

# Horizons

FREE Publication of the Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba



## A NEW HOPE FOR OUR WORLD



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**Front Cover:** Part of the stained glass entrance way to Sacred Heart Church, Toowoomba. Photo taken by Ingrid McTaggart.

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**DEADLINES**

Editions will be quarterly.  
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## FROM THE EDITOR

By Michael Hart


In this edition's "Views of the Diocese" we have asked the question "What does family mean to you?". The answers our generous contributors have provided are very personal and heartfelt. I sincerely thank Libby, Patrice and Winton for their sharing and for the personal insights they have given us. Family is so fundamental to who we are it is always sure to stir emotions.

I have watched with interest the deliberations and discussions which have taken place in the second part on the Synod on the Family which was held in October. There has been

plenty of commentary on the Synod and I have been fascinated by the role that the media has played throughout. The themes of *dialogue* and *journey* seemed to weave themselves throughout the process. We are yet to see what the outcome of the Synod will be but it is clear that Pope Francis sees it as linking with the Year of Mercy which is about to commence.

The other reason we chose the question for the "Views of the Diocese" was that fact that we are now entering Advent in preparation for Christmas. Family plays such a big part in people's lives at this time of year. The

school year comes to an end and kids get to spend more time at home. The stresses and tensions associated with living together are easier to see. It is also a time when we reflect on who is important in our lives and who we are now missing. The Holy Family is a model for how we should be a reflection of God's love for us and the love we should have for each other.

May this Advent and Christmas season be a time for healing and reconnection. May it be filled with peace and joy and may you and your family feel God's loving and compassionate embrace. God bless! 

**OOOPS WE MADE A MISTAKE...** We wish to acknowledge that photos appearing on Page 28 (TRAMS Birthday Celebrations) of Issue 39 of Horizons were taken by David Martin.



# A NEW HOPE FOR OUR WORLD



From Bishop Robert McGuckin

Advent is not only a time of preparation; it is intrinsically a season of hope. As we reflect on the year that has been, it is clear that hope is an invaluable asset in the face of despair and broken-heartedness. The world continues to be shocked by cruel acts of terrorism, senseless crimes and brutality. Bombings, kidnappings and 'lone wolf' attacks have continued to occur throughout the year on a regular basis. Whether it is in Africa or America, the Middle East or Europe, or even on our own home soil, each attack has the cumulative effect of numbing us to the tragedies that are occurring.

We can become exhausted and overburdened with a sense of despair for a world that seems consumed by pain and selfishness. There is a desperate need for hope in a loving and just God who forgives us for our failings and calls us into a deeper relationship with Him. Advent is a time when we push aside the darkness in anticipation of a new hope for our world. God is made incarnate and shines through the dark to reveal the light of justice and peace.

We have also witnessed throughout this year the innate goodness that resides within each of us, as people have responded to those most in need and most at risk. Images of refugees fleeing for their lives have also been accompanied by stories of compassion and love. For every story of closed borders and turn-backs there is inevitably a story of protest and moral outrage. Every act of intolerance and exclusion is responded to with the challenge for us to be respectful of human dignity and basic human rights.

The Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement this year has challenged Australians to think again about our national response

to asylum seekers, especially those who come to Australia by sea. It reminds us that there are nearly 60 million people who are displaced around the world and that we must answer the call of Jesus to respond to them with compassion and mercy. I am reminded of the words of Pope Francis when he visited the Mediterranean island of Lampedusa where he met the survivors of a refugee tragedy and mourned and prayed for those who had died:

*These brothers and sisters of ours were trying to escape difficult situations to find some serenity and peace; they were looking for a better place for themselves and their families, but instead they found death. How often do such people fail to find understanding, fail to find acceptance, fail to find solidarity. And their cry rises up to God! ...*

Locally there has been a spotlight placed on Toowoomba with the visit of the ABC's 'On The Road' project. A particular focus that emerged was the exploration of Toowoomba's refugee experience and the response by the community to cultural inclusion and integration. The opportunity to tell local stories and explore our rich heritage has given people a voice at a time when many feel their voices have been lost in a cacophony of opinions and rhetoric. While not perfect, the story of Toowoomba's attempt to welcome the stranger and the displaced is worth sharing. As a Diocesan community we continue to strive to find ways to respond to those most in need. It is our responsibility to be witnesses to God's compassion and loving outreach.

Pope Francis has continued to provide strong leadership in many areas of pastoral activity and has not shied away from challenging the


Church, and wider society, to move beyond its current practices and approaches. His encyclical 'Laudato Si' calls the Church and the world to acknowledge the urgency of our environmental challenges and to join him in embarking on a new path. In October the second Synod gathering to focus on the vocation and mission of the family in the Church and in the contemporary world was held. Pope Francis is committed to finding "concrete solutions to so many difficulties and innumerable challenges that families must confront; to give answers to the many discouragements that surround and suffocate families." We wait in anticipation for the next part of this journey that we have now begun.

We are also about to enter into an Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy which Pope Francis as a special time for the Church, "a time when the witness of believers might grow stronger and more effective." The jubilee will be referred to as the Holy Year of Mercy and it will begin on the feast of the Immaculate Conception and close on 20 November, 2016. About the Year of Mercy Pope Francis wrote ...

*Mercy is the force that reawakens us to new life and instils in us the courage to look to the future with hope.*

This Advent, as we prepare a way for the Lord, let us reflect on the hope that our faith provides. Let us be a beacon of love to all we encounter and may Christ's mercy and compassion be evident in the way we generously respond to those most in need.

May the joy and peace of Christmas be with you and your loved ones now and throughout 2016.

**Bishop Robert McGuckin**  
**Bishop of Toowoomba**  
**November 2015** 





Diocesan Inservice participants holding their Personal Statement of Commitment concerning ecological conversion.

## DIOCESAN INSERVICE FOCUSES ON LAUDATO SI



Jacqui Remond breaking open Laudato Si at the Diocesan Inservice.

Over 70 clergy, parish pastoral councillors, parish staff and diocesan employees attended the Diocesan Inservice on the 22 and 23 September. Participants came from across the diocese, including from as far afield as Miles, Warwick, Stanthorpe, Roma, Charleville and Quilpie. The Toowoomba Diocese was fortunate to have Jacqui Remond and Simon Habel from Catholic Earthcare Australia to facilitate its Diocesan Inservice which focussed on Pope Francis' recent encyclical

Laudato Si (Praise Be To You): On Care for Our Common Home.

This encyclical is a new appeal from Pope Francis addressed to "every person living on this planet" for an inclusive dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. Pope Francis calls the Church and the world to acknowledge the urgency of our environmental challenges and to join him in embarking on a new path. Laudato Si is written with both hope and resolve, looking to our common future with candor and humility.

The team from Catholic Earthcare Australia lead participants through a process of exploration that included personal reflection, dialogue and input. Those that attended were challenged to think of practical ways to implement the core principles of Laudato Si in their local communities.

As part of the Inservice those gathered also heard stories of 'ecological conversion' from a local perspective. Invited speakers shared their reflections from an indigenous, educational, parish and far western viewpoint. The stories all contained an underlying message of hope for the future which connected with Pope Francis' Laudato Si.

## CONTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS SISTERS OF CHARITY RECOGNISED

On Tuesday 15 September Bishop McGuckin presided at celebrations



Bishop McGuckin with Sr Suzette Clark rsc at the unveiling of the sculpture of Mary Aikenhead.

at St Vincent's Private Hospital Toowoomba to recognize the Religious Sisters of Charity's dedication to health, education and outreach ministries in Australia. Bishop McGuckin unveiled a sculpture of Mary Aikenhead and blessed a plaque commissioned by the Trustees of St. Vincent's Health Australia.

## FR LYNKEY CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Fr Sean Lynskey entered the Spiritan Novitiate in 1964 and was professed on 8th September 1965. The Novitiate Fr Lynskey entered was named Kilshane, in Co. Tipperary, Ireland. This year is the Golden Jubilee of his commencement into Religious Profession. We congratulate Fr Lynskey on this achievement and for his years of tireless commitment to Priestly ministry.

## ROSARY IN THE PARK



Praying the Rosary together in Queens Park.

On Saturday 10th October about 120 people, from various parishes, gathered at Queens Park, Toowoomba, for our celebration of the nationwide Public Rosary to honour Our Blessed Mother's final apparition at Fatima and to pray for world peace. Fr Ray Johnson, Fr Roque Maguinsay, and Fr Pat Hall all assisted by leading a decade of the Rosary. It was a beautiful afternoon with a highlight being the laying of flowers, by children, at the feet of the statue of Our Holy Mother. Well received were the decades said in various languages. The final decade and the Salve Regina were said in Latin

which received favourable comments. One comment from a participant, who was very sceptical about the Public Rosary, was that he was now convinced that it was a wonderful occasion and that it should be continued.

## BISHOP SIGNS PETITION ON CLIMATE CHANGE



Bishop McGuckin signing the Global Catholic Climate Movement petition.

At the recent Diocesan Inservice Bishop McGuckin signed the Global Catholic Climate Movement petition calling on all local, national and international leaders to take action. Climate change affects everyone, but especially the poor and most vulnerable people among us. Inspired by Pope Francis and the Laudato Si' encyclical, Catholic Earthcare Australia is calling on us

to drastically cut carbon emissions to keep the global temperature rise below the dangerous 1.5°C threshold, and to aid the world's poorest in coping with climate change impacts

## NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHED FOR DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING COMMUNITY

A new website has been launched as a Catholic ministry resource for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community across Australia. Developed by the Australian Catholic Disability Council with the support of the Bishops Commission for Pastoral Life, the new website contains a series of liturgical resources with Australian Sign Language (Auslan) and live captioning.

Bishop Terry Brady, Bishops Delegate to the Australian Catholic Disability Council, said, 'The new website has been developed as a resource for families, parishes, schools, church agencies and diocesan personnel. This website, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community Catholic Ministry, encourages church agencies and faith communities to discover and celebrate the beauty and strength of the body of Christ by promoting participation of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community, including their family and friends, in the life of the Church.' Visit the new website at: [deafministry.catholic.org.au](http://deafministry.catholic.org.au)



Kevin and Jacaline McGrath (now retired)



Judith McGrath-Colquhoun

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**Bishop Michael McCarthy.**  
(on the funeral of his Mother)



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# BOOKSHOP MINISTRY'S **FINAL CHAPTER IN TOOWOOMBA**

By Ingrid McTaggart



St Paul's Family Book Centre staff members Cathy Currie and Daphne Hutchinson.



Sr Judith Steer in 2010, at the launch of her children's book.

On Friday, 25 September, St Paul's Family Book Centre Toowoomba closed its doors a final time after some 10 years operating in Toowoomba. It is certainly an end of an era for the Diocese. The Shrine frontage in Ruthven Street, Toowoomba has housed a bookshop since it's redevelopment from Church to office accommodation in the mid 1990's.

The Family Bookshop, managed by Sr Imelda McMahon mss, then Sr Regina Jones rsc, was the first to take residence in that space. By mid 2003 the ongoing effect of the increase made by the GST, an unfavourable currency exchange rate and advent of online shopping saw an unfortunate downturn in sales for the Bookshop. The Family Bookshop Board began to seek outside sources to help keep this important ministry alive within the Toowoomba Diocese. At this time the Society of St Paul, which engaged in publishing as well as a book shop in Brisbane, was approached with the possibility of bringing their ministry to Toowoomba.

By the end of 2003 The Family Bookshop had ceased trade. In March of 2004 it was announced that St Pauls Book Centre would open at the front of The Shrine and work commenced on the shop fitout. On Saturday, 4 December 2004, Bishop

Bill Morris blessed and opened St Pauls Book Centre ready for trade. Fr Bruno Colombari ssp was the first manager of St Pauls Book Centre Toowoomba. In November 2010 Fr Ruben Nadalich ssp took over management from Fr Bruno.

The Fathers were also assisted by other staff in the management of the Book Centre during the 10 year run. Heather Joseph, Sr Judith Steer rsj and Daphne Hutchinson all played an important part in the Book Centre's ministry and became the local face for St Pauls. Cathy Currie also assisted Daphne, as well as a group of dedicated volunteers who have helped staff the shop in the past few years.

During her time at St Pauls, Sr Judith Steer wrote and published a children's picture book called "Saint Mary MacKillop: Friend of Jesus". The book was released to coincide with St Mary of the Cross MacKillop's canonisation in 2010 and is aimed at 7 to 11 year olds. The book is still available through St Pauls web site. Also, beloved book shop icon Daphne Hutchinson, has worked for the Diocese in both incarnations of the book shop.

"The people of the diocese have been very grateful for the ministry of the Society of St. Paul and Book Centre staff." This was a comment

from Mr Tom Jolley, Diocesan Financial Administrator, who was involved in the original move of The Family Bookshop from the Chronicle Arcade to the Shrine in 1996, and the subsequent invitation to St Paul's to come to Toowoomba in 2004. He went on to say that, "As is common in the book retail industry, the Book Centre has been propped up financially for its whole time of operation. While financial viability is not the main focus, this aspect has come to the fore in recent years. The Book Centre will be missed as one of the public faces of the church in Toowoomba. However it is gratifying to know that St. Paul's Book Centre materials will continue to be available on line, directly from Sydney."

The instigation for change at The Shrine has been the need for housing of Centacare. Floor space occupied by the Book Centre, Bishop Kelly Room (previously Resource Centre), Chapel of the Incarnation and some offices will be redeveloped to house Centacare when they vacate their existing offices in Herries Street.

"I would like to thank everyone involved with St Pauls Family Book Centre for your commitment and dedication to this service provided to the Diocese," said Bishop Robert McGuckin. [H](#)

# Christmas Blessing

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ,  
may your family feel the love, peace and joy  
that come with the spirit of Christmas.

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# NEWS FROM THE LITURGY OFFICE

By John Briffa

The liturgical new year is upon us and with its arrival we are reminded once again of the joyful expectation to which we are called as members of the Body of Christ. The season of Advent uses symbols of light and darkness to recount the story of God's Incarnation into a world which wasn't perfect. Advent helps us focus on the coming of the Lord at Christmas and challenges us to bring to life the Word of God in our daily lives. How do we help others recognise and celebrate the existence of God in a world where joy and suffering go hand in hand?

This Advent also sees the start of the Year of Mercy. While there have been a number of special 'holy years' over recent times, the Year of Mercy is an Extraordinary Jubilee. In the Old Testament, jubilee years were years set apart for the forgiveness of debts of one kind or another. The principal symbol for our Catholic jubilee years is the opening of a special door at St Peter's Basilica, reflecting the image of Christ who referred to Himself as 'the door' (Jn 10:7). In the words of Pope Francis, "In this Jubilee Year, let us allow God to surprise us. He never tires of casting open the doors of his heart and of repeating that he loves us" (Bull of Indication of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy (April 11, 2015), 25).

As we prepare for this Year of Mercy, how can we open the doors, both literally and symbolically, of our churches and our liturgy? Can our church doors be left open for those who are moved, by whatever reason,




Participants in the Readers Workshop held in Charleville.

to come inside? Do our liturgical ministries display 'open doors' to those who might like to volunteer? Liturgy is the summit and the source of the activities of the Church (CSL #10). Liturgy is an expression of the mercy of God and it is an open door to the mystery of God's presence and action in the world. How we celebrate liturgy should always speak of inclusion, reflect the diversity of our community and make everyone feel welcome.

As 2015 draws to a close, I would like to say thank you to the many parishes who hosted liturgy workshops during the year. I especially thank the many parishioners in those communities who supported the various formation sessions by their attendance. With our busy lives it is

not easy to bring people together for the purpose of formation in liturgical ministries, particularly when many have been participating in their ministries for many years. Some 135 parishioners attended liturgical ministry workshops which were held in Crow's Nest, Charleville, Pittsworth, Roma, Stanthorpe, Warwick, Taroom, as well as Sacred Heart and St Thomas More's parishes in Toowoomba.

Despite all the challenges we face, many parishioners display great commitment and dedication to their ministry. This demonstrates that parishes are determined to prepare and conduct 'living liturgy', liturgy which connects with the very people who gather to celebrate it. 

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# PREGNANCY AND INFANT LOSS REMEMBRANCE DAY

By Veronica Kluck

Sometimes in life there is great sadness and St Vincent's Hospital staff are witness to these occasions. 15th October is International Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day. On this day, parents and families across Australia honour their babies who passed away from miscarriage, stillbirth or postnatal causes.

To lose a baby is an agonizing heartache we wish no one would have to go through. If you have lost a baby, you are not alone: one out every four Australian women has lost a baby, too. Many bereaved parents find that being able to honour their babies on this day helps them on their journey to overcome the grief.

Pastoral Care staff placed a tree of lights in the main entrance of St Vincent's Hospital to honour Infant Loss Remembrance Day. Pastoral carers also held an afternoon tea for midwives, chaplain representatives and our Mission Executive Darlene



The Pastoral Care Team with Staff at St Vincent's Hospital, Toowoomba.

Dreise. This day calls us to remember and honour the ministry of our midwives and obstetricians who work closely with expectant

mums and dads in both the most joyous and heartbreaking of circumstances. A special blessing was said at the afternoon tea. <#>

## ST VINCENT'S HOSPITAL SAYS THANKS TO PASTORAL CARE TEAM DURING PASTORAL CARE WEEK

By Sonia Wood

St Vincent's Private Hospital Toowoomba celebrated Pastoral Care Week with a series of celebrations, highlighting the 2015 theme of "Spiritual Care Together".

St Vincent's Mission Executive Darlene Dreise said the hospital's Pastoral Care Team were an integral and invaluable part of healthcare at St Vincent's.

"Pastoral Care Week is a wonderful opportunity to pay tribute to pastoral carers who provide emotional, spiritual and sometimes physical support for patients, family members, staff and

the wider hospital community.

"Our team members work through a non-denominational and ecumenical approach, caring for people from many walks of life. Between them they have many years of experience.

"The Pastoral Care Team delivers care that integrates the values of mind, body, and spirit to people of diverse backgrounds.

"We value their contribution and during October 19 – 24 we will celebrate pastoral care as part of the healing and health process. Nationally Pastoral Care

Week is October 25 – 31 however at St Vincent's we will have our events a week earlier," she said.

Mrs Dreise said the first event for Pastoral Care Week will be the thank-you luncheon on October 21 at St Vincent's Hospital Donovan courtyard.

"The St Vincent's Executive team will say thank-you for the care and commitment that is part of the highly regarded reputation of our hospital," she said.

Mrs Dreise said another important event was the Catholic Ethos Day held on 22nd October. <#>



# PASTORAL CARE WEEK

## CELEBRATED ACROSS THE DIOCESE.

By Lyn Cash



**Sr Elaine Morzone facilitates spiritual enrichment for assembled Pastoral Carers as part of Pastoral Care Week activities.**

Pastoral Care Week, now in its 31st year, was celebrated in October. The pastoral carers in health care in facilities across the Toowoomba Diocese celebrated and shared in this year's theme 'Spiritual Care Together'. The theme focuses on holistic care of the individual and the need to work collaboratively across disciplines to meet the biological, psychological, social and spiritual needs of those for whom we provide care. We are invited to see this opportunity to dialogue, educate, support and join together in understanding the spiritual and/or religious needs that impact the physical and mental wellbeing of individuals as we join with them in their journey toward healing and wholeness.

The Catholic pastoral carers

ministering the Toowoomba Diocese, in both the public and private sectors, joined together at the Chapel, St Vincent's Hospital Toowoomba to share Eucharist, morning-tea, friendship and a spiritual enrichment input facilitated by Sr Elaine Morzone. The thirty or so carers in attendance were guided by Sr Elaine to focus holistically on oneself. We were nourished in all ways coming into the ever awareness that the Spirit of God is within us and aims at life and peace.

The Ecumenical Pastoral Care Team at Toowoomba Hospital as well as at the Hospice took the opportunity to educate and support hospital staff by organizing one day In-Services. The hope being that staff will not only benefit but that they will gain a better understanding

of themselves and become more effective staff members within the facilities they work.

Lourdes Home Pastoral Care Department organised a display in the foyer at Lourdes. They also preparing a special memorial service for staff and families of residents who have died this past year.

Pastoral Care Outreach is an important aspect of our ministry and during pastoral care week, a Pink Ribbon Day 'Walk of Hope', for breast cancer awareness was held. Members of the Toowoomba Hospital's Pastoral Care Team facilitated an ecumenical service.

Pastoral Carers appreciate the institutions and staff whereby they minister in and look forward to continue to focus on Spiritual Care together. **✚**

# REFLECTION ON FR JEFF SCULLY

By Sr Pam Teys rsj

In the early hours of the morning on 24 June, Fr Jeff died so suddenly. It seemed God had decided that it was time, Fr Jeff's time to discover what he often said, "the best is yet to come".

Since Fr Jeff's death, I have had a cloud of melancholy hovering around me. His photo and recently found note with a song in his handwriting have added to this. The song was "Requiem for a Soldier", the theme from "Band of Brothers", I remember he had written the words for a reflection he had given at a Saturday night Mass. These things tease of his presence, they compelled me to honour the six years he spent with myself and the other Sisters in Quilpie. As I write, I call on poets like Tagore and Kahlil Gibran who have the words to transcend the moment of death, its meaning and freedom. I draw from "Into a Larger Existence" by Tagore, "Peace, my heart, let the time for the parting be sweet. . . "


A lot happens in six years. But one of the best memories was that we formed a group of Priests and Religious from Roma, Mitchell, Charleville, St George, Wallumbilla, Cunnamulla and Quilpie. We called our group "The Western Muster". These were powerful weekends, a



Sr Pam Teys with Year 2 class in Quilpie, 1989.

different place was host for each weekend. We usually gathered on Friday night and spent Saturday through Sunday lunchtime in discussion and workshops. Soon we invited lay people to be part of our group and in time these gatherings led to preparation and workshops for lay-leadership in parishes. We worked hard, listening, discussing and praying. At the end of the day we relaxed with Mass, a meal and then cards or a game called "Guts". I love

this time which was fun and I was lucky in winning more times than Fr Jeff!

A litany of words and phrases reminds me of Fr Jeff, it creates an image of who he was. A charming dimpled smile. An embracing welcome to all, a hospitable heart. His ability and wit to engage in conversations. A scholar, eloquent in his thoughts. He valued justice and gave everyone a fair go. He loved deeply – his God, his people, his family, his friends, the Church and was faithful to all. 

## INTO A LARGER EXISTENCE

*By Rabindranath Tagore*

Peace, my heart,  
let the time for the parting be sweet.  
Let it not be a death but completeness.  
Let love melt into memory and pain into songs.  
Let the flight through the sky end  
in the folding of the wings over the nest.  
Let the last touch of your hands  
be gentle like the flower of the night.  
Stand still,  
O Beautiful End,  
for a moment,  
and say your last words in silence.  
I bow to you and hold up my  
lamp to light you on your way.



Symbols of Fr Jeff Scully's life.



# CLANCY'S CONNECTIONS

By Sr Maureen Andrews mfc

At Sacred Heart Parish we count ourselves fortunate to have a painting of Fr Jack Clancy by local artist Peta Warner hanging on the back wall of our Assembly Hall/Church. Peta lives and works with her husband, Shane, on a sheep, cattle and rangeland goat property named Merimo, 23 km west of Eulo, a small village in south west Queensland.

When I spoke with her, Peta said that 'it (was) delightful to know that Fr Clancy's portrait had found a good home in Cunnamulla.' Fr Clancy had forged strong link with the Warner family. In 1978 he married Peta and Shane. Fr Clancy baptised their son Tim at Merimo 1984 and officiated during the marriage of the oldest son Rob and his wife Tammy in 2005. The painting is of Fr Clancy baptising Tim and Kitsa's son, Craig, at Thargomindah in 2006.

The portrait has a white background and the frame is white which elicits thought of purity, dignity and reverence. With the contrasts of light and shade in the portrait you are led to think about this special man who Peta told me came to the south west corner when no one else

would. So many of us could vouch for the sharp intelligence of this man for whom people were more important than power and success. So how does the artist see him?

Peta saw him as a person who respected you and with whom you could be comfortable. He was a polite man who had a wicked sense of humour. This facet of his personality was stressed at his memorial service where many of people shared stories. So often Fr Clancy, or Clance as we know him, dropped in for a visit and was grateful for a cuppa and a chat. Peta felt he was a good bloke.

This appreciation shines forth from the portrait. We will never forget this truly great man not only for his contribution to the people of the west but also for his acceptance of people and the care and compassion



Fr Jack Clancy portrait by Peta Warner.

he showered on so many.

Well done good and faithful servant for announcing the reign of God and calling forth the gifts of the 'true blue' people of the south west corner. #

## QUILPIE COMMUNITY GATHERS TO REMEMBER FR JEFF SCULLY

By Fr Peter Doohan

On the morning of Fr Jeff Scully's funeral in St Patrick's Cathedral Toowoomba, a small number of people gathered at the same time in St Finbarr's Church Quilpie to join in spirit with them to remember and give thanks to God for Fr Jeff's life and especially the 27 years that he served as Quilpie's Parish Priest. The memorial service was led by Fr Peter Doohan.

Through prayer and symbol, those gathered remembered Fr Jeff as a person who was in love with life and alive with love. He was remembered as a cherished member of the Quilpie and district communities, a

remarkable and talented person and often referred to by the community as 'our' Priest. The symbols spoke of his fondness of the west, his Priestly ministry, his Ecumenical involvement, his love of sport (especially the racing industry), his appreciation of art, his generosity, humour and rapport with children, his great respect and love of the Sisters of St Joseph whom he served with and his love for learning and studying. Because of his affection for people he was prepared to travel in his old ute to be with them, to celebrate life with them, whether that be a Baptism, Wedding, Funeral,

or Anniversary. Fr Jeff had a great respect for authority and for the truth, however he wasn't afraid to challenged nor stand up for the truth it when he thought it necessary to do so.

Fr Jeff was most of all a person of deep spirituality and prayer which was drawn from his great love and respect for the natural world and creation. Many of the retreats, homilies and talks he gave were drawn from the characters he knew, and the world around him. Such was the man who was loved and respected by so many in Quilpie and district. May he rest in peace. #

# LAUNCH OF SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT

By Mark Copland

A shared meal was how this year's Social Justice Statement was launched by Bishop Robert McGuckin. A small group of people who have come to the Diocese of Toowoomba seeking our nation's protection shared a meal with local friends and family. Mitra Khakbaz, Executive Manager - Regions, Employment, Youth and Settlement for the Multicultural Development Association was a guest speaker. Mitra shared some of her own experience and commended the Australian Bishops for the great leadership they are showing in the area of justice for refugees and asylum seekers.

The Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement for 2015–16 challenges Australians to think again about our national response to asylum seekers, especially those who come to Australia by sea. It invites us to recognise the desperation that has driven these people to seek refuge far from their homes.

The Statement's title is "For Those Who've Come Across the Seas: Justice for refugees and asylum seekers". The title, taken from the words of our National Anthem, is intended to remind all Australians of how this nation has aspired to be a



Launch of Social Justice Statement "For Those Who've Come Across the Seas".

place of welcome and inclusion.

In this Statement, the Bishops address the divisive national debate over asylum seekers, especially those who arrive by boat. They confront Australia's current deterrence-based response and remind us of the needs of the nearly 60 million people who are displaced around the world.

The Statement takes its inspiration from the actions and words of Pope Francis on his 2013 visit to the Italian island of Lampedusa, where he met the survivors of a refugee tragedy and mourned for those who had died. It begins and ends with the Pope's own words and is strongly based on the

Scriptures and Catholic teaching.

The Bishops' document traces the experiences of asylum seekers from their flight from persecution and danger, through their perilous journeys, to their experience in Australia of indefinite detention, deprivation and insecurity. It asks why both sides of Australian politics have felt the need to introduce such cruel and self-defeating policies as offshore processing and indefinite detention.

This Social Justice Statement invites us to reflect on the call of Jesus to welcome those in most need and to give comfort to those who come to us in flight from fear and suffering. <#>

## BISHOP CALLS FOR SUPPORT FOR REFUGEES

Bishop Robert McGuckin has appealed to priests, pastoral leaders and heads of agencies to throw their support behind Syrian refugees looking to resettle in Australia. It is unknown how many families will be placed in the diocese but Bishop McGuckin said the region was more than capable of playing a welcoming role.

At the launch of the Social Justice Statement Bishop McGuckin emphasized the Christian call to welcome the stranger. "From the beginning, Jesus experienced the

terrors of the refugee when his family fled tyranny and sought refuge in Egypt," Bishop McGuckin said. "In his ministry he led the life of a wanderer and relied on the hospitality of others." Providing support for refugees has been embedded in the Catholic parishes and schools of Toowoomba since the 1970s, with locals continuing to support the most vulnerable through gifts and prayer.

Dr Mark Copland, Executive Officer of the Diocesan Social Justice Commission, has also backed the Bishop's call for support. "We've got

more than a decade of experience re-settling people from Africa, from the Middle East, parts of Asia," Dr Copland said. "The support systems are in place, we have education and health and there's a fair degree of goodwill in the community."

Catholic Social Services Australia has urged parishes and schools to provide support by identifying accommodation, employment opportunities, making donations, volunteering, forging relationships and promoting a multi-faith community environment. <#>



# INTERNATIONAL MERCY VISIT

By Mark Copland

"Who benefits? Who bears the cost? Who is excluded?" These were three core questions that were raised by Sr Aine O'Connor rsm when she gave a presentation at the Chinchilla Parish Hall in Mid-October. Sr O'Connor and Sr Denise Boyle fmdm were there to share a little of the work of the Sisters of Mercy across the world and also as part of a broader project, investigating the human rights impact of unconventional gas extraction across the world. The Sisters of Mercy has special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations. They use this voice to highlight the injustice faced through human trafficking and mining. The international body, Mercy International: Global Action has created a resource, "A Guide to Rights-Based Advocacy International Human Rights Law and Fracking".


Four parts of a rights based litmus test are 1) Do no harm 2) Eradicate root causes of poverty 3) People as rights-holders and 4) Sustainability. Sr O'Connor quoted Jesuit author Greg Boyles: "All Jesus asks is: 'Where are you standing?' He asks again, 'Are you still standing there?'" She concluded with the words of Pope Francis, "Only when we too can cry about the things that you said are we able to come close to replying to that question, "Certain realities in life we only see through eyes that are cleansed through our tears." These words had much power as many of those assembled in the hall had known, loved and



Sr Aine O'Connor receiving a framed photograph of the late George Bender from neighbour and friend Mrs Shay Dougal.

respected the late George Bender. Rev Graham Slaughter (Uniting Church Frontier Services) and Fr Jim Cronin facilitated a prayer service to remember George and pray for all those who are grieving at this time.

Sr Aine O'Connor and Sr Denise Boyle were presented with a framed photograph of George Bender. They were humbled by the act of those assembled and committed to share the struggle of people they visited on the Western Downs. When asked by Dr Mark Copland, Executive Officer for the Social Justice Commission

why her religious order was involved, Sr Aine responded: "Our faith is about life. And life is about water and food, and people and the planet. So that is why we find ourselves here at this time." Bishop Robert McGuckin as part of the Diocesan Social Justice Commission for a number of years has raised concerns over the health and social well-being of those living on the gasfields of the Western Downs. The Commission will continue to walk with those affected and highlight their ongoing concerns. 



## HOLY NAME



Earlier this year Holy Name celebrated with 14 young people (plus the mother of one of them) their first reception of Our Lord in Holy Communion. It was a particularly beautiful Mass, and deeply meaningful to all in attendance. Our first communicants were Lola Atley, Tom Campomayer, Anthony Cerqui, Daphne Chidhakwa, Tanaka Chidhakwa, Michael Gaffney, Sean Gaffney, Elizabeth Ganley, Maisie Jackson-Ryan, Kayla Jorgenson, Nathanael Jorgenson, Thomas Keen, Vivien Meacle, Kearstan Nugent and Jack Wilson. We congratulate and welcome them.

## MILLMERRAN



Our Parish community was delighted to welcome Bishop Robert McGuckin to St Francis de Sales on Friday, 18th September. Bishop Robert confirmed seven children on this special night and it was pleasing to see many proud families supporting these children on their sacramental journey. Five of these children also celebrated First Eucharist on Saturday, 19th September with Fr Thomas Areekuzhy. On both evenings, the children shared dinner together with their families and were treated to a celebratory cake. A big thanks must go to Nicole Farrington and Pat Taylor who worked tirelessly to prepare the children for these two significant celebrations with support from Kristy Cameron, St Joseph's School APRE. We look forward to welcoming these children and their families to participate in the many Church Ministries as they continue their journey as witnesses of Christ.

## TEXAS



Saturday June 13th saw our church full when nine children were confirmed by Bishop Emeritus William Morris, who was ably assisted by Fr Sean Lynskey, our Priest Director. This is the largest number to be confirmed in our parish in many years. The children were prepared by their parents with the help of the Sacramental Co-ordinator, Bernadette Guymer. A lovely meal followed in the Parish Centre, which was prepared by the parents and enjoyed by all present.



## GOONDIWINDI



Confirmation group from St Mary's, Goondiwindi, 19th September with Bishop Robert McGuckin.

## CHARLEVILLE



## QUILPIE



Early in August we welcomed Bishop Emeritus Bill Morris to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with the children of St Mary's, Charleville. He then travelled to Quilpie where he administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to the children of St Finbarr's in the evening.

## ST THERESA



Cameron and Vincent, 2 of the 40 children at St Theresa's who completed the Confirmation program. We would like to thank the parents, the schools and the children for their hard work.



# CATHEDRAL CELEBRATES

## WOMEN IN SCRIPTURE WITH FLORAL DISPLAY

By Michael Hart



Finishing touches being put on the winning floral entry. Photos by Ingrid McTaggart.

This year, as part of its annual Floral Display, St Patrick's Cathedral celebrated Women in the Scriptures. Throughout the beautiful neo-Gothic Cathedral visitors were able to find exquisite floral tributes to Martha and Mary, the Samaritan Woman at the Well, Mary Magdalene at the empty tomb, Ruth and Hannah, and others. Mary, mother of Jesus, was also significantly featured.

The Cathedral Floral Display is St Patrick's contribution to the city-wide Carnival of Flowers which ran from Friday 18 to Sunday 27 September. The Display happens through a great partnership between Flowers to Impress School of Floristry, directed by florist Debby Birach-Mayer, and several Church groups, generously assisted by florists Janelle and Michael Petrie.

The spirit of cooperation, enjoyment and good fun, that happens in preparing the displays



flows over into the Floral Display itself. Bishop McGuckin formally opened the Display during a simple ceremony on Thursday 17 September. In his remarks Bishop McGuckin highlighted the incredible creativity on display and acknowledged the generous contribution made by

all involved. Administrator of the Cathedral, Fr Peter Dorfield, presented plaques and certificates to the various volunteers and competition winners as a sign of the Cathedral appreciation for the hard work and effort that went into creating such a spectacular exhibition. [H](#)



# BEATING THE DROUGHT DOLDRUMS

By Sr Maureen Andrews mfc



Our tutors for the patchwork workshop.



Learning new skills in patchworking.

Perhaps many of you are tired of the word drought, we certainly are and we continually beg the Lord to send rain! The rain hasn't arrived yet, although we know it will. However something else arrived and guess what - it was free and was fun.

Gail Clark, a teacher who spent some time Charleville, had recently opened Practical Patchwork in Goondiwindi. She proposed that she and another friend, Nancy Morris, come to Cunnamulla to give a free two day workshop to participants. This became a reality in October when they arrived with bags of patchwork scraps, materials and wadding donated by another group and lots of other surprises. What fun and what a way to build community.

Seventeen eager women set up their machines to learn the techniques of quilt as you go and also how to make a couple of useful bags. A number of the women had never quilted before and were

surprised at their results after hours of cutting, pinning and sewing. Sr Moya, a Franciscan Sister visiting from Brisbane, now has her creation hanging on the wall back in her Kedron convent, her first patchwork!

Women came from Eulo and Yowah and they have requested that there be a similar workshop in Yowah in 2016. All they need is the patience and time to complete a request to the local council for funds. It could be a good weekend in Yowah, floating in the artesian baths and then looking at the opals and walking through the underground mines. There is also talk about setting up local patchwork groups that meet each month. Hopefully the enthusiasm will keep afloat. We were grateful to Nancy and Gail and their commitment to the women of the west.

On the more studious side another group in the parish spends time each week in Bible study. Currently they are working through the Acts

of the Apostles and finished the Gospel of Mark some months ago. The material is from the Little Rock Bible study in Minnesota and distributed by ERDU (Evangelisation Resources Down Under).

This month we start remote preparations for the 2016 fete. We will hold a street stall to ensure that we have the prize monies for the raffle. It is a good community activity to sit and talk to people who come down to shop and examine our wares – relishes, cakes, biscuits, slices and many other yummy things.

We continue to look for windows of opportunity that allow us to speak with members of the community about life and its deeper meanings. Like Bartimaeus in the Gospel of today we want to see the possibility and grasp the opportunity. We pray that we can continue to trust in our vision and call to the One who can give us the sight and vision we need to proclaim the reign of God. [H](#)

# BAPTISM FOR A BEAUTIFUL BABY AND A MILESTONE FOR THE FAMILY

By Patti McNaught

There was great excitement among the worshippers as a much loved couple David and Keryll Wicks presented their fifth child for Baptism during Mass on Sunday, 2nd August. Celebrant and Parish Priest, Fr Brian Noonan called the Wicks family forward as an enthralled congregation looked on as little Torah Mary Wicks was to be baptised. Torah, as are the other children in the family, are very well known and loved in our parish. These delightful children are always first to volunteer to go to Children's Liturgy and are keen to explain what they have done when they come back. George, one of the boys in the family was very excited about the Baptism, and was heard explaining to Fr Brian what was going to happen to his little sister.

As the Baptism progressed, Fr Brian included the community, by explaining the Oil of Chrism and Oil of Baptism and their meaning, and also the water which is traditionally a sign of new life and cleansing and the child symbolically being born again into the life of Christ through Baptism with water. It was lovely to see one of the Godparents lighting the Baptism Candle from the Pascal Candle in the church. When the Baptism Candle is lit from the Pascal




Wicks Family and Godparents with little Torah.

Candle all present are reminded of the light of Christ present in their child. The flame is a symbol of the flame of faith in their child, so little Torah Mary was certainly a very blessed child today. One of the highlights of the ceremony was the parents and godparents with their hand on the Baptism Candle enveloping little Torah in their arms at the same time, and Fr Brian asking the whole community to renew their Baptismal Vows.

Present at the ceremony was Keryll's sister, Heidi and brother-in-law Damen Phillips, who's son

Joseph was one of the two children at our first Baptism for the Parish Baptism Team some years ago. Our Baptism Team Coordinator, Helen Casey was also present at the ceremony representing the wider community in the church, making the sign of the cross on Torah's forehead and presenting Torah's parents with her Baptism Certificate.

A special morning tea organized by Mary Sullivan and ably assisted by her wonderful helpers. This was certainly a fitting celebration for this very special morning. 



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# THERE IS NOTHING LIKE OUR “SWAP YOUR CROP”

By Patti McNaught


On Sunday, 19th July, despite the freezing weather, a large congregation gathered for Mass and afterwards for “Swap your Crop”. The brainchild of one of our local teachers and Parish Liturgist, Tricia Gall, this fun thing has proven to be extremely popular since it first started in 2012. The response to our first “Swap your Crop” was so overwhelming, that we have continued on with this, and our variety of goods for swapping has increased. Everybody brings along their crops, such as vegetables, eggs, jams, home cooking, macadamia nuts, flowers and sometimes knitted items such as covered hangers and scarves. No money changes hands at all. You simply place your item for swapping on the tables and take something that you may fancy. It is great to watch the congregation talking and laughing as they very carefully scan the items until they spy something they might like to take home.

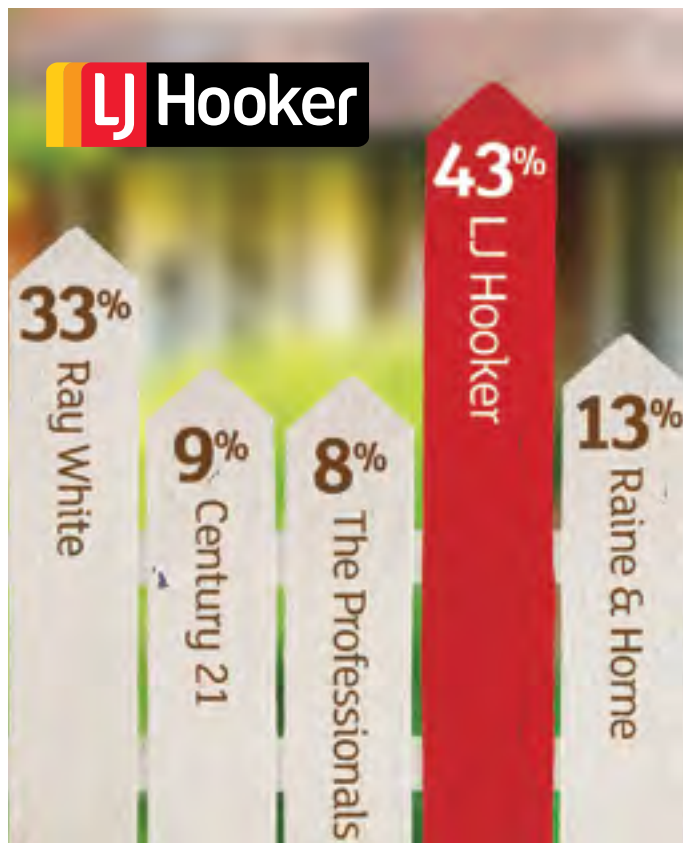
Often recipes have been exchanged when someone's cooking



Eyeing off some of the things for “Swap your Crop”. L to R Pauline Clauson, Hazel Milford, Alan McNaught, Mel and Mike Kalinowski.

has been taken home after one of these mornings. We had some jam made this time that was a combination of fruit from neighbour's yards, and it proved to be simply delicious. Lovely to see a joint effort be so popular. This week it was extra special, as a morning tea was available as well, thanks to Tricia Hundt and her

offsider Danielle. It's so nice to hold a hot cuppa in your hands on a cold morning and have a lovely hot drink to warm you. Thanks to the two Tricias for organizing a great way to spend catching up with our friends after Mass. Let's do it again soon! What a wonderful feeling it is to belong to such a fantastic Parish. 



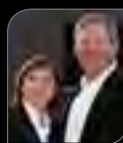
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# ACTIVE PARISH BUILDING COMMUNITY

By Regan Kama

St Theresa's, Toowoomba



Parishioners at the Patrick Oliver retreat.

St Theresa's Parish has been busy with a variety of programs, workshops, and retreats. It constantly amazes me the dedication, support and assistance the parishioners provide to each other and the St Theresa's Parish Office. Our programs are incredibly successful due to this dedication.

In July our Parish Pastoral Council held its annual "Honouring the Gifts of the Community" after Mass on Saturday with Soup and on Sunday with some home-baked slices. This gesture showed our appreciation of our wonderful volunteers in our community, thank you to Paul Marangelli (Hospitality Team) and Christine Harpham (Parish Council Member) who organised the drinks and food.

During Term 3, Mater Dei Primary school classes attended a number of our Friday Parish Masses. The students took this opportunity to reflect on the readings and ask

questions of Fr Brian Noonan about how the St Theresa Parish community welcomes new members, what are the shared beliefs and values and how we are sustained and nourished. The Parishioners enjoyed listening to the children's prayers of the faithful and watching them participate throughout the Masses.

St Theresa's have a number of volunteers that support Rosies: Friends on the Street. We thank Sheelagh Ellem who has taken over the reins from Cecily Fitzpatrick last year. Sheelagh coordinates and ensures that St Theresa's Parish support this program.

The Parish Pastoral Council organised a retreat day with Patrick Oliver. Patrick works full time in companioning others in spiritual direction and conducts retreats and workshops around South-East Queensland and beyond. The retreat allowed an opportunity to reflect upon how our seeming successes

and seeming failures can teach us to be people of prayerfulness. We thank David Rogan for organising and coordinating this retreat.

A number of our council members attended the Diocesan Inservice in September. It focused on Pope Francis' recent encyclical *Laudato Si* (Praise Be To You): On Care for Our Common Home. It also provided an opportunity for clergy and staff to come together to network and to explore aspects of Church life and ministry.

St Theresa's children have now begun preparing for their First Reconciliation through a Commitment Ceremony and forming groups to complete their journey. We thank the parents, teachers and children who all provide input and share their experiences with the participants. We look forward to seeing them complete their journey with a Ceremony on Thursday 12th November at the Parish Centre. [H](#)



# NEW PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL AT **ST THOMAS MORE'S**

By Bevan Devine



L to R: Peter McDonald, Michael Bermingham, Marie Cleary, Mark Betts, Gabrielle Murray, Michael Keating, Greg Harvey, Suellen Sedl and Fr. Peter Dorfield. Absent: Brian Stevens, Katie Wright and Michael Murray.

On Sunday, 13th September, Priest Director of St Thomas More's Parish, Fr Peter Dorfield, commissioned the 2015/2016 Parish Pastoral Council during the morning Mass. The Parish Pastoral Council is structured such that each year three members retire and three new members are welcomed. This system provides a three year term ensuring that each Councillor's position doesn't become burdensome and also minimises personality domination that can occur with longer term tenure.

Fr Dorfield and Parish Leader, Michael Bermingham, are ex-officio members of the Council. Each of the nine elected members takes on a separate area of Ministry. His or her responsibility is to ensure that proper operations and compliance occurs in that particular area without having to do all the actual hands-on work themselves. The assignment of ministries is decided by a process of discernment.

This year Peter McDonald continues with the Leadership Ministry and is responsible for overall performance; chairing meetings; liaising with all ministries and the functioning of the Forward Planning Group which facilitates strategic planning.

Marie Cleary continues in the Communications Ministry and is responsible for meeting agenda preparation; minutes; liaison with Diocesan Personnel with respect to risk management, annual reporting; submissions to Horizons; the Parish website and other related matters.

The Spirituality Ministry, Social Justice Committee, Emmaus and the Mothers' Prayer Groups, Meditation Group, Lenten and Advent programs and Ecumenism come under the aegis of Michael Keating.

Greg Harvey is continuing in the Ministry of Faith Education which encompasses Sacramental Preparation, Visiting Speakers, RCIA, SPRED and the weekly Faith Education Group.

The Worship Ministry, covered again this year by Mark Betts, incorporates Liturgy preparation and content, music selection, readers, Eucharistic ministers, children's liturgy, altar servers, Mass co-ordinators, church decoration and Ministry to the Sick.

St. Thomas More's outreach to the wider community incorporates St. Vincent de Paul, Care and Concern Group, Consolation Team (Funerals) and a Playgroup for pre-schoolers. Gabrielle Murray and Suellen Sedl, as

a shared team, oversee this ministry.

The Ministry of Education, filled again this year by Katie Wright provides the Parish liaison with St. Thomas More's School. Katie takes a place on the School Board.

Michael Murray is in charge of Administration and provides valuable back-up to the Parish Leader with the Finance Committee, Funding Committee, parish admin staff, gardens, church cleaning, maintenance, collectors, counters and recorders.

As St Thomas More's places great emphasis on being a welcoming, friendly and inclusive community, the Hospitality Ministry has special importance. Brian Stevens has oversight of welcomers at Mass, family groups, Catholic ladies group, Men for all Seasons, morning tea after Mass, as well as special occasions such as the annual Pot Luck Dinner.

The responsibilities listed above cover perhaps most, but certainly not all of the activities that are pursued at our Parish. Naturally the Parish Leader has co-responsibility in all these areas. The Parish Pastoral Council oversees the activities of at least 200 people who are involved in one way or another. [H](#)

# MINISTRY ALIVE IN CROWS NEST

By Margaret Fowler



Cousins Milla Weedon and Chloe Castle, baptised at Crows Nest.

Early in June the Catholic and Anglican Deb Ball was held in the Crows Nest Community Hall. Three lovely Debs were presented to Bishop Robert McGuckin and Rev Marjorie Charrington. The Silvertones Orchestra provided the music for an enjoyable night of dancing. Also enjoyed was the lovely supper organised by the ladies from both churches. Bishop Robert stayed overnight and celebrated the weekend Masses for the Parish.

On 28th June cousins, Milla Weedon and Chloe Castle were Baptised in St Matthew's Church by Fr Ted Hanlon. Grandma, Marilyn Castle, had six grandsons until first granddaughter Chloe was born and then 13 days later granddaughter Milla arrived. Family and friends came from Toowoomba, Brisbane, Gold Coast and Oakey to attend the baptism.

When Fr Ted Hanlon was no longer able to celebrate Mass at the Aged Care Complex it was decided to trial a 10:00am Mass at St Matthew's. Given the title of a Family Mass some

activities are organised for the young ones and a shared morning tea/lunch is available for those wishing to join in for a chat and a cuppa. The Family Mass on Pentecost involved the MacKillop Kids during the service and later with some enthusiastic kite flying.

Fr Dave O'Connor is now celebrating a Mass for residents and visitors at the Aged Care Complex on the first Friday of each month. We thank him for making himself available for this service.


The 26th July was the feast of Sts' Joachim and Anne. Being the grandparents of Jesus it was a fitting day to celebrate "Grandparents: A Great Vocation", using the suggested readings and prayers.

On Saturday, 3rd October the marriage of Patrick Campbell and Ann Thompson was solemnised in St Matthew's Church by Fr Ray Crowley. Pat is the nephew of Fr Pat Campbell who was Parish priest at Crows Nest for several years.

The Crows Nest Conference of St Vincent de Paul went into

recess some time ago. It has now re-convened as the Crows Nest Combined Churches Conference of St Vincent de Paul. The ecumenical aspect is a new concept and if successful may be used elsewhere.

On the 22nd June our Parish and wider community was saddened by the untimely death of Sandy Brennan. A valued member of the Parish, Sandy was elected to the Parish Pastoral Council in September 2014 and agreed to accept the position of Chairperson. Her enthusiasm was manifest and she is greatly missed.

Pat O'Connor, a long time member of our Parish Community, passed away just recently, following a lengthy illness. Pat usually attended Mass at St Leo's Church in Haden and always kept an eye open for any problems with the church and grounds. He was a member of the first Parish Council and also served some later terms. He was a life member of the local Show Society, was Ring Steward for several years and was well known for his horsemanship. 



# CREATIVITY INSPIRES

By Janice Moore and Angela Gilbert



School leaders helping serve up snow cones.



Parishioners enjoying morning tea with Fr John Quinlan.



Afternoon tea in Leyburn.

On Sunday, 18th October, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish celebrated their annual Family Mass. Parishioners from all three Mass congregations gathered in the school hall on Sunday morning to celebrate together as a parish family. Representatives from different parish groups, including the Parish Pastoral Council, St Vincent de Paul, SPRED and the Liturgy Group, took on various roles during the celebration. The school created two flowers, made up of handprints of all students in the school. These symbolised that

we are many parts but make up one family. After the Mass, parishioners gathered on the school oval for morning tea, face painting and snow cones. The organisers were assisted by some of the Our Lady of Lourdes Year 6 school students. It was delightful to see all members of our parish family, young and old, greeting and gathering in fellowship.

On Thursday, 22nd October, a bus trip to Warwick, Leyburn and Clifton was organised. 54 parishioners and friends travelled to Warwick for

morning tea and a guided tour of Abbey of the Roses. Built in 1891 for the Sisters of Mercy, it is now privately owned and well worth a visit. A couple of the highlights were seeing the chapel that is set up for weddings and the beautiful teapots and crockery on display and for sale. A delicious lunch followed at the Royal Hotel Leyburn, followed by a short stop for afternoon tea at the Clifton Jam Factory. The bus trip provided a great opportunity for parishioners to get to know each other and to catch up socially. <#>

# HIGHFIELDS GETS A GLIMPSE OF NEW COLLEGE

By Elizabeth Findley



Mayor Paul Antonio with wife Judy, getting a tour of the new state of the art facilities.



Peter Murphy, Margaret Hendriks and Donaugh Shirley with Year 6 and 7 Students.

On Sunday, 25th October Mary MacKillop Catholic College opened its doors to the community with an invitation to inspect the new facilities on offer for Year 7 and 8 in 2016. The response was overwhelming with guests including Mayor Paul Antonio and wife Judy Antonio, Trevor Watts, Bill Cahill and Margaret Hendriks joining students, staff and school families for a tour and shared brunch.


Year 6 and 7 students conducted the tours wearing the new summer uniform, highlighting what pupils would experience in 2016. The first stage of the \$28 million facility will launch with state of the art technology, focusing on innovation and creativity. Students will enjoy 10 ultra-modern classrooms, Science, Art, Home

Economics, Design and Technology rooms alongside a Library, Tuckshop and Administration. The College has purchased a 3D Printer and equipment for robotics and coding, a modern art kiln to fire clay works and each class room will be fitted with Smart TVs as the College moves beyond data projectors. Rooms have Wi-Fi access for student learning and operable walls that double as extra white boards for student brain storming, presentations and discussions.

"The expansion will continue to roll out over the coming years so that we can accommodate up to 1400 students. Staff appointments are happening at the moment with a very generous staffing allowance allocated to support the growing

College," said Principal Peter Murphy.

Prospective families and people in the local community all came to have a look and share in the wonderful atmosphere and welcoming community for which the College is renowned. "We are so impressed with the High School with such wonderful opportunities and having the latest technology for our children," commented Amanda Dobson after viewing the Secondary College. "What a fabulous learning environment to be part of."

With work progressing on schedule, everything will be completely finished by the end of November ready for commencement in 2016. It is an exciting time for the College and the community. 



**THE GIFT OF BOYS**  
St Mary's College Toowoomba [www.stmaryscollege.com](http://www.stmaryscollege.com)



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# OPTI-MINDS CHAMPIONS

By Elizabeth Findley

Two teams from Mary MacKillop Catholic College recently competed at the National Finals for Opti-Minds in Brisbane during October with the Social Science team bringing home honours.

Mary MacKillop competed against 171 teams with over 1800 participants. Groups from all over Queensland, Western Australia, Christmas Island and New Zealand came together, giving their best. Mary MacKillop's teams excelled as standouts, delighted to achieve honours resulting in being given the title of the Thinking School.

"We are so proud of our Opti-mind students for their amazing commitment, hard work and humility," said Christine Bethel, Opti-Minds Co-ordinator at Mary MacKillop. "The competition is a fantastic opportunity for students to interact and meet with other children from different schools, developing lasting friendships."



MMCC Social Science team proudly wearing their honours medals

Opti-minds is a unique competition which empowers students to Think, Create and Communicate. It is a problem solving programme for teams of up to seven participants competing in the following categories against other schools - Science

and Engineering, Language and Literature and Social Science.

Mary MacKillop looks forward to next year's competition, starting at the regional level in August, to defend their title with students enjoying the challenge while reaching for their very best. [\[4\]](#)

## EXPO GIVES A TASTE OF PREP

By Janine Butlin

On Thursday, 17th September, St Thomas More's School held an Early Years Expo. The purpose of the fun morning was to provide an opportunity for our school to welcome younger children and their parents into our community. Pre-school aged siblings, new Prep children for next year and children from the St Thomas More's Playgroup were invited to come and spend some time with our current Prep students. We offered lots of exciting activities that encouraged open exploration including wood work, messy play, biscuit making, face painting, creative sessions and iPad games. The visiting children were able to get a little taste of school with story reading, yoga, music and movement sessions. The current Preps were very excited to be able to participate in some activities that aren't always offered every day whilst helping the younger visitors to feel comfortable in our school setting. The parents were able to enjoy a



Ruby Sing and Lori Byamungu get messy.

coffee and meet some new faces who are about to begin the same 'school journey' with their children. We all had a great time, not even the

rain stopped us! We look forward to seeing our new friends again when they come and visit us during our 'Prep Open Days' later this month. [\[4\]](#)

# COUNTDOWN TO CENTENARY

By Robyn Phelan

Preparations are well underway for the celebration of the Century of Catholic Education in Allora, to be held in March 2016. The occasion marks the 100th birthday of St Patrick's School and will focus on the rich history of the school's founding Sisters of St Joseph, their contribution to school and parish life over their 96 years in Allora. Anyone with a connection to St Patrick's would be warmly welcomed to attend the weekend of events, which will commence with an Art Show and Wine and Cheese Reception in the former Convent on Saturday 12th March. Mass will be celebrated at 10am on Sunday, 13th March, followed by an official program, featuring the launch of a book recording the history of the school and a performance of 'St Patrick's Way of Life' by the present school choir. The song has been written by the students and Josh Arnold as part of Josh's Small Town Culture project. The lyrics include the school's motto 'For God We Strive' and talks of the arrival by steam train of the three Sisters of St Joseph who opened the school in 1916.

An excerpt from the book, detailing that arrival and the subsequent blessing of the school and Convent.

A crowd of Allora townspeople waited in eager anticipation for the arrival of the afternoon steam train one January day in 1916. Three Sisters of St Joseph who were to be the staff of the new convent school were passengers on that train. When they arrived, they were met by parish priest, Father Edward Carroll and they were




Opening of Allora's Convent and School in 1916.

introduced to many of those who had come to welcome them. They were then driven by horse-drawn taxi cab to the newly-built convent for afternoon tea. After this Father Carroll showed them around their new home and introduced them to more parishioners.

On the 23rd January, a large crowd attended the 10 o'clock Mass which was celebrated by Archbishop Duhig from Brisbane assisted by Father Carroll. The crowd included visitors from the surrounding districts many of whom had arrived by train. After the Mass, the convent and school were solemnly blessed by the archbishop. The gathering was then addressed by Father Carroll who said that a new era had opened for Allora with the coming of the Sisters of St Joseph. He said that he owed a deep debt of gratitude to the band

of volunteers who had done such splendid work in painting, fencing and making ready the school. In reply Archbishop Duhig congratulated Father Carroll and his parishioners on the newly-opened convent and school. He said that, apart from the big centres of Toowoomba and Warwick, Allora was the first town on the Darling Downs to possess a Catholic convent and school.

The next day classes commenced at the school with an enrolment of one hundred and eight pupils. An advertisement which appeared in the Allora Guardian gives an idea of the subjects offered, 'School opens 24th January. Intending pupils for violin, organ, piano, singing and university type-writing and shorthand, apply to Sister Superior'. 

## St Patrick's School Allora Centenary 12 – 13 March 2016

Also recognising the arrival of the Sisters of St Joseph in the Allora Parish and their contribution to the life of the School.

Sunday Mass 10am followed by Memorabilia Display, Tours of School, School Students Entertainment and Book Launch.

All welcome – For more information contact Carmel: [cowleys3@bigpond.com](mailto:cowleys3@bigpond.com) or **0427 136 570**

WEEKEND  
INCLUDES  
**ART SHOW ON  
SATURDAY  
12 MARCH**



# OUR TRIP TO BALI

By Anita Roberts

In the last week of term 3, eight middle school students embarked on the adventure of a lifetime to Bali, Indonesia. They were there for 5 nights in total, participating in a wide variety of activities. They should be very proud of the way they conducted themselves and represented our school with pride. We had the pleasure of visiting our Sister School, meeting our pen pals and helping them with their English, as well as practising our Indonesian. We went to a zoo and saw their native animals and had a great time testing Mr Roff's and Mrs Roberts' fears at the Waterbom Water Park. "I hope we have opened some young minds and created an adventure they will never forget," said Mrs Anita Roberts, Indonesian Teacher.

"On the Bali Trip we went on a whole new adventure seeing places that we would not be able to see anywhere else than in Bali. We visited a school, which was a amazing, had a cooking class, went to the Bali Safari and Marine Park where people patted white lions." Student Maggie McClymont recalled. "To top it off we went to the best water park in Asia. All the people on the trip could say that they had the time of their life getting to learn things about people and their culture.



St Mary's Students with some of the students and teachers from the Middle School in Ubud, Indonesia.

It was a great experience for all."

"The St Mary's Bali trip was an amazing experience that we all learnt a lot from. The school was a fantastic way to start our week as we learnt all about the way the Indonesians are taught and the differences between our schools. I really enjoyed the bike ride that several of us went on, it was

very cultural and a great way to see all the beautiful sights Bali has to offer." Laura Hunt, another student, said. "My favourite activity that we did was the Waterbom Park, there were thrilling rides and we all had a go at least one, but I must admit I was a little scared when I got stuck in one! All together Bali was amazing!" 🇮🇩

# CHOOKS GO TO CLASS

Fr Michael O'Brien

The latest "recruits" at St Mary's School, Goondiwindi – 10 chooks! Each term a different class feeds, waters and collects the eggs. The students are able to sell the eggs with half of the money raised going to the class and the other half goes to a charity of their choice. This is another joint project with the parish, as the chooks live in Fr Michael's backyard! Pictured with the chooks are the Grade 4 class. Annabelle Trouton's family created the "St Mary's Chooks" sign over the gate. 🇮🇩



# TALENT ABOUND IN CHARLEVILLE

By Sr Elizabeth O'Keefe rsm



Year 4 during their winning performance at the Charleville Performing Arts Festival.



Hugo Schmidt, Miss McDonald, and Harrison Shaw Dressed up for Book Week.

Charleville

In August we farewelled Fr Peter Doohan as he left for the coast on his annual holidays. In his absence we welcomed Fr Hal Ranger who discovered what it is like to serve in the Outback. We hope he enjoyed his time with us as much as we enjoyed having him among us.

August also saw our Year 6 children join with the Year 6's from Sacred Heart School, Cunnamulla for their excursion to Sydney and Canberra. Included in the agenda were visits to the Mary MacKillop Centre and a cruise on Sydney Harbour, a visit to Parliament House, Canberra, the Australian Sports Institute, Questicon and the War Memorial.

What caused the most excitement was seeing snow fall for the first time!

At the end of August our children participated in the Charleville Performing Arts Festival. Our children competed in verse speaking, dance and song and brought home a number of trophies.

Book Week was enjoyed by both teachers and children alike. Each morning the teachers performed a fairy story much to the delight of the



Lizzie and Bronte and their medals for verse speaking at the Charleville Performing Arts Festival.

children. Cinderella, played by Mr Tim Ludlow, and the prince, played by Miss Carly McDonald, was the highlight of the performances for the children.

The teachers were not the only ones who got involved in the activities. The children were invited to come as their favourite book character and it was amazing to see the variety of characters and the creativity of the parents in providing the costumes. It was not hard to see which

character was the most popular.

During the September holidays a call was sent out by the Charleville Neighbourhood Centre asking the community to demonstrate their support for the refugees. At very short notice, some of our community joined in the candle light vigil in the Town Hall Park to show our concern for the plight of the refugees and to show that we would be happy to have some settle in Charleville. 🕯️



# QUILPIE STUDENTS FILL A BUSY YEAR

By Sarah Lilburne

The Quilpie School and Parish Community was profoundly shocked by the sudden death of Fr Jeff Scully. Fr Jeff was Parish Priest of Quilpie for 27 years. Often referred to as "Our Parish Priest" by Quilpie residents, he was much loved and respected by all.

Bishop Emeritus Bill Morris was coming to Quilpie for Confirmation, so it was decided to have a Community Memorial Service for Fr Jeff during his visit. Many of the Quilpie Community gathered on a Sunday afternoon to remember and give thanks. Memories shared included Fr Jeff's first wedding in Quilpie, his sporting prowess, his travelling in the Parish, the Birdsville Races and ministry in the parish and school. Fr Jeff will always be remembered with love by the Quilpie Community.

The School and Parish Community gathered to celebrate the feast day of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop with a prayer service in St Finbarr's Church. Bishop Morris confirmed 3 students, Ryan Proctor, Marcus Paulsen and Hayden Porter in August.

August also saw the celebration of Green and Gold day, a fund raiser for The Mary MacKillop Foundation. The fun of wearing green and gold to school was enhanced by Bishop Bill's kite flying session with the students who were keen to see Bishop Bill's new kite as well as fly the ones he had presented to us over the years. A happy day was had by all.

In Term 2, the whole school travelled to Brisbane for camp staying at Roma St Youth Hostel. One of the highlights for the Prep to Year 2 students was visiting St Finbarr's School Ashgrove. Students from both schools enjoyed meeting each other and learning about the two schools.

The last days of August brings the anniversary of past student Ricky Milosevic, member of the Australian Defence Force killed



Cody Bowen, Toby Hilton and Millie McWaters prepared the Green and Gold Trifle for tuckshop on Mary MacKillop Green and Gold Day.




Bishop Morris helps Charlie Slaughter with his kite.

in Afghanistan in 2012. He is remembered in a simple service conducted by senior students.

The Quilpie Singers, a group of students from St Finbarr's and the Quilpie State College, took out the gold medal in the choir section of the Charleville Performing Arts Festival. The students also took part in solo singing and instrumental performances.

Bishop Cameron Venables, Anglican Bishop of the Western

Region confirmed 2 students, Toby Hilton and Millie McWaters and staff member, Sarah Lilburne in St Matthew's Church in September.

Term 3 concluded with the excitement of the Quilpie Show and the many activities of the Thargomindah Small Schools Sports Camp. Term 4 has many challenges and activities ahead of us including a visit from students of St Mary's Laidley. We look forward to welcoming 2016 in all its newness. 

# CHILDREN'S STORY BOOK LAUNCHED

By Melissa Hampson

Students at Sacred Heart Primary School enjoyed an afternoon of storytelling during Book Week celebrations. One of the storytellers was Mrs Lesley Dawson, a former teacher at the school. She returned to launch her first children's book, *Whipper Snipper Dad*.

"Some years ago I began an online course in children's writing. It was through the Australian College of Journalism. I really enjoyed it and I became interested in writing for children since then", Mrs Dawson said. "I like to use rhyme and repetition in my picture books so that the children can read along with others, their parents or grandparents, and feel as if they're achieving. Later they'll be able to read the book by themselves. I think it's part of the step-by-step process of reading."

Children from Prep to Year 2 enjoyed *Whipper Snipper Dad* which

is a humorous story about a Dad who really loves his whipper snipper and uses it for every task in the garden until one day something happens.

Mrs Chris Conneely, Year 1 teacher at Sacred Heart, commented that her students were captivated when listening to the story. "They were intrigued with the rich language embedded in the story that every child could relate to," she said.

Year 2 teacher, Mrs Angela Tevelein said it is a lovely story that is beautifully written and illustrated. She added, "A book with wonderful new vocabulary and rhyming words". She remarked that as a story, it encourages lots of discussion about helping their own parents in the yard at home.

Several children presented their copies for signing by the author. Year 1 student Lacey Prior said, "I liked it when the Dad cut the bushes in



Lesley signing Year 2 student, Zoe Padget's copy of *Whipper Snipper Dad*.

dinosaur shapes." Another Year 1 student Arliyah Harnett added, "I like it when Mum and Dad are prancing and twirling in the front yard. I like dancing."

Mrs Dawson's book *Whipper Snipper Dad*, written for 4-7 year olds, is available at The Book Tree in Ruthven Street.

## PITTSWORTH PUTS THE CALL OUT FOR SCHOOL MEMORIES

By Madonna Sleba

As part of the 100th Anniversary celebrations, St Joseph's/St Stephen's Pittsworth will be having a memorabilia display and would like to commence collecting items of interest. If you have relatives or friends who attended St Joseph's/St Stephen's please ask if they have any photos, uniforms, trophies, books, etc. we could borrow for a short time and use in our display.

We are asking for people to put pen to paper and send us your memories and insights about special times at St Joseph's/St Stephen's. Every past student, teacher, parent or parishioner has a story to tell of our beloved school, therefore we are keen to hear stories and save those memories for future reference.

We are also looking for families – siblings, parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents – who attended the

school. We would really like to spotlight your family in our school's 100th Anniversary Hall of Fame.

As a highlight within the display, we hope to make displays focusing on different multi-generation families who have attended the school. We are looking for school photos of both the present attending students, plus those of past generations. Individual photos or class photos would be appreciated. To complete the picture, we would like to have a current group photo of the family members who attended St Joseph's/St Stephen's Pittsworth.

The school has such a tremendous history, so our 2016 Anniversary Committee are keen to establish a vault of historical memorabilia for safe keeping.

If you can assist with our memorabilia search, you can do one of the following:



Erika and Haylie from Year 2 learning about the School's history.

- Simply scan your photos, and email them to [Pittsworth@twb.catholic.edu.au](mailto:Pittsworth@twb.catholic.edu.au), including in your email the names and dates.
- Drop your hard copies into Kate in the School Office (Murray St, Pittsworth). We will scan them and return your photos to you. Please remember to write your name and contact number on the back of ALL hard copies to facilitate their safe return.



# ST MARY'S COLLEGE YEAR 11

## SOCIAL JUSTICE PLACEMENT PROGRAM

By Sharon Collins

In the last week of Term 3, St Mary's College Year 11 students engaged in a three day Social Justice placement that saw them attend to over 40 providers across the region, from Aged Care Facilities, to Hospitals, Local Schools, Op Shops and other service organisations. This is such a generous activity by the boys caring for and spending quality time with those who are less fortunate. It is certainly a quality that St Mary's College sincerely attempts to instil in the boys, through the Edmund Rice Charism. Throughout the week, each provider was contacted to check in on the boys to see how they were faring. The feedback was heartening, to say the least. "He is hardworking", "He fits in so well", "He's not afraid to 'get his hands dirty'", "He's a credit to the College and his family", "He had such a lovely way with people", and "He was well presented and punctual", were some of the many comments fed back. These remarks were echoed in many of the phone calls that were made by me and the

other Year 11 Religion teachers.

On the Friday, some 60 boys returned to the College to debrief about their experiences. The day included time in prayer and reflection and hearing from members of College staff who are particularly passionate about their own experiences of social justice. Special thanks to Mr Ryan Baines, Miss Angela Collins, Mr Paul Grealy and Mrs Kaye Picton for sharing their own very personal encounters, and for truly demonstrating to the Year 11 students what it means to be people of presence, witness and action.


The remainder of the morning involved the boys individually reflecting, and then sharing in small groups their experiences and how these directly relate to the Catholic Social Teachings: Human Dignity, Common Good, Solidarity, Subsidiarity, Participation, Stewardship, and Preferential Option for the Poor.

How has this placement changed you? "I just feel better because I



Visiting with a nursing home resident.

have done well for my community and given back to the people in the town that brought me up," said Tom who was placed at the Pittsworth Uniting Church.


"I felt sympathy for the people who attend Vinnies, however, I didn't pity them owing to the rich and happy lives that most of them live, that I was able to contribute to. This was the point of time where I actually felt I was living out my own values and was 'rich' myself," said Tyson who was placed at St Vincent de Paul. 

## ST JOHN'S HAS MINDS FOR SUCCESS

St John's Catholic School, Roma, has had national success in the Opti-MINDS Creative Sustainability Challenge. The school's Division 3 language literature team was first in the state and Australian finals at the University of Queensland recently. A school spokesperson said the team of six seniors – Lucy Barsby, Rachel Brennan, Kaitlin Sands, Mariah Thom, Bridget Treasure and Rachel Zerk – displayed great teamwork and creative thinking in the spontaneous challenge and confidently delivered a creative long-term performance. At the Opti-VISION Forum, the team shared its idea of raising awareness of the excessive amount of money



spent by girls on their senior formal and how this could be used to help people in need. Bridget spoke passionately of her recent journey with fellow St John's students to East Timor, comparing the cost of an

average formal gown with a year's wages in that developing country. Lucy, Rachel Brennan, Kaitlin and Bridget were also members of the St John's team that was first in 2012 in the language literature category. 

# STUDENT'S ENJOY A VERY SOCIAL TERM

By Kristy Searson



Senior Students looking their best for the Formal.

On Friday 18 September the Assumption College 'A Night in Paris' Senior Formal was held at the Warwick Golf Club. The evening allowed for parents, family, friends and staff of the College to celebrate a very special milestone for our Year 12 students. Parisian décor set the mood and atmosphere of the evening, especially the large Eiffel Tower used as a photo prop. The students were unrecognisable in their elegant evening wear and thoroughly

enjoyed dancing the night away with their parents and partners. This was certainly a night to remember for students and their parents.

Throughout the year, many of our Year 12 students are part of a school pastoral committee that meets fortnightly. These students work towards implementing activities that bring together the students of the school community. This year, they initiated a school radio and peer tutoring while raising money for charities. In Term 3,

the focus was a College Social based on the theme, 'ACW'. Students came to the social dressed as something starting with 'A', 'C' or 'W' and the night proved to be a great success with lots of creative costumes of witches, cops, Where's Wally, cats, clowns, angels. Students were awarded prizes for Best Dressed and Best Dancer of the evening. Funds raised on the evening will be given back to the local community through a project decided by the Year 12 students. [\[1\]](#)

## APRE RETREAT 2015

By Angela Travers

On the 10th and 11th September, the Assistant Principals Religious Education (APREs) from Diocesan schools attended their annual APRE Retreat at Happy Valley Resort, Stanthorpe. This year the presenter was Christine Carlton, who led the group on a journey of storytelling, with the conference title being 'At the heart of every story there lives a storyteller'.

During the two days of retreat, Christine skilfully had the cohort reflect on their own life experiences and the wisdom in personal, cultural and sacred stories. The focus question for the retreat was, 'What are the stories that inspire and challenge us to live life authentically, to act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with our God?'

As well as giving the group time



L to R: Tony Worner (EO:Faith & Life, CEOT), Steve Moyle (APRE, Mary MacKillop Highfields) and Tyrone Maher (APRE St Francis de Sales, Clifton)

to develop their own spirituality the retreat was an opportunity to network with fellow APREs and the Faith Education Team, consisting of Tony Worner, Angela Travers and Mary Conaghan. A trivia night based

on 'The Saints' was enjoyed by all, with people coming dressed as their favourite saints. Special thanks to Fr Franco Filippetto from St Mary's Parish Warwick who came and celebrated the Eucharist with the group. [\[2\]](#)



# PROJECT COMPASSION SUCCESS AT ST MARY'S

By Robyn-Anne Lovell

Recently I had the privilege of visiting St Mary's Primary School Goondiwindi to meet all the wonderful students who broke the record in raising funds during Project Compassion 2015. Thanking the students for their hard work I explained to the students how the funds would be used to assist the people featured in the six stories for this year's campaign. Also using my own hastily put-together WASH kit as an activity, I introduced the students to the emergency work of Caritas in Nepal after the earthquake earlier this year.

After the school assembly I met with the Executive of the Student Council who, along with student representatives, and under the guidance of Karra Nosworthy (APRE) and Tennille White, worked together to put in place a range of exciting fundraising activities. All the activities were linked by the word Project, for example, Project Principal (students could have the opportunity to "win" being Principal for the day), Project Silver Coin (on St Patrick's Day), Project



Students holding up the items that they guessed were in a WASH (water, sanitation, hygiene) Kit.

Disco, Project Pancake were just some of the activities. Other endeavours included teacher challenges (which were very challenging indeed!) and free dress days. The executive members of the Student Council all commented on their experiences during Project Compassion. Milly Buck said "It was fun for everyone and helps others". Gracie O'Shea said "You feel proud of yourself and

your school [when the fundraising campaigns were so successful]." Ben Hyson recognised the gratefulness of giving by explaining that "Australia is so fortunate and we can share this with others". Likewise Mia Billing agreed saying that supporting Caritas "achieves something and then that goes on to do even more". Well done St Mary's, your school is the template for fun and fundraising! 🇳🇵

## CARITAS ROUNDUP

By Robyn-Anne Lovell

Caritas Australia celebrated its 2015 annual conference in Sydney in late July. This year, the Queenslanders were the organising team and I was delighted to participate in this process with other Diocesan Directors Joe Foley (Brisbane) and Helen-Mary Peters (Townsville) along with Sydney office Regional Engagement Officer Greta Spies. It was a thoroughly enjoyable experience and we put together an interesting and effective program, featuring Sr Veronica Lawson our guest speaker. Although the conference this year was only a short 2 days, beginning with Mass on the Tuesday afternoon in the Mary McKillop Chapel in North Sydney

and finishing on Thursday afternoon, it was a comprehensive program that covered many topics and, I'm sure, provided great assistance to the many other Diocesan Directors in encouraging awareness and participation of Caritas in the parishes and schools. On the Wednesday night we relaxed with a Caritas Country Music Night, featuring a country music and Caritas trivia competition, lots of great country music and a "Best Outfit" competition. Sadly I didn't win the best outfit – even though I donned my battered old Akubra and RM Williams moleskins!

Caritas is already gearing up for Project Compassion 2016, as the launch takes place very early

in the school year. All parishes have returned their orders for January/February delivery and schools had to order on-line.

I have recently visited a number of parishes Masses, in and close to Toowoomba, to report on the success of PC 2015 and to thank everyone for their kind donations. My talks have also given an update on the status of earthquake devastated Nepal, so that parishioners are aware of the work that their contributions have achieved. It is so wonderful to be welcomed so warmly by so many parishes, thank you! Don't forget that if you wish to donate online for any emergency, you can do so at [www.caritas.org.au/donate](http://www.caritas.org.au/donate). 🇳🇵

# MULTIFAITH YOUTH EVENT: TABLETOP CLIMB

By Sarah de Byl



In the spirit of friendship, Young Catholics hosted a Tabletop climb on 15 August, 2015. This was in conjunction with the Anglican Church, Pure land Learning

College and the Islamic Interfaith and Multicultural Association. Participants involved got the opportunity to meet other young people living in the area and

enjoyed climbing and learning about a Toowoomba landmark. The climb was a great success and more multifaith events like this are being planned for 2016. <#>

## CONCANNON ORATION

By Sarah de Byl

The annual Concannon Oration was instituted by Concannon College founder Bishop Edward Kelly. Each year, a prominent guest speaker is invited to address topics relevant to today's world. This year's speaker was Fr Morgan Batt. Fr Morgan is the vocations director for the Brisbane Archdiocese as well as an ex-army chaplain, international alpine mountaineer and record holder for the highest (altitude-based) celebrated Mass in the world. The topic for Fr Morgan's talk was The Road less Travelled: Counter-culturalism in contemporary society. His presentation explored the notion that sometimes you have to go against the flow to stand up for what is right. In a society often guided by popular opinion what does it mean to be the lone voice in the wilderness. From moral decision making to everyday life



Fr Morgan Batt at the 2015 Concannon Oration. Photo by USQ Residential Colleges.

choices how does a person find the strength to go against the tide. Fr Morgan Batt shared some of his life's journey as Priest, Padre and adventurer. He also talked about how he has moved through adversity and difficult situations to achieve results beyond expectation.

The night was organized by the Concannon College Council and was open to the public. Students from all three of the USQ colleges attended the night and most left with a copy of Fr Morgan's book "Up the Beaten Track" and a new perspective on life, the world and the church. <#>



# A FORMAL CELEBRATION FOR CONCANNON

By Kimberley Kerslake



Students attending the Concannon College Formal 2015. Photo by Owen Studios Professional Photography Toowoomba.

On Saturday, 12th September, Concannon College residents attended their formal dinner, organised by their Resident Student Club (RSC) Executive and Formal Committee. This year's Formal, with red and green accents and casino style table decorations saw residents honour their graduates, congratulate outstanding residents, welcome the incoming RSC Executive, dance, laugh and have fun late into the night.

On behalf of the Residential Colleges, congratulations and thank you to the 2015 Concannon Resident Student Club Executive. The dedication you have shown to your college in organising events and promoting college spirit was incredible. Congratulations also to all award winners, each of you have brought something incredible to Concannon and your contributions haven't gone unnoticed. To the 2015 graduates, each of you have added to the vibrancy of the college over your time at Concannon and you should be proud of your achievements, congratulations and good luck with all of your future endeavours.

## Outgoing (2015) RSC:

*President- Emma Kingdom (Semester 1) and Ashleigh Hyland (Semester 2)*  
*Social Coordinator- Eve Hibbard (Semester 1) and Anthony Hughes (Semester 2)*  
*Sports Coordinator- Alex Cook*  
*Treasurer- Michaela Mahony*  
*Secretary- Kara Jensen*

## Incoming (2016) RSC:

*President- Ashleigh Hyland*  
*Social Coordinator- Adina Gunnis*  
*Sports Coordinator- Kyra O'Sullivan*  
*Treasurer- Jasmine Hunt*  
*Secretary- India Thompson*

## 2015 Awards:

*Sportsman of the Year- Isaac Neill*  
*Sportswoman of the Year- Kyra O'Sullivan*  
*Sportsman Commendation- Thomas Higgins*  
*Sportswoman Commendation- Beth Zohl*  
*Cultural Award- Paula Araujo*  
*Scholar of the Year- Alice Galea*

*Bishop Edward Kelly Memorial*

*Award- Denika Moes*


*Catherine Joyce & Emma Rawlins Memorial Social Awards- Adina Gunnis and Anthony Hughes*

## 2015 Concannon College Graduates:

*Denika Moes- Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) (Civil)*

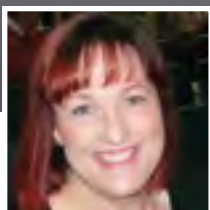
*Paula Araujo- Bachelor of Creative Arts (Theatre)*

*Kristin Williams- Bachelor of Nursing*

2015 has been a year with a lot to celebrate. The memories and friendships formed on college will be ones that stay with you forever. Thank you to every single resident at Concannon College. You have each helped to make the Residential Colleges Community the incredible place it was in 2015 and we can't wait to see what 2016 has in store. Will we see you here in 2016? For more information on about the University of Southern Queensland and Concannon College, visit [www.usq.edu.au/accommodation](http://www.usq.edu.au/accommodation) 

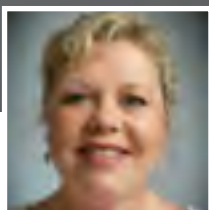


# What Does Family Mean to You?



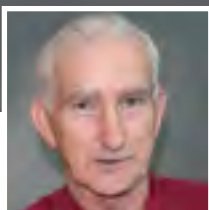
**Libby Rosentreter:**  
 St Theresa’s Parish, Toowoomba

The old saying that “it takes a village to raise a child” is true for most families but especially for mine. To me, my family is my village, and it extends far beyond my cherished blood family. I have two beautiful boys with Autism and at times the road for us as a family has been challenging but it’s been a much easier journey thanks to the love and support of our “village” – our family, friends, teachers, therapists and our school and parish communities.



**Patrice Riordan:**  
 Pastoral Associate,  
 St Mary’s Parish, Warwick

Family is belonging to a loving group of people with whom we share joy, happiness, love and laughter. Family is who we turn to in times of need and support. Together with our family we celebrate our history, traditions and achievements. In my family we share a common bond acknowledging where we come from and where we’re headed. We embrace each other’s differences, respect each other’s needs and desires. My family is my centre, based on love.



**Winton Thorley:**  
 Sacred Heart Parish, Toowoomba

When my wife and I were married the priest said, ‘today a new community of love has commenced in the Church’. These words in some ways have allowed us to survive and grow through the ups and downs of daily life. To become a ‘community of love’ should be true for all families, but it is something that requires continual effort and prayer.

**Recentl hail storm in Chinchilla. Photo taken by Zita Stark.** If you have an image of the Diocese you would like to share please email it to [horizons@twb.catholic.org.au](mailto:horizons@twb.catholic.org.au) with the subject “Views of the Diocese”.





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**Tel: 1300 477 433**

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## **St Vincent's Hospital**

& Lourdes Home:  
Fr Oliver Ryan **Tel: 0418 112 193**

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## **LOURDES HOME**

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**Tel: (07) 4636 3155**

## **LITURGICAL COMMISSION**

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(Administered by Centacare)  
Settlement Coordinator:  
Hannah Belesky  
**Tel: (07) 4688 3140**

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Fr Jamie Collins: **Tel: (07) 4625 3021**

## **YOUTH MINISTRY**

Coordinator: Sarah de Byl  
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**Mobile: 0407 495 751**

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

Name: .....

Postal Address: .....

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# Thank You

# - IMPORTANT EVENTS FOR 2016 -

## JANUARY

**Friday 1** 49th World Day of Peace

## FEBRUARY

**Wednesday 10** Ash Wednesday

**Wednesday 11** World Day of Prayer for the Sick

**Saturday 13** Development Day for Pastoral Councils

## MARCH

**Tuesday 8 – Wednesday 9** Diocesan Inservice

**Sunday 20** Palm Sunday

**Monday 21** Chrism Mass

**Thursday 24** Holy Thursday

**Friday 25** Good Friday

**Saturday 26** Easter Vigil

**Sunday 27** Easter Sunday

## APRIL

**Sunday 17** World Day of Prayer for Vocations

**Monday 25** ANZAC Day

## MAY

**Sunday 8** Mothers Day

**Sunday 8** World Communications Day

**Sunday 8 – Sunday 15** Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

**Sunday 15** Pentecost

**Tuesday 24** Our Lady Help of Christians Patroness of Australia

## JUNE

**Sunday 5** World Environment Day

## JULY

**Sunday 3** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday

## AUGUST

**Monday 18 July – Friday 5** Pilgrimage to World Youth Day 2016 - Poland

**Monday 15** The Assumption of Our Lady

**Sunday 28** World Day of Migrants and Refugees

## SEPTEMBER

**Thursday 1** Diocesan Feast Day - Mary Of The Southern Cross

**Sunday 4** Fathers Day

**Sunday 11** Child Protection Sunday

**Sunday 25** Social Justice Sunday

## OCTOBER

**Sunday 16** World Mission Sunday 2016

## DECEMBER

**Sunday 25** Christmas Day

**Monday 26** Boxing Day

# Horizons

Let us know what is  
happening in your area!

: Horizons relies upon your stories to make it relevant and meaningful.  
: We want to know what is happening in your local area so that we can  
: share that good news with the rest of the diocese. We are looking for  
: local contributors who can write 250 to 350 words about local church  
: projects, initiatives or events. Include a couple of high-resolution  
: photos and your well on your way to being published in Horizons.  
: For more information about contributing to Horizons contact Michael  
: Hart at [horizons@twb.catholic.org.au](mailto:horizons@twb.catholic.org.au) or phone **07 4632 4277**

**Help make Horizons be the best magazine it can be!**