

HORIZONS

of Toowoomba Diocese



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A note from the editor:

Dear Reader,

With a touch of sadness I wish to inform you that this will be the last edition of *Horizons* that I edit. I have enjoyed the work and it has been a great privilege for me, but arthritis in my wrists and other commitments prevent me from continuing.

We have a wonderful diocese and our Diocesan Agencies, schools and parishes do tremendous work - let us continue to share this good news through *Horizons*. Thank you for your support and encouragement. Unfortunately this edition will be a little late, for which I apologise. I am sure the new editor will bring fresh ideas and perhaps manage to be on time!

Once again I thank the Catholic Education Office for their contribution towards production costs and to our advertisers who so faithfully support us. Please remember to support them whenever possible.

Sincerely, and with assurance of prayers,

Sr Eileen.

DEADLINE

FOR OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2013 EDITION

-Monday 23rd September 2013-
but please send as soon as possible.

**NB: MUST BE STRICTLY
OBSERVED**

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One Year Later

I can truly say it doesn't seem that one year has passed since I came to Toowoomba.

I have been incredibly impressed with the welcome I have received from everyone in the Diocese.

Certainly the Diocese of Toowoomba is geographically vast and the time taken to travel from one end of the Diocese to the other presents difficulties. I have been to Charleville, Mitchell, Roma, St George-Dirranbrandi, Goondiwindi, Chincilla, Dalby, Warwick and many other places. I am yet to get to Birdsville, Quilpe or Cunnamulla but hope shortly to do so.

In some country areas the population has dwindled but nevertheless there is great ownership and care of local parish churches by very involved parishioners, many of whom have taken on leadership roles.

Ecumenical undertakings are very evident:

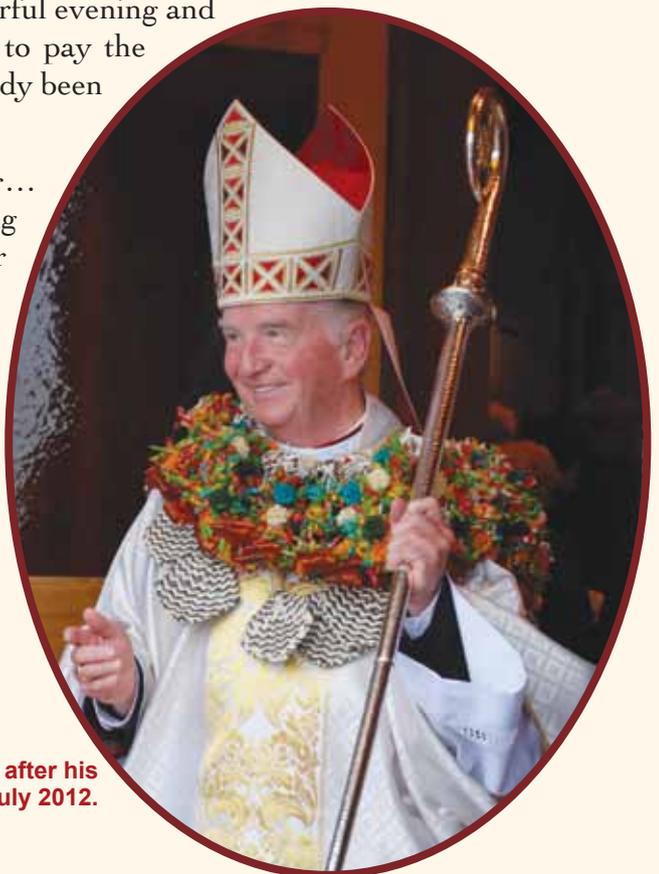
- In the Pastoral Care of the sick, training together, cooperating in hospital ministry
- Queensland Churches Together
- In Environmental Working Groups.
- In a commitment to work towards reconciliation with Indigenous Australians
- In Social Justice action –where a joint approach is more effective than individual approaches to governments (local and beyond): Speaking out and assisting Refugees, the Homeless, the poor, the disadvantaged.
- Clergy and other leaders from the different Churches getting to know each other.

At Easter, the Regional Anglican Bishop Rob Nolan and his wife invited me to join their family for dinner and I gladly accepted this invitation...Bishop Rob said he would come and pick me up from my house, so that I could have a drink or two and no need to worry about driving and that I could catch a taxi home, this was duly arranged. It was a wonderful evening and when the taxi arrived at my residence and I attempted to pay the driver (an honest taxi driver), I was told the fare had already been paid at the other end.

I have also witnessed local parish groups coming together... praying together, studying and meeting together and getting to know each other and seeing how working together better outcomes may be achieved.

There are plenty of challenges with vast areas where in the past there may have been 3 or 4 priests and now if they are lucky there is one. The laity offer competent support to our wonderful clergy. More clergy are needed and I pray many young men will offer themselves for the priesthood in the Diocese of Toowoomba.

Bishop Robert McGuckin



Bishop Robert leaving the Cathedral after his Episcopal Ordination on 11 July 2012.



ECOLOGY AND CONTEMPLATION

These two words evoke different responses in people. We all have our own journeys in faith and that gives us diversity and a chance to gain some other wisdom as we listen to the other.

I don't know about you, but I find it hard to fully grasp data about where we have come from and where we are going. For instance, Fr. Denis Edwards talks about how "cosmologists can now trace the history of the observable universe back to the first second of its existence, about 13.7 billion years ago" (Jesus and the Natural World, p.7). I am not questioning the data, but am surprised by so many changes in what we know now than when I was at school until the early 1960s. I fully appreciate my experience of moving from a telephone party line (and having to book calls at the exchange) to having a smart phone and lap top computer to communicate more effectively. They are just a small example of change in my lifetime.

But change has ramifications with ecology and poses challenges for us to care for it. So we have a chance to find wisdom other than a personal reaction.

In 2001 Pope John Paul II spoke about ecological conversion as creatures of God's creation. Among other things, he said:

"We must therefore encourage and support ecological conversion which in recent decades has made humanity more sensitive to the catastrophe to which it has been heading" (General Audience, 17 January 2001, par.4).

What "tools" have we got to respond to this Pope's reading of the signs of the times?

A recent experience for me lately was to attend the Eucharist and Dinner for the Carmelite Provincial Chapter. Apart from catching up with old friends, I was given a binder of lectures, mainly presented by Fr. Eduardo Scarel, O.Carm. I felt very much at home with his insights.

This Carmelite was bringing his solution to the current ecological crisis. His solution is to adopt a contemplative attitude. My appreciation of contemplation is to always walk in the presence of God. Eduardo's explanation is deeper:

"Contemplation is nothing else than to see Creation, or reality, with a new, different look: to see through God's eyes, to hear their sounds as God does, to feel its texture as God feels, to live from God's logical manner... For Christians: to live in Kingdom paradigm, to make Jesus' priorities our own options".

Having absorbed the above, I believe that at the heart of contemplation is the priority that Jesus saw in, and taught about relationships.

Relationships based on the key teachings of Jesus are the foundations for understanding of ecological conversion as a priority now and other key issues that continue to challenge us as human beings of whatever faith tradition. Love, forgiveness, listening, prayer and openness are all virtues that enhance our quality of life and wisdom to meet all challenges.

My hope is that we embrace contemplation as a necessary tool for ecological conversion and a real enhancement of our life of faith and an aide to be a proactive reflection of the teaching of St Irenaeus:

"The glory of God is a person fully alive".



75TH ANNIVERSARY OF MILLMERRAN PARISH

Nell Macqueen



The weekend of April 27th/28th saw and heard the celebrations of the 75th anniversary of the Millmerran Parish, which is the combined communities of Our Lady of Lourdes, Cecil Plains, and St Francis de Sales, Millmerran.

On Saturday night April 27th, Bishop Robert McGuckin came out to receive the Debutantes, along with regular participants Mayor Paul Antonio and Mrs Judy Antonio. Five young ladies made their debut at our 75th Annual Debutante Ball, amidst the glittering silver, blue and white decor created by Aileen Taylor, with the assistance of Fran Folker and Mary Tosswill, and all the other many helpers. The music was supplied by The Silvertones, and our local lads, CC and the Crusade: five Year 11 students who have been developing their Band since Year 8 at the Millmerran State School.

On Sunday morning, Bishop Robert was Principal Celebrant at Mass, with past Parish Priest Fr Pat Hall, Parish Director Fr Thomas Areekuzhy, and Fr Mick Carroll. It was a happy Eucharist with music provided by Maree Twidale, Lynnda Taylor, and their Merry Band.

After Mass our wonderful new mosaic of St. Francis de Sales was unveiled and blessed by Bishop Robert. Alain Colfs, artist in glass from Wildash, Warwick, created the work using traditional methods and Venetian glass smalti, some 8000 of them. The colours are brilliant!

Our delicious celebratory lunch was prepared and organised by Jodie McCullough and Mary Grebenshikoff. At this occasion a new Parish publication was launched: a compilation of writings by parishioners past and present, of memories and music, some personal catches of our history not published previously. This is available by ringing the parish contact: 4695 1462.

Well done Millmerran!



Top: Fr Thomas Areekuzhy, Fr Pat Hall, Bishop Robert and Fr Mick Carroll concelebrating the Anniversary Mass.

Above: Bishop Robert blessing the mosaic of St Francis de Sales

Right: "Offstage" at the Ball: Lachlan, Dylan, Dean and Matty.

Far right: "Last minute details" with Debs: Samantha, Lily, Tiarni and Mikaela.



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AUSTRALIAN **HERITAGE** FUNERALS

The year so far in ST THERESA'S PARISH, TOOWOOMBA

Christine Meneely

Beginning the 2013 year, the members of St Theresa's Parish Council gathered for an afternoon of formation and prayer, helping them to reflect on their role as representatives of the community.

The afternoon, led enthusiastically by Sister Elaine Morzone, focused upon the theme of "Leadership as a Call to Footwashing". Inspirational activities, such as imaging Jesus washing the feet of his disciples or imagining ourselves as Peter as Jesus knelt before us, led to a humble realisation of His "labour of love".

Participants were encouraged to engage in genuine dialogue and this provoked discussions about roundtable ministry, fruitful service and different approaches to building and being church.

Commissioning ceremonies were held at both the 6pm Saturday and 9am Sunday Masses, to welcome our new Parish Council Members Ray Taylor, Mary Watts, Patricia Njoroge and Kay Gleeson; and to thank outgoing members for their hard work and vision over the past three years.



On Sunday February 24th, the St Theresa's Parish community gathered to celebrate the Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary of parishioners Neville and Pat Preece.

Joining with their Mass community, family and friends; Neville and Pat renewed their Marriage Vows in a touching ceremony, whereby they expressed gratefulness and thanked God for the gift of each other.



Di Phillips, a close family friend, presented them with a special candle to commemorate their love and commitment and they received a special blessing by Fr Brian Noonan.



Our Care and Concern Team celebrated the contribution of retiring member Ann Thompson (centre in red) at a special morning tea in early March.



On a social note, members of the parish meet on the first Wednesday of the month for morning tea at a local coffee shop. All are welcome to attend and there is much laughter and friendship amidst the coffee and cake!



Responding to parishioner's interest in self-education and thirst for knowledge, St Theresa's has opened a Parish Library, providing the opportunity for the deepening of our faith and learning more about our Catholic theology.



Left: Our Library open and in action! Browsing the shelves are Clarice da Silva, Anne Borserio, Carole Rogan and Leona Parker.

After a successful trial in 2012, Children's Church has also been introduced on a Saturday evening (as well as the traditional Sunday morning group).

A group of dedicated leaders and helpers break open the Word, by sharing Gospel stories, prayers, songs and activities.



Above: Bridget, Paterson, Elizabeth and Carter enjoying learning more about God.

On Pentecost weekend, we celebrate and give thanks for the many gifts within our vibrant Parish. The members of the Pastoral Parish Council look to "serve" our community by providing Soup and Crusty Bread after the Vigil gathering and Coffee and Cupcakes on Sunday morning.

By all accounts, the variety of soups were delicious and warming on a cold evening, the chocolate brownies and decorated cupcakes went down a treat; and most of all it was a valuable time to get to know each other a little better and make some new friends.

Another St Theresa's initiative has been the start of the social event "Nibbles and Notes". Designed for those who enjoy sharing music, playing instruments, those who can sing and

those who just enjoy the experience, “Nibbles and Notes” caters for a wide variety of age groups.

It has been very successful in joining people with a common interest in music (or maybe those who just enjoy nibbles?)

The Social Justice Group has been very busy after collecting toiletries to make care packages for women and children experiencing domestic violence. Often when people flee domestic violence situations, they arrive at crisis care with only the items they wear. To ensure they felt supported in this very vulnerable time, parishioners generously donated deodorants, hair care, sanitary items, skin care, toothbrushes and pastes and new underwear. The Social Justice Group then sorted and combined these goods for distribution for those in need.



Another cause for celebration recently in our Parish was the Confirmation and First Eucharist of many young boys and girls. After a period of preparation, all the children

were very excited to finally make this important step in their faith journey, which our community will work to foster and develop.



BISHOP ROBERT THANKS FOR ORDINATION GIFT

Bishop Robert McGuckin recently hosted a luncheon for the students from St Joseph’s College who painted his ordination gift.

During the Bishop’s ordination Mass, Dougal Evans, Kate Taylor, Caitlyn Davis and Dana Woods were skilfully adding paint to a large canvas at the front of the Cathedral. By the end of the Eucharistic hymn the face of Jesus was revealed. The painting now has pride of place on the wall of the dining room in the Bishop’s Office.

“I wanted to especially thank these students for sharing their gifts as artists with the congregation of students at my ordination and for the gift of the painting that now hangs in the dining room of my office,” said Bishop McGuckin.

During the visit the students took the opportunity to tour the offices with the Bishop. Bishop Robert’s guided tour of the offices included sharing with the student’s the letter from the Pope that each of Toowoomba’s Bishops have received on being chosen to lead the Diocese; gifts of handiworks, paintings and drawings from members of our Diocese that hang on the walls of the Chapel and throughout the house; and a close up look at the handmade decorative collar that was presented to the Bishop by members of the Fijian community.

Photographs: Top - Bishop’s Welcome Mass 2012 – the painting in progress.

Right - The completed painting.

Below left - Bishop Robert pointing out the detail in the letter from Pope Benedict.

Below right - Dana Woods, Dougal Evans, Bishop Robert, Kate Taylor and Caitlyn Davis.





Go and make disciples of
all nations - Matthew 28:19

World Youth Day 2013
Rio, Brazil

WORLD YOUTH DAY RIO 2013

“GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS” (MATT 28:19)

Sarah de Byl, Coordinator, Diocesan Youth Ministry

For some of us it might not seem all that long ago that we took part in World Youth Day 2008, the happiest and holiest week in the history of Australia! For others of us it will seem only yesterday that we were getting ready to attend or help other people attend World Youth Day 2011 in Madrid.

We'll believe it or not, there's another one around the corner and it will be very special. From the 23-28 July, millions of young people from around the world will descend upon Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to join Pope Francis in only the second ever World Youth Day in South America.

Brazil has the biggest tropical rain forest in the world; a huge coastline like Australia, with amazing beaches, mountains, rivers and waterfalls. Like Australia, its most famous city is renowned for its harbour. Rio's harbour is almost as good as Sydney's but has one big advantage over Sydney: a huge statue of Christ the Redeemer built on a mountain to preside over it! That's because Brazil is the largest Catholic country in the world. Around 143 million of its 193 million people are Catholics.

World Youth Day calls together young people of every nation and language, gives them the spiritual experience of

their lives, and then sends them out to change the world. So it's a great choice of theme for this World Youth Day: Our Lord's invitation to "Go and make disciples of all nations" (Matt 28:19).

It is anticipated that those of us who go to Rio, like those who took part in Sydney or Madrid, will come home better disciples and willing to help others be disciples of Jesus Christ.

The Toowoomba pilgrims will begin their journey to Rio early on July 15. They will fly first to Santiago, Chile, for a pre-WYD immersion experience organised by the St Columban's Mission Society, to meet with the local parish in the poorest areas of Chile.

From Chile, pilgrims will continue to Rio for World Youth Day and return on August 2.

Young Catholics Toowoomba will have daily updates, news, video footage and audio clips direct from Chile and Rio via The Young Catholics website and Facebook page.

At the time I write this, the Diocese of Toowoomba is in the final preparations for the Pilgrimage. Our six representatives speak of their commitment to the Pilgrimage:

REBEKAH BOWDLER

Hello! My name is Rebekah Bowdler and I am the Year One teacher at St. Joseph's School in Chinchilla. After experiencing World Youth Day in Sydney in 2008, I jumped at the prospect of once again being a World Youth Day pilgrim when the opportunity arose. Having never ventured overseas before, I am not only looking forward to sharing my faith with approximately 3 million other young Catholics, but also immersing myself in the culture and experiences that come with travelling to another country. It is my hope that the World Youth Day pilgrimage to Chile and Rio de Janeiro will help me to renew my own faith and to feel more alive with the spirit so that I can return to Australia and share this with other young people in the Toowoomba Diocese.



KATIE HEDE

My name is Katie Hede and I have been working as a Prep and Year One teacher at Saint Joseph's Primary School in Chinchilla for the past five years. I am also fortunate enough to have been presented with the opportunity to take on the acting role of APRE (Assistant Principal in Religious Education) in our school this year. This wonderful opportunity has provided me with the chance to make a more significant impact on the lives and experiences of not only the students in our school, but on our teachers, parents, fellow parishioners and the wider community. I truly believe that the work you engage in with the students in your school need to be seen as genuine and authentic if you are going to inspire your students with your own faith beliefs. World Youth Day is a journey of faith, learning, hospitality and unity. I believe that it is through new and meaningful experiences such as these that we allow ourselves to grow, to change, to have a new lease on life and to have a better understanding of our world. I look forward to this pilgrimage providing me with



the opportunity to stop, reflect and to think about what we do as teachers in a Catholic school and why we do it. I will strive to develop the strength, passion and power to action realistic plans and goals that will support the growth and development of my school and my community. I feel World Youth Day is the avenue in which I can ignite the fire and passion that I require for growth as an individual and as a teacher.

JESS DAVIDSON

My name is Jess Davidson and I'm a teacher at St Mary's College, Toowoomba. Growing up in the Toowoomba Diocese, I was a member of St Mary's Parish, Warwick in my formative years. I attended St Mary's School, Warwick then Assumption College. After 10 years of studying, travelling and teaching in other places, I re-joined the Toowoomba diocese in 2008 as a teacher at St Joseph's College, Toowoomba. I am now a member of the Lourdes Parish, Toowoomba. More than anything else, I am looking forward to celebrating my faith with young people from around the world at World Youth Day Rio. "The time and space to share and celebrate what it means to be Catholic in an open and accepting environment with like-minded people is a fantastic gift." I look forward to bringing the spirit of WYD RIO back to my school and parish community.



ANGELA COLLINS

My names Angela Collins and I'm a local Toowoomba girl who grew up in the Sacred Heart Parish. I attended Primary School at Sacred Heart, before going onto Secondary School at St Saviours College. After school, I completed my Education degree in Brisbane at QUT. I started my teaching career at St John's School, Roma where I taught PE, Maths and Religion for four years. Following this, I taught at St Joseph's College, Toowoomba for five years holding various positions including Head of HPE and Acting Head of Religion. I now work as Head of House at St Mary's College teaching Religion and Science. I attended WYD Sydney and have worked with OLSH International School, Kavieng, PNG on four separate occasions since my first immersion in 2007. I am currently studying my Masters in Religious Education at ACU. Following the appointment of Pope Francis, I am extremely excited about the pilgrimage to South America and WYD Rio. I am particularly excited by the opportunity to work with the Columban Fathers in Chile.



KARRA NOSWORTHY

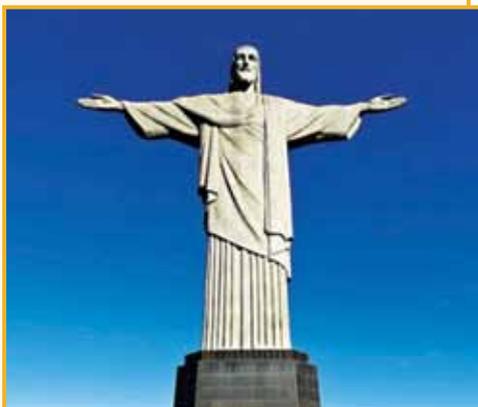
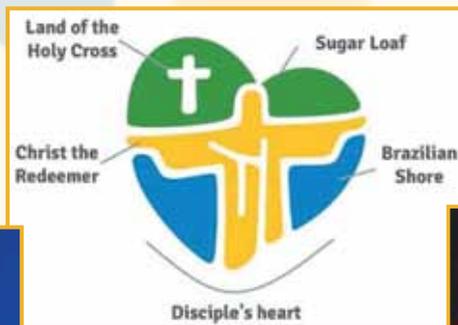
World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro sounds amazing and I believe it was such a great opportunity that I just couldn't pass it up. My name is Karra Nosworthy and I'm the APRE at St Mary's Parish Primary School in Goondiwindi. I'm hoping to gain many wonderful experiences that will broaden my knowledge and skills. I hope to share my faith insights with other pilgrims, interact with people from different countries and Parishes around the world, and listen with hope to the learned wisdom of our newly appointed Pope. Whilst working in the mission, I hope to gain a greater understanding of the poor. I look forward to my experience and hope to share many of my opportunities when I return.



SARAH DE BYL

To be given the opportunity to attend WYD in such a culturally rich country and with such a diverse group of people is amazing. Having previously attended both Sydney and Madrid I look forward to the experiences Rio holds for me. WYD has changed my entire perception of my faith. It is something to be treasured, to be loved, to be proud of. I found out there is a huge community of young people out there who believe what I do. I believe WYD Rio will give me the opportunity to bring back experiences that I can apply to my own life and those around me.

I look forward to more of these faith experiences, taking a step out of my comfort zone, meeting new people, making new friends and exploring the wonders of South America.



Right: Toowoomba Pilgrims dinner with Bishop Robert.

STANTHORPE NEWS - FROM ST JOSEPH'S PARISH:

A BIG WEEKEND ON THE GRANITE BELT

All roads lead to Stanthorpe and The Granite Belt on the first Sunday of May each year. Many come for the "Opera in The Vineyard" which is a hugely popular annual event at the Ballandean Estate Winery south of Stanthorpe, hosted by parishioners Angelo and Mary Puglisi.

Once again this year's local "star attraction" was young parishioner Matthew Manahan, a Year 12 student of St Joseph's School, who received a standing ovation at the *Opera in The Vineyard*. Matthew is also a Young Ambassador for Queensland Opera. Matthew's family, Dr Dan and Jacinta Manahan, as well as his School and Parish are all very proud of Matthew's achievements in the musical world and the Arts. Matthew also played the leading role in the School Musical, "Man of Steele", a comical send up of Superman. Be on the lookout for this rising star in the years ahead.

Also travelling to Stanthorpe on the first weekend of May are many pilgrims, mainly Sicilian or of Sicilian descent, to celebrate the annual Three Saints Festival in St Joseph's Parish in honour of the three brothers Alfio, Filadelfo and Cirino who were martyred for their Christian faith in Lentini, Sicily on 10th May 253AD.

Celebrations included a concelebrated Mass with Fr Savino Bernardi, the Congregational Leader of the Scalabrinan Fathers in Australia and Asia; Fr Brian Connolly; Fr Lino Valente and Fr Don Murray. After a procession through the streets with the statues and the Veneration of the relic of St Filadelfo, everyone enjoyed the social celebrations in St. Joseph's School Gymnasium, traditional food, dancing and spectacular fireworks. Everyone in Stanthorpe knows on this day and night each year that the large Sicilian community of St Joseph's Parish are celebrating their much admired and loved "Three Saints".

For more information on The Three Saints or next year's celebrations contact Nita Gasparin on 4681 2175.

ECUMENICAL EVENTS

A good representation of St. Joseph's Parish parishioners were present at the recent induction of the new Uniting Church minister Rev. Linda Hamill and the annual Pentecost Service held this year in St Paul's Anglican Church.

BLESSING OF COMMUNITY ABOVE GROUND BURIAL VAULTS

On Friday 28th June, the newly constructed Community Above Ground Burial Vaults at the Stanthorpe Cemetery were blessed by Fr Brian Connolly and Fr Lino Valente, in the presence of the Mayor of the Southern Downs Regional Council, Peter Blundell, Councillor Vic Pennisi and fellow Councillors and the local Funeral Director and parishioners Raymond Mattiazzi, parishioners and members of the public.

After many years of campaigning by Raymond on behalf of the local Italian Community whose preference for the interment of deceased family members is burial vaults or crypts, the project was undertaken by the Shire Council and is now a reality and will cater for the needs of the community for years to come and replace the current underground vaults that have been used for many years.

CONFIRMATION

Twenty-five children celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation during the 9am Mass in St. Joseph's Church, Stanthorpe, on Trinity Sunday. Bishop Robert McGuckin administered the Sacrament. This was his second visit to the Parish this year, having been here in February to solemnly Dedicate the Church.



Pictured with Fr Brian Connolly, Bishop Robert McGuckin and Fr Lino Valente following the Confirmation Mass are:

Front Row: Louise Day, Matthew Biddulph, Vanessa Petrocchio, Gianna Pozzebon, Taryn Hines.

Second Row: Jenna Fox, Teresa Pozzebon, Cooper Wren, Adam Raccanello, Ky Rashleigh, Nathan Webb, Michael Coco, Mitchell Brunckhorst.

Third Row: Sianna Green, Brayden Spiller, Avril Davies, Brooke O'Brien, Neil Perrett.

Fourth Row: Aymon Rhodes, Mikayla McDonald, Hannah McMeniman, Charlotte Widderick, Mya Perrett, Samuel Gibbons, Chayne Rhodes.



Partially obscured in the fourth row of the group photo are Mikayla McDonald (left) and Mya Perrett (right) pictured being Confirmed by Bishop Robert.

FROM ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL:

Angelina Sims

CELEBRATING ST JOSEPH'S DAY

The Feast of St Joseph the worker was celebrated on Tuesday 19th March. As part of the School celebrations for this special feast day, a free sausage sizzle lunch prepared by the Year 12s was provided for students and staff. Once again the St Joseph's Alumni Association provided a special treat in the form of an ice-block for each student. This wonderful treat was greatly appreciated by the students and we thank the Alumni for their generosity.

After lunch the school gathered as a whole for the Celebration of the Word at the Bathersby Centre to remember Joseph, the compassionate, caring man. In keeping with past tradition, Preps to Year 12s



enjoyed a variety of afternoon community style activities such as wheelbarrow races, three legged races, sack races, egg and spoon, a skipping race relay and the favourite tug 'o war.

SPREADING THE ST JOSEPH'S MERCY VALUES

The newly named Bathersby Centre (fondly nicknamed the "gym") has become an invaluable space for St Joseph's School community since its completion in 2011. It is planned that the majority of school functions and P & F fundraising events will be held at the centre, making the shared space one that symbolises the philosophy of a P-12 school. Plans are already underway for the Year 12 Graduation which will be held on 14th November at this ideal facility – the first of many graduation celebrations to come. To cater for this large event, the school has already purchased various items to outfit this centre such as tables and chairs. To ensure the Graduation will be a special and memorable occasion for the Year 12s, the Bathersby Centre will require some "dressing up". It is hoped that each year, as the Year 12 cohort gear up for their Graduation, a committee will be formed, consisting of parents from that class with the intention of fundraising for small extras for this special ceremony, such as linen hire and so on. This builds a wonderful sense of community amongst Year 12 parents and teachers, as well as an investment in a shared goal between parents and their children by knowing the class has worked together to make the graduation a truly special occasion.

This year's Graduation Steering Committee decided to run a street stall in Tenterfield as their first major fundraising activity. This was also an ideal way to accommodate families of Tenterfield students and ensure they feel included in various school events - as well as showing support to one of the School's Year 12 parents who is currently battling cancer. In a gesture of support to this family, it was also decided to donate half of the funds raised from the street stall to the Cancer Council. The day proved to be a huge success with many of the St Joseph's School Mercy Values being displayed. Thank you to the generosity of those who donated fresh produce and home baked goodies as well as those who travelled to Tenterfield to deliver and help with the stall.

YEAR 12 STUDENTS ENJOY UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE

On Thursday 16th May, Year 12 students travelled to University of Southern Queensland Toowoomba for a Student Experience day. This day provided a great opportunity for the students considering tertiary studies to experience what university is all

about. Students were able to participate in a range of interesting and inspiring sessions tailored to their areas of interest. Thank you to Mrs Parakas and Mr Brown for accompanying these students. Year 12 Student Chantelle Bongers said, "USQ was an eye opening experience which showed how school and university are completely different." Isaac Neill further added, "USQ certainly does live up to their promise of providing endless opportunities." In the last week of Term 2 these students then enjoyed a field trip to the University of Queensland. This excursion involved travelling to St Lucia Campus and touring the available facilities.



LEO CLUB HOSTS SUCCESSFUL PANCAKE DAY

The St Joseph's Leo Club hosted a pancake day in early May as a whole school fundraiser. Many delicious pancakes were bought and enjoyed by all students. A huge thank you is extended to the Leo Club members for their time with this project as well as Ms Miiller for her assistance with cooking, and Mr Way who is the Leo Advisor. Thank you also to all the students who supported this fundraiser which raised over \$500. These funds will be



presented to Naiyala High School students in Fiji by three St Joseph's Students who in conjunction with the Stanthorpe Rotary Club will take part in a two week cultural education program in August.

DISTRICT GOVERNOR VISITS STUDENTS

On Monday 27th May, Lions District Governor Merv Ferguson and his wife Betty visited St Joseph's Leo Club members together with Leo Advisor Lions Joy Bonogoure and Lions Mike Bonogoure. The Leo's were very pleased to welcome these special guests to their lunchtime meeting. It was the perfect

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opportunity to formally recognise and induct the new Leo Club members. The Leo Club is very grateful to District Governor Merv and Mrs Ferguson for travelling to Stanthorpe for this special meeting. The Leo Club focuses on supporting both the local and wider community with various fundraising ventures.

“MAN OF STEEL” MUSICAL SUCCESS

The Stanthorpe and wider community have enjoyed another successful musical proudly showcased by St Joseph’s School. Celebrating over a decade of performing school musicals, St Joseph’s students did not disappoint, and provided an entertaining and exhilarating performance of the popular musical “Man of Steel” on 31st May and 1st June. The audience appreciated the goofy humour, excellent singing with bursts of laughter rippling throughout the show.

Wonderful comments from members of the community were received with some returning again to watch the Saturday night performance. Amongst Friday night’s audience enjoying the show was Director of the Catholic Education Office Toowoomba, Mr John Borserio and his wife Anne, Senior Education Officer Mrs Suzanne Cavanagh, Parish Priest Fr Brian Connolly, retired Priest Fr Lino Valente, and Sr Esther Dowling rsm.

Students thoroughly enjoyed presenting this hilarious musical and showcasing their many months of rehearsals, commitment and hard work to the Stanthorpe community. The school is very fortunate to have the pool of talent they have and relishes the opportunity of giving these young people a unique cultural experience. All students were wonderful ambassadors for the school who willingly gave of themselves for these performances.

Congratulations to the staff and students, Musical Producer Mrs Donna Gerster, Musical Director Mrs Pauline Leigh, Mr David Fleming, and the dedicated band of volunteers and supporters who all assisted in putting together another wonderful school musical.

Right:
Man of Steel
(Matthew
Manahan) and
Linda Street
(Sophie Sims)
both Year
12 students
performed
in their
last school
musical.



Below:
The cast of
“Man of Steel”.



MY FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Neve O’Mara, Warwick.

My name is Neve O’Mara. I am nine years old. I have recently celebrated my First Holy Communion. To prepare, we were split into small groups where we completed lessons about fire and light, ripples in the water and things like that. Closer to it we all came together at St Mary’s Church to do some practices, so as we knew what to do on the day. I made some friends as I did my First Communion and saw some of my friends from school there too.

On the day, I wore a white strapped dress with a velvet black bow around the waist. It had diagonal ruffles from the bow down to the bottom of the dress. I had a navy blue cardigan with a bow at the left shoulder. Afterwards, I got a few presents like a tiny bible, a cross necklace and some rosary beads. I now understand about the sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Eucharist. I feel very welcome in the St Mary’s community. I had lots of fun doing my First Holy Communion.

Neve O’Mara receiving her certificate from Fr Franco Filipetto.

ST VINCENT'S HOSPITAL

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

HOSPITAL BABIES AND BREAST CANCER PATIENTS BENEFIT FROM RURAL WOMEN'S GENEROSITY

It may have been a long, dusty trip out West, but for St Vincent's Private Hospital Breast Care nurse Bronwyn King and midwife Raeline Walker, the 250km trip to the rural community of Dulacca early in May was well worth the drive.

Mrs King and Mrs Walker were guests of honour at the annual Toomba Ladies Day Out; a swish ticketed "must-attend" luncheon for farming women in the surrounding communities.

The event was also a chance for the skilful craftswomen who had taken up the "Quilts of Love Challenge" to display their colourful creations and pass them on to patients who would most benefit from their creativity and warmth.

Mrs Walker said the Day Out was an incredible eye-opener into the generosity of our region's farming communities. "These busy farming ladies find time to sew beautiful patchwork quilts for the babies in our Special Care Nursery and for those who tragically experience still birth," Mrs Walker said. "They are a work of art and are greatly treasured by the mothers."

The Breast Care Bags—also beautiful patchwork and completely unique—will be used to hold the patient's drainage tube, which is required for several days after surgery. "I just love the bags; they are so funky and cheerful," Mrs King said. "They will be very much appreciated by our breast cancer patients."

The local school and community rally each year for this fundraiser, now in its sixth year, with the purpose of creating these "Quilts of Love" and Breast Care Bags for St Vincent's Private Hospital. More than 100 quilts and 30 Breast Care Bags were presented to Mrs Walker and Mrs King as donations to the Hospital. The craftswomen hailed from Injune, Miles, Mitchell, Wandoan, Bell and Taroom.

"There were a few stalls and guest speaker Alice Greenup, who has just finished her book of her remarkable journey from Melbourne life to marriage to a farmer. An inspiring story," Mrs Walker said. "I'm blown away by the hospitality of the women, the craft on display, and the amazing garden in the 'middle of nowhere'," she said.

DEDICATED STAFF HONOURED

Staff at St Vincent's Private Hospital Toowoomba were recognised for their long and dedicated service during the hospital's annual Foundation Day on May 22.

Bishop Robert McGuckin and hospital General Manager Carl Yuile presented 31 staff members with special certificates and badges in recognition of their valued contribution to St Vincent's.

Bishop McGuckin provided a blessing for staff and volunteers, who were acknowledged for more than 10 years' service to St Vincent's. "May they actively promote the Mission, Vision and Values of this hospital as they go about their work," he said.

Those honoured included Jeanette Potts, 75, who has been a member of the St Vincent's Cancer Care Committee for more than 20 years and a hospital pastoral carer for three years – all on a voluntary basis. "I've always enjoyed helping others," Mrs Potts said. "I've been a volunteer in Toowoomba since I was 16 years old."

Mr Yuile said the care and compassion that hospital staff and volunteers demonstrated in their day-to-day tasks made the hospital a rewarding and enjoyable place to work. "The hospital has been built on the rich tradition of the Sisters of Charity and their devotion to the care of the sick, the suffering and the dying," Mr Yuile said. "It is truly commendable to see our staff and volunteers continue this wonderful Ministry."

Close to 100 guests attended the Foundation Day service, including Mary Aikenhead Ministries Trustee Dr Tessa Ho, SVHA Board Director Gary Humphrys and Group CEO Dr Tracey Batten.



Above: A St Vincent's Private Hospital Special Care Nursery baby benefits from the Quilts of Love.



Left: Breast Care Nurse Bronwyn King with the Breast Care Bags donated to the Hospital.



Above: St Vincent's Private Hospital General Manager Carl Yuile (front row, left) and Bishop Robert McGuckin (front row, right) present more than 30 St Vincent's Private Hospital staff members with certificates and badges in recognition of their dedicated service to the hospital.



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SOCIAL JUSTICE NIGHT ENJOYED BY ALL!

On Wednesday 15 May, the young people of the diocese were lucky enough to have Br Damien Price come to speak at a Social Justice Night held at St Anthony's Parish Centre by Young Catholics Toowoomba. Also included in the night was a chance to speak with some of our Catholic social justice organisations and agencies that work both locally and globally. The night began with a shared meal; we were then inspired and left a little M.A.D. (Make a difference) by Pricey. The young people then enjoyed a rich discussion on social justice issues and how they, as individuals, can work alongside the organisations and agencies that attended. A great night was had by all.



Right: The team from Rosies Ipswich.



Below: Mick Jones, Catholic Mission.



Above: Br Damien - turning everyone a little M.A.D.



Left: The lovely ladies from Caritas.

We're on Facebook and the Web!

If you would like to join Young Catholics Facebook group, you can find us at "Young Catholics Toowoomba". Our direct URL address is [facebook.com/yctwmba](https://www.facebook.com/yctwmba).

If you don't have Facebook you can also find us on the Web: www.mwyp.org.au

Sarah de Byl




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ROSIES VAN - FIRST NIGHT OUT IN TOOWOOMBA

Early this year a committee, Toowoomba Rosies Advisory Committee or TRAC was formed to steer the introduction of Rosies Van to Toowoomba. This TRAC committee comprising of Mark Copland, Brett Rangiira, Rosie Harrison, Sarah de Byl and Margaret Battle has met regularly with Rosies Van personnel in Brisbane to bring the outreach to Toowoomba.

We have been supported in this process by Bob Boardman, General Manager for Rosies Van and Michael Byrne, Rosies Van Ipswich Coordinator.

The Sisters of Mercy in conjunction with St Saviour's College have generously given a room for training purposes, kitchen area for storage along with parking for Rosies Van Toowoomba to be located.

In March training began at the Mercy convent site for many people who had registered their interest in becoming a Rosies volunteer. At the first session we had almost 30 people attend and a subsequent session of over 50 people had to be moved to the St Saviour's library to accommodate this overwhelming response. Further training has been conducted in June with additional workplace Health and Safety training also being offered at Rosies Toowoomba site.

Outreach began on Friday 14th June at the corner of Chalk Drive and Ruthven Street. On the first night out we had 9 patrons attend the Van. On Friday the 21st June the numbers swelled to 26 patrons attending.



First night out for Rosies Van in Toowoomba. Pictured are Rosie Harrison from Catholic Education Office, Julieanne Rasmussen from St Joseph's College, Brett Rangiira from Catholic Education Office, Jo Gillespie, Margaret Battle from St Saviour's College, Debbie Ryan from St Ursula's.

Also present were Michael Byrne, Coordinator Rosies Van Ipswich and Jon Martlew, Coordinator Rosies Van Toowoomba.

Anyone wishing to find out more about Rosies Van Toowoomba is encouraged to go to the Rosies website at rosies.org.au or to contact the Coordinator for Rosies Toowoomba, Jon Martlew on 0499111730.

SOME BACKGROUND INFORMATION ABOUT ROSIES:

Rosies Youth Mission is an initiative of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. It is a not for profit organisation with a volunteer base of over 600 active volunteers across Queensland, who provide unconditional acceptance and friendship to people who are marginalised within our community.

Rosies aims to provide friendship and practical support to some of the

**Rosie Harrison,
Education Officer: State School RE**

most abandoned people in our society. We are not primarily trying to feed, clothe and house people (although we sometimes offer these elements); we are trying to build friendships. The basic building blocks of friendship are to spend time with, listen and talk to people. As such at Rosies, the main job of the volunteer is to spend time building relationships with the people that use our service.

Rosies is non-preaching and non-discriminatory.

VISION:

Rosies is a community of people sharing the Oblate spirit of daring. Inspired by the Gospel, Rosies reaches out to those most abandoned, to be present with them, offering them experiences of community and belonging.

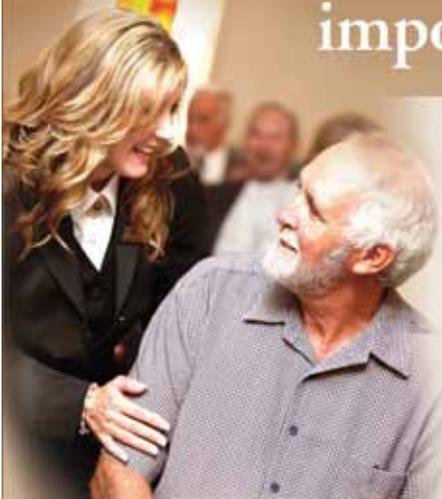
MISSION:

Rosies mission is to offer times of presence with others through street outreach, children's and drug court support, youth detention visitation, and prison outreach.

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

Through our presence, Rosies seeks to foster people's self worth and dignity; to reach out to people where they are at, accepting them as they are and welcoming them into our community; to stand in solidarity with and offer hope to those who experience isolation, loneliness and alienation; and to model a more just, Christian, and humane society.

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CATHOLIC MISSION

APPEAL FOCUSES ON RESCUING CHILDREN

In May, Catholic Mission officially launched its 2013 Propagation of the Faith Church Appeal with the theme 'Do not be afraid... I will rescue you.' This campaign highlights the missionary response to the desperate reality of child trafficking and child labour in India and throughout the world. It was inspired by the Bible verse Jeremiah 1:8, and centres on the incredible work of Sr Clara Devaraj and her fellow Salesian sisters who work tirelessly in Chennai (formerly known as Madras) to rescue young girls from the tragic circumstances associated with extreme poverty; providing them with a safe and caring environment at their Marialaya Children's Home.

Every day countless young children are stolen from, or sold by, their families into domestic work and prostitution against their will. Many are also forced to become street beggars just to survive. Some even have their precious body organs forcibly removed and sold on the black market. Distressingly, these innocent children are seen simply as commodities.

With support from Catholic Mission, the sisters provide a nurturing home for these young, often traumatised girls, in addition to counselling, medical care, education and spiritual formation. For them, faith and action go together, so their aim is to protect these children and to encourage them to see their worth as a beloved child of God. "Working with children at risk gives much satisfaction and makes a person fulfilled," says Sr Clara. "It is a mission where there are a lot of opportunities to live like Jesus by being compassionate, forgiving, and caring to the youth and children who are under our care and protection without any expectation."

Catholic Mission Deputy National Director, Mr Peter Gates, said "This issue of children who are so vulnerable is a very

difficult and challenging one but so very important to bring to the attention of all, in the hope that

even more good can be done. I have been incredibly touched by the amazing but heart-wrenching individual stories of the young girls who had been stolen from and sold by their families into child labour, but have now found hope for the future through the love and care they receive from Sr Clara. The transformation of these girls is incredible. And the work of the Salesian Sisters and Sr Clara is incredible, as is their faith in God and the children. Sr Clara is truly a hero to these young girls."

Sister Clara with fellow Salesian Sr Mary Rose visited Australia between 6-27 June 2013 on behalf of Catholic Mission to promote the work of Marialaya and spoke in parishes, schools and at donor events in Sydney, Wollongong, Toowoomba, Brisbane, Melbourne and Ballarat.

Sr Clara and Sr Mary Rose were in Toowoomba from 15 – 17 June, speaking in several parishes and schools. A highlight of their weekend was an 'Indian Festival' held at Holy Name School Hall on Sunday 16th from 11.00 am - 2.00 pm. Many visitors enjoyed Indian cuisine - purchased to aid the Catholic Mission Appeal, and children put their hand-prints onto a banner which was then given to Sr Clara and Sr Mary Rose to take to the children in Marialaya home.



In the poster (shown above) Sr Clara is standing with two children from Marialaya home. The little girl in the yellow blouse was sold by her step-mother to be a domestic servant - but in reality was little more than a slave. The little girl in the pink was stolen from her parents when she was 3 years old and forced to beg all day on the streets.

Right: Sr Clara in India, holding a photo of the 'Dream Home' she wants to build for the children, on land recently purchased outside the city where the air is much less polluted for the children and they have room to play. Building has already begun with the help of Catholic Mission.



Below right: Trish Harding, volunteer member of the National Council for Catholic Mission; Sr Mary Rose; Sr Clara and Beatrice Lucas, Toowoomba Diocesan Director for Catholic Mission; during a High Tea hosted by Denise Wright to promote knowledge of the sisters work in India.



Below: Beatrice Lucas, (left) and Tricia Harding, (right) holding the banner 'hand printed' by some children of Holy Name Parish. The banner was given to Sr Clara and Sr Mary Rose to take to the children in Marialaya home. Sr Clara and Sr Mary Rose are standing behind the banner with some of the parishioners and children of Holy Name Parish.



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN CHARLEVILLE?

Sr Elizabeth O'Keeffe rsm



THE children re-enacted Palm Sunday as part of their preparations for Easter.

AT Easter we welcomed into the Catholic Church Vanessa Brennan, one of our teachers. She is pictured here cutting her celebration cake with Donna Alexander, her sponsor, and Fr Peter Doohan after the ceremonies.



WE continued our school's centenary celebration by entering our Centenary float in the Charleville Show's Centenary parade. We were thrilled when our float was awarded second prize.



MAJELLA Steedman and Herb Wharton are local authors who were part of St Mary's Inaugural Writers Festival. Joining with the St Mary's students were some of the students from St Finbarr's at Quilpie and Sacred Heart at Cunnamulla. Six authors shared their expertise with the children. We congratulate Herb on being named in the Queensland Greats on Queensland Day.

SECOND term has been a busy time for St Mary's School. The street markets run by the P&F were a great success despite a shower of rain sending everyone home early. The crowds were entertained by our budding musicians and dancers.



THIS was followed in quick succession by the Year 7's trip to Canberra and Sydney. Our students were joined on this trip by the Year 7's from Sacred Heart Cunnamulla. It was a rather bleary eyed but excited contingent that returned to Charleville after a very enjoyable week on the road.



OUR school sports day was held in the last week of term with fierce competition between the two houses, Coolock and Xavier. Coolock was the eventual winner and was presented with the shield by our adopt-a-cop who was celebrating his birthday much to the delight of the children. It will be one birthday he will always remember.



OUR end of term Mass was led by our Year 4/5 students and their teacher Rebecca Washbrook with the theme 'God has made us a family'.



Diocesan Walkabout -

TOOWOOMBA: SACRED HEART PRIMARY SCHOOL

Sacred Heart Day celebrated for the 10th year running

In June, Sacred Heart Primary School celebrated their 10th Annual Sacred Heart Day at Picnic Point. The day enabled students, teachers and parents to come together and celebrate all that is good about Sacred Heart Primary School. The day began with a special Mass at the base of the Picnic Point waterfall that was celebrated by parish priest Fr James Byrne. This was followed by a community morning tea.

"This is always a great day. Students, parents and staff have the chance to spend time together in community. Activities take advantage of the wonderful surroundings of Picnic Point and include a bushwalk and time at designated playgrounds and of course lunch being a sausage sizzle is always a hit," said Mr Chris Rosentreter, Principal.

Easter Story in a Basket

Lesley Mackie

In Holy Week we re-tell, reflect and remember Jesus' last days and moments and the children at Sacred Heart Primary School, Toowoomba, did just that at Easter time this year.

They journeyed together with Jesus through Lent by practising their roles in "Easter Story in a Basket", the script written by APRE Mrs Maria Booth. As Year 7 student Aulani Brown explained: "It was trying to break down the story into different coloured eggs. Different classes put different coloured eggs into the Easter basket as they created a different scene from the Easter story."

Year 7 student Brent Pedernal played the part of Jesus on the Cross and said it was a moving experience for him. He said: "I felt a bit quiet and peaceful and prayerful because of the music and the many practices at lunch time."

Another Year 7 student, Sam Hutson, who played the part of the Apostle Peter agreed. He said: "It was very sad 'cos when we were in it, you could reflect on playing the part and you could see what was really happening."

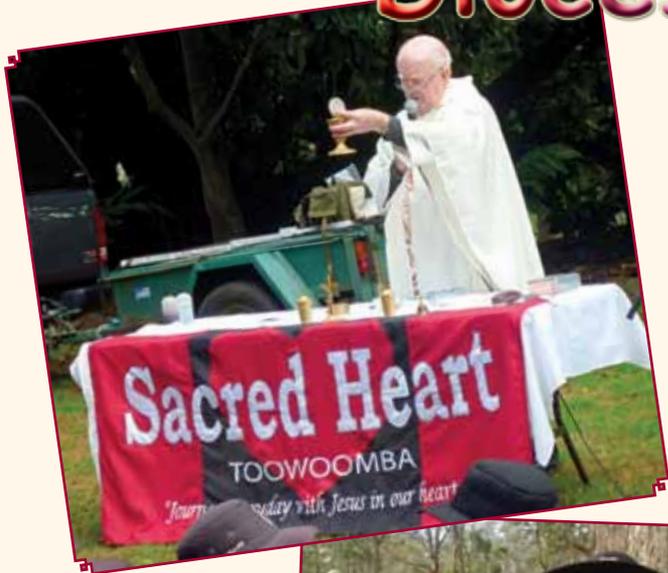
Madison Danneberg, another Year 7 student, played the part of the angel in the tomb on Easter Sunday morning. She said: "It was fun and I got to wear a halo. When the people came into the tomb and I said, 'He's gone!' I had a smile on my face because I knew what was going on."

All the students at Sacred Heart, from Prep to Year 7, enjoyed presenting "Easter Story in a Basket" and parents, parishoners, staff and students were a captive audience.

Left: Brent Pedernal as Jesus.

Below left: Brent and Sam Hutson as Peter.

Below right: Madison Dannenberg as the Angel at the tomb.



Above: Fr James Byrne celebrating Mass.

Right and below: students enjoying the picnic.



from Horizon to Horizon

CUNNAMULLA NEWS

Sr Maureen Andrews

Passover Meal

Holy Thursday in Cunnamulla had a strong ecumenical thrust as we celebrated a Passover Meal with our brothers and sisters from the other Christian religions. The remote preparations started a few weeks previous when we discussed with the butcher the lamb needed for the meal. He assured me that he was very experienced in Passover meals from his time in Dimboola. Wasn't that the name of a play I asked myself? Michael, the butcher, did an excellent job of cooking slicing and vacuum packaging the lamb.

After reading in The Toowoomba Chronicle that two Rabbis who were visiting Toowoomba ministering to the Jewish community and also celebrating Passover with them, I made a quick call to them to ask about the finer points of the meal. Misha gave me some quick tips on how to make the best charoset – the relish that goes with the meal and which symbolises the mortar that the Israelites used between the bricks.

Early on Thursday morning three women gathered in the church/assembly hall to set the tables. The result looked like we were about to step into some swanky restaurant to dine in style. In the afternoon we set up a power point so those who attended could view the sights of Jerusalem before the meal. The owner of the local up-market coffee shop arrived with Jewish music to play and a promise to return with his guitar, wife and four small sons. They would sing some sacred songs after the religious service whilst the meal was being served. It was all good.

Thirty-eight people, including two on holiday from England, arrived to share the meal. Now was time to light the five branches of candlesticks and remember Jesus and his great love for us. The ritual washing of the hands took place at the altar before we commenced the Passover service. It was fortunate that a few children from the local Catholic school had accepted the invitation to attend the meal. They were able to ask the questions that allowed the story of the Passover to be retold once more.

Finally the religious service was completed and we ate the meal of lamb, potato bake and salads. There was enough lamb left over to ensure that others who wanted to attend but were unable to could share the good food. I like to think that miracles still happen today as the money that we collected that night was the exact amount that I had paid for all the food. No money left over but food to share. We all felt contented and hope to have a rerun next year.

Thank you to volunteers at Parish fete.

The Parish fete was held in March and was a great success. It is the major event for raising funds for the parish and creating community bonds within the town. The teachers spent many hours training children to perform items to entertain parents and friends.

A barbeque was held to thank those who generously donated their time and their money. We hope to encourage further such events.

Sacred Heart Parish farewell Dennis and Sally Cousens.

Dennis is the Patrol Minister for the Uniting Church in the district.

The Sacred Heart Parish were delighted to welcome Sally and Dennis Cousens to a Mass on 19th May. After Mass there was a supper to farewell them as they return to Tasmania to take up a Patrol Ministry position in Oatlands. Dennis was Patrol Minister in Cunnamulla for five and a half years. He will be greatly missed by the community.



Above: "Thank-you" barbeque for volunteers.



Right: Fr Peter Doohan with Sally and Dennis Cousens.

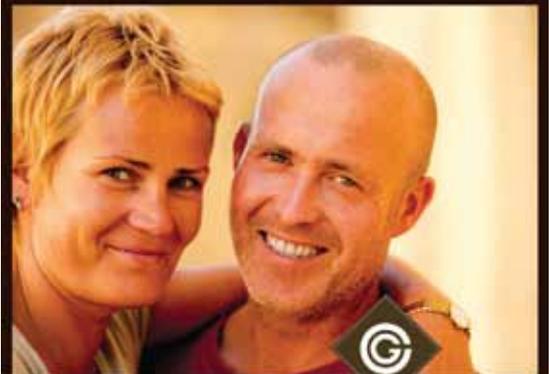
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TOOWOOMBA: LOURDES HOME/ST MARY'S COLLEGE - 'TELLING THEIR STORY' PROJECT 2013

Maryann Cullen, Diversional Therapist



St Mary's students James Mills, Thomas Jeffcoat and Jared Rogers with Resident Mrs Kate Harber.

During the month of May a group of twenty year 12 students from St Mary's College Toowoomba have been visiting with a group of Residents from Lourdes Home for the Aged Toowoomba.

As part of their school curriculum, the primary task for the students was to produce a quality end product in the form of a DVD which would capture significant events from the residents lives and which would include special photographs and mementos. The DVD would then be presented as a keepsake to the resident and their family.

Throughout the interviewing process, the students were able to gain an invaluable first hand insight into what life was like in days gone by, whilst the residents were astounded by the use of the new and different technologies (video cameras and ipads etc) and by how the students made everything look so easy.

This is the third consecutive year that the Home and the College have worked together to provide the opportunity for quality and meaningful interaction between the generations. Both parties are proud of the partnership that has evolved and will look forward to offering the 'Telling Their Story' project well into the future.

ROMA: CONFIRMATION AND FIRST COMMUNION

On Sunday June 16, the parish extended a warm welcome to Bishop McGuckin for the celebration of Confirmation and First Communion. Twenty-eight candidates completed the Sacramental Program under the guidance of catechist, Mrs. Ann Moloney. The celebration took place at the usual Sunday morning Mass, after which parishioners joined families and sponsors for morning tea, where certificates and medals were presented to the candidates. Music for the celebration was co-ordinated by Mrs. Carmel Treasure, that included the song, "Do Unto Others" led, after Communion, by the candidates themselves.

Cutting the cake after the celebration with Bishop McGuckin are Sr Nora Fitzgibbon, Henry Reardon, Fr Jamie Collins and Emily McNulty.



MITCHELL:

Visit of Bishop Robert

The Mitchell Parish recently received a visit from Bishop Robert McGuckin. Bishop McGuckin was the principal celebrant at the usual monthly Mass on Saturday June 15.

Travelling with Bishop McGuckin and Fr Jamie Collins was Principal of St John's School in Roma, Nicholas Lynch and President of the Roma conference of St. Vincent de Paul, Cath Cocks. Following Mass the visitors joined some local parishioners for an evening meal at the Courthouse Hotel.



Ecumenical Service at new aged care facility

On Sunday June 30, an Ecumenical Service was held to acknowledge the new aged care facility recently opened in Mitchell. The former Maranoa

Retirement Village recently closed, due to the inadequacies of that particular residence in light of modern standards. Residents have been moved to a new state of the art facility attached to the local hospital. Fr. Jamie and Fr. Peter from the Anglican Church led the Fifth Sunday Ecumenical Service at the new facility, with parishioners from Catholic, Anglican and Uniting congregations in attendance.

SURAT NEWS

Earlier this year the Surat community came together for a Memorial Mass to celebrate the life of much loved former parishioner and community member, Robyn Minnage. Robyn and her husband Venn were licensees of the local hotel in Surat for more than 28 years. Robyn moved to Toowoomba some years after Venn's death, where she became housekeeper at St Patrick's Cathedral. Robyn's heart, though, remained in Surat, and she kept in touch with many of her friends while working at the Cathedral, and later in retirement. A good friend of Robyn's, Thea Penrose arranged for a Mass to be celebrated for Robyn in Surat, where many of her friends paid tribute to Robyn's contribution to the Surat community.

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TOOWOOMBA: OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH AND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Julie-Ann Whittaker

Confirmation and Holy Communion

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish has recently celebrated and welcomed 33 children who have received the sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Communion. This year the candidates received Confirmation on Wednesday 22nd May and Holy Communion on Sunday 2nd June and Sunday 9th June. The children enjoyed being welcomed into the church community as young adults and are looking forward to participating as readers at the 10am parish Mass every Wednesday.

Excursion to Fire Station

Our Lady of Lourdes Parents with Young Children Morning Tea Group had a fantastic excursion to the Kitchener Street Fire Station on Friday 14th June. Although the children were initially frightened by the sheer size and noise of the fire trucks, they all enjoyed spraying the fire hose and watching all the firemen head off to an emergency. The children, parents and grandparents all learnt something new and it was hard to tell who enjoyed the excursion more.

Mini Vinnies

At Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School the Year 7 students have a Mini Vinnies Club. The aim of this club is to show care and concern to the wider community just like St Vincent De Paul. Term 2 saw the club members head off to Freedom Aged Care for a visit with the elderly. The children played numerous games and chatted with their hosts.

Sleepout

Thursday 20th June saw the Principal of Our Lady of Lourdes, Mr Chris Golightly take part in the Vinnies Community Sleepout at Gold Park. The aim of this event was to raise money for St Vincent De Paul Housing. Congratulations to Mr Golightly for braving the cold and rain and for raising over \$1700. The Toowoomba region raised over \$155,000.00, which was the most raised in Queensland. On behalf of Our Lady of Lourdes School and Parish, congratulations go to everyone that participated in this event and raised fantastic funds for such a worthy cause.

TEXAS RETREAT

Lester Dawson

Recently Sacred Heart Parish Texas had the privilege of a visit from two Franciscan Sisters, Sr Elaine, Sr Jo; and Mary Schwartz, Co-ordinator of the diocesan Liturgical Commission. It was a pleasure to see Mary in her home town again. They conducted a mini retreat for those parishioners who were able to attend, for those who were unable to participate in the day session an evening programme was held. For a small parish it was well attended.

Some participants had never attended a retreat and like the rest of the group found it a rewarding and prayerful experience.

We thank Sr Elaine, Sr Jo and Mary for coming to give us this spiritual guidance.

Below - clockwise from front: Cass Holman, Marie Beard, Luci De Bortoli, Noreen Henry, Anne Fomiatti, Sister Jo Scanlan, Don De Bortoli and Cynthia Wren.



Above and left: Fr John Qunlan with the children who received Confirmation and Holy Communion.



Below: Mini Vinnies visiting residents at Freedom Aged Care.



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HIGHFIELDS HAPPENINGS

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

Paschal Candle

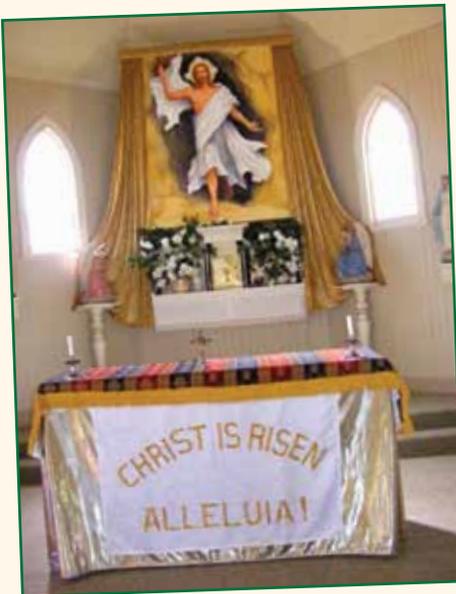
Our Paschal Candle this year looked extra special, painted with love from resident artist Wendy Whittle. The Paschal Candle is a large white candle that represents Christ's presence in the midst of a worshipping community. Most often lit during the season of Easter, it symbolizes God's resurrected presence that shines the light of Christ's glory in our lives. It also is often lit at funerals to tie the new life of the deceased to the resurrection of Jesus. It is used at Baptisms when the baptism candle is lit from the Paschal Candle. The large white shape of the candle alludes to the pillar of cloud (by day) and the flame the pillar of fire (by night) that was the presence of God leading the people of Israel in the desert after their exodus from slavery in Egypt.

It graces our Church at the side of our Altar and when we look upon it, we know that it carries a special meaning for our Parish. Our Artist, Wendy, came to our Parish with her husband Doug in 2011. Doug was already a Catholic, and Wendy expressed her wish to become a Catholic so that she could share with her husband the wonderful feeling of closeness we have in our Catholic Faith.

Wendy entered the RCIA Programme under the direction of our RCIA Catechist, Carolyn Hartung. Carolyn, a very special lady, with the support of her husband Warren, started Wendy on her journey towards Easter 2012, where she and two others became Catholics. This was a beautiful Ceremony, with Wendy standing alongside her beloved husband Doug, who was her sponsor. Wendy is now a much loved, very active member of our Community and we thank God for her presence.

Above: Wendy Whittle, artist, with Fr Brian Noonan and new Paschal Candle.

Right: Wendy Whittle and Carolyn Hartung (RCIA Catechist) at a recent function.



Our Incredible Journey

On Sunday the 21st April a bus load of parishioners from Mary of the Southern Cross and St Theresa's Parishes set off on a trip that was full of surprises, fun and frivolity. The trip was organized by Mike Kalinowski from St Theresa's Parish. Little did we know when we boarded the bus, that we were to go on an incredible journey via Goombungee, Maclagan, Quinalow, Kaimkillenbun and Bell, one that we will always remember as one of the best trips we have had. The bus left early Sunday Morning. Forty-plus excited people boarded Robinson's Coach with Graham Robinson himself as the driver. Various pick up points filled the bus to capacity as we all headed off to our first stop via Meringandan to Goombungee to take a break at the Library facility. Whilst we were there, we took in the art gallery. We then continued on along the road, to view the Akland Mine. This was a lot larger than most of us had expected. We followed our journey through small towns such as MacLagan, Quinalow and Kamekillinbun and arrived at our destination at the Bell Catholic Church. We all had morning tea and a chat and then we all went across to the Church, a gorgeous small construction, revealing one of the most amazing interiors we have seen.

Left: Painting behind the altar.

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Above: Artist Megg Cullen (centre) explaining her paintings.



Left: Mosaic of St Mary MacKillop.

We had read about these paintings and their artist Megg Cullen previously, but in reality, these are a sight to behold. The original series of paintings on the side walls were completed for the Church's 95th Anniversary. They portray a pictorial history of Salvation as told through the Old and the New Testaments of the Bible. Two major themes underlie the stories represented in the paintings. These are the Covenants formed between God and his people, and secondly the establishment of the Eucharist. The back wall of the Church features three paintings which were completed for the Centenary of the Church and detail the key moments of the Incarnation of Christ. Gracing the Altar itself is a huge painting of the Risen Christ. This painting immediately draws your attention when you enter the Church.

We were extremely lucky to have their artist, Megg Cullen available to give us the Grand Tour and explain to us in great detail every single painting in the Church. Megg is an amazing woman. A mother of eight children, she was commissioned in 2003 and 2005 to paint large murals for the churches in the Kiribati Islands. Megg enjoyed the local native people and the opportunity to paint religious art. Her latest project in the grounds of the Bell Catholic Church is the Biblical Garden. This is a mind blowing sight with specimens of plants and trees mentioned in the Bible and also artworks representing the passion of Christ and mosaics including one of St Mary MacKillop.

To end our trip, we were taken to the RSL Club in Dalby, where we enjoyed a sumptuous lunch and much conversation and laughter was heard as we renewed old friendships and made new ones with our sisters and brothers from our fellow Parishioners. Hats off to Graham Robinson our wonderful bus driver, who kept us entertained as we sang along to the tunes of Max Bygraves. We were able to enjoy all of our old favourites we hadn't heard for years. A huge thank you must go to Mike Kalinowski who organized this great day. In his commentary, as we drove along, he absolutely amazed us with his wide knowledge of the local area and its surrounds. Sadly our Incredible Journey had to come to an end. Thanks Mike – we are in your debt.

Confirmation and First Eucharist

During May, our community was privileged to welcome Bishop Robert McGuckin, on his first visit to a 'Mary of the Southern Cross Parish' celebration. The occasion was the Confirmation of 36 of our Parish children. The children reverently received the sacrament and looked resplendent wearing their red sashes displaying their chosen Confirmation names. 36 very proud parents, families and others witnessed this beautiful occasion, with our Parish Priest, Fr Brian Noonan assisting the Bishop during the ceremony which was held in the MacKillop Centre through the generosity of the Mary MacKillop School staff.

A special thanks goes to Mr Steve Moyle and Mr Kevin and Mrs. Beth McCormick for their leadership in the preparation of the Parish children who were drawn from the Highfields, Meringandan and Geham areas. A light supper and chat were enjoyed by the parents, sponsors, families and friends of the children at the conclusion of the ceremony.

On the following Sunday, these same children received the Sacrament of First Eucharist, with Fr Brian officiating. The children were delighted to cut their Communion cake and to savour their own special "patty cake"! They then, shared their celebration with family and friends many of whom had travelled long distances to attend.

We now look forward to seeing these newly committed little Christians actively participating in our Parish community.



Children, after Confirmation, with Steve Moyle and Bishop Robert McGuckin (left) and Fr Brian Noonan and Donagh Shirley, Principal of Mary MacKillop School (right).

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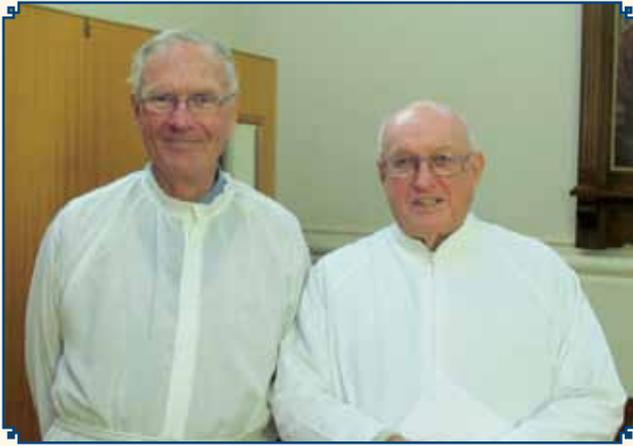
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WARWICK: CELEBRATIONS FOR FR TERRY HICKLING



Fr Terry Hickling celebrated his Golden Jubilee on the first weekend in July at St Mary's Parish. He was ordained in Warwick on 28th June 1963 and celebrated Mass for family, friends and parishioners on Saturday 6th July 2013. On Sunday the celebration continued with a morning tea and presentation to Fr Terry after Mass.

Fr Terry started his ministry in Warwick, then moved to Clifton, Dalby, Port Headland, Toowoomba, Mitchell, Chinchilla, Crows Nest and has returned to Warwick in a semi-retired capacity.

Fr Terry said he is happy to serve wherever he is needed, whether it is saying Mass or in the shopping centre during 'Christmas Down Under'. St Mary's has been blessed indeed to have Fr Terry in our parish for the last six years.

Above: Fr Michael Carroll and Fr Terry Hickling after Mass.

Below: Michael Blake, Valerie Rose, Margaret Trehair, Fr Terry Hickling and Judy Morrissey.



MILES: CONFIRMATION AND FIRST COMMUNION

Sheryl Duncan, Holy Cross Parish, Miles

On 2nd June 8 young people made their Confirmation and First Communion – Henry Bourne, Natasha Hoffmann, Lachlan Moore, Harry Myers, Martin Steel and Tom York from Holy Cross Parish, Miles and Cory and Payton Leahy from Holy Rosary Parish, Jackson.

Bishop Robert McGuckin officiated with the assistance of Fr Jim Cronin our parish priest.

Afterwards members of the community joined the young people for a celebratory morning tea in MacKillop Hall.

Right: Bishop Robert and Fr Jim Cronin with the children who received Confirmation and Holy Communion.



Below: Fr Jim and Bishop Robert celebrating with the children.



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TOOWOOMBA: DOWNLANDS COLLEGE

Social Justice in Action

Late last term the Downslands College Jules Social Justice Group held an interschool social to fundraise for TRAMS – Toowoomba Refugee and Migrant Support.

This coincided with Refugee Week and was a great opportunity to invite Laura Clark, the Manager of TRAMS, to talk to the entire student body on assembly and receive the donation of over \$3000. TRAMS volunteers offer a huge range of services, including English classes, driving lessons, computer skills, childcare and advocacy.

Following in the footsteps of Jules Chevalier, founder of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, the Downslands College Jules Social Justice Group raises awareness and funds for MSC Missions, TRAMS and St Vincent DePaul, most recently supporting the Vinnies CEO Sleepout in Toowoomba.

For more information, contact Anna Bartlett, Marketing and Development Manager, Downslands College on 07 4690 9661 or 0412 757 637, annabartlett@downlands.qld.edu.au



Top: Laura Clark from TRAMS with Downslands students Erin Stewart, Madeline Boyle and Damian Leggat.

Above: Student members of Downslands College Jules Social Justice Group with Mrs Anne McAtomey.

TOOWOOMBA: HOLY NAME PRIMARY SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND

Inspiring Designers of the Future!

Miss Melinda Austen, a fourth year pre-service teacher from The University of Southern Queensland has been inspiring the Year 6/7 students of Holy Name Primary School to use their imagination and design skills to create recycled racers.

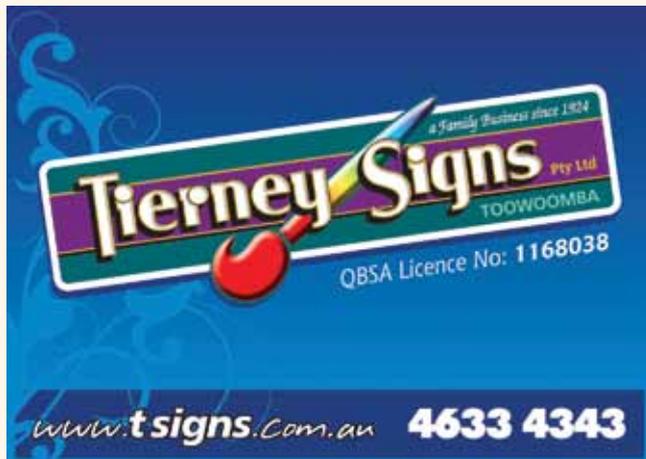
As part of her final year of practicum experience, Miss Austen was required to plan, present, assess and report a unit of work using the Technology syllabus. In order to engage the students, she came up with the idea to challenge them to create racers made from recycled materials. The design

brief was simple - use everyday recycled materials to create a car that could travel down a ramp and across the floor.

Whilst there have been some challenges, the students of Year 6/7 at Holy Name Primary School have thoroughly enjoyed the process and found the experience to be very rewarding.

“Working out how to adjust the weight of the car in order to have it travel the greatest distance was the biggest challenge”, noted teammates Duncan Hancock and Zach Mackay. The boys overcame the challenge by filling their recycled water bottle with ring pulls from soft drink cans.

The students are hoping that Miss Austen will return to Holy Name Primary School to undertake her final internship and challenge them with another design brief later in the year.



GOONDIWINDI: ST MARY'S PARISH AND SCHOOL

Fr Michael O'Brien

The very active Student Council of St Mary's Parish School recently obtained a \$1,000 grant from Coles for the setting up of a vegetable patch. This patch produced some lovely vegetables and the student Council felt they would love to give the produce to the parishioners of the parish. They came to Mass one weekend and set up a little stall, spoke about what they had achieved and happily gave parcels of vegetables to the parishioners. What a thoughtful idea!

This is in keeping with the joint project with the parish during Lent raising money for Caritas - \$7,000 was given, again happily, for those in need – driven by the Student Council. At the end of Lent students were invited to buy a raffle ticket with a rather different prize! Inspired from the second week envelope story of this years Lenten programme, Raymundo, the prize was to paint the teachers/Priest's face as a clown for a day – which again, they did happily. All staff volunteered to be involved – you can see the results. Well done to all who gave so generously!

(A short article about Raymundo is on page 28.)



Left: Pictured with the students and Mrs Tenille White (centre right) who oversees the Student Council are, at back, Mary Collins and Fr Michael O'Brien and, front, John Toohey. Mary and John were representing the parish.



Left: Clown painting in progress,

Below: Finished Results! Mrs Tenille White is in the back row - near the centre with pigtails.



Mrs Veronica White, Diocesan Director of Caritas Australia, is very grateful to all the parishes and schools for their generous support of Project Compassion. "The commitment of the parish communities and the ingenuity of the teachers, parents and children are amazing," she said.

"For example, Tenille White, a teacher at St Mary's School in Goondiwindi, went on a Caritas Immersion Program to Malawi in Africa in September 2011. She was very taken up with the poverty she witnessed there and when she came back she decided to raise money for a water pump, to provide clean water for the people of Malawi.

"She started up a student council at the school and over the last two years with the help of the students and teachers has worked wonders. Last year the school combined with the Parish Community raised over \$4,000 and this year they have raised \$7,000. She is truly a wonderful advocate for Caritas Australia."

Following are a few examples:

ST MARY'S SCHOOL, GOONDIWINDI: CLOWNING AROUND

Tenille White

The students did a fantastic job this year, far better than we expected! Again, the student council organised and ran the fundraiser events over Lent. We held a 'project' each week:

- Project Water (water afternoon - bucket relays, granny undies relays, water bombs, slip and slide)
- Project Silver Coin (St Patricks Day - student bought in as many silver coins as they could)
- Project Crazy (Crazy hair and crazy dress day)
- Project Pizza (Students could buy slices of pizza)
- Project Justice (Movie Marathon Sleepover - watched movies with social justice theme + discussions)
- Project Disco (Danced to music, played games)

Like Raymundo in Bolivia who attended a circus school, for every \$250 we raised a teacher was drawn out of the hat to be 'clowned' for a day. We ran a raffle for a student to paint the clown face on the teacher. (See photographs above.)

Other things we did:

- Shrove Tuesday
- Class boxes each week were brought to assembly and added to our big box.

MARY MACKILLOP, HIGHFIELDS: STORY OF A SONG

Mrs Gita Sharma from St Anthony's Primary School, went with Caritas on an immersion trip to Bolivia where they met Raymundo whose story was used for the second week of Project Compassion. Mrs Sharma shared her experiences with many different groups, including Highfields Parish where Mrs Trish Gall helps with music at weekend Masses.

Mrs Gall, a teacher at Mary MacKillop School, Highfields, shared Raymundo's story with her Year 2 class. The young students were very impressed and they especially liked how, on the video on the website for Project Compassion, Raymundo had described himself as a link in a chain to help children. They decided to make a chain - each child made a link with their name on and joined it to make 'Raymundo's chain'. At the time it was Lent, so the chain was made in Lenten colours and hung in their class room.

A local artist, Josh Arnold, was making a CD with the students from Mary MacKillop's School, helping each class to compose a song on a topic of their choice. The Year 2 students chose 'Raymundo's chain' as their topic and on Wednesday 8th May, recorded their song with Mr Arnold.



Top: Mrs Trish Gall and Mr Josh Arnold with the Year 2 class, recording their Song.

Above: Mrs Trish Gall and Mr Josh Arnold with the Year 2 class, posing in front of 'Raymundo's chain' and holding a photograph of him.

Left: 'Raymundo's chain'.



HOLY NAME SCHOOL, TOOWOOMBA: WE JOURNEYED TOGETHER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Elizabeth Klimkowicz, Acting APRE.

On Wednesday assembly, 22nd May, Holy Name had a special visitor: Mrs Veronica White from Caritas was invited to join us. We did this so that we could present her with a cheque of all the money raised by our school for Project Compassion. We were delighted that we could make a difference to the poor people in our world through Caritas. Each class was represented by a child who passed this special cheque to Mrs White who thanked us for our brilliant efforts.

Well done, Holy Name! You were truly, inspired by Jesus!



Above: the cheque for Caritas was passed down a line of representatives from each class and then to Mrs Veronica White.

The children, from left, are: Dean Mitchell, Prep; Zachary Hohn, Year 6/7; Olivia Holley, Year One; Declan Coleman, Year 4; Lachlan Taylor, Year 3; Deng Makuach-Year 5 and Vivien Meacle, Year 2.

Right: Ms Elizabeth Klimkowicz, Acting APRE; Vivien Meacle and Mrs Veronica White who is presenting a Certificate of Appreciation to the School, through Vivien.



RAYMUNDO

One of six children, Raymundo, 24, was born into a very poor family. At eight years of age, he was told that he had good hands and good legs, so he can go and start earning money for the family.

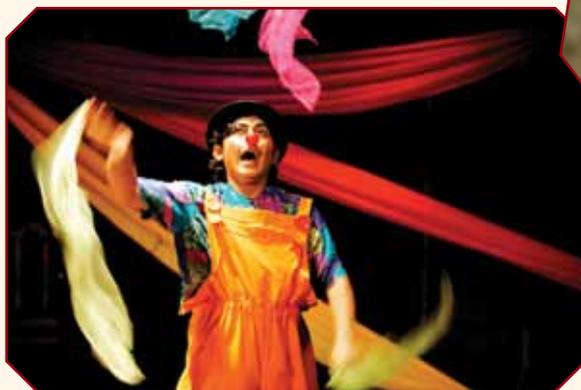
At first, Raymundo cleaned mini buses, and delivered and cleaned water tanks. Later, he found work washing cars for visitors to the cemetery and carrying 25 litre buckets of water for women cleaning the gravestones. "I used to earn 20 Bolivianos (\$3) for 10 hours work. Sometimes I used to receive 50c for cleaning a car, which was a good day," he said.

It was a hard life and he and his friends sought escape in sniffing glue; quickly becoming addicted. Raymundo was earning money and giving it to his family but was spending more and more time with his gang.

When some gang members started to attend Educacion es Fiesta (Education is Celebration), a circus school for vulnerable children, Raymundo went along to be with them. At first he enjoyed the musical activities but when they moved on to street theatre, such as acrobatics and juggling, he began to see new possibilities for his life.

"At the age of nine, I had the opportunity to start learning something new that turned my life around in a complete circle. And what I'd like to do is provide that same opportunity to others here in Cochabamba and in Bolivia" he said.

Raymundo worked hard; he worked full-time at Centro Creativo Artístico "educar es fiesta", and in the evening attended night school. He graduated to study for a degree in performing arts at university. Now, as the final part of his qualification, Raymundo is doing a year's social service at Centro Creativo Artístico "educar es fiesta", teaching circus skills to other children. They know him as Coco the Clown.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

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

Kev Byrne, President, Toowoomba Diocesan Central Council



THE CORNER STONE PROGRAM

The motto for this service is 'Building the Foundation for a Better Future' and it fits perfectly within our ethos of 'A hand up, not just a hand out.'

The St Vincent de Paul Society *Corner Stone* Program became a funded program in January 2001. Funding came from the then Department of Families and was for 1.5 staff including a Program Coordinator and a Housing Support Worker. The program continues to receive funding through the Department of Communities. The Program operates two Society owned premises for the purposes of accommodating homeless men, assisting the communities of Warwick and surrounding areas. It also offers tailored support to tenants as an early intervention strategy to prevent homelessness.

THE HOSTEL:

The *Corner Stone* Program provides accommodation for homeless men over the age of eighteen. Two styles of accommodation are offered: Immediate Accommodation and Transitional Accommodation. For both styles the clients engage

in a support plan which helps them recognise and deal with the issues which inhibit them from entering the rental market.

For the year 2012, of the 62 men accommodated by *Corner Stone*, 37 tenants moved into independent accommodation.

The majority of clients who stay at the hostel have had, or currently have, drug, alcohol, gambling or mental health difficulties and have decided to engage with the services that are able to assist them. One of the problems with tailoring a support plan for each client, is to find the appropriate professional services which meet their individual needs. *Corner Stone* enjoys strong working relationships with many of the Non-Government Organisations (NGO's) who work in Warwick. In addition to 'Drugarm', Warwick is fortunate to have access to an 'Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs' worker situated at the hospital.

The greatest change that has been noted is the ability to help clients to access counselling services through the Medicare

scheme and clients who have immediate mental health needs that could be detrimental to their wellbeing, can be taken directly to the mental health team in Warwick. This is having a very positive impact on *Corner Stone* clients, particularly after the flood events, as 85% of the men who come into the service are affected by a mental disorder and most of them seek some medical assistance whilst in the hostel.

Corner Stone also provides drop-in social and emotional support, advice and advocacy and referrals to services that encourage social and personal development. Reasons for requiring services provided for 2012 included:

- Financial Difficulties- 21%
- Housing Affordability stress (e.g. rent too high) - 11%
- Housing crisis (e.g. recently evicted) - 10%
- Lack of family and/or community supports- 8%

It is quite normal to have a client who is experiencing a multitude of problems. The issues which may contribute towards their homelessness include health problems, alcohol and drug dependence, recent release from prison, relationship breakdown, job loss and current involvement with police or the court system. It is quite often said that putting the roof over their head is the easy thing; it is facilitating the opportunity for the client to overcome the issues that can be the challenge.

Many times the client will not volunteer this information at the initial assessment, in other circumstances the clients will be very honest or some of their issues are obvious. Regardless of the circumstances the immediate accommodation provided allows the opportunity for workers from *Corner Stone* and clients to build some level of trust that facilitates the disclosure of details. We continue to adapt the service according to client's specific needs as there can be no 'one size fits all' remedy.

We assist with living skills, such as budgeting, cooking, health and hygiene. Being able to stay in supported accommodation for a period of time also means that clients can pay off outstanding debts with the Department of Housing in order to qualify for public housing or a bond loan, or alternately it gives them time to save for a bond. We also assist them with bond loan applications, arrange for furniture and other household goods through the Vinnies store, and help them to move into their new accommodation. We then provide follow up support to ensure that they are paying their rent, bills and keeping medical appointments so that they are not evicted and become homeless once again. We remind clients that the relationship with our office doesn't have to end once they have secured accommodation. This follow up support can take anywhere up to a year depending on the client.

Plans are well advanced and the Development Application has been approved for a new complex on the current site. This will cater for Emergency (4 beds), Transitional (4 beds) and Long Term (4 Units) accommodation for homeless men. All is dependant of course on the availability of finance.

HOMELESSNESS FOR FAMILIES:

Corner Stone continues to be the main point of contact for homeless families, couples and single females in Warwick taking the majority of referrals from Centrelink, Community Health, the police and church groups. This continues to be challenging.

This segment of our work and the Sustaining Tenancies program comes under the banner of the offshoot of Cornerstone known as *Keystone*, whose motto is "Opening the Door to a better Future".

Last financial year our program had 68 requests for accommodation from people experiencing homelessness, this does not include those experiencing housing crisis. 62 of these requests were from people on our doorstep. The requests totalled 170 people of whom 69 were adults and 101 children.

Keystone seeks accommodation solutions from outside the Warwick area in areas such as Toowoomba, Caboolture, the Gold Coast, Dalby and Brisbane. In most cases these services are almost always unable to assist. Accommodation for families with children that are not victims of family abuse have limited options and in most cases The Society Conference pays for accommodation in motels, backpackers or caravans. One third of all requests were dealt with in this fashion. Many families that present at our service have poor rental history, they may be listed on the tenancy database and owe the Department of Housing outstanding rent or Bond Loan. A high level of support is often required with these families.

Corner Stone/Keystone remains committed to alleviating the social and cultural isolation experienced by families and individuals with no security of tenure. The program continues to assist people with Department of Housing Applications to highlight the very great need for the Department to invest in housing development in the area. We cannot use a Band-Aid approach to this very real problem.

SUSTAINING TENANCIES

This is a program that aims to support tenants in managing their properties. It is an early intervention service that endeavours to avoid eviction and housing debt. It is a referral only process instigated by real estate property managers.

Who is eligible? Those identified by their property managers of being at risk of debt or the eviction cycle. These tenants are ones, who previously have managed sustaining their tenancy but who now, because of unforeseen circumstances, are in crisis. Once agreement is reached that involvement in the program would be beneficial their needs and those of the property manager are established.

- We case manage
- We educate clients as to their responsibilities/rights as tenants.
- We act as advocates by supporting/representing the tenant where appropriate.
- We will keep in regular contact with property managers to keep them informed of the tenants progress.

Where tenants are motivated to change their circumstance, we will design a support plan.

Our aims are to:

- Assist Property Managers and tenants by stopping evictions before they happen.
- Assist people within our community to gain skills that enhance their capacity as tenants.
- Support people who may have a diminished capacity due to illness or injury.
- Stop people falling through the cracks and becoming homeless.
- Respond to people's needs in a way which is respectful to their race, culture and gender.

Since this program commenced we have handled 17 cases. Of these only 3 have defaulted. A very satisfying and interesting outcome has been the decline in its usage. When *Keystone* began to notice the decline they realised that the reason for this was because of the strong relationships forged with property managers who are no longer waiting for a tenant's situation to become dire, refer them earlier, as soon as they notice a change in their client's circumstances. Instead of *Keystone* staff dealing with rent arrears they were referring tenants to financial councillors, involving other NGO's or assisting with bill payments. *Corner Stone* has found that the key to being a successful service in a large rural community is to network and utilise the expertise of other services.

It seems to me that this is indeed a hand up.

LOURDES CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

Lourdes recently celebrated 50 years of dedicated service for the aged and infirm in the Diocese of Toowoomba.

Lourdes today is the result of a vision that Bishop William Brennan had in the 1950's. Bishop Brennan wanted a facility for the aged and for retired Priests, run by religious sisters, who would provide care and Christian assistance. Lourdes was officially opened on the 30th June 1963, and the Canossian Sisters were charged with the care and daily running of the facility until early 1992.

In 1993, Bishop William Morris appointed an advisory Board to make recommendations on the future direction of the facility. Today Lourdes has a state of the art high care facility and has plans to continue to ensure that it meets and exceeds the demands of the future. We will continue to maintain the philosophy of the Canossian Sisters to deliver genuine care in a place of love and peace – 'a Stronghold of life and hope'.

On June 29th this year we celebrated the significant achievements of Lourdes by holding a dinner at Picnic Point Restaurant with Emeritus Professor Rhonda Nay, La Trobe University, as guest speaker for the evening. This was attended by 220 people.

On Sunday 30th of June, a Jubilee Mass was celebrated in Lourdes Chapel by Bishop Emeritus William Morris. The multi-purpose area in the newly built section of Lourdes was named the Bishop William Morris Centre to acknowledge the long relationship and involvement of Bishop Morris with Lourdes.



Photographs, from top: Mary-Anne McKenzie welcoming those present to the Jubilee Mass and celebrations.

Concelebrating priests at the Jubilee Mass, from left: Fr Pat Hall, Fr Matthew Kottianiyil, Fr Brian O'Dwyer, Bishop Emeritus William Morris, Fr Merv Ziesing, Fr Jeff Skully, Fr Ray Crowley and Fr Oliver Ryan.

Residents and Guests at the Jubilee Mass.

Left: Cutting the Jubilee cake are Sister Natalie, Canossian Sister, Oxley; Bishop Emeritus William Morris; Sister Rosina, Canossian Sister, Oxley. Both Sisters worked at Lourdes.



Left: Guests at the Jubilee Dinner at Picnic Point.

Right: Fr Ray Crowley and Bishop Morris at the Dinner.



Left: Lourdes Board Member and Jubilee Committee Member Mary Wagner, with Michele Alroe, Board Member, at the Dinner.

DIAMOND JUBILEE OF SR BERNICE LANGSDORF

In what has been an almost life-long association with education, Sister Bernice Langsdorf has seen remarkable changes in schooling practices and techniques. Coming off the family farm in Nobby, Sr “Bernie”, as she is affectionately known, received her early education at Mt Kent State School and Felton East State School. “We had slates to work on at school... and pencils and sponges,” Sr Bernie recalled with a smile. “And we rode our ponies to school. “It’s all very different today with computers.”

After her initial schooling in the Clifton area, the teenage Bernice Langsdorf began what was to become a significant association with St Saviour’s College in Toowoomba where she boarded for three years from 1942.

Graduating from St Saviour’s, she went to work for five years with Toowoomba accounting firm T.H. Ludgate and Ludgate which had offices at 369 Ruthven Street.

The young Ms Langsdorf then set off with an aunt on a trip south to Tasmania, South Australia and Victoria and back to Toowoomba.

In June 1950, Bernice Langsdorf entered the novitiate of the Sisters of Mercy in Brisbane and began studies and formation to become a religious sister.

After 2½ years at the novitiate, Sr Bernie was professed in January 1953, and transferred to a convent in Red Hill in Brisbane for 12 months and then transferred back to St Saviour’s in Toowoomba for two years.

Stints between St Saviours and Sacred Heart, Sandgate, followed, until Sr Bernie moved back to St Saviour’s in 1972. “I’ve been here ever since,” she said. “I retired from teaching at the end of 1987. Apart from some time caring for my mother when she was ill, I have worked in the school library.”

Sr Bernie said she had found life as a religious sister in the service of others very fulfilling. “I enjoy the work (at St Saviours) and I enjoy the friendship and the company of the staff and everyone here,” she said.

Sr Bernie celebrated her diamond jubilee on Saturday, May 11, with a Mass at St Saviour’s College followed by lunch.

*Above: Sister Bernice Langsdorf cutting the cake.
Right: Sr Bernie with Fr John Maher and Fr Ray Crowley.*



JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS FOR BISHOP ROBERT MCGUCKIN, FR THOMAS KEEGAN AND FR TERRY HICKLING

On 11 June 2013, the feast of St Barnabas, Mass was celebrated in St Patrick’s Cathedral to commemorate the anniversaries of the ordinations of Bishop Robert McGuckin, Fr Thomas (Tom) Keegan and Fr Terry Hickling - together they total 150 years of dedicated service.

At the beginning of the Mass, Bishop Robert welcomed everyone to the celebration including some of Fr Terry Hickling’s classmates, visiting priests, Archbishop Bathersby, and Bishop Bill Morris. He welcomed especially Fr Tom Keegan, celebrating 60 years of priesthood; Fr Terry Hickling, celebrating 50 years of priesthood: “As we gather to celebrate on this feast day we are also giving thanks for the blessings that we have received in the priesthood.”

The homily was given by Fr Terry Hickling who began: “And the lot fell to Terry...the organisers of today’s celebrations advised me that I have to give the homily, so you won’t hear the graced edition of our Bishop Robert or the Irish charm of Fr Keegan, but the simple efforts of myself, a country hick from Wallangarra...”

“I am sure you all know someone who goes by a nick-name. Sometimes a nick-name does such a good job of capturing someone’s personality that no one seems to remember his or her name. That seems to have been the case with Barnabas whose real name was Joseph. From what we see in the book of Acts Barnabas, which means Son of Encouragement, certainly deserved that new name.

“Barnabas was particularly encouraging to a fellow named Saul of Tarsis – the great St Paul – when the apostles were still afraid of Saul, Barnabas vouched for him and won acceptance for him from the Believers in Jerusalem...”



Fr Terry Hickling, celebrating 50 years of priesthood: Archbishop Bathersby; Bishop Robert McGuckin, celebrating 40 years of priesthood: Bishop Bill Morris and Fr Thomas Keegan, celebrating 60 years of priesthood during the commemorative Jubilee Mass on 11 June, feast of St Barnabas.

“When we think about these early days of the Church, Paul’s name of course comes to mind a lot more quickly than Barnabas’s name, but without Barnabas, Paul might never have become the great missionary that we read about in the Acts of the Apostles. He might never have written the Letters that have stirred people for centuries and still stir us today. He might never have pushed the boundaries of the Church into so many uncharted lands.

“Now Barnabas was not one of the twelve, but he is called an Apostle because of his wonderful work. He was a Jew from Cyprus and he became a convert to Christianity shortly after the first Pentecost Sunday and we are told he gave away all he possessed.

“He had a very helpful, a very optimistic nature. He was an encourager; and I believe this is what we need most in our Church today - encouragement.

“In our first reading today we heard that Barnabas urged all at Antioch to remain faithful to the Lord. May we all try to do that. For he was a good man, filled with the Holy Spirit and filled with faith. What an example he is to us all then. To be good people to be filled as best we can with faith, and to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Like Barnabas...we should be encouragers.”

Fr Terry then expressed his thanks to all who had encouraged him from his youth and during his 50 years of priesthood, his family, classmates, parishioners, bishops and fellow priests. He concluded: “I pray that however long God gives me health and strength, I will be happy to help and serve God’s people and like Barnabas I would strive to be an encourager...”

“Now tradition tells us Barnabas died on the isle of Cyprus by stoning. I am not so sure I am looking forward to follow him in that way.

“As we give thanks today to God, and that is what our Mass is all about, thanking our loving God through the Mass for the years of priesthood...I conclude with a little verse from the Divine Office. It comes from the Office of Reading on Tuesdays. It has always meant so much to me: *In the Scriptures, by the Spirit, may we see the Saviour’s Face, hear his word and heed his calling, know his will and grow in grace.*”



Above: Fr Tom Keegan reading the Gospel and left, Fr Terry Hickling giving the homily.



Above: Seminary classmates: Fr Joe McGeehan, Fr Wally Dethlefs, Fr Terry Hickling and Fr Leo Scelly.



Top left and left: Priests of the dioceses and visiting priests concelebrating the commemorative Jubilee Mass.

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



VOCATIONS VIEW

Fr Jamie Collins

You will have read in this edition of *Horizons* of the recent Jubilee celebrations for some of the priests of our diocese who celebrated important milestones marking the anniversary of their ordinations.

Collectively, these men have given many years of dedicated service to many faith communities throughout our diocese and beyond. The jubilee day proved to be one of great celebration for family, friends, and parishioners ... and for the jubilarians themselves. Fittingly it was celebrated on the Feast Day of St. Barnabas.

Preaching at the Jubilee Mass, Fr. Terry Hickling, who was celebrating his 50th Anniversary of ordination, reminded everyone present of some of the characteristics that are known about the life of St. Barnabas, who may not be as well known to many as some of the other names of the New Testament.

It was the disciples who gave him the name Barnabas which means Son of encouragement or son of consolation (Acts 4:36). This name was indeed an appropriate name for someone who lived to encourage those whom others feared or rejected. St. Barnabas the encourager, as he came to be known, took it upon himself to encourage others.

It is not known exactly why the apostles gave him the name Barnabas but by following his life and accomplishments we can see clearly how he rightly deserved this name for he was a great encourager to many who came in his path. The Acts of the Apostles describes St. Barnabas as "a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith" (Acts 11:24).

Our jubilarians, like St. Barnabas, have proven to be men with "a good heart, and with the mind of Christ implanted within them". Their journey of faith found encouragement from family and friends, fellow students for the priesthood and parishioners. In turn, they have been able to encourage others in their journey of faith.

The challenging task for us today is take up the example of St. Barnabas in encouraging those around us who may be discerning a call to the priesthood and religious life. We are asked to encourage and nurture them, and present the priesthood and religious life as a positive and life-giving option when considering their vocation in life.

Then hopefully in fifty and sixty years' time there will still be priests who can look back in gratitude to those who took the time to encourage them on their journey of faith. Let's also keep in prayerful support our seminarian, Jacob Saal who served for the Jubilee Mass and is now entering his second semester of study at Holy Spirit Seminary, Brisbane.

I am sure he will be grateful for the encouragement.



Seminarian, Jacob Saal with Bishop Robert McGuckin during the commemorative Jubilee Mass on 11 June, feast of St Barnabas.



Outreach to the Future

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

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

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

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



Reflections FROM THE HOLY LAND

For the month of June this year I have been fortunate to study at the Tantur Ecumenical Institute for Theological Studies in Jerusalem. Tantur was set up as a combined churches enterprise in the early 1970's in response to Paul VI and Vatican II's call to ecumenism. It is situated between Jerusalem and Bethlehem.

Tantur is a very peaceful haven run by an Orthodox priest (former Baptist minister from Nebraska) and his family. The course provided a combination of lectures and field trips that contextualized the scriptures within the culture they were written.

There were 14 participants in the course from USA, South Africa, Ireland, Australia and UK. However there were up to 60 people there studying various courses or completing doctoral dissertations.

While theology and scriptural study were the foci of the month, such study cannot be divorced from the political situation that is an ever present reality in this country. This is no more obvious than where Tantur is situated.

When you go up to the roof-top of the Institute you look out over the historical city of Bethlehem now surrounded by the divisive "Wall of Separation" built by the Israelis in 2003. This wall (or variations on the wall such as security fencing) extends the whole parameter of the West Bank, the area designated Palestinian after the 1967 war. This is a distance of 708km.

Because Bethlehem falls under Palestinian authority, Israeli checkpoints stop people leaving Bethlehem to go to Jerusalem or anywhere outside West Bank. If you are a worker in Jerusalem

you need a work permit to pass through the checkpoint and these are not easy to get. The AIDA Refugee Camp in Bethlehem which we had the opportunity to visit was established after the 1948 war to house displaced Palestinians and now sixty five years later it is still there. With over five thousand people living in AIDA, only fifty work permits have been issued by the Israeli authorities.



Wall of Separation

When I first arrived at Tantur I took an early morning walk through the grounds at 4.30am (you can blame jet lag and summer heat!). I was surprised and not a little apprehensive to find many Palestinian men huddled together or sleeping under olive trees in the grounds and along the footpath. I later found out that these men work in factories and other employment around Jerusalem and they need to rise this early so they can miss the backlog that occurs at the checkpoint as papers are checked and interrogations made that could easily mean they arrive late for work and lose their jobs.

Below: Bethlehem

On a visit to Hebron, we heard of similar stories where young children as young as five are stopped and searched at checkpoints in the city for up to twenty minutes which, while terrifying in itself, also makes them late for school. A similar occurrence happens to their teachers making for the ineffectual running of schools.



Water is another major issue in this desert country. West Bank Palestinians receive only 83 cubic metres per Palestinian per year while Israelis enjoy 333 cubic metres per Israeli per year, which means that each Israeli consumes as much water as four Palestinians. This can be detrimental during the summer months when no rain falls and when water usage is needed not only for drinking and bathing but also for agricultural needs.

No matter where one sits on the political continuum regarding the situation in Israel, the question of basic human rights, in particular the right to work and the right to an education, is a challenge to which we who are Christian must respond. This is especially true in light of Jesus's own story situated in this very place in which he ministered and faced his own death at the hands of the oppressive forces of his time.



Diary Markers



AUGUST

National Vocations Awareness Week
Sunday 4th - Sunday 11th.

The Assumption of Mary
Thursday 15th.

Apostleship of the Sea
Sunday 18th.

World Day of Migrants and Refugees
Sunday 25th.

SEPTEMBER

Mary of the Southern Cross - Diocesan Feast Day
Sunday 1st.

Priests' Retirement Fund
Father's Day - Sunday 1st.

Child Protection Sunday
Sunday 8th.

Cent Sale for the Missions
Wednesday 11th, 9.30am - Sacred Heart Function Centre,
Cnr Tor and North Streets. For information, contact:
Sisters of St Peter Claver on 4632 1818.

International Day of Peace
Saturday 21st.

Social Justice Sunday
Sunday 29th.

OCTOBER

Cent Sale for the Missions
Saturday 12th, 1.00pm - Sacred Heart Function Centre,
Cnr Tor and North Streets. For information, contact:
Sisters of St Peter Claver on 4632 1818.

World Mission Sunday
Sunday 20th.

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



What is the Festival?

The Australian Catholic Youth Festival is a national gathering of Catholic young people established by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. It exists to provide young people with opportunities to deepen their relationship with Jesus, be empowered to be disciples in the world today and encounter and celebrate the vitality of the Church in Australia.

Who is the Festival for?

Young people from year 9 (in 2013) to young adults 25 years of age are invited to the event. Young people under the age of 18 must be accompanied and supervised by an adult (see Registration conditions)

The Festival is aiming to gather over 3000 young people from around Australia.

When is the Festival?

The Festival will take place from Thursday December 5th until Saturday December 7th, 2013.

Where will the Festival be?

The Festival will be held in Melbourne. The majority of the Festival will be held at the Australian Catholic University (ACU) St Patrick's Campus (115 Victoria Parade, Fitzroy Vic). The university is one block away from Melbourne's St Patrick's Cathedral, across the road from the birthplace of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop and around the corner from the Mary MacKillop heritage Centre (a museum and centre for St Mary MacKillop).

Theme

The Australian Catholic Youth Festival has taken a scriptural verse as its theme - 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me' Luke 4:18. This theme echoes the Australian Bishops vision for youth and youth ministry in Australia.

Want more information?

Go to: www.youthfestival.catholic.org.au

If you are interested in attending the Festival and you are aged 18-25 please contact Sarah de Byl, Coordinator of the Diocesan Youth Ministry, at Young Catholics Toowoomba on 07 4687 4348 or email: sarah.debyl@twb.catholic.edu.au.



Diocesan Liturgical Commission



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

Acts 14:27

Soon after the Australian Bishops called a "Year of Grace" from Pentecost 2012 to Pentecost 2103, Pope Benedict XVI announced the Year of Faith for the Universal Church. This continues until the Feast of Christ the King, 24th November 2013.

You are invited to mark the period between these two closures as a time of "Beyond the Year of Grace". You are invited to consider what graces you have received, what are the fruits of your 'contemplation of the face of Christ' and what might be the journey that lies ahead. In the Acts of the Apostles, we learn that God has opened the door of faith for the early Church. God has opened the door of faith for each one of us and he invites us to step through the threshold into a deeper relationship with him. The Year of Faith is an opportunity for every Catholic to turn toward Jesus Christ, encounter him in the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist and rediscover the Faith and Church.

Mary Schwartz, Diocesan Co-ordinator.

For more on the Year of Faith: www.annusfidei.va

ARRIVAL OF *PORTA FIDEI*

Bishop Robert is happy to inform you that the diocesan copies of *Porta Fidei* (the Apostolic Letter of Pope Benedict XVI for the Year of Faith) have recently arrived and have been distributed to schools and parishes. He writes:

“In the front page of the *Porta Fidei* there is my January message about the document. I had expected the Toowoomba edition of *Porta Fidei* to have arrived earlier in the year but printing and delivery were unfortunately delayed. I commend the document to your prayerful reading and reflection.”

Bishop Robert’s message in *Porta Fidei* is reprinted below in case you have not yet picked up a copy:

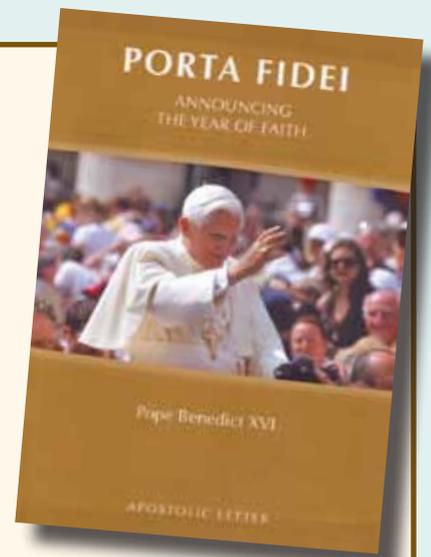
My dear Priests, Religious and all of Christ’s Faithful of our Diocese,

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

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

May this year be a Year of renewal for each of us and thus one for the Church. May we also open ourselves to God and be empowered by His Grace to move forward in our journey of Faith.

Bishop Robert McGuckin
Bishop of Toowoomba
2 January 2013



Dear Reader,

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

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

Name:

Postal Address:

Town:

..... Post Code:

Email:

Thank You



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

