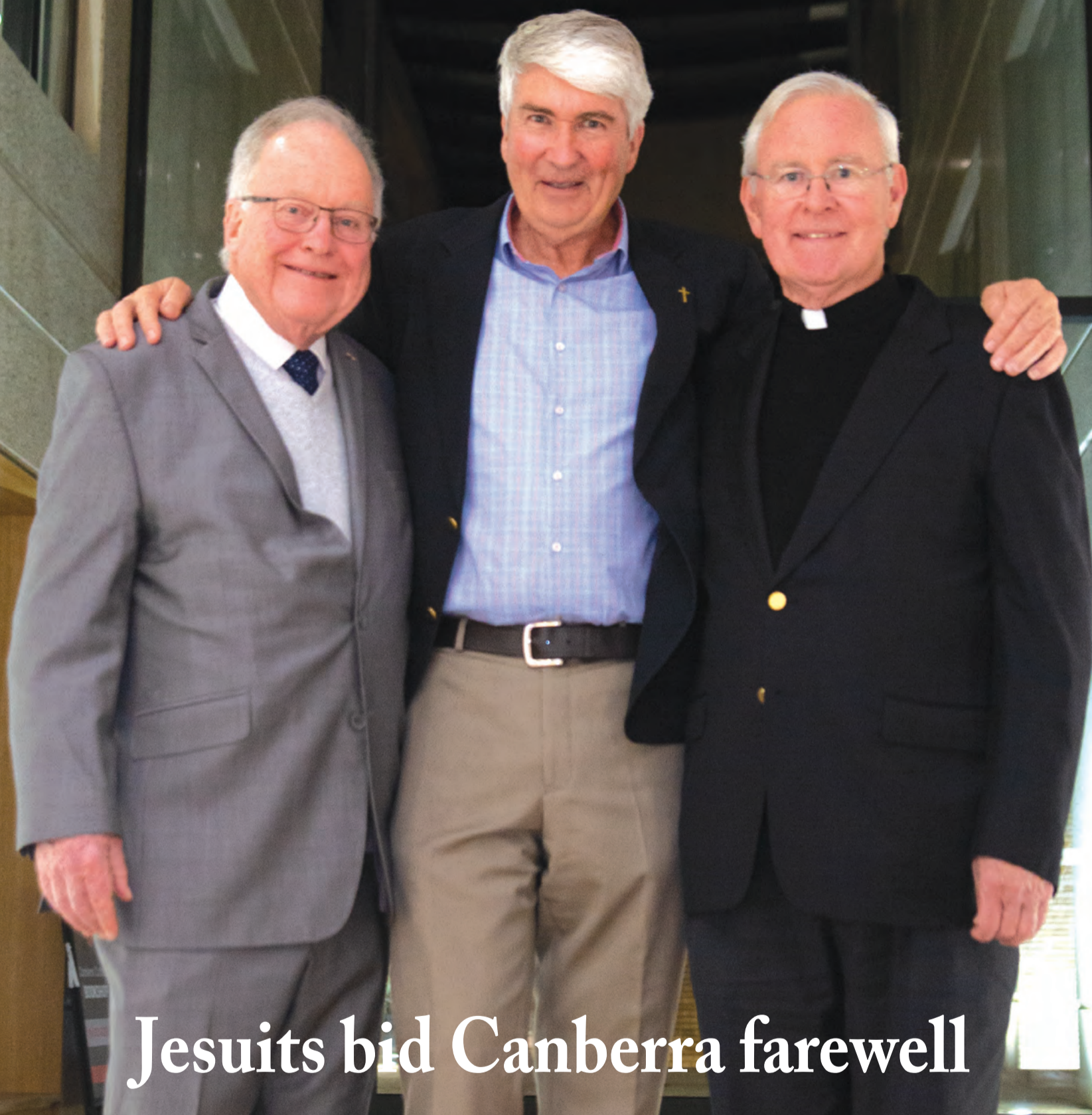


# CATHOLIC Voice

ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN  
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## Jesuits bid Canberra farewell

After half a century, Canberra's Jesuit community is moving on.

The bags have been packed, accommodation secured, and farewells have been spoken.

It's a farewell tinged with regret. As Fr Frank Brennan says in his feature piece, "Alas, we no longer have the personnel on hand."

Fr Stephen Astill SJ will remain in the parish as Administrator of Moruya, but aside from his

presence, what will remain of the community will be the memories they created, the bonds they formed and the substantial impact they had on Canberra Catholic life.

They were farewelled in a Mass at St Christopher's Cathedral on Wednesday, July 31.

*See inside for full feature on the Jesuit's farewell.*



Archbishop’s Message  
Archbishop Christopher Prowse

Closeness & Tenderness

CERTAINLY one of the great highlights of the recent Australian Bishops’ AD LIMINA APOSTOLORUM gathering in Rome was our time spent with Pope Francis. It was both an informal and pastoral dialogue with the Pope. He so generously spent about two and a half hours with us. Present were the Pope and the 40 Australian Bishops. The Pope had a very capable translator. The Pope made it clear from the outset that there would be no formal speeches. He simply wished us to enter into a time of listening and dialogue on any topic we wished to address. Humbly, as any gracious host might do, he offered us water in small plastic bottles and even told us where the toilets could be found! Quite apart from the pastoral discussions, so many of us were taken by the humility of the Pope – a sign of great leadership always! For example, as he talked with us, he would ensure personally that the glass of his hard working translator was filled with water – he did not seem concerned about his own glass. Pope Francis talked often about how Bishops are to be close to God, to their clergy, to their people and to the poor of the world. He often used the Italian word “avvicinarsi” – to draw near, to be close – to move closer. It reminded me of other terms so typical of his pontificate – to develop a “culture of tenderness”, to walk with people, and accompany them on the journey of life. This is the missionary way the Pope offers to all of us. It is the way Jesus walks with all, at all times! It is the way of missionary discipleship. It is the way of evangelisation. It is the way of the Plenary Council of Australia. This way of closeness and tenderness to all peoples is not the



International symbol, WYD 2008 ‘The Day The Holy Spirit Visited Marjorie And Her People’ by Aboriginal Elder of the Tiwi Islands, Marjorie Liddy

public perception that many in Australia have of the Catholic Church. That is why it is a missionary priority for the Church – to be who we are called to be by Jesus. Too many Australians have a perception of us as being disinterested, aloof and even arrogant. Let us break down this perception by advancing our Gospel “culture of tenderness” – just like Jesus. This will take time and requires few words but humble actions. It suggests a dialogue of mutual respect and expressing “truth in love” (Ephesians 4/15). All of this reminds me of the lovely story of the Aboriginal Elder of the Tiwi Islands – Marjorie Liddy – who died in recent years. She was fishing with her son one evening. They were returning home when darkness came. The moon seemed strangely to disappear. She was astonished to see a strange arrangement of the stars. Her

son noticed it too. I believe they were having a kind of apparition. Her son said the star arrangement looked like an enormous bird. “No, it is not a bird, son,” she said, “It is the Holy Spirit!” Encouraged by her priest and bishop, she painted what she saw in the sky that night. It became the international symbol, approved by the Vatican, of World Youth Day Sydney 2008. As many people in Australia today say of the Catholic Church in one way or another, “Oh, It’s just a bird!”, we can imitate Marjorie Liddy and reply back, “Sons and daughters of Australia, she is not a bird, she is the Body of Christ, The Community of the Holy Spirit, Jesus among us!” May this be our missionary priority – all done with tender “avvicinarsi”!

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Archbishop’s Diary -August 2019

**THURSDAY, 1** 12.15pm Mass, St Christopher’s Cathedral  
5.30pm ACU Chapter Meeting, Canberra

**SATURDAY, 3** 6.00pm Confirmation Mass, St Anthony of Padua Parish, Wanniasa

**SUNDAY, 4** 11.00am Mass, St Christopher’s Cathedral

**TUESDAY, 6** 12.15pm Mass, St Christopher’s Cathedral

**WEDNESDAY, 7** 9.30am SHINE Youth Ministry Students, Marist College, Pearce

**THURSDAY, 8** 10.00am Mass, Feast of St Mary MacKillop, Bombala

11.30am Blessing/Opening St Joseph’s Primary School Administration Building, Bombala

**SATURDAY, 10** 11.00 St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Pilgrimage, Eden  
12.00pm Mass, Our Lady Star of the Sea, Eden

**SUNDAY, 11** 11.00am Mass, St Christopher’s Cathedral

**THURSDAY, 15** 12.15pm Mass, St Christopher’s Cathedral

**SATURDAY, 17** 6.00pm Mass, St Thomas Aquinas Parish, Charnwood

**SUNDAY, 18** 9.00am Mass, St Thomas Aquinas Parish, Charnwood  
11.00am Mass, St Christopher’s Cathedral

**THURSDAY, 22** 7.30am Mass, St Christopher’s Cathedral

**SUNDAY, 25** 10.00am Confirmation Mass, Pambula & Eden, Mass at Merimbula

**THURSDAY, 29** 4.00pm Mass, Catholic Education Recognition Awards, St Christopher’s Cathedral

**FRIDAY, 30** 6.00pm Ordination to the Priesthood – Alexander Osborne, St Christopher’s Cathedral



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Cover picture: Fr Stephen Astill, Fr Frank Brennan and Fr Peter L’Estrange. Photo: Luwyl Ambida

# Two paths converge for Lieutenant Colonel

BY CHRIS GORDON

THE poet Robert Frost, in his poem “The Road Not Taken”, wrote of two roads diverging in a forest, symbolising the choices we sometimes have to make in life. We do this OR we do that.

For Lieutenant Colonel Gavin Keating, a very different dynamic is at play. For Gavin, his two paths are converging.

The career soldier, who was raised a Catholic and continued to practice his faith throughout his army life, has chosen to take steps towards becoming a Deacon and a Chaplain in the Army.

“I maintained my faith when I left home and it remained a source of comfort and strength during my army career,” Gavin explained.

## In the Army

Gavin started his army life at Australian Defence Force Academy in 1991 and completed his training at the Royal Military College before graduating as an infantry lieutenant in 1994.

Since then he served in most of the areas in which Australian service men and women have been deployed in recent years; East Timor on two occasions, peace monitoring force at Bougainville; Afghanistan on two occasions, Iraq once, a UN observer in the Middle East in Israel and Lebanon, and Indonesia in 2009 for disaster relief operations.

His service included command of the 3rd Battalion Royal Australian Regiment and promotion to the rank of Colonel. And while many of his peers and fellow soldiers saw horrific things in their respective tours, Gavin says he was relatively lucky in the things he encountered.

Gavin believes there is a growing realisation in Australia today, and around the world, that returning home safely can be just the beginning of very difficult times on service people’s lives.

There’s an awareness, Gavin explains, that sending people to war can have a cost in people’s physical and mental health.

This awareness became part of Gavin’s contemplation towards his new direction.

## Chaplains

Another influence on his decision was his experience with chaplains throughout his army career.

“Overwhelmingly my



Lt Colonel Gavin Keating on deployment

**Overwhelmingly my experience as an army officer of military padres was positive across all faiths and I saw on many occasions that they filled a very important role, particularly in those tough times when people were overseas and struggling.**

experience as an army officer of military padres was positive across all faiths and I saw on many occasions that they filled a very important role, particularly in those tough times when people were overseas and struggling,” Gavin recalls.

“I always admired what they brought in terms of that spiritual welfare and support and so it came to a time in my career where I began to think about how I wanted to continue to serve.

“I strongly believe that military chaplaincy is a very important part of the military and I feel that I can make a contribution in that sense and perhaps answer a call that had been in the back of my mind for many years in terms of serving God in a more direct role.”

“In a way, it was a confluence of joining the two things, my faith and my career, together.”

## Military life and a life of faith

The two may seem like strange bedfellows. Most faiths advocate peace and decry killing. Military



Lt Colonel Gavin Keating with his wife Myra

life on the other hand brings with it the very real possibility of taking lives. But Gavin believes these two threads are not as far apart as they may sound.

“Military conflict is an unfortunate reality,” Gavin explained.

“Obviously from our faith perspective we wish that that were not so, but the kingdom of God hasn’t been fully arrived at... and we’re working towards that but in the interim, military conflict remains a reality.

“The Australian Army is very professional in the sense that we spend our careers learning how to apply violence in a controlled fashion in accordance with government policy – which is the doctrinal definition of what we do. But it’s done to limit the number of lives that will be lost.

It’s done to save lives.

## Keeping the peace

Military training and the use to which the military is put, Gavin believes, can lead to a misconception that soldiers are war-mongers, but that hasn’t been Gavin’s experience. The more people have exposure to military conflict and its results, he says, the less they want it to be necessary.

There’s an old military saying that there are no atheists in a fox-hole, or in the trenches... an oldy but a goody Gavin chuckles. But he says there is a truth underlying it. People tend to ask the deeper existential questions when faced with their own mortality.

“Few soldiers are concerned with the specific denomination

of the padre, and it’s not necessarily about converting the flock, but being there for them, providing God’s presence to them if you like, and helping them through those tough times.

“Good chaplains of any persuasion can have a big influence by just quietly going about their business and walking with people. And it’s been my experience that there is great ecumenical cooperation between ministers of different faiths in the army.”

The significance of the trauma soldier’s experience, and the help chaplaincy provides is not lost on the army. Chaplains form part of a comprehensive approach to the holistic mental and spiritual wellbeing of military personnel that also includes counsellors, therapist and psychologists.

## A new path

Armed with that understanding, the Army is supporting Gavin’s theological studies and all going well he should commence duties as a captain padre in 2023.

Whilst it will be a life-changing experience for Gavin, he is doing it with the enthusiastic support of his family.

“I think Gavin’s favourite part of being in the army has been working with the soldiers. I’m incredibly proud that he’s made that choice and that the army has supported him in it,” said his wife, Myra.

“I think it takes amazing strength of self to take ostensibly several steps back professionally to do what you believe in doing. I have to admit I’m not wild about going back to the posting pool when Gavin is qualified but we’ve done it before, we’ll do it again and in a lot of ways it’s exciting.”

Myra said that Gavin’s decision had also impacted on her and their two sons in profound and positive ways.

“I think Gavin’s decision has brought faith front and centre for all of us,” she explained.

“When I first met Gavin I think the parish priest was a bit disappointed because he had Gavin earmarked for the Church. But I got him,” Myra laughed.

“But it’s funny, things work out how they’re meant to in the long run.”

# Melinda Mao: a tale of Rebirth

BY DON SMITH

MELINDA Mao's parents faced the decision no parents want to face.

In 2008, their high achieving daughter lay in a coma in a Hong Kong hospital. Stricken by a viral illness, doctors gave her little hope. Switch off her life support, they recommended.

Mel's parents said no.

Mel, too, said no.

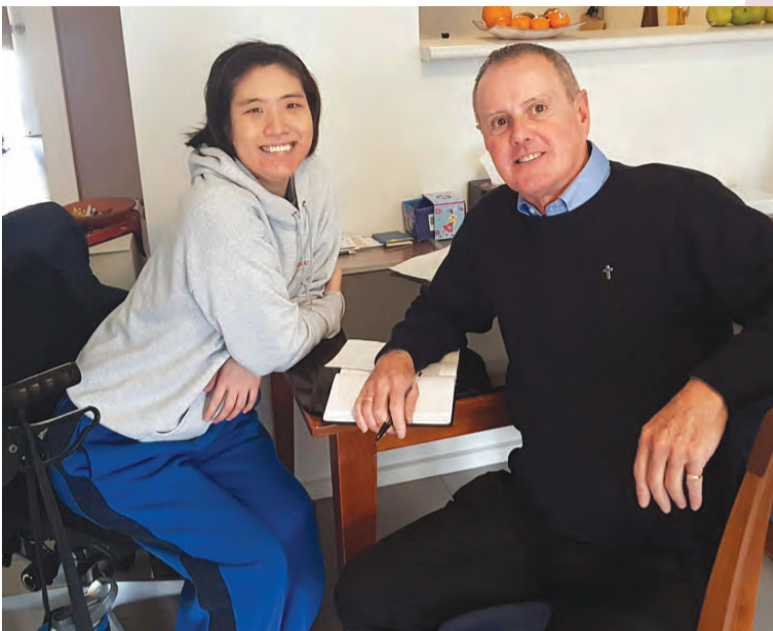
She had learnt six languages by her early twenties, but in her coma, she only knew one tongue – a silent one, and it was speaking louder than words:

Don't give up, it was saying. Never, ever give up...

Born in Hong Kong and with her early years in Australia, Melinda Mao had moved to the UK with her family for her formative high school years.

In the UK, her talents bloomed. She became a promising teenage pianist, was a volunteer in aged care facilities, and received gold and silver medals in Chinese martial arts, a Duke of Edinburgh award in mountaineering, and a Queen's award in lifesaving.

She'd also learned to speak



German, Spanish and Latin, in addition to English, Mandarin and Cantonese.

In 2003, she was one of the top five students in English literature in the UK's GCSE examinations, out of over 50,000 high school candidates.

With her schooling finished, she returned to Australia with her family where she was studying for a double degree in Accounting

**Asked what she has learnt from her illness, Mel offers a message of hope and persistence. "Don't give up," she says. "Things will improve. Something good will come out of something bad."**

his Australian business and the parents moved to Hong Kong to support her.

After six years, she was finally back in Australia in 2014 where she settled with her family in Canberra.

Her journey in the faith is continuing in the national capital and she is preparing for Confirmation under the guidance of Fathers Richard Thompson and Adrian Chan at Mary Help of Christians parish, South Woden.

The church plays an important part in her life.

"It's very meaningful and fun," she says with a giggle.

An NDIS recipient, she now lives in her own home, cooks for herself, and does the household chores with a carer's part-time support.

She's learnt to sing again and performs in aged care homes. There are also studies in information technology and business administration that keep her busy and hopes of finding employment in the IT or bookkeeping industry.

Asked what she has learnt from her illness, Mel offers a message of hope and persistence.

"Don't give up," she says.

"Things will improve. Something good will come out of something bad."

For Mel, there's much to ponder about that 'something good.'

Not least, is the curious matter of the sequence of events: the baptism taking place shortly after the anniversary of her birth in the original place of her birth.

Seemingly she was reborn to life in Hong Kong after hovering on its precipice – to a new faith, a new home, and a new future.

Don't give up, she says.

It's a powerful message delivered by parents staring at a life support machine, and a daughter facing a long road back from the brink.

Something good, indeed.



Mel with her medals for Chinese Martial Arts. Photo supplied



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 [whatsalife.com/stories](https://whatsalife.com/stories), attend a discernment weekend retreat, volunteer as a short term lay missionary or just call Fr Peter 0408 299 170



# NAIDOC Week

## Koori Cook Off celebrates family, community and tucker



BY CHRIS GORDON

THERE are few communal activities that bring people together as well as a shared meal, and that's part of the idea behind the Annual Goulburn Koori Cook Off.

The Koori Cook Off was celebrated at Trinity College this week as part of the national NAIDOC Week celebrations.

Now in its second year, organiser Rick Shipp said the popular event was a great opportunity to share not only customs but fun activities to bring different communities together.

"What we're doing is cooking some traditional food, so we've got some Kangaroo meat, some fish and so on, and then some non-traditional food as well," Rick said.

"It's about coming together, celebrating NAIDOC, with this year's theme "Voice, Treaty, Truth – Work together for our future."

"The idea is to bring the community together with an Aboriginal focus that celebrates our culture. Traditionally that's what we did a lot in past times, coming together, having corroborees, lots of family and community time, celebrating our good times. And that's what we're

doing today."

All Goulburn and Crookwell High Schools took part along with community service providers, local police and members of the community.

Teams would prepare a meal (which could use native Australian ingredients, but didn't have to) and then were judged by a panel of community representatives.

Trinity Principal, Gaye McManus, described the Cook Off as a fantastic opportunity for community groups to come together and celebrate NAIDOC Week.

"We were thrilled with the number of people who attended to recognise and celebrate Aboriginal culture," Ms McManus said.

Rick, a Board member of Pejar Local Aboriginal Land Council and the Aboriginal Health Team Leader at Southern NSW Local Health District, said the team behind the Koori Cook Off felt encouraged to hold the event again after the success of last year's Cook Off.

"Traditionally the blokes were the hunters and gatherers and the women would be at home doing the weaving and cooking and looking after the family, and sometimes that's

not recognised enough" Rick said.

"And this year, same as last year, we take this time to reflect on our past, and on our values and remember that our values can sometimes get lost, we can get lost in ourselves and caught up in the day to day business that we do, so it's a good time to remember those days and come together."

The three words of this year's theme – Voice, Treaty, Truth – were three key elements to the reforms set out in the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

While there is still much work to be done for First Nations people in Australia through political processes, Rick believes that community activities that outreach and share Aboriginal customs are also part of the bigger picture of addressing Indigenous issues.

Central to the event is the concept of sharing... and not just sharing Aboriginal culture but other cultures from the community.

Rick, whose son is a student at Trinity College, thanked the school for hosting the event, and thanked all of the schools and services that took part in and supported the Cook Off.

Students of Goulburn's three High Schools as well as Crookwell High joined with members of the community for Goulburn's second annual Koori Cook Off, held this year at Trinity College. Photo Chris Gordon.

## Catholic Schools celebrate NAIDOC week

THE CATHOLIC Education community gathered at St Christopher's Cathedral in Manuka with special guests to celebrate NAIDOC Mass and recognise those who have

made a significant contribution to Aboriginal education in the Archdiocese.

The Mass began with a smoking ceremony by the Wiradjuri Echoes that

welcomed attendees into the Church for Mass celebrated by Archbishop Christopher Prowse. Music was led by the St Mary MacKillop College, Canberra choir.



## Russell Taylor reflects on the origins of NAIDOC week

RUSSELL Taylor AM spoke to the congregation at St Mary's, Bungendore after Mass on Sunday July 14 as part the parish's observation of NAIDOC Week.

Mr Taylor, who received his Order of Australia for his work with the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS), emphasised that his thoughts were AN Aboriginal perspective and not necessarily THE Aboriginal perspective.

In his speech, he reflected on how the origins to NAIDOC week can be traced back to a call for a national Aborigines Day in 1930.

Mr Taylor observed that more and more non-Indigenous people now participate in and embrace the spirit of NAIDOC week.

He also spoke about the Uluru Statement from the Heart, the proposed Voice to Parliament and this year's theme of Voice Treaty Truth



Russell Taylor AM addressing the congregation at St Mary's, Bungendore with his reflections on NAIDOC Week.

and said that he believed a reconciled, inclusive Australia is indeed achievable.



His full speech can be read on the Catholic Voice website. Go to [www.catholicvoice.org.au](http://www.catholicvoice.org.au)

# Constitutional Convention for ACT Schools

SCHOOLS from around the ACT took part in the 2019 ACT Schools Constitutional Convention (the “ConCon”) last week on Thursday July 25 and Friday July 26.

Taking place at the National Archives of Australia, The Museum of Australian Democracy and the Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory, this year’s topic was Should the Commonwealth Parliament have specific powers to legislate for the environment?

The event is organised collaboratively by the National Archives of Australia, ACT Legislative Assembly, the ACT Department of Education and Training, Museum of Australian Democracy (Old Parliament House), the Australian Electoral Commission and Elections ACT.

- The stated aims of the ConCon are to:
- provide an opportunity for students in Years 11 to explore contemporary constitutional issues
  - encourage students to become better informed about the Australian system of government and how the Australian Constitution provides the framework for our democracy
  - encourage senior students to take an active interest in the traditions, processes and practices of government
  - allow students to discuss and debate contemporary Australian political issues.



Students from Marist College. Photo: Marist Facebook Page

# Even the sky’s not the limit for Lumen Christi student

BY DANIELLE LYNN

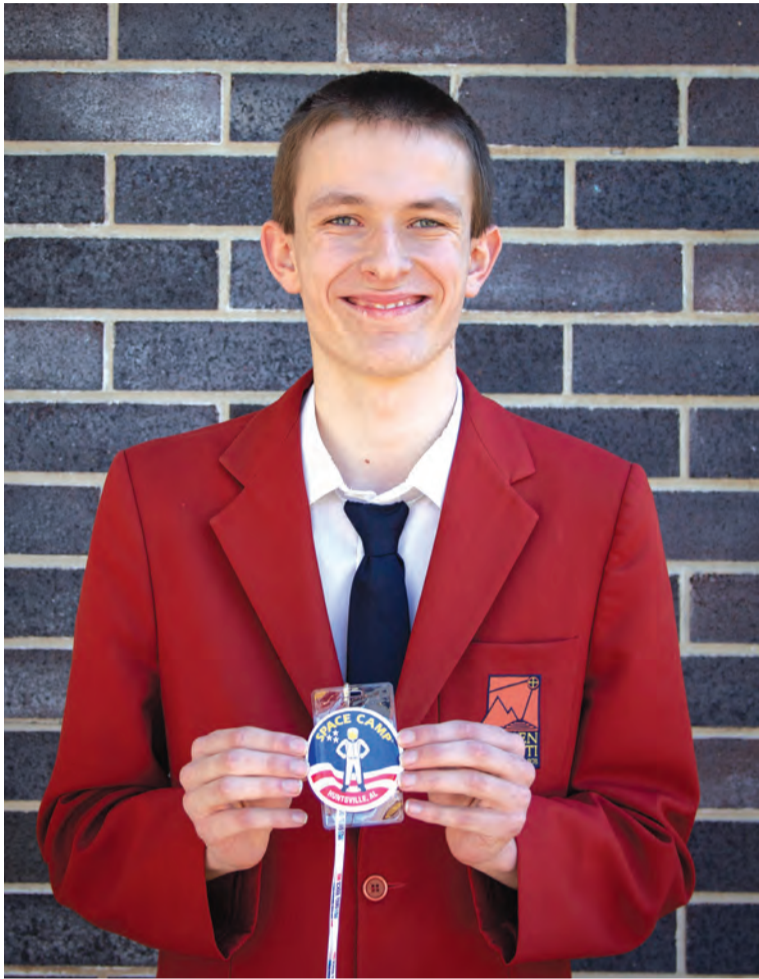
THE COUNTDOWN is on for Year 11 Lumen Christi student Liam McGerty as he prepares to travel to the USA for Space Camp in July 2019.

Liam has been interested in space since he was a young child aspiring to be an aerospace engineer. His enthusiasm in space camp, stems from winning a full scholarship to attend the YMCA Space Camp in Canberra in July 2017 and attending again in September 2018. From here Liam gained knowledge of NASA space camp trips in the USA and secured a placement at the Advanced Space Academy located in Huntsville, Alabama.

Liam started a Go Fund Me page to help in his quest to save for the trip and was supported by family, friends and his school community. He received a surprise donation of \$1000 from Dr Megan Clark, the CEO of the new Australian Space Agency who was excited to support Liam’s journey.

Twenty-one students from Australia and New Zealand will join Liam on the trip of a lifetime travelling around the United States of America. Liam will visit the Kennedy Space Centre where he will take part in the Shuttle Launch Experience and even have lunch with an astronaut.

Liam’s action packed trip also includes a visit to the Washington to see the Smithsonian Udvar Hazy Air and Space Museum and a Monuments Tour. Meanwhile



Lumen Christi student Liam McGerty. Photo supplied.

in Florida, Liam will go to iFly to experience a state-of-the-art vertical wind tunnel. To top it off, Liam will visit Universal Studios and the Florida Everglades where he will experience an airboat adventure spotting wildlife including alligators, turtles and Burmese pythons.

Liam is most looking forward to studying intensively at the Advanced Space Academy where he

will train to be an astronaut and undertake interactive challenges in science, maths, engineering and technology, ending with a graduation ceremony in which he gets to wear a flight suit. Liam aspires to work in the space industry and hopes that this training will help him reach his goal of becoming an aerospace, aeronautical or space engineer.



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# Fr Coll ready for the next chapter

BY CHRIS GORDON

AT THE age of 79, Fr Lachlan Coll is preparing for the next chapter of his life. Retirement.

Chapter may not be the right word.

For most of us, our lives don't fit conveniently into chapters. Life is messier than a book, full of overlap and repetition, and the same is true for Fr Lachlan. His life does, however, allow a few clear sub headings.

There is the last 27 years, in which he has been a priest, and before that the 21 years as a husband.

Having been married, people have sometimes expected "expert status" of him, but Fr Lachlan shrugs off the suggestion and says they are wrong.

"It was sometimes said, especially in my early days, that I'd be a good guy to talk about marriage," Fr Lachlan explained.

"And I'd say, no. I had a model of marriage that suited ME, but I can't say what your model should be.

"I might have empathy, having lived with a wife and kids and all of the usual mix of things in a house with kids and teenagers growing up, but I didn't pretend to have the answers.

"I was happy to talk about it but I never believed I was an expert."

His is not a unique experience. There are other Catholic priests who have previously been married.

Still, it's a topic that has come up a lot over the years. But if Fr Lachlan is sick of the topic, he shows no sign of it. It's part of the open book that is his life.

Not entering the seminary until he was a widower, Fr Lachlan's was a late calling, although he'd thought about the idea as early as his school days. After his wife Jan died, the thought returned... not as an epiphany or sudden moment of clarity, but rather a process of time and discernment.

"I thought about it while I was still at school, actually. But I met Miss Right, and I married her, and I didn't think about it for 21



Fr Lachlan Coll with members of the Wanniasa Parish.

years after that, until she died," he said.

"Then the thoughts came flooding back, and I went to the parish priest thinking he'd say 'don't be silly, go and get married again,' but he said 'look, we'll pray about it... come back in three months.'"

"So I did. This went on for, I don't know, maybe 18 months... I'd go back every few months and we'd pray over it. Eventually he said, 'I think you better go see the Archbishop,' and it went from there."

Even at the seminary, Fr Lachlan's certainty wasn't instant. He went to St Paul's National Seminary for "older blokes" as he put it, and took it a semester at a time.

"I never said I was going to be a priest," Fr Lachlan clarified.

"I was there at the end of the first semester and I felt I should go back. And I kept doing that for the whole four years. And then I had to make a decision if I wanted to become a priest. Most of us didn't make a decision until into the fourth year."

While some believe priesthood is something you are born to, Fr

Lachlan takes a different view.

"I think you've got to be willing to put yourself forward, to be open to the idea," he said

Although you'd never pick it from his accent, Fr Lachlan was born in Scotland and emigrated to Tasmania at the age of 10.

Growing up in a mining town on the west coast of Tasmania, he soon learned kids could make life tough for someone who didn't sound Aussie enough. So he learned the lingo and the accent. Quickly.

Before they married, he and his wife both left Tasmania for the bright lights of Canberra in 1963, marrying at St Christopher's Cathedral the following year. Having qualified as an accountant in the public service, his work took he and his wife to Papua New Guinea for three years where the first of his three children, Andrew was born. His other two children, Allyson and Kylie, were born in Australia.

On return he worked in various departments, including Treasury, Finance and Aviation.

After the death of his wife, and his subsequent ordination, he began his priestly duties as

**I was there at the end of the first semester and I felt I should go back. And I kept doing that for the whole four years. I think you've got to be willing to put yourself forward, to be open to the idea**

Assistant Priest at the Cathedral Parish for three years. Then followed six months looking after Barellan before becoming Parish Priest at Young for the next four and a half years.

Next he was an Administrator at St John Vianneys for two years, Parish Priest at Kaleen for six years, and then to his current appointment at St Anthony's, Wanniasa for the last 11 years.

And, with no disrespect to any other parish, it was Wanniasa where he felt most at home. He'd lived there twice before becoming a priest and then, once

appointed there, would often joke that if there was no Heaven, it was because he was already there.

"It's a lovely lot of people and I got on very well with them," he said.

"I've seen kids go right through the primary school and almost right through high school... they start out tiny and then their towering over me by the time they graduate.

"It's been a good life and everyone treats me well. We've got a lot of good groups in the parish."

Fr Lachlan clearly loves the place and his role in it. So why retire?

"It just felt like time. It's a good life, and I enjoy, but it's like anything else... you know in yourself when it's time to go," he said.

"I'm starting to feel it body wise – fortunately I think I'm alright up here" he says as he points to his head.

"Well I think so anyway. Maybe others might disagree."

Of course retirement looks a little different for priests. Fr Lachlan will still assist with the supply of Masses, but he says he has benefitted substantially from the assistance of other priests over the years and looks forward to returning the favour.

Most exciting for him is the chance to spend more time with his children and grand-children.

"They've always got behind me, but I think they're happy I'm retiring so I can spend more time with them," he said.

"It cost them dearly in a sense because I couldn't always be there and financially they probably missed out as well. I think it's fair to say I was getting better paid in the public service.

"But it's been a good life and I've loved it."

Thus will close the chapter. His book, however, continues.

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# Pope and Bishops walking with us on the journey

BY CHRIS GORDON

As Australian Catholics continue their journey towards the Plenary Council, the concept of a journey of faith is uppermost on the mind of the Pope and of his Bishops.

The Bishops have just returned from their journey to Rome, and while there, met with the Holy Father who emphasised the importance of journeying with the faithful.

“The Pope continually used the word “avvicinarsi”, which is about being close to people and walking with them and showing tenderness... to draw Christ from them,” Archbishop Christopher Prowse said upon his return from his visit to Rome.

“He calls it the Synodial journey... Synod meaning ‘to walk with.’

“He made it quite clear to us as Bishops that he wanted us to be close on four levels: to be close to God, to be close to our brother bishops, to be close to our clergy and to be close to our people.

“That’s the context in which he used the word avvicinarsi, these four closenesses... walking with people in the long journey of life and listening very carefully

as he indeed listened to us.”

### Gathering with the Bishops

The Australian Bishops visited Rome in June for the Ad Limina Apostolorum (literally “to the threshold of the Apostles”) – a semi-regular event which occurs every five or six years for each country as their Bishops gather to strengthen their own responsibility as successors of the apostles and to deepen their solidarity with the successor of St Peter, Pope Francis.

Archbishop Christopher said the opportunity to gather with his brother bishops, to revisit the Basilicas of the Apostles and to meet with the Holy Father was of great benefit.

“Using a corporate language, you could refer to it as taking stock,” Archbishop Christopher said.

“Using the language of pastoral life, it’s an opportunity to come back to the genesis of everything, and that’s the Lord’s call to us to be successors of the Apostles, which is what a Bishop is, gathered around the successor of St Peter, who is the Pope and also the Bishop of Rome.

### Bishop’s Retreat

As part of the visit to Rome, the Bishops participated in a retreat in the Hills outside of Rome.

Australia’s Bishops typically come together as a group twice a year – in May and November – but Archbishop Christopher said this retreat was the longest period they’d ever spent together, in prayer, providing a magnificent opportunity to share in faith with each other and learn from one another.

“I’ve been a Bishop 15 years, I’m not aware of such an extended retreat – it’s certainly the longest I’ve been involved with, with fellow Bishops. And it was very pleasing and enriching.”

“We went outside Rome to a Retreat Centre, and I think we were all quite refreshed when that concluded, then we went down to Rome for the week which we spent with the Holy Father and the offices, or dicasteries as they call them of the Holy See.”

### Engaging with the Pope

The meeting with the Pope was also unrushed. Not just a brief handshake and short chat,

the Holy Father met with Australia’s Bishops for two and a half hours, during which the Pope was very engaged and interested in what is happening in the Church in Australia.

“He made it quite clear he wasn’t going to give any prepared speeches, nor did he want us to give prepared speeches,” Archbishop Christopher said.

“He was well prepared for our visit, and seemed quite knowledgeable about the issues of Australia. He just wanted us to talk together as brothers in the Lord and for us to raise any topic we wanted.

“He showed a great humility in the way he went about things. I was also impressed with his stamina. After two and a half hours we were quite tired but he was still quite energetic.”

### Plenary Council

The visit to Rome was a timely opportunity for the Bishops to prepare for and continue discerning about the Plenary Council.

The Pope was well aware of the preparations for Australia’s Plenary Council and has experienced Plenary Councils and other similar gatherings with other

countries before.

“There’s a whole host of different types of gatherings that local Churches hold. Some decide to have Plenary Councils, some of them have synods, some have assemblies... and each one has a different canonical status,” Archbishop Christopher explained.

“The Pope is just happy for us to gather together, as long as it’s done in a prayerful way and that we don’t try to reinvent the Church.

“There are certain things that will not be changed because they’ve been given to us by Christ and they’re a part of our Tradition and expressed in our Creedal statements. On the other hand, the way that these eternal truths are expressed in a particular area is another thing.

“Ultimately it becomes an exercise of evangelisation and that’s where the Mission of the Church is most suitably placed – drawing people to Christ and expressing our Baptism by involving ourselves as members of our Church, the Body of Christ in the world.”

*Full story on Catholic Voice website.*



From  
one day

Kelsey  
ACU student



to day  
one.

# Responding to trauma

*Trauma psychologist, Angela McCabe, speaks with the Catholic Voice on the impact that trauma can have on our lives*



BY CATHERINE SHEEHAN

ACCORDING to consultant psychologist, Angela McCabe, trauma is something that can be experienced simply from listening to another person describing his or her own traumatic event.

This is what is termed “vicarious trauma”.

“If we sit and listen to traumatic stories over and over again or deal with people who are distressed it actually has an impact on us,” Ms McCabe said.

“That impact can affect your spiritual life quite deeply because you can feel a lot of distress yourself, and you can feel helpless to support the person in their pain. You may wonder if there is a loving God, for example, or you may question yourself, question your belief system.”

After working as a nurse for 12 years, Ms McCabe became a registered psychologist in 1996. She specialises in the prevention of, and recovery from, betrayal of trust behaviours and traumatic injury.

She said the findings of the recent Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse had caused widespread trauma not just to victims and survivors but also to the Catholic Church as a whole, both laity and clergy, and to the wider community.

“I think a lot of people have had spiritual trauma. It’s rocked their faith,” she said.

“It’s affected the whole

community profoundly, not just the Church... It’s a community trauma.”

As a member of the Canberra and Goulburn Archdiocese’s Professional Standards Advisory Panel, Ms McCabe she works in the area of risk management in respect to “betrayal of trust crimes”.

“One of the reasons that child sexual abuse is so heinous is it’s such a profound betrayal of trust and when a member of the clergy or someone in a trust position commits it, it is more than psychologically and physically violating. I would take the step of saying it’s spiritually violating. It’s a very, very profound injury.”

“The Church has learnt the hard way about failures of leadership on this issue and needs to be very proactive about identifying the risks, understanding the risks and managing the risks and working closely with the wider community, such as the police, in dealing with this.”

Like other traumatic events, sexual abuse may have permanent consequences for the victim, she added.

“I would say an assault of that type, you’re not going to recover from it as if it never happened. It cannot be undone but you can heal and find ways to live better with it with the right support. I am humbled by how so many survivors have found the courage to speak up and to use their experiences to help others and to ensure it never happens again.

“If healing it to take place, it will depend on many things. It will depend on whether we restore the protective factors for that person so they can regain some equilibrium in their life. It will depend on us hearing them and really trying to understand their perspective.”

Ms McCabe has also worked closely with priests in the Archdiocese, providing them with support and education around identifying signs of trauma in others, and recognizing vicarious trauma in themselves as well as self-care.

Priests are at “high risk” of vicarious trauma, she said, because their ministry involves listening to the distress of others on a regular basis, making self-care vital to their welfare.

“For anyone who works in the humanitarian field, or works intensely with people who are distressed, it’s an important consideration.”

“You can’t look after anyone else if you can’t look after yourself. So the idea is if they’re in good shape both mentally and physically, they can provide more effective support to people who need them.”

At a recent clergy assembly, Ms McCabe alerted priests to the signs of vicarious trauma—difficulty managing emotions, difficulty making decisions, problems managing boundaries, over or under responsibility, problems in relationships, physical problems including illness and accidents,

and loss of meaning and hope.

Listening to a distressed person can have a physiological impact, she said.

“If you’re sitting with me and crying, and I’m counseling you, I may not be crying too but my brain will be lighting up in the same place. This is because we have mirror neurons in our brain that enable us to feel empathy and respond to others with compassion.

**Priests are at “high risk” of vicarious trauma, she said, because their ministry involves listening to the distress of others on a regular basis, making self-care vital to their welfare.**

“If a counsellor or carer is doing this all day, day after day it can have an impact. It’s really important when they go home at night to eat well, that they sleep well, that they do things that are soothing and comforting. It might be exercise, meditation or prayer, watching funny movies.”

Men enter the priesthood because they have a vocation and love the Church, she said, and

because they want to help others. It is therefore devastating for them to learn that fellow clergy have committed heinous crimes.

“When you find out there’s people doing the wrong thing under the same guise, it really shakes your foundations. It feels very personally hurtful.”

Ms McCabe said it is important for compassion to also be shown towards clergy in light of the sex abuse crisis, and that investing in the welfare of priests was an investment in the welfare of every person in the Church.

While the media focused predominantly on the Catholic Church throughout the Royal Commission, the sexual abuse of children is a widespread community problem and needs to be addressed as such, she said.

“It’s easier to focus on one institution. It’s more comfortable to think bad things only happen in a defined place. But all of us need to step back and to be thinking about how we take care of our children.”

“All human institutions have inherent flaws. Leaders and their teams need to self-reflect and work towards continuous improvement.”

“Mother Teresa said, ‘do small things well’. And that’s what I’m trying to do. So hopefully for the people that we do engage with, and have some contact with, their day is a little better because we tried.”

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

New Deputy Director  
or NCEC



The National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC) has appointed Director of Schools for the Broken Bay Diocese, Peter Hamill, to the role of Deputy Director.

Executive Director Jacinta Collins, who announced the appointment today, said Peter comes to the NCEC with a wealth of experience and understanding of Catholic education and administration, having served as an educator, school and system leader for over 43 years.

“In his most recent role, Peter has been responsible for leading a system of 44 schools and 1,600 staff; setting the strategic vision and direction for Catholic education in the diocese; and ensuring sound stewardship of limited resources within a challenging and changing landscape,” Jacinta said.

Peter has also served as both a commissioner and/or chair on a range of bodies including the Catholic Education Commission NSW (now Catholic Schools NSW), the Catholic Education Commission ACT, and the Conference of Diocesan Directors, giving him a deep knowledge of governance, policy, funding and leadership within Catholic education.

Christian Brothers love of  
language



Preserving and promoting the languages of Australia's First Peoples has been at the heart of the ministry of a New South Wales Christian Brother recently recognised with Australia's premier award in teaching languages other than English.

Br Steve Morelli is one of two teachers of Australian Indigenous languages to be jointly awarded the Patji-Dawes Award in this, the International Year of Indigenous Languages. The United Nations General Assembly has declared 2019 the International Year of Indigenous Languages to raise awareness of the crucial role languages play in people's daily lives.

In Australia, of the estimated original 250 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages, only around 120 are still spoken. Of these, approximately 90 per cent are considered endangered.

Br Steve, from Woolgoolga, has worked at the request of local Aboriginal elders for the past 30 years to help write a dictionary and teach the local language for the Gumbaynggirr people.

**Church welcomes push towards Indigenous recognition**



A Morrison Government proposal to recognise Australia's First Peoples in the constitution has been broadly welcomed by key Church organisations.

In a National Press Club address on Wednesday, Minister for Indigenous Australians Ken Wyatt pledged to “bring forward a consensus option” during the current term of Parliament. Mr Wyatt said the Government was committed to Indigenous constitutional change and would design the model with First Australians, having allocated \$7 million towards the process.

John Lochowiak, chair of the peak Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander body in the Catholic Church, the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC), said: “It is heartening to see a bipartisan approach to discussion on this issue. We, as Australians, need to work together on this. It is the only way forward.”

ACU awards highest  
honour



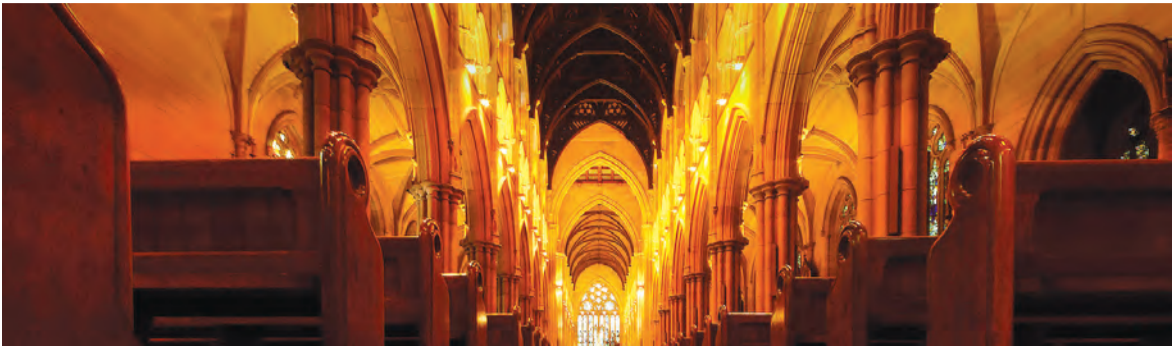
Australian Catholic University (ACU) conferred its highest honour, Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa), on Archbishop Paul R. Gallagher, STB, LSS, JCD, GCHI, Secretary for Relations with States within the Holy See's Secretariat of State on 24 June at a ceremony in Rome.

His Excellency received a Doctor of Laws in recognition of his service to the Catholic Church and his commitment to evangelisation through international diplomacy, and in particular for a lifetime of outstanding service to the Church through the Holy See's Diplomatic Corp.

Archbishop Gallagher's achievements have been driven by his identity as a priest. He has dedicated his lifetime to evangelisation and to the promotion of the Catholic faith through the means of international diplomacy.

ACU Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Greg Craven said ACU Honorary Doctorate degrees recognised individuals who have provided outstanding contributions to the community and to humanity.

New guidelines will inform  
Church's response to abuse



THE CATHOLIC Church is developing new national policy guidelines to strengthen and standardise Church authorities' responses to historical and contemporary concerns and allegations of abuse of children and vulnerable adults.

Archbishop Mark Coleridge, president of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, said the development of the guidelines is a critical step forward in the Church's ongoing response to the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

“The bishops are following through on our commitments made last year, and having a consistent approach to the management of allegations of abuse of children and vulnerable people is central to our reforms,” he explained.

The Implementation Advisory Group, set up in May 2018 to monitor and advise Catholic leaders on the Church's response to the Royal Commission's recommendations, is overseeing the development of the policy

guidelines.

The guidelines will serve as a public commitment to integrity and accountability in responding to allegations of abuse. They will make clear the obligations of all Church authorities to respond with processes that are fair and effective, and which comply with all Australian laws.

The assessment and management of risk to children will remain paramount throughout the new national guidelines. Prioritising children's safety and wellbeing will ensure that Church authorities' responses to concerns or allegations effectively address existing risks and do not create further risk to children.

The guidelines will be considered in conjunction with the new National Catholic Safeguarding Standards, approved and launched by Catholic Professional Standards Ltd earlier this year.

“The national guidelines and the Safeguarding Standards will become two focal points for the Church's work in protecting children and vulnerable adults from abuse and ensuring survivors are

at the centre of our response to allegations that arise,” Archbishop Coleridge said.

The guidelines will address all forms of child abuse, including sexual, physical and psychological abuse, and neglect and maltreatment. The development of the guidelines will include extensive consultation, inviting abuse survivors and their supporters to participate.

“The lessons we have learned over more than 20 years and the best practice employed in other parts of the community will inform the new national guidelines,” Archbishop Coleridge said.

“The development and implementation of these guidelines will help to embed a more transparent and accountable culture in the way the Church seeks to prevent abuse and responds appropriately to allegations of the abuse of children and vulnerable adults.

“They will be a blueprint for Church authorities to assist and guide them at a local level, seeking a consistent and just response across the country. They are about integrity and accountability.”

Church welcomes push towards  
Indigenous recognition

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Mr Wyatt said the Government was committed to Indigenous constitutional change and would design the model with First Australians, having allocated \$7 million towards the process.

John Lochowiak, chair of the peak Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander body in the Catholic Church, the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC), said: “It is heartening to see a bipartisan approach to discussion on this issue. We, as Australians, need to work together on this. It is the only way forward.”

“Whatever the outcome that is decided, the result has to be meaningful change in the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.”

Craig Arthur, national administrator for NATSICC, said the Council supported any initiative to strengthen the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

“NATSICC believes it is important that a strong focus is placed on empowering all people within all communities,” he said.

“However, representatives would like to see more details on what is proposed.” Christopher Ohlsen, executive secretary of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference's Commission for Relations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, said the Church welcomes the Government's intentions for a referendum and for placing a timeline on that process.

“We will await further details



about the proposed referendum and will then engage in a process of consultation with our Indigenous brothers and sisters,” he said.

NATSICC and the bishops acknowledged the need to respect the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Australia by giving voice to all perspectives.

The dignity and value of the individual, a core tenet of Catholic Social Teaching, is central to the issue of acknowledgement and recognition, those groups agreed.

# Church attacked on Easter Sunday re-consecrated



Sri Lankans venerate the blood-stained statue of Christ in Sebastian's Church, Negombo, Sri Lanka (ACN/Bartek Zytkowskiak)

VATICAN NEWS AND ACN. A Sri Lankan church was re-consecrated on Sunday, three months after it was badly damaged in a string of suicide bombings on Easter Sunday. Source: Vatican News and ACN.

During the re-consecration ceremony that included Mass, St Sebastian's Church in Katuwapiya, Negombo, north of Colombo, unveiled a stone monument inscribed with the names of 114 people who were killed in the April 21 attack.

The coordinated attacks on three churches and four upmarket hotels by a group said to have links with the so-called Islamic State (IS), killed 259 people and injured some 500.

Two of the churches were Catholic churches – St Anthony's Shrine in Colombo and St Sebastian's Church in Negombo. Another blast, at the Evangelical Zion Church in the eastern

coastal city of Batticaloa, also claimed numerous lives.

Most of the casualties were at St Sebastian's Church.

Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith, Archbishop of Colombo, celebrated the Mass and the re-consecration service with a large number of people, including the victims' families, in attendance.

Cardinal Ranjith questioned the ongoing probe into the blasts and said he feared that the investigation "will be brushed under the carpet".

The 71-year-old cardinal has criticised the government for alleged culpability in the Easter Sunday bombings that he maintains could have been prevented.

"The current leaders have failed. They have no backbone. They must leave the government and go home and allow someone else to govern the country," the cardinal said.

Aid to the Church in Need's head of projects in Asia Veronique Vogel recently visited Sri Lanka and spoke of palpable tensions throughout the country, recurring unrest and fear.

"Everyone is well aware of the fact that more assassins were involved on Easter Sunday than were identified and arrested. Therefore, everyone knows that somewhere out there extremely dangerous people are running around who could attack again at any time."

Over a period of just a few days, the small ACN delegation visited the regions around Colombo and Negombo.

"This trip was arranged so that we could see for ourselves the state of the Catholic parishes and to assure them of our solidarity. After all, the terrorist attacks were specifically targeted at Christians," Ms Vogel said.

## The Extraordinary Missionary Month - October 2019

IN 2019, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Pope Benedict XV's Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud*, Pope Francis announced that October will be an Extraordinary Missionary Month.

### The Theme

For the Extraordinary Missionary Month, the Holy Father has chosen the theme 'Baptized and Sent: The Church of Christ on a Mission in the World'. Awakening the awareness of the *missio ad gentes*, and reinvigorating the responsibility of proclaiming the Gospel with new enthusiasm, are themes that combine the pastoral concern of Pope Benedict XV in *Maximum*



*Illud* with the missionary vitality expressed by Pope Francis in the Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*: "Missionary action is the paradigm of every work of the Church" (EG 15).

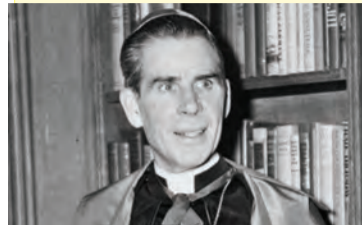
### How to Live Your Own Extraordinary Missionary Month

There are four dimensions, specified by the Pope, to live more intensely the journey of preparation for the Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019:

1. A personal encounter with Jesus Christ living in His Church through the Eucharist, the Word of God, personal and communal prayer;
2. Testimony: missionary saints, martyrs and confessors of the faith, as an expression of the Church scattered throughout the world;
3. Missionary formation: biblical, catechetical, spiritual and theological;
4. Missionary charity.

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### Archbishop Fulton Sheen to be beatified



VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis approved the miracle attributed to Archbishop Fulton Sheen Friday, making possible the American television catechist's beatification.

The Vatican Congregation for the Causes of Saints promulgated the decree approving Sheen's miracle on July 6.

The miracle involves the unexplained recovery of James Fulton Engstrom, a boy born apparently stillborn in September 2010 to Bonnie and Travis Engstrom of the Peoria-area town of Goodfield. He showed no signs of life as medical professionals tried to revive him. The child's mother and father prayed to Archbishop Sheen to heal their son.

A seven-member panel of medical experts advising the Vatican Congregation for the Causes of Saints gave unanimous approval of the miracle attributed to the famous television personality and evangelist in March 2014.

Archbishop Sheen was a beloved television catechist during the 1950s and 60s in the United States. His Emmy-award winning television show "Life is Worth Living" reached an audience of millions.

### Europe Heatwave could damage Notre Dame



PARIS, FRANCE: Almost four months after a fire destroyed the roof of Notre-Dame de Paris, officials are concerned that the building is still at risk of collapse. Now instead of a fire threatening the 850-year-old building, it is the record summer temperatures that may further erode the stonework.

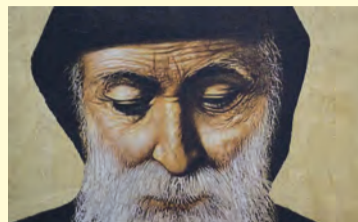
France, and most of Europe, is in the midst of a record-setting heatwave. Temperatures reached 108.7 degrees Fahrenheit (42.6 C) in Paris on Thursday, the highest ever recorded.

Philippe Villeneuve, the cathedral's chief architect, is worried the Parisian heat wave combined with the water damage sustained during the firefighting effort could spell disaster for the cathedral's vaults.

"I am very worried about the heat wave because, as you know, the Cathedral suffered from the fire, the beams coming down, but also the shock from the water from the firefighters. The masonry is saturated with water," he told Reuters Aug. 24.

On April 15, a fire started in the centre of the cathedral's roof and nearly destroyed the entire building before it was put out.

### Lebanese saint unites Christians and Muslims



ANNAYA, LEBANON: St. Charbel Makhlouf is known in Lebanon for the miraculous healings of those who visit his tomb to seek his intercession – both Christians and Muslims.

"St. Charbel has no geographic or confessional limits. Nothing is impossible for [his intercession] and when people ask [for something], he answers," Fr. Louis Matar, coordinator of the Shrine of St. Charbel in Annaya, Lebanon, told CNA.

Speaking in Arabic with the help of an interpreter, Matar said the shrine, which encompasses the monastery where the Maronite Catholic priest, monk, and hermit lived for nearly 20 years, receives around 4 million visitors a year, including both Christians and Muslims.

Matar, who is responsible for archiving the thousands of medically-verified healings attributed to the intercession of the Maronite priest-monk, said that many miraculous cures have been obtained by Muslims.

Since 1950, the year the monastery began to formally record the miraculous healings, they have archived more than 29,000 miracles, Matar said.

### Parents petition UK Courts to move comatose daughter to Italy



LONDON, ENGLAND: Parents of a comatose five-year-old are attempting to move their child to Italy from a London hospital after doctors in the United Kingdom declared any further medical treatment to be futile and ordered the removal of "life-sustaining treatment."

Tafida Raqeeb has been in a coma since February 9, after she suffered from a brain arteriovenous malformation (AVM), which resulted in a burst blood vessel in her brain. Her parents said she was "completely healthy" prior to the injury.

On July 16, her parents asked the High Court in London to allow her to leave the country.

AVM is a rare condition that can occur anywhere in the body, and consists of tangled blood vessels and arteries. Its cause is unknown, and the malformed blood vessels are thought to have been present since birth.

The AVM triggered cardiac and respiratory arrest, as well as a traumatic brain injury. Doctors at the Royal London Hospital say there is no chance she will recover from her coma.

Joan and John Warhurst

Joan and John first came to Canberra in 1978 and have known the Jesuits here since then. They are members of the Jesuit Discussion Group.

The Jesuits, from John Eddy to Frank Brennan, have been small in number but big in impact.

They have stood up for vulnerable people, including Indigenous Australians and asylum seekers and refugees. They have always been generous hosts to friends and visitors alike.

We have always been impressed by the depth of their influence across the Catholic community and the broader Canberra community through their work in universities, parishes, the Commonwealth parliament and church agencies.

Pauline Duncan



Fr John Eddy SJ with the Duncan family

Pauline is the niece of Fr John Eddy SJ and retained a longstanding friendship with the Canberra Jesuit community.

Father John Eddy was the founder of the Jesuit Community in Canberra in the early 60's. As his niece and the first child he baptised I speak for a generation of Catholics who will miss the strong influence the Jesuits have had on the local Canberra Community.

Uncle John was given the mandate to find a site in Canberra amongst the people where Xavier House could be established. He had the choice of being near the brick works or the abattoir.

Xavier House has been a refuge for visiting priests and scholars and in recent times as a place to help those who need it.. Fr John Eddy was in residence in Canberra from 1964 until his passing in November 2011.

The compassion and the insight into everyday life Fr Eddy, Fr Frank Brennan and their fellow priests conveyed was a breath of fresh air. Fr John Eddy, along with his friend Enrico Taglieri, created a new wing and Chapel in 2009. It is a very special chapel with an infinite feeling of light and uplifting spirituality, a reflection of the Jesuits commitment to their community.

At Xavier house the door was always open to all parts of the Canberra community, from the Prime Minister who dropped in from time to time to refugees seeking advice.

The Jesuits along with their good work will be missed. We wish Fr Frank Brennan all the best in his future endeavours.

# Jesuit community bids farewell to Canberra

BY FR FRANK BRENNAN SJ

AFTER 51 years, the Jesuits are leaving the national capital.

Until 1967, the Jesuits in training did their university studies in Melbourne then in December 1967, the Jesuit superiors announced that those Jesuits commencing university studies in 1968 would come to Canberra and enrol at the Australian National University.

In February 1968, 14 Jesuit scholastics arrived, accepting the hospitality of the Dominicans at Blackfriars in Dickson. The Jesuit superior Fr Con Finn was assisted by Fr Greg Denning who used to travel from Melbourne once a fortnight to provide spiritual direction.

Later in the year, Fr John Eddy arrived fresh from Oxford with his doctorate in History. For Fr John, Canberra was home until his death 43 years later in 2011.

One of the first scholastics was Gerard Windsor who wrote during the first term of the 1968 academic year: 'It was believed that ANU was small, friendly, not at present difficult to be accepted for, of considerable academic standards, and possessing an excellent staff-student ratio. The Society (of Jesus) should, it was also felt,

have a house in the national capital.'

After a couple of years, no further Jesuits scholastics were sent to Canberra for university studies concluding in 1971 when the first batch of students completed their degrees.

The Jesuits then bought a large house on a double block in Yarralumla. The house had been built as a doctor's residence with a downstairs surgery.

Over time, Xavier House became known as 'the Jesuit embassy', as various embassies were constructed nearby, including the European community, the Spanish and the Irish who joined the already existing German and Dutch embassies.

Canberra became the base for a small Jesuit community of priests. John Eddy worked at the university. Often there would be a Jesuit working at the apostolic nunciature and the Jesuits also assisted in the archdiocese with parish supplies.

For his part Fr Des Purcell loved getting out to the country parishes and providing spiritual direction in the ways of St Ignatius Loyola. The sedate house accessible to the National Library provided an ideal base for Jesuits wanting to write and research.

Fr James Flynn was an



Fr Frank Brennan SJ

acknowledged authority on Christian-Muslim relations. Fr David Strong wrote many works on Jesuit history. Fr Bryan Buxton wrote on faith, culture and the arts.

I would often come to Canberra to write on Aboriginal, refugee and human rights issues. Jeremy Clarke came and completed a PhD on the Church in China, and Fr Pat Mullins completed an MA on the

Church's involvement in Aboriginal communities.

Jesuits from Indonesia and the Philippines came for graduate studies at the ANU. This was also a good base from which Jesuits could contribute to the work of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference.

Fr John Reilly was National Director for Continuing Education of Priests. Fr Richard Leonard

would visit as Director of the Australian Catholic Office for Film and Broadcasting. I spent the last couple of years as CEO of Catholic Social Services Australia.

Jesuits from overseas would often stay as visiting scholars at the ANU. Fr Jeff Von Arx from the USA worked with Fr Eddy setting up the Center for Australia New Zealand Studies at Georgetown University in Washington DC. Fr Eddy also established the Australian Institute of Jesuit Studies.

When the new Parliament House opened in 1988, 'the Jesuit embassy' came within walking distance to our legislators. Over the years, the house has hosted many off-line meetings and media briefings.

A monthly 'Jesuit Discussion Group' has provided a great forum for listening and learning with church members gathering in the conference room to reflect on the events of the month in light of our faith and shared Catholic tradition.

Canberra has been a great hub from which a handful of Jesuits has been able to reach out to the wider world. At our best, we Jesuits in Canberra this past half century have embodied and enacted the 2008 declaration by the General Congregation

of Jesuits:

'The complexity of the problems we face and the richness of the opportunities offered demand that we build bridges between rich and poor, establishing advocacy links of mutual support between those who hold political power and those who find it difficult to voice their interests.

Our intellectual apostolate provides an inestimable help in constructing these bridges, offering us new ways of understanding in depth the mechanisms and links among our present problems.'

I will be the last Jesuit in Canberra, departing at the end of the year to take up a new appointment as the Rector of Newman College at the University of Melbourne. They have been blessed years here in the national capital.

Fr Eddy was fond of saying, 'You don't have to make a case for a Jesuit presence in a national capital.'

But alas, we no longer have the personnel on hand. We leave with regret, but grateful for the many seeds that have been planted at the Jesuit embassy in Yarralumla and appreciative of all those who have supported us and encouraged us.

Marion Lê, AM

Marion Lê has advocated on behalf of refugees since the arrival of the first Vietnamese boat people in the mid-1970s. She has received a number of awards for her tireless work over three decades, including the 2003 Human Rights



Medal has been a regular visitor at the Jesuit House in Yarralumla for more than thirty years during the time of Father John Eddy and Frank Brennan

The Jesuit Community House in Yarralumla has been a sanctuary and comfort to many people over the years. The leadership and friendship of John Eddy and Frank Brennan has been inspirational and life changing.

The House has provided a welcoming and spiritual environment in close proximity to Parliament House and the Australian National University, providing not only religious succour through regular prayer times and the celebration of Mass but intelligent conversation and debate on many levels encompassing every topic imaginable.

It pains me to think the House will close and the place of respite, reconciliation and spiritual renewal will be empty of the Jesuits who have served us all so faithfully for so long.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse

Speaking on behalf of the entire Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn, I wish to sincerely thank the Jesuits of Australia for their presence and pastoral commitment to this Archdiocese for over 50 years.



There have been so many Jesuits present here in the Archdiocese over these 50 plus years who have distinguished themselves in such a broad spectrum of pastoral activities. We are so grateful. Thank you.

Reflecting on the various apostolates taken up by the Jesuits in their time here in Canberra, we can observe the living out of this Gospel and Jesuit keystone.

Their works of evangelisation over the years have been expressed by more than 30 Jesuits in this Archdiocese, for example, in the universities, scholarly writings, engaging secularism with the "mind of Christ", diplomatic missions, retreats and public talks, assistance at the Nunciature, generous pastoral assistance in our parishes, and so on.

For all this and so much more, thank you so much!

Although formally leaving your base here in Canberra we are consoled that Fr Stephen Astill sj still waves the Jesuit flag for us in the parish of Moruya.

May the Lord Jesus continue to bless the Jesuit charism throughout the world."



Denis O'Brien and Helen Delahunty



Francis Sullivan, Paul Collins and Marilyn Hatton



Peter Renshaw, FrTom Renshaw SJ, John Drury, Judy Renshaw and Bishop Pat Power



Fr Peter L'Estrange SJ



Fr Stephen Astill SJ and Fr Frank Brennan SJ outside the Jesuits house in Yarralumla



# Living the Faith we profess

BY SHANE DWYER

I remember an incident from when I was a boy, probably about 12 years of age.

It was the practice of my family to attend Mass together on a Sunday morning. I wouldn't say that my brother, two sisters and I were particularly fond of this aspect of family life, but it had been the case for as long as I could remember and none of us thought to question it.

I had to admit that, by the time my early teens came around, there was a quiet resentment starting to build toward anything the relevance of which I couldn't immediately see. Church seemed to be the obvious recipient of this resentment, primarily because it fell on a Sunday morning and surely there were better ways we could be spending our time...

I guess I was mulling these things over as I knelt in church with my family all those years ago. A bit preoccupied and bored, I found myself suddenly paying attention to what was happening up the front. I wondered why the priest was doing what he was doing. It is not a particularly profound thought, but it took me into a frame of mind where I was paying attention to more than the superficial.

The point in the Mass we were at was the great doxology, where the priest holds up the host and the chalice and proclaims 'through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours Almighty Father, forever and ever...'

The words struck me, and two questions occurred: 'what's he talking about?' and 'who's he talking to?' Then the realisation dawned: either 'there's nothing here, and none of this means anything,' or 'it is deeply true, and that changes everything.' I could no longer have it both ways: believe it may be true and yet relate to it as if it had no relevance to my real life.

I don't know why I decided on the side of 'this is deeply true, and that changes everything': plenty of people don't. I recall the English comedian, Ricky Gervais, saying that he gave up on the existence of God when, as a child, his older brother laughed at his faith. Ricky seemed suddenly sure that none of it was real and that he was somehow ridiculous for believing that it might be. Along with many others, he chose the 'there's nothing here, and it's all meaningless' approach – at least for now.

I believe we all need to go through that moment of questioning and decision. A child's faith in the existence and love of God is a beautiful thing to behold, but it cannot take most of us through the complexities of adult life. The fact is, this is true of almost any aspect of human experience: our view of ourselves, our relationships, our sense of purpose, our understanding of the world, etc. etc. all evolve and deepen as we grow. If they do not grow and develop, we become stunted as human beings.

So why should we be surprised that the same is true when it comes to our relationship with God? The moment needs to arrive for all of us when we acknowledge that our naïve faith, as beautiful as it might have been, is but one stage on a journey that we need to undertake the whole of our lives, and which will take us into eternity. Eventually, we have to choose: either we reject that naïve faith because we can't see how it helps us make sense of our experience, or we go on the journey toward deepening our awareness and understanding of God.

This journey is not always easy. As with any growth, it is often painful and dislocating.

The whole point of belonging to a community is that each of us should be able to access the support and wisdom of those who are either having to address the same questions or who have walked the road before us.

I believe a reading of "Stages of Faith" by James W Fowler would be beneficial to everyone who would like to take the life of faith seriously. There we read of the different stages of the faith journey, the misunderstanding of which accounts for many a disagreement within the Church. There are those who require simplicity and to feel that everything is black and white. There are those who valued that once but the complexities and ambiguities of life make them wary of that approach now. And there are those whose experience of faith opens them to new ways of seeing and being that can no longer easily be contained within the well-loved structures and formulas.

While Fowler identifies the journey through the stages of faith with the path to spiritual maturity, I don't think it is as simple as that. I have known men and women at various stages of faith according to Fowler's schema, and in each stage there were those who are sinners and

those who are saints. That is to say, holiness can be manifest in any stage of faith development, and God in his mercy can work within the life of anyone who opens him or herself to God. I raise Fowler not to endorse his schema but to acknowledge that he has a point: each of us approaches the reception and living of our faith in different ways, and each of us finds meaning in ways today that may be meaningless to others at another stage of the journey. The question is: can I welcome and accommodate you, and can you welcome and accommodate me?

I find myself with my own wishlist in the lead up to the upcoming Plenary Council. Chief among them is that all Catholics in Australia will soon feel supported and valued wherever they happen to be on the spiritual journey: able to have their questions and their doubts, and to find brothers and sisters who are content to walk with them as they make their complex and nuanced journey to the life God has for them. Otherwise, what's the point? Seriously.

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

# Two Great Women of Faith

BY SHARON BOYD

Writing from Fitzroy, in Victoria, I'm mindful that it is the birthplace of Mary MacKillop and that we celebrate Australia's first saint on August 8. For the Australian Church we acknowledge this special day as a Solemnity; a Feast day of the highest rank.

The Mass of Saint Mary of the Cross provides a beautiful Collect and a Solemn Blessing; these provide plenty of inspiration to write fitting Prayers of Intercession. Example: For Church leaders, that they lead with a spirit of humility and courage.

**Collect**  
*O God, source of all goodness, Who have shown us in Saint Mary A woman of faith living by the power of the Cross, Teach us, we pray, by*

*her example To live the Gospel in changing times And to respect and defend the human dignity of all in our land.*

**Solemn Blessing**  
*Through the example of St Mary of the Cross, May you learn to recognise God's will for you and trust in his providence. Amen.*

*May her life of service awaken in you A deep respect for the poor And a strong will for justice. Amen.*

*May you share in her courage, See with the eyes of Christian love, And learn from her holy deeds. Amen.*

*And may the blessing of*

*almighty God, The Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Come down on you and remain with you forever. Amen.*

Then on August 15 we celebrate The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Holy Day of Obligation. The Readings from the Mass of the Day are especially rich on this Solemnity and I encourage you to pray with these texts well before the liturgy. We hear the apocalyptic language of the Book of Revelation in the First Reading (Revelation 11:19: 12:1-6,10), which will require quite some preparation from Lectors; it is colourful and dramatic in its message of a huge red dragon with seven heads and ten horns, dragging its tail towards a woman in childbirth. It describes the battle of good and evil and the triumph of the woman safely delivering



her child. Christians interpret the woman as either Mary or the Church and the reading was certainly a comforting one to a persecuted Church. The Responsorial Psalm speaks of the queen standing "at your right hand, arrayed in gold" (Ps 44:10-12,16) and the Gospel proclaims Mary's Magnificat, her "Yes" to God, signifying her tremendous faith.

The Australian Liturgical

calendar in August is a rich feast of two tremendous women of faith. Taking time to soak in the richness of these liturgies will be time well invested.

*Ms Sharon Boyd Professional Specialist Liturgy Education ACU Centre for Liturgy*

# Giving sorrow words

**Parents of four Felicity and Paul de Fombelle lost their youngest son Etienne in June. He was five. Here, Felicity shares with the Catholic Voice some reflections on his death.**

BY FELICITY DE FOMBELLE

Almost three weeks after I went to wake my sleeping five year old son from a mid-morning nap and found him dead, I see my eldest son asleep on the couch, and I am afraid to approach.

What if 10-year-old Arnaud has died, as well as Etienne?

Fear grips me. Earlier that day, Arnaud had been unwell so my husband Paul had taken him to Canberra Hospital. We needed reassurance. While waiting at the hospital, Arnaud had asked Paul; "Am I going to die, Papa?"

Paul was in tears as he relayed the story to me.

Our lives changed the day Etienne died; on Sunday June 23, 2019.

Two nights ago, while putting the boys to bed, our nine year old son Eric said, "Maman, are you 100 per cent sure that Etienne is dead?" How I longed to say No.

Last night, while tucking Arnaud into bed, he started crying and said, "I'm scared of dying Maman". Arnaud also remarked, "We know that Jesus is so loving Maman, so how come he took Etienne away from us?"

It is a question I am also wrestling with, so how to respond? Given we are yet to know anything about how Etienne died, I am conscious I need to move to a position where the answer might never come. And it is dawning on me that, in life, often the answers do not come, because there is so much we simply don't know.

I cannot even try to answer Arnaud's question about why God 'took' Etienne, because I have no sense of that myself.

I can barely recall how I have got through these last few weeks, because it all seems so unreal. You never think about winning Tattsлото, because it will never happen to you. In the same way, you never think one of your children might die, because surely that would never happen to you. That's something you read in the newspapers, about other families - and how devastating it is.

Well, my youngest child Etienne died, and we buried him at Woden Cemetery on Monday July 1, after a beautiful Funeral Mass at St Peter Chanel's in Yaralumla celebrated by Fr Tony Percy, along with Fr Andrew Lotton, Fr Trenton Van Reesch and Fr Frank Brennan. All such



**We come together in suffering - we reach out to those who are grieving and want to show our love and support. I have never been at ease with receiving, but receive I have, and I recognise in me an enormous growth in that respect.**

wonderful men who I respect and admire. Gosh we are blessed to have our priests.

Eric and our third son Thibault, 7, were altar servers at the Funeral Mass, as they usually are at the Saturday evening Mass we attend. Arnaud, who thrives on being an altar boy, decided not to serve. I admired his maturity in making the decision. I expected Arnaud to sit between Paul and I in our usual spot in the first pew, but instead, he sat in front of us, next to four of his classmates. That felt right - Arnaud supported by his friends from school, which of course is such a big part of his life.

Etienne had made it to school, which is something I give thanks to God for. He was thriving in kinder, as any child should. Etienne caught the school bus with his three big brothers, who took it in turns each afternoon to fetch him from his classroom and walk him to the bus stop. Earlier in the year he had joined the French-speaking scout group that his brothers attended. Etienne relished being a "Joey" - he'd been canoeing and rock-climbing, and had enjoyed his



first Joey sleepover in the Ainslie scout hall, toasting marshmallows and making craft which he presented to me the next day for Mother's Day.

Life now is hard and heavy. It feels a tested life. Earlier this week, I sat down with a trauma counsellor and spoke about the huge role that Etienne had played in my life, and in our family life. Etienne was joy personified, and he lifted me - lifted me from the drudgery of parenting and housework. I needed him - his spirit - and now he has gone. The counsellor told me that Etienne can, and must, continue to play that key role in my life. I nodded understanding but, to be honest, I do not feel that in my heart. And that worries me. My desperate hope and prayer is that, with time, Etienne will again play that role, and help me to see the joy and light.

I worry that my three boys will forget about their younger brother. Paul and I met a SIDS grief specialist this week, who told me in a confident tone that the boys would never forget Etienne. I have to take her word



Etienne with his older brothers. From left Thibault, Arnaud and Eric

on that. The boys will see the grief specialist next week. She also gave me information about a 'bereaved siblings' group that they run. I feel I have entered another world - one that few enter, and no one would ever want to.

The other evening, Eric asked if he could use the computer to record a few memories of Etienne. My heart leapt - of course you can my darling. I will gently encourage his brothers to do the same. Thibault sometimes covers his ears when we talk about Etienne. They are so young and tender; each processing a story about their brother's death and seeking information to fill in the pieces. At the cemetery, the three boys fired questions, walked around examining headstones and did everything short of jumping in the hole with their youngest brother. They were curious - "Who dug the hole?" "Where did the dirt come from?" and so on. Fr Tony stepped in. He was terrific; asking people to move on so that he could stay with the boys, answering their questions and supporting them.

We come together in suffering - we reach out to those who are grieving and want to show our love and support. I have never

been at ease with receiving, but receive I have, and I recognise in me an enormous growth in that respect. Just this evening at Mass, I broke down during the final hymn, Lord Be My Vision. A parishioner moved forward to hold me, and we sang the last three verses together. This was my parish enveloping me, and my family. Last week, a parishioner approached me after Mass and said, "Etienne's death has lifted this parish".

I have learned that Etienne - in his short, five and a half years on Earth - had a tremendous impact on people. And as I write this, I realise how proud that makes me, as his mother. We can often underestimate that power. So while I grieve, and feel such emptiness, I also thank God for the gift of my son, who Paul and I treasured and who absolutely knew the depth of our love for him.

As much as I cannot understand or fathom Etienne's death, in these darkest of days, I still strongly believe that God is in control, and that our God is a loving and gentle and compassionate God.

My prayer is for healing and comfort, along with gratitude for the joy of a boy named Etienne.

# Canberra Serra Club heads out west

BY JOHN L SMITH  
PRESIDENT, SERRA CLUB OF  
CANBERRA

FOURTEEN members of the Serra Club of Canberra travelled to the rural areas of the Archdiocese for two days in July.

The purpose of the pilgrimage was to show solidarity with our priests and to pray for vocations. Over two days they attended four Masses and participated in two holy hours of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament.

An unusual event was the visit with Fr Dominic Byrne, parish priest of West Wyalong, to Christ the King, Farm Chapel situated on a grain farm halfway between Lake Cargelligo and Condobolin.

There Fr Dominic celebrated Mass in this beautiful chapel and Brother Dominic Levac OFM who is Hermit in Residence hosted the members.

From there they travelled to Temora in time to participate in evening adoration and Mass celebrated by parish priest Fr Sijo Jose. On each day the Ser-rans hosted the priest to dinner at the local club.

For further information on Serra phone the president John Smith on 62861720 or email [enquiries@serracanberra.org](mailto:enquiries@serracanberra.org)



Fr Dominic Byrne in the Farm Chapel

# Ten year old collects bottles for charity



Night Patrol Coordinator, Bryce Taotua with St Clare of Assisi student Ethan Caffery Caragh. Photo Vinnies Media.

TEN year old Ethan Caffery Caragh has donated \$200 to Vinnies Night Patrol, thanks to his collection of recyclable bottles.

This year, Ethan and his grandmother have been busily collecting bottles to take to the 'Return-It' bottle depots to recycle for 10c per bottle. After recycling 2000 bottles, Ethan had \$200 which he chose to donate to the Night Patrol program, which he'd heard about at school.

Ethan attends St Clare's of Assisi which has been a strong supporter of Vinnies over the last few years, donating generous collections to both the Winter Appeal and Christmas Appeal, and providing ongoing support to the Calwell Conference in their service to the local community.

The Night Patrol vans have also visited the school regularly, including at the Social Justice Day in May.

'I wanted to donate to Night Patrol because I'd hate to imagine what it's like living without a home,' said Ethan.

Vinnies runs two Night Patrol vans in Canberra. The vans go out 364 nights a year providing over 12,000 instances of support each year, through provision of food, warm drinks, jackets, sleeping bags and other items.

'By donating the bottles, I knew that every 10c could make a difference. Every couple of weeks my Grandma and I would take our bottles to the local Vinnies collection centre. Sometimes the car was so packed I could barely fit in

the car!' said Ethan.

'My friends didn't think my Grandma and I could raise this much money, so that inspired me to work harder to get more bottles.

'My Grandma and I were very proud of each other for raising this much money over 6 months,' he said.

Erin MacArthur, Director of Community Engagement with the St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn, said, 'We're so grateful to Ethan, not just for his generous financial donation to Night Patrol, but for his empathy and compassion towards people doing it tough. It's wonderful to see young people engaging with social issues in our community.

'We are always grateful for all donations, large or small, financial or material, that allow us to continue providing food, warm items, and compassionate company to those at risk of, or experiencing homelessness in Canberra.'


Over 1500 people are experiencing homelessness nightly in the ACT. 22% of these people are aged 12-24.

Return-It depots can be found in 22 locations in the ACT, including 4 Vinnies locations. People recycling eligible empty beverage containers can choose to keep the 10c refund or donate to charity.

To support Night Patrol, and other programs designed for breaking the cycle of poverty, make a donation at [www.vinnies.org.au/winterappeal](http://www.vinnies.org.au/winterappeal) or call 13 18 12.

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# The blokes who brought Bourke back

BY MARILYN RODRIGUES  
CATHOLIC WEEKLY

THE DAY NSW Police Commander Greg Moore learnt he would be transferred to Bourke for work was the day his new home was splashed across the newspaper front page as the world's most dangerous town.

It was 2013 and the north-western NSW town was reported as leading the state in six out of eight major crime categories, with the highest assault and property crime rate in the state according to NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research.

It was even claimed to have the highest crime rate in the world per capita.

Fast-forward six years, and Bourke is in the spotlight for all the right reasons, with a drop of more than 30 per cent in property offences overall since 2006 and violent crime almost slashed in half.

"We still experience some significant challenges but I'm happy to report that there's a significant drop in offending rates, particularly domestic violence and homicides," said Superintendent Moore, who is an active member of Holy Spirit Parish, Bourke.

"We're talking about lives saved. Reports from hospital are they are treating significantly less patients with injuries relating to violent crime.

"It's very rewarding and satisfying to see progress over time and in-creasing rates of community cohesion."

Superintendent Moore couldn't be prouder of his town, which he said now lives by the adage that it takes a village to raise a child. As Commander of the Central North Police District, he is part of an innovative community-led model where Indigenous leaders partner with police and government and non-government organisations and service providers.

The results speak for themselves: greater social cohesion, improved education and a reduction in incarceration and crime rates in Bourke and the wider district. It's taken years of breaking down distrust and misunderstanding between the stakeholders before solutions could begin to be put into place.

Super charging progress was the creation of the Maranguka Community Hub. Maranguka means 'caring for others' in the Ngemba language.

In a strategic partnership with



Save our Sons team leader James Moore, at left, with some of the members of the Men of Bourke who work with community partners to address causes of disadvantage.

**It's a great honour, very humbling and I look at this award as an acknowledgment of the hard work being done behind the scenes of police and our partners, and the support and sacrifices of my wife Maggie and sons John and Niall.**

Just Reinvest, a group which shifts resources out of criminal justice systems into early intervention and crime prevention, Maranguka brings together multi-disciplinary approaches aimed at reducing the causes of crime.

Each morning a meeting brings together police, Indigenous leaders and community partners including representatives from CatholicCare, the Church's social welfare agency, to discuss any issues from the night before and develop long term strategies designed to address social disadvantage with a big focus on early childhood to break the cycle.

Many groups, individuals and organisations have got involved, including the Melbourne-based Catholic Youth Engagement Program which has been providing the community of Bourke with great support for nearly 10 years, said Superintendent Moore.

"Co-ordinator Genevieve Bryant regularly brings out groups of youths and young adult volunteers to Bourke during



Superintendent Moore, with his wife Maggie, was recently honoured by the Queen with an Australian Police Medal

school holidays to support our most vulnerable youth, often during the harshest time of the year," he said.

"Genevieve and her team are a true inspiration and great advocates championing social justice reform. And it's just another example of the many layers of support we are blessed with here in Bourke."

Crucial to the Maranguka strategy is a group of men who call them-selves Men Of Bourke – MOB for short – who are based at Bethlehem House in Meek Street, vacated by the Missionaries of Charity when they left the town in 2016.

"Our men's group had lost its way, but being able to secure a home base in 2012 we started to see some progress being made,"

said leader James Moore (no relation to Greg).

"With the men coming together regularly we were able to focus on our main purpose which is to be strong role models and support our youth."

A buddy system was formed to provide mentors for the most vulnerable young people, and regular community days engage kids in fun activities around positive people.

"There's a core of about 20 young boys aged from ages around 8-17 who were disengaging from school, getting in trouble with the police and into the court system, and we've looked at how to address some of those issues through role modelling," said Mr Moore who is also a father of three.

"They would be out late at night, climbing on shop roofs and getting in all sorts of trouble." There's still lots more work to be done and his hope is that more local men will step up into mentoring roles.

"There are a lot of men out there still on their healing journey and a lot of young people still needing support," he said.

## A privilege to be involved

CatholicCare's Amy Gearing said it was a "privilege" to be involved in the initial meetings with the men where they mapped out their hopes and needs in what has turned out to be a fruitful partnership between the Wilcannia-Forbes Diocese, the Men of Bourke and CatholicCare.

"They wanted a range of activities from TAFE training to cultural activities, financial counselling, health screenings ... to just a safe space to come and be themselves," Ms Gearing said. "The MOB hub is all part of the Maranguka strategy but at the core it is really the men who drive the ideas and vision for their community.

"I think it's important for us to keep going back to the men and back to that heart they all expressed and make sure we're all working towards the same thing.

"We're still in the early stages but it's already been quite a journey and it's encouraging to see what is happening in bourke ... the sky's the limit."

Superintendent Moore was recently honoured by the Queen with an Australian Police Medal for his dedicated service to the state's people for more than 32 years.

"It's a great honour, very humbling and I look at this award as an acknowledgment of the hard work being done behind the scenes of police and our partners, and the support and sacrifices of my wife Maggie and sons John and Niall," he said.

"I'm very appreciative of the support of the community and the spirit and willingness of everyone to come together and help with such a great appetite for doing things differently with creativity and innovation.

"I was educated by the Sisters of St Joseph and it takes me back to their focus on doing your part for the community and advocating for social justice."

*Used with permission from the Catholic Weekly.*

# A sweet and sour farewell

BY FELICITY DE FOMBELLE

OUTGOING Catholic Health Australia head Suzanne Greenwood has been praised for her warmth and intellect at a farewell event last month.

After almost five years at the helm, Ms Greenwood will become Executive Director at the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

“Suzanne and I moved to Canberra at the same time, at the start of 2014, and I remember swapping notes about properties to rent and schools for our kids,” said Alison Burt, executive secretary of the Bishops Committee for Social Justice, Mission and Service.

“There has always been such a warmth and approachability about Suzanne, and a real interest in people.”

Alison said that Suzanne had completed her MBA during her time at Catholic Health Australia, to which Suzanne added that she had also met the Pope, which was a real highlight.

The farewell function was also a welcome for the new Executive Director of Catholic

Social Services Australia (CSSA), Ursula Stephens.

Ursula, who replaced Fr Frank Brennan and started on July 1, joked that she had barely time to collaborate with Suzanne before she announced her departure.

Bishop Paul Bird, CSsR, the Bishops’ delegate to CSSA, said in a statement that it was a blessing to have Ursula in the role, given her early career in supporting education in Indigenous communities and her latter years as a Senator.

“Just reading the headings of her achievements left me somewhat out of breath,” Bishop Bird wrote. “It is great that Ursula has brought so much energy to so many fine projects. She has shown particular dedication to promoting opportunities to people who would otherwise miss out, such as with music education.”

Ursula said she looked forward to forging closer ties with Catholic Health Australia and Catholic Education “particularly given the challenges that the Catholic Church, and



Ursula Stephens, Bishop Pat Power and Suzanne Greenwood

by association its agencies, are facing.”

Bishop Vincent Long, OFMConv; said in a statement that Suzanne Greenwood was a committed Catholic “who has positioned CHA as a strong advocate for the dignity of every

human person and a credible voice of the Church in the public domain.”

“It is a sweet and sour feeling to be moving on,” Suzanne said. “I have loved interacting with people; having a Board meeting at a hospital and getting to walk

the floors and talk to the nurse unit manager in the Emergency Department. For us it is very much the healing hands of Jesus that are over everything we are protecting.”

## MOVIE REVIEW

Movie: Aladdin  
Date released: May 24, 2019  
Rating: PG

BY VERITY DUNN

DO YOU remember when kids’ movies started to also entertain and appeal to adults? Pixar’s Toy Story was one of the first that broke the rule that children’s entertainment was only for kids – now parents (and in my case, Aunties) can attend most PG rated films laughing alongside the youngens at the double entendres, adult references and throw backs. This new generations of movie makers do an incredible job of developing perfectly sequenced and flawless (yet complex) entertainment that equally engages people of all ages.

You may have noticed an exciting recent trend classic children’s movies and cartoons adaptations complete in 3D, with special affects and even using real life animals (e.g Dumbo, Beauty and the Beast, The Lion King) and they all fit the bill of movies for young and old.

I recently took my four and seven year old nephews to see the live action animation remake of Disney’s 1992 animated

# Aladdin remake – an adapted classic for the whole family



classic Aladdin. Maintaining the original feel-good inspirational story, the new film follows fast-fingered ‘street rat’, Aladdin as he meets and falls in love with the disguised Princess Jasmine. Realising she’s a princess and determined to win her heart he helps the evil Jafar (Marwan Kenzari) but then finds himself in possession of a magic lamp and formidable genie (Will Smith). Initially keen to use his three wishes to become the ‘Prince Jasmine deserves’ Aladdin soon realises courage and loyalty are worth more than money as he fights – together with his

trusty monkey and new found magic carpet and genie – to save the Kingdom, his love and her father from the maniacal, power hungry Jafar.

Directed by Guy Richie, Aladdin stars Will Smith who features large as the “big blue guy” (otherwise known as The Genie), Mena Massoud as Aladdin and Naomi Scott as Princess Jamin. Most of the main sequences match the original film as well as some musical favourites (Arabian Nights and A Whole New World) together with a few original songs (Speechless).

While the original film was

considered an entertainment masterpiece it was also shadowed by cultural inaccuracies and disrespectful depictions of Arab culture. Director Guy Richie’s adaptation does well to mitigate some of the specific issues, with a more reflective cast and stronger introduction of topics around female empowerment, representative government and anti-slavery.

With more colour and pizazz than you can imagine this movie captured the minds of both my nephews. I admittedly filled them with ice cream and popcorn (wipes and tissues at the ready!)

from the start, but other than a few questions in the slower (read: love interest) scenes, the effervescent costumes, catchy lyrics and dramatic scenes kept them engaged throughout the 128 minutes. The post screening debrief reflections were very positive including big love for Will Smith.

I similarly enjoyed the remake and many of my 20 and 30 something friends jumped at the opportunity to revisit a classic from their childhood. All consistently loved the new imagery, music and live performances. While it might not break any records or change cultures, the new Aladdin is an entertaining movie for the whole family – if a love story can keep my Ninjago watching, Slugterra playing nephews entertained it’s a winner!

Parents and carers should note the film is more intense than the cartoon with live action (fight scenes with weapons), a menacing ‘Cave of Wonders’ interpretation and one confirmed death, but the general spirit of the cartoon remains with the engaging music and positive messages about friendship, courage and honesty.

# Compassion for the mentally ill leads to a pastoral calling

BY CHRIS GORDON

BARBARA Hall has just started on the next exciting step of a journey she started 27 years ago, but one that almost didn't begin at all except for three moments of chance a quarter of a century ago.

Pastoral Care and Chaplaincy has been a major part of the last 27 years for Barbara Hall. She is the Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Supervisor of the Goulburn Region and was the Coordinator for Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care for 17 years up until December 2018.

She remains in the role of part time pastoral care worker at Goulburn Base Hospital and has now set up a CPE Centre for the whole of the Southern Tablelands. The Centre will provide education and training in pastoral and spiritual care that will assist priests, chaplains and others in delivering pastoral care.

It's fair to say that Barbara has truly found her calling, but it very nearly didn't happen at all.

"It was a few years after my husband John and I and our children had moved to Goulburn," Barbara recalls.

"I was sweeping the floor one day, I think it was in 1992, and I was listening to the radio and I heard an interview on the ABC about a woman who was doing pastoral care at one of the big hospitals in Sydney.

"She was talking about how she visited patients with cancer, and something touched my heart and I thought I'd love to do that. It was like a light bulb moment... an epiphany.

"I rang Goulburn Base Hospital and asked if they had a pastoral care department, and they said no, we just have local clergy come in. So the idea almost died there."

But it didn't. There were still a few more chance encounters on Barbara's journey.

## New life in Goulburn

Barbara and her family had moved to Goulburn three years earlier from Sydney, where they had been involved in the Marriage Encounter Movement. They became active in the Goulburn church community, including the music ministry and taking on the role of Antioch parent couple, and it was through their involvement in the church



Barbara Hall in the Chapel at the Bourke Street Health Centre, formerly known as St John of God Hospital, Goulburn

that she got to know Fr Laurie Blake.

After not working for a number of years to raise her children, Barbara had re-entered the workforce in 1993 as a part time nurse at an aged care facility in Goulburn, when Fr Blake said he was trying to get up a chaplaincy

pretty persistent and some weeks or months later he asked me a third time, I said yes but I still hadn't made the connection with pastoral care because he hadn't called it that."

When Barbara went with Fr Blake to Kenmore for the first time, the penny finally dropped.

remember saying to him that I needed some sort of training because I don't know if what I'm saying is helping or hindering", Barbara said.

"I was talking to patients in the acute ward that were suicidal and I had no idea if what I was saying was helpful or harming

**Barbara's journey has helped her encounter all aspects of pastoral care, but it's a journey she's very grateful to have had, and to still be on.**

program at Kenmore Psychiatric Hospital and Goulburn Base Hospital, and he thought Barbara would be perfect for it.

"The Penny didn't drop for me straight away," Barbara remembers.

"I didn't make the connection with pastoral care – what I'd heard that woman on the radio talking about – and I said no. I'd just started back at work, had four kids and a lot of other activities. Then some time later, he asked me a second time and I said no again.

"Anyway, he must have seen something in me because he was

Even though he hadn't been the chaplain there for many years, many residents remembered him fondly and she could see what an impact he'd made on their lives."

## Beginnings in Pastoral Care

So Barbara started providing this pastoral care, although it wasn't called that at the time, but she didn't have any training and wasn't sure if she was doing it right.

One more chance opportunity fell her way.

"Fr Blake asked me one time how I was going, and I

them. When I said this, Fr Blake said it was funny I should say that, because just that week some information had come across his desk which he'd thrown in the bin other times. But this time he hung on to it and it might be what I was looking for."

It was. It turned out to be information about a Clinical Pastoral Education program being conducted at St John of God Hospital in Burwood – a CPE program specifically for psychiatric patients.

Barbara applied for the course, was interviewed and was accepted. For thirty weeks

in 1998, Barbara drove up to Burwood each Tuesday. In 2000 she completed the next unit, another 400 hours of study, and her journey was well under way.

As an accredited Level 2 CPE supervisor, Barbara became eligible to open a CPE Centre, co-located with Pastoral Services at Bourke Street Health Centre (formerly St John of God Hospital) in Goulburn. She also has a supervisory colleague working with her, Mrs Carmen Karauda, a CPE supervisor-in-training

## Meeting Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care training needs

Traditionally, CPE Centres are co-located with the Pastoral Services Department of a Hospital but the need for chaplaincy today also extends to aged care facilities, universities and prison.

There remains a great need for Chaplains and Pastoral Carers but across NSW and ACT only a few CPE Centres currently exist – at St Vincent's Hospital, Westmead Hospital, Gosford Hospital, Sydney Adventist Hospital, Macquarie Psychiatric Hospital and John Hunter Hospital in Newcastle.

It's a major accomplishment to have secured a local CPE Centre, and one that's likely to provide instant benefits.

"Our CPE Centre is called the Southern Tablelands CPE Centre and we intend to reach out to southern rural NSW, so it won't just cover Goulburn," Barbara explained.

She believes our priests will be among the beneficiaries.

"Even though most receive a lot of training in the seminary, their exposure to pastoral care may have been very limited," she said.

From pastoral care worker to chaplaincy, then co-ordinator to CPE supervisor, and now Centre Director, Barbara's journey has helped her encounter all aspects of pastoral care, but it's a journey she's very grateful to have had, and to still be on.

"I believe God gave me the grace for compassion for the mentally ill," she said.

"I developed a great respect for them – they are remarkably intelligent people often very spiritual in their own way – and I really have great love for them. I'm very lucky to have been in a position to help."

# Ecumenical Service commemorates opening of 46th Parliament

DESPITE the shivering cold, the sun shone down and a new day greeted Australia's new Parliament and Parliamentarians.

Politicians from across the political spectrum gathered at St Christopher's Cathedral on Tuesday morning for the Ecumenical Service to commemorate the Opening of the 46th Parliament.

The ecumenical service, a long standing tradition on the first sitting day of a new parliament, is rotated through Canberra's various faiths and places of worship.

Clergy from the participating

faiths, along with Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Opposition Leader Anthony Albanese, read readings and prayers to the congregation.

The politicians, and others in attendance, were encouraged to pray that their efforts and actions would be for the good of all Australian people.

Prayers of Intercession included prayers for the "strength, wisdom, compassion and grace" of our leaders, that they may guide us towards the eradication of violence between individuals and peoples, that they

seek solidarity in working towards reconciliation with First Nation people and that God be the inspiring presence to all of our elected representatives to help them fulfil the responsibilities of office.

The Right Reverend Mark Short, Anglican Bishop of the Canberra Goulburn Diocese, led the service as preacher.

*Federal Politicians of all political persuasions attended the Ecumenical Prayer Service at St Christopher's Cathedral that commemorated the opening of the 46th Parliament. Photos Luwyl Ambida.*





Archbishop Christopher Prowse meeting Pope Francis in Rome. Photo Vatican Media.



Holy Spirit Primary School, Gungahlin celebrating Dr Seuss and 100 Days of Kinder



Students at St Mary's in Young with their NAIDOC art work. Photo supplied



Trinity College, Goulburn students showing off their latest fashion accessories at the Koori Cook Off. Photo Chris Gordon



Parishioners at the African Bilingual Mass at Gungahlin. Photo by Se Pradeep



Canberra Serra Club Members sharing dinner with Fr Sijo at Temora as part of their visit to the Western Deanery

# Classifieds

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

## SERVICES

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

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

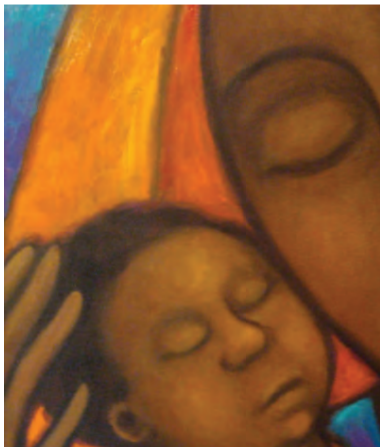
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## Developing a great love for Mary MacKillop in Eden



The pilgrimage, now in its third year, will be held on August 10 with Archbishop Christopher Prowse participating once again. Archbishop Christopher has urged people from across the Archdiocese to join him in what he describes as a wonderful and significant pilgrimage.

“I’m very keen to develop a great love for Mary MacKillop, as she so loved Eden,” he said.

“It was the place of great devotion to Mary due to her mother’s death in the ocean nearby. The parishioners were most hospitable to her mother.

“St Mary of the Cross MacKillop never forgot their generosity and hospitality of her mother’s body at the time of her death. The Josephite Sisters have been there ever since.”

Those wishing to walk assemble at the Eden Football oval at 11am and walk to the Eden church and MacKillop hall. Mass at 12 noon with Archbishop, usually plenty of other priests too. Lunch provided after Mass.

11.00am (optional) Pilgrims Walk from Eden AFL Grounds to Our Lady of the Sea Church.

12.00 noon Concelebrated Mass.

1.00pm Lunch and fellowship.

For more information contact [pambula@cg.org.au](mailto:pambula@cg.org.au). Gowrie Parish extends an invitation for pilgrims to join them on the Murrays’s Coach which will depart Holy Family Church at 7.30am and return around 6.00pm. Further details to phone 6291 6688 or email [tuggeranongsouth@cg.org.au](mailto:tuggeranongsouth@cg.org.au) by 26 July

### Vocation Matters

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](mailto:paul.nulley@cg.org.au)

# Lachlan the new Gungahlin and JPC Youth Minister

BY LACHLAN BELL

G'DAY, MY name is Lachlan Bull, I'm 19 and I'm the Youth Minister at John Paul College and Holy Spirit Parish in Gungahlin.

I study Theology at the Australian Catholic University and in my spare time you can more than likely find me with either a guitar in my hand or a keyboard beneath my fingers.

My journey in becoming a youth minister for 2019 is different to most. Last year I decided to give a year of my life to serve God in a full time voluntary missionary position with Youth Mission Team in the diocese of Wollongong, ministering to the young people of the diocese

through reflection days and retreats.

Youth Ministry through my high school was the place where I originally found my faith, helping to run reflection days for the younger students, participating in conferences and retreats throughout the archdiocese and the fostering of a deeper relationship between myself and those around me. My faith today is the one thing that constantly brings me joy, through the people around me, the ministry or from my own personal prayer and reflection. Youth ministry has provided an outlet for me to express my faith to friends and family.

Youth ministry for me is the way in which I am able to give



Lachlan Bull with Madison Greenwood (left), Phoebe Nguyen (centre) and Lachlan Richards (right). Photo supplied.

the next generation of young people the opportunities that I was given and journeying alongside those who desire to not only know more about God but themselves as well.

I am most excited to journey alongside the students at John Paul College and those apart of the Spirit Youth Group at Holy Spirit and to be able to give them an opportunity to grow in their faith and have an encounter with God.

# Coming Events

**AUGUST 7:** Keeping Faith in Challenging Times with SHANE DWYER. At St Thomas Aquinas School Library, 25 Lhotsky St. Charnwood starting at 7.30pm

**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. Tickets and refreshment packages available at [www.trybooking.com/BCWAY](http://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. Morning tea provided, sausage sizzle lunch is \$5.

**AUGUST 10:** Mary MacKillop Pilgrimage – Eden. 11.00am (optional) Pilgrims Walk from Eden AFL Grounds to Our Lady of the Sea Church. 12.00 noon Concelebrated Mass. 1.00pm Lunch and fellowship. For more information contact [pambula@cg.org.au](mailto:pambula@cg.org.au). Gowrie Parish extends an invitation for pilgrims to join them on the Murays's Coach which will depart Holy Family Church at 7.30am and return around 6.00pm. Further details to phone 6291 6688 or email [tuggeranongsouth@cg.org.au](mailto:tuggeranongsouth@cg.org.au) by 26 July.

**AUGUST 17:** Tamil-English Bilingual Mass. Holy Spirit Catholic Church Gungahlin will host a Tamil-English bilingual Mass on Saturday 17 August 2019 at 6:00pm followed by a social gathering. If you would like to be involved – please email [pradeep.somaraj@gmail.com](mailto:pradeep.somaraj@gmail.com).

**AUGUST 21:** Calvary Hospital Auxiliary is holding a Book Fair on Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd August, 8am-4pm. There are fiction paperbacks, children's books, cook-books, biographies, books on crime, war, hobbies and more. All books \$2, beanies \$5. All funds raised go towards the purchase of equipment for Calvary Public Hospital patients and staff. Come to Calvary Hospital Xavier Building foyer, cnr Haydon Drive & Belconnen Way, Bruce.

**AUGUST 31:** One Day Retreat

in Canberra – with Fr Roni George, VC., Director Divine Retreat Centre, and Fr Joby George, VC. Saturday, 31st August 2019 – 9.30am to 4.30pm at St Benedict's Catholic Church, 10 Tallara Pkwy, Narrabundah. Admission is FREE, BYO lunch. Boxed lunch available at nominal cost. RSVP by 29th August, 2019 to [p.l.rebello@gmail.com](mailto:p.l.rebello@gmail.com)

## 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.concerned-catholicscanberra.org](http://www.concerned-catholicscanberra.org) or contact John Warhurst ([john.warhurst@anu.edu.au](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:paul.nulley@cg.org.au) For catering purposes or follow the prompts at <http://www.manoverboard.org.au/>

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

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Contact Maria on (02) 6247 4026.

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

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

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

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

**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](mailto: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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St. John Vianney*

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