

HORIZONS

of Toowoomba Diocese

FREE

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A note from the new editor:

Dear Reader,

Welcome to my first edition of Horizons and it will already be the last one for 2013 - how the year has flown. With the year has come many changes for myself. To be working for the Catholic Diocese is a great achievement. Sometimes we just never know what's around the corner for us all. I'm hoping I can do as wonderful job as Sr Eileen has done over the many years. I wish her all the best in her new endeavours, it will be great to hear about her trip to Rome when Sr returns in October.

I have been overwhelmed by the kind welcoming by so many beautiful people and look forward to meeting more of you in the future. Though I have been part of the Catholic upbringing all my life I am so pleasantly amazed at the wonderful work that the teams of people are doing for others in our area. Work that I did not know existed.

In this spring edition you will read about the wonderful events that have been part of "Catholic Education Week", the awareness of "Migrants and Refugees" plight and of the work the "Missions and Social Justice" are performing for others.

Enjoy, learn and God Bless,

Monique Bryson.



DEADLINE

New editions will be seasonal

FOR MARCH TO MAY 2014 EDITION

10th February 2014

**NB: LOOK OUT FOR THE
INTERIM CHRISTMAS EDITION**

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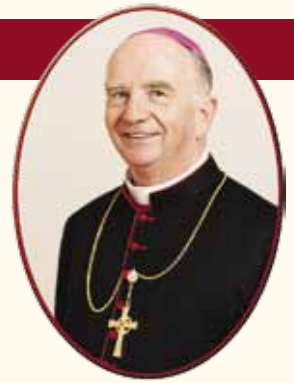
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Bringing Peace and Humanity



As we look around the world there are many problems and we see the plight of people in Syria, in Egypt and other regions in the world. There is a lack of peace in our world. Pope Francis in his recent Vigil of Prayer for Peace calls us to keep praying:

“But the task remains: we move forward with prayer and works of peace. I invite you to continue to pray so that the violence and devastation in Syria may cease immediately and that a renewed effort be undertaken to achieve a just solution to this fratricidal conflict. Let us pray also for other countries in the Middle East, in particular for Lebanon, that it may find its hoped-for stability and continue to be a model of peaceful co-existence; for Iraq, that sectarian violence may give way to reconciliation; and that the peace process between the Israelis and Palestinians may proceed with determination and courage.

Finally, let us pray for Egypt, that all Egyptians, Muslims and Christians, may commit themselves to build up together a society dedicated to the good of the whole population. The search for peace is long and demands patience and perseverance! Let us keep praying for this!”

By the time Horizons is distributed the Federal Elections will be over. Hopefully the posters and how to vote forms will have found their way into recycle bins around the Country. Pre-election advertising is primarily geared in persuading us to vote for a particular party rather than any other. It's only natural that we all want to know how policies and issues are going to affect us personally. We might be asking ourselves: What's in it for me? or, How much is this going to personally cost me? Does this square up with Jesus call to love one another, to reach out to those in need and not to put ourselves first?

Certainly, we want our rights protected but in our individualistic approach we usually want our own rights to be given priority. The Church in its teaching often speaks about rights, but it also cautions that in exercising our rights both as individuals and gathered together, we have to also take into account the common good and the good of the Church, the rights of others and our own duties towards others. Looking at our own duties towards others is something that we might tend to overlook.

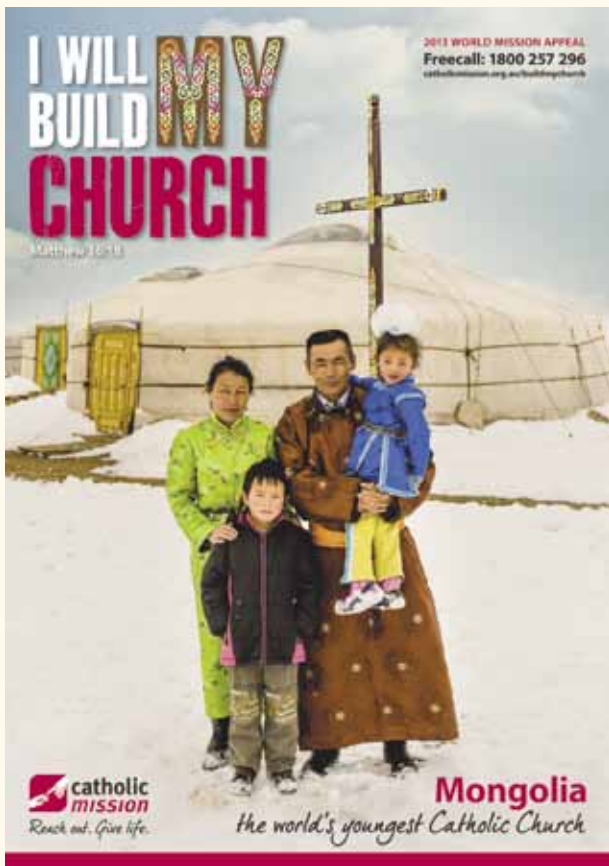
Recently the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care for Migrants and Itinerant People issued a paper entitled “Welcoming Christ in Refugees and Forcibly Displaced Persons – Pastoral Guidelines” (Vatican City 2013). Solidarity calls us to stand together especially with the poor and the powerless. Humankind is one family, refugees, migrants, people on the move and local populations all form a single family. Hence, human solidarity and charity must not exclude any person, culture or people (p.11 cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church # 361).

The document sets out some fundamental principles: All of the countries of the world have to cooperate in meeting the needs of people. At the same time, each of us has a personal responsibility to respond to the call of love. Certainly we're not going to be able to solve the problems of the world overnight, but if now in our own backyard we can show care and concern to others then we are making an important step.

Let us also ask our Government and Politicians to see that we must respond to the genuine needs of those who wish to come to our shores. Even though we have cast our vote it doesn't mean we just sit back. You may have seen the movie “Protocol” many years ago. In the end she made it quite clear that in the future she was going to closely watch the politicians.

Let us not sit back, but together may we respond to the genuine needs of others.

Bishop Robert McGuckin



Sr Clara holding photo of the "Dream Home" they have started to build for the children.

"I will build my Church" - focuses on the world's youngest Catholic Church in Mongolia

Many people would not associate the vast expanses of Mongolia with the Catholic Church, but that is about to change. This year's Catholic Mission World Mission Month appeal in October will focus on the world's youngest Catholic Church which was established in Mongolia just over twenty years ago following the fall of communism.

In 1992, Bishop Wenceslao (Wens) Padilla, a Filipino from the Italian Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and two fellow missionary priests, travelled to Mongolia to build the Church 'from scratch' in a country known to other missionaries as the 'hardship country'. Bishop Wens recalls that when he first arrived, the country, which was mostly comprised of nomadic herders, had no knowledge of Christianity, and was struggling with alcoholism, domestic abuse, minimal government social services and extreme poverty.

Today, throughout the vast and remote country of less than three million people, proudly stand six Catholic churches.

"Jesus said to Saint Peter, 'Upon this rock, I will build my church.' And I'm thinking that was also addressed to me when I came to Mongolia," said Bishop Wens.

Bishop Wens' incredibly inspiring journey of faith will be shared in parishes across Australia, as well as via mail and online campaigns, between September and November 2013. The extremely moving DVD entitled 'I will build my Church' (Matthew 16:18) can be viewed here: www.catholicmission.org.au/buildmychurchDVD

"I will build my Church" resources can be viewed and downloaded here: www.catholicmission.org.au/wmm

Catholic Mission—through its generous and faithful donors—has supported the Mongolian Catholic Church since day one, and helped build the very first church in Mongolia just three years after Bishop Wens arrived.

Martin Teulan, National Director of Catholic Mission, says: "What is truly exciting about the young Catholic Church in Mongolia, is that the vast majority of its Catholics have come to faith later in their lives—very few have been born into Catholic families."

Mr Teulan further explains: "One of the biggest challenges still facing the Catholic Church in Mongolia is that there are no locally born priests or sisters. The country's first two seminarians are currently studying in Korea, so the Church relies heavily on local catechists to develop learning materials and ways to inculcate the Gospel into the everyday lives of Mongolians."

"Catholic Mission supports the training, resources and work of the catechists and seminarians, plus many community development projects for those living in poverty. Through supporting Catholic Mission, you are supporting all of these outreach activities in Mongolia."

"Due to the poverty in the country, the Mongolian Catholic Church receives no local income and desperately needs our prayers and financial support to continue to build Church and through it the Kingdom of God in the remote areas of their country."

"I think Catholics all around Australia will be truly inspired by the story of Bishop Wens and the incredible impact Mongolia's Catholic Church—the world's youngest Catholic Church—is having in transforming the lives of so many people in Mongolia—people who have never before heard about Jesus," says Mr Teulan.

HOW DOES CATHOLIC MISSION HELP IN AUSTRALIA

Monique Bryson

2013 Mission Funds now distribute

Work with Communities, Work with Children and Work with Church Leaders

Funds for Pontifical Mission Societies have now reached their destination for 2013 which includes nine new countries. The Toowoomba Diocese may remember the visit from Sr Rose and Sr Clara back in June for the PROP Appeal. This appeal was to target 'Marialaya', a children's home for girls rescued from being sold and/or stolen to be used as beggars, servants and sexually abused, and then rehabilitated and supported.

Further good news has just been received, that funds will also cover another 'Marialaya' home to be built in Chingleput, India. The home will include basketball and tennis courts, dining table and chairs, toilet block, laundry and washroom, a vehicle and the land for the Sisters convent. Following this successful program we can continue to promote 'Marialaya' home programs to donors throughout the world.

Other areas include \$3.323 million for Work with Children projects and \$3.114 million for Work with Communities projects have been distributed to 34 countries throughout Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, the Americas and the South Pacific. This includes funding the new countries such as Mongolia, Korea, Tonga, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, Barbados, Grenada, Guyana and Thailand. For 2013 a total of \$7.413 million has been distributed for all three societies. Once again this is a great time of year, as all the great work we have done in the past year has helped us ensure funding for programs that support communities and children's physical and spiritual needs.

Debbie Ryan, Janet Meibusch (St Ursula's College) Lynette Johnson and Bernard Tipiloura

The Home Mission Fund report for 2012 has just been released and 16 Diocese across Australia were successful in receiving a share of the \$2m funding for the care of Catholics in isolated areas, Aboriginal people and low-socio economic parish locations.

In the Toowoomba Diocese the funds were put to a great cause. The Diocesan Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reference Group held a public reconciliation event with the visit from two Tiwi Island Elders. (Photo below)

In previous years the Diocesan Social Justice Commission has been running immersion visits to these Islands with local secondary school students and now it was time to reciprocate the hospitality.

Again this year, students from St John's School Roma will be taking an amazing trip to Tiwi Island and visit the drop in centre and experience their culture.

Part of this funding will also be retained for the Apostolate services and future work with our Indigenous people.

The Diocese is very delighted with the ongoing and productive partnership that has developed in recent years between our Social Justice Commission and our Aboriginal Apostolate.

In previous years, further projects such as Reconciliation Learning Circles as well as anti-racism education initiatives within schools, parish and community based groups.

The Toowoomba Diocese endeavours to broaden our faith awareness of the singular history, place and contribution of Indigenous peoples within the life of the national and local community.



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Caritas- Project Compassion

VISITING SCHOOLS AND PARISHES IN TOOWOOMBA DIOCESE

When I was in the cities of Brisbane and Toowoomba in February 2013, as guest speaker for Caritas Project Compassion, I was greatly impressed by the Catholic College students' level of social awareness of poverty/oppression and their desire to do something positive about these situations. Therefore, when I was invited to join Veronica White, the Diocesan Director of Caritas in Toowoomba, on the trip to Catholic schools and parishes in the rural areas of that vast diocese, I was quick to say I would love to be involved.

As we visited the schools in Goondiwindi, Roma, Mitchell, Charleville, Quilpie and Cunnamulla, I again experienced that openness and concern of the students and staff.

In each school Veronica would begin by thanking the staff and students for all they have done through Project Compassion to help Caritas come to the aid of people in need. Then I would share how the funds raised are being used to make a significant difference in the lives of disadvantaged people, in particular how they have helped save the lives of poor women and their infants in Bangladesh and enable disadvantaged tribal children to receive an education.

Whether I was speaking to children of year 12 or year 7, in various classes in the primary school setting, or to the whole school assembly, there was that same wonderful curiosity about others whose way of life is so different to theirs. The many questions asked stimulated lively discussions. They were fascinated at learning how to count to 20 on one hand, as people in Bangladesh do, and keen to share their new found knowledge with their families. I, too, went away truly enriched through my encounter with them.



St John's Roma

This was my first experience of outback Australia. My presumption that it would all be dry tussock grass and gum trees was certainly proved wrong! The scenery was constantly changing in a marvellous array of colour. I was enthralled by the vastness of this beautiful land of Australia. After speaking in a school in the morning, we would drive 200-370 km in the afternoon to our next destination. Never again will I be able to think of 100 km as a long drive!



Along the way we would call in to visit the local Priest and thank him for what his parish have done for Project Compassion. The love of these valiant men for the people they serve, over such vast distances, was obvious. I was given the opportunity to share on how Project Compassion is helping in Bangladesh at the Saturday Vigil Mass at Warwick and the Sunday morning Mass in Stanthorpe. Being able to share with these parishioners and the students in the schools visited, the lives of disadvantaged people

in Bangladesh whose lives are so much part of mine, means such a lot to me. It also means that when I do return to Bangladesh, I shall be able to tell the beneficiaries of Caritas Australia projects of all the adults and children here in Australia who are making such a difference in their lives.

For those reasons I am so grateful to Veronica and Caritas for allowing me to be part of this very enriching experience.

(If you would like to see a copy of Sr Julianne's talk, please contact Communications Officer Monique Bryson)

Sr Julianne Hayes-Smith, a Missionary Sister of the Society of Mary. (SMSM) (Marist Missionary).

She grew up in Ashhurst near Palmerston North, New Zealand. Sister is a nurse, linguist and teacher. Sr has spent 35 years working overseas: 5 in Western Samoa, 10 in Vanuatu, 2 on the Chatham Islands and most recently 18 years in Bangladesh. Sr is a Registered Nurse and Midwife, with a Dip Ed in Nurse Education (from Armidale) and a M. Phil in Development.



St Mary's Charleville



St Finbarr's Quilpie



St Patrick's Mitchell

In this edition we also say farewell to Veronica White.

We wish you all the best in everything you do. God Bless and thank you so much for all your hard work and the great achievements you have accomplished in your tireless work with Caritas.

Sr. Julianne Hayes-Smith, smsm

ACTION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST WORLD POVERTY

"Charity begins at home, and the world is our home," stated Dr Mark Copland Executive Officer for the Diocesan Social Justice Commission. "This year's annual social justice statement asks how we will respond to Lazarus knocking on our gate. As individuals, people in the Toowoomba Diocese have been recognised for the level of their generosity. This generosity has changed lives throughout the world including in our own neighbourhood of the Pacific and South East Asia. Projects co-ordinated by Caritas demonstrate our commitment to upholding human dignity – but there is much more we can do. As a nation we need to do more to respond with compassion and generosity to the scourge of world poverty. I would urge all members of our Diocesan family to take the time to read, reflect and act on this year's Bishop's Social Justice Statement."

Caritas Australia, the Catholic Church's agency for international aid and development, has welcomed the launch of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference 2013-2014 Social Justice Statement;

Lazarus at our Gate: A critical moment in our fight against world poverty and called on Australia to play a lead role in the fight against world poverty.

Acting CEO at Caritas, Helen Forde said Australia, currently 2nd on the 2013 Human Development Index, was a rich, prosperous nation with a strong economy that was well positioned to help in this critical moment in the fight against poverty.

"The breadth and depth of poverty that still exists in our world calls us to action," Ms Forde said.

"Our leaders are in an influential position to reach out to our neighbours with love and compassion, and lead through actions, not just words. In this year's Social Justice Statement, the Catholic Bishops challenge us to ask as a prosperous nation: 'Who is at our Gate?' Who is Lazarus and where do we find him?"

"Lying at our gate we find our nearest neighbours, in East and South East Asia and the Pacific, who account for about 20 per cent of the world's poorest people. "And standing at our doorstep we find those who are fleeing conflict, persecution and war, 45 million, about twice the Australian population, who have been forcibly displaced, with no place to call home."

Through Caritas partnerships, for example in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey more than 100,000 people are being helped with food, education and health services. "Syrian refugees and host populations in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, lie far from Australia's table, but they are not forgotten," Ms Forde said. "We stand at a crossroads in the fight against global poverty," Ms Forde said. "As Pope Francis said in 2013, 'a way has to be found to enable everyone to benefit from the fruits of the earth, and not simply to close the gap between the affluent and those who must be satisfied with crumbs falling from the table,'" Ms Forde said.

Caritas Australia is the International Aid and Development Agency of the Catholic Church and works to honour and protect the innate dignity of God's most marginalised people through effective partnerships in humanitarian relief and development in 199 long-term programs, across 35 countries.

"Caritas" is Latin for love and compassion.

How do we show love and compassion to people, most marginalised in Australia and the world today?

Ms Forde said just four days after the Coalition's win at the Federal Election, there were huge changes afoot across our nation.

"Australia has a place on the UN Security Council for the next 2 years and we will soon chair the G20 group, so our leaders are in an influential position."

Ms Forde said Caritas was saddened by the proposed \$4.5 billion in cuts to foreign aid over the next four years and called on the new government to reverse its decision.

"Diverting and proposing to cut our foreign aid budget in order to balance the books and fund their domestic policies, such as transferring asylum seekers to other countries and building better infrastructure is unacceptable," Ms Forde said.

"We are at a critical moment in the struggle to eliminate poverty, but it is a battle that can be won."

People from different religions and cultures throughout the world are convinced that achieving the goal of eradicating extreme poverty by the year 2015 is one of the most important tasks in today's world. Moreover, they hold that such an objective is indissolubly linked to world peace and security.

The Millennium Development Goals 1

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

Goal 4: Reduce child mortality

Goal 5: Improve maternal health

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

How can it be that even today there are still people dying of hunger? Condemned to illiteracy? Lacking the most basic medical care? Without a roof over their heads?

... Christians must learn to make their act of faith in Christ by discerning His voice in the cry for help that rises from this world of poverty.

Flabiana's story

In the conflict that followed Timor-Leste's declaration of independence in 1999, Flabiana and her family lost everything. Fleeing the violence that engulfed their village and killed a third of the country's population, they spent three months hiding in Timor-Leste's rugged mountains.

When it was safe to return, the family faced a scene of destruction. 'All our things were destroyed or stolen. We didn't have enough food for the whole year.'

But Caritas Australia offered a program to empower the community and train people in managing fast-growing crops, processing food, breeding animals, and in group savings and loans.

Indigenous peoples

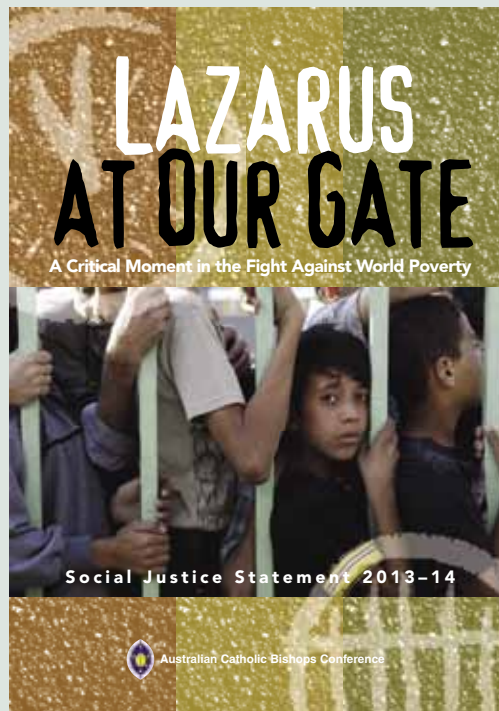
Do you know that when I was born, in some missions it was reported that 200 in 1000 of our babies were dying before they even reached the tender age of one? That is in my lifetime ... Even today we are still dying decades younger than we need to; and our infants continue to die in our arms at three times the rate of other Australian infants.

Tom Calma, former Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner

People on the move: the displaced

Zarfeh Shibley and eight of her children fled Syria for Jordan with only the clothes on their backs. She said:

We had to get the children out because it had become too dangerous ... I brought nothing of value, except my children. There is nothing more precious than that. Her husband and two other sons remain in Syria, their whereabouts unknown.



Toowoomba Refugee and Migrant Support

In 2013 Pope Francis has given us a great example of how to respond to the stranger who comes to our shores. The scriptures and the teaching of the Church clearly point out that this is not just 'a nice thing to do' or 'an option' but our duty as Christians.

Those who are most vulnerable are not simply people in need for whom we are graciously doing an act of solidarity, but are members of our family with whom we are duty-bound to share the resources that we have.

Welcoming Christ in Refugees and Forcibly Displaced Persons (Pastoral Guidelines)

For parishes such as St Anthony's in Harristown this is not a new thing. Since the resettlement of Indo-Chinese refugees in the 1980s the parish has been involved in sharing the gift of hospitality through rental of parish property. In January of this year the Social Justice Commission linked a number of people living on visas with parishes in Toowoomba city. To clarify, living on a visa means, receiving 89% of a Centrelink payment (approximately \$207 a week), to pay for rent, clothes, transport, food and other incidentals. It also means in many cases living without work rights.

Local St Vincent de Paul conferences have played a mighty role in supporting new arrivals and upholding their basic dignity. The parish of St Theresa's has come on board since July, offering support of a house made available by Bishop McGuckin to a group of local men who are seeking help in Australia. The response has not been one of reluctance or difficulty – but instead there has been great joy. A supporting parishioner at St Theresa's states simply, "They have changed our lives." Another member of St Anthony's describes the local household as, "a constant delight".

Centacare's Toowoomba Refugee and Migrant Support (TRAMS) through its wonderful volunteers provide help with English conversation classes, sewing groups, homework tutoring sessions, computer classes and much more. Groups within St Anthony's and St Theresa's Parish are also involved in material support and friendship. **If you would like to be involved please contact TRAMS on 46329285 or St Theresa's Parish on 46394688 or St Anthony's Parish on 46361737.**

In April of 2005 then Pope Benedict XVI recognised the incredible courage that refugees and asylum seekers demonstrate. He spoke of "the strength of spirit demanded of those who have to leave everything, sometimes even their family, to escape grave problems and dangers". He went on, *"The Christian community, which feels close to all who are experiencing this painful condition", tries its best "to encourage" and show them "it's interest and love".* This is done through *"concrete gestures of solidarity so that everyone who is far from his own country will feel the Church as a homeland where no one is a stranger".* This is the vision we are working towards in the Church of Toowoomba.

CAN YOU HELP WITH

- **Time to help teach:** driving lessons; complete paperwork, any skill you may hold to help others in a variety of areas is very welcome.
- **Food items**
- **Do you need any Odd Jobs done:** these people really want to help others as well and they would love to give back to the community. Do you have any odd jobs or work that these families can help you or your charity with?

In August, Australian Catholics supported the 99th World Day of Migrant and Refugee week.

St Theresa's Parish in Toowoomba held a multicultural weekend to celebrate Refugee and Migrant Sunday. This vibrant and outreaching celebration acknowledged the many different cultures which make up our Parish and local community. With song, readings and prayers presented in different languages (Spanish, French, English, Shona, Swahili and Italian were some of the native languages) and the sharing of stories of people coming to join us in our great country, a real sense of oneness and solidarity was obvious.

Sr. Deirdre Gardiner shared the stories of the Tamil Asylum Seekers living in our community. They were present at Mass on the Sunday morning and the community had the opportunity to meet the young men.

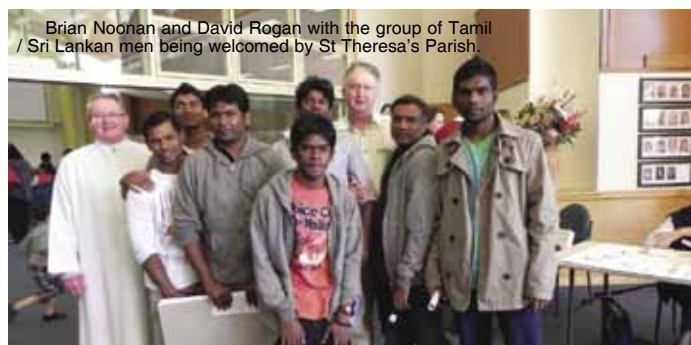
Not only interesting to see and hear, it helped us realise as a faith community we have many more similarities than differences.



THANKS

St Theresa's Parish Council received excellent and informative input by Sr. Deirdre Gardner and Dr Mark Copland, in regards to the situation of Tamil asylum seekers living in our Toowoomba community. Discussion followed their input on how we as a Parish, will respond to this situation, and it was decided that we will accept this responsibility and opportunity to become more open to helping, learning and sharing our lives with these men. We discussed the practicalities of their relocation to a home within our Parish and have been overwhelmed by the thoughtfulness and generosity of our community to their fellow man. We would like to thank and acknowledge the generosity of parishioners who have given of their time and resources (eg. trailers), donated beds, furniture, bicycles, linen, cutlery and wardrobes. It was then so wonderful to join with these men in our Refugee and Migrant celebrations.

We were also able to link with our Parish school, with the Mater Dei Mini Vinnie's supplying the Multicultural Development Association with "Welcome Packs", designed to reduce some of the stress associated with arriving in a new country. The response from the wider school community was outstanding, with each class donating toiletries and dietary staples. Overall, 15 packs for refugees as well as six packs for the recently arrived Tamil men living in the St Theresa's Parish were donated.



Below is the message sent from Leah Percival from the Multicultural Development Association on receiving the welcome packages.

"Thankyou!!!! They are truly amazing!!! We have just come and collected these packs. The team can't wait to meet our new arrivals tomorrow and present them with these packs from Mater Dei School."

Please pass on our thanks and appreciation to all your students, parents and staff. We are really excited for our future arrivals and the support your group can assist with these welcome packs, as you can imagine a box of food/personal items on the day they arrive really helps them settle in and to be able to prepare their own meal means so much to them!!



Welcome pack



Sr. Deidre Gardener with the group of Tamil/Sri Lankan men.

AUTHOR VISIT THE PEOPLE SMUGGLER

What a great opportunity a group of local year 9 students had recently at St Saviours College - an amazing conversation with award winning author Robin de Crespigny. Robin's book **'The People Smuggler'** focuses on a subject that has yet to engender much sympathy in the public eye.

Robin tells the story of Ali Al Jenabi. The Ali that Robin describes is a good man, a moral man - a family man who goes to great lengths to show compassion to those he comes across. A man described by an Australian Supreme Court Judge as the "Oscar Schindler of Asia". Ali spent a third of his life in Saddam's Hussein's prisons in Iraq. The most harrowing sections of the book are the descriptions of torture that take place in the notorious Abu Ghraib prison. In 1991 Ali was confronted with his 18 year old brother having his hands nailed to a table inside Abu Ghraib. He was told by his torturers that each time he didn't answer a question that a finger of his brother, Ahmad would be cut off. It was then that he noticed that one was already missing. Ali never saw Ahmad again.

This is confronting to say the least - but when we begin to discuss 'those infernal boats' that come across our horizon here is where we need to start. Not on the boats, not even in the water in which people drown in on their way here - **but in the torture chambers and prisons around the world that create the reason that people risk everything for safety.** Ali Al Jenabi organised boats to help his family flee from Iraq to Australia. He doesn't see this as 'people smuggling' but instead saw it as helping rescue people from persecution and death. He helped more than 500 other people to escape Iraq, marking each one of them as a victory over the tyrant Hussein. Women and children were given free passage and the fares were far less than the \$10,000 we hear quoted so frequently.

It would be naïve in the extreme to view people smuggling as a 'noble profession' but "The People Smuggler" is a book that squarely challenges the notion that all those who organise the squarely seeker boats represent the face of evil. The story of Ali is one of extraordinary courage which contrasts the human capacity for brutality and cruelty with that of compassion and genuine kindness. It may be convenient for those who hold the reins of power to neatly categorise people as exploiters of human tragedy but the pages of this book reveal a situation far more complex.



Award winning author Robin de Crespigny, St Saviour's student Aline Twibanire and St Saviour's College Principal Mrs Margaret Battle.

CATHOLIC AUGUSTINE NUN RECEIVES AWARD

Across the other side of the world, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) announced that this year's Nansen Refugee Prize has been awarded to Augustine Sister Angélique Namaika from the remote north east region of Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Sister Angélique, through her Centre for Reintegration and Development, has helped transform the lives of more than 2,000 women and girls who have been forced from their homes, becoming displaced and refugees.

Her one-on-one approach helps them recover from the trauma and damage. On top of the abuse they have suffered, these vulnerable women and girls are often ostracized by their own families and communities because of their ordeal.

It takes a special kind of care to help them heal and to pick up the pieces of their lives. Sister Angélique does this by helping them learn a trade, start a small business or go back to school. Testimonies from these women show the remarkable effect she has had on helping turn around their lives, with many affectionately calling her "mother".

Sister Angélique received the Nansen Refugee Award and the Nansen Medal at a ceremony in Geneva. Following the ceremony, Sister Angélique will travel to Rome, where she will be received at the Vatican by Pope Francis in October.



Social Justice – meeting in Warwick

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

The local Social Justice Commission team met recently in Warwick for their bi-monthly meeting.

Mark Copland, Executive Officer said, "For the past decade our Commission has committed to meeting twice a year outside of Toowoomba city. Over the years we have spent time on the Granite Belt, in Cunnamulla, Roma and many places in between. This is always a great opportunity to hear of positive initiatives in local communities and challenges facing disadvantaged people across the Diocese."

RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN IN PLACE



Members of the Diocesan Reconciliation Action Plan Sub-Committee.

This sub-committee monitors progress on the actions committed to in the Diocesan Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)

Mark Copland, Executive Officer said, "Mark Copland, Executive Officer said, It is inspiring to be a part of a group committed to working with the Diocese of Toowoomba to turn our good intentions into concrete actions. We are now entering the third year of our RAP journey and with the leadership of Bishop McGuckin we are going from strength to strength. An updated version of the RAP will be available from the Social Justice Commission from mid October."

Diocesan Walkabout -

HIGHFIELDS HAPPENINGS

Healing Mass



Recently held at the Mary of the Southern Cross Catholic Parish 'Care and Concern' Group, was a "Healing Mass". This special Mass was celebrated by our Parish Priest, Fr. Brian Noonan, and proved to be a tremendous success.

People came from Highfields and surrounds and filled the Parish Centre in Kleinton to capacity, with seating around the walls and an extra row in the front facing the Altar. A very moving ceremony was witnessed by all who attended.

Patti McNaught said, "Such a wonderful experience for those who are unable to go to Mass because of illness, or those who are incapacitated". "For those who were unable to drive, transport was provided by members of our community. It was wonderful to see them happy to receive this precious gift from Fr. Brian, along with the regular who attend Tuesday Mass. After Mass everyone enjoyed morning tea, supplied by the Care & Concern Group and Parishioners. It was lovely to see the crowd mingling and chatting with each other. What a great morning".

What a Celebration

On Sunday 1st September, Highfields Catholic Parish Community flocked to Christ the King Chapel at James Byrne Centre, to celebrate the feast of our Patron, Mary of the Southern Cross.

The weather was simply perfect, and the Chapel was packed to capacity, spilling outside, as Parish Priest Fr. Brian Noonan celebrated Mass in her honour.

It also happened to be Father's Day, so to celebrate both important milestones, a fun day with activities was organized after Mass. Morning tea, a barbeque and games for the children were planned for this event. The feature of the day, "Swap your Crop", was the brainchild of local teacher and Parish Liturgist, Trish Gall. Everyone brought their crops such as fruit and vegetables, eggs, jam, home cooking and anything that mayinst the dads. All the kids joined in, to make it a truly great family occasion. The aroma of the barbeque was intoxicating and drew many to enjoy a sausage on bread with sauce. Just what the doctor ordered on an occasion such as this.

A celebration is not a celebration be swapped for someone else's goods. The response to this was absolutely overwhelming, and people gathered after Mass talking and laughing with each other as they swapped their crop for someone else's. Nobody went home empty handed. Fabulous idea Trish.



The games for the children were capably organized by Joe Tonkin. The kids had a great time with musical chairs and tug-of-war aga without the cake and the parishioners were not disappointed as they enjoyed the beautiful cake in honour of our Patron. Mary Sullivan and her helpers need to be commended as they served morning tea to a very large crowd. Fr. Brian and Mary later cut the cake to make the wonderful day official.

Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make this day a fantastic celebration. We are all looking forward to the next social event. We are certainly very lucky to have such a wonderful Community.

Parish Trivia Night *How much can parishioners laugh without splitting their sides?*

On Saturday, 14th September, Mary of the Southern Cross Catholic Parish had their annual "Parish Trivia Night."

This fantastic night, organized by Parish Council Members attracted a large number of people, all expecting to have a great time and they were not to be disappointed. Tables of ten were nominated, with Team names chosen by the team members of each table, some which were quite clever and others that were quite hilarious. The weather was great, which made the night perfect for a night out to have fun and mix with our fellow parishioners, their friends and families.

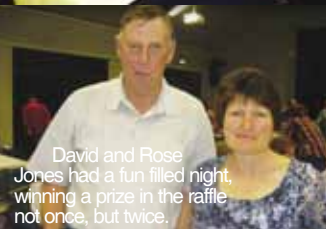
On arrival at our designated table, we found a sheet to be completed, which was to be corrected at the end of the night. What a shock, and for some, horror, when we found that the questions were on "Phobias". However it was a great talking point and to our surprise, they weren't as bad as we thought. It's amazing what happens when 10 heads are put together. The main questions were then read out and lots of laughter was heard around the room as the answers were written down. A mystery sheet was handed in which added to the fun of the night. This was completed by a mysterious player who penciled in crazy answers and admitted that the battery on his phone had run out, when they came to the last few questions.

The generosity of the public and members of the Parish never ceases to amaze, when you see the stage area full of beautifully wrapped prizes (all donated) for our raffle. The excitement of people was great when their name was called and they were able to choose something from the huge amount of prizes. Various other activities were held throughout the night to add to the fun.

Our MC for the night was once again, Mal Porter. A brilliant quick witted host, who had an answer for everything. His extroverted personality made him the perfect choice for this sort of night. Keep it up Mal, we want you again next year. You are just warming up.

A light supper was enjoyed at interval, and nibbles were provided at each table. Hats off to Parish Council Members and others who helped on the night. Once again, you need to take a bow. Everyone left on a high. What a fabulous night.

Patti McNaught



from Horizon to Horizon

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH JANDOWAE

News from Jandowae

40 years on and the Catholic Women's League (CWL) are still hosting their annual smorgasboard luncheon.

This practice was started by the Uniting Church with the Catholic Parish soon following in 1975 and then the Anglicans. We have never missed a year since its inception, and while the earlier lunches consisted of a large array of hot dishes and numerous sweets, we have now simplified the meal as our numbers are short, by providing roast chicken and roast beef with baked vegies and greens and plum pudding and custard and fruit salad and ice cream and tea/ coffee. The August luncheon was a great success. A turn up of over 100 people and about 40 take-aways provided the workers and the housebound in Jandowae with a beautiful baked meal and sweets.

Most of the food is donated by CWL members and other parishioners and while we are pleased to raise funds from the luncheon, our main objective is fellowship. Jandowae is very much an ecumenical town, with each Church supporting each other at social functions and various services and Bible study. We are fortunate that our facilities have improved somewhat over time with the help of grants. We have a large new bain-marie, a new fridge, new tables, new water tank and a new stove. Prior to the new stove, the ladies had to be backwards and forwards

to the oven upstairs in the Presbytery, which was proving to be more difficult each year.

We recently had the pleasure of a visit from both Sister Elaine Morzone from Toowoomba Diocese and Sister Mary Cleary. They attended our Liturgy Service and Sister Eileen explained her current role. This was a great way for us all to get to know each other and understand the support Sister can provide for us in the future.

Rob McCormack has been conducting lessons for us in the certificate course 'Serving God's People'. Thank you Rob, you have been a great teacher and inspiration to us all. We hope to complete the course during 2014.

Invitation is open to everyone to come along and visit our mini fete on Saturday 23rd November. A BBQ, stalls, chocolate wheel with pork trays as prizes, the bring and buy stall and bar will be operating. An invitation has been sent out to 120 registered Catholics in the district, inviting them to the mini fete for fellowship and a very good night out!

Over the last six months we have been renting out the Presbytery to a young family. This has boosted our financial situation somewhat as numbers are currently low in the Church.

Father Michael Cooney continues to celebrate Mass here each fortnight and we are very grateful for that and mindful of the difficulties of our more distant parishes.

Margaret Atkinson

ST PATRICK'S PARISH ALLORA

News from Allora

A new Parish Pastoral Council has been formed. St. Patrick's parishioners are very grateful to the out-going Leadership Team members for the care, dedication and wealth of knowledge which they brought to their positions over the years.

We welcome Father Rod MacGinley, John Cowley, Imelda Chandler, Kaye Mullins, Valerie Claydon, Roy Nott and Peter Cavanagh who are the members of the new Council. The parish was fortunate to be given guidance and support in the formation of the new Pastoral Council by Sister Elaine Morzone.

Each term of 2013 we have been delighted to have the St Patrick's School students involved in a Sunday mass. This is a special day for all who attended and provided an insight and ownership for the young families. The 5th November will see the Year 6 and 7 students help co-ordinate the service followed by a shared morning tea. Thanks also goes to Fr Rod McGinley for his wonderful patience and the way you relate and talk with the children.

Sacramental Programme organizers John Briffa and Chris Parleviet along with a team of mentors presented eleven candidates for the sacraments of Confirmation and Communion. Bishop Robert McGuckin officiated with the assistance of Fr Rod, followed with a celebratory morning tea in the Parish Function Room.

The Care and Concern team have yet again outshone on their support and fundraising efforts to support the Sisters of St Josephs who work tirelessly in Peru. For the past 11 years this annual community luncheon has been held in the Allora Parish Function Room, to raise much needed funds for these 12 nuns to care and support the disadvantaged.

An amazing \$3,000 was raised on the day. These nuns are currently working in a variety of areas out of Lemur and near the Amazon area. Material is provided for these families to create such a variety of products to sell in Australia. This will support their families and provide an income to survive.

If you would like to organise an event to sell these products or purchase for yourself, please visit www.ethica.org.au or call Gina on 02 8912 2716.

Monique Bryson



Heather Gall, Margaret Atkinson, Ann McNamara, Mary Blinco, Doreen Beard, Elaine Seng, Vi Thies, Muriel Gersekowski, Noel Bassingthwaite and President of Parish Council our lovely Ian Gall





George & Pat Cross receiving their special Papal Blessing certificate.

65 YEARS STRONG

Hebel Parish

Congratulations to a wonderful local couple from Hebel (located 4km near the NSW border and south from St George). George and Pat Cross recently celebrated their marriage of 65 years.

A special morning tea followed the monthly Mass, which included the presentation of a Papal blessing for this great achievement and commitment of George and Pat.

George said, "We've actually known each other for 75 years, and have never

had a cross word – although it may have helped that I have always been a little deaf!"

George and Pat first met at Warwick at age 13. George attended Christian Brothers and Pat at St Mary's.

"Many a time we would be in detention writing our lines, as we would get caught talking on the street corner in our school uniforms", Pat said.

May the years continue to be as happy and healthy as the last 65 years. God Bless

Fr Michael O'Brien

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NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR ST ANTHONY'S PARISH



On April 21st 2013, St Anthony's new Community Centre was blessed by Bishop Robert McGuckin DD and opened by Fr Peter Dorfield.

The Community Centre houses offices and meeting rooms at the front with a community hall at the rear for parish events and gatherings.

St Anthony's, along with most Catholic Parishes, commenced as part of another – first with Holy Name, then Our Lady of Lourdes Parish was carved out that, then St Anthony's from there. This was back in the 1950's.

The 'old CUSA (Catholic United Services Association) building' had been shifted from Cabarlah to the present Church site, and was used as a Mass Centre for Harristown and the surrounding areas from 1950, and was administered by Fr Patrick McMorro, first from Holy Name, then from Lourdes, where a Presbytery was built in the early '50s.

Next to be built here was the Convent in 1954, and the Nuns lived in that (the building where the School Office is now housed); school classes were accommodated for some time in the Mass Centre. The foundation stone for the actual School building was laid on the day the Convent was opened, with the first classroom eventually occupied in February 1955 – but there were still classes in the Church/Mass Centre for some time.

Up until this time, St Anthony's was 'part' of the Parish of Our Lady of Lourdes; the separation occurred in 1960. And then the time was ripe for the erection of a Church building more in keeping with the other building activity on the site. The old CUSA building was transferred 'as far away as possible', down to its present site in Stephen Street, and beautified, while the present beautiful Church proceeded.

Meanwhile, Fr McMorro, who had been the Parish Priest of the combined Lourdes-St Anthony's Parish, had nowhere to live – and so at the same time, the 'old' Presbytery was built and occupied. With the completion of the Church in 1966, the group of Parish buildings was complete, debt-free thanks to the generosity of parishioners.

This short outline highlights the determined nature of the historical families

of that period, the '50s and '60s.

Fr McMorro was in control of St Anthony's from the day of its establishment until 1992, in which year he retired after 59 years of Priesthood; he was succeeded by Fr Thomas Sweeney, who had been appointed the assistant Pastor in 1978 – coincidentally, also from Holy Name. While still nominally 'Assistant', Fr Sweeney served as Parish Priest in all but name, for some years before Fr McMorro's retirement and his eventual death in Lourdes Home. Fr Sweeney himself followed soon after, in June 1995. He was replaced by Fr Peter Dorfield, who was at the helm when the new Community Centre was planned.

An almost uncountable number of Sisters and Diocesan Priests have served at St Anthony's – almost all of them going on to more onerous responsibilities throughout the Diocese and beyond. All of them too assisted in the development of St Anthony's, both the building and the Community nature of our Parish. And we are beholden to them all.

The original Presbytery was a 2-bedroom construction, constructed in the old days when a Presbytery was 'just a Priest's home' with live-in housekeeper accommodations; all the necessary facilities of course, but few meetings, even fewer in the Presbytery, as eventually became the norm.

As more and more assistants came to live there, and rooms were set aside for meeting rooms, it eventually became necessary to expand the accommodations – to house not only the Assistant Priests, but a Secretarial area, meeting and interview rooms, and so on. Extensions were done to the old Presbytery in the 1970's.

Oakey Parish News St Monica's



St Monica's Parish recently presented fourteen candidates for their sacrament of First Communion with Fr Thomas.



(Cake) Photo : St Monica's School and Parish recently celebrated St Monica's Day. By all accounts, the parishioners and parents were thrilled to pass on their knowledge, and to be able to interact with the students in their school environment. The day concluded with Mass to celebrate St Monica as a model of motherly care, prayer and persistence. **Fr. Thomas D. Areekuzhy**

Pittsworth Parish News

St Stephen's Parish

Members of the youth and young adults of St. Stephen's youth group met recently in the Pittsworth parish.

Fr. Thomas D. Areekuzhy



Fr Peter Dorfield went on extended leave in 2002, and soon after his return, brought up with the Parish Pastoral Council (which he had established in the middle '90s) and with the Parish generally, the need for the old Presbytery to be modernised, and its interior to more suitably provide for the needs of the Parish, which was overwhelmed by the need for meeting room accommodation, (at that time, 52 meetings a month), and appropriate office accommodation.

With the organisational skills of Fr Peter Dorfield, in September 2005 the St Anthony's Parish Pastoral Council and the Parish Finance Council jointly considered the future use of the large block of land opposite the main entrance to the University of Southern Queensland in West Street, which had been exchanged many years earlier for church land on the corner of West and Stenner streets, which had been acquired by Fr McMorro for "Parish purposes". The land opposite USQ was subsequently sold to the Diocese, and it has now been developed into "Varsity Place" – a residential development of approximately 85 blocks.

In March 2006, a "Parish Gathering" took place to consider the future of the Parish buildings; and the liturgical renovations to the church layout, the appointment of Parish Pastoral workers, and the building of a new Community Centre, were the main decisions taken.

With all the toing and froing as to the design of the Centre, it was not until November 2009 that we had complied with the Diocesan building guidelines, and permission to build was granted by Bishop Morris for the planning and associated works to proceed. Unfortunately, Fr Peter

had left the parish by that time, and was no longer part of the decisions; Fr Jack Peard took his place as the last "Parish Priest" at St Anthony's, and guided the Committee through harrowing times – but he too had gone before actual building activities were undertaken. He was replaced by MSC Fr Joe Kelly, as 'Priest in residence'. It was during Fr Joe's time here, that all our planning came to fruition, and his replacement Fr Hal Ranger, our present Priest Director, was able to see demolition and construction works finally taking place.

Designs, plans and specifications were agreed upon and then processed through the Toowoomba Regional Council. That took up the whole of 2011, and it was not until early 2012 that building activities could start.

The demolition of the old Presbytery was completed in April 2012, and the construction works commenced at the end of July that same year.

By November 2012, the construction works were essentially complete, and the Committee handed things over to the Pastoral and Finance Councils. Some minor details remained, such as the resurfacing of the bitumen and so on.

Now that the new Centre is operational the 'Old' Hall in Stephen Street is surplus to the Parish needs. It is currently for sale, building to be removed from site. The timber building has been bricked-in on the exterior, but the interior timber finish is still in great condition. The hall has the potential to make a great house or to be used as a hall. If anyone is interested they should contact the parish office asap. If a buyer is not found the hall is due for demolition in January, 2014.



The survival of the Ginkgo Biloba

One fine day approximately 10 years ago Fr Peter & Michael Rooke were philosophising, as they do, over life and the subject turned to the longevity of trees. Michael mentioned that a particular tree, the Ginkgo Biloba, could live for hundreds of years. Next thing, Michael turns up with two of these trees. One unfortunately didn't survive, however the other did and prior to demolition works was carefully dug up and re-potted by Michael. When the new centre was completed the tree was again transplanted, this time into a much larger pot. It now takes pride of place in the front garden of the Community Centre.

Noela Nolan



ST THERESA'S PARISH TOOWOOMBA

It has been an exciting three months in our Parish since the last Horizons edition! We celebrated the Feast of the Assumption with our parish school, Mater Dei; and it was wonderful to see all the students actively involved in the beautifully prepared liturgy.

Our Father's Day Masses focused upon the theme of "My Dad's Hand"; and we had the opportunity to reflect upon the many men who have been role models and who have shaped our lives. A highlight was the lucky number draw after Mass, whereby one lucky Father or Father figure won a pack of glamorous goodies. Our Parish Liturgy team attended a music workshop at Downlands College, led by Sr. Helen Dyson and Fr. Paul McCormack. This valuable and practical exercise focused upon how to actively engage church members in singing and the liturgically correct procedures. A highlight of this workshop was the music by St Saviours College Sudanese singers, which was both spiritual and moving.



The annual St Theresa's Parish Women's retreat was held on September 15, with the focus of "Encountering God in the Midst of Everyday". This day was enthusiastically facilitated by Sr. Monica Cavanagh, who led us in prayer and reflection. The day of retreat invited participants to step outside their everyday roles and duties; and allowed us the opportunity to reflect on meeting God in nature, human encounters and our service to others. Escaping the busyness of life for six hours gave us the chance to listen deeply and experience Him in our everyday world. This was a day of spiritual nourishment and a reminder to slow down and be truly present as a way of encountering our God. All participants remarked they felt the day was spiritually beneficial and that they felt renewed and revitalised.



Baptism Team Celebrations

On Sunday, August 18th, the Baptism Team welcomed the families of those baptised in the last 12 months in our parish. These occasions are eagerly anticipated, as the Baptism Team assists in preparing families for their child's baptism and love to see how much the babies have grown! Morning tea was prepared by the team and served to the whole community following the Mass, with lots of fun and laughter shared by all.



Hospitality and Welcome Morning Tea

Our newly formed parish Hospitality and Welcome Team recently hosted a morning tea for the new parishioners in our community. Many of those involved in the team can remember fondly their welcoming by a member of the parish; and wanted to ensure this is replicated in the future. For all new members to feel embraced and offered options and support to become involved in all aspects of our Church is a priority.

Don't forget our next "Nibbles and Notes" is to be held on Friday October 18th beginning at 7pm with light refreshments. This wonderful fun evening for all those who play, sing or simply enjoy music, serves to promote community and further develop the culture of music in our Parish. Take note!

Christine Meneely

ST FRANCIS DE SALES MILLMERRAN Spiritual Enrichment Seminar

The Millmerran Filipino community were fortunate to have a Spiritual Enrichment Seminar organised for the last weekend of August. A large number of us were not able to join in because of the Annual Sheep Races, the major fund-raiser for St Joseph's School.

"On August 31st and September 1st, 2013, a Spiritual Enrichment Seminar was held in St. Francis de Sales Church and Hall. It was divided into a "Life in the Spirit Seminar" followed by a Healing Mass on Saturday, and a "Baptism in the Holy Spirit" on Sunday. Two Filipino priests, Rev. Fr. Teodoro C. Mamalias of Pacem Missionaries, and Rev. Fr Rocky B. Maguinsay of the Sacred Heart Parish in Toowoomba, were the resource speakers.

Life in the Spirit Seminar is traditionally used by Catholic groups in the context of awakening in the Roman Catholic Church. It aims to help us realize the power of the Holy Spirit that lies within ourselves. It also serves to renew and deepen our personal relationship with Jesus Christ, by being open and acknowledging the Holy Spirit and His gifts.

Life in the Spirit seminars normally take two whole days. But due to conflicts with the schedules of most of the participants, the seminar had to be compressed to roughly 2-3 hours each day. However short the time was, there was certainly so much that transpired. There was a lot of lively praise and worship, and interactive lectures and group sharing.

The Healing Mass was another event that was simply moving. At the end of the Eucharist, all who needed healing, whether physical, spiritual, or emotional, were prayed over by Fr. Rocky and Fr. Teody, who served as instruments of God's healing.

Overall, everything was such an overwhelming and beautiful experience."

Written by Kristina dela Cruz.



Millmerran Farewell and Welcome.

Recently after Mass, the new Parish Councillors, Leadership Team and Chairperson Nicole Farrington were happily commissioned by Father Thomas. It is wonderful to have new young faces on the job, learning the "ropes", and even making the discovery that running the Parish is sometimes not simply a "walk in the park"!

Teresa Lunney, our immediate Past Chairperson of the Leadership Team was farewelled at this Mass and we all shared a meal afterwards. Teresa has been in Millmerran for over 40 years, having come to nurse at the Millmerran Hospital. Teresa met and married Pat Lunney and raised three boys in Millmerran. She was active at St. Joseph's School through the P.& F.; then she was part of the early Parish Councils when Fr. Pat Hall was our Parish Priest. For quite a few years she became part of the Yallambee Retirement Village nursing staff, and also worked there in various training capacities. After Pat passed away, Teresa decided to plan her retirement in Toowoomba, when her work on the Parish Pastoral Council had run its term.

We wish her well!



ST JOSEPH'S PARISH, STANTHORPE

News



FIRST COMMUNION

Twenty-two children were welcomed to the Table of the Eucharist at St. Joseph's Church, Stanthorpe on Sunday 18th August 2013. Pictured after the First Communion Mass on Sunday morning with Fr. Brian Connolly and Fr. Lino Valente were:

Back Row (L to R): Hannah McMeniman, Charlotte Widderick

Middle Row (L to R): Michael Coco, Sianna Green, Brayden Spiller, Mitchell Brunckhorst, Louise Day, Avril Davies, Mikayla McDonald, Neil Perrett, Adam Raccanello, Gianna Pozzebon, Jenna Fox

Front Row (L to R): Brooke O'Brien, Cooper Wren, Nathan Webb, Matthew Biddulph, Ky Rashleigh, Mya Pettett, Teresa Pozzebon, Vanessa Petroccitto, Taryn Hines

WELCOME TO THE PARISH FAMILY

Pictured after the Vigil Mass in St. Joseph's Church, Stanthorpe on 21 September are Fr. Brian Connolly, Carmel Thun (sponsor), Herbert Fawcett and his wife Pat. Herb was Confirmed and received the Eucharist for the first time. He and his wife have only recently come into the Parish community and have been warmly welcomed by parishioners.

The Parish is also reaching out to younger parishioners who have yet to complete their Sacraments of Initiation and is planning a Rite of Initiation of Youth for next Easter.



THE END OF AN ERA

Like many of the older, bigger Parishes of the Diocese, St. Joseph's Hall in Corundum Street Stanthorpe has a long and rich history as the centre of social activities in the Parish and wider community for many decades. It was the venue for Catholic Debutante Balls, dances, concerts, School musicals, wedding receptions and a variety of Parish and School activities.

In recent decades the use of the Hall as a venue has gradually declined. Since the completion of the Bathersby Centre (the School Gymnasium), this is now utilised by the Parish for activities previously held in the Hall.

With the growth of St. Joseph's Secondary School Campus and the increase when Year Seven students relocate in 2015, a major building project of five additional rooms and undercover area is due to begin early in 2014; together with much needed School parking on the site of the current tennis courts.

While it is an emotional break with the past for many of our long time and older parishioners, everyone will take with them into the future many rich and happy memories of the iconic St. Joseph's Hall and the role it played in the life of the Parish and wider community. It is also an exciting time of expansion for the Parish School as the School provides the necessary accommodation for the great growth of recent years.



90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

One of St. Joseph's Parish faithful parishioners, Bill McCarthy, recently celebrated his 90th Birthday, with a Blessing by Fr. Brian at the Vigil Mass on 21st September and a birthday party at the home of Bill and his wife Enid, their family and many friends and parishioners on Sunday 22nd September. Bill is still an active member of K.S.C. and attends Mass daily. Bill is pictured with his wife Enid at his birthday celebrations.

(possible Photo Caption only)



DEANERY MEETING AT STANTHORPE

St. Joseph's Parish, Stanthorpe hosted the third Deanery meeting for 2013 on Thursday 22 August. The Southern Downs Deanery is composed of the Parishes of Warwick, Allora, Clifton, Killarney, Inglewood, Texas, Goondiwindi, Stanthorpe and Wallangarra. Fr. Sean Lynskey CSSp the Administrator of Inglewood and Texas Parishes has been warmly welcomed to the Deanery.

After discussing many pastoral issues and a report from each Parish, the Priests and lay representatives from most Parishes enjoyed an appetising lunch, which included lasagne from the international award winning restaurant, Annas, served by the Care and Concern team.

The meeting was held in the Parish Hospitality Centre which is in the former Convent adjacent to the Church including an inspection of the recently refurbished St. Joseph's Church.

The next Deanery Meeting will be held in November.

Dorothy O'Reilly



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MITCHELL PARISH

FAREWELL TO Pauline and Chris Easton



Recently the Mitchell community said goodbye to a long time local family. Paul and Chris Easton are heading to the Pomona area.

Pauline is a true local, born in Mitchell and attended St Patrick's School and then went on to All Hallows in Brisbane. Of course after leaving school Pauline returned to Mitchell and worked at HM Short and Co, along with attending St Columba's Parish just like her mother Bernadette Dobbin and grandmother May Welge always did.

At the recent farewell Donna Burke, Parish Leadership Team Chair said, "In church life Pauline has contributed significantly. Over recent years, Pauline has been one of our Liturgy leaders, has actively helped out with the op shop, fetes, street stalls and in days gone by organized debutante balls and was also a member of the Catholic Women's League. She has a great love for the Mass and liturgy and has been blessed with a strong faith which has been at the core of all her values"

Over the last couple of years Pauline has helped lead the weekend liturgies, ecumenical services, Easter ceremonies as well as being Secretary of St Columba's Parish.

Even after the flood Pauline had the arduous task of cleaning the Church.

Pauline's volunteering and support didn't just stop at the church. For a number of years, Pauline was a valued member of the staff at St Patrick's

School. Her artistic talents and great rapport with children was a great asset as she carried out her duties as a Teacher's Aide. As an active member of the school community during her children's years she was involved in every part of school life with the fetes, sports days and tuckshop.

Pauline married another local, Chris Easton who has been involved in the local Rotary Club for many years. Three children were soon added to their family, Dominic, Antoinette and Gerald.

We thank Pauline and Chris for the many gifts and talents they have shared with us. May God bless you both, we wish you all the health and happiness you deserve.

May the Lord walk gently with you as you enter this new phase of your life.

HOW FAITH CAN HELP HEAL OUR GRIEF

In January 2012 a young Irish Backpacker left home in Kilcoon, Co Meath on the trip of his life and headed to Australia via Thailand. Peter Burke arrived in the outback of Queensland, in the town of Mitchell.

While in the town Peter joined the Queensland Murray Darling Committee (QMDC) and volunteered his time to help with the major flood recovery.

Sadly last year Peter passed away due to an accident at Mitchell. His parents Jimmy and Esther Burke and sister Clara, along with Esther's brother's family have only recently visited the area, a decision that had been very hard to make.

Jimmy and Esther drew on their strength of God and their Catholic faith to fly to Australia and come out to where Peter had spent his last days having the time of his life helping with the fencing following the devastating floods in February and working at Dobbos local supermarket.

These were the many stories Peter told his parents of Australia and now they are very grateful that they have his camera and 2,500 photos.

At Peter's memorial at St Columba's Church, QMDC volunteer co-ordinator Glenn Telford remembered Peter as a likeable and hard-working young man.

"My memory is of a happy, smiling face and an open and honest young man with an adorable Irish accent."

Peter is also remembered in Mitchell as a larrikin and a real comedian, he loved a good time and he had that loveable

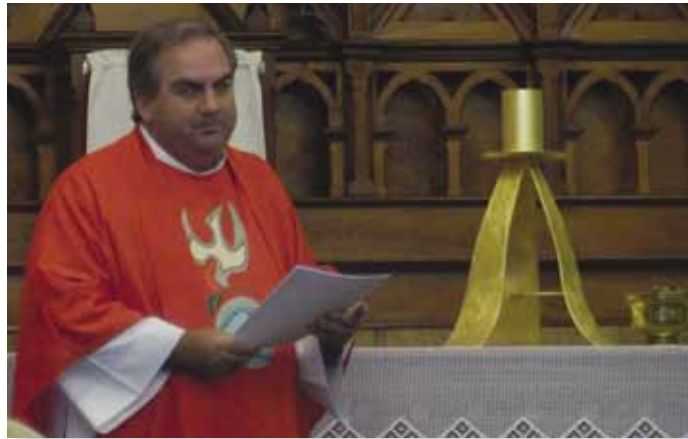
mischievous trait about him.

The community of Mitchell reached out to Jimmy, Esther and family while they were here. This trip visiting all the areas of Peter's last months gave the family some comfort and peace in knowing that Peter was in a great place where he was loved by the locals and he was happy.



Jimmy and Esther Burke presenting the St Columba's Parish church with a memorial plaque. They were very grateful for the hospitality and support received and can understand how Peter loved his time at Mitchell.

HOLDING OUR LIGHT



A new addition arrived at St Columba's Parish recently with the blessing of a new candle holder.

This beautiful candle holder is in memory of Molly Rush and her daughter Margaret Hill, who were devoted parish members many years ago and to symbolise the restoration works, following the devastating floods.

After the floods of 2012 Jenny Paroz (granddaughter of Molly and daughter of Margaret) put together a DVD of "before, during and after" photos of Mitchell which was originally to be displayed at a Mitchell Reunion fundraiser, to help with flood repairs - with money raised going to help the Booringa Museum and St. Patrick's School, both of which were greatly damaged in the 2012 flood.

\$13,000 was raised at this Reunion, held in Toowoomba in May 2012, of which \$4,000 was distributed to St. Patrick's School.

There was such interest in the DVD that it was suggested they could be sold to raise further funds and it was decided to put these funds towards the restoration of St.

Columba's Church which had also been badly affected by the floods. In total there was about 300 DVD's made and sold.



Life of Molly & Margaret

The family of Molly (born Rose Mary Bennett) was one of the pioneering families to settle in Mitchell.

Her grandfather, James Halpin, who was originally from Limerick in Ireland, married Rosetta Heffernan, also from Ireland, in 1870 at Roma and came to Mitchell where the first of six children were born in 1871. Three of these children did not survive infancy and were buried on Mitchell Downs Station in 1871 and 1878. It was told to me by my grandmother, Molly, that they were buried in the block behind where the Church now stands, as Mitchell as a town had not been declared and a small cemetery for Mitchell Downs Station was located in this area. Its first homestead was situated on the corner of Mary and Winchester Streets. This was virtually the beginning of the community settlement that was to become the town of Mitchell.

A Post Office operated from Mitchell Downs from 1865 and its name was changed to Mitchell in 1878. James was a mail contractor from 1871 until 1880, after which time he became the licensee and owner of the Shannon Hotel in 1880. Rosetta died in 1907 and James in 1908 - both are buried in the Mitchell cemetery.

The only daughter to survive was Rose Ann Halpin who went on to marry Frederick William Bennett in St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Mitchell in 1902. Rose Ann was to be left a widow at age 35 years, in 1911 and had four small children to rear by herself. Molly (or Rose Mary Bennett) was the only daughter and her mother, Rose, lived with her until her death in 1963.

Molly married Steve Rush in 1927 at St. Patrick's Church and Margaret was the first of their eleven children. All eleven children: Margaret, Clifford, Leslie, Kevin, Norma, Vince, Sheila, Thelma, Stephen, Terry and Brian were baptised and confirmed, and seven of these children were married from St. Columba's Church. Clifford died in infancy, but the other ten children were educated at St. Patrick's Catholic School and St. Columba's High School, when it was opened.

Margaret married Cecil Hill in 1953 and they had four children: Jenny (Paroz) now living in Laidley, Qld, Judy (O'Brien) now living at Mountain Creek, Sunshine Coast, Geoff (now in Melbourne) and Kevin (now in Dubbo, NSW). They were also baptised, confirmed and educated from St. Patrick's and St. Columba's Church and High School.

Margaret and her family left Mitchell in 1973, but have maintained a connection with the town, school and church since leaving. Molly left Mitchell in 1984 after her husband Steve died in 1983, and she lived with Margaret for many years, before moving to live with another daughter Norma (Short) in Bundaberg up until her death in 2002. Her funeral was held at St. Columba's Church Mitchell and she was buried with her husband Steve in Mitchell. Margaret died in 1992 and was buried with her husband Cecil in Toowoomba.

Margaret, Molly, Rose and Rosetta were all very strong women who were always "strong in faith". Their memory lives on in their children and grandchildren.

Molly was the grandmother of thirty-five grandchildren, seventy-two great-grandchildren and twenty great-great-grandchildren. Margaret was the grandmother of ten grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Donna Burke



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SPOTLIGHT ON CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Week Celebrations



John Borserio

Director's Message

What a great week across our Diocese as we celebrated and acknowledged how we all make a difference...inspired by Jesus.

One of the defining features of our schools is continuous improvement through renewal. As I have travelled across the Diocese during Catholic Education Week, and through the stories that are recalled in the pages that follow, families, parishes and schools have shown how they embrace this defining feature and have reflected upon the story of Jesus as they seek to fulfil their God-given potential through renewal.

Throughout Catholic Education Week this year, all of our schools have showcased how, together with parents and carers, we nurture children and share the responsibility of educating them. Parents and carers have told me that they choose our schools because of this partnership and because our schools share their family values and support them to pass on the Catholic faith to their children.

The dedication of school and Catholic Education Office team members to making a difference for all whom they work with and serve, is demonstrated on a day to day basis. I am proud of each of these people and pleased to have them as my colleagues.

I take this opportunity to thank all parents and carers who have chosen Catholic Schools: it is a privilege to walk alongside you as we journey together to educate and care for your children.

To our school and Catholic Education Office teams, I extend to you my gratitude and ongoing support. Your enthusiasm, passion and drive are evident in your everyday work and have been particularly highlighted during our Catholic Education Week celebrations.

Let us continue to work together, in God's name, to bring to life and make a difference for our family, parish and school communities.

John Borserio

Director – Catholic Education Office

St Mary's School Goondiwindi

Friends Forever!



Mass: Mia Savill, Christian Fox, Alex McInnis, Emily Johnson, Kitty Behrend, Jackson Hearn

During Catholic Education Week celebrations, St Mary's Primary School in Goondiwindi discussed 'Friendship Day'. Budding young journalist, Year 7 student Georgia Gleeson, wrote an article about their day.

On the 24th of July, St Mary's Primary school celebrated their annual friendship day, which was situated in the middle of the Catholic Education Week. Catholic Education is all about making a difference inspired by Jesus. To kick off the marvellous day, the school participated in an interesting Mass that was based around the topic of friendship. Students say that they loved to celebrate the Mass with their friends. The principal, Mr Glenn Roff, said that the Mass picked up the theme of friendship and outlined some of the nuances associated with the concept.

After the Mass, Prep to Year Three all went off to their activities. They were as busy as bees. Some of these activities were puppets, dance, origami, fairy house making, beading and many more. The students loved being with their friends and having a terrific time. The students thought the activities were interesting, awesome, fun, enjoyable and even hilarious for the drama group. Next up were the Grades Four to Seven. Some of the activities were wood work, cake decorating, and fishing. Some students got their hands dirty making slime. Capturing every moment was a snap of photographers. Glenn Roff said that there is so much giftedness and skills in the community. He also said that there was a fabulous range of activities from jewellery tree making to fishing and we can't forget the very engaging Maths sessions and artistic activities.

The dictionary meaning for friend is 'a person who knows, likes, trusts and supports'. I went on a journey through the school to find out what it means to the St Mary's children. When interviewed, Grace O'Shea came up with her own definition for the word "friend". It was 'a friend is someone who is there for you.' Ben Cilento a Grade Seven boy said that 'friendship meant everything to him.' Father Michael, the Parish Priest said that "friendship day was a fantastic day, to strengthen friendship and enjoy the company of others... and to learn a few new things."

Overall the day was amazing and on behalf of all the St Mary's students, we would just like to thank the Goondiwindi State High School students, parents and anybody who helped over the day, including our amazing staff and teachers. Underneath all the fun, we all knew that when that day had ended it would be a long wait to celebrate it again.

Georgia Gleeson



Riverwalk: Tom Keen, Jett Sargood, Miss Kristie Fleeting



Cooking: Sophie Hoffman and Gemma McKenzie



St Mary's School Taroom

Random Acts of Kindness

Students at St Mary's Taroom had the wonderful opportunity of living out the gospel in their local community during Catholic Education Week. Adopting the theme "Making a Difference"

Inspired by Jesus" the children performed 'random acts of kindness' for businesses in Taroom. The students dusted, swept and mopped as their way to help people. The businesses were delighted by the students' random acts of kindness and the students found that helping others made them happy.

The students have been involved in other Acts of Mercy as well. The upper years visited the local Kindergarten to read stories to the Kindy students. The middle years visited the local retirement village, The Villa, to show they value the elderly in the district; and the lower years kindly made ice blocks for the whole school for the Athletics Carnival.

Karen Ball



St Joseph's School Stanthorpe

2013 Spirit of Catholic Education Awards

Each year as part of Catholic Education Week, annual state-wide awards to recognise staff members, parents, clergy or volunteers who have made outstanding contributions to the life of a Catholic school community or other Catholic education agency are presented.

St Joseph's congratulated Prep Teacher Aide Debbie Wilson on her nomination and acknowledged her dedication and service to Catholic Education at St Joseph's School. Debbie was invited to a celebratory afternoon tea on Thursday 25th July in Toowoomba.

Staff then travelled to Toowoomba the next day to be part of Bishop's Inservice Day. This day always provides the ideal opportunity for all the Toowoomba Diocese school communities to come together and celebrate their common mission as a Catholic community in Word and Eucharist. These days are opportunities for reflection and discussion centred on our 2013

Defining Feature: Continuous Improvement through Renewal, and the Catholic Education Week theme of "Making a Difference....inspired by Jesus". **Angelina Sims**



St. Finbarr's School, Quilpie

Artwork and symbols

St. Finbarr's School and Parish Community celebrated the theme of Catholic Education Week - Making a difference... inspired by Jesus.

At Mass students had created art work showing how they had made a difference. These were incorporated into the theme of the Liturgy which was highlighted by symbols illustrating what the school community had done together to make a difference.

During Catholic Education Week, Bishop Robert McGuckin and Mr John Borserio visited St Finbarr's. As this was Bishop McGuckin's first visit, there was much excitement.

Sr Marg Anderson rsj



Assumption Warwick

Catholic Education Week

To celebrate Catholic Education Week at Assumption College Mrs Kate Cullen, Assistant Principal Religious Education staged 'The Journey', the last in the series of the Pilgrims' Journey.

The journey of a pilgrim is both an external and internal one. The Pilgrims' Journey was a space created to allow people to engage with the experience of an external journey. It is a sacred space to walk through and interact with each new station or stage along the way. There were many sights, sounds, smells and activities to engage with that allowed you to experience this year's theme of our final Pilgrims' Journey - The Journey.

An external journey simply follows and copies the path of all pilgrims before you. The internal journey is very different from the external movement from place to place. It is a journey to the heart, to your God. This journey that seeks meaning within ourselves produces differing results for every one of us willing to let go of the familiar, and transform ourselves into a Pilgrim on a Quest.

The journey was divided into 5

Each section different, with films to watch and/or listen to, scripture and text to read, music to engage with, spaces to sit and reflect, objects to make and some small participative rituals

Each station is described in the 5 next small paragraphs.



1/The Beginnings FILMS

THERE WERE A RANGE OF FILMS TO GET PILGRIMS THINKING ABOUT THEIR PURPOSE WITHIN THE PILGRIMAGE. THERE WAS AN INVITATION TO LIGHT A CANDLE FOR THEIR JOURNEY TO LIGHT THEIR PATH, TO GUIDE THEIR WAY AND SYMBOLISE THEIR HOPES.

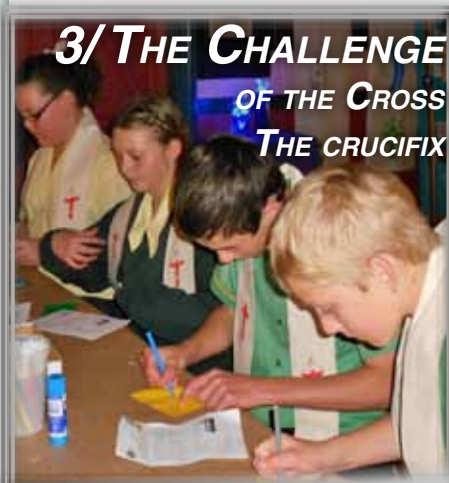
FILMS THAT WERE USED AS A STIMULUS INCLUDED A JOHNNY CASH FILM CLIP 'HURT', NATURE FILMS, SPACE FILMS, TIME LAPSE FOOTAGE AND FILMS USED FOR PRAYER IN SCHOOL LITURGY ON THEMES SUCH AS THE ROSARY AND CRUCIFIXION.



2/ On the Road The Road film

THESE FILMS WERE OF DAILY ROUTINES, DAILY JOURNEYS.

PILGRIMS WERE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE SOME TIME TO THINK ABOUT THEIR DAILY JOURNEY AND WHAT THE EXPERIENCE OF LIFE MEANS TO THEM.



3/ THE CHALLENGE OF THE CROSS THE CRUCIFIX

THE SYMBOL OF THE CROSS CHALLENGES PILGRIMS TO REMAIN FAITHFUL AND TO MAINTAIN A LIFE THAT IS OPENLY FORGIVING AND LOVING OF EVERYONE, REGARDLESS OF HOW WELL WE KNOW THEM OR INDEED WRONGS THAT WE MAY FEEL OTHERS HAVE DONE. WE ARE ALL CALLED TO LIVE IN COMMUNION WITH EVERYONE IF WE ARE TO HONOUR THE MESSAGE OF THE GOSPELS. PILGRIMS WERE ASKED: HOW ARE YOU LIVING OUT THE MESSAGE OF THE GOSPEL IN YOUR LIFE?

ON PILGRIMAGES THE PLACEMENT OF SYMBOLS, THE LEAVING BEHIND OF OBJECTS IS OFTEN A SIGNIFICANT PART OF THE JOURNEY. IT IS A CHANCE FOR PILGRIMS TO LEAVE THEIR MARK OR MAKE AN OFFERING. THERE WAS AN INVITATION TO MAKE A SMALL CROSS TO OFFER AS A PRAYER OF THANKS AND PETITION FOR THEIR JOURNEY AND TO PLACE IT ON THE BOARDS PROVIDED.



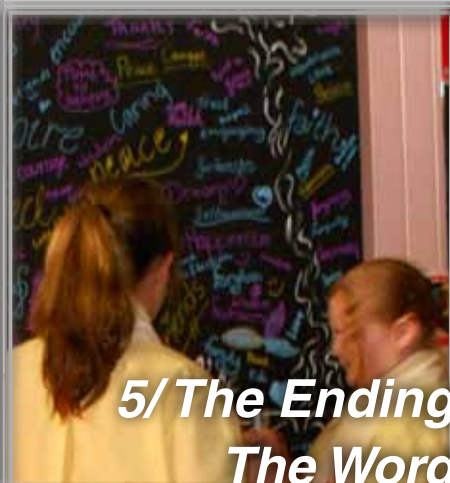
4/ Sands of Time The pendulum

A LARGE PENDULUM WAS INSTALLED OVER A 2 METRE DIAMETER SANDPIT.

THE PENDULUM ETCHED INTO THE SAND AS IT MOVED. PILGRIMS WERE INVITED TO TAKE A MOMENT AND WATCH THE PENDULUM AS IT CARVED THE COMPLICATED GEOMETRIC PATTERNS.

LIKE THE PENDULUM PATTERN, OUR LIVES ARE A COMPLICATED PATTERN, SHAPED BY US AND THE INFLUENCE OF EVERYONE ELSE AROUND US.

MANY STORIES OF PILGRIMS INCLUDE TRAVELLING IN THE WILDERNESS. THE SAND IS A REMINDER OF THE WILDERNESS WHERE MANY SEEK AND FIND GOD; SIMILAR TO THE ASCETICS WHO REMOVE THEMSELVES FROM THE CLUTTER OF SECULAR LIFE, TO FIND MEANING AND PURPOSE IN A MORE SIMPLE PRAYERFUL LIFE IN THE DESERT.



5/ The Ending The Word

A PILGRIMAGE IS A CHANCE TO TAKE TIME AWAY FROM ORDINARY LIFE AND TO CONNECT WITH THE 'OTHER' IN OUR LIFE THAT INSPIRES US. MOST PILGRIMAGES END WITH A CEREMONIAL ACTION OF LEAVING BEHIND A SYMBOL/OBJECT THAT KEEPS WITH IT A SILENT PRAYER. OFTEN IT CAN BE A ROCK, PRAYER FLAG, CROSS ETC. THAT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE PILGRIMAGE HAS ENDED AND YOU ARE RETURNING TO YOUR NORMAL LIFE AND ROUTINES.

PILGRIMS WERE ASKED TO LEAVE A CAREFULLY CHOSEN WORD BEHIND ON THE BLACKBOARD THAT REFLECTS A PART OF YOUR JOURNEY TODAY. IT MAY BE A WORD OF THANKS OR CELEBRATION OR A PRAYER TO GOD THAT CAPTURES YOUR FEELINGS AT THIS TIME.



**The Pilgrims' Journey
in Warwick**

SPOTLIGHT ON CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Week Celebrations

Media highlights



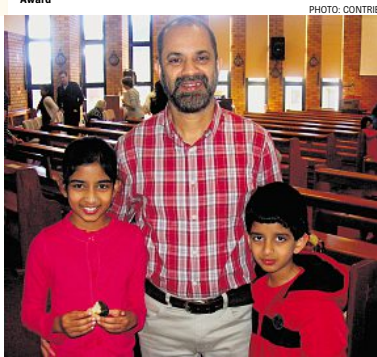
UNUSUAL CHALLENGE: Ian Ducao extricating rice for Murphy House in the Rice Bowl event. PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED



HONOURED: Joanne Cavanagh, recipient of the 2013 Sr Jo Carmichael Memorial Award. PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED



REACH OUT: Anthony Ryan, Catholic Education Week Ambassador, and Isabella Peters from Our Lady of Lourdes discuss the importance of reaching out to those on the streets. PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED



FEELING APPRECIATED: Naina George, George Kaithakkottil and James George attend the Thanks to Teachers Mass. PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED



SWEET MUSIC: Mary MacKillop principal Donagh Shirley shows off her school's creation. PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED



SCHOOL PRIDE: Teachers and students from Our Lady of Lourdes with Fr John Quinlin at the Thanks to Teachers Mass. PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED



WELL DESERVED: (From left) Bishop Robert McGuckin, Leo Dittman and John Borserio, director, Catholic Education Office, celebrate Mr Dittman's 40 years of service. PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED



MADE WITH LOVE: Melinda Le Dilly, Mikayla Ewing, Tessa Higgs and Olivia Burton from St Saviour's Primary School create the care packages at St Mary's College. PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED



ACT OF KINDNESS: Mr Luke Barrett (acting principal) talks with school captains Matthew Butler and Sophie Webb, and Mrs Kristy Cameron. PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED



STANDING TOGETHER: Anthony Ryan and the students of Diocese of Toowoomba Catholic schools gather to celebrate Catholic Education Week. PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

Bishop Robert's Message

Stories like the ones you have just read in this edition, show some of the ways in which our Diocese have acknowledged and celebrated how we are Making a difference...inspired by Jesus.

Jesus Christ lived amongst God's people over 2000 years ago to show us all how we can make a difference. Continuing his good works is what each of us, as Catholics, are called to do.

The vision we have for education in our Diocese, for families and their children, is that we offer lifelong Catholic Education so that each person may know and come to be identified more fully with the living Spirit of Christ.

One of my roles as Bishop is to be a teacher proclaiming Christ and his message. I share this teaching role with the Clergy. In the Catholic education of young people I also share it with parents and carers, with principals and teachers in our Catholic schools and with those who work in the Catholic Education Office. Catholic Education Week draws people to their school community to celebrate the good works of all of these people.

These celebrations focus on the partnerships of parents and carers, our Catholic schools and the Catholic Education Office who collaborate to shape and grow young people's faith and love for God and help them to see themselves and others as images of Jesus.

Therefore, at each of the events that have been celebrated, shared faith in Jesus and shared Christian values have been central themes - this is how our school communities make a difference.

I thank all those families who entrust our schools with the education and care of their children and invite others to join our Catholic family.

Yours in Christ

Bishop Robert

St Joseph's School Chinchilla

Celebrating NAIDOC Week 2013

"The staff and students at St Joseph's Primary School in Chinchilla along with their Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Committee made a commitment to hold the community NAIDOC Week Celebrations on our school grounds. We wanted to take the opportunity to embrace NAIDOC Week 2013 as an occasion to support our wider community in better understanding and embracing the diversity that exists within our town of Chinchilla," said Katie Hede, APRE at St Joseph's School.

The 2013 Chinchilla community NAIDOC Week Celebrations were a great success with over 1500 members of the school, parish and local community coming together at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School.

During the event community members heard about national and local Indigenous history, created their own Aboriginal artwork, listened to Dreamtime Stories, engaged with a traditional shelter, participated in Indigenous dancing and music, played traditional Indigenous Games, viewed local Indigenous art, tasted Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cuisine, and participated in placing their handprint on the school's Reconciliation Flag.

The flag is a symbol of the hope we have and our commitment to 'closing the gap' between the Indigenous and Non-Indigenous members of our community.

All activities and stations were set up to assist participants in becoming aware of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Culture. "Young members of our local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community as well as Non-Indigenous students from the local surrounding schools, were a wonderful source of support for the day as they assisted with the running of each of the stations. We aimed to provide opportunities for these children to take ownership of their culture and be a part of positively promoting their identity, which we feel we achieved. All events and information presented on the day were for awareness purposes with an aim to assist our community to better understand and celebrate the achievements and contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People in our history," shared Ms Hede.

On the day, students from the Chinchilla State High School, Chinchilla State Primary School, Chinchilla Christian School, the Chinchilla Community Kindergarten, Brigalow State School, Jandowae State School and Burra Burra State School joined us for our celebrations. An event of this size took considerable organisation and a large amount of help and support to ensure it ran smoothly. Due to this factor many volunteers were called to assist with all facets of the day. We were very grateful to have such wonderful help from our parent body, the surrounding schools, QGC, the Western Downs Regional Council and the Chinchilla Health Auxiliary. Most importantly however, this event was about coming together as a community and we were so thrilled to have such a range of people attend our event and participate in the celebrations with our students.

Katie Hede, APRE



St Mary's College

Queensland Debating Union

Senior Champions

Five extremely intelligent, articulate and hard working young St Mary's College men have taken out the 'top' gong of Senior Champions in this year's Toowoomba Region Schools, Queensland Debating Union titles



L to R: Rory Adams, Ieuan Murphy, John Gates (with trophy), Patrick Heberlein & Brod Gaggi.

Patrick Heberlein, John Gates, Ieuan Murphy, Rory Adams and Broderick Gaggi were the excited team who defeated Toowoomba Grammar, Downlands College and Toowoomba State High School (Mount Lofty Campus) in the Quarter, Semi and Grand Finals, respectively.

'We began debating together in Year 9 and have improved each year' said Patrick Heberlein, the team's First Speaker.

'We are thrilled that this has highlighted one of the many academic undertakings that our College excels at' said Ieuan Murphy the team's Second Speaker.

The boys improved each week and were guided aptly by their

coach Mr Steve Shaw (Head of Department-English).

"The boys are a talented group of young men who gave up many a lunch break and after school to prepare for their debates; they deserve their success", Mr Shaw said. The boys were not only required to develop the skills necessary for Debating but to match these with a high level of thinking research and intelligence. Their Finals topics were:

1/4 finals – 'That we should ban the publication of political opinion polls'

Semi finals – 'That we should not subsidise creative arts degrees'

Grand final – 'That we should stop funding programs that encourage people to move to rural areas for short periods of time'

"It is interesting that St Mary's College teacher, Mr Keith Harnes was one of the founders of this debating competition (QDU), setting up a stand alone competition in the 80's for Darling Downs schools. Since this early St Mary's College involvement, it is fitting that our boys continue to participate at the highest level". Mr Michael Newman (Principal) said.

Venesa Maiden, PA

St Mary's Boys.

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Tuff Monica' sand crawl



Budding Chefs Josh and Jack



Ethan masters knitting

St Monica's School Oakey

Celebrating St Monica's Day

On Tuesday August 27, St Monica's School was abuzz recently with activities galore to celebrate the patron saint of the school and parish – St Monica. With an accent on building community, parishioners, parents and students participated in a variety of activities aimed at sharing experiences and learning new skills. Groups took part in energetic pursuits such as dance (line dancing, gypsy tap) and the challenging 'Tuff Monica' obstacle course, along with quieter activities such as creating mandalas, playing board games, gardening, cooking, knitting and crochet. For Ellen (Prep) and Mac (Year 1) the card making was a hit.

For mum and parishioner Mrs Leanne Matthewson, the morning was successful on two counts.

"The interaction between the children and the wider community was great and it was a wonderful opportunity for the kids to sample new things they wouldn't otherwise do," said Leanne.

By all accounts, the parishioners and parents were thrilled to pass on their knowledge, and to be able to interact with the students in their school environment. The day concluded with Mass to celebrate St Monica as a model of motherly care, prayer and persistence.

Teresa Woolacott APRE Teacher

St Joseph's School Millmerran

And they're off and racing

10 years on at the Millmerran Sheep Races

The idea of hosting a Sheep Racing Event as a fundraiser for St Joseph's School was floated at the 2004 P&F meeting. From this idea, the first races were held in August 2004, bringing in \$7000.

The event has grown hugely with ever snow-balling enthusiasm. The 10 year celebrations this August were a phenomenal success in every way.

4GR's Lee Faulkner started the day off with some taste tempting cooking demonstrations. Patrons gathered in the beautifully decorated wine marquee to see how to cook some scrumptious lamb dinners which included harissa lamb with mint yoghurt and sweet potato mash, and 'meat and 3 veg' with a twist!

Patrons had the opportunity to wander through the amazing sheep art entries. The judge, Di Elsdon of Tosari Gallery, Toowoomba, found it a very challenging task! Grand Champion was awarded to the Year 3/4 class at the Millmerran State School; the senior section was won by Year 4 from St Stephen's Pittsworth; the junior section was won by the Prep/Year 1 class from Cecil Plains. The people's choice was won by Year 3/4 at St Joseph's Millmerran.

The six sheep races were exciting and full of jubilation. Sheep convener, Craig Antonio did comment that this year's flock were a 'rather frisky mob'. Shane Webcke and the chasers worked hard to keep the jockeys from falling off and running the sheep down the track.

Successful local artist, Lexie Antonio, stole the day with her artwork capturing the spirit of the day, raising an amazing \$3 900 for the students of St Joseph's Millmerran.

The ABC's David Iliffe and Pittsworth's Mark Drony were fantastic as compere and race commentater and auctioneer.

The children were not left out of the fun; they had a huge variety of supervised entertainments and diversions, and were very happy!



"Parents and teachers work together in the wine marquee: Chantelle Winter, Lauren Szepanowski, Jo Handy, and Chris Dent."



Lexie Antonio after the auction, with Helen Cogill the successful bidder and Andrew Richter.



"The sheep, and their conscripted jockeys some of whom can suffer serious injury!"



St Finbarr's School Quilpie

Sr Marg Anderson, rsj

The community of St Finbarr's Parish School Quilpie may be small, but we seem to have packed a lot into the year! We hope you enjoy these snippets of life in the south-west.

Easter in Quilpie is celebrated as a Community event in the Supper Room of the Shire Hall. Thanks to the school and parish community for their leadership and involvement. The key events of the Easter story were remembered and reflected on in a prayerful Ecumenical service attended by over 70 community members and visitors.

St. Patrick's and St. Joseph's Days were thoroughly celebrated in a school led Liturgy at assembly. Students in Years 3-7 were involved in the preparation and presentation of a moving time of prayer.

This year, the senior students formed a Mini Vinnie's club. This is a group of students, who, inspired by the work of St Vincent de Paul groups, strive to raise awareness of those struggling in our society. The students organised fundraisers for Autism Qld, Caritas, CEO Sleep Out and Jeans for Genes Day. The Mini Vinnie's also organised a green and gold fundraiser for the Mary MacKillop Foundation. Green and gold pancakes were a feature of the day!

ANZAC day is a big day in Quilpie and St Finbarr's Students were well represented in the day's activities.

Mother's Day has been a long standing celebration in the community with Mothers, Grandmothers and ladies from the parish and Quilpie community invited to a special assembly followed by high tea. The celebration is tops on Quilpie's social calendar!

The school gathers regularly to celebrate events and special achievements at assemblies held in the Mary MacKillop Room. Classroom achievements are acknowledged, news exchanged and there's time for prayer together.

This year students travelled to Innamincka for a school camp. The children heard the Bourke and Wills story, visited the Dig Tree and experienced some of the scientific work being trialled in the area.

In the course of the year students have been involved in many sporting activities. Cross Country, Triathlon, Athletics Carnivals, Swimming as well as visits by sports people. Recent visitors also included Paul Bailey who inspired the students with his courage in facing life with a severe disability.

Great excitement heralded the arrival of the Melbourne Cup in Quilpie. Everyone wanted a photo taken with The Cup!!

Students and the Quilpie community were joined by the Wandering Warriors (a group of retired SAS personnel who were walking from Brisbane to Birdsville to raise funds for families of Australian Defence Force members killed or injured in the line of duty), to honour the first anniversary of the Death of Stjepan 'Ricky' Milosevic, past student, killed in Afghanistan in 2012. A memorial plaque was unveiled by his mother, Heather and brother, Milan.

In this last quarter of the year, we are preparing for the Quilpie Show, Thargomindah Sports Camp, Confirmation, World Teachers' Day and the beginning of the swimming season!

We are also planning a Community celebration for All Saints and All Souls as well as an Advent celebration and Christmas Mass. The Christmas Carol celebrations led by Fr. Peter Doohan and John Case, Uniting Church Padre, travel throughout the Parish to Quilpie, Adavale, Toompine, Eromanga and Windorah and provide occasions for the communities to celebrate the Christmas Story.

We would like to thank Fr. Peter Doohan, Parish Priest of the south-west, for his care of us during the year.

The year so far at St Finbarr's Quilpie





St Mary's School Taroom

Book Week

On Thursday, 8t August our school community celebrated "St Mary of the Cross MacKillop" with a liturgy in the parish church. After listening to words from the Bible, the students used a liquid picture to reflect on the Gospel. Students created Mary MacKillop masks, and those present were guided to reflect on the wisdom and spirituality of Mary MacKillop by sharing and enacting some of Mary MacKillop sayings. The Prep-Year 1 class read beautifully at their liturgy using actions to go with the prayer of the Hail Mary.

Book Week proved to be a great success with students and teachers being very creative with costumes for their characters. Intricate and time consuming creations were evident. School leader, Grace Parsons, wore a creative design as she was in Mary MacKillop attire which she made from the old faithfuls of bed sheets and safety pins. This costume was most appropriate considering our celebrations of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. Everybody looked amazing.

The very inspiring Angela Ehmer, Literacy Consultant paid us a visit during book week and the children had fun implementing her wonderful ideas into the classrooms. Angela commented on how impressed she was with the level of professionalism and motivation levels by both staff and students.

Father's Day

The children have celebrated Father's Day with a campout at the school to honour their fathers. The Year 2, 3 and 4 class shared Father's Day with the residents at the Villa. The residents thanked the children for bringing joy to their day.

Karen Ball



Students Matthew Wilson and Emily Markey helped plan the Liturgy



St Stephen's School Pittsworth

Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop Links to the Josephite Sisters Mary MacKillop

We came together as a school community on 8 August, 2013, to celebrate the Feast of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop. The Josephite Sisters established St Stephen's School, Pittsworth in 1916, and as a result, the Josephite Sisters hold a special place in the spiritual fabric of St Stephen's Catholic School.

With the Sisters came the spirit and ideals of their founder, Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop. Mary was an ordinary Australian like you and me, and used to say, "Never see a need without doing something about it." The staff and students of St Stephen's acknowledge and value this in their everyday actions by celebrating Mary's life as a person.

The students from Year 5 and 6 classes were responsible for the planning and running of the liturgy. The students presented their Fact Files of great women throughout history as symbols that highlighted the importance of Mary MacKillop. Mary MacKillop showed God's face to others through her actions – by helping homeless people, by feeding hungry people, by welcoming those whom society rejected and by teaching children about God's love.

At the completion of our Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop liturgy, each class brought forward a prayer chain. These chains were then joined as a symbol of our community and our link to Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop, and to the legacy of the Josephite Sisters. The Year 5 and 6 students then issued a challenge to the entire school community to let each of us live by the values of forgiveness, compassion and love, the values are inextricably linked to Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop.

Keith Blaikie APRE

All in all St Mary's have had a very busy and exciting Term 3!



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Visit to Church of Christ Aged Care Services Nursing Home

St Saviour's School

During Seniors' Week, the students from 5M at St Saviour's Primary School visited the residents of a local nursing home. The students performed several songs and a couple of dance routines to the delight of their audience.

Time was spent having a chat, with students delivering handmade cards and then, to the surprise of the students, they were treated to a softserve icecream from the kitchen. Class teacher, Mrs Maria Dau said after the event that as much as the residents enjoyed the visit, the students' response to the interactions with the seniors had amazed her. Every one of the boys and girls came away with such positive stories and a real "buzz" from the whole experience.

Needless to say, everyone had a thoroughly enjoyable visit and the students had to promise that they would be back again sometime soon.

Judy Smith Assistant Principal:
Religious Education



Ainsleigh Rule and Laura Wilkie
with resident Marshall in the middle



Jonah Phipps and resident Annie



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



St Joseph's School Stanthorpe

Camp excitement for Years 8, 9 & 11 students

In the last week of Term 2 the Secondary Campus was exceptionally quiet with only the Year 12 students remaining on campus.

Year 10 Students embarked on a week of work experience and experiencing life in the working world. Students in Year 8, 9 and 11 departed on Monday 17 June until Wednesday 19 June for their camps.

The Year 8 camp was held at Tallebudgera Active Recreation Centre at Palm Beach and students enjoyed activities including bouldering, high/low ropes, body boarding/surf awareness, canoeing, putt-putt and swimming. The Year 9 camp was held at the Queensland Conference and Camping Centre on beautiful Tamborine Mountain. A variety of activities conducted by Vertec Adventures included low and high ropes, as well as team building and challenge activities. The aim of these activities was to challenge young people with outdoor recreation while influencing and encouraging them to change into better individuals and acquire life skills and live with a sense of purpose.

The Year 11 students meanwhile enjoyed their Leadership Camp held at Emu Gully in Helidon. The purpose of this camp was to prepare students for their final years of schooling and the responsibilities that come with being school leaders. The outdoor education facility which is situated 17km east of Toowoomba has camp activities built around the epic ANZAC events. The Year 11 students enjoyed team building and a "hands on" history lesson all of which helped develop leadership skills. The most important aspect was that these students were confronted with the ANZAC character, values of courage, self-sacrifice, perseverance and mateship.

Supporting St Vincent De Paul Community

Over the past few years St Joseph's School has supported the local St Vincent de Paul community with a number of

appeals, namely the Christmas Appeal and general donations from various student fundraising.

Early in Term 3 as part of Catholic Education Week, the school continued living out the theme of "Making a Difference...inspired by Jesus" and contributed to the St Vincent de Paul Appeal. Students and families of Years 4-12 were asked if they could spare any unused items of warm clothing and or blankets which were then given to St Vinnies at the conclusion of Catholic Education Week. The continued generosity of the St Joseph's School community in helping others is always greatly appreciated. Students from Prep-Year 3 were also involved by holding a 'Socks and Soup Day' which was held in conjunction with Catholic Education celebrations.

The St Joseph's Leo's Club were delighted to help spread some of St Joseph's School Mercy values overseas to Naiyala High School in Fiji. Along with a selection of donated items collected over a few months which was organised by St Joseph's prefect Sophie Sims with the Mercy value of compassion, the Leo's Club gave a cheque for \$500 to Linsy Armbruster, Eloise Biggin and Katlin Mascardi who travelled to Fiji as part of the Rotary Cultural Exchange in early August. The students then presented these items and a cheque to the Principal of Naiyala High School, Emosi Kuli, his staff and students. These funds raised from Term 2 fundraisers were used for school resources for Naiyala High School.

The Leo Club were also grateful to the St Joseph's P&F Association who helped kick-start their fundraising venture for the Relay for Life event that helps raise funds to fight back against cancer. P&F President Nicci Prins presented a cheque for \$250 to Leo President Grace Manahan.

"The P&F is proud to support our young students' initiatives and look forward to being of support in their future

endeavours," P&F President Nicci Prins said.

Relay for Life was held on the weekend of 7 and 8 September in Warwick. "The Leos would like to thank the P&F Association and Stanthorpe community who came on board for this worthy project," Leo President Grace Manahan said.

The Feast of the Assumption

The whole school gathered on Thursday, 15 August to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. During the Mass, the Year 3 students, with the assistance of some Year 12s, mimed the Gospel readings of the day. The concept of miming is an ideal way of explaining the Assumption of Mary especially to younger students.

Traditional Book Week Parade for Primary Students

Book Week celebrations were in full force on the Primary Campus on Wednesday, 21 August. The much loved traditional Book Week Parade provided a colourful, imaginative and fun-filled morning. Primary students embraced the opportunity to dress up as their favourite book character or to highlight this year's theme - "Read across the Universe." The Year 7 students, with Music teacher Mrs Donna Gerster, kicked off the celebrations with a song they wrote especially for the occasion. Each child then took to the stage to present their character and which book they were from. Primary Staff always relish dressing up as part of these festivities. The multi-purpose room was filled to capacity with Parents and Grandparents who came to witness this much loved part of Book Week. "I was very impressed with the creativity shown by the students and their families," Teacher Librarian Lesley Grant said. "I am extremely thankful for the support of teachers and students for this special event."

Angelina Sims

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News from St Joseph's College Toowoomba

Optiminds Competition

On Sunday 25 August three teams from St Joseph's College participated in the Optiminds Competition with fabulous results. Team Rocket soared to first place in Division III of the Social Science challenge with Amanda Chambers, Courtney Whitmore, Sarah Whitmore and Libby Durkin now off to the State Finals on 12 and 13 October at the University of Queensland's St Lucia campus in Brisbane. Miss Mischewski's reputation as a state finalist facilitator may well become a reality in Queensland as well as Tasmania.



Team Topi Tutu made their debut into the competition, developing valuable learnings throughout the day, competing in Division II of the Science Engineering challenge. Mrs Dixon pulled together a dynamic team of Year 10 students including Matt Klaassen, Alex Healy, Sophie Doran, Annalise Russell and Grace Earley to construct an amazing tower and pendulum.

Optigirls worked with Mr Gibbon in Division II of the Social Science challenge that was hotly contested, with over 20 teams participating from across the region. Duessa Carmody, Khloe Fanning, Jess Gill, Alyssa Crighton and Chelsea Keirnsnowski worked together to achieve an Honours certificate along with a Spirit of Optiminds award.

All staff and students are to be commended for the cooperation and collaboration that took place over the six week period of the challenge.

Cupcakes for a Cancer Cure 2013- Donation Update



Earlier this year, the Home Economics Department held their annual 'Cupcakes for a Cancer Cure' fundraiser. Nearly 2,000 chocolate, vanilla and orange and poppy seed cupcakes were baked and iced, with all money raised this year being equally split and donated to Ovarian Cancer Australia and the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia.

I would like to inform the St Joseph's community that the total monies raised from this fundraiser was \$3,730, resulting in a \$1,865 donation to each of the respective cancer organisations.

This is an amazing effort and I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank each and every person who either donated to the fundraiser or purchased some delicious cupcakes. Your overwhelming support is humbling, and I am greatly appreciative. I would also like to thank Murphy House for their donation of \$250 and all the students who helped take orders, bake and ice all those delicious cupcakes. Special thanks go to Claire Hamilton, Shantelle Watts and my Home Economics Department for keeping me sane during this fundraiser.

Again, thank you for your support, and I look forward to holding it again next year.

Homeless Persons' Week

Homeless Persons' Week is an awareness raising week, with a number of events being held in Toowoomba. Mr Cantwell's Year 11 Religion and Ethics class took part by serving tea and coffee from the Rosies Van at the Salvation Army carpark. Another four students, Mr Murray and Miss Ford travelled to Ipswich to serve on the Rosies Van as well. At another morning tea, the Just Joeys Year 10 Social Justice group served tea and coffee in Crimmins Court.

Each of these experiences enabled the students to deepen their understanding of what it means to be present to people and also the deep satisfaction gained from volunteering. *Serve Him in Others.*

Justine English, Home Economics Department



Pictured are Natasha Seibuhr, Jarrod Goltz, Maddi McCoy, Sam Robin and Maddy Parkes-Moller, who attended a Rosies Street Retreat recently.

Creative Generation Exhibition



Students Caitlin Davis (middle right), Liz Ryan (bottom right) and Kate Taylor (top right) had artworks selected to hang in the Creative Generation Excellence in Visual Arts Exhibition at the Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery.



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SPRED - 2013

Loretta Coman
SPRED Coordinator



The year so far.....SPRED Community welcomes Bishop Robert



Wayne Pugh greets Bishop Robert



Diane Thornton at afternoon tea

This year members of SPRED were delighted to meet and welcome Bishop Robert when he celebrated Mass for the Community at the James Byrne Centre Chapel.

A congregation of 130 volunteers, friends and their families attended the Mass and afternoon Tea. Mass was co-celebrated by Fr Ray Johnson who has had a close association with SPRED.

Small Groups celebrate SPRED Mass

A new initiative this year was for each of the nine Toowoomba SPRED groups to celebrate Mass in their small faith teams, at either the SPRED Centre or their parish meeting place. For our SPRED Friends this was a very enriching experience.



Celebrating with Fr Ray Crowley



Celebrating with Fr Brian Noonan.

Mad Hatter's enjoy afternoon

Our recent Mad Hatter's themed Tea Party and dance was a great success. SPRED Friends, Volunteers and their families enjoyed great music, scrumptious food and good company.



SPRED Founders Honoured With Prestigious Award



In May, the founders of SPRED awarded the **Laetare Medal** from the University of Notre Dame, Indiana. Sr Marie-Theresa Harrington SP, Fr James McCarthy and Sr Susanne Gallagher SH were honoured by University President Fr. John Jenkins for *"insisting that a developmental disability neither tempers Christ's invitation nor restricts one's right to respond, and they have ushered countless people to their rightful place at the Eucharistic table."* First presented in 1883, the medal is awarded annually to a Catholic "whose genius has ennobled the arts and sciences, illustrated the ideals of the Church and enriched the heritage of humanity."



← Julie Hendersen, Ciara Murphy, Loretta Coman, Mary-Ann Tully & Laurie Laherty



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Jasmine Robinson and Shanicka Collins prepare for a game of basketball at Whaddup recently.

Indigenous youth program keeping kids off the streets

Whaddup?

No seriously, Whaddup, it's a program helping to shape the lives of Toowoomba's Indigenous youth.

The program has come a long way since its inception back in 2005, however it still heavily relies on support from community and volunteers.

Eight years ago the name Whaddup was chosen by the kids and St Joseph's College sporting facility was offered as a venue; Whaddup quickly evolved into the biggest Indigenous youth program in Toowoomba and the surrounding region.

It is now a key program delivered under Centacare Toowoomba's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Service. As a diversionary activity Whaddup promotes self-esteem and encourages leadership among Indigenous youth.

Each Friday evening of the school term volunteers, grandparents, parents and youths between 10 and 17 years-of-age converge on the basketball court of St Joey's.

A bus operated by volunteers picks the kids up. After sporting activities and a workshop that is often culturally specific, dinner is served and at the end of the night the bus drops them home again. Centacare Toowoomba Executive Director Barry Sheehan says the program is helping keep kids out of the justice system and out of trouble. "Whaddup consistently draws between 40 and 80 Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth, including boarding students from St Saviour's and Downlands College. "After nine years there is a real sense of achievement that goes with the program, not only because it is decreasing anti-social behavior in the community but because it is giving the kids a sense of ownership and pride over the activities," Mr Sheehan said.

In 2008 the commitment of volunteers was recognized when Whaddup won the Catholic Social Services Australia Award for Excellence in Service. As an inclusive family activity generations of families are involved each Friday night. Elders attend in support of their children and grandchildren. Up to 120 have attended on one evening, including 14-year-old Shanicka Collins. Shanicka hasn't missed a Friday night at Whaddup for the past two years. She goes with her cousin Jasmine and believes if they weren't at Whaddup they would be at home or at a friend's place doing not much. "Probably laying around and doing nothing".

"Most of the other people here would be partying or hanging in the streets," she said. Shanicka believes Whaddup has helped give her confidence and has even given her some ideas for her future. "I've realised I really want to work in a childcare centre. I love coming and looking out for the younger kids so that's definitely what I want to do when I finish school". "I like how the Whaddup activities are for people of my culture. Like obviously anyone can come but I just think its special how we do things to learn about who we are," she said.

The future of Whaddup very much depends on funding and volunteers. With limited funding the activities and food provided are strictly budgeted. Whaddup is currently funded by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs until June 2014. Father of three, Wesley Murray, travels with his kids from Warwick to Toowoomba for the Friday night program. He sees the benefits of Whaddup not only for his children but as a volunteer parent.

"I think getting them out of the house and involved in some meaningful activities is great." "Get them running around and

interacting rather than sitting at home," he said. "Without the parents and volunteers it just wouldn't happen, these kids are relying on us to support the program and it is a rewarding experience when you see them really enjoying themselves."

Centacare Toowoomba Cultural Liaison Officer Deena Dodd took over the coordination of Whaddup in October 2012, to help volunteers who were struggling with the increasing numbers.

The demand for the youth program has continued to grow since 2005, an increase Deena says funding and volunteers have not been able to keep up with. "We are in a position where we have so many kids wanting to come but not enough volunteers to assist with the activities and not enough money for the transport, food and activities".

"There is just so much that could be done with this program, however we are restricted".

"I would love to be able to provide better quality activities, including off site activities, deliver a highly nutritious meal, and the big dream of course is to have our own bus."

Deena believes promoting leadership is the key to achieving long term success with Whaddup. "I would love to be able to run leadership camps with some of the older participants who could then go on to mentor and support the younger ones and not just in the Whaddup forum but to take those skills and apply them at home and in their communities." Deena's desire to provide in depth workshops with a leadership focus for the older youth is shared by Whaddup participants. "I want to be able to have more people my age come along so sometimes we can go into groups with just us older ones and talk about things that are important to us," Shanicka Collins said.

There have been expressions of interest for the Whaddup program to be run in areas outside Toowoomba including Dalby, Roma, Cunnamulla, St George, Chinchilla and Charleville.

If you are interested in volunteering for Whaddup contact Deena on 1300 477 433.

Kate Gaffney

Marketing and Promotions Officer,
Centacare Toowoomba
Phone: 1300 477 433

For more information contact



Sacred Heart School Cunnamulla

Caritas & Indigenous

Walk as One

Event at Cunnamulla

A-mighty big thanks to all the students at Sacred Heart Parish School Cunnamulla, Principal Cara Haig, APRE Polly Crawford and teachers for braving a very chilly morning for the 2013 Walk as One event.

It was wonderful to see all of us connecting with our world's Indigenous peoples in completing a Walk as One event around the school's playground.

The children were walking in solidarity for Indigenous people, not only in Australia, but for Indigenous people all over the world.

There are more than 370 million Indigenous peoples living in some 90 countries around the world today. Their contribution to the global community should not be undervalued. They are custodians of some of the world's most biologically diverse territories; are responsible for a great deal of the world's cultural and linguistic diversity; and their traditional knowledge is an invaluable resource in many sectors, such as medicine and agriculture. Justice for Indigenous peoples can only be achieved by developing relationships, deepening respect towards, and increasing opportunities for Indigenous communities around the world. *Take the path to justice.*

Join Caritas Australia and Walk as One in solidarity with Indigenous communities to achieve a more just world.

Veronica White

St Mary's Warwick – Centacare

St Mary's Kindergarten officially opens in Warwick

The brand new Government-funded kindergarten in Warwick, St Mary's was officially opened and blessed on 30 August 2013 by Bishop Robert McGuckin. The opening ceremony and blessing was watched by children, parents and invited guests.



St Mary's is one of seven new kindergartens in South East Queensland, and a first for the Toowoomba Diocese. The centre is managed by Centacare who has partnered with the Queensland Catholic Education Commission (QCEC) to oversee the running of the centres.

The new kindergarten at St Mary's has been opened as part of the Government's 'Kindy Counts' initiative which aims to make kindergarten programs more widely accessible to families in the region.

Alana Crouch, Director of Centacare Child Care Services, said "the kindergarten here at Warwick is an excellent example of how our children can play and develop a sense of learning in an ergonomically designed environment".

St Mary's consists of a single unit, where up to 22 children and two educators can be catered for in line with the National Quality Framework (NQF). Facilities have been designed specifically for the kindergarten age group and embrace the philosophy of the NQF – natural products and environments which are learning spaces in their own right.

Approved kindergarten programs are delivered by qualified early childhood teachers and meet the minimum education requirement of 15 hours per week. The programs are aligned with the Queensland Kindergarten Learning Guideline and NQF.

The other six new kindergartens are located in Beaudesert, Alexander Hills, Eli Waters, Benowa, Jimboomba and Goodna.



"As an organisation we have a lot to be proud of. This is a chance for us to celebrate our achievements with the community and look forward to a prosperous future," Mr Sheehan said.

This year Centacare Toowoomba celebrates 30 years of providing social services to Toowoomba, the Darling Downs and South West Queensland. As the social services agency of the Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba, Centacare provides a range of services to promote individual, family and community wellbeing.

Services include the Family Support Program, Toowoomba Refugee and Migrant Support (TRAMS), Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Service, Counselling and Psychology and South West Queensland Services.

Over the past 30 years Centacare has consistently grown to meet the needs of the community and now delivers services in over 15 communities reaching as far north as Taroona, west to Quilpie and south to the border at Goondiwindi.

Earlier this year Centacare's Toowoomba services relocated to a new office at 146 Herries Street, bringing together corporate and client services in a brand new multi-level building with comfortable counselling rooms, training and meeting spaces.

On Friday, November 22, the premises will be blessed by Bishop Robert McGuckin with an open day to follow.

From 12pm to 2pm you are invited to visit 146 Herries Street, browse through the offices and learn more about the regional, rural and remote services that are enhancing human dignity and freedom and enabling people to realise their full potential.





Photo and article about the Kilgoris Project, cofounded by Downlands Past Student Jon McCormack.

Students at Downlands recently celebrated their annual Founder's Week, affectionately known as Chevalier Week. It is the charism of Jules Chevalier who founded the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in France in 1854, which underpins the ethos of Downlands.

MISSIONS BENEFIT FROM CHEVALIER WEEK CELEBRATIONS

True to this charism and the Spirituality of the Heart which flows from it, it is our mission at Downlands to love young people into the fullness of human life and to form in them hearts that are, like Christ's, compassionate, tender and merciful, in the hope that throughout life, they will be drawn to engage with the peace and justice issues of our world and so make a difference to the lives of others – in the words of Jules Chevalier, to have a "love for justice and concern for all, especially the very poor".

In keeping with our mission, Downlands students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of 'Jules Projects' through active support for Caritas, St Vincent de Paul and MSC Missions, the latter being the recipient of funds raised through the variety of activities and stalls during Chevalier Week. We are grateful for other opportunities that have been made available to students - through tutoring at the Toowoomba Refugee and Migrant Support Service; serving breakfast to and providing books for the children at nearby primary school; constructing cubby houses for local children; and through providing support for Rosies "Friends on the Street" Outreach. Students are also encouraged to take up the opportunity to participate in mission immersion experiences which may arise, such as the 2012 Diocesan Tiwi Island Immersion or the proposed 2014 MSC Fiji Mission Immersion experience.

Jon McCormack, originally from Surat and a Past Student of Downlands (Class of 1987), went on to cofound The Kilgoris Project in Kenya, lives the charism of Jules Chevalier and explains it in this way -

Of the many experiences I've had since leaving Downlands, the one of which I am most proud is founding The Kilgoris Project - a network of schools serving 700 children in western Kenya. To me, this carries on the spirit of the MSC order - bringing education and opportunity to the world's needy in Christ's name.

For more information, contact Anna Bartlett, Marketing and Development Manager, Downlands College on 07 4690 9661



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ST SAVIOUR'S COLLEGE CHOIR OF ANGELS WIN GOLD

The Malaika Choir, Swahili for Choir of Angels was formed at the St Saviour's College Harmony Day celebration this year. The eight members, from five African countries came together without any practice, to sing for the College and guests at the day of celebration and realised they could sing, and so the Choir of Angels was formed. Since then, the members who are from the Congo, Burundi, Liberia, Sudan and Chad have been in demand to sing at various functions. The students are supported by Congolese refugee and St Saviour's College employee Moseka Balanga. Moseka has been instrumental in bringing the group together since that first day's powerful performance. Her background in percussion is an added dimension to the unique sound of the choir.

Their harmonies were recognised on

the big stage when they won a Gold Award for vocal ensemble at the Queensland Catholic Music Festival in August. But the Gold is just an added bonus, as choir member Aline Twibanire says, "Our music is really about sharing the word of God in singing."

These talented angels also recently performed at Brigidine College's International day of Peace and Prayer liturgy. After their performance, choir member and year 12 student Prudence Melom shared a reflection to those assembled. The students also performed at this year's Bishop's Inservice day in Toowoomba and are regulars on the St Saviour's College Assembly.

Choir member, Joselyn Byamunga really summed up the essence of the group when she said, "We love to sing because God blessed us with our beautiful voices."



Three of the eight choir members from left: Aline Twibanire, Faida Mwibusa and Joselyn Byamunga.

Linda Creedon Assistant Principal

THE SEED FOR FEED- EAST TIMOR

The Seed for Feed Program started out in 1999/2000 as just an idea from local businessman Barry Walsh (originally through Caritas) and has now transformed into providing 11 centres across East Timor.

These seeds have helped feed many orphanages at Cailaco, Maliana, Comoro, Baucau, Laga, Fuloro, Quelicia, Osso-Huna/Baguia and LosPalos across East Timor.

Just this year alone has seen over 40 million seeds dispersed which includes many vegetable and grain varieties (eg Corn, Sorghum, Sweet Corn and Mung Beans).

Barry, together with the Salesian Don Bosco (formally known as the Society of St Francis de Sales) centre works with schools which can house up to 15,000 students. Many families cannot

afford the fees and boarding costs, therefore produce from these gardens are very important to feed these students. Other students have to walk up to 10km with no food for the day. Feeding these children will in turn improve their learning during school days and their futures.

Over the years both Our Lady of Lourdes and Sacred Heart Parishes and schools have donated towards this great cause and provided other non-perishable goods to the children or helped through a variety of fundraisers.

Sacred Heart Parish also financed four young people from East Timor & Solomon Island to come here for a month. Along with 53 Parish members they also went to Sydney for WYD 08. This was due to Barry's involvement in the Salesian Missions.

If your parish or school would like to be involved please contact Barry Walsh 46 341839.

Barry Walsh



Community Members who received seeds/ Grain and participated in vegetable harvesting



Tomato plants maintenance by traditional system by communities in Baucau District



Soil cultivation for growing seeds



Mixture growing vegetables Australian and local commodities by communities in Baucau District



Tomato maintenance training activities in Baucau District - Implemented by Tomato Farmers Group



Seed Nursery ready to be transplanted

60 + 3 YEARS CONTINUE FOR SR IMELDA

Sr Imelda's two great loves brought together

Sister's hospitality! That is how Bishop Bill Morris and many others spoke of Sr Imelda McMahon at her recent 60 years celebration with the Missionary Sisters of Service.

Bishop Bill told us that it was not only Sr Imelda's hard work of selling books in the Book Stores, but in the way in which she reached out to the customers with her touch of love, welcoming hand, shoulder to cry on and of course a cup of tea.

Sr Imelda's two great loves have been brought together over the years; her love of people and love of books. They have taken Sr Imelda from Tasmania to Toowoomba.

This celebration was held at the Lourdes home chapel with Sr Imelda's family, friends and many other Missionary Sisters of Service.

Bishop Bill reminded us all of the strong, caring women in our world, with the example at the 1995 United Nations World Conference. Hillary Clinton stood and said 'the time has come to break our silence', no longer should there be a division between women's rights and human rights, and women's issues would no longer be discussed in back rooms, but openly discussed - our voices are vital, planting seeds of justice and peace.

We can go further back than 1995. One of these strong women has given her life of dedication, service, fidelity and love - staying faithful to herself and her calling. Those 60 years with Sr Imelda's vital voice in harmony with the soul of Mary.

We were reminded during the speeches of Sr Imelda's journey from the moment in 1950 on the 16th August when she landed in the Derwent River in Hobart on a light seaplane from Sydney Harbour to begin her training.

In 1957 we saw Sr Imelda pioneer the first foundation to explore outside Hobart and meet the needs of the isolated people; to bring encouragement, hope, love and spirit of service.

From here Sr Imelda helped in hostels and then worked in the Catholic Bookshop in Hobart including co-ordinating an adult correspondence course.

After 32 years in Tasmania Sr Imelda arrived in Toowoomba in 1982 and managed the Catholic Bookshop here. Crowned with the 'stickability' award Sr Imelda's huge drive and determination and deep faith would always keep things going, no matter what the odds are Sr Imelda does not give up. This blossomed, within recent years of providing pastoral care at Lourdes Home.

Of course it's always great to remember the humorous moments in life. While visiting one of these many families a little 5 year old boy come up to Sister and said, 'Was your Mummy surprised when she had a nun baby'?

While having dinner at another family, the boy said, "You know what Daddy found in the cow bales this morning, a baby kangaroo". At the end of the meal the Sisters asked to go and see this roo.



Sr Imelda with the MSS and Bishop Bill Morris

This followed with an awkward silence, as the mother said, "I'm sorry Sister you have just eaten it".

Sr Imelda's talents didn't stop with just books and determination and love. While in Tasmania, Sr Imelda choreographed a huge theatrical event involving over 120 children called "Ballad of the Word".

At the end of the 60 years celebration Sr Imelda said, "This has been a wonderful journey to take God's love to the country and its isolated people and I am so glad to have you all with me".

Monique Bryson

BLESSING

*Sr Imelda - Carry this in
our prayers and friendship*

Now is the time to free the heart,

Let all intention and worries stop,

Free the joy inside the self,

Awaken to the wonder of your life.

Open your eyes and see the friends

Whose hearts recognise your face as kin,

*Those whose kindness is watchful and
near,*

Encouraging you to live everything here.

See the gifts the years have given,

Things your efforts could never earn,

The health to enjoy who you want to be

And the mind to mirror mystery.

*This Blessing is written by John O'Donohue
and spoken by Bishop Bill.*



Sr Imelda's cake



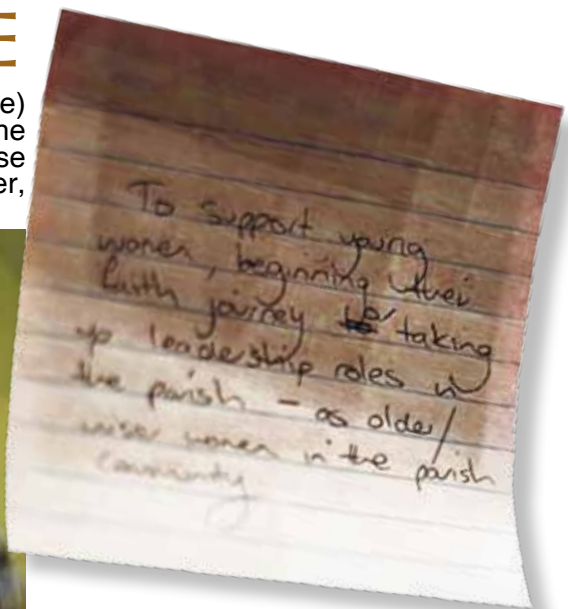
Sr Imelda's family



Sr Imelda and Bishop Bill Morris

WISDOM AT THE GATE

Kathy Thompson from the Diocese (an OPW Representative) recently attended a two day Colloquium in Sydney organised by the CACW. A gathering of approximately 80 women from every diocese in Australia came together at Mary MacKillop Place for liturgy, prayer, discussion, sharing and friendship.



The Office for the Participation of Women was established by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and is mandated to act as a focal point for ongoing dialogue and the integration of ideas pertaining to women and their participation in the Catholic Church of Australia. The Office together with the Council for Australian Catholic Women, exists at the national level to ensure that the dignity of women is honoured and their gifts are given space to flourish for the sake of the Church's life and mission. (ACBC Social Justice Statement 2000)

Sessions at the colloquium discussed wisdom in scripture, wisdom in art, wisdom of the earth, including women in the Church (identity, belonging and creating our future).

Small groups were formed to discuss issues such as :

- women's call to ministry and leadership in the Church, the role of young women in the Church and their sense of belonging,
- Indigenous women in the Church,
- the need for professional development for lay people in ministry that is uniform across Australia,
- the theological shift that is occurring around the world.

Kathy said, "The discussions were very interesting, challenging at times and broadening of perspective. The opportunity to meet other Catholic Women from all over Australia was an inspiring experience and the sharing of ideas, the sharing of hurts and the uplifting discussions and fellowship were eye opening and hope filling".

There will be a women's gathering at the Social Justice Commission early in October. If you would like to attend please call the Commission on 46130895 for more details.



"WISDOM AT THE GATE"

Women sharing wisdom, Women seeking wisdom, Women living wisdom.

"Wisdom is radiant and unfading and is found by those who seek her. She hastens to make herself known, for she will be found sitting at the gate." (Wisdom 6:12-14.)



(Women's Conference, Sydney)
attended by Kathy Thompson

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Lawn Cemetery & Crematorium*

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REFLECTIONS FROM RIO: THREE PILGRIMS TALK ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCES OF WYD

Young Catholics goes to Rio!

Sarah de Byl —Toowoomba

When I first arrived home from Rio I had many images and stories to share. My time spent with the Columbans and their mission work in Chile, the Chilean parishioners that soon became family and were hard to leave behind, the Sisters of the Good Shepherd who accommodated us, the enthusiasm of the Brazilian young people who greeted us and embraced us with open arms like that of the Redeemer, the sincerity of the young people I met during Catechesis struggling with many questions of how to be Catholic and faithful in a complex world but full of confidence and joy in being Catholic with their deep desire to meet Christ and follow him, the warmth and love of Pope Francis which conveyed itself to everybody who was present, the meeting of other youth ministers from around the world and the real sense of the universal nature of the Church.



There were so many spiritual highlights of Rio including Mass, Adoration, Reconciliation, Morning Prayer, Animation with Steve Angrisano and Curtis Stephens, Catechesis from Cardinal Timothy Dolan and Archbishop Mark Coleridge, Recitation of the Rosary in many languages, Fellowship, Spiritual Direction, Vocations Expo and Singing of Hymns. Also the fact that we were able to do this all in union with our inspirational Holy Father was a real blessing. Over the days in Rio you could see Pope Francis warming to the enormous crowds of young people who did not hold back their affection for him. I was struck by the Holy Father's energy and desire to reach as many people as possible. He must have been exhausted by the time he got back to the Vatican!

Other highlights of the Pilgrimage included Chile and experiencing Santiago, seeing Christ the Redeemer and Sugarloaf, Brazilian BBQ, travelling on the Metro, experiencing the San Sebastian Cathedral, the Australian gathering and dancing on Copacabana Beach with pilgrims from around the world!

Along with the highlights came challenges and difficult situations. Rain, changing venues, lines and language barriers reminded me to always consider "What would Jesus Do?" I was dared by Pope Francis and the Gospels to change my perspective and view situations in a new light and reflect on God's teachings. I was constantly reminded by my fellow travellers that I was a pilgrim not a tourist!

When I left Australia I was hoping to reconnect with the universal church. Being my third WYD I am always amazed the change in me and the deepening of my faith each time. The pilgrimage was both physical and spiritual and was a journey of the heart. I know that it has touched me deeply and will continue to impact the work I do within youth ministry in the future. In the words of Pope Francis I will "Go, not be afraid and Serve". WYD Rio was a true gift. From the people I met and travelled with, the challenges I faced and the highlights that will resonate within me for years to come.

Being a Catholic is of course a life long journey of on-going conversion and we all need to take regular steps to ensure that we are walking in the faith as the Holy Father reminded us on

many occasions out in Rio. One of these occasions was at the Papal welcome. Pope Francis told the teens and young adults that Jesus was asking each person gathered on the beach: "Do you want to be my disciple? Do you want to be my friend? Do you want to be a witness to my Gospel?"

The Gospel reading for the evening prayer service was St. Luke's account of the transfiguration of Jesus, including St. Peter's line, "Master, it is good that we are here." (Luke 9:28-36). In his homily, the Pope echoed those words, telling the young people that it is always good to be gathered around Jesus and to keep Jesus at the centre of their lives. Faith, he said, is a "Copernican revolution," an operation that shifts concerns and priorities so that they revolve around Jesus and not the individual or false idols. "Certainly possessions, money and power can give a momentary thrill, the illusion of being happy," he said, "but they end up possessing us and making us always want to have more, never satisfied." Instead, he said, with Christ as the centre of your life "you will never be disappointed," but, he added, "the young must be strong" to resist the temptations around them.

Pope Francis asked that young people think about a meal and what it means to "put on salt," then he told them, "Put on faith and your life will take on a new flavour." "Put on hope and every one of your days will be enlightened and your horizon will no longer be dark," he told them. "Put on love and your life will be like a house built on rock, your journey will be joyful because you will find many friends to journey with you." "Put on Christ," he said, "you will find a friend in whom you can always trust" and "your life will be full of his love."



Peruvian Encounters

Anna Hanssen —Toowoomba

World Youth Day Rio was a wonderful gift and I learned valuable lessons in patience and holiness.

'Wow, wonderful,' these words quietly uttered from my lips as I was suddenly gazing upon one of the natural wonders of the world – Iguazu Waterfalls. The majesty of God's creation filling my vision as far as I could see from left to right filled me with awe and gave me my first word to describe WYD Rio – wonder.

I was privileged enough to visit several other wonders of the world, the 'Inca-redible' Machu Picchu, the Christ the Redeemer Statue and Rio Harbour. Wonder also, in the people we met and things we did. The wonder of the people, our brothers and sisters in Christ that we completed our mission work for in the shanty towns of Lima, Peru. Connecting with the children at their schools, singing songs with them, playing games, measuring and

weighing them and fluoridating their teeth was very rewarding as was seeing the joy they embodied and shared with us despite having so little. The wonder in our 'stairway to heaven.' In four days we help build and finish a 150m high stairway in a community in Lima. This stairway is something concrete, tangible and an accomplishment. No one can ever take this from us, we can say, "I have made a difference." In giving the gift – (God's Initiative For Transformation) of our time something much bigger also happened, we helped meet their spiritual needs, serve the entire person and announce Christ by our solidarity with them allowing us to experience the 'Boomerang' effect of giving. In giving love we receive so much more back and it was us that were change.

This certainly was a pilgrimage and not a holiday and I had ample opportunity to learn about patience. Numerous flight delays in Peru, even over-night causing us to run through airports, patience with each other when fatigue had set in, patience with the concept of 'South America time' it took over 2 hours for lunch in Lima and finally Rio. Amongst 3 million people I have never had to wait so long to go to the bathroom (up to three hours), food lines were similar and were out the doors and around the street corners.

Buses and train lines went for kilometres and at some places people were pushing and shoving to the point of limbs getting stuck between the train and platform and broken toes becoming the norm. Then there were queues to the toilets and showers at Aussie Central and over 600 steps to the showers. Finally an hour and a half wait at 11pm in the soaking rain for the train to descend from the Christ the Redeemer Statue that we could barely see. During these moments of waiting and longing my thoughts turned to Christ – how he waits and is patient with each of us and his wait after being arrested and knowing what was ahead of him through the crucifixion and that the discomfort and pain I was in was so minute compared to his.

Lastly, challenges leading us to holiness. I was challenged to flip my perspective on difficulties and challenging situations. Not to see them as thorns in my side and be discouraged but to see them as an opportunity to become more holy. To put God first in these situations, it reminded me of the line, "If you pray for patience, God won't just give you patience but opportunities to practise patience."

Thus World Youth Day Rio was a 'Gift'. It was truly 'wonderful' in the sites I saw, the people I met and the work we accomplished and I have been challenged to see difficulties not as a negative but as a chance to become more holy.

Reflection on WYD Rio

Bernadette Ramsey — Miles

My reason for attending World Youth Day was to deepen my faith, to get some Spiritual exercise and energy, and generally to be in the proximity of so many other people of like mind. I certainly received all of this!



The group that went to Rio from Queensland and the Canberra/Goulburn Archdiocese was an incredibly faith-filled group. While being amongst very hectic surroundings and timetable schedule, I was able to meet and come to know a different person in the group each day more deeply. Through these friendships there was a great sharing of faith and a love of God, and an earnestness to draw deeper in our Catholic Faith.

We were blessed to be accompanied by four priests. They were able to provide us with the sacraments - Reconciliation and daily Mass - and also offer their wisdom and insight. They were older than the '35 year' age cut off, but I think their 'maturity' offered much guidance for myself and others. One of my highlights was to see, as the three weeks we were together progressed, each of the priests seemed to become younger in spirit and wholly rejuvenated in their faith and seemed to glow with joy.

My other highlight was at the final Mass. We were surrounded by 3.8 million people and yet I was able to experience God's peace. We were all praying the Mass together in all of the languages of the world, and listening to the translation of the Pope through our radios. Then everyone was able to receive Jesus in the Eucharist, which must have been a small feat in itself! If so many people gathered for any other reason it would be utter chaos, but with God, anything is possible!



Lima Mission – weighing and measuring.



We're on Facebook and the Web!

If you would like to join Young Catholics Facebook group, you can find us at "Young Catholics Tooowoomba". 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.mwvp.org.au



Sarah de Byl



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Facebook: [http://www.facebook.com/yctwmba](https://www.facebook.com/yctwmba)

Website: <http://www.theweb.org.au>

VOCATIONS NEWS



For around four decades young people from across Queensland and interstate have been gathering at the Gold Coast, and in more recent times at other destinations, to celebrate the end of formal schooling with what has come to be known as Schoolies Week.

As we enter the final term of the school year the attention of senior students, their parents and teachers will no doubt focus once again on formals, graduations and traditional end of year events that celebrate the achievements of our young people.

Some of our young people will be making the annual pilgrimage to the Gold Coast and other destinations for Schoolies Week celebrations.

In the midst of the excitement many young people at this time of year will encounter heightened levels of anxiety, apprehension and fear for what the future may hold. Many find it difficult to let go of what is familiar among family, friends, home and school and step out into the unknown to make a life for themselves, beyond that which is most familiar to them.

In this period between leaving school and moving on to the workplace or further education, our young people should be held prominently in our thoughts and prayers. Let us pray that they be kept safe in all they do, and that they be guided wisely in making choices and decisions that will affect their future. As we do, let us pray for those who may be discerning a call to the priesthood or religious life. May young people be courageous in answering the call of the Lord for labourers to his harvest, and may they be supported and encouraged in the choices they make. It is beyond the glitz and glamour of Schoolies Week that we find something that is so much more life-giving and sustaining.

We discover that the full meaning and purpose of life is enhanced when it is lived out fully within the vocation of married or single life, or in life as a priest, religious sister or brother. When the decisions we make about our life are supported by those around us, we are given the confidence to know that it is possible that we can make a difference when and where it counts.

May this be the experience of the youth of our diocese as they prepare for the end of their formal schooling and are faced with making decisions that will influence their future.

Fr Jamie Collins



Saturday October 19

2-4pm: Sock Olympics St Saviour's College Oval

4-5.30pm: Afternoon Tea and presentations

6pm: Socktober Mass St Patrick's Cathedral

7-10pm: 'Rock your Socks Off' Disco and BBQ

St Saviour's College

Sunday October 20

11am-3pm: Markets and Workshops

St Patrick's Cathedral



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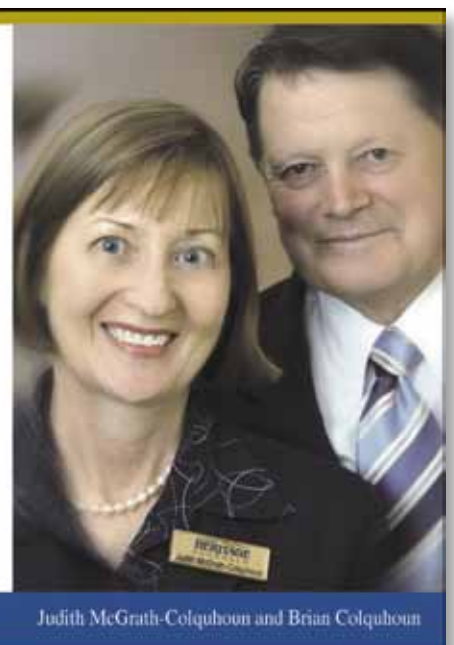
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Judith McGrath-Colquhoun and Brian Colquhoun

YEAR OF FAITH THE YEAR OF GRACE

Australians to attend “Joy of Faith” Pilgrimage to the Tomb of Peter

The Year of Faith and Year of Grace is coming to a close in November.

Part of this includes ‘The Joy of Faith’, which is the theme of an ‘International Pilgrimage of Families with the Holy Father to the Tomb of Peter’. Convened by the Pontifical Council for the Family, it will be led by Pope Francis in Rome on October 26 to 27.

“The Rome Pilgrimage was just one of a wide number of activities discussed”, commented Chair Couple, Ron and Mavis Pirola. “There are many difficulties facing families today and these need to be addressed. But it is important not to lose sight of the joy of faith and family. Joy is an important part of the evangelising role of the family.”

In solidarity with the Rome pilgrimage, parishes around Australia have been sent a Parish Kit with the theme ‘Parents Passing on the Faith’. It contains a handout with motivational suggestions for parents in their role as prime nurturers of the faith.

The kit and other information can be found on www.acmfc.org.au

Parents Passing on the Faith

Guess who’s watching you now!

In this **Year of Faith**, it is worth remembering that our faith and our core values are passed on primarily in the home. TV advertisements for responsible drinking often end up with the reminder ‘Your children are watching you’. And if a child’s behaviour at school is particularly difficult, who does the school call in to enlist help? The parents, of course! Most parents are not trained teachers but, for better or for worse, they are the prime nurturers in faith of their children.

“Worry not that your children don’t listen to you. Worry that they watch you.”



*“....parents are the first educators of the faith for their children in order for them to reach full human and spiritual maturity.”
(Benedict XVI)*

Meal Time is Prime Family Time

Meal time is a major time for sharing, recalling family and faith memories and developing values. Making a priority of family meals pays huge dividends, even if it can only be achieved part of the time. Plan the time (avoid ‘phone calls, competing TV programmes, etc); plan the ‘conversation’ (what will help involve everyone tonight?); encourage all to have their say, no matter how young or old; avoid sources of tension wherever possible (humour is a great ‘circuit-breaker’). And always start with a prayer. This is a major liturgy of the ‘domestic church’.



A Resource from the Bishops Commission for Pastoral Life

A parish kit in solidarity with the International Pilgrimage of Families to the Tomb of St Peter in the Year of Faith
Sunday 27th October, 2013



John Meneely

Education Officer,
Religious Education, Catholic Education Office.

Hospitality IN THE HOLY LAND

DURING MY RECENT 'STUDY LEAVE' IN THE HOLY LAND, THERE WERE MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO GLIMPSE ASPECTS OF THE CULTURE THAT WOULD HAVE RESEMBLED THE CULTURE OF JESUS' TIME. ONE SUCH ASPECT IS THE IMPORTANCE OF TABLE FELLOWSHIP AND HOSPITALITY.

Throughout the gospels, but especially in the gospel of Luke, Jesus is seen eating with a range of people. Such scenes were the setting of some of his most powerful teachings. It wasn't just the words that were spoken, but the very guests with whom Jesus chose to dine that spoke strongly of his mission.

Along with my fellow students undertaking study at the Tantur Institute in Jerusalem, I was fortunate to share a number of home cooked dinners with Palestinian families in the West Bank. To call them "dinners" is an understatement – "feasts" would be a better description. Following tradition, we sat on cushions on the floor leaning against the wall. The lady of the house would serve a heaped plate of hummus, minced chicken, lentils all served with home-made pita. You learnt very quickly to eat slowly and not to put your plate on the ground lest it be filled with an equally sized second serving (and a third and possibly fourth if you were foolish enough to continue to make the same mistake). To refuse more than one serving or to ask for a reduced portion was seen as a slight to the host.

All this of course characterizes the nature of hospitality in the Middle East. This is a society that even today is steeped in honour and shame. To invite another person of equal standing to dine in your house is to bring honour to your house as well as bestowing honour on the guest. The words and actions of hospitality highlight this exchange of honour.



Considering this cultural element, it is no surprise that Jesus' actions in dining with sinners and tax collectors caused outrage to the elite of his time. By playing host or being guest to these 'outsiders', Jesus was bestowing honour upon the broken, the outcast and those set aside. If Jesus' mission proclaimed the reign of God, then such meals were a glimpse of the heavenly banquet in which all will be invited to the table and none will be turned away.

Advent Chains

With Advent approaching here is a fun craft activity for young children to do as they prepare for the season of Christ's birth. This will motivate them to do good deeds as they ready themselves for Christmas.

Materials:

- ☐ Markers
- ☐ Purple, red and pink construction paper strips (3 X 22cms)
- ☐ Tape

Directions:

- ☐ Talk with children about the Season of Advent as a season of *preparation*.
- ☐ Children think about different good deeds they can undertake as ways of preparing for Christmas
- ☐ They cut out the strips of paper. Tell them for every good deed they do, they can add a purple or pink link to their Advent chain.
- ☐ Children can write or draw their good deeds on a paper link and then add it to the chain.
- ☐ As the chain grows from week to week, keep it on the family prayer table or in easy view.
- ☐ Just before Christmas, take the completed chain of good deeds and put it on the family Christmas tree where it can remain for the Christmas season.



LUTHERAN CHURCH ELECTS FIRST BISHOP

from our neighbourhood

At its recent Synod the Lutheran Church of Australia [LCA] changed the title of its leader in Australia from 'President' to 'Bishop.' At that same gathering Pastor John Henderson was elected as the incoming 'Bishop.'

Bishop Henderson is well known in our area for his ecumenical work in his time as pastor of Dalby. 'Horizons' is indebted to Linda Macqueen for permission to quote from two articles that she wrote for the 'Lutheran' magazine.

'I am so deeply appreciative and humbled in relation to the task you have placed in front of me', Pastor Henderson told Synod after his election. 'This will steer the course of the next several years of my ministry, if not until the end.'

'I hope that in Christ's name I will be worthy of this task.'

Pastor Henderson brings to the office broad pastoral and leadership experience within the LCA and beyond. He has been Principal of Australian Lutheran College for four years. Prior to that (2002-2008) he served the LCA in the seconded position of General Secretary with the National Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA), based in Sydney.

As a vicar and ordained pastor, he has served in four LCA districts: New Zealand (Palmerston North, 1981), South Australia/Northern Territory (Woodville, 1983-1986), Queensland (Dalby and western Darling Downs congregations, 1986-1994) and Victoria (Outer Eastern Lutheran Church, 1994-2001). He was LCA Vice-President from 2006 to 2011 and a member of General Church Council from 2003 to 2011.

As NCCA General Secretary he was involved in international and interfaith affairs. He was a founding member and delegation head of the Regional Interfaith Dialogue SA Asia (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade with the Indonesian government). The work included delivering an address at the Vatican on behalf of the Australian government on the contribution of faith communities to solutions for sustainable regional peace.

He was co-founder and served from 2003 to 2008 on the Australian National



Bishop Henderson's family

Dialogue of Christians, Muslims and Jews.

Ken Von Pein, a Darling Downs farmer, travelled all the way from Queensland to attend John's installation service in Hahndorf, South Australia. He was an elder at Dalby ('a huge parish, a 900-kilometre circuit') when John was the pastor there. 'We thought the world of John', Ken says. 'He had the ability to bring the gospel to us in a way that was relevant to the situation we were in. He was always pointing us to Jesus Christ.'

It was in Dalby, in Queensland's rural Lutheran heartland, that he hit his stride. 'When they heard of my election as bishop, they called to tell me, "John just keep doing what you did here. Keep it simple, and tell the people about Jesus".'

A phone call from then LCA President Lance Steicke signalled the beginning of yet another challenge and another move, this time to Sydney. John's district president, David Stolz, had recommended him for the position of general secretary of the National Council of Churches of Australia (NCCA).

'In the school at Croydon, John was working in an ecumenical setting', Dr Stolz says. 'That was important, but more than that, he had excellent listening skills. He brought to the pastorate an ability to listen to conflicting points of view, to bring

people to the table, to hear each other out and then to find a way forward. That ability impressed me.

John had been an unlikely candidate for the position of NCCA general secretary. He was just as unlikely a candidate for his next job: principal of Australian Lutheran College (ALC). Now he is moving into the LCA bishop's office.

How does he feel about this one?

'The LCA is a fantastic bunch of people. We have strengths we don't even recognise we have. But we also have baggage. We seem to think we're up against other churches and the world. We need to discover that we don't win by setting up false demons in order to punch them down...

'Let's get over ourselves and join in with others a bit. Let's be confident, let's celebrate, let's live the gospel. And how do we do that? If we look at Jesus, we see he was extraordinary...the way he loved God and loved people.'

'At the same time I believe strongly in good order; I believe in systems. So I'm not suggesting a free-for-all, but it is time for permission-giving. We need to trust God with his church.'

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Horizons

of Toowoomba Diocese

FORMING OF THE TRUTH JUSTICE & HEALING COUNCIL



Submitted by Francis Sullivan

When the two leadership groups of the Catholic Church in Australia, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and Catholic Religious Australia announced the creation of the Truth Justice and Healing Council in December last year it did so knowing the Royal Commission into child sexual abuse would throw up enormous and confronting challenges.

The Catholic Church in Australia has a shameful and at times horrific history of sexual abuse and the way it has been dealt with in the past.

This history has involved crimes, cover ups, failures of leadership, ineptitude and a careless, perhaps calculated, disregard for some of the most defenceless members of our community, children. And despite the very real improvements that have taken place since 1996 with the introduction of the Melbourne Response and Towards Healing, the Catholic Church's two victims' reparation schemes, more needs to be done.

We all share a responsibility to ensure the full truth is revealed, justice is achieved for victims, reparation is made, sincere and appropriate apologies are offered and accepted and trust is re-established. It is

only then that healing can start.

Justice McClellan, who is leading the Royal Commission, has made it clear the Commission would 'bear witness' alongside those who had been abused. So too must the Catholic Church.

We are now at a point of public scrutiny that requires frank and open participation, with genuine recollection of the past and a sincere explanation of what happened and why. Over the past few weeks I have been saddened, as I have listened to more disturbing stories from people abused in the Catholic Church. On every occasion I marvel at their strength and courage to share their pain and trauma.

I hear their frustration when they feel people don't truly understand what it is like to live every day with the devastating effects of abuse. Going through a process of reparation or even compensation doesn't necessarily 'kick start' the momentum for healing.

Sadly, many survivors still see too many signs that the Church 'just doesn't get it'.

This is compounded when they hear explanations that the abuse is in the past, and the Church now handles issues of abuse in a more professional and caring manner. It is as if their traumatic experience is being denied because it happened a long time ago. The experts tell us that healing only begins when trust is

established. Trust is based on truth.

Truth comes packaged in honesty and humility. This is the disposition the Truth Justice and Healing Council takes into the Royal Commission as we lead the Church's legal representation, as we act as the Church's voice in the public arena and as we make recommendations to the Church leadership on improving child safety and responding to victims.

The 13 members of the Council includes men and women with professional and other expertise in the areas of child sexual abuse, paedophilia, trauma, mental illness, suicide, education, public administration and governance.

It includes three representatives from Church bodies and four people who have either been the subject of clerical sexual abuse or have family members who have been abused within Church organisations.

We will work with the Catholic community and Church leaders to ensure by the end of the Commission, which will run for many years, we can say we have done everything possible to tell the full story and that we are doing all we can to ensure children are safe now.

TJHC Council Brochure
available from your Parish



*Bishop
William Brennan*



The Mass of Christian Burial for Bishop William Brennan was celebrated in St Michael's Cathedral, Wagga Wagga on 6 September. Bishop William Brennan was the Fourth Bishop of Wagga Wagga.

Bishop William was the Nephew of Bishop William Brennan, who was the third Bishop of the Toowoomba Diocese between 1953 and 1975.

Bishop Bill Brennan (Jnr) like Bishop Bill Brennan (snr) both came from Dulwich Hill in Sydney. They were both priests of the Wilcannia Diocese before being Consecrated Bishops.

He was a man of vision and showed a strong commitment to reaching out to those less fortunate than himself. Bishop Brennan passed away after an illness that took hold 12 years ago. He was only 75 years of age and will be sadly missed by all.

Bishop William was the Nephew of Bishop William Brennan, who was the third Bishop of the Toowoomba Diocese between 1953 and 1975.

Calendar of Events

October

Women's Gathering – Social Justice Commission Tuesday 1st 6pm.

If you would like to attend future sessions please call 46130895 for more details.

Cent Sale for the Missions

Saturday 12th from 1pm at the Sacred Heart Foundation Centre (cnr of Tor and North Streets, Toowoomba).
For more information contact the Sisters of St Peter Cleaver on 4632 1818.

RI Religious Instruction Training, Toowoomba.

Interested in becoming an Instructor, for more details please phone 4687 4300- **Wednesday 23rd and/or Monday 28th**

Fete - St Patrick's Parish Allora- Friday 18th from 5pm

World Mission Sunday- Sunday 20th

Socktober 19 & 20th

November

Outdoor Mass and Parish Picnic -Annual Fundraiser for All Saints Parish Roma – Starts at 6pm -Saturday 2nd

Melbourne Cup Eve – Light meal at the Cathedral Centre, Social Justice Commission Fundraiser. Book your ticket by calling 46130895- **6pm- Monday 4th**

Toowoomba Hospice fundraiser

Melbourne Cup Lunch at Café Valetta, 46598500- **Tuesday 5th**

Aussie Christmas –St Anthony's School grounds- Saturday 9th

Centacare Open Day - take a tour through the new offices and learn more about our services between the hours of **12- 2pm, Friday 22nd**

Fete - Immaculate Conception Parish Jandowae, 6pm Saturday 23rd

150 years celebration at St Saviour's Primary School Saturday and Sunday 9th and 10th



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.

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SIMPLICITY

POPE FRANCIS

A SNAPSHOT, SIX MONTHS ON

MANY OF US HAVE WITNESSED AND READ THE MANY STORIES COMING OUT FROM ROME SINCE JORGE MARIO BERGOGLIO WAS ELECTED POPE FRANCIS ON 13 MARCH 2013

Before Pope Francis's election, one of the few things the world actually knew about Bergoglio was his penchant for simplicity. Jorge would take the subway to work rather than using a car and driver, lived in a modest apartment rather than the opulent archbishop's mansion.

Pope Francis has carried that approach into the papacy. He often walks across Vatican grounds rather than hopping into the customary Mercedes, and he resides in a modest suite in the Domus Sanctae Marthae residence, rather than in the cavernous papal apartment.

Simplicity of life often connotes a special concern for poverty and the poor, and that's clearly a cornerstone of Pope Francis' agenda.

During an encounter with journalists in Rome to cover the conclave, Pope Francis expressed his longing for a "poor church for the poor."

So it is not surprise then, that Pope Francis has accepted a gift that tells the story of helping the poor. Father Renzo Zocca from northern Italy donated his old Renault to Pope Francis, commenting, "for the past 20 years that this car has been driving around to serve the poor, the elderly, the drug-addicted and the disabled, now it was time it went to the Pope. This wasn't just any car, but a tool that had served countless people on the margins."

Simplicity also shines through in Pope Francis' reliance on gestures rather than elaborate pronouncements to get his point across. Instead of preaching about the priesthood as service during his Holy Thursday Mass, he visited the Casa del Marmo youth prison in northwest Rome and washed the feet of 12 inmates, including two young women and two Muslims.

Some ecumenical experts believe that Pope Francis' humility could pave the way for progress toward greater Christian unity. Pope Francis, will help other Christians see episcopal ministry more clearly as a service to communion, and will become more open to it.

Already, Pope Francis has said plenty of things with obvious political relevance. Aside from his comments on the economy, he's also spoken out about protection of the environment, labeled war the "suicide of humanity," and, addressing a 'March for Life' in Rome, quoting that legal protection of every human life must be guaranteed "from the very first moment of its existence."

500 young people from an the Italian diocese joined Pope Francis in St Peter's Square for the Year of Faith. "Have courage. Go forward. Make noise," Pope Francis said according to a Vatican Radio report.

"Wherever there are young people there must be noise. Things can be toned down later on, but a young person always wants to make noise. Go forward. There will be people who will say things to you to slow you down, to block your path. Please, go against the current." "they'll say to you, have some alcohol, have some drugs". Go against the current, Say NO against this civilisation that is doing us so much harm. Understand? Go against the current: and this means making noise. Go forward, remaining true to the values of beauty, goodness and truth."

The Final Word at World Youth Day in Brazil

Serve. The opening words of the psalm that we proclaimed are: "Sing to the Lord a new song". What is this new song? It does not consist of words, it is not a melody, it is the song of your life, it is allowing our life to be identified with that of Jesus, it is sharing his sentiments, his thoughts, his actions. And the life of Jesus is a life for others. It is a life of service. In our Second Reading today, Saint Paul says: "I have made myself a slave to all, that I might win the more" (1 Cor9:19).

In order to proclaim Jesus, Paul made himself "a slave to all". Evangelising means bearing personal witness to the love of God, it is overcoming our selfishness, it is serving by bending down to wash the feet of our brethren, as Jesus did.

Go, do not be afraid, and serve.

If you follow these three ideas, you will experience that the one who evangelizes is evangelized, the one who transmits the joy of faith receives joy. Dear young friends, as you return to your homes, do not be afraid to be generous with Christ, to bear witness to his Gospel.