



Archbishop's Message

Archbishop Christopher Prowse

"Walking together" (synod/synodality) is the "language" of our Council and of our Church. We are like the Emmaus disciples, journeying but with a sense of anticipation. We know that this walking together does not simply refer to our feet. It also refers to our hearts. Here Jesus speaks and fills our hearts with fire.

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Hope amid students' COVID worries

BY DON SMITH

COLLEGE principals in the Archdiocese are reporting heightened anxiety among their students as they deal with COVID lockdowns.

At Lumen Christi College Pambula on the NSW south coast, principal Shane Giles has seen spikes in students reporting mental wellbeing concern, especially relating to anxiety and school avoidance.

It was a similar story at Canberra's MacKillop College where principal Michael Lee said there had been a discernible increase in students reporting issues such as anxiety and stress.

Almost three quarters of parents and carers of Australians aged 15 to 18 have reported worsening mental health in their children over the past year, according to analysis from the Australian National University.



A handful of Year 12 students from St Mary MacKillop College Canberra have started Term 4 on campus. PHOTO: FB @mackillop.act

Mr Giles said the combined effects of a drop off in tourism due to COVID and the trauma of earlier bushfires in the area had led to a cumulative and significant impact on the school community.

Additional counselling resources had been devoted to addressing the issues.

"We have a very strong

pastoral team who are partnering with the students very closely," he said.

At MacKillop College, Mr Lee said the situation with the Delta outbreak was different for his school community compared to the initial COVID lockdown last year.

"The students were not in a high risk category the first

time," he said. "This time they are at home with their families and they have not been leaving the house. It's been a lot more challenging for families and the children."

MacKillop College had extensive pastoral care and counselling arrangements in place to anticipate and manage issues.

"Students are being upfront

"Students are being upfront about their concerns and they are working with school counsellors and with teachers who are invested in them"

Michael Lee Principal
MacKillop College Canberra

about their concerns and they are working with school counsellors and with teachers who are invested in them," he said.

"It's not all doom and gloom."

Director of Catholic Education Ross Fox said there had been a significant increase in school-based mental health support this year.

"This is primarily through the provision of more mental health social workers and psychologists who are embedded in our school communities," he said.

On the Road to Emmaus with Fr Joe

BY DON SMITH

It's that time again when Fr Joe Tran gets out his easel, brushes and canvas.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse has commissioned the respected artist and parish priest at Narooma with a new work.

Under the theme of synodality (walking together) at this time of the Plenary Council, Fr Joe has been asked to depict Jesus's post-resurrection appearance to the two disciples on the "road to Emmaus".

It's a common depiction in art over the centuries and just how Joe will tackle the task in an original way remains to be seen.

"I don't know the concept yet," he said. "Please pray for me!"

He may seek inspiration from his own personal journey. It's forty years this year since the former Vietnamese refugee first arrived in the Canberra/Goulburn archdiocese

and themes from that journey have featured in Fr Joe's previous works of art.

He emphasised that developing the idea of an image with a theme is a critical first step. "Emptiness of mind brings disaster," he said.

Considerations of light, shade and colour follow before leading to sketches on canvas and then applying the oils.

He says he is mostly self-taught as an artist but has attended workshops by renowned Australian artists Reg Campbell and Robert Wilson.

He describes the overall process as a "spiritual journey", aware of the guiding influence behind the creative process.

"Artists are brushes in God's hand," he said.

The Catholic Voice will continue to follow Fr Joe Tran as he takes the first steps along his own "road to Emmaus".



Bulbs planted at Holy Spirit, Gungahlin



With the annual Floriade flower festival unable to take place again this year at Canberra's Commonwealth Park, bulbs were offered to schools and community groups for planting. Holy Spirit Parish, Gungahlin, was one of the many locations that took part in the 'Floriade Reimagined' initiative.

Big questions from young minds

BY DON SMITH

Ever wanted to ask the Pope a question but had no chance to ask? No matter. A group of inquisitive young minds from around the world may have done it for you.

“Dear Pope Francis” is a recently republished compilation of children’s letters to Francis and of his answers.

The nature of heaven and earth, good and evil, conflict and sport, hunger, suffering, joy and miracles – all come under the Pontiff’s spotlight.

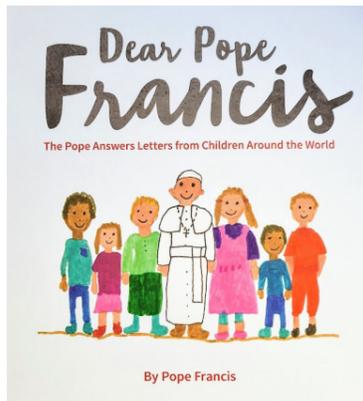
How did Jesus walk on water, asked Natasha from Kenya? One foot at a time said the Pope. If he could perform one miracle what would it be, que-

ried the USA’s William. To heal children’s suffering, the Pope said. He’s never understood why children suffer.

Two Aussie boys, Luca and Thierry, both aged seven, feature in the book. Luca wanted to know if his mother in heaven would grow angel wings while Thierry asked about how to feed the hungry people in the world.

We won’t spoil it by revealing the answers but the Pope’s replies were respectful and substantive. No fob offs, no cutting corners. “These questions are tough,” said the Pope.

“Dear Pope Francis” is an entertaining and short read (72 pages) with an intimate take on how the Pope sees the world



and its problems. It will be of interest to readers of all ages and for those of any faith or none.

Available from the Canberra Catholic Bookshop. <https://www.catholicbookshop.org.au/> or call (02) 6239 9888.

Young parish mourns community ‘everyman’

St Mary’s Parish, Young, reports the passing of the much loved and respected local identity, David Patterson. Devoted to family, faith and church, a former alderman, stalwart volunteer, and community ‘everyman’, he is perhaps best remembered for his lengthy career as a funeral director in Young. He was the fourth generation of now five generations of Patterson Brothers Funerals that has had a presence in the district since the 1880s.

Charitable, humble, kind, compassionate, witty, inspirational, were among the many epithets for David, remembered by his family as a “truly remarkable human being.”



David Patterson with wife, Val. PHOTO: Patterson Brothers Funerals

He passed away peacefully on 20 September with Val, his wife of 55 years, by his side. He is survived by a large family. He was 77.

PLENARY VOICES:

Multicultural communities

With the Plenary Council underway, the Catholic Voice invited several of the archdiocese’s multicultural communities to share their thoughts on the future for the church in Australia and to offer any views they might have on the Plenary.

Although seemingly disconnected from current Plenary discussions, archdiocesan multicultural communities are proud of their contribution to the Catholic Church in Australia. The church plays a significant role in the lives of the individuals and families within those communities. The communities have a very active and visible presence in devotional and sacramental practices, with

many of their members involved in church choirs, ministries, fundraising and parish committees.

Representatives from the Filipino, Korean, Vietnamese, and Syro Malabar communities expressed their deep love of the Catholic faith and concern for the church’s future in Australia, especially for the communities’ subsequent generations making their way in a secular world.



Easter Vigil, 2018



Merici College Appointment announced

Kate Durham will take up the appointment as Deputy Principal Wellbeing at Canberra’s Merici College. This is a new executive position for the school that will start from the beginning of 2022.

Members unpack big questions facing the Church

ACBC MEDIA

The 278 members of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia have discussed 16 questions related to how a more missionary, Christ-centred Church in Australia can be created.

Fourteen of the 16 questions are being discerned concurrently during the week by 10 small working groups. Two particular questions are the focus of a special plenary session, being held on Thursday, October 7.

The focus of these two questions centres on those who have been abused and those who are on the peripheries.

During the week, broad discussions moved to “spiritual conversations,” then to specific questions, suggestions and proposals.

Earlier in the week, Carol Teodori-Blahut said her group heard the Spirit calling them to “name and respond to the darker side of our Church and society where racism, exclusion and injustice have caused trauma, woundedness and suffering”.

“Truth-telling around this part of our story is really im-



Screenshot from the daily summary presentations

portant,” she said.

Tackling the question of how the Church might better embrace the diverse liturgical traditions of Churches and immigrant communities, Dr Sr Maeve Heaney said her group reflected on the need to know and understand one another’s rites and celebrations through education in schools and in the formation of future leaders and clergy.

The aim, she said, was to remove a sense of superiority of any rite over another and, to fa-

cilitate this, the group suggested a national body or commission might be necessary.

Significantly, the group voted on two motions: to cease using the term immigrant communities and use language that reflects our inter-cultural reality; and to recommend that the prayer and liturgies of the second general assembly of the Plenary Council reflect the diversity of rites within the Church in Australia.

Dr Nimmi Candappa said her group identified that ef-

fective governance capitalised on the giftedness of the laity and well-formed clergy who are “truly pastoral leaders with mature faith”.

Also looking at governance, Danny Casey said his group discussed the need for mission clarity and noted how important it was to maintain Catholic identity in the work of agencies.

“Structures and governance do not do the saving; people do,” he said.

The final small group report, from Fr Cameron Forbes, addressed Catholic education and the desire to strengthen the connection with the faith and to accompany parents as the first educators.

“A challenge exists for educators to ensure that all receive a sense of welcome as we accompany them towards faith, away from the many distractions that exist,” he said.

The idea of developing a “national understanding of what a graduate of Catholic education looks like” was put forward.

Find out more and access the livestreams at www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au

Live stream Masses and Daily Summary

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Plenary ARCHDIOCESAN MASSES >>

www.catholicvoice.org.au
With Archbishop Christopher Prowse at 8am

LIVESTREAMED

Plenary NATIONAL MASSES >>

www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/assembly-1/
Daily Mass: 9:30am AEDT
Closing Mass: 10am AEDT
(Sunday 10 October)

LIVESTREAMED

Plenary DAILY SUMMARY >>

www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/assembly-1/