

Horizons

FREE Publication of the Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba

Focus on the Work of Catholic Education



Sacraments
Celebrated
Across the
Diocese



Communities
Recognise
Wedding
and Birthday
Milestones



Proclaim
Inspires
Parish
Renewal

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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DEADLINES

Editions will be seasonal.
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FROM THE EDITOR

By Michael Hart

Recently I attended the Catholic Digital Media Conference in Sydney and was struck by the incredibly diverse range of ways the Catholic Church reaches its ‘audience’. There were numerous workshops exploring how to effectively reach people using digital media and how we need to keep up to date with the latest in social networking. One of the Keynote Presenters highlighted that we live in an age of enquiry; where people hunger for information and consume data at an incredible rate. As I reflected on what

was being proposed I thought about the importance of ‘connection’. At its core what modern media is about is finding new ways to connect people with each other or with a new product or idea. As a society we have become disconnected and the task of communicators, from a church perspective, is to reestablish the links that unite people.

As a printed medium Horizons doesn’t engage people in the same way that online media does but it does attempt to do something similar; it aims to connect people with each other. It

is fundamentally about sharing what is happening in local communities and rejoicing in their success. In this edition of Horizons it is clear that there is an abundance of incredible pastoral ministries operating across this geographically vast diocese. Congratulations on the amazing work that is so evidently occurring in your local community. Every effort you make brings about change even if it is not immediately obvious. Every effort helps bring about the Reign of God in small but significant ways! 

STAY IN TOUCH
with news from
across the Diocese

Subscribe to the Diocesan Update e-Newsletter.

A regular e-Newsletter featuring goings on from across the Diocese keeping everyone up to date on upcoming events, follow up on events already held, topics of interest, dates to remember and more.

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WESTERN WELCOME WARMS THE HEART



From Bishop Robert McGuckin



Confirmation Millmerran Parish



Confirmation Goondiwindi Parish

Over the last couple of months

I have been doing some travelling and visitation west of Toowoomba. During Catholic Education Week in Cunnamulla I was able to meet all those involved in Catholic education in the surrounding areas. The blessing and opening of the new administration block at Sacred Heart Primary School was also an opportunity to meet the students along with many of their parents.

Later in the week there were similar gatherings in Roma and Toowoomba. Elsewhere in Horizons you will see more detailed reports of the many activities during Catholic Education Week.

In mid August I visited Charleville, Augathella and Quilpie for several days. It was very dry at the time but the welcome was very warm. Father Peter Doohan was a wonderful host and as usual made me very welcome. On Saturday afternoon we drove to Augathella and visited the hospital and aged care facility before celebrating the evening Mass. Kangaroos were plentiful and I even had to shoo them off the path as I walked into the hospital. Hard to believe, I never had that problem visiting Westmead Hospital.

After the evening Mass the congregation gathered in the

presbytery where we shared food and fellowship. On the 80 km night trip back to Charleville the kangaroos were mostly well-behaved and Fr Peter commented at Mass the next morning that the roos must have known I was in the vehicle as they stood to attention on both sides of the road as we drove on.

On Sunday morning we had confirmation and first Eucharist in St Mary's Church at Charleville. Again this was a wonderful gathering and celebration. In the early afternoon we drove some 210 kilometres down the Diamantina Development Road to Quilpie. Sr Margaret Andersen RSJ was expecting us for afternoon tea. Her scones are legendary in that part of the diocese. Again we visited the hospital before celebrating the evening Mass with Confirmation and First Holy Communion. The Eucharistic celebration was greatly enhanced with the small choir led by the young students of St Finbarr's. Later most of the Congregation adjourned to the local hotel where we had dinner.


We spent the night the presbytery at Quilpie and then walked through the town. As we were walking along a utility stopped in the middle of the road the driver calling out to Fr Peter whom he knew. Fr. was informed that the lady was unwell in hospital

and would appreciate a visit. This we did before leaving town. During the Monday morning I was able to visit all classrooms at St Finbarr's.

On the Monday afternoon we returned to Charleville. On Tuesday morning I have the opportunity of visiting each of the classrooms and meet all the students. Later in the day I returned to Toowoomba.

Visiting around the diocese and dropping in on schools is something that I hope to be able to do frequently. You could ask many questions in classrooms and it is also an opportunity for me to ask questions. I can remember in one classroom after the holidays asking a young boy what he had done during the holiday. He replied pign and fishn! I asked him where he had been fishn? He replied I'm not telling you!

May we use our talents to the fullest, be it fishing or whatever. May we use our talents to the fullest and enable others to grow to their full potential and so come to live life in all its fullness. May we rejoice in the opportunities that we have to share in mission Jesus entrusts to each of us as we continue to grow in the knowledge of and of friendship with the Lord.

Bishop Robert McGuckin
Bishop of Toowoomba 

FROM CONFLICT TO COMMUNION

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

In 2017 Lutherans and Catholics are called to the Common Commemoration of the Reformation and this article reflects upon five Ecumenical Imperatives as we move towards this momentous occasion.

We belong to the one Body of Christ. The struggle of the sixteenth century is over. The reasons for mutually condemning each other's faith exist no more. We should reflect on the unity of Christ's Body and seek whatever will bring this unity to serve the community of the body of Christ. Through baptism we recognize each other mutually as Christians.

The First Imperative:

We should always begin from the perspective of unity and not from the point of view of division in order to strengthen what is held in common even though the differences are more easily seen and experienced.

We have defined ourselves against one another and suffered the one-sidedness that has persisted until today as we grapple with certain problems, such as Authority. Problems originating from conflict with one another can only be solved through common effort as in the Joint Declaration on Doctrine of Justification [31.10.1999]. We need each other's experience, encouragement, and critique.

The Second Imperative:

We must let ourselves continuously be transformed by the encounter with the other and by the mutual witness of faith.

Through dialogue we realize that communion amongst us can have different forms and degrees. For 2017 we should renew effort with gratitude for what has already been accomplished. We need patience and perseverance because the road may be longer than expected, without being satisfied with the present situation, with love for one another even in

times of disagreement and conflict, with faith that the Holy Spirit will fulfill Jesus' prayer to the Father prayer that this may happen.

The Third Imperative:

We should maintain our commitment to seek visible unity, elaborating what this means in concrete steps.

We have the task of disclosing afresh to fellow members understanding the gospel and church Tradition, preventing this rereading of tradition from falling back into the old confessional oppositions.

The Fourth Imperative:

We should jointly rediscover the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ for our time.

Our engagement for unity not only serves the church but also the need for the world to believe. The missionary task of ecumenism increases the more

pluralistic our societies become with respect to religion.

The Fifth Imperative:

We should witness together to the mercy of God in proclamation and service to the world.

The ecumenical journey enables us to appreciate together Martin Luther's insight into and spiritual experience of the gospel of the righteousness of God.

The Reformation will be rightly remembered when All interested denominations hear together the gospel of Jesus Christ and allow themselves to be called anew into community with the Lord.

Reflection by Fr Brian Sparksman on Chapter 6. Five Ecumenical Imperatives of "From Conflict to Communion" – the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and the Pontifical Council for promoting Christian Unity (PCPCU) © 2013



By Fr Brian Sparksman

REMEMBERING SR MONICA LOCHART

By Sisters of Mercy, Brisbane

Monica Josephine was born in Dalby to Mary Alice (Maher) and Oswald Joseph Lockhart on 9 August 1928. She had one sister, Patricia and a brother, John.

Monica entered the Sisters of Mercy on 2 February 1947 and professed her vows on 14 January 1940. Following Profession, and known as Sr Mary Martina, she spent one year as cook in Mitchell, and this was followed by thirty two years teaching in the Mercy schools at Goondiwindi, Hamilton, Wynnum, Mitchell, Roma, Warwick, Darra, Boonah and Rosewood. At both Boonah and Rosewood, she was Principal and teacher. During her teaching years, she was known affectionately by her friends and colleagues as Marty, a name that remained a term of endearment, even when in recent years she returned to using her baptismal name of Monica.


Following a year of Spiritual Renewal, Monica moved to a new ministry of Pastoral Worker, where for twenty three years she was a cheerful and life giving presence to the communities of Cunnamulla and Charleville. What a breadth of extra community

involvement Monica accepted! For five years she had been Secretary of the Catholic Primary Principals Association, and then in the West was Secretary of the Blue Nursing Service in Cunnamulla for six years, three years as President of the Cunnamulla Neighbourhood Centre Committee and a year as President of the Anglican Mothers' Union in Charleville. She was well loved in these communities, and significant testimony was given to this across the many farewells that were given to Monica and her great Mercy friend Margaret Kanowski when they left Charleville at the end of 2008. Monica was known and loved for her sense of fun, her generosity, her care, her warmth and especially for her prayerfulness and her deep faith. These were the gifts she shared with others throughout her life and her ministry. On leaving the West, Monica moved into retirement at Nudgee, where she loved catching up with all she had missed out on "due to the tyranny of distance". When ill health came



Sr Monica Lockhart

upon her, Monica graciously moved to Emmaus and here shared her sense of fun with other residents and with her many friends.

Monica passed away 10th August 2014, at the Mater Private Hospital, Brisbane. A faith-filled woman of Mercy, Monica now enjoys the fullness of God's love and mercy. 

Continuing the Family Tradition of Care...



Kevin and Jacaline McGrath (now retired)



Judith McGrath-Colquhoun

Judith, daughter of Kevin and Jacki, is proud to continue the family tradition of caring for the Catholic Community in Toowoomba and region, with compassionate, personal care and service. Contact Judith at Australian Heritage Funerals.

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Fr Michael McCarthy
now Bishop of Rockhampton
(on the funeral of his mother)

AUSTRALIAN
HERITAGE
FUNERALS

AUSSIE FEAST FOR AN AUSSIE SAINT

To celebrate the feast of our favourite

(and only) Aussie Saint, M.A.D Toowoomba Youth Group and Young Catholics Toowoomba invited all young people across Toowoomba to celebrate with them, the feast of Australia's first Saint, Mary of the Cross MacKillop. The evening commenced with Mass at St Anthony's Parish then an Aussie Feast was enjoyed by all. The evening also included snippets of the movie "Mary: The Mary MacKillop Story" and a great conversation about Mary's continued influence on our lives today. [\[1\]](#)



Celebrating Mary of the Cross MacKillop.

EFFECTS OF WORLD YOUTH DAYS AND AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVALS

By Sarah de Byl

Since around 2000 and especially since the World Youth Day (WYD) in Sydney in 2008, the Church in Australia has put a lot of energy into promoting the attendance of young people at the WYDs held internationally every three years. Australia has also now begun its own cycle of national events (the Australian Catholic Youth Festivals or ACYFs), also slated to occur every three years and modelled substantially on WYD. A question that is commonly raised by Priests, educators, youth ministers and people is: is it all worth it – and what is the evidence?

The Most Reverend Bishop Fisher, Australian Bishops' Delegate for Youth has just published a paper called "The Effects of World Youth Day and Australian Catholic Youth Festivals". Here are some of the statistics and findings quoted in it that help to answer this question:

- A survey of school-aged Australian pilgrims at the Madrid and Rio WYDs found that 84% strongly agreed that WYD was one of the best experiences of their lives; that three quarters of attendees strongly agreed that the events and atmosphere of WYD had been a 'powerful spiritual experience' that

had differed in positive ways to their experience of 'Church' until then, had deepened their relationship to God and increased their sense of belonging to the Church; and 44.8% strongly agreed that they felt a strong sense of God's presence (Cleary, "WYD: What difference does it make?" p. 11)

- The "experience of Church" is most spiritually helpful aspect of WYDs because it enables pilgrims to sense that "God was present in this large gathering of people sharing and celebrating the same faith" and that they were not alone or eccentric in holding to the Catholic faith (Mason, Singleton & Webber, First look p. vii; Mason, "What did we gain?," p. 342); WYDs are a "fertile environment for the emergence of *communitas*" i.e. an experience of connectedness and solidarity with others (Cleary, "WYD: What difference does it make?," p. 11)
- Even if many WYD attendees are already fairly religious, more than two fifths of attendees report that "their faith in God had been strengthened and that they had a closer relationship with Jesus" after

WYD and that they expected their faith to now have greater impact on their lives; they now wanted to learn more about their faith and live their discipleship more consciously and actively (Mason, Singleton & Webber, pp. vii, 38)

For our own local pilgrims these events have given them opportunities to discuss important topics that impact young people with the Australian Bishops, to take part in prayer and worship that they might never experience in their home parishes and to see that Church is bigger than the building they attend on the weekend. They have joined with the national and international church and it is clear that the faith is still very much alive in our young people today.

Some upcoming events to start thinking about and saving for are WYD16 in Krakow, Poland and the Australian Catholic Youth Festival 2015 in Adelaide. The Toowoomba diocese will be taking a pilgrimage group to both and Young Catholics would love to have you as part of our group. For more information on both these events check out Young Catholics Toowoomba website: www.mwyp.org.au [\[2\]](#)

LIFE ON CAMPUS

By Lachlan Withnall

Hi, I'm Lachlan Withnall and I'm a final year law student at the University of Southern Queensland. I moved from Innisfail to study with USQ and I live on-campus at Concannon College. Residential Colleges' accommodation appealed to me because this is my first time living away from home and the Concannon community made the transition seem less daunting.

Living at Concannon College, I've made lots of new friends from across all areas of Queensland, made easy by the numerous events organised both on college and on-campus at USQ, including the inter-college competition and rivalry for the annual Residential Shield, and semi-formal and formal dinners. I'm now a Senior Resident Advisor, which is a student leadership position, at Concannon College. Through this role, I offer assistance and support to residents with their university and college pursuits.

In addition to this position, I have also worked as a Meet-up Leader, whereby I assisted first year law students with both course content and settling into their studies.

On top of all of this, I also work part-time at a local law firm and volunteer with St. Vincent de Paul, something I'm very



Lachlan (middle) with fellow USQ students Brooke and Simon.

passionate about. I don't believe I would have been offered the opportunity to partake in such leadership opportunities if I were at a larger university.

I've found that moving to Concannon College has been such a fantastic experience and something I believe has helped me prepare for my future professional life.

I'm now looking forward to graduating from my Bachelor of Laws and am excited at the thought of helping others and those who may not have access to justice.

For more information about the University of Southern Queensland and Concannon College, visit usq.edu.au/accommodation



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Bishop Robert McGuckin, joined by Bishop Emeritus Bill Morris, celebrated the Jubilees of Presbyteral Ordination of 7 diocesan Priests on 7th July, 2014 at St Patrick's Cathedral. Congratulations and blessings to Fr Lino Valente, 60 years. Frs Thomas Sheeran and James Byrne, 50 years. Frs James Cronin and John Maher, 40 years. Frs Edward Hanlon and Oliver Ryan, 30 years. [H](#)

GROWING IN FAITH STATE SCHOOL RE TRAINING



On Friday 18 & Saturday 19 July, around forty Catechists and State School Religious Educators gathered for Growing in Faith. This training program helped participants develop their skills and knowledge through practical examples facilitated by experienced presenters. On the first day Carole Danby (Evangelisation Brisbane) looked at the cooperative approach to state school religious instruction and gave a range of helpful tips and resources. On the Saturday, Robert Haddad (Head of New Evangelisation Sydney Catholic Education) walked through the history and program contents of the Christ Our Light and Life Catholic catechetical program. Other workshops also supplemented the splendid presentations that were given by the Keynote presenters. Feedback from participants has been positive and further training is in the pipeline. [H](#)

VOCATIONS DINNER



Attendees at the recent Bishops Vocation Dinner.

Recently Bishop McGuckin invited a small group of young men from across the diocese to join him and a few diocesan Priests for an informal dinner. The night was a great success which provided a relaxed opportunity where the Bishop and the Priests who were present could share the story of their vocational call. The dinner was a chance for the young men to network and get to meet like minded people who were interested in how God is active in their lives. [H](#)

NEW HACC SOCIAL SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR LOURDES COMMUNITY CARE

The staff at Lourdes Community

Care are acutely aware of the social isolation of many people in our community.

That's why they are thrilled to offer a new HACC Social Support Program in Toowoomba to frail aged people (including those with dementia, the homeless or those at risk of homelessness, and those who are financially disadvantaged), and their carers.

To be eligible to access the services funded under the program, people must be aged 65

years and over, or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 50 years and over. Depending on their financial situation, a small fee may be charged.

Participating in the Social Support Program will help these people to make new friends, join a group, and share in our community life.

These are some of the things that they will be doing:

- visiting people in their homes
- phoning people for a friendly chat
- collecting people and taking them out to places like a coffee shop, a park or a Men's Shed
- providing information on wellness and nutrition
- Assisting people to attend classes like swimming and yoga to help people improve their health.

Helping to do all of this will be a team of trained Volunteers.

New Volunteer Coordinator for the program, Mary Bailey, said, "We are now accepting referrals for participants in the program, and we are also recruiting volunteers. It promises to be an exciting and busy time for our new team, and I'm looking forward to promoting our program in the community."

For more information, phone Mary on 0428 648 110, or email admin. community@lourdes.org.au [H](#)



Welcoming the new Anglican

Bishop for the Western Region to Toowoomba. L to R Pastor Ian Shelton (Chair, Toowoomba Ministers Association), Bishop Robert McGuckin, Mayor Paul Antonio and Bishop Cameron Venables (Anglican Bishop). [H](#)



Photo of Toowoomba Diocesan attendees at Proclaim 2014.

A group of diocesan and parish representatives from the Toowoomba Diocese were privileged to join with more than 500 people from across Australia and overseas to participate in the recent PROCLAIM 2014 Conference on the New Evangelisation in Sydney. The key message for the Church is to call parishioners to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ, keynote speakers Fr Michael White and Tom Corcoran

told delegates. Participants were inspired and enthused by this message and appreciated hearing the practical experience of the keynotes who wrote a book together, 'Rebuilt: Awakening the Faithful, Reaching the Lost and Making Church Matter' about their parish, Church of the Nativity, Timonium, Maryland, US.

Over the three-day conference, various workshops took place addressing a wide range of topics

including, how to be an authentic welcoming community, disability and inclusion, understanding youth evangelisation, explaining your faith without raising your voice and how a parish can support the sexually broken.

The diocese is planning to build upon the Proclaim experience and share some of the key learnings as an opportunity for pastoral renewal and revitalization. <#>

MY TIME IN GULF COUNTRY

By Fr Kerry Costigan

Some months ago the Priest in charge of the Gulf of Carpentaria Mission asked me if I would come as resident relief Priest at Normanton during July and August. The mission is part of the Diocese of Cairns. I accepted his invitation as I had not been to this area before and I wanted to escape the cold weather in Toowoomba!

I was given a Nissan X-Trail with a big roo bar as my parish car. Many long hours were spent traveling avoiding not only kangaroos, but especially sturdy cattle. The people

in all centres that I visited were welcoming and appreciative of my presence as they only have Mass offered a few times during the whole year. Some of the churches in the area are community churches shared with the Anglican and Uniting Churches. The church in Normanton is a stand alone Catholic church. When going to celebrate at the community churches, the celebrant has to take a "Mass kit" containing all their supplies.

Normanton is situated on the Norman river, one of the widest rivers I've ever seen. It flows into the Gulf of

Carpentaria. The river is home to both saltwater and freshwater crocodiles. I saw a crocodile on the river one day and through it was a big log.

I write this before I actually depart. On the last night I am here, I plan to invite the community, including the local Pentecostal church and Aboriginal communities, both of which I have shared prayerful time with, to a short service of prayer and thanksgiving. The local parishioners will also bring home made hot food to share. There will be Australian, Indian and Filipino dishes to sample. <#>

LAWRENCE SPRINGBORG MP VISIT

Pastoral Carers at Toowoomba

Hospital were recently surprised when the Minister for Health, Lawrence Springborg, visited the Hospital's 'Place of Prayer'. Accompanied by Chief Executive Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service, Dr. Peter Bristow and Chair of the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Board Mr. Mike Horan AM

Both Dr. Peter Bristow and Mr. Mike Horan were pleased to be able to commend Pastoral Care for the service that is provided to patients, family and staff on an on-going basis. [H](#)



NEW PASTORAL CARE TRAINEES

By Lyn Cash

During the cold month of August, Pastoral Care trainees came together for a week-end of study - this was held at the James Byrne Centre. The students have committed themselves to a 12 month 'Hospital

Ministry and Pastoral Care training program'. The good news is that in less than three months time, each will be receiving their Graduation Certificate. Recruitment is about to begin for Course 2015. Should

you be interested in the Course training or would like to learn more about the Ministry to the Sick, please contact Pastoral Care Co-ordinator, Lyn Cash, Toowoomba Hospital Phone 07 4616 6415. [H](#)

THEA SHARES THE ART OF LISTENING

By Lyn Cash

Goondiwindi Hospital pastoral care worker Thea Beare believes there is an art to good listening. Thea has been a part of the hospital's five member ecumenical pastoral care team for around five years. Like all pastoral care workers across the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service, Thea had to complete a 12 month certificate of Hospital Ministry and Pastoral Care Training Course operating out of the Toowoomba Hospital's Pastoral Care Department and accredited by the Uniting Church Chaplaincy Queensland. The training involved practical work and fortnightly lectures, upon completion she is now able to provide support to all

members of the community regardless of their beliefs and backgrounds.

Thea volunteers around two to three hours each week, visiting with patients and their families. "The role is very much a 'listening' one," she said. "We are there for people to share what is in their hearts - for most people, having us there just to listen, is helpful. I believe that there is an art in listening." The Goondiwindi Pastoral Care team is renowned across the health service for its proactive involvement with the hospital and its dedication to patients. "Goondiwindi has a very mixed community, and a lot of country people come into town to stay in hospital" she said.

"Often they are a long way from home, and they can be lonely".

Recently the team identified the need for a dedicated space where patients and their families can reflect and conduct private discussions. Pastoral Carers have been involved in the planning of the quiet room. "Often when we see people, they are in a four-bed ward," Thea said. "If someone wants to talk openly, there isn't much privacy." With the support of the hospital's Facility Manager and Director of Nursing, Lorraine McMurtrie, Thea and the rest of the Pastoral Care Team hope to see the quiet room operational and blessed in September. [H](#)

YOUNG CATHOLIC WOMEN'S INTERFAITH FELLOWSHIP

2013 – 2014

By Nicole Rangjira

Since the beginning of 2013, I have been privileged to experience The Young Catholic Women's Interfaith Fellowship. This unique fellowship is a national leadership program for Catholic Women who yearn for a theological education, faith formation and preparation for mission in a multi – faith world.

I am currently one of sixteen women sponsored by The Australian Catholic Bishop's Conference and various Religious Communities. From thirteen dioceses across six states and territories, we gather as young women, committed to growing in our understanding of living lives of faith. The fifteen new friends I have made are beautiful women who continually inspire me by the choices they make to live committed faith-filled lives.


Meaningful friendship is only one of the enriching benefits of the

fellowship experience. Studying the Graduate Certificate of Theology has included the four following subjects; Foundations of Biblical Studies, Faith Revelation and Theology, Religions and Cultures in Conversation and Advanced Studies in Leadership for Mission. Studying on line through Broken Bay Institute is a rewarding endeavour.

The fellowship also includes four residential days each semester and these are held at Mount Saint Benedict Centre in Sydney. The hospitality our fellowship community receives from Good Samaritan Sisters and their wonderful helpers is so incredibly warm and nourishing. Andrea Dean our co-ordinator is a gifted and generous woman who facilitates; faith formation, personal development and interfaith dialogue.

For me it has been very insightful to receive the rich hospitality from Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist and Hindu

communities in Sydney as part of our residential program. Pastorally caring at Toowoomba Hospital, St. Vincent's Hospital and Toowoomba Hospice, I often connect with people from these faith traditions. I am grateful to learn and understand more about each of these traditions. I have spent quality time listening to leaders from each of these communities explain in detail their beliefs and their customs. I have thoroughly embraced the unique opportunity to be included in their times of worship and devotion.

As people of faith; our God is both generous and gracious and we are open to the many gifts that we receive. The Young Catholic Women's Interfaith Fellowship is gift to my life. Consequently, there is a deep desire in me to respond more fully to God's call to mission in my life having received so much of value from the fellowship experience. 

TOOWOOMBА HOSPITAL MEMORIAL SERVICE


By Lyn Cash

The events on the other side of the world painfully brought home to the Darling Downs Hospital / Healthcare family such a tragedy in regards to the death of two well-known and respected doctors.

On hearing the painful news, an invitation was forwarded to staff members of the Darling Downs Hospital and Healthcare Service to attend the Toowoomba Hospital Memorial Service. This was conducted by the Pastoral Care Department of the Toowoomba Hospital.

Chief Executive, Darling Downs Hospital and Health Services, Dr. Peter Bristow, in his welcome address to the

two hundred staff members in attendance, spoke of the immense sorrow over the loss of Doctors Roger and Jill Guard. In his address, he also honoured the leadership, professional and gentleman qualities of Dr. Roger Guard. He stated that Dr. Roger was a man committed to his work and completely supportive of the staff at Pathology.

The memorial service gave all staff members the opportunity to not only pay their respects – and to pass on those of the entire Toowoomba Hospital and the HHS – to the Guard's family, but to also give those in attendance, a chance to reflect on the rich and valued professional life of the Doctors. 



WINDS OF CHANGE

AT ST. THOMAS MORE'S

By Bevan Devine



The winds of change are blowing at St Thomas More's. Our long time Pastoral Leader, Sr Patsy Grundy has been called to the leadership Team of the Presentation Sisters in Brisbane. Sr Patsy will end a twelve year term as our Pastoral Leader. During those years she has transformed our parish into a vibrant faith community by embracing the promise and spirit of the Second Vatican Council to the

fullest extent possible. Sr Patsy's final day with us will be Sunday 5 October 2014. The liturgy of the Mass of that day will be tuned to Patsy's farewell and a brunch will follow in the parish hall. The Parish Pastoral Council is working with Bishop Robert McGuckin to fill the vacant position.

The Parish Pastoral Council is also looking to fill a vacancy for an Administrative Officer. Chris

Fogarty had done a splendid job in that position for many years.

A further change which happens annually is that a new Parish Pastoral Council will commence its duties in September. Our Parish Pastoral Council is comprised of nine members elected from our congregation and the Pastoral Leader and the Priest Director. Each of the nine elected members serves a three year term. Each year three new members are elected and three retire. This system has the advantage of providing both continuity and renewal and avoids stultification and personality domination. Each of the nine takes responsibility for a particular ministry. The new Parish Pastoral Council (with each one's area of ministry) comprises Fr. Peter Dorfield, Priest Director; the Pastoral Leader, to be appointed; Peter McDonald, Chair; Marie Cleary, Communications; Greg Harvey, Faith Education; Kimberley Hopgood, Spirituality; Gabbe and Michael Murray (shared role), Outreach; Brian Stevens, Education; Peter Wilson, Administration; Katie Wright, Hospitality; and Mark Betts, Worship. The members who retired from Council in August were Margaret Devine, Marie Dodd, Dick Neal and Sam Parle. [H](#)

ST GEORGE COMMUNITY

WELCOMES CHRISTINE

By Fr Michael O'Brien

Early August, St Patrick's Parish St George welcomed into the Catholic community, Christine Owen. Christine is a teacher at St Patrick's school and has been pondering the step in her faith life for some time. It seemed a fitting way to complete Catholic Education Week! The parish community welcomed her with great joy and excitement. Sr Beverley made a presentation on behalf of the parish and Mrs Lesley Jarrett on behalf of the school. [H](#)

Fr Michael O'Brien with Christine holding her candle and her sponsors, Charden Porter and Majella Morris.



A REFLECTIVE AND RESTFUL TIME

By Anne Moloney



Eileen, Judy, Fr Jamie, Sr Mary, Sr Elaine, Lynda, Margaret, Rita, Viv.

All Saints Parish in Roma recently hosted a Deanery Prayer Day facilitated by Sisters Mary Cleary and Elaine Morzone. Those in attendance found the day a restful and fulfilling

time well spent. They particularly liked being guided through some different prayerful techniques. A popular form was the use of a labyrinth to centre thoughts. The

participants would like to thank Sr Mary and Sr Elaine for travelling to Roma and sharing their wealth of knowledge and experience with them during their session on prayer. <#>

TIME TO EXAMINE OUR CONSCIENCE

By Anne Moloney



Time for self-reflection and working out ways we can say sorry to others, Jesus and God.

Thirty-four young candidates from All Saints Parish in Roma are busy preparing for the Sacrament of First Reconciliation to be celebrated with

Fr Jamie Collins on 10 September. The children have had a fabulous time working individually with their support person or as a whole group



Working through the Preparation Program with our support person.

on activities that have enabled them to learn more about their faith journey and reflect on the part they play in it themselves. <#>

ALLORA COMMUNITY GROUPS SUPPORT ST PATRICK'S YOUTH HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

By John Briffa



Allora Rotary Club funded the cost of the coach hire for the Toowoomba day trip.

During the first week of the mid-year school break a number of Allora teenagers took full advantage of some supervised holiday activities endorsed by St Patrick's Parish and financially supported by a number of local community groups.

Open to Allora teenagers in grades 8-10, the activities offered our youth the opportunity to engage in some fun and fellowship during the July holidays. Activities included an indoor games night, playing old favourites like Twister, Connect Four and Celebrity Heads. Even in the technology driven world of today there is still a need for the experience of personal interaction which these teenagers fully embraced.

The day trip to Cobb & Co Museum and Sunset Super Bowl was undoubtedly the highlight of the week. Thanks to the generous support of community groups like Allora Rotary and Scope Clubs, the teenagers had the opportunity to discover something about the history of our region and



Allora Scope Club subsidised the students to participate in some hands on activities at the Cobb & Co Museum.

participate in some hands on wood and leather working activities. The afternoon was capped off with a couple of games of ten-pin, although there was probably more competition engaged in playing the arcade games.

A movie night and sausage sizzle capped off the week when the St Patrick's Parish Function Room was transformed into a make shift theatre,

complete with a big screen and some big speakers to complement the movie magic. 25 local teenagers participated in the three days of activities which were organised by Allora State School Chaplain John Briffa and were sponsored by Allora Rotary and Scope Clubs in collaboration with St Patrick's Parish and the Allora Chaplaincy Committee. <#>

CECIL PLAINS COMMUNITY FAREWELLS MARY AND PAT WEIR

By John Briffa



Mary Weir (centre front) and Pat Weir (centre back) with family and friends from Cecil Plains and Millmerran.

Recently the small Cecil Plains catholic community of Our Lady of Lourdes gathered to farewell Mary Weir and her son Pat. They were the last representatives of the Weir and Coonan families who played a big role in the Cecil Plains community over the past seventy years.

Fr Thomas Areekuzhy celebrated

Mass and the lovely Harmonium performed well for the occasion, as it has for so many years. Mass was followed by lunch in the Hall.

The Weir family were farmers, but as in so many little communities, town and country folk worked together in local affairs, with the Balls and Sports Days etc. After her husband

Byron's death in 1992, Mary and Pat remained on the farm. Mary continued in the Catholic Women's League and with work as Catechist. More recently she became very involved with the Cecil Plains History Group.

We wish these farming folk every blessing in converting to "Townies" in Pittsworth. [H](#)

CROW'S NEST NEWS

By Margaret Fowler

Sunday 20 July saw Crow's Nest

Parish diverge from the usual Mass times by celebrating only one Mass in the Parish, 10:00am at St. Matthew's. Designated as a Family Mass and celebrated by Fr Ted Hanlon, it was very well attended. As it was just a few days after the plane crash in the Ukraine a memorial of candles was set up under the altar. After Mass the congregation enjoyed a Sausage Sizzle followed by shared sweets and games for the young people.

Other celebrations in the parish included a Liturgy with Communion to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption. Also on Saturday 9



August Fr. Ray Johnson officiated at the Baptism of Summer Rose Fowler in St. Matthew's at Crow's



Nest. Family visitors came from Townsville, the Sunshine Coast and Ocean View. [H](#)

CUNNAMULLA: WE'RE ON THE MAP!

By Sr Maureen Andrews



The two "Leprechauns"

Yes it's true we are on the map.

The ABC news reported that Cunnamulla had the highest rainfall in the state – a whole 58mls during that August afternoon and night. Standing on the back porch with the rain lashing in – and didn't it feel like heaven – I watched four young people in the street dancing on the road. I thank God that my back yard no longer looks like a lunar landscape. However we are storming Heaven for some follow-up rain.

In the diocese we were privileged to have Father Elio Capra lecture us on sacramentalising everyday life. Like us in Cunnamulla I am sure that each of you enjoyed his interactive style and laughed through his lectures as you learned so much. In our south west corner the scene was set with those who live there. Thanks to the generous hospitality of


Carolyn Crick, Administration Officer at Sacred Heart School, "Sparra" her husband and John their son, we were able to offer a camp oven country style. For many hours Sparra had the camp ovens slowly roasting the meat in the hot coals. Not long before eating Carolyn placed dampers in one huge oven. Absolutely delicious was the verdict! The treats weren't over as later in the night Sparra treated us to playing the spoons. All voted it one of the best nights.

We also had the blessing and opening of the refurbishments of the Administration Building of Sacred Heart School. Bishop Robert McGuckin and Bruce Scott were there perform these ceremonies. Speeches of thanks were delivered by the school captains after which we dispersed for a celebratory morning tea.

The NSW Variety Bash came to town

and 320 people in 108 old vehicles caused a traffic jam in Cunnamulla when they went to breakfast at the local state school. In the back flat behind the presbytery we billeted a husband and wife who own Mulligans Restaurant in Sydney. Being Irish they arrived dressed as leprechauns and boasting a strong Irish brogue though they have lived in Australia for 25 years. They were a delight.

In 2015 we will have our own bash when we celebrate the centenary of the school. Please ensure if you are a former pupil you save the date – March 13th-15th. The parish fete is on the Friday night and you can share the memories you have and take tours of the school and the old convent.

In this small community life continues to unfold and show what 'small is beautiful' means. 



Miriam and Minnie after the rain.



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Resources for Parish Renewal



These books were highlighted at the recent Proclaim conference and would be a useful resource for Parish Pastoral Councils and Parish Leadership teams.



CELEBRATIONS AT CHINCHILLA PARISH

By Michelle Nitz

What a great night for our Parish

on Saturday the 10th May, when five lovely debutantes were presented to the crowd assembled at the Chinchilla Cultural Centre. The debts were received by our Parish Priest, Fr Jim Cronin. The debutantes were assisted on the night by their handsome partners as well as young enthusiastic flowergirls and pageboys. After the presentation of the debts a delightful supper was served. Dancing then continued into the night with music from "Sound Elite". Thanks must go to the organising committee who worked tirelessly preparing for this event. It was such a lovely social occasion for our Parish and a successful fundraiser too.

On Sunday August 3rd, our weekend Mass was held in the Multi-Purpose Hall at St Joseph's School. Fr Jim Cronin and Fr Darrell Irvine celebrated the Mass to honour the upcoming feast of St Mary MacKillop. The hall was decorated in gum leaves and artwork made by the students. We even had a mannequin dressed as St Mary. The outfit of the Sisters of St



The Official Party with Debutantes, Partners, Flowergirls and Pageboys.

Joseph, was made by a past parent of the school. After Mass a finger food luncheon was held in the school grounds. A great time was had by all! The feast day of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop is an important day in our

liturgical calendar in Chinchilla, as we have one of Mary's sisters living and working in our Parish and School. We thank Sr Marion Liddy for serving us in Chinchilla and thank God for the blessing Sr Marion is to us all. [H](#)

OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH HAPPENINGS

By Janice Moore and Angela Gilbert

One of our major social events, The

Parish Luncheon was held on the 22nd of June in the school hall. The parish catered for over 130 parishioners and entertainment was provided by the Toowoomba Filipino Community Dancers.

This term our school celebrated Catholic Education Week – we started the week with a Teacher Thank you Mass shared with Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. Teachers, school families and parishioners enjoyed a morning tea afterwards.

Also during Catholic Education Week, Our Lady of Lourdes hosted

four students and their teacher, from Japan. The students enjoyed their time in Year 6 and Year 7 classes, sharing their knowledge of calligraphy and origami. Teachers from OLOL were encouraged to wear the traditional Japanese kimono. All of our visitors were hosted by families from Our Lady of Lourdes. Everyone enjoyed having the opportunity to get to know the customs and language of other countries and our visitors left, having experienced the true friendliness of the Australian people.

On the 19th of August the 6/7 Mini Vinnies leadership group visited the



The Beutel Family at the OLOL Parish Luncheon.

Freedom Aged Care Facility. The children and the residents enjoy the interaction. The Residents enjoying the enthusiasm of the students and the students finding out that the residents have great stories from their past that they love to share. [H](#)

YOUTH GET INTO THE ACT

By Bridget and Daniel



Raising Our Voices in Song.

On Saturday the 2nd of August, a 'Youth Mass' was held at All Saints Catholic Church in Roma. It was our regular weekend Mass, but the liturgy was prepared by the youth of the Parish. Our Youth Mass included students singing and taking part in the ministries so that

we could feel more involved in our Parish Community. By planning and preparing Youth Masses, we hope to make attendance at Mass more appealing to a younger congregation.

Thank-you so much for those students who attended and helped out with our Mass! Your participation



Musical Support.

was greatly appreciated and made for an enjoyable celebration.

As the youth of Roma, our aim is to continue to make an effort to become actively involved in the Christian Community. Thanks again for coming and we hope to see you all at the next Youth Mass! <#>

THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

By Mary Otto



Kay Gleeson and Geraldine Hore serve hot soup to parishioners.

On Pentecost Sunday the community of St Theresa's celebrated and honoured the gifts of their community.

Following the Saturday Vigil soup and crusty bread were served to the community and on Sunday morning

the community were able to enjoy a special morning- tea with home baking. Both of these events were hosted by members of the Pastoral Council in appreciation of the contribution made to the parish by community members.

At both of the weekend Masses the



The Hodal sisters enjoying morning tea together.

gifts of the community were recognised through prayers and reflections as well as a power point presentation of the liturgical and social life of the parish over the previous twelve months. The readings for Pentecost supported the theme of gifts of the Spirit. <#>

CARITAS HAPPENINGS

By Robyn-Anne Lovell



For the Caritas Toowoomba Diocese

office, it has been a rather hectic time in the past few months. After a busy and successful Project Compassion campaign during Lent, most Parishes and schools had remitted their donations by the end of June. What a success this year's PC turned out to be. The generosity of the Australian people is humbling, and Caritas Australia appreciates the efforts of so many committed individuals. At the last count, the PC for 2014 has raised around \$10.325 million, and this is on top of the \$6 million already donated

earlier in the year for the Philippines Typhoon appeal. Simply amazing!

In July, the National office conducted the annual Diocesan Director's Conference at the Mary McKillop Centre in North Sydney. The four days of conferencing, sharing, learning, and reflection with about 50 other DDs and Sydney Caritas staff, was a complete joy for me, and a chance to compare notes with other committed Catholics involved with the work of Caritas. The beautiful Mary McKillop Place was the perfect spot to hold such an event, and gave all attendees

the opportunity to brush up on their knowledge of this wonderful woman in the site museum, Alma Cottage, the Chapel, and even the coffee shop!

After the school holidays I returned to USQ to teach 2nd year international relations again and also continue with managing the Toowoomba Caritas office. Arrangements are currently underway for the next big event on the Caritas calendar – celebrating 50 years of work in Australia. A special Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Robert McGuckin at St. Patrick's Cathedral in early September. [\[7\]](#)

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



JOE AND SUE'S 40TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

SOMETHING SPECIAL TO REMEMBER FOREVER

By Rachel Kerwick

Joe and Sue Scanlan met on the Indian Pacific Train in the middle of the Nullarbor Plain in WA on 19 February, 1973. Sue lived in Sydney and Joe lived in Brisbane at the time, so they wrote letters. Joe grew up on a farm just down the Toowoomba Range at Stockyard Creek then went to Brisbane to study; Sue had always lived in Sydney.

They were married in Sydney on 25th May, 1974 - a day of terrible storms. One of Joe's strongest memories of the ceremony was wondering if the stained glass windows in the church were going to blow in. They then lived on the Atherton Tableland (Tolga) for 6 months, before their move to Cloncurry for 4 years, where their older two children were born. They then lived in Rockhampton where they first became involved in Marriage Encounter, then moved to Texas, USA for 3 years where they also presented Marriage Encounter Weekends. When they came back

to Australia, they moved to Charters Towers where their youngest child was born. After a move to Brisbane, they moved to Highfields in 1997 and now have really settled there.

Joe always wore his wedding ring. About 5 years ago, it became loose. A few times, it simply fell off his finger but he always noticed this. One day about a year ago, he felt for his ring on his finger, but alas it was gone. He was really upset, and searched around the streets where he ran; He asked at shops along the road and checked everywhere he had been in the previous day or two. No luck. Unbeknown to Joe, Sue had bought a new ring.

One of the last days of celebrating Mass at the James Byrne Centre, before moving to Mary MacKillop School, was their 40th Wedding Anniversary, 25th May, 2014. It seemed a very fitting opportunity, so Sue organised with Fr Brian for them to renew their marriage vows and for Sue



Joe and Sue Scanlan with Fr. Brian Noonan.

to present Joe with a new wedding ring. Joe was totally surprised when Fr Brian said he had a ceremony to perform, their renewal of vows. It was a wonderful way to celebrate what has been a special journey together and to share this with the community that they worship with. They were both a bit nervous, Sue hoping that it would go well and Joe just a little stunned about what was happening. Sue and Joe wish to thank everyone for being a witness to this beautiful memorable occasion. #

WINDORAH CHURCH CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY WITH RENOVATIONS

By Gay Tully

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church was built in 1939 and is celebrating its 75th Anniversary this year. Mass is held every two months, and the occasional wedding or funeral. The Church which is an important historical landmark in the Windorah Community has fallen into disrepair and needs urgent attention, for example cladding, roofing repairs and renovations. The local community's project is to restore the pews.

The local community has raised

\$14,000 in raffles and we have received a \$10,000 loan from the Barcoo Shire Council to be repaid over 10 years. Renovation works are scheduled to commence in August 2014. We are calling on the wider Toowoomba Diocesan community to help raise awareness of this project - any donations to help restore the church would be greatly appreciated.

If you feel you are able to help in any way please contact Gay Tully on 07 46564764 or Maureen Scott 07 46563193. #



80TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION COUPLED WITH LARGE DONATION FOR CHARITY

By Patti McNaught

One of our popular Parishioners, Jackie Toms, turned 80 this month. Jackie hails from Charleville where she was matron at the local hospital for several years. In 2009, she and her husband Doug came to Highfields to live and lucky for us, to our Parish. Jackie is an active member of our Catholic Community in Highfields and is often called upon to fill in for others who can't make it on their rostered day. She is more than willing to do so and has become a very popular member of our congregation.

On 13th August we all gathered to celebrate her 80th Birthday. This was hosted by our charity group for the Church where each year we raise money for a charity. Our wonderful group has

now grown, as people have come forward over the years and asked if they could join our group and contribute to this worthy cause. It is a fun time for all and also a "feel good" experience as the money that would have been spent on a present is going to charity.

Jackie is a fabulous person who often tells us hilarious stories about her life, especially her nursing years. This makes it easy for the "Party Police" who do a bit of snooping around at the time of the birthdays, and either compose a poem or a song for the birthday girl. We had a great crowd this time, with our other halves joining in as well. A large amount of money was raised again, which adds to our charity total for this year's recipient. Congratulations



Jackie Toms with her fellow parishioner and great friend Mollie Meadows.

must go to our co-ordinator, Colleen Weber, who has been working tirelessly for this for some years now. Our celebrations usually happen every month, and anyone who would like to join our group are more than welcome. You are assured of great fun and a special good feeling of giving, as you leave the venue each month. Oh and Jackie, you certainly don't look 80! 🎉

60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY- FRANK AND NALDA SCIUTO

By Angie Sims

On Saturday 2nd August 2014

seventy family and friends joined Frank and Nalda Sciuto to help celebrate their Diamond 60th Wedding Anniversary. Family members travelled from Sydney and Brisbane to join in the festivities and help ensure Frank and Nalda had a special night. It was also wonderful for Nalda's baby sister Josie to travel from Townsville especially as the sisters hadn't seen each other in over five years. Youngest daughter Angie welcomed guests and as an extra special tribute to her father, also greeted guests in Italian.

Frank and Nalda were married on 31st July 1954 in St Joseph's Church by Fr Murphy. Angie relayed to guests about Frank and Nalda's wedding day. "I asked Mum about her wedding day and she made me laugh. Mum said that she and Dad hitched a ride into town. Dad sat on the back of

a bomb truck and Mum sat inside, dressed in her wedding dress that she had whipped up herself. They got married, went home and Dad went out grafting while Mum went to attend to the household duties. And that's how Mum and Dad have lived their entire life. Simple, with no fuss and just get the job done," Angie said.

Frank and Nalda lived at Ballandean on their fruit orchard until their retirement into town in 1990. Frank and Nalda have been active community members over the years as well as assisting their daughter Angie with various fundraising ventures. This year they are enthusiastically helping their granddaughter Sophie with her Miss Showgirl fundraising. Frank and Nalda were delighted to receive messages of congratulations from the Queen, Governor-General, Prime Minister, local members and



Fr Brian Connolly with Nalda and Frank Sciuto.

the Mayor. They also received their second Papal Blessing, the first being for their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

The next day the family went to Mass at St Joseph's Church and witnessed Parish Priest Fr Brian Connolly give Frank and Nalda a special blessing. Asked about the secret to their long marriage and the answer was simply lots of hard work, lots of patience and lots of good food. Frank and Nalda have four children, nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. 🎉

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK 2014

By John Borserio, Director – Catholic Education Office

Catholic Education Week for 2014

had us celebrating how we all Come, live life in all its fullness.

As I have travelled across the Diocese during the week, and through the stories that are recalled in the pages that follow, the vibrant, passionate and dynamic way our Catholic schools and their communities nurture each and every person was clear and being proudly celebrated.

All of the special events during this week, it was clear, that together with parents and carers, Catholic educators are focussed on nurturing a love of life and all it offers in

our children and each other.

Parents and carers 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. So, it is fitting that we showcase what makes Catholic education the choice of more families every year.

Seeing, hearing and being a part of this community, is one of the most uplifting parts of my role as Director.

The commitment and dedication of school and Catholic Education Office teams, focussed on ensuring our young people are given every

opportunity to develop their God-given potential, makes me proud of what we do and blessed to have these colleagues.

Meeting with parents and carers who have chosen Catholic Schools reminds me of the privilege it is to walk alongside them as we journey together to educate and care for their children.

As you read through this feature, I hope that you to feel the joy of the life-giving work of our Catholic education community and how it contributes to living life in all its fullness in our families, parishes, offices and schools. [\[2\]](#)

WINTER WOOLIES COLLECTION SURE TO WARM THE HEARTS OF OTHERS

Inspired by their Parish Priest, Fr

Jack McGinley, the students of St Joseph's in Tara collected jumpers and blankets for the disadvantaged and poor this Catholic Education Week.

"The Catholic Education Week theme for this year calls us to live life to the full. We want this for our students and as Catholics we want that for others as well. Therefore, it seemed fitting to do something to help those less fortunate than ourselves in their quest to live life fully," said Mr Christopher Bradley, Principal of St Joseph's, Tara.

"Our school is very lucky to have Fr Jack. He often talks to the children about his work and they see how he helps those who are disadvantaged or poor. The children decided that this Catholic Education Week they should continue to follow in his footsteps," said Mr Bradley.

The students of St Joseph's have regularly supported Fr Jack's work with a termly food drive, but for Catholic Education Week they



At Front: Tyson Flute Left to Right: Kaide Hogan, Savannah Dowling, Ava Robson, Peyton Flute, Bea Bayabay and Fr Jack McGinley.

decided to do something different. "Father Jack explained to us that for some people can't live life to the full when they are cold," said Kaide Hogan a Year 4 student at St Joseph's. "We wanted to help and because it has been so cold lately we decided to collect blankets and warm clothes to donate to these people."

Mr Bradley said, "The response of families of St Joseph's and the staff of the school has been fantastic. This is a real example of

linking what we teach our students in Religious Education to real life, this is what we call Faith in action."

"Research shows that there is real power in positive doing. I think it is important for our students to do positive things and there are not many things more positive than helping others."

All of the clothes and blankets that have been donated will be distributed by Fr Jack McGinley in and around the Tara district. [\[2\]](#)

STUDENTS SING UP A STORM AT CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK LAUNCH

Over 900 students gathered

together at Our Lady of the Southern Cross College in Dalby on Tuesday to launch Catholic Education Week. One of the Catholic Education Week ambassadors for 2014, Michael Mangan led the primary students in an uplifting workshop that had them singing and dancing for over an hour.

"My favourite thing is to see children singing and dancing to the songs that I have written," said Michael Mangan, a world renowned liturgical song writer and performer. "No matter where I go, whether it be around Australia, Canada, New Zealand or North America, I never tire of hearing the voices of children bringing my songs to life."

When asked by the children why he decided to become a singer and song writer, Michael said, "I was a music teacher in Brisbane and wanted to teach the children songs that shared the message of Jesus. I couldn't find any that made the children want to dance with joy and told the story well. So, I started writing my own. Other schools started to use them and now it is my full time job – and I love it!"

It wasn't just the students who were singing and dancing along,



Paul Ryan (St Anthony's Toowoomba) and Tracey Flint (CEO) enjoy the music workshop.

the teachers and staff of the Catholic Education Office who came along where joining in as well.

"The way Michael is able to spread the Good News through song is wonderful. You just can't help but join in!" said Tracey Flint, Policy and Program Advisor at the Catholic Education Office. "The children continued singing the songs whilst

enjoying a shared lunch and I am sure that many parents will have heard the special song Michael wrote for Catholic Education Week, Come Live Life, being sung by their children around the house."

Michael has visited each of the five Dioceses around Queensland during Catholic Education Week as a part of his role as ambassador. [H](#)

AUSTRALIAN THEMED MASS BEGAN CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK AT DOWNLANDS

A Mass with an Australian theme

sparked this year's Downlands Catholic Education Week celebrations, including a moving Indigenous version of the Lord's Prayer with art teacher, Mr Matt Rutherford, on didgeridoo. Students were asked to remember that the Gospel call to live life in all its fullness is a right of all peoples in the world and that we should always do what we can to ensure that all peoples are able to live life to the full.

Downlands students also attended

the official launch of the week at Our Lady of the Southern Cross in Dalby on Tuesday in addition to the Lantern Parade for asylum seekers and refugees on Wednesday in Toowoomba. Throughout the week, Pastoral Care groups have also been conducting quizzes to expand students' knowledge of their faith and of their local Diocese.

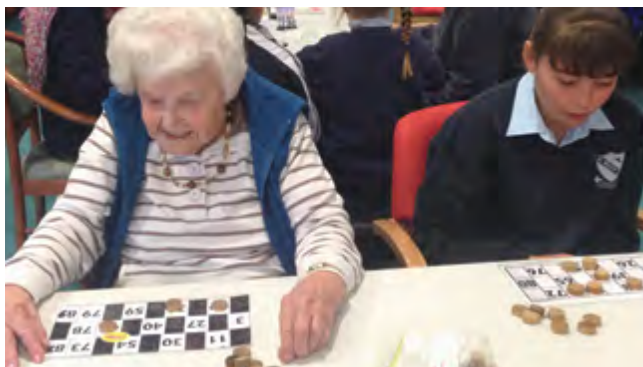
Although an independent College, owned and operated by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, the students and staff of Downlands

never forget their humble beginnings as a Catholic boy's boarding school in 1931. Bishop James Byrne founded the College by enlisting the support of the order and the higher powers in Rome.

Today, having also welcomed day boys and girls for over 40 years, Downlands happily partners with the other schools in the Toowoomba Diocese, to provide a huge range of secondary school options to both local children and families from as far afield as Darwin, Boggabri and Papua New Guinea. [H](#)

ST MARY'S PARISH

COME, LIVE LIFE!



The Residents of Kaloma and Students of St Mary's focused on a game of bingo.

St Mary's Parish Primary School in Goondiwindi kicked off their Catholic Education week celebrations with daily visits to our retirement village, Kaloma. The students visited the residents at Kaloma for three hours each day and participated in activities such as word finds, bingo, card games, read books together and played a variety of board games. The residents and students thoroughly enjoyed interacting together.

On Tuesday 29th July, a few of our senior students helped with the Meals on Wheels deliveries. The students have developed a great relationship with the elderly community and enjoy delivering meals to those in need.

Last Thursday 31st July, was St Mary's Friendship day. This is a day where we invite members from our school, parish and community to

organise and prepare a fun activity for the students to participate in.

The day began with a whole school Mass which focused on the 2014 Catholic Education Week theme of, 'Come Live Life in all its Fullness'. The residents from Kaloma also attended this Mass as did a number of families and Parishioners. After morning tea, the students were then broken into small groups and participated in their chosen activity. Students were heard saying, "This is awesome, we wish everyday was friendship day!"

Following the mornings activities, Members of the Parish, school and community were treated to a shared lunch.

After lunch, students then returned to their classroom and participated in friendship day activities planned by their classroom teacher.



Happy to help distribute food for Meals on Wheels.

Our Friendship Day activities complemented the theme for this year's Catholic Education Week celebrations.

Students had a range of activities to choose from, which included sewing, outdoor team games, cooking, technical Lego, shiny snakes, beading, craft, song writing, vet education and many more. The school received an overwhelming number of volunteers who were willing to give their time and the day was an absolute success.

Principal of the School, Mr Glenn Roff said, "Friendship Day was a fantastic way for us to display our spirit of Catholic Education to the wider community. It was a fantastic day and truly highlighted the wonderful community we take for granted every day." [H](#)

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Diocese of Toowoomba
St Mary's Catholic Parish Warwick

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The Pastoral Worker will support and assist volunteers in present ministries by helping with co-ordination and organisation of these ministries and providing training and formation. The Pastoral Worker will also explore ways of connecting and sustaining relationships with young families, children and youth.

For an information package, contact:
St Mary's Catholic Parish Warwick
Email: stmaryswck1@bigpond.com
Phone: (07) 4661 1033
Address: PO Box 118, Warwick 4370

Applications for this position should be received by **26 September 2014**.



GREAT LEADERSHIP AND CARE FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF RECOGNISED

Students, staff and helping them

reach their potential are key to the philosophy of Elizabeth Poulton's leadership at Sacred Heart Primary School in Toowoomba.

"Liz always has the children and her colleagues in mind as she considers ways to improve teaching and learning in our school," said Maria Booth, Assistant Principal for Religious Education.

"She has a knack of bringing us together and listening to what we need and finding the perfect solution to keep us improving."

Liz wears a couple of hats in the school, she is the Learning Support Teacher working with children who need additional support and is the Curriculum Coordinator.

"My role is very diverse and professionally challenging. I love it! Seeing the smile on the faces of the children when they succeed is all the reward I need," said Elizabeth when asked about her work.

Elizabeth's expertise and dedication to improving her own teaching skills is what makes her a great mentor for the other teachers and teacher aides at Sacred Heart. She is known amongst her peers as an ardent



Elizabeth Poulton with Premier Campbell Newman at the State Launch of Catholic Education Week.

researcher and lifelong learner.

"Liz willingly gives her time to all of us, as she believes that all teachers, no matter how experienced need support to continue to improve what they do for the children. You can chat with her and she will go away and come back with suggestions that you know have been well researched and thought out," said Mrs Booth.

It was obvious during a recent visit to the school that the children love to work with Elizabeth in everything from improving their Maths skills to

working in the vegetable garden.

As a result of the outstanding contribution that Elizabeth Poulton has made during her 33 years with Catholic Education, and particularly at Sacred Heart Primary School in Toowoomba, she is the recipient of the 2014 Spirit of Catholic Education award for the Diocese of Toowoomba.

Elizabeth attended the State award ceremony in Brisbane on Wednesday of this week and was presented with her award by Hon Campbell Newman MP, Premier of Queensland. [E](#)

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PITTSWORTH TEACHER SHINES WITH LOVE, LAUGHTER AND THE JOY OF TEACHING

Since 2011, a staff member of Toowoomba Catholic Education has been awarded the Sr Jo Carmichael Memorial Award, in recognition of the spirit of community, service and love.

This year's recipient, Suellen Dennis, a year one teacher at St Stephen's Primary School, Pittsworth, is described by her nominator Madonna Sleba, Principal of St Stephen's as 'one of God's truly beautiful souls and the heart of our school'.

"Suellen's students are encouraged to challenge themselves to be the best they can be, and are engaged in her lessons by her enthusiasm and passion for learning. Suellen is a teacher who goes above and beyond," said Ms Sleba.

Suellen herself said, "I love teaching. I am passionate about it. I believe if you have a happy classroom and happy children,

then you get a better response. Success breeds success."

"My little motto for myself is: come to school with a smile on your face and finish the day with a smile on your face."

"I always have a laugh and a giggle with the children. I think that big part of teaching is to show children that it is fun to learn. Because I believe if you are relaxed and learning and it's fun, you absorb more. We have a lot of laughs here."

Suellen's recommendation for those young graduates seeking a career in teaching is simple. "You must smile, be happy and give of your life experiences. Don't be afraid to bring those experiences to your teaching. The longer you teach the more experience you have – it is about giving of yourself and you will get a lot more in return."

Suellen was presented with her



Suellen Dennis with her year 1 class at St Stephen's School Pittsworth.

award at the Diocese of Toowoomba Catholic Education Staff Recognition Awards on Thursday and has received \$500 to spend on continuing work of her choice to keep the spirit of Sr Jo Carmichael alive in the Catholic community. [\[2\]](#)

REALLY MRS McNAUGHT 40 YEARS AS A TEACHER!



Keali Bullen, Catie Strout, Sue McNaught-Ford and Cooper Oughtred.

For the past 40 years, Sue McNaught-Ford has worked as a teacher in Catholic schools in Victoria and Queensland and on Thursday she was recognised for her long-service alongside 33 other employees at

the Diocese of Toowoomba Catholic Education Staff Recognition Awards.

"Each year during Catholic Education Week the Catholic Education community recognise and celebrate the valuable contribution of our long standing employees," explained John Borserio, Director of the Toowoomba Catholic Education Office.

On reflecting on some of her career highlights Sue said, "One of the real joys of teaching is having a positive learning relationship with kids. I can remember being told once that you can't teach children well if you don't know them well."

Sue's career has seen her teaching children in more than 15 schools. She has served under 20 Principals and spent time as a Principal herself.

As she reflected on the over 1000

pupils she estimates she has taught, she shared, "I have talked with students I taught many years ago and their lasting memories are of the way in which we worked together and the way I made them feel about themselves and learning. It is humbling and also enriches my own life knowing that they remember those things."

When asked what advice she would give to young teachers starting out, Sue said, "Treat it like a vocation, not a job. The relationships with the children you teach is important; if you don't have that relationship, if you are just showing up and teaching the subject and not the child, then you are not doing your job. Be connected."

Family and friends gathered with these staff members to enjoy the celebrations at Gips Restaurant in Toowoomba. [\[2\]](#)

ST SAVIOURS PRIMARY SCHOOL CELEBRATES DIVERSITY DURING CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK

"It is great to see that the social justice teachings of Jesus are alive in our schools and on Wednesday 30 July, St Saviours Primary School, Toowoomba played host to a cultural performance of Island Dreaming by the Indigenous group Spirit Rise from Palm Island," said John Borserio, Director, Catholic Education Office, Toowoomba.

"Island Dreaming is a program to teach children from Prep to Year 7 about some 'Murri' ways with humour. Focusing on song, dance, story-telling, musical instruments and cultural insights," said visiting performer, Phil Geia the Cultural Officer for St Michaels School, Palm Island. Phil said he had visited five primary schools within the Toowoomba Diocese and St Saviours was the final performance.

"We are on the road promoting a high school show for next year that will tour Australia, but as we currently have some of our Palm Island kids going to school here in Toowoomba, we thought that doing some performances here was a logical thing to do."

"We have just had NAIDOC week so Cath Ed week has been perfect timing, the two just combine really well together and I have just had a ball, we have had a great time."

The performance shows children




Phil Geia leads the children in a dance.

that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander culture is still very much alive. In the Northern parts of Australia, language is still being spoken, customs, laws, medicine and magic is still being practiced.

"We are about letting kids know that Australia has a lot of secrets, special places and the Aboriginal people know about these places. We are encouraging kids to come and talk, come and share, you won't find it on google because our stories are done orally, and it is still done that way today."

Danielle Andrews, a Year 4 teacher

at St Saviours', said, "We have a strong Indigenous focus within our curriculum, particularly within history and geography. Events like today give the kids real life experience into the culture. We have a number of different cultures in our school and we try and embrace those cultures by doing different things and having different visitors come to the school."

"It has been a very exciting week, it has been a fun week. It is nice to have these different things happening for the kids in their classroom that takes it beyond the classroom and the school." 



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LANTERN WALK TO RAISE AWARENESS OF REFUGEE AND ASYLUM SEEKERS PLIGHTS



Members of the St Joseph's Social Justice Group, Just Joeys.

The light of over 150 candles, lanterns and torches glowed in the early evening light as students from Catholic secondary colleges and members of the community joined together in a moving lantern parade.

"Members of the St Joseph's Social Justice Group, Just Joeys, decided to hold this lantern parade as a part of Catholic Education Week," said Julieanne Rasmussen, Assistant Principal Faith and Mission from St Joseph's College.

"One of the key teachings of Jesus was to ensure that we help those who are suffering or less fortunate than us. This parade is one way our students are raising awareness and asking for changes to Australian government policies."

Students and members of parish communities gathered on Lindsay St and walked together to



Julieanne Rasmussen, Fr Ray Crowley and Clem Welch.

Frogs Hollow in Queens Park.

Georgia Campbell from St Ursula's College said of the event, "This is Catholic Education Week with its theme of Come, Live Life in all its Fullness. Sadly, in our world,

refugees and asylum seekers do not have the same opportunities to live life in its fullness. The walk tonight is a walk in solidarity with them and an opportunity to commit ourselves to justice and equality." [H](#)

TEACHERS AND STUDENTS CONNECTING AND **RECONNECTING THROUGH SPORT**



St Stephen's Pittsworth Touch Football

On Thursday 31 July, a number of the primary schools within Catholic Education Diocese of Toowoomba, from as far afield as Roma, Warwick and Dalby came together for the Catholic Touch Football and Netball competition in Toowoomba.

In the spirit of inclusivity, which is a defining feature of Catholic schools, both competitions offered two division for participation – competitive and non-competitive.

"I think Catholic Education week really celebrates what Catholic schools have, that sense of community, sense of inclusion, celebrating all our difference and our uniqueness and the spirit of catholic schools," said Tammy Banks of St Thomas More's Primary School, Toowoomba.

Tim Lincoln the Sports Coordinator of Our Lady of the Southern Cross, Dalby said, "Today is about the spirit of inclusivity and sport, no-one is playing for a sheep station or anything like that but the competitive spirit is still strong. So if you think you have a really hot team you put them forward in the competitive division.




St Thomas More's Toowoomba Netball Team

Our boys know who the competition is - Touch is very big in Dalby and so we always have competitive teams."

Ms Banks said, "I think Catholic Education Week is a fun time to come together as a Catholic Community – we have schools as far as St John's, Roma and schools from here in Toowoomba all mixing together on the day and you see the children outside. They might have met somebody through some other activity and they meet up today. Everybody is

together, it is all about participation and fun and enjoying what we have in all of our Catholic Schools."

"It is a fantastic week, it is a week of connection and re-connection, tomorrow all the teachers come together for Bishop's Inservice Day. You may have worked in a school in another region a few years ago and you can touch base with teachers from those schools. The kids are doing it today, it is a week of catching up and celebrating what we have." 

WHAT DOES CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK **MEAN TO YOU?**

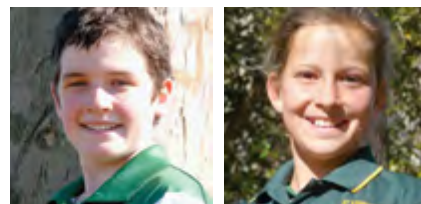
St Stephen's Primary School in

Pittsworth kicked off their Catholic Education Week celebrations with a special liturgy on Monday. At this liturgy, students gathered together and through song, prayer and reflection shared why Catholic education is so important to them. Benjamin Cavanagh, school leader, led a section of the liturgy in which he shared his thoughts on the importance of Catholic Education week.

"Catholic Education Week is important because it celebrates all Catholics that are still in school and learning about God. In being a Catholic I find this week one of the most important weeks of the year. We have to remember that a Catholic is someone who believes in God and celebrates all seasons in the Church. We must also remember that being a Catholic is more than someone who learns about our Catholic traditions

and belief in school. During Catholic Education Week these are many different activities in the week where we celebrate our Catholic traditions and beliefs. These include sports carnivals, liturgies and workshops. All of which celebrate Catholic education in a different way."

Sophie Roberts, also a school leader, talked about why students of Catholics schools have something extra special to celebrate. "As a Catholic student of St Stephen's Catholic school, I truly believe we are blessed to receive a Catholic education. It enriches our lives with positivity and beliefs. It instills in us a great sense of religion and caring for others in our community. Catholic Education Week reminds us all of what we should be grateful for and not take this for granted. As part of my education I have been lucky enough to participate in the MacKillop Club. In



Benjamin Cavanagh

Sophie Roberts

MacKillop Club we learn the values and traditions of Mary MacKillop, working as a part of a team, contributing to the community and lending a hand when we can. At the start of the year, eight students were selected to travel to Toowoomba. We attended a Caritas Australia program, which taught us that other people around the world are not as fortunate as us here. We all need to keep them in our thoughts and prayers and hope they will have a bright future. In my opinion education is an opportunity but a Catholic education is a privilege. For this, we celebrate these ideals in Catholic Education Week." 



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REFLECTING ON LEADERSHIP

“WITHOUT A VISION THE PEOPLE PERISH” Proverbs 29:18

By Sr Elaine Morzone



The Leader of a certain Tribe, camped at the base of a Mountain, knew he was dying. He called his three sons and said: “I am dying and one of you must succeed me as the new head of our Tribe. I want each of you to climb our Holy Mountain and bring back something beautiful. The one whose gift is the most out-standing will succeed me.”

After several days the sons returned. The first brought his father a flower which grew near the very top of the Mountain. It was extremely rare, beautiful and difficult to get.

The second son brought his father a stone which was rich in color, smooth and round after having been polished by rain and sandy winds.

The third son's hands were empty. He said: “Father, I have brought nothing back to show you. As I stood on the top of the Holy Mountain, I saw on the other side a beautiful land filled with green pastures and a crystal lake. And I have a vision of where our Tribe could go for a better life. I was so overwhelmed by what I saw and by what I was thinking that I could not bring anything back.”

And the Father replied: “You shall be our Tribe's new leader, for you have brought back the most precious gift of all - the gift of a vision for a better future.”

Reflection

Flower: What has been the beauty of our life as parish, as diocese?

Stone: What have been the difficult, painful times that have shaped and colored us to be what we are now?


Vision: What now needs to be for our future as parish, as diocese?

TRAINING LEADERS FOR THE FUTURE

We can rejoice that, over the past ten years or so, many parishioners throughout the diocese have responded to their baptismal call by taking up ministries within their parishes. The majority of these have ministered in very necessary support roles while some have been challenged to accept various leadership roles and responsibilities. – as pastoral associates, pastoral ministry coordinators (of liturgy, sacramental programs etc.), pastoral parish councillors. In the past, some ministers have participated in programs, such as “Serving God's People”, designed as a core training course for those involved in lay pastoral ministry.

It is important that as a diocese we look ahead and prepare parish succession plans which will enable our mission to continue fruitfully into

the future. In many areas, there needs to be a recognition that the same people cannot continue indefinitely offering their services – it will become burdensome for them and it will be harmful for the future of our parishes if we do not prepare younger people to step up to take the baton. “Serving God's People” has been superseded by a new program “Foundations for Evangelising Ministry, designed by the Institute of Faith Education in the Archdiocese of Brisbane. This program will be introduced into our diocese this September. It is intended to give participants the foundational faith formation and practical skills required to enable them to minister effectively in positions which require some degree of leadership.

While the program is normally presented as eight consecutive modules, we intend to adopt a more user-friendly and hopefully less daunting approach by dividing the program into Blocks A, B, and C which will allow participants to better space their involvement in the program. Diocesan certificates will be issued on the completion of the first and second block of the program while completion of the total program consisting of three blocks will be acknowledged by a certificate from the Archdiocese of Brisbane. 

LIGHTS! CAMERA! ACTION!



Cast & Crew of 'Beauty & the Beast Jr'

On 17th, 18th & 19th July,

Assumption College, Warwick students performed the musical Beauty and the Beast Jr to sold out audiences at the Warwick Town Hall. Students worked incredibly long hours throughout the past semester and the production reflected their incredible talent, work ethic and commitment. The musical was directed by Mrs Kristy Searson and involved in excess of 75 students from the College. It was a great opportunity for Assumption College to showcase the exceptional cultural talent of its students.

Participating in the Assumption College musical of 'Beauty and the Beast' was a fantastic experience in particular being able to wear the amazing costume. In rehearsals, the cast from all grades throughout the school were able to bond and become more of a family than a cast. It was great being able to showcase the schools variety of talent.

Karlie Lane, Year 11 student, cast member


As a student, getting the chance to experience different situations and new activities should be treasured, it is what helps us in later life. So being able to do backstage in the Assumption College musical Beauty and the Beast was an unforgettable thrill. The dedication and time spent



Back Row L to R: Thea Milburn, Karlie Lane, Darcy Williamson, Emma Siebenhausen, Tyler Davie. Front Row L to R: Mitchell Potter, Keely Hilton and Blake Lollback.

by actors and crew members was a progress that proved to be fruitful. As I remember standing on stage for the school's last performance, surrounded by others who had gone through the same fun, the same stress, the same memories. The adrenaline of that moment, that proud moment was unforgettable as the teachers smiled proudly at their own and everyone's efforts especially that of Mrs Searson who surpassed everyone when it came to putting the pieces of the musical together like a jigsaw puzzle.

Not all of it was laughter and games as backstage was admittedly tough, as it often involved lifting objects heavier than yourselves, helping the actors prepare for their oncoming scenes and having to be told to tiptoe whilst doing the task was not the most fun or easiest thing to do. But it was entertaining, as my fellows crew members and myself were able to see the progress of the musical bloom into the spectacular it was.

Georgina Browne, Year 11 student & back stage crew. 

ST MARY'S COLLEGE IS READY FOR YEAR 7 STUDENTS TO MOVE INTO THE SECONDARY COLLEGE

On Friday, 15th August, St Mary's

College celebrated the Feast of the Assumption. This feast recognises Mary, the mother of God and her integral role in the life of the Catholic Church. In our case, our College was named by the Christian Brothers, who had great devotion to Mary – St Mary's College.

The Assumption Mass was celebrated by Bishop Robert McGuckin and was followed by the blessing and opening of our new tuckshop, Hospitality kitchen, Food Technology area with restaurant, Japanese room and refurbished Year 7 classrooms for 2015. These new and improved facilities will provide vital infrastructure that parents have indicated were both needed and wanted for their children.

The Food Technology areas particularly, were identified through a parent survey as something parents wanted St Mary's students to have the opportunity to build skills in. Students are very engaged in this learning process of food provision and have recently catered for events including the St Mary's Board dinner and College Art Show. Extensive refurbishment of the Industrial Arts areas is also in progress and will be completed to be ready for the start of the 2015 school year.

The school improvement projects were funded through a loan from the Catholic Education Office




Year 9 Food Technology – L to R – Mar Zaiven Ibe, Dylan Gleeson, Joel Paunovic.

and a state government grant of \$890,000. Principal Michael Newman, members of the schools community and students were joined at the opening by Bishop Robert, Mr John Borserio (Director of Toowoomba Catholic Education), Mrs Margaret Hendriks (Assistant Director, School Improvement Services), Hon Ian McFarlane (Federal Member for Groom and Minister for Industry), Hon Dr John McVeigh (State Member for Toowoomba South and Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry) and Mr Trevor Watts (State Member for Toowoomba North).

"This is a very exciting time for the College as we welcome many

new boys into our great College with these new outstanding facilities. We are all ready and looking forward to 2015." Said Mr Newman.

St Mary's College has been planning for the new boys to enter the Secondary College for the past two years. Plans in place include: refurbished classrooms; new lockers; detailed teaching plans; fewer number of teachers; shared assessments between subjects; middle schooling teaching and learning; a Year 7 Co-ordinator to care for the boys; a designated teaching and learning space; and a wide range of sporting, cultural and extra-curricular opportunities. 

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SCHOOLS CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF ST. MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP



Mr Bradley, Mrs Nicholson and students watering the Mary MacKillop rose at Tara.



Srs Marie Dowling and Di Philips, Fr Lynskey and Mrs O'Rourke with the staff, students and parishioners at Inglewood.



Miss Keleher and the St. Mary's MacKillop Club with their stamp collection in Taroom.



Mrs Alexander, Fr. Jamie and students celebrating Mass at Mitchell.

Mary MacKillop's feast day on the 8th August provided the communities of St Joseph's Tara, St Mary's Taroom, St Maria Goretti Inglewood and St. Patrick's Mitchell with a wonderful opportunity to learn about a spirit filled Australian. Mary MacKillop, Australia's first saint, is a great role model for us all. Mary always placed her trust in her 'Good God' especially when there were crosses to carry. She put her motto of "Never see a need without doing something about it" into action in ways that we can follow in our everyday lives. Like Mary, we can develop an attitude of gratitude, we can listen for God's call. We can open our hearts to all and


we can have the courage to do our bit to make the world a better place.

St. Joseph's Tara celebrated Mary's feast with Liturgy of the Word. Students listened to stories about Mary MacKillop's life and ministry. Each community member received a blessing and a quote from a student dressed as Mary MacKillop. A Mary MacKillop rose was planted in her honour.

St. Maria Goretti Inglewood celebrated Mass with the parish. Josephite sisters, Marie Dowling and Di Philips (and her Mary MacKillop doll), Fr. Sean Lynskey, Mrs Reibelt and students planted Mary MacKillop roses. This was

followed by a shared morning tea. Sr. Marie has kindly donated a statue of Mary MacKillop to the school.

St. Mary's Taroom celebrated Mary MacKillop's feast day with Mass. The St. Mary MacKillop Club has been very busy. Recent activities include a stamp collection and a warm clothing day to help those in need.

St. Patrick's Mitchell students participated in a rotation of Mary MacKillop learning activities and Fr. Jamie celebrated a Mary MacKillop feast day Mass with the Parish community. Director of Toowoomba Catholic Education, Mr. John Borserio, joined the community for these events. 

STUDENTS EMBRACE "NOBLESSE OBLIGE" WORKING WITH ROSIES

By Lynne Stuart



Students happy to get involved with Rosies

Out of personal adversity and loss

comes something noble and good, something that confirms the Gospel values handed to us by Jesus Christ. St Eugène de Mazenod was born in 1782 to a wealthy and aristocratic family in Aix-en-Provence, France. After a spiritual experience on Good Friday 1807, Eugène became a Catholic Priest and chose to work amongst the poor of Aix. He was able to connect directly with the common people who were previously ignored, particularly the young whom he thought had been abandoned by the Church and the world in general. In 1815 he gathered a group of Priests and formed the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate to work with the poor of their community.

On 9 May, our school celebrated the Feast of the Blessed Edmund Rice. The parallels between Edmund Rice's and St Eugène de Mazenod's life and are many. In carrying out the college motto of Serve Him in Others through working with Rosies: Friends on the Street, students of St Joseph's College continue the selfless work begun by Saint Eugène.

Rosies is a community of people sharing the Oblate spirit of doing, inspired by the Gospel; it reaches out to those most abandoned, offering them the experience of community and belonging. Rosies was started in Toowoomba in July, 2013 and now boasts more than 75 volunteers who offer times of presence with others through street

outreach whereby it seeks to foster people's self-worth and dignity.

Rosies Street Retreat Outreach Program offers students in years 11 and 12 the opportunity to participate in their volunteer outreach program with those less fortunate in our community. Rosies is present with those people on the corner of Chalk Drive and Ruthven Street on Friday nights, Harlaxton on Wednesday nights and in front of the Salvation Army offices on Friday mornings.


A quarterly newsletter is produced by the organisation which recognises the work done by its volunteers and is a useful resource for students studying homelessness. Donations can be made by phoning 1300 ROSIES or visiting www.rosies.org.au. 

ROLL OF HONOUR SOUNDSCAPE PROJECT

By Michelle Nitz

On Tuesday the 17th of June, ten of our Student Leaders were invited to travel to Toowoomba to be a part of an exciting project organised by ABC Radio and the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. This Soundscape project is to commemorate the Centenary

of the First World War. Primary school students between the ages of 10 and 12, selected from across Australia, have been invited to record the name and age of one of the 62,000 Australians who died during the First World War. These voice recordings will be played in the First

World War section of the Cloisters in the Commemorative Area at the War Memorial. After the recording session students were able to tour the radio station and see an on-air session live. Thanks to Mrs Deonne Crowe for nominating our school to be part of this special event. 

DOWNLANDS ART EXHIBITION BREAKS RECORDS

Even in its 28th year, the Downlands Art Exhibition continued to break new ground, including a display of rarely seen Margaret Olley works and the launch of the Downlands 225 – 225 small artworks for \$22.50 each. With a record number of 1111 catalogued artworks sourced from seven galleries as well as directly from local artists, this was the largest exhibition ever produced at the College.

A large, friendly crowd enjoyed the art alongside Downlands famous hospitality at the Gala Opening on the Friday night and beautiful weekend weather continued to draw record numbers of visitors to the College and record sales.

Award winning artist, Maree Davidson, painted in the foyer throughout the weekend and people were also invited to make their own rubbings from artwork by past student, Tiel Seivl-Keevers.

Curator, Evan Hollis, was overjoyed with the response to this year's Art Exhibition.

"People from throughout the Downlands community contribute to the event every year, providing art, contacts, sales, manpower and sponsorship. It is a joy to put together a show of such a high calibre", he said. "We will continue to improve




Spreading the Downlands hospitality at the Gala Opening.

our processes for next year."


This year Northpoint Shopping Centre was the major sponsor, with other local businesses literally putting their name on parts of the exhibition. Stonestreets parked their buses on the lawn while visitors ate in the Priceline

Northpoint Coffee Shop and browsed the Toowoomba Mower Centre student artwork section.

See more highlights from the exhibition online at www.downlandsart.com 

PREP PRAYER BOOK LAUNCH

By Michelle Nitz

On Friday the 27th of June, the Prep classes invited their families and friends to the launch of their Creation Prayer books. Each student wrote their own prayer of thanks and illustrated it. The prayers were then compiled into a lovely book which were sold at the launch. All profits made from the sale of the books were donated to the school's Mini-Vinnies group. Some supporters were lucky enough to have their book signed by the authors. 



The Prep students gather around the prayer space.

HIGHFIELDS CATHOLIC P-12 SCHOOL TO BE NAMED **MARY MACKILLOP CATHOLIC COLLEGE**

By Rachel Kerwick



Looking over the plans for Mary MacKillop Catholic College are Josie Hiley-Stevenson, Ryan McCosker, Bree Puhakka and Jack Lucy.

After much community

consultation and consideration by Bishop Robert McGuckin and his Consultors, the recently approved Preparatory to Year 12 Catholic school at Highfields is to be called Mary MacKillop Catholic College.

"Our community were very keen to maintain the current name of the primary school and build on the traditions we have grown over the last ten years," said Principal, Donaugh Shirley.

"Saint Mary MacKillop is our patron and as such her belief in how

empowering education is and how it should be available to all will be at the centre of our new school. Access to high quality Catholic Education will be the Mary MacKillop story that we live."

The students of Mary MacKillop were equally excited by the news when it was announced at their assembly today.

"Our school song says, we are building our future, we are using bricks of love, we are making this a happy place, where we can learn and grow. I am really excited that I will still be at this school for high

school and that it will be called Mary MacKillop Catholic College. It will be the same great school but bigger," said Josie Hiley-Stevenson, a Year 7 student and School Leader.

"Mary MacKillop teaches us to never see a need without doing something about it and this will be part of our secondary school," said Ryan McCosker, a Year 7 student and School Leader.

Planning for the expansion of the school continues and the Principal encourages families to contact the school for more information. [\[1\]](#)

If you have an image of the Diocese you would like to share please email it to horizons@twb.catholic.org.au with the subject "Views of the Diocese".

On the way
to Quilpie.
Photo taken by
Mary Schwartz

How does your faith play a **role in your everyday life?**



Bec Sims:

Our Lady of Lourdes
Parish, Toowoomba

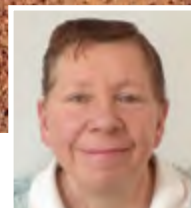
My faith provides support and direction, and has opened up countless doors to opportunities and life-long friendships. It provides the foundations on which I build my life, and without it, I would not have been able to overcome battles I have faced.



Mark Copland:

Social Justice Commission

My faith is foundational to my every day. It is much more than knowing that there is life after death. It is appreciating the beauty of God's creation around me. It is knowing that I am part of a bigger plan and don't have to do things in my own strength. It is belonging to a community based on the truth that love is stronger than hate, that peace can only come through justice and that through Jesus all of us can have the gift of Reconciliation.



Cherene Brandt:

St Anthony's Parish, Toowoomba

I use my faith, everyone has their own beliefs and I respect that and I feel my faith is very strong when I am down. And then when I pray I get the answers that I need. If I hear of a friend in need I will pray for them. I do not know what I would do without my faith; there are so many situations when I feel that I am glad that I have my faith. We see sadness and cruel people everywhere we go, but then a new life will come into the world and when they cry or laugh it's that spark of life and we know there is a little bit of good amidst all the gloom - we see a ray of light.

Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba

www.twb.catholic.org.au



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