

CATHOLIC VOICE

ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN
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Rome welcomes Australian Bishops and Youth



New CEO of
Catholic Social
Services: Page 7

Senator stands
for traditional
values: Page 8

Bumper year for
Vinnies sleepout:
Page 10

Latest news and a
gallery of pictures
from Rome: Page 17



Archbishop's Message
Archbishop Christopher Prowse

Evangelise always - if necessary use words

BY the time you read this message the bishops of Australia would be soon returning to Australia after our Ad Limina Apostolorum visit to Rome. I wrote to you about this in the last edition of Catholic Voice (June 2019).

No doubt one of the predominate encouragements we would have received is to evangelise the Good News of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God in Australia no matter what challenging socio-cultural situation is presented to us all.

Especially since the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965), the Catholic Church has entered a golden age of teaching on evangelisation. Incredibly, there are still many, however, who are suspicious of even this term. It seems to connote for them some form of imposing the Catholic Faith on others (proselytism).

In fact, Catholic evangelisation is the exact opposite of this. It PROPOSES Jesus in season and out of season to the world but never IMPOSES.

Recent Popes teach that evangelisation proposes Christ “by attraction” more than words. In a sense, we “perfume” the world with the fragrance of Jesus. As St Paul proclaims, “To God we are the fragrance of Christ” (2 Cor 2/15). To St Francis of Assisi (1181-1226) is attributed the following helpful expression: “Preach Jesus and, if necessary, use words”.

In Rome itself you can observe this wordless evangelisation even by making a pilgrimage to the major basilicas as the Bishops of Australia have so recently done. Here architecture evangelises our eternal Christian mysteries.

For example, there is St Peter's Basilica built on top of a cemetery on Vatican Hill housing the tomb of St Peter. It is also built on the top of a major entertainment arena of the

Roman Empire (the Circus of Nero) where brutal games were played and Christians executed (including St Peter). The only object still visible from these times till now is the giant Egyptian obelisk in the centre of St Peter's Square. Like an “eye” silently observing thousands of years of human activity (built around 2,500 BC), it is placed on a plinth upon which is written that Christ overcomes all and reigns forever! A Cross is placed on its top. What an everlasting message of salvation! An obelisk that evangelises on such an historic site for Christians!

Also, so many of the Churches of Rome are built upon marble taken from the ancient ruins of the Roman Empire. These basilicas too are often actually built upon the ruins of temples to pagan gods. Often pagan temples were not to be destroyed but converted to Christian use (eg. The Pantheon over the Temple of all gods, and Santa Maria Sopra Minerva over the Temple to the Egyptian goddess, Isis).

These are wordless proclamations, not that Christianity has imposed herself and conquered, but that Jesus fulfils all that has gone before Him. It is a timeless message of evangelisation that was consistently showcased in the first millennium of Christianity. With the Spanish colonial evangelisations of the second millennium, this approach was, sadly, often eclipsed.

The challenge for Christians always is not to decide whether or not we ought to evangelise. To evangelise by sharing with everyone our saving encounters with Jesus our Lord and Saviour is our greatest joy and duty.

The challenge is to find the most “fragrant” method of evangelisation for our time and place in Australia during our Plenary Council period and beyond.

Ultimately, it becomes a matter of

communal discernment for us all to consider at this time.

In his recent Apostolic Exhortation (March 2019) to young people, Christus Vivit (Christ Lives), Pope Francis offers timely advice on communal discernment (n.291-298). It is directed to young people considering their vocational calling. However, the three kinds of sensitivities that the Jesuit Pope offers to individuals can help us all discern God's will in a communal manner. It is based, states the Holy Father, on our ability to listen.

Pope Francis writes of the first sensitivity directed to the individual. There must be a willingness to listen. This requires time and giving “space” to whatever is shared. The biblical example of Jesus with the disciples on the way to Emmaus comes to mind (Luke 24/13-35).

The second sensitivity is marked by discernment. “It tries to grasp where grace or temptation is present” (n.293). It tries to discern what the Holy Spirit is saying as distinct from “the traps laid by the evil spirit... it takes courage, warmth and tact.”

The third sensitivity concerns “to perceive what is driving” us (n.294). It is a matter of discerning ultimate intentions. It is deeper than mere thoughts or feelings. It is the challenge to discern “what is most pleasing to the Lord”.

All of this concerns accompanying each other on the journey of faith – the real meaning, surely, of what our Plenary Council is all about.

The Bishops of Australia spent some generous days together in retreat considering what communal discernment is all about in our Catholic/Christian context. Let us all consider this vital topic together as we discern “what is pleasing to the Lord” for the future evangelisation of Australia.

IN THIS Edition



Clergy
Retirements and
Appointments

4



Senator stands
for traditional
values

8



Shane Dwyer:
Should we start
again?

9



Homelessness
- One night is
tough enough

10



Rome welcomes
Australian
Bishops and
Youth

17



Justice Matters:
The Justice of
Jesus and the
State

18

Archbishop's Diary July 2019

THURSDAY, 11- SUNDAY, 14 ACU/
La Salle Academy Intern Formation
Program, London

MONDAY, 15 WEDNESDAY, 17 ACU/
La Salle Academy Intern Formation
Program, Rome

SATURDAY, 20 10.00am Catholic
Women's Gathering, Daramalan Col-
lege, Dickson
6.00pm Mass, St Vincent de Paul, Com-
missioning Mass - National President, St
Peter Chanel, Yarralumla

SUNDAY, 21 11.00am Mass, St
Christopher's Cathedral
5.00pm Evensong of Mary Magdalene,
St Paul's Anglican Church, Manuka

TUESDAY, 23 7.30am Mass, St
Christopher's Cathedral

WEDNESDAY, 24 12.15pm Mass, St
Christopher's Cathedral

THURSDAY, 25 Bishops NSW/ACT
meeting, Sydney

FRIDAY, 26 10.00 am NAIDOC Mass,

(National Aboriginal Islander Day
Observance Celebration),
St Christopher's Cathedral

SUNDAY, 28 10.00 Confirmation Mass,
Sacred Heart Parish, Temora

WEDNESDAY, 31 7.30am Mass, St
Christopher's Cathedral
12.30pm Inter-Faith Leaders
Luncheon, Archbishop's House
5.30pm Mass, Jesuit Fathers
leaving Canberra, St Christopher's
Cathedral



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Cover picture: Archbishop Prowse and Huw Warmenhoven in
Rome. Picture Supplied

Farewelling Fr Frank

BY FELICITY DE FOMBELLE

HE may be one of Australia's 'Living Treasures', but in some parts of the country, Fr Frank Brennan is a complete unknown.

And that has been a welcome and humbling experience for the Jesuit priest.

"It's all very well to be a 'Living National Treasure'," Fr Frank told an audience recently. "But it brings you back to earth when you turn up at country centres and they say, 'Who are you? What do you do?' That has been good for my humility."

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC) hosted a farewell for Fr Frank in early June, to acknowledge his two and a half years as CEO of Catholic Social Services Australia (CSSA). From next year, he will be Rector at Newman College at the University of Melbourne.

The high-profile scholar and commentator will be much missed across the Archdiocese, where he generously assisted in many parishes, particularly in Curtin and Yarralumla, and was actively involved in a number of groups, including the Jesuit Discussion Group and Concerned Catholics. Among the crowd of more than 50 people at the farewell was friend Andrew Phelan from St Thomas More Parish in Campbell.

"I used to be the Chief Executive and Principal Registrar of the High Court, and I knew Frank's Dad, Gerard, who was Chief Justice for many years," Andrew said. "He was a regular visitor after he retired too, giving talks at the Court, and we had a function last year for his 90th birthday."

ACBC General Secretary Fr Stephen Hackett MSC praised Fr Frank's leadership and service, which he said had transformed CSSA's focus and work.

Fr Stephen also noted that, with Fr Frank's departure, the



Marymead CEO Camilla Rowland, Fr Frank Brennan and Catholic Health Australia CEO Suzanne Greenwood. Photo Felicity de Fombelle.

three peak bodies of the Church – Catholic Social Services, the National Catholic Education Commission and Catholic Health Australia – will be led by women. Jacinta Collins is National Executive Director at the NCEC and her former Senate colleague Dr Ursula Stephens will replace Fr Frank. Catholic Health

wonderful things, but hopefully when you click your fingers he'll return," Mr vane-Tempest said. "When Frank joined us, we knew of his advocacy for disadvantaged people and the Indigenous community, but what we didn't know or expect was that Frank brings to the role significant managerial and leadership skills.

He has been innovative and agile in making that work and developing partnerships to deliver on projects."

Mr vane-Tempest lauded Fr Frank's advocacy and persuasion skills and shared a Martin Luther King quote that he said was apt for his friend: "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

Taking up the raptor theme, Fr Frank told the group that "one of the problems with a raptor is that he is not always at home."

"And for that reason I have to acknowledge that the staff have been absolutely phenomenal," he added.

"When I arrived I was not expecting that we would have to scale back as significantly as we did, but we now have the beginnings of better relationships with the ACBC and Catholic Health and other agencies. It

Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.
Martin Luther King.

Australia is headed by Suzanne Greenwood.

CSSA Board Member Paul vane-Tempest shared with the audience that, when Fr Frank's appointment was made, he told staff they should think of the in-demand Jesuit as "a trained raptor".

"He'll fly off and do lots of

"He has been of tremendous assistance to the Board in defining and clarifying our role and work, and that has been the overwhelming legacy and contribution Frank has made.

"What was also surprising to me was Frank's capacity to deal with the organisation's limited and significantly reduced income.

has been such a privilege to move around the country and do formation work about Catholic social teaching with our member organisations."

Fr Frank revealed his motivation for the role was to better understand the needs of poor and disadvantaged people.

"I had spoken to just about every principal in the country and done a lot in the health sector and parishes, but I felt with the welfare sector I hadn't made much of an impact," he said.

"Chris Sidoti (former Human Rights Commissioner) said to me, 'You deal with Aborigines and refugees and migrants but what about the poor and disadvantaged'.

"Mainstream welfare agencies do a tremendous job but those of us from the major churches provide a faith context which is so very important, and my hope is that ecumenical spirit can be strengthened."

Fr Frank's departure marks the end of the Jesuit Community in Canberra, after 51 years. A farewell Mass to acknowledge Fr Frank, and the Jesuits' contribution, will be held at **St Christopher's Cathedral at 5.30pm on Wednesday July 31.** Archbishop Christopher Prowse will celebrate the Mass, with the Jesuit Provincial Fr Brian McCoy SJ. Everyone is welcome, with refreshments to follow.



Fr Frank, Mary Jamison and Fr Stephen Hackett. Photo Felicity de Fombelle.



Jeremy Stuparich (ACBC), Mary Miles-Craig (CSSA) and Brenton Prosser (CSSA). Photo Felicity de Fombelle.

Retirements & Appointments

*Retirements and appointments across the Archdiocese
A number of retirements and appointments were announced for the Archdiocese in July.*



Fr Neville Drinkwater



Fr Dermid McDermott



Fr Lachlan Coll.

CATHEDRAL PARISH

Fr Trenton, who was the Assistant Priest of the Young Mission which includes the Parishes of Grenfell, Boorowa and Binalong, has commenced as the Administrator of the Cathedral Parish. He will be joined by Fr Norvin Dias from the Sydney Archdiocese, who will take on the role of Assistant Priest.

Fr Trenton Van Reesch... was ordained on August 28 2015 and was appointed Assistant Priest of the Temora Mission before taking on the role of Assistant Priest of the Young Mission.

CHARNWOOD PARISH

Fr Tom Thornton, who is

currently the Parish Priest of Young and Administrator of Grenfell, Boorowa and Binalong, will be replacing Fr Neville Drinkwater as Parish Priest at Charnwood from September 28. Fr Andrew Lotton will fill in that role from July 5 until September 27.

Fr Neville Drinkwater will celebrate his final Mass as Parish priest of St Thomas Aquinas Parish in Charnwood, ACT on Thursday July 4. It is the weekly Mass celebrated with the staff and children from the parish primary school. Fr Neville was ordained in Newcastle on 24 July 1954 and has spent his sixty five years within our Archdiocese.

Queanbeyan, Gunning, Gundagai, Curtin, Boorowa, Ungarie being places of priestly ministry, however it has been Charnwood (in 1974) where he has had the joy and the challenge of ‘starting from scratch’ to bring into being his beloved parish community-School, presbytery, Parish Centre and Church!

Fr Tom Thornton was ordained in 1980 and was the Assistant Priest at Young from 1980-1985. Then followed Braddon in 1986, Bombala from 1987-89, the Marriage Tribunal in 1989, Ottawa Canada from 1989-1991 and PP at Warromanga in 1991. From 1992-2001 he was PP at Pearce, 2001-2002

Kambah PP, 2002-2004 Hosital Chaplain, 2004-2005 Moruya PP, appointed PP Moruya and Batemans Bay 2005 and subsequently the Young Mission including Grenfell, Boorowa and Binalong.

GOULBURN / CROOKWELL / TARALGA PARISHES

Fr Joshy Kurien Thekkinedath, who is the Parish Priest of Cootamundra and the Administrator of Murrumburrah, will take on the roles of Parish Priest of Goulburn/Crookwell, Administrator of Crookwell and Administrator of Taralga from Fr Dermid McDermott on September 28.

Fr Dermid McDermott was ordained in 1992 at St Paul’s Seminary in Kensington after twenty years in the legal profession. He served at Page until 95, then Calwell in 1996, Young 1997 and Evatt from 1998-2009. From 2001-2009 Fr Dermid was the Parish Priest of Queanbeyan and from 2009 until now the Parish Priest of Goulburn.

Fr Joshy Kurien Thekkinedath is from Kerala, India. He was ordained in April 2012 in Canberra and appointed Assistant Priest of Queanbeyan for 18 months. From 2014 he has been the Parish Priest of Cootamundra/Harden. From 2018 he has been the Dean (Vicar Forane) of the Western Deanery.

WANNIASSA PARISH

Vicar General Fr Tony Percy has been appointed Parish Priest of Wanniasa, in addition to his role as Vicar General, to replace the retiring Fr Lachlan Coll.

Fr Lachlan Coll was born in Ayrshire Scotland in 1940. After completing his primary school he migrated with his family to Australia in 1950 and settled in Tasmania. He completed his secondary schooling with the Christian Brothers at St. Virgil’s College in Hobart. On leaving school he undertook the study of accountancy. In 1963 he moved to Canberra with the Commonwealth Audit Office. He was married at St. Christopher’s Cathedral in 1964 and spent the next three years in Papua New Guinea. He has a son and two daughters and five grandchildren. His wife died in 1984.

Father Lachlan entered St. Paul’s National Seminary for late vocations to the priesthood in 1988. He was ordained to the priesthood in August 1992 at Holy Family Parish, Gowrie. He has served in a number of city and country parishes within the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn since ordination. In August 2008 Father Lachlan took up his present appointment as Parish priest at St. Anthony’s of Padua.

Fr Tony Percy will take on the role of Parish Priest of Wanniasa from August 24. He was ordained in 1990 and appointed Assistant Priest of Young from 1991-1994. From 1994 – 1997 he was Assistant Priest of Queanbeyan, from 1997-1999, Administrator of Ardlethan, Arian Park and Barellan and from 1999-2003 studied in Washington DC. From 2003-2008 he was Parish Priest of Goulburn, from 2008-2014, Rector of the Sydney Seminary and from 2015 until now has been the Vicar General of the Canberra Goulburn Archdiocese.



Missionaries of the Sacred Heart

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

EVERYONE HAS A STORY.

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

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

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

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

– Fr Patrick Sharpe msc

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



Marian Procession & Youth Pilgrimage 2019

SAVE THE DATE
Sunday 27 October

CELEBRATING THE 15TH ST THOMAS MORE PARISH AND FORUM DINNER

Maeve Heaney: Women Leadership in the Church

BY CHRIS GORDON

THIS year's St Thomas More Forum could hardly have been more timely.

The presentation by **Dr Sr. Maeve Louise Heaney VDMF**, entitled "*Women's Leadership in the Future of the Church: Naming the Nameless*" traversed some of the discussion points and recommendations that have arisen from the Royal Commission and the Plenary Council process regarding the role of women in the Church.

Dr Heaney, a consecrated member of the Verbum Dei Community and Director of the Xavier Centre for Theological Formation at Australian Catholic University, theologises through words and music and will be bringing this expertise into the evening's forum, along with her personal experience and theological training.

"Music and theology is my specific area of research, rather than leadership or what might be called feminist theology," she explained.

"But I was asked to speak about this theme as a woman who serves in areas of leadership. I direct a Centre for theological formation, a field which is often led more by men than women, and I have often been asked to talk about what this means, what it feels like.

"I think the Church needs to reflect more deeply on our ecclesiology and what our communities look like and could look like. The Pope asked for reflection in *Evangelii Gaudium* on how women could be more involved in decision making in church structures... the Royal Commission also asked for lay people to be involved in that process.

"The Australian Bishops since the year 2000 have been committed to reflecting upon and trying to open spaces for there to be more balance in the presence of men and women around areas of ecclesial work in the world. So I think, at present, there are many women doing many wonderful things but I also think we need to think about it more and address it more for the future generations.

Dr Heaney explained that these are not radical thoughts or considerations and that, while the essentials should and will remain unchanged, that there is still a discussion to be had about the changing shape of people's involvement in the church.

"I know a lot of young women



Dr Sr Maeve Louise Heaney VDMF. Photo Jeanine Doyle.

that look at the church and don't feel that there's enough space for them," she said.

"I think the Church is shifting and changing. I love my Church

God communicates with us in a variety of ways and limiting ourselves to just words can sometimes limit our capacity of understanding things.

and I think we have a history, a heritage and traditions to hold on to, and yet we need to mediate into the future what we are called to be. I'm not saying the essentials are changing ... they can't ... but what it *looks like* in the future might, and perhaps none of us know really how, and therefore how we can build it together needs thought.

"I think the role of women and how baptised people interact with priests... how they can support them, and our bishops more, and what roles can be given to women to make that task more collaborative.

"I'm not trailblazing something that people don't know, I'm giving expression to things that are currently happening. And I think we need to imagine things differently. There are many Scripture passages that would help us, but we need more knowledge of scripture.

"We should also look at the history of the church, as there have been women involved in many ways that we often forget or lose sight of. So I think we need to reflect upon it more and collaborate more."

Dr Heaney's presentation also showcased something new for the forum. She drew not only upon her experiences as a woman, a leader in the Church, and her

theological training, but also her skills and passion for music and performance which she believes are complementary.

"There are theological reasons as well as musical reasons for combining the two elements," she explained.

"My PhD and my training is theological, but my area of research was interdisciplinary because there's a whole thread of theology that emerged in the twentieth century that invited us to think about theology more broadly and to integrate the notion of beauty, of the arts, the fact that we don't only communicate with words... and that THE WORD that we believe in is bigger than words.

"God communicates with us in a variety of ways and limiting ourselves to just words can sometimes limit our capacity of understanding things. At the end of the day writing novels, storytelling, music, poetry are also ways in which we make sense of things, so why shouldn't theology use some of those tools in order to help us broaden and grasp in greater depth what our faith has to say... which at the end of the

day can't fit into words... I mean we can't even really name God."

As a member of a consecrated ministry, Dr Heaney has committed herself to God through vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, giving her another perspective on the role of women in the church.

"It will never be a majority calling nor perhaps should it be but there is a tremendous history in the church of religious women and men committing to an "alone with God" commitment and service of others. Religious life shifts according to the needs, so the way it looks changes, as it responds to the signs of the times.

"You have congregations that emerge dedicated to education, dedicated to health, a lot of the more recent ones would be dedicated to evangelisation, or prayer, or current issues such as trafficking or refugees ... but I believe the church will always have people called to consecrated life. I think it's an intrinsic part of how some people understand God's calling. It's been present in our church since the beginnings, in different forms, but it's always been there."

One of the questions that is sometimes raised in discussions about the role of women in the Catholic Church is whether women should be able to become priests, but Dr Heaney believes the question itself is limited.

"We need to broaden the question," she said.

"I think we need to think about the different roles that men and women can have in collaborating together. I think we probably need to deepen our own ecclesiology and our theology of priesthood and the priesthood of the baptised so we can understand better how those two knit together. And that would help us ask the question differently.

"We have an image of priests, and we have a specific image of leadership when we ask that question, but I think we need to reimagine both. So I'm not saying it's not a question, or not an important one, I'm saying maybe we're not ready for it... and that's a maybe, I don't know."

"But I think we need to walk with care. Sometimes this conversation really gets hijacked and polarised and people stop listening to one another and I think that's unhelpful. So that's not a theme I speak into specifically because I think we need to broaden the question."

Sisters of Mary Queen of Peace - 50 years



One of the Sisters of Mary Queen of Peace with Archbishop Christopher Prowse. Photo supplied.

ON THE eve of Pentecost, Archbishop Christopher Prowse, celebrated a Mass for the Congregation of Sisters of Mary Queen of Peace at their community house in Bonner.

This occasion recognized the fact that this year the Congregation celebrated 50 years since their foundation in Buonmethuot Diocese by Bishop Peter Nguyen Huy Mai.

The Congregation developed a Charism of building up the Kingdom of God especially among the ethnic minority people who lived in the Central Highlands. They were established on the Model and Motherhood of Mary who sought to build a life founded on pondering how she was called to be obedient to God's will in serving others.

When Archbishop Christopher asked Sr. Kim, the community leader what was the special gift of this congregation she replied, "It was to live the spiritual and corporal works of mercy which sought to reach out to those in greatest need."

She also commented about how the sisters bore witness to the Gospel in their work of visitation and living a life of simplicity, joyfulness and generosity to others. The congregation now has 54 community houses in Viet Nam and overseas.

There are currently 246 fully professed sisters, 139 sisters who have taken temporary vows, 51 novices, 27 postulants and 102 young women in formation who aspire to consider a life as a religious sister.

Over 100 people attended the Mass and cultural evening which celebrated the important contribution that the congregation has made to the local community especially in Holy Spirit Parish, Gungahlin, in Canberra and in surrounding regions.

This was a joyful occasion in which people raised their hearts and minds to God in song, dance and celebration.

Women’s twilight retreat

OVER 80 women of diverse ages, occupations and backgrounds gathered on cold winter's eve at the end of May for a Women's Twilight Retreat in the Cathedral parish centre, Manuka.

Vicki Dunne MLA was among the women who attended and described the event as “very inspiring and prayerful. It was a great joy to see so many women of all ages joined together,” she said.

The night was hosted by the Disciples of Jesus Community as a service to the women of the Archdiocese. Organiser Cathy Madsen described it simply as an opportunity to “share dinner together, get inspired and meet new friends”

Through the talks and personal sharings, participants were invited to accept the idea that “having lives which are ‘less than perfect’ is really normal. It’s a beautiful opportunity to let God work in us and show Him off as the one who IS perfect”, Cathy Madsen explained.

“It’s through accepting the reality of how messy our lives can be sometimes, that we come to see and accept

ourselves as God sees and accepts us, and this helps us to get on with the business of living out our call, faithful to him.”

Zuzy Webster, parish secretary in Yass, attended with a carload of other working mums. She found it a fantastic opportunity to connect, share and explore aspects of faith with a diverse group. “It was great to see that you are not alone or isolated as a person of faith” said Zuzy.

Zuzy believes that “women of faith are very powerful, even if they don’t feel like that all of the time”. She was so inspired by the retreat that she is talking to other school mums in Yass about starting a regular group to connect and share around faith.

Another women’s retreat



Above: Julie Anne Adlawan, and Rachel Fleurant (Missionaries of God's Love) with young mum Anna Jeffrey Right: Over 80 women enjoy a simple dinner and some fellowship



opportunity is coming up in July, this one hosted by the Sisterhood National Catholic Women's Movement. 9.00am-5pm Sat 27th July, Haydon Hall Manuka more info at <https://www.sisterhood.org.au/local-connect-groups>

10 years of priesthood

MICHAEL CLAESSENS

FR ANDREW Lotton was joined on Sunday June 9 at a celebration of 10 years in the priesthood in concelebration with Fr Paul Nulley PP at Joseph's Parish and Sebastiano Sanna of the Apostolic Nunciature - in celebration with the Neo-Catechumenal Way Community of the Parish.

Fr Andrew, who is the acting Administrator of St Christopher's Cathedral Parish, is a “local boy,” born and raised in Canberra.

He recalled his long journey to the priesthood from practical atheism, Anglicanism and a significant experience with Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

The Lord finally brought him a catechesis conducted by the Neo-catechumenal Way in Canberra, including its itinerary of faith formation in a small community.



Fr Andrew Lotton cutting the cake to celebrate his 10 years of priesthood. Photo supplied

Jobs with the British and South African High Commissions were punctuated with periods in and out of the seminary leading to ordination for the Diocese of Perth in June 2009.

“I love preaching the Good News, being in the Evangelisation gives me great happiness, not knowing where the Lord will take me,” Fr Andrew said.

“What do you want me to say today Lord, what have you prepared for me? I was once a lonely man who could not even speak. Look at what the Lord has done for me, because he loves

me! This is what he wants to do for you as well I'm sure. My life has been an adventure and I look forward to seeing what God has planned for me”

Fr Andrew's joy and evident gift for preaching are strong testimony to the huge vocational energy generated by the new movements and ecclesial realities being generated locally and across the Church... new seminaries, new orders and a new style of priesthood - charisms equipping the Church for the challenges it faces into this new millennium.

A simpler way to donate

FIRST it was coins in the plate... then it was notes. And now... electrons?

At a number of parishes across the Archdiocese, parishioners are now able to tap their debit and credit cards to make donations during collections at Mass and other times.

The Catholic Development Fund (CDF) has purchased a number of Quest donation tap machines for people to utilize at parishes and other institutions.

“We began rolling these out just before Christmas,” CDF Manager Michele Murdock explained.

“The first ones went to the Gungahlin parish and also at Bungendore over Christmas.”

The tap machines can be used several ways, depending on the choice of the parish. Some are passed around with the collection plates, and some sit in a fixed position that parishioners can access as they choose.

“I know at Gungahlin they have two devices connected to chargers that go into their basket plates that they pass around the main body of the Church for their Saturday night Mass and at other times they have one in the foyer and another available as required.”

The machines are limited to “tap” transactions only and don’t allow insertion chip reading or strip swiping.

Machines are now in use in



Gungahlin, Kambah, Goulburn and Tumut parishes, as well as St Mary Mackillop Hall, Eden, Marymead, CatholicCare and on CDF Loan (two devices for special events).

“We have 22 devices so far with more coming,” said Michele.

The amount is preset to suit each parish but can be changed for individual events, then changed back if required.

“Gungahlin set it at \$20 initially at Christmas and then in January they dropped it to \$10,” Michele explained.

“Fives and tens seem to be the most common setting but you can have several devices with different amounts. South Woden had a Youth Mass recently and had one device set to \$5 and one to \$10.”

While it’s still too early to determine if the tap and go method of donations is raising

more or less money, figures from one site suggest they’ve made \$4,000 from the devices since December. From all of the devices in use, \$9,700 has been raised.

“From my experience speaking to people at Bungendore as well, on occasions like Christmas and Easter where you get people coming that may not ordinarily come to Mass and may not think to bring cash with them that they’ve got the opportunity to give as well,” Michele said.

Devices are soon to arrive at Queanbeyan, North Belconnen Parish Churches (Kaleen & Evatt), Bungendore & Woden South. The CDF board has recently approved the purchase of 10 devices. These machines are complementing the CDF Qkr! Parish mobile app which is also growing in use in the Archdiocese.

Dr Ursula Stephen accepts the baton

BY CHRIS GORDON

THE clichéd comment to make to someone about to take over from a well-known and highly regarded person, is to say they have big shoes to fill.

In taking over from Fr Frank Brennan as the new CEO of Catholic Social Services Australia on July 1, Dr Ursula Stephens comes to the position with very sizeable shoes of her own. At least metaphorically, even if her actual feet lean towards the daintier end of the spectrum.

“First of all I believe Fr Frank Brennan leaves an extraordinary legacy for Catholic Social Services, not just in the organisational change that he’s overseen, but also in guiding members and member organisations through some of the real trauma within the sector of the Royal Commission and post the Royal Commission,” Dr Stephens said.

“We all know Fr Frank is very charismatic, he’s highly intelligent, a gifted speaker, and he’s an eminent lawyer. He has brought all of those gifts and experience to bear on his role, as he will, I’m sure, in his new role as Rector at Newman College.”

“So no, I don’t feel that I have to fit into his shoes at all, and if I did I try I would fall very short, so I will endeavour to put my own mark on the organisation.

“I believe one of my skills is in fostering collaboration across the CSSA networks and between the Catholic agencies - Catholic Social Services, Catholic Health and Catholic Education. I feel that we have a lot in common and will have more in common as we tackle challenges such as how we’re supporting an ageing population in Australia into the future.”

Dr Stephens spent 12 years in the Australian Parliament as a Senator for New South Wales from 2002 to 2014, representing the Australian Labor Party.

In that time she was Parliamentary Secretary Assisting the Prime Minister for Social Inclusion in the first Rudd Government, and later Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector.

Dr Stephens comes to the position with a strong record

of advocacy on behalf of her constituents and also has extensive experience and a deep understanding of the social services sector, social policy development, government relations and community services more broadly. She holds a PhD in Public Administration and a Bachelor of Education and is an active member of her local parish community, serving on the finance council.

Perhaps a better analogy than “filling shoes” might be accepting the baton passed to her for the next phase. Fr Frank’s term as CEO overlapped with the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses into Child Sexual abuse. The next phase might be described as the Post Royal Commission Phase, or the Plenary Phase, or simply the next phase in the CSSA’s existence.

“We’ve had the Royal Commission which has been quite traumatic for the Church, for the community, for the victims and friends of victims. It’s really had a ripple effect through society,” Dr Stephens said.

“But right now there’s a Royal Commission into Aged Care, and a Royal Commission into Disability Services. I think that we’re going to see very significant outcomes from these Royal Commissions as well, which will impact on the service delivery in the future.

“So many of our member organisations, as contracted service providers will be very challenged by some of the outcomes of these Royal Commissions. Helping them through that is going to be an important next step.

“We will also have the outcomes of the Plenary Council to consider. Some will impact on parish based social services organisations, so we’ll be considering all these challenges with an eye to the future – what are we all going to look like in five years’ time.”

Dr Stephen’s availability for the position came due to a confluence of events – the timing of Fr Frank accepting his new position in Melbourne, and the result of the NSW state elections.

Dr Stephens was committed to campaigning for the seat of Goulburn when the job was first



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advertised and couldn’t apply initially. But when one door closed, she was available and very interested in the job that almost perfectly aligned with her background and ongoing activities.

“It’s a fantastic opportunity to work with people who are totally committed to delivering for those who are on the margins, and I think that’s such a powerful opportunity to be able to support them and to advocate for them,” she said.

“They’re doing so much work on the ground. Fr Frank has done an amazing job in reforming the organisation and positioning CSSA for the future.

“What comes now is the importance of advocacy and research in areas of social policy and social justice. We have the most extraordinary network of organisations with Catholic Social Services... 53 members and 650 sites across Australia... This is the largest reach of any organisation in social services and we have the capacity to really transform lives and influence government policy around that.”

While Dr Stephen political background equips her well for policy, she makes the point that the role and approach as CEO of CSSA will be very different.

“Catholic Social Services Australia, Catholic Health Australia and Catholic Education are three pillars of fundamental societal values and opportunities,” Dr Stephens explained.

“It’s about life-long care. So if you draw on fundamental

Catholic social teachings, and you imbue those into the organisations and the way in which we work in communities, then we do have an opportunity to influence government decisions.

“We have an obligation to actually tell government how their decisions impact on the ground.

And although a seasoned politician, Dr Stephens is proud of never placing politics ahead of her faith. When the Labor Party went in one direction regarding same-sex marriage, Dr Stephens exercised a conscience vote as she’d done a number of times before.

“In my very first year in parliament the Access to RU486 legislation, which was basically an abortion debate, I advocated a position that was, I know, socially conservative at that time,” Dr Stephens recalls.

“However, I’ve always respected the importance to have different voices being heard. I know that people felt there was someone in the parliament reflecting their concerns and I was fine about doing that.

“We are currently being faced with the Victorian assisted dying legislation which comes into effect with many safeguards in place. However, the Church’s position is that there is dignity in dying that we need to acknowledge and our focus should be on dramatically improving palliative care services.

“These are all testing issues, and I’m sure there will be more

in the future, perhaps around eugenics or even environmental issues.. But I don’t stand by my faith in a dogged or adversarial way... I just think people need to see that there is a reflection of the whole of society’s values in the parliament and that’s an important legacy.”

In preparation for her new role, Dr Stephens has already had a number of discussions with the CSSA Chair, Dr Maria Harries, attended a board meeting and will do a fuller handover with Fr Frank in the week before she commences.

And while she readily concedes she has much to become familiar with, she has set herself a few key areas to focus on. In addition to aged care, disability care, poverty and homelessness, Dr Stephens is keen to support those currently involved in Catholic Social Services.

“I think that one challenge we have is in supporting our network of services, particularly in our rural and regional areas. Many are working on their own, or in a small team, delivering services to very vulnerable people,” she said.

“They can be in the poorest communities or the most remote parts of the country, with limited professional support and trying to work in a model that’s been rolled out in the cities. There’s no one-size-fits-all model, but sometimes policy tries to make it look that way.

“CSSA will be using an evidence-based approach to demonstrate what works best in those circumstances,” Dr Stephens said.

“Our research and our advocacy will be aimed at ensuring we provide best value and greatest impact to deliver a fair and just society.

“Our greatest strength as an organisation is our network of highly skilled, professional and committed people, whose experience will help to provide innovative and credible solutions for change.

“We are driven by our values of compassion, collaboration and accountability and our capacity to think strategically about some of society’s most wicked policy problems.”

Senator stands for traditional values

BY CATHERINE SHEEHAN

BUSY mother of three, Amanda Stoker, left behind a successful career as a barrister to enter the Australian Parliament last year because of her growing concern that freedom of speech was increasingly under threat in the country she loves.

The Liberal Senator from Queensland says she was particularly concerned that Christians and other people with conservative views were being pushed out of the public square.

“I had this frustration that the public space was becoming a place that was hostile for people who had traditional values, people who were Christians or people who had similar world views,” Senator Stoker said.

“I couldn’t stand by and allow that to continue because to do that would mean I was living in a country where my children wouldn’t have fundamental freedoms to pursue a whole range of things, most importantly their faith. So that was one of the motivations that I stepped up when the opportunity arose.”

As Anglicans, she and husband Adam, are raising their three girls – Mary, aged five, Jane, three and Emma, one and-a-half – in the faith.

“It’s a big part of our lives,” she said.

“I feel like somehow in the twisted name of tolerance, many traditional and Christian voices have been shamed or shut out of the public space. I think that is something deeply harmful to us in the long term.”

“Building an Australian culture where we genuinely live and let live, where people are truly free to pursue their own passions and their own definition of the perfect life, that’s what I’m really passionate about.”

Senator Stoker is also passionately pro-life and she addressed Parliament in August last year in opposition to a bill seeking to allow the Northern Territory to enact Assisted Suicide legislation.

“Not everyone is a Christian but I think everyone should be able to understand that the practice of euthanasia being permitted would harm our culture in a way that creates a subtle pressure for people regarded as resource intensive or a bit of a burden to voluntarily exit lest they become a hassle for others,” she said.



Senator Amanda Stoker. Photo supplied.

“I think that would be a really sad shift in our culture and one that you could not protect against with any number of technical ‘safeguards’.”

Senator Stoker said it was her husband who “prodded” her at the critical moment to enter politics and continues to be “wonderfully supportive” of her life as a Senator.

Although too young to comprehend exactly what she does, she loves the fact her three girls don’t think it strange their mother is a politician.

“They think it’s entirely normal and the kind of thing that any person who loves their country should be able to do.”

While the recent election win for the Morrison government was not expected, Senator Stoker said she was not surprised that Australians voted in his favour.

“I knew we were always the underdogs but everywhere we went and with every group we spoke to, the Prime Minister made a great impression. He had a great way of connecting with people and of understanding what matters to Australians.

“I never gave up hope and I’m really delighted to see the Australian people were willing to give him and the team the trust and the opportunity to govern for three years.”

Having been in the Senate now for just over 12 months, Senator Stoker said she would like to see more topics on the parliamentary agenda that are relevant to the everyday concerns of Australians.

“It’s the kind of place, that if you ever start to feel comfortable in it, it’s time to go,” she laughed.

“The things that get talked about in that building are often so far from what is on the hearts and minds of the Australians I represent.”

“I think that shows how important it is to have people who are connected to their homes represented in the Parliament but also I think it’s really important to have families [represented] because it’s my life experience that you become a lot less willing to compromise on key issues when there’s something bigger than yourself at stake.”

Senator Stoker on...

Political correctness:

Political correctness and identity politics are toxic to the health of society because they silence free speech and they turn our society tribal in a way that tears us apart.

Virtue-signaling:

It’s the kind of empty gesture that characterizing the hard left at the moment when anybody who is really serious about virtue, is hands-on helping their neighbours and community.

Religious freedom:

It is a fundamental individual right and it is absolutely vital that all Australians are able to practice their faith unthreatened by fashionable causes.

Abortion:

It’s the first human right. If we don’t protect the right to life then none of the other things we associate with being human are truly safe. The measure of a society is the way it treats those who can’t speak for themselves. That has to include he elderly, those struggling with illness or disability, and those children who are not yet born. If we don’t speak up for and protect their first and most fundamental human right, then we’re not a very humane society at all.

Euthanasia:

I think it’s the kind of threshold that you can’t come back from. It is truly a slippery slope kind of case and you can look to any number of cases like Holland that show people who have in fact been not provided with good mental health management or management of pain being pushed down this path. If we just got the health care right, properly resourced and respectfully delivered, there would be less attractiveness for this kind of a course and there would I think be more understanding of the fact that one can have a dignified death without having to kill themselves.

Motherhood:

It is the greatest privilege. It’s the biggest joy and you think you know how good it will be and it exceeds all expectations.

The Catholic Church:

I hope I can provide some encouragement to Catholics

and all Christians to more bravely and publicly proclaim their faith because in doing so they empower and encourage other Christians.

Women in politics:

I think women in politics make a great contribution but the best contributions I see in the Parliament are from parents of both sexes. The experience of being a parent is extremely important to the ability to formulate policy that reflects the lives that most Australians are leading.

“Having it all”:

Anyone who pretends they have it all is a liar. There’s nothing wrong with doing a few things well or doing all things across your lifetime, but not at once. I think sometimes we overwhelm and unnecessarily stress young women in particular with the lie that says you can have all things at once and it will be easy when the truth is there’s a season for everything and that’s ok.

Same-sex marriage:

I think most Australians accept that there is a section of our community for which same-sex marriage is important but that right can’t trump the rights of others who think differently. That’s why religious freedom in this country needs to be protected.

Transgender rights and Safe Schools:

We can’t let leftist ideology trump biology. We can’t let the State take away a parent’s right to educate their child or children according to their own faith and their own values.

Israel Folau:

Israel Folau’s experience shows us that it has now become political and controversial to express, albeit inarticulately, a biblical truth because it has the potential to offend a small segment of our community. What is lost in the media coverage is that he was trying to send a positive message about the availability of salvation for all of us. And the fact that doesn’t get covered says a lot about the agenda our press is intent on prosecuting.



Should we start again?

BY SHANE DWYER

THE question of Church reform and renewal is high on the agenda, and has been for quite some time. The Royal Commission and the upcoming Plenary Council have given the question a focus and, in the minds of the ever-hopeful, the optimism that something might actually be done.

In a culture where we have got used to having the possibility of making significant changes to those things affecting our lives every three or so years, by way of a general election, the apparently glacial movement of the Catholic Church can seem to provide a strong indication that it is either out of touch, or not structurally geared towards leading people in the contemporary environment.

As we contemplate our way forward it is important that we recognise the authentic sources that Catholics must draw upon as we decide how best to more deeply live our faith today. What does it mean to live in response to current concerns while remaining in continuity with the truth we have received from those who have preceded us?

It is an interesting awareness

that Catholics are to have: a living attention to that which we have inherited from others. That is to say, we are to take seriously that we have a legacy to call upon that deserves to be heard and respected. Chesterton described this as 'the democracy of the dead' – the wisdom that comes down to us through the ages to give us guidance and to provide our spiritual ancestors with an enduring voice.

Central to this is our understanding of Tradition. This can be a confusing notion but is the response to the question that was recently posed to me: "why doesn't the Church just start again?" While it is true that all reform must be grounded in a re-contemplation of the deep original truths at the heart of our faith, the problem is that any attempt to 'start again' would involve a wilful lack of attention to the Holy Spirit-inspired development in Catholic teaching and practice during the last 2000+ years. There is no going back. In fact, there are only two options: stagnant inertia, or going forward with the wisdom we have collectively received to guide and inform our own insights and experience.

Those of you who have had anything to do with Christian faith communities other than those of the Catholic and the Orthodox, will know that Tradition is a significant bone of contention. It can seem odd (and even diabolical) to those who believe that the only source of truth is Scripture. This needs thought.

The first thing to acknowledge is that the Scriptures, while undoubtedly the product of God's inspiration on the various writers, were actually written by real human beings – people of faith like you and me. They didn't just fall from heaven complete. In fact, the history of how they came to be in their current form is interesting and complex, as many of you would know.

This means we have to acknowledge that it is the people who were the recipients of the inspiration and, only secondarily, the text itself. The writings of the New Testament get their authority from the apostolic community that wrote the texts under God's inspiration and, having been written, were assessed by that community for their authenticity. Not every text purporting to be authentic (e.g. the gospels of

Thomas or Judas) were accepted by the community as such. God works through his people.

If the source of Scripture's authority comes from God working through God's people, even those teachings that came from the apostles and their immediate successors, but not written down, are considered potentially inspired. We say 'potentially' as these teachings had to go through the same discernment and acceptance processes that the Scriptural texts underwent. Not everything that the apostolic communities were taught and did have come down to us as part of the Tradition.

This is not to undermine the significance of Scripture. In fact, it is to honour what Scripture teaches on the matter. For example, in his second letter to the Thessalonians (2:15) St Paul writes:

"So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by letter".

That is to say, it was not St Paul's belief that his only teaching worth preserving could be found in his letters. He required the people to whom he was writing to pay attention to what he and

other recognised teachers of the faith had said. Elsewhere he would require them to pay attention not only to what he had written and taught, but also to what he had done (1 Corinthians 11).

So, held in balance with Scripture as a primary source of truth, Tradition is grounded in the same theological reality that provides legitimacy to the Scriptures. That is to say, the same Holy Spirit that inspired the Scriptures is at work in the Christian community, and promises to lead that community to all truth (John 16:13), through that which is accepted by the community as authoritative teaching.

Of course, the community must continue to grow and develop, and to find new ways of authentically living the faith it has received in whatever context it finds itself. However, we can only do this, and remain the Church of Jesus Christ, by paying attention to the full deposit of faith we have received as a gift down through the centuries. It is often, it must be admitted, a frustratingly slow business.

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

The Home and School Relationship

URSULA JAMIESON
PRINCIPAL, ST THOMAS THE
APOSTLE PRIMARY SCHOOL

YOU don't have to look too far in the media to read articles, stories and reports about violence and bullying in schools aimed at teachers and principals. It's not only the students doing this, it can often be the parents. This occurs across the board and is not limited to schools in any particular socio-economic area. It's part of the education environment in 2019. There is no doubt it is on the rise and that teachers are leaving the profession because of it.

In my personal experience as a principal, I have only witnessed this to a small degree, though it is occurring. Children are presenting with higher levels of anxiety and this is due in many ways to the high-pressure world they and their parents live in. While there are various avenues of support that can be accessed both professionally and in the community, there are also positive things happening in our schools to alleviate these pressures on our students and their families. As a principal,



I work hard at ensuring that strong and positive relationships are at the heart of everything we do – students, staff, parents and carers. When I interview new families, I tell the parents that we enrol a family, not just a child. We work together for the good of the child and when things are going well, we rejoice and when they are not, we work together to improve the situation.

Many schools now have staff trained in the area of trauma – being a 'trauma informed school'. When you hear the word trauma,

it's common to think 'tragic and extreme circumstances'. However, when we talk trauma at a school level, we are talking about the 'emotional response to an event, experience or circumstance that is deeply distressing or disturbing'. For our students, that takes many forms. Children can be exposed to or be involved in such things as a family break-up, abuse, neglect, the death of family member or someone close to them, accidents, mental illness, alcoholism, poverty. The list is much longer but this gives

the picture of what I am talking about. These are real factors faced by many children in our schools on an everyday basis. For some children, the school is their one constant in life and for others it's where they feel the safest.

This brings me to the heart of my article – relationship. Every day, teachers welcome their students and are well aware that for some, it's been a tough morning already. Teachers do what is called a 'check in' with their students and find out straight away how they are feeling, if they are ready to start the day, if they need some time or space, or if they need to be listened to. Multiply that by 25 and you will see quickly that teachers do a brilliant job of understanding and responding to their students' needs. Students learn quickly that their teachers care about them and genuinely want to know about how they are each day. At my school, St Thomas the Apostle, we are blessed to have a Wellbeing Counsellor, Veronica Harris. Veronica is there as a support for the children in our school by being that person who

can give that extra time to listen, give advice, and generally offer social and emotional support. She will also talk with the children's parents and carers and for them, can be that sympathetic ear of understanding as well as being able to offer advice and direction on how they can support their children. Veronica works one-on-one and in small groups with children needing a little extra help. She teaches children techniques to help them understand and control their emotions and also gives them strategies to cope with the frustrations of everyday life.

As a principal, strong positive relationships with my parents is every bit as important as the relationships I have with the students and the staff.

By having an open and genuine relationship with the parents of the children within my school, there is a positive avenue for working together to ensure the social, emotional, spiritual and academic well-being and growth of their children. I not only believe that these relationships makes a difference, I know that they do.

Homelessness - one night is tough enough

Tenth Vinnies CEO Sleepout raises record amount

It was cold, but it could have been colder. Between 2am and 3am the temperature at Canberra Airport Hangar 47 dipped to -4 (felt like -7.8) but at least there was no frost. And at least it was just one night.

That's the take away for the participants of the tenth Canberra Vinnies CEO Sleepout which raises awareness and funds for the homeless each year. It's tough enough to do it one night year. And raise funds they certainly did. At the time of writing this almost three quarters of a million was raised locally... a record... and all of it earmarked towards items, programs and other forms of assistance for people regularly sleeping rough. Along with raising funds, the participants also experience a small fraction of the privations of homelessness, making the exercise

not only practical but experiential. Some found the freezing coldness the greatest hardship (and that's despite being rugged up far better than a lot of people with fewer choices and fewer resources). Some found trying to sleep on the hard ground the toughest part. And that's part of the rules... you get a piece of cardboard and no swag, no mattress. A small and seemingly tireless army of Vinnies staff and volunteers swarmed around the hangar, running activities, preparing food and beverages and assisting in a variety of ways. In the evening, many of the "Sleepers" (although quite a few disputed if that description was strictly accurate) participated in "Walk a Mile" activities, in which they were given one of a variety of profiles of homeless people, and walked through various services... Centrelink, Samaritan House, Night

Patrol etc... to emulate the services they had to access in a standard day. Following that, a video detailed the practical areas of assistance that fund-raising is directed to, and a discussion panel talked through some of the issues and policies surrounding homelessness. Lights were out well before midnight and most were up and about by 5am. Most of the participants turned around and went to work today... some after nicking home for a quick shower, some raw and disheveled to better understand the effect of trying to get through a full day feeling cold and fatigued. Funds were raised. Awareness was raised. Poverty and homelessness sadly weren't eradicated but they WERE assisted.



Getting ready for the cold night ahead were a group of CEOs at the Vinnies Sleepout at Canberra Airport. The Canberra part of the national appeal raised in excess of \$750,000. Photo Chris Gordon.

John Paul II College joins in Vinnies Sleepout

Every year when the Vinnies CEO Sleepout takes place in cities and towns around Australia, smaller versions of the event take place at schools and other centres... not for CEOs but for students and members of the Community. St John Paul II College in Nicholls has been holding sleepouts parallel to the CEO sleepouts for 6 years and did again this year, raising close to \$15,000

for homelessness. Organised by Mrs Haines and Mrs Zorzi, the sleepout included a series of events including guest speakers from the Vinnies Gungahlin Conference, Trivia, dodgeball and a liturgy throughout the evening for the (150) participating students before they braved the -4 cold outside. In the morning students were treated to breakfast prepared by teachers and students in the



Rugged up and ready to sleep. Photo St John Paul II College

St Michael's Mini Vinnies Winter Woolies Day & Stay Out

MEAGHAN YOUNGER On Friday 14th June St Michael's dressed up warmly in an effort to highlight the need for warm clothing for the poor, and particularly the homeless, during our cold winters. Instead of the usual gold coin donation for wearing free clothes the students brought in blankets, jackets, gloves, beanies and jumpers which were later donated to St Vincent de Paul. Later in the day about 50 students participated in our now annual Stay Out. As a junior version of the St Vincent de Paul Sleep Out our students came back to school for the evening and participated in a range of activities learning more about the realities of homelessness. They sorted the clothing and blankets donated earlier in the day and packed hygiene kits for the Night Patrol Van. We had a hot soup dinner and spent some time outside imagining what it would be like to try to sleep outside on a cold Winter's evening. We raised \$745.00 for the Night Patrol.



A Vinnies Night Patrolter speaks with some of the students from St Michael's about the work that they do. Photo St Michael's, Kaleen.



It's a bit of an adventure for this St Michael's student at the school's "Stay out" event. Photo St Michael's, Kaleen.



Breakfast makes it all worthwhile...the morning after the St John Paul II Sleepout. Photo St John Paul II College.



Three of the St John Paul College Students coming to terms with daybreak. Photo Chris Gordon.

Spelling Bee tension

BY CHRIS GORDON

IT WAS a hard sell, to convince a room full of primary school students that a Spelling Bee could be as gripping and exciting as a sporting event. But by the time it reached the business end of the competition, no convincing was required as the students were cheering and yelling as loudly as they would for any team.

The event was the inaugural school Spelling Bee for St Peter and Paul's Primary Goulburn. An idea from Principal Kathy Neely with input from teacher Greg Angus among others, the aim was to not only to lend a focus to literacy, but also to show tests of intelligence can be as exciting as displays of sporting prowess.

Mrs Neely said the idea came up as a precursor to the School's Spell-a-thon.

"We already had a Spell-a-thon planned to raise some money, and I was wondering what we could have as a little event to promote it, because it can be pretty dry just spelling some words in your classroom," she explained.

"So to make it a bit of fun we came up with the idea of a school Spelling Bee."

Greg Angus, a teacher at St Peter and Paul's, had some experience of Spelling Bees from the United States and had some ideas on how to run the event and, with some help from Google, he and Mrs Neely gave the competition its shape.

"We'd both seen documentaries made about spelling competitions and with Greg's background being from America, where Spelling Bees are quite a popular part of American and Canadian schooling where he'd been involved in some before, we thought we had a format that would work," Miss Neely said.

Split into two age groups – Years 3 and 4, and Years 5 and 6 – students would each have a demonstration round where they would hear the word and then hear it used in a sentence. If it helped, small tablet-sized white board were provided so



A captivated assembly waited on every word at the St Peter and Paul's Goulburn inaugural Spelling Bee. Photo Chris Gordon

they could write the word down before spelling it out.

After the demonstration round, each student went through five progressively harder rounds, with incorrect attempts knocking a student out of the competition. If, after the final round, there was still more than one student in contention, they'd be given another word each and if there were still multiple students in play, they'd share the win.

Sounds simple, but it's another thing under lights and with a few hundred students looking on.

The students in the audience took a little while to been drawn in, but as student after student fell by the wayside, they became more gripped.

You could hear the proverbial pin dropped as students weighed up the correct spelling, you couldn't hear yourself think when the cheers followed a successful attempt.

The Year 3/4 competition finished with a particularly dramatic climax – literally – with just two students remaining and student Oscar Martin asked to spell DRAMATIC. Chevell Ward was asked to spell PREHISTORIC and in the end Chevell won with Oscar runner-up.

The Year 5/6 competition also came down to a final two playoff. This time, when the words



A student from the O'Brien House concentrates on his word. Photo Chris Gordon.

DYSLEXIA and DACHSHUND were read out, even some of the teachers traded nervous glances, perhaps glad they weren't able to win.

Nadine Jassani ended up being named Grand Champion, spelling Dyslexia, and Vasilious Papazoglou was runner up with Dachshund his allotted word.

Miss Neely said the response was very positive and the event would now probably be an annual fixture.

"I think the students were apprehensive to start with but they really got into it in the end," she said.

"It's pretty likely we'll do it again."

National Reconciliation Week celebrations at St Francis Xavier School

BY JACINTA ELWIN



Sophie Phillips places her hand print onto the school's Reconciliation Pole.

NATIONAL Reconciliation Week (NRW) is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

NRW commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey—the successful 1967 referendum, and the High Court Mabo decision respectively.

St Francis Xavier School celebrated Reconciliation Week with a special day last Thursday. Down the Track provided the school community with a nourishing breakfast before school to start the day. Then the morning assembly was commenced with Aunty Joy Kelly sharing the Welcome to Country and the Year 6 leaders sharing information about the significance of Reconciliation Week and leading us in prayer.

Families were invited to join the students as they participated in various learning opportunities from the Healing lessons, produced by the Healing Foundation and in the creation of a Reconciliation Pole, which Ms Alison Wheeler and Georgina Kelly have helped design and create.

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



Inaugural recipient of Br Francois Service Medal



Peter Hawes – Assistant Head of School – Mission and Identity, Dr Matthew Bray (2007) with College Headmaster Matthew Hutchison. Photo supplied

AS part of Marist College Canberra's Champagnat Day celebrations to mark the feast day of our founder, St Marcellin Champagnat, the inaugural Br Francois Service Medal was awarded to Old Boy Dr Matthew Bray.

The award recognises an Old Boy of the College who has demonstrated that he continues to keep the faith in the service of others. The award is named after Br Francois who became the first Superior-General of the Order and was instrumental in developing a Marist spirituality. He was known to be a joyful person who demonstrated his love and care for others, especially through his service to the Brothers and to the sick.

Matt was College Vice-Captain and Valedictorian, graduating in 2007 and now works as a senior registrar in the emergency department at Calvary Hospital. Since graduation, he has worked selflessly with many charities including voluntary clinical and research positions in developing countries. Consistent with the Marist charism of caring for the young, Matt has initiated and led mentorship programs for Polynesian Rotuman youths, encouraging academic and social endeavours, and has undertaken voluntary work in Aboriginal communities in Central Australia promoting healthy lifestyles

and education. He has run global health advocacy campaigns driving policy change. Matt was awarded a Global Voice Research Fellow Scholarship in 2015 to attend the United Nations in New York where he advocated for robust development investments to aid Pacific Island nations at risk due to climate change and natural disasters. In medical school, he founded the Friends-4Fiji Initiative, a charity now operating for ten years, which partners medical students in Australia with colleagues in Fiji to advance regional cooperation and improve access to quality medical education. He has also won numerous academic and leadership awards for his outstanding contribution to community, and exemplifies a Marist spirit to go beyond one's own self-interest and care for the needs of others, particularly those without a voice and those who are marginalised.

Matthew addressed the College at the conclusion of the Champagnat Day Mass and reminded the students from Years 4-12 that cultivating a culture of service and compassion is central to the mission of the College. Matthew said the 'true test or demonstration of service and the compassion that is meant to underlie it is how you respond, unprompted, to people who are different, disadvantaged or vulnerable.'

“I want to be her when I grow up”

ON Friday 31 May St Clare's hosted a dinner for KPMG, ACS and WIC. The organisers hoped to bring STEM industry mentors together with students from around the Canberra region as mentors for girls in STEM. Titled *“I want to be her when I grow up”* the event was attended by over 80 students and 21 sponsoring industry companies including:

Air Services, Amazon Web Services, APIS Group, Australian Computer Society, Australian Cyber Security Centre, Australian Federal Police, Cardno, Department

of Human Services, Engineers Australia, IBM Australia, KPMG, Northrop Grumman Australia, PEGA Systems, Ricoh, SAP, Service Now, Shearwater Consulting, APIS Group and WIC.

St Clare's Senior Hospitality students worked throughout the day to provide over 2700 canapes for the dinner service. Students from Years 10 - 12 Digital Technologies and Information Technology classes had the opportunity to work with IT consultants to set the event and prepared goody bags, set tables, assisted at registra-

tion, provided concierge services and run activities around the room. Attending students networked with their mentors and completed a paper plane design challenge and a spaghetti tower marshmallow balancing challenge before hearing from a panel of influential women working in STEM industries. The College was delighted to host over 165 people at the event and assist in making authentic connections for young women seeking STEM subjects and thinking about careers in STEM.



St Clare's students meeting with SDTEM Industry mentors. Photo supplied by St Clare's College.



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NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

Bishops lament scourge of suicide in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community



Australia's Catholic bishops have called for greater collaboration to stem the tide of the terrible loss of life through suicide among not only the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, but throughout the wider Australian society. In their annual Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday message, the bishops have identified five key principles to help government, faith-based and other organisations to walk together with communities struggling to cope with and to prevent the further loss of young lives.

They have also referred to how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders have suffered from dispossession and displacement, violence and a lack of self-determination around decision-making, all against a backdrop of a rapidly-changing society.

Lay ministers in rural NSW trained by ACU Centre for Liturgy



The Australian Catholic University (ACU) Centre for Liturgy travelled to Hay in western New South Wales where it successfully held a lay liturgical ministry formation program in the Wilcannia-Forbes Diocese on 1-2 June. The two-day program was made possible thanks to a generous grant from one of the Centre's donors. Liturgy is the official public worship of the Church. Accessing specialists in liturgy education and training can be difficult for Catholics in Australia's rural and regional areas. To meet the need for formation, the ACU Centre for Liturgy's expert trainers Dr Jason McFarland and Ms Sharon Boyd organised the formation program to provide much needed training to lay liturgical ministers in the Diocese, who often have no access to such training and infrequent access to a priest.

Queens honours for many Catholic leaders

Queen's Birthday honours have been bestowed upon a number of leading Catholic lay and religious leaders, recognising their decades of work as servants of the Church in Australia. Among the many Queen's Birthday honours awardees were: Sr Mary Margaret Shanahan RSCJ, Fr Robert (Bob) Sheridan and Sr Patricia Caroline Bailey OP. Justice Neville Owen, the former chair of the Truth, Justice and Healing Council, who currently serves on the Pontifical Council for the Protection of Minors, has also been recognised in the awards. Deputy Dean of Australian Catholic University's (ACU's) La Salle Academy Associate Professor William Sultmann has been made a Member (AM) of the Order of Australia (General Division).



NSW Government school funding should follow need, not sector

Catholic Schools NSW (CSNSW) today welcomed increased education funding in the 2019-2020 NSW Budget but said programs to address disadvantage should be provided to all students who need them, not just those in government schools. CSNSW Chief Executive Officer Dallas McInerney welcomed confirmation that the capital funding increase for non-government schools - announced before the March 2019 election - has been included in the Budget over the next four years. "This will help ease the pressure on our parents and school communities, who currently fund some 90% of the capital projects in Catholic schools," Mr McInerney said. "We also welcome programs that address student disadvantage and believe these should support all students who need help, not only those in government schools.



Themes for discernment opens next phase for plenary council

THE Plenary Council 2020 moves into its next phase of preparation today with the announcement of the National Themes for Discernment that emerged from a historic process of listening to the voices of more than 222,000 people. Between May 2018 and March 2019, almost 17,500 submissions, from individuals and groups of all sizes, addressed the Plenary Council's central question: "What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?" Over several days of listening to what the people of God said, with intense moments of prayer and discernment, the Bishops Commission for the Plenary Council and its Executive Committee, joined by the Facilitation Team, considered what people were longing for. Six National Themes for Discernment emerged. "The National Centre for Pastoral Research was able to

pinpoint more than 100 recurring subject areas from those 17,500 submissions," said Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB, president of the Plenary Council. "In some ways, those subject areas described what one might call 'the messy reality' of Catholic life in Australia today. The voices of the faithful help all of us to understand something of the historical experience and the current reality of the Catholic Church in Australia. "We worked to discern what people were yearning for as we move into this next stage of preparing for the Plenary Council." Archbishop Costelloe said there was a clear desire expressed for the Church to renew herself and focus on the person of Jesus Christ. "Accordingly, the six National Themes for Discernment flow from that primary goal of being a Christ-centred community of

people," he explained. The six National Themes for Discernment invite people to reflect, to pray and to consider how God is calling the People of God to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is: Missionary and Evangelising Inclusive, Participatory and Synodal Prayerful and Eucharistic Humble, Healing and Merciful A Joyful, Hope-Filled and Servant Community Open to conversion, Renewal and Reform. Plenary Council facilitator Lana Turvey-Collins said many topics relate to one or more of the National Themes for Discernment and this next stage of preparation – "Listening and Discernment" – is a time of prayerful consideration of the "big" questions that have been raised by the faithful.

Catholic Health to Farewell Chief Executive

AFTER almost five years of service, Catholic Health Australia's (CHA) Chief Executive, Suzanne Greenwood, will depart the organisation in August 2019. CHA Board Chairperson, Paul Robertson AO, said whilst sorry to see Ms Greenwood depart, he was grateful for her leadership contribution and wished her every success in her future career. Mr Robertson said, "Suzanne is a fierce advocate for expanding access to health care for all people and has led CHA expertly, and always with the best interests in mind of those who are cared for in Catholic hospitals and aged care services. "Suzanne has also advanced the Church's mission as members came together in a spirit of communion and cooperation to respond to the introduction of 'voluntary assisted dying' in Victoria. By building research evidence of Catholic Palliative Care services, CHA has demonstrated strong leadership and action on improving end-of-life care in response, and CHA will continue to spotlight this issue to ensure palliative care remains on the Government's agenda. "Since commencing with

CHA in October 2014, Suzanne increased the policy and mission support capacity of CHA, improved our governance model through undertaking a Governance Review, launched the Ministry Leadership Program in Australia and represented our member services on the International Confederation of Catholic Healthcare Institutes," Mr Robertson said. Ms Greenwood is very grateful to CHA for giving her the opportunity and privilege of being able to serve the Church. "The good works of the membership in achieving their Mission is remarkable and so to work with them, and alongside such a supportive Board and a capable and committed staff team, has been a blessing. "It's been an honour to have the unique opportunity to help shape national health and aged care reform on behalf of CHA members, who together form the Nation's largest, non-government provider grouping of health and aged care services. Catholic Health Australia will continue to advocate strongly and fairly on behalf of our members to secure Government support on issues that affect all Australians, such as



Suzanne Greenwood affordable healthcare, access to aged care and improved end-of-life care. "I am also grateful to those in the Department of Health and the Ministers' offices, and other health and aged care peak bodies, who worked with CHA as we all sought to introduce reforms to support the health and well-being of all. I have worked with three Health Ministers and four Aged Care Ministers in my years at CHA and acknowledge their tireless commitment to the community," said Ms Greenwood. Ms Greenwood cited the passion and dedication of the 83,000 plus people who work in the Catholic health and aged care sector as providing the inspiration and motivation to lead Catholic Health Australia since 2014. Ms Greenwood will finish up on 2 August. A process to appoint Ms Greenwood's successor has been commenced.

Archbishop Mark Coleridge's homily for Mass at the tomb of St Peter

ON MONDAY, June 24, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference commenced its Ad Limina Apostolorum visit with Mass at the tomb of St Peter. This is Conference president Archbishop Mark Coleridge's homily.

In the years when I worked here, I would often walk through St Peter's from Santa Marta where I lived to the Palace yonder where I worked. Now and then I would think of St Peter, the Galilean fisherman lying beneath this grand pile and wonder what he makes of it. I would think of those haunting words at the end of John's Gospel which Jesus speaks to Peter: "When you grow old, someone else will put a belt around you and take you where you would rather not go".

How true that was: Simon came a long way from the shores of the lake on a journey he could never have dreamt of in those early days. To Rome, to crucifixion upside down not far from here, to a simple tomb over which would rise the greatest church in Christendom once Hagia Sophia had been lost in Constantinople and new St Peter's stood on the hill in old Rome.

It would occur to me at times that all this is simply a monument to the grandeur of the witness of the fisherman who lies beneath it all in the tomb around which we gather. The Basilica shows forth the glory of the grace that led Peter on a journey from the call by the lake through the drama of love and betrayal to the death that sealed it all. How right that the altar of Christ's own sacrifice was built over his tomb – in recognition that Peter's sacrifice was the Lord's own sacrifice, that he had, in Paul's words, "reproduced the pattern of the Lord's death" (Phil 3:10), had died the death that gives birth to unimagined life.

Here we recognize that we bishops are called to the same witness, the same sacrifice. We are called, like Peter, to show forth the power of the Lord's death and resurrection. The call has come to us in ways we didn't expect; our response to it through the years has been a complex interweaving of love and betrayal; the love that called us commissions us beyond betrayal and promises that when we grow old someone else will put a belt around us and take us where we would rather not go, indicating with these words the



Archbishop Mark Coleridge's delivering the homily at the tomb of St Peter as the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference commenced its Ad Limina Apostolorum visit.

kind of death by which we will give glory to God. It's the love that says, "Follow me" without quite indicating where.

This is a time when our noses are being rubbed in our failures and frailties, a time of humiliation. But there is something of God in this – just as there was when Jesus asked Peter three times, "Do you love me?" after Peter had three times denied him. The Lord's questions were rubbing Peter's nose in his own failures and frailties – but also in the commissioning beyond betrayal.

This hill was always a graveyard, since it lay outside the city limits within which no-one could be buried. In a sense, too, our lives are always a graveyard, a place where death is at work. But in this Vatican graveyard the great monument to Easter, this Basilica, rises – calling us to allow Easter to rise from the graveyard of our lives as we witness to him who is "the first-born from the dead" (Col 1:18). "Death is the mother of beauty; hence from her/Alone shall come fulfilment to our dreams/And our desires": so says the poet Wallace Stevens.

This is certainly true of John the Baptist whose birth we remember today. Like Jesus, like Peter and like us, John was born to die – but in order to give witness to the One who is life, he who is "the dawn from on high", giving "light to those in darkness and the shadow of death" and who will "guide us into the way of peace", the way of Easter. John's birth was a cause of great joy, born as he was against all the odds. But his death, like Peter's, must have seemed deeply tragic – no less so than the death of Jesus himself. Yet each of these deaths was a triumph, and that's what this triumphant building proclaims – the second joy beyond

the tragic, the deep, quiet joy that is triumphant without ever daring to be triumphalist.

For all the times I walked through St Peter's on the way to work, I never grew used to this great church with its many layers. Every time it had on me the same effect that Hagia Sophia had on me the one time I entered it. It both awed me and embraced me. With its grandeur, St Peter's makes you feel small; yet in a strange way you feel anything but insignificant. You feel both very small and very grand – like the little child of whom Zechariah foretells a great future.

The building leaves you in awe, feeling tiny – evoking as it does the majesty of God. But it also makes you feel very grand, makes your spirit expand – embodying also the divine condescension, the tenderness of God who, for all the divine majesty, stoops down to embrace us and make us his own. Peter and John must often have felt that way: small but grand because swept up into the majesty of God-with-us, the triumph of Easter, the joy beyond the vast sorrow.

In Australia this is a time surely when, beyond all the sorrows, we as bishops have to discover anew how small we are and yet how grand is the design into which we have been drawn by the call of God and his commissioning beyond our betrayals. It is a time for humiliation to give birth to humility. May the Galilean fisherman, the unlikely Princeps apostolorum at whose tomb we pray, be our companion and guide on the journey which for him is now finished but which for us continues still, as we prepare the way of the Lord. Amen.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

These stories sourced from Catholic News Agency

Polish priest in stable condition after being stabbed before Mass



WROCLAW, POLAND: A Catholic priest in Wrocław is in stable condition after

reportedly being stabbed before morning Mass on Monday, Polish sources are reporting.

A spokesperson with University Clinical Hospital in Wrocław told the Polish press agency PAP that the priest, Fr. Ireneusz Bakalarczyk, was recovering well from surgery that treated internal injuries in his chest and abdomen that he reportedly sustained during the June 10 stabbing.

Fr. Bakalarczyk was on his way to celebrate Mass at the church of the Blessed Virgin Mary on the Sand, in the city center of Wrocław, when a 57 year-old man approached him and started a conversation about the sex abuse scandals in the Catholic Church, before allegedly pulling out a knife and stabbing the priest in the chest and abdomen.

Kenyan court rules that rape victims have right to abortion

By Bea Cuasay



NAIROBI, KENYA: Kenya's High Court ruled Wednesday that rape victims whose pregnancy threatens their life or health have a right to procure abortion.

The June 12 ruling regarded a case brought on behalf of a young woman who died in June 2018 from complications related to a back-alley abortion she procured in 2014.

"Pregnancy resulting from rape or defilement, if in the opinion of a trained medical professional poses a danger to life or the health - that is physical, mental and social well-being of the mother - maybe terminated under ... sections of the constitution," said Justice Aggrey Machelule, the Thompson Reuters Foundation reported.

Christian leaders call for dialogue, end to violence in Hong Kong



HONG KONG, CHINA: Hundreds of thousands of protestors in Hong Kong are continuing to demonstrate against the government's plans to allow extraditions to mainland China – a plan which as of Saturday has been indefinitely suspended.

Carrie Lam, Hong Kong's chief executive, had introduced a bill that would allow for secret arrests and extraditions to mainland China, where Communist courts would try alleged criminals.

The legislation drew widespread protest and was placed on hold, but protests have continued, calling for Lam's resignation.

Catholic leaders are speaking out in support of the protestors and calling for peace and dialogue.

Bishops lament Virginia Beach killings



RICHMOND, VIRGINIA: After 12 people were killed Friday by a gunman in Virginia, the local bishop offered his prayers for all those affected in the tragedy.

DeWayne Craddock allegedly opened fire May 31 on employees and customers of the Virginia Beach Municipal Center Complex, whence he had quit his job that morning.

Bishop Barry Knestout of Richmond said Friday that "My prayers and thoughts are with the people of Virginia Beach and the community of Hampton Roads. Tonight, I will continue to pray for those who lost their lives, those who are injured, the medical personnel and first responders who are assisting the victims, families and all affected. I would ask all the faithful to pray with me during this time."

Eleven of those killed were Virginia Beach employees, and one was a contractor at the municipal centre. Four others were injured, and Craddock died in a shootout with police.

IN ROME

Two events involving representatives from our Archdiocese have been taking place in Rome this week. Archbishop Christopher Prowse has joined the other Bishops of Australia in the Ad Limina Apostolorum Visit – an event that occurs every five to six years, and Archdiocesan Youth Ministry Leader, Huw Warmenhoven, has been one of the two Youth Leaders from Australia participating in the International Youth Forum that follows on from the Youth Synod earlier this year. When in Rome, take some photos. Here's a few snaps from their journey.



Australian bishops meet Pope Francis before praying together at St Peter's tomb



The assembled Australian Catholic Bishops Conference at Domus Australia.



Huw Warmenhoven takes the microphone to share his thoughts at the International Youth Forum.



Archbishop Mark Coleridge celebrating Mass at the tomb of St Peter.



Remembering the days of the old school classroom, Archbishop Christopher takes a walk... or a seat... down memory lane.



Malcom Hart (ACBC), Archbishop Christopher Prowse, Holly Roberts (Youth Minister from the Adelaide Archdiocese) and Huw Warmenhoven (our Archdiocesan Youth Ministry leader) together in Rome.



The Bishops of Australia celebrated Mass in the tomb of St Peter.



On their first day in Rome, the Bishops celebrated Mass at Domus Australia. Domus Australia is an authentic Italian 32 room guest house located in a beautifully restored historic convent building in central Rome. It was established by the Archdiocese of Sydney with the support of the Archdiocese of Melbourne and other dioceses, to provide Catholic travellers and pilgrims with comfortable accommodation while visiting the Eternal City. The Domus was officially opened by Pope Benedict XVI on 19 October 2011 after undergoing extensive renovations to create the wonderful facilities present on the site today.

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JUSTICE MATTERS
CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

The Justice of Jesus and the State



BY NOEL BENTLEY

The purpose of this article is to make some observations on a number of significant features of Catholic social doctrine which is grounded in the Justice of Jesus, and the application of social justice principles in our nation's socio-political environment.

The Justice of Jesus is rooted in his unconditional love for all humanity – always expressed through the balance between his Infinite Mercy and his role as Divine Judge. His Justice is most fully expressed in the Beatitudes: "...Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied..." (Matt:5: 6). There are of course, numerous examples of Jesus' teachings in the Gospels including His signs to help the poor and disadvantaged ... as servant to them.

Key elements of the Church's social teaching include the following core tenets: that: (a) humankind is created in the image and likeness of God; (b) the human being is created with free will and is called on to order their life to the common good in accordance with Divine Law; (c) human beings are social entities created not only for a loving relationship with God but also for a familial relationship with one another; (d) every human being has an inherent dignity which must be respected if they are to realize their full potential. (See Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, Ch 3)

Pope Benedict XVI tells us that the Church has 3 primary functions:- to worship God, to provide care and support for the poor and marginalized, and to evangelize. Pope Francis also refers to the importance of evangelization with his message that the poor are not only those who have insufficient for their

material needs, but those who have not received any instruction on the Gospel message ('existential poor').

It is also important to remember that the Church's social justice doctrine emphasizes the centrality of the principles of subsidiarity and solidarity with the poor (See CSDC, Ch 4), for them to be able to live with dignity, exercising their rights and responsibilities for the common good as respected members of the Australian community.

The State has taken on a significant role in the support of the poor and marginalized as a part of its range of services to the community. But the Church's pursuit of social justice for the poor (through its direct service programs and also its lobbying efforts with the State) is much more comprehensive than anything the State can achieve on its own.

The Commission carries out its role with prayer as the source of its inspiration and spiritual energy: similarly with parish social justice groups. To a significant extent, however, the Commission pursues its mission in a secular political environment where there are limited competing resources being distributed amongst government community service agencies, often determined by political pressures. It is reasonable to expect then, that Church and State priorities in this area will at times, be out of sync with one another and this can cause some frustration amongst protagonists. Notwithstanding this, it remains one of the primary goals for all working for social justice within the Church, that Her social doctrine is recognized by the broader community as that inspired by the Gospel message of Jesus.

Archbishop's 2018 Christmas Appeal

BY DEACON
JOE BLACKWELL

Last year's Archbishop's Christmas Appeal was again supported generously, raising almost \$69,000. Archbishop Christopher expressed his great appreciation and deep gratitude at being able to offer significant support for projects overseas and within Australia on behalf of the people of the Archdiocese.

Thank you to all who supported the 2018 Archbishop's Christmas Appeal.

People's generosity has enabled \$5,985 towards helping the rural parish of St Joseph's,

Battambang in Cambodia provide improved and extended education opportunities to students beyond their infant years to primary, secondary and tertiary levels whilst also seeking to improve the self-sufficiency of the parish and their community is envisaged.

\$15,000 will go to further the Church's presence and work across many isolated and remote communities through the Diocese of Broome in Western Australia as well as \$13,000 to our near neighbour, the Diocese of Wilcannia Forbes, facing similar issues.

Continued support of \$10,000 has been given to:

the National Council of Churches' Christmas Bowl Appeal to assist in bringing hope and opportunity to those in need in Vanuatu, Myanmar, Zimbabwe, Syria and Pakistan; whilst \$5,000 was given towards student assistance for those in need at Bethlehem University in the Holy Land where the University is endeavouring to train future leaders within a Catholic education environment; \$15,000 for projects within the Diocese of Otukpo, Nigeria in Africa; and 5,000 towards projects focused on helping the poor within the La Salette Matha Province in India.

Coming Events

JULY 14: Amicus Lunch – The Deck, Regatta Point at noon. Table booked in the name of AMICUS. RSVP Contact Lyn 0400 265 926
JULY 23-24: International Conference on Comparative Theology. Identities transformed or transgressed? Exploring new frontiers in comparative theology and inter-religious learning. July 23-24, cost \$150-\$300. To register: www.acu.edu.au/ctconf2019

JULY 27: Catholic Women's Retreat Day: Nature grace and glory. Hosted by The Sisterhood Movement and the Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia, Nashville. Women of all ages and stages of life are invited to a Women's retreat day at Haydon Hall in Maunka staring 9.30am-4pm. Don't miss a day of fellowship with other women of faith, a series of impact talks, lunch, holy hour and a a discussion panel. To register visit www.sisterhood.org.au

JULY 31: Farewell Mass – Fr Frank Brennan and the Jesuit Community. Fr Frank's departure marks the end of the Jesuit Community in Canberra, after 51 years. A farewell Mass to acknowledge Fr Frank, and the Jesuits' contribution, will be held at St Christopher's Cathedral, Manuka on July 31 (the feast of St Ignatius Loyola) at 5.30pm. Archbishop Christopher Prowse will celebrate the Mass, with the Jesuit Provincial Fr Brian McCoy SJ. Everyone is welcome, with refreshments to follow.

AUGUST 9-10: As part of Merici College's 60th Anniversary celebrations, a very special concert and fundraiser will be held on Friday August 9 and Saturday August 10 in the Auditorium. The concert starts at 7.00pm (arrival and seating at 6.30pm) on both days. Walk down memory lane, as we revisit each decade through dance, music, drama performances, Alumni reflections and current students highlighting life at Merici College. Tickets and refreshment packages available at www.trybooking.com/BCWAY. All funds raised will be used to improve indoor and outdoor learning spaces for students.

AUGUST 9-10: Come and experience the healing love of Jesus in your life! Anne Marie Gatenby will present a seminar on the Gift of Healing over two days: Friday August 9 7pm-9pm and Saturday August 10 9am-4pm. Friday evening is in the Greg Collins wing,

St Benedicts, Narrabundah, cost is \$5 including soup. On Saturday the seminar will be held in the Parish Room, St Peter Chancels, Yarralumla. A collection will be taken to cover costs. Morning tea provided, sausage sizzle lunch is \$5.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

0415 266 019 and Gabriel on 0432 082 642.


HOLY SPIRIT SECULAR FRANCISCAN FRATERNITY: Meet on the third Friday of the month at 7:45pm, St Augustine Church, 262 Beasley St Farrer. Secular Franciscans try to follow Christ in the footsteps of St Francis of Assisi. Call Tony on 0407 072 139 or Hélène on 0420 533 264. Email: sfo@fastmail.fm

LEGION OF MARY: Join for rosary, prayers and apostolic works for the glory of God under the banner of Our Lady. Weekly meetings held at:
* St Joseph's, O'Connor (Sat after 8am Mass)
* Mary Queen of Apostles, Goulburn (Wed 2pm)
* St Matthew's, Page (Sat 10.30am)
* St Monica's, Evatt (Tues 6.30pm)
* Holy Spirit, Amaroo (Thurs 10am & 7.30pm)
* St John the Evangelist Chapel, ANU (Tues 6pm).
Contact LegionOfMaryCanberra@gmail.com.

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

MARIAN MOVEMENT OF PRIESTS: Meets to pray a Cenacle at St Joseph's Church O'Connor each Wednesday following the 8.00am 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

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Christopher's Cathedral for Mass at 5pm. Mass is then followed by drinks at 'Public Bar' in Manuka.

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

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

Group Ecumenical group meets regularly for prayer every second Sunday of the month at Weston Creek Uniting church at 5.30pm. Prayers, songs, Scripture readings and silent meditation as used in the community of Taizé, France. All welcome. Enquiries to Annemarie (0421 492 554).

TEAMS OF OUR LADY: Teams is a movement within the Church that encourages couples to grow in love via having open communications, processes for ongoing spiritual growth and being open in sharing their experiences. Contact Genevieve and Tim on teamspower@bigpond.com or 0437 013 328.

YOUR HELP GROUP: Share your talents and time with others. Free exchange or low cost. Assist pensioners, low income, needy and less-fortunate people. Volunteers required to provide haircut, massage, nails, food, odd jobs etc. Massage improves circulation, mobility and well-being. Confidential. Phone 0403 050 960 anytime. John.

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Mail: GPO Box 89, Canberra 2601. Email: tribunal@cg.org.au

Choices Decisions Outcomes in Cootamundra

THE Archdiocesan Marriage Family & Relationships team visited Sacred Heart Cootamundra this week to present the Choices Decisions Outcomes program to the Year 7, 8, 9 & 10 students. The MFR team visits every year to take students through a sequential program which helps them focus on the importance of learning how to build strong, healthy, friendships of mutual respect. This builds foundational skills for any future committed relationship in which each person is to be genuinely valued and loved. This year three new young recruits, Georgia Breynard, Jake Wenger and Neve Tually trained as presenters and were a hit with the high schoolers at Sacred Heart.



Georgia Breynard with students from Sacred Heart Cootamundra

David & Katie Kobler Teacher Professional Learning

BY LARA KIRK

OVER the last couple of years the Catholic Identity team at Catholic Education have been collaborating with the Archdiocesan Marriage, Family & Relationships team to bring good quality Professional Learning opportunities to Catholic teachers. The collaboration specifically targets the needs of teachers who must address issues of sexuality, relationships and self-image with young people, either in the curriculum or pastorally within the wider school setting.

This year's seminar was particularly popular with 63 teachers registering to hear David and Katie Kobler of YourChoicez present on "Toxic and Healthy Relationships: Modelling and Teaching Healthy Relationships".

David and Katie now work as a husband and wife team speaking and have spoken to hundreds of thousands of young people across Australia and New Zealand. But they each came to



Katie and David Kobler

this work individually through firsthand experience and experience as youth workers, of the dire need young people have for some wisdom and guidance in thinking through relationship decisions. They are big advocates of helping teachers and parents to 'open up the conversations' with young people. They seek through their workshops to empower teachers and parents to provide helpful answers to the very real question which cause deep concern to young people.

This Teacher Professional Learning seminar will be repeated at Hennessy College on Monday 9th September 4-6pm for teachers in the Western Deanery. Enquiries contact lara.kirk@cg.org.au to hear a 15 minute interview with Katie and David go to https://soundcloud.com/cg_catholic/kobler-edited-interview OR <https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/event-recognising-toxic-and-healthy-relationship-dynamics-in-young-people/#more>



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