

CATHOLIC **VOICE**

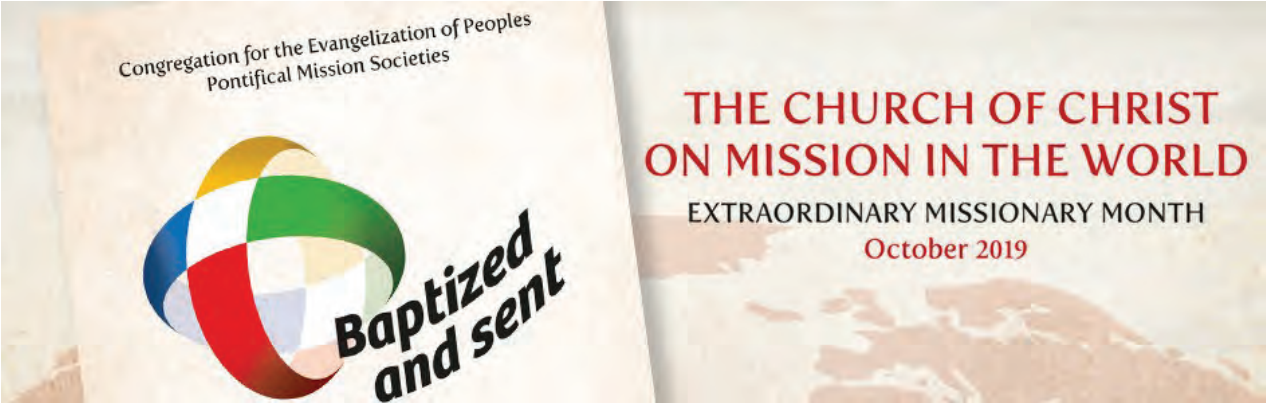
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Archbishop's Message
Archbishop Christopher Prowse

Extraordinary Missionary Month of October 2019



POPE Francis has declared this month of October as an Extraordinary Missionary Month.

It aims to foster an increased awareness amongst us all of the *missio ad gentes* (mission not just for us but for the entire world. See Mark 16/15). The Pope's desire is that we will "take to heart the proclamation of the Gospel and to help ... communities grow in missionary and evangelising zeal".

This happens on the centenary of the promulgation of the Apostolic Letter of Benedict XV *Maximum Illud*, which "sought to give new impetus to the missionary task of the proclaiming the Gospel".

Evangelising expresses the deepest identity of the Church and her essential task. The Church is "missionary by nature" (*Ad Gentes* 2). Upon enquiry, you may be surprised to realise just how much recent Popes have stressed the Church's constant missionary desire "to go forth".

This October's stress on evangelisation is totally in harmony with the Australian Plenary Council that we have embarked upon. Listen to what Pope Francis says about this month of October. It is almost as if he is speaking to us in our Australian Plenary Council.

We are to undertake "a missionary option capable of transforming everything, so that Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channelled for the evangelisation of today's world rather than for her self-preservation. The renewal of structures demanded by pastoral conversion can only be understood in this light..."

To launch this month, I will be celebrating the Mass on 1st October with our Carmelite Sisters on the Memorial of St Therese of the Child Jesus (1873-1897), the Little Flower. Incredibly, although never leaving her convent and dying at an early age, she is one of the Church's greatest missionary saints. She gives us all a wonderful example of the profound link between holiness of life and the desire for the salvation of all people, especially the poorest.

She wrote that placed in her cloistered monastery she would "want to preach the Gospel on all the five continents simultaneously and even to the most remote isles. I would be a missionary, not only for a few years only but from the beginning of creation until the consummation of the ages." Powerful missionary words from the young person in the French convent!

Providentially, her relics will travel around our Australian dioceses early next year. Her missionary and healing ministry continues. I predict thousands will flock to our churches when she makes her missionary pilgrimage amongst us during our Plenary Council.

I encourage all our parishes and communities to make a special effort to highlight our missionary dimension as Catholic Christians during this October month. It is not so much a matter of "adding more pastoral activities" to an already full timetable. More so, it is about becoming more reflective in our homilies, liturgies, gatherings, devotions and outreaches upon:

- Our personal encounter with Jesus
- The witness of the saints
- Our biblical and theological Tradition regarding missionary outreach
- The practical support we offer to the work of evangelisation in countries that are in most need.

In all of this, we recall deeply the Lord Jesus' own command deep within us to "Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations ... and look, I am with you always; yes, to the end of time." (Matt.28/19, 20)

Archbishop's Diary - October 2019

TUESDAY 1, 10.30am Mass, Feast of St Teresa of Lisieux, Carmelite Monastery, Red Hill	THURSDAY, 17 12.15pm Mass, St Christopher's Cathedral	WEDNESDAY, 23 10.30am Mission Mass, St Christopher's Cathedral
SUNDAY, 6 11.00am Mass, St Christopher's Cathedral	FRIDAY, 18 12.15pm Mass, St Christopher's Cathedral 2.00pm Visit to Confirmation students, St Thomas More School, Campbell	THURSDAY, 24 12noon Mass/lunch with retired clergy, Archbishop's House
SUNDAY, 13 9.00am Confirmation Mass, St Joseph's Parish, O'Connor 11.00am Mass, St Christopher's Cathedral	SATURDAY, 19 10.00am The Joy of the Gospel Symposium, Haydon Hall	SUNDAY, 27 9.00am Marian Procession, St Clements Galong
WEDNESDAY, 16 12noon Episcopal Ordination of Bishop-Elect Shane Mackinlay, Sacred Heart Cathedral, Bendigo	SUNDAY, 20 9.30am Confirmation Mass, St Thomas More, Campbell 11.00am Mass for Annual Knights of Southern Cross Deceased Members, St Christopher's Cathedral	TUESDAY, 29 Diocese of Wagga Wagga Consultors Meeting
		WEDNESDAY, 30 Council of the Good Shepherd, Homebush
		THURSDAY, 31 9.00am ACT/NSW Bishops Meeting

IN THIS Edition



Freedom to be Catholic

4



The Heart and Mind of a Theologian

7



Catholic Education 2019 Awards

10



Our clergy gives advice to Fr Alex

13



Merici 60th Anniversary Celebrations

17



Parish Renewal
St Christopher's Pastoral Centre
Saturday 19 October, 2019



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Cover picture: St Vincent's Aranda Religious Education Coordinator Luke Maher with some St Vincent's Students. Luke recently received the Archbishop's Award at the Catholic Schools Cultural Festival and Recognition Awards at St Christopher's Cathedral, Manuka. Photo: Chris Gordon.

Tim Fischer AO

“Reasonable and Happy”

Vicar-General Fr Tony Percy was an assistant priest at Young when he first met Tim Fischer. They chatted about the GST. A long and firm friendship followed, and Fr Tony was asked to give the Final Blessing at Tim Fischer's state funeral at Albury on August 29. Here, Fr Tony shares some reflections about his friend, who was one of Australia's most admired politicians.

TIM Fischer was a wonderful human being. I first met him as a young priest in Young, NSW. Those were the days of John Hewson's Fightback package, which Paul Keating successfully savaged! At a civic gathering, I asked whether a GST was going to apply to school fees. Tim was clear in his rebuttal. Thus began a friendship.

He became Deputy Prime Minister in 1996. Nothing changed. He was busy, but always had time to chat. Later he married Judy Brewer, an intelligent and beautiful woman, who became a great soul-mate and they forged a wonderful, fruitful life together. In recent days, Judy informed me that Tim encouraged her to take risks and to advance her professional life.

Tim had a great sense of humour and prodigious memory. He occasionally visited me when I was assistant priest at Queanbeyan parish in the late 90's. The parish priest at the time, Father Michael Burke, held a Labor ticket. He informed Tim that he liked him, but that “he would have to fumigate the presbytery when he left!” When Tim visited a short time after, he enquired whether the purifying action had been carried out.

I was privileged to baptise their first son Harrison, whose faith in Christ has blossomed. When I travelled to the family home to say Mass and anoint Tim when the cancer emerged, I was deeply moved by Harrison's tangible faith. He had arranged and planned the Liturgy to the last detail. A few years back I celebrated Tim and Judy's 25th anniversary of marriage with family and friends in Mudgegonga, which is near Yackandandah, which is near Tangambalanga – I kid you not!

Tim would do anything for anyone. He was given over to others. I once asked him if he could help out with a very



Judy Brewer and husband Tim Fischer celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary on 16th November 2017 with Judy's mother Mary Brewer and their sons Harrison and Dominic.

serious situation that had developed in an overseas country. Tim responded immediately. When I approached him – along with Ursula Stephens from the Labor side of politics – to help raise money for the restoration of St. Peter & St. Paul's Old Cathedral in Goulburn, he was more than enthusiastic. Their efforts helped raise \$1.5 Million.

In 2008, Sydney hosted World Youth Day. Then Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, appointed Tim as Australia's first ambassador to the Holy See. Tim called me, unsure if he was fit for such a position. Imagine! Michael Tate,

I was asked what legacy Tim Fischer AO has bequeathed to our nation. I made the point that young people could see him as a role model who reached the heights of his profession without compromising himself.

who was a minister in Keating's government, told me that Tim also called him, asking if he thought such an ambassadorship was a full-time job. Michael said absolutely not! Tim didn't “bat an eyelid.” He went on to ask, “What should I not do when in Rome?” Tate told me, “the perfect, prudent question.”

I was privileged to speak with Tim two days before he died. He told me the cancer treatment was no longer working, that he would last until Christmas and that funeral arrangements were in place. As we observed, he had planned meticulously. Judy subsequently informed me that Tim had just emerged from a

period of unconsciousness to phone me and that no one – yes, no one – had any clue that he was close to death. Such was Tim's selflessness.

Not to my surprise, he wanted to talk about the Gospel of John, which fascinated him. He would sometimes call me on Christmas day complaining that the priests never proclaimed the prologue of John's Gospel at Christmas Masses, instead focusing on the Christmas story. He had the last word, of course, having the prologue proclaimed by John Anderson at his State funeral.

Judy asked me to deliver the blessing and prayer during that magnificent celebration, which ended with Beethoven's 5th. It was a great honour. The next day I was interviewed by ABC radio. I was asked what legacy Tim Fischer AO has bequeathed to our nation. I made the point that young people could see him as a role model who reached the heights of his profession without compromising himself.

Blaise Pascal (1623-1662) claimed there are three types of people:

Those who have sought God and found him. They are both reasonable and happy.

Those who have sought God and have not found him. They are reasonable but unhappy.

Those who have neither sought God nor found him. They are unreasonable and unhappy.

Tim was a reasonable man. Tim was a happy man.

He was a terrific person – a faithful husband, a tender father and a treasured friend. He was truly a great Australian.

To honour the legacy of Tim Fischer, the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn will host the Inaugural Tim Fischer Oration entitled, Ethics in Public and Political Life, in August 2020.



SAVE THE DATE
Inaugural Tim Fischer Oration

ETHICS IN PUBLIC AND POLITICAL LIFE

AUGUST 2020

The freedom



“We are in favour of some type of religious discrimination act but it is important that it is a positive law, one not about exemptions. The government should go further than an exemption-based law and take a positive approach to recognise religious rights that would

protect schools, hospitals and charities that adhere to church teachings.

Archbishop Peter A Comensoli, spokesman for the Australian Bishops on religious freedom



“Even if the government’s proposed Religious Discrimination Bill is passed it remains unclear whether ... faith-based schools will be able to continue to employ staff who share their mission.”

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP



“The intention of this bill is good. It’s good it’s an exposure draft because as it’s presently drafted that intention is not fulfilled. Religious freedom is an internationally recognised human right. It should be at least applied nationally in a consistent manner, which this bill fails to do.”

Professor Michael Quinlan, dean of the school of law at the University of Notre Dame



“Commonwealth law has not adequately protected religious freedom. We have robust federal and state protections to prevent sex, race and age discrimination but not religious discrimination. The Tasmanian Anti-Discrimination Act even provides exceptions to particular discrimination law for artistic, scientific, academic and research purposes, but not religion. All the federal Government is trying to do with the Religious Discrimination Bill is to more closely live up to our responsibility under International Law.”

Archbishop Julian Porteous



Fr Joshua Scott teaches Marist College's Year 10 Christian Leadership students about discipleship. Photo supplied by Marist College.

BY FELICITY DE FOMBELLE

RELIGION has long been a hot button issue and recent debates about same-sex marriage, abortion and euthanasia have forced the Church to campaign and defend its teachings.

Now the focus has shifted to religious freedom, with an exposure draft of the Australian Government’s religious discrimination bill released on August 29.

Already the battle lines are drawn.

While freedom of religion seems innocuous enough and is widely accepted – that everyone is entitled to their own belief (or non-belief) and to speak, teach and live accordingly – the question is to what degree.

Families can choose to send their children to taxpayer-funded Catholic schools but how Catholic can that school be? Can our schools insist that staff teach and support Catholic teaching, for example that marriage is

between a man and a woman? And what if staff do not?

That issue is in the spotlight with news of a test case by a former teacher at Ballarat Christian College, who claims she was discriminated against for her support of same-sex marriage.

Activist group Equality Australia is backing mother-of-three Rachel Colvin’s claim, which she lodged with the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal in mid-September.

Ms Colvin claims she was forced to leave after refusing to adhere to the school’s policy on same-sex marriage. The school’s enterprise agreement contains a clause that “all employees are expected to possess and maintain a firm belief consistent with the Statement of Faith of the college.”

In a media statement, Equality Australia CEO Anna Brown said Australians should not be “hounded out of jobs” because their religious beliefs support same-sex relationships and

respect LGBTIQ people.

Ms Brown criticised the school for seeking to “impose its narrow minded version of Christianity and control the personal beliefs of its staff.”

The government’s religious discrimination bill seeks to address some of these issues, which is not an easy task.

ACU Vice-Chancellor Prof Greg Craven wrote recently, “This is the problem with human rights, like freedom of religion. It is not whether you agree with them in abstract but which right wins when religion collides with freedom of speech, or association, or sexual expression.

“In the Western world, the practical answer is clear enough. Religion is the 12-pound weakling of human rights.

“Faced by almost any other demand, it will be sacrificed by politicians, legislators and bureaucrats, particularly if they are ‘progressively’ inclined.”

That is what most concerns

Israel Folau case

- Rugby Australia terminated Israel Folau’s contract in May this year after he posted on social media that homosexuals, among others, would go to hell.
- The committed Christian paraphrased a Bible passage saying “drunks, homosexuals, adulterers, liars, fornicators, thieves, atheists and idolaters” would go to hell unless they repented.
- Rugby Australia said the post breached its professional players code of conduct, with the decision upheld by an independent tribunal.
- Folau has launched a multi-million dollar unfair dismissal case, with a trial scheduled for February 2020.
- In his statement of claim, Folau said he believes he has a “mission and duty” to spread the word of God, including messages from the Bible. He said his religious beliefs “go to the very essence of his personhood and define him as a human being.”
- Legal experts say it is a test case of an employer’s rights via an employment contract or their employee’s freedom of religious expression.
- The parties will seek to resolve the matter by mediation in December.



Religious Discrimination

- The Bill protects various activities, such as employment, education and charitable work, and provides religious exemptions relating to these activities.
- Section 41 raises the threshold for complaints against religious expression (the Julian Porteous case). It protects the right to make a statement of religious belief, provided a statement is not malicious, harassing, vilifying or inciting hatred or violence. This protection covers statements of belief and non-belief and should prevail over other anti-discrimination legislation, putting an end to actions such as the Porteous case.
- Section 10 protects the right of religious bodies (educational, charitable and others performed on a religious basis) to act in accordance with their religion in conducting those activities. This should protect religious education in Catholic schools.
- The “Israel Folau” clause states that employers may restrict or prevent employees’ statements of religious

to be Catholic



Families carry the World Youth Day 2008 cross during Days in the Diocese

the Church, that the bill downplays the centrality of faith in the multitude of rights.

Not surprisingly, Equality Australia has slammed the bill, claiming it “privileges the interests of religious institutions over the rights and freedoms of everyday Australians.”

Sydney Archbishop Anthony Fisher has warned that activist-backed legal cases threaten the future of Australia’s faith-based schools.

One in three of Australia’s 3.9 million school students attend faith-based schools. And 60 per cent of that cohort are in our 1746 Catholic schools, which shows the importance and influence of Catholic education in Australia.

Archbishop Fisher,

who chairs the Bishops’ Commission for Catholic Education, called on Attorney-General Christian Porter to “urgently clarify” if faith-based schools and other institutions would be protected in such legal cases.

And he criticised both major political parties for failing on a promise to protect religious freedom after same-sex marriage became law.

“Two years later and we are still awaiting adequate religious freedom protections,” Archbishop Fisher said. “Two years later and religious schools are being subjected to exactly the sort of lawfare they said they feared and our leaders promised would be prevented.”

Archbishop Fisher slammed the Equality Australia activism which

he said seemed to have been “carefully timed in an attempt to derail current efforts to protect religious freedom in Australia.”

“It is the same style of activism that sought to weaponise state anti-discrimination law against Archbishop of Hobart, Julian Porteous, for distributing pamphlets about Catholic teaching on marriage,” he said.

“This case challenges the right of religious schools to teach that marriage is between a man and a woman and to require staff not to undermine that teaching.

“It contests the right of parents to choose schools that accord with their own religious beliefs.”

* References: Institute for Civil Society (ICS) www.ic4s.com.au

Religious Discrimination Bill - background

Discrimination simply means to differentiate – and there is good and bad discrimination. For example, gender discrimination prevents pregnant women from going on theme park rides. This is good discrimination because it protects the mother and child.

But there can be bad discrimination. A sex discrimination case was taken against Reg Ansett in the 1970s arguing that women should be allowed to be pilots.

In employment law, you are able to hire one person over another because that is discriminating in favour of the more qualified applicant.

However, it is bad discrimination – it is unjust – to choose or reject a candidate for a job because of a non-relevant characteristic like race or gender.

The question becomes what reasonable accommodation does anti-discrimination law make for differences, such as pregnant women and views about religion, sexual ethics and morality?

According to Australian law, we have said it is all unlawful unless there is an exception. For example, exemptions allow women and men to have separate clubs and separate sporting competitions.

But ‘progressive’ groups argue that equality is the ideal and we must remove all exemptions, labelling them a licence to discriminate.

However, it is the exceptions that make the idea of equality work.

But these exceptions, according to legal expert Mark Sneddon, from the social policy think tank Institute for Civil Society, have also become the “ideological weapon to shut down views”.

Disagreement is not discrimination, Mr Sneddon points out. He argues that we should focus on real harm, not a person feeling hurt or offended.

“And we need to interrogate harms,” Mr Sneddon goes on, “such as the argument against primary school children taking religious texts into the classroom because it may harm other children.”

“We need to promote all interests, providing no one is being practically excluded.”

This means that Catholic adoption agencies in Victoria are able to refuse adoption services to same-sex couples, but the key point is that those couples are able to access other services, so they are not excluded.

Freedom of religion protections are strong in international law, but weak in Australian law.

Article 26 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) states “the law shall prohibit any discrimination and guarantee to all persons equal and effective protection against discrimination on any ground such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.”

Article 18 (1) provides that the right to “freedom of thought, conscience and religion” includes a freedom to adopt a religion or belief of one’s choice and a freedom to demonstrate religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching.

But in Australia, these protections mostly fall under anti-discrimination law, which ACU Vice-Chancellor Prof Greg Craven describes as “dud rights protection”.

The system works by protecting other rights, usually against some form of discrimination, but allowing an ‘exemption’ in favour of action taken on religious grounds.

“No one is going to be particularly satisfied being stigmatised a ‘licensed religious discriminator’, unethical but excused,” Prof Craven wrote in *The Australian* recently.

“This has led to a whole new way of conceptualising legislative freedom of religion, which pretty much has coincided with the current Australian political debate.

“Instead of casting the contest as one between a right and an exemption, why not present it as right versus right?”

“Under this approach, freedom of religion legislation would contain a big, bold right to precisely that. This right would then compete on at least an equal footing with other rights in determining legal and policy questions, in a vastly more positive atmosphere for proponents of religion.”

Bill – key facts

belief outside work, but large companies with an annual turnover of \$50m need to show “unjustifiable financial hardship.” The concern is that workers will have to watch what they say as private citizens because activists have used boycotts and social media campaigns to target and silence organisations which do not conform to their ‘progressive’ views, particularly about sexuality and marriage.

• The Australian Law Reform Commission is reviewing religious exemptions in anti-discrimination law generally, but that report is now not due until December 2020. This will shine the spotlight on issues such as whether a teacher in a Catholic school must adhere to religious teachings inside and outside the classroom.

• There is public consultation about the Bill. Submissions were due on October 2. Attorney-General Christian Porter is consulting with faith and human rights/LGBTIQ groups

Archbishop Julian Porteous case

• In September 2015, transgender activist and federal Greens candidate Maureen Delaney lodged an anti-discrimination complaint against Tasmanian Archbishop Julian Porteous.

• Archbishop Porteous had distributed in Catholic schools, the Australian Catholic Bishops’ pamphlet, *Don’t Mess With Marriage*.

• Ms Delaney alleged the statement, “messing with marriage is messing with kids”, insinuated that gay and transgender people were intent on interfering with children, and that it breached Tasmania’s Anti-Discrimination Act, which makes it illegal to humiliate or offend an individual or group on the basis of gender or sexuality.

• Archbishop Porteous said the

complaint was about trying to silence the Church. “And to prevent Christians from expressing their views in the public square,” he added. “Increasingly, they are trying to manipulate anti-discrimination legislation to achieve this end.”

• In May 2016 Ms Delaney withdrew her complaint because of the drawn-out nature of the process, saying the Church had been unwilling to change its wording.

• A disappointed Archbishop Porteous said Tasmanians had been “left under a cloud of uncertainty”. “What we don’t know is whether myself or somebody else who makes another public statement in support of traditional marriage could have a complaint registered against them,” he said.



A life committed to social justice

BY CHRIS GORDON

THE Chairman of the Archdiocesan Catholic Social Justice Commission (CSJC), Mike Cassidy, is about to step down, about to pull up stumps, about to retire.

But whichever term you like, it won't be entirely accurate. He's been actively involved in social justice for most of his life and doesn't see that coming to an end any time soon.

"I've been interested in social justice going right back to my high school days, when I was a member of Young Christian Students," Mike says.

"Then after University in Queensland I continued with the Newman Society and joined the Knights of the Southern Cross when I was about 21. And the reason I was drawn there was because they were working for social justice. So I've been involved in social justice more or less from school right through to now in one form or another. I'm pushing 76 now, so that's quite a while."

The Commission was set up in this Archdiocese by Archbishop Francis Carroll after the Synod of 1988/89. Mike, who was an Occupational Analyst with the Air Force at the time, first joined the Work and Dignity sub-committee of the Commission in 1995 and three years later joined the Commission proper as one of the members.

Mike has spent the last eight years as Chairman of the Commission and is stepping down from that position, assuming he can sell his house.

"Well that's the plan," he explained. "If we're successful then



Mike Cassidy

I'd still like to be involved in whatever way I can, hopefully through my local parish. It would be a bit of a grieving process to leave it all behind.

we will move to Queensland.

"So I will be pulling up stumps from the Commission but I don't intend to take over Queensland. The people there are doing an excellent job.

"I'd still like to be involved in whatever way I can, hopefully through my local parish. It would be a bit of a grieving process to leave it all behind. Similarly with my parish social justice group, we run a coffee project to assist East

Timorese and all of those things become a part of you."

Commitment to his Church and his fellow man was ingrained in him from an early age. His father had also been a member of the Knights of the Southern Cross and worked for St Vincent de Paul, and he credits his mother for teaching him the prayer side of his life. For Mike, the link between Social Justice and his faith is inextricable.

"When the Commission first began, I had the honour of editing the record of the Synod



Mike and Frances' Wedding at St Joseph's Church, Corinda, 1965



Mike with his grandchildren, Rae-Anne Jackson Declan & Abbey Jayne

that preceded it," Mike said.

"One of the things that really impressed me, and that I've used quite frequently since, was in Archbishop Francis's opening speech.

"He spoke about being Church rather than being part of the secular world. He said that we should be making decisions through discernment in the spirit rather than in the parliamentary

model or adversarial model that we see in secular life.

"I've tried to apply that both in my role with the Knights and with the Commission and with whatever Church lay groups that I've been involved with, and it has been very helpful."

In terms of where the Church and the nation stand today in relation to social justice, Mike believes both have made positive steps.

"I think the Church is definitely moving in the right direction," he said.

"From the Church point of view, as we've become much more of a lay organisation since Vatican II, and that's been a fairly slow process in itself, I see a lot more concern with social justice as lay people become more involved in leadership roles in the Church.

"From Australia's point of view, I'm not really sure. Generally I think we're moving in the right direction, but slowly.

"I think the politicians that I've had interaction with, their hearts are in the right place but their actions don't always reflect that or take the common good as the standard they should be applying."

For those reasons, Mike still sees a vital role for the Commission, and similar bodies in other dioceses... keeping social justice front and centre.

"Our primary role is to raise awareness within the Archdiocese and the Church, and that hasn't changed," he said.

"But broadly, bodies like ours combine to keep social justice on the national agenda and that remains vitally important."

Film-maker delivers presentation on euthanasia

BY LARA KIRK

Participants from various churches across Queanbeyan, Murrumbateman and Yass gathered on Saturday morning to hear Canadian film maker Kevin Dunn speak on Living, Dying and the Power of Presence.

Kevin delivered a fundamentally positive message about the need for each of us to be 'prophets of hope' to all whom we encounter day to day.

He explained that despite Euthanasia being legalised in numerous states and countries almost all medical professional associations across the world are opposed to Euthanasia & Physician Assisted Suicide.

Kevin also recounted how today in the Netherlands, 1 in 17 medically assisted deaths



Canadian film maker, Kevin Dunn

were carried out without being requested.

Also in The Netherlands, euthanasia is now legally available not only to the terminally ill but also to the chronically ill, the mentally ill and the disabled. The government is now discussing a new law called 'the completed life' which would allow anyone

who has become 'weary of life' even though physically well to request euthanasia.

Kevin spoke of a 'culture of abandonment' which has developed in the West and encouraged us to resist this cultural trend by being more connected and present to one another.

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The heart and mind of a theologian

BY FELICITY DE FOMBELLE

LEAVING his job as director of the National Centre for Evangelisation after three years was an easy decision for Shane Dwyer.

"I try to look at things logically," Shane explained at his farewell event at the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC) in September.

"We all know we are going through all sorts of changes and questions about where the funds are going to come from. I looked at the four of us in my team and it was the dawning realisation that I didn't have the mortgage and I didn't have the kids, so I was the easiest one to relocate."

A popular Catholic Voice columnist and speaker, Shane will move to Brisbane in mid-November to take up a position in the Archdiocesan evangelisation team. Before that he and his wife have scheduled a trip to Italy and will prepare their Bungendore house for sale.



Fr Stephen Hackett, Monica Nulley-Valdes, Shane Dwyer

The Catholic Church is in a difficult situation, Shane told ACBC staff, but we need to look for "points of light and life."

"And we need to consider what God is asking of us", he continued. "We have some wonderful people who are working very hard and are hanging in there, not just us but people in the parishes and pews. Anything

I have been able to do to assist with that in a small way, well that has been my goal."

Mission Manager Sharon Brewer praised Shane's writing talents and "ability to take difficult theological concepts and land them so the average person can understand."

"I thank Shane also for the opportunity he has given us to

write," Sharon went on. "He coached me through writing a prayer book, and the other staff have written too, meaning our work is going out to the people."

The Catholic Enquiry Centre is a key part of the National Centre for Evangelisation and Sharon said Shane had been extremely supportive of the time and effort required to assist callers.

"For all of us, the most important person is the person who rings and asks for help," she said. "One third of callers have complaints about the Church and Shane has never held back on the time we spend speaking and writing to these people."

ACBC General Secretary Fr Stephen Hackett said Shane brought to his role "the heart and mind of a theologian".

"He has an extraordinary ability in the world of faith and spirituality to bring the truths of the Church to people inquiring about their faith," Fr Stephen said. He also praised Shane's five-year strategic plan for the

centre.

The farewell event also marked the last day in the office for ACBC administrative officer Monica Nulley-Valdes, who returned from maternity leave several months ago but found working one day a week did not agree with 12 month old son Rafael.

"He is a very stubborn boy and he went on a hunger strike when I was at work," Monica explained. "He wouldn't eat or drink, which meant he was drinking all night when I got home."

One of nine children from Campbelltown in Sydney, Monica has found a new role at St Benedict's Church in Narabundah. She and husband George are parishioners at St Joseph's Church in O'Connor where George's cousin, Fr Paul Nulley, is the parish priest.

Monica thanked her ACBC colleagues for their support and added: "I really love spending time with my little boy."

Where passion

Madeleine
ACU student

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NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

Cardinal Pell seeks
leave to appeal conviction to the High Court



Cardinal George Pell and his legal team have sought leave to appeal his conviction to the Australian High Court. The application for leave to appeal was lodged on Tuesday, September 17 and follows the August 21 decision by the Court of Appeal in Victoria to uphold his conviction for child sexual abuse.

The leave to appeal was filed in Melbourne by Pell's legal team one day before the deadline of 28 days from the date of the Appeal Court decision.

An appeal to the High Court is the last legal avenue to overturn his conviction.

The Cardinal was convicted on December 11, 2018, on five charges that he sexually abused two choristers after Sunday Mass while he was Archbishop of Melbourne in 1996 and 1997.

He was sentenced to six years in prison, of which he must serve at least three years and eight months before being eligible to apply for parole.

New head of Personal
Ordinariate installed in
Sydney



The new head of Australia's Ordinariate of Our Lady of the Southern Cross was installed at a special Mass in Sydney in September.

Canadian Msgr Carl Reid is the second priest to lead the Australian Ordinariate, which was established in 2012 by Pope Benedict XVI to welcome groups of Anglicans seeking full communion with the Catholic Church. In March this year, Pope Francis accepted the resignation of Msgr Harry Entwistle, who had served as leader of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of the Southern Cross for the past seven years.

The Personal Ordinariates, of which Our Lady of the Southern Cross was the third in the world, were established to provide a way for groups of Anglicans to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church – as Catholics – while retaining distinctive elements of their theological, spiritual and liturgical patrimony.

Msgr Reid grew up in the Anglican Church of Canada before going on to serve as a deacon, minister and suffragan bishop in the Anglican Catholic Church in Canada. He was later received into full communion with the Catholic Church and was ordained a Catholic priest in January 2013.

Measuring ‘tweens’ use of screen-based devices - new research



Parents of ‘tweens’ will get a report card on how their child uses screen-based devices and whether that use meets national guidelines.

The move comes as part of new Australian research which will measure the amount of time that children, aged 8 to 11 years, spend looking at screens.

The research will also look at the children's sleep patterns and physical activity.

Australian Catholic University (ACU) Institute for Positive Psychology and Education (IPPE) Professor Chris Lonsdale said many parents were concerned their children were spending too much time using screen-based devices, not sleeping well, and not getting enough exercise.

“Parents are concerned for good reason. Australian kids are among the least active in the world and many do not get enough sleep,” Professor Lonsdale said.

“They’re also going backwards – they’re about 20% less fit than their parents were at the same age. These daily behaviours have many serious and lasting physical and mental health implications.”

Bishop takes drought and
Indigenous concerns to Canberra

ACBC MEDIA BLOG

Wilcannia-Forbes Bishop Columba Macbeth-Green OSPPE has travelled to Canberra to urge federal politicians to address the difficulties many Indigenous Australians face, to talk about the challenges the drought brings to people in his diocese and to call for action on youth suicide.

Bishop Macbeth-Green, who is chairman of the Bishops Commission for Relations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, met with senior figures last week, including Senator Patrick Dodson and Environment Minister Sussan Ley, one of the three local MPs in the bishop's sprawling diocese, which covers 52 per cent of New South Wales.

He told politicians that rising suicide rates and the “unacceptable” gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians on key measures like health, employment and education are among the key concerns the Australian bishops have for their country.

Bishop Macbeth-Green also spoke with Senator Dodson, chair of the Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, about the need to make progress towards constitutional recognition of Australia's First Nations peoples.

“I’m grateful for the



opportunity to meet with Senator Dodson and the enriching conversation that we had,” Bishop Macbeth-Green said.

“It is my prayer that this will lead to a deeper and more fruitful engagement of the Church not only for the good of our Indigenous brothers and sisters, but also for the good of all Australians.”

Bishop Macbeth-Green renewed the Australian bishops' commitment to be part of helping support Indigenous people across the country through the Church's many ministries, including in school education, social service agencies and health and aged care.

“The Catholic Church is supporting people in every corner of this country and we see ourselves very much as a key partner with

governments, including the Commonwealth, in ensuring all people have a chance to reach their potential,” he explained.

Some of the issues Bishop Macbeth-Green raised with Ms Ley, while local, had wide-ranging implications for New South Wales and the country.

“Many people in my diocese are struggling mightily under the current drought conditions, which has a range of flow-on effects, including in employment, people's financial circumstances and their mental health, among other things,” he said.

Bishop Macbeth-Green said he and other Church leaders are keen to work with people on all sides of politics who pursue policies and actions that promote the common good.

Chaplains vital as Australia’s prison
population grows

ACBC MEDIA BLOG

Catholic prison chaplains have heard how their mission is becoming increasingly vital as Australia's corrections system expands, conservatively costing the country \$16 billion annually.

A two-day gathering in Melbourne, supported by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and the Australian Catholic Prisoners Pastoral Care Council, focused on the theme “I have come that you may have life and have it to the full” (John 10:10).

Catholic chaplains currently visit prisoners, those on remand and refugees in detention centres to provide a range of pastoral care services and support for individuals and families. The national gathering last week sought to provide chaplains with time for formation, professional development, spiritual nourishment and fellowship with peers.

Bishop Don Sproxton, the Bishop Delegate to the Australian Catholic Prisoners Pastoral Care Council, said prison chaplains and youth justice ministers had a special but challenging role as they fulfilled their mission to respond to God's call to stand with, serve and bring freedom to the poor, disadvantaged, oppressed and imprisoned.

“We know that the majority of Australia's prisoners come from the most disadvantaged sections of the community: Indigenous people, the underprivileged and those suffering mental illness,” Bishop Sproxton said.

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, there were 43,320 people in prison across Australia at the end of March 2019, representing a 30 per cent increase in five years or 71 per cent over the past decade.

Chaplains at the gathering discussed how both incarceration and someone's release from

prison have significant impacts on families and children. They explained that it is not only an offender who needs support when returning to the community; so, too, does the offender's family, in order to reduce conflict and emotional difficulties on release.

Parishes can also provide important community support, the chaplains said. Offenders who successfully re-enter society have reduced rates of recidivism.

Melbourne Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli joined delegates for the conference dinner. Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv, the chair of the Bishops Commission for Social Justice – Mission & Service, was the keynote speaker dinner.

Those interested in taking part in prison ministry should contact their local diocese or parish office for more information.

Prince Charles to attend Newman's canonisation in Rome

COURTNEY GROGAN CNA

VATICAN CITY: Prince Charles will attend the canonisation of Blessed Cardinal John Henry Newman next month. The heir to the British throne will travel to Rome to witness the canonisation Mass of the first non-martyr English saint since the Reformation.

After the Mass in St. Peter's Square Oct. 13, the Prince of Wales will attend a reception at the Pontifical Urban College, where Newman studied to become a Catholic priest, the prince's office announced.

"We are delighted that HRH The Prince of Wales will lead the UK delegation for the canonisation of Cardinal Newman," the Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Vincent Nichols, said after the announcement Sept. 12.

"Cardinal Newman's exploration of faith, depth of personal courage, intellectual clarity and cultural sensitivity make him a deeply admired follower of Christ. His ministry, especially among the poor, is a permanent sign of the Church's pastoral compassion and a challenge to us all today," Nichols said.

Newman was a 19th century



Prince of Wales Charles George and the Duchess of Cornwall Camila visit the Holy See on April 4 2017 Courtesy of the Holy See Press Office. Photo: CNA

theologian, poet, Catholic priest and cardinal. Originally an Anglican priest, he converted to Catholicism in 1845 and his writings are considered among some of the most important Church-writings in recent centuries.

Tens of thousands of people attended Newman's beatification in Birmingham, England in Sept. 2010. At the beatification Mass, Pope Benedict XVI said that Newman's "insights into the relationship between faith and reason, into the vital place of revealed religion in civilized

society, and into the need for a broadly-based and wide-ranging approach to education were not only of profound importance for Victorian England, but continue today to inspire and enlighten many all over the world."

Prince Charles and his wife Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, met Pope Francis in April 2017 during a visit to the Vatican. The Prince of Wales previously met Pope Benedict XVI in 2009 and St. John Paul II in 1985 with his first wife, Princess Diana.

Attacks on religious communities 'a wound on all humanity' Trump tells UN

BY MATT HADRO

NEW YORK CITY, NY:- President Donald Trump joined world leaders to speak out against religious persecution at a Global Call to Protect Religious Freedom at the United Nations General Assembly in New York on Monday, Sept. 23.

"Today, with one clear voice, the United States of America calls upon the nations of the world to end religious persecution," President Trump said. "Stop the crimes against people of faith. Release prisoners of conscience. Repeal laws restricting freedom of religion and belief. Protect the vulnerable, the defenseless, and the oppressed."

Also speaking Monday, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said that "the persecution of religious minorities is utterly intolerable."

"We must do all we can to avoid religious cleansing of societies," he said.

President Trump delivered his remarks as the UN General Assembly (UNGA) meets for its 74th session in New York City on

Monday.

Praising the Global Call to Protect Religious Freedom, Trump claimed the event the first of its kind to be held at the UNGA. United States Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom Sam Brownback agreed, saying that "to our knowledge" no such event focusing on religious freedom had been held at the United Nations General Assembly by a member country before.

In July, the Pew Research Center released its 10th annual report on global religious restrictions. It found that global restrictions on religious freedom had intensified over the ten-year span from 2007 to 2017.

At the UN on Monday, Trump drew attention to the increased persecution of religious minorities around the world, including Christians.

"It is estimated that 11 Christians are killed every day," Trump said. "I mean, just think of this: Eleven Christians a day, for following the teachings of Christ. Who would even think that's possible in this day and age? Who would think it's

possible?"

The president cited numerous acts of religiously motivated violence, including the 2016 murder of Fr. Jacques Hamel by Islamic State terrorists in Normandy, France, as well as "horrifying" shootings at synagogues in Pittsburgh and in California in 2018 and 2019, respectively. Trump also referred to the March, 2019, shooting at a mosque in Christchurch, New Zealand, that "sadistically murdered" scores of Muslim worshippers, as well as the Easter bombings in Sri Lanka churches and hotels that killed more than 250 people earlier this year.

"These evil attacks are a wound on all humanity," Trump said, noting that the U.S. will urge other countries to ramp up prosecution and punishment "of crimes against religious communities,"

The president also announced a commitment by the administration of \$25 million in funding "to protect religious freedom and religious sites and relics," and to form a coalition of U.S. businesses to protect religious freedom especially in the workplace.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Catholics, Muslims pray at Vatican for September 11 victims



Courtney Mares CNA

VATICAN CITY: Catholics and Muslims prayed in Vatican City for the victims of the Sept. 11 attacks and of every act of terrorism.

The prayers were a part of the first meeting of a new committee created by the United Arab Emirates for implementing the goals outlined in Pope Francis and the Grand Imam of al-Azhar Ahmed el-Tayeb's joint statement on human fraternity signed in Abu Dhabi Feb. 4.

According to the Holy See Press Office, the committee chose to meet Sept. 11 as "a sign of the will to build life and fraternity where others sowed death and destruction."

The committee is made up of seven members: two from the Roman curia and five members from the UAE and Egypt. The group selected Bishop Miguel Angel Ayuso Guixot, President of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, to be the committee president.

Bishop Ayuso is one of 13 men selected by Pope Francis to be elevated to the rank of cardinal Oct. 5.

Church leaders in Zimbabwe discuss beautification cause of lay missionary



HARARE, ZIMBABWE: On Thursday the Catholic Church in Zimbabwe began a three-day meeting to consider the cause of canonisation of John Bradburne, a lay missionary to the area in the 1970s who could become the country's first saint.

At the Sept. 5-7 meeting, Catholic leaders will hear arguments in favor of and against the sainthood cause of Bradburne, who was killed during the Rhodesian Bush War in 1979.

The meeting began on the 40th anniversary of Bradburne's death and will determine

whether his cause for official sainthood can proceed.

Bradburne was born in 1921 in England, the son of an Anglican clergyman. He served in the British army in World War II, and he converted to Catholicism in 1947 after staying with the Benedictines of Buckfast Abbey.

Although he wanted to become a monk at Buckfast, he had not been in the Catholic Church long enough, and so he became a wanderer throughout Europe and the Middle East, living out of one bag. He also became a prolific poet.

Elevator malfunction leaves Pope stuck before Angelus



Hannah Brockhaus CNA

VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis begged the pardon of the crowd gathered in St. Peter's Square Sunday, explaining that he was late because he had gotten stuck in a Vatican elevator and had to wait for help from the fire department.

"First of all, I have to apologise for the delay, but there was an accident: I was locked in the elevator for 25 minutes!" the pope said Sept. 1, after arriving seven minutes late for the noon Angelus and reflection.

He explained that "there was a drop in voltage and the elevator stopped. Thank God the fire department came — I thank them so much! — and after 25 minutes of work they managed to make it go. A round of applause for the fire department!"

Parents protest as Senegalese Catholic school enforces Islamic headscarf ban

DAKAR, SENEGAL: A prestigious Catholic school in the Senegalese capital of Dakar is going ahead with a ban on students wearing Islamic headscarves, local media is reporting.

The Sainte-Jeanne d'Arc Institute in Dakar, run by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny, made the decision several months ago, Africanews.com reports, and as a result students who came to school wearing headscarves were not allowed to remain at school.

The school includes primary, secondary, and post-baccalaureate education. The school began during the 2014-2015 school year.

Some parents have called for government action and have threatened to file complaints against the school.

Celebrating our Catholic schools

*Catholic Education, Canberra-Goulburn, recently held its annual Catholic Schools Cultural Festival and Recognition Awards and Mass at St Christopher's Cathedral. **Catholic Voice journalist Chris Gordon** spoke with some of the winners... St Vincent's Aranda REC Luke Maher, who won the Archbishop's Award; Hennessy Catholic College, Young's principal Trazel Scott, who won the Director's Award and St Clare's College, Griffith student Clare Rosin, winner of the Affinity Award for achievements in STEM studies. A full list of recipients can be found on the Catholic Voice website.*

Catholic Education FAST FACTS

Catholic Education, Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn serves 56 Schools and eight Early Learning Centres extending from Pambula on the south coast, to Crookwell in the north, through to Lake Cargelligo in the west, traversing 88,000 square kilometres and spanning ACT and NSW borders. It is the only Catholic Education System in Australia that operates across both a state and territory jurisdiction. Our System is made up of:

- 56 primary and secondary schools in the ACT and NSW.
- 8 Early Learning Centres in the ACT.
- 20,767 students enrolled, including 14,014 in the ACT and 6,753 in NSW.
- 1,677 teachers, including 1,067 teachers in the ACT and 610 teachers in NSW.

“Congratulations to each of the deserving 2019 award recipients. Each year the Recognition awards provide an opportunity for Catholic Education in the Archdiocese – students, teachers, families and parishes – to come together to acknowledge the strengths and achievements of Catholic schools.”

“This year has been another very successful year for our 56 Catholic schools and eight Early Learning Centres. Our theme for celebrating Catholic education in 2019, ‘Engaging Faith, Minds and Community’, set the standard for us this year and our outstanding award recipients exemplify these qualities.”

Ross Fox,
Director of Catholic Education

Luke recognised for lead role in evangelising

When Luke Maher attended the Catholic Schools Cultural Festival and Recognition Awards, he knew he had been nominated for an award, he just didn't know which one.

When his name was announced for the prestigious Archbishop's Award, he was gobsmacked.

“I didn't really take it in on the night but our Assistant Principal recorded a video and I've since watched.”

Luke described the award as a recognition of the work of all of those working in the New Evangelisation and primary youth ministry programs.

“This is something I have become extremely passionate about because I've seen the fruits of it,” he explained.

“We have partnered with the South Belconnen Parish at St Matthew's in Page and at St Vincent's in Aranda.

“We piloted the junior program last year. We're now 18 months in and when we talk about Youth Ministry, we talk about an intentional pathway, and for many years that has focused on secondary schools into some of the work post-school with Youth Ministers, but now we're also expanding to primary schools.”

Luke said that the programs weren't just beneficial to Catholic students in the pilot schools but for the whole community.

The dedicated teacher's own pathway to becoming a Religious Education Coordinator (REC) at a Catholic School wasn't perhaps an obvious one. One of seven siblings, he was educated from Kindergarten to Year 12 at Braidwood Central School.

His teaching path began with a six month stint straight out of school, but even though he'd always felt a calling towards teaching, the particular time or situation didn't sit right with him. Luke took up a few other opportunities, including working overseas for a while, but upon his return he was drawn to the Australian Catholic University and knew straight away that he'd found the path for him.

His final year practicum took him to Good Shepherd Primary at Amaroo where he was lucky enough to secure employment upon completion of his degree. Luke spent four years as a teacher at Good Shepherd before becoming their REC, a role he held for the next four years before taking up the same role at St Vincent's where he has been for the last four years.

“Being able to work with young people who are discovering and celebrating their faith, and seeing the impact that that has on them, their classmates and their families, it's powerful,” he said.

“It's really exciting to be a part of, and inspires me every day.”



St Vincent's Aranda REC Luke Maher with some of his students



Award winners, Members of the ACT Legislative Assembly, Catholic Education officials and Archbishop Christopher Prowse at the 2019 Catholic Schools Cultural Festival and Recognition Awards and Mass at St Christopher's Cathedral.

Clare's affinity for science and tennis rewarded

A love of tennis and a keen interest in science came together when Clare Rosin from St Clare's College, Griffith won the Affinity Award at the Catholic Schools Cultural Festival and Recognition Awards.

The Affinity Award, awarded for achievements in STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) was the first award announced on the night, and while Clare received advance notice that she'd won, she was still bursting with excitement when her name was called out.

“I just felt really happy,” she remembers.

“I've never received anything like this before. My sister's always

getting these awards and stuff, so it meant a lot.”

Clare had submitted a project as part of the CSIRO Blue CREST award. The Blue CREST program is a non-competitive activity which encourages student success through the development of skills and processes. It allows students to choose, organise and undertake their own open-ended science project.

The Question that Clare, a keen tennis player, investigated was “How high does a tennis ball bounce on different surfaces?” She designed an experiment that tested the bounce height of a tennis ball on grass, wood, concrete and carpet. She then related her

findings to her research on gravity, gravitational potential energy and energy transfer. She was able to come to the conclusion that a tennis ball will bounce much higher on a harder surface than a softer surface.

Clare's teacher, Natalie Hastings, explained that students needed to design their own question to test for the Blue CREST Award, and it just needed to be a physics question as the class was studying physics.

“We studied friction, gravity, air resistance, magnetism, electrostatics, and Clare decided to go with friction,” Mrs Hastings said.

“But Clare also went into more depth than what she'd learnt in

Year 7. She explained a lot of concepts in there, so it was very impressive.”

Mrs Hastings, who teaches general science and senior biology, said she was very proud of St Clare's promotion of STEM studies.

“We have made STEM very accessible,” she said.

“There are so many projects that the students are participating in. There's lots of robotics at the moment, we've got the engineering games coming up, and then the CREST Awards. We only started the CREST Awards last year with Year 7 doing the Blue Crest, but this year we've also got Year 8 doing the Bronze Crest.”

Also a big fan of St Clare's support of STEM, Clare is a walking advertisement for the College. There's a lot that she likes about the place and she's happy to pass that on.

“There's a lot of clubs here that you can go to, like there's a science club, sports clubs, lots of different interests. And the staff are very helpful and support your strengths,” Clare said.

“That's good for me because I really like things like Maths... straight forward things. I'm mostly sciency and maths!”

St Clare teacher Mrs Natalie Hastings and student Clare Rosin

Principal recognised for innovation and dedication

Trazel Scott, principal of Hennessy Catholic College in Young, was stunned to receive the Director's Award recently.

“It was a huge surprise,” Trazel said. “I'm humbled to receive it. I work among 56 amazing principals and all of them are worthy of recognition, so to be chosen is extraordinary.”

“It's a cliché, but this award is for all of my staff, because I couldn't have done the things we have done without them.”

Trazel believes the Award was recognition for a program she has implemented at her school.

“Over the last 18 months I've been working with staff to develop a teaching and learning cycle so that we have consistent practice across every classroom,” Trazel explained.

“We agreed that we'll deliver lessons in a certain way, we'll have a certain structure in our timetable and we'll support students to enhance learning outcomes.

“One of the advantages of this approach is that someone can step into a classroom and the structure is already set.

“Students feel much more comfortable and secure in classes, and feel supported by that model.



Archbishop Christopher Prowse and Trazel Scott

They actually asked for a more consistent approach through student wellbeing surveys over the last two years and we used that data to bring about a school-wide change for them.”

While Trazel (rhymes with Hazel) has been teaching for the last 27 years, she has only more recently become a principal.

After 10 years teaching at Darra College and 14 at Merici College as a Deputy Principal, she has spent the last three years as Principal at Hennessy Catholic College.

For the Canberra born and raised woman, it was both her first experience as a Principal, and first time living and working in “the bush”, but she said both experiences have exceeded her expectations.





BY SHANE DWYER

A Final Word

YOU are reading what is my final article for this publication, before moving on to a new role with the Archdiocese of Brisbane. These last three years directing the National Centre for Evangelisation and the Catholic Enquiry Centre have been a privilege and, ultimately, a great solace to my faith as I have sought to consider how we might invite individuals and groups into a deepening relationship with Jesus Christ. I came to this role after four years in a related ministry for the Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn.

Over the years, I have discovered that keeping the focus on the life-saving relationship at the heart of our faith is not as easy as it might seem. I have regularly found that we are to be like Peter, making that unlikely trek across the water towards the one who alone can offer us life, while all the time battered by the uncertainties of an often incomprehensible journey (Matthew 14:22 – 33). Aware that if we take our eyes off Christ we too increase our likelihood of drowning, the at times relentless buffeting provided by our collective fears and disappointments can undermine our confidence.

I have learned there is a difficult trick to pull off: the attempt to pay attention to the certainties and opinions of others, on what needs to change in the church, while remaining open to those who say the opposite with equal fervour. Then there's the need to go in search of those who no longer care either way, having become increasingly disillusioned over the years. Add into the mix fending off the seemingly endless media onslaught providing commentary on our many collective and individual weaknesses (both real and imagined) and even those well-used to dealing with such things can begin to wonder about the next step.

However, this is not a lament.



Shane Dwyer presents at Proclaim 2017

Many of our problems are of our own making, and any authentic spiritual journey is going to regularly encounter the challenge to get back to what's essential and to scrape off the accretions that inevitably attach themselves as we make our way. The hull of a ship as old as ours will always need to be scraped clean of barnacles.

The pope has identified clericalism as one such barnacle. Another is the desire to put rules above people. They tend to go hand-in-hand. The prioritising of rules over people frequently involves the prioritising of the power of an ordained elite over

the baptised majority. The fact that the dignity of all the sons and daughters of God resides in baptism can easily be lost, mainly because the majority of us have long ago learned that we don't know how to play the church game. For most, it isn't a level playing field. We don't have the theology or, quite frankly, the time amid our busy lives, to pay proper attention to what is at stake. An awareness of how things should properly function comes up for air now and then (see the documents of the 2nd Vatican Council) only to risk going under again as we either fail to pay attention or revert to

the ways of relating and habits of thought with which we are familiar.

It is the ever-growing group of the disillusioned that preoccupies me the most. Rather than blaming them for having 'given up on their faith,' I find myself learning from them as they seek to live authentic lives without the supports that I have come to lean on heavily and continue to value. They deserve to hear the good news: that Jesus Christ wishes to walk with them in their lives as they are, gradually leading them forward to the fullness of life that he alone can give.

There is much about our

Many of our problems are of our own making, and any authentic spiritual journey is going to regularly encounter the challenge to get back to what's essential and to scrape off the accretions that inevitably attach themselves as we make our way.

faith that does not make sense to someone for whom a sincere and loving relationship with Jesus Christ is not central. The Catholic faith is not a system of doctrines, laws, practices or structures. It includes those things, but they are only of any use to the degree to which they provide support to, and direction regarding, the life-saving relationship at the heart of it all.

The task is simple to articulate, but challenging to carry out: each human being is to be offered the invitation to enter into the life of God in and through Jesus Christ. This is what all the baptised are called to do, through the witness of their lives and, when necessary, through their words. The church exists to assist you with that: 1. to nourish you with the Body, Blood and Word of Jesus, 2. to point you in the right direction and show you the path, 3. to intercede that God may help and guide you, 4. to provide you with God's healing when you fail, 5. and to celebrate with you that God's promises are coming to fruition in you. If each of us were to get on with living in the power of our baptism, the renewal of the church and its mission would take care of itself.

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Advice to a newly ordained priest

Family, friends and the Canberra-Goulburn Catholic community celebrated the ordination of 27-year-old Fr Alex Osborne on August 30. Here, three of our priests – with a collective 80 years' of clerical wisdom between them – share advice with Fr Alex as he begins his priestly life.



Dear Fr Alex,

On God: Desire God in your life like thirst after solid exercise. Acknowledge you are nothing without each member of the Holy Trinity drawing you forward in the Church you love and wish to serve. So in all things you do,

bring glory to God. Be prepared to thirst.

On prayer: Be a man of prayer - deep, sincere and constant prayer. Do not be a showman. Conduct and play the instrument you are for God and his Church. Be prepared to listen.

On sacred scripture: Do not use it to moralise, politicise or ostracise. It is the Word of God. Savour it and let it feed your soul. Be prepared to be constantly surprised.

On love: Only talk about love if you have experienced love, its joys and its sorrows, its warmth and its coolness, its presence and its solitude. Be prepared to love and be loved.

Have a comfortable acceptance of your whole humanity, the person God created you to be, and with such acceptance admit you are a magnificent work in progress. Be prepared to grow.

Accept that there can be pain in life, and should be expected in your own at times. From pain we unlock courage that we did not even know we possessed. Be prepared to be courageous.

Have enough humility to admit you are not perfect, that you can make mistakes, and that you know what forgiveness truly means. You are not the expert but are often the student. Be prepared to forgive.

Remember that you may be an anchor but are not anchored to one place or people. Be prepared to be unsettled at times.

Have a healthy sense of humour that is wise and even allows you to be able to laugh at yourself when necessary. Be prepared to smile and laugh.

Fr Richard Thompson



Dear Fr Alex,

Congratulations Fr Alex. The greatest and most fulfilling life you could possibly imagine, now begins.

- Do the ordinary and simple things well, patiently and with love.
- Celebrate the Sacraments as if it were the first and last time you ever celebrated them.

• Bring God's people together ... and let Christ worry about the rest.

• Teach God's people Who Jesus is, and know and never lose sight of the One you serve; and this means prayer. Prayer is the first and last and only necessary thing ... for Jesus to shine through you, and for you to be a good, effective and happy priest.

• We have received an unimaginable gift in the priesthood, but we always remember that it is His Priesthood. It is He they laud, He alone that they seek, and indeed equally, it is He too that the world mock and deride.

• Be brave enough Fr Alex, to never doubt that He's all you need... but of course you do know this, for this is why you are His Priest.

Fr Trenton Van Reesch



Dear Fr Alex,

1. Know the Jesus of the Gospels
2. Remember, you are his representative.
3. Be humble serving each person needs by listening and then acting in a pastoral way.
4. Give people a good experience of Christian living, particularly in celebrating the sacraments.
5. Pray each morning, Dear Jesus, I submit my day to you. Help me to love as you love me. Holy Spirit fill me with your own self. Keep me open to your signs, inspirations, and promptings so that my day may give glory to the Father.
6. What you experience each day - including rejection - remember Jesus experienced this before you. Stay close to Jesus.

Fr Bernie Patterson



Family joy (below): Fr Alex Osborne celebrates his ordination with twin sister Louise, one year old niece Penelope, Mum Sylvie (far left) and Dad Peter (back left). **Left:** Fr Alex is blessed by his brother priests.



Discerning your mission in Extraordinary Mission Month

BY CHRIS GORDON

“THE thing with Mission is that it takes many different forms,” said Cathy Ransom, Diocesan Director of Catholic Mission.

“You don’t need to have a badge or a label, you just need to do what you’re called to do.”

In 2019, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Pope Benedict XV’s Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud*, Pope Francis announced that October be an Extraordinary Mission Month. The purpose of this recognition is twofold... to encourage people to give thought to what their Mission may be, and Mission and to recognise those already engaged in Mission, and Cathy believes a part of that is demystifying the word itself.

“Mission is bringing good news to those in need in word and deed, both here domestically and to the ends of the Earth,” Cathy explained.

“So we’re called to be a part of this Mission and we need to find out where God’s asking us to do that. And you don’t need to go to Africa, you don’t need to go to India to live Mission, to live out the call of Jesus Christ in our lives.”

Cathy said that Mission not only takes many forms, but that there are seasons of Mission. What you are called to do as a young single person may not be the same as if you were older or married. Some of the work of Mission can be done individually, and some is delivered by groups, which Cathy believes this Archdiocese is particularly blessed with.

“I see the wonderful work of our Catechists,” Cathy enthused.

“And we’re very blessed that we have such a vibrant Youth Ministry – young people who are willing to stand up and declare they follow Jesus Christ and are prepared to talk about it.

“We have so many ministries, the Marriage, Family and Relationships ministry, we have

schools, we have parishes – we have so much going on. But it’s not just the work of these groups. For many, their Mission may be simply to bring the Gospel to life domestically amongst their family, friends and workplace.

“But this October, we’re asking people to challenge themselves, to step outside their comfort zone and share a little of their faith in Jesus with those they are most in touch with - in both word and deed. Being Jesus to those in need is a powerful sign of God’s love in the world. “

For Extraordinary Mission Month, the Holy Father has approved the theme ‘Baptized and Sent: The Church of Christ on a Mission in the World’, and within that theme four dimensions:

1. A personal encounter with Jesus Christ living in his Church.
2. The witness of missionary saints and martyrs.
3. Missionary charity as a commitment to support the Church’s missionary activity and communities too poor to support themselves, through Mission.
4. Biblical, catechetical, spiritual and theological formation for mission.

But central to the concept of Mission, Pope Francis has declared, is that “Prayer is the ‘first missionary work’ – the first! – that every Christian can and must do, and it is also the most effective, even if this cannot be measured.”

Approaching Extraordinary Mission Month, Cathy said that it’s important that people aren’t scared by the term Mission.

“One of the things that’s important about Extraordinary Mission Month, is to recognise that there are all kinds of calls. And it can change, your Mission can change sometimes when you’ve just got comfortable,” she explained.

“God does call you to do something completely different and outside of your comfort zone, but the main thing is that



Canberra couple appointed to leadership role



Faye and Kevin Noonan

Canberra couple, Faye and Kevin Noonan, have just begun a six-year appointment on the leadership team for a global Catholic lay organisation, headquartered in Paris.

Equipes Notre-Dame is known in Australia simply as “Teams”. Teams is a one of the Church’s biggest lay organisations to focus specifically on ordinary married couples. Every month, more than 150,000 Catholics meet in small groups in the home, in more than 90 countries. This includes over 10,000 bishops, priests and religious who provide support as spiritual advisors and guides.

This year, Faye and Kevin have a full diary speaking at meetings and attending events in Australia, Spain, France, England, Ireland, New Zealand and the Middle East.

This is only the second time in the 80 year history of the organisation that an Australian couple has been chosen for the international role.

A key focus for the Teams international leadership will be the implementation of the recently released strategic direction for the movement: Vocation and Mission. This was developed following a private audience with Pope Francis that Faye and Kevin and other leaders attended in 2015.

Reflecting on their new role, Faye and Kevin said:

“Face-to-face encounters are really important, because so much can be learned from the joys and struggles in the lives of ordinary couples. These personal stories build bridges between cultures and keep us all grounded in our understanding of the struggles of the real world”.

A team is a small group of couples who meeting monthly in a home to share a meal, their stories, prayer and discussion. For more information visit the website: www.teamsoceania.com.au



we take time to ask God what is it he wants me to do, and then we need to be obedient and faithful to that very thing God’s called us

to do, whether it appears to be grand and wonderful or it seems to be humble and hidden.”

Mission Month Events

In recognition of the focus on prayer, one of the events to launch the Extraordinary Mission Month will be “Reawakening the Mission Rosary” at St Christopher’s Cathedral at 7pm on Tuesday, October 1.

Other Mission focused activities scheduled for the month include:

Mission Month Launch: Carmelite Monastery on Tuesday October 1 for Archdiocesan leaders.

World Mission Sunday: October 20

Archdiocesan Mission Mass: 10.30am on Wednesday, October 23 at St Christopher’s Cathedral

Marian Procession and Youth Pilgrimage: (Galong, Sunday October 27) as the culmination and conclusion of Extraordinary Mission Month

Prior to the official launch, Youth Ministers and Leaders also met for a “Go Dinner” at St Christopher’s Pastoral Centre on Thursday September 26.



Queanbeyan boy finds love in Germany

BY VERITY DUNN

ON a beautiful autumn day in a barn in small town of Utche outside Hanover, Queanbeyan boy Liam Templeton married German local, Janin Kassner on Sunday 8 September 2019.

Liam and his older brothers (twins Alexander and Patrick) and sister (Claire) grew up in an energetic and loving household with parents Denise and Brian playing every sport and swimming in every watering hole Queanbeyan and Canberra had to offer.

Starting school at St Thomas More in Campbell Liam later joined Daramalan College in Dickson where he was already a proficient triathlete. He parents, Brian an Assistant Principal and Denise, a Special Needs Teacher both worked at Daramalan and were also active runners.

Having been overseas before, in 2005 in Year 12 Liam and other students and teachers from Daramalan went on a mission visit to sister schools in Timor Leste. Shortly after completing Environmental Science and Finance at the Australian National University (ANU) he moved to Germany in 2011 to race as a triathlete and spent the next 7 years living in Europe racing with teams – swimming, cycling and running his was through most Italian, French and German circuits.

It was on a fateful day in 2013 that Liam was training at the Hildesheim pool for an upcoming race and who should he spot but the formidable young German swimmer Janin Kassner.

And the rest is history...well, a somewhat modern romance



Verity Dunn with Liam and Janin

ensued which included a long distance relationship, international study and many travelling, hiking, trekking, cycling and on a mountain top during a hike in the South Island of New Zealand a proposal on New Year's Day 2019.

After their initial meeting in 2013 Janin returned to the United States to study Business and Economics at Catawba College on a swimming scholarship for four years. The two stayed in touch and Liam visited – staying and enjoying the pool and American dining facilities in true Liam style. The couple moved back to German in 2015. And then to Auckland, New Zealand

2017. While no longer competing professionally 32 year old Liam still enjoys a being active and the two are planning their next hike. Liam now works as an Environmental Scientist at Watercare – regularly on the local and national media educating the public on environmental issues – and Janin 26 as an Financial Analysis at Genisis Energy.

While attending the beautiful ceremony I was reminded how my Daramalan school friend has always been a free spirit who plays by his own rules. Not that he actively seeks to break rules, but he's more likely to follow the social and legal ones he believes are morally important or justified



Liam and Janin on the Routeburn Track South Island, New Zealand where Liam proposed

for safety. A widely read, highly intelligent guy with an interest in how things work, usually ensure he's able to justify his actions with logic and a strong argument. Liam will refuse to buy a second shirt if he already has one on his back, but would call you out of the blue for an old chin wag about life, politics and the environment – a rare thing for a young man of this generation. As his parents said in their wedding

speech, "Anyone with a similar energy for life who can get Liam to the train station with a ticket, more than a minute to spare before departure is a great fit in our books!"

I've enjoyed 15 years of friendship with this character and was privileged to witness him commit to the love of his life in September – wishing them both a lifetime of peace, happiness and – let's face it! – adventure!



Liam and Janin's wedding day



Liam Templeton in Germany racing in a triathlete

Spring brings renewal to Bega

BY CHRIS GORDON

EACH year Spring brings with it a feeling of renewal, and the Bega Parish has put that into practice with its own Parish renewal.

The process, initiated by Fr Luke Verrell, began with a simple question... “where to from here?”

“In this parish, there are a lot of likes and dislikes with regard to what we do and how we do it” said Fr Luke.

“The parish wanted to move from personal preferences to a welcoming model, or a missionary model, where the test for our ideas would be if something was welcoming or reaching out to others.”

Fr Luke contacted Sharon Brewer from the National Centre for Evangelisation who agreed to help commence the process of parish renewal.

“Fr Luke wanted to move his parish to a different space and part of that was a renewed Parish Pastoral Council,” Sharon Brewer said.

“We respond to requests like this and go where there’s a need, we just ask parishes to check in with their Bishop’s office so that we don’t encroach on diocesan territory.

“From there, we find out what a parish wants... we don’t have a list of one size fits all solutions. Something that works in a city parish may not work in a country one, or an amalgamated one like Bega and Tathra. Fr Luke and I spent a lot of time on the phone refining what he wanted, what his aims were, what he felt the Parish



Fr Luke Verrell with Bega parishioners

wanted and what he hoped to achieve.

“After a number of discussions, once we understood his aims for the Parish, and that clarified our approach and guided our suggestions.”

One of the key parts of the process was to underpin it with a relevant piece of scripture. The piece eventually chosen was Matthew 28: 18-20. With that set, two sessions were organised for the Bega Parish to nail down and finalise the plan.

“The first weekend was Friday night and all day Saturday of one weekend and that was open to whoever wanted to come,” she said.

“They looked at values and what happens when there’s conflict about the values. We looked at aims, spent a fair bit of time praying and reflecting on why we were doing this, why we should share the gospel and getting back to basics.

“They talked about various issues facing the church today.

Then they talked about what a really great parish would look like.”

A new Parish Pastoral Council was formed and has now held its first meeting, and Fr Luke said they are very excited at with what lays before them.

“Now the focus is twofold,” Fr Luke said.

“We are looking at those people who only come to Mass irregularly ... to baptisms, weddings, school, Christmas and Easter... looking at them as not “slack” Christians but looking at them as people who we need to make welcome. The lost sheep of the parish, so to speak. We want to look at events to welcome them.

“But at the same time we’re honouring the values of our longstanding parishioners who have done the good work, day in day out, and who have been carrying the load. It’s important we don’t change everything so much that people would no longer feel at home.”

Serra Club visits Archdiocesan seminarians

BY JOHN SMITH

On the weekend of August 24-25, ten members of the Serra Club of Canberra made an overnight visit to the Good Shepherd Seminary in Homebush, for the main purpose of spending time with the seminarians from the Archdiocese of Canberra Goulburn.

On Saturday evening the Serrans took the rector of the seminary Fr Danny Meagher, the spiritual director, Fr John Armstrong and our four seminarians to dinner at a local restaurant.

On Sunday morning we joined in morning prayer sung by the seminarians in the chapel. Then Fr Meagher celebrated the sung Mass assisted by Fr Simon Kitimbo the vice rector and Fr Arthur Givney, first year director. Our seminarian, Foliga Etuale has just taken on the roles of cantor and master of ceremonies.

We then attended a chatty and happy Sunday brunch along



Serra Club members socialise with our seminarians

with visitors from the Serra club of Broken Bay, staff and most of the 41seminarians currently resident. The seminarians provide all of the kitchen labour. Amongst the announcements during brunch was a reminder that seminarians were expected to join a weight loss competition in which the winner would be the

person with the greatest ratio of weight lost divided by weight at commencement.

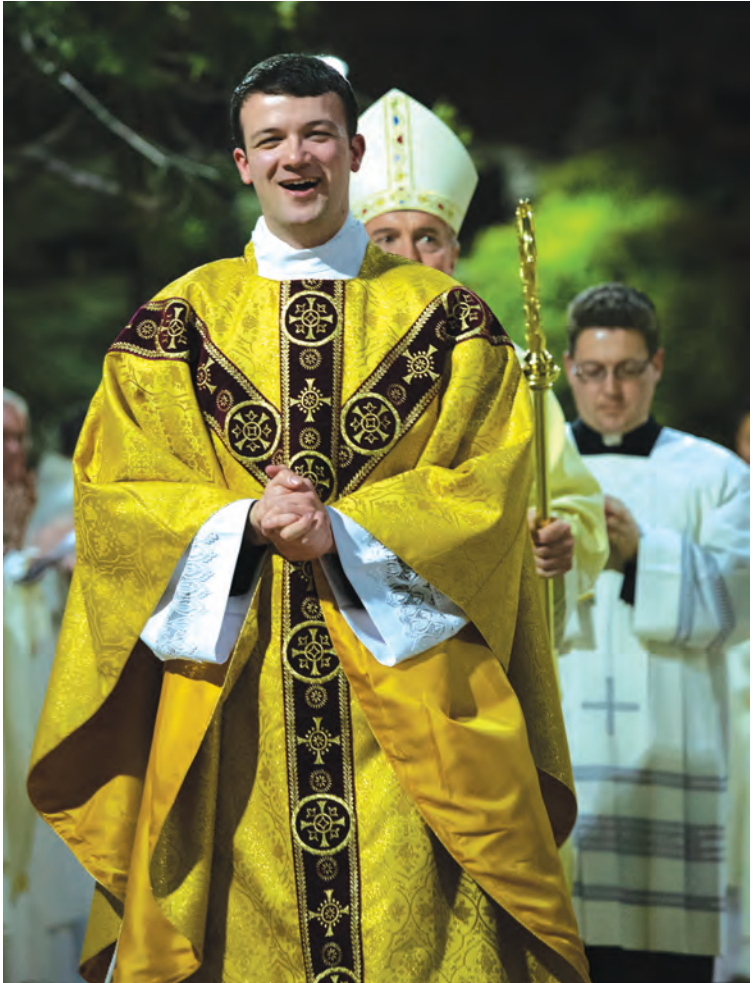
After sharing coffee with our seminarians we said our goodbyes and headed home to Canberra inspired by an enjoyable weekend and impressed by the wonderful spirit in our seminary.



Archbishop Prowse offers prayers at St Paul outside the Walls in Rome.



Young Catholics gather to celebrate Fr Alex's ordination



Jubilant: A triumphant Fr Alex Osborne leaves St Christophers Cathedral

Merici College 60th Anniversary Mass and Dinner

MRS LORETTA WHOLLEY
PRINCIPAL

A special dinner was held on Saturday September 7 to celebrate 60 years since the beginning of Merici College.

The gathering at the Canberra Rex Hotel included Sisters representing the Orders that founded our College, past students and staff, former Principals and Catholic Education Office Directors and current staff and students.

It was a great occasion for guests to reconnect with old friends and share memories.

There was also a Mass with Archbishop Christopher Prowse as the Principal Celebrant. Bishop Pat Power concelebrated the Mass, along with Monsignor John Woods, Fr Bernie Patterson, Fr Emil Milat, Fr Kieran Adams and Fr Paul Nulley.

We reflected on Sr Angela Merici who encourages us to cultivate the vine entrusted to us. The cultivation of this vine

began in 1959 when six religious congregations accepted Archbishop Eris O'Brien's invitation to begin this first Catholic high school in Canberra, which was called Canberra Catholic Girls' High School. It became Merici College 20 years later.

After Mass, the Archbishop blessed three projects: the newly planted rose garden dedicated to school community, a plaque acknowledging the boys who studied at the College in the 1970s and 1980s and the 60th Anniversary mural.

For the past 20 years Merici College has had the mission statement: Love Life, Have Hope, Be Faithful and Build Futures more wondrous than you Dare to Dream.

These words have captured the spirit of Merici College and I am sure will shape the next 40 years.

I am standing on the shoulders of past Principals, five of whom attended the dinner - Julie Dempster, Anne Cummins,

Frances Menz, Catherine Rey and Ann Cleary. Thank you to these women for your foundations and the work and dedication you gave to the College. I hope I am doing justice to your vision and being faithful to our founding Sisters.

It has been a privilege to be part of this community for seven years. I was entrusted to lead Merici and have done so with the guidance of the Archdiocese of Canberra Goulburn, the Catholic Education Commission and Catholic Education.

Merici now, and as Canberra Catholic Girls' High School, was and always will be a place of innovation - taking bold risks and forging through society with great initiative and pride.

We will continue to be faithful to the Gospel values of Faith, Hope and Love and with the Spirit of our ten Religious Orders will go on to be a place where women and men respond to the call to go out and make a difference in the world.

Clockwise from top left: Loretta Wholley with past Principals Ann Cleary, Katherine Rey, Frances Menz, Julie Dempster and Anne Cummins; Class of 2019 L-R: Shaheni Fonseka, Hannah De Raadt, Olivia Miles, Malia Harrison and Tandia Edwards; Reconnecting with old friends; Founding Orders 1959; Former students share memories of schooling days; Archbishop Prowse and Loretta Wholley blessing the new rose garden.



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Positions Vacant
DIOCESAN OUTREACH ASSISTANTS:The role of the Diocesan Outreach Assistant is to share the work of Aid to the Church in Need across Australia through the delivery of ten parish presentations across the course of a year.

These roles will begin in Canberra in January 2020 (Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn). The primary tasks of the Diocesan Outreach Assistant are:
• To raise awareness of Aid to the Church in Need's work supporting suffering and persecuted Christians.

• To increase the number of active benefactors of Aid to the Church in Need.
• To raise income by inspiring people to make donations and/or to purchase books and other religious items.
For more information, go to www.aidtochurch.org/work

FAITH AND LIGHT: celebrating the gifts of people with intellectual disability



BY PETER FRAZER

Faith and Light is an international Christian association of people with intellectual disability, and their families and friends. It was established in 1971 by the late Jean Vanier who also established the L'Arche community in France a few years earlier. After hearing about the experience of a French couple with two severely disabled sons who were not permitted to join a parish pilgrimage to Lourdes in 1968, Jean Vanier joined with Marie-Helene Mathieu to organise a pilgrimage to Lourdes especially for children, young people and adults with an intellectual disability. Through word of mouth, the idea spread widely and quickly – and at Easter 1971, 12,000 people from 18 countries made the first Faith and Light pilgrimage to Lourdes.

Faith and Light has since grown into a worldwide organisation that now has around 1,500 communities operating in 80 countries. The Canberra community was established in 1984.

The Coordinator of the Canberra Faith and Light community, Peter Frazer, explains that Faith and Light communities are not live-in communities like L'Arche. "Rather, we come together every month to share and celebrate the gifts of one another and to pray for each other – and in between, we are on hand to provide help and support for each other as needed", he said.

"In each Faith and Light community, including the Canberra community, children and adults with an intellectual disability are

at the centre of what we do – we call them 'heart people'. Faith and Light is all about celebrating the precious gifts and rich inner life that our heart people bring with them.

Peter adds that for the parents and families of people with intellectual disability, Faith and Light provides a place to share experiences with and draw strength from other families dealing with similar issues. "In Faith and Light you are not alone, you are part of a supportive and understanding community," he said.

Peter explains that Faith and Light also welcome other people to join the community as friends. "For these people, Faith and Light provides the opportunity to be enriched by the gifts, the warmth and the incredible insights that our heart people bring to the community."

"But overall, the experience we seek to provide through Faith and Light is one of joy", Peter said. "In our monthly celebrations, we aim to combine prayerful seriousness and reflection on the lessons from the gospels with plenty of fun, laughter, and song".

The Canberra Faith and Light community meet from 2.00-4.00pm on the first Saturday of each month between February and November. On most months the meetings are held at two venues: St Matthew's Marian Hall, 12 Chewings St, Page, and St Peter Chanel's Hall, Weston St, Yarralumla.

To find out more, please contact Peter Frazer on 0410394954 or by email at pfrazer@iinet.net.au.

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Supporting parish initiatives

Supporting parish initiatives

Coming Events

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

OCTOBER 12: Celebrating the contemplative legacy of Fr Thomas Keating (10.30am to 2.30pm).

OCTOBER 13: Amicus Lunch. Meet at noon for lunch at the Pollen Café, National Botanic Gardens. Table booked in the name of Amicus. Contact Rosemary on 0428 599 342.

OCTOBER 16: CES/CSJC joint forum: The Impact of Information Technology & Social Media (October 16 from 7.30pm). The Chapel, Australian Centre for Christianity & Culture, Blackall St (corner Kings Ave), Barton ACT.

OCTOBER 19: Contemplative Retreat facilitated by Br Bill Sullivan. (9.30am–3.30pm Saturday 19 October 2019). Mary Help of Christians Parish Hall, Pearce.

OCTOBER 19: The Joy of the Gospel. (10am – 1pm: Free). Haydon Hall, Manuka

OCTOBER 23: Archdiocesan Mission Mass (10.30am to 12 noon). St Christopher's Cathedral, Manuka.

OCTOBER 26: Amicus Dinner. Meet at 7pm for Dinner at the Jerra Chinese Restaurant, Jerrabomberra. Table booked in the name of Amicus. Contact Lyn 0400 265 926 on 0428 599 342.

OCTOBER 27: Marian Procession and Youth Pilgrimage (9.30am – 4pm). St Clement's

Monastery, Galong.

OCTOBER 31: Calvary Hospital Auxiliary Spring Plant Sale. (8am to 4pm). The Jamison Centre, Belconnen.

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

Regular Groups

CANBERRA CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMUNITY (CLC): meets fortnightly. It's part of an international lay organisation originating from St. Ignatius of Loyola who formed the Jesuits. Groups are based on ordinary people leading ordinary lives practising Ignatian spirituality, the essence of which is finding God in the everyday. Contact Steve on 0407 147 540.

CATENIANS IN CANBERRA: A Catholic men's group sharing faith and friendship and supporting each other and their families. Meet on the third Thursday of each month, 6.45pm Southern Cross Club Woden followed by dinner, often with guest speaker. Contact: Phil Murray 0419 695 927.

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

CONCERNED CATHOLICS OF CANBERRA-GOULBURN is a group actively committed to church renewal and reform in the spirit of Pope Francis. For

further information, go to www.concernedcatholicscanberra.org or contact John Warhurst (john.warhurst@anu.edu.au – phone 0439 498 283).

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

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

GOOD SHEPHERD PRAYER GROUP: Meets each Wednesday from 7pm to 9pm in the parish room at St Peter Chanel's Church Yarralumla. Rosary, charismatic praise and worship, teachings, testimonies, prayer ministry, intercession and fellowship. Contacts Susanna on 0419 902 293, Neda on 0415 266 019 and Gabriel on 0432 082 642.

HOLY SPIRIT SECULAR FRANCISCAN FRATERNITY: Meet on the third Friday of the month at 7.45pm, St Augustine Church, 262 Beasley St Farrer. Secular Franciscans try to follow Christ in the footsteps of St Francis of Assisi. Call Tony on 0407 072 139 or Hélène on 0420 533 264. Email: sfo@fastmail.fm

LEGION OF MARY: Join for rosary, prayers and apostolic works for the glory of God under the banner of Our Lady. Contact LegionOfMaryCanberra@gmail.com.

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

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

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

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

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 or 0437 013 328.

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New Crookwell sports court benefits whole community

FOR some schools, the opening of a new sports facility may not seem a very big deal. For St Mary's Crookwell, the occasion was a day for celebration.

The newly opened multi-purpose sports court will offer facilities that not only weren't previously available at the school, but weren't available in the town of Crookwell or the surrounding district.

Parishioners, staff and councillors from the Upper Lachlan Shire Council, members of the community and members of Catholic Education for Canberra and Goulburn joined with staff and students to celebrate the opening of the new facility.

"Our Multipurpose Sports Court provides competition sized basketball, netball and tennis courts, along with a practice wall and handball courts," St Mary's Principal Sarah Lowe said in her address at the opening.

"This facility will be utilised every day by St Mary's Primary School and will also be offered as a venue for local basketball and netball competitions, something that is not currently offered in our district."

The new facility stands on the site of old parish tennis courts that had fallen into disrepair.

When approached with the idea of using the space for the new facility, Administrator of the St Mary's Parish, Crookwell, Fr Dermid McDermott and the Parish Pastoral Council supported the proposal enthusiastically.

Next a NSW government grant was sought and approved.



Archdiocese of Canberra - Goulburn Catholic Education Director Ross Fox (third from right) joins St Mary's Crookwell community and Councillors at the opening of the multi-purpose sports court.

The Grant, secured by Member for Goulburn, Wendy Tuckerman and her predecessor Pru Goward, added \$108,400 to the kitty that also included a \$16,500 contribution from St Mary's P&F Association and \$10,200 from the school.

The official opening included an acknowledgement of country, an opening prayer read by school captains Bella and Archie, a reading from Religious Education Coordinator Therese Skelly, a

psalm read by Assistant Principal Sally Croker, prayers of the faithful read by Year 6 leaders, and a Prayer of Blessing from Fr Dermid McDermott.

Director of Catholic Education for the Archdiocese, Mr Ross Fox, echoed Mrs Lowe's vote of thanks and appreciation to the many groups and individuals who worked towards the realisation of this project. State Member for Goulburn, Mrs Wendy Tuckerman, endorsed

Mr Fox's comments and added that it was particularly pleasing that the government grant had contributed to such a great community resource that many would benefit from for years to come.

To help "bug test" the facility and make sure it was fit for purpose, Mr Fox joined with students in a quick game of basketball.

Mrs Lowe thanked the long list of contributors and supporters involved in the project,

including, Member for Goulburn Mrs Wendy Tuckerman, Director of Education for the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn Mr Ross Fox and Parish Administrator Father Dermid McDermott

"The opening of this court today marks phase one of the development of this site," Mrs Lowe concluded.

"There are plans for a toilet block, and eventually a roof when funds allow."

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