

# CATHOLIC Voice

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Primary School  
Feature  
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Archbishop’s Message  
Archbishop Christopher Prowse

# “Ad Limina Apostolorum” Visit

AT THE end of June this year all the bishops of Australia will make a significant visit to Rome. The formal name of this visit is – AD LIMINA APOSTOLORUM. This literally means “to the threshold of the Apostles.” This refers to the point of reference of the visit – a visit to the tombs of St Peter and St Paul. This visit happens periodically to all the bishops of the world, country by country. Perhaps after five or six years or more, the bishops of a particular country will spend a period of time in Rome to fulfil two principal responsibilities. First, to strengthen their own responsibility as successors of the apostles. Secondly, to deepen their solidarity with the successor of St Peter, Pope Francis.

Both these aims are fulfilled practically by a programme containing theological, spiritual and pastoral aspects.

The time together would include:

- Special Masses at the tombs of the Apostles Peter and Paul.
- Special Masses at the principal basilicas in Rome.
- An audience with the Holy Father, Pope Francis.
- Visits to the offices (dicasteries) of the Holy See.
- A retreat with all the bishops of Australia.

In preparation for this Ad Limina visit, a report of the each diocese in Australia has been prepared and already submitted to the Holy See. It offers a “snapshot” of all the apostolic,



missionary and pastoral aspects of each diocese. This is a help to the dialogue that will happen between the Holy Father and his advisors with the bishops of Australia.

Clearly, we will also be discussing at length current pastoral challenges and opportunities in Australia at present that impact on the faith of Catholics here. For example, topics such as the Plenary Council of Australia and the issues arising from the sex abuse crisis will be discussed thoroughly.

Our meeting with Pope Francis will be a key moment in the Ad Limina visit. It will serve to consolidate our unity with the successor of St Peter, “the primary guardian of the deposit of truth handed down from the Apostles”. It will also enable us all to better know and appreciate our unity in the “immense heritage of spiritual and moral values” of the universal Church.

I know that you will join all

the bishops of Australia in prayer intercession during these special days in Rome.

It will enable me as your bishop to reflect seriously upon my servant ministry amongst you. I will be an opportunity to ask forgiveness for my human frailties. But also to give thanks to the Lord Jesus for all the Holy Spirit is doing amongst us here in the diocese.

Also, liturgically, in this month of June, so much of our Catholic identity is celebrated in the major Solemnities of The Ascension of the Lord, Pentecost Sunday, the Most Holy Trinity and the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.

Therefore, both in the Ad Limina visit and the June Solemnities our united gaze once again focuses on Christ among us, “our hope of glory” (Col.1/27).

Thank you so much in anticipation for your prayers for the Ad Limina visit.

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### Archbishop’s Diary June 2019

- SATURDAY, 1 6.00pm Confirmation Mass, Sacred Heart Parish, Moruya
- SUNDAY, 2 9.00am Confirmation Mass, St Bernard’s Parish, Batemans Bay  
6.00pm Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, 15 Blackall St, Barton
- TUESDAY, 4 12.15pm Mass, St Christopher’s Cathedral

- WEDNESDAY, 5 7.30am Mass, St Christopher’s Cathedral
- THURSDAY, 6 12.15pm Mass, St Christopher’s Cathedral
- SATURDAY, 8 6.00pm 50 year Celebration of Congregation of Mary Queen of Peace, Bonner
- SUNDAY, 9 11.00am Mass, St Christopher’s Cathedral
- TUESDAY, 11 12.15 pm Mass, St Christopher’s Cathedral
- WEDNESDAY, 12 7.30am Mass, St Christopher’s Cathedral

- THURSDAY, 13 10.00am Mass, St Christopher’s Cathedral
- FRIDAY, 14 7.30am Mass, St Christopher’s Cathedral
- SATURDAY, 15 5.15pm Recon/6.00pm Mass, St Peter Chanel, Yarralumla
- SUNDAY, 16 8.00am Mass, St Christopher’s Cathedral
- MONDAY, 17- SUNDAY, 30 Bishop’s Ad Limina Apostolorum, Rome



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Cover picture: Margaret and Kevin Croker receive Papal award  
Photo Jeanine Doyle



# Papal honours for Kevin and Margaret Croker

BY CHRIS GORDON

Kevin and Margaret Croker have been awarded one of the highest papal honours available to Catholic Laity.

The Crokers were presented with their honours by the Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Adolfo Yllana at the 11am Mass at St Christopher's Cathedral on Sunday, May 26 celebrated by Archbishop Christopher Prowse.

Kevin's papal knighthood entitles him a Knight of the Order of St Gregory the Great with Margaret named a Dame of the order of St Gregory the Great.

The Order of St. Gregory is one of the five pontifical orders of knighthood in the Catholic Church. The order is bestowed on Catholic men and women in recognition of their service to the Church, unusual labors, support of the Holy See, and the good example set in their communities and country.

Kevin is widely regarded for his many years of work for the Archdiocese, particularly the Clergy Retirement Foundation. Margaret's work, side by side with Kevin every step of the way, is also well known. But while it was only fitting that they received these honours together, it came as a complete shock to the pair.

"The Archbishop rang me on Friday 17th [May] and I was unavailable on my mobile at the time," Kevin explained.

"And then his Executive Assistant Cathy phoned me and said that the Archbishop would like to speak to me. She said he'd be available roundabout 3.30pm that afternoon and told me not to be concerned, that he had some good news for me."

Puzzled, Kevin put his mind



Archbishop Christopher Prowse (left) and Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Adolfo Yllana (centre) presented Kevin and Margaret Croker with their papal honours at the 11am Mass at St Christopher's Cathedral on Sunday, May 26.

to thinking about what the news could be. The best he could come up with was that maybe there was some good news for one of the retired priests he'd

with you?

"I said, as a matter of fact Dear Margaret is next to me, and that's when he very kindly conveyed to us that the Holy See

been down to Bowral to see the autumn colours and we were on our way home again."

According to Kevin, the Archbishop made the observation that they must be shocked because of the silence... something he'd rarely encountered with Margaret and Kevin before.

"I think he even asked if we were still there," Kevin added.

Archbishop Christopher, who has frequently sung the praises of Kevin and Margaret, said he was very happy for their efforts to be recognised in this way and very thankful for their contributions and friendship.

"We thank the Lord for sending us the gift of Married life and particularly this wonderful couple who've given great service to the Church in this Archdiocese and beyond."

In speaking of the papal honours, Archbishop Adolfo described the award as being

of great significance not just to Kevin and Margaret but to the broader church.

"Beyond the honour, it's an official recognition of what Kevin and Margaret have done for the whole Catholic Church," he said.

"Of course they have done great work here, which is significant, but more especially what they have done is a witness to what the Church has always upheld... that the dignity and the integrity of the family is not only said but has to be lived.

"It's also a witness to what we hold as sacred. Also one of the sacraments, the priesthood... they've gone out of their own way to assist those who are elderly, the bishops and priests, and they have done it with so much love."

Long-time friend and colleague of the Crokers, Bishop Power, endorsed the honour as richly deserved.

"They've made a great contribution in a very practical way... helping us with the finances of the diocese in many ways," he said.

"I think that's how Kevin came into it. Even as a good "bankie" dealing with customers, he was used to that. So he brought that beautiful human touch to his work so it was never a business. It was always just that human side of things.

"And then when it evolved into the work he did with sick and retired priests, we were all just so grateful to Kevin and he has been extraordinary with his generosity."

Speaking on behalf of Margaret and himself, Kevin described the recognition as a great honour, and a great testament to the work of the Clergy Retirement Foundation.

**Of course they have done great work here, which is significant, but more especially what they have done is a witness to what the Church has always upheld... that the dignity and the integrity of the family is not only said but has to be lived.**

worked with. Neither he nor Margaret thought it could be related to them in any way.

"So we rang at 3.30pm," Kevin continued.

"I was in the car with Margaret and we pulled off the side of the road and called the Archbishop back. He said, Hello dear Kevin... the usual sort of salutation... I've got some good news for you. Is dear Margaret

had granted us these marvellous papal honours."

They felt honoured, and humbled but the first thing they felt was...

"Stunned," remembers Margaret.

"It wasn't something I had ever considered. It just came like a bolt out of the blue, as Kevin said it wasn't anything that was on our horizon at all. We had

## 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





# Canberra Priest Launches Rosary Video Series

**MEDIA RELEASE**

THE deeper connection with the Rosary that a Canberra priest and parishioner felt last October on opposite sides of the world was the genesis of a new video series that launched on Mother's Day.

Fr Paul Nulley, parish priest at St Joseph's Church in O'Connor, had been moved by the prayerful recitation of the Rosary while on a pilgrimage to Fatima. Back in Canberra, Belinda Barancewicz was responding to Pope Francis' call for Catholics to pray the Rosary daily during October – the month of the Rosary.

Her plans were interrupted when her rosary beads broke, so Ms Barancewicz went online and prayed along with videos. What she didn't easily find, though, were resources to help explain the Rosary and offer advice on how to pray it well.

With her background in television production and writing, she took a plan to Fr Nulley: Could they combine their love for the Rosary, her professional skills and his passion for catechesis to create a unique resource?

The fruits of their labour are a four-part series on How to pray the Rosary, with one episode dedicated to each of the mysteries: Glorious, Sorrowful, Joyful and Luminous. In each episode, Fr Nulley provides a step-by-step guide on which prayers to recite and when, explanations of each mystery, as well as suggestions for what to meditate on and pray for while reciting the Rosary.

"With May being the month of Mary, and with Mother's Day in a Catholic context being intimately linked with Our Lady, this seemed the perfect time to launch this new resource," Fr Nulley said.

"We hope these videos will help people better understand this enriching experience and come to see it as an accessible and enjoyable daily prayer that can comfort you and make you feel God's love."

Ms Barancewicz said as a St Joseph's parishioner, she had been spiritually nourished by Fr Nulley's homilies, his prayerfulness and humility.

"From working in television, I knew that Fr Paul had a natural screen presence and ability to engage with people that would be well suited for a project of this kind. I was very excited when he embraced this idea and we see great potential to reach people across Canberra, the country and the world," she said.

Fr Nulley said Ms Barancewicz's experience in television and ability to access resources, including studio time, created a high-quality series that is fitting for such an important subject.

"We are called to offer up our best work to God, and Belinda has done that through this project. We hope and pray that these videos will glorify God and help bring people closer to Mary and to her Son, which is what the Rosary is ultimately about," he said.

The videos can be accessed on Youtube @ Father Paul Nulley

# Life-giving opportunities for a Catholic Women's Forum



Participants in the Women's Consultation Day last year sharing their experiences and views towards the Plenary Council.

**BY ANDREA DEAN**

IN 2018 Catholic Women of the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn met in September and December to prepare a submission to the Plenary and to propose a model for an archdiocesan women's group.

Women of the Archdiocese are now entering into another round of consultations, which will focus in the first instance on the regional deaneries. Representatives will visit the Monaro, Western, Northern and Coastal Deaneries during May and June to meet with women and to listen to local concerns and issues.

This will culminate with an Archdiocesan Consultation for Catholic Women on Saturday, 20 July. This Consultation Day will also provide women with the opportunity to follow up on the National Plenary Process.

Thus far, women have been enthusiastic about the concept of the Catholic Women's Forum being purposeful and contributing to the life of the Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn.

Some women hope for regular and life giving spiritual opportunities, others are keen to become involved in social justice initiatives to benefit women in need while many are looking for ways to participate in decision-making within the Church at local and Archdiocesan level.

Creative and cooperative planning will endeavour to provide a range of life giving options to complement the current initiatives within the Archdiocese.

Daramalan College, Dickson ACT have generously offered to host the Archdiocesan Forum on 20 July. This day, close to the Feast of St Mary Magdalene on 22 July, will acknowledge her role as "Apostle to the Apostles" and invite women to be inspired anew to proclaim the good news to the world.

Once again, billeting will be arranged upon request and fuel subsidies will be offered to those who travel from regional areas to attend the Archdiocesan Consultation on 20 July. Catering will be provided and donations towards costs gratefully accepted.

REGIONAL CONSULTATION PHASE

## CATHOLIC WOMEN'S FORUM

Regional Women of the Archdiocese!  
The Holy Spirit is calling!

A Catholic Women's Forum is planned and your input is needed!

What is a Forum?  
How will it work??  
Who will be on it??

25 MAY: BATEMAN'S BAY  
1 JUNE: BEGA  
8 JUNE: NIMMITABEL  
15 JUNE: GOULBURN  
22 JUNE: YOUNG  
6 JULY: BRAIDWOOD

All sessions scheduled for 11 am - 2 pm

Check [www.catholicwomen.org.au](http://www.catholicwomen.org.au) for further details

No registration required

To help with logistics please register before 6 July at [www.catholicwomen.org.au](http://www.catholicwomen.org.au) or contact Andrea Dean - [andrea.dean@catholic.org.au](mailto:andrea.dean@catholic.org.au) or m: 0487388873.

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## Local Women inspired by Marist Mother's Retreat

Over 35 women gathered last Friday at Marist to participate in the annual Marist Mother's Retreat.

Guest speaker Kate Seselja, founder of the Hope Project, shared with participants her Faith journey in sustaining motherhood while living a life of love.

Kate shared strategies to help women develop in emotional intelligence and build resilience and sustainable wellbeing.

Kate also explained how self-awareness, self-care and self-esteem are all founded in a knowledge of being uniquely created and perfectly loved. This can bring us the freedom to be who we truly are and to make a positive difference in the world.

Participants had opportunities for listening, discussion and for personal reflection. The day was organised by Leesa Callaghan, Head of Liturgy at Marist, with the support of Anne Hartwell who runs the weekly Mother's Prayers group at Marist.

Kate Seselja

Check out upcoming Women's Twilight Retreat opportunity Wed. May 29



# Twenty five years... as the Crowe flies

BY CHRIS GORDON

IT'S BEEN a long road... actually quite a few roads... that have led Fr Allen Crowe to where he is now, both geographically and philosophically.

Following an early retirement forced by ill health, he has been living in Young the last five years and assisting with Masses.

"I retired quite early but my health is stable at the moment and I do a lot of supply work within the Young Mission," he said.

"I just think I've been very blessed, even with retirement through health issues, that I haven't felt I didn't belong to the presbyterate. I've retired but I'm still of use."

Fr Allen has just reached a significant milestone – 25 years since ordination. But his was a late call, in fact he features in the book of that same name by Bishop Pat Power detailing the backgrounds of some of the priests who attended St Paul's in Kensington as a late vocation.

"I'm actually in the centerfold of that book... I don't know if I should say that," Fr Allen said with a cheeky grin.

"Bishop Pat asked us to put in a bit of a profile for our stories which I did, and he wasn't able to get candid shots of some of us. As a photographer, I'd kept some photos of me and of some of the other priests, and they made it into the book."

Aside from his faith, photography has been one of the enduring constants in Fr Allen's life.

Growing up on a property at Murringo Flats, not far from Young and Boorowa, he worked for a surveyor for a few years, always hopeful of working in a



Fr Allen Crowe in front of the stained glass windows at St Mary's, Young. The window to the right, of St Patrick, was donated by Fr Allen's great grandmother, Jane Norton – a benefactor of St Mary's for many years from 1880s onwards – in honour of her late husband John Norton, Fr Allen's great grandfather.

photographic field.

He went to Sydney with the intention of meeting someone who'd show him the ropes of how to become a photographer, but that didn't eventuate.

After a couple of years of retail work, he returned to Young primarily as a roustabout and other work he could pick up, but had begun freelancing as a photographer at the same time.

After a spot of travel overseas, he joined a photographic firm in Wagga where he sold cameras and accessories for

a year and a half and photographed weddings and other events on weekends.

Some more travel overseas, and then back to Young, where he found work with a company expanding its photographic business. There he stayed for 14 or 15 years, in all aspects photography including shop front, equipment, studio, laboratory, out in the field, portrait photography, school photography.

But after doing what he thought he wanted to do for so long, he figured out what he



Allen Crowe, Mark Croker, Peter Day, Troy Bobbin. St Paul's, 1992.

needed to do.

"I had begun to think more and more about my faith," he remembers.

"And it was becoming clearer and clearer. I felt I needed to look into the area of ministry. I wanted to do it, but needed discern if it was what I was meant to do. I was lucky enough to be accepted into St Paul's and I found my path."

Since his ordination, aged 45, he has served in parishes across the Archdiocese. Adelong and Batlow, Goulburn, St Christopher's Cathedral, Gundagai, Ardlethan, Barellan, Grenfell... and now Young. Through many twists and turns, his path led back to where he started.

"It's gone in a blink, too," Fr Allen said.

"It's like I feel asleep for a few years and the time has passed.

"I'd just say, on reflection, that I feel that I'm in the right place, albeit in a limited capacity. I think I'm meant to be here and I think what I've been able to do is carry into my ministry from

pre-ordination, hobbies, lifestyle, family and friends – I've never let go of any of that. I've had a life outside of Parish as well as my life in the Church."

One of the sad ironies for Fr Allen is that now, with more time on his hands, he had hoped to do more photography, but health issues have impeded him.

A long term diabetic, he has experienced an ongoing deterioration with his vision. He can't use manual focus any more and can't operate a camera as he could at his best. It's tough news for a photographer but he has taken it in his stride. It is, as with everything else, more of the path he is meant to travel.

On April 23, Fr Allen celebrated the 25th Anniversary of his Ordination with family, friends and parishioners with a lunch/afternoon tea in St Mary's Parish Centre, Young.

Around 150 people called in throughout the day to congratulate Fr Allen on his special day.

It felt good. It felt like home.



Bishop Pat Power, Allen Crowe, Archbishop Francis Carroll. St Paul's, May 1990.

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# Zavones guest speakers at Marriage as Mission Forum

BY LARA KIRK

JOE and Louise Zavone will be guest speakers at this year's *Marriage as Mission* Forum, Sunday June 2 at St Christopher's Pastoral Centre, Manuka.

The aim of the forum is to encourage ordinary Catholic couples to understand and value the importance of their own marriage in the current cultural and ecclesial context.

Louise Zavone had only just moved to Canberra in June last year when the inaugural *Marriage as Mission* Sunday was launched in the Archdiocese of Canberra Goulburn.

She moved from Sydney to serve as an Executive Secretary with the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and to join her husband Joe who had taken the helm as Principal at St Edmund's College Canberra at the beginning of the year.

Lara Kirk, coordinator of the *Marriage as Mission* event, remembers her surprise and delight when the Zavones turned up, knowing that Louise had only just moved to Canberra.

"It was so encouraging to have them there. It was a real testament to their commitment to Canberra that they'd give up a precious afternoon on the weekend to join other couples who cared about encouraging a vision for marriage in this Archdiocese.

Joe and Louise have both spent the last three decades in Catholic education.

Louise most recently worked as a Religious Education Officer for Sydney Catholic Schools for almost 10 years and she has served on a number of advisory groups and other organisations, including the Sydney Archdiocesan Justice and Peace Advisory Council.

In her current role, Louise



Joe and Louise Zavone. Photo supplied.

is Executive Secretary to the Bishops Commission for Life, Family & Public Engagement, the Bishops Commission for Christian Unity and Interreligious Dialogue, the Episcopal Panel for Canon Law and the Episcopal Panel for Doctrine & Morals.

Recently she has joined the Women's Interfaith Network Group here in Canberra and is really enjoying getting to know these wonderful women from a variety of faith backgrounds.

Joe worked at St Patrick's College in Campbelltown, St Scholastica's College in Glebe (Deputy Principal) and at Christian Brothers' High School in Lewisham (as Deputy Principal) before moving to Canberra.

Joe loves being involved in the dynamic faith community that is the Catholic school and derives great energy from seeing young people grow and develop in an environment that offers them opportunities for hope, joy and love in their own specific contexts and worlds. Joe has a particular interest in the development of Catholic pedagogy and the influence of charisma on the structures and routines of school

life.

As speakers at the *Marriage as Mission* event, Louise & Joe hope to share some of their journey as a married couple, both the highs and the lows.

*Marriage & Family Sunday* will kick off with an opportunity for couples to renew their marriage vows at the 11am Mass at St Christopher's Cathedral.

After Mass there will be a light lunch and *Marriage Expo*, upstairs in the dining area of the St Christopher's Pastoral Centre so that married couples can socialise and familiarise themselves with the various ministries, groups and movements within the Archdiocese which seek to support marriage.

Then from 1-3pm there will be a *Marriage as Mission Forum* during which Joe & Louise will speak, a panel of *Marriage Formation Groups* will answer questions and couples will have a chance to discuss and propose future directions for supporting and promoting the vocation of marriage.

Register at [http://bit.ly/marriage\\_mission2019](http://bit.ly/marriage_mission2019)  
Enquiries: [Lara.Kirk@cg.org.au](mailto:Lara.Kirk@cg.org.au)

# Samaritan House trialling dogs



Krystal Reid and dog Charli. Photo supplied SVdP Media.

RESIDENTS of Vinnies crisis accommodation, Samaritan House, are enjoying the comfort and joy a dog brings with the introduction of puppies to the House.

Chris Shortis, Director of Special Works with the St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn, initiated the trial to offer companionship to men with complex needs.

"Samaritan House offers short term accommodation to men over 18 in crisis. They may have mental health challenges, be coming out of correctional services, or be transitioning from homelessness.

"Having the dogs here makes it feel like home. Dogs provide no judgement; they will love you regardless," said Chris.

"Animals do break down barriers. Sometimes men are uncomfortable entering the House and the dogs provide an ice breaker," she added.

There are currently four dogs that access the house. Charli the spoodle is one of them. Charli belongs to Krystal Reid, a case manager at Samaritan House, and has been visiting the House regularly for about eight months.

"Charli gives the men comfort, and something to talk about," said Krystal.

"She makes them feel human again, providing some comfort

in dark times or lonely times. She plays ball with the guys and melts hearts wherever she goes," Krystal added.

"Charli picks up on things – she will put her head on their leg and keep an eye on them, and then she'll come back and then she'll go around again. She picks up when people are having hard days, and we've had feedback that she's really helped some men get through dark times," said Chris.

"She loves coming to work. She doesn't like being alone at home. We recently lost another dog, and losing her companion was sad for her, so having the chance to come in and have a full time job has been really great for her. She thoroughly enjoys it, and loves the men," said Krystal.

"They take her out for walks, and buy her blankets and treats. The love and care they give her is reward for her efforts," she added.

"The dogs do need to have a break, though, so Charli goes home with Krystal. She does get tired, she needs a rest. She has one day off a week because she needs to recuperate," Chris said.

The role animals play in providing comfort and compassion to people experiencing social isolation is well documented, with many hospitals and nursing homes allowing animal visitation.

"Dogs provide unconditional love and companionship. These dogs are really well looked after. The men care for them and prioritise them. It's the same as when you see someone on the streets with a dog. Those dogs are usually very well cared for and loved. Sometimes they're the only friend that person has," said Chris.

"They bring communities together."

## CATHOLIC VOICE WEBSITE TOP STORIES IN JUNE [www.catholicvoice.org.au](http://www.catholicvoice.org.au)

**Twenty five years... as the Crowe flies (806 readers, 954 hits)**

It's been a long road... actually quite a few roads... that have led Fr Allen Crowe to where he is now, both geographically and philosophically.

**Canberra priest launches rosary video series (736 readers, 1047 hits)**

The deeper connection with the Rosary that a Canberra priest and parishioner felt last October – on opposite sides of the world – was the genesis of a new video series

that launched on Mother's Day.

**"I will be with you always" - remembering Bishop Morgan (512 readers, 469 hits)**

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.

**Final Mass at the Binya Catholic Church (469 readers, 556 hits)**  
It's seen better days, and it's seen

worse days, but on Sunday April 28 the Catholic Church at Binya saw its final day as a Church.

**Good Shepherd Amaroo unveils new buildings (454 readers, 546 hits)**

On Tuesday May 2, Good Shepherd Primary School in Amaroo officially opened and blessed the construction and redesign of new and existing classrooms.

**Respected leaders named to conduct Church governance review (331 readers, 422 hits)**  
A panel of experts has been

convened to conduct a national review of the governance and management structures of Catholic dioceses and parishes, including in relation to issues of transparency, accountability, consultation and lay participation.

**Introducing Youth Minister (329 readers, 396 hits)**

Neve Tually, who lives in Yass with her family, is the Youth Minister at Merici College, and the Central Canberra Parish.

**Anne's thankful for Vanier's vision (320 readers, 396 hits)**

On the afternoon of May 7, word of Jean Vanier's death gradually reverberated around the world, slowly filtering out to the many people his life and work had

touched. In Canberra, the news was particularly poignant.

**Update on Plenary Council (319 readers, 390 hits)**

The first phase of the Plenary Council has been completed (March 6, 2019) the response from Australian Catholics has indeed been very encouraging.



# Vanier's vision

BY CHRIS GORDON

ON the afternoon of May 7, word of Jean Vanier's death gradually reverberated around the world, slowly filtering out to the many people his life and work had touched.

In Canberra, the news was particularly poignant.

In a quirk of fate, a coincidence of timing, members of L'Arche Canberra were preparing to present the documentary "*Summer in the Forest*" – the story of Jean Vanier's Life Work – the next evening.

The news rocked them. The man who had impacted on their lives so dramatically, who had meant so much to them and who they would be honouring that night, had died.

It brought their thoughts about him and about L'Arche into sharp focus, especially so for Anne Walsh.

Quite simply, Jean Vanier had changed her life.

From growing up in Gurrundah near Goulburn, one of seven children in a close and loving family, Anne left home aged 18 to live in a new L'Arche home in Canberra. Now, 100 km from her old home town and 37 years older, by any measure her life is a world away from where it was then, now a respected leader and elder in her Canberra community.

"I was sad when I heard he'd died," Anne said.

"I'd met him several times and he was a friend. He taught me a lot. He taught me about relationships, to not be afraid to try things. He helped me become who I am."

When Anne moved to Canberra in 1982, she said it was very scary at first. And it wasn't just Anne it was scary for.

Like any family, Anne's family had to come to terms with letting a child leave the nest and move away. It's a difficult time for any family, and can be even more so for families of a child with an intellectual disability, balancing being protective with offering the best opportunities for their child.

The suggestion of moving into a L'Arche community came from a relative of Anne's mother, who was on the board of L'Arche at the time. He believed L'Arche would offer great opportunities and a great lifestyle for Anne. The family took the leap, and Anne has continued to prosper and grow.

"It's really helped me a lot," said Anne.

"It got me out of my shell. I used to be a very shy person but I'm not any more."



Annie Patterson (left) and Anne Walsh (right) with some of the works and mementos of Jean Vanier. Photo Chris Gordon.

Anne now speaks regularly at events to large audiences, such as the Summer in the Forest presentation, and says that it doesn't scare her at all any more. She is also an official observer at meetings of L'Arche's National Listening and Speaking Group as a core foundation member and – all part of L'Arche's central philosophy of inclusion.

Founded by Vanier in 1964, the same year Anne was born, L'Arche is an international federation of communities for people with developmental disabilities and is now located in 37 countries.

Based around the concept of people with disabilities living with carers and assistants in a community environment rather than in institutions, Vanier's Vision was simple but revolutionary and preceded similar recommendations such as the Richmond Report that came decades later.

Locally, L'Arche began in the old convent at Bungendore in 1978. Two years later it moved to Yarralumla in Canberra to offer access to greater opportunities, such as more jobs and more facilities.

Two years after that, Anne Walsh moved into the Yarralumla home, before later moving to Chifley where she still lives.

Anne is one of five in her community home which includes other residents with intellectual disabilities and a home sharer who lives with them.

"That's one of the essential threads of L'Arche," Annie Patterson, Community Life

Coordinator for L'Arche in Canberra, explained.

"People with and without intellectual disability living life together."

"When L'Arche was started, Jean Vanier felt a personal desire to respond to the institutionalisation of people with a disability.

"He had the opportunity to visit people in some of these huge institutions and he found them to be frightening places of real despair, and he created home initially with three men as a personal response, and it grew from there."

Claire Lawler (left), Jean Vanier (centre) and Anne Walsh (right) in 2014. Photo supplied.

Anne saw the "*Summer in the Forest*" documentary for the first time at its special presentation in Canberra, and she said she was reminded of just how much Jean Vanier had done for her and others.

She said she was also struck by how sad she felt for some of the people still in institutions. While Anne has never lived inside an institution, some of her fellow founding core members have.

Anne said that even though she moved away from her family home to live in a L'Arche community, it didn't diminish her contact with her family at all. She is regularly in touch with all of them and not long ago returned from a two week holiday in Queensland with her sister.

For many years, L'Arche was block-funded by the ACT government which covered about

65% of their operating budget – the rest made up from fundraising, sponsorship and donations.

Today, L'Arche is a service provider under the National Disability Insurance Scheme. Each of the members has their own individual funding of which a significant portion is for supported accommodation. But that doesn't cover all of the costs and L'Arche still requires the assistance of fund-raising to fund the shortfall for things that don't fall neatly under the requirements and guidelines of NDIS.

And while Jean Vanier has passed away, his mission continues. The last few years have been a time of growth for L'Arche in

Canberra. There are currently six L'Arche homes in Canberra (one in Chifley, two in Curtin, one in Hughes, one in Kambah & one in Gowrie) with a seventh to open soon. Those L'Arche homes cater to 22 residents at present which will increase when the new residence is opened.

His legacy has been far-reaching and his philosophy remains timely, as Annie Patterson reflected.

"Jean Vanier's learning, which he has reflected on over the years, is that initially he thought he was going to do good and to help other people and that was his starting place however very quickly he realised these very people were helping him, transforming him to become more fully human, more aware of how we need one another in the human family and how we can all enrich one another," Annie Patterson explained.

"I think his life's work has been particularly around making known the gifts of people with an intellectual disability and their power to be teachers, healers, and leaders in our world, not to be seen as just the recipients of care.

"And today, any marginalized group of people, his message is just very clear, wherever there's difference, there's an invitation to find out how we can come together, how can we be a common humanity enriching one another and finding more of what brings us together than what divides."





# Promoting the Year of Tolerance

“TRUTH, UNITY and Reconciliation” is the theme for a national meeting of Sudanese and South Sudanese Christian women leaders in Canberra this week.

The March 29-30 consultation process has been organised by the National Council of Churches Australia (NCCA) with 20 women selected from various faiths including Catholic, Uniting, Salvation Army, Lutheran, Anglican and Baptist churches.

Two women will represent the Catholic Sudanese and South Sudanese communities of Australia: Mary Kenyi from Brisbane and Sydney’s Anna Dimo.

Elizabeth Stone, interim general secretary of the NCCA, said the consultation would be a unique opportunity for Sudanese and South Sudanese women to meet together and share their stories, experiences, challenges and hopes from their contexts of living in Australia.

“The aim of the meeting will be to develop connections and relationships across tribal and denominational loyalties across the country,” she said.

“At the previous leaders’ consultation (in May 2018), there were only four women present out of 28, and one of the recommendations was ‘that women need to be given their own space in the mediation process’.”

Those women present last year have been instrumental in identifying women leaders from across the churches of Australia to be present and will lead this year’s consultation.

Bishop Michael McKenna, chair of the Bishops Commission for Christian Unity and Inter-religious Dialogue, welcomed the NCCA initiative and is grateful for the participation of Catholic representatives.

From his days as a priest in Fitzroy, Bishop McKenna came to know especially the South Sudanese people and learnt not only of their challenges, but also



Archbishop Christopher Prowse and UAE Embassy Deputy Ambassador Matar Almansoori.

of the richness of faith that they bring to the Church and community in Australia.

Ms Kenyi, from the Archdiocese of Brisbane, said she felt honoured to have been chosen to take part in the consultation process.

“I have been in Australia for 15 years, living in Brisbane. I have four children of my own who are now grown up and I also care for my sister-in-law’s orphans,” she said.

“I have two issues – lack of unity among the Sudanese community groups and some of our children disengaging at school and getting involved in some anti-social behaviours.

“(At the conference) I will talk about my involvement in the Church and how the churches can work together to bring peace and harmony among the cultural groups and the wider community.”

Ms Dimo, who has five adult children now living in cities across the country, has called Australia home for the past 18 years and is connected with Sydney’s St Bakhita pastoral care centre, which provides English, computer and other classes to Sudanese of all faiths and

ethnicities.

“It feels wonderful to represent the Sudanese community anywhere. My involvement with the Church has been long and representing the Catholic community is a privilege,” she said.

“I would like to see greater support at all government levels for our Sudanese people. Humans have basic needs everywhere and it is their right to receive them when available.

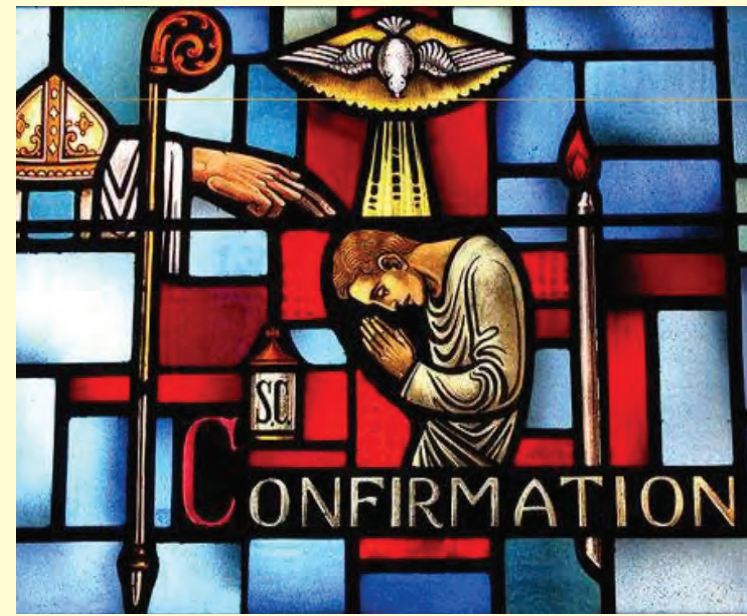
“Sudanese migrants and refugees have mostly a very low level of education; most have grown up during the years of civil war. A high number of them are illiterate, which makes it impossible to integrate into society and the wider community.

“If our people had accommodation, health care and education assistance in which they could have involvement, their lives would be different and their children’s lives would be a pleasant thought. I am sure if there were more opportunities, they would be happy to participate.

“I believe strongly in the power of God, his love and mercy.”

The consultation process will be held at Canberra’s Australian Centre for Christianity & Culture.

# The Pentecost Sequence



BY SHARON BOYD

It’s hard to believe that the Easter Season is over, but with Ascension falling on the 7th Sunday of Easter, it signals the entrance of Pentecost, the third ranking season in the liturgical year, after Easter and Christmas respectively. Pentecost marks the birth of the Church and thankfully the marketing world hasn’t hijacked Pentecost as it has Easter and Christmas. We are left to celebrate Pentecost, the Birthday of the Church, unimpeded by commercialism. And yet do we celebrate Pentecost with the level of preparation that we would celebrate a loved one’s Birthday?

Pentecost is seen as an appropriate time for the sacrament of Confirmation and rightly so, but extra attention needs to be spent on the Pentecost liturgy for all parishioners. When there are no Confirmations in sight, we should still remember its importance on the liturgical calendar. That there is a Vigil for Pentecost emphasises this. Why then does Pentecost often get such short shrift?

Pentecost means “50 days” and it refers to the measurement in time since the Resurrection on Easter Sunday. Acts 2:1-13 tells the story of how the disciples were gathered for the Jewish feast of Pentecost (Shavout) 50 days after the Sunday of Passover or the Feast of First Fruits, when they saw what seemed to be tongues of fire descending upon them; filled with the Holy Spirit they were able to speak in other languages, such that those in the gathering from foreign lands could understand them.

I wonder how many times in the last decade you have heard the Pentecost sequence sung during the Sunday Mass of the Day? Twice in the liturgical calendar the Church calls for the Sequence in the Mass; at Easter and Pentecost. It has a long tradition in the medieval Church where hundreds of sequences were incorporated into the Sunday Mass. From the Ninth Century, this sequence of poetry was set to music so that it extended the Alleluia verse; offering a meditative experience upon the Feast. It’s location in the liturgy has changed throughout the centuries. The 2011 General Instruction to the Roman Missal n 64, places the Sequence (after the Second Reading) before the Gospel Acclamation, emphasising the connection to the Alleluia and the Gospel. By its very nature, and its position in the liturgy, the Sequence should be sung. In the Catholic Worship Book II, there are three settings of the Pentecost Sequence; Veni Sanctus Spiritus in the form of a chant plus two metrical settings, one of which is based on the chant.

Perhaps at the beginning of Mass an explanation of the Sequence could be offered and a longer piece on the history could be inserted into the Bulletin as part of liturgical catechesis. When executed well, the Sequence offers rich imagery drawing the assembly into a deeper experience of meditation upon the Mystery of Pentecost.

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

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY APPEAL 2019

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BY SHANE DWYER

# Conquering the divide

There's that curious scene in Matthew's gospel (12:22 – 28) where Jesus is accused of calling on the power of the devil in order to drive out the devil. It provokes a number of questions from an exegetical point of view, but we won't go into that here. Instead, we focus on Jesus' response and its enduring relevance to our own situation today. He replies: "a house divided against itself cannot stand".

The image of the Church as either a family or a household is not new. While neither image is exhaustive, they say something of the reality to which we aspire. The idea is that, as Catholics view and relate to one another, our fundamental stance is to be that we see in one another 'brothers and sisters' linked by a bond that goes beyond friendship and even blood ties. We certainly don't see one another as enemies.

Maintaining a filial connection in any family is often easier said than done. This can be even more the case when the family is under pressure. Families in crisis typically do one of two things: turn on one another and then fall apart, or pull together and so grow stronger. It seems we may be trying to do both within the Church in this country at the moment.

Having been involved in serving the Church in a variety of capacities over the years I have witnessed the cracks that divide us. Interestingly, to me anyway, is that these cracks are not typically along the lines of who's in the right and who's in the wrong, even though that can feature as arguments unfold.

Rather, the major divide is along an imaginary continuum that has those who believe that the Church will only thrive and fulfil its mission if it jettisons anything this group considers to be an accretion and obsolete on the one hand, and those who



*The Active and Triumphant Church Fresco by Andrea di Bonaiuto*

believe that our future lies in re-embracing traditional practices and disciplines on the other. To put it simplistically, there are those who say 'let it go, it isn't working' and those who say 'it will only work if we try harder'. Both groups are represented by very good people and both have a point that deserves to be listened to.

Central to this debate, no matter where each of us sits along the continuum, is the role of the leader. In our faith tradition leadership comes in two different forms: as that exercised by the cleric (priest or bishop) and that exercised by the layperson.

We look first at the cleric as, for better or worse, that tends to be the form of leadership within the Church that springs most readily to mind. Leaving aside the ordination of women and married men as a distraction for the moment, there is a much more fundamental question:

which way up is the triangle? By this I mean: to what degree is the cleric someone to be obeyed by virtue of his ordination (i.e. he's at the top of the triangle, pointy end up) or is he someone who serves with his authority being grounded in his authenticity and

exercised in collaboration with the cleric is, as many have found, a fraught business. If the triangle is 'pointy end up' the lay person may do his or her best within limited parameters (and many do this very well), but in effect must wait for the leadership of the

**By virtue of baptism, all are called to be 'priest, prophet and king'. However, how that is exercised in collaboration with the cleric is, as many have found, a fraught business.**

not just in his role (i.e. he's at the bottom of the triangle, pointy end down)?

The way in which you orient the triangle has important implications not only for the cleric, but for the role of the lay leader. By virtue of baptism, all are called to be 'priest, prophet and king'. However, how that is

exercised in collaboration with the cleric is, as many have found, a fraught business. If the triangle is 'pointy end up' the lay person may do his or her best within limited parameters (and many do this very well), but in effect must wait for the leadership of the

If the triangle is 'pointy end down' the lay person experiences him or herself as mandated to

get on with the mission entrusted to the baptised, not in opposition to the cleric but supported and served by him. It is an experience of empowerment, as his or her leadership is not dependent on the comings and goings of the clerics.

This is not an attempt to have a go at priests and bishops. I know plenty of lay people who are even more beset by clericalism than our most power-protective cleric. Instead, it is simply to highlight a point of division within our Church that often results in misunderstanding and tension. It revolves around this two-part question: are lay Catholics simply children with clerical fathers from whom they must receive permission before they can live their baptismal vocation? Or are we brothers and sisters living out our baptism in an increasingly difficult environment, with our brothers the priests and bishops there to assist us to live that mission the best they can?

The way in which Catholics answer this question accounts for much of the tension within the Church. It will impact on the Plenary Council. Whose vision will prevail: pointy end up, or pointy end down? Whichever it is, there is one thing for certain: a house divided cannot stand.

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



# Waste Warriors, Bin Monitors & chook eggs

SURE, there's no substitute for good old fashioned book learning. But there's a lot more going on at schools these days than just readin', writin' and 'rithmetic. At St Mary's Primary School in Moruya, for instance, the students are learning all about Waste Warriors, Bin Monitors and Nude Food.

St Mary's Special Needs Assistant Janet Ryan picks up the story. "Annie Johnson has been the driving force behind the initiatives we've been implementing here that are all along the lines of recycling and sustainability," Ms Ryan said. "We started a while back with nude food days and they've been very successful. The idea is that you bring in food that has no wrapping and packaging and we were doing that once a term. But it's been so popular, we're once a week now... every Tuesday. And the lunches are beautiful."

The next step for the school was a bin audit. Yes, bin audits are an actual thing. "We did it about a month ago, and it was disgusting," Ms Ryan said. "We found that 98% of our rubbish was recyclable, and only two per cent should have been thrown out. "We had been paying a huge amount for rubbish collection so not only were we not disposing of our rubbish well, we were also paying a lot more than we needed."

The teachers got the students in and showed them through the bins. The local Council also came and did a presentation, showing what some other schools have done. The students were inspired and wanted to be part of a solution. "So we put together this team, the Waste Warriors," Ms Ryan continued. "And they've really taken to it. They love it, they have special jackets that they wear and they're very proud of minimizing waste. "We set up fruit bins, which are being monitored by the kids, and a lot of the food scraps are going to the Chooks. We've had chooks for a while but that hadn't been

happening to any great extent. The school now has fewer bins, and a number of the kids act as Bin Monitors to keep an eye that the right things are going into the bins, and that they aren't overflowing and making a mess.

And the chooks aren't just there for their scrap eating capabilities. Along with giving the students experience in looking after the animals, the hens are also productive and the students sell those eggs along with fruit and vegetable supplied by families.

All of these individual initiatives have come together as a comprehensive program about making better choices. From reducing rubbish, improving diets, and initiating sustainability projects, the end result is a holistic exercise that, through small steps, has had an effect on teachers, students and their families alike.

"It's a slow process, but it's making a difference," Ms Ryan said. "We, as teachers, came on board, then the kids, then their parents became involved by packing suitable food for nude food day and supplying fruit and vegetables for sale and egg cartons for our chook eggs. It all makes a difference."

Ms Ryan is particularly pleased that these initiatives haven't simply been forced upon the students and that they have taken to them enthusiastically.

The waste warriors meet every Wednesday, and are involved in creating a tree mural for an environmental competition.

Around 30 kids attend breakfast club each morning and are getting used to washing up plates and utensils rather than using disposable items that further fill up the bins. Previously, they had been throwing away a garbage bag full of rubbish every day. Now, none. There's a bit more washing up involved but so far the kids haven't minded at all.

The students have also designed the signs for the bin, the logos for the egg cartons and have given



Students at St Mary's in Moruya are taking an active role in reducing waste, recycling and living sustainably.

waste talks to other students in the school.

Janet readily admits that many of these initiatives were inspired by things they'd seen at other schools. "Carroll College are doing some of these things, as are some other schools around here," she said. "The reason we started down this track is because a couple of the teachers went down to Lumen Christi College in Pambula. They walked into the yard and the first thing they noticed was that there was no rubbish anywhere."

"So we didn't come up with all of these ideas off our own bat, but just as we were influenced, maybe this will influence someone else to make a start."

So popular have these initiatives been that the school intends to



Waste Warriors, Mitchell and Charlie's video interview can be seen at <https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/waste-warriors-bin-monitors-and-nude-food/>

## Good Shepherd Amaroo unveils new buildings

ON TUESDAY May 2, Good Shepherd Primary School in Amaroo officially opened and blessed the construction and redesign of new and existing classrooms.

During the event the names of the two re-energised buildings were unveiled.

The McGrath and Ryan buildings pay tribute to two people of great significance to the school – Good Shepherd's first Principal, Patrick McGrath and Parish member, Sr Genny Ryan.

Along with the Parish team, Patrick (Paddy) McGrath was responsible for deciding on the name and colours of the school prior to opening on 31 October 2002. Patrick also initiated a special 'good morning' and 'good afternoon' school greeting that continues to be an ongoing tradition today.

During the initial development of the school, Sr Genny Ryan

designed the school emblem to symbolise the Shepherd leaning towards the family to shape the heart of God in Amaroo.

Sr Genny was also responsible for designing the stained glass in the Church and the banner that hang at the back of the altar at Holy Spirit Parish.

Over the past 17 years, Good Shepherd Amaroo has continued to evolve, and live out its ethos of welcome, care and support.

## Braving the cold to walk to school



Players from the Canberra Capitals and the ACT Brumbies joined Meeghan Fitzharris MP, Catholic Education Director Ross Fox, students, staff and families of Good Shepherd Amaroo in this year's Walk to School.

THE Good Shepherd Primary School was one of several school communities to brave the cold on Friday May 17 for National Walk Safely to School Day.

Special guests included Catholic Education Director Ross Fox, Meehan Fitzharris MP, representatives from the ACT Department of Health and Principal of Amaroo School, Gai Beecher.

University of Canberra Capital players and the ACT Brumbies were among the enthusiastic walkers!

The points of departure and departure times for the various routes were:

- Oval on corner of Yumba and Unaipon Ave Ngunnawal- 7:50am
- Wanderer Court Playground-7:55am
- Moncrieff Hill Playground: 8am
- Park on corner of Stanner Circuit and Louisa Briggs Crt Amaroo- 8am
- Bizant St Playground amaroo-8am

Once at school, all assembled on Good Shepherd Oval at 8:30am where there was free fruit for breakfast

**St Bede's join the walk**

Students and staff from St Bede's participated in Walk Safely to School Day day on May 17 as well.

The walk was promoted as an event when students were encouraged to walk safely to promote road safety, health, transport and environment.

It was the perfect morning for a walk and a chit chat.

## Leaders and educators enjoy 10th Community Breakfast at Kaleen



This year's Community Breakfast at Kaleen was attended by over 100 people including Director of Catholic Education Ross Fox, Honourable Senator Zed Seselja, Deputy Chief Minister and ACT Education Minister Yvette Berry MLA,

BY LISA MONRO

FOR THE last 10 years, St Michael's Primary School in Kaleen has celebrated Catholic Schools Week by hosting a Community Breakfast.

Organised by St Michael's School Community Council and staff, many businesses, organisations, Catholic Education staff, local Political leaders, Parish members and school community attend.

It is the schools way of showcasing their great little school, celebrating Catholic Education in the Archdiocese of Canberra-Goulburn and thanking all those who have supported both the school and system throughout the year.

This year was attended by over 100 people including Director of Catholic Education Ross Fox, Honourable Senator Zed Seselja,

Deputy Chief Minister and ACT Education Minister Yvette Berry MLA. Patrick Ellis, Principal of St Michael's Primary School said 'it is a beautiful tradition to host this Catholic Schools Week Community Breakfast. It is a way to shine the light on Catholic Education in the ACT. With the theme in 2019 of Engaging Faith, Minds and Community, this breakfast is the perfect way to celebrate the importance of Catholic Education.

To have our local Political leaders in attendance, demonstrates the value they place on ensuring Catholic Education has a place in the ACT and their commitment to our school community of continued support long into the future'.

St Michael's Primary School is currently accepting enrolments for 2020. For more information, please contact the Front Office office. [stmichaelsps@cg.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stmichaelsps@cg.catholic.edu.au) or 02 62414022.

## Grandparents and Friends Day at Lumen Christi



A day of hugs, smiles and shared experiences – the Lumen Christi Grandparents and Friends Day.



Catholic Education Director Ross Fox officially opening the new classrooms at Good Shepherd Primary School, Amaroo.



# What are our shepherds up to?

BY FATHER TRENTON VAN RHEESCH

THE Archdiocesan Clergy gathered at Galong for the annual Clergy Assembly, 20-23 May 2019. Priest and theologian, Father Tony Kelly, CCsR, spoke of the mystery of the Christ. He emphasised “the scandal and shock of the Cross.” Noting that we live in an “irritable culture,” he encouraged us to never forget that while foolishness to the world, the Cross is the Crucified Christ, who is “the power and wisdom of God” (1 Cor. 1:24-25). “We can never leave out the cross!” he echoed, “but must embrace its power, a power defined by self-giving love.”

“The Cross is the Christian’s identity and victory; the ‘power and wisdom’ of a God who acts in a way the world least expects! Jesus’ self-emptying on the cross is God’s greatest act of humility and self-revelation of ‘the aboriginal self-giving of God.’”

This was more meditation than lecture. Many of us simply closed our eyes, listened and tried to let it sink in. Kelly asked: “Is the true revelation of God passing us by? For the Cross is the signature of the Resurrection! Whereby even the Risen Jesus on that Easter morning still proudly bore the marks of the wounds that were now transformed.”



The Clergy of the Archdiocese gathered at Galong in May for the annual Clergy Assembly.

During these days the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the ‘forgotten sacrament’ as Archbishop Christopher reminded us, was close to our minds and hearts. The confessional has been, is and will continue to be a place where important conversations and conversions take place. We looked at the practicalities of celebrating the sacrament and committed to a deeper catechesis.

Archdiocesan IPSS Manger,

Maria Hicks, focused on The Gift of our Children. Maria commented upon the recent changes to the ACT Crimes Act and was able to update us on new mandatory reporting obligations, which now rightly require all people over 18 to report any suspected abuse. Angela McCabe, trauma psychologist, led a helpful sessions on resilience and self-care. Pastoral education supervisors Barbara Hall and Susanne

Schmidt, entered the fray, too, on supervision for clergy. Very fine and intelligent presenters.

Wednesday evening is always the highlight, since it celebrates the unity of our Presbyterate in a Jubilarian Mass and Dinner. This year we celebrated Fr’s Allen Crowe and Peter My’s 25 years of priesthood; Archbishop Francis Carroll and Fr Neville Drinkwater 65 years; Fr Stan Sniezek 60 years and Fr Peter

Gannon 50 years. We were joined by Kevin and Margaret Croker who recently received the Papal honour of Knight and Dame of the Order of Saint Gregory. Their extraordinary service to the Church and outstanding dedication to the care of the priests of this Archdiocese is beyond compare.

This Assembly was a graced time. I was particularly struck by the joy and unity of the clergy.

## Help end the pain of poverty this winter

RIGHT now, 1 in 4 Australians are feeling lonely each week and 1 in 8 people are living in poverty.

“For so many Australians, poverty and loneliness go hand in hand. Poverty often leads to social isolation and a sense of being disconnected or forgotten,” said Warwick Fulton, President of the St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn, launching the 2019 Vinnies Winter Appeal.

“They need help from you and I to get through the winter.”

Ruby is a 73-year-old mother, grandmother, and widow. After a long life, filled with family and friends, she has found herself living alone, isolated by the pain of poverty.



Right now, 1 in 4 Australians are feeling lonely each week and 1 in 8 people are living in poverty. As we head into winter, poverty becomes an even more significant problem

A decade ago Ruby lost her best friend, and her lifelong partner, when her husband died.

“It’s a very long time to feel lonely. I feel so alone sometimes, I cry my eyes out,” Ruby said.

When her husband died, Ruby also lost the financial safety net she needed in retirement.

Ruby’s poverty has come to define every aspect of her life. “I had to move to a little apartment, a long way away,” she said. “It’s all I can afford.”

Moving away from her family and friends – her support

network, was the first step in her isolation. Not having money for basic essentials has just compounded the difficulties she’s facing.

Loneliness can’t be solved by money alone, but food and the financial support that covers bills and rent can alleviate that feeling of loss that comes from isolation. And that’s where Vinnies volunteers provide a vital piece of the puzzle; companionship.

“I appreciate the food and the help, but I love having someone visit me for a chat. That makes

my day.”

There are thousands of elderly Australians, like Ruby, living in the pain that poverty causes; each day of their life is defined by loss and loneliness, with nothing to look forward to. But we have the power to change this.

“From 2017 to 2018, Vinnies members provided over \$2 million in direct assistance including food vouchers or parcels to people in need in our region,” Mr Fulton said.

Winter is a very difficult time of year if you are homeless or you can’t pay for your heating or other essentials. We rely on generous donations from the community to support our Winter Appeal.

This winter, please help end the pain of poverty for people like Ruby by making a generous donation today, visit [www.vinnies.org.au/winterappeal](http://www.vinnies.org.au/winterappeal) or call 13 18 12.

Our Night Patrol program is also seeking blankets and warm items, and donations of these materials can be made to any Vinnies shop.

Source: St Vincent de Paul, Canberra-Goulburn

### Cold welcome expected for Vinnies CEO Sleepout

While the recent cold snap has caused most of us to reach for an extra jumper or blanket, spare a thought for the participants in the 2019 Vinnies CEO Sleepout.

The brave souls who have volunteered will be bunking down in Hangar 47 at the Canberra Airport on the night of June 20.

“While sleeping out for one night will never be a true experience of homelessness, it is a chance to gain an insight into what that experience might be like,” said CEO of St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn, Bernie van Wyk.

“And here at the airport where it’s frequently colder than other parts of Canberra, and with the noise of planes and trucks and crew, our participants will gain a greater understanding of the realities of what it is to sleep rough.”

For more information, or to make a donation, go to <https://www.ceosleepout.org.au/event/canberra>



# A Marian 'Yes' across the Coastal Deanery



Fr Martins Alaga pictured with the pilgrim at the Marian Procession in Cobargo.

THE rain couldn't dampen the 2019 Marian Procession as over 75 gathered at the Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, Cobargo. This year's procession was a time of prayer for young people to connect with the 'Yes' of Mary and was a joyful celebration of faith and fellowship.

The Parishes from the Coastal Deanery each lead a decade of the joyful mysteries accompanied by beautiful hymns led by the Pambula Parish Choir.

Juliette Pierre, Youth Minister from the Coastal Deanery, led the Litany of Our Lady. She said that she "found it uplifting to pray and meet with the

Parishioners of different communities from across the coast."

This led into Youth Minister Jarryd Atkinson sharing his testimony on his Marian Yes. Jarryd invoked the congregation to "say yes not just once, but every day" just as Mary did.

"By the grace and love of God, each day I am given hundreds of opportunities to make choices: to say no and follow the world or to say YES and follow the Father, meeting the needs of others and act selflessly."

It was this choice that Huw Warmenhoven, Archdiocesan Youth Coordinator, led picked up on as he led a reflection on the

Marian Yes at the Annunciation. He asked those gathered "what is your Annunciation moment? God is calling you to encounter Him, to follow Him and to create with him."

"If you say Yes, like Mary, and say 'I am the servant of the Lord' you open your life to a new identity, a new mission, and a new love that God wants to give you."

He finished by saying that "to live your life in the aspirations of the Annunciation, you must be open to a life of JOY. To do this, it means placing Jesus Over You and making your priorities in life Jesus, Others then You."

# Catholic Education welcomes re-appoints Dan Tehan

THE National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC) today welcomed the reappointment of the Hon Dan Tehan as Education Minister, saying it provides stability and enables better progress on important issues.

NCEC Executive Director Jacinta Collins said Mr Tehan's reappointment gives him the opportunity to finalise the new school funding arrangements he announced in September last year.

"Catholic Education is pleased Mr Tehan is able to continue in this role," Ms Collins said. "His

understanding of the portfolio and his constructive approach bodes well for the future.

"A full parliamentary term will enable him to work with non-government school sectors to bed down many aspects of the fairer funding arrangements that are due to commence in 2020.

"We look forward to working with a Minister who understands the complex nature of funding issues and their impact on Australian families.

"Another priority will be meeting the Prime Minister's commitment to ensure faith-based schools maintain their freedom



Dan Tehan

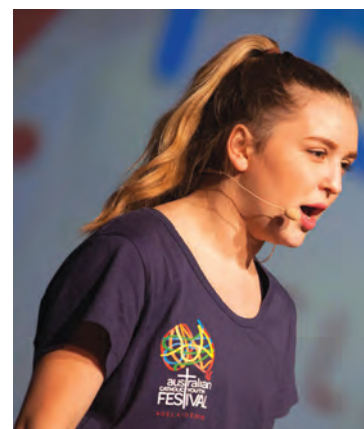
to employ staff who will support their values and teachings."

Ms Collins said the delivery of education in Australia is a partnership between governments and the three school sectors – public, Catholic and independent.

"Australia is richer for having a schools network that allows parents to affordably access the education that best meets the needs of their child."

Source: National Catholic Education Commission

# Local Youth Leader one of two Aussie reps for Rome Forum



Holly Roberts



Huw Warmenhoven

ARCHDIOCESE of Canberra and Goulburn Youth Leader, Huw Warmenhoven, is one of two Australians chosen to attend the International Youth Forum in Rome next month.

Huw (25) will join Holly Roberts (22) from the Archdiocese of Adelaide and an international delegation to identify concrete ways to implement Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation, *Christus Vivit*.

Huw and Holly are both excited about the opportunity, having recently been told of their selection to represent Australia's Catholic youth by the Bishops Commission for Evangelisation, Laity and Ministry.

Mr Warmenhoven said he feels "blessed and privileged" to be representing both his archdiocese and the Church in Australia at the International Youth Forum.

"At the heart of *Christus Vivit* is a call to return to the basics of our faith: that God loves us, Christ saves us, that he is alive and wants us to be alive," he said.

"It is this message that we are created out of love, for love, that we are called to share to young people of Australia and beyond."

Ms Roberts, who is a diocesan youth ministry support officer for Adelaide's Catholic Office for Youth and Young Adults, said: "I am so grateful to be given the opportunity to represent the young people of Australia at this event and I hope that my participation can be a catalyst for *Christus Vivit* to come alive in my own community and Australia as a whole.

"Pope Francis' words in *Christus Vivit* are a radical call of action to 'set aside narrow preconceptions' [65] and for us to be on a journey with each other."

Ms Roberts said she draws inspiration from St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, "whose faith was strong despite the extreme challenges she faced, and whose life was dedicated to young people of all walks of life".

"Her quote of 'never see a need without doing something about it' is embodied in the outcomes of the Synod, and I can't wait to see how the Church is renewed by the voices of the young," she said.

Also joining the pair will be Parramatta's Sebastian Duhau, who attended the Synod representing young Australian Catholics, and Malcolm Hart, director of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference's Office for Youth and a consultor to the Holy See's Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life.

The post-synodal exhortation, *Christus Vivit* (*Christ is Alive*), was written to young people and the entire world after the Synod of Bishops on Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment, held in October last year.

The International Youth Forum from June 19 to 22 is part of the implementation phase of the recent Synod of Bishops.

Cardinal Kevin Farrell, prefect of the Dicastery for the Laity, the Family and Life, said: "Our dicastery wishes to carry forward and give form to the wide-ranging process of pastoral conversion contained in the theme of Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment, a topic that was relaunched very recently by the Holy Father at World Youth Day Panama.

"The specific objective of this post-Synod meeting will be the application from the Synod proposals seen from a youth pastoral ministry perspective."



NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

Paul O’Callaghan steps down as Caritas CEO



Paul O’Callaghan, the chief executive officer of Caritas Australia, the Church’s international aid and development agency, has tendered his resignation. It comes shortly after the successful conclusion of Project Compassion, Caritas Australia’s major annual fundraising and community education project.

Bishop Christopher Saunders, chair of the National Council of Caritas Australia, in accepting Mr O’Callaghan’s resignation after five-and-a-half years in the position, thanked him warmly for his dedicated service and for his earlier contribution to the Church in other roles.

Catholic Religious Australia signs National Position Statement against Forest Bioenergy

Catholic Religious Australia has joined 80 national and state wide organisations, five political parties and many independent election candidates in signing a National Position Statement against Forest Bioenergy.

In the last decade thousands of scientists have written open letters to Australian, European Union and US policy makers stating that per unit of energy, wood emits more carbon to atmosphere than coal.

That has not been enough to halt the trade in wood pellets that has seen vast swathes of the world’s forests logged to supply the forest bioenergy trade which replaces coal with wood in power stations.

Catholic Health Australia congratulates returned Coalition Government



Catholic Health Australia congratulates Prime Minister Scott Morrison and all members of his Coalition Government on their Federal Election victory.

Chief Executive Suzanne Greenwood said that Catholic Health Australia looks forward to continuing to work with the Government for

improved health outcomes for all Australians.

“The Coalition has implemented important reforms in key areas such as private health, access to medicines, Medicare and new models of aged care delivery and we look forward to continuing to work constructively with them.

Sorry Day must be a catalyst: Jesuit Social Services



The re-elected Federal Government must make it a priority to act on the continued over-representation of First Nations people in the criminal justice system.

“This Sorry Day and beyond, we stand in solidarity with our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander brothers and sisters. We call for concerted effort and evidence-based policies to reduce the shocking over-representation of Indigenous people in our criminal justice systems and targeted investments to ensure all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people can thrive,” says Jesuit Social Services CEO Julie Edwards.

Jesuit Social Services is calling for the Federal Government to commit to the inclusion of justice targets in refreshed Closing the Gap framework, for all states and territories to raise the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 14 years and for the adoption of justice reinvestment models to make sure prison is only ever used as a last resort.

ACU Chancellor John Fahey reappointed for second term

Mr Fahey’s reappointment was confirmed at the University’s annual general meeting on Wednesday 1 May.

When he joined in 2014, Mr Fahey had a very public profile at state, national and international level through a career at the helm of political, business and sporting organisations. His former positions as NSW premier, federal finance minister, chair and member of numerous Australian organisations, and president of the World Anti-Doping Agency put him front and centre of policy formulation, industry growth, industrial relations reform, and an improved approach to drug testing around the world.

Long-time CSSA employee gets papal honour



Mary Jamieson (seated, second from right, next to Fr Frank Brennan on the right) wearing her Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice medal at a recent meeting of the CSSA board

A LONG-TIME Catholic Social Services Australia employee has been awarded a papal honour for her services to the Church and to the Pope.

Mary Clare Jamieson, CSSA’s director of corporate services, was bestowed the symbol of honour of the Exalted Cross – Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice (for services to the Church and to the Pope), which is instituted for persons distinguished for outstanding service and zeal.

Ms Jamieson, who has worked for CSSA for the past 15 years, said she was honoured and humbled to receive such a prestigious award.

“It’s been a great privilege working for CSSA and our members,” she said.

“The work of our members in serving thousands of people across Australia each and every day is truly inspirational.

“Over the years, I have witnessed immense change both at CSSA and across our member network, but our foundational purpose of supporting the needs of our communities, especially people who are vulnerable and marginalised, has remained constant.

“Our current research agenda to address the root causes of poverty and disadvantage in Australia will be important in shaping social and economic policy into the future. It is a really exciting time for CSSA and our members.”

CSSA chief executive officer

Fr Frank Brennan SJ congratulated Ms Jamieson on her award and said: “When I came to Catholic Social Services Australia (CSSA) as CEO in February 2017, I quickly discovered that Mary Jamieson has been the heart and soul of the network for many years.

“All our 52 members the length and breadth of the country hold Mary in the highest esteem.

“She has been the collective memory and conscience of the national secretariat, having worked here for 15 years. She has given selfless service to the Church and to the poor and marginalised whom we are privileged to serve at CSSA.”

Ursula Stephens to lead Catholic Social Services Australia

CATHOLIC Social Services Australia Chair Dr Maria Harries says she is delighted to announce that Dr Ursula Stephens will take up the role as CSSA’s new Chief Executive Officer, effective from July 1.

“The CSSA Board was fortunate to receive a number of high-calibre applications for this significant appointment, which is a testament to the work that Catholic social services providers carry out each day across the country,” Dr Harries said.

“The appointment of Dr Stephens promises to enable CSSA to continue to implement its strategic vision of a fairer, more inclusive Australia.”

Dr Harries said Dr Stephens’ extensive experience and strong commitment to community service and social justice makes



Dr Ursula Stephens

her a most suitable successor to follow Fr Frank Brennan SJ, who concludes his time as CEO next month.

The social services ministry of the Catholic Church is extensive, with CSSA’s national network representing providers who have worked in local communities for over 60 years.

Catholic social service providers operate in more than 650

locations, providing direct support to hundreds of thousands of people in need each year on behalf of the Catholic Church.

Dr Stephens paid tribute to those service providers, who reach “the marginalised and most vulnerable in our society”.

“I look forward to taking on the role of CEO of CSSA from Fr Frank Brennan and supporting the work and commitment of the CSSA members to improve the lives of so many Australians,” she said.

“CSSA’s advocacy and research work is critically important at a time when governments seek to silence dissent. I intend to be a strong voice for those least able to advocate for themselves because of their life circumstances, and the services that support them.”



# New head of Vatican's inter-religious dialogue



A view of St Peter's Basilica / and Vatican City flag from the roof of a nearby building on June 5, 2015. Credit Bohumil Petrik. Insert: Bishop Miguel Ángel Ayuso Guixot, the new President of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue CNA

**VATICAN CITY:** Pope Francis appointed Spanish Bishop Miguel Ayuso Guixot Saturday as president of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue.

Guixot succeeds Cardinal Jean Louis Tauran, who led the Vatican dicastery for over ten years until his death in July 2018.

As a priest in the Comboni Missionary of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Guixot served as a missionary in Egypt and Sudan. He has degrees in Arabic and Islamic studies, in addition to a doctorate

in dogmatic theology from the University of Granada.

Guixot, 66, served as the dean of the Pontifical Institute of Arabic and Islamic Studies in Rome until Pope Benedict XVI appointed him as secretary of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue in 2012.

In 2016 Pope Francis consecrated Guixot as a bishop, assigning him the titular see of Luperciana. Originally from Seville, Guixot, speaks Arabic, English, French, and Italian, in addition to Spanish.

Interreligious dialogue has been a focus of Pope Francis' pastoral visits in 2019. His trips to the United Arab Emirates, Morocco, and Bulgaria all included interreligious meetings.

In Abu Dhabi, Pope Francis signed a joint-statement on human fraternity with the Grand Imam of al-Azhar, Ahmed el-Tayeb, which he called "a new page in the history of dialogue between Christianity and Islam."

*Source: Catholic News Agency*

## New laws further sign that abuse prevention is Church priority

THE Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has welcomed Pope Francis' new document on the investigation and reporting of abuse within Church settings, which enshrines some measures long in place in Australia but also makes new provisions that will give greater impetus to the Church's safeguarding efforts in this country.

Conference president Archbishop Mark Coleridge, who represented the Australian bishops at the meeting of leaders of episcopal conferences at the Vatican in February, said the publication of *Vos Estis Lux Mundi* (You are the Light of the World) is the latest concrete outcome following that unprecedented gathering.

"The release of this document less than three months after the meeting shows that,

for Pope Francis, the updating of universal Church law on the investigation and reporting of abuse against children and other vulnerable people is a real priority," Archbishop Coleridge said.

"It's a priority the Australian bishops share. Now all bishops conferences and religious congregations around the world will have to meet more rigorous standards. That's a good thing."

During the Conference's biannual meeting this week, the bishops discussed the Church's ongoing response to the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, including reforms related to those Pope Francis has introduced regarding accountability for Church leaders.

"While Catholic leaders in Australia have been responding

to the sexual abuse for three decades, we're continually reviewing our policies and procedures to make Catholic settings the safest possible place for children and other vulnerable people. This new document from the Pope will be a great help in that," Archbishop Coleridge said.

Archbishop Coleridge said the Church in Australia will continue to implement protocols that go beyond the requirements of the *motu proprio*.

"For example, reporting allegations to the police and other government authorities has been part of our Church practice for more than two decades. We remain committed to having the most effective practices possible," he said.

*Source: Australian Catholic Bishops Conference*

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### STEM high school hero Kendrick Castillo laid to rest



DENVER, COLORADO: About 40 Knights of Columbus dressed in full regalia flanked the entrance of the church as friends and family of Kendrick Castillo filed in to commend him to God at his funeral.

Kendrick was the lone casualty in the STEM high school shooting on May 7 in Highlands Ranch, Colorado. He died, witnesses say, after he jumped up in the line of fire and ran to stop one of the shooters with a couple other students.

His funeral was attended by relatives and friends that filled the large Catholic church, and included an honor guard of 80 Knights of Columbus, about half of whom dressed in the old feather-capped regalia, and half in the new uniform with a beret.

### Scientists join call for moratorium on embryonic gene editing



MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN: A group of 62 doctors, scientists, and bioethicists have issued an open letter urging a global moratorium on experiments that alter human genes that can be passed on to subsequent generations, a practice known as "germline editing."

"Although we recognize the great scientific advancement represented by gene editing technologies and their potential value for an improved understanding and possible treatment of human disease, we strongly believe the editing of human embryos that results in births carries serious problems for which there are no scientific, ethical, or societal consensus," the letter from the American Society of Gene and Cell Therapy reads.

In *Dignitas personae*, its 2008 instruction on certain bioethical questions, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith said that while somatic cell gene therapy is in principle morally licit, "because the

risks connected to [germline cell therapy] are considerable and as yet not fully controllable, in the present state of research, it is not morally permissible to act in a way that may cause possible harm to the resulting progeny."

### Gunmen kill six during Mass in Burkina Faso



OUAGADOUGOU, BURKINA FASO: A group of gunmen burned down a Catholic Church during a Sunday Mass and killed at least six people, including a priest, in the west African nation of Burkina Faso in May.

The attackers reportedly burst into the church, located in the northern town of Dablo, and started shooting at the beginning of Mass, around 9 am local time.

A security source said there were "some twenty to thirty armed men" involved in the attack. The gunmen are as yet unidentified.

The people of Burkina Faso have suffered an increasing number of terrorist attacks in recent years from Islamic jihadist groups including al-Qaeda affiliates. Authorities said five teachers were shot to death in a separate attack on Friday.

### In South Sudan, the 'Blue Sisters' bring hope to abused women

JUBA, SOUTH SUDAN: They were founded three decades ago in southern Sudan, and named the Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary. But in a region dramatically affected by the South Sudanese civil war, they are usually known by the bright color of their habits. To most who know them, they are the "Blue Sisters."

In the South Sudanese Diocese of Tombura Yambio, Bishop Edward Hiiboro Kussala has tasked them with providing permanent assistance to the many women, including young girls and teenagers, who have been raped, abused or abandoned amid the violent conflicts that have plagued the region for years.

"The sisters are an incredible blessing," Bishop Hiiboro Kussala told CNA. "They were founded by my predecessor, Bishop Joseph Abangite Gasi upon the request of the Sudanese bishops, who realized that a community of African sisters was sorely needed."



## Movie Review:

# End of a MARVEL-ous era

By Verity Dunn

Rating: M

THE MOST anticipated super hero movie of the decade is in cinemas and it's breaking box office records left and right. Thousands have flocked to see Avengers: Endgame, the thrilling conclusion to the 22 film story in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) where heroes have one final chance to save the universe.

Released on the same weekend as the epic 'Battle of Winterfell' Game of Thrones episode, science fiction and fantasy fans world-wide enjoyed a weekend of extreme entertainment and edge-of-your-seat suspense!

The long awaited finale delves into love, loss, friendship and loyalty in over three hours of epic entertainment.

Years after genocidal alien tyrant Thanos used the infinity stones to 'disintegrate' (read blow into dust and disappear) half of life in the universe, earth is struggling to repair and the rag tag band of remaining Avengers seize an opportunity to reverse the damage. How, is a more complex and spoiler-filled explanation.

Suffice to say the journey includes time travel, more human and intergalactic heroes than ever before (including the fabulous Captain Marvel – see previous movie review here), intense battles (of wit, strength and will) coupled with plot twists, sacrifice and humour. The story touches all the significant characters and reengages many of their pasts, testing each of them in different ways.

A particularly poignant moment (SPOILER ALERT) is when Captain America (a mere human mortal) is able to lift and use Thor's hammer – only the worthy can, and so far only Thor has – to fight Thanos and protect others. It highlights the character evolution we see in each of the Avengers, most of whom look worse for wear having failed in the previous battle with Thanos and having lost most of their friends and families.

As decisions are made and paths trodden the emotionally impactful ending is fitting for the heroes with whom we have grown, bled and picked ourselves up...now one last time.

This movie was powerfully entertaining from minute 1 to minute 301. I tested my reaction with avid and new Marvel fans and the responses were consistent – it was exciting!

The stories of love and



sacrifice were woven through laugh-out-loud moments of both predictable and surprising comedy - fair warning tears-will be shed.

One reason I enjoy this genre of movie is the visuals that so comprehensively transport you to this detailed alternative reality. The spectacular special effects in Endgame make you believe you're fighting alongside Iron Man, in the group of heroic female warriors on a mission or leaping through the air with Spiderman. The sheer scale of the scenes, number of extras and detail of graphics was mind blowing.

In preparation for the release new and old fans have been watching (or re-watching) the previous 21 MCU movies to understand the character development and histories that have led to this 'endgame'.

Inconsistency frustrates me but I'm a sucker for a good story linkage and I particularly enjoyed the tributes paid to some of the previous MCU films cementing scenes and events as important to the final story. As Peter, Debruge from Variety puts it 'If "Infinity War" was billed as a must-see event for all moviegoers, whether or not they attended a single Marvel movie prior, then "Endgame" is the ultimate fan-service follow up'.

The Rotten Tomatoes (collation of film critic opinions) rating of 95% – a near unheard of score – speaks for itself. The third most expensive film ever made, Marvel Studios has more than made back their investment so far as Endgame has grossed over \$2.3 billion globally and is the second highest grossing film of all time.

Does the name mean no more Avengers films, you ask? It looks that way, but never fear there a many MUC super hero movies in production to fill in the historic blanks such as my personal favourites: the second Black Panther (and other potential spin offs), Guardians of the Galaxy Vol 3 and Black Widow (a prequel, development story). Check out a complete list here: <http://time.com/5167535/upcoming-marvel-movies/>

*A bit about Verity... As you may be able to tell, she's an avid sci-fi/fantasy fan who, when not travelling to random places or exercising, fills her weekends watching and reading everything from political biographies to trashy space operas. She has degrees in communications and other random topics and is excited to be able to put some of that theory to use when writing a review – albeit with some additional humour, personal opinion and a sprinkle of feminist bent!*

## Book Review:

# Grateful American: A Journey from Self to Service

By Gary Sinise (with Marcus Brotherton) Nelson, 2019 Amazon \$27.78.

by Don Smith

HE CLEARS up one thing on the very first page.

It's pronounced Sin-eece. Second syllable rhymes with niece:

Gary Sinise, actor and philanthropist.

He's played detective Mac Taylor in the long running series CSI: NY and earlier, astronaut Ken Mattingly in Apollo 13, with a string of other notable credits to his name.

But he's most remembered for his role as Lieutenant Dan in the Oscar champion, Forrest Gump.

As he chronicles in his recently released and much acclaimed autobiography, the film was the turning point in his life on-screen and off.

His performance as Forrest Gump's platoon leader during the Vietnam War gained him his first Academy Award nomination and his acting career soared in its wake.

Increasing demands to speak at gatherings of military veterans resulted, and one thing led to another – and especially in the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks - to Sinise wanting to do something bigger than himself to support his country's defenders.

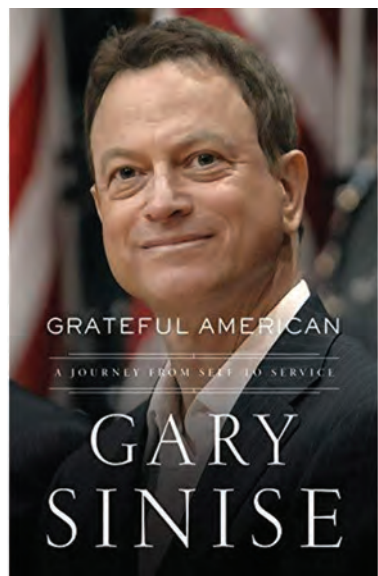
This culminated in the Gary Sinise Foundation, which the actor set up to honour and support America's military veterans and first responders.

Alongside this journey of commitment was a parallel journey of faith for Sinise.

He says he wasn't religious at all in his early years and neither was his wife.

However, when his wife converted to Catholicism following a struggle with alcoholism a trail of dots was laid that led to Sinise converting ten years later.

Not that Sneaky Sinise told his family! It was only when they were driving to a family dinner on Christmas Eve 2010 that he suddenly pulled into the car park



of his wife's church and before a waiting priest and wondering family, was confirmed into the rites of the faith in a small and quiet ceremony. Oh, didn't I tell you...?

His wife's alcoholism, he says, was an earthquake that hit his family. In hindsight, however, God had used this 'difficult season' to deepen and strengthen him to be a better husband and father to bring his family 'joyfully together to faith'.

Other compelling passages in the book deal with Sinise's difficult early years, of drugs, rejection and career setbacks (and the stories especially from the set of Forrest Gump shouldn't be missed).

The book is nicely balanced in bringing these threads together seamlessly and they glow with Sinise's lack of ego and his compassion and humanity for wounded and disabled veterans.

Grateful American is a must read, not least for people of faith and our own veterans. It's a remarkable story of a remarkable man who exemplifies the meaning of service to others beyond self.

Amen to you, Gary. Thank you.



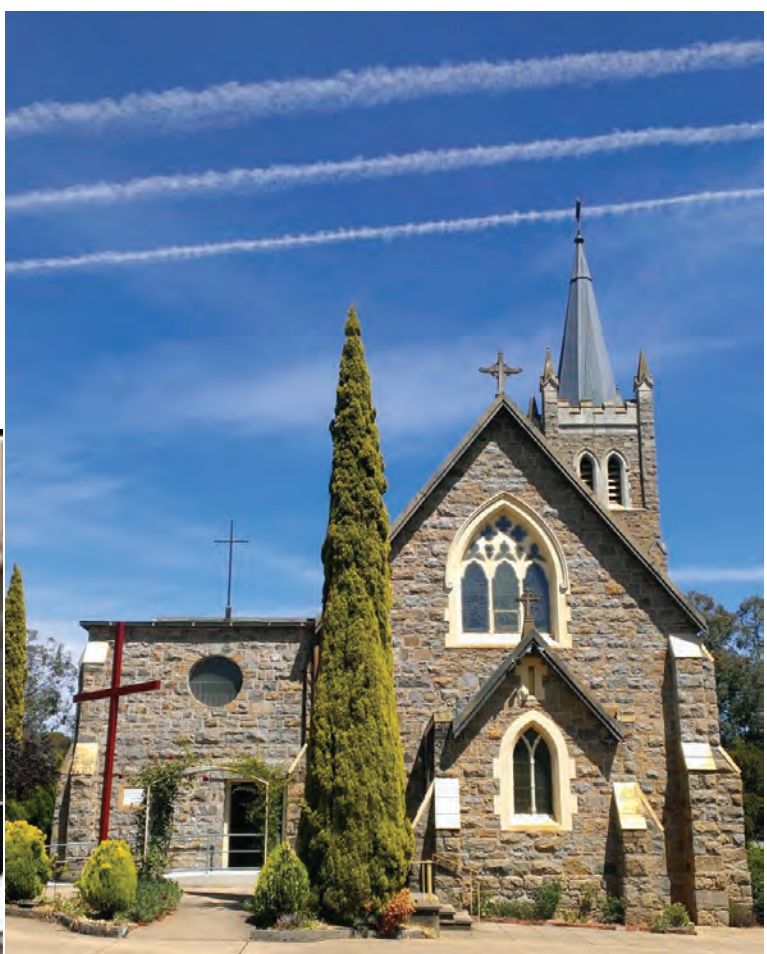




Vicar of Education Monsignor John Woods at the official opening and blessing of new rooms at Good Shepherd Primary, Amaroo



Lumen Christi's Grandparents and Friends Day. Photo Danielle Lynn



Catholic Voice Ambassador Brian Hislop sent us this photo of St Mary's. He reckons the jet streams at the top represent the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit



Making the most of the Mother's Day celebrations at Lumen Christi, Pambula were Abby, Sheree, Bianca and Marris. Photo Danielle Lynn



Recycling and sustainability is for the birds... not exactly for these kids at St Mary's Moruya. Photo Chris Gordon



Lumen Christi's Grandparents and Friends Day. Photo Danielle Lynn



Youth Ministry leader Huw Warmenhoven grabbed a selfie of the congregation at the Marian Procession at Cobargo. Photo Huw Warmenhoven



Lumen Christi's Grandparents and Friends Day. Photo Danielle Lynn



Fr Richard Thompson PP supported by Fr Adrian Chan and Deacon Matt Ransom celebrate the Rite of Confirmation for Claudia Rodriguez at the recent Easter Vigil in Mary Help of Christians Parish, South Woden



# Classifieds

## ACCOMODATION

**KAMBAH ACT** - Ground floor 2 bedrooms in fully self-contained unit, suit 1 or 2 female students/professionals. Parking available, close to bus stop. Owner lives above, references required. Contact Mary 0422054818.

**McKELLAR, ACT:** In a caring Catholic home. Handy to Unis, bus and shops. Suit young male. Three meals, snacks, laundry. \$280 pw plus share utilities cost. Referees required. Phone: 0430 667 447.

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**GARDEN:** Bags of garden sheep manure and bags of cow manure, \$7 per bag. Minimum order is five bags. Free delivery around Canberra area. Phone Mark on 0427 053 988.

**KENWOOD:** Chef food mixer \$100, microwaves from \$40. Six month warranty. Free quote for repairs. Will trade-in or purchase old items. Microwave glass trays from \$10. Phone John on (02) 6166 5512 or 0403 050 960.

## HOLIDAYS

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**TUROSS HEADS:** Ella May Holiday Flats. Renovated two bedrooms, walk to the beach. Fully equipped, available all year including weekends. Off-season rates ranging from \$150 p/n to \$350 p/n. Contact Deidre on 0414 597 619. Visit [www.ellamay.com.au](http://www.ellamay.com.au).

## SERVICES

**BM SCRAP METAL:** Scrap metal wanted - unwanted cars, trucks, vans, bikes, bus etc. We pay cash \$\$\$\$. Every sale, we donate a percentage to our parish. So clean up and support our local parish. Call Matt Martin 0422 050 553 or Bill Martin 0412 210 245.

**ELECTRICIAN/SOLAR INSTALLER:** John Thomsen Electrical - All Electrical work from new houses to renovations, switchboard upgrades, LED lighting, Fire alarms, Phone and data, Grid connected Solar systems both domestic and commercial, Grid connected Solar systems with batteries, Evo Inverter testing, Solar gates, Solar street lighting. Call 0428 584 086 or email [jtomo71@hotmail.com](mailto:jtomo71@hotmail.com).

Deadline: 15th of the month.  
Email: [catholic.voice@cg.org.au](mailto:catholic.voice@cg.org.au)  
[www.catholicvoice.org.au/advertising/](http://www.catholicvoice.org.au/advertising/)

**GETIN2IT PLUMBING:** New homes, fix taps, toilet repairs, blocked drains. Min call out fee \$80.00 – discount for pensioners. Please call us for your free quote as well as some water saving tips. Call Matt – 0422 050 553.

**HANDYMAN and PAINTING CONTRACTOR:** Small jobs specialist. Services range from minor carpentry, plastering, tiling, fence repairs, painting, roofing, plumbing and much more. All in Canberra area. Free quotes. 10% discount for pensioners. No job too big or too small. Phone Luis Flores on 0404 605 687 or (02) 6140 1317.

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## Double Profession for Secular Franciscan Order at Farrer

THE Holy Spirit Secular Franciscan Order of Canberra was delighted to receive two new members into their fraternity this month.

Genevieve Colbert and Michelle McGaurr were professed into the lay Order on May 17 at St Augustine’s Church, Farrer.

As professed members they have promised to live their lives by following Jesus in the spirit of St Francis of Assisi, who himself is said to have been the most Christ-like person to have ever lived, after Christ himself.

After having journeyed with the members of the Order for the past three years Ms McGaurr said, “what drew me to St Francis and the Franciscan way was St Francis’ deep connection to the natural world around him, his universal love for all of creation, the way he embraced simplicity and the spirit in which he lived he gospel life.”

Ms Colbert also spoke about her love and affection for the Franciscan spirituality as well as her close family connection to the order, “I am a ‘third generation Franciscan’, my grandfather was a Secular Franciscan, and my aunty was a Franciscan nun. The Franciscan spirit is in my blood.”

St Francis himself saw the gospel as not just a book to be read, but a life to be lived.

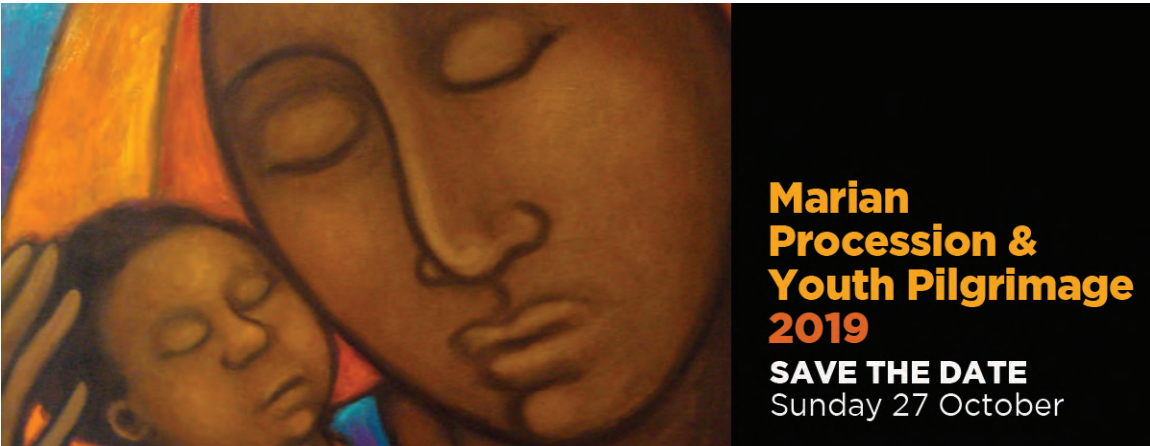
“As Franciscans living in the secular world we ‘put on’ Christ and live the gospel message within our everyday lives, in our family homes, workplace and all of secular society,” said the newly professed members.

Often referred to as the ‘Third Order’ or ‘Tertiaries’, the Secular Franciscan Order allows everyday Catholics to join a canonically established lay Order of the Church and become full members of the Franciscan family while remaining lay.

It is an order for married people, single, those with careers, the retired, the young and old – from 18 years and onwards.

St Francis established the third order himself almost 800 years ago for the laity to follow in his footsteps of peace, humility, simplicity, charity, joy, and a love for all of God’s creation. Today there are almost half a million members world-wide and it is actually the largest order (lay or religious) in the Catholic Church. The fraternity in Canberra meet on the third Friday of each month at St Augustine’s Church, Farrer at 7:45pm.

New comers are most welcome. Please contact Tony on 0428 631 916, email: [sfo@fastmail.fm](mailto:sfo@fastmail.fm) Website: [www.ofsaustralia.org.au](http://www.ofsaustralia.org.au)



# Amazing Pat delivers catechesis rain hail or shine

MY NAME is Pat Spannagle. I am a retired Catholic Principal and REC. I had been teaching in Catholic schools for 39 years. When I retired I thought that was the end of my teaching. However, in my parish there was a need for catechists. I became a catechist because the need was great. There are still only 2 Catholic catechists in Tumut. And I felt guilty (after the Sunday gospel of the talents), because I was not using my talents. I also believe that it is vitally important for children to receive a spiritual and religious dimension as part of their education for their optimum development. I am currently reading as much as I can, the policies of the major parties, as we head into the next 3 years of government. I am also reading ‘Between the



World and Me’ by Ta Nehisi Coates. There are always ‘amazing moments’ with children. One of my favourites was talking about Prayer to my Year 4 students. One child asked, “why do we join

our hands when we pray”. Silence for a bit then another child answered, “Because we want our prayers to go up to God.” I still remember this when I join my hands to pray. All catechists are amazing. They come every week rain, hail or shine to tell children of the love of God and the stories of Jesus which inspire. Their rewards are never tangible. They can go for years and years and not ever know if any of what they have taught has been remembered. They believe that some day, some where, some child, now grown to adulthood will remember some word or prayer that may help them in a difficult time. And also, that there is a loving God who will always love them no matter what. The children themselves keep me going. They are our future. They have

a positive view of the world and their place in it. It is usual to find some gift or talent to build them up when they need extra confidence. There also seems to be a willingness and an understanding that to care for their families and friends is important. There is a real interest and curiosity about learning about Jesus. I realise I am fortunate to have a class group such as these Year 3 and Year 4 students. I am truly blessed. They give me far more than I can ever give them, as I am constantly learning from them. Jesus and I are friends but at times I feel distanced from Him. I see Jesus in the good people around me. I feel close to God when I experience the beauty of nature.



# Coming Events

**JUNE 1:** Deeper: catechist's Retreat – Tumut. 10am to 1pm. A morning gathering for our amazing Tumut 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.

**JUNE 2:** Marriage and Family Sunday Mass & Marriage as a Mission. Renewal of Marriage Vows (11am), Lunch and Marriage Expo (12pm - \$10) and Marriage as Mission Forum (1pm-3pm). St Christopher's Cathedral and Pastoral Centre. Phone 0429 192 869.

**JUNE 9:** Amicus Friendship Group. Yarralumla Nursery Oaks Brasserie. Meet at 12 noon for lunch at table booked in the name of Amicus. RSVP Contact Rosemary – 0428 599342.

**JUNE 23:** Amicus Friendship Group. Café Woodworks, Bungendore. Meet at 12 noon for lunch. Table booked in the name of Amicus followed by a walk around town. RSVP – Contact Patricia, 0412 351 548.

**JUNE 26:** Concerned Catholics Public Forum: Frank Brennan SJ AO will address the topic: "Our Church or Our Museum? – contributing to a confident, humble, listening, and questioning Church". Venue: Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, Barton. 0417 603 697.

**JUNE 29:** Call to Holiness Spirituality Day. Cursillo Movement of Canberra-Goulburn. Pope Francis 2018 apostolic exhortation Gaudete et exsultate is a practical call to holiness that has real relevance for each of us in our Christian living. It will be the focus for a Call to Holiness Spirituality Day, Saturday June 29 at St Brigid's Parish Church Hall, 2 Bancroft Street Dickson.

**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.

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**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](http://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). Please RSVP to Fr Paul Nulley at [paul.nulley@cg.org.au](mailto:paul.nulley@cg.org.au)

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

**MARIAN MOVEMENT OF PRIESTS:** Meets to pray a

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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](mailto: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 Anne-marie (0421 492 554)

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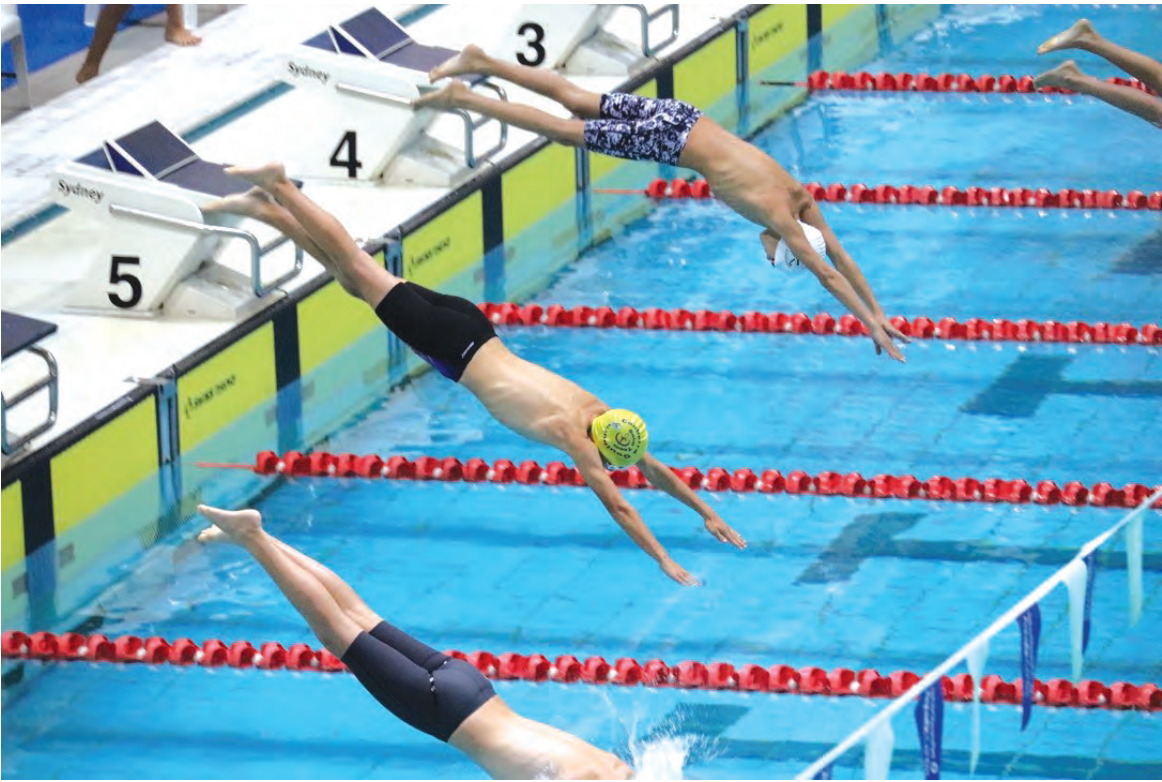
# Trinity College swimmers make a splash

ON FRIDAY April 5, Trinity Catholic College, Goulburn had 18 students represent the School, the Canberra/Goulburn Archdiocese and themselves in the CCC Swimming Carnival at the Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre.

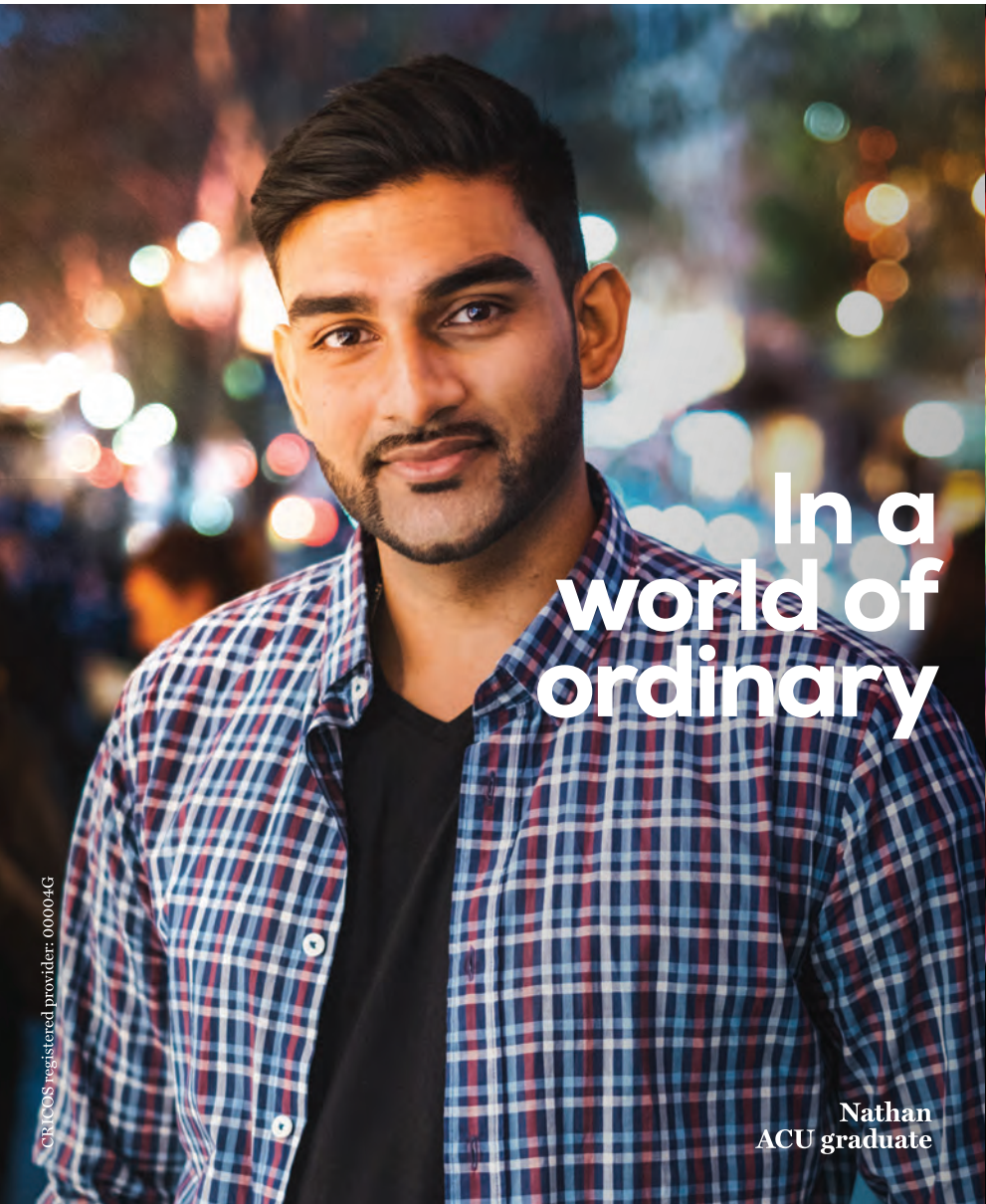
Congratulations to the following students; Brayden Crooks, Paige Dunbar, Annie Kent, Alanah Leahy, Jack McCarthy, Daniel Nicholls, Niamh O'Rourke, Hannah Phelps, Ellie Pickford, Oliver Robertson, Jackson Schultz, Archer Shepherd, Duke Shepherd, Broc Toparis, Meg Toparis, Gabe Wakefield, Jake Waters and John Edwards.

A few special mentions also for the Carnival: Jackson Schultz placed within top 10 in most of his events; Archer Shepherd placed 7th in 16yrs 50m Breaststroke, all of the students beat their C/G carnival time and the relays savings 4-8 seconds of their previous time.

Well done to all. And a special thank you to Meg Toparis for being our Trinity Sports Photographer on the day!



Swimmers from Trinity Catholic College Goulburn represented the school and the Archdiocese at the CCC Swimming Carnival at the Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre.



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