

# Horizons

A photograph of a bishop performing the Mass of the Oils. He is wearing white vestments with gold embroidery and a pink zucchetto. He is pouring red wine from a small chalice into a large, ornate glass vessel. The background is slightly blurred, showing a church interior.

## MASS OF THE OILS: A PASTORAL HIGHLIGHT

**SPRED:** A Special  
Journey in Faith

**Discipleship Beyond the  
Catholic Conveyor Belt**

**Growing a Sense of  
Community Beyond  
the School Gate**

**#46**  
MAY 17

FREE Publication  
of the Catholic  
Diocese of  
Toowoomba





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MAY 17

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## FROM THE EDITOR INGRID MCTAGGART

**Our Diocese is awesome!** Once again the gathering of stories and pictures for Horizons highlights for me just how vibrant our diocese can be. I am pleased to see content from some parishes and schools we haven't heard from in a while and the continuous contributors are always a welcome sight.

A phrase that stuck out to me while reading was "pockets of excellence". There are so many life giving experiences out there, but sometimes they feel like they might be in isolation. How do we move from pockets of life to a diocese of life?

For the Pastoral Council Development Day and Diocesan Inservice we were lucky to have two very good facilitators to expand on the topic of becoming a community of engagement and discipleship. Thank you to Daniel Ang and Lorraine McCarthy for agreeing to write follow up pieces for Horizons. These articles are not only for those who attended the two formation days, but to engage and share the wisdom with our wider community. It is great to see following on from these days that the Diocesan Pastoral Council is on the path to forming a diocesan vision.

I had the pleasure to again be involved in helping the

QLD Catholic Diocesan Youth Coordinators organise the logistics of the Movers and Shakers Youth Leadership Program. It was fantastic to see strong attendance this year, not only from our diocese but overall, a cyclone couldn't stop young people from getting here! While the adventure activities always rate high, the faith and spirituality aspects of the program rate as highlights for the young people as well. I hope that this "pocket" moment turns into something larger as these young people return to their schools and communities.

Over the years I have been fortunate to encounter people who are inspirational in their faith and spiritual presence. Sr Imelda McMahon was one of those people. I have sat with her at her laptop on many occasions over the years as she wanted to know how to do this or that. One day I was taken aback as she asked for assistance in doing the layout for her funeral booklet. "I want it done properly and I don't want anyone to have to fuss over it when I go!" And that was Sr Imelda, no fuss and such a strong vision in her faith and how she wanted things done! An extraordinary woman, may she rest in God's love.

Horizons is a quarterly magazine produced by the Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba. Grateful acknowledgement to the Catholic Schools Office for their contribution to production costs, as well as to our advertisers for their support. Opinions expressed in articles are not necessarily held by the editor. **Enquiries:** Ingrid McTaggart, Communications Office, PO Box 756, Toowoomba QLD 4350. **Phone:** 07 4632 4277. **Email:** horizons@twb.catholic.org.au **Front Cover:** Chrism Mass 2017, Story Page 36 **Graphic Design:** The Catholic Design Company 1300 883 454 **Deadlines:** Editions will be quarterly. Deadline for the August Edition 2017 is 28 July 2017.

# PREPARING FOR THE YEAR OF YOUTH

*The upcoming Year of Youth calls the entire Church to accompany young people as maturing disciples from school to young adulthood, to help them find their place in the Church and the world.* It calls young people to be more involved in their faith community, to grow in understanding and expressing who they are as the Church of today and tomorrow. The Year of Youth also coincides with the 10th anniversary of World Youth Day 2008 in Sydney.

In December the Australian Catholic Youth Festival will officially launch the Year of Youth. The festival, established by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, is a national gathering of Catholic young people. It exists to provide them with opportunities to deepen their relationship with Jesus, be empowered to be disciples in the world today and encounter and celebrate the vitality of the Church in Australia. Young people from year 9 (in 2017) to young adults 30 years of age are invited to the event.

The Australian Catholic Youth Festival and the Year of Youth take up the theme- 'Open new horizons of spreading joy: Young people, faith and vocational discernment'. This theme echoes the words of Pope Francis at World Youth Day 2016; he called young people and the Church to 'open new horizons for spreading joy'.

'My friends, Jesus is the Lord of risk, he is the Lord of the eternal "more". Jesus is not the Lord of comfort, security and ease. Following Jesus demands a good dose of courage, a readiness to trade in the sofa for a pair of walking shoes and to set out on new and uncharted paths. To blaze trails that open up new horizons capable of spreading joy, born of God's love

and wells up in your hearts with every act of mercy.'

The Year of Youth also takes inspiration from the theme of the XV General Assembly of the Ordinary Synod of Bishops taking place in October 2018 "Young people, faith and vocational discernment." Describing the theme "as an expression of the

Church's pastoral concern for the young," Pope Francis said the chosen topic follows on from the findings of the recent Synods on the family and the conclusions contained in the post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*. The Synod wishes to accompany young people along their journey towards maturity so that, through a process of discernment, they can discover their life plan and achieve it joyfully, opening themselves up to an encounter with God and humanity and actively taking part in the building of the Church and society.

I encourage young people to engage in this Synod process and answer the questionnaire that will be available in the next few weeks. I look forward to Year of Youth festivities across the diocese and celebrating with those young people who attend the festival.

**Bishop Robert McGuckin**  
**Bishop of Toowoomba**  
**May 2017**



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# IN MEMORIAM

## FR HECTOR (TOM) SHEERAN

***Hector Thomas (Tom) Sheeran was born 13 April 1935 in Elsternwick, Victoria to Hector and Susanna and had one brother Michael and two sisters Ann and Jennifer. He attended school at Sacred Heart School Sandringham and St Bede's College Mentone, both in Victoria.***

From 1955 to 1960, Tom attended Corpus Christi Werribee in Victoria. In 1962, he attended Pius XII Provincial Seminary Banyo in Queensland. Fr Tom was ordained to the priesthood in St Patrick's Cathedral Melbourne on 29 June 1964 by Archbishop Justin Simonds.

Fr Tom was appointed to the Cathedral, Cunnamulla, Warwick, Mitchell, Administrator at the Cathedral and back to Warwick. He also held many different Diocesan Offices at that time from Vocations and Youth to Dean of Warwick.

Fr Tom was a man of many talents. It was during his time out west that he became renown as a boxing coach, even reaching an international level of skill as a referee. He was chosen to be a boxing referee for the 1982 Commonwealth Games. Fr Tom was also equally well known for his vintage car collection and appreciation for antiques. His hobby of rebuilding and restoring vintage cars was a source of great enjoyment for him. He also had a flair for the artistic, enjoying acting, painting, sketching and cartooning.

A class mate of Fr Tom's at Banyo, Fr Kerry Costigan said in his Words of Remembrance, "He was admired and respected in the parishes he was called to serve, his enthusiasm and integrity were evident, enhancing the love he seemed to have of being a priest."

Fr Kerry also recalled a chance encounter, "On the night of Tom's death, I caught a taxi to visit... I told him [the taxi driver] I was on the way to offer prayers for a priest who had died. He said he knew only one priest, Fr Tom Sheeran... He told me as a



young aboriginal boy growing up in Mitchell, Fr Sheeran taught him the art of boxing. I was inquisitive enough to ask him what he thought of Fr Sheeran. He said he was firm but fair."

Another fellow class mate, Fr James Byrne, offered these words of tribute, "Tom's greatest talent for sure was his priesthood. In and through the tremendous array of talents he lived out, he was always a priest. He in his own way lived out a priestly mission not confined to the presbytery but in the marketplace wherever he dealt with people. I visited Tom in full flight at the Toowoomba Swap days several times, dressed in his blue overalls, but always he was Father Tom to all."

Fr Tom retired to live privately in Toowoomba in 2005 and moved to Lourdes Home in 2015. He died peacefully at St Vincent's Care Services, (Lourdes) on 6 March 2017. A Funeral Mass was held at St Patrick's Cathedral 13 March 2017.

## JOAN NUSS

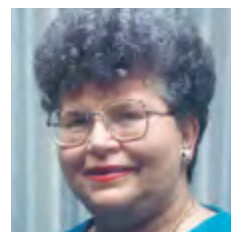
***Legendary and much loved music, speech and drama teacher and organist, Joan Nuss, passed away peacefully on 27 January 2017, aged 86 years.*** Family and friends gathered at Sacred Heart Church Toowoomba in February to farewell Joan and celebrate an extraordinary life.

Joan has become well known across Toowoomba by sharing her talent for music and drama with many young people through out the years. She was also well known for her contribution to the Toowoomba Eisteddfod. In 2012 the Toowoomba Eisteddfod committee established a scholarship named in Joan's honour to assist young performers with speech and drama studies.

Fr James Byrne recalled this humorous story, "Joan has been an organist and choir master at Sacred Heart since the opening of the Church over 50 years ago. I can remember Joan telling me about the great difficulty she experienced whilst

playing the organ for a wedding when the church was deluged by a heavy storm, water coming through the roof on top of her and Fr Brian Sparksman called out "KEEP GOING JOAN!" Yes the show had to go on!"

"Joan was so vitally involved in all aspects of Parish life offering to help wherever she could. There never was a better reader of scripture at Mass. Her strong clear diction resonating so wonderfully through the church," says Fr Byrne. "We all feel so blessed to have had the company of this very gentle, childlike and humble soul who graced our community and commend her with confidence to the love and mercy of the Great Conductor and Creator whose baton she strove to follow always."





## SR IMELDA MCMAHON MSS

***Sr Imelda Mary McMahon mss was born in Richmond, New South Wales on 17 February 1925 to parents Vincent and Josephine McMahon. Imelda was the youngest of 6 children.***

Imelda's early life was hard, but it was also filled with joy and love. The Depression in the 1930's forced the McMahons to move and in 1941 Imelda left secondary school to help her mother run a holiday guesthouse from their family home while her father was in poor health. Through it all the family kept in high spirits through a love of music with many singsongs around the piano. Imelda enjoyed dancing, tennis, golf and horse riding. She felt a great freedom when galloping at speed on her horse.

The late 1940's saw the beginnings of a call to religious life for Imelda. While visiting her sister, Sr Marcia McMahon a Good Samaritan Sister in Marrickville, she was given a magazine with story of the Missionary Sisters of Service (MSS). In August 1950 Imelda headed for Hobart to join the MSS Sisters, a community in its 6th year of existence.

For the next 30 years Sr Imelda spent time devoted to ministry in Tasmania and New South Wales. The early years spent touring in a caravan across Tasmania visiting families in their homes, supporting parents in the religious education of their children, creating opportunities for people to come together to share and deepen their faith. Sr Imelda also

managed the Catholic Bookshop set up by Fr John Wallis in Hobart. She worked there in 1959 for 4 years and again in 1972 for 3 years.

In 1982 Bishop Edward Kelly requested a Missionary Sister of Service to set up and manage a bookshop in his diocese. There was no better qualified person than Sr Imelda. She spent 18 years managing The Family Bookshop, located initially in the Bell Street Mall and later moving to the front of The Shrine. During that time The Family Bookshop was twice awarded the National Christian Bookshop of the Year. In 2000 Sr Imelda retired from managing The Family Bookshop.

Sr Imelda continued her ministry even in retirement. She became part of the Pastoral Care Team at Lourdes Home and continued this work even when she became a resident herself.

During her Words of Remembrance, MSS Congregational Leader, Sr Stancea Vichie remarked, "Imelda was a woman of courage and determination, she was prepared to speak out for what was just, for those unable to speak for themselves. A woman of deep faith, a spirit of prayer and a life lived always for the mission of God."

Sr Imelda died peacefully on 7 March 2017 at St Vincent's Care Services (Lourdes). Her funeral was held at the Lourdes Home Chapel 20 March 2017.



Kevin and Jacaline McGrath (now retired)



Judith McGrath-Colquhoun

## Continuing the Family Tradition of Care...

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**Bishop Michael McCarthy.**  
(on the funeral of his Mother)



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# DIOCESAN INSERVICE CONTINUES TO BUILD ON MISSION

JOHN BRIFFA

*The organising committee was delighted to secure Lorraine McCarthy from Alpha Australia to present the March Diocesan Inservice.* Members of the organising committee first encountered Lorraine at a workshop presented by her during the Proclaim 2016 Conference titled *Who Do We Think We Are: Models of Parish that Help or Hinder Our Mission*. Lorraine's input drew heavily on the book *Divine Renovation* by Fr James Mallon, a valuable resource for all parishes seeking to renew their attempts at answering the call to mission.

The theme and material presented over the two days of this inservice supports and builds on content from previous inservice sessions and follows closely in the footsteps of the book *Rebuilt* by Fr Michael White & Tom Corcoran, which a number of parishes have embraced since the Mission and Ministry Team toured the Diocese with the Recasting Our Nets workshops in 2015.

Patrice Riordan, Pastoral Associate at Warwick Parish, reflected, "This Diocesan Inservice was very reaffirming for me. It was great to listen to Lorraine McCarthy, a Pastoral Associate in touch with her own parish and ministry. One of our focus areas has been outreach to others and developing relationships which she was able to address."

As with any professional development, the intention of the inservice is to expand our thinking and present us with new ways to consider dealing with existing realities. While no two problems are ever solved by the same solution, the inservice provided the opportunity for parish personnel to become aware of what has worked in other parishes and to share some of their own experience.

## GETTING TO THE HEART OF THE GOSPEL IS THE KEY TO PARISH EVANGELISATION

LORRAINE MCCARTHY

*In the first days of his pontificate Pope Francis addressed the College of Cardinals asking them to "find new ways to spread the word of God to every corner of the world."* (March 15, 2013)

Many people these days are turning away from their faith and we urgently need to ways to reach out to them in a way that relates to people immersed in our modern culture. Alpha has been specifically designed to do this.

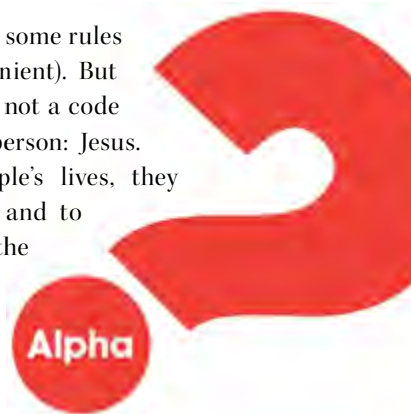
### PLANTING SEEDS IN CONCRETE IS NOT RECOMMENDED

It has been said that trying to catechize someone who has never been evangelized is like planting seeds in concrete; they won't grow. What does this mean? Many people in our Parishes grew up Catholic, went to Catholic schools and received their sacraments of initiation. Faith came to be seen as a subject, a



set of things to memorize, some rules to abide by (when convenient). But the heart of the Gospel is not a code or a set of rules but a person: Jesus. Rules don't change people's lives, they don't lead to conversion and to joy. Friendship with God, the God who loves us, does.

#### PROCLAMATION COMES BEFORE TEACHING



On the day of Pentecost, when the Apostles went out to preach, they didn't start with a systematic treatise from the Catechism. What the Apostles did on that day was to proclaim in a very basic fashion what God had done for the world in His Son Jesus. This proclamation was directed to the hearts of those listening to move them to make a decision, to repent and to accept the love of God offered to us in Jesus. Only after this was a second, and very necessary, step added: what's known as "teaching" or catechism. It seems that many people who have grown up Catholic started right away with the Catechism which, as we have said, is like planting seeds in concrete.

#### THE ALPHA COURSE

Alpha allows anyone to explore life, faith and God in a friendly, open and informal environment. In each session there's food, a short talk and robust discussion in small groups. Participants are lead on a journey that frequently leads to a deeper relationship with Jesus and to significant life change. It enables people to ask their questions, share ideas, build friendships and experience the love of God – all in the midst of a caring Parish setting. Fr Raniero Cantalamessa, Preacher to the Papal Household, says "In my opinion Alpha accomplishes an incredible task, in making people interested in faith and in making faith relevant".

Around the world over 29 million people in 116 languages and 169 countries have tried Alpha. Many lives have been changed and Parishes rejuvenated and renewed. Alpha is one way we can heed the Pope's call to "find new ways to spread the word of God to every corner of the world" – including Toowoomba! Why not try it in your Parish?

In the first days of his pontificate Pope Francis addressed the College of Cardinals asking them to  
*"find new ways to spread the word of God to every corner of the world."*

(March 15, 2013)

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# DISCIPLESHIP BEYOND THE CATHOLIC CONVEYOR BELT



Sr Elaine Morzone, Daniel Ang and Bishop Robert McGuckin.



Daniel Ang

## PASTORAL COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT DAY

### SR ELAINE MORZONE MFIC

*In early February, representatives from many parishes across the Toowoomba Diocese gathered at the James Byrne Centre for the Pastoral Council Development Day.* Daniel Ang, from the Broken Bay Diocese, provided a very challenging day as he led the group through two input sessions followed by a session of group work and question time.

The focus of the Pastoral Council Development Day was that the mission of God calls our parishes to courageously confront those dimensions of our life and culture which enable, and also those that impede, the flourishing of discipleship among our people. In the midst of social change, how might we begin to renew our pastoral practice so that our parishes are centres of personal faith and bold evangelisation?

Those in attendance found it very challenging, but also a fruitful Development Day. It was commented that there was a lot to take away and discern in parishes. The Diocesan Mission and Ministry Team (Sarah de Byl, John Briffa and Sr Elaine Morzone) are planning future workshops to share the highlights of the day's reflection on "Parish Planning and Strategies for Change, Growth, and Mission" at a later date.



# MAKING DISCIPLES IN THE AUSTRALIAN PARISH

DANIEL ANG, DIRECTOR, OFFICE FOR EVANGELISATION,  
DIOCESE OF BROKEN BAY

## NAMING THE ISSUES

*The trend of declining participation in the life of Australian parishes tells us that we can no longer rely on a 'conveyer belt' which was presumed to take Catholics from the cradle to the grave in faith, the assumption that a Catholic baptism and the mere fact of going to a Catholic school, for example, would secure a lifetime of committed discipleship and religious practice.*

Even among the many hundreds who receive the sacraments in our local parishes each year, pass through our sacramental life in initiation or from week to week, we might suspect that not as many emerge as missionary disciples as we would like. This is often reflected in dwindling participation, a scarcity of volunteers, sparse attendance in opportunities for faith formation, a shortage of priestly and religious vocations, and even shortfalls in finance.

It could be suggested that a part of the conundrum is that we have adopted a pastoral approach that assumes the sacraments will simply 'take care of it' and neglected our duty to awaken in each person that active and personal faith, that fertile soil, in which the grace of the sacraments can actually take root and bear fruit. As the Church reminds us, 'the sacred liturgy does not exhaust the entire activity of the Church: it must be preceded by evangelisation, faith, and conversion' (Catechism of the Catholic Church #1072; my italics).

Underscoring the mission of our parishes, Pope Francis has underlined that an evangelising community should above all

be "concerned with fruit, because the Lord wants her to be fruitful" (Evangelii Gaudium 24). Here the Pope echoes the call of Christ to the Apostle Peter, "I chose you from the world, to go and bear fruit that will last" (John 15:16) as well as the depiction of a missionary Church we find in Luke 6:43-44, "No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. Each tree is recognised by its own fruit". What is this fruit for which our parishes exist? It is for the making of disciples.

## FOUNDATIONS OF AN EVANGELISING PARISH

*A first step in living this mission is to recognise the complexity of our people.* The reality is that many are only sacramentalised but not yet evangelised, that there are varying beliefs even among those who do attend Mass, and there are those who do not believe in God and yet send their children to our Catholic schools or even are among us in the pews. So it is a complex reality. As Ed Murrow, the famous broadcast journalist of last century noted, "Anyone who isn't confused doesn't really understand the situation"!

In walking towards a preferred future under grace, there are a number of foundations which can assist us to live our evangelising mission with renewed vigour. One opportunity is to be open to the opportunities we are given for pre-evangelisation, to build trust and relationships with others before any explicit proclamation of the Good News of Christ. In the past we have been tempted to catechise people who are not yet genuinely open to hearing a message proclaimed.





We have confused indifference for ignorance and provided information rather than a relationship to nurture faith. Understandably and especially in this moment of our history, many do not trust in the Church. Many others feel pre-judged before they darken the doors of our parishes, if they do so at all. Hence, building trust by the sharing of stories, personal accompaniment amidst the dramas of everyday life, and intentional listening are essential ingredients in the journey to shared discipleship.

Once such relationships of trust and dialogue are established, our proclamation of the Gospel calls to be centred on the 'kerygma', the basic truths of our Christian faith centred on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. This is the primary proclamation which must be repeated again and again, not only with those interested in the faith but more established disciples as well. The kerygma stands at the basis of all Christian doctrine which follows. As Pope Paul VI affirmed, "There is no true evangelisation if the name, the teaching, the life, the promises, the Kingdom and the mystery of Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God are not proclaimed" (EN 22). This is the Good News that must form the centre of our proclamation, preaching and catechesis.

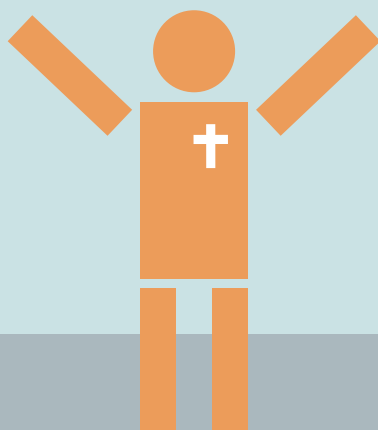
As well, disciple-making will be irreducibly personal for programs, resources and initiatives do not make disciples. Disciples make disciples. In fact, the heart of all evangelisation could be described as one person telling another person how the encounter

with Jesus Christ has changed their life, one beggar telling another beggar how he found bread.

This personal exchange can be nourished by the ecclesial community by small groups of faith, a quality of a shared prayer life and worship, and a common commitment to encounter others in the wider community in witness and service.

Evangelising parishes can plan to make this proclamation and personal reception of the Gospel a reality in a number of ways. A clear and communicated parish vision centred on discipleship is essential to breaking the silence of an unquestioned routine, and enables us to boldly proclaim our faith not only to members of our parish but to those beyond in the neighbourhood who may not know what or who we are about. Parish priorities can then be discerned to live that vision in the face of our limited resources, including time, personnel and finance. Strategies and select actions can also be identified to help us meet these priorities and to avoid the risk of simply adding more to the existing parish routine. We know from experience that mere addition is not synonymous with increase!

The local parish continues to be the face of the Church and the presence of Christ, in Word, Eucharist and the entire body of the faithful, calling people to discipleship. It is through our active cooperation in the mission of God, that mission to make disciples, and by our prayerful planning for growth and faith that we can begin to shift our communities from maintenance to mission, from routine to renewal.







# AFRICA FAMINE: A MAJOR HUMANITARIAN DISASTER

CARITAS AUSTRALIA

15 year old Susanna Gelasivo is struggling to feed her baby in Enyif, South Sudan.

***“Our people are struggling simply to survive”- in a powerful pastoral letter, the Bishops of South Sudan have expressed a desperate plea for support.***

United Nations agencies recently declared famine in parts of South Sudan and it's a famine that is likely to spread. Caritas Australia's CEO, Paul O'Callaghan said without concerted political and community action, there is the risk of famine spreading across the region.

“With over 20 million people at risk of starvation, this is a major humanitarian disaster that requires our urgent action. It's vital for us to do whatever we can to assist before it's too late and the worst of this large-scale famine becomes entrenched,” Mr O'Callaghan said.

This is an unprecedented situation and may be the gravest food security event since the 1984 famine that devastated the people of Ethiopia. Caritas recently launched its Africa Emergency Appeal to raise life-saving funds for those in need.

Caritas Australia, in collaboration with the Caritas Internationalis network, has a long history of working successfully with desperately poor communities in the affected countries of Africa.

Mary Wachira, Caritas Project Coordinator, who works on the ground with communities in South Sudan said, “Caritas' unique reach through the Church into vulnerable communities means that it is well-placed to support those in need.”

Through the generous support of Australians, Caritas is providing people with essential food and water, as well as continuing our long term development work so communities have resilience in the face of future threats.

This humanitarian disaster is being driven in many areas by conflict, as well as sky rocketing food prices due to inflation, while climate change is compounding a severe drought throughout the Horn of Africa. The long term impacts of climate change are undermining the region's ability to endure extreme weather, leaving thousands of people vulnerable to hunger and disease.

**TO DONATE TO THE AFRICA EMERGENCY**

**APPEAL VISIT <http://www.caritas.org.au/learn/emergency-response> OR PHONE 1800 024 413.**

## DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL EYES VISION

***Reformed by Bishop Robert McGuckin, the Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) has met six times over the past two years.*** The first meeting this year was held in March at Dalby, the first time a meeting has been held outside Toowoomba.

Members of the DPC come from each of the deaneries as well as key ministries to ensure a broad representation. At the end of 2017, approximately half of the members, having completed three year term, will relinquish their membership so that new people may be added.

Over the past two years, the Council has received and deliberated upon a number of presentations which have included reports from each of the Deaneries, from Youth Ministry, the Catholic Schools Council, and Spirituality and Mission. In addition, Pope Francis' publications have received the Council's attention.

In 2016, Bishop Robert presented a summary of the Parish Visitation Reports from all of the Parishes of the Diocese. This summary has since been further refined to enable more meaningful discussion to take place.

At the Dalby meeting, Sr. Elaine presented a synopsis of evaluation sheets which had been gathered from the Pastoral Council Development Day. One of the key suggestions to emerge from the synopsis was the need for Parishes as well as the Diocese to begin a 'vision and priorities' process.

In response to this feedback Bishop Robert, the DPC and invited guests of the Bishop will meet in Toowoomba to develop a vision statement that will energise the Diocese. Working with the group to facilitate a process to identify priorities in the light the vision will be Dr Ken Avenell. Dr Avenell is the Senior Manager, Professional Learning and Leadership Development, from the Catholic Schools Office.



## MOVERS AND SHAKERS CONTINUES TO SHAPE YOUNG LEADERS

**SARAH DE BYL & INGRID MCTAGGART**

*This year's Movers and Shakers participants enjoyed the peaceful surrounds of the James Byrne Centre, from 9th to 13th April.* The program, now in its 26th year, continued to deliver the objective of high quality leadership training for young people in a safe and fun environment. It also provided an opportunity for the group to support and network with people face to face outside of social media or their immediate circle of friends.

An initiative of the Queensland Catholic Diocesan Youth Coordinators (QCDYC) and led by a team of youth ministry professionals, Movers and Shakers is one of the longest running leadership training initiatives in Australia. One of the strengths of the program is its ability to combine theory and practical leadership development with different activities to challenge participants. During the residential five day program participants were challenged both individually, and in small groups, to work on problem solving, teamwork and adventure based activities.

A highlight of Movers and Shakers 2017 was Sr Mel Dwyer, from Vocations Brisbane, sharing her story and leadership experiences. This year's participants really valued Sr Mel's honesty, openness and input as well as hearing about school in Africa and the life of students there compared to here in Australia. Sr Mel is also a past participant of Movers and Shakers and loved seeing the way the program has evolved.

Sarah de Byl, Youth Coordinator for the Diocese said this year's program continues to build on the successes of the past. The hard work of past coordinators and facilitators make Movers and Shakers the exceptional program it is today. "It's always wonderful to have a new group of young people come through, but this year we were really excited to have some new adults at the program," says Sarah. "Newly appointed Youth Ministry Support Worker for the Townsville Diocese, Michael van Blerk, was able to attend this year as a Small Group Facilitator. He'll be a valued member of the team in the future."

Participants this year were really struck by how much this program challenged them in a positive way. Many commented that they were pushed beyond their comfort



zone and it dared them to take a new perspective.

**Toowoomba representative Alice Galea said,** "I learnt more during the Movers and Shakers Program than I could have ever hoped, including skills that not only make me a better leader, but provided me with skills that I will be able to use to propel my future career forward." Alice went on to say that another highlight for her was to speak with those who had undertaken a "religious career", "It's not every day that you have the opportunity to speak to such people and yet they are so open, wise and humble, it is not an experience all can have, but it is certainly an awe-inspiring one."

**PHOTOS AND INFORMATION ABOUT MOVERS AND SHAKERS 2017 CAN BE FOUND ON THE MOVERS AND SHAKERS FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM PAGES AS WELL AS**

**[www.moversandshakers.org.au](http://www.moversandshakers.org.au).**

**THE PROGRAM WILL AGAIN RUN IN 2018, KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL AVAILABLE LATER IN THE YEAR OR CHECK BACK AT THE WEBSITE FOR UPDATES.**



# THOMAS ZARANSKI

*fiat voluntas tua  
thy will be done*



IN HIS MESSAGE FOR THE 54TH WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS (7/5/17), POPE FRANCIS REFLECTS ON THE “MISSIONARY DIMENSION OF OUR CHRISTIAN CALLING”, WITH THE THEME “LED BY THE SPIRIT FOR MISSION”. POPE FRANCIS CONTINUES IN HIS MESSAGE, “THOSE WHO [ARE] DRAWN BY GOD’S VOICE AND DETERMINED TO FOLLOW JESUS SOON DISCOVER WITHIN THEMSELVES AN IRREPRESSIBLE DESIRE TO BRING THE GOOD NEWS TO THEIR BROTHERS AND SISTERS THROUGH PROCLAMATION AND THE SERVICE OF CHARITY.”

*This is certainly true for our own seminarian, Tom Duncan, who is keen to share another of his fellow seminarian’s story of vocational discernment.* Tom asked Thomas Zaranski to share how the Spirit led him to this point in his life.

What resonates most poignantly when I think about my discernment towards priesthood are the Lord’s words spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, “I know the plans I have in mind for you... plans for peace. When you seek me you shall find me, when you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me” (Jer 29:11-14). This has been my experience. From the time I first thought about the priesthood as a young altar server, until I entered the seminary in my mid-twenties and continuing today, my prayer has been to seek the Lord’s will in my life. The fruit of this prayer has been a joyous peace.

My vocation journey towards the priesthood can be described as my heart’s deepest search, which in itself is mysterious. Growing up in a close Catholic family, I have always been nurtured and supported in my faith journey, particularly through my family’s Christian witness. Yet when I finished high school my search was more aligned to what I wanted, to my own plans rather than God’s plans. I went to university where I studied economics, which lead me to a number of jobs in that field. This was a happy time for me, but deep down I was still ultimately restless. I sensed there was something more. Looking back, this was a ‘crossroads’ moment in my journey. The idea of seeking the Lord’s will in my life was something that began to echo more deeply within, which led me to seek out some spiritual direction and

to attend a priesthood discernment weekend at Holy Spirit Seminary. Over the next couple of years I attended a number of these retreats, which are called Quo Vadis weekends (Latin for “where are you going?”). They helped open the ears of my heart to prayerfully consider where I was going and indeed which roadmap I was using. During this I thought that I needed a prolonged interior quiet to further discern and hear the Lord. I asked my boss for a ‘career break’, which put my job on hold and I went back to university, this time to study Education to become a High School Teacher. This proved to be a great time which was richly rewarding and ultimately lead to a short stint teaching at Catholic Schools, although I still felt God calling me to prayerfully consider a call to the Priesthood.

The first person I told after coming to the conviction that God was indeed calling me to service in his priesthood, was my mother. I vividly recall telling her and my father over a family dinner that after meeting with my Bishop, I had been accepted into the seminary; her response was joyous. So joyous in fact she cried. My prayer is that you too might hear the Lord’s call in your life, and have the courage to respond generously.

**Thomas Zaranski** is in the final stages of seminary formation to become a priest for the Archdiocese of Brisbane. Thomas pursued two different professional careers before discovering what God wanted of him. Each of us, no matter what stage of life we are in, is called to respond to God’s desire for us, whatever that might be.

# SOCCER MATCH BRINGS FAITHS TOGETHER

INDIA THOMPSON



**Hi, I'm India (Indi?)** Thompson and I'm a Residential Advisor at Concannon College for 2017. I have been a proud green crocodile for three years and have previously held volunteer leadership positions within our Resident Student Club (RSC) as Secretary and then President. I'm also a third year studying a Bachelor of Creative Arts majoring in Theatre Studies and Public Relations. When I graduate, my goal is to be working with a major theatre company, helping to develop new and independent Australian theatre pieces!

On 2 March 2017, the Concannon College residents and I had the privilege of participating in our second annual Interfaith Soccer Tournament match with members of the Islamic Interfaith and Multicultural Association of Toowoomba Inc. Our first Interfaith Soccer Tournament was held in 2015, which was a huge success for everyone and we were excited to continue the tradition this year.

This year USQ's Football Club assisted with providing Toara Park and set the scene for a great competition between our ladies and gentleman's teams. As part of the tournament, our teams were mixed between the members of the Concannon and the Islamic Interfaith and Multicultural Association Communities. After introductions, where I found out many of them were USQ students, we picked our teams and we were ready to compete. Even though our games were cut short due to inclement weather, it was great to see so many resident students participate, as well as those who came along as spectators. I have to say we all rocked the shin pads that we

wore; we looked like soccer professionals!

The ladies game had fierce competition that was showcased from our study abroad exchange students and honorary Concannon student Kyra O'Sullivan who now resides at Steele Rudd College as Senior Resident Advisor. Both games (male and female) resulted in an intense penalty shoot out to determine the winner of each game. Unfortunately my team did not come away with the win - I may have succumbed to goal keeper pressure and let one ball through on the last kick! However, we all had a lot of fun and in the end I think we're all winners as we now have a few more familiar faces around campus.

Our event concluded with a wonderful dinner hosted by Concannon College (USQ Residential Colleges) and we were all delighted to share a very tasty meal together! We ended the night with presentation and award ceremony for everyone who participated in this year's Interfaith Soccer Tournament.

Toowoomba is blessed to have a diverse and unique range of many cultures and faiths. The Interfaith Soccer Tournament is a special opportunity for young members of the community to come together to build last longing bridges between one another. It also demonstrates that we share a common love for sport and that we share more similarities with each other, rather than differences. I would like to give my appreciation and thanks to all those who participated and organised this year's Interfaith Soccer, and I sure next year's Interfaith Soccer Tournament will be just as successful as this year's.





# FAITHFUL **GATHER** TO BEGIN JOURNEY OF LENT

MARK COPLAND

*On Shrove Tuesday some members of the Muslim community gathered with members of the Christian community to mark the beginning of Lent.* This event took place at St Anthony's Parish Community Centre. Over the years a tradition has grown where members of the Christian community gather and host members of the Muslim community on the eve of the season of Lent.

"The idea for this gathering came from a presentation from Fr Hal Ranger to a youth camp on the Bunya Mountains many years ago," stated one of the organisers, Mark Copland. "Fr Hal spoke about the periods of fasting and alms giving that occur in the Christian season of Lent and the Muslim time of Ramadan. For many years the Muslim community has offered great hospitality to the broader community during Ramadan and the time of Eid (the end of Ramadan). A few of us thought that it would be nice to have a reason to come together as Christians and Muslims before Lent begins."

This little tradition offers an opportunity for people to gather in an informal way and get to know each other better through sharing a meal. Some of the members of the Muslim community were surprised to learn that there is a focus on prayer and fasting and reaching out to others through initiatives such as Project Compassion.

Bishop Robert was in attendance along with Imam Abdul Kader from the Garden City Mosque. "The evening was so warm, I was welcomed by people at the door and felt good to be there. I can see that people made a real effort with the food to ensure that everybody could enjoy themselves," stated Syed Ghazaly Syed Agil, one of the attendees. "I wish there were many more occasions like this."

Syed is also a key organiser for a regular football/soccer match that has been held with the Muslim youth, the Diocesan Youth Office and students from Concannon College each year. Each of these occasions are an opportunity to build peace and understanding in our community.

## CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL

MICHAEL PYKE

Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) celebrates 50 years as part of the Catholic Church in 2017. Celebrations will be held in Rome with Pope Francis during Pentecost. Similar celebrations are being held throughout the world during the year and we hope to host our Toowoomba Diocese celebration in November.

Here in the Toowoomba Diocese we have two long standing CCR Prayer Groups. The Sacred Heart Prayer Group in Warwick which meets weekly on Mondays at 9.45am was established 40 years ago. If you want to be part of this faithful group, contact Trish Seaby on (07) 4661 3133. The Wings of Freedom Prayer Group at Sacred Heart Parish Toowoomba

celebrates its 20th year in 2017 and meets weekly on Tuesdays at 7.30pm. If you wish to join this expanding Prayer Group, contact Lisa Minz on (07) 4615 5218.

A new Prayer Group has been set up in St Anthony's Parish in Toowoomba. If you wish to be part of this new group please contact Michael Pyke on 0458 300 880.

If there are any more Prayer Groups in the Diocese who use the 'Gifts of the Holy Spirit', please contact me. It doesn't matter if you are attached to a Parish or a community such as the Pilipino community or the Neo Catechumenate. It is important for us to know and Bishop McGuckin has asked me to make contact with you all.

### CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL EVENTS IN THE DIOCESE:

A Life in the Spirit Seminar, hosted by the Wings of Freedom Prayer Group, will be held on 22nd and 23rd July 2017. Please contact EJ Polotan on 0403 869 370 for more information. If you would like to know more about CCR please contact Michael Pyke (Toowoomba Diocese representative on the Queensland CCR State Service Committee) on michael.pyke56@bigpond.com or mobile 0458 300 880.



Pastoral Carers at  
Commissioning Celebration



# PASTORAL CARERS CONTINUE TO SUPPORT

NICOLE RANGIIRA

***Toowoomba Hospital Ecumenical Pastoral Carers wear a uniform that says, "May we always know Hope".*** As joyful Easter people, we celebrate daily the risen Jesus; the hope alive in our hearts. We have many opportunities to hold the hope for the lives of people.

We share Jesus's compassion to residents, their families, loved ones and staff of Aged Care facilities. We are present to the concerns of the sick in our hospitals and we journey with the dying at the Hospice too. Our hearts open care for people experiencing very vulnerable circumstances. Perhaps facing their own or a loved one's dying, maybe a devastating trauma, the loss of their independence or sense of purpose; people are suffering. They are grieving, may be estranged from loved ones, feeling victimised, alone and unlovable. For some their faith in a God is challenged, they may have no faith in God, in love, in themselves or their future.

Jesus's Holy Spirit leads us to sit in the often helplessness of people's lives. Carers can feel challenged to be present, non-judgemental and compassionate in the midst of such

deep despair. Jesus shows us how God dreams for us to live lives to the full, to love God and one another. Jesus's choice to spend time with those in the margins, who suffered, needed understanding and hope inspires us.

Pastoral Care creates a safe place for all people to be listened to, understood and cared for. People's inherent goodness has the opportunity to be affirmed and hope amidst the reality of all that is challenging and painful can shine.

We gathered to be commissioned as Pastoral Carers for the year ahead at Lourdes Home in February. Our gathering always coincides with The World Day of the Sick. This year's theme was particularly meaningful. "Amazement of what God has accomplished. The Almighty has done great things for me." (Lk 1:49) Certainly God accomplishes much through our response to God's call to care and bring hope to all. I extend a huge heartfelt thank you to everyone who shared in our very special gathering. May our love of Jesus continue to bring hope, as we seek to honour all the many and great things God has done for each of us.





# ARE OUR FAMILIES IN CRISIS?

STUART HALL CATHOLICCARE  
FAMILY SUPPORT TEAM LEADER

***The divorce rate in Australia currently runs just below 50% - which means that every second marriage over the last decade has ended in divorce.*** Approximately 46,000 couples every year have been catapulted into the stress of broken relationships and all the pain that comes with it. 56% of parents lack confidence in parenting. More than 80% of parents interviewed believe that maintaining a positive relationship with their children was a significant priority for them, but 71% struggled to find the time to enjoy activities together with their children.

CatholicCare services already has an outstanding counselling team who work with families in crisis and with the people who eventually find their way to the service. However we are committed to helping families strengthen their relationships before they break, of empowering individuals and families to face the challenges that this damaged society imposes on them.

Interestingly 25% of parents feel they would be negatively

judged by others if they had to admit to having problems with their parenting...

Family Therapy helps people in a close relationship help each other. It enables family members, couples and others who care about each other to express and explore difficult thoughts and emotions safely, to understand each other's experiences and views, appreciate each other's needs, build on strengths and make useful changes in their relationships and their lives. Individuals can find Family Therapy helpful, as an opportunity to reflect on important relationships and find ways forward.

This is a service we could all use. This is a service we can all encourage. This is a service we can all get behind and encourage our friends and loved ones to avail themselves of. St Paul encourages the Christians in Galatia, and by extension in Toowoomba, to help carry one another's burdens and not to give up at the enormity of the task because the promise is that you will reap a harvest if you don't give up.



## CatholicCare is excited to announce that our new, fresh look website is live!

With its new user-friendly navigation, it will provide you an easier way to learn about our services and solutions for both mobile and desktop versions.

For any question, suggestion, feedback or comments, please call us on **1300 477 433**.



The new site is available at **[www.catholiccare.services](http://www.catholiccare.services)**



## A SPECIAL JOURNEY IN FAITH

***Special Religious Development (SPRED) is a vital and vibrant ministry in the Toowoomba Diocese.*** For over 30 years SPRED has been accompanying people with intellectual disability on their faith journey by supporting and encouraging them to a fuller and more participatory life within the Church. SPRED currently supports 55 people with intellectual disability and has a volunteer base of more than 60 people from Toowoomba and Roma.

Funded by the Diocese, the SPRED program uses 'symbolic catechesis', a method developed specifically to assist people with intellectual disability to become aware of God's love. Another integral part of the program are the Volunteers. The effectiveness of the program hinges on the relationship between the Volunteers and the SPRED Friends - if faith is understood as relationship with God then this relationship is crucial in the faith development of our Friends. As well as attending a weekly gathering of their SPRED group, volunteers also support their Friends in their participation and worship at parish liturgies throughout the year and at social outings in the wider community.

SPRED was developed in Chicago over 50 years ago with programs operating throughout the world. Toowoomba has the distinction of being the first place in Australia to establish a SPRED community. At the insistence of a number of local families, Bishop Edward Kelly responded to the specific spiritual needs of their children with intellectual

disability by inviting Sr Monica McNamara to establish SPRED in Toowoomba. After much planning and enormous support from the Toowoomba Catholic community, four SPRED groups met for the first time in February 1986.

Today our Diocese's SPRED family has gone from strength to strength, with ten groups meeting each week – six at the Diocesan SPRED Centre in Hume Street, and another four in the Toowoomba parishes of Sacred Heart, St Thomas More's, Our Lady of Lourdes and All Saints Roma.

### SPRED NEEDS YOUR HELP

There are two ways the wider diocesan community can help support the SPRED ministry.

- Become a volunteer. Volunteers talk less about the commitment of their time and more about friendship, understanding and faith building experiences. Enquire about Volunteering by contacting SPRED on 07 4632 8427 or emailing [spred@twb.catholic.org.au](mailto:spred@twb.catholic.org.au).
- Make a monetary commitment to SPRED by donating today. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible and with tax time just around the corner, now is a great time to make that last minute donation. Any contribution you can make is received with gratitude and helps the Diocese continue this great ministry. See the donation slip for details.

**YES,  
I WOULD LIKE TO  
SUPPORT THE  
GREAT WORK  
OF SPRED**

Please return this slip  
with your gift to:  
**PO Box 1262,  
TOOWOOMBA QLD 4350**  
Ph: 07 4632 7589  
Email: [admin@twb.catholic.org.au](mailto:admin@twb.catholic.org.au)

Name:.....

Address:.....

☐ I would like to sign up for Diocesan eNews (supply email address)

Email:.....

I would like to make a gift today of ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other: .....

Please make cheques payable to "Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba"

Or Please debit my: ☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD

Name on card: .....

Card Number: ...../...../...../.....

Expiry Date: ...../..... Number: .....

(CVV required for VISA card holders)

Signed: ..... Date:...../...../.....

**THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR  
SUPPORT**



## SPRED CELEBRATES RETIRING VOLUNTEER'S CONTRIBUTION

### JEAN VANIER

*At this year's SPRED Volunteer Commencement Mass, held at the James Byrne Centre Chapel, it was our privilege as a community to thank John Morgan for his 20 years of service and commitment to SPRED.* It was also our great pleasure to have John's wife Kay and family with us to honour him.

"I journeyed into SPRED with the thought that I would attempt to make a difference for the better. I was completely unaware of the amazing spiritual and practical gifts that I would eventually be blessed with through my SPRED experience," John reflected.

John commenced with the Tuesday night group back in 1996 under the leadership of Sr Monica McNamara, for whom John had enormous respect and affection. One of John's many admirable attributes is his ability to see the best in people and bringing out the best in them.

In the SPRED ethos, friendship figures prominently and it was something John understood. You can see this in his lovely reflection on his SPRED Friend Stephen, "It was not until he was but a few feet from me that he turned to come face to face with me. His face broke into one of the warmest and sincerest smiles I have ever seen. Without a spoken word, I knew Stephen was saying, 'I am so glad to see you. You are my friend.' Only since being in SPRED, have I been able to get such fulfilment and joy out of such a simple gesture."

John demonstrated to all who have had the privilege of getting to know him what true friendship means. During his



John Morgan (centre) with family.

time with SPRED he journeyed in faith with many volunteers and in a very special way with SPRED Friends, Stephen, Cathy, Geoffrey, Rico, Lara and Kellie-Ann.

His faith is strong, his spirituality is deep, and his way of expressing both is simple and uncomplicated. John's presence brought a richness to the relationships within the group. His gentle humility, ready smile and self-deprecating humour always made newcomers to the group feel welcomed and at ease.

Outside of the usual weekly SPRED meetings, John never missed a SPRED event and was always sure to support at every opportunity, he lived the reality of what it means to belong to a community, not 'the community for myself' but 'myself for the community'.

## ENERGY AND JOY FROM POCKET DYNAMO!

### KEVIN SWAN

*After sharing the SPRED experience now for more than three years with my SPRED Friend Michael Buckley I am still inspired by the infectious joy which Michael brings to our Monday evening sessions.* He is our "pocket dynamo" who invariably springs out from behind a pot plant to make his entrance as dramatic as possible. We know from this mischievous action that Michael is happy to be with us, and we share the joy in his arrival.

Michael radiates happiness, which is often expressed in song. He has a true voice and serenades his volunteer driver



on the trips to and from SPRED. After our time of prayer we share supper, called Agape, made even more special with a performance from Michael accompanied by guitar actions and sometimes an uninhibited dance. At social gatherings he is a star, outclassing everybody else on the dance floor.

Michael is an enthusiastic SPRED participant. He completes activities in the preparation phase wholeheartedly and purposefully, applying himself to the chosen task to its completion. In the prayer room he shows a receptive spirit and a reverential response. When he leaves for home we feel that we can "tick all boxes", confident that he has experienced all of the session's planned outcomes. Michael is often called upon to take an active role at SPRED Masses and always shows a keen sense of occasion and a willingness to contribute.

Michael's family home is in Warwick, and he loves to return to his Mum and brother Ian for holidays. They are loyal supporters of SPRED and travel from Warwick to attend SPRED Masses and social gatherings. Clearly, they are proud of their son and brother – and so are we!

# WORKING TOGETHER TO EDUCATE YOUR CHILDREN

DR PATRICK COUGHLAN, EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR: CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



Dr Pat Coughlan with students  
from Our Lady of the Southern  
Cross College, Dalby.

***Just as your child is the focus of your family, so too is your child the focus of Catholic schools and classrooms across the Toowoomba Diocese.***

Two intertwining ambitions for each child underpin our work - academic success for all children and that all children come to know and experience the loving presence of Jesus in their life. Stretching the mind and nurturing the soul.

Sitting as the foundation of the curriculum in our schools is a very powerful and compelling narrative centred on the person of Jesus Christ.

Within this curriculum each child is challenged to find their passion in life - that thing which will demand more of them than they thought possible to give. When you find your passion you find your purpose in life.

In this edition of Horizons, we share with you how our schools grow students sense of community beyond the school gate and how our school and parish communities work together to offer an exemplary educational experience for your children. We also share a key academic initiative, our Reading Improvement Strategy.

I take this opportunity to commend the combined efforts of 1300 dedicated members of staff alongside parents and parish communities that come together in our endeavour. Your contributions are integral to our success and bring our mission to life. We are fortunate to have such talented and generous people as role models and teachers for the children across our Diocese.

To discover more about our schools, visit our website or contact your local Catholic school.

## DRESSING UP TO RAISE MONEY FOR HOSPITAL

***In March the Toowoomba Hospital Foundation ran their annual Zombie Walk fundraiser, this year choosing St Saviour's Primary School as the starting point.*** A very dedicated team of people led by Allison Campbell and Jasmine Quarman from the Toowoomba Hospital Foundation, helped organise this event ensuring the school grounds and centre of the city were overrun by the walking dead at dusk in the name of saving lives, not taking them.

The fourth annual Zombie Walk wound its way from St Saviour's Primary School through the CBD, raising funds

for the Give Me Five For Kids Appeal.

"It's all for a great cause - raising money for sick kids. There were about 1000 people from across the community who took part in this charitable walk and we helped to raise about \$11,000," said Ms Donna Muir, Principal of St Saviour's Primary School.

"It is important that we work together with community services such as the Hospital and aid them in their fundraising. You just never know when you might be in need of their services."





## ST MARY'S GOONDIWINDI SAYS THANKS TO THEIR WONDERFUL PARISH COMMUNITY AND P&F

***Recently, Fr Michael O'Brien presented St Mary's School, Goondiwindi with a cheque for \$50,000.*** This money was a gift from the sale of parish land in Goondiwindi and will be used for the further development of facilities at the new middle school site that is across the road from the school.

Brett Pollard, Principal of St Mary's School Goondiwindi said, "This generous gift is much appreciated and highlights the special relationship between our school,

the St Mary's Parish and Fr Michael."

St Mary's Goondiwindi prep students are also enjoying a new play area, thanks to the generous donation by the P&F of \$15,000 to update the area. The wonderful play area was designed and installed by a local landscape firm, Leichhardt Garden and Landscape Centre Goondiwindi. Greg Billing and his crew provided a top quality construction that will be enjoyed by many preppies in the years to come.

## MATER DEI P&F MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR THE HOSPICE

***The Toowoomba Hospice has received a generous, \$5,000 donation from the Mater Dei Parents and Friends Association.***

The funds were raised at the recent Mater Dei P&F charity golf day, held at the Toowoomba Middle Ridge Golf Club. The day was held in honour of past Mater Dei staff members Sam Power and Patty Brady who both lost their battles with cancer.

Mater Dei P&F vice president Andrew Edwards said the organising committee was again very thankful for the support of the school and the community.

"The P&F is very keen to foster family and community spirit at the school," he said.

"This is a day for the Mater Dei dads to come together and help the P&F raise some money for a worthwhile, cancer-related support service within the local community. The

dads get a chance to have some fun and at the same time raise some funds that can be directed towards much-needed critical services for those in need who are part of the families of the school and broader community," Mr Edwards said.

Mr Chris Bartlett, Principal of Mater Dei said, "It is great to see our Parents and Friends embrace the mission of Mater Dei through outreach to those in greater need than ourselves.

"The golf day is a great initiative and I commend the committee that drives the success of the event.

"While the purpose of the day is to give to others, it is also a great chance for our families, particularly dads, to come together and celebrate belonging to the Mater Dei school community.

Toowoomba Hospice Association Chairman Graham Barron, OAM, said the hospice was extremely grateful for the very generous donation.

# FOCUS ON READING

## MOVING TO SCHOOLS OF EXCELLENCE

**MR JIM MIDGLEY** DIRECTOR: TEACHING AND LEARNING

***Schools across our Diocese are about to embark on a major initiative focussed on consistent use of teaching strategies that make the most difference to students' reading.***

This is a big decision for the Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office to intervene in the life of schools and insist on specific strategies, not additional strategies, but replacement strategies for an improved rate of learning achievement in reading.

Teaching has long been a profession where almost everything has a positive effect, and therefore many and varied approaches have been applied in schools. The variation of reading strategies across our schools is one example of this in practice and while most strategies have a positive effect, there is such a thing as 'best practice' for greater effect, as there is in every profession.

Our data indicates that the Toowoomba Diocese has 'pockets of excellence' when socially just comparisons are

made between schools and within schools. Our goal is to move from 'pockets of excellence' to 'schools of excellence and a diocese of excellence' where every student can exceed one year's learning (reading) achievement in a school year.

The work of Professor John Hattie, a renowned educational researcher and chair of the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership has informed our strategy. His research (2015) highlights that a community of teachers agreeing that they can collectively have a positive impact on the quality of student learning achievement makes the biggest difference.

Therefore, we will be working with school communities to develop this collective efficacy, growing teachers' deep knowledge and mastery of best practice in the teaching of reading; and reaping the benefits will be our students as they develop the skills needed for reading and come to know the great joy of the written word and the doors that are opened when one can read.

## THE STRATEGIES THAT MAKE THE BIGGEST DIFFERENCE

***Nurturing a love of reading and showing children the different reasons for reading from an early age are the keys to fostering reading success.*** Teachers Angela Irvine from Mary MacKillop Catholic College and Julie Henderson from Mater Dei Primary School share their thoughts and insights into what helps children become readers.

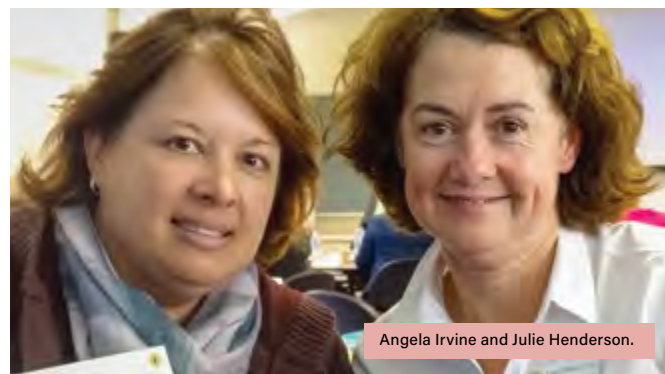
"Reading to children and talking to them about what you read is one of the best ways that teachers and other adults can grow children's curiosity and desire to become a reader," said Ms Irvine.

"Reading aloud to children provides the opportunity to model what good readers do. Reading with expression and talking to them about what you do when you come to a word you don't know or a sentence that you are unsure of the meaning of, also builds their confidence as they are learning to read. It shows them that you have had to learn skills, like sounding out, thinking about whether something makes sense, looking at the pictures for clues," said Ms Henderson.

Both teachers also talked about matching book choices to children's interests.

"For boys as they reach about Year 4 and 5, finding non-fiction books that are about the topics they find interesting or stories that link to their interests is going to help to keep them reading. I have found the Minecraft series, Science topic books and the classic Guinness Book of Records are firm favourites of this age group," said Ms Irvine.

"Giving reading a purpose is also important, we have had some real success when we have had Dads and Mums visit classrooms as 'mystery readers' to share their favourite book



Angela Irvine and Julie Henderson.

and talk about why they need to be a reader in their jobs," said Ms Henderson, "It makes reading something real and necessary."

When asked about the importance of teaching phonics, the teachers said, "Phonics is one aspect of teaching reading, so is the learning of sight words. If you think about learning number facts and tables in maths, that is what phonics and sight words are to reading. But there is much more involved, children need to be able to understand what they read. So many good authors have a story within the story. With facts it is about thinking how this can be used in your own life."

"Our goal is to have children love reading for all of its differing purposes, whether they are reading an adventure story that takes them to places they never could go or reading an information piece that makes them think differently about some aspect of their world. Getting them interested and excited about reading is the best strategy!"



## WHAT DO THE KIDS THINK?



### MATTHEW

#### What do you love about reading?

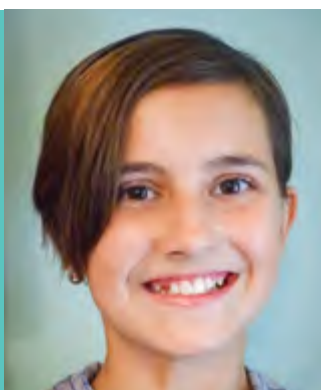
I love how reading can put pictures in your mind that movies and TV shows could never do.

#### What challenges you when reading?

I find it challenging to read when the words are difficult or arranged in a difficult order.

#### What is your favourite book?

My favourite books are the Lemony Snicket books because they are really mysterious and you don't know what is going to happen next.



### ARIANA

#### What do you love about reading?

I love how the words can mean something to you that a TV show can show you but you don't get the same meaning.

#### What challenges you when reading?

I think it is challenging when there are words that I don't know how to pronounce.

#### What is your favourite book?

Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief because it is exciting and adventurous and I like books like that.

## WHAT CAN PARENTS AND CARERS DO?

### READ TOGETHER EVERY DAY

Read to your child every day, for as many years as you are able. Even when your child is a teenager, take the time to share a story you are reading in a newspaper, magazine or online.

### GIVE EVERYTHING A NAME AND SHARE UNUSUAL WORDS

Build your child's vocabulary by talking about interesting words and objects.

### CRACK OPEN THE DICTIONARY

Let your child see you use a dictionary – hard copy or online. Say, "Hmm, I'm not sure what that word means... I think I'll look it up."

### BE INTERACTIVE

Discuss what's happening in the book, point out things on the page, and ask questions.

### READ WITH FUN IN YOUR VOICE

Read to your child with humour and expression. Use different voices. Ham it up!

### KNOW WHEN TO STOP

Put the book away for a while if your child loses interest or is having trouble paying attention.

### MORE RESOURCES:

**WWW.CBCA.ORG.AU** – THE CHILDREN'S BOOK COUNCIL LISTS BOOKS FOR ALL AGES THAT HAVE WON AWARDS OR ARE SHORTLISTED FOR LITERARY AWARDS.

**WWW.BETTERREADING.COM.AU** – LISTING OF THE BEST RATED BOOKS FOR ALL AGE GROUPS

## INTRODUCING THE TOOWOOMBA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS COUNCIL

*The newly formed Toowoomba Catholic Schools Council (TCSC) was constituted in January of this year.* The Council provides Bishop Robert McGuckin with specific advice in relation to Catholic schools' policy and direction. Members of TCSC have a range of backgrounds including education, finance and pastoral care. The TCSC meets every two months at the Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office in Margaret St.

Membership of the Council: Bishop Robert McGuckin – President, David Hutton OAM – Chair, Paul Hart, Pat Hall, Ed Gleeson, Debbie Ryan, Mary Abbot, Greg Dickman, Fr Brian Noonan and Sarah de Byl.

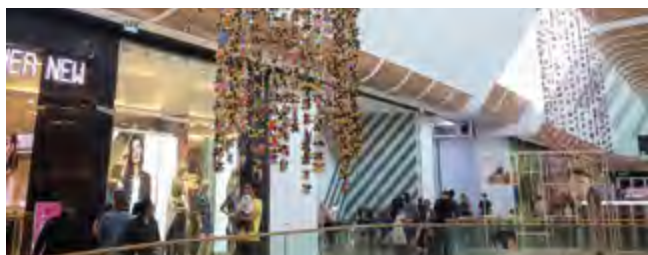
**Further information about the Toowoomba Catholic Schools Council can be found at [www.twb.catholic.edu.au](http://www.twb.catholic.edu.au)**



## ONE MILLION STARS PROJECT

### TOOWOOMBA SCHOOLS

TONY WORNER



**Have you looked up at Grand Central Shopping Centre Toowoomba?** You might see the stars, nearly 3,000 of them hanging from the roof!

These are the stars featured in the last issue of Horizons, made by students and teachers from various Catholic Schools across Toowoomba. Thank you to Andrew Allpass, Toowoomba Council's Sports Tourism Officer, who had success in getting these installed. Thanks also goes to Grand Central Shopping Centre who supported the project by hosting the display and also holding Star Weave Workshops at the centre, encouraging shoppers to contribute to the One Million Stars to End Violence project. All stars from our region will form part of the display featured at the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.

### ASSUMPTION COLLEGE, WARWICK

CRAIG FRATTINI

*Every Wednesday at first break this term, Assumption College Students have been assisted by Mrs Gillespie, Student Counsellor to weave stars as part of our school's commitment to One Million Stars to End Violence project.* Assumption College students have woven approximately 200 stars already this term and are well on track to reach our goal of 750 stars by the end of term two.

This year, as part of the 2017 National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence, Australian schools were invited to weave stars and become part of One Million Stars to End Violence Stars School Challenge.

Assumption College is proud to be involved in this project and each star woven by our students represents our school's commitment towards a bullying and violence free environment.

At the end of term two, all stars made will be collected by the Warwick Art Gallery and will form part of a striking public art installation for the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games 2018.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
ABOUT ONE MILLION STARS  
TO END VIOLENCE VISIT  
[WWW.ONEMILLIONSTARS.NET](http://WWW.ONEMILLIONSTARS.NET).





# CELEBRATING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVENESS FOR HARMONY DAY

LINDA CREEDON

***Harmony Day at St Saviour's College is one of great celebration.*** This year the message 'Everybody Belongs,' was a great fit for us as we have students living and studying at our College from countries such as Papua New Guinea, Sudan, Liberia, Congo, Rwanda, Malawi, Iraq and Singapore, to name just a few. We also have students who board with us from Lockhart River, Maningrida, in the Northern Territory and Aurukun. So diversity and inclusiveness are an integral part of our College ethos.

Students spent the morning of our designated Harmony Day taking part in a variety of workshops and language lessons. Louise, our French gap student gave French lessons and gave away some miniature Eiffel Towers in red, white and blue she brought

with her from France. Our Japanese teacher helped students cook some delicious Japanese food and some of students from India conducted Indian dancing lessons in our hall. We also had parents from of our Indigenous communities talk to our students about indigenous culture.

At lunch time all students proceeded to our hall for our lunchtime feast, where students and parents had set up stalls to sell food from their homeland. The hall was a hive of activity as stall holders sold their wares and a concert took place on stage, giving our hall a carnival atmosphere. We were joined by students from St Saviour's Primary School and many of our parents from near and far. It was a day of recognition and celebration.

“...diversity and  
inclusiveness  
are an integral  
part of our  
College ethos.”



## FROM NAPLAN TO OP

*Passionate teachers, targeted learning and understanding how boys best learn are just some of the ways St Mary's College Toowoomba has improved its academic results more than any other Catholic school in the state, for a second consecutive year.*

The Sunday Mail recently revealed a report compiled by Federal Coalition MP, Andrew Laming, analysing the results of a longitudinal study of which Queensland schools had most improved their senior students' academic outcomes between the year nine NAPLAN test and final OP rankings in year 12. Mr Laming is using the report to prompt a debate on the possible application of alternative strategies to boost school performance.

The Sunday Mail article, which was published in

We really  
concentrate on  
teaching the way  
boys learn best.

February, listed St Mary's as the leading high-gains school out of all Catholic schools within Queensland.

"Through the professionalism and expertise of our teachers, the school has focused on academic improvement and developed a range of numeracy and literacy programs to improve student results; it's followed on from our NAPLAN, to our QCS results and right through to our overall OP success," College Principal Michael Newman said.

He said the key to improving the school's academic results over the three years was tailoring education specifically to boys' needs.

"We really concentrate on teaching the way boys learn best, really honing in on strategy and pedagogy that suit boys' learning; scaffolding in stages and points, enquiry based learning, IT based lessons, explicit teaching and ensuring they're moving all the time. Boys enjoy learning through hands-on activities rather than via passive listening. You need to teach boys differently," he said.

St Mary's implemented targeted learning, a system wherein teachers examine individual student needs, identifying strengths and weaknesses to develop skills and abilities in specific areas.

"We have a whole guided reading program we developed throughout the entire school and a numeracy program as well," Mr Newman said.

"We can take a child's results from their NAPLAN test and break-down every question to identify the areas where they need improvement and where learning needs to be developed."







# ST MONICA'S SCHOOL LIVING OUT ITS MISSION

TERESA WOOLACOTT

*The St Monica's community at Oakey has been very active recently in reaching out to others in an effort to learn about and support others and so work towards creating a better world for all.* These activities reflect the missions of both the Parish, "Reaching out with open arms strong in faith and love of Christ", and St Monica's School, "Learning for a better world". In December last year, St Monica's Church welcomed the Oakey Combined Churches Choir for a Christmas Cantata – "Ring the Bells". Following this evening, the Choir's director, Mrs Daphne Webster, graciously donated funds towards the purchase of Bibles for St Monica's School.

Local churches once again gathered at St Monica's in March to celebrate International Day of Prayer. This year's focus was on the Philippines and the congregation was treated to a musical presentation provided by Filipino students and parishioners during the service. The Filipino focus was then continued over Lent as students and staff used the purchase of piglets for the Philippines as motivation in raising funds for Caritas. The school's Minnie Vinnie's group was very proud of

their efforts, raising enough funds to have bought seven piglets.

In reaching out to others closer to home, Year 3 and 4 students visited the local respite centre to entertain and get to know attendees there – a rewarding and enriching experience for all concerned. Extending our hands in kindness also occurred within the school grounds during a week of Harmony activities including recognition of kind deeds through a 'Harmony Pole' and prayer. St Monica's students also featured strongly in a Peace Poster competition organised by the Pure Land Multi-Faith, Multicultural Learning College, with many art works chosen by UNESCO ambassadors for display overseas.

Recently a group of Year 5 and 6 students attended a Harmony Tour which saw them travel to Toowoomba and Brisbane, visiting a variety of different places of worship in an effort to develop greater understanding and acceptance of different faiths as a way of promoting harmony amongst religions. Through outreach and understanding, St Monica's is certainly striving to 'Reach out for a better world'.



## STAY IN TOUCH

WITH NEWS FROM  
ACROSS THE DIOCESE

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with "Subscribe" as the subject.



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# BATTLE OF PASSCHENDAELE REMEMBERED AT DOWNLANDS



*In April the Downlands College community gathered to commemorate ANZAC Day and to remember all those Australians who have lost their lives serving their country during war.* This year, the ceremony focused on the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Passchendaele, a major campaign against the German Forces in World War I.

Year 11 students, Army Cadet Officers Adam Sayers and Leighanna Pascoe were tasked with raising the Australian and the Indigenous flags to half mast, a particularly proud moment for Leighanna who hails from Lockhart River in Far North Queensland. Raising the Indigenous flag alongside the Australian flag was a way for us to acknowledge the significant role that Indigenous Australians have played, and continue to play in the armed forces, and constituted a link with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander veterans and their relatives leading the ANZAC Day march in Canberra this year.

ANZAC Day ceremonies always offer an opportunity to reflect on the lessons of war. Guest speaker, teaching staff member and

retired Navy Officer (1995-2003), Lieutenant Whitney McCarthy Cole, addressed the gathering. In her thought-provoking speech, Lieut. McCarthy-Cole encouraged the students not to see

**“Raising the Indigenous flag alongside the Australian flag was a way for us to acknowledge the significant role that Indigenous Australians have played”**

ANZAC Day as a day to glorify war or to view military action as the only way to solve international conflicts, but rather as an opportunity to learn from the mistakes made in the past, and in this year in particular, to learn life lessons from the disaster that was the Battle of Passchendaele.

Lieutenant McCarthy-Cole urged students, “Consider the lessons that exist for you. Will you prepare in advance, but remain adaptable, or will your rigidity affect others around you? Will you consider how your actions affect the families of your peers and teachers, or will you consider their suffering acceptable? I was, and remain proud of my military service, my skill as a maritime navigator, and my efforts to support communities and individuals to rebuild their lives and livelihoods, but I will never take for granted the education I had about campaigns like Passchendaele, and the immense courage shown by the soldiers, in fighting such a difficult, and ultimately costly battle. Lest we forget.”



# MILLMERRAN MINI VINNIES

MICHELE SANDERS



***St Joseph's School, Millmerran Mini Vinnies group has been very busy this year raising awareness and funds for much needed causes.*** Throughout Lent, the group focused on bringing awareness of the issues of the poor and the marginalised by participating in Caritas' Project Compassion Appeal. They also raised much needed funds for this appeal by holding a pancake flipping competition and a fish day. The

school community enthusiastically participated in both of these events.

The students also helped a local community member who was recently diagnosed with leukaemia by holding a Shave for a Cure event in which the leadership team cut and coloured their hair. The Mini Vinnies group are helping the school and wider community join together in helping out those less fortunate.

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## SACRED HEART WELCOMES NEW APRE

SALLY YIN

*The staff and families are delighted to have welcomed Bridget Rillie (APRE) to the Sacred Heart Primary School family at the beginning of this year.* Bridget's expertise and experience in leadership and behaviour management, her enthusiasm and her passion for 'making Jesus real' in the lives of the students, families and teachers have been clearly evident as she has settled into the life of the school.

On 24th April, Bridget led the school as we commemorated Anzac Day with a reverent and deeply meaningful Liturgy. Seated in a circle, with a central Memorial, students in Year



6 honoured those who served their country and paid the ultimate sacrifice. Representatives from each class laid wreaths, recognizing that the freedom of our Nation is based on the sacrifice of those who have gone before us.

## ST MARY'S SCHOOL STRIVES TO BE THE LIGHT

MARGARET GREW

*This year the school community gratefully acknowledges 150 years of Catholic schooling in Warwick.* In October 1867 the Warwick Examiner and Times announced that arrangements were almost complete for the establishment of a day school by the Catholic Church. Two sisters, the Misses O'Mara, were assisted in the teaching by Mrs Coleman and Miss Gormally. For several years the school was conducted by lay teachers until the arrival of the Sisters of Mercy on 29th October, 1874.

The first whole school liturgy welcomed staff students, families and parish members to the 2017 school year. The entire group of Year Six students were acknowledged as School Leaders. This year our theme is "Be a Light". Our celebration was held in the MacKillop Centre due to damage to our beautiful church caused by severe storm in late January of this year.

The senior school choir and students in Years Three, Four, Five and Six worked with renowned musician Josh Arnold to produce a song and video clip: "Be The Light" (<https://youtu.be/OggRczEOXTY>). Many physical aspects that are identifiable with St Mary's Warwick are featured in the video clip: the iconic St Mary's Church, the tunnel connecting the upper and

lower campuses under the highway, the MacKillop Centre and more importantly the gifts and talents of students and staff.

The Year Five students worked very hard in the lead up to the school holidays to lead the school community in an Easter Liturgy. The solemn liturgy was prepared to conclude with the Crucifixion. Unfortunately, due to extreme weather conditions, school closed early for Term 1. The Year Five teachers and students regrouped to lead the community in a very prayerful reminder of the passion of Christ and were able to leave us reflecting on the Resurrection when we returned to school for Term 2. The liturgy was very dramatic as some students and teachers read the journey of Jesus' passion and resurrection to those gathered whilst the other Year 5 students dramatically inspired reflection in freeze drama and interactive responses spread throughout the audience.

Further inspired by our Year Six students leading our ANZAC liturgy, our school community joined with invited guests to honour and remember the fallen ANZACs. Our invited special guest speaker was Mayor Tracey Dobie. Mayor Dobie spoke to the gathering on the 3 key characteristics of the ANZACs: Courage, Commitment and Mateship and shared with us the importance of these in our lives today.



## St Mary's School

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Using Jesus as our Compass

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[www.smwarwick.catholic.edu.au](http://www.smwarwick.catholic.edu.au)





# COLLEGE SAYS “NO WAY!” TO BULLYING

SARAH  
LILBURNE

*Bullying is an aspect of everyday life that all schools experience from time to time and at Our Lady of the Southern Cross College in Dalby, the issue is of high importance and a problem that staff, students and families do not accept in everyday behavior.*

In order to continue raising awareness of bullying and the negative affects it can have on self-esteem and performance, the College holds ‘Bullying, No Way’ Day in conjunction with National Day Against Bullying. On a Friday at the end of last term, the place was awash with orange colour as staff and students joined together to highlight the problem of bullying and how to unite in order to stamp out negative bullying behaviour.

During the week in the lead up to ‘Bullying, No Way’ Day, all class groups participated in activities that involved discussions on how to recognize bullying as well as teaching students anti-bullying practices. The resounding message was, bullying is never okay.

Students were invited to create posters and slogans that depicted messages about anti-bullying. A \$10 tuck-shop voucher was awarded to those who came up with the most creative and effective messages to stop bullying. The winning students were Thalia Cameron-Smith, Joshua and William Barwick and Perry Ann Pacio in Junior and Johdan Hoefler, Isabelle Peterson and Anna Lilburne in Senior.

During the lunch recess on ‘Bullying, No Way’ Day, all



students across the year levels from Prep to Year 12 joined together for activities and games to promote friendship, teamwork, unity and kindness. It was encouraging to see students embracing this opportunity to join as a whole group and the joyful interaction amongst everyone was positive. Older students led younger groups in organized games while others just played and enjoyed the fun.

Whilst bullying will always remain an underlying problem, staff and students at the College continue to take positive steps towards creating harmony and friendship amongst all. The message from Isabelle Peterson in Year 7 is “Be aware, stop it there”.





# ST PATRICK'S DAY IN ST GEORGE

**MAJELLA MORRIS**

*St Patrick's School and Church celebrated St Patrick's Day on Friday 17 March with the whole school in green.* The day began with Mass celebrated with our Parish Priest, Fr Salvador. We also had our very own St Patrick with us as well for this Mass! Thanks to Hugo Frith in Year 4 for so capably portraying St Patrick and also to the Year 4 students who read so well in Mass. After Mass the Staff acted out the children's book, "The Day the Crayons Came Home." This was enjoyed by everyone.

On our return to school, we all enjoyed fish and chips from our tuckshop. Thanks ladies for a wonderful lunch. The day continued with loads of activities including a waterslide, parachute games, craft activities, fun relays and a quiz. We finished these activities with a green cupcake and ice block. In the midst of all this fun the Year 4-6 students enjoyed a visit from Petero Civoniceva, NRL Ambassador, and Grant Bignell, South West Rugby League Development Officer. What a fun day!



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Principal Mr Phillip McGreevy with school leaders.



# ST JOSEPH'S STUDENTS FOCUS ON OTHERS THIS LENT

MEGAN MAHONEY

***St Joseph's School Stanthorpe may be smaller than most, but its Prep to Year 12 cohort are determined to make a big impact on the world.*** Starting in Prep, students are encouraged to look through the eyes of those less fortunate and ask themselves 'How can we help?'. From participating in community groups to their efforts for Project Compassion, St Joseph's students rally to the cause and this Lenten and Easter journey was no different.

In early February Year 10 and 12 Students were joined by Az Hamilton from Just Motivation, in two single day retreats encouraged students to reach their full potential as community and global citizens. Mr Hamilton's mission, to inspire passion and challenge young people to find their cause and make a real difference in the world, is delivered through games and the telling of his own life story. He challenged students to view their circumstances differently so that they can achieve what God has planned for them.

School Leaders BJ Perrett, Katie Yates, Eve Perrett, Megan Kay, Justin Carter and Jessica Westerhout travelled to Toowoombain February, to take part in the Project Compassion at St Patrick's Cathedral. Bishop Robert McGuckin shared the message of living virtuously and living for 'one master', being fully concentrated on God, which students then brought back to the school to share with the St Joseph's School Community.

Carrying the message of God to both campus's, Leaders were joined by two groups of dedicated students committed

to helping others, the Teen Vinnies on Secondary and Mini Vinnies on Primary, whose goal is raise awareness of the needs of those less fortunate.

Students from Year 7-12 were encouraged to dress in their finest camo gear to help fundraise for the Veterans Care Association, a non-profit organisation who cares for members of the defense force, particularly those suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. \$500 was raised to assist with the care of veterans. 'My primary focus was to show how important 'Respect' and 'Dignity' are to all those in the community,' said organiser Jessica Westerhout.

This fundraising effort was one of many throughout the Lenten season which included Pancake Tuesday, Free Dress Day and tuckshop day raising over \$970 for Caritas Australia.

Through participation in reconciliation and prayer, students come to understand that their Lenten journey was more than raising money or giving something up, as they reflected on and worked toward a change of heart. On the primary campus, students were able to choose a leaf from our Lenten tree, which offered them actions or reflections to carry out for the week. Secondary students were invited to participate in prayerful reflection with their teachers using a daily Lenten program. This journey of preparation has now lead us to enter into the celebration of the Easter season as we fully and joyfully embrace the resurrection and hope of Christ our savior.



## EASTER STORY TOLD BY STUDENTS

*St Patrick's School, St George depicted the events of Holy Week, from Palm Sunday up to the Resurrection of Jesus.* The story was told with individual plays each done by a different class. Prep students showed Palm Sunday, the Last Supper was acted by Year 5, the Agony in the Garden and Crucifixion were shown by Year 4/5 and Year 1 depicted the Resurrection.



## THANK YOU ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE FROM INGLEWOOD

PAULA O'ROURKE

*Each year members of St Joseph's College Toowoomba football team visit St Maria Goretti School to complete projects at the school and interact with our students through footy.*

This year their project was to construct three picnic tables for our students to use at eating times as well as classroom activities. These were constructed at the College before being transported to our school on Friday where they were then painted. Our students were very excited to have a table to sit at for eating. These tables are used every day by the students.

As part of the visit, the boys ran a footy skills session

on the Saturday morning for our students to participate in. Our students were put through their paces by the boys, learning different ball handling skills, tackling and team work. The St Joey's boys are very patient and caring in their teaching of the skills and drills.

Previous years' projects have been building our two vegetable gardens and shelves for our sports/store room. We are very privileged to have this great relationship with St Joseph's College and that our community is able to benefit from their generous support and skills. To show our gratitude for this continued support the school hosted a BBQ with the students and staff who travelled out on Friday evening.





## Q100: QUILPIE CELEBRATES

PRUE BODKIN



*Quilpie celebrated its centenary as a town on 27 April 2017 with 4 days of festivities.*

St. Finbarr's School held a special assembly, telling the story of the coming of the sisters of St Joseph and the following years. A tableau depicting the first 3 sisters arriving at 11:00pm on a hot January night in 1950 began the story. They were met at the Railway Station by Fr Cronin, Parish Priest and escorted to their rented house by townspeople carrying lamps as there was no electricity in the town in 1950.

A photographic display in the Library presented photos of the school and students through the years. Amongst the crowd at the assembly were 2 first year students from 1950. The visitors enjoyed morning tea before visiting the classrooms.

Students in years 5/6 conducted guided tours of St Finbarr's Church using a brochure they had prepared. Visitors enjoyed the opportunity to learn about the special features of the Church. The tour guides found it a great experience and are keen for another opportunity.

## ST STEPHEN'S HONOUR ANZACS

LISA CAVANAGH

*Each year, the Pittsworth community gathers together to commemorate ANZAC Day with a march along Yandilla Street, followed by a memorial service outside the War Memorial.* This year over half of the students from St Stephen's School marched under the school banner. More students participated in the march as part of other community groups they are a part of.

Our Year 6 students were invited to march at the front of the parade with the returned servicemen and women, proudly wearing the names of local defence force personnel. Students had researched through the Australian War Memorial the soldier whose name they would be wearing during the parade.

St Stephen's School commemorated ANZAC day the following day with a liturgy led by the Year 5 class. Year 5 offered prayers for all servicemen and women currently serving our country and for those who have served in the past.





# THE CHRISM MASS

The assembled clergy renew their priestly promises.

## JOHN BRIFFA

***Celebrated at St Patrick's Cathedral on Monday 10th April, the Chrism Mass represents a pastoral highpoint in the life of the Diocese.*** Traditionally the Mass of the Oils is celebrated on the morning of Holy Thursday, but for a diocese the size of Toowoomba it is pastorally necessary to move the Mass to an earlier day. During the Mass, the sacred oils used throughout the Diocese are blessed and the clergy renew their priestly promises.

The use of sacred oils in our Christian liturgy has been adopted from the Old Testament practice of anointing kings, priests and prophets, as they foreshadowed Christ, whose name means 'the anointed one'. Throughout the year, our newly baptised are anointed and confirmed with the consecrated Chrism. Chrism is also used in the ordination of priests and bishops. Those preparing for baptism, who are known as Catechumens, are anointed with the second oil, the Oil of Catechumens. The third oil, the Oil of the Sick, is used to anoint those who are suffering with illness.

The rite of consecrating Chrism directs balsam to be added to olive oil. What is balsam? Where do we get it? Balsam is a viscous oleo-resinous substance (a mixture of volatile oil and resin) exuded from wounds in some species of trees and shrubs. Since ancient times, aromatic substances such as frankincense and myrrh have been used for incense. Oils derived from some balsams are used in perfumery as aromatics and fixatives. The use of these ingredients in Chrism, as per tradition, results in a stable, long-lasting fragrance related to that of incense.



Bishop Robert breathes over the Chrism.

The blend of balsam used for our Chrism builds on the recipe in Exodus 30:23-25 which describes the aromatic oil used to anoint the ark and tabernacle, the temple vessels and priests. Its prime aromatic ingredient was myrrh, to which was added cinnamon and cassia. Our balsam also contains elements of clove, elemi and Himalayan cedarwood.

During the Chrism Mass the oils are brought forward and presented to the Bishop who blesses the Oil of Catechumens and the Oil of the Sick. On receiving the Chrism the Bishop pours the sweet smelling perfume into the oil and breathes over the vessel before saying the prayer of consecration. In this way the Chrism Mass becomes one of the principal expressions of the fullness of the Bishop's Priesthood.

Balsam ingredients & information supplied by Rev Dr Barry Craig. Please contact the Liturgy Office if you would like a copy of the complete list of balsam ingredients.





## OUR CATHEDRAL COMES ALIVE: PALM SUNDAY TO THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM

**GABRIELLE SAIDE**

*For the past 7 years the Liturgy Committee with the help of parishioners has been placing large palm fronds in the Cathedral centre aisle so as to form an arch. Red cloths are placed on tables and in baskets holding the small palms. At each Mass parishioners are invited to carry the large palm fronds in procession starting in the eastern transept, walking outside through the grounds and in the front door.*

The Chrism Mass, a Diocesan event is celebrated in the Cathedral on the Monday in Holy Week. Bishop Robert McGuckin and the priests of the diocese gather to renew their priestly promises. Bishop Robert blesses and consecrates the oils used in the sacramental celebrations during the coming year. My earliest memories of the Chrism Mass go back over fifty years when the Mass was celebrated on Holy Thursday morning and the Cathedral was packed. There is something wonderful about a Chrism Mass so if you have never been to one make a date for next year.

The Sacred Paschal Triduum comprising The Mass of the Lord's Supper, The Celebration of the Passion of the Lord and the Easter Vigil are one continuous liturgy that commemorates the passion, death and resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ. These rites may seem very ordinary. We listen to Scripture, wash feet, anoint with oil, eat, drink and sing. These ordinary things are already rich and powerful and are blessed by the extraordinary. The Liturgy Committee concentrates on preparing our best readers to proclaim the Liturgy of the Word well and we ensure that there are welcomers at each door to offer hospitality and to hand out booklets. We look at music which will enhance the Liturgy as well as encourage the congregation to join in the singing.

The team who look after the environment are encouraged to use symbols which speak for themselves and to keep it simple. After the Mass of the Lord's Supper Adoration takes



Palm Sunday.

place in the Mercy Chapel off the sanctuary until 10.00pm – a quiet and special time.

The ritual of the Stations of the Cross varies from year to year and for the past two years we have used Praying the Stations of Mercy with Pope Francis – very moving and inspirational.

It was very encouraging this year to see an increase in the numbers on past years, of people participating in all of the ceremonies with enthusiasm.

To allow these celebrations for Palm Sunday and The Paschal Triduum to come together in a prayerful and reflective manner, the parish liturgy team starts preparing two months before. Much time is spent in setting up for all the ceremonies and the Liturgy Committee is assisted by parishioners who are willing to give of their time and talents. After Easter we gather to reflect on all the liturgies to see how we might improve next year.

Easter in St Patrick's Cathedral with Bishop Robert, assisted by Fathers Peter Dorfield and Hal Ranger is truly a blessed and special time for parishioners and the many visitors who join in the celebrations.



From death to life.



Lazarus is released from what binds him.



Sunflowers.



The movement from blindness to sight.

## ART FOR CELEBRATION'S SAKE

FR MICHAEL O'BRIEN

***Lent and Easter became a contemplative and imaginative time for St Mary's Goondiwindi.*** To commemorate 80 years since the construction of the parish church, we commissioned an artist to create seven paintings. These paintings related to the gospels of each Sunday leading up to Easter Sunday. We invited people to spend time in reflection allowing the art to infiltrate their prayer.

The works were created by Kylie Bowden, a friend of Fr Michael's, who loves nothing more than to follow her creative spirit. Kylie studied at the Queensland University of Technology receiving a Bachelor of Visual and Fine Art and currently resides in Barcaldine.

These paintings will be on permanent display at St Mary's and will add valuable insight into the gospels and prayer experience. St Mary's hope to welcome Kylie back to Goondiwindi to have an exhibition later in the year.

Even though every painting can be interpreted differently, influenced by one's own understanding and life experience, here are some thoughts on the paintings in relation to the gospels:

The first painting in the style of Tim Burton, is an allegory of the temptations of Christ. Whilst we are surrounded by

temptations, distractions and false hearts, we must have the heart of Jesus in the world today.

Sunflowers partly receive their name from the ability they have of following the sun throughout the day. The Transfiguration invited us to wonder whether we follow the SON all of our day.

The Samaritan woman, when revealing her past to Christ, was never judged or ridiculed. She was encouraged to look up beyond her darkness to see the light – to see Jesus, the living water.

The fourth painting is more literal in its interpretation. Simply the movement from blindness to sight, but asks us the question, through which eye do we see?

As Lazarus is released from what binds him, he experiences a great sense of freedom. Like an owl in full flight spreading its wings after being asleep during the day.

During Holy Week we used this simple but beautiful blue wren to imagine what it felt like to be Mary. As the wren sits precariously on the stork of wheat, so Mary's heart wavered during these tumultuous days.

This finely crafted leaf depicts both death and life. It reminds us that when we choose life we move from one side to the other. The leaves though, are not lush and the limbs not fully grown. Our life is a continuous process of movement, from death to life.



# OUR LADY INSPIRES ROSARY PROJECT

ELLEN MOROSINI AND  
THERESA BLATCHLY



*Moved by the Holy Spirit, Theresa Blatchly has been inspired to distribute hand made Rosary beads to the children in the Toowoomba Diocese.*

After originally contacting Bishop Robert McGuckin, he passed on Theresa's idea to Gerard Hore at the Catholic Schools Office. The idea then grew to giving the Rosaries to Year 5 students across the Diocese as this is the year level the students are taught about the Rosary in school.

At the moment the Rosaries are being made by individuals at home but a social group is being planned as this is an ongoing project. The hand made Rosary beads use a technique

which uses wire and coloured beads made of glass and high quality plastic. The process produces a very pretty Rosary which is a full set of five decades of the Rosary.

Last year 860 sets of Rosary beads were distributed to Year 5 students across the Toowoomba Diocese. Again this year's grade 5 students will receive a set of Rosaries along with a booklet made especially for the Toowoomba Diocese and approved by Bishop Robert.

If you would like to help with this project please contact Theresa Blatchly on (07)4564 9805 or 0434 528 904 or [ther.b@optusnet.com.au](mailto:ther.b@optusnet.com.au)



**RECENTLY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, SIR PETER COSGROVE AND HIS WIFE, LADY LYNNE COSGROVE, VISITED GOONDIWINDI.**

They attended the Sunday morning Mass and enjoyed the interaction with the parish community.  
L to R Brett Pollard (St Mary's School Principal), Fr Michael O'Brien welcome Sir Cosgrove and Lady Cosgrove to St Mary's Parish

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## CROWDS GATHER FOR ECUMENICAL STATIONS OF THE CROSS

PATTI MCNAUGHT

***Our Ecumenical Stations of the Cross on Good Friday was once again held at the beautiful Peacehaven Park.***

The weather was perfect and the park was a sight to behold. Worshipers from various denominations started to arrive in numbers and soon parishioners were introducing themselves to one another. People who had been visiting from Taroom, Roma, Toowoomba, young people who had come for the Movers and Shakers program and some who had just come to take in the beauty of God's wonderful creation, all joined in with the crowds to follow "The Way of the Cross".

The solemn service began at 10am and Fr Brian Noonan from Mary of the Southern Cross Parish, along with Rev Stephanie Patching from the Highfields Anglican Church, led the crowd with prayer as we moved to each station. Banners

representing each station were held high for each of us to see and to reflect on Christ's Suffering. When we arrived at each station, we all prayed together as one in worship and, as we progressed to the next station, we were accompanied by Sandy Whybird from the Anglican Church on her acoustic guitar. Sandy is there every year, and does a wonderful job. The music just adds a special touch to the ceremony.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, everyone was invited to join in on a light morning tea. The numbers that come to Peacehaven Park each year is quite incredible, and the peaceful surrounds is certainly the perfect backdrop for this solemn occasion. Thanks to Fr Brian and Rev Stephanie for giving us the privilege of this wonderfully moving experience again this year.

## OUR LENTEN JOURNEY

PATTI MCNAUGHT

***Once again this year our Parish had the privilege to attend a Lenten Program, with Warren and Carolyn Hartung as hosts.*** They welcomed us into their home with a hot cuppa to relax and get to know each other a little better before we started on our Lenten Journey.

For our journey we followed "Up from the Waters" and as we progressed through, we were able to walk with Jesus who encounters the woman at a well, heals the blind man, raises Lazarus from the dead and finally enters the darkness of Calvary. The word Baptism has its origin in the Greek word baptizo, which means to be dipped or immersed into another substance. This Lent we were able to immerse ourselves in the words and deeds of Christ who is the living water.

Carolyn, who conducted the program, was very well prepared. Each week she would have the table set with a purple cloth and some simple items required for that particular

week, a bible and a cross. It was wonderful to hear the reading which was to be the Gospel on that particular Sunday. When we heard Fr Brian read the Gospel on Sunday, it now had a deeper meaning because of the reflection, mirroring and deepening of the Gospel by sharing our thoughts with each other on paragraphs that stood out for us.

Each week we heard a story from "Good News People" who go about their lives just like ourselves and their experiences in life that led them to a deeper faith. These stories were heart warming and sometimes simply amazing. The Closing Prayer was very special each week as we blessed the person closest to us and extended to each person present a Sign of Peace.

Thank you Carolyn and Warren for opening up your home to us, making us so welcome and for the endless hours of preparation that you put into this wonderful program. We are so lucky to have you both in our Parish.





## COURSE DAY FOCUSES ON RCIA

### MARY OTTO

***On Saturday the 29 April a number of people gathered together to complete their final module of the Foundations for Lay Pastoral Ministry Course.*** The day was given to examining the process of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, better known as the RCIA. Gabrielle Saide from St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, was invited to share her long experience of about thirty years of the working with catechumens in her parish. Her input provoked much

discussion of the successes and challenges of the process and ways each of these could be addressed. Mary Otto, the Diocesan RCIA Coordinator, facilitated the day along with Trish Sheely who has been working with those completing the course over recent years.

If you need to know more about the process of the RCIA in your parish or school, Mary Otto can be contacted by emailing: [rcia@twb.catholic.org.au](mailto:rcia@twb.catholic.org.au) or phoning 0447 074 807.

## STANTHORPE CELEBRATES SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

### FR BRIAN CONNOLLY

***At the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday night in St Joseph's Church, Stanthorpe Peter Bell celebrated the Sacraments of Initiation when he was Baptised, Confirmed and received his First Eucharist.***

Since first entering St Joseph's Church one evening for Mass a year ago because his wife wanted to go to Church, Peter's wife has become a resident at Carramar Aged Care where he visits her daily. Peter's early life connections with the Catholic Church was through his mother who was a Catholic and said her son Peter would make his own choice. His long held desire to embrace the Catholic faith has now been fulfilled and the only sadness is that he does not have his wife beside him as she suffers from advanced dementia. His wife also had early life connections with the Catholic Church and would be delighted with how her devoted husband Peter has been led into the Church.

Also completing his Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil was nineteen year old Harrison Pozzebon who received the Eucharist for the first time.



L to R Bernice Steele  
(Peter's catechist),  
Fr Brian Connolly,  
Peter Bell and  
Herb Fawcett  
(Peter's Sponsor).

# FUN AND FRIENDSHIP FOR HOLY CYA

PATRICE RIORDAN



***This year we are embracing the youth within our parish by developing a youth program.*** The purpose of gathering together will be friendship, leadership, fun, support, formation, community outreach and hospitality. We have had an overwhelming response from our youth, their families and the parish. This group is open to young members from year 6 through to year 12. We currently have anywhere from 17 to over 20 young people attend. Our first gathering promoted the idea of our own identity which lead to the name, HOLY CYA (Catholic Youth Action). A logo is currently in the infant stage.

Recently HOLY CYA celebrated a day trip together visiting Sun Set Super Bowl followed by lunch at Pizza Hut Toowoomba during the Easter school holiday break. Nineteen young enthusiastic members of our Parish attended this great

day celebrating relationships, community and service. Thank you to Shaun Godley and Rick Scheiwe who attended. Shaun, a teacher at Assumption College, will be working closely with the parish to help set up this new group. He has had many years experience in working with youth in his last parish. Rick is a parent helper who has already shown dedication in this area.

When asked about her experience, attendee Erin Walsh (year 6) said, "Bowling was so much fun and some of us even got some spares and strikes! Afterwards everybody had a go on the arcade and bought some lollies for the trip home. We then went to the Pizza Hut for some pizza and it was delicious! I loved the trip and I definitely hope that we do some more fun stuff like that again. Thank you to Shaun, Patrice and Mr Scheiwe for taking us."

## MEN FOR ALL SEASONS

BEVAN DEVINE

***The Men for All Seasons program started at St Thomas More's Parish 2013.*** The members of the group are retired men and the group meets on the first Monday of each month. Initially the meetings at the parish hall were set to alternate with excursions to points of interest. The preferences expressed soon led to a program of mostly trips, about nine or ten each year.

These trips have been to a variety of interesting destinations such as an automated dairy at Rathdowney, the Wellcamp Airport when it was under construction, Stanthorpe wineries and the Ipswich Railway Museum. Transport is usually by chartered bus or by individual vehicles, depending on the location.

The initial group of about 30 men has now grown to more than 70. Dick Neal, who suggested the idea to the Parish Pastoral Council, took on the responsibility of getting the group started and has continued to guide it with a democratic and ecumenical vision. Men from outside the Parish and of any faith are welcomed.

The Men for all Seasons program meets an important social need for elderly men. Sociologists have observed that isolation, loneliness and even stressful social ties often occur



amongst elderly men and can lead to poor physical and mental health. Participation in an all-male group activity can provide a sense of identity, self-esteem and value and can also provide a space for companionship and diversion.

St Thomas More, the patron saint of our parish, was the Lord Chancellor of England and was described by a contemporary as "A Man for all Seasons". The author of the stage play and film of that name described More as the ultimate man of conscience and one who remained true to himself while adapting to all circumstances and times despite extreme pressure and influence. Perhaps this group at St Thomas More's Parish is helping men in the later season of their lives to achieve those same ideals.





# EASTER SYMBOLS **TRANSFORM** OUR LADY OF LOURDES

**PAULA  
O'ROURKE**

*Lent has been a time of growth for all in 2017.* The OLOL school used hands during the Ash Wednesday ceremony as a symbol of being the hands of God and extending the hand of friendship to all we meet. Following on from the Year of Mercy in 2016, the parishioners at OLOL have been challenged to become more welcoming by getting to know each other. Often we sit beside someone each week without actually knowing their name, but this Lent we were challenged to find someone new each week and gradually get to know those who attend Mass with us.

A wooden cross was created from bundles of sticks supplied by parishioners. Our resident artist Lyn Stephens then fashioned the sticks into a rustic wooden cross which thickened and grew during the weeks of Lent. It was a bare cross for Good Friday but bloomed into a cross of new life when covered by colourful butterflies on Easter Sunday. The butterflies represented the friendships being forged in the life of our parish.

The church was also transformed by palms on Palm

Sunday – the parishioners were greeted by an arch of palms as they walked up the path into the church.

Four representatives from Year 4 went to the World

Day of Prayer at The Range Christian Fellowship Church during March, an ecumenical service run in a different church each year. The children had a special part to play in the service and met up with some older parishioners from our own parish and other churches on the western side of Toowoomba.

The Year 6 Mini Vinnies group also brightened the day of the residents of Freedom Aged Care when they went along for a chat. The children really enjoy learning about the lives of the residents and the residents are eager to share their

stories with the younger generation.

ANZAC Day was commemorated by a special ceremony led by the Year 5 students. Lieutenant Benjamin Jackson from the Oakey Army Aviation Centre came to share his military story with the students. The students of the school coloured little flowers to create a giant wreath, which was part of the prayer space for the ceremony.

**Butterflies  
represented  
the friendships  
being forged  
in the life of  
our parish.**

# CUNNAMULLA FETE A SUCCESS

SR MAUREEN ANDREWS



*Always a highlight for the community, Sacred Heart Parish Cunnamulla held the annual fete, this year on St Patrick's Day.* Shamrocks decorated the stalls and many people dressed in keeping with the theme. The parents and friends of the community arrived ready to see the children perform some line dancing. Wendy McKellar, who is on the staff of Sacred Heart School, generously gave her time to coach the children. We were then treated to a surprise when the teachers danced as well. Towards the end of the night there were even a couple of parents on the floor trying out the steps. Acting Principal Rosemary Curley was the compere for the night and did a splendid job boosting the products of each stall.

Wal Ramsay, a stalwart supporter of the fete for many years was looking forward the fete simply to cook donuts once again. Helped by his wife and daughter they cooked over 500 donuts on the night. They were a popular treat and towards the conclusion of the night a plateful went down to the bar to some grateful recipients. The cake stall and the pick-a-box were very popular as was the barbeque.

There were other stalls where volunteers graciously gave their time. It is tiring in the lead up to the fete however one can never doubt the generosity, commitment and loyalty of so many people.

During Lent the school raise \$1,200 for Caritas with the Water Relay competition. Each child in the relay carried a bucket of water in solidarity with those people who must walk for miles to fetch water.

Easter was so close to the date of the fete however we managed to celebrate meaningfully together. We were joined by some visitors as it was the tourist season and there are travellers inquiring about the services.

We commemorated ANZAC Day with the community both at the dawn service and the 10:30am service where Sr Maureen led those gathered in prayer. The sounds of a drum and the stirring sounds of a piper filled the air to announce that the parade was coming. The children of the school did us proud in the march, reading poems and laying wreaths.

## MITCHELL HOSTS WORLD DAY OF PRAYER CELEBRATION

DONNA BURKE

*On Saturday 4 March, 2017 St Columba's Mitchell hosted a World Day of Prayer service.* It was a wonderful celebration of faith and hope and was very well attended by the different faith traditions in the community.

Our special guest speaker Elly El Santa Marina gave a wonderful insight into life in the Philippines and shared her personal journey and hardship and her immigration to Australia in search for a better life. We learned about the politics, the economy, education and the women in the Philippines. It was an extremely inspirational and heartfelt speech and one we sincerely thank Elly for sharing with us.

A huge thank you to everyone who participated or assisted in any way in making this celebration such a meaningful one.







## MANY REASONS TO CELEBRATE AT CHARLEVILLE

### SR ELIZABETH O'KEEFFE

*The first weekend in February was a big weekend for us in Charleville.* We welcomed back Fr Peter Doohan after his break. As part of the Mass teachers were blessed and missioned for the new school year. Afterwards we celebrated with our Vietnamese members the Lunar New Year with drinks and nibbles. This has become an annual event as we begin the new year and it is a wonderful opportunity for us to learn more each other's cultural traditions.

As we journeyed through Lent we invited members of the Anglican and Lutheran Churches to join with us for our Lenten Program, Hope. This was a very fruitful and enlightening time for us all as well as a great opportunity to socialise together.

Holy Week began for us as we congregated outside the church on the banks of Bradley's Gully for the blessing of the palms. After the blessing we processed into the church singing and carrying our palms for our Eucharistic Service. On Good Friday we assembled in the same spot for the Stations of the Cross and again process into the church in a much more sombre mood for the Good Friday Liturgy, perhaps reminiscent of the events of 2000 years ago. Easter

Sunday was a joyful event where we lit the new fire of Easter and renewed our baptismal promises as we celebrated the Resurrection together.

As part of the Queensland Parliamentary Services' program of regional outreach activities, a Youth Parliament was held in Roma in March. Nine of our Year 6 students from St Mary's were invited to take part in this event, which was jointly chaired by Ann Leahy, our local State member, and Peter Wellington, Speaker of the Queensland Parliament. Various others schools in our electorate were also in attendance.

The students had to speak either to a motion debating various aspects of junk food or in the Adjournment Debate where they addressed a matter of interest to themselves and the local community. In the weeks leading up to the day many hours were spent in writing and refining speeches; and the effort put in by the students was evident on the day, when they presented their well-rehearsed speeches. Despite the difficulties of getting to Roma because of the wet weather caused by cyclone Debbie, the experience was unanimously declared a success by all participants.

### Rosary in the Park

2pm – 4pm Saturday 14 October  
Queen's Park, Toowoomba (Cnr Lindsay & Margaret Streets)



- Everyone welcome – especially children
- Bring a flower to place in front of Our Lady's statue
- If English is not your first language come along and say a decade of the Rosary in your own language
- Let us pray the Rosary together to honour the final apparition of Our Lady to the children of Fatima.

For further information contact Theresa on  
PHONE: 07 4564 9805 | MOBILE: 0434 528 904  
EMAIL [ther.b@optusnet.com.au](mailto:ther.b@optusnet.com.au)



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## PITTSWORTH COUNTS ON THE LUCK OF THE IRISH

**MICHELLE ARNOLD**

*It was a very busy beginning to the year in our parish.* Fr Thomas Areekuzhy and a ladies committee from the parish and school planned a fundraising Race Day. It just happened to fall on St Patrick's 'weekend' – very convenient with those of us counting on our Irish heritage for good luck! Those in attendance enjoyed a two course meal with live entertainment to as well as raffles and prizes for best dressed.

Each year the Pittsworth State High School celebrate and reflect during Holy Week in one of Pittsworth's many churches. This year St Stephen's hosted a large group of students and teachers as they reflected on the meaning of Lent and the weeks leading up to the Resurrection. Students prayed and were led in singing and reflection by teachers and fellow students.



## CROWS NEST CELEBRATES EASTER

**MARGARET FOWLER**

*Fr Dave O'Connor celebrated Easter Sunday Mass for Crows Nest.* After the well-attended Mass, the usual toffees were offered to young and old. During Mass Janine Kanowski was fully initiated into the Catholic faith. Janine was capably prepared for this over a period of time by Julie Nairn. After Mass parishioners and visitors joined Janine and her sponsor, Rita Kruger, for morning tea in the Parish Centre. Thank you to all who provided the goodies. A celebratory cake was cut by Janine and shared by all present.

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"This is also our mission: to be anointed by the Spirit, and to go out to our brothers and sisters in order to proclaim the word and to be for them a means of salvation."

Pope Francis, Message for the World Day of Prayers for Vocations 2017

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