



Archbishop
Christopher Prowse

*Archbishop Prowse homily
Solemnity of The Most Holy
Trinity.*

JUST a few days ago, in preparing children to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation, I visited their school. I asked them a question. The question was, "Who loves you the most?" I noticed a boy thinking very deeply about this question and finally he put up his hand. When I asked him to give his response he said the following, "It's a toss-up between my dad and my dog!"

I suppose this is the world we are now in. It appears sometimes that Whales, Dolphins, Koalas and even Kangaroos seem to get a better deal than some human beings!

As always, there is to be balance here. Psalm 8 speaks so much about the wonder and beauty of creation. Then it proposes the big question. Out of all creation why did God choose human beings to be the apple of His eye?

The Christian answer to this pivotal question of, "Why does God love us the most?" is eluded to in the Second Reading today. St Paul greets the people and says, "The God of love and peace be with you." Here it is! God is love. Here is the basic definition of God from our Judea-Christian heritage. In Latin it is, Deus caritas est.

God is pure love. God is not empty love. All pure love is the love of someone or something. You cannot just love on your own without being other directed. God's love is always extrovert. It is always missionary. It always evangelises. It is always invitational.

In the first thousand years of the Church's theology we pondered on the Trinity in a focused way.

It is clear that in the Scriptures there was reference to what we now call the Trinity. Jesus so often spoke about His Father in Heaven. He also spoke about how He would send the Advocate. At the end of the Second Reading today, 2 Corinthians, we have the ancient Trinitarian blessing given in the early years of the Church by St Paul. He blesses the people of Corinth and says, "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."

Our early theological reflection says that pure love requires a lover, one to be loved, and love itself. It was the great African Bishop Augustine in the 5th century who phrased it most articulately and began a school of theology based on his understanding of the Trinity. Here he ultimately says that God the Father is the Lover, His Son Jesus is the Beloved and the Holy Spirit is the Love between the Father and the Son.

In the second millennium of Christianity this fundamental

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CATHOLIC VOICE

ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN

SPECIAL EDITION



SIGN the Save Calvary Petition
www.savecalvary.com.au

'This is just the beginning, not the end' Senator Pocock 'scuttles' Senate inquiry

BY VERONIKA COX

THE forced acquisition of Calvary Public Hospital will put the health system under enormous duress, according to the head of the Archdiocese Save Calvary taskforce.

Fr Tony Percy said the ACT Government would soon realise the transition from one organisation to another was more complex than anticipated.

"It is going to be a very big mess, and it is going to affect the health system dramatically," he said.

Hopes of a Senate Inquiry briefly rose this week, as the coalition urged the crossbench to "give ACT residents a voice". On Wednesday, Queensland LNP Senator Matt Canavan lodged a notice of motion on behalf of the opposition to refer the compulsory acquisition to the Senate's Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee.

ACT independent Senator David Pocock, however, abstained after seeking to draw a vote on an amendment.

"I believe there should be an inquiry, but it should be at the level of government that made the decision," he said.

Senator Pocock's amendment was not voted on and the vote



From left Fr Tony Percy and Senator David Pocock

for the inquiry was defeated on Thursday.

"This was scuttled today by Senator David Pocock," Fr Tony said.

"He has been elected, of course, to represent the citizens of the ACT not the ACT Government. This is a remarkable action on behalf of the Senator, just as remarkable as the Prime Minister coming out and agreeing that the ACT Government should do a compulsory acquisition of Calvary hospital."

Fr Tony said despite the setbacks, this was just the beginning, not the end.

"It is going to get much more political now because we want guarantees from all the ACT

members of the assembly that this won't happen with other institutions," he said.

"And then we will go right round the country too. We are not going to have this type of behaviour."

Fr Tony said thousands of people were still adding their signatures to the Save Calvary petition, highlighting the significance of the issue.

"This is a very important issue for all Australians. There's no doubt about that, and I think everyone is perceiving that there is a real problem with this type of behaviour. It is a shock. Up until this point, people's property rights have been respected, and now they are not. It's quite a seri-

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ous issue," he said.

"People are becoming more aware of it, and they are saying this is a good way of letting the government know that there is a large body of people who are deeply concerned about this."

Fr Tony said to have reached nearly 45,000 signatures on the petition was beyond anyone's imagining.

"They've got a fight on their hands, not only with religious people but with people who are just seeing this setting a precedent everywhere," he said.

"I think that's why we are getting great traction. We are going to keep it right before the politicians' eyes, particularly at election time."



Hon Michael Lee,
Chair, Calvary Ministries Trustee Board

"We acknowledge that the legislation associated with the compulsory acquisition of Calvary Public Hospital Bruce by the Government of the ACT is causing significant distress to patients, staff, many in the ACT community and the Australian Catholic Church..."

We appreciate the generosity of many leaders in the Church and in the Australian community who have spoken out, signed petitions, commented in paid and social media and supported staff."



Sr Kathleen Cotterill
Region Leader Little Company of Mary Australia/Aotearoa-New Zealand/Tonga

"This has been a very challenging and difficult time for all those concerned, and the LCM Sisters are very grateful for Calvary Ministries as the canonical stewards of Calvary Health Care. I wish to thank you [Archbishop Prowse], and the Archdiocese of Canberra Goulburn, for all your efforts to support Calvary Health Care to continue to operate Calvary Public Hospital Bruce."



Martin Bowles
Calvary National Chief Executive

"The past five weeks have been harrowing for our Calvary Public Hospital Bruce staff and partners, our organisation as a whole, the wider community and even those working at Canberra Health Services..."

For 44 years Calvary has been a trusted local healthcare provider in the Territory and we were committed to the remaining 76 years of our contract. However, the ACT Government instead chose to legislate to end a longstanding commercial arrangement with us, even though we have not breached the conditions of our contract.

Calvary will consider the ACT Supreme Court judgement once it is made available."

Postcards from Spain (Part 1)

Fr Paul Nulley

AFTER nine years of pastoral work in the Archdiocese I am a full-time student again. I'm living in a town in the North of Spain most famous for the running of the bulls. Yes – I'm in Pamplona. But there is more to Pamplona than the running of the bulls. It's the place where Saint Ignatius Loyola was wounded in battle (by a member of St Francis Xavier's family). Because of this injury he was hospitalised and discovered the first principles of discernment. The Camino de Santiago passes through the town and Pamplona is home to the University of Navarra, where I am studying.

At the moment I'm learning Spanish so that I can be ready to start a Licentiate (the equivalent of a master's degree) in Biblical Theology. The course will commence on the 1st of September. I live in a residence with priests from around the world: Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe. It has been an opportunity to live more intensely the catholicity (universality) and fraternity of the Church. It has also been an opportunity to learn about the blessings and challenges that the church, and priests who are around my age (35), are facing. For example, perhaps you heard the news of a priest in Nigeria who was murdered on the 7th of June after only 10 months of ordination. One of my classmates was speaking with him on the day of this tragedy. And so, from Nicaragua to Nigeria, we form one community. Although we are from different cultures, it is ultimately a love for Jesus and his people, the Church, that unites us.

In my language class there are twelve priests from Africa, two seminarians from China, and as of this week, one priest from Poland. The Polish priest is preparing to go to Cuba for mission, while the rest of us are preparing for studies at the University.

For the first two-months I was



Top: Fr Paul Nulley (left) sightseeing. Above: Fr Nulley with classmates

the only non-African in my class. It wasn't quite the cultural reality I was expecting, but it is a great blessing. One of my friends likes to quote the African philosopher Ubuntu: "I am because we are and, since we are, therefore I am". The primacy of the community in this adage is obviously very different from the individualism of Descartes', "I think, therefore I am", which has profoundly influenced my worldview.

The emphasis on community means that decisions that affect our class, even in simple matters, are played out in a very synodal way – everyone is consulted and heard before a decision is made together. Unity in the community is a very important value for ev-

everyone and so perhaps consensus is arrived at easier than in a purely western context. Practically, it also meant that for the first two months we would walk to class together (a 7km round trip). We would only leave once everyone was together, even if it meant we had to search for someone or if it meant we would be late for class. While at times this was personally challenging, I now value walking with my classmates and am grateful for the bonds that have formed. The fruit that comes from walking together is much richer than if I were just to walk to class alone.

• **Read Part 2 of 'Postcards from Spain' in next weeks Weekly Catholic Voice**

it clear that we are saved not simply by the suffering of Jesus but by His love...His crucified love. The Gospel of John holds the foundational understanding here when Jesus says to Nicodemus, "God loved the world so much..."

Perhaps I am becoming too abstract in my theological generalisations.

Nonetheless although it seems a very complicated belief, the understanding of

The Trinity is very important for us today.

Many commentators talk about how the people of today thirst for love but ignore its source. This Sunday of The Most Holy Trinity

points us to the source of all love: Jesus. We sacramentally enter into the Trinity through our Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist – the initiation Sacraments of the Church. In a most particular way the Trinity is mirrored in those who live out the Sacrament of Matrimony.

I recall only a few weeks ago re-entering the Cathedral after greeting people following the Mass. People were gathering in the Cathedral for Baptism of their children. Like metal to magnet, I was drawn to a married couple holding their child as they were preparing for the Baptism. There seemed to be a Godly beauty about this won-

Pilgrims not tourists

World Youth Day 2023

SINCE the first World Youth Day (WYD) gathering in Rome almost 40 years ago, millions of young people have participated in a further 15 WYD events held worldwide.

This July, Pope Francis will gather with thousands of young people in Lisbon, Portugal.

Those thousands will include 28 Canberra Goulburn Archdiocese pilgrims led by Archbishop Christopher Prowse. 14 are teachers in the Catholic Education system.

Although this will be Archbishop Prowse's seventh WYD, he said each has been very different.

"Yes, there are some similarities, but each time, there are different people, countries visited and different experiences. Seeing how the Holy Spirit uses WYD in people's lives gives me great joy.

Adamant that those attending are "pilgrims, not tourists", Archbishop Prowse noted that the trip would potentially be a "faith game-changer" for them.

"I hope the pilgrims will open their hearts to God and walk on the road to conversion," he said.

To begin preparations, local participants gathered for the first of three face-to-face pilgrim preparation sessions in mid-May. Each session includes a talk on aspects of the Catholic faith, Mass and practical logistics of the trip, such as what and what not to



Left: Archdiocesan WYD pilgrims attend the first of three preparation sessions.



From left School teachers, Brittney Temple and Andrea McQuirk

pack.

Teachers from St Thomas More Primary School in Campbell, Brittney Temple and Andrea McQuirk, quickly signed up, saying they wanted to experience the global Catholic Church first-hand.

"Growing up, I heard a lot about being part of the global Catholic community," Ms McQuirk said. "So I wanted to have an opportunity to experience it and to see where I fit in."

Initially, Ms Temple said she knew very little about WYD but felt it would be an excellent opportunity to strengthen her faith after being encouraged to attend.

"It's a wonderful opportunity to go on a pilgrimage overseas with like-minded people. I hope to bring those experiences back to the classroom and pass them on to my students."

The 28 pilgrims will travel together for 19 days departing on July 26,

Their journey will include visiting the ancient Spanish Renaissance city and Fatima, before joining the WYD Week of celebration in Lisbon with

the Pope and the world's youth. The highlight of the pilgrimage will be Pope Francis's attendance at the welcoming and opening ceremony, the Way of the Cross, the vigil and, on the last day, the closing mass.

Left: Archdiocesan WYD pilgrims attend the first of three preparation sessions.

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Catholic belief was expanded. In answer to the question, "Why did God become man?" The early Church stressed that God became one of us to redeem us from sin. Here is the time when the understanding of Original Sin is given birth and how Jesus represents all of us as the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

However, in the second millennium this was taken for granted but it was expanded upon. Here salvation is not just limited merely to the remission of sins. The great Italian Dominican Theologian, St Thomas Aquinas, in his 13th century School of Theology, arising from his theological insights, made

derful scene of the lover and the beloved and the expression of their love in a new born child. We say that the Holy Spirit is the Lord and giver of life. We never argue when we look on a beautiful baby in the arms of its parents. No matter what our differences of opinion we all agree that there is nothing more beautiful than the innocence and tenderness of a child in the arms of love and the expression of love of the parents.

Let us go on with the Mass as we enter into the mystery of the Trinity. If you recall some weeks ago I mentioned about mystery in regard to theology. I said it is like entering into the ocean. We cannot

contain the ocean just as we cannot contain God's love. Nor can we embrace the ocean. Nor can we embrace the love of God but the love of God can embrace us. Just as we can enter into the ocean by swimming, we can also enter the love of God by swimming in the ocean of God's love, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Let us do that in these days coming up.

Let us use for our Biblical expression to be memorised the ancient Trinitarian blessing in today's Second Reading – "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."