

CATHOLIC VOICE

ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN

Lockdown Lessons:

It's never too cold to go outside. That's what clothes were invented for. You will feel better for it.



Archbishop's Message
Archbishop Christopher Prowse

Walking together in hope - Synodality

PART 3

Archbishop Christopher continues his summary of the meaning of synodality through the lens of Pope Francis' latest book "Let us Dream - The path to a better future"

Its approach:

"Synodality starts with hearing from the whole people of God. A Church that teaches must first be a Church that listens." (p.84)

"It's important not to confuse Catholic doctrine and traditions with the Church's norms and practices. What is under discussion at synodal gatherings are not traditional truths of Christian doctrine." (p.84)

"What characterises a synodal path is the role of the Holy Spirit. We listen, we discuss in groups, but above all we pay attention to what the Spirit has to say to us." (p.85)

"Everyone is to speak frankly and listen carefully to others because, there, too, the Spirit is speaking." (p.85)

"Open to changes and new possibilities, the Synod is for everyone an experience of conversion." (p.85)

"Periods of silence between speeches allow those in attendance to be better aware of the motions of the Spirit." (p.85)

"To unmask agendas and hidden ideologies." (p.86)

"A protected space of community discernment." (p.86)

Dangers/Temptations:

"Arrogating the monopoly of the interpretation of truth, and trying to impose one's ideas on the whole Body through pressure or by discrediting those who feel differently." (p.86)

"Treating the Synod as a kind of parliament underpinned by a 'political battle' in which in order to govern one side must defeat the other." (p.86)

"Reducing the Synod dynamic to simplistic yes-no binaries as if the Synod were a dramatic showdown between opposing forces." (p.87)

COVID can't keep parishioners apart

PHONE calls and e-mails have taken on new meaning in parishes across the Archdiocese as the weeks of COVID lockdown drag on.

Priests and parishioners alike are spending hours each week keeping in touch with each other and showing acts of kindness, particularly to those who are feeling isolated.

In South Tuggeranong parish priest Fr James Antony and Fr Joshua Scott have been busy contacting parishioners.

Assistant priest Fr Joshua said a phone tree between parishioners was working well.

"We have been in contact with many people over the last few weeks making over 500 calls, which is huge," he said.

"We've been live streaming our masses, and we are developing online initiatives to keep in contact with students."

At South Belconnen parish, apart from those who are isolated and unwell, the parish pastoral council is in contact with parishioners who are experiencing stress through their occupations.

"We started thinking about all the different groups of people who are impacted by the lockdown," parish priest Fr Simon



Celebrating Mass at the nursing home in Cooma

Falk said.

"We have healthcare workers who are under a lot of stress. We have people who work in the family law courts getting lots of domestic violence cases. We also have three schools in the area, so

"Some of the older folk in the parish have been excellent at regularly making contact with parishioners."

we are concerned about all the staff, families, and students' faith and well-being.

"Some of the older folk in the parish have been excellent at regularly making contact with parishioners."

Tumut assistant priest Fr Namora Anderson said phoning and e-mailing seemed to work best.

Western Deanery, parish administrator Fr George Ogah and Fr Namora are in awe at the way people in rural areas keep in touch with one another.

"Even though geographically the parish is vast, most farmers always find ways to keep in touch," Fr Namora said.

"There's already a level of isolation by way of large farms and the general vastness of the area. I don't think people here are as affected as those living in the cities.

"Some of the older ladies in town who are members or former members of the parish

pastoral council are legendary. These people have grown up in this area, as did generations before them, so everyone knows everyone, and they all check up on each other."

Cooma parish priest Fr Mick MacAndrew said young families were very anxious about the spread of COVID while the older generation in the parish "seem to be just taking it in their stride".

Although some are struggling with isolation, Fr Mick and assistant priest Fr Adrian Chan have praised the existing support networks.

"The elderly have their own networks, which they have built up over many years," Fr Mick said. Relationships had been a lifeline for them and many, but not all, elderly parishioners had their families nearby.

Kambah parish priest Fr Praveen Paul praised his parishioners for their care and generosity.

"They have been busy looking after me, working in the parish garden, and sending emails to find out how I'm doing," he said. "This morning, one family brought some biscuits and left them at my front door. So I think that shows their love and care."

Last post for Ungarie's postmaster

A little town with a big heart has lost one of its most beloved members.

Jeff De Rozario, the Ungarie postmaster with the great singing voice, died unexpectedly on 17 August of complications after a short illness. He was 74.

It came as a shock to the community (pop 557) a half hour's drive north of West Wyalong at the outer reaches of the Canberra & Goulburn archdiocese.

For 22 years Jeff was Ungarie's chief postie and devout parishioner and long-time acolyte at the little church of St Joseph's. He was a popular member of the lawn bowls club and an Old Rotarian.

But perhaps his main claim to fame was as the man with the golden tonsils who could sing

with the angels as a chorister at West Wyalong or back at Ungarie.

He was devoted to his acolyte duties and parish priest Fr Dominic Byrne was impressed by Jeff's commitment to have everything shipshape and ready for when he drove up from West Wyalong to celebrate Mass.

"He was a great, quiet, gentle guy who was a very nice Christian man and particularly generous," Fr Byrne said.

Ray McKenzie, a fellow acolyte, reflected that his mate was a "very humble but holy man who would be sadly missed".



Jeff De Rozario

Similar tributes have flowed on social media where he was described as a "very special person", a "beautiful soul", a "lovely caring man", and a "gentleman with the voice that was something special".

Jeff was born in India in 1947 and immigrated to Australia in 1970. He settled in Melbourne but moved to Ungarie 22 years ago with wife Pam in search of dry, healthier air for her medical needs.

Pam predeceased her husband in 2008 and Jeff will be laid to rest on 9 September alongside her in Ungarie. He is survived by his brother, Ivan, and stepchild, Lian, and step-granddaughter, Tara.

One social media post said

Jeff would "forever dwell in our hearts". It's a sentiment at Ungarie and surrounds with which many would agree.

Sheridan Webster
Such a special man who will be sorely missed. That voice of his sure was something special ❤️

Like · Reply · 6d

↳ Sherie Brown replied · 1 Reply

Justine-Steve Henley
We will all miss Jeffery's kindness, generosity and sense of humour at the Post Office and his beautiful singing voice at community events.

Like · Reply · 6d

↳ Kaye Payne replied · 1 Reply

Tara Whiteman
He was a wonderful man 🙏 so kind x RIP Jeff x condolences to his family, friends and the ungarie community x

Like · Reply · 6d

Many rewards in Victor's lifetime of service

BY GEOFF ORCHISON

For New Zealanders Kaye and Victor Dunn life has in many ways come full circle.

They met on a Sydney-to-Canberra tourist bus in 1966 and fitted in stints in London, Perth and Forbes in country NSW before moving to Canberra more than a decade ago where they are now, into retirement in the national capital.

Victor was appointed manager of the Archdiocese's CDF in 2008, succeeding Herbie O'Flynn, before taking up the senior position of Chancellor of the Archdiocese, which included being a member of the Archbishop's leadership group.

"The invitation to become the Chancellor was certainly a surprise – a pleasant one," Victor said. "It is such a grand title. In terms of the role it was, in the words of the Vicar General, Fr Tony Percy, the 'grand company secretary'.

"The special aspect of being Chancellor was the opportunity to engage on a personal level with Archbishop Christopher and Fr Tony and feel that my contribution was valued."

The Duns lived in Forbes for nearly 20 years where Victor was Director of Schools in the Diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes

"I grew to love the country and the driving, nine hours to Broken Hill, which provided plenty of time for prayer and spiritual reflection."

which makes up more than half of NSW.

"It was a most rewarding experience," he said. "The people with whom I worked were highly motivated, innovative and committed. The young teachers who took up the challenge of teaching in remote locations such as Bourke, Brewarrina and Wilcannia – at first with some trepidation – engaged with their communities and often stayed for three or four years."

Despite being a small operation diocese, Wilcannia-Forbes won two national awards for literacy, one for mathematics and the National Award for Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity for Women.

"I am particularly proud of the formation programs provided by Br Bill Tarrant, Sr Anna Warlow and Mrs Mary Kenyon for staff to take up their ministry and assume the responsibility as educators in a Catholic school," Victor said.



Victor Dunn with one of his grandsons

"Having been brought up in rural New Zealand, spending much of my youth in shearing sheds and cow sheds, it wasn't difficult to fit back into the rural environment.

"I grew to love the country and the driving, nine hours to Broken Hill, which provided plenty of time for prayer and spiritual reflection.

"I also made sure I stopped over and visited priests such as Kevin Murphy in Nyngan for a great lunch or dinner."

Victor said he had been privileged to work with "some very special men in Bishops Doug Warren, Barry Collins and Chris

Toohey.

"Doug Warren's insight that we must learn to trust in God has stayed with me.

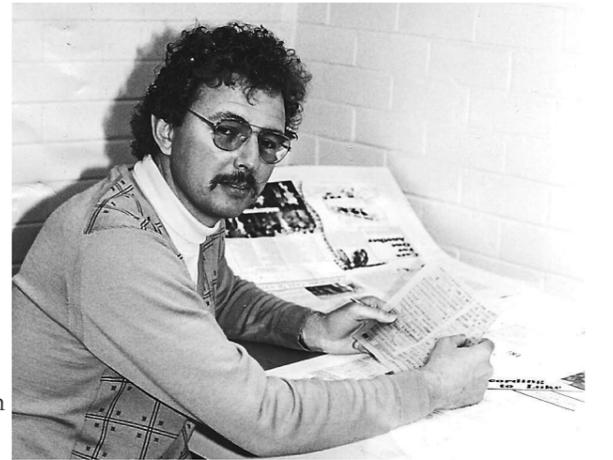
"So I feel quite comfortable with

where the church is at knowing that God has things in hand. My role is to use my gifts in living out the Gospel."

Victor described the thought of retiring as "quite alien having being in paid employment since the age of 15".



Victor and his wife Kaye on their honeymoon at Mt Cook, NZ



Working at the light table in Perth Catholic Education

However, he is looking forward to stepping down.

"There are a number of digital photo albums and history activities that I need to complete, gardening, volunteer activities and, as with many grandparents, grandsons to keep me fully engaged."

Local Life in our schools



Congratulations to Erin Gamble of Trinity College Goulburn who's raising funds for the Fred Hollows Foundation.



Congratulations to Caelan Edghill of Merici College Braddon who's been crowned state champion in the Year 9 division of the 2021 Australian history competition.



St Patrick's in Cooma celebrated School Captain Josh Abrokwah's win in the Australian Catholics internship competition. His winning article can be read on the Australian Catholics website.

Legion of Mary's 'great gift' keeps on giving

BY DON SMITH

NOT even COVID, the lockdowns, and the uncertainties of the age could dampen the spirits of the Legion of Mary.

The international organisation of Catholic lay volunteers celebrated its 100th anniversary this month.

Locally, its members have held ceremonies and outdoor processions throughout the year to mark the centenary, crowning the celebrations this week with a "virtual" online gathering involving prayer, reflection and the launching of a new website.

This week 100 years ago Irishman Frank Duff founded

the Legion of Mary, putting in place the steps that would see it represented in more than 170 countries.

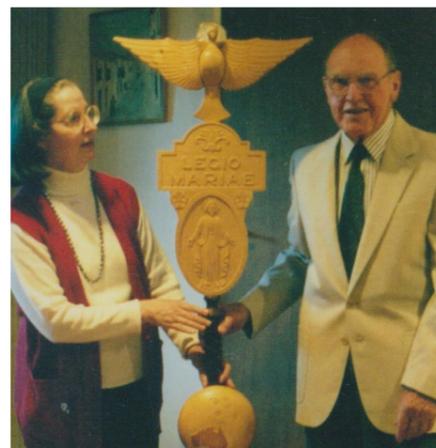
The Legion came to Australia in 1932, to Goulburn in 1952, and has had a presence in Canberra at least since 1956. Today, it's active in 10 parishes throughout the Canberra & Goulburn Archdiocese, including the Latin Mass community.

Devotion to the Virgin Mary and evangelisation is at the heart of the Legion's work. Among their many activities, legionaries as the members are called, visit homes, families, the sick, the elderly and other groups, distrib-

ute religious literature, conduct classes, do door knocks, and pray the Rosary in public.

Their ministry is highly active but what stands out most, especially locally, is their diverse membership, a broad mix of ages, gender and ethnicities that defy stereotypes of faith-based entities.

The Legion has the church's support and speaking on the centenary, Archbishop Christopher Prowse offered the Legion his blessing and encouragement. "They are always humble and prayerful Catholics with a strong social conscience," he said.



The Legion's handcrafted Banner 1998

Marie Lazaro, president of the Legion's Canberra & Goulburn Curia (council), said the centenary was significant for legionaries around the world.

"It's a time when we remember the legacy left to us by those legionaries who established the Legion in our Archdiocese and all officers and members who served, especially those who are now deceased," she said.

It's all a remarkable story of survival over a turbulent century for the Legion, an organisation which Archbishop Prowse described as a "great gift" to the church.

As it enters its second century, the Legion of Mary will continue to spread the word and plant seeds of faith, the gift that will keep on giving.