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Front Cover: 'Goondiwindi Sunset'. Taken, possibly in 2008, by Fr Michael O'Brien, Parish Priest.

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A note from the editor:

Dear Reader,

So much has happened since the last edition: resignation of Pope Benedict and election of Pope Francis, ordination of Darrell Irvine, Chrism Mass and all the beautiful Easter ceremonies... that it was impossible to fit everything in, so a few articles have been 'held over' until next time. I do apologise for this, but thank you for your contributions which are greatly appreciated.

Once again I offer grateful thanks to the Catholic Education Office for their contribution towards the costs of producing *Horizons* and to our advertisers who so faithfully support us. Please remember to support them whenever possible.

Sincerely,

Sr Eileen.

DEADLINE

FOR JULY-SEPTEMBER 2013 EDITION

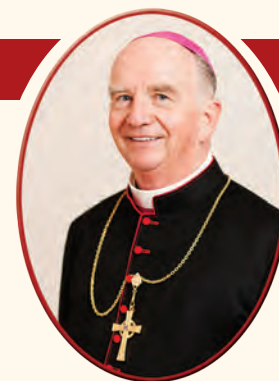
-Monday 24th June 2013-

but please send as soon as possible.

NB: MUST BE STRICTLY OBSERVED

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Easter Message 2013

Easter is a wonderful time to celebrate, school holidays and chocolates everywhere. Amid such celebrations I hope we *rejoice and are glad because this is the day that the Lord has made*. We have journeyed from Lent through Holy Week to the wonderful celebration of the Easter Vigil. These ceremonies were so rich in symbol and meaning. We have moved from darkness to the Light of Christ, graciously given to us.

I suppose on Easter Sunday and in the Easter Season we will greet one another with the salutation *Happy Easter!* As a child I was fortunate in having Greek next door neighbours and how fully they celebrated Easter. I have photos of myself turning a whole lamb over on a charcoal spit. Perhaps if I showed you this photo you might recognise the kid with the mop of curly hair. For over fifty years now along with my family, where possible I have been fortunate to have continued to join with our old Greek neighbours in their Easter celebrations.

The Greek Easter salutation is not *Happy Easter* but you are greeted with an enthusiastic *Christ is Risen* and you respond *Christ is truly Risen*. What a wonderful way to sum up what Easter is all about.

As we celebrate this Easter we give thanks for the wonderful gifts the Lord has so graciously and freely given us. The message of the Good News is therefore not something that we should lock away but rather something to be shared.

Each of us is called to evangelise. As the women at the tomb were sent as messengers of the Resurrection to the Disciples, today we are called to continue sharing that message. When at times we might only see difficulties, we are now called to be messengers of hope and reconciliation in our world.

Each of us has unique opportunities to give witness to the Risen Lord. In the course of a day, or a week, we find ourselves in different places and engage with different people and groups. With the Grace of God there will be many opportunities to share the joyous message of Jesus' Resurrection. May we respond generously to the call to share the love that has been shown to us, without asking the cost or without asking what we ourselves might receive in return.

Pope Francis is setting a wonderful example for us in thinking firstly of the poor. Our contribution to Project Compassion will also show that our concern is not directed towards ourselves but gives prior consideration to the other.

May light of the risen Christ shine brightly in each of us that others may see that Christ is truly Risen.

Rejoice and be glad for Christ is Risen, He is indeed Risen. May we remain in His love.

Bishop Robert McGuckin
Bishop of Toowoomba
Easter 2013



HABEMUS PAPAM



Since the moment he stepped onto the balcony overlooking St Peter's Square after his election on 13 March, Pope Francis has captured the attention of the world and touched many hearts.

CNA, an online Catholic News Agency in America - www.catholicnewsagency.com - recently reported that:

The Vatican-sponsored news application for smart phones known as 'The Pope App' has risen to the top of the charts in the iTunes store, reflecting a spike in interest in the papacy and newly-elected Pope Francis.

In the last week [of March], The Pope App is the most-downloaded news app for iPhone in the U.S., Canada, Spain, Venezuela, Peru, Poland, Chile, Mexico, Portugal, and Pope Francis' home country of Argentina.

It is the second most downloaded news app in France and the third most downloaded in Germany. The app also ranks in the top ten in eight other countries, the Pontifical Council for Social Communications said on March 23rd.

The Pope App is managed by the Pontifical Council and uses content from www.news.va, the Vatican's multimedia, multilingual news portal. It provides news and official speeches from Pope Francis as well as images and videos of his appearances. Users can access live coverage of papal events and receive alerts about them.

In addition, it gives users access to live webcams of the Vatican, including a view overlooking St Peter's Square, a view of the dome of St Peter's Basilica, Bl. John Paul II's tomb, and the papal retreat at Castel Gandolfo.

The app is available for the iPhone, the iPad and Android devices. The high-definition iPad version was recently released, offering higher resolution versions of the same content.

Pope Benedict XVI launched The Pope App on January 23rd. Since then, it has been downloaded more than 155,000 times across all mobile devices.

The application is part of a push in the Vatican to reach out using new media. Pope Benedict also launched a Twitter account, using the handle "Pontifex," in December 2012. Pope Francis now uses the account to reach millions of followers in numerous languages.

Brandon Vogt, a Catholic blogger who has authored a book on the Catholic Church and the new media, said there has been a "flurry of digital activity" on the part of the Vatican that has been "very surprising and encouraging."

Vogt told CNA that the new technology and media can be "the most powerful means that we've ever had" to reach out to both Catholics and non Catholics."

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

In our last edition, Mrs Ruby Waldron wrote about a reunion of Grades 5 and 6 from St Patrick's Convent school in Mitchell. It was held at Platform 9 on Saturday 27th October 2012.

Ruby has written again to thank for the article and ask: "Could you please put these two photographs in the next edition? The first photo is the one I sent last time, but we are having another afternoon tea in Toowoomba on Saturday 5th October, 2013.

"We will send invitations to anyone we know, but **we hope others will see these photographs and catch up with Rosalie Sharpe: 2/69 Stenner Street, Toowoomba; telephone (07) 4635 7933; or myself: Ruby Waldron, 4 Mary Street Mitchell (07) 4623 1282.**"



Friends at the Reunion in 2012:
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. Beatie, 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.



Left: Second School photo - St Patrick's Years 7 and 8.

Back row: Stevie O'Sullivan, David Eames, Peter Donnelly, Unknown, Terry Eames, Phillip Halpin, George Watson, Michael O'Sullivan.

Third row: Paul Callow, Errol Dixon, Trevor Richards, John Hudson, Colin Hewitt, Rodney Teevan, Michael Evans, Sister Mary De Pazzi.

Second row: Leslie Crotty, Fay Godfrey, Val Godfrey, Monica O'Sullivan, Karen Fletcher, Joanne Garde, Janette McDonald, Leonie Jukes, Helen Mackay.

First row: Kathy Boyan, Theresa Filewood, Thelma Rush, Roslyn McCarry, Marie-Therese Stein, Sheila Rush.

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Two Weeks IN EAST TIMOR

Dr Dan Manahan, Stanthorpe.

When one becomes enthused by the energy of students, it is important to remember the energy is random and can be redirected.

I have such an event to thank for a recent visit to Bairo Pite Clinic in East Timor. A medical student on 12 month rotation and I discussed the possibility of international aid rotations pairing experienced clinicians with students, be they medical students or other. This discussion excited me into considering such a joint trip to an area of need in East Timor and the student had come up with the Bairo Pite Clinic (BPC). We intended to go together. As things turned out, the student's energy was redirected, possibly to PNG, and I decided to go along on my own anyway.

The Bairo Pite Clinic or Hospital as it should be named is a 50 bed facility with an outpatients department, an emergency room, and a variety of general, maternity, paediatric, and isolation wards. It is a NGO staffed by East Timorese clinicians and volunteers and a mixed bunch of international doctors, nurses, and students from many disciplines. Whilst serving here, the clinic boasted an array of volunteer clinicians from Australia, USA, Japan, Canada, and Korea. The range gets broader I am told. Medical students have an important service role at the Bairo Pite Clinic.

The anchor for the clinic is Dr Dan Murphy, a doctor from California, with experience of civil conflict in Mozambique and work in East Timor since 1998. Dr Dan, as he is known, is a fountain of clinical acumen, managing tropical disease and maternity care with little resources, minimal pathology or radiology options, and begging, borrowing, or stealing outcomes for patients at every opportunity. I quickly learned he was an optimist with a thick veneer and a work ethic I have not seen before. I am sure Spielberg could make a major blockbuster from his life.

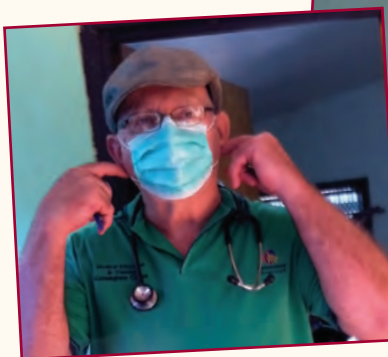
While the clinic provides free service to anyone, the majority of patients attending are East Timorese. Patients however, come from all over East Timor for care, whether outpatient, inpatient, or maternity. While the bulk of work is on site with Dr Dan consulting and rounding, with work done in Tetun, the East Timorese main language, the BPC also coordinates outreach clinics to 12 locations around East Timor.

The other interesting logistical finding for me, a victim of state v federal health play offs in Australia, was that at the BPC three different jurisdictional services were co-located. These were the Bairo Pite Clinic, an independent NGO with intrapartum and postnatal care and in and outpatient care; the National Government Health Department antenatal care services run by government midwives; and Frontline, a Japanese sponsored NGO assisting with clinics in outlying areas and health promotion and health worker education. And the three areas managed to work together harmoniously, in fact augmenting each others services and often value adding along the way.

Whilst at the Bairo Pite Clinic, I focussed on maternity and women's health having been ushered to Labor Ward



Below: Dr Dan Murphy.



during my orientation to assist with a complicated birth within 45minutes of my arrival. I attended antenatal clinics (ANC) on site and undertook several ultrasound scanning sessions for complex antenates and some women with gynaecological issues. Antenatal care in the regions was also interesting with arduous travel on poor roads with wet conditions to locations several hours away. On day 2, I travelled to attend a feverish one week old newborn with poor feeding and dehydration. Here, not breast feeding is a death sentence for newborns. I went to Hera and did ANC and met many interesting staff and patients. I also enjoyed sharing some of my ultrasound skills with the local midwives at BPC, one of whom later diagnosed a woman with twins.

The BPC works towards the eight Millennium Health Goals for developing countries. A focus here is the dreadful maternal mortality rate, once third highest in the region at over 600 per 100,000. By working to providing antenatal care and access to trained health workers in birthing it is hoped to improve this figure, which is now below 300. I studied the birthing stats and AN care routines. Women use a patient held record in East Timor.

The effect of tropical diseases on maternity care and the general community was most challenging. I was able to assist in caring for patients with leprosy, HIV, malaria, and other parasitic diseases. However, the greatest villain in East Timor was undoubtedly Tuberculosis. Each day, 2-3 new cases were seen and started on a multi-drug treatment of 8 months

duration. For resistant TB, the treatment was much longer. Thankfully, multi resistant TB is not highly prevalent in East Timor at this time.

Apart from the beautiful spirit of the people of East Timor, highlights of this visit for me were the clinical and public health skills of Dr Dan and the team. TB was everywhere and the limited Chest Xray access showed dramatic amounts of severe lung TB. Meeting the local staff was wonderful - they were very appreciative of the help provided. And finally, the students at this clinic were from mixed origins and they were an inspiration as our future clinicians, demonstrating a social justice conscience and passion for fair access to healthcare world wide.

East Timor is a beautiful country and I hope to return soon. It has a strong Catholic presence as the major religion here. The people are a spiritual gregarious group, newly liberated through a harsh independence struggle.

The Bairo Pite Clinic is in Dili, less than one and a half hours from Darwin. This developing country is a very close near neighbour. For those with an interest in tropical medicine and a disposition capable of working with few resources and relying on clinical judgement, contacting the clinic and helping out as a volunteer is a very rewarding option. Beware, this is not for the faint hearted, and it is not for the tourist with an inkling to see developing health. You will need to come prepared, you will need patience to overcome language barriers, you will do well to learn some Tetun, and you may fall in love with the place. I am sure Dr Dan Murphy will impress you.

I am happy to talk about Bairo Pite Clinic with anyone interested or you can visit the website at www.bairopiteclinic.org.

Dr Dan Manahan,
Stanthorpe, Qld, Australia.
Contact: dmanahan@halenet.com.au



Above:
Dr Dan Manahan
(far right) with
the group of
volunteer local
and overseas
clinicians.



DEDICATION OF ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH, STANTHORPE

SUNDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2013

It was a significant day for the parishioners of Stanthorpe on Sunday February 24th, when Bishop Robert McGuckin visited the Parish to Dedicate St Joseph's Church on the 90th Anniversary of its opening on February 25th, 1923. The Dedication followed a lengthy and extensive program of renovations and restoration of the Church.

Concelebrating with Bishop Robert were Archbishop Emeritus John Bathersby for whom this Parish Church has played such a significant role in his life; Bishop Emeritus William Morris who had suggested the parish consider dedicating the Church; Fr Lino Valente retired Parish Priest of Stanthorpe and who has spent most of his Priestly Ministry here on the Granite Belt; Fr Don Murray a former Assistant Priest for many years, and Fr Brian Connolly the current Parish Priest. Even more significant was the presence of parishioners whose family members had been among the many "living stones" of the Parish whose faith and generosity had first built and paid for the Church and maintained it over many years.

In his homily Bishop McGuckin recalled Archbishop James Duhig's words on the day of the Church's opening and referred to the current celebrations as 'mountaintop' experiences.

"It is a wonderful experience going to the top of a mountain", Bishop McGuckin said. "It is as if we are in heaven looking down upon the world below...(and) is a great place to stop, to meditate and put oneself in the presence of God."

"St Joseph's Church, Stanthorpe, has been for so many people for ninety years that place on the mountain where they had met the Lord. As Archbishop Duhig said at the opening of your Church, echoing the words of St Peter, 'Lord it is good for us to be here'. Similarly, those words are as true today as they were ninety years ago."

Bishop McGuckin also congratulated current Stanthorpe Parish Priest Fr Brian Connolly, Priest Emeritus and the parishioners on their care for the Church and preparations for the 90th anniversary. But, he said, "We cannot be complacent relying simply on past achievements. The challenge from God should ring in our ears today (to) 'Listen to him'", Bishop McGuckin said.

"Like St Peter we can say, 'It is wonderful for us to be here' but our journey hasn't ended. Certainly let us be enlivened by the presence of the Lord in the Word and Sacrament we celebrate today."

Bishop McGuckin said we "need to come down from the mountain... exercise the mission entrusted to each of us".

"May we do that by showing the love of the Lord to those we meet – in our homes, our schools, our place of work, in our community and in our world. May we support each other and remember that we don't journey alone and may we allow the Lord to be our light and our salvation."

While Bishop McGuckin had visited Stanthorpe for St Joseph's School Awards Night, since his installation the February 24 Mass was his first official visit to the Parish.

The impressive Dedication ceremony began with the anointing of the Altar with Sacred Chrism by Bishop Robert and the twelve crosses on the Church walls by Bishop Emeritus William Morris and Fr Brian Connolly. After the incensing of the



Above: Bishop Robert McGuckin during his homily. Left: Bishop Robert pouring Chrism on the altar, after which he rubbed it all over the top, then cleaned the altar (below).



Above: Bishop Emeritus William Morris and, left, Fr Brian Connolly, Parish Priest of Stanthorpe, anointing the crosses.

Altar, the people and the Church, which filled the large Church with incense, twelve youth of the Parish placed on the altar, colourful candles which had been lit by the Bishop. Twelve parishioners then placed twelve candles in front of the crosses on the Church walls.

A highlight of the Liturgy was the involvement of so many of “the living stones” of the Parish and the Parish Church.

At the conclusion of Mass, Fr Brian Connolly thanked the many people who had contributed to the day’s celebrations – in particular St Joseph’s Choir and the Granite Belt Choir who led the worship with voice and with various instruments.

After the Mass many remained for the morning tea in the newly named “Bathersby Centre” which is the St Joseph’s School gymnasium. Bishop Robert enjoyed the locally grown grapes at the morning tea and commented on the “striking” floral displays in the Church.



Above: Bishop Robert McGuckin incensing the altar.



Right and below right: Bishop Robert lighting candles brought by youth of the parish who then placed them on the altar.

Right: Parishioners placing candles under the crosses which had been anointed.



Above: Peter Gasparin, Cantor and organ player on the day.



Right: Jeanene Chapman, Conductor of the Granite Belt Choir, conducting the combined St Joseph's Parish Choir and Granite Belt Choir during the Mass.



Far Right: Musicians and choir during the Mass.



Left: Fr Brian Connolly thanking the people after the Mass.

Right: Outside the Church after the Mass, from left: Eve Perrett, BJ Perrett, Fr Don Murray, Archbishop Emeritus John Bathersby, Megan Kay, Bishop Robert McGuckin, Bishop Emeritus William Morris, Fr Brian Connolly, Ben Manahan, Grace Manahan, Fr Lino Valente.



MORE STANTHORPE NEWS - FROM ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL:

Angelina Sims

NEW STAFF AND STUDENTS WELCOMED TO ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL

St Joseph's School welcomed students and staff for another busy, productive and enjoyable year. A special welcome was extended to the thirty-six prep students and twenty-two new students enrolled from Year 1 to Year 12 as well as the five new staff members.

On the Secondary campus Miss Katherine Henney teaches Junior Science, Mrs Anita Campbell teaches Junior Maths and Science and Senior Biology, Mr James Way teaches ITAD, Graphics and ITS and Tech Studies and Miss Amelia Thomas teaches English, Drama and Media Studies. On the Primary campus, Mrs Bernadette Brunckhorst is the Year 2 teacher. Mrs Tanya Ford was also welcomed as the School Counsellor. Tanya travels from Toowoomba and visits the school three times a week.

It didn't take long for the routine to return to St Joseph's School. On Tuesday 29th January, the Year 12 students returned for their last "first day ever" and helped settle in the thirty-seven Year 8 students. Primary students also returned after their relaxing break. The next day saw the return of all students to begin the eventful year ahead.

At the first official assembly the senior students for 2013 were presented with their senior jerseys by PC teacher Mrs Chelsea Parakas, PC Coordinator Matthew Brown and Principal Mr Michael McCarthy. "These jerseys are much more than a colourful jumper that identifies the Year 12s from the rest of the student cohort-they are also a representation of the privileges and the expectations that come with being a leader of the school," PC teacher Mrs Parakas said. "These jerseys also display the Mercy colours with pride and serve to remind students and staff, all of the values that are core to this school." The whole school then assembled for the Welcome Mass on Thursday 31st January. After Mass the School Captains, Prefects and Sports Captains were presented with their official leadership badges.

THE SEASON OF LENT

Students, staff and parishioners gathered on Wednesday 13th February to celebrate the Season of Lent, for Mass and the traditional imposition of ashes on foreheads at St Joseph's Church. Preps - Year 3 students took part in a Liturgy of the Word and distribution of ashes later in the day.

PERSONAL AND SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT FOR STUDENTS

As part of their Personal and Spiritual Development, students from Years 6-11 attended retreats during the second last week of February at Storm King Dam. This retreat experience was



facilitated by members of the Project Hatch Retreat Team. The retreats are an important part of the life of a Catholic School and offer students some "retreat" or time away from their everyday life. The focus on this year's retreat was Mercy values and how we can contribute to being a community of "living mercy." The students all enjoyed the challenge and fun that the retreat had to offer. The Year 12 students will have a three day retreat in their final week of schooling in mid-November before they graduate.

STUDENTS ENJOY MEALS ON WHEELS PROGRAM

St Joseph's School has always endeavoured to support members of the Stanthorpe community. One ongoing commitment to the community involves students who volunteer to assist with the Meals on Wheels program.

Students had the opportunity to meet and serve meals to the older members of our community earlier in the year. The positive response to students partaking in this wonderful community service is always well received especially by the elderly who enjoy chatting and meeting the students. The rewarding experience for these students is always a vital part in their growth as young adults and confirms our commitment to St Joseph's Mercy values.

NAMING CEREMONY FOR ST JOSEPH'S BUILDINGS

On Friday 22nd February a Naming of Building Presentation was held at St Joseph's School. Mr Greg Yap and his daughter Ann, Archbishop John Bathersby, Mr and Mrs Mike Bathersby, Mr and Mrs Carmel Mahoney and other members of the Bathersby family, Mr and Mrs Brian Shannon, family and friends were invited to acknowledge the dedication and work of Mrs Betty Yap, Mrs Donna Shannon and the Bathersby family. Eleven buildings have been aptly named to commemorate these special people who have given many years of service and dedication to

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the school. Special places and names associated with the Mercy tradition were also used. Guests walked around the school to observe the signage before enjoying refreshments at Valentines.



STUDENTS COMPETE IN LIONS YOUTH OF THE YEAR AND LEO STATE FINALS

In early February eight students from St Joseph's School and Stanthorpe State High School competed in the National Australia Bank Stanthorpe Lions Youth of the Year Quest. St Joseph's Year 12 students Matthew Manahan, Sophie Sims, Holly Hitchener and Bridget Campbell were exceptional. "These young contestants are an investment in our future. It is fantastic to see so many young people of such high quality in our region," Stanthorpe Lions Club Youth of the Year Chairman Doug Rigden said. By night's end

Matthew Manahan was declared overall winner with Bridget Campbell awarded Best Speech.

Matthew went on to Goondiwindi on Saturday 9th March to then compete in Regional finals. Matthew was successful at this level and went on to compete at District finals which was held in Warwick on 23rd March. Although Matthew didn't win, he was very pleased with his progress to that level.

Sophie Sims was kept busy as later in the month of February, Sophie and her family attended the annual Lions State Leo Conference which was held in Proserpine. Sophie was representing the Stanthorpe Lions and the Lions District of 201Q1 in the State Leo of the Year finals.

Sophie was interviewed by three judges made up of two Lions members and a local community member. Sophie said she was satisfied she had done the best she could. "I was also very happy with my prepared speech which was of course about singing."

Although unsuccessful as the Lions State Leo of the Year, Sophie was thrilled when she was declared the State Public Speaking winner and credits this experience as one of the proudest moments of her life. It's the end of Sophie's Leo of the Year journey; however she is proud to have reached state level. A perpetual trophy was sent to the Stanthorpe Lions Club who will officially present it to Sophie at their meeting held on 8th April.



Above: Matthew Manahan, Holly Hitchener, Bridget Campbell and Sophie Sims competing in Lions Youth of the Year

Right: Sophie Sims with her certificates.



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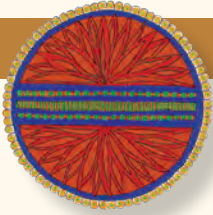
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SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMISSION HAPPENINGS

Dear Friends,

It's been a while between updates – but that doesn't reflect the lack of action in our Social Justice Office! Like a duck on a pond looking stable and serene (well almost) we have been keeping our head above water whilst furiously paddling below. We held a very successful discernment day in early February with Bishop McGuckin and hope to be announcing the new Commission members very soon.

In the meantime you will find lots to inspire and challenge you at www.tsjc.org. The following are examples:

It's been a busy start to the year. The First and Last event on the 26th January was washed out and so a small but active group walked and ran from the Social Justice Office to Multuggerah lookout on the 13th February. From the edge of the Range local artist Donna Moodie spoke of our shared history. Uncle Darby began the morning remembering the Apology to the Stolen Generations. We were even joined by some hardy folk from the Gold and Sunshine Coast. A similar event is planned for NAIDOC this year.

We are in the process of planning another Reconciliation Lunch. The focus will be on Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in our constitution.

On the 12th February Queensland Churches Together Environment Network (QCEN) met in Toowoomba to be a part of a conversation about the impact of mining on regional and rural Queensland. A broad group of people gathered to hear of first hand experiences and discuss pastoral responses to changes in our region and to the local environment. We hope to have links to presentations made on the day available very soon.

With recent media reports about the level of despair and lack of humanity in Australian Detention centres it is hard to know what to do. Well, the students of St John's College Roma, made 'welcome boxes' last year which will be delivered to new arrival families in Toowoomba during 2013. If you live in Toowoomba there are lots of opportunities to get involved in supporting asylum seekers in our community. You can teach English, play board games, organise sports activities, support accommodation, provide basic food, share meals. The list is long and the work is rewarding. We need open hearts and willing hands so please consider and get in touch to get involved.

On the regular article page, you can access articles on domestic violence, the crisis in youth mental health, lessons from Logan and the joys of recycling.

Peace

Mark

NEW PREMISES FOR CENTACARE

Centacare Toowoomba is pleased to announce that they have moved to new premises at 146 Herries Street, Toowoomba. The new premises commonly known as the 'Telstra building' is now Regional home to Centacare and its many programs.

Centacare Toowoomba is the South West Queensland regional provider of mental health, psychology, counselling, and support services and other social services for all people in need within our communities.

"It is a privilege to have such a wonderful space for all our services" said Mr Barry Sheehan Executive Director of Centacare Toowoomba. "The timing is also significant as we celebrate Centacare's 30 year anniversary and move into our next 30 years."

Centacare's programs include; Employment Assistance Program, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People Services, and many counselling services for family issues, disaster recovery and domestic violence. The confidential services are now all easily accessible under the one roof and are consistent with Catholic Social Teaching. More information on Centacare can be found at www.toowoomba.centacare.org.au

Bishop Robert McGuckin is very happy with the new premises, saying "It is important to have space to grow and to continue the good work of Centacare." Bishop Robert will officially bless and open the new premises on 20 June.



Barry Sheehan Executive Director of Centacare

LAUNCH OF PROJECT COMPASSION

Veronica White Diocesan Director – Caritas Australia

Project Compassion Sunday was 10th February. As in past years we had the launch at the Cathedral during the Vigil Mass on Saturday 9th by Bishop Robert McGuckin and guest speaker Sr Julienne Hayes-Smith.

Sr Julienne is a Missionary Sister of the Society of Mary, (Marist Missionary). She grew up in New Zealand, and has spent 35 years working overseas: 5 in Western Samoa, 10 in Vanuatu, 2 on the Chatham Islands and most recently 18 years in Bangladesh.

As at previous launch's students from the secondary schools participated in special commissioning ceremony. Bishop Robert commissioned two leaders from each college, inviting them to return to their fellow students and share with them the stories of Project Compassion and Social Justice issues. The commissioning has been a wonderful success each year receiving many positive comments.

During the Mass Sr Julienne spoke about her work in Bangladesh, especially the 'Safe Motherhood Project' (SMP) for the training of midwives. SMP was developed as a response to the fact that every hour in Bangladesh 3 women die of pregnancy related causes and a further 300 women are left with lifelong disabilities due to harmful beliefs and practices which also result in many babies being born brain damaged or dying later of pneumonia or septicaemia.

Sr Julienne also spoke at each of the Masses in the Cathedral on Sunday.

After the Vigil Mass, all were invited to meet with Sr Julienne and Bishop Robert in the Parish Centre where a light supper was provided.



Photos, from top: Sr Julienne Hayes-Smith speaking at the Vigil Mass.

Bishop Robert, lighting the Caritas candles given to the students for their schools, and Sr Julienne presenting them with a Caritas School Kit.

The commissioning by Bishop Robert: "I now commission each of you to go forward from this celebration of Eucharist keeping the flame of faith alive with a spirit of solidarity and compassion. May you and your school communities be a people of faith and action as you journey through this Lenten season assisting to alleviate poverty, bringing hope and justice to disadvantaged communities, building a more hopeful, fairer world."

A LITTLE INSPIRATION GOES A LONG WAY

Seven year old Vivien Meacle is an inspiration, not only to her mother and teacher, to her fellow Year 2 students at Holy Name Primary School, but also to complete strangers.

With the help of her mother Marilyn, young Vivien had a small market stall and sold her old toys, books and flower cuttings. "She could have kept the money to buy new toys for herself, but decided to give it to Project Compassion instead," said Mrs Meacle.

"Vivien put the Project Compassion box on the stall and some passer-byes, seeing it, dropped in a few coins as well. I am so proud of her," Mrs Meacle added.

When her fellow students heard of Vivien's efforts, they too were inspired to share. Several said they had saved some money and would bring it to the school for the Project Compassion appeal. One little girl, with a toothless smile, said she had received quite a lot of money under her pillow recently and would bring some for Project Compassion.

Ms Elizabeth Klimkowicz, Acting Assistant Principal of Religious Education (APRE) at Holy Name School, is also very proud of Vivien's efforts. "Vivien raised over \$71.00 from selling her toys. To me, her actions show great unselfishness. She could have kept it, or at least some of it for herself, but no, she gave it all to Project Compassion" she said.



Above: Seven year old Vivien Meacle with her Project Compassion box containing over \$71.00 which she raised by selling her old toys and books at a market; and proud mother Mrs Marilyn Meacle.

Right: Vivien Meacle handing her Project Compassion box to Ms Elizabeth Klimkowicz, Acting Assistant Principal of Religious Education (APRE) at Holy Name Primary School.



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SPOTLIGHT ON CATHOLIC EDUCATION

CHANGE AND CONTINUING THE PROUD TRADITION OF QUALITY CATHOLIC EDUCATION



John Borserio
Director, Catholic
Education Office,
Toowoomba
Diocese

Catholic Education has a long history in our Diocese and this year two of our schools are celebrating significant milestones. St Mary's Charleville is celebrating 100 years and St Saviour's Primary School 150 years of providing quality Catholic Education.

In March I was proud to attend the celebrations of St Mary's school centenary in Charleville and was so impressed by community support for the work of the school and to see so many wanting to share their memories of their time at the school.

I am sure that the same will be the case when in November St Saviour's Primary School celebrates being the longest established school in our Diocese.

While the schools have changed in terms of the facilities that they offer, the number of students that attend and the ways in which curriculum, teaching and learning take place; what has not changed, as it is at the heart of Catholic Education, is the partnership with parents to educate children

in our Catholic faith tradition and ensuring that they receive the best pastoral care and quality of education that is possible.

More change is afoot, because in 2011 the Queensland Government announced significant education reforms for the state, including the transition of Year 7 students to secondary school from 2015. I believe, along with my other Catholic education authority colleagues, that this is the right decision to help maintain a world class education system for our children into the future.

Due to the full introduction of the Prep Year in 2007, students will be an average of six months older when they reach Year 7 and ready for the different options that the secondary school setting provides. This move also more closely aligns school structures with other States and with the Australian Curriculum that is being implemented in all Catholic schools.

The Toowoomba Diocese is well advanced with planning to assist both primary and secondary school communities to make the move successfully. The most important consideration is ensuring that the younger students are helped to feel safe and welcome in the secondary school environment. Catholic schools have pastoral care structures in place to ensure students are well looked after and special programs to assist with the transition to secondary school are also being developed.

Catholic schools are acutely aware of the importance of leadership and personal development opportunities for children of this age, in the last years of primary and first years of secondary school. In speaking with parents of the Year 6 and 7 students who will be in their final year of primary school in 2014, they are most concerned about leadership opportunities, school camps, graduation ceremonies and retreat opportunities. Our schools understand how important these 'end of primary school' events are to families and the children. Therefore, both primary and secondary schools will be offering various programs with numerous opportunities to ensure the end of primary schooling is filled with memorable moments.

Close communication with families has always been a hallmark of Catholic education. Primary and Secondary schools are planning various information sessions and newsletter updates to keep families informed as more specific details about the move as they emerge. Information will also be available on the Diocese of Toowoomba Catholic Education website.

As I talk with Principals of our Secondary Colleges and P-12 schools, I feel confident that student well-being is paramount in all of the decisions that they are making; that the first class facilities that have been planned



and approved will make for vibrant learning environments for these young people; and with the curriculum for middle years being extended and teachers and other staff to receive quality professional development, that the learning will be exciting and suited to this age group.

All of our secondary colleges and Prep to Year 12 schools are currently taking expressions of interest for enrolment from parents of students whose children will be in this first cohort of Year 7 to be in secondary school. It is important for families to find the right secondary option for them and their children. I am proud of the boys' education, girls' residential and day school and co-educational options that are available in our Diocese and am sure that parents will find a Catholic secondary school that meets their child's needs. I invite you to contact these schools to find out more about what they offer. You can find their contact details on our website www.twb.catholic.edu.au.

Over the next three years, the Catholic Education Office will work closely with Principals and school communities to ensure this major reform to our education system is successfully delivered with the interests of students, teachers, staff and their families as the highest priority and that we continue our proud tradition of Catholic Education.

Director, Catholic Education Office.

NEW PRINCIPALS

Six new principals have been appointed to Catholic schools across the Diocese of Toowoomba this year. They have a range of experience; some are new to the role and others new to the Diocese or taking up principalship in another school.

The new principals are Glenn Roff (St Mary's School, Goondiwindi), Paul Ryan (St Anthony's School, Toowoomba), Kathy Bliss (acting principal at Holy Name Primary School, Toowoomba), Luke Barrett (acting principal at St Joseph's School, Millmerran), Madonna Sleba (St Stephen's School, Pittsworth) and Genny McNair (St Finbarr's School, Quilpie).

For first-time principal Genny McNair, it represents an opportunity to promote teaching in remote communities. She has been a teacher at St Finbarr's School, Quilpie for the past 12 months and has always lived in the area. "I really want to build up a reputation for young teaching graduates that it is a great teaching lifestyle," she said.

The new principals gathered for induction at the Catholic Education Office in Toowoomba in January. Catholic Education Office Director Mr John Borserio said the induction was a wonderful opportunity to share the philosophy, work environment, culture, key processes and values of Catholic Education with the group. "For some it was new information, for others it was a refresher," he said. "The induction gives those attending clear messages about their role and helps us to promote a sense of 'belonging' to our community," he said.

Topics covered included navigating the Catholic Education intranet, induction handover expectations and requirements, the School Improvement Journey (Excellence in Catholic Education - EiCE) and Principal mentoring.

Key Catholic Education personnel from Health and Safety, Payroll, Student Protection and Inclusive Education Support Services also spoke to the new principals.

Further induction days will be held in Term 1, Term 2 and Term 3 as well as induction days for both finance and curriculum later this term.

"Catholic education plays a vital role in communities throughout the Diocese of Toowoomba which covers 487,000 square kilometres. Our schools provide a faith-based education for more than 8500 students in prep, primary and secondary classes with 1100 staff," Mr Borserio said.

"They are being chosen by more parents than ever before, with the 2012 census showing a 3% increase in enrolments across the Diocese. This investment in the induction of our Principals is part of our commitment to them as professionals and our commitment to provide the communities in which they will take up their role with the best leaders."



Looking forward to the new school year are (from left) Glenn Roff (St Mary's Goondiwindi), Kathy Bliss (Acting Principal, Holy Name School, Toowoomba), Madonna Sleba (St Stephen's School, Pittsworth), Genny McNair (St Finbarr's School, Quilpie) and Luke Barrett (Acting Principal, St Joseph's School, Millmerran). Absent for the photograph was Paul Ryan (St Anthony's School, Toowoomba).



NUMBERS CONTINUE TO GROW IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Once again more Toowoomba and South West families are choosing Catholic Schools.

The largest enrolment increases were at Assumption College, Warwick and St Mary's College, Toowoomba. Assumption College has increased enrolments by 13% (40 students) and St Mary's College by 8% (56 students).

Assumption College, Warwick Principal, Peter Moloney said, "Families choose our school with very good reasons and in my discussions with new families it is the sense of community, the high expectations and the way we care for our students that are prioritised."

John Borserio, Director, Toowoomba Catholic Education Office said of the growth across the Diocese, "This is a great indication that parents and the community are impressed with the education and pastoral care that our schools are providing. I am really proud to know that our schools are the schools of choice for so many. Across the Diocese 874 Prep students have started their formal education this year in our Catholic Schools."

CATHOLIC EDUCATION OFFICE WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

On Friday, 7 February, Bishop Robert McGuckin and eight priests gathered with the Catholic Education Office team to officially welcome new members and celebrate Mass together.

Every year, the Catholic Education Office comes together at the start of the year and under the leadership of the Bishop, takes the time to give thanks and praise to our Lord Jesus for the gifts of each other and to ask for his blessing on their important work. This year, for the first time, they were also joined by parish priests from across Toowoomba.

Mr John Borserio, Director, Catholic Education Office, said "During our liturgy we focussed on the defining feature of Catholic Education, *continuous improvement through renewal*. This focus, calls on us to take the time to reflect on our actions and use this reflection to inform the ways in which we, within our day-to-day work and interactions, give witness to Jesus Christ and his Gospel's values of truth, human dignity, justice, freedom, equality and peace. By beginning our year with this clear message, and continuing to use it as a touchstone for all we do during the year, we are showing that we, as Office personelle, know what an important role we have in supporting our schools to evangelise and live the good news.

"I thank Bishop Robert and the clergy for leading our celebrations. Their presence also demonstrates to us the importance of our work and the support that we have from them."

The Catholic Education Office provides support, service and advocacy for 32 schools across the Diocese of Toowoomba.

Photos - From top:

Concelebrants: From left - Fr Ray Crowley, Fr Ray Johnson, Fr Don Murray, Bishop Robert McGuckin, Fr Hal Ranger, Fr Geoff Sculley. Absent from photo: Fr James Byrne, Fr Peter Dorfield, Fr Roque Maguinsay.

New Members of the Catholic Education Office team: From left - Lee ann Weekes, Terry Carter, Mark Gregson, Bernie Gowans, Linda Ostrofski, Julie Hintz, Chantelle Kmita, Angela Travers, Gerard Hore, Alex Young, Jacqui Mead.

Lighting of the Guiding Flame for 2013 are the Catholic Education Executive Leadership Team: From left - Margaret Hendriks Assistant Director, School Improvement Services; Joanne Segond von Banchet, Assistant Director, Corporate Services; Gerard Hore, Assistant Director, Faith Education, Teaching and Learning Services; John Borserio, Director, Catholic Education Office (back to camera).

The whole Catholic Education Office Team.



HOMEGROWN SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT FRAMEWORK LAUNCHED ACROSS THE DIOCESE

All Catholic schools in the Toowoomba diocese have introduced the improvement plan required by the Federal Government 12 months ahead of schedule - at the start of this school year.

Project officer for Excellence in Catholic Education Paul Murphy said providing the best quality education and pastoral care through rigorous school review and improvement has always been a high priority for Catholic schools. "We have, therefore, welcomed the Federal Government's Better Schools: National School Improvement Plan for Australia," Mr Murphy said.

"One of the priorities of the Federal Government's plan has been the development of a school improvement framework and the requirement for all schools to have a school improvement plan. Excellence in Catholic Education (EiCE), the school improvement framework that has been launched in the Toowoomba Diocese, demonstrates that Catholic schools are ahead of the game in relation to this reform initiative," Mr Murphy said.

EiCE has received assistance from internationally recognised British expert, Ian Gamble who has been working with the Diocese for the past two years to create this framework and has addressed the Toowoomba Diocese teachers at a series of two day seminars in Roma, Warwick and Toowoomba.

"EiCE enables our schools to identify areas of strength and areas for improvement measured against a commonly agreed set of Diocesan wide criteria," Mr Murphy said. "It is a home-grown framework that brings together the expertise of over 110 representatives of Catholic Education including that of teachers, support staff and clergy."



Mr Ian Gamble.

NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION AGAINST VIOLENCE AND BULLYING

Many of the Toowoomba Diocese's schools undertook activities on Friday March 15 to mark the third annual National Day of Action against Violence and Bullying.

"As a system we are committed to providing safe and healthy environments for our staff, students and their families and days such as this are a great platform to show that this is a part of who we are and what we do. From reading many of our schools' newsletters and in discussions with Principals we were well represented in showing our support for this initiative. We will continue the work of saying no to violence and bullying throughout the year," said Mr John Borserio, Director, Catholic Education Office.

The children of St Stephen's in Pittsworth participated in a number of the activities that were suggested on the National Day of Action against Violence and Bullying website, including a colouring competition for the Year 1 to 3 students. Mr Borserio was visiting the school on Friday, March 15 and was invited to judge the competition.

St Mary's College, Toowoomba acknowledged their opposition to any form of bullying with a College Assembly, NRL video, pledges in mentor groups, petitions signed, a poster competition, a bullying survey, a touch football competition and a barbeque.

DIOCESE OF TOOWOOMBA WORLD YOUTH DAY PILGRIMS ANNOUNCED

Five Toowoomba Diocese teachers and the Diocesan Youth Coordinator are beginning their preparations for World Youth Day in Rio this year.

Angela Collins and Jess Davidson from St Mary's College, Toowoomba, Katie Hede and Rebekah Bowdler from St Joseph's Chinchilla, Karra Nosworthy from St Mary's School in Goondiwindi and Sarah de Byl, Diocese of Toowoomba Youth Coordinator are preparing passports and visas, getting their injections and reading up on Chile and Brazil as the excitement builds for their pilgrimage in July. They will join the Archdiocese of Brisbane pilgrimage that will see them travelling with Archbishop Mark Coleridge. The pilgrimage begins with mission work in Santiago in Chile followed by the week of festivities associated with WYD.

Rebekah Bowdler said, "I believe that my participation in this pilgrimage will contribute to my own faith formation by giving me a refreshed sense of faith and reawakened spirit. This pilgrimage is a prime example of being able to continually improve through experiences of renewal."

For Angela Collins this will be her second WYD experience. "I was a pilgrim in Sydney in 2008 and truly believe that I saw the universal church in action at this time. The opportunity to be involved in this pilgrimage will further demonstrate and open my eyes to opportunities of social justice and living out Gospel values. I am particularly interested and excited by the prospect of the Santiago mission and believe this will have great importance for my faith formation and allow me to enlighten my students with the Gospel message through clear, practical examples of this mission in action," said Angela.

The group will come together in Toowoomba in coming weeks for a special meet and greet dinner with Bishop Robert McGuckin. This will be followed by formation activities in Brisbane so they get the chance to meet with other pilgrims from across Queensland before they leave for their pilgrimage in July.



MOVERS AND SHAKERS 2013 – OUR EXPERIENCES

By Grace Manahan, Charlee Carey
and Anna Yates

Stanthorpe St Joseph's students, Anna Yates, Charlee Carey and Grace Manahan have enjoyed their participation in the 2013 Movers and Shakers Catholic Youth Leadership Training Program.

Over a five day course at the James Byrne Centre, we were enthusiastic about the Movers and Shakers activities, challenges and lessons that were headed our way. With a range of activities and sessions, we were 'inspired, transformed and challenged', just as the slogan had promised!

The program allowed us to discover our personal style of leadership through practical group scenarios and tasks. This provided the personal and spiritual opportunity for growth and development, through a welcoming environment. During the week, we focused on our individual realisation of leadership capabilities with the support and encouragement to apply this knowledge to many aspects of our lives.

We really enjoyed the small group discussions, as well as coming together as a whole to share our thoughts. A great aspect of these sessions was that all ideas and contributions were thoroughly acknowledged and respected.

All facilitator's and coordinators provided an enthusiastic, supportive environment, making us feel personally valued and comfortable during our stay. In the short time since this training program concluded, we have already applied our leadership skills and new found knowledge within our school and parish



From left: Anna Yates, Charlee Carey, Sarah de Byl and Grace Manahan.

communities. The confidence we have gained over such a short time has truly amazed us, and we are so grateful for being granted such an opportunity.

Our fantastic experiences will remain with us and be applied within our life for many years to come. We now have the foundations provided by the Movers and Shakers program to build on and develop our leadership skills. The techniques acquired will no doubt assist us for leadership positions within our future careers. One of the primary teachings which will stay with us is the knowledge that a true leader resembles that of a bridge. Leaders, like a bridge, provide stability to connect and influence fellow classmates or colleagues in order to achieve a common goal. As Movers and Shakers graduates, we hope to apply our knowledge in practical scenarios and act as the bridge which connects others.



Sarah de Byl is the newly appointed Coordinator of the Diocesan Youth Ministry. Her contact details are:

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Ordination to the Presbyterate

Darrell Whitaker Irvine

The ordination of Darrell Irvine in St Patrick's Cathedral on 25th February brought great joy to the whole diocese. He has described his life's journey as "a long and winding road" and as you read the following article I am sure you will glimpse a little of Fr Darrell's quiet serenity and courage.

This article was written by Paul Dobbryn and published 3 March 2013 in 'The Catholic Leader' with the title 'Widower ordained a priest'. Grateful thanks to Paul and Peter Bugden, editor of 'The Catholic Leader', for permission to reprint it here.

Fr Darrell Irvine, 62, sees his remarkable journey to the priesthood as "a series of lamp-lights".

Among those "lamplights" are the death of his wife Elizabeth of cancer in 1999, his work with Mother (now Saint) Teresa of Calcutta's Missionaries of Charity in India and his baptism in Auckland into the Catholic faith when he was 47.

On the eve of his ordination to the priesthood, then Deacon Irvine conveyed a sense of awe at the "long and winding road" which had led him to becoming a priest.

His adult children Daniel and Melissa shared the joy of his ordination with more than 400 others who had braved a wet and windy Toowoomba night.

"I'd always been of a spiritual nature, even as a boy," Fr Irvine said. "I was not following any particular religion but always sensed there was a God and that I was being protected." Deaths of those close to him, starting with his parents who died a year apart when he was 14, seem to have played a significant role in his journey to the priesthood.

"My mother was a Catholic and I always remember the incense at her funeral Mass. There was something about the sight of the incense being swung around the coffin of my mother, something about the ritual that has always stayed with me," he said.

Born in Christchurch, New Zealand, Fr Irvine moved to Auckland at age 18 to join the navy and served in South East Asia during the Vietnam War.

Returning to New Zealand, he met and married Elizabeth, a director of religious studies in the Catholic education system. However, initially he did not consider getting baptised into the Church. "I always seemed to be too busy," he said. "But slowly Elizabeth wore me down. Eventually, she was my sponsor - I was baptised in Auckland with full immersion at the Church of St John the Baptist with two priests in attendance."

The discovery of his wife's cancer would inevitably have been a dark time, but Fr Irvine now lists it as one of his "lamplight" moments. "The discovery my wife would not survive seemed to top everything off," he said. "We talked about me joining the priesthood and she thought I would be

more suited to a religious order - the Franciscans, for example. "After Elizabeth's death, I tried this out but found I was not suited to this life."

Among his wife's possessions, however, was a letter written to Mother Teresa. "I felt quite drawn to what she was doing," he said. "I had been running a business but closed it down, sold up and worked with the Missionaries of Charity and stayed with some Jesuits who were working in the slums of Calcutta."

He remained involved in this work for more than a decade until 2009 and said it was there his priestly vocation began in earnest. "I worked in the Missionaries of Charity Nirmal Hriday (Sanskrit for Sacred Heart) home for the dying," he said. "The first time I went there, I cried all the way home. Being close up and personal with really suffering people who were not going to live was life-changing. Despite having nothing, their great happiness and dignity, their strength of character, was a great lesson to me. Along with all the other deaths which had impacted upon me, I was deeply aware of these deaths as the end of one journey and the beginning of another."

To "pay the bills", he took a job with a refrigeration firm in Auckland but three years later in 2008 was transferred to Toowoomba. "Walking in the grounds of St Patrick's Cathedral one afternoon, I saw a man who looked like a priest," Fr Irvine said. "'Are you the parish priest?' I asked. 'No, but I am a priest,' he replied. He turned out to be Fr Hal Ranger and I told him I'd decided to join the priesthood. He said to come and visit and when I did he unfolded a huge map of the diocese, put it on the floor of his unit and said: 'This is it'."

After that, the aspiring priest toured much of Toowoomba diocese before entering Banyo's Holy Spirit Provincial Seminary in 2010.

Speaking during an interview several hours before he was to be ordained, Deacon Irvine said he was "feeling nervous".

"I am well aware of the challenge to proclaim the Gospel and reach the hearts of people who are part of my mission," he said. "But I count my blessings about where I am in this part of my journey. Not everyone's cut out to be a priest, but I'm only here for a short time and intend to do my best."

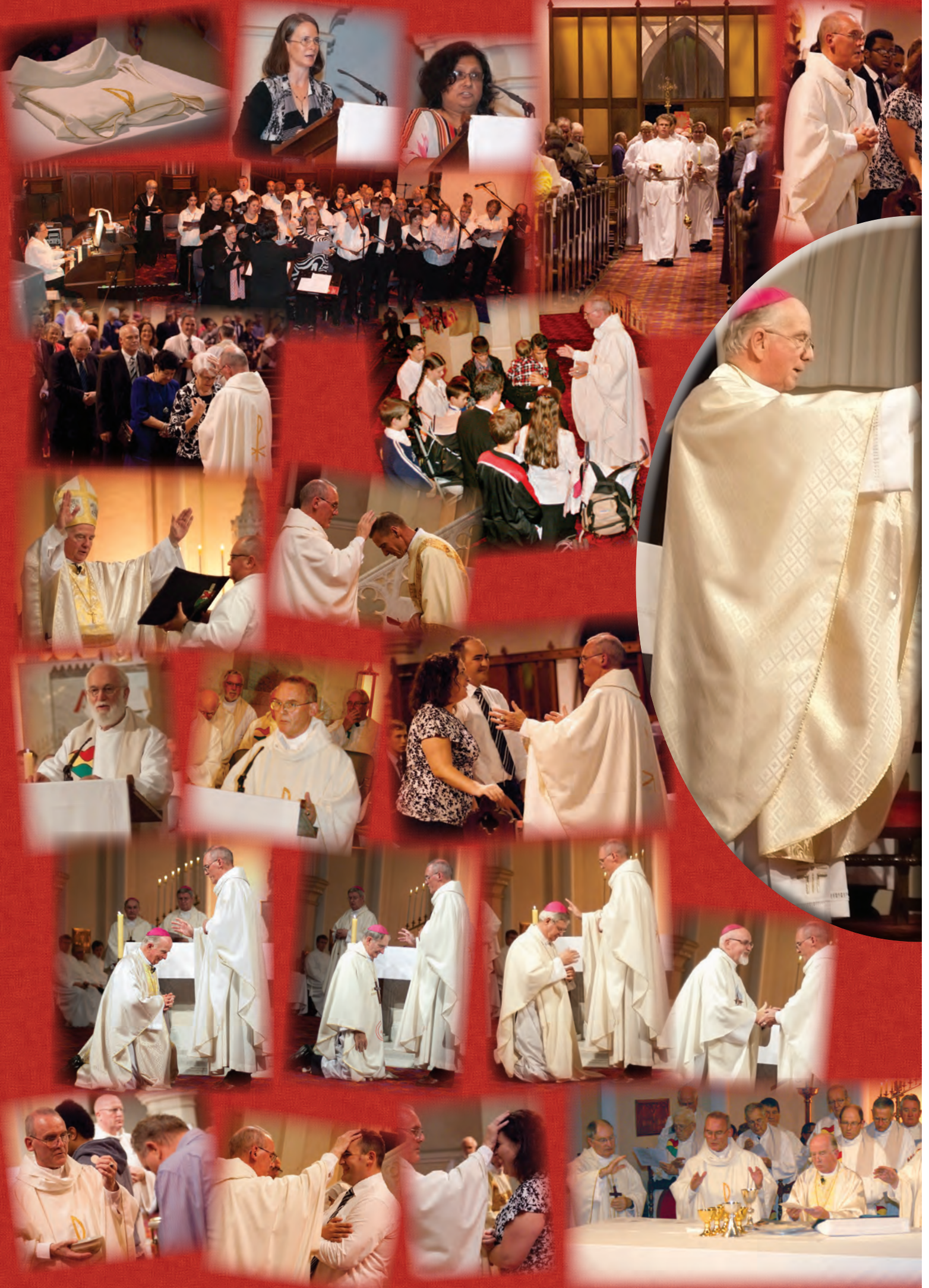
After his ordination, Fr Darrell addressed the congregation saying:

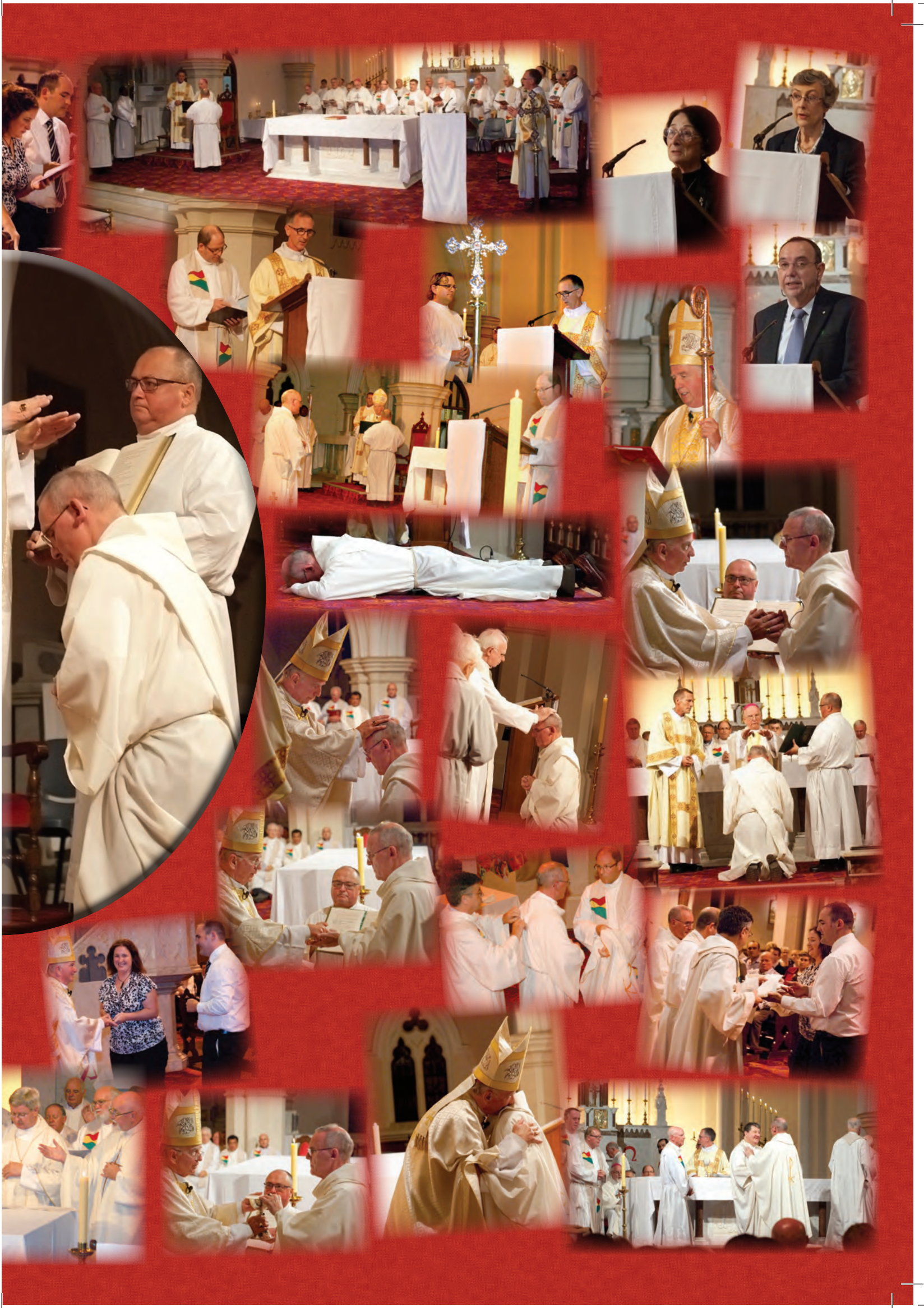
I ask for your prayers for this ministry to which I have been called. I come here humbly acknowledging that the gifts I have received are gifts from God for the good of God's people. With you I give thanks for those who have been a blessing to me as I prepared for the holy priesthood.

I give thanks for my family members here tonight, Daniel and Melissa; for my companions in the seminary, for those who have taught me; the many lamplights that have sprung up in my life which lit the path along the way to the priesthood; and most recently for my professors and superiors in the seminary, to the rector, the spiritual director; all of these people have helped me on my way and I give thanks to God for this assistance over the years.

To all of you, for coming here on this wet and stormy evening to witness this great occasion. May God bless you all.

Photographs of Fr Darrell's ordination are on the following two pages. Special thanks to Chris Fogarty for her wonderful work.





Diocesan Walkabout -



Above: St Monica's Parish Certificate III achievers. Left to right: Anne Teagle, Erin Kempton, Chris Bruse, Mary Lambert, Joanne Meacle and Fr Thomas in the background.

OAKEY: ST MONICA'S PARISH

Mary Lambert

St Monica's Parishioners, Oakey began Lent with a Mini Retreat given by Rosie Harrison, Project Officer, State School RE. We took part in this retreat after mass on 10th February. For those of us who took part it was a time to stop, listen and reflect and let the stress drain away. We really appreciated Rosie's gentle, creative and prayerful input.

On the Tuesday's of Lent we are participating in a Lenten Program using the Resource, 'We wish to see Jesus' from Brisbane Faith and Life. Some of our Anglican friends are joining us which enriches our sharing.

Those of us who completed Certificate III in Christian Ministry and Theology have received our Certificates.



Above: St Monica's parishioners participating in a Mini Retreat based on The Year of Grace.

HIGHFIELDS HAPPENINGS

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

Our Lenten Journey:

Once again this year, we followed our Lenten Journey. This year, in the year of Grace, the Lenten study was entitled "We wish to see Jesus". As previously, parishioners opened their homes to all who would like to participate in Group discussion and prayer during the weeks of Lent. One such couple to open their home was Eroni and Carmel Vakaci. Their invitation attracted a large group including Catholic Members and some from other denominations giving our Group a wonderful feel of ecumenical presence. Discussions were often profound and many thoughts and stories were shared during this prayerful session.

Each week after the welcome and the opening prayer a candle was lit from which smaller candles belonging to those present were ignited. Once all candles were lit, the participants took time to contemplate the burning flame they held. This was a time to recognize the light of Christ given to us in Baptism which remains burning in our hearts and in the hearts of all believers. The period of "Graced Silence" before the Closing Prayer, was a beautiful experiences - a time for silent contemplation in the tradition of Christian Meditation. The word "Maranatha" was silently chanted in our minds which means "Come Lord Jesus".

The Gospel Reading used for the discussion was that of the following Sunday. It was great to listen to the Gospel being read on Sunday and have a better understanding of its content after discussion mid week. The Gospel Reflection itself



Above: "Our Lenten Journey"

Back Row: Eroni Vakaci, Colleen Weber, Karl and Barbara Hammerli, Lorraine Pankhurst.

Front Row: Jenny Dean, Tricia Hundt and Carmel Vakaci

Present but not in Photo: Kev McCormick and Patti McNaght.



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was in the form of a CD, presented and interpreted by Archbishop Mark Coleridge of Brisbane. We all found it very inspirational.

Morning tea was generously provided by Eroni and Carmel after each week's meeting. The Lenten programme invited us to deepen our relationship with God whose extravagant love is poured upon us. This Lenten Journey was enjoyed immensely by those who attended.

Retreat:

On Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th February, a retreat was held at Sanctuary House at the James Byrne Centre in Highfields. The retreat was entitled "Living Grace fully in every day". In this, the Year of Grace, it was to be a "moment of grace" inviting those who attended to be refreshed during this time of prayer, reflection and quiet time spent deepening their relationship with the God who calls them. It invited them to discern the presence of God in every moment of their day and every dimension of life, and to spend time with Jesus. The Retreat was presented by Sr Monica Cavanagh rsj, and was well attended by people from Parishes such as Miles, Allora, Roma, Highfields, St Theresa's Parish Toowoomba and others.

On Saturday, Session 1 was centred around contemplation – encountering God in the every day. Session 2, which followed morning tea and lunch was focused on Communion – meeting God in our everyday encounters. A dinner was shared by all, followed by an Evening Prayer. On Sunday, Session 3 stressed the importance of Mission – Seeing God in our reaching out to one another in service. Each of these sessions included reflective input, prayer experiences and personal reflection. After morning tea, Bishop Robert McGuckin celebrated Eucharist. It was lovely for all to mingle and discuss the weekend and also for them to meet Bishop McGuckin. A beautiful, sharing experience.

Our Family Group:

One of our newest Groups formed in the Parish is the Family Group. This Group was designed so that Families of the Parish may meet together on a regular basis after Mass to get to know one another socially. The first ever Family Group activity was at Cooby Dam on Sunday 11th September, 2011. This proved to be a huge success and since it's inception, a lot of good times have been had by the Group. At the latest get together, although the weather was wet, they still enjoyed themselves at an afternoon tea. The children in particular have a great time at these outings as you can see in the picture. What a great idea to extend their friendships.



Above:
Patrick Hynes and Patrick Ryan enjoying the wet at our recent Family Group activity.



Above right:
Enjoying each other's company and the wet weather at an afternoon tea at the Hyne's Family Home. In Background: Ellen Cleary. Around Table: Kev. McCormick; Mary Sullivan; Beth McCormick; Tricia and Peter Hundt; Patrese Ryan, Karen Hynes and Nicki Tonkin.

Donating the Fun Way:

A Group of girls from our weekday morning Mass on Tuesday, decided it would be great to meet periodically to catch up. The suggestion was made to meet on our birthdays throughout the year, giving us a chance to have a coffee and a few laughs. This became very popular and has been the practice for quite some time now. We would all bring a small gift for the birthday girl who would be shouted lunch or morning tea by the Group.

A suggestion was made by one of the members, to drop the present giving and donate the money that we would have spent, to a charity. This came into being and so far has been a great success with the girls anonymously putting the money they would have spent on the gift into an unmarked envelope. At the



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end of the luncheon or morning tea, it is collected and given to one person who banks it and at the end of the year it is given to a Charity in the local area.

Whilst we are still enjoying each other's company over a cuppa and a few laughs, we are always thrilled at the end of the afternoon when we are told how much we collected for charity. We think it's a very enjoyable way of renewing friendships and catching up and still being able to help out in a small way those who are less fortunate than ourselves. Well done girls!

A Sprinkling of Green for St Patrick's Day:

St Patrick's Day - and a sprinkling of green was seen throughout the Congregation. Several worshipers donned the green for St Patrick's Day which fell on a Sunday this year. It was great to see our parishioners dressed in green to celebrate the Patron Saint of Ireland.

One of our Altar Servers rostered on for that Sunday, James Casey, happened to be from Irish Catholic Parentage. He looked fantastic in his green shirt with four leafed clover emblazoned on the front. His mother happened to be rostered on for the reading and a lady by the name of Patti happened to be rostered on for the co-ordinator. As it so happened the co-ordinator swapped rosters with a man who has the good Irish Name of Kevin. Another Irish lady by the name of Colleen happened to be seen wearing a Leprechaun on her green shirt. The morning tea roster happened to be co-ordinated by a Patricia. Our altar servers happened to be wearing green stoles and our priest Fr Brian, happened to be wearing green vestments. You never know what might happen on St Paddy's Day.



Left:
Fr Brian and
the boys
during the
Recessional
procession.
Don't they
look great!

Ecumenical Stations of the Cross

A large crowd of worshipers from various denominations poured into the glorious Peacehaven Park at Highfields to attend the "Ecumenical Stations of the Cross". Reflections were led by Fr Brian Noonan from Our Lady of the Southern Cross Catholic Parish in Highfields and Rev. Stephanie Patching from St Anne's Anglican Church, Highfields. The banners, representing each Station, were proudly held by Mike and Melody Kalinowski.

The Service began with an opening Prayer, and, as we followed "The Way of the Cross", we joined in Prayer. Sandy Wybird from the Anglican Church was there once again, accompanying the crowd with her acoustic guitar, as they sang the beautiful hymn, "Were you there when they crucified my Lord", as we moved on to each Station.

The weather was magnificent, and just to see the wonderful Ecumenical Presence all worshipping Christ and walking with Him on his final journey to his crucifixion and death on the Cross, was a sight to behold.



Above: Some of the crowd at Peacehaven Park on Good Friday.

CATCHING UP WITH CROW'S NEST NEWS:

- To celebrate Family Sunday (in October 2012) a Sausage Sizzle Breakfast was held after Mass. About 20 parishioners attended and enjoyed breakfast and a chat.
- On Christmas Eve our vigil Mass was celebrated at 5:00pm and was very well attended. The earlier time seemed to suit a lot of people and there were several small children in attendance. After Mass a bowl of toffees was offered for all to sample.
- Just after Christmas Fr Ray Johnson was appointed to Holy Name Parish and Fr Roque Maguinsay is now providing our Masses.
- On the Australia Day Sunday our Mass was cancelled due to rising water over all roads into the town.
- In February the Knights of the Southern Cross hosted the Annual Parish Dinner. Bishop McGuckin celebrated Mass at 6:00pm prior to attending the Dinner.
- On Palm Sunday Fr Mick McClure officiated at First Reconciliation for eight candidates as their first step in the Sacramental Programme.





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MITCHELL: OLD BUT GOOD NEWS:

St Columba's Parish Mitchell celebrated the birth of Jesus at Mass held at 9am on Monday morning, 24 December, 2012. A beautiful and joyous occasion was held with approximately 80 people in attendance. The children participated in the celebrations with Fr Jamie inviting them to process with the statues and symbols from the Christmas crib and to sit in front of the altar. The music was beautifully played by Rhiannon Lawson and her team and the singing was great.



ROMA NEWS

The events of Holy Week and Easter proved to be a busy time for our parish priest, Fr Jamie Collins who, from Palm Sunday through to Easter Sunday managed to travel around to all the Mass centres in the region. These included

Easter liturgies at Injune, Jackson, Yuleba, Wallumbilla, Surat, Wycombe, Mitchell, Mungallala as well as the Easter ceremonies in Roma.

A highlight was the Easter Vigil in Roma where a lone piper led the procession of the Paschal Candle to the church door following the lighting of the Easter fire in the church grounds. The Piper was from the Ormiston Heritage Pipe band, who have been regular visitors to Roma for Easter in the Country over the past ten years.

ST SAVIOUR'S COLLEGE SCARVES MADE IN LIMA

At St Saviour's College when winter comes around our students purchase from our Uniform shop, scarves made especially to suit our uniform by *Asociación Catalina McAuley*. These women live on the outskirts of Lima, Peru. As a faith community, this is just one of our commitments to social justice. Our College community is proud of its direct link with this special community of women who knit the scarves. This initiative has been directly supported by the Sisters of Mercy from Australia.

Earlier this year this community was invited to present at a conference focusing on reducing violence against women, run by the Peruvian Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations together with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). They demonstrated the benefits of the multifactorial community project that integrates a family health service and clinic, three Casas de la Mujer (women's houses), a microbusiness TIKa (where our school scarves are made) and two kindergartens. Our students are aware that the purchase of these scarves contributes to providing a group of women in Lima Peru with a sustainable income.



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GOONDIWINDI REFLECTIONS

On Tuesday 19 February, Sr Monica Cavanagh RSJ visited Goondiwindi to provide a day of reflection supported by the Missionary Sisters of Service and the John Wallis Foundation.

A group of about 20 people enjoyed a peaceful and spiritually enriching day as Sr Monica lead us through a reflection: "Discovering God in Everyday Life". Sr Monica reminded us: 'There where you are, that's where you'll find God' (a quote from St Mary McKillop).

While we recognised we can encounter God in many ways including prayer and reflection, the focus for the day was on:

- Meeting God in everyday events
- Meeting God in the ordinary places in our lives
- Meeting God in our human encounters

It was a lovely gentle reflective day. Sr Monica used images familiar to us, like a windmill prominent in the landscape which stimulated our reflection. The day drew us more deeply into relationship with one another, helping us to become aware of where we find the face of God in our daily lives.



Thanks to Sr Pat Quinn MSS, Sr Mary Cleary MSS, members of the Foundation's Toowoomba Reference Group and the local ladies of Goondiwindi and beyond who were present on the day. Each of us took away something special and each of us has a renewed awareness of God's presence in our every day life.

Sincere thanks to the John Wallis Foundation and Missionary Sisters of Service for their gift of the Reflection Day at Goondiwindi.

DOWNLANDS SENIORS LEADING FROM WITHIN

Downlands' student leadership team for 2013 has already formed a cohesive bond. Having recently returned from a leadership camp in Sydney, and meeting as a team on a weekly basis to discuss their objectives for the year, they are bubbling over with passion for their college and their peers.

When asked what it is they like most about their Downlands experience, responses vary - some describe the opportunities to foster their particular talents, while others mention being in a position to help others, the approachable teachers and the friendly atmosphere of the school. They all, however, describe Downlands as having an amazing community spirit.

It is this strong sense of community which is the focus of this year's leadership team as they outline their objectives for the year. "We already have such a great community spirit here at Downlands. This year we just want to do everything we can to build on that even more," says college captain, Susie Brodie. The desire for everyone to experience a real sense of belonging is what continues to motivate these leaders daily, making the increased demands of their new roles worthwhile.

With a rich diversity of interests and strengths of their own, ranging from playing the lead in the college musical, to debating, to performing with the Gryphon Choir, to taking to the rugby field with the First XV, this group is a testament to the emphasis which Downlands places on life balance. With six day students and three boarders among them, they are all that Downlands represents – young people from different backgrounds, with different talents and interests, all coming together with the encouragement and support of the college to be all that they can be.

In spite of significant individual achievements, including the recent honour of being selected as leaders of their peer group, it is clear that as a team, these Downlands leaders see no room for elitism in their leadership style. In the tradition of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart this group of leaders plans to lead from within. They seek not to command, but rather to embrace. "We don't want to tell other students what to do. We want to listen, and be their voice," says Erin Mead.



Downlands' leadership team for 2013 is (as pictured) Frances Grealy, Damian Leggatt (Vice Captain), Susie Brodie (Captain), Joseph Anderson (Captain), Erin Mead, Iziah ("Izzy") Tittor, Emma Robinson, Joseph Murphy and Marita McVeigh (Vice Captain).



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ONE NIGHT IN THE LIFE OF MILLMERRAN

Nell Macqueen.

It was Saturday, March 16th, 2013. Unbeknownst to most, Father Thomas Areekuzhy had staying with him for a short busy time, his old student friend from Kerala, India, Bishop Joseph Arumachadath, a member along with Fr. Thomas of the Missionary Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament.

Well before Mass, Fr Thomas and Bishop Joseph, and the Baptismal Team of Margaret Stevens and Margaret Barry assembled at the newly acquired house of Wilbert and Florida Calibuyut, Wilsen and Ashley: it was also Ashley's first birthday! In the presence of a number of our new Filipino parishioners, the Bishop blessed the house and little Ashley, amidst much joy!

Each school term we are accustomed to having a Family Mass, when the children are prepared by the APRE (Assistant to the Principal for Religious Education) for the Readings, the Intercessions etc. It is often a good night! So for this night the new music Band was in good voice!

The following day, St. Patrick's Day, is the 90th birthday of one of our oldest Parishioners, Marie Lovell, whose life has been always well synchronized with the life of the Parish. So Marie was feted at Mass and at the special birthday dinner afterwards: such a happy occasion!

But in all of this, Lent and Project Compassion have not been forgotten. Veronica White from Caritas in Toowoomba promoted the cause of those in need: and it was good for her to be there, as the students of St. Joseph's have been making an all-out effort to raise as many dollars as they can for this cause.

It was such a superbly vital night encompassing all the new life of our Parish. It was a lively indicator perhaps of the coming years of the Parish of Millmerran in this its 75th anniversary?

*Photos - from top:
The Calibuyut family
with Bishop Joseph and
Fr Thomas.*

*Maree Twidale and the
new band at St. Francis
de Sales.*

*Marie Lovell and some
of her family with her
90th birthday cake.*

*Veronica White, Bishop
Joseph, and some
students of St. Joseph's.*



WARWICK: ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL MINI VINNIES

Shell Campbell, Principal, St Mary's School, Warwick

St Mary's Primary School Mini Vinnies Student Service Group presented two cheques to Mrs Margaret Lawton (President of the Warwick St Vincent De Paul Society) late November 2012. The Mini Vinnies group raised \$400 this year to support SVDP in Warwick. The school also collected \$1000 in Mission money to support various missions associations. During this assembly, Mrs Lawton also received over 1000 items for Christmas Hampers to be distributed to needy families in the Warwick region.

St Mary's Mini Vinnies Student Association has been very active throughout 2012. They have generously supported the SVDP Overseas Stationery drive, the Easter Appeal, the Winter Soup appeal and the Catholic Mission 'Socktober' appeal as well.



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CHARLEVILLE CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

ST MARYS SCHOOL AND THE ARRIVAL OF THE SISTERS OF MERCY, 1913-2013

Over the weekend of 8th – 10th March, 2013 the Charleville Catholic community celebrated the centenary of our school and the arrival of the Sisters of Mercy. Past pupils and staff came from as far afield as Sydney and Cairns for the celebrations.



Sisters Vonnie Clarke, Elizabeth O'Connell being greeted by past pupils.

The celebrations began on the Friday evening with a dinner for two hundred people in the Charleville Town Hall which has been the venue of many school concerts and activities over the past hundred years. The evening commenced with a meet and greet in the Town Hall Park followed by the dinner. Joining us for the evening was Bishop Bill Morris, Mr John Boserio, the Director of Catholic Education for the Toowoomba Diocese, Margaret Hendricks and Robyn Sharpe from Toowoomba Catholic Education, Srs Margaret King and Jean Gormley, from the Sisters of Mercy Leadership team, our Mayor, Dennis Cooke, a past pupil, Fr Don Murray, a past pupil, and a number of Sisters of Mercy and lay staff who had served at St Mary's over the years. Unfortunately, Bishop Robert was unable to be with us because of prior engagements.



Back row: Robyn Sharpe, Bishop Bill Morris, John Boserio. Front row: Peta Wade, Fr Peter Doohan, PP, Sr Elizabeth O'Keefe.

On Saturday morning our display of memorabilia was open to the public in our new Cobb & Co Hall. In the afternoon the action shifted to the racecourse for St Mary's race day. Over 800 people attended which is probably a record for a race day in Charleville.

The action was not all on the racecourse, however. The marquee was full to overflowing, the fashions on the



field drew a large gathering, and the children were not forgotten with games, face painting and amusement rides to keep them well occupied.



Sunday saw standing room only in St Mary's Church for the celebration of the Centenary Mass. The St Mary's School Choir led the singing with the help of Sr Chris Watt, a past pupil, on the organ with our instrumental music teachers, Alex and Ruben, on the trumpet, cello, and guitar. Bishop Bill, Fr Peter Doohan, our PP, and Fr Don Murray, a past pupil, concelebrated the Mass.



Sr Brigid Frawley with a group of past teachers.

Bishop Bill told the story of when Bishop James Foley wanted to buy a crucifix and was asked by the attendant whether he wanted one with the little man on it or one without the little man. Bishop Foley replied: 'I want the one with the little man, please. It is the little man who makes all the difference.' Then Bishop Bill went on to reveal that it is the little man – Jesus Christ – who has made a difference in Charleville over the past 100 years. He praised the first Sisters of Mercy who came in 1913, the clergy who had ministered here over the years, the lay staff and the people of the parish and town and the children over the years.

After communion, Sr Margaret King spoke on behalf of Sr Sandra Lupi, the

Congregation Leader of the Sisters of Mercy and congratulated the Principal, Peta Wade, and the staff and students of St Mary's. The Sisters then presented the school with a gift of \$5,000 towards the Centenary Garden which has been designed by the students. This was followed by a sung blessing by the Sisters of Mercy present for the congregation.



Peta Wade, Principal, Srs Jean Gormley and Margaret King, Leadership Team of the Sisters of Mercy.

After Mass, the children of St Mary's filed up in front of the altar and sang their school song and 'This Little Light of Mine'. Both songs were sung with actions. As the music went up with each verse, the actions and the volume followed suit!



Morning tea followed in the Cobb & Co Hall where the visitors were able to wander around and view the memorabilia and catch up with each other.



Cutting of the Centenary Cake by Peta Wade, the Principal, and some of the Sisters of Mercy present at the celebrations.

Despite having lost so many of the records through floods over the years we were amazed at how much people had responded to our request for photos, memorabilia or memories of their time at St Mary's. Thanks to their response we now have quite a good deal of information about the history of St Mary's School.

PASTORAL CARERS ECUMENICAL COMMISSIONING AND 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



Meryl Tracey, Coordinator of Pastoral Care at Lourdes Home, welcomed guests and pastoral carers to Lourdes Home for the celebration of the 21st World Day of the Sick and the Commissioning of the Pastoral Carers of Toowoomba and region. She said: "Just a little background about this day.

"The World Day of the Sick was instituted by Pope John Paul II in 1992. In our Catholic tradition this falls on Our Lady of Lourdes feast day – the patronal feast of our Home here, so it is most appropriate that this day and this place be chosen.

"World Day of the Sick has three consistent themes – first, it reminds us to pray for those who are sick; secondly, we are invited to reflect on and respond to human suffering, and thirdly this day recognizes and honours all persons who work in health care and serve as caregivers.

"For 15 years now the Catholic pastoral care teams under the leadership of the diocesan coordinator, Lyn Cash have used this occasion to commission the pastoral carers in health care in Toowoomba and region. Ten years ago, an invitation of hospitality was offered to our ecumenical pastoral carers to join us on this day. The invitation was presented at a Heads of Churches/ Pastoral Care meeting and, to our delight, was graciously accepted. We are pleased to continue this tradition with all the pastoral care teams and to celebrate our common calling and mission and our common faith in Jesus Christ. It is indeed 'good for us to be here.' "

Meryl thanked all guests, heads of Churches and their representatives and "last but not least, the pastoral carers themselves, all those who minister in Mental Health, Hospital Care, Aged Care: those ministering in Toowoomba – St Vincents, Baillie Henderson, Toowoomba Hospital, St Andrews, Salem Nursing Home, Hospice, Lourdes Home, Blue Care, Shalom Nursing Home, Tri Care, Westhaven, Northridge, Yukana – and further afield; Oakey, Dalby, Miles, Chinchilla, Allora, Warwick, Goondiwindi, Stanthorpe."

She then invited all present to remain after the commissioning ceremony to join in special celebrations for the 20th Anniversary of the Ecumenical Pastoral Care team.



The final blessing at the Commissioning Service, from left: Pastor Ian Shelton, Toowoomba City Church; Pastor Michael Braunberger, Lutheran; Mrs Sharon Kirk, Uniting; Bishop Robert Nolan, Anglican; and Bishop Robert McGuckin, Catholic.



AFTER THE READING OF THE STORY OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN, BISHOP WILLIAM MORRIS GAVE THE FOLLOWING REFLECTION DURING THE COMMISSIONING CEREMONY:

that it is the little man that makes all the difference".

It was Jesus who showed us that we do not choose our neighbour - we are given our neighbour.

It was Jesus who showed us that if we cannot look on the face of any woman or man and see that she or he is our sister or brother then no matter what time it is, it is never day but always night.

It was Jesus who showed us that the Holy One is a God of Mercy, rich

in Mercy, and that this mercy speaks of faithfulness, love, compassion, healing and tenderness.

It was Jesus who showed us that this Mercy speaks of the blessings that will bring harmony to all creation and it will happen not when someone wins or has power over others but when everyone shares. He showed that if we get our way by violence it won't last.

It was Jesus who spoke often of the faithfulness of God, who can't help but

forgive and is present in all life, every word, every action.

It was Jesus who not only showed us but told us that God's love is inclusive, no exceptions, we do not earn it, it is pure gift. It is there whether we want it or not.

It was Jesus who prayed that we should all be one as He and his Father are one.

It was Jesus who showed us that because of the sacredness of all creation we need to approach each other, open hearted and barefooted.

It was Jesus who showed us that we must listen to the voice of God in others especially the poor, the sick, the suffering, the non-believer, those who have a different belief structure, those in pain, those who suffer under injustices.

It is Jesus who shows us through the Spirit that the Giver is the Gift.

It was Jesus who called on us to unbind Lazarus and set him free and our pastoral carers do this every day, every night, as

they minister in our hospitals, nursing homes and in the wider community.

It was Jesus who came to unbind the lawyer, the priest, the Levite and set them free so they could serve the man or woman who may fall into the hands of robbers... and as we serve and minister to our sisters and brothers it is the healing hands of Jesus that they feel and His face that they see.

This Ministry of Pastoral Care helps us all, especially the sick, to see the hidden presence of God in all creation and creates a longing which is expressed beautifully in the words of John O'Donohue....

Blessed be the longing that brought you here and quickens your soul with wonder.

May you have the courage to listen to the voice of desire that disturbs you when you have settled for something safe.

May you have the wisdom to enter generously into your own unease. To

discover the new direction your longing wants you to take.

May the forms of your belonging – in love, creativity and friendship be equal to the grandeur and the call of your soul.

May the one you long for long for you.

May your dreams gradually reveal the destination of your desire.

May a secret Providence guide your thoughts and nurture your feelings.

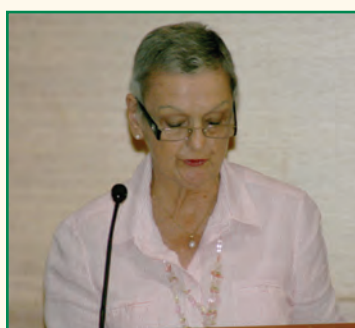
May your mind inhabit your life with the sureness with which your body inhabits the World.

May your heart never be haunted by ghost-structures of old damage.

May you come to accept your longing as divine urgency.

May you know the urgency with which God longs for you.

As we celebrate today the World Day of the Sick may we come to realise more and more that it is the little man called Jesus who makes all the difference.



LYN CASH, COORDINATOR OF PASTORAL CARE IN HEALTH AND OF THE ECUMENICAL PASTORAL CARE SERVICE, TOOWOOMBA HOSPITAL AND REGION; RELATED A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE FORMATION OF THE ECUMENICAL PASTORAL CARE SERVICE:

We come together today to celebrate the occasion of 20 years of Ecumenical Service to the Toowoomba Hospital. It is time to celebrate, to share, to savour and to remember. In doing so we bring to mind our pastoral care story, connecting with the past, with what has been accomplished, and connecting with each other and all who have been part of this wonderful endeavor.

Behind the scenes of every successful endeavor is a history of vision, hope, struggle, disappointment, love and of course ongoing celebration of the stepping stones along the way. We walk the path not knowing the outcome but embracing and living the unfolding story. This we know and have lived and celebrate today.

Celebration is a paradoxical thing, created by a dynamic interplay between anticipation and fulfillment. The ordinary and the special work and play.

Those present today would realize that Pastoral Care is the result of the Gospel Imperative of Jesus Christ to be Good News to the sick, the lonely, and the disconnected. With this as our motivating impetus, twenty years ago, our churches, as a result of reflecting on the needs of the sick, began to look at a more effective way of delivering Pastoral Care.

It was decided after discernment that the most effective way to deliver Pastoral Care was through an ecumenical approach. That is, to minister to patients in a public

institution with one Christian voice. Thus the story that we celebrate today began with a small group of six lay and clergy men and women. We sat in that place of **anticipation**. We began to read the sign of the times, prayerfully exploring what was happening in our own lives, in our workplace, and in our community. From this the question arose: *'How best could we assist the patients in a public hospital to explore their emotional and spiritual issues in times of their greatest vulnerability?'* And so we began.

Much was involved in creating our Pastoral Presence in the hospital by:

- Creating the Place of Prayer was an early focus. As was emphasizing our own Practice.
- The recruitment, accreditation/training, on-going education and supervision of Pastoral Carers We have sustained and continually progress in this area.
- Writing the Mission Statement and Guidelines. Policies and procedures were formulated and promulgated over time.
- Openly dialoguing with both our Heads of Churches and Hospital Executive was an important aspect of our model and remains so today.
- 24 /7 pastoral care service was offered to the hospital and has been maintained.

Over the years the Ministry has continually evolved:

- We have firmly established our profile and presence in the hospital and we are now a valued service respected by and part of the multidisciplinary teams within this Healthcare facility. Many

see our department as *'the soul of the hospital'*

- On several occasions when our department has been evaluated by the Healthcare Standards Accreditation team, we received *Highly Commended* for our Service.
- When commenting on Pastoral Care, the then Queensland General Manager of Health stated, *The Toowoomba Ecumenical Pastoral Care Services is a model for Queensland Public Hospitals to aspire to.*
- Personnel from the *Trinity College of Theology* whose accredited training program has supported Toowoomba Pastoral Care often stated at formal occasions that the Toowoomba Hospital Training Team was the *'Jewel in their Crown'*. Rev. John Cox of the Uniting Church is with us today and would confirm this statement.

Relationship building has always been a priority:

- A *Memorandum of Understanding* was signed by the Hospital Executive with our Heads of Churches mapping out areas of responsibility, accountability and governance.
- A *Covenant* was formally signed by the Heads of Churches with Co-ordinators of Pastoral Care in Health stating their on-going support.
- Other pastoral care departments have developed from the Toowoomba Hospital which is the 'Hub' in regards to the recruitment of trainees, their initial training and on-going formation as well as the sharing of wisdom.

- Pastoral Care in Health is located under one umbrella- a community radiating from Toowoomba to regional areas.
- From a group of six trained pastoral carers ministering only in the Toowoomba Hospital, we now have grown to approximately 80. These trained pastoral carers minister in hospital, aged and mental health facilities in Toowoomba and regions. They are committed to on-going formation and supervision. The majority of the eighty offer their services voluntarily.

As Pastoral Carers all that we have done over these past 20 years, and continue to do, can be seen through the lens of the parable of the Good Samaritan: the story of neighbourly compassion and the generosity of spirit of a stranger who stopped to minister to the man fallen upon by thieves and left injured by the wayside. This Parable asks who is our neighbour? It challenges us to be open to see and respond to those in need of our compassion and healing. As Pastoral Carers we always begin by looking out-wards in our community, by seeing with Gospel eyes and by responding to those in need, often to the most vulnerable and marginalized in our society.

Our Ministry here at the Hospital enables us to reach out and minister to the aged pensioner, the indigenous person, the refugee, the homeless, the single young mother, people from other cultures, the sick and the dying. We are privileged and blessed by these encounters. Our work and lives reflect a passion to be present to our suffering, vulnerable neighbour, united in our common humanity.

Often I get asked by co-ordinators of pastoral care departments from other cities and states, *"How do you sustain a ministry when the pastoral carers come from many different faith traditions?"*

Author T.S. Eliot once wrote, 'home is where we start from' - and home is a good place to start. As a pastoral care faith community separated from each other by our own particular faith traditions we may understand each other and each others' faith by how our common relationship to Christ is expressed in our ministry.

Author and Priest Ron Rolheiser believes that often times, the impetus for that comes not as much from biblical and theological insights as it does from an ecumenism of life.

As we interact with each other on the team we begin to sense that the question of who has access to God and Christ, is infinitely more complex than can be captured in any theological formula. We are encouraged by John's Gospel (10-16) when Jesus says: "I have other sheep too, that are not of this sheepfold. I must bring

them also. They will listen to my voice, and there will be one flock and one shepherd". When Jesus asks the question: "Who is my mother and brother and sister"? He answers, that whoever does the will of God is his true mother and true brother and true sister.

Each member of the pastoral care team in the Toowoomba Hospital is deeply rooted in their own faith tradition and nurtured and nourished by the practices of that faith. Each brings deep faith and charity to their ministry. We train together, we pray together, we share story together, we work together and we hold deep respect and trust in each other. There is only one call to holiness - that which draws us to a spirituality that embraces the whole of reality, the whole of humanity and the whole of life. This is why we are able to form one team for our ministry to the sick.

Pastoral Care is not new. It has always held a special place in Healthcare since the earliest Christian times. In recent years Pastoral Care Services in Toowoomba has become and is today an integral part of health care across many facilities and it has become a specialized ministry in its own right. It is seen as essential to the healing and physical wellbeing of the whole person at a time of crisis beyond the control of that person. By encompassing the physical, emotional, spiritual and mental aspects of the sick and injured it is a holistic approach. This is the journey we have undertaken to get to where we are today.

I now wish to take this opportunity to thank the founding members of this pastoral care ecumenical model, for their vision and hard work. Mrs Sylvia Douglas sits among you today. Her presence symbolizes all those who have been with us over the years.

On behalf of the Pastoral Care team I wish to express my deepest gratitude to the Heads of Churches for their on-going encouragement, support and affirmation over the past twenty years.

Particular thanks go to Bishop William Morris who has been with us since day one. He believed in what was unfolding and was ever ready to offer his direction when required and he challenged us when needed. We thank him for offering his hospitality

and leadership to members of the Heads of Churches Pastoral Care committee of which he was Chair for ten years.

We thank Bishop Nolan who willingly accepted the position of Chair two years ago. You too Bishop Nolan have done everything possible to help us to maintain this model of Pastoral Care.

To Dr Peter Bristow and Dr Peter Gilles our line managers in the hospital, thank you for all your support over the past twenty years.

Where would we have been without the Hospital Foundation? A big thanks goes to Mr Peter Rookas and Mr Ray Taylor who have financially made it possible for our Department to be able to offer yearly professional on-going formation for pastoral carers in Toowoomba and regions. I do not think that you have ever said 'no' to any of our requests. You have been so generous to us.

To all the pastoral carers - we know that we have the 'pearl of great price' in the palm of our hands and it is this which draws us to continue to do what we do.

The poet Kahil Gibran states: "Life is a journey and love is what makes the journey worthwhile." Life indeed is a journey - it is when you give of yourself that you truly receive.

May we always know hope.



Above right:
Bishop Robert McGuckin
cutting the cake with Mrs
Sylvia Douglas, Uniting
Church. Mrs Douglas was one
of the six founding members of
the Ecumenical Pastoral Care
group and is now retired.

Right:
Pastoral carers from
Stanthorpe, from left - Fr Lino
Valente, Sr Esther Dowling and
Ros Day.



Visiting VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

Darcy Furness, Warwick

In February this year I was fortunate enough to visit Vietnam and Cambodia with my daughter Denise and my granddaughter Carla. I had heard so much about the different orphanages and schools from Carla that to visit some of them went on my 'must do' list.

When Carla was 18 she decided to go and live in Cambodia. Her father had visited the country and told Carla about it. This sparked her natural appetite for travel.

She did some work at a remote orphanage where she lived in a room with only a mat on the floor for sleeping, and no electricity. The bathroom consisted of a large water urn outside. Here she helped the children with hygiene, teaching English classes, food preparation and general living skills. She worked with the administration side of the organisation helping with budgeting, menu planning and general administration. While she was here, with the help of family and friends, she was able to purchase a plot of land for the orphanage to farm.

Carla remained in Cambodia and went to work at a guest house owned and operated by an Australian lady. The guest house prides itself in employing locals and training them in hospitality. Carla worked with the staff, in a training capacity and also helped with marketing. While working at the guest house Carla worked with a group of Monks teaching evening English classes to children who are eager to learn. Carla has been back to Cambodia a number of times to visit friends, hence the invitation to go with her.

On mentioning my trip and its purpose to some of my friends, I arrived in Vietnam with donations of \$500, including \$100 from the Warwick sub branch of the RSL.

I don't know if beautiful is the right word to describe an orphanage, but that's what they were. The buildings, though not palatial, were spotless, and the children (whose ages ranged from babies to teenagers) were just so happy and well looked after. I may be an old softie but to see the babies in their cribs or have a little one come and look up at you with the most beautiful face and a smile, well that just melted my heart. I know there were a few times when my eyes were watering.

A group in the catholic community at Siem Reap goes to the outlying villages and serves rice soup to the children there. So we purchased 4 x thirty kilo bags for \$100 and gave it to the priest to distribute to the outlying villages.

We also went to a school where the children go for half a day for English and French lessons. We were there for their morning tea of fresh fruit which the teachers cut up and served to them in small bowls. What a morning we had playing 'dress up' with them, I ended up with a little one on each knee and wearing a very colourful wig. Later we went outside and played games, Denise and Carla swung the girls between them and I played soccer with the boys. We donated \$100 to them which will buy their morning tea for a month.

I think one of the most impressive establishments was a place called the Green Gecko. They have more than seventy children who previously begged in the streets (mostly at night) and as a result they slept through the day and didn't go to school. The money they got from begging went towards supporting their



Above:
School's out!



Left: Darcy
playing
'dress up'.

Right: Denise
and Carla
swinging the
children.



Right: Darcy
and some of
the goods to be
distributed.



Left:
Rice soup.

families. So in many cases they would face a future of prostitution or crime because of their lack of education. Green Gecko not only looks after these children but also took on the responsibility of helping to support their families. They also provide long term health, education and training initiatives. These children range in age from primary school to ones now in higher education. There is a boy studying law at the university and two girls who are apprentice hairdressers. Not only have they removed the children from the dangers of a life on the streets, they are giving them an education to better not only their own lives, but the lives of their families and giving them a brighter future. If anyone is interested in learning more about Green Geckos, their website is greengeckoproject.org.

We also visited a school Polpot converted into a prison and later transported the prisoners from there to the killing fields. But that's another story...



Above right:
Teachers cutting
up fruit for the
children.

Above and right:
Distributing fruit.

Left:
Darcy and the
children.



NEW CATHOLIC OUTREACH TO THE HOMELESS

'Rosies, Friends on the Street' will be starting an outreach at night to the homeless, lonely and disconnected people in Toowoomba in April.

Rosies was founded by a Catholic Religious Order called the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI) on the Gold Coast 26 years ago. Since then Rosies has offered support to over 1,300 people each week by

700 volunteers in 10 Centres throughout Queensland.

Rosies has been invited to start an outreach in Toowoomba. We are inviting you to learn more about Rosies with the view to volunteering a part of your time to this missionary outreach. For more information e-mail: admin@rosies.org.au and/or go to the website: www.rosies.org.au



Outreach to the Future

A Bequest to the Diocese of Toowoomba, it's 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.**

***"A generous person will be enriched,
and one who gives water will get water."***

Proverbs 11:25

FR DERICK JOHN FURNESS

Fr Derick Furness died peacefully at Lourdes Home Toowoomba on 13th March 2013. His funeral Mass, concelebrated by Bishop Robert McGuckin, Archbishop John Bathersby, Bishop William Morris and priests from Toowoomba Diocese, was held in St Patrick's Cathedral on 20th March.

In his eulogy, Trevor Furness, Fr Derick's brother, recalled how "Derick took a great interest in wildlife, loved the bush and his love for and interest in native birds continued throughout his life.

"He also loved sport and was quite adept at it, and very competitive...

"Although Derick loved serving on the altar and attended Mass daily, it came as some surprise to the family when he announced that he would like to study for the priesthood, although we learned that he had been thinking about it for some time, and even though our father was not a catholic and it was foreseen that there may be some difficulty in supporting him through another 9 years of study, Mum and Dad agreed and he was eventually accepted to attend the seminary at Banyo.

"He spent the first two years at the seminary completing his secondary school studies and he then began his study of 7 years for the priesthood.

"Throughout this time, Derrick spent each of the end of year holidays working at the cordial factory in Dalby where he made great friends and enjoyed the physical nature of the work after a year of study.

"He was ordained right here in this (St Patrick's) Cathedral on 29th June 1961. Mum and Dad and the rest of the family were very proud of his achievement and Dad particularly did much bragging about having a son in the priesthood.

"Derick said his first Mass in Dalby which was attended by a large gathering of friends and parishioners and after Mass the children of St Columba's (School) put on a concert in his honour.

"Throughout his life as a priest he worked in many locations. He was particularly proud of his work in Quilpie, looking after remote and outback areas of Queensland. He would often tell us that the area of his parish was the size of the state of Victoria, and recall the thousands of miles he would travel to insure his service reached as many as possible.

"Derick always kept in touch with the many friends he made and also with his extended family and relatives on both Mum and Dad's side of the family. He became a confidante for the whole family

and adults and children alike would seek his counsel and advice and he was always willing to help.

"When people were in most need, Derick seemed to have the knack to relieve their anxieties and steer them through their difficult time. He often said that he was unsure why God had called him to priestly ministry, but when you look at the many people he helped over the years, I think his purpose in life becomes very clear.

"Derick loved family gatherings and getting together with relatives. He had an endless supply of stories and jokes to tell to an attentive audience. There would always be lots of talking and much laughter.

"Sadly, Derick suffered with health issues throughout his life. He never complained and found infinite ways of coping with these issues.

"He still managed some overseas travel though and was on study leave in Rome when he had his first major setback in 1981. This resulted in a quadruple bypass. He then worked extremely hard at keeping his health in shape, spending a lot of time in research and diligently following a diet that he devised. However, 20 years later another serious heart attack resulted in another quadruple bypass. His heart was badly damaged and continuing ill health lead to his retirement in Dalby in 2002.

"During his retirement he assisted in Mum's care while she was with us and when he was able, spent time in the garden which he enjoyed. Thanks to him, the backyard at Mum's house has lots of flowers and vegetables still growing and many birds visit his feeding trays daily.

"In recent weeks though his health deteriorated further, but he remained upbeat and positive and even without full speech he chatted with his visitors, told his stories and still had a joke to tell.

"He will be missed, but remembered with love and fondness by us all."



Trevor Furness



Fr Derick Furness

After Trevor's eulogy, Fr Mick Carrol spoke of Fr Derick on behalf of his brother priests. He recalled how he had been ordained with Fr Derick "on the feast of St Peters and Paul. This year, it will be 52 years ago" and then continued:

"I must mention his great love, not only for his brothers in the priesthood, but for his family. Always he spoke of them with great affection and pride, because they were his family, and because he appreciated deeply their contribution to the life of the Church and the community at large – and of course the family have responded to his love and affection with enormous love and support.

"Similar things could be said about his affection and appreciation for his wide circle of friends and benefactors and their love and support for him.

"When I took up my first appointment at St Patrick's in 1962, the senior curate, maybe detecting some need in me, said to me one day when we were driving around the city: 'Remember this is a long distance race. Take it steady.' This was not Derick's way. He was a man in a hurry. His faith-filled ministry was intense and very direct. What I believe is true of his priestly ministry can be said too of that other ministry entrusted to him, namely, the path of suffering. I gather his health has been indifferent from childhood, but I wonder if we would have ever really known had it not been for that heart attack when he was travelling abroad in 1981. I have some recollection that during that journey he climbed Mt Sinai or Mt Tabour, but I could stand corrected on that.

"His final climb, over the last couple of months, has been difficult; and uncharacteristically, he seems to have been in no hurry to reach the summit. Now that he has, I am sure he would be relishing the touch of drama in the fact that he reached the summit not only on the second anniversary day of the deaths of Fr Bernie Kane and Fr Kevin Ryan, but also on the day that Jorge Mario Bergoglio was elected Pope and took the name Francis:

and today, the day of his burial, is the 27th anniversary of the ordination of John Bathersby as Bishop, from the year of '61.

"I leave you with the prayer that Derick composed for the memorial card for his golden jubilee of priesthood:

Lord Jesus, thank you for your servant Derick, and for all you have entrusted to his care. Protect him from all evil and ward off all hostile and negative forces. Fill him with the Spirit of truth and love to enlighten his mind and enflame his heart. Anoint his lips and empower his words to announce the Good News with insight and love. Open the minds and hearts and spirits of all of us to whom Derick ministers. May they be attentive and responsive and come to know and love and follow you faithfully, for you are our Lord and God for ever and ever. Amen.

"I think that prayer is full of faith. It is intense and very direct. I think it is Derick.



Fr Mick Carroll

Bishop Robert McGuckin, in his homily, reminded us that "by Baptism we become members of God's Family and are constituted as the People of God. Being a member of God's Church isn't meant to be something passive. We have received a great gift which is meant to be shared. The

gift is empowering, filling us with the spirit of the Risen Lord, continually calling us to be witnesses.

"We are called to exercise the mission which God has entrusted to the Church to fulfill in the world, in accordance with the condition proper to each one.

"Derick answered the call to the priesthood, to follow Christ more closely under the action of the Holy Spirit.

"Through the Sacrament of Orders and the anointing of the Holy Spirit (and the correct words for priestly ordination) Derick was configured to Christ in a special way.

"When baptising, and when in the name of Christ and the Church in the Sacrament of Penance Derick absolved sins; when he comforted the sick with the special anointing, and when he offered prayers of praise and thanks to God for the whole world, he was conscious that this was a special privilege given to him, for he was taken from among the people and appointed on their behalf for those things that pertain to God.

"For over 51 years Fr Derick has lived this vocation in the ministerial priesthood and shared in the priesthood of Christ, the Teacher, Priest and King building up the Church into the People of God.

"The Gospel proclaimed that everything has been entrusted to Jesus by the Father. As well, those who have laboured and are overburdened are invited to come to the Lord who will give them rest. Certainly Fr Derick has trusted in God and the Lord has now called him to rest.

"Thank you Trevor Furness and Fr Mick Carroll for your reflections on Fr Derick's life.

"I am sure each of us would have our own

stories and memories of Derek: his care and concern for people, wherever he was - for young and old alike, teachers, priests, parishioners, his family and friends, and the community.

"In a number of talks I had with Derick, I retain a very vivid image of the many places where he served (the distances he travelled and at time impassable roads that didn't defeat him - remembering the priest is indeed privileged to journey with so many people, in many and varied situations.

"In the times that I visited him I could also see that he was much loved, with his visitors from Dalby, Jandowae, Toowoomba and from around the diocese.

"Although he has died, the Church is surely better for what he has done. In today's Eucharist we give thanks to God and pray that Derick will now be received into the fullness of life.

"We remember that by death life is changed not ended. 'Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you ...'

"May all of us today, hear God's call more clearly because of the life of Fr Derick Furness. May we respond generously and each day may we all walk in a newness of life.

"We too are a pilgrim people.

"In this year of Grace and Faith we joyfully continue our pilgrimage to our Father's home above."



Right: Bishop Robert McGuckin praying the prayer of Commendation, with Bishop William Morris and Archbishop John Bathersby at Fr Derick's funeral Mass. Fr Peter Schultz (left) was Master of ceremonies.

Thinking Priesthood?

Contact: Fr Michael Cooney:
Phone 07 4662 4011
St Joseph's Parish
PO Box 32, Dalby, Qld 4405

or: Fr Jamie Collins:
Phone 07 4622 1075
All Saints Parish
PO Box 119, Roma, Qld 4455



FR DERICK JOHN FURNESS

- IN BRIEF -



Derick John Furness was born on 1st January 1937 in Warwick, one of six children to John Harold Furness and Jean Phyllis Neal.

Education: Primary School, St Columba's Dalby - 1942 - 1950
Secondary School, St Columba's Dalby - 1951 - 1952
Secondary School, Pius XII Seminary Banyo - 1953 - 1954
Seminary - Pius XII Seminary Banyo - 1955 - 1961

Date of Ordination: 29th June 1961
Place of Ordination: St Patrick's Cathedral, Toowoomba
Ordaining Prelate: Bishop William Brennan DD

Diocesan Appointments:

St Mary's Warwick	January 1962 - July 1967
St Patrick's Cathedral Toowoomba	July 1967 - September 1969
St Monica's Oakey	September 1969 - September 1974
St Finbarr's Quilpie	September 1974 - May 1975
Sacred Heart Cunnamulla	May 1975 - September 1975
St Finbarr's Quilpie	September 1975 - January 1976
St Anthony's Harristown	February 1976 - December 1976
Our Lady Help of Christians Chinchilla	December 1976 - January 1977
St Finbarr's Quilpie	January 1977 - March 1980

Study Leave Overseas	
including a long period of sick leave	25th March 1980 - 5th March 1981
St Patrick's Augathella	March 1981 - July 1982
Immaculate Conception Jandowae	July 1982 - February 1995
Sick Leave	February 1995 - February 1996
On loan to Brisbane Chaplain Logan Hosp.	February 1996 - December 2001

He retired in January 2002 due to illness and from September 2003 he resided with his mother in Dalby and remained in the family home after her death.

Other Interests and Involvements:

Chaplain 4th Class HQN Command (IMD) - Detached Army Aviation Centre Oakey and 7 Signals Regiment Cabarlah from 18th November 1969 to 11th August 1974. From 10th February 1975 he advanced to Chaplain 3rd Class and was transferred to HQI Division. He was discharged from this role on 27th January 1981.

VOCATION NEWS

The atmosphere that surrounds the celebration of the Mass of the Oils each year is one of reflection, renewal, thanksgiving and looking forward. Not only is it the time of the blessing and consecration of the Holy Oils for use throughout the diocese in the coming year, but it is also a time for the priests of the diocese to renew their commitment to priestly service.

This year, the Mass of the Oils came to us at a time in church life when we have had much to be thankful for. The excitement and anticipation that surrounded the election of Pope Francis has brought a great sense of hope to the lay faithful throughout the world, as did the recent ordination of Darryl Irvine bring joy to our diocesan family.

In the days leading up to the Mass of the Oils we also farewelled a faithful and hardworking servant of the diocese in Fr Derick Furness. The events of Fr. Derick's life were recalled at his Vigil in Dalby and at his funeral at the Cathedral with great fondness by many whose lives had been touched by his energetic and often charismatic ministry.

Fr Derick often had to overcome periods of illness throughout his life to undertake the various ministries he was associated with. So it is in the lives of Pope Francis, Fr. Darrell Irvine and Fr Derick Furness and many like them that we see moments of great perseverance, humility and love for the people they serve from all walks and stages of life.

Bishop Robert in his homily at the Mass of the Oils affirmed the ministry and thanked the priests of the diocese for their love and care in fulfilling their vocation in life. As we look forward to what

Fr Jamie Collins

lies ahead for the church in the world, and here locally, I ask that you continue to pray for all those who may be considering a call to the priesthood and religious life.

It was with a sense of great expectation and anticipation that Jacob Saal from Toowoomba began his priestly formation at Holy Spirit Seminary in Brisbane a few weeks ago. We pray that Jacob's studies for the priesthood will be guided and nurtured with prayerful support by all in this diocese who look forward to the journey that lies ahead.

The late Fr Derick Furness, the recently ordained Fr Darrell Irvine and our seminarian Jacob Saal have shown great commitment and perseverance in placing themselves at the service of others. May we remember and pray for them as we do for all who are discerning the call to priesthood and religious life at this exciting time in the life of the Church.



Above: Bishop Robert McGuckin with Jacob Saal.

Right: Fr Jamie Collins 'laying hands' on Darrell Irvine during his ordination.



FROM THE HOMILY OF BISHOP ROBERT MCGUCKIN

CHRISM MASS – 25 MARCH 2013

This evening we recall that through prayer and the laying on of hands the bishop who ordained us priests, made us sharers in the priesthood of Jesus Christ so that we might be consecrated in truth.

At the recent priestly ordination of Fr Darrell we heard the first reading from the Prophet Isaiah which we have again heard this evening. It proclaims *The Spirit of the Lord is upon me* but we remember that the Spirit is given for a purpose which moves outward:

- to proclaim the good news,
- to evangelise,
- to soothe the broken hearted,
- to act as a genuine pastor to those in need.

Priestly consecration isn't just operative when we put on sacred vestments but extends to the daily reality of our lives - for we are called to operate as men of God in fellowship with Jesus Christ. For this we need to have an interior bond, a configuration to Christ, and at the same time we need to extend ourselves to think of the other. It is not an asking *how much will this cost?* or *what will I get out of this*, or, *what is the gain for me?* but rather *what can I do for others?*

Jesus came to serve and not to be served. This configuration to Christ is not an easy thing to do, but it is essential to our priesthood.

Tonight we priests renew the promises that we made on the day of our ordination. We are stewards of the mystery of God and in this *Year of Grace* and *Year of Faith*, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council we are provided with the opportunity to proclaim the mystery of faith with a new enthusiasm and a new joy.

My dear people, the liturgy this evening reminds us all of the service that is asked of our priests:

- to celebrate the sacrifice of our redemption;
- to lead God's holy people in love; to nourish them by the word;
- to strengthen them through the sacraments.

We priests need your prayers and we are grateful for your prayers, support and encouragement. Continue to pray for us for we are but very fragile earthenware vessels.

We all must live within a Eucharistic community, but we cannot fulfil our ministry without you. We value extremely your co-operation in many pastoral projects and your wonderful spirit of collaboration as you minister with us for the good of the Kingdom of God and we thank you.

Please take this message back to your parishes.

For my part, I know people can be taken for granted, and I sincerely thank you the priests, my brothers, each and every one of you, for your faithful ministry. May we support each other and pray for each other.

Pope Benedict XVI in his homily at the Chrism Mass in St Peters last year reminded not only the priests but himself that a priest never belongs to himself. People must sense our zeal through which we bear credible witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Pope Francis at yesterday's Palm Sunday Mass called all Christians to be people of Joy.

"Do not be men and women of sadness: a Christian can never be sad! Never give way to discouragement! Ours is not a joy that comes from having many possessions, but it comes from having encountered a Person, Jesus, who



Bishop Robert McGuckin blessing the oil of Chrism.

is among us. It comes from knowing that with him we are never alone, even at difficult moments, even when our life's journey comes up against problems and obstacles that seem insurmountable, and there are so many of them!"

What wonderful words of encouragement and joy!

My brother priests, God's people continue to count on us, on our pastoral service, and our fidelity. Jesus chose you and me and we have been ordained to proclaim His Word. Rejoice, be strong, faithful and remember you are not alone. We journey together with God's people and we ask Mary the Mother of God, the Mother of Priests to pray for us.

With our eyes fixed on Jesus, let us continue to work together

- to preach the good news,
- to bring release to captives and new sight to the blind,
- to bring liberty to those who are oppressed, and
- to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.

May we do so with joyful zeal and may we remain in His love. May God Bless us all.

Below: With Bishop Robert McGuckin, the priests of the diocese renew their commitment to priestly service during the Chrism Mass.





PENTECOST - YOU SHALL BE MY WITNESSES

The season of Easter marks the highpoint of the Church's liturgical calendar. This season is not simply the remembrance of an historical event but the celebration of the transformative power of the Risen Christ in our lives, our Church and our world.

The seven weeks of Easter culminates with Pentecost. The English word "Pentecost" is a transliteration of the Greek word *pentekostos*, which means "fifty." It comes from the ancient Christian expression *pentekoste hemera*, which means "fiftieth day."

Of the four gospel writers, it is Luke who details the events that happened to the disciples in that room in Jerusalem. This narrative however is not found in his gospel but in the second volume of his writings, The Acts of the Apostles. In the second chapter of Acts, the writer uses the powerful Old Testament symbols of noise, wind and fire to herald God's gift of the God-self in the form of the Holy Spirit. To preface this experience, the final chapter of Luke's gospel has Jesus instructing his disciples to stay in Jerusalem where they will receive the Spirit in order to take up his mission and spread it further even to the ends of the earth.

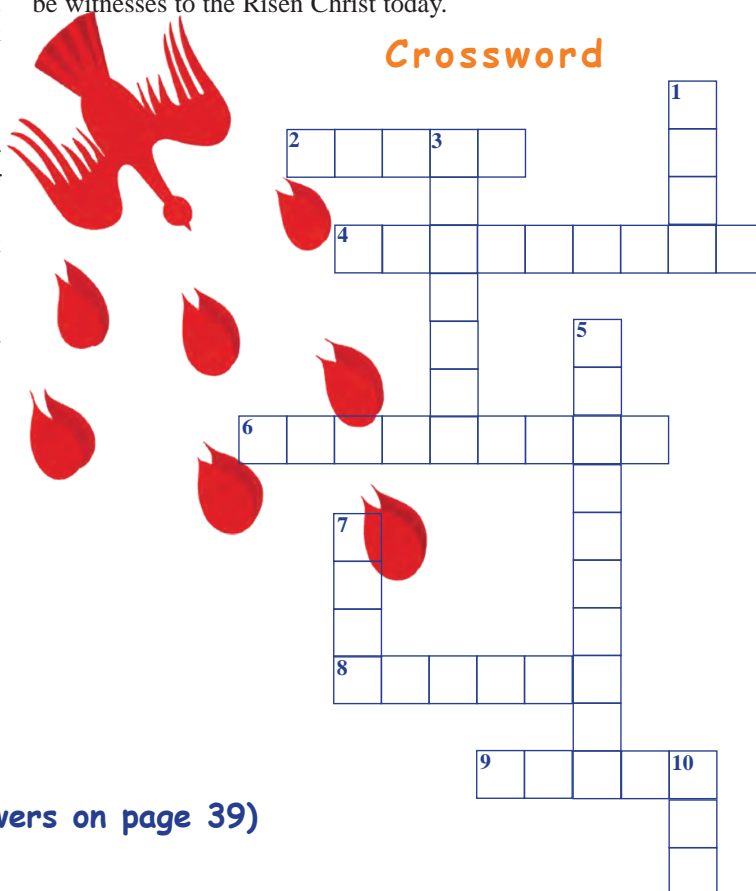
The scripture scholar L. T. Johnson writes that the Pentecost experience is the realization of Jesus' resurrection in the lives and ministry of the disciples. The 'fact' of the Risen Christ will be evidenced in the power they receive from the Holy Spirit; a power first witnessed by dispersed Jews staying in Jerusalem,

but which will eventually be experienced by Jews and Gentiles alike as recalled in Luke's writing.

The factual truth of Jesus' resurrection is a hotly debated topic in a post-Enlightenment age that equates proof with truth. Pentecost reconfigures this argument through an understanding that we can know the Risen Christ through the power of the Spirit at work in the Apostles and the bearers of the apostolic tradition of which we are a part.

It is fitting then that Pentecost should end the season of Easter. As good liturgy culminates with a commissioning or 'sending forth', Pentecost is an invitation to us modern day apostles to receive the power of the Holy Spirit that we too may be witnesses to the Risen Christ today.

Crossword



Clues:

ACROSS:

2. Pentecost means _____
4. The disciples started speaking in other _____
6. The city in which Pentecost occurred.
8. The Church season in which Pentecost falls.
9. The leader of the disciples.

DOWN:

1. The author of the Acts of the Apostles.
3. _____ of fire.
5. The disciples were filled with the _____
7. Symbol for the Holy Spirit.
10. The liturgical colour of Pentecost.

(Answers on page 39)



NOTE FROM THE FORMATION OFFICE

For some months now, Rob McCormack has been joined in the office for Pastoral Formation by Sr Elaine Morzone mfc. Looking at ways in which responsibilities might be subdivided, they have come to the conclusion that a division of roles according to focus would be the preferable option.

Rob will take a 'skilling for ministry' focus which would involve presentation of the formal programs "Beginning Theology" and "Serving God's People" with the possibility of shorter presentations based on these programs. His position title will be **Ministry Training Coordinator**. Telephone: 4632 5843.

Sr Elaine will focus on Spirituality enrichment in the diocese and on 'practical faith formation' directed to Parish Pastoral Councils, Parish Leadership and Ministry Groups. Her position title will be **Pastoral Development Coordinator**. Telephone: 4632 4277 ext 202.

Diary Markers



MAY

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Sunday 12th - Sunday 19th.

Our Lady Help of Christians: Patroness of Australia
Friday 24th.

JUNE

World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests
Friday 7th

JULY

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday
Sunday 7th.

Cent Sale for the Missions

Wednesday 10th, 9.30am - Sacred Heart Function Centre, Cnr Tor and North Streets. For information, contact: Sisters of St Peter Claver on 4632 1818.

World Youth Day - Rio de Janeiro
Tuesday 23rd-Sunday 28th.

Bible Sunday
Sunday 28th.

AUGUST

National Vocations Awareness Week
Sunday 4th - Sunday 11th

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

Answers to Crossword:

ACROSS:
1. Luke.
2. Fifty.
3. Languages.
4. Jerusalem.
5. Peter.
DOWN:
1. Luke.
2. Fifty.
3. Languages.
4. Jerusalem.
5. Peter.





St Saviour's Primary School

Strive for Goodness

Celebrating our 150th year



Throughout 2013, we at St Saviour's Primary School will be celebrating our **150th year** of primary school education for boys and girls in St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, Toowoomba.

All members of the St Saviour's Primary School community - past & present - mark your diaries for:

9 & 10 November 2013.... a celebratory and thanksgiving weekend

SCHOOL FUN DAY and PAST STUDENTS' REUNION

Agenda

(Saturday November 9, 2013)
9:30am 1st Tour of school
10:00am 2nd Tour of school
11:00am Luncheon for Past Pupils and Staff
2:00pm Fun Day commences

(Sunday November 10, 2013)
9am Thanksgiving Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral

For further information or to indicate your attendance or interest, please contact:

St Saviour's Primary School
14 Lawrence St
PO Box 1145
Toowoomba 4350

P: (07) 46371555
E: ssps@twb.catholic.edu.au
www.sspstwb.catholic.edu.au

FREE SUPPORT FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH A DISABILITY

Rachel Stewart, Communications Coordinator, 'Triple P International'; recently wrote to the diocese with the following information and Media Release:

I work for the Triple P – Positive Parenting Program and am involved with a project called Stepping Stones Triple P (SSTP).

The project has been funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council to provide all parents of children with disabilities in Queensland with free parenting support from June this year.

Professionals who work in this field can also apply for free Stepping Stones training and resources. The project is being managed by The University of Queensland (the lead researcher is Triple P – Positive Parenting Program founder, Professor Matt Sanders), The University of Sydney and Monash University.

As you can imagine, we need to connect with as many parents of children with special needs as we can, to let them know how to access this free parenting support. We particularly want to ensure parents in rural and regional areas are aware of the support available through this project.

MEDIA RELEASE

Free support for parents of children with disabilities

Do you have a child with special needs?

The National Health and Medical Research Council is funding a project to provide Queensland parents of children with a disability with free parenting support through the Triple P Stepping Stones program.

Professionals who work with children with a disability are also invited to apply for free Stepping Stones training and resources.

Go to mysay.org.au for more information.

Media Contact:

Rachel Stewart,
Communications Coordinator, Triple P International.
P: 07 3226 8517 | M: 0408 130767
E: rachel@triplep.net
W: www.triplep.net

LIVING GRACE FULLY IN THE EVERYDAY

Written by Moya Schaefer, supported by Patricia White-Davison

Sr Monica Cavanagh rsj presented a retreat experience for 16 people from parishes across the Diocese on February 16-17, 2013 at James Byrne Centre. We were invited to discern the presence of God in every moment of our day and every dimension of life as we spent time with our Lord.

Session 1 – Contemplation: Encountering God in the Everyday.

We considered several ways of Encountering God: through prayer and reflection, through nature, through other people, family, church community; through the scriptures, through the sacraments, through history, through the arts, through everyday experiences.

Session 2 – Communion: Meeting God in Our Everyday Encounters.

We came to realise that we hear the voice of God in others, see His Face in the faces of others, know His will and serve Him in serving others. *“To love another person is to see the face of God.”* (Victor Hugo)

Session 3 – Mission: Seeing God in Our Reaching Out to One Another in Service.

“Here I am. Send me.” (Isaiah 4:8)

We reflected on an experience of ministry or service where we had a sense of our boundaries being stretched. We shared the experience with Jesus - and tried to recall our feelings and thoughts. We also shared what we learnt and how it influenced the way we look at God, the church, and life in general.

We reflected on some quotes which spoke to us about grace: *“I have come that you may have life and have*

it to the full. This is my gift to you.” (John 10:10). *“I see grace as the environment in which we live our life. That in each moment there is a divine presence and our task is to be open to that divine presence.”* (Bishop Walker, Broken Bay).

We shared many grace filled moments as we contemplated in the grounds, sharing with one another in groups and over meals, and praying together. Toowoomba Diocese is blessed to have James Byrne facilities which are so conducive to reflection. *“Be still and know that I am...”* (Psalm 46:10) *“Come, come and spend this time with me”* really came to fruition for us. The retreat concluded with Sunday Eucharist celebrated by Bishop McGuckin in the chapel.

Our sincere thanks to Toowoomba Diocese and especially to Mary Schwartz for the great organisational and catering skills and to Monica for her gentle direction. We all appreciated the wonderful opportunity to stop, look and listen. We resolved:

To see with the eyes of Jesus,
To listen with the ears of Jesus,
To think with the mind of Jesus,
To speak with the voice of Jesus,
To love with the heart of Jesus,
To sniff out as Jesus did, the most vulnerable in our sphere of influence,
To see as God sees.



Retreat participants at Highfields.

RETREAT EXPERIENCE -

Mary Schwartz,
Diocesan Coordinator Year of Grace

The week of March 5th saw 35 people take some time out of their busy days to contemplate Christ: to listen to His voice, to seek His face, to open themselves to the gift of God's love, forgiveness and healing.

An initiative of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Toowoomba, in collaboration with the Year of Grace committee, the mini-retreat presented by Sr Elaine Morzone (mfic) comprised of three 2 hour sessions (either morning or evening) with a combined gathering on the fourth day followed by lunch. There was a great sense of bonding and fellowship within each group thus allowing for a very graced time of sharing and reflection. This also carried through to the combined group session where a *sense of the sacred* was strongly present.

Participants offered their responses to the week: *“A deeply spiritual experience, relevant to our daily living.”*

“It touched so many areas of day to day life.”

“It was great the way the different parishes shared with the wider group – a great sense of diocesan response.”

“A very well structured course to lead us closer to God and to ways of praying. It was designed to invite us to look at our life and the mini retreat achieved that Sr. Elaine prepared an

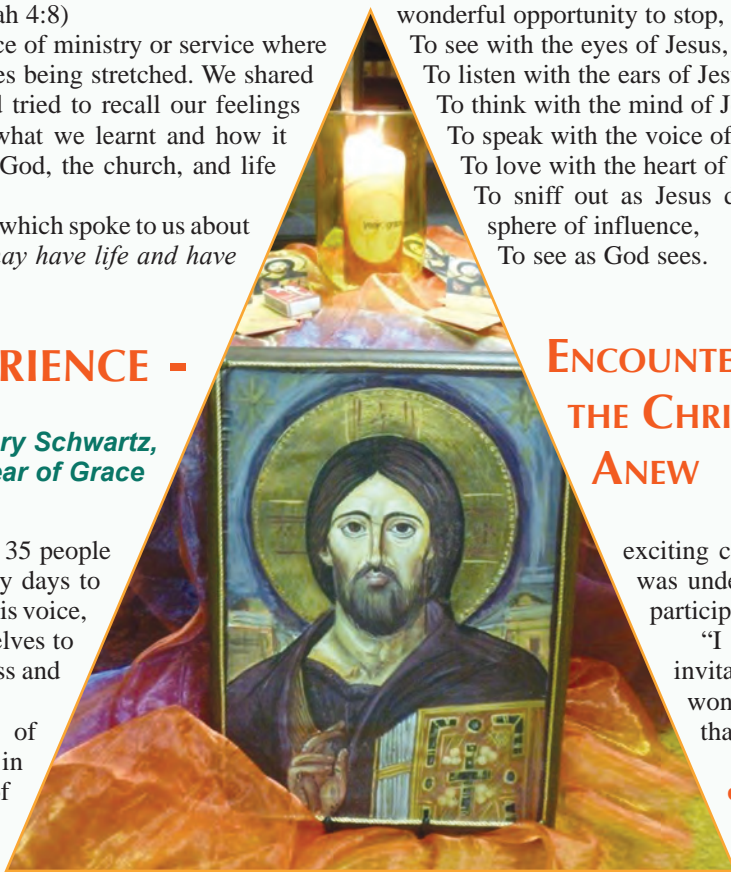
ENCOUNTER THE CHRIST OF SCRIPTURE ANew

exciting course and her personal response was understanding and meaningful to all participants. Highly recommended!”

“I am pleased that I answered the invitation to ‘come and See’. It was a wonderful experience. With grateful thanks”.

This mini-retreat experience can be offered in different formats ranging from a simple 2 hour session to anything from one or more days.

Parishes and communities across the diocese have been invited to consider offering this gift of grace to their people in their place.



Retreat participants at Our Lady of Lourdes.