

# Horizons

## REFUGEE CRISIS: CHILD MIGRANTS, THE VULNERABLE AND THE VOICELESS

**Pastoral Care:**  
A presence of  
compassion

**Green Life in Strife**

**Sacraments Shine  
in Parishes**

**#47**  
AUG 17

FREE Publication  
of the Catholic  
Diocese of  
Toowoomba

# Horizons

#47  
AUG 17

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## FROM THE EDITOR INGRID MCTAGGART

*As the previous Horizons went out, I started thinking of what would make an interesting feature.* Taking inspiration from what would be happening in the diocese and church at large, I thought focusing on the issue of refugees would be relevant as Migrant & Refugee Week will be 21 to 27 August. Little did I know just how relevant it would become. News comes of death and trouble on Manus Island and just a few weeks back people poured over the transcript of a phone call between Prime Minister Malcom Turnbull and US President Donald Trump regarding the refugee deal between our countries. I am glad that in our magazine we can add some positive points to this conversation in our community. Thank you to Hannah Belesky, Settlement Coordinator at TRAMS and Mark Copland, Executive Officer for the Social Justice Commission, for not only their articles, but for their agencies' work in the community.

I will be jetting off to the Australasian Catholic Press Association (ACPA) Conference very shortly. This is a fantastic opportunity to connect with others working in print and digital Catholic publications, media and communications from Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands. The conference theme "Communicating for our Common Home" will focus on a wide variety of social justice issues like indigenous peoples, homelessness and the environment and how we as a church communicate our message. Horizons is up for a handful of ACPA Awards which will be announced at the Conference Dinner. Whether we win or not, I am still extremely proud of our diocesan magazine. I am thankful for everyone who helps bring it together and the enthusiasm from our ministries, schools and parishes to contribute is always heartening!

## OOPS, SORRY WE MADE A MISTAKE

We wish to acknowledge that Loretta Coman was the author of the article "SPRED Celebrates Retiring Volunteer's Contribution" on page 19 of Issue #46, May 2017.

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:** Homework Time at TRAMS. Story Page 11 **Graphic Design:** The Catholic Design Company 1300 883 454 **Deadlines:** Editions will be quarterly. Deadline for the November Edition 2017 is 13 October 2017.



Bishop's Inservice Day Cunnamulla

***I am sure that when travelling you have either asked or have been asked question Are we there yet?*** If you are the one who was asked the question you may be tempted to say No we're not there yet, go back to sleep!

In our journey through life, we are not there yet. We should not go back to sleep rather stay awake, awake to the encounters along the way. We should be awake to the presence of the Lord and of the opportunities that come our way. May we then respond to these opportunities and make a difference.

On the day of my ordination as Bishop of Toowoomba I spoke about the pilgrimage of life that we are on. It is a journey that we don't always know where it will lead us, but we journey together in this place as we strive to live out our baptismal call. Thank goodness we don't journey alone but share our journey with others and are guided by the presence of the Holy Spirit.

In the last couple of weeks I have travelled many kilometres visiting parishes and schools in this vast diocese, a diocese which is territorially larger than the whole of Germany. One of these weeks was Queensland's Catholic Education Week. During this time I was blessed to visit and speak with teachers and school staff from all of our schools who gathered in centres at Cunnamulla, Roma or Toowoomba.

The theme of Catholic Education Week was Sharing the Journey. This theme was inspired by many messages of Pope Francis which he asked people to walk together, listening and learning from each other through life's journey.

I can only but agree with Fr Gerald Arbuckle when in his latest publication, Intentional Faith Communities in Catholic

Education: Challenge and Response, he mentions that the Catholic school plays a very important part in the life of people as they develop. Certainly schools are places of becoming and can be very positive experience for growth for young people.



It is important for us to remember that the primary and sustained founder of a Catholic school is Jesus Christ. All of us need to remain focused on Jesus and be embraced by God's love. Only then will God's love flow over and be seen in action.

At this time the Diocesan Pastoral Council has been meeting and is consulting with others around the question of Diocesan Mission and Vision Statement. Values should not only be things written on paper but realised and lived throughout the Diocese in our Parishes, Schools and the wider community.

As we share the journey, we do face challenges but we should become vibrant communities of faith that are hope-filled and joy-filled. If you are asked the question Are we there yet? Thankfully you can say, No we're not there yet, but we travel together! On the journey may we listen to each other and support each other. May God bless you.

***Bishop Robert McGuckin  
Bishop of Toowoomba  
August 2017***



# GOLDEN JUBILEE FOR FR JACK MACGINLEY

Fr Jack MacGinley (centre) with family after the special Jubilee Mass.

*On 27 June, members of the community, clergy and Bishop Robert McGuckin came together for a Mass to celebrate Fr Jack MacGinley's 50 years of Presbyteral Ordination. Many members of Fr Jack's family were also in attendance. The Mass was not only an opportunity for the community to give thanks*

for Fr Jack's hard work over the years, but it was also a chance for him to reflect on his own ministry. Fr Jack spoke fondly of the places he has been over the years, giving particular emphasis to his current parish of Tara and the St Vincent de Paul shop which has been a great outreach in the area.

## BISHOP ROBERT MCGUCKIN APPOINTED NEW BBI DIRECTOR

**MICHAEL KENNY, BBI-THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION**

*Bishop Robert McGuckin says he is looking forward to working more closely with BBI – The Australian Institute of Theological Education as a newly-appointed Director.*

Bishop Robert is an accredited Ecclesiastical Judge, a former lecturer in Canon Law and has represented the Catholic Bishops of Oceania at international Canon Law conferences. He will take up his new role with BBI following the recent retirement of long-standing BBI Member, the Director of Schools in the Diocese of Broken Bay, Mr Peter Hamill.

The Bishop is a strong admirer of BBI's Canon Law courses, particularly the partnership with St Paul University in Canada, allowing Australian students to obtain a pontifically recognised degree in this area without having to travel overseas.

Bishop Robert is himself a graduate of the Master's program in Canon Law at St Paul University and he believes the skills gained through these courses are more critical than ever for Church administrators in Australia.

"Whether you are an administrator in Catholic education, healthcare or social services, you need to have a firm understanding of that complex interface between secular or corporate governance and canon law and BBI is helping Church administrators meet this challenge", Bishop Robert explained.

"As the Church has faced declining vocations to religious life over recent decades, laypeople have increasingly taken up key leadership roles in Catholic institutions and it is our responsibility to equip them with the formation they need to perform these pivotal roles", he added.

BBI's Principal and Chief Executive Officer, Dr Gerard Goldman said Bishop Robert will be an asset to the Institute's board.

"Bishop Robert brings with him decades of experience not only in church administration, but also in the fields of ecumenism, finance and professional standards which will greatly enhance our work", Dr Goldman said.

# NEW FACE FOR CARITAS IN THE DIOCESE



This year's theme of "Love your neighbour" has certainly been apparent. Thank you

## CATHERINE MCALEER

*My name is Catherine McAleer and I am the new Caritas Diocesan Director for Caritas.* I am a primary school teacher who is passionate about making a difference in the lives of those whose voice is not always heard. One of my roles is to connect schools and parishes with the work Caritas does. If you would like to know more about any of Caritas' current campaigns, parish resources or advocacy campaigns you are welcome to contact me via [caritas@twb.catholic.org.au](mailto:caritas@twb.catholic.org.au) or phone 07 4638 7977. Alternatively you can visit our website [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au).

Project Compassion has concluded for 2017. This year's theme of "Love your neighbour" has certainly been apparent. Thank you to all those who contributed and shared the stories of Dinia in the Philippines, Martina in Timor-Leste, Uncle Richard here at home, Nguyet in Vietnam, Semiti in Fiji and Aloma in the Philippines. Your generosity will be felt around the world and is appreciated by many. This year as a diocese we have raised just over \$125 000 and nationally just over \$11 million.

The past few months has seen local man David French take on the role of principal petitioner for the Community Climate Change Petition in the Groom Electorate. The Community Climate Petition has been run simultaneously in each of Australia's 150 federal electorates, driven by faith-based communities, such as Caritas. It seeks to call on the Federal Government to take stronger action to reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions, transition to renewable energy and help poorer countries adapt to climate change. In the coming weeks David will meet with local member John McVeigh to present the petition which will later be tabled in Parliament.

The East Africa Appeal is now in progress. 23 million people are currently on the brink of famine in South Sudan and other areas of East Africa and Yemen. The appeal will bring in urgent donations which will help Caritas Australia deliver life-saving food and water to countries most in need including South Sudan, Kenya and Malawi. Donations can be sent to: PO Box 9830, Sydney NSW 2001, online at [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au) or by phoning 1800 024 413.

## Pre-planning Your Funeral

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# BUSH DANCING FOR JOY!

LORETTA COMAN

***SPRED is committed to enriching the spiritual, social and emotional lives of people with intellectual disability in the Diocese of Toowoomba.***

We do this by forming small faith sharing groups that meet together on a regular basis. The program also incorporates opportunities for groups to gather and enjoy each other's company at social gatherings.

On Sunday June 18th the community gathered at All Seasons Function Centre at Sacred Heart Parish Toowoomba for the celebration of the Annual SPRED Social. This year our theme was a good old fashioned bush dance. Everyone danced up a storm to the music of the delightful 'Two-timing' led by vocalist Cathy Drummond. We were also entertained with a line dancing display by a group from Toowoomba Line Dancing Fun and Fitness, who also managed to teach us all a few moves!

This year there were over 125 people from across our ten SPRED groups in the Diocese who were able to participate, including our group from All Saints Parish in Roma who made the long trip in to attend. Groups prepared for the event by making colourful bunting and table decorations of bush flora.

The pleasure and enjoyment at these gatherings is mutual and reciprocal. SPRED Friends and Volunteers alike find

fulfilment in being surrounded by a community of people who love, support and appreciate them for who they are. They are occasions where the freedom of spontaneity and joy is expressed with wholehearted abandon, in the words of Edwin Elliott 'By being yourself, you put something wonderful in the world that was not there before.'

When we fail to consciously and actively include people with disability in our communities we are the poorer for it, for they come bearing gifts.

"Among many others, here are some of the gifts that we bring...

Welcome...in a world of false rejoicing, you will know welcome when you are with me. When I am glad to see you, you will know and bathe in the warmth of my welcome.

Enthusiasm...I bring intense enthusiasm to those things I enjoy – no event or situation is too small for me to express my joy at its happening; no person is ever too insignificant for me to express my delight at their presence.

Discovery...Be with me for a while. If we are fortunate and we are able to see into each other, you will discover parts of me that no one else has seen, that no one else has been able to see. The joy of discovery will alight new parts of you that have not been seen before either."

(Extract from 'We Come Bearing Gifts' by Janet Klees 1996)

#CATHOLICROADTRIP

# RIDES AGAIN

INGRID MCTAGGART



*Continuing from the #catholicroadtrip at the beginning of the year, Ingrid McTaggart, Communications Officer, and Sarah de Byl, Coordinator for Young Catholics, took another short trip to visit as many parishes as possible in a two day span.* This time the ladies visited Cambooya, Clifton, Goondiwindi, St George and Tara parishes. The trip proved to be another unique experience in what the Diocese has to offer.

It was important to continue the informal spirit of journeys from the start of the year for this trip. It was a fantastic opportunity to catch up with what was happening in each local community without anyone feeling like they were "reporting". It was an opportunity to talk history and find out what really makes our parishes the communities they are today.

It was also fun to take the Diocese's Facebook followers along for the ride by posting selfies at each of the parish stops, sharing what our diverse communities and church buildings look like. It was also important to stop at some of the smaller Mass centres as they also form part of our wider diocesan community.

Departing Cambooya dark clouds loomed on the horizon and from Clifton onwards the heavens opened and it was patches of squally storms all the way to Goondiwindi. Proving just how fickle the weather can be in this part of the country, just 2 hours down the road, St George reported no rain and has been praying for rain for some time.

While the rain slowed the trip, a happy accident was that the ladies were able to join with the Goondiwindi children making their First Reconciliation. It was very warming to see these young people discover and learn about their faith.

At St George Fr Salvador Fernandes treated the ladies to a visit to St Patrick's Primary School. Fr Salvador also played chief and cooked a warm lunch for the cool day.

The final stop on the tour was an uninterrupted 3 hour trip from St George to Tara. This leg of the journey really

highlighted the vast distances the western priests need to travel to visit parishes under their care. Arriving at Tara close to sun down and a little too close to the time the kangaroos come out, the ladies had a brief catch up with St Mary's Primary School Tara Principal, Mary Porter before getting on the road again back to Toowoomba.

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# THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

MARY OTTO



*In late 2014 I entered the world of retirement having resigned from eight rewarding years as Pastoral Associate at St Theresa's Parish in Toowoomba.* My earlier career had been in teaching in secondary schools, the last of which was St Saviour's College. I accepted the invitation to teach there based on the fact that it was to be for only two months, however I would eventually retire from teaching there after twenty-two wonderful years.

Spirituality and my Catholic faith have always been important to me so even in retirement it seemed inevitable that I would continue to play an active role within my faith tradition. As a consequence, when I was invited to take up the role of RCIA Coordinator for the Diocese, it seemed a natural progression for me. I find myself enjoying the challenges that being the Diocesan RCIA Coordinator brings to my life.

RCIA, an acronym for Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, is a process better described as a "journey" which is undertaken by those who may be interested in being initiated into the Catholic faith. Enquirers may already be baptised in one of the mainstream Christian traditions or may not be baptised at all. Those for whom their baptism is recognised are known as candidates and those who have not been baptised are known as catechumens. It is possible for both to journey together with the support of a parish team, usually from September through to the Easter Vigil. As the need arises, it is a good idea to have a number of people in your parish who feel confident in conducting such a process. This is where I can be of help.

As the Diocesan Coordinator of the RCIA process, I am available to provide support as required by parishes or schools throughout our vast diocese. I can recommend and share resources, conduct workshops on the process in your parishes or deaneries and provide regular support to parish RCIA teams in whatever way is required.

Since I took up the Diocesan role, I have made my role known to parishes through attending Deanery Meetings throughout the diocese. Thanks to the hospitality and welcome provided by Fr Peter Doohan, (Far Western Deanery), Sr Margaret Anderson (Quilpie) and Sr Maureen Andrews (Cunnamulla), Fr Jamie Collins (Roma) and Sr Elizabeth O'Keefe (Charleville), I visited parishes in the Far Western Deanery and in Roma in 2016. On that trip, I learned to appreciate the unique qualities that these parishes have and the challenges they bring.

In recent months I have conducted a workshop for those completing the Foundations for Lay Pastoral Ministry course, provided support as requested for a number of schools and parishes, and with the support of Michael Bermingham from St Thomas More's Parish conducted the RCIA process as a shared model between Michael's parish and my own parish of St Theresa's here in Toowoomba.

If you or your parish has any enquiries or seeks support in conducting the RCIA process in your community, please feel free to contact me by email: [rcia@twb.catholic.org.au](mailto:rcia@twb.catholic.org.au) or phone: 0447 074 807 and I will get back to you as soon as possible.



Life in the Spirit Seminar, Toowoomba.

# CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL

**MICHAEL PYKE**

*The worldwide Catholic Charismatic Renewal gathered in Rome to celebrate its Golden Jubilee with Pope Francis during Pentecost.* It was described as both an historic and prophetic moment. The Renewal gathered to seek wisdom and the grace of God in order to live and work in a new season of Pentecost. 128 Countries were represented with 50,000 Pilgrims attending on the Saturday alone. More than 50 Bishops and 800 Priests attended.

Pope Francis urged the Renewal to become strong and passionate, praising our God unceasingly. He encouraged us to walk together with Christians of different Churches. He asked us to pray for the Lord's guidance in reaching out to those in need and for strategies in how to bring Baptism in the Holy Spirit in a greater way to the Church.

Toowoomba Diocese will celebrate the Jubilee on Sunday 26 November 2017. International evangelists Philip and Margaret Maloney will speak on:

- Fruits of the 50 years of Catholic Charismatic Renewal
- Role of the Holy Spirit and Mary in the Present Time
- Empowerment for Evangelisation

If you would like to register your interest please contact Michael Pyke (see details below).

## CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL EVENTS IN THE DIOCESE

A Life in the Spirit Seminar, hosted by the Wings of Freedom Prayer Group, was held on 22nd and 23rd July 2017. This was an inspired weekend with 22 participants being challenged

to form a closer personal relationship with Jesus and to allow the Holy Spirit to work more deeply in their lives. Teachings over the weekend encouraged us to improve our personal relationship with God and being more open to the Holy Spirit. Participants were Baptised in the Holy Spirit which helps bring about a greater inner transformation in our lives. This is most evident in the release the Holy Spirit within us. The Holy Spirit, given to us at Baptism and strengthened in Confirmation, is allowed to become more active in our lives. This encourages us to step out in faith with a greater use of the Spiritual Gifts (Gifts of the Spirit) as explained in 1 Corinthians Chapter 12. The teachings were given by Fr Roque Maguinsay and members of the Wings of Freedom Prayer Group.

On the drawing board is a seminar on the use of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and Prophetic Intercession. It will be held on 29th & 30th October 2017. If you would like to register your interest please contact Michael Pyke (see details below).

## CONTACTS

TO KNOW MORE ABOUT CCR CONTACT  
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WINGS OF FREEDOM PRAYER GROUP,  
 SACRED HEART PARISH TOOWOOMBA  
 CONTACT **LISA MINZ (07) 4615 5218**

SACRED HEART PRAYER GROUP, WARWICK  
 CONTACT **TRISH SEABY (07) 4661 3133**

# HEALING A GLOBAL WOUND

## CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING ON MIGRATION AND ASYLUM



***War, natural disasters, persecution have deprived millions of their home, employment, family and homeland.*** It is the element of persecution, threat or danger, or being forcibly displaced that gives rise to a need to seek asylum rather than to migrate through ordinary channels.

In recent years the issues surrounding refugees have unfortunately become highly politicised and divisive, so where does the Catholic Church stand on this growing global problem? Jesus identifies Himself as a stranger to be welcomed (Matthew 25:35). The Church teaches that Christ has in some way united himself to every person, whether or not one is aware of this. Christ will consider done to himself the kind of treatment that is reserved to any human person, in particular, to the least among them, the stranger.

The Church teaches that all people have the right to live a dignified life in their homeland, that anyone whose life is threatened has the right to protection. Human life is sacred because each person is created in the image and likeness of God. The human dignity and human rights of asylum seekers must be respected, regardless of their citizenship, visa status or mode of arrival. It is also important to remember that all nations have a right to regulate migration across their borders. This right is coupled with the duty to protect and help innocent victims and those fleeing for their lives. The right of nations to regulate their borders is an extension of the right of all persons to live a dignified life in their community.

Borders are for the protection of people, not for the exclusion of people seeking protection.

The purpose of law is to serve justice and mercy. Laws, which subject asylum seekers to arbitrary and prolonged immigration detention or banish them from seeking protection, fail to uphold justice and mercy and are immoral. It is not illegal to seek asylum. Many asylum seekers are survivors of crimes, torture and trauma. Indefinite detention adds further stress and suffering, impacting on their mental and physical health. The Catholic Church advocates the implementation of just and rapid procedures to determine each person's claim for protection.

All people have the right to be part of a community. Asylum seekers who have been forced from their homeland have a duty to integrate into the host community. We must favour this integration by helping migrants to find a place where they can live in peace and safety, where they can work and take on the rights and duties that exist in the country that welcomes them.

**SOURCE:** EDITED EXCERPTS FROM "WHAT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH TEACHES ON ASYLUM AND MIGRATION", A PAMPHLET AVAILABLE FROM THE AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC MIGRANT AND REFUGEE OFFICE



# BEING THE FACE OF CHRIST TO REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

HANNAH BELESKY

## A SAFE SPACE AND A NEW LIFE

*“We had no clue where Australia was but we knew that it was somewhere peaceful. Somewhere where I could be a child again.”*

These powerful words written by local Toowoomba girl Prudence Melom highlight the key difference between a refugee and a migrant. A refugee is forced to flee their country due to the threat of persecution or war. They do not get to choose where they go or prepare for the journey. Those like Prudence Melom and her family are considered the ‘lucky ones’ as they are offered a chance to start a new life somewhere, but resettlement in another country is not an easy journey.

For the past thirteen years CatholicCare’s Toowoomba Refugee and Migrant Support (TRAMS) has offered a warm welcome to those settling and starting a new life in Australia. The staff and volunteers of TRAMS

strive to show compassion and hospitality to everyone that comes through their doors. In creating welcome and a sense of belonging, those fleeing persecution and war are provided a safe space to heal and have hope for their future.



TRAMS also offers a variety of practical supports to those new to the country including casework, information sessions, English classes, homework assistance, and friendship and craft groups. The goal of these programs is to build skills towards independence, meaningful relationships, and participation in our Toowoomba community.

Although we receive some limited federal government funding from the Department of Social Services, TRAMS relies on the generosity of their supporters and local community members who do a wonderful job of fundraising in local schools, hospitals and generous donations throughout the year.



## 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)



## VOLUNTEERS: THE COMPASSIONATE HEART OF TRAMS

*Over the last 13 years that TRAMS has been operating, we have had hundreds of volunteers connect with new arrivals, and while their volunteering is inevitably time limited, the friendships they have built are not!* This is because they have found value in the relationship, they enjoy all that they learn from these people and are often inspired by the stories they hear.

The vital importance of our volunteers is keenly apparent as they build these friendships with people newly arrived in Australia, introduce them to family and friends, provide support when the family has struggles, celebrate their achievements and help connect them to the broader Toowoomba community. Indeed many of our employment clients have been able to obtain employment through the connections of someone they know in the community – leading to much greater community connectivity, economic independence and effective settlement.

The supports that enable the connections are only possible through the amazing commitment of approximately 100 volunteers who give of their time and skills each week. Our volunteers are the strength and heart of TRAMS as they show respect and compassion, give care, enjoy fun, foster hope, and extend welcome. Of course, the volunteers are clear that they receive just as much as they give when they describe what

they enjoy about volunteering at TRAMS:

“Sharing special moments with students. This goes beyond teaching and learning. Sometimes we are there, just [as] human beings together and we get to share a very special and deep understanding of each other’s life.”

Whilst many clients can share stories of racism they encounter in Toowoomba, they are quick to highlight the sporadic and random nature of these experiences and always balanced by the care and friendship they have with volunteers who have linked them into the broader community. These relationships and positive support stop them developing an attitude of fear about their new home – which in turn discourages them from developing racist beliefs and anti-social behaviours. Fear will be present unless we have opportunities for people to meet and learn about each other as individuals. The presence of migrants in Australian communities is so important for us to continue to learn about other cultures and different ways of doing things so we do not give in to the fear of the unknown.

Settlement is a complex journey for those who are often forced into it, but with open hearted and welcoming Australian towns and cities, the process is eased and both the individual or families and their new communities gain so much in return.

## NEW SPACE FOR TRAMS OFFICES

*CatholicCare TRAMS has more than 500 clients they are supporting – and each of them are very quick to speak about the sense of safety and assurance they feel, as soon as they step into our TRAMS office.* So we are working to ensure this continues in their NEW LOCATION!

TRAMS is on the move and as of the first week in October will be located with all the other CatholicCare programs in The Shrine at 502 Ruthven St. TRAMS staff will be situated in the old DFO offices, and classes will be provided from the upstairs Hall. The Hall is currently undergoing some significant renovations to ensure the sense of welcome and learning continues to shine through and the children will

have a new playground in the beautiful courtyard area.

So please drop in once we have moved and have a look at our new TRAMS quarters and see where refugees are welcomed, families are supported and new hope grows!

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A VOLUNTEER OR WOULD LIKE TO BE PART OF SUPPORTING TRAMS, PLEASE CALL 1300 477 433 AND ASK TO SPEAK TO EITHER HANNAH BELESKY (TRAMS COORDINATOR) OR RACHEL SMITH (VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR).**



L to R Cardinal Peter Turkson and Mark Copland.

“...I feel compelled to draw attention to the reality of child migrants, especially the ones who are alone. In doing so I ask everyone to take care of the young, who in a threefold way are defenceless: they are children, they are foreigners, and they have no means to protect themselves. I ask everyone to help those who, for various reasons, are forced to live far from their homeland and are separated from their families.”

(Message from Pope Francis on World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2014)

## ACMRO CONFERENCE FOCUSES ON WELFARE OF REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

### MARK COPLAND

*Every minute around the world 24 people flee their homes, either due to war or persecution, and part of the reason that there are now 65.5 million forcibly displaced people globally.* This was one of the confronting facts that was shared by one of the speakers, Mitra Khabaz (MDA Director) at the biennial National Conference on Pastoral Care in a Multicultural Church and Society held in Melbourne in July. Fr Maurizio Pettina, Director of the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office (ACMRO), opened the conference with a prayer sombrely reflecting on the fact that this day marked four years since people seeking Australia's protection had been placed by the Australian government on Nauru and Manus Island.

Cardinal Peter Turkson gave the first keynote address outlining Pope Francis' vision for our world and the establishment of the new Dicastery for Integral Human Development. Previous speakers highlighted the fact that to Pope Francis refugees and migrants are not just numbers. Cardinal Turkson emphasised the priority that Pope Francis places on the welfare of refugees and migrants. Inside the new Dicastery he takes personal responsibility for advocacy and leadership around people fleeing persecution and seeking protection. It was pointed out that it was no accident that his very first trip outside of Rome was to the island of Lampedusa, Italy's equivalent of Australia's Christmas Island. Cardinal Turkson encouraged all conference attendees to be a part of a Church that, "goes out" and to enable a culture of encounter between ourselves and those we seek to minister to. One of the stand out messages from Cardinal Turkson involved the approach of the office of Pope Francis

towards refugees and migrants. Pope Francis calls us not to be observers from the balcony. We are called to make a concrete difference. He shared an acronym which is used to focus activities in this area in the Vatican. WPPI.

- W Welcome** – all are to be welcoming to the migrants who reach our shore.
- P Protect** – we are called to protect, to look after those who come
- P Promote** – we must promote their well-being, to promote their flourishing
- I Integration** – our final goal is to create and sustain a sense of belonging so that all can contribute and participate fully in the society to which we belong.

It was a very powerful moment to have the most Rev Amel Nona from the Chaldean Eparchy share with the conference the experiences of a brutally oppressed and persecuted Christian minority in the North of Iraq.

The second keynote address was given by Cardinal Orlando Quevedo from the Filipino Archdiocese of Cotabato. Cardinal Quevedo spoke on pastoral models for the care of migrants and refugees in our community. His particular focus was the welfare of Filipino Overseas Workers (OFW). He described "light and shadows" around 2.2 million people who work in a variety of roles around the world.

Topics of presentations ranged from vocations from migrant communities, modern slavery, trafficking of people, pastoral care of international students and the changing face of the Church in Australia. It was a great opportunity to be encouraged by the teaching and the action of our Church universal as we work to welcome the stranger in our midst.

# CHANGING FACE OF OUR PARISH

MARK COPLAND



***If you had noticed different and diverse faces in your local parish over the past few decades you are not alone!***

The Church across Australia is changing in its make-up. According to some preliminary findings from the ACBC Pastoral Research Office since 1996 the percentage of Mass attenders born in a non-English speaking country has risen from 18% to 37%.

These are not just big city stats. In our own Diocese the faces at a regular mass have changed over the past two decades. For example, a sizable proportion (sometime up to half) of the mass attenders in Charleville originated from Vietnam. Readings will often be in Vietnamese as well as English. In the parish of Warwick this diversity is celebrated each month with the Filharmonix choir made up of local Filipino community members. Every few months there is a mass celebrated in the Maronite rite at St Anthony's parish. This mass has been greatly supplemented with recent arrivals of refugees from Syria and Iraq. There is a well-attended mass in the Syro-Malabar tradition taking place each month in the Holy Name parish. This is just a snapshot of what is happening around the Toowoomba Diocese. Of course we also have clergy who have come to the Diocese from non-English speaking backgrounds. Some of the countries that they originate from are Mexico, India and the Philippines.

This is not a fringe phenomenon – but is a reflection of a change across the whole of Australian society. More than 10 percent of masses celebrated in Australia are now celebrated in a language other than English (including Aboriginal languages). The Anglo Celtic face of our Church will become a thing of the past. In some parishes it is rare to find a white

face amongst the children attending Children's Liturgy on a Sunday morning. This is a wonderful opportunity to enrich each other as a community and deepen our faith in Christ. We have an opportunity to move from a multicultural church to an inter-cultural church.

It is also a challenge for us to be welcoming communities. In January 1950 the Australian Bishops released a Pastoral Letter on Immigration. Many parts of this letter speak to our situation today. "In the inscrutable ways of Divine Providence, Australia becomes today, a sanctuary, a shelter, a home for thousands of the homeless, stateless, persecuted peoples of the old world."

We now have people living in our Diocese who come from some of the oldest Christian communities in human history. They have suffered unspeakable persecution. In this letter the Bishops urged members of the Australian Church to outdo each other in the welcome we give to new arrivals. We were urged to be open to the new, to treat new arrivals as sisters and brothers, rather than foreigners. The Bishops urged the Church to keep an eye out for housing, education and employment opportunities that may arise for the then new Australians.

A further challenge for us is not to become an a-la-carte charity – to choose who we welcome. The Gospel is very clear about who we are to welcome and make at home. The person who is our neighbour is the person who is in most need of our hospitality and love.

Parts of this article draw upon presentations given by Fr Joe Caddy (Australian Catholic University) and Stephen Reid (Pastoral Research Office) at the recent National Conference on Pastoral Care in A Multicultural Church and Society.

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## DISCERNMENT OVER DINNER

*On a cool evening in August, Bishop Robert McGuckin welcomed a group of young men to his annual Vocations Dinner. Held at the Bishop's Office, the group was also joined by Frs Jamie Collins and Michael Cooney and seminarians Tom Duncan and Nathan Webb. The meal provided an opportunity for the young men to network and meet like-minded people who were interested in how God might be calling them in their*

lives. The relaxed atmosphere provided an opportunity for the Bishop, priests and seminarians to share their vocational call with the group.

"This is the third Bishop's Vocations Dinner I have attended," said Tom, "I'm grateful for the opportunity to share my story of discernment over a hot meal with great company. I hope my story offers insight and inspiration to these young guys."

## ENCOUNTER THE SPIRIT THROUGH A DIFFERENT PATH



"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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All Saints Parish  
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# OUR INDIGENOUS AND CALD COMMUNITIES CO-DESIGN NEW CATHOLICCARE PROGRAM

***Families from Indigenous and culturally diverse and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds face all sorts of barriers when they need assistance from a community service.***

These barriers become almost insurmountable if a family is experiencing the trauma of domestic violence and struggling to manage the complexities of separation, parenting and engaging with the legal system and the Family Law Court.

In late July, CatholicCare Social Services received \$1.182 million from the Federal Department of Social Service's Legally Assisted and Culturally Appropriate Family Dispute Resolution Program to deliver a 3-year Family Futures Program set to help eligible families from Indigenous and non-English speaking backgrounds to access culturally sensitive, enhanced family dispute resolution and family violence services in the Darling Downs and southwest Queensland.

Representatives from Indigenous and ethnically diverse communities in the Darling Downs are working with CatholicCare to co-design the Program, enabling CatholicCare to offer supports that directly respond to the specific cultural needs of the Program's participating families.

CatholicCare Director Kate Venables said, "Eligible families will be able to access this highly supportive and innovative program through our Family Relationship Centre in Toowoomba and our outreach service in Roma."

"This level of resourcing and funding makes it possible for our Family Relationship Centre and its staff to offer a child-focused 'whole of family' support structure which might involve anything from support with parenting skills to mediation, counselling and family law legal services with the express aim of helping families transition towards resolution of their issues, all with a high degree of cultural sensitivity," Mrs Venables concluded.





# PASTORALLY CARING FOR THOSE WHO EXPERIENCE PREGNANCY LOSS

NICOLE RANGIIRA

*Pastoral Carers feel privileged to journey with many families who have had the very sad experience of the death of their precious babies, either through miscarriage, stillbirth, or neo-natal death.* Being a presence of compassion, not only to mum's and dad's but also brothers, sisters, grandparents and other extended family and close friends is a blessing that reflects God's love for the broken hearted. "God is near to the broken hearted and saves the crushed in spirit" (Psalm 34:18). Loved ones experience so many different emotions: shock, confusion, sometimes guilt, and mostly heart-wrenching sorrow.

Brett and I are blessed with four vibrant healthy children. We have never had our hearts torn apart with the sad loss so many people experience in our community. Research suggests that 1 in 4 pregnancies end in miscarriage before 20 weeks. My Grandparents had their fourth baby die at 20 weeks, and similarly my parents had their fourth pregnancy end abruptly. Both of my sisters have experienced miscarriages too. When I fell pregnant with our gorgeous Yentle, our fourth pregnancy, I didn't experience morning sickness but rather felt sick with anxiety. Were Brett and I about to have our hopes and dreams for our fourth baby crushed? Our hearts however, were relieved and filled with gratitude with her safe arrival.

At Toowoomba Hospital, St Vincent's Hospital, and maternity wards throughout our Diocese, caring hospital staff are doing their best to support families to navigate all that this experience of grief involves. A pink heart on the door indicates to Pastoral Carers to check with the midwife if we have permission to visit. Often my first words, after introducing myself, are "there is nothing I can say and nothing I can do to make such a very sad time any easier and I am so sorry". Most of the parents now have their babies in their room and I am privileged to see their little one. Having listened to their story, wipe their tears, and acknowledge their feelings, I then explain the naming and claiming ceremony. I offer this blessing as an attempt to honour their baby and to comfort them too.

Whether families are religious or not it seems there is a desire to seek meaning in the midst of trauma and grief. Having found a rosebud in the hospital garden to symbolise the beauty of a life that hasn't had the opportunity to

blossom, I also take a certificate, blessed oil, a cross if they are Christian, a small cloth heart lovingly made by our pastoral care friend Rosemary and all the courage faith can bring to lead a time of being on holy ground!

God's Holy Spirit is truly powerful! I remember once after finishing a little ceremony for a couple whose baby girl died at 16 weeks, asking the question "If you could say one thing to your daughter, what would you say?" After many tears and a very long silence, Mum replied "I would say to her 'thank you for showing us just how much we can love'". I'll never forget the beautiful generosity of spirit in this Mum.

Pastoral care acknowledges the love of the parents for their baby, and the belief that this love will strengthen them in the moments, days and years ahead. Their lives, changed forever given their heart wrenching loss, are transformed by love, courage and a new and acute awareness of the precious fragility of life.

Pastoral care for many years has led the Rock of Remembrance Service on the last Friday in February, June and October commencing at 2pm at the Garden of Remembrance. This service is supported generously by both Heritage Funerals and the Garden of Remembrance. During the service parents are welcomed and encouraged to share in the placement of the ashes at

the base of the Rock. The gathering is made beautiful by those who come to honour their baby's life and to care for their spirit, given their grief. For when families have a baby die, their hopes and dreams for this new life is shattered.

In Psalm 139 we are comforted that our babies who have died, have been lovingly created by God, their "frame not hidden from God" who saw their unformed bodies and now tenderly holds their spirits till their loved ones can be united with them in the gift of God's eternal life and love.

The Lady of Lourdes Parish Ecumenism Group is hosting a Memorial Service on the International Pregnancy and Infant Loss Day, 15th October 2017 at 2pm. Members of the Toowoomba Hospital Pastoral Care team will be leading the service.

All parents, siblings, grandparents and others affected by the loss of a baby are very welcome to attend, both the Rock of Remembrance Services as mentioned above and the gathering at the Lady of Lourdes Parish regardless of whether their loss was recent or a long time ago.

*"Every life that  
ever forms or  
ever comes to be,  
touches the world  
in some small way  
for all eternity."*

# POP UP OP SHOP DECKS OUT BALL GOERS

ASRAZ CASSIM



***Hi, I'm Asraz (Raz) Cassim, and I'm a Residential Advisor at Concannon College for 2017.*** In 2016, I was the Branch President of the Resident Student Club (RSC) at Steele Rudd College. Moving from Steele Rudd (home of the soaring seagull – our mascot) where I lived for two years, I was presented with the opportunity to migrate over to the 'other side of Baker Street' and experience the life of a Concannon Crocodile. Concannon College presents a diverse and inviting atmosphere facilitating the impression of a home away from home; being an international student originating from Sri Lanka, it has enabled me to take the challenges that being a third-year Mechanical Engineering student entails within my stride.

On the 20 July 2017, Concannon RSC hosted the first OP Shop Ball facilitated through Vinnies by providing the residents of all three colleges with a Pop Up Op Shop experience whilst enjoying their social event through an exceptional selection of clothing and accessories to create some inventive creations. Second semester had just begun meaning that new residents would be integrating into college life. With the RSC facilitating these types of events to enable these residents to meet residents across all the colleges increasing college ethos. At the event residents could socialise while supporting a charity through the purchasing

of second hand clothing and accessories, then put together their ensembles for a night of socialising whilst enjoying the Concannon Recreational Hall facilities that included table tennis, pool, and an array of other games and food supplied by Red Frogs with music to liven up the mood.

As the night came to the end, everyone ushered themselves down to the maxi-taxis waiting to take them down town and de-stress before the semester really got on its way. Events such as the OP Shop Ball enable the residents to concentrate on their work and then unwind and relax when at the event. This is key to avoid burning out from the stresses and the strains that course loads can cause.

These events help foster memories that the residents will take with them well after they graduate, and even friendship that will withstand the test of time. The memories I have made of my time at Concannon and Steele Rudd and the friends I have made, I will take with me on the rest of my journeys. Looking back to them as another part of my experience at USQ Residential Colleges.

We'd like to thank everyone at Vinnies for all their help, from storing clothing and accessories in the lead up to the event and the volunteers who assisted on the night and we look forward to this event next year!

# ACYF 2017 – YOUNGCATHOLICS TOOWOOMBA DIOCESAN GROUP

## The Australian Catholic Youth Festival

In December 2017 the Festival will launch the Year of Youth, celebrating ten years on from hosting World Youth Day 2008.

The Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF) is a national gathering of Catholic young people established by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC).

It exists to provide young people 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.

### DATES

The 2017 Festival will be held from Thursday December 7th, concluding on Saturday December 9th.

### VENUE

The 2017 Festival will be held at Sydney Olympic Park with venues including Sydney Show Grounds and Qudos Bank Arena and The Domain.

### WHO IS THE FESTIVAL FOR?

Young people from year 9 (in 2017) to young adults 30 years of age are invited to the event.

### THEME

The Australian Catholic Youth Festival launches the Year of Youth and takes up its 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'.

### COSTS

\$870 (Early Bird- before 18 August 2017)  
\$890 (After 18 August 2017)

### INCLUDES-

Registration, Accommodation and flights  
Does not include – Meals.

A Toowoomba Diocesan group has been registered online with the Festival organisers. To register with the Toowoomba Diocese applicants can obtain a registration form from Sarah-youngcatholic@twb.catholic.org.au

### FORMATION

Being part of the diocesan group it is important that we get to know each other and prepare for the festival together.

### Formation Session 1- 9 September 2017

3pm-4pm, Bishops House, 68 Lindsay St, Toowoomba.

### Formation Session 2- 28 October 2017

3pm-4pm, Bishops House, 68 Lindsay St, Toowoomba.

### Formation Session 3 and Dinner -

25 November 2017 4pm-6pm, Bishops House, 68 Lindsay St, Toowoomba.

For those not in Toowoomba or unable to travel to Toowoomba for formation, video call in will be available for the day.

### KEY DATES

Early bird registrations close on **18 August 2017**.

Group registrations will close on **22 September 2017**.

Group Coordinators must finalise all details of their Group by **22 September 2017**.



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# 2017 CONCANNON COLLEGE ORATION: STANDING ON MY OWN TWO FEET

ANNE-MAREE WICKS

Concannon College students with Clare Sultmann (centre back row) and Bishop Robert McGuckin (kneeling centre front row)

*As the recipient of the Concannon Council Bursary for 2017, I had the pleasure of being the Master of Ceremonies for the Concannon Oration on 2nd August 2017.* Hosted at Allison Dickson Lecture Theatre, I nervously watched the theatre fill with streams of people as I awaited the commencement of the event where I would face my fear of public speaking. If you have ever attended a similar type of event where the likely outcome is a polite applause followed by a hasty exit, then the audience's response to Clare Sultmann's address will definitely surprise you.

Clare recounted her long journey to recovery after tragically being struck down by a garbage truck in her early twenties. Sharing with the audience comments from the police report, "skidded on her leg for about two metres," and "tangled around the truck's steering components", this resonated with the young audience that life can change in the blink of an eye. After seeing photos of Clare's long and painful recovery, where she is still smiling the entire time,

what stays with us is the excerpts shared from her book, *Standing On My Own Two Feet*. Where the journey of Clare describes the painful process of learning to walk again with words like, 'dangle, blood rushing to her feet, breathless, hasn't that truck done a bloody good job', she said, 'sweating profusely, standing, shuffle steps became proper steps', touched everyone present.

Today, despite the permanent limp, Clare insists that it was belief and faith that kept her going. There was no point allowing herself to be defined by her legs, she wanted to be more. She wanted to keep going, to go back to university, to get married, to have children, to have her story published. And you know what? She did just that. Her unwavering courage, resilience and strength is proof enough of the belief we all have inside of us. The audience applauded and questioned her journey, to which she laughed, smiled and joked, whilst standing her own two feet. I was standing up already too, the first time I've ever given a standing ovation.

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## MINISTER VISITS MATER DEI

*At the end of Term 2, the Hon Kate Jones visited Mater Dei Primary School in Toowoomba.* Her visit coincided with the start of demolition and rebuilding works of the Year 5 and 6 classrooms; all possible due to state government grants.

The Minister was entertained by students' renditions of poetry including Mulga Bill's Bicycle, The Vege Lion and a

particularly funny pirate tale. Minister Kate commented on the quality of the students' performances and engaged them in sharing what they love most about Mater Dei. Students answered: the caring people, the teachers, and the learning that takes place. Building work will take most of the rest of this year to complete.

## RETREAT FOCUSES ON LIVING CHURCH IN RURAL QLD

DENIS MCALEER

*An Ecumenical Retreat, which was focused on the document "Living Church in Rural Queensland", took place 5th - 7th May at Lake Leslie, Warwick.* The group of 24 represented the Anglican, Catholic, Lutheran and Uniting Churches and came from across Queensland, from up north to Charleville and the Brisbane area as well as locals. There were three presenters; retired Anglican Bishop, Bishop Rob Nolan, Presbytery Minister for the Uniting Church Region of Northern Queensland, Rev Garry Hardingham and Lutheran Pastor for Pittsworth and leader for the Lutheran Church in this area, Pastor Lionel Rohrlach.

All spoke of their own wide experiences of "Living Church in Rural Queensland", an Ecumenical document to promote shared responsibilities for the pastoral care of people living in rural and remote areas of Queensland. All three were present when this document came into being in 2009 at the James Byrne Centre. It was felt a review was needed to keep the principles of this document alive as it is now eight years old.

When this document came into being there was strong involvement by the then local Heads of Churches and this gave great encouragement to all those involved. But since that time there is a continuing decline in rural congregations and in available ordained clergy. There is also an issue with rural

base congregations and city base church leadership. Groups like the International Rural Church Association try to work on this and similar issues and are at times a voice for the voiceless.

Poverty is another issue in some rural areas and needs to be acknowledged; often city people see "rural" as being a cost to city folk. In many instances women are the ones who suffer most living in remote rural areas but are the very fabric that holds families and communities together. There is a great need to continue growing the Faith of rural people, both personal Faith and the Faith of the community. This must be built on trust and respect both within our own denomination and across other denominations within any given area. If we support one another across denominations we will gradually break down barriers. As we live together in communities we can worship together and feel comfortable and nurture and support one another. Where possible the electronic media could be used to advantage.

Where to from here? Plans for a Muster in Charleville next year are in the hands of a sub-committee with another Retreat planned in 2019. That is for this area but the hope is that other areas will follow suit. We all need to be conscious of keeping our own Parishes and areas informed so that no one feels left out.

# CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK: SHARING THE JOURNEY

**DR PAT COUGHLAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**



Dr Pat Coughlan (left) and Bishop Robert McGuckin (right) present Sr Margaret Andersen with the 2017 Sr Jo Carmichael Memorial Award as part of the Bishop's Inservice, Cunnamulla.

***Catholic Education Week was celebrated across the 300 Catholic schools and their communities in Queensland in the last week in July.***

The theme for 2017, Sharing the Journey, was inspired by the many messages of Pope Francis in which he asks people to walk together, listening and learning from each other through life's journey.

Catholic school communities enable families and staff to do just this, as we share the very important responsibility of educating, nurturing and caring for our young people.

In all 31 schools that are spread across the Toowoomba Diocese, from Quilpie in the west to Highfields in the east, Roma in the north and Stanthorpe in the south, our journey

together is to ensure academic success for all students and to make Jesus known in their everyday lives.

During Catholic Education Week, we acknowledged the outstanding contributions that members of our school communities have made in educating and nurturing our communities; we came together to share in our successes; and we challenged each other to continue to provide excellence in our service, leadership and education of young people.

As Executive Director, I am very proud of the great work that is happening in our schools, of our highly qualified staff who are experts in their field, and of the community that is built through partnerships with parents.

I thank all families who are sharing their journey with us.



## SPIRIT OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION AWARD RECIPIENT GOES VIRAL

***Fr Ray Crowley is this year's Spirit of Catholic Education Award recipient.*** When his win was posted on the Catholic Education Week Facebook page, he had nearly 6000 hits in the first few hours. Not surprising, given the many current and past students and staff that have had their lives positively influenced by Fr Ray's care, compassion and friendship.

Fr Ray has served as College Chaplain to St Saviour's, St Mary's and St Joseph's Colleges for some four decades in Toowoomba. During this time, he has cultivated strong and trusted relationships that have led to many former students calling Fr Ray 'friend' and continuing to call on him at pivotal times in their lives, whether it be births and marriages, or at times of tragedy or grief.

Sharon Collins, Acting Principal at St Saviour's College, who nominated Fr Ray for this award said, "For many at our schools, Fr Ray is the 'face of God', particularly for those who do not have a direct link nor experience of 'Church'.

His personable nature and practical way of seeing the world captivates the most unlikely and sceptical."

For staff, Fr Ray is a friend and confidant. He is trusted and trusting, has a strong sensitivity to those who are suffering, and will go above and beyond to ensure they know they are supported.

In the wider community, Ray's commitment to grief counselling has seen him touch the lives of many and bring comfort when it is most needed.

"Fr Ray's integrity and compassion and his willingness to give of his time and to walk with people where they are at is unparalleled. When people are in the murkiness of uncertainty, he points them in the direction of faith and love. His legacy will live on in our school communities for years to come," said Ms Collins.

The Spirit of Catholic Education Awards are in their 11th year and acknowledge the outstanding contribution individuals make to schools and their communities.

# CELEBRATING TEACHERS



L to R: Debbie Ryan (Toowoomba Catholic Schools Council), Nina Marshall (St Joseph's College), Julianne Kruger (St Joseph's College), Luanne McIlhatten (Downlands College)



L to R: Bridget Rillie (Sacred Heart, Toowoomba), Steve Moyle (Mary MacKillop Catholic College), Ebony Rosier (Mater Dei School), Miranda Murray (Mater Dei School)

***Teachers from across Toowoomba Catholic Schools recently came together for a special breakfast, with a focus on their patron saint, St John Baptist de la Salle.***

"This annual breakfast is one way that we acknowledge and pay tribute to teachers everywhere," said Dr Pat Coughlan, Executive Director: Catholic Schools.

"Teachers are highly valued by the communities in which they work and we too value their contribution to educating and caring for students across our 31 schools."

Mr Jim Midgley, Director: Teaching and Learning inspired the gathered teachers as he spoke about St John Baptist de la Salle and the role of teachers today.

"Academic excellence and a community of care go hand in hand in Catholic schools. This is what our patron saint was aspiring to for students in the 1600s. We know that this is what education is still about and is what parents expect.

"By working together teachers can and will ensure that we continue to provide this quality education and care for our students. Principals have a key role too as they discuss

with and lead teachers to a common understanding and agreement about what works best in their school with their students. Leaders also ensure the necessary resources are available for teachers to do their best work."

Jim left the teachers with a letter penned by Dr Paul Brock AM, an educationalist and academic who was diagnosed with Motor Neurone disease and who died in 2016. The letter was to the future teachers of his two young children.

"In his letter, Paul pleaded with these teachers to meet three demands – nurture and challenge their intellectual and imaginative capacity; care for them with humanity and sensitivity; and strive to maximise their potential for later schooling, post-school education, training and employment for the quality of life itself so that they can contribute to an Australian society that is fair, just, tolerant, honourable, knowledgeable, prosperous and happy," said Mr Midgley.

"Something we should all strive for and that I too want for my own grandchildren and all other students in our schools."

## TOOWOOMBA LEADS THE WAY IN IDENTITY MATTERS PROJECT

***In May, twenty-three Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students participated in the first workshop of the 'Identity Matters' project at Cooby Dam.***

The event was an exciting three-day music and media project with well-known singer songwriter Josh Arnold.

Students from Years 6 -12 at St Saviour's College, St Joseph's College, the Youth and Community Learning Centre, St Thomas More's and St Ursula's College worked with Josh Arnold to write their own song about identity and what it means to them to be a young Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person today.

"Identity Matters' was a great opportunity for these young Indigenous students to connect with other young Indigenous people with a focus on culture and identity," said Ms Jennifer Wills, Education Officer.

"Research shows that young people who are strong and positive in who they are, perform better academically and in their personal lives."



Students' performance of their song 'In Two Worlds' was professionally recorded and filmed, with the final production released as part of NAIDOC Week celebrations across the diocese.

Students from three other dioceses across Queensland have since participated in the innovative project, an idea initiated by the Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office.

All video clips can be found on YouTube.



# 45 YEARS OF SERVICE TO CATHOLIC EDUCATION

*Well known for her love of rural people and communities, Sr Margaret Andersen has dedicated 45 years of her life to Catholic education as a Sister of St Joseph.*

Sr Margaret has had many roles during this time, starting as a teacher, taking on the Principalship of St Finbarr's School, Quilpie twice; firstly, from 1982-1984 and then from 1996-2008; and has been the travelling Advisory Visiting Teacher for Religious Education in the far west of the Diocese of Toowoomba. She is now back with St Finbarr's as their APRE, chalking up 25 years at this school.

Her strong sense of community has seen her involved in various civic committees that span education, health and other services, ensuring her years of experience and wisdom are shared and aid in gaining quality support for this remote centre.

"Sr Marg is instrumental in so many of our local community activities," said Genny McNair, Principal of St Finbarr's School, Quilpie.

"It is her compassion, sensitivity and the individual attention given to families that bring us together. She is an advocate for diversity and difference and lives the example of St Mary MacKillop, as she avidly promotes Quilpie and St Finbarr's."

Sr Margaret's life is her faith and the school and community of Quilpie; she is seen by the people of the town as the life and spirit of the school and community.

"Sr Margaret has wisdom borne of her experience as an educator and spiritual leader in remote and regional areas, touching the lives of people from our town and other remote and rural towns including Inglewood, Taroom, Julia Creek and Childers. She has tirelessly, humbly and passionately worked in and for our community. She is a trusted friend, valued colleague and an inspiration to all. We are blessed to have Sr Margaret," said Mr McNair.

Sr Margaret's celebrations of 45 years of service coincide with Quilpie's centenary in 2017.

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# CUNNAMULLA HOSTS BISHOP'S INSERVICE

SR MAUREEN ANDREWS



*This year Sacred Heart School hosted the Bishop's Inservice.* This event also coincided with the confirmation of Paige Mills and Noah Tuckwell who were very eager to meet the Bishop. The congregation for the Confirmation Mass was more than doubled for this special event. Part of the congregation stayed for supper whilst those attending the Inservice left to enjoy dinner at the home of Sparra and Carolyn Crick.

At the Crick household, we were treated to a camp oven dinner. The meat was juicy, tender and delicious. The warmth of the fire pit where the meat was simmering over many hours was very inviting. Carolyn made special damper which was cooked over the coals and proved popular with everyone.

Students from Sacred Heart School performed traditional aboriginal dances to open the Inservice. The school is fortunate that there is a parent who is aware of Aboriginal culture and first taught these dances for NAIDOC week where the school celebrated with liturgy and camp oven breakfast.

The Bishop's Inservice was enjoyable and informative. All were pleased with the presentation by key speaker David Hutton. Over the lunch break people shared their thoughts, caught up with friends and were delighted with the food provided by the tuckshop ladies of Sacred Heart School.

A special treat was that Bishop Robert stayed overnight and visited all classes at the school the next morning. We hope that we can welcome him again before the end of the year.

## MARY MACKILLOP CLUB FUNDRAISING SUCCESS



*'Never see a need without doing something about it' is the focus of the Mary MacKillop Club at St Maria Goretti School, Inglewood.* After much brainstorming of ideas on how they could achieve this, the students decided they were going to raise much needed funds for Cancer Council by hosting an 'Australia's Biggest Morning Tea'.

Miss Polly Crawford and the students wrote a large list of what needed to be done and delegated roles. Students then set to work organising the event which included making decorations, writing invitations and creating flyers, researching recipes and creating games that could be played on the day. We were very lucky to receive a donation from our P&F to put towards the ingredients needed for cooking.

A lot of effort was put in at lunch time and after school in ensuring everything was going to be ready. Students, with the help of parents, baked the goodies before and after school the day before.

The 19th May was the big day and we were delighted with the support from students, parents, our Under 5s group, parish members and other community members who attended and enjoyed our morning tea. Delicious goodies that were enjoyed on the day included cupcakes, pikelets, honey joys, dips, fruit platters, cakes, slices and much more! Students played the games 'Pin the handle on the tea cup', chocolate toss and coin toss plus adults bought tickets in a Calcutta of teacups. Our little event raised an enormous \$335 which is a fantastic effort for a school of only 20 students. Well done Mary MacKillop Club!



# ST URSULA'S COLLEGE BACK TO BACK WINNERS

HEIDI ROSE

***As the 2017 Darling Downs Science and Engineering Challenge drew to a close on Friday 26 May, it was the girls from St Ursula's College who claimed a decisive victory for the second year in a row!***

The event hosted by the University of Southern Queensland put more than 30 secondary schools from Goondiwindi to Ipswich through a series of 8 different challenges. From building bridges to wiring electrical infrastructure to constructing skyscrapers which can withstand earthquakes, the range of activities required application of science, engineering and technology principles to come up with solutions.

Mr Bill Whiting, who accompanied the team on the day was thrilled with the win.

"It was a fantastic achievement by this team of girls, not only did they beat last year's score by 100 points, they were

200 points clear of their nearest competition, and hold the best score in the state with 1335 points. It is wonderful to see a group of students who can think quickly to overcome problems and challenges faced by today's engineers. These girls have the passion and ability to accomplish whatever they set their minds to" he said.

Year 10 student, Georgia Waters said that she has always been good at science but her success in 'ElectraCity' has inspired her to join some of her teammates at the upcoming Women Explore Engineering day hosted by UQ later in the year. "I've really enjoyed my time in the competition and I'm looking forward to representing the Darling Downs region at the Super Challenge in September where we take on schools from all over the state to vie for a place in the National final," she said.



# CHORAL ENSEMBLES SHINE AT EISTEDDFOD

HEIDI ROSE

*It was smiles all around at St Ursula's College earlier this term, as our Choral Ensembles celebrated their incredible achievements at the Toowoomba Choral Eisteddfods.* Five of our ensembles entered the competition, along with many students, who presented as individuals, groups and duos.

Congratulations must go to our ensembles, who achieved the following results:

- **St Ursula's College Choir**  
2nd Place, Secondary School Choir Division
- **Angela's Voices**  
3rd Place, Secondary Modern Choir

- **Ursula's Voices**  
1st Place, Secondary Spiritual/Gospel Choir
- **Ursa Minors**  
2nd Place, Middle School Choir  
3rd Place, Middle School Vocal Ensemble
- **Contemporary Vocal Ensemble**  
1st Place Open Choral Contemporary Choir

Mr Jim Dwan, Director of Music at the College said "the achievement of all the ensembles and individual students was a tribute to their hard work and dedication to their practice and to their ensembles"

## ATHLETICS CARNIVAL ENJOYED AT ST PATRICK'S

*St Patrick's School St George held their Athletics Carnival 21 July.* Ron and Karen McDougall and family donated a memorial trophy in honour of their son Peter McDougall. Peter was a past pupil of the school and was quite talented at athletics, he still holds two high jump records and an 800m record. His cousin Katie McArthur presented the trophy for the first time to Oscar McGee and Brigitte Searle as an encouragement award for their efforts during the competition. As always there was friendly competition between Green and Gold Houses. Green House were the overall winners of the carnival and Gold House took out the March Past Shield.

Three employees at St Patrick's School received Service Awards during Catholic Education Week to recognise their long time commitment to Catholic education. Majella Morris for 25 years' service with Donna Worboys and Ann Bradley for 20 years' service. Congratulations to them for their dedication over that time.





## STUDENTS SHARE THE JOURNEY

### ANGELA GILBERT AND JANICE MOORE

*Our Lady of Lourdes School recently celebrated Catholic Education Week, beginning with a Thank-you Mass for Catholic school staff.* Fr John Quinlan gave an inspiring homily and the parish organised a delicious morning tea for school staff and parishioners. The school choir, led by Mrs Dyson, sang beautifully during the Mass and each class contributed to a display centred around the Catholic Education Week theme of 'Sharing the Journey'. The staff were also presented with a bookmark to mark the occasion.

On the Tuesday morning, the school staff provided a barbecue breakfast to celebrate the contributions of the parents and families to our school community. 5L also presented a thoughtful assembly prayer, giving insight into how they 'Share the Journey' with those around them. On the Thursday, the Years 5 and 6 students participated in a Netball and Touch carnival with other Catholic school across the diocese. It was a great day of fun competition and is a much anticipated annual event.



## SINGING A NEW SONG

### SALLY YIN

*Popular singer and songwriter, Josh Arnold and accomplished music teacher, Ebony Rosier engaged the students at Sacred Heart School in Toowoomba in fun filled music workshops to write our new and exciting School Song, "Journey Everyday with Jesus".*

Showcasing the talent and vibrant personalities of the students, the process involved every student in the school.

Josh and Ebony put the lyrics to a funky rhythm to create a timeless and entertaining song that captures the essence of Sacred Heart School. We were even on TV, with Channel 7 running a great News segment featuring our children singing our song! You can see the video of the students and teachers performing "Journey Everyday with Jesus" on Josh's YouTube Channel, Small Town Culture.



# INSPIRED GROUP LIVING OUT GOSPEL VALUES

## LINDA CREEDON

*Some of the students at St Saviour's College Toowoomba formed a Youth Ministry Team at the beginning of this year under the guidance of our Acting Assistant Principal of Mission, Mrs Donna Grant. Team members come from all year levels, but are mostly drawn from our senior years. The Ministry Team has a variety of purposes, but its central purpose includes empowering young woman to take a responsible role in society. Some of the ways that the team work to fulfil their role includes: partnering with parish, engaging in Catholic Social Teachings and organising and volunteering for outreach projects in our local community.*

This motivated group of young women are living out the gospel values in a very practical way. They raise funds for good

causes, including volunteering for Rosies, they are part of the roster at the Cathedral, they hold celebrations and they raise

awareness of issues that affect the world and call for young people to make a stand.

The group organised lunchtime events for the student body to celebrate Catholic Education Week. They were also responsible for preparing our Mass and the music at our Catholic Education Week Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral. The team have also worked for the "One Bin, Many Schools" project. Currently they are also organising the St Vincent De Paul Sleep-out activity for the students of St Saviour's College to take part in.

It is wonderful to see such enthusiasm and motivation from this group who always seek to find worthwhile projects to head up and become involved in.

*“its central purpose includes empowering young woman to take a responsible role in society.”*

# ST MARY'S TAKES A STAND: VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IS NEVER OK



***One in four women are affected by physical, emotional or secular violence by a partner in Australia.***

It's a confronting statistic that has St Mary's College seniors passionately taking a stand and leading the way towards a future without violence against women.

"I definitely didn't think it was such a massive thing, hearing stories like that makes you shudder, that that can actually happen to someone who lives in our community," College Cultural Captain Nick Joy said. "It can be anyone, that's the scary thing about it."

Nick along with seven other senior St Mary's boys and College Principal, Michael Newman, recently attended a panel discussion on domestic and family violence at the Armitage Theatre in Toowoomba.

Hosted by Toowoomba Together Inc and moderated by ABC Radio's David Illiffe, the forum presented a hypothetical scenario about a young woman who was the victim of domestic violence; who was ultimately killed at the hands of her partner.

**"I was pretty angry at first, someone actually asked for the recording to be turned off. It was really disturbing but I was really glad I went because I didn't know half of what goes on in these situations."**

College Vice-Captain Nick Thom said he was moved by the woman's story and confronted by a police recording which was played as a part of the hypothetical.

"I was pretty angry at first, someone actually asked for the recording to be turned off. It was really disturbing but I was really glad I went because I didn't know half of what goes on in these situations."

Determined to inspire a younger generation of St Mary's College boys and raise awareness of the issue, the boys spoke to the school community at a College assembly where they shared a powerful message: Violence against women is never ok.

College Captain, Chris Godfrey, told the boys "a real man never commits a violent act of any kind against a woman".

The senior boys said their definition of domestic violence had changed following the forum and that they want to set a precedent for younger students before they graduate from St Mary's, a proud White Ribbon school, in the coming months.

"What Mr Newman has done is get us involved in going to these talks, going to breakfasts with the St Saviour's girls, which helps us with what we need to teach the younger boys," Thom said.

"We'd like to educate the other boys on assembly, that this is what can happen and this is what we want our school to do to make sure we know what's right and what's wrong.

"We did a segment about what we got out of the talk and what we expect the boys to do: respecting all the teachers, and the office staff, girlfriends, aunties, mothers - everyone is equal. We're hopeful the culture will change."





## JENNY RYAN

*On Tuesday 20th June 2017, Mater Dei Primary school held a MADD About Arts day which was a celebration of Music, Art, Drama and Dance in their Centenary year.*

Thanks must go to the school's drama teachers, Mrs Anita McVeigh and Mrs Amanda Holzheimer and music teacher Mrs Ebony Rosier, for preparing all the students culminating their efforts into this spectacular day.

The Drama Festival is an annual event where children develop dramatic skills in class and perform in front of an audience. All children have this opportunity and the finalists perform in front of the school on this day.

Congratulations to the year 6 comperes for the day- Maddy Akroyd, Sebastian Lee, Max North, Annabelle Kowitz and Lil O'Connor. They did a wonderful job in representing their school.

A big thank you to Mrs Ebony Rosier for her effort with the school choir, who performed their award winning eisteddfod song, Whisper, just beautifully. Mrs Rosier also organized the wonderful display of cultural dances, which the whole school participated in, and also included the Japanese drumming group, Toowoomba Taiko Drummers, who came along to accompany the P-2 classes in their Japanese dance, Tanko Bushi. Thank you also to Mrs Jayne Greenhalgh for her assistance with the dances and expertise in the Japanese culture.



Thank you to Mrs Marg Dornbusch and Mrs Gilly Carol for their work with the visual art displays. The children at Mater Dei are very fortunate to have specialist art lessons throughout the year- another important avenue to expand on creativity.

Thank you to all the members of the community who came and showed their support and also to the judge, Mrs Sandra Neale and accompanist Mrs Anne-Maree Spalding. All present were proud of the children and the way they performed on stage, participated as an audience and energetically danced on the oval!

It truly was a MADD day which was thoroughly enjoyed by all- in both participation and audience!



# CELEBRATING ST JOHN'S DAY

TRISH PARKER

*Term Three has started beautifully with regard to the Religious Life of the School!* On Tuesday, we celebrated our annual St John's Day Mass at All Saints Church, Roma. There were a wide variety of students across the year levels involved in the choir, readings, entrance and offertory processions and dancing. One of the highlights was certainly the singing of John

and Jesus', a much-loved hymn for students across the year levels.

In the St John's Day Mass, St John's new student leadership team for 2017/2018 were inducted and there was a meaningful and moving changeover between the leadership teams. The Mass highlighted the symbolic nature of leadership and the role the new leaders will come to play in the Religious Life of our school.



## NAIDOC WEEK IN CHARLEVILLE

SR ELIZABETH O'KEEFFE

*Our celebration of NAIDOC Week commenced with a Liturgy to celebrate the contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and individuals.* Indigenous Australians help us to see God's creation with fresh eyes and have much to teach us about living God's way. Some of our indigenous students were very excited and proud to lead us in the liturgy in St Mary's Church. Among those who came to join us in the celebration were a number of our indigenous elders, members of our parish community, some of the children's parents, the CEO of the Murweh Shire and, staff and children representatives from the Charleville State

School and the Charleville State High School.

As the week progressed the children from St Mary's joined with the children from the Charleville State School in games and activities at the State School organised by members of the local indigenous community. This was a great opportunity for the children from the two schools to spend some fun time together. The NAIDOC Week celebrations culminated on the Friday with the schools joining with the indigenous community in the street march which wound its way down the main street to the oval at St Mary's where, after the official duties were performed, everyone enjoyed a sausage sizzle together.

# SACRED HEART DAY CELEBRATIONS AT DOWNLANDS



*As a Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSC) College, a very special day on the Downlands calendar and for all MSC communities is Sacred Heart Day.* Annual Sacred Heart Day celebrations took place at the College on Friday 26 May - a little ahead of the actual Feast of the Sacred Heart on June 23, due to exams and mid year school holidays.

This year's theme "Sow the MSCeeds", led to a focus on finding ways to sow the seeds of kindness, compassion, humility, understanding, mutual forgiveness, gentleness, hospitality and a sense of humour. The theme was emphasised in a community Mass at the commencement of the day with a procession of students carrying their Pastoral Care group plant, as well as the presentation of blankets for the Vinnies Winter Appeal – these having been purchased with the funds raised by the Jules Social Justice group through hot chips stalls over several weeks.

During the lunch break, the beautiful tree-lined driveway at the College became a canvas as more than 50 teams of students used colourful chalk art to interpret the Sacred Heart Day theme. It was happy day - a day of painted hearts on faces, Sacred Heart Day wristbands and Have-a-Heart ice creams for morning tea!

At Downlands, every member of staff is considered part of the College Mission Team as they model what it is to be part of a vibrant community where faith is integrated with life.

"Our Ethos is integrated through our Social Justice programs, Retreats and the over-arching Pastoral Care program. Students, staff and parents are encouraged to connect, to become involved in their community, to make a positive contribution to society and to engage compassionately with peace and justice issues in the world," says Principal, Mr Stephen McIlhatton.

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# GREEN LIFE IN STRIFE

BIANCA GOTZE

HORIZONS REACHED OUT TO SCHOOLS LOOKING FOR ART, STORIES, THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS FROM THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OF OUR DIOCESE. BIANCA GOTZE IS A YEAR 10 STUDENT AT ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, TOOWOOMBA. AS PART OF ASSESSMENT FOR A UNIT ON RELIGION AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN HER RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASS, SHE WROTE THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE TO EXPRESS THE ROLE SHE BELIEVED RELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP CAN PLAY IN CREATING CHANGE IN ECOLOGICAL ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS.

***Forever changing from human actions, the environment has endured countless struggles, particularly in the last century.*** As humans keep demanding more and more each day, the environment continues to suffer each day when its water is wasted, air polluted and resources exploited. Through letters, speeches and rallies, Catholics as well as Buddhists have made it their goal to emphasise the importance of caring for the environment.

Within Christianity, stewardship revolves around the idea of the biblical principle of ownership; "God owns everything, we are simply managers or administrators acting on his behalf." Catholics believe, that as they are part of God's creation they are connected to all creatures and therefore they have an ethical duty to respect the gifts of creation and use them in accord with the will of God.

As Buddhists believe they share a sense of universal responsibility for both mankind and nature, their practice of non-violence, inspired by The Five Intentions, extends to not just humans but to all of nature. They believe that the destruction of nature comes as a result of the ignorance, greed, and lack of respect by humans for the earth's living things.

As a strong believer in the need for change in terms of the environment, Pope Francis has responded to environmental threats with a six-chapter letter titled *Laudato Si'*. Pope Francis is not just addressing the world's 1.2 billion Catholics; he's reaching out to the entire world to become involved in the conversation on climate change, stating "humans ruined the earth, but sin ruined people". Leaders now urge Catholics to respond with sound judgements and resolute action to the reality of climate change, as an essential part of their faith commitment.

In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis reflects on political elements and gives an expansive analysis of the efforts of the powerful and the powerless. It also takes an economical perspective with a scathing critique of profit motives. *Laudato Si'* demonstrates how one charismatic leader can rally enormous interest for a global issue, perhaps more than an army of activists can, when regarded as a cultural document. The encyclical is expressed as "an effort to face together the most profound existential crises that occupy humanity in its entirety" (Zizioulas, 2015).

Both Buddhists and the Catholics show support of greater investment in research aimed at understanding more fully

the functioning of ecosystems, and adequately analysing the different variables associated with any significant modification of the environment. Pope Francis wrote in *Laudato Si'* that,

*"This sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her."*

Along with Pope Francis, the Dalai Lama has also urged his followers to become involved in the universal conversation about the environment. The Dalai Lama believes the future of humanity depends on the planet whilst the future of the planet depends on humanity. The Tibetan Buddhist spiritual leader said all of humanity is responsible for taking action as these problems are the result of human beings actions, mentioning that; "This is not a question of one nation or two nations. This is a question of humanity. Our world is our home".

As religion is a critical motivator for action on climate change, it will have far more power than a regulatory or economic message ever will. *Laudato Si'* has managed to reach segments of the public that politicians, scientists and environmentalists cannot. The encyclical calls for new forms of civic, political and economic action as well as being consistent with moral responsibility. *Laudato Si'* has managed to make people re-evaluate their values and worldviews on climate change and environmental movements, suggesting the idea that climate change is a moral issue.

Being a universal issue, I believe the destruction of the environment is above the power of religious leaders however, if political and religious leaders were able to work together and reach the minds of those worldwide, all would feel compelled to treat climate change as a moral issue instead of an economic issue. Which in turn would motivate people to make the planet a healthier and more sustainable place, for not just them but all those around them.

ARE YOU A PRIMARY SCHOOL OR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT IN THE TOOWOOMBA DIOCESE? WE WANT TO HEAR WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY. TALK TO YOUR TEACHER ABOUT SUBMITTING YOUR WORK TO HORIZONS [HORIZONS@TWB.CATHOLIC.ORG.AU](mailto:HORIZONS@TWB.CATHOLIC.ORG.AU).



# ROCKING OUT FOR SCHOOL MUSICAL

SARAH LILBURNE

*After many months, weeks and hours of dedicated and intense practice, the cast, crew and band from Our Lady of the Southern Cross College Dalby called the curtain on their final night of four performances of the musical 'Rock of Ages 101: High School Edition'.*

Rock of Ages featured all the 80's rock hits which meant characters were outfitted in the glitz, glamour and big hair of the era. Over four nights, the audience was transported back to the 80's, there were plenty of very funny one line jokes and some incredible singing and acting performances from a very talented cast.

For the first time, the Musical was staged in the College Multi-purpose Centre and with professional sound, lighting and stage equipment hired in, the performance was first class making the students feel like superstars.

Directors Libby Baxter and Nicholas Blauw and choreographer Mel Hobson committed to a huge job preparing the students to sing and dance sometimes coordinating 3 songs to be sung over each other at the same time. The students spent hours practicing these songs and on opening night, their dedication paid off and the show was reported a smash hit.

Every night's show was very well attended with enthusiastic audiences and all the comments from patrons were positive saying the students were amazing and the whole performance



was immensely enjoyable.

The cast and crew was made up of students ranging from Year 6 to 12 and for some it was their first time on stage in front of a big audience. The College puts on a musical production every two years and the experience provides the students involved with a valuable opportunity to work together as a team and soak up the feeling of being a performer on a big stage.

"Teamwork, commitment, dedication and responsibility are some of the qualities these students have displayed during this entire process from auditions back in January until the final performance on Saturday, 22 July. It's a journey and I am so proud of them," Libby Baxter said.

# OUR CHILDREN'S SACRAMENTAL JOURNEYS



Cunnamulla Confirmation.



St Theresa's Confirmation Group 1.



St George Reconciliation.



St Theresa's Confirmation Group 2.



Goondiwindi Reconciliation.

**THIS TIME OF YEAR SEES THE CULMINATION OF MONTHS OF PREPARATION FOR SACRAMENTS IN SCHOOLS AND PARISHES. MANY HAVE SUBMITTED PHOTOS AND STORIES OF JOY AT WITNESSING THEIR CHILDREN CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENTS OF RECONCILIATION, FIRST COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION. A BIG THANK YOU GOES OUT TO ALL THE PARENTS, TEACHERS AND PARISHIONERS WHO HAVE HELPED GUIDE THESE CHILDREN THROUGH THESE IMPORTANT MILESTONES IN THEIR FAITH JOURNEY IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.**



Stanthorpe Confirmation Owen Daly.



Millmerran Confirmation.



Pittsworth Confirmation.



Mitchell Confirmation and Communion Cake Cutting.



Oakey Confirmation.



Roma Reconciliation.



Mitchell Confirmation.



Stanthorpe Confirmation.



Roma Confirmation.

# WARM BIRTHDAY WISHES FOR SR ELIZABETH O'KEEFFE

ANN RUSSELL



*On Thursday the 15th of June, Sr Elizabeth O'Keeffe rsm celebrated her 70th birthday.* Many people were keen to show their love and appreciation to Sr Elizabeth for her friendship and involvement in St Mary's Parish Charleville.

Celebrations began early with a staff morning tea on the Wednesday at St Mary's School, where Sr Elizabeth is the OHS officer. She was presented with a gift and acknowledged for the many ways she helps in the daily life of the school.

On the Thursday, Sr Elizabeth had a birthday party with the mothers and children at the Rumble and Tumble Playgroup. This is one of the weekly events where she

willingly assists, and she had a few keen helpers to blow out the candles on her birthday cake! Sr Elizabeth was warmly wished "Happy Birthday" by the students and staff as she walked around the school.

On the Saturday, the parishioners gathered for Mass where she received a special blessing from our parish priest, Fr Peter Doohan. She was also presented with a monetary gift from her parish friends. Celebrations continued at Menzies Restaurant where we shared a meal and an enjoyable time together with lots of warmth and laughter. We hope Sr Elizabeth has many happy memories of her special birthday.



## PARISHIONERS DELVE INTO LITURGY

ANNE FORMIATTI

*Parishioners from Texas and Inglewood wanted to learn more about Liturgy so they invited John Briffa, Diocesan Liturgy Officer, to come and give a workshop.* A good number from Texas and Inglewood came for the workshop. Fr Sean Lynskey, Priest Director for both parishes, was also present and encouraged all to participate.

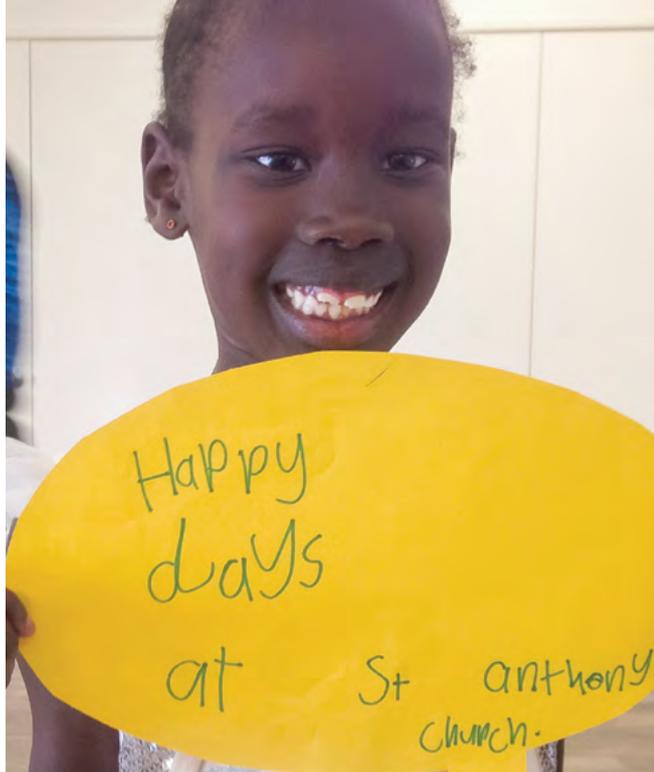
The first session was on the Liturgy of the Word. After a prayer to commence proceedings John explained the importance of the readings for a Sunday Liturgy. He then went on to explain the meaning of the word "Liturgy" and its importance as it is the public work of God's people giving

him praise and thanks.

After a delicious lunch, the session on the extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion got under way. John explained that we were there to serve and should fully participate in the celebration. We were also instructed on the correct way to offer the chalice.

At the end of this section Bernadette Guymer the parish chairperson, thanked John on our behalf for giving so generously of his time and expertise.

We all left feeling uplifted inspired and humbled by what we had been taught.



# ST ANTHONY'S PARISH EMBRACE WELCOME DINNER PROJECT

**On Sunday, July 9 St Anthony's Parish Community hosted a Welcome Lunch.** About 30 adults and a number of their children attended this gathering. This lunch was part of the Welcome Dinner Project which has been running Australia wide since 2013.

"The Welcome Dinner Project is enabling newly arrived people and established Australians to meet over dinner conversations usually in the comfort of a home. The aim of the project is to create a platform for meaningful connection, sparking friendships between people of diverse cultures who are living in close proximity in communities throughout Australia" (Welcome Dinner Project: Participant's Guide). Welcome Dinners have facilitators whose role is to lead the activities and offer support to the host and participants.

As Welcome Dinners are pot-luck in style a great variety of delicious food was enjoyed by all as each participant or family was invited to bring a dish of food which was part of their culture or had a special meaning for them. At the beginning of the meal the facilitators of our meal, Emily and Darren,

invited people to introduce their dish.

After this, all were invited to eat at table with people who we had not previously met. Rather than speak of where we live and work, we were encouraged to speak of aspects of our lives focussing on our hopes and dreams and also to celebrate our cultures and the things we love about living in Australia. At dessert time we moved around to share time with another group of people.

As lunch came to a close, each of us wrote one word on a speech bubble to sum up our feelings about our meal shared together. It was evident that the meal had been a positive experience for all who were there. Finally, there was a group photo and an opportunity to swap contact details with other participants.

All of those attending were part of the St Anthony's parish so this was a great opportunity to deepen our friendships, celebrate our diversity and share a delicious meal together. The event embodied the vision of the parish, "A Place at the Table for All".

## THE LOVE OF TWO PEOPLE UNITE IN FAITH

### PATTI MCNAUGHT

***Dennis Tildesley has had Catholicism as part of his life for a long time, even though he was christened Anglican.*** Married into an Italian family, his wife and children are all Catholics, it's really the only religion he has known for the past 49 years.

Dennis married Clara Pez on 4 May 1968 in Sydney, and over the years it has become one of the strongest and most loving marriages anyone could ever have. Dennis and Clara have worked together most of their married lives. Wherever they went, Clara became a very popular figure and even though she was well known for her sewing, knitting, crocheting, doll making and cooking, her friends noticed the very strong bond of love between them and her strength of faith in the Lord. This was passed on from her mother, Elda, who instilled into Clara

the importance of having a good relationship with God.

After working for many years, Dennis and Clara retired at Highfields and not long after their retirement, Dennis was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Dennis now had time on his hands to think about himself. One day he announced to Clara that he wanted to become a Catholic. Clara was amazed but at the same time overjoyed. Soon, we all got to know him, as he would come to Mass each week in his motorized wheelchair and go to the front to get a closer look at Fr Brian as he celebrated the Mass.

Earlier this year, Dennis was fully initiated into the Catholic faith. The love and devotion for many years between this beautiful couple has now culminated in the two being united in Faith. We welcome him into our Parish with open arms.

# TRIVIA NIGHT A WINNER

REBECCA WEBB

*What was the final score of game one of State of Origin this year?* Who won the French presidential election last month? What is the last word in the new Testament? Can you answer these off the top of your head? If so, you probably should have been at the Sacred Heart parish trivia night.

More than 100 people gathered on June 24 to celebrate the parish feast day, and they raised \$1200 for the parish youth.

The evening started with a free meal and a shared BYO dessert. Then each table was allowed to choose up to eight members and decide on a team name. This was cause for much merriment, with names including The Fellowship of the Rosary Ring, Ta dha ghabhahirin bhui agam, and The SPREDetts.

There were plenty of baffling questions, but you could get some help--at a price. Mulligan stickers could be bought to

guarantee one correct answer in a round. Teams were also told that phones were allowed, but if anyone was found using one, they would be handed a \$20 fine. Each round was themed, and the bonus round was unscrambling names from the Bible--which was harder than it might sound!

The top three trivia teams received prizes such as scratchies, movie tickets, and a car service. There was also the traditional wooden spoon award for the lowest-scoring team. There was a children's room, with so many great activities that even the teenagers and adults popped in to try them out. The games including "guess the number of lollies in the jar" and a fishing game with chocolate prizes. There was also a lucky door prize and a raffle for things such as wine, pamper packs, and artwork from local businesses.

Overall it was a really enjoyable night.

## James Byrne Centre Highfields

The James Byrne Centre offers groups warm and friendly service, healthy and wholesome meals, comfortable accommodation at an outstanding location. The managers and staff are happy to make your next event an enjoyable and successful one.

*Contact us to discuss your event and what the Centre can offer your group.*

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# SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS AT GOONDIWINDI

FR MICHAEL O'BRIEN



*Within the Goondiwindi Community there are many outstanding men and women.* The most recent to be acknowledged with an O.A.M was John Toohey. John has worked tirelessly within the local community especially with his extensive and lifelong allegiance to the RSL, locally and nationally. John has been very involved with both the St Mary's Parish and School serving on various committees over many years. The official presentation will take place later this year by the Governor-General, however to acknowledge this achievement and his work at St Mary's we presented John with a local Order of Appreciation from St Mary's. We celebrated with a joint morning tea with family and friends, with a wonderful decorated cake from the local bakery, Batesy's.

Each year the parish presents the Grade Seven students at St Mary's Primary School with their tie to wear with their winter uniforms. Mrs Josie Vetter is our oldest past student, aged 98, and she presented her tie to student Chelsea Manton. It is always a wonderful occasion to remember the links the parish and school have together and the importance of praying for the gift of the future.

Saying goodbye is never easy. At McGrath Funerals we can help you make this journey...

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## FROM THE PILGRIM: BUEN CAMINO!

SR MAUREEN ANDREWS

*Life is certainly filled with surprises and I wait eagerly to see what else could be coming my way.* I am just back from walking part of the Camino to Santiago with my brother and would hope that the joy I experienced there will remain in my heart. We had only limited time available to walk the trail so we decided to start at Sarria as it provided the minimum distance you need to walk to claim the Compostella credentials. This bustling town was a major medieval centre for pilgrims. We began to soak up the atmosphere when we climbed the granite steps and walked into the old town via the Rua Maior.

We followed the Camino markers across an old stone bridge and began walking down a shady track. Hordes of young people are in front of us and behind us. There are a few middle-aged people too, not many older persons. People are friendly and call out "Buen Camino/Good Way" as they pass. The first day we need to cover 25 kilometres and the steep climb soon slows us down. Cyclists pass us ringing their bells and calling out "Buen Camino".

We walk through farmlands, small hamlets and oak woods. The farms are so different from Australia and many of the houses are hundreds of years old. There are huge vegetable gardens which I envy when I think of my poor attempts in Cunnamulla! Roses, geraniums and hydrangeas flourish and their colour are so bright.

You cannot think about anything but remain in the present moment and put one foot after the other. The only sounds you hear are the birds and the click of the pilgrims' walking sticks. These are a must for any person attempting the walk. It is just magical walking through woodlands where wild flower bloom in abundance. I read that the foolish person seeks happiness



in the distance; the wise person seeks it under their feet. I will ponder on that as I go step by step. On the road we simply walk, watch and listen and try to connect with those who have walked the way.

We are moving towards Santiago and feeling quite excited. We stop at Lavacolla where the pilgrims would stop and wash themselves before entering the town. As we draw near to the city we see crowds, asphalt and busloads of pilgrims. We walk up Mt Gozo to view the city and look for the spires of the Cathedral. This grand towering spectacle has welcomed pilgrims to Santiago for centuries. Though the exterior has been remodelled over the years the core of the building had virtually remained untouched since the 11th century. If only the stones could speak.

## FAREWELL FOR DEDICATED PARISHIONER

*St Columba's Parish Mitchell recently held a special celebration to farewell parishioner Joan Haines.* It was an opportunity for the community to gather together and thank Joan and to wish her well as she embarks on the next stage of her life's journey. Her tireless work and commitment to her Parish is appreciated.

Joan has lived all her life in Mitchell and was educated at St Patricks School. Joan and her husband Mayne raised three children, Russell, Donna and Robert who also attended St Patrick's School. Always an active member of the school community, her involvement continued beyond her children's school years with grandchildren in attendance and also serving as the parish member on the School Board. Joan was heavily involved in school life be it at fetes, running the cake stall, sports days, tuckshops and various other activities.



Joan has always been a devoted parish member of St Columba's. A quiet achiever, she was always ready to help if asked, always one of the troops! She undertook many ministries with such commitment and dedication for example ministering baptism, liturgy of word, taking catechism to the State Schools, World Day of Prayer, visiting the sick and representing the parish at diocesan functions. Joan was also a staunch member of the Catholic Women's League and an integral part of the Parish Leadership Group.

Making the move from Mitchell to retirement in Toowoomba has been a big decision for Joan and she will be sorely missed, however the parish will always welcome her back for a visit. The community presented Joan with a gift as a token of appreciation for her hard work, dedication and the gifts she brought to the parish.



# 50 YEARS OF CWL IN ROMA

**2017 marks the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Roma Branch of the Catholic Women's League (CWL).**

To provide a permanent reminder of this milestone, members presented the parish with an Oils Cabinet in which to store the Holy Oils on the Sanctuary of All Saints' Church. The idea for the gift came from past president, Mrs Mona O'Brien, who sadly lost her battle with cancer and passed away last year.

The cabinet means that the Holy Oils will be on display all the time rather than tucked away in the safe. The CWL also purchased suitable vessels in which to hold the oils. The idea of the cabinet has been a number of years coming to fruition and with the special CWL anniversary approaching, it was felt to be a fitting way to mark this milestone and to remember those

women who have been a part of this organisation.

The well-made cabinet was constructed by Willem Britts, the manual arts teacher at St John's School Roma. The cabinet was installed on top of the old baptismal font which is a marble pillar and also incorporated the silver lid on top. The font had been donated to the church by the priests of the diocese when the church was first opened. Setting the cabinet on top of this marble font joins something new with something old and continues to acknowledge the contribution of the diocesan priests.

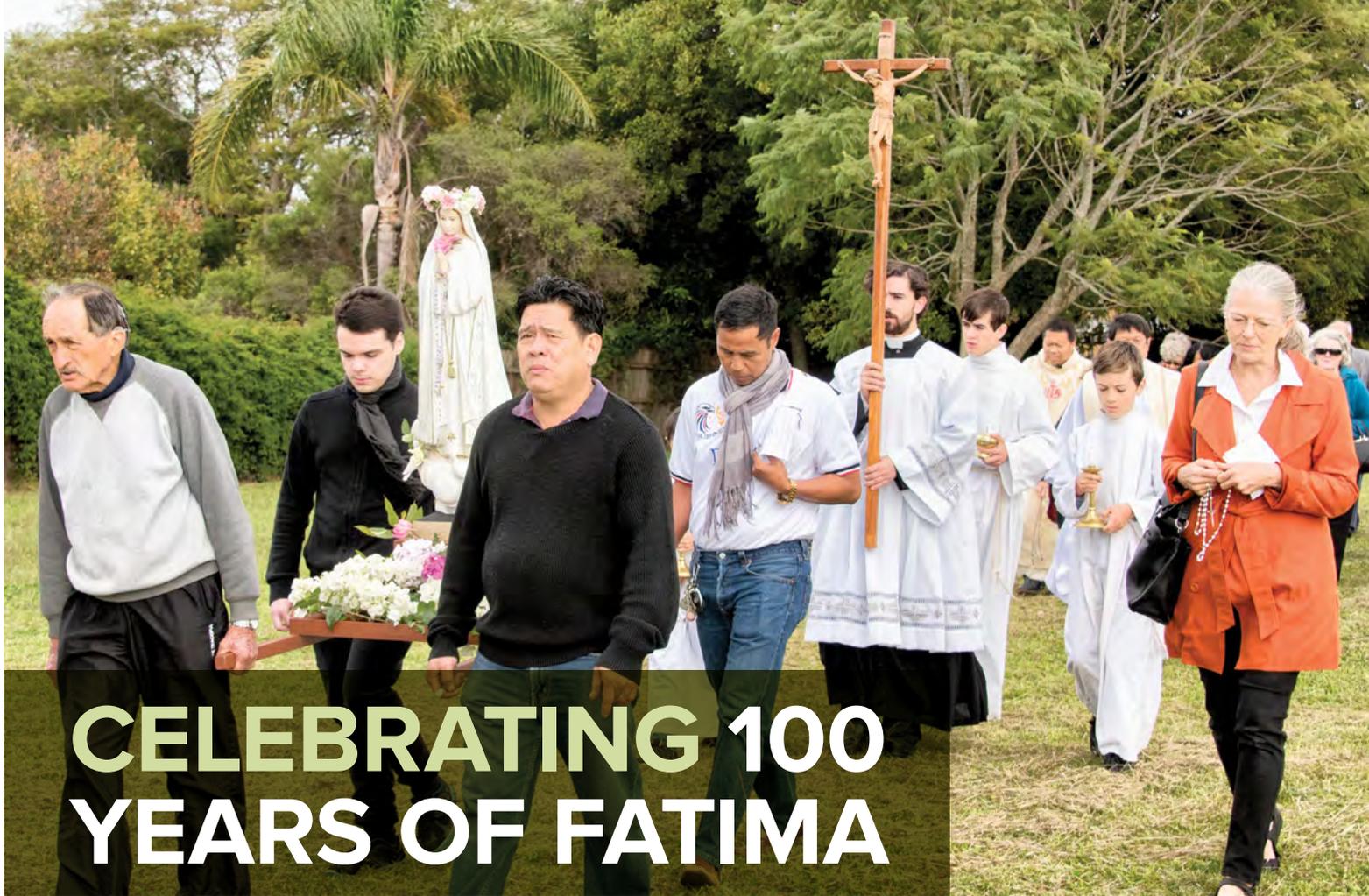
The cabinet was blessed by Fr Jamie Collins on Easter Sunday morning. Members of the O'Brien family joined with the ladies of the CWL in placing the cabinet on the sanctuary.

## ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SUNDAY

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday was celebrated at All Saints Parish, Roma during Saturday evening mass.** Fr Jamie Collins welcomed Rodney Landers to conduct the "Welcome to Country".

The altar area was decorated to create a beautiful sacred space for the special Mass. High on the wall a colourful aboriginal print was hung which complemented the traditional hand carved wood pieces which sat on black, red and gold fabric softly draped around coloured candles. This set the scene for Rodney to explain the significance of the traditional owners in the Maranoa area.





# CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF FATIMA

*This year marks 100 years since Our Lady appeared to three children in small town of Fatima, Portugal.* The children, brother and sister Francisco and Jacinta with cousin Lucia, on 13th of each month beginning May and ending in October 1917, witnessed an apparition of “a woman all in white, more brilliant than the sun”. When Lucia asked her where she was from she responded, “I am from Heaven”. The Lady wore a white mantle edged with gold and held a Rosary in her hand. She asked the children to pray and devote themselves to the Holy Trinity and to “say the Rosary every day, to bring peace to the world and an end to the war”.

Sacred Heart Parish Toowoomba have been celebrating

the centenary of Fatima with Novena Prayer and Rosary at all Parish Masses in the lead up to the anniversary of the first apparition. A procession was also held honouring Our Lady of Fatima on Saturday 13 May. After 8:30am Mass the Parishioners recited the Novena to Our Lady of Fatima and then sung a hymn to her as they processed out of the Church behind her statue, the altar servers and the Priests. The decades of the Joyful Mysteries were said as they processed around the grounds of the Church.

To finish off the year of celebration, Rosary in the Park will be held on 14 October in Queen's Park Toowoomba. Everyone is welcome to attend.

## ROSARY IN THE PARK

**2PM – 4PM**  
**SATURDAY 14 OCTOBER**  
 QUEEN'S PARK, TOOWOOMBA  
 CNR LINDSAY & MARGARET STREET



- ◆ 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  
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