog session at St Christopher's Pastoral Centre on September 4. The session included a number of talks, a creative section for expressing beliefs artistically and a senior Q&A session.

#### YMI UGANDA MISSION September 8

A CSYMA team of Youth Ministers and leaders set off for the fifth Uganda Mission on September 8. The Team combined with key CSYMU (Catholic Schools Youth Ministry Uganda) leaders for the mission. The first phase of the mission was the East-African Teacher Formation Conference, which began with nearly 150 teachers and Church leaders from 15 Dioceses. This led into the school visits that presented the basic Gospel message to about 5000 students across five days in the Dioceses of Lira, Kasana – Luweero and Kampala.

#### NORTHERN TERRITORY MISSION September 16

The Mission involved CSYMA students, YMA Youth Ministers and teachers from the Archdiocese of Canberra Goulburn led by Nathan Galea. The Ministry Trip to the Northern Territory, Darwin and the community of Nauiya (Daly River), created an opportunity to engage in dadirri... deep listening and silent awareness.

#### EXPLOSION YOUTH CONFERENCE October 1-5

During the first week of the October School holidays, a group of more than 65 children from Year 7 through to Year 12 took part in the Explosion Youth Conference, at St Clare's College, Canberra.

#### ARCHDIOCESE YOUTH FORUM October 24

Students from across the Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn gathered for a Youth Forum on October 24. The Forum was one of a number of events and activities that have been organised in this Year of Youth to bring young people together and encouraged discussion and engagement on the role of youth in the Church, and the role of the Church for youth.

#### YMI SOLOMON ISLANDS MISSION November

Youth Ministers and leaders from the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn and Lismore recently returned to Australian shores from the first Solomon Islands mission. Combining with key leaders from the Solomon Islands, including Archbishop Christopher Cardone, the team lead the mission that explored the Catholic Schools Youth Ministry Australia vision across the Solomon Islands.





## Youth Ministers on mission in the Solomon Islands

**Youth Ministers and leaders from the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn and Lismore recently returned to Australian shores from the first Solomon Islands mission. Combining with key leaders from the Solomon Islands, including Archbishop Christopher Cardone, the team lead the mission that explored the Catholic Schools Youth Ministry Australia vision across the Solomon Islands.**

The mission began with the Archbishop of Honiara, Archbishop Christopher, welcoming the team into the Archdiocese. The week was spent exploring the Youth Ministry model across St. Joseph's Tenaru, Bishop Epalle and Visale Secondary Schools that included student and teacher formation. The team ran Breakthrough Sessions and Catch the Wave Retreats that incorporated testimony, drama, icebreakers, activities and opportunities for prayer. The student leaders were formed through a Lead Conference that prepared them for ministry and mission. The week culminated with broader Church ministry in at Cathedral Parish - Holy Cross - community in Honiara.

The mission was an incredible success, with Youth Minister Hannah McMahon saying, "Entering into the first ever mission to the Solomon Islands was overwhelmingly exciting

but also had a sense of nerves which came from not knowing what to expect.

"Having many highlights from this mission it is hard to bring it down to one but the school visits were incredible and on the weekend we spent time with the youth from Holy Cross Cathedral with many of them taking us to the markets, teaching us how to dance and sharing stories which eventuated into most of them joining us for Sunday Mass."

Forming meaningful Christ centred relationships is integral to successful missions. This was evident in the relationships established with key leaders from the Solomon Islands earlier in the year at the Youth Ministry Equipping School which was hosted by the Archdiocese as well as seeing the impact of the significant relationships between schools in Lismore and Honiara.

This was also a significant impact on the team, with Hannah saying "the people and culture initially being so foreign to me, quickly became such a large part of my heart. I can't wait to continue the relationships we have built in the Solomon Islands."

This is sure to be the beginning of an exciting new vision unfolding across the Solomon Islands!

## Much more in store for Archdiocesan Youth

The International Year of Youth contained a packed schedule of events for young people in the Canberra and Goulburn Archdiocese, but things won't be easing up in 2019. Here are some of the major events already organised, with more to be added as the year progresses.

**World Youth Day, Panama**  
January 28 to February 2

**Equipping School**  
February 28 to March 3

**Archdiocesan Youth Mass and Festival**  
March 3

**LEAD Student Conference**  
March 29

**SHINE Student Gathering (Senior)**  
August 9

**ENLIGHT Student Gathering (Junior)**  
October 25

**Youth Pilgrimage**  
December 8 to 10

**Australian Catholic Youth Festival**  
December 8 to 10

....as well as local and regional opportunities such as....

- Connect Masses
- Rallies
- Spirit Retreats
- Guinness and God
- Adoration
- Chatechesis



Find the Archdiocese Youth Ministry on  
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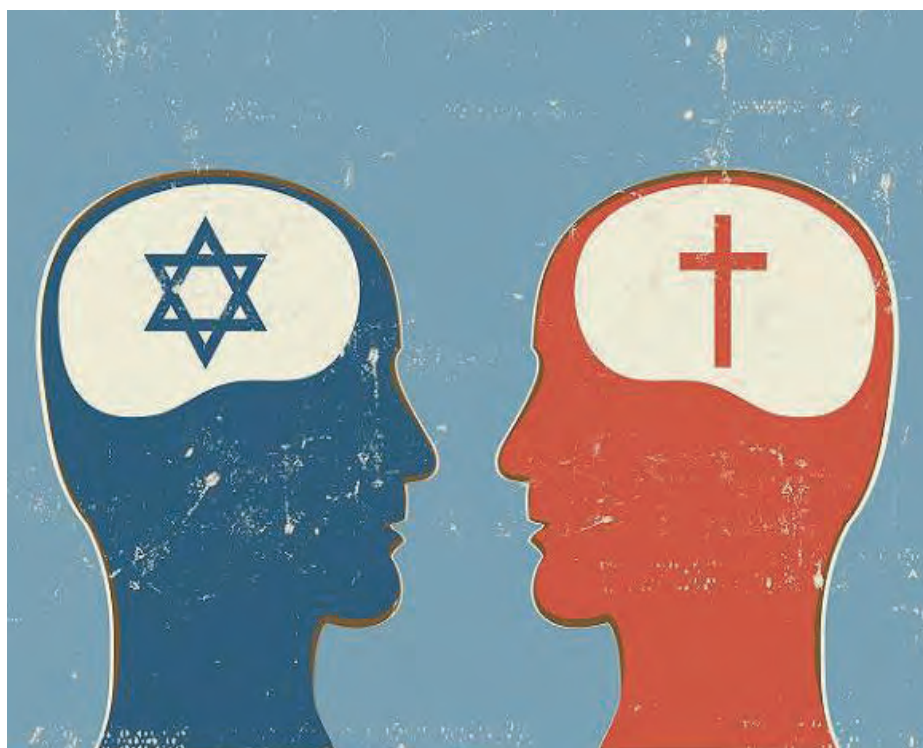


# Catholics and Jews

## Good news in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

BY ANTHONY DOYLE

**At a time of serious attacks on Catholic belief and life in most parts of the world, it is possible to miss the shoots of new life. Perhaps one of the least noticed but brightest blooms lies in the radical change in Jewish-Catholic relations in the past century.**



Perhaps some older Catholic Voice readers will recall the tensions that existed between Catholics and Jews in years past and how these tensions extended to outright hatred in parts of Eastern Europe and elsewhere. The almost complete disappearance of this ancient prejudice in the heart of Catholicism has many contributors but three causes stand out.

First, on one hand the shocked realization at the end of the Second World War that the Nazi hatred that caused the Holocaust was in at least in some part occasioned by past Christian Anti-Semitism. Catholics realized that hostility to Jewish people was utterly wrong and that we bore at least some responsibility for it. On the other side, while later conspiracy theorists would try to paint the Pope of World War II, Pius XII as anti-Semitic, Jewish leaders in 1945 had no doubts that the Pope had supported them. This was echoed in 1958 by Golda Meir later President of Israel who praised the late Pope at the United Nations.

The second great advance came in 1965 in the Second Vatican Council document *Nostra Aetate* which redefined the Church's approach to the Jews. After reciting the vital importance of the Jewish people from the patriarchs onwards it declared that:

[T]his Synod, in her rejection of injustices of whatever kind and wherever inflicted upon people, and recalling our common patrimony, deplores and

condemns hatred and persecutions of Jews, whether they arose in former or in our own days.

Finally there was the prophetic witness of Pope Saint John Paul II. Throughout his life the former Carol Wojtyla championed the cause of the Jewish people. Beginning with warm childhood friendships and in his protection of Jewish children during the Nazi occupation of Poland in World War II, John Paul witnessed the Catholic respect for Jews called for in *Nostra Aetate*.

Early in his pontificate, he visited the Auschwitz death camp and in 1986 he became the first Pope, presumably since St Peter, to visit a synagogue where he called Jews "our elder brothers." In 1998, he had issued "We Remember" – a Reflection on the Shoah [Holocaust] and in 2000 visited Israel leaving a prayer at the Western (Wailing) Wall:

We are deeply saddened by the behaviour of those who in the course of history have caused these children of yours to suffer, and asking your forgiveness we wish to commit ourselves to genuine brotherhood with the people of the Covenant.

As with any ongoing relationship, tensions from time to time emerge. Attempts by neo-Nazis and others to smear Pope Pius XII as being a supporter of Hitler caused disquiet but have been steadily demolished by credible historians Jewish and Catholic alike. The canonization of St Edith Stein a convert from Judaism and Carmelite who was

murdered at Auschwitz was another source of tension as is the vexed issue of Palestinian-Israeli relations. However such disagreements are now better characterized as disputes between friends rather than ancient enmities. Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis have maintained and nurtured the ongoing relationship between Catholics and Jews and have received equally warm responses from Jewish leaders.

In an age where anti-Jewish hatred has flooded the Islamic world, where the leader of the Labour Party in Britain has publically supported anti-Semitism and where Jewish students in Australian universities are threatened, Catholics must follow the example set by John Paul and never allow these evils to happen again.

In purely human terms it is difficult to adequately explain the relatively rapid rapprochement between Catholics and Jews. It stands as a beacon of hope for the Church and the world. If this seemingly intractable problem can be broken down by the realization of the terrible effects of a sin and the determination of good people, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, to forever renounce it, then in the providence of God what great good might yet be around the corner?

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*Anthony Doyle has degrees in History, Law, Theology and Christian Leadership. In 2011, he received a Gandel Scholarship to Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem.*



# Former Raider Alan Tongue talks about respect at Cootamundra

Story courtesy Sacred Heart Central School, Cootamundra.

SACRED Heart Central School students had a fantastic day on October 30 with a visit from former Canberra Raider, Alan Tongue.

Alan is currently working with the NRL as a one-community ambassador. In that capacity he delivers programs to schools, football clubs and communities across Australia and New Zealand.

One of his greatest achievements, he believes, is his 8-week program titled 'The Aspire Program' with the aim to improve the lives of others.

For his visit to Sacred Heart, the theme for the day was RESPECT...due regard for the feelings, rights and wishes of self and others.

Respect, he said, starts by respecting yourself. That includes self-talk, the way you treat others, speaking positively, and

how we treat our bodies in terms of food intake and exercise.

Another key theme was how we each individually support and value add to our team. That team may be our friends, our home, our school and the broader community.

A key part of that is being mindful of the way we speak to others (including online), to speak positively, treat others with respect and equality and to do our best to help members of our team be their best.

By building others up, we each gain individually and as a community. We become more inclusive, embrace others' differences and everyone wins.

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What can I do at home to prepare my child to start school for the first time?

Each month we will aim to include a column with some handy tips or commentary. First cab off the rank is MARGARET POLLARD, Principal of Sts Peter and Paul Primary, School Garra.

NOVEMBER is the season for Kindergarten Orientation meetings. This month schools across Australia have been welcoming 4 and 5 year olds for their first experience of big school.

If you have a young child who is due to commence school next February you have probably been offered advice from family members, teachers, friends and work colleagues about the best way to prepare your child for their first day.

Over the coming two months, there are a few simple things that parents can do to ensure that their children are ready to begin school.



Your child should be able to manage most of the following activities independently:

- Reciting nursery rhymes
- Retelling a favourite storybook
- Using proper sentences
- Writing his/her name
- Counting objects up to twenty
- Drawing people with 3-4 recognisable body parts
- Taking turns
- Sharing
- Mixing happily with friends at preschool
- Can go to preschool without tears
- Toileting
- Dressing
- Cutting and pasting
- Focusing on an activity for at least 10 minutes
- Asking questions about the world and about words and numbers
- Caring for belongings
- Opening drink bottle and lunch box

Learning is tiring, especially for a four or five year old child. Children in their first year of school require about 10 -11 hours' of sleep per night. If you can set a regular wind-down routine, a sleep routine will be easier to establish. Try to avoid mental stimulation immediately before bedtime so that your child's brain has time to slow down before your child tries to go to sleep.

During January, you may find it helpful to use a calendar to 'count down' to the first day of school. Your child will enjoy taking responsibility for this activity.

Visiting the school during January is another way to ensure a smooth transition and a smooth start on February 4. If you know some of the other parents

from your child's class, you may be happy to arrange some play dates with some classmates.

Some schools will provide new parents with email contact details for the class (voluntary opt in). This is a practical way to connect with other families and to begin to become part of the school community.

The most important thing to do to help your child over the coming two months is to be positive when you talk with your child about school. And most importantly, keep the reading routine going every night. There is much truth in the old saying: 'Richer than I you never can be, I had a parent who read to me'.



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# Final hurrah at Muttama

BY ANNE LAST

PARISHIONERS and visitors gathered at the Immaculate Conception Church at Muttama on Sunday 28 October 2018 for a final Mass.

The Mass was concelebrated by Father Joshy Kurien, the Parish Priest of the Sacred Heart Parish, Cootamundra and Father Bernie Hennessy who was Parish Priest from 1998 to 2005. Father Kevin Barry Cotter, Parish Priest from 2005 to 2013 was unable to attend the Mass due to his priestly commitments in Adelong.

The Immaculate Conception Church, built of 'wood and iron' by Father Butler, was opened in March 1902 by Bishop Lanigan. Until recent years, Mass was celebrated in the small church on a monthly basis. However, with the decline in congregation and the shortage of priests, Masses were no longer possible.

Over the years, a number of baptisms, weddings and funerals have taken place in the church.

The final Mass was also the occasion of Zoe Joenne and Abigail Samantha Last's baptisms.



Following the Mass a community luncheon was enjoyed in the church grounds. Although a sad day for many of the congregation, it was a memorable event and a chance to reminisce.

The Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn trustees will determine the selling of the Immaculate Conception Church at Muttama.

# St. Mary's Church Murrumburrah celebrates 150 years

ON NOVEMBER 3rd, Our Lady of Mercy Parish and Trinity Catholic School celebrated a beautiful mass at St Mary's Church for the Sesquicentenary (150th anniversary) of the Church.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse officiated this significant milestone with the Parish Priest Joshy and Father Kevin Barry-Cotter former parish Priest.

Many parishioners and visitors took time to peruse the chronology of history titled 'A Walk Through Time', which was displayed in the church foyer. This sparked many a memory and conversation.

Trinity Catholic school choir led the singing throughout the mass and must be commended for their reverence and amazing singing which was appreciated by all. It was the first time in many years that the choir were able to again use the

'Choir Loft' as it was re-opened for the occasion and will continue to be maintained for future celebrations. A number of people stayed to enjoy a BBQ and celebratory cake to complete what was a wonderful night of celebrations for our Church and Parish.

The subject of illuminating St. Mary's Church for this special milestone became a reality due to the dedication and commitment of a group of talented parishioners and community members. The Church was ablaze with light for the occasion and will remain illuminated permanently. This is certainly 'the talk of the town' from locals and visitors alike and is well worth viewing.

Thanks must go to all those who were in any way involved in the Sesquicentenary celebrations this year.

*Story Supplied*

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# A Christmas without joy is no Christmas at all

MEDIA RELEASE

A CHRISTMAS without family, after fleeing from domestic violence. A Christmas without comfort and peace of mind, after bills have mounted up. Or a Christmas without a roof over your head, after losing your home.

Launching the 2018 Vinnies Christmas Appeal, President of the St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn, Warwick Fulton, explains that for far too many Australians, Christmas is not a time of joy and celebration.

"More people than ever are experiencing homelessness this Christmas, with a 14% rise in homelessness since 2011. Nationally, one in every 200 people is experiencing homelessness. In the ACT that is 1,596 people."

"Even for those with a roof over their heads, Christmas can be a rough time for many people. As rent and electricity bills continue to rise, many families are skipping meals and going hungry in order to pay bills.

"It takes enormous courage to reach out to us and ask for help. We provide them with emergency goods like clothing or assistance with keeping

the power on, but we also work with them to build up their confidence and strength, so they can give back to their children at Christmas time," said Mr Fulton.

This festive season, Vinnies is expecting to provide over \$500,000 in emergency assistance to more than 3,000 families and individuals in need. As Christmas approaches, calls for help to the Society are expected to increase from now until January.

Vinnies will provide people in the Canberra/Goulburn region with financial assistance, clothing, food hampers, as well as gifts for parents and children.

"When you are struggling to keep a roof over your head, finding money for gifts is nearly impossible. The Vinnies Christmas Appeal allows us to assist with rent and utilities, but we also seek donations of gifts that can help bring joy to people at Christmas," said Mr Fulton.

People can donate to the 2018 Vinnies Christmas Appeal by visiting any Vinnies shop, calling

13 18 12 or via [vinnies.org.au/christmasappeal](http://vinnies.org.au/christmasappeal)

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## Fond welcome for Deacon Alex



CONGRATULATIONS to Deacon Alex Osborne.

On Friday, November 23, Alex Osborne became the Archdiocese's latest Deacon when he was ordained at St Christopher's Cathedral.

In front of a packed Cathedral, Archbishop Christopher Prowse urged Alex to proclaim the Kerygma – to be a Kerygmatic preacher in good times and bad. To preach that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Saviour.

"I don't want you to be a sacristy Deacon; I don't want you to be at home waiting for people to come to you, I want you to get your feet muddy. I want you to be seeking out the lost, the last and the least."

Deacon Alex said he was full of emotion and very keen to take on the challenge ahead of him.

"I felt a bit of everything," he said.

"I was really touched that so many people came. It was great to have my family and friends there including my friends from the Good Shepherd Seminary in Homebush.

"At the moment I'm feeling a little exhausted but excited that a new chapter has begun and I pray that I live out my Diaconate with an honest heart."

Deacon Alex has been appointed to the Charnwood parish and will be Deacon in residence at South Belconnen (St Matthew's and St Vincent's).

## Mass attendances rising across the Archdiocese

Attendance levels at Mass across the Archdiocese had remained largely unchanged in 2016, according to a report prepared by the National Centre for Pastoral Research.

Based on figures collected in 2016, average weekly mass attendance consisted of 10.42% of the Catholic population, compared with 10.64% five years earlier.

That slight decrease is less than the decrease in attendance recorded nationally.

But even that small decrease has been arrested and attendance has actually increased substantially, according to Vicar General of the Archdiocese, Father Tony Percy.

"What is of interest, too, is the latest Mass attendance statistics in the Archdiocese, compiled from the Mass Count in May 2018, which has showed a 10% increase in Mass numbers in our parishes from 2017," he said.

"As to why the decline in Mass numbers has been arrested this year is somewhat of a mystery.

"In addition, Archdiocese fundraising has reported increased collections for the voluntary appeals in aid of retired priests and the education of priests. Let's hope these statistics represent a new pattern in ecclesial life."

Fr Tony explained that the Ad Limina report is prepared every five years to indicate trends and progress.

"Around about every five years the Australian Bishops visit Rome for an ad limina visit – a phrase which means "to the threshold"

of the apostles Peter and Paul. They go with a Quinquennial Report under their arms," he said.

"It is a report that details what has happened in the last five years since their last visit. It is a useful document, highlighting interesting trends in ecclesial life, but also re-stating and reminding us of the many good things that the baptised are actively involved in.

"The National Centre for Pastoral Research is a helpful organisation that helps the Bishops prepare their Quinquennial Report."

Attendance figures for the report were based upon the averages of four-weekly totals recorded in 2011 and 2016 respectively.

The total number of Catholics in the Archdiocese was based in the national census on which 155,084 of the region's total population of 655,897 recorded themselves as Catholic. In 2011 162,842 of the region's 604,102 were recorded as Catholic.

In other figures, the number of Catholics attending Mass aged 70 or over has risen from 24.2% to 40%, and the overall number of attendees aged 50 or over is up from 63.9% to 75.4%, and females attending mass outnumber men by a ratio of two to one.

In a measure of Catholic migrants by birthplace located in the Archdiocese, the largest group represented were from the Philippines (as with the national figures), followed by United Kingdom, Italy, Croatia and India.

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LET HER CRY AND  
SAID NOTHING.

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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

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# Retirement beckons for Kevin Croker

BY CHRIS GORDON

HIS cheerful and amiable nature is well known across the Archdiocese.

An old school gentleman with an inviting demeanour, he is probably known for his big smile (which is almost constantly visible) as much as for his big heart which, while not visible, is evident in his actions and deeds.

But the time comes when all of us punch our work clock for the final time, and that time is rapidly approaching for Kevin Croker, OAM.

Kevin's last day of work is December 31 and the prospect of retirement is now becoming very real.

"I'm looking forward to it," Kevin said.

"You can't say that you've enjoyed every moment of it because like any job it has its ups and downs but there have certainly been far more ups. It's been a wonderful time for me."

Kevin's job has evolved over his 27 years in it. Originally referred to almost interchangeably as the secretary or treasurer of the Clergy Retirement Foundation, a part-time role, it solidified into the Secretary position he now holds and upon his departure the position will be rejigged into Manager.

But for all of that time it has meant a job of caring for those who have cared for us.

The Clergy Retirement Foundation assists clergy with their transition into retirement. Without some of the familial support systems, social membership and possessions of those outside of the priesthood, it can be a confronting and challenging process to adjust to and Kevin and his team are tasked with easing the process and treating the priests with compassion and kindness.

"It can be a time of vulnerability and upheaval," Kevin said.

"There is a significant adjustment and the things in retirement that lay people experience, they experience the same things as well.

"They have to look to the type of accommodation they'd like. We, as the Foundation, have to look at setting up the house for them... they may even have to visit a Centrelink Office... and it can all be a bit confronting and daunting."

Kevin highlights accommodation as a key focus of his work. Depending on the age and health of a priest when he retires ... on whether he can live independently, or should live in community or whether in fact he might consider going into a caring facility.

"It's an area that can cause some strain and anxiety," Kevin notes.

"The question is can they live securely and comfortably by living alone.

"So the foundation addresses all of those concerns and works with the retired priests to come up with the right accommodation for them."

Kevin's path to this job led him through a number of other towns and other jobs along the way.



Kevin and Margaret Croker with Archbishop Christopher Prowse on the occasion of Kevin notching up 25 years with the Archdiocese.

Born and bred in Wagga Wagga to farming parents, he attended primary school at Wagga Wagga before attending boarding school at St Ignatius, Riverview.

Returning to Wagga Wagga, he began work with the Commonwealth Bank where he worked for 20 years – initially in his home town, then, then Parkes (where he met his wife, Margaret) and then to the ACT. In 1989 he joined a finance company for 2 years and then in 1991 took on the job of Chief Clerk for the Chancery office, located at Archbishop's House. His job involved

on every occasion I've made a point of popping in and meeting their families. I've really been very appreciative of families of all retiring priests."

As the role of priests has changed, the focus on their well-being has become crucial.

Added responsibilities and the reduced number of priests have added to their workload and Kevin believes it's important to monitor the health and well-being of priests more closely than ever.

"The role of priests in today's church has changed dramatically," Kevin said.

**I can honestly say I've relied on their prayerful support in everything that I've done and that God has held my hand every step of the way**

looking after the day to day administration of the Archdiocese's finances.

During that time Kevin played a prominent role in the building and management of Favier House. In 1997 Kevin was asked if he could provide some secretarial support for the Sick and Retired Priests' Fund alongside his existing duties... and the job grew from there.

Kevin has formed close bonds with all of the retired priests he has worked with, and particularly with the Irish priests of the Archdiocese.

"When I came into the job in the late 90s, there was still a large contingent of Irish priests in full time ministry but they were starting to retire," Kevin explained.

"They were men well into their 70s and early 80s and so there was an influx of retirements at that time and I really enjoyed building up a close affiliation with them.

"And that affiliation extended to their families. I understood that these men came over at a very early age, they would not have returned home for anything up to 10 years and so they pined for their native land and their families.

"I spent a lot of time talking to them about their families, getting to know their families... my wife, Margaret, and I, we've had three trips to Ireland and

"There's a lot more involved and we find the pressures on priests are multiplying compared to years ago. As carers, not only for retired priests but for all priests, I think we have to be careful to monitor this and be aware of it and to act on it.

Kevin said he has been blessed with an exceptional team, including the many wonderful housekeepers, secretarial support from Jen Rebbeck, Martin Gibson and Sue Orchison, and registered nurse Carmel Gibbons.

"Carmel really hones in on priests holistically, before and after they retire," he said.

"So her involvement has been integral.

But Kevin reserves special praise for the unofficial member of his team, his wife Margaret.

"She's like a silent partner," he said.

"Without her support and the family... if I've need our son's hands and a ute to move something he's responded... but Margaret has travelled extensively with me throughout the Archdiocese.

"She knows all of the priests. It's wonderful to have her advice and instinct on certain situations, just as it is with Carmel. They'll notice aspects I may not."

Family is a key theme that emerges in speaking with Kevin. The families of priests, the involvement of his own family... in fact his job, and his life, have criss-crossed and overlapped for years.

As a child, Archbishop Francis Carroll used to visit his father's home with some other priests where they played 500 with his family. In 1991, Kevin was able to work closely with the Archbishop and now he is assisting him in retirement.

Another involvement that has become inter-twined with his life is his involvement with the Carmelite nuns.

"My involvement with them dates back to their foundation here in Canberra in 1974," Kevin explained.

"My dear old dad, who had been involved with settling the Carmelites in Wagga in 1968, rang me one morning and said 'Kevin, I don't know if you've heard, but the Carmelite's are establishing a monastery in Canberra and I think you should be there to give them your support.'

"So, like a good son, I did what my father said... and as a 24 year old I met with a small group of men at what's now the Monastery at Mugga Way, and it's developed into a long and happy involvement with them ever since.

In fact Kevin attributes the role played by the Carmelite nuns in the Archdiocese to being every bit as important as his team's work in helping retired priests.

"I can honestly say I've relied on their prayerful support in everything that I've done and that God has held my hand every step of the way. I've come away from situations after discussions with priests about their future care and I've come away thinking 'now how am I going to handle this... what's going to happen, what can we do' and usually by the time I've got to the car, or spoken to Carmel or Margaret, I've got an approach... and that normally doesn't happen.

"I truly believe the prayerful support I receive makes that possible."

The respect between Kevin and the Carmelites is mutual, and it was they who nominated him for the OAM he was presented with in 2014.

Having assisted so many with their retirement, now it's Kevin's turn to prepare for his own. And the appeal of retirement isn't without mixed emotions for a job Kevin has given 27 years of his life to.

"I'll miss it greatly," he said.

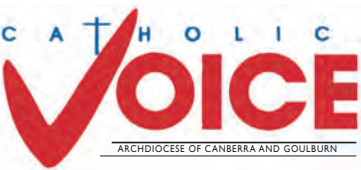
"There might be some who say you've looked after these fellows too well, you've spoiled them. And if I'm criticised for that, well so be it.

"I've just been guided by a very simple philosophy... I look after them as if I'd look after my own father or mother."

And you can't ask for much better than that.

*You can read the full story, and leave your best wishes to Kevin, on the Catholic Voice website.*





# 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

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- ACROSS**

7 "Quo \_\_\_\_?"  
8 Principal church in a diocese  
10 Be present at Mass  
12 St. \_\_\_\_ Bertrand  
13 Biblical instrument  
16 Second pope  
18 California diocese named for Saint Joseph (with "San")  
20 Pope of the fifth century  
21 Former Catholic Republican National Committee Chairman  
22 Most solemn Christian feast  
25 \_\_\_\_ pro nobis  
26 "...my brother, co-worker, and comrade in \_\_\_\_." (Phil 2:25)  
27 Part of CYO  
28 River Moses turned to blood  
29 His name was changed to Israel  
31 Turn away from sin  
34 Clothes of Baby Jesus  
35 Paul's companion during his missionary travels

**DOWN**

1 She appeared in "Where the Boys Are" before becoming a nun  
2 Ordinary \_\_\_\_  
3 Diocese on the San Francisco Bay  
4 Commandment pronoun  
5 Marriage vows  
6 Frogs or locust  
9 Violation of the sixth commandment

- 11 Number of days Jonah spent in the belly of a large fish (Jon 1:17)  
14 The table  
15 David is their patron saint  
17 The Good \_\_\_\_  
18 He housed Paul and Silas in Thessalonica  
19 To do this is forbidden by the seventh commandment  
23 Reuben or Gad, for example  
24 Joseph, to Mary  
26 Francis' hometown  
29 OT book that precedes Ruth  
30 The golden \_\_\_\_  
32 NT epistle  
33 \_\_\_\_ occasion of sin

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# coming events

COMING EVENTS 21  
CATHOLIC VOICE

**DECEMBER 8:** Canberra Regional Amicus Group Christmas Party at Tricia's. Join us at 7PM. Contact Tricia 6288 4070

**DECEMBER 12:** 'Listen to what the Spirit is saying.' Shane Dwyer is coming to Charnwood! Listen to what the Spirit is saying as we prepare for the great feast of Christmas. At St Thomas Aquinas School Library – 7.30pm

**DECEMBER 31:** New Year's Eve at The Austrian Club for Dinner, and Dance to DJ Joe Pelle for those who are available on this night. Contact: Patricia 0412 351 548

**JANUARY 22 to 27, 2019:** World Youth Day in Panama. For more information go to [www.wyd.org.au](http://www.wyd.org.au)

**MARCH 15, 2019 to MARCH 17, 2019:** SAVE THE DATE. St Patrick's Primary School Bega will celebrate their 150th Anniversary.

**OCTOBER 11 to 17, 2020:** Australian Catholic Plenary Council Session One in Adelaide.

**MAY 2021:** Australian Catholic Plenary Council Session Two in Sydney.

## 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.

### 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.

### 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 and 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 Carlile 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](mailto:sfo@fastmail.fm)

**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](mailto: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 8am 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: [mmm@grapevine.com.au](mailto:mmm@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](mailto:CBRTaizeFriends@internode.on.net)

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St Joseph's Primary Boorowa - Play - Cuban Shuffle



Retired Priest's luncheon Archbishop's House 2 Nov 2018



St Clare's College Yr 12 Farewell 2



Merici Farewell



Some of the students encountered by the Archdiocese Youth Ministry in their recent Solomon Islands visit



Youth Minister Hannah McMahon with some friends she made in the Solomon Islands



South Woden - MHOC Feast of Christ the King



Alan Tongue visiting the students at Sacred Heart Central School, Cootamundra



Ordination of Deacon Alex Osborne





**AMAROO:**  
Christmas Eve: 7pm – Children’s Mass (All children coming to the Children’s Mass on Christmas Eve are invited to come dressed as angels and shepherds); 9.30pm – Carols; 10pm – Christmas Eve Mass  
Christmas Day: 9am – Mass

**BATEMANS BAY:**  
Christmas Eve: 5pm – Children’s Mass; 9pm – Mass.  
Christmas Day: 9am – Mass.

**BEGA:**  
Christmas Eve: 6pm Vigil Mass, St Joseph’s, Kameruka St, Candelo; 7pm Outdoor Family Vigil Mass, St Patrick’s Primary School Oval (below church), Gipps st, Bega. (Carols from 6:30pm). 9:30pm Evening Mass, St Patrick’s, Gipps St, Bega  
Christmas Day: 9am Mass, Star of the Sea, Bega St, Tathra; 9:30am Mass, St Columba’s, Parks St, Bemboka

**BINALONG:**  
Christmas Day: 9am – Binalong (Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion)  
**BOOROWA:**  
Christmas Eve: 6pm – Boorowa.

**BOMBALA:**  
Christmas Eve: 5pm – Delegate; 6.30pm – Bombala.

**BRAIDWOOD:**  
Christmas Eve: 6pm – Braidwood.

**BUNGENDORE:**  
Christmas Eve: 6pm (outside in Church grounds with Nativity Play).  
Christmas Day: 8.30am

**CAMPBELL:**  
Christmas Day: 9.30am – Mass at St Thomas More, Campbell

**CATHEDRAL & ST PETER CHANEL’S, YARRALUMLA:**  
Christmas Eve: 6pm – Cathedral; 9pm (preceded by Carols at 8.15pm) – Yarralumla; Midnight – Cathedral (preceded by Carols at 11.15pm).  
Christmas Day: 8am – Cathedral; 9.30am Yarralumla; 11am – Cathedral.

**CENTRAL CANBERRA:**  
Christmas Eve: 5.30– 6.00pm St Brigid’s Carols, followed by Mass including the Dramatisation of the Christmas Gospel.  
Christmas Day: 7.45am - 8.am St Patrick’s, Carols followed by Mass; 9.15am - 9.30am St Brigid’s Carols followed by Mass

**CHARNWOOD:**  
Christmas Eve: 6pm; Christmas Day 9am.

**COOMA:**  
Christmas Eve: 5pm – Adaminaby; 5pm – Delegate; 6.30pm - Children’s Mass, Cooma; 8pm – Nimmitabel.  
Christmas Day: 8am – Jerangle; 8am – Numerella; 9.30am – Cooma; 9.30am – Bredbo.

**COOTAMUNDRA:**  
Christmas Eve: 7.30pm – Cootamundra  
Christmas Day: 9.30am – Cootamundra

**GALONG:** (St Clement’s Retreat Centre):  
Christmas Eve: 6.30pm; Christmas Day: 8.30am.

**GOULBURN MISSION:**  
Christmas Eve: 6pm – SPP Children’s Mass; 8pm – SPP Mass; 6pm – Taralga Mass; 6pm – Crookwell  
Christmas Day: 9am –OLOF Mass; 9am – Crookwell Mass; 10.30am – Binda (TBC)

**GUNDAGAI:**  
Christmas Eve: 6pm – Gundagai  
Christmas Day: 8am - Gundagai

**GUNDAROO:**  
Christmas Day: 9am

**HALL:**  
Christmas Eve: 7.00pm – Carols; 7.30pm – Vigil Mass

**HARDEN-MURRUMBURRAH:**  
Christmas Eve: 7pm – Harden

**KAMBAH:**  
Christmas Eve: 7pm (outdoor family Mass), 9pm Vietnamese Mass, midnight.  
Christmas Day: 9am.

**KIPPAX:**  
Christmas Eve: 6pm – Vigil; 9pm – Vigil; 11.30pm – Carols; Midnight – Vigil.

# Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Day: 9am – Mass; No evening Mass

**LATIN MASS COMMUNITY:**  
Christmas Eve: Midnight – Garran.  
Christmas Day 7.45am – Campbell; 10am – Garran.

**MICHELAGO:**  
Christmas Eve: 6pm.

**MORUYA:**  
Christmas Eve: 6pm - Outdoor Mass at St Mary’s Primary School - bring a chair/blanket; Midnight Mass - at Sacred Heart Church, Moruya  
Christmas Day: 8.00am - The Pines, Tuross Head; 9.15am - St Edmunds Church, Bodalla; 10.00am Sacred Heart Church, Moruya

**NAROOMA-COBARGO:**  
Christmas Eve: 5pm - Cobargo; 7pm – Narooma  
Christmas Day: 7.30am - Bermagui; 9.30am - Narooma

**NARRABUNDAH:**  
Christmas Eve: 6pm – Mass; 8pm – Charismatic Mass; Midnight – Mass  
Christmas Day: 9am – Mass.

**NORTH BELCONNEN:**  
Christmas Eve: 6pm – Evatt; Kaleen – 6pm.  
Christmas Day 8am – Kaleen; 10am – Evatt.

**NORTH WODEN:**  
Christmas Eve: 5.30pm - Family Mass, Holy Trinity Church, Curtin; 8.30pm - Saints Peter and Paul Church, Garran; Midnight - Holy Trinity, Curtin  
Christmas Day: 8.30am - Saints Peter and Paul Church, Garran; 10.30am - Holy Trinity, Curtin

**O’CONNOR:**  
Christmas Eve: 6pm – Family Mass; 9pm – Mass  
Christmas Day: 8am – Christmas Mass

**PAMBULA:**  
Christmas Eve: 5pm - St Joseph’s Church Merimbula (Childrens Mass); 7pm - Our Lady Star of the Sea Church, Eden; 9pm - St. Peters Church, Pambula.  
Christmas Day: 10am - St Joseph’s Church Merimbula.

**QUEANBEYAN:**  
Christmas Eve: 6pm Family Mass, St Gregory’s school hall, Molonglo St (Carols 5.15pm)  
Midnight - St Raphael’s (Carols 11.15pm).  
Christmas Day: 8am and 10am - St Raphael’s

**SOUTH BELCONNEN:**  
Christmas Eve: 6pm – Aranda; 7pm – Page  
Christmas Day: 8.30am – Page; 10am – Aranda; 3pm – Aranda (Korean)

**SOUTH TUGGERANONG:**  
Christmas Eve: 6pm - Sacred Heart Church Calwell (children’s Mass outside church); Midnight - Holy Family Church, Gowrie (Carols begin 11.30pm)  
Christmas Day: 9am Holy Family Church, Gowrie

**SOUTH WODEN:**  
Times to be decided upon Fr Richard’s return.

**SYRO-MALABAR** (Malayalam language):  
Christmas Eve: 10:30pm at St Joseph’s, O’Connor  
Christmas Day: 9:30am at St Joseph’s, O’Connor

**TEMORA MISSION:**  
Christmas Eve: 6pm (outdoors) – Temora; 7pm – Barellan  
Christmas Day: 8am – Ardlethan; 9am – Temora; 10am – Ariah Park

**TUMUT MISSION:**  
Christmas Eve: 6pm - Batlow, 6pm – Gundagai, 7pm - Tumut, 8pm - Jugiong  
Christmas Day: 8am - Gundagai, 8am - Talbingo, 9am – Adelong, 10am - Tumut

**WANNIASSA:**  
Christmas Eve: 6pm (children), 9pm (carols beforehand).  
Christmas Day: 9am

**WATSON:**  
Christmas Eve: 5.00pm - 5.30pm – Reconciliation; 6.00pm - Children’s Mass; 9.30pm - Christmas Carols; 10.00pm - Christmas Night Mass  
Christmas Day - 8.00am – Mass; 10.00am – Mass; NO 5.00pm Mass

**WESTON CREEK:**  
Christmas Eve: 6.00pm - Vigil; Children and Family Mass both churches; St Jude, Holder and St John Vianney, Waramanga; 9.00pm (in place of Midnight Mass) St John Vianney Church  
Christmas Day: 9.00am St Jude’s Church Holder

**YASS-GUNNING:**  
Christmas Eve: 5.30 vigil - St Francis Xavier, Gunning; 7pm vigil - St Augustine’s, Yass; 8.30pm vigil - Murrumbateman Rec Hall  
Christmas Day: 8am - St Augustine’s, Yass.

**YOUNG MISSION:**  
Christmas Eve: 6pm – Young;  
Christmas Day: 9am – Young; 9am – Grenfell.

Several parishes were unable to get their Mass Times us in time for this print edition. The online version of this story will contain any updates made available to us, and should there be in errors or omissions in this story they will be corrected online and on your Parish website

# A CHRISTMAS WITHOUT JOY IS NO CHRISTMAS AT ALL.

Millie might be spending Christmas in a shelter.

Names and images have been changed to protect the privacy of the people we assist.

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*On behalf of the staff at the Catholic Voice, and all of the  
Chancery staff of the Archdiocese, we would like to wish you  
all a safe, peaceful, joyful and Holy Christmas.  
We hope that the time you spend with loved ones is enriching  
and revitalising ahead of a fantastic 2019.*

The Catholic Voice is not printed in January. Our next print edition will be available at  
churches and schools on the first Sunday of February and our website  
([www.catholicvoice.org.au](http://www.catholicvoice.org.au)) will continue to post fresh stories right across  
December and January.

