

# Horizons

FREE Publication of the Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba



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**Front Cover:** Baby Hudson Haskings with Godparents Ryan Clancy and Jane Haskings at St Matthew's Church, Crow's Nest. Story page 17.

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**DEADLINES**

Editions will be seasonal.  
Deadline for the Autumn Edition 2015 is **22 May 2015**.

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## FROM THE EDITOR

By Michael Hart

Recently someone asked me how busy I was and, before I responded in the usual way, I paused for a moment and thought more deeply about the question. Everyone seems to be busy and I know that I fall into that same 'busyness' trap. There is always more to be done, something else to be planned, someone to visit or somewhere to be. Its not always work related; it can be time consuming and busy work organising time with family and friends. Some of this busyness cannot be avoided because it is core to our lives but some of our busyness

is self-constructed and unnecessary.

Time is a precious gift and how we fill it is important. As I reflected on the question of my busyness I started to think about the quality of how my time was being occupied. Were the things that were making me busy life-giving and valuable or were they simply time fillers that didn't add anything meaningful to my life or to the lives of those around me?

A quick flick through the articles in this edition of Horizons and you can see how incredibly well some people spend their time. These pages are full

of stories of people who are making an enormous contribution to the church and their local communities. As we approach the Easter season I am challenged to think again about how I spend my time and what contribution I am making. What sacrifices do I make and how can I make the most out of the time that I have?

I wish you every blessing as we enter this important time in the Church's year. May we all be touched profoundly as we celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, Our Risen Lord. **✠**

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# EASTER MESSAGE 2015



From Bishop Robert McGuckin

As we celebrate the wonderful joy of Easter we give thanks for the many gifts that we have received. Let us rejoice and be glad for this is the day that the Lord has made!

I wonder how your Lent went? Did you do anything special? There is always the danger that we procrastinate and never really get into gear. Perhaps Lent was over or almost over and we thought it was too late to do anything. Good intentions remain just good intentions if we don't act. How often after an event do we regretfully say "if only...".

On the other hand we may have truly entered into the spirit of Lent with fasting and other works of charity. Those assisted by Project Compassion will certainly be the beneficiaries of your donations. Communities will be enriched in being assisted in growing food for life and all the benefits that flow from having sustainable food.

Our spirit of generosity shouldn't be just limited to Lent but should continue

throughout the year. Caritas is always willing to receive your contributions which they will put to genuine and worthwhile projects being sponsored here in Australia and overseas. It is never too late to lend a helping hand to those in need. Caritas may be contacted via the web or telephone. <http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion> or telephone 1800 024 413.

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

Pope Francis when recently speaking to some students said something that applies to us as well, no matter what our age. *Each of you has a treasure inside. If we keep it locked up, it stays locked up inside. If we share it with others, the treasure multiplies with the treasure that comes from others.*

Each of us have unique treasures and

opportunities to give witness to the Risen Lord. Bring out that treasure. In the course of a day, or a week, we find ourselves in different places and engage with different people and groups. With the Grace of God there will be many opportunities to share the joyous message of Jesus' Resurrection. May we respond generously and share the love and the gifts that we have received. We should do this without asking about the cost or seeking to receive something ourselves in return.

Remember that we are an Easter people. I wish you every blessing in this wonderful season of light and hope.

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

Rejoice and be glad for the Lord is Risen, He is indeed Risen. May we remain in and grow in the love of the Risen Lord and may that be seen by our actions.

**Bishop Robert McGuckin**  
**Bishop of Toowoomba**  
**April 2015**

## GOING ONLINE TO COMMUNICATE KEY MESSAGES

Recently Bishop McGuckin has taken to the airwaves to share some of his key messages and statements. Michael Hart Communications Officer for the Diocese said "We are excited to be able to share important information with members of the Diocesan community using modern technology. As a geographically large diocese with many rural and isolated communities it is essential that we have communication strategies in place that enable people to access the latest news and information."

Bishop McGuckin recently released his Lenten Message for 2015 in both a video and printed format. Michael Hart went on to say that "the Bishop is also audio recording a number of his homilies to make them available



via the Diocesan website. If people are interested in finding out more all it takes is a couple clicks of the mouse and you can access Bishop

McGuckin's homilies and statements online." Check the Diocesan website [www.twb.catholic.org.au](http://www.twb.catholic.org.au) for the latest downloadable material.

# MUSINGS FROM A SEMINARIAN IN WARWICK

By Jacob Saal

For the month of December 2014 I was immersed into the sub-culture of Warwick. I say sub-culture because each place has its own way of doing things with its own kind of people doing those things. This is not to say that Warwick is separate from the Toowoomba or Australian culture but it certainly is different. I found the sub-culture of the Church in Warwick to be generous, hospitable and enthusiastic in Spirit.

I ventured to Warwick starry-eyed and 'faith-eyed'. You see, it's especially important for a seminarian to see with the eyes of faith, as St. Paul puts it, to be on more than simply work-experience. This was a pastoral faith-experience.

I was intentionally placed in Warwick to feel in my bones and interact with the place and the people – it's faith and their faiths'. I was not left disappointed.

The Church in Warwick is enthusiastic about a young bloke in the seminary who desires to be a

Priest – so am I. I found them to be incredibly supportive in their generosity and hospitality. I was invited to dinner more nights than I can count and the feasts that these loving people put on encouraged me to exercise more lest I become a man of potato proportions. I was also offered three cars to use! With a heavy heart I only took one and what a great car it was.

Also, the young people I encountered in Warwick were, to use one word, curious. They haven't really seen a man like me around the place let alone a man like me who wants to be a Priest. I found their curiosity fuelled my passion for getting to know the youth more and helping them to know Christ in a more engaging and personal way. Don't ask how I did it – because I didn't. The Holy Spirit is working in ways in Warwick that are unprecedented so, keep your spiritual ears to the ground!

With great hope in my heart I conclude that my experience in Warwick has encouraged me to



Toowoomba Seminarian, Jacob Saal.

further my studies in the seminary. I want nothing more than to follow God's call in my life – to be a Priest of Jesus Christ! Who knows, maybe God will bring me back to Warwick one day. I know the people of Warwick wouldn't be against such an idea, in fact, neither would I. #



## Thinking Priesthood?

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# SENT HIS SON TO DIE?



By Sr Elaine Morzone MFIC

*Sr. Elaine Morzone is a Missionary Franciscan Sister who came to the Toowoomba diocese in September 2012. Her diocesan role as Spirituality and Mission Development Officer embraces three main areas - spirituality enrichment by the provision of parish retreats and spiritual enrichment days; practical faith formation and facilitation of parish pastoral councils and other parish or deanery groups; coordinating a training program for lay leadership in parish ministry*

In 2011, I was in the northern hemisphere which saw the upsurge of revolutionary protests in the Arab world – in Libya, Egypt and Syria amongst others. As I watched the news on television, I was particularly taken aback one day by the response of an Egyptian man whose son had been killed in one of the uprisings. To the news reporter who asked him whether the death of his son had been worth it, he replied, “Of course. It would be worth it even if it necessitated the lives of my other

sons.” Was this a callous father who placed no value on the life of a son? On the contrary, the father deeply mourned his loss but he hungered and thirsted for justice for the many sons and daughters of his country who knew neither dignity nor freedom and struggled to eke out a basic existence in a situation of great oppression. Indeed so great was his passionate concern for his people that he was willing to surrender his own life along with that of his sons.

The attitude of this human father who seemingly approved the death of his son can help us to comprehend something of the mind of God who is sometimes presented as a wrathful father who seeks retribution. It brings into question the theology of Atonement from a past age which continues to contribute to the false image of a violent God who seeks blood atonement for the sins of humankind and thus demands the sacrificial death of his son. Is the death of Jesus really willed or demanded by the Father? Is it not rather that the Father of Jesus so loves his many sons and daughters and yearns for their liberation that he cannot but be one with Jesus in his mission of creating a new society free from oppression. The identification of Jesus with society's victims and his commitment to

critique the violent structures which oppressed their lives set him on a collision course with the establishment. There is nothing for both Father and Son but to accept and embrace the crucifixion as the inevitable result of Jesus' opposition to the forces of domination and of his unwillingness to compromise with the logic of violence. God is revealed not as a violent God but as a God of mercy and compassion who identifies with the victims who cry for justice and deliverance from the world of violence.

Jesus died on the Cross before the full realization of his mission. His desire was that his disciples should work together to make his vision of the world a reality. If we are to cooperate in bringing Jesus' work to fulfillment, we will ponder carefully his vision of a nonviolent society and embrace his way, refusing with him in any situation to adopt or accommodate to methods of control, force and domination as the natural solution to human conflict. Rather, we will walk with him the path of suffering and death to self for the sake of love which leads to resurrection, celebrating as the foundation of our lives the victory of nonviolent love.

May our lives radiate each day the healing nonviolent love of Jesus. Wishing you a joyful Easter! ☩

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

AUSTRALIAN  
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# CELEBRATION OF 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

## BY SR MARY MULLINS RSM

By Kaye Mullins

On Saturday 3rd January, Sr Mary Mullins joined with over 80 members of her family from as far away as Bundaberg and Melbourne to celebrate 50 years since her Profession as a Sister of Mercy. Sr Mary was born in Warwick and attended the Bony Mountain State School for her primary education before completing her secondary education at Assumption College in Warwick. Her teacher training was completed at Kelvin Grove Teacher's College in 1958 and she taught at Rangeville and Yangan State Schools before entering the Sisters of Mercy All Hallows Convent in Brisbane in 1962. She was professed as a Sister

of Mercy on 7th January, 1965. Since then she has taught at Charleville, Gatton, the Bardon Novitiate, Stanthorpe, Dalby and Southport and carried out Pastoral work at the Sisters of Mercy Brisbane Aged Care Home, Wallangarra, Sandgate, Gatton, Lourdes Home Toowoomba and St Patrick's Parish Toowoomba. She is currently working at Nudgee. Sr Mary is convinced that her parents' faith has been the strongest and most enduring influence on her life being exercised by attendance at Mass, daily recitation of the Rosary and personal prayer. She became aware on her Confirmation Day that one day she



Sr Mary Mullins.

would enter Religious Life. The day began with Mass celebrated by Fr John Quinlan at Holy Name Church followed by lunch at Holy Name Hall and an afternoon with much talking and laughter as family members enjoyed catching up with one another. [\[7\]](#)

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## Three Saints Festival in Stanthorpe

The Three Saints Festival is an annual commemoration of the martyrdom of St Alfio, St Filadelfo and St Cirino, three Sicilian brothers tortured and killed by the Romans because they refused to deny their belief in God.

Celebrations commence Sunday, 3rd May 2015 at 10:30am with a BBQ, then Rosary, Mass and Procession with Statues.

For full details please contact Joe Spina 46832247, Santina Leonardi 0439794367 or St Joseph's Parish Stanthorpe 46812157 / [stjosephsparish@halenet.com.au](mailto:stjosephsparish@halenet.com.au)

# FR KERRY COSTIGAN CELEBRATES JUBILEE

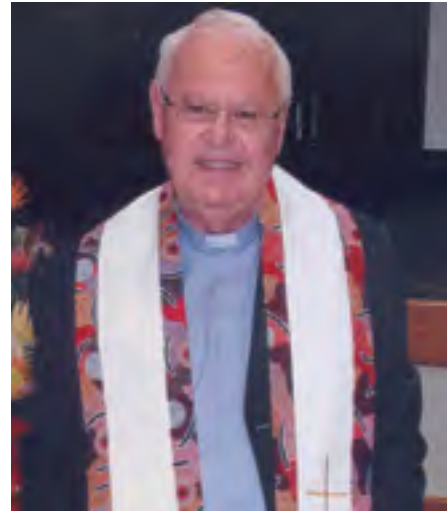
By Fr Kerry Costigan

Fr Kerry Costigan, a retired priest of the Diocese recently celebrated 50 years of ministry as a priest. Fr Kerry celebrated with over 300 people at a special mass at the Oakey Community Centre. Present were representatives of the many organisations to which Fr Kerry belongs as well as members of the Anglican Church in Oakey.

After Mass Toowoomba Mayor Paul Antonio launched Fr Kerry's book "Make Us Count". The book chronicles his life as a priest and Navy chaplain. While researching his family history, Fr Costigan

discovered he has Aboriginal roots. He is recognized and accepted as part of the Mununjali Tribe. In honour of this heritage there were features of Aboriginal culture during the Mass. Members of the Brisbane Murri group participated in the celebration as well as Emeritus Bishop Bill Morris presenting Fr Kerry with a special stole featuring animals common in aboriginal culture.

Fr Kerry's book is on sale at St Paul's Book Centre Toowoomba (at The Shrine) or by phoning 07 46341102. <#>



Fr Kerry Costigan proudly displays his new stole.

# MAUREEN'S 90th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

By Fay Stein

In early November at the monthly Mass in Thallon, the extended community gathered to mark a special celebration of Maureen Pagan's 90th birthday. During the Mass Fr Michael O'Brien delighted Maureen with a gift of a Papal Blessing as a special memento of this wonderful milestone in her life.

Born in Brisbane, Maureen was educated at St Brendan's (Moorooka) and St Ita's (Dutton Park). After completing school, she was employed by Pennys and then TG Cullum (wholesale druggists) for 4 years. She met her future husband, Rodney, when she was volunteering at the Air Force Club which provided meals for those on leave. Maureen often took servicemen home for some family time and home cooked meals and Rod was taken home in a group of six to share her family's hospitality. Her parents always warmly welcomed anyone Maureen chose to bring home to them. Rod was deployed three weeks later to the Admiralty Islands and they married following his discharge from

the air force in December 1945.

They moved to Thallon for 4 years and eventually settled in Daymar where they managed the local Post Office for 39 years. Both children Adrian and Fay were born in Mungindi. Maureen enjoyed the postal work with the community which included working the manual telephone exchange and actively participated in the Daymar State School, holding the position of secretary for the 10 years her children attended. She was instrumental in organising the Christmas Tree celebration at the completion of each school year to add some excitement for the children living in the country. She was always assisted in this endeavour by her mother who thoroughly enjoyed the annual task of buying the individual gifts for the children. In her earlier years in the community she was involved in CWA, volunteered as a steward at the local flower shows, and enjoyed entering her cooking in the competition. To this day Maureen enjoys baking



Maureen Pagan is presented with her Papal Blessing by Fr Michael O'Brien.

and many friends have been the recipient of her culinary talents!

She and Rod retired from the Post Office and were farewelled by the community at Weengallon in 1981. They moved to "Rockwell" where she resides today. She was awarded the Australia Day Citizen of the year for the Waggamba Shire in recognition of her dedication and service to her community. Celebrations continued in Toowoomba during November with a large gathering of family and friends who joined in congratulating Maureen on her remarkable journey. <#>



The Diocese of Makeni in Sierra Leone has been providing psychosocial support to Ebola survivors.

# DIOCESAN SUPPORT FOR EBOLA VICTIMS IN SIERRA LEONE



By Mark Copland

*Mark Copland is the Executive Officer of the Diocesan Social Justice Commission.*

On Saturday 21st February the Social Justice Commission visited Goondiwindi. As part of the regular open sharing session, Commission member Charles Kitapindu presented background information on the effects of Ebola in Sierra Leone. Charles and his family first came to Australia as refugees from Sierra Leone. Charles particularly highlighted the plight of orphans, children who had lost both of their parents to this horrible disease. These children face enormous hurdles as there is



Members of the Social Justice Commission with Fr Michael O'Brien at Goondiwindi Parish.

stigma attached to those who have had parents die from Ebola. The most heartening thing was to hear of a project run in the Diocese of Makeni in the Northern Province of Sierra Leone. This project which is co-ordinated by the Congregation of the Spiritans specifically cares for Ebola orphans and vulnerable children. Mr Kitapindu told the group that there are over 3000 children in this situation. The Diocese currently cares for 200 children but is unable to expand due to lack of resources. It is a privilege

for the Diocese of Toowoomba to be able to support this project through our 2014 Christmas offering. "This direct support from the Toowoomba Diocese to the Diocese of Makeni is exactly what the Council of Priests aims to do", stated Fr Michael O'Brien, parish priest of Goondiwindi and secretary of the Council of Priests. "It is a way of reaching out and showing our solidarity with some of the most vulnerable people in our world." It is hoped that we will be able to report on progress throughout 2015. <#>





Caring for Orphans is a particular focus for the Diocese of Makeni in Sierra Leone.

## EXPERIENCES OF A SPIRITAN MISSIONARY IN SIERRA LEONE

By Fr Sean Lynskey CSSp

Sierra Leone is a small country on the west coast of Africa, between Guinea and Liberia. It's about the size of Ireland and a little bigger than Tasmania. It was a British Colony up to 1961 when the country was given independence. I went there as a missionary in 1974 and remained there until 1995 when the civil war caused havoc and made life dangerous for everyone.

One of the best ways to meet the people was to go and stay with them in the villages. We called this "trekking" and I had about twenty small villages that I would regularly trek to. It wasn't easy but it was a joy to be with the people at the grass roots level and a wonderful opportunity to see how the people really lived. I always received a wonderful welcome in the villages. I was given a room in a mud built hut with thatch on the roof. The floors and the walls were made of mud and each room had a local made bed.

During the twenty one years I spent in Sierra Leone I was involved in not only pastoral work but education as well. Education was the key to giving

people the chance for a better way of life. I had the experience of teaching in schools that we established in remote areas. We were able to give many young students a good start that they would not have had otherwise. One such student I remember, whose father was a subsistence farmer and very poor, is now an orthopaedic surgeon. Another student has a Ph.D. in physics and is teaching in a University in the US. Many others went on to become teachers and business people within their local communities. Some of the girls also became nurses and teachers.

We not only had schools in most of our missions, we also tried to set up clinics, hospitals and development projects which looked after the needs of the people. The best hospitals in the country were the mission hospitals. Some of them were run by the Holy Rosary Sisters.

Unfortunately the civil war that erupted in the country in 1991 made life very difficult for everyone, nobody knew how it was going to pan out. I was lucky as I was almost caught



by the invading rebels who attacked the town where I was living. Many of my parishioners were shot and killed or suffered torture and abuse. Others ran and made their way to the neighbouring country of Guinea and became refugees. I made my way to the nearest safe town of Kenema which is now the heart of the Ebola crisis and stayed there for the next four years.

Today, this country has been ravaged by the Ebola crisis and the Diocese of Toowoomba is trying to support the health system financially through Caritas. We pray that their lives in the future will be made easy. #



L to R: Mark Copland, Mick Gooda and Callum Copland.

## GENUINE DIALOGUE IS CRUCIAL WHEN IT COMES TO CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION

By Mark Copland

I was privileged to spend some time recently reflecting on the place of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Australian Constitution, our nation's founding document. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner Mick Gooda delivered a keynote speech as part of the Shine Lawyers Lecture series at the University of Southern Queensland. In this lecture

Commissioner Gooda encouraged all Australians to grab hold of a vision of an inclusive nation. A nation that cherishes and celebrates its ancient culture and heritage. The School of Law and Justice at the University of Southern Queensland hosted a one day Colloquium on Recognising Indigenous People in the Constitution. Several of the papers delivered gave

an international perspective discussing how other nations around the world have acknowledged the place of Indigenous Peoples. The message that came through very clearly is the need to base any future actions on genuine respectful listening and partnerships built on trust and strong relationships. It would appear that we are yet to take this first step. <#>

## NOT BEARING FALSE WITNESS

By Mark Copland

We don't spend a lot of time contemplating the eighth commandment, "You Shall Not Bear False Witness Against Your Neighbour". This was drawn to my attention at the Fourth National Conference on Pastoral Care for Refugees and Migrants in October of last year. Columban Priest Fr Patrick McInerney challenged all of those gathered to keep this commandment when it comes to our relationship with

people of the Muslim Faith. "How many Muslims do we know? How many meals have we shared with people of Muslim faith? How much time have we spent learning about Islam?" For many of us the answer to this question is very little and yet we are quick to form judgments about our Muslim neighbours. In the wake of the Sydney Siege and the attempted burning of the Garden City Mosque it has been a privilege to stand with

our Muslim sisters and brothers at a time of need. Bishop McGuckin has joined with Anglican Bishop Cameron Venables in covering the cost of the damage to the mosque hall. This sign of friendship will be further deepened with a planned interfaith soccer game taking place on 25th March. The game has been co-organised by members of the Muslim community along with the Diocesan Youth Office and the Social Justice Commission. <#>


# JULIEANNE RASMUSSEN WINS SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARD

By Mark Copland

Mrs Julieanne Rasmussen is the winner of the 2014 Social Justice Award for Toowoomba. Julieanne, along with the Just Joeys group at St Joseph's College has embarked on an extensive education project raising awareness around the issue of asylum seekers amongst staff and students from the College. Every day in pastoral care groups, students and staff reflected on myths and facts and the experience of people seeking asylum in Australia. This led to a public lantern parade in Toowoomba with four Catholic Secondary schools taking part. Julieanne organised to have local asylum seekers share their story with the Just Joeys group. Her efforts have encouraged positive

debate and awareness. She has shown leadership through the entire Catholic Education system in the Diocese and spread the message of justice and compassion to the broader community. In doing all of this Julieanne has gone well and truly outside of her comfort zone. She along with the Just Joeys group is a deserved winner of the 2014 Social Justice Award. She has been a voice for the voiceless.

This is the eleventh year of the Social Justice Award which recognizes the work of local individuals and organisations in the area of social justice. Previous recipients have worked in the field of refugees, affordable housing, disability advocacy, Indigenous

youth work, protecting the environment and agricultural land and education. Mrs Rasmussen was recently presented with her award at the St Joseph's College Awards evening. The award is usually presented in the lead up to the 10th December, the International Day for Human Rights. "The right to seek asylum and live a life free from persecution is fundamental to a civilized society," stated Dr Mark Copland, Executive Officer for the Social Justice Commission. "It may not be popular, and it may be misunderstood, but the stand that Julieanne Rasmussen has taken will be judged to be on the right side of history, and more importantly on the side of humanity." 



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# ERASING RACISM

## ONE STORY AT A TIME

Centacare Toowoomba has been working with a group of young former refugees to deliver a program to high school students across South West Queensland.

E-Raced is a program embracing and promoting the Catholic social teachings of human equality and the common good, and aims to achieve social cohesion within high schools and wider communities.

By sharing their stories and discussing the journeys they have taken to get to Australia, the presenters are hoping to clear up misconceptions some students may have around refugees and migrants and eliminate some stereotypes they have often been labelled with.

Centacare Toowoomba Director Geoff Argus said the organization applied for a grant to deliver the E-Raced program as it fitted well with the mission of Centacare Toowoomba and the services provided, particularly through the Toowoomba Refugee and Migrant Support (TRAMS) program.

"E-Raced not only empowers the individuals delivering each session, it drives the mission of Centacare Toowoomba; to enhance human dignity and freedom.

"These young people are giving up their time to educate and raise awareness around an important social issue in regional and remote communities and we are proud to support them," Mr Argus said.

The concept for E-Raced came about in 2013 when a young refugee by the name of Prudence Melom won Heywire, an annual story telling competition run by ABC radio.

Prudence travelled from her home in Toowoomba to Canberra where she was given the opportunity to discuss issues affecting young Australians in her community.

Together with two other Heywire participants, Prudence came up with a project called E-Raced.

The Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) provided a small grant to assist in making Prudence's vision for the E-Raced program a reality.

Originally from a small village in



On the Road: Prudence Melom, Magret Ateny and Habib Aliahmadi presented an E-Raced session to St George High School students. They are hoping their stories will encourage people to get to know the journey of a refugee before drawing conclusions or judging them.

Chad, the journey for Prudence and her family has not been an easy one.

She recalls when she was just four-years-old, hiding under a bed while her father was taken outside by police, moments later she heard a gunshot.

Prudence believes it's important for her to share her story in detail with students as a way of eliminating racism and promoting diversity.

"I think a lot of people form opinions about refugees and migrants and the reasons why they are in Australia based on things they might hear in the media or stereotypes some people come up with.

"I want to tell my story because I want to remove some of the misconceptions such as: refugees

come to Australia illegally, or that we come because we want to take people's jobs," Prudence said.

"I am so grateful for the support I have received since coming to Australia. I want to make the most of the opportunities I have been given and I want to be a voice to help create open-minded and accepting communities."

E-Raced has been delivered to high schools in St George, Surat, Roma, Chinchilla and Oakey.

You can read more and show your support at [facebook.com/eraced.com.au](http://facebook.com/eraced.com.au)

**For more information on the project contact Kate Gaffney on 1300 477 433. #**

# CELEBRATION OF THE 23RD WORLD DAY OF THE SICK, 2015 AND COMMISSIONING OF PASTORAL CARERS

By Lyn Cash

On 11th February, the Church commemorated the World Day of the Sick which falls on the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. As in past years, a celebration was held at the Chapel of Lourdes Home for the Aged. During the ceremony, the Heads of Churches commissioned Pastoral Carers ministering in healthcare facilities. Prayer was said for Pastoral Carers, Hospital Staff and Healthcare Administrators, as well as the very ill, aged and vulnerable people in our hospitals and in our community.

This World Day of the Sick, Pope Francis invites us to reflect on I was eyes to the blind, and feet to the lame (Job 29:15). Through his message Pope Francis invites us to consider the passage from the perspective of Sapiencia cordis (the wisdom of the heart). Pope Francis calls on Christians and all people of good will to have 'wisdom of heart' to go beyond themselves and reach out to the sick. Wisdom of the heart means showing solidarity with our brothers and sisters while not judging them, a time to be at their side like Job's friends: And they sat with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his suffering was very great.

In his message, Pope Francis states, that even when illness, loneliness and inability make it hard for us to reach out to others, the experience of suffering can become a privileged means of transmitting grace and a source for gaining and growing in sapientia cordis. He continued by asking us to come to understand how Job, at the end of his experience, could say to God: I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you (42:5).



Meryl Tracey and Sr Imelda McMahon cutting the Pastoral Care Cake.

Bishop Robert McGuckin, during his reflection on the Gospel reading, shared that in this ministry we have to have the closeness of the Lord - sharing in the Mission and that out of this relationship of Jesus, all our actions will flow. Attending to the sick, he stated, is Holy time. Bishop Robert reminded us also of the care of ourselves.

It was a happy occasion and a wonderful opportunity to enjoy this time with our ecumenical sisters and brothers, all who share in the Ministry to the Sick. In thanking those who held the responsibility of making the event successful and enjoyable, Lyn Cash took the opportunity to express her gratitude to the recent Pastoral Care retirees: Meryl Tracey, Mabs Green, Sr. Marian Liddy and Sr. Imelda McMahon. These ladies,

she said, are prayerful women full of courage and love, who reveal to us, that it is not that we need to change our lives to be holy, we need to live what we are in the consciousness of God.

At the gathering, Meryl, Co-ordinator of Pastoral Care at Lourdes Home, shared that approx 25 years ago, she with the then Mission Director of St. Vincent's Hospital, were instrumental in planting the seed for a new model of Pastoral Care. This was not only for St. Vincent's Hospital but reaching out to all other pastoral care departments in the local healthcare facilities. This seed was planted and has now come to fruition. Meryl, Mabs, Sr Marian and Sr Imelda are four women who have made a significant contribution to the Pastoral Care Ministry. 📌

# CELEBRATING THE YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE AND SILVER JUBILEE OF SR REENA JOHN THYVEETHIL

By Sr Eileen March SSPC

Sr Reena John Thyveetil of the Missionary Sisters of St Peter Claver celebrated twenty-five years of Religious profession at St Patrick's Cathedral, Toowoomba, on Sunday 1st February.

Sr Reena was born in Olarikara a small town of Kerala, India, the third of six children of John and Thankamma Thyveetil. She entered the Missionary Sisters of St Peter Claver in 1986 and was professed on 2nd February 1990. Three years later she left her country for the first time to go to Melbourne, Australia. Coming to Toowoomba for a short time, she made her Final Profession in St Patrick's Cathedral in 1996.

Since then she has served the Congregation in Wellington, New Zealand; the mission area of Andhra Pradesh, India; and stayed in Rome for just over three years for further religious formation and to study Missiology. While in Italy she had the opportunity to work in Austria for a few months, where the Congregation's Foundress, Blessed Mary Theresa Ledochowska was born, grew up and founded the Congregation. This was a highlight for Sr Reena to have been able to touch the places where the Foundress had lived and worked. In 2007 she was transferred once again to Melbourne, coming back to Toowoomba two years ago.

Bishop Robert McGuckin saw the occasion of Sr Reena's Jubilee as an opportunity to inaugurate Diocesan celebrations for the Year of Consecrated Life. The celebration

was extended to include all Religious of the Diocese who were invited to attend and renew their consecration.

During his homily, Bishop Robert paid tribute to the role of Religious in the Church and in the Diocese saying, "This special Year is something to be celebrated in the universal Church, so as to promote consecrated life and to encourage religious sisters, brothers and priests to wake up the world with their testimony of faith, holiness and hope."


Bishop Robert gave thanks to the women and men of the Religious Orders present in the Toowoomba Diocese, many of whom were represented at the Mass, including the Missionary Sisters of St Peter Claver, Sisters of Mercy, Sisters of St Joseph, Sisters of Charity, Marist Sisters, Presentation Sisters, Ursuline Sisters, Missionary Sisters of Service, Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, Good Samaritan Sisters, Missionary of St Francis de Sales, Missionary Franciscans of the Immaculate Conception, Missionary of the Blessed Sacrament and Spiritans.

Bishop Robert continued, "By reason of their consecration to God, Religious are called to bear

particular witness to the Gospel and are so fittingly called upon by the Bishop to help in proclaiming the Gospel. So many Religious have done just that in this Diocese and I am extremely grateful for this special grace we have all received because of Religious in this vast Diocese".

After the homily, Sr Reena renewed her consecration. Bishop Robert then invited all the Religious onto the Sanctuary where each was presented with a lighted candle and then together they also renewed their religious promises.

Following the Mass, morning tea was served in the Parish Centre. After cutting the Jubilee cake, Sr Reena thanked everyone for attending, especially Bishop Robert for making the occasion so memorable. She also congratulated all the religious present, acknowledging their selfless service of the Diocese.

She concluded by saying, "Once again I thank each and everyone for this wonderful day. I pray for you and ask you to pray for me - and for young people so that they may listen and respond to God's call and therefore experience the deep joy and peace of being consecrated to Him." 



Sr Reena renews her religious vows.

# RENEWING THEIR COMMITMENT TO FAITH

By Sr Mary Cleary MSS



Bishop Robert with many of the Religious Sisters within the Toowoomba Diocese.

## RENEWAL OF VOWS


During Mass on 2nd February, Sr. Reena John Thyveetil celebrated the Silver Jubilee of her Profession. After she renewed her vows, 26 religious sisters and one priest (Fr Matthew Koottianiyil, a member of a religious congregation) renewed their commitment to the vowed life. Sisters came from Stanthorpe, Pittsworth, Toowoomba, Charleville, Cunnamulla, Quilpie, Roma and Dalby. Each religious was presented with a candle before speaking these words:

In the presence of God's people with whom we share the one mission of Christ through Baptism, and faithful to the specific charisms of our own religious congregations, we re-commit ourselves to the vows we first professed for the sake of this same mission.

**We renew our vow of chastity** which commits us to a celibate way of life. Moved by the loving energy of the Spirit, we offer a total gift of ourselves to God. In nurturing

life, we create sacred spaces of conversation that build right relationships, friendships, mutuality and inclusion in communities, ministries and society. We embrace all in our multi-cultural world with a compassionate and reconciling love.

**We renew our vow of poverty** which calls us to live in solidarity with and in service to those at the margins, trusting always in God's abundance. We witness to a joyful proclamation of the gospel by living a simple lifestyle, being available with our time and talents and committing ourselves to a respectful care of creation.

**We renew our vow of obedience** which unites us with the members of our community and with the whole church in openness and discernment of the Spirit. We promise to serve the mission of God's reign in accordance with our particular charisms, by using our gifts to build up, empower and enliven the transformation of our world. 

Pope Francis has proclaimed 2015 a Year of Consecrated Life. This year began on November 29th, 2014 and will conclude on February 2nd, 2016, the Presentation of the Lord. The year will be dedicated to the promotion and celebration of consecrated life. Pope Francis is asking the church's religious sisters, brothers and priests to "wake up the world" with their testimony of faith, holiness and hope.

The Year of Consecrated Life has three aims: to look to the past with gratitude; to live the present with passion and to embrace the future with hope. "Radical evangelical living is not only for religious," the Pope wrote in his Apostolic Letter to all Consecrated People. "It is demanded of everyone. But religious follow the Lord in a special way, in a prophetic way".

# GOING, GOING, GONE: GOONDIWINDI SAYS GOODBYE TO PRESBYTERY

By Fr Michael O'Brien

If only the walls could talk....although perhaps it's for the best that they can't! Early January St Mary's Parish farewelled probably the oldest building on the parish and school block. The presbytery, assumedly one of the first buildings erected, would date between 100 and 130 years old with the first priest having arrived in 1885. During this time the

building has been home to 52 priests, a number of housekeepers and a few pastoral workers. The last ten priests residing in the presbytery were Frs Mick Cooney, Mick Carroll, John Mahoney, Terry Fitzpatrick, Kevin Noble, Mick Skehan, Bernie Kane, Dudley McMahon, Brian Connolly and Frank Leonard. Of course there is an embargo on stories

Carefully removing the Presbytery building and escorting it to its new location.

about myself for at least 20 years! The presbytery will have new life breathed into it as a family home, purchased by Tommy and Louise Carroll, where it will be placed on a property near Yelarbon. We wish the Carroll Family every success in making it their new home and hope the ghosts of parties past don't keep them awake too late at night! 🇺🇸

## PAPAL BLESSING FOR OLDEST REMAINING STUDENT

By Fr Michael O'Brien

At the end of last year the Parish and School communities of St. Mary's, Goondiwindi surprised Mrs Josie Vetter with a presentation of a Papal Blessing. This was in acknowledgment of Josie being the oldest remaining student that attended St Mary's. Josie, aged 95 still enjoys interaction with the school children at school Masses. Afterwards her sister, Biddy (young at 86) and Josie answered questions from students about their time at school. The questions ranged from "Did you ever get into trouble?" to "What did you eat for lunch?" and "Did you have a boyfriend?". All questions were answered with great dignity and pose! We are so privileged to have two wonderfully gentle and wise members in our community. The community wishes God's blessings to Josie and Biddy. 🇺🇸



School captains, Mitchell Dight, Joe Castor, Tori Gallegos and Eliza Walker with Josie and Tori.



# CHINCHILLA FAREWELLS

## SR MARION LIDDY RSJ

By Michelle Nitz

At the end of 2014, Our Lady Help of Christians' Parish and St Joseph's Primary School Chinchilla, said goodbye and good luck to much loved Sister of St Joseph, Sr Marion Liddy. After living in the community for 9 years, Sr Marion has relocated to the Parish of St Thomas More's in Toowoomba. Sr Marion was a wonderful support to the staff and a much loved friend of the students at St Joseph's School. As a special treat for Sr Marion in her last weeks in the community, school staff organised for her to have a joyride in a hot rod car, owned by School Officer Mrs Wendy Ferguson. After a school assembly the students enthusiastically waved Sister off for a quick spin around the town. Sr Marion loved the experience. At the end of year mass the students of St Joseph's presented Sr Marion with a book of messages of love and

thanks. School staff also presented Sr Marion with a silver necklace to show their appreciation of her support and guidance over many years.

The Parish acknowledged Sr Marion's service to the local community with a farewell supper held in the Parish Hall. Sr Marion was delighted to have many fellow Sisters of St Joseph return to Chinchilla to join in the celebrations. Sr Denise Brosnan read a congratulatory letter from the Regional Leader of the Josephite Order at the supper. Sr Marion's departure from the community means the end of the presence of the Sisters of St Joseph in Chinchilla after 91 years.



Sr Marion enjoys a spin in the hot rod.

Thank you to Sr Marion for her involvement in our lives during her time in Chinchilla. With her passion for pastoral work, visiting the residents at Chinchilla's aged care facility, being a Parish Council member, school reading helper, sacramental program committee member, classroom visitor and our next door neighbour, Sr Marion has influenced many in so many ways. We hope she enjoys her new life in Toowoomba. We will miss you! <#>

# HAVE A 'MAGIC'

## BUSH CHRISTMAS

By Sr Maureen Andrews MFIC

When I received a Christmas card from my friend with these words on the front, I blinked and wondered. What would it be like? Could it happen? Living in a small country town the bigger feasts are sometimes cause for concern. You start to wonder whether people join in in prayer and worship with our dwindling population of regular attendees. In hopeful anticipation we decorated the church with the focus being the Christmas tree and the gold poinsettias that sparkled under the night lights.

Yes, it was magic we trebled the population and it was an emotion filled, magic night. People walked into the church to the sounds of Spence, our organist, playing music to calm us down to be totally present to the God

of surprises. We remembered that our God became vulnerable and shared our vulnerability. At the conclusion of the service we celebrated this as we shared a special supper together. The children then let their joy explode in the way they know best – in play. They ran up and down and across the green sward chasing rabbits in the half dark. It was magic and surely a night to remember.

Now 2015 is beginning to be magic year. We welcomed Sue-Ellen Hazelman into our school and church community as Acting Principal whilst Cara is on maternity. Her gentle and gracious presence will be a blessing to us. We also welcomed Jordeigh Dunn as an enthusiastic new graduate.

Once again magic entered our



Cunnamulla Leadership Team for 2015.

lives with the liturgy in which the Leadership Team for 2015 was inducted. The theme was A Rainbow of Gifts – God With Us. We were welcomed with the words "Just as the rainbow is made up of different colours, which blend together to create something beautiful, so too our community is made up of each one of us, who in our uniqueness and our differences, create a very special community." The liturgy concluded with the Team reciting the Leadership Pledge where they promised to be of service to the community through living out the Gospel values.

May we all live out this spirit of giftedness in Peace, Hope and Love. If we can do this we will have a magic 2015. <#>

# ST THERESA'S PARISH KEEPS BUSY IN A TIME OF CHANGE

By Regan Kama

St Theresa's



St Theresa's Parish farewells Mary Otto (centre left) and welcomes Regan Kama (centre right).

Much has been happening in the Parish of St Theresa's in Toowoomba. Firstly, our Parish Pastoral Associate, Mrs Mary Otto retired after eight years of amazing service to our parishioners, Mary will be sadly missed. Our new Pastoral Associate is Regan Kama who has relocated with her family from Coffs Harbour.

In November the Parish held its annual Ecumenical Evening in the Parish Centre. Four different speakers from four different denominations spoke on the theme "Lay Leadership in Pastoral Ministries". Lyn Cash (Catholic), Julie Humphreys (Anglican), Annie Pfeffer (Lutheran) and Sharon Kirk (Uniting Church) spoke on behalf of their respective denominations. Each spoke of the increasingly important role of the laity as all clergy from all denominations become more stretched.

We also held the celebration of First Reconciliation for our young children in the community on Thursday 13th November. This was a nice evening of young families coming together for their children.



Sharing morning tea after Anointing Mass.

During November we have especially remembered those who have gone before us during the year and the deceaseds' names were read out during mass.

The Parish held a Releasing of the Memories Liturgy and Anointing Mass for the elderly and ill in our community. This was followed by a delightful lunch prepared by the Care and Concern Team from the Parish. The Community especially thanks the Care and Concern and Welcome and Hospitality Teams for their generous

catering on many occasions.

As the Parish made ready for the birth of Christ, many celebrations took place during December. On the 18th December we had the Second Rite of Reconciliation and on the 19th December we had a fun night of singing Christmas Carols. It was an enjoyable evening.

Our formation for the Parish Council took place on Sunday 1st February followed by the first Parish Council meeting for 2015. [H](#)

# RESTORATION OF HOLY NAME CHURCH

By Zelda Richardson



The Church empty and ready for painting.

In the 1970s it was decided to change the orientation of Holy Name Church to place the sanctuary and altar on the long wall and to have the pews in a semicircle around them. Not everyone was happy with the change and over the years various parishioners have suggested that this change be reversed. The decision was finally made last year to return the church to its original form. The process took time, as such things do. Parishioner Ken Goodwin, an architect, after consultation drew up plans for the proposed restoration. These were then presented to the parishioners for comment and their suggestions taken into account. There was also consultation with Fr Peter Williams from Sydney, an expert in these matters. Another parishioner Mary Lynch, a professional designer, advised on the finer points of the interior finish.

After permission was obtained from Bishop Robert McGuckin, tenders were called and were awarded to builder Mark Fitzpatrick from Sacred Heart Parish. The restoration generated great excitement and there were frequently parishioners poking noses through doors to “see how it was going”, many with camera in hand.



Bishop McGuckin dedicating the restored church.

The altar was disassembled, taken away, cleaned and returned to be placed in the new sanctuary. Many thanks Wagners for their care.

One fairly major change was made to the church. The back third has been partitioned off with concertina doors, forming a narthex which can be used for other purposes, like meetings. The doors can also be opened up for times when there is a larger congregation. One of the most striking elements of the restoration is the placing of our beautiful “Coventry Crucifix” on the side

wall where the sanctuary had been. After the restoration was complete, a well-attended working bee ensured that everything was squeaky clean for immediate use. On 22nd February Bishop Robert officially blessed and dedicated the restored church.

The Holy Name Community is grateful to Mark Fitzpatrick and his men for the wonderful job they have done in restoring the church to its former glory and maybe even surpassing it. Holy Name Parish welcomes everyone to come and visit the church. <#>

# CARITAS VISIT TO MILLMERRAN

By Nell Macqueen

On Saturday 14th February for the 6:00pm Mass, Millmerran Parish welcomed Caritas representatives. Local girl Robyn-Anne Lovell was joined by Joe Foley from Caritas Brisbane Office, David and Theresa French from Pittsworth and Prakash Khadka from Caritas Nepal.

It is not often Millmerran is visited by someone with first-hand information of life in one of the Project Compassion featured countries. This year's theme of "Food for Life" emphasizes the importance of families and communities having sustainable food sources through all seasons to combat malnutrition and diseases. This need is very real in Nepal, Prakash was able



Fr. Thomas Areekuzhy and some young Millmerran Parishioners welcome Robyn-Anne Lovell, Joe Foley & Prakash.

to show how success can be achieved in cooperative projects. The visitors were treated to

a meal and a cuppa in the Hall after Mass by a very welcoming group of parishioners. [E](#)

Millmerran

## HAPPY MOMENTS IN THE CHARLEVILLE COMMUNITY

By Sr Elizabeth O'Keeffe RSM



Tim Ford of Feed Central presents a cheque for \$5,000 to Helen Gurney from the Charleville St Vincent de Paul group.

Christmas was a much happier event for many of our drought stricken families thanks to the generosity of the team at Feed Central in Toowoomba. The local St Vincent de Paul Group had approached Tim Ford, the owner of Feed Central, about doing something in relation to Christmas. It was a few personal memories of Tim's that helped them select St Vinnies as the charity to support this year: "I distinctly remember as a teenager one Christmas we got a hamper in our mailbox from a Victorian branch of the CWA,"

recalls Tim, "The joy that hamper bought that Christmas was unreal."

Another happy event in the life of our community occurred on Australia Day when Joan Houghton, one of our parishioners, was awarded the Murweh Shire Citizen of the Year Award. Joan, who is in her nineties, puts many of us to shame. She is an active member of the local Red Cross, the Senior Citizens, volunteers her time at Historic House, entertains the residents of our local nursing home with her music and also finds time to volunteer her services at

the local St Vincent de Paul store. A well-deserved award for Joan.

We have much to thank our Vietnamese members for in our community. Not only have they provided the parish with a most beautiful crib for Christmas, they have also provided four new sets of vestments and done a considerable amount of maintenance work on the Church building. As a way of saying "thank you", the parish celebrated the Lunar New Year with them after evening Mass on the Saturday before the Lunar New Year. [E](#)

Charleville

# HAPPENINGS AT CROW'S NEST

By Margaret Fowler



Fr Ted Hanlon baptising baby Hudson, with parents Lee and Gemma Haskings.

There was only one Christmas Mass in the Parish, which was celebrated on Christmas morning. This was well attended and Christmas cheer toffees were on offer to all who attended. Monies in lieu of Secret Santa Gifts at the Catholic Ladies Christmas Luncheon amounted to \$135.00 which was donated to RACQ Careflight.

Knights of the Southern Cross was established in our Parish about 1970. Originally their Annual Dinner was a 'men only' affair. Eventually it became a Parish Dinner, hosted by the Knights. Age, health and death have seen member numbers reduced to about five and the decision was made to close the group at the end of 2014. During

the years they have contributed to the Parish in many ways. The parishioners of Crow's Nest thank them for their support to the parish. Their final gift was to supply a new stove for the Parish Centre and remaining money was gifted to the Ladies Group.

In January Ged and Sandy Brennan invited parishioners to a Thanksgiving Mass to celebrate their 25th Wedding anniversary.

Sunday 8th February 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. It was designated as a Family Mass and was celebrated by Fr Peter Schultz. During Mass Peyton

Elizabeth Goodall, daughter of Danielle and Scott, was welcomed into God's family through Baptism. After Mass the congregation shared a cuppa and chat.

The parish has also celebrated other Baptisms over the past few months. On Sunday 23rd November Fr Ted Hanlon officiated at the Baptism of Hudson Lee Haskings, son of Lee and Gemma. Family visitors came from Toowoomba, Brisbane and the Gold Coast. The Baptism of Spencer Gustav Groves, son of Donald and Brigid, on Sunday 14th December was performed by Fr Ted Hanlon during Mass. Bodhi Jack Cox, son of Joshua and Alicia, was Baptised by Fr Kerry Costigan on Saturday 7th February. <#>

## SUNDAY PICNIC SAYS THANK YOU TO ALTAR SERVERS

By Patti McNaught

Altar Servers at Mary of the Southern Cross Parish, Highfields held their annual picnic at Cooby Dam. We used the day to welcome 4 new recruits and bid farewell to 4 of the old hands. The Altar Servers do a great job and whilst it was sad to see the older servers leave, already the new boys and girls are doing a wonderful job.

It was a great day with the weather fine, sunny and hot. Special thanks must go to the community

for supporting this event with BBQ supplies, kayaks and of course John Ryan with the Catamaran that is always very much appreciated by the boys and girls. He ensures that everyone has the opportunity to have a sail on the day and hopes to eventually get Fr Brian Noonan out there on the trapeze some day soon. Coordinator Mark Rowland wishes to thank everyone for a great day. A well deserved reward for a hardworking bunch! <#>



Highfields Altar Servers enjoy a day on Cooby Dam.

# CHRISTMAS MASSES DRAW HUGE CROWDS

By Patti McNaught

Both Christmas Masses were well attended this year, beyond all of our expectations. Hundreds of worshippers from Highfields and its surrounds flocked to celebrate the birth of Christ at our new venue and proved to be an attraction for the Highfields Community. Extra seating was made on both sides of the Altar however this was still not enough with only standing room available!

Fr Brian Noonan celebrated Vigil Mass with approximately 600 people and around 300 attended the Christmas Day Mass. The altar, the crib and other special touches looked amazing as we were beckoned into the church by the carols before Mass. The sound of the congregation singing together was a welcoming start to a fantastic service for the Vigil. Luigi Sattolo gave a very warm welcome to the crowd in attendance.

During the Masses overheads were displayed to highlight the various parts of the Mass and many Parishioners commented on this lovely touch making the celebration of Christmas something really special. One of the highlights was the children dressed



Christmas packed to capacity for Highfields Community.

as Mary and Joseph, angels, kings and shepherds who performed before Communion. There were so many children, with nearly every child in the church volunteering! They did a wonderful job and looked as though they were enjoying every minute.

The "Sign of Peace" was a beautiful sight to see, as so many people reached out and acknowledged others by a handshake, wave or a nod. Parishioners also connected during the Lord's Prayer, a symbol of prayer in unity. The singing of the hymns was a beautiful sound, as they came forward to receive the Eucharist, everyone taking part in this tremendously happy

occasion – the birth of our Saviour.

A huge thank you to Fr Brian, his group of liturgists and many others who worked so hard to build the Spirit in our Parish, including our wonderful Altar Servers. Special thanks to Donaugh Shirley, our School Principal, and volunteers who gave up their time to setup on Christmas Eve, this was truly appreciated by all. After Mass, the congregation stayed on, talking, laughing and reminiscing with people that they had not seen for some time. We are lucky to be part a vibrant and welcoming Community that seeks to be open and faithful to the Spirit of Christ. 🙏

## ADVENT 2014 PREPARATIONS

By Patti McNaught

Advent 2014 was very special for Highfields. Parish Liturgists Carolyn Hartung and Tricia Gall certainly made us all part of this very important time of our Liturgical Calendar. A Cairn was constructed, which is a symbol of the covenant between God and man. In this time of waiting for fulfilment of that covenant, each week parishioners were asked to bring up a stone and place it in the Cairn.

As we all brought up a stone each week, we were renewing our covenant as a Community with God. Four candles were on a table beside the Cairn, representing the four weeks of Advent. Each week a candle was lit until all four were

alight on the fourth Sunday of Advent. The waiting was almost over and the birth of Christ was now near.

All parishioners took part in this ceremony for each of the four weeks which created much conversation and inquisitive questioning of its origin. An explanation was found on a scroll hanging above the Cairn, a passage from Genesis 31:45-49, "Gather some stones." And gathering some stones they made a Cairn. They had a meal there and Laban said "May this Cairn be a witness between God and man today."

This has proven to be one of the most popular and inclusive ceremonies we have had to date and we are



Carolyn Hartung explains the Cairn symbolism.

all looking forward to Advent again this year. A lot of work goes into these preparations, and our Liturgy Team are to be congratulated. 🙏

# FILIPINO CATHOLICS IN TOOWOOMBA CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF SANTO NIÑO

By Sacred Heart Parish, Toowoomba

On Sunday the 18th of January, the Sacred Heart Parish of Toowoomba hosted a joyous event for the Filipino Community in the Darling Downs region. In the Philippines, that Sunday was the feast day of the image of the Child Jesus, or Santo Niño, very similar to the Child Jesus venerated in Prague.

The festival, popularly known as Sinulog, is an annual cultural and religious event that originated in Cebu, Philippines. It commemorates the Christianisation of the country. On April 1521, the Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan arrived and planted the cross on the shores of Cebu, claiming the territory for Spain. He presented the image of the child Jesus, the Santo Niño, as baptismal gift to the wife of Rajah Humabon. When the Spaniards, led by Miguel Lopez de Legaspi, came back 44 years later to formally spread Christianity to the islands, they bombarded the villages and in one of the burning huts, a soldier found inside a wooden box the image of Santo Niño. Since then, the statue of the Child Jesus has been venerated by Filipino Catholics who believe it to be miraculous. Today, the image is one of the most popular symbols of devotion of the Filipino people, and you will find



Ladies performing the Sinulog dance.

one in their homes, in whichever part of the world they may be.

The celebration in Toowoomba started with a nine-day novena at Sacred Heart Church from the 9th of January. It culminated on the 18th with a special Filipino mass which was celebrated by Fr Roque Maguinsay, with Fr Edgar Boglosa and Fr Hermie Rafada as concelebrants. The church was packed with Filipino Australians from Toowoomba, Oakey, Dalby, Millmerran, Warwick and as far away as Brisbane.

After the mass, a luncheon followed at the Sacred Heart School Hall. The guests had their fill of a sumptuous buffet of mostly Filipino dishes and desserts including the crowd favourite whole roasted pigs (lechon) donated by some members of the community. The next item on the program was another highlight of the festival, the Sinulog dance, which was performed by several groups; one contingent from Toowoomba, and another from Oakey and Dalby, all dancing while holding images of the Santo Niño. #

Sacred Heart

## PITTSWORTH CONDUCTS TRAINING SESSIONS

By Fr Thomas Areekuzhy mcbs

Sr Elaine Morzone visited St Stephen's Parish and conducted a training session for the new Parish Council members on Wednesday 4th February. We also had an opportunity for training members of the Parish Baptism Team in our

parish on Thursday 5th February with John Briffa of the Diocesan Liturgy Office. We welcomed Archer Sullivan to the St. Stephen's Parish community on 14th February and the community also congratulations Seamus Batstone and Ann Nevell

on their recent wedding.

The Parish Catholic Debutant Ball will be held on 15th May 2015. Any enquires please contact Marie on 0488938250.

**Our parish is on Facebook, we invite you to like us. #**

Pittsworth

# FR SIMON EMEANUO CSSp

## 1938-2014

By Fr January Mkude CSSp

Fr Simon Emeanuo was born on 28th October 1938. A native of Isunjaba, Orlu Diocese, Nigeria, he made his first profession as a Spiritan on 11th February 1965 and took his final vows in 1969. He was ordained to the Priesthood on 1st August 1970 In Amaigbo, Orlu Diocese (now Owerri Diocese).

Fr Simon passed away on Sunday August 24th 2014 at the Holy Ghost Haven, Mgbidi community after being sick for a while. The Spiritans in Nigeria bid farewell to a great Missionary of our time. He was the first missionary to Toto, where he founded the famous St Peter's College. He was Spiritual Director at Holy Ghost Juniorate, Ihiala, and was missionary to Sheria and Australia (14 yrs).


He arrived in the Toowoomba Diocese in March 2003. Fr Simon was officially appointed as Hospital Chaplain (covering Toowoomba, St Vincent's and Baillie Henderson Hospitals) in April 2003. During Fr Simon's time in the Toowoomba Diocese he wrote a book about his life and missionary work. "Father Simon's Missionary Journey" was launched in November 2004 by Fr Peter Murphy at St Vincent's Hospital.

The Funeral rites began on Sunday, 7th September with the Vigil Mass at Holy Ghost Novitiate, Awo-Omamma presided over by the Vicar-Provincial, Fr Austin Nwosu CSSp at about 5:00pm. It



continued the next day Monday, 8th September with the lying-in-state of his remains. Many priests, religious and lay people paid their last respect, including Owerri Archbishop Most Rev Dr Anthony Obinna and the Bishop of Aba Diocese, Most Rev Dr V Ezeonyia. The Burial Mass began at 10:00 am with the Most Rev Gregory Ochiagha as Chief

Celebrant and Most Rev Vincent Ezeonyia and a host of other priests as co-celebrants. Fr Goddy Odigbo was the homilist. The Bishop of Lafia, Most Rev Audu sent his Secretary to represent him. In attendance also were people from his home town, Isunjaba and people from Egbema and Aboh Mbaise where he worked.

May his gentle soul rest in peace. 



## Steve Angrisano Tour, Toowoomba Diocese 17 – 20 May, 2015

Steve will be running workshops and leadership days, as well as performing a Concert on the 19th.

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# CENTENARY OF SACRED HEART SCHOOL CUNNAMULLA

By Gabrielle Saide

No history of a school can be written without reference first to the founding of the parish.

Prior to 1879 Mass was celebrated by the priest visiting from Roma. In 1883 when the parish of Charleville was formed the spiritual needs of the parishioners of Cunnamulla were met by Fr Morris. The Cunnamulla people were eager to have a priest of their own and petitioned Archbishop Robert Dunne for their own priest. Fr O'Sullivan who had been in Charleville was sent to Cunnamulla in 1898 and remained there until 1909. Cunnamulla parish was then reunited to Charleville under the leadership of Fr. Cashman.

Fr Cashman was anxious to provide for the Catholic Education of the Cunnamulla children and he had St Catherine's Convent built in 1914. Archbishop Duhig dedicated the Convent on October 18th 1914.

The first group of Sisters arrived early in 1915 under the superiorship of Sr. Mary Scholastica. The other Sisters were Sr M Gertrude and Sr M Irene, the latter remaining on the staff until her death in Cunnamulla on 9th February 1952. In 1916, Sr M Marcella arrived to attend to the musical training

of the children. Sr M Borromeo was another early Sister who was in charge for many years and laid a firm spiritual foundation in the community. As Mass was only celebrated once a fortnight it was Sr Borromeo who would gather the people when there was no Mass and unite with the Mass elsewhere by means of the prayers in the Missal and they would also pray the Rosary. Time has gone the full circle with the community gathering for the Liturgy of the Word in the absence of a priest being available every week.

The Sisters also provided boarding facilities for country students.

In 1930 the parish of Cunnamulla was created once again with Fr Charles Daly being appointed the Parish Priest. In 1963 Fr Bergin had plans prepared for a new school incorporating a school hall which would serve as a temporary church. The new building was blessed and opened by Bishop Brennan in August 1966 and the school name was changed to Sacred Heart Parish School.

In 2000 the Sisters of Mercy withdrew as members of the teaching staff at the school however two of the Sisters continued to live in Cunnamulla and provided a Mercy presence in the town until approximately 2008.

On the weekend 13th – 15th March 2015, the Cunnamulla community will celebrate the Centenary of the Sacred Heart School. These celebrations will be a time to give thanks to pray and to celebrate and to remember the Sisters of Mercy, lay teachers and clergy who have ministered to people of all faiths in the Cunnamulla District over the past one hundred years. ❏



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# PROJECT COMPASSION LAUNCHED FOR 2015

By Robyn-Anne Lovell



Bishop Robert Commissioning School Leaders.

Caritas Toowoomba celebrated the launch of the 2015 Project Compassion campaign during Mass with Bishop Robert McGuckin at St. Patrick's Cathedral recently. Bishop Robert also commissioned nearly 50 primary and secondary student leaders from ten Diocesan schools to their leadership positions for the next 12 months. The celebration was a combined School/Parish Mass with a Children's Liturgy and the music was provided by the St Saviour's Junior Choir. Afterwards

many people, including Bishop Robert, Fr Peter Dorfield, Fr Adam Woch, Joe Foley from Caritas Brisbane and principals and APREs from all the schools, socialised in the Parish Centre with a cuppa provided by the Care and Concern group at the Cathedral.

This year's Project Compassion theme is 'Food for All' which focuses on global food issues and how Caritas can assist and empower the poor to establish sustainable food sources for life. Special international

Caritas guest, Prakash Khadka from Nepal, spoke about the work of Caritas in his home country during Mass. He also met and spoke with many of the students afterwards.

For more information on Project Compassion 2015 check out the Caritas website [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au). Take the interactive tour and quiz that allows you to see and explore the six stories that are featured in the new campaign. This resource can also be shared on Facebook or Twitter. <#>



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# CARITAS TOOWOOMBA WELCOMES INTERNATIONAL GUEST

By Robyn-Anne Lovell



Study of Religion class with Prakash at St. Mary's College.


Toowoomba played host to international guest, Prakash Khadka, from Caritas Nepal during the launch of Project Compassion 2015. Mr Khadka combines his Master's Degree in Sociology and Anthropology and a Bachelor of Law with his passion for justice and human rights. A convert to Catholicism ten years ago, Prakash is also a Gurkha (world-famous regiment of Nepalese soldiers) and heads the Program Monitoring and Evaluation for Caritas Nepal. For his short weekend visit to Toowoomba, Prakash attended Mass and was guest speaker at St Francis de Sales Millmerran, St Anthony's Toowoomba, Our Lady of Lourdes Toowoomba and St. Patrick's Cathedral Project Compassion launch Mass. He was also invited to speak to students at St. Mary's College, including a group of young men about to set out on an immersion trip to Papua New Guinea.

Prakash's talks focused on the work of Caritas in his home country. Caritas works in 37 of the 75 districts of Nepal – a country where 7 million people don't have enough food, over 5 million children are malnourished and 50% of children do not reach high



Bishop Robert with Parkash after Mass.

school. Prakash also spoke about Sarita, who features in week four of this year's Project Compassion, and how Caritas Australia with Caritas Nepal has helped her to start a fish raising business. With guidance and assistance Sarita and her small village now have a successful fishery, with enough food for themselves and enough fish to sell and make money,

thus sustaining their lives with dignity. Prakash ended his talks with this thought, "Let us be witness to Christ and let's preach his love from the high hills and mountains of Nepal. Let our humanitarian action pour over from the top of the Himalayas and sweep all over the world". Caritas is the work of love and compassion. 

# SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL

By Melissa Hampson

Sacred Heart School, Toowoomba



The students proudly display their handy work.


A class of Year 1 students at Sacred Heart Primary School, Toowoomba, created something beautiful to give to the elderly residents of nearby Salem Nursing Home.

Each child had painted a square about people from their community who help us to be happy and live safely together. Using the book *Wilfred Gordon Partridge* by Mem Fox as a guide, students talked about

responsibilities which respect and dignify the natural rights of all people. The students decided to make a quilt to give to the residents of Salem Nursing Home that would help them remember happy moments throughout their lives. Also included on the quilt were quotes from the Old Testament texts.

Year 1 classroom teacher, Mrs Christine Conneely commented, "The students really loved the

idea of reaching out and making a difference in the community through an act of kindness."

Mrs Conneely's sister-in-law, Mrs Vivienne Rasmussen kindly sewed the squares together so it was ready for presentation. Year 1 student Toby Harding said, "We tried very hard to make the quilt and we hope they like it." Luca Harrington added, "I enjoyed making it." 

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# ASSUMPTION COLLEGE

## WELCOMING MASS

By Michelle Wacker

The opportunity to officially welcome new families and students began with our Opening Mass held at St Mary's Church on Monday 9th February. The chance for our Seniors to mark the beginning of their final year with Mass and a family morning tea celebration sets the tone for their year at Assumption College. Congratulations to them all! We look forward to the efforts they make in leading our College this year and making a difference, as well as their chance to be involved in so many aspects of College life, making memories for years to come. 📖

Year 12  
students  
reading their  
pledge.



# INVESTITURE BEGINS

## ACADEMIC YEAR

By Linda Creedon

In the presence of Fr Ray Crowley the St Saviour's College leaders were presented with their badges at the annual College induction of leaders in February. The Callaghan Centre was filled with students, parents, carers and community members. The College Captain Djordja Vico and Vice-Captain Renee Bradley, as well as our House leaders and other College leaders were presented their badges by Principal Mrs Margaret Battle. A family member was also present to pin the badge on each of the young leaders symbolising the support they receive from the Church, the College and their family when they take on these positions of responsibility. Speaking at the Investiture was parent of our Mission and Identity Circle leader Danika French, Ms Michelle Yost, past



Danika French, Mission and Identity Leader with her mother Michelle Yost.

pupil Ms Paddy Flemming and staff member Mrs Kim Murray. Leaders

and their family members enjoyed morning tea after the ceremony. 📖

# O'LEARY FAMILY CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF EDUCATION AT ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL

By Michelle Nitz



L to R: Renee Richards (nee O'Leary), Terry, Evie, Marj, Tifanie, Darryl, Courtney and Noel O'Leary presenting the timber cross to the school community.

In November 2014, the extended family of Mrs Marj O'Leary gathered in Chinchilla to mark 50 years of continuous education at St Joseph's Primary School. A large number of family members were present to see the unveiling of a timber cross, carved by Terry O'Leary, grandson

of Marj and her late husband Jack. Terry is the President of the P and F Association and his daughter Evie is a Year 1 student. Terry made the cross using timber from a wattle tree that once grew in the grounds of Our Lady Help of Christians' Parish. The O'Leary family

donated the cross to the school community at a school assembly, where it now proudly hangs in our Multipurpose Hall. We congratulate the O'Leary family on this great achievement and thank them for their support of St Joseph's School over the last 50 years. 📧



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# ST URSULA'S COLLEGE

## BOARDERS SWEETENING THE DROUGHT

By Emilee Nichols

For St Ursula's College boarders the current drought and its impact on rural families is an issue close to their hearts. To raise awareness and money for this issue the students have started a campaign to 'Sweeten the Drought'. During their own time, the boarders have cooked, packaged, marketed and sold jams and marmalades throughout Queensland. The 'Sweetening the Drought' campaign was kicked off by selling 115 jars of jam at the Goondiwindi, St George, Roma and Chinchilla shows. Over the school holidays a further 100 jars were dispatched and delivered by the boarders themselves to rural business who had pre-ordered the jam and agreed to display and sell them in their business. At a Formal Assembly in late 2014 they presented Aussie Helpers founder and 2014 Order of the Outback Award recipient Mr Brian Egan a cheque for \$1,000.

Year 12 boarder (2014), Sally Conway is from Taroom and is passionate about making a difference for the farmers who give so much



Mr Brian Egan with Head of Boarding Mrs Jan Pearman and Sally Conway.

back to Australia. "We hope that this campaign will raise both the money needed to support our farmers and the awareness and recognition from the rest of Australian that they deserve," Sally explained. "All money raised will go directly to Aussie Helpers who, during the previous drought, delivered 300 tons of groceries, 4000 tons of stock feed and 20 tons of personal hygiene products

to farmers across Australia".

School Principal Mrs Ann Marie Pawsey said "The School motto 'Serviam', meaning I Will Serve, is certainly alive and well in our boarders and the school is so proud of the initiative and compassion they have shown with this project." Ultimately the students would like this to be a long term project that will continue for many years to come. 📧

# ASSUMPTION COLLEGE,

## WARWICK ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

By Michelle Wacker

The Assumption College St Vincent de Paul Club had a massive response to their annual Christmas Appeal in 2014. Students and their families donated generously. The College community raised \$1,290.85 which bought enough goods to fill eighteen hampers to capacity. These hampers were presented to the St Vincent de Paul Cornerstone Foundation, who supports struggling families in a variety of ways. The College would also like to say a special thank you to the local businesses who supported their fundraising efforts including Big W, Bi-Lo, Coles and Woolworths. 📧



L to R: Jacob Tibbitts, Olivia Gleeson, Carol Sharp, Toni Park (SVDP), Jordan-Lee Ryan, Jackson Tribe and Drewe-Lochie McConville.

# YEAR 7 CLASS OF 2014 DONATES FRIENDSHIP CHAIR TO SCHOOL COMMUNITY

By Janine Butlin

A class of Year 1 students at Sacred Heart Primary School, Toowoomba, created something beautiful to give to the elderly residents of nearby Salem Nursing Home.

Each child had painted a square about people from their community who help us to be happy and live safely together. Using the book *Wilfred Gordon Partridge* by Mem Fox as a guide, students talked about responsibilities which respect and dignify the natural rights of all people. The students decided to make a quilt to give to the residents of Salem Nursing Home that would help them remember happy

moments throughout their lives. Also included on the quilt were quotes from the Old Testament texts.

Year 1 classroom teacher, Mrs Christine Conneely commented, "The students really loved the idea of reaching out and making a difference in the community through an act of kindness."

Mrs Conneely's sister-in-law, Mrs Vivienne Rasmussen kindly sewed the squares together so it was ready for presentation. Year 1 student Toby Harding said, "We tried very hard to make the quilt and we hope they like it." Luca Harrington added, "I enjoyed making it."



Abraham Ajak.

## The Friendship Seat

By Natalie Tew, Eloise Young, Kate Weber, Ethan Chambers and Kaitlyn Mackenz

A lonesome little seed  
Was waiting for some rain  
Little did it know  
About the branches it would gain.

The seed was young and helpless  
It needed to be taught  
It needed to be nurtured  
And cherish every thought.

It grew and grew so thick and strong  
The leaves were green and bright  
Its long brown limbs were oh so tall  
It truly was a sight

The tree's potential blossomed  
It surely reached its peak  
But to continue on the story  
A change it had to seek

The tree's days continued  
But not as it might seem  
It's now still there in spirit  
Although just differently seen.

There's now a chair in a school  
Where all kinds of people meet  
It used to be a tiny seed  
But is now the 'friendship seat'



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# PLAYING UP A STORM

Visit the primary school at St Mary's College on any given day and a sea of musical instruments will confront you. Every boy learns to play. In small group lessons and in class bands, primary music is hands-on, with boys working towards showcasing their achievements in a mid-year and Christmas concert. It is quite a spectacle to witness more than a hundred primary school students performing in class bands for the very first time!

The College has made a significant investment in music over the past three years in the belief that the skills learnt through instrumental study advantage boys academically, as well as playing an essential part in the formation of well-rounded young men. Musicians are creative, think laterally, are independent learners, understand teamwork, and are able to set long-term goals. St Mary's College realises that boys who display these qualities are well placed to give life to the College motto - "Conanti Corona – the one who strives will win the crown."

Full-time specialist music staff



L to R: Shaun Farquharson, Dr Brad Voltz (Director of Arts & Performance) and Alex Barons.

offer lessons on all brass, woodwind and percussion instruments and are supported by sessional piano and guitar teachers. Dr Brad Voltz, Director of Arts and Performance is particularly excited about the marked increases in the number of boys electing to take private lessons; commenting that, "the majority of the boys are in Years 7 and 8, we expect future growth and development of our boys musical attributes and band performances in coming years". The Principal, Mr Michael Newman, is delighted

with the enthusiasm and standard of the boys performances at the College. "A highlight of the College year is now the outstanding musical performances at College concerts, and in particular the performances by our College Showband at the Presentation Night and combined schools' Drought Busters concert which were extremely well received".

Cultural change in any form takes some time, but early indications are that St Mary's College boys will be 'playing up a storm' for many years to come. 📺

## OUR LADY OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS COLLEGE ANNUAL DUX AWARD & BURSARY

By JP Delofski

At the Academic Assembly conducted Wednesday, 11th February the College acknowledged the six Seniors for 2014 who achieved OP 5 or better. These students were Sam Taylor (OP 3), Frances O'Brien (OP 4), Gemma Kruger (OP 4), Mitchell Cook (OP 5), Grace McVeigh (OP 5) and Eloise Cosgrove (OP 5).

Unfortunately, College Dux for 2014, Sam Taylor could not be present as he was already in Canberra preparing to commence his studies in Law and International Relations at the Australian National University. Sam's sister, Lucy, accepted his awards as well



L to R: Frances O'Brien, Mitch Cook and Gemma Kruger.

as the Dalby Friendly Society Dispensary Bursary presented by

Mrs Helen Stagg, Mr Barry Kirtley and Mr James Bannerman. 📺

# MILLMERRAN CELEBRATES THE START OF A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

By Luke Barrett

The St Joseph's School community recently gathered for their annual Opening School Mass and School Leader Investiture on Friday 13th February. Nine Year 6 students were invested as the 2015 school leaders. These students will take on many responsibilities throughout the year, from representation at various events to assisting younger students during school based activities and functions.

Parish Priest, Fr Thomas Areekuzhy once again led the celebration and reminded the school leaders about the importance of being leaders who emulated the qualities of St Joseph and St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. He encouraged the leaders to be a positive influence to all members of the school and to serve the school community by setting the right example.



L to R: Francesca Dichosa, Amity Gentle-Briese, Bethany Farrington, Abouomar Mnette, Abigail Lunney, Toby Perrin, Joe Macqueen, Tom Twidale, Owen Watts.

Once again the Soul Connection band ensured that the Mass was a prayerful and memorable occasion for all.

The school community thanks all of the students, parents, parishioners and Soul Connection for helping celebrate this important beginning year event. 📖

# CHARLEVILLE WELCOMES NEW SCHOOL LEADERS

By Sr Elizabeth O'Keefe RSM

The school year has got off to a busy start with the opening Mass and presentation of leadership badges to our Year Seven students. This was then followed not long after by the school's Ash Wednesday Liturgy. In the absence of parish priest Fr Peter Doohan, who was in Cunnamulla, the staff and students led the parish community in the Liturgy for Ash Wednesday. 📖



Some of the Year 7 students cutting their celebration cake.

# OUR LADY OF LOURDES STARTS SCHOOL YEAR WITH FEAST DAY CELEBRATION

By Angela Gilbert and Janice Moore

On Wednesday 11th February Our Lady of Lourdes School celebrated a special Mass to mark the feast day of Our Lady appearing to Bernadette at Lourdes. This year was particularly special as it is the 75th Anniversary of the opening of the school. A special slideshow which included school photos over the last 75 years was shared as a reflection. Volunteers from the parish were also given special thanks. A sausage sizzle and morning tea were provided after the three weekend Masses in the parish. This was an opportunity to thank our many volunteers who help to ensure the smooth running of our parish.

Prior to Lent, the school celebrated Shrove Tuesday. The Year 6 Mini Vinnies students helped run a



Mini Vinnies Eloise, Tyla and Caitlin pitch in to help with the pancake breakfast.

pancake breakfast for the school community. All money raised will be given to Caritas. On Wednesday afternoon, the school reflected on Ash Wednesday with a liturgy for all students, staff and families.

The Year 6 students recently participated in a leadership retreat at

the James Byrne Centre. Students were involved in a range of discussions and activities centred around qualities and principles of leadership. Later that week the students were presented with their senior badges at a special assembly attended by Deputy Mayor Cr Mike Williams. 📷

# ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL STARTS THE YEAR BUSY

By Deonne Crowe

Students, staff and families of St Joseph's Chinchilla celebrated the beginning of the school year with a Mass and blessing of our School Leaders and Year Six badges. Congratulations to this year's captains on their positions and the Year 6 class as student leaders of our school. School Captains Lottie Keating & James Crothers, School Vice Captains Elizabeth Dorries & Marty Bourke, Warrego House Captains Chloe Ellem & Keegan Sutcliffe and Leichhardt House Captains Piper Smith & Lachlan Smith.

We pray the School Captains enjoy a rewarding year as they carry out these roles in accordance with the Christian values of St Joseph's and as reliable role models for their fellow students.



Year 6 Class at Opening Mass.

Year 4, 5 and 6 students involved in Mini Vinnie's got busy in February with a fundraiser inspired by the local Melon Festival. Thanks to kind contributions of watermelon from the Bender and O'Leary families,

the children sold slices at lunch and also offered face painting for a donation. Well done to all the students involved and to the school community for supporting the day so enthusiastically! 📷

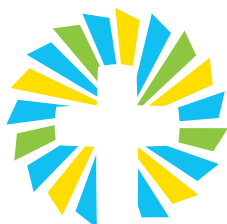
# NEW LOOK FOR YOUNG CATHOLICS



By Sarah de Byl

*Sarah de Byl commenced in the role of Diocesan Youth Ministry Coordinator in February 2013. Sarah is a graduate of USQ Toowoomba and taught in the Lismore diocese at Laurieton and at St Joseph's Millmerran. Sarah is currently completing her Masters of Theology.*

A logo is an important component of any ministry's identity and visual personality. The new Young Catholics logo has been designed keeping in mind the Mission, Vision and Values of the ministry. The design for a new logo was developed from comments and suggestions made by young people in the Diocese and a review of what the current logo said to the young people of our Diocese. This fresh



**YOUNGCATHOLICS**

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF TOOWOOMBA

*Living the faith to make a difference*

new design still maintains a link to the previous logo through the incorporation of the same colours.

## SYMBOLS

**The Cross** represents that Christ is at the centre of our ministry and is the reason for all that we do. Young Catholics provides opportunities that enable the youth and young adults of our area to encounter and live the love of God. The subheading of "Living the faith to make a difference" reflects this key goal.

**The windmill** behind the Cross is an iconic symbol of rural Queensland and represents the country dimension of our Diocese.

## COLOURS

**Yellow** symbolizes Christ's light in all of us and how we should let it shine for the world to see. "No one after lighting a lamp puts it in a cellar or under a bushel, but on a stand, that those who enter may see the light." Luke 11:33

**Green** represents the Diocesan crest, new life, the Toowoomba range and the fields of crops throughout the Diocese.

**Blue** reflects the sky that covers this vast Diocese. It also represents Mary of the Southern Cross the patron saint of our Diocese.

All three colours also connect with the old logo.

# AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL ADELAIDE 2015

By Sarah de Byl

The Australian Catholic Youth Festival is a national gathering of Catholic young people established by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. The first Festival was held in Melbourne, December 2013 and over 3500 young people attended. The 2015 Australian Catholic Youth Festival (December 3 - 5) will be hosted by the Archdiocese of Adelaide and will gather young people from Year 9 to those aged 25 years.

The Australian Catholic Youth Festival exists to provide young people with opportunities to deepen their relationship with Jesus, be empowered to be disciples in the world today and encounter and

celebrate the vitality of the Church in Australia. It seeks to celebrate the life of young people in the Catholic Church and a key element of the Festival will be a listening process allowing young people to dialogue with Church leaders and each other about their joys and challenges.

The Australian Catholic Youth Festival has taken a scriptural verse as its theme - 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.' Matthew 5:8. This theme is provided by Pope Francis as the theme for World Youth Day in 2015, preparation for the pilgrimage to Krakow in 2016.

To learn more about the Festival visit: [www.youthfestival.catholic.org.au](http://www.youthfestival.catholic.org.au).



Sophie Twidale and Rachel Harrison enjoying the music at ACYF Melbourne 2013.

**Young Catholics will be taking a Toowoomba group to the Australian Catholic Youth Festival 2015 in Adelaide. If you are interested in attending the Festival please contact Sarah at Young Catholics Toowoomba on 07 4687 4348 or email [youngcatholic@twb.catholic.org.au](mailto:youngcatholic@twb.catholic.org.au)**

# QUEEN OF THE CONCANNON KINGDOM

By Kimberley Kerslake

Emma Kingdom is the bubbly, smiling 2015 Concannon College Resident Student Club (RSC) President. From Maryborough on Queensland's Fraser Coast, Emma is starting her third year of study in a Bachelor of Sport, Health and Physical Education in the Primary Sector. Coming from so far away, Concannon stood out to Emma because of its small size, tight knit community atmosphere and heavy involvement in a variety of cultural and sporting events.

This year, Emma will lead the RSC and encourage full resident participation in all sporting, cultural and social events, to see the whole college come together as one. "We are a volunteer group of students who are all for the residents and try to provide what the college residents want to see around Concannon. Most importantly, as the RSC, we aim to provide a place where people can build friendships, enjoy their university experience and feel part of something special, which is the Concannon community", Emma passionately explained.

Emma is excited to see lots of new faces join the Concannon community in 2015 and looks forward to bringing new and returning residents together, stronger than ever. Most exciting to Emma however, is giving back to the college and continuing to provide the fantastic university experience




Emma Kingdom, 2015 Concannon College Resident Student Club President.

that Concannon has provided for her over the past two years.

Emma says that living on college was definitely one of the best choices she has made. "Being a smaller college, I know the people I live with and can rely on being surrounded by people that share similar interests with me. Concannon residents value each other and the friendships that we form, always cheering each other on regardless of talent and ability. Honestly, Concannon is my home away from home. It provides support,

opportunities, fun, friends and higher education all in the one place and definitely made the move away from home a lot more enjoyable."

When she finishes her degree, Emma hopes to acquire a job in the primary school sector, traveling anywhere that her job might take her and learning more and more every day.

For more information about the University of Southern Queensland and Concannon College, visit [usq.edu.au/accommodation](http://usq.edu.au/accommodation) 

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Lent is a season of Prayer and Sacrifice.

## What does Sacrifice Mean to You?



**Brett Rangjira:**

St Anthony's Parish, Toowoomba

For me a sacrifice, in a religious sense, is a symbolic action, one where I forego or suppress some particular desire to instead focus on God as the source of love and goodness in my life. What I think makes a sacrifice meaningful is the attitude behind the action. I don't think a sacrifice is about getting God to love me more that God already does. I think the point of a sacrifice is to change me, to shift me from seeking mere satisfactions towards seeking to more fully live out of God's love.



**Sr Mary Cleary MSS:**

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Toowoomba

At this time of the year during the season of Lent and at times like Anzac Day, the word "sacrifice" is very much to the fore. For me, the word "sacrifice" means to give up something of myself – go against myself in some way for a higher motive, maybe give of my time for another or be with that person or people in their need. It could be going without certain legitimate things and giving the money to Project Compassion so others may have the basic necessities of life. Whatever sacrifice we make, whatever we do, it always involves giving something of ourselves for the good of others.



**John Borserio:**

Director Catholic Education Office

In the season of Lent the concept of 'sacrifice' comes under scrutiny. The word sacrifice is derived from the Latin sacrificare; sacer sacred, holy + facere to make. At times we confuse the concepts of priority and sacrifice. The concept of 'giving up' rather than the ancient religious concept of 'giving to' is an important change in our current understanding. Sacrifice is a path of personal self-giving in response to my personal experiences of receiving love from others.

Photo taken by Stacy Keane.

# Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba

[www.twb.catholic.org.au](http://www.twb.catholic.org.au)



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