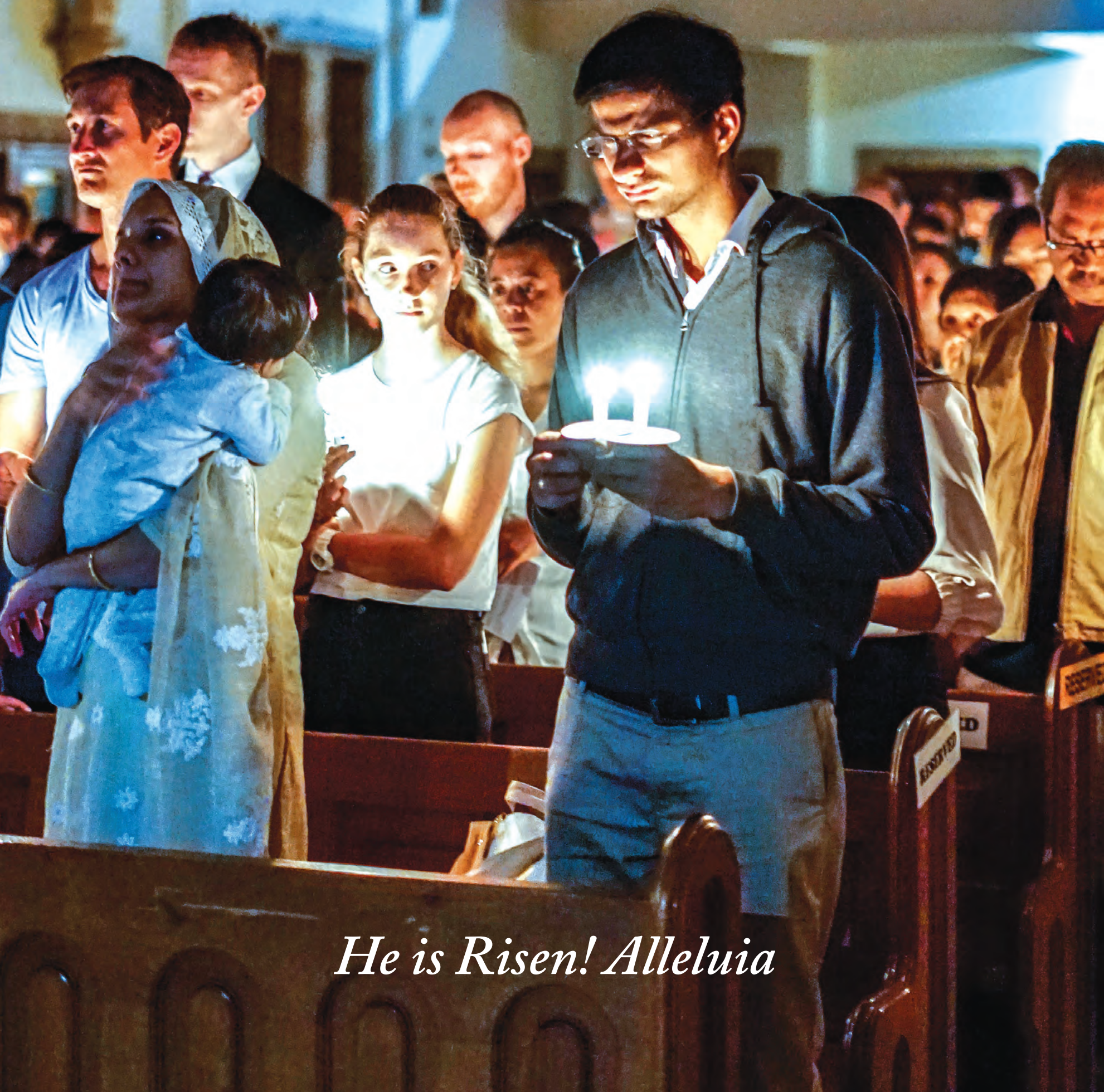


CATHOLIC Voice

ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN
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He is Risen! Alleluia



Archbishop’s Message
Archbishop Christopher Prowse

UPDATE ON THE
PLENARY COUNCIL

We have been informed that at the completion of the first phase of our Plenary Council journey (6 March 2019) the response from Australian Catholics has indeed been very encouraging. Many thousands of submissions have been registered.

Given the particular difficult times in which we exercise our precious faith, such a healthy response is surely a sign of the Holy Spirit calling us all to a deeper conversion.

So until Pentecost (9 June 2019) the National Centre for Pastoral Research collates and analyses all responses. A draft preliminary National Report will be developed and emerging themes identified. After Pentecost a new Listening and Discernment stage will be launched.

You may wish to visit the Plenary Council website to learn more of this exciting journey we have now begun. It is: plenary-council.catholic.org.au.

I am particularly grateful for the pastoral energy and generosity I have observed in the groups that have gathered in the diocese over these months. Thank you.

In the Canberra Goulburn Archdiocese this has largely happened in our deanery groups. It seems to have gone well in such a structure. Let us therefore continue this method in the next phase.

YOUTH – “CHRIST
IS ALIVE”

No matter what conclusions our Plenary Council meetings articulate there is always a concern about the handing on of the Catholic faith to our youth.

As I have mentioned many times before, I really see the Holy Spirit in the great youth initiatives in the diocese.

In recent times, these impulses of grace in the youth cultures of today have been given great foundations in the recent Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis on youth. It is called Christ is Alive (25 March 2019)

Pope Francis explains that he allowed himself to be “inspired by the wealth of reflections and conversations of the Synod” on young people, celebrated in the Vatican in October 2018.

In synthesis, the document scrutinises the scriptures regarding young people, meditates on Jesus as ever young, proclaims the “now” of youth, and announces the great message for all youth that they are loved, saved and animated by Jesus alive now.

The Pope then writes on establishing faith paths for youth, comments on youth ministry in schools and parishes, and concludes by making observations about vocations and discernment in life.

I hope many people read this Papal document that summarises so much of what the Pope heard over the Synod and adds his own wisdom and faith. Seeing how young people respond to him both at Rio de Janeiro and Panama World Youth Days, may I encourage young people, in particular, to read this document in stages and discuss each section together. You will not be disappointed!

EASTER SEASON
AND OUR LADY’S
FEAST

Throughout the month of May we continue the Easter Liturgical season. The Readings of Scripture at Mass are so rich with the accounts of so many encountering the Risen Lord Jesus. Let us too be caught up in the living Word of God as Jesus enters deeply into us afresh as His Resurrection community. We are in great need of his Grace in these “swirling” times!

On 24th May we celebrate the Patron of Australia, Our Lady Help of Christians. May we consecrate our diocese and our communities again to the protection of Mary, the first amongst the faithful.

May the Risen Lord bless you always.

Please spare a prayer for me sometimes.

Archbishop’s Diary
May 2019

WEDNESDAY, 1 12.15pm
Mass, St Christopher’s Cathedral

THURSDAY, 2 9.45am Mass,
65TH Anniversary of St Edmund’s
College, Griffith

THURSDAY, 3-
FRIDAY, 10 Australian Catholic
Bishops Conference, East
Melbourne

SATURDAY 11-
SUNDAY 12
Parish Visitation, St Anthony of
Padua Parish, Wanniasa

TUESDAY, 14 12.15pm Mass,
St Christopher’s Cathedral

WEDNESDAY, 15 7.30am
Mass, St Christopher’s Cathedral

THURSDAY, 16 12.30pm
Ecumenical Luncheon,
Archbishop’s House
5.00pm Confirmation Mass, St
John the Apostle Parish, Kippax

FRIDAY, 17 7.30am Mass, St
Christopher’s Cathedral

SATURDAY, 18 5.15pm
Recon/Mass, St Peter Chanel,
Yarralumla

SUNDAY, 19 10.00am
Confirmation Mass, St Patrick’s
Parish, Cooma

MONDAY, 20-
THURSDAY, 23 Clergy
Assembly, Galong
5.30pm Australian Catholic
University, ACT Chapter meeting

FRIDAY, 24 12.15 pm Mass, St
Christopher’s Cathedral

SUNDAY, 26 11.00am Mass, St
Christopher’s Cathedral

TUESDAY, 28 12.15pm Mass,
St Christopher’s Cathedral

WEDNESDAY, 29 7.30am
Mass, St Christopher’s Cathedral

THURSDAY, 30 9.00am
Council of Priests/Trustees &
Consultors Meeting

FRIDAY, 31 12.15pm Mass, St
Christopher’s Cathedral

IN THIS
Edition



Before the
Collar:
Fr Mark
Croker



ANZAC Day
around the
Archdiocese



The Archdiocese
celebrates 2019
Easter Triduum



Pope Francis’
Apostolic
Exhortation
Christ is Alive



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Bishop Morgan



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Cover picture: Easter vigil Mass at St Christopher’s Cathedral. Photo Rossen de Ramos

Vocation
Matters

Every vocation is an exodus from self ... It leads
us on a journey of Adoration of the Lord ... and
service to him in our brothers and sisters
POPE FRANCIS

Are you considering a vocation as a priest in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn? If so please contact Fr Paul Nulley paul.nulley@cg.org.au



Ardlethan's links to ANZACs and Easter

BY CHRIS GORDON

The dates don't always line up this way, but in the space of just a few days, Australians will have celebrated and commemorated Easter and Anzac Day.

The two events are quite distinct, but both have special significance to the Parish of Ardlethan, both linked to former parish priest Fr Thomas Mullins.

Inside Our Lady Help of Christians Church at Ardlethan sit several mortar shells from the fields of World War One, repurposed as vases that decorate the altar. And barely the proverbial stone's throw away, next door in the grounds of the former parish presbytery, stands an olive tree grown from seeds brought back to Australia from Gethsemane.

The mortar shells and the olive tree seeds were both brought to Australia by Fr Mullins upon his repatriation following the war according to parishioner John Mills.

"Fr Mullins was the parish priest here from 1910 until his death in 1939. He came here from Barmedman," Mr Mills said.

"Fr Mullins enlisted in the First World War, and during his military service he was awarded the Military Cross and other medals for gallantry and bravery. From all accounts he wasn't the type of person to be down in the back of the lines... he was right up in the action tending to the wounded.

"He was a very sick man for a lot of his time at war. He suffered from Malaria and spent a lot of time in the infirmary, but he was always back in the thick of the action as soon as he could be."

After enlisting at Barmedman in March of 1915, Fr Mullins initially served at Gallipoli for nine months. After evacuation from Gallipoli, he spent much of his time in Egypt and what's now Jordan and Israel with



Ardlethan Parishioner John Mills alongside the altar at Our Lady Help of Christians Church with the vases made from World War One mortar shells behind him.

the 4th and 2nd light horse brigades and the 5th Light Horse Regiment.

Fr Mullins service, dedication and valour was recognised repeatedly. He received the Military Cross, the 1914-1915 star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal (with Oakleaf – awarded to servicemen mentioned in despatches). In addition to the military medals and awards, he was also awarded the Jerusalem Pilgrim's Cross of Honour, issued by Pope Leo XIII.

But along with the medals, Fr Mullins also brought home indelible memories of the horrors of war tempered forever, in his mind, by God's love and mercy. To remember and represent those

thoughts in a tangible way, he retrieved the olive seeds from Gethsemane from his time in the middle East, and later, in Paris, obtained the mortar shells that he would later repurpose as vases in the Ardlethan Church.

The link between the two... renewal, rebirth and hope from darkness.

Fr Mullins was discharged in 1920 with the rank of Lt Col and returned to Ardlethan with the seeds and the shells.

Those weren't the only seeds he propagated upon his return. After establishing the Catholic Church, Presbytery, Convent and School in Ardlethan, Fr Mullins also helped set up churches in Ariah Park and Barellan.

He served as Parish Priest of Ardlethan until his death in 1939 and is buried at the Ardlethan cemetery.

Fr Mullin's story is one that could easily have been lost and remained untold but for the discovery of his medals in the Presbytery when it was cleaned out to be sold. Mr Mills' daughter, Tracey Cheney, took on the task of chasing up his military records and following discussions with Chris Goddard at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, discovered they also had his war diary in the military archives.

The medals and Fr Mullins' story are now displayed prominently in the Church.

"Father Mullins was an

exceptional man, and it's an exceptional story although it's not very well known," Mr Mills suggested.

Mr Mills himself is local to his bootstraps. Born and bred at a little place "just down the road" called Kamarah, his grandfather took up a property in 1910, the same year Fr Mullins became Parish Priest, and the farm stayed in the family until 1976.

A small farm, they needed to make the most of every square inch, cropping wheat, barley and oats, and running sheep and cattle.

Mr Mills' family has a long association with the Ardlethan Church, evidenced by the plaque on the gate, which had previously hung at the entrance to the presbytery before it was sold. The plaque was donated by John's parents in memory of his grandparents.

These days, according to the town signs at least, the population of Ardlethan is around 500 people although John believes that figure may be a little generous. In its heyday, a nearby tin mine swelled the population to probably double that and the little church was packed from front to back each Sunday. When the mine closed down in the early 70s, much of that population drifted away.

John says it's something like ten years since Ardlethan had a Parish priest of its own. The parish now falls under the Temora Mission. Mass is celebrated at Ardlethan on the first and third Sunday of every Month with Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion on the other Sundays.

But, though fewer in number, the faithful keep returning to Our Lady Help of Christians Church. And as they do, they have constant reminders of the man who made the church a reality, and brought his experiences of war and memento of Christ's journey back home.

Exploring layers of meaning in iconography

IT'S AN overused word – icon. And for the most part, a misused one, often used to describe prominent individuals.

One dictionary definition describes an icon as a devotional painting or artwork of Christ or another holy figure.

But iconographer Sue Orchison has a more vibrant definition.

“Iconography is theology in colour,” she said.

“An icon is a representation of Christ... of saints, angels, the Mother of Christ. It's usually made in egg tempera or in brass, although some people use acrylics these days.

“But essentially an icon is making the unseen visible. So when we see an icon of Jesus or Mary, we know that it's not actually them, but we know that they are here with us. When we look at the image it is meant to help us relate. The icon is a door... a door into heaven, a door into ‘the other’.”

As part of her great love of iconography, Sue has organised the Images of the Divine Iconography Exhibition, which will be running from Friday May 31 to Sunday June 2 in the Haydon Hall in St Christopher's Pastoral Centre Manuka.

The exhibition features work by 15 local iconographers showcasing their icons from the last 20 years.

For novices to iconography, Sue points out that one of the things that differentiates iconography from other forms of art is the materials used.

“The medium we use for iconography is egg tempera,” Sue explained.

“It was used with the Egyptian mummies in their tombs when



Iconographer Sue Orchison with The Mother of God icon

they put a sarcophagus with the face of one of the pharaohs or any of the people there just to remember and identify them. And that egg tempera is still as pristine now as it was 3,000 years ago. It's lasting.”

Egg tempera, she explained, is made up of egg, earth, rabbit skin, glue, wood and cloth. In this way, she adds, this combination of God's creation goes into making this new creation, an icon.

“You've got the wood, which represents the wood of the cross. Then you've got the cloth, the linen cloth which goes around the wood which represents the shroud.

“And then you've got the pigments, like ochre and titanium and zin and malachite and lapis lazuli, and all of these earthy things that are combined with the egg which is preserved with wine to allow it to last.” In addition to the materials used, Iconography is

rich with its own symbolism and codification.

Looking at one item, an icon of Mary holding baby Jesus, Sue points out that the gold edge represents heaven. The lip around the edge indicates a boat that carries us. The red in Mary's clothes represents humanity and the blue around her represents divinity... reminding us that Mary is human but she is cloaked in the divine.

Saints and apostles are depicted in a certain way but consistent way as well. You can tell St Paul because he's bald, or Peter has bushy hair and a beard.

These codes and symbols add a framework and depth in a similar way to different forms of poetry “In the trinity icon for example, which was created in the 1400s, there's a space in that icon for you, the viewer, to come and sit with the father, son and spirit,” Sue added.

“Iconography transcends the

purely visual.”

Sue's interest in iconography came later in life but her interest in art has been enduring. She always loved art and painting, especially portraits, but put that on hold when she began to raise her family. It was a chance encounter that drew her to iconography.

“When the kids went to school, I was walking by the Catholic Bookshop back when it was in Favier House and there was a leaflet advertising the iconography school in Narrabundah,” Sue remembers.

“I started to go there and was quickly hooked. I love painting the image of Jesus, I love painting religious images... it's my passion.”

Sue concedes that the process of creating icons is not for everyone, even though she believes the appreciation of iconography is open to all.

Egg tempera, she says, is a difficult medium to work in which few people aside from iconographers work in it these days.

“It's a real discipline,” said Sue.

“And when you start on an icon it's like starting a jigsaw puzzle and you have to work out every step in advance... how will the white work with the red. It also teaches you a lot of patience because you've got to work in very thin layers and wait until they dry, and then apply another layer.”

But for all of that, Sue believes her discovery of iconography has been one of the most exciting experiences of her life.

“It's exciting, enjoyable and very rewarding and I want to share it with the world,” she said.

A Mother's Day for Mary

BY FR EMIL MILAT

ONE OF the great spiritual tools I use when I am appointed as Pastor to a new parish is to invite everyone to consecrate themselves to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

There is a lot of evidence for the power of such a consecration- one source is the Book Fatima for Today by Fr Andrew Apostoli it has many examples. Personally, I can summarise a consecration as asking Mary to do for me everything she did to raise Jesus (more accurately the Holy Spirit working through Mary).

If we are called to be another Christ by necessity we need to invoke Mary to mother Jesus living in us. As St Pope Paul VI said “The ancient Fathers rightly taught that the Church prolongs in the sacrament of baptism the virginal motherhood of Mary”. Thus the baptismal font extends the motherhood of Mary.

The prayer form I use is an updated version of the St Louis de Montfort consecration in the book called 33 Days to Morning Glory by Fr Michael Gaitley. It has over 2 million copies in print. Central Canberra Parish and St Thomas Moore Campbell will be making the consecration at all Sunday Masses the weekend of 11/12 May.



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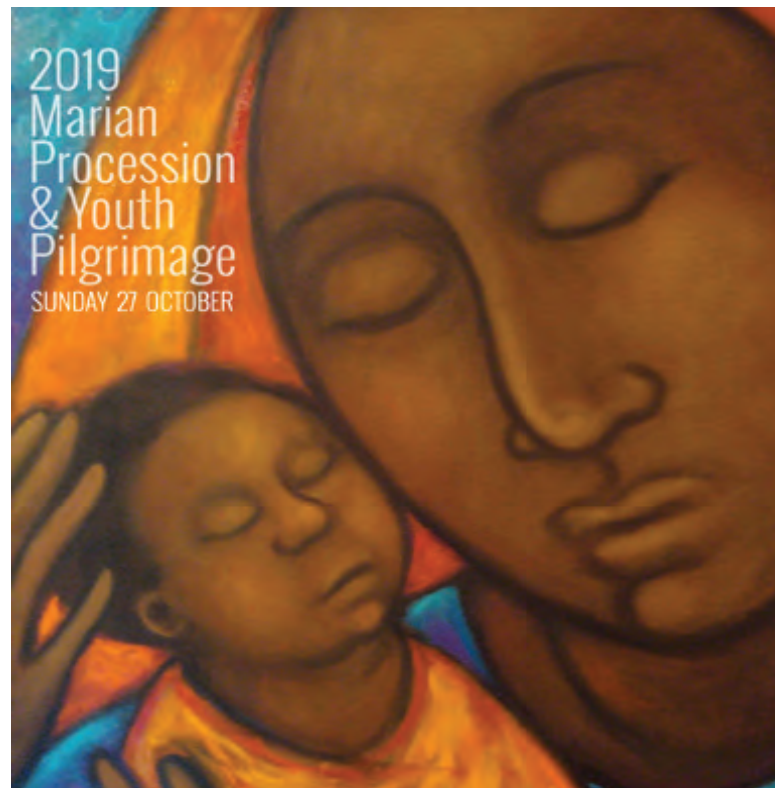
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Before the Collar: Fr Mark Croker

Always the Shepherd

BY CHRIS GORDON

FROM the back door of Fr Mark Croker's Parish office at Gungahlin, you can see the bush. Rolling pastures, clumps of trees, birds leisurely swapping stories... the whole rural scene. From the front door you can see the city.

Much of Fr Mark's adult life has straddled city and country, but his roots remain firmly in the bush. It's where he is from, where he feels at home.

"When I get a chance, I like to get back to the country," he said.

"It recharges my batteries and helps me get things into perspective."

The imagery of a shepherd seems inextricably linked to him. He finds himself now alongside Good Shepherd Primary and his business card still bears an image of a shepherd leading his flock merged with images of faith. It depicts, if you like, the intersection of the two meanings of pastoral that both sit equally well with him.

One of six siblings, Fr Mark was a farm boy. Growing up on the family farm at Golspie near Taralga, he loved almost every facet of country life (except perhaps potato picking and hay carting) and felt that was his place.

"I was working on the family property, that was my main work, and I did that for around 14 years," Fr Mark recalls.

"We also went off the land and did seasonal work, so I did roustabouting in spring time every year. In the years before I left I tried to shear but I wasn't too flash. I remember one contractor who likes to remind me every time he sees me: 'I remember the day you tried to shear that first sheep. I believed then God had a plan for you, but it definitely wasn't shearing.'"

For what it's worth, Fr Mark didn't allow that criticism to deter him... he has shorn more than a few hundred, but knew that he was not blessed to make it part of his full time calling.

"But I loved to work. I've always had that. I don't think I've ever been afraid of work. I wasn't ever a natural at anything, even in sport, but I always pushed myself, trained hard and tried to do that extra yard," said Fr Mark, who despite his own self-deprecating assessment, was good enough to play in the First XV at St Pat's alongside another talented young farm boy, Simon Poidevin who'd later play for and captain Australia.

"I think it ingrained in me



Fr Mark Croker finding peace in rural surrounds. INSERT: Bending his back, Fr Mark can still shear a sheep

an ethic, both from my family and school, which I guess you could call a work ethic. I worked hard and I played hard. That was probably how I lived after school, without taking responsibility. But as I was working I was learning."

Fr Mark's farm carried cattle and sheep. His dad was a very good stockman and Fr Mark felt it was only natural to follow the example he'd been set. He described his dad as a tremendously hard worker, and so the kids tried to be too.

"You'd go out and do your job whether it be working with sheep, working with cattle, fencing, shearing, crutching, even hay-carting," Fr Mark

because they couldn't feed them and couldn't give them away. Farmers pride themselves on looking after their stock and it's one of the toughest things a farmer has to do.

"But I worked on the farm for 14 years... working with dad... and I loved it. He was hard-working but I have to say he was also tolerant. There were a number of times after some good weekends at footy or B&S Balls where I was a bit dusty on a Monday morning, but he put up with it."

For Fr Mark, his calling wasn't a sudden epiphany. There was no road to Damascus moment, nor for that matter on the roads to Golspie, Taralga or Crookwell. It

myself the big questions, but I had a lot of insecurity to deal with... that lack of confidence to do things. I wasn't great at school, my results weren't much, but I tried.

"I think the things I learned innately from home had a greater impact, the old way of learning through hearing stories, the idea of helping people, of working hard and community. I loved that. We all did. It runs in my family.

"And I think that love of story-telling, my love of nature and creation and what was happening in my heart all came together."

At school, Fr Mark took on leadership roles where he could, although more often as a vice captain than a captain... always the bridesmaid, in his own words. But it all played a role in developing a sense of responsibility, a sense of stepping up and challenging himself.

To battle his lack of confidence, Mark participated in amateur drama in his twenties... even then vaguely aware he needed to prepare to stand up in front of people.

He played both codes of football, often playing union on a Saturday and league on a Sunday, and even had a crack at coaching.

Towards the end of his playing career he was lured into co-coaching the Crookwell Dogs social but competitive reserve grade side, or "F Troop" as they were called. They were, as he recalls, a fine collection of men,

many of whom were recruited into service from pubs and clubs the Friday before the game, or in a state of disrepair early on the actual day of the game.

With former Wallaby Phil Clements by his side he felt they could beat anyone. But he was wrong...they didn't beat anyone. And after a season devoid of wins the two were given special trophies... one for bowls the other for darts, since the players

thought perhaps they should try another sport. And with that, his coaching career was dashed.

"But as I got older and took on a bit more responsibility, I saw sport wasn't the most important thing in the world and I began to begin thinking more about my purpose and how I wanted to spend my life," he said.

All the while... working the farm, being an example to young men on the field... his call was growing, slowly but insistently, until just before the age of 32 he committed to the seminary. And even then, though he had the certainty of purpose, with genuine humility, he doubted that he was good enough.

"When I went to the seminary I had a nun who was my spiritual director, and I remember saying to her 'I'm not very holy, I don't know what I'm doing here. I don't see myself as being great at praying,'" Fr Mark recalls.

"And she said 'you boys from the bush, you are in touch with creation all the time. Whether it be fires and droughts and floods, whether it be a new born lamb or calf, all of those things... you're in touch with the weather, if it's going to rain, what the season needs and promises, whether you can put your crops in if they'll grow. You have a very real connection to the world, and to the creator.'"

So while it wasn't a sudden progression to the life of priesthood, it was a natural one.

"As a farmer, or a shepherd, you look after your flock, keep them safe... you're shepherding them all of the time," he said.

"I guess a lot of those ideas transfer across to the roles of a parish priest. You look for where more nurturing is needed, for where there are obstacles and dangers. Where people are suffering and in need of help, be that spiritual, physical or mental. And just as farmers are concerned with looking after their environment, we are as priests. I think there are definitely some similarities."

Once a shepherd...

I think the things I learned innately from home had a greater impact, the old way of learning through hearing stories, the idea of helping people, of working hard and community. I loved that. We all did. It runs in my family.

remembers.

That last, hey-carting, is the job Fr Mark lists as the worst job, or hardest job, he's ever had. Long days, scratching and sweating from dust in your eyes and lungs, and temperatures around 50 degrees in the hay sheds. He also wasn't particularly fond of spud picking. But you took the good with the bad.

Despite his great love for the land, it wasn't always idyllic. It never is. There were many tough times. He remembers the drought of 1983 where he had to help shoot the family's sheep

was a slow burning call that, like the crops he tended, took root inside him and grew over time.

"I guess I had some thoughts right back to Year 12 when Fr Greg Beath asked me if I had ever thought about being a priest," Fr Mark explains.

"I denied it, but the thought remained. I was about 28 when I started to give it serious thought, and it was just as I was coming up to my 32nd birthday that I was clear and ready to begin my journey to becoming a priest."

"When I think back to when I left school, I was asking

ANZAC services

Special liturgy at St Thomas More

BY JULIE WILEY

ST THOMAS More Primary School held their Anzac Day Liturgy on Friday, April 12. The focus of the liturgy was to commemorate past and present veterans.

One of the parents, Air Commodore Richard Keir, prepared the Reflection and spoke to the audience about the veterans of his own family: one was his grandfather, a veteran of the First World War; and the second was the his great uncle, a veteran of the Second World War.

Richard elaborated on the tragic experience of his great uncle who was amongst the 15 000 Australians who were captured as Prisoners of War by the Japanese in Singapore. He was one of the POW workforce on the Thai-Burma Railway and died in captivity.

His family were unaware of his death until much later. Richard spoke about the Anzac Spirit and values we can learn from and endeavour to practise: sense of purpose, responsibility and mateship. Another parent, Lieutenant Commander Shaun Nelson, read the Peace Prayer.

St Thomas More's were fortunate to have a Catafalque Party from Australia's Federation Guard and Bugler from the Band of Royal Military College, Duntroon at the liturgy.

Guests at the liturgy were The Catholic Bishop to the Australian Defence Force, Bishop Max Davis, and Principal Chaplain RAAF, Monsignor Peter O'Keefe. Parish Priest, Fr Joshua Scott, gave the final blessing.

Defence School Mentor, Sonja Mingay, organised the liturgy which was run by the St Thomas More's Year 4.

Anzac Bear, Trooper Jones, given to the school in 2018 by Brigadier Phil Winter following the Invictus Games, took a prominent place in proceedings. The Brigadier's own children previously attended St Thomas More's.

St Thomas More's has a population of 146 students of whom 64 students are from Defence families. The school enjoys a close association with ADF due to proximity of RMC, ADFA, Russell Offices, Campbell Park and Brindabella Park Offices. Many of the Defence parents are veterans.



With many Defence Force families involved in the school, St Thomas More Primary School's Anzac Liturgy is an especially solemn and reverential service.



Holding the headgear of the three services were these students at St Thomas More Parish, Campbell.

ANZAC service at Canberra Hospital

Anzac commemoration at the Canberra Hospital (12)
On Wednesday April 17, at the Canberra Hospital, the Veteran's Support Group conducted the annual Tribute to Veteran and Peacekeepers memorial service.

Rev Deacon Mick O'Donnell, the RSL Chaplain delivered the prayer and the benediction. This was the fifteenth such gathering of veterans who include many former military and peace-keeping patients and support groups like the Vietnam veterans and the increasing number of Iraq and Afghanistan returned men and women.

The Navy Catafalque party was provided by HMAS Harman.

The ANZAC address was delivered by Colonel Andrew Meacham CSC who acknowledged the Diplomats from the French Embassy in attendance at the loss of the national icon Notre Dame Cathedral.

Wreaths were laid representing many military organizations and a men's choir, and a Scottish piper provided the music.



Students from McAuley Central School, Tumut, laying a wreath on Anzac Day.



Students from St Bede's Primary marching in the Braidwood Anzac march.

around the Archdiocese

Woden Peace Memorial continues tradition

FOR THE past 26 years, the Woden Valley Sub Branch of the RSL have hosted a Peace Memorial for all the schools in the Woden and surrounding areas at Eddison Park – a former farm owned by the Eddison family, 3 sons of who died during WW2.

This year, on April 3, around 400 students attended.

Accompanied by the Canberra Youth Orchestra, a Catafalque Party and many dressed in period uniforms – soldiers, nurses, sailors etc – the attentive group were addressed by the representative of NZ High Commissioner,

Colonel Rob Loftus RNZA and Natalie Howson, Director-General ACT Education Directorate.

The Theme is always to instil Peace into the time of ANZAC memorial services. In that context, several schools entered a competition titled, ‘What Does ANZAC Mean To Me?’

Reverend Mick O'Donnell, Vietnam Veteran and former AFP Chaplain and RSL Chaplain said prayers and gave the Benediction. Veterans from many conflicts and Peacekeeping activities attended and shared their stories with the children.



Students dress in period costume as nurses and soldiers. PICTURE Supplied



A large congregation participated in the Anzac Day Service at St Christopher's Cathedral, Manuka.



Around the Archdiocese students, like these two from St Patrick's, Cooma, remember family members who have served by wearing their medals.



Students from St Mary's, Crookwell ccelebrate ANZAC Day

A special Mother's Day

Five minutes with

Chloe Warmenhoven

What three words would you use to describe becoming a mother? Why?

Only three words! Lack of sleep. Jokes - Wonder. Joy. Love. Watching Archie learn new things so quickly and the intense love and joy I experience when I see him smile or make a new sound.

There is always a plethora of advice given to new mum's. How have you managed to navigate through it all and what has been the best advice you've received so far?

I am really blessed to have lots of amazing people in my life who are able to offer support, and luckily I have felt supported in all the

decisions I have made so far! So far when I am given advice I say thank you - and I really am thankful given this is the first time I have tried to raise a child and I'm happy to learn from others' experience! I then remind myself that I need to trust my instinct with our little boy and go with what Huw and I feel is right for him, so that might mean taking the advice or leaving it for now. I think the best advice I have been given so far is to take it a day at a time, and to prioritise my marriage. It's really important to me to make sure Huw and I have a strong and loving relationship and that we are a team, because I think it's through that relationship that we can do our best for Archie.



New mum, Chloe Warmenhoven with baby Archie

Have your expectations of motherhood come to fruition - has it been more challenging or easier?

I have always wanted to be a Mum and am so thankful for Archie! I did not expect that this little guy would change the way I think as much as he has! I always thought that I would be able to do everything pretty much the same as what I had done

before, but so far I have found that isn't necessarily the case (which isn't a bad thing). My priority is him and that means that I often spend my time just staring at him and enjoying our time together. It also takes me 4 times as long to get out of the house... One thing though that has exceeded my expectation - just how much my heart explodes when he smiles at me!

Over the next twenty years or so you and Huw have the responsibility of teaching, loving, influencing and moulding your son into a grown man. What are your hopes and concerns for him and his future?

My hope is that he grows up knowing how much he is loved and through that has the confidence and space to become the man he was created to be.

Some say that motherhood is like a mirror with our children being a reflection of the best and worst of us. Do you agree?

I think that as mothers we definitely have a profound impact on our children, and certainly they learn things that we both intend, and don't intend, to teach them. However, I also think that our children are a reflection of a lot of other things - their own values and interests, the "village" that helps raise them and broader society. In this sense I think that our children don't just reflect, but construct who they grow up to be.



Stand out

Luke
ACU student





STEM- An Educational Challenge

By Peter Rodda, Principal St John Vianney's, Waramanga

STEM, STEAM or HASS? What do all of these acronyms mean and why are schools looking more deeply at these areas and the role they play in children's education.

STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics and is an area that St John Vianney's (SJV) is developing as part of its School Improvement Plan.

As an assistant principal, I began the STEM journey in late 2016. With a team of interested teachers I attended a symposium on how STEM was becoming a far greater focus in classrooms and how it could be successfully implemented in schools.

A big question asked at the symposium was – Aren't we already teaching these subjects in our schools? It became clear that the STEM subjects were becoming increasingly important in a digital world and our students were going to need to focus on these areas more than ever.

My STEM journey continued as Principal at SJV when in 2017 we struck a partnership with Qwestacon to be part of a pilot program in introducing STEM to our students. Having Qwestacon



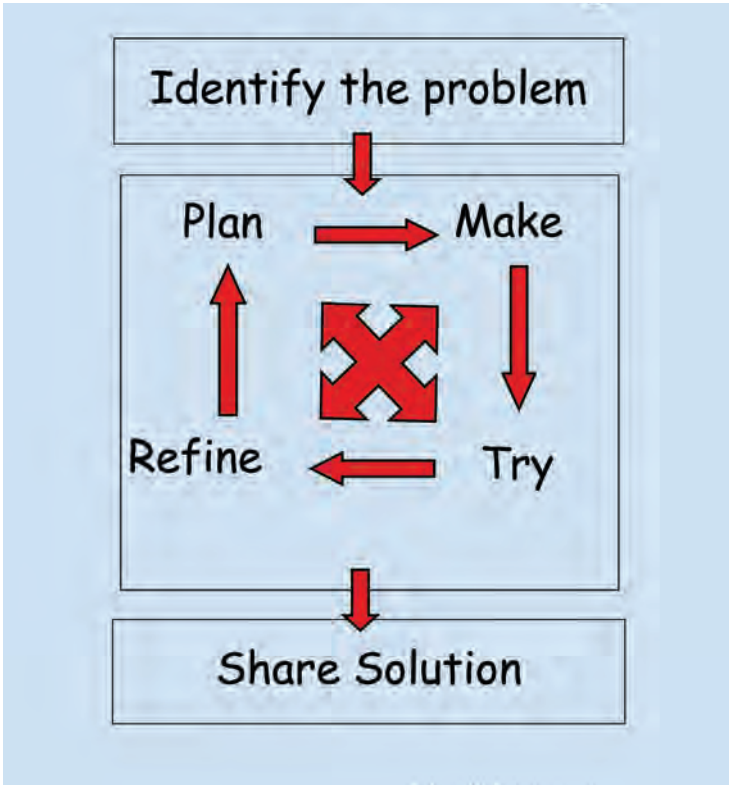
St John Vianney students finding a Creative solution to Sphero with everyday materials

on board was a great start to our journey as the centre is really an embodiment of where STEM can take you. (insert Pic 1)

After the initial excitement of Professional Learning, purchasing of resources and fun STEM days (insert pic 2), the big question was asked - Is this just another addition to an overcrowded curriculum? Will we be able to fit this with everything else?

We did not want STEM as

an 'extra' for our teachers or students, so whilst enjoying motivational STEM days to embed the concept of what STEM was, certain key members of staff worked on a STEM Problem Solving Model that would work for our school. The key challenge was that this plan needed to work not just for STEM, but for all areas of education. A plan that could be applied to the entire curriculum.



STEM Problem solving diagram

A model was conceived and trialled by some classes in 2018 with great success. To hear Kindergarten children speaking about how they needed to refine their foil boat, after careful planning, to carry a woollen sheep away from a troll was amazing. When asked, "How did you know what to do?" I was promptly told, "Because after you plan something and then you try it Mr Rodda, if it doesn't work, you need to refine

it. Everyone knows that!"

Our trial model (insert pic 3) is being tested across the whole school, and if successful, will be fully integrated it into SJV.

Our journey continues and whether it is coding in our IT classes or writing a story in a literature block, we are hoping that our STEM model will help sharpen children's thinking and prepare them for a constantly changing world.

Assalamu Alaykum: St Eddies conversation

BY MRS CARMELA WILSON,
HEAD OF RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION, ST EDMUND'S
COLLEGE CANBERRA

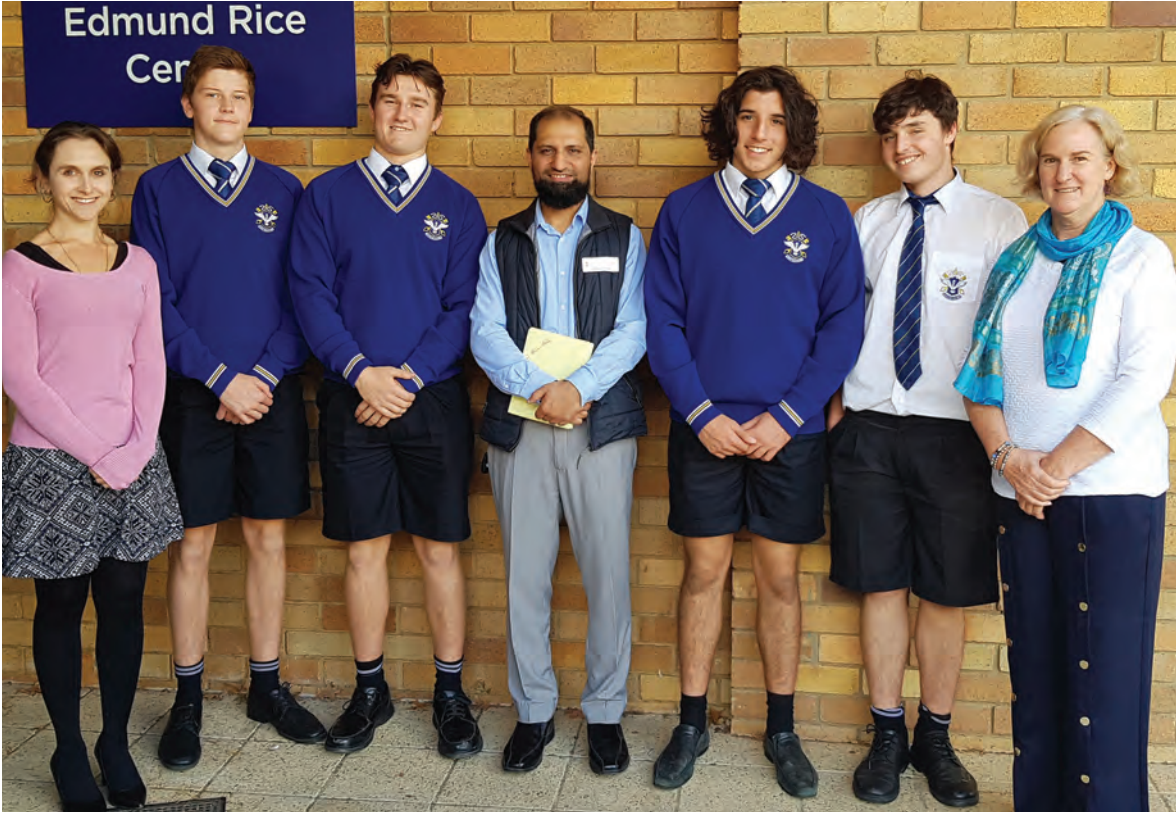
In our contemporary context where misrepresentation and exaggeration are fuelled by media outlets, interfaith dialogue is more important now than ever before. The Church speaks of the importance of learning from and understanding all faith traditions, particularly our Abrahamic brothers and sisters.

On Monday we were blessed to have Dr Kamran Shafi from the Islamic Society of ACT join our Year 11 Religious Studies students for a conversation about faith and practice in the Islamic tradition.

Year 11 have been exploring the purpose of religion and how religion can inform the lens through which we see the world.

Islam is our first depth study and the boys have been examining the key doctrines of faith as well as the pillars as expressions of the core tenets of Islam.

Dr Shafi explained the three main elements of faith in Islam. The first being that God is beyond human comprehension. One cannot describe God in



Staff and Year 11 Religious Studies students from St Edmund's met with Dr Kamran Shafi (centre) from the Islamic Society of ACT for a conversation about faith and practice in the Islamic tradition.

simple terms but rather describe attributes. In Islam, God has 99 attributes or qualities such as 'creator' and 'redeemer.'

Dr Shafi spoke about how in religious traditions, the intellect can only do so much and seeks

physical observable evidence for reason, while divine knowledge seeks to explain what science cannot, questions such as 'why am I here?' and 'what happens beyond this life?'.

The second key element Dr

Shafi outlined was life hereafter- what happens when one dies and is held accountable for their decision in life? He outlined that one can adhere to any faith but it is their actions and intentions that they will be judged

for – regardless of what we say we believe.

The final element described was the messenger- the person who comes to teach others about the first two elements outlined above. Dr Shafi described Islamic beliefs in the prophet Muhammad while also examining the role that Jesus played in Islam as well.

This was a wonderful opportunity for our boys to engage with someone who authentically lives their faith in our multicultural society.

Some fantastic questions were asked by our boys such as 'Why is there suffering in the world according to Islam?' and 'What are the words you say during prayer?' as well as 'What is Hajj like?' all of which Dr Shafi was more than happy to answer.

We are very grateful to the Islamic Society of ACT for being so generous with their time and sharing so much with our boys.

This incursion was organised by Ms Donella Walker who is an advocate for taking learning outside of the classroom and bringing experiences to life for our boys. Many thanks must be expressed to Donella for organising this wonderful opportunity.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Sri Lanka Easter attacks draw international condemnation, prayers for victims

COLOMBO, SRI LANKA: Religious and civil leaders have responded with condolences, prayer, and calls for justice after several explosions at churches and hotels in Sri Lanka killed more than 200 people and injured hundreds more on Easter Sunday.

Calling it “a very, very sad day for all of us,” Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith, Archbishop of Colombo, cancelled all remaining Easter Masses for the day in the Colombo district.

He expressed his “deepest sorrow and sympathy to all those innocent families that have lost someone, and also to those who have been injured and rendered destitute,” Vatican News reported.

“I condemn – to the utmost of my capacity – this act that has caused so much death and suffering to the people,” Ranjith said. He called for a strong and impartial inquiry to find those responsible for the attacks.

Shortly before 9 a.m., explosions were detonated during Easter Mass at Catholic churches in the Sri Lankan capital, Colombo, and in Negombo, a city 20 miles to its north. At the same time, a bomb exploded at a service at the evangelical Zion Church in Batticaloa, on Sri Lanka’s east coast.

Paris Archbishop, Holy See call for prayer as Notre Dame burns



PARIS, FRANCE: Both the Holy See and the Archbishop of Paris encouraged prayer while firefighters in the French capital battled a blaze on the roof of Notre-Dame de Paris.

“To all the priests of Paris: The firefighters are still fighting to save the towers of Notre-Dame de Paris. The frame, the roof, and the spire are consumed. Let us pray. If you wish, you may ring the bells of your churches as an invitation to prayer,” Archbishop Michel Aupetit Tweeted April 15.

The Holy See press office stated that it received the news of the fire “with shock and sadness,” calling Notre-Dame de Paris “a symbol of

Christianity in France and in the world.”

“We express closeness to the Catholics of France and to the population of Paris and assure them of our prayers.”

Firefighters responded to an alarm raised shortly before 7pm, April 15. The spire of the cathedral, which stood 226 feet tall, collapsed shortly before 8pm.

Bishops pray for victims of earthquakes in Philippines



MANILA, PHILIPPINES: Catholic leaders have offered prayers for the Philippines after two earthquakes struck the region this week.

A magnitude-6.1 earthquake hit the nation’s largest and most populous island of Luzon on Monday. An unrelated magnitude-6.4 quake struck the island of Samar the following day.

Numerous buildings, including a few churches, were destroyed or damaged by the earthquakes. Electricity has been shut down in some areas to prevent fires.

Vatican News reported that the death toll had risen to at least 20 people, while hundreds more are injured or missing.

Priests making a racquet

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA: According to the Gospel of Matthew, “The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve.” This June, priests will gather in Lincoln, Neb., to “serve” their fellow brothers with their tennis skills.

The International Tennis Championship for Priests will be held June 28-30, gathering clerics and seminarians for exercise, friendly competition, and fraternity.

The event this year is organized by Father Brian Connor, pastor of North American Martyrs parish in Lincoln, and will include about 40 priests from around the world.

“I’m happy to do this for the priests and for the sport, both of which I love very much,” Connor told CNA. “It’s a chance to compete, burn some calories, and enjoy friendship with other people,” he added.

Pope Francis: The resurrection is the most shocking event in history



Pope Francis in St Peters Square, March 14 2018. Photo: Daniel Ibanez CNA

BY COURTNEY GROGAN

VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis said Monday that the resurrection of Christ is the most shocking event in human history.

“What was humanly unthinkable happened,” Pope Francis said April 22. “‘Christ, my hope, is risen!’ And in Him we too are resurrected, passing from death to life, from the slavery of sin to the freedom of love.”

The Pope spoke from the window of the Vatican Apostolic Palace before leading those gathered in St. Peter’s Square in the traditional Easter prayer, the Regina Coeli.

“After the rites of the Easter Triduum, which made us relive the mystery of death and resurrection of our Lord, now with the eyes of faith we contemplate him risen and alive,” he said.

Pope Francis said “the risen Jesus walks beside us. He

manifests himself to those who invoke and love him. First of all in prayer, but also in simple joys lived with faith and gratitude.”

The Pope pointed to the important role that women played in announcing Christ’s resurrection.

“It is women who are the first to meet the Risen One and bring the announcement that he is alive,” Pope Francis said.

“All the Gospels highlight the role of women, Mary Magdalene and the others, as the first witnesses of the resurrection,” he said.

Pope Francis said that the words Jesus addressed to the women must also resound in our lives today, “Do not be afraid; go and announce ...”

“We ask the Virgin Mary to allow us to receive full peace and serenity, gifts from the Risen One, to share with our brothers, especially those who need

comfort and hope the most,” Pope Francis said.

“Let us allow ourselves, therefore, to reach out from the consoling message of Easter and wrap ourselves in its glorious light, which dissipates the darkness of fear and sadness,” he said.

The Pope again expressed his spiritual closeness with the people of Sri Lanka, where explosions in Catholic churches killed more than 200 people on Easter morning.

Pope Francis condemned the acts of terrorism and said that the Sri Lankan people continue to be in his prayers.

“I pray for the many victims and wounded, and I ask everyone not to hesitate to offer this dear nation all the help that is necessary. I also hope that everyone condemns these acts of terrorism, inhuman acts, never justifiable,” Pope Francis said.

Arrest of Christians in Nepal prompts religious freedom worry

KATHMANDU, NEPAL: Reports of five Christians being arrested on faith-related charges in Nepal this week have sparked international concern and calls for changes to the country’s strict anti-conversion laws.

“Nobody should be persecuted because of their faith,” said Tehmina Arora, senior counsel for ADF International, South Asia.

“The arrested were simply tending to the needs of the Christian community in Nepal. Their right to do so is firmly secured under international law.”

Arora said the arrests are not

an isolated event.

“Anti-conversion laws in Nepal and a restrictive constitution have regularly subjected Christians and members of other

religious minorities to arbitrary arrests, criminal charges, and violations of their fundamental rights,” she warned.

Source: CNA



Church in Australia deeply saddened by Sri Lankan attacks



Sri Lanka attacks, Getty images.

AUSTRALIAN Catholic Bishops Conference president Archbishop Mark Coleridge has expressed shock at the attacks in Sri Lanka that have left many dead, including Catholics attending Easter celebrations.

“Attacks such as this are always atrocious,” he said, “but especially when worshippers are the target and it’s the Resurrection they’re celebrating.

“We don’t know who planned the attack or what their motive may have been. But we do know that whoever’s responsible, this attack has something demonic about its planning and execution. We also know that violence like this won’t have the last word. That’s what Easter is about.”

Archbishop Coleridge said he will contact Church leaders in Sri Lanka as soon as possible and extend the sympathies and prayers of the Catholic Church in Australia.

He also expressed solidarity with the more than 22,000 Sri

Lankan Catholics who now call Australia home, saying that the Catholic community in this country will rally around them in every way possible.

Source: Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

Message from Archbishop Christopher Prowse

The Catholic community of the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn send prayers and deepest condolences to the entire Sri Lankan community in these days of the terrible bombings in Columbo and beyond.

We pray for the many who have died. We pray for the hundreds injured and their dear families and friends. We condemn outright such acts of atrocity, especially during this holy season of Easter.

We pray for peace and comfort to all Sri Lankans, especially those who live in Australia.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse

Australia reacts to devastating fire at Notre Dame

AUSTRALIA’S religious leaders have sent messages of support and sympathy to the people of France following the devastating fire at Notre Dame Cathedral.

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference president and Brisbane Archbishop Mark Coleridge awoke to the news and was soon moved to prayer. In a heartfelt video response to the events, he said: “I first had a sense of disbelief and then horror and that sense of horror has been shared by all kinds of people, not only in Paris, but right around the world, believers and unbelievers.

“Whoever you are, there is some deep chord struck by what has happened at the heart of Paris. Because Notre Dame

is not just a sacred space it is a great Church, but it is also a vast storehouse of human memory.

“In a moment like this, prayer rises spontaneously from the heart.” In a sign of solidarity with the Archdiocese of Paris and the Notre Dame community, St Patrick’s Cathedral in Parramatta rang its bells at midday yesterday for one minute in prayer and remembrance. The Diocese of Parramatta said in a statement said: “Notre Dame Paris is more than its sandstone, gargoyles and stained-glass windows. It is the spiritual home of French Catholicism and indeed a poignant symbol of French culture.”

Source: Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

Australian appeal will help Sri Lankan Catholics

AN AUSTRALIAN appeal has been established to support the Catholic community in Sri Lanka, still reeling from the Easter Sunday bombings that killed 253 people and wounded hundreds.

Aid to the Church in Need, whose mission is to support the Christian faithful wherever they are persecuted, oppressed or in pastoral need, established the appeal on Friday.

Bernard Toutounji, national director of Aid to the Church in Need in Australia, said local donations will be forwarded on to support a special fund set up by Archbishop of Colombo Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith.

As we move from Easter Sunday into the Easter Season we want to continue to keep watch with the Sri Lankan people, which is one of the largest ethnic groups in Australia,” Mr Toutounji said.

He said material and spiritual support for the Sri Lankan people can help to “ensure the faith is kept alive and that the love of Christ is never extinguished due to persecution and suffering”.

A number of Masses and other services of prayer and



remembrance have been held across Australia in the week since the Easter bombings.

At a Mass at Sydney’s St Mary’s Cathedral thousands of people held flickering candles and raised their illuminated phones as they prayed for the victims of what has been described as one of Sri Lanka’s worst days.

Australia’s Foreign Minister Marise Payne, Immigration Minister David Coleman and deputy Labor leader Tanya Plibersek attended the Mass.

Sydney Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP called for an end to hatred and violence during the

Mass.

“It’s clear the Easter Sunday bombers hated Christians,” he told the gathering.

Sri Lankan chaplain Fr Chaminada Wanigasena said Friday’s gathering was a “very sombre occasion” after a “moment of crisis”.

Masses for the victims of the Sri Lanka attacks have also been held in Adelaide, Brisbane, Darwin and Perth in recent days.

You can make a donation at <https://www.aidtochurch.org/srilanka>

Source: Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

Missionaries of the Sacred Heart

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

EVERYONE HAS A STORY.

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

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

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

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

– Fr Patrick Sharpe msc

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

Easter Triduum Celebrations in the Archdiocese

Easter is the greatest and most significant feast in the Christian Calendar. Each Easter, after 40 days of prayer and fasting, Catholics are called to commemorate the crucifixion, celebrate the resurrection and renew their faith in the risen Lord. Across the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn, the faithful observed Holy Thursday, the Way of the Cross, the Passion of Our Lord and the Resurrection of Christ in their own ways. Here are some images from our parishes.



As the culmination of the RCIA program, new members of the faithful were initiated into the Catholic Faith at Easter services such as the Easter Vigil at St Christopher's Cathedral. Photo: Rossen de Ramos.



The Way of the Cross re-enactment at Marist Brothers Canberra has become a popular and well attended tradition each year and this year was no exception. Photo supplied.



Fr Jiss leads the Holy Spirit community at Gungahlin through the Stations of the Cross. Photo supplied.



Entering into the Catholic Faith at St Augustine's Easter Vigil in Yass were (from right to left) Georgia Whitaker and her Godparent Georgia Braynard, Trish Zvikomborero Chipangura and her Godparent Lachlan Bull, and Wendy Mauree Caire with Godparent Maureen Clancy.



Fr George combined the secular with the religious when he provided a basket of easter eggs to some very pleased parishioners at Gundagai. Photo supplied.



With the lights dimmed and candles lit, there was a beautiful peace about the Easter Vigil Mass at St Christopher's Cathedral this year. Photo: Rossen de Ramos.



The Way of the Cross at Marists presents a solemn re-enactment of the Passion of Christ. Photo supplied.



Easter Vigil Mass at Holy Spirit Church, Amaroo. Photo supplied.



Good Friday Commemoration of the Lord's Passion and Veneration of the cross at Holy Spirit Parsih Gungahlin Photo supplied.



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OPEN EVENTS

EARLY LEARNING CENTRES

Holy Trinity Early Learning Centre, Curtin

7 May Open Morning 9.30am – 11.00am
Open Evening 5.30pm – 7.00pm
14 May Open Morning 9.30am – 11.00am

Holy Family Early Learning Centre, Gowrie

8 May 9.30am – 11.00am and 4.00pm – 5.30pm
Information Night 6.30pm – 7.30pm

Mother Teresa Early Learning Centre, Harrison

7 May Open morning 10.00am and Afternoon 4.00pm
14 May Open morning 10.00am
21 May Open morning 10.00am

St Jude's Early Learning Centre, Holder

8 May 9.30am – 11.30am and 4.00 – 6.00pm

Holy Spirit Early Learning Centre, Nicholls

9 May 9.00am – 11.00am and 3.30pm – 5.00pm

St Anthony's Early Learning Centre, Wanniasa

7 May Open Morning 10.30am – 11.30am
14 May Open Morning 10.30am – 11.30am
Enrolment Information Evening 6.00pm
21 May Open Morning 10.30am – 11.30am

St Thomas Aquinas Early Learning Centre, West Belconnen

8 May Open Day 11.45am – 1.30pm
Enrolment Information Evening 6.30pm
17 May Open Day Session 9.00am – 11.00am
21 May Open Day Session 2.00pm – 3.00pm

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Good Shepherd Primary School, Amaroo

6 May 9.30am – 11.00am and 3.30pm – 6.00pm
16 May 9.30am – 11.00am and 3.30pm – 6.00pm

Holy Family Primary School, Gowrie

8 May 9.30am – 11.00am and 4.00pm – 5.30pm

Holy Spirit Primary School, Nicholls

9 May 9.00am – 11.30am and 3.30pm – 5.30pm

Holy Trinity Primary School, Curtin

7 May 9.30am – 11.00am and 5.30pm – 7.00pm
13 May 9.30am – 11.00am

Mother Teresa School, Harrison

8 May 9.30am – 11.00am
15 May 9.30am – 11.00am
22 May 9.30am – 11.00am

Rosary Primary School, Watson

8 May 9.00am – 1.00pm

Sacred Heart Primary School, Pearce

8 May 9.30am – 11.00am and 3.30pm – 5.00pm

St Anthony's Parish Primary School, Wanniasa

8 May Open Morning and Tours 9.30am – 11.00am
Open Evening 4.00pm – 6.00pm
13 May Open Morning and Tours 9.30am – 11.00am
17 May Open Morning and Tours 9.30am – 11.00am
22 May Open Morning and Tours 9.30am – 11.00am

St Bede's Primary School, Red Hill

6-10 May Open Week

St Benedict's Primary School, Narrabundah

7 May 9.00am – 11.00am
8 May 3.30pm – 7.00pm
9 May 9.00am – 11.00am
13 May 3.30pm – 5.30pm

St Clare of Assisi Primary School, Conder

9 May 9.30am – 11.00am and 4.30pm – 6.00pm
30 May 9.30am – 11.00am

St Francis of Assisi Primary School, Calwell

6 May 9.30am – 11.00am and 4.00pm – 6.00pm
29 May 9.30am – 11.00am and 4.00pm – 6.00pm

St John the Apostle Primary School, Florey

8 May Open Morning Tours 9.00am – 11.00am,
Open Evening Tours from 5.30pm
and Information Presentation from
6.30pm – 7.15pm
10 May Open Morning Tours 9.00am – 11.00am
15 May Open Morning Tours 9.00am – 11.00am

St John Vianney's Primary School, Waramanga

8 May 9.00am – 6.00pm

St Joseph's Primary School, O'Conner

8 May 9.30am – 11.00am and 5.00pm – 6.30pm
13 May 9.30am – 11.00am
23 May 9.30am – 11.00am

St Jude's Primary School, Holder

8 May 9.00am – 11.00am and 4.00pm – 6.00pm

St Matthew's Primary School, Page

6 May Open Day 9.00am – 11.00am
13 May Open Day 9.00am – 11.00am
15 May Open Evening 6.30pm – 8.00pm

St Michael's Primary School, Kaleen

8 May 9.30am – 6.00pm

St Monica's Primary School, Evatt

6 May Tours 10.00am, 12.00pm, 2.00pm
22 May Tours 10.00am, 12.00pm, 2.00pm

Sts Peter and Paul Primary School, Garran

2 May 9.00am – 6.00pm
8 May 9.00am – 6.00pm

St Thomas the Apostle Primary School, Kambah

9 May 9.00am – 5.00pm
18 May 9.00am – 11.00am

St Thomas Aquinas Primary School, West Belconnen

8 May 11.45am – 1.30pm
14 May Kinder Evening 6.30pm
17 May 9.00am – 11.00am
21 May 2.00pm – 3.00pm

St Thomas More's Primary School, Campbell

6 May 9.00am – 3.00pm

St Vincent's Primary School, Aranda

8 May 9.30am – 11.00am and 4.00pm – 6.00pm
11 May 10.00am – 1.00pm

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Merici College, Braddon

2 May Be a Merici Girl Day
4 May Talk and Tours
6 May Be a Merici Girl Day
7 May Be a Merici Girl Day
8 May Open Day 2.00pm and 5.30pm
(Includes Year 7 Information Session
and Principal's Address)
10 May Be a Merici Girl Day
16 May Year 11 Information Evening and
Careers Expo from 2.30pm
18 May Talk and Tours 9.30am

St Clare's College, Griffith

1 May Open Evening 4.30pm – 7.00pm
Information Session in College Hall
6.00pm – 6.30pm
7 May School Tours by appointment at
9.00am and 4.00pm
13 May Year 11 2020 Information Evening
6.00pm – 7.30pm
15 May School Tours by appointment at
9.00am or 4.00pm

St John Paul II College, Nicholls

6 May Open Evening
Tours and Information sessions will run
every half hour from 4.00pm and the
last tour will be at 6.00pm.

St Mary MacKillop College, Tuggeranong

6 May Year 7 2020 Information Evening 6.30pm
10 May Try MacKillop Day
15 May Career Expo 4.00pm – 7.00pm
Year 11 2020 Information Evening 6.00pm

CONGREGATIONAL SCHOOLS

Daramalan College, Dickson

28 April Open Day

Marist College, Pearce

5 May Open Day 9.30am – 12.30pm
13 May Open Morning Tour 9.00am

St Edmunds College, Pearce

12 May Open Day 11.00am – 3.00pm

Putting the Pope's words into practice at St Vincent's



BY LUKE MAHER

AT THE closing Mass for World Youth Day in Panama City, January 2019, Pope Francis issued a powerful statement to the youth of the world.

He said, "You, dear young people, are not the future but the now of God." (Pope Francis, 2019).

At St Vincent's Primary School, as part of the South Belconnen Parish, we are taking the words of Pope Francis on and giving the students at our school an active role in animating the faith life of our community.

In 2018, we participated in a pilot, implementing the CYSMA Junior program within the two primary schools of the South Belconnen Parish. Youth Minister, Sarah Larkin, was employed and began working to implement the CSYMA Four Phase Model of Primary School Formation.

The pilot was a huge success and in 2019 the program has begun again with the 'Journey

with Jesus' Retreat Day being run by a team of youth ministers from across the archdiocese in Term 1.

At the end of the retreat day an invitation was extended to the students to join the Senior Youth Ministry Team. 75% of the senior students at St Vincent's chose to join the team and have begun their ministry by leading our Holy Week reflections.

In the coming months the Senior Youth Ministry team will be involved in running sacramental retreat days, formation and retreat experiences for the other classes at the school, supporting our social justice initiatives and helping to lead the religious life of the school.

The fruits of the CSMYA Junior program are reaching all corners of the South Belconnen Parish and we give thanks for the students at St Vincent's who, through the power of the Holy Spirit, minister to all the young and the young at heart in the South Belconnen Parish.

Christ is Alive

BY HUW WARMENHOVEN

"GOD LOVE YOU... Christ saves you... He is alive." This proclamation of the timeless Gospel truth lies at the heart of Pope Francis' latest Apostolic Exhortation – *Christus Vivit* (Christ is Alive). The exhortation, addressed to "young people and to the entire people of God," seeks to respond to the Synod on Young People, the Faith and Vocation Discernment.

The exhortation is not a papal pronouncement, but synthesises and summarises the Synod as he proclaims that "Christ is alive! He is our hope, and in a wonderful way he brings youth to our world... Christ is alive and he wants you to be alive!"

Here are three key takeaways from *Christus Vivit* that relate to the Archdiocesan approach to Youth Ministry: **Belong, Believe and Become.**

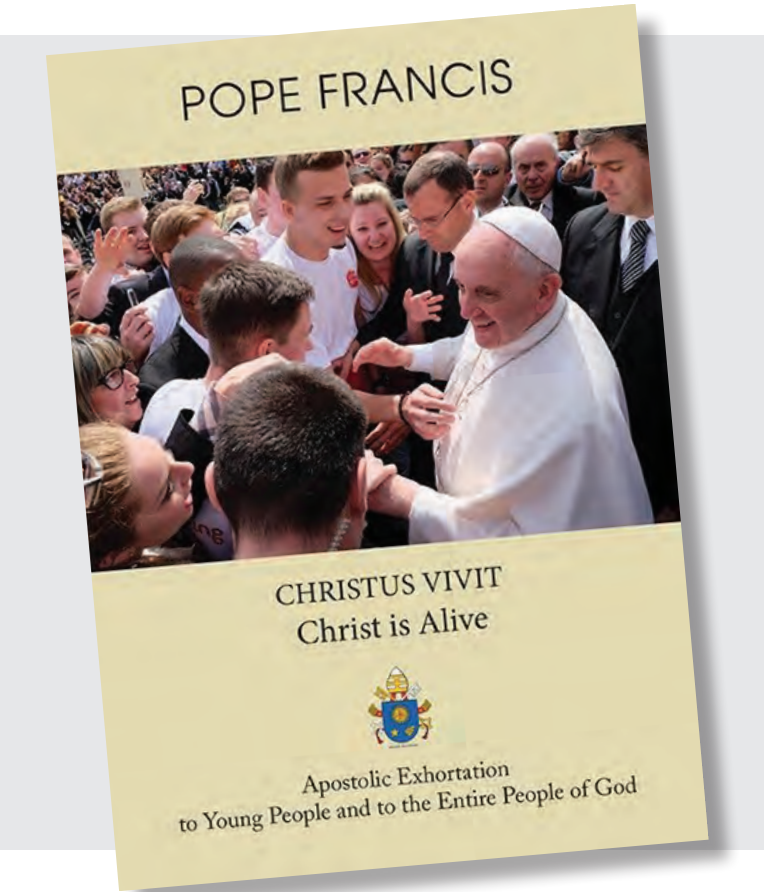
Belong: young people are the now of God.

Pope Francis speaks of a Church marked by "hearts that are ever young" given to us by the eternally young Jesus. (13) Young people have a place in the Church, that follows Christ with a childlike faith. Following Christ does mean "isolating young people" but "strengthening them, accompanying them and impelling them to encounter others." (30)

The Church to which young people belong is herself young, to which young people play an essential role. (37) The youthfulness of the Church, however, has nothing to do with the demographic of the congregation, but in its reflection of the ever-young Christ. To remain young, the Church must constantly seek "the strength born of God's word, the Eucharist, and the daily presence of Christ and the power of his Spirit in our lives." (35)

The youthful Church is a community that dares to be different. A Church where young people, and all people, can make their own – in other words, places of belonging. (218) Pope Francis invites us to be a "Church with open doors" where faith is not a prerequisite for admittance. Rather, the Church should seek out "all those who have other visions of life, who belong to other religions or who distance themselves from religion altogether." (235)

This is the work of a missionary Church which includes young people. The youth are not "the future of our world" but rather



"they are its present; even now, they are helping to enrich it." (64)

Believe: ever young Jesus to an ever young Church.

Pope Francis says that Jesus "does not teach you from afar or from without, but from within your very youth, a youth he shares with you." (31) The teaching of Christ is found in the proclamation of the Kerygma: God loves you; Christ saves you; He is alive and wants you to be alive.

Believing in a Father of love and the Son of salvation brings forth the Holy Spirit. Pope Francis speaks of the importance of "invoking the Holy Spirit each day... He can change your life, fill it with life and lead it along a better path." (131)

To find these better paths, you must become "protagonists of change" (174) and "courageous missionaries" who witness everywhere to the Gospel by not just "speaking about the truth, but living it." (175) Expressing your belief is not limited by borders, but is "for everyone." (177)

Become: young people are called into the life and mission of the Church.

To truly proclaim the Gospel to everyone and recapture the youthfulness of the Church, Pope Francis seeks a new way of looking at youth ministry. Young people "are agents of youth ministry." (203) We need to help young people "to use their insight, ingenuity and knowledge to address the issues and concerns of other young

people in their own language" (203). This requires a peer-to-peer ministry that focuses on an encounter with the living God (204), an announcement of the kerygma and support in growing in "fraternal love, community life and service (213). He says, youth ministry "should always include occasions for renewing and deepening our personal experience of the love of God and the living Christ" (214).

At the heart of this process of becoming is the fundamental aspect of 'accompaniment' which includes a deepened understanding of vocation and discernment.

The first thing to discern and discover is that "Jesus wants to be a friend to every young person" (250). To respond to our vocation, we need to "foster and develop all that we are... It has to do with finding our true selves in the light of God and letting our lives flourish and bear fruit" (257).

What does a flourishing life look like for a young person? The answer may be seen in the concluding wish of Pope Francis to "keep running... attracted by the face of Christ, whom we love so much. "The Church needs your momentum, your intuitions, your faith... And when you arrive where we have not yet reached, have the patience to wait for us".

You can read the whole Apostolic Exhortation "*Christus vivit*" online at http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20190325_christus-vivit.html

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The *only* life that matters

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

AS I write we are at the beginnings of Holy Week, when we enter once again into the truths that are at the very heart of our faith. I was privileged to be present at a Mass on Palm Sunday where a parishioner had been invited to share her faith story. Those present witnessed a remarkable event, as she took us on the journey with Jesus through the highs and lows of Holy Week and showed how it all had relevance for her own life and experience and, therefore, to the lives and experience of all those gathered.

We like the highs in our own lives and, if at all possible, we would avoid the lows. As a people of faith we seem to be experiencing more of the lows lately. Perhaps a symbol of this can be seen in the smouldering carcass of Notre Dame Cathedral. Let's not read too much into this, except to acknowledge that we have here no lasting city, and those things in which we are tempted to put our hope, no matter how representative of God we might imagine them to be, are no substitute for God and must not be thought to be so. This applies not only to our buildings...

Recently my office was contacted by someone wondering

what we were going to do to support the rugby player, Israel Folau, by defending his right to free speech. You might recall that there has been a furore caused by Mr Folau's insistence that certain people who behave in particular ways are going to roast for eternity. It's a stance I'm fairly familiar with, largely from people of a more fundamentalist bent who engage on social media and the like, seeking to prove why others won't be 'saved' and, by

noting that they themselves will be judged in the same manner and degree.

That's not to say that sin is not of significance. Of course it is. Any behaviour that is indicative of our not being in an authentic and loving relationship with God requires humble attention and repentance. Yet it must be acknowledged that by identifying people as being merely the sum of their sins renders them less than human, and so open

judgement is not for us to decide. Judgement is reserved to God, for God alone knows our hearts (see Acts 15:8).

We have looked at one or two lows, so let's end on a high. If you haven't had the chance yet, purchase or download a copy of Pope Francis' most recent Apostolic Exhortation 'Christus Vivit'. Written primarily with young people in mind, he reminds us all of a number of different teachings that can help to orient us in our Catholic response to the contemporary environment. His opening words are enduringly relevant to us all: Christ is alive! He is our hope, and in a wonderful way he brings youth to our world. The very first words, then, that I would like to say to every young Christian are these: Christ is alive and he wants you to be alive!

As this exhortation reminds us: let's not be on the defensive (let alone on the attack), and in humility listen and reach out to others. Otherwise, we risk turning into a museum. So, as churches burn and sinners are consigned to hell on social media, we are called to live in the hope of the resurrection of Jesus and in the fire of his Holy Spirit.

My initial response to Mr Folau's selective rendering of scripture was to recall that we are all sinners. As the psalmist wrote: "If you O Lord should mark our guilt who would survive? But with you is found forgiveness, for this we revere you." (Psalm 130:3).

implication, why they themselves will be.

My initial response to Mr Folau's selective rendering of scripture was to recall that we are all sinners. As the psalmist wrote: "If you O Lord should mark our guilt who would survive? But with you is found forgiveness, for this we revere you." (Psalm 130:3). It stands as a precursor to Jesus' teaching on the matter (Matthew 7:1) and his challenge to those who would judge others,

to scorn and abuse. That's the problem with this fundamentalist stance: it fails to recognise the essential humanity and dignity of all people, no matter what they're struggling with, and by so doing implies their inferiority. We shall all require the mercy of God. Let's not be too quick to consign others to hell, if for no other reason that, by so doing, we increase our own chances of self-alienation from God. Fortunately, who experiences what after final



JUSTICE MATTERS
CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

BY MIKE CASSIDY

NATIONAL Reconciliation Week begins on 27th May. Each year NRW runs from this anniversary of the day in 1967 that Australians headed to the polls to decide whether two clauses in our Constitution should be removed. These clauses specifically discriminated against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, depriving them of certain basic citizenship rights, and excluding them from being counted in the census. And NRW goes to the 3rd June, the anniversary of the famous 'Mabo' case in the High Court, which overturned the myth of "terra nullius" and declared Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Reconciliation: everybody's business



Islanders to be the Traditional Owners of the land.

Do you think we are closer to reconciliation?

There are some practical steps you can take to contribute to reconciliation.

Do you know the meaning of the Indigenous place names

where you live? Take the time to find out and share the story behind your community's place names.

Do your children's schools use the resources of Reconciliation Australia's Narragunnawali program? This supports all schools and early learning

services in Australia to foster a higher level of knowledge and pride in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and contributions.

{Narragunnawali (pronounced narra-gunna-wally) is a word from the language of the Ngunawal people, Traditional Owners of the land on which Reconciliation Australia's Canberra office is located, meaning alive, wellbeing, coming together and peace.}

Have you read the Uluru Statement from the Heart? Will you ask your Member of the 46th Parliament of Australia to advance the two propositions of this Statement? We should refresh our memories of this momentous gathering.

In May 2017, a constitutional convention bringing together over 250 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders met at the foot of Uluru in Central Australia on the lands of the Anangu

people.

The majority resolved, in the Uluru Statement from the Heart, to call for the establishment of a 'First Nations Voice' in the Australian Constitution and a 'Makarrata Commission' to supervise a process of 'agreement-making' and 'truth-telling' between governments and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

We owe it to our First Nations brothers and sisters to take the time to read and respond to the Uluru Statement from the Heart. (Find it on referendumcouncil.org.au and look at the Parliamentary Library's quick guide to the Uluru Statement.)

Make reconciliation your business!

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

Sisters celebrate five years in Archdiocese

BY FR JOHN ARMSTRONG

The Sisters of the Congregation of Mary Queen of Peace established a religious house in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn in 2012 and this was opened on 8th March 2014. The purpose of this house was threefold:

To establish a permanent presence of the congregation in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn.

To provide assistance to the people living in Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn through our work.

To provide a place for the sisters from Vietnam to come to Canberra for a period of study /or work experience after which they would return to work in the Diocese of Ban Me Thuot. These sisters would be chosen to come by the Congregational Leader and the Council of the Congregation of Mary Queen of Peace.

This year the congregation celebrated five years since the opening of the house which maintains a stable community of three sisters: Sr. Kim, Sr. Tuyet and Sister Minh. This was celebrated on 9th March 2019 and was attended by Archbishop Christopher Prowse

An important element of the congregational work in Vietnam is in supporting the Binh Minh

Schools in Banmathuot and Dong Xoai.

These schools have been providing opportunities for 140 young people between the ages of 3 and 20 who are living with a variety of physical and mental disabilities to gain an education in an environment which provides them with emotional and spiritual care.

The families enroll their children in the program as spaces become available. Priority is given to families with high needs and in the most difficult circumstance. Due to the limited space the schools currently have a waiting list of over one hundred children.

The children attend the school on a daily basis from Monday to Saturday. When they arrive they take a shower, provided with clean uniforms and they are given a midday meal. This care is provided by three religious sisters at each school who provide their services free and three paid childcare workers.

The parents are not required to pay any fees but can make a donation depending on their circumstances. The school is dependent upon benefactors to ensure that this vital service can be provided to poor families in great need.

To support this initiative, visit <https://heartsbeatingtogether.weebly.com/>



New Catholic social services body for NSW and ACT

A NEW peak Catholic social service providers' group for New South Wales and the ACT aims to enhance collaboration while renewing their mission focus.

Speaking at the official launch at Mary MacKillop Place recently, inaugural chair Michael Austin said the association had replaced the original branch structure and now represented 16 Catholic social service organisations from dioceses and congregational orders.

The association's deputy chair is CatholicCare Canberra & Goulburn CEO Anne Kirwan.

Mr Austin said the association would continue to work collaboratively with the national Catholic Social Services Australia body, but would provide targeted collaboration for issues specific to NSW and the ACT.

Mr Austin, who has more than 25 years' experience in the Catholic social services network in New South Wales and is the current director of CatholicCare Wollongong, said services are operating at a time of great disruption in the sector.

"In this environment, social



Robert George (Centacare Bathurst), Sydney Auxiliary Bishop Terry Brady, Anne-Marie Mioche (Centacare Wilcannia Forbes), Michael Austin (CatholicCare Wollongong), Anne Kirwan (CatholicCare Canberra Goulburn) and Mark Philips (CatholicCare Sydney). Photo by Jacqueline McCormack/CatholicCare Wollongong.

service organisations are no longer managing block grants. They are largely operating more commercially oriented enterprises where they need to now know their unit cost per hour to deliver services, and be able to provide services within either very stringent pricing set by government or, increasingly, the open market," he said.

"New players are entering the space, including for-profit providers, especially in aged care,

and not all of these are necessarily motivated by values similar to ours, and the media is reporting incidents of exploitation by some providers.

"Our context now presents very new challenges and dangers for leaders in Catholic social service organisations – to operate viable and sustainable organisations and services in highly pressured, more volatile commercial environments, while being led by mission.

"The extent of these changes and their implications are the moment we are now in. None of us really knows where this will lead."

However, Mr Austin said Catholic social services had a very rich heritage to draw from and urged providers to not lose sight of their collective mission.

"We comprise the next generation of leadership and it falls to us to assume this important task of being the carriers of the heritage, the bearers of the story, the champions of the mission," he told the group.

Mr Austin said Pope Francis provided a vision of radical engagement and call to mission when he said: "The thing the Church needs most today is the ability to heal wounds and to warm the hearts of the faithful; it needs nearness, proximity. I see the Church as a field hospital after battle."

Mr Austin said all Catholic social service bodies in NSW and ACT were very welcome as members. Those which hadn't joined yet could find out more by contacting Trish Cooney at trishc@catholiccare.dow.org.au.

CATHOLIC VOICE WEBSITE TOP STORIES IN APRIL

www.catholicvoice.org.au

BEFORE THE COLLAR: FR MARK CROKER.

First of a series of stories about priests before they joined the seminary. In this story, Fr Mark Croker, parish priest of Gungahlin, talks about his love for the bush, his time as a shearer and footy player and how his call to the priesthood grew over time. 2,509 Pageviews, 2,118 Readers.

SISTERS CELEBRATING FIVE YEARS IN THE RCHDIOCESE.

Celebrating five years in the Archdiocese for the Sisters of the Congregation of Mary Queen of Peace. The community consists of three sisters – Sr Kim, Sr Tuyet and Sr Minh – and is located in Bonner. 977 Pageviews, 533 Readers.

EASTER MESSAGE 2019.

The Easter message from Archbishop Christopher Prowse: Easter is the door through which healing peace enters our World this Easter. 774 pageviews, 604 readers.

ARCHDIOCESAN EASTER TRIDUUM / HOLY WEEK TIMES

Mass times for Holy Week from across all the parishes in the Archdiocese. 771 pageviews, 567 readers.

BEGA SESQUICENTENARY EXCEEDS ORGANISERS' EXPECTATIONS

The celebrations of 150 years of Catholic education in Bega across three days was described as a huge success. Including an opening Mass celebrated by Vicar General Fr Tony Percy, a student flash mob, re-enactments, a St Pat's Day Parade, a pop-up school museum, Bush Dance, official dinner an closing Mass celebrated by the Archbishop, it was a packed agenda by any measure. 751 pageviews, 345 readers.

ANZAC DAY AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

Some years ago there were fears that Anzac Day would diminish in significance as more veterans passed away, The truth is that Anzac Day remains as revered and supported as ever as schools and family members march for those who risked (and sometimes gave) all. A photo gallery of schools and parishes that took part in Anzac services across the Archdiocese. 558 pageviews, 215 readers.

“I will be with you always”

*This year, Easter and ANZAC Day are in particularly close proximity. **Chaplain Anthony Doyle** recounts the life of Australia’s first Catholic Military Bishop, a much-loved priest who devoted his life to Australian Servicemen and women.*

Many readers of the Voice who were in their youth or early adulthood in the 90s will recall a kindly, distinguished elderly priest who seemed to appear at every youth and other Catholic event of those days. Newcomers were introduced to him as retired Bishop Morgan and he was able to effortlessly move between the generations. Office workers attending the Cathedral at midday would find the same man so reverently saying the mass that at times one felt as if they were an intruder rudely eavesdropping on an intimate conversation between the closest of friends.

What many of us did not then know was that the same man was also the legendary Padre Alo’ Morgan who had served with distinction for three years as a chaplain in the jungles of New Guinea and went on to become the first Bishop of the Military Ordinariate (Diocese).

Aloysius Morgan was born in Victoria in 1909 and his future vocation was prefigured as a six-year-old living on the Mornington Peninsula, when he saw a boat sail into Port Phillip Bay marked with the sign of the Cross. What he saw was a Hospital Ship returning with wounded servicemen from Gallipoli. Ordained in 1934, Fr Morgan served in rural Victoria and in Melbourne and when War broke out he volunteered to be an Army Chaplain and for the work that would indelibly mark the rest of his life.

In 1942, Australian soldiers were fighting desperate battles in Papua New Guinea and Fr Morgan was soon posted there. He later described his initiation to combat:

I remember my first experience of being a Catholic Priest with soldiers locked in combat with Japanese soldiers in the jungle mountain ranges of Wau-Salamana area of New Guinea. As I set out to climb the first steep range that would bring me to the combat area I recalled Our Lord’s words

“I will be with you always...” [Matthew 28:20]. I became conscious that in God’s plan and providence, I was to be the instrument by which Our Lord would be with these soldiers during their first critical months in



New Guinea, 1944. Father Morgan celebrating Mass for Australian troops on the eve of the amphibious operation which resulted in the defeat of the Japanese forces on the Wewak Peninsula

action by his Eucharistic Presence.

On another occasion, he met a group of soldiers at a river crossing that wanted to go to mass. There was nothing that could be improvised as an altar. Fr Alo’ realized that the bank was three feet above the shallow river and so he placed an altar cloth on the bank and said mass standing and kneeling in the river.

The young Padre had a deep affection for fellow chaplains, Catholic, Protestant and Jewish and a love for all the Diggers in his care later declaring that “I belonged to the whole community there (New Guinea). It wasn’t just the Catholic men.”

After the war, he returned to parish ministry but unsurprisingly remained in contact with many of the men that he served with and was in demand at unit reunions. He continued in the Army Reserve and later became the Catholic Chaplain-General spending time with a new generation of Diggers this time

in Vietnam. In 1969, he was consecrated as the first bishop for the Australian military.

Upon his resignation at the end of 1984, Bishop Morgan was officially in retirement but in reality entered into a new ministry popping up at all manner of events and keeping in touch with a wide variety of veterans and many others that he had befriended. In 2008, the former youthful cricket-playing priest narrowly missed another century, dying at the age of 98.

Despite having borne onerous duties and received many honours, he remained steadfast and humble, focused on being a simple channel of God’s grace.

It was not my presence that was important [on the battlefields] – it was the real presence of Our Lord during the Mass that was important. I was just the instrument – an ordained priest. Our Lord was using me to fulfill his promise – “I will be with them...”

In 1969, the newly consecrated Bishop spoke at a Commando

Association Reunion. His words to the then middle-aged veterans apply equally to all the men and women who have nobly served their country:

[A]s an Army Chaplain, I believe that our deceased companions still live not only in our memories, but in truth and reality. I recall the words once spoken to me by Field Marshall Sir William Slim: “I believe” he told me “that God is good to those who die in battle.” With these words of the Field Marshal in mind, I offer with you a prayer:

Lord God, Lover of men, we give you praise for all those whom we remember before you at this time.

Into your hands O Lord, we commend their spirits. Let the memory of their devotion be ever an example to us, that we may be taught to live by those who learned to die, and that at last we, being faithful unto death, may receive with them the crown of life.

May he, and they, Rest in Peace.



Bishop Morgan’s service medals, along with his Order of Australia medal and the standard issue Military Missal

Light to the Nations, 2019

I have been coming to Light to the Nations since I was a child and it has consistently been a real highlight of my year. The liturgies are extraordinary experiences with great music and quality preachings. Journeying through Christ's passion, death and resurrection with a thousand other people is both so inspirational for my personal faith and gives me hope for the future of the Church.

This year I was in the choir for the first time and it was fascinating to experience the Triduum from a different

perspective, having a personal encounter with Jesus while looking over so many people from the choir stand experiencing the same thing. I could see so many faces of people my own age filled with joy and hope as their candles lit up the darkened room singing Alleluia after Alleluia during the Exultet. I couldn't help but think that it was a glimpse of heaven, with the masses worshipping the Lord.

Nathan Mullins, Canberra ACT



Photo: Elizabeth Mullins



Photo: Kate Ng

When I decided to attend Light to the Nations this year, I wasn't too sure what to expect and what I was going to gain from the experience. I even wondered whether I was going to feel anything life changing or overwhelming. But that all changed the very first day I arrived in Chevalier College, Burradoo. The trees, the birds, the sounds, everything about the venue was absolutely mesmerising. I truly felt God's presence there.

I am super blessed beyond measure to have the opportunity to go to Lights this year. There are so many experiences that I can't even put to words because they have just left me absolutely speechless. I always felt my

relationship with God was in a good place, that it was good as it was. But in 4 days, my relationship with God has changed for the better; it has deepened and it has revealed a lot to me. In 4 days, I have cried tons, laughed tons, been in absolute awe of Him. He showed me that there is more to receive than I could ever imagine.

I'm so overwhelmed with God's love for me and I have definitely come back to Darwin as a changed person, as a better person, as God's instrument of love. I would definitely go to Lights again....and again and again!!!

Natalie Lim – Darwin, Northern Territory



Photo: Kate Ng



Photo: Kate Ng

Every second year, for longer than I care to remember, my husband and I have packed up our growing family and taken them all to an extraordinary Easter youth pilgrimage - Light to the Nations. This phenomenal event is really a charismatic celebration of the Easter Triduum, Disciples of Jesus - style, in a circus tent, while camping out with hundreds of people for the long weekend.

The high point for me is the glorious Vigil Mass that night, my

all-time favourite faith moment - imagine lifting the roof of a big-top, singing alleluia with all your heart, waving your lighted taper with over 1000 other people full of the joy of the resurrection!

The powerful renewal of faith & hope that flows out of this biannual fixture of our family life is the reason we keep coming back.

Gabrielle Dahdah from Pymble, NSW.



Photo: Jazz Chalouhi

Light to the Nations 2019 Facts & Figures

- About 1100 people attended - families and single adults
- On the grounds of Chevalier College, Bowral. The football and soccer grounds became 'tent city' as 100's of families and young people camped under the open skies.
- 10 mothers came from PNG - they have been fundraising for 2 years to get to Light to the Nations.
- People also came from Indonesia and New Zealand.
- Every state and territory from Australia were represented
- Took place in a make shift Church under a massive circus tent
- Celebrated the Easter Triduum as well as a number of sessions based on commitment to Jesus and opening up the Holy Spirit.
- 25 priests celebrated the sacrament of reconciliation including priests from the Missionaries of God's Love and from the Wollongong, Sydney and Parramatta Diocese
- Took a team of 100 volunteers to run the event
- Event run by Disciples of Jesus Community
- Was an amazing experience of families, singles, children, youth and young adults coming together to celebrate the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.



Parishioners at Holy Spirit Parish, Gungahlin took part in the Palm Sunday Rally this month with members of Caritas. Photo supplied.



Marist fathers and sons were able to test themselves and deepen their relationships at the Growing Good Men Retreat. Photo supplied.



Preparing for the tenth Vinnies CEO Sleepout Photo supplied.



Holy Trinity (Curtin) teacher Brendon Pye lent his hand, and his follicles, to the World's biggest shave. Photo supplied.



Archbishop Christopher lights the Pascal Candle at the Easter Vigil Mass, St Christopher's Cathedral



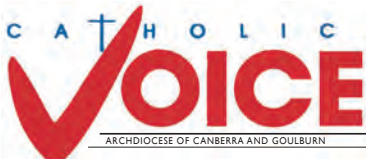
Ardlethan Parishioner John Mills in front of the Olive Trees, grown from seeds brought to Australia from gethsemane by Fr Thomas Mullins almost 100 years ago. Photo: Chris Gordon.



Participating in the RCIA program were Waen Nyssan and Laura Fromhold who were fully initiated into the Catholic Faith at St Gregory's Parish in Queanbeyan at Easter Vigil Mass. Photo supplied.



Members of the Legion of Mary in our archdiocese felt uplifted after gathering for their Annual Consecration to Our Lady ('Acies') and for Holy Mass on March 23 at St Brigid's Church, Dickson. Photo supplied.



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.
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CURRAJONG, JERVIS BAY: Fantastic house with six bedrooms, two bathrooms and rumpus. Sleeping 14, it's ideal for two families to share. Stylishly redecorated in mid-2010. Visit www.currajongbeach-house.com.au

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SERVICES

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YOUR HELP GROUP

Share your talents with others, exchange or barter. Assist pensioners, low income earners and those less-fortunate. Need for massage, hair-cut, nails, food, odd jobs etc. Massage can improve circulation, mobility and well-being. Confidential. Phone John anytime on 0403 050 960.

Want to Advertsie in the Classifieds? Contact catholic.voice@cg.org.au



Brian keen to add his Voice

“Young’s Brian Hislop is such a fan of the Catholic Voice, that as soon as he heard the call out for Catholic Voice Ambassadors, he didn’t hesitate to volunteer.

“Someone told me about it, and I already read the Voice every month so I thought I’d like to get involved,” he said.

Already an acolyte, part of the Parish Liturgy Team and assisting with parish banking, Brian believed the Ambassador role wouldn’t take up much time but would be beneficial to the parish.

“There’s really not a lot involved in it, but I think it’s very useful,” he said.

“I see the role as promoting the paper and website, which also promotes our own stories.

“On the first Sunday of each month I’ll hand out the new edition of the Voice to

parishioners at Mass, introducing myself to them and letting them know some of the stories that are in it.

“And I’ll let the parishioners know that if they have a story that they think others might be interested in, they can either let me know and I’ll pass it on, or they can contact the Voice directly.”

Brian said he believes the Catholic Voice is well-read within the Young Parish.

“If you look at the last edition, there are only eight copies left,” he said.

“I think it’s a good mix of articles and opinion pieces and pretty relevant all around.”

If anyone is interested in becoming an Ambassador for the Catholic Voice for their parish, they can email us at catholic.voice@cg.org.au.



New Catholic Voice Ambassador for Young, Brian Hislop, inside the entrance to St Mary’s Church in Young. Photo: Chris Gordon.

Coming Events

MAY 4: Deeper: catechist's Retreat - Haydon Hall, Manuka. 10am to 1pm. A morning gathering for our amazing Canberra catechists to celebrate, pray, learn and to go deeper into Jesus and so receive greater strength during these challenging times. Email matt.ransom@cg.org.au for details.

MAY 6: Deeper: catechist's Retreat - Bermagui. 10am to 1pm. A morning gathering for our amazing Coastal catechists to celebrate, pray, learn and to go deeper into Jesus and so receive greater strength during these challenging times. Email matt.ransom@cg.org.au for details.

MAY 6: St John Paul II College Open Evening. 4pm to 6pm. Tours & information sessions will every 1/2 hour from 4.00pm, last tour at 6.00pm. Phone 6163 4800.

MAY 11: Canberra Regional Amicus Group Lanyon Homestead Tharwa Barracks Expresso Bar & Eating House Meet At 12 Noon For Lunch at table booked in name of AMICUS followed by a tour of the historic homestead RSVP Contact Lyn 0400 265 926

MAY 21: Blackfriars Lecture Series: Future education - future opportunities. Speakers - Ross Fox (Director, Catholic Education, Canberra and Goulburn), Natalie Howson (Director-General, ACT Education Directorate), Andrew Wrigley (Executive Director, Association of Independent Schools of the ACT Inc). Room 301.1.20 Veritas Building, ACU Canberra Campus. 5.30pm-7pm. Cost is free but registrations are essential. Register at ocd.canberra@acu.edu.au or call 6209 1129.

MAY 26: Amicus Friendship Group. The Daughters At Hall 5 Victoria Street Hall Meet At 12 Noon For Lunch At Table Booked In Name Of Amicus Rsvp Contact Patricia 0412 351 548.

MAY 30: Deeper: catechist's Retreat - Nimmitabel. 10am to

1pm. A morning gathering for our amazing Snowy/Monaro area catechists to celebrate, pray, learn and to go deeper into Jesus and so receive greater strength during these challenging times. Email matt.ransom@cg.org.au for details.

MAY 31: Deeper: catechist's Retreat - Young. 10am to 1pm. A morning gathering for our amazing Western area catechists to celebrate, pray, learn and to go deeper into Jesus and so receive greater strength during these challenging times. Email matt.ransom@cg.org.au for details.

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.

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.

CONCERNED CATHOLICS OF CANBERRA-GOULBURN is a group actively committed to church renewal and reform in the spirit of Pope Francis. For further information, go to www.concernedcatholicscanberra.org or contact John Warhurst (john.warhurst@anu.edu.au - phone 0439 498 283).

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


DOMINICAN LAITY: Meet on the fourth Thursday of the month at 13 Blair St Watson for prayer and reflection in the spirit of St Dominic. Contact Peter (62477036) or Michael (62497026).

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

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).

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For catering purposes or follow the prompts at <http://www.manoverboard.org.au/>

MARIAN MOVEMENT OF PRIESTS: Meets to pray a Cenacle at St Joseph's Church O'Connor each Wednesday following the 8.00am Mass. Contact Maria on (02) 6247 4026.

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

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

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH GROUPS: These monthly groups all meet in the O'Connor Parish Centre.
•Seniors Group - 11.30am 3rd Monday
•Widow's Group - 11am 4th Tuesday
•Mother's Group - 10am 2nd Tuesday
•Young Family Group - Monthly TBA
•Young Men of St Joseph - 7.30pm 1st Wednesday
•Faith & Reason Philosophy Group - 6-7pm, 1st Tuesday
•Theology Reading & Discussion Group - 7.30pm 2nd Wednesday
<http://cg.org.au/oconnor/home.aspx>

TAIZE PRAYER GROUP: The Canberra Friends of Taizé Ecumenical Group 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 community of Taizé, France. All welcome. Enquiries to Annemarie (0421 492 554)

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