

HORIZONS

of Toowoomba Diocese

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Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba

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Front Cover: 'Garden View'. Taken from the back garden of Leo and Carol Keutmann at Finnie on the outskirts of Toowoomba.

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A note from the editor:

Dear Reader,

By the time you read this, 2013 will be in 'full swing' and for many it is promising to be a busy year, but another one of blessings for our diocese with **Deacon Darrell Irvine being ordained to the priesthood on Monday 25th February at 7.00pm in St Patrick's Cathedral.**

Please set this time aside and attend, if possible.

We thank Darrell for his generous response to God's call and assure him of our prayers while asking him for his - especially during his First Mass. May God bless his ministry in our diocese.

Once again I offer grateful thanks to the Catholic Education Office for their significant contribution towards the costs of producing *Horizons* and to our advertisers who so faithfully support us. Many have been with us from the first edition and we are now commencing our eighth year of production. Please remember to support them whenever possible.

Sincerely,

Sr Eileen.

DEADLINE

FOR APRIL-JUNE 2013 EDITION

-Friday 29th March 2013-

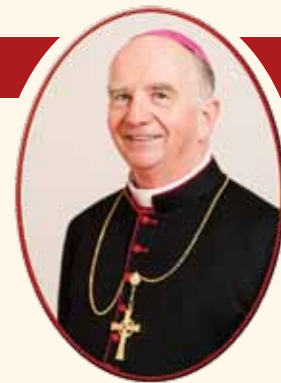
but please send as soon as possible.

NB: MUST BE STRICTLY OBSERVED

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Lenten Pastoral Letter 2013



My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It only seems like yesterday that we celebrated Christmas and New Year. As Easter is very early this year (31 March), Lent begins on February 13 which is fast approaching.

The 40 days of Lent are very special days which should be a time that we spend in union with Christ reflecting His own 40 days spent in the wilderness after his baptism in the river Jordan by John the Baptist.

We are part way through The Year of Grace (Pentecost 2012 – Pentecost 2013) proclaimed by the Australian bishops last year. Added to this to mark the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Second Vatican Council, and wishing us to profit from the great teaching of the Council, the Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI, proclaimed a Year of Faith (October 2012 – November 2013). I encourage you to read the Pope's Apostolic Letter announcing The Year of Faith, *Porta Fidei*. Copies of this letter will be available in your parishes.

In this Year of Grace we are called to *contemplate the face of Christ*. As we do this may we experience God's great love for us. May Jesus heal us of our weaknesses and sin and fill us with compassion for others. At the beginning of 2013 let us start afresh from Christ.

With the grace of God may we grow in our knowledge and friendship with Jesus and may our faith be strengthened as each of us is called to give witness to our faith in our daily lives.

The Holy Father in an address on 19 December 2012 spoke of Faith as a journey, which may be somewhat different for each of us.

“We encounter moments of light but also periods in which God seems to be absent, his silence weighs heavily in our hearts and his will does not correspond to our own... The more we open ourselves to God...like Abraham and like Mary, the more He renders us able, through His presence, to live every moment in life in the peace and certainty of His loyalty and His love. However, this means leaving behind ourselves and our own plans, so that the Word of God might be the guiding light for our thoughts and actions”.

At their last meeting the Australian Bishops resolved to observe the Fridays of Lent in 2013 as special days of penance, especially in the wake of the sexual abuse that the Church is facing. In making this decision it was also decided to ask the faithful to join with them in this endeavour. I recognise that there are those personally or indirectly so harmed by sexual abuse perpetrated by clergy and religious who will not feel able to join in this act of penance and I understand and I accept this. It is particularly to these people that I offer my participation and invite those who do feel they can join with me and the other bishops to also give their support during Lent and into the future.

Some examples of what we might do on the Fridays of Lent:

- a) the prayerful praying of Holy Scripture
- b) a Holy Hour of prayer and petition before the Blessed Sacrament
- c) penance, in particular fasting and abstaining from meat.

My aim as Bishop is to commit myself to the above tasks on the Fridays of Lent. I ask the clergy, religious, and those of the faithful who feel they can, to join with me.

To this end would those with the care of parish churches and chapels, as far as possible, each Friday of Lent arrange for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for an hour in their Church or Chapel. There will be a Holy Hour at 11am on the Fridays of Lent at the Bishop's Chapel, 68 Lindsay Street, Toowoomba.

Most Rev Robert M McGuckin

Bishop of Toowoomba



Timor-Leste A WORLD AWAY

Lauren Bourke, Warwick.

Early one Monday morning in October last year, I boarded a Boeing-767 jet in Brisbane, bound for East Timor's capital of Dili. I was very excited to be volunteering in Timor-Leste as part of the Edmund Rice Mission, for my very first overseas trip! However, I was also a little apprehensive as to what the next month would bring. Along with my fantastic travel companions, two fourth year teaching students from ACU in Brisbane, we arrived safely in Dili late that afternoon. It was there that we were greeted by the three wonderful Christian Brothers with whom we all lived and worked during our time in Timor.

During our first couple of days we did some sightseeing around Dili to familiarise ourselves with the city which became our home on the weekends. We visited many poignant historical sites such as the Museum of Resistance (powerful documentation of the country's turbulent past), and the Santa Cruz Cemetery. Although rather confronting, these sites were both helpful and important to visit as they assisted us in attaining a much better idea of the Timorese people and their country. It was also very uplifting and inspiring to understand more deeply how far they have come; comparing their rugged, unstable past to the positive direction in which they are now heading as a nation.

From Dili we then made our first, long trip up the mountains to the remote villages where we truly felt at home for the next month. We visited all of the small schools in the surrounding villages, the medical clinic and also the vibrant village markets. These were all wonderful immersions into the lives and culture of the Timorese people.

Over the next four weeks we taught in the Railaco Craic village school, which was the community in which we lived and were a part of every day. During that time we taught a range of different subjects – Maths, Science, Art, Sport, Religion, Dance and even a little English. Teaching in both Tetum (their local language) and Portuguese (the country's official language) was sometimes quite entertaining, although it was a challenge I really enjoyed.

As we lived right in the heart of the village community, there were always lots of things happening even when we weren't at school. Each morning and afternoon we played soccer or other games, helped the kids with the water runs, visited and played with our friends or went off walking to explore our beautiful surroundings (which would very quickly turn into a group of at least 20 little children walking along with you)! I feel so incredibly fortunate to have had the opportunity to live, work, play, interact, celebrate and learn with the locals of the Railaco Craic village community, as well as all of the other fantastic people I met along the way.

Even though distance-wise East Timor is not that far away from Australia, it is an absolute world away from our Australian society, way of life and everything we would consider normal or standard. In Australia, we live in a world where health, education, safety, decent living conditions and adequate nutrition are standard rights; non-negotiable. It's a world with running water, electricity, a LOT less bumpy roads, and the list goes on and on. A world where we don't think twice about flicking on the TV, turning a tap for water – hot or cold, eating whatever we want whenever we want, or spending \$30 (which in Timor is about a whole month's wage). There are so many opportunities to deeply reflect on our 'everyday' lives in Australia while immersed in a country such as East Timor.

And although it is extremely different, I believe Timor-Leste is a truly beautiful place; in every sense of the word. The children and people are completely beautiful – their joy in the simplest of things is absolutely infectious and their smiles radiate warmth and welcoming. Their sense of community and family is beautiful. When initially asking people if someone else was in their family, the answer was always yes, even if they weren't actually related; which was lovely, although it did make it very confusing. Many of the landscapes are starkly contrasting and breathtakingly beautiful.

It really was an amazing experience, and one I know I will treasure forever. There are so many beautiful little moments which have formed a wealth of wonderful memories from my time in Timor-Leste. Now I just can't wait to go back!!



BISHOP BRIAN FINNIGAN THANKED

On the evening of Tuesday 6th November, (Melbourne Cup Day) Bishop Robert McGuckin, the Clergy, Religious and the Heads of Diocesan Agencies gathered to thank Bishop Brian Finnigan for his tireless work as Apostolic Administrator of the diocese.

In his vote of thanks Fr Brian Sparksman DCL, Chancellor of the diocese, and also Vicar General during the time Bishop Brian was Apostolic Administrator, said: "We have had the privilege of Brian's presence among us in recent times and it was a very gracious leadership that he showed us.

"I do believe that he was the perfect man for the job and we will be ever grateful to you, Brian, for taking on two jobs at the one time because your work as Auxiliary in Brisbane did not diminish at all during your time among us.

"So I want to say 'Thank you' on behalf of everyone present, on behalf of those who have sent apologies and on behalf of everyone in the diocese, for being here with us."

During his response Bishop Brian said that when he first came to Toowoomba "there was a lot of sadness and hurt and misunderstanding and people were suffering; but it has never been as difficult as some people would imagine because of the fact that your welcome was so warm and the co-operation that I received and the warmth of the welcome was very comforting and enriching.

"I do not miss driving 3 hours once, twice, three times a week, but I do miss the interaction that I had with so many people in Toowoomba. I have developed contacts and friendships with people. We are told that people who share our lives become part of us and you carry something of them with you forever, so I am happy to be able to say that I have very happy memories of my time here."

On behalf of the diocese, Bishop Brian was presented with two paintings of horses from Great Britain in the 1860s.



Photos, from top:

Bishop Brian Finnigan with Bishop Robert McGuckin.

Dr Mark Copland, Co-ordinator, Social Justice Commission, presenting Bishop Brian Finnigan with the Certificates of Authenticity for the paintings presented to him on behalf of the diocese.

Fr Brian Sparksman DCL, Chancellor, giving the Vote of Thanks.



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Judith McGrath-Colquhoun and Brian Colquhoun

YOUNG CHRISTIAN WORKERS REUNION

On Sunday, 30 September 2012 more than 100 people gathered at Our Lady of Lourdes Church for Mass followed by a barbeque lunch. This was to mark 100 years since Father Josef Cardijn formed the first YCW group in a sewing factory in Belgium. It also marked seventy years since the foundation of the National Catholic Girls Movement (NCGM) and the Young Christian Workers (YCW) in the Toowoomba diocese.

Those attending represented a wonderful cross section of past members – those who were amongst the foundation members through to the “young ones” who were members in the late 1960’s and early 1970’s.

Being a long weekend many people were able to travel long distances – from Rockhampton, Charleville, Roma, Lismore, Caloundra and many from Brisbane. While the long weekend was in favour of some it meant others sent apologies due to family commitments.

Six priests who were either past members or Chaplains concelebrated the Mass with a number of other priests joining us for lunch.

We include here a copy of Fr John Quinlan’s homily from the Reunion Mass.



From left: Fr Peter Doohan; Fr Don Murray; Fr John Quinlan, Fr Mick Carroll, Fr Terry Hickling and Fr Jack Peard, concelebrating the Mass for the YCW Reunion.

One night in 1971 a number of priests were in the lounge of the Holy Name Presbytery when Mons. Eddie Concannon vented his frustration at the YCW. Eddie’s opening salvo was, “I have had curates here for years all running after YCW groups and what is there to show for it?” I kept my head down because, having been associated with the YCW one way or another for some fifteen years, I really had no answer to Eddie’s question.

Just a year or two later, the first directions from the Vatican Council began to reach diocesan and parish level. It came in tentative form – a little booklet with four sessions to be used for home discussion groups. I think the Booklet had a title “Renewal of Faith” or some such title. Whatever the title, the content was intended to inform the laity that Vatican II was the Council of the laity. Pope John XXIII spoke of *aggiornamento* – letting in fresh air to the Church. The Church was to return to its simple yet basic beginnings where the laity played a vital role.

These home discussion groups were well attended and there was great enthusiasm, but having taken these tentative steps neither clergy nor laity had a clue as to what next. The “what next” came in the form of Pastoral formation and the instituting of Parish Pastoral

Councils. I’m not sure if anyone realized at the time but those early Pastoral Councils were mainly made up of women and men trained in the YCW. To me it seemed as though, for decades, we had been training apprentices and stock-piling them awaiting the time the Church caught up. To this day members of the YCW are still proving to be the backbone of the Church in parts of this diocese. Eddie Concannon lived to see the worth of the YCW but I don’t know if he, or even we ourselves were aware of the real significance of the training we received.

I make this suggestion because I doubt we were aware of what the Church and the YCW were like prior to Vatican II, and an understanding of history is so important.

As a result of the Reformation in the 16th century both Catholics and Protestants were so dedicated to defending their own theological viewpoint that there was no significant growth in the Church for 400 years. In fact the Catholic Church, which clung to Sacramentality, saw no contradiction in that the laity had come to believe they were so unworthy that they would go to Mass but never receive Holy Communion.

It was only in the reign of Pope Pius X (1903 -1914) that a ruling was made whereby every Catholic was obliged to

receive Communion at least once per year. Later came the Sodalities – Holy Name, Sacred Heart, Children of Mary – to encourage people to receive Communion once per month.

Pius X took as his motto “To restore all things in Christ”. During his reign he endeavoured to achieve this new direction in the Church. Pius X built on the social teachings of his predecessor Pope Leo XIII (1878-1903) who wrote the most significant encyclical *Rerum Novarum* which brought the Church into conflict with the business leaders because for the first time in ages the Church dared to intervene in the treatment of workers who in the days of the Industrial Revolution had become less important than the machines they operated.

It was on the foundations laid by these two Popes that Josef Cardijn built his YCW Movement. In 1912 Cardijn began his first Group with a number of girls working in a sewing factory. In 1925 Pope Pius XI officially recognized Cardijn’s work. “Here at last” said the Pope, “is someone who comes to speak to me about the working masses. The greatest scandal of the 19th century was the loss of the workers to the church.” As an aside we may well ask what, in retrospect, will Popes regard as the great scandals of the 21st century?



Ten years later in 1935 Cardijn received a hero's welcome in a stadium in Brussels where 100,000 young workers listened to his message. He urged young men and women to bring Christ to their places of work, to their homes and to their parts of the world. At the same time Hitler and Mussolini were urging their youth to war, destruction and murder.

We may well ask how it was that change, which began in the late 19th century, took till the early 1960's to blossom into the Vatican II. The answer is simple – two World Wars and a Great Depression intervened.

What we can't overlook is that change in the Church continued even while the World was being destroyed. In the depths of WWII the YCW came to this diocese and it is this we celebrate today – seventy years later.

We celebrate the women and men of a particular era. We celebrate the wisdom of Popes and of Cardijn who showed us how to be Church in our time. And we now are a part of the next chapter in the history of the Church.

We do not know what Church will be like in 20, 50 years time but we can be sure it will be a Church of the laity because the days of an abundance of clergy are gone.

We who gather today can rejoice that we were the ones who were given the opportunity to lay the foundations of the Church of the laity in this diocese and we can be justifiably proud of the work we have done. It is for those who follow to plot a new path with new methods, yet their mission must always be the same, "To restore all things in Christ."



Enjoying catching up with old friends after the Mass for the YCW Reunion.



WELCOME TO SARAH

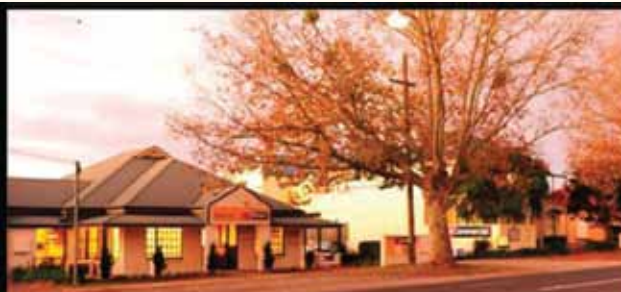
The diocese warmly welcomes Sarah de Byl nee Walton to the role of diocesan Youth Ministry Coordinator. Sarah will commence duties in

early February. She is a graduate of USQ Toowoomba, and has taught in primary schools in the Lismore diocese at Laurieton and last year teaching Grade 3/4 at St Josephs Milmerran. Originally from Coffs Harbour, Sarah has recently married and made her home in Toowoomba.

Sarah brings energy and enthusiasm to the role of Youth Ministry Coordinator and is looking forward to getting out and visiting parish communities, meeting those involved in ministry with young people and assisting parishes to bring youth ministry alive in their community.

Sarah has been involved in World Youth day in Sydney 2008 and Madrid 2011, and is keen to organise a group from Toowoomba to attend World Youth Day in Rio this year.

Contact details will be made available on the diocesan website once Sarah has commenced in her role. In the meantime enquiries for Youth ministry can be made to Rosie Harrison 4687 4343 or Nicola McSparron 4632 4277.



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STANTHORPE NEWS:

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH

DEDICATION OF ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH, STANTHORPE SUNDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2013

Any regular and observant visitor to St Joseph's Parish Stanthorpe in recent years would have noticed the progress of what has been an almost ten year program of much needed exterior and interior maintenance to St Joseph's Church in High Street which looks down to the main commercial centre of the Town in Maryland Street. The maintenance program began with the cleaning, sealing and restoration of the terra cotta roof tiles and the replacement of the gutters. This was followed by the exterior painting of the Church to highlight its attractive architectural features. Meanwhile the restoration of thirty-three large leadlight windows began which took nine years to complete.

Parishioners embarked on a six month intensive program to gradually restore all the deteriorated Church pews, which were then fitted with padded kneelers.

Another urgently needed and expensive project was then undertaken with the provision of toilet facilities especially designed to blend with the Church architecture, solving the problem of the Parish and parishioners having to use the School toilets.

Late in 2011, the Church was closed for six weeks while interior repairs, electrical work, installation of new heaters and the repainting of the interior of the Church were undertaken. In March 2012, new carpet which had been designed to reflect the Granite Belt district was laid. The carpet replaced the carpet that was laid in the 1970's when the Parish Priest Fr Syd Kattie undertook extensive liturgical interior modifications which included the controversial removal of the Choir loft. In 1991 Bishop Kelly blessed the foyer extension to the Church which had been commissioned by the Parish Priest, Fr Lino Valente. This, together with the Reconciliation Room, and more recently the Church Toilets have been the only additions to the original Church.

A recent unplanned replacement was that of the old electronic organ, struck by lightning during a storm in November, and replaced by our ever helpful Catholic Church Insurances. A new high-quality electronic piano was also purchased last year and was made possible by a bequest from a recently deceased parishioner. Other improvements such as liturgical

furniture and the refurbishment of the Sacristies were also undertaken in recent years.

All the extensive maintenance and renovations have been completed in time for the Parish to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the blessing and opening of St Joseph's Church by Archbishop James Duhig which took place on Sunday 25th January 1923.

After the Dedication of two Toowoomba city parish Churches in recent years, Bishop William suggested that the Stanthorpe Parish may like to consider the Dedication of their Parish Church. The 90th anniversary of the original blessing and opening of the Church and the conclusion of a very extensive refurbishment of the Church was considered by the Parish Pastoral Council and the Parish Priest, Fr Brian Connolly, to be the perfect occasion for St Joseph's Church finally to be "Dedicated".

The difference between "dedication" and "blessing", according to the General Instruction of the Roman Missal, is one of degree of solemnity. "Dedication" implies permanence, while "blessing" could imply

the building may be used for worship only for a limited time. With a history of ninety years as a place of worship for the Catholics of the Granite Belt and a Church constructed of reinforced concrete, the criteria of "permanence" certainly applies to the much loved and admired Church of St Joseph's Parish Stanthorpe. A further reason that many Churches were never "dedicated" (the term used in former times was "consecrated") was because of a provision of Canon Law that no longer applies, namely that the Church was required to be "debt free" in order to be consecrated.

In "The Catholic Advocate" (8th March 1923) account of the blessing and opening of St Joseph's Church it was reported that Archbishop Duhig concluded his sermon as follows:

"I appeal to you today, parishioners and visitors alike, to give him (the Parish Priest, Fr Barry) the final helping hand that will enable it to be said that before the shades of evening fall on this 25th day of February (1923), the recurring anniversary of which you must ever celebrate with joy 'Thank God that the Church has been opened free of debt'".



We will certainly “celebrate with joy” on Sunday 24th February 2013, the Dedication of St Joseph’s Church during 8.30am Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Robert McGuckin. Joining in the celebration will be Archbishop John Bathersby, Emeritus Archbishop of Brisbane; Bishop William Morris, Emeritus Bishop of Toowoomba; Fr Brian Connolly, Parish Priest; Fr Lino Valente,

retired Parish Priest; and some visiting priests, parishioners and visitors. The Mass of Dedication will be much longer than the usual weekly Sunday Mass due to the many rituals such as the Anointing of the Altar and Anointing of Twelve Crosses on the Walls of the Church, the incensing of the Altar and Church Walls and the lighting of twelve Candles in the nave of the Church.

Mass will be followed by a Parish Morning Tea in the Parish Hospitality Centre and on the grounds between the Church and the Parish Centre (the former Convent). Fr Brian Connolly and the parishioners invite former parishioners and all those who have had connections with St Joseph’s Parish Stanthorpe to join them on this significant day in the life of the Parish which was established in 1874.

NINETY YEARS YOUNG

Long-time parishioner of St Joseph’s Parish Stanthorpe Mrs Giovanna Ebenestelli celebrated her 90th Birthday on 26th October 2012. Her birthday was celebrated with her son Robert and his family and her friends, including Fr Lino Valente at Anna’s Restaurant on 3rd November 2012.



Left: Giovanna with Fr Lino Valente, friends since childhood when their families farmed tobacco in the Inglewood/Texas area.



Above: Mrs Giovanna Ebenestelle with her family - back row: Mark, Luke and Kym Ebenestelli, Emma, Amanda, William and Justin Holzheimer. Front row: Giovanna and Robert. Missing from the photo and fast asleep was baby Alex Ebenestelli.

ST JOSEPH’S SCHOOL

Angelina Sims

FIRST SHOWCASE EVENING SUCCESS

St Joseph’s celebrated student’s creativity with a ‘Showcase Evening’ held on 20th September to end Term three on a high note. This was the first Showcase for St Joseph’s school - a long term vision of Art Teacher Mrs Marissa Moncada. In collaboration with Music Teacher Mrs Donna Gerster, the Showcase developed. The contribution of all staff and students is warmly appreciated and made this wonderful event possible.

The event exhibited a large selection of visual artworks and displays of student work from a variety of subject areas across both campuses. Guests were entertained with a rich array of student’s acts from opera, choir, classical, rock and country music along with dance, musical theatre, martial arts and skipping performances. Wine tastings of the ‘2011 and 2012 Rose’ produced by Mr Jim Armstrong’s ‘Young Wine Maker’ students was available along with platters of cheese and finger foods made by Mrs Yvette Giannake’s Cooking and Hospitality students to accompany the Rose’ style wines. Mr Bob Bell’s Manual Arts, Graphics and ITAD students displayed a lot of their work including the process of their constructions shown on film. Mr Nathan Odger’s Film and TV and Media student’s films were running in an adjacent ‘chill out’ room. St Joseph’s provides students with great access to technology and a bank of laptops were available for students and parents to browse their many computer generated creations from all subjects and year levels.

The Showcase evening was a tremendous success with a large attendance of students, their parents, families and community members. There is a lot of ‘hidden talent’ at St Joseph’s School that shone for the crowd and with the richness of St Joseph’s student’s creativity and their wide variety of skills and talents, the Showcase was a festive evening enjoyed by all.



WELCOMING BISHOP ROBERT MCGUCKIN

In July this year the Toowoomba Diocese celebrated the Episcopal Ordination of the new Bishop, Robert McGuckin. As a welcome, the Diocese celebrated with a Mass of Welcome last Friday at St Patrick’s Cathedral Toowoomba. All schools in the Diocese were invited to send students and staff members to help celebrate. Principal Mr Michael McCarthy, APRE Mr Danny Carter, Assistant Principal Secondary Mrs Linda Perrett and Mrs Johanna Campbell together with thirty Primary and Secondary students enjoyed the special Mass celebrated by Bishop McGuckin and then a BBQ lunch which was provided by the Catholic Education Office Toowoomba. Students were excited to meet and chat with our new Bishop.



SEAT VISITS ALL CLASSES

In November local identity John Cobon visited St Joseph's school as part of the Spinal Education Awareness Team (SEAT). This program which is run by the Spinal Injuries Association and accredited by Education Queensland has a proud 24 year history having reached more than 1.4 million students.

John is one of eighteen volunteer presenters who all have a spinal cord injury and use a wheelchair. They travel around Queensland throughout the year and are committed to educating young people on how to stay safe. A major sponsor of this important association is BHP Billiton Cannington Mine which ensures this program is free.

John spoke to the students from Prep to Year 12 about the importance of their spines, the way in which spinal injuries can occur, and most importantly that there is no cure for spinal cord injuries so prevention is the key. "You need always do the right thing and play by the rules. Always be aware of what is happening around you to prevent you from having an accident or causing an accident", he said.

CELEBRATING WORLD TEACHER'S DAY

Also in November, teachers at St Joseph's School were acknowledged for their efforts, dedication and work as part of World Teacher's Day. This year's theme was "Teachers Inspire".

Celebrated in over 100 countries, World Teacher's Day is symbolic of the hard work done by teachers in the classroom. First introduced in 1994 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, it is a day on which students, parents and community members are encouraged to show their appreciation. At morning tea on Friday, teaching staff were treated to a special cake and cuppa in acknowledgement for their contributions to St Joseph's School.

Teacher Miss Jessica Benson is pictured cutting the cake for World Teacher's Day.



AN INVITATION...

I have obtained permission from Bishop Robert McGuckin and my school Principal, Richard Brown, to screen *Catholicism Series* next year.

Catholicism Series is a collection of ten one hour documentaries which has been designed for RCIA, adult lay formation, training adult catechists, Deaconate and other ministerial training, mature high school or college/university course-work.

Below is a description of the series from their website www.catholicismseries.com.

Fr Robert Barron created this groundbreaking program as a thematic presentation of what Catholics believe and why, so all adults can come to a deeper understanding of the Catholic Faith. Not a video lecture, Church history or scripture study, this

engaging and interesting formational program uses the art, architecture, literature, music and all the treasures of the Catholic tradition to illuminate the timeless teachings of the Church.

The CATHOLICISM Study Program presents the strong, ecclesial dimension of the Catholic Faith – God's revelation through Jesus Christ and His Church.

At the very core of the initiative is the desire to share this excellent resource with other people seeking Christ. I wish to show friends and colleagues the intimate links between Jesus and the Catholic Church. This is a fruit of the Year of Grace.

Who: Anybody who is interested in learning about Christ in Catholicism, enjoys fellowship, pizza and live music.

What: Live music, pizza, DVD, Chat

When: 10 sessions only! Screening in 2013 every second Friday of each month; Feb 8, Mar 8, Apr 12, May 10, Jun 14, Jul 12, Aug 9, Sep 13, Oct 11, Nov 8.

7:00pm – 9:00pm

Where: Toowoomba Christian College Auditorium, New England Highway, Highfields. Car park can be accessed via the Highway entrance, then follow the driveway down the hill and turn right, towards the Auditorium.

Why: To contemplate the face of Christ in this Year of Grace

Cost: \$10 per session per person (includes food and venue hire)

RSVP: Simon Ashley
CatholicismSeries@hotmail.com.

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SPRED

SPRED is committed to the inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities into the full life of the Church and wider community.

But what does this mean?

What does 'inclusion' really mean for people with an intellectual disability? What is it that we are hoping our SPRED Friends will experience? Where and how will it happen? Who will help bring it about?

As I looked for answers to these questions I turned to an article I had read some time ago, which outlined some key concepts relevant to our SPRED experiences. Firstly, it suggested that a good starting point is to consider what 'inclusion' means in our own lives.

To have a sense of well-being in different situations, we need to feel 'connected' with others – others with whom we are comfortable; others with whom we share experiences; others who appreciate us as unique individuals; others who encourage us to be 'more', to try new things.

We have all had experiences of going along to an activity or event, but we don't really feel included unless we are 'invited' to join the group, to join in the activity, to be 'part' of what is going on. While we may be physically present, we can feel very much on the 'fringes'. In other words we need to be in 'relationship' with those around us; we need to share the life that they are experiencing; we need to contribute in our own way.

People with intellectual disabilities are no different.

Within our SPRED sessions, our Friends with intellectual disabilities are given 'time' – time to become comfortable with those around them, time to trust, time to experience real connections and relationships. Nothing happens instantly or without careful planning. In the place where we gather, all are made to feel welcome, a sense of trust starts to blossom, firstly between each person with a disability and his/her Volunteer, and then gradually with other members of the group. Invitations are always extended, to encourage each person to join in an activity. Some will step forward eagerly; others will need time to digest what is going on. Generally, everyone wants to join in, some however may need to move gently at their own pace and in their own time.

As everyone in the group begins to take a more active part, everyone experiences the joy of this 'togetherness'. Each offers his/her own gifts of friendship – the smile, the outstretched hand, the loving embrace, the warmth of their presence. No one has to do anything outstanding. By being connected to one another in this simple way, we feel loved and valued. We feel that we really belong to something that is good and meaningful. We feel that we are part of life itself.

When our SPRED Friends and Volunteers are at ease with one another in this way, they are ready to take on the larger things in life. Perhaps they venture out into their parish communities and as they go, the strength of their friendship gives witness to their worth as people. Friendship with another gives us courage, makes us feel important and valued, encourages us to join in whatever is happening around us.

In the parish environment with the support and encouragement of his/her volunteer, our SPRED Friends will generally take delight in contributing to the day's celebration in some small way – and their contribution is noted and appreciated by the rest of the congregation! Each one has become part of the whole!

Put simply, a welcoming hand to draw them in, an invitation to participate, another person to 'walk with them' for a while, and an opportunity to show what they have to offer, can go a long way to making our parish communities places of welcome and inclusion for 'all'.

In the words of Jean Vanier: "A community becomes whole when all its members are able to contribute to its life and work." (*Community and Growth*, 1989)

If you would like to be part of this important ministry please contact SPRED Education Officer, Loretta Coman: 4632 8427 or spred@twb.catholic.edu.au





SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMISSION HAPPENINGS

The past twelve months have been busy but fruitful ones for the Social Justice Commission. In August we celebrated ten years with a special address by Mr Graeme Mundine, Executive Officer for Aboriginal Catholic Ministry in the Archdiocese of Sydney. Bishop Morris and Bishop McGuckin were there to help blow out the candles. The next day Graeme spent with various agencies of the Diocese as they explored Indigenous history and culture. In December of 2012 a group of representatives met with Bishop McGuckin as part of the Diocesan Reconciliation Action Plan. They worked through the document and identified ways in which reconciliation can be promoted across the Diocese in 2013.

In October of 2012 Executive Officer Dr Mark Copland co-presented a session at the Ethnic Community Council of Queensland's Summit. The session dealt with a case of racial discrimination which occurred in Toowoomba. Mr Kevin Cox, Queensland's anti-discrimination commissioner spoke with Mark and a number of recommendations from the session are being taken to Multicultural Affairs Queensland.

In July of 2012 Mark Copland was appointed to the Queensland Churches Together newly formed Environmental Network. Locally the Commission was involved in facilitating the Christians in Dialogue 'Faith and the Environment' programme during October. The environmental network will be meeting in Toowoomba in February of 2013 reflecting on issues around mining in rural and regional Queensland.

As we celebrate Christmas and the New Year a number of fresh water wells will be installed in remote villages in Africa's newest nation - South Sudan.

These wells are part of a project which the Commission has been involved in over the past five years. Joining with local donors and the Ursuline Order by March of 2013 we hope to be able to report that more than ten thousand people now have access to clean and safe drinking water.

In February of 2013 the Commission will hold a day of discernment to select four new members. We would especially like to mention the contribution of Sr Sue Flood to our Commission. Her thoughtful and prayerful leadership, spirituality and hard work have played a major part in many of our Commission's achievements over the past decade. Her work promoting justice and peace in the Diocese will be greatly missed and we wish her God's richest blessing as she continues her leadership role with the Ursuline Order in Brisbane.

The annual Tiwi Island Immersion Trip included students from St Ursula's and Downlands College (Toowoomba) and St John's College (Roma). Staff and students were inspired and challenged by the experience. The Commission will host some Tiwi elders in the Diocese during 2013. Part of our annual Diocesan Christmas Offering will support a project aimed at preventing youth suicide in the Top End of the Northern Territory.

Commission Member Mrs Margaret Battle joined with Mark Copland and Sr Esther Dowling from Stanthorpe attending the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office conference on pastoral care of refugees and migrants. They were challenged by the plight of refugees and asylum seekers and current government policies that deny the basic rights of asylum seekers. They were inspired with stories of ordinary

people around the country opening their hearts and homes to asylum seekers.

The commission has initiated a small group of people who are keen to support and uphold the dignity of asylum seekers living in our Diocese. We are proud to join with groups such as Catholic Missions and Young Christian Students stating clearly that it is not acceptable to hold children in detention centres. As Fr Maurizio Pettena, Director of ACMRO states, as Christians our duty to refugees and asylum seekers is simply not negotiable.

We would like to thank all those working for justice and peace in schools, parishes and agencies throughout our Diocese. We look forward to continuing this important ministry with you in 2013.



Bishop McGuckin with RAP sub committee.



Bishop Hanna, Margaret Battle Fr Maurizio Pettena, Sr Ester Dowling and Dr Mark Copland.



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Maree Toombs (centre front) and Cross Cultural Session at St Anthony's.

ST VINCENT'S HOSPITAL

Madeleine Tiller, Communications and Marketing, St Vincent's Hospital

MELBOURNE CUP DAY EVENT TO SUPPORT THE REGION'S BREAST CARE SERVICES

St Vincent's Hospital Toowoomba and BreastScreen Toowoomba combined forces to bring a touch of glamour to this year's Melbourne Cup Day celebrations. The Melbourne Cup Pink Luncheon 2012, was held at the Toowoomba Turf Club on Tuesday November 6 from 10am until after the main race at 2pm.

Guests were treated to wine and canapés on arrival, goody bags, lucky door prizes, a buffet lunch, best dresses prizes, and a free ticket to win a holiday. There was also the opportunity to bid on stellar auction items, including a "Man Auction".

"This event is not only a great way to celebrate 'the race that stops a nation', but all proceeds raised support St Vincent's Hospital Toowoomba's Breast Cancer Care Service and the Toowoomba Hospital's BreastScreen and Oncology Unit," St Vincent's Hospital Toowoomba Marketing Manager, Maree Parsons, said. "These services are vital in saving lives. Figures show that one in eight families are affected or have been touched by breast cancer and screening is extremely important for all women."



Toowoomba BreastScreen Health Promotions Officer Jessica Hobbs and St Vincent's Hospital Toowoomba Marketing Manager Maree Parsons check out the Racing Guide in preparation for the Melbourne Cup Pink Luncheon.

WOMEN OF THE VINE EVENT TO SUPPORT PREMATURE BABIES

Proud aunty Anita Fitzgibbons can't get enough cuddles from her new niece and nephew, Aidan and Charlotte. "They are gorgeous and it is phenomenal to watch them grow right in front of your eyes," Anita said, holding Charlotte close. "They change what seems to be daily and their distinct personalities are already effervescent."

Aidan and Charlotte were born prematurely at St Vincent's Hospital on July 27 to parents Brad and Bronnie Fitzgibbons, and spent three weeks in the Hospital's Special Care Nursery (SCN) before they were strong enough to go home.

St Vincent's Hospital's SCN is specially designed, equipped and staffed to care for babies who require special care, observation and/or treatment. "I'm so glad the twins had such a wonderful and safe start at the SCN," Anita said. "The nurses were incredibly helpful to Brad, Bronnie and all of us. Their guidance is simply indispensable to new parents and their families, and we can't thank them enough for the brilliant job they do."

This experience inspired Anita, who is Fitzy's Marketing Manager, to announce that St Vincent's Hospital Special Care Nursery is the selected beneficiary of this month's sold-out Women of the Vine Luncheon.

With 110 ladies attending the November 23rd event, Women of the Vine aims to unite Toowoomba women through networking and fundraising with a common goal of supporting the local community. This successful Fitzy's event has been raising money for various charities for more than 11 years.

Anita said. "All funds generated from Women of the Vine raffles and donations will go directly to St Vincent's Special Care Nursery (SCN)."

Anita said helping looking after the twins was a big learning curve. "I'm used to two dogs rather than two tiny children," she said. "Luckily, there has always been a helping hand around to lend advice. I'm not quite up to babysitting two on my own yet, but am always willing to learn."



Proud aunty moment: Fitzy's Marketing Manager Anita Fitzgibbons cuddles her tiny niece and nephew, Charlotte and Aidan, under the watchful eye of St Vincent's Hospital Special Care Nursery Nurse Cathy Krause and proud grandmother Maralyn Fitzgibbons.

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Pilgrimage YEAR OF GRACE

Article and photographs by Gloria Duffy, St Mary's, Warwick.

The Parish of St Mary's Warwick used a pilgrimage to the small Church in Bell to celebrate the Year of Grace.

The pilgrimage can be appreciated on different levels:

On a personal level - a genuine lived faith coupled with an enthusiasm for life are characteristics that inspire a faith community - qualities embodied in Fr Terry Hickling our organiser

On a community level - the drive was a trigger to reflect on one's own life journey, school days, marriage, and children. The conversations were not all lightweight chatter but true to a pilgrimage experience, the best of times were contrasted with the worst of times and the very genuine challenges to realize a Christian commitment in the vicissitudes of life. Community was strengthened by being and sharing together as we journeyed.

On a broader level - the country Church of Bell, ministering to a population of about 300, deserves acknowledgment and to be treasured no less than its grand European prototypes. The design of the panels not only demonstrated technical ability but a theological and historical understanding of covenant. The artist, Meg Cullen, very skilfully reflects with theological clarity the inner continuity and unity of the two scriptural sources of God's promise to Abraham and his covenant with Israel and the fulfilment of the Law by a crucified Christ. One cannot dismiss this church as sentimental religiosity or visual 'eye candy' because it has been transformed into a panoptic canvas, a viewing platform, showing us our own religious and personal history of covenant. Standing in the middle of the aisle and rotating oneself in a clockwise fashion one is visually told of the evolving general and particular relationship of God with his people, with us.

Having been feed spiritually with the Celebration of Mass and art, the parish ladies served us lunch in Meg's town gallery. And yet there was more to come with the Way of the Cross in the Biblical Garden. Bits and pieces were creatively juxtaposed in flowerbeds that used the elemental forms of earth, colour, air and water with materials of rural living, corrugated iron and barbed wire. These latter materials were abstracted into a figurative representation of the crucifixion and sheep flanking the Good Shepherd besides other images.

Our small pilgrimage covered more than the 203 kilometres to Bell it was a journey through memories, besides an engagement with Christian Art with its intrinsic spirituality. Rural materials were incorporated as symbols pointing to a way through the numinous world of Christian belief that clearly witnessed to one's personal and community faith. The Year of Grace was just that. We were graced by Fr Terry Hickling a semi retired 'Shepherd' who led us to a rich and fruitful pasture constructed by an artist who painted what she/we believe, and to a glorious garden that tempted us to appropriate illegal cutting - which we didn't. That is what a life of grace can do for one, it saves us from ourselves.



**Top:
The
Pilgrims.**



**Above:
Praying
the Way of
the Cross.**



**Above:
The
Crucifixion.**



**Left: The
Good
Shepherd.**



**Above,
left and
below:
Enjoying
lunch in
Meg's
Gallery.**



**Left:
Artist,
Meg Cullen,
explaining
the
paintings.**

SCHOOL BASED APPRENTICES CELEBRATE

Another successful year for the Catholic Education School Based Apprenticeship program was celebrated across the Diocese with special events at Toowoomba, Dalby, Warwick and Stanthorpe.

"The Catholic Education 'School Based Apprenticeship Program' is a central program that works collaboratively with the Catholic Secondary Schools and Colleges in Toowoomba, Dalby, Warwick and Stanthorpe. Although called "SBA" this term stands for ALL school-based traineeships and apprenticeships," said Mrs Karen Coulston, Senior Project Officer for SBA.

"School based apprenticeships and traineeships provide students with the opportunity to start their career whilst completing their senior Queensland Certificate of Education. Students undertaking an SBA have a big task with balancing school, work and training commitments and it is quite evident that they are succeeding."

"Since the SBA program started in 1999 the number of students participating has continually increased and we now have more than 330 students enrolled in the program. This is a strong reflection of the collaborative efforts of the SBA program and Catholic Secondary Schools and Colleges and most importantly our local employers," said Mr Gerard Hore, Assistant Director: Faith Education, Teaching and Learning.

Nearly 90 Year 12 students completed a Certificate II or III School based traineeship this year through the program. With traineeships providing students with the opportunity to move into a full time apprenticeship or full time employment with their current employer and to build on their portfolios to present to other potential employers, it is an opportunity too good to miss.

"Approximately 50 Year 12 SBA students converted to full time apprenticeships. These students are our future tradespeople and all of these students are entering into a skills shortage area," said Mr Hore.

"Our senior students would not have the opportunity to participate in a SBA if it was not for the dedication and commitment of our employers. Our employers provide opportunities for our students and we are extremely grateful. They have opened their doors to our students, and have taken the time to train them. This year we hosted a number of Year 12 'Employer Thank You' Events. This was an opportunity for the SBA program, School Principals and Vocational Education Coordinators to thank our employers and congratulate our Year 12 students," said Ms Coulston.

Business owners wishing to provide SBA opportunities can contact Karen Coulston, Senior Project Officer, 4687 4350 or karen.Coulston@twb.catholic.edu.au.

For more information please contact: Karen Coulston, Senior Project Officer, Catholic Education Office on 4687 4350.



Above: Our Lady of the Southern Cross College, Dalby -
Seated front row: Greta Vanderham, Chelsea Nooteboom, Aimee Gilbert, Kimberley Clark
Backrow standing: Anthony Haywood, Ms Karen Coulston, Jessica McKenzie, Mrs Libby Baxter, Jade Hirning, Charles Nolan, Sean Barry, Mr John Hegarty.



Above: Assumption College, Warwick -
Jay Roberts; Ebony Hilton; Kobi Tate; Claudia Eather; Brodie Ellery.



Right: St Mary's College, Toowoomba -
Back row, from left: Gary Hill, Jason Ebnetter, Michael Beard
Front row, from left: Mrs Mandy Goodman, Tom Weir, Dylan Ryan, Daniel Stockwell, Jesse Atfield, Mr Michael Newman.

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Christmas Hamper

As in previous years, the families at St Francis de Sales School Clifton have donated one or two items of food or gifts for our Christmas Hamper. These donations are then donated to the local Conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society for distribution to families in the district who are "doing it tough" at this time of the year.

A big thank you goes to our year 2/3 teacher, Miss McHugh and her fiancé, Alastair, for the construction of our fantastic new hamper display Christmas tree. It has taken pride of place in the office foyer.

St Vincent de Paul Student Fund Raiser.

St Francis de Sales Mini Vinnies Group have been active at St Francis de Sales school in 2012. Recently they requested prizes from a number of local and Toowoomba business and ran a multi-draw raffle to raise funds for the St Vincent De Paul Society. Bridie Joppich, Alyssa Free, Makenzi Burton, Kate Dowdle are pictured presenting a cheque for \$731.20 to Mr Reg Gillam, a member of the local St Vincent de Paul Conference.



GOONDIWINDI PHOTOS:

Below: The children confirmed by Bishop Robert McGuckin at St Mary's, Goondiwindi on the 21st October. It was a lovely day with a great sense of the Spirit amongst all. Bishop Robert took some time remembering his own Confirmation and First Eucharist, saying what a wonderful step toward Christ it was in his young life.



Below: Bishop Robert meets the Premier. The photo was taken at the Community Cabinet Meeting in Goondiwindi - from left: Fr Michael O'Brien, Premier Campbell Newman, Paul Ryan (St Mary's Principal), Bishop Robert McGuckin.



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from Horizon to Horizon

KIDS BOOKS FOR KIDS TO FEATURE ON JETSTAR

Talking apples, wild horses and the Pie-tanic were on show when the young authors at Sacred Heart Primary School launched their self written and illustrated picture books.

Emma Mactaggart, supporting Author said, "I have a passion for getting others to put their authoring skills to the test. This is my third year of working with students from Sacred Heart Primary School. The highlight for me this year has been the confidence of the students and their willingness to get in and do the hard work that it takes to get a book to publishing."

Emma has been working with students from Yr 4 to 7 for the last three terms using her self-developed Child Writes program. Each of the students have written, illustrated and published their very own picture book that will be catalogued and included on the library shelves of the National and State libraries along with their own school library. Most excitingly their stories will also be available to download and read on iPads.

"When you travel on Jetstar you can borrow an iPad and our children's books are available for the travelling children to read, amazing," said Jan Watkins, the school's Librarian and strong advocate for the Child Writes program.

"For four of the children this is their second published book and for six others their brothers or sisters have written and published before them. We have a wealth of talent in the school and with Emma to support them through the Child Writes program we hope to continue to nurture this talent."

Special guests at the book launch in November, were Mayor Paul Antonio and Anna Sauverain from the Toowoomba Hospital Foundation. "What a fantastic achievement for the 21 young authors. This year is the National Year of Reading and so it seems fit that these students are publishing their own books that will be read by other kids and I am sure they will be enjoyed by them," said Mayor Antonio to the over 200 assembled parents, grandparents and students.

Anna Sauverin, representing the Toowoomba Hospital Foundation was presented with a copy of each student's book to include in the children's ward library. "The Nurse Unit Manager of the children's ward said to me last week that these books for children written by children are so popular and used so often by staff and parents as they seem to genuinely help settle and comfort the sick children that visit the ward," said Anna in her acceptance speech.

"Our teacher-librarian Jan Watkins has pioneered this program in our school and of course Emma inspires the students. Without them the children wouldn't have such a wonderful opportunity," said Mr Chris Rosentreter, Principal of Sacred Heart Primary School.

"These children have participated in over 24 hours of workshops, given up whole school holidays to work on illustrations, have turned over their text more than ten times and today sees their hard work come to fruition. Book launch days are guaranteed to make everyone involved incredibly proud, and no one is prouder of what they have achieved than me" said Mrs Mactaggart.

Mrs Mactaggart said that by the end of 2012 over 900 printed books with over 36,000 words and 1,200 illustrations will have hit the library shelves as a result of children in Toowoomba putting pen to paper.

"I myself spent last year writing. This led to me publishing the book Child Writes so that more people can work with children to inspire them to write their story. I was pleased to receive a gold medal in the International Independent Publishers Awards for Best Adult Non-Fiction eBook in New York recently for this book," said Mrs Mactaggart.

More details about the Child Writes program can be found on Emma's website www.childwrites.com.au.

Right Anna Sauverain (Toowoomba Hospital Foundation) and Natalie Sleba.



Right: Harrison Hughes and Mayor, Paul Antonio.



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TOOWOOMBA: ST ANTHONY'S SCHOOL

Mini-Vinnies: "Learning and Sharing with Hearts and Hands".

Gita Sharma

September 17th: 70 Mini-Vinnies from seven Catholic Primary Schools within the Toowoomba region gathered excitedly at the Holy Name Primary School Hall in Toowoomba. The day began with a prayer and an appreciation of the Indigenous Communities' on whose land we were meeting. In the Vincentian Spirit of 'Giving a Hand Up not a Hand Out' the young, eager members were taken through various activities that not only nurtured the goodwill that Mini-Vinnies members have but also activities that gave them an eye-opening experience of what it means to be 'poor' in the current and in historical times.

It was a day that celebrated and supported all the work our Mini-Vinnies do in their schools already. The Mini-Vinnies were from Holy Name, Mary McKillop, Mater Dei, St Josephs, St Monica's, St Marys and St Anthony's.

The fun filled hands on activities and real life stories provided the young eager Mini-Vinnies with inspiration and motivation. The activities both reinforced and celebrated the notion that their little hearts and hands can make a difference in their lives, their schools and in the wider world.

The day was also a great example of what partnerships can achieve. A Vincentian Social Justice Day organised and run in partnership with Caritas Australia, Catholic Mission and Project Hatch.

The students learnt about the Vinnie' shops through crazy fashion parades and fun dress up activities. They learnt about homelessness across the world with Catholic Missions experiential activity. The Mini-Vinnies delved into the world of wealth distribution through lolly sharing and questions and answers facilitated by Caritas Australia, whilst the Project Hatch team taught the kids about team work and common good through spaghetti tower building activities.

These activities and the enriching responses from the Mini-Vinnies helped awaken the voice of social justice. These seeds of faith and justice will most certainly grow into an annual event, where the Vincentian spirit continues to thrive and blossom.

Finally, to the Holy Name Conference our thanks for the organisation of the venue and to the St Anthony's St Vincent de Paul Conference a big thank you for providing the delicious morning tea and lunch to keep these energetic and eager Mini-Vinnies fuelled up.

For those who missed out, it will happen again, so be sure to keep an eye out and mark it into your calendars. The last Monday in Term 3 is for Mini-Vinnies!

Thank you to those 70 eager Mini-Vinnies for using their hearts and hands and for making a difference!

Children Helping with Hearts and Hands:

St Anthony's Mini Vinnies – A Day to Remember!

By students Emily-Rose and Emily S.

On Monday the Year 6 Mini Vinnies went to Holy Name Primary School for our Mini Vinnies' Social Justice Day. When we arrived, we were given name tags and then painted our hands and placed them on a cloth banner. We played games to help us get to know the students from other schools. We were put into four colour groups to do the activities.



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We had fun doing the four different activities with Caritas Australia, Catholic Mission, Hatch and Mini Vinnies.

One of the activities was to build a structure out of straws and tape. The aim was to show that each person's help and support was important. It was both a fun and a great learning experience,

To wrap up this great day we had a sausage sizzle. We also received a bag of goodies and our banner with the hand prints on it. We had lots of fun!

Thank you to the St Anthony's St Vincent de Paul Conference for covering our transport costs to and from Holy Name School. We appreciate it very much.



From Holy Name Mini Vinnies Group...

Holy Name School hosted a Mini Vinnies Social Justice Day at the end of the third term of 2012. Students from a number of Catholic primary schools participated in fun and creative activities to draw attention to justice issues in our world and how we can make a difference. We learned a lot about what Vinnies aims to do in terms of helping people in need in the community and ways we can help. We learned about the importance of trusting each other and how we can support one another. We all enjoyed the learning experiences and would like to express our thanks to the event organisers and to the Holy Name chapter of the St Vincent de Paul Society for treating us to morning tea and a sausage sizzle lunch.



MERCY FAMILY SERVICES AWARD

Toowoomba's multicultural sector was recognised for its contribution to regional growth and prosperity when Mercy Family Service's 'Community Action for a Multicultural Society' (CAMS) won the Community Business Award at this year's Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce and Industry Business Excellence Awards. CAMS provides programs for new refugee and migrant communities that increase participation in society and connect communities with local services.

The Chamber was delighted by this year's record 410 nominations for its Business Excellence Awards. A panel of 12 independent experts judged the applications, which asked nominees to show how they ran successful and innovative business operations with a strong customer focus.



David Barton (Mercy Family Services CAMS Program) and Frances Klaassen (Manager Mercy Family Services) with this year's award.

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SCHOOLS' WELCOME MASS FOR NEW BISHOP

Over 800 school students from Catholic schools across the Diocese of Toowoomba travelled to St Patrick's Cathedral on Friday, 19 October to celebrate Mass with Bishop Robert McGuckin. This was the first official occasion at which Catholic schools had the opportunity to collectively welcome the Bishop to the Diocese since his ordination in July. Other priests joined in with this welcome to Bishop McGuckin.

Students travelled from as far away as St George to attend. More distant schools, that were unable to be represented, were acknowledged during the ceremony.

"It was an historic event. Students were very engaged in the Mass with representatives from primary and secondary schools contributing to the celebration. The Mass is the central action of Catholic life, so this was a very fitting way to welcome Bishop Robert and to demonstrate the oneness of the Catholic Education community under his leadership" said Margaret Hendriks, Acting Director, Catholic Education Office.



Above right: Bishop Robert McGuckin with students at the Welcome Mass.

Right: Students from St Joseph's College painted a portrait of Jesus as a gift for Bishop Robert.

ST PATRICK'S SCHOOL ALLORA GOES CRAZY FOR MELBOURNE CUP DAY

St Patrick's School, Allora had a crazy socks and crazy hair day on Melbourne Cup Day to raise funds for the Allora St Vincent de Paul Christmas appeal and the Missions.

Fundraising on Melbourne Cup Day has become a tradition for St Patrick's. Throughout the years the children have come in free dress with colours associated with horses running in the Melbourne Cup; they have made hats out of recycled material; they



have made an article of clothing from recycled material. This year it was crazy socks and hair! The children bring a gold coin donation for being out of uniform and the funds go to a charity.

This year the students decided that the recipients of the funds would be St Vincent de Paul and the Missions. The Year Seven students worked in their Be Active (Peer Support) Groups and decorated their own Melbourne Cup. Winners of the crazy socks and crazy hair and Melbourne Cup design were announced as part of the school's own Melbourne Cup presentations after the running of the "real" Melbourne Cup.

Above: School Leaders: Jane Morris, Hayden Otten, Lachlan Henry, Clancy Strong and Jacob Thorne.

Right: Georgia Garnsey and Sophie Ryan

Far right: Xanthe Esson, Bridie Shooter, Charlotte Nott.



AN APOLOGY TO MRS MARY-ANNE CULLEN.

An article and caption from St Mary's College in the last edition incorrectly identified her as Mrs Mary-Anne McKenzie.

SORRY MARY-ANNE.



Year 12 students with Mr Michael Newman, Mrs Samantha Parle, Bishop Robert McGuckin and Mrs Mary-Anne Cullen.



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THREE WEEKS IN THE LIFE OF MILLMERRAN.

At the Saturday evening Mass, October 20th, seven children received the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Communion. This was Bishop Robert McGuckin's first visit to Millmerran and he was very welcome. The children had been prepared by Mary Grebenshikov and Pat Taylor, and a retreat was conducted the week before by Sr Di Phillips RSJ. whose assistance with the programme is always invaluable.

Bishop Robert was accompanied by Monsignor Brian Rayner who was visiting from Sydney. Some of the older parishioners were thrilled to have the Bishop here for these ceremonies as it has been many years since this was possible...and to have a Monsignor as well, particularly one who is such an advocate of home-cooking!!

Right: Mons Brian, Bishop Robert, and Father Thomas, with the Millmerran First Communicants; and Bishop Robert lighting his sparkler, along with the First Communicants - Mathew, Lewis, Tom, Bishop Robert, Sophie, Madison, Tricia Anne.

After the 6.00pm Saturday Mass on October 27th, the Millmerran Parish Dinner took place: a happy night with some 75 folk present at the Millmerran Bowls Club. Our annual Silver Circle was drawn too: a little cash is always handy in the Parish coffers!

Guest speaker for the evening was Mrs Ann Mills with her husband Rob. Ann detailed their travelling to East Timor, and the horror they experienced at the conditions under which so many, particularly the children, lived. They had gone for a two week holiday, but then returned for 12 months to Tibar, west of Dili, to the medical centre there. With Australian Volunteers International they returned for a further 2 years, to a mountain village, Baguia.

This was a most enlightening evening for young and old.

Right: Robert Mills, Pat Taylor, Ann Mills, Lyn Bennie from the Cecil Plains Community, and Father Thomas, after the Millmerran Parish Dinner.

After an 8.30 Sunday Mass, November 4th, John Meneely facilitated the Millmerran Parish Gathering, attended by some 40 parishioners. A questionnaire had been circulated and then sent to John to collate before the day. He then coordinated group discussions on Predictions, Observations, WOWs and Woes of the Parish.

The results? Our Parish community is strong; the Sacramental and music programmes are going well; the Cattle Account and General Finances are good and healthy; the property improvements over the past five years have been significant; the transition from Resident Priest to Priest Director has been relatively smooth and the direction of the Parish Council has been strong.

Our ideal? To have more folk celebrating our weekend Masses and Liturgies of the Word.

Right: John Meneely, Father Thomas and one of the Discussion Groups, during the Millmerran Parish Gathering held in St Joseph's School Hall.



FR JAMIE COLLINS CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS WITH MITCHELL, INJUNE AND ROMA COMMUNITIES

Left: Fr Jamie with children setting the Nativity Scene at St Columba's Church Mitchell.

Right: Fr Jamie with St Peter's Congregation at Injune.

At All Saints Church, Roma, Fr Jamie and Santa Claus explained 'Presence' and 'presents' at Christmas.

Unfortunately this photo was too low a resolution to use - we hope for a larger one this Christmas!



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HIGHFIELDS HAPPENINGS

Patti McNaught, Media Liaison, Mary of the Southern Cross Catholic Parish, Highfields

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO THE NEEDY

On Friday 7th December, Saint Vincent de Paul Members of Mary of the Southern Cross Highfields Conference enjoyed a rewarding experience. They were invited to Mary MacKillop School to accept the many, many toys and groceries collected in the School's Mini-Vinnies "Summer Appeal". They enjoyed being at the School's Break-up day Mass where School Awards were presented for Excellence, and the year Sevens were beautifully farewelled in song and dance.

After Mass the collection of goods was taken to the Parish Centre where a dozen or more Christmas hampers were made up and delivered to needy recipients in the Highfields-Meringandan-Cabarlah area.

The recipients were very grateful and the eight Vincentians in our Conference (which was only formed this year) express their appreciation to the community for the wonderful generosity.

ALTAR SERVERS PICNIC

Altar Server picnics have not changed in 50 or 60 years. They go out for a fun day at a dam, they eat lots of yummy food, including a BBQ sausage, nibbles, brownies and watermelon, they burn up lots of energy and go home and suffer the sunburn that they inflicted on themselves because their mothers couldn't get to them with the sunburn cream - but boy did they have a good time!!

Such was the day for the altar servers from Mary of the Southern Cross at Highfields, when Mark Rowland, altar servers coordinator, organized an end of year picnic. It was a day to thank the servers for their contribution to ministry in our Highfields Parish. Fr Brian Noonan together with our 15 Altar servers, siblings and parents enjoyed a wonderful, if not very warm first Sunday in December at Cooby Creek Dam. In all, there were about 35 there to have a great day, with parents also enjoying the opportunity to have a crack at this sailing thing. John Ryan is not sure if we have any budding olympians, but he did a wonderful job in navigating a course around the dam with all his sailing recruits, showing them how to find a breeze and lose it as well. Mark would like to thank everyone for a great day.

Above: Even some of the parents had a go - and also fell in to the water!

Right: They had a big day thanks everyone!



PARISH TRIVIA NIGHT

What happens when you fill a hall with Highfields Parishioners ready for a good night? They have a ball!

A large crowd gathered at the MacKillop Centre on 15th September for our yearly Parish Trivia Night. Once again it was conducted by the Members of our Parish Council. From the moment the people entered the hall, you could see that everyone was ready to have a good time.

After the fabulous night last year, it was decided to make it a yearly occurrence. Last year's function had proven to be very popular and this year was no exception. Tables filled up quickly and the numbers in the crowd were above those of last year, making the hall alive with fun and laughter as the night progressed. The Parish Council Members who organized and conducted the proceedings, need to be commended for their hard work prior to and on the night itself.

One of the funniest things of the night was the placing of the Countries of South America on a Map given to us. How quickly do we forget our geography. Naming them was one thing, but placing them was quite hilarious in some cases, with Countries a long way from where they were on the Map in the Atlas.

It was no surprise that Mel Porter was his usual brilliant self as Master of Ceremonies, keeping the crowd in stitches with his quick witted comments and extroverted personality. What a wonderful way to catch up with old friends and have a fun night together.



Master of Ceremonies on the night Mel Porter with son Jack.

WHO CELEBRATED A SIGNIFICANT BIRTHDAY RECENTLY?

They say you should never go on Holidays, you never know what might happen. Last year when Fr Brian set off on his yearly break a story was flying around the Parish that he was having a birthday just about the time he was to return from his Holiday. It was rumoured that he was celebrating a significant milestone. Parish Council and Members of the Parish acted quickly and organized a speedy whip around for him. What a surprise it was for him, after he had finished his first Mass back from Holidays, when he was presented with his gift from Parish Pastoral Council Member, Paul Canavan. Also, another gift, a Seniors Magazine was given to him in jest, which he took on board very well. He told the Congregation that he had seen something that he might like to purchase.

RECONCILIATION

On 8th November, Parents, Grandparents and Family Members gathered at the MacKillop Centre to watch with pride 34 children receive First Reconciliation. This year children came from Geham, Meringandan and Highfields State Schools as well as Mary MacKillop Catholic School. The lovely ceremony was conducted by Fr. Brian Noonan. The children were called one

by one to receive the Sacrament. One of the Highlights of the evening was the music from the Teachers of Mary MacKillop School and the singing from members of the School Choir. A lot of preparation goes into a Ceremony such as this and many thanks to all who may have played a role in making this night such a success. Special thanks must go to Beth McCormick and Steve Moyle who guided the children in their journey towards this special night. The night could not be complete without some sort of celebration and this was no exception. The children were treated to patty cakes afterwards and it just so happened to be a significant birthday celebration for Fr Brian as well. The children enjoyed their special night immensely.

SAD FAREWELL TO DONYA AND TONY

On Sunday 9th December, Fr Brian and the Congregation of Mary of the Southern Cross Catholic Parish, Highfields bid a sad farewell to Donya Pike, an active member of the Parish who will be



sorely missed by all. Donya arrived with her husband Tony in the Toowoomba District in 2003, from Penrith to support her family while her son was serving in Iraq. He was transferred from Brisbane to the Borneo Barracks in Cabarlah while he was overseas, and Donya and Tony decided to accompany his wife and small family to settle them into their new environment. Donya and Tony fell in love with and purchased a home for themselves in Kennedy Street, Cabarlah and, even though their son and his family had moved on, they remained until December 2012, when they returned to their beloved Penrith.

Donya involved herself in the local community, particularly the RSL and to our delight, she also involved herself in our Catholic Parish in Highfields. She was on the Committee to establish the first Parish Pastoral Council which was formed in late 2007. Donya became Parish Pastoral Council Chairperson and also played a major role in our Parish by involving herself in several Parish Ministries, including promoting Ecumenism. Donya was a much valued support for Fr Hickling, Fr Peard and our present Parish Priest Fr Brian Noonan. Donya was always seen doing something for the Parish Community. Her smiling face was often seen serving morning tea after Mass with her friend Mary Sullivan who will miss her greatly.

We will miss seeing Donya at Mass on Sunday, and most of all in the football season when she would be wearing her Panthers Tracksuit Top emblazoned with the name of her beloved team, especially when they had a win. Have a great life in Penrith Donya and Tony.



Antonia Canto, Tony Pike, Colleen Weber, Donya Pike, Tricia Hundt, Mary Sullivan and Joe Canto enjoy morning tea after Mass on 9th December to say farewell to Donya and Tony Pike.

ANOTHER SAD FAREWELL - TO THE CLEARY FAMILY

On Sunday 16th December, Mary of the Southern Cross Catholic Parish, Highfields bid a sad farewell to Andrew and Lisa Cleary and their three sons. Andrew and Lisa have decided to move on and have taken up residence in Mungindi on 'Minoo' a property which they purchased recently. Andrew has always wanted to return to country life, and whilst it is sad for our Parish, we wish them well.

A very popular family in Highfields, Andrew, Lisa and the boys were involved in various Parish Ministries in our Church. Andrew was the current Parish Pastoral Council Chairperson. Lisa, who went through the RCIA Programme and became a Catholic in 2009, was part of the Baptism Team and the boys were Altar Servers. The Cleary Family are known for their closeness and were always surrounded by others. Both Andrew and Lisa had a smile and time for a chat to everyone, either at the church or somewhere in Highfields where the boys were involved also in various sporting activities. Farewell Andrew, Lisa and Family. We will see them all when they come to visit Andrew's Parents, Eddie and Ellen who are still in Highfields and part of our Parish.



Andrew, Lisa and two of their three sons (Jack and Eddie) with nephews Drew and Bill English and Fr Brian Noonan.

HUNDREDS FLOCK TO CHRISTMAS MASSES

Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day at Mary of the Southern Cross Catholic Parish, held at the MacKillop Centre, Highfields, attracted hundreds of worshippers. There was standing room only with a huge congregation of worshippers flocking to the Christmas Vigil Family Mass to celebrate the birth of Christ. Before Mass, carols were sung by the congregation. Two overhead projections with words to the carols were available for all to sing. The sound of families singing together was truly beautiful and everyone was keen to sing along to create a joyous sound. People who were arriving for the Mass could hear the welcoming voices from inside.

The family Christmas Mass was celebrated by Parish Priest Fr Brian Noonan. The Altar, which looked fantastic decorated with the bread and the wine, was in the centre with the seats facing from both sides so that everyone was able to have a clear view of the whole Mass. Overheads with pictures depicting the different stages of the Mass such as the consecration of the Eucharist etc. as the Mass progressed, were available for all to see. The offertory was taken up by younger members of the Parish which added a special something to the family worship. The highlights of the evening were the lovely Nativity Scene created by members of the Parish and the singing of "Star Child" a fitting hymn for this occasion.

After Mass, members of the congregation were seen catching up and renewing old friendships. What a great time to have the opportunity to do this. Thank you Fr Brian and all his helpers for this beautiful and memorable Christmas experience.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN CHARLEVILLE?

Sr Elizabeth O'Keeffe rsm

In August we had our first visit by Bishop Robert McGuckin for the blessing and opening of our new Cobb & Co sports building, a new classroom and the refurbishment of our Performing Arts Hall. Joining him were Senator Mark Furno and John Boserio, the Director of Catholic Education for the Diocese. The morning began with a musical interlude by the St Mary's Strings Orchestra followed by a very fitting liturgy led by the Yr3/4 class and their teacher, Mrs Annette Russell.



Bishop Robert McGuckin, Senator Mark Furno with St Mary's school captains, Emily Radnidge and Lachlan Irvine.

The next big event on our calendar was St Mary's Art Show in September. This was held to raise some much needed funds for our Centenary celebrations next year and was such a success that there are plans to make this an annual event. The highlight of the evening was the auctioning of a painting done by one of our Year 2 students who was in hospital receiving treatment for leukaemia. A syndicate of parents got together and paid a four figure sum for the painting in order to assist her family.



We congratulate St Mary's School on receiving the Spirit of Mercy Award from the Sisters of Mercy for the care and support they have given to the Boot family whose daughter, Sophie, has been diagnosed with leukaemia and been receiving chemotherapy in Brisbane. The school has been tireless in raising money for the family, and the teachers and her class have gone out of their way to keep her included in their classroom by means of the internet and visiting her in hospital whenever they had reason to go to Brisbane.

Mrs Louise Pfingst (Acting Principal) and Sr Elizabeth O'Keeffe rsm.



In October we welcomed Fr Terry Loth from Rockhampton for a couple of weeks so that Fr Peter could have a well earned break. We also welcomed back Bishop Bill Morris who joined us on behalf of Bishop Robert to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation and First Communion to our children. While he was with us he took the opportunity to visit the community in Augathella and then he and Fr Peter and Fr Terry journeyed on to Quilpie where he again administered the sacraments. The parishioners in all three places were thrilled that he could be with them.



As the end of the year fast approached we welcomed our new teachers for next year when they visited for a couple of days of orientation. Sadly, we also farewelled Annette Russell, Wendy Choice Brooks, Rebecca Nystrom, Christine Bethel, and Genene Dranesfield from the staff of the school. Annette is retiring after teaching for over forty years in the diocese. During that time she taught at St Mary's for two periods, the first in the Secondary School and in more recent times in the primary school. More than half the children currently in the school have been taught by Annette at some stage. It was only fitting, therefore, that we celebrated her retirement. The whole school participated in a special liturgy for her.



Annette Russell with her husband and daughter surrounded by her class as the whole school, led by Fr Peter, bestowed a special blessing on her.



Our Year 7 class during their Graduation Liturgy.



Left: The story of Christmas by the Preps at the end of year school Mass.

Right: The Liturgy for Catholic Education Week was led by the First Communion/Confirmation candidates in the absence of Fr Peter.



MITCHELL'S ST PATRICK'S CONVENT SCHOOL REUNION – PAST AND FUTURE

A small but happy group of people gathered in Toowoomba at Platform 9 on Saturday 27th October 2012, to catch up with each other.

This group was part of grade 5 and 6 from St Patrick's Convent school in Mitchell. We were hoping a few more would have been able to attend, but a few had made other arrangements, so we hope to meet again the first weekend of next October as it will be a long week-end in 2013. We know everyone in the photo will not be with us, but they will be in our thoughts and prayers.

We would also like to get as many as possible from grade 7 and 8, so if anyone knows where any of these people are, please contact Ruby Waldron (07) 4623 1282.



Denis Moran, Janice Upton, Kay Herschell, Bruce Cavanough, Alice Godson, Joan Bodkin, Rosalie Sharpe, Ruby Morrison, Anycie Coorey.

Left: Original School photo -

P. Watson, J. Halpin, G. Blair, S. Rush, M. Searl, M. Weatherall, P. Callow, D. Moran.

L. Taylor, B. Megan, P. Whitehouse, C Thrupp, W. Beattie, D. Searle, P. Dobbin, J. Bodkin, Z. Thrupp.

R. Simpson, A Godson, M. Whitehouse, P. Cox, M. Symes, V. Dixon, R. Wockner, K. Brodie, J. Upton.

P. Boswell, N. McDonald, R. McDonald, A. Coorey, P. McCarry, P. Bishop, R. Morrison, K. Symes.



Outreach to the Future

A Bequest to the Diocese of Toowoomba, its ministries and parishes, ensures that the wider family of Church is provided for. It is a gift that reaches into the future to continue the work of the Church in the local community.

A gift, no matter how big or small in value is always received with appreciation. The Diocese, its Ministries and Parishes are grateful to be remembered in your will.

To know more about how you can make a difference, please phone 07 46327589 or visit www.twb.catholic.org.au.

The gift that we are to others enriches our lives, but the legacy we leave them keeps on giving forever . . .

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Paul and Fiona Webb, Sacred Heart Parish, Toowoomba

CATHOLIC YOUTH ACTIVE IN THE COMMUNITY

Young Sacred Heart Parish organist and cantor, Liam Webb is the Groom Electorate Youth Volunteer Award winner for 2012. Liam is the second eldest of 12 children and is currently completing Grade 12 High School studies. He supports many people in his local community including family members. For many years he has supported church activities by playing the role of organist or cantor at weekly Masses and at funerals. He has also contributed to charity concerts, nursing home concerts and junior choral society performances. Other activities where he contributes to community benefit include: weekly volunteer work at a local nursing home; labour to organise and pack material for the East Timor "Seed for Food" program; and training of younger children, including siblings, in piano and voice.



Above: from left - Honourable Ian McFarlane MP, Liam Webb and Fr James Byrne, Sacred Heart Parish Priest.

SR MYRNA VISITS

In October Schoenstatt Sister Myrna Weisgerber visited Queensland to meet with Schoenstatt Movement Members and to share the outcomes of the National Conference at the Shrine in Mulgoa, Parramatta. Sr Myrna visited Brisbane, Ipswich and Helidon before coming to the Toowoomba Diocese. In Toowoomba Sr Myrna met with Bishop Robert McGuckin and with families, mother's groups and Pilgrim Mother Shrine Groups. She also visited groups in Killarney, Warwick and Yarraman.

The visit culminated at the James Byrne Centre where Movement members visited the Wayside Shrine to renew their Covenant of Love with the Blessed Mother. Anchored in this

Covenant and inspired by Sr Myrna's visit, Schoenstatt Movement members hope to enhance efforts to work in and through the Church to share the Gospel in our community.



Above left: Behind - Des Bernier.

Front, from left: Marion Bernier, Bishop Robert McGuckin, Fiona Webb, Joan Bingham, Cath Goodwin, Brigid Webb being held by Sr Myrna. Fiona is holding the Schoenstatt Pilgrim Mother Shrine that has been in the Toowoomba Bishop's chapel for many years.

Left: Members of the Schoenstatt Movement gathered round the Wayside Shrine at the James Byrne Centre.

DAVID WEBB ATTENDS NATIONAL CATHOLIC YOUTH LEADERS FORMATION COURSE



During December 2012, David Webb took part in the 7th annual Catholic Youth Leaders Formation Course (YLFC) in Sydney. This 4-week course is a unique opportunity for a small group of young people to live in community and engage in spiritual, pastoral, intellectual and human formation.

The course was hosted by Campion College in Sydney, where 19 young people took up residence for the duration of the course – and told to leave their mobile phones, tablets and laptops at the door!

"Each day we began with morning prayer and Mass, before the regular daily program of lectures and spiritual formation" David said. Speakers covered a wide range of topics, from music in the liturgy, to emotional intelligence and Christianity in the workplace.

"Throughout the course we also had the opportunity for social outreach and mission work. We visited a local parish to help with a 3-day mission. This included teaching religion to primary school classes, door-knocking in the surrounding neighbourhood and street evangelisation."

Key themes in the formation during the course were based on four pillars of spiritual, pastoral, intellectual and human growth. The maintaining and living a life of faith was fostered through: living in a faith community, faith formation, evangelisation (concepts and practical application) and growing in self-knowledge.

"A major benefit of the course was that it strengthened and made real the faith which was already instilled in me from my upbringing in a Catholic family."

When asked how the course will change his life and faith, David indicated that, "after doing YLFC, I am:

- more confident in evangelising, especially strangers,
- keen to network with other young Catholics to help each other grow in the faith and social outreach,
- strengthened in my own faith - especially personal relationship with Jesus,
- committed to participating more in the prayer life of the Church (Holy Mass, Morning and Evening prayer, rosary, adoration),
- able to appreciate and value silence, and,
- can relate and interact better with other people from diverse backgrounds.

"At first it seemed daunting to give up a month of holidays for this course, but it has definitely been worth the effort. I would highly recommend YLFC to any young person who wants to grow in Christian leadership. It is a time of great growth and renewal, both personally and as a member of a faith community."

"For me YLFC has been an experience unlike any other formation course or retreat I've done. I can honestly say it was the 'experience of a life time'."

David is grateful for the support and sponsorship of members of the Schoenstatt Movement, Father Byrne and the Sacred Heart Parish.



Left: David joins others to form a musical trio on "Talent Night".

Right: David receives his course completion certificate from Cardinal Pell after the graduation Mass at the Campion College chapel. Cardinal Pell indicated during the Mass that graduates were in effect now commissioned as "Agents of Evangelisation".



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

- THE WORK OF THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY IN THE DIOCESE OF TOOWOOMBA

TRANSPORT AND SHOPPING SERVICE

This is a Home and Community Care (HACC) funded service. Outputs based on an average year are: 863 Clients and 3704 Trips (1 way).

We provide this service to consumers who have limited or no access to transport including the frail aged, younger disabled, people with dementia or intellectual disabilities, people living in rural or remote communities, people who are financially disadvantaged and Carers.

Current services are provided to 130 people, enabling them to access Day Care, Respite Services, shopping, medical and specialists appointments and banking.

Services are provided to Home and Community Care eligible residents of Warwick, Allora, Nobby, Clifton, Killarney, Karara, Leyburn and Pratten. The bus also provides a Mass run each Sunday and once a month, also on a Sunday, does a Mystery trip for shut-ins.

Community Transport Partnership (CTP) provides us with the administration base to run the service i.e. Bookings, Assessments, Data Reporting etc. This was introduced in 2005 and includes Qld Ambulance Service, St Vincent de Paul Society, Southern Downs Health Service and Blue Care (Warwick, Allora, Clifton and Stanthorpe) as well as some contracted Taxi Services. CTP is operated from Warwick Hospital by Community Options. The idea is to share resources with the other services to avoid duplication e.g. instances of travelling the same route on the same day with different

clients, such as dialysis patients going in the Vinnies bus with a Blue Care Carer to Toowoomba for treatment. CTP enables the Vinnies bus to provide a professional efficient service to a wider range of clients over a wider area. We pay a fee for this service but the Society has absolute control over the bus operations.

Presently we are looking at: changes to bus routes where applicable; timetable changes for the Toowoomba Run and providing routine services to Dalveen and Maryvale.

Our policy and clientele is such that we are vigilant not to encroach on the clientele of privately run transport services.

DISABILITY SERVICE

This service was commenced in 1986 as a special work of Our Lady of Mercy Conference Toowoomba. The service was established because of the anxiety of ageing parents who wondered what would happen to their family member once they were unable to care for them any longer. This concern is still relevant today. Ensuring the life-time provision of services and safe-guarding of the rights of our residents will secure peace of mind for their ageing parents.

Changing Government regulation and a different funding arrangement made it necessary to form a Management Committee to run the service. This committee consisted of Parent representation, Vincentians and Administration staff.

To achieve accreditation for the St Vincent de Paul Society Disability Service, it was necessary to implement a Quality Management System ensuring requirements of the Queensland Disability Service Standards were met.

The implementation of the Quality Management System has provided the Society with the opportunity to self evaluate the current practices and continuously improve the service delivery.

The clients of our service suffer mainly from Intellectual Disability, Downs syndrome, Autism or Aspergers and their behaviour ranges from mild to challenging. We currently have 21 clients residing in 8 houses and 32 staff members.

GOALS

1. Focus on providing opportunities for people with a disability to reach goals and enjoy lifestyles that are valued by themselves and the community at large. This includes active participation in decision making to stimulate self-determining thought processes, reducing dependency and enabling increased engagement and participation in community activities.

2. Being the best service we can be. Through our honesty, professionalism and quality of service we can encourage a genuine desire from people with an intellectual disability to access our service.



Kev Byrne, President, Toowoomba Diocesan Central Council

FR PETER JAMES MURPHY



Above: Fr Peter Murphy at his Golden Jubilee celebration in June 2005 at St Patrick's Cathedral, Toowoomba.

Fr Peter James Murphy died peacefully in St Vincent's Hospital, Toowoomba at 6.30pm on Sunday, November 18, aged 81. He had served as the diocese's first Director of Religious Education, as Director of Catholic Education and as Parish Priest of towns including Dalby, Clifton and Quilpie.

At a Vigil, held at Lourdes Home on the evening of November 21, his sister, Sr Christa (Marie) recalled:

"We know he loved being a priest and we know that God blessed and used him in many ways...and we know that his faith and commitment deepened through the years as much through the struggles as through the joys and successes..."

"We will remember Pete as a serious young boy and man who also had a good sense of humour; who loved God, loved Our Lady and loved being a priestly servant and pastor to God's people wherever he was sent.

"He loved his family and their families and our lively gatherings.

"He loved sport and learning and anything Irish – and loved Irish jokes.

"He loved the outback and bushwalking and all the birds.

"Pete was a man who never big-timed himself so I think the Beatitudes were a beautiful Gospel for him: Blessed are the poor in spirit; Blessed are the gentle.

"Pete was loyal and faithful and loving, even when it cost.

"Pete was someone who, in the last years of his life had to become like a little child as gradually he surrendered control of his physical abilities to his carers; but he gradually came to a peaceful surrender and he was certainly ready when the God of his life called him home."

Peter James Murphy was born on May 26, 1931 in Maryborough, Queensland, one of five children, to parents Peter

Murphy and Josephine O'Brien. His siblings are Marie (Sr Christa), Thomas, Gerald and Veronica.

He studied for the priesthood at Pius XII Seminary, Brisbane and was ordained on June 29, 1955 in St Stephen's Cathedral by Coadjutor Archbishop O'Donnell.

Fr Murphy's first appointment as curate was at Holy Name then to Warwick between 1956 and 1962.

He was on loan to Melbourne working with YCW in 1962 and also as curate at Clifton Hill parish.

Between January 1963 and January 1971, Fr Murphy worked full-time with youth, vocations, and Propagation of the Faith. He made life-long friends through this work which involved much travelling around the diocese and elsewhere.

He was appointed the diocese's first Director of Religious Education in July 1977. This role came at a time when Catholic Education offices everywhere were undergoing major changes with fewer religious teaching in schools.

Fr Murphy became Director of Catholic Education in 1981 when Fr Bill Behm retired.

At the end of 1984 Fr Peter decided to return to Parish duties and was appointed Parish Priest of Dalby in January 1985.

In January 1986 he was appointed Director of the Ministry to Priests Programme in the Diocese. For a number of reasons, this Ministry ceased to function about 1992.

While on sabbatical leave in Ireland in 1995, Fr Peter became seriously ill, but returned to work in Dalby parish before eventually retiring in June 1997.

He continued to live at Dalby for some time then moved to St Thomas More's Presbytery, Toowoomba.

In this phase of his retirement Fr Peter was more than happy to relieve in parishes around the Diocese when Priests were on holidays. He continued to do this until 2004 and was a welcome priest visitor in parishes whenever he did supply, always telling a joke at the end of Mass.

In 2002, Fr Peter was part of the organizing committee for a Y.C.W. reunion which brought to Toowoomba members of the NCGM and YCW from its earliest beginnings in the Diocese.

In his retirement, Fr Murphy recognised his gift for writing and started researching information on priests who had served in the diocese from 1929;

especially those who had served in the Outback under trying conditions. Fr Peter not only knew most of these priests well, but was good friends with many of them.

When he finished the profiles of 25 priests, many of whom he knew personally, friends encouraged him to publish them in book form. This book *Outback Priests* was launched at the diocesan assembly in June 2004 and within two weeks, 1000 copies were sold. At the launch, Fr Michael McClure described it as "...not only a book to relish, but one that records our personal story as a diocese."

After Fr Peter completed *Outback Priests*, he commenced researching for another book, a tribute to some of the early Irish Priests and families. Fr Peter engaged the help of some of the families of the early Irish settlers in the Warwick district to write their stories and the end result was the book *Warwick and the Irish*. Sadly Fr Peter's health prevented him from carrying this through to the publishing stage but he was assisted by the Diocesan Archivist and a member of one of the families he was researching and was able to attend the launch in Warwick in March 2005 at a celebration to mark several parish milestones.

Fr Murphy moved to Lourdes Home soon after this and was well looked after by the staff and enjoyed visits from family and friends.

Bishop Robert McGuckin, Archbishop John Bathersby and Bishop William Morris and priests from Toowoomba diocese concelebrated Fr Murphy's Funeral Mass in St Patrick's Cathedral, Toowoomba on November 22.

Below: Sr Christa, remembering Fr Peter during his Requiem Mass.





Bishop Robert McGuckin (centre), Archbishop John Bathersby (left) and Bishop William Morris (right) and priests from Toowoomba diocese concelebrating Fr Murphy's Mass of Christian Burial.

Sr Christa Murphy and members of Fr Peter's family, wish to thank the people of Toowoomba Diocese for their prayers and support of Fr Peter over the years, especially during his retirement.

They extend their heartfelt appreciation and thanks to Bishop Robert McGuckin, Archbishop John Bathersby, Bishop William Morris and his brother priests as well as to all who attended the Vigil and his Requiem Mass.

To everyone, a warm and sincere "Thank-you".

“ Ultimately truth is a person: Jesus Christ. That is why authentic freedom is not an opting out. It is an opting in; nothing less than letting go of self and allowing oneself to be drawn into Christ's very being, for others... Friends, again I ask you, what about today? What are you seeking? What is God whispering to you? The hope which never disappoints is Jesus Christ. ...Discover the particular vocation God has for you. Embrace it with joy. You are Christ's disciples today. Shine his light upon this great city and beyond. Show the world the reason for the hope that resonates within you. Tell others about the truth that sets you free. ”

cf. Pope Benedict XVI to young people and seminarians, New York, April 2008.

Thinking Priesthood?

Contact Fr Michael Cooney:

Phone 07 4662 4011

St Joseph's Parish

PO Box 32, Dalby Q 4405.





WE ARE CHURCH

Over these next few years we will celebrate many milestones that have come to characterize the meaning and spirit of the Second Vatican Council. A number of key figures rose to prominence during the four years that the Council was convened. Names such as Rahner, Congar and our present pope (then simply Joseph Ratzinger) gave theological impetus to the discussions on the Council floor from such luminaries as König, Alfrink and Bea; all under the watchful leadership of Popes John XXIII and Paul VI.

A noted leader in the proceedings who significantly shaped the direction of the Council was the Belgium Cardinal Leo Joseph Suenens. A particular anecdote highlights the wisdom of this figure and the unassuming influence he was to play in how we see ourselves as Church today.

Before a topic was to be discussed on the floor of the Council, a preparatory committee (primarily consisting of the Vatican administration or curia) would draw up a draft paper which they hoped would be simply 'rubber stamped' by the Council fathers. One such paper which formed the basis of what would become the constitution on the Church was structured in such a way that after an introduction, the first chapter was to be on the hierarchy and structures of the Church followed by a chapter on the people of

God. Suenens was behind the push to reverse the order of these chapters. At the heart of Cardinal Suenens' intervention was that we need to remind people that we are first baptized Christians before we are anything else. What at first sight seemed to be a simple procedural decision would have landmark implications on how we view ourselves as Church.

To be Church means we gather as the people of God as is our right and duty accorded to us by our baptism. It is this very baptism that gives us a share in the one priesthood of Christ and titles us, in the words of the constitution on the Church, as the "priesthood of the faithful or baptised" from which all of our ministries including ministerial priesthood are borne.

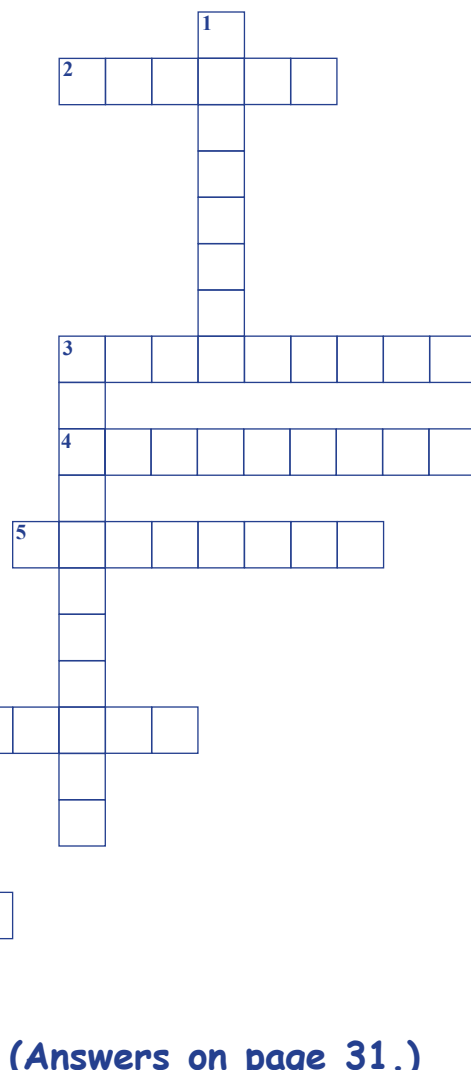
We no longer belong to what is perceived as 'Father's' church but we are each called to ministry by right of our baptism whether that be our involvement as teachers, members of the parish council, altar servers, sacramental team, liturgy of the word with children, musicians, consolation team, grounds-keeping, or the plethora of other roles that constitute what it means to be Church.

The concept of 'full, conscious and active participation' that underpinned the Council's work on the liturgy was to have further reaching implications on

how we see ourselves as Church. We are not simply passive receptors of some delusional concept of faith or grace which simply gets 'filled up' each week by turning up to the eight o'clock Mass. Rather we are called to respond to our identity as a new creation working hand in hand as co-creators with God in realising the reign of God in our world which was at the heart of Jesus ministry and his call to discipleship.

In the face of serious crises facing the Church today, one can be disheartened to say the least if we ponder the direction the Church is heading. However, we need to remind ourselves that we are the Church, and it is the gifts that we bring and the openness to the work of the Holy Spirit that will enable the seed planted by the Council fathers to fully flourish.

Crossword



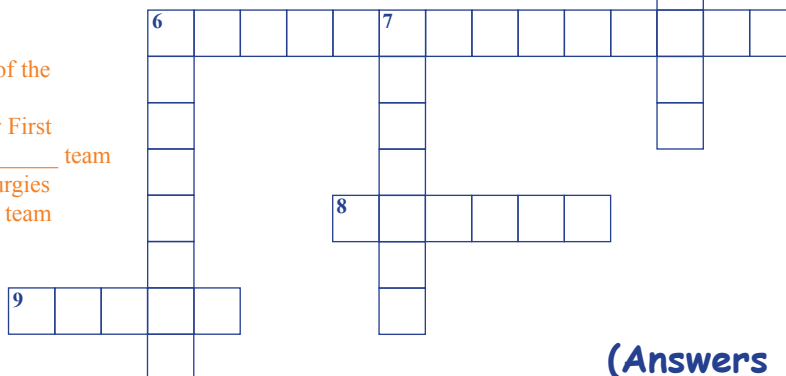
Clues:

ACROSS:

2. One who proclaims the Gospel
3. One who prepares the altar for Mass
4. People who distribute the Body and Blood of Christ at Mass are called _____ ministers
5. One who supports the priest in giving leadership is a member of the parish _____ council
6. One who takes up the collection during Mass (two words)
8. One who proclaims the Word of God
9. Boys and girls can be _____ servers

DOWN:

1. One who greets people at the door of the Church
3. One who prepares children for their First Eucharist is a member of the _____ team
6. One who provides music during liturgies
7. Members of the care and _____ team look after people in need



(Answers on page 31.)

Diary Markers

FEBRUARY

World Day of Prayer for the Sick
Monday 11th.

Ash Wednesday
Wednesday 13.

Reflection Day at Goondiwindi Parish
Tuesday 19 at Goondiwindi Parish, 9.30am to 3pm
'Discovering God in Everyday Life' with Sister Monica Cavanagh, sponsored by the John Wallis Foundation and the Missionary Sisters of Service. For further information contact Goondiwindi Parish 4671 1091.

Dedication of St Joseph's Church, Stanthorpe - 90th anniversary of the original blessing and opening of the Church

Sunday 24th during 8.30am Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Robert McGuckin. (See article on page 8.)

NB Ordination to the Priesthood - Darrell Irvine
Monday 25th in St Patrick's Cathedral at 7.00pm.

MARCH

Cent Sale for the Missions
Wednesday 6th, 9.30am - Sacred Heart Function Centre, Cnr Tor and North Streets. For information, contact: Sisters of St Peter Claver on 4632 1818.

Centenary of St Mary's School, Charleville and the arrival of the Sisters of Mercy in Charleville
Friday 8th-Sunday 10th.

Chrism Mass
Tuesday 27th at 5.00pm in St Patrick's Cathedral.

Good Friday
Friday 29th.

Easter Sunday
Sunday 31st.

*Any dates to claim?
Please let us know!*



CENTENARY OF ST MARY'S SCHOOL, CHARLEVILLE

AND THE ARRIVAL OF THE SISTERS OF MERCY IN CHARLEVILLE

WE ARE THRILLED TO BE CELEBRATING OUR CENTENARY ON 8TH, 9TH AND 10TH MARCH 2013.

Since a lot of the records were destroyed in the 1990 flood we would be grateful for any help in gathering a history of the school and the convent. If you have any photos, memorabilia, or memories of your time in Charleville, we would love to hear from you.

The proposed program for the weekend is:

Friday evening, 8th March: Dinner and get together

Saturday, 9th March St Mary's Race Day

Sunday, 10th March, Centenary Mass, Morning Tea, Tour of School.

It will be a great weekend to catch up with past students and friends, a great weekend to have a class reunion. Currently the Centenary Committee is busy organizing invitations and gathering sponsorship for the weekend.

If you can help in any way we would really appreciate it.

Inquiries to: St Mary's Centenary Committee, P O Box 323, Charleville, Qld 4470.
Phone: (07) 4654 1638
Email: charleville@twb.catholic.edu.au.



THE SCHOOL AND CONVENT WERE BLESSED AND OPENED ON 26 JANUARY, 1913 BY ARCHBISHOP DUHIG.



ST MARY'S SCHOOL TODAY.



Diocesan Liturgical Commission



"...They called the church together and reported what God had done with them and how he had opened the door of faith..."

Acts 14:27

In the Acts of the Apostles, we learn that God has opened the door of faith for the early Church. But did you know that God has opened the door of faith for each one of us and he invites us to step through the threshold into a deeper relationship with him? The Year of Faith is an opportunity for every Catholic to turn toward Jesus Christ, encounter him in the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist and rediscover the Faith and Church.

While planned independently of each other (the Year of Grace is an initiative of the Australian Catholic Bishops in response to local issues, while the Year of Faith announced by Pope Benedict is a call to the universal Church) both have as their goal a renewal of faith in Jesus Christ.

For more on the Year of Grace and Year of Faith:
www.yearofgrace.catholic.org.au
www.annusfidei.va

Answers to Crossword:

DOWN:
1. Welcomer
2. Priest
3. Sacramental
4. Communion
5. Pastoral
6. Money Collector
7. Concern
8. Lector
9. Altar



WARWICK SESQUICENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

Article and photographs by Gerard Walsh, Warwick Daily News

4TH NOVEMBER 2012

Bishop Robert McGuckin spoke of the co-operation of the people as he reflected on the 150th celebrations of the arrival in Warwick of St Mary's first resident priest, Dr Giovanni Cani.

"It is extraordinary the way the faith has been handed down from parents to children," Bishop McGuckin said. "Warwick is a faith community working together."

He brought with him the best wishes of retired Bishop William Morris who was unable to attend. "Bishop Morris is with us in prayer," Bishop McGuckin said.

It was Bishop McGuckin's third visit to Warwick but his first for Mass. He has two more planned in the next month, including one to Killarney for confirmation.

Parish administrator Fr Franco Filipetto said the original resident priest Dr Cani valued education, was very interested in providing homes for early settlers and built churches.

"He built the first church at St Mary's (now the Fr Joe McKey Museum and Archives), the first section of St Stephen's Cathedral in Brisbane and then had a lot to do with the construction of St Joseph's Cathedral in Rockhampton where he was bishop," Fr Filipetto said.

"Dr Cani was a benevolent man who gave away a lot of things. He lived on his own and did his own shopping."

The Mass was con-celebrated by Bishop McGuckin and Fr Filipetto along with Fr Brian Connolly, Fr Mick Carroll and Fr Don Murray who all served in the area.

The Sisters of Mercy were at the celebration – a group of women involved in education in the parish for many years and still with a presence in the community.

Vince Mullins, who lives at McKinlay in the north-west, was at the Mass more than 80 years after his baptism in the church.



Bishop Robert McGuckin (right) with Fr Franco Filipetto at the blessing of the sesquicentenary plaque.



(Front, from left) Altar servers Joseph and Jacob Willett, Bishop Robert McGuckin, altar servers Camille and Chris Diaz, (back) Fathers Mick Carroll, Don Murray, Brian Connolly and Franco Filipetto after the Mass for sesquicentenary celebrations on Sunday.

Dear Reader,

For seven years we have provided *Horizons* free of charge to all parishes and schools in our diocese. We have endeavoured to cover production and distribution costs through advertising, but so far have failed to do so, even with the help of Diocesan Agencies. If you wish to offer a donation, please send your contribution, payable to "Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba", to: PO Box 1262, Toowoomba, Qld 4350.

I would like to make a contribution towards the production costs of *Horizons*

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Thank You