

Lay woman joins Council of Priests

BY FELICITY DE FOMBELLE



Statement by Archbishop Mark Coleridge provided to the Catholic Voice

I haven't appointed women to the Council of Priests ... What I have done is invite women to attend the meetings with the **right to participate fully in all discussions. They are to be part of the making of decisions ...** I became convinced that **women needed to be more part of the decision-making processes of the Archdiocese ...** The authority of the ordained is in no way undermined ... I find it hard to see how any diocese wouldn't benefit from having women more closely and consistently involved in its decision-making processes.

Mark Coleridge

The Most Reverend Mark Coleridge

"The Archbishop introduced me and said the reason Cathy is here is because she is a woman and a wife and a mother and a grandmother and everything people sitting around this table have no idea about."

New Council of Priests member Cathy Uechtritz

smaller group of priests advising the Bishop.

"It is up to other dioceses to make their own decision but I find it hard to see how any

diocese wouldn't benefit from having women more closely and consistently involved in its decision-making processes," Archbishop Mark said.

Cathy, 59, who joined Archbishop Mark as Director of Government Relations last June, said she was "a bit stunned" when he invited her to join the

council.

"I said, 'I'm not a priest'," she told the *Catholic Voice*. "Then he gave his reasons for inviting me.

"At my first meeting I was a little intimidated. The Archbishop introduced me and said the reason Cathy is here is because she is a woman and a wife and a mother and a grandmother and everything people sitting around this table have no idea about.

"I feel very humbled. It is significant. It shows that women have a voice.

"The most interesting thing for me is that we are being listened to now, more so, perhaps. I see this as a great opportunity not just for me but for the clergy and the whole church.

"I am not just visiting and reporting on the meeting but have been appointed as a member which is pretty amazing. My role is to see issues from a different perspective than what the priests do."

Archbishop Mark said Cathy had the right "to participate fully in all discussions."

In his statement, he said: "I decided to do this because I became convinced that women needed to be more part of the decision-making processes of the Archdiocese, and even at this early stage I would say that the move has shown its worth."

Minutes of a Council of Priests meeting sent to the *Catholic Voice* state that the Archbishop would invite Cathy to be appointed a member of the council, but Archbishop Mark denied she had been appointed.

"I haven't appointed women to the Council of Priests or the College of Consultors," his statement said. "That would be impossible, since by Church law all appointed members of both bodies must be clergy.

"What I have done is invite women (two in each case) to attend the meetings of the two bodies as observers, but with the right to participate fully in all discussions.

"They are to be part of the *making* of decisions, if not the *taking* of decisions which is proper to the appointed members and ultimately to the Archbishop."

Students swamp small country school



Students are swamping St Joseph's Primary in Adelong, which has the biggest growth in our Archdiocese. Enrolments have soared from 20 students eight years ago to 48 this year and principal Kirsty Beaven is delighted. Full story Page 5

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Archbishop's Message
Archbishop Christopher Prowse

Marian style of evangelisation

POPE Francis makes an important point about evangelisation in his Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium (Joy of the Gospel) – 2013. At the end of this important document, largely on evangelisation in the world today, he states “There is a Marian ‘style’ to the Church’s work of evangelisation.”(# 288)

Let us ponder on this thought for a moment.

The Pope goes on to say, “Whenever we look to Mary, we come to believe once again in the revolutionary nature of love and tenderness.”(# 288)

As 2020 now marches forward for us, let us think about what it means to have a Marian “style” of evangelisation.

Three points come to my mind.

First of all it is an evangelisation of few words.

When we examine carefully the New Testament and the role of Mary, we notice that she says very little. Certainly, in the first chapters of Luke’s Gospel, we hear of her incredible “Yes” response to the Annunciation and her dialogue with her cousin Elizabeth to whom she sets out “with haste.” (Luke1:39)

Mary is always physically present but doesn’t say an enormous amount in the Gospels. However, she is there at all the prime moments of our faith. The Annunciation, Visitation, Birth of our Lord, Wedding at Cana, Suffering and Death of her Son on the Calvary Cross and clearly she was present with the Apostles at the birth of the Church at Pentecost.

In all this, her evangelisation is a “wordless” evangelisation of tenderness and compassion.

Let us imitate her great example.



Sometimes we think that evangelisation is all about speaking, all about talking. In Mary’s view nothing could be further from the truth. There is no doubt there is a moment for talking but there is also a moment for simply being present to people.

Truly listening is a beautiful way of bringing forth the joy of the Gospel and evangelising. Indeed St Francis of Assisi is attributed to having said the following famous expression, “Preach the Gospel at all times, use words if necessary.” That is a very Marian “style” of evangelisation.

Let us think deeply about this as 2020 dawns upon us as missionary disciples of the Lord.

Secondly, Mary is very comfortable in silence.

There are different types of silences but this is the silence of the presence of the Lord. It’s the evangelisation of “presence” rather than “performance”. There is the beautiful expression in the Scriptures of Mary’s prayerful silences. At the birth of Jesus in the humble Manger at Bethlehem, St Luke records the profound prayerful silence of Mary

by saying, “Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.”(Luke 2:19)

Again, as 2020 arrives, let us think deeply about evangelising through prayerful silence.

Sometimes our gatherings can be quite noisy. This is hardly a Marian “style” of evangelising. Let us be comfortable either as individuals or in our communal prayer to welcome silences as being thick with the presence of God. St Benedict tells us in his teaching to those who want to follow Christ deeply, “Listen with the ear of your heart.”

Thirdly, a Marian “style” of evangelising means that we have particular sensitivity to the needs of others, especially those that we know are undergoing difficulties.

This is a sure sign that our prayer is of the Lord. It always looks for those on the periphery, those who struggle, those who have challenges in their lives. We do all that we can to stand alongside them in solidarity and compassion.

We see this with Mary in the Visitation. Although there was no great need for her to do this, as soon as she hears that her cousin Elizabeth is pregnant with John the Baptist, she rushes to Jerusalem to affirm her cousin in the faith. The encounter of Mary with Elizabeth in Luke’s Gospel could well be seen as the first Gospel example of shared prayer. (Luke 1) These wonderful women praise God and give glory to Him. They magnify the Lord and see all as grace.

Let us keep the Marian “style” of evangelising in our hearts during 2020, especially as we enter into the Lenten Liturgical Season towards the joys and hopes of Easter.

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Archbishop’s Diary - March 2020

SUNDAY, 1 11.00am Mass, Rite of the Elect, St Christopher’s Cathedral
1.30pm Archdiocesan Youth Cultural Sharing’s

WEDNESDAY, 4 6.30pm Australian Catholic University, Short Course in Theology – “Humble, Healing and Merciful”, Australian Catholic University Canberra Campus

SUNDAY, 8 11.00am Mass, Opening Mass for University Students, St Christopher’s Cathedral

THURSDAY, 12 9.00am Council of Priests/Trustees & Consultors Meeting

SATURDAY, 14 10.00am Opening of the new Marymead Centre, Narrabundah

SUNDAY, 15 10.00am Installation Mass for Fr Joshy Kurien, Sts Peter and Paul’s Cathedral, Goulburn

WEDNESDAY, 18 5.00pm Mass, 7th Anniversary of the Pontificate of Pope Francis, St Christopher’s Cathedral

THURSDAY, 19 5.30pm ACT Chapter Meeting, Canberra

FRIDAY, 20 9.30am Mass, Golden Jubilee Calvary John James Hospital, Deakin

SUNDAY, 22 11.00am Multicultural Mass, St Christopher’s Cathedral

WEDNESDAY, 25 2.00pm Council of the Seminary of the Good Shepherd Meeting, Homebush, Sydney

THURSDAY, 26 9.00am Bishops NSW/ACT meeting, Sydney

FRIDAY, 27 9.30pm ACU Graduation Mass, St Christopher’s Cathedral

SUNDAY, 29 11.00am Mass, Visit of the Relics of St Therese of Lisieux and her parents St. Louis and St Zelig, St Christopher’s Cathedral



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A radical new project to rebuild women’s lives

BY FELICITY DE FOMBELLE

A NEW live-in program to help women rebuild their lives after drug and alcohol addiction has accepted its first clients.

Reuniting the women with their children is one of the project’s main aims. The children are often removed from their mothers because they cannot care for them.

The first group of women moved into “The Farm”, about one and a half hours from Canberra, last November. They will stay for up to two years, developing skills to gain a job, a home and a support network. A second group of women will be welcomed in May.

“We call it a restoration project because it is about supporting these women to restore their lives as well as restoring the children to their mothers,” said project founder Kate Cleary.

“These are the people the church should be helping, the most vulnerable in our society. Our modern-day widows and orphans, so badly in need.”

The Farm will run as a type of monastic community to help the women heal from years of trauma.

“It is based on a ‘therapeutic community’ model of addiction treatment,” Kate said.

“There are similarities with the monastic tradition where life runs to a rhythm of reflection, study and manual work.

“Our day starts at 7am with half an hour of reflection in the chapel. The residents then do manual tasks around the building and grounds. The afternoon is for study and the day ends with reflection.

“I say to the women, “You don’t have to join a monastery, but this is an opportunity to take time out to reflect on what has happened to you and what your future direction is, to seek your



Project founder Kate Cleary wants to restore children to their mothers

vocation’.

“Most of these women haven’t had a proper education, so they attend classes in literacy, numeracy and technology. Some are doing online vocational courses.”

The women also study the branch of philosophy called ethics.

“We do ethics and discuss the four cardinal virtues of

enjoy looking at.

“We also talk about the nature of acts. You do a bad act. If you repeat it over and over it becomes a vice, which is very hard to get rid of. They relate to that as I am sure we all do.

“If you do a good act it becomes a habit and a virtue, a help to you. That’s how you are strengthened in progress to avoid harm.”

“The breakdown of the family equals the breakdown of the person”

• Kate Cleary

prudence, justice, temperance and fortitude, and how our lives can be different when we grow in these,” Kate said.

“So we discuss ‘What is prudent behaviour?’ That’s a big one and something the women

A stoic and modest woman, the ex-teacher from Melbourne is well qualified to head the project. Kate also has ample experience of community life, having moved to Canberra in 2009 to join the Missionaries of God’s Love.

The breakdown of the family equals the breakdown of the person.”

God’s call to Kate to do more to support these women was so “loud and clear” she could not ignore it. After much discernment she decided to leave her community to focus on the work.

Kate lived on the Gowrie public housing estate and, in 2017, asked the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn for an empty convent at Galong to consolidate her mission.

The Farm has since received generous support. It runs with a house care supervisor, a visiting psychologist, a gardener who manages the extensive grounds, a resident doctor and volunteers who stay overnight.

It is a big, three-hectare property, opened in 1917 as a convent for Mercy nuns, with a boarding school and church.

One wing was renovated in 2016 and the rest has since been coming to life. Accommodation is 32 bedrooms with shared bathrooms. There is an administration wing as well as six family units where the women will live once their children have been restored to them.

Most of the women’s Centre-link benefits pay their accommodation and treatment costs.

Pro bono lawyers help with legal issues and Kate is a qualified case manager who supports the women with child protection matters and visits.

“The longer you work with these women the more you see suffering and trauma,” Kate said.

Leaving the safety of her community was hard for Kate.

“And this can be challenging for me, the loneliness of it,” she admitted. “But I know this is from God. I don’t look back.”

It was as an MGL that Kate started meeting women in crisis situations at the Gowrie public housing complex. This outreach grew after she left to minister to women in brothels and jails.

“What struck me was the levels of deprivation I was seeing in the women, often culminating in them being deprived even of their children,” Kate said.

“A lot of people are searching in a fruitless way for meaning in their lives.

“Drugs offer a false ecstasy but when they come down from that, things are, in reality, even starker than before.

“Fathers are usually not around, and the women are often so debilitated their kids are living in Dickensian conditions.

“John Paul II said that when people forget God, their lives lose meaning.

“He also said the collapse of the family would be a calamity and that is what we are seeing,

• COMMENT Page 17

From the Editor

“Don’t tell fairytales,” Pope Francis recently counselled journalists. “Just real good news stories”.

Wise advice we will heed at the *Catholic Voice*.

Print journalism is my background and the media a passion so I am thrilled to become editor and see it as a privilege.

Fewer people are reading newspapers but I delight in having my morning paper home delivered.

My hope with the *Catholic Voice* is that you, dear reader, will find “good news stories” that interest and inform you, stir you and cheer you and perhaps prompt you to question and think deeply about a particular issue.

Do share with me feedback and story ideas.

Speaking to the Vatican’s communications department, Pope Francis said their work must never be driven by the

desire to have a bigger audience nor must staff be tempted into feeling defeated and defensive against the wider culture.

It is a challenge isn’t it, to live our Catholic faith in an increasingly anti-Christian world?

But why not be challenged? It helps me to appreciate the gift of my faith and dependence on God to get through each day.

The editor role carries a big responsibility to tell the truth in a way that is respectful and never

arrogant.

It was an Australian priest, Fr Frank Andersen MSC, who penned the hymn *Eagle’s Wings*.

“I have carried you on eagle’s wings. I will care for you in all your years.”

I put my trust in God to carry and care for me in this new role.

May the *Catholic Voice* be a reliable companion on your journey of faith.

Felicity de Fombelle



FROM PAGE ONE

Lay woman joins Council of Priests *continued*

Archbishop Mark said clergy authority would not be undermined.

“The authority of the ordained is in no way undermined but is set within a larger and more ecclesial context in which that authority can be better exercised,” he said.

Cathy told the *Catholic Voice* that a religious sister, Sr Moya Campbell, had been on the Council of Priests but had

recently moved to New Zealand.

“I am the first lay person and the first lay woman,” Cathy said.

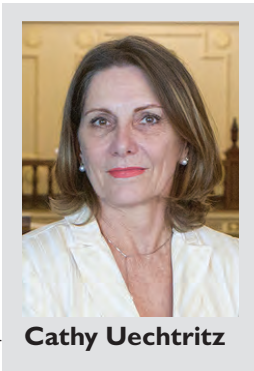
“I’m the only woman sitting at the table. The Archbishop wants everyone around that table to get how I see things from my prism, as a woman and wife and mother and so on. He trusts me.

“Everyone has been very open-minded. I have been absolutely welcomed.

“The Archbishop and priests

ask my opinion on stuff particularly around public thought and engagement.

“I am incredibly fortunate to be working with this Archbishop and in this Archdiocese. I have great respect for Archbishop Mark. He’s an incredibly progressive Archbishop, very strategic and clever to think that way.”



Cathy Uechtritz



THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BRISBANE

I haven’t appointed women to the Council of Priests or the College of Consultors. That would be impossible, since by Church law all appointed members of both bodies must be clergy. What I have done is invite women (two in each case) to attend the meetings of the two bodies as observers, but with the right to participate fully in all discussions. They are to be part of the making of decisions, if not the taking of decisions which is proper to the appointed members and ultimately to the Archbishop. I decided to do this because I became convinced that women needed to be more part of the decision-making processes of the Archdiocese, and even at this early stage I would say that the move has shown its worth. The authority of the ordained is in no way undermined but is set within a larger and more ecclesial context in which that authority can be better exercised. It is up to other dioceses to make their own decision, but I find it hard to see how any diocese wouldn’t benefit from having women more closely and consistently involved in its decision-making processes.

The Most Reverend Mark Coleridge

• Statement by Archbishop Mark Coleridge provided to the *Catholic Voice*

Giving women “a proper place at the table”

BY FELICITY DE FOMBELLE

THE role of women in the Australian Catholic Church will be a key issue at this year’s Plenary Council.

“Everything has to be on the table,” then ACBC vice-president Mark Coleridge declared in September 2017 at a conference, *“Plenary 2020 and the Future of the Catholic Church in Australia”*.

“You can’t say No, that is not on the table.”

Jesuit priest Fr Frank Brennan has said the Plenary Council must allow lay people, particularly women, “a proper place at the table”.

Concerned Catholics Canberra-Goulburn Chair John Warhurst AO has said the group believed the role of women in the church was of “high urgency”.

“We absolutely believe that women’s roles are undervalued,” Prof Warhurst told *The Australian*

last year. “They should play a larger role in every respect.”

The ANU academic has nominated to be one of the Archdiocese’s representatives at the Plenary Council.

The Truth, Justice and Healing Council, in its final report in September 2018, urged Australia’s bishops to use a quote system to promote women to positions of authority and decision-making in parishes, dioceses and religious orders.



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Sweet success for a thriving country school

BY FELICITY DE FOMBELLE

STUDENTS are swamping St Joseph's Primary in Adelong, which boasts the biggest growth across the Archdiocese.

Enrolments have soared from 20 students eight years ago to 48 today.

Last year St Joseph's was the smallest of our 56 Archdiocesan schools with 42 students.

This year's kinder intake has hit double digits with 10 energetic youngsters added to the school roll, heralding a bright future.

While principal Kirsty Beaven is beaming, there is one problem – lack of space.

“One of my classrooms is a tin shed,” Kirsty said. “We use a classroom for our school assemblies and our administration and work area is so small.

“When speech therapists or counsellors visit, I have to vacate my office.”

The picturesque school, which was first established in 1884 and sits at the gateway to the Snowy Mountains, is applying for a \$1 million building grant to add more learning and administration spaces.

Kirsty has applied for federal government grants before, with no success.

“But I'm feeling more confident now because one of the main factors is enrolment growth,” she said.

Architects and engineers have been working on the plans and Kirsty will lodge the funding application next month.

A calm and determined Mum-of-three, Kirsty is in her third year as principal and has been at St Joseph's for eight years.



Principal Kirsty Beaven with (L-R) Edward MacDougall, Brydee Roots, Bonnie Reynolds and Christopher Campbell.

She was at McAuley Catholic Central School in Tumut for 14 years and Cooma for three years before that.

“We had 20 students at St Joseph's eight years ago and if we had got any smaller we would have closed,” Kirsty said.

The proud principal said she was beaming as a small army of 48 backpack-wearing children marched through the door on the first school day in February.

And the secret to such growth?

“There's no secret,” Kirsty

said. “But we have worked hard to promote ourselves. We are a close knit community and the staff are very dedicated.

“Teachers are often the reason people come. There's a ripple effect, word of mouth.

“Our kids are all country kids; 80 per cent are on farms.

“There's a wonderful innocence about them.

“They don't have devices. They're off the school bus and running home to get on their motorbike or help Dad mend a fence.”



St Joseph's teachers: Kerrie Dean (Years 5/6), Kirsty Beavan Principal, Stacey Braun (K/1), Jess Soulsby (2/3/4), Liz Murray LNAP teacher

Our five smallest schools	
St Joseph's Grenfell	28
St Mary's Batlow	45
St Francis Xavier Lake Cargelligo	45
St Joseph's Adelong	48
St Joseph's Bombala	60



Enrolments at our 56 Archdiocesan schools					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Primary Enrolments	13032	13081	13142	13008	13164
Secondary Enrolments	7765	7670	7700	7779	8146
Total	20797	20751	20842	20787	21310

Catholic schools losing ground

BY FELICITY DE FOMBELLE

Fewer parents are sending their kids to Catholic schools compared to independent and state schools but enrolment figures for Canberra-Goulburn have increased since 2019.

This year there are 13,164 children in our 43 Catholic primary schools. This compares to 13,008 in 2019 and 13,142 in 2018.

There are 8146 students enrolled in the Archdiocese's eight secondary schools. This compares to 7779 last year and 7700 in 2018.

The figures also cover the five Central schools in the Archdiocese. Four are K-10 schools (St Patrick's Cooma, Sacred Heart Cootamundra, St Anne's Temora and McAuley in Tumut) while

Lumen Christi Catholic College in Pambula is our only K-12 school.

Australian Bureau of Statistics figures show that Australia's Catholic school population has grown by 0.5 per cent over the past five years.

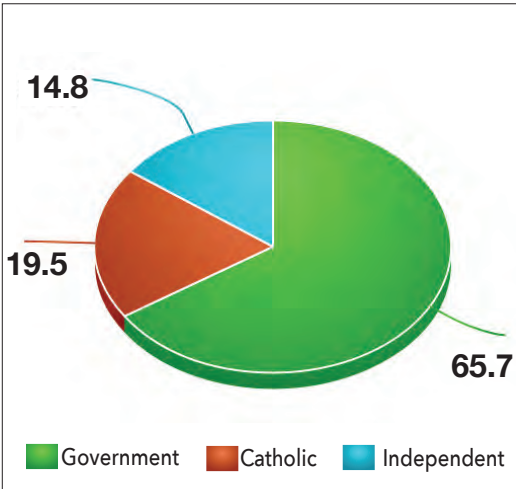
This compares with 6.1 per cent growth in the government sector and 8.1 per cent in independent schools.

The growth in enrolments is strongest in independent schools charging fees of less than \$5000 a year, with enrolments at these schools growing 4.7 per cent last year.

In 2019, non-government school enrolments were highest in the ACT (38.9 per cent).

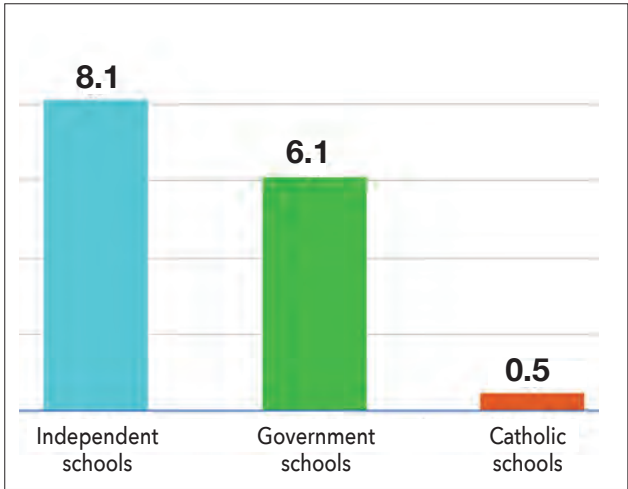
More than one in three Australian students attends a

2019 Australian school enrolments



non-government school which is almost double the OECD average of 18 per cent.

Growth in school sectors 2014 to 2019



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics

In 2019, government schools attracted the greatest number of enrolments (65.7 per cent),

followed by Catholic schools (19.5 per cent) and independent schools (14.8 per cent).

A media fast for Lent – sacrificing online

What are you giving up for Lent? The answer can be frivolous but many Catholics give up something serious to remember Christ’s sacrifice. Here, several bishops share their plans for Lent and remind us it is about more than giving something up.



Cardinal Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Toronto.

“One thing that I enter into periodically is a media fast. Seminarians refrain from using technology six days a week and for many; it is an eye-opener. We want to use technology but not let technology use us. When we see the amount of time consumed online, the hatred expressed on social media, much of it anonymous, it is distressing. Many people would never express these words to someone in person.

“Perhaps if we focus more on how we can communicate with charity directly with an individual, even if we disagree with them, we can model the example of Jesus – speaking with clarity and charity.

Or we can take some of the time we spend with technology and offer it in prayer or charity for others. Our words matter, whether in person or online. Lent is an appropriate time to reflect on how we can best reflect the face of Jesus in all that we do.”



Archbishop Eamon Martin of Armagh, Ireland.

“I recall a slogan used during Lent for many years in Ireland that said: ‘Lent is what you do!’

“We should allow ourselves to feel challenged and focus on how we might grow closer to God by our daily actions, thoughts, words and to consider what sacrifice might be made to achieve this. It is a key time for penance and people could consider:

- Abstain from meat or some other food
- Abstain from alcohol or smoking
- Make a special effort at family prayer and daily Mass
- Fast from all food for a longer period than usual and give what is saved to the needy
- Help the poor, sick, old, or lonely
- Reduce personal waste to combat the ‘throwaway culture’.

Each day during Lent on my own social media accounts and on the Catholic Bishops accounts, we share suggestions on how people might #LiveLent in the context of their faith.

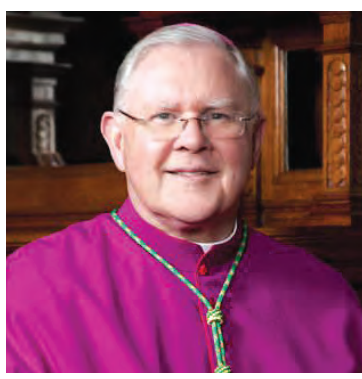


Retiring Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia.

“I always encourage people not to be excessive in the Lenten sacrifices they take on. If it’s too burdensome, they won’t keep the commitment for very long.

“It is always better to commit to do something you’re already doing but to do it well, rather than to begin new projects and to neglect one’s ordinary spiritual life. For example, it would be better to pray well for 10 minutes than to pray badly for a half hour. Adding time to distracted prayer is not as virtuous as trying to concentrate more faithfully for a shorter period of time.

“Positive actions are better than negative ones because ‘positive’ is what the Lord Jesus is always about – wanting us to do more, to be more generous. An example would be to go visit someone who is aged and lonely. It may be a sacrifice in the sense that a person doesn’t want to do that, but is very positive in the impact it would have on the life of another.”

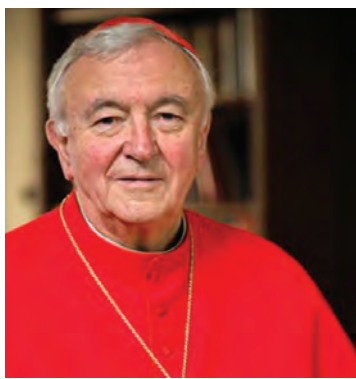


Archbishop Mark Coleridge of Brisbane.

“I see no reason to look beyond the three traditional disciplines of Lent – prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. But I do see a reason to take them seriously.

“By prayer I mean a more attentive listening to God, turning away from a culture of self-absorption; by fasting I mean turning away from a culture of consumption which can become addiction; by almsgiving I mean giving the needy what is their right, turning away from a culture of inequity. These are the age-old ways of dethroning the false gods, which is what Lent is all about.

“My own path through Lent is a more focused and disciplined commitment to the asceticism of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. That means a second period of contemplative prayer each day; it means saying no to food and drink (especially alcohol) and to digital excess; and it means giving more than loose change to Project Compassion. These aren’t the full range of my Lenten discipline but it’s where I start in an attempt to move beyond tokenism.”



Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster.

“Lent is a time to look into ourselves and pinpoint the ways in which we are neither truthful nor just and the ways in which we close our hearts to the promptings of God.”

“Mary will always lead us to her Son. She will take us to him so he can show us his love and mercy. We all know well the title of Mary as our ‘sorrowful Mother’. We turn to her in our sorrows. Yet there is another tribute to her, even more deeply rooted in our tradition. It is that of the Joys of Mary.

“These Joys, often numbered as seven, including the coming of the Angel Gabriel to Mary at the Annunciation and the wondrous birth of her Son, our Blessed Saviour and her glorious entry into the happiness of heaven. We share in them for they are the great joy of our faith. Indeed, we are called to be heralds of this joy in a world often in need of joyfulness.”

This article comes from www.zenit.org

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

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



Cardinal Pell's fate could be known within weeks

BY FELICITY DE FOMBELLE

CARDINAL George Pell could know his fate within weeks with his High Court challenge set for March 11 and 12.

It is the final chance for the former Vatican treasurer's legal team to prove his innocence and overturn his convictions, in a case that has attracted enormous national and international attention.

The Full Bench of the High Court may take months to make its decision. Or it is possible, with such an appeal, a decision could be made straight away and full reasons for the decision published at a later date.

Cardinal Pell is serving a maximum six-year jail term for the abuse of two choirboys when he was the Archbishop of Melbourne in the 1990s.

He was convicted of one charge of sexual penetration of a child under 16 and four charges of an indecent act with a child under 16.

Cardinal Pell won a challenge to the High Court arguing that it



Media interest in Cardinal George Pell's trial has been intense.

was not open to a jury to convict him, after his initial appeal was dismissed in a majority decision by the Victorian Court of Appeal.

He will reportedly be absent from court when the appeal is heard because the High Court does not offer video links to jails.

It is understood the hearing will also not be streamed to any other court, meaning anyone who wants to watch the hearing must

attend in person.

Melbourne University law professor Jeremy Gans said the fact that most High Court hearings were held in Canberra meant there was a problem with prisoner attendance.

Prof Gans said the court usually published videos of full court hearings on its web page so Cardinal Pell might ultimately be able to watch the hearing.

Front page news, for the second time

BY FELICITY DE FOMBELLE

DEACON Patrick Whale has made the front page of the local *Boorowa News* for the second time.

The retired sheep farmer says it's a pretty easy feat in a town of 1200 people.

Still he is chuffed, particularly as the story is about Patrick being named Boorowa's Citizen of the Year.

"You don't look for it but it's nice to be acknowledged," Patrick, 66, said. "It's human nature isn't it?"

Patrick's neighbor Margaret Berry nominated him, three times.

"Third time lucky," Margaret declared. "I kept trying because he is so worthy."

"God's timing is good. We had Fr Greg Beath as our parish priest but he became very unwell in 2009 and had to stop. Patrick was ordained a deacon just one week earlier so that was good for all of us."

The award recognizes Patrick's role as a deacon but also his community work such as being involved in the Frogmore Hall committee, bushfire brigade and Men's Den.

It was wife Fran, who Patrick met at a dance and married when he was 45, who encouraged Patrick to become a deacon.

"I was an acolyte and resisted it for a while but she persuaded



Margaret Berry shares Deacon Patrick Whale's front page glory

me," Patrick explained.

"You have doubts about whether you are up to it but it's been good and rewarding. It's a bit of a challenge for us Catholics at the current time but we'll get through."

Patrick used to average two weddings a year but has not had a wedding for three years.

"Church weddings are not exactly trendy at the moment," he said. "It's mainly funerals."

Patrick sold the family sheep farm in Frogmore, about 30kms

from Boorowa, in 2006, due to the drought.

He has since done road work for the shire, worked at the abattoir in Young and done farm work, plumbing jobs, property maintenance and contract labouring.

Plus his work as Deacon Patrick.

"It is meaningful, especially in an age of unbelief or indifference," he said. "It strengthens your own faith life too and that's a good thing."

Five Minutes with



Nathan Piper

Age: 25
St Anthony's Church,
Wanniassa

Tell us about your family life.

I am single. Single life means having fun, in moderation. Not falling into the trap of kicking back and cruising through life. It is a gift, a huge time of opportunity and to take responsibility in growing in your faith. Seeing the freedom that is given to you as a privilege and taking advantage of it.

Do you work or study?

I've been working for seven years full-time as a wall and a floor tiler. I enjoy it. Every so often there are patches where I would rather be elsewhere but that comes with any occupation. Bringing my faith into my work and sanctifying each task and challenge gives everything I do a purpose beyond earning a wage.

Tell us about your Catholic upbringing.

Mum and Dad both have a solid faith and taught my siblings and I the faith well at home. Never putting the Lord second. Although at some point as a young boy I had a strong disinterest in Mass and my faith in general. That continued through high school and the start of my apprenticeship until 2016 when I had a reconversion.

Did you go to a Catholic school?

Yes, primary and secondary. I never enjoyed going to school until years 11 and 12. It was a safe environment and centred around prayer. I don't think students are challenged enough with their faith. My peers disregard their faith entirely, argue against it and ask "What's the point?"

Why are you a Catholic? And what does that mean to you?

There is no right or wrong answer. I am a Catholic because the Lord has revealed himself to me. Being Catholic gives my life complete purpose and fulfils everything. For me, it means putting the Lord first before anything. Constantly being in dialogue with him through the day and bringing friends and family closer to him by your witness. It's the most important thing in your life so never leave your faith at home on the shelf.

How do you live out your faith each day?

I try to attend Mass daily and live it out with naturalness. Always being sincere and loyal. And acting in a way around friends and colleagues that makes it a totally normal thing. There is nothing to be ashamed about. It can be a struggle or challenge at times, sometimes you make it so yourself. You may have to make several sacrifices to put your faith first.

What do you see as the biggest challenge for the Church?

There are many. One I notice is the task of evangelisation in countries and cultures which are overly comfortable. They see no reason to hear or know our Lord.

Have you been challenged about your faith?

Working in construction I've heard every insult in the book plus more. I have learned to stand my ground and eventually others come to respect you and your faith. I learned fast that you can't be a Catholic and coward at the same time. In terms of how the media portrays the church, prove the media wrong by your example, research and know the truth to defend the church.

What are your interests?

I have always played and enjoyed soccer. Any activity to keep fit. A casual game of golf, any type of interesting documentary, war films, having a beer, meal and chat with mates, days at the beach, Italian cuisine and of course Mum's cooking.

When and where are you happiest?

At Mass. And in the company of good friends.

Finally, is there a motto you live by?

Not really, but there is a quote referring to our Lord that I remind myself of in times of discouragement to persevere. From St Josemaria in his book *'The Way'*: "And what is the secret of perseverance? Love. Fall in Love, and you will not leave him."

A unique opportunity to pray with three saints

BY FELICITY DE FOMBELLE

THREE members of one of the Catholic world's most famous families are "touring" Australia and drawing huge crowds at schools, churches and convents.

The relics of St Therese of Lisieux and her parents Sts Louis and Zelig Martin arrived in Sydney in late January and will come to Canberra for six days at the end of March.

The mother, father and daughter will arrive at Saints Peter and Paul's Cathedral in Goulburn at 8pm on Wednesday March 25 and leave the Archdiocese the following Tuesday, after Mass at St Patrick's Church in Gundagai.

Of themselves relics are not holy. It is more correct to say they are remains of a holy person, a saint, and because of their connection to that holy person are revered.

An estimated 700,000 people turned out to pray with St Therese when she visited Australia in 2002 and this visit is expected to be more popular given her parents are with her.

Catholic Mission has organized the pilgrimage which has

taken two years to prepare and traverses 17 dioceses.

One of four female doctors of the church, St Therese was accepted as an underage Carmelite at the age of 15 and died just nine years later in her monastery at Lisieux in France, in 1897. Her story resonates particularly with younger Catholics because of her powerful message of doing ordinary things with great love. Pope Pius XI declared her a saint in 1925.

The Martin family endured great suffering and their strong faith is inspiring. Louis and Zelig lost four children as babies, including their only sons, and daughter Helene died when she was five and a half years old.

Zelig died of breast cancer when she was 45 and the family also had a special needs daughter named Leonie.

Saints Louis and Zelig Martin are the first married couple to be canonized in the history of the Church, reflecting in part the repeated urgings of then-Pope John Paul II to find lay candidates whose causes might be promoted. Pope Francis canonized them in 2015.

Canberra and Goulburn Itinerary

The relics of St Therese of Lisieux and her parents

Wednesday 25 March

8pm: Arrive St Peter and St Paul's, Goulburn

Thursday 26 March

12 Noon Depart Goulburn,
1.30pm-6pm St Anthony's Waniassa,
7pm-9pm St Monica's, Evatt.

Friday 27 March

8am Depart St Monica's, Evatt.
9-11am Merici College, Braddon, then pilgrimage to St Patrick's, Braddon.
11.30-1pm St Patrick's Braddon,
1.30-5pm, St Joseph's, O'Connor,
5.30pm St Benedict's Narrabundah for healing Mass and overnight vigil

Sat 28 March

8.30am Depart St Benedict's, 9am-1pm Apostolic Nunciature, Red Hill
1.15pm Carmelite Monastery, Red Hill. The Carmelite Chapel will remain open for overnight prayer

Sunday 29 March

9am Carmelite Monastery Mass,
10.15am Depart Monastery
10.45am St Christopher's Cathedral, Forrest 11am Mass
1.15pm depart St Christopher's Cathedral, Forrest
1.30pm arrive St Peter Chanel's church, Yarralumla, for veneration
4.30pm Relics arrive back at St Christopher's Cathedral, Forrest
5.30pm Mass St Christopher's Cathedral, Forrest
6.30pm Relics depart for St Patrick's church, Bega
9pm Arrive at St Patrick's church, Bega, for overnight stay

Monday 30 March

7am St Patrick's church opens for veneration
9.15am Mass, St Patrick's. Veneration continues after.
1pm Relics depart Bega
2pm Relics arrive St. Columba's church Bemboka.
3pm Relics depart Bemboka for Cooma
4pm Arrive St Patrick's church,



Cooma, Welcome and veneration
6pm Mass St Patrick's church, Cooma.
Church secured at 7.30pm

Tuesday 31 March

8am Mass St Patrick's Cooma
9am depart Cooma
12pm arrive St Patrick's church, Gundagai
12.15pm Mass followed by veneration
5pm Benediction
6pm Relics depart for Albury NSW



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Faith does not follow a predictable upward curve

BY ALISON BURT

GROWING up I used to hear stories about my grandparents' hospitality towards strangers.

If my grandfather met people who were new arrivals to Canberra he would bring them home and say to my grandmother, "Jean, can you prepare some extra food for someone who needs a meal and a bed for the night?" It was around the late 1940s. My grandmother would generously oblige.

It is hard to imagine being quite so trusting today. Perhaps my grandparents' welcoming example influenced the hospitality that my parents displayed to family and friends as I grew up, making home a place of welcome, conversation and generosity.

What makes this experience relevant to my faith today? For me it is a reminder that faith is lived in community, amid diversity, and that acts of



Mum of two Alison Burt

generosity and welcome are things to treasure.

I cannot recall when I first started feeling an individual sense of faith. Initially, like many people, I encountered faith through the lived experience and example of those around me such as family, friends, teachers and neighbours. Family featured strongly and their example led the way.

Parental example was probably the strongest reference point for me as a child and young adult in terms of faith. Without realising it at the time, faith was being modelled around me.

Life wasn't easy or perfect but home was generally a place of love, forgiveness, hospitality and support. We made mistakes; there were joys and frustrations but at the end of the day an important desire of my parents seemed to be for their family to grow and become better people – a little kinder, a little wiser, a little more thoughtful, a little more faith-filled.

Aspects of this upbringing were mirrored in the lives of extended family members and close friends. As a young person, without consciously realising it, a community of faith surrounded me. This was reinforced through regular Mass attendance, the Sacraments, family prayer and liturgical highpoints like Lent Easter and Christmas.

Ritual and celebration were also important in the home, for example emphasis was placed on being together at evening meals around the table. This and other experiences were simple but important ways that reinforced a sense of belonging and connecting. For me the seeds of community were sown during those early years through such events.

As I grew up, actions were important ways through which I experienced the lived faith of others through their care and concern, for example the appreciation of a home cooked meal, the dedication shown in tending a garden, a reassuring presence at night when you were sick, caring for elderly family members – so many gestures that confirmed that someone cared about you and loved you.

An appreciation of the environment was sown through family holidays, regular picnics and outdoor activities. These were simple things but they

emphasised the importance of place, nature and belonging.

Through these foundations amid family life I witnessed the ups and downs of faith-filled lives and observed that faith doesn't follow a predictable upward curve. Faith can ebb and flow, and if nurtured, it develops over time.

When my faith falters I recall the quote from Matthew 28:20 (NRSV):

"...And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Even when I forget God, God is there accompanying me.

God is always there – waiting for me. Loving me. Loving each one of us.

• Alison Burt is a mother of 19-year-old twins who enjoys bushwalking in national parks, making chocolate mousse and walking the family Labrador. Alison works for the national office of the Australian Catholic Bishops.

Child-free in The Big Apple

BY LARA KIRK

IN THE dark, early hours of January 2, I made my escape from the fire-harassed south coast for Sydney International Airport.

I had never travelled alone before and was embarking on a study tour to the US. Road blockages prevented me from going home before leaving the country so my oldest son drove my suitcase, bulging with borrowed snow boots and winter woollies, up the Hume Highway.

We met in Moss Vale and he drove me to Sydney while my husband and daughter took my beach gear home to the farm at Murrumbateman.

The lure of a week-long course in Pennsylvania on marriage, family and gender seemed too good an opportunity to pass up, especially during the fallow month of January when my husband could keep an eye on our teenage daughter and four young adult children.

My Great American Adventure began to take shape. Friends offered their home outside DC as a base for my travels and I discovered that return airfares were cheaper if I extended my stay to take in the January 24 'March for Life' in Washington.

In the days leading to my

departure, I was quite stressed. Apart from the fires and packing and passports I experienced an existential dread about being separated by so much time and distance from my family.

My husband travels often and reassured me that he too experiences an inexplicable sense of dread before he goes away.

In 30 years of marriage I had never known that!

Then there was the anxiety about being a burden on my US hosts, which I mitigated by planning an eight day trip to New York, where I knew no one.

The course venue in an Amish area of Pennsylvania was delightful. I relished diving into theological issues for six hours a day without having to think about shopping, cooking or cleaning.

Seeing the season's first snow fall was magical, as was discovering, during a walk through the woods on the fresh snow, that I was being silently observed by a family of deer.

In Washington I connected with the Given Institute which runs Leadership Forums for young Catholic women. They are encouraged to identify their gifts and passions and a mentoring program helps them design and implement an action plan to contribute to the church and



Mum of five Lara Kirk on her solo trip to the US, walking through the snow covered woods of Pennsylvania

society. So far, women mentored have contributed in areas as diverse as sports, the arts, wellbeing and social justice.

In New York I spent time with the Sisters of Life. Founded less than 30 years ago, they support pregnant women in difficulty as well as women

hurt through abortion. It was quite an experience knocking on the door of an inconspicuous brick building in downtown New York to be greeted by a nun in full habit and seeing a line-up of prams in the corridor.

A sightseeing highlight was the National Shrine to the

Immaculate Conception in Washington. Only 100 years old, its restrained but majestic proportions and vivid artworks, in my opinion, rival the beauty of any church in Rome.

And then there was New York, where my Catholic guesthouse was the perfect fit for someone traveling on their own to The Big Apple: clean, simple, safe and inexpensive with friendly people on the desk 24/7 and Mass each morning.

It was right in the middle of Manhattan so I took myself to three live shows: The Jersey Boys, Hamilton and a solo play performed by Laura Linney.

What I enjoyed most was exploring the city on foot. It was quite intoxicating, moving at my own pace and being totally present to the experience.

While I definitely had a few moments of teary homesickness, it was a totally different and refreshing headspace to be in.

Absence makes the heart grow fonder and I returned home with a heart full of gratitude for my own beautiful family and familiar surroundings.

I was even excited to get stuck into cleaning the fridge, which no one had thought to attend to in my absence.

• Catholic guesthouse in New York www.leobousenyc.com



The \$7000 investment that saved my home

BY FELICITY DE FOMBELLE

FORMER cattle grazier Robert Pearce likes playing with grease.

His retirement plans were to restore old vehicles. And he had plenty to work on.

But a massive Batlow ember storm put an end to that. All that remains of the wrecks is a 1947 Chevrolet Blitz truck.

“It’s a non-goer and in very poor condition,” Robert said. “It’ll take me three to four years to restore. I’ll have to pull out every bolt and rebuild an engine.

“But I love playing with grease and it’s all I have now.”

The 63-year-old acolyte farmed 1200 acres at Yaven Creek and jokes that he moved only 32 kilometres to retire. He scaled down to 100 acres.

“We lived in the shed for 16 months while the house was being built and have only been in for six months,” Robert said. “The shed is burnt now.”

The house survived the blaze as it had to be built to fireproof standards due to the nearby trees.

The heart of a country kid is with Mum and Dad on the farm

BY FELICITY DE FOMBELLE

THE back-to-school fire drill is on hold at St Mary’s Primary in Batlow.

Do those 45 kids really need to hear another alarm going off, after the recent drama of the bushfires that claimed their families’ homes, sheds, machinery and fences?

“We’ve put it off for now,” principal Jannine Richards said.

“The kids came back quite resilient but we’re watching them carefully.

“It’s about being vigilant. We know that trauma can emerge further down the track.

“Most families left town quickly but about 50 per cent of our dads stayed to fight the fires. The images were all over TV. The kids knew what their dads were going through.”

Two St Mary’s families lost their homes, while most lost sheds, fences and equipment.

One family lost their livelihood. They were about to open a ‘glamping’ tourist venture in the bush near Tumbaramba. All the advertising was done. Now there’s nothing to sell.

“If the bushfires did anything they showed we have a real community here, a very proud community,” Jannine said.

“We’re Batlow and we’re strong. Even though we’ve been through a tragic set of circumstances and there is a lot of work to be done, it has strengthened our community.”

Jannine was anxious to contact families during the bushfires and to know they had heeded warnings to evacuate. She offered her Tumut home but all she received were two pet rabbits to care for.

The school, which celebrates its centenary in three years, held an Open Day on January 14 so families who had spread far and wide when Batlow was evacuated



L-R Lily Pearce, principal Kirsty Beaven and Indiana Oberholzer.

could be together and talk.

“People were walking around stunned,” Jannine said. “One grandparent said just coming through the gates was emotional, to see the school still standing.

“The grandparents are the backbone of our community. Their children attended the school and now their grandkids. They are so connected.”

At Adelong, principal Kirsty Beaven said a lot of the boys did not want to return to school. They wanted to help dad on the farm as there was so much work to do.

“The fires started at Yaven Creek where most of our families

“They have seen something you hope they will never see again in their lifetime.”

• Kirsty Beaven

live,” the St Joseph’s principal said.

“There are horrendous stories.

So many kids were evacuated, some up to three times. It was very stressful for them, as their parents were left to defend their properties with no tankers or support. Some of the children did not want to return home

afterwards.

“Most of our families saved their homes but lost a lot of stock, sheds, equipment, fences and feed.”

Returning to school has been important for the children.

“They need to be kids again,” Kirsty said.



St Mary’s principal Jannine Richards reads to (L-R) Zayn, Star, EJ and Catriona.



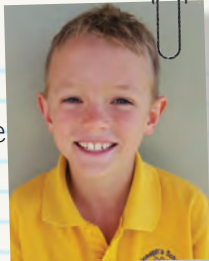
The deafening screams of country kids.

“They have seen something you hope they will never see again in their lifetime. I know where their

heart is; it’s with Mum and Dad on the farm. But Mum and Dad need a bit of normality too.”

Dunns Road Danger

It was a very scary holiday. As the Dunns Road fire started, we could see smoke rising over the hill. The next minute Dad zoomed off. Dad jumped into the Darlo 7 with Julian. 30 seconds later “GET IN THE CAR! TOBY, GRAB BLACKY! LET’S GO!”



It was very scary laying there every night wondering what could happen to mum and dad. It was even more scary because

mum and dad said it was going to get us. We were waiting for days and days. It went on and on. It was endless, cattle in the morning out of a night.

When the fire actually hit my mum and dad were fighting a heat wall of flames for around 2 hours. It was really tense, scary and very very dangerous. If they didn’t fight the fire we wouldn’t have a home.

That was the worst holiday of my life. I hope no one ever goes through that again.

By Toby, 9 (St Joseph’s)

Faith’s terrible horrible no good holiday

My dad has been fighting fires. My tummy has been hurting. I went to a secret hiding spot at the creek with Mum.



It was my terrible horrible bad no good holiday. My tummy stops hurting when it’s time to eat. Now let’s talk about something else. The creek! It was so warm. I was so relaxed in the water and I was collecting rocks.

Now the fire. It was scary. We had to pack our bags and important things. Dad was fighting fires and we went to our cousins house. I was really sad about my tummy hurting. I was really happy about the creek and I was really sad about the fires.

By Faith, 8 (St Joseph’s)

Teabag Cluster minus the leaves

BY FELICITY DE FOMBELLE

THEY call themselves the “Teabag Cluster” but it has nothing to do with a kettle.

“It’s an acronym for the first letters of the towns we’re from,” new McAuley Catholic Central School principal Eamonn Moore said.

“Teabag meaning T for Tumut, A for Adelong, B for Batlow and G for Gundagai”.

The four principals who form the group educate 517 children between them - at Tumut (344 kids), Gundagai (80), Adelong (48) and Batlow (45).

So they have a lot to talk about, sharing information and looking for new opportunities for their students. Plus offering

support.

“Life as a principal can be lonely sometimes so it’s good to call someone and say you’ve had a crappy day,” Eamonn said.

There is respect too.

“Eamonn received an enrolment inquiry from a Gundagai family so he encouraged them to come to me and passed on their details,” St Patrick’s, Gundagai principal Christine Baron said.

The leaders agree there is something special about country kids.

“There is a lovely honesty and joy about them, a real openness,” said Kirsty Beaven from St Joseph’s, Adelong.

“They’ll tell you about their weekend and how they went fishing and shooting rabbits and dug fence holes with Dad. In Canberra they go to the Mall.”



Eamonn Moore (McAuley Catholic Central School) with (L-R) Kirsty Beaven (St Joseph’s, Adelong), Jannine Richards (St Mary’s, Batlow) and Christine Baron (St Patrick’s, Gundagai).

Archdiocese raises \$107,000 for bushfires

Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn
Bushfire Relief 2019/2020

MORE than \$107,000 has been given to bushfire-affected communities with over \$70,000 donated by parishes.

Vicar-General Fr Tony Percy and Catholic Development Fund Manager Michele Murdock released a reconciliation statement to show where the money has come from and where it has gone.

Reflecting on the generosity, Fr Tony said: “Despite being such a very difficult time for so many, it has also been a time of grace and love. Our bonds of unity have deepened and continued prayers assures that we can continue on this journey.”

MONIES RECEIVED	MONIES DISBURSED
\$52,426.25 (ACT Parishes)	\$37,259.45 (Batemans Bay Parish)
\$19,233.20 (NSW Parishes)	\$16,000.00 (Moruya Parish)
\$16,100.00 (Individuals)	\$31,500.00 (Cobargo/Narooma Parish)
\$5,000.00 (Wagga Diocese)	\$18,000.00 (Tumut/Batlow Parish)
\$5,000.00 (Doonside Parish, Parramatta Diocese)	\$5,000.00 (Pambula Parish)
\$10,000 (Order of Malta)	
Total \$107,759.45	Total \$107,759.45

• The Order of Malta also gave \$10,000 in Food Vouchers to Coastal Parishes



The boy from Batlow and the home he built

BY FELICITY DE FOMBELLE

RETIREEES Tony and Janice Vanzella have only been in their rental house five weeks and say it feels like a holiday home.

But it is the only place they have, after an ember storm razed their family home in Batlow in early January.

The home Tony and Janice built 35 years ago. On 11 acres. Glorious views. Where they raised five kids. The home so loved by their 11 grandchildren. Gone.

"We could fit all 23 of the family into our home and it was wonderful," Janice said.

"This is tragic for all of us. Most of the grandkids are in Sydney and Melbourne and they loved the open space. Two of our boys had their weddings at home. It's gut-wrenching."

Like many Batlow folk, Tony made his living selling fruit. Batlow-born, his parents met on the boat from Italy to Australia in 1929 and married seven years later.

It was while working in the fresh fruit markets at the Old Haymarket in Sydney with his father and grandfather that Tony met Janice.

"We had an apple stand but I wanted to get out of the markets and was ready to return (to Batlow)," Tony said.

"And I was in love," Janice added. "My father's family were



Tony and Janice Vanzella standing among the ruins of their Batlow family home.

from the country so it wasn't unknown to me. Tony had a magnificent garden and we loved the beauty. We built our home around our family."

The couple, who have been married 50 years, spent last Christmas in Sydney and returned home on New Years Day. Batlow was being evacuated. They had to leave.

"I took out the clothes from our suitcase, washed them and put them back," Janice said.

"They said we'd be back in five days. We hoped that trucks and water tankers would come

to look after the place. But they were so intent on saving the town and we are out of town."

Holed up in a motel in Wagga Wagga, the anxious pair waited for news. Initial reports were good. Neighbours sent photos, their house was standing.

But Tony's beloved garden was smouldering. The wind picked up and an ember storm destroyed everything they had cherished.

"We'd put some albums and family history files in our fortified cellar so that was all we could retrieve," Janice said.

The couple stayed in Wagga Wagga for two weeks and found a 12-month rental home in Adelong through a Catholic friend.

"I know it's only mortar and bricks but it's the special things you miss so much," Janice said. "I could write a big list. As each grandchild was born I appliqued a Christmas stocking and each year they went around the chimney."

"The kids would always say, 'Mum, did you get the Christmas stockings out?'"

The generous support of

Canberra parishes has made a difference.

"It means a lot," Janice said. "You don't feel alone in it."

"We take what comes. There are people worse off who are not insured."

"We don't blame God. It's not about God being bad to us. I was born with a disability so I gave that thinking away years ago."

"I learned as a young child to accept what life throws at you. You take the good with the bad. We've been so lucky with our children. We can't complain."



Family albums were all the couple could save.

Racking up the hours so the money flows

BY FELICITY DE FOMBELLE

FORMER principal Pat Mangelsdorf has clocked up more than 100 interviews and put in 10-12 hour days since bushfires ravaged Batlow early in the New Year.

A member of the Vinnies conference at Tumut, Pat has helped bushfire-affected families and individuals to help them complete application forms for the donated money that Vinnies is distributing.

"It's full on," Pat said. "I've never worked so hard and it's been emotionally draining too."

An educator for more than 40 years, Pat moved to Tumut in 2006

to become principal of McAuley Catholic Central School, where she stayed five years. Previously she was principal at St Mary's War Memorial School in West Wyalong.

The tireless worker joined the Vinnies conference when she retired as McAuley principal. The bushfire work has been all-consuming.

"One of the things that has struck me is the people in Batlow who stayed to defend their homes against such great odds," Pat said.

"If you saw the area around Batlow you'd wonder how anything survived."

"The people who have lost everything are still in a daze. They don't know whether to rebuild. They are not ready yet. It's like a death."

A no-nonsense operator, Pat sees a lot of disillusionment with the church as an organisation but points to Vinnies conferences as signs of hope.

"What we are doing is what the early Christians did," Pat said. "Everything was shared in common. That's so different to the values of our world today where everyone has to have the best."

"We don't need all that to be

happy and fulfilled. Where the church will prosper is in places where they are strong groups like Vinnies."

"We try to be hopeful as well as helpful. When we grew up you knew life had its ups and downs and got on with things. A lot of that resilience is lost nowadays. Sure this is a mighty down, but it's not the end of the world and people are here to help."



Vinnies conference member Pat Mangelsdorf.

A stable family life is a great cause

Retired Sydney builder Ron Natoli is chair of the board at The Farm. He believes we all have a duty to care for people in need and should respond to opportunities to help. Here, the father of four and grandfather of seven explains his involvement with The Farm.

"I had been a builder for more than 40 years when I learned that a priest friend was having problems building a childcare centre on a dump site on an island in The Philippines.

My wife Maria and I went over to try to help him resolve the issues.

Witnessing the reality of life in a country where poverty has been officially put as affecting 20 per cent of the population was the beginning of an incredible journey for both of us.

We were able to help with the childcare centre, and the work of that priest, Fr. John Iacono, has resulted in thousands of children being given a chance of a normal life through education.

I have found that once we become involved in the Lord's work, it doesn't just end with a simple solution to one project.

The success of the childcare centre led to finding solutions for their parents.

Living on a dump is the lowest level a family can reach and results from poverty and lack of work skills. It is often exacerbated by lack of self-esteem which allows usurpers to take advantage of the disadvantaged.

More than 20 years and three villages later, over 2,500 people (comprising 400 families) are all employed and living in comfortable homes. And their children are educated.

While I would like to claim some credit for the work, I am realistic enough to understand that what has happened is beyond human achievement and

bears all the signs of the Holy Spirit.

In a similar way, I have seen the Holy Spirit moving in the development of The Farm and I have no doubt that Kate Cleary is following a clear direction she was given by the Lord through the Holy Spirit.

I was aware of the property that Kate now uses and whenever I drove by was saddened to see it deteriorating. The property is unique yet limited in potential due to its location. But when I was introduced to Kate I knew it was perfect for what she wanted to establish.

The Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn was interested in the project as it fills a need in the community and they generously supported Kate. With my involvement as a builder, and the generosity of many Canberra-based organisations and people, the property was refurbished and is now established as a centre for women in need.

The key to any successful venture is bringing the right people together, and Kate's enthusiasm and philosophy for The Farm seems to have touched many caring people who have contributed time, resources, talent and money.

Australians are by nature generous and caring, as we have seen so often, and so recently with the response to the drought and bushfires. This has been an inspiration to me as I have seen the spontaneous outpouring of energy for The Farm.

Most of the work has been



Retired builder and chair of the board at The Farm Ron Natoli with project founder Kate Cleary.

done by volunteers and has involved thousands of hours of effort, but the attitude and devotion of everyone concerned leaves no doubt that we are working with the Lord.

Converting buildings to a post-rehab establishment was wrought with countless difficulties and problems and required the involvement of many people with diverse skills and knowledge.

As with our overseas projects, at every turn the right people seemed to appear. No matter

who we needed or what skills were required, someone would appear. Some people may explain this as coincidence, but I learned many years ago that when we pray and work with the Lord, there is no such thing as coincidence.

Working with Kate on The Farm and now with the clients, we can see that many lives will be changed.

More importantly, it is not only the lives of the clients that are changing but the lives of everyone involved are being

enhanced.

I am pleased that my family and their children, our grandchildren, have been involved in this project. Their enthusiasm and the concern they show for people in need is not only a learning experience for them, but helps the clients to see that families can work together.

For women who have not known a stable family life, they can see how they can live with, and enjoy their own children, who they are working to be united with."



Fr Thomas Jin with Maria Yang (chair of the Korean Catholic Community), Ustina Namgung, 10 and Daniel Kim, 10

A small but generous community

BY FELICITY DE FOMBELLE

IT IS "common sense" for Koreans to help people suffering and in need, according to Fr Thomas Jin.

That is how the Archdiocese's Korean chaplain explains the generosity of his small community who have given more than \$3000 to bushfire-affected parishes.

The community numbers about 190, with about 80 at Mass.

"If someone has difficulties, Korean people try to help," Fr Jin said. "It is common sense to

us, a very natural reaction to try to offer some consolation.

"We saw so much tragedy on the news and started collections. Our faith connects us strongly to those struggling parishes. For us they are our neighbours."

Korean Catholic Community chairperson Maria Yang said the ethnic community did not separate itself from the wider Catholic and local community.

The mother of two has been collecting among the community and also at the Raiders Club in Belconnen.

"We come from Korea and

have our own community and own language, but we always try to be part of the bigger Catholic and local community," Maria explained.

"It is very hard to mix but you must, to feel that belonging."

Fr Jin's family became Catholics when he was a boy and he said being an altar server and the model of a "a young, humorous" assistant priest were key influences on his faith. The youngest of four children and a keen badminton player, his father runs a small judicial office and his mother is a housewife.

Gentlemen, Role Call...



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Cowpat bingo at St John's fiesta

BY FELICITY DE FOMBELLE

ST JOHN the Apostle Primary has a fundraising weapon at its annual February fete - cow dung.

Or to give credit where credit's due, Roxie the 19-year-old-bovine, now in her fifth year of cowpat bingo at the flourishing Forey school.

Owner Bronwyn Ward, daughter of Sally in Year Four, explains.

"There is a grid of 100 numbered squares and everyone pays \$5 for a square," the Yass Mum of four said. "Wherever Roxie does her poo, the person with that square wins \$150.

"She's got a bellyful of feed so where it lands is anybody's guess. Some years she's left the mystery right till the end."

Bronwyn's three older children attended St John the Apostle (they are now at St Francis Xavier) and she chose the school

because of its fete.

"Jason and I lived in Florey before we had kids," she said. "We used to come to the fete and loved the community and atmosphere."

Fete MC and principal Matthew Garton told the *Catholic Voice* that late February was the perfect time for a school fete.

"It doubles as a community gathering event," the proud principal said, "particularly for the new kinder families".

"We've done a masterplan for our expansive outdoor area and all the fete money is going into that."

Three of Matthew's four children attended St John the Apostle and Matthew is also a member of the parish.

Mum of three Catherine Braybon has been running the hamper stall for 12 years and is ready to hang up the baskets, while fellow Mum of three

Rebecca Neiberding is donning the apron at the cake stall for the first time.

"My youngest is in Year Six and I was part of the first kinder intake in 1979," Catherine said.

A teacher at St Thomas Aquinas in Charnwood, Rebecca dismissed her Year One class before darting to the St John's fete to take charge of the cake stall, where tables groaned with cupcakes, slices, brownies, muffins and biscuits.

While Roxie was doing her bit, spare a thought for the staff (and principal) at the dunk-a-teacher stand, offering students a cheap thrill at 50 cents a sponge.

Catholic Voice was there to witness the first dunked teacher, Charlie McIver.

"No one volunteered so I took one for the team," Charlie said. "I don't wear makeup so being sponged doesn't really bother me."



Year Four student Lily Holding, 9, meets Roxie the cow



L-R: The 'basket hamper' ladies Mary Kelly, Jacqueline Penfold and Catherine Braybon



Mitchell and Erin Mann with their daughter Alexis, 9



Year Four teacher Brett Seaman supports Charlie McIver at the 'dunk-a-teacher' stall



Queuing for ride tickets are Areetie Baxter and daughter Te-aroha



Icecreams anyone? L-R: Dominica McNamara, SFX students Audrey McCombie, Yolanda Gill and Dominica's daughter Ruby, and Nan Cheryl McNamara.



Principal Matthew Garton with Year One teacher Mel Taylor



Former St John's student Ella Sammons transforms Martin Howes, 4, into Spiderman

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US Supreme Court examines Catholic foster care ban

THE US Supreme Court has announced it will examine if the city of Philadelphia can exclude a Catholic agency from the city's foster care program because the agency will not accept same-sex couples as foster parents.

In 2018, Philadelphia stopped using the foster program of Catholic Social Services of the Philadelphia Archdiocese due to the agency's policy of not placing children with same-sex couples because such unions are against church teaching on marriage.

A year later, the US Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit sided with the city, calling the agency's policies discriminatory.

"The city stands on firm ground in requiring its contractors to abide by its non-discrimination policies when administering public services," the ruling said.

"Placing vulnerable children with foster families is without question a vital public service ... Deterring discrimination in that effort is a paramount public interest."

Catholic Social Services has contracted with the city on foster care since the late 1990s. Foster parents with the agency joined in the lawsuit against the city initially to seek an injunction to stop the city's policy.

The case, *Fulton v. Philadelphia*, takes its name from Sharonell Fulton, a foster parent who joined the lawsuit against the city with another foster parent, Toni Simms-Busch.

"CSS has been a godsend to my family and so many like ours," said Simms-Busch in a statement. "I don't think I could have gone through this process without an agency that shares my core beliefs and cares for my children accordingly."

"We are so grateful that the Supreme Court has agreed



Foster parent Sharonell Fulton joined the lawsuit against the city of Philadelphia

to hear our case and sort out the mess that Philadelphia has created for so many vulnerable foster children."

In the initial lawsuit against Catholic Social Services, the city's Department of Human Services investigated if the agency refused to place foster children in LGBT households, even though over the course of its decades-long partnership with the city, neither the agency nor the Philadelphia Human Relations Commission ever received a complaint that LGBT individuals were denied placement of a foster child due to the Catholic agency's actions.

Becket, a religious liberty law firm, is representing the foster women defending the Catholic Social Services policy.

"I'm relieved that the Supreme Court will weigh in on faith-based adoption and foster care," said Lori Windham, senior counsel at Becket.

"Over the last few years, agencies have been closing their doors across the country, and all the while children are pouring into the system. We are confident that the court will realize that the best solution is the one that

has worked in Philadelphia for a century -- all hands on deck for foster kids."

A lawyer representing Philadelphia issued a statement after the Supreme Court's announcement, saying the city would demonstrate to the nation's highest court that the appeals court ruling "affirming the city's ability to uphold nondiscrimination policies was correct."

The case is already gaining attention months before oral arguments, which could be in October.

Andrea Picciotti-Bayer, legal adviser for the Catholic Association, a group that defends the church and religious liberty, conversely said: "Faith-based groups shouldn't be forced to abandon their deeply held religious and moral convictions in order to serve children in desperate need."

She said the court's decision to review Philadelphia's "intolerant and discriminatory action against the Catholic Social Services foster care program is a welcome first step toward reopening doors to loving and stable foster homes."

• Source: CNS

Catholic birth parents v same-sex couple

BY FELICITY DE FOMBELLE

IN 2017 a same-sex couple won a legal case to adopt a four-year old girl despite the Catholic birth parents' opposition.

Justice John Sackar ruled in the NSW Supreme Court that while the birth parents' religious beliefs must be respected, the same-sex couple's attitude to the Catholic faith "requires equal respect."

The *Sydney Morning Herald* reported on March 26 that the girl was taken from her birth mother when she was four days old due to the mother's drug use and conviction for the manslaughter of her infant son seven years earlier.

The mother was found guilty for giving the seven-month boy the drugs causing his death.

A same-sex couple who had cared for the girl, known as CJD, since she was six months old sought to adopt her. They would not commit to raising the child a Catholic so the birth mother opposed the adoption.

The court heard the birth mother was "a practising Catholic and she is not comfortable with the placement of CJD with the proposed adoptive parents because of her upbringing and religious values".

The birth father told the court he was from a Catholic family and also wanted his daughter to be raised a Catholic.

The lesbian couple said they could not raise CJD a Catholic given the church's longstanding opposition to homosexual relationships.

Justice Sackar found both the mother and father, who has significant mental health issues and learning difficulties, were incapable of caring for the girl.

He said while the law required cultural and religious ties to be preserved "as far as possible", those concerns should not predominate alongside the child's best interests.

"Religion of course is only one of a multitude of factors the court is to consider in determining CJD's best interests," the judge said.

"While the birth parents' religious beliefs must be respected, the proposed adoptive parents' attitude to the Catholic faith requires equal respect."

The adoption agency Barnardos, acting on behalf of the Department of Family and Community Services, submitted it was not in CJD's best interests to be baptised or christened because the adoptive parents "would not be able to facilitate her involvement and development with Catholicism due to their sexual orientation".

"They do not want to go to church, stand up and commit to raising CJD as a Catholic when they could not commit to doing so," the agency said.

The same-sex couple committed to continuing regular contact visits with the birth parents and said they could facilitate involvement with the Christian faith through scripture classes and Bible stories. They also said they would allow CJD to be involved in a religion if she wanted to in the future.

Numerous experts testified that CJD saw the two women who had cared for her since infancy as her family and to break that attachment would cause her psychological harm.

NSW changed the law in 2010 to allow same-sex couples to adopt children.

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Coming Events

MARCH 1: Rite of the Elect – 10am, St Christopher's Cathedral

MARCH 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: What is Prayer – 10:15am, Fr Michael is to holding a series of talks on prayer at the St John Vianney's Church in Waramanga. Topics include: Ignatian Contemplation (1 March), How to pray the rosary (8 March), What is Sacrament? (15 March), What is Eucharist? (22 March), What is Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick? (29 March). Everyone welcome. Tea and Coffee available.

MARCH 4, 11, 18, 25, APRIL 1, 8: Introduction to Christian Meditation – 11:45am, During Lent, an opportunity is being offered by Benedictus Contemplative Church, Lyneham A.C.T., to find out about Christian Meditation, to experience this prayer practice, and to learn about its origins. This is an opportunity to taste and experience this prayer practice, and to discover its relevance as a form of prayer for the contemporary world. No cost, no RSVP required, just turn up. For more information visit wccmaustralia.org.au or contact Neil: 0402 433 084

MARCH 6: International Women's Day Breakfast – The Archdiocesan Women's taskforce invites you to an International Women's Day Breakfast. Guest Speaker: Andrea Dean. Topic: The Impact of the Bushfires on our Understanding of God. Friday 6th March, 7.30-9.00am, St Vincent's Parish Centre, Aranda.

MARCH 14: Monthly Rosary – The Indian Catholic Women with their families meet one Saturday each month for a rosary and prayer intentions followed by a fellowship. It is held in private homes and it is open to all. This month it will be held at the home of Parveen and Thomas Kalliath's house, 62 Buckingham street, Amaroo, at 4 pm. Bring a snack plate to share (not compulsory).

MARCH 20 – 22: Sisterhood Conference 2020 ANOINTED – The Sisterhood conference seeks to equip and inspire us to live as Catholic women in the 21st Century. The conference aims to empower women to return to their own parish, community, family and work-place to make a difference. Join us for what will be an incredible weekend of dynamic talks, quality sisterhood time and most importantly an encounter with amazing God who loves us beyond measure and pours His Grace abundantly. Register at www.sisterhood.org.au

MARCH 20 – 22: Mothers Prayer Retreat – Women are invited to join the Mothers Prayers retreat with Monsignor Stuart Hall at St Clement's Retreat Centre Galong. Contact Anne on australia@mothersprayers.org for more details or book directly with St Clement's.

MARCH 22: Multicultural Mass – 11am, St Christopher's Cathedral

MARCH: 26-31: St Therese of Lisieux Relics

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 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.

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MAN OVERBOARD: A monthly gathering of young men discerning priesthood. Please RSVP to Fr Paul Nulley at paul.nulley@cg.org.au For catering purposes or follow the prompts at <http://www.manoverboard.org.au/>

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

menALIVE: Encouraging authentic Christian manhood, the Canberra chapter of 'Men Alive' meet on the first Monday of each month at St 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: mmm@grapevine.com.au

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH GROUPS: These

monthly groups all meet in the O'Connor Parish Centre. View parish group details at: <http://cg.org.au/oconnor/home.aspx>

TAIZE PRAYER GROUP: The Canberra Friends of Taizé Ecumenical Group Ecumenical group meets regularly for prayer every second Sunday of the month at Weston Creek Uniting church at 5.30pm. 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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Rolling off the presses: our Archdiocesan publications



BY DENIS CONNOR,
ARCHDIOCESAN ARCHIVIST

OUR monthly diocesan newspaper, the *Catholic Voice* dates from June 1988, so later this year it will celebrate its 32nd birthday.

The *Voice* is the fourth in a line of newspapers which have served our Diocese of Goulburn (and Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn from 1948).

Long-standing members of the Diocesan community may have memories of *The Angelus* (1923–1925 and 1927–1953) which was started by Fr Patrick Haydon for the early Canberra Catholic community.

The earliest issues of *The Angelus* pre-date the creation of the Canberra parish in 1928 while Fr Haydon was still parish priest of Queanbeyan.

Also dating from the 1920s was *Our Cathedral Chimes*, produced from the then Cathedral Parish of Goulburn, and running from 1928 to 1958.

The creation of the Parish of Braddon in North Canberra in 1955 saw a new publication *The Sanctuary* (1956–1962 and 1965–1968).

We will write more about these papers in future issues. Note that the last of these papers to fold was *The Sanctuary* in January 1968.

After an absence of a

diocesan paper for more than 20 years, issue number one of the *Catholic Voice* came out in June 1988.

The foundation editor was Ray Frawley, supported by a management board comprising Archbishop Francis Carroll, Helen Lister (chair), Ray Frawley, Herbie O'Flynn, Fr Bill Kennedy, Mick Sullivan, Sister Marie McAlister, Bren Milsom and Barbara Waugh.

The stated intention of Archbishop Carroll and the board was that the *Voice* should be available to every Catholic home across the Archdiocese, with principal points of distribution being all churches/mass centres and every Catholic school. It has always been free.

The first issue of the *Catholic Voice* featured two lead front page stories. In one, Archbishop Carroll highlighted recent attention given to the level of poverty in Australia.

The *Voice* covered three of the Archbishop's recent public events where he urged Catholics to remain mindful and be supportive of projects to alleviate hardship and poverty.

The front page story reported the Archbishop's statements at the blessing and opening of the Holy Family Parish School, Gowrie. He made similar remarks to the National Catholic Education Commission Conference (held at the University of Melbourne) and the Conference of Catholic School Principals that was held locally.



TIMELINE

- The Angelus**
1923 - 1925,
1927 - 1953
- Our Cathedral Chimes**
1928 - 1958
- The Sanctuary**
1956 - 1962,
1965 - 1968
- Catholic Voice**
1988



Publisher Jim Woods inspects the first *Catholic Voice* in June 1988



"We did it!" Fr John Woods (left) trumpets the Raiders' first premiership while Archbishop Francis celebrates the Synod. Ray Frawley stands between them.

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The second front page story referred to the Christian National Gathering in Canberra that coincided with the opening of the new Parliament House in May 1988.

The story noted that some 50,000 people from across the country took part in the prayer march that encircled the new building, prior to an overnight vigil.

Participants represented the full range of Christian denominations and traditions represented in Australia. Archbishop Carroll attended along with Bishop Pat Power (Auxiliary Bishop of Canberra and Goulburn) and Anglican Bishop of Canberra, Owen Dowling.

Each month the *Catholic Voice* sports page will be written by talented students at our secondary schools. This month we hand the editorial reins to St Francis Xavier Catholic College in Florey. Next month budding reporters from Lumen Christi Catholic College Pambula will bring you their sports news.



**Sports reporter
Georgia Rice**

Year 12 SFX student Georgia Rice loves writing, martial arts and history. She plans to join the Defence Force.



Luca Florez: top goal scorer for Australia

Year 11 student Luca Florez traded the Aussie heat for the frigid cold of Europe in January, representing Australia in the 2019 Under16s All Australian Boys Football Team.

Luca played in Wales, Ireland, Scotland and England and was the lead goal scorer for Australia. He scored nine goals in nine matches. "Not many players from the ACT make the national team, so being the top goal scorer was a proud moment," Luca said.

Playing as a striker, Luca said his biggest takeaway from the experience was "the opportunity to play with a good team, knowing my place and where I sit in Australian football." A place that might include a position in one of Australia's biggest youth academies with clubs such as Melbourne City and Western Sydney Wanderers taking an interest in the 16-year-old.

While football plays a major role in his life, Luca's other passion is performing. "Football and sport are part of my life, but I've always enjoyed being able to explore my creative side through music and performing," he said. As lead vocalist in the band



Year 11 student Luca Florez was Australia's top goal scorer

Vermillion and a member of SFX's funk band, Luca expresses his more inspired side through guitar, ukulele, piano and vocals.

Luca hopes to release an EP by the end of 2021 and to perform in next year's school musical.

Watching cartoons and representing her country

Have you ever heard of floorball? Most haven't. However, for Year 12 student Amy Briggs, floorball has given her an opportunity like no other, a place on the Australian team for the 2020 Under 19s Women's Floorball World Championship being held in Sweden.

Amy describes floorball as "ice-hockey without ice and indoor hockey but with a rink." She discovered floorball through a friend of her Mum's (who founded the ACT Club after moving from Sweden) who recommended it after she left soccer in her 10th year of playing.

So far, Amy has played for two and a half years in all positions except goalkeeper, preferring forward right, however, she will be playing predominantly defense during the championship.

Along with her sporting commitments, Amy is a House Captain, Year 12 student doing extra classes and member of the school production crew. She also works part-time as a retail



Year 12 House Captain and floorball champion Amy Briggs

assistant.

Seeing a personal trainer twice a week helps Amy manage her workload. "It is challenging to deal with the pressure of representing my country as a young adult who still watches cartoons," she said.

"Floorball has taught me to be aware and to always have my head up, both literally and emotionally."

If you are interested in playing floorball, check out the ACT floorball page at: <http://floorballact.org.au/>

The PE teacher who took 3/14 at the SCG

Brendan Duffy (Mr Duffy to his students) is an avid cricketer and PE teacher at SFX with a penchant for playing putt-putt golf through the school halls on a Friday afternoon.

For Mr Duffy, cricket started as a way of keeping social and getting some summer sun. But 22 years later he's honed his technique as a spin bowler and has had the opportunity to showcase his skills on many levels, including representing the ACT in the 2020 Australian Country Championships in Toowoomba and the ACT Aces in the NSW T20 Regional Bash over the summer.

After his team won the Thunder conference final, they moved on to play at the SCG. Unfortunately his team lost by six runs, but Mr Duffy came away



Avid cricketer Brendan Duffy.

with 3/14 from four overs.

Mr Duffy said playing at the SCG was an "awesome experience and opportunity".

Asked about cricket and his career, Mr Duffy said his passion for sport, enthusiasm for passing on knowledge and his desire to watch young minds learn and grow made becoming a PE Teacher a no-brainer.

A half marathon in 59 minutes

Have you ever heard the saying "run like the wind"? Former SFX student Brett Robinson (son of Design & Technology teacher Tony Robinson) takes this to a new level, recently setting an Australian record for the fastest half-marathon at a race in Japan, completing the race in just 59 minutes and 57 seconds.

When Brett was at SFX, unsurprisingly, his favorite subject was PE and he represented SFX in soccer, cricket, rugby league, athletics and AFL.

Training and living in Melbourne for about five months of the year, Brett spends the rest of his time in London and competes around the world.

Last year he was selected for the Ineos 159 challenge where, on 12 October, Eliud Kipchoge became the first man ever to run the marathon in under two hours. Brett was captain of one of the pacer teams which ran with Kipchoge and helped him make history.

Brett is now training hard for the Olympics later this year and will compete in the World Half Marathon Championships in Poland on 29 March.



Former SFX student Brett Robinson with dad (and SFX Design and Technology teacher) Tony.

Next month: Lumen Christi Catholic College brings you the CV sports page.



Do you think you'll ever be a Saint? They are our church heroes.

Finally, we are kicking off our new CVK Club with a competition. And you can win prizes.

\$25 Rebel Sport vouchers. Pretty exciting eh? So don't miss out.

Until we catch up next month, work hard at school, listen to your teachers (with both ears) and, most important of all, have FUN!

Yours in love and laughter,

Felicity
(the editor).



Voicekid

STUDENT FILE

CLASSIFIED INFORMATION



NAME: Hugh Reynolds
AGE: 12
SCHOOL: St Joseph's Primary Adelong
YEAR: Six
STATUS: School captain (with Eliza Roche)

What do you love doing?

I absolutely love reading. I love all the adventures that are in my head when I read. I love writing my own stories. I like researching history and playing with lego too.

Sport?

I love Aussie Rules and follow Collingwood. I go to Auskick camp. And I play hockey.

Where will you go for high school?

I'll be a weekly boarder at Mater Dei Catholic College in Wagga Wagga. I went to an open day and really liked it. It sounds fun and exhilarating.

Brothers or sisters?

I have a sister in Year Three named Culley. We have our squabbles. My Dad is on the farm and Mum is at home.

What do you want to do when you grow up?

I want to be an author of fantasy novels. I've already started writing a book. It starts in a town called Moustane and it's about a goat called Pludo who is sold to work in a mill. He wears a harness that grinds the grain but then he gets into the neighbor's garden and the neighbor is a Wizard. I can't tell you any more than that.

Tell us about being a Catholic.

Being a Catholic is good, sometimes a bit annoying. I want to believe it is true. I believe God made the earth and everyone. Sometimes if I'm a bit worried about something or sad or if I need something to cling to, I'll pray. It helps me with forgiveness too.

PS: When I'm an author I've decided I won't use the name Huge Reynolds. It will be H.P Reynolds, because my name is Hugh Patrick Reynolds.



Dear students

Welcome to CVK, Catholic Voice Kids!

This is the club for cool kids at Catholic primary schools, like you.

And this is your page, where you'll find fun stuff to do like learn some new jokes and complete a 'find-a-word' in less than 60

seconds (well, it depends how fast you are, but I bet you're really fast).

Best of all, on this page, there is NO homework. Now that's cool.

Even though there is no homework, it's still good to exercise your brain, so we'll give you some brain food too. For example, we'll tell you about a cool Saint and how they became a Saint.

Q. Why is Cinderella so bad at soccer? A. Because she always runs away from the ball!

How can we love our enemies? Tick the best answers in the boxes below.



If someone slaps you on the cheek, do you...

- ☐ A: Slap them back
- ☐ B: Forgive them, or...
- ☐ C: Call the police



If someone teases you and calls you names, do you...

- ☐ A: Throw a tantrum
- ☐ B: Find nice things to say about them, or...
- ☐ C: Ask God to punish them



If someone wants to share your favorite toy, do you...

- ☐ A: Tell them to go away
- ☐ B: Let them play with it, but only for 5 minutes, or...
- ☐ C: Let them have it for as long as they like



If someone is cruel and mistreats you, do you...

- ☐ A: Ask God to bless them
- ☐ B: Tell everyone how bad that person is, or...
- ☐ C: Get even with them

MY DREAM CLASSROOM DRAWING COMPETITION

Catholic Voice Kids is giving you the chance to show off your drawing skills and imagination. And win a \$25 Rebel Sport gift voucher at the same time.

All you need to do is draw "My dream classroom" on a white, A4 sheet of paper.

There will be one winner in each category: Kinder-Year Two, Year Three-Year Four and Year Five-Year Six. We will publish the three winning drawings in our May edition

1. Fill in the form with your name, school, year level and contact number
2. Cut out the form
3. Put the form and your drawing in an envelope and address to **Catholic Voice Kids Competition** PO Box 1887. Canberra ACT 2601 **Competition closes Friday April 16**



MY DREAM CLASSROOM DRAWING COMPETITION

NAME:

SCHOOL:

YEAR LEVEL:

CONTACT NUMBER: