

C A T H O L I C
VOICE

ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN
No. 369 | DECEMBER 2022

*Wishing all our readers
a Christ-filled Christmas*



Archbishop's Message
Archbishop Christopher Prowse



Walking Together

IN THIS
Edition

Two examples of walking together at christmas time

1. "Walking together" at Christmas and New Year

If we are looking at the Gospels for scenes of "Walking Together" we can go no further than the Christmas passages (The infancy narratives especially Luke 2)

There is the synodal "Walking Together" of Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem. The Shepherds go to the manger and then tell everyone about the Baby Jesus. The Angel of the Lord appears bringing gifts from the heavens.

Throughout these pilgrimages to Bethlehem there are expressions of joy, hope, reverence and excitement that "God is with us" (Emmanuel).

In all our travel and visits over this Christmas/New Year holiday time, may we too feel that we are joining in these Gospel "Walking Together" scenes in a kind of continuing "Gospel." May it bring us all the joy and hope of Bethlehem in our worlds today. May we bring this Christmas light to all, especially those who struggle at Christmas and New Year. A HAPPY AND HOLY CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR TO ALL!

2. "Walking together" in the January (2023) clergy moves

Over January 2023, many parishes will experience a change of clergy. There are always such moves, but this time the numbers



Giotto, San Francesco d'Assisi

are large, as you have already observed from earlier notices. Some parishes are still to have long-term clergy appointments. I thank you for your patience.

The movement of Priests and Deacons can be a challenge for parishes. There is the farewell of beloved clergy and the "getting to know you" of new appointments. I thank you in anticipation of your welcome and support of new priests during 2023.

May I make an observation? I was delighted with the wonderful

acceptance in faith of all the clergy upon receiving their recently new appointments from me. Some, particularly, showed great Missionary zeal in accepting appointments that truly surprised them. Yet, as servants of Jesus, The High Priest, they eventually experienced the Gospel peace of surrendering to what was best for the Archdiocese. We truly have some great clergy of profound faith and love of us all in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn. We "Walk Together" led by the Child of Bethlehem.



Volunteers raise vital funds



Meat and three veg a favourite for the boys



Creatively aging with help from art therapy



'Lifting-the-flap' on Christmas Stories for young children



Products of slavery shipped into our living rooms



Honouring modern day martyrs



Christmas Mass Times for 2022

Clergy moves for 2023

Archbishop Prowse recently announced his latest round of clergy appointments effect January 2023. Below is the list of the new appointments

Vicar General	From	To
Fr Richard Thompson	South Woden	Vicar General/South Woden
Parish Priest		
Fr Loi Viovicente	North Belconnen	Batemans Bay
Fr Mark Croker	Gungahlin	Cooma/Bombala/Jindabyne
Fr Troy Bobbin	Queanbeyan	Gungahlin
Fr Mick MacAndrew	Cooma/Bombala/Jindabyne	North Belconnen
Fr George Ogah	Tumut/Gundagai/Adelong	Pambula
Fr Tony Percy	Vicar General/Wanniassa	Queanbeyan
Fr Yoseph Neonbasu MGL	Goulburn	Tumut/Gundagai/Adelong
Fr Tom Thornton	Batemans Bay	Wanniassa
Asst Priests		
Fr Namora Anderson	Tumut/Gundagai/Adelong	South Tuggeranong
Fr Eden Langlands	Batemans Bay	Gungahlin
Fr Joshua Scott	South Tuggeranong	Queanbeyan

DATE CLAIMERS 2023

Sunday, 26th February:
Rite of the Elect,
St Christopher's Cathedral

Sunday, 16th April:
Multicultural Mass, 11am, St
Christopher's Cathedral

Saturday, 19th August:
Mary MacKillop Pilgrimage,
Coastal Deanery, Eden
(Solemnity of St Mary of the
Cross)

Sunday, 22nd October:
Marian Procession, Galong

Saturday, 4th November:
Catholic Charismatic Teaching
Day with Archbishop Prowse,
Haydon Hall, St Christopher's
Pastoral Centre, Forrest



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Cover picture: Fr Joshy Kurien and Fr Tony Percy VG exit Sts Peter and Paul's Goulburn after the celebration of the Reopening Mass.

Historic reopening for Goulburn's Sts Peter and Paul's

BY VERONIKA COX

The world's only greenstone church is open once again.

"When I saw the finished restoration of Sts. Peter & Paul, I started to weep," Fr Tony Percy said.

"I began to think of all the people who have been part of this journey of restoration – and I was simply overwhelmed with joy and thanksgiving. We are part of something much bigger than ourselves."

Chair of the re-opening committee, Matt Casey, said there was a buzz around the whole town.

"For a lot of people, the church plays a big role in their lives, and for others it is an important part of history," he explained.

"It is a big boon for Goulburn – something lovely to have in the community and something of which everyone can be proud."

Mr Casey said the old cathedral was a significant part of the political and cultural history of Australia.

"Goulburn is a very historic city. It has the Anglican cathedral church, a magnificent courthouse, the post office – there are so many wonderful buildings within the town that hark back to the very early days of European settlement," he said.

"In my view, Goulburn encapsulates that magnificently. It is our history, right there in front of us."

Mr Casey said walking through the front doors of Sts. Peter & Paul was a faith-filled experience.

"People will be absolutely gobsmacked. I would be just happy sitting in the church, just looking at it," he said.

"There's a lovely glory about the light in it. It is very uplifting."

The stations of the cross are particularly poignant, with the original colour scheme discovered under the whitewashed surface during the restoration process.

"People will be absolutely gobsmacked. I would be just happy sitting in the church, just looking at it," Mr Casey said. "There's a lovely glory about the light in it. It is very uplifting."

"We have had them for years and you hardly noticed them," Mr Casey said.

"And then when they started to clean them up, they discovered they were coloured underneath. They just look incredible – bright, vibrant colours.

"It is hard to overstate the beauty that's in the place."

Restoration committee member Trish Groves wiped away happy tears as she saw the transformation in its completion.

Her father, George Frederick Wyles, painted the original gold-leaf lettering on the sanctuary walls, now restored to its former glory.



Top: 93-year-old Goulburn resident Mary Lowe enjoyed the celebrations with memories of her wedding and children's baptisms in the Church. Above: A packed Sts Peter and Paul's church during the reopening Mass

"Oh. It is absolutely wonderful. It's magical," she said.

"It has just been so dark, for so long. I think the light in the

cathedral now is the biggest thing. It has brightened it up and given it the light it needed." Mrs Groves said the old

cathedral was a gift which would be passed on to generations of the future.

"It is colonial history. It is architectural history. It is a history of the church," she said.

The restoration of the greenstone church has been underway for 40 years, and its re-opening marks the year of its 150th anniversary.

The work has cost a total of \$12 million, with \$9 million being spent in the past year.

Fr Percy said the restoration was a triumph of creativity, hard work, professionalism, co-operation and perseverance.

"What we have here is something truly splendid for the city, the Archdiocese, the country, and the world," he said.

"Sts. Peter & Paul now offers a unique opportunity for people to have an abiding and transforming experience of beauty."



Above: Archbishop Prowse, Fr Joshy Kurien and Ursula Stephens cut the cake





Christmas Park glows for families doing it tough

BY VERONIKA COX

AS the sun sets and darkness falls over Hall, thousands of twinkling lights begin to shine against the night sky.

Christmas Park, with its 17-metre-high Christmas tree surrounded by a glowing forest of 400 smaller trees, is open.

Canberra businessman and philanthropist Robert Asdajic built the festive display, which runs until 24 December, to raise funds for disadvantaged families in local parishes.

The ambitious feat began months ago as a plan to decorate just 10-15 trees for families to enjoy.

“But then,” Robert chuckled, “I like to go big with ideas.”

Along with daughter Ruzica, he decided to create an entire park dedicated to Christmas instead.

“Each tree has lights. It is spectacular,” he enthused.

“Maybe next year we will have a little train to take people around the trees!”

Each tree in the park is available for sponsorship, with money donated to St Anthony’s Bread.

Croatian Catholic Centre parish priest and St Anthony’s Bread director Fr Anto Simunovic said the humanitarian charity would use the funds to help vulnerable families in Canberra.

“Christmas is not just a

memory – it should be the reality of our time,” he said.

“Just as at Christmas we received a gift from Heaven, Jesus, so we should always be a gift to each other and especially to those who are in need.”

Robert said often people did not realise how easy it was to find themselves in difficult financial situations almost overnight.

“It can come from nowhere,” he explained.

“It could be a family with a baby who needs medical care. It could be illness strikes and suddenly you have nothing. That’s where we come in. That’s what we do. We want to give people time to catch their breath and find resources.”

Robert himself has invested over \$150,000 into establishing the event.

“If I gave this money to families directly, I can give it once and then it is gone,” he said.

“This way, we put money in and every year we have more money coming back. Double it, then double it, then double it. We could give it directly and burn \$150,000 in one year, but then next year more families are suffering and we have nothing left.”

In blessing Christmas Park, Holy Spirit assistant parish priest Fr Anthony Riosa SSS said the event shone with the spirit of Christmas.



Above: The field of Christmas trees slowly being transformed - bauble by bauble. Below Right: Robert Asdajic and friends turn the lights on in ‘Christmas Park’.

“Like Jesus, who is being shared to us as the Bread of Life, we are also called to be bread for others,” he said.

“These people are not only hungry of care, but of love, and we are called to be generous to them. These Christmas trees will indeed support those people who are in need.”

Robert hopes Christmas Park will grow to incorporate thousands of trees in future years.

“We are looking at this for

the long term – we will do it every year and make it a big Christmas event, so people can really feel Christmas coming,” he explained.

“I want people coming with their families to sit and watch the Christmas trees. Bring blankets, sit on the grass, get something to eat, listen to the band. There is a jumping castle, fairy floss, ice-cream and sausages. Come and then tell your friends, ‘Wow, you have to see this!’”

With the park open every night until Christmas, Robert is preparing for a big month. “My wife says only Robert,” he laughs.

“Only crazy Rob can do this.”

• **Christmas Park is open from 1-24 Dec at the Hall Pony Club. Gates open every night from 6pm -11pm. The event is licensed, and food and drinks will be sold onsite.**



Building the Church



Dedicated volunteers raise vital funds

BY VERONIKA COX

THE shed doors at Marymead are flung open to the sunshine. Volunteers bustle in and out, carrying huge sunhats and brightly coloured handbags, baby dolls and cocktail glasses, piles of books and a towering, tiered cupcake stand.

At a nearby table, Marymead Auxiliary president Frances Dietrich is discussing the year's fundraising activities with Assistant Treasurer Cathi Moore.

"We have raised over \$120,000 this year," Cathi says, taking a sip of tea.

"Yes – the first year of the pandemic was \$97,000, which was our highest amount to date, then \$117,000 the next year and now we are even going higher," Frances said.

The two women chat easily, finishing one another's sentences, sharing memories and laughing often.

The conversation skips lightly past the Auxiliary's momentous annual contribution to Marymead.

For Marymead CatholicCare Canberra & Goulburn CEO Anne Kirwan, however, the Auxiliary, which has provided valuable fundraising support since 1966, is priceless.

"They have for decades supported Marymead and its various services and programs, raising funds to be distributed to support children and families where there was a critical need and a lack of financial support or opportunity," she said.

"Their efforts make a real difference to the lives of people at risk in our community."

It is all quite simple, according to the women of the Auxiliary.

"Every dollar we bring in is



Marymead Auxiliary president Frances Dietrich with Assistant Treasurer Cathi Moore.

a dollar Marymead didn't have before," Cathi said.

"We grab whatever opportunity we are given to make money."

In the 60's, the Auxiliary held glamorous debutante balls and dinner dances. In

"They have for decades supported Marymead and its various services and programs, raising funds to be distributed to support children and families where there was a critical need and a lack of financial support or opportunity," she said.

Anne Kirwan
Marymead CatholicCare CEO

the 90's, the innovative group initiated a major tennis day, fashion parades and morning teas. Today, they run what is possibly the biggest garage sale in Canberra, amongst a host of

other activities and events.

"Lots of people love a bargain," Cathi explained.

"People love to have a look, have a shop. There is a culture of recycling. We notice much younger people coming these days, attracted by the clothes."

"That first garage sale after lockdown we had 500 people come through just between 9am and 12," Frances added.

"We were probably the first to come back when we could.



Marymead Auxiliary volunteers

We were quite adventurous. We counted one hundred people in and out, over and over. People were just desperate to come back."

It isn't just about raising funds though; the Auxiliary has built its own vibrant community.

"It is the people in the Auxiliary that make it what it is – I can still remember the person who welcomed me," Frances said.

"The group of women are just lovely. There is no politics, nothing."

"There is no pressure," Cathi agreed.

"You can volunteer around family life and travel. There is never a demand on you to be here."

"But it's not only that – it's the families and the husbands and the kids who support the garage sales," Frances said.

"There are the craft ladies that do craft at home, and the plant ladies that come in once a week and the baking that is done for different functions. It is all those contributions."

The plants, in particular, have firmly established a dedicated following.

"The gardening group has developed the most fantastic nursery – they have people who

grow and then donate," Cathi said.

"They earned us \$40,000 last year just on their own. When you consider plants are sold for \$3 or \$4 each, that is quite a lot of plants to go to raise that amount of money."

The opening of Marymead's Azure Retirement Village further boosted Auxiliary numbers.

"People in the retirement village have joined the Auxiliary – some come up every Monday and volunteer in the garden area," Cathi said.

"The woodworkers have made benches for the garden, women in the village bake – the community spreads itself. It creates activities for a lot of people who don't have to be here all the time but can still contribute as they age."

"The people who contribute know they are helping a good cause," Frances said.

"I think people in the community are searching for a way to contribute. It is amazing what comes out when you put the word out."

Mrs Kirwan said this year's funds would support children and families in crisis at risk of homelessness or family breakdown.

Are you walking the wrong way?

BY FR DOMINIC BYRNE

The Road to Emmaus story (Lk. 24: 13- 35) gives us a framework to meditate on how much Jesus desires to be with us and how we can be with others. Though, I think it should be renamed "The Road away from Jerusalem."

In the Book of Acts, we hear Jesus' command, "...not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the

Father..." (1:4, RSV). This is a picture of Jesus going beyond the grave to ensure that the two disciples return to Jerusalem, when "...you shall be baptised with the Holy Spirit" (v. 5).

These two might be thought to be walking together. However, they were walking away from the group in Jerusalem. And away from Jesus' plan of them being one with him at Pentecost. Jesus walks with them as they go the wrong way.

It is a picture of Jesus' patience and his ability to truly listen as they express their despair and confusion. Today, the world seems to be going the wrong way too.

As we near the middle of this 'Year of Walking Together,' we can see how Jesus' patience is a model for us, who have become his Church at Pentecost and must continue to seek out those who have wandered away on a different path. Patient

listening gives us some knowledge of how others are feeling; without it, we may never know what motivates them. Active listening allows us to hear a person's emotional state and, through neuron mirroring, feel what they are feeling.

Looking at a person's facial expressions and personalising their story by placing yourself into it enables you to hear and feel what they are experiencing. Jesus will never slow down



his efforts to draw humanity out of its despair and always redirect them back to God.

• Fr Dominic Byrne is parish priest at St Mary's West Wyalong



Meat and three veg a favourite for the 'boys'

BY PAUL MONAGLE

THE Clergy Retirement Foundation is a body established by the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn in 1987 to care for the needs of our retired priests. It replaced an earlier fund, the Sick and Retired Priests Fund, which started in the 1870s.

During that time there was no such place as Canberra, but the need to care for our sick and retired priests was recognised.

At present, we have 26 retired priests, two of whom are Archbishop Francis Carroll and Bishop Pat Power.

Currently, the retired priests range in age from 98 to 66. Fr Neville Drinkwater recently turned 98 and Fr Paul Bateman is 96 years old. Four of the priests are cared for in nursing homes, however, most are living independently around Canberra

with others living in Young and Goulburn.

They are all the responsibility of the Clergy Retirement Foundation Board, which consists of four priests and four laypeople. The Board meets four times a year to consider health, accommodation, financial and other matters.

Additionally, the Foundation manages a care facility in Garra, which currently has four retired priests in residence.

The Foundation has a staff of Narelle Holt, a registered nurse and myself. Narelle does a great job in caring for those with health issues. Her warm support for her "boys" includes surprising them with pots of soup and casseroles. However a favourite for most of our elderly men is meat and three veg!

We are kept busy ensuring the priests get the necessary



Archbishop Prowse, Narelle Holt and Paul Monagle (top middle) join some of the Archdiocesan retired priests for Mass.

medical care. However, we also arrange food, cleaning, accommodation and building maintenance, transport etc...

Now that COVID is mostly behind us, some priests have had a chance to visit the Arboretum and their old parishes.

And a number of them enjoyed the trip to Goulburn for the re-opening of Sts Peter and Pauls old cathedral. It was a great opportunity for them to see family and former parishioners.

A few priests continued to fill the gaps for our active priests

when they are on holiday or ill. However, it is increasingly harder to provide replacements from the current ranks of retired priests.

It is very important to accompany them in their senior years to talk, listen, and learn from them. To take them out to interesting places when possible. One great benefit that many have is the ability to recall history and retell stories of a diocese and an Australia that has passed.

I cannot finish without thanking you on behalf of our retired clergy and all those faithful contributors to the Father's Day Appeal each year. God Bless you for our continuing support year after year.

• Paul Monagle is the Manager of the Clergy Retirement Foundation

Clergy Moves: Two priests share their parish experiences

Archbishop Christopher Prowse recently announced his latest round of clergy appointments effective from January 2023. Given the Archdiocese's large and diverse profile, several priests will exchange their city, country or coastal parishes for their geographic opposites. Fr Mark Croker and newly ordained Fr Eden Langlands share with the Catholic Voice the challenges and their expectations as they get ready to take up new postings in the Archdiocese.

FR Mark Croker is moving from Holy Spirit Gungahlin to Snowy Monaro which includes the towns of Jerangle Adaminaby, Cooma, Berridale Nimmitabel and Numeralla

What parishes have you been parish priests in?

I began my ministry in Holy Family Gowrie, 1996, St Greg's Queanbeyan 1997-2001. St Bede's Braidwood & St Mary's Bungendore 2001-2008, Holy Spirit Gungahlin 2008 -2022

What are you most looking forward to in this next move?

What do I look forward to most? Fishing! That will be high on the agenda. I look forward to having more time for myself. But seriously, I look forward to getting to know the districts and their people. There is a long history of families who have lived in these districts. I will enjoy listening to their stories very much.

Does it get harder or easier to move as you get older?

Believe me, it gets harder to move as you get older. I have had 14 years at Holy Spirit - I have baptised and done other sacraments with many children and their families. Four schools



Fr Mark Croker



Archbishop Prowse and Fr Eden Langlands

are attached to the parish now, which totals over three thousand children. It's hard starting from scratch again. It's more than handing the baton to the Priest going out the door and me coming in. It's fair to say it is traumatic. I admire those who come from overseas - leaving loved ones behind.

What is the first thing you try to do when starting at a new parish?

Going into a new parish means respecting what has gone before me. Country people have great respect for their clergy; likewise, as their Priest, I owe it to them. Every town and district is unique.

As time passes, I will work out who are the wise owls with a vision for what is needed

and where some not-so-easy decisions have to be made.

What amazes you about the people of God in this Archdiocese?

I'm amazed people still come to the Church with the things that have happened in recent years.

While not everyone attends as regularly as days gone by, people still hold high respect for what the Church stands for. I am aware we have to meet people where they are.

I know if there is time to get about the towns and beyond and have time to talk one on one, it is amazing how here and there we can rekindle the flame. It is a challenge which I enjoy.

Newly ordained Fr Eden Langlands will begin his position as Assistant Priest at Holy Spirit in Gungahlin early January.

Do you think moving from parish to parish will be challenging?

There is always an initial challenge when you have to move in any sphere of life. I felt this recently when leaving the seminary in Sydney. There is always an initial adjustment; however, with every move, I marvel at how God always places you where you're meant to be. His plans always far surpass your ideas or desires and any initial anxieties.

What are you most looking forward to as you move into a new parish?

I have had no real pastoral experience in Canberra, so I am looking forward to moving to Gungahlin. It is a much bigger parish than I have experienced with a broader demographic which will bring exciting new opportunities for evangelisation and growth.

How does it feel moving from study at the seminary to a parish?

I enjoyed my time in the seminary, especially the studies and living and praying with many prayerful and dedicated young men from around NSW, ACT and the world. There are many aspects I miss. However, my formation in the seminary was always with a view to my future ministry as a priest in a parish.

One thing I have noticed is that even as a seminarian, you don't know what it is like to be a priest until you are one.

Being a priest in the parish has far exceeded my expectations and I am so grateful to God for my vocation.

What is the first thing you will try to do when starting at a new parish?

I look forward to settling in and meeting the parishioners. I recently met the great team at Gungahlin. I will be the Assistant priest with Fr Troy Bobbin, the Parish Priest and we have begun to discuss different ideas. I am keen to work with young adults in the parish.

There is a great need for faith formation and to provide an environment where young people can grow in their faith and relationship with Jesus Christ.



70-year-old (+1) swims 70 laps for charity



Dianne with husband Craig and daughter Renuka.

BY VERONIKA COX

DIANNE Deane was swimming one day, when she began to feel cold, lonely and bored.

The 71-year-old reminded herself that she could go home to a wonderful family, have a hot shower, and make herself something to eat.

“From that experience, I realised how terrible it would be to be homeless,” she said.

“There is lots in the news about domestic violence, and over 50’s women being the fastest growing cohort of homelessness, so it was on my mind.”

Dianne decided she would raise funds for CatholicCare’s MacKillop House and Share the Dignity with a ‘70 for 70’ swim – 70 laps to celebrate her 70+ years.

“I wanted something specific to Canberra and the conversion of an old convent into space for women and children, when there are so few options in Canberra made Mackillop House my choice,” she said.

“They could do with support. There are precious few options for homeless women.”

Dianne, who began swimming after a cycling accident in 2013 resulted in a shoulder reconstruction, said she had never previously attempted 70

laps of the pool.

“I never swam 1750m, and I’ve only swam 1600m twice,” she said.

“And I deliberately haven’t swam that far because I want to put that effort into making it a personal best.”

CatholicCare Youth, Mental Health, Homelessness, Justice Programs and Family Services Director Erin MacArthur said the organisation was eternally grateful to community members for their generosity and fundraising efforts in support of Mackillop House.

“We are always overwhelmed with initiatives such as Dianne’s swimming laps – generously giving of her skills to raise additional funds,” she said.

“All proceeds from this event go directly to the women and children living at Mackillop House and extend our ability to offer upgrades and comforts of the house, education and recreation activities, gardening and cooking programs and celebrations including Christmas events.”

Ms MacArthur said while Canberra is an affluent city, the housing market is one of the most unaffordable, meaning many people face rental hardship and homelessness.

“We welcome donations all year round, but Christmas can

Dianne decided she would raise funds for CatholicCare’s MacKillop House and Share the Dignity with a ‘70 for 70’ swim – 70 laps to celebrate her 70+ years.

be a very challenging time for people,” she said.

“Our teams go above and beyond to make sure the house is filled with joy this time of year and that no family goes without. Additional money goes towards gifts for the children, our annual residents’ Christmas party and community meal, amongst other items and activities to create a safe and happy holiday season within the house.”

Dianne said her swim raised over \$1000 each for MacKillop House and Share the Dignity.

“It was good, especially as I had a support team chasing me down the pool on the last lap,” she said.

“To be able to do this and get support has been life-affirming. And yes, I’m now 71, but I can still do something, I can still contribute to society.”

New Year’s Resolutions for relationships instead of your waistline

BY DR PHILIPPA MARTYR

I WORK mostly with non-Christians, so I get to celebrate a range of New Year festivals (sometimes with interesting work snacks).

I also like to celebrate our liturgical New Year at the beginning of Advent, and the calendar New Year. Most of my ancestry is Scots Presbyterian, so we take Hogmanay seriously (to the point of actually making shortbread instead of buying it).

But what can we do with New Year that isn’t about eating? It’s a good time to tear yourself away from the feed-bag and look instead at your relationship with God and your fellow Catholics.

Here’s my suggested top five New Year’s Resolutions for building up those relationships, instead of your waistline. They are all baby steps for beginners, so don’t get discouraged.

1. Make time for daily prayer

Yes, yes, I know, I know. Here come the excuses. But actually you’ve got heaps of time. The best tiny start, if you’re really discouraged, is to find a morning offering prayer online and print it out and put it on the bedside table. Try saying it every morning. I promise that it will make a difference to your day. If you want something a bit more structured, you can’t go past the Morning Prayer of the Church. Download the Universalis app and give it a go. It’s ten minutes out of your day, and you’re praying it with the entire Church so it packs a punch.

2. Do you really know your faith?

Fr Mike Schmitz wants you to know it better. He’s a personable American priest who provides short and encouraging YouTube talks about all sorts of things. He’s also just completing an Apple podcast series called The Bible in a Year, and he’s about to start one on The Catechism in a Year. They’re on average around 20 minutes long. You can listen to them in the car, or on the train, on the way to work. You don’t have to listen to it every day. But even if you caught some of it,



Dr Philippa Martyr

you’d be a more well-informed (and maybe a slightly better) Catholic by 2024.

3. Adoration

This is my constant New Year’s resolution, and I always fail at it. But I’ve discovered that I can do online Adoration quite easily at work or home, even if it’s brief. It’s not quite the same as sitting quietly with the Lord in real life, but it’s a start. I hope to improve as time passes.

4. Take a tiny step closer to your parish community

If you’re just a person who sits in the pews, I’d challenge you to do ONE additional thing this year, even if it’s only attending a morning tea and saying hello to someone you don’t know. Offer to go on the readers’ roster. Or take up the collection. Or make or donate something for the fundraiser. Just one additional thing this year.

5. Go to Confession a bit more frequently

This is such an important spiritual practice – and not just for you. Every good Confession strengthens and invigorates the Church. It repairs the damage to the Body of Christ that’s being caused every day. Priests also say that they’re personally humbled and corrected by hearing good Confessions. So put a reminder in your calendar every month – and find some good online examinations of conscience if you think you’re so good that you don’t need Confession! Here’s my favourite: <https://www.beginningcatholic.com/catholic-examination-of-conscience>

True love consists in tiny deeds, repeated every day. It’s the same with our relationship with God. This New Year, start building up that relationship. You won’t regret it.



Skyrocketing costs add pressure for Christmas time

WHEN Kelly* opened her electricity bill, she fell to her knees.

“It was more than \$300,” she said.

“The room was spinning. How? There is no way we could pay this.”

Kelly, her husband and their two daughters are one of the many low-earning Australian families struggling to survive as the cost of necessities skyrockets.

The significant increase in the cost of essential goods and services such as fuel, rent, electricity, medical bills and education has hit low-income households the hardest.

“The bills now have gone up so much,” Kelly said.

“We’re doing everything we can, from not using lights, taking the shortest possible showers, and eating only pasta because it’s cheap, but nothing ever seems to be enough.”

As Christmas approaches, the pressure only gets worse.

St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn (SVDPCG) CEO Lucy Hohnen said the organisation had seen a



15% increase in calls to the helpline seeking requests for money for fuel costs, medical bills and rent.

“We are also hearing from people deferring paying for medication because they can’t make ends meet.”

Ms Hohnen said funds raised through the Vinnies Christmas Appeal this year would be used to provide urgent and practical support to families in the ACT and surrounds who are struggling to survive this cost-of-living crisis.

“Can you imagine the emotional stress which these families are experiencing, while

struggling to choose between putting food on the table or buying Christmas gifts for their families?” she asked.

Last Christmas, Vinnies volunteers provided emergency assistance with food, petrol, clothes, medicine, rent and other essentials worth approximately \$500,000 to families in ACT and surrounds through their emergency relief helpline.

*Name changed to protect privacy.

• **To donate to the Vinnies Christmas Appeal, please call 13 18 12 or visit: www.vinnies.org.au**

CHANCELLOR'S UPDATE



St Thomas Aquinas Charnwood

2022 has been a challenging year for the people of St Thomas Aquinas. Over the last year the parish buildings, including the Church, have been targeted for vandalism and robbery on several occasions. Stalwarts of the parish, including Bill Fitzgerald, have passed away. There has also been uncertainty about the ongoing pastoral care of the Parish.

Archbishop Christopher is in consultation with the Parish about the way forward and is seeking to have a more solid sense of what is possible and what is most effective early in the new year.

In the meantime, orders have been sought from the ACT Magistrate’s Court to efficiently and realistically seek to ensure the safety of parishioners and the security of the parish property.

Archbishop Christopher expressed his gratitude to Gerri Blesser and the other members of the Parish Pastoral Council for their wise stewardship and counsel throughout this year.

Giving thanks for the quiet workers this Christmas

BY KATE LISTON

WITH parishes busy in the lead-up to Christmas, many parishioners volunteer their time. But there are several who give of their time all year through.

So when you walk into your local church this Advent and Christmas, please notice the grounds, banners, flowers, readers, cleanliness, clothes, robes, musicians, administration, servers, and ministers.

These are just some of the jobs that you can see. But there are so many more that you cannot. These jobs are often done by the same people every year and take time, effort and expertise.

Pat Went has been doing this work for over 50 years in the Parish of Pambula.

“I was the first female to do a reading at mass. Women weren’t allowed up on the alter before that.”

Looking around now at the church volunteers, many

women are leading the charge.

“I do this work to set an example, and it makes me feel at peace with myself,” said Pat.

Throughout the 50 years of Pat’s parish service, she has filled many roles, including reading and catechism, and for over 35 years, she was the Parish Council Secretary! But Pat is not alone. The list of volunteers and jobs in our parishes is long.

Jenny Horton, a dedicated parishioner at Eden’s Star of the Sea, has served the churches for over 20 years. Through the years, Jenny has cleaned, gardened, washed linens and priest robes and ironed.

“I also open the church doors every morning (except Tuesday) at 9 am. I like doing it. I like my church. Someone has to do it, and I get lots of pleasure out of it.”

A group of dedicated volunteers also run and maintain the much-loved Mary Mackillop Museum, located just above the church at Eden.



Some of the voluntary team at St Joseph’s Catholic Church, Pambula, (L-R): Maureen Andrews, Les Dirou, Margaret Liston, Pat Went and Leah Dirou.

And it isn’t just the church buildings that need care. Some special ministers give Communion to those who cannot attend mass. Maureen Andrews

of the Parish of Pambula has worked for the church for over 30 years and is a special minister who takes Communion to people in their homes

and nursing homes.

“It feels good knowing I’m doing God’s work. I know how important this is for some people,” she said. “Some people I visit don’t see anyone else in their week. We chat, pray, and have Communion, and I try hard not to miss a week. I know they really need my visits.”

Every month Maureen and a group of volunteers run a Mass at the nursing home with readings, music and Communion.

Special people like Pat, Jenny and Maureen exist in every church, in every parish. So, this Christmas, please pray for all the volunteers who keep our churches beautiful and tend to God’s flock. They care for our buildings and parish communities with love and generosity. As the Bible says, ‘We are many parts, but we’re all one body ... and the gifts we have we are given to share. You know who you are. We thank you!’



Creatively Aging with help from art therapy

BY VERONIKA COX

“CLOSE your eyes and think of a happy memory.”

Calvary Haydon diversional therapist Betty Szuromi walks around the art table, offering a helping hand here, praising a technique there.

“I love to start a session like this,” she explains.

“Going back to memories, where the colours are fresh. Catching the moments and choosing the colours – there are no words for it.”

Some of the residents in Betty’s art class live with dementia or Parkinson’s Disease, while others are experiencing increased frailty as they age.

Together, the group has launched their first public art exhibition.

“Our resident artists create with pleasure and enjoyment, with movement and colour,” Betty said.

“Art therapy can have powerful benefits. They may now be older, but that doesn’t mean they can’t be creative.”

Resident artist Mary agreed, saying she felt she was born without an artistic bone in her body.

“But I was amazed how my painting ‘River Cliffs’ turned out,” she said.

“I will never be the same again.”

Former music teacher and conductor, Wendy, said she most enjoyed applying and blending the paint.



Creatively Ageing participant, Tim

“Absolutely I enjoy it because it has opened up (another) creative part of my mind, I do believe,” she said.

“I painted the trees, the blue sky and the earth.”

Valda described the flowing lines of her painting as “the blue of the ocean, leading down to the deep water.”

“There seem to be a couple of people walking along the beach here, but I don’t know who they are,” she laughed, gesturing toward two blurry shapes on the white sand of her canvas.

Internationally acclaimed Canberra-based artist G. W. Bott, who opened the Creatively Ageing exhibition on 2 December, attended the art class alongside her electrical engineer brother, Tim.

“Tim has Parkinson’s Disease and movement doesn’t come easily for him, but he has really enjoyed it. Tim thinks the paint is wonderful and loves that you can touch it and move it and roll it around,” she said.

“I think that process of painting is just as important as the finished product. Creativity for Tim is choosing the colours and carefully spreading them out. It’s not just an explosion of movement, there is thought involved. And for Tim there is also the added challenge and benefits of movement in working to get the tops off the paint tubes and squeezing the paint out.

“You just see the joy and the pride and the wonder – it’s all there in all the participants.”

Betty said the focus of the



Valda working on her next masterpiece

class was always what people could do, rather than what they couldn’t.

“Through art therapy, we support them to be in the moment and have fun, use skills they may already have or learn new skills if they have never done art before,” she explained.

“They always want to step further and learn new things. They know they can do it. It doesn’t have to be perfect. It is the joy of learning a challenging new skill.”

Betty said it did not matter how difficult or messy the art project became, the residents wanted to be part of it.

“You should have seen when we did paint pouring with a hair dryer,” she exclaimed.

“Now that was a mess. They were laughing their heads off! They want the action, the fun, to be doing things. My day is complete when I see them smiling. For me, that means the world.”

• *Creatively Ageing is a collection of 23 colourful abstract artworks created by 17 of the residents of Calvary Haydon Aged Care Home. It runs at the Belco Arts Centre in Belconnen from 2 December – 5 February.*

Pergola prayers to Men’s Rosary for Archbishop’s chef

BY DON SMITH

JORGE Perez just couldn’t get back to sleep.

One night last August the chef at the Archbishop’s house in Canberra had woken during the night wrestling with an idea.

He’d been watching EWTN, the international Catholic media network, and had seen footage of men’s Rosary groups starting up in Peru, in Spain, in Argentina, and in Mexico.

He’d also seen similar images of men praying the Rosary in the rain outside St Mary’s Cathedral in Sydney.

With sleep impossible, he got up, made a coffee, and went outside to his pergola.

Mr Perez needed guidance. He needed to pray.

“Talking to Our Lady, I told

her how I would love to begin the men’s Rosary crusade in Canberra,” he said.

A refugee from Central America, Mr Perez is a member of a local Spanish-speaking Divine Mercy Group in the capital. He shared the idea with the group and they liked it.

With support from the Archbishop his men’s Rosary crusade meets on the first Saturday of each month at the front of St Christopher’s Cathedral in Manuka.

Faith has played an important role in Mr Perez’s family history with a special devotion to the Virgin Mary.

Growing up in El Salvador, he credits the Virgin’s intervention through prayer for saving his mother when he was a baby and she suffered a medical



Jorge Perez

emergency. His grandmother was also an important influence in his devotion to the Rosary.

He arrived in Canberra 34 years ago and in time established his own restaurant business in Manuka.

One thing led to another and he found himself as the chef at the Archbishop’s house catering to local and visiting clergy and dignitaries.

“It’s a blessing for me to cook for all the priests and the

bishops and sometimes we have visitors from overseas as well,” he said.

He now has Australian citizenship and is very happy in the country with his wife Lisette and their three sons.

Faith and food will remain a big part of Mr Perez’s future, especially his commitment to promoting the men’s Rosary crusade.

“Come and join us!” he told the Catholic Voice. “Our Heavenly Mother invites you and waits for you!”

• *The Canberra Men’s Rosary Crusade takes place at 10.30 am outside the front entrance to St Christopher’s Cathedral Manuka on the first Saturday of every month (except January).*



Forty fabulous years for St Michael's

JUDY EGAN
(THE 3RD JUDY PRINCIPAL)

This year St Michael's Primary School celebrated a wonderful anniversary of 40 years- 1982-2022. Did you know that in the past 40 years, there have been three Principal's named Judy! Judy Campbell, Judy Walsh and currently- Judy Egan. On my first day at St Michael's, I was introduced to our long-serving Maintenance Officer (Janitor) Kim Kennedy; his first words were, "not another Judy!"

Early in the year, the Community Council hoped to put together a community event where students and families could be part of the fun. Thanks to the amazing organisation of Maria Papisidero- also a 'get things done' long-time staff member - the event took shape.

On Saturday, 19 November, the community turned out in droves, and thanks to many prayers, the weather could

be described as baby bear's porridge- "not too hot, not too cold, just perfect!" There was sponge throwing, BBQ, tombola, book stall, face painting, indoor jumping castle and various stalls managed by parents and friends. The library was converted into memorabilia central, and the chocolate trailer was a massive hit, with students vying to land a coin on a chocolate block.

Highlights of the day were the speeches and the cake cutting. It was a fitting celebration for a school that truly lives by its Mission and Vision- to be a people of harmony.



The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, the Bishops strongly supported a proposal from Bishop Mykola Bychok CSsR, Ep-arch of Sts Peter and Paul for the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Australia, to hold an appeal for the people of Ukraine.

Supporting the work of Mudra Sprava, a Patriarchal Charitable Foundation in Ukraine. Their three focus areas: Evacuation of people from frontline territories; Food packages and shelter

That Catholic Shop

Christmas! What a wonderfully blessed time of year! A time for gifting, of taking part in family gatherings, of establishing new family traditions.

Bringing Christ into homes and hearts

Christmas truly presents a myriad of opportunities for doing something special for the benefit of our loved ones and those most in need in our society.

ACN's Christmas items seek to do the same. Every item purchased from *That Catholic Shop*, supports those thousands upon thousands of families and individuals throughout the world who partake of the support presented by *Aid to the Church in Need*, the only international Catholic charity dedicated to the spiritual and pastoral support



Aid to the Church in Need
ACN AUSTRALIA

of suffering and persecuted Christians.

Every gift has been selected to bring Jesus Christ, even if in some small manner, into the very heart of the family home. Isn't this the greatest opportunity we can afford ourselves and those we hold dear? We might never know, in this lifetime, what graces our purchases and gifts will bring, but we can remain confident that the Good Lord will use them in His own perfect and loving way.

We hope you enjoy browsing through our Christmas selection and we look forward to receiving your order in time.



To receive your items before Christmas please order as soon as possible.



The full range of Christmas gifts can be browsed at www.thatcatholicshop.com/christmas
The proceeds of every purchase at **That Catholic Shop** support the work and mission of **Aid to the Church in Need**.



Local science student to represent Australia

BY VERONIKA COX

A BUDDING scientist from Merici College has won bronze in a prestigious international competition.

Year 12 student Georgia Tonkin said she could not believe it when she was chosen to represent Australia in the International Olympiad of Earth Sciences.

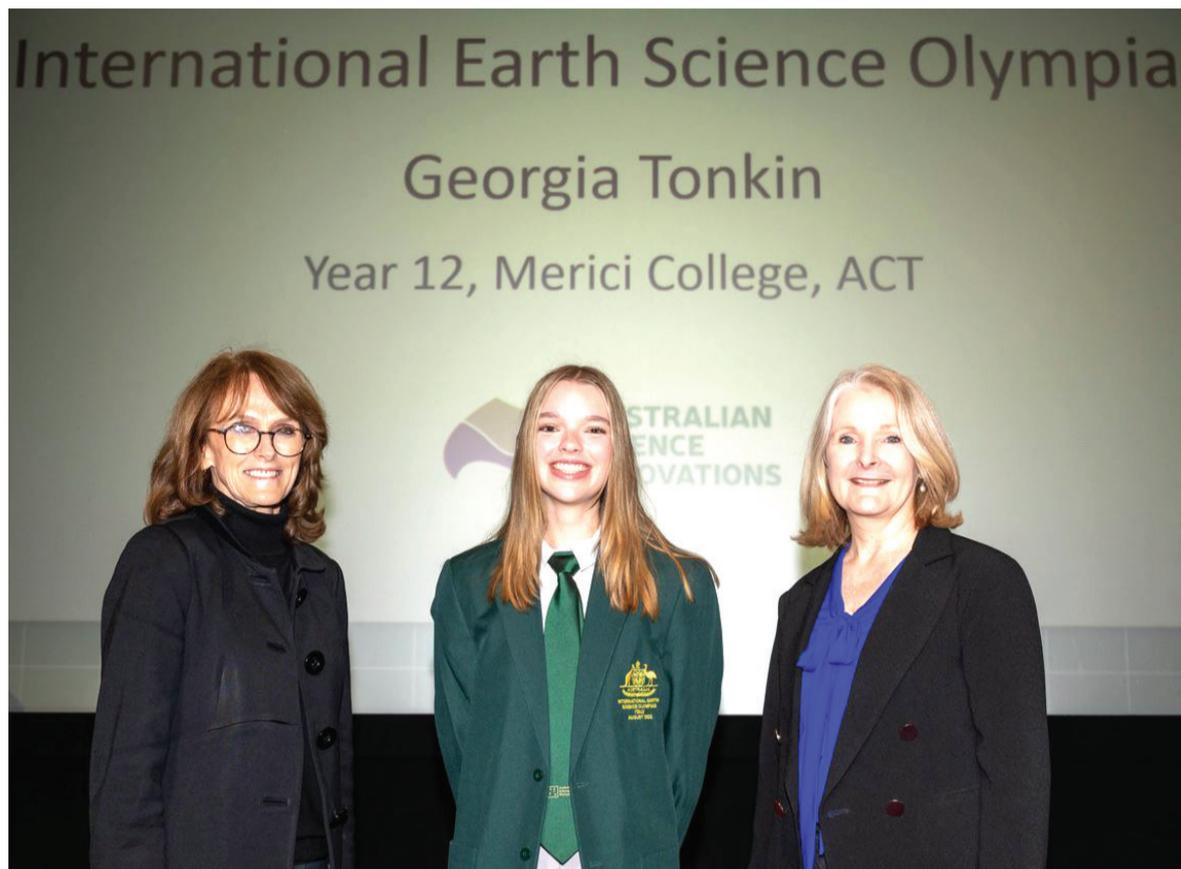
“It was such an honour and an experience I will be sure to remember,” she said.

“Science is so important as it teaches you how to think analytically and critically, and approach complex problems. It breaks things down to a minuscule scale but can also build things up to the size of the universe. Society would not be where we are today without science.”

To compete in the International Earth Sciences Olympiad, Georgia first had to compete against 8,500 other students in the Australian Science Olympiad exams, followed by summer school, run by Australian Science Innovations.

“I participated in the exams as just a competition that I didn’t think too much about,” she explained.

“I like to enter different things just to have new experiences and see what comes of



Georgia with competition officials

it – I didn’t think it would really lead to anything!”

The Olympiad tested students’ skills in all major areas of Earth Sciences, including geology, geophysics, meteorology, oceanography, terrestrial astronomy, and environmental science.

The challenge is designed to encourage student and public interest in Earth Sciences, and

to promote friendly relations between young students from different countries and international cooperation in the exchange of ideas and materials on Earth Sciences and their teaching.

Merici principal Anna Masters said she was thrilled to celebrate Georgia’s achievements.

“She is a brilliant young

person who follows her passions with dedication and courage,” she said.

“She is collaborative, a deep thinker, a critical and creative problem solver and excellent communicator.”

Australian Science Innovations director Alyssa Weirman said most students who take part in the competition want

to pursue a career in science to make a difference for future generations.

“Some of the questions facing humanity – like climate change, like decarbonisation, like moving to a new form of energy beyond fossil fuels – are really challenging, difficult questions,” she said.

“In order for Australia and humanity to answer those questions, we need everybody to be skilled in science, and we need to really support those students who show an aptitude and a capability in the scientific area, so that they have that capability to answer those questions.

For Georgia, the competition taught valuable lessons, including the importance of scientific collaboration and interaction with the international scientific community.

“Science at school so often feels independent, but this experience really showed me what research teamwork and working with academic peers is like,” she said.

“I plan to study science next year at a tertiary level and see where that takes me - I would love to have the opportunity to work in science in the future and see what I can contribute to society.”

‘Lifting-the-flap’ on Christmas Stories for young children

BY DON SMITH

WHO remembers hide and seek games?

They’re fond childhood memories for many and publishers have sought to use similar concepts of hiding and surprise in the development of ‘lift-the flap’ books for young readers.

The books seek to engage curious and formative minds by asking them to guess the content below a flap on a page or to otherwise give them a surprise when they do.

Just in time for the festive season, a lift-the-flap Christmas Stories for Young Children is on the shelves that presents the traditional Christian story of Christmas.

At first glance it looks to be a highly attractive and beautifully illustrated telling of the story that would appeal to early school age students.

For ‘expert’ opinion,

however, Sacred Heart Primary School at South Woden in the ACT was invited to road test the publication.

“The students were very excited to use their critical literacy skills to be ‘reviewers’ of this new book,” said Mrs Kerry Wode, the school’s assistant principal.

“Year 1 were very engaged, with keen fingers ready to take turns to lift the numerous flaps. Once I had finished reading it to them once, the text was easy enough to be read independently by many in the class.”

Isla, aged 7, said, “The book had really good explanations of the story of Jesus and great illustrations.”

“I like the illustration and the pictures to lift up,” said Olivia, aged 7. “It would be good for children younger than me.”

For Finn (aged 7) and Poppy (aged 6), “we like how the flaps help tell the story”.



Kayla reading the book

The final word goes to seven year old Michael:

“Can I have a turn to read it? It’s a nice book,” he said.



Year 1 Teacher Kerry Wode reading to her class

Lift the Flap Christmas Stories for Young Children by Naomi Krueger, illustrated by Megan

Higgins, Beaming Books. Available at the Canberra Catholic Bookshop. <https://www.catholicbookshop.org.au/>

Sts Peter and Paul's Goulburn 'It's just magnificent'

The Catholic Voice gathered thoughts, reflections and insights from individuals who worked on-site, raised funds for the restoration, and many others who came to witness the historic reopening



Mary Lowe
Goulburn resident

93-year-old Mary grew up in Goulburn, was married and had her eight children baptised in Sts Peter and Paul's church.

In 1945 aged 16, Mary attended Our Lady of Mercy College in Goulburn before she worked at 2GN Goulburn Radio Station some years later.

"I feel so privileged to be here," said Mary. "I thought the Mass was wonderful and the acoustics amazing – I heard every word. The restoration has certainly improved the Cathedral, yet the building has maintained its lovely dignity."



Chris Bennett
Underpinner and foundation repairs

It is just magnificent, isn't it? I lived here for three months in a caravan under a tree. To see it through from the foundations to completion is absolutely magnificent.

I had to secure the footings to stop the southeastern wall falling down. It is up there with the hardest jobs I have done, but it went well.

I love the stained glass window above the altar. It is the most magnificent stained glass window you will see. It was so important to preserve it.

We could never afford to build something like this ever again. If you don't keep going with the upkeep, you can't preserve history. I love history. Preserving it is my main aim.

Stephanie and Sophie
Trinity College, Year 12



We thought it was only being renovated on the outside. But it is so pretty inside! It smells really nice, like varnish. It is shiny and they have kept all the traditional stuff and brought it back to life.

We are with the hospitality team, so we are catering for all the people inside. There is a lot of food. So many sandwiches. We have been cutting them for hours. We are part of the leadership team at Trinity, so we are all here to help out. We are taking the cake out for everyone to see.

There is a strong catholic community in Goulburn so this is a special space for them to share their faith. It is also an important church historically. It really brings the community together. We are glad it has been opened again, that it looks so beautiful.



(L-R) Sr Bernadette Mary Walsh, Sr Janet Glass, Sr Colleen Howe and Sr Noelene Quinane

Josephite sisters

Sr Bernadette Mary Walsh

I have been watching it from the beginning. To have gone down into the crypt earlier on in the year and see what had been done was fantastic. Then, driving past and watching the workmen and talking to the workmen telling me what they were doing was absolutely fantastic. Being a parishioner here, it is all very special.

that has really stayed with me over the years.

And the other thing that struck me was the words from the reading - God was in this place and I never knew. And I think to myself, for the whole community of Goulburn, this is going to remind them that God is dwelling in their presence. Just beautiful.

Sr Noelene Quinane

Walking into the old cathedral was a very moving moment. The cathedral holds so many memories for us.

Back 50 years, along with the Mercy sisters, we made our final vows in the cathedral. So that came back to me this morning and I thought of all the history and all the people who had been in that church and part of our community and connected to us as Josephites in ministry over all of those years.

It is a very significant day and I was quite conscious of that.

Sr Janet Glass

I attended mass in that cathedral on Palm Sunday the year I entered. The very first time I attended mass there was Bishop Dwyer's funeral and I was in year 5.

Sr Colleen Howe

The thing that really struck me was remembering Fr Laurie Blake. My first memories of the cathedral were attending his ordination and that is something

Di Green
Restoration committee member



Considering we have been looking at scaffolding all around the building since 2006, to see it come together, to see the roof retiled – it is just wonderful.

The roof is constructed from Welsh slate tiles, and we could not believe they were right there when we needed them. It was right the middle of covid, and everything was delayed. We thought it would be incredibly difficult. But somehow, there just happened to be a shipment of these tiles sitting in Sydney.

It has been an absolute wonder. Trades from all around the world have worked through rain and sleet and covid. And just look at the work they have done.

I think we have a responsibility now. We have been given this building. If this fell down on our watch, it would be beyond words.

Nikalas Dimaio
Project manager of traditional restoration



It's not every day you get to see a project all the way through to the end picture. It's really nice to see it. I'm very happy with it. There was a lot of blood, sweat and tears that went into it. A lot of elbow grease. The building was sinking, the entire roof was replaced – it was leaking like a sieve when we got here. Then there was all the repointing – all the joints between the stones – only a sneaky 30km worth.

My favourite part is the stencil and the high altar. When you are standing at the entry looking forwards it catches your eye, as it is designed to do. It is a good centrepiece.



Barbara Young
Parishioner

For 84 year old Barbara Young, the day had special significance. She's been coming to Sts Peter and Paul's since she was a child, accompanying her father, a choirmaster, and her mother, a soloist singer.

"My father was a choir master in the cathedral for many years. My mother was the soloist up there in the choir loft. We were eight children and she used to bring us here every Saturday afternoon while she sang for the weddings. The whole eight of us would sit along these seats and she'd threaten us with murder if we didn't behave ourselves."

Reflecting the thoughts of many at being present on the church's historic day, she said, "Oh, it's wonderful, wonderful"

Sr Maria Assunta
Sister of Mercy, Goulburn and cake maker



Sr Maria took two months to make the cake. Although it took a long time she did it in stages. Each part of the cake was made on different feast days. Feast of St Agnes the undercoat went on followed by the Feast of Christ the King when she put the white fondant on, then the Presentation of Our Lady Sr Maria did the pin pricking for the icing scallops and on the Feast of St Cecilia she finished with the decorations.

Sr Maria has been making cakes since the early 1960s, starting at the Goulburn hospital, convents and boarding schools. She has been a Sister of Mercy for 61 years.

From humble origins to 'tired beauty'- Sts Peter and Paul's historic past

WHO'D ever thought Goulburn's first Mass would be celebrated in a pub and one owned by a former convicted felon?

But it was in ex-convict Matthew Healy's 'slab inn' on the banks of the Wollondilly that the faithful gathered on that preeminent day, Saturday 3 August 1833.

Beneath the shingles on the roof and cracks in the slabs, the faithful would have heard the widely travelled Fr John Therry intone the holy words as part of his rounds of the Bungonia, Yass and Lake George

pioneering communities.

The first stone church came later, in 1841, on the corner of Bourke and Verner streets. By 1871, tenders were called for the construction of a cathedral to be built on the same site, around the original stone church.

History was made when around 1000 people came for the Nave's blessing and opening on Sunday 17 November 1872. The event was ticketed and, according to the Goulburn Evening Post, the tickets cost a few shillings!

In 1887, Cardinal Patrick Moran travelled to Goulburn by train to provide a blessing at the laying of the sanctuary's foundation stone on 15 May.

Three years later he returned to open the new cathedral and surely would have been struck by its impressive finish.

The church was made from a granite-like olive green porphyry rock mined from a nearby quarry on Bungonia Road. Over the years Sts Peter and Paul's would be famed as the world's only green-stone church.

The size of the diocese was also changing and with the development of the nation's capital to Goulburn's south, Bishop Macquire was appointed the first Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn in 1948. His residence was in Goulburn.

Around the same time St Christopher's at Manuka in Canberra came to be called a pro-cathedral and then later a co-cathedral alongside the Goulburn cathedral.

In 1969, however, the Diocesan See was officially relocated to Canberra and in 1973

St Christopher's was consecrated as the Cathedral Church of the Diocese.

To help smooth over any ruffled feathers that might have occurred with the change in status for Sts Peter and Paul, the Archdiocese's number two and vicar general, Monsignor Edward Favier, was transferred to Goulburn as the parish priest in 1969.

"I am going willingly to Goulburn," the Monsignor told the Canberra Times that year. "I feel it is in the best interests of the Church because the Archbishop feels it so."

In 1978, Sts Peter and Paul's achieved a National Trust of Australia listing, with the trust noting it was an "imposing ecclesiastical building of much historical and religious value for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Goulburn."

Time and tide had taken its toll and the recent major restoration project was the latest in a series of repairs and renovations undertaken on the "tired beauty", as the project's website called it. In December 2021, Fr Joshy Kurien celebrated the last Mass at

Sts Peter and Paul's before it closed for the current work.

He was back before a packed congregation for the historic reopening on 30 November 2022. In the year of its 150th anniversary, parishioners hope their newly renovated and much loved church will be a beacon for international pilgrimage. With fresh beauty in its curves, an exciting new future awaits for the 'old cathedral' in Goulburn's midst.



Lost interest in reading?

The Catholic Voice asked some well-known bookworms about their reading habits. It's safe to say that these book lovers prefer the smell and feel of a book to an electronic alternative and reading in bed is one of life's necessities. Although there are plenty of promises that they'll cull their treasured books - next year - don't believe them! We hope you gain some suggestions for your holiday reading.



ANNA KROHN
Educator and educational writer who has worked for the John Paul II Institute for Marriage and Family and ACU.

Do you plan to read any books over the Christmas break?

Two books I have stashed away are by Bishop Erik Varden (Cistercian and Bishop of Trondheim, Norway) "The Shattering of Loneliness" and his "Entering the Twofold Mystery." I also want to read (reread) some classic short stories. I love the mastery of the form - Flannery O'Connor, Mary Lavin, Frank O'Connor, Alexander McCall-Smith, James Joyce...

How many books do you read each year?

Impossible to say- I don't count. Over 50, sometimes not very well or completely - in any year... sometimes more.

What is your favourite place?

I would love to say that I have a hammock in the garden- but that's not true. I read anywhere I can find a light... on trains, in cafes, libraries or in bed.

Do you read books on Kindle/audiobooks?

I don't tend to read electronically for pleasure or in any sustained way.

What do you do with the books you finish?

My life is crowded with "still reading" books- but we do have many shelves, but I am always wondering how to order the rest.

Favourite book of all time

Well, the Scriptures, of course- but they are many books. Jane Austen, Anthony Trollope, Caryl Houselander and Pope Benedict XVI Jesus of Nazareth books too far away.

PETRA COLE
Principal (Acting), St Matthew's Primary School, page ACT

Do you plan to read any books over the Christmas break?

I plan to read Julia Baird's Victoria, which I started during the last Christmas holidays! Also James Robertson's News of the Dead and Amanda Smyth's Fortune. But the book I really want to get my hands on is What Remains at the End by Alexandra Ford, a novel about the persecution and genocide of the Swabians--ethnic Germans in Yugoslavia-- in the aftermath of the Second World War. I'm a descendant of the Donauschwaben, and I've read many non-fiction texts about this time, but I've not yet read any historical fiction about it.

How many books do you tend to read each year?

One year, I was particularly fortunate and managed to read about sixteen novels at home, and another nine with my Year 5/6 class. We'd put the cover of each novel we read on the display area outside the classroom and it was a source of pride for my students to say that they'd read so many novels together.

Favourite place to read a book?

I always picture myself reading with a sunhat and sunglasses on the beach. Invariably, though, I'm on my couch, surrounded by pillows and with a refreshing beverage nearby.

Do you read books on Kindle/audiobooks?

Never!

What do you do with the books once you've read them?

I tend to hoard those that are significant to me. I've carried a number of deeply-loved books with me through countless house moves, including Peter Carey's Illywhacker, To Kill a Mockingbird and Tess of the d'Urbervilles (part of my Matriculation reading list), some Kurt Vonnegut novels, and a copy of Helen Keller's Teacher by Margret Davidson that I bought through my school's Book Club when I was about eight years old. It's tattered and torn and the cover's stuck together with tape, but I'll never give it away. I donate to charity any other novels I've read.

Favourite book of all time?

I'd start the list with: A Fine Balance, The Miniaturist, The Poisonwood Bible, Burial Rites, Year of Wonders, Church of Marvels - I have an obvious love of historical fiction and any stories about hope and identity.



DR PATRICK MCARDLE
Chancellor Archdiocese of Canberra Goulburn

Do you plan to read any books over the Christmas break?

Yes - it is one of the highlights of the summer. I am eagerly awaiting both Nikki Savva's new book, Bulldozed and Kathryn Murphy's Quarterly Essay, Lone Wolf. I will also read the third book in Richard Ozman's Thursday Murder Club series, The Bullet That Missed; Robert Galbraith (aka J. K. Rowling) 's latest in the Strike series, The Ink Black Heart. I am also slowly wending my way through the Wheel of Time fantasy series by Robert Jordan - I think I am up to book 6... I also have Ghost Empire by Richard Fidler - an account of Constantinople/Byzantium/Istanbul and a travelogue written around a visit to the city by Fidler and his son.

How many books do you tend to read each year?

At least 40 - I really cannot sleep without reading. I find reading one of life's great pleasures. I am not sure of a record - I do recall one summer when I was really on a roll and managed 20 between the beginning of December and Australia Day... but that was an especially indolent summer by the beach.

Favourite place to read a book?

Pretty much anywhere - but it does depend on what I am reading - serious books cannot be read in bed, but for anything else, a comfortable armchair or bed will do!

Do you read books on Kindle/audiobooks?

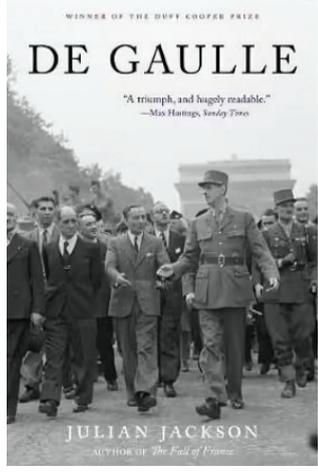
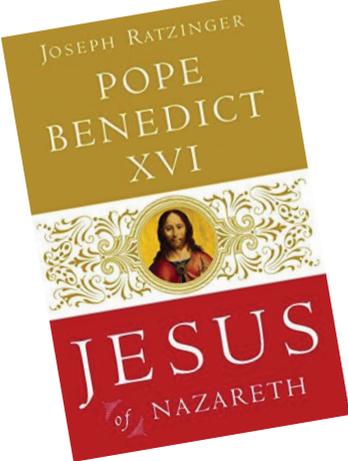
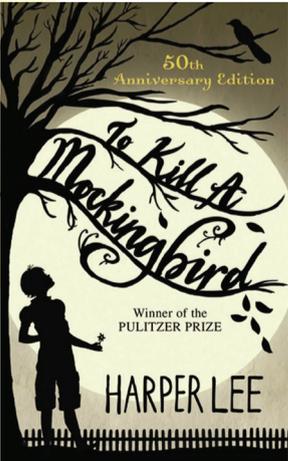
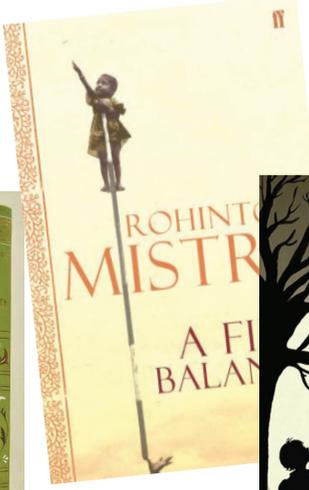
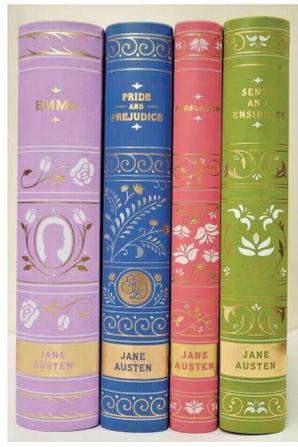
I went through a phase when I travelled a good deal of reading on Kindle or phones, but I do prefer the feel and texture of hardcopy. Audiobooks are good, BUT you need an excellent reader for the text. Nothing compares with Stephen Fry reading the Harry Potter series.

What do you do with the books once you've read them?

I almost always keep them unless I really didn't like them or found them to be distinct 'airplane novels'. We installed 70m² of new bookcases last year and still have a reasonable number of additional standalone bookcases. About 90% are full - but only 1 row.... So, I figure we have about another decade before we will seriously have to cull.

Favourite book of all time?

I fell in love with Wuthering Heights at school and To Kill a Mockingbird is timeless; I found Atwood's The Handmaid's Tale confronting at University but now it seems too real or possible, as does Brave New World. I still think though for the quality of writing, the scope, vision and imagination it is hard to go past Tolkien.





Not so for these bookworms

KATE LISTON
Author, tutor, mother and
writer for the Catholic Voice



Do you plan to read any books over the Christmas break?

With two small children, I am sure to read many children's books over the Christmas break.

Julia Donaldson is a favourite in our house. Especially *The Gruffalo* and *Room on a Broom*. My son, who is autistic, absolutely loves interactive books where you can press things and 'stuff happens'. One of his favourites right now is *Mix it Up* by Henre Tullet which involves following simple instructions to make the child feel like they are mixing the colours on the page (without all the mess!). Another favourite in my little family is about a little dog called Poppy (in English) by Magali Le Huche. Poppy plays instruments and has a lot of fun introducing readers to the sounds of classical instruments, composers and music.

How many books do you tend to read each year?

At the moment, I read far more kids books than adult books. It's just what part of life I am at.

Favourite place/position to read a book?

With the kids in bed or in my garden.

Do you read books on Kindle/audiobooks?

I don't. I have tried both and see the benefits in terms of saving space and convenience, but I have always preferred a hard-copy book. I love the feel and smell of them. I love them all around my house. I believe children need hard-copy books in the learning-to-read journey. My mind is open, but that is my current position on it.

What do you do with the books once you've read them?

I will keep them forever. They become part of me, and I often find myself returning to them to find one line, picture, or moment I love. Yep, my house is very cluttered with books!

Favourite book of all time?

I could not name one favourite! I have books that I regularly return to ... *Metamorphosis* by Franz Kafka: it always teaches me something no matter how old I am, no matter how many times I read it. *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien always delights me; we are all Bilbo on this epic adventure of life on earth. *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho ... needs no explanation. And *The Yield* by Tara June Winch is storytelling at its best — it should be mandatory reading for every Australian. Language can be such a beautiful thing.



COLIN SHAH
University Student, Sydney

Do you plan to read any books over the Christmas break?

Yes. *Chronicles of Narnia* series which a friend and I have decided start reading in December to see who can finish first. Six volume *History of Christendom* series in which I am up to volume four - very dense though! I eventually want to get to *The Godfather* as well, since it is one of my favourite films.

How many books do you tend to read each year?

It varies depending on the year but approximately 5-10. My record is around 12 from last year because of all the additional texts will likely increase throughout my degree.

Favourite place to read a book?

Usually on my bed or the couch, sitting at first and then lying down/sleeping, sometimes late into the night.

Do you read books on Kindle/audiobooks?

I have never read any books on Kindle, and have only ever heard 1 or 2 audiobooks. I strongly dislike reading anything on a screen.

What do you do with the books once you've read them?

I routinely borrow books from the library after which I return them, and as for the ones I own I sometimes give them to friends if I feel they are particularly impactful.

Favourite book of all time?

This may be quite niche, but the book *Danny, the Champion of the World* by Roald Dahl. It's a simple, warm and fun book full of adventure, the poaching of pheasants, but especially the bond between a father and son. I'd recommend it for anyone to read, especially kids.



PROF HAYDEN RAMSEY
Professor of Philosophy, Deputy
Vice-Chancellor Ethics, ACU

Do you plan to read any books over the Christmas break?

I like a real mixture. I've got Don Winslow's *Cartel* trilogy, set against background of the Mexican drug wars. Also, Julian Jackson's biography of Charles De Gaulle.

How many books do you tend to read each year?

I have three books on the go at any one time. Depending on length, I would read around 50 each year.

Favourite place to read a book?

I read one book at breakfast in an armchair, one on the bus on my way to work, and a third in bed.

Do you read books on Kindle/audiobooks?

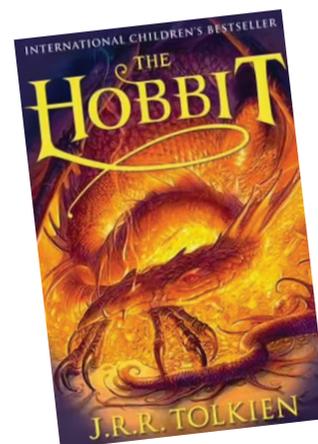
No. I don't like pictures of books on devices. I listen to radio, however, including some radio drama—mainly from the BBC.

What do you do with the books once you've read them?

Some I keep because I'll revisit them. Others I give to friends. I believe in having a little library at home but in its total contents changing slowly over a few years.

Favourite book of all time?

Not possible! Once I would have said *Emma*. Later, *Middlemarch*. Later still, a much-love volume of pastoral poetry. Now, one of my translations of the *Iliad*—I have lots!



FR SIMON FALK
Parish Priest South Belconnen

Do you plan to read any books over the Christmas break?

Normally the ones I get for Christmas. Others usually appear. I always have a 'to read list' of nonfiction (including browsing artbooks), fiction, and poetry. It can also be a great time to spontaneously reread some books.

How many books do you tend to read each year?

I wouldn't know. As a reader, I tend to be more drawn to words than numbers and counting. It's also more about the experience of regular reading and learning that gets me in rather than chalking up tallies.

Favourite place to read a book?

In a chair, inside, outside, on transport and in bed.

Do you read books on Kindle/audiobooks?

I read both print books and ebooks. Print books are my natural 'go-to'. But I use both Amazon Kindle and Rakuten Kobo ebook apps on an iPad. I started using audiobooks when they were on cassettes back in the 1990s. Now I use Audible and iBooks, especially on road trips.

What do you do with the books once you've read them? Keep some and move others on to places like Lifeline Bookfair.

Favourite book of all time

That's a tough one. There are various books I return to. Fiction and nonfiction. I enjoy works that bring together social sciences and faith. I'm currently enjoying the perspective of Anthony Gittins, CSsP in 'Courage and Conviction: Unpretentious Christianity'. However, my most cherished book would be the family compilation of my maternal great-grandfather's poems.



Femine Genius in Action

BY FRANCLIA GOMES

IN a world that increasingly pushes against morality and questions the innate dignity and worth of the human person, a young Catholic woman has stepped forward to move against the tide.

24-year-old Fiona Peloisi is a woman exercising her missionary zeal, building community with like-minded women in the pursuit of what she describes as "counter-cultural" formation.

Over many weeks, she has gathered a group of dedicated women to share a meal, watch a video and unpack Pope St John Paul II integrated vision of the human person called, Theology of the Body.

"This diocese needs Theology of the Body," Ms Peloisi urged. "This generation needs it. Everyone needs it."

"Canberra seems to be siloed into different sections. A widely accessible women's group was non-existent. So I thought I would start one and we opened it up to every Catholic woman we know."

The successful initiative has received widespread interest, with nearly 30 young women across the diocese meeting each week to watch Christopher West's God, Sex and the Meaning of Life series by the Theology of the Body Institute.

"Is it a moment of women coming together and learning an integral part of their faith,



she said. "And, it's about sisterhood. We connect over dinner, watch a video and then break into groups and talk about the experience."

Disturbed by young women's negative perceptions of their bodies, Ms Peloisi feels a serious disconnect needs to be addressed.

"Many young women today have a negative view of their bodies," she said. "They think of it as a disease or just a vessel, but they need to know that they are not just bodies but also souls."

"It felt right to delve deeper and talk about it with other women in an honest and vulnerable way."

The teachings also reframe marriage and relationships which Ms Peloisi believes is important for young women to explore so as to avoid



Top: Participants reading through the handouts and sharing their thoughts. Above: Fiona Peloisi, 24 host of the Theology of the Body

having "fairy-tale or movie-like expectations of marriage."

"Studying Theology of the Body encourages participants to place God first and in the centre of everything. It helps order our loves. My learnings from studying this previously are to guard your heart, don't settle for less," she said.

Participant Elspeth Richardson said the program had led her to discover a greater depth of faith and the "incredible closeness and intimacy" that God invites each individual into.

"One thing I took away from the program was the incredible closeness and intimacy we can feel with the creator through partaking in every sacrament. In addition, Christopher West's teachings have given me a different perspective and helped me understand the deep love God the Father has for his people."

The Theology of the Body teachings originated from a series of 129 lectures by Pope St John Paul II during his Wednesday audiences in St. Peter's Square between 1979 and 1984. It constitutes an analysis of human sexuality and paved the way for a holistic approach to love and relationships.

Heart for Charbela



BY FRANCESCA ISLA

MY father was born in 1965. He was named 'Fouad', which means 'heart' in Arabic. In 1977, my father and his family migrated from war-torn Lebanon to Cooma, New South Wales, hoping to obtain a better life. Before moving to Canberra, he was a student at St Patrick's Parish School, where his parents eventually opened Sinbad's - a Lebanese cuisine restaurant.

My father began working for the family-run business whilst attending St Edmund's College and later went on to work in trolley collecting and night shift hospital cleaning. At the time, life comprised bike rides between work and home, roof-racked cars to transport his windsurfing equipment, and a deep passion for photography and film development.

As the years passed, my father became interested in property management and the building sector. He married in 1992 and shares four daughters and two granddaughters with his wife, my mother. Their youngest child, Charbela, who is named after St Charbel, lives with a disability. Since her birth, my father has often borne witness to the societal gaps present for those with health limitations but has always maintained a hopeful stance when looking to the future.

At age 56, after spending most of his adult life in the property and construction industry, my father finds himself standing on a dirt field for what will be the last time. His final site cut will soon find four townhouses set to become 'home' to individuals who require tailored accommodation solutions.

His reason and inspiration - Charbela.



Although Charbela's syndrome limits her intellectually, for the most part, my father's decisions in design, architecture and functionality are catered to meet all grades of support levels.

All facets of design has been addressed including no steps, wide doors, slow-grade driveway slope to aid in wheelchair use, different heighted kitchen benchtops and a permanently-installed generator for ongoing medical needs.

I wish I could meet the younger version of my father, swiftly riding his bike between Farrer and Civic in an attempt to get to work on time. I would hug him, tell him to make time to rest, and let him know that he would one day create something that aligns ever so perfectly with the meaning of his name. The creation, his concluding development, will fuel autonomy, create a standard of living where capability is always within the realms, and continue to give, uphold, dignify, and honour.

• *Francesca is a Social Work Master graduate with a degree in Psychology and a Major in Counselling. She has three younger sisters, and two daughters and attends St Anthony's in Wanniasa and St Benedict's Parish, Narabundah*

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Products of slavery shipped into our living rooms

BY GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

WHEN we think of slavery, we tend to picture the horrors of historical slavery. We imagine people in chains being bought, sold and owned as property in the distant past.

However, the soccer World Cup in Qatar has exposed how the products of slavery are still and all too often shipped directly into our homes. Since Qatar won the rights to host the world's most-watched sporting event, constructing the stadiums that will feature the world's best players has come at the expense of the exploitation of Qatar's migrant workers.

Upon arriving in the Middle East, migrant construction workers often have their passports, visas and identity documents confiscated by their employers, preventing their return home until they receive their employer's permission. After paying exorbitant recruitment fees to get work contracts, these workers are reportedly paid less than \$3 an hour. Labour is conducted in the dangerous Qatari heat under alarming time pressures and on hazardous construction sites.

Recently, a top Qatari official conceded that as many as five hundred workers have died in the lead-up to the World Cup. However, some international organisations believe the actual figure could be up to ten times more than that. Meanwhile, the World Cup is expected to make billions in revenue for FIFA, the governing body for

international soccer.

And the fruits of modern slavery extend beyond just one soccer tournament.

The exploitation of workers in Qatar is just one example of modern slavery, which includes practices such as human trafficking, forced labour, servitude, debt bondage, deceptive recruiting and forced marriage. An estimated 50 million people worldwide have been forced into modern slavery practices that Pope Francis described as a "crime against humanity", affecting "the poorest and the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters."

Products made by victims of modern slavery line Australian shopping centres every day. The massive companies that sell us everything from our food to our mobile phones have been repeatedly found to be making their products through the exploitation of workers in poorer countries.

One response has been to try to force companies to be more transparent with how their products are made. Australia was one of the first countries in the world to put in place laws that require companies and organisations to prepare a report on how they identify potential links to modern slavery in their supply chains and what they are doing to avoid them.

These reports are placed on a database that is accessible to the public called the Modern Slavery Statements Register. The laws force large companies to be accountable with where



Recently, a top Qatari official conceded that as many as five hundred workers have died in the lead-up to the World Cup.

they source their products, pressuring them to influence their suppliers to provide better conditions for workers.

However, reviews conducted by leading Australian institutes have uncovered sloppy work from several Australian organisations in their reports, with most companies failing to adequately identify modern slavery risks in their supply chains. One review conducted by the International Justice Mission in April concluded that companies were not gathering

sufficient information or scratching below the surface of their supply chains. Instead, in several of these statements, companies often had more to say about themselves with sweeping statements about their policies at the expense of practical risk assessments and action plans.

However, it is not all unwelcome news. The reviews into the current modern slavery laws are a fantastic resource for consumers who want to

make informed decisions about what companies they want to buy from. It is clear that several companies have made substantial efforts to combat modern slavery and ensure decent conditions in the making of their products.

The World Cup has been a reminder to many that slavery and exploitation still thrives in the twenty-first century. But we should never forget that traces of modern slavery exist in nearly every industry that Australians buy from. It is up to us in a rich country like Australia to make a difference for our most vulnerable brothers and sisters who are trapped in modern slavery.

ACT Government to move on Euthanasia in 2023

BY PATRICK MCARDLE
CHANCELLOR

ON 1 December the Senate passed the Restoring Territories Rights Bill. At the beginning of this debate, Archbishop Prowse wrote to Parliamentarians urging them to consider their consciences and to vote accordingly. He has expressed his gratitude to those Members and Senators who really did exercise a deep regard for the vulnerable and for the imperative that life has an absolute value and is the foundation for all society.

The Archbishop noted the irony that in the approaching Christmas Season, when much of the world will call to mind the obligations that we owe to those who are in need and those

who are vulnerable, the Australian Parliament has enabled a further erosion of the protections owed to those who are in precarious circumstances.

Following passage of the Bill, the Canberra Times has reported that ACT Chief Minister and the Minister for Human Rights, Tara Cheyne, indicated the processes that will now take place: the ACT Government has been progressing options in the background this year; these will be finalised over the summer; a discussion paper will be released for public consultation for at least 8 weeks sometime in the new year; legislation will be introduced in the second half of the year with a likely 3 month Assembly inquiry; the Bill to legalise euthanasia will be

passed prior to the end of 2023. The Members of the Labor and Liberal Parties will be granted conscience votes – the Greens, apparently will not, despite the fact that legalising euthanasia was not part of their 2020 platform.

Most people in the Territory are aware of the critical shortages of public housing, paucity of community infrastructure and the deteriorating state of health care provision confronting all Canberrans. It seems that seeking remedies for these issues is not as urgent as passing legislation to enable the vulnerable to seek an early death.

In whatever processes for consultation are adopted, the Catholic Archdiocese will stand with those who seek to promote

In whatever processes for consultation are adopted, the Catholic Archdiocese will stand with those who seek to promote life and with those who are most vulnerable and in need in our community.

life and with those who are most vulnerable and in need in our community. The Archdiocese will continue to highlight the ACT Government's failure to adequately fund palliative care in the Territory, as well as the ACT Greens failure to hold the Government to account on this funding, despite it being a key part of the Green's election platform.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Child who calls us all to live life to the full – we need to commit to care

for those who are especially vulnerable, those who live in precarious positions due to homelessness, unemployment, disability, and, those who are dying. Standing in solidarity with those in need is not only a matter of faith and belief, it is fundamental to being human. This is the key message of the Incarnation – God is one with us and we must seek to be one with each other.



42 years of 'humble leadership'

BY JACINTA CROKER

PAUL Croker, well-known former Principal of six primary schools in the Canberra/Goulburn Archdiocese is retiring in 2022 with a 'quiet sense of pride and accomplishment.'

Paul's 42-year career of exceptional service to Catholic education is unique. Paul, 64, began his career in 1980 as a classroom teacher at St Monica's in Evatt. In 1984, Paul became the first lay Principal of St Mary's, Batlow, when he was just 25 years old, where he lived in the 'very cold' convent with his young family. He went on to lead nine Catholic primary schools in the city and regional areas across the Archdioceses of Canberra/Goulburn and Sydney and the Diocese of Wollongong.

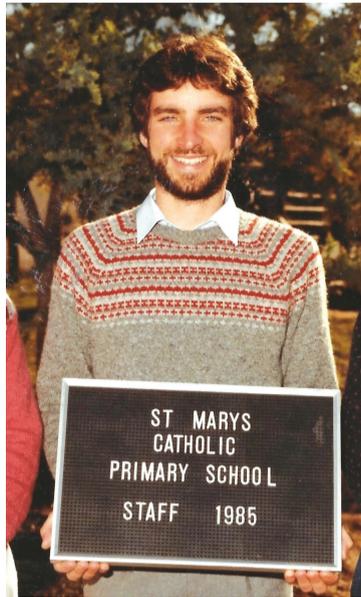
In reflection, Paul says he has been blessed to work with incredibly dedicated and selfless professionals committed to children's education and pastoral care. Paul has seen the benefits of School-Wide Behaviours for Learning to make the learning

environment happier and safer for all. He has been inspired to improve teachers' jobs by offering support and direction. Paul has reflected that he is most proud of building happy and positive school communities.

Paul's leadership philosophy is 'leading from behind' - empowering people by backing their ideas and guiding them to create their vision. Chris O'Keeffe former school secretary of Holy Family Primary School, Gowrie, also sang Paul's praises as a man of integrity who showed care and compassion and affirmed every student and staff member. "He was very willing to recognise other people's strengths and then let them run with things while offering support in the background," Ms O'Keeffe said.

One of Paul's most significant achievements was establishing the first Early Learning Centre (ELC) in the Archdiocese in the Corpus Christi Parish.

While talking about the creation of the ELC, Lina Vigliotta, Principal at St Vincent's Primary School, Aranda, and



First principal position - aged 25

Paul's Assistant Principal at Gowrie, said, "He was certainly visionary about where it could go and what it would do for the whole community and that's been proven over the years".

Paul also worked in the Canberra/Goulburn Catholic Education Office as a Regional Consultant and Curriculum Adviser and the Commonwealth



Head shave for charity, St Anthony's

Department of Education and Training as a Special Education Funding Executive Manager.

Paul is looking forward to a well-deserved retirement where he'll have more time to spend with his mother, Georgia Croker, wife, Penny Short, three daughters and soon-to-be five grandchildren. Paul will pursue his passion for sailing, volunteering with the Sydney



Paul Croker, 2022

Heritage Fleet and enjoy living between his homes in Sydney and Gerringong, NSW.

• **Jacinta Croker, 38, is Paul Croker's eldest daughter. Jacinta is a Commonwealth public servant and mother of two of Paul's grandchildren (Eve and Charlie) who go to school at St Jude's in Holder**

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Archbishop's Christmas Appeal 2022

Jesus' birth is a gift of love seeking to embrace all people in need. It is a gift we celebrate and are called to share. Once again, this Christmas, Catholics of the Archdiocese will be invited to contribute to the annual Archbishop's Appeal at the Christmas Masses. Our generosity and support assist our neighbours in addressing needs and providing opportunities for the future as they, too, face the challenges of COVID-19 and global inflation.

Funds will again be used to support the National Council of Churches' Christmas Bowl Appeal and assist Church communities in Ukraine, Syria, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe and Congolese refugees in Kenya. Further

support will be given for projects within the Dioceses of Otuokpo, Africa and Thamarassery, India, along with projects of the La Salette Martha Province in India. In addition, continuing assistance will be given to Bethlehem University and contributing to the expansion and overhaul of St Joseph's College, Mabiri, Bougainville, PNG, to meet and manage the needs of an envisioned increase in students, many of whom must board away from home.

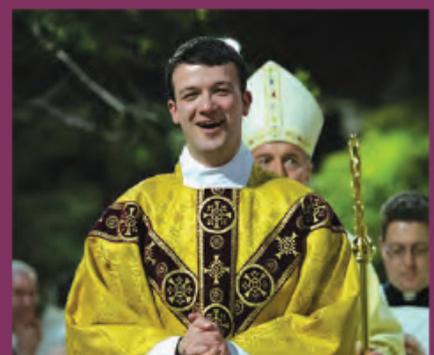
Last year, the Archbishop's Christmas Appeal raised almost \$41,800. Of which, \$10,000 has been given to assist the Diocese of Otuokpo, Nigeria in Africa, whilst in India, \$7,000 was given to each of the La

Salette Matha Province and the Diocese of Thamarassery. Bethlehem University in the Holy Land received \$5,000 for student assistance, and almost \$5,300 was provided towards constructing a school hall at Vanga Point within the Diocese of Gizo, Solomon Islands. \$7,500 went to the National Council of Churches in Australia's (NCCA's) Christmas Bowl Appeal, to assist their Act for Peace projects.

Please send to
Archbishop's Christmas Appeal Attn: Deacon Joe Blackwell
GPO BOX 3089, Canberra ACT 2601
Enquiries: Deacon Joe Blackwell Tel. 0407 909 295

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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





The Bells of St Christopher's

BY DENIS CONNOR
ARCHDIOCESAN ARCHIVES

At a ceremony held during Sunday mass at St Christopher's Cathedral, Manuka, on 9 November 1986, Archbishop Francis Carroll blessed the two new bells that, in weeks to come, would be installed in the Cathedral belltower. No doubt, there will be many long-term parishioners of St Christophers who have recollections of this event.

The new bells were of Dutch origin, having been struck in the Royal Eijsbouts Foundry at Asten, The Netherlands. They were a gift to the Cathedral by the Morrison family of Tralee station to Canberra's southeast, and were named in honour of the late John and Mary Elizabeth Morrison. The larger of the two bells, named John, has a weight of 400 kilograms with a mouth diameter of 873mm.

The smaller bell, named Mary Elizabeth, weighed 245 kilograms, with a mouth diameter of 734mm. A brief note in the parish bulletin for that Sunday in 1986 explained that while, given their weight, most might consider these bells to be large, they were tiny compared to the 27-tonne bell in the tower of Germany's Cologne



St Christopher's Cathedral, Canberra

Cathedral (considered to be the world's largest at the time).

Two of the Morrison children, the eldest and youngest sons, John and Vivian, had been ordained as priests of the Archdiocese. Vivian Morrison's ordination at St Christopher's in July 1947, was the first to be held in the church.

It was Mary Elizabeth Morrison who provided funds, as a memorial to her late husband, for the building of the belltower during renovations to St Christopher's that were completed in 1973. At the completion of those renovations St Christopher's was consecrated as the Cathedral for the Archdiocese.

The new bells joined a single bell already in the tower. This bell had been struck in the

Murphy of Dublin foundry in Ireland in 1885, and had been originally installed in the Sacred Heart Church, Darlinghurst, Sydney. It had been transferred in St Christopher's in 1973.

Speaking to the Canberra Times on the Sunday of the blessing, the then Cathedral Administrator, Fr Kevin Brannelly, said it was his hope that the installation of the bells would be completed by Sunday 23 November 1986.

It is fitting to recall the blessing and installation of the bells 36 years ago this month. It forms a prelude to the more significant celebrations in February next year to mark the 50 years since St Christopher's was consecrated as cathedral church for the Archdiocese.

Milestone celebrations for Cathedral and Archdiocese

BY FR TRENTON VAN REESCH
CATHEDRAL ADMINISTRATOR

On February 5, 2023 – the Archdiocese's 75th Anniversary – Saint Christopher's Cathedral will celebrate 50 years since its consecration as the Cathedral and Mother Church of the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn.

Saint Christopher's was named after the patron saint of travellers. For to Canberra (which means 'meeting place') many would journey, as the heart of the new, growing National Capital.

In the city of the seat of Government, Saint Christopher's stands as a home of worship and a powerful reminder, that, in the words of St Mary of the Cross Mackillop, 'we are but travellers here'.

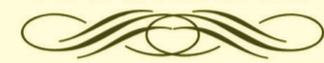
What's remarkable about Saint Christopher's, in particular – apart from her humble aesthetics – is her unmistakable expression of who the Church is. In her windows we see the triumph of the baptised, the saints. You may notice that two windows remain empty. It is said that Archbishop Cahill requested these remain unoccupied; 'so that every person may never forget, that these windows are for them'.

A cathedral differs from a parish church in that within sits the Bishop's cathedra, or chair. This makes it the visible sign of unity within the diocese and so with the wider Universal Church, and Christ's Whole Body (Jn 17:21). From here, the Archbishop, teaches, sanctifies, governs and unites the flock given by Jesus to his care.

The Cathedral is a home for all who pass through. It is a sign in wood and stone that Christ is risen, and that the temple of his body is always growing, toward the heavenly Jerusalem.

A year of celebrations will mark Saint Christopher's Golden Jubilee, including, on March 17, our Anniversary Mass and dinner. So save the date, and come to celebrate 50 years! We give thanks to God, praying for all who have gathered in this sacred place and look forward to the many years on the journey ahead.

50th
ANNIVERSARY



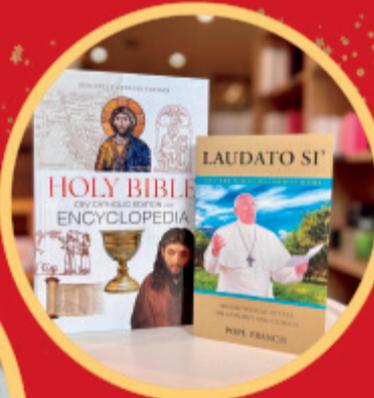
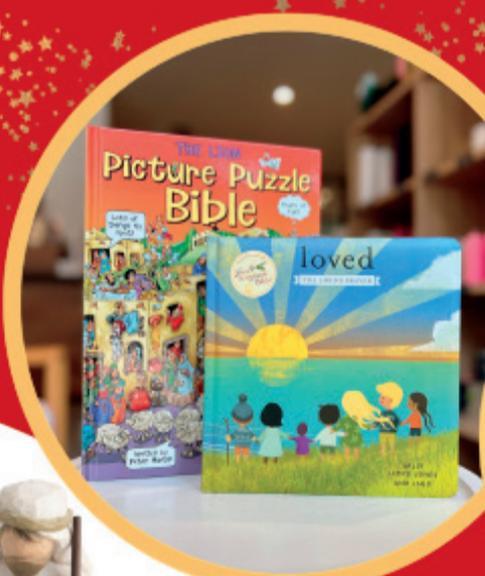
Diocesan Pastoral Council

In August the Report of the Working Party established to advise the Archbishop on a Diocesan Pastoral Council circulated its report for consultation.

Submissions were received from Parish Pastoral Councils, Finance Committees, Parish Priests, groups within parishes and from individuals. As well as formal submissions a number of members of the Archdiocese offered brief remarks and encouragement to members of the Working Party and to the Archbishop.

The options for an Archdiocesan Pastoral Council will be discussed at the next Council of Priests meeting with the Archbishop circulating a preferred model prior to Christmas and seeking advice from the Archdiocese with a view to making a determination about how and when to introduce a Council to be made around Easter.

The Archbishop believes this is a priority but wants to establish a DPC that is effective for the mission of the Archdiocese.



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Literacy Specialist gains global insights

BY JESSICA COLLEU TERRADAS

A PRESTIGIOUS fellowship has furthered a literacy specialist's ambition to ensure no child leaves school unable to read.

Jessica Colleu Terradas, who has devoted her teaching career to supporting challenging and vulnerable students, received the Churchill Fellowship this year and took the trip of a lifetime around the globe.

The Catholic Education Senior Officer Literacy specialist said her goal was to disrupt the trajectory of at-risk adolescents into the juvenile justice system and substantially reduce the number of students entering high school with low literacy levels.

"My Churchill Fellowship project has been to investigate effective language and literacy screening and intervention practices for at-risk students., I hope to provide that information to prospective and current teachers in primary and secondary schools.

A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity

"The initial grant of \$28,000, bestowed by Winston Churchill Trust, allowed me to spend two months abroad, covering all expenses, including travel, for my research.

"Over October and November 2022, I travelled to France, Belgium, England, the USA and Canada to discover new ideas and international best practices among experts and conducted over 70 interviews.

"I met with many scholars and practitioners, attending conferences, schools, national charities and advocacy groups dedicated to helping children with reading learning difficulties, including dyslexia."

Jessica said the Churchill Fellowship journey had been a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to learn from the best in the field of education.



Jessica Colleu Terradas (Centre) with Jill Ellison, Principal & Laurie Matthews, Assistant Principal at Wake Forrest Campus

"I am grateful for an opportunity to focus solely on learning and reflection. I absorbed much from my selected practitioners and have built a global understanding of a topic I care about: literacy instruction and intervention for older struggling readers.

Engaging and educating the broader community

On her travels, Jessica was struck by the perseverance of each stakeholder to drive systemic change by engaging and educating the broader community.

"In the USA, I met with a parent-led group of dyslexia advocates fighting for change in education laws and policies, who had contributed to the passing of the Dyslexia Bill in Ohio.

"In Texas, I visited Dr Sharon Vaughan at the Meadows Centre for Preventing Educational Risk, conducting high-quality research studies with outcomes that have improved teaching and learning practices for more than 2 million students.

"In the State of New York, I met with Dr Maria Murray, the CEO and founder of the Reading League, a national education not-for-profit.

"On the opposite side of the globe, the French Scientific Council of National Education (CSEN), whose mission is to address inequalities in schools and lift student outcomes, has

led the implementation of a national standardised screening and evaluation tool (EvalAide).

"In England, I learnt how universities are held accountable and expected to shift to structured literacy and include phonics instruction in their Initial Teacher Education courses to sustain their accreditation. I also went to Blackpool, one of the most deprived cities in England. In addition, I visited secondary schools participating in a project focused on improving the literacy capability of all 11-14-year-olds across the town.

Making a difference in Canberra schools

Jessica said she had identified three overlapping domains that would directly impact her work back home in Canberra.

"Firstly, I want to contribute to the teaching profession by partnering with local Australian universities to promote awareness, understanding and use of high-quality, evidence-based practices for reading instruction. There is an urgent need to review existing teacher training programs available in Australia to align them with science and cognitive research evidence, including recent findings about

how the brain learns to read.

"Secondly, at a school level, I will continue to support educators in choosing effective screening tools and systematic, synthetic phonics reading interventions. I will aim to equip secondary teachers with the knowledge and tools to address adolescent literacy issues.

I hope to shift the mindset from a 'wait to fail' deficit-driven approach to a preventive model where students identified at risk of reading impairment receive targeted, early intervention aligned with the science of reading.

"Thirdly, I will continue to advocate for screening and early

identification of students with reading difficulties and calling for urgent action to better support older struggling readers in upper primary and middle school. Too often, I see adolescent literacy being marginalised, yet it is widely acknowledged today that too many adolescents lack sufficient literacy skills."

Committed to leading her vision for change, Jessica said she was immensely proud to be a Churchill Fellow.

To learn more about Jessica's Churchill Fellowship journey, including insights and resources: Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/JessCF2020>



Formal dinner in the hall at St John College University of Oxford. Posing with Kate Nation in front of the painting of Professor Maggie Snowling

What is the Churchill Fellowship?

Founded in 1965 in memory of Sir Winston Churchill, the Churchill Fellowship Trust is a charity established through donations and awarded to people with the passion and potential to make a positive difference. On average, 100 applicants in Australia are selected as new fellows every year to enable travel and research to occur in the international domain.

60th anniversary of the 1962 Goulburn schools strike

Archbishop Christopher Prowse with students from Trinity Catholic College, Goulburn



AS Sts. Peter & Paul church threw open its doors, and chair of the re-opening committee, Matt Casey, said there was another important aspect of the historic building to consider.

"Part of the cathedral complex is the only heritage-listed toilet block in Australia," he said.

"And the reason it is heritage listed is because it triggered the federal government deciding to provide financial assistance to non-government schools."

The 60th anniversary of the 1962 Goulburn schools strike was marked with a dinner the night before the church re-opened.

Trinity Catholic College principal Gaye McManus said the amazing campus facilities the school has today were provided through the generosity and hard work of generations of families associated with previous Catholic schools of Goulburn and its region.

In 1962, Catholic schools ran



Honouring modern day martyrs

BY DON SMITH

AUSTRALIA'S capital has joined a select list of cities that have hosted Night of the Witnesses, an Aid to the Church in Need initiative that honours Christianity's modern-day martyrs and those persecuted because of their faith.

Participants joined a beautiful yet solemn gathering at St Christopher's Cathedral for the Night of the Witnesses on 23 November.

The nights have been held in several of the world's great cities, including Washington DC, London, and Madrid

At St Christopher's the evening of prayer, hymns, and testimonies also included a candle-lit procession remembering the lives and stories of over 20 contemporary martyrs.

A procession of images of the martyrs from countries including Nigeria, Mexico, El Salvador, and Egypt, coincided with a brief reading of their "martyrology" or stories.

Interspersed throughout the evening was time given to prayer, reflection and thanks for the witness of their lives.

The gathering heard from Regina Lynch, the Germany-based international head of projects for Aid to the Church in Need; Cardinal Archbishop Joseph Coutts, former Archbishop of Karachi, Pakistan; and Archbishop Amel Nona, the Chaldean Archbishop of Australia and New Zealand and former Archbishop of Mosul in Iraq.

Archbishop Nona related first-hand stories of life under persecution from the militant organisation ISIS. Listening to the Archbishop were Iraqi refugees Ishtar Qasha, his wife Hind Zahara, and their two daughters.

Now resident in Canberra for four years, Mr Qasha told the Catholic Voice that ISIS came to his country and destroyed his home. "They burned my house and all my memories," he said.

For Chiara Strmota, aged 19, of Canberra the Night of the Witnesses was about hearing "all these incredible people who are willing to give their lives for their faith...and just to really pray for all the churches, all the churches that are persecuted, all of those who are suffering.



Above: Ishtar Qasha and wife Hind Zahara with their two daughters.
Right: John and Maureen Kilmartin at Night of the Witnesses
Far right: A procession of images of the martyrs from various countries



Maureen and John Kilmartin said they were moved by the stories of bravery and faith they heard, but also by the messages of forgiveness towards those that harm.

"Forgiveness was the biggest thing I got out of it," said Maureen.

The Night of Witnesses event was held on the same night that cathedrals in Australia, as well as churches and monuments throughout the world, were bathed in red light for Red Wednesday, witnessing to the thousands of martyrs who have lost their lives.

Despite the suffering and violence at the heart of the stories being told at St Christopher's, Archbishop Nona concluded his remarks with a positive message for reflection.

"With faith and courage we can defeat any evil without fear," the Archbishop said.



solely with the support of the clergy, local parish communities and families. Many schools were experiencing significant increases in student enrolments that exceeded their capacity and resources. There was a lack of quality facilities in many schools, and as many as 70 students in a class.

The situation came to a tipping point when the Archdiocese of Canberra-Goulburn was financially unable to comply with

government directions to improve the facilities in its schools. Under new school regulations, a Goulburn Catholic primary school, St Brigid's, was required to build additional toilet blocks to accommodate the large student population, which the parish advised they could not afford.

The school closed its doors to students in protest, and on 13 July 1962 the Auxiliary Bishop of Canberra Goulburn John Cullinane, authorised the closure

of all local Catholic primary and secondary schools for six weeks until the conclusion of the term. The 2,000 Goulburn Catholic school students were instructed to attend their local government schools for enrolment on 16 July in protest over the lack of state government funding.

The government schools could not accommodate the additional students and the strike generated national attention and debate. The school strike

was seen as the catalyst for the re-establishment of government funding to non-government schools in Australia.

Dr Patrick McArdle said occasions such as the strike were important in the life of communities.

"In this particular instance in the life of the community of Goulburn, in many ways, this event in 1962 put Goulburn on the Catholic map," he said.

"The event of 1962 shaped

the future of Catholic education and the future of education in Australia in many ways.

When we celebrate events such as this, we are not just remembering things that happened in the past, but remembering them with such power and conviction that the event itself is brought to the present and given continued meaning."



Christmas Mass times



BATEMANS BAY:

Church Dickson 6pm & 9pm
Christmas Eve: 6pm
Children's & Family Mass;
Christmas Eve: 8pm
Christmas Day: 9am

BEGA:

Christmas Eve: Bega family Mass 6pm – Carols from 5:30pm Candelo 9pm
Christmas Day: Tathra 7:45am Bemboka 11am

BINALONG:

Please check <http://cg.org.au/Boorowa>

BOOROWA:

Christmas Eve: 6pm

BRADDON:

Christmas Day: St Patrick's Church 8am

BRAIDWOOD:

Christmas Eve Vigil: 5.30pm

BUNGENDORE:

Christmas Day: 8.30am

CAMPBELL:

Christmas Eve: Campbell 6pm outside with live nativity scene (bring a chair)
Christmas Day: 9.30am

SAINT CHRISTOPHER'S CATHEDRAL

Christmas Eve: 5:00pm and 8:00pm Midnight Mass (Carols at 11:15pm)
Christmas Day: (Sunday 25th December) 8:00am, 11:00am and 5:00pm

SAINT PETER CHANEL'S CHURCH

Christmas Eve: 6:00 pm (Children's Mass)
Christmas Day: 9:30am

CHARNWOOD:

Christmas Eve 6:00 pm
Christmas Day 9:00 am.

COOTAMUNDRA:

Christmas Eve: 7pm
Christmas Mass for Cootamundra Parish (Sacred Heart)
Only one Mass per Parish.

DICKSON:

Christmas Eve: St Brigid's

Church Dickson 6pm & 9pm
Christmas Day: 9:30am

GALONG MONASTERY:

Christmas Eve: 6:30pm
Christmas Day: 9am

GOULBURN MISSION:

Sts Peter and Paul's Cathedral Goulburn
Christmas Eve: 6pm (Children's Mass) and 8pm
Christmas Day: 12 midnight and 10am

TARALGA

Christ the King
Christmas Eve: 6pm

CROOKWELL

Christmas Eve: St Mary's: 6pm
Christmas Day: 9am

GUNDAROO:

Christmas Day: 10.30am

GUNGALHIN:

Holy Spirit Church, Gungahlin and at St Francis Xavier, Hall.
Reconciliation: Tuesday 20 December
Christmas Eve: 6:00pm
Children's Nativity Mass 8:30pm Carols 9:00pm
Christmas Eve Mass: 7pm
Christmas Day: 9:00am

HARDEN-MURRUM-BURRAH:

Christmas Mass Harden/Murrumburrah Parish (our Lady of Mercy) – Morning Mass – 9.00am

KAMBAH:

Christmas Eve: 7pm
Outdoor Family Mass 9pm
Indoor Mass
Christmas Day: 10am
Indoor Mass

MORUYA:

Christmas Eve: 6pm Vigil mass Sacred Heart, Moruya (36 Queen Street)
Special Children's mass. Children are encouraged to come dressed in Nativity costumes (Mary, Joseph, Angels, Wisemen)

Christmas Day: 8am: Tuross (36 Craddock Road)

10am: Sacred Heart, Moruya

NAROOMA-COBARGO:

Christmas Eve: Cobargo 5.00pm
Christmas Day: Bermagui 7.30am
Narooma 9.30am

NARRABUNDAH:

Christmas Eve: 6pm Mass (Family Mass)
8pm Mass (Charismatic Mass)
Midnight Mass (12am)
Christmas Day: 9am Mass

NORTH BELCONNEN:

St Monica's Church, Evatt
Christmas Eve: 6pm
Christmas Day: 10am
St Michael's Church, Kaleen
Christmas Eve: 8pm
Christmas Day: 8am

NORTH WODEN:

Christmas Vigil Mass 6pm (outside at Holy Trinity School, Theodore St, Curtin), 9pm
Christmas Night Mass and 8am and 10am
Christmas Day Masses (Holy Trinity Church, Strangways St, Curtin)

O'CONNOR:

There will be a live nativity at St Joseph's (including camels, sheep, donkey) on Sunday the 18th of

December beginning with Christmas Carols at 8pm.

Christmas Eve: 6pm, Mass during the night will be at 9pm,
Christmas Day: 9am.

PAMBULA:

Christmas Eve: 5pm Children's Mass St Joseph's, Merimbula.
Christmas Eve: 7pm Our Lady Star of the Sea, Eden.
Christmas Day: 8am St Peter's, Pambula.
Christmas Day: 10am St Joseph's, Merimbula.

QUEANBEYAN:

Christmas Eve: 6pm - Molonglo St (Outdoor Mass); Christmas Carols begin at 5.15pm
Midnight Mass: Carols start at 11.15pm
Christmas Day: 8am and 10am

SNOWY MONARO:

Christmas Eve: Jerangle 9am, Delegate 5pm, Cooma 6:30pm, Nimmitabel 8pm
Christmas Day: Numeralla 8am, Berridale 9:30am, Jindabyne 9:30am, Cooma 9:30am

SOUTH BELCONNEN:

Christmas Eve: 6pm – St

Matthew's Primary School grounds, Page; 9pm – Aranda

(streamed via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87989327404?pwd=TmZTM2hSUE1NMnMrNGtYUzJwTFJBUT09> Meeting ID: 879 8932 7404 Passcode: 056863)

Christmas Day: 8.30am – Page; 10am – Aranda; 3pm – Aranda (Korean)

SOUTH TUGGERANONG:

Christmas Eve: 6pm (outside) grounds of St Francis of Assisi School, Calwell. Children/ families invited to dress up as part of the Nativity.
9pm Holy Family Church
Christmas Day: Midnight Holy Family Church
8am Holy Family Church
10am Holy Family Church

SOUTH WODEN:

Christmas Eve: 6pm
Children's Mass held at Marist College Canberra, Junior School lawns (wet weather back at Sacred Heart Church)
9pm Vigil at Sacred Heart Church Pearce
Christmas Day: 8.30am 10am



in the Archdiocese

Menagerie set to welcome birth of Saviour

AT St Thomas More's Primary School, Campbell children chatter excitedly as they don robes, crowns and angel wings.

They are preparing for the parish's Christmas Eve Mass – an outdoor service in which they will recreate the first Christmas for the community.

Fr Emi Milat said the simple nativity added a wonderful atmosphere to the Mass.

"It is a family Mass and an outdoor Mass, and a Mass that for some people it is their only encounter during the year," he said.

"Everyone can come along and get comfortable – just sit on an esky or pull up a chair. People who might not usually enter a church will come to this one."

Fr Milat said the children would process into the courtyard in front of the priest and sit at the altar.

"The kings bring the offertory, and the angels stand around the altar during the consecration," he said.

"The children will remember it. There is nothing like becoming a nativity character at Christmas."

Fr Milat said the live nativity encapsulated the true meaning of Christmas.

"That is ultimately what Christmas is – God became one of us," he said.

"I love the saying from St Augustine: God became man so that man might become God."

St Thomas More's Religious Education Coordinator Samantha Mance said while the end of the year was busy with sporting finals, graduations



Thomas, Ryan, Amelia, Madelyn and Fr Emil Milat

and much rushing around, the Mass would become a special memory.

"The nativity involves more people in the Mass, so the grandparents and the aunts and everyone will come along," she said.

"It trumps the commercialism of Christmas."

Over at St Joseph's Parish in O'Connor, real camels and sheep are making their way towards the Christmas nativity and carol service.

"The night will be animated by the passionate hymns and drums of the Neo-Catechumenal Way written from the

scriptures and psalms," Parish Secretary Stephanie Claessens said.

"The narration will help us relive this beautiful moment of mankind's salvation that not only echoes through the millennia – but comes into our present gently asking a question of us: Will you recognise Jesus in your life this Christmas?"

Mrs Claessens said everyone was welcome to attend and encouraged families to invite friends and neighbours.

"We will greet the wise men atop real camels, with more than a sheep or two running amok!" she said.

"If you have young children – feel free to bring a scroll with your child's wish for a gift from the wise men this Christmas.

"This is a beautiful moment – come and join us welcoming the coming of our Lord and Saviour Emmanuel God with us."

The Live Nativity and Carols will be held at St Joseph's Parish Church Grounds in O'Connor on 18 December from 8pm.

The outdoor Christmas Eve Mass and live nativity will be held at St Thomas More Church in Campbell on 24 December at 6pm. BYO chair.

TUMUT MISSION:

Christmas Eve:
Gundagai – 6pm
Tumut – 7pm
Christmas Day:
Adelong 10am
Batlow – 8am
Talbingo – 8am
Tumut - 10am

WANNIASSA:

Christmas Eve:
5pm Children's Mass; 8pm
Christmas Day: 8am Mass;

WATSON:

Christmas Eve: No 9am
Mass
Confessions 4-4:45pm
Family Mass 5pm
Night Mass 9pm (preceded
by 30mins of Carols)
Christmas Day: 8am
10am No 5pm Mass

WESTON CREEK:

Christmas Eve: 5pm St
Jude Church, Holder and
5pm St John Vianney
Church, Waramanga.
(children's liturgy with a
Nativity).

Christmas night: 9pm at St
Jude Church, Holder
Christmas Day: 9am Mass
at St John Vianney Church,
Waramanga.

NO 5PM MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY AT ST JUDE CHURCH, HOLDER

WEST WYALONG MISSION

Please Check <http://cg.org.au/wyalong/MassTimes.aspx>

YASS-GUNNING:

Christmas Eve:
5:00pm St. Francis Xavier,
Gunning
7:00pm Mt Carmel school
grounds, Yass
8:30pm Murrumbateman
Rec Hall

Christmas Day: 8:30am
St. Francis Xavier, Gunning
10:15am St. Augustine's,
Yass

YOUNG MISSION:

Christmas Eve: 6pm Young;
6pm Boorowa;
Christmas Day: 8am
Grenfell; 10am Young

TEMORA MISSION:

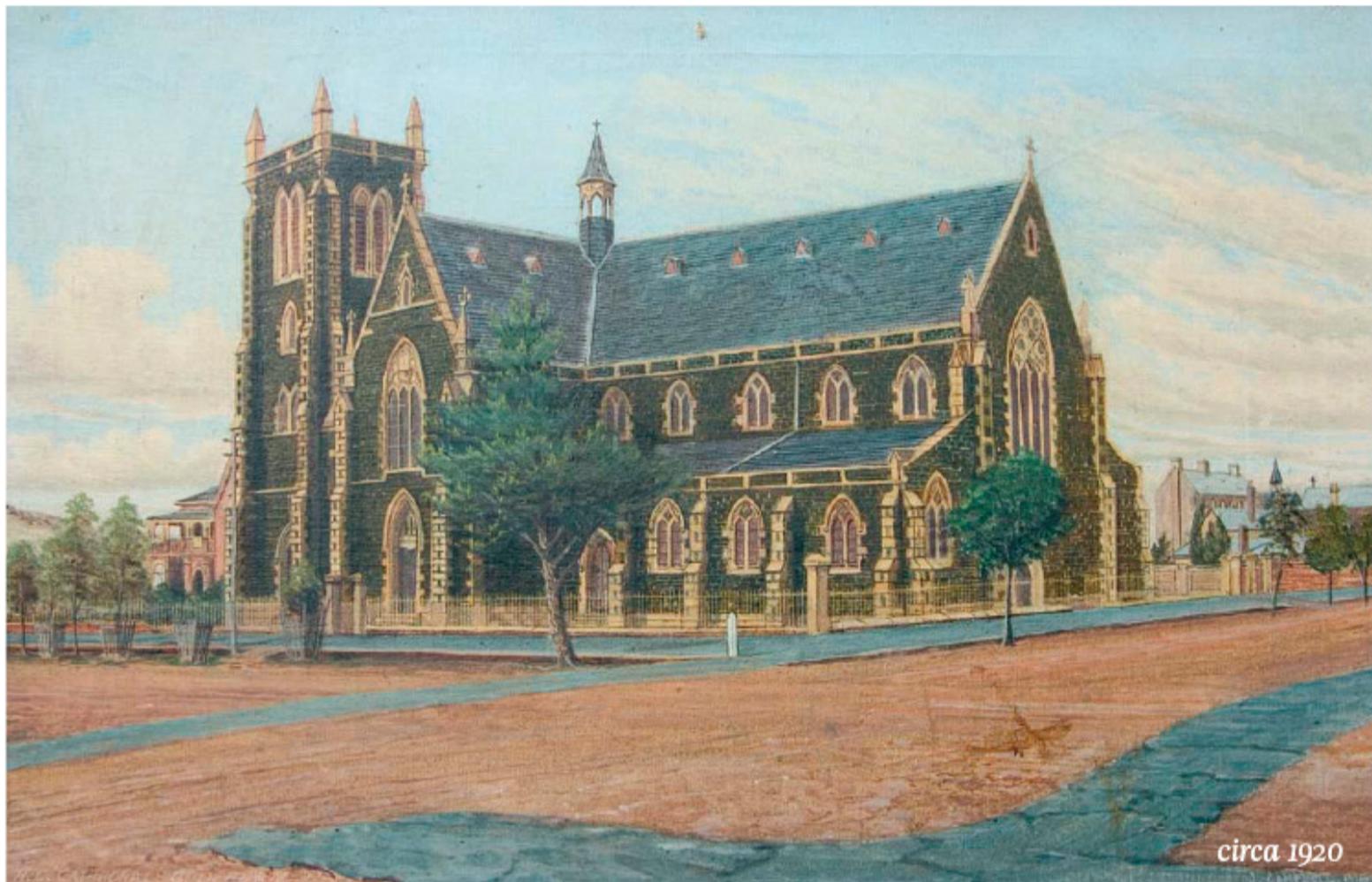
Christmas Eve:
Temora 6.30pm (outdoor)
Ariah Park 6.00pm
Barellan 7.00pm
Christmas Day:
Ardlethan 8.00am
Temora 9.00am
Rite of Reconciliation
Wednesday 15th
December
Temora 6.30pm



Supporting the work of Mudra Sprava, a Patriarchal Charitable Foundation in Ukraine. Their three focus areas: Evacuation of people from frontline territories; Food packages and Shelter

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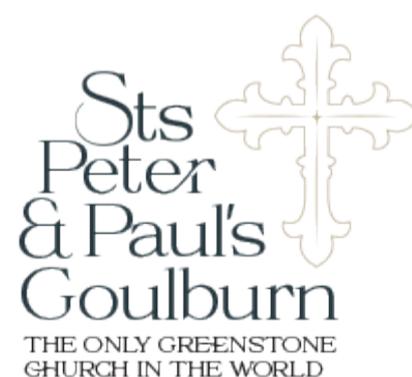


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Your donation will contribute to the next phase of planned works including the creation of the contemplative gardens, the installation of a columbarium and establishment of a heritage centre.

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