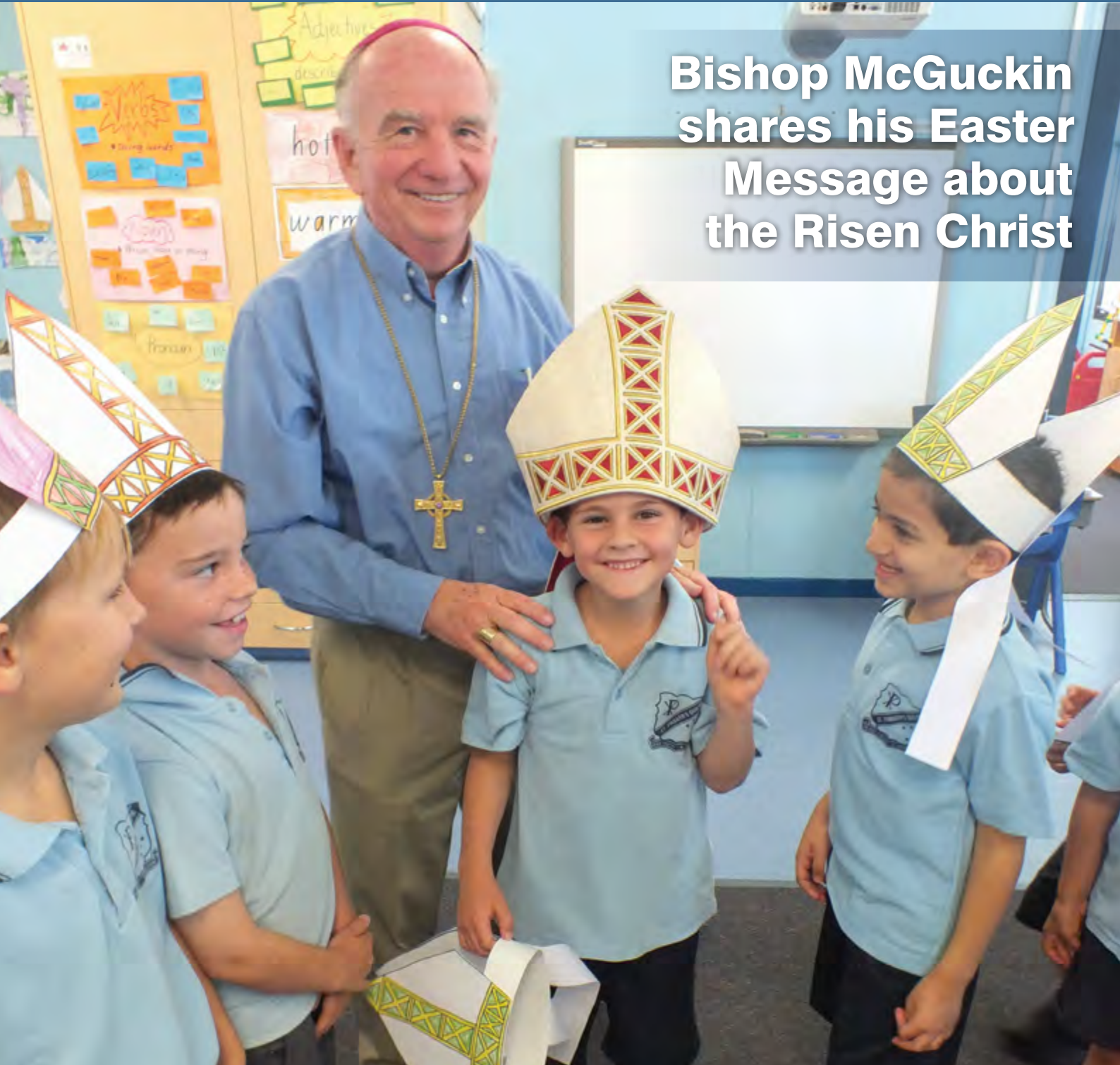


# Horizons

FREE Publication of the Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba

## Bishop McGuckin shares his Easter Message about the Risen Christ



Missionary  
Sisters of  
Service  
Celebrate  
50 Years.



Innovative  
Coffee Outlet  
Wins Social  
Justice Award.



Father Byrne's  
Momentous  
Farewell at  
the Sacred  
Heart Parish.

**HORIZONS** is a quarterly magazine produced by the Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba. Grateful acknowledgement to the Catholic Education Office for their generous contribution to production costs, as well as to our advertisers for their support. Opinions expressed in articles are not necessarily held by the editor.

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**Front Cover:** Bishop Robert McGuckin with students during a recent visit to Quilpie.

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**DEADLINES**

New editions will be seasonal.  
Deadline for the Autumn Edition  
2014 is 30 May, 2014

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## WELCOME TO THE NEW LOOK HORIZONS

By Michael Hart

It is always a challenge to come into an existing role and find your place. It has been no different for me returning to the Diocese of Toowoomba after nearly 20 years working in the metropolitan Archdiocese of Brisbane. Let me start by saying how welcome I have felt and how proud I am to be a part of this vibrant and alive diocesan community.

As I started collating the many articles for this edition of Horizons I was struck by the enormity of the task that my predecessors, Monique and Sr Eileen, had undertaken over the years. I was also overwhelmed by the incredible scope of ministry that

is happening across this enormous diocese. Through the editing process I got to engage with the very human stories that start to build a picture of enduring faithfulness and commitment.

As we enter into this Easter season and participate in one of the most significant times in the liturgical year, it is good to stop and reflect upon our own times of struggle and ultimate joy. It is helpful to take a moment to use this opportunity to think about how we connect with our neighbours and friends. How do we invite them to enter into this important season? Are we welcoming and inclusive or does our shyness and

self-doubt prevent us from reaching out?

Finally, I'd like to say a simple word about the new look of Horizons. Like everything in life there are some moments that present themselves as an opportunity for change. Hopefully the new design assists you, the reader, to find the articles that most interest you. We have attempted to make it contemporary without losing the connection to the past. Horizons should feel familiar but also fresh. Like always your feedback is very welcome. If you have suggestions for articles or feature sections please send through your thoughts.

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# REJOICE AND BE GLAD FOR CHRIST IS RISEN



From Bishop Robert McGuckin

Pope Francis Apostolic Exhortation the Joy of the Gospel truly calls all of us to be joyful witnesses in our everyday living. We have journeyed together through Lent and we now joyfully celebrate Easter, the resurrection of Jesus. As the disciples on the road to Emmaus took a while before they realised it was the Lord, so we too can be a little slow in coming to the realisation that the risen Lord calls us now as his friends. Like the disciples may our hearts be filled with joy as together we journey with Jesus in this special season.

With the news of the resurrection the women at the tomb were filled with great joy and ran to tell the disciples. May we be filled with great joy and share that good news in our world. What unique opportunities each of us has in this regard. May we respond to the promptings of the Spirit of the Lord and reach out to those around us.

As we celebrate Easter we give thanks for the wonderful gifts the Lord has so generously given us. These gifts are not earned by us and certainly not deserved but have been freely given. They are not things to be locked away in a bank vault but rather taken out, used each day and shared with others.



The Church is truly a pilgrim Church. The current Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse has shown that at times compassion was grossly lacking in the way the Church responded to allegations. As Mr Francis Sullivan of the Truth Justice and Healing Council has stated we must learn to listen to the victims of abuse, to learn and respond to "get it right". "Now is a time we stand in the shame, say sorry, work harder and gather all that is good within the Church to do all it can to get rid of child sex abuse forever."

Easter is not just one day. In the liturgy we don't just celebrate one day or one week. There are seven Sundays considered as Sundays of Easter. In

all places we are an Easter people and at all times should be motivated by the presence of the risen Lord.

May together we work harder for change and be welcoming of people with compassion and with the love Jesus gives to us and calls us to share with one another. Pope Francis calls us to go forth to everyone without exception (Joy of the Gospel n.48).

May the light of risen Christ shine brightly in each of us so that others may see that Christ is truly risen. Rejoice and be glad for Christ is risen. May we remain in His love and share that love each day.

**Bishop Robert McGuckin**  
**Bishop of Toowoomba**  
**Easter 2014**

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# MISSIONARY SISTERS OF SERVICE CELEBRATING 50 YEARS IN THE TOOWOOMBA DIOCESE

By Sr. Pat Quinn

In 2014 the Missionary Sisters of Service will be celebrating 50 years since they arrived in the Toowoomba Diocese. At the same time they are also celebrating the 70th anniversary of the establishment of their Congregation in 1944. They are inviting the wider community to join them on this occasion.

In May 1964, five Sisters arrived in Toowoomba at the invitation of Bishop Brennan. They came to serve the rural parishes by way of home visits and providing faith education for adults and children. Their travels took them to scattered and isolated communities like Thargomindah, Birdsville and Windorah as well as many districts on the Darling Downs. They stayed with families or at local churches. At that time they were commonly known as the Rosary House Sisters.

The Sisters have worked in the Toowoomba Diocese throughout these 50 years in a great variety of ways.

If families have photos of the Sisters in earlier times, the Sisters would appreciate a copy for display at their Jubilee gathering.

Their celebration will be in Toowoomba at Our Lady of Lourdes Church on Sunday 27th April, 2014 and they would like to make contact with people who have known them in the past. The celebration includes Mass at 11.30am followed by lunch. To book in, get in touch with Sr. Mary.

**To contact the Sisters please phone Sr. Mary Cleary on 07 4634.9786 or email her on [marycleary5@bigpond.com](mailto:marycleary5@bigpond.com) Her postal address: 4/25a Payne St. Toowoomba, 4350.**



▲ From left - Pat Quinn, Marie Carroll, Beryl Gleeson, Nancy Doyle, Imelda McMahon, Margaret Windsham, Cecilia Bailey and Mary Cleary.



◀ From left - Fran O'Brien, Cecilia Bailey, Joan Shannon, Pat Quinn and Julianne Dunn.





# MISSIONARY SISTERS OF SERVICE MILESTONE!



Supporters of the John Wallis Foundation participating in a Tasmanian Bike Ride

The Missionary Sisters of Service (MSS) celebrates its 70th anniversary of foundation this year. In conjunction with this milestone, the newly-formed John Wallis Foundation, founded by the MSS, invites applications for its first round of grants.

The Missionary Sisters of Service were founded in Launceston on 8 July 1944 by Tasmanian diocesan priest, Fr John Wallis and four women, Gwen Morse, Kathleen Moore, Alice Carroll and Joyce O'Brien, were the first to commit themselves to going beyond the parish boundaries where others could not go. In the 70 years, mission

fields spread throughout Tasmania, South Australia, New South Wales, Queensland, Melbourne and Singapore.

The John Wallis Foundation seeks to continue the MSS mission by journeying with people in hope, love and support; creating opportunities for personal and spiritual formation, building community and developing leadership.

The Foundation will make funds available to individuals or groups for work in line with the aims and charism of the Missionary Sisters of Service. Preference is given to projects that are small, local, and completed within twelve months. Individuals working

within voluntary or church outreach services may see these grants as a way to initiate a particular project within the overall work of the service.

**Full details and application guidelines are available on the website [www.johnwallisfoundation.org.au](http://www.johnwallisfoundation.org.au) For further information or to submit an application please contact the Executive Officer of the John Wallis Foundation, Liz McAloon on [johnwallisfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:johnwallisfoundation@gmail.com) or 03 98735520.**

**Applications for this round of grants close on May 31st 2014.**

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# THE EMPTY TOMB — DON'T CLING TO ME ...

by John Meneely

If you were to visit Jerusalem during this Easter season in search of the actual site of the resurrection of Christ, you would have to imaginatively drill through the layers of architecture that make up the Church of the Holy Sepulchre to get any sense of a tomb with the stone rolled away. You would be better to visit the Sisters of Nazareth guesthouse in Nazareth. Excavations carried out underneath the church there have revealed first century burial sites which powerfully suggest an authentic rendering of the Easter story we are familiar with from all four gospels.

Central to our faith, the story of Christ's resurrection provides us with a powerful image in the symbol of the empty tomb. Through his death and resurrection, Christ in his divinity 'ascends' the power of death which no longer can make claim on him. For us, death can visit us in many forms as we journey the paths of our life – death of relationships, death of our dreams, death of our youth and death of our plans; to name but a few. As a community of believers, Easter reminds us that it is because of our faith that we too can ascend these deaths.

John's gospel doesn't include a recount of Jesus' ascension. Rather we have the beautiful story of Jesus' encounter with Mary in the garden. On recognizing him, Mary calls out Master, naming him as she knew him in life. Jesus' response is simply



"Don't cling to me..." - in other words: don't hold on to what you imagined me to be. How often we cling to what has been, even though it no longer gives life. It is safer to have a strong grip on that which we can control; that which doesn't challenge us, but invariably doesn't enliven us either.

But the nature of God is resurrection. God is one who continually invites us into new ways

of living even though we grasp on to old habits of banality. We prefer the harbour even though the ocean of possibility beckons!

So the empty tomb reminds us not to cling to what has died but to search for the resurrected Christ in new pathways, new possibilities and new life which will be sources of joy, growth and transformation. Indeed we are an Easter people and our song is Alleluia!

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# ONE YEAR ON

by Sr Elaine Morzone, Spirituality and Mission Development Officer

It is now just over a year ago since I began my ministry in the diocese. My launching pad was the Year of Grace retreat held at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in early March. Since then I have been able to offer retreats in eleven other parishes in the diocese – the theme of this retreat (still available for any interested parish) is “To see more clearly, love more dearly, follow more nearly.” This retreat was also adapted for those desiring a more Marian thrust and presented under the theme “With Mary, let us contemplate the Face of Christ.”

The response of participants in these retreats has indicated that there is a spiritual hunger for a deeper encounter with the person of Christ. Conscious that it is not easy for people in rural areas of the diocese to avail themselves of retreat opportunities, I intend to build up a list of themes that could be made available, with at least one new theme each year. This year, I have added two additional retreat themes – “Christ, Be Our Light” and “New Wine-Fresh Wineskins”. Subject to whether other commitments allow sufficient time for meaningful preparation, I am also willing to consider working on other



Erin McVeigh and St Elaine Morzone sharing a moment at the Mitchell retreat.

themes that may be of special interest to a particular group.

My involvement with parish pastoral councils has been mainly in facilitation of ongoing dialogue or discernment/decision-making sessions, and in the formation of parish councils. For distant parishes, I would be happy to extend my stay in your area so as to maximize the assistance I am able to offer, perhaps taking

the opportunity to work with the parish council as well as endeavouring to offer spiritual enrichment within the parish.

**If you would like a retreat or reflection day in your local community, or if I could be of assistance to your parish pastoral council, please don't hesitate to call me on (07) 4632 4277 or email me at [emorzone@twb.catholic.org.au](mailto:emorzone@twb.catholic.org.au)**

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# CENTACARE TOOWOOMBA WELCOMES PRE-MARRIAGE EDUCATION VOUCHER SCHEME

Centacare Toowoomba Executive Director Barry Sheehan has welcomed the federal government's scheme to provide couples with vouchers for pre marriage education.

Mr Sheehan says the incentive encourages couples to communicate about pertinent issues relating to marriage in preparation for the commitment.

"We are waiting for further details from the Department of Social Services about the scheme but a voucher system is a great way to encourage couples to sit down with trained facilitators and discuss important issues such as lifestyle expectations, spirituality,

values, finance and parenting.

Centacare Toowoomba offers pre marriage education program FOCCUS (Facilitating Open Couple Communication, Understanding & Study) as well as relationship counselling for couples at various stages of their relationship.

"Pre-marriage education might be the last thing couples think about when planning a wedding.

"People typically think of the big things like the wedding venue and honeymoon so I think it's a positive step to have people thinking and talking about pre marriage education programs like FOCCUS," Mr Sheehan said.



Recent research has suggested that couples who participate in pre-marriage education have high marital satisfaction and commitment, lower conflict and are less likely to divorce.

**For more information on FOCCUS, contact Centacare Toowoomba on 1300 477 433.**

## TOOWOOMBA REFUGEE & MIGRANT SUPPORT

**CELEBRATING WOMEN:** Helen Hale, Emily Gentle, Laura Clark, Kim Kath and Deidre Gardener from TRAMS celebrated International Women's Day with the UN's theme "Ending Poverty for Women and Girls through Economic Empowerment".

Information was provided to clients on where they can get support in the community with education, employment and financial advice. Around 20 ladies from the African community attended as well as volunteers and staff from MDA. A guest speaker from South Sudan shared her story followed by other ladies who stood up to share their own stories. There was lots of international food and dancing!





# ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLES SERVICE

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**ANNIVERSARY:** This year marks 10 years of Centacare Toowoomba's Indigenous youth program 'Whaddup'. The program provides a drug and alcohol free environment, reinforcing healthy lifestyle choices and deterring youth from risk taking behaviours. To celebrate the 10th anniversary of Whaddup a fun day will be held at Wine Drive Park in Toowoomba on Sunday, May 18. Everyone is invited to come along and join in the activities including rides, stalls, Indigi sports and a Whaddup reunion special – Where are they now?

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# INNOVATIVE COFFEE OUTLET **WINS** SOCIAL JUSTICE **AWARD**

By Mark Copland



From Left – Paul Antonio, Mayor of Toowoomba Regional Council, David Burrett, Bounce, Bishop Robert McGuckin, Diocese of Toowoomba, Dan Stewart, Bounce, Mark Copland, Social Justice Commission

BOUNCE is the winner of the 2013 Social Justice Award for Toowoomba. "Bounce is a great example of what a social enterprise can achieve in a local community," stated Executive Officer Dr Mark Copland. They do far more than serve great coffee. They have helped to make our streetscape far more interactive and interesting. Their energy on Ruthven St is infectious and the smiles they bring to people every day is a gift for all of us.

Bounce goes beyond a charity model of support to one of justice where people facing employment barriers are given an opportunity to work and have their dignity enhanced in the process. We

congratulate those who have worked so hard to make Bounce a reality. The imagination, courage and hard work that they have invested in the business are outstanding. As their motto states, "It more than what's in the cup". Every day Bounce helps to break down stereotypes and stigma around mental health and other areas of disadvantage in the Toowoomba community.

In a short amount of time social enterprises have started to make a real mark in the Toowoomba community. Bounce has been one of the pioneers of this exciting development.

It was fitting that Bounce received its award on International Human

Rights Day. This is the tenth year of the Social Justice Award which recognizes the work of local individuals and organisations in the area of social justice. Previous recipients have worked in the field of refugees, affordable housing, disability advocacy, Indigenous youth work, protecting the environment and agricultural land and education. The award ceremony took place in the Toowoomba Town Hall. Part of the ceremony included the sharing of some stunning local Aboriginal art depicting Catholic Social Teaching. It concluded with a rendition of "From Little Things Big Things Grow", by Commission member Brett Rangiira.



# TOOWOOMBА DIOCESE WANTS EVERYBODY TO WALK THE TALK IN MAY

The theme for Reconciliation Week this year is "Walk the Talk" and that's exactly what the Social Justice Commission for the Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba is intending to do.

They have formed a Recognise Working party to help educate the wider community around the move to finally recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Australian Constitution. "Many people don't realize that it is still possible under our current Constitution for a state to prevent a group of citizens from voting on the basis of their race," stated Executive Officer for the Social Justice Commission, Dr Mark Copland.

The working party has invited community leaders to a briefing lunch on the 15th April. This lunch will help individuals and organisations inspire others to join them in a



**Walk the Talk: Bishop Robert McGuckin, Fr Brian Sparksman, Dr Mark Copland and supporters promoting the Recognise campaign**

community walk taking place on May 31st. "In 1967 more than 90 percent of Toowoomba residents voted YES in the Referendum which helped to bring about positive change for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across the nation. We believe we can be a part

of making history once again," stated Dr Copland. The Walk will begin at 7.00 am at Peace Haven Park in Highfields visiting local sites of cultural significance. The Recognise campaign is supported by all major political parties and has Australian of the Year Adam Goodes as its patron.



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# LAUNCH OF PROJECT COMPASSION



Ready to serve: Bishop Robert McGuckin (right) with student leaders as they prepare for Project Compassion during Lent.

TOOWOOMBA diocese kicked off the annual Project Compassion appeal last week with a student-leader commissioning Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral.

Bishop Robert McGuckin, assisted by Fr Peter Dorfield, celebrated Mass on the night of March 1 and blessed and commissioned 17 student leaders.

The leaders came from St Mary's College, St Joseph's College and St Saviour's College, with out-of-towners all the way from St Joseph's College,

at Stanthorpe, and Dalby's Our Lady of the Southern Cross College.

After Mass, at St Patrick's parish centre, each student received a Caritas T-shirt and had the opportunity to talk about their schools' plans for fundraising and promoting poverty awareness.

Among those in attendance were Caritas Australia's Brisbane diocesan director Joe Foley, Toowoomba's new director Robyn-Anne Lovell and former director Veronica White.

Maureen Cesari, a 2013

Nepal immersion participant, gave a 20-minute talk about her experiences in Nepal with an accompanying slide show.

A number of parents, teachers and principals also attended the function, including St Mary's Michael Newman and Kaye Picton; St Saviour's Margaret Battle; Megan Mahoney, from St Joseph's, Stanthorpe; and principal John Hegarty and deputy principal Brian Hobson, from Our Lady of the Southern Cross College, Dalby.



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# CARITAS UPDATE

By Robyn-Anne Lovell



Some of the participating student leaders with Bishop McGuckin at the Project Compassion launch



Bishop McGuckin lighting the Caritas candles for student leaders from St. Saviour's College and St. Mary's College.

Caritas Australia Toowoomba office said goodbye to our lovely, long-time volunteer Diocesan Director Veronica White recently as she embarks on a new phase of her life. I took over the job in January and plunged myself head-first into finding my way around the office and making preparations for the promotion of Project Compassion. And it has all been a wonderful experience!

On 1st March Project Compassion for 2014 was launched by Bishop Robert McGuckin at St Patrick's Cathedral, with a mass of celebration and a Commissioning Ceremony for 17 students from Diocesan Catholic Schools. Some students travelled from as far away as Dalby and Stanthorpe. The mass was followed by light refreshments in the Cathedral

Parish Centre, where the audience was entertained by a presentation and slide show by one of Caritas Australia's Immersion participants in Nepal, Maureen Cesari. Also in attendance was Caritas Diocesan Director for the Archdiocese of Brisbane, Joe Foley, who also participated in the Nepal Immersion in 2013.

On 24th and 25th February I also assisted with the Caritas Just Leadership Days conducted by Caritas Australia Global Education Advisor, Susan Bentley, at Mater Dei and Downlands. Primary and secondary students from 10 Diocesan schools attended and enjoyed the creative activities, games and music incorporated into learning about and acting upon the creation of a just world.

Since the launch of PC 2014, I have

been very busy presenting talks at weekend masses about the work of Caritas Australia, including a short outline of the story for each week. The warm reception by many Toowoomba parishes has been amazing – I have been able to speak unrestricted by content or time, and without compromise. The commitment and full Parish participation, with brilliant displays of Caritas envelopes, boxes, and weekly pages in Church bulletins dedicated to each story, demonstrates to me the pledge by each Parish to assist in fighting injustice, establishing dignity and eliminating poverty. For my first few months with Caritas, I wish to say a huge thank-you and I hope to catch up with many more people in the near future. Here's hoping for another successful PC campaign.





## PLEASE SUPPORT PROJECT COMPASSION

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# SPREADING THE CIRCLE OF SPRED

By Loretta Coman

The circle is a symbol with extensive meaning... it is universal, sacred and divine. It represents the infinite nature of energy, and the inclusivity of the universe. A 'google search' of the symbolism of circles will reveal a myriad of ideas and material – inclusion, wholeness, focus, unity, nurturing, initiation - and the list goes on. Circles suggest motion and motion implies life. Formed by a continuous line with no beginning or ending a circle has no rough edges or sharp corners, it facilitates a flow of energy both clockwise and anti-clockwise.

The simple wedding band speaks of a profound union of love; the Olympic rings proclaim a spirit of solidarity, the mandala, the universal symbol of integration, harmony and transformation reflects one's search for the centre, for God. It is therefore not by chance that the circle is such a strong image within the SPRED ministry.

Commenced in Chicago in 1962 as a small circle of people with a vision, SPRED gradually led to the



development throughout the USA, and indeed the rest of the world, of other small circles or groups with a similar desire. In Australia there are currently 39 of these small groups and more than 250 throughout the world. When these small SPRED groups come together and join parish communities, a bigger circle is formed. Then, when everyone is part of the circle, integration and authentic welcome and inclusion can occur.

When we gather for our weekly SPRED session there is a period of quiet, concentrated work, as we seek to let go of the busyness of our

daily lives. Then, prior to gathering to listen to the word of God, each person is invited to form a 'silence circle' signifying a transition from our individual work to being together as one, ready to do something special - in this circle, we are united, we are one.

SPRED is an 'act of faith' carried out by small Catholic faith communities in diverse settings throughout the world. Each parish that forms a SPRED group, each parish that adapts liturgy to honour the needs of our Friends and grace them with dignity, moves the world towards the development of the full circle of humanity.



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# A REFLECTION ON **PEACE & ECUMENISM**

By Fr Brian Sparksman, Episcopal Vicar for Ecumenism and Interfaith Dialogue

Recently Archbishop Desmond Tutu praised the work of Nelson Mandela:

"He made us believe that all, **each one of us**, is made of goodness. We are made for caring, we are made for loving, we are made for compassion, we are made for laughter, we are made for peace."

It is worth noting that the documents from the Second Vatican Council dealing with Ecumenism and Interfaith dialogue also make significant use of the word Peace.

Medieval sources say that Peace can refer to, **reconciliation, tranquility, covenant or agreement and the absence of hostility**. At its best "Living Church in Rural Queensland" can encompass all those attributes.

In our area, in 1996, such commitment to Church Unity gathered Anglicans, Catholics, Lutherans and Uniting Church members together for a Conference "Being Church in Rural Queensland" [BCIRQ].

Since then there has been a variety of such agreements including the Western Region Anglican-Catholic agreement of 15th June 2001, the Injune Covenant of November 2008, the Brisbane Covenant of 29th May 2009.

In our area alone there has been good number of expressions of ecumenical resolve in covenants & agreements; but noticeably the word "peace" was hardly mentioned.

More recently at our James Byrne Centre, in 2009, BCIRQ led to the production of "**Living Church in Rural Queensland**." It is the **only recent document** to mention "Peace." The participants chose as a theme expressing their resolve, the words of St Paul to his friends in Ephesus: "Now in Christ Jesus you who were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our **peace**, in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us."

This document has led further



Newly appointed Episcopal Vicar for Ecumenism and Interfaith Dialogue, Fr Brian Sparksman

to the establishment on 18 October 2013 of a Queensland Churches Together Commission called "Living Church in Rural Queensland". A meeting is scheduled for March 28th at James Byrne Centre with some of the participants in the 2009 gathering to symbolically hand over the document to QCT and to discuss (a) suggestions for personnel for the LCIRQ Commission and (b) ways of reporting the work of that commission back to the diocese/areas involved.

It seems that internationally we now have a new document: "Conflict to Communion" which is very interesting and perhaps challenging to all. Lutherans and Catholics have been on their ecumenical journey for the past 50 years. They already produced the joint Statement on Justification by Faith in 1999. NOW in this recent document, since promoted by Pope

Frances, the Lutheran-Catholic dialogue remarkably looks ahead to celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017 **together!** The lengthy text looks at the joint responsibility for the division of the Western Church in the 16th century, addressing the challenges of healing those memories and working together for reconciliation and common witness to the world.

Martin Junge, General Secretary of the World Lutheran Federation says this event should call us to common witness.

The Catholic representatives responded that the life of the Church needs to be undergoing reform in every age.

The mere existence of the document is truly a signal of **peace**.

May we all do our best to bring that peace into existence.



Leo members visited Granite Belt Support Services for their Open House day in October.

### **P&F Association spread generosity**

The P&F Association generously donated over \$3,000 for the purchase of sports equipment for the Primary Campus in November. This money enabled the purchase of replacement athletics equipment as well as storage equipment. On behalf of the staff and students a huge thank you is extended to P&F President Mrs Nicci Prins and the dedicated members of the P&F Association for their ongoing generosity and support of St Joseph's School.

### **Celebrating School Officers Day**

School Officers' Day is a day to celebrate the valuable contribution School Officers make to supporting quality education in Schools.

School Officers perform a variety of essential and diverse roles in schools. Their professional work in the classroom, administration, libraries, grounds/maintenance, laboratories and in learning support combine to both enhance students' education experience and support the work of teachers.

"School Officer Day is an opportunity to acknowledge the skills, professionalism and commitment of our School Officers. Today we celebrate and recognise the professional contributions that these staff make and to say thank you for their ongoing commitment," Principal Michael McCarthy said. A special morning tea with cake was enjoyed by all staff.

### **Lots to Celebrate**

The Year 4 students conducted their "Celebrate a Citizen" Day on Wednesday 16th October. There was so much to celebrate as each citizen was introduced by a Year 4 student and their contributions to the Community outlined and highlighted.

Councillor Denise Ingram and Mayor Peter Blundell were in attendance to congratulate and present a certificate to each honoured citizen. Councillor Vic Pennisi led the group in stating the Australian Citizenship Affirmation and Principal Michael McCarthy addressed the group, pointing out the importance and benefits of involvement, role models and volunteering in our Community.

Thank you to all the wonderful citizens who were part of our celebration and congratulations to the students for their excellent presentation and public speaking skills. Morning Tea was provided by the parents and enjoyed by all.

### **Leo members visit Granite Belt Support Services**

On Saturday 26th October, several Leo Club members visited Granite Belt Support Services for their Open House day. The group enjoyed a personalised tour of the new building by Mrs Karina Crisp and heard about the amazing work that Granite Belt Support Services do to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities and special needs in the Stanthorpe area. Leo members

were honoured to see firsthand the services that are provided to assist people with disabilities and special needs and their families and carers to be included in all aspects of community life. "After donating funds for several years from various Leo Club fundraisers, it's nice to see it all come together and visit Granite Belt Support Services," Leo President Grace Manahan said.

### **Trail Ride appreciation**

The 10th anniversary of the annual Rivertree Trail Ride may be done and dusted for another year; however the thrill of the successful two day event remains with the committee. Many months of preparation, meetings and organising culminated in what riders have described to be the best ride yet. Numerous emails were received Monday morning from many happy riders who thoroughly enjoyed the popular ride at Half Moon. Comments about the amazing country, how the whole team pulled together like a well-oiled machine to the great camping area, first rate catering, clean and well maintained amenities, to helpful and friendly staff, all added to a very positive atmosphere and good feedback for the committee. A huge thank you is extended to all the committee, volunteers, co-ordinators, and sponsors for the raffle, generous donors and the riders who came and supported this major fundraiser for St Joseph's School. Congratulations to Sharon Newman winner of the \$1,000 cash raffle prize (Ticket no. 3628). The Trail Ride was held over the week-end of 23 and 24 November.



# ST THERESA'S PARISH

## A VIBRANT, INCLUSIVE AND WELCOMING COMMUNITY!



Australia Day festivities celebrated in the parish



RCIA candidates and team

In recent months members of St Theresa's community has had the opportunity to celebrate life in a variety of ways. On Sunday morning of the 26th January, the community celebrated the diversity of life and people in this country with a moving liturgy followed by service of damper and tea by members of the Hospitality and Welcome team.

On Friday evening of the 15th

March, the community gathered for Nibbles and Notes with an Irish theme. We were entertained by Isabella Ryan and Lauren Salmond with cello and voice respectively. Melissa Philp and Anne Thomas accompanied our performers. Peter Kenny and his band of friends also provided entertainment and accompaniment with Irish music and song which stirred the heart. The evening began with wine and



Irish night attendees enthralled by music and entertainment

cheese served by the Hospitality and Welcome Team and at the close, everyone enjoyed a light supper prepared by the Parish Family Groups.

The Parish is currently preparing two candidates for reception into the faith through the RCIA Journey. The candidates have been enthusiastically supported in their preparation by a number of parishioners.

# PROGRAM BRINGS PEOPLE **TOGETHER**

By Narelle McIntyre



Participants from the various churches gathered for the Lenten program.

This year's Lenten journey in the Dalby and district community has taken on a new and exciting dimension.

Representatives from the Anglican, Catholic, Lutheran and Uniting Church communities have come together to follow the Programme "You Have Set Us Free" produced by the Brisbane Archdiocese.

A further group has formed to journey this Lent using "Walking the Way of Mercy

and Simplicity" produced by the Sydney Archdiocese.

In all, there are eight groups operating (seven in Dalby and one in Bowenville) which have attracted approximately 80 participants!

This initiative was first discussed late last year at one of the monthly Churches Together dinners.

During the February dinner this year, hosted by St Joseph's Catholic community, Sister Elaine Morzone gave a very personal reflection on her experience of

Ecumenism that stemmed from building relationship with others.

Details of the group meetings were distributed that evening and all were invited to attend and to spread the word to their respective faith communities.

Obviously Sister Elaine's message touched a chord, as those journeying together through scripture, discussion, prayer and reflection have gained a deeper understanding of one another as this combined Lenten journey has evolved.

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# 68TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF MR JOHN & MRS SHEILA FREEGARD, MITCHELL

Congratulations to John and Sheila Freegard of Mitchell who celebrated 68 years of marriage on Australia Day, 26 January, 2014. John and Sheila are an amazing couple who are devoted to each other and who have also served the Mitchell community for a very long time.

John and Sheila met while working at the Royal Navy at Rocklea. John who was a member of the British Royal Navy and a qualified carpenter was posted from England to Australia to help out in Australia after the end of World War II. John and 1500 members of the British Royal Navy were posted to Archerfield Aerodrome Queensland in January 1945 to assemble 300 new planes to be used in the war against Japan. Sheila was working at the Royal Navy Office at Rocklea and hers and John's paths crossed and they fell in love with John asking Sheila to marry him. Sheila told John she would not be able to leave her Mother who was in ill health so John got discharged from the Navy in Sydney in 1945. John and Sheila were married at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Rosalie on Australia Day, 1946 as this was the closest Catholic Church to Sheila's family who lived at Rainworth.

In the early years of their marriage John and Sheila bought a hotel business off Sheila's brother at Yaraka near Blackall. They were there for a few years and then bought a hotel at Nebo near Mackay and lived there for a number of years. In 1962 John and Sheila came to Mitchell. Bonus Downs was a large grazing property and was being split up into five blocks. John and Sheila drew a block in the land ballot and named their property Ekari Park. They lived on the property for over thirty years and raised their



son Peter. In 1992 Sheila moved into town followed by John after the property was sold in 1994.

Both John and Sheila have contributed immensely to the community. Sheila's passion has been volunteering for the Red Cross among others. John is a stalwart of the Mitchell Returned Services League and is a member of the Mitchell Show Society and has been for many years. In 2006 John was awarded the Australia Day Citizenship Award by the Booringa Shire Council. Over the years he volunteered his carpentry skills at St Patrick's School and St Columba's Parish.

John and Sheila have been blessed with a loving family with wonderful support from their son Peter and wife Rosie. They have two grandchildren Bridget and Matt and have recently been blessed with a great granddaughter Bella, daughter of Bridget, who is now five months old.

John and Sheila have been blessed with many gifts and live in their own home and both still drive. Asked what the secret of

their long, happy and healthy life is Sheila says it is just the luck of the draw. She believes they have just been very lucky and both her and John have been very fortunate.

St Columba's Parish, Mitchell congratulated John and Sheila on achieving this wonderful milestone and wished them many special moments ahead blessed with good health and happiness. Fr Jamie Collins gave a blessing to Sheila at the end of Mass celebrated on Saturday, 25 January, 2014 and Sheila addressed the congregation thanking everyone for their good wishes. She also offered many thanks to Donna Burke who had presented lovely flowers and card on behalf of the Parish to her and John on this important milestone.

We thank John and Sheila for their wonderful contribution to Mitchell and in particular, to St Columba's Parish and wish them all the best for the future.

# WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN CHARLEVILLE

By Sr Elizabeth O'Keeffe



The Preps with teacher aide, Tracey Irvine, and teacher, Leah Stirton.

At the beginning of Advent our Vietnamese members provided us with this beautiful crib for the Christmas celebrations and as a parish in January we celebrated the Lunar New Year with them with a cold drink and nibbles after the Saturday evening Mass. It was a good opportunity for us to learn more about their customs.

Also in Advent we welcomed Fr Darryl Irvine who will be with us for the next few months. We hope he enjoys his time and his adventures in this part of the diocese as he acclimatises to the heat, the dust and the distances. Already he has had a close encounter with some of our wildlife.

The beginning of the school year has brought many new faces into

our St Mary's Community with the arrival of a number of new teachers and a new contingent of preps.

Two weeks in and school life is humming. Visits from CEO staff, parent/teacher meetings have already occurred. Our school Mass and the installation of our school leaders for the year has also been celebrated.



Back left to right; Hannah McDermott, Principal, Louise Pfingst, Courtney Gemmell, Leigh Winters, Fr Peter Doohan, Erin Corcoran. Front; Jessica Donnelly Absent; Leah Stirton



The Grade 6 and 7 school leaders receiving their badges from the Principal, Louise Pfingst, and Fr Peter Doohan.



Logan Sheppard and Jack Double placing the offering of the children's school work during the opening Mass.



# MEN FOR ALL SEASONS GROUP

By Dick Neal

The Men For All Season's group was established in June 2013 as a vehicle for the men of our Parish Community and their friends, all men are welcome, to get together and share one another's company. The inaugural meeting of the group occurred on the 17th June 2013.

The group meets on the first Monday of the month – activities generally alternate with a cuppa and a guest speaker in our Parish Hall one month followed by a trip away the next month – meetings

in the Parish Hall commence at 9.30 am and the leaving time for the trips away are determined to suit the distance travelled etc.

During 2013 the group had five meetings in the hall. The speakers covered a variety of subjects including National Broadband Network, Murray/Darling Basin Fisheries, and Vietnam. The two trips away were to Bowenville Reserve and Loudon Weir to look at the resnagging programme and fish ladder (both initiatives

of the Murray/Darling Basin Committee), and to Gatton to visit the Lights on the Hill Memorial, Cultural Centre and Trucking Museum. All of the speakers and the trips away were well received by all members of the group.

All men are welcome and invited to join the group.

**Please contact the Parish Office on 46 359 555 or Dick Neal on 4635 5565 for more information if you are interested in joining the group.**

## Calendar of Events for the first half of 2014:

**7th April** Parish Hall with speaker Kevin Ford on Samoa.

**5th May** Trip to the Bribie Island Fisheries Experimental Station.

**2nd June** Parish Hall with speaker Denis McCarthy on his experience in researching Australian Military History and visiting the Battlefields.

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# HIGHFIELDS HAPPENINGS

## PASSION FOR PATCHWORK DELIGHTS PARISHIONERS AND VISITORS

Mary-Rose Harms has always had a passion for Patchwork. Her recent project being a Patchwork Mural (Quilt) gracing the walls of Christ the King Chapel situated at the James Byrne Centre, where we worship each Sunday. Ever since it has been hung, it has been a talking point of delighted Parishioners and visitors who always stop to look, admire and often times photograph this beautiful piece of Patchwork Magic.

Mary-Rose came forward when it was decided to hang something in the Chapel to have a tangible representation of the Mary of the Southern Cross Parish, because the Diocesan Chapel is used by many different groups. She was about to embark on one of her Caravan trips along with her husband Bill who often works away and offered to create it

whilst she was in the peace and quiet in their van, where she always has her sewing machine set up. This has been a practice for some time, and Mary-Rose often has sewing meetings where she teaches fellow Caravan Park dwellers (girls) to quilt.

The quilt itself is an amazing masterpiece containing many different symbols. The stars of the Southern Cross are in the top right hand corner. These represent our newly formed Parish named for Mary of the Southern Cross who is also the Patron of the Toowoomba Diocese.

The central feature of the quilt is a gum tree, standing amid a colourful landscape and placed within an arch. The tree is a symbol of the beautiful natural surroundings seen where Christ the King Chapel is built. The tree also reminds us of the cross on

which Jesus died. The bird is a symbol of our Parishioners as we move through the landscape/ life, and the arch is a symbol of the traditions on which our 21st century Church and it's celebrations are founded.

The bottom left corner shows a winding road and cupped hands. These figures were taken from a design by our Parish Council to depict God's hands holding us as we journey life. They can also be thought of as our own hands as we care for others. The fallen leaves in the foreground remind us of the continual change and renewal in our daily lives. The Holy Trinity may also be found in the quilt: Father (hands), Son (cross/ tree) and Holy Spirit (bird).

Thank you Mary-Rose for this wonderful gift and if you are out our way at Highfields, pop in and have a look for yourself.

## HUNDREDS FLOCK TO CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Hundreds of Parishioners from Highfields and it's surrounds once again flocked to Christmas Masses at the Mary MacKillop Catholic School Centre on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. It was the largest crowd we have seen to date, and parishioners with their families and friends lined the walls of the Centre. Fr. Brian invited the children to sit around the Altar to allow more seating for the elderly and those wishing to sit throughout the Mass. Carols were sung before Mass and overhead projections with words to carols were available for the congregation to sing. Hearing the congregation singing, as we neared the MacKillop Centre to attend Mass gave us a warm and welcoming feeling.

With standing room only, Parish Priest Fr. Brian Noonan celebrated

the birth of Christ. The Altar, which looked fantastic decorated with the bread and the wine was facing the Parishioners this year. You could hear a pin drop, as the attentive congregation watched Fr. Brian, as he celebrated the Mass. Overheads with pictures and words depicting the various parts of the Mass, such as the consecration of the Eucharist which were placed on either side of the Altar and also the beautiful Nativity Scene, with the children themselves as Mary and Joseph and Angels, were a credit to those responsible for them. A lovely sight to see was the children gathered around the Altar as Fr. Brian consecrated the Eucharist. As the huge crowd made their way to receive the Blessed Eucharist, they sang the hymns and some even wished others a Merry Christmas. It was just the most beautiful feeling to be among the happy congregation. Among the main

features were the hymns "Star Child" and "You Raise me up" on the visual display with pictures to correspond with the words as they were sung. This was a talking point, as everyone gathered together catching up outside the Centre after Mass. Thank you Fr. Brian and his helpers for a magic Christmas experience.

## ALTAR SERVERS PICNIC

On Sunday 19th January, Mary of the Southern Cross Catholic Parish had their Altar Servers Picnic in appreciation for all the good work they have done during the year. This event is always lots of fun and this one was no exception. John Ryan brought along his catamaran again, which had proved to be great fun in the past. The weather this time was just perfect. The wind got up in the afternoon, so John was able





Mary-Rose Harms standing beside her masterpiece.

to “who woof” his skills and give many of the girls and boys the thrill of flying in the cat on one leg. Thanks again John, you really made the day for the young and not so young ones. All up, there were 10 to 14 altar servers able to attend, which was just great. Mark Rowland was in charge of the sausages and they were enjoyed by the children and their parents. Mark is also the co-ordinator and trainer of the Altar Servers. Mark has a wonderfully relaxed disposition and does a fantastic job training the children, who all love him. We are very proud of our Altar Servers in our Parish and feel that the Picnic was a well deserved thank you.

## OUR FANTASTIC LUNCHEON GROUP

A group of women in the Parish of “Mary of the Southern Cross”, Highfields, in the Toowoomba Diocese have been meeting

socially for birthdays and lunch for some time now. We meet once a month for birthdays and lunch, and it was decided instead of a birthday gift, we would place money in an envelope to the value of what we might spend on the gift, and give it to a chosen charity, whilst shouting the birthday girl lunch. The envelope is unmarked and the Charity is drawn out of a hat at the end of the previous year. So far, the charities have been very worthy and grateful. This year we have drawn the “Father Ray Foundation”, a marvelous charity started in Thailand by Fr. Ray Brennan, a redemptorist priest. This is an orphanage for disabled children, a day care centre, homeless children’s village, an outreach drop in centre and vocation school for people with a disability. Fr. Ray’s goal was not to change the world, but to only teach children enough to hold their heads high.

Our group has been a great success and for the year ending 2012, we raised \$1521.00. Toowoomba St. Vincent de Paul was our charity this year, as a conference was opened in our Parish at Highfields recently. St. Vincent de Paul have received to date \$886.00 from our functions during the year, and they requested that we forward the remaining amount of our money to Caritas Philippines Disaster Fund. Caritas were extremely grateful and we received a beautiful thank you note and a certificate of appreciation. This makes everything all worthwhile and what a fun day we have for everyone. At the end of last year we decided to have our other halves on board. This has been a great success and the fun and laughter heard around the lunch venue certainly makes occasions such as these a roaring success.

# FATHER BYRNE'S FAREWELL



Students and staff singing the Irish Blessing with Fr Byrne



Tay-Ana Lister receiving a cupcake from Fr Byrne

Sacred Heart students and staff shared a beautiful school Mass and morning tea as a fond farewell to their Parish Priest, Father James Byrne on Friday 22nd November. Principal Mr Chris Rosentreter thanked Fr Byrne for his leadership and support of the Sacred Heart Community and described it as "a very momentous occasion" as they farewelled him after 32 years as Parish Priest.

The students thanked Fr Byrne with song and verse and presented him with a watch. Teacher Aide, Mrs Becc Wheeler wrote a poem

especially for the day and students and staff members recited it in parts. At the end, the whole community said the last line with gusto: "We'll miss you Fr Byrne!" Cup cakes and cordial were given out on the grassy oval outside the church after the Mass.

Year 3 student, Tay-Ana Lister said: "We sang the Irish Blessing and Fr Byrne was singing along with it too". Year 6 student, Shane Werne added: "I think he felt happy because we cared so much."

Lakeisha Draper, Year 7 student, recalled the days when Fr Byrne used to visit the classrooms to tell

them about God. He also told some stories of his life. One story that surprised them all was his boxing days. Lakeisha said: "He used to do boxing and he broke his nose."

Mrs Maria Booth, APRE, who organised the Mass and morning tea, commented that Fr Byrne was "obviously very touched by the children's contribution to his farewell." Year 6 student, David Goleby summed it up as: "He was feeling happy because of all the good times we've had with him".

**The school community wishes Fr Byrne a very happy retirement.**

## NEWS FROM QUILPIE

Mini Vinnie's members at St. Finbarr's organised a Pink Day to raise funds for Friends in Isolation a support group for outback women recovering from cancer.

The School leaders iced and decorated cupcakes for morning tea. Pink was the colour day with the boys in the Junior Rugby League proudly wearing their pink football socks! The students formed a 'live' pink ribbon and released pink balloons as they remembered those women who had gone through gruelling experiences.

During the last term, Bishop

Robert McGuckin visited the parish and celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation with Rhys Lamond, Cody Bowen and Finn Hall. The students in P-2 made Mitres which they wore to welcome Bishop Robert. Perhaps some future Bishops?

Students from St. Finbarr's Quilpie finished 2013 with a visit to Gyrica Gardens the retirement Village in Quilpie. They presented the songs and dances they had showcased the evening before at their Awards Night.

The residents of Gyrica Gardens were joined by other Quilpie seniors for a Christmas lunch organised

by Sue Carr, Quilpie Shire Council Health Promotions Officer. The audience enjoyed the items and were very happy to hear the brand new St. Finbarr's School song which had been officially launched the evening before. The song had been composed by Josh Arnold, a visiting musician and composer who was present at the launch to sing and play with the students. The School song received a standing ovation!

2013 was a busy year at St. Finbarr's and, now in 2014, we look forward to new and exciting experiences.



# SURPRISES IN THE SOUTH-WEST CORNER

By Sr Maureen Andrews

The worshipping community in Cunnamulla although small is eager and enthusiastic to deepen the life of the community. At Christmas we were given the chance to do just that when three families of Tongan workers from the local grape farm joined us for the Christmas service and the supper served afterwards. Reverend Douglas King and his wife Vivien, from the Uniting Church, who were in Cunnamulla for a three month locum also joined us. We reciprocated by attending their service in the Anglican Church on Christmas morning.

It is worth mentioning that we had an ecumenical Christmas service at Hungerford. Although it is a town of seven people around 45 people gathered to pray, sing and construct the crib. At the end of the service we all joined hands in a circle and prayed and blessed each other. They refused to go until we had sung Joy to the World. Even Santa's imminent arrival could not move them from them hall!! The Catholics led the service with the Uniting Church and the Salvation Army team taking part.

Australia Day was celebrated the eve before with a pie and peas night after the service. The church was appropriately decorated to suit the theme. Even though one tray of pies was burnt we did not let that dampen our community spirit.

The week-end after school started we had a special service for the teachers. The Principal, Cara Haig and the APRE, Polly Crawford, delivered the homily on the gospel text of the Beatitudes showing us how the world viewed life and then the guidelines Jesus had for his disciples and friends who wanted to enter in to reign of God. At the conclusion of the service the congregation stood with raised hands and prayed a



Kath Sidebottom's farewell: from L-R Mary Haig, Kimberley Meurant (granddaughter), Kath, Carmel Meurant (daughter).

special blessing for the teachers who have the task of bringing a new generation of young people to 'become who they are' and take their place in the kingdom. This text fitted in well with the school liturgy held on the Friday where the theme was love and its importance in our lives. The children made appropriate decorations to fit the them.



Pictured above is the altar for the school liturgy.

At the end of February we gathered as a community to farewell Kath Sidebottom who is moving to Beerwah. Thirty-seven members of the church community and other friends

enjoyed a luncheon where they paid tribute to Kath, a gracious and gentle woman who will be sorely missed. Kath has lived in the south west corner all her life so it will be a sadness to leave this place of hot, hot weather and beautiful skies. Val Bucholz made a presentation and short speech on behalf of all the community.

At the end of 2013 I started moving around the outlying towns and stations with the postman in order to meet people and to assess their needs. It was amazing to find that one run was 551 kilometres – and that was not the longest. This is a great way to meet people and discover what their needs are in this dry land during this long drought.

As was said in the beginning life is full of surprises. I met an aboriginal man who is only Quaker past Toowoomba. He has lived overseas for many years and worked with the Catholic Worker Movement. We are to meet for a cuppa - this could be the beginning of many interesting conversations.

# ST MARY'S EMBRACING TECHNOLOGY

Submitted by Mr Michael Newman (Principal)



St Mary's College students diligently honing their skills on the new Apple iPads

St Mary's College is excited to announce that it has embraced the Apple iPad for educational programs for all Year 8, 9 and 10 students last year and Laptops for Year 11 & 12 students.

The focus of this strategic direction is to:

- Support and enable successful independent learning
- Allow students to collaborate with peers and teachers using media rich technologies
- Engage students in a personal and differentiated learning journey
- Embrace critical thinking and problem-solving while enabling students to develop their creativity.

Students may still be required to use pen and paper in some contexts but ultimately, we are looking at moving with the times and 21st Century learning and teaching.

St Mary's College Principal, Mr

Michael Newman says "The 1-to-1 Apple iPad and Laptop Program is a very exciting initiative for the boys. This modern ICT tool will provide our boys with 24 hour access to information, research, and learning anywhere, anytime."

Head of Department E-Technology, Mr Brendon Willocks says, "We see the iPad as another step forward and an opportunity to revisit and challenge our views of curriculum and make learning even more relevant and engaging."

"Our style and approach to teaching must emphasise how learning is achieved in the 21st Century. Hence, we have embraced a technologically-rich learning environment through the use of iPad and Laptop technology," Mr Willocks explained.

Mr Willocks also believes "Students will not just be consuming information;

they will be developing products that are creative, demonstrating critical thinking and problem-solving skills and are being given the opportunity to personalise and differentiate their learning."

St Mary's College is excited to announce this program for its students and looks forward to the possibilities that this program will bring to learning and teaching.

St Mary's College aims to promote excellence in education and provides challenging and stimulating learning experiences and opportunities which enable all students to explore and build on their gifts and talents. The College is also aware of the importance of providing students with learning experiences which enrich them with skills, knowledge and values that will ensure a successful transition from school to further training, education and/or the workplace.



# KAVIENG FRIENDS VISIT DIOCESE

By Sharon Collins

Since 2007, this diocese has formed a close allegiance with a school in Papua New Guinea – Our Lady of the Sacred Heart (OLSH) International School, Kavieng, with Principal, Greg Neville, having very close association with Toowoomba Diocese for a long time. From 2008, teaching staff from all over the diocese have been sent on immersion and worked in the school at various points in time. In order to further this connection, the Toowoomba Diocese was privileged to host three very special guests who were partaking in their own very special immersion experience. Grace Savitas (Head of Primary), Raymond Rangatin (APRE) and Joseph Takaundo (Special Education Teacher) travelled to the Toowoomba Diocese, visiting those schools where teachers who have visited OLSH are teaching. In addition to this, they attended some RE Curriculum planning days in Toowoomba before traveling to the various schools.

It was a busy three weeks of travel and stopovers, which saw the three OLSH teachers journey



Joseph and Grace in traditional dress

from Toowoomba to Warwick and Stanthorpe, St George and Pittsworth, as well as visiting some of our Toowoomba schools. For many of our teachers who have enjoyed the PNG immersion, it was a time of reconnection and celebration. Grace, Ray and Joe shared with staff and students their story and culture. While the three weeks were full, it was truly a time where we, as a diocese, could return the warm hospitality a few of

us have been blessed to receive from our Kavieng friends over the years.

**Many thanks to the staff who so generously provided travel and accommodation at various stages, and the schools who accepted our friends into your community; your warmth and hospitality was appreciated, and the memories are a gift that Grace Ray and Joe will have with them always.**



Sharon Collins and Grace Savitas in traditional dress for the 'paddle dance'



Grace and students from Our Lady of Lourdes



Staff from the Catholic Education Office meet up with OLSH friends



John Meneely receives a traditional gift (hand-woven bilm) from our PNG visitors

# CHINCHILLA END OF YEAR ART SHOW AND CHRISTMAS CONCERT



To mark the end of the 2013 academic year, the students of St Joseph's Chinchilla celebrated with a wonderful showcase of their artistic and musical talents.

Parents and friends were invited to the school's multi-purpose hall to view artworks the children had created in their weekly art lessons, led by Art teacher Mrs

Helen Maclean. Self portraits, pipe cleaner animals, clay pots and pieces, whole class canvas creations and individual works meant that all students from P-7 had work to show to their families.

The audience were then treated to a Christmas concert, where each class performed a song or poem. Santa even made an appearance,

although he looked a lot like our teacher-aide, Miss Katie Walsh.

The large crowd in attendance then enjoyed a family BBQ in the school grounds, prepared by the Parents and Friends Association. It was a lovely night to come together and celebrate a successful year. Well done to the students of St Joey's!





# STUDENT LEADERS: STEPHEN'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL



Student leaders and staff of St Stephen's Catholic School

On Friday 21 February, St Stephen's Catholic School held its opening Mass for the school year. At the heart of the school's Mass was the induction of student leaders for 2014, together with the announcement of the executive members who will assume leadership in the school's service based Mackillop Club. While the Mass was significant to the Year 6 and 7 students who were all inducted as school leaders, it was also significant in the fact that 2014 heralds the end of Year 7 in

Queensland primary schools.

The theme of the Mass centred upon the premise that... "A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way". Students explored the concept of leadership through the exploration of key values such as teamwork, goal setting, empathy, understanding and encouragement. As a result, the Year 6/7 cohort was challenged to understand that leadership is more than one person. It is about recognising the gifts of each individual

student and more importantly, the gifts each student is for one another. Being the student leaders of St Stephen's School, the Year 6 and 7 students are entrusted by their fellow peers to lead them in a way that reflects the culture and mission of the school which invites them to be people who "Strive for success and celebrate our spirit". Our school motto is very much in keeping with Jesus' vision for leadership. We must always strive for success and celebrate God's spirit in our lives.

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# MOVERS AND SHAKERS MAKES A DIFFERENCE



Anna Yates, Charlee Carey, Sarah de Byl and Grace Manahan at Movers & Shaker 2013

For over 20 years young people from across Queensland have been developing their formation as Christian leaders by attending the annual Movers and Shakers program in Toowoomba.

The Movers and Shakers program, a leadership training program for young people aged 16 to 19, will be held again this year at the James Byrne Centre from April 7 to 11.

The Toowoomba Diocese had three great participants attend from Stanthorpe last year and they hope to see more there from the Toowoomba Diocese this year. Anna Yates, Grace Manahan and Charlee Carey were sponsored by their school St Joseph's Stanthorpe to attend Movers and Shakers in 2013. As preparations move into high gear for this year's program, the girls reflect on the many

benefits they received through their involvement in last year's program.

"Throughout this past year we have found that Movers and Shakers have significantly assisted us with our participation in both school and wider community activities. Movers and Shakers supported us with the development of self-confidence, especially in our own abilities as leaders, which we are able to put into practise in our final year of secondary education" the girls shared. The girls went on to talk specifically about the leadership skills that they developed as a result of their involvement in the program. "We have taken many valuable leadership beliefs away with us and strive every day to apply them to our work. These include defining leadership by its practice, not so much in words as in attitude

and actions. Having experience in this program, we believe that a leader is someone who is willing to serve rather than be served and is prepared to be the bridge which connects others" the girls said. The girls were very grateful for having the opportunity to participate in this Christian Leadership Training Program and highly recommend this experience to all students and they hope to see many Toowoomba participants getting involved this year. They offered one final word of encouragement, "If you're looking for an opportunity to challenge, transform and inspire yourself and others, this is the place for you!"

**For more information phone (07) 4632 4277, email [youngcatholic@twb.org.au](mailto:youngcatholic@twb.org.au) or contact your local diocesan youth office.**



# FROM LITTLE THINGS BIG THINGS GROW!

By Sarah de Byl



Anita Hendrie and some of the people who attended the Social Justice Night

When we think about social justice or how we can make a difference in the world, it can seem quite overwhelming as there is so much that can be done and people often end up bewildered, wondering where on Earth they should start and more often than not giving up. But we must start somewhere, even if it seems insignificant, we must begin! And if we've already begun, we must step up! This was the message the young people of the diocese were lucky enough to hear from Anita Hendrie when she came to speak at the Social Justice Night held at the St Anthony's Parish Centre by Young Catholics Toowoomba. Anita's presentation "From little things big things grow ... Making a difference one step at a time" focused on the idea that one gesture, act or person can truly make a difference and challenged participants to pick three things they could do to better their world and when those three



things became easy or a habit to pick three more and to encourage others to do the same. This is how from little things big things grow!

Also included in the night was a chance to speak with some of our Catholic social justice organisations and agencies that work both locally

and globally. The young people enjoyed rich discussions with the organisations and agencies on social justice issues and how they, as individuals, can work alongside the organisations and agencies that attended. The night definitely left us inspired to be M.A.D!

# YOUTH FESTIVAL A GRACED EVENT

By Sarah de Byl



Bishop McGuckin with the Diocese of Toowoomba group at the Festival.

Excited and enthusiastic youth from across the Toowoomba diocese joined over 3000 other young pilgrims from around Australia in Melbourne for the inaugural Australian Catholic Youth Festival. It was the largest national gathering of Catholic young people since Sydney's World Youth Day in 2008.

The Festival, running from December 5 to 7, enabled the diocese's youth to join with young pilgrims from across Australia to celebrate and grow in their faith.

The festival also gave the opportunity to discuss with the Bishops, important topics that impact young people. Over the three days, pilgrims took part in workshops, activities, prayer, catechesis, praise and worship. Each of the sessions

were led by many inspiring, captivating and amazing prominent Catholic figures including many of our Australian Bishops including our own Bishop Robert, and religious as well as other highly regarded speakers. It was also made exceptionally clear that the faith is still very much alive in our young people today.

Bishop McGuckin was hopeful that the young people who attended would share their experience and enthusiasm with others back in the diocese. "For those that attended I am sure that their knowledge of the faith was not only increased but indeed reinforced. It was a graced few days. May the blessings received by those who attended bear fruit in the Diocese" said Bishop McGuckin.

Rachael Harrison from St Patrick's

Parish St George attended as part of the diocesan group and was impressed by the range of speakers and performers. "The speakers were inspirational, with topics that made one think about life, the universe, and everything in general. The energy of the crowd was nothing but fun and positive, and so catchy that you couldn't help but join the dancing crowd. I got to meet different people from all sorts of places - Townsville, Mt. Isa, and Darwin to name a few, as well as getting to meet the more famous people, like Father Rob Galea and Steve Angrisano" Rachel explained.

The positive impact of the inaugural Australian Catholic Youth Festival is being felt across the diocese and hopes are high for future participation in this important national youth event.



# THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL

By Fr Jamie Collins

The second day of this month's Diocesan In-service was dedicated to a reflection given by Fr. John Chalmers on the recent Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium: The Joy of the Gospel*. From the outset of his reflection, Fr. Chalmers made the point that Pope Francis mentions more than 50 times the term 'Encounter'.

Pope Francis writes in strikingly plain language when he issues an invitation to us all to renew our personal encounter with Jesus. He says "I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with

Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day".

He goes on to say that no one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, since "no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord. The Lord does not disappoint those who take this risk; whenever we take a step towards Jesus, we come to realize that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms". (Pope Francis)

These are striking words indeed and resonate in the hearts of all who seek to enrich their personal encounter with Jesus, especially during the seasons of Lent and Easter. This

edition of *Horizons* comes to us in the midst of our liturgies of Holy Week. As we journey through the key moments of Jesus life, death and resurrection, both meaning and purpose is given to our own journey of faith.

As we bask in the joy of the Gospel as Easter people let us do so in the context of our own calling in life. Let us pray for all who are discerning their true and meaningful vocation in life, whether that be to the married or single life, to the priesthood or the religious life ... and may we draw upon the writings of Pope Francis to guide us on our way to encountering more fully the 'Joy of the Gospel'.

## THINKING PRIESTHOOD?



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

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



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For an information package, contact:  
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Email: [stmparish@westnet.com.au](mailto:stmparish@westnet.com.au)  
Phone: (07) 4635 9555  
Address: 71a Ramsay Street,  
Toowoomba QLD 4350

Applications addressing the selection criteria should be received by **30 April 2014**.

# A GENEROUS GIFT



Mary-Anne Mackenzie, Bishop McGuckin, Sheena & Bernard Carty

On 31 March of this year, Bishop Robert McGuckin was delighted to accept a bequest from the Estate of the Late Michael (Frank) Carty. Mr Carty was born and lived his life in the Dalby district.

It was Mr Carty's wish to make a contribution to the Church for the healthcare of elderly people, particularly in the area of mental

health. The gift of \$100,000 is to be used for the continued development of the Dementia Unit at Lourdes for the care and support of residents with that condition.

A lovely morning tea was provided by Lourdes to mark the occasion. Mr Carty's son Bernard and daughter-in-law Sheena presented the gift to Bishop Robert. On hand

to acknowledge the generous gift was Mary-Anne Mackenzie, Care Centre Manager and staff of Lourdes, including some of those who are involved in the care of residents with dementia.

Bishop Robert acknowledged Mr Carty's generosity in supporting the work of the diocese in the ministry of the care of the elderly.



## Outreach to the Future

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

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

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Toowoomba Hospital, Baillie Henderson  
Hospital & USQ: Fr Jack Peard  
Tel: 0418 156 901

## St Vincent's Hospital & Lourdes Home:

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Tel: (07) 4632 0989

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## SPIRITUALITY AND

## MISSION

Sr Elaine Morzone

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Mob: 0458 020 906

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